

**LAND AT MENDIP AVENUE
SHEPTON MALLET
SOMERSET**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

For

DOBBIES PLC

CA PROJECT: 2765
CA REPORT: 09098

OCTOBER 2009


**COTSWOLD
ARCHAEOLOGY**



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Mendip Avenue
Location:	Shepton Mallet, Somerset
NGR:	ST 6300 4263
Type:	Excavation
Date:	26 January-4 March 2009
Planning Reference:	105941/049
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Somerset County Museum
Accession Number:	TTNCM 13/2009
Site Code:	DSM 09

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with redevelopment of the former Tesco retail store as a garden centre on land at Mendip Avenue, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.

The site is located within the Roman small town of Fosse Lane and has previously been investigated through geophysical survey and trial trenching in 1990 and excavation in 1996.

During the excavation, three areas were investigated. A Roman bank was identified within Area 1 and a Roman pit and ditch were identified within Area 2. These results are consistent with those of the previous archaeological works and provide further evidence on the nature of the Roman land divisions and land use within the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between January and March 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological excavation for Dobbies plc on land at Mendip Avenue, Shepton Mallet, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 6300 4263; Fig. 1). The excavation was undertaken to fulfil a condition (ARC01) attached to a planning consent for redevelopment of the former Tesco retail store as a garden centre (Mendip District Council planning ref: 105941/049). The objective of the excavation was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The excavation was carried out in accordance with a letter (dated 22 May 2008) issued by Steven Membery, Development and Control Archaeologist, Somerset County Council (SCC), the archaeological advisor to Mendip District Council (MDC), and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2009a) and approved by MDC acting on the advice of Steven Membery (SCC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). The work was monitored by Steven Membery.

The site

1.3 The site covers an area of approximately 2.2ha, and comprises the former Tesco retail store with associated car parks and landscaping. It is bounded by Fosse Lane to the west, by Mendip Avenue to the north and east and by the embankment of a former railway to the south (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 160m AOD.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lower Lias Clay (clay with some limestone) of the Jurassic era (BGS 1973). The natural substrate was exposed during the excavation.

Archaeological background

1.5 Archaeological interest in the site arises from its location within the Roman small town of Fosse Lane. This small town was located along the Fosse Way Roman road (now Fosse Lane, the A361), approximately half way between the Roman towns of Ilchester and Bath (Leach 2001).

- 1.6 A series of archaeological investigations identified Roman occupation on the site prior to the construction of the Tesco retail store in the 1990s (Fig. 2). The initial investigations were undertaken in 1990 and consisted of a geophysical survey and trial trenching (BUFAU 1990, SHER PRN 12997). Following this, in 1996, an excavation was undertaken along the south-western and north-western edges of the site (BUFAU 1996, SHER PRN 44801) (Fig. 2). Archaeological investigations were also undertaken to the immediate south of the Tesco site at The Showerings in 1990 (Leach 2001; Fig. 2).
- 1.7 The archaeological features exposed at the Tesco site and The Showerings represent a series of compounds, defined by banks or walls, extending back from the Fosse Way (Leach 2001). These compounds contained buildings, probably including dwellings and barns or stock-houses, and further buildings are thought to have existed along the (unexcavated) street frontage (ibid.).
- 1.8 Occupation on the site appears to have begun in the AD 80s and to have continued until at least the early 5th century AD with the latest phase of occupation marked by burials (Leach 2001).

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2009a). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks within three areas (Fig. 2 Areas 1-3):
- *Area 1*: a new service yard located within the south-western corner of the site. Intrusive groundworks comprised the excavation of a new drain and a soakaway as well as ground reduction for the new service yard.
 - *Area 2*: a new plant sales area located within the south-eastern corner of the site. Intrusive groundworks comprised ground reduction, the level of which was also the base for a new drain.
 - *Area 3*: a new service yard located within the south-eastern part of the site. Intrusive groundworks comprised ground reduction, the level of which was also the base for a new drain.
 - *Tree planting pits*: a series of c. 1m² pits located across the central part of the site.
- 1.10 Following stripping and mapping of the exposed features, a strategy for sampling the exposed archaeological features was agreed in consultation with Steven Membery.

Sufficient sections were excavated across the exposed features in order to characterise and date them.

- 1.11 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007). 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* (2003) and were sampled and processed where appropriate. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.12 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 County Museum under accession TTNCH 13/2009, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the excavation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts, finds and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A, B and C respectively.

