A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme Somerset, SMR05

Post-excavation Assessment and Recommendations for Analysis

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Galliford Try Infrastructure to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavation across a 0.4 hectare parcel of land, in association with the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme. The excavation was centred on NGR 358537 125462 and located within two pasture fields south of the existing A303 carriageway between Trails Lane and Howell Hill. The excavation and recording was carried out between 27 June and 9 September 2022.

The archaeological work was undertaken as part of a programme of archaeological mitigation work in connection with the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme. The wider development comprises the provision of a continuous dual carriageway linking the Podimore Bypass and the Sparkford Bypass, with the removal of at-grade junctions and direct accesses, and the creation of new junctions of differing grades at Hazlegrove Junction, Downhead Junction and Camel Cross. The section of the A303 to be upgraded totals approximately 5.6 km in length.

Prior to the excavation, a watching brief, geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation had indicated the existence of archaeological deposits, linear features, pits and quarrying within the area. Artefacts recovered during the watching brief and evaluation indicated a Late Iron Age, Romano-British and 18th century date for the activity. The archaeological excavation at SMR05 confirmed the presence of and allowed for further investigation of these features. The results highlight the Iron Age and Romano-British potential of the area, which was expected given the scheduled Romano-British settlement situated immediately to the north of the current route of the A303. Archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods were recorded, covering approximately 8,000 years of human history.

The earliest evidence from the excavation dates to the earlier prehistoric period, probably the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic, and was represented by a small group of worked flints found residually within later features. These finds, including tools and a probable arrowhead, add further elements to the assemblage of similarly dated material found during excavations elsewhere associated with the road scheme, highlighting the earlier prehistoric presence within the landscape.

During the Iron Age and Romano-British periods activity increased and is likely to have been associated with the scheduled settlement located to the north of the current A303 carriageway. Geophysical survey of the settlement area had indicated the potential for Iron Age activity, particularly towards its south-western extent, approximately 90 m to the north-west of SMR05. The excavation at SMR05 identified an apparent continuation of this activity with a dense group of Iron Age pits investigated across the western half of the area. Approximately 90 Iron Age pits were hewn into the underlying limestone bedrock, creating concentrations of striking rock-cut features. Pits had been dug in large intercutting groups, smaller intercutting clusters or pairs, and as discrete examples. Some probably functioned as storage pits for the adjacent settlement, while others may represent quarries. Subsequently the pits were rapidly backfilled with deposits rich in limestone rubble and waste domestic material. A large artefact assemblage was recovered from the pit fills that includes Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fired clay; a collection of worked bone and antler highlights craft activities within the associated settlement. The pottery assemblage indicates this activity dates to the Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British periods.

During the Romano-British period activity was focused on the settlement north of the A303; evaluation and geophysical surveys have identified stone foundations of at least three buildings. Dating suggests the settlement originated in the late 2nd to early 3rd century and survived into the 4th century AD. Within the SMR05 area a reduction in activity was identified, smaller numbers of features, including pits and a ditch, were dug and a large deposit formed above a group of intercutting Iron Age pits.

Deposits of human bone were recorded and display a range of mortuary practices. Burials were made within pre-existing pits or specific graves, and redeposited skeletal elements were also recovered. Dating this activity is problematic as no datable artefactual materials were directly associated with any of the burial remains; the stratigraphic position of most of the burials, within upper layers of pits, suggests a later Iron Age date, although a coffined burial towards the north of the area may date to the later Romano-British period.

Further work will aim to set the remains in their local context with a particular focus on the scheduled Romano-British settlement, located immediately to the north of the current route of the A303. This work will directly address the research aims of the project and seek to understand the relationship, both spatial and temporal, of the features recorded at SMR05 to the settlement and other local sites including those excavated as part of the road scheme. A programme of radiocarbon dating of the human bone, animal bone and charred plant remains from selected features will assist with clarifying the chronology of the activity.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Galliford Try Infrastructure for commissioning the archaeological mitigation works. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of the Archaeological Clerk of Works and South West Heritage Trust, who monitored the project for South Somerset District Council.

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme SMR05

Post-excavation Assessment and Recommendations for Analysis

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Galliford Try Infrastructure ('the client') to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavation across a 0.4 hectare (ha) parcel of land, in association with the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme. The excavation area shown on Figures 1–3 was centred on NGR 358537 125462 and located south of the existing A303 carriageway between Trails Lane and Howell Hill.

1.1.2 The wider development (development consent order 2021 No.125) comprises the provision of a continuous dual carriageway linking the Podimore Bypass and the Sparkford Bypass, with the removal of at-grade junctions and direct accesses, and the creation of new junctions of differing grades at Hazelgrove Junction, Downhead Junction and Camel Cross. The section of the A303 to be upgraded totals approximately 5.6 km in length.

1.1.3 The excavation was preceded by preliminary archaeological works, including a cultural heritage desk-based assessment (Highways England 2018) which included walk-over surveys. Geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation have also been undertaken (L-P Archaeology 2019; Wessex Archaeology 2019; Lefort Geophysics 2019), in addition to the archaeological monitoring of ground investigation works (Wessex Archaeology 2018). An Outline Heritage Written Scheme of Investigation (OHWSI) and Detailed Heritage Written Scheme of Investigation (DHWSI) have also been produced in regard to the wider development (Highways England 2019; 2021).

1.1.4 Archaeological mitigation was deemed necessary by South West Heritage Trust (SWHT) due to the impact of the road scheme on the surviving archaeological resource. Previous watching briefs (Wessex Archaeology 2018), geophysical surveys (Wessex Archaeology 2019) and archaeological evaluation (L-P Archaeology 2019) undertaken across SMR05 proved the existence of deposits, linear features, pits and quarrying within the area. Artefacts recovered during the watching brief and evaluation indicated a Late Iron Age, Romano-British and 18th century date for the activity (L-P Archaeology 2019).

