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# A High Status Medieval Building Complex at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset

Post-excavation Assessment  
and Updated Project Design



Planning refs: 43/11/0104 & 43/11/0105  
Ref: 85402.01  
January 2013



# **A High Status Medieval Building Complex at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset**

## **Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design**

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**January 2014**



**85402.01**





## Quality Assurance

<b>Project Code</b>	85402	<b>Accession Code</b>	TTNCM 90/2012	<b>Client Ref.</b>	
<b>Planning Application Refs</b>	43/11/0104 43/11/0105	<b>Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)</b>	314031 121482		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	SF	ML		25/01/14
File:					
	E	ML	AJB	A Barclay	29/01/14
File:					
	F	ML			30/01/14
File:	X:\PROJECTS\85402\Assessment\Longforth Farm FINAL.doc				
File:					
File:					

\* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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# A High Status Medieval Building Complex at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset

## Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

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# **A High Status Medieval Building Complex at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset**

## **Post-Excavation Assessment Report and Updated Project Design**

### **Summary**

In 2012–13 Wessex Archaeology carried out a programme of excavations at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset (NGR 311403 122148), in advance of housing development. Approximately 1.6 ha of the Site were investigated, with the excavations divided into four areas (A–D) that incorporated virtually all of the relatively few prehistoric and medieval features identified during evaluation.

Area A exposed part of what may have been a double-ditched enclosure and surrounding field system of possible Bronze Age date. A probable entrance was located in the south-west side of the enclosure, but there was a notable lack of internal features. Several earlier prehistoric flint tools were also found within Area A, including an Upper Palaeolithic blade, Mesolithic blades and a Neolithic scraper. Area B contained a few Bronze Age gullies, one of which contained part of an Early/Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-related vessel.

There was scant evidence for Iron Age, Romano-British or Saxon activity, restricted to a few sherds of residual Iron Age and Romano-British pottery.

The principal discovery was in Area B, where the remains of a high status medieval building complex were uncovered. Although heavily robbed, key elements within the stone building have been provisionally identified through comparison with medieval manor house sites. These include a hall, a solar with garderobe (and perhaps a private chapel), and service quarters. There was an adjacent courtyard to the south with at least one ancillary building and a possible detached kitchen. To the north was evidence for a forecourt bounded by a wall.

There was a very restricted range and number of medieval finds from the site, but together these suggest that occupation of the building complex spanned the late 11th or 12th century to probably the 14th or possibly even the 15th century. The most noteworthy finds were a group of medieval floor tiles, found within the western half of the main building. The tiles contained a number of designs, including the crest of St Barbe that several prominent families are known to have used. However, documentary research has failed to identify the owners and any records relating specifically to this building complex. One possibility is that it belonged to the Provost of Wells cathedral, and was perhaps largely abandoned in the 14th century when the Bishops may have established their court within the nearby and then relatively new market town of Wellington.

East of the building complex were contemporary enclosure/field ditches, and directly south was a palaeochannel or pond. Elsewhere, three medieval gullies were located within Area C, though these could not be definitely linked with the medieval activity in Area B. Most features in Areas C and D comprised post-medieval field boundaries on a similar alignment to the present boundaries.

Proposed analysis will focus on understanding better the layout, nature and use of the medieval building complex, the existence of which was previously unknown. It is proposed that the results of the excavations are published as a Wessex Archaeology monograph, alongside a shorter publication aimed at a more general audience and supported by web-based presentations.



# **A High Status Medieval Building Complex at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset**

## **Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design**

### **Acknowledgements**

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Bloor Homes Ltd, and especially Christopher Davis, for commissioning and funding the project. Steven Membery and Tanya James of Somerset County Council are also thanked for their help and advice, particularly during the course of the fieldwork.

The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd and the post-excavation work was managed by Matt Leivers. The excavations were directed by Simon Flaherty and John Powell, with the assistance of Darryl Freer and Ray Kennedy. The fieldwork was undertaken by Callum Allsop, Jeremy Austin, Mark Bagwell, Matthew Blewitt, Phil Breach, David Browne, Charlotte Burton, Ralph Collard, Daniel Connors, Martyn Cooper, Samuel Fairhead, Margaret Feryok, Thomas Firth, Neil Fitzpatrick, Michael Fleming, Fiona Gamble, Alex Gikas, Ed Grenier, Mark Hackney, Jane Harris, Adam Howard, Matt Kendall, Amy McCabe, Jamie McCarthy, Christopher Merrifield, Dave Murdie, Phoebe Olsen, Piotr Orczewski, Matthew Saywood, Andy Sole, Tina Tapply, Alan Whittaker and Dane Wright. Expert archaeological and buildings advice was provided by Bob Davis and Steve Thompson. Overhead images were provided by Aerial-Cam.

An inclusive programme of community engagement activities, designed to run alongside the fieldwork, was directed by Laura Joyner (Wessex Archaeology), with assistance from Marc Cox of Somerset County Council. This programme was supported and entirely funded by Bloor Homes, facilitated in particular by Michele Rose. WA is grateful to Rob Perrett of Image Construct for photography during the community day.

This report was written by Simon Flaherty, with contributions from Bob Davis, and edited by Matt Leivers and Phil Andrews. The documentary research was undertaken by Mary Sirat, and the finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and Matt Leivers. The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and Eleanor Stevens, and assessed by Sarah Wyles; the peat sample was described by Nicki Mulhall. The animal bone was assessed by Lorrain Higbee. The illustrations were produced by Rob Goller.





# **A High Status Medieval Building Complex at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset**

## **Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Project background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bloor Homes Ltd to undertake excavations at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset (NGR 311403 122148) (hereafter ‘the Site’), in advance of proposed large-scale housing development.

1.1.2 The excavations, carried out in 2012 and 2013, represent an element within a staged programme of archaeological work that began in 2010. This was undertaken in order to discharge an archaeological condition associated with the planning application for the residential development of the Site made to Taunton Dean Borough Council.

1.1.3 The earlier elements of the archaeological work, outlined in greater detail below, comprised geophysical survey (Bournemouth University 2010), desk-based assessment (Terence O’Rourke 2011) and evaluation trenching (Cotswold Archaeology 2011a). These elements were used to produce a mitigation strategy to appropriately record (by excavation) the defined concentrations of archaeological features and deposits identified in the evaluation. The mitigation strategy, set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Cotswold Archaeology 2011b), formed part of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed residential development scheme at the Site.

#### **1.2 The Site**

1.2.1 The development area as a whole is approximately 50 ha and comprised agricultural land, principally pasture, with some arable. It is located on the north-eastern edge of Wellington and is bounded to the north by the London to Penzance railway line, to the east by Nynehead Road, to the south by Taunton Road and the town of Wellington, and to the west by factories (**Figure 1**). The Site lies at approximately 58 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east, rising to 68 m aOD at the centre before sloping downwards to 52 m aOD in the west.

1.2.2 The solid geology of the Site predominantly comprises Triassic sandstone of the Otter Formation, overlain in the north-western area of the Site by clay, sand and gravel. The eastern area of the Site comprises Sidmouth Mudstone of the Triassic period (BGS 2013).

### **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **2.1 General**

2.1.1 The Site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Previous pre-development evaluation work carried out at Cade’s Farm to the south identified evidence of Iron Age/Romano-British settlement activity in the form of post holes, pits and field boundaries. Evidence of Roman activity is also recorded approximately 1 km north of the Site, just south of Nynehead (Terence O’Rourke 2011).





- 2.1.2 Wellington contains evidence of early medieval settlement: a watching brief at St John's Church to the south of the Site (**Figure 1**) suggested the current church stands on the site of a Norman building of c. 11th century. Although first recorded as a settlement in AD 904, the planned town itself was founded with a charter including Wellington with Axbridge and Chard in 1215. By 1330 the borough of Wellington was maintained by the keepers of Bath and Wells with denoted burgesses mentioned in 1345. The medieval street plan of a long direct road that was wider in the centre of the town to facilitate the market place, with regular spaced arrangement of properties and a church at the end is typical of towns laid out in the 12th and 13th centuries (Gathercole 2003; Terence O'Rourke 2011).
- 2.1.3 A full synopsis of the archaeological resource of the Site and its environs is contained within the desk-based assessment carried out by Terence O'Rourke (Terence O'Rourke 2011).

## **2.2 Investigations within the Site**

- 2.2.1 Bournemouth Archaeology undertook a geophysical survey of approximately 31 ha of the Site to inform considerations on the mitigation of any archaeology present on the Site (BU 2010). The survey identified the location of linear, curvilinear and discrete anomalies across most of the fields, some of which appeared to be evidence of past human activity. Due to their morphological characteristics many of the anomalies could not be confidently interpreted; however there was sufficient evidence to suggest that several possible enclosures were present on the Site. Several anomalies were thought likely to represent drainage features associated with modern agricultural practices, while others represented disturbance associated with the construction of the 19th century railway line along the northern boundary of the northern fields. The magnitude of the magnetic response in a number of areas suggested that the soil had been subject to anthropogenic activity, supported by the presence of both prehistoric and post-medieval cultural material, while other responses were thought to be possibly geological in nature.
- 2.2.2 Subsequent archaeological evaluation, undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February 2011, identified a probable trackway of potentially Bronze Age date as well as medieval ditches relating to water management and land subdivision (Cotswold Archaeology 2011a). Three pits containing 12th to 14th century pottery were also identified, along with a number of ditches corresponding to the alignment of the current field system. It was considered probable that elements of the field system dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods, and it was noted that some of the identified features might belong to earlier periods.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological excavations in 2012-13 as defined by the Written Scheme of Investigation (CA 2011b) were to:
- *ensure the adequate record of any buried archaeological remains that may be exposed within the defined strip, map and record areas and any additional archaeological mitigation required for additional proposed works impacting on archaeological deposits;*
  - *produce a plan of all archaeological features exposed within the defined strip, map and record areas;*



- *investigate and record exposed archaeological features/deposits in order to clarify both their date, character, and significance and to provide a clear understanding of their chronology;*
- *ensure that any artefacts/environmental evidence was recorded, assessed and - if appropriate - analysed to an acceptable standard;*
- *make available the results of the investigations.*

## 3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The methodology for all mitigation works on the main defined areas of archaeological potential was set out in detail within the original Written Scheme of Investigation (Cotswold Archaeology 2011b).
- 3.2.2 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance For Archaeological Excavation* (as amended 2008), except where they are superseded by statements below. The assessment work follows guidance by English Heritage (1991).
- 3.2.3 All works were carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 3.2.4 Following consultation with Steve Membery (Principal Archaeologist, Somerset County Council), four areas were identified to be the subject of the strip, map and record excavations. These areas were referred to in earlier documentation as *SMS 1-4* but for simplicity will be referred to here as *Areas A-D*. Each of these areas was appropriately fenced by the developer, prior to any construction or enabling works commencing, to safeguard the underlying archaeological deposits from heavy machinery and other works.
- 3.2.5 **Area A (Figure 2)** totalled 5480 m<sup>2</sup>, within an area proposed for housing, and targeted evaluation trenches 12 and 13. A possible hollow-way from which Bronze Age pottery was recovered, as well as two undated ditches were identified within trench 13, with two broadly parallel ditches containing medieval pottery found within trench 12.
- 3.2.6 **Area B (Figure 3)** initially totalled 2150 m<sup>2</sup> and was confined to the areas of archaeological potential within a proposed attenuation pond. It was targeted upon the medieval pits and ditches revealed within evaluation trench 7, whilst an undated ditch within trench 8 appeared to represent a linear trend noted on both the OS mapping and the geophysics. As a result of the complex and extensive medieval archaeology revealed, including structural remains, **Area B** was subsequently extended to 3690 m<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.2.7 **Area C (Figure 6)** totalled 3565 m<sup>2</sup>, within an area proposed for housing, and targeted an undated curvilinear ditch and postholes identified within evaluation trench 28.
- 3.2.8 **Area D (Figure 6)** totalled 2980 m<sup>2</sup>, within an area proposed for sports pitches, and was targeted upon three undated ditches identified within evaluation trench 34.
- 3.2.9 **Trench 56 (Figure 3)**. Following the discovery of the medieval building complex in **Area B**, and in consultation with the Principal Archaeologist at Somerset County Council, it was decided to place a cross-shaped trench across a possible building platform located approximately 19 m to the south of **Area B**. The trench was 1.8 m wide, and the north-east to south-west element of the trench was 63.15 m long. The second part of the trench ran in a south-east to north-west direction for 46.28 m before it joined with the rest of the





north-east to south-west element. There was a step to the north of 7.55 m before it continued for a further 33.7 m.

### **3.3 Stripping and Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.3.1 Overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was removed under constant archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator, down to the natural geology or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first.
- 3.3.2 The Site was further cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to enable an accurate plan to be produced. Investigation of the archaeological features and deposits was undertaken as specified in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Cotswold Archaeology 2003) sufficient to satisfy the principal aims of the excavation.
- 3.3.3 Archaeological remains were hand-excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and the objectives of the excavation. A sufficient sample of archaeological remains was investigated through sample excavation to record the horizontal and vertical extents of the stratigraphic sequence to the level of undisturbed natural deposits.

### **3.4 Monitoring**

- 3.4.1 Regular monitoring visits were undertaken throughout the fieldwork programme by Christopher Davis (Bloor Homes), Somerset County Council, and Caroline Budd and Matt Leivers (Wessex Archaeology).

### **3.5 Recording**

- 3.5.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. Where appropriate, significant artefacts were recorded in three dimensions and detailed plans were made of any special or placed deposits.
- 3.5.2 A full written, drawn and photographic archive was maintained. Plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, where appropriate. The extent of the excavation areas, together with all archaeological features were accurately recorded using a Leica TCRP 1205 total station. This gave accurate (up to 30 mm), 3D Ordnance Survey co-ordinates and spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.5.3 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35 mm), and digital images were taken (including a scale), as appropriate. A number of general Site photographs and working shots were also taken to give an overview of the Site and the progress of the excavation. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principal features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.

### **3.6 Specialist strategies**

- 3.6.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples were devised by Wessex Archaeology's Finds and Environmental staff, in consultation with Somerset County Council's Principal Archaeologist.

#### *Artefact*

- 3.6.2 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (IFA 2008, SMA 1993 and 1995). Objects were recorded three dimensionally using Leica TCRP 1205 Total Station. Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context.





3.6.3 All artefacts have been retained from excavated contexts unless they were building materials such as slate or other building materials in which case they were noted and the best examples retained or if they were of modern origin they were discarded and the relevant context records amended, in accordance with agreed policies.

3.6.4 All artefacts were, as a minimum, washed, weighed, counted and identified. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions were dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Suitable material, primarily the pottery, worked flint and non-ferrous metalwork, were scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages. All ferrous metalwork was X-rayed to provide further detail concerning their original form as part of the assessment.

#### *Environmental*

3.6.5 Bulk environmental samples (up to 40 litres), were taken from well-sealed and dated features, following Wessex Archaeology's standard Environmental and Artefact sampling policy.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the results of the archaeological excavation and is integrated with key specialist material. It is presented in a single chronological narrative by combining the results of the 2012 and 2013 excavation areas. All periods and phases of activity are identified as shown in **Figures 2-6**.

4.1.2 The detailed assessments of the artefactual and environmental assemblages are presented within **Sections 6 and 7** (below). More detailed descriptions of the archaeological features and deposits can be found in the paper and digital archive.

4.1.3 The digital archive includes a relational database and digital data set presenting all information recovered from the excavation as well as data produced during the assessment.

### **4.2 Palaeolithic**

4.2.1 A large Terminal Upper Palaeolithic blade was found in *Area A*. The piece was made from Greensand chert and is in very good condition. It appears to belong to a long blade tradition. It was located within the natural **102** towards the eastern end of *Area A*.

### **4.3 Mesolithic**

#### *Area A*

4.3.1 Flint blades, broken blades, blade and bladelet cores were found in the topsoil and channel **10002**. In addition a single broken flint tool (the distal portion of a lateral truncation) came from **119** (ditch **10009**) and a serrated blade from **103** (ditch **10003**).

4.3.2 The channel feature also contained a number of sherds of Bronze Age pottery and a single Neolithic end scraper, indicating that the Mesolithic blades were residual and had been washed into the feature.

#### *Area D*

4.3.3 A single flint blade came from fill **265** in tree throw hole **264**.



#### **4.4 Neolithic**

##### *Area A*

- 4.4.1 A single flint end scraper of Late Neolithic type came from fill **209** within natural channel **10002**. This likely to be residual as Mesolithic blades and Bronze Age pottery came from the same feature.

#### **4.5 Bronze Age**

##### *Area B*

- 4.5.1 There was some evidence of Bronze Age archaeology within *Area B*. At the far western end of the Site a gully (**10092**) ran in a south-west to north-east direction, parallel to palaeochannel (**10103**) that the later medieval archaeology overlay. The gully was very shallow and ran for 5.05 m before terminating at its north-east end. It contained a single flint scraper of Bronze Age date. A further two features were located next to the gully: a possible pit (**912**) and the partial remnants of a second gully (**917**) that ran parallel to the first. Although no dating evidence was found from either their close proximity to **10092** and the fact they were located 0.65 m deeper than the medieval archaeology would suggest they were of a similar date to it.
- 4.5.2 A third gully (**10017**) was located at the north-eastern end of Site. It ran in a north-west to south-east direction for a distance of 9.98 m. Within its south-eastern terminal (**Plate 1**) were 107 sherds of Trevisker-related ware, probably from a single vessel. The terminal also contained a large amount of burnt stone. The volume of finds suggests this was a deliberately placed deposit.
- 4.5.3 A fourth gully (**10016**) ran on a similar north-west to south-east alignment. It terminated at its south-east end but continued beyond the limit of excavation area at the north-west. Although the gully contained five sherds of medieval pottery the alignment of the ditch parallel with **10017** was at odds with the later medieval ditch alignments suggesting that the gully was Bronze Age in date.
- 4.5.4 These ditches suggest delineation of the landscape within this area in the Bronze Age. The quantity of Trevisker-related ware, along with the burnt stones, suggests a deliberate placement of material within the terminal of gully **10017**. This activity may be related to the proximity of a palaeochannel and perhaps springs in the vicinity, and may reflect Bronze Age practices of deposition in 'watery' locations.

#### **4.6 Iron Age**

- 4.6.1 In *Area B* the truncated remains of possible pit **380** contained four sherds of Iron Age pottery; however it also contained two sherds of 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The feature was very ephemeral and shallow at 0.08 m deep and it seems likely that the Iron Age pottery was redeposited.

#### **4.7 Prehistoric?**

##### *Area A*

- 4.7.1 A number of features were present within *Area A* that were undated or only contained minimal dating evidence, which may have been residual (**Figure 2**). However, due to their nature and the background material that had been found within this area they can be tentatively suggested as being prehistoric (possibly Bronze Age) in date. A number of flint tools and cores were recovered from within *Area A* as well as some prehistoric pottery sherds.





