



making sense of heritage

Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report



Accession code: TTNCM 5692013

HER reference: 32279

WA Ref: 89031.03

September 2013



**Caves Farm, Pitney
Langport, Somerset**

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Prepared for:
Caves Farm Solar Ltd
34 Brook Street
London
W1K 5DN
United Kingdom

Accession code: TTNCM 5692013
HER reference: 32279.

By:
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB



www.wessexarch.co.uk

September 2013

WA Ref: 89031.03

Quality Assurance

WA Project Code	89031	Accession Code	TTNCM 5692013	HER Ref.:	32279-
LPA & Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	345088, 128671		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	SC	DDR		06.09.13
File:	X:\PROJECTS\89031\Report				
v02	F	DDR	ADC		09.09.13
File:	X:\PROJECTS\89031\Report				
File:					
File:					
File:					

I= Internal Draft; E= External Draft; F= Final

DATA LICENSES

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2013

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Contents

Summary.....	vi
Acknowledgements	viii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project Background	1
2 SITE DESCRIPTION.....	1
2.1 Location, topography and geology.....	1
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3.1 Introduction.....	2
3.2 Archaeological and historical background.....	2
4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	3
5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
6 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY	4
6.3 Fieldwork.....	5
7 RESULTS	6
7.2 Results.....	6
8 FINDS	11
8.2 Pottery	12
8.3 Fired Clay	13
8.4 Animal Bone.....	13
8.5 Human Bone	13
8.6 Other Finds	13
9 ENVIRONMENTAL.....	13
9.1 Introduction.....	13
9.2 Charred plant remains	14
9.3 Wood Charcoal	14
9.4 Land and aquatic molluscs	14
10 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION	15
10.1 Discussion	15
10.2 Recommendations	16
11 THE ARCHIVE.....	16
11.1 Museum	16
11.2 Preparation and deposition	17
11.3 Discard Policy.....	17



11.4	Copyright.....	17
12	REFERENCES.....	18
	APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES	19
	APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM.....	32



Illustrations

- Figure 1** Site and trench location showing results and geophysical survey
Figure 2 Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 6 showing results and geophysical survey
Figure 3 Trenches 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 showing results and geophysical survey
Figure 4 Section drawings and plates
Figure 5 Section drawings, Inhumation 810 and plates
Figure 6 Section drawings and plates

- Front cover:** Trench 8 view looking north
Plate 1 East facing section of Ditch 204
Plate 2 West facing section of Ditch 305
Plate 3 West facing section of Ditches 309 and 311
Plate 4 North-west facing section of Pit/Quarry hollow 418
Plate 5 East facing section of Ditch 600
Plate 6 East facing section of Ditches 617 and 622 and Hearth 613
Plate 7 West facing section of Ditch 609
Plate 8 West facing section of Ditch 806
Plate 9 West facing section of Ditch 804
Plate 10 Inhumation burial 810 view looking south
Plate 11 Inhumation burial 810 view looking east
Plate 12 Black burnished ware jar 812 at feet of inhumation burial 809
Plate 13 East facing section of Ditch 820
Plate 14 Ditches 911 and 913 view looking south east
Plate 15 East facing section of Ditch 1005
Plate 16 North-west facing section of Ditches 1206 and 1208
- Section 1** West facing section of Ditch 305
Section 2 West facing section of Ditches 309 and 311
Section 3 North facing section of Ditch 509
Section 4 East facing section of Ditch 600
Section 5 East facing section of Ditches 617 and 622 and Hearth 613
Section 6 East facing section of Ditch 820
Section 7 West facing section of Pit 804
Section 8 North-west facing section of Ditches 1206 and 1208



Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Caves Farm Solar Ltd to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on Land at Caves Farm, Pitney, Somerset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 345088, 128671.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 5th August and 13th August 2013.

The Client is proposing to submit a planning application for the construction of a Solar Farm on the Site. The archaeological trial trench evaluation along with a previously undertaken desk-based assessment and geophysical survey forms part of an archaeological assessment of the Site, which will be submitted in support of the planning application

Following consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer (HEO) of Somerset County Council the archaeological evaluation was undertaken comprising the excavation of 15 trial trenches (12 no 25m x 2m and 3 no 30m x 2m). The locations of the trenches were targeted on the results of the geophysical survey in order to establish the archaeological potential of the identified anomalies.

Of greatest significance was the identification of a Romano-British inhumation dating to the late 3rd to 4th century AD. Evidence as to whether the human remains are that of an isolated individual or are part of a group of burials is inconclusive. On completion of the evaluation the burial was left in situ, protected and reburied. A number of pits and boundary and drainage ditches identified within the centre of the proposed development Site would appear to date to the Late Iron Age / Romano British period. It would therefore appear that ditches in the vicinity of the burial are unlikely to be contemporary, which may have indicated the possibility of the burial lying within a mortuary enclosure.

In the west of the Site the evaluation identified a broadly Late Iron Age to Romano-British landscape organised on an east to west alignment and comprising boundary ditches and a possible rectangular enclosure. A concentration of possible stone quarry hollows were also identified. A change in land use is suggested by the decommissioning of the pre-existing ditched boundaries and the formation of a fairly substantial abandonment layer / plough soil which contained abundant artefactual and occupation debris indicating settlement activity within the vicinity of the Site.

The eastern and southern areas of the Site were found to be largely devoid of archaeological features and deposits.

Following an on-Site consultation with the HEO it has been recommended that the northernmost field immediately to the east of Stowey Road containing the inhumation burial should be excluded from the proposed development. This will mitigate against the danger of any potential groundworks disturbing any further burials that might be present.



Within the remainder of the Site the evaluation has been able to successfully characterise the nature, depth and date of the archaeological features and deposits. It has been established that although these results are of local and regional significance, given the nature of the proposed developments impact, and the level of excavation and recording undertaken as part of the evaluation programme no further archaeological mitigation is likely to be recommended by the HEO.

The final nature of archaeological mitigation measures supported by this document should be agreed through consultation with the HEO acting on behalf of the local planning authority.



Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Roland Billington of Caves Farm Solar Ltd for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. The help and advice of Steven Membery, the HEO at Somerset County Council is also gratefully acknowledged.

The evaluation fieldwork was directed by Susan Clelland assisted by Jerry Austin, Ralph Collard and Simon Evans. The illustrations were prepared by Rob Goller and the finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and animal bone by Lorrain Higbee. The environmental samples were assessed by Sarah Wyles. This report was compiled by Susan Clelland and Damian De Rosa. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa



Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Caves Farm Solar Ltd (The Client) to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Caves Farm, Pitney, Somerset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 345088, 128671 (hereafter referred to as the Site; see **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Client is proposing to submit a planning application for the construction of a solar farm to be submitted to South Somerset District Council, the local planning authority (LPA).
- 1.1.3 This archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken following a previously undertaken desk-based assessment (WA 2013a) and geophysical survey (WA 2103b) which form part of an archaeological assessment of the Site, to be submitted in support of the planning application.
- 1.1.4 Prior to the commencement of the evaluation a written scheme of investigation (WA 2012) setting out the methods by which the evaluation would be undertaken was prepared. The preparation of the WSI and the scope of work set out in the document followed consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer (HEO) of Somerset County Council.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location, topography and geology.

- 2.1.1 The Site is located within the South Somerset district, immediately to the north of the village of Pitney. The town of Langport lies c. 3km to the south-west and Somerton is situated c. 2.7km to the south-east.
- 2.1.2 The Site comprised an irregular parcel of agricultural land of c. 11.5ha, which is divided into two areas by the north to south aligned Stowey Road. The Site is currently occupied by seven fields under a mixture of pasture and arable cultivation and is surrounded by agricultural land. The field boundaries both within and encompassing the Site are defined by hedgerows and trees. A track-way borders the south-eastern part of the Site, providing access to the easternmost fields. An overhead power cable passes east to west through the central part of Site.
- 2.1.3 The Site lies in the Mid Somerset Hills, occupying the south-west facing slope of the Low Ham Rhyne valley, which borders the village of Pitney to the west. The land within the Site



rises gently from an elevation of c. 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south, to c. 40m aOD at the northern extent.

- 2.1.4 The underlying geology of the Site is mapped as mudstone of the Langport Member, Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (British Geological Survey).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A desk-based assessment has been prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2013a), which sets out the known archaeological and historical background within a 1km study area of the Site. A brief summary of the DBA is presented below.

3.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity within the Study Area is fairly limited, although this may be in part due to a lack of intrusive archaeological investigation. Prehistoric settlement in the region appears to have been focused on hills and ridges, with track-ways providing access across the wetland areas. Potential evidence of prehistoric settlement activity is recorded c. 840m to the west of the Site and a number of isolated findspots of Bronze Age date have been recorded

Iron Age and Roman

- 3.2.2 Indications of Iron Age activity within the Study Area comprise a possible hillfort identified c. 770m to the north-east of the Site. Excavations undertaken at the site suggest that occupation continued into the Romano-British period; significant quantities of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were recovered in addition to remains of a possible Romano-British farmstead and a burial.
- 3.2.3 The Site lies within a rich Roman landscape categorized by a number of villas. A Scheduled Monument to the north of the Site comprises the remains of a Romano-British villa. Early 19th century excavations revealed a complex of structures, including a courtyard and mausoleum and recent surveys of the monument location have identified prominent mounds which may represent former buildings. A second possible villa is recorded c. 360m to the north-west of the Site and a third villa designated as a Scheduled Monument is located c. 1.3km to the west of the Site.
- 3.2.4 Possible structural remains observed c. 370m to the south-east of the Site have been suggested as being of Romano-British date and a number of findspots of Romano-British date further indicate the presence of Roman activity within the vicinity of the Site.

Saxon and medieval

- 3.2.5 Although no finds or features of Saxon date are located within the Site or the Study Area, it is likely that settlement existed in the area in this period. Much of the medieval landscape in Somerset is thought to represent a continuation of Saxon and earlier settlement patterns, and the place-name of Pitney is also likely to be Saxon in origin. The earliest documentary reference to the village is in the Domesday Survey of 1086, which records a small settlement comprising one and half ploughlands, meadow and woodland.
- 3.2.6 It is likely that Site lay within an agricultural landscape associated with the manor of Pitney Wearne throughout much of the medieval period. The manor was created through land granted from Somerton Manor between 1190 and 1203. The location of the former manor



house, described as 'an ancient hall' in the mid-15th century, is thought lie c. 250m to the south of the Site

- 3.2.7 The church of St. John the Baptist, c. 590m to the south-west of the Site, is likely to have been a focal point of the medieval settlement at Pitney. Although the present church was largely rebuilt in the 19th century, the chancel is of 13th century date and the tower was constructed in the 14th century.

Post-medieval and modern

- 3.2.8 There is no indication of any significant development within the Study Area during the post-medieval period and the Site and its environs appear to have remained essentially rural in character.
- 3.2.9 Somerset and the south-west region were of particular significance during the English Civil War of 1642 - 1646, providing an important source of manpower and resources. The Battle of Langport took place in 1645, an attempt to delay a siege of Bridgwater by Parliamentary forces, with the strategic location of the battlefield, c. 800m to the south-west of the Site allowing Royalist forces to occupy the crossing point of the Wagg Rhyne. The battle resulted in a decisive victory for the New Model Army, destroying the last effective Royalist field army and, subsequently, the Royalist strongholds of Bridgwater and Bristol fell to Parliamentary forces.
- 3.2.10 Much of the post-medieval development within the vicinity of the Site relates to the settlement of Pitney, which saw its main expansion in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 3.2.11 The earliest cartographic depiction of the Site is the 1807 Inclosure Map, which demonstrates that the existing arrangement of field systems was established by the early 19th century. All of the current field boundaries within the Site are illustrated, although the Site comprises eight main fields rather than seven as today. Several of the fields are subdivided into narrow allotments which may represent remnants of the former medieval strip fields. By the time of the 1887 Ordnance Survey edition, the sub-divisions of the fields within the Site were removed and the fields were consolidated into their present form. This field pattern is repeated on the subsequent 1903-4 and 1929 Ordnance Survey editions, which also indicate that part of the eastern area of the Site remained in use as orchard.

