Cotswold Archaeology

Land off Riverton Road
Puriton
Somerset

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

for

Taylor Wimpey

CA Project: 889012

CA Report: 18014

July 2018

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land off Riverton Road
Location:	Puriton, Somerset
NGR:	331745 141672
Type:	Excavation
Date:	August-October 2017
Planning Reference:	42/14/00016/JE
Location of archive:	To be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service
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Site Code:	RIV 17

A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between August and October 2017 at the request of Taylor Wimpey at Land off Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset. In compliance with an approved WSI, two excavation areas (Area 1 and Area 2), a total of *c*.0.68h was excavated across the development area.

The majority of the features dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age though this broad period has been subdivided into four phases of activity. The main focus of activity throughout the later prehistoric period appears to have been towards the north-west corner of Area 1 and was dominated by two ditched enclosures, probably exploited for settlement purposes. Approximately north/south aligned ditches at the east of Area 1 probably represented elements of an extensive field system contemporary with the enclosures. A number of linear features in Area 2 may also have represented contemporary elements of the field system, though the ditches in this area were rather more irregular and may have represented differential activity.

The Roman period was represented by two parallel ditches, a probable cremation pit, a scatter of isolated pits and a ditch, along with recutting of at least one of the ditches within the Iron Age enclosure complex.

A number of clearly post-Roman features were identified across Areas 1 and 2, which produced finds assemblages suggesting all of the features were broadly contemporary, however these have been divided into earlier, approximately north/south aligned plough furrows and later, broadly east/west aligned boundary ditches.

The site is of local significance and it is proposed that a short report is published in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.*

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between August and October 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at Land off Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset, (centred on NGR: 331745 141672; Fig. 1). The archaeological works were commissioned by Taylor Wimpey and comprised the excavation of two areas (Area 1 and Area 2; Figs 2 and 8) targeted on areas of higher archaeological potential identified by previous geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation of the site.

1.2 The excavation was required to investigate the known archaeological remains at the site ahead of the construction of a large-scale residential development with associated services, access routes and landscaping (Planning Ref. 42/14/00016/JE).

1.3 The scope of the excavation was defined in consultation with Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), the archaeological advisor to Somerset County Council, the LPA.

1.4 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) (2015) and a Method Statement produced by CA (2017). The fieldwork also followed Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (CIfA 2014); the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (Historic England 2015a) and accompanying PPN3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015b).

1.5 The excavation was monitored by Steven Membery and Tanya James (SWHT) including site visits on 17 August 2017, 4 September 2017, 11 September 2017, 19 September 2017, 29 September 2017 and 6 October 2017.

Location, topography and geology

1.6 The development site is located on the north-west fringe of Puriton Village, to the north of Riverton Road, and east of the M5 motorway. The site is bounded to the north by a green lane, beyond which, are pasture fields, to the east by properties facing Newlyn Crescent, to the south by properties facing Riverton Road, and to the west by a screen of trees between the old field boundary and the M5.

1.7 The development site is approximately 2.8ha in extent and set in a roughly rectangular shaped plot orientated east to west. Prior to development the site

comprised three distinct fields of pasture separated by two north/south aligned hedgerows. The site lies upon a slight plateau that rises moderately to the south-east from a low point of *c*.13.5m AOD in the north-east corner to *c*.16.5m AOD in the south-east corner of the site. It is located approximately 600m to the north of King's Sedgemoor Drain, an artificial tributary of the River Parrett, which flows northwards towards the Bristol Channel, the river passing a little more than 1km south-west of the site.

1.8 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as mudstone of the Langport Member, Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone formations. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2018).

Archaeological background

1.9 Archaeological interest in the site arises from the results of a geophysical survey (WAA 2014a) and an archaeological evaluation (WAA 2014b), which were summarised in the WSI (WAA 2015). The following section is summarised from these sources.

Prehistoric (pre AD 43) and Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

1.10 The earliest known activity lies a short distance to the north of the site, immediately north-west of Church Field Lane, and comprises an Iron Age and Romano-British settlement. This site is primarily recorded as cropmarks although finds were recovered during excavation of a railway cutting in the 19th century; these comprised a quantity of pottery, baked clay, and an iron knife that contained silver wire inlay. These finds were Romano-British in date, with the exception of two 1st century AD rim sherds of Durotrigian type that helped to tentatively push the site back into the Iron Age.

1.11 A large Roman settlement including possible villa was briefly revealed during topsoil stripping for the construction of the M5, to the south-west of the site (Scott 1993, 170). An area 100m north/south and 15m east/west contained stone paving and a wall foundation, pottery including Samian, colour coated mortaria, coarse grey sherds and a sherd of Late Iron Age type. Three ditches, including one of pre-Roman date, were observed. The whole area apparently extended both east and west of the motorway.

Early medieval (AD 410–AD 1066) and Medieval (AD 1066– 1539)

1.12 The earliest documented reference to Puriton is believed to have been in the Glastonbury Abbey estate records of AD 854, which record '*three hides of land at Pirition'*. The place-name *Pirition* is accepted by some as being Puriton, though this acceptance is not universal. A settlement at Puriton was certainly in existence by the time of the Norman Conquest as the Domesday survey of 1086 that records that Queen Edith owned '*six hides at Puriton'*. Further documentary evidence records a manor at Puriton from at least 1186-7 and records have shown that the wealth of the area has concentrated on arable farming.

1.13 West of the M5 on the edge of the Polden Hills is the 12th-century Motte and Bailey castle of Down End, in a strategic position overlooking the River Parrett. Excavations in 1908 recovered Romano-British as well as early Norman material and it has been suggested that the site may have originated as a Roman fort which was subsequently adapted into the later Motte and Bailey, although no further evidence for this has been recovered. The adjoining settlement was called a vill in the early 13th century and a hamlet in 1280, but in 1225 and later in the century it was a borough. (Dunning 2004).

1.14 North-east of the current Puriton village, earthworks identified in 1978 are possibly the remains of a deserted medieval settlement (Monument No. 617607). Remains include a field boundary, bank and a ditch or possible trackway and artefactual evidence including building debris, 12th- to 14th-century pottery and a whetstone were recovered during water pipeline construction in the locality.

1.15 St Michael's Church in Puriton itself contains elements of an earlier 13th century tower and the graveyard is noted as having been in use since the medieval period.

1.16 The site sits within a larger landscape of known medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, with some fields showing the typical medieval S-shaped furrow pattern, the rest displaying straight narrow blocks.

Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Evaluation

1.17 A geophysical survey undertaken by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology identified a number of potential linear anomalies that were subsequently investigated by 16 trenches as part of an archaeological evaluation (WAA 2014a). The results revealed that the positive linear anomalies represented former boundary ditches

associated with a possible 'banjo' enclosure of probable Late Iron Age/early Romano-British date.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims of the excavation were to establish the character, quality, date, significance and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the Local Planning Authority in making an informed judgement on the likely impact upon the archaeological resource by the proposed development.

2.2 The objectives of the excavation were laid out in the WSI (WAA 2015) and approved by Steven Membery archaeological advisor to the LPA (Somerset County Council).

2.3 The aims of the archaeological works were drawn from the local regional research frameworks, and specifically *the South West Archaeological Research Strategy 2012-2017* (SCC 2012).

2.4 The following research aims have been addressed within the themes set by the local regional research framework:

Theme A: Settlement Sites and Landscapes

- Research Aim A:10- Understanding key transitional Periods
- Research Aim A:29-Understanding non-villa Roman rural settlements
- Research Aim A:33-Widen understanding of the origin of villages

Theme B: Artefacts and the Built Environment, Technologies, Resources and links to trade

- Research Aim B:14-Widen understanding of Iron Age material culture
- Research Aim B:53-Increase knowledge of the effects of 'colonialism' in the Romano-British world

Theme C: Environment, Landscape change, dating and methodologies

- Research Aim C:16f-Improving scientific dating for the Iron Age
- Research Aim C:17-Improving standards and techniques of environmental data
- Research Aim C:18a-Improving resolution of environmental analysis

- Research Aim C:19c-Improving understanding on the domestication of animal species
- Research Aim C:20-Improve understanding on the domestication and cultivation of plant species
- Research Aim C:21a-Development of field systems and intensification of agriculture in the Iron Age
- Research Aim C:26- Post-Roman landscape changes
- Research Aim C:27-Understanding on the origins of free-threshing wheat (AD 350-1000)

Theme D: Social Identity and Change, Transition, Identity, Territories, Religion, Conflict and Death

- Research Aim D:50-Improve understanding of the effects of the Roman-British on the local populace

Theme E: Economies and Subsistence, Trade, Agriculture, Transport and Communication

- Research Aim E:40-Improve understanding of agricultural intensification and diversification in later Prehistory
- Research Aim E:41-Assess the impact of the Roman Empire on farming

2.5 In addition, the general objectives of the archaeological excavation were to:

- Determine the character, date, extent and distribution of all archaeological deposits and their potential significance
- Determine the site evolution and phasing of all activities that took place
- Gain a better understanding of the possible industrial activities recorded in the evaluation and place it within the wider landscape context
- Determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from plough damage or from any other agricultural/industrial practices or later building activities
- Disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation areas by mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision.

3.2 The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2013). Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and ten deposits were sampled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites* (CA 2012). All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation* (CA 1995).

4 RESULTS

4.1 This section provides an overview of the results of the excavation. Archaeological features identified comprised ditches, pits, postholes, one cremation burial and one inhumation grave. Medieval furrows and modern ceramic drains were identified across the site. At times the furrows had to be partially hand excavated as they were obscuring earlier archaeological features.

4.2 Many of the archaeological features recorded could be assigned to provisional periods based on spot dates from the artefacts found within their fills and on the basis of spatial relationships. However, some features could not be dated on this basis and remain undated. The provisional phasing and the date ranges suggested below therefore have some potential to be refined by further analysis. Features were assigned to the following provisional periods:

- Period 1: Late Iron Age
  - Period 1.1: Late Iron Age 1
  - Period 1.2: Late Iron Age 2
  - Period 1.3: Late Iron Age 3
  - Period 1.4: Late Iron Age 4
- Period 2: Roman
- Period 3: Medieval/Post-medieval
  - Period 3.1: Late medieval/Post-medieval
  - Period 3.2: Post-medieval
- Undated

Geology

4.3 The natural substrate was identified at an average depth of 0.5m below the present ground level. The natural material comprised compact greyish yellow clay with occasional outcrops of limestone and mudstone. It was overlain by a brownish

grey subsoil layer measuring 0.2m-0.4m in thickness. This was sealed in turn by greyish brown topsoil which averaged 0.3m in thickness.

Period 1: Late Iron Age (Figs 3 – 6)

4.4 The majority of the features identified during the excavation could be assigned to the Late Iron Age based on the spot dates from the pottery recovered from their fills. However, the site stratigraphy indicated that there were clearly a number of sub-phases within this overall period and consequently this broad period has been subdivided into four phases of activity (Late Iron Age Periods 1.1 – 1.4), though the current refinement of the artefactual assemblage has not permitted a separation of these in terms of date (see pottery report, Appendix 3).

4.5 Middle to Late Iron Age activity on site was mostly associated with a ditched enclosure complex and an associated outlying field system, with the bulk of activity assigned to the second of the four provisional sub-divisions of the period, though this may not be an accurate representation of the true chronological separation of activity on site during later prehistory for the reason outlined above.

Period 1.1: Late Iron Age 1 (Fig. 3a)

4.6 The main focus of activity throughout the later prehistoric period appears to have been towards the north-west corner of Area 1. In Period 1.1 this was represented by a small area enclosed by Ditch E, which yielded a small assemblage of broadly-dated, late prehistoric pottery, with further associated ditches and a series of perpendicular north/south and east/west aligned ditches to the south and east, possibly representing enclosure of a more extensive area. A number of pits, one of which produced a small assemblage of broadly-dated late prehistoric pottery, and an east/west aligned ditch located towards the eastern edge of Area 1, and possibly further features in Area 2, may also have been associated with this phase of activity and it is likely that there were further ditches, though the presence of these has been masked by the excavation and utilization of later linear features.

Period 1.2: Late Iron Age 2 (Figs 3 – 6)

4.7 The second and most extensive phase of Late Iron Age activity was again concentrated towards the north-west corner of Area 1 and was dominated by two ditched enclosures (Enclosure A and Enclosure B) probably used for settlement purposes. Some segments of the enclosure ditches corresponded to geophysical anomalies identified during the earlier geophysical survey. Enclosure A had an irregular, sub-oval plan enclosing an area of 34m (north/south) by 30m

(east/west). Sections excavated through Enclosure A ditches showed that they had moderately sloping sides and flat bases and varied in width between 1.2m and 1.65m, with surviving depths between 0.15m and 0.35m. The enclosure ditches contained single sedimentary fills from which significant quantities of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered. The westernmost north/south oriented ditch of Enclosure A was observed to truncate earlier Ditch E, though both features produced similarly dated pottery assemblages.

4.8 Within Enclosure A were a number of features, including pits 1296, 1368 and 1422, along with postholes 1274 and 1334, which mostly yielded small quantities of broadly dated late prehistoric pottery, except pit 1368, which yielded no dateable artefactual material but has been assigned to this period on spatial grounds.

4.9 Gaps between ditches defining the south-eastern edge of Enclosure A, measuring 1.3m and 2m respectively, may have represented entrances into the enclosure, though immediately to the south of the south-westernmost of these gaps was a series of ditches, which appeared to form a feature, Enclosure B, external to Enclosure A. The ditches of the two enclosures ran in close proximity without intercutting, suggesting contemporaneity and the pottery from their fills was of the same date. Enclosure B extended beyond the limits of excavation and was only exposed south and south-west of Enclosure A. Some evidence of Roman re-cutting was identified in the Enclosure B ditches.

