



Making sense of heritage

Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1 Plymouth, Devon (Fields 23 and 24)

Post-excavation Assessment



Accession Code: PLYMG:2015.6

Planning Ref: Plymouth City Council – 06/02036/OUT and South Hams District Council – 7_49/2426/06/O

Report Ref: 107560.13
November 2016



**Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1
Plymouth, Devon**

(Fields 23 and 24)

Post-excavation Assessment

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Report Ref: 107560.13


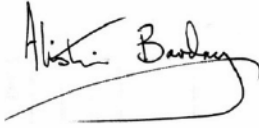
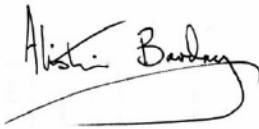
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7_49/2426/06/O**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	107560	Accession Code	PLYMG:2015.6	Client Ref.	-
Planning Application Ref.	Plymouth City Council – 06/02036/OUT South Hams District Council – 7_49/2426/06/O	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	254113 053652		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	MK	GSC		22/08/2016
File:	X:\PROJECTS\107560_Reports\Excavation Fields 23 and 24\107560_SherfordFields23and24_v1.doc				
v02	E	MK	PA/AB		19/09/2016
File:					
v03	F	MK	PA/AB		22/11/2016
File:					
File:					
File:					

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

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Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1 Plymouth, Devon

(Fields 23 and 24)

Post-excavation Assessment

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Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1 Plymouth, Devon

(Fields 23 and 24)

Post-excavation Assessment

Summary

In 2015 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AECOM, on behalf of the Sherford Consortium, to undertake an archaeological excavation on land within the Phase 1 area of the proposed New Community at Sherford, Plymouth, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference 254113 53652. This was in order to discharge conditions 52, 54, 56, and 93 in the outline planning application (Plymouth City Council – 06/02036/OUT and the South Hams District Council – 7_49/2426/06/O).

A geophysical survey of the Phase 1 area had been undertaken by Bartlett-Clarke Consultancy in 2014, and this identified a number of possible archaeological features within the development area. Due to the density of the archaeological features it was recommended that an archaeological excavation should be undertaken as part of a wider scheme of archaeological investigations.

Features identified during the excavation consisted mostly of gullies or ditches and a large number of postholes and small pits, with clear concentrations in the east and west of the Site. The former defined roundhouses and plot division boundaries. These have been dated predominantly to the Iron Age and Romano-British period on the basis of pottery recovered from their fills, although redeposited Bronze Age pottery was present in a number of features. The postholes and small pits, most of them undated, occurred in large groups, making identification of individual structures and their functions difficult though it is likely they were associated with settlement.

There were also two quarry pits located in the centre of the Site, which were probably utilised for limestone extraction for construction of some of the roundhouses and other structures. There was a relatively large stone-built structure located in the south-eastern corner of the Site which most likely was used as a crop dryer, an interpretation supported by the charred plant remains. The crop dryer is likely to date to the late Roman period and, following disuse, a pewter plate and a mid-4th century coin were placed in the abandoned structure.

Several larger ditches ran across the Site on a north to south or east to west alignment. These were part of a medieval/post-medieval field system, the remains of which still survive in parts of the wider development area and can be matched with field boundaries indicated on tithe maps.

This report is the first of a series of Post-Excavation Assessments on the proposed excavations, leading to an Updated Project Design for analysis and publication.



Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1 Plymouth, Devon

(Fields 23 and 24)

Post-excavation Assessment

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by AECOM, and Wessex Archaeology (WA) would like to thank Andrew Mayes and Donal Lucey in this regard. WA would also like to acknowledge Stephen Reed of Devon County Council (DCC), who monitored this project on behalf of the local authority. WA are also grateful to Dave Simpson of Brookbanks Consulting, and Roger Prout and Sean Kane of Groundfix for their help and co-operation during the works.

The archaeological excavation was directed in the field by Matt Kendall, with assistance from Tom Blencowe, Mike Cepak, Benjamin Cullen and Darryl Freer (Project Supervisors). The fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Allcock, Elena Calabria, Diana Chard, Steven Cole, Miranda Fulbright, Elisenda Gimeno Jimenez, Cordelia Laycock, Wojech Mach, Johann Paci, Jon Sanigar, Anna Smaldone, Michael Trubee, Frances Ward, and Owen Watts. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Gareth Chaffey, who also edited this report.

The finds were assessed by Grace Jones (prehistoric and Romano-British pottery, fired clay, CBM, metalwork, stone and worked bone), Phil Andrews (slag), Nicholas Cooke (coins), Lorrain Higbee (animal bone), Matt Leivers (flint), Lorraine Mephram (glass, clay pipe and post Romano-British pottery) and Jacqueline McKinley (human bone). The environmental samples were processed by Tony Scothern and assessed by Inés López-Dóriga, and the on-site geoarchaeological assessment undertaken by Dave Norcott. The report was compiled by Matt Kendall and the graphics were prepared by Rob Goller.



Sherford New Community – Phase 1.1 Plymouth, Devon

(Fields 23 and 24)

Post-excavation Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by AECOM, on behalf of the Sherford Consortium, to carry out an archaeological excavation on land within the Phase 1 area of the proposed New Community (namely Fields 23 and 24) at Sherford, Plymouth, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 254113 53652 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**). The excavation was part of the wider archaeological mitigation strategy for Phase 1 of the Sherford New Community development required as conditions 52, 54, 56, and 93 in the outline planning application conditions (Plymouth City Council – 06/02036/OUT and the South Hams District Council – 7_49/2426/06/O).
- 1.1.2 The excavation was positioned over an area of high archaeological potential identified in an earlier geophysical survey (Bartlett-Clarke Consulting 2014).
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork strategy and methodology was documented in a Method Statement (AECOM 2015) that was submitted to and approved by the County Archaeologist at Devon County Council (DCC) prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.4 The archaeological excavation was carried out between the 7 September and 13 November 2015.
- 1.1.5 This report is the first of a series of Post-Excavation Assessments on the proposed excavations, leading to an Updated Project Design for analysis and publication.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The overall proposed development area is approximately 660.30 ha in size and comprises mostly pasture and arable fields. It is located on undulating land ranging from 32 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the middle of the development around Bridge Stream, rising up to 100 m aOD in the north-eastern corner.
- 1.2.2 The Site comprises land located on the western edge of the development area and is composed of two pasture fields, covering an area of 2.69 ha. The Site lies immediately north-east of the town of Elburton, approximately 6.3 km east of the centre of Plymouth and 2.3 km south of Plympton, and is bounded on all sides by pasture and arable fields (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.3 The south-eastern corner of the Site is located on higher ground (at 44.60 m aOD) overlooking the valley containing Bridge Stream. The land then slopes down, gradually to the north and west but more steeply to the north-west, levelling out slightly in the northern



and north-western parts of the Site (at 37.50 m aOD) (**Figure 2**). The underlying geology of the Site primarily comprises Middle Devonian Limestone, with a smaller area of Middle Devonian Slates in the northern part of the Site. The latter is overlain by superficial deposits of Head Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (British Geological Survey Website).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background of the Site has been detailed in an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (URS 2014a), the results of which are briefly summarised below. A 0.5 km Study Area around the Site was established in order to provide the context for the discussion and interpretation.

2.2 Known sites

2.2.1 Within the Phase 1 area there are a number of Grade II listed buildings at West Sherford Farm dating from the 16th to 18th centuries, to the south-east of the Site. Of local significance are the Sherford limekilns, located to the east of the Site, which probably date back to the early 18th century.

2.2.2 The only scheduled monument identified is the Iron Age hillfort known as Wastebury Camp (NHL no.33794), which is located to the east of the wider development area. In addition, the Plymouth St Maurice conservation area lies 370 m to the north of the wider development area.

2.3 Archaeological and historical background

2.3.1 There is very little evidence for early prehistoric activity within the development area, with a single Mesolithic microlith recovered from an area immediately south of the King George Playing Field, to the south-west of the Site. Neolithic evidence is similarly scarce, with a flint scatter and possible settlement activity recorded in the north-east of Elburton. Bronze Age activity seems to have increased in line with what is known from the wider area. Two circular earthwork features, which appear to be barrows, have been identified to the north of the Site, and have been confirmed by later geophysical surveys (Bartlett-Clarke Consulting 2014). In addition, an enclosure tentatively dated to the Bronze Age has been identified near to the two barrows.

2.3.2 Romano-British activity within the wider development area is mainly represented by coin find spots, which are dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, and are predominately located in the centre of the development area. A trial trench evaluation in 2006 (Exeter Archaeology 2006) identified settlement activity close to the find spots which included an enclosure ditch, a hearth and a scatter of pits which were dated from the mid-Iron Age to the 4th century AD, suggesting a continued presence in the area.

2.3.3 Medieval/post-medieval activity in the Phase 1 area predominantly comprises the remains of enclosures and strip fields that can still be seen in the south-west corner of the Site. The most interesting post-medieval activity within the Phase 1 area are the Sherford limekilns, noted above, and the now demolished Gore Farm which is located to the east of the Site and immediately north-west of the Sherford kilns. Shown on an 18th century plan and comprising of at least two substantial buildings, the farm was demolished by 1869.



2.4 Recent investigations within the Phase 1 area

- 2.4.1 Several previous archaeological investigations are associated with the Phase 1 area, as well as the wider development area (**Table 1**), and form part of a programme of archaeological work and recording in advance of the construction of the Sherford New Community (URS 2014b).
- 2.4.2 A geophysical survey of the Phase 1 area was undertaken by Stratascan (2006) and this was subsequently repeated and extended by Bartlett-Clarke Consultants (Bartlett-Clarke Consulting 2014). These surveys recorded anomalies suggestive of numerous significant archaeological features, which appear to suggest the presence of a prehistoric/Romano-British landscape (including barrows, possible settlement/stock enclosures and field systems) beneath the existing medieval/post-medieval field systems. The majority of these features are located within Fields 23 and 24, as well as either side of Bridge Stream.
- 2.4.3 A field-walking and trial trench evaluation was undertaken in 2006 (Exeter Archaeology 2006). The field-walking, which took place in a number of the fields within the Phase 1 area, recovered a large number of flint artefacts, clustered in the area of the barrows, and a small number of pottery sherds which dated from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period. Three of the trenches were located within the Site and identified settlement-type features dated to the Iron Age/Romano-British period.
- 2.4.4 A trial trench evaluation and two watching-briefs were undertaken within the Phase 1 area and the wider development area in 2015 (WA 2015a, 2015b, 2016). These identified a small number of features that mostly corresponded to the medieval/post-medieval field systems. Two concentrations of features reflecting Iron Age–Romano-British probable settlement activity were also identified, in the north-eastern and south-western corners of the Phase 1 area.

Table 1: Previous fieldwork events: Sherford New Community – Phase 1

Work	Date	Organisation	Report
Geophysical Survey	2006	Stratascan	Stratascan client report 2006
Field-walking and trial trench evaluation	2006	Exeter Archaeology	Exeter Archaeology client report 06.44
Geophysical Survey	2014	Bartlett-Clarke Consultants	Bartlett-Clarke Consulting client report 2014
Trial trench evaluation	2015	Wessex Archaeology	WA 2015, ref 107560.05
Watching brief	2015	Wessex Archaeology	WA 2015, ref 107560.06
Watching brief	2016	Wessex Archaeology	WA 2016, ref 107560.11

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The methodology for the archaeological fieldwork in Fields 23 and 24 is set out in detail in the Method Statement (AECOM 2015).
- 3.1.2 All excavation and post-excavation procedures were conducted in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and*



guidance for archaeological excavation (ClfA 2014a) except where they are superseded by statements below. The assessment work follows guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015).

- 3.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work 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.

3.2 Stripping and fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 Fields 23 and 24 lie within the south-eastern part of the Phase 1 area and comprise an area of 2.69 ha. The Site was stripped from south to north in east to west strips, following the natural topography. Ground conditions were generally good for the majority of the stripping, but then wetter towards the end of the fieldwork.
- 3.2.2 Overburden (i.e. topsoil and subsoil) was removed under constant archaeological supervision using 360° tracked mechanical excavators, down to a natural geology or archaeological deposits, whichever was encountered first
- 3.2.3 The Site was further cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to enable an accurate site plan to be produced. Investigation of the archaeological features and deposits was then undertaken as specified in the Method Statement (AECOM 2015), sufficient to satisfy the principle aims of the excavation.
- 3.2.4 Archaeological remains were hand-excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the aims and the objectives of the excavation. A sufficient sample of archaeological deposits was investigated through sample excavation to record the horizontal and vertical extents of the stratigraphic sequence to the level of undisturbed natural deposits.

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 Regular monitoring visits were undertaken throughout the fieldwork programme by the archaeological consultant Andrew Mayes (AECOM), Senior Historic Environment Officer Stephen Reed of Devon County Council and the WA Project Manager Gareth Chaffey.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system. Where appropriate, significant artefacts were 3D recorded and detailed plans were made of any special or placed deposits.
- 3.4.2 A full written, drawn and photographic archive was maintained. Plans and sections were produced at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, where appropriate. The extents of the excavation area, together with all archaeological features were accurately recorded using a GPS unit. This gave accurate 3D Ordnance Survey co-ordinates and spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.4.3 Digital images were taken (including a scale) as appropriate. A number of general site photographs and working shots were also taken to give an overview of the Site and the progress of the excavation. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the principle features, finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.