4 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

- 4.1.1 The geophysical survey (**Figure 1**) undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2013b) identified anomalies of definite, probable and possible archaeological interest that appear to indicate a good archaeological potential for the Site mainly within the western and central fields.
- 4.1.2 Two dense clusters of anomalies of archaeological interest lie to the east and west of Stowey Road. Those to the west comprise the northern circuit of a clearly defined rectangular enclosure, although its response is lost within a complex of pit-like and other amorphous anomalies. Linear responses consistent with a former track or drove apparently extend E-W across the survey area from Stowey Road to the enclosure, perhaps suggesting that it relates to a former agricultural settlement.
- 4.1.3 Further rectilinear ditches can be seen to the east of the road, with dense clusters of pit-like anomalies nearby. A number of well-defined linear anomalies are thought to relate to a former field system or complex of enclosures.



- 4.1.4 Further east, localised regions of geological changes can be seen forming sinuous patterns within the data. A number of short linear and pit-like anomalies can be seen, which could possibly be archaeological in nature. However, the geophysical survey appears to indicate that there is a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains in the eastern part of the Site.

5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.1 Archaeological Field Evaluation

- 5.1.1 The general aims of the archaeological field evaluation were:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development.
- identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, 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.
- the production of a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive. This will facilitate judgements on the status of the archaeological resource and allow the formulation of an appropriate response ('a mitigation strategy') to the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological deposits, if required.

- 5.1.2 Specific aims of the field evaluation were:

- To target the results of the geophysical survey to determine the nature, date and importance of the potential archaeological features/responses that have been identified.
- To identify whether features/responses are of archaeological or natural geological origin
- By targeting the results of the geophysical survey and undertaking a small sample of the blank areas the aim will be to tie down specific areas of the Site, in order to determine recommendations for further archaeological mitigation and/or for preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains.

6 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The following methodology was proposed in order to meet the aims and objectives of the fieldwork. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the 'Institute for Archaeologists's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

6.2 Evaluation strategy

- 6.2.1 In consultation with Steve Membery, the SHEO, acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, it was agreed that the trench locations would be targeted on the areas/features of highest potential that were identified in the geophysical survey.
- 6.2.2 It was therefore proposed to excavate upon reviewing the results of the geophysical survey (WA 2013b) 12 no 20m x 2m and 3 no 30m x 2m trial trenches (**Figure 1**).
- 6.2.3 The aim of the trenches was principally to target geophysical anomalies and assess their archaeological potential as well as to provide a small random sample of blank areas.



6.3 Fieldwork

- 6.3.1 Some of the Trench locations had to be moved slightly in light of ground conditions or due to existing field boundaries.
- 6.3.2 Prior to machine excavation, all trench locations were scanned by Wessex Archaeology using a cable tracing device (CAT). No services were detected.
- 6.3.3 All overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was carefully removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first.
- 6.3.4 All machine work was under the constant archaeological supervision.
- 6.3.5 Stripped material was visually examined for archaeological material and a metal detector used to enhance artefact recovery.
- 6.3.6 Each trench was cleaned by hand where appropriate and planned prior to any hand-excavation. All pre-modern stratified deposits were excavated by hand. A representative section, not less than 1m in length, of deposits through each trench from ground surface to the top of the natural geology was recorded.
- 6.3.7 A sample of each feature type revealed was excavated and recorded. The selection of features for excavation was determined on the basis of their form, fill, and stratigraphic relationship and in order to ensure a reasonable coverage of features and deposits within each trench and provide the best opportunity for the recovery of dating evidence.

6.4 Recording

- 6.4.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. Details of Wessex Archaeology's recording system are available on request.
- 6.4.2 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 6.4.3 Trench locations and all recorded archaeological features revealed were surveyed using a Leica GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.
- 6.4.4 A photographic record was maintained using a digital camera.

6.5 Monitoring

- 6.5.1 The trenches were monitored by the HEO acting on behalf of the Local Planning Authority on 8th August 2013.

6.6 Reinstatement

- 6.6.1 Once the trenches had been completed to the satisfaction of HEO they were backfilled and left level on completion using the excavated material. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.



7 RESULTS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The results provided below present a summary of the information derived from the trial trench evaluation. Detailed trench summaries containing a brief description of all of the features uncovered are provided in **Appendix 1**.

7.1.2 The results are presented in trench number order, numbers in bold are deposit and feature context numbers and contain a trench number prefix.

7.2 Results

Trench 1

7.2.1 A large sub-rectangular feature on the geophysical survey proved to be the result of natural solution (**Figure 1**). Tabular bedrock was revealed directly below the subsoil horizon at either end of the trench separated by a layer of sterile weathered/fractured bedrock fragments. No anthropogenic material or features were present within this trench.

Trench 2

7.2.2 Trench 2 was moved c.4m to the south-west of its proposed location to maintain adequate clearance from an extant hedged field boundary. Ditch **204** orientated east to west was 0.9m wide, 0.4m deep with a steep concave profile and corresponded with a geophysical anomaly (**Figures 1, 2 and 4: Plate 1**). The primary fill (**206**) of weathered limestone was overlain by secondary silting (**205**). Two sherds of Romano-British black burnished ware were recovered from fill **205**. Nine metres to the north-east and aligned broadly north-west to south-east, ditch **200** was steep sided with a flat base and was 1m wide and 0.25m deep.. Feature **202** was originally thought to be shallow ditch terminus, but is more likely to be a deep plough scar based on the nature of its profile, depth and fill.

Trench 3

7.2.3 Two ditches were recorded within Trench 3 that corresponded with geophysical anomalies and that may form part of a substantial bank and ditch boundary (**Figures 1 and 2**). Both ditches were sealed by a slightly mounded levelled deposit of bedrock fragments within a soil matrix indicative of reworked topsoil and natural clay loam (**302**). It is thought this layer (**302**) may represent a slighted bank. Ditch **305** (**Figures 2 and 4: Plate 2 and Section 1**) was orientated east to west and was 1.85m wide by 1.10m deep with a steep, tapered profile to form a narrow sub-rectangular gully along its base. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fills (**306 to 308**) of the ditch, which comprised two episodes of primary weathering (**306 and 307**) overlain by a secondary silting (**308**).

7.2.4 Two metres to the south and on a parallel alignment ditch **311** (**Figures 2 and 4; Plate 3 and Section 2**) was moderately steep sided tapering to a concave base and was 1.60m wide and 0.85m deep. Several pottery fragments dating to the Iron Age were recovered from the secondary fill (**313**) of ditch **311**. A shallow re-cutting episode (**309**) (**Figures 2 and 4: Plate 3 and Section 2**) was evident along the northern side of ditch **311**. A layer (**315**) of reworked up-cast material filled the upper portion of this boundary and is likely to be associated with the deliberate decommissioning of this boundary also represented by the slighted bank (layer **302**). It is probable the boundary demarcated by these ditches is also represented by ditches **609, 617 and 622** recorded to the west in Trench 6 (**Figure 2**).

Trench 4

- 7.2.5 Trench 4 (**Figures 1 and 2**) was located in an area characterised by large irregular geophysical anomalies. Investigation revealed a series of shallow, irregular hollows which may have been the result of superficial quarrying of the natural bedrock and was represented by pits/hollows **405, 411, 413, 416 and 418 (Figure 2)**. These pits/hollows were between 1m and 4.5m wide and were approximately 0.2m deep, filled with reworked topsoil mixed with occupation debris including animal bone and pottery fragments dating to the Late Iron Age/ Early Romano British periods. Located at the north-eastern end of the trench, elongated pit/hollow **418 (Figures 2 and 4: Plate 4)** was the deepest of those excavated at 0.54m and within its single secondary fill (deposit **419**) five small fragments of human bone representing the partial remains of a neonatal individual (lower limb, upper limb and skull) were recovered. These were re-deposited within this context and found amongst a relatively high concentration of pottery dating to the Late Iron Age / Early Romano-British periods and animal bone. Pieces of Late Bronze Age pottery were found residually within pit **411** implying possible background activity dating to this period within the vicinity of the Site.
- 7.2.6 Several plough scars (**407, 409 (Figure 2)**) were also recorded just cutting the upper surface of the exposed bedrock. These are mostly likely to be of a fairly modern origin.

Trench 5

- 7.2.7 A ditch and a large probable quarry pit within Trench 5 correspond with geophysical anomalies (**Figure 2**). Ditch (**509 (Figures 2 and 4: Section 3)**) may form part of a rectilinear enclosure also associated with ditch **600 (Trench 6) (Figures 2)**. Ditch **509 (2m x 2m x 0.85m)** had a steep convex profile. Due to the natural terracing of the underlying bedrock the western side of this ditch was steeper and more clearly defined than the eastern side. The ditch was predominately filled through primary deposition and no artefacts were recovered from any of the ditch (**509**) fills (**511 to 514**). The ditch was sealed by a layer (**510**) from which abraded Late Iron Age/ Early Romano British pottery was recovered. Deposit **510** is thought to be the remains of a Romano-British plough soil, further represented by layer **502**. Deposit **508** recorded sealing posthole **506 (Figure 2)** is also thought to be part of this layer.
- 7.2.8 Aligned north to south and appearing linear in plan, pit **504 (Figure 2)** was sub-oval in shape with steep sides and flat base and, as similar to features recorded in Trench 4, may be the result of quarrying. Finds including Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery and animal bone were recovered from secondary deposit **505**. A lens of red fired clay had been dumped on the western side of the pit. Quarry pit **504** was sealed by layer **502**.
- 7.2.9 A small sub-rectangular possible pit/posthole **506 (1m x 0.4m x 0.2m) (Figure 2)** filled with disturbed/weathered natural was also recorded in Trench 5. Several small abraded sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery were found within the thin deposit **508** sealing the feature.

Trench 6

- 7.2.10 Three ditches and a probably tree throw hole were recorded within Trench 6 that corresponded with geophysical anomalies (**Figures 1 and 2**). Ditch **600** was orientated northeast to southwest and was 3m wide and 0.55m deep with a broad concave profile (**Figure 4: Plate 5 and Section 4**). The results of the geophysical survey suggest that ditch **600** forms part of a rectilinear enclosure with ditch **509** recorded in Trench 5 (**Figure 2**). The ditch (**600**) was filled predominately with weathered bedrock (**602 and 603:**) and sealed by layer **601 (Figure 4: Section 4)**.



- 7.2.11 At the southern end of the trench parallel ditches **609**, **617** and **622** (**Figures 1, 2** and **5: Plates 6, 7** and **Section 5**) are likely to be continuations of ditches **305**, **309** and **311** (Trench 3 see above) though in each case the ditches in Trench 6 are less substantial due to the comparatively shallow depth at which bedrock was reached. Layer **619** is equivalent to layer **601** mentioned above and seals ditches **609**, **617** and **622**.
- 7.2.12 A small sub-circular hearth **613** (**Figures 2** and **5: Plate 6** and **Section 5**) defined on its sides by a 0.02m thickness of *in-situ* heat affected natural clay and scorched bedrock as its base had been cut away by ditch **617** at the southern end of the trench. The hearth was filled with a deposit (**614**) including Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British pottery fragments and represents the remnants of its final episode of use.
- 7.2.13 A large circular feature **607** (**Figure 2**) was 1.3m wide and 0.3m deep and though having a clearly defined interface with the natural was filled with a deposit of re-worked topsoil and occupation debris very similar to layers **601** and **619** leading to the suggestion that this represents a tree throw hole rather than pit. Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from this feature.

Trench 7

- 7.2.14 Trench 7 (**Figure 1**) was targeted to investigate several diffuse linear geophysical anomalies which appeared to correspond to slight variations in geology. No archaeological features and /or deposits were observed.

