

**Land East of Fulwell Lane
Faulkland
Hemington
Somerset**

Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design



for
Ashford Homes (South West) Limited

CA Project: 9214
CA Report: 16017


June 2016



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Faulkland
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Somerset

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and
Updated Project Design

CA Project: 9214
CA Report: 16017

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SUMMARY

Site Name:	Land East of Fulwell Lane
Location:	Faulkland, Hemington, Somerset
NGR:	ST 7380 5435
Type:	Excavation
Date:	23 November–23 December 2015
Location of archive:	CA office Cirencester, to be deposited with Somerset Museums Service
Accession Number:	TTNCM 99/2015
Site Code:	LFLF 15

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November and December 2015 at the request of Ashford Homes (South West) Limited at Land East of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Hemington, Somerset.

The earliest evidence for activity comprised small quantities of Late Iron Age pottery, although no cut features of this age were found. The earliest dated remains comprised enclosures forming part of a Roman rural settlement. These were found in association with pottery, animal bone, charred plant remains and a small quantity of metalwork, slag and fired clay. Although no structural remains were found and only a very small quantity of ceramic building material, this range of finds is suggestive of occupation. The pottery assemblage from the site suggests that this occurred during the Early Roman period, up to c. AD 200. Cremated human remains within a Roman pottery urn were also found. Two inhumations within graves were present but are currently undated. Later remains included field boundaries dateable to the Late Roman period or later, and quarry pits which probably dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

This document presents an assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During November and December 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation at Land East of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Hemington, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 7380 5435; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken in advance of development for housing. Michael Heaton Heritage Consultants (MHHC) acted in the role of archaeological consultant on behalf of Ashford Homes (South West) Limited. The work was undertaken in line with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI)* produced by MHHC (2015) and approved by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) acting on the advice of Steve Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (1999), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* issued by English Heritage (1991).

Location, topography and geology

1.2 The site is located within the Mendip hills, an area characterised by limestone hills bisected by numerous steep-sided stream and river valleys draining into the Bristol Avon. It comprises a trapezoidal area of c. 0.85 hectares located on the southern edge of the hamlet of Faulkland (Fig. 1) and is bounded to the north-west by houses fronting the High Street, to the south-west by Fulwell Lane, to the south and south-east by fields and to the north-east by the rear parts of a farm. Prior to the excavation, the site was used as a paddock. It lies at approximately 150m AOD with the ground level falling away gently to the north-east.

1.3 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as the Jurassic Forest Marble Formation (Mudstone); no superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016).

Archaeological background

1.4 The archaeological significance of the site was assessed within a desk-based assessment (DBA) undertaken by Arrowhead Archaeology (AA; 2013a). Following this, the site was investigated during a geophysical survey (Substrata 2013) and trial trench evaluation (AA 2013b). A summary of information derived from those investigations is presented below.

1.5 The DBA concluded that no archaeological remains had been recorded previously within the site. The assessment did note that Roman pottery and a skeleton within a stone coffin (PRN 23653) were found in 1912 alongside the High Street immediately

north of the site, but that the precise provenance of these discoveries is uncertain. An evaluation undertaken at the Faulkland Inn, which fronts the High Street to the north-west of the site, found Roman pottery in notable quantities but no cut features of this date. The same evaluation also found small quantities of prehistoric and medieval pottery, as well as post-medieval and later remains (Holinrake 1991 cited in AA 2013a).

- 1.6 The geophysical survey of the current site included additional land to the south and revealed the presence of ditches and pits, with some of the former clearly defining enclosures (Substrata 2103; Fig. 2). The subsequent evaluation confirmed the presence of ditches and a few pits, although many were poorly defined due to the nature of the underlying brash substrate (AA 2013b). No structural remains were identified, but the quantity of finds recovered from the northern half of the site was taken to be suggestive of occupation. The pottery recovered during the evaluation suggested that the site was in use between the Late Iron Age (although this was based on the presence of a single shell-tempered sherd) through to the late 2nd century AD, with the only later Roman material comprising a single early 3rd-century sherd.
- 1.7 Work in the wider vicinity has been undertaken by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society (BACAS) who have undertaken extensive geophysical surveys c. 2km east of the site between Charlton Farm and Upper Row Farm (Oswin 2006 and 2008). This work has revealed Roman remains, including a possible villa site, medieval strip fields and undated enclosures. A further villa, Peart Roman Villa, is located at Norton St Phillip c. 3.5 km north-east of the site and this was partly excavated by BACAS in 2012 (Lewcum 2013).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The excavation which forms the basis of this report was undertaken based on the findings of the initial investigations. The aims of the excavation and subsequent post-excavation works were laid out in the *WSI* produced by MHHC (2015). The aims of the post-excavation work are to:-
 - process all retained materials;

- assess the archaeological potential of the recovered data and formulate an appropriate programme of analysis and publication;
- create an indexed and ordered archive according with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991); and
- deposit the archive with the Somerset Museums Service.