1.1.5 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a Detailed Project Design (DPD), which outlined the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed, for both the fieldwork and the post-excavation work (Wessex Archaeology 2022a). The Archaeological Clerk of Works (ACoW), and South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), approved the DPD, prior to fieldwork commencing. The excavation was undertaken between 27 June and 9 September 2022.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the provisional results of the excavation, and to assess the potential of the results to address the research aims outlined in the DPD (Wessex Archaeology 2022a). Where appropriate, it includes recommendations for a programme of further analysis, outlining the resources needed to achieve the aims

(including the revised research aims arising from this assessment), leading to dissemination of the archaeological results via publication and the curation of the archive.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The excavation area was located centrally within the road scheme, approximately 750 m east of Howell Hill and 160 m west of Trails Lane. The area lies within two pasture fields and comprises a 0.4 ha parcel of land. The A303 carriageway forms the northern boundary of the area with agricultural fields to the east, west and south. A gated access in Trails Lane to the east, beyond the eastern field, allows access to the area. To the south, the area overlooks the valley of the River Cam and the villages of West Camel and Queen Camel which are approximately 1 km from the site.

1.3.2 The two fields of SMR05 lie on the high ground of Camel Hill and are generally flat, with a slight south facing slope. Ground surface levels are highest towards the north of the field, approximately 70 m above Ordnance Datum (OD). From the north the surface of the field gently slopes down towards the east and west to heights of 66 m OD. Further south beyond the excavation area the slope becomes increasingly steep as the ground falls away towards the valley of the River Cam.

1.3.3 The underlying geology is mapped as Langport Member, Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – mudstone and limestone, interbedded. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed 183–210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic periods the local environment previously dominated by shallow lime-mud seas. There are no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey accessed 2022).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; Highways England 2018), and has since been summarised in additional documentation relevant to the scheme such as the Detailed Heritage Written Scheme of Investigation (DHWSI; Highways England 2021), and within the Detailed Project Design (DPD; Wessex Archaeology 2022a). In order to avoid repetition, a summary of the results of particular relevance to SMR05 is presented below. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Previous works related to the development

Archaeological Watching Brief (Wessex Archaeology 2018)

2.2.1 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during ground investigation works in association with the road scheme. A number of trial pits and bore holes were located within the local area, with three trial pits and one bore hole sited within the pasture fields of SMR05 (trial pits 52–54 and bore hole 58). Archaeological deposits were identified in trial pit 53, located in the western side of SMR05. The trial pit contained a sequence of deposits that were sealed by the topsoil and subsoil and produced Iron Age and Romano-British pottery and animal bone.

Geophysical Survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019)

2.2.2 Wessex Archaeology conducted a detailed gradiometer survey over a 5.2 km section of the road scheme, including the area of SMR05 (referred to as Field S7 during the geophysical investigation) and the field to the north of the carriageway (Field N20). A number of anomalies were identified (Fig. 2) within the area of SMR05 and could represent an

extension of the features recorded in the scheduled monument to the north (NHLE no. 1020936). A large, broadly L-shaped feature was interpreted as a continuation of a possible road or trackway identified to the north within the area of the scheduled settlement; it was also suggested that this may define the southern limit of the settlement. Two irregular features to the north of the trackway were thought to relate to quarrying activity, while smaller anomalies closer to the road may represent pits associated with the settlement to the north.

2.2.3 Prominent anomalies of archaeological origin were recorded to the north of the A303 and help to clearly define the scheduled Romano-British roadside settlement. The settlement comprised a series of structures, ditches, pits and postholes which lay to the north-east of a road or trackway. Curvilinear features and pits were identified to the south-west of the road or trackway and may relate to earlier phases of activity.

Archaeological Evaluation (L-P Archaeology 2019)

2.2.4 L-P Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation comprising 220 trenches across 34 fields in association with the road scheme. Referred to as Field Y in the evaluation, two trenches (109 and 110) were excavated to test the geophysics results within the area of SMR05. Two pits were investigated in trench 109, one contained abraded Late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery and the other which was probably related to quarrying, contained 18th-century pottery and CBM. Trench 110 contained a Romano-British pit which produced pottery, an iron nail and charcoal; lying centrally within the pit was a possibly deliberately placed animal skull and at the base of the pit evidence of *in situ* burning was recorded. The same trench contained an undated truncated linear feature.

2.3 Archaeological and historical context

2.3.1 The A303 between Sparkford and Ilchester and its associated dualling scheme are located within an archaeologically and historically complex landscape. Human settlement is known to have occurred in the area from the Bronze Age, with flint scatters suggestive of earlier activity. The following summary is focussed on evidence within the vicinity of SMR05.

Prehistoric (970,000–700 BC)

2.3.2 Evidence for early activity within the local environs of the excavation area comprises possible round barrow monuments, characteristic of Bronze Age funerary activity. Such monuments are suggested by aerial survey and geophysical survey results from land surrounding Camel Hill. However, it is noted that subsequent archaeological evaluation undertaken in this area provided negative results for such remains. Nevertheless, the visibility of Camel Hill (to the west), combined with records of inhumation and cremation burials on Camel Hill, may indicate the use of this location for funerary activity throughout the prehistoric period. Earlier settlements have also been recorded at the western end of the road scheme, south-east of Podimore.

2.3.3 Recent work to the south of Camel Hill, at Queen Camel, produced significant evidence for Bronze Age settlement (Newton 2018). Radiocarbon dates indicate that ditches were dug in the 16th or 15th century BC; they contained several loomweights and a relatively large and important assemblage of Middle Bronze Age Trevisker style pottery. The focus of the settlement was believed to lie to the east of the Queen Camel site, but serves to highlight the potential for Bronze Age remains in the local area.

Iron Age and Romano-British (700 BC–AD 410)

2.3.4 Iron Age activity is well attested for across the immediate environs of SMR05 as indicated by geophysical survey and trial trenching results discussed above (Wessex Archaeology

2019; L-P Archaeology 2019). Indeed, results of the same surveys have indicated the presence of an Iron Age settlement on both sides of the A303, and within SMR05. Aerial survey of the area has also identified slight traces of boundary banks which may be associated with the settlement, the focus of which is located to the north of the current carriageway.

2.3.5 The road scheme crosses the wider *territorium* of Roman Ilchester (Lovell 2005; fig. 18), some 5 km to the south-west, and the A303 corridor is believed to preserve the line of the Roman road between Andover and Ilchester. SMR05 lies directly to the south of the current road and the roadside Romano-British settlement which was revealed during archaeological investigations to the north of the A303, immediately south-west of Camel Hill Farm (Wessex Archaeology 1993). The settlement was scheduled (NHLE 1020936), and recorded remains include stone foundations for three or more buildings believed to be timber-framed and at least one cremation burial. Dating suggests the settlement originated in the late 2nd to early 3rd century and survived into the 4th century AD.