4.10 At the northern edge of Area 1 was a further possible ditched enclosure; Enclosure C, which extended beyond the limits of excavation enclosing an area lying immediately north of the site. The southern enclosure ditch had steep sides and flat base and measured 0.9m wide and 0.35m deep. It truncated a shallower Period 1.1 ditch 1286 and there was a suggestion that the later feature may have represented a recutting and extension of an earlier enclosure. Moderately large pottery assemblages of Middle to Late Iron Age date were recovered from the later ditch, whilst a single sherd of similarly dated material was recovered from the earlier feature.

4.11 Approximately north/south aligned ditches at the eastern edge of Area 1 probably represented elements of an extensive field system contemporary with Enclosures A - C. The southernmost ditches corresponded with a linear geophysical anomaly identified by the previous survey.

4.12 The original southern cut, Ditch K, was up to 0.78m wide and 0.15m deep and was re-cut on its western side as Ditch J, which was up to 1.10m wide and 0.19m deep. North of the ditch termini there was a gap of approximately 7m before the alignment was continued northwards and beyond the limit of excavation. Apparent ditch terminus 1056 possibly represented an original cut here, though was much wider than the ditches to the south and did not continue north of a post-medieval ditch that truncated it. Ditch L, however, does appear to correspond with re-cut Ditch J to the south and measured up to 0.93m wide by 0.21m deep, extending northwards beyond the limit of the excavation area.

4.13 The gap between ditches J and L appeared to define an access route between different areas within the field system. Shallow postholes 1041, 1049 and 1058 may have represented part of an access structure. Pit group H to the west of Ditch J may have represented the remains of a fence line parallel to the field system ditches.

4.14 East-west aligned Ditch P to the west may also have formed part of the same field system, as may other ditches that have been assigned to Period 1.1; the field system probably being exploited across multiple phases, though with specific dates of modifications being unclear.

4.15 A number of linear features in Area 2 (Fig. 3b) may also have represented contemporary elements of the field system, though the ditches in this area were rather more irregular and may have represented differentl activity. North/south orientated Ditch M had irregular sides and flat base and measured between 1.45m and 1.7m in width and 0.55m deep. It contained two silty fills from which pottery of late prehistoric date was retrieved. The function of Ditch M is unclear at present but could have represented part of the field system or acted as a boundary. A small number of pits in the area also appear to have been contemporary features.

Period 1.3: Late Iron Age 3 (Fig. 3a)

4.16 This sub-phase was dominated by one feature in Area 1; Ditch G, a slightly sinuous feature that cut across the centre of Enclosure A, slightly truncating the eastern north/south enclosure ditch and cutting across the western north/south enclosure ditch, before continuing beyond the western limit of excavation. The ditch was 0.75m wide and 0.1m deep and may have continued further northwards as ditch 1293, though more recent activity had removed any evidence of

continuity. The actual function of the ditch was unclear but it may simply have represented a simple sub-division and extension of Enclosure A.

4.17 A single short linear feature 2120 in Area 2 has also been assigned to this phase as it stratigraphically post-dated the infilling of Ditch M, though no artefactual material was recovered to give an indication of actual date.

Period 1.4: Late Iron Age 4 (Fig. 3a)

4.18 This sub-phase was represented by just two features in Area 1; curvilinear Ditches D and F, which have been assigned to this subdivision on stratigraphic grounds as they truncated Period 1.3 Ditch G. Ditch D survived to a depth of 0.1m and Ditch F to a depth of 0.2m and it was suggested in the field that they could represent the truncated remains of drip gullies of roundhouses, though this hypothesis is somewhat tentative given their fragmentary survival and lack of clearly associated features. Small amounts of pottery of Late Iron Age date were recovered from these features. No contemporary features were identified in Area 2.

Period 2: Roman (Figs 3, 6 and 7)

4.19 The Roman period was represented by two parallel ditches, a probable cremation pit, a scatter of isolated pits and a ditch, along with recutting of earlier ditches within the enclosure complex described above.

4.20 A pair of parallel ditches (N and O) ran approximately east to west across the centre of Area 2, returning to the north and south respectively and running beyond the limit of excavation to the north, south and east. These ditches had previously been detected by the geophysical survey then sampled by the trial trenching (WAA 2014) and provisionally interpreted as the entrance to a possible ‘banjo’ enclosure. Ditch N, which truncated earlier Ditch M described above, had steep sides and flat base, measured 0.95m in width and was 0.42m deep. It contained a single sedimentary fill from which several sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. Ditch O had moderately sloping sides and flat base and was 0.75-1.45m in width and 0.15-0.47m in depth. Small amounts of pottery of Roman date were recovered from its single fill. Ditch O also appeared to have been partly recut as ditch 2062/2064 that truncated the eastern side of Ditch M. The spatial patterning of Ditches N and O, their similarity and the spot dates from the pottery found in their fills clearly suggests that they were contemporary in date and could represent the two parallel east-west orientated flanking ditches of a trackway incorporated into a

north/south field system that superseded the layout of the late prehistoric landscape.

4.21 Sub-circular cremation pit 2145, which was cut into backfilled late prehistoric Ditch M, measured 0.46m in length, 0.42m in width and survived to a depth of 0.07m. It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Its single fill was rich in charcoal and burnt bone, indicating the probable presence of a cremation burial. A small amount of late prehistoric pottery was recovered from the fill of the cremation pit but probably represents residual material as the pit was cut into a backfilled Iron Age ditch and a fragmented iron brooch of mid- to late-1st-century AD date was found at the base of the feature. This has been provisionally interpreted as a possible grave good deliberately deposited with the cremated remains in the pit, or it could have been part of the attire of the deceased that was collected with the cremated remains.

4.22 In Area 1 four isolated sub-circular pits (1073, 1079, 1125 and 1424) and a 2.5m long north-south aligned ditch (1477) yielded small quantities of pottery of Roman date. At present the function of these features remains unclear but suggests some sort of low level of activity during the Roman period within the western part of the excavation area. This is also suggested by the presence of a small amount of Roman pottery recovered from the fills of ditch 1458, which appears to have been a re-cut of an earlier Enclosure B ditch, whilst ditch 1491, a short distance to the east, was also probably a Roman re-cut of an Enclosure B ditch. This could indicate that the Late Iron Age enclosure was partially cleaned and reused in the Roman period, perhaps with a function other than settlement activity.

4.23 At the north-west corner of Area 1, apparently east/west aligned ditch 1346 also contained Roman material, though the exact form and function of this feature was unclear as it lay mostly beyond the limit of excavation. A further, approximately north/south aligned linear feature 1051 towards the east of Area 1 may also have had Roman origins as it contained small fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), though prehistoric pottery was also present.

Period 3: Medieval/Post Medieval (Fig. 3)

4.24 A number of clearly post-Roman features were identified across Areas 1 and 2, which produced broadly contemporary finds assemblages, however these features have been divided into two sub-phases on stratigraphic grounds; approximately

north/south aligned linear features were clearly post-dated by broadly east/west aligned ditches.

Period 3.1: Late medieval/early post-medieval (Fig. 3)

4.25 This sub-phase was dominated by a series of parallel, approximately north/south aligned linear features across both excavation areas. Sample excavation of a number of this features showed that they were broad and shallow with mostly flat bases and they have been interpreted as plough furrows. Pottery recovered from a number of interventions into the features consistently indicated 16th- to 18th-century dates.

Period 3.2: Post-medieval Fig. 3)

4.26 Post-medieval activity on site comprised two substantial parallel east/west orientated linear features; ditch 1112 to the south and ditch 1035/2019 to the north, the latter having been recut on at least one occasion. Both features extended beyond the limits of excavation and had been detected by the previous geophysical survey, with the southernmost ditch having been missed by the trial trenching. Before the current excavation these linear geophysical anomalies had been provisionally interpreted as part of a 'banjo' enclosure but excavation demonstrated that they truncated the north/south aligned furrows.

4.27 A section excavated through ditch 1112 showed that it had steep sides and a flat base and measured 2.7m in width and 1m in depth. It contained a sequence of four fills. The second fill (1114) yielded a single abraded sherd of residual late prehistoric pottery. Six sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the third fill (1115) of ditch 1112 which appeared to be a deliberate backfill event.

4.28 Ditch 2019 was identified and hand excavated in Area 2 and its alignment continued as 1035 into Area 1. Ditch 2109 had a V-shaped profile and was 2.85m wide and 0.9m deep. The fill of a re-cut of the ditch yielded a single sherd of residual late prehistoric pottery. The infilling sequence of the ditch suggested deliberate backfill.

4.29 Ditches 1112 and 1035/2109 had clearly cut through the medieval furrows and most likely represented post-medieval field boundaries.

Undated

4.30 A number of features remain undated as they did not produce artefactual dating evidence and could not be tied in to the archaeological sequence using

stratigraphic or spatial relationships. These features generally consisted of shallow ditches, scatters of small pits or postholes and also an undated inhumation burial (1183).

4.31 Grave 1183 was identified near the south-western corner of Area 1. It was north/south orientated and measured 1.7m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.07m in depth. The shallow pit contained the remains of a poorly-preserved adult skeleton (SK 1184) buried in supine position. No grave goods nor any other artefactual material were recovered from this inhumation burial.

4.32 In the north-western part of Area 1 a scatter of 13 undated pits and postholes and three segmented ditches were recorded. No dateable material was recovered from the fills of these features but given their proximity and similarity to dated features they could represent activity associated with the Late Iron Age enclosure complex.

4.33 In the central and eastern part of Area 1 a number of ditches and ditch fragments, along with 33 pits and postholes were identified. No dateable material was retrieved from the fills of these features, though any number could have been associated with the late prehistoric enclosures and field system.

4.34 Two ditch segments along with a number of pits and postholes in Area 2 produced no dateable artefactual evidence and were not stratigraphically related to any other features so remain undated.

5 FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL

Stratigraphic Record: factual data

5.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork an ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive was compiled in accordance with specifications presented in the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (Historic England 2015a). A database of all contextual and artefactual evidence and a site matrix was also compiled and cross-referenced to spot-dating. The fieldwork comprises the following records:

Context sheets	678
Sections (1:10, 1:20)	161
CAD (Digital Survey)	1
Sample sheets	10
Digital photographs	634
Matrices	1

5.2 The survival and intelligibility of the site stratigraphy was good with archaeological remains having survived as negative features, though there had been moderate horizontal truncation across the site, resulting in very shallow survival of some features and disturbance of burial deposits. Despite a relative paucity of stratigraphic relationships, particularly regarding non-linear features, the majority of features have been assigned a preliminary period based on context dates and/or spatial association.

Stratigraphic record: statement of potential

5.3 A secure stratigraphic sequence is essential to elucidating the form, purpose, date, organisation and development of the various phases of activity represented. This can be achieved through detailed analysis of the sequence and further integration of the artefactual dating evidence. The refined sequence will then serve as the spatial and temporal framework within which other artefactual and biological evidence can be understood.

5.4 While the stratigraphic record forms a complete record of the archaeological features uncovered, the relative lack of inter-relationships, particularly between non-linear features, and the limited amount of dating evidence from these, limits the potential for fully elucidating the function and development of the site.

Artefactual record: factual data

5.5 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. All metalwork has been x-rayed and stabilised where appropriate.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Prehistoric	10	72
	Late Prehistoric	571	5207
	Roman	27	174
	Medieval	4	78
	Post-medieval/modern	39	518
	Total	*651*	*6049*
Flint	Worked/burnt	21	84
Fired Clay	All	370	1726
Brick/tile	All	21	466
Clay Tobacco Pipe	All	3	13
Glass	All	1	1
Metals	Iron	8	94
	Copper alloy	2	2
Industrial Waste	All	3	20
Coal	All	1	1

5.6 A moderate assemblage of pottery along with smaller quantities of lithics, fired and burnt clay, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe, glass, metalwork and industrial waste was recovered from the site. The majority of the pottery dates to the late prehistoric period, though smaller assemblages of broadly prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval material were also recovered, along with a few medieval sherds. One artefact of note is an iron brooch of mid to late 1st-century date, associated with a cremation burial.

Lithics

5.7 A total of 19 worked lithics (67g) was recorded from 13 separate deposits. A moderate to heavy degree of edge damage was noted on 63% of the assemblage and moderate to heavy rolling on 37%, which is consistent with a substantial degree of redeposition. The only reworked items are two retouched flakes, both of which are broken. The retouch is regular on both; however, these are not chronologically diagnostic tools.

Prehistoric pottery

5.8 The prehistoric pottery assemblage is dominated by Late Iron Age material. Ten unfeatured bodysherds (72g) are broadly attributable to the prehistoric period in the absence of indications of vessel form and/or decoration, whilst the bulk of the pottery belongs to the Middle and Late Iron Age; a total of 571 sherds was recovered, weighing 5207g. The assemblage is moderately well broken-up, with a mean sherd weight of 9.1g. In terms of surface preservation and edge abrasion, condition appears to differ according to fabric. The South Western Decorated wares are mostly in a good to very good condition, whereas the rock-tempered sherds are generally in a poor to moderate condition.

Roman pottery

5.9 The Roman pottery group totals 27 sherds (174g). The average sherd weight is low (6.4g), indicating that the pottery has been well broken up. Condition is otherwise variable. Coarsewares of probable local manufacture make up the bulk of this group. One unfeatured bodysherd of Oxford Red-slipped ware of mid-3rd- to 4th-century date was recorded from Roman pit 1424. The only identifiable forms amongst the Roman pottery are a necked jar from Roman ditch 1477 and a bowl from subsoil deposit 1001.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery

5.10 Four medieval sherds (78g) were retrieved, all but one from topsoil. Two sherds from jugs in Bristol Glazed ware date to the mid-13th to 15th centuries. Rim sherds from jars with developed, everted rims were recorded from topsoil deposit 2001 and from fill 2012 of late medieval/early post-medieval ditch 2011. Post-medieval pottery totals 39 sherds (518g). Glazed earthenwares, almost certainly from local Somerset sources, are the most common type (35 sherds), dating to the mid-16th to 18th centuries. Also recovered were Frechen stoneware of mid-16th- to 17th-century date, North Devon gravel-tempered ware (17th to 18th century) and Westerwald stoneware (late 17th to 18th century).