Area 1

- 2.2 Area 1 lay partially within the area of the 1996 excavation. Ground reduction to a depth of 0.48m below present ground level (bpgl) was undertaken throughout the area. The natural substrate was exposed throughout Area 1 and was overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits.
- 2.3 A north-west/south-east aligned bank had been built onto the subsoil (Fig. 2). This bank consisted of a 1.75m wide core of limestone fragments, 103, covered by a 6m wide layer of buried topsoil, 102. In total, the bank measured 6m in width and was up to 0.28m in height (Fig. 3, section AA). It was sealed by modern topsoil and did

not survive a visible earthwork feature. Pottery dating to the 3rd century AD (after c. AD 250/70) was recovered from deposits 102 and 103.

- 2.4 No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were exposed within this area.

Area 2

- 2.5 Ground reduction to a depth of 0.3m bpgl was undertaken throughout the area. Along the south-western edge of Area 2 the limestone substrate was exposed. Within the remainder of Area 2, the ground reduction did not penetrate below the depth of the subsoil and the natural substrate was therefore not exposed within the north-eastern part of Area 2.
- 2.6 Ditch 204/206 was exposed running north/south within the area stripped to the limestone (Fig. 4). Although the remainder of Area 2 was only stripped to the top of the subsoil, it was possible to trace the continuation of the ditch as a dark line where the subsoil depth was only slight (Fig. 2). The ditch was 3.65m wide and between 0.2m and 0.4m in depth (Fig. 3, section BB). It was filled with a single dark black-brown clay silt deposit (203/205) which contained animal bone and later Roman pottery dating to the 3rd century AD (after c. AD 250/70), as well as a fragment of a 4th-century glass bead, fragments of later Roman vessel glass and a small number of Roman iron objects, including a hobnail, nails and a ring. The fill also contained a coin of Gallienus (AD 253–68) and two later Roman Minim copies, as well as a 2nd-century AD coin. Samples 1 and 2 were recovered from fills 203 and 205 and were found to contain Roman pottery, animal bone, metal objects, flint, glass, shell, fired clay and slag as well as small quantities of fragmented charcoal and charred seeds. The location and alignment of ditch 204/206 correspond with that of a ditch exposed within two trenches to the north during the 1990 evaluation (Fig. 2).
- 2.7 Pit 208 was located 7m to the east of the ditch (Fig. 2). It was shallow, flat-based, 3m in width and up to 0.32m in depth (Fig. 3, section CC). It was filled with a single black-brown clay silt deposit, 207, from which later Roman pottery (after c. AD 250/70), a 4th-century glass bead, fragments of later Roman vessel glass as well as a coin of Gallienus (AD 253–68) and a later Roman Minim copy were recovered. Sample 3 was recovered from fill 207 and was found to contain Roman pottery, animal bone, metal objects, flint, glass, shell, fired clay and slag as well as small quantities of fragmented charcoal and charred seeds.

- 2.8 The fills of both the pit and the ditch contained animal bones. Most were from cows or cow-sized animals and included a high percentage of mandible fragments with butchery marks. This is consistent with the primary stages of butchery during which the head of the animal is usually removed.

Area 3

- 2.9 Ground reduction to a depth of 0.3m bpgl was undertaken throughout the area and did not penetrate below the depth of the subsoil. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were exposed within this area.

Tree planting pits

- 2.10 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were exposed within the tree planting pits.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.11 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered, primarily from the pit and ditch located in Area 2 (Appendix B). The condition of the pottery is relatively good. Most of the assemblage dates to the later Roman period, after c. AD 250/70, with earlier Roman pottery, dating to the 2nd century AD, present in small quantities as residual material.
- 2.12 Six Roman coins were recovered, all of which were in moderate to poor condition (Appendix B). The earliest coin dates to AD 156/7. Two coins are radiates of Gallienus (AD 253–68). The remaining coins can not be identified with certainty, but probably date to the AD 330s to the 350s. Further metal items recovered included nails, hobnails, a ring and a copper alloy pin fragment.
- 2.13 Glass items recovered included a complete bead and a bead fragment, both of late Roman (probably 4th century) date (Appendix B). Eight fragments of vessel glass were also recovered, all of which are of later Roman date.
- 2.14 A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered, including dog, horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig (Appendix B). Most of the bone is well preserved although a few examples show gnawing by dogs, weathering and root etching. Burnt bone was observed in one deposit. A large percentage of the bones were identifiable as cow or cow-sized. The most commonly occurring bones in this category were mandible

fragments and scapula fragments, a number of which showed evidence for butchery. The high percentage of mandible fragments recovered is consistent with the primary stages of butchery. The large number of scapula fragments may be indicative of a secondary phase of butchery, as this bone carries a substantial amount of meat.

