

PFTS14/001



LAND AT PARK FARM, THORNBURY, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological excavation: Assessment Report

for David Wilson Homes.

February 2016

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LAND AT PARK FARM THORNBURY, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological excavation: Assessment report

Headland Archaeology undertook archaeological excavation of a site on land at Park Farm, Thornbury between the 25th May and 14th August 2015. Post-excavation work to date has involved the checking and ordering of the site archive, processing of environmental samples, processing of finds, the grouping of archaeological contexts and initial phasing of the site. This report summarises the work completed to date.

The investigation revealed evidence for phases of earlier Romano-British land division and use, confined to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, with a specific small enclosure identified. Artefacts recovered suggested settlement of the period in close proximity to the site. Two major land boundary ditches crossed the site.

A probable medieval road or track-way was identified, with medieval agriculture, in the form of remnants of ridge and furrow and field ditches, also attested.

Artefacts retrieved suggested limited prehistoric activity with tentative suggestions of a heavily truncated prehistoric structure.

Several undated features and ditches also appeared to relate to agricultural use of the land.

1 INTRODUCTION [HEADING LEVEL 1]

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd was commissioned by David Wilson Homes South West Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological work in advance of residential development on land at Park Farm, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire. This report presents the results of that investigation and an updated project design. Consideration is given to a further requirement of an Archaeological Watching Brief, yet to be commenced in the south-western area of the site.

1.1 Planning background [Heading level 2]

The Local Planning Authority required an archaeological investigation as a condition of planning permission (Application Reference PT11/1442/O - Condition 20) that has been granted for development on Land at Park Farm, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire. This condition states:

'Prior to the commencement of development a programme of archaeological investigation and recording of the site shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the approved programme shall be implemented in all respects, unless the Local Planning Authority agrees in writing to any variation. Reason: In the interest of archaeological investigation or recording, and to accord with Policy L11 of the South Gloucestershire Local Plan (Adopted) January 2006'.

The site has been the subject of a number of archaeological studies and surveys;

- Desk-based assessment (Blick 2010);
- LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey data analysis (Jordan 2010);
- Geophysical survey (Bunn D2010); and
- Archaeological trial trench evaluation (Reynish & Sheldon 2010).

The desk-based assessment highlighted the potential for the site to lie within the bounds of the Medieval New Park and Post-Medieval Thornbury Park associated with Thornbury Castle situated to the south-west. Whilst no evidence of earlier archaeological potential was identified, subsequent geophysical survey across the site indicated the presence of a number of below-ground linear, pit-like and enclosure anomalies that had potential to relate to activity of relatively early date (Bunn 2010).

Trial trenching was undertaken to examine geophysical anomalies (Reynish & Sheldon 2010) and recorded evidence of mid to late Iron Age ditches; probable Romano-British occupation and iron-smithing evidence; and the suggestion of a largely agricultural landscape from the medieval period onwards.

In view of the results of the archaeological work undertaken on the site, the archaeological advisor to South Gloucestershire Council, Paul Driscoll, recommended that a condition to secure archaeological mitigation be attached to the planning consent. The scope of the required archaeological mitigation was agreed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CGMS consulting (Weaver 2015).

The initial aims of the project were set out in the WSI with regard to The South-west Archaeological Research Framework (Grove and Croft 2012). The primary objectives of the archaeological mitigation strategy were to mitigate the effect of development on the surviving buried archaeological remains within the defined mitigation areas through archaeological investigation and recording, analysis of the excavated data, publication of the results, and deposition of an ordered project archive with an appropriate local museum.

Specifically the investigation was required to establish a relative and absolute chronological framework for the site with priority given to establishing an overall plan within each mitigation area on the site and determining and characterising the various phases and sub-phases of activity, in order to address the following:

1. Does the site area contain any evidence associated with earlier Prehistoric activity as suggested by residual finds evidence recorded by evaluation, and if so, what is its date, form and function?
2. At what date is recorded activity in the late Prehistoric period on the site established? What is its form and function, and how does this change over time?
3. How was the land used in the late Prehistoric period? Is there a continuity of such land-use into the Roman period, and if not, how is this re-organised? How does such land use relate to established foci of settlement in the late Prehistoric and Roman period within the site and how does this compare with other contemporary patterns of land-use recorded within the wider area?

4. What is the character of recorded Roman settlement on the site? Is this entirely domestic/agricultural or is there evidence for industrial activity, and if so, what industries were taking place?
5. Is there any evidence to suggest a continuity of settlement within the site through the later Prehistoric and/or Roman period, and if so, how does this change over time?
6. What is the evidence for Saxon/Medieval activity on the site and at what date did it commence and how does it develop?
7. Is this entirely agricultural in character and how does this relate to documentary and other recorded evidence in the area?
8. What is the evidence for Post-Medieval activity within the site?
9. Does this reflect any continuity with the pattern of activity established in the medieval period?
10. How does it develop and was it purely agricultural in character or is there evidence of other activity?

A project design was prepared by Headland Archaeology (Kimber 2015) in response to the WSI, designed to conform to guidelines outlined in the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) and carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Excavation (2014).

1.2 Description of the site [Heading level 2]

The site comprises six pasture fields situated at the north-western edge of Thornbury. Butt Lane bounds the site to the east, and residential housing bounds the site to the south-east. The site is approximately 32 hectares in area and is located at centred National Grid Reference ST 6368 9146 03828 02443 (Illus 1). Mitigation Areas 3 to 7 lay on generally level ground, with Area 8 sloping gently from south to north and Areas 1 and 2 sloping gently from the south-east.

The solid geology of the site comprises the Mercia Mudstone Group (marginal Facies), a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period where the local environment was previously dominated by shorelines (BGS 2015). Superficial deposits are found in the southern area of the site, where a band of alluvium (clay and silt tidal flat deposit) extends into the site, running roughly east to west. The mitigation areas lay between 16 and 20m AOD.

2 METHOD [HEADING LEVEL 1]

2.1 Mechanical removal of overburden and subsoil [Heading level 2]

Stripping of topsoil and subsoil layers was undertaken using a tracked 21 tonne 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a bladed bucket, until archaeological features or natural geological deposits were observed. This took place between the 26th May and 1st July 2015 under archaeological supervision. Topsoil deposits were separated from underlying subsoils and stockpiled awaiting reinstatement as required by the development. These were scanned using a metal detector. Top and subsoil from Areas 1 and 2 was stockpiled adjacent to the excavation areas.

The original extent of Area 1 was shortened to the west and south, due to the proximity of overhead electricity cables and the present access road. Area 2 was also constrained from the original outlined excavation area to the north due to the access road. Area 8 was bisected by a hedge and reduced in size accordingly. Area 6 was subject to extension by 450m² to the west, in line with a contingency outlined within the WSI (CGMS 2015) and agreed with the archaeological officer.

All machinery was kept off the stripped areas. Archaeological features identified during machine stripping were surveyed using a Trimble dGPS system to produce a pre-excavation plan of each stripped area and the site.

Dr. Martin Bates, geoarchaeologist, of the University of Wales, undertook a site visit on the 30th June to provide advice on the site stratigraphy and geology, particularly in relation to natural geological features identified as solution holes in Area 8.

2.2 Excavation [Heading level 2]

The agreement of the archaeological advisor was sought prior to the commencement of the excavation of archaeological features which commenced on 2nd June, with a full team excavating by the 22nd June and excavation of all areas completed on the 14th August 2015.

Features and deposits were excavated in accordance with the following sampling levels:

- Deposits relating to possible funerary activity were investigated by removing a 100% sample of the deposit from each feature;
- A 50% sample of the deposits from each pit was removed;
- 20% of the deposits within linear features were removed; and
- 50% of the deposits of post-holes were removed.

2.3 Recovery of finds [Heading level 2]

All artefacts and other finds from significant archaeological deposits were collected, identified by stratigraphic unit, catalogued and retained. Stripped areas were scanned with a metal detector to aid the recovery of metalwork finds and spoil was monitored during stripping. Any finds considered to be typologically distinct or significant were assigned a small find (SF) number and the location of the find was recorded three dimensionally.

2.4 Paleo-environmental sampling [Heading level 2]

Bulk samples were collected from archaeologically significant deposits to recover environmental material and finds. Where possible, a bulk sample measured 40litres, however, sample size varied depending on the amount of material available for sampling. Where the same ditch fill could be identified in a number of ditch slots, the deposit was not sampled in every slot.

