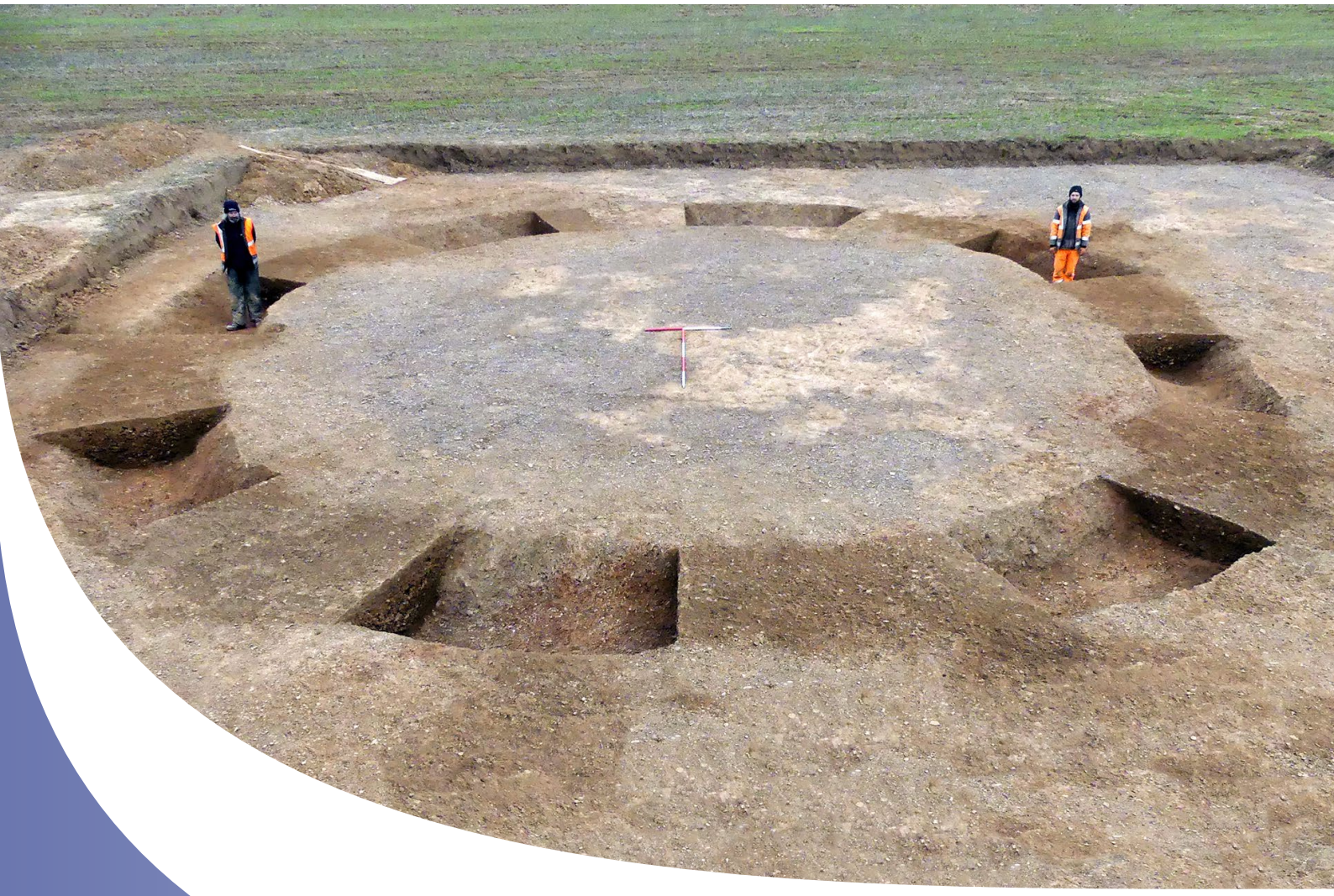
Land at Junction 24, North Petherton Bridgwater, Somerset

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by S Notaro Land Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation of land proposed for development immediately east of Junction 24 (J24) of the M5 motorway and south of Bridgwater, Somerset. The entire development area comprises approximately 37.5 hectares, centred on NGR 330758 134210. The excavation forms part of a program of archaeological mitigation which has been conducted to fulfil a planning condition attached to a planning application for the construction of a new Motorway Service Area and ancillary uses including all supporting infrastructure (Ref 37/19/00004). Previous archaeological works comprised a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey, and trial trench evaluation.

The archaeological works comprised six excavation area of various sizes, targeted on significant concentrations of archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation. The excavations recorded prehistoric features in Areas 2 to 6. Two subrectangular enclosures of Middle Bronze Age date, one with internal post-built structures, and part of a contemporary field system and trackway were recorded in Area 2. An outlying post-built roundhouse structure and unurned cremation grave, also potentially of Bronze Age date, and several other landscape boundary ditches, including some of post-medieval date, were also recorded. The finds assemblage includes moderate quantities of Trevisker-related pottery and fired clay, including a few pieces of briquetage. Charred plant remains, including waste from crop-processing, was also recovered.

Bronze Age features were also recorded in Areas 4 to 6. These comprised a Middle Bronze Age 'D-shaped' enclosure with internal post-built structures (Area 4), a ring ditch of likely Early/Middle Bronze Age date (Area 5) and part of a possible Bronze Age double-ditched enclosure and a few pits (Area 6).

Two later phases of activity were recorded in Area 3, these comprising part of a rectangular enclosure of possible Late Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age date, and a more sinuous arrangement of ditches that formed a second enclosure of possible Late Iron Age/Romano-British date. Both phases were associated with an array of pits and postholes. Part of a Late medieval/post-medieval field system and trackway were also recorded.

It is proposed that following the further analysis of the stratigraphy, finds and environmental assemblages, and radiocarbon dating, the results of the excavation will be reported on in the form of a short, illustrated article in the regional journal, *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank S Notaro Land Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works, in particular John Titcombe. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer at South West Heritage Trust, who monitored the project for Sedgemoor District Council, and to J D Pope & Sons for their cooperation and help on site.

Land at Junction 24, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset

Post-excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by S Notaro Land Ltd, to undertake mitigation works comprising an archaeological excavation on land proposed for development immediately east of Junction 24 (J24) of the M5 motorway and south of Bridgwater, Somerset, TA7 0DU (**Fig. 1**). The entire development area comprises approximately 37.5 ha, centred on NGR 330758 134210.

1.1.2 The development proposals, submitted to Sedgemoor District Council (ref 37/19/00004), sought approval for an:

Outline application with some matters reserved, for employment uses (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8), the creation of a new Motorway Service Area and ancillary uses including all supporting infrastructure.

1.1.3 A formal consultation response (dated 28 January 2019) was issued by the Senior Historic Environment Officer (SHEO) at South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) in response to the scheme proposals during the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. This stated that:

'….. geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching have revealed relatively extensive prehistoric settlement and later activity on the site. These remains represent a reasonably significant archaeological site that has the potential to contribute to regional research agendas. The development will severely impact on these remains therefore, I recommend that the developer be required to archaeologically excavate the heritage asset and provide a report on any discoveries made as indicated in the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 199).'

1.1.4 The SHEO also recommended that the following condition was attached to any subsequent grant of planning permission:

Programme of Works in Accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (POW) Before the commencement of the development hereby permitted the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The WSI shall include details of the archaeological excavation, the recording of the heritage asset, the analysis of evidence recovered from the site and publication of the results. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme.

1.1.5 The excavation is the final stage in a programme of archaeological works associated with the development, which has included:

- desk-based assessment (DBA; Cotswold Archaeology 2018a);
- geophysical survey (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018); and
- trial trenching (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b)

1.1.6 The excavation covered a total of approximately 2.68 ha, divided between six areas. The excavation areas targeted significant concentrations of archaeology features identified by the geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation.

1.1.7 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The SHEO approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation was undertaken between 4th January and 26th February 2021.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the WSI. Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims (including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The development site comprised approximately 37.5 ha of arable land located immediately east of Junction 24 (J24) of the M5, between Huntworth to the east and North Petherton to the west. The site is approximately 4 km south of Bridgwater Town Centre (**Fig. 1**).

1.3.2 The largest land parcel, of approximately 26.1 ha, is immediately north-east of J24. The land primarily consists of a single arable field, which stretches north from J24 and is crossed by a Public Right of Way (PRoW) at its northern end. It is bounded to the west by the M5 and by Huntworth Lane to the east for most of its length. Beyond this single field, to the north, are three further small fields bounded by hedgerows. The north-eastern extent of the site is bordered by properties that front Huntworth Lane, and the northern boundary is Huntworth Lane where it extends just south of and parallel to the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal. Excavation Area 1 was located just north of the PRoW, whilst Areas 2–5 were distributed across the single large field to the south.

1.3.3 The second land parcel is of approximately 4.3 ha and is located directly south of the motorway junction. The M5 slip road forms the northern boundary, whilst Huntworth Lane and four dwellings with gardens form the south-eastern boundary. Overhead power lines extend north–south along the eastern perimeter. No excavation areas were proposed in this location.

1.3.4 The final land parcel wraps around the Bridgwater Lawn Tennis Club and is of approximately 7.1 ha. The land is divided between three fields, bounded by hedgerows. Notaro Way extends between the northern field, which is directly adjacent to the tennis club, and the two adjoining fields to the south. Excavation Area 6 was located within the field immediately south of Notaro Way.

1.3.5 The development site slopes from approximately 24 m OD in the south-west to 7 m OD in the north-east.

1.3.6 The underlying geology is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group – mudstone and halite-stone, overlain by undifferentiated river terrace deposits in the central part of the development area and alluvium (laid down in the floodplain of the River Parrett) to the north (British Geological Survey online viewer accessed 2021).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous works related to the development

Geophysical survey (2018)

2.1.1 Approximately 34 ha within the development site was subject to geophysical (magnetometer) survey in January 2018 (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018). The survey detected a concentration of geophysical anomalies appearing to form a complex of ditched enclosures in the central part of the development area, just south of the PRoW. Further small sub-circular and sub-rectangular enclosures were indicated by anomalies scattered further to the south. The survey also detected occasional traces of other possible enclosures, historic field boundaries and a trackway.

Trial trench evaluation (2018)

2.1.2 Thirty trial trenches were excavated across the development area in November 2018. The evaluation demonstrated a generally close correlation between sub-surface features and the geophysical survey results. However, it was noted that there was a slight discrepancy between the plot of the geophysical anomalies and the surveyed locations of archaeological features in the trenches.

2.1.3 The trial trenching report (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b, 17) stated that:

A concentration of ditches and pits containing Early/Middle Bronze Age pottery was recorded in the central part of the site, corresponding to a series of rectilinear and sub-circular enclosures noted by the geophysical survey. Several of the features recorded in this area of the site were undated artefactually but correspond to parts of the enclosure complex and are therefore presumably also of Early/Middle Bronze Age date.

The interiors of the enclosures were not sampled extensively by the evaluation and their function is uncertain at present, although the relatively large amounts of pottery recovered may indicate occupation in the vicinity.

2.1.4 Further Early/Middle Bronze Age ditches were recorded, along with several undated ditches, in the southern part of the site. These could be partially correlated with a possible curvilinear enclosure ditch detected by the geophysical survey. Little evidence of activity was identified in the northern part of the development site, although an Early/Middle Bronze Age ditch and pit were recorded in one of the trenches in this area. Other features recorded during the trial trenching were interpreted as the remains of former field boundaries marked on 19th century maps and an infilled pond.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Prehistoric (1,000,000 BC–AD 43)

2.2.1 The DBA (Cotswold Archaeology 2018a) noted that there is widespread evidence of prehistoric activity in the landscape surrounding Bridgwater, and that the River Parrett, to the north of the development area, was almost certainly a major transport and communication route at this time.

2.2.2 Perhaps the most significant and pertinent evidence of prehistoric activity in the immediate area was recorded during recent large-scale archaeological excavations at the Bridgwater Gateway development site, to the west of the M5 (Oxford Archaeology 2020a). The excavation recorded the remains of a Middle Bronze Age settlement associated with a large oval ditched enclosure and seven rectangular enclosures. An unusually large Bronze Age cremation cemetery, containing the remains of approximately 60 burials, was also found immediately adjacent to a probable round barrow. Other discoveries included the remains of three roundhouses and a complex of field system ditches that were evidently the product of several phases of reorganisation throughout the later Iron Age and Romano-British period.

2.2.3 The DBA also highlighted that the remains of a possible prehistoric settlement had been detected from aerial photographs at the south-western edge of the development area (Somerset HER ref 11264). The settlement seems to have extended to the west of the M5, where an excavation (Powell *et al.* 2008) recorded finds and features dating from the Late Iron Age onwards; these were presumably contemporary/associated with remains subsequently revealed within the Bridgwater Gateway development area. Trial trenching in the south-western part of the development site (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b), however, identified only undated and post-medieval features.

2.2.4 A possible prehistoric ring ditch was recorded during trial trench on land to the north-east of Newton Road on the southern outskirts of North Petherton (SHER 39216, Cotswold Archaeology 2018c). The evaluation also recorded an area of intensive late prehistoric and Romano-British activity.

Romano-British and later (AD 43 - present)

2.2.5 The DBA identified little specific evidence of Romano-British or medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the development area but noted the presence of sites/remains from these periods in the wider area. Widespread traces of ridge and furrow cultivation were, however, noted across the development area on LiDAR imagery and aerial photographs.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Research objectives

3.2.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (SWARF; Webster 2007; Grove and Croft 2012), the research objectives of the excavation defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) were to:

- confirm the (suspected Early/Middle Bronze Age) date of the enclosures identified by the geophysical survey and trial trenching, as well as their function and nature and the extent of activity associated with them;
- establish the potential to illuminate the distribution and character of activity within the enclosures, and the development and organisation of the wider landscape during the Bronze Age and subsequent periods (eg, in relation to discoveries made at the Bridgwater Gateway development site); and
- examine any evidence for activity in other periods not revealed during previous phases of investigation.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The mitigation works comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of six areas totalling 2.68 ha (**Fig. 1**). The individual areas were targeted on the results of the previous geophysical survey (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018) and results of the trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b) as detailed in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Summary of evaluation results in relation to excavation areas

Excavation Area	Approx. area (ha)	Rationale/targeted on
Area 1	0.015 ha	An Early/Middle Bronze Age pit and ditch recorded in Trench 2 of the evaluation. Post-medieval ditches were also identified. The ditches in Trench 2 could not be closely correlated with a series of linear anomalies detected in this location by the geophysical survey.
Area 2	2.14 ha	An extensive complex of conjoined, rectangular enclosures identified by the geophysical survey and recorded in Trenches 4–6 and 12–16. Early/Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from several of the ditches.
Area 3	0.27 ha	Several ditches recorded in Trenches 18–19, which probably form part of an enclosure identified by the geophysical survey. These produced small amounts of Early/Middle Bronze Age pottery. Another pair of parallel east-west ditches in Trench 19 were probably the remains of a post-medieval field boundary.
Area 4	0.12 ha	A large re-cut ditch recorded in Trench 20, which produced a small amount of Early/Middle Bronze Age pottery and can be roughly correlated with two sides of a possible small enclosure detected by the geophysical survey
Area 5	0.05 ha	Several undated pits and ditches recorded in Trench 10, a curvilinear/ring-shaped anomaly and possible trackway detected by the geophysical survey
Area 6	0.09 ha	A possible small enclosure detected by the geophysical survey, which could be roughly correlated with ditches recorded in Trench 27 of the evaluation. Early/Middle Bronze Age pottery was retrieved from one of the ditches; the others and a small pit were undated.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the WSI (**Fig. 1**). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a 360º excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon, or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.

Recording

4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2020). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

Human remains

4.3.2 The human remains were removed under the terms of the Ministry of Justice licence held by Wessex Archaeology (Ref: 21-0007 dated 15 January 2021). The excavation and post-excavation processing and assessment of human remains was in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols and undertaken in line with current guidance documents

(eg, McKinley 2013a) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The SHEO monitored the works on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the SHEO.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 Archaeological features and/or deposits were recorded in all six excavation areas. Approximately 95 archaeological features were excavated and recorded ranging in date from the early prehistoric through to the modern period. The features consisted of ditches (including enclosures, boundaries and a ring ditch), pits, postholes (including post-built structures), gullies, a cremation grave, cremation-related deposits and tree-throw holes. Landscaping and made-ground deposits were also recorded.

5.1.2 The general pattern is one of widespread prehistoric agricultural, settlement and mortuary activity. The closely dated archaeological features are predominantly of Bronze Age date with a small area of Iron Age/Romano-British activity focused on the eastern margins of the development in Area 3.

5.1.3 In general, the features and deposits were reasonably clear, and the stratigraphic sequence simple. Defining features and interpretation was more difficult where ditches intersected, and in areas of modern disturbance. Group numbers have been allocated where appropriate.

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.4 All digital, handwritten and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 A similar soil sequence and natural deposits were encountered within the six excavation areas.

5.2.2 The natural substrate (104, 202, 3002, 4002, 5002 and 6002) was encountered at between 0.40 m and 0.65 m below ground level (bgl) and consisted of sandy silts and clayey silts containing abundant sub-angular stones up to 50 mm in diameter. Irregular bands and patches of siltier material were noted throughout the natural substrate.

5.2.3 The overlying subsoil was up to 0.45 m thick (201, 3001, 4001, 5001 and 6001) and comprised silty clay/sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stones up to 45 mm in diameter.

5.2.4 Subsoil was absent in Area 1 due to post-medieval landscaping/dumping activity. Across the remainder of the site, the subsoil had been heavily reworked by modern deep

ploughing, particularly in Areas 2–5, which were in a field used for 'Ploughing Matches' over many decades.

5.2.5 The topsoil (100, 200, 3000, 4000, 5000 and 6000) was an average of 0.30 m thick and consisted of silty loams and sandy silty loams containing rare sub-angular stones ≤50 mm in diameter.

5.2.6 Tree-throw holes of uncertain date were recorded in Areas 2–4, these were often adjacent to boundary ditches and may represent evidence for associated hedgerows.

5.3 Area 1

Post-medieval

5.3.1 Sealed beneath the modern plough soil, made-ground deposits (101 and 102) containing both medieval and post-medieval pottery (1974 g), and building debris comprising ceramic building material (1923 g) and slate (750 g) and stone (1515 g) roof tiles, were encountered across the whole of Area 1 (**Fig. 1**). The deposits were over 0.80 m thick and have been interpreted as deliberate dumps of imported material laid down when the area was landscaped (**Plates 1** and **2**).

5.4 Area 2

5.4.1 An extensive series of ditches was revealed across Area 2. This consisted of several identifiable phases of activity indicated by a combination of ceramic dating, stratigraphic relationships and spatial alignments (**Fig. 2**). The phasing of some elements remains ambiguous due to the general paucity of datable finds.

Middle Bronze Age

5.4.2 Two Middle Bronze Age enclosures 8025 and 8031, and a contemporary boundary ditch 8027, provide a firmly dated phase of activity from which to extrapolate the chronology of the other ditches based on stratigraphic and spatial alignments/relationships. These include part of a field system and trackway, and a landscape boundary.