Fired/burnt clay

5.11 340 fragments of fired/burnt clay totalling 1874g were hand-recovered from 74 separate deposits. Almost all fragments are orange or buff in colour, many with a grey/black core. A few pieces are brown/black. Most fragments are soft-fired but 14% have been recorded as of medium hardness. One flat surface was observed on 19 fragments although they were too small to identify the type of object from which they derived. The majority of pieces are amorphous it is not possible to ascertain their original form or function. Five fragments from four Late Iron Age deposits display probable wattle impressions, enabling them to be identified as daub and a fragment from fill 1292 of Iron Age Enclosure A, with a perforation, derives from a loomweight of probable pyramidal or triangular type.

Ceramic building material

5.12 A total of 14 fragments (390g) of ceramic building material was recovered from five deposits of variable date. The fragment (0.3g) from Roman pit 1073 is too small for dating or classification. The rest of the assemblage is post-medieval/modern in date and includes flat roof tile and a perforated brick.

Clay tobacco pipe

5.13 Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem (13g) were retrieved from post-medieval features – a furrow and two pits. None features a maker's mark. Only broad dating, to the late 16th to late 19th centuries, is possible.

Glass

5.14 Only one glass item was retrieved – a plano-convex fragment in cobalt blue coloured glass (Ra. 6) from Late Iron Age ditch 1179. The estimated diameter is *c*. 19mm. Glass beads of Iron Age date were recovered from Glastonbury Lake

Village (including examples in cobalt blue) and Meare Lake Village East, both in Somerset. However, the plano-convex shape of this fragment is more suggestive of a counter than a bead.

Metalwork

5.15 A small assemblage of metal items, comprising two of copper alloy and eight of iron, were hand recovered from nine deposits. The items were recovered from a range of deposit types, including ditches (40%) and cremation burials (30%). The extent of the corrosion is variable, with the ironwork displaying more corrosion than the copper alloy. The group is however well-fragmented. Roman cremation burial 2145 produced an iron brooch and two fragmentary items, one of which may be a further iron brooch. A single, complete nail was recovered from post-medieval posthole 1086 and two modern implements were recovered; a probable railing spike or agricultural tool from post-medieval ditch 1112 and a flat blade-like implement, probably for tilling or similar, from subsoil 2001. The remainder of the group is too fragmentary to identify or date with certainty. This material includes a twist of copper alloy wire from Iron Age pit 2140 and an iron hexagonal loop from Roman ditch 2101.

Industrial waste

5.16 A fragment of iron-working slag (17g), from an indeterminate process, was recorded from post-medieval ditch 112 and a fragment of fuel ash was recovered from Late Iron Age ditch 1264. This type of residue is a product of high temperature processes or events and is not necessarily diagnostic of metalworking activity.

Coal

5.17 A piece of coal (1g) was retrieved post-medieval pit 2097. Coal has been used as fuel from the Roman period onwards.

Artefactual record: statements of potential

Lithics

5.18 The flint assemblage is small, largely redeposited and many items are not closely dateable. However, those which are suggestive of a particular period indicate Mesolithic or Early Neolithic dating, although none are specifically datable to the Mesolithic period. A short report characterising the lithic assemblage should be included in any publication on the site. No further recording or analysis is required and no illustrations are necessary.

Pottery

5.19 The pottery has the potential to inform dating and activity on the site. It represents a moderately large and predominantly stratified assemblage, mostly of Late prehistoric date. It includes a substantial component of South Western Decorated ware, adding to the relatively small number of such sites recently excavated in north Somerset. A report on the pottery should be prepared for publication and further research should be carried out on Middle to Late Iron Age assemblages from other Somerset sites (such as Glastonbury Lake Village, Meare Village East, Cadbury Castle, Blaise Castle Hill and Ham Hill) – this may establish close comparanda for the Iron Age pottery, which could help to refine the dating.

Fired/burnt clay

5.20 The bulk of the fired clay cannot be identified to original form or function. The few fragments of daub provide a little evidence of structures and the loomweight fragment demonstrates textile working. A short note on the fired/burnt clay should be included in any publication on the site. The recording which was carried out for assessment is sufficient for the archive. No further analysis or illustration is required.

Ceramic building material

5.21 The ceramic building material assemblage is mostly of post-medieval/modern date and is partially redeposited. It is of limited archaeological significance. A sentence on this material should be included in any publication on the site. No further recording or research is required.

Clay tobacco pipe

5.22 The clay tobacco pipe is of limited archaeological significance, providing some broad dating and evidence of behaviour. A sentence on the clay tobacco pipe should be included any publication on the site. No further research or recording is required.

Glass

5.23 The glass gaming piece augments the evidence for Roman activity on this predominantly Iron Age site and probably dates to the earlier Roman period. No further recording or research is required. A short report on the glass item should be included in any publication on the site.

Metalwork

5.24 The metalwork group is small and fragmented and as such its usefulness in informing site activity and dating is limited. The iron brooch is interesting due to its preservation within a cremation burial context. It is recommended that this item is cleaned by a specialist conservator to clarify its form/classification, and that following this, it is described for publication. The remainder of the group merits only a short note outlining the characteristics.

Industrial waste

5.25 The heat-affected residues are of little archaeological significance and no further work is required.

Coal

5.26 The coal is of minimal archaeological significance and no further work is required.

Biological record: factual data

5.27 All ecofacts recovered from the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. A total of ten bulk samples were taken for the recovery of environmental remains.

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)	Litres (l)
Human bone	Cremation burials Inhumation burial Residual Bone	1 1 -	440 901 811	- - -
Animal bone	Fragments	1445	10187	-
Samples	Environmental	10	-	220

Human bone

5.28 A single slightly flexed, probably supine, adult inhumation was recovered from a shallow grave. There was no dating evidence and no associated features. A single un-urned cremation burial which has been assigned to Period 2 (Roman) was recovered from the top of a ditch. The total weight was 440g of white cremated bone. The inhumed skeleton was an adult of potentially younger age range. It was highly fragmented and there were no skeletal remains from below the knee area present. The cremated bone fragments appeared to be a good size, with many identifiable elements and there is a good potential for estimation of age and sex.

Animal bone

5.29 A moderate amount of animal bone was recovered. It was generally in poor condition and highly fragmentary. Sample sizes were large enough to be worth further analysis, but there will be some bias towards the bones of larger animals

and more dense elements. The absence of bone from samples at this stage means that small bones and the remains of very small taxa such as birds, fish and micro-mammals may be under-represented. However, the assemblage is large enough that identification of a considerable number of bones from the Late Iron Age period may be expected, that will provide a big enough sample to make a useful contribution to the story of the site.

Palaeoenvironmental remains

5.30 A series of 10 environmental samples (120 litres of soil) were taken from a range of Period 1 (Late Iron Age), Period 2 (Romano-British) and undated features with the intention of recovering cremated material and environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. Plant macrofossils and charcoal were recovered from most samples, whilst some also yielded mollusc shell assemblages. The Late Iron Age and Romano-British assemblages generally appear to be indicative of a rural settlement with domestic activities, including crop processing taking place in the vicinity. Although spelt wheat is generally the predominant wheat species during the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods in southern Britain, remains of emmer wheat were also recorded, occasionally in relatively high numbers, along with those from spelt wheat within other Iron Age and Roman assemblages from nearby sites. There is no indication however from the environmental assemblages of any industrial processes being undertaken in the locality. The small mollusc assemblages appear to be indicative of a generally well-established open landscape. The assemblages associated with the cremation related deposits provide no indication of the likely date of these features.

Biological record: statements of potential

Human bone

5.31 The inhumed skeleton was highly fragmented which will impede observation of non-metric traits and prevent metrics from being taken. There were no skeletal remains from below the knee area present. Spongy bone was also mostly absent and the pelvic fragment was limited to iliac blade. The bone surface condition was adequate for observation of pathological changes. There is a good potential for estimation of age and sex from the cremated bone and element selection and fragmentation can be explored. Both the inhumed skeleton and the cremated bone should be further analysed for publications and samples of human bone and cremation-related material should be submitted for radiocarbon dating.

Animal bone

5.32 Detailed recording and analysis of the Late Iron Age animal bone is highly recommended, based on the areas detailed above and taking into account the likely preservation bias previously noted. Bones from samples should also be made available and included in further work. Roman and post-medieval animal remains are too few to be worth further consideration.

Palaeoenvironmental remains

5.33 Further analysis of the charred plant assemblages from selected Period 1 and Period 2 samples has the potential to provide some limited information on the range of crops and local crop processing activities and the surrounding environment during these periods. There is potential for radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the cremation related deposit in order to more firmly date this feature. There is no potential for information from charcoal from more domestic assemblages due to the sparse quantities recovered. Detailed analysis of the mollusc assemblages would not augment the picture of the local landscape further due to the small assemblages recovered. No further analysis is proposed.

6 SUMMARY STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

Late Iron Age

6.1 The bulk of evidence for occupation of the site dates to the Late Iron Age period and four broad sub-phases of activity have been identified, though clearly defined dating of these has not so far been possible because of the broad dating evidence offered by the pottery assemblage.

6.2 The main focus of activity throughout the Middle to Late Iron Age period was towards the north-west corner of Area 1, where the earliest phase of occupation was represented by a small area enclosed by Ditch E with further features suggesting the enclosure of a more extensive area. A number of pits to the eastern edge of Area 1, and possibly further features in Area 2, may also have been associated with this phase of activity and it is suggested that there may have been further ditches associated with this phase of occupation, though the presence of these has been masked by the excavation and utilisation of later linear features.

6.3 The main phase of later prehistoric activity appears to have occurred during a secondary period of occupation when ditched enclosures A, B and C were

established in the north-west of Area 1. A number of internal features were present, including pits and postholes representing one or more structures, though no clear habitation structures were evident at this time. Few features were apparent within the small area enclosed by the Enclosure B ditches and the internal area of Enclosure C was located mostly beyond the limits of excavation so it was not possible to ascertain the nature and extent of activity here.

6.4 Approximately north/south aligned ditches at the east of Area 1 probably represented elements of an extensive field system contemporary with Enclosures A - C. A number of linear features in Area 2 may also have represented contemporary elements of the field system, though the ditches in this area were rather more irregular and may have represented differential activity.

6.5 Following the main phase of Late Iron Age activity Ditch G, a slightly sinuous feature, was excavated across the centre of Enclosure A, slightly truncating the eastern north/south enclosure ditch and cutting across the western north/south enclosure ditch, before continuing beyond the western limit of excavation. The actual function of the ditch was unclear but may simply have represented a sub-division and extension of Enclosure A. A single ditch in Area 2 may have been a contemporary feature.

6.6 The latest phase of prehistoric activity was represented by curvilinear Ditches D and F in Area 1, which may have been the truncated remains of drip gullies of roundhouses, though their survival was somewhat fragmentary and there was a lack of clearly associated features. No contemporary features were identified in Area 2.

6.7 Significant assemblages of pottery were recovered from the Late Iron Age features, particularly ditches associated with Enclosures A, B and C and further analysis of this material is recommended in order to refine the dating of the site and place it in context with other contemporary sites in the region. Further analysis of Late Iron Age animal bone and palaeoenvironmental assemblages also has the potential to permit a better understanding of the diet and economy of the site.

Roman

6.8 The Roman period was represented by two parallel ditches and a probable cremation pit in Area 2, along with a scatter of pits, a ditch and recutting of Enclosure B ditches in Area 1. Parallel ditches N and O ran approximately east to

west across the centre of Area 2, returning to the north and south respectively and running beyond the limit of excavation to the north, south and east. The spatial patterning of Ditches N and O, their similarity and the spot dates from the pottery found in their fills clearly suggests that they were contemporary in date and could represent the two parallel east-west orientated flanking ditches of a trackway incorporated into a north/south field system that superseded the layout of the late prehistoric landscape.

6.9 Located between the two ditches and cut into an earlier, backfilled, Late Iron Age ditch was sub-circular pit 2145. Its single fill was rich in charcoal and burnt bone, indicating the probable presence of a cremation burial. A fragmented iron brooch of mid- to late-1st-century date was found at the base of the feature, which has been provisionally interpreted as a possible grave good deliberately deposited with the cremated remains in the pit, or it could have been part of the attire of the deceased that was collected with the cremated remains.

6.10 In Area 1 four isolated sub-circular pits and a north-south aligned ditch yielded small quantities of pottery of Roman date. At present the function of these features remains unclear but suggests some sort of low level of activity during the Roman period within the western part of the excavation area. This is also suggested by the presence of a small amount of Roman pottery recovered from the fills of a ditch, which initially appeared to have been a re-cut of an Enclosure B ditch. Ditches at the north-west corner of Area 1 and at the east of the area may also have had Roman origins.

6.11 Whilst the finds from Roman features should be reported on at the publication stage, little further work is proposed as they constitute a much smaller and less significant assemblage than the late prehistoric material. The one exception is the iron brooch from the cremation burial, which requires cleaning, conservation and analysis prior to inclusion in a publication report. Radiocarbon dating of material associated with the cremation also has the potential to confirm and/or further define the date of the interment.

Medieval/post-medieval

6.12 Late medieval/post-medieval activity on the site was characterised by a series of parallel plough furrows that traversed both excavation areas on approximately north/south alignments. Slots excavated across a sample of these features consistently yielded pottery of 16th- to 18th-century date. Post-medieval activity on

the site was dominated by two extensive ditches on approximately parallel, east/west alignments, recorded at the northern and southern edges of Area 1 and at the northern edge of Area 2. Few dateable finds were recovered from the ditches but they truncated backfilled plough furrows and are likely to have been post-medieval field boundary ditches. The late medieval/post-medieval features are of limited archaeological significance and whilst they should be referenced in any publication report, no further analysis of artefactual material is recommended.