Trench 8

- 7.2.15 Towards the southern end of Trench 8 an inhumation burial **810** was revealed (**Figures 3** and **5: Plates 10** and **11**). Initially the burial was bisected by the eastern edge of the trench, which was subsequently extended to reveal the graves full extent. The grave (**809**), which was aligned north to south, was 1.70m long and 0.5m wide and was revealed directly below the topsoil and subsoil at a depth of 0.22m. The inhumation, which was placed in an extended supine position was not fully excavated during the evaluation, and was retained *in situ*. However, the exposed portion of the skeleton, the size of which may suggest a young adult of c.1.30m to 1.40m in height, was cleaned and fully recorded.
- 7.2.16 The skeleton (**810**) had been heavily impacted upon by later ploughing, which is not surprising given the shallow depth of the grave below the ground surface. The skull was in a poor condition as a result and no remains of the frontal cranial, facial bones or teeth had survived. From what could be observed of the skull it would appear that the head was facing to the left. Whether this is a result of the head being positioned or due to later disturbance could not be established. The vertebrae of the spinal column survived in a relatively good condition from the base of the skull and extended down partly into the fragmentary remains of the rib cage. There was no evidence surviving of the *Sternum* and it is not known if more of the vertebrae were present as the burial was not excavated. Both collar bones (*Clavicle*) were present along with the right and left upper (*Femur*) and lower arm bones (*Radius* and *Ulna*), although the lower arm bones were in a fragmentary state. The shoulder blades (*Scapula*) were not present. Bones from the hands and fingers (*carpals*, *metacarpals* and *phalanges*) did not survive, but the positioning of the arms indicated that the hands had been positioned during burial to rest over the right pelvis/upper leg bone with the right arm laying straight down the body and the lower left arm positioned at an angle across the pelvis. The pelvis (*Sacrum*) was only partially exposed on the left side of the burial and it is unclear if all the full pelvic bones survive (*Sacrum*, *Pubis* and *Ischium*) as no further excavation was undertaken. Both the right and left upper leg bones (*Femur*) survived in relatively good, but partially fragmentary condition. The knee bones (*Patella*) and lower leg bones (*Tibia* and *Fibula*) were no longer

present or *in situ* and the latter only survived in fragmentary pieces. There was no survival of any of the feet bones (*Tarsals*, *Metatarsals* and *Phalanges*).

- 7.2.17 A Romano-British black burnished ware jar (**812**) (**Figure 5: Plate 12**) had been interred as a grave good during burial and had been positioned by the feet at the north end of the burial. The pot was also left *in situ* with three body sherds being recovered in order to aid dating of the grave and identification of the pottery ware. The body sherds almost certainly derive from a jar, and display internal wiping, a surface treatment characteristic of the late Romano-British period (3rd or 4th century AD). The rim of the vessel appears to have been removed by later disturbance.
- 7.2.18 There was no indication of any nails or wood staining to indicate that the burial had been placed in a coffin and it is therefore likely that the burial had been placed directly into the ground.
- 7.2.19 Parallel ditches **806** (**Figures 3 and 5: Plate 8**) and **820** (**Figures 3 and 6: Plate 13 and Section 7**) aligned east northeast to west southwest were recorded at either end of Trench 8, correspond to geophysical anomalies and may form part of a contemporary bounded landscape. Ditch **806** (**Figure 3 and Plate 5**) was 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep with moderately steep stepped sides and a flat base. Artefacts recovered from the secondary fill (**808**) included pottery of Iron Age (calcite tempered ware) and Roman (black burnished ware) date.
- 7.2.20 Lying 24m to the south, ditch **820** (**Figures 3 and 6: Plate 13 and Section 7**) was approximately 2.5m wide and 0.7m deep. The primary ditch fills (**821 to 823**) suggest a gradual deposition and were well sorted as a result of repeated water action. Abraded pottery fragments dating to the Late Iron Age to Romano-British period were found within primary fill **823** which possibly represents a slump of bank material.
- 7.2.21 Orientated on a slightly different alignment (east to west) lay ditch **816** (**Figure 3**). It was a comparatively shallow ditch with moderately sloped sides and a flat base and lay adjacent and parallel to a modern ceramic field drain. Ditch **816** cut away part of an earlier pit (**813**) and was sealed by a large levelling layer (**819**) comprising reworked subsoil and bedrock fragments thought to result from the ploughing out of bank material. It is suggested that ditch **816** formed part of ditch/bank field boundary typical of the Medieval or later periods.
- 7.2.22 Located adjacent to ditch **820** lay two oval pits of near identical size and appearance. One of these was investigated as pit **804** (**Figures 3 and 5: Plate 9 and Section 6**) an almost perfectly oval storage pit (1.3m x 1.1m x 0.4m) with steep sides, flat base and a slight undercut on the western edge. The pit contained a single fill (**805**) of secondary material found to include abraded pottery sherds of Late Iron Age shelly ware.
- 7.2.23 Lying 1.5m north of pit **804** lay a shallow sub-rectangular pit **813** (1.8m x 0.8m x 0.15m) (**Figure 3**). The northern end of pit **813** had been cut away by ditch **816** (see above) and the pit extended beyond the eastern edge of the trench. A thin primary deposit had formed over the base of the pit suggesting it had been left open prior to the subsequent deliberate deposition of occupation/hearth rake-out debris containing a notable quantity of charcoal and fired clay. Pottery sherds recovered from this deposit (**815**) contained Iron Age shelly ware.

Trench 9

- 7.2.24 Two linear geophysical anomalies were targeted in Trench 9. The northern of these proved to be a ceramic field drain. The southern anomaly was found to be two adjacent drainage ditches (**901 and 903**) (**Figures 3 and 6: Plate 14**) 0.6m wide and defined by



steep sides and flat bases. The ditches cut through a layer of alluvial material (deposit **905**) and were found to contain pottery of Romano-British (black burnished ware) date. A later episode of alluviation was recorded by layer **906** which sealed these ditches.

- 7.2.25 The earliest feature recorded in the trench was a circular pit (**910**) sealed by alluvial layer **905**. Pit **910** (**Figure 3**) was 0.4m in diameter, 0.15m deep and filled with heat affected natural and charcoal. No datable artefacts were recovered though the pit was 100% excavated.

Trench 10

- 7.2.26 The northwest to southeast alignment of ditch **1005** (**Figures 3** and **6: Plate 15**) appeared contradictory to the other ditches recorded in this field though the ditch was identified during the geophysical survey. A fragment of Post-medieval pottery recovered from the upper surface of the ditch may be intrusive, deriving from overlying alluvial deposits. The natural horizons in this trench presented as a degraded limestone inundated with sterile solution hollows overlain by alluvium. The interface between both natural and man-made features and deposits within this trench were extremely blurred due to mineral and nutrient migration.
- 7.2.27 At the southern end of the trench the targeted anomaly is thought to have been a ceramic field drain though the location did correspond to an undulation in the natural and a slight increase in depth of overlying alluvial deposits.

Trench 11

- 7.2.28 A north to south aligned anomaly targeted in both Trenches 11 and 12 lay adjacent and parallel to the extant ditch and hedged field boundary. In Trench 11 (**Figure 3**) this anomaly was recorded as a poorly defined broad flat based ditch (**1100**) filled predominately with disturbed, rather than weathered natural, indicative of a hedge. Its alignment corresponds to that of the post-medieval/modern field system and is likely to be of that date; however no datable finds were recovered. Within the remainder of the trench the only identified feature was a shallow plough scar which aligned with the extant plough furrows and the modern field boundary.

Trench 12

- 7.2.29 Trench 12 (**Figures 1** and **3**) was targeted on an east to west aligned geophysical anomaly. This proved to be a 1.2m wide and 1m deep steep sided ditch (**1208**) (**Figures 3** and **6: Plate 16 and Section 8**) with primary deposits of well sorted waterborne clays derived from the weathering of the ditch sides and degraded limestone overlain by secondary silting. The ditch fills show evidence of successive post-depositional waterlogging suggesting a drainage function. Recovered finds indicate a broad Late Iron Age-Romano British date range consistent with the developed landscape recorded throughout the evaluation.
- 7.2.30 Aligned north to south a broad, relatively shallow flat based boundary, ditch **1206** (**Figures 3** and **6: Plate 16 and Section 8**) cut away the western side of ditch **1208** and forms a continuation of the probable hedged field division recorded in Trench 11 (**Figure 3**).
- 7.2.31 Within the remainder of the trench were several field drains and a large sub-oval hollow, probably representing a tree throw hole (**1213**).



Trench 13

7.2.32 Trench 13 (**Figure 1**) was not targeted on geophysical anomalies and correspondingly no archaeological features and /or deposits were observed.

Trench 14

7.2.33 Trench 14 (**Figure 1**) was targeted to investigate a diffuse linear anomaly which proved to be a poorly defined shallow linear (**1404**) filled with a very sterile and homogenous deposit of weathered clay. Feature **1404** followed the natural gradient of this field and it is likely to be a natural erosion channel formed by run-off.

Trench 15

7.2.34 Trench 15 (**Figure 1**) was not targeted on geophysical anomalies and correspondingly no archaeological features and /or deposits were observed.

8 FINDS

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 The evaluation produced a small finds assemblage in a restricted range of material types, in which only pottery occurred in any significant quantity. Although one inhumation burial was uncovered (in Trench 8), the human remains were recorded on site and not lifted, as was the single grave good, a pottery vessel, although a few sherds were extracted to enable dating of the burial. Quantities of finds by material type and by context are given in **Table 1**.

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

Context	Animal Bone	Fired Clay	Pottery	Other Finds
205	1/8		2/4	
308	3/17			
313	10/116	1/29	5/42	
314	1/1	1/38	3/26	1 iron object
406	7/160		8/28	
412			8/74	
415			4/11	
417			2/4	
419	15/41	9/96	21/287	5 human bone
505	11/139		19/144	
508			2/19	
510	3/55		5/51	
601			23/170	
608	2/32		3/36	
614	2/2		12/79	
805	3/21	1/61	7/39	
808	27/137		8/30	
812			3/9	
814			2/3	
815	1/8		3/16	
823			11/28	
902			3/44	
904			2/16	
905		1/5	1/5	1 worked flint
1003		4/30		



1007			5/49	
1207			1/11	
1211			2/7	
1223	1/38		2/7	
TOTAL	87/775	17/259	167/1239	

8.1.2 Apart from eight sherds of Bronze Age pottery and three sherds of post-medieval pottery, all of the finds are Late Iron Age or Romano-British. Condition overall is fair to poor, and both pottery and animal bone have suffered significant levels of surface and edge abrasion.

8.2 Pottery

8.2.1 Pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the Site but, although a broad date range of Late Iron Age to Romano-British date range has been identified (with the exception of a small group of Bronze Age sherds from hollow 411, and three post-medieval sherds from ditch 1005), closer dating has been hampered by the poor condition of the assemblage, and the scarcity of diagnostic sherds. Sherds are small and abrasion levels are in general high, particularly for the less well fired Iron Age wares. Mean sherd weight overall is 7.4g.

Bronze Age

8.2.2 Eight sherds from context **412** are in coarse, grog-tempered fabrics, and include a rim sherd with a thickened, flattened profile with a slight raised cordon on the neck below.

Iron Age

8.2.3 The remaining sherds identified as prehistoric are in a range of fabric types – sandy, shelly, calcite-tempered, limestone-tempered and quartzite-tempered. Diagnostic sherds are restricted to one beaded rim and one decorated (incised) body sherd, both in shelly fabrics and both from context ditch **311** (secondary fill **313**). These sherds, and the range of fabric types, suggest a Late Iron Age date for the assemblage, although the possibility that some material could fall earlier within the Iron Age cannot be ruled out. Parallels for the fabrics can be found in other Late Iron Age assemblages from the region, for example, at Meare (Rouillard 1987) and Ham Hill (Morris 1987; 1999).

Romano-British

8.2.4 The Romano-British assemblage consists almost entirely of coarse wares, although one sherd of Oxfordshire colour coated ware was identified (a small, worn body sherd from pit **418** (fill **419**). South-east Dorset Black Burnished ware (BB1) predominates, with a smaller proportion of greywares and oxidised wares, probably of more local manufacture. The Black Burnished ware includes three body sherds removed from the complete vessel placed as a grave good at the foot of the individual in grave **809**. The rim of the vessel appears to have been removed by later disturbance, but the body sherds almost certainly derive from a jar, and display internal wiping, a surface treatment characteristic of the late Romano-British period (3rd or 4th century AD).

8.2.5 Three sherds of Norton Fitzwarren-type ware, produced from the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, and containing distinctive soft, speckled, silvery-grey or pink rock fragments, are also represented (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 175, fabric 107; Timby 1989, 54), as well as three grog-tempered sherds.

8.2.6 Diagnostic sherds are present only in BB1, and comprise a bead rim vessel (pit **504**), a flanged bowl (ditch **509**), and a dropped flange bowl (abandonment layer **601**); there is



also a countersunk handle from a handled jar (hearth **613**). The bead rim vessel and countersunk handle, and indeed some of the undiagnostic BB1 sherds, could potentially be contemporary with the Late Iron Age group, as current from the 1st century BC, but the other forms belong later in the Romano-British period, from the mid 2nd century AD onwards. The assemblage, then, suggests activity spanning the period from Late Iron Age to late Romano-British, although such a small quantity of material cannot be taken as firm evidence of continuity in that activity.