Field system and trackway

5.4.3 Ditches 8018, 8026 and 8028 formed the north, south, and west sides of a rectangular field of approximately 6300 m² (**Fig. 2**). The similarity in orientation and alignment with the adjacent Middle Bronze Age enclosure 8031 is notable and suggests the ditches formed part of a broadly contemporary field system within a formalised agricultural landscape.

5.4.4 The NNE–SSW and WNW–ESE aligned ditches of the field system had moderate concave sides and a concave base, were 54–101 m long, 0.60–1.39 m wide, 0.20–0.63 m deep, and contained gravelly clay loam secondary fills. A sherd of broadly dated prehistoric pottery (3 g), was recovered from ditch 8028. The fabric and orange/buff firing of the sherd was similar to that of the Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-related pottery recovered from enclosure 8031. The south end of ditch 8018 was cut by landscape boundary ditch 8021, discussed below.

5.4.5 An undated ditch 8029 aligned parallel with and 4 m to the south of ditch 8028, is probably contemporary (**Fig. 2**), and delineated a trackway running along the southern edge of the field. Ditch 8029 was 65 m long, 0.55–0.65 m wide and 0.45 m deep, with steep sides and an undulating base.

5.4.6 The alignment of two further undated ditches, 8033 and 8034 to the north-east of Middle Bronze Age enclosure 8031, indicated that they probably also formed part of the Bronze

Age field system outlined above. Ditch 8033, which aligned with the north side of enclosure 8031 and field boundary ditch 8026, curved north-eastwards, where it cut N–S ditch 8034. The ditches had moderate straight sides and a flat or concave base, were 0.30–0.75 m wide and 0.16–0.20 m deep.

Landscape boundary ditch 8021

5.4.7 Curvilinear landscape boundary ditch 8021 extended over 135 m from NNE towards the SSW, where it terminated. The intermittent nature of ditch 8021 was probably due to truncation by modern ploughing. The ditch had a similar profile throughout its length, was 0.75 m wide and up to 0.34 m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a concave base. The deeper portions of the ditch contained both primary and secondary fills, but in the truncated portions only the primary fill survived. A residual worked flint (2 g) and an intrusive sherd of Roman pottery (13 g) were recovered from the ditch fills. It cut field boundary ditch 8018 and was cut by Middle Bronze Age enclosure 8025 (**Fig. 2)**. The function of the ditch remains uncertain, its alignment being at odds with the earlier field system, trackway and later enclosures.

Enclosure 8025

5.4.8 In the north-west extension of Area 2 and corresponding with a geophysical anomaly (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018) was a small rectangular enclosure with a 2.1 m wide entranceway on the central south side. The enclosure was aligned broadly WNW–ESE, had an internal area of approximately 775 m², and cut earlier Bronze Age boundary ditch 8021 (**Fig. 2**). The ditch had a 'V-shaped' profile, was 0.85–1.75 m wide (widening at the corners and terminals), and an average 0.60 m deep. The western side of the enclosure had been partially truncated by post-medieval field boundary ditch 8024 (**Plate 3**).

5.4.9 The north-west corner of the enclosure had a notably shallower curve compared to the other three corners which were cut at an abrupt 90° angle. No internal features were present indicating perhaps that the enclosure was used for livestock, and only sparse quantities of Middle Bronze Age (37 g) and broadly dated late prehistoric (5 g) pottery were recovered from the ditch fills. In addition, three fragments of briquetage (38 g), a flint scraper (9 g) and a fragment of cremated human bone (1 g) were also recovered, together with an intrusive sherd of Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery (13 g). The ditch fills also contained charred plant remains from the disposal of crop-processing waste.

Enclosure 8031 and internal features

5.4.10 On the central west side of the area was a large subrectangular enclosure with a 4.6 m wide staggered entranceway located centrally on the west side. The enclosure was aligned broadly WNW–ESE and had an internal area of approximately 3090 m² (**Fig. 2**). The ditch had steep sides and a concave base, was 1.2–1.67 m wide (widening at the corners) and an average of 0.65 m deep (**Plates 4** and **5**).

5.4.11 The presence of an external bank was indicated by slump deposits on the side and base of the ditch. These were overlain by deliberate dump deposits from which sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery (49 g), fired clay (64 g), including a piece of briquetage, and several pieces of heat-effected sandstone (230 g) were recovered, together with large numbers of charred wheat and barley grains, chaff, wild taxa seeds and charcoal.

5.4.12 Two undated circular postholes, 356 and 360, in the entranceway may be contemporary, potentially indicating the position of a gate or barrier (**Fig. 3**). The postholes had steep to

moderate straight sides and a flat or concave base, were 0.32–39 m in diameter and 0.26–0.29 m deep.

5.4.13 Contemporary features within the interior of enclosure 8031 include a ditch, 40 postholes and 21 pits, as well as several tree-throw holes (**Fig. 3**). A select range of these features were excavated.

5.4.14 Ditch 8032 sub-divided the internal space and defined an area of possible domestic activity characterised by an array of postholes and pits (**Fig. 3**). The 33 m long ditch had a well-defined, rounded terminal at the north end, but was truncated by modern ploughing to the west. It had a 'U-shaped' profile, was 0.58–0.7 m wide, up to 0.29 m deep and contained a gravel-rich clay silt fill devoid of finds.

5.4.15 Eight postholes (356, 360, 392, 396, 408, 410, 412 and 414) and eight pits (390, 394, 424, 426, 428, 430, 445 and 465) were excavated within the enclosure (**Fig. 3**; **Plates 6** and **7**). The postholes were predominantly sub-circular, 0.22–0.55 m in diameter, and 0.04–0.27 m deep. The circular/oval pits were 0.24–1.35 m in diameter and an average of 0.15 m deep. Of these, two postholes and four pits contained broadly dated Bronze Age or Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-related pottery (1532 g, includes ON 1 and 2). It is likely that the other features, including many of the unexcavated features, were of comparable date. In addition, an intrusive sherd of late medieval pottery (2 g) was recovered from posthole 414.

5.4.16 The concentration of discrete features, particularly postholes, on the north side of the enclosure, in the area defined by ditch 8032, indicates this was the main activity area, probably centred around post-built structures such as roundhouses or, four/six-poster raised granaries; the possible footprints of these structures are shown in **Fig. 3**.

Landscape boundary ditch 8027

5.4.17 Ditch 8027 bisected the central part of Area 2 on a broadly NNW–SSE alignment, from the entranceway to enclosure 8025 to the SW corner of enclosure 8031. The ditch had moderate sloping sides and a concave base, was over 85 m long, 0.80 m wide, up to 0.35 m deep and contained single silty loam fill from which a sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery (12 g) was recovered. It cut the north side of the earlier field system (ditch 8026) and was cut by trackside ditches 8028 and 8029 (**Fig. 2**). The function of the ditch remains uncertain, its alignment being at odds with the more formalised arrangement of broadly contemporary fields and enclosures.

Pit cluster 8037

5.4.18 A linear group of five truncated pits (377, 380, 385, 388 and 400) was recorded parallel with and immediately to the north of trackside ditch 8029. Pit 385, in the centre of the group, cut the south-west side of Middle Bronze Age ditch 8027 (**Figs 2** and **3**; **Plate 8**). The pits were circular in shape, 0.47–0.94 m in diameter, 0.08–0.14 m deep with shallow concave sides and a concave base. They contained deliberate backfills of mottled dark reddish brown to black silt loam with frequent flecks and fragments of charcoal. In four of the pits this deposit was overlain by a silty loam fill with rare charcoal inclusions.

5.4.19 No artefacts were recovered from the pit fills, however the samples produced moderate quantities of charcoal, apart from pit 388 which only contained a small quantity of charcoal and sparse plant remains including charred grains of emmer wheat and hulled barley, together with seeds from wild taxa.

Post-built structure 8036

5.4.20 To the north-east of enclosure 8032 was post-built structure 8036. The structure comprised a circle of eight equally spaced postholes, approximately 4.75 m in diameter with an internal posthole and a possible south-east facing entranceway indicated by an outlying posthole, which may have formed part of an entrance porch (**Fig. 2, Inset A**). The circular postholes were 0.3–0.4 m in diameter and 0.24–0.39 m deep. The small diameter of the structure suggests it may have functioned as an ancillary building rather than a domestic dwelling, although the size and form are comparable with Middle Bronze Age structure 8002 within 'D-shaped' enclosure 8001 (Area 4).

Unurned cremation grave 463

5.4.21 An isolated unurned cremation grave was recorded 35 m to the west of Middle Bronze Age enclosure 8031 (**Fig. 2**). The circular grave was 0.35 m in diameter and 0.08 m deep, with shallow concave sides and a concave base. The grave contained the cremated remains (488 g) of a mature adult, possibly a female (**Plate 9**).

Late Prehistoric

Ditches 478, 8019, 8020 and 8035

5.4.22 The four ditches in Area 2 have been allocated a broad late prehistoric date based upon the similarity of their form and their fills with artefactually dated features. However, their different alignments (see **Fig. 2**) indicates that they represent a separate phase or phases of activity, albeit possibly still of broadly Bronze Age date. Ditches 8019 and 8020 to the south-west of enclosure 8025, formed part of a field system on a N–S and WNW–ESE alignment, while ditch 8034 formed a NW–SE landscape boundary to the north-east of structure 8036. Curvilinear 478, to the west of the structure, may have formed part of an associated enclosure or field system, its curved form mirroring that of field boundary ditch 8033, to the south. The ditches had moderate sloping concave sides and a concave base, were 54–101 m long, 0.60–1.39 m wide, 0.20–0.63 m deep, and contained gravelly clay silt secondary fills.

Roman

5.4.23 Limited evidence of Roman activity was found across the development area. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the upper fill of pit 301 and an intrusive sherd from Bronze Age ditch 8021.

5.4.24 Circular pit 301, on the west side of the excavation area, between ditches 8021 and 8022 (**Fig. 2**), had shallow sloping sides and a slightly concave base, was 0.93 m in diameter and 0.15 m deep. A fragment of cremated bone (1 g) was recovered from the lower charcoal-rich fill but could not confidently be identified as either human or animal, although the latter seems more plausible and possibly indicates that the feature may have been a small oven/hearth. The feature was capped with a reddish-brown silty clay, (**Plate 10**) from which a sherd of Romano-British pottery (5 g) was recovered. It is likely, given the absence of further evidence for activity during this period, that the pottery sherd is intrusive.

Post-medieval

5.4.25 Localised evidence for post-medieval land use comprising field boundaries and a possible trackway was recorded in the excavation area (and Area 3, see below). Tree-throw holes were noted adjacent to several of the ditches suggesting the possible presence of hedges. Small amounts of pottery, building debris and occasional clay pipe stems were recovered from the ditches and probably derive from manuring the fields.

5.4.26 Aligned broadly ENE–WSW and NNE–SSW, ditches 8014, 8015 and 8016 on the west side of the excavation area (**Fig. 2**; **Plate 11**) formed the corner of two adjacent fields depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1888). The ditches had steep sloping sides and a narrow, rounded base, were 0.7–1.2 m wide and 0.19–0.37 m deep. A fragment of vessel glass (5 g) and a residual worked flint (13 g) were recovered from ditch 8014, with sherds of post-medieval pottery (96 g) and piece of iron (38 g) from ditch 8015, and sherds of early medieval (12 g) and residual Bronze Age (3 g) pottery from ditch 8016.

5.4.27 Two NNE–SSW aligned ditches, 8024 and 8030 to the east, further subdivided the landscape, but do not appear on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. The ditches had moderate straight sides and a flat or concave base, were 1–1.85 m wide and 0.47–0.64 m deep. A localised recut was recorded at the northern end of ditch 8030, indicating that the ditch had been maintained over a period of time. Sherds of post-medieval pottery (32 g), clay pipe (3 g) and animal bones (278 g) were recovered from ditch 8030.

Modern

5.4.28 A line of seven postholes 8038 on the east side of the excavation area, formed a fence-line on a WNW–ESE alignment (**Fig. 2**). Four of the postholes were excavated and these contained turf and straw, confirming the recent date. The excavated postholes were on average 0.35 m in diameter and 0.2–0.3 m deep.

Uncertain

5.4.29 Broadly dated prehistoric pottery was recovered from two pits, 210 and 430 (**Fig. 2** and **3**). Based upon the similarity of form and proximity to more tightly dated features, the pits could potentially represent Bronze Age activity.

5.4.30 A small number of ephemeral ditches and gullies (218, 455, 8017, 8022, 8023) and three isolated postholes (237, 254 and 256) remain artefactually undated and could not be allocated a phase based on stratigraphic or spatial relationships (**Fig. 2**). The fills of these features were notably devoid of cultural material and looked 'washed out' in comparison to other features perhaps indicating greater antiquity.

5.5 Area 3

Late Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age

Enclosure 8003 and associated features

5.5.1 The north-west corner of a large (over 935 m²), square or rectangular ditched enclosure was recorded on the south side of the excavation area. The southern and western sides of the enclosure lay beyond the limit of excavation, probably extending to the south-east of Huntworth Lane (**Fig. 4**). The ditch had a similar profile throughout, with steep sides and a concave base, was 1.75–2.60 m wide and 0.76–1.28 m deep (**Plates 12** and **13**).

5.5.2 The primary ditch fill consisted of compacted gravel, interpreted as trample, which contained a mixed pottery assemblage (52 g) of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date. This was overlain by a series of horizontal gravel-rich secondary fills with sparse charcoal flecks that contained pottery (825 g) of a similar date range. These deposits are interpreted as gradual infilling during the use of the enclosure. A final infilling episode post-dating the abandonment of the enclosure was noted but contained no datable finds.

5.5.3 An array of pits and postholes were recorded in and around enclosure 8003 (**Fig. 4**) related to two separate phases of activity, the first associated with the use of the

enclosure, and the other, later phase associated with Iron Age ditches 8008, 8010 and 8011 (discussed below).

5.5.4 The first phase of features included pit 3094 within enclosure 8003 and pits 3090, 3105 and 3121 outside the enclosure, to the west (**Fig. 4**). The pits were broadly circular, 0.51–0.67 m in diameter and 0.12–0.25 m deep. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery (1385 g) was recovered from all four pits. A well-preserved assemblage of charcoal and charred cereal grains including emmer wheat and barley, as well as hazel nutshells was recovered from pit 3105. In addition, several undated postholes (3068, 3092 and 3103) and pit 3099, in the south-west part of the enclosure, have also been assigned to this broad phase of activity, but could potential be later.

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

5.5.5 A concentration of Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Romano-British features were recorded, including several ditches, pits and a posthole (**Fig. 4**). No contemporary Iron Age features were revealed in the other mitigation areas indicating that this phase of activity was very limited in geographical extent.

Ditches

5.5.6 Four ditches were recorded on the north-east side of the excavation area. Two stratigraphic phases of activity were discerned, the earlier phase characterised by ditch 8009 and the later phase by ditches 8008, 8010 and 8011.

5.5.7 North–south ditch 8009, aligned parallel with the east side of enclosure 8003, had moderate straight sides and a flat base, was 2.35 m wide and 0.93 m deep, and contained a series of silty loam fills. Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery (35 g) was recovered from the upper ditch fills, together with fired clay (2 g) and residual worked flint (2 g). The ditch might therefore be earlier, and given its alignment, possibly contemporary with enclosure 8003.

5.5.8 Curvilinear ditches 8008, 8010 and 8011 formed the north and west sides of a possible enclosure, which extended south-east beyond the excavation area, toward Huntworth Lane. The ditches cut the earlier enclosure (8003) and associated ditch (8009). Ditches 8008 and 8010 formed the sinuous north side of the possible enclosure and were aligned broadly east–west. At the east end, ditch 8008 curved sharply south-eastwards, where it merged with ditch 8011. The latter formed a curved boundary on a broadly SSE–NNW alignment. The continuous circuit of ditches enclosed an area of more than 460 m². The ditches had steep to moderate concave sides and a flat base, were 0.65–1.5 m wide, and an average of 0.45 m deep. Pottery of probable Iron Age (8 g) date was recovered from the upper fills of ditches 8008 and 8010, with Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery (5 g) from the basal fill of ditch 8010.

Pits

5.5.9 Four pits containing Iron Age pottery were recorded, three (3115, 3125 and 3129) within the enclosure defined by ditches 8008, 8010 and 8011, and one (3123) to the south-west (**Fig. 4**). A further four undated pits (3096, 3109, 3111 and 3117) could be broadly contemporary with this phase of activity or the earlier phase related to enclosure 8003.

5.5.10 The four dated pits were sub-circular or oval, had moderate to steep sloping sides and predominantly concave bases, were 0.40–1.3 m in diameter, and 0.10–0.28 m deep (**Plate 14**). They contained similar loamy sand fills from which a small quantity of Iron Age

pottery (125 g) was recovered, including one sherd (78 g) of potential Middle/Late Iron Age date from pit 3115.

Postholes

5.5.11 Posthole 3101, to the immediate west of curvilinear enclosure ditch 8011, had steep straight sides and a flat base, was 0.33 m in diameter and 0.20 m deep. It contained a secondary fill from which a sherd of possible Middle/Late Iron Age pottery (17 g) was recovered. Two undated postholes 11–17 m to the north-east may also be contemporary with this phase of activity.

Late medieval/post-medieval

5.5.12 A series of three parallel ENE–WSW aligned ditches (8004, 8005, and 3061) were recorded bisecting the south-west corner of the excavation area (**Fig. 4**). Field boundary ditch 8005, the southernmost of the three, had moderate to steep sloping sides and a concave base, was 1.4 m wide, 0.30–0.63 m deep, and contained a single homogeneous fill from which post-medieval pottery (47 g), ceramic building material (12 g), roofing slate (31 g), bottle glass (302 g), part of an iron object (195 g) and animal bones (34 g) were recovered.

5.5.13 Parallel ditches 3061 and 8004, to the north of ditch 8005, probably functioning as drainage ditches either side of a 4 m wide trackway, had an entranceway on the north side providing access to an adjacent field defined by perpendicular ditch 8007 (**Fig. 4**). The ditches had moderate to steep straight or concave sides and a concave base, were 0.40–0.80 wide and 0.37–0.76 m deep. A sherd of late medieval pottery (85 g) was recovered from the boundary between the primary and secondary fills of ditch 3061, with two sherds of post-medieval pottery (163 g) recovered from the secondary fill of ditch 8004.

Uncertain

5.5.14 Broadly dated prehistoric pottery was recovered from pit 3082 to the west of enclosure 8003 (**Fig. 4**). The pit could be either Late Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age or Late Iron Age/Romano-British in date. The fill contained grains of barley and wheat, as well as an emmer wheat glume base.

5.5.15 Undated ephemeral ditches 3048 and 8006 in the north-west corner of the excavation area could not be allocated a phase based on stratigraphic or spatial relationships (**Fig. 4**).