2.5 Recording [Heading level 2]

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological excavations and the Headland manual.

- Five figure context numbers were assigned to each excavation area, the first number indicating the individual excavation area. E.g. 10001, 20001 etc.
- A pro-forma context record was completed for each stratigraphic unit.
- A digital plan of the excavated area was produced using a Trimble dGPS unit.
- Plans of individual stratigraphic units were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:20.
- Sections through stratigraphic units were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- A photographic record of all stratigraphic units comprised black-and-white prints supplemented by digital photographs.
- A diary record of the progress of the archaeological work was maintained, including details of liaison and monitoring meetings, visits and a record of the staff on site.

2.6 Post-excavation [Heading level 2]

To date the following post-excavation tasks have been completed;

- All records have been checked and cross-referenced.
- Metal artefacts have been stabilised by a conservator
- Contextual data has been entered onto a database.
- Photographic record has been developed and catalogued.
- Assessment of environmental samples.
- Digitising and geo-referencing of site drawings.
- Entering of artefactual and ecofactual data onto a database.

3 RESULTS [HEADING LEVEL 1]

3.1 Area 1 (Illus 2 & 3) [Heading level 2]

Area 1 totalled 2,160m² and was located to the eastern edge of the site on gently sloping land from south-east to the north-west, the existing tarmac access road lying to the south. The area was reduced in size at the north-eastern corner of the trench due to the presence of overhead power cables. The excavation depth was a maximum of 0.65m below ground surface.

Context and Features summary

Description	Group Context No.	No of Features	#slots	No. of contexts
Ditch – NE-SW alignment	10006	1	3	6
Ditch – SE-NW alignment	10011	1	4	16
Ridge and Furrow	10025	1	2	2
Pits	-	3	-	6
Post-holes	-	3	-	6

General stratigraphy [Heading level 3]

Variable natural geology was noted in the area. To the east an outcrop of mudstone (10005), extending approximately 28m north-south and 4m east-west was recorded. This was also noted in the base of several excavated features. Partially overlying (10005) and concentrated to the south-west of the area a light blue clay (10004) was recorded which had the appearance of pooling or a pond type deposit deriving from glacial action.

Overlying the mudstone and clay was a poorly sorted reddish brown silty clay (10003) identified as deriving from glacio-fluvial action. This in turn was sealed by a greyish brown clayey silt (10034) in the northern half of the area and was recorded as colluvial sedimentation. A final light brown clayey silt subsoil (10002) and a dark grey clayey silt topsoil (10001) completed the stratigraphic sequence.

Probable Romano-British remains [Heading level 3]

Ditch group 10011 was oriented south-east/north-west and extended beyond the limits of excavation. Four interventions were made into the ditch. A slot was positioned to determine its relationship with group 10006 (see below) which confirmed its earlier provenance. Further slots positioned along the length of the ditch revealed a sequence of fills (e.g. (10013), (10014), (10015), (10016) & (10017)) which suggested gradual sedimentation in the form of surface run-off and weathering of a bank which appeared to have been positioned on the northern side of the cut. The ditch is likely to be continuous with a ditch identified in Area 3 (see below).

Medieval remains [Heading level 3]

Group 10006 represented a former field ditch, aligned north-east/south-west and extended beyond the limits of the excavation area. The ditch was between 0.97m and 1.32m wide and up to 0.25m deep. Two slots were positioned through the ditch [10008] & [10010] both of which contained a single fill, from the latter of which a silver penny dating to the early 14th century was recovered. A relationship slot with group 10011 also confirmed its later date. Ceramic finds from the feature were a mix of Romano-British, medieval and a single post-medieval sherd.

Group 10025 comprised 11 linear cuts oriented south-east/north-west, a maximum of 2.27m wide, identified as furrows. The furrows respected the line of Group 10006 and are possibly associated as part of a field system. An homogeneous light brown slightly silty, sandy clay filled the furrows from which both Roman and medieval pottery was recovered.

Undated remains [Heading level 3]

Three post-hole cuts [10018], [10020] & [10024] were located towards the north and west of the area. The post-holes contained a reddish brown or brown sandy clay (10019), (10021) & (10023). No dateable material was retrieved from the fills. The post-holes may have been associated forming part of a fence line.

Cut [10039] was located towards the north of the area. The cut measured 0.50 x 0.45m and 0.30m deep and had an uneven irregular base. The fill of the pit (10040) contained frequent charcoal fragments though this may have been desiccated, organic or vegetational matter and the feature may have had a natural origin, such as a shrub or tree-throw.

To the south-east of the area, two small pits [10035] & [10037] were recorded. Pit [10035] measured 0.50m x 0.40m and was 0.17m deep, with [10037] measuring 0.33m x 0.30m x 0.09m deep. Both were highly truncated and the fills contained burnt animal bone fragments, with the fill of [10035] also containing lithics.

3.2 Area 2 (Illus 2) [Heading level 2]

Area 2 was located to the eastern extent of the site on a slight downslope from the south-east to north-west, the tarmac access road located to the north. The area totalled 2,380m². The northern extent was slightly shortened due to the proximity of the tarmac access road. The area was excavated to 0.75m below ground surface.

Context and Features summary

Description	Group Context No.	No of Features	#slots	No. of contexts
Ditch – NE-SW Alignment	20027	1	3	7
Ditch	20024	1	5	10
Ditch	-	1	1	2
Ridge and Furrow	20041	1	1	2
Pits	-	3	-	10
Post-holes	-	4	-	8

General stratigraphy. [Heading level 3]

Area 2 demonstrated a similar stratigraphic sequence to Area 1, with the absence of outcropping of the underlying mudstone. Topsoil (20001) overlay a subsoil (20002) which sealed a colluvial deposit (20003) overlying a blue-grey clay (20004).

Medieval Remains [Heading level 3]

Group 20041 was represented by three south-east/north-west orientated furrows. A slot through one of the furrows revealed a maximum width of 1.86m and depth of 0.18m containing a mid-reddish brown silty clay fill (20040).

Ditch group 20027 was oriented north-east/south-west and extended beyond the limits of the excavation area. Three slots were positioned across the ditch. The ditch was highly truncated surviving to a maximum depth of 0.20m. Slot [20017] revealed a maximum sequence of two fills which comprised a light greyish brown sandy clay (20018) filling a natural hollow in the base of the ditch, and a reddish brown sandy clay (20019) which was consistent with fills from the other slots (20010) & (20012) suggesting a general gradual sedimentation of the ditch.

Parallel to group 20027 a further ditch, Group 20024 was recorded. This was more highly truncated and showed signs of segmentation due to plough truncation. The ditch terminated at its south-western extent and extended beyond the excavation limit to the north-east. Slots positioned across the ditch revealed it to survive to a maximum of 0.16m deep and consistently contained only a single fill. The ditch was interpreted as relating to an earlier cut of group 20027.

Undated remains [Heading level 3]

In the north-east of the excavation area a linear cut (2006) was identified as a ditch. The ditch was oriented east-west and terminated at its western extent, where it was highly truncated and disturbed by a modern cut feature. The ditch was also truncated by ditch group 20027. A slot through the ditch revealed it to contain a single fill (20005) of reddish grey sandy clay.

Four post-holes [20008], [20034], [20036] & [20038] were recorded across the area. Post-hole [20008] was located to the northeast of the area whilst the others were located in the southern central area. [20008] was heavily truncated and measured 0.27m diameter and 0.05m deep. The other post-holes were approximately 0.40m diameter and between 0.12 and 0.20m deep.

Towards the centre of the excavation area, a pit [20013] measuring 0.99 x 0.95m and 0.13m deep was recorded. The pit contained a lower fill of reddish brown sandy clay (20014) containing frequent charcoal fragments sealed by a further reddish brown sandy clay. A similar pit [20016] was recorded to the southwest measuring 1.20m x 0.79m and 0.10m deep. This also contained a primary fill (20022) of brownish grey sandy clay containing charcoal fragments, sealed by a deposit of dark grey sandy clay and charcoal (20023). No function could be ascribed to either of the pits.

In the north-west corner of the site a sub-circular pit [20031] was identified (Illus 4). A sequence of three fills were identified. Deposit (20030) formed the primary fill and was exceptionally charcoal rich. This was sealed by a reddish brown silty clay (20029). A final, probable capping deposit of light-blueish grey silty clay (20028) was recorded. All three deposits contained an abundance of heavily burnt animal bone fragments suggesting the deposits derived from fire rakings of some form.