Post-medieval

- 8.2.7 Three joining sherds from ditch **1005** (secondary fill **1007**) are in a coarse redware, probably of local (Somerset) manufacture. These sherds cannot be dated more closely within the post-medieval period.

8.3 Fired Clay

- 8.3.1 This category comprises small, abraded and generally undiagnostic fragments, although four joining fragments from context **1003** form a flattish, slab-like piece which could represent very abraded ceramic building material. The remainder is also likely to represent structural material, from upstanding buildings or perhaps from pit or hearth linings.

8.4 Animal Bone

- 8.4.1 Most of the animal bone comes from ditches and is in poor condition. Cortical surfaces are pitted and flaky, and as a result no butchery or gnaw marks were observed. A brief scan identified cranial and post-cranial bones from cattle and sheep/goat, as well as a few horse teeth. One fragment of proximal cattle radius from layer **510** displays signs of charring and breakage. This technique is generally referred to as 'burn and smash', it allows access to the marrow cavity and also liquefies the marrow for easy extraction. Evidence for this technique has been noted at a wide variety of Romano-British sites.

8.5 Human Bone

- 8.5.1 Five small fragments of human bone (lower limb, upper limb and skull), recovered from context **419**, represent the partial remains of a neonatal individual, redeposited within this context.
- 8.5.2 No human bone was removed from the inhumation grave (**810**) in Trench 8 and the burial was recorded and left *in situ*. Following the completion of recording the burial was covered in a permeable material and reburied/covered with the excavated overburden. For a description of the burial see 7.2.15 and 7.2.16 above.

8.6 Other Finds

- 8.6.1 Other finds comprise a single piece of worked flint (broken flake), and an iron knife, probably of Romano-British date.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 A total of four bulk samples were taken from three features of late Iron Age/Romano-British Date within Trenches 6 and 12 to evaluate the presence and preservation of palaeo-environmental remains. This information can contribute to the archaeological significance of the site. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.



9.2 Charred plant remains

- 9.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2 mm, 1 mm and 0.5 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 Table 2. 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.
- 9.2.2 The flots varied in size and there were low to high numbers of roots and modern seeds, which may be indicative of stratigraphic movement. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.
- 9.2.3 Small quantities of cereal remains and weed seeds were recovered from all three features. These included grain fragments of hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*), and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), together with hulled wheat glume base fragments. A few of the glume base fragments were identifiable as being those of spelt (*Triticum spelta*). The weed seeds included seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.).

9.3 Wood Charcoal

- 9.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 2**. Moderately large quantities of wood charcoal fragments greater than 4 mm were retrieved from ditch **617** and hearth **613** in Trench 6. The charcoal included roundwood and mature wood fragments.

9.4 Land and aquatic molluscs

- 9.4.1 The bulk sample flots were rapidly assessed by scanning under a x 10 – x 40 stereo-binocular microscope to provide some information about shell preservation and species representation. The numbers of shells and the presence of taxonomic groups were noted below. 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.
- 9.4.2 The range of molluscs observed within ditch **617** in Trench 6 included the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica* and *Helicella itala*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cepaea* sp. These are reflective of an open environment.
- 9.4.3 The mollusc assemblage recorded from hearth **613** in Trench 6 included the same range of species as observed in ditch **617** together with the shade-loving species *Merdigera obscura* and the amphibious species *Anisus leucostoma*. It would appear that a number of smaller niche environments were being exploited within the open landscape.
- 9.4.4 The sample from context **1209** within ditch **1208** in Trench 12 produced a mollusc assemblage which included the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Helicella itala*, the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cepaea* sp., and the shade-loving species *Discus rotundatus*, *Clausilia bidentata* and *Helicigona lapicida*. The range of open country species were also observed in the sample from context **1223** in ditch **1208**. Again the assemblages may be indicative of a generally open landscape with a few smaller niche environments.



Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Samples				Flot							
Feature	Context	Sam ple	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments		
Trench 6											
Late Iron Age/Romano-British Ditch											
617	616	3	20	150	15	B	C	C	Hulled wheat and barley grain frags, glume base frags, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> , <i>Galium</i> . Round and mature wood frags	25/40 ml	Sab (B), Moll-t (A)
Late Iron Age/Romano-British Hearth											
613	614	4	5	90	5	C	C	C	Barley grain frags, glume base frags, <i>Chenopodium</i> , Round and mature wood frags	20/25 ml	Sab (C), Moll-t (A), Moll-f (C), min, nodules
Trench 12											
Late Iron Age/Romano-British Ditch											
1208	1209	1	30	80	40	-	C	C	Glume base frags including spelt, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	0/<1 ml	Moll-t (A*)
1208	1223	2	25	20	60	-	C	-	Glume base frags	0/<1 ml	Moll-t (A)

10 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION

10.1 Discussion

- 10.1.1 The evaluation identified a Late Iron Age to Romano-British landscape organised on an east to west alignment and comprising repeatedly re-established boundaries, possible rectangular enclosures and a zone/concentration of possible stone quarry hollows. A change in land-use within the western part of the Site perhaps resulting from the establishment of a Roman villa c.360m north of the Site is implied by the decommissioning of pre-existing ditched boundaries and the formation of a fairly substantial abandonment layer/plough soil containing artefactual and occupation debris suggesting this area was close though peripheral to contemporary settlement.
- 10.1.2 In the centre of the Site a north-south aligned inhumation burial of a child or young adult with a grave good of a black burnished ware jar dating to the late Romano-British period (3rd or 4th century AD) was identified. The burial lay adjacent to storage pits and two parallel boundary ditches and although they share a broad contemporary date it cannot be established whether the features and the burial are related. If the east to west aligned ditch at the south end of the trench next to the burial was contemporary then it would have been more common for the burial to have been orientated along the line of the ditch in an east to west alignment rather than at a right angle. This would suggest that the ditches most probably do not form part of a mortuary enclosure, and it is more likely that the ditches form part of the Late Iron Age/Early Romano British field system recorded in the western part of the Site comprising enclosures and field boundaries.
- 10.1.3 From the results of the evaluation it cannot be established whether the inhumation is an isolated incident or whether more burials are present within the field in which it was recorded. It could be possible that the inhumation is part of a larger group of burials that form part of a Romano-British cemetery associated with the Roman villa(s) and associated Romano-British settlement that are known to exist within the vicinity of the Site



and whose debitage mainly in the form of pottery sherds have been recovered during the course of the evaluation at the Site.

- 10.1.4 The south west, south east and eastern parts of the Site clearly show a lower potential for evidence of archaeological features and deposits, and this would appear to be backed up by and confirmed by the results of the geophysical survey.
- 10.1.5 Whilst no direct evidence of settlement activity, such as structural remains dating to the Late Iron Age / Romano-British periods could be identified directly within the Site, the results of the evaluation have indicated that this must lie somewhere in the very near vicinity. This settlement activity could be related to the Roman villas that are known to lie near to the Site. The identification of field boundaries and enclosures may well be part of an extensive Romano-British agricultural landscape, which would most probably have established itself in the Late Iron Age period and later developed around and have been part of the Roman villa economy.

10.2 Recommendations

- 10.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to target the results of the geophysical survey in order to establish and characterise through excavation, the nature, depth and potential of the archaeological resource at the Site. The results of the evaluation have been successful in establishing the archaeological potential of the Site and in demonstrating that the geophysical survey provided an accurate initial non-intrusive assessment of the potential of the Site.
- 10.2.2 As a result of the archaeological evaluation and following on-Site consultation with the Senior Historic Environment Officer (HEO) of Somerset County Council, an area of high archaeological potential has been demonstrated through the identification of an inhumation burial dating to the Romano-British period. Without further extensive excavation (strip, map and record) work it cannot be confirmed whether the burial is an isolated incident or whether it is part of a more extensive burial ground. Therefore it has been recommended by the HEO that the field within which the burial has been located should be taken out of and excluded from the proposed development. This will mitigate against the danger of any potential groundworks disturbing any further burials that might be present.
- 10.2.3 Within the remainder of the Site the evaluation in conjunction with the geophysical survey has been able to successfully characterise the nature, depth and date of the archaeological features and deposits. It has been established that although the results of the evaluation are of local and regional significance, given the nature of the proposed developments impact, and the level of excavation and recording undertaken as part of the evaluation programme no further archaeological mitigation is likely to be recommended by the HEO. Subject to the exclusion of the field containing the human burial from the final proposed and/or revised development plan, archaeology would not be a hindrance to the proposed planning application for the development.
- 10.2.4 The final nature of archaeological mitigation measures supported by this document should be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities.

11 THE ARCHIVE

11.1 Museum

- 11.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the evaluation be deposited with Somerset County Museum Service. The Museum Service has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under the accession code TTNCM



5692013 Deposition of any finds with the Museum Service will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner

11.2 Preparation and deposition

- 11.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Somerset County Museums Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 11.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Accession Code: TTNCM 5692013 and a full index will be prepared.
- 11.2.3 Until final deposition with the designated Museum Service the archive will be stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology Southern Region in Salisbury.

11.3 Discard Policy

- 11.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 11.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

11.4 Copyright

- 11.4.1 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 1988 with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profit making, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.

11.5 Security copy

- 11.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

11.6 Oasis

- 11.6.1 Details of the fieldwork will be entered into the online "Oasis" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



12 REFERENCES

- ADS 2013, Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Brown, D.H., 2011, Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- English Heritage, 2002, Environmental Archaeology; a guide to theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation, Swindon, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines
- English Heritage 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).
- Holbrook, N., and Bidwell, P.T., 1991. *Roman Finds from Exeter*, Exeter, Exeter Archaeol. Rep. 4
- Institute for Archaeologists 2008 (Revised). *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.
- IfA 2009, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Institute for Archaeologists
- Morris, E.L., 1987, Later prehistoric pottery from Ham Hill, *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 131, 27-47
- Morris, E.L., 1999, Prehistoric pottery, in J.I. McKinley, Excavations at Ham Hill, Montacute, Somerset 1994 and 1998, *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 142, 91-107
- Rouillard, S.E., 1987, The Iron Age pottery from Meare Village East, in J.M. Coles, *Meare Village East: the excavations of A. Bulleid and H. St John Gray 1932-1956*, Somerset Levels Papers 13, 183-219
- SMA 1993, Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- SMA 1995, Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Somerset County Council, 2011. Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook .
- Timby, J., 1989. The Roman Pottery, in P. Ellis, Norton Fitzwarren hillfort: a report on the excavations by Nancy and Phillip Langmaid between 1968 and 1971, *Proc. Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist. Soc.* 133, 53-59
- Wessex Archaeology 2013a, *Caves Farm, Pitney, Langport, Somerset. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. WA Ref: 89030.01*
- Wessex Archaeology 2013b, *Caves Farm, Pitney, Langport, Somerset. Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report. WA Ref: 89030.02*



APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

Trench 1			
Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.55m			
Context	Category	Description	Depth
100	Topsoil	Mid grey brown silty clay frequent rooting, occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments. Sharp lower horizon	0.-0.15m
101	Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay loam. Rare small frags bedrock and rare charcoal	0.15-0.3m
102	Geology	Weathered/frost fractured natural deposits comprising mid yellow orange sandy clay with abundant medium-large fractured bedrock fragments	0.25-0.7m+
103	Natural Geology	Mid-light yellow orange sandy clay with outcropping of tabular bedrock at either end of the trench.	0.3m+
Trench 1 was targeted on a large rectangular anomaly. This proved to relate to the outcropping of bedrock present at either end of the trench			