3.5 Artefact recovery

- 3.5.1 All artefacts were recovered, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (ClfA 2014b; Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) 1993; 1995). Bulk finds were collected and recorded by context from both excavated and the surface of unexcavated features.

3.6 Environmental strategy

- 3.6.1 Bulk environmental samples, normally up to 40 litres, for plant macro-fossils, charred plant remains, small animal bones and other small artefacts were taken from appropriate well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological deposits following WA's standard environmental sampling policy.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section summarises the results of the archaeological excavation and is integrated with selected specialist material. Development of the Site is presented as a chronological narrative, although the relatively small amount of dating evidence, together with the similarity of the feature fills, made it difficult to clearly establish definite stratigraphic and chronological relationships between some features, particularly the groups of postholes and small pits and several of the ditches forming the post-medieval field system. The detailed assessment of artefactual assemblage is presented in **Section 5** and the detailed assessment of environmental evidence in **Section 6** of this report. More detailed descriptions of the archaeological features and deposits can be found in the paper and digital archives.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 Between 0.20 m and 0.50 m of topsoil and subsoil overlay the natural geology, although near the centre of the Site substantial deposits of a 'natural soil' (1.20 m+ at its deepest) were encountered below the topsoil/subsoil and overlying natural geology. These deposits are discussed in **Section 4.8**.

4.3 Summary of excavation results

- 4.3.1 Features identified during the excavation consisted mostly of ditches, gullies, postholes and small pits, with clear concentrations in the east and west of the Site (**Figure 3**). The majority of the datable features have been assigned to the Iron Age and Romano-British period. Several of the gullies defined roundhouses and plot division boundaries, while the postholes and small pits, most of them undated, occurred in large groups, making identification of individual structures and their functions difficult though it is likely they also were associated with settlement.
- 4.3.2 There were two quarry pits located in the centre of the Site, which were probably utilised for limestone extraction for construction of some of the roundhouses and other structures. A relatively large late Roman stone-built structure in the south-eastern corner of the Site was most likely used as a crop dryer, an interpretation supported by the charred plant remains.
- 4.3.3 Several larger ditches ran across the Site on a north to south or east to west alignment. These were part of a medieval/post-medieval field system, the remains of which still survive in parts of the wider development area and can be matched with field boundaries indicated on tithe maps.



4.4 Prehistoric

- 4.4.1 There is very little artefactual evidence of early prehistoric activity on the Site, with only 15 flint flakes or fragments of flakes being recovered from across entire area. While some were found within features, they are likely to be residual. All the pieces of flint remain undated.
- 4.4.2 In the western part of the Site were two large concentrations of 753 posthole and small pit-type features, all of which were dug into the Head deposits of gravels and clay (**Figure 4, Plate 1**). Of these, 154 (20%) were excavated, and on average they measured 0.34 m by 0.33 m and were 0.14 m in depth. A total of seven (postholes **80491**, **80582**, **80655**, **80667**, pit **80751**, posthole **80755** and post-structure **80816**) could be dated to the Bronze Age or later prehistoric period from the pottery that was recovered.
- 4.4.3 Posthole **80491** (**Plate 2**) was located in the northern cluster of postholes and pits, and measured 0.55 m by 0.38 m. It was 0.29 m deep with steep straight sides and a flat base. It contained a single naturally silted fill from which a single sherd of late prehistoric pottery was recovered. Posthole **80582** was located in a small cluster of postholes between the two larger concentrations, and measured 0.25 m by 0.24 m. It was only 0.07 m deep with moderate straight sides and a concave base, and contained a single fill out from which a small sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered. Posthole **80655** was located on the western edge of the northern cluster of postholes and pits. Measuring 0.35 m by 0.29 m and 0.23 m deep, it had steep, straight sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill which contained two sherds of prehistoric pottery.
- 4.4.4 Posthole **80667** (**Plate 3**) was located on the western edge of the southern cluster of features and measured 0.35 m by 0.34 m. It was 0.14 m deep with steep straight sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill and produced a small sherd of pottery. Pit **80751** (**Plate 4**) was located between the two large concentrations of features and was approximately 4 m east of posthole **80582**. Measuring 0.62 m by 0.60 m and 0.22 m deep, with steep irregular sides and an irregularly concave base, it contained several very small fragments of pottery which are most likely prehistoric. Posthole **80755** was located near the centre of the northern cluster of features and measured 0.46 m by 0.40 m. It was 0.10 m deep with moderate concave sides and an irregular base. A relatively large quantity of Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the single fill. Environmental analysis of the fill, however, suggests an Iron Age to Romano-British date and the significance of the differing dates will be discussed in **Section 7.1**.
- 4.4.5 Rectangular post-structure **80816** (**Figure 4, Plate 5**) was located to the south-east of the southern cluster of features and covered an area measuring 2.55 m by 2.13. It was composed of six postholes (**80448**, **80450**, **80452**, **80454**, **80456** and **80458**), each measuring on average 0.32 m by 0.27 m and 0.22 m deep, that were aligned in two rows of three on a north to south alignment 1.43 m apart. These were they only features out of the two concentrations that could be seen to form a coherent structure. From the six postholes came a single sherd of prehistoric pottery. Environmental analysis of the fills of the postholes, however, does suggest an Iron Age date.
- 4.4.6 In addition to these seven features, a further two (pit **80646** and posthole **80704**) can be dated to the prehistoric period through environmental analysis of their fills. Despite a dearth of datable evidence, it is assumed that many of the postholes can be dated by association to the prehistoric period.



4.5 Iron Age and Romano-British

4.5.1 Activity on the Site during the Iron Age and Romano-British period is concentrated mostly in the south-eastern quadrant (**Figure 5**), on a small plateau which overlooks the rest of the Site and the surrounding area. The features comprise postholes, gullies, ditches, pits and quarry pits. Artefacts recovered can accurately date some of these features to the Iron Age or Romano-British period, while charred plant remains from samples taken from others are characteristic of both periods.

Iron Age

4.5.2 Only two features can be securely dated to the Iron Age (pit **80418** and posthole **80604**).

4.5.3 Pit **80418** (**Figure 3, Plate 6**) was located in the north of the Site and was isolated from all other features – either of Iron Age or Romano-British date. Measuring 2.82 m by 2.08 m, it was 0.35 m deep with moderate concave sides and a generally flat base (although it was cut into limestone bedrock, making the sides and base rather irregular). A single decorated sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the pit. Posthole **80604** (**Figure 4, Plate 7**) was located on the eastern edge of the southern cluster of posthole and small pits (see **Section 4.4**) and measured 0.41 m by 0.40 m. It was 0.25 m deep with steep straight sides and a slightly concave base. A large quantity of Iron Age pottery (over 50 sherds) came from the posthole, suggesting a deliberate backfilling rather than natural infilling.

Iron Age/Romano-British

4.5.4 During the Iron Age/Romano-British period, there appears to have been a shift of activity away from the lower lying western area towards the higher ground in the south-eastern corner of the Site (**Figure 5**). It is also during this period that the first definite evidence of settlement appears, with several ring gullies and associated features being identified (**80171, 80806, 80807, 80808, 80809** and **80812**) indicating the presence of roundhouses. There is also evidence of stone quarrying (pit **80817**), possibly for construction.

4.5.5 Ring gully **80806** (**Figure 5, Plate 8**) was located within the south-eastern quadrant of the Site and measured 16.40 m in diameter. It was 0.50 m wide and 0.30 m deep. Ring gully **80806**, like **80807** and **80809** (see below), was heavily truncated and survived as two separate segments; it was also cut in two places by ditch **80801**. The gully sides were moderately concave and it had a flat base. It is currently thought that **80806** was the earliest of the three principal ring gullies. Complete excavation of its fill produced a decorated bone comb (**ON 16, Plate 9**), almost complete, which suggests that it could have been a placed deposit, possibly made when the associated roundhouse was abandoned. Pottery was also recovered from the fill and this is of broad Iron Age to Romano-British date.

4.5.6 Ring gully **80807**, which cut natural feature **80169**, was located 7.50 m east of ring gully **80806** and has an estimated diameter of 12.45 m. Like **80807** it was heavily truncated, surviving in two segments which measured on average 0.90 m wide and 0.18 m deep; it had moderately irregular sides and an irregular base. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill, although environmental analysis suggests a date range spanning the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Within the area enclosed by ring gully **80807** was a smaller ring gully (**80808**) and a pit (**80171, Plate 10**). The ring gully was estimated to be 9.40 m in diameter with a width of 0.64 m and 0.15 m deep, while the pit measured 1.38 m by 1.47 m and 0.28 m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature, but it has been assumed that they are of Iron Age or Romano-British, and this is supported by the environmental evidence.



- 4.5.7 Immediately to the south of ring gully **80807** was the third of the main ring gullies, **80809**, measuring 13.48 m in diameter. This was ring gully was up to 1.05 m wide and 0.27 m deep, with shallow concave sides and a flattish base. Ring gully **80809** was the most truncated of the three principal ring gullies, surviving as three separate segments; it is also possible that part of the eastern side had been removed by structure **80781**. Pottery recovered (including a small sherd of Samian) from the single fill indicates a Romano-British date, but a slightly earlier date is possible based on the environmental evidence.
- 4.5.8 Located just inside ring gully **80809**, along its northern edge, was possible beam slot **80812** (Plate 11). Measuring 3.45 m long by 0.53 m wide and 0.77 m deep, the beam slot ran roughly east to west and had steep straight sides and a flat base. A layer of loose limestone had been put in the slot as packing for at least three vertical posts, perhaps for a structure within the roundhouse. No artefacts were recovered from **80812** but environmental evidence suggests an Iron Age to Romano-British date.
- 4.5.9 To the west of the ring gullies, approximately 19 m from **80806**, were a group of intercutting pits and postholes **80817** measuring 6.70 m by 3.10 m in extent and 1.10 m at the deepest (Plate 12). The features comprised postholes **80495** and **80500**, and pits **80497**, **80502** and **80508**. Investigation of these features suggests they were associated with stone quarrying, perhaps in order to construct foundations for roundhouse walls. Evidence for such construction was seen in an earlier archaeological evaluation to the south-east (WA 2015a).
- 4.5.10 Initially there was a small quarry pit, **80497**, which was subsequently enlarged by later quarry pit **80502**. Postholes **80495** and **80508** possibly formed part of a structure around the quarry, perhaps for some kind of shelter, with posthole **80500** cut into the base of pit **80508**. There was little dating evidence from quarry complex **80817**, with only six sherds of pottery recovered. They date from the Romano-British and post-medieval period, the later pottery being intrusive. Environmental analysis also suggests an Iron Age to Romano-British date for the complex.
- 4.5.11 The depositional sequence within quarry pit **80497** shows that there was some initial silting occurring while the quarry was still functioning. After the quarry was abandoned, and following a period of further silting, a large deposit of limestone rubble was dumped in it, possibly poorer quality material that had been extracted but then rejected. The final deposit was a gradual filling of the remaining hollow.
- 4.5.12 In addition to the features mentioned above, two postholes (**80462** and **80510**) within the cluster of postholes and small pits can be attributed to the Iron Age/Romano-British period on the basis of environmental analysis (Figure 4). A further five features were subsequently also suggested as being probably Iron Age (postholes **80445**, **80464**, pit **80542**, and postholes **80700** and **80712**) through the analysis of environmental samples taken.
- 4.5.13 Pit **80542** (Figure 4) was located along the south-western edge of the Site, south of the southern pit and posthole cluster, and measured 1.00 m by 0.89 m. It was 0.10 m deep with steep to moderate concave sides and an irregular base. No dating evidence was recovered but it did contain a charcoal-rich fill, from which a large quantity of charred grains and seeds were recovered. The natural geology into which **80542** was cut showed signs that it had been affected by heat, suggesting that these charred deposits were placed in the pit soon after they had been burnt.



- 4.5.14 Pit **80112** (**Figure 5**) was located in the south-eastern corner of the Site and measured 0.41 m in diameter. It was only 0.04 m deep with shallow concave sides and a flat base. Whilst it was very shallow, it contained a large quantity charcoal and burnt material. Environmental analysis of the remains could not clarify the chronology but an Iron Age–Romano-British date is considered most likely.