2.2 This assessment report follows the *WSI* (para. 3.5.2) in assuming, on the basis of the excavation and previous fieldwork, that there is a *prima facie* case for analysing and publishing the results academically. The following therefore presents a brief summary of the findings and their archaeological significance. Key proposals for further analysis, together with synopsis of the proposed publication are presented in Section 7.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Fieldwork commenced with the removal of topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under archaeological supervision. The archaeological features thus exposed were hand-excavated to the bottom of archaeological stratigraphy. Soil samples were taken from datable, undisturbed primary deposits that appeared, on visual inspection, to contain palaeoenvironmental materials.
- 3.2 All features were planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual*. Deposits were assessed for their environmental potential and sampled appropriately in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The taking of samples for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic analysis from archaeological sites*. All artefacts recovered from the excavation were retained in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of finds immediately after excavation*.

4. RESULTS

Introduction

4.1 Archaeological features were identified throughout the site and included ditches, pits, postholes, three graves, two stone walls and numerous quarry pits (Fig. 3). Visibility of the features was good, but the quarry pits, which dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods, were extensive across much of the northern half of the site and may have entirely truncated some earlier features. The features recorded were assigned to provisional periods based on spot dates from the recovered artefacts and on the spatial relationships of undated features to those containing dated artefacts. This provisional phasing and the date ranges suggested below may be refined with further analysis. Features were assigned to the following provisional periods:-

Period 1: Early Roman (AD 43–AD 200)

Period 2: Late Roman to post-medieval

Period 3: medieval to post-medieval

Undated

4.2 In addition, a few sherds of Late Iron Age pottery were recovered as residual finds. Other dated Late Iron Age remains were absent and no cut features have been assigned to the Late Iron Age period although it is possible that some of the technically undated features were Late Iron Age.

Period 1: Early Roman (AD 43–AD 200)

4.3 The first dated activity on the site comprised the setting out of two ditched enclosures, A and B (Fig. 3). These were accompanied by further ditches, pits and a posthole. The dating evidence for this period relies on the presence of Early Roman pottery, about half of which was derived from local sandy coarsewares with most of the remainder comprising regional imports and with a few Gaulish imports also present. All of this material is considered to date to the Early Roman period up to AD 200.

4.4 Enclosure A was defined by Ditches A, B, D and E and corresponds with anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey. Its north-eastern side extended beyond the baulk but it was broadly oval and was 43m wide. A 5.6m-wide gap between clear ditch terminals along its eastern side was probably an entrance. It was also open towards the west and, although this corresponded with an area of quarrying, an

entrance facing Enclosure B seems likely to have been provided and pit/posthole 16025 may have formed part of this. The ditches defining the Enclosure A were typically steep-sided cuts with flat bases and were 1.4m wide and up to 0.7m deep (Fig. 7, Section AA). The fills within these require further analysis to investigate whether they represent natural or deliberate infilling but all excavated sections through them produced large quantities of Roman pottery.

- 4.5 Internally, Enclosure A had been extensively truncated by quarrying. Two pits, 15041 and 15037, may have been associated with the enclosure, although this is uncertain at present.
- 4.6 Ditch B of Enclosure A was adjoined to the south by Ditch C which was stratigraphically contemporary with Enclosure A, although it contained no finds. This ditch seems to have provided an annexe to Enclosure A. To the west a single grave containing cremated remains was found, grave 16018. This was cut through an undated feature (16021 - possibly a tree-throw hole) and the cremated remains had been placed within an urn dateable to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Three pits were found immediately south of this grave, of which one, pit 16000, contained Roman pottery and charcoal, and these were perhaps associated with the grave.
- 4.7 Enclosure B was partially exposed in the south-western part of the site and also corresponds with anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey. The full shape and extent of Enclosure B are unknown, but it may have been broadly similar to Enclosure A and it was defined by Ditches F and G, which were typically 1m wide and up to 0.7m deep (Fig 7, Section BB). Some longevity to this enclosure is suggested by the presence of Ditch I which seems to have modified or closed an entrance along the enclosure's northern side. Internally, Ditch H contained Roman pottery and may have created a sub-division within the enclosure.

Period 2: Late Roman to post-medieval

- 4.8 Several narrow, shallow ditches were found along the southern and eastern parts of the site (ditches 15070, 16173, 15060, 15011 and 15098). These seem to have been highly truncated and were between 0.3m and 0.6m wide and survived to no more than 0.1m deep. Of these, some produced small quantities of Roman pottery but this material may have been residual and ditches 15070 and 16173 truncated parts of Roman Enclosure B. It is possible that these features were Late Roman, medieval or post-medieval boundaries, and a broadly comparable alignment of field boundaries along the eastern side of Faulkland is shown on the 1st Edition

Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (OldMaps.co.uk 2016), and is in part preserved today.

Period 3: medieval to post-medieval

- 4.9 Limestone quarry pits were observed across much of the northern half of the site. Few of these contained finds but some were seen to have truncated Roman features (for example, see Fig. 7, section BB) and they were probably medieval or post-medieval in date. The only dateable finds from these quarries comprised small quantities of residual Roman pottery and, from quarry pit 15068, a single sherd of medieval pottery. One of these pits, 16138, found along the southern baulk, may have been left open as a pond since it lay close to an existing spring (shown as stone well-head on Fig. 3) and collected water naturally.

