

**T V A S**



**SOUTH WEST**

**Land off Stone Lane,  
Yeovil, Somerset**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Agata Socha-Paszkiewicz**

**Site Code: SLY19/126**

**(ST 5551 1797)**

# **Land off Stone Lane, Yeovil, Somerset**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Armour Heritage Ltd**

by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SLY 19/126ev

**September 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land off Stone Lane, Yeovil, Somerset

**Grid reference:** ST 5551 1797

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 27th -29th August 2019

**Project manager:** Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

**Site supervisor:** Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

**Site code:** SLY 19/126ev

**Area of site:** c. 3.2ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation revealed six linear ditches and one gully, mostly undated with the exception of one ditch which was tentatively dated to Roman period. All features of archaeological interest were located in the north-eastern part of the field which is considered to have some archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Somerset Heritage Centre under museum accession number TTNCM 84/2019 in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 12.09.19 Steve Preston✓ 12.09.19
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# Land of Stone Lane, Yeovil, Somerset An Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Report 19/126

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land off Stone Lane, Yeovil, Somerset (ST 5551 1797) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Limited, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DG on behalf of the client.

Planning permission (15/00763/FUL) has been granted by South Somerset District Council for a residential retirement community of 29 independent living bungalows; a residents' building incorporating a wardens office, communal open space, vehicular access, a surface water attenuation pond, landscaping and associated works. The consent is subject to a condition (5) requiring that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The Senior Historic Environment Officer at South West Heritage Trust has indicated an archaeological evaluation is required in the first instance to assess the archaeological potential of the development site.

The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Farr 2019) by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz, Fergus Beckerleg, Dominika Golebiowska and Arkadiusz Piszcz between 27th and 29th September 2019 and the site code is SLY 19/126. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited with the Somerset Heritage Centre with accession number TTNCM 83/2019 in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern outskirts of Yeovil (Fig. 1) and comprises a single pasture field enclosed by hedgerows and mature trees, covering an area of *c.* 3.2ha. It is bounded to the south by houses, to the east by Stone Lane with further housing across the road, to the north by an unnamed minor road with two farms and agricultural land beyond, and to the west by two more pasture fields (Fig. 2). The overall site slopes gradually but, in parts quite steeply from 107m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the highest (southernmost) point

dropping to 88m aOD at the northern corners of the field. The underlying geology is mapped as Dyrham Formation - sandstone. No superficial geological deposits are recorded (BGS 2017).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the written scheme of investigation (Farr 2019). In summary the earliest data recorded within 1km of the site relate to isolated series of findspots. A Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was reported some 140m to the south-east and a flint scraper some 130m to the south of the site. Further flint finds, including an axe were recorded, at Norland, east of the site. Just over 1km to the east of the site a series of archaeological works undertaken at Lyde Road and Mudford Road by Wessex Archaeology between 2009 and 2015 recorded extensive evidence for prehistoric and later activity. Investigations revealed Bronze Age cremation burials with extensive associated settlement represented by substantial ditched enclosures, post-built structures, rubbish pits and hearths, while the Late Iron Age/Roman period was evidenced by large sub-rectangular ditched settlement and field enclosures. Closer to the site, at the recreation ground some 600m to the south, later prehistoric and Roman settlement has been recorded during rapid excavation which followed the groundworker's discovery of a Roman coin hoard.

The area is thought to have been repopulated in the Saxon period. Earthworks recorded in the vicinity of Up Mudford to the north-east of the site are indicative of shrunken medieval settlement remains, surrounded by remnant ridge and furrow. The site itself is likely to have been situated within the agricultural hinterland of nearby settlements at this time. The Medieval and Post-Medieval landscape is represented across the area as boundary and/or drainage ditches, remnants of ridge and furrow, brick and dye works, turnpike roads and buildings within nearby settlements.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project are:

- to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;
- to identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and

to produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

It was proposed to excavate 21 trenches mechanically under constant archaeological supervision to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon or the natural geology. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining full excavation.

