

# Land at Banwell North Somerset

*Archaeological Evaluation*



*for:*  
EPD Ltd

*on behalf of:*  
Bloor Homes South West

CA Project: CR1069  
CA Report: CR1069\_1  
OASIS ID: cotswold2-506656  
Somerset Museums Service Accession No.: WESTM.2022.7

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	6
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	7
4. METHODOLOGY .....	8
5. RESULTS .....	9
6. THE FINDS .....	20
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.....	24
8. DISCUSSION.....	27
9. CA PROJECT TEAM .....	30
10. REFERENCES.....	30
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	32
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS .....	50
APPENDIX C: THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	54
APPENDIX D: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE .....	55
APPENDIX E: GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF MONOLITH SAMPLES.....	56
APPENDIX F: OASIS REPORT FORM .....	57

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 Site plan (1:5,000)
- Fig. 3 Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 1: Field 2 (1:750)
- Fig. 4 Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 2: Fields 6 and 8 (1:750)
- Fig. 5 Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 3: Fields 23 and 25 (1:750)
- Fig. 6 Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 4: Field 31 (1:750)
- Fig. 7 Area 1: Trenches 4, 5, and 6: plan (1:200)
- Fig. 8 Area 1: Trenches 4 and 5: sections (1:20) and photograph
- Fig. 9 Area 2: Trench 16: photographs
- Fig. 10 Area 3: Trench 22: plan (1:200), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 11 Area 3: Trench 22: photographs
- Fig. 12 Area 3: Trench 23: photographs
- Fig. 13 Area 3: Trench 24: plan (1:200), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 14 Area 3: Trench 25: plan (1:200), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 15 Area 3: Trench 26: plan (1:200), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 16 Area 4: Trench 33: plan (1:200), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 17 Area 3: Trench 33: section (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 18 Area 3: Trench 35: plan (1:200), sections (1:20) and photographs
- Fig. 19 General photographs

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Land at Banwell
<b>Location:</b>	Banwell, North Somerset
<b>NGR:</b>	338790 160580
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	29 August to 22 September 2022
<b>OASIS ID:</b>	cotswold2-506656
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Somerset Museums Services
<b>Accession Number:</b>	WESTM.2022.7
<b>Site Code:</b>	BANW22

In August and September 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Banwell, North Somerset. A total of 32 trenches were excavated.

Four areas, identified as having archaeological potential by a preceding geophysical survey, were investigated. Three of these areas were located at, or in close proximity to, the current boundary between locally higher ground and low-lying formerly marshy areas associated with the River Banwell and Old Yeo Rhine, with a further area being located exclusively on higher ground.

Scattered features of Iron Age date, comprising pits/postholes and ditches, were identified in the north-western and central parts of the site, however the precise function of these features remains unclear due to their relatively isolated nature within the excavated trenches.

Later Roman (late 2nd to 4th century AD) archaeological features and deposits, mainly comprising ditches and layers of alluvial stabilisation containing quantities of artefactual material, were identified throughout the site. The majority of the identified ditches are currently interpreted as forming parts of a wider series of enclosures and/or field systems identified by the preceding geophysical survey.

Two walls, indicating the presence of two distinct stone-built structures of Roman date, were identified in a trench excavated in the central part of the site. A stone pathway was also identified in the central part of the site and may be associated with these structures. No evidence pertaining to the original functions of these structures was identified during the

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current works and it therefore remains undetermined whether they were associated with domestic, industrial or agricultural activities.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In August and September 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Banwell, North Somerset (centred at NGR: 338790 160580; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for EDP Ltd, who were acting on behalf of Bloor Homes South West.
- 1.2. This evaluation was undertaken to accompany a forthcoming planning application for residential development to be made to North Somerset Council (NSC). The site has previously been subject to geophysical survey (HA 2019), and following consultation between EDP and Cat Lodge, Senior Archaeologist, Development & Environment, NSC, it was determined that a subsequent archaeological trial-trench evaluation would be required.
- 1.3. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Cat Lodge.
- 1.4. This evaluation was also undertaken in line with Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation (Historic England 2015) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

### The site

- 1.5. The proposed development area is approximately 98.6ha in extent and comprises a total of 39 fields, currently under pasture, interspersed with a small number of residential and agricultural properties. The site is bounded to the west by Wolverhill Road, to the north by Eton Lane, to the south-west by residential properties and gardens on the periphery of the village of Banwell, and to the east and south-east by further agricultural fields. The eastern half of the site is located on the North Somerset Levels and typically lies at approximately 4m AOD, with ground levels gradually rising to 26m AOD along the western extent of the site.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology in the eastern half of site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group – Mudstone and Halite of the Triassic Period. This is overlain by superficial Tidal Flat deposits of Clay, Silt and Sand of the Quaternary Period along the site's eastern extent (BGS 2022). The underlying bedrock geology in the central part of the site is mapped as Blue Anchor Formation - Limestone of the Triassic

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Period (ibid.), whilst that in the western parts of the site is mapped as Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (undifferentiated) – Mudstone and Limestone of the Triassic Period (ibid.). The natural geological substrate was only identified in Area 4 during the course of the evaluation, and here it consisted of green-grey silty clays with occasional lenses of mudstone; alluvial deposits were prevalent elsewhere within the site.

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The application area has previously been subject to geophysical survey (HA 2019) and a limited number of archaeological trenches have also previously been excavated within the southern extent of the site during preceding archaeological works associated with the proposed Banwell bypass (WA 2022; Figs 1, 2 and 6). The following is a brief summary of these assessments, supplemented by publicly available information pertinent to the site.
- 2.2. The site is located approximately 1.4km to the north-west of Banwell Camp (National Monument 1001760), an Iron Age univallate hillfort from which a number of earlier finds dating to the Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods have been recovered.
- 2.3. Previous archaeological investigations in the immediate vicinity of the current site indicate that later prehistoric activity is likely to be sealed by the Wentlooge alluvial sequence, often at a considerable depth below present ground level (bpgl), with the North Somerset Levels consisting predominantly of salt marsh and intertidal mudflats laid down during the Iron Age, with some later post-Roman deposition (CA 2019).
- 2.4. During the Roman period land reclamation took place in the context of prosperous villa estates, including those at Wemberham, Locking, Banwell (located c. 0.9km to the south-east of the current site) and Congresbury (Rippon 2006). Roman occupation in the North Somerset Levels typically comprised loose clusters of farmsteads, sited on slightly raised natural platforms, associated with small paddocks or enclosures set amongst larger fields (ibid.). Settlements were predominately engaged in arable cultivation and animal husbandry, dominated by cattle, although salt production was also important to the local economy during the later Iron Age and Roman periods (CA 2019).
- 2.5. The North Somerset Council Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that a substantial quantity of Roman pottery and other Roman finds, including a brooch and



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a fragment of quernstone, were recovered during building works undertaken within the northern part of the site during the 1970s, although the exact location remains unclear (HER ref: MNS 5245).

- 2.6. By the end of the Roman period sea levels rose and most of the Levels reverted to salt marsh and mudflats. Evidence suggests that some Roman sites continued to be occupied, while others were abandoned (Aston and Lewis 1994, 4).
- 2.7. Major re-colonisation of the North Somerset Levels appears to have begun during the 10th century (Rippon 2006, 81), with a greater expansion of the rural economy throughout much of the Levels occurring during the 11th to 13th centuries (Aston and Lewis 1994, 8). The settlement of Banwell, sited on locally higher ground immediately above the Fenland edge, has been in existence since at least the 9th century AD when a monastery was granted to Asser by King Alfred, with further documentary evidence indicating that it was the centre of a royal estate from AD 900 or earlier.
- 2.8. Publicly available historic mapping indicates that majority of the site remained in agricultural use throughout the later 19th and 20th centuries, with the majority of fields within the site itself similarly arranged to those seen today.
- 2.9. The geophysical survey (HA 2019) identified four distinct areas of archaeological activity (Figs 2 – 6). The anomalies identified in these areas comprised concentrations of linear and rectilinear ditches, suggestive of fen-side Iron Age/Roman settlement enclosures and industrial activity. A further group of anomalies, albeit of uncertain origin, was also identified in the far north-eastern part of the site.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. The evaluation results will enable NSC to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021). A further objective of the project was to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

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- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to further investigate the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (HA 2019).
- 3.3. Research Aims identified from the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* (SWARF; Grove and Croft 2012) included (but were not limited to):
- **Research Aim 10:** address lack of understanding of key transitional periods;
  - **Research Aim 29:** improve understanding of non-villa Roman rural settlement;
  - **Research Aim 16f:** scientific dating for the Iron Age;
  - **Research Aim 16h:** scientific dating in development control projects;
  - **Research Aim 18d:** analysis of colluvial and alluvial sequences.

## 4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork proposed the excavation of 32 trenches, 25 of which measured 30m in length and 2m in width, and 7 of which measured 20m in length and 2m in width. All trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies (see Fig. 2 for locations).
- 4.2. Trenches 27-31, located in Field 36 were not excavated due to the presence of livestock, with the approval of Cat Lodge.
- 4.3. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the level at which archaeological features were, or may be anticipated to be, first encountered.
- 4.4. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. A single bulk environmental sample and six monolith samples (from two stratigraphic sequences) were taken during the current works (see section 7, Appendix C and Appendix E)

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- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Somerset Museums Service (accession number: WESTM.2022.7) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowners, the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix F, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. For ease of reference these are presented by field, utilising the field numbering system presented by the preceding geophysical survey report (Fig. 2). Four distinct areas (Areas 1 to 4) containing geophysical anomalies indicative of possible archaeological activity were targeted by the current works.
- 5.2. For the most part, the identified archaeological features cut alluvial deposits, the exception being those revealed on the higher ground in Area 4 where the features were observed cutting the natural substrate. Although machine excavated sondages were excavated in the majority of the trenches to observe the underlying alluvial sequence, trenches were typically excavated to depths of between 0.5m and 1m below present ground level (bpgl) to expose the upper archaeological features and deposits.
- 5.3. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the environmental evidence; animal bone (biological) and the samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are presented in Section 7 and Appendixes C and D respectively.

### Area 1 (Figs 2, 3, 7 and 8)

- 5.4. Area 1 was located towards the north-western end of the proposed development area, within Field 2. Ten trenches (Trenches 1-10) were excavated, targeting a series

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of linear and rectilinear geophysical anomalies that had been identified at the boundary between a locally pronounced area of higher ground and the interface with low-lying marshy ground. The natural substrate was not encountered in any of the excavated trenches; however, a series of alluvial deposits were recorded to depths in excess of 2m bpgl.

- 5.5. Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 9, at depths of between 0.6m and 0.75m bpgl (4.1m AOD and 6.24m AOD). There was little direct correlation between these features and the results of the preceding geophysical survey, with the exception of ditch 906 identified in Trench 9. The remaining trenches were excavated into the identified alluvial sequence to depths of between 0.75m and 1m bpgl (i.e., to a depth beyond which archaeological features and/or the geophysical anomalies may be reasonably anticipated).

*Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3, 7 and 8)*

- 5.6. Two ditches and two pits/postholes were identified in the central-northern parts of Trench 4, at a depth of 0.6m bpgl (5.0m AOD). All cut alluvium 403 and were sealed by alluvium/colluvium 402.
- 5.7. Partially exposed pits/postholes 406 and 408 were sub-circular in plan, measured more than 0.5m in diameter and 0.3m in depth. Both contained single fills, 407 and 409, respectively, from which sherds of pottery, dating broadly to the Iron Age, were recovered.
- 5.8. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 404 (Fig. 8, Section AA) measured 2.75m in width, 0.6m in depth and had an open 'U'-shaped profile. It appeared contemporary with and, within the confines of the trench, to be respected by north-east/south-west aligned ditch 412 and its associated recut 414. Ditches 412/414 measured 2.7m in width and at least 0.7m in depth. More than 70 sherds of pottery dating to the late 3rd to 4th century AD, as well as iron and lead fragments, were recovered from the fills of these ditches.
- 5.9. No evidence of an east/west aligned anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey was observed at the northern extent of the trench; however, sterile dark alluvial clay 410 was observed in this area and it remains undetermined whether this deposit masked, or was the origin of, this geophysical anomaly. Comparable deposits, many containing later Roman artefacts, were identified in a number of the excavated trenches. These deposits are currently interpreted as evidence of

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'stabilisation' of the underlying alluvial deposits and referred to as such throughout this report.

*Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3, 7 and 8)*

- 5.10. Alluvial deposits 505, 507, 508 and 509 were identified in a sondage excavated to record the underlying alluvial sequence within Trench 5. Roman pottery dating from both the Early and the later Roman periods was retrieved from deposits 508 and 509 respectively. Monolith samples were also recovered from these deposits and these were assessed (see Appendix E).
- 5.11. Broadly east/west aligned ditch 510 (Fig. 8, Section BB) was observed cutting alluvial deposit 507 at a depth of 1.3m bpgl (4.1m AOD) towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It measured at least 1.6m in width, 0.9m in depth and contained two artefactually sterile fills, 511 and 512. The latest of which, 511, was cut by posthole 513 from which two sherds of 2nd to 4th-century Roman pottery were retrieved. Both features were sealed by dark alluvium 504, from which later 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered.
- 5.12. No evidence of a linear anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey towards the centre of the trench was observed.

*Trench 6 (Figs 2, 3 and 7)*

- 5.13. Two artefactually undated pits/postholes, 605 and 607, were identified cutting alluvium 603 in the central part of Trench 6 at a depth of 0.7m bpgl (6.24m AOD). A darker, 'stabilisation' deposit, 604, containing four sherds of 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery, was recorded in the northern half of the trench.
- 5.14. No evidence of a broadly east/west anomaly identified by the preceding geophysical survey in the southern half of the trench was identified.

*Trench 9 (Figs 2 and 3)*

- 5.15. East/west aligned ditch 906 was identified in the south-western half of Trench 9 at a depth of 0.7m bpgl (6.5m AOD), where it cut alluvium 903 and was sealed by alluvium 902. It measured 0.9m in width, 0.28m in depth and contained three fills, 907, 908 and 909. A total of 47 sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and industrial waste (fuel ash) were recovered from lowest fill of this feature, 909.
- 5.16. The location of ditch 906 correlated closely to a geophysical anomaly, seemingly forming the southern arm of a possible square enclosure (Fig. 3). No further evidence

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of this postulated enclosure was identified in Trenches 8 and 10; however, a modern field drain was identified in the location of a further geophysical anomaly, thought potentially to form a further part of this enclosure, in Trench 8.

- 5.17. A further north-east/south-west aligned geophysical anomaly was not observed within Trench 9, although it may have been masked by 'stabilisation' deposit 905.

#### **Area 2 (Figs 2, 4 and 9)**

- 5.18. Area 2 comprised Fields 6 and 8, located either side of Silver Moor Lane, in the north-western extent of the proposed development area. Eight trenches (Trenches 11-18) were excavated, four in each field, to target a series of linear and rectilinear geophysical anomalies. The natural substrate was not encountered in any of the excavated trenches; however, a series of alluvial deposits were recorded to depths in excess of 2m bpgl.

- 5.19. Archaeological features were identified in all trenches, except Trenches 17 and 18, typically at depths between 0.75m and 1m bpgl (5.5m AOD and 6.15m AOD). There was generally a good correlation between the identified features and the targeted geophysical anomalies within Field 6, but no such correlation was observed in Field 8, excepting for with extant modern drainage gripes.

#### *Trenches 11 and 14 (Figs 2 and 4)*

- 5.20. North-west/south-east aligned ditches 1104 and 1404 were observed centrally within Trenches 11 and 14 respectively, where they correlated closely with a geophysical anomaly that appears to form part of a square/rectangular enclosure or field (Fig. 4). Both ditches were revealed at a depth of 0.75m bpgl (6.22m AOD) and cut alluvial deposits 1103/1403 respectively. Ditch 1104 measured 0.9m in width and 0.18m in depth and contained a single, artefactually sterile fill, 1105. Ditch 1404 remained unexcavated. The latest fills of these ditches were sealed by a further alluvial deposit, 1102 and 1402, respectively.

#### *Trenches 12 and 13 (Figs 2 and 4)*

- 5.21. North-west/south-east aligned ditches 1210 and 1304, identified in Trenches 12 and 13 respectively, broadly correlated with a linear geophysical anomaly that may form an internal division or other feature within the square/rectangular enclosure targeted by Trenches 11 and 14. Both ditches were identified at a depth of 0.9m bpgl (5.55m AOD) where they cut 'stabilisation' deposit 1205 and 1306 respectively.

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- 5.22. Ditch 1210 measured 1.8m in width, at least 0.25m in depth and contained three fills, 1211, 1212 and 1214. An environmental sample (Sample 1) was recovered from the earliest of these fills, 1214, which produced a quantity of charcoal. A single fragment of worked bone (antler tine), probably representing part of a handle, was also recovered from this deposit. A quantity of pottery, of broad Roman date, as well as residual pottery of Iron Age date and ironworking slag were recovered from the later fills of ditch 1210, 1211 and 1212. Ditch 1306 remained unexcavated. The latest fills of these ditches were sealed by further alluvial deposits, 1202 and 1302, respectively.
- 5.23. Two small sub-circular postholes, 1206 and 1208, were identified cutting alluvial clay 1204 in the southern half of the trench. Both measured 0.4m in width and 0.1m in depth and contained undated clay silt fills 1207 and 1209, respectively.
- 5.24. No evidence of a further, broadly east/west aligned, geophysical anomaly was identified in Trenches 12 and 13.

#### *Trench 15 (Figs 2 and 4)*

- 5.25. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 1503 was identified cutting alluvium 1508 at the southern end of Trench 15 at a depth of 0.6m bpgl (6.23m AOD). It measured at least 0.7m in width, 0.54m in depth and contained two fills, 1504 and 1505. The earliest of these fills, 1504, contained 60 sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery (largely derived from two separate vessels) and a probable mudstone spindlewhorl. The latest of these fills, 1505, was sealed by a further alluvial deposit, 1502. The ditch did not correlate with any geophysical anomaly.
- 5.26. Identified approximately 1.3m to the north of ditch 1503, and extending throughout the remainder of the trench, was 'stabilisation' deposit 1507. Two coins of 4th-century AD date and a small quantity of animal bone (the latter left *in-situ*) were identified within this deposit.
- 5.27. No evidence of three broadly north-west/south-east aligned geophysical anomalies was identified within the trench.

#### *Trench 16 (Figs 2, 4 and 9)*

- 5.28. Two probable cremations, 1606 and 1608, were identified in the south-western half of Trench 16, cutting 'stabilisation' deposit 1603 at a depth of 0.65m bpgl (5.5m AOD; Fig. 9). Although both cremations remained unexcavated, pottery broadly dating to the Roman period, as well a fragment of lead and a residual sherd of Iron Age pottery, was recovered from alluvium 1603.

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- 5.29. No evidence of the three broadly north-west/south-east aligned anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey were identified within the trench.

*Trenches 17 and 18 (Figs 2 and 4)*

- 5.30. None of the anomalies, identified by the preceding geophysical survey, were identified within either trench. Rather, 'stabilisation' deposits were encountered throughout, with a sherd of early 2nd-century Ad pottery being recovered from deposit 1705 within Trench 17.

**Area 3 (Figs 2, 5 and 10-15)**

- 5.31. Area 3 was located centrally within the proposed development area. Eight trenches (Trenches 19-26) were excavated, targeting a series of linear and rectilinear geophysical anomalies identified at the boundary between the higher ground to the west and the fenland edge within Fields 23 and 25. The natural substrate was not encountered in any of the excavated trenches, with alluvial deposits being recorded to depths in excess of 1.5m bpgl.

- 5.32. Archaeological features/deposits were identified in all of the excavated trenches, typically at depths of between 0.5m and 0.75m bpgl, but also as shallow as 0.3m (Trench 22) and as deep as 1m (Trench 25). There was occasional correlation between these features and the geophysical anomalies and trends identified, notably in Trenches 19 and 26. Elsewhere, any correlation between geophysical trends and identified archaeological features must be tempered by the frequent identification of ceramic land drains, often revealed in close proximity to the archaeological features.

*Trench 19, 20, 21 (Figs 2 and 5)*

- 5.33. Two artefactually sterile ditches, 1905 and 1907, were identified centrally within Trench 19, cutting alluvium 1903 at a depth of 1.0m bpgl (5.50m AOD). Both were aligned broadly east/west and measured 0.5m and 0.7m in width respectively, with ditch 1905 broadly correlating with a linear geophysical anomaly. The undated fills of these ditches, 1906 and 1908, respectively, were sealed by alluvium 1902.

- 5.34. Within the south-western part of Trench 20, four undated sub-circular postholes, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012, were identified cutting alluvium 2002 at a depth of 0.6m bpgl (6.05m AOD). No spatial patterning, indicative of a wider form/structure, could be discerned in plan within the confines of the trench.

- 5.35. 'Stabilisation' deposits 1904, 2005 and 2107 were identified in Trenches 19, 20 and 21, respectively. Sherds of pottery, broadly dating to the Roman period, were



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recovered from deposit 1904, with a larger assemblage of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery (largely from two separate vessels) and fragments of hearth/furnace lining, suggestive of iron working, being recovered from deposit 2107.

