



making sense of heritage

Land at Sutton Bridge Queen Camel, Somerset

Post-excavation Assessment and
Updated Project Design



Accession Code: TTNM 124/2014
Historic Environment Record No.: PRN 32724
Planning Application No.: 13/01697/FUL
Ref: 107440.01
March 2015



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Queen Camel, Somerset**

**Post-excavation Assessment and
Updated Project Design**

Prepared for:

PS Renewables
7 Waltham Court
Milley Lane
Hare hatch
Berkshire
RG10 9AA

On behalf of:

Padero Solaer Ltd
2 Crossways Business Centre
Bicester Road Kingswood
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP18 0RA

Prepared by:

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

www.wessexarch.co.uk

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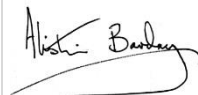
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to complete an archaeological excavation on land between Sutton Bridge and Windsor Farm, to the south-east of Queen Camel, Somerset (National Grid Reference 360402 123924). The investigation formed part of a programme of archaeological works required by the Planning Authority in advance of a solar PV development.

In late 2014, the initial archaeological contractor (Context One Archaeological Services) opened five excavation areas targeted on previously identified geophysical anomalies. Circumstances meant that the contractor had to withdraw from the project. Wessex Archaeology subsequently assumed responsibility, undertaking the remainder of the fieldwork from the 6th to 14th January 2015.

Residual probable Mesolithic and other pre-Bronze Age worked flint suggest a background of prehistoric activity in the wider area. Pottery found within another sequence of ring-gullies, a post-pit, and a number of ditches indicate a small Middle Bronze Age farmstead and associated rectilinear field system (Areas 2, 4 and 5). Two overlapping ring-gullies and a cluster of postholes in Area 3 are almost certainly prehistoric, possibly of similar date to those in Area 2. Remnants of extensive medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow were also in evidence across the Site.

These findings broadly correspond with the patterns of archaeological activity discussed in the South Cadbury Environs Project (Tabor 2002; 2004), and with those encountered during Wessex Archaeology's West Camel Road excavations, c. 1km to the west (WA 2015). As such they may, in consultation with the Planning Authority, warrant further consideration and publication. It is anticipated that following a small programme of analysis and interpretation, the results could (after due consultation) be published along with the findings from the West Camel Road excavation in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Frank Dekker of PS Renewables, working on behalf of Padero Solaer Ltd, for commissioning them to complete the archaeological excavation. The advice provided by Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer (South West Heritage Trust), is duly acknowledged, as is the co-operation of Richard McConnell and Stuart Milby of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.

The fieldwork was directed by Susan Clelland, assisted by Peter Fairclough, Neil Fitzpatrick, and Jamie McCarthy. Simon Cleggett managed the project and edited this report – written by Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy. The worked flint was assessed by Phil Harding, and the animal bone by Lorrain Higbee; Grace Jones completed assessments for all other artefacts types. The environmental material was processed by Tony Scothern, and evaluated by Sarah F. Wyles. Karen Nichols produced the illustrations.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was appointed by PS Renewables (the Client), on behalf of Padero Solaer Ltd, to complete an archaeological excavation on land along Sutton Montis Road, Sutton Bridge, Queen Camel, Somerset (centred on National Grid Reference 360402 123924), hereafter 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The excavation forms part of a scheme of works associated with a full planning application for a Solar PV development and associated works, featuring solar panels mounted on a ground-based racking system, various small 'stations', and related security installations (South Somerset District Council (SSDC): **13/01697/FUL**).
- 1.1.3 A desk-based assessment (DBA; Arrowhead Archaeology 2013) and geophysical survey (GeoFlo 2013), submitted in support of the application, as per relevant guidelines (SSC 2013), describe a limited potential for archaeological remains on the Site. The Senior Historic Environment Officer of the South West Heritage Trust advised that the SSDC impose a planning condition requiring that, prior to development, the archaeological potential be investigated further.
- 1.1.4 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) were instructed to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), in which they proposed the investigation of five small areas of archaeological interest on the Site, targeted on a selection of geophysical anomalies (**Figure 1**; COAS 2014).
- 1.1.5 Following the approval of the WSI by the Client and Senior Historic Environment Officer, COAS commenced work on Site in late 2014. After opening the areas, surveying in the features and instigating the signing-off of some areas (or parts thereof), COAS was forced to withdraw from the project due to an oversubscribed work programme. The Client subsequently engaged the services of Wessex Archaeology to complete the excavation and post-excavation tasks.
- 1.1.6 The intervening period saw the completion of the majority of the development, some of which traversed the opened excavation areas, hampering access and severely curtailing the scope for any supplementary investigations.
- 1.1.7 Wessex Archaeology undertook their part of the fieldwork from the 6th to 14th January 2015.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site, comprising five areas ranging from 84–277m² (total 0.1023 ha; **Appendix 1**) is situated in South Somerset, approximately 1km to the south-east of Queen Camel and



1.75km south-west of Sutton Montis. The railway bridge ('Sutton Bridge') marks the north-west corner of the site, and Windsor Farm lies immediately to the east (**Figure 1**).

- 1.2.2 The Site was formerly pasture land ('Henshall's field'), the northern boundary of which follows the line of the Queen Camel–Sutton Montis road. The Frome to Yeovil railway line runs along the Site's western periphery, and hedgerows separate the Site from agricultural land to the south and east.
- 1.2.3 The excavation areas had been stripped and the majority of the solar array installations erected prior to WA's arrival (**front cover, Plates 2 and 4**).
- 1.2.4 The land is generally flat at 38 to 39m above Ordnance Datum (m aOD). The Henshall Brook follows the northern edge of the Queen Camel–Sutton Montis road, north of the Site, while Parrock Hill, The Beacon and Cadbury Castle are prominent in the landscape to the east (**back cover**).
- 1.2.5 Superficial geological deposits are recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS online viewer) as clay, silt, sand and gravel, formed from the material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash. The underlying sedimentary bedrock comprises Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone formations (Langport Member; undifferentiated).

1.3 Scope of Document

- 1.3.1 This document presents the results of the excavations, discussing them in their temporal and spatial contexts, and their archaeological significance. It also makes recommendations regarding potential for further work, including appropriate ways to disseminate the findings.
- 1.3.2 This document will be submitted to the Senior Historic Environment Officer and the Client for approval.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Preliminary archaeological investigations regarding the Site comprised aerial photographs, a DBA (Arrowhead Archaeology 2013), and a geophysical survey (GeoFlo 2013). This section includes a précis of the salient points.

Aerial photographs

- 2.1.2 Aerial photographs (commissioned by TGC Renewables in 2012) indicate buried NNE-SSW ridge and furrow remnants, a possible sub-rectangular enclosure and trackway in the field to the south of the Site. Elements of these are likely to continue into the Site.

Desk-based assessment (DBA)

- 2.1.3 The DBA found the Site to be set within a landscape intensively exploited from the prehistoric period to the present day, particularly in the vicinity of the major foci of settlements at Cadbury Castle and Queen Camel (see below; **Figure 1 inset**).
- 2.1.4 It concluded that archaeological remains were likely to be present on the Site, potentially sealed below deep colluvial deposits in places.



Geophysical Survey

- 2.1.5 The geophysical survey results were dominated by geological anomalies, possible ancient watercourses and anomalies consistent with localised ponding. These compromised the interpretive confidence of some smaller, isolated anomalies.
- 2.1.6 Two major linear trends and various potential archaeological remains including a series of linear and curvilinear features were also detected. Ferrous anomalies related to demolition debris (probably associated with the Noah's Ark building), and an old trackway along the eastern boundary.
- 2.1.7 The geophysical results corresponded well with those previously recorded in the immediate vicinity, as part of the South Cadbury Environs Project (Tabor 2008, 58).

Recent investigations in the area

- 2.1.8 In Queen Camel, to the north-west of the Site, the recent discovery of a large Roman Villa complex has led to extensive and varied investigations (see below).
- 2.1.9 Excavations at West Camel Road (WA 2015; **Figure 1 inset**), close to the villa site, revealed evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic, Middle Bronze Age, Romano-British and medieval human activity, including settlement (see below).

2.2 Known archaeology

- 2.2.1 A large assemblage of Mesolithic (9500–4000 BC) worked flint was recorded on the hilltop at Cadbury Castle, whilst a few pieces were identified in the assemblage from West Camel Road.
- 2.2.2 The worked flint assemblages from West Camel Road and the Codford to Ilchester pipeline sites included Neolithic to Beaker examples (4000–1800 BC). There is also evidence for occupation at Cadbury Castle during this period.
- 2.2.3 The region appears to have been extensively utilised during the Bronze Age (2200–700 BC), with human habitation and activity in evidence throughout, including Queen Camel and Cadbury Castle (**Figure 1 inset**).
- 2.2.4 A rare example of a 12th century BC (Middle Bronze Age) bronze shield was found in the vicinity of the Site. A metal-working site and associated enclosure of similar date was found 2km to the south-east of Cadbury Castle – c. 3.5km to the ENE of the Site.
- 2.2.5 At West Camel Road there was much evidence for a nearby settlement (suggested to be focused towards the east), including an important assemblage of Trevisker type Ware. Features include enclosures, other ditches and a well, but no structural remains.
- 2.2.6 The hillfort at Cadbury Castle was initially constructed around 400 BC, though the site was occupied throughout the Iron Age (700 BC–AD 43). The apparent permanence of the enclosed structures, including possible shrines, suggests an *Oppidum*-style settlement.
- 2.2.7 After being forcefully taken around AD 43, a Roman army barrack was established in the hillfort, before further violent activity ensued (Arrowhead Archaeology 7; Barrett *et al* 2000).
- 2.2.8 A Roman Villa complex was discovered at Queen Camel through geophysical surveys (Payne 2008; Graham 2009, 158-60; Buzcek and Dawson 2012 a–b; Dawson 2013; WA



2014), and trial trench evaluation (Weale 2013). The villa is thought to have been abandoned by the later 4th century AD, and no further occupation seems to have taken place (WA 2015).