5.6 Area 4

Middle Bronze Age

'D-shaped' enclosure 8001 and internal features

5.6.1 Corresponding with a subrectangular geophysical anomaly (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018), and situated on ground rising slightly to the south, was 'D-shaped' ditched enclosure 8001. Within the enclosure was a post-built structure and several other discrete features (**Fig. 5**; **Plate 15**).

5.6.2 The enclosure had an internal area of 460 m² and opposing 1.56–3.52 m wide entranceways, defined by rounded, near vertical ditch terminals. These were located in the centre of the straight, northern part of the ditch circuit, and between the curved sections of ditch that formed the east and west sides.

5.6.3 The ditch was 0.6–1.67 m wide, 0.33–0.76 m deep and had a consistent profile with steep concave sides and a flat base (**Plates 16** and **17**), but was deeper and wider to the south reflecting the topography. It contained silty clay fills from which was recovered a moderate quantity of Middle Bronze Age pottery (823 g), including several decorated sherds of Trevisker-related ware. The ditch fill contained few charred plant remains, unlike the other enclosures (8025 and 8031), where evidence for crop-processing was recorded, indicating perhaps differences in the types of activities associated with individual enclosures.

5.6.4 In the centre of enclosure 8001 was circular post-built structure 8002. The structure consisted of twelve postholes, four of which were excavated (4033, 4035, 4045 and 4051). A circle of ten equally spaced postholes formed the main structure, which was 6 m in diameter, with two slight outliers to the east and north-west. The postholes had vertical sides and a concave base, were 0.27–0.4 m in diameter and 0.11–0.39 m deep.

5.6.5 Two pits were recorded within enclosure 8001, a sub-oval pit (4043) adjacent to the north entranceway, and one (4040) 4 m to the west of post-built structure 8002. A third pit (4038) was recorded outside the enclosure, adjacent to the north-west corner. The sub-oval pits had moderate, straight sides and an irregular, undulating base, were 0.70–0.95 m in diameter and 0.15–0.35 m deep. A fragment of cremated human bone (2 g) was recovered from a charcoal-rich deposit of black clay silt at the base of pit 4040, this was capped with a clay silt (**Plate 18**), like pit 301 in Area 2, which also contained cremated bone. Several sherds of possible Middle Bronze Age pottery (208 g) came from pit 4038.

5.7 Area 5

Bronze Age

Ring ditch 8000

5.7.1 Ring ditch 8000 corresponded with a circular geophysical anomaly (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018) and has been interpreted as a probable barrow with an external diameter of 15.2 m (**Fig. 6**; **Plate 19**). The ditch formed a complete circuit, had a regular 'U-shaped' profile, was 1.48–2 m wide and 0.50–0.60 m deep (**Plates 20** and **21**).

5.7.2 Slump deposits of similar composition to the surrounding natural substrate were recorded on the inner edge of the ditch and indicate the presence and initial collapse of an internal barrow mound constructed from the ditch upcast. The slump deposits were sealed by a secondary fill along the inner edge of the ditch, interpreted as further weathering of the barrow mound and again had a very similar composition to the surrounding natural substrate. The upper fills indicated more gradual infilling after the inner mound had largely eroded and the barrow had fallen out of use. No datable finds were recovered from any of the ditch fills; however, a broken retouched flint blade (5 g) was recovered from secondary fill 5040.

5.7.3 Bulk environmental samples were taken from the full sequence of fills within the ring ditch, however they produced very small quantities of poorly preserved charcoal and only trace quantities of charred plant remains including indeterminate cereal grains, hazel nutshell and grass seeds.

Pits associated with ring ditch 8000

5.7.4 Five undated pits were recorded close to ring ditch 8000. Pits 5034 and 5036 on the west side of Area 5 pre- and post-date the ring ditch (**Fig. 6**), but the other pits, 5046, 2.3 m to the north-west and pits 5042 and 5044 to the south-west, may be broadly contemporary with its construction. An Early/Middle Bronze Age pit was recorded to the immediate west during the trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b). The pits were 0.4 m–1.4

m in diameter, 0.10–0.2 m deep, had shallow sloping sides and a concave base, and contained similar reddish brown gravelly-silt fills. The fill of pit 5046 also contained abundant charcoal (**Plate 22**).

5.8 Area 6

Early Prehistoric

5.8.1 A sherd of early prehistoric pottery (22 g) was recovered from the fill of posthole 6012. The posthole was the only dated feature within a seemingly related group of four discreet features which included posthole 6010, and pits 6007 and 6015 (**Fig. 7**; **Plates 23** and **24**). The notable similarity in their individual charcoal-rich fills suggest these features were contemporary.

5.8.2 The sub-circular postholes had steep sloping sides and flat bases, were 0.21–0.48 m in diameter and 0.07–0.31 m deep. The sub-oval pits had moderate sloping sides, were 0.43–0.98 m in diameter and up to 0.2 m deep. The samples from posthole 6012 contained charred plant remains including barley grains, emmer/spelt wheat grains, Celtic bean and hazel nutshell, perhaps indicating a focus on domestic or crop processing activity.

Early/Middle Bronze Age

5.8.3 Two pairs of parallel ditches aligned NE–SW were also recorded. Early/Middle Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the most southerly ditch during the trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b, not illustrated on **Fig. 7**), this ditch was not reinvestigated as it lay beyond the eastern limit of the mitigation area, and no further dating evidence was recovered from the other ditches. These had moderate sloping straight sides and a concave base, were 0.77–1.3 m wide and 0.35–0.43 m deep. The geophysical survey (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018) suggested these ditches formed the north-west and south-east sides of a rectangular enclosure with an internal area of approximately 1225 m².

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Approximately 17 kg of finds were recovered. These range in date from the Middle Bronze Age through to the modern period, although there is a focus on the Middle Bronze Age and later prehistoric period. All finds have been quantified by material type within each context and scanned to assess their nature, condition, and potential date range. The results are summarised in **Table 2**, with a full breakdown by context and feature/feature group in **Appendix 1**.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site and amounts to 421 sherds (8465 g). Sherds from each context have been sub-divided into broad ware groups (eg rock-tempered ware) or known fabric types (eg Verwood earthenware) and quantified by number and weight of pieces (**Table 3**). Where possible, details of vessel form and other diagnostic features have been noted and a spot date for each context has been assigned. A breakdown of the assemblage by chronological period and ware type is presented in **Table 3**. The level of recording is consistent with the ‘basic record’ advocated for the rapid characterisation of pottery assemblages (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.5).

6.2.2 The majority of sherds are from large, thick-walled vessels which is reflected in the overall mean sherd weight of 20.1 g. Many pieces, particularly the softer, more lightly fired prehistoric pieces, display surface abrasion and edge damage. The distinct lack of diagnostic or featured sherds has meant that 23% of the assemblage (by count) could only be dated to a broad unspecified 'prehistoric' period.

Table 2 Quantification of finds by material, count and weight (grammes)

Material	No.	Wt.
Animal bone	19	359
Ceramic building material	17	1946
Clay pipe	2	3
Cremated bone	n/a	492
Fired clay	9	117
Flint	9	65
Glass	3	307
Iron	2	233
Pottery	421	8465
Middle Bronze Age	*237*	*3298*
Bronze Age unspecified	*5*	*31*
Late Bronze Age–Iron Age	*12*	*246*
Prehistoric	*93*	*2413*
Latest Iron Age–Romano-British	*7*	*66*
Medieval	*5*	*119*
Post-medieval	*62*	*2292*
Slag	n/a	141
Stone	49	4720
Total	**531**	**16,848**

Middle Bronze Age

6.2.3 The earliest pottery (237 sherds, 3298 g) dates to the Middle Bronze Age. This material came from eight features/feature groups including pits, postholes and ditches located within Areas 2 and 4.

6.2.4 All sherds are tempered with grog inclusions varying in quantity and coarseness and are likely to be of local manufacture. Rims from at least four vessels were identified which appear to be from vessels with gently convex or neutral profiles. Three rims are flattened or slightly flattened (posthole 392, pit 394, enclosure 8031), the fourth is inturned (posthole 4038). Several body sherds from posthole 392 are decorated with twisted cord impressions in converging lines and adjacent tooled lines whilst pieces from pit 394 are decorated with multiple parallel tooled lines with diagonal whipped cord or toothed comb impressions in between. Other decorative motifs include horizontal lines and chevrons as seen on sherds from enclosure 8001.

6.2.5 A total of 39 sherds (1028 g) from pit 390 derive from the base and lower walls of a vessel (ON 1) and although the upper, more diagnostic parts of the vessel are missing, the similarity in grog-tempering to the Middle Bronze Age datable material in the above-mentioned features indicates that it is likely to be of a contemporary date. A joining sherd from this vessel was found within the backfill of posthole 392 which truncated the pit.

Traces of burnt residues/soot adhere to the interior surfaces of this base and were also noted on the interior of body sherds from posthole 226 indicating that these vessels may have been utilised in the preparation or cooking of foodstuffs or other materials.

Table 3 Pottery by chronological period and ware type

Period	Ware	No.	Wt. (g)
Middle Bronze Age	Grog-tempered ware	*237*	*3298*
Bronze Age unspecified	Grog-tempered ware	*5*	31
Late Bronze Age–Iron Age	Rock-tempered ware	9	220
	Grog and rock-tempered ware	1	17
	Sandy ware	1	5
	Vesicular ware	1	4
LBA–IA sub-total		*12*	*246*
Prehistoric	Rock-tempered ware	83	2338
	Grog-tempered ware	4	34
	Sand and grog-tempered	1	2
	Sandy ware	3	5
	Vesicular ware	2	34
Prehistoric sub-total		*93*	*2413*
Latest Iron Age–Romano-British	Sand and grog-tempered	2	27
	Sandy ware	4	34
	Grog-tempered ware	1	5
LIA–RB sub-total		*7*	*66*
Medieval	Medieval coarseware	5	119
Post-medieval	Redware	52	2111
	Slip ware	3	80
	Staffs-/Bristol-type slipware	2	48
	Verwood-type earthernware	2	46
	White salt glaze	3	7
Post-med sub-total		*62*	*2292*
Total		**421**	**8465**

6.2.6 Both the range of fabrics and stylistic elements within this collection fit within the broader ceramic tradition known as Trevisker, or Trevisker-related ware. This tradition appeared in Cornwall during the Early Bronze Age (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972) and was thereafter adopted across Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, south Wales and west Dorset during the Middle Bronze Age. Local parallels can be found amongst the Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-related assemblage from Bridgwater Gateway (Oxford Archaeology 2020a, 39, table 4) located 1.5 km to the west, as well as other collections in the region including Brean Down (Woodward 1990), Norton Fitzwarren (Woodward 1989), Queen Camel (Jones 2018), Westonzoyland (Oakford Archaeology 2017), and Cannington Bypass (Quinnell 2018).

Bronze Age unspecified

6.2.7 Five plain, thick-walled grog-tempered body sherds found within pit 428 and postholes 396 and 410 have been allocated a broad Bronze Age date. Based on fabric and wall

thickness, it is possible that they relate to the Middle Bronze Age material discussed above.

Late Bronze Age–Iron Age

6.2.8 A small quantity of sherds date to this period (**Table 3**), although many more are likely to be present within the broadly dated 'prehistoric' group; all were found within Area 3. They are present in a broad range of rock-tempered fabrics containing igneous, sandstone or coarse quartz/quartzite inclusions as well as sandy wares and vesicular wares. A similar range of fabrics was identified amongst the Iron Age material found during excavations to the west of Junction 24 (Powell *et al.* 2008). Chronologically earlier forms include two inturned rims, a flared rim and an out-turned rim from a shouldered jar or bowl (pit 3105) and an upright, flattened rim from a possible shouldered vessel (enclosure ditch 8003). These are comparable to vessel forms dated to the Late Bronze Age–Early Iron Age at Norton Fitzwarren (Woodward 1989) and Ham Hill (Morris 1987).

6.2.9 Later forms include a long-necked, shouldered bowl of the South Western Decorated style in a sandstone gritted fabric (pit 3115). The shoulder is decorated with horizontal grooved lines and a curvilinear swag motif infilled with diagonal grooved lines. South Western Decorated ceramics were in use during the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, with some extending into the 1st century BC. A rounded, out-turned rim from a slack-shouldered vessel in a grog and rock-tempered fabric (posthole 3101) is also likely to be of Middle–Late Iron Age date. A further three pieces, one each recovered from pits 3115 and 3125 and ditch 8010, have been assigned a tentative Iron Age date based on their fabric and firing alone.

Prehistoric unspecified

6.2.10 This broadly dated group of sherds (**Table 3**) mostly consists of undiagnostic, extremely worn and abraded pieces. With the exception of a single sherd containing sand and grog/argillaceous inclusions (ditch 8008), the range of fabrics is broadly comparable to those already discussed. Given the dominance of rock-tempered fabrics, it is likely that many of these belong to the later prehistoric, possibly Late Bronze Age to Iron Age periods given the shift in the immediate area from the use of grog-tempered fabrics favoured for ceramic manufacture during the Early and Middle Bronze Age towards a preference for the use of sandy and other gritted fabric types during the Iron Age (Woodward 1989).

6.2.11 Diagnostic pieces include two inturned rims, possibly from ovoid jars, an expanded rim fragment with possible finger-nail impressed decoration on the body, and an out-turned rim from a jar or bowl all from enclosure ditch 8003 and one upright rim fragment from ditch 8008.

Latest Iron Age–Romano-British

6.2.12 Sherds assigned to this chronological period (**Table 3**) include three plain body sherds in sandy and sandy/grog-tempered fabrics (ditch 8009; enclosure ditch 8025) that could date to either the Late Iron Age or Romano-British periods. The remaining four pieces are of Romano-British date and comprise a sandy ware everted rim fragment from ditch 8009 and featureless body sherds, one each in sandy/grog-tempered and grog-tempered fabrics from pit 301 and ditch 8021 respectively.

Post-Roman

6.2.13 Five sherds of medieval sandy coarsewares were found (**Table 3**). One piece (ditch 246) is of possible 11th–12th-century date whilst two sherds are of later medieval, *c*. 14th–

15th-century date. These consist of a green-glazed fragment from a narrow-necked vessel (posthole 414) and part of a bowl with a flanged rim (ditch 3061). Two sherds found residually within made ground deposit 102 could not be dated more closely than to the medieval period.

6.2.14 The majority of the post-medieval assemblage consists of glazed redwares (**Table 3**). Diagnostic pieces include a shallow, open vessel with a finger-tip impressed decorated rim and expanded footring base, rims from at least three bowls and one jug handle all from made ground deposit 102. This deposit also contained three fragments of sgraffito ware, possibly from a bowl, dating to the 17th–18th century. The two pieces of Staffordshire/Bristol-type slipware include a decorated platter rim; these are similarly dated to the late 17th into 18th century. Three sherds of white salt glazed ware date between *c*. 1720–1780, they were recovered from ditches 8005 and 8015; the latter also contained the two pieces of Verwood-type earthenware from east Dorset.

6.3 Fired clay

6.3.1 The fired clay assemblage (**Table 2**) includes four pieces of briquetage – a material typically associated with saltworking. The fragments are in a predominantly oxidised, slightly micaceous fabric with common linear voids (some containing burnt organic inclusions), rare quartz grains and iron oxides; they also have roughly finished surfaces. Three pieces (Middle Bronze Age enclosure ditch 8025) form part of a pedestal with a cylindrical shank and splayed foot. These types of object were used to support brine pans during the evaporation process. The fourth briquetage fragment possibly derives from a container (Middle Bronze Age enclosure ditch 8031). Comparable examples within the region have been found within Bronze Age deposits at Brean Down (Foster 1990, 165, fig. 116, 75) although the association of specific types of ceramic materials with salt production extends throughout the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods.

6.3.2 The remaining pieces of fired clay are present in predominantly oxidised, variably sandy fabrics with additional argillaceous or ferruginous pellets. They include three featureless fragments (Late Iron Age or Romano-British ditch 8009; Middle Bronze Age enclosure ditch 8031) and one piece of possible oven/hearth lining (also enclosure ditch 8031).

6.4 Worked flint and chert

6.4.1 Nine artefacts from seven contexts were found (**Table 2**; **Appendix 1**). The collection is made from flint with one probable example of Portland chert. All pieces are poorly stratified, and it remains possible that the entire collection is derived from activity that predates the archaeological features, including those of Bronze Age date, on the site. The low density of material serves to indicate no more than a token presence of prehistoric activity at the site. The presence of retouched material may be attributed to the lack of abundant raw material in the area and emphasizes the importance of obtaining good quality flint. Flint sources cannot be identified with any confidence, beyond the likelihood that it was obtained from river gravel close to the Chalk. This makes the presence of a scraper (enclosure ditch 8025), made from Portland chert, more significant. This implement cannot be dated with confidence; however, Portland chert is known to have been transported during the Neolithic period from its source on the south coast.

6.5 Stone

6.5.1 Geological identifications on the stone (**Table 2**) have not been obtained at this stage and therefore any comments on rock types in this summary are provisional.

6.5.2 Forty-three pieces (2424 g) came from features within Area 2. The majority of these (23 fragments, 1697 g) came from pit 390 and were contained within the lower part of a vessel (ON 1) of probable Middle Bronze Age date, a further 12 pieces (497 g) were found within pit 394 and eight (230 g) from enclosure ditch 8031. With the exception of part of a fine-grained, quartzitic sandstone pebble that shows no obvious signs of working, these consist of unworked pieces of quartzite and coarse quartzitic sandstone. Some may have been slightly heated. Two fragments have currently been retained for geological identification.

6.5.3 The remaining six pieces of stone consist of building materials – a complete Old Red Sandstone sub-rectangular roof tile (made ground 102) measuring 230 mm by 155 mm and five slate roof tiles/roof tile fragments (made ground 102; post-medieval ditch 8005).

6.6 Ceramic building material (CBM)

6.6.1 Fourteen of the 17 pieces of CBM recovered were found within made ground deposit 102. Diagnostic pieces from this group include part of a late medieval/early post-medieval floor tile that is glazed over a white slip, a fragment from a glazed medieval ridge tile and two glazed crested ridge tiles of post-medieval date. A further seven glazed flat fragments are also likely to derive from post-medieval ridge tiles as flat roof tiles were generally unglazed during this period within the south-west. The remaining three pieces of CBM consist of flat fragments, probably from roof tiles, of medieval to post-medieval/modern date, from post-medieval ditch 8005 and subsoil 3001.

6.7 Iron

6.7.1 Two fragments of iron were found; these have been recorded at this stage without the aid of x-radiographs and these comments are therefore provisional. One is a flat fragment with a roughly rectangular section and one curved edge found in post-medieval ditch 8005 and the other is a fragment from a strip/bar from post-medieval ditch 8015.

6.8 Cremated bone

Introduction

6.8.1 Cremated and/or burnt bone was recovered from four features in two sections of the site, both situated in the largest area of investigation to the north of Junction 24. The 1 g of bone from one of the three features in Area 2 (slot 316, enclosure ditch 8025) is probably animal and its inclusion in the charcoal-rich fill is likely to be incidental. Of the two other features in this area – 301 and 463 – situated some 81 m apart within the central western half (**Fig. 2**), the former might have been cremation-related (the 1 g of bone could not confidently be identified as either human or animal) and the latter contained the remains of an unurned cremation burial. The charcoal-rich fill within pit 4040 in Area 4 contained a mere 2 g of probable cremated human bone and the nature of the deposit is open to question.