- 4.7.2 Part of a possible enclosure was revealed at the western end of *Area A*, comprising ditches **10000**, **10001** and **10009** (**Plate 2**). Ditch **10000** ran from east-north-east to west-south-west and turned northwards at its eastern end before disappearing under the baulk. At its western end, it intersected with ditch **10009** which ran for 4.05 m before it terminated. A gap of 4.7 m between the **10000/10009** junction and ditch **10001**, which continued the east-west line of **10001** before turning northwards under the baulk, may have formed an entrance. There was a small length of gully (**124**) to the north of the entrance that may have been of a similar date and associated with the entrance. Ditches **10000** and **10009** contained a few pieces of struck flint/chert and burnt quartzite; ditch **10000** also contained a single small sherd of post-medieval pottery. Due to the small quantities of finds it seems likely that this sherd was intrusive.
- 4.7.3 The enclosure was devoid of any internal features, although it contained a number of natural features including tree throw holes (**180** and **286**). The enclosure continued into the apple orchard located to the north of the Site.
- 4.7.4 Possibly related to the enclosure was ditch **10003**. It ran parallel to **10000** before it turned at its eastern end to run north and south. Together with **10000** these features may have formed a double ditched enclosure, although the southern part of **10003** intersected with **10000** (no relationship was discernible between the two: **Plate 3**). These ditches were probably broadly contemporary even if they did not all form a single structure.
- 4.7.5 The south-western end of the area contained a feature (**10002**) that had previously been thought to be a Bronze Age track way in the evaluation (**Plates 4** and **5**). It ran parallel to and often merged with ditches **10000** and **10001**. It ran in an east-north-east to west-south-west direction and at its eastern end it became more ephemeral before terminating. At its western end it continued into the baulk. It was very irregular in plan and the depth varied greatly between interventions, with an undulating base. This would suggest that the feature resulted from erosion caused by overflow from ditch **10000**, though some erosion may have resulted from trampling by animals or people. Feature **10002** contained 13 sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery, most of which were found close together, suggesting the material came from a single placed deposit. The feature also contained a flint scraper and a core. It cut a small linear (**142**) that was only partially revealed.
- 4.7.6 On the eastern side of the area was a further series of ditches and gullies (**196**, **295** and **10004-7**) on a similar alignment to **10003**. This suggests they were of a similar date and formed parts of a series of field systems. There was evidence that part of the field system has been re-cut: ditch **10007** was a re-cut of ditch **10006**.

#### *Area C and D*

- 4.7.7 Shallow gully **10014** ran in a west-north-west to east-south-east direction (**Figure 6**). It contained two small abraded sherds of pottery that date to the late prehistoric period which may have been residual. The gully ran from the eastern baulk for approximately 8.30 m before terminating at its western end. Its different alignment to other nearby features adds weight to the possibility of it being a prehistoric ditch.

## **4.8 Romano-British**

- 4.8.1 There was little evidence of Romano-British activity within the Site. A total of 12 sherds of pottery were found in Areas A and B, including two sherds of samian ware. They were all likely to have been residual and although there are Romano-British sites within the vicinity of Wellington occupation did not extend to this Site.



## 4.9 Medieval

### *Area B – building complex*

- 4.9.1 The principal (and entirely unexpected) discovery was the remains of a high status medieval building complex, located in the western half of the excavation area (**Figures 3 and 4**). Although heavily robbed, key elements within the stone building have been provisionally identified through comparison with medieval manor house sites. These include a hall, a solar with garderobe (and perhaps a private chapel), and service quarters. There was an adjacent courtyard to the south with at least one ancillary building and a possible detached kitchen. To the north was evidence for a forecourt bounded by a wall.
- 4.9.2 There was a very restricted range and number of medieval finds, but together these suggest that occupation of the building complex spanned the late 11th or 12th century to probably the 14th or possibly even the 15th century. The most noteworthy finds were a group of medieval floor tiles, found within the western half of the main building. The tiles contained a number of designs, including the crest of St Barbe that several prominent families are known to have used. However, documentary research has failed to identify the owners and any records relating specifically to this building complex. One possibility is that it belonged to the Provost of Wells cathedral, and was perhaps largely abandoned in the 14th century when the Bishops may have established their court within the nearby and then relatively new market town of Wellington.
- 4.9.3 A series of 'Room numbers' (1–10) have been provisionally allocated to facilitate description below and reference to **Figure 4** which illustrates the principal components of the complex. The 'rooms' are described spatially rather than in numerical order.
- 4.9.4 The earliest feature of medieval date was ditch **10055**, which extended north-south beneath *Room 10* of the building complex (**Figure 3**).
- 4.9.5 The northern part of the complex (*Rooms 1, 3–8 and 10*) consisted of remnants of chert-built walls, substantial parts of which had been removed by a later phase of robbing. Nonetheless, the majority of the plan of the building complex was reasonably clear or could be extrapolated with some confidence (**Figure 4** and **Plate 6**). The southern part of the complex (*Rooms 2 and 9*) was generally much better preserved (particularly *Room 2*), having been subjected to less robbing and due also in part to the amount of overburden on top of the walls.
- 4.9.6 Nine rooms have been identified, with one more suggested by less complete wall lengths. The northern range and the single surviving building on the southern side were arranged around a central courtyard, approximately 12 m across and apparently open on the west side. It is probable that a ninth room or building (*Room 9*) existed on the eastern side, between *Rooms 2* and *6*, although not enough of wall **10106** survived to allow certainty. A possibly enclosed forecourt lay to the north of the northern range, extending beyond the limit of excavation.
- 4.9.7 The building foundations were constructed from chert nodules with a chert rubble core which also contained the occasional slab of Devonian Shillett. There were no obvious signs of mortar and it is possible that the chert was originally set in clay. The only evidence of lime mortar was located within part of wall **10047** (*Room 8* – see below), which contained a white lime mortar in its southern side. All wall foundations were found associated with stone slate debris, the form and size of which suggests that the entire complex was roofed with stone slates. A number of green-glazed ceramic ridge tiles,





decorated with a serrated edge, were found across the Site, whilst a small number of glazed floor tiles came from the western end of the northern range.

#### The North Range

- 4.9.8 The north range appears to have been centred on the large central *Room 3*, which is likely to have been the hall. To the west of *Room 3* the plan is a little less clear, but three rooms have been identified (*Rooms 1, 8 and 10*), almost certainly comprising the solar block, the principal living accommodation. To the east of *Room 3* were *Rooms 4 and 5*, which it is suggested were service rooms, as were probably *Rooms 6 and 7* adjoining them at the east end of the building.
- 4.9.9 *Room 3* was located in the centre of the north range, and measured 12 m by 7.5 m. The location, shape and size of the room suggests that it was the Great Hall and the width (up to 1.6 m) and depth (up to 0.45 m) of the foundations (eg **10075**; **Plate 7**) indicate two storeys, perhaps with the principal hall at first floor level. The room had at least two external buttresses, on the north and south sides (**791** and **1085**; **Plate 8**), with a third on the northern wall possibly robbed out (robber cut **10079**). No hearths or fireplaces have survived or been identified.
- 4.9.10 Two heavily robbed short lengths of wall (**686** and **1030**), 1.25 m apart, were located to the north of *Room 3*. Wall **1030** had been mostly removed by a modern field drain and wall **686** had also been disturbed. The walls lay at 90° to the building, and may have formed part of an external staircase to the postulated first floor hall.
- 4.9.11 *Room 10* lay immediately to the west of *Room 3* and measured approximately 8.5 m square. The offset and apparent gap in the north wall, between **729** and **1491**, remains to be resolved, but it is suggested that *Room 10* formed the core of the solar block, of two storeys. A small area of tightly packed chert/sandstone (**678**) may have been the remnants of a cobbled surface at ground floor level or the foundation of an internal dividing wall.
- 4.9.12 *Room 1* was located at the western end of the northern range, beyond *Room 10*. It measured 4.9 m by 3.6 m. The walls and robber cuts were substantial - up to 1 m wide and 0.55m deep - suggesting that this part of the building also had a second storey. The width and nature of construction of wall **10048** (described further below; **Plate 9**) on the west side indicates that it incorporated the drain for a garderobe, with access which allowed it to be cleaned out at ground level from the south side. Drain **10044** fed into the base of the garderobe from the south (and extended to the north), perhaps serving to periodically flush it out.
- 4.9.13 Floor tiles from the vicinity of *Room 1* (but no longer *in situ*) included decorated examples bearing the family crest of St Barbe and showing Richard III charging into battle with Saladin. The quantity and quality of tiles further suggest that this end of the building was of higher status and are commensurate with the solar having been located here.
- 4.9.14 The north wall (**1491/10061**) of *Room 1* extended to the west (as **960**) before turning to continue northwards beyond the limit of excavation. The northern continuation (**769**) was of slightly different construction and was not faced with flat chert like the remainder. This, the angle of the wall and the apparent lack of a return suggest that it may have formed part of a boundary wall, perhaps on the west side of a forecourt to the complex.
- 4.9.15 To the south of *Room 10* was *Room 8*, a narrow space measuring 2.75 m by 11.4 m (**Plate 10**). This had been heavily robbed but wall **10047** defined the south side, and it may also have been of two storeys. *Room 8* could have accommodated steps providing



private access to the solar, and perhaps also a chapel at first floor level with a direct link between this and *Room 10* to the north.

- 4.9.16 East of *Room 3* were *Rooms 4* and *5*, which were mainly identified through robber trenches. The shallow nature of some of the robber cuts and surviving wall footings (eg **10087**) suggest that these were internal dividing walls, within what are interpreted as service rooms. In the north-east corner of *Room 4* was a gap of 0.55 m, indicating the possible location of a doorway between this and *Room 3*. *Room 4* measured 3.8 m by 3.5 m, whilst *Room 5* was somewhat smaller at 3.8 m by 1.85 m.
- 4.9.17 The eastern end of the northern range consisted of *Rooms 6* and *7*. *Room 7* was located at the north-east corner of the building. The surviving wall footings on the eastern side were very shallow in comparison to those on the western side, suggesting that this room was a later extension or possibly a single story room attached to the western end of the building. A short length of wall (**728**) beyond the north-east corner of the room was on the same alignment as wall **769** to the north-west of *Room 1* at the western end. It only survived as a single course 0.73 m wide, and may have bounded the east side of the postulated forecourt.
- 4.9.18 *Room 6* was directly to the south of *Room 7* and east of *Room 5* and, together with *Room 7*, it may have formed an extension at the east end of the building. *Room 7* was approximately 4.48 m by 4.48 m, while *Room 6* measured approximately 6.4 m by 4.48 m. *Room 7* had been destroyed at its northern end by later ditch **10043**; *Room 6* by later ditch **10083**. Remnants of a possible hearth (**10098**) were located in the centre of *Room 6* in an area that was heat affected and contained some charcoal flecking, but no associated floor surface remained. It seems likely that *Rooms 6* and *7* were further service rooms, added later to *Rooms 4* and *5*, the possible hearth in *Room 6* perhaps indicating a kitchen. Cleaned grain from layers within this room support this interpretation.

#### The South Range

- 4.9.19 *Room 2* (**Plate 11**) comprises a building at the east end of the southern range, the extent of which is unclear. It most probably represents an ancillary building on the south side of the courtyard. The southern wall (**699** and **10040**) of the building was up to 1 m wide, and from the south-eastern corner it ran westwards for a total distance of approximately 20 m, gradually diminishing in height from a maximum of 0.95 m until it survived only intermittently. The east end of the building was defined by wall **1038**, which indicated the building to have been 5 m wide internally, but there was no surviving evidence for a western wall. Only a short length of north wall **695** remained, and this appeared to be a later addition to wall **1038**. The western part of the building may have been open fronted, although it is perhaps more likely that the foundations were relatively shallow and in this area have been entirely truncated. The southern wall (**10040**) had two buttresses on its external side, and possibly a third which had been largely destroyed. Two further possible buttresses (**1426** and **1516**) sat against the outer face of wall **1038** at the east end. The building contained a charcoal-rich deposit (**690**) suggesting at least one burning episode took place within *Room 2*, but no floor surfaces survived, nor was there any evidence for internal divisions. Charred plant remains were indicative of cleaned grain assemblages, perhaps indicating food preparation.
- 4.9.20 Drain **10071** ran north-south across the eastern end of *Room 2* and comprised two chert-built walls with a slate-lined base between. The drain was keyed into and extended through the northern and southern walls (**Plates 12** and **13**), and on the inside of the south wall there was a step up in the base. A palaeochannel/pond (**10112**, see below) lay just to the south of the building, and it is likely that water drained into this, perhaps from the courtyard.





- 4.9.21 A right-angled wall (**10106; Plate 14**) was situated north of *Room 2*, and is thought to have defined the south-east corner of a further room/building (*Room 9*). Wall **10106** ran east to west before turning at its eastern end and continuing north towards the south-east corner of *Room 6*. The northern and western sides of *Room 9* had been destroyed by truncation and robbing, making interpretation difficult, but it is possible that *Room 9* was a detached service building on the east side of the courtyard between the northern and southern ranges.
- 4.9.22 Two small, apparently free-standing lengths of wall lay parallel to the eastern walls of *Room 9* (**1403**) and *Room 6* (**10103**), but their purpose is unclear.

#### Drainage

- 4.9.23 Drainage was an important aspect of the medieval building and attempts at water management could be seen across this area of the Site (**Figure 4**).
- 4.9.24 Evidence for this included a rough chert-lined drain (**10044**) which ran around the southern side of the northern wing at its western end (**Plate 15**). From the south-west end of *Room 3* it ran around the exterior of *Room 8* and along the southern side of *Room 1*, at which point the chert-lined section ended. The levels of either end of this drain (49.769 m aOD and 49.34 m aOD respectively) confirm that water drained away from *Room 3* to the west.
- 4.9.25 A second drain fed into this same point at the western end of the building, this one incorporated within wall foundation **10048** (see **Plate 9**), between the two facings of the western end wall of the building. The nature and quality of construction suggests that this part of the drain formed part of a garderobe. The base of the drain consisted of flat sandstones lying on top of the foundation core, and the southern end had an arched opening, constructed of chert and the occasional slate roof tile on edge. At the northern end of the wall the drain turned to the north-west and continued beyond the limits of excavation. This portion of the drain consisted of two chert-lined walls with occasional pieces of flat slate. Each of the walls was approximately two stones thick. There was no stone base to this part.
- 4.9.26 A further chert-lined drain (**10052; Plate 16**) was located at the north-east corner of *Room 1* running in a north-north-easterly direction beyond the limits of excavation. The junction between drain **10052** and wall **1491** suggested that they were part of a single phase of construction. The drain was of similar construction to **10044**, comprising a layer of irregularly placed chert stones.
- 4.9.27 Three other short lengths of possible drain were located (**1295, 10054** and **10101**). Both **1295** and **10101** were built from irregularly placed chert stone, while **10054** was made of roofing slate and chert stone. Drain **10101** ran for a short distance (2.87 m) between the outside of the east wall of *Room 6* and the west side of free-standing wall **10103**. Although partly truncated at its northern end, it possibly abutted the east wall of *Room 6* (**808**).
- 4.9.28 Between *Rooms 6* and *2* a partially exposed (0.9 m) length of irregularly placed chert stone (**1295**) ran in a similar north-north-west to south-south-east direction. Too little survived to determine if this feature was a drain, and if so if it was connected to either drain **10101** or **10071** or both.
- 4.9.29 Drain **10054** was located north of *Room 1*, running parallel to drain **10052** in a north-south direction. It looked convincing at its southern end where it would have joined the northern wall of the room although it was much more ephemeral at its northern end.



*Area B - field system*

- 4.9.30 In *Area B* a series of ditches and gullies (**357, 1017, 10018-22, 10028-31, 10034-38, 10110** and **10116**) formed part of a field system situated at the eastern end (**Figure 3**). These appeared to form sub square fields or enclosures, although a number of the ditches continued outside of the excavation area.
- 4.9.31 A cluster of pits (**493, 505, 568, 10023-5, and 10027**; **Plate 17**) and postholes (**440, 534, 540** and) were located within the eastern half of *Area B*. These both cut and were cut by ditch **10022** and gully **10028**. The pits may have been quarries as they were located within a notably clayey area. Three of the pits (**10023, 10025** and **10027**) contained a number of sherds of medieval pottery (six, three and 35 sherds respectively). A further wide, shallow depression (**10026**) was located on the western side of the cluster. This feature (possibly a watering hole) contained 20 sherds of early medieval pottery.
- 4.9.32 Postholes **440, 534, 540, 570** and **440** were located within the pit cluster with a further example (**396**) to the north-east. Two of the postholes (**534** and **440**) had remnant chert packing within them. No structure was discernible among the postholes.
- 4.9.33 A number of pits (**319, 380, 390, 430, 433, 514, 544, 555, 589, 633, 870, 937, 1123, 1125** and **10082**) contained medieval pottery dating between the 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. While some of this may have been residual, the number of pits containing material of this date suggests that most were contemporary. The pits varied greatly in size, shape and depth and were located across *Area B*, although the majority were located to the east of the building complex.
- 4.9.34 Semi-circular structure **331** was situated over part of the field system. Constructed from the same materials as used within the main building, it consisted of a single stone's thickness and only survived as a single course. It sat upon cut **10111** and appeared to be part of the same feature as **392** which was a maximum of two stones wide and comprised mainly chert. Structure **331** was not mortared but gaps were filled with clay lumps. It did not appear to be structural as it did not seem capable of supporting more courses, and was more likely to have been a garden feature, perhaps a raised bed.
- 4.9.35 Many of the features within the field system and pit groups contained assemblages of charred plant remains containing threshing waste, indicative of crop processing. These assemblages contrast with those from within the building, which were more indicative of cleaned grain.

*Other ditches and gullies*

- 4.9.36 To the north-east of the building complex were four ditches or gullies (**Figures 3** and **4**). Gully **10091** ran in an east to west direction and contained 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery. It was cut at its western end by possible robber cut **10089**. Ditch **10094** may have been a recut of **10091**. It terminated at its western end and at its eastern end ran out of the Site. A further ditch **10095** on a similar alignment contained large amounts of medieval pottery (along with a single sherd of post-medieval pottery). Both of these sets of ditches were cut by post-medieval ditch **10083**. A final ditch (**10042**) contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was cut by post-medieval ditch **10043** and robber cut **952**.
- 4.9.37 A single truncated ditch **1209** was located within the south-west corner of *Area B*; it was truncated by wall **10040**. It contained a single sherd of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery; its purpose was unclear but it may have been for drainage.



#### *Palaeochannel/pond*

- 4.9.38 Palaeochannel **10112** lay to the south of the field system and to the south-east of the building complex (**Figure 3**); it contained some slate and chert that came from the demolition of the building. The palaeochannel, part of which may have later formed a pond, ran in a north-east to south-west direction and was significantly wider at its south-west end, narrowing towards the north-east.

#### *Area C*

- 4.9.39 Three associated gullies (**276**, **10015** and **10109**) were located at the western end of Area C (**Figure 6**). Gullies **10109** and **10015** ran parallel to each other. The relationship between **276** and **10109** was unclear, though **276** may have fed into **10109**. All three gullies contained a number of sherds of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery, including jar rims from **276** and **10109**. These gullies were notable as the only medieval features within this area. Gully **10109** ran for 10.27 m, was 0.18 m wide and 0.21 m deep. Gully **10015** ran for 11.48 m, was 0.78 m wide and 0.23 m deep. Gully **276** ran in a north-west to south-east direction for 6.08 m and was 0.80 m wide and 0.17 m deep. It seems likely they were for drainage purposes as they stopped at the lowest point within the landscape.

