



**Land at Spring Gardens
Wiveliscombe
Somerset**

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Gadd Properties Ltd

CA Project: 880263
CA Report: 17711

December 2017



Land at Spring Gardens Wiveliscombe Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation

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	20 December 2017	Paul Clarke	Alan Ford	Client	Finds Report	Alan Ford

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset
Location:	Wiveliscombe, Somerset
NGR:	308165 128040
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	23 - 27 November 2017
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service
Site Code:	SGDW 17

In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset (centred at NGR: 308165 128040). A total of four trenches were excavated within the site.

The evaluation identified post-medieval structures and deposits throughout the site, other than in the east. This demonstrates moderate activity within the site during this period. The presence of two wells demonstrated long term activity.

It had been proposed that the boundary wall within the site aligned upon the extent of medieval burgage plots. The existing wall can be attributed an early 19th century date, constructed as part of an orchard enclosure. However, it was observed that an earlier undated wall had an identical orientation to the boundary and was adjacent to it, suggesting that this was a previous boundary wall.

Archaeological deposits were well preserved, although they had clearly been partially demolished after disuse. They were observed at a minimum depth of 0.84m below the present ground level.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset (centred at NGR: 308165 128040; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Gadd Properties Ltd.
- 1.2 Taunton Deane District Council has granted planning permission (ref: 49/17/0015) for the erection of three detached bungalows and car port with associated works. Condition 9 of this planning permission requires a programme of archaeological work. The scope of this evaluation was defined in discussions with Bob Croft, Historic Environment and Estates Manager, South West Heritage Trust (SWHT; the archaeological advisors to Taunton Deane District Council). The evaluation results will inform the need for and scope of any further archaeological mitigation works which may be required at the site.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by the SWHT. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014), *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 (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.4 The Site measures c. 0.15ha and comprises an irregularly shaped area of grass, footpath and private garden space, enclosed by hedgerows, a boundary wall and residential development. The Site lies at c. 97m aOD and is bounded by residential properties and associated gardens. The Site lies just to the north-west of the centre of the settlement of Wiveliscombe.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the site is mapped predominately as Tidcombe Sand Member sandstone with no superficial deposits (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A heritage desk-based assessment produced by CA (2016) examines the archaeological and historical background of the Site. The following paragraphs are based on this document.
- 2.2 A planned extension to the town was conducted in the 13th century, with a market place at the intersection of High Street, Silver Street, West Street and North Street. Burgage plots were set out along these streets, although the full extent of the planned settlement is not known.
- 2.3 It is likely, though untested, that the long sinuous boundary that defines the separate plots within the Site, parallel to Golden Hill/Silver Street, is the alignment of the boundary established at this early date as part of the planned settlement extension. The line of this boundary is currently occupied by a boundary wall, constructed in the early 19th century. This would place the southern part of the Site in the rear part of former burgage plots. The principal property of the plot would have lain at the street frontage, to the south-east of the Site. The Site would likely have included the 'toft', which would have been a compound at the rear of a property. Tofts may sometimes contain evidence of former boundaries as well as latrine pits and limited industrial processes.
- 2.4 Documentary evidence indicates that the current boundary wall dates from the earlier 19th century (post 1807), and was constructed by the Hancock Brewery to enclose fields in its ownership, including the west part of the Site. These fields were used as an orchard during the 19th century and represent an area that was established as such during the height of historical cider making in the area during the 17th and 18th centuries.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide further information about the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. This information will enable TDBC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage assets of archaeological interest 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 (Dept. for Communities and Local Government 2012).

- 3.2 A specific objective of the evaluation was to examine the presence or lack of previous boundary features at the extant boundary wall, and to ascertain a construction date for the wall itself.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches (Fig. 2). One trench (T4) was 10m long, and three trenches (T1, T2 & T3) were 15m long. All trenches were 1.8m wide. Trenches 1-3 were located to test areas of potential impact within the footprint of development, while T4 was located to characterise and date the boundary wall, and to identify if any previous boundary features were present along its alignment.
- 4.2 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*. All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All recovered artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Exeter. The site archive and (subject to the agreement of the legal landowner) the artefacts will be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, 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. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered during the evaluation are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised reddish brown sandy loam deposits with occasional blue sand deposits. It was exposed at a depth of 0.84m–1.07m below the present ground level. It was sealed by 0.3m–0.53m of redeposited natural substrate made ground and 0.25m–0.4m of subsoil, which was covered in turn by 0.22m–0.45m of modern topsoil.
- 5.3 Archaeological deposits were observed in T1, T2 and T4. Trench 3 did not contain any archaeological deposits and is not discussed below.

