

Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation Trenching



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Executive Summary

Project Name: Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset

Site Code: QLW15

Planning Authority: Sedgemoor District Council

HER number: 32944

Museum Accession number: TTNCM54/2015

Location: Land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset

Geology: Interbedded mudstone and Limestone of the Westbury Formation, and Cotham Member (undifferentiated) – Mudstone and Limestone, Interbedded.

NGR: ST 422485

Date: September 2015

In September 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Countryside Cattery to undertake an archaeological trench evaluation at the land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset. A planning application was submitted to Sedgemoor District Council for the construction of a new residential dwelling, agricultural livestock dwelling, and cattery. Sedgemoor District Council required the undertaking of evaluation fieldwork before planning permission is determined.

The remains of a Romano-British settlement and prehistoric barrows, ring ditches and enclosures are known within the immediate environs of the proposed development area. The evaluation trenching was carried out to establish whether archaeological remains existed within the proposed area of development in reference a geophysical survey carried out in August 2015.

Trench 1 contained two ditches. One of these (F106) produced Romano-British pottery. The other ditch (F104) produced daub, likely of a similar date. These ditches are, therefore, considered to be of archaeological significance. The remains of a post-medieval wall present in Trench 3 is considered to be of little archaeological significance.

1 Introduction

1.1 In September 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Countryside Cattery to undertake an archaeological trench evaluation at the land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset.

1.2 A planning application has been submitted to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) (Application Ref: 50/15/00035) for the construction of a new residential dwelling, agricultural livestock dwelling, and cattery. SDC required the undertaking of evaluation fieldwork before planning permission is determined.

1.2 The aim of the programme of work is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 141 (DCLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

2 Location and Geology

2.1 The site is centred at NGR ST 422485 (Figure 1). The underlying geology of the site is interbedded mudstone and limestone of the Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (undifferentiated) mudstone and limestone, formed approximately 200 to 204 million years ago (BGS 2015).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 The site of the proposed development is in an area known to contain evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation activity. The application area forms part of a group of fields thought to contain the remains of prehistoric barrows. A Roman settlement, which includes a range of buildings, lies less than 50m to the southeast in the adjacent field. Further investigations in the fields immediately to the south have identified ring ditches and prehistoric enclosures (Membrey 2015).

4 Aims and Objectives

4.1 The objective of the archaeological evaluation is to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of prehistoric and later historic archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site. To also gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the area of investigation, and to provide as appropriate.

5 Methodology

5.1 Within the area of proposed development, three targeted trenches, each measuring 15m x 2m, were excavated in order to determine whether any potential archaeological remains survived on the site (Figure 2). The topsoil was removed

mechanically by machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil was removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural substrata, whichever came first, in successive level spits.

5.2 The areas were appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of any archaeological features and deposits.

5.3 The evaluation was carried out by ARS Ltd in accordance with *the Code of Conduct* of The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b).

5.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3) was produced for this work and this contains the full details of the methodology employed.

6 Results

Trench 1

6.1 Trench 1 measured 2m x 15m and had a maximum depth of 390mm from the current land surface (Figures 2,3 & 5). This trench targeted a faint line the geophysical survey results (see Figure 4).

6.2 The trench was excavated through dark yellow brown heavy loam topsoil (101) with a maximum depth of 320mm. There were no inclusions. This rested upon a pale yellow brown fine clay (102) with a maximum depth of 70mm, which bottomed onto dark orange mudstone (103) with mottles of mid grey clay. Below the pale yellow clay subsoil (102), and cut into the mudstone and clay (103) were two linear ditches (F104 and F106).

6.3 Feature F104 (Figures 3 & 8) was shallow and linear, orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment, and with a maximum depth of 80mm and width of 540mm. It was cut into the grey clay of (102), and terminated on the south-west end abutting an area of stone. A dark grey clay filled the feature. The sides were sloping with a gradual curve towards the base, which was uneven. Due to the irregular shape of the feature, it is possible it is the remains of a hedgerow. The east edge of the feature was obscured by the trench edge. It was located 2.5m from the south end of Trench 1, and ended 0.7m south of feature F106. Three small pieces of prehistoric pottery were recovered from F104.

6.4 Feature F106 (Figures 3 & 8) was a linear ditch on an west-northwest to east-southeast alignment, 0.7m north of F104. The feature was below the fine clay (102) and cut into the mudstone and clay (103) to a maximum depth of 360mm and maximum width of 500mm. The cut was of steeply sloping sides gradually curving onto a concave base. The fill comprised a dark grey clay, similar to F104. The ditch produced roman pottery and burnt animal bone.

Trench 2

6.5 Trench 2 measured 2m x 15m and had a maximum depth of 680mm from the current land surface (Figures 2 & 6?).

6.5 The trench was excavated through dark yellow brown heavy loam topsoil (201) with a maximum depth of 300mm, and through the pale yellow brown fine clay (202) down to the orange mudstone and grey clay (203). Towards the east end of the trench, the pale yellow clay bottomed onto an area of the substratum that was predominantly thick mid grey clay rather than stone. This was interpreted as a natural variation within the substratum rather than a product of human activity. The trench was void of any archaeological features, and produced only two fragments of post-medieval pottery from the topsoil (201).

Trench 3

6.7 Trench 3 measured 2m x 15m and had a maximum depth of 730mm (Figures 2 & 11).

6.8 Underneath the dark yellow brown heavy loam topsoil (301), which had a maximum depth of 300mm, lay the pale yellow brown clay (302), which in turn was on top of the dark orange stone and solid grey clay (303).

6.9 Running across the trench on a east – west alignment, 5m from the south-east end of the trench, was a post-medieval wall that had been mostly demolished but with the base intact (Figures 10 & 12). It had a maximum height (including the less structured rubble) of 350mm below current ground level, and a width of 200mm. The upper section of the wall consisted of fragmentary unfrogged 18th- to early 20th-century handmade bricks and broken limestone building stones measuring up to 170mm x 130mm x 120mm. Towards the bottom of the wall, the stones became flatter (3 -5cm in depth), smaller, more structured, and included packing stones. There were two layers of these structured stones.

7 Finds Report

By Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA, FSA

Pottery

7.1 A total of six fragments of Romano-British and post-medieval pottery was recovered from Trenches 1 and 2 (see Table 1).

Description	Date	Artefact count by context	
		106	201
Fine sandy greyware	1 st – early 3 rd centuries	3	-
?Black burnished ware	1 st – 2 nd centuries	1	-
Refined Whiteware	Late 19 th – 20 th centuries	-	2
Total		4	2

Table 1: The pottery assemblage

7.2 The pottery represents early Romano-British and post-medieval utilitarian and refined wares used for storage, preparation and consumption of food and drink.

Fired Clay

7.3 Three small fragments of fired clay, probably of late prehistoric or Romano-British date, were recovered from (104).

Animal Bone

7.4 A total of 26 fragments of degraded pig/sheep scapula were recovered from context (106).

Discussion

7.5 The finds are by no means unusual for a site of this nature. Parallels can be found at other urban sites in Somerset. The finds have no potential for further research and could, therefore, be returned to the landowner, retained in a teaching collection, or archived.

8 Discussion

8.1 The evaluation trenching was carried out to establish whether archaeological remains existed within the proposed area of development in reference to the geophysical survey results (Figure 4), in particular Romano-British and pre-historic material known in the surrounding area.

8.2 Trench 3 contained the remains of a post-medieval wall (Figures 10 & 12), which is not visible on the geophysical survey results, and is not obviously part of a structure, and is considered to be of little archaeological significance.

8.3 The material from ditch F106 in Trench 1 dates to the Romano-British period, and it is likely that the daub from ditch F104 is of a similar date. These two ditches are

therefore considered archaeologically significant within the local area and are likely to relate to a nearby Romano-British settlement to the south.

9 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

9.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

10 Statement of Indemnity

10.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

11 Acknowledgements

11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those who contributed to the outcome of this project, in particular Countryside Cattery for commissioning the work and Steve Membury, Senior Historic Environment Officer for South West Heritage Trust, for his advice.

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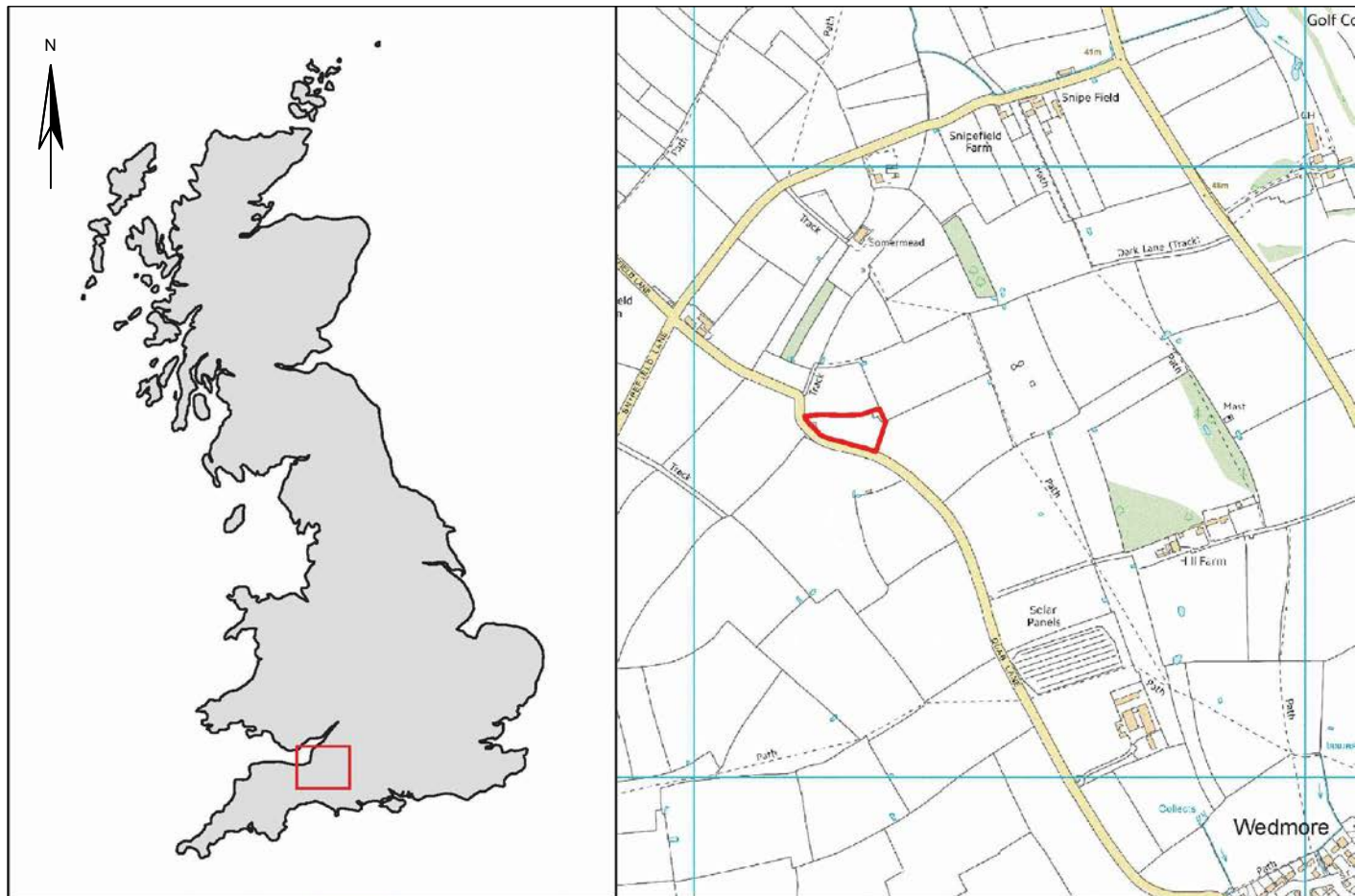
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Crown Copyright, London.

