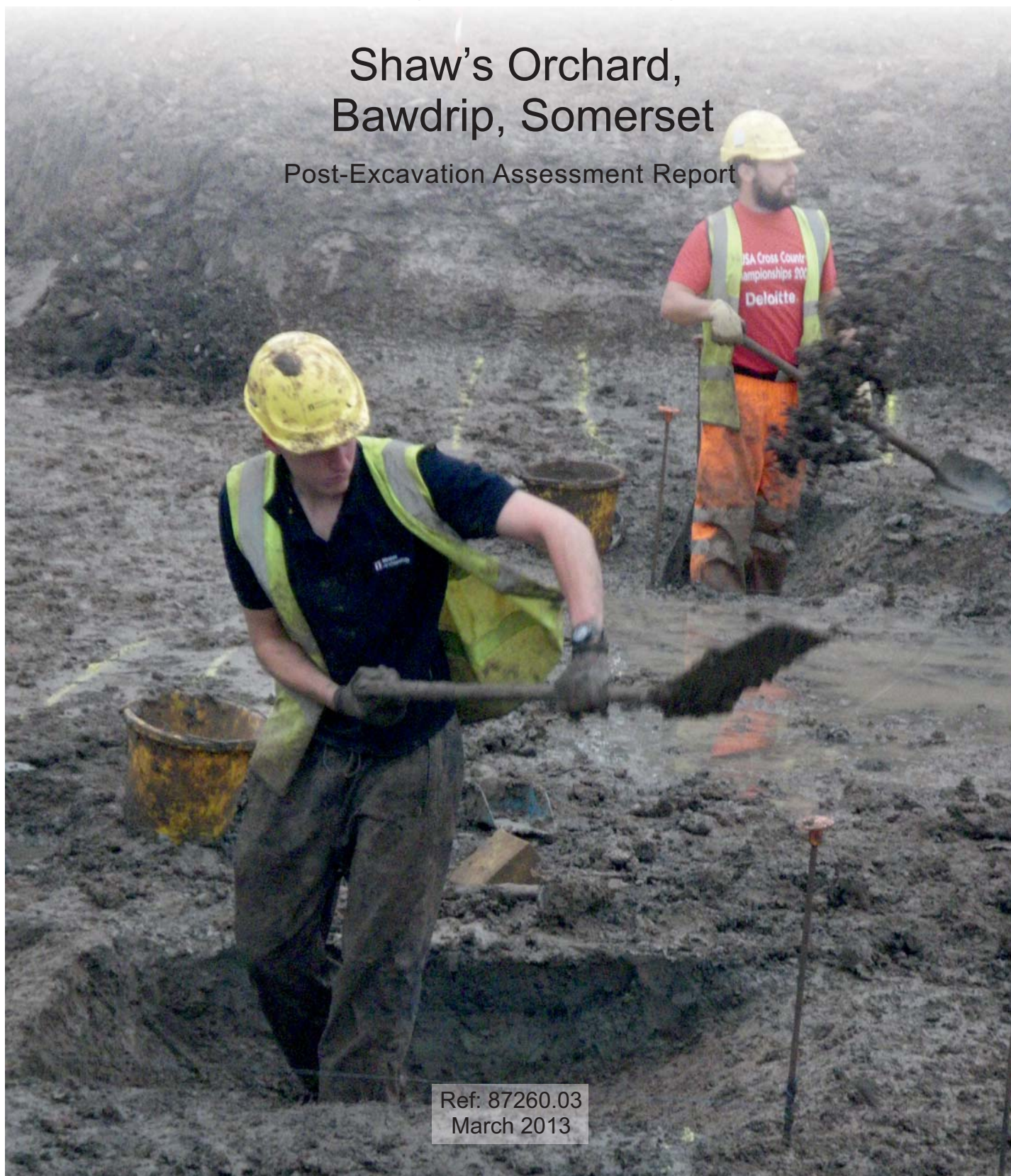




making sense of heritage

Shaw's Orchard, Bawdrip, Somerset

Post-Excavation Assessment Report



Ref: 87260.03
March 2013



**Shaw's Orchard
Bawdrip, Somerset**

Post-Excavation Assessment Report

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Shaw's Orchard Bawdrip, Somerset

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by WYG Planning and Environment on behalf of Summerfield Developments SW to undertake a programme of archaeological works on land at Shaw's Orchard, Bawdrip, Somerset (NGR 334010 139630). The fieldwork was undertaken between October 8th - 26th, and December 10th-12th 2012.

Archaeological remains were revealed in all three areas. The remains comprise a series of ditches and gullies of early medieval (10th-12th century AD) and post-medieval date. Two ditches in **Area 2** are potentially late prehistoric in date.

The features are considered to be field boundaries and/or drainage ditches, and relate to various phases of re-organisation and re-alignment in the layout of the Site. A drove-road on the south side of **Area 3** had been re-cut three times during the early medieval period, and was eventually replaced by a large post-medieval boundary ditch.

The scarcity of domestic occupation debris in the finds assemblage indicates that the Site is peripheral to the main focus of settlement activity, which it has been suggested lies to the east of the Site (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 2006). Based on the environmental evidence it would appear that the Site was used to process cereal crops or at least dispose of the waste products from this process. The Site also appears to have been where cattle were slaughtered and butchered. These animals were probably brought in from the fields along the drove-road.

The finds assemblage includes residual pottery of prehistoric and Roman date, indicating occupation and activity in the immediate area since at least the Middle to Late Bronze Age. These findings are supported by discoveries made at other local sites, such as Bradney (HER 11723), Knowle Hill (HER 28488) and Manor Farm (HER 16159 and 31542).



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The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Caroline Budd. The fieldwork was undertaken by Ben Cullen, Mark Bagwell, Lorrain Higbee, Chris Merrifield, James McCall, and Tom Wells. Their contribution to the project is gratefully acknowledged.

This report was written and compiled by Lorrain Higbee. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram (pottery and other finds) and Lorrain Higbee (animal bone). The samples were processed by Matt Kendall and assessed by Sarah F. Wyles. The report was edited by Matt Leivers. The illustrations were drawn by Elizabeth James.



Shaw's Orchard Bawdrip, Somerset

Post-Excavation Assessment Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by WYG Planning and Environment on behalf of Summerfield Developments SW (the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological works on land at Shaw's Orchard, Bawdrip, Somerset (hereafter 'the Site') centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 334010 139630 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works relate to a planning application submitted to Sedgemoor District Council in March 2012 for the construction of seven dwellings, garages and formation of access. The fieldwork stage of the project follows on from an archaeological evaluation (PRN 12710; Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1996) of the Site, and a formal search of the Somerset Historic Environment Record (WA 2012).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation (PRN 12710) indicated the presence of buried archaeological remains across the Site. An area on the eastern side of the Site was excavated between 2005-6 (PRN 24552 and 30293; Hollinrake and Hollinrake 2006), and this revealed evidence for occupation from at least the 10th century AD through to the 12th to 14th century.
- 1.1.4 A further programme of archaeological mitigation to investigate the archaeological remains on the rest of the Site was requested by Somerset County Councils Senior Historic Environment Officer. The fieldwork programme comprised strip, map and sample excavation within three separate areas of the Site (**Figure1**).
- 1.1.5 Information concerning the project and archaeological background to the Site is detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WA 2012 87260.03) and is summarised below.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on land to the south and west of 1 Shaw's Orchard, Bawdrip near Bridgwater (**Figure 1**). It is currently open land measuring approximately 0.40ha, bounded to the north by a disused railway line, to the west and south by agricultural land on the Bawdrip Level, and to the east by housing.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies on the edge of the Bawdrip Level at approximately 0m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology for the Site includes Mercia Mudstone and alluvium (British Geological Survey).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 No archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken, however some historical background information is provided in the early evaluation and excavation reports (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1996 and 2006), and a formal search of the Somerset HER was carried out as part of the preparation for the WSI (WA 2012). This information is summarised below.