Trench 1

- 5.4 Pit 104 was located in the N end of T1 (Figs. 2 & 3). The pit was rectangular in shape with sub-rounded corners and steep sides. It measured 0.8m wide by 0.58m deep, although it was not possible to excavate the base. This was due to the presence, as the earliest recordable fill, of deposit 108, which comprised very compacted lime mortar, suggesting the presence of either a robbed-out wall or a pit used for mixing mortar for construction nearby. The pit was then backfilled deliberately with redeposited natural sand (105, 106 & 107).

Trench 2

- 5.5 Well 205 was observed at the western end of T2 (Figs. 2 & 4). It was roughly oval in plan, although the inner face of the structure formed a circular shape in plan, with a diameter of 1.3m. The outer extent of the structure was clearly fitted into the shape of construction cut 204, which measured 2m by 1.78m. The interior backfill of the well, 206, was excavated to a depth of 0.32m, confirming that it was a deliberate deposit of rubble stone and mortar. This deposit included pottery dating to the Post-medieval period between 16th to 20th century.
- 5.6 Well 208 was observed to the immediate NE of well 205 (Figs 2 & 4). It was roughly semi-circular in plan, although part of the feature was beyond the extent of the trench, and it had a diameter of 0.7m. The well was constructed within cut 207, which measured 1.04m wide. The interior backfill of the well, 209, was excavated to

a depth of 0.2m, confirming that it was a deliberate deposit of rubble stone and mortar. This deposit also included pottery dating to the Post-medieval period, although the precise relationship between the two features is unclear.

Trench 4

- 5.7 Wall 404 was located at the NW end of T4 (Figs. 2 & 5). It was oriented NE/SW and was constructed of roughly hewn flat sandstone blocks bonded by lime mortar. The wall was extant across the width of T4 and was found to be at least 0.92m wide. It was located within linear construction cut 405, which was observed on its SE side with a moderately steep and straight profile. This had been deliberately backfilled by deposit 406, which comprised a mix of soil and natural sand. It is likely that the wall was robbed out and that deposit 407 overlying the wall, comprising a dark soil with small sandstone rubble inclusions, is the backfill of a potential robber cut. It was not possible to locate any finds within the wall, backfill or robber deposit so there is no dating evidence for these features. However, later deposits appear to date to the late Post-medieval period ranging from the 18th to 20th century.

6. FINDS

- 6.1 A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from four trenches, comprising pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), mortar, clay tobacco pipe, stone and glass. With the exception of one sherd of possible medieval pottery, all material is of post-medieval or modern date. The finds have been cleaned, quantified by material type in each context and recorded to an Excel spreadsheet. The assemblage is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below.
- 6.2 A total of 25 sherds of pottery, weighing 739g, was recovered from nine deposits, and as unstratified finds, across trenches 1-4. The earliest is an abraded body sherd in a coarse, sandy fabric, of possible medieval date, recovered from a layer of redeposited natural in trench 1 (deposit 102). The rest of the pottery is of post-medieval to modern date, and is dominated by glazed red earthenwares, of 16th to 20th century date. This group includes a jar with internal glaze (well 205). Other wares include a single sherd of Staffordshire-type yellow slipware, made in Staffordshire or Bristol, of 17th to 18th century date (unstratified, trench 2); a sherd from a chafing dish or colander, in a yellow and green slipware (unstratified, trench 3); a flat-rimmed bowl in a creamware, of 18th century date (drain 408); and refined

whitewares, including those with transfer-printed blue decoration, of 19th century date (demolition later 403 and redeposited natural deposit 302).

- 6.3 A small quantity of building material was recovered during the course of the evaluation. This includes a fragment from a ceramic roofing tile (demolition rubble layer 403); a thin slab of purple, fine-grained sandstone, possibly Hangman Sandstone from the Devonian Beds, and utilised as a floor or roof tile (Prudden 2003, 28; unstratified, trench 3) and two small fragments of mortar (redeposited natural layer 302).
- 6.4 Other finds comprise 12 stem fragments from clay tobacco pipes (well 205, redeposited natural 302, rubble layer 403 and unstratified in trench 3) and three shards of dark green vessel glass, of mid 17th to late 19th century date (well 208, made ground layer 402 and rubble layer 403).