Appendix 1- Context Register

Context Number	Description
101	Topsoil
102	Pale yellow brown fine clay
103	Dark orange sandstone with mottles of grey clay
[104]	Cut of linear ditch
105	Dark grey clay fill of linear ditch
[106]	Cut of linear ditch
107	Dark grey clay fill of linear ditch
201	Topsoil
202	Pale yellow brown fine clay
203	Dark orange sandstone with mottles of grey clay
301	Topsoil
302	Pale yellow brown fine clay
303	Dark orange sandstone with mottles of grey clay
304	Wall with demolition rubble

Appendix 2 – Figures



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Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Site Code: QLW
Date: August 2015
Drawn: RD
Scale: As shown

Figure 1
Site Location



Geophysical survey area

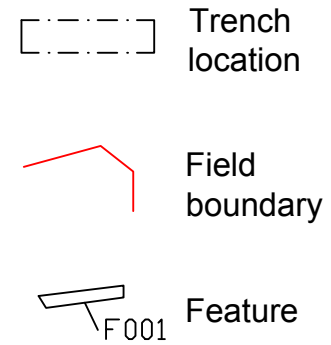
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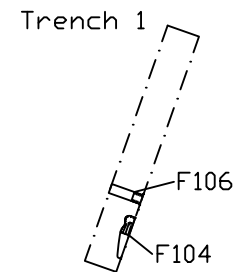
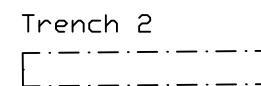
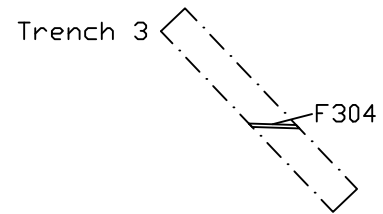
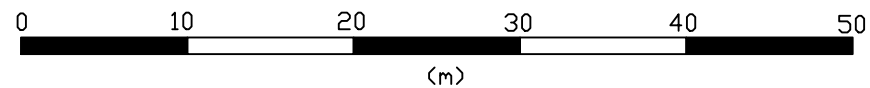
Figure 2. Trench locations and features.

Key:



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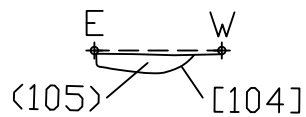
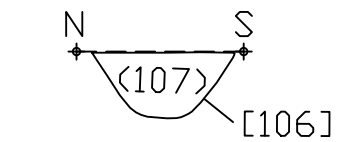
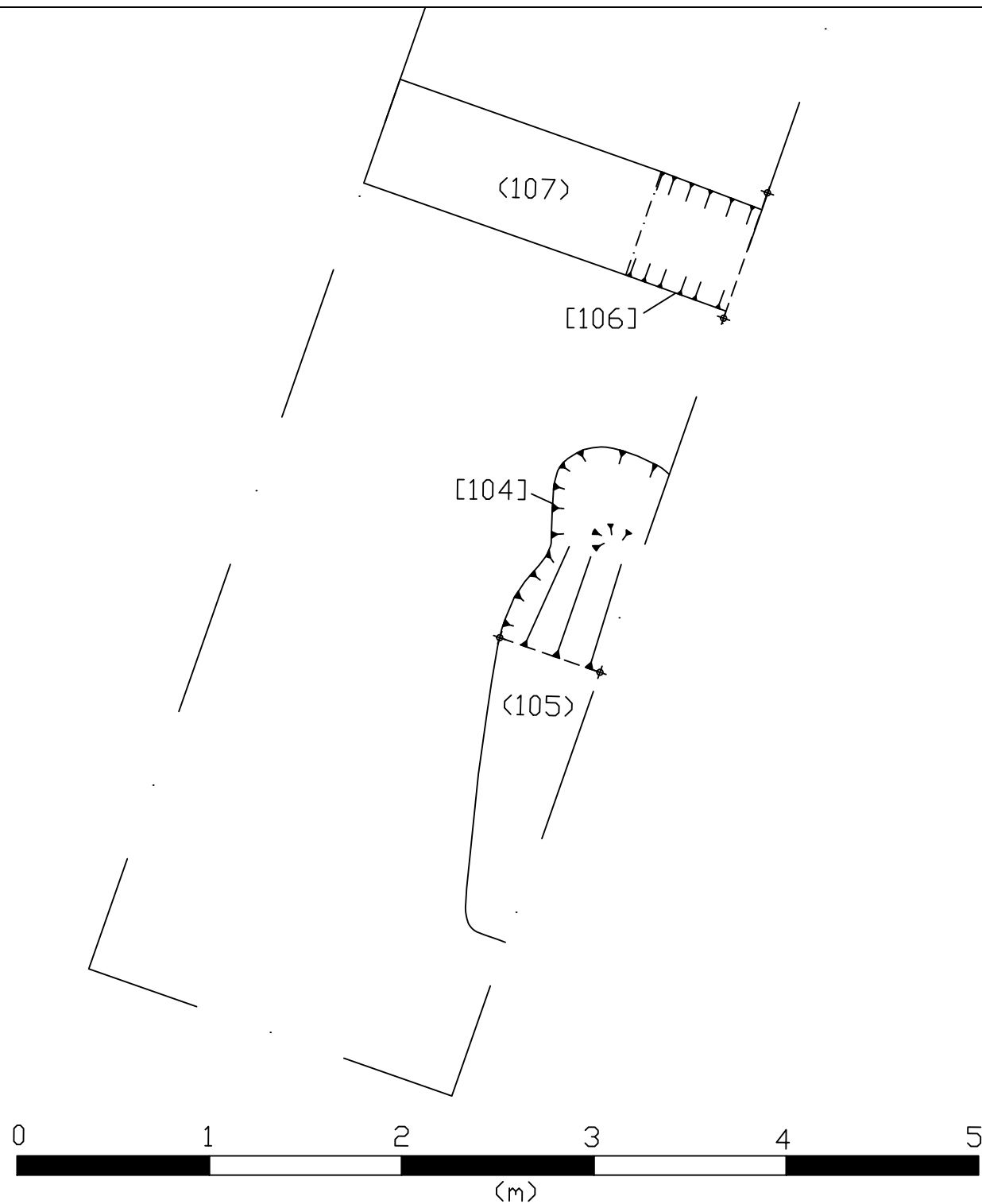