Undated

6.13 A number of features remain undated as they did not produce artefactual dating evidence and could not be tied in to the archaeological sequence using stratigraphic or spatial relationships. These features generally consisted of shallow ditches, scatters of small pits or postholes and also an undated inhumation burial. No further work is proposed on these features with the exception of the burial; further analysis and reporting on the skeletal remains is recommended, along with radiocarbon dating of a sample of bone, in order that the burial can be dated and phased correctly in a publication report.

Original aims and objectives

6.14 The original aims of the excavation were to provide data to aid the determination and understanding of the nature, function, and character of the archaeological remains at the site in their cultural and environmental setting.

6.15 The investigations had the potential to provide information relevant to the following South West archaeological research aims (as defined in SCC 2012):

- Research Aim A:10- Understanding key transitional Periods
- Research Aim A:29-Understanding non-villa Roman rural settlements
- Research Aim A:33-Widen understanding of the origin of villages
- Research Aim B:14-Widen understanding of Iron Age material culture
- Research Aim B:53-Increase knowledge of the effects of ‘colonialism’ in the Romano-British world
- Research Aim C:16f-Improving scientific dating for the Iron Age
- Research Aim C:17-Improving standards and techniques of environmental data
- Research Aim C:18a-Improving resolution of environmental analysis
- Research Aim C:19c-Improving understanding on the domestication of animal species

- Research Aim C:20-Improve understanding on the domestication and cultivation of plant species
- Research Aim C:21a-Development of field systems and intensification of agriculture in the Iron Age
- Research Aim C:26- Post-Roman landscape changes
- Research Aim C:27-Understanding on the origins of free-threshing wheat (AD 350-1000)
- Research Aim D:50-Improve understanding of the effects of the Roman-British on the local populace
- Research Aim E:40-Improve understanding of agricultural intensification and diversification in later Prehistory
- Research Aim E:41-Assess the impact of the Roman Empire on farming

6.16 The broad objectives have been achieved to some extent, with the archaeological features uncovered preserved by record and artefactual and ecofactual material assessed. The extent to which the specific research aims have been addressed is however, somewhat limited:

6.17 Of the aims relating to settlement sites and landscapes (Aims A:10, A:29 and A:33), the first two have not really been addressed as there is little evidence of the Late Iron Age/Roman transition and limited evidence of Roman occupation of the site, though Aim:33 has been partly addressed as the origin and development of the late prehistoric site has been defined.

6.18 Of the two aims relating to artefacts and the built environment, technologies, resources and links to trade (Aims B:14 and B:53), the first has been addressed to some extent because of the significant late prehistoric pottery assemblages recovered from the site, but the second has only been partly addressed as there is only limited evidence of the Roman impact on the local landscape and population.

6.19 Of the aims relating to environment, landscape change, dating and methodologies (Aims C:16f, C:17, C:18, C:19c, C:20, C:21a, C:26 and C:27), the first has not been addressed as there has not so far been any scientific dating carried out. Aims relating to environmental and faunal remains have been partly addressed by analysis of charred plant, mollusc and animal bone remains, though the development of free-threshing wheat has not been addressed as no material of late Roman and later date was sampled. Post-Roman landscape changes have

been identified in terms of plough furrows and boundary ditches of medieval and post-medieval date, but these have only superficially addressed Aim C:26.

6.20 In common with Aim B:53, Aim D:50 has not really been addressed as the Roman influence on the local, pre-existing population is not particularly clear in the excavated evidence, though there does appear to have been some Roman re-alignment of the late prehistoric landscape.

6.21 Of the aims relating to economies and subsistence, trade, agriculture, transport and communications (Aims E:40 and E:41), neither has been significantly addressed as the excavation has provided little evidence that agriculture became more intensive during later prehistory and the only noticeable impact of the Roman Empire on farming was the partial re-alignment of the local agricultural landscape.

6.22 Further work will be required to refine the chronology of the site and analyse the artefacts and ecofacts recovered to characterise the major morphological changes at the site, establish the function/nature of the site during its use and to place the site within its local, regional and national context (see Section 8, below).

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 The archive is currently held at CA offices, Kemble, whilst post-excavation work proceeds. Upon completion of the project and with the agreement of the legal landowners, the site archive and artefactual collection will be deposited with Somerset Heritage Service (accession number: TTNCM 78/2017), which has agreed in principle to accept the complete archive upon completion of the project.

7.2 The archive has been prepared and compiled using CA archive procedures and in accordance with the receiving museum's guidelines, and those of the Archaeological Archives Forum (Brown 2011) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b).

8 UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

8.1 To fulfil the potential of the site data, the following updated objectives have been set out to provide a framework for the proposed further analysis:

Objective 1: further refine the date and nature of later prehistoric activity

8.2 The main period of site occupation was during the Middle to Late Iron Age and four broad sub-phases of activity have been defined. However, the dating of these

sub-phases is still very broad and further analysis of the pottery assemblage in particular, is necessary to refine the dating of this period of occupation.

Objective 2: define the nature of site environment, diet and economy

8.3 Having further defined the date and nature of late prehistoric activity it should be possible to further enhance an understanding of site economy and diet by further analysis of the recovered biological evidence; charred plant remains can permit an understanding of the local vegetative environment around the site and botanical material that was being processed and consumed on the site. Faunal remains should give an indication of the nature of the animals being exploited by the occupants of the site.

Objective 3: define the nature of the late prehistoric/Roman transition on the site

8.4 Currently it is clear that there was significant occupation during the Middle to Late Iron Age on the site, followed by limited evidence of Roman activity. Further analysis of the Roman pottery may refine the dating of the transitional phase and related re-alignment of the landscape but with such a small finds assemblage it will be difficult to further ascertain the nature of the transition.

Objective 4: further define the date and nature of burial practices on the site

8.5 Two burials; one inhumation and one cremation, along with fragments of burnt bone, possibly from a second cremation burial have been identified on the site. The cremation burial has been dated artefactually and stratigraphically to the Roman period, though further analysis of the cremated bone and radiocarbon dating of associated material is necessary to more fully define the nature and date of the burial. The inhumation burial is incomplete and undated but further analysis of the surviving bone and radiocarbon dating of a sample of this bone should permit a better understanding of the date and nature of the inhumation and allow it to be placed within a relevant phase in the site chronology.

9 PUBLICATION

9.1 The results from the investigations of the site at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset are of local significance and merit publication. The establishment and development of ditched enclosures and surrounding field systems during the Late Iron Age, followed by some level of landscape re-alignment during the Roman period are of some significance in understanding of late prehistoric and Roman patterns of rural settlement in the region. Analysis of limited burial evidence on the site will also

permit a further understanding of Roman burial practices in the area, and depending on the date of the inhumation burial, possibly of other periods too.

9.2 It is proposed that a summary report (*c*. 12 – 14 pages) incorporating stratigraphic analysis, scientific dating and specialist analyses as outlined above is published in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*.

Synopsis of Proposed Report

Archaeological Investigations at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset, 2017

by Peter Boyer and Jonathan Orellana

		Words
Introduction		500
Excavation Results		
	Late Iron Age	1000
	Roman	500
	Medieval/post-medieval	250
Specialist Contributions		
	Pottery (Jacky Sommerville)	1000
	Metal finds (Katie Marsden)	750
	Other finds (Jacky Sommerville)	500
	Human bone (Sharon Clough)	1000
	Animal bone (Matilda Holmes)	1000
	Palaeoenvironmental remains (Sarah Wyles)	1000
Discussion		1000
Bibliography		1000
	Total words	***9500***
	Approximate pages @ 1000 words/page	9.5
		Pages
Illustrations		
	Location of site	0.5
	Site plan with phasing (Area 1)	1
	Site plan with phasing (Area 2)	1
	Site photo (Area 1)	0.5
	Site photo (Area 2)	0.5
Total publication estimate		**13 pages**

10 PROJECT TEAM

10.1 The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by **Karen Walker MCIfA** (Principal Post-Excavation Manager: PPM) and managed by **Peter Boyer MCIfA** (Post-excavation Manager: PXM), who will contribute to the discussion as senior author and co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:

Jacky Sommerville (Finds Officer: FO):
Specialist report preparation pottery, lithics, CBM, fired clay, glass and CTP

Katie Marsden (Finds Officer 1: FO1):
Specialist report preparation metalwork

Sharon Clough MCIfA (Environmental Officer (Osteologist): Osteo)
Specialist report preparation human bone

Sarah Wyles ACIfA (Senior Environmental Officer: EO)
Specialist report preparation plant macrofossil, molluscs and liaison

Dan Bashford (Senior Illustrator: ILL):
Production of all site plans, sections and artefact drawings (exc. pottery)

Jake Streatfeild-James (Geomatics Officer: GO):
GIS applications

10.2 Contributions by the following external consultants will be managed by the Finds Officer 1:

- **Pieta Greaves**: Metalwork conservation

10.3 Contributions by the following external consultants will be managed by the Osteologist:

- **Dr Matilda Holmes** (Consultant) - Zooarchaeologist
- **SUERC** (East Kilbride): Radiocarbon dating

10.4 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management prior to submission and external refereeing.

11 TASK LIST

TASK	PERSONNEL	DURATION/ COST
Project Management	PXM	1.5
Quality Assurance	HoP	0.25
Pottery		
Analysis and report	FO	2
Metalwork		
Analysis and report	FO1	0.5
Other finds		
Analysis and report	FO	0.5
Human Bone		
Analysis and report	Osteo	1.5
Animal bone		
Analysis and report	Consultant	Fee
Palaeoenvironmental remains		
Analysis and report	EO	1
Preparation of publication report		
Abstract and introduction	PXM	0.25
Excavation results	PXM	1
Research, comparanda	PXM	2
Compilation of report, figures etc.	PXM	0.5
Acknowledgements, bibliography	PXM	0.25
Illustrations	SI	0.75
Submission to external referees		
Editing	PXM	0.25
SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT		
Archive		
Deposition	Archives Officer	1
Deposition	Somerset Heritage Service	FEE
Publication		
Printing	SANHS	FEE

12 TIMETABLE

12.1 For a summary publication report, CA would normally aim to have completed a publication draft within three months of approval of the updated project design. A detailed programme can be produced if desired on approval of the updated publication project design.

13 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

13.1 CA would like to thank Taylor Wimpey for commissioning the work and Steven Membery and Tanya James for monitoring the excavation on behalf of Somerset County Council. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Orellana, assisted by George Gandham, Josh Nowlan, Victoria Parsons, Parris Stubbings, Tina Tapply

and Edoardo Vigo. The report was written by Jonathan Orellana and Peter Boyer. The finds assessments were prepared by Jacky Sommerville and Katie Marsden, the human bone assessment was prepared by Sharon Clough, the animal bone assessment was prepared by Matilda Holmes and the environmental sample assessment was prepared by Sarah Wyles. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The fieldwork was managed for CA by Derek Evans and the post-excavation programme was managed by Sarah Cobain and Peter Boyer.

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APPENDIX 1: STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSEMENT BY PETER BOYER

A total of 687 contexts were recorded during the excavation. Two context numbers were assigned to deposits of geological or natural origin and the remaining contexts were assigned to periods as detailed below:

Period	**No. of contexts**
Period 1.1 Late Iron Age 1	98
Period 1.2 Late Iron Age 2	240
Period 1.3 Late Iron Age 3	25
Period 1.4 Late Iron Age 4	12
Period 2 Roman	76
Period 3.1 Late Medieval/Post-Medieval	36
Period 3.2 Post-Medieval	37
Undated	161
Total	685

Potential for further analysis

Despite only 132 contexts providing dateable material, it has been possible to provisionally phase the majority of archaeological contexts. This has been primarily done on the basis of spot dates from recovered artefacts and where direct dating was unavailable, feature morphology and spatial/stratigraphic relationships to those features containing dateable artefacts.

Further site stratigraphic analysis, along with the recovered artefactual evidence means that a more refined phasing of features and deposits, particularly for the Iron Age features can probably be achieved, meaning that some contexts may ultimately be re-phased. In order to achieve this, further stratigraphic analysis will be undertaken on a total of 612 contexts provisionally assigned to Periods 1 and 2. Further analysis will not be required for contexts dating to the post-Roman period.

APPENDIX 2: LITHICS BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

Introduction

A total of 19 worked lithics (67g) was recorded from 13 separate deposits. The artefacts were recorded according to broad artefact/debitage type and catalogued directly onto a Microsoft Access database. Attributes recorded include: raw material; weight; degree of edge damage (microflaking), rolling (abrasion) and recortication (a white or blueish surface discoloration resulting from soil conditions [Shepherd 1972, 109]); colour; cortex description; and the presence of breakage and burning; and butt and termination type, for flakes and blades.

Raw material

The raw material is flint in all cases. Most is brown or dark grey/black, with three white or cream items, due to recortication and one orange. The latter colouration tends to result from iron staining. Cortex is present on 10 items and all is chalky, indicating a chalk or clay-with-flints source, which is likely to have been some distance to the east (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

Provenance and condition

Most flints (74%) were retrieved from features (mostly ditches) phased to the Iron Age, with 10% from unphased features and 16% from topsoil. A moderate to heavy degree of edge damage was noted on 63% and moderate to heavy rolling on 37%, which is consistent with the substantial degree of redeposition. Six items (32%) are broken.

Range and variety

Primary technology

This material comprises 10 flakes, two blades, a core rejuvenation flake and four cores. One blade and one flake display evidence of having been removed using a ‘soft’ hammer, which is a technology in use during the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods. Blade technology, and the rejuvenation of the striking platform on a core, are also both features of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic knapping strategies.

The cores are all multiplatform types, which had been used for the removal of flakes. All but one are very small and worked out – these three weigh 4g each. Such cores are most typical of the Neolithic period (Malone 2001, 217).

Secondary technology

The only reworked items are two retouched flakes, both of which are broken. The retouch is regular on both, however, these are not chronologically diagnostic tools.

