

Land adjacent to
71 Chilkwell Street,
Glastonbury,
Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation and
Monitoring and Recording

REPORT

April 2017



**Land adjacent to 71 Chilkwell Street
Glastonbury
Somerset**


For Mr M Doble

COAS project code: C1/EVA/17/CGS

COAS project code: C1/AMR/17/CGS

REPORT

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Approved by	Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager
Signed	
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Summary

Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) was instructed to carry out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching as a condition of planning consent for the erection of 3 dwellings on Land adjacent to 71 Chilkwell Street, Glastonbury, Somerset. Archaeological monitoring and recording was subsequently carried out by C1 during construction groundworks.

The Site is in an area of archaeological potential, located c. 200m south-east of the Scheduled Monument of Glastonbury Abbey. The nearby Tor and Chalice Well area has produced evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British, Post-Roman, Saxon and medieval activity.

The archaeological evaluation and monitoring and recording on this Site has produced a very modest amount of archaeological features, deposits and finds of two periods; the Late Iron Age and the late medieval period. One gully or ditch contained pottery exclusively of Late Iron Age type, whilst a second ditch/gully and a deposit was of late medieval date. As such, the results add to our knowledge of Late Iron Age activity within the Tor hinterland, and to later medieval secular occupation to the south-east of the abbey precinct.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) was instructed to carry out an archaeological evaluation through trial trenching as a condition of planning consent for the erection of 3 residential dwellings on Land adjacent to 71 Chilkwell Street, Glastonbury, Somerset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). Archaeological monitoring and recording was subsequently carried out by C1 during construction groundworks. The project was commissioned and funded by Mr M Doble.

1.2 The evaluation was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Mendip District Council (MDC) on the advice of Mr Steven Membery (Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust). In an initial consultation response on 2 September 2016, Mr Membery stated:

"The applicant has submitted a Heritage Statement that includes information from the Historic Environment Record. The statement suggests that a condition be attached to deal with any archaeology prior to development. I concur with the statement reasoning and therefore I recommend that the applicant be required to provide archaeological investigation of the development and a report on any discoveries made as indicated in the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 1 41). This should be secured by the use of model condition 55 attached to any permission granted:

"No development hereby approved shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority."

1.3 Following the successful completion of the evaluation, it was decided during a Site meeting with Mr Membery that the results merited a further phase of archaeological work. This comprised archaeological monitoring and recording during construction works. It was also agreed that the results could be subsumed within an overarching report covering both phases.

1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised five elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; evaluation through trial trenching; archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and assessment report production (this document); and archive deposition. The WSI for the evaluation was approved by Mr Membery on 24 January 2017. The monitoring and recording element was added as an addendum to the WSI and approved by Mr Membery prior to the commencement of this work.

1.5 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This states:

"Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted."

2. The Site

2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 50622 38520) is located c. 500m to the south-west of Glastonbury town centre (**Figure 1**). It is situated on the north side of Chilkwell Street, c. 200m west of the base of Glastonbury Tor. The Site slopes from north to south varying from c. 66m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the north end to c. 57m aOD in the south. The recorded solid geology for the Site is Dyrham Formation And Beacon Limestone Formation (undifferentiated) - Mudstone, Sandstone And Limestone. (BGS 2017). The soils are recorded as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (CSAIS 2017).

2.2 The Site is in an area of archaeological potential. The nearby Tor has produced evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British, Post-Roman, Saxon and medieval activity (HER No 23603; 23604). Nearby Chalice Well (from which Chilkwell Street takes its name), situated c. 100m to the east of the Site (HER No 23610), has produced evidence of medieval and post-medieval structures as well as Mesolithic, Iron Age and Romano-British finds.

A large ditch of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date (HER No 57094) was identified during a watching brief at St Michael's House, Chalice Well. The area immediately to the north of the Site retains signs of ridge and furrow cultivation (HER No36328). Further to the north, on Chalice Hill, c. 120m away, (HER No 28514) is a possible square enclosure or windmill site. The Site is situated between Chalice Well (which may have had a role in medieval ecclesiastical water management) and the precinct of the medieval Benedictine abbey of Glastonbury c. 200m to the north-west.

