Wessex Archaeology

Blacklands, Upper Row Farm, Laverton, Somerset

Assessment of the Results from the Archaeological Evaluation

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Blacklands, Upper Row Farm, Laverton, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

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Summary

In May 2006 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Channel 4's 'Time Team' at Blacklands, Upper Row Farm, Laverton, Somerset (centred on NGR 376520 154210).

Blacklands field has formed the site of archaeological investigations by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society (BCAS) since 1998, commencing with fieldwalking and geophysical survey, followed by annual excavations since 2001. The survey revealed an extensive area of occupation comprising enclosures, field boundaries, pits and probable building remains. Excavation focused on the structures in the north-eastern enclosure and revealed the presence of a Romano-British villa, stone gatehouse and two wells. Most of the dating evidence indicated a concentration of activity in the later Romano-British period, though radiocarbon dating evidence from a feature associated with the villa gives a 1st-2nd century AD origin. The trapezoidal enclosure to the south also contained mostly Late Romano-British material, though the circular feature it enclosed is believed to represent the remains of an Iron Age round house.

The 'Time Team' geophysical survey refined and extended the previous results, defining the full extent of the central enclosure and demonstrating the continuance of contemporaneous activity to the south. The potential presence of earlier prehistoric features – including a possible ring ditch – was also revealed to the west of the main site.

No features of conclusive Iron Age date were identified during the evaluation, but residual Iron Age and Early Romano-British material recovered from a discrete central area of the site suggests this formed the focus of early occupation. Most of the excavated features comprised ditches or robbed-out foundation trenches. Although most of the artefactual material recovered indicates a later 3rd-4th century date, this relates to their cessation of use rather than that of their formation, and at least some may have been extant from the Late Iron Age and have functioned across an extended time period. The major period of activity on the site lay in the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Evidence from the well sealed below the 'gatehouse' (excavated by BCAS) indicates the stone structure was not erected before the 3rd century and suggests the main phase of 'aggrandizement' on the site occurred in this period.

The finds assemblage does not suggest that the settlement was of particularly high status or special function, and the animal bone assemblage suggests a continuation of Late Iron Age animal husbandry practices with a low level of 'Romanisation'. The impression is of a thriving Iron Age settlement, showing a continuation of occupation throughout the Romano-British period, with a slow shift in focus of the settlement further north over time.

Blacklands, Upper Row Farm, Laverton, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned and funded by Videotext Communications Ltd. The collaborative role and assistance of the landowners, Gordon Hendy (Upper Row Farm) and Phillip Hendy (Hillbrow Farm), and Jayne Lawes, the Blacklands site director for the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society, is especially acknowledged.

The geophysical survey was undertaken by John Gater (GSB Prospection) with the assistance of James Adock and Matthew Brolly. Survey and GIS data was collected by Dr. Henry Chapman (Hull University). The evaluation strategy was devised and directed by Professor Mick Aston (Bristol University). Co-ordination of the site recording was by Jacqueline McKinley and the site finds processing by Steve Thompson, both of Wessex Archaeology. The evaluation was undertaken by the Time Team's retained excavators and a team of local archaeological staff including members of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society. The metal-detector survey was undertaken by Steve Drew of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society, under the co-ordination of Jayne Lawes. The background research was undertaken by Ben Knappett and Kate Edwards (Time Team Researchers).

The archive was collated and all post-excavation assessment and analysis undertaken by Wessex Archaeology including management (Lorraine Mepham), report (Jacqueline I. McKinley), illustrations (Kitty Brandon), general finds (Lorraine Mepham), pottery (Rachael Seager Smith), coins (Dr. Nicholas Cooke), animal bone (Jessica Grimm), and charred plant remains and charcoal (Dr. Chris Stevens).

Blacklands, Upper Row Farm, Laverton, Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation and Assessment of Results

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Videotext Communications Ltd. was commissioned by Channel 4 to carry out an archaeological evaluation, as part of the 'Time Team' television series, at Blacklands, Upper Row Farm, Laverton, Somerset (centred on NGR 376520 154210). Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the archaeological site recording, post-excavation processing and assessment of the archaeological evidence recovered. This report presents and assesses the results of the evaluation.

1.2 Site Description

1.2.1 The small, dispersed hamlet of Laverton is situated in north-east Somerset, *c*. 6 km north of the town of Frome. Upper Row Farm lies on the north-western margins of the hamlet towards the village of Norton St. Philip, within the Parish of Hemington. The area of investigation comprised two adjacent fields, one immediately to the north and one to the east of Hill Brow Farm, 300m north and up hill from Upper Row Farm (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The site lay between *c.* 122m and 116m aOD, towards the upper reaches of an extended south-eastern slope descending to the Wheel Brook and other small streams forming tributaries to the River Frome to the east (**Figure 1**). The landscape of gentle, rolling hills interspersed with small narrow valleys extends to the Mendip Hills to the south and diminishes towards the rising ridge of Salisbury Plain to the east.

1.2.3 The underlying geology comprises Forest Marble, clay with shelly limestone and sandstone, overlying Great Oolite limestone (BSG England and Wales, Sheet 281 Solid and Drift Edition).

1.2.4 Investigations were undertaken in two adjacent fields. The majority of the trenches (Trenches 1-6 and 8) were located in the northern-most field, which had comprised the focus of investigations by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society over the last five seasons (**Figure 2**). The field was partially under grass at the time of the current investigations, having been designated as 'set-aside' throughout the previous seasons, though it has been subject to ploughing in the recent past. A single trench was situated in the more southerly field which was under pasture.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 Archaeological investigations by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society (BCAS), under the direction of Jayne Lawes, commenced at Blacklands in 1998 at the invitation of the farmer Gordon Hendry. No previous finds had been recorded from the field and aerial photographs had not suggested the presence of any features, but the field-name - a form suggestive of ancient worked soil/occupation – although of unknown origin, was believed to render it worthy of exploratory investigation (Lawes 2005a, 3).

1.3.2 Initial fieldwalking in 1998-9 resulted in the recovery of prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery and flints; the Romano-British pottery forming a discrete spread across the centre of the field (*ibid.* 5).

1.3.3 Geophysical survey of the field commenced in 1999 and further areas were mapped in subsequent years to encompass the field in its entirety (Lawes 2002, fig. 1; 2005b, figs. 7-8; Matthews 2003). The results showed a central concentration of linear and curvilinear features describing probable structures, enclosures, routeways and boundary ditches, of a form suggestive of both later prehistoric and Romano-British date.

1.3.4 Annual seasonal excavation of the site by the BCAS commenced in 2001. Three main areas have been investigated to date (**Figures 2** and **3**), primarily the north-east rectilinear enclosure and associated structures (Areas A and C), and the southern trapezoidal enclosure and associated circular feature (Area D).

1.3.5 The rectilinear enclosure is believed to have been extant throughout the Romano-British period, undergoing several episodes of re-cutting and expansion and possible changes of use from animal enclosures to gardens (Lawes 2002; 2004; 2005b). The substantial V-shaped ditch contained deposits of stone building debris, particularly the upper fills, which the excavators believed were indicative of deliberate backfilling related to the later phases of use of an associated building (Lawes 2001).

1.3.6 The rectilinear structure set central to the eastern end of the enclosure was found to comprise the stone foundations of a corridor house or 'proto-villa' (Figure 3). The range of four eastern rooms may originally have had an open-fronted porch along the west side, which was later built-up to form a corridor with divisions at either end in its final stages. With one exception (see below), no internal features survived within the building, the floor surfaces all having been removed by ploughing (Lawes 2004). The lack of associated building debris, other than local limestone from the ditch fills and overlying topsoil, suggests either limited use of ceramic building material (CBM) or that much of the building material was reclaimed for use elsewhere. The stone structure is believed to be Early Romano-British in origin; 70-120 AD (Lawes 2005c; see below). There is no direct evidence for the date of the final phase of the structure, but material from the associated ditch suggests it was mid 3rd century AD (Lawes 2004).

1.3.7 A north-south line of shallow post holes across the structure suggest the possible existence of an earlier timber version of the building (Lawes 2004).

1.3.8 A fragmentary hearth was found close to one of the dividing walls in the corridor in 2003 (Lawes 2004). Given the absence of any other *in situ* deposits within the building and the extensive plough damage to all that remained, it was initially believed that this pertained to a later use of the structure. Radio-carbon dating of charred grain associated with the hearth, however, has give a date of *c*. AD 100 (Lawes 2006).

1.3.9 The south-west entrance to the rectilinear enclosure was found to have been flanked, possibly from the 2nd century, by a gatehouse of stone construction extending southwards external to the enclosure over the filled-in entrance/trackway ditches (Lawes 2005b: Figure 3). The stone structure may have replaced an earlier timber structure on a similar alignment (Lawes 2006).

1.3.10 Two stone lined wells were situated within the confines of the enclosure. The earliest, close to the south-west entrance, may have served for the watering of cattle and other animals housed within the enclosure, and was deliberately sealed prior to construction of the gatehouse, the southern portion of which overlay it (Lawes 2006). A second well is then believed to have been constructed nearly the house/villa (*ibid.*).

1.3.11 The trapezoidal enclosure ditch was found to be substantial, subject to various re-cuts and, at one stage, a stone revetment was inserted against the south side, presumably as a strengthening measure and possibly to limit the need for repeated clearance (Lawes 2006). Dating evidence from the ditch showed it to have been extant in the Late Romano-British period, though this does not necessarily indicate the date at which it was cut (Lawes 2006). The curvilinear feature situated central to the enclosure is believed to have formed the drip gully to an Iron Age round house (*ibid.*). Finds from the gully, including three brooches, indicate a Late Iron Age/Romano-British date (*c*. 50 AD).

1.3.12 Other finds of Romano-British date in the immediate vicinity include a similarly dense area of buildings ('villa') and field systems at Lower Row, *c*. 900m downslope to the south of the site. The presence of this settlement has been known of for at least 20 years, but its nature and complexity have recently been revealed by geophysical survey (Oswin 2006).

2 METHODS

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Project Design for the evaluation was compiled by Videotext Communications Ltd. (Knappett and Edwards 2006). Full details of the circumstances and methods of the evaluation may be found in the Project Design which is held in the archive, a summary of its contents being presented below.

2.2 Aims and objectives

2.2.1 The project offered the opportunity to further evaluate the site and its surroundings with the aim of clarifying specific points related to the nature and date of its occupation via a programme of geophysical survey and trial trenching. Specific aims were;

- to determine the date of the building - 'proto-villa' - within the north-west enclosure;
- to ascertain which features identified by the geophysical survey were related to the villa and its associated buildings;
- to identify the extent of the earlier occupation of the site, its longevity and contemporaneity of use, and the link with the wider context of Romanisation in the area;
- to determine the nature of the rectangular features identified in the geophysical survey within the Iron Age settlement in the south-west part of the site.

2.3 Fieldwork

2.3.1 The programme of fieldwork was undertaken using a combination of extensive geophysical survey across Blacklands field and that immediately to the south (Area 1), together with a smaller area in a field *c*. 400m to the west (Area 2), and a series of eight targeted trial trenches (**Figures 2-3**). A metal detector survey was also undertaken.

2.3.2 The geophysical survey was undertaken using Bartington Grad 601-2 magnetic gradiometers; readings were logged at 0.25m intervals along traverses spaced at 1m (GSB Prospecting 2006). The survey grid was set out by Dr. Henry Chapman and tied to the OS grid system using a Trimble Real-Time Differential GPS system.

2.3.3 Conditions for the survey were adequate. Heavy rainfall both before and during the survey affected the ground cover creating difficult working conditions. Numerous ferrous objects, including boundary fences and temporary site building, will have affected readings in these areas, and small scale ferrous-type responses recorded in the dataset indicate the presence of ferrous debris, presumably of modern origin, buried in the topsoil.

2.3.4 Eight machine-stripped evaluation trenches of various sizes were opened, seven in Blacklands field and one in the adjacent field to the south (**Figure 2**). The trench location followed that outlined in the Project Design with the aim of providing data in accordance with the general research aims and objectives (**Section 2.2**). Additional trenches were situated where appropriate based on the results of the geophysical survey to provide as comprehensive a sample of the site as possible within the three day evaluation.

2.3.5 The trenches were machine stripped using a JCB or mini-digger fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the

in situ archaeological deposits or undisturbed natural. All investigation of archaeological features and deposits was undertaken by hand.

2.3.6 A sufficient sample of the archaeological features and deposits was examined - as far as was permissible within the three days and the prevailing very wet weather conditions - to allow resolution of the principal questions outlined in the aims and objectives (**Section 2.2**).

2.3.7 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets with a unique numbering system for individual contexts under the site code BLF06. Trenches were located using a Trimble Real-Time Differential GPS survey system, linked to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at 1:20 and sections were drawn at 1:10. All principal features and deposits were related to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record of the investigations and individual features was maintained.

2.3.8 Where appropriate environmental samples were extracted for analysis of organic remains to assist with assessment of the nature of a deposit and/or feature. Standard 10lt samples were taken where possible.

2.3.9 All spoil was scanned by a metal-detectorist from the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society. In addition, a small metal-detector survey was undertaken on the basis of the geophysical survey grid. All finds, extracted from within the upper 0.10m of the ploughsoil, were attributed a unique object number (ON) and plotted by grid square.

