

T V A S



SOUTH WEST

**Land at Keds Lane,
Long Ashton, North Somerset**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Site Code: GLA22/71

(ST 5328 7047)

Land at Keeds Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset

An Archaeological Watching Brief For Western Power Distribution

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

TVAS South West

Site Code GLA 22/71

April 2022

Summary

Site name: Land at Keeds Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset

Grid reference: ST 5328 7047

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 31st March 2022

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz

Site supervisor: Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Site code: GLA 22/71

Area of site: 8 sq m observed within overall site of c. 3.9ha

Summary of results: The watching brief monitored ground works in relation to repositioning of one of the existing poles and the replacement of the other. The only feature noted within the watching brief area was the recent trench excavated for the existing electric poles but nothing of archaeological interest.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the South West Heritage Trust in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 11.04.22
	Steve Preston ✓ 11.04.22

Land at Keeds Lane, Long Ashton, North Somerset An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Mariusz Paszkiewicz

Report 22/71

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the site of the Scheduled Monument at Long Ashton, North Somerset (ST5328 7047) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James McNicoll-Norbury of RSK ADAS Limited, 11D Park House, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4RS on behalf of Western Power Distribution.

Scheduled Monument Consent (S00241955) has been obtained from the Secretary of State as advised by Historic England in order to carry out some improvement works on an existing overhead cable which was deemed unsatisfactory from a safety perspective. It was considered that works to install new poles had the potential to truncate and remove unknown buried archaeological deposits at the proposed new pole locations and therefore a programme of archaeological works would be required. This is in accordance with the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979) as amended. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Ward 2022) approved by Ms Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England. The fieldwork was undertaken by Mariusz Paszkiewicz on 31st March 2022. The site code is GLA 22/71.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the South West Heritage Trust or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography, and geology

The site is located north of the village of Long Ashton on the western outskirts of Bristol (Fig. 1). The Scheduled Monument site overall comprises c. 3.9ha of a single pasture field enclosed by established hedgerows and mature trees. It is bounded to the south by agricultural land and to the west, east and north by woodlands (Fenn's and Keed's Wood). The area includes earthworks representing a deserted medieval site (Fig. 2). The overall site slopes from 112m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the highest (northernmost) point and dropping to 65m aOD at the south-eastern part of the field. The underlying geology is mapped as Oxwich Head Limestone Formation, with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2004).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted within the Written Scheme of Investigation (Ward 2022). In summary the site is located within the Scheduled Monument (1011979) of a deserted medieval farmstead including three rectilinear enclosures which are situated at the north western end of a hollow way. The enclosures are defined by rubble-banks, *c.*0.5m high and up to 1m wide, each surrounding a sunken platform. Two of the enclosures are adjoined and situated adjacent to the north western side of the hollow way, while the third is situated 10m to the north-west (Fig. 2). These platforms are thought to represent building foundations and have plans which vary in size from 5m by 3m to 8m by 6m. To the north and west of the farmstead there is a lynchet or terrace *c.*2.5m high, orientated south west to north east. It is likely that this terrace originally formed part of a wider field system constructed during the Roman period and associated with the Roman small town 800m to the south-west from site at Gatcombe Farm, also a Scheduled Monument (1011978). This part of the field system is thought to have continued in use throughout the medieval period.

To the south, west and east of the farmstead earthworks there are numerous irregular depressions ranging from 3m to 10m in plan and up to 0.5m deep. These features most likely represent quarries produced during the extraction of iron ore and white clay deposits which are known to occur within the vicinity. Finds from the site include pottery dating from the 12th, 13th and 15th centuries.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any identified archaeological deposits which may be affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundwork. Any archaeological deposits identified were to be hand cleaned, excavated, and fully recorded.

The general aims of the project were to:

Ensure that any archaeological feature/deposits exposed during ground works associated with the development identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;

Ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;

To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains identified;

To identify and record any artefacts and deposits associated with Long Ashton Scheduled Monument use of the landscape.

Specific research questions for the site were to address the following:

Is there ridge and furrow present in the area of Pole 11-1748-225? If so can the ridge and furrow be dated and the type of pasture be identified?.

Are there any archaeological deposits below the extant ridge and furrow that will inform the overall understanding of the Scheduled Monument?

Is there any evidence of quarry pits in the location of Pole 11-1748-227? If so can the quarry pits be dated and their use and form be established?

Is there any evidence of archaeological deposits that predate possible quarry pits in the location of Pole 11-1748-227. Is there evidence for medieval activity relating to the settlement in this location?