Figure 3. Trench 1
(south end) plan and
sections of features

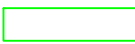



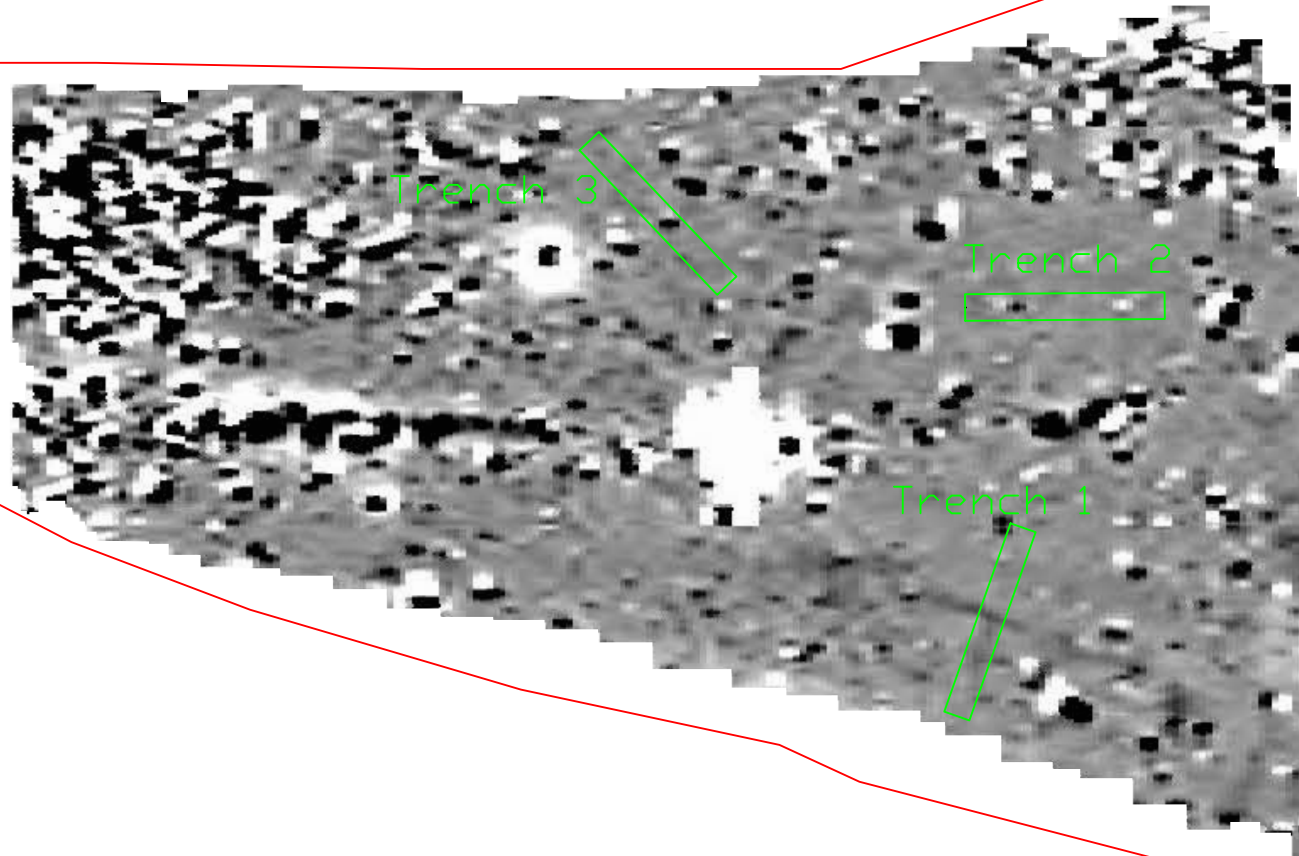
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Figure 4. Trench locations in relation to geophysical survey results.

Key:

-  Trench location
-  Field boundary



0 10 20 30 40 50
(m)



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Figure 5. Trench 1 looking north (scales = 2x1m).



Figure 6. Trench 2 looking west (scales = 2x1m).

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Figure 7. Trench 1 looking east across ditch F106 (scales = 2x1m).



Figure 8. Trench 1 looking south across ditch F104 (scale = 1m)



Figure 9. Trench 1 looking south-east showing ditches F104 and F106 (scales = 2x1m).



Figure 10. Trench 3 looking north showing remains of post-medieval wall F304.



Figure 11. Trench 3 looking west.



Figure 12. Trench 3 looking west along line of post-medieval wall (scale = 1m).

Appendix 3 – Written Scheme of Investigation

Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset

Written Scheme of Investigation

2015



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www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: Countryside Cattery

Date of compilation: August 2015

Planning Reference: 50/15/00035

Local Authority: Sedgemoor District Council

Site central NGR: ST 422485

**Written Scheme of Investigation for a Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Evaluation
at Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This scheme of works relates to the proposed development at land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset which consists of the construction of a new residential dwelling, agricultural livestock dwelling and cattery. The site is centred at NGR ST 422485 (Figure 1). The underlying geology of the site is interbedded mudstone and Limestone of the Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (undifferentiated) - Mudstone And Limestone, Interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 200 to 204 million years ago in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits have been recorded (BGS 2015).

1.2 A planning application has been submitted to the Somerset Heritage Trust (Application Ref: 50/15/00035) who have asked for an assessment to be carried out before they can consider whether or not to grant planning permission.

1.3 This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of the archaeological evaluation fieldwork to be undertaken during a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) at the land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, in accordance with guidance from Steven Membrey, the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset.

1.4 The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 141 (DCLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site of the proposed development is in an area known to contain evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation activity. The application area forms part of a group of fields thought to contain the remains of prehistoric barrows. A Roman settlement, which includes a range of buildings, lies less than 50m to the southeast in the adjacent field. Further investigations in the fields immediately to the south have identified ring ditches and prehistoric enclosures (Membrey, 2015).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 Research topics identified in the *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Webster 2007) which the fieldwork will generate information on include



rural settlement, in particular research aims 28-32 (Webster 2007, 286-7) and social relations, in particular research aims 49--57 (Webster 2007, 291-3).

3.2 Archaeological Fieldwork Objectives

3.2.1 The objective of the geophysical survey is to identify anomalies of possible archaeological origin within the survey area in order to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature and extent of prehistoric and later historic archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site.

3.2.2 The objective of the archaeological evaluation is to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of prehistoric and later historic archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site. To also gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the area of investigation, and to provide an appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 It is intended to conduct a geophysical (magnetometer) survey over a c.0.5ha area of the site of the proposed development.

4.2 Selected Technique

4.2.1 The geophysical survey technique selected for the site is magnetometry. Magnetometry using Fluxgate Gradiometer instruments is the preferred geophysical technique utilised for the detection of buried features such as iron-based features and objects, or those subjected to firing such as kilns, hearths and even the buried remains of brick walls. It is also used to locate more subtle features such as boundary or enclosure ditches, pits and post holes which have been gradually in-filled by more humic material. The breakdown of organic matter through microbiotic activity leads to the humic material becoming rich in magnetic iron oxides when compared with the subsoil allowing features to be detected. In addition to this, variations in the magnetic susceptibility between the topsoil, subsoil and bedrock have a localised effect on the Earth's magnetic field enabling the detection of features such as backfilled ditches or pits due to the fact that the topsoil has more magnetic properties than the subsoil or bedrock, resulting in a 'positive' magnetic anomaly. Conversely, earthwork or embankment features can also be identified as 'negative' magnetic anomalies due to the action of placing less magnetic subsoil on top of more magnetic top soil.

4.3 Methodology

4.3.1 A survey grid comprising 30m x 30m individual grids will be set up over the selected survey areas. The survey will use a temporary survey grid accurately



positioned using a suitable DGPS system. The temporary grid will be co-registered to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using digital tiles provided by ARS Ltd or suitable digital map tiles provided by the client.

4.3.2 These grids will then be surveyed using a Bartington Grad 601-2 gradiometer. The Grad 601-2 has two gradiometer sensors and therefore collects two lines of data during each traverse. Data are collected in a zigzag fashion within the grid starting in the south-west corner, facing north. Readings are taken every 0.25m on traverses 1m apart. This equates to 3600 readings in a complete 30mx30m grid. Sensor balance will be checked and adjusted at regular intervals.

4.3.3 At the end of each day the data will be downloaded to a PC or laptop using Geoscan *Geoplot V3*.

4.3.4 All staff employed on the geophysical survey will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of geophysical survey.

4.3.5 All staff will be made aware of the archaeological potential of the area and will be fully briefed on the work required by this WSI.

4.4 Data Processing, Interpretation and Report

4.4.1 Data processing will be undertaken by a geophysicist using Geoscan *Geoplot V3*. Anomalies will be digitised and geo-referenced. They will be colour coded using ARS Ltd's standard scheme to provide the most likely interpretation. Anomalies will be numbered and catalogued as systematic groups or individual anomalies as appropriate. The final report will include a graphical and textual account of the techniques undertaken, the data obtained and an archaeological interpretation of that data and conclusions about any likely archaeology. The report will describe the work undertaken and the results obtained. It will (as a minimum) include the following.

- ◆ A non-technical summary
- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Geological and topographical setting
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Discussion of archaeological and historical background
- ◆ Discussion on the results of the survey
- ◆ Conclusions and recommendations
- ◆ Sources
- ◆ Copy of brief
- ◆ Figure showing location of the site
- ◆ Figure showing location of survey grids and referencing



- ◆ Figure showing processed data
- ◆ Figure showing trace plots of processed data
- ◆ Figure showing abstraction and interpretation of anomalies

4.4.2 The presentation and interpretation of the results will be carried out in accordance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and will follow the English Heritage guidelines (2008) *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* and CIfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey* (2014b). ARS Ltd is a corporate member of the International Society of Archaeological Prospection (ISAP).

4.4.3 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) – HER number 32929. A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

4.4.4 The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Somerset Historic Environment Record may place the information on a web-site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING

5.1 Methodology

5.1.1 Once the results of the geophysical survey have been compiled, a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching may be recommended and a trench location plan agreed with the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset.

5.1.2 Topsoil will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

5.1.3 The areas will be appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.4 All spoil removed during groundworks will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Any finds so recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds will be retained and recorded.

5.1.5 All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.



5.1.6 Isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes not belonging to structure or industrial activities will be 50% sampled, although if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.

5.1.7 Sampling of linear features such as ditches or gullies will be sufficient to determine the character, stratigraphy and relationship to other features and attempts made to obtain dating evidence.

5.1.8 Any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activities, such as burials and cremation deposits will be 100% excavated. Domestic/industrial activity (such as walls, postholes, floors, hearths) will be sufficiently excavated to understand their form and function and to recover potential dating evidence and artefact and ecofact assemblages.

5.1.9 Area deposits, such as buried soils, or middens, will be hand excavated at a minimum 10%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered. Large intrusions, such as reservoirs, will be sufficiently excavated by machine, within safe limits, to provide information on their character.

5.1.10 Limited representative samples of bricks from brick-built structures, and selective products of the brick working proves will be retained for specialist analysis where appropriate.

5.1.11 Any human remains discovered will initially be left in-situ and, if removal is deemed necessary, this will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with the Peak District Senior Conservation Archaeologist.

5.1.12 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures.

5.1.13 For deposits that have potential for providing environmental or dating evidence, a minimum of 10 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% if the sample is smaller. This material will be floated and passed through graduated sieves, the smallest being a 500 μ mesh. Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

5.1.14 The evaluation trenching will be carried out in accordance to the guidance laid out in ClfA's *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014c).

5.2 Recording

5.2.1 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded using a single context planning system in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual.



5.2.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

5.2.3 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.2.4 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.