#### *Trench 56*

- 4.9.40 *Trench 56* (**Figure 3**) contained a possible medieval ditch **877** that ran in a north-east to south-west direction on a similar alignment to undated ditch terminal **867**, which may suggest they were of similar date.

### **4.10 Post-medieval**

#### *Area A*

- 4.10.1 There was a single ditch (**10008**) of post-medieval date within Area A (**Figure 2**). It ran perpendicular to a number of field drains and began and ended where it joined them, suggesting that it was post-medieval in date.

#### *Area B*

- 4.10.2 Post-medieval features included ditches (**10043**, **10059**, **10069**, **10083-4** and **10092-3**) and pits (**1520** and **1688**), which cut ditch **10083** (**Figure 5**). Ditch **10083** ran on a north-east to south-west alignment and cut through the walls and robbed out wall remnants of Rooms 5, 6 and 7 of the building complex (**Figure 3**) before it turned to run in an east to west direction. It cut the northern end of irregularly shaped possible ditch **10084** which contained building materials suggesting it was created after the building had gone out of use.
- 4.10.3 A second ditch **10043** was located just to the north of ditch **10083**, running in a similar north-east to south-west direction. It terminated at its south-west end and continued beyond the limits of excavation in the north-east. It cut a number of wall remnants and robber cuts of Rooms 4, 5 and 7.
- 4.10.4 The purpose of these ditches was unclear. They did not appear to share alignments with any of the walls and were consequently unlikely to be robber trenches. They were most probably for drainage.
- 4.10.5 Two small sections of ditch (**10092** and **10093**) were located between **10043** and **10083**. Ditch **10093** was cut by both **10083** and **10092**. Both ditches contained a number of pieces of building material, presumably residual from the decommissioning of the medieval buildings.



- 4.10.6 Ditch (**10059**) ran in a north-west to south-east direction cutting through the western side of the building complex. Although neither terminal was visible the ditch would have terminated before reaching wall **769**, as there was no evidence of this wall being cut through. Although unclear it may have joined with cut **10115**, which looked like a shallow ditch but turned into more of a diffuse spread.
- 4.10.7 Ditch **10069** ran in an east-west direction within the western side of the area, cutting robber trench **10067**.
- 4.10.8 A small length of curvilinear gully **10057** located in the north of *Area B* contained remnant building material as well as two sherds of pottery (one medieval and one post-medieval) and a piece of clay pipe. It cut medieval or earlier gully **10056**.
- 4.10.9 Gully **10085** ran in a north-west to south-east direction. It contained two sherds of pottery dating from the 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century but these were likely to be residual, as it cut through a demolition layer (**1441**). It was cut in turn by a possible sub-rectangular hearth (**1212**).
- 4.10.10 Two post medieval pits (**1520** and **1668**) were identified. Pit **1520** contained some roofing slate.
- 4.10.11 A large depression (**10060**) on the western side of the area contained a large amount of building material. It was cut by post-medieval ditch **10061**.
- 4.10.12 A possible ditch (**985**) was located within the northwest corner of *Area B*. It cut the remnants of a natural feature and was in turn cut by ditch **10059**. The feature was not fully exposed and its purpose remains unclear.

#### *Areas C and D*

- 4.10.13 Ditches **10011** and **10012** ran in an approximate north-north-west to south-south-east direction through *Areas C* and *D* (**Figure 6**) and seem likely to be post-medieval field boundaries. They ran parallel to each other and to the current defined field boundaries. Ditch **10012** terminated at its southern end, whereas **10011** continued beyond the limit of excavation.
- 4.10.14 The partial remains of an east to west wall (**253**; **Plate 18**) survived within *Area D*. It was built from red brick and sub-rounded flint modules bonded with a pale brown limestone mortar. It could have been the remnants of a supporting wall for a removed farm building. It ran for 7.8 m and was up to 0.43 m wide.
- 4.10.15 A further east-north-east to west-south-west aligned gully (**10013**) ran intermittently through *Area D* before it disappeared under the baulk at the eastern end. It had been quite heavily truncated and the western terminal is unlikely to be original. It contained a piece of clay pipe which - combined with its similar alignment with wall **253** - suggests a post-medieval date.

#### *Trench 56*

- 4.10.16 A post-medieval ditch (**742**, **910**) ran in a north-east to south-west direction and contained nine sherds of redware pottery (**Figure 3**). It was likely to have been a drainage ditch and field boundary. It cut undated north to south aligned gully **908** which did not share an alignment with any of the medieval or Bronze Age archaeology in the vicinity and which consequently may also have been post-medieval.
- 4.10.17 Another probable post-medieval ditch (**778**) at the southern end of *Trench 56* was cut by two field drains on a similar alignment. It probably represented an earlier drainage ditch.





#### **4.11 Modern**

##### *Area A*

- 4.11.1 Within the southern part of *Area A* modern gully **10010** ran in a north-east to south-west direction (**Figure 2**). It continued beyond the limits of excavation at the southern end of the area and ran for approximately 5.63 m. It contained three sherds of pottery: one of modern refined whiteware, one of Staffordshire/Bristol type slipware and a small sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery.

#### **4.12 Features of uncertain date**

##### *Area A*

- 4.12.1 Two pits (**167** and **204**) and a posthole (**165**) were located within *Area A*, none of which contained any finds (**Figure 2**).
- 4.12.2 *Area A* also contained a number of discrete features including some natural silting and tree throw holes (**146**, **151**, **180**, **212**, **286**, **300** and **311**). The majority did not contain any finds, although some contained worked flint and Romano-British pottery.

##### *Area B*

- 4.12.3 *Area B* contained two large features (**389** and **479**) located within the medieval field system (**Figures 3 and 4**). Feature **479** was more irregularly shaped while **389** was sub-oval; both features were large, shallow and flat based. Their function was unclear and they were undated but their position within the corner of the field system suggests that they may have been watering holes or alternatively derived from natural processes.
- 4.12.4 Two pits (**397** and **680**) and seven postholes (**399**, **548**, **668**, **843**, **1553**, **1555** and **1115**) were of uncertain date and did not contain any finds. Posthole **548** cut ditch **10034** (dating to the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century); posthole **1555** was in close proximity to *Room 2* and maybe related to the western side of that room. Post holes **843** and **1115** were located within *Room 3* but have no demonstrable relation to the building. Posthole **399** was truncated by shallow pit **397** and contained a wooden post, however neither contained any finds.
- 4.12.5 Gully **10056** within the north of *Area B* ran in a north-west to south-east direction and was cut by a number of features including medieval wall **686**, ditch **10055** and post-medieval gully **10057**. This would suggest that the feature was medieval or earlier and it also appears to be on a similar alignment to Bronze Age gully **10017**. However near wall **686** and curvilinear gully **10057** the gully contained demolition material, nine sherds of medieval pottery and three sherds of post-medieval redware. It may be that these were residual due to the large amount of demolition that took place within the area and, therefore, the dating of the feature remains unclear.
- 4.12.6 A further undated gully (**10105**) lay between *Rooms 2* and *6*, and a small east to west aligned length of gully (**10051**) was truncated on its western side by ditch **10055**. Gully **10051** contained no finds but stratigraphically the ditch and therefore the gully pre-dated the building.
- 4.12.7 Irregular and shallow feature **956** contained a large amount of building material and it appears to have been an animal burrow.
- 4.12.8 Four tree throw holes (**576**, **599**, **625** and **10081**) were located within *Area B*. Two contained pottery dating them to the medieval period. Tree throw **576** contained 25 fragments including three jar rims. The feature itself was difficult to define and had been partly truncated by an evaluation trench within the area. It was unclear whether the pottery





was placed within the tree throw hole or had been redeposited. Tree throw **599** was cut by medieval ditch **10035**. Tree throw **10081** was irregularly shaped and was cut by robber trench **10079**. It contained 26 sherds of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery that may have come from a single vessel. The tree throw was located within the interior of the building, indicating that the feature post-dates the building's abandonment. Tree throw **625** was undated.

- 4.12.9 A small natural channel (**987**) was located within the north-west area of the Site, within palaeochannel **10103**. It may therefore represent another phase of silting up of this feature. It was cut by a possible ditch (**985**).

#### *Areas C and D*

- 4.12.10 A number of undated ephemeral pit-like features (**235**, **243**, **245** and **258**) were located within *Areas C and D* (**Figure 6**). They ranged between 0.35 m-0.99 m in diameter, had a depth of 0.05 m to 0.11 m and were located towards the eastern half the area. There was no dating evidence from within the features.
- 4.12.11 A number of irregular shaped tree throw holes (**237**, **241**, **264** and **266**) were located within the area. These ranged in size from 1.33 m to 2.44 m in length. Tree throw **264** contained a single Mesolithic flint blade though this was likely to be residual.

#### *Trench 56*

- 4.12.12 A number of undated ditches were located with Trench 56 (**751**, **755**, **660** and **662**) (**Figure 3**). Ditch **660** was located within the eastern half of Trench 56. It ran in a north-east to south-west direction and although not overly clear appeared to truncate north-west to south-east aligned ditch **662**. The similar alignment of **660** to **877** may suggest a medieval date for the feature however neither of these features were on the same alignment as the medieval archaeology within *Area 2*.
- 4.12.13 On the western side of the trench, east-north-east to west-south-west aligned ditch **751** cut north-north-east to south-south-west aligned **755**. Ditch **751** is on a similar alignment to ditches **742** and **908** and may therefore be post-medieval in date.

## **5 HISTORICAL EVIDENCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 Unfortunately there are few medieval records for Wellington so it is impossible to give a coherent history of the area. However using 19th-century maps and deeds and other materials from the late 16th century it is possible to give a picture of the landownership and farmsteads in the area.

### **5.2 The Site (Area B)**

- 5.2.1 The Site is on the northern edge of a field called Great Moor, immediately to the south of a field called Culverhayes. The latter belonged to the Pophams' Wellington Landside manor until they sold it in 1749 to William Procter Thomas of Drakes Place, whose family had been tenants for over a century. The name signifies there was a dovecot in the field, which would suggest a house or farmstead was nearby but no record of it has been found.
- 5.2.2 Culverhayes and Great Moor lie north of the town on low and probably damp land south of the river Tone in an area disrupted by the construction of the canal and later the railway. A large pond now known as Hobby Pond, a fish pond in 1839, lies to the east and presumably drained into the substantial tributary of the Tone, formerly the course of the river, which has been diverted in Nynehead Park. Approximately 50 m to the west along



the hedge line there was formerly a road to Nynehead, abandoned in the early 19th century but still marked as a footpath on the 1st edition of the 6" OS Map and partly surviving.

- 5.2.3 The nearest farmstead is now Longforth Farm but in the 18th century there were several others around the Site. The pattern of lanes and paths in the area has also been changed partly because of building development. Housing and a factory now cover many of the fields around Longforth Farm.

### **5.3 The manor of Wellington**

- 5.3.1 Wellington manor, with Buckland, belonged to the bishops of Bath and Wells in the Middle Ages.
- 5.3.2 They gave the church and its property with land in West Buckland before 1234 to the Provost of Wells Cathedral. That estate later passed to the Dean and formed the Dean of Wells' manor of Wellington and Buckland, which was transferred in the 1840s to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Their property was around the church and in West Buckland.
- 5.3.3 The Wellington family had an estate in the Middle Ages, probably Northam manor about which little is known but whose lands appear to have been in a different part of the parish.
- 5.3.4 The main manor of Wellington was divided into Wellington Manor and the Borough Manor by 1302, following the creation of the town. Both belonged to the bishops until they were forced to sell to the Duke of Somerset in 1548. In 1550 the duke sold the Borough back to the bishop retaining the other manor that became known as Wellington Landside, and sometimes Landslide! After Somerset's execution (22 Jan 1552) Wellington Landside passed to the Crown which bought back the Borough Manor and gave both to the Duke of Northumberland in 1553 shortly before he was executed and once again both manors were held by the Crown. In 1624 James I sold them to trustees for Sir Francis Popham.
- 5.3.5 The Popham family retained them until the mid 18th century when they were sold separately. They were reunited after 1813 in the ownership of the Duke of Wellington until the Borough was sold to local trustees in 1883.
- 5.3.6 Few manorial records survive except for some medieval court rolls, printed in 1910.

### **5.4 The manor house**

- 5.4.1 The whereabouts of the bishops' court is unknown. Manor houses are usually near the church but Wellington bears the hallmarks of a planned settlement and its earlier layout is unclear. The Pophams chose to build their new Court House within the town possibly on or near the site of a Borough court house, said to have been a 15th-century building; the new Court House was destroyed in the Civil War.
- 5.4.2 The bishops rarely visited Wellington and then only for a day on their way to or from Wiveliscombe, which was the preferred West Somerset home of 14th-century bishops like Ralph of Shrewsbury. Bishops do not seem to have visited in the 15th century and the house may have been abandoned at an early date (*Register of Bishop Drokenford*, Somerset Record Society 1 & *Register of Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury*, Somerset Record Society).





5.4.3 The only documentary references come from the court rolls:

- 1343 Houses in the Court need thatching, which was the reeve's responsibility;
- 1353 Houses in the Court need repair, the reeve's responsibility;
- 1373 Reference to the cherry trees in the lord's garden, damaged and fruit stolen;
- 1382 A man was falsely accused of taking chalk from the lord's Court;
- 1383 Two servants of John Trenchard were accused of taking lime from the lord's cellar under the lord's hall to the house of John Fenne. Both brought witnesses to prove they were not guilty (Humphreys 1910).

5.4.4 There are no other references to the lord's court or buildings.

5.4.5 Sir John de Molton, who normally appears to have lived in the Chard area, was licensed to have services for his household in his chapel at Wellington in 1343. It is just possible he was the tenant of the bishop's manor house but perhaps more likely of Northam or elsewhere (*Register of Bishop Drokenesford*, Somerset Record Society 1). He was still in Wellington in 1344 (Cornwall RO, AR/1/1 101).

## **5.5 The Thomas family and Drakes Place**

5.5.1 The first member of the Thomas family associated with Westford tithing in Wellington was John Thomas who had Old Place.

5.5.2 On 1 May 1595 he leased from Richard Best of Wellington a house with an orchard on the south and west, Poole Close (5 acres north of the house) and Wester Close (4.5 acres west of Poole Close), Moore Mead adjoining Poole Close (2 acres) and More Platt (1 acre) in Washford [sic] tithing in Wellington formerly occupied by John Hancock alias Thomas deceased, for the lives of himself and his wife Alice. The deed in endorsed in a later hand 'lease of Old Place' and in 1611 George Best sold the property with fields called Gladney and Fries Ground to John Thomas. Unfortunately the fields in this area had been amalgamated and renamed by the 19th century but the closes named may have made up the later Great Field.

5.5.3 He died c. 1632 leaving a wife Alice and son Roger. Roger Thomas and his son Roger both died in 1671, the latter leaving a widow Jane d. c. 1726 and a son John d. c. 1735. John married Honor, co-heiress of John Procter of West Monkton, who brought land and wealth to the Thomas family. They had six children but the elder son John d. 1748 unmarried and his brother William Procter Thomas succeeded. William bought out the interests of his three surviving sisters and finished the building of Drakes Place. It was he who bought Culverhayes and other lands of which his family had been tenants from Edward Popham in 1749. William married Frances Gunston of Bishops Hull and served as steward of Wellington manor. He died before 1803 and was succeeded by his son the Revd William Procter Thomas, who in April 1811 married Arabella Maria Bayley of Sampford Arundel by whom he had two daughters but divorced her in 1818 for her adultery with Robert Tyser of Tiverton.

5.5.4 A tenement called Drakes, which may be the predecessor of the Thomas family's property of the same name, was held by the Bicknell family in 1613 and covered 10 acres, the later Drakes Place grounds were c. 13 acres so it is possible that this land was the site of





Drakes Place in the mid 18th century. Any earlier house on the property may have been on the street by the church to which the later grounds extend.

- 5.5.5 Drakes Place appears to have been built in the early 18th century to replace Old Place by John Thomas and his brother William Procter Thomas who spent £1,500 finishing it after John's death on 28 Sep 1748. In 1748-9 he completed the parlour chamber and the furnishing of the parlour and drawing room; also he added a lincay and repaired Longforth and the Old House barn. The west part of the mansion including kitchen and pantries were completed in 1753-4 followed by the walled garden and open stables. He pulled down Old Place and planted the site as Place Orchard, possibly Old Orchard (1760 on tithe). The farm buildings, described as Old Farm on the 1st edition OS 1" map, were standing in 1822 but had gone by 1839 (SHC, DD/DP 35/3, 63/3, 64/3, 73/2, 93/8-9; Greenwoods map of Somerset 1822; SHC, Wellington tithe award 1839).

## **5.6 Culverhayes and neighbouring fields**

- 5.6.1 Although occupied by the Thomas family since 1728 or earlier Culverhayes was only bought by William Procter Thomas in 1749 from Edward Popham. It was therefore part of Wellington Landside manor and formerly part of Bishop's manor of Wellington. William Procter Thomas also bought from Popham Northams alias Salters, Homething and Code Close with cottage property and small plots that he later sold off (**Appendix 1**). The family also bought Normans, east of Culverhayes, which had an old messuage and barn in the 1740s, presumably on the site of the lincays on the tithe map north-west of the Old Farm site. Clearly there were more farmsteads in this part of Wellington in the mid 18th century than there were by the 1839 tithe commutation.
- 5.6.2 The tithe award shows that the Thomas family had lost some land. The Sanfords of Nynehead had bought land north of the canal, now cut off from rest of Thomas family's Wellington lands.
- 5.6.3 The Thomas family let out their farmland in the mid 19th century and by 1842, when many of their fields including Culverhayes lost land to the Bristol and Exeter railway, some fields including Great Moor south of Culverhayes were let with Longforth Farm and the rest including Culverhayes were let as Old House Farm for which a farmstead was built on the site of Norman's lincays after 1842. It is shown on the 1st edition OS 6" map but has since been demolished (SHC, DD/DP 85/5).

## **5.7 Longforth**

- 5.7.1 Longforth farm was let to members of the Walcott and Shorland families in the 17th century (History of the Walcott Family; SHC, DD/SF 2/57/19) and in the 18th century was often known as Shorlands. In the 19th century it was farmed by the Ferrant or Farrant family with the almshouse charity lands (SHC, DD/DP/42/5; DD/SF 2/42/71; A/DAE 1/15).

## **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1 The finds recovered from the excavation comprise an assemblage of moderate size, ranging in date from prehistoric to post-medieval, but with a focus in the medieval period. This part of the assemblage relates to the construction and use of a complex of buildings, and suggests that these were of relatively high status, and were occupied from at least the 11th or 12th century through to the 14th or 15th century. Later, post-medieval finds are more sporadic; it is possible that they represent continued occupation of the Site at a



reduced level (perhaps into the 16th or 17th century), or they could relate to robbing of the Site for building material.

- 6.1.2 There is a small prehistoric component amongst the finds assemblage (worked flint and pottery), mostly deriving from a Bronze Age enclosure. There are a few Romano-British items, but activity on the Site in the period between the Bronze Age and early medieval period appears to have been sporadic at best.
- 6.1.3 All finds have been quantified (count and weight) by material type within each context; this information forms the basic dataset for the Site, and data are held in a relational database (Access). Finds totals by material type are presented in **Table 1**.

