LAND off KILMERSDON ROAD RADSTOCK BATH & NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES & HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
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Date: 24.03.14
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Land off Kilmersdon Road
Radstock, Bath and North-East Somerset

Results of an Archaeological Evaluation

For

Kevin Bird

of

The Silverwood Partnership

By

SWARCH project reference: RHL14
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National Grid Reference: ST 68793 54066
Planning Application Ref: pre-planning
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Specialist Report: Animal Bone: Hayley Foster
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March 2014

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. in March 2014 at land off Kilmersdon Road, Radstock, Somerset, in advance of proposals for a housing development. This work followed on from and validated a geophysical survey that had identified a small number of magnetic anomalies. The linear anomalies identified proved to be deep rock-cut ditches of Prehistoric date. A cluster of pits identified on the eastern part of the site contained very compact, very clean fills, and both sets of features appear to have been deliberately backfilled at the end of their use-life. The nature and function of these features remains ambiguous. It is possible they form the last and most durable elements of a formerly more extensive buried landscape, or perhaps form part of an unfinished monument.

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Acknowledgements

Thanks for assistance are due to:

Kevin Bird of the Silverwood Partnership
The landowner for permitting access to the site.

1.0 Introduction

Location: Land off Kilmersdon Road
Parish: Radstock
County: North Somerset

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) on land off Kilmersdon Road, Radstock, Bath and North-East Somerset (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Kevin Bird of the Silverwood Partnership (the Client), to validate the results of the geophysical survey (Substrata 2014) already undertaken and investigate the small number of features identified by that survey.

1.2 Topographical and Geological Background

The field is located immediately to the north-east of Haydon, approximately 700m south of Radstock town centre at a height of *c*.105-110m AOD (see Figure 1). The field is very gently undulating, and forms part of a flat shelf of land above a tributary of the Wellow Brook.

The soils of this area are the shallow well-drained brashy calcareous clayey soils of the Sherborne Association (SSEW 1983), which overlie the mudstones and Limestones of the Langport Member and Blue Lias Formation (BGS 2014).

1.3 Historical Background

The site lies close to the southern edge of the old parish of Radstock, which lay within the Hundred of Kilmersdon. The proposed development would be located in fields that formed part of the Manor of Radstock, which had been owned by the Waldegrave family since the 17th century.

The field falls into the category of *Group A1* under the Avon Historic Landscape Characterisation, late medieval enclosed open fields created by local arrangement and exchange. The 18th and 19th century maps of this area show it to be characterised by blocks of long narrow fields; most of those field boundaries were lost before *c*.1840.

1.4 Archaeological Background

Some archaeological fieldwork has taken place in the immediate area, particularly to the south and south-east, and in Radstock to the north. Extensive geophysical surveys undertaken either side of Waterside Lane in Kilmersdon Parish 800m to the south identified a double-ditched enclosure, several groups of roundhouses, a Romano-British settlement and several rectangular structures (Substrata 2013; Pre-Construct Geophysics 2013). Interventions in the town itself have rarely produced much early material, but the small Romano-British town of Camerton lies 2km to the north on the line of the Fosse Way. Quarrying immediately to the north-east of the site has also uncovered Romano-British remains (MBN1178). A Bronze Age barrow stands 180m north-east of the site (MBN1177).