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological field evaluation and monitoring were to:

- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

3.2 The research objectives were to:

- determine whether there was any evidence specifically relating to the ecclesiastical use of the area and the evolution of the town

4. Methodology

4.1 All evaluation work was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 1994, rev. 2001, 2008, 2014a). All monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2014b). Both phases of the investigation followed guidance in the *Somerset County Council Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (2011). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times during the course of the investigations. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.

4.2 The work comprised two phases, an archaeological field evaluation and archaeological monitoring and recording during initial construction works.

4.3 COAS gave notification of the commencement of works, and contact maintained with Mr Membury throughout the programme of works, continuing until the deposition of the Site archive.

4.4 The archaeological evaluation consisted of three trenches (Tr), each measuring 10m long x 1.6m wide. This equated to a 4% sample of the Site area. The trenches were laid out according to a pre-defined trench plan (see **Figure 1**) using Ordnance Survey (OS) co-ordinates with a TopCon GRS1 GPS unit.

4.5 A 360-degree tracked machine equipped with a toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil/overburden under the constant supervision of COAS archaeological staff. Machine excavation continued until archaeological features or natural geology was encountered, whichever was first. Spoil was mounded either side of the trench but no less than 1m from the trench edges.

4.6 Once machine work was completed, the trenches were examined and, where necessary, cleaned using hand tools. Core details of each trench were recorded with a COAS digital evaluation trench sheet. This included logging a representative section of the trench to allow an understanding of the stratigraphy. Archaeological remains/deposits were identified for subsequent sampling. A digital photograph of each trench in plan and representative section was taken in .jpg format.

- 4.7 Based on the results of the evaluation, archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out across three areas of the development which would be most impacted by the groundworks. This comprised a designated parking area (Area 2), and proposed below-ground storage facilities (Areas 1 and 3, and the eastern end of Area 2) (**Figure 1**).
- 4.8 Where archaeological remains/deposits were encountered, these were assessed to determine the level of investigation required to satisfactorily characterise any remains/deposits.
- 4.9 Each context was excavated, wherever possible, to produce at least one representative cross-section. As a minimum:
- small discrete features were fully excavated; and
 - long linear features were sample excavated where they were bisected by the trenches and area of groundwork monitoring.

The full depth of archaeological deposits was assessed.

- 4.10 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using standard COAS *pro forma* recording sheets in digital format. All archaeological features were planned on dimensionally stable media at an appropriate scale. All archaeological remains were levelled to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.11 A photographic record of the evaluation and archaeological monitoring was prepared, and involved the sole use of digital images. This included images illustrating in both detail, and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.12 Environmental sampling was carried out by members of the excavation team comprising a bulk soil sample. The sampling strategy reflected the nature of the features encountered. This strategy was determined using guidance set out by English Heritage (Campbell et al. 2011).
- 4.13 In the text, context numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1002) and feature cuts appear as square brackets, e.g. [1001]. Where a context is discussed, the leading number relates to a specific member of the field team, and the first element of the context number relates to the trench number, e.g. 800, Trench 8.

5. Results

- 5.1 The deposit profile encountered was similar across the investigation area, consisting of topsoil over subsoil and, in turn, natural clays (**Appendix 1; Plates 1-6**). The topsoil was dark brown silty clay with variable amounts of mudstone and limestone fragments measuring between 0.20m and 0.30m in depth. The subsoil comprised yellow/brown silty clays with varying mudstone and limestone inclusions measuring 0.20m-0.40m deep. This overlay clay natural in all areas, either yellow or light grey in hue and containing varying amounts of mudstone fragments.
- 5.2 The south-eastern portion of the Site (observed in Evaluation Tr 3 and monitoring Areas 1 and 3), did not contain any archaeological features or deposits. However, three features were identified in the northern area, recorded in evaluation Tr 1 and 2 and monitoring Area 2. All three features could be assigned a date from finds.
- 5.3 A gully or curving linear feature F1 [7-103] in evaluation Tr 1 was on a north-west to south-east alignment with gentle concave sides and an irregular base, measuring 0.42m wide and 0.10m deep (**Figure 2; Plate 7**). A single fill (7-104) comprised light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional rounded mudstone. This contained an assemblage of exclusively Late Iron Age pottery.
- 5.4 A deposit of medieval pottery and bone in evaluation Tr 2 was designated as F2 (**Figure 2; Plate 8**). This was situated within a matrix of firm grey clay (7-202) with frequent mudstone fragments, which was similar to the

underlying natural clay. A shallow ditch or gully F3 [3-203] was identified in Area 2, on a north-south alignment with moderate concave sides and a concave base (**Figure 2; Plate 9**), measuring 0.50m wide and 0.14m deep. This had a single fill (3-204), a light yellowish brown silty clay containing a single sherd of medieval pottery and animal bone.