6.8.2 Direct dating evidence for the deposits is either absent (464 and 4042) or inconclusive, with only a few fragments of residual/intrusive Romano-British pottery recovered from feature 301. The other archaeological features in Area 2 – enclosures and field boundaries, with which neither cut 301 or 463 appear to have had any association – seem most likely to be of Middle Bronze Age origin. Pit 4040 in Area 4 lay within the confines of a D-shaped enclosure also believed to be of Middle Bronze Age date.

Methods

6.8.3 The remains were subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, the presence of pathological lesions and information related to the mortuary rites. Assessments were based on standard ageing and sexing methods (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). The smaller fraction residues from the cremation-related deposits have been retained for scanning at analysis stage.

Results

6.8.4 The charcoal-rich primary fills of pits 301 and 4040 (0.15 m and 0.25 m deep respectively), both subject to whole-earth recovery, were sealed by later deposits and it is highly unlikely that any bone was lost from either feature as a result of horizontal truncation. With a surviving depth of 0.08 m, grave 463 had clearly suffered disturbance via the latter mechanism; many small fragments of bone were clearly visible at surface level, consequently, an unknown quantity of bone will have been lost from the deposit. The bone itself is in good condition and includes common fragments of trabecular bone (which suffers preferential loss within an aggressive burial environment) as well as the more robust compact bone. The few small fragments of bone (1–2 g) from the other features is slightly eroded and morphologically indistinct.

6.8.5 The 488 g of bone from grave 463 was concentrated in the western half of the cut (73% by weight), particularly the northwest quadrant (51%). This distribution, together with that seen in the excavated section, indicates that the bone was probably held in some form of organic container (eg, skin or textile bag) placed off-centre within the grave; the spread of small fragments visible at surface level to other parts of the grave was clearly the result of relatively recent disturbance. Only very rare, fine particles of fuel ash were observed and there was no deliberate inclusion of pyre debris in the grave fill.

6.8.6 The burial remains are those of a mature adult (30–45 yr), probably female. Lesions observed in fragments of thoracic and lumbar vertebrae indicate that the individual suffered from degenerative disc disease in at least the lower portion of the spine suggestive of a strenuous physical lifestyle involving heavy lifting.

6.8.7 The bone is well oxidized (white in colour), and all areas of the skeleton are represented amongst the burial remains. There is no evidence to suggest deliberate manipulation of the bone with the aim of reducing fragment size prior to burial.

6.8.8 Evidence for Middle Bronze Age cremation in the near vicinity is provided by recent archaeological investigations at the Bridgewater Gateway to the west of the M5 (Oxford Archaeology 2020a). Here remains of one urned cremation burial, one – or a potential three – unurned burials (one a possible *bustum*-style pyre site?; McKinley 2013a), and substantial number (minimum 19) of other cremation-related deposits containing very small quanities of bone (<30 g), were found forming a tight cluster situated to the north side of ring ditch 60983 (McIntyre 2020). Only three of these features had survived to less than 0.10 m in depth, many being >0.20 m, suggesting limited truncation with little or no loss of bone (Oxford Archaeology 2020a, table 1). The recovery of fuel ash – at times in abundance – from several of the features containing these various deposit types (McIntyre 2020) suggests that the cremations were being undertaken in the vicinity of the place of burial. It is also probable that the remains from any one cremation were being deposited in more than one feature serving different ritual or 'practical' purposes, and that some material was incidentally incorporated into features not deliberately dug to contain it (McKinley 2013a).

6.9 Animal bone

6.9.1 Small quantities of animal bone (19 fragments, 359 g) came from two post-medieval ditches. A cattle vertebra and metatarsal, and a horse humerus came from ditch 8030, and a piece of cattle rib, sheep/goat tibia and pig canine came from ditch 8005. The bones are in poor condition and have lost much of the cortical surface, consequently no butchery marks were visible. In addition, a horse tooth (3 fragments, 33 g) from the upper jaw was recovered from the subsoil.

6.10 Other finds

6.10.1 Other finds include two plain stem fragments of clay tobacco pipe both from post-medieval ditch 8030, three pieces of glass comprising the base of a free-blown, green glass wine bottle of 'onion' form, dating *c* 1680–1730 (post-medieval ditch 8005), the rim and neck of a small free-blown phial of 17th–18th century date (post-medieval ditch 8014) and a post-medieval/modern machine-made green glass bottle fragment (ditch 8005). In addition, 19 g of non-metallurgical fuel ash slag and 122 g of clinker fuel ash slag all of probable post-medieval date was recovered from undated posthole 3021.

6.11 Conservation

6.11.1 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. 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. The condition of these items is frequently monitored.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 A total of 29 bulk samples (after combining sample series) were taken from a range of Prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval features such as postholes, pits, cremation graves and ditches. The samples were processed for the recovery and assessment of environmental evidence. The samples break down into the following phase groups:

Table 4 Sample provenance summary

Area	Phases	No. of bulk samples	Volume (litres)	Feature types
2	Middle Bronze Age, Bronze Age, Romano-British, uncertain	17	256.3	Postholes, pits, ditches, cremation burial, cremation related deposit
3	prehistoric, late prehistoric, Iron Age, post-medieval/modern	4	38	Postholes, pits
4	Middle Bronze Age	2	39	Ditch, cremation related deposit
5	Bronze Age	4	119	Ring ditch, pit
6	Bronze Age	2	27	Posthole

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature, significance and potential of the environmental remains preserved at the site. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell *et al*. 2011).

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 0.3 and 39 litres, with an average of around 13 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye and discarded. The fine residue fractions and the flots were examined using a stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification. Environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots.

7.2.3 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

7.2.4 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were noted, including the percentage of modern roots and abundance of modern seeds, alongside the presence of mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia (e.g. *Cenococcum geophilum*), burrowing snails (e.g. *Cecilioides acicula*), earthworm eggs and modern insects.

7.2.5 Remains within flots and residues were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Common'), A** = 100–500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant/Exceptional').

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results are presented in **Appendix 2**. The samples typically produced small to moderate-sized flots containing varying quantities of charred plant remains and charcoal. There is little evidence for significant bioturbation (mixing of deposits) across the samples.

Area 2

7.3.2 Many of the features sampled in Area 2 are phased to the Middle Bronze Age or, are likely to date to the Bronze Age.

7.3.3 Middle Bronze Age ditches 8031 (ditch slots 345 and 366) and 8025 (ditch slot 316) contain varying quantities of charcoal and charred plant remains. Ditch slots 316 and 345 both contain relatively large numbers of grains and chaff (glume bases, spikelet forks) from indeterminate hulled wheats (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and emmer wheat (*T. dicoccum*), together with occasional barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains. Both hulled (*Hordeum vulgare*) and naked barley (cf. *Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum*) are potentially present. Wild taxa recorded are mainly restricted to species typical of disturbed/arable habitats, including redshank (*Persicaria maculosa*), vetches (Vicieae), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), and goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.). Tree/shrub species are represented by sloe (*Prunus* cf. *spinosa*) and hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) endocarps. In comparison, the sample from ditch slot 366 contains low numbers of indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) grains and a Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*). Moderate quantities of charcoal are recorded in samples from ditch slots 316 and 366, whereas ditch slot 345 contains mainly fragmented (<2 mm) charcoal.

7.3.4 Samples from pit group 8307 (pits 377, 380, 388, 400), probably dating to the Bronze Age, produced moderate-sized flots mainly composed of charcoal, with the exception of pit 388

which only contains a small quantity of charcoal. Low numbers of plant remains were recorded including cereal remains (emmer wheat, hulled barley) and wild taxa.

7.3.5 Cremation burial 463 (probably dating to the Bronze Age) contains small quantities of quite fragmented (<4 mm) charcoal, together with low numbers of tubers (swollen culm internodes) of onion-couch grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*).

7.3.6 A further possible cremation related deposit in pit 301 is provisionally dated to the Romano-British period. The flots contain large quantities of well-preserved charcoal, alongside a few indeterminate cereal and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains.

Area 3

7.3.7 One sample from later prehistoric pit 3105 produced well-preserved charcoal, together with evidence for emmer wheat (*T. dicoccum*), spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.). Wild taxa recorded include species typical of disturbed habitats such as ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), knotgrass family species (Polygonaceae, including docks (*Rumex* sp.)). There are few fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Prehistoric pit 3082 similarly contains a few barley grains, wheat grains and an emmer wheat glume base. In contrast, Iron Age pit 3117 contains no remains of interpretative value.

7.3.8 One sample from post-medieval/modern posthole 3021 differs in composition to the other features sampled, with the flot composition mainly consisting of fragmented coal and clinker/cinder, together with some poorly preserved charcoal.

Area 4

7.3.9 Middle Bronze Age ditch 4012 only contains an indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) grain and a cleavers (*Galium aparine*) seed.

7.3.10 A possible Bronze Age cremation-related deposit identified in pit 4040 produced a charcoal-rich flot and single indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) grain.

Area 5

7.3.11 Samples from Bronze Age ring ditch 8000 (ditch slot 5007) produced very small flots containing poorly preserved (mineral-encrusted) charcoal. Charred plant remains are present in trace quantities and include indeterminate cereal (Triticeae) grains, hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) and a grass (Poaceae) caryopsis.

Area 6

7.3.12 Two samples from possible Bronze Age posthole 6012 (fills 6013, 6014) contain barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains, emmer/spelt wheat (*T. dicoccum/spelta*) gains, Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Charcoal is relatively common in both fills.

7.4 Discussion

7.4.1 The samples contain evidence which is characteristic of a later Bronze Age to Iron Age settlement in the south-west of England, with a crop-spectrum composed of emmer wheat, spelt wheat, barley and Celtic bean (Campbell and Straker 2003). Most of the samples appear to contain a mixture of crop-processing debris alongside other sources of material such as hearth waste (cf. Fuller *et al.* 2014).

7.4.2 Emmer wheat is common in some of the Middle Bronze Age features (eg, ditches 8025, 8031), whereas secure evidence for spelt wheat is only recorded in one later prehistoric

feature (pit 3105). Spelt wheat was first introduced into Britain in the Early-Middle Bronze Age, yet it did not become widely cultivated until the Iron Age in some areas such as the south-west of England (Campbell and Straker 2003; Martin *et al.* 2012). This may indicate activity in both the Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age is present across the site. Potential evidence for both naked barley and hulled barley appears to be a notable characteristic of later Bronze Age and Iron Age sites in the south-west of England and Wales, where naked barley persisted as a cultivated crop for longer than in other regions (Campbell and Straker 2003). Similarly, Celtic bean appears to have been a regionally important crop in the south-west of England, probably first being introduced around the Middle Bronze Age (Treasure and Church 2017).

7.4.3 The evidence recovered is closely comparable to the archaeobotanical assemblage from nearby Bridgewater Gateway, 1.5 km to the west, where Middle-Late Bronze Age features contained emmer wheat, hulled barley, naked barley, flax and possibly also Celtic bean (Oxford Archaeology 2020a). Evidence for spelt wheat was only recorded in Iron Age and Romano-British features (Oxford Archaeology 2020a), possibly paralleling the evidence assessed in this report.

7.4.4 Samples from burial 463 and possible cremation related deposits (pits 301 and 4040) are effectively devoid of crop-processing debris. Charred onion-couch grass tubers/swollen culms in cremation burial 463 are a common occurrence in cremation related deposits, with these remains possibly reflecting charred turf or use of these plants as kindling (Roehrs *et al.* 2013). Particularly large concentrations of charcoal in pit 301 and pit 4040 could reflect redeposited pyre debris from cremations (**Section 6.8**).

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1.1 The phased programme of archaeological investigations has examined six areas of the proposed 37.5 ha development site in detail through targeted excavation and sampled a much larger area by means of trial trench evaluation. The project has produced evidence of settlement and land division spanning the Middle Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/early Romano-British periods, as well as possible Bronze Age funerary activity and later land divisions of medieval/post-medieval date. The results have the potential to address the original research aims of the project and enhance our understanding of prehistoric settlement, land use and funerary activity on the edge of the eastern foothills of the Quantocks, adjacent to the River Parrett.

8.1.2 This section summarises the results from all stages of the project and re-considers the potential for further analysis of the corresponding data (stratigraphic, finds and environmental) to fulfil the original research objectives of the project. It also explores the potential of the evidence to contribute to regional and national research agendas and strategies (Webster 2007; Grove and Croft 2012). The revised research objectives of the project, recommendations for further analysis and proposals for publication are set out in **Section 9**.

8.2 Stratigraphic potential

8.2.1 The survival and clarity of the stratigraphy was generally good, although truncation by modern agricultural activity and over machining during the evaluation phase of works has resulted in the loss of some information. Most features have been assigned to an archaeological period, although in some instances this is provisional but unlikely to be resolved through further stratigraphic or finds analysis, however a targeted programme of radiocarbon dating will enhance the site chronology. The potential of the main stratigraphic groups is outlined in the following sections by excavation area.

Area 1

8.2.2 The post-medieval deposits of made ground recorded in Area 1 have no intrinsic interest. However, during the trial trench evaluation, several ditches, including one of potentially Early/Middle Bronze Age date, plus a pit of similar date, were recorded in this part of the development area. Further work to incorporate the evaluation results will highlight the extent of activity relating to this period.

Area 2

8.2.3 The Middle Bronze Age rectilinear field system, enclosures and trackway in Area 2 are reasonably well understood and, although several of the elements are undated, the agreement in alignments indicates that they are broadly contemporary and relate to a formalised agricultural landscape of Middle Bronze Age date.

8.2.4 Middle Bronze Age pottery, mostly Trevisker-related ware, was recovered from enclosure ditches 8025 and 8031, and several pits and postholes within the interior of the latter. This provides the primary source of dating for these features and, by association, the surrounding field system and trackway. Radiocarbon dates are proposed on charred plant remains from enclosure ditch 8031 and on organic residue from a pottery vessel found in pit 390 within the enclosure. These will not only provide absolute dates for this phase of activity but also enhance the study of crop production and ceramic dating evidence.

8.2.5 The concentration of discrete features within the interior of enclosure 8031 indicates that this functioned as domestic space, with possible roundhouse structures on the north side and other structures, such as possible raised granaries, on the south side (**Fig. 3**). This is substantiated by the finds and environmental assemblages from both the enclosure ditch and internal features, which in addition to pottery, includes briquetage from salt-production and large numbers of charred cereal grains and chaff from crop-processing. No internal features were recorded in the smaller enclosure, 8025, however similarities in the finds and environmental assemblages indicate that it may also have been used as a domestic space. It is also possible that any discrete features, such as structural elements within the enclosures, have been truncated or obliterated by modern ploughing. Rectangular settlement enclosures of Middle Bronze Age date, often associated with a field system, have been recorded a several sites within the region, including locally at Bridgwater Gateway (Oxford Archaeology 2020a) and Rodway near Cannington (Hart and Mudd 2018, 9–28). Other examples have been recorded in the Yeo Valley near Yeovil, including at West Camel (Newton 2017) and Lyde Road (Higbee in prep). These examples have similar finds assemblages dominated by Trevisker-related pottery, often with items such as loomweights, and evidence for crop-processing. These datasets from these sites provide a strong point of local comparison and are enhanced by radiocarbon dating.

8.2.6 The other, less regular arrangement of mostly undated landscape boundary ditches (e.g. 8021, 8027 etc.), some of which pre- or post-date the Middle Bronze Age enclosures and field system, offer limited potential for further analysis.

8.2.7 A radiocarbon date on human bone from unurned cremation grave 463 will allow this to be placed within the overall site chronology, and potentially confirm the suspected Middle Bronze Age date.

8.2.8 The sherd of Romano-British pottery recovered from pit 301 is assumed to be residual given the lack of evidence for activity during this period and the similarity of this feature to pit 4040 within Middle Bronze Age enclosure 8001, in Area 4. Both features had charcoal-rich basal fills from which cremated bone was recovered and were capped with a layer of clay.

8.2.9 The post-medieval land divisions and modern fence-line are of limited intrinsic interest and the former are mapped on the First Edition Ordnance Survey.

Area 3

8.2.10 The enclosures and discrete features recorded in Area 3 are reasonably well understood and represent two broad phases of Late Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Romano-British activity. Further analysis of stratigraphic and finds evidence is unlikely to refine this broad phasing.

8.2.11 The late medieval/post-medieval field boundary ditches and trackway provide evidence for later land use but are of limited local interest.

Area 4

8.2.12 Middle Bronze Age 'D-shaped' enclosure 8001 and post-built structure 8002 formed a discrete unit in a slightly elevated position within the landscape. Pottery recovered from the ditch and an external pit (4038), provide firm dating evidence that the enclosure was broadly contemporary with the settlement enclosures recorded in Area 2. A radiocarbon date on charcoal from pit 4040 (which contained a possible cremation-related deposit) within the enclosure's interior should confirm this. The enclosure and structure may represent domestic occupation, the post-built structure of comparable size to roundhouse structure 8036 in Area 2. However, both the landscape position and form of the enclosure, particularly the opposing entranceways, suggests a possible use beyond everyday activities. Further research should identify close parallels that may resolve this issue.

Area 5

8.2.13 Ring ditch 8000 has been interpreted as a probable barrow and, although undated, probably belongs to the Early/Middle Bronze Age tradition of funerary monuments. A complete ring ditch was recorded at the Bridgewater Gateway site (Oxford Archaeology 2020a) and another possible ring ditch was recorded on the outskirts of North Petherton (Cotswold Archaeology 2018c). Several other ring ditches have been identified from aerial photographs in the general vicinity of the development site.

Area 6

8.2.14 The small group of pits, postholes and possible enclosure ditches recorded in Area 6 offer limited potential for further analysis, however consideration of the results from the previous geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation should clarify if the ditches formed part of a larger enclosure.

8.3 Finds potential

8.3.1 The assessment indicates that the preservation of artefacts across the site varies from poor to moderate. Chronological evidence, particularly from the pottery, indicates activity during the prehistoric to post-medieval periods, with a focus on the Middle Bronze Age and later prehistoric periods.

8.3.2 The range of material culture is, however, limited with only the pottery occurring in any quantity. Analysis of the prehistoric assemblage by material type (pottery, fired clay, flint, stone) will contribute to understanding the chronology and character of human activity within the wider landscape. Such activities, amongst others, may include the exploitation of raw materials (pottery, fired clay, flint, stone) and the trade and exchange of objects (pottery).

8.3.3 The pottery has already provided a chronological framework for the site through the spot-dating of contexts. Given the low numbers of diagnostic vessel forms, further analysis will be of limited help in refining this sequence. However, more detailed comparisons with other assemblages from the area (eg Oxford Archaeology 2020a; Jones 2018; Quinnell 2018; Woodward 1989 and 1990; Morris 1987), as well as a review of key feature groups with deposits for which radiocarbon dates may be obtained will help in refining the ceramic chronology for the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods in particular.