2.3.10 The investigations were undertaken between 23rd – 28th May 2006.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The full geophysical report (GSB Prospection 2006), details of excavated contexts and the finds analysis are retained in the archive. A summary of the excavated trenches is presented in **Appendix 1**.

3.2 Geophysical survey

Area 1

3.2.1 The findings corroborated the earlier geophysical work by the BCAS, showing an extensive series of ditched enclosures but to a slightly higher resolution. A multitude of possible pits were identified, mainly within the confines of the various enclosures, but also external to them.

3.2.2 The full extent of a sub-circular enclosure (I), encompassing a large proportion of the central area of the site, was defined (**Figures 2** and **3**). A minimum of four gaps in the course of the ditch correspond with the alignment of two probably trackways, one extending east-west and the other north-south (II and III). This appears to represent an early phase in the site's use.

3.2.3 Features with the north-east 'quadrant' of the enclosure include a possible Iron Age roundhouse within a trapezoidal enclosure (IV), and a possible small kiln or metalworking area (V; magnetically very strong). Features within the north-west 'quadrant' include a rectilinear feature suggestive of a building footing (VI), with pits to the south and curvilinear features to the north.

Area 2

3.2.4 A possible ring ditch, *c*. 30m diameter, was detected in the northern part of the area, with a possible trackway to the south-west. The clear definition of the former could not be identified due to an anomaly caused by a natural variation in the geology.

3.3 Archaeological evaluation

Trench 1

3.3.1 The trench was situated on the north-east side of the previously exposed 'villa' (**Figure 3**) to investigate the form and extent of the wall foundations, the stratigraphic link between the wall and the surrounding enclosure ditch, and to recover any further dating evidence.

3.3.2 The wall foundation trench (110) survived to a depth of 0.48m, the foundations comprising two layers of large limestone blocks with smaller stone infill and clay bonding (**Figure 4**). No trace of a floor surface or demolition debris survived internal to the wall, the foundations of which were cut through the natural. No stratigraphic link existed between the wall and the ditch 102 situated *c*. 4.20m to the east.

3.3.3 The ditch (102) showed strong similarities in size, form and fills to segments investigated to the north and south by BCAS. The cut is slightly narrower and has a more pronounced V-shape than previously excavated segments (Lawes 2002, fig. 3a). The majority of the ditch fill indicated a normal silting-up process over a prolonged period (**Figure 4**). The upper fill is indicative of deliberate backfilling incorporating dumps of large limestone rubble, potentially linked to clearance of debris (?building stone) from the surrounding area. Similar, often more extensive, dumps of stone were recovered by BCAS in other excavated segments of the ditch.

3.3.4 Dating evidence recovered from all levels of the ditch fill are indicative of a late 3rd-4th century AD date, in keeping with evidence recovered from previously excavated segments.

3.3.5 A small trench excavated on the south side of the building to investigate a shallow north-south gully (114) could find no obvious link with the building. The relationship between the gully and the wall was subject to earlier investigation by BCAS.

Trench 2

3.3.6 Trench 2 was situated in the area of the 'gatehouse' excavated by BCAS (**Figure 3**), with the aim of further investigating the well sealed by the later structure. The area around the well was cleared to the level of the previous

investigations and a section of the construction trench for the well was excavated. The dating evidence recovered indicates a late 3rd-4th century date for construction of the well (**Figure 5**).

Trench 3

3.3.7 The location of Trench 3 corresponded with the junction between two linear features seen in the geophysical survey, apparently forming trackway boundaries and the northern opening in the central curvilinear enclosure (I; **Figure 3**).

3.3.8 The slightly pointed terminals to the curvilinear ditches 313 and 307/322, the former turned outwards (N) and the latter inwards (S), lay 2.10m apart, apparently flanking the northern 'entrance' to the main central curvilinear enclosure (I; **Figures 3** and **6**). The ditches represented a continuous shallow arc in plan, the terminals forming an overlapping/off-set entrance; they had similar broad, concave bases with acute straight or convex sides (**Figure 6**). One – generally the lower - fill in each excavated segment incorporated common medium to large-sized limestone rubble, other archaeological components being suggestive of domestic debris. Dating evidence indicates a Mid-Late Romano-British date for the backfilling of the features.

3.3.9 Ditch 303/325, which terminated just north of the entrance to the main enclosure and within 0.30m of ditch 307/322, corresponds with the southern boundary ditch to the trackway leading to the 'gatehouse', as seen in the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). The acute V-shape form of this ditch, with basal ankle-break, was reminiscent of the rectangular enclosure ditch seen in Trench 1 (**Figure 6**). The ditch fills were similar to those of the curvilinear enclosure, with limestone rubble layers and the incorporation of domestic debris. Dating evidence indicates the ditch was backfilled in the late 3rd-4th century AD.

3.3.10 The shallow, north-south V-shaped ditch 305, terminated at a similar point in relationship to the enclosure ditch 307/322 as did 303/325 to the north. The position of the ditch corresponded with a north-south linear feature seen in the geophysical survey which bisects the main curvilinear enclosure (I), apparently forming the western boundary of a trackway. Domestic type debris was recovered from the fill, including non-specific Romano-British pottery.

Trench 4

3.3.11 The shallow curvilinear feature 416/8 lies within the arc of and concentric with feature IV as seen in the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). The position of the south-west terminal 416 also appears to correspond closely with that of the feature in the survey, suggesting a connection between the two (**Figure 7**). A segment was excavated through the northern part of what probably comprised part of feature IV by BCAS in 2005 and was interpreted as the drip gully of a circular structure (0.75m deep; Lawes 2006). The geophysical survey suggests that the feature should have appeared within the confines of Trench 4 but if 416/8 does represent this feature it is of a substantially smaller size than that recorded by BCAS (**Figure 3**). Although

Iron Age pottery was recovered from the fill of 416/8, so was pottery of Romano-British date; one or other presumably being residual/intrusive.

3.3.12 Excluding a modern drainage cut, the only other negative feature within the trench comprised the small excavated segment of what appeared to be an east-west linear feature (417). The location may correspond with that of a SW-NE linear feature seen in the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). The single fill incorporated domestic-type debris including Late Romano-British pottery.

3.3.13 A number of overlapping dumps of burnt material – fuel ash, stones, clay/daub – in the south-east area of the trench may be indicative of some form of small-scale industrial activity in the vicinity. Small quantities of round and flat hammerscale were recovered from one of the deposits, but the inclusion of root and coal in the same sample (**Section 4.13**) suggests this may be intrusive. The proximity of the material to an entrance to the circular structure to the north-west suggests some potential connection, but neither the material nor the contextual evidence is sufficient to provide other than a tentative suggestion.

3.3.14 Although dating evidence from the features, and the topsoil and cleaning layers overlying the *in situ* deposits, is predominantly indicative of a Romano-British date, most of the - albeit residual - Iron Age pottery from the site was recovered from Trench 4, together with two Iron Age coins (**Figure 7**) and some Early Romano-British pottery.

Trench 5

3.3.15 Trench 5 was situated over a large pit from which a high magnetic reading was obtained in the geophysical survey (V) and which it was felt may represent a fired structure (**Figure 3**).

3.3.16 Feature 505 represented the eastern half of a large, relatively shallow pit (0.53m deep), which had what appeared to have formed some kind of coarse revetting wall inserted into its north side (**Figure 8**). Investigations of the trapezoidal enclosure to the east in 2005 recorded the presence of a possibly similar, though much better sorted wall on the south side of the ditch (Lawes 2005b, fig. 22; 2006). Although some burnt material – charcoal and fired clay – was recovered from the fill, this appears to have formed part of deposits of domestic-type debris.

3.3.17 Pit 505 had cut through an early feature (511), possibly of a similar form and extent but so little survived this cannot be stated with any confidence.

3.3.18 The dating evidence from the pit fills suggest an extensive period of use, with 1st-2nd century AD material confined to the lowest fill, early-mid 2nd century pottery in the central fill, and late 3rd-4th century pottery in the upper fill and overlying topsoil.

Trench 6

3.3.19 The trench was located in the north-west quadrant of the central curvilinear enclosure (I), where the geophysical survey had identified what appeared to represent the remains of a rectangular building (**Figure 3**).

3.3.20 The trench was dominated by the remains of the north-west end of a rectangular structure, *c*. 12.50m wide and a minimum 12.70m long (see cover). The stone foundations of the north-west end-wall survived *in situ* (618) having been robbed-out at either end (**Figure 9**). Linear features set perpendicular to the wall (619 and 609/602) probably represent the foundation trenches for the side walls. Only 602 and the apparent re-cut 609 along the north-east side were investigated; 609 was slightly shallower and narrower than 602, which it appears to have replaced, possibly reflecting a change in the height or materials used in the wall's construction. The limited dating evidence recovered from the fills indicates as 2nd-3rd century date, at least for the demolition/cessation in use of the building. The outline corresponds closely with that of the rectilinear feature VI recorded in the geophysical survey; the survey suggests the building was cut by a later linear feature at its south end or that the nature of the structure changed (**Figure 3**).

3.3.21 The area described by the main rectangular structure appeared to contain the remains of another set of building foundations, 613, 615 and ?604. The relationship between the two structures was not investigated within the evaluation, though there is some suggestion – the cutting of linear feature 604 by the foundation trench 609 – that the larger structure may have been later. These linear features appear to form a smaller version of the outlying structure, encompassing an area of *c*. 4.10m in width and a minimum 9.70m in length. Only 613 was investigated in any detail. The line of the cut corresponded with a line of surface limestone rubble, and the upper parts of the fill included both common limestone rubble similar to that used in wall 618, and burnt and crushed daub, all suggestive of discarded building debris. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature.

3.3.22 It is unclear from the current evidence if and how the linear feature 604 relates to 613; one may have replaced the other or they could have formed some contemporaneous function. Further investigation at the south-east end of 604 would be required to clarify its function and relationship with 619 and 615.

3.3.23 There was not the opportunity during the three-day evaluation to investigate the area contained by the smaller structure, which was covered by mixed layers of red, reddish brown and yellow silty clay with what appeared to comprise dumps of burnt soil/daub. A possible hearth (622), in the form of a large, flat, heat-fractured stone, lay roughly central to the structure surrounded by a *c*. 1.80 x 0.80m area of possible *in situ* burning (621). Other possible 'internal' features were represented by a number of small, short curvilinear features of unknown function. The central area of heat-related activity appears to correspond with an anomaly on the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**).

Trench 7

3.3.24 Trench 7 was located in the field immediately to the south of Blacklands field, over the south-west terminal of the central curvilinear enclosure (I) seen in the geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). The terminal flanked what appears to have formed the main southern entrance to the enclosure.

3.3.25 The broad, almost square-ended terminal (702), had cut the single fill of a shallow linear feature (705), which appeared to follow the same line as the enclosure ditch but extending across what later formed the entrance (**Figure 10**). This may represent the line of an earlier enclosure. No dating evidence was recovered from the fill.

3.3.26 A cattle scapula (708) recovered from an almost central position on the base of the ditch terminal (702) could represent a placed deposit. Fragments of Iron Age pottery were also recovered from the primary silting. Occasional 'domestic' type debris, including 1-2nd century AD Romano-British pottery, was recovered from the secondary layer of silting. Fragments of both Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were recovered the main upper fill which seems to have developed over a prolonged period.

Trench 8

3.3.27 The trench was located over a geophysical anomaly situated within the confines of an enclosure ditch in the north-west area of the site, towards the brow of the hill (**Figure 3**). The SW-NE linear feature had been cut through a limestone outcrop over which the whole trench was situated. No archaeological components were recovered from the fills of the feature which remains, essentially, undated, though it is likely to be Romano-British by association.

3.3.28 The geophysical anomaly with which this feature corresponds formed one of a number of short linear or curvilinear features in this area of the site. Rather than the feature serving a specific function it could have been created by quarrying.

3.4 Metal-detector survey

3.4.1 Nine metal items were recovered in the metal-detector survey, including one silver coin, 13 copper alloy items (nine coins) and three lead objects. The items were all recovered from three, north-south adjacent grid squares situated up the east side of the trapezoidal enclosure investigated in the BCAS area D trench, to the level of the small well situated to the south-west of the villa.

4 FINDS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Finds were recovered from all eight of the trenches excavated, although only minimal quantities were recovered from Trenches 7 and 8. In addition, a small number of metal objects were recovered during a metal-detector

survey in the eastern area of the site (see **Section 3.4**). The assemblage is largely Romano-British in date, with a small amount of prehistoric and post-medieval material.

4.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and totals by material type and by trench are presented in **Table 1**. Subsequent to quantification, all finds have been at least visually scanned in order to gain an overall idea of the range of types present, their condition, and their potential date range. Spot dates have been recorded for selected material types as appropriate (pottery, ceramic building material, glass). All finds data are currently held on an Access database.

4.1.3 This section presents an overview of the finds assemblage, on which is based an assessment of the potential of this assemblage to contribute to an understanding of the site in its local and regional context, with particular reference to the construction and occupation of the early Roman 'proto-villa' and any preceding Iron Age settlement. It is anticipated that the finds from the Time Team evaluation will be amalgamated with those from ongoing fieldwork by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society for the purposes of any further analysis and publication.