2.3.6 Beyond the western extent of the road scheme, evidence from aerial photographs indicates extensive evidence for Iron Age and Romano-British activity in the area around RNAS Yeovilton. Archaeological excavations within RNAS Yeovilton have recorded Iron Age and Romano-British settlement remains and field systems. A small rural farmstead with a network of ditches, defining fields and paddocks, trackways, the remains of roundhouses, stone-built rectangular houses, cobbled surfaces, a well and inhumation burials was excavated in the early 2000s (Lovell 2005). Further elements of this farmstead and an additional settlement have been recorded recently and highlight the Iron Age and Romano-British potential of the area (Wessex Archaeology 2016; AC Archaeology 2016).

2.3.7 Recent excavations in Queen Camel have revealed a well preserved 4th century AD corridor-type Roman villa; first identified through metal detecting and geophysical surveys, subsequent excavation recorded coins, mosaic floors, a hypocaust and possible bath house (Graham 2009). Excavations to the south added further detail to the villa's immediate surrounding landscape, with a trackway or droveway, field ditches and a well preserved corn-dying oven investigated; artefacts spanned the 1st to 4th centuries AD (Newton 2018).

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066)

2.3.8 The only record in proximity to the road scheme indicating Anglo-Saxon activity is an inhumation cemetery at a former quarry (now Camel Hill Services). A total of 11 skeletons were located, one of which was associated with a sword. In this regard, the re-use of earlier funerary centres, possibly prehistoric, in later periods is well attested (Williams 1997). The known extent of the cemetery lies adjacent to and slightly overlaps the boundaries of the development consent order for the dualling of the A303.

Medieval (AD 1066–1500)

2.3.9 Aside from the existing settlements at Podimore, West Camel and Queen Camel, all of which have medieval origins, a number of deserted medieval settlements are known within the local area, including scheduled remains north of Downhead Farm (NHLE 1021260), 1.8 km to the west of SMR05. House platforms, including a large rectangular platform suggestive of the presence of a manor house, and impressive hollow ways are among the remains that comprise the monument. At the eastern extent of the road scheme another deserted settlement lies within Hazlegrove House Registered Park and Gardens.

2.3.10 Ridge and furrow features visible on aerial photographs and LiDAR data indicate land use during this period was largely agricultural.

Post-medieval (AD 1500–1800)

2.3.11 Hazlegrove House and its associated parks, located at the eastern extent of the road scheme, were established during the late medieval and post-medieval periods, with ongoing development of the settlements at Podimore, West Camel and Queen Camel. Smaller farmsteads also began to appear during this period, including those at Camel Hill around Camel Hill Farm (such as Pepper Hill Cottage). In addition to the settlements and farmsteads, industrial activity increased in this period with areas of quarrying present across the limestone ridge that forms Camel Hill. Lime kilns are also depicted on historic maps of Camel Hill and its environs, indicating that the resource was exploited for agricultural purposes as well as construction.

Modern (AD 1800–present)

2.3.12 During the modern period military-associated development dominates the landscape. RNAS Yeovilton was established in 1939 as a base for the Royal Navy Air Service. The modern development of RNAS Yeovilton has removed much of the World War II context within which the complex is set. The most prominent of the radio and radar equipment which is dispersed across the landscape is that of the former Royal Observer Corps (ROC) observation post at Camel Hill.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the excavation, as stated in the DPD (Wessex Archaeology 2022a) and in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives;
- seek a better understanding of the resource;
- compile a lasting record of the resource; and
- analyse and interpret the results of the excavation and disseminate them.

3.2 Site-specific objectives

3.2.1 Site-specific objectives were formulated for the project and are detailed within section 4.3.3 of the DHWSI (Highways England 2021) and section 3 of the OHWSI (Highways England 2018). These aims and objectives, in line with those set out in the South West Archaeological Research Framework (Webster 2008) and Historic Environment Service Archaeological Handbook (SWHT 2017), were to:

- Establish the significance of archaeological remains recorded;
- Establish whether there is continuity of activity within archaeological sites (settlements, industrial of agricultural) across prehistoric and Romano-British periods (identify different phases of activity). It would seem that the majority of the settlement areas recorded through archaeological evaluation are largely confined to one archaeological period, though there is generally a dearth of datable evidence and the majority of features were assigned their date through comparative analysis of the form, depth below the surface and characteristic of each feature. The aim is therefore to investigate the undated features further;

- Identify whether any of the archaeological settlement and features identified through the trench evaluation in SMR05 are contemporary with the scheduled monument at Camel Hill, or whether they represent changing use of the landscape;

- Record evidence in order to improve the understanding of non-villa Roman settlement, in particular in the area surrounding the Romano-British roadside settlement at Camel Hill;

- Implement scientific dating and environmental sampling strategies in order to securely date deposits, especially those of a transitional period date, where appropriate and where samples are not contaminated.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the DPD, DHWSI and OHWSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022a; Highways England 2021 and 2019) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The post-excavation assessment and reporting followed advice issued by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO 2015). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.1.2 The excavation comprised the investigation and recording of two areas, both under the subdivision SMR05, measuring a combined 0.4 ha (Figs 1–3). The excavation was targeted on a large L-shaped feature and pit-like anomalies identified by geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019). Investigations during the archaeological watching brief and evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018; L-P Archaeology 2019) had identified the potential for remains of Iron Age to post-medieval date.

4.1.3 The initial area defined by the DPD, DHWSI and OHWSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022a; Highways England 2021; and 2019) measured 0.2 ha. Following the removal of topsoil across the area a large linear spread was identified and investigated by a mixture of hand excavated sections and test pits. This revealed significant archaeology and amendments to the area were agreed upon at a site meeting attended by the Archaeological Clerk of Works, Galliford Try Infrastructure and SWHT's archaeological advisor. The area was extended to the west across a field boundary and up to the southern limit of the DCO area; further to the west a second smaller area was also opened.

4.1.4 The larger of the two areas (3945 m^2) formed a broadly trapezoidal shape with an angled western edge that followed the line of an underground high voltage electricity cable; a 5 m stand off was maintained along the route of the cable. To the west of the high voltage cable a smaller rectangular area (66 m^2) was excavated, which incorporated trial pit 53 from the earlier watching brief (Wessex Archaeology 2018). This area was limited in size due to the presence of a large spoil heap immediately to the south.