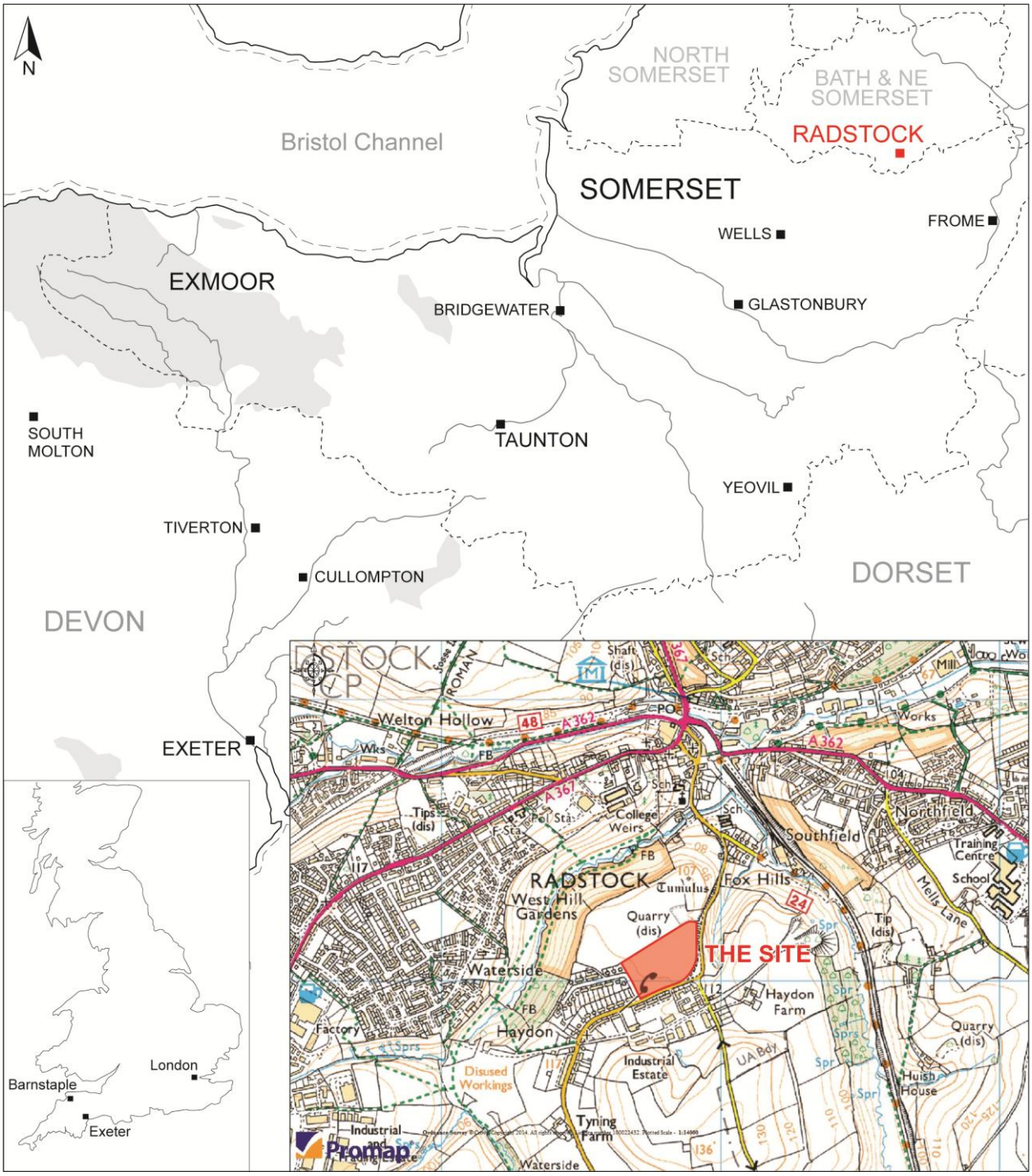

Figure 1: Site location.

1.5 Methodology

The desk-based appraisal and archaeological monitoring were undertaken during March 2014 in accordance with a Project Design drawn up by South West Archaeology Ltd. (Appendix 1) in consultation with Richard Sermon, HEPAO of the Bath and North Somerset Council. The work was undertaken with reference to the appropriate IfA and English Heritage guidelines.

2.0 Summary of the Geophysical Survey

A gradiometer survey was carried out at the site. This work was undertaken by Substrata on behalf of SWARCH in March 2014. What follows is a summary of the full report (see elsewhere, Substrata 2014).

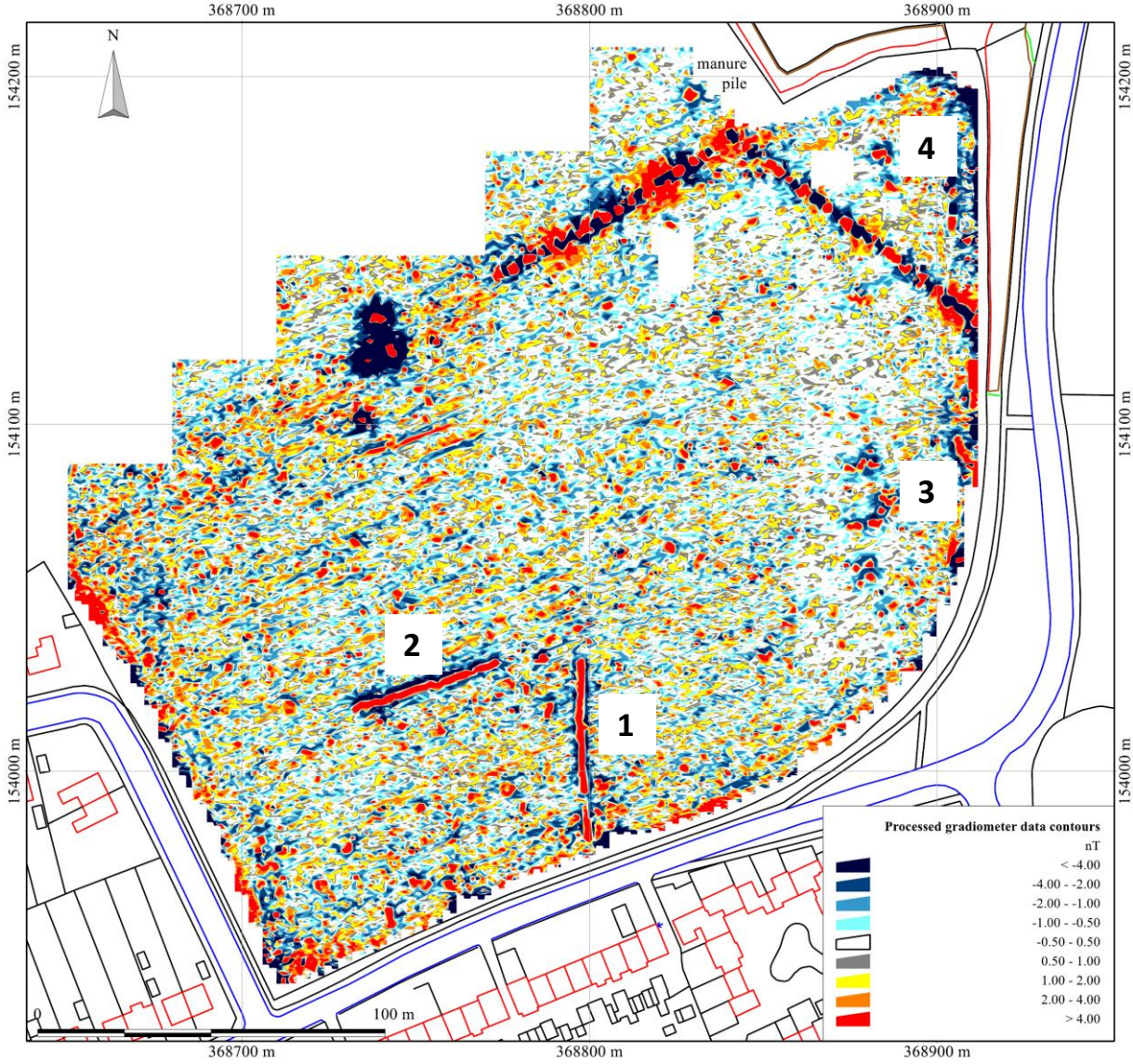

Figure 2: Colour contour plot of the processed data; the archaeological features are indicated (after Substrata 2014, figure 3).

Only four features or groups of features were identified in the survey: two linear anomalies located in the south-west corner of the field, and two small pit clusters close to the eastern field boundary. Anomalies 1 and 2 are short (*c*.50m) lengths of ditch, presumably related to one another, but not conforming to any readily discernible pattern. Anomalies 3 and 4 are pit clusters, but were only recognised as such following the results of the evaluation (see below).

