



Porr Slab Track Factory Trinidad Works, Wanstrow Shepton Mallet, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation



for: PORR UK Ltd

CA Project: AN0588 CA Report: AN0588 1

Somerset Museums Service accession number: TTNCM 34/2022

HER ref: 47334

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SUMMARY

Project name: Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works

Location: Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

NGR: 369694 143418

Type: Evaluation

Date: 25 July–4 August 2022

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Somerset Museums Service and the

Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

Accession Number: TTNCM 34/2022

Site Code: PORR 22

In July and August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the proposed Porr Slab Track Factory site, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. A total of 29 trenches were excavated.

The evaluation recorded two pits, one of which contained a human cremation burial; this cremation was undated, but is likely to be prehistoric in origin. The other pit contained charcoal and burnt animal bone, probably representing domestic hearth waste; three prehistoric worked flints were recovered from this pit, although the unburnt nature of these flints might indicate that they were redeposited in a later feature.

The evaluation also recorded a series of medieval/early post-medieval furrows.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In July and August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of the proposed Porr Slab Track Factory site, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset (centred at NGR: 369694 143418; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for PORR UK Ltd.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for the construction of a factory at the site, which has been made to Mendip District Council.
- 1.3. The scope of this evaluation was defined by the South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), the archaeological advisors to Mendip District Council. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2022) and approved by the SWHT.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also 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 application site is approximately 20ha in extent. It lies on the southern side of the A361, approximately 0.4km south-west of Leighton and 7km east of Shepton Mallett. The majority of the application site currently comprises open pasture/farmland with small parcels of woodland. The southern end of the site was previously developed as part of the Trinidad Works and is currently used for the storage of HGVs. The main Torr Quarry works are located to the immediate north of the application site, on the opposite side of the A361. To the south of the site is an area of woodland.
- 1.6. The topography within the site is gently undulating and descends from a height of c.180m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north, east and south-east to a height of c.170m AOD in the west.
- 1.7. The application site's bedrock geology comprises mudstone of the Forest Marble and Frome Clay Formations, and Fuller's Earth Rock Member limestone. All of these bedrocks formed in the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The application site has been the subject of two geophysical surveys (TVAS 2018 and AOC Archaeology 2022a) and a desk-based heritage impact assessment (AOC Archaeology 2022b). The following text presents a site-focussed summary derived from these sources, which should be referred to for a full archaeological background.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.2. Pottery and worked flint ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Iron Age has been recovered during previous archaeological works at Torr Quarry, including an assemblage of over 400 worked flints found c. 200m north of the application site. Several prehistoric cooking and waste pits have been recorded at the quarry site, along with an Iron Age posthole structure.
- 2.3. The earthwork remains of a probable Iron Age fort lie to the immediate north of the application site. The fort is a Scheduled Monument (National Heritage List for England entry no. 1006150).

Roman (AD 43-AD 410)

2.4. The projected line of the Roman road from Mendip to Old Sarum crosses through the centre of the application site on a north-west/south-east alignment. There is, however, no known archaeological evidence for this road within the site. Additionally, no corresponding anomalies were recorded by the geophysical surveys and no traces of the road are visible in LiDAR data. Aerial photographs do show a possible linear feature running through the site on a north-west/south-east alignment, but this is to the south-west of the projected line of the road and appears to correspond to a footpath shown on 20th-century cartographic sources.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

- 2.5. The geophysical surveys identified several potential archaeological features in the north-eastern part of the application site. These included a possible trackway and a series of enclosures, ditches and pits, all of which have tentatively been dated to the early medieval period on the basis of their form.
- 2.6. The application site is likely to have been within the agricultural hinterland to the surrounding settlements in the medieval period. There is aerial photographic evidence for a block of ridge and furrow earthworks in the centre of the site, and the

- geophysical surveys recorded linear anomalies indicative of ridge and furrow at the north-eastern site boundary.
- 2.7. The earthwork remains of medieval house platforms and surrounding ridge and furrow agricultural fields have been recorded to the immediate north-east of the application site.
- 2.8. Evidence for medieval ironworking has been recorded in the area, including a series of bloomery furnaces, charcoal burning pits, buildings and extensive areas of slag waste recorded *c*. 250m north of the application site.

Post-medieval (1540–1800) and modern (1800–present)

- 2.9. The application site is likely to have continued in agricultural use in the post-medieval period. Cartographic sources from the 19th century depict the site as divided into a series of arable/pasture fields. A structure in the north-eastern corner of the site possibly a dwelling or tollhouse is also visible on these maps.
- 2.10. Torr Quarry was established to the north of the application site in the first half of the 20th century. The southern tip of the application site was developed in the mid-20th century.

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. This information will enable Mendip District Council 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 proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to investigate the potential enclosure recorded by the geophysical survey (TVAS 2018 and AOC Archaeology 2022a) and investigate the potentially archaeological anomalies recorded in the application site's north-eastern field. The evaluation also sampled the projected line of the Roman road within the site (see Archaeological background, above).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 29 trenches (Fig. 2):
 - 23no 50m x 1.8m trenches; and
 - 6no 25m x 1.8m trenches.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the proposed development footprint.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Tr1–Tr3 were relocated slightly from the positions proposed in the WSI (CA 2022) due to the presence of a modern drain.
- 4.4. 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 top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.5. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual.
- 4.6. 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.
- 4.7. Artefacts were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.
- 4.8. CA will make arrangements with the Somerset Museums Service (accession number: TTNCM 34/2022) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), 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 (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.9. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix D, 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 from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B. Details of the palaeoenvironmental evidence are given in Section 7 and Appendix C.

General stratigraphy

- 5.2. A shallow valley runs across the site on a broad north-east/south-west alignment, flanked by relatively gentle slopes with areas of a higher ground beyond. The natural geological substrate comprised weathered limestone in the higher ground along the site's north-western boundary, changing to a yellow-brown clayey silt in the remainder of the site.
- 5.3. The trenches within the base of the shallow valley generally contained a colluvial layer overlying the natural. This colluvium was 0.35m–0.75m thick. Two prehistoric flint flakes and sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the colluvium.
- 5.4. The natural substrate and the colluvium (where present) were overlain by 0.2m–0.35m of modern topsoil.
- 5.5. Cut 1304 (Tr13, Fig. 11) may represent a possible edge of the valley or an elongated natural solution feature.

Furrows

5.6. A number of heavily truncated furrows were recorded in Tr12 (Fig. 10), Tr13 (Fig. 11), Tr21, Tr25 and Tr26 (Fig. 13). These furrows were aligned north-west/south-east and east/west. Where excavated, they were 0.29m–1.4m wide and 0.03m–0.28m deep. Furrow 1308 (Tr13; fill 1309) contained a sherd of post medieval pottery; the remainder of the furrows were undated.

Modern features

- 5.7. Post-medieval/modern land drains were recorded in Tr4, Tr6, Tr10, Tr12, Tr19 and Tr22.
- 5.8. A modern rubbish pit (1404) containing tyres and metal wiring was recorded in Trench14. A further pit (2103) containing modern artefacts was recorded in Tr21.