6. The finds

- 6.1 A small assemblage of pottery and animal bone was collected during the field evaluation and monitoring and recording exercise and came exclusively from archaeological features and deposits.

THE POTTERY, BY RACHEL HALL

- 6.2 A total of 111 sherds, weighing 820g, were recovered from two contexts from the evaluation and archaeological monitoring and recording (see **Table 1**). The sherds are late medieval and Late Iron Age in date, based on form and fabric. The average sherd size is 7.39g and generally the assemblage is in a fair condition.

Late Iron Age (100 BC-AD 43)

- 6.3 A total of ninety-four sherds were recovered from the fill (7-104) of ditch F1 [7-103]. The sherds are all abraded with a small amount of diagnostic sherds also identified. Two bead rim bowl rims were recorded in both sandy and calcareous fabrics. Both are Late Iron Age in date based on both form and fabric. Decoration comprises slight burnishing and a small amount of lattice incisions on the sandy bead rim bowl.

Late Medieval (14th-15th Century)

- 6.4 The seventeen sherds dating to the late medieval period are abraded and in a fair condition. The sandy fabrics are handmade with variable firing. A small number have external sooting and patches of glazing on the exterior. Rounded base sherds from a cooking pot were recovered from deposit (7-202). Two small, conjoining sherds were recovered from the fill (3-204) of ditch F3 [3-203], also dated to the late medieval period. The sherds are generally oxidised with a reduced core and sandwich firing. Based on both form and fabric, these locally made coarsewares can be dated to late medieval period.

Table 1. Pottery by Context, fabric number and weight (g)

CONTEXT	MATERIAL	FABRIC	DATE	NO.	WEIGHT (G)
7-202	Pottery	sandy	Late Med	14	484
7-202	Pottery	sandy	Late Med	1	10
3-204	Pottery	Sandy	Late Med	2	1
7-104	Pottery	sandy	LIA	15	173
7-104	Pottery	Calcareous	LIA	79	152
TOTAL				111	820

THE ANIMAL BONE, BY CLARE RANDALL

- 6.5 The assemblage comprised a total of 14 fragments of disarticulated material, 12 recovered from context (7-202) in medieval deposit F2 and two in medieval ditch F3 (2-304) (**Table 2**).
- 6.6 The condition of the bone was average to average-good. A single example of butchery was noted on a fragment of sheep/goat tibia. However, there were four examples of helical breaks, potentially indicative of deliberate fragmentation, affecting a single cattle bone, single sheep/goat fragment and two sheep-sized mammal fragments. No fragments were weathered, suggesting rapid incorporation. A single example of dog gnawing was noted on a fragment of sheep/goat metacarpal. Several sheep/goat elements were measurable, and the metrics are included in the archive but no pathological conditions were noted. The species identified were cattle and sheep/goat. No dog bone was noted, but there was a single incidence of canid gnawing indicating their presence.

Cattle

- 6.7 A single cattle fragment was identified, a proximal portion of tibia with a helical break suggesting potential processing when the bone was fresh. This was fused, indicative of an animal of > 42-48 months

Sheep/goat

- 6.8 A total of nine fragments of sheep/goat bone was identified, with a single example being positively identified as sheep. There was no porous bone present and the material was largely related to the appendicular skeleton. A proximal tibia was unfused, indicating an animal of < 36-42, whilst there was an unfused distal metacarpal (>18-24 months) and a fused distal metatarsal (>20-28 months).
- 6.9 This discrete deposit of bone, found in association with pottery, has the appearance of cooking waste. The animals involved are of meat weight, and most of the elements relate to parts of meat bearing areas rather than primary butchery waste. Several have indications of possible processing, and there is one example of butchery. The elements which could be measured are consistent with assemblages of the period. The material is in generally fair condition with no weathering suggestive of rapid incorporation, although some of the material at least was available for dogs to gnaw prior to deposition.