4.2 Pottery

4.2.1 The pottery assemblage is predominantly of Romano-British date although small numbers of Iron Age sherds and two modern pieces were found in Trenches 4, 6 and 7 (**Table 1**). Overall, the condition of the material is poor; the average sherd weight is only 7.5g and both the edges and surfaces of the sherds are severely abraded. This is likely to result from a combination of factors, such as the repeated trampling, movement and redeposition of sherds in a variety of contexts prior to their final deposition, as well as post-depositional chemical erosion from the heavy clay soils of the area.

4.2.2 The whole assemblage has been quantified by broad ware type within each context, and the presence of diagnostic sherds noted. Pottery totals by ware type are given in **Table 2**.

4.2.3 Although only one vessel form was identified (a thin-walled jar with a pulled bead rim probably of Late Iron Age date), the Iron Age material probably belongs within the period from around 400 BC – AD 50. The calcareous wares, comprising sherds containing fossil shell, the oolitic limestone-tempered and sandy wares are all likely to be from local sources. Similar calcareous fabrics dominate the Iron Age pottery assemblages from South Cadbury (Alcock 1980) and Cannards Grave (Mepham 2002). A more distant source is likely for the calcite-tempered sherds which include pieces of beef calcite, probably from the Dorset coast where the 'Chief Beef Beds' form part of the Purbeck Beds; at Maiden Castle, similar fabrics are dated to the 3rd to 2nd centuries BC (Brown 1991, 194, table 66). All the Iron Age sherds were residual.

4.2.4 The Romano-British assemblage spans the period from the 1st to 4th centuries AD, although the bulk of the material is of late 3rd to 4th century

AD date. Imported table wares, comprising samian, sherds from a roughcast-decorated beaker from the Argonne region of northern France and three unsourced colour-coated ware sherds from a beaker with moulded decoration, account for 2% of the sherds while the only amphorae are from the ubiquitous Dressel 20 type which carried olive oil from southern Spain from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD.

4.2.5 Early Romano-British finewares are limited to a single sherd from a hemispherical bowl with compass-inscribed decoration in the London ware style which dates from the late 1st to early/mid 2nd century AD and which may have been made along the southern border of the Yeo valley (Leach 1982, 142, fabric Gii). Regional imports from the late Romano-British Oxfordshire and New Forest industries include sherds from colour-coated beaker, bowl and flagon forms as well as mortaria in the Oxfordshire whiteware and white-slipped ware fabrics, dated from the mid 3rd century AD onwards.

4.2.6 Few of the oxidised wares could be assigned to source although it is possible that the Severn Valley wares are under-represented in this group as a result of the poor condition of the material. While most of the oxidised and white-slipped ware sherds appear to be from flagon forms, pieces from an imitation samian form 27 cup, an upright necked jar and a bead rim beaker were also noted, and rim sherds from two tankards are present among the Severn Valley wares. These wares provided a range of medium-quality tablewares.

4.2.7 The bulk of the assemblage, however, is made up from a range of utilitarian coarsewares, 'kitchen' vessels for food-preparation and storage purposes. The greywares probably derived from several relatively local centres. These may include kilns at Shepton Mallet (Evans 2001, 111), Chapmanslade (M. Heaton pers. comm.) and Westbury (Rogers and Roddham 1991, 51) as well as Severn Valley greywares and Oxfordshire reduced wares. Approximately 7-10% of the greyware sherds occur in a relatively fine, micaceous fabric paralleled at Sea Mills (Bennett 1985, 40) and Avonmouth (Seager Smith in prep.). Greyware vessel forms include bead rimmed and Belgic style jars, imitation Gallo-Belgic platters, everted and flared rim beakers, wide- and narrow-mouthed jars, everted rim jars, plain-rimmed dishes, flat- and dropped-flanged bowls, indicating that these wares span the entire Roman period.

4.2.8 Overall, the South-East Dorset Black Burnished ware accounts for 29% of the sherds. Vessel forms span the period from the early 2nd century AD (e.g. upright or very slightly everted rim jars and flat flanged bowls/dishes) to the 4th century AD (e.g. plain-rimmed and dropped-flanged bowls/dishes and everted rim jars) with an emphasis on these later types.

4.2.9 The majority of the grog-tempered sherds are comparatively thin-walled and very hard fired. The only vessel form is a narrow-mouthed, upright-necked storage jar from contexts 504 and 508. Similar fabrics have been noted at Shepton Mallet (Evans 2001, fabrics SANDRGC and SANDOXG) and

Ilchester (Leach 1982, 142, fabrics Giii and CW), dated from the 2nd century AD onwards.

4.2.10 Overall, the proportions of the various fabrics are broadly paralleled in the collection from Fosse Lane, Shepton Mallet (greywares 42%, BB1 37%, Severn Valley wares 4%) and groups from other sites in north Somerset (Evans 2001, 159). There is nothing in this assemblage to suggest particularly high-status or special function.

4.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

4.3.1 All the CBM is of Romano-British type, including one box flue tile and three flat, undiagnostic fragments. All came from Trench 1.

4.4 Fired Clay

4.4.1 The fired clay recovered is likely to be of structural origin, from hearth/pit linings or from upstanding structures, although one fragment with a curved surface from Trench 5 may derive from an object (possibly a loomweight). A few fragments have been subjected to high temperatures, to the point of vitrification. This may have resulted from some kind of industrial process, although other evidence for this (e.g. metalworking debris) is virtually absent.

4.5 Stone

4.5.1 One quern fragment in an igneous rock is part of an upper stone from a rotary quern (408). A second worked piece in shelly limestone, with a central perforation probably comprised a pivot stone (504). Apart from two pieces of post-medieval roofing slate (407 and 601), the remaining fragments are not convincingly worked, although some may derive from building material, in both shelly and fine-grained limestones. One large slab came from pit fill 504, and there is a possible whetstone (101).

4.6 Worked Flint

4.6.1 The small group of worked flint includes one leaf-shaped arrowhead (414) and a scraper (314). The arrowhead is of Neolithic date, but nothing else amongst this group is chronologically distinctive, although a broken blade (606) tends to confirm the presence of an earlier prehistoric component. This piece is patinated; other pieces are unpatinated but have suffered some edge damage. Two pieces are burnt.

4.7 Glass

4.7.1 Of the four pieces of glass recovered, three (all from Trench 3) are of Romano-British date, although none can be assigned to specific vessel form. The fourth piece, from Trench 6 topsoil, is post-medieval.

4.8 Slag

4.8.1 The small amount of iron smithing slag recovered is insufficient to postulate on-site metalworking. It derived from two contexts (layer 402 and topsoil 601) and is of unknown date.

4.9 Coins and tokens

4.9.1 Fourteen coins were recovered. Two of these date to the Late Iron Age, whilst the remaining 12 date are Romano-British. Two of the coins are silver, whilst the remainder are copper alloy issues. In general, the condition of the coins is fairly poor, with some showing signs of corrosion as well as wear. Ten of the coins were recovered as part of the metal-detector survey, the remaining four deriving from topsoil and subsoil deposits within the trial trenches. None were recovered from stratified deposits.

4.9.2 The earliest items are two Late Iron Age coins recovered from subsoil deposits in Trench 4 which sealed an area of possible Late Iron Age occupation (402 and 403). Both of these are Dobunnic issues. The first is a silver unit of Corio, dated by Van Arsdell to between 30 BC and 15 BC (**Figure 7**). The second is a coin of Antedrig, dated by Van Arsdell to between 10BC and 10AD (1989). This coin is unusual, as it is slightly underweight, and appears to have a high copper content, judging from the corrosion on the surface.

4.9.3 One of the Roman coins dates to the 2nd century AD (metal detector find, square B13). This is a silver denarius of Trajan, minted between 103 and 111 AD.

4.9.4 The remaining 11 coins date to the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Three are radiate issues of the late 3rd century, probably struck between 270 and 296 AD, and two of these are irregular copies of 'official' coinage (sometimes known as 'Barbarous Radiates'). Such contemporary copies of 'official' coinage may have been struck to compensate for gaps in the supply of coinage to Britain and to supply sufficient small change for the provinces' needs throughout the late 3rd and 4th centuries. It is unclear whether these copies were officially sanctioned, if at all, but they are not uncommon as site finds, and seem to have circulated in the same fashion as officially struck coins.

4.9.5 Five of the 4th century coins can be dated to period, all minted by Emperors of the House of Constantine. The earliest of these comprise a copy of a 'Constantinopolis' issue and a probable copy of an 'Urbs Roma'. Both were probably minted between 330 and 345 AD. The issues of Helena (minted between 337 and 341 AD) and Constans (minted between 348 and 350 AD) appear to be 'officially' minted coins, whilst the 'Fallen Horseman' issue (minted between 350 and 360 AD) is clearly a copy. The remaining three coins cannot be dated closely, and are therefore dated on the basis of their form alone. It is possible, given its small size, that one may not be coin at all, although coins of such a small size are not unknown in the 4th century.

Discussion

4.9.6 The 14 coins recovered point to activity on the site in the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The two Late Iron Age coins are typical Dobunnic issues, although their recovery from deposits within the same trench is worthy of mention. The recovery of a coin of Trajan as part of the metal detecting exercise indicates that the site probably remained in use into the early Romano-British period, whilst the recovery of the late 3rd and 4th century coins point to activity in the late Romano-British period. All of these coins are typical issues in circulation in Roman Britain in the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. The absence of coins of the 2nd and early 3rd centuries need not be significant, as these are less common, and might not be expected in so small an assemblage. However, the dearth of issues of the House of Valentinian, and in particular the issues minted between 364 and 378 AD, is slightly surprising, and may indicate that activity had ceased on the areas investigated by the 360s AD. However, given the limited size of the assemblage, any such conclusion must remain tentative.

4.10 Metalwork

4.10.1 Apart from coins, the metalwork includes items of iron, copper alloy and lead.

4.10.2 The ironwork mostly consists of nails (12 examples); there is also a single hobnail (309); the other four objects comprise unidentifiable fragments.

4.10.3 The copper alloy objects comprise seven brooches, one finger ring and two miscellaneous objects. Only one of the brooches is complete, a penannular form (608). Of the remainder, one is identifiable as an Aucissa type (Trench 4 topsoil), one a Hod Hill type (unstratified), one a Colchester derivative (unstratified), one a Colchester type or Colchester derivative (602), one a T-shaped brooch (502), and one a triangular plate brooch with traces of blue enamelled decoration (606). The penannular brooch has a wide potential date range through the Roman period; of the others, most are of mid 1st century date, with the T-shaped brooch extending in use into the 2nd century, and the plate brooch probably of 2nd century type (Bayley and Butcher 2004).

4.10.4 Only part of the finger ring survives, comprising a circular bezel, from which the setting (stone or glass) is missing.

4.10.5 The lead includes a pot mend on a sherd of Black Burnished ware (unstratified metal-detector find). A second object may be part of a vessel handle (Trench 6 topsoil). The other three objects comprise small waste scraps.

4.11 Animal Bone

Introduction

4.11.1 A total of 726 hand collected animal bones derived from Trenches 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Conjoining fragments that are demonstrably from the same bone have been counted as one bone in order to minimise distortion, and therefore

specimen counts (NISP) given here may differ from the absolute raw fragment counts in **Table 1**. There may also be some discrepancies when bone is fragile and may fragment further after initial quantification.

Condition and preservation

4.11.2 All the bones are in fair condition. Only eight bones (1%) have been gnawed indicating that canid savaging was not a significant biasing factor. Burnt bones are scarce (2%) and consisted mainly of small calcined pieces of medium mammal bone.

4.11.3 The fair number of loose teeth (13%) corresponds with the high number of mandibles found and might also indicate that (part of) the assemblage was reworked. This is further supported by the near absence of loose but matching epiphyses or articulating bones.

Species proportions

4.11.4 The assemblage is dominated by sheep/goat, followed by cattle and a small proportion of pig (**Table 3**). Besides the remains of the usual domesticates, the assemblage contains red deer antler (402) and an unidentifiable bird bone (302).

Population characteristics

4.11.5 The fair number of ageable bones, measurable bones and bones with butchery marks in the assemblage can provide information on husbandry practices and the phenotype of the animals (**Table 4**). None of the bones showed signs of pathological changes.

4.11.6 The sheep/goat bone from Trench 6 topsoil provided a height at the withers of 61.3 cm, indicating a medium-sized animal. A search on ABMAP (Animal Bone Metrical Archive Project) resulted in equally medium-sized animals (GL ± 5 mm) from Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British Rope Lake Hole, Dorset; and the Late Romano-British villas of Bancroft, Buckinghamshire and Rock, Isle of Wight.

4.11.7 Contexts 402, 502, 503 and 601 contained foetal or neonatal sheep/goat bones. According to Reichstein (1994, 448) the presence of foetus bones is an indicator for animal keeping on the spot, since the meat of foetuses is not eaten, but discarded. Foetal remains could also get into the assemblage when animals with young are slaughtered. This is uneconomical and would only take place in case of an emergency such as famine or a non-harmful decease of the mother. As the bones found derive from near full-term foetuses, it is more likely that they represent animals that were stillborn.

Bone/Antler working

4.11.8 Three objects attest to bone-/antler-working on the site. Context 402 contained a sheep/goat metatarsus with an iron core/rod, possibly a nail. Furthermore, two pieces of worked red deer antler waste/raw material came from the same context. The larger piece is a naturally shed antler from an old deer in which the bez tine has developed. The bez and the bow tine have been cut off. The smaller piece consists of a piece of beam with a piece of a

tine. The beam was chopped off proximally and the tine was chopped off the beam using a cleaver.