8.3.4 Additional analysis of the cremated bone should provide further demographic details regarding the age and sex of the individual and might reveal further evidence of pathological lesions providing insights to the individual's lifestyle.

8.3.5 Currently the date of burial deposit and its potential relationship – if any – with the other possible cremation-related deposits from the site is unknown. The absence of fuel ash from the grave fill might suggest the cremation was not undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the grave, and it is possible that the bone itself was curated for some time prior to burial (Booth and Brück 2020; McKinley 2006; McKinley and Daniel 2021). The nature of the deposits from features 301 and 4040 is currently unclear, though the presence of even the very few small scraps of what appear to be cremated human bone within their fills suggests there might be some connection with the rite. Analysis of the wood species from these features could help illustrate the nature of the fires from which the fuel ash derived, as specific species have been highlighted to be connected with the mortuary rite (Challinor 2013).

8.3.6 A closer date range, obtained via scientific dating of a sample of bone from the burial deposit, will assist in setting the remains in the broader regional context and help in furthering our understanding of the mortuary use of the landscape. Cremation is generally viewed as representing the predominant mortuary rite – for which there is evidence – undertaken across the Middle and Later Bronze Age periods. Whilst some relatively moderate or large scale cemeteries of Middle Bronze Age date (inclusive of some 30–100 graves; eg, McKinley 2013b; Petersen 1981; White 1982) have been recorded, most burial remains across both the middle and later phases of the Bronze Age seem to have comprised small grave groups or singletons.

8.3.7 The majority of material categories (animal bone, clay pipe, CBM, fired clay, flint, glass, iron and slag) are present in far smaller quantities. The potential of these materials to provide further information beyond that already recorded is very limited.

8.4 Environmental potential

8.4.1 Further analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal from a selection of the samples has potential to provide information on agricultural practices, use of woodland resources and the local environment. It is widely recognised that there was a notable upsurge in agricultural activity between the Early/Middle Bronze Age across Britain, with new crop introductions (e.g. spelt wheat, Celtic bean) and the emergence of arable weed floras (Stevens and Fuller 2018). These factors ultimately contributed to the development of an 'agricultural landscape', with woodlands becoming increasingly fragmented. However, due to a lack of well-dated charcoal and charred plant remain assemblages, our understanding of regional trajectories of change in this period remains unclear.

8.4.2 The evidence recovered has potential to address research aims outlined in the South West England Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF, Webster 2007):

- *Research Aim 21: Improve our understanding of the environmental aspects of farming*;
- *Research Aim 40: Improve our understanding of agricultural intensification and diversification in later prehistory.*

8.4.3 Analysis of charred plant remains from a selection of well-dated samples would enable the information recorded in this assessment to be quantified, recorded and discussed in more detail. In Area 2, samples from Middle Bronze Age ditches 8025 (ditch slot 316) and 8031 (ditch slot 345) in Area 2 have high potential for further analysis. In addition, direct radiocarbon dating of a Celtic bean from the terminus of Middle Bronze Age ditch 8031 (ditch slot 366) in Area 2 would potentially confirm an early record of this crop introduction into the south-west of England (Treasure and Church 2017). In Area 3, analysis of charred plant remains should be undertaken on late prehistoric pit 3105. No further analysis of the charred plant remains from other excavation areas is recommended; however, the results of this assessment should be updated once final phasing for the site has been established.

8.4.4 Several samples contain sufficient quantities of charcoal for analysis and a selection of these should be examined in further detail. In particular, there is scope to analyse differences between 'domestic' features related to settlement activity, and 'funerary' features linked to cremations. Settlement contexts such as ditches, pits and postholes are well-suited to vegetation reconstruction and understanding past woodland use since they are likely to contain deposits of domestic hearth debris which have accumulated over time (Asouti and Austin 2005). In comparison, cremation burials and cremation-related deposits are likely to contain pyre debris and further analysis may reveal the use of specific woods within the pyre; this may bear some relationship to the age, sex and status of the individual(s) cremated (cf. O'Donnell 2016).

8.4.5 Where artefactual evidence or stratigraphic phasing cannot provide close dating for features, radiocarbon dating should be undertaken to support analysis of the charred plant remains and/or charcoal.

8.4.6 The results of the analysis of the charred plant remains and charcoal will provide a valuable local and regional comparison to evidence recovered from other sites such as Bridgewater Gateway (Oxford Archaeology 2020a), Brean Down (Bell 1990), Queen Camel (Newton 2017), Cannington Bypass (Hart and Mudd 2018), Nerrols Farm (Oxford Archaeology 2020b), Ham Hill (Leivers *et al.* 2006) and Yatton (Wessex Archaeology in prep.), amongst others (eg, de Carle 2014). The analysis will form the basis of a report to be included within a subsequent publication.

8.5 Radiocarbon dating

8.5.1 There is potential for radiocarbon dating to improve understanding of the site chronology, particularly in relation to Bronze Age settlement and funerary activity and provide an early date for the introduction of Celtic beans into the south-west of England.

8.6 Summary of potential

8.6.1 The excavation results have provided evidence for prehistoric settlement, land division and funerary activity, as well as later land divisions. The stratigraphic sequence is reasonably well understood, but there is some, albeit limited potential to refine the results, following further analysis of the finds and environment assemblages, particularly for Areas 2 and 3, and enhance the site chronology through radiocarbon dating.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

9.1 Updated project aims

9.1.1 The original project aims have been revised following full consideration of the fieldwork results and assessment of the finds and environmental assemblages. The updated project aims are to:

- outline the nature of the Bronze Age settlement, land use and funerary activity, and discuss the evidence within its local/regional context, with specific reference to recent excavations within the wider landscape (e.g. Bridgewater Gateway);
- outline the nature of the later prehistoric enclosures recorded in Area 3, and discuss the evidence within its local/regional context; and
- enhance the site chronology through targeted radiocarbon dating.

9.2 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.2.1 The sequence of archaeological remains exposed within the development area is generally well understood. However, it is based on a provisional assessment of stratigraphic relationships and the preliminary assessment of datable finds (principally pottery) in different feature groups; some further stratigraphic analysis will therefore be required and the results from the previous trial trench evaluation incorporated where appropriate. This will refine the phasing and interpretation of key features and provide a better understanding of the archaeological remains.

9.2.2 Limited further stratigraphic analysis will focus on examining the depositional sequences, distribution of features, and the artefactual and environmental assemblages from them. The project database will be updated where necessary to include any re-phasing or re-grouping of features resulting from reappraisal.

9.2.3 A review of published reports and available unpublished ‘grey literature’ reports will be carried out to provide an up-to-date understanding of the wider context of the site and enable discussion of the broader archaeological context of the archaeological remains in the proposed publication. Emphasis will be placed on relating the results of the evaluation and excavation to similar evidence in the immediate environs and wider South-West region and on addressing the research potential of the dataset.

9.2.4 Once the initial specialists’ analyses are complete, particularly the radiocarbon dating results and further work on the ceramic sequence, the stratigraphic specialist will make necessary revisions to the site sequence and phasing as required. The stratigraphic specialist will write the detailed outline of the publication text, concentrating on the description of the sequence, and referring to key finds and environmental data as necessary.

9.2.5 The stratigraphic specialist will work closely with all other specialists to provide the contextual information they require to progress their analyses. The stratigraphic specialist will be the principal author of the journal article and will be responsible for the integration of specialist reports into the final publication text. Throughout the project, the stratigraphic specialist (and other specialists) will be advised by the Project Manager.

9.3 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

Pottery

9.3.1 It is recommended that full fabric and form analysis is undertaken on the prehistoric pottery, in order to enhance the existing pottery catalogue to a 'detailed record', to provide as much information as possible about the assemblage and to ensure a comparable dataset (Barclay *et al* 2016, section 2.4.6). The data will be analysed, and a report compiled discussing the assemblage within its local and regional context. This will include reference to the small quantity of material recovered during the evaluation stage undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology (2018b). It is also recommended that a limited programme of thin-sectioning (up to 6 samples) focusing on the rock-tempered fabrics in particular is undertaken in order to allow more detailed fabric identifications to be made and to permit comparisons with other petrological samples from the area. It is recommended that a sample of the burnt residue from the interior of vessel (ON 1) found in pit 390 (within enclosure 8031) is submitted for radiocarbon dating. The Romano-British and post-Roman pottery has already been recorded to an appropriate archive level, so no further analysis is required; as a minimum, the comments made in this report should be incorporated into the publication text with some modification where required. Provision should be made for the illustration of up to 14 pieces.

Cremated bone

9.3.2 Analysis of the cremated bone will follow the writer's standard procedures (McKinley 1994, 5–6; 2004). The unsorted <4mm residues will be subject to a rapid scan at this stage to extract any identifiable material, osseous or artefactual. The age of the individual will be further considered using standard methodologies (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). It may be possible to confirm the sex of individual from the dimorphic traits of the skeleton (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Gejvall 1981). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and via digital photography.

9.3.3 The form and nature of the deposit will be further considered in light of the osteological and other finds information together with the context data (McKinley 2013a). Aspects of pyre technology and the cremation and other mortuary rites will be discussed in their temporal, regional and, if appropriate, national context. To assist with the latter, it is recommended that a bone sample be submitted for radiocarbon analysis.

Fired clay

9.3.4 The briquetage pedestal base fragment will be illustrated. No further analysis is necessary; the information provided in this report can be adapted for publication.

Stone

9.3.5 Geological identifications will be obtained for the stone items and a report compiled

9.3.6 The two iron objects will be x-radiographed in order to provide a basic record and to aid identification. The archive records will then be enhanced/amended where appropriate.

9.3.7 No further work is recommended for the worked flint and chert, ceramic building material, clay pipe, glass, slag and animal bone; although the information gathered as part of this assessment will be adapted for use in the report.

9.4 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.4.1 The selection of samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a "P" in **Appendix 3**. All identifiable charred plant remains will be extracted from the flots. The analysis will involve

the full quantification (Antolín and Buxó 2011) and taphonomic assessment. The identifications will be undertaken using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to x40 through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al*. 2006). Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names). The analysis results will be tabulated.

9.4.2 The selection of samples proposed for charcoal analysis are indicated with a "C1" (rapid analysis) and "C2" (detailed analysis) in **Appendix 3**. Analysis will be undertaken in two stages to maximise the information available. The first stage (C1) will involve "rapid" analysis to provide data on the range of species of present, identifying 25 fragments per context/sample. The second stage (C2) will involve "detailed" analysis of up to 100 charcoal fragments per context/sample (or 100% where there are <100 fragments). Identification will focus on fragments in the ≥4 mm fractions, with scanning of the 2-4 mm fractions to identify wood from small shrubs and twiggy material (Asouti and Austin 2005). The transverse, tangential and radial sections will be examined up to x400 magnification using a Kyowa ME-LUX2 microscope. Identifications will be assisted by the descriptions of Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000) and Schweingruber (1990), together with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology. Other features will be recorded following Marguerie and Hunot (2007), including growth-ring curvature and the presence/absence of bark, pith, tyloses and reaction wood alongside others (e.g. insect degradation, fungal hyphae, vitrification, radial cracking, woodworking marks). Plant nomenclature and habitat information will follow Stace (1997).

9.5 Radiocarbon dating recommendations

9.5.1 A total of four radiocarbon samples are proposed, these comprise the following:

- charred organic residue on the internal surface of the Middle Bronze Age Trevisker-related vessel (ON 1) from pit 390 within enclosure 8031;
- charred Celtic bean from dump deposit 368, near the base of enclosure ditch 8031;
- cremated human bone from unurned cremation grave 463; and
- charcoal from the base of pit 4040 within Middle Bronze Age 'D-shaped' enclosure 8001.

9.6 Summary of recommendations for analysis

9.6.1 It is recommended that the results, following selected analyses of the finds and environmental remains, and a targeted programme of radiocarbon dating, should be written up for publication. The focus will be the Middle Bronze Age enclosures, field system and funerary activity in Area 2, the 'D-shaped' enclosure in Area 4 and possible barrow in Area 5, as well as the Late Bronze Age to Iron Age/Romano-British enclosures in Area 3. The evidence relating to later land use during the medieval/post-medieval periods will be summarised.

9.7 Proposals for publication

9.7.1 It is proposed that following the further analysis of the stratigraphy and finds and environmental assemblages, the results of the excavation will be reported on in the form of a short, illustrated article of approximately 26 pages in the regional journal, *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society*.

Provisional synopsis of journal article publication

Working title: *Prehistoric settlement, land use and funerary activity east of junction 24 of the M5, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset*

by Ray Holt, with specialist contributions

Introduction	500 words
Results	4000 words
Finds reports	5000 words
Environmental reports	3000 words
Discussion	2000 words
Bibliography	1000

Total: approximately 15,000 words, 8 figures, 2 plates, 4 tables (26 pages)

9.8 Programme for analysis and publication

9.8.1 Analysis and publication will commence when this document and the proposals therein have been approved by the SHEO, on behalf of the LPA, and the work has been commissioned in full by S Notaro Land Limited.

9.8.2 Typically, the analysis and publication programme for a project of this scale and complexity will take around 24 months but will vary depending on the availability of specialists and external laboratories. A project-specific programme will be developed and agreed at the time of commission.

9.9 Personnel and resources

9.9.1 The following Wessex Archaeology core staff are scheduled to undertake the work as outlined in the task list for post-excavation analysis and publication (**Table 5**).

Table 5 Task list

Task no.	Task description	Days	Staff
Management and support			
1	Project management	0.5	TBC
2	Project monitor and QA	1	L Higbee
3	Finds management	0.5	R Seager Smith
4	Environmental management	1	S Aerts
5	Publication/production management	1.5	TBC
Pre-analysis			
6	Check phasing and grouping, update site database	3	R Holt
7	Digitisation of selected drawings	0.5	R Goller
8	Project meetings	0.5	All
9	Background research	2	R Holt
10	Extraction of environmental materials	1	N Mulhall
11	Sampling for radiocarbon dating	0.5	J McKinley/E Treasure

Analysis and specialist reporting			
Stratigraphic			
12	Stratigraphic analysis and reporting	5	R Holt
Finds			
13	Pottery analysis and reporting	5.5	E Brook
14	Human bone	1.5	J McKinley
15	Pottery thin sections	ext.	-
16	Stone identification	ext	R Shaffrey
17	Metalwork x-rays	0.25	T Wicks
18	Illustrations: finds	5	N Dixon
Environmental			
19	Plant remains/charcoal analysis and reporting	10	E Treasure
Scientific dating			
20	Radiocarbon dates	ext.	-
Report compilation			
21	Introduction and background	0.5	R Holt
22	Compile and integrate report	1.5	R Holt
23	Discussion	2	R Holt
24	Bibliography	0.5	R Holt
25	Captions (figures, plates and tables)	0.5	R Holt
26	Prepare brief for illustrations	0.5	R Holt
27	Prepare illustrations	5	R Goller
28	Edit report	1.5	TBC
29	Review report	1	TBC
30	Revise report following journal review	1.5	All
31	Check proofs	0.5	All
32	Journal publication cost	ext.	-
Archiving			
33	Archive preparation	1.25	J Whitby
34	Archive scan	0.5	J Whitby
35	Finds archive final check	0.25	J Whitby
36	Environmental archive final check	0.25	J Whitby
37	Digital archive preparation	2.5	T Burt
38	Physical archive deposition	0.5	J Whitby
39	Digital archive deposition	1	T Burt
40	Museum fee (box storage grant)	ext.	-
41	ADS fee	ext.	-

9.10 Management structure

9.10.1 The team will be headed by a Project Manager, who will assume ultimate responsibility for the execution of the project as outlined in the Updated Project Design. The Project Manager will ensure performance targets, be they academic or budgetary, are met within the agreed timetable.

9.10.2 The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who will supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may

also liaise with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication, and the recipient museum of the project archive.

9.10.3 The Project Manager will be assisted by the Senior Research Manager, who will ensure that the report meets internal quality standards as defined in Wessex Archaeology's guidelines.

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury and Bristol. Somerset Heritage Centre (Taunton) has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **TTNCM 86/2020**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Somerset Heritage Centre (Taunton), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014c; Brown 2011).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 3 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 3 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

Digital archive

10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (eg site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

10.3 Selection strategy

10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, ie the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

10.3.2 The selection strategy (**Appendix 4**), which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.3 Selection proposals for the complete project archive, comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are summarised below.

Finds

10.3.4 All finds have been (or will be) recorded to an appropriate archive level prior to any selection proposals being implemented, and the selection process will be fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.5 Note that human remains are not covered by the selection strategy as their recovery and curation is governed by the burial licence.

- Animal bone (19 fragments): Small assemblage from subsoil and features of post-medieval date. No potential for further analysis. Retain none
- Ceramic building material (17 fragments): Small assemblage of common post-Roman types. Little or no archaeological significance; no further potential. Retain none
- Clay tobacco pipes (2 pieces): plain stem fragments; little or no archaeological significance; no further potential. Retain none
- Fired clay (9 fragments): Recovered from features of Bronze Age/prehistoric date. Some briquetage vessel fragments, but others are undiagnostic fragments. With the exception of the briquetage of limited further potential. Retain briquetage from ditches 8025 and 8031
- Flint and chert (9 pieces): Poorly stratified, possibly entirely residual. Little archaeological significance; limited further potential. Retain none
- Glass (3 fragments): Post-medieval and modern vessel glass. No archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain
- Iron (2 pieces): Recovered from post-med/modern features. No archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain but include an x-radiograph in the archive
- Pottery, Bronze Age, later prehistoric and Romano-British (354 sherds): Predominantly Bronze Age and later prehistoric with a small quantity of Late Iron Age/Romano-British material. Of local significance with further research potential. Retain all
- Pottery, medieval and post-medieval: 5 sherds – medieval; 62 sherds post-medieval. Predominantly from made ground deposit 102. Small assemblage, not well stratified; includes commonly occurring ware types, as expected for the area. Limited archaeological significance; limited further research potential. Retain none.
- Slag (141 g): Clinker and non-metallurgical fuel ash slag. No archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain
- Stone, unworked (43 pieces): Recovered from Middle Bronze Age and late prehistoric features. Retain 1 possibly utilised pebble fragment from pit 390;

remainder has no archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain

- Stone, building (6 pieces): 1 complete roof tile, 5 slate fragments. Little or no archaeological significance; no further potential. Retain complete tile from deposit 102

Palaeoenvironmental material

10.3.6 Some of the material retrieved from environmental samples merit retention with the site archive for future access.

10.3.7 Any samples not selected for processing due to a lack of archaeological significance will not be retained.

10.3.8 Unsorted residues from assessed samples not proposed for further analysis will not be retained, with the exception of any taken for the recovery of human remains (e.g. cremation burial 463).

10.3.9 Assessed flots with no extracted materials are generally considered to be devoid of any significant environmental evidence and may be discarded (e.g. flots from samples 18 and 21). Assessed flots which contain material suitable for radiocarbon dating will be retained.