Statement of potential

The flint assemblage is small, largely redeposited and many items are not closely dateable. However, those which are suggestive of a particular period indicate Mesolithic or Early Neolithic dating, although none are specifically datable to the Mesolithic period. A short report characterising the lithic assemblage should be included in any publication on the site, which may be an amended version of this report. No further recording or analysis is required and no illustrations are necessary.

References

Malone, C. 2001. *Neolithic Britain and Ireland*. Stroud. Tempus.

Shepherd, W. 1972 *Flint: Its Origin, Properties & Uses*. London. Faber and Faber

http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html (Accessed 11 May 2018)

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

Introduction and methodology

The pottery assemblage totals 651 sherds (6049g) and was recorded from 134 separate deposits. All was hand-recovered with the exception of two sherds retrieved from bulk soil sampling of Period 2 (Roman) cremation burial 2145. The pottery has been sorted by fabric (within context), and quantified according to sherd count/weight and rim EVEs. Recording also included vessel form/rim morphology, where identifiable, and evidence for use in the form of carbonised/other residues. Pottery fabric codings, given in parenthesis in the text, are defined below and in summary in Table 1. These have been devised for the purpose of this assessment. Where possible, Roman fabrics are matched with the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998). The total EVEs value is 3.53.

Provenance

The pottery has mostly been recovered from enclosure ditches (36% by weight), other ditches (45%), pits (9%) and subsoil (8%). A small amount came from postholes, furrows and a cremation burial. The majority comes from Iron Age or Roman-dated deposits, with only a small proportion redeposited in features of later dates.

Range and variety

Prehistoric

Ten unfeatured bodysherds (72g) are broadly attributable to the prehistoric period in the absence of indications of vessel form and/or decoration. These handmade fabrics have been tempered with limestone (LS1, LS2), quartzite (QZT) or quartzite and sandstone (QZTS).

Fabric descriptions

LS1 *Sparse limestone, 1–6mm. Soft fired. Uneven fracture. 4 sherds.*

LS2 *Sparse limestone, 0.5–1mm. Soft fired. Uneven fracture. 1 sherd.*

QZT *Sparse quartzite, 0.5–2mm. Soft fired. Hackly fracture. 2 sherds.*

QZTS *Sparse quartzite, 1–4mm; sparse sandstone, 1–3mm. Soft fired. Hackly fracture. 3 sherds.*

Late prehistoric

The bulk of the pottery belongs to this date range, which spans the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age. A total of 571 sherds was recovered (5207g). The assemblage is moderately well broken-up, with a mean sherd weight of 9.1g. In terms of surface preservation and edge abrasion, condition appears to differ according to fabric. The South Western Decorated wares (below) are mostly in a good to very good condition, whereas the rock-tempered sherds are generally in a poor to moderate condition.

Fabrics

South Western Decorated wares are the most common type (Table 1), in variants tempered with sandstone (SWSA, Peacock's Group 2, 240 sherds), calcite (SWCA, Peacock's Group 3, 25 sherds) and shell (SWSH,

Peacock's Group 4, one sherd) (Peacock 1969). Group 2 is found across Somerset and Group 3 in the Mendip region (*ibid.,* 47–8). All but five sherds of South Western Decorated ware was recovered from Area 1 and a high proportion of this ware type (44% by weight) came from Enclosure A ditch fills. Handmade fabrics featuring various rock inclusions (ROCK, ROCS, QZROCK) are also well represented (128 sherds). The rock sources are unknown and thin sectioning will be required to identify this material. Quartz (QZ, QZC, QZCP) and limestone tempered fabrics (LS3, LSFO, QZLS) also feature.

Fabric descriptions

CAL	*Abundant calcite, 1–2mm. Soft fired. Uneven fracture. Unburnished. 2 sherds.*
LS3	*Sparse to common limestone, 0.5–6mm. Soft to medium fired. Hackly fracture. 3 sherds.*
LSFO	*Sparse to common fossiliferous limestone, 1–5mm. Soft fired. Hackly fracture. 40 sherds.*
MUD	*Sparse mudstone, 1-3mm. Soft fired. Uneven fracture. 3 sherds.*
QZ	*Abundant quartz, 0.5–1mm. Soft fired. Even fracture. 38 sherds.*
QZC	*Abundant quartz, 0.5–3mm. Medium fired. Hackly fracture. 59 sherds.*
QZCP	*Sparse quartz, 0.5–1mm; sparse clay pellets, 1–3mm. Soft fired. Uneven fracture. 3 sherds.*
QZLS	*Common quartz, 0.5–1mm; sparse limestone, 1–3mm. Soft fired. Even fracture. 12 sherds.*
QZROCK	*Common quartz, 0.5–1mm; sparse rock, 1–3mm. Soft fired. Even fracture. 2 sherds.*
ROCK	*Common rock, 1–5 mm. Soft to medium fired. Uneven fracture. 125 sherds.*
ROCS	*Common rock, 1–3mm; sparse shell 1–4mm. Soft fired. Uneven fracture. 1 sherd.*
SH	*Sparse to common shell, 0.5–4mm. Soft fired. Uneven fracture. 1 sherd.*
SA	*Common quartz, 0.5–1mm; sparse sandstone, 1–6mm. Medium fired. Even fracture. 12 sherds.*
SWCA	*Defined in Peacock 1969. 25 sherds.*
SWSA	*Defined in Peacock 1969. 240 sherds.*
SWSH	*Defined in Peacock 1969. 1 sherd.*

Forms

The total EVEs value of the late prehistoric pottery is 3.2. Among the South Western Decorated wares, jars are most common – mainly barrel-shaped, but also bucket-shaped ('saucepan pot') and necked. Sherds representing the full profile of a shouldered bowl with a bead rim (Ra. 8), in fabric SWSA, was retrieved from Period 1.2 (Late Iron Age 2) Enclosure A. It had been decorated with paired horizontal grooves on the body and scored diagonal lines on the exterior of the rim. The vessel measures 85mm in height and 160mm in rim diameter. Another full height vessel in fabric SWSA (Ra. 7) came from Period 1.3 (Late Iron Age 3) Ditch 1293. This is a barrel-shaped jar with a horizontal groove below the bead rim, measuring 158mm in height and 220mm in rim diameter. The decorative motifs on this pottery are typical of the tradition and include zones of cross-hatching and diagonal tooling. Three base sherds have been decorated on the underside.

Durotrigian ware (DUR) is represented by two bead rim jars. Rimsherds from the coarser fabrics are mostly insufficient to identify the form. However, a sherd in fabric LSFO, from a straight-sided vessel with a flat rim, was recovered from Phase 2 (Roman) Ditch N. Period 1.2 pit 2140 contained poorly made rimsherds in fabric ROCK from a probable jar with an upright rim, which may be from a tall necked vessel, most likely dating to the Early to Middle Iron Age.

Chronology

South Western Decorated ware with the type of decoration seen here – scored geometric and curvilinear designs – is thought to date from the 3rd/2nd century BC and in Somerset it may continue into the 1st century AD

(Cunliffe 2005, 108). None of the South Western Decorated ware from this site was recovered in association with Roman pottery of 1st century AD date, so it is all likely to be of Middle to Late Iron Age date. The ware type is also commonly found in Devon and Cornwall, where it goes out of use in the 1st century BC (Quinnell 2016, 135), although Groups 1 (gabbro-tempered), 5 (sanidine-tempered) and 6 (volcanic rock-tempered) are most common in those counties (*ibid.*). Durotrigian ware began production in Dorset in the mid-1st century BC and developed into Black-burnished ware after the Roman conquest (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 90). Identification of the rock-tempered fabrics by thin sectioning may assist with their dating.

Roman

The Roman pottery group totals 27 sherds (174g). The average sherd weight is low (6.4g), indicating that the pottery has been well broken up. Condition is otherwise variable. Coarsewares of probable local manufacture make up the bulk of this group (Table 1) – greywares (GW1, GW2), oxidised fabrics (OX1, OX2) and buff-firing fabric (BUF). One unfeatured bodysherd of Oxford Red-slipped ware (OXF RS), of mid-3rd to 4th century date (Young 1977, 123–4), was recorded from Period 2 (Roman) pit 1424. Samian, from central (LEA SA2) and south Gaul (LGF SA), comprises three crumbs totalling 1g. These types were imported during the mid-1st to late 2nd centuries (Webster 1996, 2–3). The only identifiable forms amongst the Roman pottery are a necked jar (GW1) from Period 2 ditch 1477 and a bowl (OX1) from subsoil deposit 1001.

Medieval

Four medieval sherds (78g) were retrieved (Table 1), all but one from topsoil. Two sherds from jugs in Bristol Glazed ware (BRS) date to the mid-13th to 15th centuries. Rimsherds from jars with developed, everted rims were recorded in fabric QZROCM from topsoil deposit 2001 and in fabric ROCM from fill 2012 of Period 3.1 (Late medieval/early post-medieval) ditch 2011.

Post-medieval

Post-medieval pottery totals 39 sherds (518g) (Table 1). Glazed earthenwares (GRE), almost certainly from local Somerset sources, are the most common type (35 sherds), dating to the mid-16th to 18th centuries. Also recovered are Frechen stoneware (FRE) of mid-16th to 17th century date, North Devon gravel-tempered ware (NDG, 17th to 18th century) and Westerwald stoneware (WES, late 17th to 18th century).

Statement of potential

The pottery has the potential to inform dating and activity on the site. It represents a moderately large and predominantly stratified assemblage, mostly of Late prehistoric date. It includes a substantial component of South Western Decorated ware, adding to the relatively small number of such sites recently excavated in north Somerset.

A report on the pottery should be prepared for publication and further research should be carried out on Middle to Late Iron Age assemblages from other Somerset sites (such as Glastonbury Lake Village, Meare Village East, Cadbury Castle, Blaise Castle Hill and Ham Hill) – this may establish close comparanda for the Iron Age pottery, which could help to refine the dating.

References

Cunliffe, B. 2005 *Iron Age Communities in Britain: An Account of England, Scotland and Wales from the Seventh Century BC until the Roman Conquest*. Abingdon. Routledge

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Table 1: Pottery by fabric and area

Period	**Description**	**Code**	**Area 1**		**Area 2**		**Total**	
		(NFRC Code in bold)	**Count**	**Weight (g)**	**Count**	**Weight (g)**	**Count**	**Weight (g)**
Prehistoric	Limestone-tempered	LS1	3	22	1	4	4	26
	Fine limestone-tempered	LS2			1	10	1	10
	Quartzite-tempered	QZT	2	2			2	2
	Quartzite-and-sandstone tempered	QZTS	3	34			3	34
Subtotal			***8***	***58***	***2***	***14***	***10***	***72***
Late prehistoric	Calcite-tempered	CAL	1	5	1	5	2	10
	Durotrigian	DUR	3	20			3	20
	Haematite coated	HAEM	1	1			1	1
	Limestone-tempered	LS3	2	21	1	5	3	26
	Fossiliferous limestone-tempered	LSFO	18	115	22	135	40	250
	Mudstone/siltstone-tempered	MUD	3	1			3	1
	Quartz-tempered	QZ	28	238	10	34	38	272
	Coarse quartz-tempered	QZC	59	401			59	401
	Quartz and clay pellets	QZCP	2	4	1	5	3	9
	Quartz-and-limestone tempered	QZLS	3	34	9	25	12	59
	Quartz-and-rock	QZROCK	1	14	1	3	2	17
	Rock-tempered	ROCK	108	721	17	124	125	845
	Rock-and-shell tempered	ROCS	1	3			1	3
	Shell-tempered	SH	1	7			1	7
	Sandstone-tempered	SS	2	173	10	9	12	182
	South Western decorated ware (calcite-tempered)	SWCA	25	202			25	202
	South Western decorated ware (sandstone-tempered)	SWSA	235	2875	5	18	240	2893
	South Western decorated (shell-tempered)	SWSH	1	9			1	9
Subtotal			***494***	***4844***	***77***	***363***	***571***	***5207***
Roman	Buff-firing	BUF	2	5			2	5
	Medium greyware	GW1	5	81			5	81
	Sandy greyware	GW2	3	32			3	32
	Fine oxidized	OX1	7	39	4	3	11	42
	Sandy oxidized	OX2			2	10	2	10
	Oxford Red-slipped ware	**OXF RS**	1	3			1	3
	Central Gaulish samian	**LEZ SA2**			2	0.4	2	0.4
	South Gaulish samian	**LGF SA**			1	0.6	1	0.6
Subtotal			***18***	***160***	***9***	***14***	***27***	***174***

Medieval	Ham Green glazed ware	HAM			1	24	1	24
	Quartz and rock	QZROCM	1	17			1	17
	Rock-tempered	ROCM			1	11	1	11
	White-firing glazed ware	WFG	1	26			1	26
Subtotal			***2***	***43***	***2***	***35***	***4***	***78***
Post-medieval	Frechen stoneware	FRE	1	22			1	22
	Glazed earthenware	GRE	20	301	15	110	35	411
	North Devon gravel-tempered	NDG	1	3	1	58	2	61
	Westerwald stoneware	WES			1	24	1	24
Subtotal			***22***	***326***	***17***	***192***	***39***	***518***
Grand total			**544**	**5431**	**107**	**618**	**651**	**6049**

* National Roman Fabric Reference Collection

APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

A total of 14 fragments (390g) of ceramic building material was recovered from five deposits (a Period 2 [Roman] pit fill, Period 3.2 [post-medieval] furrow and posthole fills, and subsoil).

The fragment (0.3g) from Period 2 pit 1073 is too small for dating or classification. The rest of the assemblage is post-medieval/modern in date and includes flat roof tile and a perforated brick.

Statement of potential

The ceramic building material assemblage is mostly of post-medieval/modern date and is partially redeposited. It is of limited archaeological significance. A sentence on this material should be included in any publication on the site. No further recording or research is required.