5.2.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken using a digital camera, and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. A selection of working shots will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation

5.2.6 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled

5.3 Finds Processing and Storage

5.3.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

5.3.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

5.3.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

5.3.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

5.3.5 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

5.3.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and The Museum of Somerset prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.



5.3.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

5.4 Report

5.4.1 A report shall be produced to include background information, a summary of the works carried out and a description and interpretation of the findings. The report will also include the following.

- ◆ A non-technical summary
- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Geological and topographical setting
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Discussion of archaeological and historical background
- ◆ Discussion on the results of the evaluation
- ◆ Specialist descriptions of artefacts or ecofacts
- ◆ An indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development
- ◆ Conclusions and recommendations
- ◆ Sources
- ◆ Copy of brief
- ◆ A location plan showing all excavated areas with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- ◆ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections

5.4.2 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

5.4.3 The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Somerset Historic Environment Record may place the information on a web-site.



6 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Prior notice of the commencement of the ground works to be given to the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer:

Steven Membery
Senior Historic Environment Officer
South West Heritage Trust
Somerset Heritage Centre
Brunel Way
Norton Fitzwarren
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 6SF
Tel: 01823 347433
Email: steve.membery@swheritage.org.uk

6.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Senior Historic Environment Officer at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

6.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Senior Historic Environment Officer, or his representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation

7 STAFFING

7.1 The Project Manager for the geophysical survey will be Dr Andy McWilliams MCIfA, Projecta Manager at ARS Ltd. The Geophysical Surveyor will be Richard Durkin BEng, and the Fieldwork Project Officer will be Alvaro Mora-Ottomano BA, MSc, ACIfA, Archaeological Officer at ARS Ltd.

7.2 Specialist analyses will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

♦ Flint and prehistoric pottery:	Dr Clive Waddington MCIfA or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
♦ Romano-British pottery:	Ruth Leary/Paul Bidwell
♦ Samian Ware:	Gwladys Monteil/Paul Bidwell
♦ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
♦ Post-medieval glass, clay pipes and metalwork:	Mike Wood MCIfA
♦ Industrial Remains:	Chris Scott MCIfA



♦ Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Elise McLellan
♦ Pollen and Molluscs:	Dr Andy McWilliams
♦ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska
♦ Radiocarbon dating:	Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
♦ Finds conservation:	Dr Jenny Jones, Durham University

8 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

8.1 Should the project produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum, which in this case is The Museum of Somerset.

8.2 If the project produces archaeologically significant finds, then the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity, and an accession number will be produced for the site. In addition, a digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by The Museum of Somerset). The archive will be deposited in line with the ClfA (2013c) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* and the Society of Museum Archaeologists' (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

8.3 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see 5.3 above).

8.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM.

9 GENERAL ITEMS

9.1 Health and Safety

9.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation



measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork and will be read and signed by all on-site operatives. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

9.2 Insurance Cover

9.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.

9.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

9.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer.

9.4 Publication

9.4.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be prepared for publication in online, journal or monograph form as appropriate. Additional popular articles will also be produced for local and/or national magazines as appropriate. The final form of the publication is to be agreed with the planning archaeologist and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork.

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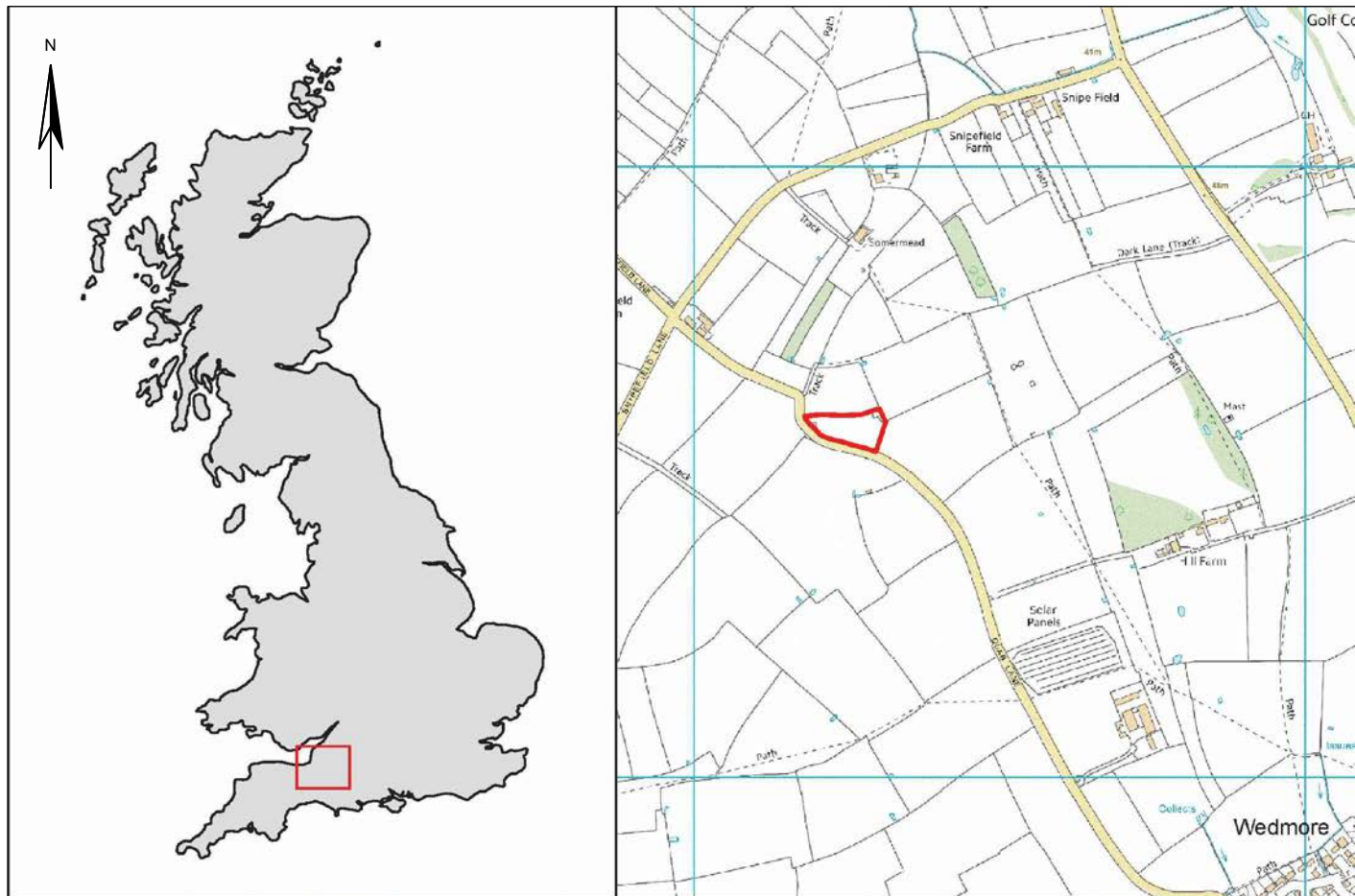
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FIGURES





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Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Site Code: QLW
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Figure 1
Site Location



Geophysical survey area

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Appendix 4 – Geophysical Survey Report

Land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset: A Geophysical Survey



View to the west

ARS Ltd Report 2015/123

HER 32929

August 2015

Compiled By:

Richard Durkin

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Angel House

Portland Square

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Checked By:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a geophysical survey undertaken on land off Quab Lane, Wedmore in Somerset. The survey was carried out as part of the submitted planning application (50/15/00035) for a proposed residential dwelling, cattery and agricultural building.

A geophysical survey was carried out on 18th August 2015 using a Bartington 601 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer. Approximately 0.5 ha. was included in the survey. The results of the geophysical survey have not revealed any definite evidence for potentially significant and previously unknown archaeological remains within the survey area. The results suggest significant modern disturbance associated with the removal of field boundaries and possibly a copse, agricultural activity and made-ground. A single weak linear anomaly has some potential to be archaeological in origin but is equally likely to be recent agricultural.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Countryside Cattery appointed Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) to undertake a geophysical survey of land off Quab Lane, Wedmore in Somerset. The survey was carried out as part of the submitted planning application (50/15/00035) for a proposed residential dwelling, cattery and agricultural building
- 1.1.2 The purpose of the survey was to determine the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains to survive at the site, to provide sufficient information to enable the Local Planning Authority to make an informed decision on the archaeological implications of the proposed development, together with any appropriate mitigation works.
- 1.1.3 The objective was to carry out a non-intrusive survey to identify whether any anomalies of possible archaeological origin could be identified within the survey area which may be affected by the proposed development and which, consequently, may require further evaluation and/or specific mitigation.
- 1.1.4 This report presents the results of the geophysical survey.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The survey area comprises a single, triangular field of 0.55 hectares which falls gently from 45m AOD in the east to 41m AOD in the west and is centred at NGR SK 22817, 57425. It is bounded to the south by Quab Lane and on all other sides by agricultural land.
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the survey area comprises Interbedded Mudstone and Limestone of the Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (undifferentiated). Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 200 to 204 million years ago in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits have been recorded (British Geological Survey 2015).

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site of the proposed development is in an area known to contain evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation activity. The application area forms part of a group of fields thought to contain the remains of prehistoric barrows. A Roman settlement, which includes a range of buildings, lies less than 50m to the southeast in the adjacent field. Further investigations in the fields immediately to the south have identified ring ditches and prehistoric enclosures (Membrey, 2015).