4.1.5 The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in line with the methods outlined below. Any variation to these methods was agreed in advance by the Archaeological Clerk of Works, Galliford Try Infrastructure and SWHT's archaeological advisor.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The excavation area was set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the same position as that proposed in the DPD (Wessex Archaeology 2022a; Fig. 1). The topsoil/overburden was removed in level spits using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded in level spits until the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.

4.2.2 Where necessary, the surfaces of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the excavation. A sample of natural features, such as tree-throw holes, was also investigated.

4.2.3 Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological features was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. A metal detector was also used to scan the stripped surface of features and spoil from excavated features. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.

Recording

4.2.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.

4.2.5 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.

4.2.6 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

Photogrammetry

4.2.7 Photogrammetric survey was carried out to record four inhumation burials (5081, 5088, 5092 and 5212), an Iron Age pit (5027) and a Romano-British pit (5054; Table 1). The digital images were taken using a Canon EOS 40D mounting a Canon EF-S 18–55 mm f/3.5–5.6 AL lens. The features were photographed using manual settings suitable for the on-site light conditions. The images collected have a resolution of 3888 by 2592 pixels.

4.2.8 The targets for georeferencing and scaling were surveyed using Real Time Kinematic system, a Leica Netrover GS07 antenna with a CS 20 Captivate controller with a standard three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm. The survey was carried out using the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum Newlyn, as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15.

4.2.9 The captured photographs were processed in Agisoft Metashape Professional 1.8 to produce 3D models. These were then georeferenced using a subset of the survey data collected. The remaining survey data was used as a check of model accuracy. Model

accuracy is shown in Table 1, true accuracy likely exceeds this, however, checks are limited by the accuracy of the survey instrument used

Table 1 Photogrammetry 3D model accuracy

Feature	Accuracy
Inhumation burial 5081 (grave 5079)	7.4 mm
Inhumation burial 5088 (grave 5086)	9.1 mm
Inhumation burial 5092 (grave 5091)	7.5 mm
Inhumation burial 5212 (pit 5204)	10.6 mm
Pit 5027	22 mm
Pit 5054	9 mm

4.2.10 For each photogrammetric model an orthographic plan view was exported and scaled 1:10 figures were produced for the inhumations and 1:20 figures for the pits. Elevation orthographic views were produced for pits 5027 and 5054. The models were also uploaded to Sketchfab for private viewing.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

General

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the DPD (Wessex Archaeology 2022a). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 2: Appraisal).

Human remains

4.3.2 The human remains were removed under the terms of the Ministry of Justice licence held by Wessex Archaeology (Ref: 22-0178 dated 5 July 2022). The excavation and post-excavation processing and assessment of human remains was in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols, and undertaken in line with current guidance documents (e.g., McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The archaeological advisor at SWHT monitored the works on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Any variations to the DPD, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client, the ACoW and SWHT.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

Summary of archaeological features and deposits

5.1.1 The archaeological work at SMR05 identified remains dating from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods, approximately 8000 years of human history, and includes a ditch, graves, a gully, occupation layers/spreads, pits and quarries, as well as natural features such as

tree-throw holes (Table 2; Figs 2–5). The earliest artefacts recovered during the excavation was a small collection of worked flints found residually within later features; these finds indicate that the earlier prehistoric use of the landscape extended on to the higher slopes, continuing patterns seen elsewhere on the scheme.

5.1.2 During the Iron Age and Romano-British periods the area became a focus for activity, and the archaeological remains were characterised by a series of pits hewn into the limestone bedrock. The pits formed a broad band crossing the excavation area from north-west to south-east and probably represent a continuation of the settlement activity to the north of the A303. Pits had been dug in large intercutting groups, intercutting clusters or pairs and as discrete examples; a possible rectangular shaped setting was also noted. The larger features may have initially functioned as storage or quarry pits, with smaller examples possibly representing waste pits or potentially post-holes. Following their use, they appear to have been purposefully backfilled, often with rubbly, limestone-rich deposits that contained cultural material. Some of the pits contained human burials within their upper layers, and individual graves were also dug; one may date to the later Romano-British period.

5.1.3 During the 1st to 4th centuries AD a deposit formed above the pits which may represent either a colluvial deposit, midden or dark earth type material. The deposit had formed over a large area to the east of the excavation and contained Roman pottery and animal bone. These deposits are probably associated with the Romano-British settlement to the north of the A303 and could be either eroded material or dumped cultural material. The excavated Iron Age and Romano-British remains partly correlate with the results of the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019), although the main area of pit digging was interpreted as disturbance and the large right-angled linear anomaly was found to relate to an area of pits, a short length of ditch and a large shallow spread of material.

5.1.4 Later activity was represented by two large quarry pits in the east of the excavation area and by intrusive finds from earlier features. The quarries accord well with the results of the earlier geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

Table 2 SMR05 feature and deposit summary

Feature/deposit type	Archaeological phase	Count (interventions)	Finds Types
Bioturbation	-	2	-
Colluvium	-	1	Animal bone, pottery, worked stone
Ditch	Romano-British	3	Animal bone, fired clay, pottery
Grave	Iron Age, Romano-British	4	Human remains
Gully	Uncertain	1	-
Hedgerow	Uncertain	1	-
Occupation layer/spread	Romano-British	4	Animal bone, fired clay, iron objects, lead object, pottery, worked bone
Pit	Iron Age, Romano-British, uncertain	97	Animal bone, Cu alloy, fired clay, human bone, disarticulated human bone, iron objects, pottery, slag, worked bone, worked flint, worked stone,
Quarry	Post-medieval	2	Iron object, pottery, worked flint
Test Pit	Romano-British	2	Slag
Tree-throw holes	Iron Age and uncertain	2	Animal bone, fired clay, pottery

Methods of stratigraphic assessment and quantity of data

5.1.5 All tablet/hand written and drawn records from the excavation have been collated, checked for consistency and stratigraphic relationships. Key data has been transcribed into a database, which will be updated during any further analysis. Preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits was principally undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from artefacts, particularly pottery (Table 2).