- 2.15 Three bulk samples were taken with the aim of recovering material suitable for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction and to aid artefact recovery (Appendix C). Samples 1 and 2 were taken from ditch fills 203 and 205 respectively and sample 3 was taken from pit fill 207. The samples proved to be rich in artefacts, including pottery, animal bone, metal objects, flint, glass, shell, fired clay and slag. Small quantities of fragmented charcoal and charred seeds were recovered from all samples.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The results of the current excavation are consistent with those of the previous archaeological works undertaken within the site and provide further evidence of later Roman occupation within this part of the Fosse Lane small Roman town (BUFAU 1990 and 1996 and Leach 2001). Although the bank within Area 1 does not correspond to any of the features exposed during the previous investigations, it does fit with the general pattern of banked plot boundaries extending to the east of the Fosse Way identified during the previous investigations.
- 3.2 The ditch within Area 2 matches the locations of ditch sections exposed during the evaluation of the site (BUFAU 1990) and appeared to extend southwards from a Roman building (Fig. 2). The building was not exposed during the current work and the relationship between the ditch and the remains of the building previously identified is unclear. The pit within Area 2 also dates to the Roman use of the site and is of similar character to pits exposed within the footprint of the former Tesco store (BUFAU 1990 and 1996).
- 3.3 The dating evidence for the bank, ditch and pit indicates that these features are within the peak period of Roman activity at Fosse Lane during the later Roman period (BUFAU 1990 and 1996 and Leach 2001). No evidence was uncovered for earlier Roman activity, other than some residual sherds of 2nd-century AD Samian ware, but it is conceivable that the boundaries represented by the ditch and the bank

were long-lived and were in use either side of the date-range implied by the recovered finds. No evidence was recovered of the very latest (5th century AD) Roman occupation identified during previous investigations (Leach 2001).

3.4 The animal bone recovered during the present work, although a small assemblage, hints that butchery was occurring on or near to the site.

3.5 The lack of recorded archaeological features within a large part of Area 2 and within Area 3 is due to the fact that only part of Area 2 and none of Area 3 were stripped to the natural substrate. However, the identified archaeological features within Area 1, and the finds contained therein, have added to existing knowledge about the form and date of later Roman occupation at Fosse Lane.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart, Timothy Havard, Cheralynne Hyde and Steven Sheldon. This report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**Area 1**

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.22m	
101	Layer	Subsoil			0.26m	
102	Layer	Former topsoil forming upper layer of bank: dark brown sandy silt		6m	0.28m	RB
103	Layer	Lower layer of bank: limestone fragments within dark black-brown silty sand		1.78m	0.18m	C3+
104	Layer	Natural: limestone substrate				

Area 2

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.2m	
201	Layer	Subsoil			0.1m	
202	Layer	Natural: limestone substrate				
203	Fill	Fill of 204: dark black-brown clay silt with limestone fragments		3.65m	0.2m	LC3-C4
204	Cut	Cut of ditch. N/S aligned, 45° sides, flat base		3.65m	0.2m	
205	Fill	Fill of 206: dark black-brown clay silt with limestone fragments		3.4m	0.4m	LC3-C4
206	Cut	Cut of ditch. N/S aligned, 45° sides, flat base		3.4m	0.4m	
207	Fill	Fill of 208: dark black-brown clay silt with limestone fragments		3m	0.32m	LC3-C4
208	Cut	Cut of pit, circular in plan with irregular edges and flat base		3m	0.32m	

Area 3

No.	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.2m	
301	Layer	Subsoil			0.1m	
302	Layer	Natural: limestone substrate				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

The Pottery by E.R. McSloy

Introduction

A small assemblage of 240 sherds of pottery (2889g) was recovered from seven separate deposits (Tables 1–2). The larger part of the assemblage was recovered by hand during the course of the excavations and primarily from features located in Area 2 (Table 2). An additional 62 sherds (97g) were retrieved following processing of bulk samples (fills 205 and 207). The condition of the pottery is relatively good and this is reflected in a mean sherd weight value (15.7g for the hand-recovered component) which is moderately high for a Roman group.

Assemblage Composition (Tables 1 and 2)

All of the recovered pottery dates to the Roman period. Over half of the assemblage comprises sandy reduced wares, almost certainly of local origin (Table 1). Oxidised wares including a soft, pale orange-firing fabric in the Severn Valley ware tradition, are also probably local in origin. The three sherds of samian are all probably central Gaulish and thus of 2nd-century AD date. The remainder consists of regional imports, the most common of which are Black-Burnished wares from the Poole Harbour area. Finewares occur as wares from the New Forest and Oxfordshire and mortaria from Oxfordshire. Two sherds, including a flagon, in 'South-West white slipped ware' are of a type common from north Wiltshire.