10.3.10 All analysed samples will be retained; assessed flots with extracted materials with no further research potential may be discarded.

10.3.11 All analysed materials (charred plant remains, including charcoal) will be retained.

Documentary records

10.3.12 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (Written Scheme of Investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

10.3.13 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (eg, 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.

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 5**). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Senior Historic Environment Officer at South West Heritage Trust on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated

into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of *the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Quantification of finds by context, count and weight (grammes)

		Pottery		CBM		Fired clay		Flint		Other
Context	**Feature/Group**	**No.**	**Wt.**	**No.**	**Wt.**	**No.**	**Wt.**	**No.**	**Wt.**	
102	Made ground	50	1974	14	1923	-	-	-	-	Slate x 4 (750g); stone x 1 (1515g)
200	Topsoil	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-
201	Subsoil	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	28	-
207	Ditch 8015	4	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
211	Pit 210	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
215	Ditch 8014	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Glass x 1 (5g)
227	Posthole 226	4	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
228	Posthole 226	7	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
247	Ditch 246	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
261	Ditch 8021	1	13	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
264	Ditch 8015	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Iron x 1 (38g)
283	Enclosure ditch 8025	2	37	-	-	-	-	1	9	-
302	Pit 301	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cremated bone 1g
303	Pit 301	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
307	Enclosure ditch 8025	1	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
311	Ditch 8027	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
318	Enclosure ditch 8025	1	5	-	-	3	38	-		Cremated bone, ?animal (1g)
335	Ditch 8030	2	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	Animal bone x 12 (278g); clay pipe x 1 (1g)
346	Enclosure ditch 8031	-	-	-	-	1	16	-	-	-
347	Enclosure ditch 8031	4	30	-	-			-	-	-
349	Enclosure ditch 8031	2	17	-	-	2	45	-	-	-
351	Enclosure ditch 8031	-	-	-		1	3	-	-	-
369	Enclosure ditch 8031	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Stone x 8 (230g)
391	Pit 390	39	1028	-	-	-	-	-	-	Stone x 23 (1697g)
393	Posthole 392	64	473	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
395	Pit 394	45	473	-	-	-	-	-	-	Stone x 12 (497g)
397	Posthole 396	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
411	Posthole 410	1	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
415	Posthole 414	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
427	Pit 426	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
429	Pit 428	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
431	Pit 430	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
434	Ditch 8028	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
440	Ditch 8030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Clay pipe x 1 (2g)
462	Ditch 8014	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	-
464	Grave 463	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cremated human bone (488g)
3001	Subsoil	3	97	1	11		-	-	-	Animal bone x 3 (33g)
3004	Ditch 8008	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3006	Enclosure ditch 8003	20	426	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3007	Enclosure ditch 8003	3	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3009	Ditch 8005	3	42	2	12	-	-	-	-	Animal bone x 2 (34g); glass x1 (3g)
3010	Ditch 8005	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Animal bone x 2 (14g); glass x 1 (299g); iron x 1 (195g)
3012	Enclosure ditch 8003	6	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3014	Ditch 8004	2	163	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3022	Posthole 3021	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Slag (141g)
3026	Ditch 8005	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	Slate x 1 (31g)
3033	Ditch 8010	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3037	Ditch 8009	1	11	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
3038	Ditch 8009	2	10	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
3041	Enclosure ditch 8003	3	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3051	Enclosure ditch 8003	6	232	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3054	Enclosure ditch 8003	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3059	Ditch 8008	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3062	Ditch 3061	1	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3067	Ditch 8009	1	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3083	Pit 3082	2	101	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3091	Pit 3090	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3098	Pit 3094	4	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3102	Posthole 3101	1	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3106	Pit 3105	11	175	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3114	Posthole 3113	-	-	-	-	1	13	-	-	-
3116	Pit 3115	2	78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3122	Pit 3121	24	1108	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3124	Posthole 3123	2	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3126	Pit 3125	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3130	Pit 3129	2	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4006	Enclosure ditch 8001	2	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4008	Enclosure ditch 8001	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4011	Enclosure ditch 8001	30	749	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4016	Enclosure ditch 8001	3	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4039	Posthole 4038	32	208	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4042	Pit 4040	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cremated bone (?human) 2g
5040	Ring ditch 8000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-
6014	Posthole 6012	1	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		**421**	**8465**	**17**	**1946**	**9**	**117**	**9**	**65**	**75 (6255 g)**

Appendix 2 Results of environmental assessment

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Preservation	Other
2	MBA	Posthole	226	228	-	240970_1	1	15	<1% C	-	-	-	C	*Malus* sp.	10	Fair	-
2	MBA	Posthole	226	239	-	240970_2	0.5	3	<1% C	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
2	MBA	Ditch	316	318	8025	240970_9	28	60	<1% A*, I	A	A	*Triticum* sp. (inc. *T. dicoccum*-type grains + *T. dicoccum* glume bases/spikelet forks), *Hordeum* sp. (incl. cf. naked grains)	A*	*Persicaria maculosa*, Vicieae, *Chenopodium* sp.	40	Mixed	-
2	RB?	Pit	301	302	-	240970_10		800	<1% B	-	-	-	-	-	350	Good	-
2	RB?	Pit	301	303	-	240970_11		175	<1% C	C	-	*Triticum* sp., Triticeae	-	-	90	Mixed	-
2	MBA	Ditch	345	347	8031	240970_12	35	20	15% A, E, I, F	A***	A	*Triticum* sp. grains (glume wheat species), *T. diccoccum*-type grains,*T. dicoccum* glume bases/spikelet forks	A*	*Crataegus* sp., *Prunus* cf. *spinosa*, Poaceae (large and small-seeded), *Galium aparine*, Trifolieae, *Chenopodium* sp., Vicieae, indets	8	Mixed	-
2	MBA	Ditch	366	368	8031	240970_15	18	55	10% A, I, F	C	-	Triticeae	C	*Vicia faba*, *Sambucus nigra*	35	Mixed	-
2	BA/later	Pit	377	378	8037	240970_23	4	60	<1% C	-	-	-	-	-	50	Fair	-

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Preservation	Other
2	BA/later	Pit	380	381	8037	240970_24	4	50	1% C, F	-	-	-	C	*Crataegus* sp.	35	Fair	-
2	BA/later	Pit	388	389	8037	240970_25	4	10	1%, C, E, F	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grain, *T. dicoccum* glume base, *Hordeum vulgare* (twisted grain)	-	-	6	Mixed	
2	MBA	Posthole	392	393	-	240970_26	19	20	5% A, I	-	-	-	B	Vicieae, Trifolieae, amorphous charred material	5	Fair	-
2	MBA	Pit	394	395	-	240970_27	10	50	10% A	C	-	Triticeae, *Hordeum* sp.	-	-	30	Poor	-
2	BA/later?	Pit	400	401	8037	240970_28	4	100	<1% C, F	C	-	*Triticum* sp. (glume wheat species), Triticeae, *Hordeum* sp.	-	-	70	Poor	-
2	Uncertain	Pit	457	458	-	240970_29	20	100	<1% A, E, I	C	C	*Triticum* sp. grain, *T. dicoccum* glume base, Triticeae	-	-	60	Poor	-
2	BA	Posthole	398	399	8036	240970_30	3	20	5% A, F	C	-	Triticeae	C	Vicieae	10	Poor	-
2	BA?	Cremation grave	463	464	-	240970_35	1	1.5	<1% C	-	-	-	C	*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* tuber (swollen culm internode)	<1	Fair	Crem bone (A*)
2	BA?	Cremation grave	463	464	-	240970_36	1	4.5	<1% C	-	-	-	C	*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* tuber (swollen culm internode)	1	Fair	Crem bone (A*)

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Preservation	Other
2	BA?	Cremation grave	463	464	-	240970_37	2	10	<1% C	-	-	-	C	*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* tuber (swollen culm internode)	3	Poor	Crem bone (A*)
2	BA?	Cremation grave	463	464	-	240970_38	1.5	10	<1% C	-	-	-	C	*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum* tuber (swollen culm internode)	3	Poor	Crem bone (A*)
2	MBA	Pit	390	391	-	240970_39	1.5	15	20% C	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
3	Post-med/ modern	Posthole	3021	3022	-	240970_18	18	25	20%, A*, E, F	-	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	Coal, Clinker/ cinder
3	Prehistoric	Pit	3082	3083	-	240970_19	9	10	5% A*, F	A	C	Triticeae, *Triticum dicoccum* glume base, *Hordeum* sp. grain	-	-	2	Poor	-
3	Late Prehistoric	Pit	3105	3106	-	240970_20	9	40	1% A, E, I, F	A	A	*Triticum* sp. grains (glume wheat species), *Triticum* sp. glume bases/spikelet forks (inc. *T. dicoccum* and *T. spelta*), *Hordeum* sp. grain	A*	*Plantago lanceolata*, *Galium aparine*, Polygonaceae (inc. *Rumex* sp.), *Corylus avellana*, Poaceae, Vicieae, indets	30	Mixed	-
3	IA?	Pit	3117	3118	-	240970_21	2	1	15% C	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-
4	MBA	Ditch	4012	4015	8001	240970_16	9	10	<1% C	C	-	Triticeae	C	*Galium aparine*	5	Poor	

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Preservation	Other
4	MBA	Pit with possible cremation related deposit	4040	4042	-	240970_22	30	1400	<1% A	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	175	Poor	-
5	BA?	Pit	5046	5047	-	240970_17	3	120	<1% C	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-
5	BA	Ditch	5007	5025	8000	240970_31	39	15	15% A*, I, F	C	-	Triticeae	C	Poaceae (large-seeded), *Corylus avellana*, indet	5	Very poor	-
5	BA	Ditch	5007	5024	8000	240970_32	38	20	15% A, I, F	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
5	BA	Ditch	5007	5023	8000	240970_33	39	30	5% A*, E, F	C	-	Triticeae	-	-	6	Poor	-
6	BA?	Posthole	6012	6013	-	240970_13	1	50	<1%	C	-	*Hordeum* sp.	C	*Corylus avellana*	30	Poor	-
6	BA?	Posthole	6012	6014	-	240970_14	9	100	<1% C	C	-	*Triticum* sp. grain (glume wheat species)	C	*Corylus avellana*, indet fruitstone/nutshell frag, *Vicia faba*	45	Mixed	-

Key: Scale of abundance: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30–99, A = 30–10, B = 9–5, C = <5; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects

Appendix 3 Environmental evidence: analysis potential and recommendations

Area	Phase	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample Code	Analysis potential	Analysis recommendations	C14
2	MBA	Ditch	316	318	8025	240970_9	P, C1	P, C1	-
2	RB?	Pit	301	302	-	240970_10	C2	C2	
2	RB?	Pit	301	303	-	240970_11	C2	C1	-
2	MBA	Ditch	345	347	8031	240970_12	P	P	-
2	MBA	Ditch	366	368	8031	240970_15	C1	C1	One C14 date on Celtic bean (*Vicia faba*) to identify potentially early evidence for this crop and support charcoal analysis
2	BA/later	Pit	377	378	8037	240970_23	C1	C1	-
2	BA/later	Pit	380	381	8037	240970_24	C1	C1	-
2	BA/later?	Pit	400	401	8037	240970_28	C1	C1	
2	Uncertain	Pit	457	458	-	240970_29	C1	-	
2	BA?	Cremation grave	463	464	-	240970_35 to 240970_38	C1	C1	
3	Prehistoric	Pit	3082	3083	-	240970_19	P	-	
3	Late prehistoric	Pit	3105	3106	-	240970_20	P, C1	P	
4	MBA	Pit with possible cremation related deposit	4040	4042	-	240970_22	C2	C2	One C14 date on short-lived charcoal to support analysis of the charcoal and confirm Middle Bronze Age date
6	BA?	Posthole	6012	6013	-	240970_13	C1	-	-
6	BA?	Posthole	6012	6014	-	240970_14	C1	-	-

Key: P = plant remain analysis, C1 = rapid charcoal analysis, C2 = detailed charcoal analysis

Appendix 4 Selection Strategy

[240970/1]
[Land at Junction 24, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset]
[version 1, 12/11/2021]

Selection Strategy

Project Information

Project Management		
Project Manager	Bruce Eaton	
Archaeological Archive Manager	Lorraine Mepham	
Organisation	Wessex Archaeology (WA)	
Stakeholders		**Date Contacted**
Collecting Institution(s)	Somerset County Museum (curator contact Amal Khreisheh) Archaeology Data Service	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Lead: Ray Holt Assurance: Bruce Eaton	N/A
Landowner / Developer	S Notaro Land Limited	
Other (external)	Senior Historic Environment Officer South West Heritage Trust (Steven Membery)	
Other (internal)	WA Finds Manager (Rachael Seager Smith) WA Environmental Manager (Sander Aerts) WA Geomatics & BIM Manager (Chris Breeden) WA internal finds & environmental specialists (see WSI)	N/A; briefed as part of standard project process
Resources		
Resources required	WA Finds and Environmental specialists; WA archives team	
Context		

This overarching selection strategy document is based on the CIfA Archives Selection Toolkit (2019) and relates to archaeological project work being undertaken by Wessex Archaeology as defined in the WSIs.

Relevant standards, policies and guidelines consulted include:

General

- *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993)
- *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF, revised edition 2011, section 4)
- South West Heritage Trust Historic Environment Service, 2017 (6th revision)

Relevant research agendas

- South West England Research Framework (Webster 2007: Grove and Croft 2012)

Finds

- *Standard Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation & research of archaeological materials* (CIFA, 2014)
- *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery, Medieval Pottery Research Group 2016)

Environmental

- *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory, Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Geoarchaeology: Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (Historic England 2015)
- *Guidelines for the Curation of Waterlogged Macroscopic Plant and Invertebrate Remains* (English Heritage 2008)
- *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010)
- *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts: Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018)

Research objectives of the project

Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site and the regional research framework (Webster 2007; Grove and Croft 2012), the research objectives of the excavation are to:

General Aims

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

Research Aims

- confirm the (suspected Early/Middle Bronze Age) date of the enclosures identified by the geophysical survey and trial trenching, as well as their function and nature and the extent of activity associated with them;
- establish the potential to illuminate the distribution and character of activity within the enclosures, and the development and organisation of the wider landscape during the Bronze Age and subsequent periods (eg, in relation to discoveries made at the Bridgwater Gateway development site); and
- examine any evidence for activity in other periods not revealed during previous phases of investigation.

REVIEW POINTS

Consultation with all Stakeholders regarding project-specific selection decisions will be undertaken at a maximum of three project review points:

- Data gathering: on site, if any unforeseen discovery necessitates an amendment to the proposed collection strategy, or if adjustments are made to any sampling strategy
- End of data gathering (assessment stage)
- Archive compilation

1 – Digital Data

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; WA Geomatics & BIM Manager; Somerset County Museum; Senior Historic Environment Officer South West Heritage Trust; ADS

Selection

Location of Data Management Plan (DMP)

This document is designed to link to the project Data Management Plan (DMP), which can be supplied on request.

To promote long-term future reuse deposition file formats will be of archival standard, open source and accessible in nature following national guidance from ADS 2013, CIfA 2014c and the requirements of the digital repository.

Any sensitive data to be handled according to Wessex Archaeology data policy to ensure it is stored and transferred securely. The identity of individuals will be protected in line with GDPR. If required, data will be anonymised and redacted. Selection and retention of sensitive data for archival purposes will occur in consultation with the client and relevant stakeholders. Confidential data will not be selected for archiving and will be handled as per contractual obligation.

Document type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Site records	Most records will be completed digitally on site (with the exception of registers). All will be selected for deposition.	As above	3
Reports	To include WSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports. Final versions only will be selected for deposition.	As above	2, 3
Specialist reports	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with only minimal editing (reformatting, etc), and will be selected only if the original differs significantly from the incorporated version.	As above	2, 3
Photographic media (site recording)	Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; pre-	As above	3

	excavation images may not be selected where duplicated by post-excavation shots; working shots will be very rigorously selected to include only good quality images with potential for reuse and those integral to understanding features, their inter-relationships and location on site; site condition and reinstatement photos will not be selected.		
Photographic media (objects)	Images of individual or groups of objects, to include those of significance selected for publication and reporting. Substandard and duplicate images will be eliminated; all others will be selected.	As above	3
Survey data	Site survey data will be used to generate CAD/GIS files for use in post-excavation activities. Shapefiles of both the original tidied survey data, and the final phased drawings will be selected.	As above	2, 3
Databases and spreadsheets	Context, finds and environmental data in linked databases. Final versions will be selected. Any specialist data submitted separately will also be selected.	As above	2, 3
Administrative records	Includes invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, email correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.	As above	3

De-Selected Digital Data

De-selected data will be stored on WA secured servers on offsite storage locations. The WA IT department has a backup strategy and policies that involves daily, weekly and monthly and annual backups of data as stated in the DMP. This strategy is non-migratory, and original files will be held at WA under their unique project identifier, as long as they remain useful and usable in their final version format. This data may also be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by WA unless otherwise required by contractual or copyright obligations.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

2 – Documents

Stakeholders

WA Project Manager; WA Archives Manager; Somerset County Museum; Senior Historic Environment Officer South West Heritage Trust

Selection

A security copy of all paper/drawn records is a requirement of CIfA guidelines. This will be prepared on completion of the project, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. If the security copy is not required for deposition by Stakeholders, it will be retained on backed-up servers belonging to Wessex Archaeology.

Note that some information may be redacted to comply with GDPR legislation (personal data).

Document type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Site records	Selected records only will be completed in hard copy on site (registers, some graphics). All will be selected for deposition.	As above	3
Reports	Hard copies of all reports (SSWSIs, Interim reports, post-excavation assessment reports, publication reports). All will be selected for deposition, with the exception of earlier versions of reports which have been clearly superseded.	As above	2, 3
Specialist reports & data	Specialist reports will generally be incorporated in other documents with no significant editing. Supporting data is more likely to be included in the digital archive, but if supplied in hard copy and not incorporated elsewhere, this will be selected.	As above	2, 3
Photographic media	X-radiographic plates: all will be selected.	As above	3
Secondary sources	Hard copies of secondary sources will not be selected.	As above	3
Working notes	Rough working notes, annotated plans, preliminary versions of matrices etc, will not be selected.	As above	3
Administrative records	Invoices, receipts, timesheets, financial information, hard copy	As above	3

	correspondence. None will be selected, with the exception of any hard copy correspondence relating directly to the archaeology.		

De-Selected Documents

De-selected sensitive analogue data will be destroyed (shredded) subject to final checking by the WA Archives team with the remainder recycled. Possible exceptions include records retained for business purposes, including promotional material, teaching and internal WA library copies of reports.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Artefacts (bulk and registered finds)	Section 3.	3.1

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Finds Manager; WA internal specialists; Somerset County Museum; Senior Historic Environment Officer South West Heritage Trust; landowner

Selection

Note that human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

The on-site finds recovery strategy is given below; it is of necessity fairly generic. It is anticipated that this will be reviewed and updated at the project assessment stage, once all collected finds have been processed and quantified. Amendments may be made prior to that on site in the event of unforeseen discoveries necessitating adjustments to recovery or sampling strategies (eg production sites, large concentrations of building debris, 'burnt mounds').