## 6.2 Pottery

- 6.2.1 The pottery assemblage includes material of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval date. Condition of the material is fair to good; the assemblage is highly fragmented, but levels of surface and edge abrasion are generally low, probably due at least in part to the hard-fired nature of the medieval and post-medieval fabrics. Mean sherd weight overall is 12.2 g.
- 6.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) within each context by broad ware type (e.g. early medieval coarseware, post-medieval redware); totals are presented in **Table 2**. The presence of diagnostic forms has been noted, and spot dates assigned on a context-by-context basis.

### *Prehistoric*

- 6.2.3 Prehistoric pottery amounts to 130 sherds, largely made up of a single group of 107 sherds from gully **10017**. This group appears to represent a single vessel, in a coarse grog-tempered fabric (a single medieval sherd from the same context can be regarded as intrusive). The vessel is in poor condition, with worn edges and abraded surfaces. A few body sherds carry twisted cord impressed decoration, but the overall design is uncertain. One sherd comes from the rim of the vessel, but the external surface is missing and the profile is therefore unknown, as is the overall form of the vessel. On the grounds of fabric and decoration it can be attributed to the Trevisker style of the Early/Middle Bronze Age. Grog-tempered Trevisker-related vessels with similar decoration were recorded from Norton Fitzwarren (Woodward 1989, fig. 18).
- 6.2.4 Two grog-tempered sherds from gully **10014**, one from gully **333**, and two from ditch **352**, all small, undiagnostic body sherds, are also tentatively dated as Bronze Age on fabric grounds, and could also belong to the Trevisker style.
- 6.2.5 Thirteen sherds in flint-tempered fabrics (all from palaeochannel **10002**), and five sandy sherds (four from pit **380** and one from ditch **106**) are broadly dated as late prehistoric (Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age). The only diagnostic pieces are the four sherds from pit **380**, which form the rim from a slack-shouldered vessel of probable Early Iron Age date.

### *Romano-British*

- 6.2.6 There is a smattering of Late Iron Age/Romano-British sherds, comprising coarse sandy wares, with two sherds of samian and one of Oxfordshire colour-coated fineware.

### *Medieval*

- 6.2.7 Medieval wares make up the bulk of the pottery assemblage (738 sherds). These fall into three main groups based on broad-based fabric identifications: coarsewares (containing



mixed sandy and flint/chert inclusions in varying frequencies); coarse sandy wares; and finer sandy wares, the latter often glazed.

- 6.2.8 The sandy/flint-tempered wares are found almost exclusively in jar forms, with undeveloped rims (everted, with rim profiles thickened); one is finger impressed, and one has a pulled lip and may therefore belong to a pipkin. Other forms represented comprise a single glazed jug handle (this is the only glazed sherd amongst these coarsewares), and part of a pedestal lamp, with a transverse pre-firing perforation through the pedestal.
- 6.2.9 The coarse sandy wares are also used predominantly for jars, with similar rim profiles; there is one jug rim, finger-impressed, with a pulled lip. Both the sandy/flint-tempered and coarse sandy wares are broadly paralleled in Taunton (Pearson 1984), and at Ilchester (Pearson 1982), although discussion of the source(s) of some of the coarsewares, particularly the flint-/chert-tempered wares, is still ongoing (Allan 2003; Allan *et al.* 2010). Their predominance here suggests at least a fairly local source (or sources). There are documentary references to medieval pottery production at Milverton, to the north of Wellington, and at Wellington itself (Le Patourel 1968, table III, fig. 25; Pearson 1984, fig. 57).
- 6.2.10 The finer sandy wares are generally glazed, and appear to derive mainly from jug forms; some of these wares are white-slipped under a green glaze, while others carry painted slip decoration beneath the glaze. There is one barrel costrel (joining sherds from robber trench **1475** and gully **1561**). Many of these sandy wares are likely to fall within the 'south Somerset' ceramic tradition, as exemplified by the products of the Donyatt production centre (Coleman-Smith and Pearson 1988). There are also a few white-firing wares, which could be Bristol products, or just possibly continental imports. Two certain imports were identified: a body sherd from a Saintonge Polychrome jug (demolition layer **709**), and an unglazed handle in a similar fine whiteware, almost certainly another Saintonge product (robber trench **1065**).

#### *Post-medieval*

- 6.2.11 The post-medieval assemblage is small. The most common ware types are coarse redwares, both glazed and unglazed. These mark a development of the late medieval fine sandy wares (and are likely in some cases to derive from the same source(s)), and in some cases the distinction between the two types is not easily determined. Redwares are used for utilitarian forms, here seen mainly as jugs and bowls. A 16th/17th century date range can be suggested for these, although the presence of a few slipwares (both trailed slip and sgraffito techniques) could push them into the 18th century. Part of an imported Martincamp flask (construction cut **1104**) is of a type common in the 17th century (Hurst *et al.* 1986, 103-4, type III), a few sherds of Staffordshire-/Bristol-type marbled slipwares date from the later 17th to 18th centuries, and one sherd of English dipped stoneware and one of white salt glaze to the first half of the 18th century.
- 6.2.12 Later factory-produced refined wares are notable by their scarcity, and are confined to three contexts (ditch **106**, fill **962**, and cut **1137**).

### **6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

- 6.3.1 This category includes fragments of floor tile, hearth/floor tile and brick, but the majority comprises fragments of roof tile, and this group appears to consist entirely of ridge tiles, partially glazed and with knife-cut crests. The assemblage has been quantified (by fragment count) under these basic types; **Table 3** gives the totals by type. No attempt at detailed fabric analysis has been made at this stage, but a small sample was examined under a x10 binocular microscope in order to gauge the potential range in fabric types.



#### *Ridge tiles*

- 6.3.2 These are U-profiled or V-profiled tiles, with applied, knife-cut crests (in some cases the crests have detached from the tiles), the sides of the crests slashed, which acts as a decorative technique but would also have served to strengthen the crest/tile join and to prevent the tiles from misfiring in the kiln. There is variation in the size and slashing of the crests. The tiles are glazed, although the glaze does not extend to the edges of the tiles and can be unevenly applied. The tiles are fired to a mid-red/pink colour, with some harder-fired (or over-fired) examples fired to a darker red; glaze appears yellow-green, or dark olive on harder-fired tiles.
- 6.3.3 The sample examined under the microscope, combined with macroscopic examination of the remainder, suggests that the majority of the ridge tiles utilised a coarse fabric type, tending to lamination, and containing distinctive rock inclusions, including soft, shiny pinkish and greyish inclusions. These inclusions are also characteristic of Romano-British 'Norton Fitzwarren-type' pottery, which has a presumed source to the south-west of Taunton, around Norton Fitzwarren (Timby 1989, 54) – in other words, the majority of the ceramic ridge tiles used at Longforth Farm are likely to have had a local source. A much smaller proportion of tiles are in finer, sandy fabrics.
- 6.3.4 The largest groups of ridge tiles came from roof collapse (**602**) in *Room 6* and demolition layer **629** (*Room 2*).

#### *Floor tiles*

- 6.3.5 Both decorated and plain tiles were used as flooring, and both types are found in fine, silty fabrics with few visible inclusions apart from occasional red iron compounds. The plain tiles are in two forms, square and rectangular, and these were used as border tiles. The square tiles (22 mm square) are all glazed over a white slip, while the rectangular tiles (67 x 22 mm) have a dark, almost black glaze. If used alternately, these black and white tiles would have produced a striking chequer effect.
- 6.3.6 Seven different designs were recorded from the decorated tiles (59 fragments, representing a maximum of 36 tiles, one of which is illegible). None are complete, and some designs are represented only by small fragments. Parallels for all designs were found amongst the published corpus of medieval tiles from Somerset (Lowe 2003). The occurrence of the seven designs is summarised in **Table 4**.
- 6.3.7 Most of the designs are dated to the 13th century, with one 13th/14th century example. All seven designs have been recorded at Glastonbury Abbey, while individual designs have been found variously at Wells Cathedral, Cleve Abbey, Old Cleve Church and Bridgwater Friary. All the designs belong to the Wessex School (Clarendon/Salisbury), which relates to a series of designs derived from those laid at Clarendon Palace, Wiltshire during 1250-2.
- 6.3.8 None of the tiles were found *in situ*; they came from various contexts: robber trenches, drains, demolition layers, etc.

#### *Floor/hearth tiles*

- 6.3.9 A number of fragments (78) are in a very coarse, friable fabric containing prominent quartz grains, and derive from square tiles ranging from 30 mm to 45 mm in thickness. Although these coarse tiles have the appearance of hearth tiles, they lack the usual stabbed holes that characterise these forms, and in some cases the upper surface is worn smooth, and it seems that they were probably used as floor tiles.





#### *Bricks*

- 6.3.10 A few fragments of post-medieval bricks were recovered. These are unlikely to have formed part of the building complex, even as later repairs, and can be regarded as incidental finds.

#### *Other CBM*

- 6.3.11 Other CBM comprises a fragment of modern drainpipe, and a few undiagnostic fragments.

### **6.4 Stone**

- 6.4.1 The stone consists largely of building materials, and of this the majority is made up of fragments of roofing slates (171). The raw material falls into three groups: pale greyish or purplish slates, tending to lamination (type 1); harder, darker grey slates (type 2); and pale greyish or greenish, very similar to type 1 (type 3). Slates of types 1 and 3 are subrectangular, often with rounded 'shoulders', always longer than they are broad. Type 2 slates are generally markedly narrow. A number preserve surviving dimensions, widths and/or lengths, both from top to tail (bottom edge), and from peg hole to tail, which is the more important measurement. Peg holes are generally central, although one or two slates have off-centre peg holes. A few slates have two peg holes, perhaps due to the replacement of an original damaged hole. One slate has a slit instead of a rounded peg hole.

### **6.5 Worked and burnt flint**

- 6.5.1 A very small quantity of burnt, unworked flint was present. This material type is intrinsically undatable, although often taken as an indicator of prehistoric activity. In this instance, the largest deposit (828 g) was associated with Early Bronze Age pottery in gully **10017**. Other deposits (all very small) came from undated, medieval and post-medieval contexts.
- 6.5.2 Only 39 pieces of worked flint and chert were recovered. Much of this was uncharacteristic flake debitage (in **101, 141, 148, 200, 214, 234, 240, 257** and **304**), but among the more diagnostic pieces at least four chronological periods are represented.

#### *Terminal Upper Palaeolithic*

- 6.5.3 A single large blade from **102** is likely to date to the Terminal Upper Palaeolithic. The piece is made on Greensand chert and measures 139 mm long by 39 mm wide. The butt is faceted. There is no crushing or bruising on the edges or dorsal ridges, but nevertheless the piece appears to belong to a Long Blade tradition. It is in very good condition.

#### *Mesolithic*

- 6.5.4 Blades, broken blades, blade and bladelet cores were found in **102, 139, 160, 170, 209** and **265**. In addition, the distal portion of a lateral truncation came from **119** and a serrated blade from **103**.

#### *Late Neolithic*

- 6.5.5 An end scraper of Late Neolithic type came from **209**.

#### *Early Bronze Age*

- 6.5.6 Two scrapers made on thick irregular flakes are characteristic of rather less formal Early Bronze Age industries. These pieces came from **103** and **180**.



## 6.6 Glass

- 6.6.1 All of the glass recovered is post-medieval. Four fragments are from green wine bottles, three of them identifiable as 'onion' forms (c. 1680-1730), while the fourth is undiagnostic but probably falls within a date range of mid 17th to late 18th century. Three further vessel fragments are from later (18th/19th century?) vessels in pale blue glass.
- 6.6.2 There is one small fragment of window glass, datable only as post-medieval.

## 6.7 Metalwork

- 6.7.1 The metalwork includes objects of copper alloy, lead and iron. The copper alloy object comprises a narrow strip, slightly bent at one end, and with a hinge for attachment at the other. This is as yet unidentified, and comes from an otherwise undated context (robber trench **1001**). The lead comprises two pieces of waste and a weight (all from demolition layer **725**).
- 6.7.2 The iron consists largely of nails (at least 22 examples); other objects are likely to include other structural items (there is one U-staple and one looped fitting). Objects came from medieval and post-medieval contexts.

## 6.8 Slag

- 6.8.1 A very small quantity of ironworking slag was recovered (20 fragments, with a total weight of just over 3.5 kg). The largest fragment, from ditch **10003**, appears to represent iron smelting, and the other fragments, although smaller and more abraded, could also be from smelting.
- 6.8.2 The date of this material is uncertain, but the fragment from context **275** was associated with a small group of early medieval pottery.

## 6.9 Animal bone

- 6.9.1 The assemblage comprises 378 fragments (2.132 kg) of animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account this falls to 175 fragments. Bone was recovered from 45 separate contexts of medieval, post-medieval and modern date (**Table 5**).

### *Methods*

- 6.9.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

### *Preservation condition*

- 6.9.3 Bone preservation is on the whole quite good and most fragments show little or no sign of physical weathering. Cortical surfaces are intact and surface details such as fine knife cuts are clear and easily observed. Poorly preserved fragments of bone were recovered from a few post-medieval contexts, notably robber trenches, and these are assumed to have been reworked and re-deposited from earlier contexts.
- 6.9.4 Only two gnawed bones were noted in the whole assemblage. This is an extremely low incidence and suggests that scavenging dogs did not have open access to bone waste. It is also possible that the Site was kept relatively clean and tidy, and any surface detritus was removed or buried before it could accumulate.





### *Medieval*

- 6.9.5 Animal bone was recovered from 23 separate contexts of medieval date. The small assemblage includes the following species, which are listed in terms of their relative abundance: cattle, domestic fowl, sheep/goat, cod, horse and goose. Cattle and sheep/goat are both represented by cranial fragments and post-cranial bones, which suggests that livestock were brought to the Site on the hoof where they were slaughtered, butchered and consumed. Age information is limited however there is some suggestion that cattle were primarily kept to secondary products, in particular milk, and that pregnant ewes were kept on or close to the Site during the lambing season.
- 6.9.6 The domestic fowl bones were recovered from pit **1110** and drain **1358**. The bones from the pit include elements from the wing and leg of a juvenile cockerel, while those from the drain are from an adult hen. Goose is represented by a fragment of distal ulna from gully **1473**. The cod (*Gadus morhua*) bones were also recovered from this feature and comprise elements from the head including the dentary and maxilla.
- 6.9.7 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoals, small animal bones were noted and recorded in the flots of two samples. Large numbers of fish bones, including vertebrae, scales and otic bullae, were observed in the sample from medieval gully **1471**.

### *Post-medieval*

- 6.9.8 Animal bone was recovered from 14 separate contexts of post-medieval date. Most of the identified bones belong to cattle and pig, both of which are represented by loose teeth and post-cranial bones. Little additional information can be gleaned from these fragmented remains.
- 6.9.9 The only other identified species is cod, which is represented by elements from the head, including the parasphenoid and maxilla.

### *Modern*

- 6.9.10 Fragments of cattle sacrum and sheep/goat pelvis were recovered from ditch **1137**.

### *Undated*

- 6.9.11 Identified bones include a small number of cattle post-cranial bones, two duck bones, a domestic fowl scapula and a cod maxilla.

## **6.10 Marine Shell**

- 6.10.1 Apart from one whelk, all of the marine shell recovered is oyster, and this includes both right and left valves, i.e. both preparation and consumption waste, but the quantities involved are very small. Either seafood did not form a major part of the medieval diet or (more likely) the waste was disposed of elsewhere outside the excavated area.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

### **7.1 Introduction**

- 7.1.1 A total of 39 bulk samples, taken from a range of features of mainly medieval date, were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal. The base of a single wooden post was recovered from a posthole among medieval garden features in Area B.



## 7.2 Charred plant remains

7.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Table 8**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

7.2.2 The flots were varied in size and there were low to moderately high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. The charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

### *Bronze Age*

7.2.3 Very few charred plant remains were recovered from Bronze Age ditch **314** (group **10017**) and none from the possible Bronze Age gully **881**. The small charred assemblage included fragments of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) grains and seeds of oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.). Free-threshing wheat is the typical wheat species in charred assemblages from the Saxon and medieval period in Southern Britain (Greig 1991) and is likely to be intrusive in this sample.

### *Medieval*

7.2.4 A rich assemblage of both cereal remains and weed seeds was recorded from layer **725** within *Room 6*, one of four sampled deposits in that room. The cereal remains included grain fragments of free-threshing wheat and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). There were also shell fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and seeds of oats/brome grass, vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and brassica (*Brassica* sp.).

7.2.5 Five of the six samples from *Room 2* produced large charred plant assemblages. The cereal remains again included grain fragments of free-threshing wheat and barley and there were a few rachis fragments noted in drain **972** (group **10041**). Other evidence for possible cultivated crops included seeds of celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) and pea (*Pisum sativum*). Seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, docks (*Rumex* sp.), brassica, medick/clover (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.), runch (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), small scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*) and bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) were observed in these samples. Other remains included hazelnut shell fragments, thorns (Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) like) and buds.

7.2.6 Moderate to high charred plant assemblages were recovered from the three samples from the enclosure ditches. The large quantity of cereal remains seen from ditch **550** (group **10034**) included grain fragments of free-threshing wheat and barley, rachis fragments and culm nodes. A few possible grain fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), together with a glume base fragment were noted in the assemblage from ditch **487** (group **10022**) and may well be residual. The weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, runch, brassica, goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*). The other remains included hazelnut shell fragments and a charred alder (*Alnus* sp.) cone.

7.2.7 All five sampled features from the pit cluster in Area B contained large quantities of charred plant remains. The cereal remains included grain fragments of free-threshing wheat and barley, rachis fragments, culm nodes and oat (*Avena* sp.) awn fragments. The





richest sample of grain fragments was from pit **558** and of chaff elements from pit **562** (group **10025**). There were also a few celtic bean seeds in pit **534**. There was also a large number of weed seeds, including oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, dock, corn marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), stinking mayweed, small scabious, meadow grass/cats'-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.), runch, brassica, knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp.), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and possibly oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). There were also hazelnut shell fragments.

7.2.8 The large charred plant assemblage recovered from pit **633** included grain fragments of free-threshing wheat, barley and possibly hulled wheat together with rachis fragments, culm nodes and oat awn fragments. The possible cultivated crops included pea and maybe celtic bean. The other remains included seeds of vetch/wild pea in high numbers and oats/brome grass, runch, brassica and docks, and hazelnut shell fragments.

7.2.9 Pit **514**, gully **483** (group **10024**) and ditch **898** all produced moderately rich plant assemblages. The remains included free-threshing wheat grain fragments, rachis fragments, hazelnut shell fragments and seeds of oat/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, docks, stinking mayweed, runch, brassica and possibly oxeye daisy.

#### *Post-medieval*

7.2.10 Moderately high numbers of free-threshing wheat grain fragments, celtic bean fragments, possible pea fragments and seeds of vetch/wild pea and oat/brome grass were recorded in the sample from hearth **1212**.

#### *Undated*

7.2.11 A large quantity of free-threshing wheat and barley grain fragments, hazelnut shell fragments and seeds of oats/brome grass, vetch/wild pea, brassica and runch was recovered from undated pit **389**. This assemblage would be more indicative of a medieval date rather than a Bronze Age date.

#### *Summary*

7.2.12 Generally the richest charred plant assemblages were observed in the samples from medieval features. There are some possible differences within these assemblages with the assemblages from within the medieval buildings appearing to be more indicative of cleaned grain assemblages, while some of the others, particularly those from enclosure ditch **550** (group **10034**) and pits **562** (group **10025**) and **633**, may contain more threshing waste and be indicative of an earlier stage of crop processing.