Identifiable vessel forms comprise mainly jars (23 examples), of which most are neckless, everted-rim classes in the form of Black-Burnished ware cooking pots. A sherd from a large and thick-walled storage jar from fill 207 (pit 208) features a simple rim apparently with a crudely-formed thumbled strip below. Open forms include conical flanged bowls (two) and plain rim dishes (two) in Black-Burnished ware (from fills 203 and 207 of ditch 204/206 and pit 208 respectively); a bowl imitating samian form Drag. 31 from fill 207 (pit 208) and a samian dish Drag 18/31 from bank deposit 103. Mortaria are present as gritted base sherds in Oxford red slipped ware from fill 205 (ditch 204/206). Beakers are present as indented forms in New Forest and local(?) colour-coated fabrics and there is a single flagon, represented by a single handle fragment in South West white-slipped ware from fill 203 (ditch 204/206).

Chronology

The datable elements within the assemblage, primarily the Black-Burnished ware vessel forms, and the New Forest and Oxford products, indicate that most material relates to the later Roman period, after c. AD 250/70. Indications of earlier Roman activity are sparse, present as small sherds of samian, dating to the 2nd century AD (deposits 103, 205, 209), and are probably residual in each instance.

The pottery assemblage provides consistent evidence for later Roman activity from the features encountered. In its composition the assemblage is mainly utilitarian in character, used for a range of cooking and storage functions, and with the small number of beakers, flagons and fineware bowls for use at the table or for display. The assemblage, although small, is reflective of the broader patterns of ceramic supply and use for this period in the region and across a variety of site types.

The Other Finds by E.R. McSloy

Coins (Table 3)

Six coins, all of copper alloy and of Roman date, were recovered. Two were hand recovered and the remainder retrieved following processing of soil samples (Table 3). The condition of the coins is moderate to poor with varying levels of obscuring corrosion and/or surface loss. The earliest is a Sestertius of Antoninus Pius struck in AD 156 or 157. There are two further 'official' issues, both radiates of Gallienus (AD 253–68) from fill 203 (ditch 204/206) and fill 207 (pit 208). The Roman issues on which the three minim copies are based can not be identified with certainty, although these will all probably date to the 330s to the 350s AD.

Metalwork

A total of 10 iron items (a hobnail, a ring and eight nails) were hand-recovered from fill 203 (ditch 204/206). In addition a copper alloy pin (shaft) fragment and 14 iron hobnails were recovered from bulk soil samples (nos 1 and 3), taken from fill 203 (ditch 204/206) and fill 207 (pit 208). Roman dating is likely for all of the recovered metalwork.

Glass objects

One complete bead and a fragment of a second were recovered. Both items were retrieved from soil samples 1 and 3, from fill 203 (ditch 204/206) and fill 207 (pit 208) respectively. The bead from sample 1 comprises part of two sections of small segmented type in a dark green glass. That from sample 3 is a complete small cylinder bead (diam. 4mm) in opaque green-coloured glass. Both are common late Roman (probably 4th century) types (Guido 1978, 91–6).

Vessel glass

A total of eight fragments of vessel glass were recovered, all deriving from bulk soil samples. A small chip of yellow-coloured glass was retrieved from fill 203 (ditch 204/206; sample 1). The remainder, from fill 205 (ditch 204/206; sample 2: three fragments) and fill 207 (pit 208; sample 3: four fragments) consists of small and unfeathered fragments of pale green-coloured glass. In all instances the colouring and other characteristics such as the common presence of air bubbles and poor surface finish are consistent with later Roman dating.

The Animal Bone by Victoria Taylor

Animal bone was recovered from six deposits. The assemblage totalled 1327 fragments weighing 8634 grams. Of this material 353 fragments were recovered by hand and 974 from bulk samples. The majority of the bones were recovered from deposits in Area 2.

The species identified were dog, horse, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. The remainder of the bone is too fragmented for full identification and is classified by size as cow-sized, sheep-sized, small mammal-sized, chicken-sized and blackbird-sized. Most of the bone is well preserved excepting a few examples which show weathering and root etching.

Burnt bone was observed in one deposit. Bones from two deposits show evidence for gnawing by dogs. A possible cow-sized radius from fill 203 (ditch 204/206) demonstrated pathology in the form of extensive new bone growth around the proximal end.