Throughout the following section, 'stratified' is taken to include topsoil deposits, while 'unstratified' indicates anything completely separated from context eg spoilheap finds, or surface finds other than those directly associated with underlying features.

Find Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Animal bone	(19 fragments): Small assemblage from subsoil and features of post-medieval date. No potential for further analysis. Retain none.	As above	2, 3

Ceramic building material	(17 fragments): Small assemblage of common post-Roman types. Little or no archaeological significance; no further potential. Retain none.	As above	2, 3
Clay tobacco pipes	(2 pieces): plain stem fragments; little or no archaeological significance; no further potential. Retain none.	As above	2, 3
Fired clay	(9 fragments): Recovered from features of Bronze Age/prehistoric date. Some briquetage vessel fragments, but others are undiagnostic fragments. With the exception of the briquetage of limited further potential. Retain briquetage from ditches 8025 and 8031.	As above	2, 3
Glass, vessel and window	(3 fragments): Post-medieval and modern vessel glass. No archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain.	As above	2, 3
Metalwork	(2 pieces): Recovered from post-med/modern features. No archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain but include an x-radiograph in the archive.	As above	2, 3
Pottery, Bronze Age, later prehistoric and Romano-British	(354 sherds): Predominantly Bronze Age and later prehistoric with a small quantity of Late Iron Age/Romano-British material. Of local significance with further research potential. Retain all.	As above	2, 3
Pottery, medieval and post-medieval	(67 sherds): Predominantly from made ground deposit 102. Small assemblage, not well stratified; includes commonly occurring ware types, as expected for the area. Limited archaeological significance; limited further research potential. Retain none.	As above	2, 3
Slag	(141 g): Clinker and non-metallurgical fuel ash slag. No archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain.	As above	2, 3

Stone, building	(6 pieces): 1 complete roof tile, 5 slate fragments. Little or no archaeological significance; no further potential. Retain complete tile from deposit 102.	As above	2, 3
Stone, unworked	(43 pieces) Recovered from Middle Bronze Age and late prehistoric features. Retain 1 possibly utilised pebble fragment from pit 390; remainder has no archaeological significance; no potential for further analysis. Do not retain.	As above	2, 3
Worked flint and chert	(9 pieces) Poorly stratified, possibly entirely residual. Little archaeological significance; limited further potential. Retain none.	As above	2, 3

Uncollected Material

Finds which fall outside the categories proposed for on-site collection will not normally be recorded beyond a general comment on site recording sheets on the presence and nature of large concentrations (eg building materials, modern debris), but if specific sampling strategies are employed to deal with, for example, production waste, then a more accurate guide to the actual size of the parent assemblage (and thus the sample percentage) will be given.

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or (if collected and then de-selected), re-incorporated into the site.

De-Selected Material

Consideration will be given to the suitability for use for handling or teaching collections by the museum or Wessex Archaeology, or whether they are of particular interest to the local community. De-selected material will either be returned to the landowner or disposed of. All will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

3 – Materials

Material type	Palaeoenvironmental material	Section 3.	3.2

Stakeholders

WA Archives Manager; WA Environmental Officer; WA internal specialists; Somerset County Museum; Senior Historic Environment Officer South West Heritage Trust; landowner

Selection

All contexts suitable for environmental sampling will be considered for sampling. All environmental sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011 and Historic England 2015a) and as stated in relevant WSI.

Env Material Type	Selection Strategy	Stakeholders	Review Points
Unsorted residues	Residues were discarded after sorting, with the exception of samples from cremation burial 463 which have been retained for extraction.	As above	2, 3
Assessed flots	Assessed flots which contain material suitable for radiocarbon dating will be retained. Assessed flots devoid of any significant environmental evidence and will be discarded. Flots from samples 18 and 21 will be discarded.	As above	2, 3
Analysed materials (CPR and charcoal)	All analysed materials will be retained.	As above	3

Uncollected Material

Any uncollected material will be left *in situ* or re-incorporated into the site.

De-Selected Material

De-selected material from samples will be disposed of after processing and post-excavation recording. All processed material will be adequately recorded to the appropriate level before de-selection.

Amendments

Date	Amendment	Rationale	Stakeholders

Appendix 5 OASIS record

Summary for wessexar1-409328

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-409328
Project Name	Land at Junction 24, North Petherton, Bridgwater, Somerset - Archaeological Excavation
Activity type	Excavation, Post Excavation Assessment
Project Identifier(s)	240970, 240971
Planning Id	37/19/00004
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	04-Jan-2021 - 26-Feb-2021
Location	Land at Junction 24 NGR : ST 30758 34210 LL : 51.1029914393633, -2.99033093793109 12 Fig : 330758,134210
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Somerset District : Sedgemoor Parish : North Petherton

HER	Bath and North East Somerset HER -unRev - STANDARD
HER Identfiers	
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Somerset Heritage Service

Project Methodology

The mitigation works comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of six areas totaling 2.68 ha (see Fig. 1 of report ref. 240971.01). The individual areas were targeted on the results of the previous geophysical survey (Archaeological Services WYAS 2018) and results of the trial trench evaluation (Cotswold Archaeology 2018b) See section 4 (p5) of report 240971.01 for detailed excavation and recording methodologies and finds and environmental strategies.

Project Results

The excavations recorded prehistoric features in Areas 2 to 6. Two subrectangular enclosures of Middle Bronze Age date, one with internal post-built structures, and part of a contemporary field system and trackway were recorded in Area 2. An outlying post-built roundhouse structure and unurned cremation grave, potentially also of Bronze Age date and several other landscape boundary ditches, including some of post-medieval date were also recorded. The finds assemblage includes moderate quantities of Trevisker-related pottery and fired clay, including a few pieces of briquetage. Charred plant remains, including waste from crop-processing, was also recovered.

Bronze Age features were also recorded in Areas 4 to 6. These comprised a Middle Bronze Age 'D-shaped' enclosure with internal post-built structures (Area 4), a ring ditch of possible Early Bronze Age date (Area 5) and part of a possible Bronze Age double ditched enclosure and a few pits (Area 6).

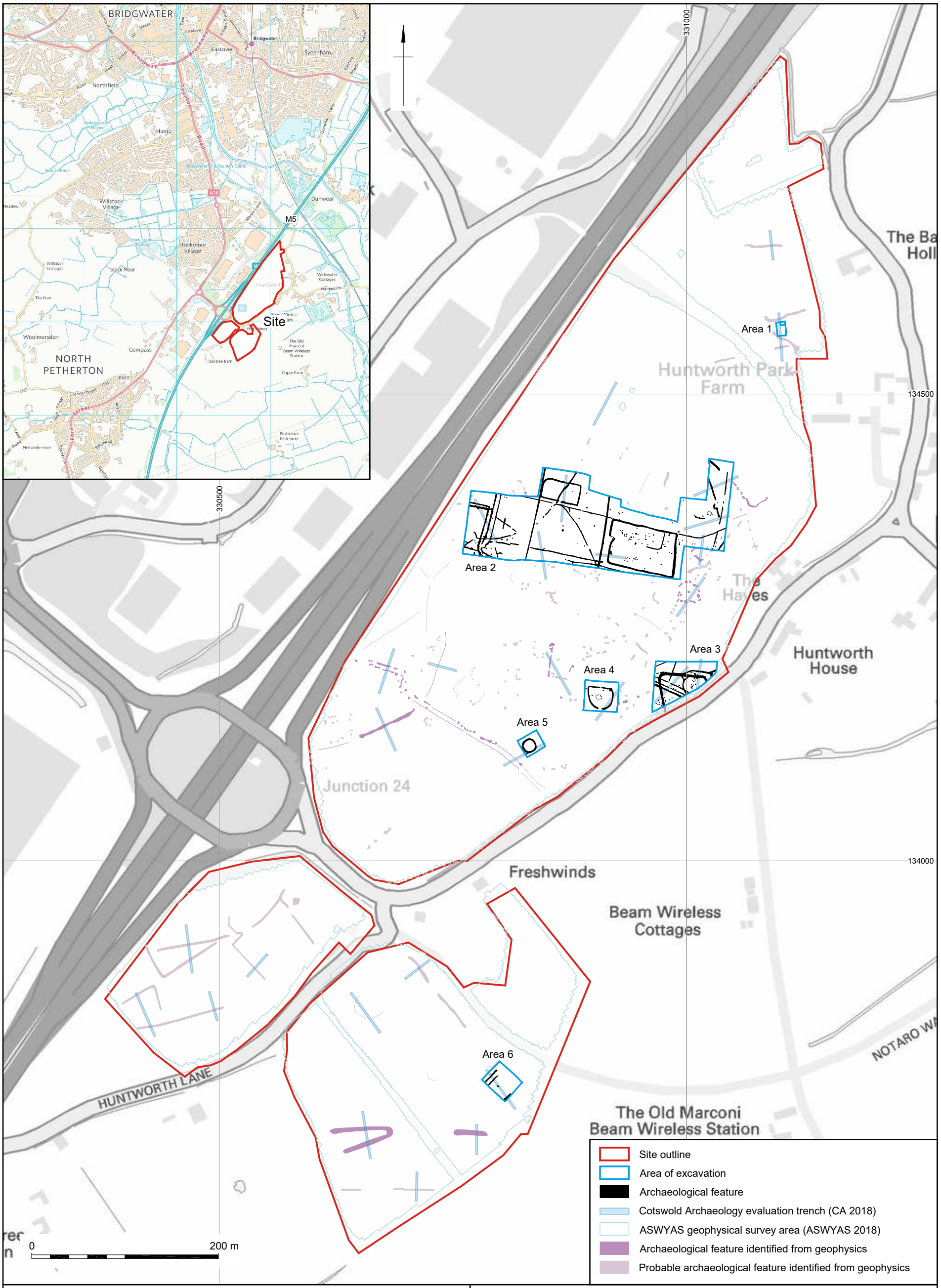
Two later phases of activity were recorded in Area 3, these comprised part of rectangular enclosure of possible Late Bronze Age to Early/Middle Iron Age date, and a more sinuous arrangement of ditches that formed a second enclosure of possible Late Iron Age/ Romano-British date. Both phases were associated with an array of pits and postholes. Part of a Late medieval/post-medieval field system and trackway were also recorded.

It is proposed that following the further analysis of the stratigraphy, finds and environmental assemblages, and radiocarbon dating, the results of the excavation will be reported on in the form of a short, illustrated article in the regional journal, Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society.

Keywords

Boundary Ditch - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Field System - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Trackway - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE -FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Rectangular Enclosure - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Post Hole - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE -FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Rubbish Pit - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Structure - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE -FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Cremation Grave - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Ditch - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL -FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Trackway - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Gully - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Pit - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Post Hole - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Ditch - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Curvilinear Enclosure - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

D Shaped Enclosure - MIDDLEBRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Structure - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE -FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Ring Ditch - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Pit - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Post Hole - EARLY PREHISTORIC -FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Pit - EARLY PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Sherd - EARLY PREHISTORIC -FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Sherd - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE -FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Sherd - BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Sherd - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Animal Remains - POST MEDIEVAL -FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Sherd - IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Briquetage - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE -FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Scraper (Tool) - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Cremation - MIDDLE BRONZE AGE -FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Slag - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus



Coordinate system: OSGB36
Geophysical survey: Courtesy of Archaeological Services WYAS

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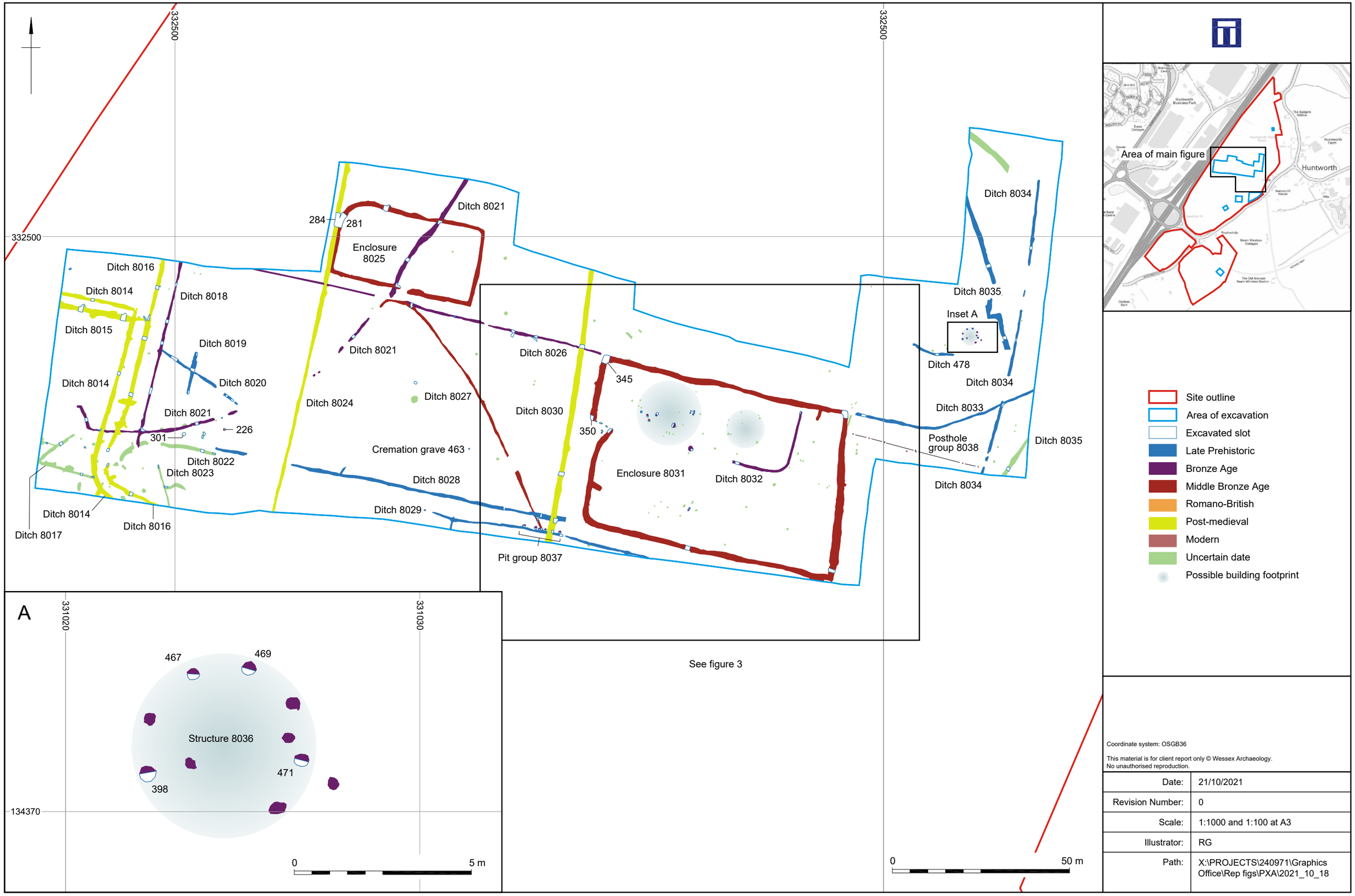
Site location plan

Figure 1



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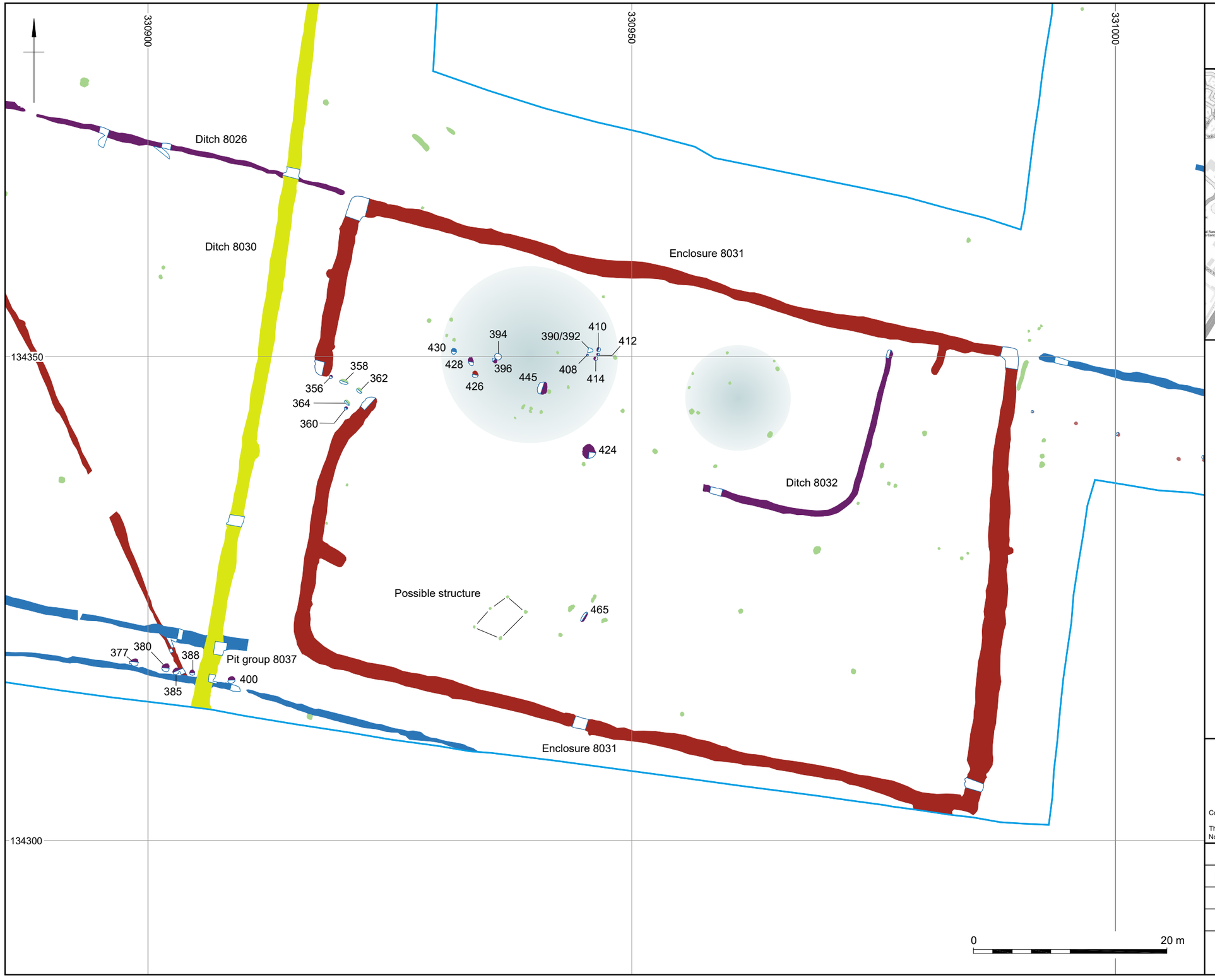
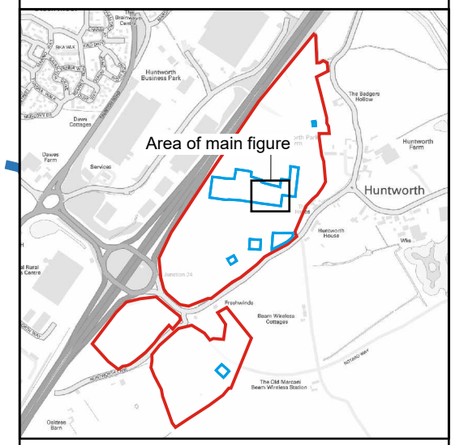
Archaeological features in Area 2