- 2.2.9 The West Camel Road excavation revealed a sequence of two or three phases of middle–late Roman ditches and gullies, mainly on an east–west alignment, as well as a corn drying oven; all are considered to be associated with the villa, the site of which lies immediately to the north. The enclosure or field boundary ditches were certainly still partly open when the villa was abandoned, and contained moderately large quantities of likely associated structural debris (WA 2015).
- 2.2.10 The Codford to Ilchester pipeline investigations recorded a cluster of Romano-British find-spots just to the north-west of the Site.
- 2.2.11 Cadbury Castle is thought to have been in use between c. AD 470 and 580, in which time a substantial ‘great hall’ was constructed and the inner Iron Age defences had been refortified. This created a defended fort of unrivalled proportions for the period, and it has been suggested that it served a very high status, potentially ‘royal’ family and their retinue (Arrowhead Archaeology 2013, 7).
- 2.2.12 From AD 1010 to 1020 buildings on the hillfort temporarily served as a Mint.
- 2.2.13 Between the 10th and 16th centuries the land around Queen Camel or ‘Cantmael’ (*canto* ‘district’, *mael* ‘bare hill’) repeatedly changed hands. The village probably acquired its royal prefix in the 13th century, when it was part of the estate of Queen Eleanor, wife of Henry III.
- 2.2.14 The remains of a deserted medieval village lies close to Queen Camel, whilst various earthworks, including hollow-ways, and features related to land management, are recorded across the region (Arrowhead Archaeology 2013, 7; WA 2015).
- 2.2.15 The Site lies within an area described as ‘recently enclosed’ (18th–21st century) and has since been farmland.
- 2.2.16 The western boundary of the Site was formed by the construction of the railway line, soon after 1842.
- 2.2.17 Historic maps record the presence of a building referred to as ‘Noah’s Ark’ in the north-west corner of the Site. This may be associated with 19th century water management (Arrowhead Archaeology 2013, 7), though the name may be a reference to the housing of animals during periods of flooding (GeoFlo 2013, 2).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a), and to satisfy the requirements of the Senior Historic Environment Officer, the aims and objectives of the archaeological investigation were, as far as was possible:
- *to target selected anomalies identified in the geophysical survey, in so doing assessing the reliability of the geophysical survey results;*
 - *to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site;*



- to identify the date, character, and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;
- to assess the degree of existing detrimental effects upon sub-surface horizons; and
- to produce a report sufficiently detailing the results, including a discussion considering the results in their temporal and spatial contexts, and archaeological significance

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Wessex Archaeology undertook the project in accordance with the WSI, the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), and with due regard to Somerset County Council's *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (SCC 2011), excepting where superseded by statements made below.
- 4.1.2 Initial works i.e. setting-out, soil stripping, and the production of a preliminary Site plan were undertaken by COAS. It is assumed that these were carried out as per the WSI (COAS 2014).
- 4.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 The archaeological excavation comprised five excavation areas between 84 and 277m², targeted on anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**).
- 4.2.2 It is assumed that the areas were set-out using GPS, opened under the constant supervision of a qualified archaeologist, and all overburden carefully removed in spits by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Stripping was to cease at the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first, and not exceeding 1.2m in depth. Stripped material is presumed to have been visually examined for archaeological material.
- 4.2.3 Each area was cleaned by hand as necessary and planned prior to further excavation. A 1m long representative section of deposits through each area from ground surface to the top of the natural deposits was also recorded, where conditions allowed.
- 4.2.4 An appropriate sample of each feature type – selected on the basis of their form, fill, and stratigraphic relationship, and in order to ensure a broad characterisation – was excavated by hand and recorded. Features of particular archaeological interest were generally subject to more detailed/extensive investigation, e.g. 100% excavation.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 All recording was undertaken using WA's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system. Details are available on request.
- 4.3.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled, including plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). The areas, their contents, and other features of relevance were digitally surveyed using a



Leica total station (TST) and GPS within the OS NGR system, and including heights above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn). The electronic survey record will be retained within the site archive.

4.3.3 A full digital photographic record was maintained during the evaluation. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3.4 **Reinstatement**

4.3.5 Conditions precluded any reinstatement by Wessex Archaeology, therefore once the Senior Historic Environment Officer was satisfied that the aims had been achieved, the Client was informed so they might make suitable arrangements.

4.4 **Specialist strategies**

4.4.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples were devised and implemented by Wessex Archaeology's Finds and Environmental Specialists.

Artefacts

4.4.2 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014a) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

4.4.3 All artefacts were retained except those of obviously modern date. Those kept were washed, weighed, counted and identified. Suitable material, i.e. the pottery, was scanned to assess the date range of the relevant assemblages.

4.4.4 All artefacts recovered during the excavations are the property of the landowner. They have been suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with current recommendation and will be deposited with the relevant museum, with the landowner's permission (see also below).

Environmental

4.4.5 Samples of deposits were taken from dateable contexts where appropriate and under the guidance of Wessex Archaeology's environmental specialists.

4.4.6 The environmental sampling strategy followed the guidance set out in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011). Bulk environmental soil samples were taken from sealed archaeological features for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and small artefacts.

4.4.7 Standard bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods. Flots were retained on a 0.25mm mesh and the residues fractionated into 4mm, 2mm, 1mm and 0.5mm fractions, and dried. The coarse fractions (>4mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded; any artefacts or animal bone extracted and retained. The flots were scanned under a x10–x30 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified, to record the preservation and nature of the charred plant and charcoal remains.



4.5 Monitoring

- 4.5.1 The Senior Historic Environment Officer monitored the archaeological investigations as they progressed, and was involved in any decisions regarding variations from the WSI.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section presents a summary of the results. More details are in the area summaries (**Appendix 1**) and the archive.

5.2 Natural soil sequence

- 5.2.1 The underlying natural geology comprises a mid yellowish-orange sandy clay, with frequent manganese flecks and occasional light grey mottling. It was generally encountered at around 0.45m below the current ground surface. The natural was overlain by a mid yellow/brown sandy clay 'subsoil' with occasional manganese flecks, usually observable at between 0.20m and 0.45m below ground level. The c. 0.20m thick mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay topsoil was present across the whole Site, topped with turf.

5.3 Archaeological sequence

- 5.3.1 Archaeological features were sealed below the subsoil, with the exception of the of the ridge and furrow remnants (see below) which were observable immediately below the topsoil.

- 5.3.2 There were several cases of intercutting between features, which were in general reasonably well-defined, however truncation had in some cases led to the loss of stratigraphic evidence.

Mesolithic (9500–4000 BC) to Neolithic (4000–2200 BC)

- 5.3.3 A piece of possibly Mesolithic worked flint provides evidence for the earliest human activity in the site vicinity. Other examples indicate pre-Bronze Age activity (see 'Worked flint' below). All were residual in later deposits.

Middle Bronze Age (1600–1100 BC)

- 5.3.4 The majority of features have been dated to the Middle Bronze Age. These comprise a portion of a ring-gully, possibly two, with an associated post-pit and stakeholes in Area 2, probably representing a round-house type structure or structures. The remnants of a probably contemporaneous rectilinear field system were found in Areas 4 and 5 (**Figure 1**).

Ring-gully 230 and associated features

- 5.3.5 The curvilinear anomaly detected in the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**) was revealed to be a gully, probably representing the western half of a 10.60m ring-gully (**230**; **Figure 2**). The well-defined cut was generally 0.60–0.85m wide and 0.30m deep, with a steep internal edge, a concave base and a more gradual outer edge. At either end the base sharply reduced in depth, seemingly forming rounded, deliberate terminals, though the northern example was truncated by a much later furrow. The ring-gully was cut by a modern linear feature, whilst solar panel rack supports had been installed within the excavation area.

- 5.3.6 The fills of the gully (**Appendix 1**) indicate an primary deposit of occupation material (occasionally suggested to be industrial in nature) including various quantities of pottery,



charcoal, fired clay, and possibly daub. Subsequent secondary deposits comprise material derived from the weathering of the sides and surrounding surfaces.

- 5.3.7 No trace of the eastern extent of ring-gully **230** was detected beyond the furrow.
- 5.3.8 Three internal features, a post-pit and two stakeholes, were arranged at roughly 1m intervals, following the WSW segment of a concentric c. 5m diameter circle, at a distance of around 2m from the internal edge of **230**.
- 5.3.9 Cut into the natural, sub-circular post-pit (**217**) was 0.7m by 0.65m, 0.48m deep, and held three distinct fills (**Figure 2; Plates 2 and 3**). The earliest silty loam fill (**223**; 0.25m thick) contained degraded Middle Bronze Age pottery, fired clay, charcoal and flint. A yellow clay deposit with smaller quantities of pottery and fired clay, formed the subsequent 0.10m thick 'capping' deposit (**222**). The 0.58m deep uppermost fill (**218**) was similar to the basal fill, and included pottery, charcoal, fired clay, and possible daub.
- 5.3.10 The two poorly-defined stakeholes (**224** and **226**) were both elliptical in plan, with concave bases and steep straight sides. They were of similar size (0.15–0.18m x 0.10–0.12m x 0.15–0.18m), and contained identical fills with fired clay and charcoal inclusions.
- 5.3.11 The evidence suggests that together these features represent the remains of a Middle Bronze Age round-house or similar structure. It seems the stakes, and probably the post, had been deliberately removed.
- 5.3.12 A possible second phase of structure was represented by the poorly-defined remnant of a curvilinear gully (**228**). Similar in form and projected size, this 2m long feature was tentatively suggested to have cut through fills of ring-gully **230**. It is estimated that this later structure was situated approximately 5m to the WNW of the first. The slowly accumulated silty fill contained a small piece of animal bone and occasional charcoal flecks.