## **Results**

All but three trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 2). The alignment of trenches 17 and 19 had to be altered to avoid damage to a sewer running across north-western part of site. Trench 18 was moved to the east to avoid excavation in alluvium which, in western part of trench 17 proved to be at least 2m deep. Trench lengths ranged from 23m to 31.70m and from 0.40m to 2.01m in depth. Trenches 1 to 5 were 1.6m wide and trenches 6 to 21 were 1.8m wide. Features of archaeological potential were only revealed in trenches 1, 2, 5, 7 and 14. A full list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and description of stratigraphy and geology is given in Appendix 1. All investigated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 5)

Trench 1 was aligned N – S and was 23 m long and from 0.80 m in the south to 1.20 deep at the north end of the trench. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of light grey topsoil (50) and 0.20m light brown yellow subsoil (51) above grey brown alluvium (59) above light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone - natural geology. At 10.20m from the south end of the trench was ditch 1 (Pl 5). It was orientated W – E, 0.92m wide and 0.20 m deep. It was filled with light brownish yellow sandy clay (52) which produced no datable artefacts. A medieval pottery rim sherd was recovered from the trench spoil heap.

### Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 6)

Trench 2 was aligned W – E and was 26m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51) as recorded in Trench 1, above light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone, natural geology. At 6.60m from the west end of the trench was a possible gully. It was aligned roughly N-S and was recorded in plan but not investigated. Some 7.5m further to the east from the gully was ditch 3. It was orientated SW-NE, 2.34 wide and 0.26 m deep. Almost immediately to the east was ditch 4. This

was aligned SE- NW, 0.64m wide and 0.12m deep. Both ditches were filled with similar deposits (54 and 55 respectively), of light brown to yellow sandy clay with frequent ironstone, which contained no datable artefacts.

#### Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

The trench was aligned W –E. It was 26m long and up to 0.74m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil (50) and 0.45m of subsoil (51) (as in Trenches 1 and 2) above light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone, natural geology. Approximately 22m from the west end of the trench was gully 6. It was N-S orientated, 0.34 m wide and 0.13m deep. The gully was filled with light yellowish brown sandy clay (57) with moderate ironstone but no finds.

#### Trench 5 (Fig 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 7)

The trench was aligned N –S. It was 25.30m long and up to 0.57 m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.18 m of subsoil (51) above light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone, natural geology. At the south end of the trench was SE-NW orientated ditch 5. This was 0.70m wide, 0.26m deep and was filled by light brownish red sandy clay (56) which produced no datable artefacts.

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 8 )

Trench 7 was aligned SE – NW and was 31.70m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil (50) above 0.23 m subsoil (51) above light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay natural geology. Approximately 17m from south-east end of the trench was a linear feature (7) which was cutting from below topsoil and through subsoil. It was 0.30m wide and 0.90m deep. The vertical sides of the cut and abruptly sloped base suggested that it was recent machine cut land drain. It was filled with dark brown silty sand (53) which contained a fragment of cream glazed ware of clearly 20th -century date (not retained).

#### Trench 14 (Fig. 2, 3 and 4; Pls 4 and 9)

Trench 14 was aligned close to south–north and was 24m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil (50) above 0.18m subsoil (51) above light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone natural geology. Some 10.40m from the south end of the trench was a ditch (7) orientated NW-SE. This was 0.85m wide, 0.30m deep and was filled by light yellowish brown sandy clay (58) which produced one sherd of pottery tentatively dated to Roman period; although an Early Bronze Age date is also possible.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Richard Tabor*

The evaluation produced only two pottery sherds, weighing 9g.

An indeterminate sherd lacking surfaces from deposit (58) in ditch 7 was in a soapy, grey micaceous, silty fabric including sparse to moderate fine (<1mm) and medium (<2mm) and rare coarse (<4mm) dark grey grog. The fabric is denser than the otherwise comparable South Cadbury Environs Project's Beaker to middle Bronze Age fabric C (Tabor and Darvill forthcoming) and a much later, possibly Roman, date cannot be excluded and may be considered more probable.