Undated

- 4.10 Two inhumation graves were found but the dating of these is uncertain at present and the human remains await analysis. Grave 15090 was cut through Roman Ditch B and so clearly post-dates the main period of use of this enclosure. It contained a well-preserved adult skeleton buried in an extended supine position (Figs 3 and 5). Grave 16004 was located 10m south of Grave 15090 and contained the remains of a second well-preserved adult skeleton, also buried in an extended supine position (Figs 3 and 6). Neither grave contained grave goods and the only finds present were some Roman pottery sherds from the fill of grave 15090 which were potentially residual, given that the grave was cut through a Roman ditch.
- 4.11 Walls 15074 and 15097 were found cutting the upper fills of Ditches A and B respectively. Both walls were constructed from sandstones and were heavily truncated but seemed to follow the alignment of the infilled ditches and potentially represent a late phase or re-use of the enclosure. Roman pottery dateable to the 2nd–4th centuries AD was found within wall 15097, although this could have been residual material.
- 4.12 Curvilinear ditch 16108 within Enclosure A had a U-profile and flat base and measured 0.65m in width and 0.3m in depth. No finds were recovered from the ditch which was stratigraphically earlier than Roman Ditch E.

5. FACTUAL DATA AND STATEMENTS OF POTENTIAL

- 5.1 The results presented above represent a provisional interpretation of the evidence. The following section presents the potential of this evidence to contribute to our understanding of the site following detailed analysis.

Stratigraphic record: statement of potential

- 5.2 Extensive quarrying across the site has severely impacted upon the archaeological stratigraphy, and has probably entirely truncated some features. Smaller features, such as postholes, were generally absent and it is likely that these have been entirely truncated in antiquity. Most features have been assigned to a provisional period based on spot dates obtained from artefacts, or from spatial or stratigraphic relationships with features so dated. It is unlikely that this provisional phasing will change significantly although some enhancement and fine-tuning is desirable, such as whether there is any detectable difference between the two enclosures. A number of features, most notably the two inhumation graves, remain undated and Period 2 is very poorly defined at present.
- 5.3 Because of the level of truncation, where the locations of buildings and other structures (had they ever existed) have not survived, there is little potential for further analysis to shed light on the function(s) of the enclosures. However, it may be possible to make suggestions as to what activities occurred within the enclosures based on concentrations of artefactual and ecofactual remains in the surviving ditches.

Artefactual record: factual data

- 5.4 All finds collected during the excavation have been cleaned, marked, quantified and catalogued by context. All metalwork has been x-rayed and stabilised where appropriate.

Pottery (E.R. McSloy and K. Marsden)

- 5.5 Pottery amounting to 1520 sherds (18.01kg) was recorded. The large majority of the pottery (1506 sherds; 99%) dates to the Roman period. Small quantities of handmade Iron Age pottery occurred as residual items whilst a single small medieval sherd was recovered from quarry pit 15068. The condition of the pottery is for the most part good, with sherd surfaces well preserved. The mean sherd weight

- (11.9g) is moderately high for a mainly Roman assemblage and not suggestive of significant disturbance.
- 5.6 Approximately half of the Roman sherds comprise dark-firing 'black sandy' type fabrics representative of a mainly earlier Roman tradition common to the north-east Somerset and north-west Wiltshire region. Jar forms dominate, although there are a number of other, less-typical forms represented, including tankards, beakers, carinated and S-profiled bowls. Most unusual is a carinated vessel from ditch 16002 with splayed rim and lines of roller-stamped decoration to its neck, girth and lower body. Small quantities occur in oxidised Severn valley ware typical of products manufactured near Shepton Mallet. Also likely to be local are a small number of sherds in white-slipped fabrics. Pottery from regional sources comprises Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware and, from north-east Wiltshire, Savernake grog-tempered ware. Continental ware types amount to 29 sherds (1.9% of the total), most of which consists of Gaulish samian. Three maker-stamped vessels were recorded from a large group (17 sherds) of central Gaulish samian from pit 15043. Two are fully legible and are provisionally attributable to the Lezoux potter *Titus iii*, and dateable c. AD 145–175.
- 5.7 The assemblage presents consistently earlier Roman dating, containing nothing which needs date after c. AD 200. Refinement of context/feature-level dating is possible in some, larger groups. The samian, including the maker-stamped vessels, provides the most precise date markers. South Gaulish elements include one pre-Flavian/early Flavian (before c. AD 80) vessel, a platter from Ditch G, and two of probable Flavian (c. 70–100 AD) date both from Ditch I. The bulk of the samian is Central Gaulish and of the 2nd century. The 17 sherds of samian from pit 15043 is consistently supportive of a mid 2nd century date. The pottery coarsewares typically provide more broad dating evidence. The presence of Southeast Dorset Black-burnished ware is commonly an indication of dating after c. AD 120, but 'Late' (after c. AD 220/250) jar and dish/bowl forms are absent. Unusually this group also includes some 'Durotrigian' vessel forms representative of output pre-dating the expansion of the industry and probably dating to the mid/late 1st century AD.
- 5.8 The pottery assemblage is of some local/regional interest, discretely dated and of relevance to the early development of a still incompletely understood regional ceramic tradition. The group includes some unusual vessel forms which warrant illustration and further discussion.