Field system

- 5.3.13 Two ditches in Area 4, and one in Area 5 (**Figure 4**) are probably the remains of a Middle Bronze Age rectilinear field system, potentially associated with the settlement features in Area 2. The corresponding linear geophysical anomalies (Area 4) continue to the south and east, suggesting that the fields may have measured around 20m by 40–50m (**Figure 1, inset**).
- 5.3.14 In Area 4 the ditches (**405** and **416**) were approximately 1m wide and between 0.28 and 0.60m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The earliest fills of both ditches (contexts **403**, **406** and **414**) had gradually accumulated and contained Middle Bronze Age pottery (31 sherds in **416**) and residual worked flint.
- 5.3.15 The ditch in Area 5 (**502** and **505**) was of similar width, though only 0.22m deep, with broadly comparable contents to those in Area 4, including a sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery.

Prehistoric (2200 BC–AD 43)

- 5.3.16 A cluster of features in Area 3, approximately 140m to the south-east of Area 2, are most likely of prehistoric date (?Middle Bronze Age), though no conclusively dateable artefacts were recovered. The features comprise parts of two ring-gullies, and a series of postholes, together seemingly representing up to three phases of structural remains (**Figure 3**).

Ring-gully 318 and associated posthole

- 5.3.17 A short section of a curvilinear gully (**318**) was observed projecting to the west of, and apparently cut by ring-gully **303** (**Figure 3**). The two are closely comparable in form and estimated size (see below).
- 5.3.18 It is likely that circular posthole **308** (0.20m diameter, 0.15m deep) was part of the same structure as **318**. It would have been around 3m from the internal edge of the (projected) circle of the structure, indicating a potential 5m diameter internal, concentric circle of posts. The dark fill included occasional charcoal, burnt flint and fired clay.

Ring-gully 303

- 5.3.19 A c. 6m long truncated feature was probably part of a c. 11m diameter ring-gully (**303 cf. 230**). Up to 0.60m wide and 0.15m deep, the gully had moderate to shallow, concave sides and a concave base. The single fill included occasional charcoal and manganese flecks. No other features appear to be part of this structure, they most likely being present outside the area of excavation (should they survive).

Possible circular post-built structure 320

- 5.3.20 An arc of three regularly spaced postholes (Group **320**) extended c. 2.5m north-west to south-east, from one end of ring-gully **303** (**Figure 3**). The postholes (**312**, **314** and **316**) were each circular with vertical sides, and measured between 0.18m and 0.35m in diameter and 0.05m to 0.20m in depth. The single fills were all derived from gradual silting, two including charcoal flecks, one also containing flecks of fired clay, possibly derived from debris associated with the structure. The posts are likely to have been deliberately removed.
- 5.3.21 The group (**320**) correspond to the north-eastern segment of an estimated 11m circle, indicating that they may well-represent a third phase of round-house type structure, 2.7m NNW of the **318**, and approximately 5m NW of ring-gully **303**.
- 5.3.22 Posthole **310** (0.20m diameter, 0.18m deep) is likely associated with group **320**, situated approximately 2.75m inside the projected circle of the structure, potentially forming a c. 5m diameter central concentric circle of posts. The dark fill included occasional charcoal, burnt flint and fired clay.
- 5.3.23 Unfortunately the relationship between ring-gully **303** and posthole **312** was lost through truncation, and no other stratigraphic or dateable evidence was found to conclusively place structure **320** within the sequence of the three possible round-houses.

Medieval to modern (AD 1066–present)

- 5.3.24 As indicated by the aerial photographs and geophysical survey, ridge and furrow – an agricultural method characteristic of the medieval period, comprising long raised ridges separated by ditches – was evident across Areas 2–5 (**Figures 1–4**). These comprised the remnants of the broad ditch elements, and in places partially preserved ridges below the topsoil. The linear, parallel score marks in the natural deposits in Area 1 were probably plough scars.
- 5.3.25 A series of modern narrow linear features are present across the site (**Figure 1**).



6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This section provides a summary of all of the artefacts from the Site, both hand collected and those from soil samples. The assemblage is predominantly of Middle Bronze Age date, with a small quantity of post-medieval and modern material from a furrow in Area 5. The range of material is paralleled at the nearby site of Land at West Camel Road (Wessex Archaeology 2015).

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type are presented in **Table 1**. All finds have been at least briefly scanned, and this report summarises the range of material recovered, its nature, condition and potential date range. Finds or groups of finds, of particular archaeological significance are highlighted.

Table 1: Quantification of artefacts recovered from the Site

Material type	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery	63	321
Ceramic building material	1	7
Fired clay	289	811
Flint	13	123
Animal bone	39	108

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 A total of 63 sherds of pottery (321g) was recovered from 11 contexts across six features (**Table 2**). All are of Middle Bronze Age date, with the exception of a group of post-medieval pottery from furrow **508**. The pottery has been quantified by broad fabric group, count and weight, and a spot date assigned to each context.

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by feature

Feature	Number	Weight (g)
Ring-gully 230	3	16
Post-pit 217	15	118
Ditch 405	5	6
Ditch 416	31	139
Ditch 505	1	1
Furrow 508	8	41
Total	63	321

6.2.2 The Bronze Age assemblage is dominated by grog-tempered wares, with small quantities of mixed grog and calcareous wares, calcareous fabrics and sandy wares (**Table 3**). All were plain body or base sherds with the exception of one rusticated body sherd from ditch **416** and the rim from a calcareous-gritted globular jar from post-pit **217**. The latter appears to be decorated with diagonal lines, traces of soot were also noted on the exterior surface. The remainder of the assemblage is undiagnostic but is very similar to that recovered from Land at West Camel Road and dated to the Middle Bronze Age (Wessex Archaeology 2015).



Table 3: Quantification of pottery by fabric group

Fabric group	Number	Weight (g)
Grog-tempered	47	249
Grog and calcareous fabric	4	16
Calcareous	1	11
Sandy	1	2
Sand and flint/chert	2	2
Post-medieval sandy wares	4	29
Cream ware (18 th century)	3	7
Scratched blue ware (18 th century)	1	4
Total	63	320

6.3 Fired clay

- 6.3.1 The fired clay assemblage (290 fragments, 831g) was predominantly recovered from samples of ring-gully **230** (Table 4). It consisted almost entirely of featureless amorphous fragments, presumably deriving from structures or domestic activities such as hearths. Four pieces from ring-gully **230** had been subjected to great heat and were vitrified. One slightly curved piece with two surfaces was recovered from furrow **508**. It was pinkish orange in colour, reminiscent of briquetage salt containers, however its identification is uncertain.

Table 4: Quantification of fired clay by feature

Context	Number	Weight (g)
Ring gully 230	273	782
Post-pit 217	14	26
Ditch 416	2	3
Furrow 508	1	20
Total	290	831

6.4 Ceramic building material

- 6.4.1 A single tile fragment (7g) of post-medieval or modern date was recovered from furrow **508**.

6.5 Animal bone

- 6.5.1 Thirty-nine fragments (or 108g) of animal bone were recovered from three features of Middle Bronze Age date; ring-gully **230**, post-pit **217** and ditch **416**, and one prehistoric (possible ring-gully **228**). Only five fragments were identifiable to species and skeletal element, the rest are small undiagnostic pieces of long bone shaft, many of which are charred and calcined. Most of the identified bones belong to sheep/goat, they include the distal end of a humerus from **230**, a radius shaft from possible ring-gully **228**, a 1st phalanx and tooth fragment from **217**, while ditch **416** produced a large piece of cattle humerus.

6.6 Worked flint

- 6.6.1 A total of 13 pieces of worked flint was collected from seven excavated contexts, of which three pieces were recovered from sieve residue. Two pieces were burnt. The assemblage



comprised four broken flakes, two flakes and a single chip, blade, scraper and a retouched flake, which may be a small core.

Table 5: Quantification of worked flint by feature

Context	Number	Weight (g)
Ring gully 230	6	14
Post-pit 217	3	17
Overburden 400	1	61
Ditch 416	3	31
Total	13	123

6.6.2 The collection contains very little of academic interest beyond indicating prehistoric activity in the area. It is difficult to reconstruct a definitive chronology from so few pieces, although a range of periods may be represented. The blade may predate the Bronze Age as may the retouched flake, possibly a Mesolithic bladelet core, made on a flake. The scraper was also manufactured on a blank with a light surface stain, which also hints at multi period activity.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A series of 15 bulk samples were taken from a range of Middle Bronze Age features, with the majority coming from ring-gully **230** in Area 2. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal.

7.1.2 The bulk samples break down into the following Areas:

Table 6: Sample Provenance Summary

Area	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
2	13	122	Ring-gully, post-pit
3	1	8	Ring-gully
4	1	17	Ditch
Totals	15	147	

7.2 Charred plant remains

7.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 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 and 5), for cereals.

7.2.2 The flots varied in size with moderate to high numbers of roots and modern seeds. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation.

7.2.3 Large quantities of cereal remains were recorded in section 215 of ring-gully **230** and post-pit **217** and high numbers of weed seeds from section 206 of ring-gully **230** and post-pit **217**. The cereal remains included hulled wheat, emmer or spelt (*Triticum*



dicoccum/spelta), grain, glume base and spikelet fork fragments, and a few barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain fragments. There was some trace of germination on a number of the grains.

- 7.2.4 The weed seeds included seeds of vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), orache (*Atriplex* sp.), ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*), celtic bean (*Vicia faba*), oats/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), meadow grass/cat's-tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). There were also a few fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell and sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) fruit fragments.
- 7.2.5 These charred plant assemblages from the Middle Bronze Age period are indicative of general settlement waste and activities. The range of weed seeds observed are generally those typical of grassland, field margins and arable environments. There is some evidence for the exploitation of the local hedgerow/scrub/woodland environment with the presence of fragments of hazelnut shell and sloes.
- 7.2.6 There are some comparisons between these assemblages and other assemblages from Middle Bronze Age deposits in the area such as at Land at West Camel Road, Queen Camel (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and Brean Down (Straker 1990).

7.3 Wood charcoal

- 7.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 2**. Wood charcoal fragments greater than 2mm were retrieved in moderately high numbers from a few of the samples from ring-gully **230**. The pieces included round wood and mature wood fragments.