Romano-British

- 4.5.15 Romano-British activity on the Site was concentrated mostly in the south-eastern quadrant (**Figures 3** and **5**) and follows on from the earlier, Iron Age phase. However, there is a lack of clear evidence for settlement, contrasting with that provided by the ring gullies which date to the Iron Age or Iron Age/Romano-British transition. There are also a few features near the northern and western edges of the Site which can be attributed to this period.
- 4.5.16 Gully **80246** (**Figure 5**) was located to the south-west of ring gully **80806** and measured 2.07 m long by 0.90 m wide. It was 0.20 m deep with moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Gully **80246** was quite isolated from other features of Romano-British date, and its short length makes it difficult to interpret. However, it contained a relatively large quantity of pottery, including a sherd of samian ware. Pit **80409** was located quite close to the southern edge of the Site and cut through a large sub-circular natural feature (**Figure 2**). Measuring 1.57 m by 0.97 m and 0.53 m deep, pit **80409** had steep straight sides and a slightly sloping base. Roman pottery was recovered from both fills along with a number of other artefacts.
- 4.5.17 In the western part of the Site, within the clusters of postholes and small pits, were three postholes of Romano-British date (**80460**, **80708** and **80714**) (**Figure 4**). Posthole **80460** (**Plate 13**) was located on the eastern edge of the northern cluster of features and measured 0.30 m by 0.25 m. It was 0.14 m deep and had steep straight sides with a concave base, and contained a relatively large quantity of Roman pottery, possibly used as post-packing. Posthole **80708** was located in a small cluster of features between the two larger clusters and measured 0.34 m by 0.33 m. It was only 0.07 m deep but contained seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. Approximately 4 m to the east of **80708** was posthole **80714** (**Plate 14**) which measured 0.36 m by 0.26 m. This posthole had steep sides and a flat base, was 0.25 m deep, and contained a single fill, from which a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered.
- 4.5.18 Quarry pit **80767** was located on the edge of the higher ground near the centre of the Site (**Figure 5**, **Plate 15**), approximately 7 m north of quarry complex **80817**, and indicates a later phase of quarrying activity on the Site. Quarry **80767** measured 12.34 m by 7.88 m, had moderately sloping sides and an irregular base, and was 1.12 m deep. It had a similar depositional sequence to that of **80817**, beginning with a relatively large, deliberate backfill of limestone fragments. Artefacts including a range of Roman pottery give a secure Romano-British date. The copper alloy and iron objects include five coins (**ONs 10**, **13**, **14** (**Plate 16**), **15** and **47**), which date from the 3rd to 4th centuries AD.

Stone-built structure 80781

- 4.5.19 Structure **80781** (**Figures 4**; **Plate 17**) was located in the south-eastern area of the Site and most likely truncated part of ring gully **80809**. It measured 5.60 m by 2.70 m and was 1.23 m deep, built into the bedrock, and at least four constructional elements or phases have been identified (**Figure 6**). The feature was 'keyhole' shaped in plan (**Plate 18**) with a sub-circular pit at the north end and a narrow, transverse slot to the south; these were joined together by a further narrow slot which ran north to south (*Phase 1*). In the middle



of the eastern and western sides was a small step above the central slot, and three small sections of wall (**80783–85**) had been constructed along the eastern, southern, and western edges of the feature (**Plates 19–21**). Evidence of a ‘clay mortar’ was found in all three walls, which was used to bed the stones together. The only other evidence of this type of ‘mortar’ on the Site was seen in quarry pits **80817** and pit **80813** (see above), suggesting that these and structure **80781** could have been contemporary.

- 4.5.20 Four large stone slabs, ranging in size from 0.85 m by 0.35 m to 1.13 m by 0.92 m, had been placed as a cover over the central slot (**80782**, **Plate 22**) (*Phase 2*), while several (possibly later) smaller limestone blocks lay against the southern end of the central slot. Three of the four slabs were limestone, while the fourth appeared to be shillet or slate. This stone had toolmarks on some of its faces, likely the result of dressing when it was quarried (**Plate 23**).
- 4.5.21 The next phase of **80781** seems to have been the building of some kind of superstructure (*Phase 3*), represented by walls **80786** and **80787**, which were built on top of the stone slabs. However, due to the shallow nature of the overlying deposits in this area of the Site, little of the overlying superstructure survived due to later ploughing and/or robbing of the stone. Wall **80786** (**Plate 24**) was east to west aligned and was located across the middle of structure of structure **80781**, overlying the two smaller stone slabs of **80782**. It was approximately 0.70 m wide with a limestone core and facing stones on either side, suggesting that the wall may have been quite substantial. The same type of ‘clay mortar’ that was seen in the other walls was also identified in the courses that made up the two faces. Deposit **80787** was a spread of smaller pieces of limestone that was most likely the result of the demolition or collapse of the superstructure. It extended over the top of **80781**, but predominately the southern half, and some ‘clay mortar’ was also identified in this deposit. Limestone rubble then appears to have been spread over the top of the structure (*Phase 4*), either associated with *Phase 3* or following its disuse.
- 4.5.22 Although the phasing relating to the construction of the structure is relatively clear (**Figure 6**), the dating of this and the chronology of disuse and subsequent backfilling are less so. After the structure ceased to be used, a sequence of backfilling events took place, with two distinct deposits in the northern and southern ends and another in the central narrow slot (**Plate 25**). These occurred, however, after the northern entrance to the central section of the feature had been partly sealed off by a deliberate dump of limestone blocks. Within this sealing deposit was part of a horse mandible (**ON 39**, **Plate 26**). In addition of the mandible, during the excavation of the central section, the remains of a pewter dish dating to the 4th century AD (**ON 44**) and a coin dating to AD 331 (**ON 51**, **Plate 27**) were recovered from the base of the structure. In addition, a relatively wide range of pottery, including samian and Black Burnished Ware, was recovered from all the backfill deposits and around various walls, providing good evidence that the structure was, if not used then at least abandoned in the Middle to Late Roman period.
- 4.5.23 It is not certain what the function of this structure was (**Plates 28 and 29**), but it bears several similarities in form to Romano-British T-shaped crop dryers of the 3rd to 4th century AD. It appears to have a stoke-hole at the north end, a slab-covered central flue and a cross-channel forming part of the base of a chamber at the south end. The lack of obvious burning is not a problem – only a gentle heat is required to dry the cereals or other crops, and the charred plant remains (see below) are consistent with this being its principal function; there is a hint that it may also have served for malting. Certainly, with the stone capping, it can be considered a relatively well preserved example, and being rock cut almost certainly had some bearing on its detailed form. The pewter vessel, and

possibly also the coin and horse mandible, can be interpreted as a 'closing deposit', perhaps put there when the structure was abandoned.

Other Romano-British features

- 4.5.24 In the south-eastern corner of the Site were a number of ditches and gullies (**80795**, **80796**, **80797**, **80810** and **80811**) which have a stratigraphic (and chronological relationship) with some of the other features in this area (**Figure 5**). Ditch **80795** (**Plate 30**) ran from the eastern edge of the Site for 9.66 m before being cut at 90° by ditch **80796**. It was 0.68 m wide and 0.30 m deep with moderate concave sides and a slightly concave base. Ditch **80795** contained a single, silted fill from which two abraded sherds of Roman pottery were recovered. Ditch **80796** (**Plate 31**) ran from the southern edge of the Site roughly northwards for 42.46 m, cutting ditches **80795** and **80797**, before reaching the eastern edge of the Site. Measuring 1.78 m at its widest, it had moderate to shallow concave sides and a slightly concave base. It was 0.45 m deep and contained a single fill which produced a small abraded sherd of Roman pottery. Only a small section of ditch **80797** survived, with most having been truncated by ditch **80796**. It was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 3.93 m in length by 0.94 m wide and 0.24 m deep, and had moderate to shallow concave sides and a concave to flat base. Several small sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill.
- 4.5.25 Gully **80810** was located 18.60 m west of ditch **80796** and immediately east of ring gully **80807**. Running north to south and measuring 30.23 m long, 0.90 m wide and 0.30 m deep, the gully was formed from two separate segments, with moderate to shallow concave sides and a flattish base. Excavation produced no pottery, but the lid of a seal box (**ON 12**, **Plate 32**) was recovered from the surface of the feature. Running east to west, gully **80811** was cut by gully **80810**. It measured 4.26 m long, 0.87 m wide and 0.13 m deep with shallow concave sides and a flat to concave base. Finds recovered from the single fill suggest a Romano-British date.
- 4.5.26 Pit complex **80813** (**Figure 5**; **Plate 33**) was located just to the west of structure **80781** and within the area enclosed by ring gully **80809**. Sub-circular in shape and measuring 1.43 m by 1.36 m, **80813** was composed of pit **80402**, postholes **80404** and **80406**, and pit **80512**. Pit **80512** had been dug first and soon after an initial silty deposit began to accumulate. There then seems to have been the deliberate deposit of a pad of yellow clay (**Plate 34**), similar to the material seen in structure **80781** and quarry pit **80817**, followed by a dump of limestone rubble. This rubble provided packing for postholes **80404** and **80406** belonging to a structure of uncertain form. At a later date the top of the feature was re-cut by pit **80402**, the pottery suggesting a Romano-British rather than a transitional Iron Age/Romano-British date.
- 4.5.27 At the northern end of the Site, and on a different alignment to the post-medieval features, was gully **80814** (**Figure 3**). It was aligned north-west to south-east, measured 24.90 m long by 1.18m wide and 0.25 m deep, with moderate concave sides and a concave to flat base. It contained a single silted fill and from which some Roman-British pottery was recovered.
- #### **4.6 Medieval and post-medieval**
- 4.6.1 No features of medieval date were identified, and only a very small number of artefacts recovered. The only find of note was **ON 43** (**Plate 35**), a half of a cut silver penny of Henry III minted AD 1216–1236.



- 4.6.2 The post-medieval period signalled the division of the landscape as seen across the Site, characterised by boundary ditches and or/enclosures. These features were the most distinctive features identified by the earlier geophysical survey and corresponded to boundaries shown on various enclosure and tithe maps, the earliest example being from 1784. Pottery recovered from these features suggests a focus of activity during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 4.6.3 The post-medieval land division is represented by a series of six linear ditches and gullies (**80411**, **80801–80805**), which formed traditional ‘Devon’ hedgebanks, and a possible enclosure, **80815** (**Figure 3**). The ditches ran on either a NNW–SSE or ESE–WSW alignment. Ditch **80411**, 1.24 m wide, was located just north of the centre of the Site and ran eastwards from the western limit of excavation, through the middle of the northern cluster of posthole and small pits, for a distance of approximately 120 m before terminating. It was not excavated, however, a relatively large number of post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the surface of the fill.
- 4.6.4 Ditch **80801** (**Figure 2**; **Plate 36**) was located in the south of the Site and was composed of three separate ditches (two running east to west and one north to south), though they were probably broadly contemporary. The earliest element of ditch **80801** ran from the southern edge of the Site northwards for 65.30 m before terminating. At 8.65 m and 32 m from the southern edge of the Site, the second and third elements of ditch **80801** ran westwards, terminating after 72 m and running for 124.27 m to the western edge of the Site respectively. The three elements of ditch **80801** each measured on average 2.10 m wide and 0.58 m deep, and all had moderate to straight sides and a flat base. Pottery recovered from the fills gave a broad range of dates, from the Romano-British to modern periods, the Romano-British sherds being residual.
- 4.6.5 Approximately 2.50 m south and parallel to the northern east to west element of ditch **80801** was gully **80802** (**Figure 3**). At least 102.20 m in length, it ran eastwards from the western edge of the Site before terminating. There was a small section of the gully missing but this is most likely a result of truncation. Measuring on average 1.06 m in width and at most 0.24 m deep, gully **80802** had moderate to shallow concave sides and a flat to concave base. While no dating evidence was recovered from the gully, its close proximity and alignment with **80801** suggests that it too was of post-medieval in date.
- 4.6.6 Similar to gully **80802** is ditch **80803** (**Figure 3**) which was located near to the southern edge of the Site. Measuring 37.35 m in length, it ran eastwards from the western edge of the Site before terminating just south of the western terminus of ditch **80801**. Ditch **80803** was 1.24 m wide and 0.27 m deep with moderate concave sides and a concave base. Dating evidence indicates that it was of post-medieval period.
- 4.6.7 Further to the north were ditches **80804**, **80805** and enclosure **80815**. Ditch **80804** (**Figure 3**; **Plate 37**) ran from the western edge of the Site eastwards for approximately 97.20 m before terminating; it was on average 1.19 m wide and 0.25 m in depth. Towards the middle of the ditch it widened to around 6 m, but this is likely to be the result of animal trample/erosion of the feature edges. No dating evidence was recovered but tithe maps, geophysical data and its location/alignment suggest that ditch **80804** was of post-medieval date. Running parallel with, and 2.80 m south of ditch **80804** was ditch **80805**, on average 1.31 m in width and up to 0.31 m deep (**Plate 49**). It extended eastwards for 85.80 m from the western edge of the Site, terminating a couple of metres further east than **80804**.
- 4.6.8 In the north-eastern corner of the Site was possible enclosure **80815** (**Plate 38**). The enclosure ditch ran on a north to south alignment for a total of 27.30 m before turning

eastwards at both ends and terminating shortly beyond. While the northern terminus had the same shape as the main section of enclosure ditch **80815**, with moderate to shallow concave sides and a slightly concave base, the southern terminus spread out and became a lot shallower. While no dating evidence was recovered from this feature, it shows up as clearly on the geophysical survey as the other post-medieval features. The changing profile of **80815**, as well as its position away and east of the other post-medieval features, suggests that it could have been some kind of temporary stock enclosure.