7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation of four trenches has identified post-medieval structures and deposits throughout the site, other than the proposed footprint for the eastern structure (Trench 3). This demonstrates a level of activity within the site during at least the post-medieval period. The presence of two wells shows activity over a longer period than might be suggested by just the one.
- 7.2 It was not possible to excavate immediately adjacent to the extant boundary wall along the site, so it was not possible to attain a firm date for this feature, although from documentary sources it can be dated to the earlier 19th century. However, it was observed that an earlier undated wall had an identical orientation to the boundary and was adjacent to it, suggesting that this was a previous boundary wall. Therefore, there was at least one possible previous marker of the extent of the burgage plots in this part of the town.
- 7.3 Archaeological deposits were well preserved, although they had clearly been partially demolished after disuse. They were observed at a minimum depth of 0.84m below the present ground level.

- 7.4 The programme of works has been successful in meeting its general objectives to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 8.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Jerry Austin, assisted by Victoria Parsons. This report was written by Paul Clarke. The report illustration was prepared by Jake Streatfeild-James. The finds report was produced by Grace Jones and the project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed 08 November 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land at Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset: Heritage Desk-based Assessment*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

Prudden, H. 2003 'Somerset building stone – a guide', *Somerset Archaeol. Natur. Hist.*, **146**, 27-36



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 (15.1m x 1.8m)								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown loose sandy silt with occasional subangular stones, rare clinker and rare modern debris	-	-	0.4	-
101	Layer	-	Subsoil	Greyish brown sandy clay	-	-	0.3	-
102	Layer	-	Redeposited natural	Reddish brown firm sandy clay with slate and mortar inclusions	-	-	0.3	-
103	Layer	-	Natural substrate	Blue alluvial silty sand and red sand	-	-	-	-
104	Cut	-	Pit/robber cut	Linear with subrounded corners and steep sides	>0.78	0.8	>0.56	Post-medieval
105	Fill	104	Fill of pit	Mixed reddish brown loose sandy silt, with burnt bone	>0.78	0.8	0.25	Post-medieval
106	Fill	104	Fill of pit	Mixed reddish brown loose sandy silt, with frequent lime mortar and rare sandstone cobbles	>0.78	0.7	0.15	Post-medieval
107	Fill	104	Fill of pit	Reddish brown loose sandy silt	>0.78	0.18	0.35	Post-medieval
108	Fill	104	Fill of pit	Light yellow compacted lime mortar	>0.78	0.8	>0.15	Post-medieval

Trench 2 (16.6m x 1.8m)								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown loose sandy silt with occasional gravel and frequent bioturbation	-	-	0.3	-
201	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mixed mid reddish grey loose silty sand with occasional gravel and modern debris, and frequent bioturbation	-	-	0.4	-
202	Layer	-	Redeposited natural	Mid greyish red loose silty sand with occasional gravel, rare charcoal and clinker, and occasional bioturbation	-	-	0.3	-
203	Layer	-	Natural substrate	Light greyish red loose sandy silt with occasional sandstone and rare bioturbation	-	-	-	-
204	Cut	-	Well construction cut	Sub-oval cut	2	1.78	>0.32	Post-medieval

Trench 2 (16.6m x 1.8m)								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
205	Structure	204	Well	Roughly circular, constructed of roughly hewn sandstone up to 400x300mm. Circular on interior face which is rendered with lime mortar	2	1.78	>0.32	Post-medieval
206	Fill	204	Backfill of 205	Light reddish brown firm silty clay, with frequent lime mortar and shillet/slate	1.3	1.3	>0.32	Post-medieval
207	Cut	-	Well construction cut	Semi-circular cut (as seen)	1.4	>0.5	>0.2	Post-medieval
208	Structure	207	Well	Semi-circular (as seen), constructed of roughly hewn sandstone up to 180x180mm. Bonded with lime mortar	1	>0.5	>0.2	Post-medieval
209	Fill	207	Backfill of 208	Light reddish brown firm silty clay with rare subangular sandstone cobbles/boulders and rare charcoal flecks	0.73	>0.5	>0.2	Post-medieval

Trench 3 (15m x 1.8m)								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark reddish brown loose sandy silt with occasional gravel and frequent bioturbation	-	-	0.22	-
301	Layer	-	Subsoil	Mixed mid reddish grey loose silty sand with occasional gravel and modern debris, and frequent bioturbation	-	-	0.25	-
302	Layer	-	Redeposited natural	Mid greyish red loose silty sand with occasional gravel, rare charcoal and clinker, and occasional bioturbation	-	-	0.53	-
303	Layer	-	Natural substrate	Light greyish red loose sandy silt with occasional sandstone and rare bioturbation	-	-	-	-

Trench 4 (10m x 1.8m)								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	-	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown loose sandy silt with occasional subangular stones, rare clinker and rare modern debris	-	-	0.45	-
401	Layer	-	Subsoil	Greyish brown sandy clay	-	-	0.3	-