7.2.13 The weed seeds are mainly those found in grassland, field margins and arable environments. There is an indication that a number of different environments were being exploited with small scabious favouring dry calcareous grassland, corn marigold preferring dry sandier soils and stinking mayweed preferring heavier clay soils, together with hazelnut and hawthorn indicative of hedgerow, scrub or edge of woodland environments and alder of wetter areas.

7.2.14 These assemblages appear to be compatible with assemblages from generally rural medieval deposits rather than those from high status sites and are comparable with assemblages from other medieval sites in the area such as Taunton Priory (Greig and Osborne 1984) and North Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon (Ede 1993).

### **7.3 Wood charcoal**

7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 8**. Large quantities of wood charcoal greater than 4 mm were retrieved from layer **725** within



Room 6, layer 690 and drain 972 (group 10041) in Room 2, pit 633 and ditch 898, all of medieval date. The charcoal included mature, round and twig wood fragments.

#### 7.4 Waterlogged plant remains

- 7.4.1 A sample was taken from the northern edge of undated palaeochannel or pond 511 (group 10112). The sampled deposit 1366 was described as a 10YR 2/1 black peat, which was predominantly organic with common wood, including round wood with bark and small branches, and fleshy roots (some modern). It was very soft and fine, fairly damp and did not oxidise on breaking open. No phragmites were observed. It may be a woody fen peat.
- 7.4.2 The sample was processed for the recovery of remains and the flot visually inspected under a x10 to x40 stereo-binocular microscope to determine if waterlogged material occurred.
- 7.4.3 The rich waterlogged assemblage included wood, root and stem fragments together with uncharred seeds. These weed seeds included seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra*), buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), thistles (*Cirsium/Carduus* sp.), sedge (*Carex* sp.), bur-reed (*Sparganium* sp.), pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.) and water-plantain (*Alisma* sp.). This assemblage may be indicative of an area of generally rough grass or wasteland and some scrub in the vicinity of the palaeochannel/pond with some plants, such as sedges and bur-reed, exploiting the wetter environments at the margins of the feature.

#### 7.5 Land snails

- 7.5.1 The flots of the bulk samples were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – x 40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999).
- 7.5.2 Land snails were observed in three of the bulk samples. These were from the medieval layer 725 in Room 6 and medieval ditch 1374.
- 7.5.3 The species observed in the sample from layer 725 Room 6 included the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Clausilia bidentata*, *Carychium tridentatum*, *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Vitrea* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, and the open country species *Vallonia* spp.
- 7.5.4 The mollusc assemblages recorded in the samples from ditch 1374 included the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Aegopinella nitidula*, *Aegopinella pura*, *Clausilia bidentata*, *Balea perversa*, *Carychium tridentatum*, *Oxychilus cellarius* and *Vitrea* sp., the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*, *Punctum pygmaeum*, *Cepaea* sp. and the open country species *Vallonia* spp. and *Vertigo* sp.
- 7.5.5 These assemblages are indicative of the exploitation of a variety of environments. The landscape may have been one of long grassland with some more woody areas such as hedgerows, scrub or small areas of woodland in the vicinity.

#### 7.6 Wood

- 7.6.1 The wooden post has not been studied during assessment, but will be recorded and the species identified during analysis.





## 8 PROJECT RESEARCH THEMES AND FURTHER POTENTIAL

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The objectives of the fieldwork as specified in the WSI were to ensure the adequate record of any buried archaeological remains exposed in order to clarify their date, character and significance, and to provide a clear understanding of their chronology; to record, assess and analyse any artefactual and environmental evidence; and to make available the results of the investigations (Cotswold Archaeology 2011b).

8.1.2 No specific research themes were identified in the WSI.

### 8.2 Updated Research Themes

8.2.1 The results of the excavation have the potential to provide stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence for activity on the Site during the prehistoric (specifically Bronze Age), medieval and post-medieval periods. Other periods are represented, but only by stray finds.

8.2.2 Consequently, a number of Research Themes have been identified by WA to guide further analysis:

- **Theme 1:** *Development and utilisation of the landscape during the prehistoric period and especially in the Bronze Age.*

There was evidence of activity on the Site in the Terminal Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, but represented by worked flint only, and the earliest features date to the Bronze Age. These comprise a small number of gullies and perhaps also a poorly dated enclosure and field system. The Iron Age and Romano-British periods are represented by a small quantity of redeposited ceramics.

- **Theme 2:** *Development of medieval settlement and structures.*

A substantial and high status building complex with surrounding enclosures and field systems was established in the late 11th or 12th century, and was probably occupied through the 14th and possibly into the 15th century. The buildings had been extensively robbed of stone but the layout is reminiscent of a manor house. The discovery of such a complex was entirely unanticipated, and a subsequent search of documentary records has done little to shed further light on its owners and history.

- **Theme 3:** *Abandonment and later use*

Post-medieval activity following abandonment and clearance of the building complex was represented largely by field boundaries, and appears to have been entirely agricultural.

### 8.3 Stratigraphic potential

#### *Prehistoric*

8.3.1 There is limited evidence from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, which are represented entirely by residual finds of worked flint redeposited within later features. This demonstrates a low level of activity within the Site during these periods, mainly concentrated at the western end within Area A. This material has limited potential other than to place it in its local context, but this is enhanced by the paucity of early prehistoric material recorded from the area (Terence O'Rourke 2011; Gathercole 2003).



- 8.3.2 There is some evidence of Bronze Age activity within *Area B*, represented by several gullies on similar alignments. Of particular note was a relatively large amount of Early-Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-related ware probably from a single vessel deposited in the terminal of one of the gullies. A Bronze Age scraper was found in another gully on a similar alignment to a palaeochannel.
- 8.3.3 In addition, there was a group of apparently associated features that have been assigned a prehistoric, perhaps Bronze Age date, but contained very few finds. These comprised a possible double-ditched enclosure and several ditches/field boundaries at the western end of Site within *Area A*.
- 8.3.4 The Bronze Age and possible Bronze Age features are at least of local importance given the virtual absence of features and finds of this period in the area (Terence O'Rourke 2011; Gathercole 2003).
- 8.3.5 Iron Age and Romano-British activity was represented by residual pottery only and has no potential for further analysis other than to place it in its local context, in particular with reference to the Late Iron Age – Romano-British settlement remains recorded a short distance to the south-east at Cade's Farm (Terence O'Rourke 2011).

#### *Medieval*

- 8.3.6 A previously unknown high-status medieval building complex was found within *Area B* of the Site. This represents a very unusual and important discovery for the county. There was a restricted range and number of medieval finds, but together these suggest that occupation of the building complex spanned the late 11th or 12th century to probably the 14th or possibly even the 15th century.
- 8.3.7 The structures had been heavily robbed, probably in the 15th or 16th century, resulting in no *in situ* floor surfaces surviving, and the majority of walls were represented only by robber trenches. Nevertheless, key elements within the principal stone building have been provisionally identified through comparison with medieval manor house sites. These include a hall, a solar with garderobe (and perhaps a private chapel) at the west end, and service quarters at the east end. There was an adjacent courtyard to the south with at least one ancillary building and a possible detached kitchen. To the north was evidence for a forecourt bounded by a wall.
- 8.3.8 The building had flat-faced chert walls with a rubble chert core, and the roof was covered with stone slates, with green glazed ridge tiles. Of particular note was the lack of mouldings, such as for windows and doorways, suggesting that these elements were taken and reused elsewhere when the building went out of use and was demolished. However, a group of medieval floor tiles, found within the western half of the main building, contained a number of designs, including the crest of St Barbe that several prominent families are known to have used.
- 8.3.9 However, documentary research has failed to identify the owners and any records relating specifically to this building complex. One possibility is that it belonged to the Provost of Wells cathedral, and was perhaps largely abandoned in the 14th century when the Bishops may have established their court within the nearby and then relatively new market town of Wellington.
- 8.3.10 To the west of the building complex were a number of ditches defining enclosures and small fields that were probably used to keep livestock, as well as providing drainage. To the south of the complex was a palaeochannel, part of which may have survived as a pond.





- 8.3.11 It appears that virtually the entire plan of the surviving building complex was exposed within the excavation area, and the discovery is considered to be of regional importance. Further analysis of the results of the excavation has the potential to add considerably to the understanding of the nature, layout and use of the building complex itself, as well as the development of Wellington and its surroundings in the medieval period.
- 8.3.12 The potential of the Site can also be considered in the wider terms of the research framework for the archaeology of south-west England (Webster 2008), in particular *Research Aim 8: Utilise the survival of Medieval and later artefacts and buildings to their full extent*. Within this, it is to the theme of taking a holistic, or interdisciplinary, approach to buildings, landscapes, artefacts and archives that the results from the Site at Longforth Farm can most usefully contribute.

#### *Post-medieval*

- 8.3.13 The post-medieval features in Area B have some potential for further analysis, particularly if they can be linked to the abandonment and robbing of the medieval building complex.
- 8.3.14 Within *Area D* post-medieval remains comprised field boundaries and a wall, probably part of an associated farm building. These have extremely limited potential for further analysis.

### **8.4 Artefactual potential**

- 8.4.1 The prehistoric assemblage is small, and is skewed by a group of pottery sherds from a single vessel. Other finds (pottery and worked flint) are scant, and there is no animal bone. Some limited analysis of the pottery is recommended, to bring it to the recommended minimum archive level, and to allow a brief discussion of the Trevisker-related vessel and its local and regional affinities.
- 8.4.2 Finds from the period between the Bronze Age and early medieval period are extremely scarce, and signify no more than very sporadic activity in the vicinity of the Site; no further analysis is warranted here.
- 8.4.3 The chronological focus of the assemblage lies in the medieval period, and the provenance here is significant: these finds are associated with the construction and occupation of a substantial and apparently high status building complex, perhaps manorial, and the finds may be able to shed light on the chronology and nature of that occupation. The assemblage thus immediately assumes a significance by virtue of belonging to a type of site (medieval high status rural settlement) which is rarely represented in the region.
- 8.4.4 There are, however, limitations with the evidence. The relatively low proportion of domestic refuse is notable; it seems that this was disposed of elsewhere, outside the excavated area. There are no large pit groups, or midden deposits; amongst the pottery assemblage, for example, there are only a handful of feature groups of 25 sherds or greater. This, combined with the predominance within the assemblage of coarsewares in a limited range of vessel forms which are not susceptible to close dating, limits the potential of the assemblage to provide a detailed chronological framework for the Site. Nevertheless, analysis of the pottery should enable broad chronological trends to be highlighted, and comment on potential sources, by comparison with larger published assemblages, e.g. from Taunton, Ilchester and the Donyatt production centre. Other domestic refuse is unlikely to repay further analysis: the faunal assemblage is extremely small and the amount of detailed information available for further study is extremely limited (**Table 6**).



8.4.5 The buildings themselves had been robbed out to foundation level, but roofing (ceramic tiles and stone slates) and flooring materials (plain and decorated floor tiles) were well represented and indicate substantial and well appointed structures. There is the potential here to explore sources of supply for all these building materials, through fabric analysis of the ceramic roofing tiles, geological identifications for the roofing slates, and a search for parallels for the designs on the decorated floor tiles. Only the floor tiles, however, can be tied in with any degree of accuracy to a particular date range (all can be accommodated within the 13th century). The use of the various materials can also inform a discussion on the appearance of the buildings themselves, both inside (high quality decorated tile floors as well as plain unglazed floor tiles perhaps used in the service areas of the buildings) and outside (roofed in slates with ceramic ridges).

## **8.5 Environmental potential**

8.5.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide some information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment and local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques during the medieval period. The results of this analysis could provide a comparison with the data from other sites in the local area, such as Taunton Priory (Greig and Osborne 1984).

8.5.2 The analysis of the wood charcoal would provide some information on the species composition and the management of the local woodland resource during the medieval period. This would be limited as the richer wood charcoal deposits have not been linked to any specific functions or activities.

8.5.3 Analysis of the waterlogged plant assemblage from the palaeochannel or pond (511) might assist in determining the nature of the environment of the surrounding area. It is unlikely however to add to the understanding of the Site.

8.5.4 Further analysis of the three mollusc assemblages is not likely to assist in discerning a more detailed picture of the local environment.

## **9 REVISED RESEARCH AIMS AND METHODS**

### **9.1 Introduction**

9.1.1 This section details the aims and method statements for analysis and makes reference to the required tasks (see **Table 9**).

9.1.2 The known archaeological background in the vicinity of the Site will be reviewed, drawing primarily on published reports and archaeological 'grey literature'. This will contribute towards discussion of land utilisation beyond the boundaries of the Site from the prehistoric to the post-medieval period.

9.1.3 The high-status medieval building complex will be considered in broader terms regarding its layout and function, and placed within the surrounding landscape (eg routeways, fields, watercourses and ponds), as well as within the known historic development of Wellington, with comparisons made to similar complexes further afield.

9.1.4 The concluding discussion will incorporate all relevant stratigraphic, documentary, finds and environmental data, providing an integrated narrative of the history of the Site.

### **9.2 Stratigraphic**

9.2.1 Stratigraphic analysis will begin by checking the grouping of features carried out at assessment, confirming the provisional phasing, and updating where necessary in the





project database. Initial specialist analyses will only begin once this stage of work is complete, preceded by a verbal or written briefing from the stratigraphic specialist.

- 9.2.2 The context groups of uncertain or ambiguous date will also be reconsidered. It is anticipated that through a re-examination of stratigraphy and spatial analysis some of the relationships and phasing will be resolved.
- 9.2.3 Further consideration will be given to clarifying the date and nature of the possible Bronze Age enclosure and field system in *Area A*. This will include checking the small number of associated finds and seeking parallels for the layout of features. Little further analysis of the Bronze Age features in *Area B* is proposed, but parallels will be sought for the deposit of Trevisker-related ware in the terminal of one of the gullies.
- 9.2.4 Stratigraphic analysis will focus, in particular, on the high status medieval structural remains (including robber trenches). The nature of these will be examined (eg comparing depths of foundation or robber trenches) in an attempt to identify different phases of construction (and robbing). This will contribute to a better understanding of the layout (including access, heating and drainage), structural development, nature (eg single or two-storey), function and dating of the various elements of the building complex, which appears to closely resemble in plan what might be expected for a medieval manor house.

### **9.3 Documentary**

- 9.3.1 Documentary work undertaken for the assessment has looked at all known sources, with largely negative results for the building complex in question. However, the results will be reviewed, along with the readily available historic sources for Wellington, in an attempt to clarify who is likely to have built and owned the complex, and why it was subsequently abandoned and exhaustively robbed of building materials, such that no specific reference to its existence appears to have survived.

### **9.4 Finds**

- 9.4.1 Only selected material categories warrant further analysis, by virtue of assemblage size, provenance, and/or intrinsic interest. These comprise the prehistoric and medieval pottery; and the ceramic and stone building material.
- 9.4.2 No further analysis is proposed for other material types, but the information already recorded, and presented in this report, will be summarised for incorporation in the publication report.

#### *Pottery*

- 9.4.3 The prehistoric and medieval pottery will be subjected to full fabric and form analysis, following the standard Wessex Archaeology pottery recording system (Morris 1994), which accords with national guidelines (PCRG 2010; MPRG 2001). Fabric analysis will be supplemented by a limited programme of petrological examination (thin sectioning). Medieval vessel forms will be defined following nationally recommended nomenclature (MPRG 1998). Details of manufacture, surface treatments and decoration will also be recorded, along with any evidence for use (e.g. sooting), and re-use (e.g. post-firing perforations). The results of the analysis will be presented in terms of the range of types present for each of the two chronological periods, and the potential sources or source areas. The assemblage will be discussed within its local and regional ceramic context, including aspects of chronology, and any functional and economic implications. The Bronze Age vessel from gully **10017** will be illustrated, plus one other prehistoric vessel, and a selection of medieval vessels (maximum of 15).



#### *Ceramic and Stone Building Material*

- 9.4.4 The existing records of the CBM (quantification by type, using fragment count, with fabric recorded for a small sample) will be enhanced by fabric analysis of the whole assemblage. This will be supplemented by a limited programme of petrological examination (thin section), which should enable some comment to be made on potential sources or source areas. Details of tile manufacture will also be recorded, with particular attention paid to the form and application of the knife-cut crests. The tiles will be discussed in terms of the range of types present, with parallels sought from other medieval sites in the region, such as Taunton (Pearson 1984). A representative sample of crested tiles will be illustrated to support the typology (maximum 10 tiles).
- 9.4.5 The existing records of the stone roofing slates (quantification by slate type, with the presence of peg holes and complete lengths and widths recorded) will be enhanced by recording of all surviving complete dimensions. The three slate types defined here will be augmented by detailed geological identifications with links to potential sources. The slates will be discussed in terms of their probable use in graded sizes on the roofs of the building complex, with reference to similar assemblages from the south-west (e.g. Thorp 1996). A small selection of tiles of various sizes may be illustrated (outlines only) to support this discussion.

#### *Metalwork*

- 9.4.6 Two iron objects (ONs 65, 69), currently unidentified, will be further examined through investigative cleaning by a qualified conservator. The catalogue entries will be subsequently updated, but no report for publication is proposed; details of the objects will be incorporated in the structural text as appropriate.

#### *Animal Bone*

- 9.4.7 No further analytical work is required on the animal bone, but the fish bones within the sample from medieval gully **1471** will be reported on. A brief summary of the animal and fish bone assemblage will be included in the publication report.

### **9.5 Environmental**

#### *Charred plant remains*

- 9.5.1 It is proposed to analyse a selection of eight samples from medieval deposits including layer **725** in *Room 6*, layer 690 and drain **972** Group **10041** in *Room 2*, enclosure ditch **550** Group **10034**, pits **562** group **10025**, **588** and **534** in pit cluster, and pit **633**.
- 9.5.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1 mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They will be quantified and the results tabulated.
- 9.5.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a “P” in the analysis column in **Table 8**.

#### *Wood charcoal, waterlogged plant remains and land snails*

- 9.5.4 No further work is proposed on these assemblages, but the information already recorded, and presented in this report, will be summarised for incorporation in the publication report.





## 10 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

### 10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 The significance of the results of the fieldwork, in relation to the understanding of the long term development of the local landscape, warrants their detailed publication. It is proposed therefore that the results of the excavations will be published as a volume (c. 75 pages) in Wessex Archaeology's monograph series (outline synopsis below) and as a booklet (12 pages) for a popular audience. The Wessex Archaeology monograph series is well-established and subjected to peer review. The report will also be subjected to Wessex Archaeology's standard internal review procedures. The popular publication will also be made available in digital form to be distributed from the Wessex Archaeology and Bloor Homes web sites. Additional web-based information will also be prepared and made available, including updated project information and building visualisation/animations. These aspects of the publication programme will continue the very successful programme of public engagement and outreach, previous parts of which have been reported on elsewhere, and which are include in **Appendix 3**.
- 10.1.2 It is further proposed that a signpost article is placed within the local archaeological journal, the *Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Journal*.