4.7 Features of uncertain date

- 4.7.1 A total of 604 features contained no dating evidence. However, this does include 599 postholes and small pit-type features located in the west of the Site, all broadly assigned to the late prehistoric period. The other five features (gully **80124**, feature **80169**, inhumation grave **80518**, ditch **80798**, and gullies **80799** and **80800**) (Figure 3) were all located on the limestone plateau in the south-east of the Site.
- 4.7.2 Gully **80124** (Figure 5) lay on the southern edge of the Site, south-east of ring gully **80808**. Running northwards it was at least 4 m in length, before terminating, 0.63 m wide and 0.59 m deep. It had steep straight sides and an irregular base, and contained a single silted fill. Feature **80169**, cut by ring gully **80807**, was most likely a natural feature.
- 4.7.3 Grave **80518** (Figure 5, Plate 39) was located in the south-eastern part of the Site, approximately 7 m south-east of quarry pit complex **80817**. Measuring 1.76 m by 1.52 m, it was roughly oval in plan and 0.18 m deep, with shallow irregular sides and an irregular base. It contained the truncated remains of an adult female, the burial made crouched on the right side. There were no grave goods and no residual finds were present in the grave fill. A radiocarbon determination will be required to determine the date of the burial, but a later prehistoric date is considered most likely.
- 4.7.4 Ditch **80798** (Figure 5) was located on the southern edge of the Site, aligned on a rough north to south alignment, and ran northwards for 6.70 m before terminating. It was 1.27 m wide and 0.45 m deep, and had moderate straight sides and a concave base. No dating evidence was recovered but animal bone was present. Gully **80799** was located 7 m east of gully **80798** and ran north-westwards from the southern edge of the Site for 8.70 m and then terminated. This gully was 0.49 m in width and 0.11 m deep, with shallow to moderate concave sides and a flat base. Immediately to the east of **80779** was gully **80800**. This was 7 m long, 0.42 m wide and 0.18m deep with moderate concave sides and a slightly concave base, and aligned on an east to west. Gully **80800** was truncated at its western terminus by post-medieval ditch **80801**, while the eastern terminus survived. Recorded as 0.18 m deep, No pottery was recovered from either gully **80799** or **80800**, but relatively large quantities of marine shell were present.

4.8 Natural features and deposits

- 4.8.1 A number of natural features were identified during the course of the excavation and various of these were investigated to prove they were of geological origin (Plate 40). Most derived from the natural deposition of soils in hollows within the surface of the limestone bedrock, particularly in areas where it was heavily fractured. A small number of finds were recovered from these investigations but can be considered intrusive from the surrounding area.
- 4.8.2 Of particular note was a large spread of soil in the western half of the Site, filling a large hollow where the surface drops moderately steeply from the higher, level ground in the south-east (Figure 2). Covering approximately 83 m by 32 m at its widest, this soil was



initially thought to be the fill of a palaeochannel or pond (as it followed the lowest part of the Site in a curvilinear shape). A machine excavated trench, measuring 62 m by 3 m, was dug through the deposit and identified a sequence of two layers (**80779** and **80780**) which went down at least 1.20 m (**Plates 41** and **42**) (health and safety restrictions limited the investigation depth). A geoarchaeological assessment of the deposits identified them as being geological in origin rather than colluvial or alluvial, and that they formed at the junction between the Middle Devonian Limestone and Slate geologies.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section provides a summary of all of the artefacts recovered from the Site, both hand collected and those from soil samples. The assemblage is predominantly of Roman date, with small quantities of later prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern material.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type are presented in **Table 2**. They have been visually 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 2: Finds totals by material type

Material	Number	Weight (g)
Pottery	643	8462
<i>Later prehistoric</i>	106	2210
<i>Roman</i>	458	5254
<i>Medieval</i>	6	28
<i>Post-medieval and modern</i>	22	167
<i>Undated</i>	51	803
Ceramic building material	9	95
Clay pipe	4	17
Fired clay	64	500
Glass	7	283
Silver	1	1
Metalwork		
Silver	1	1
Copper alloy	39	70
Iron	58	533
Lead and pewter	2	333
Slag	3	67
Flint	15	83
Stone	5	967
Shell	161	1698
Human bone	26	25
Animal bone	1125	5662
Worked bone	1	25
Total	2163	18821

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 A total of 643 sherds of pottery, weighing 8462 g, was recovered from 56 contexts, although only six contained more than 25 sherds. The assemblage is dominated by



material of Roman date, with smaller quantities of Bronze Age, Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery (Table 3).

Table 3: Pottery totals by ware

Ware	Number	Weight (g)
Later prehistoric		
Quartzite-gritted fabric	76	1493
Rock-gritted fabric	28	716
Vesicular fabric	2	1
Roman		
Black Burnished ware	12	65
British colour-coated ware	1	29
Dressel 20 amphora	1	38
Greyware	5	26
Oxidised ware	5	21
Rock-gritted ware	53	766
Samian	9	30
Sandy wares	15	99
South Devon ware	349	4020
South-western greyware A	6	158
Whiteware	2	2
Medieval		
Granite-derived ware	3	15
Sandy coarseware	3	13
Post-medieval and modern		
Black glazed redware	1	1
Cream ware	1	2
NW Devon gravel-tempered ware	1	27
Pearlware	8	21
Redware	4	59
Refined whiteware	7	57
Undated		
Rock-gritted	51	803
Total	643	8462

Later prehistoric

- 5.2.2 Part of the profile of a Late Bronze Age rock-gritted vessel with fairly straight sides and hooked rim was recovered from pit **80755** (23 sherds, 659 g). A group of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery (69 sherds, 1439 g) from posthole **80604** came from a single shouldered jar with out-turned rim. The vessel appears to have been overfired or burnt as most sherds are fully oxidised and some are burnt and bloated. A body sherd in pit **80418** derived from a rock-gritted vessel decorated with horizontal tooled lines, zig-zags and dots, and is of Middle to Late Iron Age date. A rounded rim fragment with slashes on the rim top is in a quartzite-gritted fabric and may also be of Middle to Late Iron Age date, but was recovered from a layer of colluvium (**80799**). One or two sherds in a rock-gritted or quartzite-gritted ware came from postholes **80458**, **80491**, **80582**, **80655** and **80667**. These could not be closely dated.



Roman

- 5.2.3 The Roman pottery assemblage is dominated by local coarsewares. The few imported wares comprise nine sherds of Gaulish samian, including a form 31 bowl, the footing base from an 18/31 or 31, and a possible form 18 platter. A single sherd of Dressel 20 amphora from southern Spain is also present. Mortaria are also scarce, represented by a single body sherd in a fine, highly micaceous buff fabric with a thick red-orange colour-coat and white quartzite trituration grits (structure **80781**). Although currently unsourced, the red-slipped nature of this fabric suggests it is of Late Roman date. Very few oxidised wares were recovered, but regional coarsewares include 12 sherds of Black Burnished ware from the Wareham/Poole Harbour of Dorset. A rim fragment and three wiped body sherds in this fabric, all from structure **80781**, appear to be late Roman in date.
- 5.2.4 The largest group of material is the local South Devon ware, 'a highly distinctive fabric with frequent black mica plates', of 1st to late 4th century AD date (Bidwell and Silvester 1988, 43-4). The most commonly occurring forms are flanged bowls of late 3rd to 4th century date, with examples from structure **80781**, pit **80767** and residually in gully **80232** and ditch **80173**. A flat-rimmed bowl came from gully **80246** and a plain-rimmed dish (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, type 17) from pit **80767**, both probably of 3rd century date. The jars include a cooking pot with grooved rim of 4th to 5th century date from structure **80781**, a form paralleled at Mount Batten (Bidwell and Silvester 1988, fig. 28, 11-12) and Exeter (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, fig. 71, 4.1-4.2). Other jars include a form with flanged rim (pit **80767** and structure **80781**), a copy of a 4th century Black Burnished ware vessel (Seager Smith and Davies 1993, type 11). A necked cooking pot with an out-turned, thickened rim from pit **80409**, and four everted rim jars, broken at the neck, from gully **80246** and structure **80792**, could not be closely dated. Other south-western fabrics included six sherds (158 g) of Southwest greyware A (Seager Smith 1999, 310, fabrics Q103 and 123), thought to have been produced in the Norton Fitzwarren area, near Taunton, during the 2nd to 4th centuries AD (Timby 1989, 54). The rock-gritted pottery (56 sherds, 737 g) includes 19 thick-walled body sherds (197 g) from a locally-made storage jar. These were found in posthole **80460**, where they might have been used as post-packing.

Medieval

- 5.2.5 Very small quantities of medieval pottery were recovered, comprising three sherds of granite-derived ware from pit/natural feature **80277** and three sherds of a sandy coarseware, in the South Devon tradition, from ditch **80801**.

Post-medieval and modern

- 5.2.6 The post-medieval and modern wares came from the ditches (**80801**) of a field system, two pits (**80767** and Roman **80767**), a geological feature and the subsoil. The fabrics comprise redwares, a sherd of north-west Devon gravel-tempered ware with thick brown slip on the interior (made up to the end of the 18th century) and cream ware (1740–1880). The sherds of refined whiteware and pearlware (c. 1770–1840) include transfer printed material.

Undated

- 5.2.7 A group of rock-gritted sherds from colluvial layer **80779** included much of the expanded base of a single vessel, but was completely undiagnostic and may be of later prehistoric or Romano-British date.



5.3 Ceramic building material and fired clay

5.3.1 Nine fragments of Romano-British ceramic building material were recovered, including plain, flat fragments, 20 mm thick, from structure **80781** and layer **80408**. These may have derived from box-flue tiles used for cavity walling, or the *bessales* of a hypocaust. Abraded, surfaceless pieces came from ditch **80177** and structure **80781**. The fired clay is composed almost entirely of amorphous pieces, but some from posthole **80700** have wattle impressions, indicating a structural origin.

5.4 Clay tobacco pipe

5.4.1 Three stem fragments and one bowl fragment were recovered from context **80860**, pit **80767** and the subsoil.

5.5 Worked flint

5.5.1 The fifteen pieces (**Table 2**) are all flakes or fragments of flakes. Most are patinated and worn, suggesting that they are redeposited in the contexts in which they were found (subsoil **80102**, ring gullies **80802** and **80809**, ring ditch **80806**, structure **80781**; ditch **80795**, feature **80225**, pit **80646**, postholes **80708** and **80751**). The cortex is pitted, indicating that the raw material was collected from the beach gravels. None can be dated.

5.6 Stone

5.6.1 Four stone objects came from late Roman structure **80781**, comprising a slate disc or counter, 40 mm in diameter, a quartz-type crystal (247 g) and two rounded granite pebbles, each weighing 212 g, that were probably used as processors - one has possible percussion damage on the edge. A fine-grained sandstone whetstone was recovered from late Roman pit **80767** (**ON 9**).

5.7 Glass

5.7.1 The seven glass fragments are of post-medieval and modern date. They include a fragment of post-medieval window glass with flame-rounded edge (geological feature **80130**), sherds from a green post-medieval wine bottle (natural feature **80277**), cylindrical wine bottle fragments of late 18th/early 19th century date (ditch **80207**), and a clear fragment from a modern bottle (ditch **80411**). A fragment from a modern, embossed soda bottle with part of the maker's stamp, indicating it was manufactured in Plymouth, came from ditch **80801**.

5.8 Metalwork

Coins

5.8.1 The ten coins comprise nine of copper alloy, all issues dating to the Roman period, whilst one (**ON 43**) is a halved, hammered, silver penny of Henry III. Many of the copper alloy coins show signs of post-depositional corrosion, as well as some evidence for pre-depositional wear. Despite this, the majority could be dated to period with some confidence. Only two of the coins (**ON 14** and **ON 47**, pit **80767**) could not be closely dated, but by the form of their flans, it is clear that both date to the late 3rd or 4th centuries AD. Further details of the coins are provided in **Appendix 1**.

5.8.2 The coins form a slightly anomalous group, but this may be a reflection of the small sample size rather than anything significant. The earliest is an *as* or *dupondius* of the Emperor Vespasian (**ON 2**, **80102**). Although unstratified, the presence of this coin suggests activity during the early Roman period, although coins of this date are

occasionally found in much later hoards, and it is clear that some remained in circulation for a considerable period of time.

- 5.8.3 The remaining Roman coins all date to the late 3rd or first half of the 4th centuries AD. Two (**ON 13** and **ON 15**, pit **80767**) were radiate *antoniniani* struck for the Emperor Victorinus (AD 268–270). These were recovered from the same deposit as two other coins – **ON 10**, an irregular copy of a radiate *antoninianus* and **ON 14**, one of the poorly dated coins. This group of coins strongly suggests that the deposit (**80768**) dates to the late 3rd century. Three coins dating to the 4th century were also recovered – a coin of Constantine I (**ON 3**, subsoil) dating to AD 305–7, a corroded ‘Beata Tranquillitas’ issue of AD 317–324 (**ON 8**, **80102**) and a ‘Gloria Exercitus’ issue of Constantine II (**ON 51**, structure **80781**), minted in AD 331.
- 5.8.4 All of the coins are common types, and their date range suggests that there was coin use on the Site for much of the last third of the 3rd century AD and the first third of the 4th century. The absence of any coins later than the 330s is slightly unusual and may suggest that coins were no longer being used on the Site after that time. It is difficult to postulate a likely start for the Site based on the single coin of Vespasian, which may have been old when lost, but its presence in the assemblage is slightly anomalous, although other 1st century AD metalwork (see below) is also present on the Site.
- 5.8.5 The single medieval coin (**ON 43**, **Plate 35**) is a half of a cut silver penny of Henry III, minted in Canterbury by a moneyer called Salemun, probably between AD 1216 and 1236. These hammered silver pennies were frequently halved or quartered in this fashion to provide small change.