Conclusions

4.11.9 This small assemblage shows a typical Late Iron Age/Romano-British picture with the main livestock animal being sheep. The proportion of cattle is still fairly high (30-45%). Pigs are generally only present in small numbers, although at certain high status sites in the south-east they can reach 20-50%. Horse is only occasionally eaten and goats are not common (King 1991).

4.11.10 After the Roman conquest, the more Romanised a site became, the fewer sheep bones and the more pig bones are found in the assemblages. It thus seems that in these terms the settlement at Blacklands was not Romanised to a high degree, and that the inhabitants still practised the husbandry strategies followed before the conquest.

4.12 Marine Shell

4.12.1 Only a few fragments of marine shell were recovered, comprising one cockle and two oyster.

4.13 Palaeo-environmental evidence

Introduction

4.13.1 Five samples were taken during the excavations. Three came from Romano-British ditches (102, 303, 313), one from a dump deposit (411), and one from a Late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch (702). The samples were processed for the recovery of palaeo-environmental material and were also tested for industrial hammer-scale.

Methods

4.13.2 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods, the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the presence of charred remains quantified (**Table 5**) and assessed. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

Results

4.13.3 The flots were all around 60ml in size. Several contained moderate amounts of roots and modern seeds that may be indicative of stratigraphic movement, reworking or the degree of contamination by later intrusive elements

Charred plant remains

4.13.4 The three Romano-British samples from the ditches contained a reasonable quantity of charred material and were highly similar in composition. The majority of the remains were the grains of hulled wheats emmer or spelt (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*) and glumes of hulled wheat of which only spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) was identified. Grains of hulled barley (*Hordeum*

vulgare sl) were also present, although generally less common. The sample from ditch 102 also had some germinated grain and coleoptiles (the germinated sprout/root). A single seed of coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) was also recovered.

4.13.5 These samples were similar in the weed seeds they contained with seeds of perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*), vetches/wild pea (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), cat's-tail (*Phleum* sp.), meadow grass (*Poa* sp.) and red-bartsia (*Odontites vernus*). It is notable that a few tubers and stems of false-oat grass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* var. *bulbosum*) were also present.

4.13.6 The possible Iron Age sample from ditch 702 contained relatively little material with just a few glume bases and seeds. That from dump 411 contained very little material and did contain a few fragments of coal. There were quite high numbers of roots in this sample and it is possible some of the elements may be intrusive.

4.13.7 The material from the site adds to a growing data base for the Romano-British period from the region in general. These sites include previous *Time Team* excavations at Romano-British villas, Turkdean (Holbrook 2004) and Dinnington (*Somerset Archaeology 2002*), as well as the manorial farmstead at Catsgore and the Roman town at Ilchester.

4.13.8 The material is generally similar to many other Romano-British sites in the region in being dominated by spelt wheat, e.g. Dinnington, Somerset and Turkdean, Gloucestershire (pers. obs.), Frocester (Clarke 1970; Jones 2000), as well as non-villa sites e.g. Catsgore (Hillman 1982) and Ilchester (Murphy 1982; Paradine 1994; Stevens 1999). It is notable that the grain at both Dinnington and Turkdean seemed very clean with only a few large weed seeds such as vetch, brome grass (*Bromus* sp.), or black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*). However at these sites, as seen also at Blacklands, samples were often grain-rich or contained approximately equal proportions of chaff and grain. Where Blacklands does vary is in the proportion of weed seeds, containing generally more and a greater variety than seen at the other two villa sites, and in this respect they are more similar to Ilchester, Catsgore and Upton St. Leonards, Gloucestershire (Clarke 1971)

Charcoal

4.13.9 Charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Table 5**. The amount varied between samples and it should be noted that very little charcoal was recovered from dump 411, the flot containing more small fragments of coal. Twig wood was present in several of the samples along with occasional thorns of hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) or sloe (*Prunus spinosa*). Ditch 303 contained several larger fragments of wood charcoal.

Land molluscs

4.13.10 Land snails were noted during the scanning of the flots and quantities are recorded in **Table 5**. Preliminary identifications of the predominant taxa are noted below following the nomenclature of Kerney (1999). Generally few mollusc remains were noted and only came from two features, ditches 102

and 313. These were mainly of open country species typical of very dry habitats *Helicella itala,* and *Vallonia* sp., although ditch 102 also contained shells of *Pupilla muscorum,* often typical of stable grassland, and of *Discus rotundatus* and *Cochlicopa* sp which like more shady conditions. It should be noted that at least one of the shells of *Helicella itala* from ditch 313 looked fresh and may retain its periostricum and was considered likely to be modern and the amount of roots suggest some may be intrusive.

Industrial

4.13.11 All the samples were tested with a magnet for hammer-scale. Only the sample from 411 yielded any such material; small quantities of round and flat hammer-scale. However, given the number of roots in this sample, as well as the presence of coal, this material may be intrusive.

Conclusions

4.13.12 The Romano-British samples all contained good evidence for the cultivation and processing of cereals, mainly spelt wheat. They also reveal the presence of coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*). The possible Iron Age sample was too poor to allow much comparison between agricultural practices in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 The geophysical survey largely reproduced, albeit in a slightly refined form, the results of the earlier BCAS surveys. The new survey did, however, define the full extent of the central sub-circular enclosure and illustrate the existence of a major southern entrance beyond which, and extending down-slope away from the main settlement focus, lay further linear enclosures/boundaries and a high concentration of possible pits. The results from Area 2 of the survey also suggest a change in land use this far to the west of the main centre of occupation, possibly also representative of earlier prehistoric rather than later activity.

5.1.2 No features of conclusive Iron Age date were identified. The small quantity of Iron Age material recovered was residual in all except possibly one deposit – the basal fill of the terminal to the main enclosure ditch (cut 702). The residual Iron Age material – pottery and coins – was, however, concentrated within the southern excavated trenches (4, 6 and 7) particularly in and around Trench 4. Whilst no conclusive evidence as to the date of the ring-ditch within the trapezoidal enclosure was recovered, the implication is for an Iron Age presence on the site, probably focused in this southern portion prior to a shift north in the later Romano-British period.

5.1.3 There is some evidence to suggest that the main sub-circular enclosure had a smaller predecessor along the same lines, which was abandoned prior to the insertion of the southern entrance. The comparative lack of building or domestic debris in the fill of the enclosure ditch terminal (702), particularly in comparison with those investigated elsewhere on the site, suggest little domestic occupation in the immediate vicinity.

5.1.4 Little evidence was recovered to provide a link between the implied Late Iron Age occupation and what appears to have represented the major period of activity on the site in the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Little Early or Mid Romano-British artefactual evidence was found – one coin, a little pottery and fragments of several brooches – and most appears to have been residual, but was again concentrated within the trenches located in the central area of the site, within the confines of the central curvilinear enclosure. This appears to reinforce the impression obtained from the limited Iron Age material recovered, that activity was focused on these central areas in the earlier periods.

5.1.5 Although the dating evidence from most of the excavated features indicates that they were backfilled in the later 3rd-4th centuries, most of these features comprise either ditches or robbed-out foundation trenches (Trench 6), and the date given relates to their cessation of use rather than that of their formation. The various enclosure and trackway boundary ditches investigated in Trenches 1, 3 and 7 may have been extant from the Late Iron Age and have functioned across an extended time period, only going out of use in the Late Romano-British period.

5.1.6 In the case of the ditches in Trenches 1 and 3, there are indications of deliberate backfilling with what may have comprised building debris – the limestone rubble recovered from these ditches is the same material as use in the construction of the walls of the two rectangular buildings in Trenches 1 and 6. It may relate to deliberate demolition and clearance of the structures themselves, or the disposal within defunct ditches of material surplus to requirements following construction.

5.1.7 Unlike most of the other features excavated in the evaluation, the linear feature in Trench 8 contained no artefactual material and was consequently undated. Its location, over the natural limestone bedrock, may, however be significant. The feature, and those of similar form around it, could represent the remains of quarrying to extract construction stone. As such, the features may have subsequently been deliberately backfilled after having served their immediate purpose.

5.1.8 The evidence recovered in the evaluation suggests the main period of activity on the site lay in the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Evidence from the well sealed below the 'gatehouse' excavated by BCAS indicates the stone structure was not erected before the 3rd century. The wooden structure which it is believed may have formed a precursor may also have been of a Late Romano-British date. This points to the main phase of 'aggrandizement' on the site occurring in this period.

5.1.9 Whatever the original date of the villa, the main period of occupation and that probably represented by the final structure currently surviving, appears likely to have been later Romano-British. No further evidence for an earlier, possibly wooden structure was recovered – the apparent level of plough damage and removal of final floor layers may mitigate against the survival of such evidence as far as it may have survived the construction of the stone

building. There may be some associated link to the date of construction of the stone gatehouse, itself apparently preceded by a wooden version.

5.1.10 The supposition that the villa did not have a stone or ceramic tiled roof, or a hypocaust, is borne out by the small quantities of building material recovered. The fragment of flue tile must have derived from somewhere, however, and it is possible that some building materials may have been 'reclaimed' for use elsewhere; though even so one would anticipate much greater quantities of residual material if it had been used in any quantity.

5.1.11 The pottery assemblage does not suggest the settlement was of particularly high status or special function, and the animal bone assemblage suggests a continuation of Late Iron Age animal husbandry practices, with a reliance on sheep, indicative of a low level of 'Romanisation'. The impression is of a thriving Iron Age settlement, showing a continuation of occupation throughout the Romano-British period, with a slow shift in focus of the settlement further north over time. The contemporaneity or not of the curvilinear and rectangular structures is difficult to determine, the similarity in date of the fills from the trapezoid enclosure around the ?Iron Age round house suggests both forms of building were in use into the Romano-British period. It may be that there was a temporal shift in the nature of the activities engaged in within the different structures, similar to the change in building use seen in many post-medieval farmsteads across the British Isle with progressive renewal or a total shift in the location of the dwelling house.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1.1 The evaluation has produced a relatively small finds assemblage, the condition of which is in general poor with high levels of abrasion particularly within the ceramic assemblage. The potential of the assemblage to contribute any further to an understanding of the site and range of activities carried out there is limited by its mixed nature and high levels of residuality. Further analysis of this assemblage alone is not proposed, since it is anticipated that it will be amalgamated with that from ongoing fieldwork by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society.

6.1.2 The charred plant remains have the potential to contribute to an examination of the agricultural economy of the site, the level of detail attainable being inhibited by the small number of samples and the poor condition of the possible Iron Age material. Further examination of at least two to three of the samples as part of the on-going programme by the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society would help provide a clearer and more complete picture of agricultural practices upon the site.

6.1.3 A copy of this report will be submitted to the Somerset Sites and Monuments Record. It is recommended that a summary of the results of the evaluation and assessment is submitted as a short note for inclusion in the annual round-up of investigations and excavations in the county journal *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society.*

7 ARCHIVE

7.1.1 The project archive, which includes all finds, written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology under the site code BLF06 and Wessex Archaeology project code 62504. It is anticipated that the archive will be handed over to the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society for incorporation with the rest of the material from the Blacklands Project.

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Material	Tr 1	Tr 2	Tr 3	Tr 4	Tr 5	Tr 6	Tr 7	Tr 8	MD finds	TOTAL
Pottery	114/1011	8/56	273/2358	221/1173	732/6068	309/1827	17/111	-	-	1674/12,604
Iron Age	-	-	-	*15/88*	-	*1/6*	*2/11*	-	-	*18/105*
Romano-British	*114/1011*	*8/56*	*273/2358*	*206/1085*	*732/6068*	*306/1817*	*15/100*	-	-	*1654/12495*
Modern	-	-	-	-	-	*2/4*	-	-	-	*2/4*
Ceramic Building Material	5/224	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5/224
Fired Clay	-	-	12/103	15/57	23/268	20/61	-	-	-	70/489
Stone	1/80	3/157	1/14	15/3369	10/17,085	9/154	-	-	-	39/20,859
Flint	1/1	-	2/18	5/10	4/15	4/30	-	-	-	16/74
Glass	-	-	3/14	-	-	1/3	-	-	-	4/17
Slag	-	-	-	6/223	-	2/26	-	-	-	8/249
Metalwork	-	1	6	6	6	9	-	1	17	46
Coins	-	-	-	*2*	-	*1*	-	*1*	*10*	*14*
Copper Alloy	-	-	-	*1*	*2*	*3*	-	-	*4*	*10*
Iron	-	*1*	*6*	*3*	*3*	*4*	-	-	-	*17*
Lead	-	-	-	-	*1*	*1*	-	-	*3*	*5*
Animal Bone	80/405	2/9	162/1902	260/2182	194/1936	151/977	31/442	-	-	880/7853
Shell	-	-	2/43	-	-	1/37	-	-	-	3/80

Table 1: Finds totals by material type and by trench (number / weight in grammes)