8 FURTHER POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic

- 8.1.1 Archaeological activity from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods was identified during the Sutton Bridge excavation. The earliest evidence consists of worked flint of probable Mesolithic and Neolithic date, though – as at West Camel Road – these were found residually in later deposits; there is no requirement for additional analysis of these pieces.
- 8.1.2 The main features depict dispersed prehistoric/Middle Bronze Age farmstead-type settlements (adapted and re-established over time) and an associated agricultural field system. The evidence from the substantial enclosures and a possible well at West Camel Road indicate a nearby settlement, probably immediately to the east, towards (but perhaps not as far as) Sutton Bridge.
- 8.1.3 The Middle Bronze Age remains would contribute towards the interpretation of, and be contextualised by, the findings from West Camel Road, which provide the '*considerable potential for the further examination and integration of the various strands of evidence, in order to build a better understanding of the nature, layout and chronology of the settlement and its place in the wider landscape. In particular, the intensification of agricultural production, the development of settlement hierarchy, and possibly the production and trade of pottery might be investigated, as identified in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (Grove and Croft 2012).*' (WA 2015).
- 8.1.4 The results are probably of sufficient archaeological interest to warrant further analysis and publication. Subject to consultation with the Planning Authority, this may take the form



of a stand-alone article in an appropriate journal, however it is considered more efficacious to negotiate their inclusion in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History* article proposed for the recently investigated site at West Camel Road (WA 2015).

- 8.1.5 The solar array installation is temporary and the detrimental impacts upon the underlying deposits are likely to be localised – therefore it would be prudent to assume that archaeological remains still survive on the Site. This should be considered in light of any future development proposals, including invasive upgrading/maintenance work and the eventual decommissioning of the current development.

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 The finds are similar to those recovered from West Camel Road and it is recommended that analysis and reporting of the material from Land near Sutton Bridge is incorporated into the analysis of the former.

- 8.2.2 The small flint collection may best be seen as additional material that replicates the multi-period, residual assemblage from West Camel Road

8.3 Environmental

Charred plant remains

- 8.3.1 The analysis of a selection of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment, and local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques during the Middle Bronze Age period.

- 8.3.2 The results of this analysis could provide a comparison with any data from Middle Bronze Age deposits from other sites in the local area, such as Land at West Camel Road, Queen Camel (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and Brean Down (Straker 1990).

Wood charcoal

- 8.3.3 The analysis of the wood charcoal would provide information on the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource on the site during the Middle Bronze Age period.

- 8.3.4 This information would augment any wood charcoal analysis from Middle Bronze Age deposits at Land at West Camel Road, Queen Camel (Wessex Archaeology 2015).

9 PROPOSED SPECIALIST METHODS

9.1 Finds

- 9.1.1 Full fabric analysis of the Middle Bronze Age pottery will allow consideration of the source of the material and indicate and shared traits or differences between styles and fabrics.

- 9.1.2 Analysis of the pottery may be used in a consideration of the social relationships and identities of those living in the Queen Camel area during the Middle Bronze Age. Comparisons will be made with other sites in the region e.g. Lyde Road (Wessex Archaeology 2010).

- 9.1.3 Further analysis of the fired clay may clarify the nature of the material, and potentially provide information regarding the construction and function of the structures. If possible



comparisons between the material from the dated and less securely dated 'prehistoric' contexts may lead to a more confident interpretation.

9.1.4 No other material types warrant further analysis as they have already been recorded to a sufficient standard for the archive. However, it is recommended that a brief summary is included in the publication of the fieldwork results. This should place the evidence for each material type, limited though it may be, into its local and regional context, supported where appropriate by basic quantification tables.

9.1.5 No artefact illustrations have been requested at this stage.

9.2 Environmental

Charred plant remains

9.2.1 It is proposed to analyse a selection of the charred plant remain assemblages from sections **215** and **219** of ring-gully **230** and from post-pit **217**.

9.2.2 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1mm residues together with the flot. Identification will be undertaken using stereo incident light microscopy at magnifications of up to x40 using a Leica MS5 microscope, 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 and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They will be quantified and the results tabulated.

9.2.3 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in the analysis column in **Appendix 2**.

Wood charcoal

9.2.4 It is proposed to analyse the wood charcoal assemblages from a selection of samples from sections **202** and **211** of ring-gully **230**.

9.2.5 Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2mm residue together and the flot (>2mm). Larger richer samples will be sub-sampled. Fragments will be prepared for identification according to the standard methodology of Leney and Casteel (1975, see also Gale and Cutler 2000). Charcoal pieces will be fractured with a razor blade so that three planes can be seen: transverse section (TS), radial longitudinal section (RL) and tangential longitudinal section (TL). They will then be examined under bi-focal epi-illuminated microscopy at magnifications of x50, x100 and x400 using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identification will be undertaken according to the anatomical characteristics described by Schweingruber (1990) and Butterfield and Meylan (1980). Identification will be to the lowest taxonomic level possible, usually that of genus and nomenclature according to Stace (1997), individual taxon (mature and twig) will be separated, quantified, and the results tabulated.

9.2.6 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a "C" in the analysis column in **Appendix 2**.

10 PROGRAMME, RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

10.1 Proposed publication and dissemination

10.1.1 The significance of the results of the fieldwork, in relation to the understanding of the long term development of the local landscape warrants further publication. It is proposed that,



following the further analyses outlined above, the results will be incorporated into an article describing the results from the West Camel Road site, which is to be submitted for publication in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*, a peer reviewed journal with a regional and national readership.

- 10.1.2 The article will include a brief introduction summarising the project background, its aims and objectives, a description of the archaeological activity, and relevant specialist findings. Their significance will be discussed within their local and regional contexts.
- 10.1.3 In consultation with the Client, and the Senior Historic Environment Officer, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, it is anticipated that a publication report will be prepared, checked and submitted to the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society* within 12 months (depending on the availability of specialists) of the submission and acceptance of this assessment report.

10.2 Management structure

- 10.2.1 Wessex Archaeology operates a project management system. The team will be headed by a Post-Excavation Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Specification, and achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary or scheduled.
- 10.2.2 The Post-Excavation Manager may delegate specific tasks of the project to key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the report, and the museum named as recipient of the project archive. The Post-Excavation Manager will have major input into the writing of the report and will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.
- 10.2.3 The Post-Excavation Manager will be assisted by the Quality and Publications Manager, who will help to ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in WA's guidelines.

10.3 Designated project team

- 10.3.1 It is proposed that Wessex Archaeology core staff and specialists will be involved in the programme of post-excavation analyses. Wessex Archaeology reserves the right to replace any member of the named team at its discretion. The project will be managed by (TBC), who will be responsible to the Team Leader, Analysis and Reporting.

11 OASIS

- 11.1.1 An OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/wessexar1-205515>) has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the excavation will be completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Somerset Historic Environment Record (**PRN 32724**). This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive). A summary is provided in **Appendix 3**.

12 STORAGE AND CURATION

12.1 Museum

- 12.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Somerset County Museums Service (SCMS), who has agreed in principle to accept



the project archive on completion of the project under the accession code **TTNCM 124/2014**. Deposition of any finds will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

12.2 Preparation of Archive

12.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared for long-term storage following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the SCMS, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; Museums and Galleries Commission 1994; SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

12.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code **TTNCM 124/2014**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 2 cardboard/airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 1 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics
- 1 A1 graphics sheet

12.3 Conservation

12.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field.

12.4 Storage

12.4.1 Until final deposition the archive will be stored at the WA Southern Region offices (Salisbury).

12.5 Discard policy

12.5.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

12.5.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2011).

12.6 Copyright

12.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Heritage Centre, however, will be granted 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.

12.7 Security Copy

12.7.1 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.



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14 APPENDICES

14.1 Appendix 1: context summaries by area

KEY: bgl = below ground level; ES = environmental sample

Area	Dimensions (m): 10.4 x 8.4 x 0.4		Approximate area (m ²): 84
	Coordinates: X: 360257, Y: 124005;		Elevation (m aOD): 37
Context	Category	Description	Depth (m)
100	Overburden	Topsoil - Mid brown sandy silt; rare small to medium inclusions	0–0.20 bgl
		Subsoil – Light yellow/brown sandy silt	0.20–0.45 bgl
101	Natural	Mid yellow/orange sandy clay. Frequent manganese & occasional light grey mottling (<i>submerged</i>)	0.45+ bgl
102	Plough scar	N–S intermittent scoring	0.45+ bgl