- 5.36. No evidence of the two broadly parallel geophysical anomalies, suggestive of a possible trackway, was identified in Trenches 20 and 21. Rather, these anomalies appear to correlate with two shallow negative earthworks associated with drainage features present within the field.

*Trench 22 (Figs 2, 5, 10 and 11)*

- 5.37. A sequence of probable demolition deposits, associated with stone structures and a curvilinear ditch/gully, were identified within Trench 22 at a typical depth of 0.3m bpgl (6.60m AOD). A sondage excavated to 6.28m AOD at the southern limit of the trench revealed demolition deposit 2208, comprising limestone and mudstone rubble within a silty clay matrix, to be approximately 0.3m in thickness. It contained sherds of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery and a coin dating to c. AD 270-290 (Ra. 1) and it appeared to directly overlay artefactually sterile alluvial clays.
- 5.38. Walls 2205 and 2206 were abutted by demolition deposit 2208. Neither wall was excavated, but both were cleaned sufficiently to allow identification of building technique and extent within the trench. Wall 2205 was curvilinear in plan and appears to form part of a sub-circular anomaly, faintly visible on the greyscale plot of the geophysical survey. It comprised roughly dressed limestone and mudstone blocks, with a rubble core. It is currently assumed that the wall was of dry-stone type construction as no evidence for mortar was identified. An area of associated stonework, identified adjoining the wall's outer elevation (south-western limit of the visible wall section), is suggestive of a further contemporary wall or possibly a buttress, however this remains unclear given the limited view afforded by the evaluation trenching.
- 5.39. Wall 2206, identified approximately 3m to the south of wall 2205, exclusively utilised roughly dressed limestone in its construction and appeared to represent the north-western corner of a probable square or rectangular structure, faintly visible on the greyscale plot of the geophysical survey. It too was double-faced with a rubble core and again appeared to be of dry-stone type construction.
- 5.40. Curving gully 2203 (Fig. 10, Section CC) was identified at the northern end of the trench cutting alluvial deposit 2207, beyond the extent of demolition deposit 2208. It

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measured 0.45m in width and of 0.2m in depth and had an open 'U'-shaped profile. A small quantity of pottery of broad Roman date, an iron nail, and fragments of iron working slag were recovered from its fill, 2204.

*Trench 23 (Figs 2, 5 and 12)*

- 5.41. Deposit 2302 was identified throughout Trench 23, typically at a depth of 0.6m bpgl (6.0m AOD). It appears comparable with the alluvial 'stabilisation' deposits identified throughout the majority of the site; however, it contained noticeably more frequent stone inclusions. A quantity of late 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery and a fragment of sandstone roof tile were recovered from this deposit.
- 5.42. Broadly east/west aligned pathway 2304 was revealed towards the centre of the trench. It was constructed from weathered limestone slabs that were defined by vertically pitched limestone, the latter forming a distinct edge/kerb on both sides of the pathway. Limited hand excavation, undertaken adjacent to the pathway, revealed it to be founded upon artefactually sterile alluvial clay 2305. It was butted by a thin deposit of crushed limestone and sandstone fragments, 2303, the exact function of which remains unclear given the limited view of this deposit afforded by the evaluation trenching.
- 5.43. No evidence for the anomalies detected by the preceding geophysical survey was identified within the trench.

*Trench 24 (Figs 2, 5 and 13)*

- 5.44. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 2410 and associated recut 2403 (Fig. 13, Section DD), were identified cutting alluvial deposit 2402 in the central part of Trench 24, at a depth of 0.9m bpgl (4.4m AOD). Ditch 2410 was at least 0.7m in width, at least 0.55m in depth, and contained two fills, 2407 and 2408, from which a quantity of 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered. It was re-cut on its northern flank by ditch 2403, which measured 1.5m in width, 0.5m in depth and contained two fills, 2404 and 2406, from which 3rd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered. Both ditches correlate closely with a geophysical anomaly that seemingly forms part of a series of possible rectangular enclosures or fields.
- 5.45. The latest fills of ditches 2403 and 2410 were sealed by 'stabilisation' deposit 2405, from which pottery of late 2nd to 4th-century AD date was recovered.

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#### *Trench 25 (Figs 2, 5 and 14)*

- 5.46. A sondage excavated at the northern end of Trench 25 revealed a sequence of alluvial clays to a depth of at least 1.7m bpgl (4.2m AOD).
- 5.47. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 2512 (Fig. 14, Section EE) and broadly parallel ditch 2514 (Fig. 12, Section FF) were revealed cutting alluvium 2504 towards the northern end of the trench, at a depth of 1m bpgl. Ditch 2512 had an irregular 'V'-shaped profile, measured 1.6m in width and 0.5m in depth, and contained fill 2513, from which a number of sherds of pottery derived from a single Late Iron Age jar were recovered. Monolith samples were also recovered from these deposits and these were assessed (see Appendix E). Ditch 2514 had an irregular 'U'-shaped profile, measured 0.6m in width and 0.2m in depth, and contained fill 2515, from which small fragments of undiagnostic fired clay were recovered.
- 5.48. Two narrow ditches, 2506 and 2508, were identified towards the southern end of the trench. Ditch 2506 was aligned north-west/south-east, had an irregular profile and contained a single fill, 2507, from which a small fragment of undiagnostic fired clay was retrieved. Ditch 2508 was aligned broadly east/west, had an irregular profile and contained undated fill 2509.
- 5.49. The latest fills of the aforementioned ditches were sealed by alluvium 2503. It remains unclear whether these features correlate with the geophysical anomalies targeted by this trench, or whether the latter simply reflects the post-medieval and modern drainage present in this area.

#### *Trench 26 (Figs 2, 5 and 15)*

- 5.50. For the most part, Trench 26 was excavated to a depth of 0.4m bpgl (4.9m AOD) to expose 'stabilisation' deposit 2603, from which 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery, as well as a small quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) and slag, were recovered. It remains undetermined whether stone spread 2608 (Fig. 15, Section GG), identified in the central part of the trench and from which a small quantity of pottery of later 3rd to 4th-century AD date and an iron hinge or staple (Ra. 8) were recovered, post-dates 'stabilisation' deposit 2603, or forms part of it.
- 5.51. Localised hand excavation of deposits 2603 and 2608 revealed narrow north-west/south-east aligned gully 2606 (Fig. 15, Section GG) in the central part of the trench. It had a steep-sided asymmetric profile and contained a single fill, 2607, from

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which a small quantity of pottery of later 3rd to 4th-century AD date, a possible iron blade (Ra. 7), and fragments of hearth or furnace lining were recovered.

5.52. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 2604 (Fig. 15, Section GG) cut alluvium 2603 in the north-eastern half of the trench and corresponded closely to part of a linear anomaly, forming part of an enclosure or field, depicted by the geophysical survey. It had an irregular but moderately sloping south-western edge and contained two fills, 2602 and 2605. Quantities of pottery of broad Roman date as well as fragments of ironworking slag and hearth/furnace lining were recovered from the earliest fill of this feature (2605), with a small quantity of pottery of Roman date being recovered from fill 2602.

5.53. No evidence of a further east/west aligned geophysical anomaly was identified in the southern part of the trench, however a ceramic land drain was identified in this area which may explain the presence of this anomaly.

#### **Area 4 (Figs 2, 5, 16 and 17)**

5.54. In contrast to the trenches excavated during the preceding works (WA 2022), the current investigations within Field 31 were located on the locally higher ground that sloped down from west to east towards, but above, the fen-land edge. Five trenches (Trenches 32-36) were excavated, targeting a series of linear and rectilinear geophysical anomalies.

5.55. The natural substrate, comprising green-grey silty clays with occasional lenses of mudstone, was encountered in all of the excavated trenches, typically at depths of 0.4m bpgl (between 10.5m AOD and 15.0m AOD). All archaeological features cut the natural substrate and were sealed by subsoil, with all displaying a good correlation with anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey. Two trenches, previously excavated in the southern part of this field during preceding evaluation works associated with the proposed Banwell bypass (WA 2022, Trenches 22 and 23; see Figs 1 and 6 of this report for locations), identified two undated ditches that may indicate a southern continuation of the ditches and enclosures identified during the current works.

#### **Trenches 32 and 36 (Figs 2 and 6)**

5.56. North-east/south-west aligned ditches 3203 and 3603 were identified in Trenches 32 and 36, respectively, where they correlated closely with a geophysical anomaly that formed a dominant north-east/south-west aligned boundary that also appeared to

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continue onto the low-lying ground in Field 36. A further north-east/south-west aligned ditch, 3205, was identified 2m to the northwest of ditch 3203 in Trench 32 and may represent a further ditch associated with this boundary. All three features remained unexcavated.

#### *Trench 33 (Figs 2, 6, 16 and 17)*

- 5.57. Two ditches and a small, sub-circular posthole were identified in Trench 33. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 3303 (Fig. 16, Section HH) was identified in the north-eastern half of the trench. It measured 0.6m in width, 0.2m in depth and contained a single fill, 3304, from which fragments of animal bone were recovered. Its fill was cut by north-west/south-east aligned ditch 3305 (Fig. 16, Section II) which had an open 'U'-shaped profile, measured 2m in width and 0.7m in depth, and contained a single fill, 3306, from which 2nd to 3rd-century AD pottery and a fragment of hearth/furnace lining were recovered. Ditch 3305 correlated closely with a geophysical anomaly, in contrast to ditch 3303, which was not identified by the preceding geophysical survey.
- 5.58. Sub-circular posthole 3307 (Fig. 17, Section JJ) was identified in the south-western half of the trench. It had an irregular 'bowl'-shaped profile and contained a single undated fill, 3308.

#### *Trench 34 (Figs 2 and 6)*

- 5.59. North-east/south-west aligned ditch 3403 was identified towards the western end of Trench 34. It measured 1m in width, 0.4m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 3404. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 3405 was identified in the eastern half of the trench. It measured 1.1m in width, 0.44m in depth, and contained a single undated fill, 3406. Both ditches correlated closely to the northern and eastern arms of a probable enclosure identified by the preceding geophysical survey.

#### *Trench 35 (Figs 2, 6 and 18)*

- 5.60. Broadly parallel north-west/south-east aligned ditches 3503 (Fig. 18, Section KK) and 3507 (Fig. 18, Section LL) were identified centrally within Trench 35. Ditch 3503 measured 1.6m in width and 0.35m in depth, had an irregular flat-based profile, and contained a single fill, 3504, from which a small quantity of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered. Ditch 3507 measured 1.1m in width and 0.2m in depth, had an irregular profile, and contained a single fill, 3508, from which a small quantity of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery was recovered. Both features correlated closely with anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey.

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## 6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material was recovered by hand from 42 deposits, with some metal items recovered using a metal detector. Recording of this material was undertaken directly to an Excel spreadsheet, from which Appendix B, Table 1 is taken. The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and according to each artefact category by fragment/item count and weight. For pottery recording included by fabric type and with note made of vessel form, evidence for use and instance of abrasion. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the *CIfA finds Toolkit* (CIfA 2021).

### Pottery

- 6.2. A total of 920 sherds weighing 11.34kg was hand recovered from 32 deposits, primarily the fills of ditches and pits/postholes, but including 'stabilisation' layers and subsoil deposits. The pottery dates to the later prehistoric (Iron Age) and Roman periods (Appendix B, Tables 2–3). Overall, the condition of the pottery was good, with little excessive abrasion and few indications of redeposition (see below). Fabric codes used for recording are defined below (Appendix B, Table 2). Those for the Roman assemblage, which makes up the majority of recovered material, equate wherever possible to codings of the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).

### Late prehistoric

- 6.3. Pottery of this period amounted to 243 sherds, weighing 1.39kg. It was recorded from seven deposits across Trenches 4, 9, 12, 15, 16, 21 and 25 (Appendix B, Tables 1 and 3), with by far the largest quantities coming from Trench 9 deposit 909 (fill of ditch 906) and Trench 25 deposit 2513 (fill of ditch 2512). All material was well broken-up, and this is reflected in the low mean sherd weight of 5.7g.
- 6.4. A narrow range of fabrics characterises the late prehistoric group, with most sherds occurring in limestone-tempered type LI1 and quartz/sandstone-tempered type QZ1. All fabrics are handmade and correspond to types known locally in the Iron Age period (Peacock 1968; Allen 1998). Featured (rim or decorated) sherds were mainly from among the larger groups from ditch fills 909 and 2513. An exception was a sherd in vesicular fabric VES1, which appeared to be redeposited in Roman-dated deposit 2107, that featured fingernail-impressed decoration located on the vessel's shoulder. Such decoration is common to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods. Rim sherds of bead or proto-bead type were recorded from among the groups from ditch fills 909 and 2513 and residually from subsoil 1501, these probably coming from

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neckless, ovoid or barrel-shaped jar forms suggestive of Late Iron Age dating. Decoration in the form of a horizontal groove was noted to the neck of one vessel from deposit 909 (fill of ditch 906) occurring in fabric QZ1. Similar decoration is noted elsewhere from the region and appears to be associated with the Middle/late Iron Age South Western Decorated style.

### *Roman*

- 6.5. A substantial Roman assemblage, some 677 sherds (9.75kg), was recovered. The largest quantities were from Trenches 4, 15, 21–24, 26 and 33, with five deposits (ditch fills 405, 1501, 2107, 2302 and 2603) productive of sizeable groups of 53–134 sherds (457g–1.45kg). The condition of the pottery is generally good with little abrasion apparent and mean sherd weight on the high side for a Roman group (14.4g). A number of vessels reconstructable to their full profile were recorded including from deposits 415 (fill of pit 414) and 2407 (fill of ditch 2403). Among these from the latter deposit was a jar (cooking pot) in Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware which preserved a thick carbonaceous (burnt food type) deposit to its interior.
- 6.6. The composition (fabrics range) of the Roman assemblage is set out in Appendix B/Table 2. The large majority is composed of reduced coarseware types (greywares and Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware). Dominant among the greywares is a coarse sandy fabric (GW1) which almost certainly originates from kilns located at Congresbury, approximately 6km to the north of Banwell (Usher and Lilly 1964). Vessel forms in this type comprise utilitarian jars and dishes/bowls, the jars primarily neckless/everted rim forms close to Black-burnished ware cooking pot styles of the 2nd to 4th centuries. A conical flanged bowl sherd in fabric GW1 from deposit 405 (fill of ditch 404) similarly ‘copies’ BB1 forms, in this instance the form current in the late 3rd and 4th centuries. Greyware types GW2-GW3 may also be products from the Congresbury kilns, recent work at this site suggesting that output is variable (pers comm. Thorp). Greyware GW4 occurs as thick-walled sherds only, probably from larger storage jar forms. This type probably represents the coarser-gritted products of kilns known to produce such forms from Norton Fitzwarren, approximately 25km to the south (Timby 1989). Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware (DOR BB1) is the next most common type, present from the majority of the Roman-dated deposits. The vessel forms represented in this type are consistently typical of the later Roman period (c. mid 3rd to 4th centuries), consisting of jar forms with oversailing everted rims and obtuse-angled lattice decoration, ‘dropped’ flange dishes/bowls and plain rimmed dishes. Aside from the greywares and BB1, the coarseware types include a

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small number of sherds of Severn Valley ware (SVW OX2), probably from the Gloucester area and probable Wiltshire types, black-firing sandy fabric BS1 and Savernake ware (SAV GT). The latter two types, and probably the Severn Valley ware, date to the earlier Roman period (mid 1st to 2nd centuries), their small quantities reflective of the primarily Late Roman dating for the assemblage. The source of oxidised fabrics OX1-OX3 was unclear, though coarser type OX1 is possibly equivalent to reduced (Congresbury) type GW1, but fired in oxidising conditions. Featured sherds in this type were recorded only from layer 2603, consisting of (beaded) rim sherds from a dish or bowl.

6.7. Finewares/specialist wares (mortaria) among the Roman group mainly comprise products of the Oxfordshire and New Forest industries belonging to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries. The fineware types mainly occur as body or base sherds, however, rims assignable to bowl forms were recorded from demolition layer 2302 and subsoil 2401. A mortarium of New Forest type NFO WH from subsoil 1501 was of flanged form that matches Fulford's Type 81, which he dated *c.* AD 345–400+ (Fulford 2000, 70). An abraded rim in Oxfordshire type OXF WH from occupation layer 2107 was of Young's form M17, datable *c.* AD 240–300 (Young 1977) though it was probably residual in its deposit. One further mortarium type was represented as an abraded base sherd recorded in fabric OX4 from layer 1904. The source for this type is uncertain, but is most likely from the Shepton Mallet area, where limited scale production is recorded probably dating to the 2nd century (Evans 2001).

6.8. Imported (fineware) types in the assemblage were limited to the small quantities of Gaulish samian. Perhaps unusually in such a small group, products from each of the Southern, central and Eastern Gaulish manufacturing regions are represented (Table 2). Earliest were the two sherds of South Gaulish type (LGF SA) from deposit 508 (fill of ditch 506) and alluvial layer 1705 which date before *c.* AD 110. That from deposit 1705 is the rim portion from a form 29 decorated bowl and dates before *c.* AD 85. It features a neatly drilled perforation below its rim probably resulting from its repair. The central (LEZ SA2) and East Gaulish (EG SA) types are later, all of the 2nd-century date (or into the earlier 3rd century for the East Gaulish sherds). Identifiable forms consist of form 31R vessels, datable after *c.* AD 160, noted from demolition layer 2208 and stabiliastaion deposit 2405.



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### Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and fired/burnt clay

- 6.9. Small quantities of CBM and fired clay were recorded from Roman or undated deposits (Appendix B). The CBM all occurs in in a hard, fine sandy and pink or pale orange fired fabric. A small and unfeatured brick fragment from deposit 2603 measures 40mm. Tile fragments from layer 2603 and deposit 2605 (fill of ditch 2604) measured under 30mm but were unfeatured and not assignable to class. The fired clay fragments were entirely featureless and their 'function' unclear.

### Stone

- 6.10. Small quantities of utilised stone were recorded (Appendix B). Small, tabular fragments of sandstone recorded from Roman-dated stabilisation layer 2302 and fill 3306 (fill of ditch 3305) probably represent roofing material. This was also possible for a larger, approximately rectangular, fragment from subsoil deposit 2201, although the soft mudstone-like stone makes this uncertain. A number of other small limestone fragments were recorded which were discoloured to pink or red, probably as the result of burning.

### Industrial Waste

- 6.11. A total of 1.09kg of industrial waste was recorded from six deposits (Appendix B). A small quantity of fuel ash (3g) from later Iron Age-dated deposit 909 (fill of ditch 906) may have resulted from non-industrial, high temperature processes or events. The remaining material, all from Roman-dated deposits within Trenches 21–22, 26 and 33 (Appendix B), is more certainly of industrial processes relating to ironworking. The majority consists of vitreous hearth or furnace lining fragments, the remainder of ironworking slag. None of the recovered material is diagnostic of process and might relate to iron smithing or smelting.

### Metal

- 6.12. A total of 13 metal items were recorded (Appendix B). Details for the three copper alloy and one silver alloy coins (Ras. 1–3 and 5) are given in Appendix B. All were later Roman issues of the 3rd and 4th centuries AD, the latest the two *nummi* (one a contemporary copy) of c. AD 330-335 from deposit 1507. The (seven) iron objects, all of which were from Roman-dated deposits, were all heavily corroded and fragmentary. The identifiable items consisted of nails and, from deposit 2608 (Ra. 8) a probable hinge staple of Roman type. Two lead items (Ras. 6 and 9), from Roman-dated deposits 405 and 1603, both consist of irregular spills/waste fragments.

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### Worked bone

- 6.13. A single worked bone object was recovered by bulk soil sampling from fill 1214 of ditch 1210. The item is a possible simple handle made from an antler tine, the point of which has been drilled with a longitudinal socket into which a pointed tang could have been wedged. This style of handle is known from the Roman period onwards (MacGregor 1985, 167–70).

### Summary

- 6.14. A sizeable artefactual assemblage was recorded from the evaluation with material recorded from over half of the excavated trenches, including from Field 2 (Trenches 4–7 and 9), Field 8 (Trenches 15-17 and 19), Field 23 (Trenches 21–24 and 26) and Field 31 (Trenches 27, 33 and 35). Pottery constitutes the bulk of artefactual material, and the earliest datable, a sherd probably of Early Iron Age type, was residual in a Roman-dated deposit from Trench 21. Larger and seemingly stratified groups of Middle or Late Iron Age date were recorded from Trench 9 deposit 909 (fill of ditch 906) and Trench 25 deposit 2513 (fill of ditch 2512). Other, smaller groups of more broadly Iron Age date were noted from Trenches 4, 12 and 16. The remainder of the pottery dates to the Roman period, with significant quantities from each of the areas (F2, F8, F23 and F31) investigated. Aside from a few sherds of earlier Roman types including samian from Trenches 5, 17, 22 and 24, the pottery is consistent in suggesting activity primarily of the later Roman period (3rd and 4th centuries). Four coins, from Trenches 15, 22 and 24 are also supportive of later Roman dating. The nature of the activity represented would appear to be domestic, the bulk of the pottery consisting of utilitarian coarsewares, with some material preserving evidence for use for cooking. Much of the pottery is of local origin, from the kilns at Congresbury to the north. The Roman assemblage, including the local coarsewares and the quantities of Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware and other regionally-traded types, reflects a pattern of supply which is typical for the area. Some evidence for industry was recorded in the form of ironworking residues from Fields 23 and 31 (Trenches 21–22, 26 and 33).