A large percentage of the bones were identifiable as cow or cow-sized. The most commonly occurring bones in this category were mandible fragments and scapula fragments, a number of which showed evidence for butchery. Small numbers of sheep/goat, pig, horse and dog fragments were also recovered, none of which showed evidence for butchery. This species bias is consistent across Area 2.

Evidence for butchery was noted in four deposits, most commonly in the form of chop marks on the back of cattle mandibles. The high percentage of mandible fragments recovered is consistent with the primary stages of butchery as the head is usually removed at an early stage. The previously noted chop marks may be evidence for this process. Other bones associated with primary stages of butchery include the lower limb bones which are only present in low numbers in this assemblage. This may suggest that the lower limbs were taken away from the primary butchery site for further use. The large number of scapula fragments may be indicative of a secondary phase of on-site butchery, as this bone carries a substantial amount of meat.

Table 1: Pottery summary by fabric (Quantities shown as sherd count and weight in grams)

Origin/Group	Fabric	Description	Ct.	Wt.
Local reduced	GWm	Sparse quart. Dark grey, micaceous. Congresbury?	8	79
	GW1	Hard, common quartz, grey throughout	27	414
	GW2	Grey, common quartz. Paler core or sandwich	9	200
	GW3	Grey with pale margins. Sparse quartz with organic inclusions	2	70
	GW4	Pale grey with darker slip/wash. Common quartz.	82	961
	GW5	Sparse coarse quartz. Grey with red core	2	19
	GW6	Grey with clay pellet	2	10
	BBIM	Coarse, dark-grey throughout (Black-Burnished imitative)	16	178
<i>Sub-total</i>			148	1931
Local Oxidised	OXID	Soft, orange (Severn Valley ware type?)	3	40
	OXIDf	Harder, yellow-orange firing. Sparse quartz	3	25
	MISC CC	Soft, orange core with brown slip	2	64
White-slipped	SOW WS	South west White-slipped (Tomber and Dore 1998, 192)	2	10
<i>Sub-total</i>			12	139
Poole Harbour	DOR BB	Dorset Black-Burnished (Tomber and Dore 1998, 127)	65	693
New Forest	NFCC	NF colour-coated ware	6	39
	NFRS	NF red-slipped	4	47
<i>Sub-total</i>			10	86
Oxford	OXFRS	Oxford red-slipped (Tomber and Dore 1998, 174)	4	33
Samian	SAM	Unidentified (Gaulish) samian	1	1
	SAM CG	Central Gaulish samian (Tomber and Dore 1998, 21)	2	6
<i>Sub-total</i>			3	7
Total			240	2889

Table 2: Pottery summary by deposit (Quantities shown as sherd count and weight in grams)

Fabric	Unstrat.		102		103		203		205		207		209		Total	
	Ct.	Wt.	Ct.	Wt.	Ct.	Wt.	Ct.	Wt.	Ct.	Wt.	Ct.	Wt.	Ct.	Wt.	Ct.	Wt.
GWm			2	23	1	5	5	51							8	79
GW1			1	50			16	220	2	33	8	111			27	414
GW2			2	18	3	34	3	41			1	107			9	200
GW3					2	70									2	70
GW4	1	1					36	707	26	44	19	209			82	961
GW5							1	9	1	10					2	19
GW6									2	10					2	10
BBIM							14	153			2	25			16	178
OXID											3	40			3	40
OXIDf											3	25			3	25
SOW WS							1	7					1	3	2	10
MISC CC	1	62									1	2			2	64
DOR BB	1	2			8	88	17	315	11	28	28	260			65	693
NFCC	1	8			1	5			1	17	3	9			6	39
NFRS							3	25			1	22			4	47
OXFRS									2	30	2	3			4	33
SAM									1	1					1	1
SAM CG					1	5							1	1	2	6
Total	4	73	5	91	16	207	96	1528	46	173	71	813	2	4	240	2889

Table 3: Coins summary (All are copper alloy)

Context	Description	Date
203 <1>	Prob. Radiate of Gallienus. Rev. shows AEQUITAS standing, left Minim copy (5mm diam.) ?fallen horseman type copy Minim copy (3mm diam.). Design unclear	AD 253–68? AD 350s? AD C4
205	Sestertius of Antoninus Pius. Rev. shows Securitas. TR POT COS XX[AD 156–7
207	Radiate of Gallienus. Rev. shows Hippocamp. NEPTUNO CONS AUG.	AD 253–68?
207 <3>	Minim copy (7mm diam.). ?Gloria. Exercitus (1 standard) copy	AD 330s?