3.0 Results of the Archaeological Monitoring

Five evaluation trenches were opened across the field in question. Three trenches were located to target the small number of geophysical anomalies identified in the survey, the other two trenches were located in 'blank' areas in order to test the results of the geophysical survey. In general, the topsoil across the site was very shallow – often 250mm thick or less – and very stony, indicating the subsoil is being brought up through ploughing.

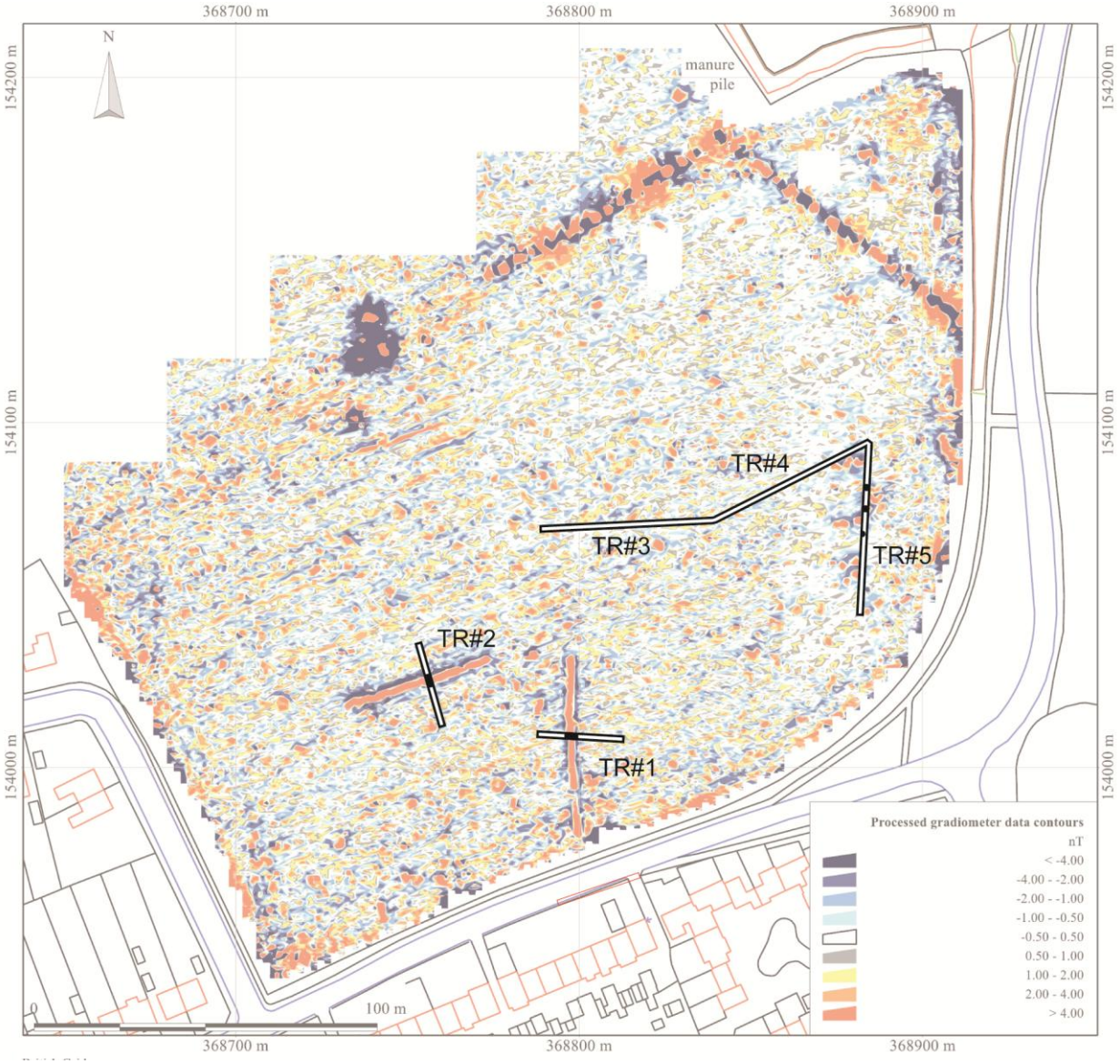

Figure 3: Plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches in relation to the geophysical anomalies.

Trench #1 was located to sample geophysical anomaly #1. This proved to be a rock-cut ditch [101] 2.0m wide and 1.06m deep, with steep sides and a flat base 0.75m wide. It contained five fills: a thin basal deposit (105) of moist greyish-brown clayey-silt, overlain by two thick layers of sub-angular stony rubble (103) and (104) in a matrix of greyish-brown clay silt. There was the suggestion of a lens of gritty brownish-yellow weathered bedrock on the eastern side. The final fill (102) was a thin layer of orange-brown stoneless clay-silt, presumably a remnant topsoil that had collected above the subsiding fills of the feature. A small amount of bone was recovered from the upper stony fill (103), including the butchered jaw of a sheep, and several sherds of co-joining Prehistoric pottery was recovered from fill (104).

Figure 4: Trench #1, viewed from the east (scale 2m).