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 Magnetometry is a non-intrusive scientific prospecting technique that is the preferred geophysical technique used to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological features when site and geological conditions are favourable. It is an efficient and effective method for locating anomalies corresponding with archaeological features. The instrument chosen for this survey was a Bartington Grad 601 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer which can detect weak changes in the Earth's magnetic field caused by buried features.
- 3.2 All fieldwork and reporting was undertaken following Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards and guidance (Gaffney *et al.* 2008; CIfA 2013; CIfA 2014).
- 3.3 The 30m by 30m survey grids were located to cover the entire site (Figure 2) and set out using a hand-held GPS unit. Each grid was then surveyed at 1m traverse intervals with the sampling at 0.250m (4 readings per metre) intervals. The survey was carried out in 'zig-zag' mode with each alternate traverse walked in opposite directions. The range of the instrument was set at 100nT (0.01nT resolution). The direction of the first traverse was north.
- 3.4 The survey was carried out by ARS on 19th August 2015 when the weather was fine and dry. The ground conditions in the survey area were firm underfoot and the grass had just been cut and therefore the field was ideal for gradiometer survey. The survey area is bounded by hedgerows to the north and south and a post and wire fence to the east. The metal farm gate is located in the north-west corner of the field. The eastern boundary contains a metal stile within the post and wire fence. A large metal barn is located in the west of the field. The ferrous materials in the barn and in and around the boundaries constrained the survey in those locations.
- 3.5 Prior to commencing the survey the gradiometer was balanced and calibrated to the local conditions. At the end of the survey, the data was downloaded into a computer, checked and archived on the ARS Ltd server. The data was downloaded using Bartington Instruments' *Grad 601 Communication Application*.

4.0 Geophysical Survey Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The data was processed using Geoplot software. The data was "clipped" (clipping parameters selected on the mean and standard deviation data values), random iron spikes were removed by setting the "despike" function to 3.0 and the striping that can often appear in gradiometer data was removed by utilising the "zero mean traverse" function (thresholds applied). Finally the data was interpolated in both the x and y directions.

- 4.1.2 The data analysis is presented graphically in Figures 3 to 6. A greyscale shade plot of the processed gradiometer data is presented in Figure 3, a trace in Figure 4 and an interpretative plan in Figure 6.

4.2 Anomalies

- 4.2.1 Not all anomalies have been included in the results and discussion. The data is characterised by small discrete and widely dispersed anomalies that are likely to represent natural variations in the soils and underlying geology as well as ferrous litter in the topsoil.
- 4.2.2 An extremely weak linear anomaly (1) was recorded towards the south-east corner of the survey area. This anomaly may represent a minor archaeological cut feature but is equally likely to represent plough scarring or other modern agricultural activity.
- 4.2.3 Anomaly group 2 comprises a linear anomaly in the location of a former field boundary. The mixed geophysical response is both positive and negative in polarity suggesting modern disturbance.
- 4.2.4 Anomaly group 3 represents a large area of magnetic disturbance close to the field entrance and adjacent to the modern barn. Anomaly group 4 represents a further area of modern disturbance in the north-east corner of the field.

5.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 5.1 The results of the geophysical survey have not revealed any definite evidence for potentially significant and previously unknown archaeological remains within the survey area. The results suggest significant modern disturbance associated with the removal of field boundaries and possibly a copse, agricultural activity and made-ground.
- 5.2 A weak linear anomaly located towards the south-east corner has some potential to be archaeological in origin but is equally likely to be recent agricultural. It can be seen from ploughing evidence in satellite images that the south-east corner was formally part of the larger field to the east. Although the alignment of the anomaly does not correspond exactly with the alignment of the ploughing it may in some way be related to the agricultural activity in this area and the re-alignment of the field boundaries.
- 5.3 Elsewhere in the survey area, the results indicate significant modern disturbance. A conversation with the land owner has indicated that depressions left by the removal of the field boundary that once bisected the survey area (anomaly group 2) have been filled recently and this combined with the disturbance caused by the removal of the field boundary and associated trees explains the geophysical anomaly. Anomaly group 3 can also be explained by the presence of made ground around the entrance to the field and next to the barn in an area that becomes very wet in the

winter. In the north-east corner of the field further significant modern disturbance is almost certainly associated with an enclosed area depicted on the map which is no longer in existence. Further conversations with the land owner suggest this may have once been a small copse which has now been removed.

6.0 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

7.0 Statement of Indemnity

7.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

8.0 Acknowledgements

8.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank those involved in the project for their help and assistance. In particular we would like to thank Mary Coombes of Countryside Cattery for commissioning the survey and arranging access and Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer at Somerset Heritage Trust, for his help and advice.

9.0 References

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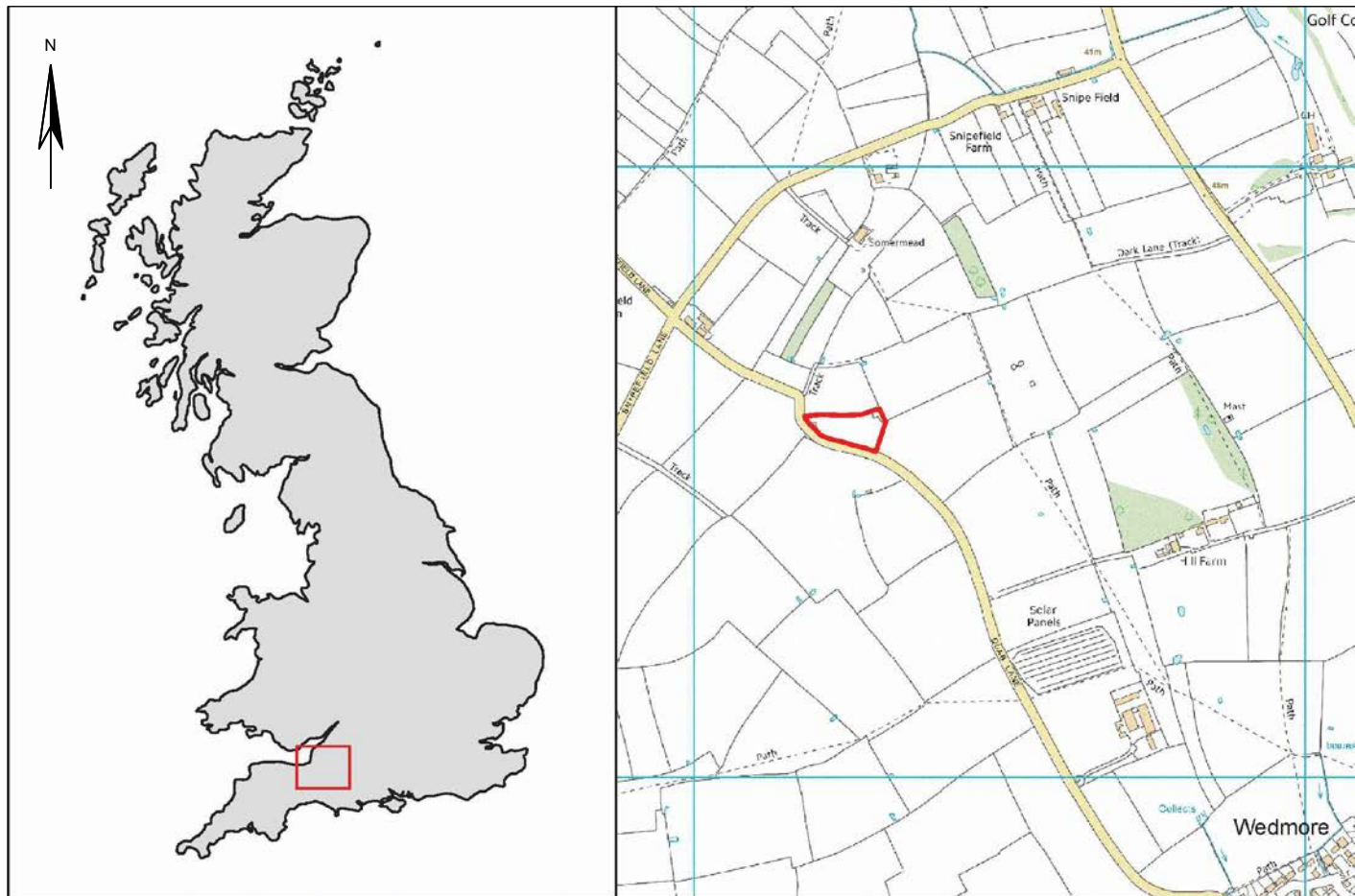
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Appendix 1: Figures