3.3 Area 3 (Illus 5) Heading level 2]

Area 3 was positioned towards the central area of the site on flat, level ground and totalled 2,800m². A maximum excavation depth of 0.92m was reached, shallowing to 0.40m at the south-west.

Context and Features summary

Description	Group Context No.	No of Features	#slots	No. of contexts
Ditch – NE-SW Alignment	30019	1	2	4
Ditch	-	1	1	2
Ditch	30020	1	2	5
Ditch	30018	1	2	6
Ridge and Furrow	30013	5	1	2

General stratigraphy [Heading level 3]

Within the south-western area of the trench, an area of mudstone bedrock (30004, not illustrated) was noted to outcrop.

This was sealed by a mid-reddish brown sandy clay (30003) containing an abundance of mudstone fragments and was in turn sealed by subsoil (30002) and topsoil (30001) deposits, in keeping with those identified elsewhere on the site.

Romano-British remains [Heading level 3]

Orientated north-west/south-east and terminating at its north-western extent, ditch group 30020 measured 16m long x 2.10m wide and 0.72m deep. Two slots were positioned within the ditch [30025] and [30009], the latter to determine its relationship with a further ditch group. Slot [30025] revealed the ditch to be 2.23m wide and 0.72m deep. A primary fill of reddish brown clayey, sandy silt containing occasional large stones (30027) was interpreted as relating to initial erosion of former bank material. This was sealed by a reddish brown sandy silt (30026) which appeared to relate to the gradual sedimentation of the ditch. Pottery of probable 1st – 2nd century date was recovered from (30010), the fill of the terminus of the ditch. The ditch was thought to be continuous with group 10011 (Area 1).

Medieval remains [Heading level 3]

Ditch group 30018 was orientated north-west/south-east and extended beyond the limits of the excavation area. Two slots positioned through the ditch revealed a profile which varied from a rounded to almost 'V' shape and have a maximum depth of 0.55m and measure up to 1.38m wide. The shallower slot of 0.36m depth [30005] contained a single fill of reddish brown sandy silt (30006) from which animal bone and an iron horseshoe of medieval or post-medieval date was recovered. A further horseshoe and iron door studs were recovered from the subsoil in proximity to the ditch. Within the second slot [30021] a reddish brown sandy clay (30023) was sealed by a greyish brown sandy clay (30022). Both deposits appeared to derive from gradual sedimentation of the ditch.

To the eastern extent of the area, five furrows were partially exposed, terminating within the area. These formed part of a ridge and furrow field system, group 30013. Investigation of the group recorded a depth of 0.20m and a dark reddish brown slightly clayey sandy silt fill (30014).

Undated remains [Heading level 3]

Truncated at its southern terminus by the Romano-British ditch 30020, a linear cut, group 30019, was aligned broadly north-south and measured 18.7m long. The ditch was 1.30m wide and up to 0.63m deep and contained a single fill orangey brown sandy silt (30012). No dateable material was retrieved from the ditch.

To the south of group 30018 and extending south beyond the limit of the excavation area, ditch [30015] was recorded, measuring 9m long, 1.60m wide and 0.50m deep. A single fill of dark brown stony silt (30016), from which a single piece of flint debitage was recovered, was recorded in a slot positioned at the terminal end of the ditch.

3.4 Area 4 (Illus 5 & 6) [Heading level 2]

Area 4 was located to the north of the site, on flat level ground and measured 2,545m². The maximum excavation depth was 0.98m to the south and 0.60m to the north.

Context and Features summary

Description	Group Context No.	No of Features	#slots	No. of contexts
Ditch – NW-SE Alignment	40043	1	3	20
Ditch – NE-SW Alignment	40041	1	4	14
Ditch – NE-SW Alignment	40042	1	5	19

General Stratigraphy [Heading level 3]

The earliest deposit encountered comprised patches of underlying, weathered mudstone bedrock (40005) which was sealed by a red brown sandy clay (40004). Overlying (40004), and recorded in the southern edge of the excavation area, was a slightly clayey, sandy silt (40003) which was identified as a buried soil. The deposit was not observed elsewhere in the excavation area. Sealing these deposits was a yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil (40002) and the present topsoil (40001).

Romano-British Remains [Heading level 3]

Orientated north-west/south-east, ditch group 40043 represented the earliest phase within the area. The ditch extended beyond the limits of the excavation area to the north and south. Two 2m slots were positioned through the ditch to the north and south [40036] & [40053]. The ditch measured between 2.60m and 2.80m wide and up to 0.80m deep. The slots contained three to four fills. An initial primary sedimentation within the ditch (40037) & (40054) was overlain by deposits (40038) and (40055) respectively, comprising brown sandy silty clays and mudstones. These deposits were identified as the slumping of up-cast or bank material from the initial digging of the ditch, with the up-cast having been positioned to the eastern side of the cut. Further fills represented phases of gradual sedimentation within the feature. Sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from fills of the ditch.

Slots positioned at the intersection of group 40043, with a north-east/south-west oriented feature revealed it was truncated by these and of an earlier date. The north-east/south-west feature was represented by two intersecting ditch cuts, groups 40041 and 40042.

Two slots were positioned within the intersection of groups 40041 and 40043, which confirmed the relationship. A slot was also positioned to confirm this at the intersection of 40042 and 40043.

To the north-eastern end of the ditches, a slot was positioned to examine the relationship between the groups 40042 and 40043 (Illus 7). The slot revealed two ditch cuts [40024] and [40029]. Ditch cut [40029] (Group 40042) was observed to cut [40024], though the upper extent of the cut was a diffuse boundary. The ditch contained a sequence of five fills which were interpreted as deriving from phases of gradual sedimentation of the ditch. Ditch [40024] also contained five fills. To the south-west, the second slot across the ditches, the same relationship was noted with a sequence of fills in each ditch indicating phases of gradual sedimentation.

A copper alloy pennanular brooch dating between the late Iron Age and 2nd century AD was recovered from the fill (40014) of Group 40042 at the intersection with group 40043.

3.5 Area 5 (Illus 5) [Heading level 2]

Area 5 was located to the western, central area of the site, on flat level ground and measured 897m². An excavation depth of up to 1.06m was reached.

Context and Features summary

Description	Group Context No.	No of Features	#slots	No. of contexts
Ditch – NE-SW Alignment	50036	1	2	13
Ditch	50037	1	2	14
Post-hole	-	1	1	4

General stratigraphy [Heading level 3]

The earliest deposit encountered was a light greyish blue clay (500040) which derived from glacial action. This was sealed by a reddish brown clay containing mudstone fragments (50003), subsoil (50002) and topsoil (50001) deposits.

Prehistoric Remains [Heading level 3]

A single post-hole [50008] was recorded within the area, measuring 0.50m x 0.47m and 0.23m deep. A packing deposit (50006), packing stones (50007) and a post-pipe (50005) were recorded indicating the base of the post had decayed *in situ*. A sherd of pottery of late Iron Age or early Romano-British date was recovered from the post-pipe together with lithic debitage.

Romano-British Remains [Heading level 3]

Groups 50036 and 50037 represented two north-east/south-west parallel ditches (Illus 8). These appeared to be continuations of ditch groups identified in Area 4. The ditches occasionally intersected and slots through the ditches determined that group 50036 was the earlier of the two. The ditches also contained five or six fills, in a similar pattern of phases of gradual sedimentation as observed in Area 4.

3.6 Area 6 (Illus 5) [Heading level 2]

Area 6 was located centrally to the site on flat, level ground. The area was subject to extension to the west and measured 1,376m². The area was excavated to 0.70m deep.

Context and Features summary

Description	Group Context No.	No of Features	#slots	No. of contexts
Ditch – N-S Alignment	60027	1	3	13
Curvilinear ditch	60016	1	4	15
Possible ditch segment	60026	1	3	6

General Stratigraphy [Heading level 3]

A greyish yellow-white mudstone bedrock (60004) was the earliest deposit identified, exposed in patches through the area. This was overlain by reddish brown sandy clay and stones (60003), subsoil (60002) and top-soil (60001).