5.9. Trenches 10, 23 and 26 contained archaeological features, and are discussed below.

Trench 10 (Fig. 9)

5.10. Pit 1003 was recorded in the south-western end part of the trench. This pit was *c*. 0.5m wide and 0.05m deep. Its single fill (1004) contained charcoal and burnt animal bone, probably representing domestic hearth waste. Three prehistoric worked flints were recovered from this fill; these flakes are unburnt, however, and may be redeposited in a later feature.

Trench 23 (Fig. 12)

5.11. Pit 2302 was 0.52m wide and 0.16m deep. Its undated single fill (2303) contained cremated human bone.

Trench 26 (Fig. 13)

5.12. North-west/south-east aligned ditch 2602 terminated within the trench. This ditch was 0.44m wide and 0.1m deep, with a single undated fill (2603). It was on a parallel alignment to furrow 2604 and may represent another furrow rather than a ditch.

6. THE FINDS

Туре	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Medieval	10	21
	Post-medieval	20	170
	Modern	2	50
	Total	32	241
Worked flint		7	64
Ceramic building material		4	108
Clay tobacco pipe		1	3
Metals	Iron	4	102
	Copper alloy	2	42
	Total	6	144
Industrial waste	Fuel ash/cinder	15	84
Total		65	644

Table 1: the finds

6.1. Artefactual material, comprising pottery, ceramic building material, flint, clay tobacco pipe, metal and industrial waste was recovered from 19 deposits. The material is listed by context in Appendix B and is further described below. The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and sherd count, weight, type, and morphological characteristics according to each find category. The recording undertaken is in accordance with the CIfA Finds Toolkit (CIfA 2022).

Pottery

- 6.2. A small assemblage of 32 sherds of pottery, weighing a total of 241g, was recovered during the evaluation. Half of the assemblage (50% of the sherds, 80% by weight) was found in the topsoil, with further material coming from colluvial subsoil deposits. The assemblage is mainly small sherds, many of which are worn and have lost parts of their surfaces.
- 6.3. Ten small sherds (21g) belonging to a medieval jar with a straight rim, black core and orange surfaces were recovered from colluvium 401. The fabric is coarse with abundant inclusions of glassy quartz and chert, similar to the Upper Greensand derived chert-tempered wares so widely distributed across Somerset (Allan *et al.* 2010). The fragments are small but a plain everted end rim with part of a shoulder from a jar are present.
- 6.4. Most of the pottery (20 sherds, 170g) dates to the post-medieval period (17th–18th centuries) and consists of red earthenwares with lead glazed surfaces. Only two sherds are decorated: one of them is a jar with trailed slip, the other is a dish with white slip over the surface. The fabric and decoration resemble products from Somerset, such as Wanstrow or Donyatt (Good 1987; Coleman Smith and Pearson 1988).
- 6.5. The only modern pottery is two pearlware fragments, one plain, one decorated in blue, both from the topsoil (1000 and 1900).

Lithics

- 6.6. A total of seven worked lithics were recovered from four deposits: a pit fill, topsoil and colluvium. One flake was made of Greensand chert and the rest are of flint. Four items retain areas of cortex, which is chalky on three and abraded on one. The nearest chalk bedrock, of the White Chalk subgroup, is approximately 12km to the south-east of the site (BGS 2022); this may be the source of the chalk flints.
- 6.7. The lithics comprise four flakes, two blades and a scraper. The scraper, from topsoil deposit 1800, has been made using a coarse thermal blank which has been retouched steeply along one lateral edge. Use of a thermal blank and poor quality raw material for tool-making are most typical of the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age periods; however, such dating can only be applied tentatively to a single item.

- 6.8. Of the three flakes from fill 1004 of pit 1003 (Tr10), one has been removed with a soft hammer, which is a knapping strategy common to the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods. These three flakes are unburnt and may well be redeposited in feature 1003.
- 6.9. The blades, from colluvial deposit 1501 and topsoil deposit 2300, are likely to be Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date.

Ceramic building material

6.10. Just four fragments of ceramic building material were recovered, all from topsoil deposit 800. They include a small, featureless brick fragment lacking complete measurements, and three pieces from a land drain. The drain, which is broken into three pieces, is in a soft, light brown fabric with worn surfaces.

Metal

- 6.11. A small group of six metal artefacts was collected.
- 6.12. Two copper alloy items were recovered. These comprise a George V one penny coin (1911–1936) from topsoil 1600 and a round bracket with suspension loop from topsoil 1000.
- 6.13. The recovered iron items comprise a horseshoe fragment from topsoil 700 and three very corroded items from the fill of modern pit 2103 (Tr21): a hexagonal nut, the head of a nail and a small amorphous fragment.

Other finds

- 6.14. The topsoil (1500) produced a plain stem fragment from a clay tobacco pipe. This is unmarked and undecorated, and can only be broadly dated to the 17th–19th century.
- 6.15. A small group of fuel ash or cinder was recovered from modern deposits, such as 406 (fill of drain 405, Tr4) and 2104 (fill of pit 2103, Tr41). Fuel ash or cinder is derived from high temperature activities, including domestic fires, which are the most likely source in this case.

Summary

6.16. A small quantity of artefactual material was recovered during the evaluation. Pottery was by far the dominant find. Most of it dates to the post-medieval period and is represented by products from South Somerset. The exceptions are ten sherds from a medieval coarseware jar recovered from a subsoil deposit and two sherds of modern pearlware from topsoil deposits.

- 6.17. A handful of other finds was also recovered, all most likely modern. These include a few metal items, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and fuel ash/cinder. A small number of worked flints demonstrate low level activity during the prehistoric period; however, these are predominantly residual. Except for finds found in colluvium and a pit, the rest is all associated to modern fills or the topsoil.
- 6.18. The modern artefactual material recovered from the topsoil is of minimal archaeological significance and will not be retained.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Paleoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1. Four bulk samples (77 litres of soil) were taken from two features in two trenches. The samples were taken to evaluate the preservation of paleoenvironmental remains and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity on the site, as well as possibly providing information on local funerary practices. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (using a 0.25mm mesh for the flot and a 0.5mm mesh for the residue) (CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites).
- 7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Appendix C, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).
- 7.3. The flots were all very small in size and contained high proportions of fibrous root material. The single charred plant remnant, present in one flot, was very well preserved.
- 7.4. The flots contained small amounts of charcoal, the pieces of which were mostly poorly preserved and comminuted. However, the residues, particularly those of samples 3 and 4, contained large amounts of well-preserved charcoal.
- 7.5. All four samples contained moderate to large quantities of burnt bone. The burnt bone from samples 3 and 4 included fragments of human bone, whilst that from samples 1 and 2 appeared to be animal bone (see *The bone*, below).

Trench 10

7.6. Samples 1 and 2 were recovered from opposing halves of fill 1004 of pit 1003. Both flots contained moderate amounts of charcoal. Given the quantity of animal bone

alongside the moderate amount of charcoal, it is probable that the material from these samples represents dumped domestic hearth waste material.