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Figure 1
Site Location

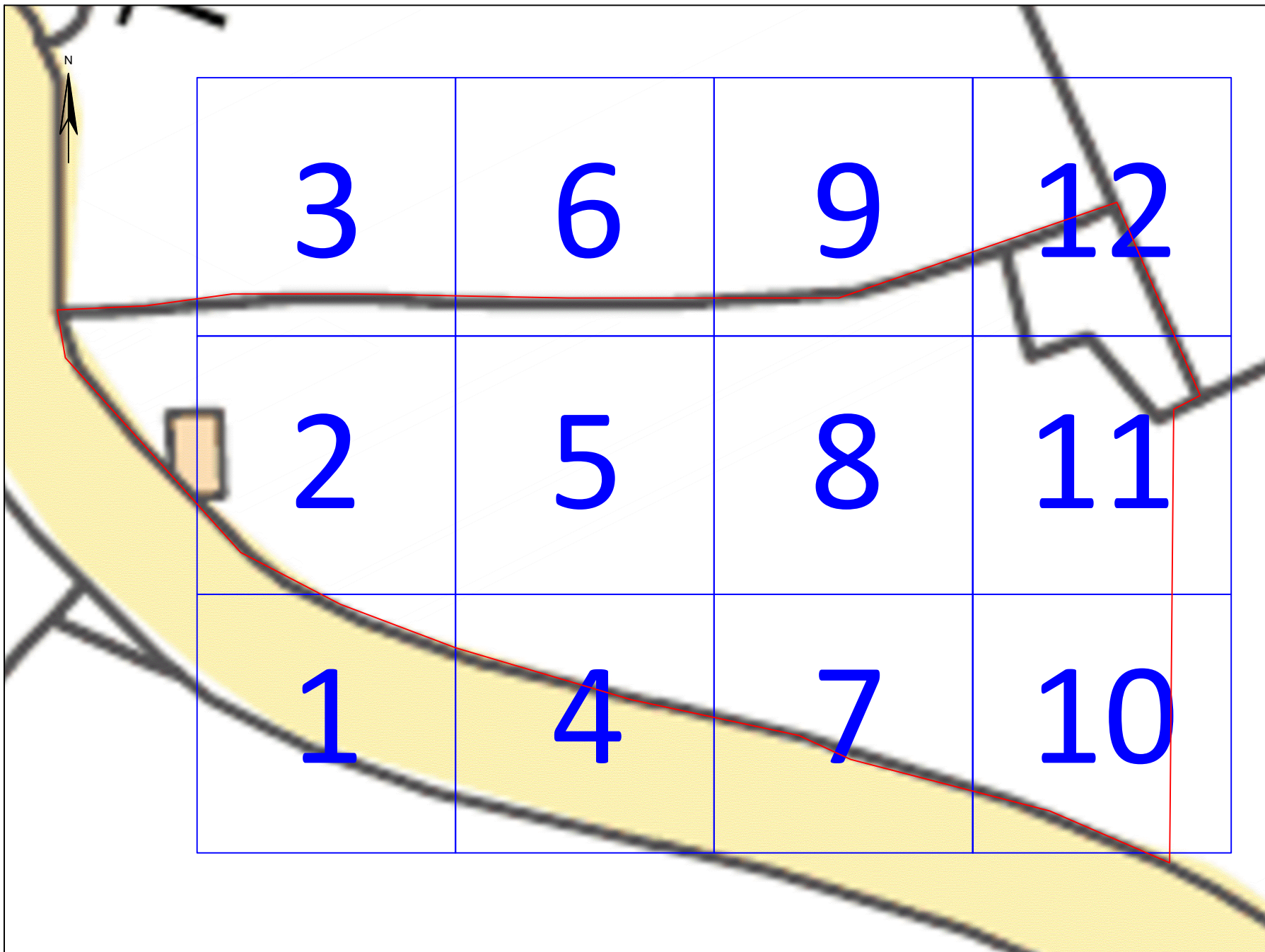


Geophysical survey area

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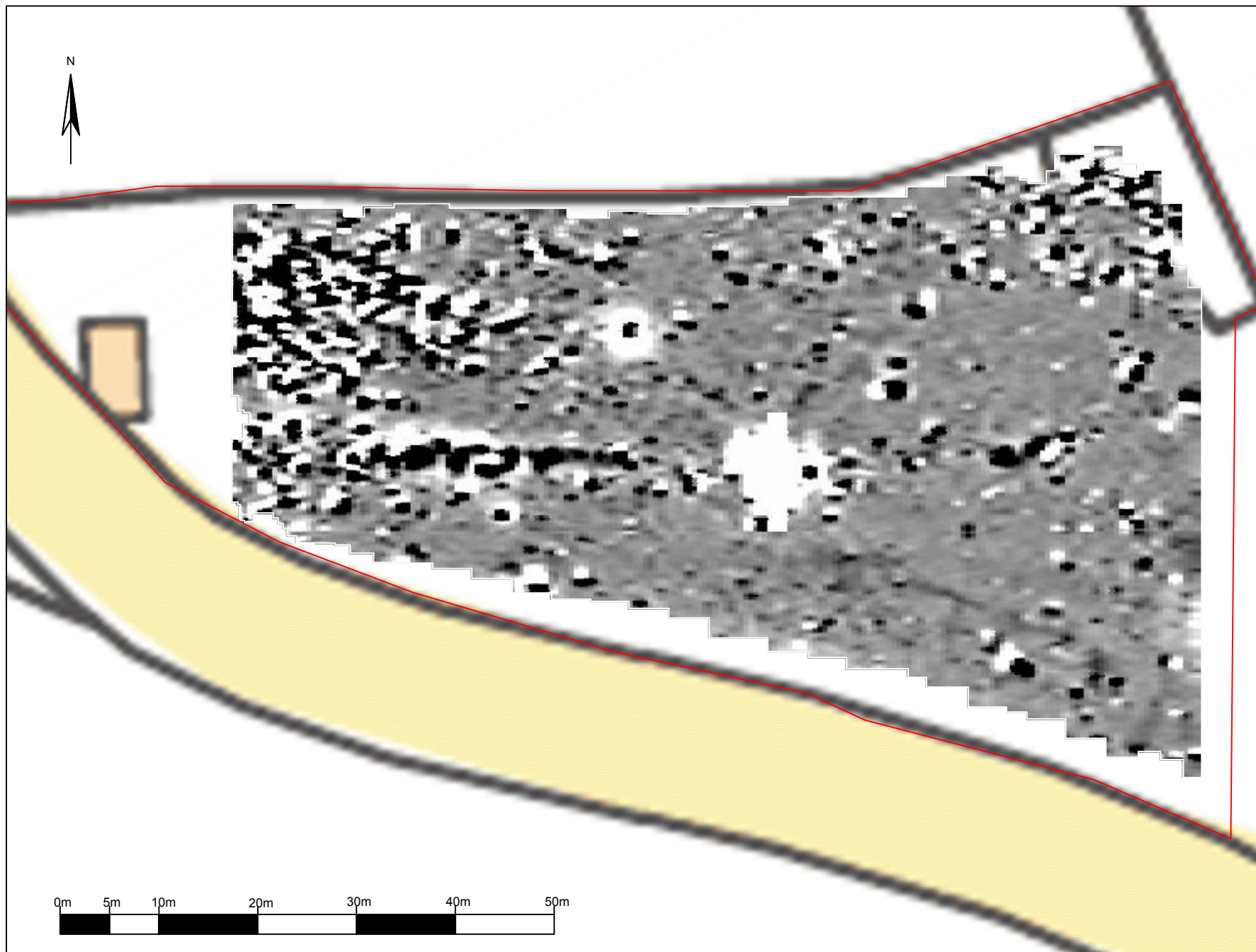
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Date: August 2015
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Figure 2
Location of Survey Grids

Key:
1 30m x 30m survey grid

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Site Code: QLW
Drawing Ref: Figure 3
Date: August 2015
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Figure 3
Greyscale Shade Plot of
Processed Gradiometer
Data

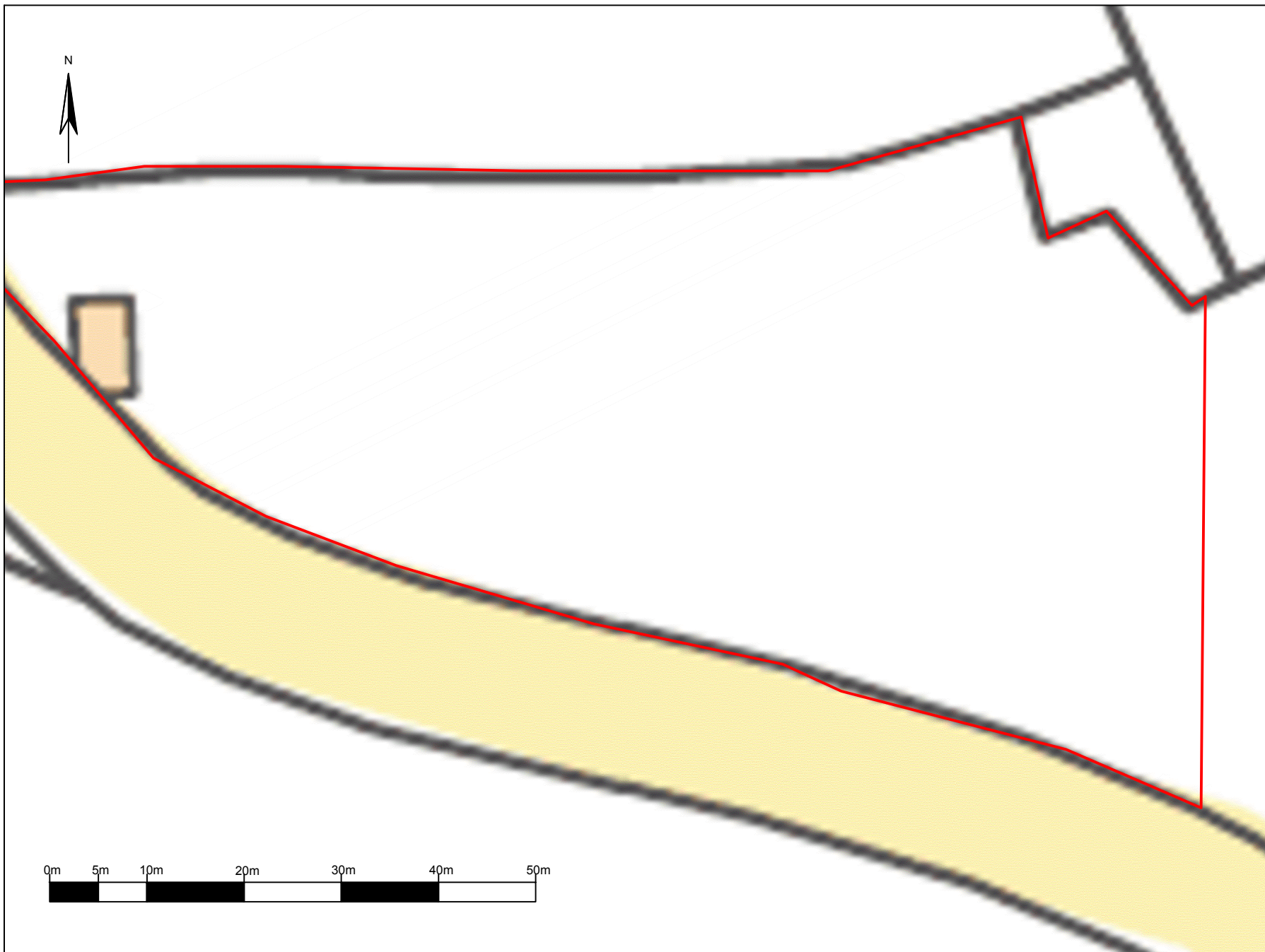
Key:


 Survey Area

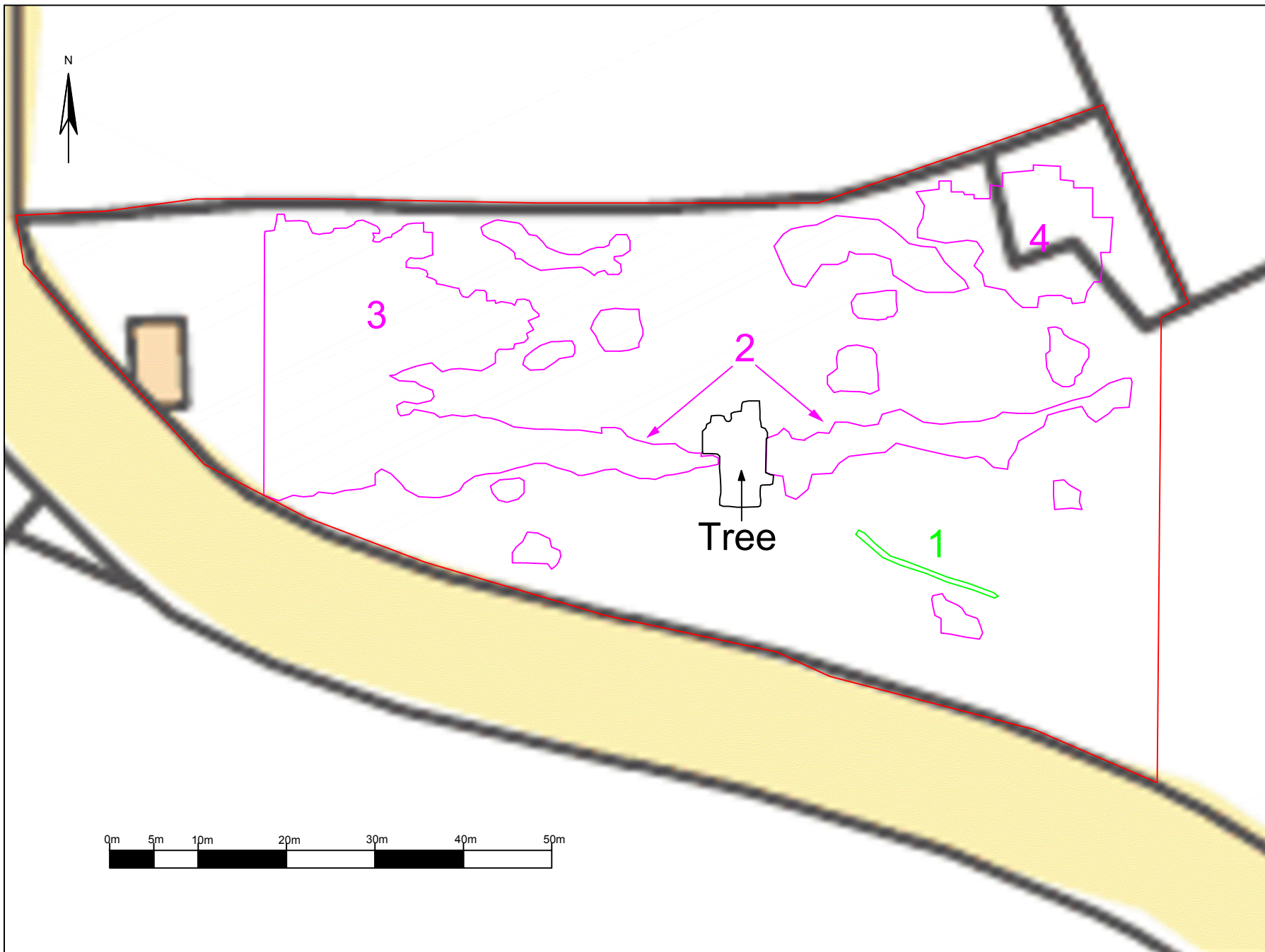


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Site Code: QLW Drawing Ref: Figure 4 Date: August 2015 Drawn: RD
Figure 4 Trace Plot of Processed Gradiometer Data
Key:  Survey Area
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Site Code: QLW
Drawing Ref: Figure 5
Date: August 2015
Drawn: RD

Figure 5
Interpretative Plan

Key:

- Survey Area
- Modern disturbance / made ground
- Positive linear anomaly

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Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation

Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset

Written Scheme of Investigation

2015



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Angel House, Portland Square, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1HB

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: Countryside Cattery

Date of compilation: August 2015

Planning Reference: 50/15/00035

Local Authority: Sedgemoor District Council

Site central NGR: ST 422485

**Written Scheme of Investigation for a Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Evaluation
at Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This scheme of works relates to the proposed development at land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset which consists of the construction of a new residential dwelling, agricultural livestock dwelling and cattery. The site is centred at NGR ST 422485 (Figure 1). The underlying geology of the site is interbedded mudstone and Limestone of the Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (undifferentiated) - Mudstone And Limestone, Interbedded. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 200 to 204 million years ago in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits have been recorded (BGS 2015).

1.2 A planning application has been submitted to the Somerset Heritage Trust (Application Ref: 50/15/00035) who have asked for an assessment to be carried out before they can consider whether or not to grant planning permission.

1.3 This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of the archaeological evaluation fieldwork to be undertaken during a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) at the land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset, in accordance with guidance from Steven Membrey, the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset.

1.4 The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 141 (DCLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site of the proposed development is in an area known to contain evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation activity. The application area forms part of a group of fields thought to contain the remains of prehistoric barrows. A Roman settlement, which includes a range of buildings, lies less than 50m to the southeast in the adjacent field. Further investigations in the fields immediately to the south have identified ring ditches and prehistoric enclosures (Membrey, 2015).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 Research topics identified in the *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Webster 2007) which the fieldwork will generate information on include



rural settlement, in particular research aims 28-32 (Webster 2007, 286-7) and social relations, in particular research aims 49--57 (Webster 2007, 291-3).

3.2 Archaeological Fieldwork Objectives

3.2.1 The objective of the geophysical survey is to identify anomalies of possible archaeological origin within the survey area in order to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature and extent of prehistoric and later historic archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site.

3.2.2 The objective of the archaeological evaluation is to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of prehistoric and later historic archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site. To also gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the area of investigation, and to provide an appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 It is intended to conduct a geophysical (magnetometer) survey over a c.0.5ha area of the site of the proposed development.

4.2 Selected Technique

4.2.1 The geophysical survey technique selected for the site is magnetometry. Magnetometry using Fluxgate Gradiometer instruments is the preferred geophysical technique utilised for the detection of buried features such as iron-based features and objects, or those subjected to firing such as kilns, hearths and even the buried remains of brick walls. It is also used to locate more subtle features such as boundary or enclosure ditches, pits and post holes which have been gradually in-filled by more humic material. The breakdown of organic matter through microbiotic activity leads to the humic material becoming rich in magnetic iron oxides when compared with the subsoil allowing features to be detected. In addition to this, variations in the magnetic susceptibility between the topsoil, subsoil and bedrock have a localised effect on the Earth's magnetic field enabling the detection of features such as backfilled ditches or pits due to the fact that the topsoil has more magnetic properties than the subsoil or bedrock, resulting in a 'positive' magnetic anomaly. Conversely, earthwork or embankment features can also be identified as 'negative' magnetic anomalies due to the action of placing less magnetic subsoil on top of more magnetic top soil.

4.3 Methodology

4.3.1 A survey grid comprising 30m x 30m individual grids will be set up over the selected survey areas. The survey will use a temporary survey grid accurately



positioned using a suitable DGPS system. The temporary grid will be co-registered to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using digital tiles provided by ARS Ltd or suitable digital map tiles provided by the client.

4.3.2 These grids will then be surveyed using a Bartington Grad 601-2 gradiometer. The Grad 601-2 has two gradiometer sensors and therefore collects two lines of data during each traverse. Data are collected in a zigzag fashion within the grid starting in the south-west corner, facing north. Readings are taken every 0.25m on traverses 1m apart. This equates to 3600 readings in a complete 30mx30m grid. Sensor balance will be checked and adjusted at regular intervals.

4.3.3 At the end of each day the data will be downloaded to a PC or laptop using Geoscan *Geoplot V3*.

4.3.4 All staff employed on the geophysical survey will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of geophysical survey.

4.3.5 All staff will be made aware of the archaeological potential of the area and will be fully briefed on the work required by this WSI.

4.4 Data Processing, Interpretation and Report

4.4.1 Data processing will be undertaken by a geophysicist using Geoscan *Geoplot V3*. Anomalies will be digitised and geo-referenced. They will be colour coded using ARS Ltd's standard scheme to provide the most likely interpretation. Anomalies will be numbered and catalogued as systematic groups or individual anomalies as appropriate. The final report will include a graphical and textual account of the techniques undertaken, the data obtained and an archaeological interpretation of that data and conclusions about any likely archaeology. The report will describe the work undertaken and the results obtained. It will (as a minimum) include the following.

- ◆ A non-technical summary
- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Geological and topographical setting
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Discussion of archaeological and historical background
- ◆ Discussion on the results of the survey
- ◆ Conclusions and recommendations
- ◆ Sources
- ◆ Copy of brief
- ◆ Figure showing location of the site
- ◆ Figure showing location of survey grids and referencing



- ◆ Figure showing processed data
- ◆ Figure showing trace plots of processed data
- ◆ Figure showing abstraction and interpretation of anomalies

4.4.2 The presentation and interpretation of the results will be carried out in accordance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and will follow the English Heritage guidelines (2008) *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* and CIfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey* (2014b). ARS Ltd is a corporate member of the International Society of Archaeological Prospection (ISAP).

4.4.3 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) – HER number 32929. A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

4.4.4 The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Somerset Historic Environment Record may place the information on a web-site.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING

5.1 Methodology

5.1.1 Once the results of the geophysical survey have been compiled, a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching may be recommended and a trench location plan agreed with the Senior Historic Environment Officer for Somerset.

5.1.2 Topsoil will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

5.1.3 The areas will be appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.4 All spoil removed during groundworks will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Any finds so recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds will be retained and recorded.

5.1.5 All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.



5.1.6 Isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes not belonging to structure or industrial activities will be 50% sampled, although if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.

5.1.7 Sampling of linear features such as ditches or gullies will be sufficient to determine the character, stratigraphy and relationship to other features and attempts made to obtain dating evidence.