Table 4: Summary of animal bone

	No of fragments	No of bones	Weight	No of bones identifiable to species	No of Mandibles	No of Epiphyses
Samples	974	969	881	22	0	1
Hand Collected	353	348	7753	103	8	1
Total	1327	1317	8634	125	8	2

Table 5: Animal Bone by deposit

context	sample	no of frags	no of bones	weight	no id to species	Large mammal	small mammal	bird	mandibles	epiphyses	species/part	state	age
u/s		1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	SSZ(R)		
102		1	1	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	CSZ(FB)		
103		2	2	33	1	1	0	0	0	0	B(H) CSZ(LB)	RT, WE	SA, A
203	1	257	252	159	7	4	2	0	0	0	B(H,UL,LL,LB) O/C(H) CSZ(FB) SM(P,LB)	BN	A
203		155	155	3606	39	3	0	0	4	1	CSZ (UL,H,MTP,LL,R,V, FB) SSZ(LB,UL) O/C (MTP,LL,H) B(UL,H) S(H)	PA, MB, BT, WE	A, SA/J
205	2	209	209	249	3	2	1	1	0	0	B(H), S(H), O/C (H), CHSZ (UL), CSZ(UL,FB,H), D(H) BBSZ(LB) SM(H)		
205		68	67	1595	26	4	0	0	1	0	B(H,LL,R,UL) CSZ(FB,UL, R,H)	MB, BT, GN	A
207		96	89	1710	30	5	0	0	1	0	E(H) B(H,LL,UL) S(LL) CSZ(FB,UL,R,H) SSZ (MTP)	MB, WE, BT, GN	SA/A, A
207	3	508	508	473	12	1	1	1	0	1	B(H,UL) CSZ(LL,FB,H,LB) E(H) O/C(H) SM(LB,H)	BT, MB	A, J
209		34	33	799	5	2	0	0	2	0	B(H,UL) O/C(H) CSZ(UL, FB,R,LB) SSZ(UL)	MB, BT	A

Key to codes used in table

Species; E = Equus caballus (Horse), B = Bos taurus (cow), O/C Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat), S = Sus scrofa (pig), D = Canis familiaris (dog), CSZ = cow-sized, SSZ = sheep-sized, SM small mammal (mouse-sized), CHSZ = chicken-sized, BBSZ = blackbird-sized,

Parts; H = head, HC = horncore, V = vertebra, R = rib, UL = upper limb, LL = lower limb, MP metapodial, P = phalange, FB = flat bone, LB = long bone, F = fragment.

Ageing data; epiphyses = simple count, mandibles = simple count

State; WE = weathered, BT = butchery marks, BN = burnt, GN = gnawed, RT = root etching, MB = modern break, PA = pathology.

Age; F/N = foetal/neonatal, I = infant, J = juvenile, SA = sub-adult, A = adult

APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

by Victoria Taylor

In total three bulk samples were taken and processed using an environmental flotation system. All samples were taken with the aim of recovering material suitable for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction and to aid artefactual recovery. Samples 1 and 2 were taken from ditch fills 203 and 205 respectively and sample 3 was taken from pit fill 207.

Results (Table 6)

The samples proved to be rich in artefacts, with quantities of pottery and animal bone being recovered from all three sample residues (Appendix B). Other types of artefacts recovered include metal, flint, glass, shell, fired clay and slag. Small quantities of fragmented charcoal and charred seeds were recovered from all samples. Fragmentary charcoal and charred seeds were noted in all 1mm flots. The flots from samples 1 and 2 also contained land snails.