Trench 23

7.7. Samples 3 and 4 were recovered from opposing halves of fill 2303 of pit 2302. Both flots contained moderated amounts of charcoal; larger quantities of charcoal were found in the residues. The flot of sample 3 contained a single bulb of false oat grass (*Arrhenatherum sp.*). Plant tubers, in particular those of false oat-grass, can be found in cremation deposits (Godwin 1984; Robinson 1988) and it is thought that some of these tubers and stems may represent material uprooted while creating a fire break around the cremation site and then used as tinder (Stevens 2008).

Summary

7.8. It is probable, based on the contents of the flots, that samples 1 and 2 represent domestic hearth waste and samples 3 and 4 represent a cremation-related deposit. No paleoenvironmental material was recovered from these samples to suggest a date for these deposits.

The bone

- 7.9. A single cremation burial was recovered from the site (pit 2302; Tr23). Although not directly dated, it probably dates to the prehistoric period.
- 7.10. Burnt animal bone was recovered from pit 1003 (Tr10), which also contained prehistoric worked flints.

Cremation burial 2302

- 7.11. The total weight of the cremated bone from burial 2302 was 59.4g. This is a low weight of bone recovered when compared to the potential total weight of bone for an adult from a modern crematorium, which can vary from about 1,000 to 3,600g (McKinley 2000, 404). The total weight is therefore not the complete individual, being between 1%–5% of the potential total.
- 7.12. The edges of the cremated bone are abraded, which suggests that taphonomy affected preservation, potentially reducing the quantity of bone (in particular spongy bone, which is more likely to be affected). The feature was 0.16m deep and there was no protection of the cremated bone by an urn, so it is likely that some bone has been lost to truncation. However, it is frequently found that 50% or less of the bone

available after cremation is included in such burials (McKinley 2000) and this would appear to be the case in this instance.

Context	Fill number	Total weight of cremated bone	Fraction size <10mm	Fraction size 10- 5mm	Fraction size 5- 2mm
2302	2303 (samples 3 and 4)	59.4g	4g 6.7%	31.2g 52.6%	24.2g 40.7%

Table 2: cremated bone deposit total weight by fraction size

7.13. Most fragmentation occurs during and after excavation (McKinley 1994: 341). The majority of the cremated bone from the site was in the 5mm–10mm fraction size, which indicates a high fragmentation level.

Context	Cranial	Axial	Upper limb	Lower limb	Unidentified
2302	10.9g	0g	0.4g	0g	48.1
	18.3%	0%	0.7%	0%	81%

Table 3: identified elements

- 7.14. Very little of the bone could be confidently identified to skeletal element due to the very small fragment size. Cranial fragments are easy to identify and are often the highest quantity, and these were the most identified. The axial and lower limb had no presence. The upper limb was represented by a fragment of proximal phalanx. A fragment of tooth root was also present. This indicates that the smallest bones were collected from the pyre, suggesting a general collection strategy. Long bones, though usually quite easy to identify, were in this instance too fragmented to be identified.
- 7.15. The bone was consistently fully white in colour, which indicates full oxidation of the bone. This is only achieved by temperatures of over 800°C for several hours.
- 7.16. There were no age or sexually dimorphic elements present, so it is not possible to estimate male or female, young or old, but the elements were from an adult. There were no repeated elements or different age/size parts to suggest more than one individual.

Animal bone

7.17. Fill 1004 (samples 1 and 2) of pit 1003 contained a total of 19.7g of burnt bone. This bone was black and white in colour and was identified as animal in origin, although none of the small fragments was identifiable to species. This feature likely relates to cooking or waste.

Methodology

- 7.18. Standard methodology and reporting were followed (McKinley 2004, Mays *et al.* 2018, Mitchell and Brickley 2017).
- 7.19. The samples were processed as environmental samples, which involved wet sieving using flotation and 0.5mm residue mesh. The dry bone was then removed from the sample and sieved through 10mm, 5m and 2mm mesh sizes. The weight of the bone retained in each fraction and spit was recorded and its percentage of the total weight of the bone was calculated. This enabled the degree of fragmentation to be quantified.
- 7.20. The bones retained from each sieve size were examined in detail and sorted into the following identifiable bone groups: skull (including mandible and dentition); axial (clavicle, scapula, ribs, vertebra and pelvic elements); upper limb and lower limb. The separation of the bone into these groups helps illuminate any deliberate bias in the skeletal elements collected for burial. Each sample was weighed on digital scales and details of colour and largest fragment were recorded. Where possible, the presence of individual bones within the defined bone groups was noted. Any unidentifiable fragments of long bone shafts or cancellous bone, which are often the majority recovered from cremations, were weighed and incorporated into any subsequent quantitative analysis. The prevalence of unidentifiable bone is largely dependent on the degree of fragmentation, whereby larger fragments are easier to identify than smaller ones.
- 7.21. It must also be taken into consideration that some skeletal elements are more diagnostic and more easily identifiable than others and, therefore, more often recorded. This may create bias in calculations of the relative quantities of skeletal elements collected for burial.
- 7.22. Fragments below a certain size are not distinguishable as to whether they are human or animal except microscopically or chemically.
- 7.23. Age estimations from cremated remains are dependent on the survival of particular age diagnostic elements, which did not occur in this instance. Sex estimation of adult burnt bone relies on the preservation of specific elements and is uncommon in cremated material. The quantity of warping and shrinkage of the bone during the cremation process must also been taken into consideration when estimating sex using the standard analytical techniques used on dry bone.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The evaluation recorded two pits, one of which contained a human cremation burial.

 Also recorded were a series of medieval/early post-medieval furrows. These features were all very truncated, presumably as a result of later post-medieval/modern ploughing.
- 8.2. There was limited correspondence to the geophysical survey results (TVAS 2018; AOC Archaeology 2022a), with the majority of the geophysical anomalies being found not to correspond to below-ground archaeological features.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 8.3. Pit 1003 (Tr10) contained charcoal and burnt animal bone, probably representing domestic hearth waste. Three prehistoric worked flints were recovered from this fill, although the unburnt nature of these flints might indicate that they were redeposited in a later feature.
- 8.4. Pit 2302 (Tr23) contained an adult human cremation. This pit was undated, but is likely to be prehistoric in origin.
- 8.5. A further four prehistoric worked flints were recovered as residual/redeposited artefacts within topsoil/colluvial layers.
- 8.6. The prehistoric features recorded at the application site presumably represent outlying peripheral activity associated with the prehistoric remains recorded previously at Torr Quarry (to the north of the application site), which included an assemblage of over 400 worked flints and several cooking and waste pits (see *Archaeological background*, above).

Roman (AD 43-AD 410)

8.7. The evaluation recorded no evidence for the putative Roman road from Mendip to Old Sarum, the projected line of which crosses through the centre of the application site on a north-west/south-east alignment. This is in accordance with the geophysical survey and LiDAR data (see *Archaeological background*), which did not record any traces of the road within the site.