An everted T-form rim over a gently concave medium/long neck from the spoilheap of Trench 1 is of medieval date. It is in a hard, grey fabric including abundant fine (<0.5mm) and sparse fine/medium (<1mm) sub-rounded quartz, sparse fine (<1mm) to medium (<2mm) reddish-brown sub-rounded iron oxides, rare hard black rounded iron stones and rare fine (<1mm) to medium/coarse (<3mm) sub-angular flint. The rim is similar to examples from Ilchester (pottery group type B) characterized by very variable quartzitic gritted fabrics which included some flint or chert (Pearson 1982, 171, fig. 83, 667). The group was dated to the late 11th to 12th century AD. At Church Street, Milborne Port, Blinkhorn (2003, 42) preferred a 12th- to 14th-century date for a sandy fabric including rare flint and fine black ironstone. Subsequent work at Millbrook Mews, Milborne Port noted that the same fabric had been used in forms circulating around AD1200 (Mephram 2012, 60).

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation has successfully investigated the site. Most of the excavated trenches were devoid of features or finds of archaeological interest. Five trenches (1, 2, 4, 5 and 14) located mostly to the north of site and along the eastern field boundary revealed a single ditch or gully each, with the exception of trench 2 where two ditches and a possible gully were recorded. Dating evidence was very scarce and comprised only a rim sherd of medieval date from the spoilheap of trench 1 and a single, heavily abraded sherd from the ditch in trench 14 which is only very tentatively dated to the Roman period. The north-eastern part of site is considered to have some archaeological potential.



## References

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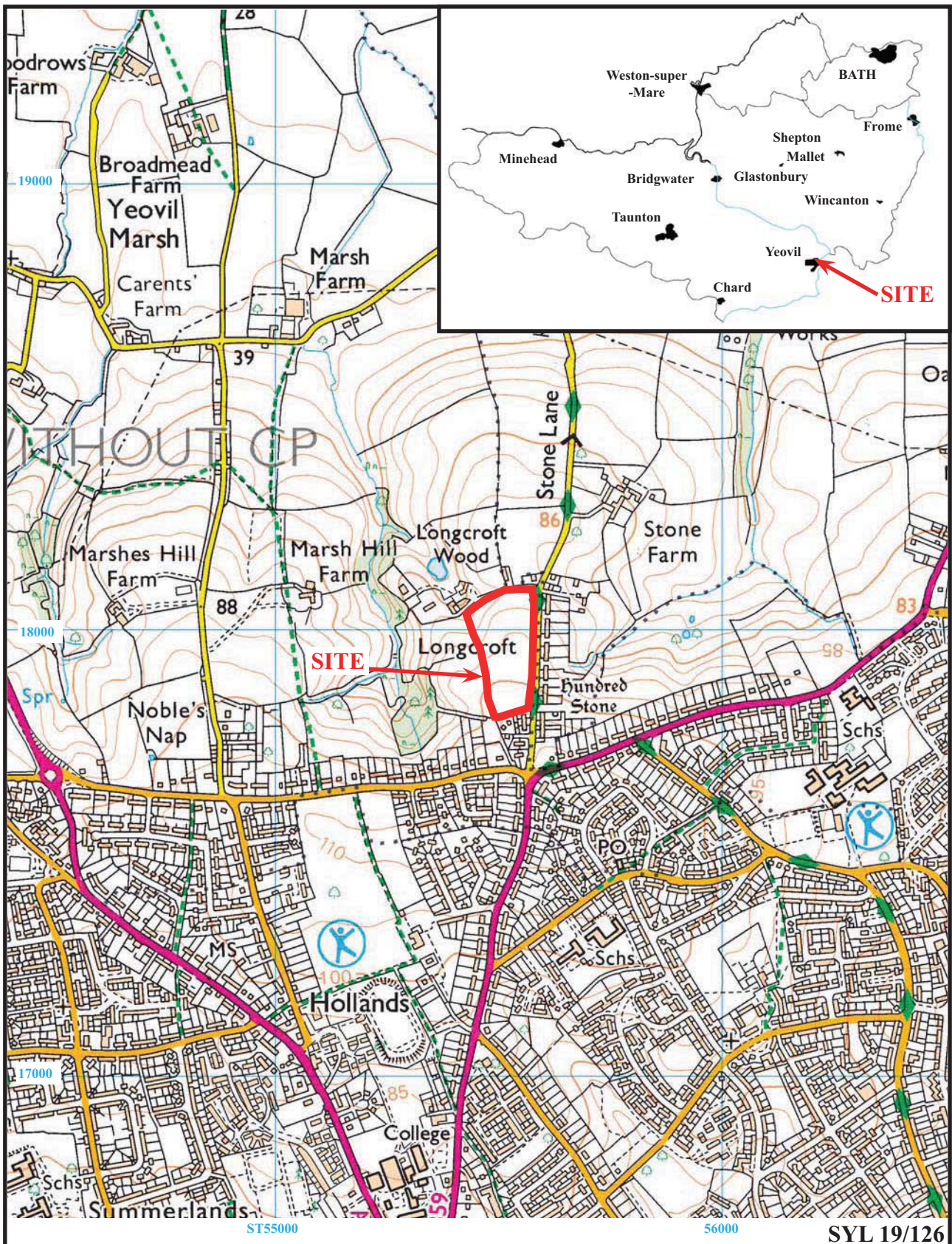
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