Table 6: material from samples summary

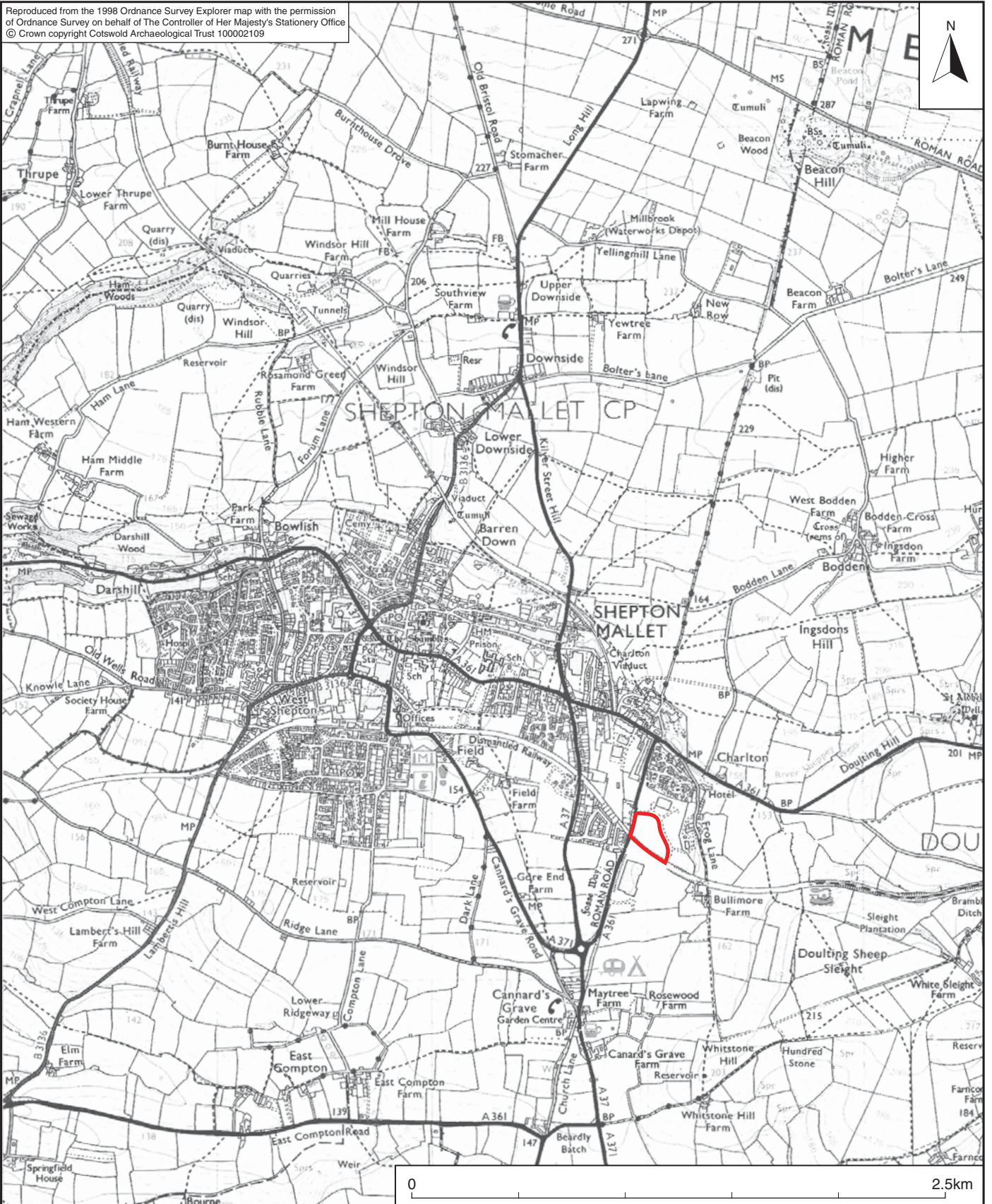
Category	203 <1>	205 <2>	207 <3>
Charcoal	D/C	D	E
Shell	E	E	D
Seeds	E	E	D
Animal bone	A	A	A
Fish bone	-	E	-
Burnt bone	D	D	-
Pottery	D	C	D
Glass	E	E	E
Metal	E	D	E
Coins	E	-	E
Coal	D	-	E
Fired clay	D	D	D
Slag	E	-	E

Key: A = >200 pieces; B = 100–200 ; C = 50–100; D = 10–50; E = 1–10

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Mendip Avenue, Shepton Mallet, Somerset: Archaeological Excavation	
Short description	<p>An archaeological excavation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with redevelopment of the former Tesco retail store as a garden centre on land at Mendip Avenue, Shepton Mallet, Somerset.</p> <p>The site is located within the Roman small town of Fosse Lane and has previously been investigated through geophysical survey and trial trenching in 1990 and excavation in 1996.</p> <p>During the excavation, three areas were investigated. A Roman bank was identified within Area 1 and a Roman pit and ditch were identified within Area 2. These results are consistent with those of the previous archaeological works and provide further evidence on the nature of the Roman land divisions and land use within the site.</p>	
Project dates	26 January-4 March 2009	
Project type	Excavation	
Previous work	Evaluation (trenching and geophysical survey) (SHER PRN 12997) and excavation (SHER PRN 44801)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land at Mendip Avenue, Shepton Mallet, Somerset	
Study area	2.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 6300 4263	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisors	Jonathan Hart, Timothy Havard and Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Somerset County Museum 13/2009	TTNCM 4 boxes: pottery/other; animal bone; sample finds; metal finds
Paper	Somerset County Museum 13/2009	TTNCM Context sheets, drawings
Digital	Somerset County Museum 13/2009	TTNCM Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA 2009 <i>Land at Mendip Avenue, Shepton Mallet, Somerset: Archaeological Excavation</i> . CA typescript report 09098		