Prehistoric and Roman

2.1.2 Prehistoric flints and Roman pottery were recovered from a field at Bradney near Bawdrip (HER 11723). The finds include a fragment of Neolithic polished axe.

2.1.3 A series of substantial Late Iron Age and Romano-British ditches were investigated at Knowle Hill, Bawdrip (HER 28488) during the construction of a water pipeline. The ditches are thought to be part of a settlement enclosure and contained pottery, coins, brooches and other cultural material.

2.1.4 Excavations by the Bridgwater Archaeological Society on land at Manor Farm, Bawdrip (HER 16159 and 31542), revealed structural remains and artefacts of probable Roman date.

Medieval

2.1.5 Previous archaeological investigations on the Site (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1996 and 2006) have revealed occupation from the 10th century AD and 12th-14th century. The remains include numerous ditches and gullies, structural beam slots and a wall. The ditches and gullies are considered to be property boundaries and/or drainage features. The most significant find was an antler comb handle of probable 8th to 11th century AD date.

2.1.6 Medieval settlement remains were also noted in an evaluation at 25 Church Road, Bawdrip during 2000 (HER 57049). The evaluation also produced residual Roman pottery indicating that a Roman settlement lies to the east.

Post-medieval

2.1.7 The line of the abandoned Bridgwater Railway (HER 12439) forms the northern boundary to the Site. The line was opened in the late 19th century and closed in 1954.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the strip, map and record excavation were to:

- *clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that might be disturbed by the development;*
- *identify, within the constraints of the investigation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site;*
- *assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and*
- *produce a report which presents the results of the fieldwork.*



3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 All work was conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2001, amended 2008), except where they are superseded by statements below.
- 3.2.2 The investigation areas were laid out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and the area locations were tied in to the Ordnance Survey (OS).
- 3.2.3 Overburden (including made ground, topsoil and subsoil) was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first. All machine work was carried out under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.
- 3.2.4 A sufficient sample of each layer/feature type was excavated in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains. Archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand and any finds were retained to provide dating and additional information about the use of the Site.

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were agreed, in consultation with Somerset County Council prior to the commencement of all works and are detailed in the WSI (WA 2012).
- 3.3.2 During the course of the fieldwork the agreed strategy, as laid out in the WSI, was amended and following the excavation of two evaluation trenches, **Areas 1** and **2** were reduced in size.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological features. Hand drawn plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. All plans and section points were surveyed using Leica GPS 1200, giving accurate 3D OS co-ordinates and spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum. Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* sheets were used exclusively for all recording.
- 3.4.2 Colour transparency, monochrome negative photographs (35 mm) and digital images were taken (including a scale) as appropriate. A number of general photographs were also taken to provide an overview of the Site and the progress of the excavation.

3.5 Specialist strategies

Artefact

- 3.5.1 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines including the Institute of Field Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (2001), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines "*Conservation Guideline No 2*" and the Museums and Galleries Commissions "*Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991)".
- 3.5.2 All artefacts have been retained from excavated contexts unless they are of modern origin, in which case the relevant context records have been amended and the finds discarded.

Environmental

- 3.5.3 Sampling targeted dateable archaeological contexts where appropriate and was conducted under the guidance of the Wessex Archaeology environmental specialists. Bulk environmental samples of up to 40 litres were taken and processed by flotation. The resulting residues were then scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The results of the excavation are presented below and are described by area and stratigraphic phase.

4.2 Area 1

- 4.2.1 The stripped area, which was located on the northern side of the Site adjacent to the disused railway line measured 149m² (**Figure 2**). The overburden deposits consisted of 0.5m of made-ground **100**, 0.1m of topsoil **101** and 0.5m of subsoil **102**. Archaeological features were encountered at between 5.6m to 5.9m aOD and were cut into the surface of the natural **103**. A residual sherd of Roman (2nd–4th century AD) pottery was recovered from **102** during machining.
- 4.2.2 Several heavily truncated linear features were revealed (**Plate 1**). Those located on the eastern side of **Area 1** comprised a segmented north-south ditch **122**, of uncertain date and an east-west ditch **106** of post-medieval date. A further two undated linear features cut across the north-west corner.
- 4.2.3 Ditch **122** comprised 3 separate segments, all of which were 0.2m apart and had rounded terminal ends. The segments varied in width from 0.6m to 0.8m and survive to a depth of between 0.12m and 0.25m. The length of the segments varied, the central segment, which was the only one revealed in its entirety, was c.4m in length, while the southern most segment was over 5m in length.
- 4.2.4 All three ditch segments had identical mid-brown silty clay fills containing rare charcoal flecks but no dateable finds. They are probably contemporary as suggested by the similarity of their form, the regular spacing between segments and the overall alignment.
- 4.2.5 Ditch **122** was cut by a later east-west ditch **106** (**Plate 2**), which was 0.5m wide, 0.31m deep, and filled with dark grey brown silty clay containing rare charcoal flecks and a sherd of post-medieval pottery. This feature did not extend west beyond **122**, but terminated within the existing line of the earlier ditch. The alignment of this feature and the dating evidence indicates that the system of field boundary/drainage ditches was realigned from north-south to east-west during the post-medieval period.
- 4.2.6 Gully **120**, which was located in the north-west corner of **Area 1**, was extremely truncated and only 0.09m deep. It was on a similar alignment to ditch **122**, however its light grey brown fill was very different from the fills of the segmented ditch, which would seem to suggest that these features were not part of the same system or indeed contemporary.
- 4.2.7 Ditch **123** to the east of gully **120** was 0.65m-0.8 wide and 0.13-15m deep. No dateable finds were recovered from its mid-brown silty clay fill. However, the slight northeast-southwest alignment of this feature suggests that it was not contemporary with the other linear features on this part of the Site.



4.3 Area 2

- 4.3.1 The stripped area measured 212m² and was located on the west side of the Site adjacent to Greenfield Lane (**Figure 3**). The overburden deposits consisted of 0.7m of made ground **200**, 0.3m of topsoil **201** and 0.4m of subsoil/alluvium **202**. Archaeological features were cut into the surface of the natural **203**, which was encountered at c.5.6m aOD.
- 4.3.2 The archaeological features revealed in **Area 2** consisted of several linear features, four aligned north-south and two aligned east-west. The features were less truncated than those in **Areas 1** and **3**, however, the gleyed nature of some of the **Area 2** ditch fills indicates that this area was wetter than other parts of the Site; the ditches are therefore likely to have been dug to a greater depth in order to cope with these conditions.
- 4.3.3 On the west side of **Area 2** adjacent to Greenfield Lane were two large north-south ditches **229** and **230** that ran the entire length of the stripped area (**Plate 3**). Ditch **229** was c.1.76m wide and 0.52m deep, and cut through a thick layer of re-deposited natural **232**, which appears to have accumulated on the slope of land that leads down to the adjacent lane. It is possible that this deposit is a remnant hedge bank.
- 4.3.4 The western edge of ditch **229** was cut by ditch **230**, both had wide U-shaped profiles and similar light grey brown silty clay fills indicating that they were broadly contemporary. Four small pieces of CBM and two sherds of abraded prehistoric pottery of probable Middle to Late Bronze Age date were recovered from fill **228** of ditch **229**. A late prehistoric date for the feature is therefore postulated but not conclusively proven. The scarcity of cultural material from these two ditches suggests that they were peripheral to any settlement activity.
- 4.3.5 The fill of ditch **229** also contained a few fragments of free-threshing wheat and high numbers of aquatic molluscs. The wheat fragments are assumed to be intrusive, while the molluscs are indicative of seasonal flooding events and/or more permanent, possibly moving water.
- 4.3.6 Gully **235**, which lay to the east of ditches **229** and **230**, was 0.5m wide and only 0.11m deep, had a light grey brown fill that contained two sherd of abraded (residual) prehistoric pottery of possibly Middle to Late Bronze Age date and a few of fragments of animal bone. The gully was cut by ditch **233** (**Plate 4**).
- 4.3.7 Ditch **233** was on the same alignment as the other linear features in this area of the Site, and appears to alter direction, or join up with an east-west ditch (slot **209**) just before it ran out of the excavation area (**Plate 5**). The east-west part of the ditch appeared to line up with phase 3 ditch **341** in **Area 3**.
- 4.3.8 The ditch had a wide U-shaped profile, the northern part of the ditch was narrow and deep (0.64m wide by 0.66m deep), while the southern part was wide and shallow (0.8m wide by 0.36m deep).
- 4.3.9 All of the excavated sections through the ditch, including the east-west aligned segment, had the same sequence of fills. The primary fill, a mottled mid-grey brown silty clay primary fill appeared to have formed slowly as a result of natural silting. The secondary fill clearly formed in wet anaerobic conditions and was blue-grey in colour, while the tertiary fill appeared to have formed above the level of standing water or during a period when conditions were drier. A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from the secondary fill in two locations along the length of the ditch.