Kimmeridge shale vessel (E.R. McSloy)

- 5.9 A single shale object (No. 1) was recovered, a tri-lobate platter handle. Shale originating from Kimmeridge, Dorset was widely exploited from the Early Iron Age and the manufacture of lathe-made vessels such as no. 1 began in the Late Iron Age and continued well into the Roman period. Tri-lobate handles of the same form as no. 1 are known primarily from the area close to the source of manufacture, including three fragmentary examples from Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Mills and Woodward 1993). A larger vessel fragment, reconstructable to almost its full profile, is a vessel described as a circular tray from Wareham, Dorset (Baker 1970, 149–50). An example from the bathhouse at Exeter was from a deposit dated c. AD 50/65–70 (Bidwell 1979, fig. 75, no. 79). Together with the example from Exeter, no. 1 is among the furthest travelled from its source, Faulkland being approximately 60km from Kimmeridge.

1. Platter handle. The handle is of tri-lobate, semi-circular form (the central lobe is largely missing). Each of the lobes was originally filled by scribed ring and dot decoration. A central, scribed, semi-circular decorated panel contains three ring/dots within arcing divisions. The internal divisions and the outer border of the panel consist of double incised lines with in-filled short incised strokes, resulting in a cabled motif. The vessel rim features three concentric lines, the innermost in-filled (cabled). Internal diam. c. 170mm; thickness 8mm.

Lithics (J. Sommerville)

- 5.10 Sixteen pieces of flint (44g) and two pieces of burnt flint (3g) were recovered. These were recorded according to broad debitage type and catalogued. Twelve pieces were retrieved from Roman-dated deposits and the remainder were from undated features. None of the deposits produced more than two lithics. The lithics from undated deposits are of variable condition and few in number: it is not possible to establish the dates of these deposits on the basis of the lithics present.
- 5.11 The lithic assemblage is very small and at least 75% was residual, largely within Roman features. No tools which might have assisted in dating the flints were recovered. However, technological aspects evidenced on a small number of items suggest activity during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. It is not possible to date the remainder more closely than to the prehistoric period, although all may derive from the same period of activity.

Ceramic Building Material (K. Marsden)

- 5.12 Four fragments (236g) of ceramic building material, all Roman, were recorded. They include two brick fragments from Ditch B, a tile fragment from Ditch F and a small flake of brick/tile from ?pond 16138. The group is small, well-fragmented and of limited range and does not significantly contribute to informing interpretation of the site or its chronology.

Metalwork (K. Marsden)

- 5.13 Thirteen metal objects were found and subjected to x-radiography. The extent of corrosion is variable. The ironwork is characterised by heavy corrosion, although there appears to be little evidence of fragmentation. The non-ferrous objects are less severely corroded. Ten iron items were recovered, of which seven were nail fragments. Fill 16003 (Ditch B) contained a sprung bow brooch; the remaining iron items comprise bar fragments of unidentifiable function. The three copper alloy items comprise Ra. 8 (from ditch fill 16013; Ditch B), probably a Roman earring; Ra. 9, from ditch fill 16015 (Ditch B), a pin from a probably Roman brooch and Ra. 10, from Ditch I, a fragment of a nail-cleaner of later 1st and 2nd century type.
- 5.14 The metalwork provides some information for phasing the site stratigraphy. The metal objects are currently stored in air-tight, plastic containers and have been x-rayed.

Metallurgical residues (E.R. McSloy and K. Marsden)

- 5.15 Metallurgical residues, comprising 1172g of ironworking slag, were hand-recovered from eight deposits. The large bulk of this material was recorded from quarry pit or pond fills. Only 3g was derived from a ditch fill (fill 16130 of Ditch H). The ironworking residues probably relate iron smithing. The small size and levels of fragmentation/dispersal in this group suggests such activity was not undertaken within the site.

Fired clay (K. Marsden)

- 5.16 Five fragments of fired clay were found, totalling 56g. All are amorphous fragments preserving one smoothed surface.

Glass (E. McSloy)

- 5.17 A fragment (1g) of Roman vessel glass was recorded from Ditch F (fill 16194). The fragment is greenish-blue and probably from the lower portion of small conical-

bodied vessel, possibly an unguent bottle. On this basis dating in the later 1st or earlier 2nd century is considered likely (Price and Cottam 1998, 172–3). The fragment is of some, limited, significance as a dateable piece and as evidence of access to glass tablewares.

Worked Stone (R. Shaffrey)

- 5.18 A fragmentary whetstone, from Roman-dated ditch 16182 (fill 16183), was the only stone object found at Faulkland. This is the end portion of an oval-sectioned whetstone, which has been evenly used all over. It is of a very fine grained limestone containing frequent shell debris. The whetstone is most likely to represent a personal or household item, rather than a tool from a workshop. It can contribute to our overall understanding of activity on site, but does not contribute to any broader research aims.

Ecofactual record: data and potential

Human bone (Sarah Cobain)

- 5.19 Two inhumation burials were excavated. SK16005 was an adult burial within grave 16004. The skeleton was well preserved, but fragmented, and greater than 75% complete. The second inhumation, SK15091, was an adult burial within grave 15090. The skeleton was greater than 75% complete and in good condition. A grave (16018) containing cremated remains was also excavated. This contained 429g of cremated human bone.
- 5.20 The human remains from this site are of sufficient preservation to yield biological information which can further our understanding of the local population. The cremated bone has the potential to inform on pyre technology, biological information of the individual and secondary burial rites relating to the treatment of burnt remains.