Date Range	Ware Type	No. sherds	Weight (g)
Iron Age	Calcareous ware	13	75
	Calcite-tempered ware	2	8
	Oolitic limestone-tempered ware	2	14
	Sandy ware	1	8
	Iron Age - sub-total	*18*	*105*
Romano-British	Southern Gaulish samian	8	25
	Central Gaulish samian	25	161
	Argonne colour-coated ware	2	11
	Unassigned colour-coat	3	7
	Amphora	4	91
	London-style ware	1	8
	New Forest colour coat	5	64
	Oxon colour coat	6	118
	Oxon white-slipped red ware	6	251
	Oxon whiteware	2	21
	Oxidised ware	82	263
	Severn Valley oxidised ware	7	76
	White-slipped red ware	2	12
	Greyware	1136	7811
	Black Burnished ware	275	2022
	Grog-tempered ware	84	1501
	Calcareous ware	5	43
	Flint-tempered ware	1	10
	Romano-British sub-total	*1654*	*12,495*
Modern	Redware	2	4
	Modern subtotal	*2*	*4*
	OVERALL TOTAL	**1674**	**12,604**

Table 2: Chronological breakdown of pottery assemblage by ware type

Species	n	%
Horse	5	1
Cattle	117	16
Sheep/Goat	206	28
Pig	68	9
Dog	1	0
Deer	2	0
Bird	1	0
Unidentified	326	45
Total	**726**	**99**

Table 3: Animal bone species list and percentages (NISP)

NISP	726
Age	67
Measure	45
Butchery	5
Pathology	-

Table 4: Number of animal bones with the potential to inform on population characteristics and butchery

				Flot							Residue	
Feature type/no	Context	Sample	size litres	flot size ml	Grain	Chaff	Charred Notes Other		Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Charcoal >5.6mm	analysis
Trench 1						Romano-British						
Ditch 102	108	101	9	60 [60]	A	A*	A	30+ spelt grains, spelt glumes Lolium Centaurea Vicia, Fallopia, Bromus, Galium, Coriandrum, Rumex hawthorn thorn Atriplex, Stellaria Trifolium Odontites Coleoptiles	1/3ml	moll-(C)		**P**
Trench 3												
ditch 303	309	301	8	60 [40]	A*	A*	A*	Arrhenatherum tuber Lolium x30+,100+ wheat grain, 1-2 barley Rumex, Vicia, spelt glumes x30+ Poa/Phleum sp. Odontites	10/3ml	-		**P**
ditch 313	314	302	10	60 [80]	A*	A*	A	hazelnut x1 wheat grain x50 culm nodes x1. spelt glumes x15. Rumex sp. Vicia x1 Lolium sp. Stellaria Phleum/Poa. Lathyrus x1	3/4ml	moll-(C)		
Trench 4												
Dump	411	401	4	30 [20]	C	-	C	coal++, 2x grain, Vicia x1 Lolium x1 thorn	1/1	-		
Trench 7						Iron Age						
Ditch 702	704	701	10	40 [10]	-	B	C	Lolium x2-3, Poa/Phleum glumes x2	8/4	-		**P**

Table 5: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

APPENDIX 1: Trench Summaries

KEY: bgl – below ground level. nfe – not fully excavated. n/ex – not excavated

Trench 1		**Type:**	machine-stripped
Dimensions: 9.40m max. length 1.20m max. width	**Max. depth:** 1.25m	**Ground level:** *c.* 117.86 (W) – 117.83m (E) aOD	
context	**description**		**depth (bgl)**
101	Topsoil; dark greyish brown silty clay. Whetstone, CBM, pottery. max. 0.22m thick.		0-0.22m
102	N-S ditch. A acute slope with angle-break at base; flat base. 4 fills 1.90m wide, c. 1.0m deep.		0.15-1.15m
103	Upper fill ditch 102. Dark greyish brown firm silty clay. Common angular limestone rubble (0.10-0.25m) with occasional sandstone pieces (dump from W side). Rare burnt & unburnt animal bone, pot, CBM, occasional charcoal flecks. 1.70m wide, 0.18m deep.		0.15-0.35m
104	void – double numbered		
105	void – double numbered		
106	lozenge-shaped feature, unknown function; acute sides, flat base. Single fill. 1.20 x 0.63m, 0.14m deep.		0.15-0.29
107	Fill of 106; compact light brown silty clay, rare small sub angular limestone fragments.		0.15-0.29m
108	Fill of ditch 102, below 103. Very dark brownish grey compact silty clay with common charcoal & small fragments burnt clay/?daub. Rare small stones. Pottery, animal bone. Dump (from W side) of burnt material. 1.05m wide, 0.20m deep.		0.25-0.55m
109	Fill of 110: villa wall foundation. Large limestone blocks & smaller stone wedges with compact mid-yellowish brown clay bonding. 0.48m wide, 0.45-0.58m height.		117.44-.92m aOD
110	Square cut foundation trench for NE wall of villa (1.20m excavated segment). 0.51m wide, 0.48m deep		117.44-.88m aOD
111	Central fill ditch 102. Mid yellow brown silty clay, occasional limestone blocks. Rare animal bone & pottery. 1.88m wide, 0.38m deep.		0.23-0.91m
112	Primary fill ditch 102. Mixed light brownish yellow compact silty clay with red manganese staining. Rare small limestone fragments. Rare pottery & animal bone, flint flake. Filled from E (downslope side) 1.06m wide, 0.35m deep.		0.60-1.25m
113	Fill of linear feature 114. Light greyish brown friable silty clay. Rare small limestone fragments. Very rare pot. 0.71m wide, 0.11m deep.		0.15-0.22m
114	Shallow N-S gully on S. side 'villa' (relationship with wall subject to earlier investigation; cuts wall). Flat base, concave/shallow slope. 0.71m wide, 0.11m deep		0.15-0.22m

Trench 2		**Type:**	re-machined previously excavated trench
Dimensions: 4.29 x 4.19m	**Max. depth:** c. 1.70m	**Ground level:** c. 118.60m aOD	
context	**description**		**depth (bgl)**
201	Fill of construction trench for previously excavated stone-lined well (see *BCAS* records). Pale grey clayey silt, occasional small pieces mudstone. Fe, stone, animal bone, pottery.		nfe

Trench 3		**Type:** machine stripped	
Dimensions: 10.44 x 9.20m	**Max. depth:** 1.01m	**Ground level:** 120.15 (NE) – 120.23m (SW) aOD	
context	**description**		**depth (bgl)**
301	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty clay. Glass (RB). 0.22m thick.		0-0.22m
302	Cleaning layer below 301. Mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional small subrounded stone. Animal bone, pottery, CBM. 0.03m depth.		0.22-0.25m
303	Ditch terminal (see 325); rounded SW butt-end, steep sides, shallow concave base. NE-SW orientation. 2 fills. 0.94m wide, 0.38m deep.		0.25-0.63m
304	Upper fill ditch terminal 303. Mid greyish brown silty clay, occasional subangular limestone fragments and flint nodules. Pot. Animal bone. 0.94m wide, 0.18m deep.		0.25-0.43m
305	Rounded NW terminal of NE-SE ditch. Acute V-shaped sides and base. 2 fills. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay. 0.85m wide, 0.48m deep.		0.25-0.73m
306	Upper fill ditch 305. Mid brown silty clay, rare subangular stones.0.85m wide, 0.23m deep.		0.25-0.48m
307	Ditch cut (one of 2 excavated segments, see 322). SW-NE oriented. Slightly curving, acute slope, flat base. 2 fills. 1.88m wide, 0.77m deep.		0.21-0.98m
308	Upper fill ditch 307. Yellowish brown silty clay, occasional small subangular stones. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay. 1.88m wide, 0.30m thick max.		0.21-0.51m
309	Lower fill ditch terminal 303. Very dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional medium-large limestone blocks. Frequent charcoal, animal bone, pottery & Fe. Debris dump. 0.80m wide, 0.15m deep.		0.28-0.63m
310	Layer overlying 311 between ditches 303 and 307. Orange-yellow silty clay. Animal bone, pottery. c. 0.02m		0.21-0.23m
311	Possible limestone rubble surface between ditches 303 and 307, though could be degraded natural outcrop? n/ex		*c.* 0.23m -
312	Upper fill ditch 325. Dark brown silty clay, occasional small-medium angular & subangular limestone. Animal bone, pottery, glass (RB) & Fe. 0.95m wide, 0.15m deep.		0.21-0.36m
313	N terminal SW-NE ditch. Slightly curvilinear, acute side, E. slightly convex, concave base. 4 fills. 1.36m wide, 0.80m deep.		0.21-1.01m
314	Upper fill ditch terminal 313. Dark greyish brown silty clay, rare small limestone, common charcoal. No different evident in section between this & lower 2 fills 318-9; apparently just spits of the same fill. Pottery, FE, flint, animal bone. 1.36m wide, 0.48m deep.		0.21-0.68m
315	Lower fill ditch 307. Yellow brown silty clay, common angular & subangular small-medium-sized limestone fragments. Animal bone, pottery. 1.40m wide, 0.58m deep.		0.35-0.98m
316	Upper fill ditch 322. Dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional small limestone fragments. Charcoal lenses. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay. 1.80m wide. 0.20m deep.		0.21-0.41m
317	Main fill ditch 322. Yellow brown silty clay with brown mottles. Occasional small-medium-sized angular stones. Possibly angled-in from SE side, though stone in overlying layer 329 may have skewed shape. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay. 0.90m wide, 0.43m deep.		0.41-0.84m
318	Fill ditch 313; Central of three 'fills' almost indistinguishable in section (see 314). Mid-dark brown silty clay, rare small stones. Charcoal flecks (slightly less than 314), animal bone. pottery, stone.		0.21-0.68m
319	Lowest spit of upper fill ditch 313. See 314. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay, shell.		0.21-0.68m
320	Upper fill ditch 325, below 312. Mid olive brown slightly silty clay, occasional small-medium angular limestone. Pottery, flint, Fe. 1.15m wide. 0.26m deep.		0.21-0.37m
321	Secondary fill ditch 325, below 320. Dark grey silty clay with reddish brown mottles. Common charcoal flecks. Angled-in from W side. Pottery, animal bone, Fe, shell, fired clay. 0.75m wide. 0.25m deep.		0.31-0.58m
322	Ditch cut; one of 2 excavated segments (see 307), this lies closer to SW terminal of SW-NE ditch. Slightly curvilinear, acute slope, NW side acute convex towards top, shallow concave base. 4 fills. 1.80m wide, 0.70m deep.		0.21-1.01m
323	Natural. Light yellow/olive brown slightly silty clay. As recorded in N & W of trench (upslope)		*c.* 0.21m -
324	Natural. Mottled yellow/orange brown silty clay, occasional small subangular stones. Mostly S & E of trench		*c.* 0.21m -

Trench 3 (cont.)		
context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
325	Ditch cut; SW-NE linear (see 303 for terminal). Acute slope, flat narrow base. 4 fills. 1.15m wide, 0.68m deep.	0.21-0.90m
326	Primary fill ditch 325. Brownish yellow compact, slightly silty clay. Common medium-sized angular blocks. Angled-in from E. side. Rubble dump? soil from E. side. 0.45m wide. 0.22m deep.	0.61-0.90m
327	Lower fill ditch terminal 305. Compact yellowish brown slightly silty clay, occasional small subangular stones. 0.55m wide, 0.21m deep	0.45-0.75m
328	Primary fill ditch terminal 313. Yellowish brown silty clay, common angular & subangular limestone small-medium-sized. Occasional charcoal flecks. Pot. Stones form distinct layer at interface with 319 above.	0.31-1.01m
329	Dump layer towards top ditch 322; Yellowish brown silty clay with common small-medium angular & subangular limestone, appears deposited from NW side. 1.20m wide. 0.24m deep.	0.21-0.76m
330	Primary layer silting in ditch 322. Yellowish grey/brown silty clay. 0.52m wide. 0.04m deep.	0.97-1.01m

Trench 4		**Type:** machine stripped
Dimensions: 5.30 x 4.80m	**Max. depth:** 0.55m	**Ground level:** 117.62 (W) – 117.32 (E) aOD

context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
401	Topsoil; dark greyish brown slightly silt clay, moderate subangular limestone fragments. Copper-alloy, Fe. 0.18-0.25m deep.	0-0.25m
402	Cleaning layer below 401. Dark greyish brown slightly silty clay, occasional small subangular limestone fragments. Silver coin, animal bone, pottery, slag, stone, fired clay. 0.02-0.03m deep	0.20-0.28m
403	Overburden in NW quadrant of trench. Mottled dark brown silty clay, occasional small subangular limestone fragments. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay, copper-alloy coin, flint, Fe, stone. 0.02-0.03m deep.	0.22-0.28m
404	Overburden/cleaning in NW of trench. Mottled dark brown silty clay, occasional small limestone fragments. Animal bone, pottery, FE, flint. 0.02m deep.	0.24-0.30m
405	Single fill ditch 418. Dark brown silty clay, rare small limestone fragments. Animal bone, pottery. 0.80m wide. 0.10m deep	0.25-0.35m
406	Layer; part of dump of burnt material in SE area trench. Mottled black & reddish silty clay, occasional subangular limestone. Charcoal and daub describing rectilinear area. 0.90 x 0.60m, 0.01-0.02m deep. Associate with burnt stones.	0.25-0.07m
407	Patches redeposited mortar associated with dumps of burnt material in SE area trench. Greyish white soft limestone mortar, medium-sized subangular limestone blocks, some burnt. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay, stone. c. 0.60 x 0.50m n/f/e	*c.* 0.25m -
408	Stone spread associated with burnt material in S area of trench. Small-medium-sized subangular & angular limestone, some burnt/scorched. ?Same as 409. Quernstone fragment. c. 1.30 x 1.0m. n/f/e	*c.* 0.20m -
409	Redeposited medium-sized limestone fragments, some burnt/scorched. Similar/same as 408. Stone laid flat but little if any other organisation – dump. c. 0.80 – 0.80m. n/f/e	*c.* 0.20m -
410	Soil matrix associated with 408/9. Mottled yellowish brown silty clay. Animal bone. c. 1.30 x 1.0m. n/f/e	*c.* 0.20m -
411	Small discrete area burnt material over natural in S of trench; dump. Very dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional small subangular stones, mostly burnt. Common charcoal. Animal bone. 1.00 x 0.80m, 0.02-0.04m deep.	0.20-0.24m
412	Single fill ditch terminal 416 (see 418). Dark brown silty clay, rare small limestone fragments. Pottery. 0.68m wide, 0.21m deep.	0.30-0.51m
413	Romano-British vessel apparently broken *in situ*. Lying on natural in S of trench. 0.05m deep. Animal bone, pottery, fired clay, stone. 117.20m aOD.	0.25-0.30m
414	Single fill cut 417. Dark greyish brown compact silty clay, rare small limestone fragments. Pottery, animal bone, fired clay, stone, flint. . *c.* 0.85m wide, 0.40m deep.	0.25-0.65m