*0m at South, West or South West end*

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	23.00	1.60	0.80 - 1.20	0-0.40 Topsoil; 0.40 - 0.60 Subsoil; 0.60 – 1.10 Alluvium; 1.10 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology). Ditch (1). <b>[Pl. 5]</b>
2	26.00	1.60	0.40	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20 - 0.35 Subsoil; 0.35 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology). Ditches (3, 4). <b>[Pls 1; 6]</b>
3	25.80	1.60	0.50	0-0.35 Topsoil; 0.35 - 0.45 Subsoil; 0.45 + reddish brown silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
4	26.10	1.60	0.74	0-0.23 Topsoil; 0.23 - 0.68 Subsoil; 0.68 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology). Gully (6). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
5	25.30	1.60	0.57	0-0.28 Topsoil; 0.28 - 0.46 Subsoil; 0.46 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology). Ditch (5). <b>[Pl. 7]</b>
6	25.10	1.80	0.45 – 0.70	0-0.15 Topsoil; 0.15 - 0.45 Subsoil; 0.35 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay (Natural Geology).
7	31.70	1.80	0.63	0-0.27 Topsoil; 0.27 - 0.50 Subsoil; 0.50 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay (Natural Geology). Land drain (2). <b>[Pl. 8]</b>
8	29.40	1.80	0.50	0-0.25 Topsoil; 0.25 - 0.43 Subsoil; 0.43 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
9	27.60	1.80	0.51	0-0.27 Topsoil; 0.27 - 0.40 Subsoil; 0.40 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
10	29.00	1.80	0.40 - 0.50	0-0.25 Topsoil; 0.25 - 0.35 Subsoil; 0.35 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
11	24.00	1.80	0.60	0-0.27 Topsoil; 0.27 - 0.40 Subsoil; 0.40 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
12	25.80	1.80	0.54	0-0.23 Topsoil; 0.23 - 0.35 Subsoil; 0.35 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
13	26.60	1.80	0.56	0-0.28 Topsoil; 0.28 - 0.42 Subsoil; 0.42 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
14	24.00	1.80	0.54	0-0.22 Topsoil; 0.22 - 0.38 Subsoil; 0.38 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology). Ditch (7). <b>[Pls 4; 9]</b>
15	26.30	1.80	0.60	0-0.24 Topsoil; 0.24 - 0.40 Subsoil; 0.40 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
16	29.20	1.80	0.56	0-0.30 Topsoil; 0.30 - 0.42 Subsoil; 0.42 + reddish brown silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
17	24.60	1.80	0.58 - 2.01	W: 0-0.36 Topsoil; 0.36 - 0.52 Subsoil; 0.52 – 2.01 Alluvium; E: 0-0.36 Topsoil; 0.36 - 0.52 Subsoil; 0.52 – 1.20 Alluvium; 1.20 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology). Ditch (1). <b>[Pl. 10]</b>
18	25.10	1.80	0.50	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20 - 0.44 Subsoil; 0.44 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
19	27.10	1.80	0.48	0-0.26 Topsoil; 0.26 - 0.39 Subsoil; 0.39 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
20	27.10	1.80	0.60	0-0.30 Topsoil; 0.30 - 0.56 Subsoil; 0.56 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).
21	24.70	1.80	0.60	0-0.20 Topsoil; 0.20 - 0.50 Subsoil; 0.50 + light reddish/yellow silty clay and grey clay and light yellow sandstone (Natural Geology).