Area	Dimensions (m): 10.4 x 12.9 x 0.93		Approximate area (m ²): 130
	Coordinates: X:360302.8959 Y:124000.6915		Elevation (m aOD): 37
Context	Category	Description	Depth (m)
200	Overburden	Topsoil - Mid brown sandy silt; rare small to medium inclusions	0–0.20 bgl
		Subsoil – Light yellow/brown sandy silt	0.20–0.45 bgl
201	Natural	Mid yellow/orange sandy clay; frequent manganese. Occasional light grey mottling	0.45+ bgl
202	Cut	Ring-gully. steep straight sides; concave/flat base. 0.6m wide. Well-defined. Three fills (203),(204),(205). Cut by modern linear feature. Group 230	0.45–0.75 bgl
203	Fill	Primary fill of ring-gully [202] (230). Mid grey/yellow sandy loam; occasional manganese and grit-sized stones randomly distributed throughout. Occasional charcoal, pottery & fired clay. Clear upper, moderate lower horizon. ES1(10L)	0.1
204	Fill	Secondary fill of ring-gully [202] (230). Mid to dark grey sandy loam; occasional manganese. Abundant occupation debris: charcoal – some large wood fragments, degraded pottery, daub?, large to small fired clay & daub. Most charcoal found along the northern side to the base, following the profile	0.15
205	Fill	Tertiary fill of ring-gully [202]. Mid yellow/grey sandy loam; occasional manganese & rare grit-sized stones. Moderate charcoal, occasional degraded pottery, fired clay and ?daub. Mixed weathered overburden & occupational debris. Localised, downslope along southern edge. ES3 (10L)	0.06
206	Cut	Ring-gully. Steep, straight sides; concave/flat base. Longitudinal slot 0.3m long and 0.3m+ wide. Undulating base – ring-gully ?extended east, or segmented. Contains two fills (207),(208). Group 230	0.45–0.80 bgl
207	Fill	Primary fill of ring-gully [206]. Light grey/yellow sandy loam. Occasional grit-sized stones, manganese, & charcoal, rare fired clay. Diffuse lower & sharp upper horizons. ES10 (10L)	0.2
208	Fill	Secondary fill of ring-gully [206]. Mid to dark grey sandy loam; rare grit-sized stones. Frequent charcoal, fired clay/daub & degraded pottery. Concentration of charcoal following the inner edge interface. ?occupational debris ?associated with industrial rather than domestic function. ES11(10L)	0.15
209	Cut	Field drain. N-S; moderate/steep, straight sides; concave base. 0.65m in width. Heavily truncated. Visible in northern section of Area 2. Single fill (210). Cuts fill (208) of ring-gully [206]	0.45–0.80 bgl
210	Fill	Secondary fill of field drain [209]. Light yellow/brown silty loam; rare inclusions	0.35
211	Cut	Ring-gully terminal. steep, straight sides; concave base. 0.6m wide. Moderately defined SE terminal, narrows to a steep/moderate concave slope. Two fills (213),(214). Group 230	0.45–0.78 bgl
212	Fill	Primary fill of ring-gully [215]. Mid yellow/grey sandy loam. Rare grit-sized stones & moderate manganese. Rare charcoal & fired clay fragments. Moderate lower, sharp upper horizon. Group 231	0.1
213	Fill	Primary fill of ring-gully [211]. Mid grey/yellow sandy loam. Frequent manganese; root activity. Rare charcoal & fired clay. ES13 (10L). Group 231	0.2
214	Fill	Secondary fill of ring-gully [211]. Mid to dark grey silty loam. Frequent degraded pot fragments, fired clay & charcoal. Abundant occupational debris. Very sharp lower horizon; re-cut? ES12 (10L). Group 232	0.2



215	Cut	Ring-gully. Steep, straight sides, flat/concave base. 0.6m wide. Moderately defined. Inner edge steeper than the external. Two fills (212),(216). Group 230	0.45–0.75 bgl
216	Fill	Secondary fill of ring-gully [215]. Dark grey sandy loam; occasional grit-sized stones & manganese. Frequent charcoal & fired clay. Pottery. Truncated during machining. ?industrial debris. ES4 (10L). Group 232	0.18
217	Cut	Post-pit. Circular, vertical/undercutting & straight sides; flat base. 0.7m long and 0.65m wide. Very well defined, within the ring-gully. Three deliberately backfilled deposits (218),(222),(223). 100% excavated.	0.45–0.93 bgl
218	Fill	Deliberate backfill of post-pit [217]. Mid to dark grey silty loam. Rare grit-sized stones. Pottery, fired clay, charcoal and daub? distributed randomly throughout. Deliberate dump of debris, similar to (223). ES5 (10L).	0.28
219	Cut	Ring-gully. steep, straight/concave sides, concave/flat base. 0.7m wide. Moderate to diffuse interface. Fills (220),(221). Group 230	0.45–0.78 bgl
220	Fill	Primary fill of ring-gully [219]. Light grey/yellow sandy clay. Occasional grit-sized stone & manganese. Occasional rare charcoal & fired clay traces. ES8 (10L). Group 231	0.1
221	Fill	Secondary fill of ring-gully [219]. Mid to dark grey silty clay. Rare grit-sized stones. Pottery, traces of charcoal & fired clay throughout, densest charcoal along the inside of the edge. ?industrial. Clear lower horizon. ES9 (10L). Group 232	0.18
222	Fill	Deliberate Backfill of post-pit [217]. Mid yellow/grey clay loam; occasional to rare grit-sized stones. Rare flint, some burnt. Pottery & occasional fired clay. ?capping. More reworked yellow clay & fewer archaeological components than (218) and (223). ES6 (10L)	0.1
223	Fill	Deliberate Backfill of post-pit [217]. Mid grey silty loam. Rare grit-sized stones. Occasional flint, pottery, fired clay & charcoal. Deliberate backfill of occupational debris within a reworked topsoil matrix. Clear horizons. ES7 (10L)	0.28
224	Cut	Stake/posthole. Sub-circular; steep/tapered & straight sides, concave base. 0.15m long & 0.1m wide. Poor definition likely due to the loose nature of the natural geology. One of two possible within the ring-gully. Single fill (225)	0.45–0.63 bgl
225	Fill	Secondary fill of stake/post hole [224]. Mid grey silty loam. Charcoal & fired clay. Occupation debris. Rapid infill after the removal of stake/post. Suggests occupation layer within the ring-gully	0.18
226	Cut	Stakehole. Circular; steep/tapered sides, concave base. 0.18m x 0.12m. Poor to moderate definition due to the loose surrounding natural geology. Similar to the adjacent 224. Single fill (227)	0.45–0.60 bgl
227	Fill	Secondary fill of stake/post hole [226]. Dark grey silty loam. Charcoal & fired clay. Rapid infilling with occupation debris following removal of the stake/post	0.15
228	Cut	?Ring-gully. Steep, concave sides & concave base. 0.65m wide. Cuts the ring-gully 230. Single fill (229)	0.45–0.77 bgl
229	Fill	Secondary fill of gully [228]. Mid grey/brown silty clay. Occasional limestone, . charcoal & animal bone. Homogenous (slow silting)	0.32
230	group	ring-gully cut (202, 206, 211, 215 & 219)	
231	group	primary fill ring-gully 230	
232	group	secondary fill ring-gully 230	

Area 3	Dimensions (m): 18.5 x 16.6		Approximate area (m ²): 257
	Coordinates: X: 360422.4686 Y:123968.999		Elevation (m aOD): 38
Context	Category	Description	Depth (m)
300	Overburden	Topsoil – mid to dark grey/brown silty clay; rare inclusions. Moderate lower horizon	0–0.20 bgl
		Subsoil – Mid yellow/brown sandy clay; occasional manganese inclusions. Moderate upper, diffuse lower horizon	0.20–0.45 bgl
301	Natural	Mid yellow/orange sandy clay; frequent manganese; occasional light grey mottling	0.45+ bgl
302	Layer	Medieval to post-medieval plough soil (ridge). Mid yellow/brown sandy loam; frequent manganese. Occasional artefacts, rare charcoal	0.25–0.45 bgl
303	Group	Ring-gully (304 & 306)	
304	Cut	Ring-gully; moderate/shallow; concave/straight sides; concave base. 0.34m in	0.45–0.56 bgl



		width. Single fill (305). Group 303	
305	Fill	Secondary fill of ring-gully [304]. Mid grey/brown silty loam; occasional manganese. Rare charcoal. Homogenous, weathered natural and surrounding topsoil. ES17 (10L)	0.11
306	Cut	Ring-gully. Moderate, concave/straight sides, concave base. 0.64m wide. Much truncated by machine. Single fill (307). Group 303	0.45–0.60 bgl
307	Fill	Secondary fill of ring-gully [306]. Mid grey/brown silty loam; occasional manganese, rare charcoal. Weathering of sides & surrounding ground surface	0.15
308	Cut	Posthole. Circular; near vertical, straight sides, flat base. 0.2m in diameter. NE side cut by land drain. SW side slightly undercutting. Single fill (309)	0.45–0.60 bgl
309	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole [308]. Dark grey silty loam. Occasional manganese & charcoal. Rare small fragments of fired clay. Accumulated occupation debris following the removal of the post. Truncated.	0.15
310	Cut	Posthole. Circular; near vertical, straight sides, flat base. 0.2m in diameter. One of two similar postholes within the ring-gully group 303. Single fill (311)	0.45–0.63 bgl
311	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole [310]. Dark grey/brown silty loam. Occasional manganese, very small fragments of burnt flint & charcoal. Rare fragments of fired clay. Accumulated occupation debris after the removal of the post. Associated with group 303	0.18
312	Cut	Posthole. Circular; steep/moderate, straight/concave sides & flat base. 0.29m in diameter. Adjacent to the outer edge of the ring gully [302]. Stratigraphic relationship truncated away. Single fill (313). Group 320	0.45–0.61 bgl
313	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole [312]. Mid yellow/brown silty loam. Occasional manganese & rare charcoal. Weathering of natural & surrounding topsoil	0.16
314	Cut	Posthole. Circular; vertical, straight sides & flat base. 0.18m in diameter. Clearly defined. One of three on an E-W alignment. External to group 303. Single fill (315). Group 320	0.45–0.50 bgl
315	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole [314]. Mid yellow/brown sandy loam. Occasional manganese. Weathered natural, some leaching	0.05
316	Cut	Posthole. Circular; near vertical, straight sides, flat base. 0.35m in diameter. Fairly substantial posthole, the largest of the three postholes in an E-W alignment north of group 303. Group 320	0.45–0.65 bgl
317	Fill	Secondary fill of posthole [316]. Mid grey silty loam. Occasional manganese, rare charcoal & fired clay. Weathered occupation debris, some leaching	0.2
318	Cut	?Ring-gully. Steep/moderate, straight sides & concave base. 0.28m x 0.40m, c. 0.11m deep; single fill (319). Probably cut by 303	?
319	Fill	Secondary fill of ?ring-gully [318]. Mid grey/brown silty loam. Occasional manganese & charcoal	?
320	group	group of postholes 312, 314 & 316	

Area 4	Dimensions (m): 16.0 x 15.5		Approximate area (m ²): 275
	Coordinates: X:360442.9108 Y:123997.5587		Elevation (m aOD): 38
Context	Category	Description	Depth (m)
400	Overburden	Mid to dark brown silty loam. Rich loamy plough soil	0–0.20 bgl
		Mid yellow/brown sandy clay; occasional manganese	0.20–0.45 bgl
401	Natural	Mid yellow/brown sandy clay; common manganese	0.45+ bgl
402	Cut	Ditch. W-E; steep, concave sides & concave base. 0.98m wide. Two fills (403), (404). Group 416	0.39
403	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [402]. Mid grey/brown sandy clay. Moderate manganese & piece of Lias (blue?). Struck flint, animal bone & pottery. Earlier of two fills. Fairly compact material with clear horizons. ES18 (20L). Group 416	0.26
404	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [402]. Mid grey/brown sandy clay. Moderate manganese. Pottery. Later of two fills. Fairly loose material with clear horizons. Group 416	0.13
405	Cut	Drainage ditch. NE-SW; moderate, slightly convex sides & concave base. 1.55m in width. Two fills (406), (407). Truncated by a later furrow [408]	0.45–1.05 bgl
406	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [405]. Mid grey/brown sandy, silty clay. Occasional manganese. ?formed from the western edge of the feature. Cut by furrow [408]	0.23