Trench 4 (cont.)		
context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
415	Cleaning layer in NE quadrant of trench within confines curvilinear ditch 416/8. Same as 403/4. Pottery, animal bone, flint. 0.02m deep.	0.22-0.28m
416	SW terminal curvilinear ditch (see 418). Rounded end, gentle concave sides & base. Single fill. 0.68m wide, 0.21m deep.	0.30-0.51m
417	E-W ?linear feature in S of trench. Acute concave slopes, concave base. Single fill. Cuts natural but not fully investigated, just small segment & true extent/form uncertain. c. 0.85m, 0.40m deep.	0.25-0.65m
418	Curvilinear ditch in NW quadrant of trench (see terminal 416). SW-NE orientation. Acute slightly concave N side & obtuse slightly convex S, narrow concave base. Single fill. 0.80m wide, 0.10m deep.	0.25-0.35m
419	Layer. Dark brown compact silty clay in SW area trench. Occasional small angular limestone fragments, some burnt/scorched. n/ex	*c.* 0.18m -
420	Layer. Dark greyish brown compact silty clay in SW area trench. Common small angular limestone fragments, some burnt . n/ex	*c.* 0.33m -
421	Layer. Dark brown compact silty clay, common small limestone chips. Charcoal flecks. Within area described by curvilinear ditch 416/8. n/ex	*c.* 0.24m -
422	Natural. Yellow brown compact slightly silty clay	*c.* 0.20m -

Trench 5		**Type:** machine stripped
Dimensions: 6.0 x 3.20	**Max. depth:** 0.85m	**Ground level:** 118.69 (S) – 118.80m (N) aOD

context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
501	Topsoil. Loose, mild-brown silty clay. Animal bone, pottery, flint, lead. 0.30m deep.	0-0.30m
502	Upper fill pit 505. Mid grey brown silty clay, occasional small subadult limestone. Mottles of daub, pottery, animal bone, fired clay, flint, stones, Fe, copper-alloy. 3.20m wide, 0.35m deep.	0.30-0.65m
503	Fill of pit 505; i.e. lower spit of 502 indistinguishable in section. Mid greyish brown (supposedly slightly lighter than 502 in excavation) silty clay, occasional small subangular stone. Charcoal flecks in pale grey lens towards base in N. Pottery, fired clay, stone, flint. c. 3.0m wide, max. 0.20m deep.	0.45-0.65m
504	Fill of pit 505. 3-4 Layers of medium-large limestone slabs and blocks on N side of pit. Larger stones towards top angled in from N side, smaller stones towards base, laid flatter. Soil matrix as 502/3. Worked stone, pottery, animal bone. . 2.30m wide, c. 0.20m deep.	0.45-0.65m
505	W segment of large pit. Sub-circular, flat base, gentle slope on N side, gentle concave slope on S side. 4/?5 fills. 3.0m length excavated segment, 3.20m wide, 0.52m deep.	0.30-0.85m
506	Component of pit 505; sharp break of slope on N side. Follows same line. Appeared to correspond with commencement of layer 509 which lead excavators to believe it was a wall foundation trench.	0.55-0.85m
507	Dump of large irregular subangular limestone blocks on SW margins pit 505. 1.70 x 0.90m min. n/ex	*c.* 0.10m-
508	Fill pit 505; soil matrix associated with stones 509. Mid-pale greyish brown silty clay. Pottery, animal bone, stone. 0.26m deep.	0.54-0.85m
509	Fill pit 505. Large limestone blocks forming horizontal layers (c. 3) in N half of cut from about the level of 'cut' /break in slope 506. Unclear how this would have functioned as a wall foundation given the size form of the associated features/deposits. 1.25m wide, 0.25m deep. n/f/e	0.64-0.85m
510	Fill ?pit 511. Very dark grey/black silt clay. Cut by 505. n/ex	*c.* 0.30m-
511	?circular/sub-circular feature cut by 505; small segment only visible S side pit 505. n/ex	*c.* 0.30m -
512	Fill 505/6 below/between stones 509. Pale greyish brown very slightly silty clay. May simply be = 508 but looked slightly more clayey. *c.* .030m wide, 0.25m deep.	0.55-0.85m
513	Natural. Mottled brownish yellow slightly silty clay.	0.30m-

Trench 6		**Type:** machine stripped
Dimensions: 16.75 x 14.45m	**Max. depth:** 0.65m	**Ground level:** 119.72 (SE) – 120.05m (NW) aOD

context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
601	Topsoil; dark brown silty clay. Lead, copper-alloy coin, Fe, slag, flint, fired clay, stone, shell, animal bone, pottery. 0.15 (W) – 0.25m (E) deep.	0-25m
602	SE-NW linear features with terminal at NE end. Shallow concave sides & base. Relationship with cuts 604 & 609 unclear as fills indistinguishable; possibly cut by latter. 2 fills 1.40m wide, 0.33m deep.	0.25-0.58m
603	Group of large stones, ?*in situ*, possibly related to structure defined by cut 613. Pottery, fired clay, animal bone, Fe. 1.50 x 0.80m area. n/ex	*c.* 0.02m -
604	Ditch/gulley SW-NE turning NW-SE close to point where cut by 609; following similar line to foundation trench 613. Shallow sloping sides; shallow, narrow concave base. Single fill. 0.40-0.80m wide, 0.15m deep. n/f/e	0.20-0.35m
605	Void	
606	Main/upper fill linear feature 602. Dark brown silty clay, moderate small subangular limestone fragments. Indistinguishable from 610. Rare charcoal flecks. Copper-alloy brooch fragment, animal bone, pottery, FE, flint. 1.40m wide, 0.28m deep.	0.25 – 0.53m
607	Single fill feature 604, cut by 609. Dark brown silty clay, occasional-moderate small subangular limestone fragments. Animal bone, pottery. 0.15m deep.	0.20-0.35m
608	Primary silting in linear/'terminal' 602. Brown silty clay, occasional small, subangular stones. Copper-alloy. 0.72m wide, 0.05m deep.	0.53-0.58m
609	NW-SE linear feature, cuts ditch 604 & possible recut to 602; located at right angle S to wall foundation 618. Gentle concave sides and flat base; possible wall foundation trench. Single fill. 0.95m wide, 0.15m deep.	0.25-0.40m
610	Single fill cut 609. Dark brown silty clay, occasional-moderate small-medium-sized subangular limestone fragments. Indistinguishable from 606. 0.95m wide.; 0.15m deep.	0.25-0.40m
611	Rounded terminal; possibly to linear feature 615 or short N-S linear feature cutting it? (too little investigated to be sure). NW-SE linear/terminal, concave side and flat base. Single fill. 0.72m wide, 0.12m deep.	0.25-0.37m
612	Single fill of 611. Dark greyish brown silty clay, common small-medium-sized subangular limestone fragments. Originally looked like a stone setting but on excavation feature more akin to butt-end/terminal. Pottery, fired clay, animal bone. 0.72m wide, 0.12m deep.	0.25-0.37m
613	Robbed-out wall foundation trench. Linear, acute side - N convex, S concave – flat base. Single fill. 1.05m wide, 0.36m deep.	0.20-0.66m
614	Fill 613. Reddish brown silty clay, common small-medium-sized subangular stones mostly at surface level. Occasional burnt and crushed daub. Possible 603 to SE forms part of this or redeposited stone from foundations. 1.05m wide, 0.36m deep	0.20-0.66m
615	NW-SE linear feature perpendicular to wall 618 & parallel to other linear features ditches (619, 613, 609, 602). 0.60m wide. n/ex	*c.* 0.20 m -
616	Fill of 615. Dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional-moderate small subangular limestone fragments. n/ex	*c.* 0.20m -
617	Robbed-out foundation trench at NE end wall 618; commences following same line then turns at right-angle to SE. 0.70m wide. n/ex	*c.* 0.20m -
618	NE-SW wall foundation within cut 617. Densely packed & slightly overlapping limestone slabs, primarily angled to SW. Medium-sized, subangular stones with smaller stone packing. Ends at S end in line with linear feature 619. 10.60m long, 0.70m wide. n/f/e	*c.* 0.18m -
619	NW-SE linear feature, perpendicular from SW end wall 618, continues beyond S end trench. ?Robbed-out return wall of building. 1.60m wide n/ex	*c.* 0.20m -
620	Fill of 619. Dark brown silty clay, common small-medium-sized subangular stone. n/ex	*c.* 0.20m -
621	Layer within 'inner structure'. Dark greyish brown silty clay with red patches associated with heat fractured stone 622. 1.80 x 0.80m. n/ex	*c.* 0.20m -
622	Large heat fractured stone laid flat towards centre of 'inner structure'; ?*in situ* hearth. 0.60 x 0.50m. n/ex	*c.*0.20m -
623	E-W linear feature in SW of trench. 0.32m wide. n/ex	*c.*0.20m -
624	Fill of 623. Mid yellowish brown silty clay. n/ex	*c.* 0.20m .
625	Mixed layers red, reddish brown & yellow brown silty clay within confines of 'inner structure'. ?mixed dumps of burnt soil/daub. c. 4.0 x 3.60m area. n/ex	*c.*0.20m -

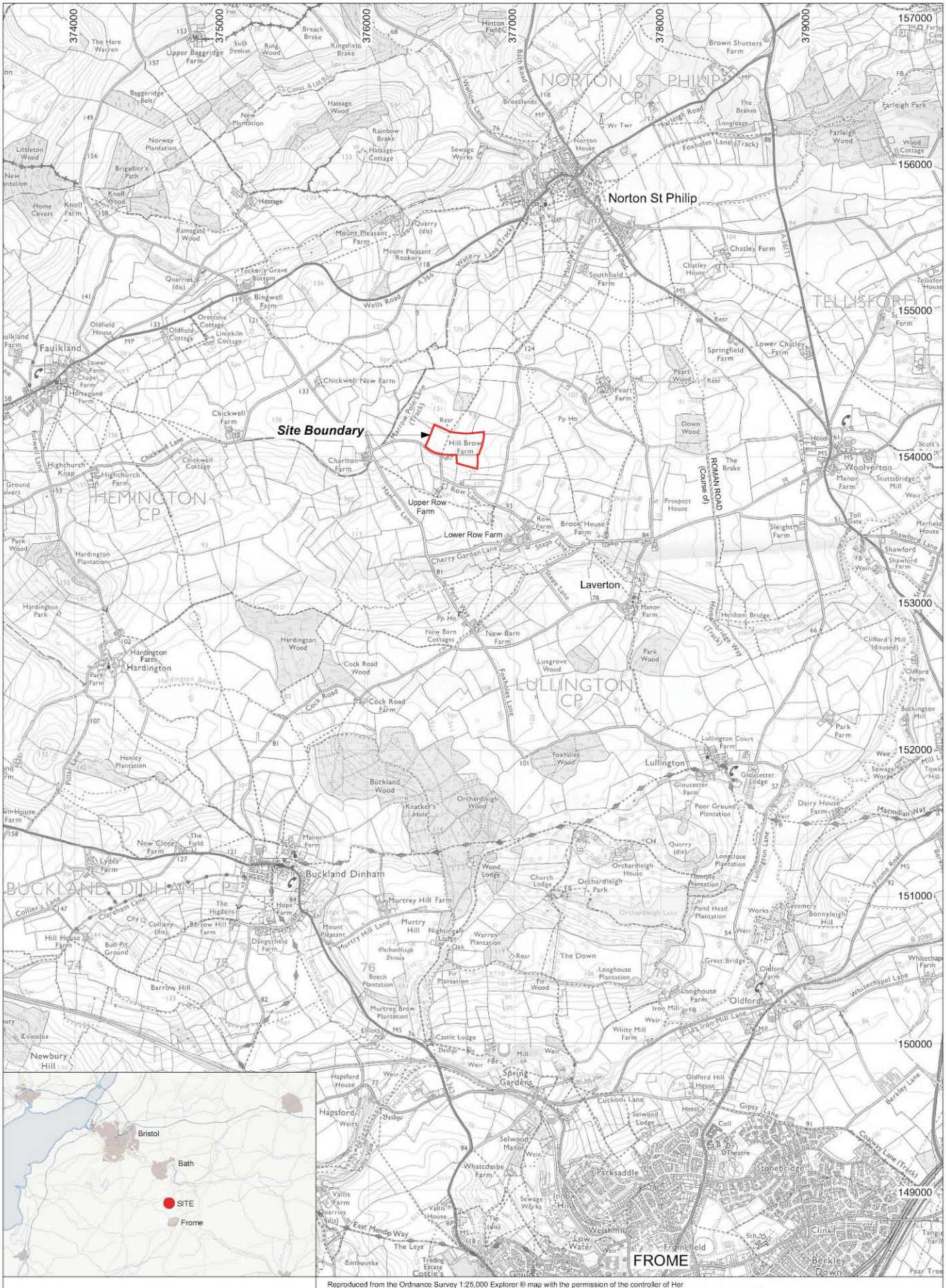
Trench 6 (cont.)		
context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
626	Layer. Dark greyish brown silty clay in NW corner of trench, moderate small-medium-sized subangular limestone fragments, patches of charcoal. Possibly fill of a feature. 1.60 x 1.10m area. n/ex	*c.*0.20m -
627	?Fill/?layer. Dense group subangular stones apparently forming fill of 628 and/or 629 in SE of trench. Dark greyish brown silty clay matrix. Occasional charcoal flecks. ?Tumble or redeposited wall stones. c. 2.0 x 1.0m area. e/ex	*c.*0.20m -
628	E-W linear feature at SE end trench. 0.40m wide. n/ex	*c.* 0.25m -
629	NW-SE linear features forming one of several similar features in SE corner of trench. Possible continuation of 615. 0.50-1.0m wide. n/ex	*c.* 0.25m -
630	Fill of 629. Dark greyish brown silty clay. Occasional small subangular limestone. Rare charcoal, flecks. n/ex	*c.* 0.25m -
631	N-S linear feature, one of several such features in SE corner of trench. 0.50m wide. n/ex	*c.* 0.25m -
632	Fill of 631. Dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional small-medium sized subangular stones. n/ex	*c.* 0.25m -
633	Short length E-W linear feature in SE of trench. ??wall foundation trench. 0.20m wide. n/ex	*c.* 0.25m -
634	Fill of 633. Dark greyish brown silty clay matrix around common medium-sized subangular platy stones. 1.0m long, 0.20m wide.	c. 0.25m -
635	Natural. Pale yellowish brown compact silty clay.	0.15m -