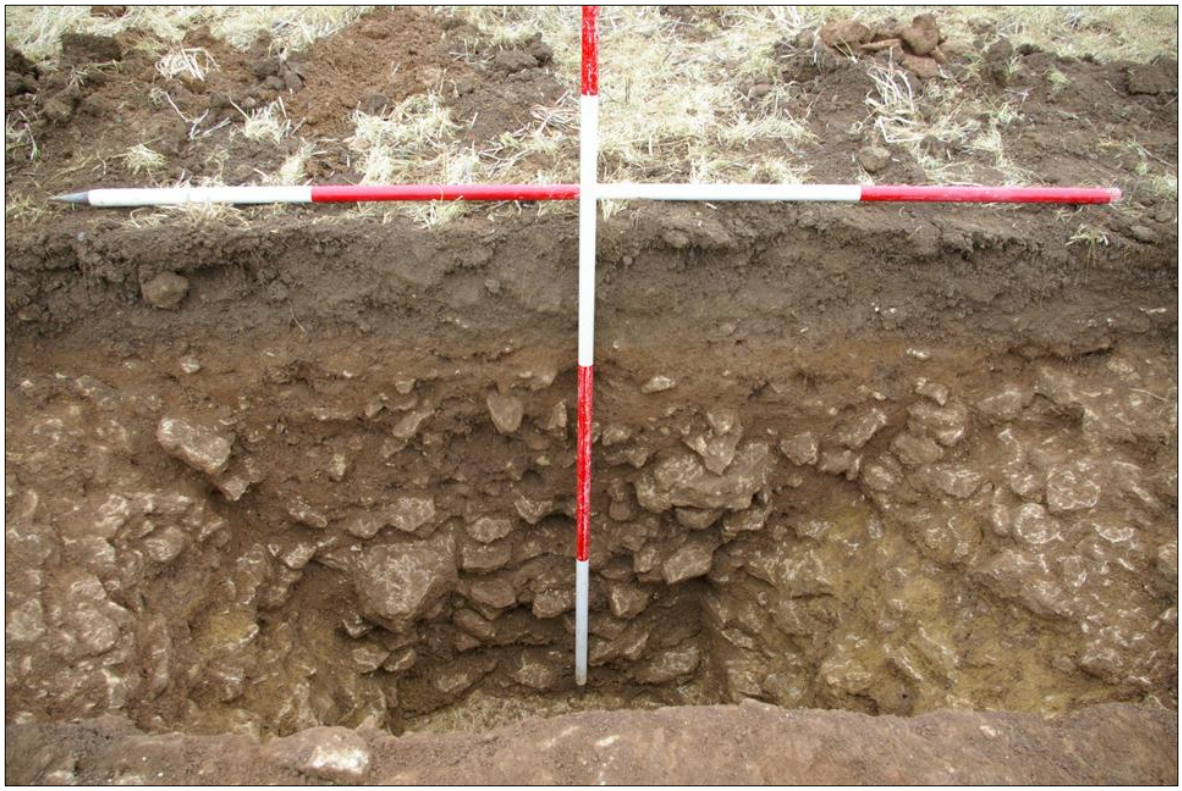

Figure 5: South-facing section through Ditch [101] (scale 2m).

Figure 6: East-facing section through Ditch [201] (scale 2m).

Trench #2 was located to sample geophysical anomaly #2. This proved to be a rock-cut ditch [201] 1.8m wide and 1.15m deep, with steep but irregular sides; the feature was not bottomed, but at 1.10m large sub-rectangular stone blocks were encountered and excavation ceased. The six fills of this feature were very similar to those of Ditch [101]. There was a basal deposit (207) of moist greyish-brown clayey-silt, overlain by two thick layers of sub-angular stony rubble (203) and (206) in a matrix of greyish-brown clay silt. There were lenses of gritty brownish-yellow weathered bedrock on both the eastern and the western side, above fill (206), which may also have accumulated naturally. The final fill (102) was a thin layer of orange-brown stoneless clay-silt, presumably a remnant topsoil that had collected above the subsiding fills of the feature.
Fill (203) produced the butchered humerus of a pig, perforated at one end, perhaps for suspension.

These two features are difficult to explain, and perhaps represent part of an unfinished monument; alternatively, any associated features may no longer survive. The very stony nature of the fills, and the lack of fine silting in Ditch [101] would suggest that this feature was backfilled rapidly following the end of its use-life, and that backfilling took place soon after construction or it were kept cleaned out during use. The lenses of weathered bedrock above fill (206) in Ditch [201] would, however, suggest this feature was open for some time during the process of backfilling.

No features were identified in Trenches #3 and #4.

Trench #5 was located to target a cluster of small geophysical anomalies. Three small pits were identified, two of which were excavated. Posthole [501] was oval in plan, 0.7×0.45m and 0.38m deep, with sloping sides and concave base. Pit [503] was irregular in plan, and may well be composed of multiple intercutting features. Pit [503] was 1m wide and spanned the width of the trench; it was up to 0.42m deep, with steep or vertical sides and a concave base. Both features contained single fills, and they were both very firm dense clean stoneless reddish-brown clay-silts. Despite the irregular morphology of these pits, the fills would suggest they are unlikely to be

natural. The function of these pits is again difficult to ascertain, but the homogenous character of the fills, and the lack of inclusions, would suggest they were deliberately backfilled.

Figure 7: Posthole [501], post-excavation, from the east (scale 2m).

Figure 8: Pit [503], post-excavation, from the south (scale 2m).