Medieval (1066–1539) and early post-medieval (1540–1600)

8.8. A number of furrows were recorded at the site; undated ditch 2602 (Tr23) may also represent a furrow. This supports the notion that the application site is likely to have

been within the agricultural hinterland to the surrounding settlements in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Kowalska, assisted by Gabriela Amos, Alex Gardner, Annabel McWhinnie and Rebecca Metcalfe. This report was written by Agata Kowalska. The finds report was written by Alejandra Gutiérrez, with a contribution by Jacky Sommerville (lithics). The paleoenvironmental evidence report was written by Charlotte L. Molloy and Sarah F. Wyles. The bone report was written by Sharon Clough. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common rooting.			0.22
1	101	Layer		Natural	Brownish yellow, firm silty clay with loose limestone gravel.			0.16
1	102	Layer		Natural	Grey, firm clay with mottling.			
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common rooting.			0.05
2	201	Layer		Natural	Brownish yellow, firm clay with abundant limestone gravel.			
2	202	Layer		Natural	Weathered, loose limestone.			0.02
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common rooting			0.31
3	301	Layer		Natural	Grey, firm clay with reddish mottling.			0.31
3	302	Layer		Natural	Reddish yellow, firm silty clay with common limestone gravel.			0.58
3	303	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown, firm clay with abundant limestone gravel.			
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.25
4	401	Layer		Colluvial layer	Yellowish brown, firm clayey silt with common limestone.			0.1
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty clay, firm with abundant limestone gravel.			
4	403	Cut		Natural feature	Recorded in the end of trench. Potential edge of solution hollow.	>4.38		1
4	404	Fill	403	Weathered bedrock	Dark reddish brown, firm clay.	>4.38		1
4	405	Cut		Drain	NW-SE orientation. Diffuse in plan.		0.4	0.2
4	406	Fill	405	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in reddish brown clay of the feature below (406).		0.4	0.2
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with rooting.			0.25
5	501	Layer		Colluvium	Yellowish brown, friable silt/ clay with common limestone gravel.			0.1
5	502	Layer		?Colluvium	Reddish brown, firm clay with occasional limestone gravel.			0.85
5	503	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown silty clay with abundant limestone gravel.			
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common rooting.			0.25
6	601	Layer		Colluvial layer	Mid yellowish brown, friable silty clay with frequent limestone gravel.			0.10
6	602	Layer		Natural	Yellowish, loose silty clay with abundant and weathered limestone gravel.			
6	603	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown, firm clay.			

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
6	604	cut		Drain	NW-SE orientation.		0.37	()
6	605	fill	604	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in the natural reddish-brown clay.		0.37	
6	606	cut		Drain	NW-SE orientation.		0.37	
6	607	fill	607	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in the reddish- brown natural clay.		0.37	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with rooting.			0.25
7	701	Layer		Colluvial layer	Mid yellowish brown, friable silty clay with frequent limestone gravel.			0.1
7	702	Layer		Colluvial layer	Reddish brown, firm clay.			1.3
7	703	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown, firm to compact silty clay.			
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.23
8	801	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brow, firm with limestone gravel.			0.15
8	802	Layer		Natural	Dark orange brown, loose clayey silt with abundant limestone gravel.			
8	803	Layer		Natural	Grey, compact limestone.			
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with rooting.			0.25
9	900	Layer		Natural	Pale yellowish brown, friable silty clay with abundant limestone gravel.			
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common rooting.			0.15
10	1001	Layer		Natural	Dark orange brown, firm silty clay/silt with frequent limestone gravel.			0.15
10	1002	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown, firm clayey silt with frequent limestone.			
10	1003	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan. Truncated.	0.76	0.5	0.05
10	1004	Fill	1003	Fill of pit	Dark reddish brown, firm and crumbled clay with common charcoal and burnt animal bones.	0.76	0.5	0.05
10	1005	Cut		Drain	Limestone filled post- medieval land drain		0.2	
10	1006	Cut		Drain	Limestone filled post- medieval land drain		0.2	
10	1007	Cut		Drain	Limestone filled post- medieval land drain		0.2	
10	1008	Cut		Drain	Limestone filled post- medieval land drain		0.2	
10	1009	Fill	1005	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in the reddish- brown natural clay		0.2	
10	1010	Fill	1006	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in the reddish- brown natural clay		0.2	
10	1011	Fill	1007	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in the reddish- brown natural clay		0.2	
10	1012	Fill	1008	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in the reddish- brown natural clay		0.2	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common rooting.		1.8	0.2

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
11	1101	Layer		Natural	Light grey, compact clay with limestone gravel and mottling.			0.2
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown, loose clayey silt			0.2
12	1201	Layer		?Colluvium	Light grey brown slightly silty clay, compact with manganese and frequently small natural limestone.			0.25
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Light blue grey slightly silty clay, compact with light brown mottling and frequent manganese			
12	1203	Cut		Ditch/furrow	Cut of furrow. Linear, with concave sides and gentle slope, flat base. Heavily truncated.		0.5	0.06
12	1204	Fill	1203	Furrow fill	Mid brown grey slightly silty clay with occasional flecks of manganese and occasional limestone.		0.5	0.06
12	1205	Cut		Ditch/furrow	Linear. Not excavated. Parallel with 1203.		0.85	
12	1206	Fill	1205	Furrow fill	Not excavated. Mid brown grey clay with occasional flecks manganese 1%		0.85	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.24
13	1301	Layer		Natural	Weathered limestone embedded in brown silty clay.			0.24
13	1302	Layer		Colluvium	Light yellowish brown, firm silty clay with abundant limestone.			0.15
13	1303	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown, firm silty clay.			
13	1304	Cut		Natural feature	Possible edge of the valley bottom/solution feature.			>1.8
13	1305	Fill	1304	Natural fill	Mid yellowish brown, firm clay			>1.8
13	1306	Cut		Furrow	Linear with moderately steeped sides and rounded base. NE-SW oriented.		0.83	0.26
13	1307	Fill	1306	Furrow fill	Dark orange brown, firm silty clay.		0.83	0.26
13	1308	Cut		Furrow	Linear features with moderately steeped sides and flat base.		1.4	0.28
13	1309	Fill	1308	Furrow fill	Greyish brown, firm silty clay.		1.5	0.28
13	1310	Fill	1308	Furrow fill	Mid brown, firm silty clay.		0.5	0.12
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.3
14	1401	Layer		Colluvium	Yellowish brown, firm clayey silt.			0.4
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown, firm clay.			0.2
14	1403	Layer		Natural	Weathered limestone.			
14	1404	Deposit .		Modern waste pit	Modern rubbish pit with burned tyres and metal.	3	1.7	
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.3
15	1501	Layer		Colluvium	Yellowish brown, firm clayey silt with rare limestone.			0.4
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown, firm clay.			0.05
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid grayish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.25