Trench 4 (10m x 1.8m)								
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
402	Layer	-	Made ground	Reddish brown firm sandy clay with slate and mortar inclusions	-	-	0.35	-
403	Layer	-	Demolition rubble	Slate and mortar-rich deposit	>1.9	>1.8	0.38	Modern
404	Structure	405	Wall	NE/SW oriented wall, constructed of sandstone up to 250x200mm. Bonded with lime mortar	>1.8	0.92	>0.4	?
405	Cut	-	Construction cut of wall	NE/SW oriented linear with moderate sides	>1.8	0.65	>0.5	?
406	Fill	405	Fill of construction cut	Light brown loose silty sand with subangular sandstone pebbles	>1.8	0.65	0.5	?
407	Layer	-	?Robber deposit	Greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional subangular sandstone pebbles	-	0.70	0.25	Post-medieval/modern
408	Cut	-	French drain	N/S oriented linear with moderate/straight sides and flat base	>2.25	0.46	0.4	Modern
409	Fill	408	Fill of drain	Greyish brown loose sandy silt with abundant sandstone and lime mortar crush, and rare pot	>2.25	0.46	0.4	Modern
410	Layer	-	Natural substrate	Blue alluvial silty sand and red sand	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX B: FINDS CONCORDANCE

Context	Class	Description	No.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
102	Pottery (?med)	Coarse sandy fabric	1	10	?Medieval
201	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	3	62	C16-20
202	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	2	5	C16-20
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem fragment	1	2	
206	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	1	121	C16-20
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem fragments	2	14	
209	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	1	17	
	Glass	Vessel	1	6	
302	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	2	34	C19
	Pottery (modern)	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	1	6	
	Mortar		2	10	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem fragments	5	7	
402	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	1	3	C16-C20
	Glass	Vessel	1	7	
403	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	3	233	C19-C20
	Pottery (modern)	Refined whiteware	1	23	
	Pottery (modern)	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	1	27	
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem fragments	3	4	
	CBM	Tile	1	46	
	Glass	Vessel	1	30	
409	Pottery (pmed)	Creamware bowl	2	65	C18
Unstrat. Trench 2	Pottery (pmed)	Glazed red earthenware	2	15	C17-C18
	Pottery (pmed)	Yellow slipware	1	32	
Unstrat. Trench 3	Pottery (pmed)	Slipware – colander or chafing dish	3	86	C17-C18
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem fragment	1	5	
	Stone	Fine-grained purple sandstone tile	1	168	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land at Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset	
Short description	<p>In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset (centred at NGR: 308165 128040). A total of four trenches were excavated within the site.</p> <p>The evaluation identified post-medieval structures and deposits throughout the site, other than in the east. This demonstrates moderate activity within the site during this period. The presence of two wells demonstrated long term activity.</p> <p>It had been proposed that the boundary wall within the site aligned upon the extent of medieval burgage plots. It was not possible to attain a firm date for this feature. However, it was observed that an earlier undated wall had an identical orientation to the boundary and was adjacent to it, suggesting that this was a previous boundary wall. The extant boundary wall is likely to date to the Post-medieval or modern periods.</p> <p>Archaeological deposits were well preserved, although they had clearly been partially demolished after disuse. They were observed at a minimum depth of 0.84m below the present ground level.</p>	
Project dates	23 - 27 November 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset: Heritage Desk-based Assessment	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.15ha	
Site co-ordinates	308165 128040	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Christina Tapply	
MONUMENT TYPE		
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Somerset Museums Service	Finds
Paper	Somerset Museums Service	Context sheets, trench sheets, drawings
Digital	Somerset Museums Service	Database, digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2017 <i>Land at Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 17711		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	07.12.17		
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-  site boundary
-  evaluation trench
-  modern
-  excavated cut feature
-  structure (excavated/unexcavated)
-  section location



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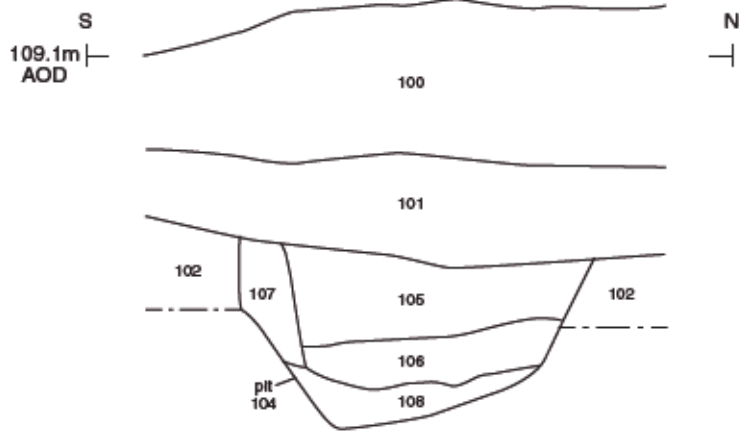
PROJECT TITLE
 Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