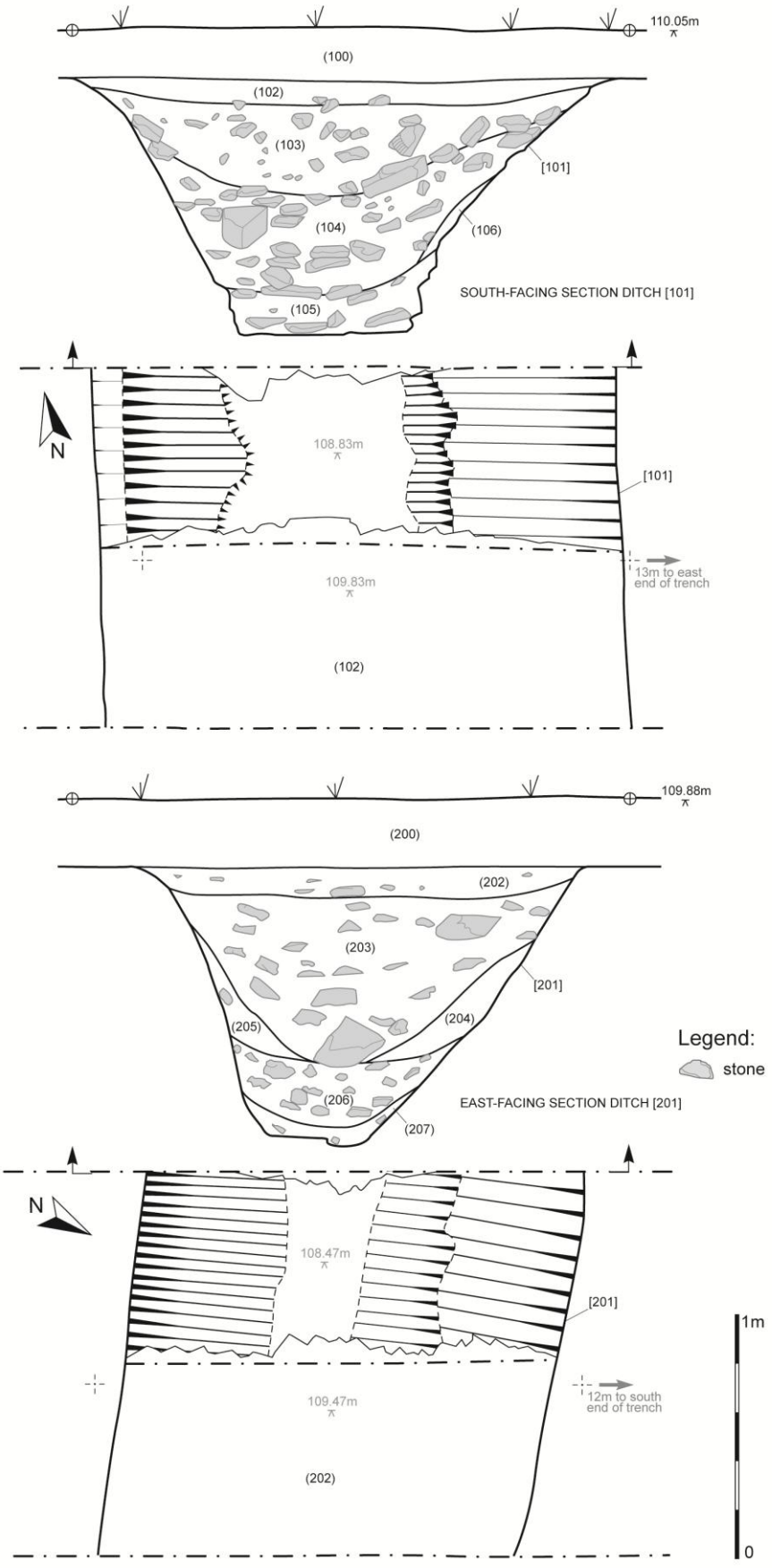

Figure 9: Plans and sections of features in Trenches #1 and #2.

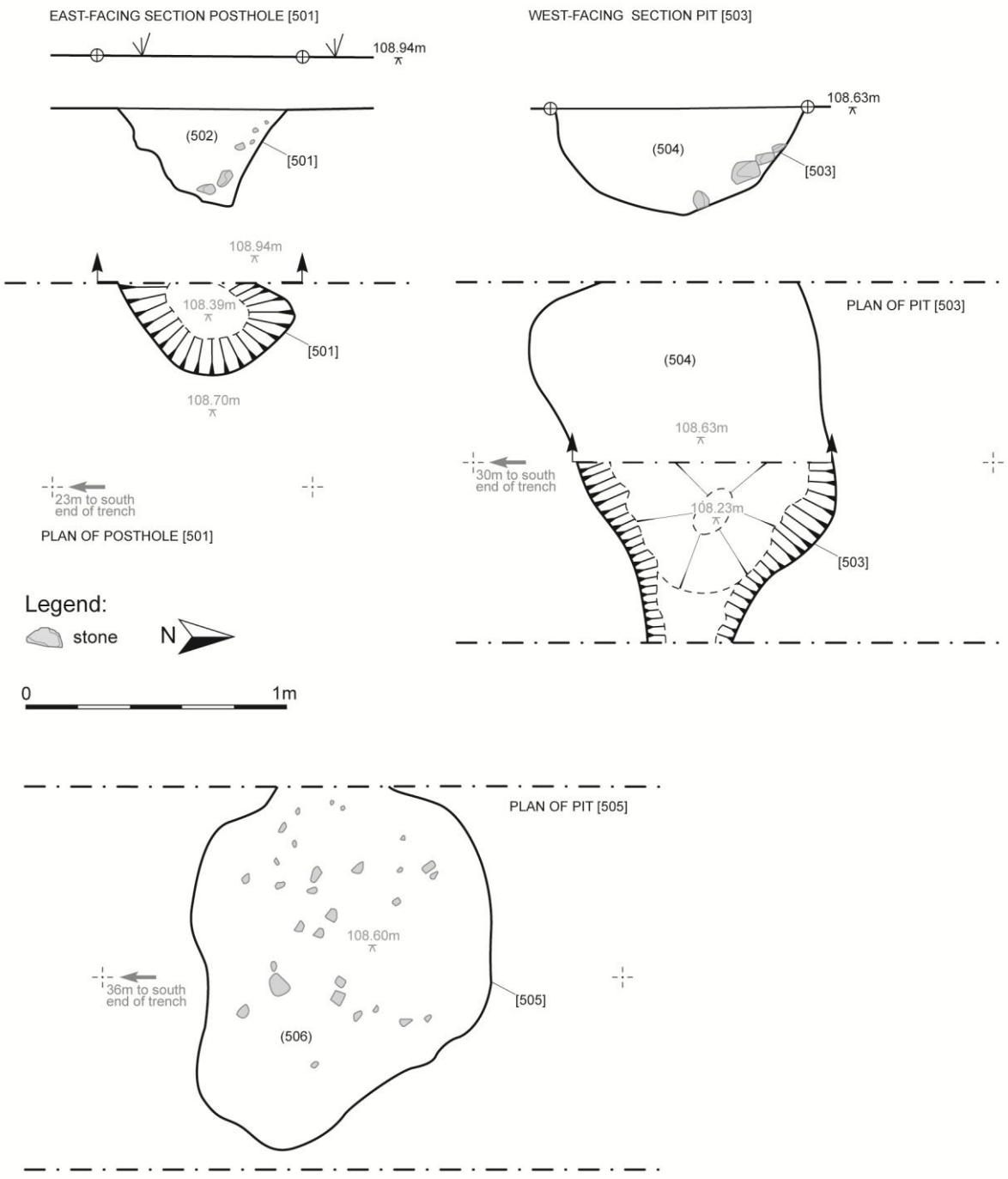

Figure 10: Plans and sections of features in Trench #5.