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to the research priorities as identified in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (Webster 2008).

Results

The groundworks was carried out with a 360^o tracked machine fitted with 0.45m wide toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision and comprised excavation of two trenches (Fig. 2).

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 1 and 2)

The trench was excavated for a new underground cable extending from an existing pole to the new pole location. It was aligned N-S, 8.0m long, 0.45m wide and was stripped down to the natural geology. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m red brown topsoil (50) above 0.30m to 0.40m brown red sandy clay subsoil (51) above red marl with frequent limestone, the natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 3 and 4)

The trench for the replacement of the pole was aligned S – N and was measured 2.0m long, 1.0m wide and was stripped down to the natural geology. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) above 0.20m brown red sandy clay subsoil (51) above red marl with frequent limestone, the natural geology. Occupying most of the trench, from the south end was the square or rectangular former trench for pole (1), 1.5m wide and 1.0m deep. It was filled with brown red redeposited topsoil (53), above red brown silty clay with frequent limestone (52) which produced no datable finds but it is clearly modern. No archaeological deposit or finds were identified.

Conclusion

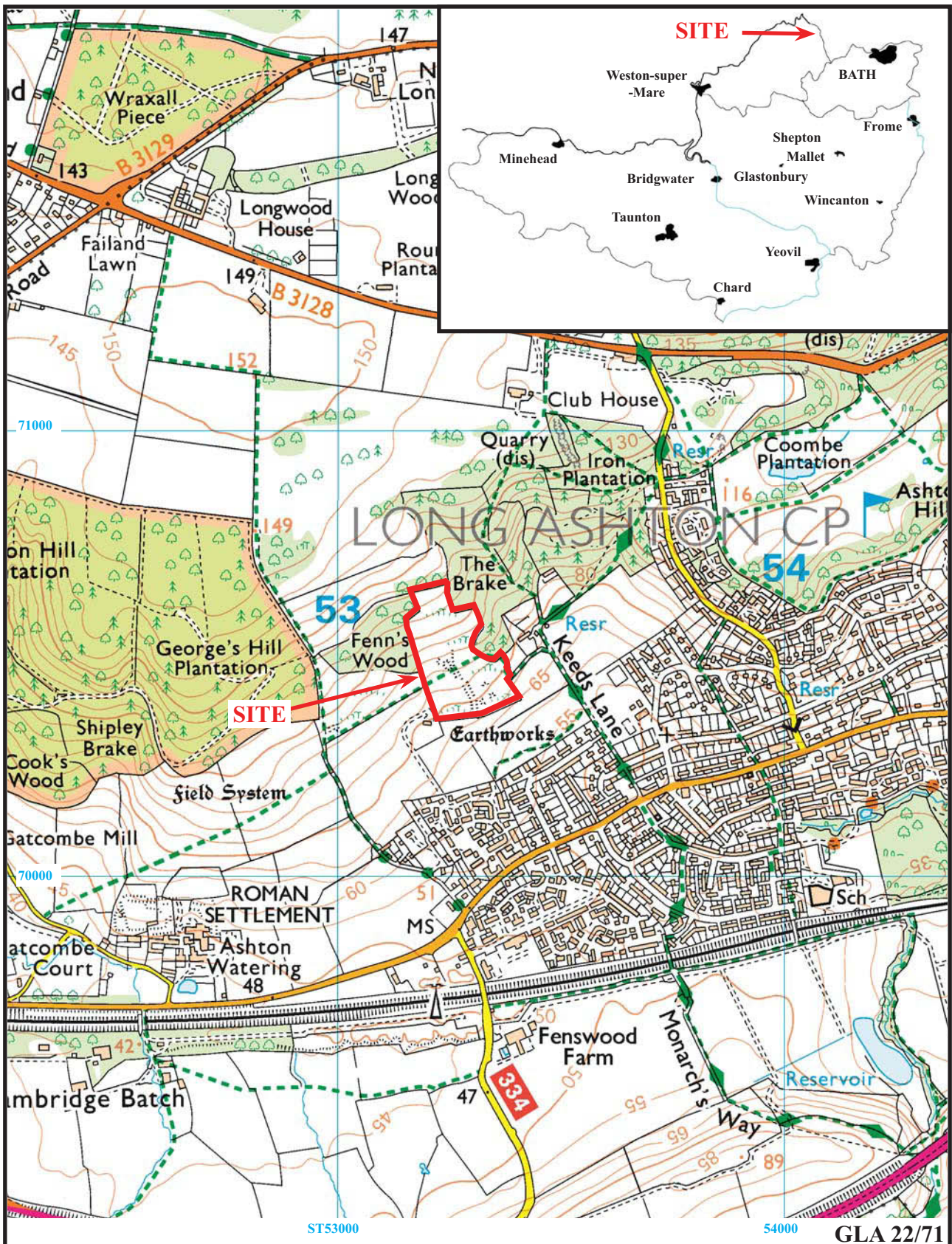
Despite natural geology being reached throughout the excavations no features or finds of archaeological interest were identified. Nothing relating to the Roman field system, medieval farmstead or quarrying was revealed, not even as residual finds.