Trench 2			
Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.3m			
Context	Category	Description	Depth
200	Ditch	NW-SE aligned field ditch 0.25m deep. FB 201	
201	Fill	Primary fill of 200. Gradual weather of ditch sides. Well sorted deposit.	
202	Plough scar	Originally thought to be shallow ditch terminus however alignment, profile, depth and fill more indicative of deep plough scar. Aligned NNW-SSE with rounded SSE terminus. FB 203	
203	Fill	Primary fill of 202. Mix of topsoil and eroded natural.	
204	Ditch	E-W aligned drainage ditch. Well defined steep sided concave profile. FB 205	
205	Fill	Primary fill of 204. Homogenous well sorted deposit with occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments dispersed throughout and manganese.	
206	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent rooting, occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments. Sharp lower horizon	
207	Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay loam. Rare small frags bedrock and rare charcoal	
208	Natural geology	Light yellow orange clay with yellow clay and brash outcropping	
The trench was moved c3m to SW to avoid field boundary. Ditch 205 corresponded to geophysical anomaly			

Trench 3			
Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.33m			
Context	Category	Description	Depth
300	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent rooting, occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments. Sharp lower horizon	0-0.15m
301	Subsoil	Mid orange brown clay loam. Rare small	0.15-



		frags bedrock and rare charcoal	0.33m
302	Levelling layer	Forming a slight mound sealing ditches 305, 309 and 311. Comprised bedrock fragments within a grey orange silty clay matrix with occasional charcoal and Fe inclusions. May be a ploughed out bank associated with these ditches	0.24-0.4m
303	Natural geology	Light yellow orange clay with yellow clay and brash outcropping Overlying yellow white brash.	0.33m
304	Natural geology	A small ridge/band of geology surviving between ditches 309 and 311. A light brown orange slightly sandy clay.	
305	Ditch	E-W aligned steep tapered boundary ditch. 1.1m deep FB 306, 3.07, 308	
306	Fill	Primary fill of ditch 305. Homogenous well sorted orange brown clay loam. Frequent manganese, rare charcoal and very rare small bedrock fragments.	
307	Fill	Primary fill of ditch 305. Gradual silting of ditch sides stabilising profile. A dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and small-medium bedrock fragments	
308	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 305. A mid-light grey brown silty clay with frequent small-large bedrock fragments. Upper horizon with 302 blurred – largely defined by lenses of re-deposited yellow clay natural perhaps derived from associated bank.	
309	Ditch	A broad shallow E-W aligned boundary ditch with steep sides and wide flat base. Diffuse relationship with 31. Possible relic field boundary. FB 310, 315	
310	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 310. Dark grey brown clay loam, occasional charcoal, bedrock frags, manganese and Fe flecks. Comprised weathered topsoil and reworked ditch 311 deposits.	
311	Ditch	Steep-moderate sided drainage ditch. Aligned E-W base of ditch tapers to a narrow concave gully. Base slope downwards west to east. FB 312, 313, 314	
312	Fill	Primary fill of ditch 311. Homogenous well sorted deposit. Mid-light yellow orange clay loam with rare bedrock fragments and charcoal. Frequent manganese.	
313	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 311. Dark grey brown clay loam with occasional-frequent bedrock fragments, charcoal and manganese.	
314	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch 311. Mid grey brown silty clay with frequent small-large bedrock fragments and occasional charcoal. Bedrock frags may derive from an associated bank as not exposed in ditch sides at this depth.	
315	Fill	Tertiary layer sealing 310 and 314. Likely to be same as overlying layer 302. Mixed deposit of reworked yellow/orange clay	



		lenses and fractured bedrock within a topsoil/subsoil matrix. Deriving from slighting of bank?	
Trench 3 was targeted on two broadly parallel linear anomalies found to be ditches 305, 309/311.			

Trench 4			
Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.5m			
Context	Category	Description	Depth
400	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with fragmented bedrock inclusions	
401	Subsoil	Orange-brown clay loam with small-medium bedrock inclusions	
402	Buried Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with pottery, animal bone and bedrock fragments	
403	B Horizon	Weathered bedrock fragments <30% within light orange-brown clay loam matrix	
404	Natural	Bedrock and fine sand	
405	Quarry Pit	Large sub-rounded pit/hollow – possibly represents a quarry pitting. Undulating sides with a moderate slope leading to a flat base	0.2
406	Fill	Secondary fill of pit [405]. Fill of pit left to fill naturally, containing weathered topsoil and bedrock. Mid grey-brown clay loam with abundant bedrock fragments. In relation to other features the pit contained notable quantities of abraded pottery and animal bone	0.2
407	Plough Scar	Very shallow N-S linear feature which just cuts the upper surface of the bedrock. It is associated with [409]. Most likely to be plough marks.	0.04
408	Fill	Tertiary fill of plough scar [407]. Reworked topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay loam with occasional bedrock fragments and charcoal. Any finds likely to be residual	0.04
409	Plough Scar	NW-SE linear with straight sides and a flat base. Associated with [407] it is likely to be a plough scar impacting on the upper surface of the bedrock.	0.04
410	Fill	Tertiary fill of plough scar [409]. Reworked topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay loam with occasional bedrock fragments and charcoal.	0.04
411	Hollow	Sub-rectangular hollow in bedrock, possibly a pit but more likely created by disturbed bedrock fragments	0.15
412	Fill	Tertiary fill of hollow [411]. Reworked topsoil. Dark grey-brown clay loam with occasional small to medium bedrock fragments and pottery.	0.15
413	Possible Pit	Sub-rectangular pit with straight sides and flat base. Angular shape probably due to bedrock.	0.2
414	Fill	Primary fill of pit [413]. Mid brown-yellow clay loam with occasional medium bedrock fragments. Represents weathering/erosion	0.03



		of natural clays found within the bedrock.	
415	Fill	Secondary fill of pit [413]. Dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium bedrock fragments, occasional charcoal and pottery. Reworked topsoil mixed with occupation debris	0.15
416	Hollow	Sub-rectangular hollow in bedrock, possibly a pit but more likely created by disturbed bedrock fragments.	0.14
417	Fill	Tertiary fill of hollow [416]. Mid to light orange-brown clay loam with frequent small to large angular bedrock fragments and very rare charcoal fragments	0.14
418	Pit	E-W sub-oval feature with sloping base. Originally thought to be part of a linear but possibly represents elongated pit associated with quarry pit [405]	0.54
419	Fill	Secondary fill of pit [418]. Mid grey-brown clay loam with frequent small to large angular bedrock fragments with occasional charcoal. Mixed deposit of reworked topsoil and B Horizon containing pottery, fired clay and animal bone.	0.54

Trench 5	Dimensions: 20m x 2m x m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
500	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with small to medium fragments of bedrock	
501	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay loam with frequent small to medium fragments of bedrock	
502	Buried Plough Soil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent bedrock fragments, pottery and animal bone. Probably buried plough soil or spread of occupation debris	
503	Natural	Bedrock and fine sand	
504	Quarry Pit (?)	N-S sub-oval pit with gradual to steep sides and a flat base. Appeared linear in plan but excavation revealed a sub-oval stepped pit which may have been a quarry pit	0.5
505	Fill	Secondary fill of pit [504]. Light brown-grey silty clay with occasional small bedrock fragments. A dry and moderately friable deposit, fine grained and gradually accumulated. Possibly wind/water borne secondary silting with pottery and animal bone.	0.15
506	Small Pit/PH (?)	Sub-rectangular with irregular sides and flat base.	
507	Fill	Primary fill of pit [506]. Mid orange-brown sandy clay with angular fragments of fractured bedrock	
508	Fill	Tertiary fill of pit [506]. Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional fragments of bedrock, charcoal and abraded pottery	
509	Enclosure Ditch	N-S convex shaped linear with moderate to steep sides and a concave base. Clear	0.85



		horizon at base becoming more diffuse at upper interface with natural – thought to truncated subsoil associated with ditch [600] in trench 6.	
510	Fill	Tertiary fill of enclosure ditch [509]. Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal, occasional small bedrock fragments and abraded pottery. Probable abandonment layer associated with Romano-British occupation	0.15
511	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch [509]. Mid orange-brown clay with rare charcoal, occasional manganese and occasional small to large bedrock fragments. An homogenous layer of water lain clays eroded from the feature's sides. Well sorted with a clear horizon.	0.12
512	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch [509]. Mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and occasional mid to large bedrock fragments. Mixed deposit derived from weathered sides and collapsed topsoil. Mainly on eastern side of the ditch	0.15
513	Fill	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch [509]. Mid grey-brown clay loam with occasional small to medium bedrock fragments, occasional charcoal and frequent manganese. Gradual weathering of natural clays and topsoil from upslope. May be gradual erosion of internal bank.	0.3
514	Fill	Tertiary fill of enclosure ditch [509]. Mid grey-brown clay loam with abundant medium to large bedrock fragments. Possible collapse of subsoil/frost fracture, has a diffuse interface with (512).	0.1
515	Fill	Primary fill of quarry hollow [504]. Mid to light brown clay loam, 30-40% medium to large bedrock fragments with occasional charcoal. Gradual weathering	0.15
516	Fill	Deliberate backfill of quarry hollow [504]. Discrete lens of red fired clay on west side of pit.	0.1

Trench 6	Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.45m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
600	Ditch	E-W linear with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. A broad, shallow ditch sealed by layer 601. Geophysics suggests this is part of rectilinear enclosure [509].	0.55
601	Layer	Abandonment layer sealing ditch [600]. Mid to dark grey-brown silty brown with occasional charcoal, occasional small to large bedrock fragments and pottery. Similar to layers (619) and (608).	0.55
602	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [600]. Dark grey brown silty clay with abundant (30-40%)	0.4



		small to large weathered bedrock fragments.	
603	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [600]. Stiff orange-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal, manganese and small to large bedrock fragments. Gradual weathering at base of ditch.	0.15
604	Topsoil	Dark grey brown silty clay frequent rooting, occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments.	
605	Subsoil	Mid orange-brown clay loam with frequent small to medium fragments of bedrock.	
606	Natural	Light yellow orange clay with yellow clay and brash outcropping	
607	Pit	Circular pit with concave moderately sloped sides and a flat base. Well defined with a clear interface with the natural, possibly a shallow waste pit or tree bole	0.3
608	Fill	Fill of pit [607]. Dark grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and frequent small to large bedrock fragments. Reworked topsoil with occupation debris, very similar to (601).	0.3
609	Ditch	E-W linear with steep straight sides and a flat base. Well defined cutting through the bedrock sealed by (612).	0.25
610	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [609]. Dark grey-brown silty clay with rare charcoal and abundant fractured stone. Diffuse upper horizon defined by stones.	0.18
611	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [609]. Stiff orange-brown silty clay with very rare small bedrock fragments and animal bone. Well sorted gradual silting of the ditch	0.1
612	Layer	Abandonment layer sealing [609] and [617]. Dark grey-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and abundant bedrock fragments. Spread of occupation debris similar to (608).	0.3
613	Hearth	Sub-circular with vertical sides and a flat base, probably a hearth. Not fully exposed within trench and cut away by ditch [617].	0.1
614	Fill	Deliberate backfill/deposit with hearth [613]. Dark grey sandy clay with charcoal, fired clay fragments and small to medium bedrock fragments – some heat affected.	0.1
615	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [617]. Mid orange-brown clay loam with abundant medium to large bedrock fragments. Collapse of disturbed natural.	0.1
616	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [617]. Dark grey clay loam with charcoal, fired clay and occasional small to medium bedrock fragments. A compact deposit of occupation/industrial debris – possibly re-deposited waste associated with earlier hearth [613]	0.2
617	Ditch	E-W linear with moderate concave sides and a flat to concave base. Edges difficult	0.5



		to define, though visible in plan. A broad, shallow ditch cutting away hearth [613].	
618	Fill	Fill of ditch [617]. Mid orange grey-brown clay loam with occasional charcoal and frequent medium bedrock fragments. Derived from weathered subsoil/topsoil, very diffuse horizon with [622] but sharp lower horizon with (616)	0.25
619	Layer	Abandonment levelling layer sealing (619), (612), (601) and (608). Mid grey-brown silty clay with frequent small to medium bedrock fragments and occasional charcoal. A fairly compact deposit of reworked/buried topsoil.	0.15
620	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [622]. Mid orange grey-brown clay loam with rare charcoal and frequent small to large bedrock fragments. Reworked/weathered subsoil/topsoil	0.15
621	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [622]. Mid to dark brown-orange clay loam with occasional bedrock fragments, charcoal and frequent manganese	0.2