Copper alloy

- 5.8.6 Most of the other copper alloy finds were recovered from pit **80767**. The personal items include two hinged dolphin brooches (**ON 30** and **ON 45**), of mid to late 1st century AD date, a brooch pin (**ON 20**) and part of a nail cleaner (**ON 5**). The latter would once have formed part of a toilet set, strung on a suspension loop with tweezers and an ear scoop, attached to a belt or clothing with a chatelaine brooch. Fixtures/fittings and other pieces from this pit comprised a convex head from a stud, 12 mm diameter, that may have been used as a decorative fitting (**ON 6**); a slightly bent strip, c. 35 mm long and 7 mm wide, perforated at each end (**ON 25**); a scrap sheet fragment (**ON 38**) and a small rolled sheet fragment, creating a narrow tube 2 mm in diameter and 19 mm long (**ON 18**).
- 5.8.7 The lid of a seal box, made to preserve the impression of an intaglio used on sealed documents (Holmes 1995, 392), was recovered from gully **80810** (**ON 12**, **Plate 32**). It is round (Crummy 1981, type 2), 20 mm diameter, and decorated with concentric mouldings; the outer band is notched. A central hole presumably once held a rivet or enamel. Other copper alloy objects comprise a second convex stud head, with concentric mouldings on the outer face and a glassy deposit on the underside (**ON 11**, ring gully **80807**), and a folded strip of copper alloy, 15 mm wide, perforated with two small holes at one end (**ON 7**, ditch **80801**). Small and highly corroded pieces of copper alloy rod came from posthole **80445**, and tiny lumps from the subsoil, **80102** (**ON 22**).

Iron

- 5.8.8 Pit **80767** contained most of the iron (as well as most of the copper alloy) objects from the excavation. They include a weight (114 g, **ON 48**) and a tapering bar, expanded at the thinner end, probably part of a tool with blade (**ON 46**). It has the appearance of a miniature axe but remains unidentified. Twelve hobnails or tacks (**ONs 16–17**, **19**, **23–24**,



26–29, and **32–33**) and 23 nails were also recovered from this pit. A further group of seven hobnails/tacks came from structure **80781 (ON 50)** and one from backfill **80789**. Other nails came from ditch **80801** (large nails, 110–120 mm long), natural feature **80271**, gully **80803** and ring gully **80806**.

- 5.8.9 A dense, tapering bar of square section with two flat ends was recorded from Late Roman structure **80781** but may have come from modern agricultural machinery. A twisted piece of iron wire (**ON 49**) and a rod/shank (**ON 1**) were also recorded from this structure. A sheet fragment was recovered from ring gully **80809**, but was not associated with any pottery.

Pewter and lead

- 5.8.10 Fragments from part of a flat dish were recovered from structure **80781 (ON 44)**. The object is in poor condition and the rim is missing, hampering identification of the form, but it may be a type 2c (after Peal 1967; in Lee, 2009, 207) with cast footing and substantial bead, of 4th century AD date. A piece of lead tubing, probably of modern date, was recovered from pit **80208**.

5.9 Slag

- 5.9.1 Two small pieces of possible iron smelting slag came from pit **80767** and one piece from ditch **80795**.

5.10 Worked bone

- 5.10.1 An Iron Age weaving comb came from ring gully **80806 (ON 16)**. It measures 145 mm from the end of the handle to the start of the teeth, but is broken into three pieces. There were 11 teeth but these are now missing. The tooth-end of the handle was decorated with two parallel incised lines overlaid by four chevrons. It was made from a split antler tine, the upper surface smoothed but the underneath surface quite rough, although the edges were smoothed. It would have been used in textile manufacture, to beat up the weft on a vertical warp-weighted loom, although Wild (2003, 35) notes that short-toothed combs of this type do not seem to be particularly suited to such a purpose.

5.11 Shell

- 5.11.1 The shell assemblage included 120 oyster fragments: 80 were from right valves, 35 from left valves, and five were too fragmentary to identify. All were incomplete and not measurable. There were also 14 limpet shells and 11 cockles. The largest groups came from ring gully **80809** (77 fragments) and gully **80799** (38 fragments), but were not associated with any pottery.

5.12 Animal bone

- 5.12.1 The assemblage comprises 1125 fragments (or 5.662 kg) of animal bone, the majority of which was recovered by hand during the normal course of excavation. An additional small quantity came from the sieved residues of 11 bulk soil samples. Once conjoins are taken into account the overall total falls to 895 fragments (see **Table 4**).
- 5.12.2 The assemblage includes material of Middle–Late Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval/modern date. Bone was also recovered from a number of undated postholes.
- 5.12.3 The following information was recorded where applicable: species, skeletal element, preservation condition, fusion and tooth ageing data, butchery marks, metrical data, gnawing, burning, surface condition, pathology and non-metric traits. This information was



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

Table 4: Number of identified animal bones present (or NISP) by period

Species	Middle/Late Iron Age	Romano-British	Post-medieval/Modern	Undated/Unstrat	Total
Cattle	1	58	-	22	81
Sheep/goat	3	95	-	20	118
Pig	1	20	-	7	28
Horse	-	3	-	1	4
Dog-		-	-	1	-
Red Deer	1	-	-	2	3
Domestic Fowl	-	3	-	-	3
Total identified	6	179	0	53	237
Total unidentifiable	11	537	4	106	658
Overall total	17	716	4	159	895

- 5.12.4 Bone preservation varies from good to fair and was generally consistent within individual contexts. Gnaw marks were evident on only a small number of fragments.

Middle to Late Iron Age

- 5.12.5 Nineteen bone fragments were recovered from three features, pit **80418**, and postholes **80604** and **80655**. The identified fragments include cattle and pig teeth, and three sheep/goat bones, a radius, metacarpal and metatarsal.

Romano-British

- 5.12.6 A total of 716 bone fragments were recovered from a range of Romano-British features including ditches, gullies, pits, ring gullies and structure **80781**. Approximately 25% of fragments are identifiable to species and skeletal element. Sheep/goat bones dominate the assemblage and account for 53% NISP (see **Table 4**), followed by cattle at 32% and pig at 11%. Less common species include horse and domestic fowl, both of which are represented by just three bones each.
- 5.12.7 All parts of the sheep/goat and cattle carcass are represented in the assemblage and this suggests that livestock were brought to the site to be slaughtered and butchered for local consumption. A few neonatal lamb bones were identified and this suggests that pregnant ewes are likely to have been kept close to settlement areas during the winter and into the spring lambing season. The cattle bones are from adult animals and signs of spavin, a degenerative joint disease that affects the ankle bones, was noted on the proximal articular surface of a metatarsal from gully **80814**. The condition is generally associated with traction animals and is more commonly seen in horses.
- 5.12.8 Relatively large concentrations of animal bone were recovered from backfill deposits within structure **80781**, in particular deposits **80788** and **80792**. This material includes several complete cattle bones, a rib, mandible and femur, and a complete horse pelvis (**ONs 39 to 42**). The horse pelvis shows signs of slight gnawing, while the cattle femur is

slightly charred at one end. The partial remains of a domestic fowl were also identified from **80792**.

Undated and unstratified

- 5.12.9 A total of 159 fragments came from undated contexts, mainly postholes on the west side of the excavation area. Most of the identified bones are from cattle and sheep/goat. Less common species include pig, horse, dog and red deer. One of the cattle bones, a fragment of calcaneus from ditch **80801**, is from a large improved breed of cattle and likely therefore to be post-medieval or modern in date. Two fragments of red deer antler were recovered; they include a piece of shed antler from posthole **80482** and an off-cut from antler-working from the subsoil. The latter had been sawn at one end, and has cut and peck marks along one side.

5.13 Human bone

- 5.13.1 Human bone from four contexts was subject to assessment. The truncated remains of an unaccompanied burial (grave **80518**) were found approximately 5 m to the west of the projected line of feature **80806** (Iron Age/Romano-British; **Figure 5**). Given its location and the form of the burial it is likely to be prehistoric in date. Redeposited bone was recovered from two features of Romano-British date (**80246** and **80781**), and within a segment of the medieval/post-medieval ditch **80801** situated approximately 9 m from cut **80246**. Much of the material from the ditch was residual, and the human bone recovered is likely to be of a similar date to the Romano-British pottery recovered.

Methods

- 5.13.2 The bone was subject to a rapid scan to assess its condition, minimum number of individuals (MNI), age and sex, potential for indices recovery and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments of age and sex were based on standard methodologies (Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for preservation of the unburnt bone follows McKinley (2004, fig 6).

Results

- 5.13.3 Most of the features from which human bone was recovered, including the inhumation grave, had survived to a relatively shallow depth. Some bone was undoubtedly lost from the latter as a result of horizontal truncation, predominantly from the upper-most left side (burial made crouched on right side). The remaining bone is in good condition (scoring grades 0-1) but is heavily fragmented due both to the shallow surviving depth of the grave and the nature of the burial environment comprising an overlying backfill of dense sub-angular stone. The neonatal bone is well preserved, its condition suggesting it had not moved far from its original place of deposition. In contrast, the bone from the stone structure **80781** is heavily degraded and abraded indicating it had been buried in a more aggressive burial environment to the other remains and probably subject to repeat episodes of disturbance and deposition.
- 5.13.4 The burial remains represent those of a small adult female (**Table 5**), with extensive tooth wear but relatively little degenerative joint changes. The pathological lesions observed include mild calculus deposits (calcified plaque); marked osteoarthritic changes in the lower spine; early stages of degenerative disc disease in the cervical and lumbar spine; and slight osteophytes, new bone on joint margins generally reflective of age-related wear-and-tear, in several joints of the upper and lower limb.



- 5.13.5 The redeposited bone includes the remains of a minimum of two neonates and may have derived from adjacent/closely-spaced graves in the general vicinity. A fourth individual is represented by the subadult/adult bone from structure **80781**.

Table 5: Summary of results from assessment of the human bone

Context	Cut	Deposit type	Quantification	Age/sex	Pathology
80174	80173 (0.29m)	R ditch fill	4 fragments a.	neonate	
80247	80246 (0.20m)	R debris	c. 15%	neonates (parts of two)	
80447	80518 (0.18m)	inhumation burial	c. 60%	adult >40 yr female	calculus; oa – right costo-vertebral, S1; ddd – 1C, 1L; op – proximal ulna, left proximal femur, right hip, rib facets, 1L; destructive lesion – right patella; enth –patella
80790	80781 (0.19m)	R	5 fragments a.l.	subadult/adult >15 yr	

KEY: R - redeposited; s.a.u.l. (skull, axial skeleton, upper limb, lower limb; skeletal areas represented where not all were recovered); oa - osteoarthritis; enth - enthesophytes; op - osteophytes; C/T/L - cervical/thoracic /lumbar vertebrae

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 A total of 49 bulk samples were taken from various features of late prehistoric and Romano-British date and were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal (**Table 6**).

6.2 Background and summary quantification

- 6.2.1 The bulk samples break down into the following phase groups:

Table 6: Sample provenance summary

Phase	No of samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
Undated	1	2	Pit
Post-Neolithic	2	11	Post holes
IA	13	116	Ditches, Pits, Post holes
IA/RB	23	203	Ditches, Pits, Post holes
RB	9	67.5	Crop dryer
Totals	49	404.5	

- 6.2.2 Phasing has been based on both the archaeology and the archaeobotany. Features of imprecise prehistoric chronology as defined upon excavation have been classified as Iron Age or Romano-British due to the presence of abundant remains of spelt wheat. Spelt wheat is present in Southern Britain from the Middle Bronze Age but it does not become a major crop until the Iron Age or Romano-British periods.



6.3 Charred plant remains

- 6.3.1 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 and 1 mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. The flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 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, 28 and 5, 65), for cereals.
- 6.3.2 The flots were of various sizes. There were very variable numbers of roots and limited modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements. Charred material comprised varying degrees of preservation and included cereal remains, fruits, tubers and a variety of seeds of wild herbs, possibly weeds of agricultural fields.
- 6.3.3 Undated pit [80112] has provided scarce plant macroremains, comprising hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments.
- 6.3.4 Samples from post-Neolithic posthole [80704] have provided a few charred plant remains including hulled wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and possibly sea-blite (tp. *Suaeda* sp.).
- 6.3.5 Iron Age assemblages from ditches [80807], [80808] and [80809] are poor in quantity, preservation and diversity of charred plant macroremains, which include cereals (usually indeterminate) and a diversity of wild plant remains, such as seeds of speedwell (*Veronica* tp. *hederifolia*), wild grasses (Poaceae), sea-blite, bedstraw (*Galium* sp.), the legume (Fabaceae) and daisy families (Asteraceae), and charred bulbs from false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* subsp. *bulbosum*) and lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*). Assemblages from post holes [80646] and [80604] are richer in cereal remains and include hulled wheat grains (emmer and spelt) and chaff and hulled barley grains, hazelnut shell fragments and beet (*Beta* sp.).
- 6.3.6 Iron Age or Romano-British samples from ditches [80806] and [80812], and pits [80171], [80445] and [80512] are poor in plant macroremain assemblages, which include poorly preserved cereal grain fragments, tubers from lesser celandine, and seeds from a few wild herbs, such as speedwell, bedstraw, the daisy family and a legume. The assemblage in posthole [80542] is exceptionally rich and include hulled wheat (mostly spelt but also einkorn and emmer) grains and chaff, hulled barley grains, and a variety of wild plants such as oat grass, vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), sedges, sea-blite, goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), the daisy family, and figwort (*Scrophularia* sp.). Some of the grains and seeds have precarbonisation insect holes, indicating that they were stored products.
- 6.3.7 Iron Age or Romano-British assemblages from postholes [80807, 80812, 80813, 80816, 80462, 80817, 80510, 80700 and 80712] are heterogeneous, from poorly preserved to exceptionally rich and diverse assemblages. Cereal remains are dominated by spelt wheat grains and chaff, but also include barley and other wheats. Seeds from wild plants include plantain (*Plantago* sp.), bedstraw, the daisy and the deadnettle family (Lamiaceae), goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.), sedges (*Carex* sp. and Cyperaceae), sea-blite, the rose family (Rosaceae), crucifers (Brassicaceae), cinquefoil (*Potentilla* sp.), the knotweed family (Polygonaceae), blinks (*Montia fontana*), cornsalad (*Valerianella* sp.) and speedwell. Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments, cherry (*Prunus* sp.) stone fragments and charred bulbs from false oat-grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* subsp.



bulbosum) have also been recovered from some of the postholes. The assemblage from post hole [80712] contained spelt grains preserved intact within their spikelets.