## 7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### Animal Bone

- 7.1. A small assemblage of animal bone amounting to 122 fragments (2.785kg) was recovered from 17 deposits, consisting of the fills of post-holes, ditches, and 'stabilisation' layers. Artefactual material dating to the Iron Age and the Roman period was also recovered from these features (Appendix C, Table 1). The material was

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highly fragmented but very well preserved. As a result, it was possible to confirm the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*), pig (*Sus scrofa sp*) and horse (*Equus caballus*). Where damage was present and re-fitting was possible, those fragments were counted as a single bone.

#### *Iron Age*

- 7.2. Twelve fragments of bone (711g) were recovered from deposits 407 and 2513, fills of pit/posthole 406 and ditch 2512, respectively. The remains of cattle and sheep/goat were identified, but with only five and one fragment, respectively, the recovery was too low to provide any information other than species identification. However, each of these species are to be expected in assemblages of this period and the good preservation does suggest rapid burial for the bone.

#### *Roman*

- 7.3. The Roman activity on site produced the most amount of bone with 72 fragments (1.697kg) from 11 deposits, most of which was recovered from the features revealed in Areas 2 and 3. The remains of cattle and sheep/goat were most common, with each species represented mainly by meat poor skeletal elements, such as the bones of the lower limbs or feet. Meat rich elements were also identified but were far less common within the assemblage. Heavy chop marks, such as those seen on a partial cattle humerus from fill 405 within ditch 404 or the sheep/goat skull fragment from fill 3306 within ditch 3305, were frequently observed. The combination of these factors suggests an origin in the early stages of butchery where a cleaver-like tool, typical of this period, is used to separate a carcass into more manageable portions of meat.
- 7.4. Pig and horse were also identified, but the recovery was too low to provide any useful interpretative information. Since both species were commonly exploited domestic animals, their presence in assemblage of this period is to be expected.

#### *Undated*

- 7.5. The remaining 38 fragments of bone (377g) in the assemblage were recovered from four deposits which remain undated. A limited amount of cattle and sheep/goat bone was identified, none of which displayed any damage suggestive of butchery practice. However, in terms of preservation and fragmentation, this material is very similar to the Roman assemblage and is likely to originate in the same activity.

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### Palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.6. One bulk sample (20 litres of soil) was taken from fill 1214 of ditch 1210, identified in Trench 12 on this evaluation project. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, and state of preservation. The specific objective of the evaluation was to further investigate the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (HA 2019). The sample was intended to contribute to the realisation of these objectives. It was taken to evaluate the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site. It was also hoped that this sample might assist with confirming the dating of this feature. The bulk sample was processed by standard flotation procedures (using a 0.25mm mesh for the flot and a 0.5mm mesh for the residue) (CA Technical Manual No. 2).
- 7.7. Sample 1 was recovered from fill 1214 of Roman ditch 1210. The flot was medium sized and contained a very low amount of fibrous root material. It contained a large amount of charcoal, with one piece of round wood, but the bulk of the charcoal pieces were poorly preserved and comminuted. There were no charred plant or mollusc remains present in the flot. The high quantity of charcoal suggests that the material probably represents a deliberate deposit of hearth waste material. This interpretation is further supported by the presence of a single worked bone (antler tine) handle present in this fill; probably discarded along with other settlement waste at the end of its useful life. However, there were no charred remains present in the flot that could help confirm the likely date of this fill.
- 7.8. The charred assemblage recovered from the environmental sample suggests that there was likely some kind of settlement activity in the vicinity of Trench 12. However, the lack of charred plant remains, or evidence of industrial waste of any kind, makes it difficult to say precisely what sort of settlement activity that was. Moreover, no charred plant remains were present in the flot that could either confirm or challenge the date that has been assigned to ditch 1210.

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## 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. A series of predominantly, but not exclusively, later Roman archaeological features and deposits was identified within the four areas targeted by the current trenching. Three of these areas (Areas 1-3) were located at, or close to, the boundary between the locally higher ground to the west and the edge of low-lying formerly marshy ground associated with the River Banwell and Old Yeo Rhine to the east. By contrast, Area 4 was located on the higher ground in the south-western part of the proposed development area.
- 8.2. All four areas targeted a series of geophysical anomalies indicative of enclosures and associated ditches. There was moderate direct correlation between the observed archaeological features and the anomalies identified by the preceding geophysical survey within the trenches located along the current edge of the low-lying formerly marshy ground, with the notable exceptions of features identified in Trenches 9 (Area 1), 11-14 (Area 2), and Trenches 24 and 25 (Area 3). Whilst the overall accuracy of the geophysical survey in detecting all individual archaeological features may be questioned, its ability to identify general areas of archaeological activity appears good, given the identification of archaeological features in all three of the areas subject to evaluation trenching. However, as no seemingly blank geophysical areas were targeted during the current works, any confidence rating attached to the geophysical survey's accuracy must be tempered, as the true extent of the archaeological activity along the edge of the former low-lying marshy has not been established. The correlation between the identified archaeological features and the results of the preceding geophysical survey within Area 4, on the locally higher ground, was good, presumably reflecting the much shallower stratigraphic sequence and the absence of alluvial deposits in this area.
- 8.3. The results of the current evaluation bear comparison with preceding archaeological works undertaken immediately to the south of the proposed development area (BA 2016 and WA 2022; Fig. 1), and more generally with the results of the growing corpus of archaeological work in the immediate area. Of particular comparison is the increasing identification of archaeological activity at the interface between the higher ground and the low-lying formerly marshy ground that was further reinforced during the current works.
- 8.4. As noted above, the majority of the archaeological features/deposits identified during the current evaluation were of later Roman (3rd to 4th century AD) date. Evidence for

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prehistoric and earlier Roman activity within the site is more limited and is restricted to the recovery of residual artefacts in later features, along with scattered features of Iron Age date in Trenches 4, 9 and 25. Further features of this date, should they have existed, were not readily identifiable during the current works due to the presence of overlying later Roman deposits. Such a paucity of prehistoric/Early Roman deposits and features was also noted during the recent evaluation undertaken as part of the Banwell bypass scheme (WA 2022, 32-33), although they may similarly have been masked by later deposits. It is perhaps noteworthy that activity dating from the Bronze Age through to the Early Roman period, all of which were sealed by a succession of alluvial layers, was more frequently identified during the mitigation works undertaken during construction of the Hutton to Banwell water main (BA 2016, 88-90; Fig. 1).

### **Prehistoric/Early Roman**

- 8.5. Features of Iron Age date identified during the current works comprise pits/postholes 406 and 408, ditch 906 and ditch 2512, identified in Trenches 4, 9 and 25, respectively. Evidence of Early Roman activity is more limited and is restricted to the recovery of a single sherd of mid 1st to early 2nd-century AD pottery from alluvial deposit 508, in Trench 5. Whilst some evidence of prehistoric activity is recorded in the wider area (see *Archaeological Background* above), the limited and relatively isolated nature of the prehistoric and early Roman features and deposits identified during the current evaluation does little to enhance our understanding of activity in the area during these periods.

### **Later Roman (late 2nd to 4th century AD)**

- 8.6. Archaeological features and deposits from this period dominated the archaeological record during the current works. For the most part, the ditches identified in the four targeted areas appear to be indicative of enclosures and land-division rather than large water-management features that were intended to drain areas of low-lying marshy ground. If such an interpretation is accepted, this suggests that parts of the current site had been protected from tidal incursions and reclaimed prior to, or during, this period.
- 8.7. Walls 2205 and 2206 and pathway 2304, identified within Trenches 22 and 23 within Area 3, appear to indicate an area of more significant/substantial occupation. Topographically, both Trenches 22 and 23 were situated just above the limits of an area of low-lying formerly marshy ground, which was presumably protected from inundation by the time of their construction, albeit with evidence of earlier alluvial

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accumulations sealed beneath the structures and their associated demolition debris. Neither of the structures was clearly identified on the geophysical interpretation plot but both correlate with anomalies visible on the accompanying greyscale (see Fig. 10). Such evidence suggests that wall 2205, which appears rounded/curvilinear within Trench 22, is actually a sub-rectangular structure, measuring approximately 15m by 11m, with rounded corners. The excavated evidence for a right-angled corner for wall 2206 also correlated with the geophysical evidence, although it remains unclear (due to further geophysical anomalies) whether the structure was 11m or 21m in length by 7m in width. No direct evidence pertaining to the original functions of these structures was identified during the current works and it therefore remains undetermined whether they were associated with domestic, industrial or agricultural activities.

- 8.8. Pathway 2304, identified in Trench 23, is also noteworthy given its seemingly careful construction and potentially purposeful use of weathered limestone slabs, possibly for decorative purposes (although a utilitarian purpose, to aid grip or drainage, cannot be ruled out). If it is accepted that the selection of this limestone is for decorative purposes, the possibility that it forms part of a domestic settlement, potentially including walls 2205 and 2206 identified in Trench 22, cannot be ignored.
- 8.9. The presence of two probable un-urned cremations, 1606 and 1608, in Trench 16 (Area 2) is intriguing and appears to indicate the presence of domestic settlement; however, no further definite evidence of domestic settlement was identified in this area. Despite being artefactually undated, both cremations demonstrably cut an alluvial deposit from which pottery of broad Roman date was recovered.

#### **Post Roman (5th to 20th century)**

- 8.10. No features, with the exception of the network of drainage gripes and the more limited number of early modern ceramic land drains, or artefacts dating from the post-Roman to the modern period were identified during the current works. Such results accord with the paucity of evidence recorded for these periods during the preceding archaeological works immediately to the south of the current site (BA 2016 and WA 2022).

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## 9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Josh Nowlan, assisted by Cliff Bateman, Noel Boothroyd, Beth Frangleton, James Harris, Laura Hemsley and Chris Leonard. This report was written by Cliff Bateman. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Ed McSloy and Andy Clarke respectively with the paleoenvironmental reports being compiled by Charlotte Molloy, Sarah Wyles and Agata Kowalska. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by Josh Nowlan, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context No.	Type	Fill of	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Spot Date
<b>Trench 1</b>						
100	Layer			0.19	Topsoil. Dark orangey brown friable clay	
101	Layer			0.12	Subsoil. Mid orangey brown silt clay	
102	Layer			0.18	Alluvium. Mid orangey brown compact clay	
103	Layer			0.6	Stabilisation Layer. Dark greyish brown deposit, moderate charcoal, occasional limestone	
104	Layer			0.75	Alluvium. Mid bluish brown silt clay	
<b>Trench 2</b>						
200	Layer			0.22	Topsoil. Same as 100	
201	Layer			0.16	Subsoil. Same as 101	
202	Layer			0.32	Stabilisation layer. Dark reddish brown compact clay	
203	Layer				Stabilisation layer. Stoney spread/ deposit containing limestone and sandstone blocks of stone	
204	Layer				Alluvium. Spread with limestone fragments.	
205	Layer			0.4	Stabilisation layer under 203	
206	Layer			0.2	Stabilisation layer. Mid grey brown silt clay	

207	Layer			0.2	Layer. Dark brown grey sediment under 206	
208	Layer			0.18	Layer. Mid greenish brown clay exposed in base of sondage under 207	
<b>Trench 3</b>						
300	Layer			0.15	Topsoil. Same as 100	
301	Layer			0.16	Subsoil. Same as 101	
302	Layer			0.3	Alluvium. Mid orangey brown silt clay. Very compact	
303	Layer			0.2	Alluvium. Mid to dark orangey brown silt clay	
304	Layer			0.7	Stabilisation Layer. Dark bluish brown deposit	
305	Layer			0.4	Alluvium. Organic blue alluvium containing CBM, occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks	
306	Layer			1.95	Alluvium. Clean alluvium depth @1.95m	
<b>Trench 4</b>						
400	Layer			0.12	Topsoil. Same as 100	
401	Layer			0.2	Subsoil. Same as 101	
402	Layer			0.48	Alluvium. Mid orangey brown silt clay	
403	Layer				Alluvium. Light pinkish orange clay with mudstone and limestone patches	RB
404	Cut		2.75	0.6	Ditch. Cut of NW-SE aligned ditch	

405	Fill	404	2.75	0.6	Fill. Fill of 404	LC3-C4
406	Cut		0.85	0.25	Posthole	
407	Fill	406	0.85	0.25	Fill. Dark blackish brown silty clay	IA
408	Cut		0.5	0.44	Posthole	
409	Fill	408	0.5	0.44	Fill. Dark orangey brown silty clay	?IA
410	Layer			0.6	Stabilisation Layer. Same as 504	
411	Fill	404	1.35	0.15	Fill. Dark grey black friable clay	
412	Cut		2.7	0.7	NE/SW aligned ditch.	
413	Fill	412	2.7	0.7	Fill of ditch 412. Light reddish brown	
414	Cut		2.7	0.7	NE/SW aligned ditch. Probable re-cut of ditch 412	
415	Fill	414	2.4	0.35	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of ditch 414. Grey brown silt clay.	LC3-C4
416	Fill	414	2.7	0.35	2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of ditch 414. Light grey yellow silt clay.	
<b>Trench 5</b>						
500	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Same as 100	
501	Layer		1.8	0.18	Subsoil. Same as 101	
502	Layer		1.8	0.28	Alluvium. Same as 402	
503	Layer		1.8	0.66	Alluvium. Mid to dark bluish grey alluvium above 504 deposit	
504	Layer		1.8	0.81	Stabilisation Layer. Dark bluish grey silt clay, moderately compact, occasional limestone fragments and moderate	LC2-C4

					charcoal flecks	
505	Layer		1.8	1.2	Alluvium. Light bluish grey clay compact, depth @ 1.2	
506	Cut		2.1	1.4	Ditch. NW-SE aligned ditch cut by 510	
507	Fill	506	1.8	0.8	Fill. Mid greenish grey sandy silt clay	
508	Fill	506	2	1.2	Fill. Mid yellowish grey clay silt	MC1-EC2
509	Fill	506	2.1	1.3	Primary Fill. Light brownish grey silt clay	LC3-C4
510	Cut		1.6	1.4	Ditch. NE-SW aligned, V-shaped ditch	
511	Fill	510	1.5	0.75	Fill. Dark bluish grey clay	
512	Fill	510	1.1	1.45	Fill. Mid greenish grey clay	
513	Cut		0.35	0.2	Posthole. Sub circular, cuts 511, not bottomed	
514	Fill	513	0.35	0.2	Fill. Mid greenish grey	C2-C4
<b>Trench 6</b>						
600	Layer		1.8	0.13	Topsoil. Same as 100	
601	Layer		1.8	0.22	Subsoil. Same as 101	
602	Layer		1.8	0.2	Alluvium. Same as 402	
603	Layer		1.8	0.6	Alluvium. Same as 403 at depth 0.6	
604	Layer		1.8	0.67	Stabilisation Layer. Stabilisation al deposit, dark orangey brown silt clay, compact, occasional limestone and sandstone	C3-C4

					fragments, same as 504	
605	Cut		0.5	0.12	Posthole. Oval shaped post, steep sides, flat base	
606	Fill	605	0.5	0.12	Fill. Light yellowish brown silty clay	
607	Cut		0.65	0.1	Posthole. Oval shaped, steep sides, flat base	
608	Fill	607	0.65	0.1	Fill. Light yellowish brown, silty clay	
<b>Trench 7</b>						
700	Layer		1.8	0.12	Topsoil. Same as 100	
701	Layer		1.8	0.22	Subsoil. Same as 401	
702	Layer		1.8	0.32	Alluvium. Mid greyish brown clay alluvium, compact, occasional limestone fragments and charcoal flecks	
703	Layer		1.8	0.18	Alluvium. Organic horizon, late roman Stabilisation layer	
704	Layer		1.8	0.97	Stabilisation Layer	LC3-C4
705	Layer		1.8	0.4	Alluvium. Mid orangey brown, same as 402, 802, 902, 1002	
<b>Trench 8</b>						
800	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Same as 100	
801	Layer		1.8	0.1	Subsoil. Same as 401	
802	Layer		1.8	0.28	Alluvium. Same as 402	
803	Layer		1.8	0.8	Stabilisation Layer	
804	Layer		1.8	0.55	Alluvium. Same as 403 at depth 0.55	
<b>Trench 9</b>						
900	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Same as 200	

901	Layer		1.8	0.17	Subsoil. Same as 401	
902	Layer		1.8	9.35	Alluvium. Same as 402	
903	Layer		1.8	0.08	Alluvium. Mid reddish brown with occasional flecks of limestone	
904	Layer		1.8	0.76	Alluvium. Dark purple brown with mudstone	
905	Layer		1.8	0.75	Stabilisation Layer	
906	Cut		0.88	0.28	Ditch. E-W aligned, moderate, concave sides, concave base	
907	Fill	906	0.88	0.08	Fill. Mid to dark greyish brown silty clay	
908	Fill	906	0.55	0.05	Fill. Dark greenish brown sandy clay	
909	Fill	906	0.25	0.18	Fill. Dark greenish brown, silty clay	MLIA
<b>Trench 10</b>						
1000	Layer		1.8	0.1	Topsoil. Same as 100	
1001	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Same as 401	
1002	Layer		1.8	0.35	Alluvium. Same as 402	
1003	Layer		1.8	0.55	Stabilisation Layer	
1004	Layer		1.8	0.9	Alluvium. Mid orangey brown, silty clay, under 1003 in sondage	
1005	Layer		1.8	2.1	Alluvium. Mid bluish brown alluvium, clay, to 2.1m	
<b>Trench 11</b>						
1100	Layer		1.8	0.23	Topsoil. Same as 1200	
1101	Layer		1.8	0.22	Subsoil. Same as 1201	
1102	Layer		1.8	0.3	Alluvium. Same as 1402	

1103	Layer		1.8	0.36	Alluvium. Same as 1403	
1104	Cut		0.9	0.18	Ditch. NW-SE aligned, gradually sloping, flat base	
1105	Fill	1104	0.9	0.18	Fill. Mid greyish brown silty clay	
<b>Trench 12</b>						
1200	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Mid olive grey silty clay	
1201	Layer		1.8	0.35	Subsoil. Mid pink brown silty clay	
1202	Layer		1.8	0.15	Alluvium. Mid grey orange silty clay with flecks of manganese and small white sandstone gravel	
1203	Layer		1.8	0.45	Alluvium. Mid grey orange alluvial silty clay with a blue hue, manganese	
1204	Layer		1.8	0.05	Alluvium. Deep purple brown thick alluvial clays with some sandstone gravel and manganese flecks	
1205	Layer		1.8		Layer. Dark grey brown silty clay, northern 3/4 of trench	
1206	Cut		0.4	0.1	Posthole. Oval shaped, gradually sloping, concave base	
1207	Fill	1206	0.4	0.1	Fill. Light olive grey, fine silty clay	
1208	Cut		0.64	0.04	Pit. Sub circular shaped, gradually sloping,	



					concave base	
1209	Fill	1208	0.64	0.04	Fill. Mid greyish brown, sandy silty clay	
1210	Cut		1.8	0.25	Ditch. NW-SE aligned, gradually sloping, not bottomed	
1211	Fill	1210	1.8	0.15	Fill. Mid greyish brown, silty clay, firm, occasional sub angular stones	RB
1212	Fill	1210	1.21	0.1	Fill. Mid orangey brown, silty clay	IA?
1213	Cut		0.2	0.14	Cut. NE-SW aligned, steep sloping sides, flat base	
1214	Fill	1213	0.2	0.14	Fill. Dark blackish brown, silty clay	
<b>Trench 13</b>						
1300	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Same as 1200	
1301	Layer		1.8	0.26	Subsoil. Same as 1201	
1302	Layer		1.8	0.4	Alluvium. Mid greyish orange silty clay	
1303	Layer		1.8	0.36	Alluvium. Mid orangish grey clay	
1304	Cut				Ditch. Same as 1210	
1305	Fill	1304			Fill. Same as 1211	
<b>Trench 14</b>						
1400	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Same as 1200	
1401	Layer		1.8	0.15	Subsoil. Same as 1201	
1402	Layer		1.8	0.3	Alluvium. Mid reddish brown silty clay	

1403	Layer		1.8	0.2	Alluvium. Dark greyish red silty clay	
<b>Trench 15</b>						
1500	Layer		1.9	0.1	Topsoil. Light olive grey silty clay	
1501	Layer		1.9	0.4	Subsoil. Mid pink brown silty clay	MLC4
1502	Layer		1.9	0.4	Layer. Mid grey brown clay	
1503	Cut		0.7	0.54	Ditch. NE- SW aligned, moderate sloping sides, flat base	
1504	Fill	1503	0.7	0.2	Fill. Mid greyish red clay	LC3-C4
1505	Fill	1503	0.4	0.36	Fill. Dark blackish brown silty clay	
1506	Layer		1.9	0.15	Mid blue grey compact clay at NE end of trench	
1507	Layer		1.9	0.25	Stabilisation Layer. Building rubble, animal bone and coins	C4
1508	Layer		1.9		Mid reddish brown clay	
<b>Trench 16</b>						
1600	Layer		1.9	0.15	Topsoil. Light olive grey silty clay	
1601	Layer		1.9	0.45	Subsoil. Mid pink brown silty clay	
1602	Layer		1.9	0.15	Layer. Mid blue grey compacted clay	
1603	Layer		1.9	0.2	Stabilisation Layer. Olive brown silty clay with some rubble, gravels and charcoal. Contains 2 cremations and worked stone	RB

1604	Layer		1.9		Alluvium. Compacted thick red clay with occasional small white sandstone gravel, depth at 0.95m	
1605	Structure		0.38	0.03	Spread of flat sandstone slabs	
1606	Cut		0.58		Cremation Cut. Unexcavated	
1607	Fill	1606	0.58		Cremation Deposit. Unexcavated	
1608	Cut		0.39		Cremation Cut. Unexcavated	
1609	Fill	1608	0.39		Cremation Deposit. Unexcavated	
<b>Trench 17</b>						
1700	Layer		1.8	0.42	Topsoil. Dark grey brown clay silt	
1701	Layer		1.8	0.16	Alluvium. Mid pinky brown clay sily	
1702	Layer		1.8	0.29	Alluvium. Light blue grey clay silt	
1703	Layer		1.8	0.2	Buried soil. Dark brown yellow sandy silt. Occasional stones, charcoal and cbm flecks	
1704	Layer		1.8	0.16	Buried soil. Dark brown grey sandy silt	
1705	Layer		1.8	0.43	Alluvium. Mid brown grey clay silt. Occ large stones	RB
1706	Layer		1.8	0.14	Alluvium. Light green grey clay silt	
1707	Layer		1.8		Alluvium. Blue clay with occ stones	

Trench 18						
1800	Layer		1.8	0.36	Topsoil. Same as 1700	
1801	Layer		1.8	0.16	Alluvium. Mid pinky brown clay silt	
1802	Layer		1.8	0.23	Alluvium. Light blue grey clay silt	
1803	Layer		1.8	0.18	Buried soil. Dark yellow grey sandy silt. Common stones and charcoal	
1804	Layer		1.8	0.27	Buried soil. Mid yellow grey sandy silt. Occasional stones and charcoal	
1805	Layer		1.8	0.28	Alluvium. Light blue grey clay silt	
1806	Layer		1.8	0.17	Alluvium. Light green grey clay silt	
1807	Layer			0.05	Alluvium. Mid pinky blue silty clay. Not bottomed, depth at 1.2	
Trench 19						
1900	Layer		1.8	0.16	Topsoil. Same as 2000	
1901	Layer		1.8	0.26	Subsoil. Same as 2001	
1902	Layer		1.8	0.4	Alluvium. Mid reddish brown	
1903	Layer		1.8	0.2	Alluvium. Mid to dark reddish brown lower alluvium	
1904	Layer		1.8	0.2	Alluvium. Dark bluish black	RB
1905	Cut		0.52	0.08	Ditch, E/W aligned. Shallow 'U'-shaped profile.	