Table 2. Species representation by Number of fragments by context

SPECIES	(7-202) F2	(3-204) F3
Cattle	1	
Sheep/Goat	8	1
<i>Main total</i>	9	1
Sheep sized mammal	3	1
<i>Unidentified total</i>	3	1
Total	12	2

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE, BY CLARE RANDALL

- 6.10 A single bulk soil sample of 20 litres was collected to retrieve potential environmental information. The sample was wet-sieved in a flotation tank using a tier of 250mm and 500mm micron sieves to collect the flots, and a 1mm mesh to collect the heavy residue. These were allowed to air dry and were then bagged. The bulk soil sample produced archaeobotanical remains and including charred macrofossils and molluscs (**Table 3**).

Table 3. Visual assessment of soil sample flots. For charred wood, this includes both lumps and flecks

SAMPLE NO.	CONTEXT NUMBER	FEATURE NUMBER	TYPE	CHARRED WOOD –	CHARRED WEED AND GRAIN SEEDS	UNCHARRED REMAINS	MOLLUSCS ETC.	OTHER
1	7-104	F1	Ditch	Y - rare	N	Y-moderate	Y - frequent	NA

7. Discussion

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation and subsequent monitoring and recording on this Site has produced a tiny quantity of archaeological features, deposits and finds of two periods, the Late Iron Age and the late medieval period. Whilst the features were of small scale, it should be noted that the modest assemblage of finds provided a respectable archive given the limited excavated volume of the interventions. The topography, adjacent ridge and furrow and the shallowness of the extant features may indicate that there has been some truncation in the past.
- 7.2 The gully or ditch F1 is dated to the Late Iron Age as it contained pottery exclusively of that date. Later prehistoric activity has been noted in the area of the Tor, to the east of the Site. A significant quantity of large unabraded Late Iron Age pottery sherds have also been recently identified amongst the pottery assemblages held at Glastonbury Abbey (Morris 2015), although these were all unstratified. Nevertheless, there are no findspots of similar date in the immediate area of the Site, so this identification is a significant addition to our knowledge of the use of the hinterland of the Tor in this period. The environmental sample yielded a good assemblage of molluscs, which may have some future research value if similar remains are ever discovered in the area.

- 7.3 The identification of at least one later medieval period feature is also of use in understanding the utilisation of the area in the 14th to 15th centuries. The deposit of medieval pottery and bone, F2, was positioned on the projected line of the shallow linear feature F3, to the south of where it was observed in Area 2. It may be that terracing has truncated this linear feature in its southern extent, and the deposit of pottery and bone was a remnant of the fills at the base. The selection of material appears to be indicative of domestic waste, with consumption of cattle and sheep/goat indicating table waste.
- 7.4 To conclude, the project makes a very modest contribution to our knowledge of Late Iron Age activity within the Tor hinterland, and to later medieval secular occupation to the south-east of the abbey precinct. The finds and mollusc assemblage are of sufficient research interest to be retained for long term curation should further evidence be forthcoming in the environs.

8. Archive

- 8.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 141). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.
- 8.2 The paper/digital archive is the property of the archaeological contractor until it is deposited with the receiving institution once the full programme of works has been carried out. This element of the archive will be prepared in accordance with prevailing standards for deposition.
- 8.3 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). It is usual practice for the landowner to donate this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. Alternatively, the landowner can choose to keep the assemblage but arrangements must be made to ensure its long term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF (para. 141).
- 8.4 Regardless of the destination of the artefact/ecofact assemblage, an ordered archive will be prepared in accordance with prevailing standards for deposition.
- 8.5 Archive deposition will ordinarily be carried out within three months of completion of reporting.
- 8.6 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Somerset Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>).

9. Acknowledgements

- 9.1 C1 would like to thank Mr M Doble (landowner), and Mr S Membury (SWHT) for their assistance during the course of this project.