Trench 7	Dimensions: 20m x 1.9m x 0.3m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
700	Topsoil	Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with rare angular inclusions	0-0.16
701	Subsoil	Light grey-brown sandy clay, a fine and compact deposit	0.16-0.28
702	Natural	Mid reddish-brown clay with light yellow boulder clay outcropping	0.28+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 30.5m x 2m x 0.45m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
801	Topsoil	Mid to Dark brown silty clay with common bedrock fragments	0-0.18
802	Subsoil	Light brown silty clay	0.18-0.22
803	Natural	Mottled red-brown silty clay	0.22+
804	Pit	Oval storage pit with steep, straight sides and a flat base. Almost perfectly oval with a slight undercut on the western edge.	
805	Fill	Secondary fill of pit [804]. Mid grey-brown silty clay with common sub-angular bedrock fragments, rare charcoal flecks, rare pottery and animal bone.	
806	Enclosure Ditch	E-W linear with moderate but stepped sides and a flat base. Probably part of an Enclosure ditch, of which geophysics shows a return to the south	
807	Fill	Primary fill of enclosure ditch [806]. Light grey-brown (with a reddish hue) silty clay with rare charcoal flecks. A sterile fill that is compact and consistent with primary infilling	



808	Fill	Secondary fill of enclosure ditch [806]. Mid grey-brown silty clay with common small to medium sun-angular bedrock fragments and rare charcoal flecks	
809	Grave	Rectangular grave not excavated but with an oval pot (612) placed at the feet end (north), also not excavated	
810	Skeleton	Skeletal remains within grave [809]. The upper part of the skeleton has been truncated by ploughing removing the fingers (and possibly both hands) which were overlying the right hip/femur.	
811	Fill	Backfill of grave [809]. Mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular bedrock fragments, deliberate backfilling of grave	
812	Pottery	Context ascribed to oval pot found within grave [809]. Possibly Roman in date, small piece taken for dating purposes	
813	Pit	Shallow sub-rectangular pit with well defined edges. N end cut away by ditch [816]. Possibly a rubbish pit.	
814	Fill	Primary fill of pit [813]. Mid orange-brown silty loam with occasional to rare charcoal and small angular bedrock fragments. Weathered natural and subsoil mix suggests the pit was left open prior to later deliberate backfilling	
815	Fill	Deliberate backfill of pit [813]. Dark grey-brown silty clay with abundant charcoal, fired clay and crushed sandstone plus moderate medium angular bedrock fragments. Contained pottery and animal bone.	
816	Ditch	E-W linear with moderately sloped concave sides and a flat base. Well defined and probably represents a field boundary ditch. Runs parallel to modern field drain and cuts away N end of pit [813]. Layer (819) may have been associated bank.	
817	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [816]. Dark orange-brown silty loam with frequent manganese and occasional charcoal. An homogenous, well sorted deposit derived from weathering of ditch sides and repeated water action	
818	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [816]. Mid brown clay loam with frequent small to large angular bedrock fragments and rare charcoal. A diffuse horizon with (819) and moderate horizon with (817). Given the geology it is possible the bedrock fragments may derive from an associated bank	
819	Layer	Large levelling layer sealing ditch [816]. A large area of light brown clay loam with c40% small to large angular bedrock fragments. Comprises reworked overburden and bedrock – may be due to	



		ploughing out of bank material associated with field ditch [816]?	
820	Ditch	ENE-WSW linear with straight moderately sloping edges and a flat base. Forms a well defined boundary ditch, the base of which is the natural bedrock	
821	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [820]. Dark orange-brown clay loam with some manganese and charcoal flecks. A well sorted deposit of eroded clays from ditch edges that have been repeatedly affected by water action. Likely to be same as (822)	
822	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [820]. Dark orange-brown clay loam with some iron, manganese and charcoal flecks. An homogenous well sorted deposit of eroded clays from ditch edges that have been repeatedly affected by water action. Diffuse interface with (821) and (823)	
823	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [820]. Mid orange-brown silty clay with abundant small bedrock fragments and some abraded pottery. Possibly slump of mixed subsoil and bedrock formed by collapse of bank ?	
824	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [820]. Mid orange-brown silty loam with frequent manganese, occasional charcoal and occasional small to medium bedrock fragments. Mixed subsoil and bedrock formed by natural erosion of ditch edges.	
825	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [820]. Mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with frequent small to large angular bedrock fragments and occasional charcoal. Root disturbed secondary silting.	

Trench 9	Dimensions: 30.2m x 1.85m x 0.6m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
901	Ditch	E-W linear with vertical sides and a flat base. Cuts through deposit (905).	
902	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch/linear [901]. Mid greyish-brown loam with sparse, poorly sorted, gravel.	
903	Ditch	E-W linear with steep curved sides and a flat base. Cuts through deposit (905)	
904	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [903]. Light grey-brown loam with sparse small, well sorted, angular stones	
905	Layer	Large spread of material overlying natural (909) and cut by ditches [901] and [903]. Dark grey-brown loam with frequent small	
906	Layer	Spread of material overlying fills (902) and (904). Light orangey-brown clay loam with frequent, well sorted, inclusions of medium bedrock fragments	
907	Layer	Topsoil. Dark blackish-brown silty clay	0-0.21
908	Layer	Subsoil. Medium orangey-brown silty clay	0.21-0.6



909	Layer	Natural	0.6+
910	Pit	Circular pit with concave near vertical sides and a flat base. Possibly a small hearth?	
911	Fill	Secondary fill of small pit/hearth [910]. Dark yellow with reddish tinge sandy clay with fine bedrock fragments. Heat affected natural creating weathered/disturbed lens of material – would originally have been the edge of the feature	

Trench 10	Dimensions: 22.5m x 2m x 1.1m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1000	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay loam with rare medium angular bedrock fragments and some rooting	0-0.2
1001	Subsoil	Mid brown clay loam with very rare fragments of very fine bedrock fragments	0.2-0.36
1002	Layer	Alluvium A. Mid yellow-brown clay loam with occasional manganese and rare charcoal	0.36-0.6
1003	Layer	Alluvium B. Mid yellow-brown clay loam with occasional manganese and small to medium fractured bedrock fragments	0.6-0.95
1004	Natural	Mid orange-brown clay loam and pea-grit, overlying yellow sandy clay and degraded limestone bedrock	
1005	Ditch	NW-SE linear with moderately steep convex sides and a flat base. Alignment appear contradictory to other linears – possible drainage boundary	
1006	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [1005]. Dark to mid brown clay loam with manganese throughout, occasional charcoal and very rare small stones. Homogenous, well sorted with post depositional water logging during gradual erosion	
1007	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [1005]. Mid to dark yellow-brown clay loam with occasional bedrock fragments and pea-grit	

Trench 11	Dimensions: 20.16m x 2m x 0.4m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1101	Plough Scar	Shallow linear with moderate concave sides and an irregular base. Plough scar.	
1102	Fill	Primary fill of plough scar [1101]. Light greyish-white silty loam (chalk ??) with sparse well sorted small sub-rounded pebbles. Contains a high density of bedrock fragments.	
1103	Ditch	Linear feature with straight sides and irregular base. One edge very diffuse, one very clear and densely packed with stone.	
1104	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [1103]. Mid grey-brown clay-silt with moderate bedrock inclusions	



		and sparse small sub-rounded pebbles and angular bedrock fragments. Weathered/ re-deposited natural.	
1105	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular bedrock	0-0.23
1106	Subsoil	Medium orangey-brown silty clay with small sub-angular bedrock fragments	0.23-0.36
1107	Natural	Light grey-brown with clay with bedrock	0.36+

Trench 12	Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 1.2m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown-grey silty clay with moderate small sub-angular bedrock fragments and charcoal	0-0.22
1202	Subsoil	Firm mid brown silty clay with small sub-angular bedrock fragments	0.22-0.42
1203	Natural	Clay and bedrock	0.42+
1204	Plough scar	N-S linear plough scar – unexcavated	
1205	Fill	Firm mid brown-grey silty clay with occasional angular gravels	
1206	Ditch	Large N-S linear with steep concave sides. Cuts ditch [1208] to the west but truncated by [1204]. Not fully excavated but finds suggest probable boundary ditch.	
1207	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [1206]. Mid reddish-brown silty clay with sparse small sub-angular gravels and manganese flecks. Homogenous natural silting up of ditch.	
1208	Ditch	NW-SE linear with steep sides and concave base. Bronze Age/iron Age boundary ditch.	
1209	Fill	Fill of ditch [1208]. Dark red-brown with blue hue silty clay with moderate flecks of manganese, iron and bedrock fragments. Previously very waterlogged deposit that has created anaerobic conditions and iron-panning at it's base	
1210	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [1208]. Mid brown compact sandy clay with moderate degraded bedrock fragments and small sub-angular gravels.	
1211	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [1208]. Firm mid-brown silty clay with sparse angular gravels and very sparse flecks of iron stone. Homogenous fill with no suggestion of deliberate backfilling but small fragments of Iron Age pot, similar to (1223).	
1212	Fill	Tertiary fill of ditch [1208]. Friable light grey-brown silty clay with common sub-angular gravels, degraded bedrock fragments and occasional root disturbance	
1213	Hollow	Large sub-oval hollow with straight shallow sides and an irregular base. Probably tree throw. Truncated by later land drain	
1214	Fill	Primary fill of pit [1213]. Friable dark grey silty clay with moderate small angular	



		gravel, sparse medium coarse gravels and charcoal flecks	
1215	Land Drain	Modern E-W land drain - unexcavated	
1216	Fill	Fill of modern land drain [1215]	
1217	Land Drain	Modern E-W land drain – unexcavated	
1218	Land Drain	Modern E-W land drain – unexcavated, continuation of [1215]	
1219	Fill	Fill of modern land drain [1218]	
1220	Land Drain	Modern E-W land drain – unexcavated	
1221	Fill	Fill of modern land drain [1220]	
1222	Fill	Fill of modern land drain [1217]	
1223	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [1208]. Dark brown silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular gravels and sparse manganese flecks. Very sparse and abraded pottery fragments (Bronze/Iron Age). Natural silting up of ditch, not as waterlogged as (1209).	
1224	Fill	Fill of ditch [1208]. Mid brown silty clay with moderate fine to medium sub-angular gravels and sparse manganese flecks. One piece of pot found. Not fully excavated. Similar to 1223.	

Trench 13	Dimensions: 20m x 1.9m x 0.3m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1301	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay frequent rooting, occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments.	0-0.24m
1302	Subsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with frequent small to medium fragments of bedrock.	0.24-0.4m
1303	Natural	Light grey firm clay and bedrock. Exposed bedrock degraded at north end of trench.	0.4m+

Trench 14	Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.52m		
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1401	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay frequent rooting, occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments.	0-0.2m
1402	Subsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with frequent small to medium fragments of bedrock.	0.2-0.3m
1403	Natural	Light grey firm clay and bedrock. Exposed bedrock degraded at north end of trench.	0.3m+
1404	Erosion channel	Aligned NE-SW and following dominant natural gradient. A broad shallow linear likely to have been caused by water run-off. FB 1405 & 1406	
1405	Fill	Basal tertiary fill of 1404. Homogenous, sterile and compact degraded bedrock and clay.	
1406	Fill	Tertiary fill of 1404. Sterile and homogenous gradually weathered subsoil.	