References

- ADAS, 2021, 'Archaeological Impact and Mitigation Statement: Long Ashton, North Somerset', RSK ADAS Ltd report ART 69105-88101 (00)
- BGS, 2004, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **264**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ward, F, 2022, 'Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Watching Brief at Long Ashton', RSK ADAS Ltd report ART69105-881, Abingdon
- Webster, C J (ed) 2008, *The archaeology of South-West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Somerset County Council, Taunton

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

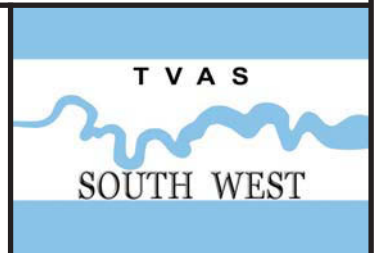
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	50	Topsoil		
	51	Subsoil		
1	52, 53	Electric pole trench	Modern	Electric pole

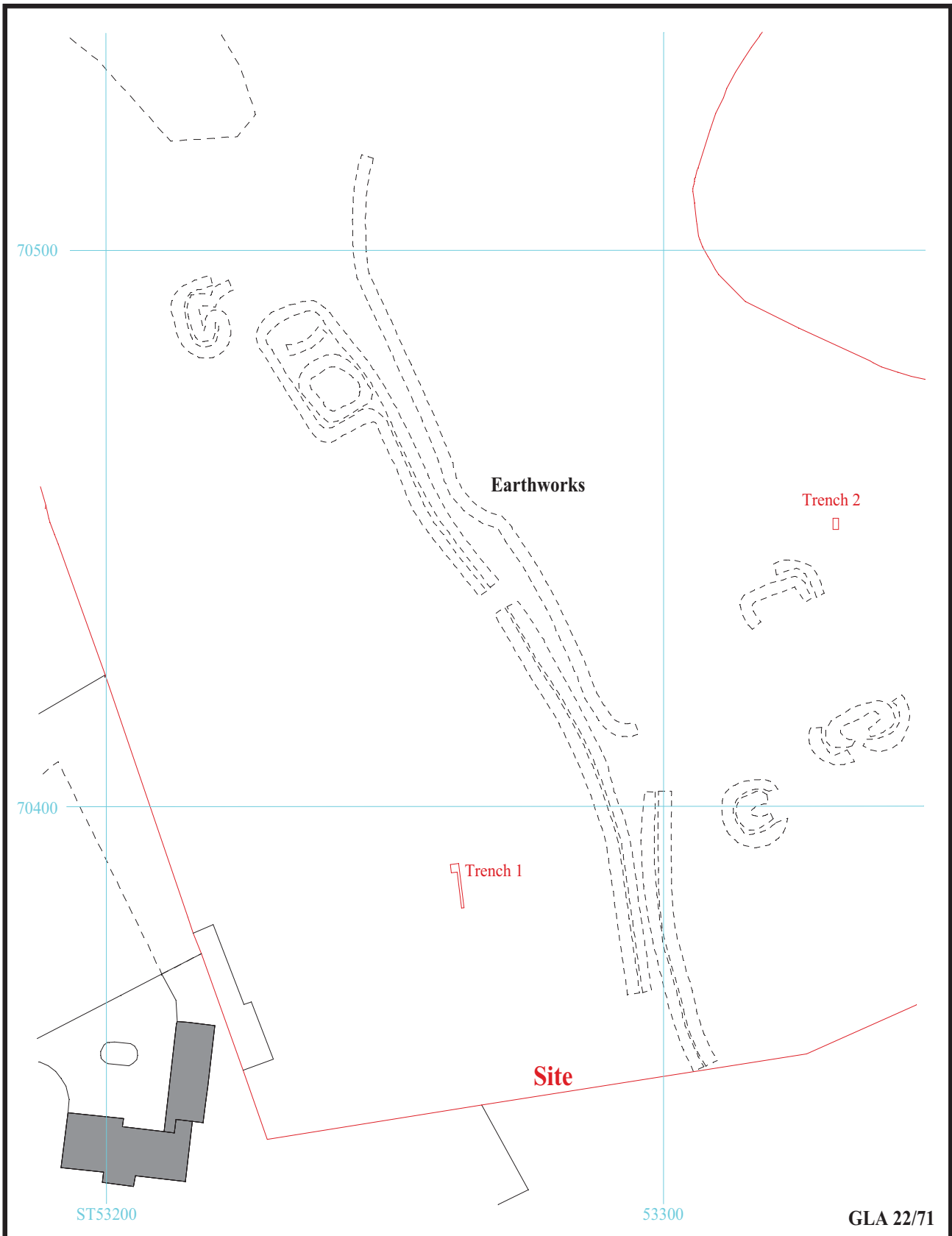


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Figure 1. Location of site within Long Ashton and North Somerset.

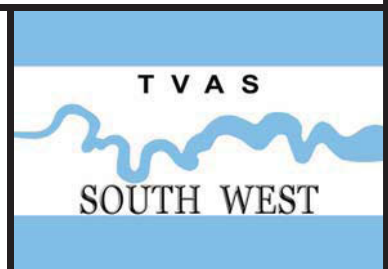