6.3.8 Assemblages recovered from samples from Romano-British structure [80781], interpreted above as a crop dryer, are in general abundant but in heterogeneous states of preservation. Again, cereal remains comprise both grains and chaff and belong to hulled wheats (spelt) and hulled barley. Some grains are sprouted. Wild fruit remains include seeds from Portuguese crowberry (*Corema album*), an exotic species from the Iberian Peninsula, and hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments. Seeds from wild herbs include oat grass (*Avena* sp.), vetch/pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), the bedstraw family (Rubiaceae), field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), the daisy family (Asteraceae), docks and sorrel (*Rumex* sp.).

6.3.9 The assemblage from Romano-British posthole [80708] is moderately rich. Among the cereal remains, hulled wheat grains and chaff from spelt, emmer and einkorn and hulled barley have been identified. Seeds from wild herbs include oat-grass, bedstraw and goosefoot.

6.4 Wood charcoal

6.4.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 2**.

7 POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

7.1 Archaeological potential

7.1.1 The identification of a number of later Iron Age and Romano-British settlement-related features within the Site is a significant discovery for this part of Devon. The main Roman settlement in Devon was Exeter (*Isca*) and although there is evidence of Romano-British activity further west, it is relatively sparse. Recent discoveries at Ipplepen, near Newton Abbott, have found similar features to those at Sherford, including ring gullies, extending the boundaries of Romano-British settlement in the west.

7.1.2 Further analysis of the artefacts and environmental data should help to provide a more accurate date for the ring gullies and associated features at Sherford, enabling this to be better understood in its wider Romano-British context.

7.1.3 Structure **80781** is thought most likely represent a late Roman crop dryer. The shape in plan is reminiscent of the typical T-shaped crop dryers of this period, with rounded stoke-hole, long, narrow flue – here with the covering of stone slabs surviving *in situ*, and a cross-channel at the end below the drying chamber. The lack of burning is not unusual, as only a small fire to generate a low heat to dry the crop is necessary, located in the flue close to the stoke-hole; this may have left little or no trace on the bedrock. Wall **80786** may represent part of the superstructure of the chamber. The charred plant remains support the interpretation of structure **80781** as a crop dryer (see above), perhaps used for cereals and legumes, with one or two sprouted cereal grains to suggest it may also have been used for malting.

7.1.4 Following cessation of the use of the crop dryer, then it seems to have started silting up and been partially backfilled, and it was at this time that the pewter plate, along with possibly the coin and the horse mandible placed in the base of the flue, perhaps representing a 'closing' deposit. These items could have either been pushed into the flue



from the stoke-hole, or a slab from the roof of the flue removed, the objects placed, and the slab replaced.

7.2 Stratigraphic recommendations

- 7.2.1 Overall, the chronological phasing of the Site is reasonably well understood on the basis of the work carried out for this assessment. The results from the finds and the environmental analyses will be integrated with the stratigraphic sequence to enable better understanding of the development, function and abandonment of the Site. The integration of the analyses may further clarify, in particular, the sequence of Iron Age to Romano-British activity on the Site.
- 7.2.2 The Site will be put into its broader context, relating it not only to other activity recorded in future archaeological works on the Sherford New Community development, but also to Iron Age, Romano-British and later settlement around Plymouth, and in South Devon more generally.

7.3 Finds potential

- 7.3.1 Evidence for small scale activity during the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age periods is provided by the pottery and the presence of a bone weaving comb of a type current during the Iron Age period, but possibly residual in ring gully **80806**. Of interest amongst the Iron Age pottery was part of a burnt jar, deposited in posthole **80604**. Whilst it is not possible to ascertain if this single vessel represents a firing failure or a vessel burnt in a house fire or similar, parallels may be drawn with the practice of depositing burnt vessels in postholes during the Early Iron Age period in the Wessex region (Brown 2012, 99).
- 7.3.2 The bulk of the finds relate to settlement during the Roman period, particularly of late 3rd to 4th century date. Finds from the earlier Roman period, such as samian pottery, the brooch fragments and the Vespasian coin, were all residual in later features or unstratified, but indicate some activity during the 1st to 2nd centuries AD. The late Roman pottery adds to the regional picture of trade and exchange networks during this period, whilst the metalwork contributes evidence for personal adornment, hygiene practices and communication. The placement of the pewter dish in the base of structure **80781** appears to represent a deliberate act of deposition of a rare material and object type. The post-Roman assemblage is small and insignificant, relating to sporadic activity on the Site, and can contribute little more to an understanding of the site during the medieval to modern periods.
- 7.3.3 Full analysis of the human bone will provide more detailed demographic data, confirming the minimum number of individuals (MNI) and their sex, and refining their age. Some reconstruction of the remains from grave **80518** will be required to enable the recovery of a limited amount of metric data and check for other pathological lesions. It should be possible to calculate the individual's stature. A full record and study of the pathological lesions will enable a broad assessment of the health status of the individual. Once the remains have been set in their temporal context comparison with contemporaneous data could give some indication of the individual's social status.

7.4 Finds recommendations

Pottery

- 7.4.1 The later prehistoric pottery should be fully recorded according to the Guidelines published by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (2010) and the existing pottery database for the Roman material enhanced with details such as rim diameters. The



assemblage should be considered with material from other phases of work and placed in its wider, regional context. Eleven vessels should be illustrated (one vessel from Bronze Age pit **80755**; an Iron Age jar from posthole **80604** and a decorated sherd from Iron Age pit **80418**; three vessels from Romano-British pit **80767** and six from structure **80781**).

Other finds

- 7.4.2 The coins will require X-radiography to provide a basic record of these inherently unstable material types. Two copper alloy objects (**ONs 11** and **12**) have been selected for further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation. This may help identify a white deposit noted on **ON 11** and address why glass is present on the underside of **ON 12**. The pewter dish (**ON 44**) would benefit from additional packaging support. The metalwork, worked bone and stone should objects should all be considered in their regional context, and parallels sought for the copper alloy nail cleaner and seal box, and bone comb. The animal bone should be fully recorded according to recommended guidelines (English Heritage 2014) and the existing animal bone database enhanced with details relating to age, biometrics and butchery. The assemblage should be considered with material from other phases of work and placed in its wider, regional context.
- 7.4.3 The following materials have been recorded to the minimum standards for archiving and no further work is required: ceramic building material, fired clay, clay pipe, flint, slag, glass and shell.

Human bone

- 7.4.4 Taphonomic factors potentially affecting differential bone preservation will be assessed. The age of individuals will be further considered using standard methodologies (Brothwell 1972; Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Sex will be confirmed from the sexually dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981). Measurement will be taken where possible (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004) and skeletal indices calculated (Bass 1987; Trotter and Gleser 1952; 1958). Non-metric traits will be recorded (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978). Pathological lesions are recorded in text and via digital photography.
- 7.4.5 The form and nature of the deposits will be considered in light of the osteological and context data, allowing consideration of the mortuary practices and attitudes to the remains of the dead within their temporal context. To facilitate the latter it is recommended that a bone sample from grave **80518** is submitted for radiocarbon dating. It may also be worth considering dating the small amount of bone recovered from probable crop dryer **80781**. Although clearly residual in it must have derived from somewhere in the general area and is itself of unknown date. The curation and redeposition of skeletal elements and fragments thereof within 'settlement' and other non-mortuary contexts is seen as a potentially deliberate cultural feature within certain archaeological periods (e.g. the Bronze Late Age; Brück 1995), and dating these remains may contribute to our understanding of these as yet poorly understood practices.

7.5 Environmental potential

Charred plant remains

- 7.5.1 The analysis of the charred plant assemblages has the potential to provide information on the nature of the settlement, the local environment, local agricultural practices and crop husbandry techniques, and how these changed over time. This is particularly the case for the later Iron Age and, in addition, the Romano-British samples from the probable crop



dryer have the potential to inform about maritime trade with the continent and the import of exotic plant foods.

- 7.5.2 No previous environmental data exist for the surrounding area, so the results of this analysis could fill an important gap in the knowledge about past human societies in the vicinity of Plymouth.

Wood charcoal

- 7.5.3 The analysis of the wood charcoal would provide information on the species composition, the management and exploitation of the local woodland resource and how this changed over time. It may also be possible to ascertain if there was any species selection for specific purposes.

- 7.5.4 This information would augment the wood charcoal analysis from other sites in the area, such as Mount Batten (Poole 1988).

Scientific dating

- 7.5.5 Radiocarbon dating has the potential to clarify the date of features of uncertain chronology and to help assess the evolution of agricultural practices, in particular the introduction of crops such as spelt, in the region.

7.6 Environmental recommendations

Charred plant remains

- 7.6.1 All identifiable charred plant macrofossils will be extracted from the 2 and 1 mm 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, 28 and 5, 65), for cereals and with reference to modern reference collections where appropriate. They will be quantified and the results tabulated.

- 7.6.2 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a 'P' in the analysis column in **Appendix 2**.

Wood charcoal

- 7.6.3 Identifiable charcoal will be extracted from the 2 mm residue together and the flot (>2 mm). 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.

- 7.6.4 The samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a 'C' in the analysis column in **Appendix 2**.



Scientific dating

- 7.6.5 A total of five radiocarbon samples will be submitted to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queens University, Belfast and SUERC. The dates will be calculated using the calibration curve of Reimer et al. (2013) and the computer program OxCal (v4.2.3) (Bronk Ramsey and Lee 2013) and cited at 95% confidence.
- 7.6.6 The charred plant samples proposed for radiocarbon dating are indicated with a 'C14' in the analysis column in **Appendix 2**, with a further sample proposed for the undated inhumation burial from grave **80518**.

8 RESOURCES AND PUBLICATION

- 8.1.1 In view of the quantity, quality and nature of the archaeological evidence obtained from the excavation in 2015, and the extensive scale of ongoing and future work at Sherford New Community, it is considered appropriate that the results of the proposed analysis should be published as part of a monograph.
- 8.1.2 A task list and, if required, a revised project design can be issued once it is determined whether or not Fields 23 and 24 (this report) and Areas 1–6 (currently in progress) should be published together or separately.

9 STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Plymouth City Museum under the accession code **PLYMG:2015.6**. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.
- 9.1.2 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office under the site code **107560**.

9.2 Archive

- 9.2.1 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 Plymouth City Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 9.2.2 An OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/>) will be initiated. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission with Devon HER.
- 9.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the site code; all files and finds boxes will also be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following (this includes the archives for all archaeological works done under project code 107560);
- *23 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type (numbers are likely to change following conservation treatment and the subsequent repackaging of metal objects)*



- 22 files of paper records and A3/A4 graphics
- 13 A1 Graphics
- 2 survey books
- Digital data (Access databases, Excel spreadsheets, Word documents; survey data; photographs; graphics; AutoCAD drawings).

9.3 Conservation

- 9.3.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment comprise the metal objects.
- 9.3.2 The iron and copper alloy objects, with the exception of the coins, have been X-radiographed, as a basic record and also to aid identification. Two objects (**ON 11** and **ON 12**) have been selected for further conservation treatment, involving investigative cleaning and stabilisation.
- 9.3.3 As potentially unstable material types, all the metalwork is stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% relative humidity; their condition is frequently monitored.

9.4 Storage

- 9.4.1 The finds are currently stored in cardboard or airtight plastic boxes, ordered by material type following nationally recommended guidelines.
- 9.4.2 Storage and curation of environmental material will follow standard WA guidelines. The flots are in a stable condition for archive. The waterlogged flots have been discarded.

9.5 Discard policy

- 9.5.1 WA follows the guidelines set of in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. In this instance, burnt, unworked flint has already been discarded. Any further discard could target undiagnostic fired clay, post-Romano-British building material and unworked stone, on the grounds of lack of archaeological interest; and the unconserved iron objects (unsuitable for long-term curation). The full discard policy will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 9.5.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in WA's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available on request.

9.6 Copyright

- 9.6.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purpose, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003.