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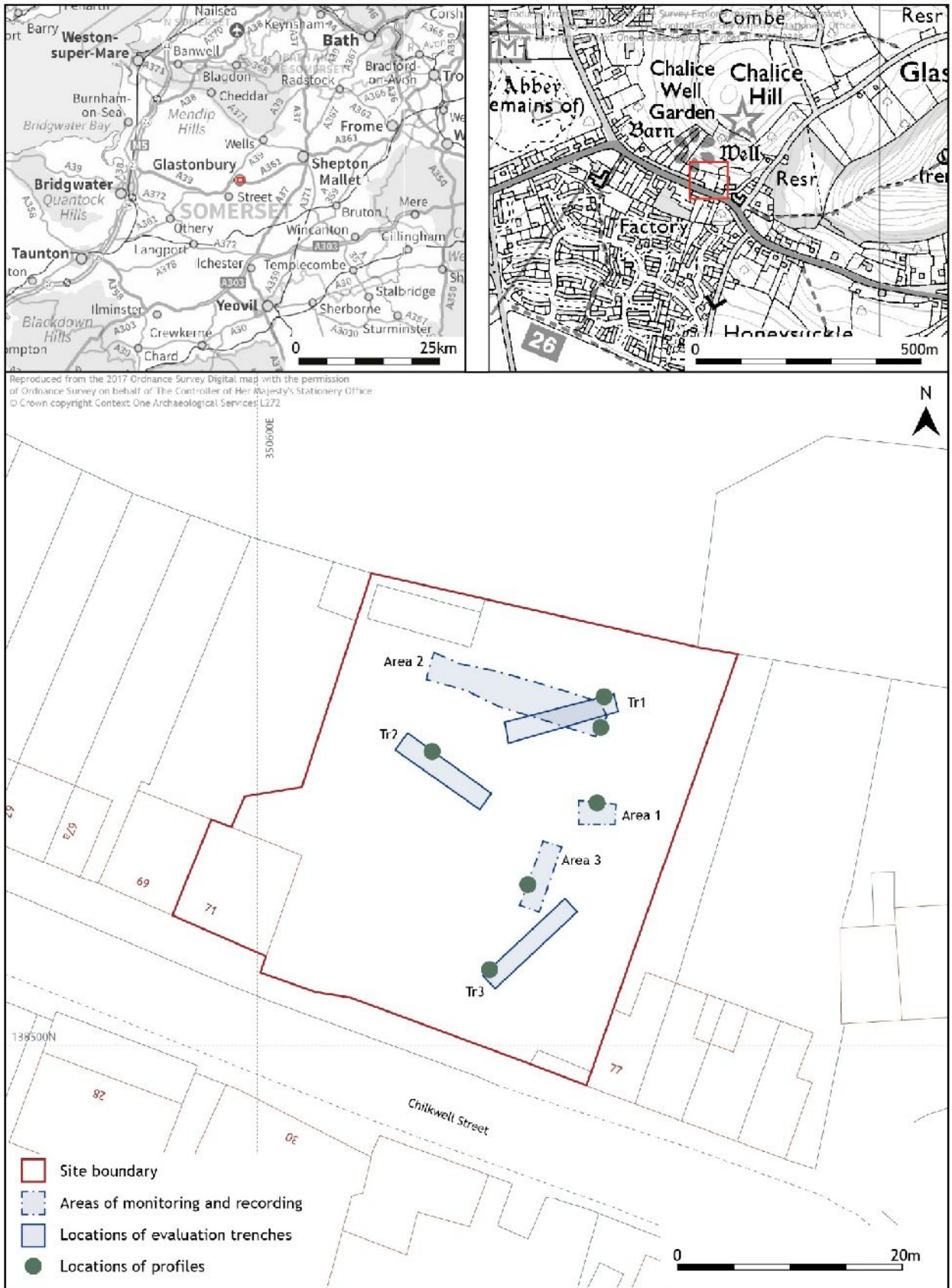


Figure 1. Site setting with location of evaluation trenches and area of archaeological monitoring and recording.