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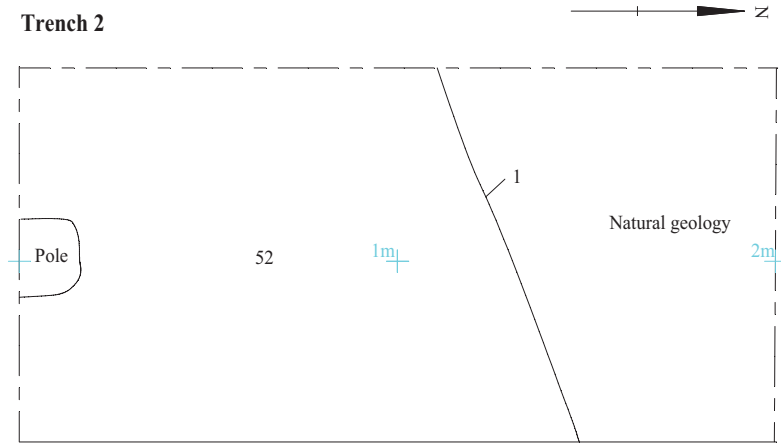


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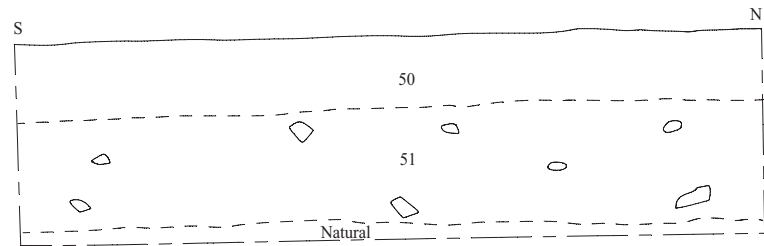
Figure 2. Location of areas observed within the Scheduled Area.



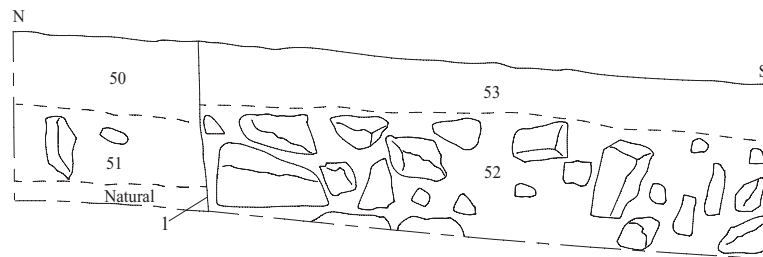
Trench 2



Trench 1



Trench 2



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Figure 3. Plan of trench 2 and sections.

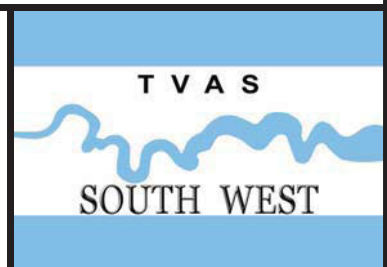




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking West, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking South, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking East, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 2, backfilled, looking West

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**Land at Keeds Lane, Long Ashton
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Plates 1 to 4.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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