APPENDIX 5: FIRED/BURNT CLAY BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

Introduction

Fragments of fired/burnt clay totalling 340 (1874g) were hand-recovered from 74 separate deposits. Almost all fragments are orange or buff in colour, many with a grey/black core. A few pieces are brown/black. Most fragments are soft-fired but 14% have been recorded as of medium hardness. The fabric is variable with no visible inclusions in 36%, calcitic/calcareous inclusions in 26%, iron oxides in 15%, organic material in 15%, fine grit in 6% and sand in 2%. One flat surface was observed on 19 fragments although they were too small to identify the type of object from which they derived. The majority of pieces are amorphous it is not possible to ascertain their original form or function.

Daub

Five fragments from four deposits (in Period 1.1 [Late Iron Age] ditch 1382, Period 1.2 [Late Iron Age] Enclosure C and Period 2 Ditch 1359) display probable wattle impressions, enabling them to be identified as daub.

Ceramic object

A fragment (240g) from fill 1292 of Period 1.2 Enclosure A, with a perforation, derives from a loomweight of probable pyramidal or triangular type. This type is consistent with Iron Age dating.

Statement of potential

The bulk of the fired clay cannot be identified to original form or function. The few fragments of daub provide a little evidence of structures and the loomweight fragment demonstrates textile working. A short note on the fired/burnt clay should be included in any publication on the site. The recording which was carried out for assessment is sufficient for the archive. No further analysis or illustration is required.

APPENDIX 6: GLASS BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

Only one glass item was retrieved – a plano-convex fragment in cobalt blue coloured glass (Ra. 6) from Period 1.2 (Late Iron Age) ditch 1179. The estimated diameter is *c*. 19mm. Glass beads of Iron Age date were recovered from Glastonbury Lake Village (including examples in cobalt blue) (Bulleid 1917, Plate LIX) and Meare Lake Village East (Henderson 1987), both in Somerset. However, the plano-convex shape of this fragment is more suggestive of a counter than a bead.

A set of glass gaming pieces was included in the grave goods accompanying a Late Iron Age cremation burial at Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. These are plano-convex in shape and made of blue, green, yellow or white glass with multiple inset spirals mostly in white, purple or green (www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online).

The closest comparanda are glass gaming counters of Roman date, which are known in a variety of colours from sites which include Heybridge, Essex (Compton *et al*. 2015), Colchester, Essex (Crummy 1983, 92–3) and South Shields Roman Fort, Tyne & Wear (Allason-Jones and Miket 1984, 276–8. These were most common during the late 1st and 2nd centuries, after which bone counters became more prolific (Cool *et a*l. 1995, 1555).

Statement of potential

The glass gaming piece augments the evidence for Roman activity on this predominantly Iron Age site and probably dates to the earlier Roman period. No further recording or research is required. A short report on the glass item should be included in any publication on the site and may be a revised version of this report.

References

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Atkinson, M. and Preston, S. J. 2015 *Heybridge: A Late Iron Age and Roman Settlement, Excavations at Elms Farm 1993-5*, Internet Archaeology 40. http://dx.doi.org/10.11141/ia.40.1.major6

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http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/search.aspx?place=5578&plaA=5578-3-1 (Viewed on 10 May 2018)

APPENDIX 7: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem (13g) were retrieved from Phase 3.2 (post-medieval) features – a furrow and two pits. None features a maker's mark. Only broad dating, to the late 16th to late 19th centuries, is possible.

Statement of potential

The clay tobacco pipe is of limited archaeological significance, providing some broad dating and evidence of behaviour. A sentence on the clay tobacco pipe should be included any publication on the site. No further research or recording is required.

APPENDIX 8: COAL BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

A piece of coal (1g) was retrieved from Period 3.2 (post-medieval) pit 2097. Coal has been used as fuel from the Roman period onwards.

Statement of potential

The coal is of minimal archaeological significance and no further work is required.

APPENDIX 9: METALWORK BY KATIE MARSDEN

Introduction

A small assemblage of metal items, comprising two of copper alloy and eight of iron, were hand recovered from nine deposits. The items were recovered from a range of deposit types, including ditches (40%) and cremation burials (30%).

The items have been recorded directly to an MS Access database, listed individually by material and type. The metalwork is currently stored in airtight, plastic boxes with humidity control as appropriate. The items have been examined by a specialist conservator (Pieta Greaves) and subjected to x-radiography to facilitate identification and to clarify constructional and compositional details. The extent of the corrosion is variable, with the ironwork displaying more corrosion than the copper alloy. The group is however well-fragmented.

Range and Variety

Period 2 cremation burial 2145 produced an iron brooch (Ra. 3) and two fragmentary items (Ras. 4 and 5). Ra. 3 appears to be a hinged brooch of unusual form, with features analogous to the Aucissa and Hod Hill series Similarities also exist with Mackreth's Durotrigian group (2011, pl. 101). Dating in the mid to late 1st century is likely and cleaning is recommended to help clarify typology and dating. Ra. 5 is a possible second iron brooch; however it is too fragmentary to identify with any certainty. Ra. 4 is too fragmentary to identify to form or function.

A single, complete nail was recovered from Period 3.2 posthole 1086 (fill 1087). Nails of this type are introduced in the Roman period and continue largely unchanged until industrialisation in the post-medieval period and consequently cannot be closely dated.

Two modern implements were recovered; a probable railing spike or agricultural tool from Period 3.2 ditch 1112 (fill 1116) and a flat blade-like implement, probably for tilling or similar, from subsoil 2001. The remainder of the group is too fragmentary to identify or date with certainty. This material includes a twist of copper alloy wire from Period 1.2 pit 2140 (fill 2138) and an iron hexagonal loop from Period 2 ditch 2101 (fill 2102).

Statement of potential and recommendations of further analysis

The metalwork group is small and fragmented and as such its usefulness in informing site activity and dating is limited. The iron brooch, Ra. 3, is interesting due to its preservation within a cremation burial context. It is recommended that this item is cleaned by a specialist conservator to clarify its form/classification, and that following this, it is illustrated and described for publication. The remainder of the group merits only a short note outlining the characteristics.

Reference

Mackreth, D.F. 2011 *Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain* Oxbow Books, Oxford

Table 2: Metal Finds Summary

Context	Material	Ra.	Type	Comments	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Recommendations
1490	copper alloy	10	sheet	fragment	1	1	
2138	copper alloy	1	wire	twisted into small loop	1	1	
1087	iron	-	nail	complete	1	2	
1116	iron	-	object	Railing spike or agri. Implement	1	24	
1259	iron	-	?staple		1	1	
2001	iron		object	probable agri. Implement	1	57	
2102	iron	2	object	hexagonal hoop with projection breaks	1	1	
2146	iron	4	?nail	corroded	1	3	
	iron	3	brooch	Ausicca/Hod Hill?	1	2	conservation, illustration
2147	iron	5	?Brooch	fragment of bow?	1	4	

APPENDIX 10: INDUSTRIAL WASTE BY JACKY SOMMERVILLE

A fragment of iron-working slag (17g), from an indeterminate process, was recorded from Period 3 (post-medieval) ditch 112.

A fragment of fuel ash was recovered from Period 1.2 (Late Iron Age 2) ditch 1264. This type of residue is a product of high temperature processes or events and is not necessarily diagnostic of metalworking activity.

Statement of potential

The heat-affected residues are of little archaeological significance and no further work is required.

APPENDIX 11: HUMAN BONE BY SHARON CLOUGH

Biological Record: factual data

Type	Category	Count
Human Remains	Skeletal Remains	1
	Cremated remains	1

A single slightly flexed, probably supine, adult inhumation was recovered from a shallow grave. There was no dating evidence and no associated features.

A single un-urned cremation burial which has been assigned to Period 2 (Roman) was recovered from the top of a ditch. The total weight was 440g of white cremated bone.

Biological record: statement of potential

Despite the high fragmentation levels the skeleton has the potential to provide an age estimation using the dental development and wear on the teeth. There is also the potential to estimate the sex of the individual using the cranial morphology. There is very limited potential for non-metrical traits to be observed and no potential for metrics. Pathological lesions and dental disease may be observed, though none were obvious during the rapid assessment. There are no bones which survive below the knee.

The cremated bone has good potential. There are sufficiently sized fragments to identify skeletal elements. There is also enough weight to make inferences about fragment size. The colour appeared to be consistently white, but further closer observation may allow more subtle inference to be made. This will provide information about the pyre technology.

A radiocarbon date from the skeleton would be recommended in order to place it with the sequence of the site. This would also enable a greater contribution to funerary understanding of the area.

It is recommended that a full specialist examination of the remains is undertaken and, based on the findings, that a report is produced to publication standard.

All articulated and cremated remains would be examined according to standard recommended practice (Brickley and McKinley 2004, updated 2017).

The results would be compared to similar regional and national sites and collated data for the time period.

Human Bone

Methodology

The skeletal remains were examined to determine the quantity, general condition, completeness, provenance, date and nature of the material (i.e. whether it comprised articulated (disturbed or undisturbed) or disarticulated remains).

All skeletal materials were examined in accordance with national guidelines for producing assessment reports (Mays *et al.* 2004). This involved assessing the completeness and condition of the skeleton with particular reference to certain landmarks that may be used to establish biological parameters and explore health status. Completeness was estimated by recording, as a percentage, how much of the skeleton had survived and assigning it to one of the following categories:

1 = <25% complete 2 = 25-50% complete 3 = >50-75% complete 4 = >75% complete

The condition of the bone was assessed according to the degree of erosion of the bone surface and how much of the epiphyses (the ends of the bones) and cancellous bone (the spongy bone that is beneath the outer layer) had survived. Based on these factors, the skeleton was assigned to one of the following categories:

1 = Poor (cortical bone completely eroded. Very limited survival of epiphyses and cancellous bone).	2 = Fair (moderate erosion of cortical bone. Limited survival of cancellous bone and epiphyses).
3 = Good (Occasional erosion on cortical bone. Cancellous bone complete and frequent survival of epiphyses)	4 = Excellent (cortical bone undamaged, cancellous bone and epiphyses complete).

All observations were made by rapidly scanning the skeleton. While these observations provide adequate guidance to the potential of the material for further work they are, by their very nature, preliminary and subject to change as a result of any future high resolution examination.

The potential of the skeleton to yield information relating to age and sex was estimated by determining if the appropriate skeletal elements were present to employ standard methods (Brickley and McKinley 2004) scored 1-5 with 5 all parts needed for estimation available and 1 level of determination to human and adult or subadult only.

The skeleton was also assessed for its potential to yield metrical data, in particular that which will allow stature estimation and that which will facilitate age estimation for sub-adults and sex estimation for adults. Potential for metrical assessment was scored on a scale of 1-5, where ‘1’ denotes skeletons that showed no potential (i.e. no elements could be measured owing to fragmentation/poor preservation) and ‘5’ denotes skeletons that showed high potential (i.e. the full range of standard cranial and post-cranial measurements could be taken).

Other observations pertaining to metrical assessment involved noting if the skeleton had sufficiently preserved bones, in particular crania that will facilitate comparisons between individuals and groups. This may indicate factors such as ethnic affinities, regional microevolution and biological distance, particularly when combined with the chemical analysis of the bones and teeth.

An assessment of the potential for the skeleton to yield non-metrical data was scored on a scale of 1-5, where '1' denotes skeletons that showed no potential for non-metrical analysis (i.e. preservation prevented the observation of all standard cranial and post-cranial sites) and '5' denotes skeletons that showed high potential for non-metrical analysis (i.e. all standard cranial and post-cranial sites could be scored).

More readily observable traits were noted (but not formally scored) to give an indication of the level and range of traits present in the population. This will inform a data collection strategy for full analysis. Non-metric traits are morphological variations in the skeleton. They are influenced by both the environment and genetics, but to variable and unpredictable degrees (Saunders 1989).

Results

Table 3: Summary of results of the Inhumation

Skeleton Number	1184
Potential for Sex estimation	4
Potential for Age estimation	4
Adult/subadult	Adult
Completeness	2
Condition	3
Potential metric	0
Potential non-metric	2
Teeth ?	Yes
Skeletal pathology	None observed

Skeleton 1184 was an adult, potentially younger age range. It was highly fragmented which will impede observation of non-metric traits and prevent metrics from being taken. There were no skeletal remains from below the knee area present. Spongy bone was also mostly absent and the pelvic fragment was limited to iliac blade. The bone surface condition was adequate for observation of pathological changes.

Cremated bone

Methodology

On site, the entire deposit containing cremated bone was collected for processing, which involved wet sieving of the bone and soil. The bone was wet sieved and sorted from the residue.

The potential of the remains for full analysis was assessed by following the guidelines set out by Mays *et al.* (2004). This involved recording the weight (in grams) and colour. 'Potential for full analysis' refers to the level of information that may be gained from a full analysis of the deposit. This includes that which will facilitate the interpretation of the nature of the deposit (for example, whether it is redeposited fire debris or a cremation burial), inform about aspects of the funerary rite (for example, whether certain elements were selected for burial), and will allow the estimation of biological parameters (i.e. minimum number of individuals represented, age and sex) and evaluation of the health status of the population by identification of pathological conditions. Thus, highly fragmented deposits containing limited diagnostic elements are considered to be of low potential, whereas deposits containing frequent diagnostic elements are considered to be of high potential.

Results

Burial 2145 contained bone 2148, this was excavated in quadrants. The total weight was 440g. The fragments appeared to be a good size, with many identifiable elements. There is a good potential for estimation of age and

sex. Element selection and fragmentation can be explored. The colour was mostly white indicating good pyre technology.

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APPENDIX 12: ANIMAL BONE BY MATILDA HOLMES

Introduction

A moderate amount of animal bone was recovered. It was generally in poor condition and highly fragmentary. Sample sizes were large enough to be worth further analysis, but there will be some bias towards the bones of larger animals and more dense elements.