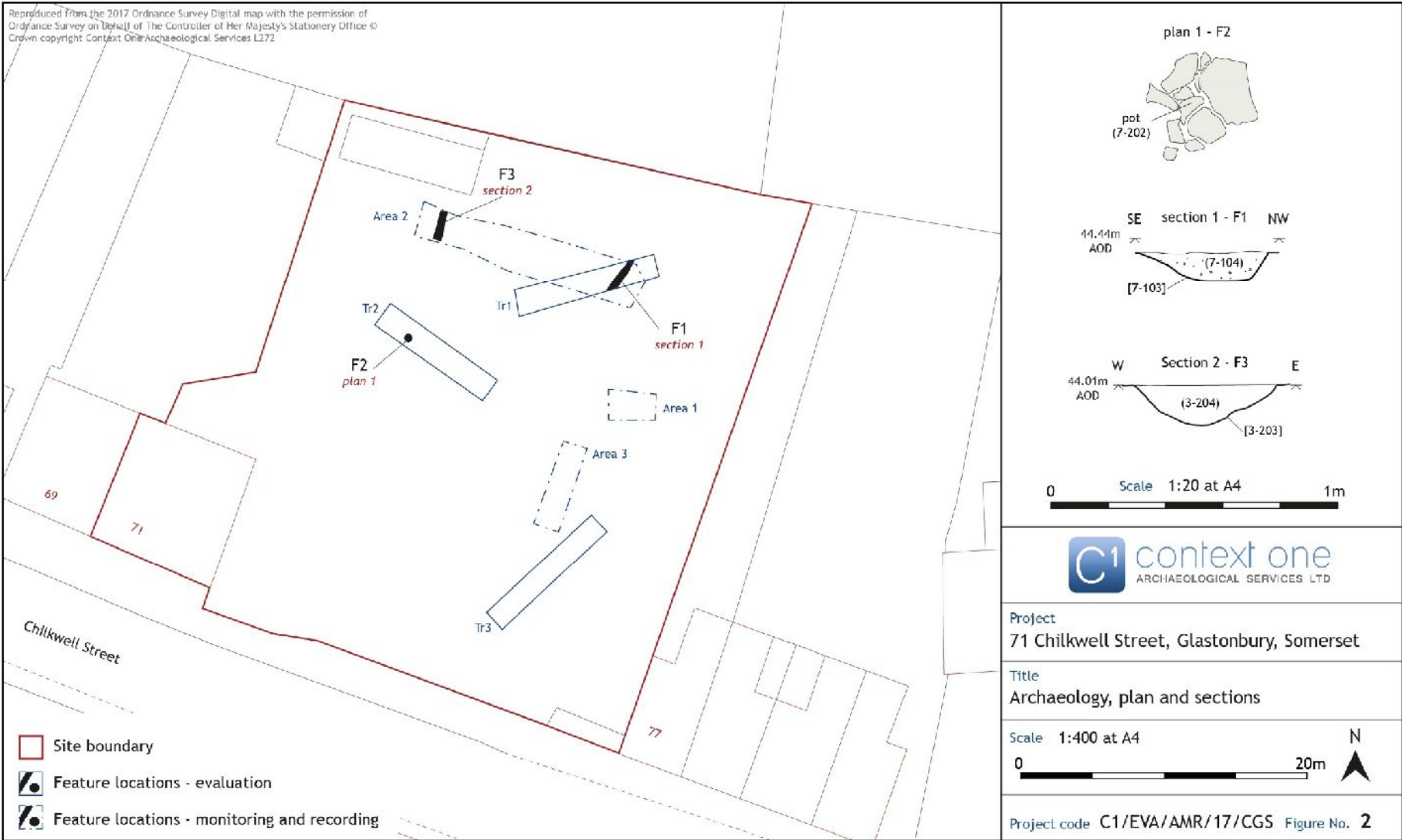


Figure 2. Location of archaeological features



Plate 1. Profile, evaluation Tr1 (facing NNE; 1m scale)



Plate 2. Profile, evaluation Tr2 (facing NE; 1m scale)



Plate 3. Profile, evaluation Tr3 (facing N; 1m scale)



Plate 4. Profile, monitoring and recording Area 1 (facing S; 1m scale)



Plate 5. Profile, monitoring and recording Area 2 (facing W; 1m scale)



Plate 6. Profile, monitoring and recording Area 3 (facing E; 1m scale)



Plate 7. Gully F1, evaluation Tr1 (facing SE; 0.20m scale)