Trench 15		Dimensions: 20m x 2m x 0.3m	
Context	Category	Description	Depth
1501	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay frequent rooting, occasional small-medium angular bedrock fragments.	0-0.2m
1502	Subsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with frequent small to medium fragments of bedrock.	0.2-0.3m
1503	Natural	Bedrock and pockets of firm mid brown clay	0.3m+



APPENDIX 2: 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: wessexar1-158821

Project details

Project name	Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Caves Farm Solar Ltd to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on Land at Caves Farm, Pitney, Somerset. The evaluation comprising the excavation of 15 trial trenches was targeted on the results of a geophysical survey. Of greatest significance was the identification of a Romano-British inhumation dating to the late 3rd to 4th century AD. Evidence as to whether the human remains are that of an isolated individual or are part of a group of burials is inconclusive. On completion of the evaluation the burial was left in situ, protected and reburied. A number of pits and boundary and drainage ditches identified within the centre of the proposed development Site would appear to date to the Late Iron Age / Romano British period. In the west of the Site the evaluation identified a broadly Late Iron Age to Romano-British landscape organised on an east to west alignment and comprising boundary ditches and a possible rectangular enclosure. A concentration of possible stone quarry hollows were also identified. A change in land use is suggested by the decommissioning of the pre-existing ditched boundaries and the formation of a fairly substantial abandonment layer / plough soil which contained abundant artefactual and occupation debris indicating settlement activity within the vicinity of the Site. The eastern and southern areas of the Site were found to be largely devoid of archaeological features and deposits.</p>
Project dates	Start: 05-08-2013 End: 13-08-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	89031 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TTNCM 5692013 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	32279 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m

Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	PIT Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Late Iron Age
Monument type	BURIAL Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Roman
Significant Finds	METAL OBJECT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Solar Farm Development
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOMERSET SOUTH SOMERSET PITNEY Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset
Postcode	TA10 9AH
Study area	12.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	345088 128671 345088 00 00 N 128671 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	S Clelland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Caves Farm Solar Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive	Somerset County Museum
------------------	------------------------

recipient	
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Human Bones", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Somerset County museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Human Bones", "Metal", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

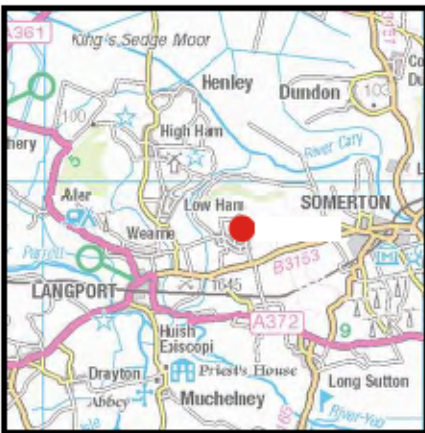
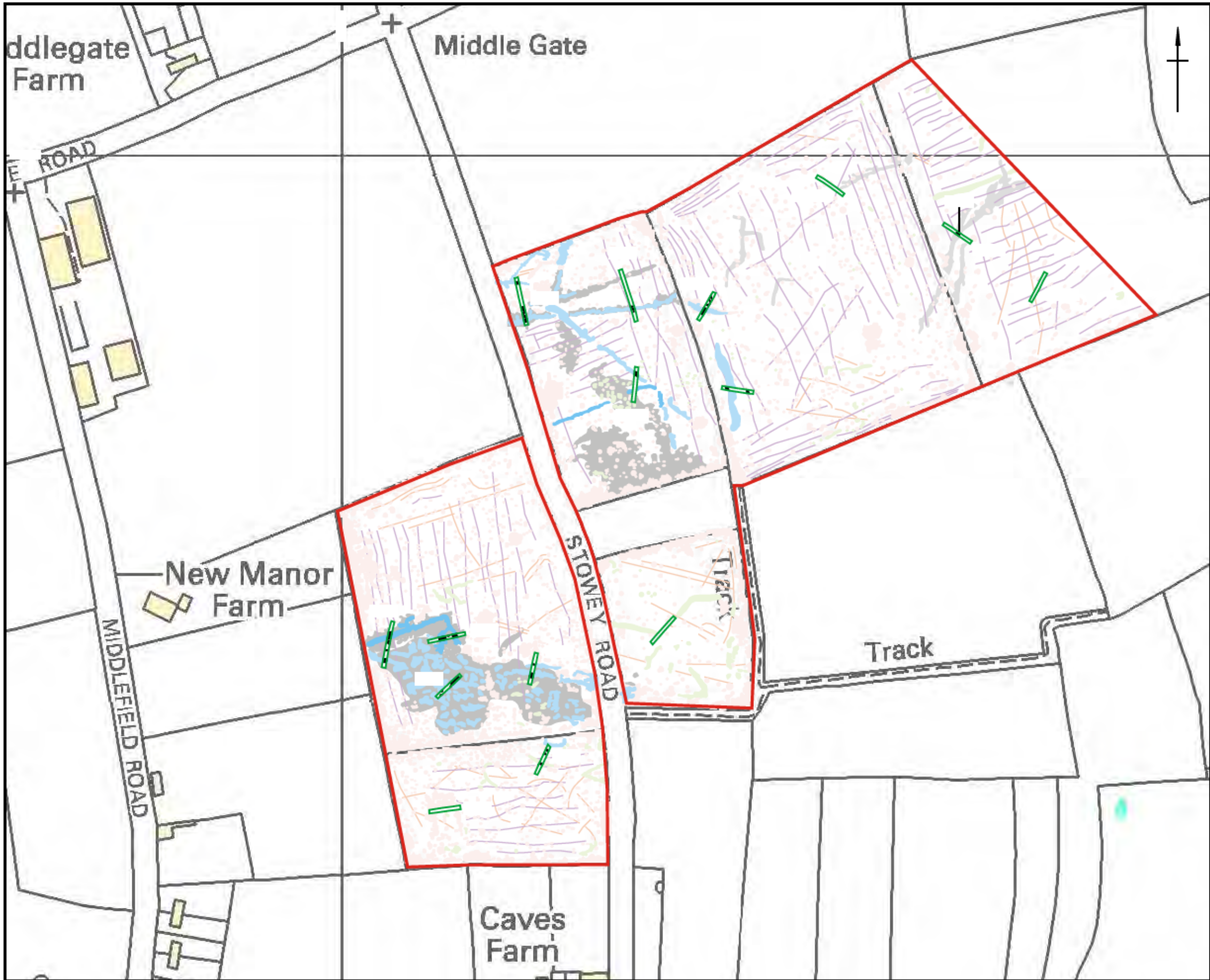
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Caves Farm, Pitney Langport, Somerset Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	De Rosa, D
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clelland, S
Other bibliographic details	89031.03
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Unpublished - Salisbury
Description	Standard WA A4 format with 6 figures, 16 plates and 7 sections
Entered by	Damian De Rosa (d.derosa@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	10 September 2013

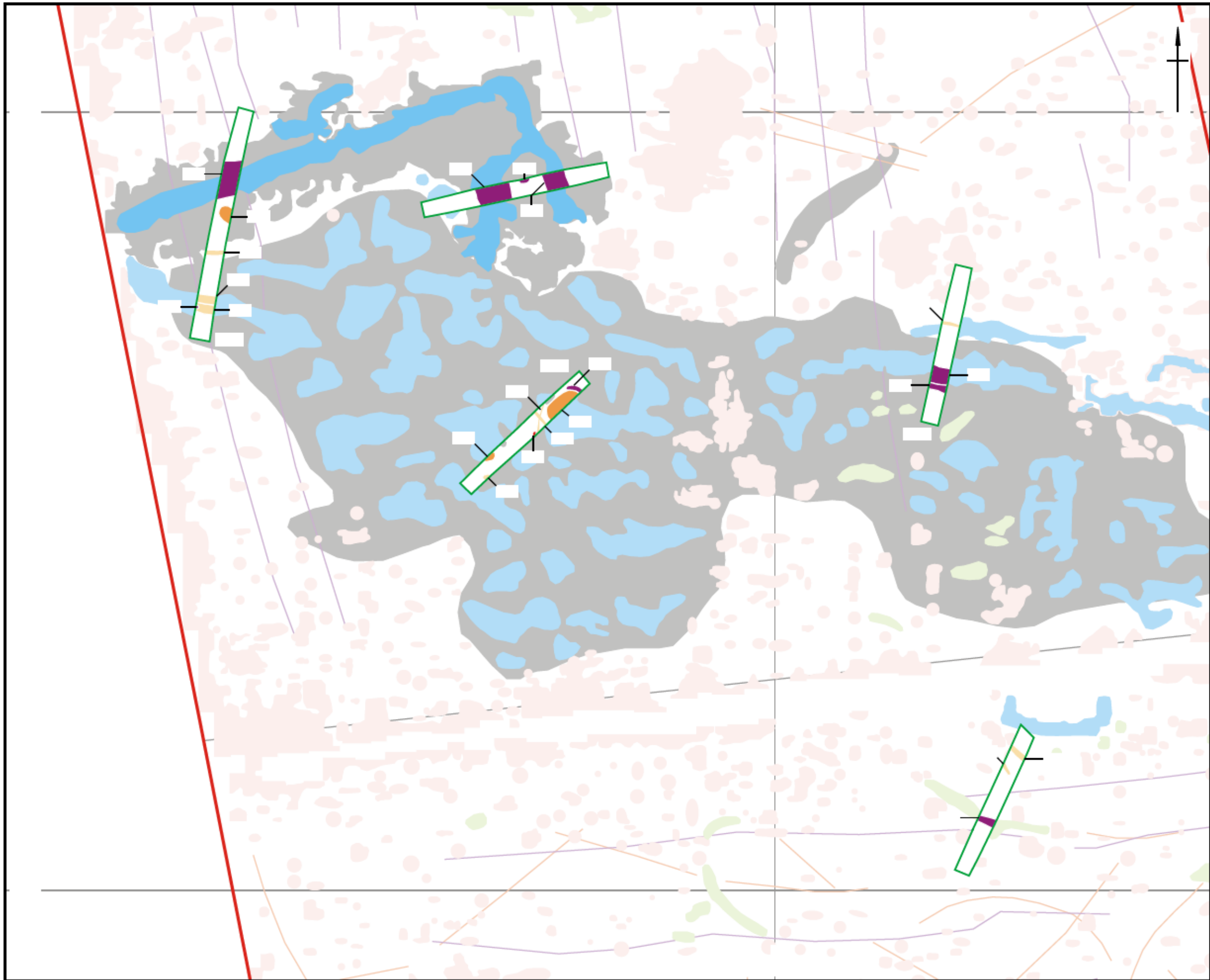
OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: /export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page

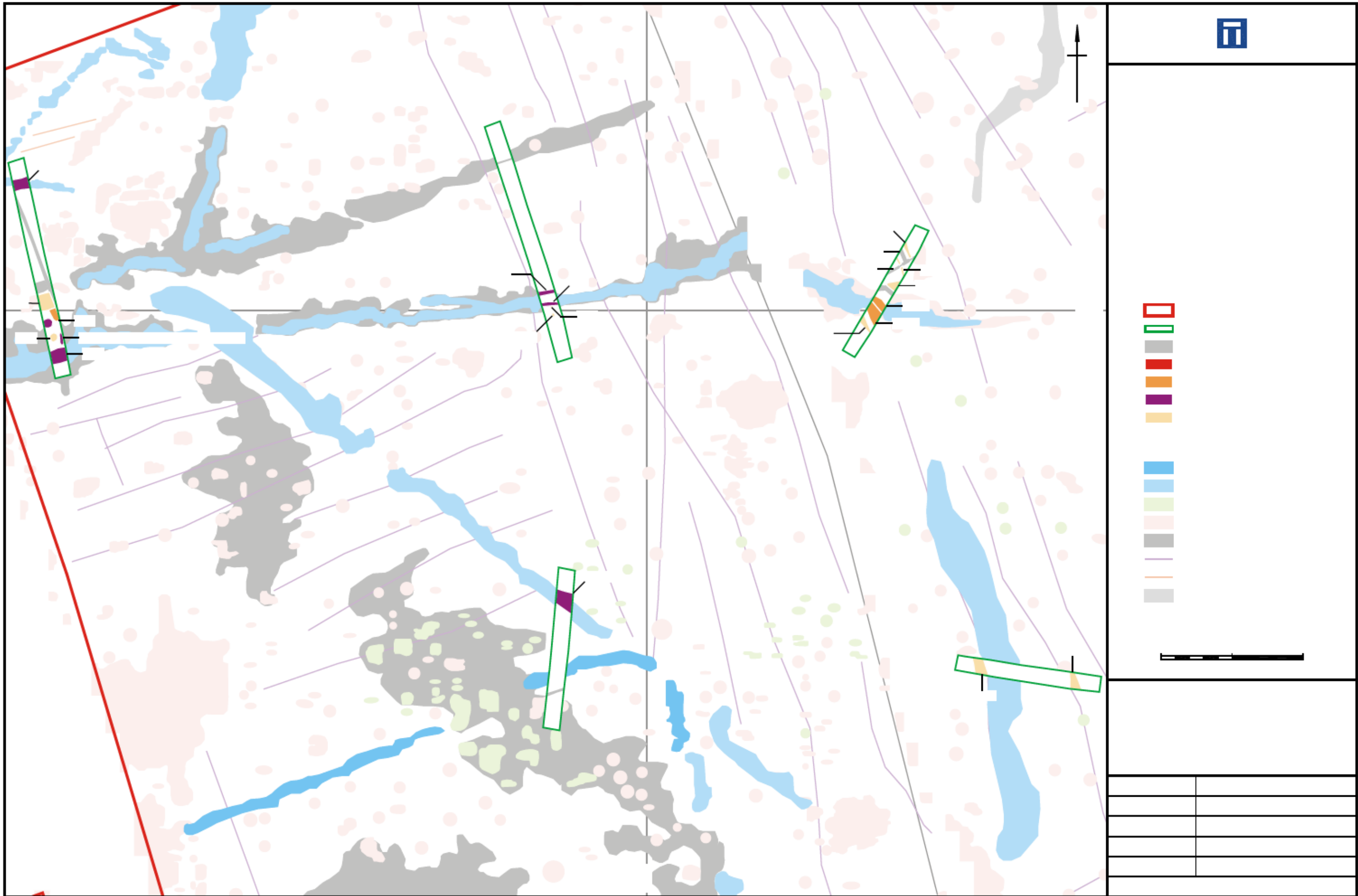




Legend and scale information:

- Red rectangle
- Green rectangle
- Grey rectangle
- Red rectangle
- Orange rectangle
- Purple rectangle
- Yellow rectangle
- Blue rectangle
- Light blue rectangle
- Light green rectangle
- Light pink rectangle
- Grey rectangle
- Purple line
- Orange line
- Grey line

Scale bar and north arrow.