Figure 11: Trench #4, viewed from the north-east (scale 2m).

4.0 Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation carried out at Kilmersdon Road, Radstock, validated the results of the geophysical survey. The linear anomalies identified proved to be deep rock-cut ditches that are Prehistoric in date, that contain both artefactual and ecofactual evidence. In addition, the lowest fills contain charcoal suitable for dating purposes. The pits identified on the eastern part of the site contained very compact, very clean fills, and both sets of features appear to have been deliberately backfilled at the end of their use-life.

The dating – broadly Bronze or Iron Age – is in keeping with our understanding of this area as an inhabited and utilised landscape, despite the fact that most of our evidence is Romano-British in date. The nature and function of these features remains, however, ambiguous. It is possible they form the last and most durable elements of a formerly more extensive buried landscape. Alternatively, the evidence for backfilling might suggest they form part of an unfinished monument.

5.0 Bibliography & References

Published Sources:

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

Unpublished Sources:

Pre-Construct Geophysics 2013: *Archaeological Geophysical Survey: proposed solar farm, land at Kilmersdon Estate, Kilmersdon, Somerset*.

Substrata 2013: *An Archaeological Gradiometer Survey: land at Kilmersdon Estate, Kiilmersdon, Somerset*. Report 130107.

Substrata 2014: *An Archaeological Gradiometer Survey: land at Area RAD31C, Kilmersdon Road, Haydon, Radstock, Somerset*. Report 140305.

Websites:

British Geological Survey 2014: *Geology of Britain Viewer*. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html [accessed 20.03.2014]

Appendix 1
PROJECT DESIGN FOR EVALUATION TRENCHING AND HISTORIC VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON PARCEL 7800, GROVE WOOD ROAD, RADSTOCK, SOMERSET

Location: Parcel 7800, Grove Wood Road
Parish: Radstock
County: Somerset
NGR: ST 68793 54066
Proposal: Residential development
Date: 27.02.2014

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document forms a Project Design (PD) which has been produced by South West Archaeology Limited (SWARCH) at the request of Kevin Bird (the Client). It sets out the methodology for geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, and for related off site analysis and reporting at Grove Wood Road, Radstock, following the desk-based research which has already been carried out by AC Archaeology. The PD and the schedule of work it proposes have been drawn up in consultation with Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The desk-based report identified two Bronze Age burial mounds (MBN1177 and MBN2232) to the south of Radstock. The proximity of MBN1177 to the development indicates the potential for further remains of a similar date on the site.

The desk-based study also highlights the potential for Romano-British remains at this location, with a site to the north at the disused Kilmersdon quarry containing a pit, trenches and a burial (MBN1178). There is other recorded activity potentially from this period in the area, including a tombstone (MBN1173) and findspots (MBN1187 and MBN1187). Earthworks in the area (MBN1176) and burials around 650m north-east of the site (MBN 2233) which are undated, may also relate to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods.

3.0 AIMS

3.1 The principal objectives of the work will be to:

3.1.1 To assess the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits.

3.1.2 Produce a report containing the results of the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching;

3.1.3 Provide a statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource, with recommendations for those areas where further evaluation and/or mitigation strategies may be required.

4.0 METHOD

4.1 Geophysical Survey:

A geophysical investigation of the site shall be carried out, covering approximately 2 hectares. A magnetrometry survey will be undertaken using a Bartington GRAD601-2 DUAL gradiometer**.**

The results of the assessment and geophysical survey will be discussed with BANES, and based on this consultation may determine the positioning of any evaluative excavations. This information will be presented as part of the final report along with the results of the fieldwork.

4.2 Evaluation Trenching:

A series of trenches will be excavated across the proposed development area; the location of these excavations will be determined in consideration of the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, the below-ground impact of the proposed development and the site topography.

These excavations will adequately investigate the areas that will be affected by the proposed development. The layout of the trenches will be agreed in consultation with BANES following the results of 4.1 above.

All groundworks across the site will be undertaken by a 360º tracked or wheeled JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of *in situ* subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits, whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits. Should archaeological features and deposits be exposed, they will be excavated by the site archaeologist by hand.

4.2.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the *Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008)* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008).*

4.2.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

4.2.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to IfA guidelines. All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation. An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. Where digital imagery is the sole photographic record, archivable prints will be prepared by a photographic laboratory.

4.2.4 If archaeological features are exposed, then *as a minimum*:

i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;

ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);

iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length, with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature, and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.

iv) One long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.

Should the above % excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Any variation of the above will be undertaken in consultation with the HES.

4.2.5 Artefacts will be bagged and labelled on site. Unstratified post-1800 pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained. Following post-excavation analysis and recording, further material may be discarded, subject to consultation with the appropriate specialists and the receiving Museum;

4.2.6 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.

4.2.7 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2002).

4.2.8 Human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

4.2.9 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, will be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4.2.10 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, the HET will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, the HET and the client/applicant will be held to determine the appropriate response.

5.0 REPORT

5.1 A report will be produced and will include the following elements:

5.1.1 A report number and the OASIS ID number;

5.1.2 A location map, a map or maps showing assets referred to in the text and copies of historic maps and plans consulted shall be included, with the boundary of the development site clearly marked on each. All plans will be tied to the national grid;

5.1.3 A concise non-technical summary of the project results;

5.1.4 The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation;

5.1.5 Illustrations of the site in relation to known archaeological deposits/sites around it, in order to place the site in its archaeological context;

5.1.6 A statement of the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource, and shall indicate any areas where further evaluation (e.g. intrusive trenching) and/or recording is recommended;

5.1.7 A copy of this PD will be included as an appendix.

5.2 The full report will be submitted within three months of completion of fieldwork. The report will be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. A copy will be provided to the HES in digital 'Adobe Acrobat' PDF format.