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0 2.5km

 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
**Land off Mendip Avenue
 Shepton Mallet, Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:25,000@A4	2765	1



- site
- ◆ tree planting pit
- area of excavation
- archaeological features
- previous archaeological works
- previous archaeological features
- area of geophysical survey
- geophysical anomaly
- area stripped to subsoil

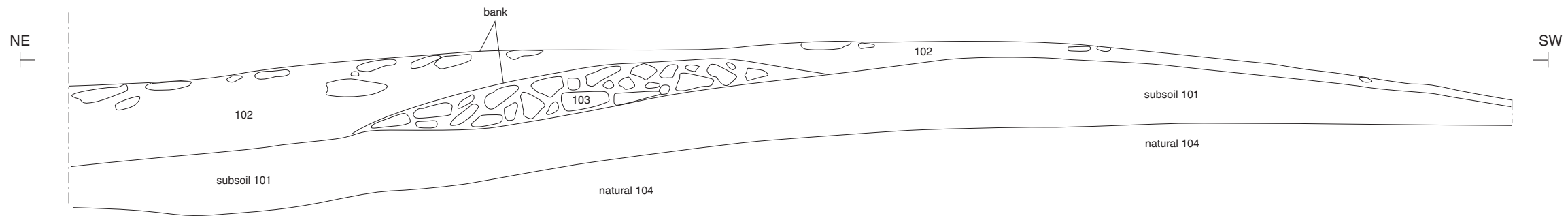


PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Mendip Avenue
 Shepton Mallet, Somerset

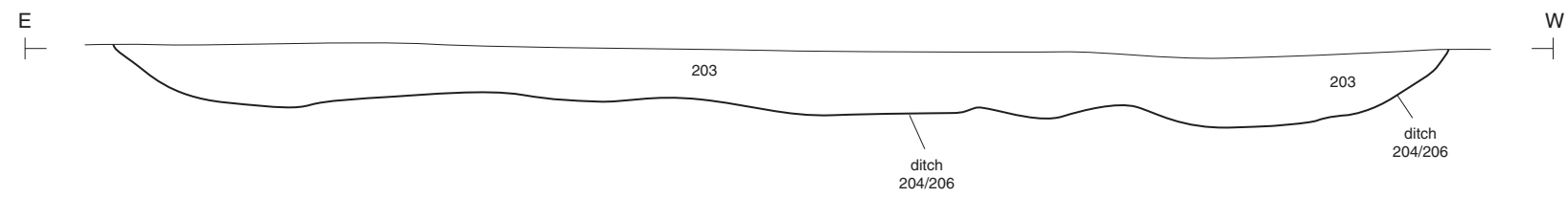
FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing location of
 groundworks & archaeological features

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:1000@A3	2765	2

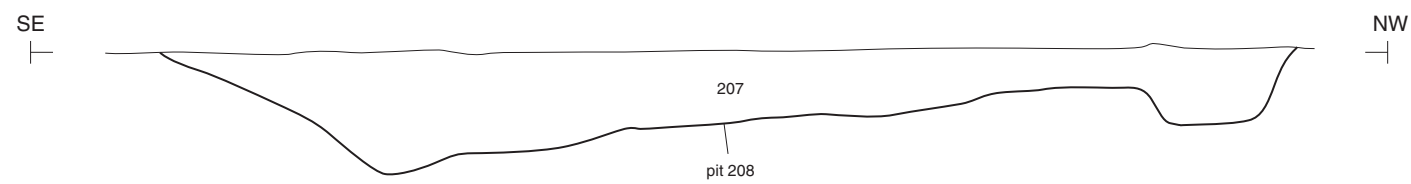
Section AA



Section BB



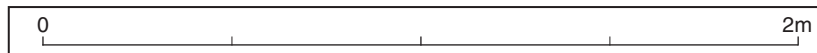
Section CC



PROJECT TITLE
Land off Mendip Avenue
Shepton Mallet, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Sections

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:20@A3	2765	3





COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Mendip Avenue
Shepton Mallet, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

**Area 2 facing south-east, showing
ditch 204/206**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

n/a

PROJECT NO.

2765

FIGURE NO.

4