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52	Ditch	Undated	
7	2	53	Land drain	Modern	Pottery and stratigraphy
2	3	54	Ditch	Undated	
2	4	55	Ditch	Undated	
5	5	56	Ditch	Undated	
4	6	57	Gully	Undated	
14	7	58	Ditch	Roman (?)	Pottery



**Land at Stone Lane,  
Yeovil, Somerset, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Yeovil and Somerset.

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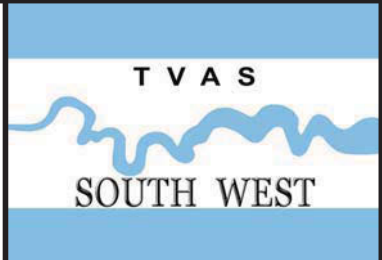


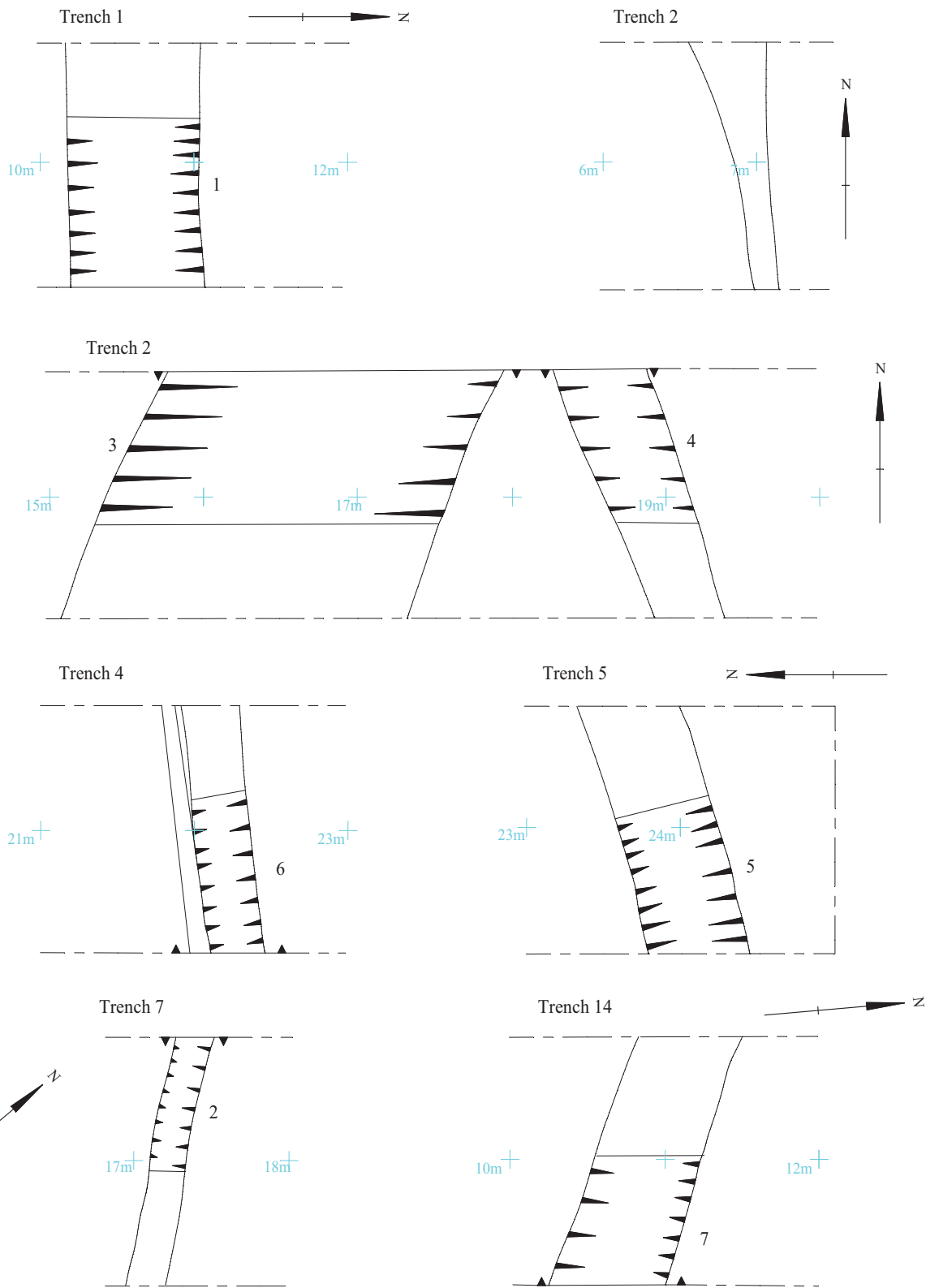
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**Land off Stone Lane,  
Yeovil, Somerset, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Site plan showing location of trenches..