4.3.10 Ditch **233** and gully **235** were cut by east-west ditch **234 (Plate 6)**, which extended a few meters into the south-east corner of the excavation area. The ditch was 0.74m wide and 0.38m deep, and terminated just to the west of gully **235**. It had a regular U-shaped profile and was filled with dark grey brown silty clay, which contained a small quantity of animal bone.

4.4 Area 3

4.4.1 The stripped area measured 406m² and was located on the south side of the Site adjacent to the boundary and existing housing that fronts onto Greenfield Lane (**Figure 4**). The overburden deposits consisted of 0.4m of made ground **300**, 0.2m of topsoil **301** and 0.4m of subsoil/alluvium **302**. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from **302** during machining. Archaeological features were cut into the surface of the natural **309**, which was encountered at c.5.7m to 5.9m aOD.

4.4.2 The archaeological remains revealed within the stripped area consisted of a series of east-west and north-south aligned ditches and gullies that relate to four separate phases of re-organisation during the medieval (phases 1 to 3) and post-medieval periods (phase 4). The phased features were all located on the southern half of **Area 3**, while isolated features on the northern half remain un-phased.

Phase 1

4.4.3 The earliest features in **Area 3** were two east-west gullies **361** and **384**, which lay approximately 3m apart on the south side of the excavation area. Both gullies had light grey-brown fills that were similar to the un-phased features in the north-east corner. Gully **361** was c.1m wide but extremely truncated (0.18m deep), and appears to have been re-cut at some point as phase 2 gully **363**.

4.4.4 Gully **384** was 0.88 wide and 0.21m deep, its fill contained a sherd of residual prehistoric pottery of probable Middle to Late Bronze Age date and a modest quantity of animal bone including a complete cattle skull. The gully was cut by phase 2 ditches **382** and **385**.

Phase 2

4.4.5 Features assigned to this phase comprised east-west ditch **382**, north-south ditch **385**, gully **363** and possible pit **339**. Ditch **382** was c.15.6m long, 1m wide, 0.28m deep and has a U-shaped profile. The dark grey brown fill contained several complete cattle bones but no dateable finds. The rounded terminal end of ditch **382** cut through phase 1 gully **384** and was itself cut by phase 3 ditch **381 (Plate 7)**.

4.4.6 A 2.1m long section of ditch **385** was revealed in the south-east corner of **Area 3** and was cut by phase 3 ditch **383**. The ditch was 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep, and its general morphology (i.e. U-shaped profile and rounded terminus) was the same as other features on the Site. The mid-grey brown fill contained eight sherds of medieval (11th-12th century) pottery, and a residual sherd of Roman pottery. The alignment of this feature closely matches the property boundary for the adjacent building plot that fronts onto Greenfield Lane.

4.4.7 Gully **363** was a re-cut of phase 1 gully **361** and was itself cut by phase 3 ditch **341**. It ran parallel with ditch **382** to the south, with which it is assumed to be broadly contemporary. Single sherds of early medieval (10th-12th century) and residual Roman pottery were recovered from its fill.



4.4.8 Pit **339** was also cut by phase 3 ditch **341** (**Plate 8**) and was a shallow (0.16m deep) feature with a reconstructed diameter of c.1m. No pottery or other finds were recovered from it.

Phase 3

4.4.9 Ditches **341**, **381** and **383** were aligned very slightly off the general east-west alignment of the earlier linear features, and all had similar fills and wide U-shaped profiles. The fills contained frequent charcoal, patches of ash and re-deposited orange clay natural. Pottery sherds dating to the 10th-12th century were recovered from all three ditches, together with fragments of animal bone, including a near complete cattle skull from **383**.

4.4.10 Ditch **341** was 1.15m wide and 0.4m deep and cut pit **339** and gullies **361** and **363**. The fill of **341** contained a very rich assemblage of charred plant remains, including cereal grains and rachis fragments from free-threshing wheat, as well as small amounts of barley grain.

4.4.11 Ditch **383**, which was located in the south-east corner of **Area 3**, was 0.95m wide and 0.25m deep and cuts phase 1 gully **384** (**Plate 9**). The fill of **383** also contained a moderate amount of charred plant remains and a large amount of wood charcoal.

4.4.12 The similarity of the environmental assemblages from these two ditches confirms that they were contemporary. The evidence also indicated that cereal grains were processed nearby, and that the waste from this activity, perhaps together with more general settlement refuse was burnt either on the site or very close-by.

4.4.13 Ditch **381**, which was 0.85m wide and 0.26m deep lay to the south of ditches **341** and **383**. It cut phase 2 ditch **382** and was itself cut by phase 4 ditch **386** (**Plate 10**). Ditch **341** was on the same line as the east-west part of ditch **233** in **Area 2**, and might therefore represent the eastern most extent of this feature.

4.4.14 The group of phase 3 ditches appear to form a drove-road with a wide opening between ditches **341** and **383**, providing access to the north. They appear to represent a slight adjustment/realignment of an existing drove-road as represented by the phase 1 and 2 linear features which they cut through.

Phase 4

4.4.15 The final phase of remodelling was defined by a large east-west ditch **386**, which ran along the southern boundary of the site and cut phase 3 ditch **381**. Only the eastern edge of the ditch was revealed in the excavation was so the true size of this feature is uncertain, however the excavated slots indicate that it is more than 2.5 wide and at least 0.7m deep. It contained a single homogenous mid-brown silty clay fill that appeared to have formed gradually as a result of natural silting. The fill contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery, residual sherds of prehistoric (Beaker), Roman and medieval pottery and a few fragments of animal bone.

Features of uncertain phase

4.4.16 **Area 3** contains a number of un-phased features; these consisted of several north-south aligned gullies and a post-hole in the north-east corner of the stripped area, and a few isolated features to the west.

4.4.17 All of the gullies in the north east corner had the same light grey-brown silty clay fills and most were aligned north-south. Groups **379** and **380** both consisted of two short segments of gully with rounded terminal ends. A third segment of gully was suspected at the northern end of **380**, as suggested by the slight realignment of the linear in this location, however, this could not be confirmed through excavation due to the heavily truncated



nature of the archaeology in this area. The segments of gully ranged in size from 2.1m to 6.5m in length, 0.4m to 6m in width, and 0.1m to 0.2m in depth. A small amount of animal bone was recovered from the fills of both gullies.