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
16	1601	Layer		?Colluvium	Yellowish brown, firm clayey silt with rare limestone bioturbated by rooting			0.75
16	1602	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown firm clay.			
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.3
17	1701	Layer		?Colluvium	Yellowish brown, firm clay silt with common limestone.			0.7
17	1702	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown, firm clay.			
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common limestone and rooting.			0.27
18	1801	Layer		Natural	Yellowish grey, firm silty clay with frequent limestone gravel.			
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common limestone and rooting.			0.3
19	1901	Layer		Natural	Yellowish grey, firm silty clay with frequent limestone gravel.			
19	1902	Cut		Drain	W-E oriented.		0.2	
19	1903	Fill	1902	Drain	NE-SW oriented.		0.2	
19	1904	Cut		Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in clay.		0.2	
19	1905	Fill	1904	Construction fill	Grey, firm clay with occasional weathered limestone.		0.2	
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common limestone and rooting.			0.3
20	2001	Layer		Natural	Yellowish grey, firm silty clay with frequent limestone gravel.			
21	2100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.28
21	2101	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish brown, firm clayey silt with limestone.			
21	2102	Layer		Natural	Mid grey, firm clay.			
21	2103	Cut		Pit	Circular in plan with steep sides. Not bottomed	2	>1	0.4
21	2104	Fill	2103	Pit fill	Mid grey, compact clay	2	>1	0.4
21	2105	Cut		Plough furrow	Truncated furrow. NW-SE oriented.		0.38	
21	2106	Fill	2105	Furrow fill	Grey, firm clay.		0.38	
22	2200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.28
22	2201	Layer		Natural	Brown to yellow clay with rare limestone.			0.02
22	2202	Layer		Natural	Reddish brown, firm clay with abundant limestone.		0.05	
22	2203	Cut		Drain	NW-SE orientation.		0.25	
22	2204	Fill	2203	Construction fill	Weathered limestone embedded in clay.		0.25	0.0
23	2300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common limestone and rooting			0.3
23	2301	Layer		Natural	Yellowish grey, firm silty clay with frequent limestone gravel.			
23	2302	Cut		Cremation pit	Circular with truncated sides and rounded base		0.52	0.16

Trench	Context No.	Туре	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
23	2303	Fill	2302	Cremation deposit	Mid brown grey silt, friable with occasional flecks of charcoal, stones and cremated bone.		0.52	0.16
24	2400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid yellow brown clay silt, friable. Heavy rooting, Occasional limestones.			0.25
24	2401	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional limestone, compact, gets thicker towards ne of trench.			0.25
24	2402	Layer		Natural	Mid red brown clay silt. Occasional limestone.			0.4
24	2403	Layer		Natural	Weathered limestone and mid brown, grey silty clay, with limestone.			
25	2500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common limestone and rooting.			0.3
25	2501	Layer		Natural	Brownish yellow, firm clay, siltier towards southern end of the trench.			
25	2502	Cut		Plough furrow	Truncated furrow. NW-SE oriented.		0.25	
25	2503	Fill	2502	Furrow fill	Light grey, firm clay.		0.25	
25	2504	Cut		Plough furrow	Truncated furrow. NW-SE oriented.		0.26	0.03
25	2505	Fill	2504	Furrow fill	Mid grey, friable clay with common limestone gravel		0.26	0.03
25	2506	Cut		Plough furrow	Truncated furrow. NW-SE oriented.		0.2	
25	2507	Fill	2506	Furrow fill	Grey, firm clay.		0.2	
26	2600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown, friable clayey silt.			0.3
26	2601	Layer		Natural	Yellowish brown, friable clayey silt with common limestone.			
26	2602	Cut		Ditch	Cut of ditch terminus. NW-SE orientation.		0.44	0.1
26	2603	Fill	2602	Ditch fill	Mid grey, compact silty clay.		0.44	0.1
26	2604	Cut		Plough furrow	Truncated. Oriented NW-SE.		0.29	0.03
26	2605	Fill	2604	Furrow fill	Mid grey, compact clay with mottling.		0.29	0.03
27	2700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown, friable clayey silt with common limestone gravel and rooting.			0.25
27	2701	Layer		Natural	Yellowish grey, firm silty clay with frequent limestone gravel.			
28	2800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown, friable clayey silt with common rooting.			0.3
28	2801	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish grey, firm clay with limestone.			
29	2900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown/grey friable clayey silt with common rooting			0.29
29	2901	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish grey firm clay with limestone.			

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Class	SS	Description	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
300	Pottery*		Post-medieval red earthenwares, C17-C18	1	12	PM
400	Pottery*		Post-medieval red earthenwares, C17-C18	2	5	PM
401	Pottery		Chert-tempered ware	10	21	C11-C13
406	Industrial waste		Fuel ash/cinder	3	10	-
600	Pottery*		Trailed-slip red earthenware, C17-C18	1	15	PM
700	Iron*		Horseshoe fragment, with square nail hole	1	33	PM
	Pottery*		Post-medieval red earthenwares, C17-C18	2	15	
800	CBM*		Brick fragment; no complete measurements	1	98	Modern
	CBM*		Field drainage pipe	3	10	
	Pottery*		Post-medieval red earthenwares, C17-C18	5	48	
1000	Copper alloy? *		Round bracket with ring for suspension; 52mm D, square section (4x5mm)	1	33	Modern
	Pottery*		Post-medieval red earthenwares, C17-C18 Pearlware, C19-C20	2	40	
1004	Flint		Flake	2	14	Prehistoric
		2	Flake	1	0.5	
1309	Pottery*		Trailed-slip red earthenware	1	15	C17-C18
1500	Clay tobacco pipe*		Plain stem, C17-C19	1	3	Modern
1501	Pottery		Post-medieval red earthenwares	5	14	C17-C18
	Flint		Blade, Upper Pal-Eneo	1	24	
1600	Copper alloy		George V one penny coin (1911–1936)	1	9	Modern
1800	Flint		Scraper made on a thermal blank, prehistoric	1	10	Prehistoric
1900	Pottery*		Pearlware, C19-C20	1	49	Modern
2104	Industrial waste		Fuel ash/cinder	12	74	-
	Iron		Hexagonal nut; corroded and encrusted	1	67	-
			Nail head? Corroded	1	1	
			Amorphous fragment	1	1	
2300	Flint		Blade, Meso/Eneo	1	6	Prehistoric
2400	Flint		Flake, prehistoric	1	9	Prehistoric
2900	Pottery*		Post-medieval red earthenwares, C17-C18	1	6	Modern

Table B1: Finds concordance (SS: soil sample; CBM: ceramic building material)

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Cut	Context	Sample	Vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Trench 10 undated pit											
1003	1004	1	24	30	95	-	_	-	-	**/**	brnt bn(****)
1003	1004	2	27	10	95	-	-	-	-	*/*	brnt bn(**)
Trench 23 undated cremation related deposit											
2302	2303	3	22	15	70	-	-	*	Arrhenatherum bulb	***/****	brnt bn(****)
2302	2303	4	14	20	50	-	_	-	-	***/****	brnt bn(****)