Animal bone (Sarah Cobain with Andy Clarke)

- 5.21 A total of 367 fragments/5908g of animal bone was recovered. Of these, 147 (40%) were identifiable to species, most (86 or 58.5% of the identifiable group) being sheep/goat. Cow was the second most common species (45 or 30.6%) and horse, dog, pig and fowl were present in small numbers. The assemblage is unremarkable as a group from a Roman farmstead, but has some potential to contribute to a study of Roman period animal husbandry. The potential for wider studies of herd

structures and temporal trends is limited by the small sample size and restricted character of the occupation.

Charcoal and charred plant remains (Sarah Wyles)

5.22 Three samples (69 litres of soil) were taken, one each from cremation urn 16019, from cut 15030 of ditch D (part of Enclosure A) and from cut 16179 of curvilinear ditch 16108 (within Enclosure A). They were processed for the recovery of environmental remains, which were then assessed for their quality. From ditch D the charred plant assemblages included remains of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), emmer wheat (*Triticum dicoccum*) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), seeds of oat/brome grass (*Avena/Bromus* sp.), rye-grass/fescue (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.), vetch/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and docks (*Rumex* sp.), hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell fragments, tuber fragments and monocotyledon stems. The charcoal includes twig wood fragments not yet identified to species. The other two samples yielded little of significance.

5.23 Further analysis of the charred plant assemblage and charcoal has the potential to provide some limited information on the nature of the settlement, the surrounding environment, the range of crops, crop-processing activities and the species composition, management and exploitation of the local woodland resource. This data could provide a comparison with other assemblages in the wider area.

Molluscs (Sarah Wyles)

5.24 The mollusc assemblages from the samples appear to indicate a well-established open environment. They included shells of the open country species *Vallonia costata*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Helicella itala* and *Vertigo pygmaea*, and the intermediate species *Trochulus hispidus* and *Cochlicopa* sp. These species are to be expected for the period and location and there is no potential for further analysis of these assemblages to provide a more detailed picture of the nature of the local environment.

Scientific dating: proposals and statement of potential

5.25 In the absence of clear dating evidence for the two inhumations, radiocarbon dating has the potential to contribute to an understanding of the chronological sequence of activity on the site. Dating will determine whether they represent Roman burials, or belong to a later period, such as the Anglo-Saxon. A radiocarbon date should also be obtained from the grave containing the cremated human remains for comparison

with the dates obtained from the inhumations. It is therefore recommended that human bone samples from each skeleton and from the cremated remains are submitted for radiocarbon dating.

Overall statement of potential

- 5.26 The overall significance of the site is that it shows evidence of Roman rural occupation on the Mendip hills, an area for which our understanding of Roman occupation is slight. More specifically, the site represents the first controlled excavation of a non-villa Roman settlement in the area and provides the first evidence for Roman occupation within Faulkland, a possibility raised by the previous discovery of a Roman burial and quantities of Roman pottery from the vicinity of the site (see *Archaeological Background*, above). The site therefore presents a significant opportunity to enhance our understanding of the early Roman settlement in the Mendip hills – an area that had recognised importance for the Roman conquerors, particularly as a source of silver and lead ores, which were being exploited as early as AD 49 (Jones and Mattingly 1990, 184)
- 5.27 The Roman pottery assemblage from the site is of local/regional significance because of the rarity of comparable assemblages in the locality and will provide data for comparison with future discoveries in the area. The remains from the site can be compared against the more widely recorded settlements alongside the Fosse Way, some 5km to the west, such as those at Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet (Leech 2001) and known villa sites such as that at Peart Roman Villa (Lewcun 2013).
- 5.28 At the site level, analysis of the stratigraphic record will allow for an assessment of whether the Period 1 enclosures were of a single phase or represent a temporal sequence, and will attempt to resolve Period 2, which is at present poorly understood. This analysis will be informed by further consideration of the pottery and by its contextual associations. The charred botanical remains and animal bones have the potential to provide information on the site's economy.
- 5.29 The results therefore warrant a short article in the journal *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History* to bring them to the attention of a wider audience and allow comparison with known Roman remains and those which might be discovered in the future.

6. STORAGE AND CURATION

- 6.1 The archive and artefacts from the excavation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Somerset Museums Service under accession number TTNCM 99/2015, along with the documentary archive.

7. UPDATED AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 To fulfil the potential of the site data and provide appropriate dissemination of the results, the following updated objectives have been identified:

Objective 1: Further analysis and research of selected material classes.

- Pottery. The pottery assemblage is of local/regional interest as a discretely dated group from a locality which has seen few published analyses and where the early development of local reduced coarsewares is incompletely understood. The group merits reporting to publication standard with the principal aim of characterising the (local) reduced wares. The vessel forms are in some instances quite distinct and the range should be published as an important aspect of the material culture of the inhabitants here. The SGRP Research Frameworks (2002) places an emphasis on publishing rural assemblages to redress the balance between these and urban groups. This part of Somerset has few published pottery reports; only Shepton Mallet (Leach 2001) stands out as a comparable assemblage and this is different in several respects. The Chew Valley report is quite old and of limited use and there are few large groups from Bath. Publication should include illustration a selection of vessels in local reduced fabrics in forms not illustrated elsewhere (10 vessels). The pottery presents the main source of dating for the site and will be of use, together with the stratigraphy, to more tightly define the chronology. There is 1st-century AD dating from Ditches I and G of enclosure B. The final pottery reporting should take account of any updated stratigraphic analysis and incorporate its results in data tables.