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 Across SMR05 the natural soil sequence was consistent. The thin, loose, dark grey brown topsoil was up to 0.3 m deep and topped with a layer of turf, which was laid to pasture. The underlying natural comprised limestone and was present from 0.3 m below ground level (bgl). Its upper surface was weathered and fissured; at the stripped level of the site the archaeology was cut into limestone regolith, a rubbly mid-grey brown to dark yellow brown silty clay. Undisturbed bedded limestone was present from 0.5 m bgl. Within the deeper features the limestone continued to the limit of excavation at approximately 1.2 m bgl; in places a pale yellow brown silty clay was recorded below shallower deposits of limestone.

5.3 Prehistoric

5.3.1 Traces of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic activity within the vicinity of SMR05 were identified by the recovery of worked flints found in features across the excavation area. The assemblage (22 pieces) includes scrapers, retouched flakes, and a small burnt flake core. One of the retouched flakes may be a broken leaf arrowhead and indicates an Early Neolithic date. The worked flints are considered to be residual, surviving within later features, and are consistent with finds from other areas of the scheme and serve to highlight the use of this landscape during the earlier prehistoric period.

5.4 Iron Age

5.4.1 During the Iron Age the site and its immediate local area, became a focus for activity. Across SMR05 a series of probable storage pits were dug into the underlying limestone bedrock (Figs 2–3). The pits were predominately found towards the western side of the area; individual, intercutting and groups of pits were identified, and in places their arrangement may potentially imply surface structures or features. Deposits from the pits largely suggest rapid backfilling, although some probably stood open for a longer period prior to being infilled. A relatively large artefact (approximately 47 kg) and ecofactual assemblage was recovered from the pits and includes pottery (approximately 25 kg), animal bone (18.5 kg), worked bone (23 pieces) and human bone. The human bone was recovered from inhumation burials in both pits and individual graves, as well as disarticulated fragments. Dating from the pits indicates activity during the 8th–1st centuries BC and 1st century AD, spanning the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British periods. The pit digging activity is probably associated with Iron Age activity recorded to the north of the A303 within the scheduled area (NHLE 1020936).

Pits

5.4.2 Across the excavation area 89 pits have been phased to the Iron Age, with Middle Iron Age, Middle to Late Iron Age, Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British, and broadly Iron Age examples recorded. Datable material suggests that the activity began during the Middle Iron Age (400–100 BC) and continued to the early centuries AD; subsequent Romano-British was also apparent (see section 5.5). The zone of pits forms a broad linear band, some 30 m wide, orientated north-west to south-east, crossing the western side of the excavated area (Figs 2–16). The overall alignment of the zone of pits represents the site's association with the known settlement immediately to the north of the A303, which also has a broad

north-west to south-east orientation. The earlier geophysical survey showed pit-like anomalies and ring gullies or ditches to the south-west of the main settlement area. Interpreted as probable drip gullies of roundhouse structures and pits of potential Iron Age to Romano-British date (Wessex Archaeology 2019), these features form a continuation of the activity identified at SMR05. Taken together, the area of Iron Age pit digging may have extended across some 160 m, potentially extending further to the north-east within the dense area of Romano-British settlement features.

5.4.3 Within the broad band, pits were scattered relatively densely although clusters, forming concentrations, were apparent. In places, the concentrations formed large intercutting areas that contained multiple pits, whilst in others a degree of spatial arrangement may be inferred, and elsewhere single, discrete, examples were recorded. Three groups of intercutting pits, covering areas up to 8.3 m by 7.2 m and comprising up to 13 features, were investigated towards the central and eastern side of the area of pits. Towards the southern side of the area, nine pits defined a rectangular area 12 m by 7 m and their arrangement may, in some way, reflect the position of a structure. Considerable variation was recorded across the pits (Figs 3 and 6–14; Appendix 1), with examples varying from small, shallow features to sub-circular pits with near vertical sides, or large, somewhat irregular pits, with shallow profiles. Amongst the pits, differing profiles were evident and included cylindrical, stepped, conical and undercut or overhanging examples. The smallest, 5295, measured 0.4 m diameter and was 0.07 m deep, while the largest, 5306, was 3.3 m by 2.5 m and greater than 0.93 m deep. Various pits continued beyond 1.2 m deep and could not be bottomed; a number were reduced to allow further excavation and the base of the deepest example, pit 5077, was reached at 1.63 m. The pits were cut into the naturally, fractured tabular limestone bedrock giving clear, striking profiles against the natural. In places, such as pit 5040 (Fig. 3), towards the north of the area, the limestone may have been partially dressed to form flat, even edges to the pits or provide rock cut steps to aid access.

5.4.4 The majority of pits within SMR05 had been purposely backfilled with rapidly deposited fills and contained between one and eight deposits (Figs 8–14). Fills were commonly rich in limestone rubble amongst a very loose matrix of silty loam with many voids; charcoal-rich deposits were present in both the basal and upper layers of some pits. Most of the fills were rich in archaeological material, with approximately 47 kg of finds recovered; the assemblage provides evidence of a range of activities on the site and comprised pottery, animal bone, fired clay, slag, worked bone, worked flint and stone, as well as iron and copper alloy objects. Human bone was also present, with complete inhumation burials and disarticulated remains recovered (see section 5.4.11).

5.4.5 Examples of differing fills include pits 5151, 5228 and 5303. Pit 5151 (1.9 m diameter and 0.86 m deep; Fig. 8) contained four deposits which produced approximately 1.5 kg of artefacts that included fired clay, pottery, animal bone, fuel ash slag and worked flints. The finds came from the lower three deposits, which were interpreted as an initial backfilling event, followed by possible natural silting before further backfilling. In contrast, pit 5228 (1.85 m diameter and 1.08 m deep; Fig. 9) contained a single backfill rich in limestone rubble, with some large boulder-sized inclusions. Amongst the rubble was nearly 1.4 kg of artefacts, predominately animal bone (1.2 kg), but pottery and fired clay were also found. A third pit, 5303, contained a mix of both limestone rubble-rich fills, darker dumped deposits and naturally formed layers. At the base of pit 5303 (1.6 m diameter and 1.16 m deep; Fig. 10), a thin primary fill had formed, above this a relatively stone-free, dark grey silty loam with charcoal flecks had been dumped into the pit, this followed by further stone-rich backfills. Unlike the pits 5151 and 5228, pit 5303 only contained a small finds assemblage

(approximately 200 g) that included pottery, animal bone, fragments of fired clay and a worked flint.