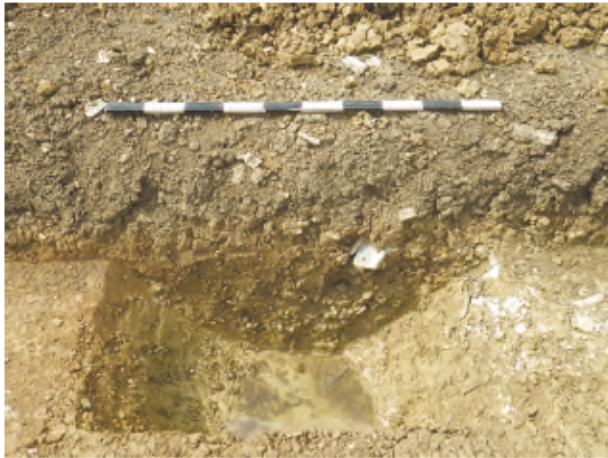
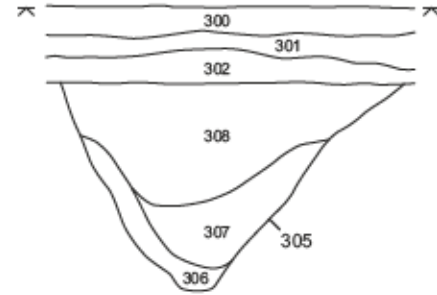


Plate 1: East facing section of Ditch 204



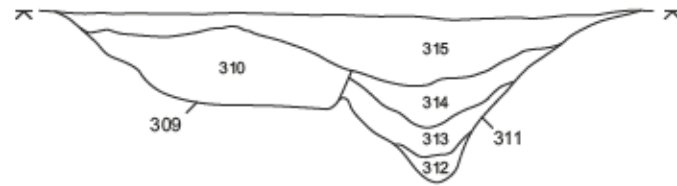
Section 1: West facing section of Ditch 305



Plate 2: West facing section of Ditch 305



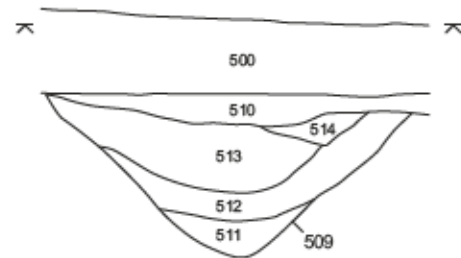
Plate 4: North-west facing section of Pit/Quarry hollow 418



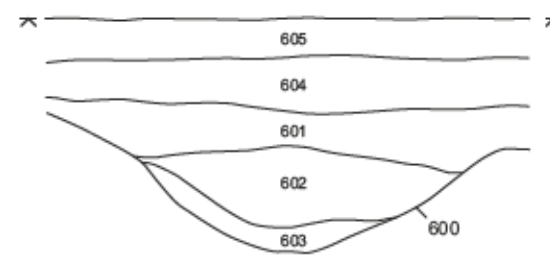
Section 2: West facing section of Ditches 309 and 311



Plate 3: West facing section of Ditches 309 and 311



Section 3: North facing section of Ditch 509



Section 4: East facing section of Ditch 600

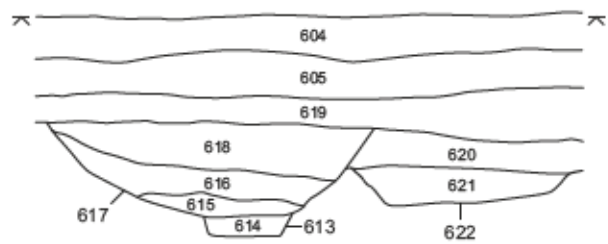


Plate 5: East facing section of Ditch 600



This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	09/09/13	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Section drawings 1:40 @ A3	Illustrator:	RG
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\89031\Drawing Office\Report figs\evaluation\2013_09_06\89031_section01.ai		



Section 5: East facing section of Ditches 617 and 622 and Hearth 613



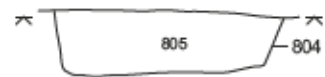
Plate 6: East facing section of Ditches 617 and 622 and Hearth 613



Plate 7: West facing section of Ditch 609



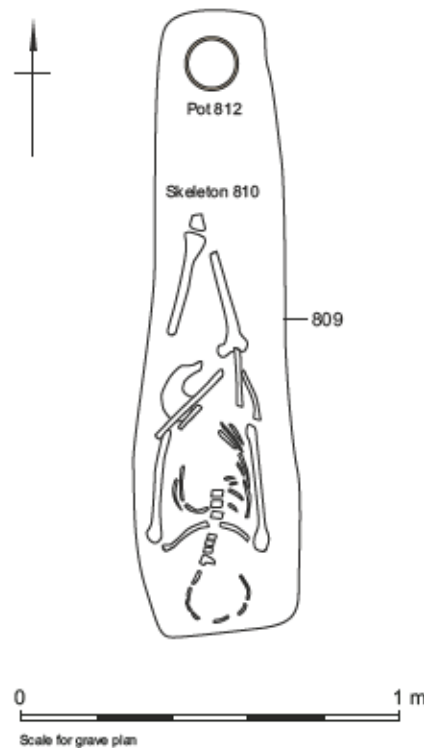
Plate 8: West facing section of Ditch 806



Section 6: West facing section of Pit 804



Plate 9: West facing section of Pit 804



Scale for grave plan

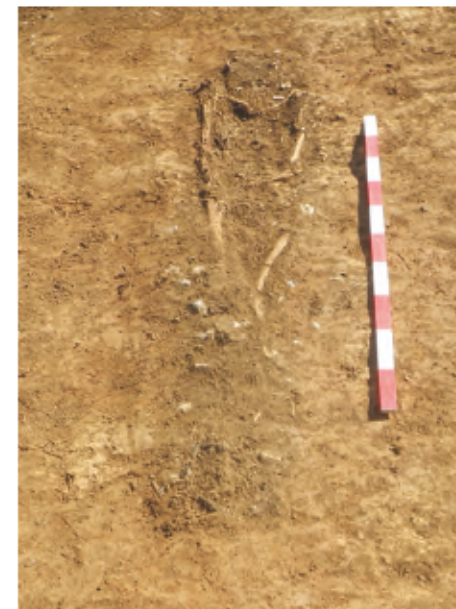


Plate 10: Inhumation burial 810 view looking south



Plate 11: Inhumation burial 810 view looking east

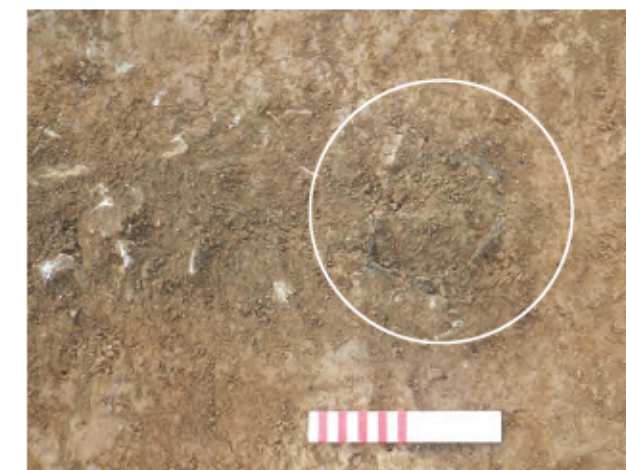
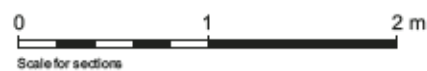
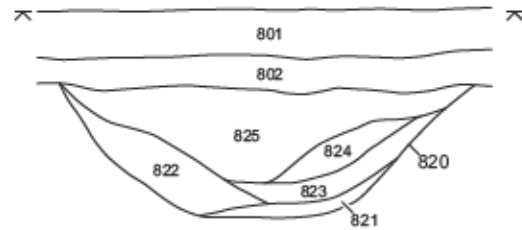


Plate 12: Black burnished ware jar 812 at feet of inhumation burial 809



This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	09/09/13	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Sections 1:40, plan 1:20 @ A3	Illustrator:	RG
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\89031\Drawing Office\Report figs\evaluation\2013_09_06\89031_section02.ai		



Section 7: East facing section of Ditch 820

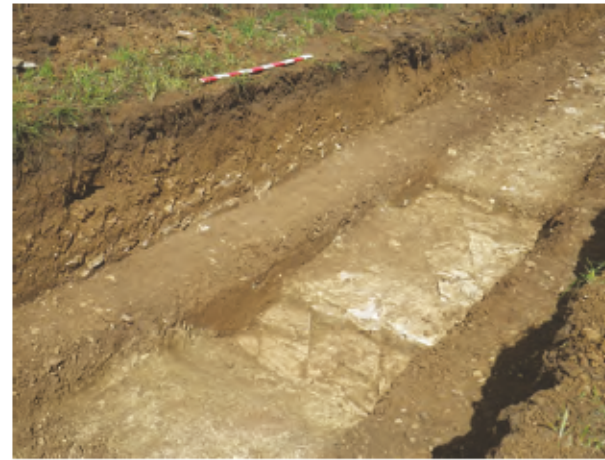
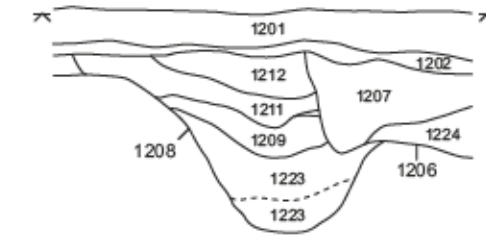


Plate 14: Ditches 911 and 913 view looking south east



Section 8: North-west facing section of Ditches 1206 and 1208



Plate 13: East facing section of Ditch 820

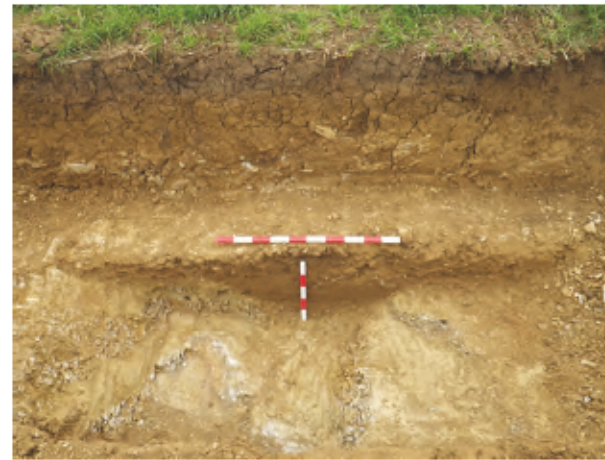


Plate 15: East facing section of Ditch 1005



Plate 16: North-west facing section of Ditches 1206 and 1208



This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	09/09/13	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Section drawings 1:40 @ A3	Illustrator:	RG
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\89031\Drawing Office\Report figs\evaluation\2013_09_06\89031_section03.ai		



wessex
archaeology

salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh

Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.