Romano-British Remains {heading level 3}

Oriented north-south group 60027 was identified as a ditch and a continuation of group 40043 (Area 4). Three slots were positioned through the ditch. The northernmost of these (Illus 9) showed the ditch to be 2.60m wide and 0.90m deep with an uneven but flat base and near vertical, slightly sloping sides. The ditch was cut into the underlying bedrock. Confined to the eastern side of the cut, deposit (60029) formed the initial fill of the ditch and comprised a brown coarse sand and silty clay containing frequent large stones, gravel and grit. The deposit was interpreted as slumping of the up-cast from digging of the ditch and was also identified in the two further slots through group 60027, deposits (60018) & (60010), suggesting the up-cast had been positioned to the east forming a bank. Examination of the trench section edge revealed a shallow mounded deposit (60031) of the same character as (60029) which was interpreted as relating to remnants of the former bank associated with the ditch. Overlying the primary fill (60029) was a mid-brown fine sandy silt (60030) deriving from the gradual sedimentation of the ditch. Pottery of Romano-British date, with a residual earlier prehistoric sherd, was recovered from fills of the ditch, together with iron fragments, lithic debitage and possible daub fragments.

Ditch group 60016 was represented by a north-east/south-west oriented cut which curved south to its terminal end and extended north-east beyond the limits of the excavation area. Slot [60005] revealed the ditch to have a 'V' shaped profile and measure 1.65m wide and 1.03m deep. A primary fill (60008) of a red-brown silty sand was overlain by a red-brown silty sand and stone matrix (60007) which related to slumping or erosion of up-cast into the open ditch. A final reddish-brown silty sand (60006) related to gradual sedimentation and infilling of the ditch. Further slots [60032] & [60038] displayed a similar profile and sequence of deposition. A slot in the terminal end of the ditch revealed this to be rounded and steep [60014]. A quantity of pottery of later-prehistoric to early Romano-British date and a Roman hobnail were recovered from fills of the ditch.

Group 60026 was oriented south-west/north-east and measured 8.60m long x 0.93m wide maximum and up to 0.41m deep. Three interventions were made into the feature. The fills of the feature seemed in keeping with geology in the vicinity and the edges and sides of the feature appeared uneven and more natural than hand dug. A single piece of flint debitage was recovered. Whilst it is possible this was a segment of possible ditch it was more likely a natural feature.

Post-medieval Remains [Heading level 3]

Cut [60023] contained the remains of a relatively recent, articulated sheep burial.

3.7 Area 7 (Illus 5) [Heading level 2]

Area 7 was positioned to the south and central area of the site on relatively flat, level ground and measured 1,515m². Excavation depth was relatively shallow reaching 0.55m below ground surface where geological and archaeological deposits were encountered.

Context and Features summary

Description	Group Context No.	No of Features	#slots	No. of contexts
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Ditch – NE-SW Alignment	70022	1	2	14
Ditch	-	1	1	7
Ridge and Furrow	70005	5	1	2

General Stratigraphy [Heading level 3]

Outcropping mudstone (70004) was encountered across the majority of the stripped area and was sealed by a shallow subsoil deposit (70002) except to the southwest, where a reddish-brown sandy clay (70003) lay beneath the subsoil and over the mudstone. The topsoil (70001) was in keeping with that identified in all areas stripped. The stratigraphic sequence was much shallower than encountered in Areas 1 to 6, largely due to the outcropping mudstone.

Romano-British Remains [Heading level 3]

Ditch cut [70015] (Illus 10) was oriented broadly north-south, extending beyond the excavation limit to the north and terminating at its southern end, approximately 8m within the area. The ditch measured 3.2m wide and was 1.11m deep. The sequence of deposition in the ditch indicated two primary fills (70016) and (70017), lying either side of the cut, relating to initial erosion and surface run-off. Sealing (70017) was a matrix of mudstone fragments and silty clay (70018), confined to the eastern side of the cut, which represented collapse of the bank, or up-cast associated with the original excavation of the ditch. This was noted to be in keeping with deposition in the probable continuation of the ditch in Areas 4 and 6. Overlying this was a sequence of three phases of fills (70019), (70020) and (70021), the latter, comprising fine grained greyish brown silty clay, almost certainly indicating gradual and general sedimentation. Finds from the ditch indicated a Romano-British date, probably 1st to 2nd century. The upper fill (70021) contained pottery of both medieval and Romano-British date.

Group 70022 represented a linear cut oriented broadly north-south and measuring 19m long, terminating at its northern extent and extending beyond the area limits to the south. A section through the ditch [70029] measured 2.8m wide and 0.90m deep. The sequence of deposition in the ditch was similar to ditch [70015] with a primary fill (70028), likely representing initial erosion and slumping after cutting of the ditch. The primary sedimentation of the ditch comprised a reddish brown sandy clay (70027) from which a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered. This was sealed by a deposit of mudstone and sandy clay (70026) which represented erosion or collapse of up-cast or bank material into the ditch. This was in keeping with deposition identified in [70015] and in sections of the probable continuation of the ditch alignment in areas 4 and 6. Three deposits (70025), (70024) & (70023) formed the final sequence of sedimentation of the ditch, with a lithic blade, debitage and small fragment of iron slag recovered from the upper deposits.

A slot through the terminal end of the ditch [70008] revealed a similar depositional sequence with pottery finds of late Iron Age and early Romano-British date.

Medieval Remains [Heading level 3]

Oriented southeast-northwest and truncating ditch group 70022, a series of five furrows (Group 70005) were recorded extending beyond the limits of the excavation area to the west. A section through a furrow revealed it to be a maximum of 0.15m deep. Iron slag and a sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill (70006).

3.8 Area 8 (Illus 12) [Heading level 2]

Area 8 was bisected by an existing hedge-line and results are presented in two parts covering the northern and southern segments. The northern segment lay on flat, level ground and measured 1,014m². The southern section sloped gradually from the south and east and measured 3,347m². A sewer, with a broadly east-west orientation with a south-east/north-west spur, was located centrally to Area 8 south. Excavation depth in the northern section was up to 0.50m below ground surface, with depths in the south varying from 0.60m to 0.80m below ground surface.

Context and Features summary

Description		Group Context No.	No of Features	#slot s	No. of contexts
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Ditch	North	80032	1	3	6
Ditch	North	80033	1	6	14
Ditch	North	80034	1	2	4
Ditch	North	80074	1	3	6
Ditch	North	80075	1	3	10
Ditch	North	80076	1	3	8
Ditch	North	80106	1	4	8
Ditch	North	80111	1	3	6
Ditch	North	80112	1	2	8
Ditch	North	80114	1	2	4
Ditch	North	80119	1	2	4
Ditch [80052]	North	-	1	2	2
Ditch [80090]	North	-	1	1	2
Ditch [80099]	North	-	1	1	2
Furrow [80067]	North	-	1	1	2
Mettled Surface	North	80077	1	-	10
Post-holes	North	-	3	3	6
Pits	North	-	1	1	2
Ditch	South	80125	1	2	8
Ditch	South	80135	1	10	30
Ditch	South	80244	1	3	5
Ditch	South	80245	1	2	4
Ditch	South	80298	1	6	13
Ditch	South	80299	1	3	11
Ditch	South	80300	1	6	15
Ditch	South	80301	1	4	8
Ditch	South	80302	1	8	19
Ditch	South	80303	1	8	20
Ditch [80164]	South	-	1	1	2
Ditch [80177]	South	-	1	2	3
Ditch [80238]	South	-	1	1	2
Ditch [80259]	South	-	1	1	2
Ditch [80281]	South	-	1	1	2
Ditch [80283]	South	-	1	1	2
Ditch [80318]	South	-	1	2	4

Possible structural remains	South	80377	23	23	46
Mettled Surface	South	-	1	-	1
Stone structural remains	South	-	1	-	1
Post-holes	South	-	9	9	18
Pits	South	-	4	4	10

General Stratigraphy Heading level 3]

Within the northern section of the area deposits were generally shallow with a high degree of plough truncation. This was reflected in a shallow sequence of Topsoil (80001) which sealed a subsoil deposit (80002). The subsoil was denuded and absent in patches across the area. These deposits sealed the underlying mudstone bedrock (80003).

Within the southern section, top and subsoil deposits overlay a reddish brown sandy clay (80004) which overlay the bedrock (80003). The subsoil showed greater depth, up to 0.40m, arising due to colluvial action.

Area 8 North (Illus 13) [Heading level 3]

Romano-British remains [Heading level 4]

A series of ditch groups were investigated and recorded which formed the northern extent of a larger enclosure system. Ditch groups 80032, 80074 and 80075 were oriented broadly east-west, Group 80075 had a slightly more pronounced curve towards the south-east where it terminated. Slots positioned through the groups revealed them to be of exceptionally shallow depth, between 0.07 and 0.30m (Illus 14).