1906	Fill	1905	0.52	0.08	Fill	
1907	Cut		0.7		Ditch. Unexcavated, E-W aligned gully	
1908	Fill	1907	0.7		Fill. Mid grey reddish brown clay	
<b>Trench 20</b>						
2000	Layer		1.8		Topsoil. Same as 2200	
2001	Layer		1.8		Subsoil. Same as 2101	
2002	Layer		1.8		Alluvium. mid reddish brown clay	
2003	Layer		1.8		Alluvium. Lower alluvium. Dark reddish brown clay compact with occasional charcoal flecks	
2004	Layer		1.8		Alluvium. Dark reddish brown clay, frequent limestone flecks	
2005	Layer		1.8		Dark blackish brown demolition deposit	
2006	Cut		0.6	0.2	Small sub-circular posthole	
2007	Fill	2006	0.5	0.2	Fill	
2008	Cut				Posthole. Unexcavated	
2009	Fill	2008			Fill. Unexcavated	
2010	Cut				Posthole. Unexcavated	
2011	Fill	2010			Fill. Unexcavated	
2012	Cut		0.5	0.2	Sub-circular posthole.	
2013	Fill	2012	0.5	0.2	Fill	
<b>Trench 21</b>						
2100	Layer		1.8	0.27	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, clay, friable	

2101	Layer		1.8	0.16	Alluvium. Upper alluvium/ subsoil, mid grey brown silt clay	
2102	Void					
2103	Layer		1.8	0.22	Alluvium. Lower alluvium, mid yellowish brown, same as 2003	
2104	Layer		1.8		Alluvium. Same as 2004	
2105	Layer		1.8	0.21	Alluvium. Alluvium, mid yellowish grey, clay silt	
2106	Layer		1.8	0.15	Alluvium, dark yellowish grey, clay silt. firm	
2107	Layer		1.8	0.33	Stabilisation deposit	LC3-C4
2108	Layer		1.8		Stabilisation Layer. Stony rubble, light yellowish orangey brown, clay, possible demolition deposit	
<b>Trench 22</b>						
2200	Layer		1.8	0.15	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown clay	
2201	Layer		1.8	0.4	Alluvium. Upper alluvium. Dark greyish brown clay. Very compact	?Pmed
2202	Layer		1.8	0.2	Layer. Mid reddish brown stabilisation layer	
2203	Cut		0.45	0.2	Gully. Curvilinear in plan, steep sides, concave base	
2204	Fill	2203	0.4	0.2	Fill. Mid brownish grey, silty clay	RB

2205	Wall		7.2		Wall. Curvilinear or rounded corner	
2206	Wall		3.6		Wall. Right angled corner	
2207	Layer		1.8		Layer. Dark blackish brown	
2208	Layer				Layer. Demolition rubble in compact dark blackish brown clay	LC3-C4
<b>Trench 23</b>						
2300	Layer		1.8	0.3	Topsoil. Same as 2200	
2301	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Same as 2201	
2302	Layer		1.8	0.12	Layer. Demolition rubble in compact dark blackish brown clay	LC3-C4
2303	Layer		1.8	0.06	Layer. Possible surface	
2304	Structure		0.65	0.14	Structure	
2305	Layer		0.4	0.08	Layer. Thin band of firm mid red brown silty clay below 2303 and 2304	
2306	Layer		0.4	0.1	Layer. Firm dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Below 2305	
2307	Structure		0.47	0.07	Other Structure. Possible buttress?	
<b>Trench 24</b>						
2400	Layer				Topsoil. Same as 2200	
2401	Layer				Subsoil. Same as 2201	LC3-C4
2402	Layer				Alluvium. Light bluish brown silty clay	
2403	Cut		1.93	0.55	NE/SW aligned ditch	

2404	Fill	2403	1.64	0.34	1 <sup>st</sup> fill of ditch 2403.	
2405	Layer				Layer. Black deposit above 2402	C3-C4
2406	Fill	2403	1.05	0.26	2 <sup>nd</sup> fill of ditch 2403.	
2407	Fill	2403	0.7	0.25	3 <sup>rd</sup> fill of ditch 2403,	
2408	Fill	2403	0.32	0.42	4 <sup>th</sup> fill of ditch 2403.	
2409	Layer				Alluvium. Light yellowish bluish brown, initial stabilisation layer?	
<b>Trench 25</b>						
2500	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Dark grey brown clay	
2501	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil	
2502	Layer		1.8	0.25	Layer. Light grey silty clay	
2503	Layer		1.8	0.3	Layer. Mid grey silty clay with red brown silty clay mottling	
2504	Layer		1.8	0.3	Layer. Red brown with grey mottling sandy silty clay	
2505	Layer		1.8	0.25	Layer. Mid grey with red brown mottling silty clay	
2506	Cut		0.7	0.24	NW/SE aligned ditch	
2507	Fill	2506	0.7	0.24	Fill	
2508	Cut		0.21	0.22	E/W aligned ditch	
2509	Fill	2508	0.21	0.22	Fill	
2510	Layer		1.8	0.1	Alluvium. Mid grey silty clay	
2511	Layer		1.8	0.1	Layer. Red brown clay at south end of trench only	
2512	Cut		1.6	0.5	Ditch	
2513	Fill	2512	1.6	0.5	Fill	LIA
<b>Trench 26</b>						
2600	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Same as 2500	
2601	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil	



2602	Layer		2.3	0.08	Layer	RB
2603	Layer		15	0.2	Layer	C2-C4
2604	Cut		2.3	0.48	Ditch	
2605	Fill	2604	2.3	0.48	Fill	RB
2606	Cut		0.44	0.23	Ditch	
2607	Fill	2606	0.44	0.23	Fill	LC2-C4
2608	Structure		1	0.12	Other Structure	LC3-C4
2609	Layer		1.8	0.4	Alluvium	
2610	Cut		1.85	0.54	Tree Throw	
2611	Fill	2610	1.85	0.54	Fill	RB
2612	Layer		1.8	0.15	Alluvium. Light/mid grey silty clay with orange brown mottling	
<b>Trench 27 (Not Excavated)</b>						
<b>Trench 28 (Not Excavated)</b>						
<b>Trench 29 (Not Excavated)</b>						
<b>Trench 30 (Not Excavated)</b>						
<b>Trench 31 (Not Excavated)</b>						
<b>Trench 32</b>						
3200	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Same as 3400	
3201	Layer		1.8	0.3	Subsoil. Same as 3401	
3202	Natural		1.8		Same as 3402	
3203	Cut		3.3	0.5	Ditch. NE-SW aligned ditch	
3204	Fill	3203	3.3	0.5	Fill. Mid greyish brown silt clay	
<b>Trench 33</b>						
3300	Layer		1.8	0.25	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silty clay, very dry, no inclusions	
3301	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Light blue grey silt clay, no inclusions	
3302	Natural		1.8		Same as 3402	
3303	Cut		0.58	0.21	Ditch	
3304	Fill	3303	0.58	0.21	Fill	
3305	Cut		2	0.7	Ditch	
3306	Fill	3305	2	0.7	Fill	C2-C3
3307	Cut		0.25	0.8	Posthole	

3308	Fill		0.25	0.8	Fill	
<b>Trench 34</b>						
3400	Layer		1.8	0.2	Topsoil. Mid grey brown clay, friable	
3401	Layer		1.8	0.28	Subsoil. Light brownish grey clay, very dry compact	
3402	Layer		1.8		Light grey clay containing laminated mudstone	
3403	Cut		0.95		Ditch. Unexcavated corner of rectangular aligned NW-SE, turns to NE-SW at Western end of trench.	
3404	Fill	3403			Fill. Light greyish brown clay. Not excavated	
<b>Trench 35</b>						
3500	Layer		1.8	0.19	Topsoil. Same as 3300	
3501	Layer		1.8	0.25	Subsoil. Mid greenish grey clay, no inclusions	
3502	Natural		1.8		Same as 3402	
3503	Cut		1.6	0.34	Ditch	
3504	Fill	3503	1.6	0.34	Fill	C2-C4
3505	Cut		0.9		Unexcavated possible pit	
3506	Fill	3505	0.9		Fill. Reddish brown silty clay, no inclusions	
3507	Cut		1.11	0.18	Ditch	
3508	Fill	3507	1.11	0.18	Fill	C2-C4
<b>Trench 36</b>						
3600	Layer		1.8	0.18	Topsoil. Same as 3400	
3601	Layer		1.8	0.16	Subsoil. Same as 3401	
3602	Natural		1.8		Same as 3402	
3603	Cut		1.3		Ditch. NE-SW aligned	

					unexcavated ditch	
3604	Fill	3603	1.3		Fill. Mid greyish brown silt clay	
<b>Trench 37</b>						
3700	Layer		1.8	0.13	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey friable clay	
3701	Layer		1.8	0.2	Subsoil. Mid bluish orangey blue clay compact	
3702	Natural		1.8		Same as 3402	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1: Finds Concordance

Context	Class	Pottery code	Notes	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
403	Roman pottery	GW1	abr.	3	13	RB
405	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	Jar, everted rim	20	277	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	GW1	Con. flanged bowl	33	448	
	Roman pottery	GW2	Dish, thickened rim	7	151	
	Roman pottery	GW3	Jan, necked	1	13	
	lead		Ra. 9: waste fragment	1	13	
	iron		Bar fragment	1	15	
	iron		Ra. 10; Bar/tang fragment	1	36	
407	Pre. pottery	LI1		3	52	IA
409	Pre. pottery	RO1	abr.	6	21	IA?
415	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	Dish, plain rim; flanged bowl, jar	6	561	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	GW4		2	54	
	Roman pottery	OXF RS	Roller-stamped sherd	1	7	
	Roman pottery	GW1	Jar	3	62	
	Iron		Nails; nail shaft fragments	6	44	
504	Roman pottery	GW4	abr.	2	36	LC2-C4
	Roman pottery	GW1		4	27	
	Roman pottery	SVW OX2	abr.	1	5	
508	Roman pottery	LGF SA		1	1	MC1-EC2
509	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	Dish, plain rim	1	27	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	GW4		2	53	
	Roman pottery	NFO CC		1	1	
514	Roman pottery	DOR BB1		2	8	C2-C4
604	Roman pottery	GW4	abr.	1	11	C3-C4
	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	abr. Dish, plain rim	2	28	
	Roman pottery	GW1	abr.	1	5	
704	Roman pottery	OXF RS	Roller-stamped sherd	1	3	LC3-C4
909	industrial waste		Fuel ash	2	3	MLIA
	Pre. pottery	QZ1	Jar/bowl (SWD)	47	355	
1211	Roman pottery	GW1	abr.	5	42	RB
	Burnt stone			1	20	
	industrial waste		Dense grey ironworking slag	2	66	
1212	Pre. Pottery	QZ1	abr.	1	7	IA?
1214	Worked Bone		handle, (antler)	1	18	
1501	Pre. pottery	LI1	Jar, bead rim	2	19	MLC4
	Roman pottery	NFO WH	Flanged mortarium	1	64	
	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	Jar, con. flanged bowl, flat gr. rim	19	356	
	Roman pottery	OXF RS	Bowl base	3	30	
	Roman pottery	OXF WH	Mortarium	1	11	
	Roman pottery	GW1	Jar, everted rim	26	427	
	Roman pottery	GW3	Jar, necked	1	12	
	Industrial waste		Vitreous hearth furnace lining	11	170	
1504	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	Con. flanged bowl and dish; jars	23	440	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	OXF WH	mortarium	1	15	
	Roman pottery	GW1	Necked jar	33	305	
	Roman pottery	GW3	Necked jar	6	41	
	Roman pottery	OX3		1	2	
	worked stone		Spindlewhorl fragment; mudstone?	1	5	
	fired clay		Pinkish sandy fabric, rod imp.	1	2	
1507	copper alloy		Ra. 2; coin (AD 330-335)	1	1	C4
	copper alloy		Ra. 3; coin (AD 330-335)	1	1	

1603	Pre. pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery lead	LI1 SAV GT OX2 GW1	abr. abr. abr. Jar, everted rim Ra. 6; waste	1 1 1 4 1	6 29 30 20 12	RB
1705	Roman pottery	LGF SA	Dr. 29 bowl rim	1	5	RB
1904	Roman Pottery Roman Pottery Roman Pottery Roman pottery	OX4 GW1 GW4 GW2	Mortarium; abr.  abr.	1 6 2 1	36 41 20 11	RB
2107	Pre. pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Burnt stone iron Stone industrial waste	VES1 DOR BB1 GW1 GW2 OXF WH OX3	Sl. Sh. vess; fn imp Con. flanged bowl, plain rim dish Jars, everted rim  Mortarium rim M17 (abr.)  sandstone Object fragment Slate/shale Vitreous hearth/furnace lining	1 56 73 2 1 1 9 1 1 2	33 570 721 9 26 5 79 7 8 16	LC3-C4
2201	worked stone		Roofing?	1	1234	Pmed?
2204	Roman pottery Roman pottery charcoal iron industrial waste	GW1 GW2	Jar, everted rim Jar, everted rim  Nail; nail shaft fragment Indet. ironworking slag	4 1 3 2 3	147 43 10 10 21	RB
2208	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery copper alloy	DOR BB1 GW1 EG SA	  Drag. 31r (abr.) Ra. 1; coin (AD 270-290)	8 10 1 1	56 58 9 11	LC3-C4
2302	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Iron Stone	DOR BB1 GW1 GW2 GW4 NFO RS OX1 OX3 GW1	Jar, everted rim Jar, everted rim  Bowl  Bowl (Oxfordshire?) Dish, plain rim Nail fragment Sandstone roofing	3 9 5 1 1 1 1 10 1 1	14 110 184 59 12 6 28 303 9 14	LC3-C4
2401	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Iron	NFO RS DOR BB1 GW1	Bowl Jar, everted rim  Nail fragment	1 3 2 1	27 40 23 4	LC3-C4
2404	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Silver	SA DOR BB1 GW1 GW2	Central or east Gaulish Jar; obtuse lattice Dish, plain rim  Ra. 5; unid. radiate	1 14 10 2 1	5 225 303 31 1	C3-C4
2405	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery	LEZ SA2 EG SA GW1 DOR BB1	Dr. 31r Dr 31 (abr.)  Dish, plain rim	1 1 5 1	94 15 83 82	LC2-C4
2407	Roman pottery Roman pottery Roman pottery	DOR BB1 GW1 BS1	Jar (obt. lattice); thick int residue.  Flakes	49 4 2	1278 172 1	C3-C4
2507	fired clay		Fine, pinkish fabric; featureless	1	6	-

2513	Pre. pottery	LI1	jar, proto bead rim; should. vess	182	1094	LIA
2515	fired clay		Dense, possibly mudstone	3	29	-
2602	Roman pottery	GW1	abr.		13	RB
2603	Roman pottery	GW1	Narrow-mouth jar; everted rim jars	45	363	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	GW2	base	1	45	
	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	base	3	13	
	Roman pottery	BS1		2	9	
	Roman pottery	OX1	Dish/bowl	2	27	
	industrial waste		Slate fragment with slag	1	21	
	CBM		Brick. Hard, dense fabric, sanded	2	42	
	CBM		Tile? Dense pink fabric	1	9	
2605	Roman pottery	GW1	Jar, everted rim	10	145	RB
	CBM		Tile. Hard, dense, pinkish fabric	1	75	
	industrial waste		Indet. Ironworking slag; hearth/furnace lining	4	217	
2607	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	Dish, plain rim	2	23	LC2-C4
	Roman pottery	GW1		2	35	
	industrial waste		Vitrified hearth/furnace lining	6	565	
	iron		Ra. 7; strip or blade	1	284	
	iron		Strip/object fragment	1	3	
2608	iron		Ra. 8: hinge staple?	1	110	LC3-C4
	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	abr.	3	15	
	Roman pottery	EG SA	abr.	1	7	
	Roman pottery	GW2		1	21	
	Roman pottery	GW1	Con. fanged bowl	6	121	
2611	Roman pottery	GW1		1	3	RB
3306	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	abr.	14	54	C2-C3
	Roman pottery	SVW OX2	abr.	2	3	
	Roman pottery	GW1	abr. Dish/bowl	50	318	
	Roman pottery	BS1		1	2	
	Roman pottery	SVW OX2		1	7	
	worked stone		Micaceous sandstone. Roofing?	1	30	
	iron		Nail shaft fragment; fragment	2	6	
	industrial waste		Vitreous hearth/furnace lining	1	14	
	fired clay		Hard, dense; ?stone	2	9	
3504	Roman pottery	DOR BB1	abr.	2	4	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	GW1		4	33	
	Roman pottery	SVW OX2		3	16	
	Roman pottery	OX2		1	2	
3508	Roman pottery	DOR BB1		2	6	C2-C4
	Roman pottery	OX3		1	2	

Table 2: Pottery summary by Period/fabric

Period	Code*	Description	Ct.	Wt.(g)
Pre.	LI1	Handmade; limestone-tempered (with calcite)	188	1171
	QZ1	Handmade; quartz/sandstone tempered	48	362
	RO1	Handmade; rock inclusions	6	21
	VES1	Handmade; vesicular (leached shell)	1	33
<i>Sub-total</i>			243	1587
Roman (Local/ probably Local)	GW1	Medium/coarse sandy greyware (Congresbury type)	363	4341
	GW2	Finer greyware, clay pellet inclusions (Congresbury variant?)	20	495
	GW3	Fine sandy, greyware, red core; common iron (Congresbury variant?)	8	66
	GW4	Coarse storage jar fabric (Norton Fitzwarren?)	10	233
	BS1	Fine/medium sandy, black-firing (Wilts?)	5	12
	<b>SAV GT</b>	Savernake grog-tempered ware	1	29
	<b>SVW OX2</b>	Severn Valley ware	7	31
	OX1	Medium sandy oxidised	3	33
	OX2	Coarser oxidised with clay pellet and iron	2	32
	OX3	Fine oxidised, micaceous	4	37
	OX4	Fine sandy oxidised mortaria (Shepton Mallet?)	1	36
Regional	<b>DOR BB1</b>	Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware	233	4077
	<b>OXF WH</b>	Oxfordshire whiteware (mortaria)	3	52
	<b>OXF RS</b>	Oxfordshire red slipped ware	5	40
	<b>NFO CC</b>	New Forest colour-coated ware	1	1
	<b>NFO RS</b>	New Forest red slipped ware	3	39
	<b>NFO WH</b>	New Forest whiteware mortaria	1	64
imports	<b>LGF SA</b>	South Gaulish (La Graufesenque) samian	2	6
	<b>LEZ SA2</b>	Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian	1	94
	EG SA	East Gaulish samian	3	31
	SA	Indeterminate samian	1	5
<i>Sub-total</i>			677	9754

\*Codes in bold equate to NRFRC types (Tomber and Dore 1998)

#### Coin List

Ra. 5 Silver *radiate*. Poss Gallienus (253-268). Rev. unclear. Deposit 2404

Ra. 1 *Barbarous radiate* c. AD 270-290. Rev. unclear. Diam. 14-15mm. Deposit 2208

Ra. 2 *Nummus*. House of Constantine (Constantinopolis issue) AD 330–335. Rev. Victory on prow with shield. Mint illeg. Deposit 1507

Ra.3 *Nummus* copy. House of Constantine c. AD 330–335. Rev. Soldiers with two standards. Diam. 12-13mm. Deposit 1507

## APPENDIX C: THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

**Table 1:** Identified animal species by fragment count (NISP) and weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	SUS	EQ	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
<b>Iron Age</b>										
406	407		1				2		3	12
2512	2513	5	3			1			9	699
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>711</b>
<b>Romano-British</b>										
404	405	6	2		1	11			20	980
506	509	1							1	16
1210	1211					1			1	18
1503	1504		1				2		3	33
	1603	2	2						4	108
	2107	2	2					6	10	47
2203	2204	2			3				5	296
	2208	2						2	4	21
	2302			1			1		2	12
2403	2404		1		1			1	3	73
3305	3306	1	4		1	1		9	3	19
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>1697</b>
<b>Undated</b>										
	206	5	7			4	13		29	253
3303	3304							4	4	5
	3501	1							1	86
3503	3504		3				1		4	33
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>377</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>122</b>	
<b>Weight</b>		<b>1750</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2785</b>	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; SUS = pig; EQ = horse; LM = large sized mammal; MM = medium size mammal; Ind = indeterminate



## APPENDIX D: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1 Assessment of the paleoenvironmental evidence

Feature	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
<b>Trench 12 Roman ditch</b>										
1210	1214	1	20	125	1	-	-	-	*****/****	bn(*)

Key: \* = 1–4 items; \*\* = 5–19 items; \*\*\* = 20–49 items; \*\*\*\* = 50–99 items; \*\*\*\*\* = >100 items;

bn= bone

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## APPENDIX E: GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF MONOLITH SAMPLES

## **Geoarchaeological Assessment of monolith samples** by Agata Kowalska

### **Introduction**

A total of six monolith samples were taken from the following two sequences:

- Alluvial sequence in Trench 5 – Monoliths 5, 6 and 7. Figure 1.
- Ditch 2512 sediments in Trench 25 – Monoliths 2, 3 and 4. Figure 2.