Intercutting pits/pit clusters

5.4.6 Three large areas of intercutting pits were investigated across the central and eastern parts of the pit digging zone (Figs 3 and 7). The easternmost area covered 8.3 m by 7.2 m and contained nine pits, which had been truncated along their northern edge by Romano-British ditch 5350 and were sealed by Romano-British layer 5351. Amongst the group, deep cylindrical profiles were the most common; these pits were generally sub-circular in plan with diameters between 1.5–2.1 m and were between 0.95–1.8 m deep. Two shallow, sub-circular, examples (5065 and 5073) were also identified, and had diameters of 1–1.2 m and were 0.12–0.4 m deep. At the centre of the group, pit 5142 (Figs 3 and 14) may be one of the earlier features. It had a cylindrical profile, measuring 1.6 m diameter by 1.3 m deep, and contained two limestone rubble rich backfills that produced a small finds assemblage (163 g) of animal bone, fired clay and Iron Age pottery (8 sherds 119 g); a likely intrusive sherd of Romano-British pottery came from its upper fill. Circular pit 5027 (Fig. 3) had been cut into the eastern edge of pit 5142, was 0.95 m deep and had a cylindrical profile with a diameter of 1.6 m. Along its south-western edge, intersecting with pit 5142, a drystone revetment had been constructed, presumably to provide a stone edge to the new pit and to limit erosion and slumps from the earlier feature. The revetment comprised limestone slabs and blocks (max 0.5 m long), with rough coursing evident, but the overall construction had an ad hoc appearance with large blocks and rubble also used.

5.4.7 Other intercutting pits were identified in this group and lay towards the southern edge. Here, pits 5029 and 5068 were intercutting but no relationship was established. Both pits have been phased to the Iron Age and may date to the Middle Iron Age, although intrusive Romano-British pottery and a copper alloy coin came from their upper fills. Elsewhere within the group, a stone spindle whorl (ON 46) was found in pit 5037 (Fig. 11).

5.4.8 Lying just to the east of the centre of the zone of pits was an intercutting group of 13 pits, measuring 8 m by 6.5 m (Fig. 3). The pits were closely spaced, some edges meet and others have small ridges of natural between them; overall they appear to be arranged in an almost circular pattern, but it is unclear if this was intentional or developed through the piecemeal addition of pits. On the northern side of the group, a large, shallow feature 5022 (0.35 m deep) may represent a slight terrace dug into the sloping ground surface. Its exact dimensions were hard to determine but may have been up to 6 m diameter, and the pits potentially dug within this possible terrace. As with the other cluster, the pits were generally sub-circular in plan with cylindrical profiles, although some were slightly conical or stepped. Diameters ranged between 0.6–1.8 m, the shallowest 0.12 m with the deepest extending beyond 1.63 m deep; due to their depth only four were bottomed. On the western side of the group, pit 5102 (Figs 3 and 13) was fully excavated; it had a diameter of 1.8 m and was 1.46 m deep. It contained three deliberate backfills, that produced 1.8 kg of artefacts that included Middle Iron Age pottery (100 sherds, 1.3 kg) along with a fragment from a worked bone needle, a sawn and polished possible gouge or point, and a polished and worked piece of antler. Additionally, worked bone and antler was found in five other pits that formed part of this group, with examples including points and gouges (from pits 5022, 5148 and 5158), and an antler comb (pit 5058).

5.4.9 A third group of intercutting features lay some 6 m to the west, and comprised pits, a possible tree-throw hole and other deposits; to the east, two slightly outlying pits may also belong to this group but appear to be of a slightly later date (Fig. 3). As with the other groups, this area was defined by a large, irregular shaped spread of material, measuring 9 m by 5 m; on excavation five pits were defined within the larger deposit. The nature of this large

deposit (5227), and the hollow in which it had formed (approximately 0.27 m deep), is uncertain. They may represent a terrace or quarry into which either eroded colluvium had been trapped or material had been deposited; small quantities of Middle Iron Age pottery (13 sherds, 112 g) and animal bone (84 g) were recovered. The earliest feature within the group was pit 5317 (Fig. 3), an oval pit with steep sides measuring 1.9 m by 1.4 m and almost 1 m deep. This appeared to have been sealed by deposit 5227, before other pits were dug on its southern edge and northern edges. The four other sub-circular to oval pits had cylindrical or conical profiles with lengths or diameters of 1.8–2.2 m and widths of 1.6 m; depths varied from 0.4 m to more than 1.2 m. Located on the southern edge of the group, pit 5312 (Figs 3 and 15) was the largest example, measuring 2.2 m in diameter and greater than 1.2 m deep. Its four fills produced 239 g of pottery (23 sherds), some of which could be dated to the Middle or Late Iron Age. Animal bone (233 g) was also recovered.

Rectangular setting

5.4.10 Towards the southern edge of the area a group of ten pits formed an open sided rectangle that measured approximately 12 m by 7 m (Fig. 3). Its western and northern sides comprised evenly spaced circular or oval pits, while the southern and eastern sides were less well defined. The pits were generally sub-circular to oval in plan (approximate diameters of 1–1.8 m), and their profiles included both shallow bowl-shaped and deep cylindrical or conical examples, with depths between 0.3 m to greater than 1.2 m. They contained between one and four fills and their finds assemblage comprised pottery dating from the Middle Iron Age to Late Iron Age or Romano-British periods (101 sherds, 938 g), along with animal bone (681 g), fired clay (303g), and small quantities of slag and worked flints. Within the area, five small pits (maximum dimensions of 1.17 m by 0.7 m and 0.25 m deep) formed a slightly curving arc. Although tentative, this arc of smaller, shallow features may represent post-holes within the larger rectangular area, and could potentially represent the remains of a structure with larger pits dug at its edges.

Inhumation burials

5.4.11 Human bone was recovered from graves cut into the top of backfilled pits, as well as inhumation burials made within pits and as disarticulated fragments (Fig. 3). A total of five burials were identified, with redeposited human bone found in two locations. Four of the burials came from a small area close to the southern edge of the excavation, with a fifth lying towards the northern side of the pit digging area. Dating for these burials remains tentative due to a lack of direct dating (i.e., grave goods) although they probably belong to the Mid–Late Iron Age or Late Iron Age to Romano-British periods. Stratigraphically the burials were made towards the top of backfilled Iron Age pits and probably date to the later part of the period; two of the burials (5030 and 5088) came from features that were phased to the Late Iron Age, which supports a late 1st century BC or early 1st century AD date. Others can only be more broadly phased based on dating from the underlying pits and small quantities of finds from the grave backfills.