9.6.2 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-WA copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which were are unable to provide from limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by WA. You are reminded that you remain bound by conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

9.7 Security Copy

9.7.1 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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11 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1: The Coins

Context No	Object No	Metal/Denom.	Issuer	Diam (mm)	Wgt (g)	Rev. Axis	Issue date	Obverse condition/Obverse	Reverse Condition Reverse	Mint	Reference	Notes
80102	2	Cu Alloy As/Dupondius	Vespasian	28	7.66	6	AD 69 - 79	Corroded Bust r, laureate. Recognisably Vespasian	Corroded Standing figure l	Rome		As/dupondius of Vespasian
80102	3	Cu Alloy AE 2	Constantine I	29	8.61	12	AD 305 - 307	Corroded Bust r, laureate FLVALCONSTA-	Corroded Genius standing left, tower on head, loins draped, holding patera and cornucopiae (GENIOPOP V LI) ROMANI. Mint Mark: /?F / TRP	Trier	As RIC VI, Trier, 668	v large coin of Constantine I as Caesar
80102	8	Cu Alloy AE 3	Unknown	19	1.91	12	AD 318 - 324	Corroded Bust r, CON-	Corroded Globe on Altar, Beata Tranquillitas type	Unknown		Irregular flan, may be a copy
80768	10	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Irregular radiate	18	2.29	5	AD 270 - 296	Corroded Bust r, radiate	Corroded Standing fig l (?Pax)	Unknown		Barbarous radiate
80768	13	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Victorinus	23	4.84	6	AD 268 - 270	Corroded Bust r, radiate, bearded - CTOR-	Corroded ? Pax l with transverse staff	Unknown		Badly corroded antoninianus of Victorinus,



												probable Pax reverse
80768	14	Cu Alloy AE 3	Unknown	19	2.11	6	C3 - C4	Corroded Bust r	Corroded Standing fig	Unknown		Too badly corroded to be identified. Dated by size alone
80768	15	Cu Alloy Antoninianus	Victorinus	19	2.42	6	AD 268 - 270	Corroded Bust r, radiate, bearded - CTORINVS-	Corroded ? Pax I with transverse staff	Unknown		Badly corroded antoninianus of Victorinus, probable Pax reverse. Irregular oval flan - poss. a copy?
80102	43	Silver half penny	Henry III	18	0.53	0	AD 1216 - 1236	Very Worn Bust facing, almost illegible. -CVSREX	Very Worn Voided short cross with 4 pellets in each quadrant SALEHV-	Canterbury	North type 6x or 7a/b	Cut (halved) penny. Salemun recorded as moneyer In Canterbury
80769	47	Cu Alloy AE 3	Unknown	19	1.15	12	C3 - C4	Corroded Bust r	Corroded Standing fig	Unknown		Too badly corroded to be identified. Dated by size alone
80792	51	Cu Alloy AE 3	Constantine II	18	2.41	12	AD 331	Slightly Worn Bust r, laureate, cuirassed CONSTANTINVSIVNNOB C	Slightly worn 2 soldiers, 2 standards GOR IAEXERCITVS Mint Mark: TRP.	Trier	LRBC I, 56	nice clean coin. Worth photographing



11.2 Appendix 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

Group	Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot (ml)	Sub-sampling	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Notes for Table	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other	Analysis	Preservation
Undated																
Pit																
	80112	80113	5	2	20		75%				C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell	5		C14	Poor
Post-Neolithic																
Furnace																
	80320	80321	4	20	530	25% of <1mm fraction	1%	C	C	Cereal grain	C	<i>Avena</i> sp. grain, stem frags, hazelnut shell, Cyperaceae	520	Hammerscales, Pottery		Poor
Hollow																
	3413	3409	3	9	115		25%	C		Cereal grain fragment			50			Poor
Post holes																
	80704	80705	53	1	15		25%	A		Wheat (Half a grain cf. <i>Triticum</i>)			< 5			Poor
		80707	54	10	200		50%	B		Hulled wheat grains		tp. <i>Suaeda</i> sp., indet.	75	Pottery, Moll-t		Poor
Iron Age																
Ring ditch																
80809	80136	80137	6	6	60		75%	C		Cereal grain fragments	C	Chenopodiaceae, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i>	< 1	Sab, Moll-t		Poor
	80138	80139	7	10	80		60%	C		Cereal grain fragments	C	<i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> tuber, roots	< 1	Bone		Poor
	80140	80141	8	8	60		75%	C			C	<i>Avena</i> sp., grains, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , indet.	< 1			Poor
	80142	80143	9	10	60		75%	C		Wheat grain fragments	B	<i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> tubers, <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., indets.	< 1	Moll-t		Heterogeneous



	80146	80147	10	10	30		90%	C		Hulled wheat (spelt) grain fragments			< 1			Poor	
80807	80155	80165	13	10	70		40%	C		Wheat (probably spelt) grain	B	<i>Avena</i> sp. awn frags, cereal stem fragments, Fabaceae, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Suaeda</i> sp., Asteraceae, Rosaceae, <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i> , indets., parenchymatic tissue	< 1	Moll-t	P	Poor	
	80159	80160	11	10	50		75%	C		Cereal grain fragment	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , Asteraceae	< 5	Sab, Moll-t		Poor	
	80157	80158	12	8	60		75%	C		Cereal grain fragment	C	<i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> ,	< 1	Sab, Moll-t		Poor	
	80193	80194	14	9	60		80%	C		Wheat grain	B	Poaceae, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , indets.	< 1	Sab, Moll-t		Poor	
80808	80201	80202	15	10	80		75%				C	<i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , indet.	< 1	Moll-t		Poor	
	80205	80206	16	10	40		75%				B	<i>Plantago</i> sp., <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Suaeda</i> sp., tuber, indets.	< 1	Moll-t		Poor	
	80213	80214	17	10	90		50%	B		Cereal grain fragments	C	Cereal stems, <i>Galium</i> , <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Suaeda</i> sp., tuber frags.	< 1	Moll-t		Poor	
Post hole																	
	80604	80605	51	5	30		25%	A	C	Hulled barley and hulled wheat (spelt and emmer/einkorn) grains, possible naked wheat grains, spelt chaff (glume bases and spikelet fork frags)	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell	< 1	Pottery, Slag	P	Poor , partial mineralisation?	
	80646	80647	52	5	110		25%	A		Hulled wheat grains (emmer, spelt)	B	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell, <i>Beta</i> sp., faecal pellets	75		C	Poor , partial mineralisation?	



Iron Age / Romano-British																
Ring ditch																
80806	80265	80443	25	20	60		30%	C		Cereal grain and chaff (spikelet fork fragment)	C	Fragment of <i>Veronica tp. hederifolia</i>	< 1	Moll-t, Pottery, bone		Poor
80812	80185	80188	19	3	5		50%	C		Cereal grain	C	Fabaceae cotyledon	< 1	Moll-t		Poor
Pits																
	80171	80172	23	10	70		75%	C		Wheat grain	C	<i>Veronica tp. hederifolia</i> , <i>Galium sp.</i> , Asteraceae, <i>Ranunculus ficaria?</i> tuber	< 1	Slag, Bone, Moll-t		Poor
	80445	80446	24	10	10		5%	C	C	Hulled wheat grains (spelt) and chaff		<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell	< 5	Moll-t		Poor
80813	80512	80513	38	3	5		25%	C		A wheat (probably spelt) grain	C	Indets	< 5	Moll-t		Poor
	80542	80543	50	10	1800	25% of each fraction	1%	A***	A**	Hulled wheat (mostly spelt, also emmer and einkorn) grains and chaff (glume bases, spikelet fork fragments), hulled barley grains. Insect holes in some grains and seeds, some wrinkled grains	A*	<i>Avena sp.</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , Cyperaceae, <i>tp. Suaeda sp.</i> , <i>Chenopodium sp.</i> , Asteraceae, <i>Scrophularia sp.</i>	< 1	Sab	P	Good
Post holes																
80807	80163	80164	20	10	60		30%	C	C	Wheat grains and chaff (spikelet fork fragments) and hulled barley grains		Indets.	< 1	Moll-t		Heterogeneous
80812	80218	80220	18	9	40		75%	B		Cereal grain (wheat and barley)	C	<i>Plantago sp.</i> , indets.	< 1			Poor
80813	80404	80405	21	2	5		10%	C		Spelt and barley grains	C	<i>Corylus avellana</i> shell	< 1	Sab, Moll-t		Poor
	80406	80407	22	3	10		10%		C	Cereal chaff (glume bases, spikelet fork fragments, awns)	C	Indets.	< 5	Sab, Moll-t		Good



	80462	80463	26	5	50		30%	A		Hulled wheat (einkorn, emmer and possibly spelt) and hulled barley grains. Some grains with insect holes.		<i>Chenopodium</i> sp., indet.	< 1		P	Good
80816	80448	80449	28	13	630		< 1%	A***	A	Hulled wheat (spelt) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet fork fragments), barley grains. Several wheat grains are infested with insect holes	A	<i>Avena</i> sp. grains, <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., Polygonaceae, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Plantago</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , Brassicaceae, hazelnut shell, indets.	300	Pottery	P	Good
	80450	80451	29	15	230		1%	A*	A	Hulled wheat (spelt) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet fork fragments), barley grains. Some grains have insect holes	C	<i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> subsp. <i>bulbosum</i> , <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , tp. <i>Suaeda</i> sp.	150		P	Poor
	80452	80453	30	8	100		5%	A	A	Hulled wheat grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), barley grains	B	<i>Carex</i> sp.	75			Poor
	80454	80455	31	15	210		5%	A**	A*	Hulled wheat grains (spelt, emmer), hulled wheat chaff (glume bases, spikelet forks) and barley (hulled and unspec.)	A	<i>Avena</i> grains and awns, hazelnut shell, Cyperaceae, <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> , <i>Suaeda</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., Indet	50			Good
	80456	80457	32	10	190		1%	A	A	Hulled wheat (spelt) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet fork fragments), barley grains	C	<i>Avena</i> sp. (awns), Hazelnut (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) shell, <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., Cyperaceae, Brassicaceae, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Ranunculus</i> sp.	150		C	Poor

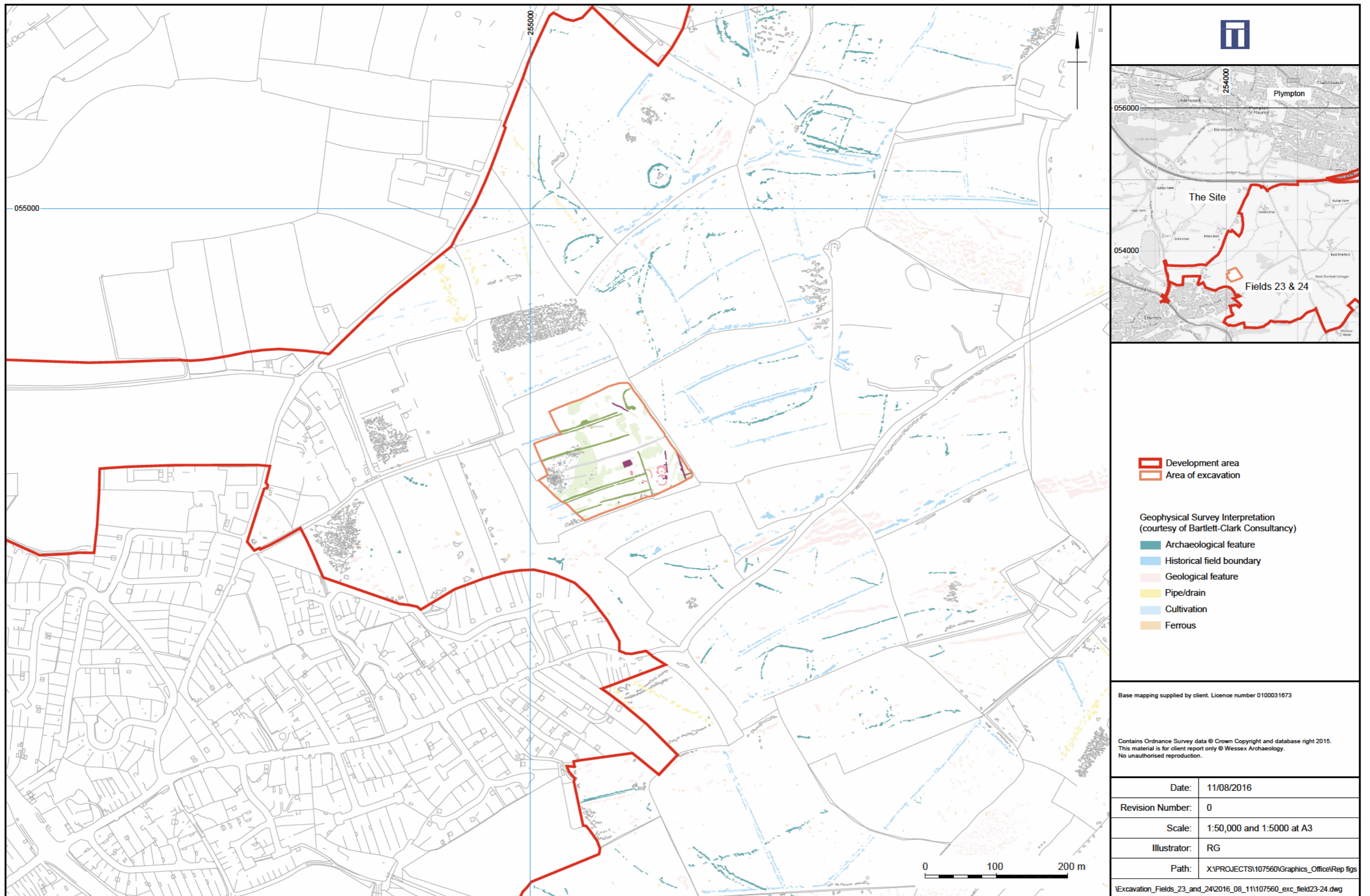


	80458	80459	33	14	120		1%	A	A	Hulled wheat (spelt and emmer) grains and chaff, barley grains	B	<i>Avena</i> sp. grain and awns, fruit endocarp frag. Tp. <i>Prunus</i> , hazelnut shell, Brassicaceae, <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Montia fontana</i>	50	Pottery	P	Poor
	80464	80465	27	5	40		< 1%	C	C	Wheat and barley grains, hulled wheat chaff (glume bases)	C	Cereal roots, <i>Potentilla</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., indet.	30	Sab, Moll-t		Poor
80817	80500	80501	34	10	40		30%	C		Wheat grain fragments	C	<i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Galium</i> sp., Asteraceae	20	Slag, Bone, Moll-t		Poor
	80510	80511	49	2	90		1%	A**		Hulled wheat (spelt) and barley grains, hulled wheat chaff		Cereal stem, Rosaceae, Lamiaceae, <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., <i>Carex</i> sp.	50		P, C	Poor
	80700	80701	56	7	60		10%	A**	A**	Hulled wheat (spelt, einkorn) grains, hulled wheat chaff (glume bases)	C	<i>Avena</i> sp. awns, <i>Galium</i> sp., Lamiaceae, Polygonaceae	20			Good
	80712	80713	55	9	115		1%	A*	A	Hulled wheat (spelt, emmer) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), hulled barley grains; Spelt grains within the spikelets	B	Cyperaceae, <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Valerianella</i> sp., indet.	75		P	Good , partial mineralisation
	80755	80756	58	10	175		10%	A	B	Hulled wheat (spelt) grains, barley grain fragments, hulled wheat chaff (glume bases), possible barley chaff	B	<i>Avena</i> awns, hazelnut shell, Cyperaceae, <i>Galium</i> , tp. <i>Suaeda</i> , Lamiaceae, Asteraceae, indets.	75		P, C, C14	Good
Romano-British																
Crop dryer?																
	80781	80792	59	9	30		1%	A	A	Hulled wheat (spelt) grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks) and hulled barley grains. Sprouted grain			5	Moll-f, Sab		Poor