407	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [405]. Mid grey/brown silty clay. Rare manganese & rare charcoal flecks. Cut by furrow [408]	0.37
408	Cut	Post-medieval furrow. N-S; shallow, concave sides & flat base. 1.12m+ wide (visible). Truncates the linear [405]. Single fill (409)	0.45–0.54 bgl
409	Fill	Secondary fill of post-medieval furrow. Light yellow/grey/brown sandy, silty clay	0.09
410	Cut	Drainage ditch/furrow. N-S; moderate, concave sides & base. 1.14m wide. Two fills (411), (412)	0.45–0.82 bgl
411	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [410]. Mid yellow/grey/brown sandy, silty clay. Sparse manganese. Eroded/washed in from the eastern edge	0.13
412	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [410]. Mid grey/brown silty clay. Rare/sparse charcoal flecks, some snail shell; pottery	0.32
413	Cut	Ditch terminal. W-E; moderate, concave sides, concave base. 1.08m in width. Drainage/boundary ditch; two fills (414), (415). Group 416	0.45–0.77 bgl
414	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch terminal [413]. Mid grey/brown sandy clay; moderate manganese. Pottery. Compact with clear horizons. Group 416	0.2
415	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch terminal [413]. Mid grey/brown sandy clay; sparse manganese. Fairly soft/loose with clear horizons. Group 416	0.08
416	Group	ditch group comprising 402 and 413	

Area 5	Dimensions (m): 16.3 x 17.2		Approximate area (m ²): 277
	Coordinates: X:360556.391 Y:123811.1255		Elevation (m aOD): 39
Context	Category	Description	Depth (m)
500	Overburden	Topsoil – 0.2m deep. Mid to dark grey/brown silty loam. Frequent rooting & rare inclusions. Diffuse lower horizon with 0.04m deep turf horizon	0–0.20 bgl
		Subsoil – 0.25m deep. Mid to dark yellow/grey sandy loam; occasional manganese & post-medieval artefacts. Diffuse horizons	0.20–0.45 bgl
501	Natural	Mid yellow/orange sandy clay loam; frequent manganese & occasional grit-sized stones. Frequent bioturbation & mid grey mottling	0.45+ bgl
502	Cut	Drainage ditch. NNE-SSW; moderate/shallow sides; flat/concave base. 1.0m wide. Cut by a land drain. Bioturbation along the eastern sides. Two fills (503),(504). Same as 505	0.45–0.65 bgl
503	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [502]. Mid yellow/brown silty loam; occasional manganese. Homogenous deposit	0.15
504	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [502]. Mid brown silty loam; very rare manganese & charcoal. Heavily truncated	0.05
505	Cut	Ditch. S-N; moderate, concave sides, concave base. 0.89m wide. Drainage or boundary ditch. Contains two fills (506),(507). Same as 502	0.45–0.67 bgl
506	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [505]. Mid yellow/brown sandy clay. Sparse manganese & rare medium gravel inclusions. A single small pot sherd. Fairly compact with a moderately clear horizon	0.14
507	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [505]. Mid grey/brown sandy clay; sparse manganese, rare medium gravel. Fairly loose/soft with a clear horizon	0.09
508	Cut	Furrow. N-S; steep, convex sides; flat base. 1.9m in width. Two fills (509),(510)	0.45–0.87 bgl
509	Fill	Secondary fill of furrow [508]. Mid yellow/grey/brown sandy, silty clay; common manganese	0.33
510	Fill	Tertiary fill of furrow [508]. Light to mid grey/brown sandy, silty clay. Post-medieval pottery, glass, CBM	0.09
511	Cut	Drainage ditch. not excavated (H & S), recorded in section. NNE-SSW ditch; moderate straight sides, base unknown. 0.45m+ in width. One visible fill (512).	0.45+ bgl
512	Fill of 511	Secondary fill of ditch [511]. Mid grey/brown silty loam	0.1+
513	plough soil	Medieval/post-medieval. Mid to dark yellow/grey silty loam; frequent manganese, occasional small–large stones. Occasional charcoal flecks & other artefacts. Diffuse upper, moderate lower horizons. Ploughed-out ridge of ridge & furrow. Very similar to subsoil. Horizontal banding of coarse components & artefacts at interface	0.20–0.50 bgl



14.2 Appendix 2: assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis
Middle Bronze Age													
Ring-gully 230													
202	203	1	8	35	60	C	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	-	-	<1/3 ml	-	
	204	2	10	100	35	C	-	Indet. grain frags	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Fallopia</i>	7/25 ml	-	C
	205	3	9	60	60	B	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	C	<i>Trifolium/Medicago, Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	2/3 ml	-	
206	207	10	10	30	50	C	-	Indet. grain frags	-	-	0/1 ml	-	
	208	11	10	90	50	-	-	-	A	<i>Rumex, Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	2/4 ml	Sab (C), vitrified material	
211	214	12	9	100	50	B	-	Hulled wheat grain frags	B	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex, Atriplex</i>	20/5 ml	-	
	213	13	10	90	35	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	20/10 ml	-	C
215	216	4	8	80	50	A*	-	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, some germination	C	<i>Avena/Bromus, Trifolium/Medicago</i>	3/20 ml	-	P
219	220	8	10	50	60	-	-	-	-	-	0/<1 ml	-	
	221	9	10	100	60	B	-	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Veronica, Rumex, Prunus spinosa</i> fruit frag	0/2 ml	-	P
Post-pit													
217	218	5	9	50	50	A	B	Hulled wheat + barley grain frags, glume base + spikelet fork frags	A	<i>Vicia faba, Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Trifolium/Medicago, Corylus avellana</i> shell frag	2/2 ml	-	P
	222	6	9	50	60	C	C	Hulled wheat grain frags, spikelet fork	B	<i>Avena/Bromus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Rumex</i>	2/2 ml	-	
	223	7	10	25	40	A	C	Hulled wheat grain frags, glume base frags	A	<i>Vicia faba, Vicia/Lathyrus, Avena/Bromus, Rumex, Chenopodium, Poa/Phleum</i>	1/2 ml	-	P
Ring-gully 303													
304	305	17	8	80	70	-	-	-	-	-	1/2 ml	-	
Ditch													
402	403	18	17	60	40	-	-	-	C	<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i>	3/10 ml	-	

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab = small animal bones, Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant,



14.3 Appendix 3: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-205515

Project details

Project name	Land at Sutton Bridge, Queen Camel, Somerset
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to complete an archaeological excavation on land between Sutton Bridge and Windsor Farm, to the south-east of Queen Camel, Somerset (National Grid Reference 360402 123924). The investigation formed part of a programme of archaeological works required by the Planning Authority in advance of a solar PV development.</p> <p>In late 2014, the initial archaeological contractor (Context One Archaeological Services) opened five excavation areas targeted on previously identified geophysical anomalies. Circumstances meant that the contractor had to withdraw from the project. Wessex Archaeology subsequently assumed responsibility, undertaking the remainder of the fieldwork from the 6th to 14th January 2015.</p> <p>Residual probable Mesolithic and other pre-Bronze Age worked flint suggest a background of prehistoric activity in the wider area. Pottery found within another sequence of ring-gullies, a post-pit, and a number of ditches indicate a small Middle Bronze Age farmstead and associated rectilinear field system (Areas 2, 4 and 5). Two overlapping ring-gullies and a cluster of postholes in Area 3 are almost certainly prehistoric, possibly of similar date to those in Area 2. Remnants of extensive medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow were also in evidence across the Site.</p>
Project dates	Start: 06-01-2015 End: 14-01-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TTNCM 62/2013 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	13/01697/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	107440 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	PRN 32724 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	POST-PIT Middle Bronze Age
Monument type	RING-GULLY Middle Bronze Age
Monument type	RING-GULLY Late Prehistoric



Monument type	POSTHOLE Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Middle Bronze Age
Monument type	STAKEHOLE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Late Mesolithic
Significant Finds	LITHIC IMPLEMENT Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Middle Bronze Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOMERSET SOUTH SOMERSET QUEEN CAMEL Land at Sutton Bridge, Queen Camel
Postcode	BA22 7NB
Study area	0.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 60402 23924 51.0127912072 -2.56452972455 51 00 46 N 002 33 52 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.00m Max: 40.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Context One Archaeological Services Ltd
Project design originator	Context One Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Simon Cleggett
Project supervisor	Susan Clelland
Type of sponsor/funding body	solar developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	PS Renewables/Padero Solaer Ltd