5.4.12 The northernmost burial, 5030, had been made on the base of shallow, circular pit 5020 (Fig. 3 and 17–18); the neonate was placed on the base of the pit with head to the west, lying on its left side. Following the burial the pit was backfilled with a stony dark brown loam, relatively rich in artefacts. The assemblage (1.3 kg) was dominated by pottery (120 sherds, 1.2 kg) and also contained fired clay, animal bone, burnt flint and fuel ash slag; further skeletal remains from 5030 were also recovered. Whether the pit was intended as a grave or reused as a grave remains inconclusive.

5.4.13 Further south, four burials were found within an 8.5 m by 6 m area, and include examples within pits and a discrete grave. Two graves (5086 and 5123; Figs 3 and 19) had been cut into the top of backfilled pits (5106 and 5131; Fig. 16); in both instances the graves were

shallow, oval cuts (between 0.1–0.2 m deep) and contained truncated or disturbed remains. Grave 5086 contained a truncated, flexed inhumation burial (5088) lying on its right side with head to the east, while grave 5123 contained the disturbed or displaced remains of a neonate. Both graves had been dug into the top of deeper, backfilled pits (1–1.45 m deep) and may have slumped or shifted as the pit fills stabilised. This also appears to have occurred to inhumation burial 5212, which had been made towards the top of pit 5204 (Fig. 3). The pit was oval in plan, measuring 3.1 m by 2.0 m, and had a stepped bas; the eastern side was 0.95 m deep but on the western side a cylindrical cut continued beyond 1.2 m deep. The burial had been included towards the top of the pit (0.3 m bgl), positioned on its left side, lightly flexed with head to the east, and had slumped forward as it decomposed with bone dropping in amongst the large limestone rubble/cobbles below. This slumping and disturbance may have been exacerbated as the lower fills become consolidated and compacted.

5.4.14 Close to the northern edge of grave 5086 was a discrete grave, 5079 (Figs 3 and 20). Grave 5079 was oval in plan and measured 1.25 m by 1.05 m, it had a shallow, slightly stepped profile, was 0.18 m deep, and contained the inhumation burial of an adult. The burial (5081) was lying with the head to the north-east, in a supine position, the legs flexed to the right side and the arms flexed and crossed over the pelvis. Redeposited human bone, from a neonate, was also recovered from the burial.

5.5 Romano-British

5.5.1 Evidence of Romano-British activity was limited to a small number of pits (six), an inhumation burial, a ditch and an occupation layer or spread (Fig. 3). This reduction in activity during the 1st to 4th centuries AD probably represents the establishment of the settlement to the north of the modern A303, some 65 m to the north, where activity became focussed. Romano-British features within SMR05 were generally found towards the northern side of the area, in closer proximity to the known settlement. A relatively small number of features (eight) have been assigned a Romano-British date, although others span the Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British period and may also belong with this later activity (e.g., ditch 5350). The excavations at SMR05 recovered approximately 8.5 kg of artefacts from Romano-British dated features, including Romano-British and residual Iron Age pottery (approximately 5 kg), animal bone (1.6 kg), fired clay (1.3 kg), and worked bone, personal items were also identified and comprise a later 1st to early 2nd century AD copper alloy T-shaped brooch and a perforated scallop shell. Human bone was found in two contexts, a coffined inhumation burial and redeposited within a pit fill.

Occupation layer/spread

5.5.2 Towards the eastern side of the excavation area a large spread of material was identified following the initial machine stripping of the site. The deposit largely accords with the north-west to south-east orientated linear anomaly identified by geophysical survey (Fig. 2), although it did not extend to the edge of the area as indicated. The irregularly shaped, dark brown to dark grey silty loam deposit, 5351 (Figs 3 and 21), measured 51 m by 8 m and was at most 0.14 m deep. It had formed across a wide area within a slight hollow, following the undulations of the natural limestone, and was observed to seal earlier Iron Age and Late Iron Age or Romano-British features. The deposit contained a relatively rich finds assemblage, approximately 2 kg, which included pottery dated to the Late Iron Age or Romano-British (3 sherds, 18 g) and Romano-British (138 sherds, 1.2 kg) periods, as well as more broadly Iron Age material (22 sherds, 180 g), and two intrusive post-medieval sherds. Other finds from the deposit included a fragment of worked bone, part of an iron blade and animal bone (520 g).

5.5.3 Confident interpretation of this deposit is difficult, and it may represent either naturally collected material that had eroded down slope from the Romano-British settlement to the north, a midden type deposit made across a hollow formed by the earlier intercutting Iron Age pits, or a disuse/dark earth type deposit that formed following the abandonment of the settlement.

Ditch

5.5.4 A short length of a probable ditch was dug at the northern edge of the easternmost group of Iron Age intercutting pits (Fig. 3). The ditch, 5350 (6.8 m long), had a 2.25 wide, flat-bottomed profile with a maximum depth of 0.6 m, and was filled by two naturally formed deposits. Its western terminal and slightly stepped northern edge were well defined, cutting into the limestone bedrock, whereas the eastern terminal was more diffuse and appeared to rise gradually from the base. On its southern edge the ditch truncated two Iron Age pits (5027 and 5142), and it produced an assemblage of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (108 sherds, 910 g) suggesting a Late Iron Age or Romano-British date. Following backfilling the ditch was sealed by occupation layer/spread 5351, and this may suggest the ditch was open during the early centuries AD.

5.5.5 Its function remains somewhat unclear; the short length suggests it did not form a significant boundary, and no further lengths of ditch were found to the east, despite the apparent feature identified by geophysical survey (Fig. 2). It is possible that ditch 5350 represents a shallow quarry or pit-like feature, although its relative neatness may preclude this, rather than a ditched boundary related to the settlement further north.

Pits

5.5.6 Across the excavation area six pits have been phased to the Romano-British period. Three of these features (5220, 5268 and 5347) lie in the small north-western extension of the area, two are located towards the north of the central area (5125 and 5054), while one is somewhat isolated towards the south-western edge of SMR05 (5169; Fig. 3). Variation in the size and shape of the pits was identified, including sub-circular, oval and irregular examples; generally, the pits were 1.4–2 m long and 1–1.6 m wide, although two were much larger (between 5.75–8.75 m long), and continued beyond the limit of excavation. The pits were typically less than 1 m deep (0.56–0.93 m) although the base of one pit (5054; Figs 3 and 22) was not reached as it continued beyond 1.2 m bgl.