#### A High Status Medieval Building Complex at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset

##### Wessex monograph outline synopsis

Section	Contents	Pages	Figures / plates	Tables
<b>Prelims</b>				
	Title page, list of contents, figures, plates and tables, acknowledgements, summary	10		
<b>Introduction</b>				
	Project and archaeological background, location, topography and geology	2	2/2	
<b>Site description</b>				
	Prehistoric	1	2/1	
	Medieval	10	10/12	
	Post-medieval	1	1/-	
<b>Documentary</b>				
	Historical sources	2	2/-	
<b>Finds</b>				
	Pottery	3	2/-	1
	CBM	2	3/2	1
	Summaries of other finds	2	-/-	
<b>Environmental</b>				
	Charred plant remains	1	-/-	1
	Summaries of other environmental remains	0.5	-/-	
<b>Discussion</b>				
	Prehistoric	0.5	-/-	
	Medieval	3.5	2/1	
	Post-medieval	0.5	-/-	
<b>Bibliography</b>		3		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>24/18</b>	<b>3</b>



## **10.2 Management structure**

- 10.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by the Post-Excavation Manager, in this instance Matt Leivers, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the project specification as outlined in the Updated Project Design, and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.
- 10.2.2 The Post-Excavation Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have a major input into how the publication report is written. He will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

## **10.3 Performance monitoring and quality standards**

- 10.3.1 The Post-Excavation Manager (Matt Leivers) will be assisted by the Reports Manager (Philippa Bradley), who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

## **10.4 Designated project team**

- 10.4.1 The team consists primarily of internal Wessex Archaeology staff. The post-excavation team will be managed by Matt Leivers (project programme). The following WA staff and external specialists (**Table 9**) are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list and the programme. The lead authors will be Simon Flaherty and Phil Andrews. Philippa Bradley will manage the production of the volume. Internal and external finds and environmental analysis, conservation work and scientific analyses will be coordinated by Lorraine Mepham. Caroline Budd will be responsible for client liaison.

## **10.5 Personnel**

- 10.5.1 It is currently proposed that the following Wessex Archaeology core staff will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses:
- Simon Flaherty – lead author;
  - Phil Andrews – lead author;
  - Matt Leivers – post-excavation manager;
  - Philippa Bradley – publications manager;
  - Lorraine Mepham – finds & archive manager;
  - Rob Goller – illustrator;
  - Lynn Wootton – conservation;
  - Sarah Wyles – environmental analyses;
  - Bob Davis – buildings specialist;
  - Caroline Budd – client liaison.





## **11 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **11.1 Museum**

11.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Somerset Museums Service. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **TTNCM 90/2012**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner. It is anticipated that arrangements will be made to allow Wellington Museum to display selected artefacts, in order to continue the programme of community engagement which has run throughout the project.

### **11.2 Preparation of Archive**

11.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Somerset Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IFA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). The archive is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code **85400**.

11.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 20 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts & ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 10 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics;
- 31 A1 graphics.

### **11.3 Conservation**

11.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.

11.3.2 Metal objects have been X-radiographed as part of the assessment phase, as a basic record and also to aid identification. On the basis of the X-rays, the range of objects present and their provenance on the Site, a maximum of two iron objects (ONs 65, 69) have been selected for further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation.

### **11.4 Discard Policy**

11.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the dispersal of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, it is recommended that a selective retention policy is applied to the following categories, with the agreement of the recipient Museum:



- *Ceramic building material*: retain only a representative sample of the glazed, crested ridge tiles, to illustrate the range of fabrics, and the range of crest forms and decoration;
- *Stone building material*: retain only complete or almost complete roofing slates; examples with double peg holes, or other uncommon features;
- *Burnt (unworked) flint*: none to be retained;
- *Clay pipes*: retain only diagnostic bowls;
- *Metalwork*: retain only non-ferrous metal objects, and identifiable iron objects other than nails (X-radiography will provide a basic record of the ferrous metalwork);
- *Marine shell*: none to be retained (context groups are far too small to warrant further analysis).

11.4.2 Dispersal from the assemblage will only take place after all appropriate recording has taken place (see above), and the process will be fully documented in the project archive.

11.4.3 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

## 11.5 Copyright

11.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

## 11.6 Security Copy

11.6.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.





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## 14 APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Historic Documentation

*Holdings of Wm Procter Thomas gent in 1766 according to land tax assessment  
(SHC, Q/RE1 24/5)*

Wellington – Westford tithing

Owns:

Homething and Cood Close	£3 7 10
Normans	£3 1 8
Long Causey Houses [houses dropped by 1800s]	12s 2d
Salters	£1 17s
Drakes and Old Place	£4 6s 4d
Longforth – abated for paying towards almshouses	£2 6s 3d
Sheepland	12s 4d
Churchground	£1 17s
Drakesland [later Dukesland]	£2 9s 4d
Woolcotts [formerly called Henry Woolcotts [Walcott]	£1 4s 8d
Nurtons Culverhayes [later Nurtons and Culverhayes]	18s 6d

*He also owned other property elsewhere in Wellington.*

*Family normally occupies Drakes and Old Place, rest let off mostly to Ferrant family gentleman farmers of Longforth farm.*

*Thomas family still holding properties until 1830s –last land tax assessment.*





## Appendix 2: Tables

Table 1: Finds totals by material type

Material Type	No.	Wt. (g)
Pottery	955	11,681
<i>Prehistoric</i>	130	1180
<i>LIA/Romano-British</i>	13	85
<i>Medieval</i>	738	8957
<i>Post-medieval</i>	74	1459
Ceramic Building Material	824	86,987
Wall Plaster	5	139
Fired Clay	34	422
Clay Pipe	13	47
Stone	338	96,171
Worked Flint	68	989
Burnt Flint	33	1013
Glass	8	377
Slag	20	3599
Metalwork	38	-
<i>Copper Alloy</i>	1	-
<i>Lead</i>	3	-
<i>Iron</i>	34	-
Animal Bone	376	2106
Shell	24	332



Table 2: Pottery totals by ware type

Period	Ware type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
PREHISTORIC	Grog-tempered ware	112	838
	Flint-tempered ware	13	272
	Sandy ware	5	70
	<i>sub-total prehistoric</i>	<i>130</i>	<i>1180</i>
LIA/ROMANO-BRITISH	Sandy ware	1	19
	RB greyware	9	52
	Samian	2	7
	Oxon colour coated ware	1	7
	<i>sub-total LIA/Roman</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>85</i>
MEDIEVAL	Flint/chert-tempered coarseware	324	2773
	Shelly ware	2	10
	Sandy ware	241	2973
	Fine sandy ware	169	3172
	Saintonge polychrome	2	29
	<i>sub-total medieval</i>	<i>738</i>	<i>8957</i>
POST-MEDIEVAL	Post-medieval redware	49	900
	Post-medieval slipwares	8	338
	Martincamp flask	1	27
	English stoneware	1	4
	White salt glaze	1	3
	Staffs/Bristol-type slipware	6	118
	Porcelain	1	9
	Refined whiteware	6	24
	Refined redware	1	36
	<i>sub-total post-medieval</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>1459</i>
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>11,681</b>





**Table 3: Ceramic building material by type**

Type	Total No.
Brick	16
Drainpipe	1
Floor tile (decorated)	59
Floor tile (plain)	44
Floor tile (undiagnostic, no surfaces)	15
Hearth/floor	78
Roof tile	567
Undiagnostic fragments	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>787</b>

**Table 4: Decorated floor tile designs (design numbers follow Lowe 2003)**

Design No.	Description	No. examples	Notes
119	Rectangular border tile; lion in circle flanked with foliate scrolls	1	late 13th century
147	Two addorsed birds in circle	6	late 13th century
186	Foliated saltire with lis ends	10	late 13th century; one halved diagonally (triangular tile)
203	Quarter circle across each corner containing vestigial fleur-de-lis	3	13th/14th century
478	Arms 'Chequy argent and sable' set diagonally	12	third quarter 13th century
529	rectangular tile; mounted knight (Richard)	2	forms pair with design 530; mid-late 13th century
530	Rectangular tile; mounted knight (Saladin)	1	forms pair with design 529; mid-late 13th century



**Table 5: Animal bone - number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by period**

<b>Species</b>	<b>medieval</b>	<b>post-medieval</b>	<b>modern</b>	<b>undated</b>	<b>Total</b>
cattle	14	9	1	5	29
sheep/goat	7		1		8
pig		6			6
horse	1				1
domestic fowl	14			1	15
goose	1				1
duck				2	2
cod	3	1			4
<b>Total identified</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Total unidentified</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>174</b>

**Table 6: Animal bone - quantity and type of detailed information**

<b>Information type</b>	<b>N</b>
Butchery	1
Biometric	13
Age – fusion	19
Age - 2+ teeth	3

**Table 7: Soil sample provenance summary**

<b>Phase</b>	<b>No of samples</b>	<b>Volume (litres)</b>	<b>Feature types</b>
Bronze Age	1	20	Ditch
?Bronze Age	1	10	Gully
Medieval	33	535	Layers, hearth, drains, culvert, ditches, gullies, pits, posthole
Post-medieval	1	20	Hearth
Undated	3	31	Pits, palaeochannel/pond
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>616</b>	



**Table 8: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal**

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
<b>Bronze Age</b>													
<b>Ditch Group 10017</b>													
314	316	5	20	12	50	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	<1/1 ml	-	
<b>?Bronze Age</b>													
<b>Gully</b>													
881	880	44	10	20	40	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	-	
<b>Medieval</b>													
<b>Building A Layers</b>													
Gp 603	725	30	30	175	35	C	C	Indet. grain frags, awn frag	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i>	25/40 ml	-	
	725	31	30	190	35	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	20/35 ml	-	
	725	32	30	160	35	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	10/20 ml	Moll-t (A*)	
	725	33	30	250	35	A*	-	F-t wheat grain frags	A*	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Brassica</i>	25/50 ml	-	P
	1042	39	20	50	30	C	-	Indet. grain frag	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	7/10 ml	-	
<b>Building A Hearth</b>													
	1041	38	10	70	30	B	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	5/10 ml	-	
<b>Building A Culvert</b>													
1650	1648	53	10	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	0<1 ml	-	
<b>Building B Layers</b>													
236	690	37	20	375	15	A**	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	A**	? <i>Vicia faba</i> , <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Brassica</i> , <i>Rumex</i> , thorns ( <i>Crataegus</i> like)	45/150 ml	-	P
349	690	50	20	1875	1	A*	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	A	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Trifolium/Medicago</i> , <i>Persicaria</i> , buds	525/425 ml	Sab (C)	
<b>Building B Drains</b>													
972 Gp 10041	694	35	10	60	20	A	-	F-t wheat grain frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Brassica</i>	10/10 ml	-	
	970	36	20	275	2	A*	C	F-t wheat + barley grain frags, rachis frags	A*	<i>Pisum</i> , <i>Vicia faba</i> , <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Brassica</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Raphanus</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Rumex</i> , <i>Scabiosa</i> , thorns ( <i>Crataegus</i> like)	70/125 ml	-	P





Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
	970	43	20	265	2	A*	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	A*	<i>Vicia faba, Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Galium</i>	70/110 ml	-	
1168	1167	41	20	60	50	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	0/<1 ml	-	
<b>Enclosure Ditches</b>													
487 Gp 10022	484	23	9	20	40	B	C	F-t wheat + ?hulled wheat grain frags, glume base	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	1/1 ml	-	
550 gp 10034	552	6	20	200	25	A*	B	F-t wheat + barley grain frags, rachis frags, culm nodes	A*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Brassica, Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Raphanus, Chenopodium, Anthemis cotula</i> , charred alder cone	10/40 ml	-	P
595 gp 10035	597	10	10	25	10	B	-	F-t wheat grain frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Brassica, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	5/5 ml	-	
<b>Pit Cluster</b>													
438 Gp 10023	424	15	10	30	10	A	B	F-t wheat + ?barley grain frags, rachis frags	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, ?Leucanthemum, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	3/3 ml	-	
	437	16	9	15	10	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Chrysanthemum segetum, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	<1/1 ml	-	
562 Gp 10025	559	13	10	60	50	A	A	F-t wheat + barley grain frags, rachis frags, culm nodes	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Anthemis cotula, Scabiosa columbaria, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	3/10 ml	-	P
	561	14	9	10	10	B	C	F-t wheat grain frags, rachis frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Poa/Phleum, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	<1/1 ml	-	
493	490	17	10	30	20	A	B	F-t wheat + barley grain frags, rachis frags, awn frags	A*	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Raphanus, Brassica, Rumex, ?Leucanthemum, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	2/3 ml	-	
558	557	21	10	40	15	A*	B	F-t wheat + barley grain frags, rachis frags	A*	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Raphanus, Brassica, Centaurea cyanus, Polygonum, Rumex, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags	2/5ml	-	P
	589	11	10	5	30	C	-	Indet. grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	<1/1 ml	-	
534	532	20	9	40	25	A*	B	F-t wheat grain frags, rachis frags	A*	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Raphanus, Brassica, Rumex, Vicia faba, Anthemis cotula, ?Leucanthemum, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags,	2/5 ml	-	P



Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
<b>Pits</b>													
514	517	9	8	150	15	A	-	F-t wheat grain frags	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Anthemis cotula, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, Parenchyma	20/20 ml	-	
633	635	25	20	130	20	A*	A	F-t wheat, barley + ?hulled wheat grain frags, rachis frags, culm nodes, awn frags	A**	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Pisum</i> , ? <i>Vicia faba</i> , <i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus (A*)</i> , <i>Raphanus, Brassica, Rumex</i>	25/15 ml	-	P
1110	1111	40	30	75	15	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	10/10 ml	-	
<b>Drain</b>													
Gp 611	1358	46	20	75	30	-	-	-	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	5/5 ml	-	
<b>Gullies</b>													
483 Gp 10024	480	19	20	25	20	A	C	F-t wheat grain frags, rachis frags	A	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Raphanus, Brassica, Rumex, ?Leucanthemum, Corylus avellana</i> shell frags,	1/1 ml	-	
1471	1472	51	3	30	10	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	3/3 ml	Sab/f (A**)	
<b>Ditches</b>													
898	899	34	25	125	10	A	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	30/25 ml	-	
1374	1375	48	10	8	50	-	-	-	-	-	<1/<1 ml	Moll-t (A)	
	1376	49	13	25	50	-	-	-	-	-	1/1 ml	Moll-t (A*)	
<b>Post-medieval</b>													
<b>Hearth</b>													
1212	1210	42	20	40	25	A	-	F-t wheat grain frags	A	<i>Vicia faba, ?Pisum sativum, Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus</i>	5/5 ml	-	
<b>Undated</b>													
<b>Pits</b>													
389	388	3	20	50	20	A*	-	F-t wheat + barley grain frags	A*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Raphanus, Brassica</i>	5/7 ml	-	
375	373	12	9	15	50	C	-	F-t wheat grain frags	C	<i>Avena/Bromus</i>	1/1 ml	-	
<b>Palaeochannel/pond</b>													
511	1366	47	2	250	n/a	-	-	-	-	(uncharred material included wood/root /stem + seeds (A**)) <i>Sambucus, Alisma, Sparganium, Ranunculus, Rubus, Urtica, Potamogeton, Cirsium/Carduus, Carex,</i>	-	-	

Key: A\*\*\* = exceptional, A\*\* = 100+, A\* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Analysis: P = plant



**Table 9: Task List**

Task ID	Task	Staff	Days
<b>Management</b>			
1	Project management and meetings (all)	Project Manager	20
<b>Pre-analysis</b>			
2	Checking groupings	Project Officer	10
3	Digitising drawings	Project Officer	8
4	Metalwork x-ray/conservation	Project Officer	1
5	Extraction of charred plant remains	Environ. Supervisor	2.5
<b>Finds</b>			
6	Pottery	Senior Project Manager	5
7	Ceramic building material	Senior Project Manager	2
8	Worked flint	Project Officer	1
9	Worked stone <i>Geological identifications Reporting</i>	External Senior Project Manager	1 2
10	Metalwork	Senior Project Manager	0.25
11	Slag	Project Manager	0.25
12	Glass	Senior Project Manager	0.25
13	Metalwork	Senior Project Manager	0.25
14	Animal bone	Senior Project Officer	1.5
15	Marine shell	Senior Project Officer	0.25
16	Finds summary and overview	Senior Project Manager	1
17	Finds illustrations	Drawing Office	6
<b>Environmental</b>			
18	Charred plant remains	Senior Project Officer	8
19	Palaeo-environmental summary	Senior Project Officer	1
<b>Documentary</b>			
20	Documentary synthesis	Project Manager	2
<b>Stratigraphic text</b>			
21	Prelims	Project Officer	3
22	Introduction	Project Officer	2
23	Early prehistoric	Project Officer	0.5
24	Bronze Age	Project Officer	2
25	Romano-British	Project Officer	0.5
26	Medieval	Project Officer	25
27	Post-medieval	Project Officer	3
28	Unphased	Project Officer	2
29	Site illustrations	Drawing Office	20
<b>Discussion</b>			
30	Chronological synthesis of site development	Project Manager	10
31	Discussion illustrations	Drawing Office	2
<b>Bibliography</b>			
32	Compile and check bibliography	Project Officer	2





<b>Report production</b>			
33	Compile report	Project Manager	5
34	Design cover	Drawing Office	2
35	Edit/review report	Senior Project Manager	10
36	Text corrections	Project Officer	3
37	Illustration corrections	Drawing Office	3
38	Copy edit and corrections	Senior Project Manager	3
39	Typesetting and preparing for printer	Drawing Office	20
<b>Publication</b>			
40	Final check	Senior Project Manager	2
41	Copyright/mapping licences		£200
42	Printer liaison	Senior Project Manager	1
43	External production costs	Printer	£1500
44	Book distribution	Senior Project Manager	1
<b>Popular Publication</b>			
46	Compile report	Project Officer	8
47	Design cover	Drawing Office	2
48	Edit/review	Senior Project Manager	2
49	Corrections	PO/DO	2
50	Production		£800
<b>Signpost Article</b>			
51	Write article	Project Officer	1
52	Edit/review	Senior Project Manager	1
53	Corrections	PO/DO	1
<b>Web content</b>			
54	Compile text and figs	Project Officer	3
55	Edit/review	Senior Project Manager	2
56	Web design	Drawing Office	3
<b>Archiving</b>			
45	Site archive preparation	Project Officer	2
46	Finds archive preparation	Project Supervisor	1
47	Environmental archive preparation	Environ. Supervisor	0.25
48	Final archive check and scanning	Project Officer	2
49	Digital data preparation	Project Officer	1
50	Archive deposition	Project Supervisor	1
51	Box storage charge	Artefacts, ecofacts & paper archive	£750



## **Appendix 3: Community Engagement**



making sense of heritage

# Longforth Farm Wellington, Somerset

Community Engagement Report



Ref: 85401  
August 2013



# Longforth Farm Wellington, Somerset

## Community Engagement Report

August 2013

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bloor Homes to undertake a community engagement project at Longforth Farm, Wellington, Somerset (centred on NGR ST 1403 2148) in relation to a programme of archaeological mitigation, also commissioned by Bloor Homes. The intention was to engage local communities with the ongoing archaeological excavation at Longforth Farm, which revealed outlying Bronze Age features, including gullies and pits, as well as the remains of a previously unknown 12th-14th century medieval building complex and surrounding enclosures.