The monoliths were cleaned and fully recorded with the intention of:

- describing and interpreting the sediments in order to characterise the depositional and post-depositional processes within the sampled features and sediments;
- assessing paleoenvironmental and archaeological potential of the sampled sediments;
- providing recommendations for subsampling for paleoenvironmental analysis that can contribute to a better understanding of the landscape, its changes and its relationship with human activity at the site.

The results of the geoarchaeological assessment will then contribute to Research Aims identified from the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* (SWARF; Grove and Croft 2012), (see the *Aims and Objectives* section).



*Figure 1 Alluvial sequence in Trench 5. Monoliths 5 to 7 (from the top to the bottom).*



*Figure 2 Ditch 2512. Monoliths 2 to 4 (from the top to the bottom).*

### **Geoarchaeological background**

The eastern half of the site is located on the North Somerset Levels and typically lies at approximately 4m AOD, with ground levels gradually rising to 26m AOD along the western extent of the site.

The underlying bedrock geology at the site is comprised of mudstone and limestone formed in the Triassic period. In the eastern half of site, the bedrock is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group, in the central part of the site it is Blue Anchor Formation, whilst that in the western part of the site it is mapped as Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (BGS 2022).

The superficial deposit, formed in the Holocene period, is mapped on the site as Tidal Flat deposit of Clay, Silt and Sand (ibid.). It is a post-glacial sediment sequence that is, on average, 10–15m thick, largely made of estuarine mineral sediments and peats. In the Severn Estuary this

sequence is called the Wentlooge Formation which is formed essentially of sediments of high tidal mudflats, saltmarsh environments with peats overlain with recent estuarine alluvium (Allen and Scaife 2010, 5-6).

The North Somerset Levels is part of the Severn Estuary wetlands and comprise c. 100 km<sup>2</sup> of a low-lying ground near Weston-super-Mare. The upper part of the Levels contains the silt/clays of the Wentlooge Formation deposited in a mudflats/saltmarsh environment. Based on the environmental research it appears that North Somerset Levels were dominated by mudflats and saltmarshes during the 1st millennium BC (Rippon 1997, 33-34; Rippon 2000, 71, 99). It is generally accepted that from the Roman period and possibly earlier, the nature of wetland has been transformed by an extensive drainage system and a creation of seabanks. This made permanent settlements possible in some areas previously used seasonally (Bell 2000, 87).

Previous archaeological and environmental research at Banwell shows that the alluvium overlying the late Iron Age site at Banwell was deposited in a largely freshwater environment. The activity at the site was associated with a hiatus in sediment accretion and land stabilisation. Also, the palaeoenvironmental records from that site indicated the drying out of the marshland and establishment of open grasslands landscape. Pottery recovered from that site indicated a resumption of sediment deposition around 1st century BC and 1st century AD. An extensive drainage system was created at Banwell and in the nearby area in the 3rd century AD (Rippon 2000, 99-100).

## **Methodology**

Six monoliths were taken from two sequences to collect undisturbed sediments for the geoarchaeological and palaeoenvironmental assessment. All monolith samples were retained in steel tins measuring 100 x 100 x 500mm and 100 x 100 x 250mm and were then wrapped and labelled following standard sampling procedures (CA 2017). The monoliths were unwrapped, and the deposits cleaned, photographed and recorded. The lithological descriptions of the monolith samples are presented in Tables 2 to 7.

The lithostratigraphy of the samples and the assessed section was described according to standard geological criteria provided by Historic England (2015); Jones *et al.* (1999); Munsell Color (2018); and Tucker (2011). The description includes a characterisation of texture, colour, compaction, clast size, shape and abundance; and inclusions (e.g. charcoal, shells, finds). Post-depositional features (e.g. rooting, mottling), and the nature of sediment contacts (e.g. sharp, diffuse) were also noted.

## Results

The detailed description is presented in Tables 2 to 7. Both sequences are presented separately, and the lithological units are different for each sequence as no physical relationship between these two ditches was recorded on the field.

### *Sequence 1 – Alluvium in Trench 5. Monoliths from 5 to 7. Tables 2 to 4*

The alluvial sequence was recorded in a sondage in Trench 5 in the lower west part of the site. The top of the sequence was encountered at 4.42m OD. The sequence was cut by the Late Roman ditch 510, therefore the sampled alluvial sequence is likely to pre-date the Late Roman period.

The lowermost Unit 4, context 505, consisted of a firm, grey (2.5Y 5/1 to 7.5YT 6/1) silt/clay with common fine and vertical channels formed by a root system. Some of the channels were filled with iron oxides and a very few fibrous plant remnants were noted throughout. The homogenous, well-sorted and fine texture of the sediment is indicative of a low-energy depositional environment. It can be suggested that this unit has been deposited by a slow-moving water carrying a suspended fine sediment (mud). This unit was affected by root action post-deposition.

Overlying Unit 4 was Unit 3, context 509, which was a firm, grey (5Y 5/1) silt/clay with few humified root fragments. Unit 3 was also deposited by slow-moving water, but the quantity of the root channels is lower. This may indicate that this layer was not exposed and relatively quickly sealed by Unit 2. Late Roman pottery sherds were recovered from this context.

Unit 2, context 508, was separated by a relatively sharp contact boundary from Unit 3, which implies an erosional contact. Unit 2 was a firm brown (7.5YR 5/2) silt/clay deposited by low-energy processes related with flooding. Post-depositional yellowish mottling was characteristic for this unit, indicating changing oxidation conditions. Early Roman pottery fragments were recovered from this context. This earlier cultural material is likely removed from its primary context and has been brought by a flooding.

The uppermost Unit 1, context 507 was a firm, pinkish grey (7.5YR 6/2) silt/clay. The diffuse contact boundary with Unit 2 suggests a continuation and gradual accumulation of the alluvial sediments. The post-depositional oxidation was also recorded.

### *Sequence 2 - ditch 2512 in Trench 25 – Monolith 2, 3 and 4, Tables 5 to 7.*

Ditch 2512 was recorded in Trench 25 in the central area of the site at elevation 5.38m OD. Archaeological material recovered from this ditch suggests an Iron Age date.

The lowermost Unit 3, context 2513, comprised a firm and porous, dark reddish grey (5YR 4/2) silt/clay mixed with very few (<1%) granular-sized charcoal and red CBM fragments. The fine texture implies a low-energy depositional environment and the high quantity of cultural material recovered from this fill suggest dumping of waste material. It is likely the ditch was filled with mud carried by the water within the ditch and by dumps of cultural material. However, the size and moderate sorting of the inclusions suggests dumping of material rather than material carried by slow-moving water.

A diffuse contact boundary separated the fill 2513 from overlying Unit 2, context 2503, which was a firm, brown (7.5YR 4/2) silt/clay. The diffuse contact boundary is indicative of gradual deposition of material and a lack of erosional surfaces. The high quantity of fine roots throughout this unit suggests the presence of vegetation and possible homogenisation of this unit. This may also have produced the diffuse contact. This unit represents an alluvial layer that in turn was sealed by Unit 1, context 2503. The uppermost unit had the same textual composition. The more greyish colour may be a post-depositional effect of iron oxide translocation down the profile.

## **Discussion**

Based on the assessment of the cultural material, the earliest unit is represented by context 2513 (Unit 3) in sequence 2. This ditch is dated to the Iron Age period and the geoarchaeological assessment suggests it has filled by both natural processes related to flooding of the area and deliberate dumps/washing of waste material. The cultural material was likely dumped or washed in followed by a relatively quick covering by the alluvial mud. The ditch was then covered by the oxidised alluvium 2503 and 2502.

The previous archaeological investigation close to the current site, summarised by Rippon (2000), shows that the Iron Age features were covered by an alluvium deposited in a largely freshwater environment. The Late Prehistoric occupation at Banwell appears to have occurred during a brief pause in this continuing rise in water levels, just before a return to gradual sediment accretion (Bell 2000; Rippon 2000). A similar trend was observed at other sites within the North Somerset Levels, for instance at Kenn Moor the environmental results suggest a general deposition of deposits on a non-vegetated high intertidal mudflat just before Roman land reclamation (Rippon 2000, 99).



The lower alluvium (contexts 505, 509, 508 and 507) recorded in Trench 5 was characterised by its greyish (depleted) colour which is a post-depositional product of waterlogged conditions/higher water table. The sequence was more oxidised towards the top and yellowish mottling was common. This alluvium is roughly dated to the Early Roman period (see *Discussion* in the Report) and could be contemporary with the freshwater alluvium that filled and sealed the Iron Age archaeology. This sequence was then cut by a Roman ditch that can be associated with the Roman drainage system that was already recorded at Banwell, Kenn Moor, Puxton and, Steart Peninsula. The Roman landscape was at the time dominated by grassland or meadow which was subject to some disturbance, probably by grazing (Rippon 2000; WA 2015).

As seen in Figure 1, the lower alluvium (contexts 505, 509, 508 and 507) and the Late Roman ditch 510 were covered by an oxidised alluvium 504 that can be dated to the Late Roman period based on the finds. The oxidised alluvium is visually similar to the alluvium recorded in sequence 2, thus they may be contemporary. Alternatively, the oxidised nature may be an effect of later, post-depositional oxidation and near surface weathering and pedogenesis. The palaeoenvironmental records from the North Somerset Levels suggest that after land reclamation in the Roman period the area was subjected to tidal flooding, and this sediment accretion associated with the marine transgression can be dated from the Romano period to the 11th century. This alluvium probably filled the Roman ditches and sealed the landscape (Rippon 1997; Rippon 2000; WA 2009; WA 2015).

## **Recommendations**

The assessed sequences are dominated by alluvial silts and clays that were deposited in a freshwater/tidal environment, dominated possibly by saltmarshes in the Iron Age period and possibly dryer combinations in the Roman period. These sequences can be dated from the Iron Age period (fill 2513) to Late Roman (the oxidised alluvium) and have high palaeoenvironmental potential.

If further work is undertaken, a pollen assessment is recommended (Table 1) to set the alluvial sequence in a wider palaeoenvironmental context and to compare the results with the previous research at Banwell. This will enable the site to be set in the wider environmental context of the North Somerset Levels.

Table 1 Recommended pollen samples.

Monolith	Context	Depth	Type
4	2513	0.40	Iron Age ditch fill
3	2503	0.10	Oxidised alluvium post-dating ditch 2512
3	505	0.25	Alluvium – base of sequence 1
6	508	0.25	Alluvium – Roman finds

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Accessed 02.11.2022.

**Table 2 Monolith 5. Alluvial sequence. 4.429mOD.**

Monolith	Unit	Context	Depth	Description
	1	507	0-0.18	7.5YR 6/2 pinkish grey silt/clay. Firm and well-sorted. Grey depletion along vertical root channels. Fine pores common. Diffuse boundary to:
	2	508	0.18-0.31	7.5YR 5/2 brown silt/clay. Firm and well sorted. Common, 2.5Y 5/6 light olive brown staining. Grey depletion along vertical root channels.

**Table 3 Monolith 6. Alluvial sequence. 3.960m OD.**



Monolith	Unit	Context	Depth	Description
	2	508	0-0.12	<i>c. 0.10m overlap with monolith &lt;5&gt;. 7.5YR 5/2 brown silt/clay. Firm and well sorted. Grey depletion along vertical root channels. Sharp boundary to:</i>
	3	509	0.12-0.16	5Y 5/1 grey silt/clay. Firm and well-sorted. Few (<5%) fine pores with humified fibrous plant material. Sharp boundary to:
	4	505	0.16-0.25	2.5Y 5/1 grey to 7.5YT 6/1 grey silt/clay. Firm and well-sorted.

Table 4 Monolith 7. Alluvium 505. 3.824m OD.

Monolith	Unit	Context	Depth	Description
	4	505	0-0.50	<p>c. 0.10m overlap with monolith &lt;6&gt;. 2.5Y 5/1 grey to 7.5YT 6/1 grey silt/clay. Firm and well-sorted. Very few yellowish staining. Common, vertical fine root channels. Very few humified roots.</p>

**Table 5 Monolith 2. Ditch 2512. 5.385mOD.**


Monolith	Unit	Context	Depth	Description
	1	2502	0-0.12	10YR 4/2 dark greyish brown silt/clay. Firm and well-sorted. Very few (<1%) granular-sized limestone. Rare reddish mottling and fine root channels. Diffuse boundary to:
	2	2503	0.12-0.25	7.5YR 4/2 brown silt/clay. Firm and well-sorted. Very few (<1%) granular-sized limestone. Common reddish mottling. Common, vertical and fine root channels. Blocky structure.

Table 6 Monolith 3. Ditch 2512. 5.385mOD.



Monolith	Unit	Context	Depth	Description
	2	2503	0-0.37	<p>c. 0.10m overlap with monolith &lt;2&gt;.</p> <p>7.5YR 4/2 brown silt/clay. Firm and well-sorted. Very few (&lt;1%) granular-sized limestone. Common reddish mottling. Common, vertical and fine root channels. Diffuse boundary to:</p>
	3	2513	0.37-0.50	<p>5YR 4/2 dark reddish grey with 5YR 5/1 grey depletion along root channels. Firm, silt/clay. Very few (&lt;1%) granular-sized charcoal and red CBM fragments. Porous. Moderately sorted.</p>



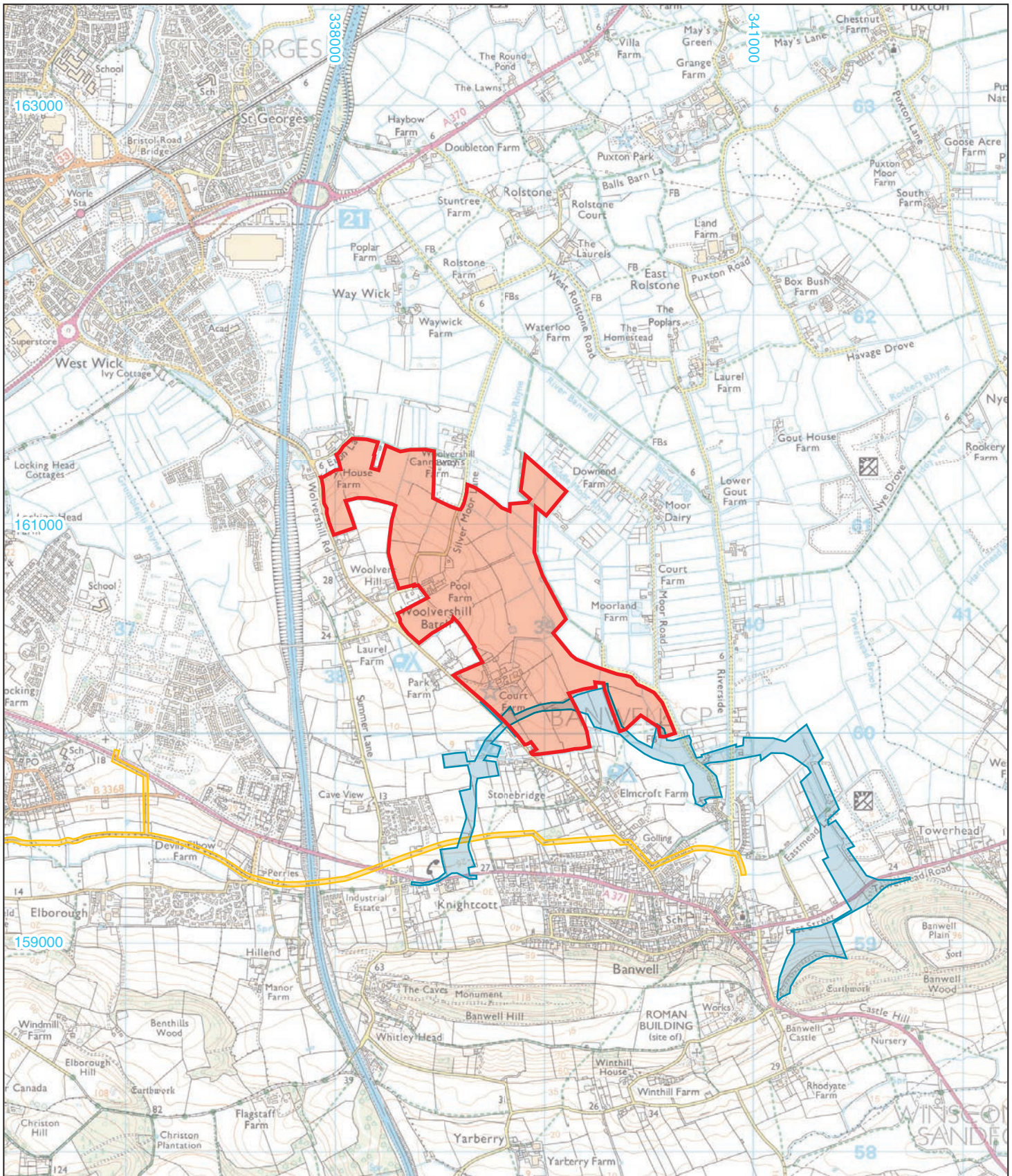
Table 7 Monolith 4. Ditch 2512. 4.84mOD.