Methods

All bones and teeth were recorded, although for some elements a restricted count was employed to reduce fragmentation bias: vertebrae were recorded when the vertebral body was present, and maxilla, zygomatic arch and occipital areas of the skull were identified from skull fragments. A basic recording method was employed to assess the potential of the animal bone assemblage. The number of bones and teeth that could be identified to taxa were noted, as well as those used to age the major domesticates (tooth wear and bone fusion). The quantity of bones likely to be useful for metrical data was also recorded. Other information included condition and the incidence of burning, gnawing and butchery marks. All fragments were recorded by context including those that could not be identified to taxa. Recording methods and analysis are based on guidelines from Baker and Worley (2014).

Summary of Findings

Bones were generally in fair to poor condition (Table 4) and friable. Gnawed bones were observed in approximately a third of all contexts, with fewer examples of butchery and it is likely that butchery marks were obscured by later gnawing. A few burnt bones were also recorded, but there were no large concentrations of burnt material to suggest cremations or the routine use of bones for fuel. There were no obvious deposits of butchery, skin-processing or bone- horn- or antler-working waste, although the skeletons of at least two lambs were recovered from post-medieval pit 2097.

The largest assemblage was dated to the Late Iron Age phase of occupation (Table 5), dominated by cattle and sheep/ goat remains, with a number of pig bones also recorded. Other taxa included equids (probably horse), canids (dog or fox), deer and wild birds. The latter comprised a small corvid (possibly crow or rook) and a bone that requires better identification, but could belong to the falconidae family. Subsequent phases are less well represented, although a similar range of domestic mammals can be observed (Table 5). The post medieval field vole indicates an environment with lots of cover, such as scrub, hedges or woodland.

It is also of note that lamb remains were recorded from eight Late Iron Age contexts. This likely reflects the important role of sheep-breeding in the economy. An unusual deposit was recovered from Late Iron Age ditch 1396, comprising a lamb with an abscess in the region of the fourth premolar/ first molar, and a young pig with an infected metatarsal. This is notable as it contains the only two pathological bones in the assemblage, and may represent a deliberate cull of sick animals.

Potential and Significance

The absence of bone from samples at this stage means that small bones, and the remains of very small taxa such as birds, fish and micro-mammals may be under-represented. The poor preservation of some remains means that there may also be a bias towards the survival and recovery of larger bones and taxa such as cattle and equids. However, the assemblage is large enough that identification of a considerable number of bones from the Late Iron Age period may be expected, that will provide a big enough sample to make a useful contribution to the story of the site. There is good potential for the calculation of age profiles of cattle and sheep/ goat from fusion data (Table 6), and of sheep/ goat from tooth wear and eruption. The highly fragmentary nature of the material is reflected in the low number of measurable bones. At this stage, the sample sizes of Roman and post-medieval assemblages are too small to warrant further analysis.

Interpretation of the late Iron Age animal remains may be expected to provide information on the following research areas:

- Diet – considering the role of various domestic and wild species in the diet of those living in the area, and the ways that food was procured.
- Economy and husbandry – what was the underlying site economy, particularly the role of animals in the lives of those living at the site. How were animals used in relation to the production of meat, milk, traction/ arable and wool.
- Local context – compare trends observed at Puriton with other sites in the area.

Recommendations

Detailed recording and analysis of the late Iron Age animal bone is highly recommended, based on the areas detailed above and taking into account the likely preservation bias previously noted. Bones from samples should also be made available and included in further work. Roman and post-medieval animal remains are too few to be worth further consideration.

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Table 4: Preservation and bone modifications observed on the bones for each context

		Preservation						Bone Modification		
Phase	**Description**	*Good*	*Good-fair*	*Fair*	*Poor*	*Fair-poor*	*Good-poor*	*Gnawed*	*Butchered*	*Burnt*
Late Iron Age	Settlement and field system	7	4	73	19	5	2	36	6	9
Roman	Low-level activity		1	21	2	1		6	1	2
Post medieval	Field boundaries	3		12	2			2	1	1
Unphased	Ditches, pits/ postholes	1		13	1					2
Total N contexts		11	5	119	24	6	2	44	8	14

Table 5: Number of fragments recorded for the major domesticates, birds and other taxa

Phase		**Cattle**		**Sheep**		**Pig**		**Bird**	**Fish**	**Other**	**Total**	**Other taxa**
	Unidentified	*Bones*	*Teeth*	*Bones*	*Teeth*	*Bones*	*Teeth*				*Identified*	
Late Iron Age	729	100	44	117	65	18	11	4		26	385	Equid, canid, deer, corvid, ?falconidae
Roman	151	20	7	14	4	5	6			5	61	Equid, canid
Post Medieval	67	7		3	3	2				3	18	Equid, canid, field vole
Unphased	35	1	1	4	3					1	10	Equid
Total	982	128	52	138	75	25	17	4	0	35	474	

Table 6: Number of bones and teeth likely to provide ageing and metrical data for the major domesticates

	Cattle				**Sheep/ goat**				**Pig**			
Phase	*MWS*	*TWS*	*Fusion*	*Meas*	*MWS*	*TWS*	*Fusion*	*Meas*	*MWS*	*TWS*	*Fusion*	*Meas*
Late Iron Age	2	3	43	22	14	6	34	12			8	
Roman			9	5	1		3	2			4	
Post Medieval			2		1		1				2	
Total	2	3	54	27	16	6	38	14			14	

MWS= mandibular wear stage; TWS= wear from individual teeth; fusion= bone fusion; meas= metrical data

APPENDIX 13: ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE ASSESSMENT BY SARAH F. WYLES

Introduction

A series of 10 environmental samples (120 litres of soil) were taken from a range of Period 1 (Late Iron Age), Period 2 (Romano-British) and undated features with the intention of recovering cremated material and environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Table 7, following nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals. The presence of mollusc shells has also been recorded in a number of these samples and nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999) and Davies (2008).

The flots varied in size with moderately low to high quantities of rooty material and modern seeds. The charred material comprised varied levels of preservation.

Period 1 (Late Iron Age)

Enclosure A

A moderately small quantity of charred plant remains and charcoal fragments greater than 2mm was recovered from fill 1408 (sample 9) of ditch section 1407. The cereal remains included barley grain and hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), grain and glume base fragments. A few of the chaff elements were identifiable as being those of emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*). The other remains included seeds of docks (*Rumex* sp.) and possible Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*), and tuber fragments. This assemblage may be representative of domestic settlement waste material and crop processing activities may have taken place in the vicinity.

The small number of mollusc shells recorded included shells of the open country species *Helicella itala* and *Vallonia excentrica*.

Enclosure C

Fills 1233 (sample 7) and 1257 (sample 8) of curvilinear ditch sections 1232 and 1255 respectively contained moderately low levels of charred remains. The cereal remains included barley grain and hulled wheat grain, spikelet fork and glume base fragments. Again a number of the chaff elements were identifiable as being those of emmer wheat. The weed seeds include those of brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and Celtic bean. The weed seeds are those of species typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. Again these assemblages may be reflective of domestic settlement waste material and crop processing activities may have taken place in the vicinity.

The small number of mollusc shells recorded included shells of the open country species *Vertigo pygmaea, Vallonia costata* and *Vallonia excentrica*.

Period 2 (Romano-British)

Pit

A small quantity of charred remains were recovered from fill 1171 (sample 6) of pit 1169. These included hulled wheat grain and glume base fragments, seeds of vetch/wild pea and charcoal fragments. This assemblage may be reflective of dispersed settlement waste material. The few mollusc shells noted included those of the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus*.

Cremation related deposit

Cremation related deposit 2145 (samples 2, 3, 4 and 5) contained a moderate quantity of charcoal fragments, including mature wood fragments, and a few other remains. These included indeterminate grain fragments and a false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius var. bulbosum*) tuber fragment. Tubers, in particular those of false oat-grass are often recovered from cremation related deposits (Godwin 1984; Robinson 1988) and it is thought that some of these tubers and stems may represent material uprooted while creating a fire break around the cremation site and then used as tinder (Stevens 2008a).

The small number of mollusc shells noted within this deposit included those of the open country species *Vertigo pygmaea* and *Vallonia excentrica*.

Ditch

A few charred remains were recovered from fill 1459 (sample 10) of ditch 1458. These included barley grain fragments, seeds of vetch/wild pea, possible Celtic bean and brome grass, and charcoal fragments. This assemblage may be representative of dispersed material.

The low number of mollusc shells recorded included shells of the open country species *Vallonia costata* and *Vallonia excentrica*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and the shade-loving species *Aegopinella nitidula*.

Undated

Pit

A few charcoal fragments and no charred plant remains were observed from fill 2150 (sample 1) of pit 2151. This small assemblage may be reflective of dispersed material and provides no indication of the likely date of this feature.

A low number of mollusc shells noted included shells of *Vallonia costata*.

Summary

The Period 1 Late Iron Age and Period 2 Romano-British assemblages generally appear to be indicative of a rural settlement with domestic activities, including crop processing taking place in the vicinity. Although spelt wheat is generally the predominant wheat species during the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods in Southern Britain (Greig 1991, remains of emmer wheat were also recorded, occasionally in relatively high numbers, along with those from spelt wheat within other Iron Age and Roman assemblages from nearby sites such as Steart Point (Wyles 2017), Huntworth (Stevens 2008b) and Aller (Simmons 2012), and sites in the wider vicinity such as RNAS Yeovilton (Pelling 2005), Banwell Moor North Somerset Levels (Jones 2000) and Avonmouth (Ritchie *et al* 2007).

There is no indication however from the environmental assemblages of any industrial processes being undertaken in the locality. There is also some evidence for funerary activities taking place in Period 2. The small mollusc assemblages appear to be indicative of a generally well-established open landscape.

The assemblages associated with the cremation related deposit 1404 and pit 1396 provide no indication of the likely date of these features.

Potential

Further analysis of the charred plant assemblages from selected Period 1 and Period 2 samples has the potential to provide some limited information on the range of crops and local crop processing activities and the surrounding environment during these periods. These results will augment the data from other assemblages of this period in the area such as from Steart Point (Wyles 2017), Huntsworth (Stevens 2008b) and Aller (Simmons 2012).

There is some potential for charcoal analysis of the cremation related deposit to augment the information on the local funerary practices as well as providing some information on the species composition and the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource during Period 2. There is no potential for information from charcoal from more domestic assemblages due to the sparse quantities recovered.

It is recommended that the charcoal from Period 2 cremation related deposit 2146 (samples 3 and 4) should be analysed.

Detailed analysis of the mollusc assemblages would not augment the picture of the local landscape further due to the small assemblages recovered. No further analysis is proposed.

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Table 7 Assessment table of the palaeoenvironmental remains

Feature	Context	Sample	Processed vol (L)	Unprocessed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Period 1 - Late Iron Age														
Enclosure A - ditch														
1407	1408	9	20	20	120	75	**	*	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, glume base frags inc emmer	**	*Rumex, ?Vicia/faba,* tuber frag	*/*	Moll-t (*)	P
Enclosure C - curvilinear ditches														
1232	1233	7	20	20	120	75	**	*	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, spikelet fork + glume base frags inc emmer	*	*Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus*	-/*	-	P
1255	1257	8	20	20	120	75	**	*	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, glume base frags	**	*Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Polygonum, Vicia faba*	*/*	Moll-t (**)	P
Period 2 - Romano-British														
Pit														
1169	1171	6	20	20	100	75	**	*	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags	*	*Vicia/Lathyrus*	*/*	Moll-t (*)	P
Cremation related deposits														
2145	2146, quad 1	2	3	0	15	50	-	-	-	-	-	*/*	-	
	2147, quad 2	3	5	0	75	60	*	-	Indet. grain frag	-	-	***/****	Moll-t (*)	C
	2148, quad 3	4	5	0	50	35	-	-	-	*	*Arrhenatherum* tuber frag	**/**	Moll-t (*)	C
	2149, quad 4	5	2	0	15	40	-	-	-	-	-	*/**	Moll-t (*)	
Ditch														
1458	1459	10	20	20	100	75	*	-	Barley grain frags	*	*Vicia/Lathyrus, ?Vicia faba, Bromus*	*/*	Moll-t (**)	
Undated														
Pit														
2151	2150	1	5	0	20	50	-	-	-	-	-	*/*	Moll-t (*)	

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 5–19 items; *** = 20–49 items; ****= 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items, Moll-t = land snails, P = plants, C = charcoal

APPENDIX 14: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land off Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset	
Short description	A programme of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between August and October 2017 at the request of Taylor Wimpey at Land off Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset. In compliance with an approved WSI (WAA 2015), two excavation areas (Area 1 and Area 2), a total of *c*.0.68h was excavated across the development area. The majority of the features dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age though this broad period has been subdivided into four phases of activity. The main focus of activity throughout the later prehistoric period appears to have been towards the north-west corner of Area 1 and was dominated by two ditched enclosures, probably exploited for settlement purposes. Approximately north/south aligned ditches at the east of Area 1 probably represented elements of an extensive field system contemporary with the enclosures. A number of linear features in Area 2 may also have represented contemporary elements of the field system, though the ditches in this area were rather more irregular and may have represented differential activity. The Roman period was represented by two parallel ditches, a probable cremation pit, and an isolated scatter of pits and a ditch and also a re-cut ditch within the enclosure complex described above. A number of clearly post-Roman features were identified across Areas 1 and 2, which produced broadly contemporary finds assemblages, however these features have been divided into earlier, approximately north/south aligned plough furrows and later, broadly east/west aligned boundary ditches.	
Project dates	7 August 2017 - 6 October 2017	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (WAA 2014) Evaluation (WAA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land off Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset	
Study area (M^2/ha)	*c.* 2.8ha	
Site co-ordinates	31745 41672	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Wardell Armstrong Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content

Physical	Somerset Museums Service TTNCM 78/2017	Ceramics, bone, metal
Paper	Somerset Museums Service TTNCM 78/2017	Context sheets, section drawing
Digital	Somerset Museums Service TTNCM 78/2017	Database, digital photos, digital survey
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2018 *Land off Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset: Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design.* CA typescript report **18014**		