Supported by Somerset County Council, Wessex Archaeology delivered an extensive and inclusive programme of activities that aimed to engage all age groups within the local community. The project also aimed to add value to the Bloor Homes development by fostering a sense of place through shared heritage assets.

### Programme of events:

- Media day (Monday 8th July)
- School workshops (Tuesday 9th – Thursday 11th July)
- Local historical society tours (Friday 12th July)
- Community open day (Saturday 13th July)

A range of high quality promotional materials were produced by Wessex Archaeology's specialist graphics team in support of the project. Materials included information panels, leaflets, activity sheets and a promotional flyer. In addition several project web pages were created on the Wessex Archaeology website and a social media strategy was implemented. A targeted media campaign was designed to produce a press release and arrange a media day on site. Broadcast and printed media from local, regional and national press were contacted.





## Media Day

The media day at Longforth Farm was well attended by members of the local and regional press. Reporters came from local newspapers including the Wellington Weekly News and the Somerset County Gazette. Also in attendance were staff from Current Archaeology, a popular national publication. In addition to the printed media, television crews from regional news teams ITV Somerset and BBC Points West were also present.

A press release was circulated to local, regional and national press in advance of the media day. Press packs were created for each delegate, containing further information and a CD of images.

Opening speeches were given by Peter Dean, Commercial Director for Wessex Archaeology, Paul Talbot, Design & Technical Director for Bloor Homes, and Steven Membery, Senior Historic



Environment Officer for Somerset County Council. Delegates then toured the site with Bob Davis, Senior Buildings Archaeologist for Wessex Archaeology.

The interest generated by this event and the associated press release resulted in extensive media coverage on a local, national and international scale. All coverage presented the Wellington development in a positive light and Bloor Homes as a responsible developer, keen to promote community values.

Media interest in the site built throughout the programme of events and afterwards, with several publications and a local radio station reporting on the success of the community open day.





## Media Coverage

### Printed Publications

- The Guardian* (Monday 8th July) '**Housing development unearths medieval site**'
- Western Morning News* (Tuesday 9th July) '**Unexplained: The medieval mansion that disappeared from history**'
- Wellington Weekly News* (Wednesday 10th July) '**Dig unearths medieval site**'
- Somerset County Gazette* (Thursday 11th July) '**Medieval dig gets our juices flowing**'
- Current Archaeology* (September) '**News Brief**'
- Current Archaeology* (full article forthcoming)

### Online Publications

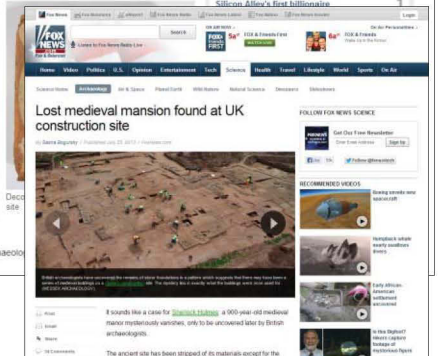
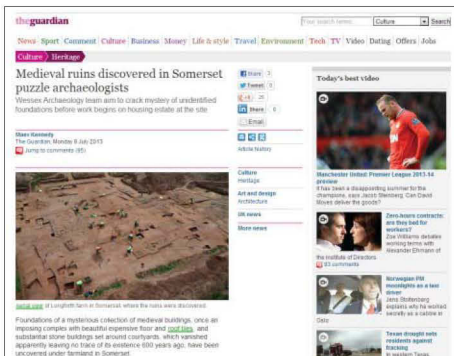
- Around Wellington* '**Wellington folk dig archaeology**'
- BBC News Somerset* '**Medieval site discovered near Wellington**'
- Fox News* '**Lost medieval mansion found at UK construction site**'
- ITV West Country News* '**Mysterious medieval site unearthed in Wellington**'
- Somerset County Gazette* '**Medieval 'manor house' unearthed at Longforth Farm development in Wellington**'
- The Breeze 107.4* '**Archaeology find 'remains a mystery' say experts**'
- The Guardian* '**Medieval ruins discovered in Somerset puzzle archaeologists**'
- This is Cornwall* '**Unexplained: The medieval mansion that disappeared from history**'
- This is the West Country* '**Medieval 'manor house' unearthed at Longforth Farm development in Wellington**'
- Wellington Weekly News* '**Medieval mystery baffles boffins**'
- Western Daily Press* '**Medieval manor emerges from the earth**'
- Western Morning News* '**Unexplained: The riddle of the Somerset Sands mansion**'

### Radio

- BBC Radio Somerset* (Monday 8th July)
- The Breeze 107.4* (Monday 8th July)
- 10 Radio Community Show* (Friday 19th July and Monday 22nd July)

### TV

- BBC Points West* (Monday 8th July)
- ITV West Country* (Tuesday 9th July)





## School Workshops

On-site workshops took place over three days and were attended by over 250 children from four local schools. Participating schools included Wiveliscombe Primary, Beech Grove Primary, Wellesley Park Primary and Oake, Bradford & Nynehead Primary. Workshops were offered free of charge and transport to site was provided.

Led by Laura Joyner, Community & Education Officer for Wessex Archaeology, with assistance from Marc Cox, Community Archaeology Trainee with Somerset County Council, workshops featured a tour of the archaeological site and the opportunity to design medieval floor tiles using clay. Students were able to view the exciting artefacts from the excavation and were encouraged to ask questions and engage with the archaeology.

Feedback from all four schools was very positive and several of the students and teachers returned with their families on the community open day.





## Local Historical Society Tours

The local historical society tours proved popular and were fully booked, over 80 members of local historical groups attended. Societies included the Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society, Staplegrove Local History Society and Wellington Museum.

Wessex Archaeology's Simon Flaherty, Site Director, and Bob Davis, Senior Buildings Archaeologist, gave in-depth tours of the site tailored to suit this specialist audience. The tours provided an opportunity to preview the archaeology and the artefacts ahead of the community open day. They also provided an opportunity for society members to share their knowledge of the site and the area with us; this wealth of local knowledge will help to shed light on the 'medieval mystery'.

The day was enjoyed by all and the feedback from the societies was excellent.

*'A wonderful visit – thank you'*

*'Thought provoking and enormously educational'*

*'Absolutely brilliant'*





## Community Open Day

The community open day offered local residents an opportunity to explore this exciting archaeological site and discover Wellington's hidden heritage. The event was advertised via the press release, a promotional poster that was distributed throughout the local area and the Wessex Archaeology website.



Over 1400 people attended this free event; an unprecedented number that reflected the high levels of local interest in the site. Many visitors stayed on site for several hours and some had travelled long distances to attend.



Activities included guided tours of the excavation area led by the archaeologists, and several hands-on children's activities including creating clay floor tiles, mini dig excavations and Longforth Farm activity sheets. Phil Harding, from Channel 4's Time Team, was available to meet visitors, discuss the archaeology and pose for photographs. Members of the Somerset Archaeology Service were also on hand to discuss the artefacts, which were displayed for visitors to view up close.



Feedback from this event was overwhelmingly positive and there was great interest in future events, lectures and museum displays.





## Community Open Day Feedback

*'Extremely interesting. Good to see so many people coming to see the dig'*

*'Absolutely fascinating! Thanks'*

*'Fab visit! Enjoyed by us all. Thanks'*

*'Thanks very much – well organised and so interesting'*

*'Fab event, so interesting, a part of Wellington that no-one ever knew about. What a privilege to see it. Many thanks'*

*'Really interesting and informative and great that it's on our doorstep'*

*'Very interesting – I look forward to hearing of future progress'*

*'A wonderful find – when a development was proposed in the town the only good thing would have been a dig to reveal the medieval origins of our town. This dig has given people a chance to see our beginnings'*



*'That was really cool – never seen a 'dig' before. Thank you for giving us the chance to see this'*

*'I feel quite privileged to be able to see it'*

*'Superb! Excellent site and very informative guides'*

*'What a wonderful experience! Thank you all for your hard work!'*

*'Very well organised by Bloor Homes and Wessex Archaeology. Well done everyone and thank you'*

*'Thank you all for making this tour such a wonderful experience. So much hard work. Best kept site I've been on!'*

*'Thank you so much for making this open to the public. So interesting for a locally-grown lad'*

*'Thoroughly interesting. An incredible part of local history and it's great you've been able to open it up and show it to the public. I look forward to the report and hearing more findings'*

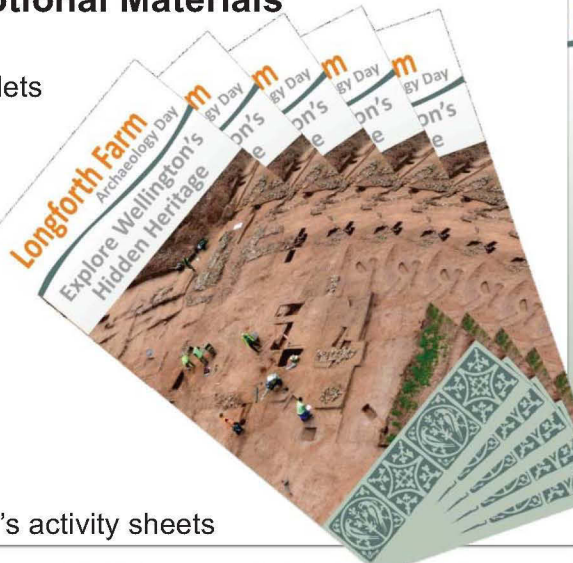
*'Unique! What a fabulous opportunity to see some of Wellington's heritage'*

*'This is better than Ephesus!'*



## Promotional Materials

Site leaflets



### Longforth Farm Site plan

This site plan shows only those features currently interpreted.

- Medieval wall remains
- Medieval enclosures
- Iron Age gullies and ditches
- Unfilled features

Excavations by Wessex Archaeology at Longforth Farm have revealed a series of previously unknown medieval buildings. The surviving stone foundations and high quality artefacts indicate that these were substantial buildings of high status. It is likely that this was the site of a religious or manorial complex.

Dating evidence from pottery fragments suggests that the buildings were occupied between the 12th and 14th centuries. It is surprising that a medieval complex of this size has remained unknown and undocumented until now.

Children's activity sheets

### Archaeology Jigsaw Puzzle

These pictures show archaeologists at work. Match each picture to the activity it is showing and colour it in.

Research  Excavation  Recording  Analysis

### Design Your Own Medieval Floor Tile

These beautifully decorated floor tiles were found at Longforth Farm.

Draw and colour in your own design using these examples and your own ideas.

### Archaeology Word Search

Look at the pictures and try to find the words in the grid.

ARCHAEOLOGIST  
ARTIFACTS  
BUCKET  
DIGGER  
FLOOR-TILE  
FOUNDATIONS  
POTTERY  
ROOF-TILE  
TROWEL  
SHOVEL  
MATTACK  
WHEELBARRROW

```

R R W E L A F F K I W E B O G A Q
E A E B J E D W P H B I B B S R D
T L N G N H B E E K H E M Z U C S
R C I S G J L E W I A H Z F W H T
O N M T R I L C O V J U Y D P A C
W E X A R B D O R R J B W D V E A
E K Z R A O S N O I T A N O U F
L V P R N F O A X J U B J E W L E
P X R O X V I L D C U X L M Y O T
H O O Y T P Q A F C J I D T Y G R
W C M A T T O C K T T U K D K I A
S E R Q T Z E E O F G G K T L S Q
T K V T E H T R O U D I V Y F T V
Q Q V M L T W O Y F V B Q S C K R
A J J Q R O R X T H M W F C E Z
L E V O H S Z T G U A T J J M R S
D Z F J S A Y O C F P J X H E M W
    
```

### Longforth Farm Activity Sheet

This picture shows the archaeological dig at Longforth Farm. Some of the archaeologists have lost their trowels - can you find them?

Information panels

## Longforth Farm

### Wellington's Hidden Heritage

**Longforth Farm, Wellington**

Archaeological excavations at Longforth Farm, Wellington have revealed a Bronze Age landscape and a previously unknown complex of medieval buildings. The site has been excavated, ahead of development, by Wessex Archaeology, one of the largest archaeological practices in the UK. We work with councils, developers, landowners and heritage organisations to ensure that archaeological evidence is recorded and disseminated before work begins on new development schemes.

The excavation, funded by Bloor Homes and supported by Somerset County Council, have enabled us to examine and record this exciting archaeology and understand Wellington's hidden heritage. As a responsible developer, Bloor Homes have embraced the requirement for ecological and archaeological mitigation whilst addressing the housing needs of a continually expanding community.

**Prehistoric Evidence**

Excavations have revealed a number of stone tools dating to the Palaeolithic period (at least 12,000 years ago). This type of tools would have been knapped from flint cores and may have been used as blades for preparing meat or scrapers for working animal hides. The presence of waste flints (the bits left over after knapping has taken place) suggests that people were living and working on the site.

The earliest archaeological features identified at Longforth Farm are a series of shallow ditches and gullies; the remains of field systems, enclosures, track-ways and paddocks dating to the Bronze Age (3,500 years ago). Enclosures such as these suggest that farming was taking place on the site and it is probable that a settlement of roundhouses was located nearby to enable the people who lived here to tend their animals and look after their crops.

We have been able to date the features using a few small pieces of Trevelyan Ware, a distinctive type of pottery common in the south-west, that have been recovered from the ditches. It is likely that the pottery was thrown into the ditches with other household waste such as bits of food and the shavings from the hearth.

## Longforth Farm

### Wellington's Hidden Heritage

**Medieval Evidence**

Excavations at Longforth Farm have uncovered the remains of a complex of buildings, which can be seen as stone foundations. The various alignments of these foundations suggest that there may have been a series of building ranges here, probably set around courtyards.

The mystery, however, lies in exactly what these buildings were used for. The stone foundations, together with finds of roof slates, glazed ceramic roof tiles, and decorated floor tiles, show that these were substantial buildings of high status, perhaps part of a religious or manorial site.

Preliminary dating of the pottery sherds found at Longforth Farm, including coarse kitchen wares and finer, glazed table wares, suggest that the buildings were occupied between the 12th and the 14th centuries. At some stages, however, the buildings were abandoned, the available building materials were robbed out and recycled, and the site was forgotten. So far the documentary references to the site have been found.

This site plan shows only those features currently interpreted. Follow developments online at [www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/longforth](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/projects/longforth)

## Longforth Farm

### Wellington's Hidden Heritage

**Decorated Floor Tiles**

Amongst the high quality building material found on the site are some beautifully decorated floor tiles. There are at least three different designs, and examples of all three have been recorded at other sites in Somerset, such as Glastonbury Abbey, dating to the later 13th and 14th centuries. The tiles were made by stamping the design into the wet clay of the tile, infilling it with a contrasting white slip, then covering the whole surface with a clear glaze. Used in various arrangements, these tiles would have made a highly decorative floor surface.

**Roof Tiles**

The main body of the roofs here would have been covered with flat slates, probably brought in from a source somewhere in the south-west. The tops of the roofs, however, were covered with glazed ceramic ridge tiles, which had decorative 'lozenges' cut into the clay with a knife. These tiles would have provided an eye-catching display, reinforcing the buildings' high status.



# Website and Social Media Usage Figures - Figures are correct as of 1st August 2013

**Wessex Archaeology Website**  
Longforth Farm Project Homepage – 1,393

- Project Sub-pages:**
- Early Prehistoric - 454
- Bronze Age - 386
- Medieval Buildings - 475
- Medieval Floor Tiles - 490
- Medieval Roof Tiles - 446
- Longforth Farm Archaeology Day – **Event** – 3,012

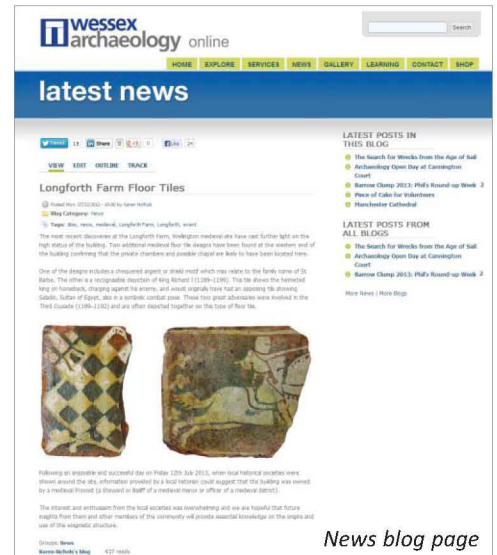
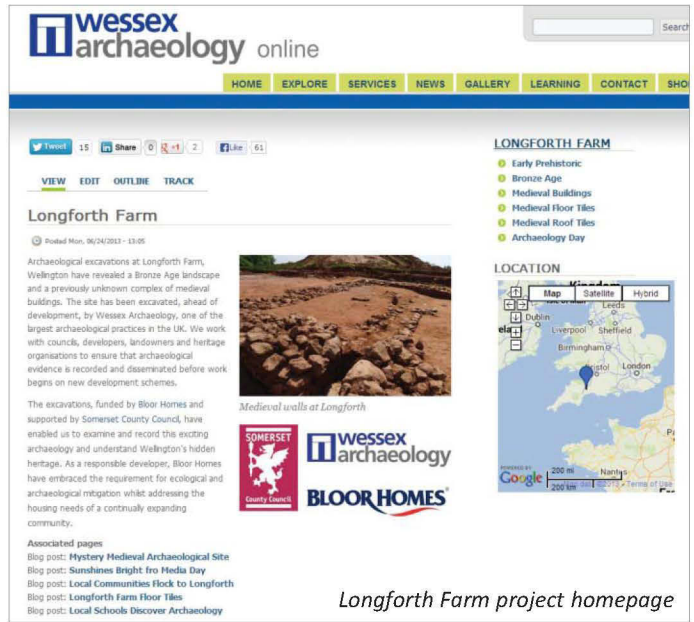
## Blogs

Actual figures will be higher as you can read the blogs on the main news page, not individual posts:

- Longforth Farm Archaeology Day (01/07/13) – **818**
- Mystery Medieval Archaeological Site Uncovered at Somerset Housing Development (**press release**) (08/07/13) – **4,536**
- Sun Shines Bright for Media Day at Longforth Farm (09/07/13) – **466**
- Local Communities Flock to Longforth Farm (18/07/13) – **1,325**
- Longforth Farm Floor Tiles (22/07/13) – **410**
- Local Schools Discover Archaeology at Longforth Farm (25/07/13) – **325**

## Wessex Archaeology Facebook

- Longforth Farm Archaeology Day (02/07/13) – **510**
- Press Release (08/07/13) – **1,024**
- Sun Shines Bright for Media Day at Longforth Farm (11/07/13) – **514**
- Local Communities Flock to Longforth Farm (22/07/13) – **580**
- Longforth Farm Floor Tiles (22/07/13) – **554**
- Local Schools Discover Archaeology at Longforth Farm (25/07/13) – **361**





## Outcomes

The Longforth Farm community engagement project was a great success. The media strategy, associated online content and promotional flyer generated high levels of interest in the site. This was clearly demonstrated by the astounding 1400 plus visitors at the community open day as well as the many thousands of hits on the project web pages. Wessex Archaeology's effective health and safety management and event-specific risk assessments ensured smooth running of the project at all stages.

Local schools, societies and residents came together and were inspired by the archaeological site. Over 1750 people engaged with the site throughout the programme of events, and several thousands more accessed the information online through our digital media. Feedback from all events was overwhelmingly positive and much praise for the efforts of Wessex Archaeology and Bloor Homes was received.