Monolith	Unit	Context	Depth	Description
	3	2513	0-0.50	<p>c. 0.10m overlap with monolith &lt;3&gt;. 5YR 4/2 dark reddish grey with 5YR 5/1 grey depletion along root channels. Firm, silt/clay. Very few (&lt;1%) granular-sized charcoal and red CBM fragments. Porous. Moderately sorted.</p>

## APPENDIX F: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Banwell, North Somerset	
Short description	<p>In August and September 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Banwell, North Somerset. A total of 32 trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Four areas, identified as having archaeological potential by a preceding geophysical survey, were investigated. Three of these areas were located at, or in close proximity to, the current boundary between locally higher ground and low-lying formerly marshy areas associated with the River Banwell and Old Yeo Rhine, with a further area being located exclusively on higher ground.</p> <p>Scattered features of Iron Age date, comprising pits/postholes and ditches, were identified in the north-western and central parts of the site, however the precise function of these features remains unclear due to their relatively isolated nature within the excavated trenches.</p> <p>Later Roman (late 2nd to 4th century AD) archaeological features and deposits, mainly comprising ditches and layers of alluvial stabilisation containing quantities of artefactual material, were identified throughout the site. The majority of the identified ditches are currently interpreted as forming parts of a wider series of enclosures and/or field systems identified by the preceding geophysical survey.</p> <p>Two walls, indicating the presence of two distinct stone-built structures of Roman date, were identified in a trench excavated in the central part of the site. A stone pathway was also identified in the central part of the site and may be associated with these structures. No evidence pertaining to the original functions of these structures was identified during the current works and it therefore remains undetermined whether they were associated with domestic, industrial or agricultural activities.</p>	
Project dates	29 August to 22 September 2022	
Project type	Field Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Headland Archaeology 2019) Field evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Banwell, North Somerset	
Study area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha)	98.6 ha	
Site co-ordinates	338790 160580	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steve Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Josh Nowlan	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.):	Content:
Physical	Somerset Museums Service (WESTM: 2022.7)	Ceramics, CBM, Iron objects, animal bone, Roman coins
Paper	Somerset Museums Service (WESTM: 2022.7)	Context sheets, matrices
Digital	Somerset Museums Service (WESTM:2022.7)	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		





- Site boundary
- Previous evaluation (WA 2022)
- Previous monitoring (BA 2016)

0  1km

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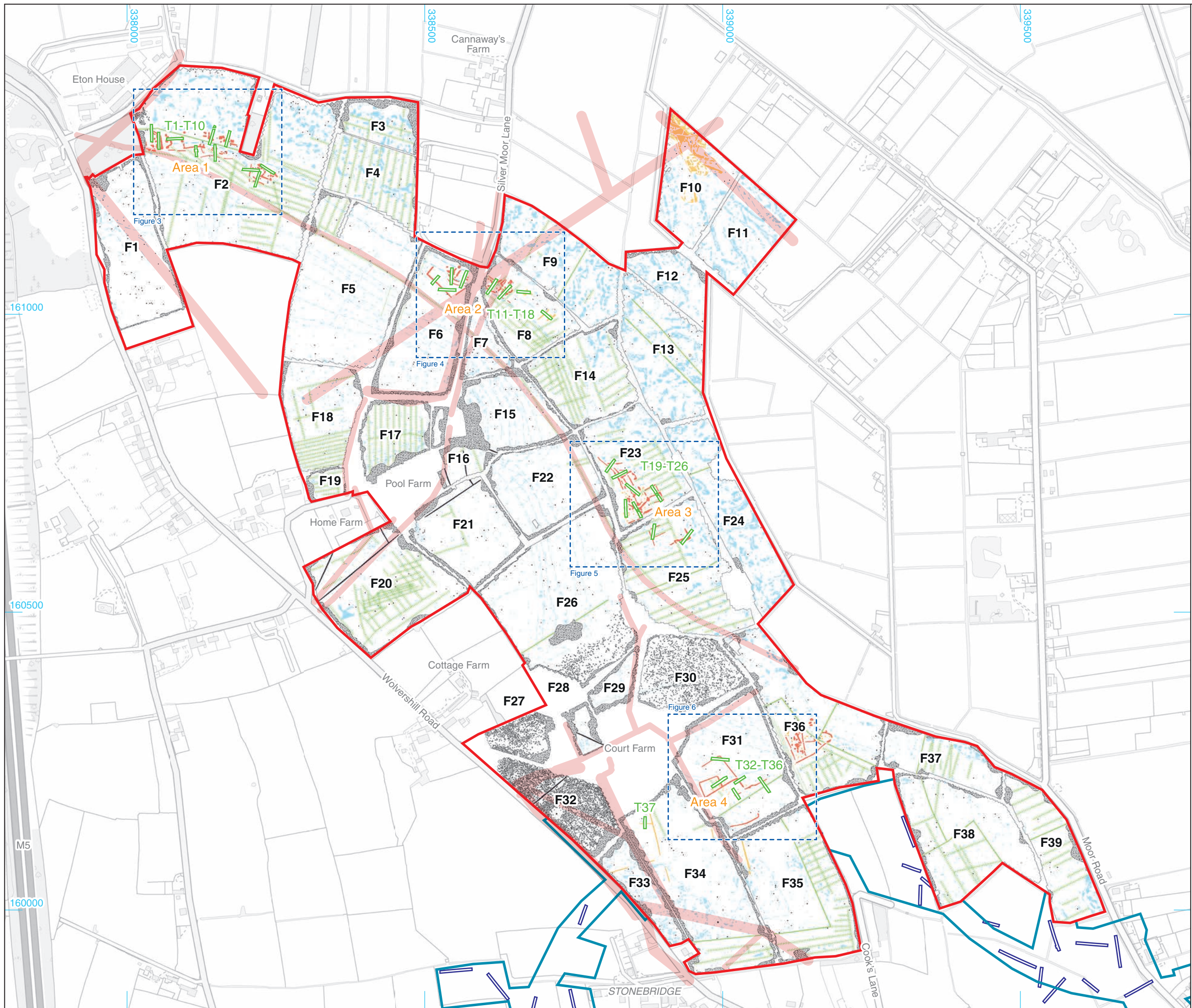


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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR1069	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000	<b>1</b>



- Cotswold Archaeology**
- Site boundary
  - Evaluation trench
  - Constraint
  - F1** Field designation

- Previous evaluation (WA 2022)**
- Site boundary
  - Evaluation trench

- Geophysical survey results (Headland Archaeology 2021)**
- Survey boundary
  - Archaeology
  - ?archaeology
  - Geology
  - Ferrous material
  - Agriculture
  - Field drain
  - Service
  - Geological variation



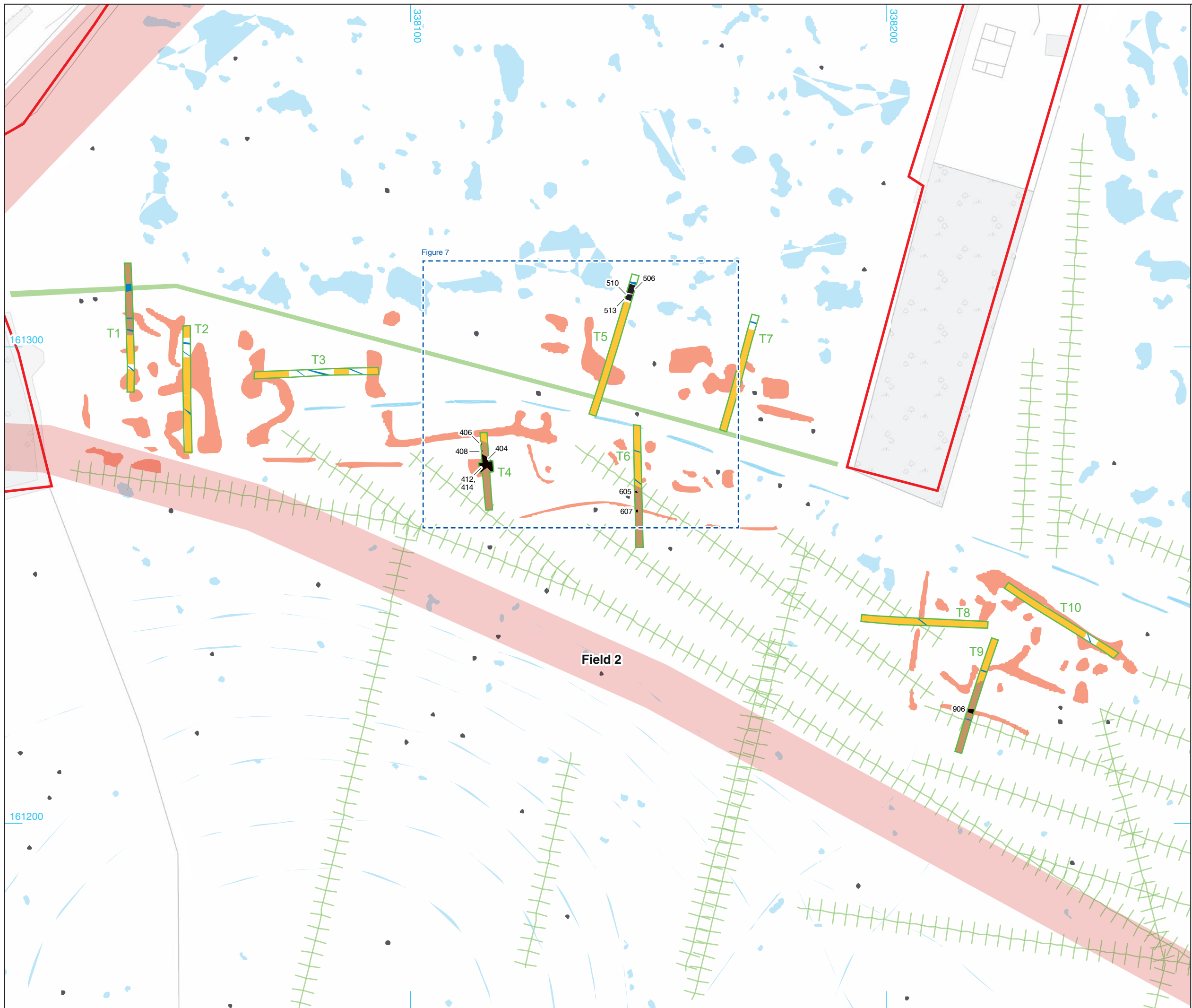
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Site plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	2
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:6000	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Alluvium
- 'Stabilisation' deposit
- Modern
- Constraint

*Geophysical survey results (Headland Archaeology 2021)*

- Survey boundary
- Archaeology
- ?archaeology
- Geology
- Ferrous material
- Agriculture
- Field drain
- Service
- Geological variation

0      1:750      25m

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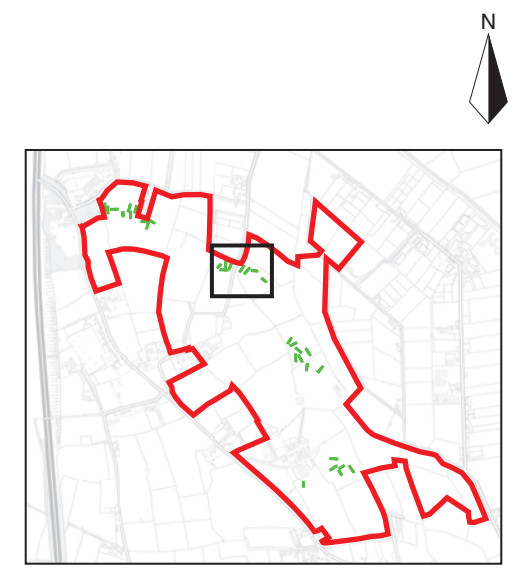
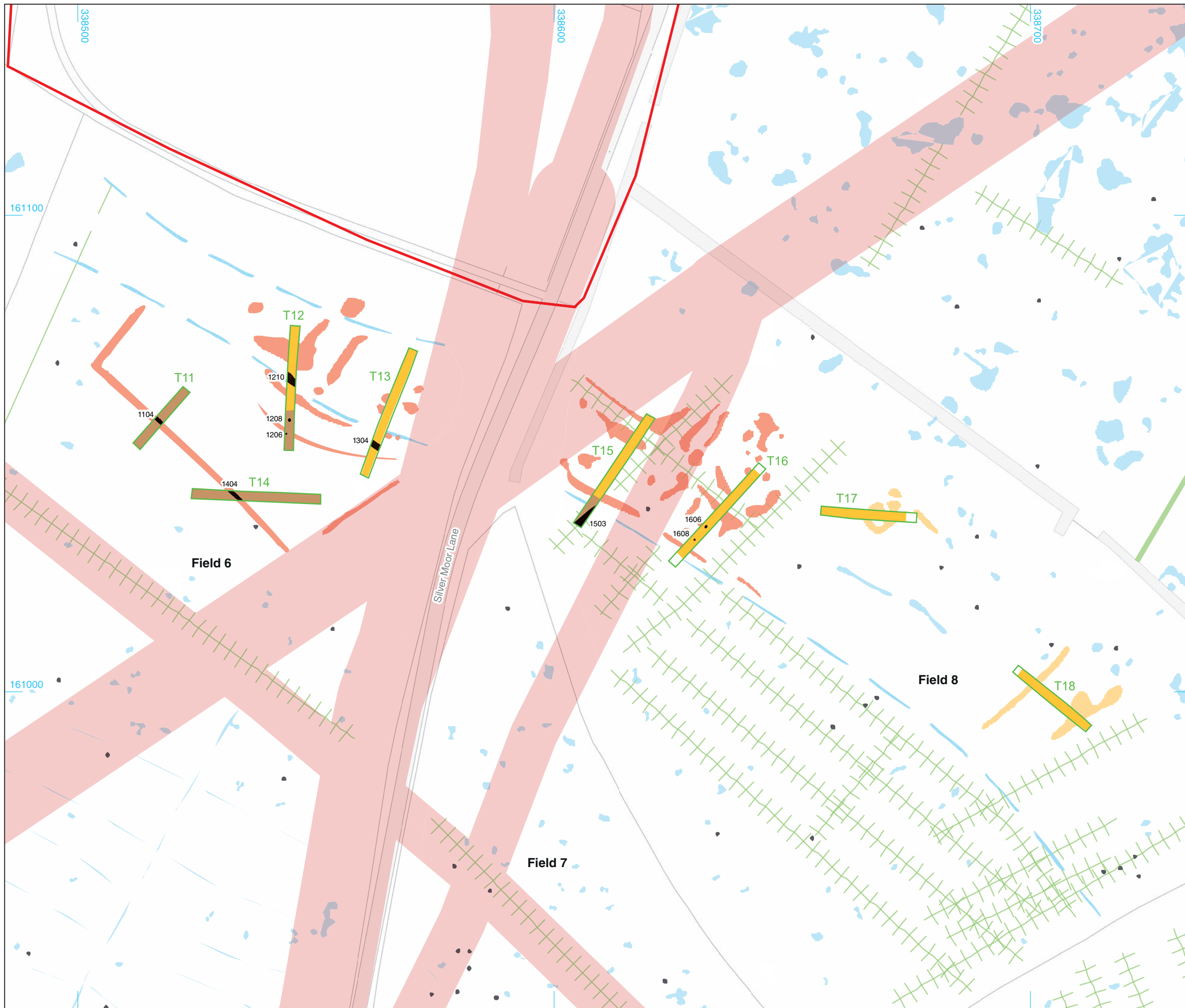
PROJECT TITLE

**Land at Banwell, North Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 1: Field 2**

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR1069	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	<b>3</b>
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:750	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Alluvium
- 'Stabilisation' deposit
- Modern
- Constraint

*Geophysical survey results  
(Headland Archaeology 2021)*

- Survey boundary
- Archaeology
- ?archaeology
- Geology
- Ferrous material
- Agriculture
- Field drain
- Service
- Geological variation



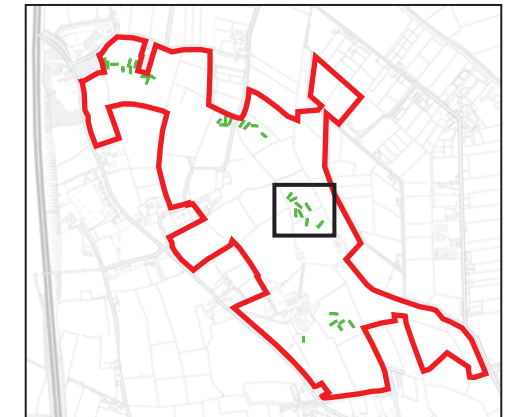
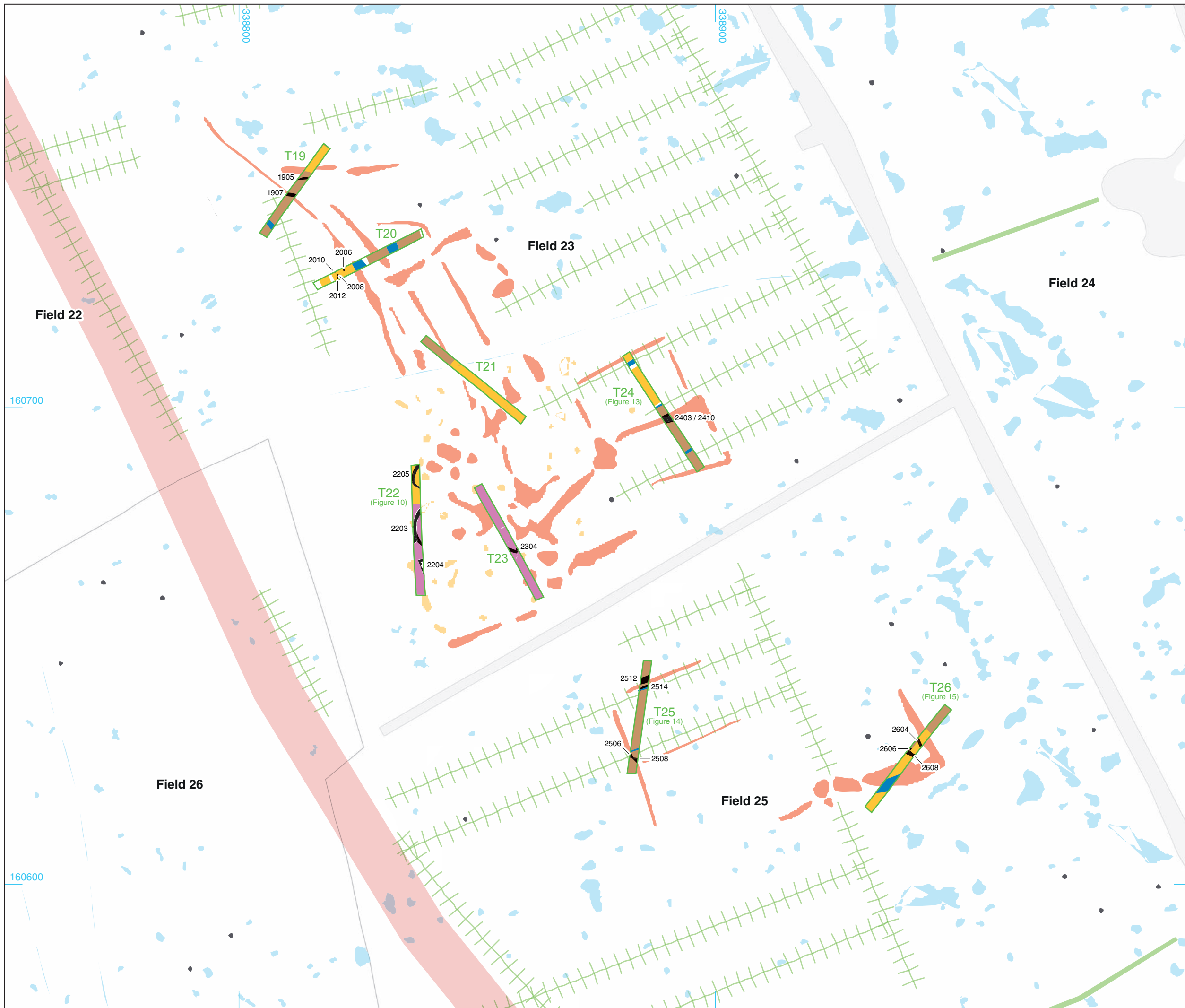
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 2: Fields 6 and 8

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	4
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:750	



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Archaeological feature
- Demolition deposit
- Alluvium
- 'Stabilisation' deposit
- Modern
- Constraint

*Geophysical survey results  
(Headland Archaeology 2021)*

- Survey boundary
- Archaeology
- ?archaeology
- Geology
- Ferrous material
- Agriculture
- Field drain
- Service
- Geological variation