5.3 A copy of the report detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigations*) database under a record number Southwes1-172918.

6.0 FURTHER WORK

Should the results of this Assessment indicate a need for further archaeological works to be undertaken this may need to be completed before validation of the Planning Application in order to enable the Local Planning Authority to make an informed and reasonable decision on the application, in accordance with the guidelines contained within paragraph 141 and paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012).

7.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

7.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) English Heritage 2006 upon completion of the project. If artefactual material is recovered the requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Museum of Somerset under an accession number.

7.2 Where there is only a documentary archive this will be deposited with the Museum of Somerset. A copy of the report will also be supplied to the National Monuments Record (NMR) Swindon.

7.3 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEPAO.

8.0 PERSONNEL

The project will be managed by Colin Humphreys; the geophysical survey and evaluation trenching will be carried out by SWARCH personnel with suitable expertise and experience. Relevant staff of BANES will be consulted as appropriate. Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be sought (see list of consultant specialists in the list below).

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List of specialists

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Plant macro-fossils Julie Jones juliedjones@blueyonder.co.uk

Pollen analysis Ralph Fyfe Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 8AA

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Prehistoric Henrietta Quinnell 39D Polsloe Road, Exeter EX1 2DN Tel: 01392 433214

Roman Alex Croom, Keeper of Archaeology Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Arbeia Roman Fort and Museum, Baring Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE332BB Tel: (0191) 454 4093 alex.croom@twmuseums.org.uk

Medieval John Allen, 22, Rivermead Road Exeter EX2 4RL Tel: 01392 256154 john.p.allan@btinternet.com

Post Medieval Graham Langman Exeter, EX1 2UF Tel: 01392 215900 email: su1429@eclipse.co.uk

Appendix 2
Context List

Notes:
Numbers shown as (101) represent layers or fills; numbers shown as [102] represent cuts.

Context	Description		Relationships	Depth/Thickness	Spot Date
TRENCH #1					
(100)	*Topsoil*	Mid brown	Overlies everything	0.2-0.3m	
[101]	*Cut*	Rock-cut ditch 2m wide and 1.06m deep; steep sides, vertical in places; flat base	Contains (102)(103)(104)(105)(106)	1.06m	BA/IA
(102)	*Fill*	Uppermost fill of [101]; soft orange-brown clayey-silt; largely stoneless; clean; probable remnant topsoil	Fill of [101]; overlies (103); overlain by (100)	0.11m	
(103)	*Fill*	Fill of [101]; layer of sub-angular rubble in a matrix of friable orange-brown clayey-silt; clean; stones up to 250mm across, but mostly 100-150mm in diameter; animal bone	Fill of [101]; overlies (104); overlain by (102)	0.36m	
(104)	*Fill*	Fill of [101]; layer of sub-angular rubble in a matrix of moist greyish-brown clayey silt; occasional charcoal fragments; stones tending to be larger and more platey than in (103); pottery; snail shells noted	Fill of [101]; overlies (106); overlain by (103)	0.40m	
(105)	*Fill*	Basal fill of [101]; moist greyish-brown clayey-silt; common small charcoal fragments	Fill of [101]; overlain by (106)	0.10m	
(106)	*Fill*	Fill of [101]; lens of gritty pale brownish-yellow weathered limestone 'sand' on eastern side of cut	Fill of [101]; overlies (105); overlain by (104)	0.20m	
TRENCH #2					
(200)	*Topsoil*	Same as (100)	Overlies everything	0.2-0.3m	
[201]	*Cut*	Rock-cut ditch 1.8m wide and 1.15m deep; steep sides, vertical in places; irregular base; less regular than [201]	Contains (202)(203)(204)(205)(206)	1.15m	BA/IA
(202)	*Fill*	Uppermost fill of [201]; soft orange-brown clayey-silt; largely stoneless; clean; probable remnant topsoil	Fill of [201]; overlies (203); overlain by (200)	0.14m	
(203)	*Fill*	Fill of [201]; layer of sub-angular rubble in a matrix of friable orange-brown clayey-silt; clean; stones up to 250mm across, but mostly 100-150mm in diameter; animal bone	Fill of [201]; overlies (204)(205); overlain by (202)	0.70m	
(204)	*Fill*	Fill of [201]; layer of sub-angular rubble in a matrix of moist greyish-brown clayey silt; occasional charcoal fragments; stones tending to be larger and more platey than in (103)	Fill of [201]; overlies (206); overlain by (203)	0.14m	
(205)	*Fill*	Fill of [201]; lens of gritty brownish-yellow weathered limestone 'sand' on northern side of cut	Fill of [201]; overlies (206); overlain by (203)	0.15m	
(206)	*Fill*	Fill of [201]; lens of gritty brownish-yellow weathered limestone 'sand' on southern side of cut	Fill of [201]; overlies (207); overlain by (204)(205)	0.27m	
(207)	*Fill*	Basal fill of [201]; moist greyish-brown clayey-silt; common small charcoal fragments	Fill of [201]; overlain by (206)	0.10m	
TRENCH #3					
(300)	*Topsoil*	Same as (100)	Overlies everything	0.2-0.3m	
TRENCH #4					
(400)	*Topsoil*	Same as (100)	Overlies everything	0.2-0.3m	
TRENCH #5					
(500)	*Topsoil*	Same as (100)	Overlies everything	0.2-0.3m	Modern
[501]	*Cut*	Posthole; oval; 0.7×0.45m across and 0.38m deep; steep, slightly irregular sides and concave base	Contains (502)	0.38m	Prehistoric?
(502)	*Fill*	Fill of [501]; firm, dense reddish-brown clayey silt; clean; stoneless	Fill of [501]; overlain by (500)	0.38m	
[503]	*Cut*	Pit; sub-circular to oval; 1m×1.6m+ and 0.42m deep; steep regular sides and gently-concave base; possibly several features present here	Contains (504)	0.42m	Prehistoric?