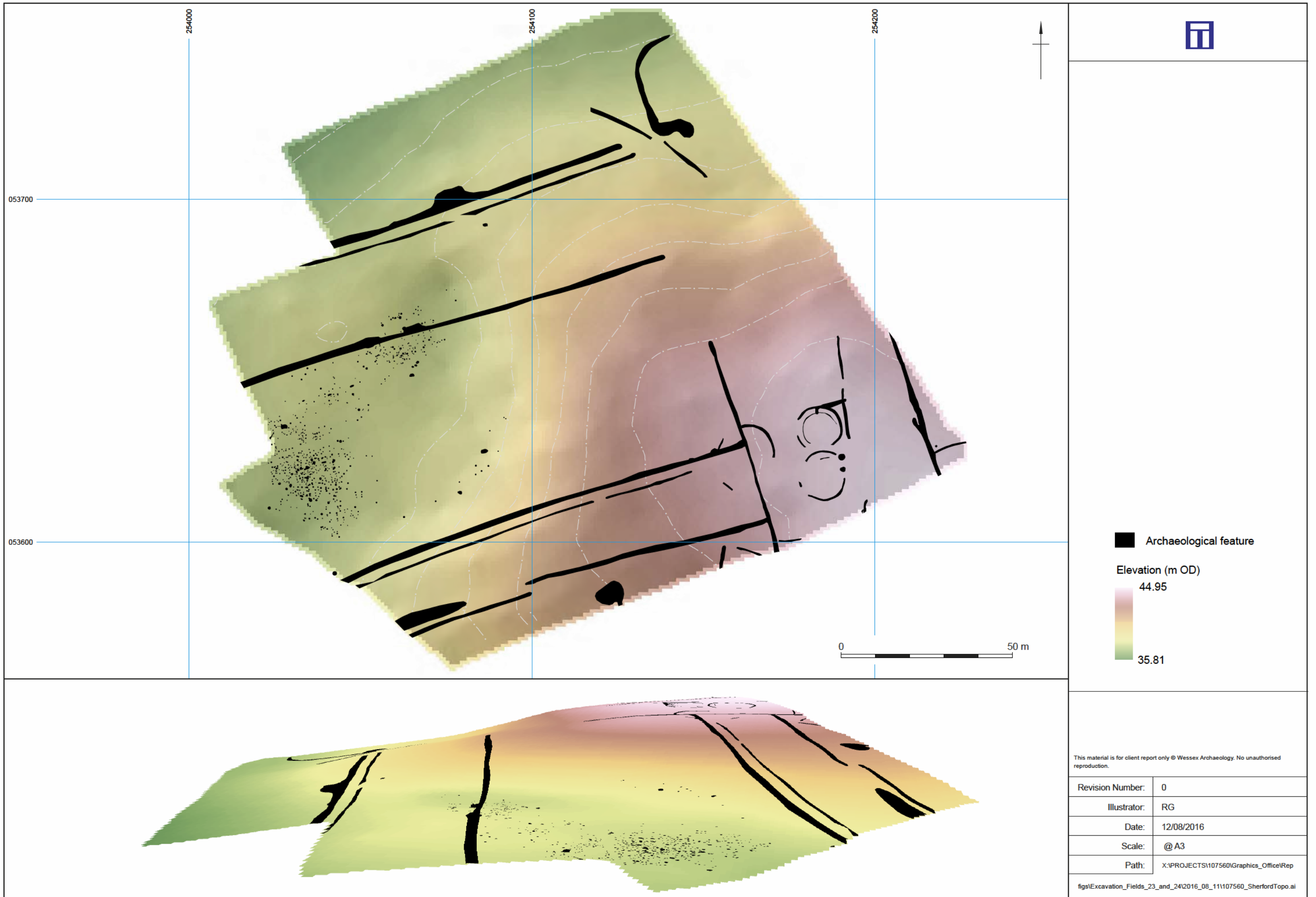
	80792	60	8	30		1%	A	B	Hulled wheat and barley grains, hulled wheat chaff (glume bases and spikelets)	C	<i>Avena</i> sp. grain, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> cotyledon, Rubiaceae, tuber, indet.	20	Moll-t, Sab	C	Poor	
	80792	61	9	30		10%	A*	A*	Hulled wheat (spelt) grains, hulled wheat chaff (glume bases)			10	Bone, Sab, Moll-t		Good	
	80792	62	10	75		1%			Hulled wheat (spelt) grain and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks), hulled barley grains,	B	<i>Avena</i> sp. grain, Poaceae, <i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> cotyledons, <i>Galium</i> sp., <i>Rumex</i> sp., indet. <i>Corema album</i>	25	Bone, Moll-t, Pottery	P	Good	
	80786	63	7	30		90%	C	C	Hulled wheat chaff (glume bases), wheat grains	C	Hazelnut (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) shell	1	Moll-t		Poor	
	80789	64	8	20		25%	A	A	Wheat and barley grains, hulled wheat chaff (glume bases)	B	Hazelnut (<i>Corylus avellana</i>) shell	5	Bone, Sab, Moll-t		Good	
	80788	65	8	100		75%	A	B	Wheat and hulled barley grains, cereal chaff	B	<i>Chenopodium</i> , tp. <i>Suaeda</i> sp., <i>Veronica</i> tp. <i>hederifolia</i> , <i>Sherardia arvensis</i> , Asteraceae, indets	25		P	Good	
	80788	66	7	30		5%	A	A	Hulled wheat (spelt) and hulled barley grains and chaff (glume bases and spikelet forks). Sprouted grain		Cereal stem, <i>Avena</i> grain	20	Bone, Sab, Moll-t	P	Good	
Post hole																
	80708	80709	57	1.5	15		30%	A	A	Hulled wheat (spelt, einkorn) grains, hulled wheat chaff (glume bases)	C	<i>Avena</i> sp. grain, <i>Galium</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	10	Bone		Good

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = aquatic molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon



Site location in the wider development area

Figure 1



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Archaeological features overlain over topographical survey, with 3d view looking east-north-east

Figure 2



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Phased plan of Fields 23 and 24

Figure 3



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Detailed plan of western side of Fields 23 and 24

Figure 4




	Area of excavation
	Prehistoric
	Iron Age
	Iron Age/Romano-British
	Romano-British
	Medieval/post-medieval
	Undated

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Detailed plan of the south eastern corner of Fields 23 and 24

Figure 5



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Phase plans and profiles of stone-built structure 80781

Figure 6



Plate 1: Distribution of postholes and pits viewed from the west



Plate 2: West facing section of posthole 80491 (1 x 0.50 m)


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Plate 3: North facing section of posthole 80667 (1 x 0.20 m)



Plate 4: North facing section of pit 80751 (1 x 0.50 m)


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Plate 5: Posthole structure 80816 viewed from the south (1 x 1 m)



Plate 6: North facing section of pit 80418 (1 x 1 m)


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Plate 7: South-east facing section of posthole 80604 (1 x 0.20 m)



Plate 8: North facing section of terminus of ring gully 80806 (1 x 0.50 m)


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Plate 9: Bone comb ON 16 from ring gully 80806



Plate 10: North-west facing section pit 80171 (1 x 1 m)


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Plate 11: South-east facing section of beam slot 80812 with post-packing (1 x 1 m)



Plate 12: Oblique view from the south-east of quarry pit 80817 (1 x 2 m)


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Plate 13: South-east facing section of posthole 80460 (1 x 0.20m)



Plate 14: North facing section of posthole 80714 (1 x 0.20 m)


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Plate 15: East facing section of quarry pit 80767 (1 x 0.5 m, 1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m)



Plate 16: Coin ON 14 from quarry pit 80767


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Plate 17: Working shot; Excavation of the northern part of structure 80781



Plate 18: Working shot – Excavation of structure 80781



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Plate 19: Wall 80783 viewed from the east (1 x 1 m)



Plate 20: Wall 80784 viewed from the west (1 x 2 m)

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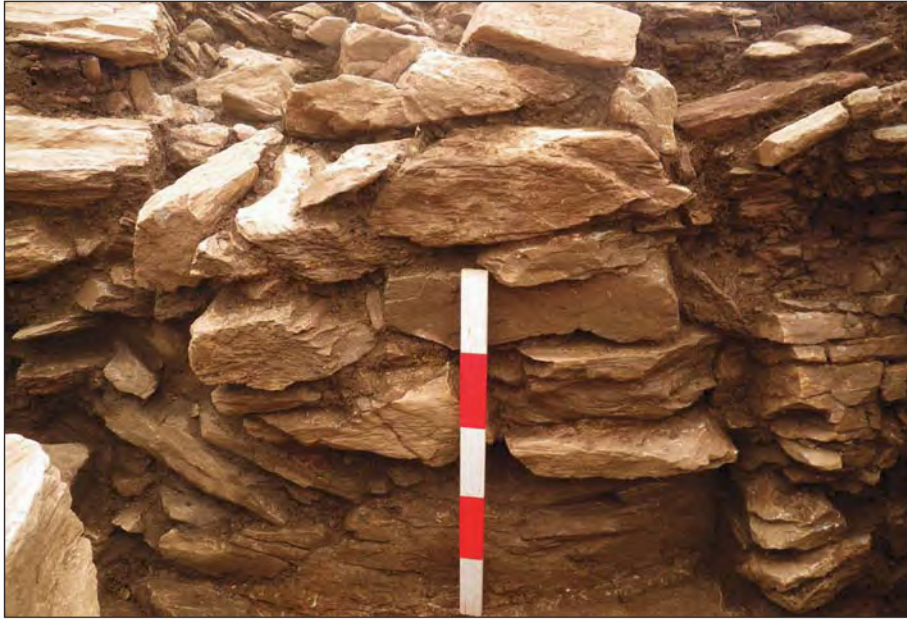


Plate 21: Wall 80785 viewed from the north (1 x 0.50 m)



Plate 22: Stone slabs and stone facing of 80782 viewed from the south (1 x 1 m)


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Plate 23: Stone slab in 80782 with evidence of tool marks (1 x 1 m)



Plate 24: Wall 80786 viewed from the east (1 x 1 m)


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Plate 25: Working shot – Excavation of structure 80781 following removal of stone slabs



Plate 26: Horse mandible ON 39 within deliberate backfill of 80781 (1 x 0.20m)


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Plate 27: Pewter dish ON 44 and coin ON 51 from structure 80781



Plate 28: Post-excavation shot of structure 80781 from the north (1 x 2 m)


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Plate 29: Post-excitation shot of structure 80781 from the south (1 x 2 m)



Plate 30: West facing section of ditch 80795 (1 x 0.50 m)


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Plate 31: Working shot – Excavation of ditches 80796 and 80797



Plate 32: Seal box lid ON 12 from gully 80810


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Plate 33: West facing section of pit 80813 (1 x 1 m)



Plate 34: Clay post pad within pit 80813 viewed from the north-east (1 x 0.50 m)


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Plate 35: Coin ON 43 from subsoil 80102



Plate 36: East facing section of ditch 80801 (1 x 1 m)


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Plate 37: East facing section of ditch 80804 (1 x 1 m)



Plate 38: South-south-east facing section of enclosure ditch 80815 (1 x 1 m)


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Plate 39: Skeleton 80497 (grave 80518) viewed from the north



Plate 40: View of natural deposit 80779 from the north-west



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Plate 41: Machine slot through deposits 80779 and 80780 viewed from the west (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m)



Plate 42: North facing representative section through natural deposits 80779 and 80780 (1 x 1 m, 1 x 2 m)

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