

## 880182 – Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset

### Archaeological Excavation

#### FIELDWORK SUMMARY

Between 7 August and 6 October 2017 Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Riverton Road, Puriton, Somerset, prior to housing development of the site. The excavation was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey PLC. These works followed a geophysical survey and an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the site by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in 2014. This summary provides the initial results at the time of leaving site, based upon an initial consideration of the finds and the site stratigraphy, and should be considered provisional at this time.

Two excavation areas (Area 1 and Area 2) were excavated targeted upon features identified during the previous geophysical survey and evaluation. Area 1 was divided into two sub areas (Area 1A and Area 1B). Archaeological features were identified throughout the two excavation areas and primarily comprised of an irregular sub-oval enclosure ditch revealed in the north-western corner of the site. Evidence for two possible roundhouses and a scatter of associated features was identified within the enclosure. The enclosure ditch, which had two narrow entranceways on its south-eastern side, was bounded on three sides by an outer enclosure ditch which had evidence of being re-cut. A substantial amount of pottery of Late Iron Age was recovered from the two enclosure ditches, including two nearly complete vessels of decorated 'Glastonbury ware'. Adjacent to the north-eastern corner of the sub-oval enclosure a probable domestic oval enclosure was partially exposed, extending to the north of the excavation area. Late Iron Age decorated pottery was recovered from its fills. Outlying ditches probably representing a Late Iron Age north-west/south-east orientated field system were also identified.

A presumed nearly east/west orientated trackway represented by two parallel ditches and a number of ditches and pits were identified in the eastern part of the site. A small amount of abraded pottery of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date was recovered from these features. A single human cremation burial was identified cutting through one of these ditches near the western edge of Area 2. A probable iron brooch was found at the bottom of the cremation pit.

Adjacent to the southern edge of Area 1 was a north/south aligned shallow grave which contained a poorly preserved skeleton buried in an extended supine position. No grave goods or any other dating evidence were recovered from the grave.

North-west/south-east orientated cultivation furrows were identified across the whole site truncating/obscuring some of the archaeological features. Two substantial east/west aligned boundary ditches of probable post-medieval date were also identified cutting through the furrows.

**Jonathan Orellana, Project Officer, 10 October 2017**