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Section AA



Pit 104, looking west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1, pit 104: section and photograph

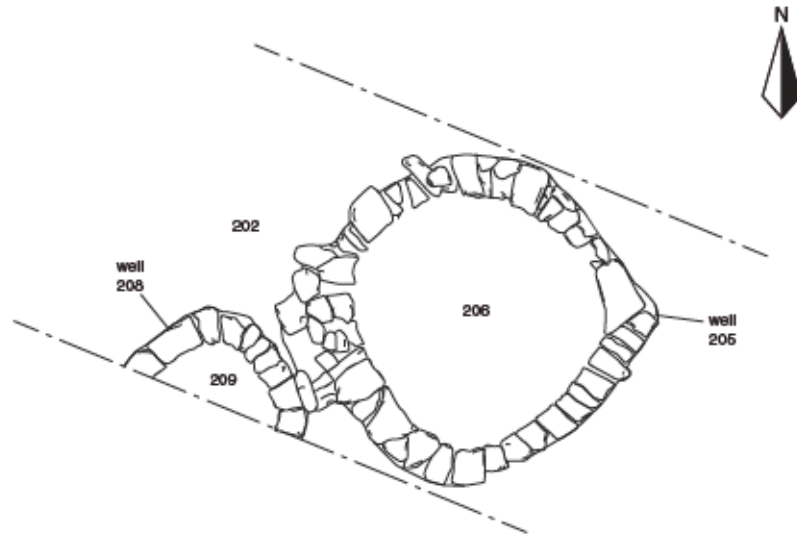


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FIGURE NO.

3

Trench 2, plan



Wells 205 and 208, looking north-east (1m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2, wells 205 and 208: detailed plan and photograph

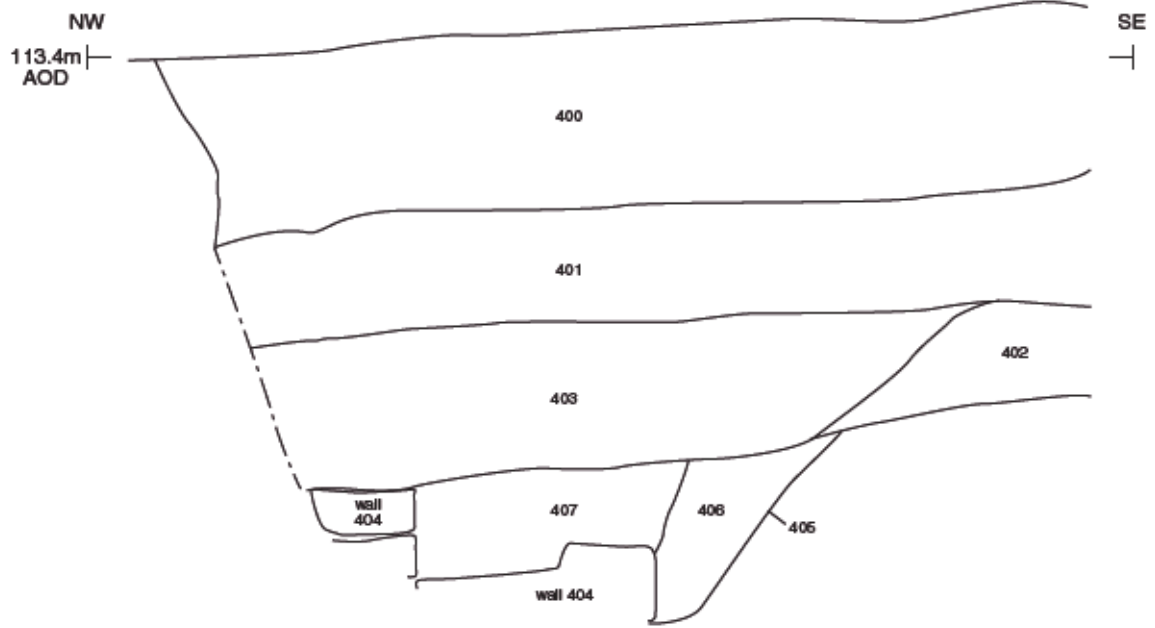


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FIGURE NO.

4

Section BB



Wall 404, looking north-east (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Spring Gardens, Wiveliscombe, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 4, wall 404: section and photograph



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FIGURE NO.

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