- 4.4.18 Adjacent to Group **380** were two short segments of gully. Gully **337** was aligned northeast-southwest and cuts through gully **344**, which was aligned roughly east-west. A finds label from the 1996 evaluation was recovered from the fill of 337. The feature was labelled as 404 and had previously been identified as a beam slot (Hollinrake and Hollinrake 1996, 10), however there are no associated elements that clearly define this feature as being part of a structure, indeed it more closely resembles the other gullies in this area of the Site, which are probably part of a small field or drainage system.
- 4.4.19 A single post-hole **303** was identified to the south-east of gully **379**. The circular post-hole had a diameter of 0.44m, 0.12m deep, and had a mid-grey brown fill.
- 4.4.20 To the north-west of **344** were two further short segments of shallow gullies. Gully **352** extended 2m into the excavation area, had a rounded terminus, and was 0.4m wide and 0.14m deep, while gully **335** was 2.6m in length, 0.54m wide and 0.11m deep. Neither of the gullies contained any dateable finds, although a sheep tibia was recovered from the fill of 335.
- 4.4.21 Other un-phased features lay to the west and included a section of gully **346**, which ran from the western edge of excavation for 8.4m in a north-easterly direction where it was cut by a large modern pit. The gully was 0.65m wide and 0.12m deep and had a mid-brown silty clay fill.
- 4.4.22 Feature **354** continued beyond the western edge of excavation and was either a pit or the rounded terminus of an east-west aligned linear. It was approximately 0.9m wide and 0.16m deep, with a mid-blue grey silty clay fill.
- 4.4.23 The only other un-phased feature was a pit or tree-throw adjacent to ditch Group **381**. The slightly irregular feature measured roughly 0.9m by 0.5m, and was just 0.11m deep. The mid-grey brown silty clay fill contained a sherd of Roman pottery and a few fragments of animal bone.

Modern disturbance

- 4.4.24 A large, deep pit in the north-west corner of **Area 3** was found to contain modern rubbish, including building rubble and machine parts. It was probably dug to dispose of rubbish when the Site was being used as compound during the first phase of building work.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The excavation produced a finds assemblage of small size, consisting largely of animal bone, and deriving from all three areas excavated, although the majority of the finds came from **Area 3**.
- 5.1.2 The assemblage ranges in date from prehistoric to post-medieval. Condition varies – some of the ceramics (particularly the early, softer-fired fabrics) are heavily abraded.
- 5.1.3 All of the finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are displayed in **Table 1**.



5.2 Pottery

5.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site, but the assemblage recovered is very small (36 sherds), and the small size and poor condition of some sherds has rendered close dating somewhat difficult.

Prehistoric

5.2.2 Six sherds have been identified as prehistoric, with varying degrees of confidence. One small, grog-tempered body sherd from **323** is plain and undiagnostic, but is likely to belong to the Beaker ceramic tradition.

5.2.3 The other five sherds (contexts **205**, **228**, **366**) are small, abraded and completely undiagnostic; all are rock-tempered (containing a mix of inclusions, including granitic). Their affinities are uncertain, but they could belong to the Trevisker ceramic tradition of the south-west (Middle/Late Bronze Age).

Romano-British

5.2.4 Ten sherds are Romano-British. These include coarse greywares of south-western type, with a date range from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 171, 175). There is one sherd of south-east Dorset Black Burnished ware, and one of Oxfordshire colour coated ware (3rd/4th century AD). None of the Romano-British sherds are diagnostic. All but one came from **Area 3**.

Medieval

5.2.5 Medieval material (18 sherds) makes up half of the assemblage (by sherd count). All sherds are coarsewares, and fall into two groups. The first group comprises hard-fired fabrics, generally with oxidised surfaces, containing mixed temper (quartz, limestone, possibly greensand), some of which may be wheelthrown, and which belong to the Cheddar-type tradition of the 10th/11th century (Rahtz 1979, 309-18). Sherds in the second group are in coarser, handmade fabrics, but with a similar range of mixed inclusions, and probably falling within a similar or perhaps slightly later date range (11th/12th century). Both groups occur here only in jar forms, with flared necks and simple rounded rims. All sherds came from **Area 3**.

Post-medieval

5.2.6 The remaining two sherds (contexts **107**, **334**) are post-medieval, both glazed redwares which are not more closely datable within the period.

5.3 Animal Bone

Introduction

5.3.1 The assemblage comprises 304 (or 5.554kg) fragments of animal bone. Once conjoins are taken into account this figure falls to 194 fragments (**Table 2**). The majority of fragments come from early medieval and post-medieval linear features located in **Area 3** of the Site. **Areas 1** and **2** produced negligible quantities of bone, most of which is unidentifiable.

Methods

5.3.2 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was



directly recorded into a relational database (in MS Access) and cross-referenced with relevant contextual information.

Preservation condition

5.3.3 Bone preservation is on the whole quite good, fragments have intact, un-eroded cortical surfaces and details such as cut marks are clear and easily observed where present. A few fragments from ditches in **Areas 1** and **2** have thick deposits of sediment concreted to their surfaces. This has not prevented identification to species or element but undoubtedly masks surface details such as butchery.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Prehist Pottery	RB Pottery	Med/PM Pottery	Shell	Other Finds
102			1/7			
107				1/255		
113	1/13					
205	2/3	2/4				
208	22/298					
213	1/38					
223	6/626					
228		2/9				
302			1/9	1/6		
306	5/18					
309	10/157					
311	1/1					
313	4/16					
317	2/55					
319	36/179		1/4			
323	11/71	1/2	1/13		1/18	
324	4/37					
326	11/58		1/1		1/10	
328	17/167					
330	8/124			1/3		
334	2/23			2/13		
336	1/18					
338	1/32					
342	1/34					
343	24/728			7/46		1 flint
349			1/1		1/2	
351			1/2			
359	42/1045			1/2		
364	7/133		1/16			
365	5/211			1/14		
366		1/5				
369	11/154		1/2	6/52	1/29	
372	4/5		1/2			
374	7/646					
376	43/540					
378	15/124				1/27	1 flint
unstrat						1 metal button



TOTALS	304/5554	6/20	10/57	20/391	5/86	
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5.3.4 Gnaw marks were present on less than 4% of post-cranial bones. This suggests that bones were buried fairly rapidly soon after they were discarded and/or that dogs were unable to access them.

Species represented

5.3.5 The following species have been identified from the assemblage and are listed in terms of their relative abundance: cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse and cat. In addition, a number of unidentified mammal and bird bones were recovered.

Prehistoric

5.3.6 A single unidentifiable bone fragment was recovered from possible late prehistoric gully **235** in **Area 2**.

Medieval

5.3.7 A near complete cattle skull and part of a horse mandible were recovered from phase 1 gully **384**. Cut marks were noted on the cattle and these result from skinning.

5.3.8 Animal bone was recovered from three phase 2 features. Several near complete cattle bones were recovered from ditch **382**. These include a radius, ulna and femur, plus the mandible from a calf aged 1-8 months, while ditch **385** produced several sheep/goat bones including a radius, calcaneus and the mandible from a 4-6 year old animal. And finally, the fragments of bone recovered from gully **363** include several cattle cervical vertebrae, cattle and sheep/goat teeth, a pig fibula, horse radius and a small undiagnostic fragment of bird bone.

5.3.9 Three of the phase 3 ditches produced bone. The fragments recovered from ditch **341** include several large pieces of cattle and sheep bones. These include a cattle tibia, scapula, calcaneus and mandible, and a sheep/goat metacarpal and skull fragment. The identified bones recovered from ditch **381** include cattle and sheep/goat vertebrae, and the mandible from a 3-4 year old sheep. A near complete cattle skull and fragments of a pig skull were recovered from ditch **383**, together with a few post-cranial bones from cattle and the ulna from a cat.

Post-medieval

5.3.10 Bone was recovered from two post-medieval features. A complete horse tibia, cattle metatarsal and cat humerus were recovered from ditch **234** in **Area 2**. A small number of cattle and sheep/goat bones were recovered from the large boundary ditch **386** in **Area 3**.

Unphased

5.3.11 Identified bones from un-phased contexts include bones from cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse.