N

0 1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	**EE**	*PROJECT NO.*	**889012**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**08/05/2018**	**1**
APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:25,000**	

331600
331700
331800
331900
141700
141600
M5
(see Fig.3a)
Area 1B
Area 1A
Area 2
(see Fig.3b)
Newlyn Crescent
Riverton Road

N

Site boundary
Excavated area
Archaeological feature
Furrow
Field drain
Electricity transmission line

Previous archaeological works
(Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014)
Evaluation trench
Geophysical survey:
Field boundaries
Soil filled features

0 1:1000 50m

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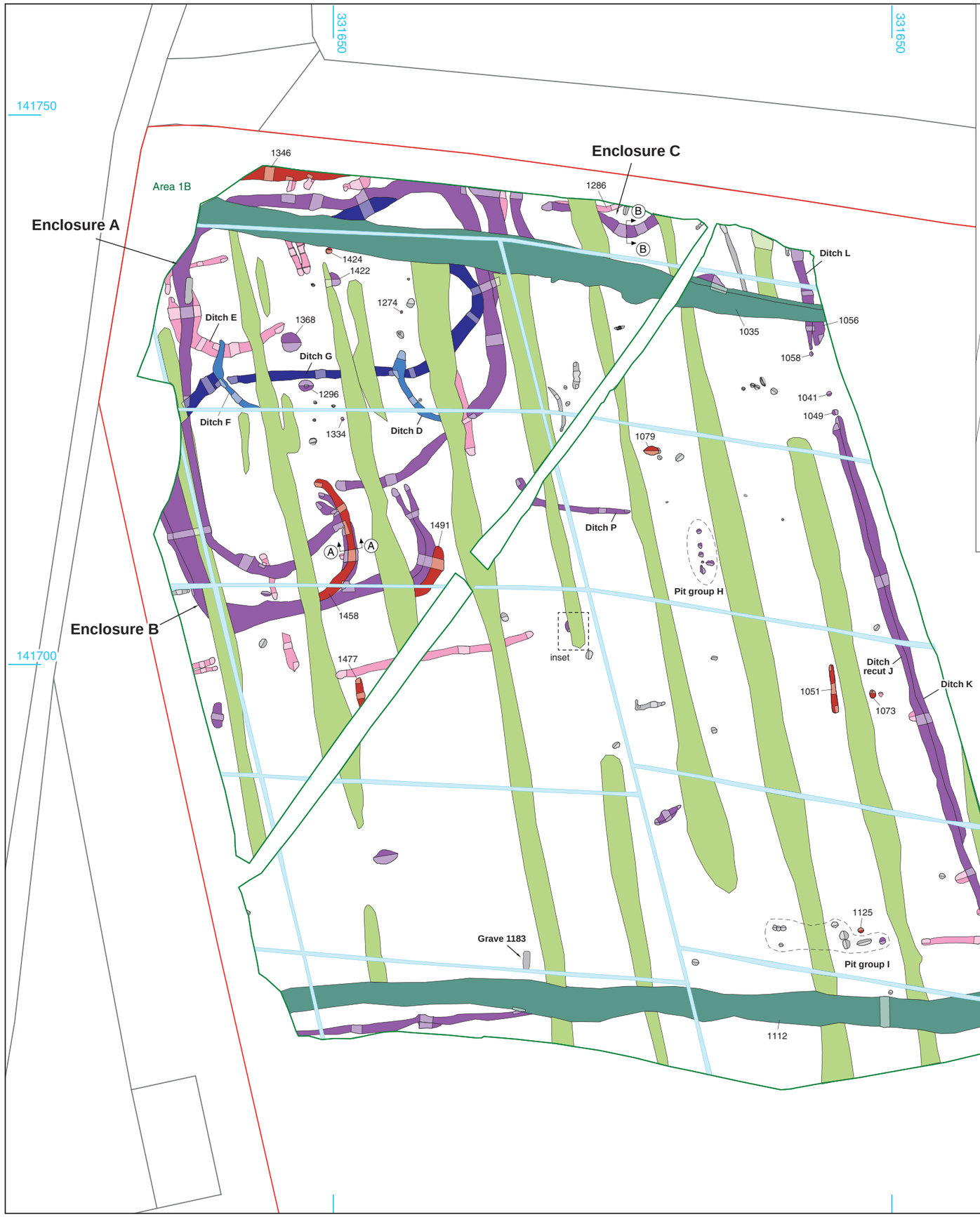
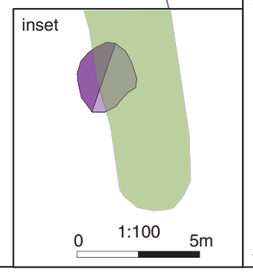
PROJECT TITLE
Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
The site showing archaeological features, previous evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	889012	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/05/2018	2
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE@A3	1:1,000	





N

Site boundary

Excavated area

Field drain

Section location

excavated/unexcavated

Period 1.1 Late Iron Age 1

Period 1.2 Late Iron Age 2

Period 1.3 Late Iron Age 3

Period 1.4 Late Iron Age 4

Period 2 Roman

Period 3.1 Late Medieval / Post-medieval

Period 3.2 Post-medieval

Undated

0 1:400 20m

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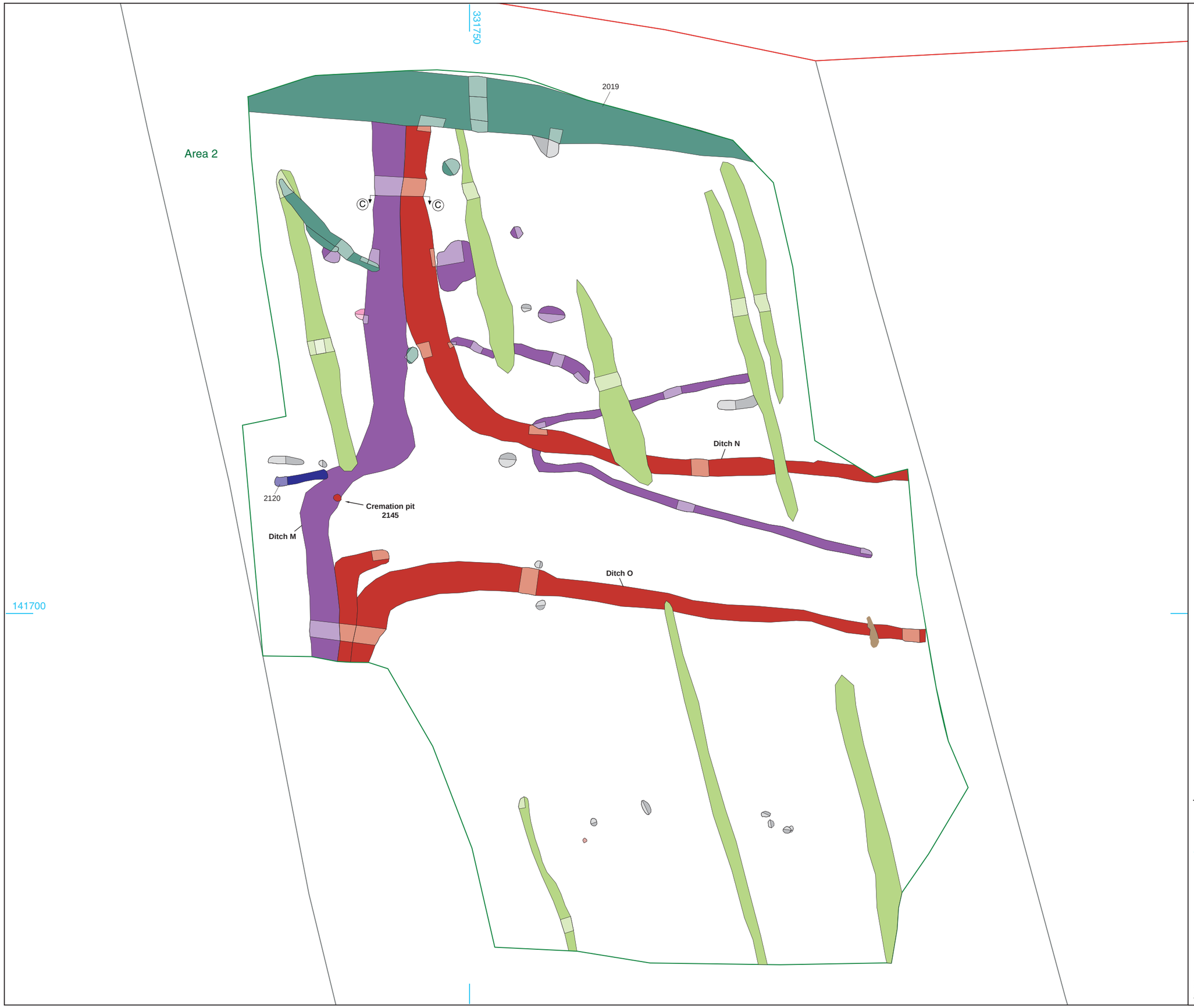
PROJECT TITLE

Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Archaeological phased plan of Areas 1A and 1B

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	889012	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/05/2018	3a
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE@A3	1:400 / 1:1000	



N

Site boundary

Excavated area

Modern

Section location

excavated/unexcavated

Period 1.1 Late Iron Age 1

Period 1.2 Late Iron Age 2

Period 1.3 Late Iron Age 3

Period 2 Roman

Period 3.1 Late Medieval / Post-medieval

Period 3.2 Post-medieval

Undated

0 1:200 10m

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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Archaeological phased plan of Area 2

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	889012	FIGURE NO.
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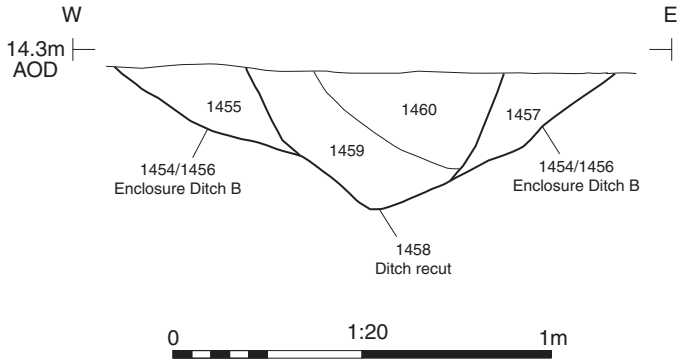
APPROVED BY	PB	SCALE@A3	1:200	

Section AA



Period 1.2 Enclosure B Ditch 1454/1456 & Period 2 Ditch recut 1458, looking north (0.5m scale)

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Enclosure B, section and photograph

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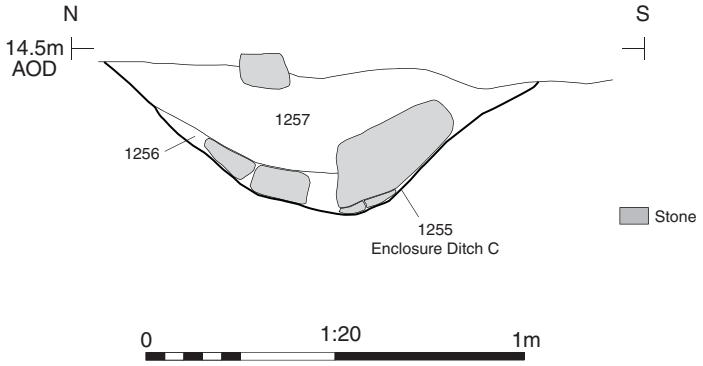
APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

Section BB



Period 1.2 Enclosure C ditch 1255, looking east (1m scale)

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Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

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Enclosure C, section and photograph

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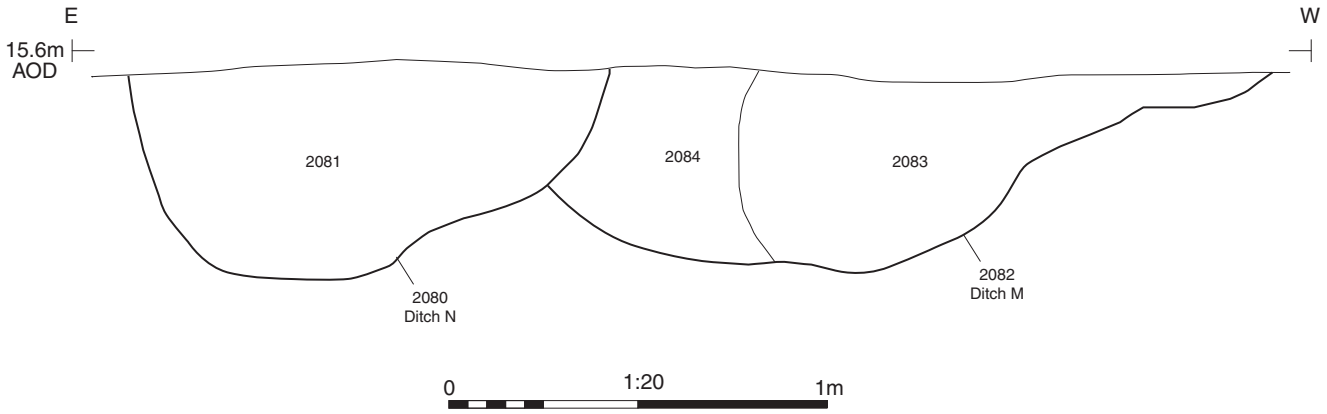
APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

Section CC



Period 1.2 Ditch M and Period 2 Ditch N, looking south (1m scale)

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Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Ditches M and N, section and photograph

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Cremation pit 2145, looking south (0.2m scale)

Grave 1183, looking west (0.3m scale)

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Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Burial photographs

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Area 1, looking north-west

Area 2, looking west (1m scales)

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Land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Areas 1 and 2, overall site photographs

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APPROVED BY	**PB**	*SCALE@A4*	**NA**	

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