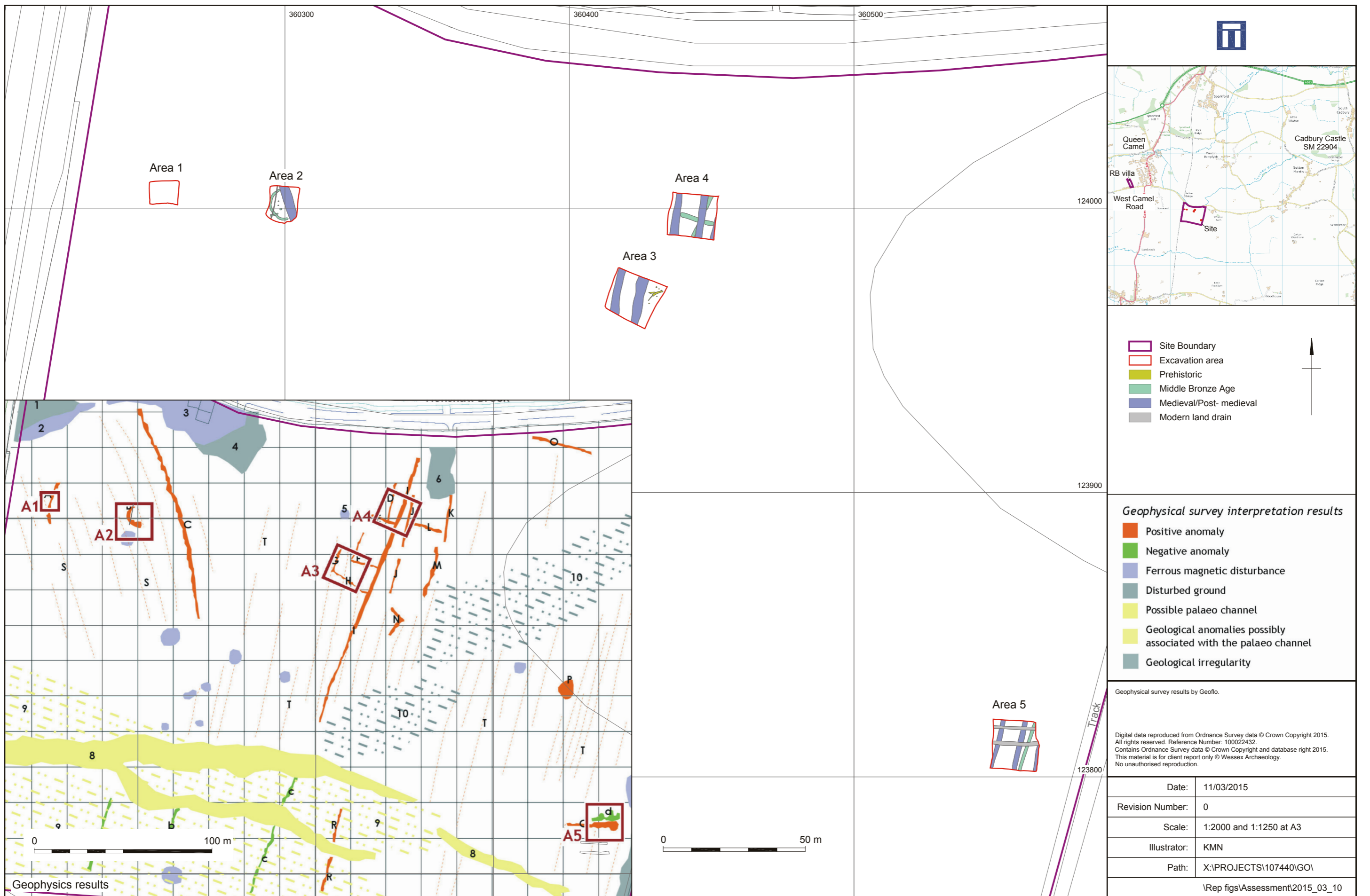


Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Somerset County museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Survey","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Paper Contents	"Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

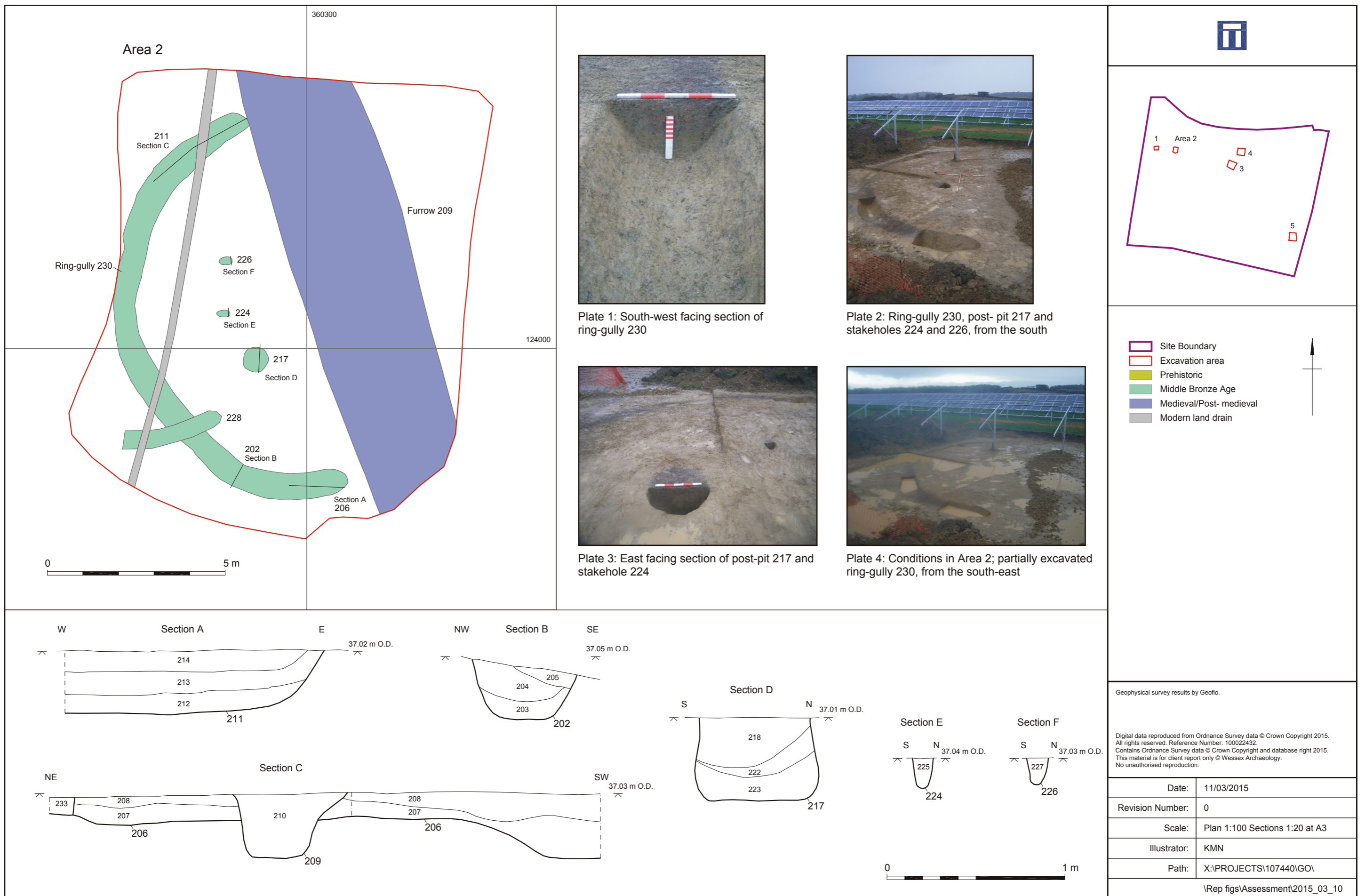
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	land at Sutton Bridge, Queen Camel, Somerset: Archaeological post-excavation assessment and updated project design
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Egging Dinwiddy, K
Other bibliographic details	107440.01
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Salisbury
Description	Standard client and assessment report; colour; A4; A3 figures also;
Entered by	Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy (k.dinwiddy@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	8 March 2015



Site plan and location

Figure 1



Area 2 plan, section and plates

Figure 2

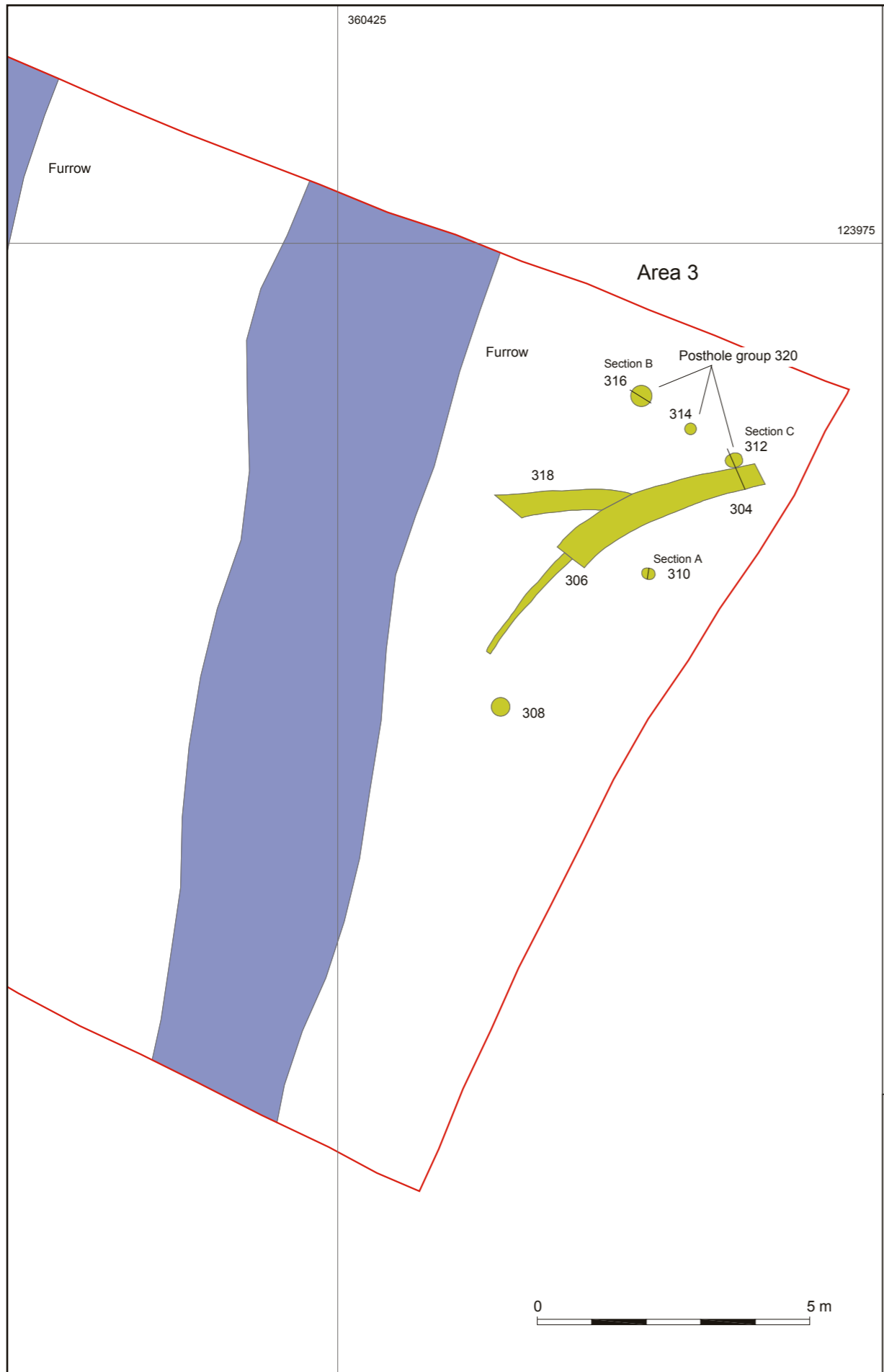
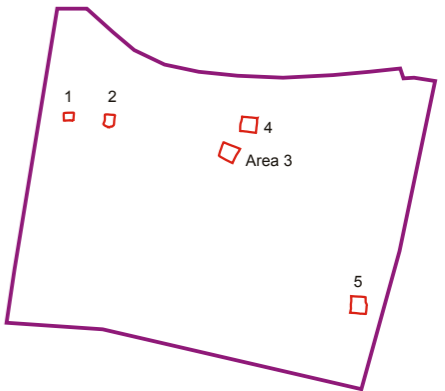
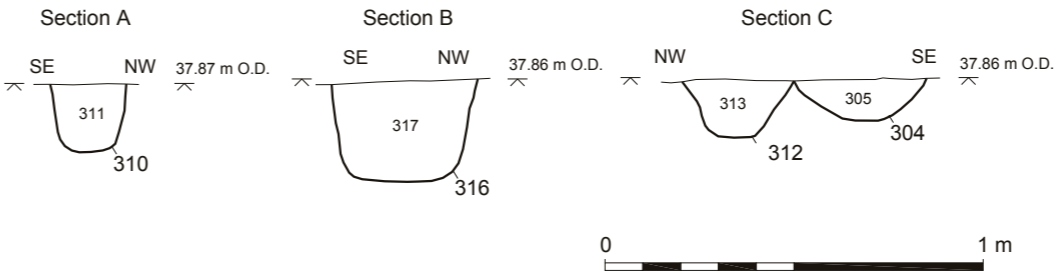