Conclusions

5.3.12 The assemblage of animal bone is extremely small and this limits its viability for further more detailed analysis. All of the relevant information relating tooth wear, epiphyseal fusion, biometrics and butchery, has been recorded in the Site archive. No further work is required; the results of this assessment indicate that the assemblage is largely made-up of primary butchery waste from livestock species.



5.4 Other Finds

- 5.4.1 Other finds comprise very small quantities of oyster shell, worked flint (two flakes), and metalwork (one post-medieval button).

Table 2: Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by broad chronological phase.

Species	?prehistoric	medieval	post-medieval	unphased	Total
cattle		28	4	5	37
sheep/goat		12	2	5	19
pig		7		1	8
horse		2	1	1	4
cat		1	1		2
mammal	1	79	8	35	123
bird		1			1
Total	1	130	16	47	194

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from a possible Late Prehistoric ditch **229** in **Area 2** and medieval ditches **383** and **341** in **Area 3**. These were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and wood charcoal.

6.2 Charred plant remains

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flots retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 1, Table 4**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.
- 6.2.2 The flots varied in size and there were low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation, with the remains recovered from ditch **341** being well preserved.
- 6.2.3 A few grain fragments, including those of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum turgidum/aestivum* type) were recorded from ditch **229** in **Area 2**. Although this type of grain would be more typical of a later date, than the date suggested for the feature, it is possible that they are intrusive as the sample contained a high number of roots.
- 6.2.4 The sample from ditch **341** produced a very rich plant assemblage and there was a moderate number of plant remains recovered from ditch **360**. The cereal remains were predominantly grain and rachis fragments of free-threshing wheat but also included a small quantity of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains. They are indicative of general settlement waste and the processing of grain in the vicinity. The weed seed assemblage included seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus*),

possible grass vetchling (*Lathyrus cf. nissolia*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), red bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), brassica (*Brassica* sp.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), mallow (*Malva* sp.) and meadow grass/cats-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.). These weed seeds are typical of arable environments, field margins and grassy wastelands. A few fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) were also recovered.

- 6.2.5 The assemblages from the ditches in **Area 3** are typical of those of medieval date as free-threshing wheat became common in Southern England within the Saxon and medieval period (Greig 1991), appearing to generally replace hulled wheat at this time. This trend is seen in this region (Straker 2007). There are similarities between these assemblages and those analysed from Taunton Priory (Greig and Osborne 1984), where the assemblages were again dominated by free-threshing wheat with low levels of barley but also contained grains of rye (*Secale cereale*).
- 6.2.6 Stinking mayweed also became more common during this period (Greig 1991) and is characteristic of the cultivation of heavy clay soils (Green 1984), associated with the change to mouldboard ploughs from ards (Jones 1981; Stevens with Robinson 2004, Stevens 2009). The presence of this within the assemblages may provide an indication that at least some of the crops were being grown on heavier clay soils.

6.3 Wood charcoal

- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 1, Table 5**. A very large quantity of wood charcoal fragments greater than 4 mm was retrieved from medieval ditch 360. The charcoal was mainly mature wood fragments.

6.4 Land and aquatic molluscs

- 6.4.1 The bulk sample flots were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – x 40 stereobinocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were quantified (**Appendix 1, Table 4**). Nomenclature is according to Anderson (2005) and habitat preferences according to Kerney (1999). The presence of these shells may aid in broadly characterising the nature of the wider landscape.
- 6.4.2 Molluscs were recovered in relatively high numbers from the possible Late Prehistoric ditch **229** in **Area 2**. The assemblage was dominated by the aquatic species with *Galba truncatula* and *Anisus leucostoma* being typical of areas of flooding or seasonal drying out and *Radix balthica*, *Planorbis planorbis* and *Gyraulus crista* being indicative of areas of more permanent, possibly moving water. The smaller component of land shells within the assemblage could be reflective of areas of long damp grass in the vicinity of the ditch.
- 6.4.3 No molluscs were observed in the samples from the medieval ditches **383** and **341** in **Area 3**.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 Four linear features were revealed in **Area 1**, a north-south segmented ditch **122** of uncertain date, which was cut by a post-medieval ditch **106** aligned east-west, and two un-phase features, gully **120** and ditch **123**. These features have been interpreted as field boundary ditches and drainage gullies and the different alignments probably relate to separate phases of re-organisation.
- 7.1.2 The archaeology revealed in **Area 2** consisted of four parallel north-south linear features and an east-west ditch. The earliest ditches **229** and **230** lay on the west side of the area,

and are potentially late prehistoric in date. The size of these features suggests that they formed part of a field boundary system or enclosure. Adjacent to these ditches was a narrow gully **235**, which is also potentially of late prehistoric date. The gully was cut by a large ditch **233** of uncertain date, which was itself cut by an east-west ditch **235**. It is possible that ditch **235** was contemporary with post-medieval ditch **106** in **Area 1** given that they were on the same alignment. The gleyed appearance of the soils and the mollusc evidence indicate that this area of the Site was periodically flooded in the past.

- 7.1.3 The archaeological remains revealed in **Area 3** consisted of a series of east-west aligned medieval linear features, of potentially 10th-12 century. On the south side of the excavation area were a series of linear features that formed part of a drove-road, which had been realigned on at least three separate occasions, as represented by the three stratigraphic phases. As a result of this reorganisation the position of the drove-road shifted slightly to the south.
- 7.1.4 Environmental evidence indicates that cereal crops, including free-threshing wheat and barley, were processed on or near the Site during phase 3. The waste material from this activity being dumped into drove-way ditches **341** and **360**.
- 7.1.5 The animal bone evidence further suggests that cattle were slaughtered and butchered on the Site and the waste (i.e. heads) from this process was also dumped into the drove-way ditches.
- 7.1.6 The environmental and animal bone evidence, coupled with the lack of domestic cultural material such as pottery, strongly suggests that the medieval archaeological remains relate to peripheral backyard or in-field type agricultural activities.
- 7.1.7 **Area 3** also contained a large number of un-phased features that have been interpreted as possible field systems, horticultural features or drainage gullies. The pale colour of the fills and the truncated nature of the evidence suggest that these features are potentially early in the sequence of occupation and activity at the Site.
- 7.1.8 The large boundary ditch on the south of the area was a property boundary and/or drainage ditch of post-medieval date. The present day property boundaries appear to respect this early feature.

8 FURTHER POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic

- 8.1.1 Further analysis of the stratigraphic information is unlikely to clarify our understanding of the nature of the archaeological remains beyond that which has already been presented. This is largely due to the poor survival of archaeological remains in some areas of the Site, the absence of any adequate means to correlate the archaeological features revealed in the three areas and the lack of secure dating evidence.

8.2 Artefacts

- 8.2.1 No further work is required on the small finds assemblage. The pottery assemblage consists of just 39 sherds, some of which are residual and un-diagnostic. The animal bone assemblage is also small and this limits its potential to answer wider questions regarding animal husbandry strategies and dietary preferences. All of the relevant detailed information relating to the finds assemblage has been recorded and is available in the Site archive.



8.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

- 8.3.1 Although the analysis of charred plant remains has the potential to provide some information on the range of crops and local agricultural and crop processing practices used on the site during the medieval period, this would be somewhat limited by there only being one assemblage rich enough to warrant analysis.

Wood charcoal

- 8.3.2 Although the analysis of the wood charcoal could provide information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site during the medieval period, again this would be limited by being restricted to a single sample. Also there is no indication that the large wood charcoal assemblage from ditch **360** is related to any specific function or structure.

Land and aquatic molluscs

- 8.3.3 Detailed analysis of the mollusc assemblage may assist in defining the nature of the aquatic environment of ditch **229** in more detail. However this information is of limited use, as the ditch is undated.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Stratigraphic

- 9.1.1 No further work is required on the stratigraphic and contextual information presented in this report. A brief summary of the excavation results should however be prepared and submitted for publication in the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.