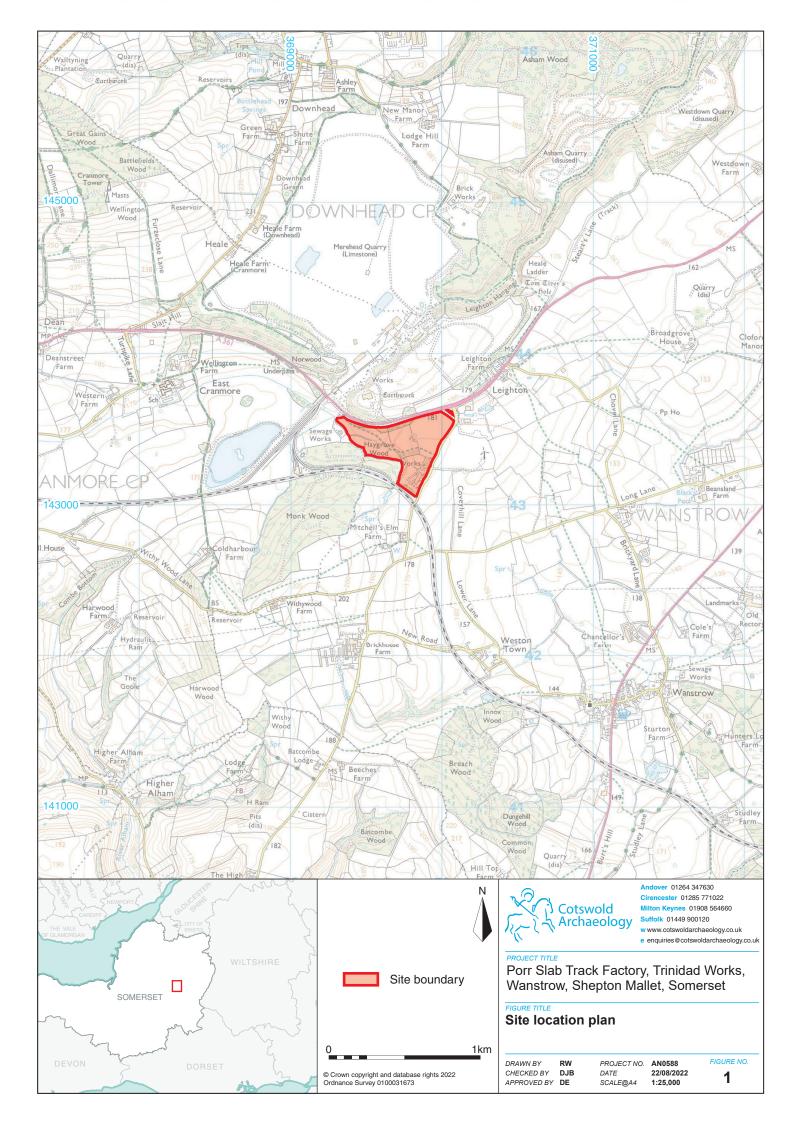
Table C1: Assessment of the paleoenvironmental evidence

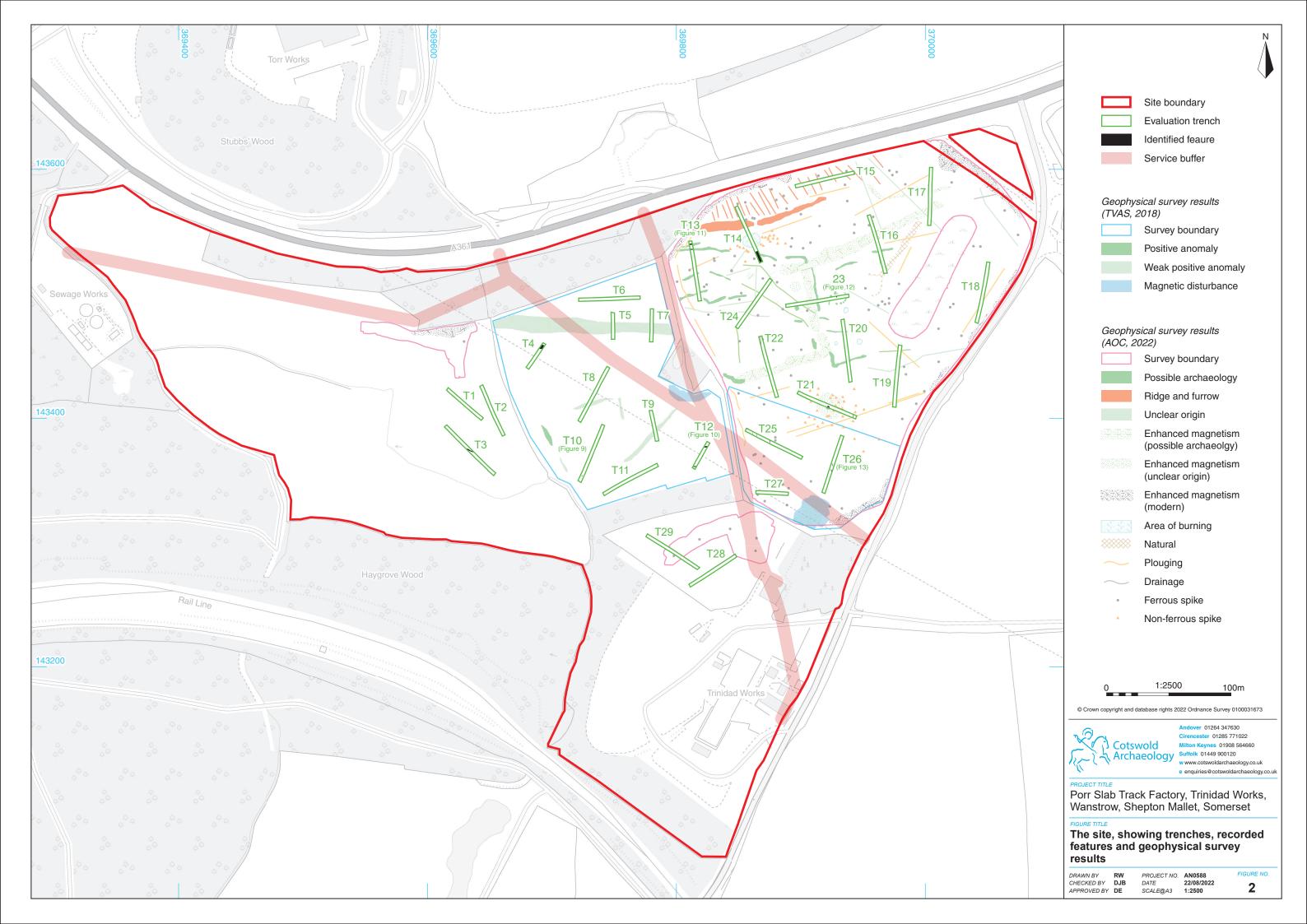
Key: * = 1-4 items; ** = 5-19 items; *** = 20-49 items; **** = 50-99 items; ***** > 100 items, brnt bn = burnt bone

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	Dorr Clob Trook Footony Trinidad Man	ka Wanatraw Chantan				
Project name	Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset					
Short description	In July and August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at the proposed Porr Slab Track Factory site, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. A total of 29 trenches were excavated.					
	The evaluation recorded two pits, one of which contained a human cremation burial; this cremation was undated, but is likely to be prehistoric in origin. The other pit contained charcoal and burnt animal bone, probably representing domestic hearth waste three prehistoric worked flints were recovered from this pit, although the unburnt nature of these flints might indicate that the were redeposited in a later feature.					
	The evaluation also recorded a series of medieval/early post-medieval furrows.					
Project dates	25 July–4 August 2022					
Project type	Evaluation					
Previous work	Geophysical survey (TVAS 2018) Geophysical survey (AOC Archaeolog Desk-based heritage impact assessme 2022)	Archaeology 2022)				
Future work	Unknown					
PROJECT LOCATION						
Site location	Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset					
Study area (m²/ha)	20ha					
Site co-ordinates	369694 143418					
PROJECT CREATORS						
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project brief originator	N/A					
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology					
Project Manager	Derek Evans					
Project Supervisor	Agata Kowalska					
MONUMENT TYPE	Prehistoric cremation					
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	Prehistoric worked flints					
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/accession no.)	Content				
Physical	Somerset Museums Service TTNCM 34/2022	Ceramics, flints, coin, CBM				
Paper	Somerset Museums Service TTNCM 34/2022	Context sheets, trench sheets, drawings				
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos, surveys				
BIBLIOGRAPHY	·	•				