Aligned north/south Groups 80076 and 80111 and ditch [80090] formed the western extent of the enclosure and internal divisions, creating smaller enclosed areas within the wider system. These were also heavily truncated, with Group 80090 surviving to only 0.04m deep.

Truncating the northern ditch group 80032 and western group 80076, Groups 80033 and 80034 represented a ditch system curving from the north-east to west. Group 80033 measured approximately 37m long. Its western terminal end truncated group 80076. Group 80034 measured 7m long, extending beyond the limits of the excavation to the north-east and terminating at its south-western end. The terminal ends of the ditches were slightly less than 1m apart, possibly creating an entrance or access point between the ditches.

A series of ditch segments, Groups 80106, 80112, 80114, 80119 and ditch [80052] were aligned broadly east-west. Group 80106 and [80052] were observed to cut group 80033 and indicated these were the latest phase of ditches. Group 80106 also truncated 80112 and 80119 and appeared to be a larger cut, likely replacing or redefining the smaller segments. Pottery recovered from the fills of group 80106 indicated a Romano-British date for the ditch.

Medieval Remains [Heading level 4]

Group 80077 comprised a series of truncated patches of a metallised surface. The truncation appeared to primarily relate to ploughing, though some machine truncation had also occurred during stripping of the area. The metallising extended on an east/north-east to west/south-west alignment, broadly following the line of the existing hedgerow and was visible across the length of the excavation area. The metallising formed the upper fill of ditch group 80075 (80031) and extended partially across groups 80106 & 80102. Due to variable truncation the exact extent could not be established but this appeared to be >70m east-west and a minimum of 15m north-south. The metallising comprised variable sizes of dolomite and mudstone, ranging from 0.20 x 0.20m to 0.03 x 0.03m. The stones were smoothed across the top and weathered a blue grey colour, where overlying ditch fills the colour varied to a light brownish yellow due to the variable conditions in the ditch sediments retarding oxidation of the stone.

Undated Remains [Heading level 4]

Located in the north-west corner of the excavation area, cut [80067] was partially exposed and appeared to be a linear feature orientated south-east/north-west. The cut measured >3m long by 1.00m wide and 0.10m deep and was interpreted as a probable furrow, part of a ridge and furrow agricultural system.

Three post-holes were located to the northern-central part of the area. The post-holes were broadly circular measuring between 0.22 and 0.35m diameter. No positive association could be made between the post-holes.

A single shallow pit [80016] was recorded containing a single, sterile fill. No dateable material was recovered from the feature and its function is indeterminate.

Area 8 South (Illus15) [Heading level 3]

Possible Prehistoric Structural Remains [Heading level 4]

To the west of the area, Group 80377, comprising 22 possible post-hole like features and an amorphous pit-like feature [80034] was recorded. The fill of the possible pit contained 14 sherds, largely crumbs, of pottery which is of potential early prehistoric date, though, equally, may be later prehistoric. The post-hole like features were generally amorphous with uneven bases and sides and heavily truncated being shallow in depth. All were cut into the underlying weathered mudstone. The features measured between approximate diameters of 0.46 and 0.20m. The fills were generally a light reddish brown sandy clay, softer and looser in consistency than naturally formed solution holes and root action identified on the site.

Pre-excitation survey of the features appeared to define a broadly circular shape of c.8m diameter. However, on cleaning of the area prior to excavation, many of the initially identified features were found to apparently be shallow pockets within the bedrock whilst several further features were also identified and investigated.

Romano-British Remains [Heading level 4]

The earliest phase of activity was represented by Group 80125, a north-east/south-west oriented ditch. Slots positioned across the ditch revealed it to be a maximum of 0.34m deep and 1.12m wide and contain a single fill of reddish brown silty clay.

The ditch was truncated by Groups 80300, 80301, 80302 and 80303 which represented ditch cuts oriented north-west/south-east, turning to the north-east, forming the southern extent of the enclosure identified in Area 8 north. The group represented a minimum of three phases of re-cutting of the same boundary (Illus 16). Group 80302 was recorded as the earliest of these ditches, representing the original enclosure boundary. A second phase was represented by Groups 80300 and 80301. A narrow 0.50m gap existed between terminals of each group, probably acting as a narrow entry causeway to the enclosure. Group 80303 represented a third phase of cutting of the boundary. To the north-western extent, Groups 80300 and 80302 survived to a depth of up to 0.70m. Along the southern boundary, the ditches were heavily truncated with between 0.10 and 0.30m depth. Despite this level of truncation, a relatively high level of finds were recovered from slots positioned along the southern boundary line of the enclosure. Deposits such as (80255), Group 80301, also contained burnt bone and cereal grains, suggesting the dumping of domestic refuse within the ditches.

Ditch [80318] was located to the northern edge of the area and appeared to represent further re-cutting of the enclosure boundary. Also located against the northern limit of excavation towards the eastern side of the Area, ditches [80281], [80283] & [80308] were identified as continuations of the enclosure boundary towards the north-east. An evaluation trench had cut through the ditches at this point, and whilst the ditches appeared to have terminal ends, possibly creating a break in the enclosure boundary, the extreme truncation in the area precluded this being an unequivocal interpretation.

Orientated north-west/south-east, ditch [80164] measured >3.6m long by 0.58m wide and was heavily truncated, only surviving to 0.06m depth. The ditch was believed to be a continuation of the internal division within the enclosure, Group 80111, recorded in the north of the area.

Group 80299 was represented by a 4m length of a ditch cut. Slots through the ditch revealed it to truncate Group 80302 and continue northwards where slot [80274] further indicated truncation of the earlier ditch cuts. A similar sequence was recorded against the northern section edge where [80381] was recognised as probably contiguous with [80274]. The ditch survived between 0.27 and 0.34m depth and terminated at its southern extent. The ditch was interpreted as further clearing and re-cutting of the enclosure ditch and elaboration of the enclosure to the south. Pottery recovered from the ditch indicated a 1st to 2nd century date.

Probably associated with Group 80299, a curvilinear ditch, Group 80298 (Illus 17), was recorded towards the south of the area and was partially truncated by a modern sewer. The ditch ran north-west/south-east turning to the east. Slots positioned through the ditch revealed it to be shallow, a maximum of 0.16m deep. The eastern 'terminal' was little more than a scar, surviving to 0.06m depth. Pottery of 1st to 2nd century AD date was recovered from its fills. The ditch, in association with Group 80299, appeared to represent an elaboration to the enclosure, potentially defining further space to the south with some form of entrance between the two ditch group terminals.

Group 80144 and ditch [80177], represented two small segments of ditch located towards the north-east of the area. These did not appear to have any association with the enclosure, lying beyond its southern boundary and their function remains unknown. Ditch [80177] truncated group 80144 and may have represented a re-cut. Both ditches were highly truncated surviving to maximum depths of 0.20m and 0.27m respectively.

Pits [80185] & [80188] were recorded towards the central western part of the area. Pit [80188] was sub-circular, truncated by [80185] and measured 1.70 x 0.81 x 0.11m. The larger pit [80185] was also sub-circular and measured 4 x 2.66m and was 0.27m deep containing two fills (80196) & (80197). Pottery, including a Gallo-Belgic form of 1st century date, was recovered from (80196).

The final positively identified Phase of Romano-British activity was ditch group 80135, which truncated Group 80144. The ditch was oriented northeast-southwest, extending beyond the limits of excavation to the north and apparently terminating beneath the sewer cut. Pottery recovered from the fills of the ditch dated to the 2nd century and it is postulated the ditch related to land division as a probable field boundary.

Medieval Remains [Heading level 4]

Recorded in section and sealed beneath the subsoil (80002) along the northern edge of the area, remnants of a metallated surface (80343) was recorded extending 7m east-west and between 0.08 and 0.20m deep. A minimum of two layers were suggested, though this appeared dependent on the requirement to create a relatively level surface. The surface was interpreted as relating to metalling, Group 80077, identified in the northern section of the area.

Undated Remains [Heading level 4]

To the central eastern area of the site, ditch [80259] was recorded. The ditch was oriented broadly east-west and measured C.20m long. A slot positioned through the ditch confirmed that it was highly truncated, surviving to a maximum depth of 0.08m and in places only as a stain in the underlying bedrock. The ditch corresponded to a geophysical anomaly and evaluation results. No dateable material was recovered.

Pit [80313] was a circular feature measuring 0.80m diameter and 0.13m deep. The primary fill of the pit was a charcoal rich reddish brown sandy silty clay (80317), sealed by a lighter reddish brown sandy silty clay (80314) from which daub and lithic debitage was recovered.