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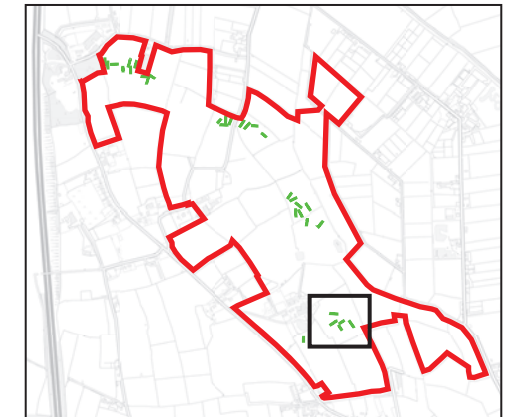
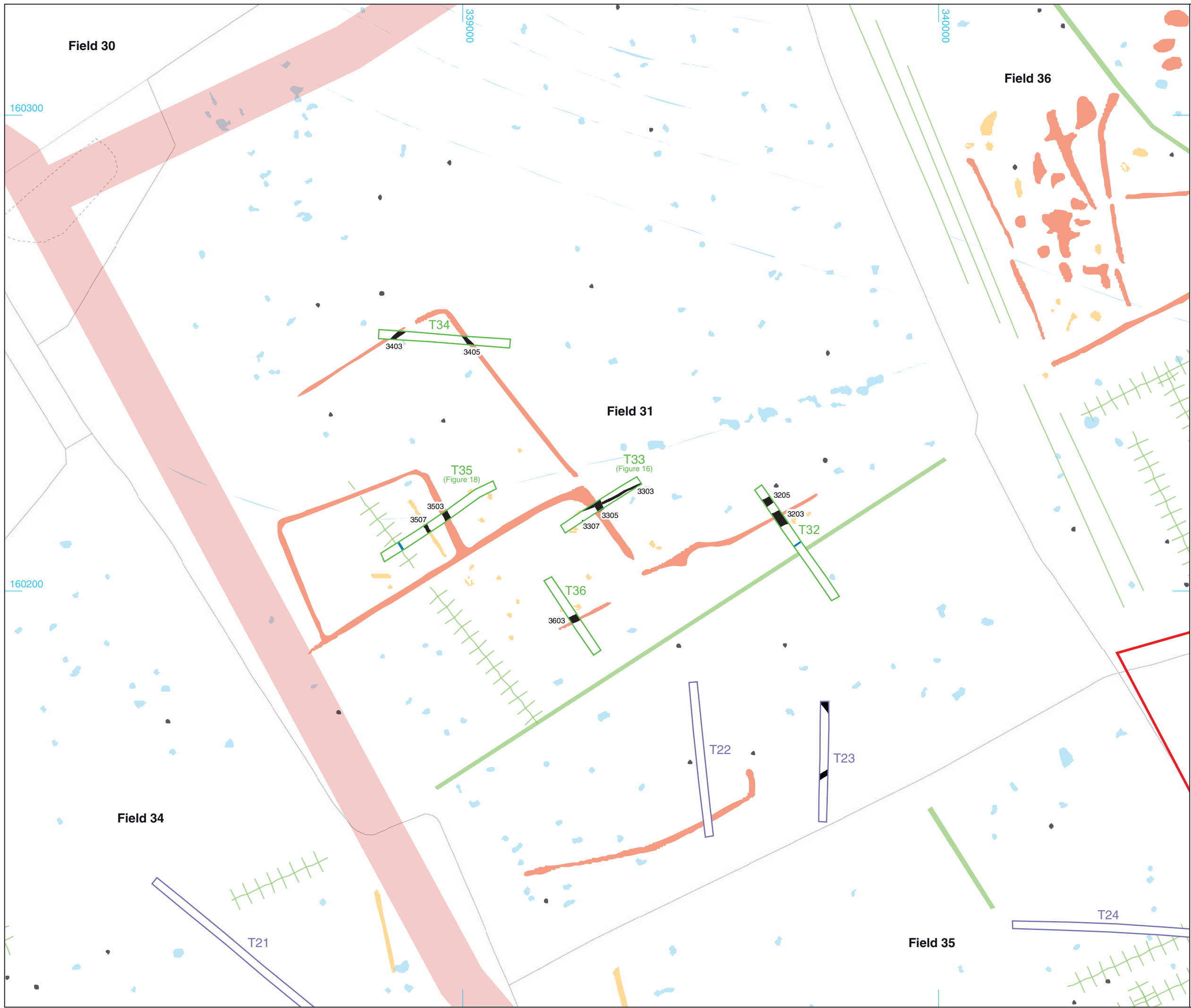
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 3: Fields 23 and 25

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<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 05/10/2022	<b>5</b>
<small>APPROVED BY</small> CB	<small>SCALE</small> @A3 1:750	





- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Evaluation trench (WA 2022)
- Archaeological feature
- Modern
- Constraint

*Geophysical survey results (Headland Archaeology 2021)*

- Survey boundary
- Archaeology
- ?archaeology
- Geology
- Ferrous material
- Agriculture
- Field drain
- Service
- Geological variation



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

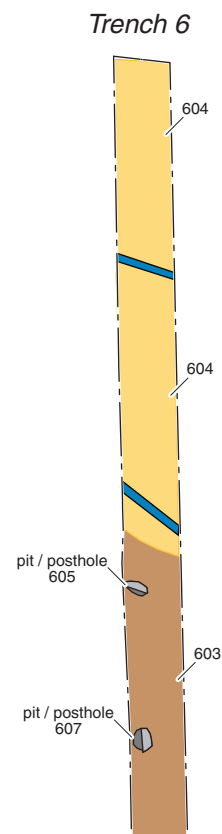
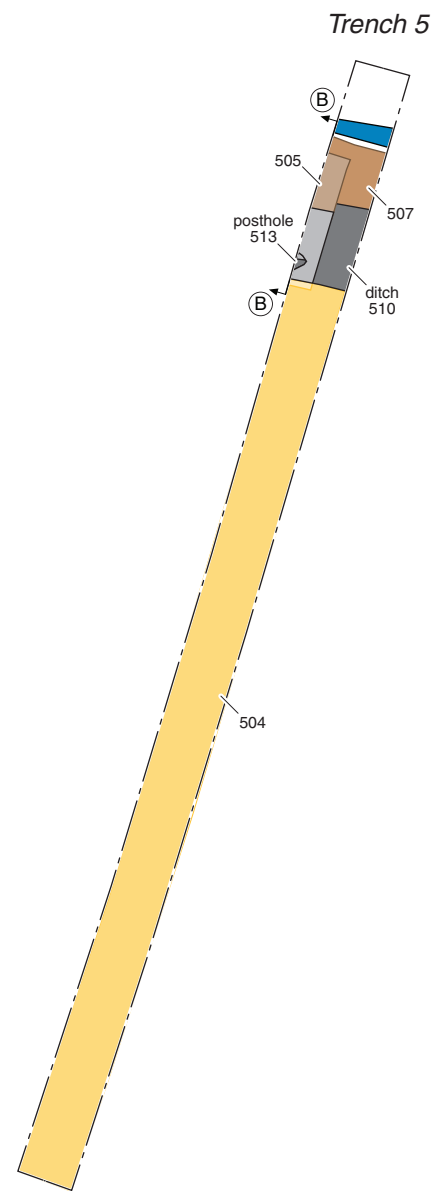
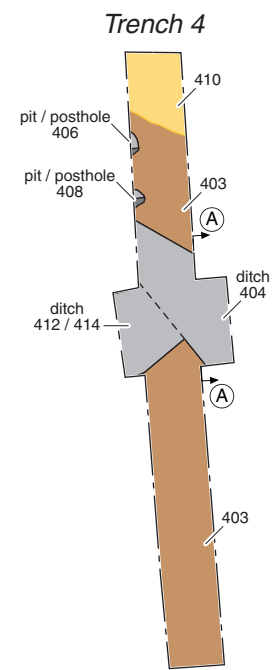
**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan showing identified archaeological features and geophysical survey results, Area 4: Field 31

<small>DRAWN BY</small> RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> CR1069	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 6
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 05/10/2022	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> CB	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:750	

338100

161300

338150



-  Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological feature (excavated / unexcavated)
-  Alluvium
-  'Stabilisation' deposit
-  Modern



 Cotswold Archaeology

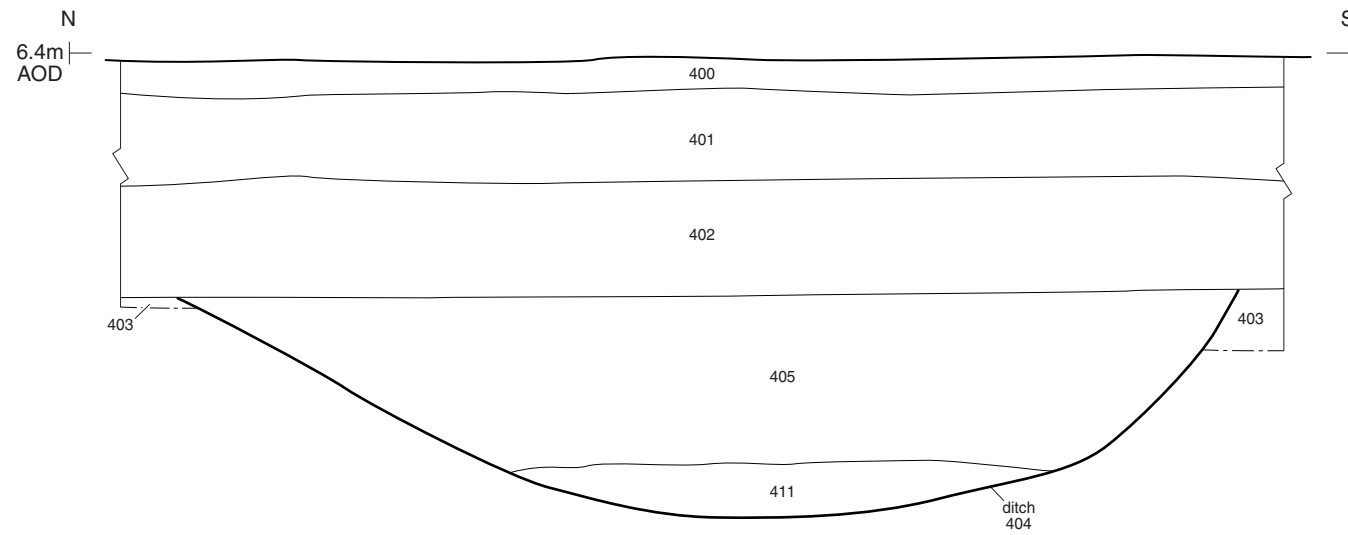
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PROJECT TITLE  
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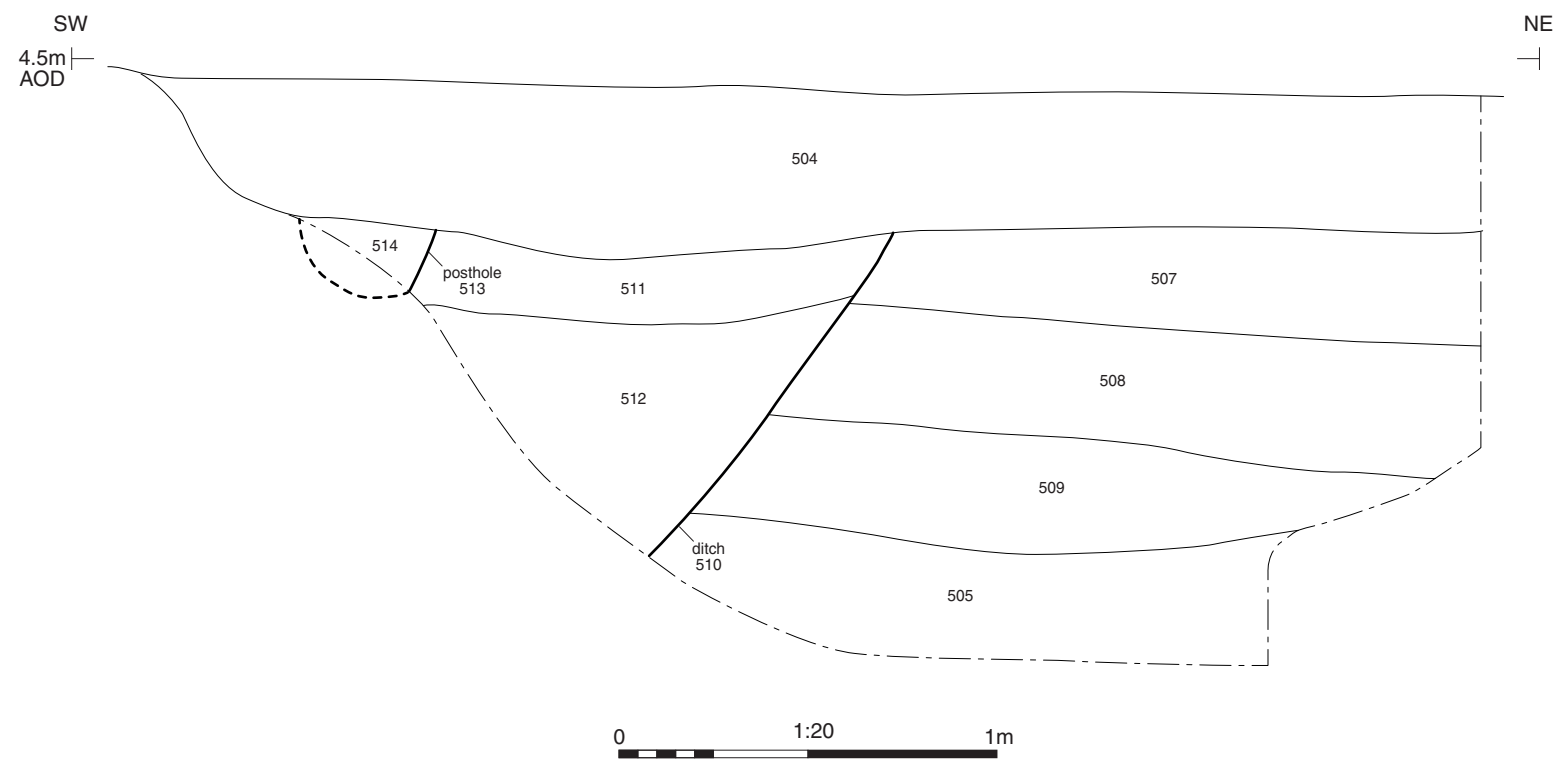
FIGURE TITLE  
 Area 1: Trenches 4, 5 and 6: plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR1069	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	7
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:200	

Section AA



Section BB



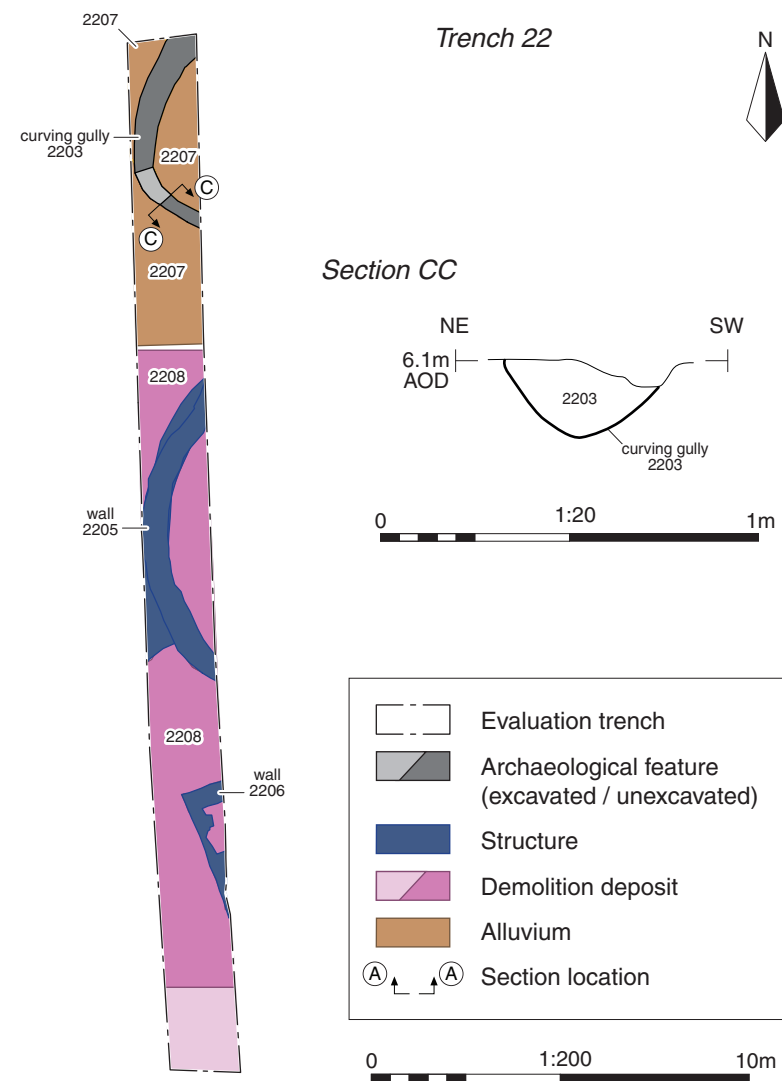
Ditch 510 and alluvial sequence, looking west (1m scale)



Trench 16 showing possible cremations 1606 and 1608, looking north-east (1m scales)



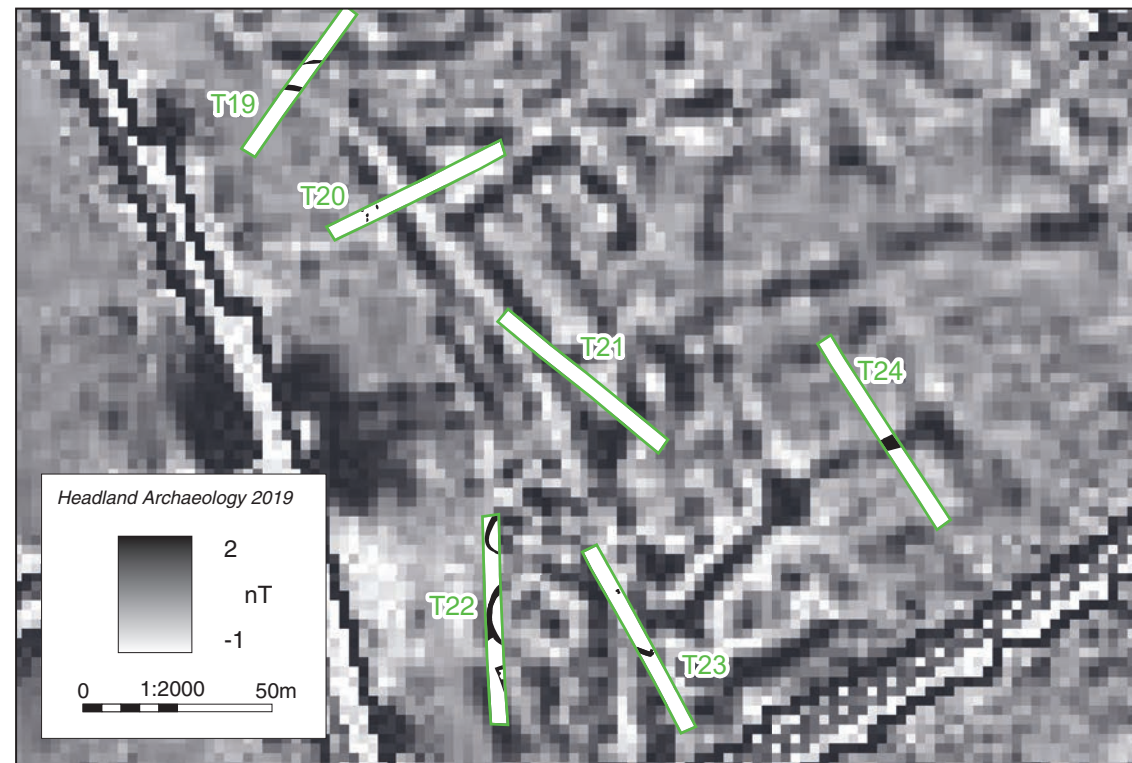
Possible cremation 1608, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Trench 22, looking south-east (1m scales)



Curving gully 2203, looking north-west (0.3m scale)



Geophysics results for Area 3



Wall 2205 and associated demolition deposit, looking south (1m scales)



Wall 2206 and associated demolition spread, looking south-east (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Banwell, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Area 3: Trench 22: photographs

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 APPROVED BY CB SCALE@A4 NA

FIGURE NO.