Plate 5: Ring-gully 303 and postholes group 320 from the north



Plate 6: Excavated features including ring-gully 303, from the west



- Site Boundary
- Excavation area
- Prehistoric
- Middle Bronze Age
- Medieval/Post- medieval
- Modern land drain



Geophysical survey results by Geoflo.

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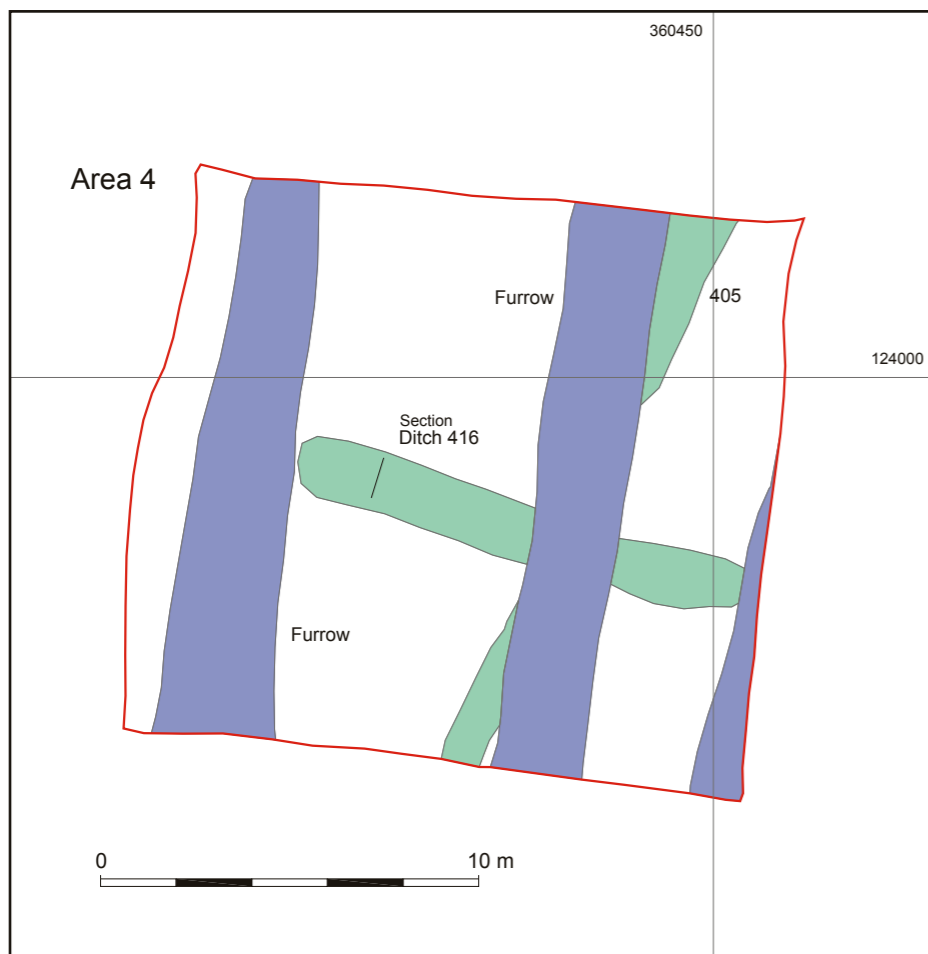


Plate 7: East facing section of ditch 410



Plate 8: South facing section of ditch 405 and furrow 408



Plate 10: South facing section of ditch terminal 416



Plate 9: Area 4 from the north



Plate 12: North facing section of furrow 508

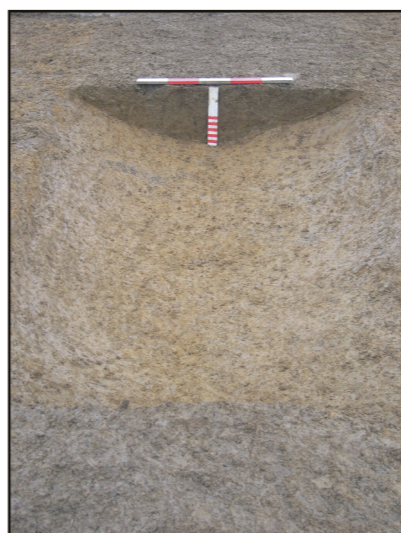
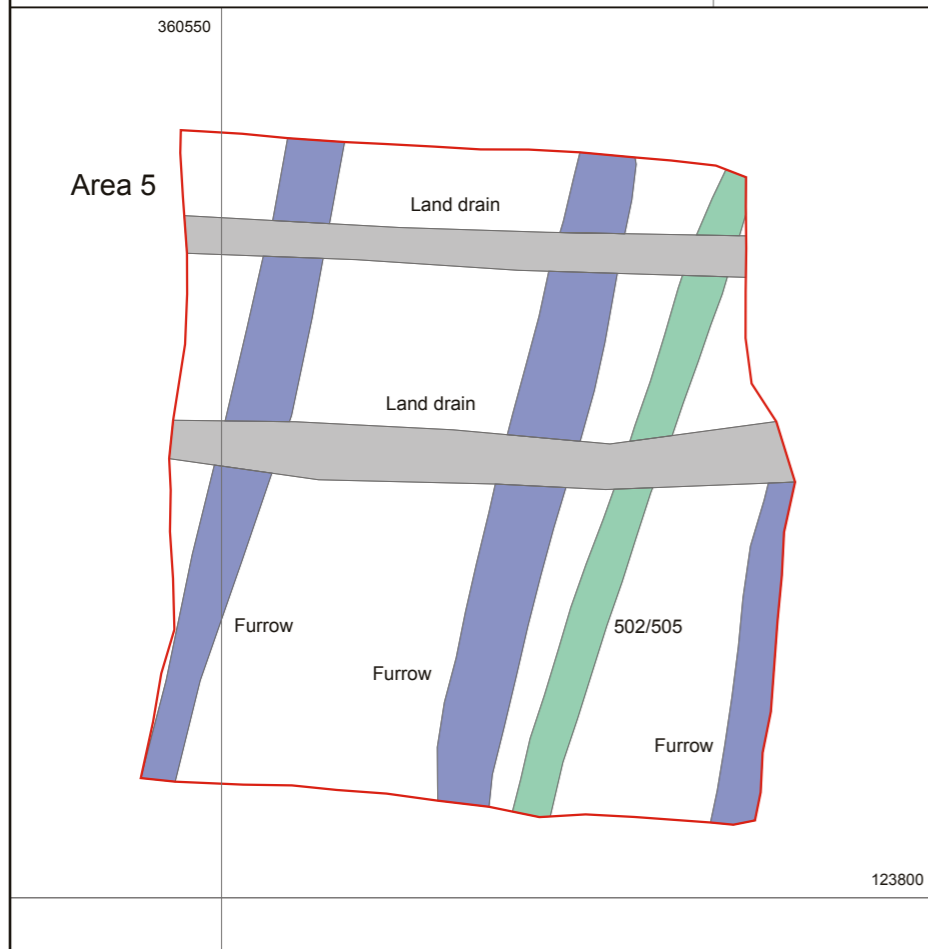


Plate 11: South facing section of ditch 502



Plate 13: North facing representative section, Area 5



Site Boundary
 Excavation area
 Prehistoric
 Middle Bronze Age
 Medieval/Post- medieval
 Modern land drain

Section
N S 38.02 m O.D.
404
403
Ditch 416

0 1 m

Geophysical survey results by Geoflo.

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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



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