- Shale vessel. The report (para. 5.9) should be included within the publication, along with an illustration of the object to clarify its form, but no further work is recommended.
- Lithics. The lithics have been fully recorded for the purpose of assessment. It is recommended that a short note is included in the publication, which may take the form of an amended version of this report. Illustration is not required.
- Ceramic Building Material. The limited nature of the assemblage means that no further work is recommended, and reporting undertaken at this stage is adequate for summary publication and archive purposes.
- Metalwork. Cleaning/stabilisation of selected objects is recommended to facilitate long-term stability. It is also recommended that iron brooch RA 7 is re-submitted for further x-radiography, to clarify the form of the spring. This will enable its identification/classification, contribute to an evaluation of its significance, and permit inter-site comparisons. Reporting to publication standard, to include catalogue descriptions and photographs for RAs 8-10 and the iron sprung brooch, is recommended.
- Metallurgical residues. The fragmentary and undiagnostic (of process) nature of the group, together with the lack of dating evidence, lessens its significance and further analysis is not considered a priority.
- Fired clay. No further work is recommended and reporting undertaken at this stage is considered adequate for archive purposes.
- Glass. A short note describing the piece of vessel glass should be included with the final site publication. This may take the form of an adapted version of the report presented here, along with a photograph of the item.
- Worked stone. No further work is recommended on the whetstone, although the catalogue description which has been prepared as part of this assessment should be included in the publication, together with an illustration or photograph.
- Human bone. It is recommended that a full specialist analysis and reporting of the remains is undertaken. It is recommended that, due to the absence of dating

evidence directly relating to the three burials, radiocarbon dates are obtained from each of them.

- Animal bone. It is recommended that a full catalogue of remains and characterization is done on the material from dated Roman contexts for the archive. A short summary report on animal husbandry and any other aspects of the character of the bone group should be included in a publication, with comparisons as appropriate.
- Charcoal and charred plants. It is recommended that the material from the sample from ditch D is analysed and reported on, with a summary of the key findings published.
- Molluscs. No further work or reporting is recommended.

Objective 2: where data exist, establish firmer phasing for the Roman features, including investigating any evidence for differences in date between the Roman enclosures;

This will be approached through a contextual analysis of the datable finds (principally pottery) and stratigraphic and spatial relationships. Historic mapping will also be examined to confirm field boundaries and other features of the modern era, as distinct from those of archaeological significance.

Objective 3: assess the nature and temporal extent of the activities recorded on site;

The results from Objective 1 will be combined with an examination of the nature and patterns of features, the palaeoenvironmental remains, animal bones and the artefacts to explore the economy of the site and the activities which may have taken place within it;

Objective 4: assess the dating and significance of the burials;

Samples from the burials will be submitted for radiocarbon dating, and the results used to assess the temporal relationship of the burials to the Roman enclosures. An osteological analysis will be prepared for the archive, with the key findings summarised for publication, and comparisons as appropriate.

Objective 5: to use the information generated by fulfilling Objectives 1-4 to publish the results of the site in the journal Somerset Archaeology and Natural History.

Publication will focus on the nature and temporal extent of the activity on the site but will also present the most significant finds in appropriate detail (as outlined above) and place the site in its wider regional context. The publication proposal (below) is confirmed as being acceptable in principle to the journal editor.

Synopsis of Proposed Report for Somerset Archaeology and Natural History

Roman occupation in the Mendip Hills:

Archaeological Investigations at Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Hemington, 2016

by Jonathan Hart and E.R. McSloy

	Words
Acknowledgements	150
Summary	150
Introduction	
Location, topography and geology	150
Archaeological background	300
Project background	100
Excavation Results	
<i>Results</i>	1200
<i>Pottery and shale vessel (E.R. McSloy and Katie Marsden)</i>	1200
<i>Lithics (Jacky Sommerville)</i>	50
<i>CBM (Katie Marsden)</i>	50
<i>Fired clay (Katie Marsden)</i>	50
<i>Metalwork (Katie Marsden)</i>	100
<i>Slag (Katie Marsden)</i>	50
<i>Human bone (Sharon Clough)</i>	750
<i>Animal bone (Matty Holmes)</i>	150
<i>Plant macrofossil and charcoal (Sarah Wyles)</i>	150
<i>Radiocarbon dating (Sarah Cobain)</i>	100
Discussion	700
Conclusion	200
Bibliography	500
Total words	6,100
Approximate pages @ 660 words/page	9.00
	Pages
Tables	
<i>Pottery</i>	1.00
<i>Animal bone</i>	0.50
<i>Human bone</i>	0.50
<i>Radiocarbon dating results</i>	0.25
Illustrations	
Location of site	0.50
Site plan with phasing	2.50
sections	1.00
Pottery and shale vessel	2.00
photos	2.00
Total publication estimate	19.25 pages

8. PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 The analysis and publication programme will be quality assured by **Martin Watts FSA MCIfA** (Head of Publications: HoP) and managed by **Andrew Mudd FSA MCIfA** (Post-excavation Manager: PXM), who will co-ordinate the work of the following personnel:-

Jonathan Hart MCIfA (Senior Publications Officer: SPO)

Post-excavation phasing, report preparation, research and archive.

Ed McSloy MCIfA (Principal Finds Officer: PFO)

Specialist report preparation and liaison, post-excavation phasing.