Plate 8. Deposit F2, evaluation Tr2 (facing SE; 0.20m scale)



Plate 9. Gully F3, monitoring and recording Area 2 (facing S; 0.20m scale)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH
Trench 1									
(7-100)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil 10 YR 3/2 Friable very dark grey brown silty clay with occasional limestone and mudstone fragments <0.01m	NA		(7-101)	10m	1.6m	0.20m
(7-101)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil 10 YR 8/6 Compacted yellow silty clay with frequent angular limestone fragments <0.01m	(7-100)		(7-105)	10m	1.6m	0.40m
[7-103]	IA	Cut	Gully/ring ditch. Linear - curvilinear on NW-SE alignment with gentle concave sides and irregular base	(7-104)		(7-105)	1.6m	0.42m	0.10m
(7-104)	IA	Fill	Fill 10 YR 6/4 Soft light yellowish brown silty clay with occasional rounded mudstone and pottery. Diffuse boundaries	(7-101)		[7-103]	1.6m	0.42m	0.10m
(7-105)	Geological	Layer	Natural 10 YR 7/1 Compacted light grey silty clay with frequent blocky mudstone fragments <0.01m	(7-101)		NA	10m	1.6m	0.20m+
Trench 2									
(7-200)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil 10 YR 3/2 Soft very dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent angular mudstone blocks <0.01m	NA		(7-201)	10m	1.6m	0.20m
(7-201)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil 10 YR 8/6 Firm yellow silty clay with frequent limestone and mudstone fragments <0.01m	(7-200)		(7-203)	10m	1.6m	0.40m
(7-202)	Medieval	Deposit	Deposit 10 YR 6/1 Firm grey clay with frequent mudstone fragments <0.10m and very occasional hard angular limestone fragments <0.02m	(7-201)		(7-203)		0.25m	0.05m
(7-203)	Geological	Layer	Natural 10 YR 7/1 Compacted light grey silty clay with frequent blocky mudstone fragments <0.01m	(7-202)		NA	10m	1.6m	0.20m+
Trench 3									
(7-300)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil 10 YR 3/2 Friable very dark grey brown silty clay with angular limestone fragments <0.01m	NA		(7-301)	10m	1.5m	0.30m
(7-301)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil 10 YR 5/6 Soft yellowish brown clay with occasional gravel <0.05m and occasional manganese <0.005m	(7-300)		(7-302)	10m	1.5m	0.35m
(7-302)	Geological	Layer	Natural 10 YR 7/6 Soft yellow clay with occasional limestone gravel <0.01m	(7-301)		NA	10m	1.5m	0.35m
Area 1									
(3-100)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil 7.5 YR 2.5/1 Soft black loamy clay with frequent roots	NA		(3-101)	4.0m	2.4m	0.32m
(3-101)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil 10 YR 4/3 Friable brown silt clay	(3-100)		(3-102)	4.0m	2.4m	0.20m
(3-102)	Geological	Layer	Natural 5Y 6/4 Soft pale olive clay	(3-101)		NA	4.0m	2.4m	>0.20m

Area 2									
(3-200)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil 7.5 YR 2.5/1 Soft black loamy clay with frequent roots	NA		(3-201)	30.0m	4.0m	0.48m
(3-201)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil/colluvium 10 YR 4/3 Friable brown silt clay	(3-200)		(3-202)	30.0m	4.0m	0.29m
(3-202)	Geological	Layer	Natural 5Y 6/4 Soft pale olive clay	(3-201)		NA	30.0m	4.0m	>0.40m
[3-203]	Undated	Cut	Ditch. Linear feature on a N-S alignment with moderate concave sides and base	(3-204)		(3-202)	>3.0m	0.50m	0.14m
(3-204)	Undated	Fill	Ditch fill. 2.5 YR 6/3 Soft light yellowish brown silty clay, diffuse boundaries	(3-201)		[3-203]	>3.0m	0.50m	0.14m
Area 3									
(3-300)	Modern	Layer	Modern made ground - frequent rubble and hardcore	NA		(3-301)	5.0m	2.4m	0.16m
(3-301)	Geological	Layer	Natural 5Y 6/3 Cemented pale olive clay	(3-300)		NA	5.0m	2.4m	>0.016m

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