Cotswold Archaeology 2022 Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation CA typescript report AN0588_1







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



Trench 3, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 2, looking south-east (1m scales)





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Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

General views of evaluation trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4

PROJECT NO. AN0588

DATE 22/08/2022

SCALE@A3 NA DRAWN BY RW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY DE



Trench 5, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 7, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 6, looking south-west (1m scales)



Trench 8, looking south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE
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Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

General views of evaluation trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8

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 PROJECT NO.
 AN0588

 DATE
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 SCALE@A3
 NA



Trench 9, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 11, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 15, looking east (1m scales)



Project Title
Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works,
Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

General views of evaluation trenches 9, 11 and 15

PROJECT NO. AN0588

DATE 22/08/2022

SCALE@A3 NA DRAWN BY RW
CHECKED BY DJB
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Trench 16, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 18, looking south (1m scales)



Trench 17, looking south (1m scales)



Trench 19, looking south (1m scales)



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General views of evaluation trenches 16, 17, 18 and 19

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PROJECT NO. AN0588

DATE 22/08/2022

SCALE@A3 NA



Trench 20, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 22, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 21, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 25, looking north-west (1m scales)



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Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

General views of evaluation trenches 20, 21, 22 and 25

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APPROVED BY DE

 PROJECT NO.
 AN0588

 DATE
 22/08/2022

 SCALE@A3
 NA



Trench 27, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 28, looking north-east (1m scales)



Trench 29, looking south-east (1m scales)



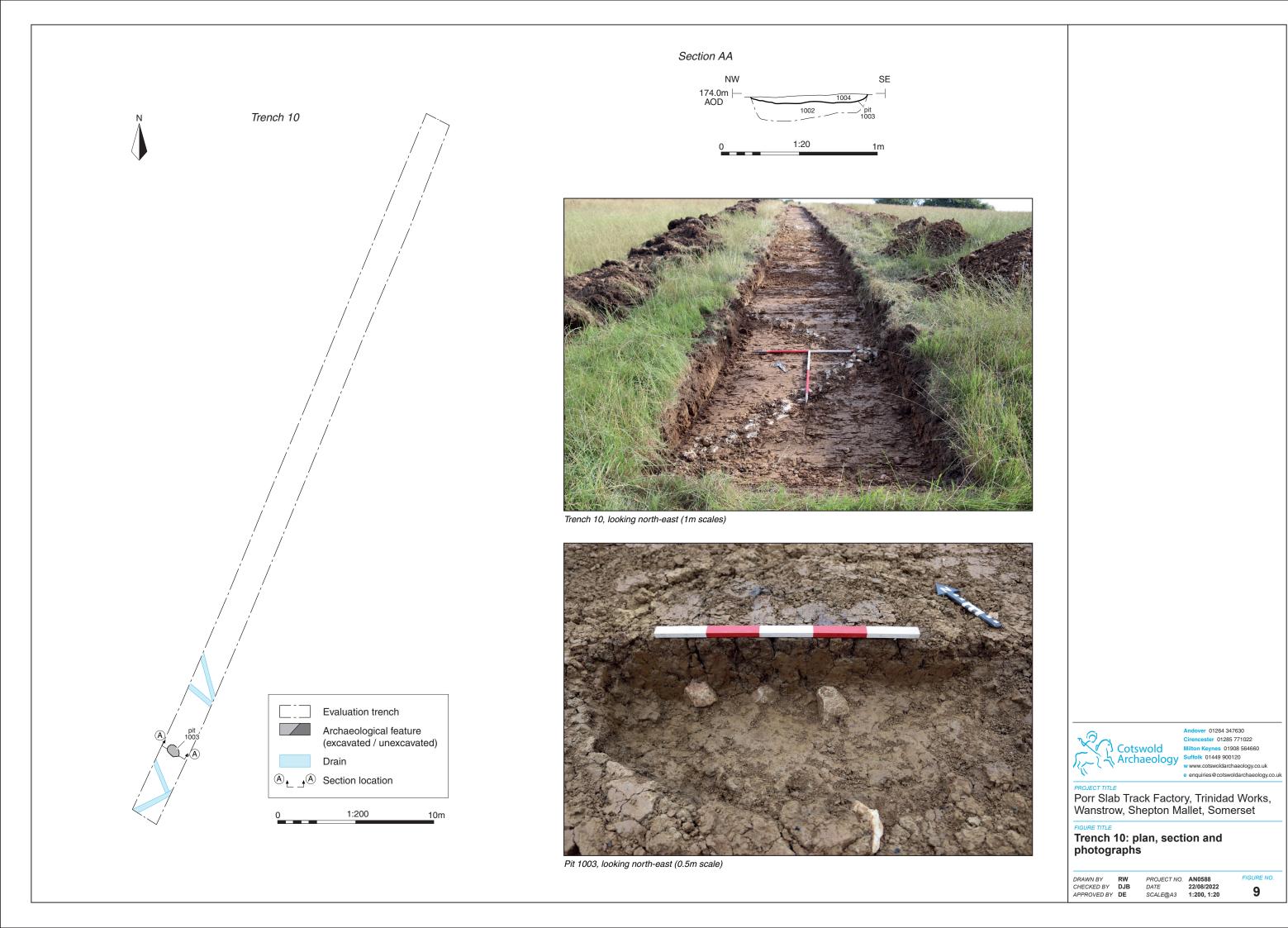
PROJECT TITLE
Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works,
Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

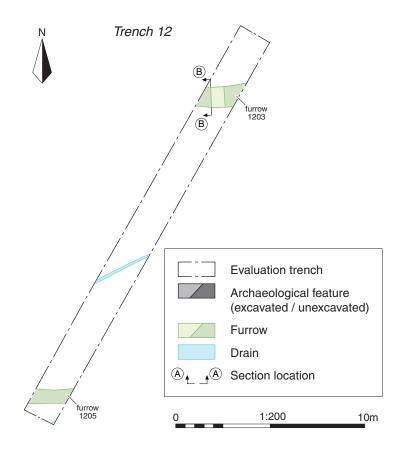
General views of evaluation trenches 27, 28 and 29

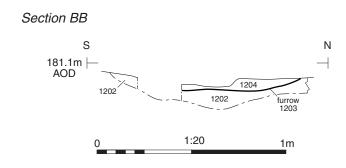
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 DATE
 22/08/2022

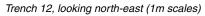
 SCALE@A3
 NA













Furrow 1203, looking west (0.5m scale)



Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

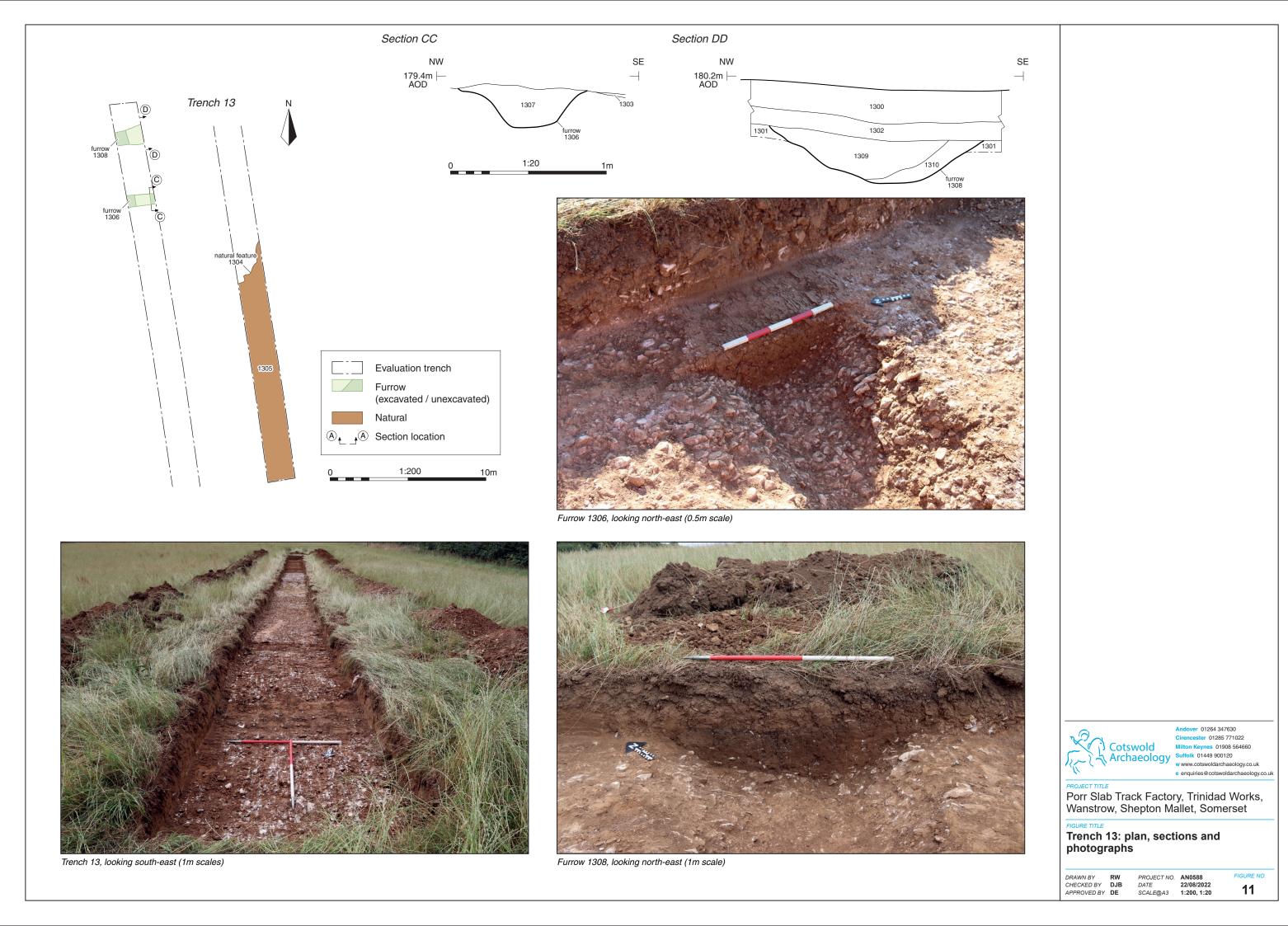
Trench 12: plan, section and photographs

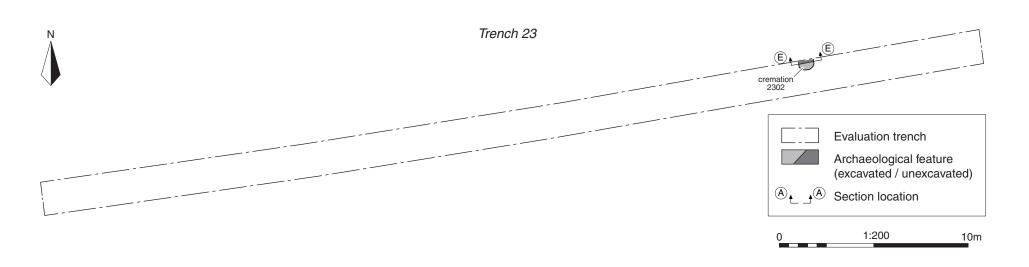
DRAWN BY RW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY DE
 PROJECT NO.
 AN0588

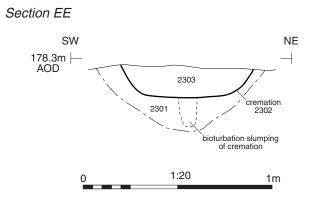
 DATE
 22/08/2022

 SCALE@A3
 1:200, 1:20

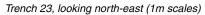
10













Cremation 2302, looking north-west (0.5m scale)



Porr Slab Track Factory, Trinidad Works, Wanstrow, Shepton Mallet, Somerset

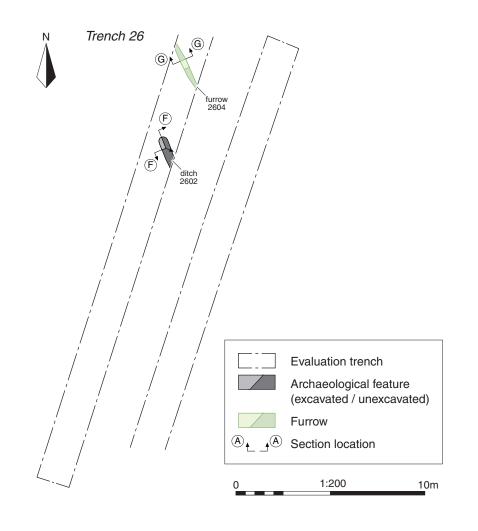
Trench 23: plan, section and photographs

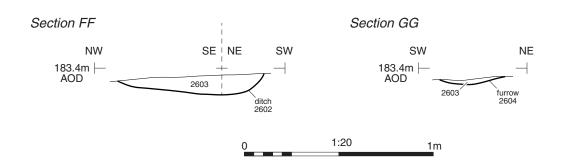
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CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY DE
 PROJECT NO.
 AN0588

 DATE
 22/08/2022

 SCALE@A3
 1:200, 1:20

12







Ditch 2602, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



Trench 26, looking south-west (1m scales)



Furrow 2604, looking north-west (0.3m scale)



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Trench 26: plan, sections and photographs

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 DATE
 22/08/2022

 SCALE@A3
 1:200, 1:20

13



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