Figure 2





Site outline
Area of excavation
Excavated slot
Late Prehistoric
Bronze Age
Middle Bronze Age
Post-medieval
Uncertain date
Possible building footprint

Coordinate system: OSGB36

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Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:400 at A3
Illustrator:	RG
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Enclosure 8031 and internal features

Figure 3

331000

134180

Ditch 3048

Ditch 8007

Ditch 8006

Ditch 8008

Ditch 8010

3003

Gully 3107

Enclosure 8003

Ditch 8009

3109

3113

3050

Ditch 8004

Ditch 8011

3131

3127

3117

3129

3099

3094

3101

3125

3115

3103

Ditch 3061

Ditch 8005

Enclosure 8003

3092

3068

3123

3121

3082

3090

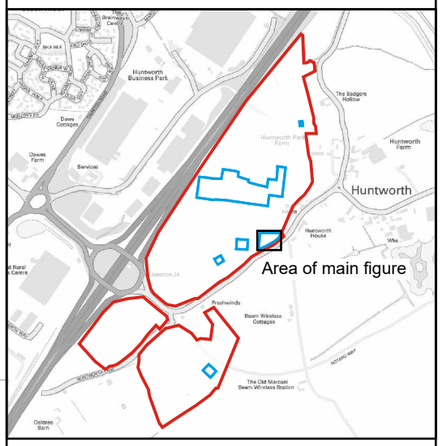
3096

3105

3111

0

10 m



Site outline

Area of excavation

Excavated slot

Late Prehistoric

Iron Age

Late Iron Age/Romano-British

Post-medieval

Modern

Uncertain date

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	21/10/2021
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:250 at A3
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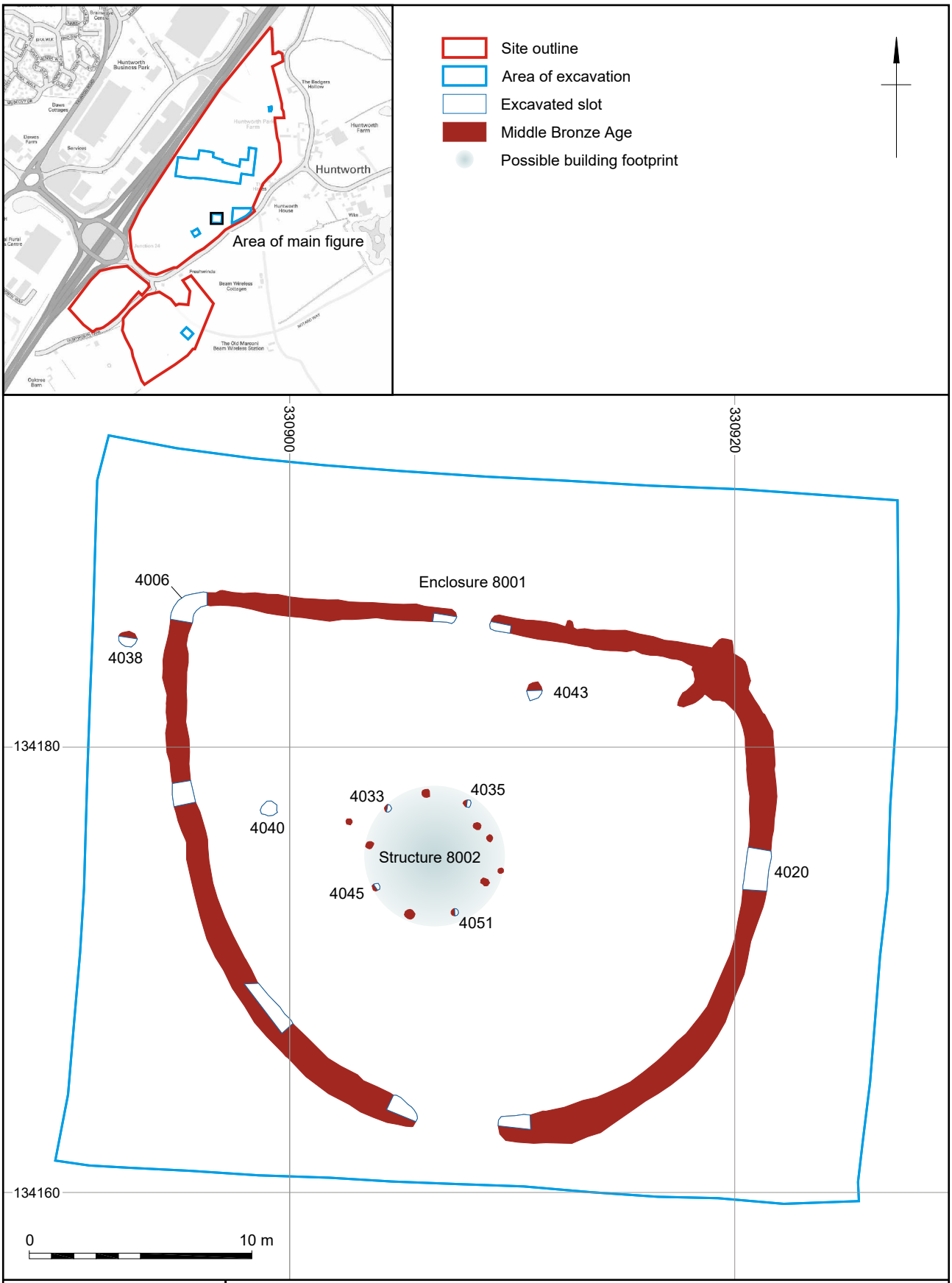
Archaeological features in Area 3

Figure 4



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Archaeological features in Area 4

Figure 5

Plate 1: Area 1 showing dump/landscaping deposits, view from south-east, 1 m and 2 m scales

Plate 2: Area 1 representative section through dump/landscaping deposits, view from south, 1 m scale

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Plate 3: Area 2, Ditch 281 (Enclosure 8025) and ditch 284 (Boundary 8024), view from north, 2 m scale

Plate 4: Area 2, Ditch 345 (Enclosure 8031), view from WNW, 1 m scale

Date:	22/10/2021	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
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Plate 5: Area 2, Ditch terminal 350 (Enclosure 8031), view from south-west, 0.5 m scale

Plate 6: Area 2, Posthole 390 containing MBA vessel ON1, view from north, 0.2 m scale

Date:	22/10/2021	Revision Number:	0
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Plate 7: Area 2, Pit 394, view from west, 0.5 m scale

Plate 8: Area 2, Pit 377 (Pit Group 8037), view from south, 0.5 m scale

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
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Plate 9: Area 2, Unurned cremation grave 463, view from south, 0.2 m scale

Plate 10: Area 2, Pit 301, view from south, 0.2 m scale

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
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Plate 11: Area 2, Post-medieval field boundary 8015 during excavation, view from south-west

Plate 12: Area 3, Ditch 3003 (Enclosure 8008), view from east, 1 m scale

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Plate 13: Area 3, Ditch 3050 (Enclosure 8003), view from west, 1 m scale

Plate 14: Area 3, Pit 3125, view from south, 0.5 m scale

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Plate 15: Machine stripping Middle Bronze Age enclosure in Area 4, view from south-east

Plate 16: Area 4, Ditch 4006 (Enclosure 8001), view from north-west, 2 m scale

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Plate 17: Area 4, Ditch 4020 (Enclosure 8001), view from north, 1 m scale

Plate 18: Area 4, Pit 4040, view from west, 0.5 m scale

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
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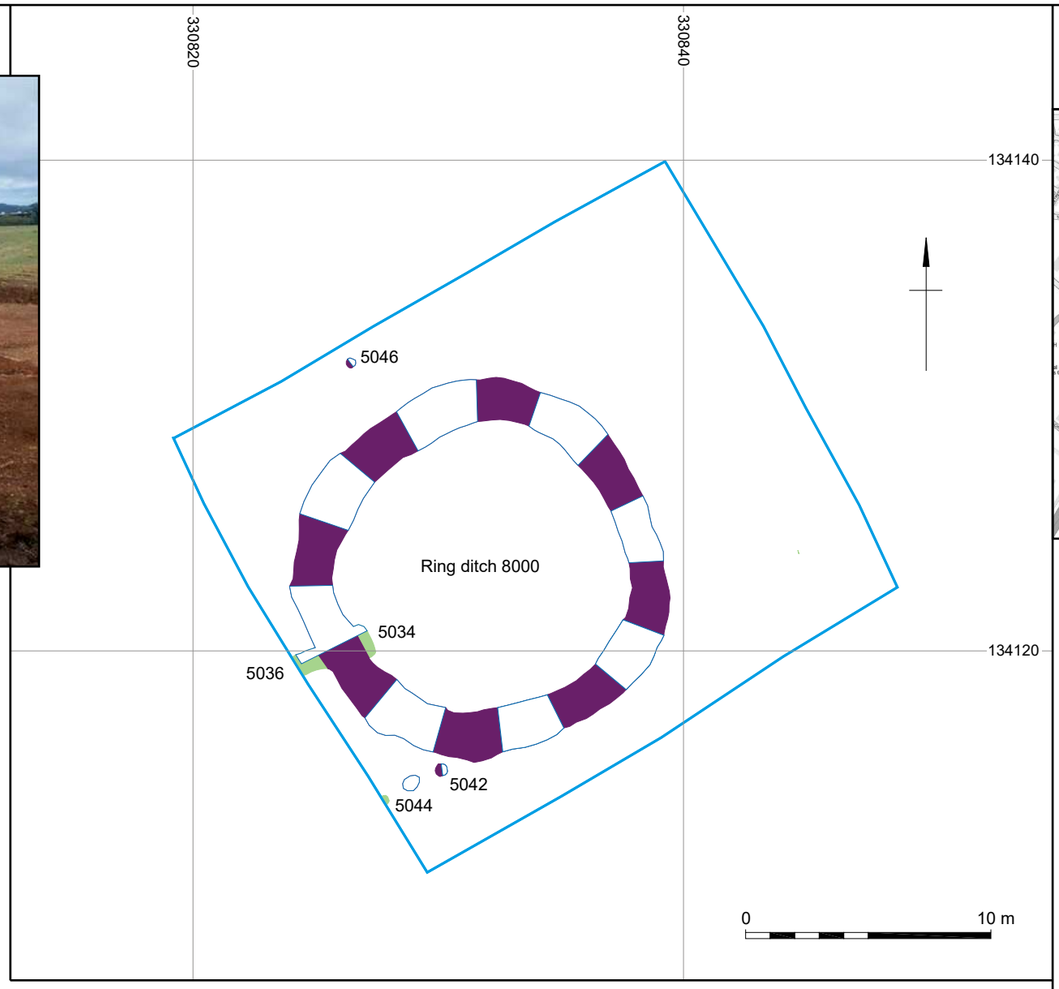
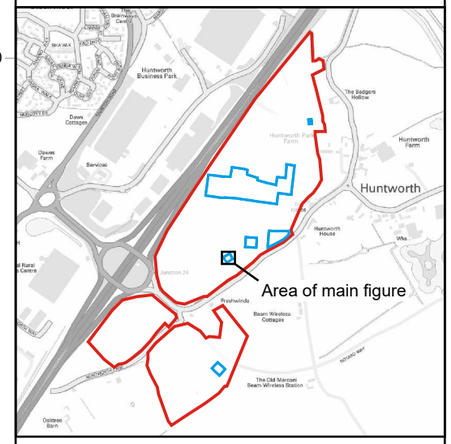
Plate 19: Ring ditch 8000 pre-excavation, view from east

Plate 20: Ring ditch 8000, view from ESE 1 m scale





Site outline
Area of excavation
Excavated slot
Bronze Age
Uncertain date

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	21/10/2021
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:250 at A3
Illustrator:	RG
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Archaeological features in Area 5

Figure 6

Plate 21: Area 5, Ring ditch 8000, view from ESE, 1 m scale

Plate 22: Area 5, Pit 5046, view from south-east, 0.5 m scale

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Scale:	Not to scale	Illustrator:	RG
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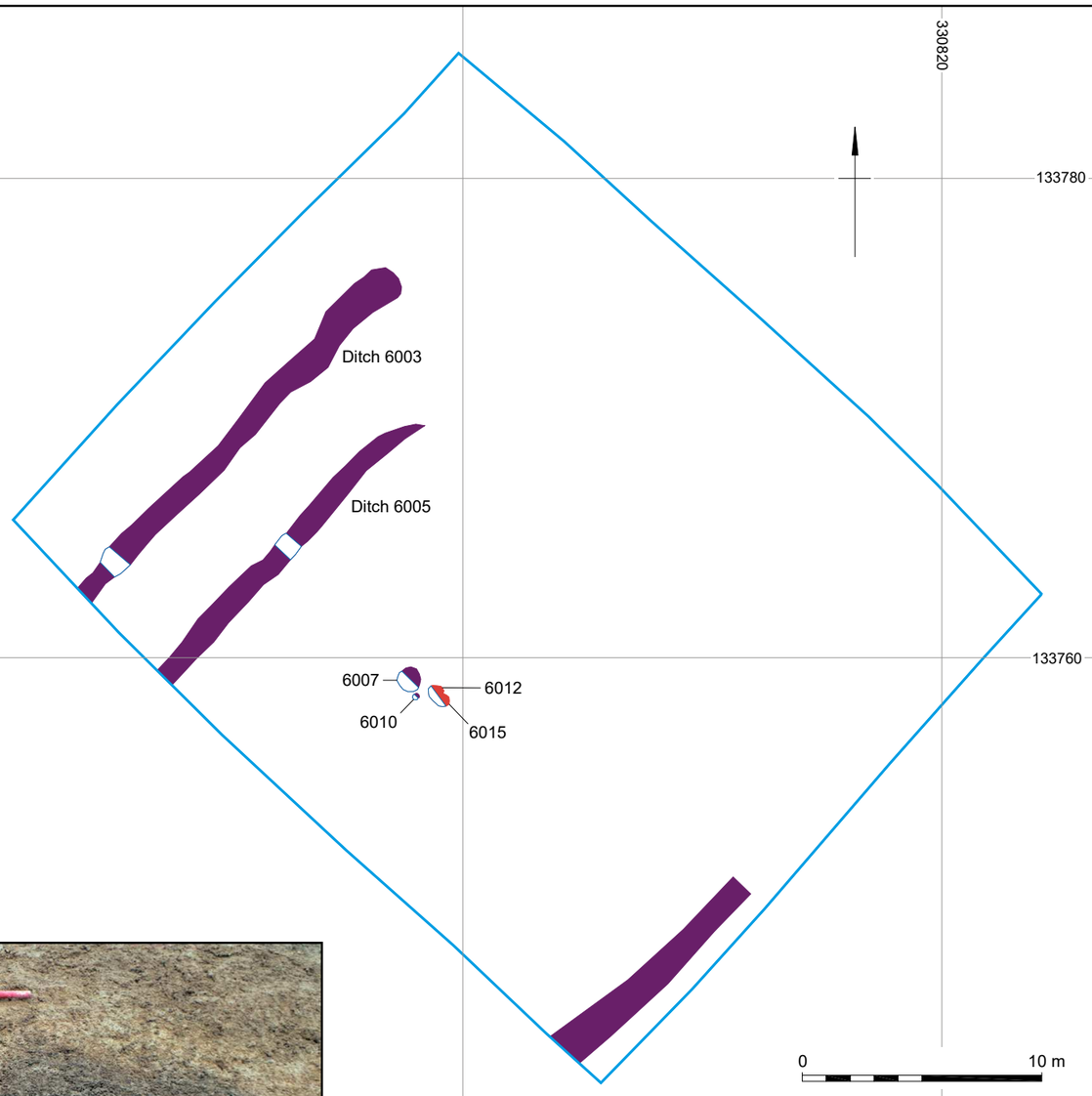
Plate 23: General shot of Area 6, view from west, 2 m and 1 m scales



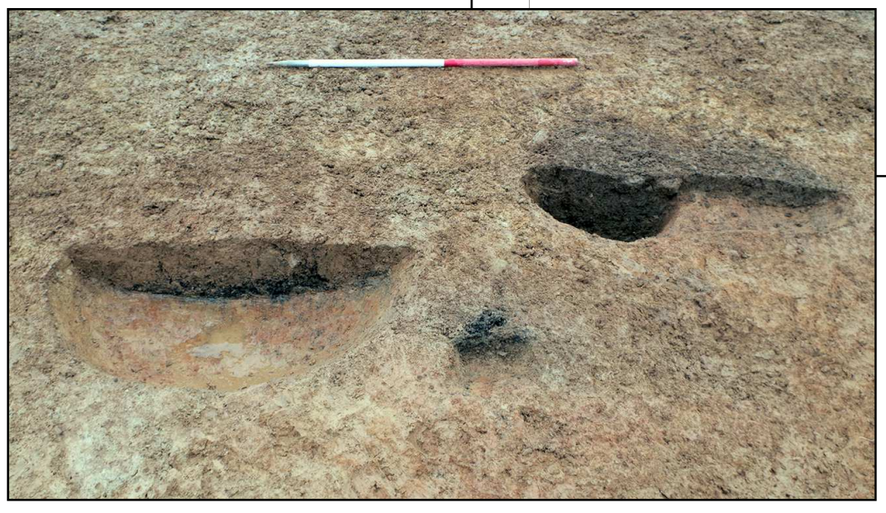
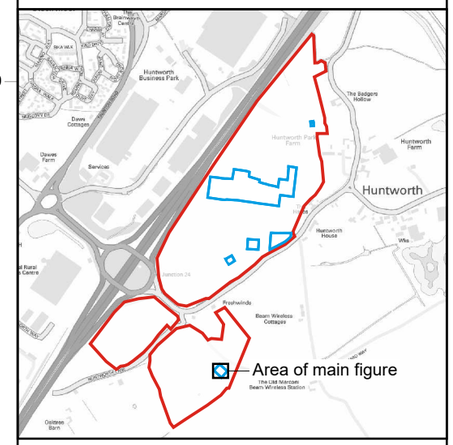


Plate 24: Pits 6007 and 6015, and postholes 6010 and 6012, view from south-west, 1 m scale



- Site outline
- Area of excavation
- Excavated slot
- Early Prehistoric
- Bronze Age
- Uncertain date

Coordinate system: OSGB36

Date:	21/10/2021
Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:250 at A3
Illustrator:	RG
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Archaeological features in Area 6

Figure 7

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