Truncated by ditch group 80135, a pit [80180] measuring 2.35m x 1.26m and 0.44m deep was recorded. The pit contained a series of fills (80195), (80196), (80197) & (80356) (Illus 18) which appeared to indicate dumping of material, possibly suggesting a midden pit. Lithic debitage and Iron slag were recovered from fills of the pit.

A total of 9 post-holes were recorded within the area. Three of these were towards the north-east corner and had no positive associations. Six were located within the western end of the enclosure defined by the ditch groups. These appeared to form two groupings of three. The post-holes displayed similar spacing. The group identified by [80137], [80139] & [80143] were spaced approximately 1.4m, 2.4m and 2.5m apart. The second group [80141], [80162] & [80236] were spaced 1.4m, 2.2m and 2.3m. This may be coincidence but also may imply small structural arrangements of ancillary features.

Recorded in the northern section of the excavation area, a stony deposit (80320) was identified overlying the subsoil (80002) and sealed beneath the topsoil (80001). No cut for the deposit was visible and no specific function could be ascribed. The deposit was likely to be late in date, possibly representing field clearance or use of the stone to stabilise the ground surface, perhaps as a former access point between fields.

4 DISCUSSION [HEADING LEVEL 1]

4.1 Prehistoric activity

Whilst finds recovered from the site included some earlier prehistoric pottery, lithics and pottery of later prehistoric date, these appeared to be largely residual and no solid evidence of occupation or use of the land during the prehistoric era was recorded. However, the exception to this may be the possibility of highly truncated structural remains identified within Area 8 in the form of group 80377 features.

Excavation of this group revealed largely amorphous features with little or no apparent cut form, an exceptionally high degree of truncation and during cleaning of the area many identified potential features simply disappeared from the pre-excavation plan of the area, which had initially suggested a circular form to the group of features c.8m in diameter. A pit-like feature within the group contained 14 of the 15 possible earlier prehistoric sherds identified on the site. With this in mind, it is possible that an earlier prehistoric structure did indeed exist, highly truncated with only the bases of features surviving and the nature of the crumbling, degrading mudstone

into which features were cut, obscuring the fact that these were possible post-holes (Illus 19). However, the remains in question were simply too truncated and ephemeral to produce a definitive answer and the possible presence of a round-house like structure is the nearest to a definitive answer that will be obtained.

A single post-hole [5008] identified in Area 5 may be of later prehistoric date, though this was not associated with any other remains and may equally be of early Romano-British provenance.

A pit identified in Area 8 contained lithics and iron working residues which may suggest an Iron Age date for the feature. The pit was also truncated by Romano-British date ditches. However, the high level of residual finds on the site generally and high probability of secondary deposition cannot make dating based on the finds unequivocal.

More generally, finds also seem to suggest later Iron Age occupation leading into the Romano-British period with access to continental imported pottery. The assemblage merits comparison with similar sites to refine the chronology.

4.2 Romano-British activity

Romano-British activity on the site appeared largely related to land division, suggesting primarily agricultural use of the land. Roman *imbrex*, suggesting the presence of a structure was recovered during evaluation to the west of the site, but no evidence of structural remains of the period was present in any of the excavated areas.

From finds recovered, the agricultural use of the land appears to be confined to the 1st and 2nd centuries, with abandonment then occurring and an absence of later Romano-British activity. Romano-British finds of later date are generally absent from the site with no later features positively identified or dated and activity appears to be focussed, almost exclusively, during the 1st and 2nd centuries.

Two major land boundary ditches were identified in the northern area of the site. These had opposing orientations suggesting a radical change in the pattern of land use, perhaps ownership, within a very short time scale. The earlier and larger ditch oriented north-west/south-east, visible in Areas 4, 6 & 7, displayed a consistent pattern of deposition which appeared to relate to a catastrophic collapse of the up-cast from the cut, occurring from the eastern side of the ditch, indicating the presence of a bank to this side. Such a collapse across the entire length of the feature does seem a little unlikely and there was no evidence of such as alluvial sediments in the stratigraphic sequence which may have caused such an encompassing collapse. It seems more probable that this related to the deliberate destruction of the bank, pushing it back into the open ditch at the point when the use of the land appears to change through the orientation of later ditches.

The Phase 2 enclosure identified in Area 8 is of specific interest. The ditches defining the area went through a minimum of three phases of re-cutting and redefining its extent and later remodelling with additional elaboration to the south. The enclosure defined a roughly triangular shape, enclosing approximately 1,100m², with three cells apparently defined in its interior. The terminal end of ditch group 80075 gave probable indication of an entrance to the enclosure to the east, but with no sign of a reciprocal ditch segment to 'close' the area. However, the lack of visibility due to the presence of the hedgerow in this area, determines that this conclusion cannot be unequivocal. No specific function can be ascribed to these areas at present.

Undated post-holes within the western internal division of the enclosure appeared to have an element of regularity in two groupings of three and may imply some form association, contemporaneity and ancillary structural arrangements within the enclosure connected with its function, though the nature of this cannot be determined.

Small segments of ditch post-dated the primary enclosure ditches and it is postulated that this may relate to re-visiting of the area and later sub-division of the land after the disuse of the enclosure and a wider re-arrangement of the pattern of land use.

Given the high degree of truncation of the ditches associated with the enclosure, the level of finds recovered is remarkably high. Finds were strongly suggestive of domestic occupation in very close proximity, with evidence of dumped fire rakings and personal items in the form of a brooch and finger ring recovered. The predominance of finds occurred along the southern extent of the enclosure in Area 8, possibly suggesting domestic occupation was more likely to be within this area. No structural remains associated with the enclosure were identified and it is possible that this evidence may have lay immediately out-with the limits of the excavation area. Two caveats to such a conclusion do exist. A gap of some 16m existed between Area 8 north and south, more than adequate space to contain structural remains within the enclosure boundary. Also the ditches were subject to regular re-cutting and the finds pattern may be reflective of this, rather than directly related to the nature of domestic refuse dumping.

Evidence of iron-smithing, probably of the same period, in the form of smithing cakes, recovered from the sub-soil and ditch fills, would suggest iron-working was carried out in proximity and within the site, though no direct evidence of this was visible on site.

This enclosure appears to give way to a change in focus to the north with a segmented curvilinear ditch cutting across the northern extent. The precise dating of this cannot yet be established other than during the Romano-British period, though the overall finds assemblage suggests this would have also been within the earlier Romano-British period, also probably 1st to 2nd century AD.

Artefacts recovered from the features point to the focus of activity ceasing after the 2nd century AD with the site then apparently abandoned. This apparent abandonment merits more detailed analysis. Potentially, this may be related to establishment of the settlement pattern in the area in the years following the conquest with the establishment of a *colonia* at Gloucester and the settlement at Seamills to the south. Margary's postulated road (541) between Seamills and Gloucester (1973) may have had an impact on the area in terms of trade and perhaps marginalised any settlement on the site at the time. Alternatively it may be that abandonment was environmentally determined, as has been postulated with regard to sites in the south-west (Gardiner *et al* 2002) due to increasing flooding on the Severn coastal margins and flood plain. A further possibility exists, that occupation may have simply moved within the site. Romano-British roof-tile was recovered during evaluation of the site to the west of Area 8 and may hint at further occupation on the site, though this could equally relate to structural remains associated with the enclosure and 1st to 2nd century land use.

4.3 Medieval period

It is not until the medieval period that further use of the land can be attested. Field boundaries appear to be in place by the 14th century with associated ridge and furrow. The possibility of structural remains was also suggested through the recovery of iron door-studs, nails and horseshoes. There is a potential that a structure of medieval or earlier post-medieval date existed around the vicinity of Area 3.

A metallated stone surface recorded in Area 8 truncated Romano-British remains and was sealed by a subsoil deposit. Preliminary examination of Lidar data gives an indication of the former road or track identified and a pattern of former medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow which the roadway appears to truncate. This seems to suggest a later medieval date for this route, though its purpose, or precise date, cannot at this stage be ascertained. A LIDAR report on the site (Jordan 2010) proposed that the line of the trackway may have been the route of an unfinished canal or paleo-channel. In light of the excavation results, this interpretation should be revised.

Undated deposits comprised a combination of ditches, pits and post-holes. It is highly likely that the ditches relate to the Romano-British period and that post-holes in proximity to the enclosure in Area 8 are also of this period. Post-holes in Areas 1 & 2 are more likely to be medieval or later and relate to fence lines and land division.