9.2 Artefactual

- 9.2.1 No further work is required on the small finds assemblage. All relevant detailed information has been recorded and is available in the Site archive.

9.3 Environmental

- 9.3.1 Although no further work is proposed on the charred plant or mollusc assemblages, a brief outline of the assessment results should be included in the proposed summary publication. This is particularly important for the charred plant assemblage since there are very few published examples of early medieval date in the area.

10 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 Further stratigraphic, artefactual or environmental analysis would not significantly add to the understanding of the Sites development or use, therefore no further analytical work is recommended. A brief summary of the excavation results should however be prepared for submission to the Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society.
- 10.1.2 The Site archive will be prepared for final deposition with Taunton Museum, Somerset.
- 10.1.3 Details of the Site have been submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.



10.2 Task list

10.2.1 The following task list details staff time and other resources that have been identified to fulfil the above recommendations.

Table 3: Task list

	Grade	Hours
Publication		
Management	PM	14.8
Liaison	SRM	3.7
Write report	SPO	7.4
Illustrations	DO	14.8
Internal QA	SPM	3.7
Revisions	SPO	3.7
Proof read	SPO/SRM	3.7
Publication grant		
<i>Sub-total publication</i>		
Archiving		
Total		

11 STORAGE AND CURATION

11.1 Museum

11.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Taunton Museum, Somerset. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

11.2 Archive

11.2.1 The artefacts and accompanying documentary records from the excavation will be compiled into a stable, fully cross referenced, and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

11.2.2 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, digital data, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard procedures for the transfer of archaeological archives to Taunton Castle Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000). It is currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under accession number **TTNCM 79/2012 (PRN 32109)** and Wessex Archaeology Project code **87260**.

11.3 Conservation

11.3.1 Only one metal find was recovered from the Site and there is no conservation requirements associated with its long-term storage.

11.4 Storage

11.4.1 The finds are currently stored in cardboard or airtight plastic boxes, ordered by material type, following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990).

11.4.2 Storage and curation of environmental material will follow standard Wessex Archaeology guidelines.



11.5 Discard policy

- 11.5.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. The full discard policy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 11.5.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in Wessex Archaeology's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with national guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available upon request.

11.6 Copyright

- 11.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purpose, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.
- 11.6.2 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

11.7 Security Copy

- 11.7.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Archaeological Record (English Heritage), a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

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13 APPENDICES

13.1 Appendix 1: Environmental Data

Table 4: Assessment of the charred plant remains and wood charcoal

Samples				Flot								Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis	
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains									
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments						
Area 2 ?Late Prehistoric Ditch															
229	228	7	30	40	40	B	-	-	Free threshing wheat grain frags	-	Moll-t (A). Moll-f (A*)	-			
Area 3 Medieval Ditches															
Group 383	359	2	35	475	1	B	-	B	Free-threshing wheat and barley grain frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Malva</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> . Charcoal mainly mature wood frags.	175/175 ml	Sab (C)	-			
341	343	3	33	135	10	A**	A**	A*	Free-threshing wheat and barley grain frags, free threshing wheat rachis frags, <i>Corylus avellana</i> shell frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Lathyrus cf. nissolia</i> , <i>Anthemis cotula</i> , <i>Poa/Phleum</i> , <i>Odontites vernus</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Brassica</i> , <i>Galium</i> . Charcoal mainly mature wood frags. Bone includes eel vertebrae and fish scales	15/10 ml	Sab/f (A)	-			

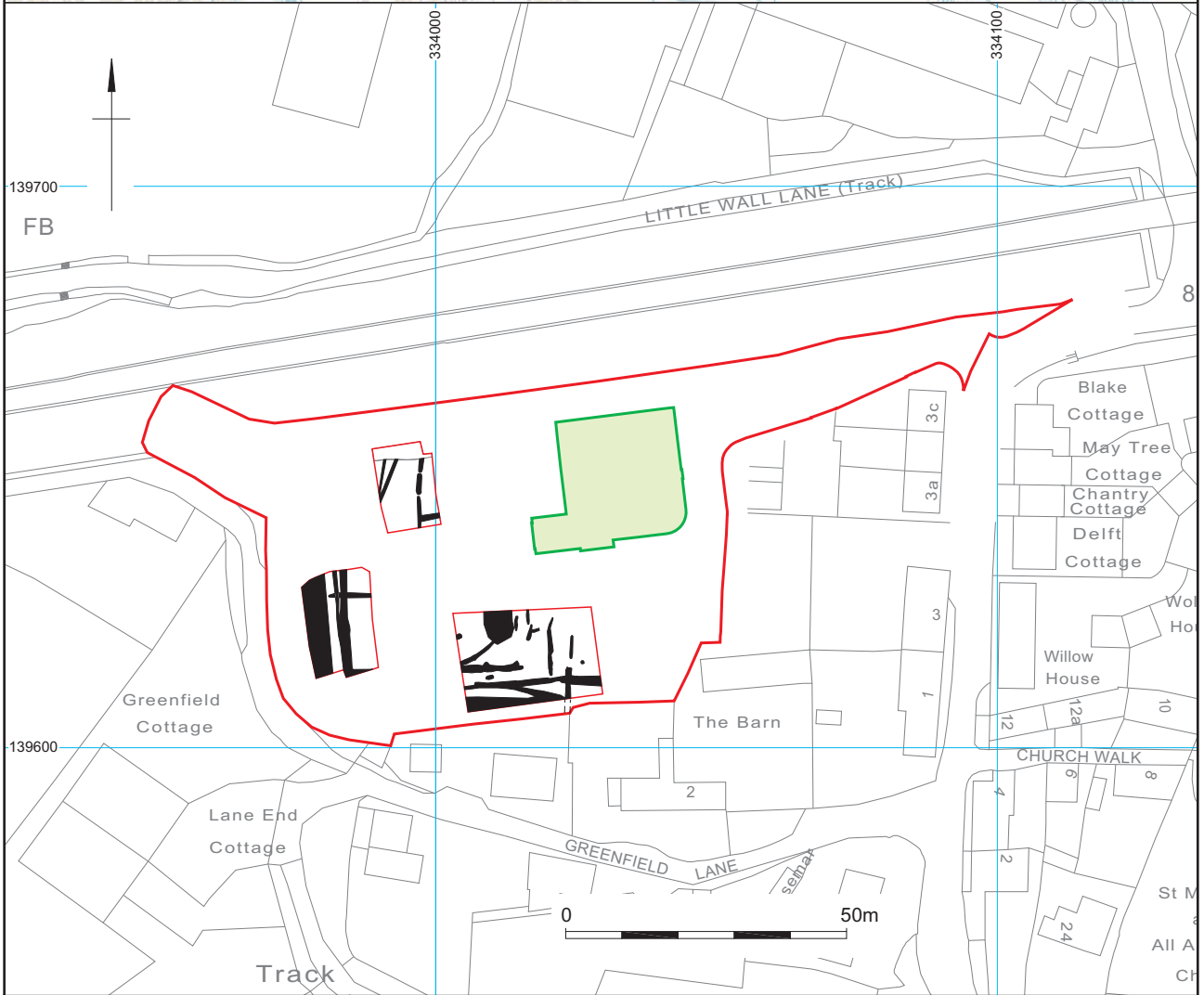
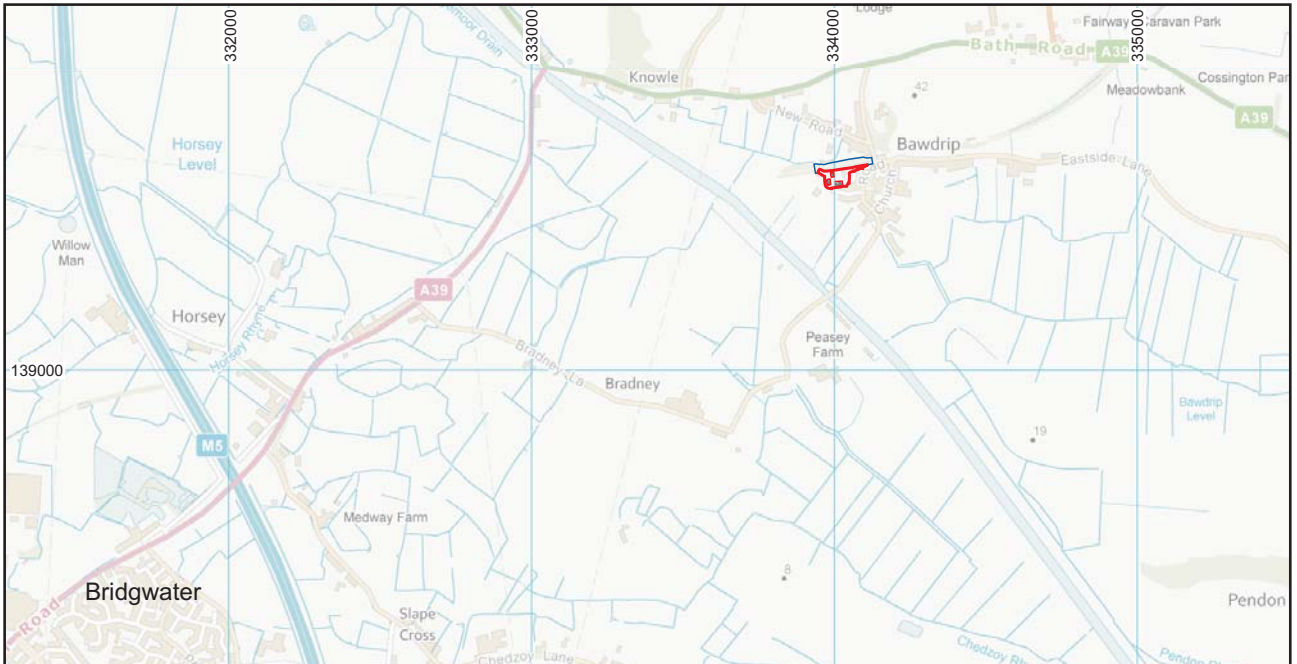
Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs;