Trench 7		**Type:** machine stripped
Dimensions: 5.20 x 3.0m	**Max. depth:** 1.40m	**Ground level:** 117.06m aOD

context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
701	Topsoil. Mid brown silty clay, rare small limestone fragments. 0.20-0.30m deep.	0-30m
702	Ditch terminal. Sub-rounded butt end broad linear ditch, acute sides, shallow concave base. 3 fills 3.20m wide, 1.20m deep.	0.20-1.40m
703	Upper fill ditch 702. Light-mid greyish brown silty clay, rarely small limestone fragments – larger towards top of deposit. Animal bone, pottery. 3.20m wide, 0.80m deep.	0.20-1.00m
704	Primary fill ditch 702. Light orange/brown silty clay, very rare small limestone fragments. Animal bone - ?deliberate placement cattle scapula in base, pottery. 0.65m wide, 0.25m deep	1.15-1.40m
705	NW-SE ditch cut by 702. Very acute/near vertical sides, flat/shallow concave base. Single fill. 0.70m wide, 0.32m deep.	0.20-0.52m
706	Fill ditch 705. Light orange/brown silty clay.0.70m wide, 0.32m deep.	0.20-0.52m
707	Central fill ditch 702. Mid grey brown silty clay, rare very small flecks limestone. Animal bone, pottery. 0.89m wide, 0.17m deep.	0.80-1.35m
708	'Placed' deposit on ditch base - cattle scapula	1.40m
709	Natural. Reddish brown degraded limestone cornbrash	0.20m -

Trench 8		**Type:** machine stripped
Dimensions: 17.30 x 2.30m	**Max. depth:** 0.54m	**Ground level:** 121.54m aOD

context	**description**	**depth (bgl)**
801	Ploughsoil. Dark brown clayey silt. Copper-alloy coin. 0.17- 0.30m deep.	0-0.30m
802	No. not use.	
803	Main fill ditch 804. Yellow brown silty clay. 1.30m wide. 0.35m deep.	0.18-0.53m
804	SW-NE ditch cut through limestone bedrock. Vertical sides, stepped with bedrock on E. side. Flat base sloping to E along natural plane of rock. 2 fills. 1.20m wide, 0.40m deep.	0.18-0.58m
805	Natural. Limestone bedrock. Plated, inclined slightly to E.	0.18m -
806	Primary ditch fill, only evident in S half excavated segment. Yellow-brown very compact silty clay. 0.08m deep.	0.50-0.58m
807	?component of 804; second cut creating step-down in S half excavated segment. 0.13m deep.	0.45-0.58m



0 1km

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Location map

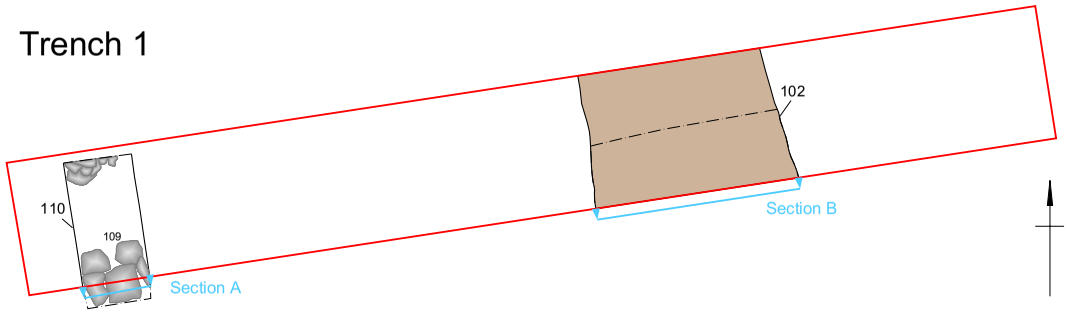
Figure 1

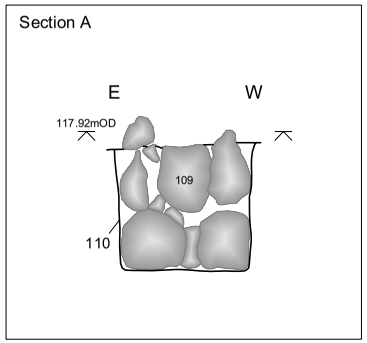
Summary of geophysical survey results showing location of Time Team trenches and Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society trenches (BCAS)

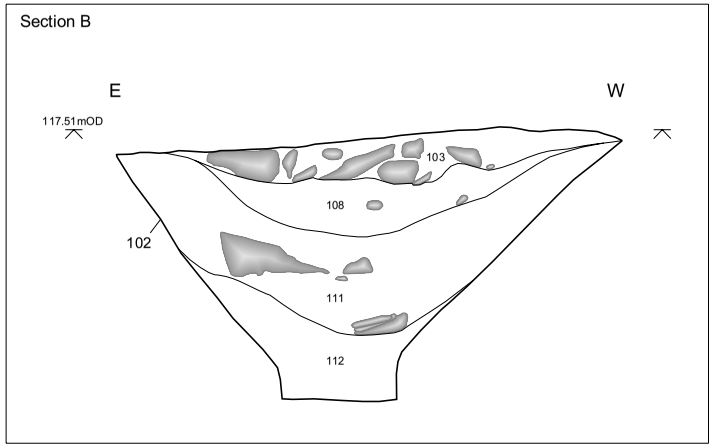
Figure 2

Trench locations (1-8) in relationship to the geophysical survey and BCAS excavated features (Areas A, C and D; after Lawes 2006, fig. 2)

Figure 3







Wall foundation 110 from north

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Stone

Cut

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Trench 1: Plan showing location of features and north facing sections through ditch 102 and wall foundation 110

Figure 4

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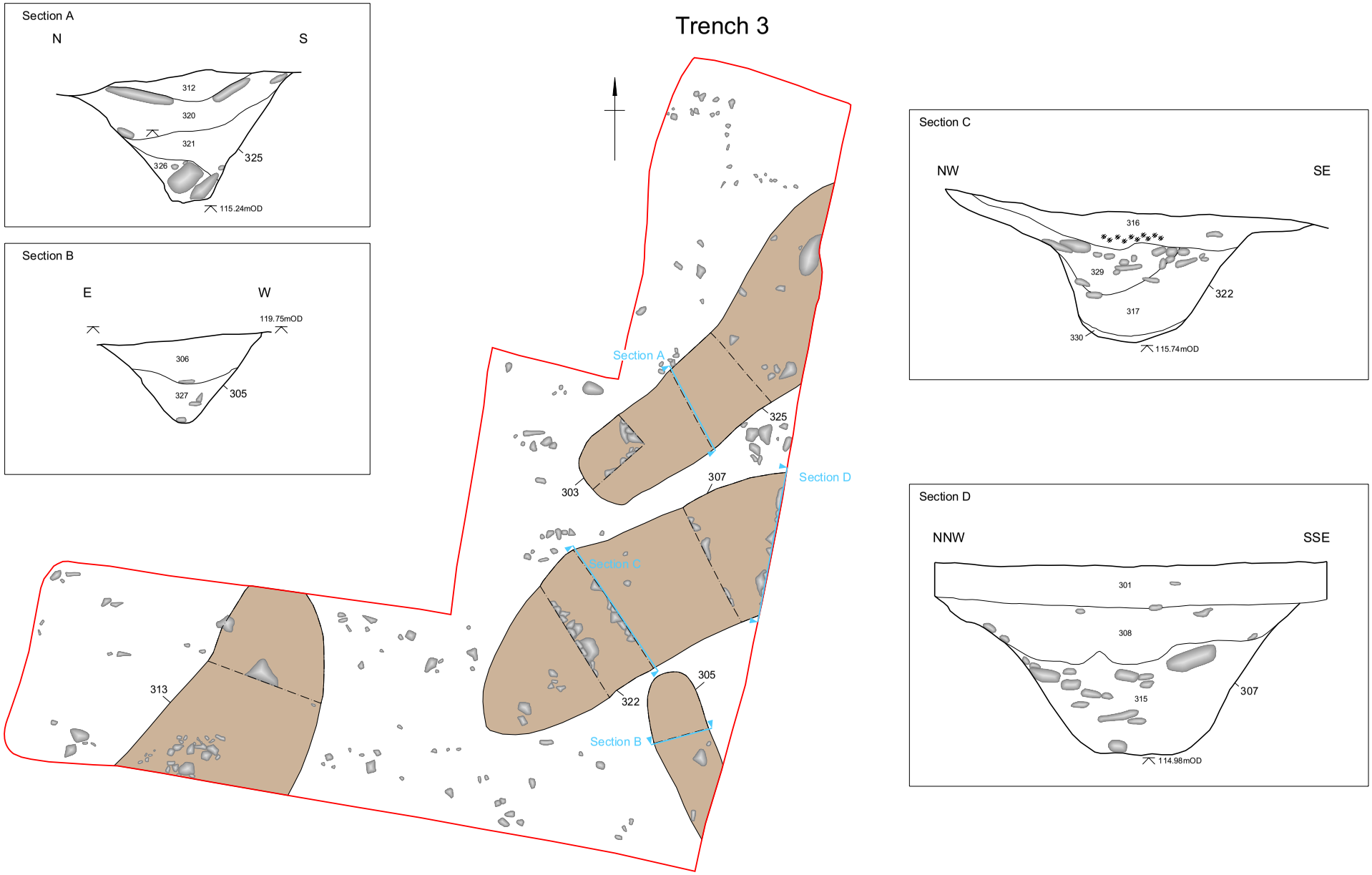
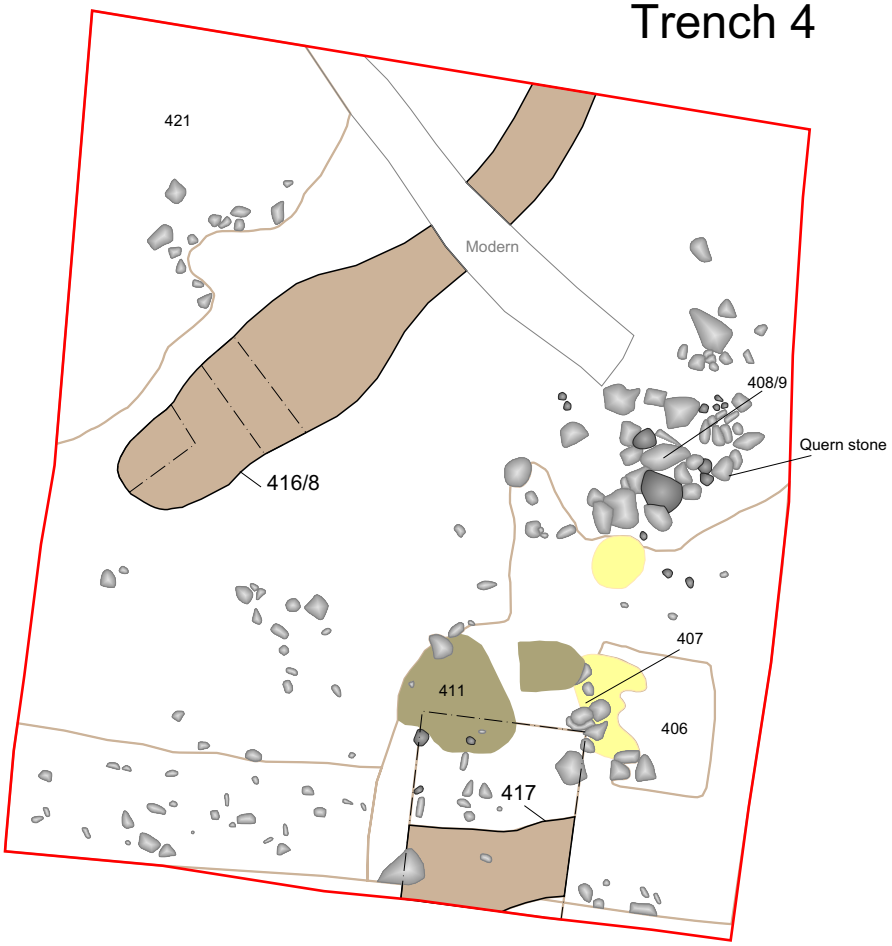
Trench 2: Well below 'gatehouse' foundations, from south-east