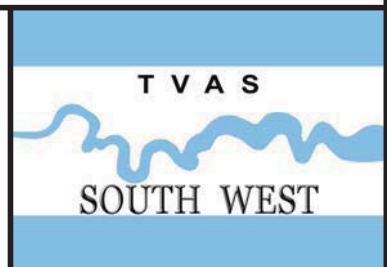


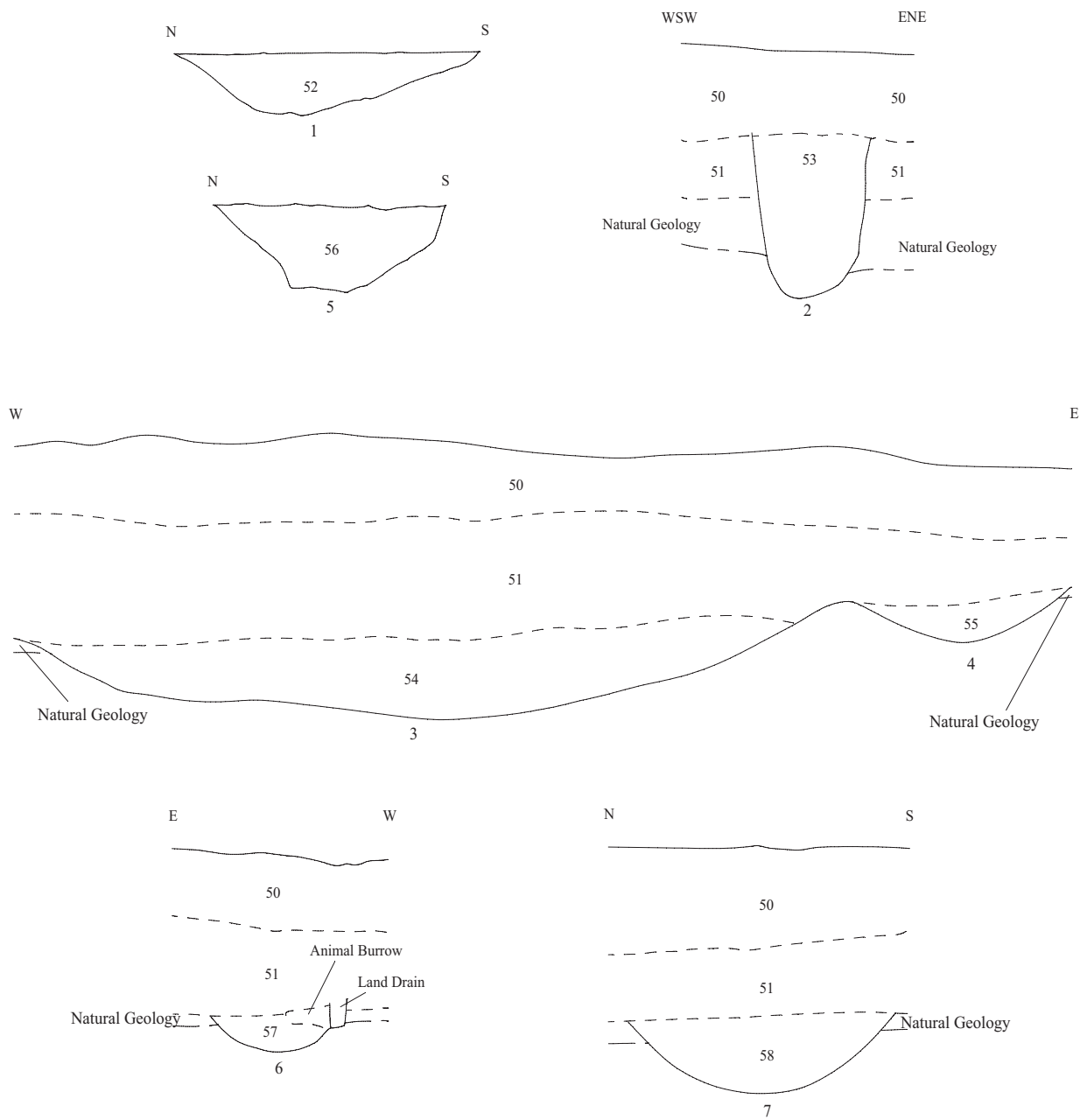


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**Land at Stone Lane,  
Yeovil, Somerset, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Trench details.





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Figure 4. Representative sections.

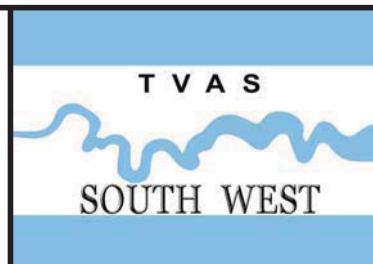




Plate 1. Trench 2, looking E, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking E, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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**Land off Stone Lane,  
Yeovil, Somerset 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 and 2.**







Plate 3. Trench 9, looking NE, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 14, looking SW, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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**Land off Stone Lane,  
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Plates 3 and 4.**





Plate 5. Ditch 1, looking SE, Scales: 1m and 0.2m.