The pits within Areas 1 & 2 are of particular interest. Three of these contained large quantities of burnt animal bone, with one pit showing a depositional sequence that included capping. Whilst no dateable material was retrieved, it is possible that these features pre-date the Romano-British activity on the site.

5 CONCLUSION [HEADING LEVEL 1]

Excavations at Park Farm, Thornbury have provided several questions which will require further work to fully understand the nature of the site in its own and wider, regional context. Whilst geophysical and trial trenching evidence was essentially corroborated, aspects of the earlier investigations could not be confirmed, such as middle to late Iron Age land division. The results of the excavation have altered the nature of these questions and objectives from those initially identified under the remit of the WSI. Limited, insubstantial evidence for pre-historic activity was contrasted with Romano-British land division, enclosure and apparent rapid abandonment at some point in the 2nd century AD. No direct evidence of continuity from the prehistoric period was identified nor subsequent early medieval use of the land. There appears to be a hiatus on the site until the medieval period when agricultural use of the land is evidenced.

5.1 Proposals For Analysis And Publication [Heading level 2]

The initial research objectives outlined in the WSI are reviewed. In light of the excavation results, in order to fully understand the site in its context and in line with SWARF (Croft & Grove 2012), points are identified which should be addressed as updated research objectives.

Original research aim	Current analysis	Updated research proposal	New research aim
1. Does the site area contain any evidence associated with earlier Prehistoric activity as suggested by residual finds evidence recorded by evaluation, and if so, what is its date, form and function?	Residual earlier prehistoric finds, no associated features or occupation evidence	No further analysis required	
2. At what date is recorded activity in the late Prehistoric period on the site established? What is its form and function, and how does this change over time?	Ephemeral and tentative evidence, no substantive archaeological features	No further analysis required	
3. How was the land used in the late Prehistoric period? Is there a continuity of such land-use into the Roman period, and if not, how is this re-organised? How does such land use relate to established foci of settlement in the late Prehistoric and Roman period within the site and how does this compare with other contemporary patterns of land-use recorded within the wider area?	De novo land division in early Roman period, rapidly changing with abandonment occurring before C3AD. Large scale ditches altering alignments in relatively short time scales. What was the extent of the large land boundaries? Was this economically or socially driven?	Examination of aerial photography, cartography to establish if any extent/continuation of large land division can be established. Further research into the post-conquest period in the area to provide context for the site. Comparative analysis of small enclosures of the period. Comparative analysis with known sites in the area to place the site within its local and regional context	SWARF research aim 10 – Address lack of understanding of key transitional periods.
4. What is the character of recorded Roman settlement on the site? Is this entirely domestic/agricultural or is there evidence for industrial activity, and if so, what industries were taking place?	No structural remains of the period. Limited evidence for site economy. Limited peripheral industrial activity	Contextualisation of environmental and artefactual evidence through integrated analysis with stratigraphic record. Spatial analysis of recovered material. Anecdotal evidence suggests the site has been heavily metal-detected with Romano-British finds, amongst others made. A search of portable antiquities and HER records for metal detected finds should be undertaken to contribute to a greater understanding of the site. Further analysis of Roman pottery and metalwork	SWARF research aim 29 – Improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement

		with illustration of selected items.	
5. Is there any evidence to suggest a continuity of settlement within the site through the later Prehistoric and/or Roman period, and if so, how does this change over time?	Tentative and ephemeral suggestion of late iron age structural remains, no structural remains of the Roman period	No further analysis required	
6. What is the evidence for Saxon/Medieval activity on the site and at what date did it commence and how does it develop?	Limited medieval agricultural activity C13th	No further analysis required	-
7. Is this entirely agricultural in character and how does this relate to documentary and other recorded evidence in the area?	-	No further analysis required	-
8. What is the evidence for Post-Medieval activity within the site?	Limited agricultural evidence	No further analysis required	
9. Does this reflect any continuity with the pattern of activity established in the medieval period	-	No further analysis required	
10. How does it develop and was it purely agricultural in character or is their evidence of other activity?	-	No further analysis required	

5.2 Publication [heading level 2]

The analysis work will be combined into a technical 'grey literature' report containing the detailed results and conclusions of this work, plus all relevant technical appendices and illustrations. This report will be submitted to the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record and the Archaeological Data Service. The technical report will be synthesised into a format and style suitable for submission to the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*. Journal proofs will be submitted to the archaeological advisor for review within two years of the completion of the work on site.

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7 APPENDIX 1 – SITE REGISTERS

7.1 Context register

7.2 Drawing register

DRAWING NO	CONTEXT NO	TYPE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION
001	2009	Section	1:10	Ditch 2009
002	2007	Section	1:10	Ditch 2007
003	2016	Section	1:10	North facing
004	2016	Plan	1:20	Pit
005	2017	Section	1:10	Pit
006	2017	Plan	1:20	Pit
007	2001	Section	1:10	South-east facing section through linear
008	2003	Section	1:10	South-east facing section through linear
009	2005	Section	1:10	South-east facing section through linear
010	2023	Section	1:10	Natural feature
011	2023	Plan	1:20	Natural feature
012	2024	Plan	1:20	Natural feature
013	2024	Section	1:10	West facing
014	2025	Plan	1:20	-
015	2025	Section	1:10	-
016	2026	Plan	1:20	-
017	2026	Section	1:10	-
018	2027	Plan	1:20	-
019	2027	Section	1:10	-
020	2020	Section	1:10	East-south-east facing

DRAWING NO	CONTEXT NO	TYPE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION
021	2020	Section	1:10	North-west-north facing
022	2020	Plan	1:20	Pit
023	2032	Section	1:10	Ditch
024	2033	Plan	1:20	-
025	2033	Section	1:10	-
026	2034	Plan	1:20	-
027	2034	Section	1:10	-
028	2044	Plan	1:20	-
029	2044	Section	1:10	-
030	2041	Section	1:10	-
031	2040	Section	1:10	-
032	2051	Section	1:10	Natural
033	2051	Plan	1:20	Natural
034	2052	Section	1:10	Natural
035	2052	Plan	1:20	Natural
036	2053	Section	1:10	Natural
037	2053	Plan	1:20	Natural
038	2050	Section	1:10	-
039	2050	Plan	1:20	-
040	2055	Section	1:10	-
041	2055	Plan	1:20	-
042	2060	Section	1:10	-
043	2060	Plan	1:20	-
044	2054	Section	1:10	-
045	2054	Plan	1:20	-
046	2070	Section	1:10	-
047	2070	Plan	1:20	-
048	2068	Section	1:10	-
049	2068	Plan	1:20	-
050	2062	Section	1:10	-
051	2062	Plan	1:20	-
052	2064	Section	1:10	-
053	2064	Plan	1:20	-
054	2068	Section	1:10	-
055	2068	Plan	1:20	-
056	2072	Section	1:10	Posthole SFS
057	2072	Plan	1:20	Posthole SFS

DRAWING NO	CONTEXT NO	TYPE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION
058	2069	Section	1:10	Natural
059	2069	Plan	1:20	Natural
060	2046	Plan	1:10	Skeleton
061	2074	Section	1:10	SFS
062	2074	Plan	1:20	SFS
063	2076	Section	1:10	SFS
064	2076	Plan	1:20	SFS
065	2078	Section	1:10	SFS
066	2078	Plan	1:20	SFS
067	2088	Section	1:10	SFS posthole
068	2088	Plan	1:20	SFS posthole
069	2090	Section	1:10	SFS
070	2090	Plan	1:20	SFS
071	2083	Section	1:10	Ditch
072	2098	Section	1:10	Pit
073	2098	Plan	1:20	Pit
074	2091	Section	1:10	-
075	2091	Plan	1:20	-
076	2094	Section	1:10	Ditch
077	2104	Section	1:10	Posthole SFS
078	2104	Plan	1:20	Posthole
079	2109	Section	1:10	Posthole SFS
080	2109	Plan	1:20	Posthole
081	2107	Section	1:10	also 2108
082	2107	Plan	1:20	also 2108
083	2111	Section	1:10	-
084	2111	Plan	1:20	-
085	2046	Section	1:10	also 2112
086	2116	Plan	1:20	Posthole
087	2106	Section	1:10	Posthole
088	2122	Section	1:10	-
089	2122	Plan	1:20	-
090	2118	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
091	2120	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
092	2124	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
093	2132	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
094	2134	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch

DRAWING NO	CONTEXT NO	TYPE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION
095	2137	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
096	2139	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
097	2141	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
098	2143	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
099	2145	Section	1:10	SFS Ditch
100	2080	Plan	1:10	Skeleton
101	2046	Plan	1:10	also 2122
102	2151	Plan	1:20	Pit
103	2151	Section	1:10	Pit
104	2150	Section	1:10	Natural
105	2150	Plan	1:20	Natural
106	2149	Section	1:10	SFS
107	2149	Plan	1:20	-
108	2164	Section	1:10	SFS
109	2164	Plan	1:20	-
110	2166	Section	1:10	SFS
111	2166	Plan	1:20	-
112	2161	Section	1:10	Ditch
113	2160	Plan	1:10	Skeleton 2160 and 2158 and 2156
114	2174	Section	1:10	Pit
115	2174	Plan	1:20	Pit
116	2177	Section	1:10	SFS posthole
117	2177	Plan	1:20	SFS posthole
118	2147	Section	1:10	Pit half SFS
119	2154	Section	1:10	SFS 2154 A and 2184
120	2154	Section	1:10	WFS 2154 A
121	2154	Section	1:10	NFS 2154 C
122	2154	Section	1:10	EFS 2154 C
123	2182	Profile	1:10	Posthole
124	2186	Profile	1:10	Posthole
125	2154	Plan	1:20	2154 and 2182 and 2184 and 2186
126	2188	Section	1:10	-
127	2188	Plan	1:20	-
128	2156	Section	1:10	SFS 2156 and 2158
129	2178	Section	1:10	WFS ditch
130	2191	Section	1:10	SFS

DRAWING NO	CONTEXT NO	TYPE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION
131	2191	Plan	1:20	on grid sheet
132	2193	Section	1:10	SWFS
133	2199	Section	1:10	Ditch
134	2198	Section	1:10	Posthole
135	2196	Section	1:10	Pit
136	2204	Section	1:10	NFS gully
137	2167	Section	1:10	SFS pit
138	2167	Plan	1:20	Pit
139	2178	Section	1:10	WFS ditch
140	2207	Section	1:10	-
141	2207	Plan	1:20	-
142	2012	Section	1:10	SFB
143	2012	Section	1:10	SFB
144	2012	Section	1:10	SFB
145	2012	Section	1:10	SFB
146	2101	Section	1:10	Posthole
147	2012	Plan	1:20	SFB
148	2182	Profile	1:10	N-S running profile
149	2212	Section	1:10	-
150	2191	Plan	1:20	2191, 2164, 2166, 2204, 2212, 2193, 2191, 2141, 2196, 2198, and 2176
151	2214	Plan	1:10	Skeleton
152	2218	Section	1:10	Pit 2218 and natural 2213
153	2218	Plan	1:20	Pit 2218 and natural 2213
154	2221	Section	1:10	Pit
155	2221	Plan	1:20	Pit
156	2128	Section	1:10	Pit
157	2128	Plan	1:20	Pit
158	2191	Plan	1:20	2191 and features around it
159	2147	Plan	1:20	Pit post-ex
160	2216	Section	1:10	SFS pit
161	2260	Plan	1:20	-
162	2260	Section	1:10	-
163	2250	Section	1:10	NFS
164	2250	Plan	1:20	2250 and 2252
165	2257	Section	1:10	-

DRAWING NO	CONTEXT NO	TYPE	SCALE	DESCRIPTION
166	2257	Plan	1:20	Ditch
167	2258	Section	1:10	Ditch
168	2258	Plan	1:20	Ditch
169	2246	Section	1:10	WFS posthole
170	2246	Plan	1:20	Posthole
171	2272	Plan	1:20	2272, 2274, 2276, 2278, 2280, 2282, 2284, 2286, 2288, 2290, 2292
172	2272	Section	1:10	NFS 2272 and 2274
173	2282	Section	1:10	SWFS
174	2280	Section	1:10	SWFS 2280, 2282, 2284
175	2286	Section	1:10	NW 2286, 2288
176				void
177				void
178	2244	Plan	1:20	Ditch terminus
179	2298	Section	1:10	Pit
180	2298	Plan	1:20	Pit
181	2244	Section	1:10	2244 and 2245
182	2270	Section	1:10	SEFS
183	2319	Section	1:10	2319 A NWFS
184	2319	Section	1:10	2319 A
185	2319	Section	1:10	2319 C
186	2319	Section	1:10	2319 C
187	2319	Plan	1:20	2319 post-ex
188	2321	Section	1:10	SFS
189	2321	Section	1:10	NFS
190	2321	Plan	1:20	-
191	2324	Plan	1:10	Skeleton 2324 and 2306
192	2306	Section	1:10	NFS
193	2308	Section	1:10	NFS
194	2327	Section	1:10	Ditch
195	2329	Section	1:10	-
196	2329	Plan	1:20	-
197	2332	Section	1:10	-
198	2332	Plan	1:20	-
199	2335	Section	1:10	Ditch
200	2338	Section	1:10	SEFS

7.3 Sample register

SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
001	2010	Fill of linear 2009 20L
002	2014	Fill of SFB 2012 40L
003	2015	Fill of pit 2016 40L
004	2017	Fill of pit 2017
005	2021	Fill of pit 2020
006	2037	Fill of ditch 2040
007	2038	Fill of ditch 2040
008	2039	Fill of ditch 2040
009	2050	20L
010	2047	Fill of 2048 40L
011	2070	Natural feature 20L
012	2071	Fill of posthole 2072
013	2073	Fill of posthole 2074
014	2075	Fill of posthole 2076
015	2077	Fill of pit 2078
016	2047	Fill of grave - around SK 2082
017	2087	Fill of posthole 2088
018	2089	Fill of pit 2098
019	2092	Fill of 2091
020	2093	Fill of 2091
021	2084	Fill of ditch 2098
022	2085	Fill of ditch 2089
023	2086	Fill of ditch 2089
024	2097	Fill of pit
025	2079	Grave fill
026	2100	Fill of SFB posthole
027	2095	Fill of ditch 2094
028	2096	Fill of ditch 2094
029	2105	Fill of posthole 2104
030	2110	Fill of posthole 2109
031	2108	Fill of 2107 40L
032	2117	Fill of posthole 2116
033	2119	Fill of ditch 2118
034	2121	Fill of ditch 2120
035	2123	Fill of 2122

SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
036	2126	Fill of ditch 2124
037	2129	Fill of pit
038	2113	Fill of pit within 2046
039	2114	Lower fill of 2046 pit
040	2131	Dill of ditch 2132
041	2140	Fill of ditch 2141
042	2142	Fill of ditch 2143
043	2144	Fill of ditch 2145
044	2146	Fill of pit 2147
045	2148	Fill of pit 2149
046	2152	Fill of 2151 pit
047	2153	Fill of pit 2149
048	2013	Upper fill of SFB 2012
049	2162	Fill of ditch 2161
050	2163	Fill of posthole 2164
051	2165	Fill of posthole 2166
052	2155	Fill of SFB 2155 A
053	2159	Fill around burial in 2158 40L
054	2175	Fill of pit 2174 10L
055	2176	Fill of posthole 2177
056	2155	2155C - fill of SFB
057	2168	Fill of pit 2167
058	2169	Fill of pit 2167
059	2170	Fill of pit 2167
060	2171	Fill of pit 2167
061	2192	Fill of pit
062	2195	Fill of pit
063	2197	Fill of posthole
064	2201	Fill of 2199
065	2203	Fill of 2204
066	2157	Fill of pit 2158 20L
067	2194	2194 B upper fill of SFB
068	2172	Fill of 2147
069	2211	Fill of 2212
070	2220	Fill of 2218
071	2222	Fill of pit 2221
072	2223	Fill of pit 2216

SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
073	2173	Fill of 2147
074	2239	Fill of 2147
075	2240	Fill of 2216
076	2241	Fill of 2216
077	2245	Fill of 2244
078	2247	Fill of 2246
079	2251	Fill of 2298
080	2252	-
081	2261	Fill of 2260
082A	2300	Fill of pit 2298
082B	2320	Fill of SFB
083	2322	Upper fill of pit 2321
084	2323	Primary fill of 2321
085	2325	Fill of 2306 20L
086	2307	Fill of 2306
087	2336	Primary fill of ditch 2335
088	2344	Fill of pit 2338