*"We have been delighted to have been able to fund the outreach project at Longforth Farm which has enabled the local community to understand more about Wellington's hidden heritage. The programme of activities organised by Wessex Archaeology has been an excellent way of achieving maximum benefit from the required archaeological work. It has also generated a high volume of positive public interest in the overall development."*

**Michele Rose**  
Sales Director,  
Bloor Homes South West

**BLOOR HOMES**<sup>®</sup>







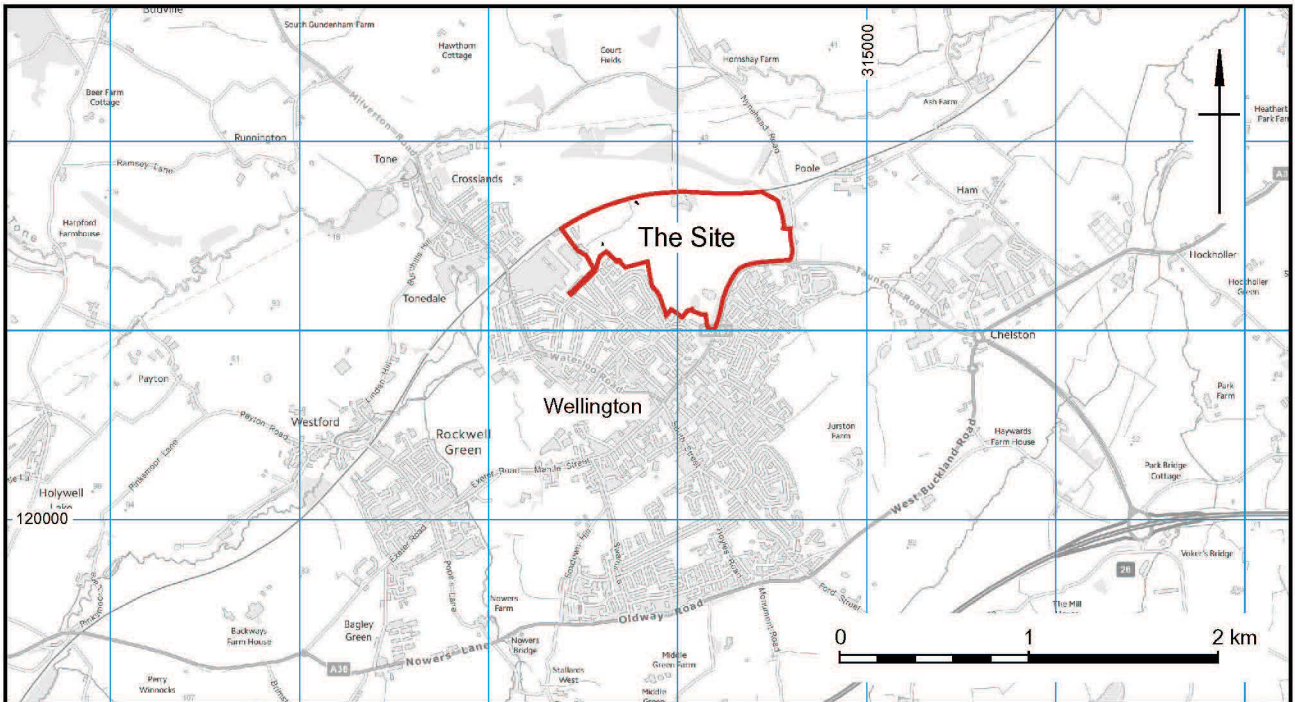
salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh




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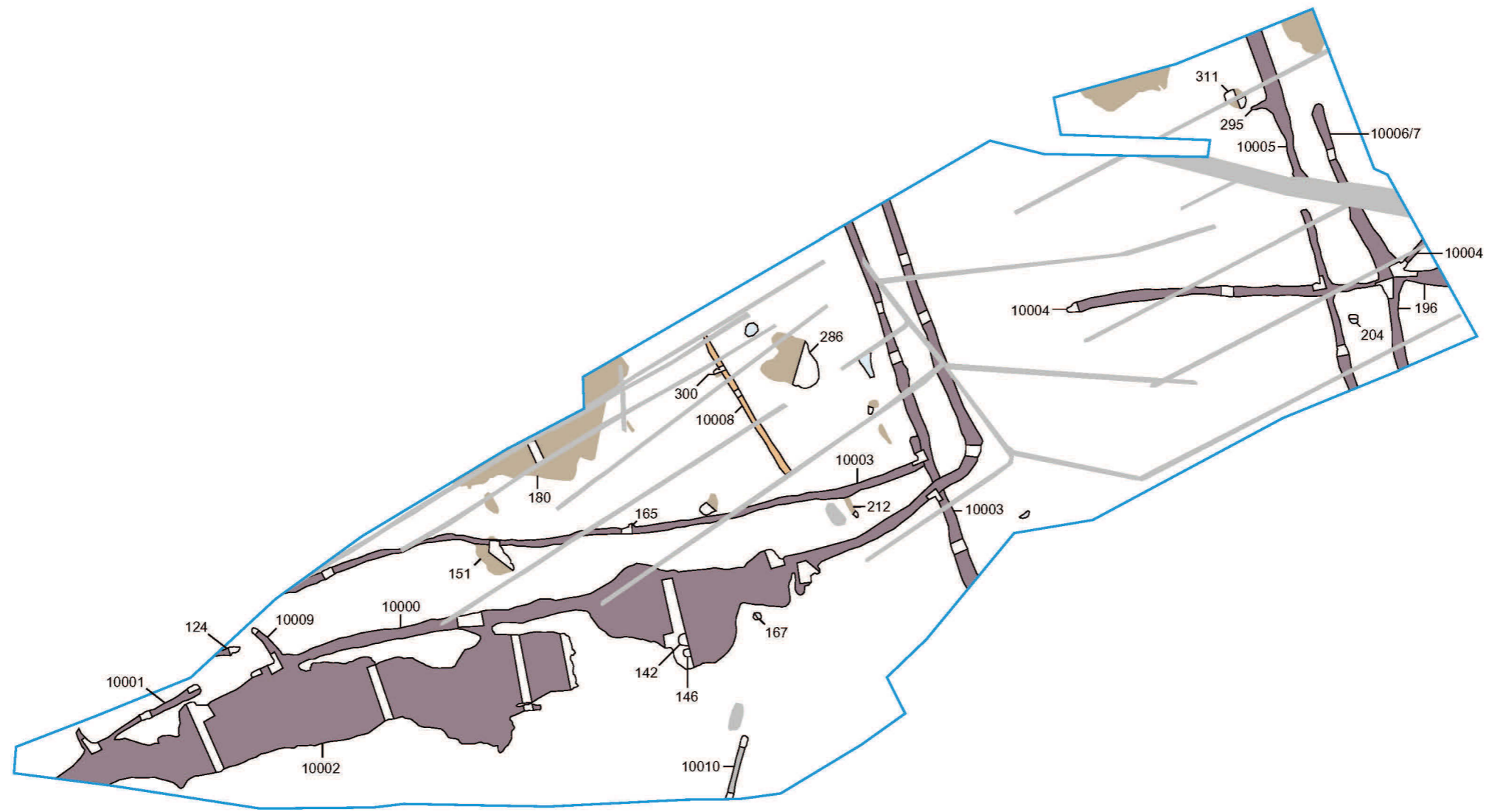
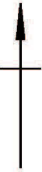


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Site location plan showing excavation areas

Figure 1





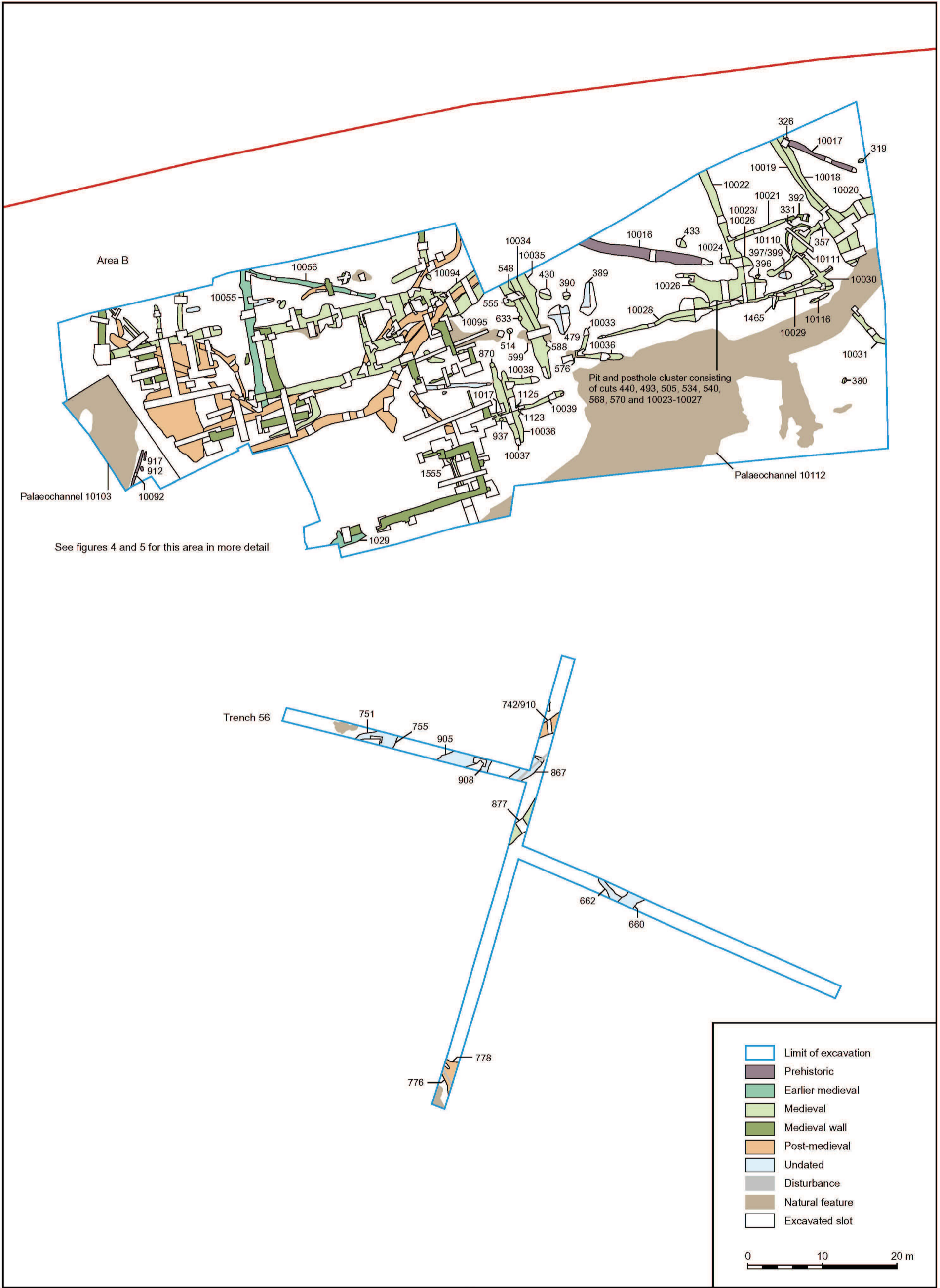
	Limit of excavation
	Prehistoric
	Post-medieval
	Modern
	Undated
	Disturbance
	Natural feature
	Excavated slot

0 10 20 m

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Area A, phased archaeology

Figure 2



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Area B and Trench 56, all phases

Figure 3



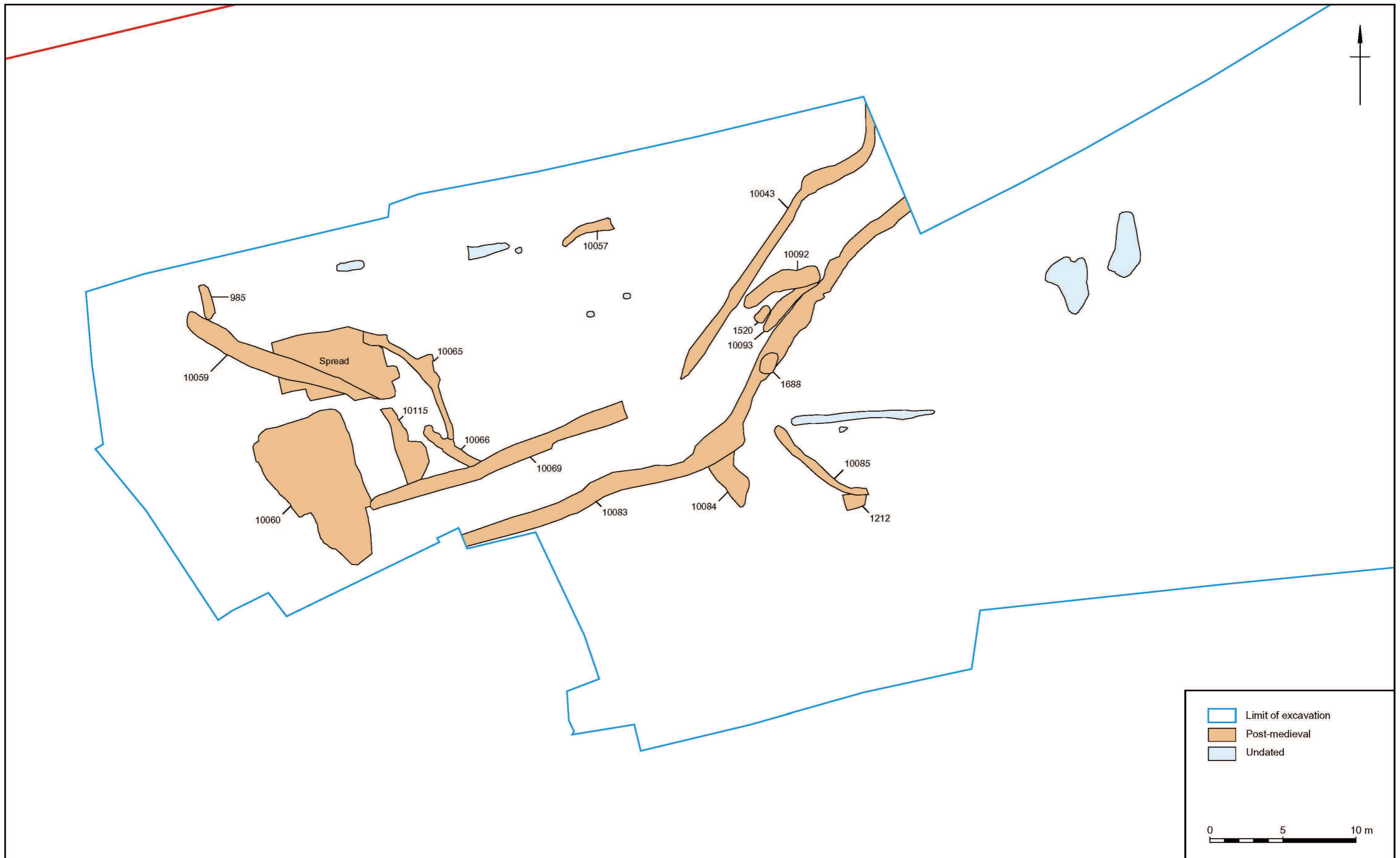


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Area B west, medieval features

Figure 4



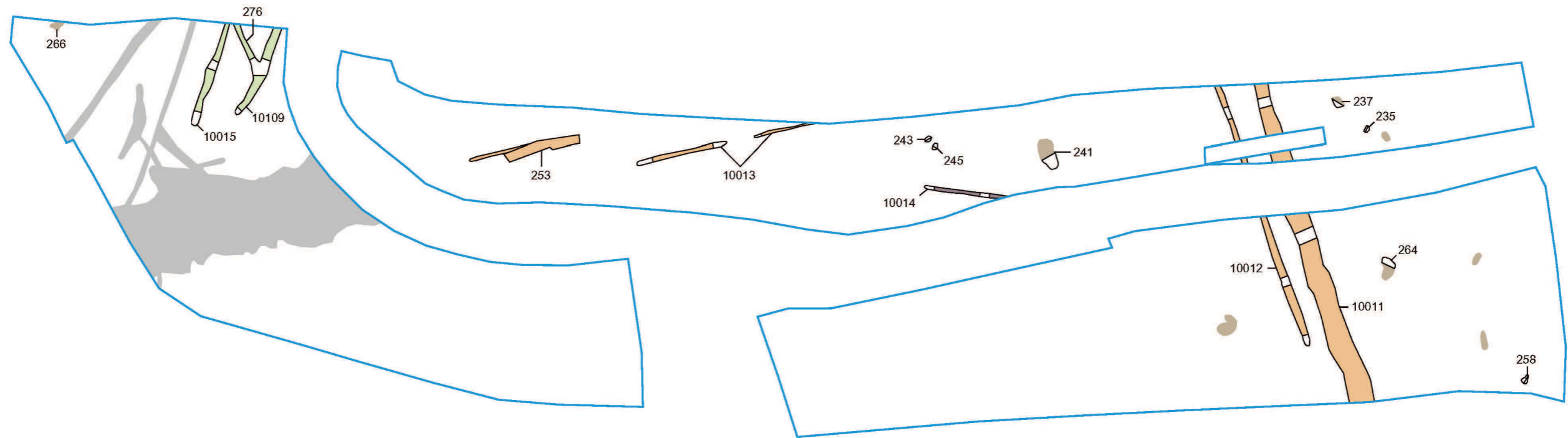
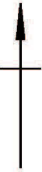
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Area B west, post-medieval and undated features

Figure 5





	Limit of excavation
	Prehistoric
	Medieval
	Post-medieval
	Undated
	Disturbance
	Natural feature
	Excavated slot

0 10 20 m



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Areas C and D, all phases

Figure 6



Plate 1: Ditch terminus 10017; view from south (0.2 m and 0.5 m scales)



Plate 2: Pre-excavation shot of enclosure and field systems in Area A; view from east.


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Plate 3: Junction between ditch groups 10000 and 10003 in Area A, view from north-west (1 m scale)



Plate 4: Feature 157, part of Group 10002 in Area A, viewed from north-west (2 m scale)


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Plate 5: Feature 208 part of group 10002 in Area A, view from south-east (2 m scale)



Plate 6: Western end of Area B; view from north-west


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Plate 7: Walls 689 and 10075, and robber cut 1462; view from south (1 m scale)



Plate 8: Robbed wall 10067 and buttness 791; view from east (1 m scale)


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Plate 9: Drain/garderobe 10048 of Room 1; view from south (0.5 m scale)



Plate 10: Western end of Room 8, view from south (2 m scale)


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Plate 11: Room 2; view from south-east (2 m scales)



Plate 12: Drain 10071 in south wall of Room 2; view from south (0.5 m & 1 m scales)


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Plate 13: Drain 10071 in north wall of Room 2; view from north (2 m scale)



Plate 14: Section of wall 10106, view from west (0.5 m scale)


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Plate 15: Drain 10044 (foreground) and Room 8 (background); view from east (2 m scale)



Plate 16: Western end of Area B, with drain 10052 in the foreground and Room 1 beyond; view from north-east (2 m scales)



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Plate 17: Pit and posthole cluster (10022 and 10025-7) view from south-east (1 m scale)



Plate 18: Wall 253 in Area D, view from west (2 m scale)

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