Figure 5



Trench 3: Plan showing all features. Sections through ditch segments 322 (SW facing) and 307 (W. facing), ditches 325 (NE facing) and 305 (N. facing)

Figure 6



Iron Age silver coin of Corio, obverse

Iron Age silver coin of Corio, reverse

Stone
Burnt stone
Burnt area
Mortar
Cut
Edge of layer

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0 1 2m
Plan 1:50

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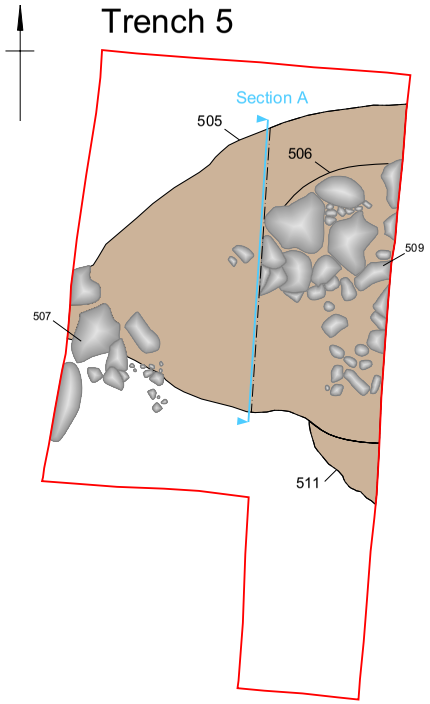
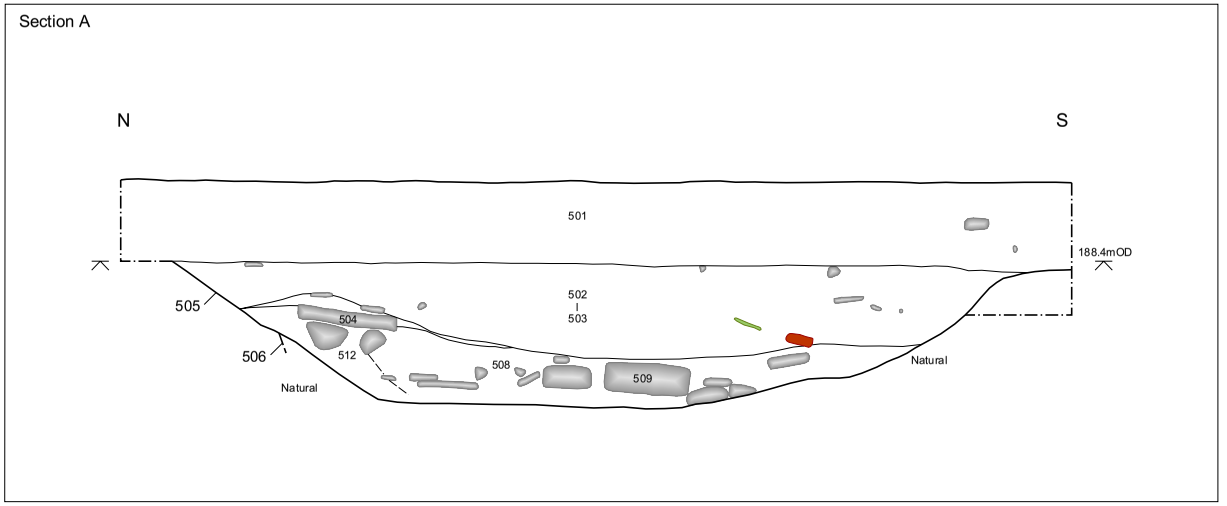
Trench 4: Plan showing main features and deposits

Figure 7






layers 504 and 509 in situ, from south


layers 504 and 509 in situ, from south


Plate showing pivot stone in situ (layer 504), from east

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Stone
Pot
Bone
Cut

0 1 2m Plan 1:50

0 1m Sections 1:20

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Scale:	1:50, sections 1:20	Illustrator:	KJB
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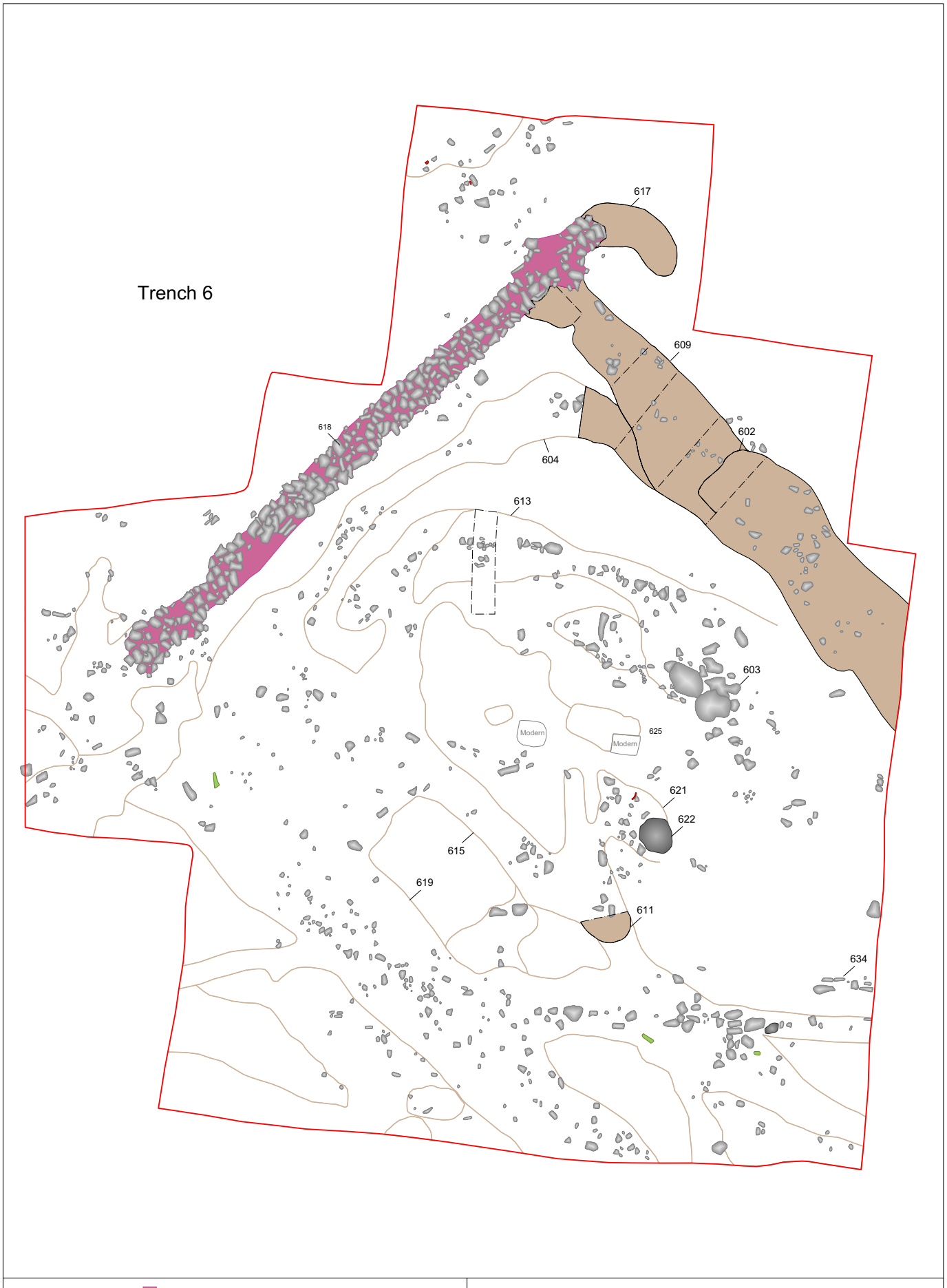
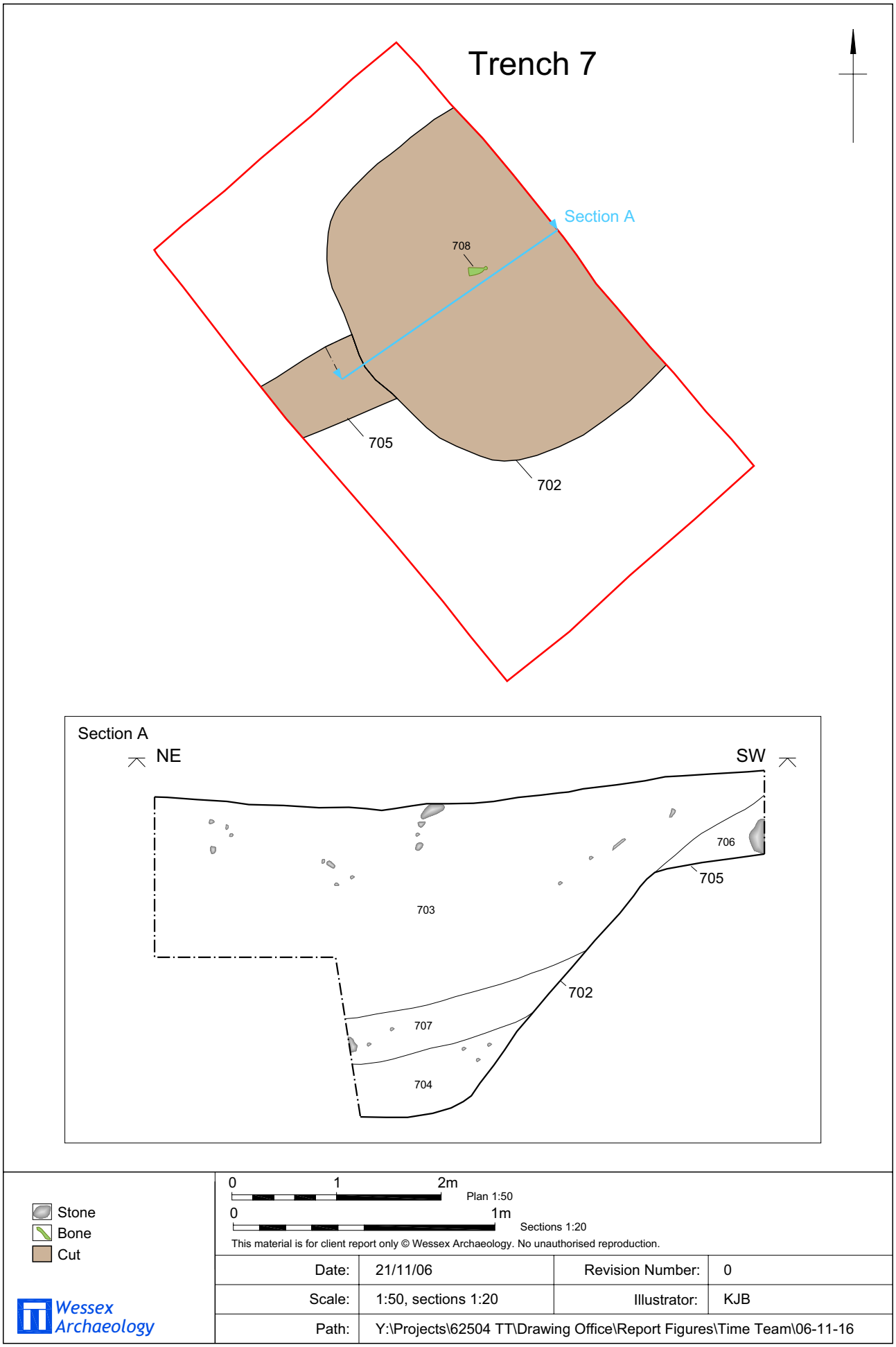
Trench 5: Plan showing lower levels of pit 505, with stone 'revetment' 509 in situ

Figure 8



Trench 6: Plan showing main features and deposits

Figure 9



Trench 7: Trench plan and NE. facing section through ditch terminal 702 Figure 10

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