(504)	*Fill*	Fill of [503]; firm, dense reddish-brown clayey silt; clean; stoneless	Fill of [503]; overlain by (500)	0.42m	
[505]	*Cut*	Pit; sub-circular to oval; 1.4×1.2m; unexcavated	Contains (506)	?	Prehistoric?
(506)	*Fill*	Fill of [501]; firm, dense reddish-brown clayey silt; clean; stones visible on surface	Fill of [505]; overlain by (500)	?	

Appendix 3
Finds Concordance

A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the site.

Context	Count	Weight	Description
Topsoil	1	3g	Flint: undiagnostic
	9	69g	Pottery: ×7 WRE; ×2 South Somerset C18th
	1	12g	Ceramic land drain
	2	15g	Flowerpot
	3	32g	CBM: possible furnace lining
	1	>1g	Clay tobacco pipe heel, C19th
	3	171g	Iron slag
	1	6g	Vessel glass, modern
(102)	8	24g	Animal bone: sheep/goat, cattle
	2	9g	Flint: undiagnostic
(103)	4	32g	Pottery (co-joining):
(202)	1	12g	Animal bone: pig humerus

Appendix 4
Specialist Reports

Prehistoric Pottery *by Dr Imogen Wood*

Two sherds of co-joining pottery and two small scraps were recovered from Ditch [101] fill (104). These are upper body sherds, one with a depression from an applied handle. The vessel was coil built. The sherds have a reduced interior and core with oxidised exterior surface. There are occasional voids on the exterior surface, and the interior surface is coated with burnt material. They were examined macroscopically with a hand lens at ×2 magnification to identify the fabric. Fabric sorting is fair with occasional rock fragment temper, inclusions 10%. Abrasion level 2 on the Sorensen scale (1996).

Fabric Description
Quartz, translucent red stained, abundant, polished well-rounded grains, 0.5mm.
Quartz, opaque, scatter, sub-angular, 1mm>.
Limestone, greyish white, common, sub-angular, 0.5mm-3mm.

Dating
The pottery is Prehistoric, and probably Bronze Age or Iron Age. However, the small size of the assemblage and the lack of diagnostic elements makes precise dating difficult.

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Animal Bone *by Hayley Foster*

Introduction
This animal bone report details the analysis of the animal bone recovered from Kilmersdon Road, in Radstock, North Somerset. The bone was recovered from the infill of two linear features on the south-west side of the field. The species represented included cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*) and pig (*Sus sp*.).

Methodology
All fragments were attempted to be identified as only a small amount of animal bone came from the site.

Identification
References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972) and von den Driesch (1976) were used where needed for identification. Attempts to distinguish between sheep and goat were carried out based on morphological characteristics and metric data following Boessneck (1969, 339-341) and Prummel and Frisch (1986, 569-570).

Results of Analysis
There were only nine fragments of animal bone material recovered from the site, seven of which could be identified to element and species.

Fill (103)
The three sheep/goat mandible fragments from this context all came from the same specimen as they fit together. The mandible contained enough teeth for aging purposes using tooth wear analysis, it aged to Higham wear stage 18, indicating a very old animal. There was also butchery evidence on the upper ramus of the mandible with four fine cut marks, which is a possible indication of skinning.

The other remains included a loose maxillary molar from a sheep/goat, a sheep/goat femur shaft, and the upper shaft of a cattle tibia. The long bones could not be used for aging as they did not contain the proximal or distal epiphyses.

Fill (203)

The pig humerus had 5 cut marks on the shaft. These fine knife marks are probable evidence of filleting of meat from the bone. There is also a circular perforation on the distal end on the lateral side of the bone. This is potential evidence of the carcass being hung for butchering purposes.

Element	Cattle	Sheep/Goat	Pig	Total
Humerus			1	1
Mandible		3		3
Loose M12		1		1
Femur		1		1
Tibia	1			1
NISP	1	5	1	7
%NISP	14.3	71.4	14.3	
MNI	1	1	1	3
%MNI	33.3	33.3	33.3	

Table 1: Number of identifiable specimens (NISP) by element and species.
[With the exception of teeth and phalanges, left and right were taken into account for all elements.]

Conclusion

Species represented at Kilmersdon Road include cattle, sheep/goat and pig. While the assemblage is small there is evidence of butchery on a pig humerus and a sheep/goat mandible. At the time of writing, dating of the contexts were not established, yet there is no evidence to the contrary that the animal remains could be from a Prehistoric date as the species found were an integral part of farming and diet in Britain during that time period.

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Flint *by Dr Martin Tingle*

Three fragments of flint were recovered during the investigation. All three pieces were undiagnostic. One fragment was recovered from the topsoil; this was patinated. Not a flake, possibly a core fragment. Two fragments were recovered from fill (103) in Ditch [101]. One flake with recent breakage, patinated; second piece is natural but has a detachment which could indicate human agency but could equally well be a thermal fracture.

Appendix 5
Jpeg List

Number	Description	From	Scale
1	View across the southern half of the site, from the east.	E	2m
2	Trench #5, from the south.	S	2m
3	Trench #4, from the north-east.	NE	2m
4	Trench #3, from the east.	E	2m
5	Trench #2, from the north.	N	2m
6	Trench #1, from the west.	W	2m
7	Trench #1, from the east.	E	2m
8	Trench #1, from the SSE, showing Ditch [101] excavated.	SSE	2m
9	Trench #1, Ditch [101], post-excavation, from the south-east.	SE	2m
10	Trench #1, Ditch [101], post-excavation, from the east.	E	2m
11	Trench #1, Ditch [101], south-facing section.	S	2m
12	Trench #2, Ditch [201], post-excavation, from the east.	E	2m
13	Trench #2, Ditch [201], post-excavation, from the SSE.	SSE	2m
14	Trench #2, Ditch [201], post-excavation, from the NNW.	NNW	2m
15	Trench #2, Ditch [201], east-facing section.	E	2m
16	Trench #5, Posthole [501], east-facing section.	E	2m
17	Trench #5, Posthole [501], post-excavation, from the east.	E	2m
18	Trench #5, Pit [503], west-facing section.	W	2m
19	Trench #5, Pit [503], post-excavation, from the west.	W	2m
20	Trench #5, Pit [505], pre-excavation, from the west.	W	2m

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