5.1.8 Any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activities, such as burials and cremation deposits will be 100% excavated. Domestic/industrial activity (such as walls, postholes, floors, hearths) will be sufficiently excavated to understand their form and function and to recover potential dating evidence and artefact and ecofact assemblages.

5.1.9 Area deposits, such as buried soils, or middens, will be hand excavated at a minimum 10%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered. Large intrusions, such as reservoirs, will be sufficiently excavated by machine, within safe limits, to provide information on their character.

5.1.10 Limited representative samples of bricks from brick-built structures, and selective products of the brick working proves will be retained for specialist analysis where appropriate.

5.1.11 Any human remains discovered will initially be left in-situ and, if removal is deemed necessary, this will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with the Peak District Senior Conservation Archaeologist.

5.1.12 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures.

5.1.13 For deposits that have potential for providing environmental or dating evidence, a minimum of 10 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% if the sample is smaller. This material will be floated and passed through graduated sieves, the smallest being a 500µ mesh. Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

5.1.14 The evaluation trenching will be carried out in accordance to the guidance laid out in ClfA's *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014c).

5.2 Recording

5.2.1 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded using a single context planning system in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual.



5.2.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

5.2.3 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

5.2.4 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.

5.2.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken using a digital camera, and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. A selection of working shots will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation

5.2.6 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled

5.3 Finds Processing and Storage

5.3.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

5.3.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

5.3.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

5.3.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

5.3.5 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

5.3.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and The Museum of Somerset prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.



5.3.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

5.4 Report

5.4.1 A report shall be produced to include background information, a summary of the works carried out and a description and interpretation of the findings. The report will also include the following.

- ◆ A non-technical summary
- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Geological and topographical setting
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Discussion of archaeological and historical background
- ◆ Discussion on the results of the evaluation
- ◆ Specialist descriptions of artefacts or ecofacts
- ◆ An indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development
- ◆ Conclusions and recommendations
- ◆ Sources
- ◆ Copy of brief
- ◆ A location plan showing all excavated areas with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- ◆ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections

5.4.2 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

5.4.3 The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Somerset Historic Environment Record may place the information on a web-site.



6 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Prior notice of the commencement of the ground works to be given to the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer:

Steven Membery
Senior Historic Environment Officer
South West Heritage Trust
Somerset Heritage Centre
Brunel Way
Norton Fitzwarren
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 6SF
Tel: 01823 347433
Email: steve.membery@swheritage.org.uk

6.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Senior Historic Environment Officer at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

6.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Senior Historic Environment Officer, or his representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation

7 STAFFING

7.1 The Project Manager for the geophysical survey will be Dr Andy McWilliams MCIfA, Projecta Manager at ARS Ltd. The Geophysical Surveyor will be Richard Durkin BEng, and the Fieldwork Project Officer will be Alvaro Mora-Ottomano BA, MSc, ACIfA, Archaeological Officer at ARS Ltd.

7.2 Specialist analyses will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

♦ Flint and prehistoric pottery:	Dr Clive Waddington MCIfA or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
♦ Romano-British pottery:	Ruth Leary/Paul Bidwell
♦ Samian Ware:	Gwladys Monteil/Paul Bidwell
♦ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
♦ Post-medieval glass, clay pipes and metalwork:	Mike Wood MCIfA
♦ Industrial Remains:	Chris Scott MCIfA



♦ Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Elise McLellan
♦ Pollen and Molluscs:	Dr Andy McWilliams
♦ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska
♦ Radiocarbon dating:	Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
♦ Finds conservation:	Dr Jenny Jones, Durham University

8 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

8.1 Should the project produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum, which in this case is The Museum of Somerset.

8.2 If the project produces archaeologically significant finds, then the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity, and an accession number will be produced for the site. In addition, a digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by The Museum of Somerset). The archive will be deposited in line with the ClfA (2013c) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* and the Society of Museum Archaeologists' (1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland* and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

8.3 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see 5.3 above).

8.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM.

9 GENERAL ITEMS

9.1 Health and Safety

9.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation



measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork and will be read and signed by all on-site operatives. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

9.2 Insurance Cover

9.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.

9.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

9.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Somerset Senior Historic Environment Officer.

9.4 Publication

9.4.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be prepared for publication in online, journal or monograph form as appropriate. Additional popular articles will also be produced for local and/or national magazines as appropriate. The final form of the publication is to be agreed with the planning archaeologist and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork.

10 REFERENCES

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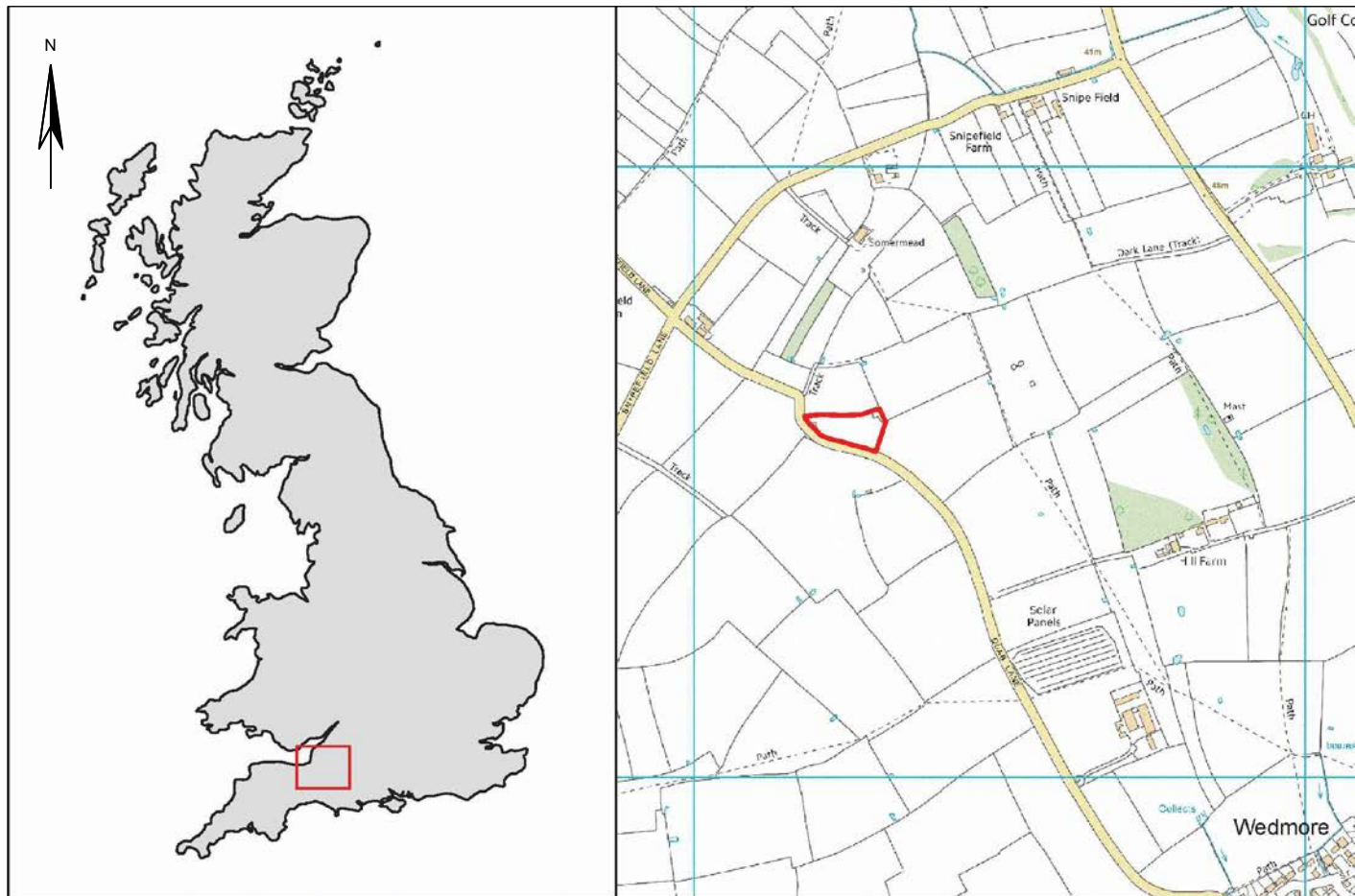
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FIGURES





Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Angel House
Portland Square
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1HB

Site Code: QLW
Date: August 2015
Drawn: RD
Scale: As shown

Figure 1
Site Location



Geophysical survey area

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100022432

Appendix 5 – OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-224218

Project details

Project name	Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation Trenching
Short description of the project	In September 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Countryside Cattery to undertake an archaeological trench evaluation at the land off Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset. A planning application was submitted to Sedgemoor District Council for the construction of a a new residential dwelling, agricultural livestock dwelling, and cattery. Sedgemoor District Council required the undertaking of evaluation fieldwork before planning permission is determined. The remains of a Romano-British settlement and prehistoric barrows, ring ditches and enclosures are known within the immediate environs of the proposed development area. The evaluation trenching was carried out to establish whether archaeological remains existed within the proposed area of development in reference a geophysical survey carried out in August 2015. Trench 1 contained two ditches. One of these (F106) produced Romano-British pottery. The other ditch (F104) produced daub, likely of a similar date. These ditches are, therefore, considered to be of archaeological significance. The remains of a post-medieval wall present in Trench 3 is considered to be of little archaeological significance
Project dates	Start: 01-09-2015 End: 20-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	DAUB Roman
Significant Finds	BRICK WALL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country England

Site location	SOMERSET SEDGEMOOR WEARE Quab Lane
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	ST 42200 48500 51.232240217368 -2.827943874363 51 13 56 N 002 49 40 W Polygon

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Andy McWilliams
Project supervisor	Megan Fletcher-Cutts

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	The Museum of Somerset
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Somerset HER
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Quab Lane, Wedmore, Somerset
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fletcher-Cutts, M.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bakewell

Entered by	Megan Fletcher-Cutts (megan@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	21 September 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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