11



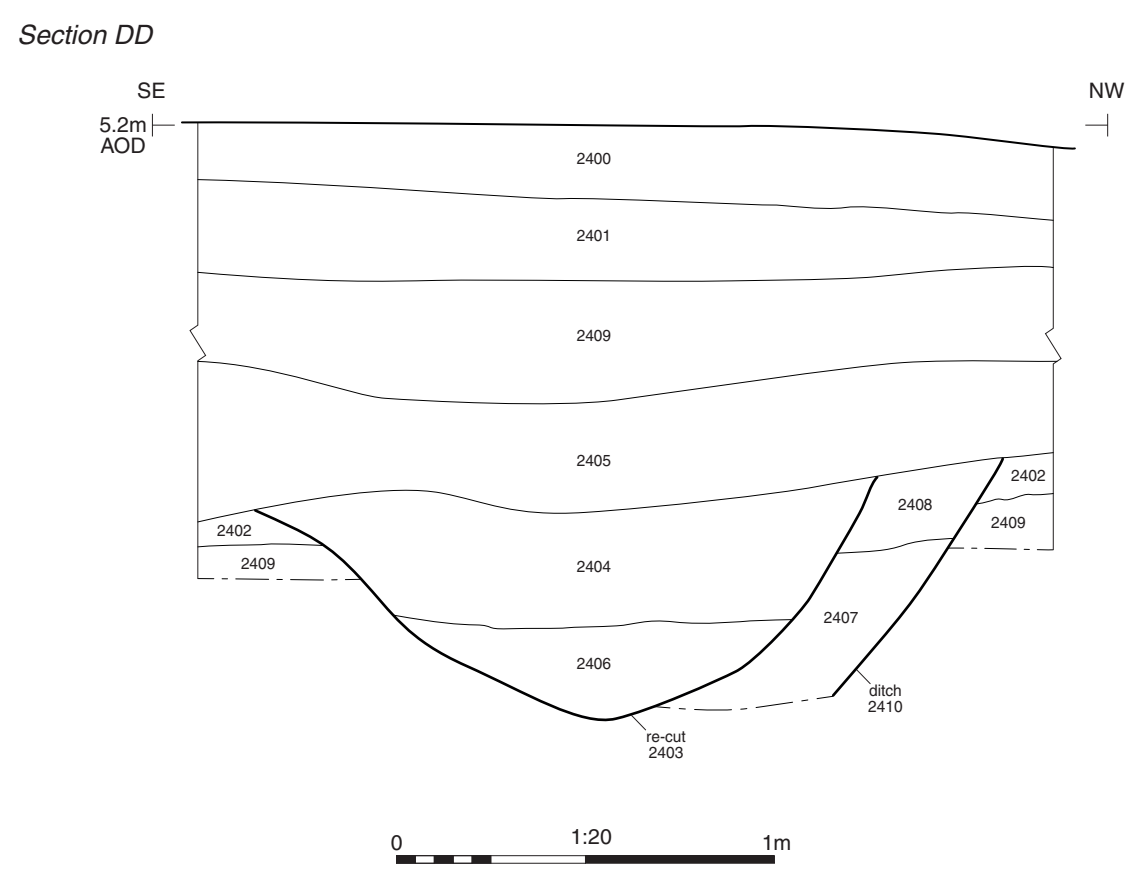
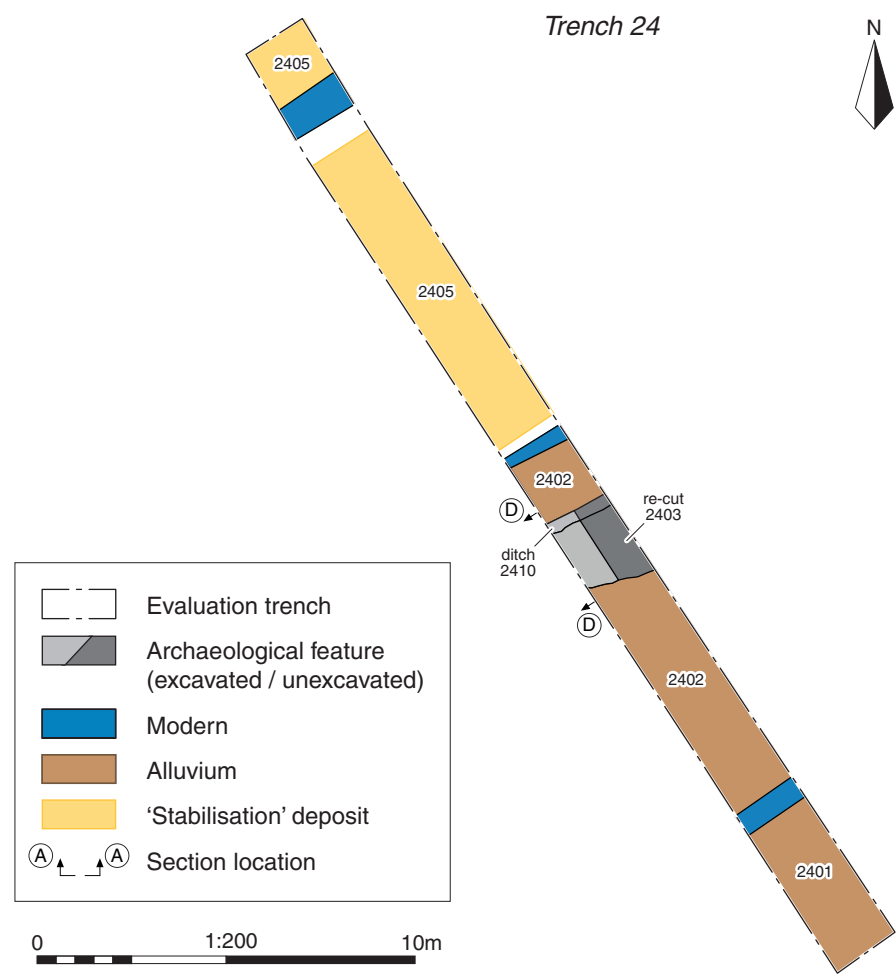
Pathway 2304 and deposit 2303 pre-excitation, looking south-east



Pathway 2304, looking north-east (1m scale)



Sondage adjacent to pathway 2304 showing associated kerb-stones, looking west (0.5m scale)



Ditch 2410 and associated re-cut 2403, looking south-west (1m scale)

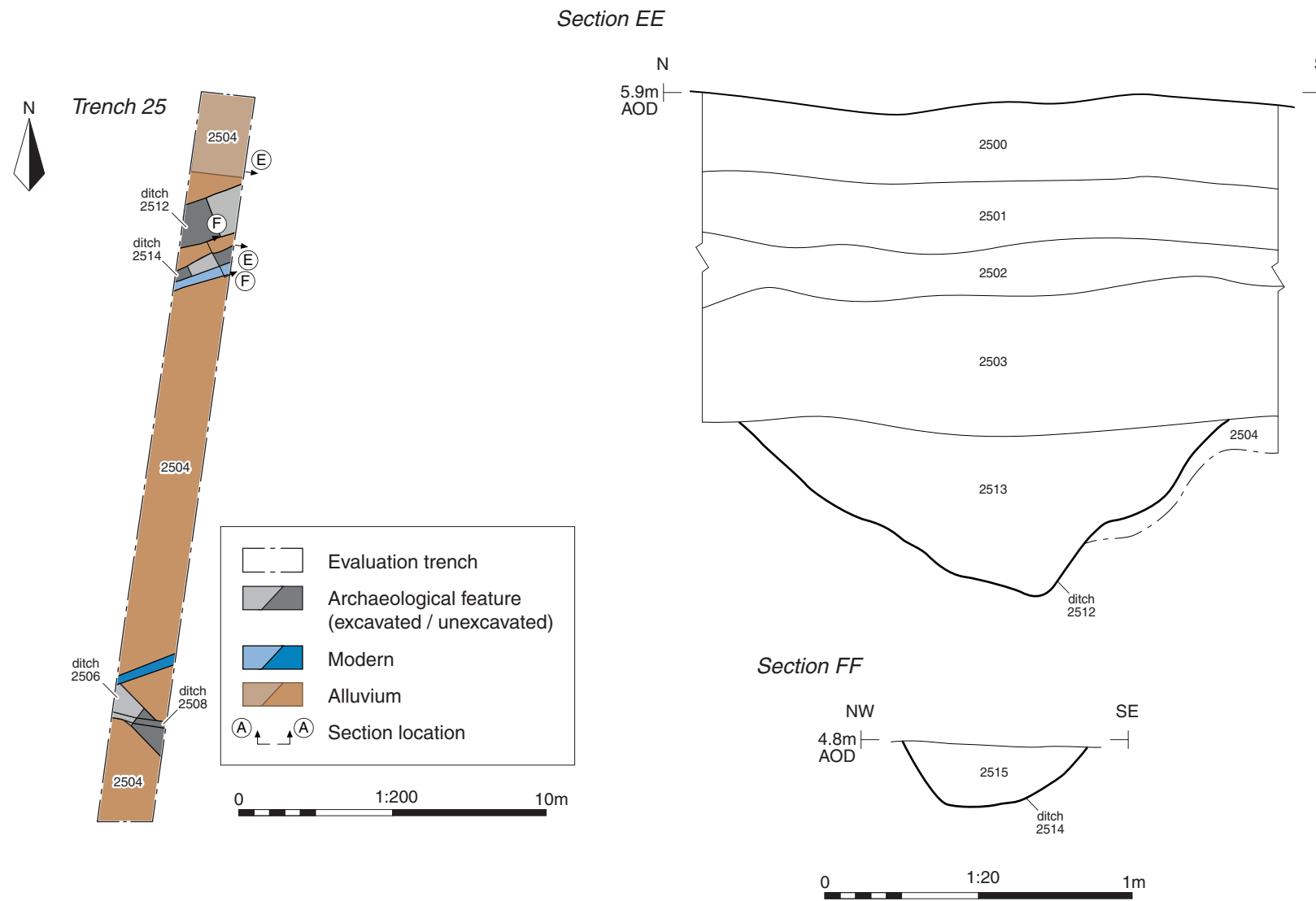

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PROJECT TITLE  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE  
**Area 3: Trench 24: plan, section and photograph**

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	13
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	





Trench 25, looking south (1m scales)

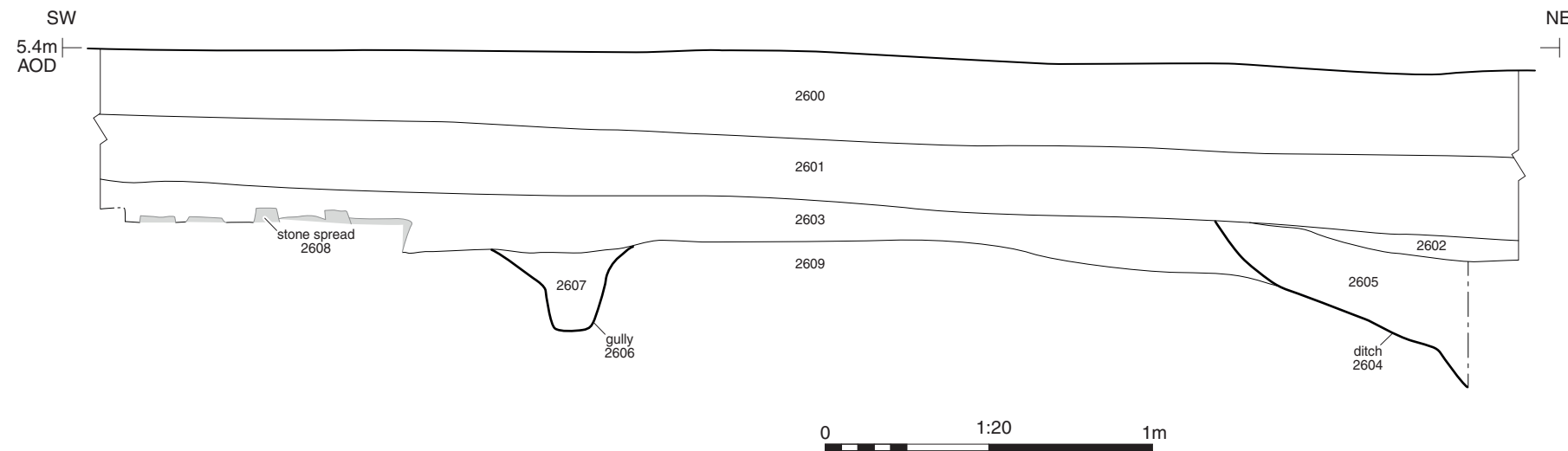


Ditch 2512, looking east (1m scale)

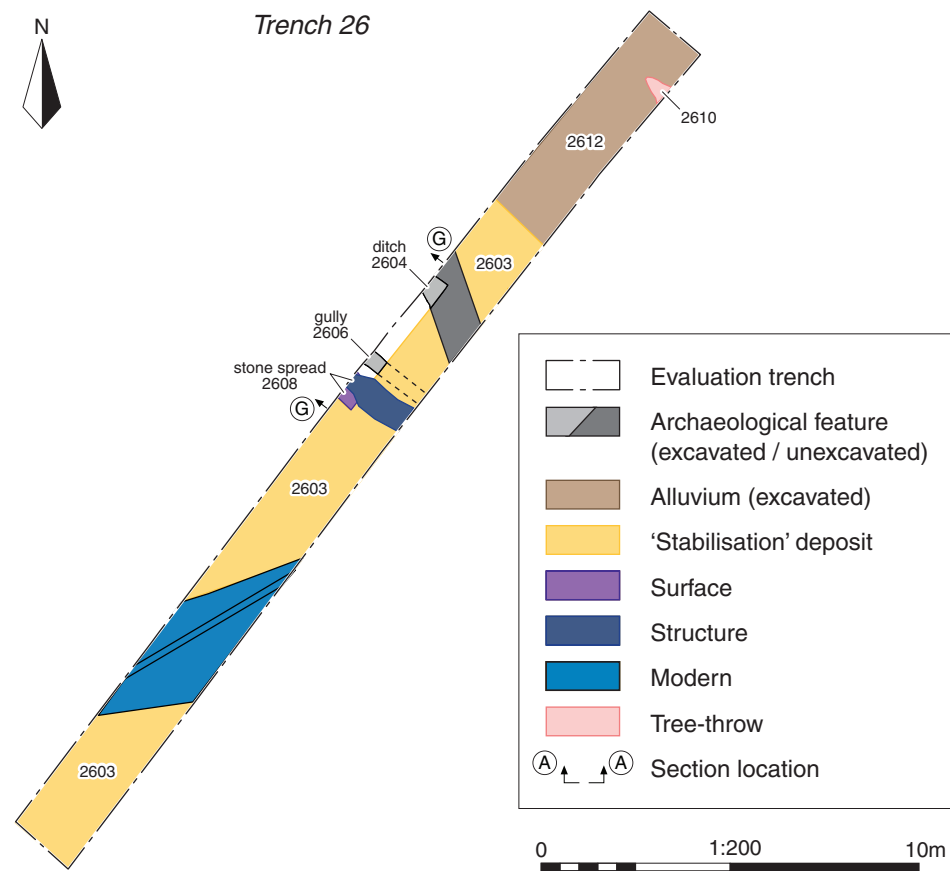


In-situ Late Iron Age pottery within ditch 2512, looking north-east (0.3m scale)

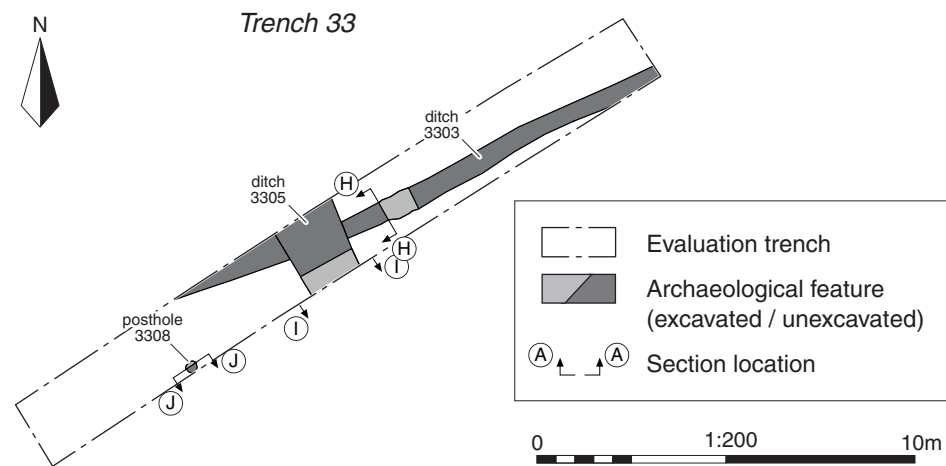
Section GG



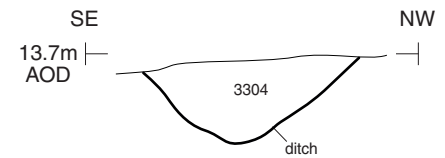
Trench 26



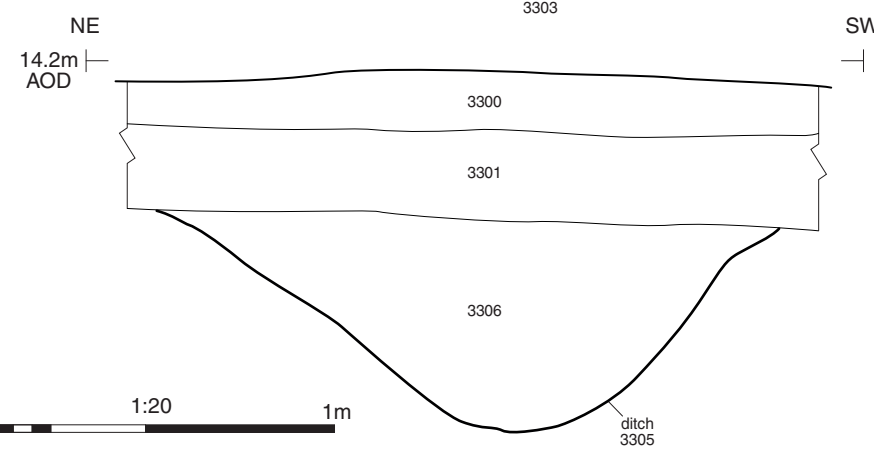
Ditch 2604 (rear-left), gully 2606 (front-centre) and stone spread 2608 (foreground), looking east (1m scale)



Section HH



Section II



Trench 33, looking north-east (1m scales)



Ditch 3303, looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Ditch 3305, looking south-east (1m scale)

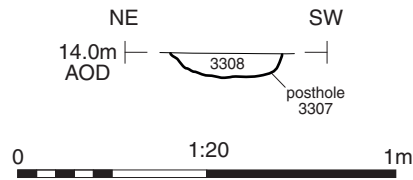

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PROJECT TITLE  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE  
**Area 4: Trench 33: plan, sections and photographs**

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	CR1069	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	16
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	

Section JJ



Posthole 3308, looking south-east (0.2m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at Banwell, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Area 4: Trench 33: section and photograph

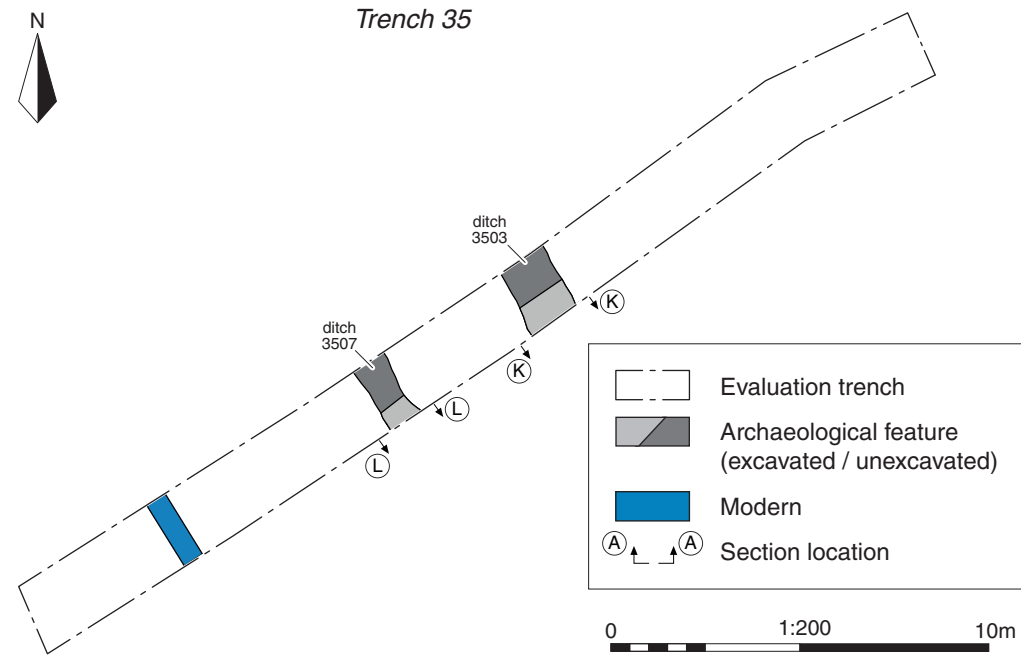
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CHECKED BY DJB DATE 05/10/2022  
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FIGURE NO.

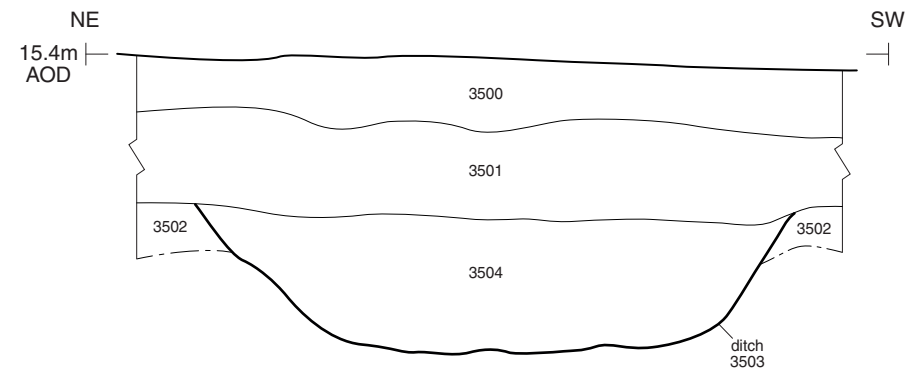
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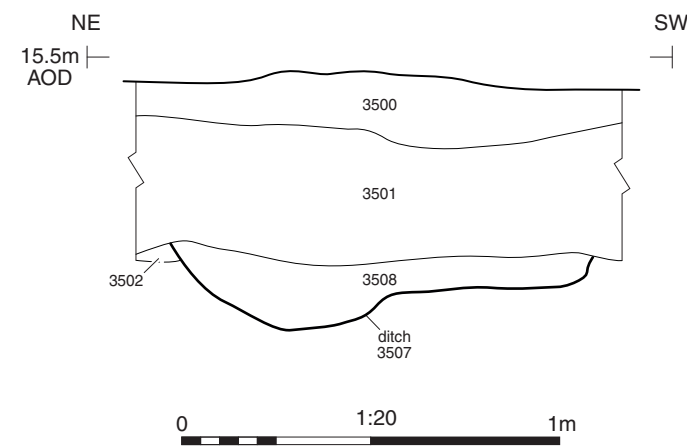
Trench 35



Section KK



Section LL



Ditch 3503, looking south-west (1m scale)



Ditch 3507, looking south-east (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE  
Land at Banwell, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE  
Area 4: Trench 35: plan, sections and photographs

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	05/10/2022	18
APPROVED BY	CB	SCALE@A3	1:200, 1:20	



General view of trenches in Field 23, looking south-west



Trench 25 showing sondage into alluvial sequence, looking south (1m scales)



Trench 23 sondage through demolition spread into underlying alluvial sequence, looking west



Trench 24 showing occupaton alluvial deposits, looking north


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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Banwell, North Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE  
**General photographs**

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