Table 5: Assessment of the land and aquatic mollusca

Site Phase	?Late Prehistoric
Feature type	Ditch
Feature no.	229
Context no.	228
Sample no.	7
Depth (m)	spot
Volume (L)	30
Open country species	
<i>Vertigo</i> spp.	C
<i>Vallonia</i> spp.	A
Intermediate species	
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>	C
<i>Cepaea</i> spp	C
Aquatic species	
<i>Galba truncatula</i>	A
<i>Radix balthica</i>	A
<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>	A
<i>Anisus leucostoma</i>	A
<i>Gyraulus crista</i>	C
Approx total	100+

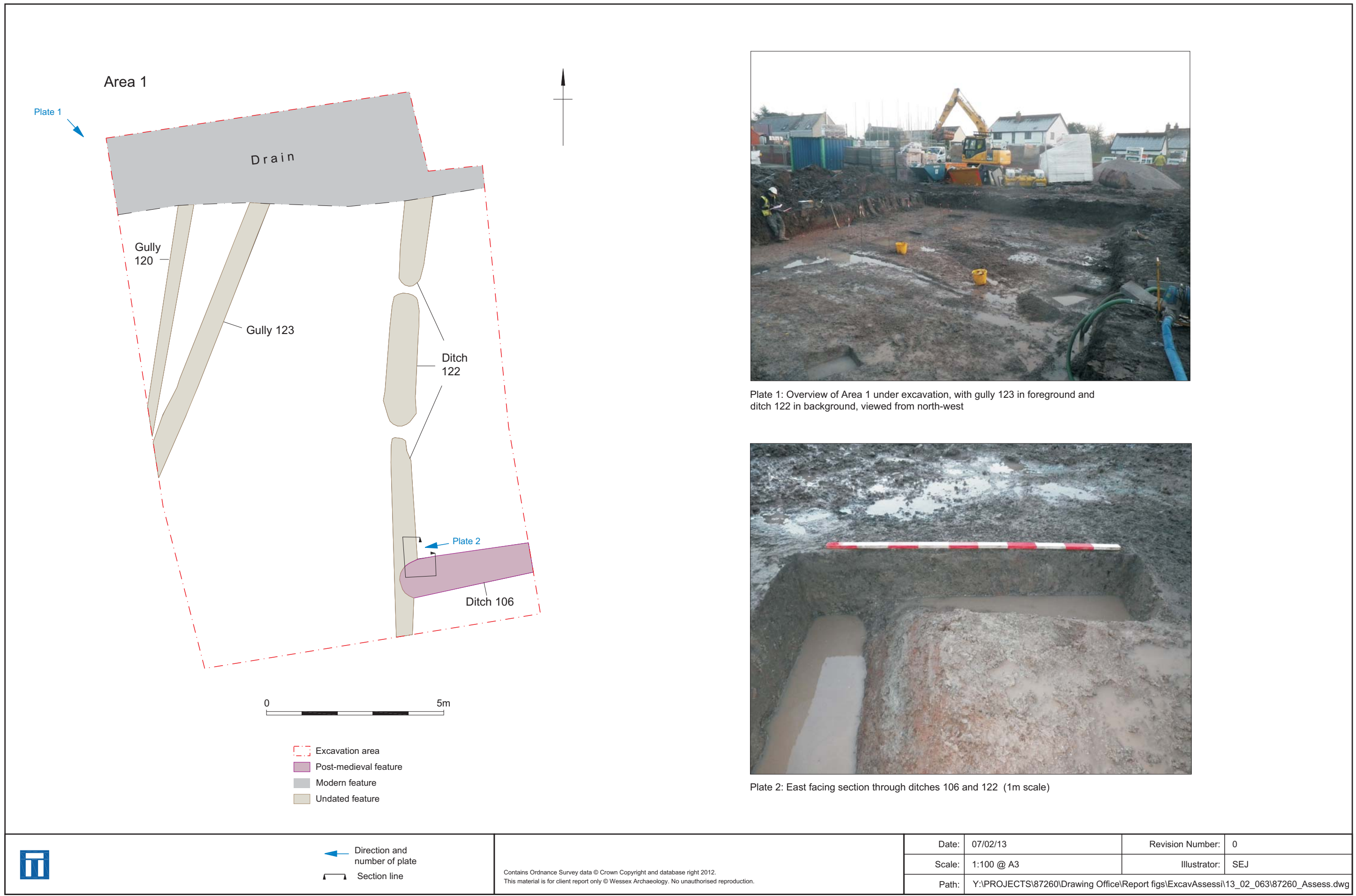
Key: A* = 30+, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; + = present



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ The Site Excavation area Hollinrake (2006) excavation area Archaeological features 	<p>Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2013 Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2012. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100020449. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</p>		
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Site location plan

Figure 1



Plan of Area 1 with associated plates (1 and 2)

Figure 2



Plate 3: Ditches 229 and 230, viewed from north (2m scale)



Plate 4: Gully 235 cut by ditch 233, viewed from north (1m scale)