Plate 6. Ditches 3 and 4, looking NW Scales: 2m, 1m, 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 7. Ditch 5, looking NE, Scales: 1m.



Plate 8. Land drain 2, looking SW, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**Land off Stone Lane,  
Yeovil, Somerset, 2019  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 5 to 8.**





Plate 9. Ditch 7, looking SE, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 10. Alluvium in Trench 17, looking SW, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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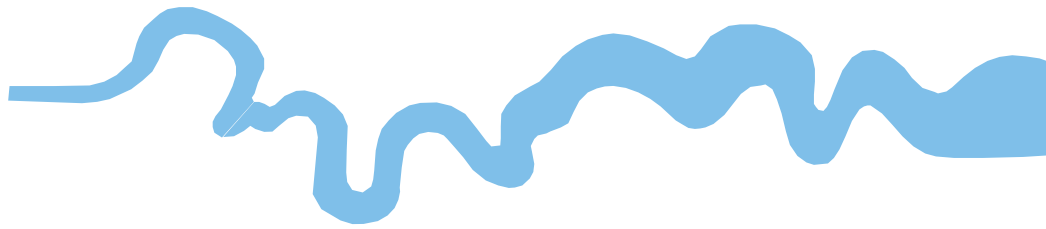
**Land off Stone Lane,  
Yeovil, Somerset  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 9 and 10.**



## 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





**TVAS (South West),  
Unit 21 Apple Business Centre,  
Frobisher Way,  
Taunton TA2 6BB  
Tel: 01823 288284  
Email: [southwest@tvas.co.uk](mailto:southwest@tvas.co.uk)  
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