Sarah Cobain ACIfA (Environmental Manager: EM)

Scientific dating management and liaison with palaeobotanical and animal bone specialists.

Lucy Martin (Senior Illustrator: ILL):

Production/ overall quality control of site plans, sections and artefact drawings.

- 8.2 The final publication report will be edited and refereed internally by CA senior project management, and externally refereed by one of CAs pool of academic advisers.

9. TASK LIST

TASK	STAFF	DAYS
Project Management		
	Project Manager	2.0
Stratigraphic Analysis		
	Senior Publications Officer (SPO)	3.0
	Principal Finds Officer (PFO)	2.0
Research, comparanda		
	SPO	1.0
Pottery		
Analysis and report	PFO	3.5
Illustration	Illustrator	3.0
Other finds (internal reports)		
Analysis and report	Assistant Finds Officer	1.0
Other finds (external reports)		
Analysis and report	Specialist	FEE
Palaeoenvironmental remains and animal bone		
CPR Analysis and report	Senior Environmental Officer (SEO)	0.75
Charcoal	Specialist	FEE
Animal bone	Specialist	FEE
Human bone		
Analysis and report	Environmental Officer (EO)	3.0
Radiocarbon dating		
Analysis	Specialist	FEE
Report preparation	Environmental Manager	0.5
Preparation of publication report		
Abstract and introduction	SPO	0.5
Excavation results	SPO	3.0
illustrations	Illustrator	2.0
Compilation	SPO	2.0
Discussion, conclusions	SPO	2.0
Submission to external referees		
Editing	PM	1.0
Revisions	SPO	1.0
QA	Head of Publications	0.5
SUBMISSION OF PUBLICATION TEXT		
Archive		
Research archive completion	Archives Supervisor	1.0
Deposition		FEE
Publication		
Printing	SANHM	FEE

10. TIMETABLE

- 10.1 For a journal publication project, CA would normally aim to have completed a publication draft within a year from the end of fieldwork.

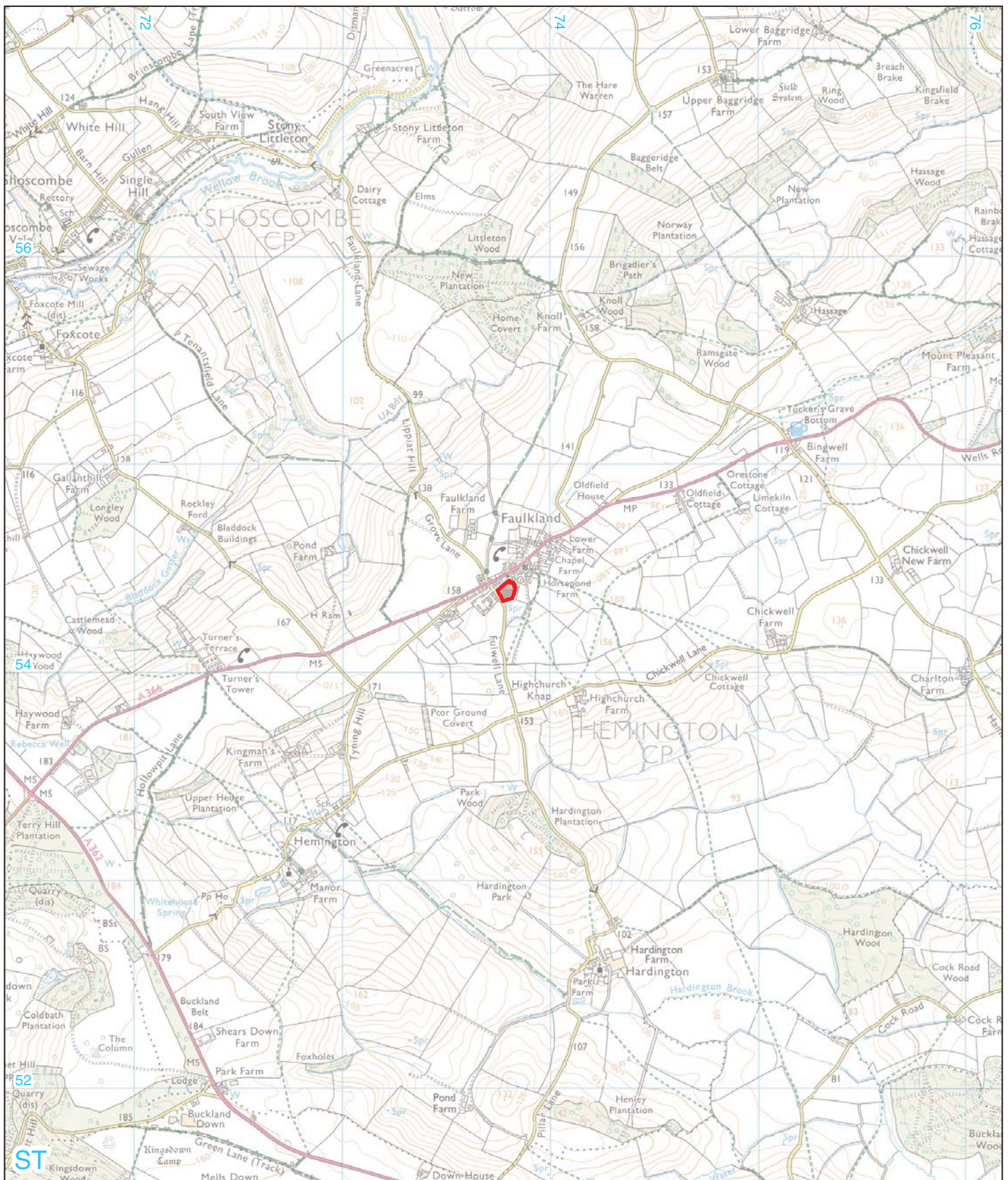
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APPENDIX 1: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land East of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Somerset	
Short description	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November and December 2015 at the request of Ashford Homes (South West) Limited at Land East of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Hemington, Somerset.</p> <p>The earliest evidence for activity comprised small quantities of Late Iron Age pottery, although without cut features. The earliest dated remains were enclosures forming part of a Roman rural settlement, found in association with pottery, animal bone, charred plant remains and a small quantity of metalwork, slag and fired clay. Although no structural remains were found and only a very small quantity of ceramic building material, this range of finds is suggestive of occupation. The pottery assemblage dates this to the Early Roman period, up to c. AD 200. Cremated human remains within a Roman pottery urn were also found. Two inhumations in graves are currently undated. Later remains included field boundaries, dateable to the Late Roman period or later, and quarry pits which probably dated to the medieval and/or post-medieval periods.</p> <p>This document presents an assessment of the evidence recovered from the excavation and presents an updated project design for a programme of post-excavation analysis to bring the results to appropriate publication.</p>	
Project dates	23 November-23 December 2015	
Project type	Archaeological Excavation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Substrata 2013), Evaluation (Arrowhead Archaeology 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land East of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Somerset	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.85ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 3738 1543	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Somerset County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Michael Heaton Heritage Consultants	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Orellana	
MONUMENT TYPE		
Enclosure ditches, pits, postholes, graves		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
None		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Somerset Museum Services TTNCM 99/2015	Pottery, flint, animal bone, metal objects
Paper	Somerset Museum Services TTNCM 99/2015	Context sheets, matrices, drawings
Digital	Somerset Museum Services TTNCM 99/2015	Database, digital photos, reports, digital survey
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 <i>Land East of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Somerset: Archaeological Excavation</i> . CA typescript report 16017		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land east of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland
 Hemington, Somerset


FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan



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DRAWN BY DJB	PROJECT NO. 9214	FIGURE NO.
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 excavation area



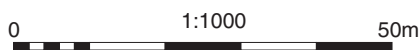
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PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland Hemington, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Location of groundworks and geophysical survey results



DRAWN BY **DJB** PROJECT NO. **9214**
 CHECKED BY **LM** DATE **12-02-2016**
 APPROVED BY **JH** SCALE@A4 **1:1000**

FIGURE NO.

2



- excavation area
- previous evaluation trench (Arrowhead Archaeology 2013)
- field drain
- Period 1: Early Roman
- Period 2: Late Roman to post-medieval
- Period 3: medieval to post-medieval
- undated
- section location
- direction of photograph



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PROJECT TITLE
 Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site plan, showing archaeological features and previous evaluation trenches

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	28.01.16	3
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ST



4

4 The site, looking north-east towards Enclosure A

5 Grave 15090, looking south-west (scale 0.4m)

6 Grave 16004, looking south-west (scale 0.4m)



5



6


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PROJECT TITLE
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 Hemington, Somerset

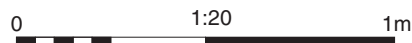
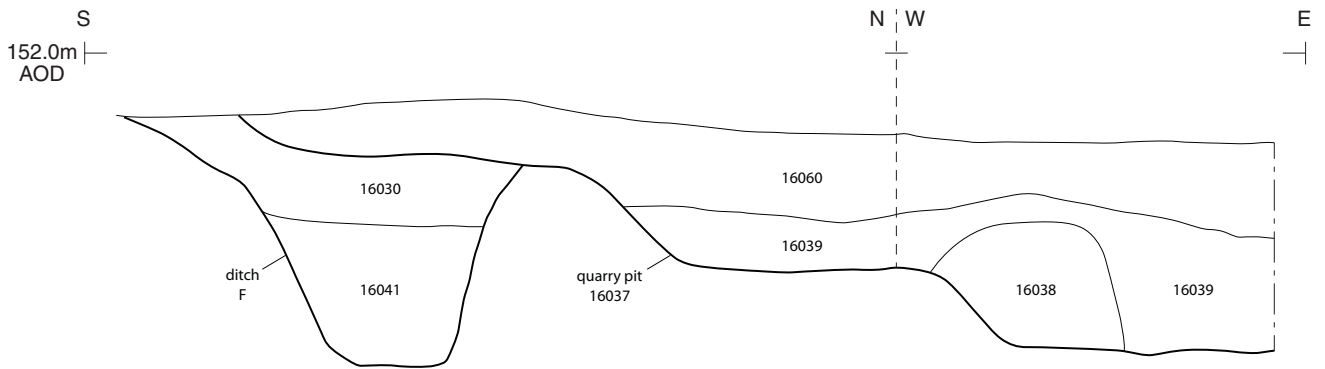
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Photographs

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Section AA



Section BB



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PROJECT TITLE

Land east of Fulwell Lane, Faulkland
 Hemington, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Sections

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