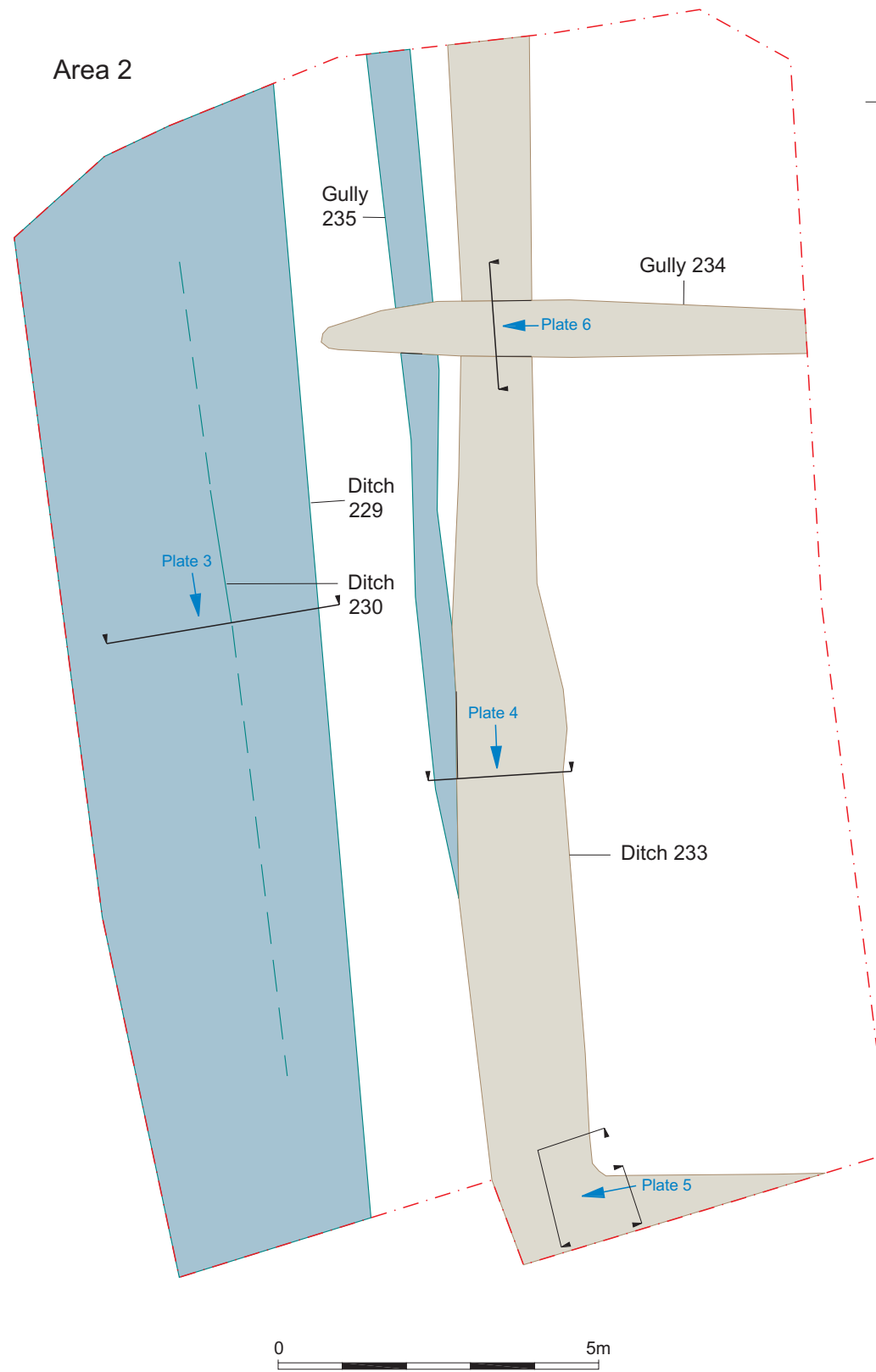


Plate 6: Ditch 233 cut by ditch 234, viewed from east (1m scale)



Plate 5: Ditch 233, viewed from east (1m scale)



- Excavation area
- possible Prehistoric feature
- Undated feature

- ← Direction and number of plate
- Section line

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Plate 7: Ditch 382 cut by ditch 381, viewed from east (1m scale)



Plate 8: Pit 339 cut by ditch 341, viewed from east (1m scale)

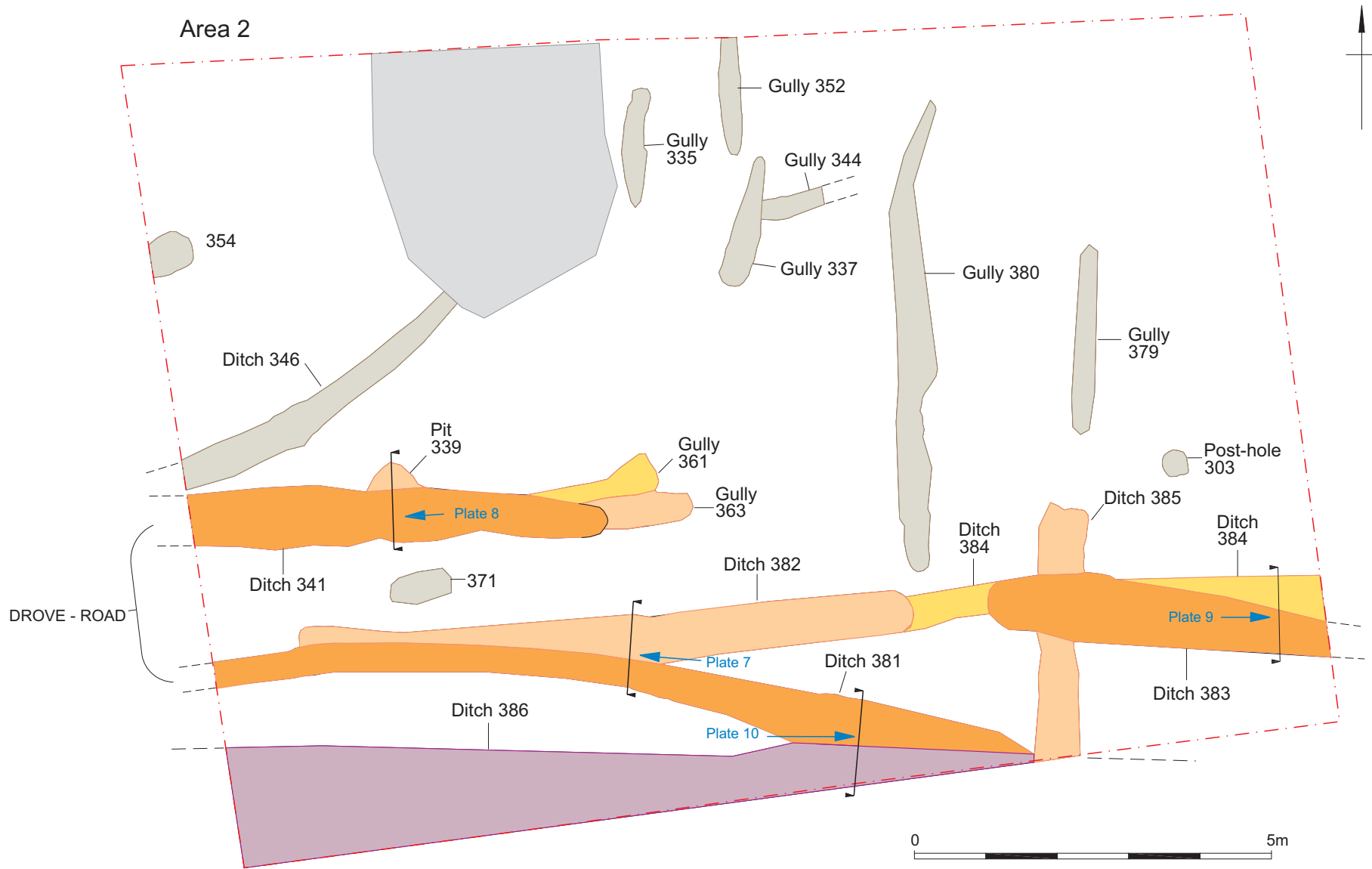


Plate 9: Ditch 384 cut by ditch 383, viewed from west (1m scale)



Plate 10: Ditch 381 cut by ditch 386, viewed from west (1m scale)

- Excavation area
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Post-medieval feature
- Modern feature
- Undated feature
- ← Direction and number of plate
- Section line

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