5.5.7 Pit 5054 was cut into the northern edge of the central group of intercutting Iron Age pits (Fig. 3). Oval in plan (1.4 m by 1 m), it was clearly defined within the limestone bedrock, with steep, straight sides, giving a cylindrical profile. On its south-eastern edge it was cut into backfilled Iron Age pit 5075, and between the two pits was a dry-stone revetment (5056), built from tabular limestone fragments (approximately 0.4 m long; Fig. 22). As with the earlier Iron Age example (see above pit 5027), the revetment seems to have been built to create a stone edge to the later pit, providing both a solid edge and limiting erosion from the earlier pits fills. Dating from pit 5054 was limited to four sherds of pottery that date to the Late Iron Age or Romano-British and Romano-British periods (33 g), and given its later stratigraphic position it may date to the later part of the period. However, given the loose nature of the fill and the presence of voids, the later pottery may also be intrusive. Other finds from the pit include animal bone and a perforated scallop shell.

5.5.8 Three Romano-British pits (5220, 5268 and 5347) were found close to the north-western edge of SMR05 (within the small extension) and lie approximately 40 m to the south of the settlement area north of the A303. These pits were large irregular or oval features that were between 5.75–8.75 m long and continued beyond the excavation areas. The easter pit 5220 (Fig. 3 and 23) was 0.93 m deep and had steep, slightly stepped and irregular sides, and

was filled by six deliberate dumps or backfills that contained just over 5 kg of finds. Amongst the artefacts was an Early Romano-British copper alloy T-shaped brooch (ON 77), redeposited human bone, fragments from a fired clay oven plate, a worked bone point as well as animal bone (634 g) and pottery (3.9 kg). The pottery assemblage was of predominately Romano-British date (3.7 kg) and includes early Roman examples. Immediately to the south was a second large irregular shaped pit, 5347 (Fig. 3). This pit extended across 7.95 m and continued beyond the southern edge of the area. It had steep, straight to irregular or slightly stepped sides, probably largely due to the removal of the fractured limestone bedrock, and was 0.75 m deep. The fills comprised deliberate backfills, and a possibly naturally eroded tertiary deposit, that produced animal bone (569 g), pottery (85 sherds, 531 g) and fired clay.

5.5.9 A shallow Romano-British pit lay in a somewhat isolated position towards the south-western corner of the area. Oval pit 5169 (Figs 3 and 24) was 0.56 m deep, had a concave profile and was cut into a smaller unphased pit (5167) on its north-western edge. Pit 5169 produced a modest finds assemblage that comprised fired clay (425 g), Iron Age to Romano-British pottery (34 sherds, 167 g) and animal bone (67 g).

Inhumation burial

5.5.10 Towards the north-western edge of the excavation area a single grave, 5091, was investigated (Figs 3 and 25–26). It lay approximately 50 m to the south of the Romano-British settlement and was probably associated. The grave, aligned ESE–WNW, contained the coffined inhumation burial of an infant (5092); the individual was laid in a crouched position on its right side, with the head to the ESE and turned to the north, possibly towards the settlement. Sixteen coffin nails (Nos 16) were recovered from around the burial and suggest a later Roman date for the burial; no grave goods were recovered but 17 small sherds of Romano-British pottery (28 g) came from the backfill, along with small quantities of animal bone (49 g) and fired clay (11 g).

5.6 Post-medieval

5.6.1 Two large probable quarries were investigated in the eastern half of the excavation area (Fig. 3). The two quarries, 5011 and 5013, had somewhat keyhole shapes in plan, being narrower at one end and more bulbous at the other; they measured between 8.7–14.2 m long and were between 5.8–9.3 m wide. Both accord well with anomalies mapped by the geophysical survey, and on excavation were shown to have steep, stepped sides cut into the limestone bedrock. They had been deliberately backfilled, and a piece of post-medieval glass was found within 5011, while four sherds of post-medieval pottery (75 g), spanning AD 1500–1880, came from 5013. Neither feature was bottomed, and excavation ceased at 0.7 m bgl. Quarries are depicted on the Tithe mapping from the 1840s within approximately 225 m of SMR05, to the east of Traits Lane and north-east of the current route of the A303; it is possible that the quarries excavated during the works formed further elements of this activity.

5.7 Uncertain

5.7.1 An ENE–WSW aligned gully ran parallel to the northern edge of the excavation area. The gully, 5007 (Fig. 3), had a shallow, concave profile that was 0.75 m wide with a maximum depth of 0.14 m; no finds came from its single fill. Excavation records suggest it was cut at its western end, by Iron Age pit 5004, although this relationship is tentative given the shallow nature of the gully. The gullies alignment and position, parallel and close to the modern field boundary, may indicate this is a later feature related to more recent enclosure of the landscape.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Approximately 56 kg of finds was recovered, ranging in date from the Mesolithic to post-medieval, although there is an emphasis on the Middle/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age to Romano-British periods. All finds have been cleaned and quantified by material type within each context and scanned to assess their nature, condition and potential date range. Quantification by material type is presented in Table 3.

Table 3 Quantification of finds by material type, number and weight (g)

Material	No.	Wt (g)
Animal bone	4382	20,753
Burnt flint	13	28
Ceramic building material	1	16
Fired clay	451	3523
Flint	22	49
Glass	1	5
Human bone	6 inhum (+ redep)	n/a
Metalwork Copper alloy Iron	 6 38	 31 312
Pottery	3022	30,459
Shell	1	16
Slag	20	72
Stone	8	783
Worked bone	29	342
Total	**8000**	**56,389**

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 The pottery provides the primary dating evidence for the site and includes material of Iron Age, prehistoric unspecified, Late Iron Age–Romano-British and post-medieval date, although the emphasis is on the Iron Age and Latest Iron Age–Romano-British periods. Sherds from each context have been sub-divided into broad ware groups based largely on dominant inclusion (e.g., shell-tempered ware, sandy ware) or known ware types (e.g., SE Dorset Black Burnished ware) and quantified by number and weight of pieces. Where possible, detail of vessel form and other diagnostic features have been noted and a spot date for each context has been assigned. A breakdown of the sherds by chronological period and ware type is presented in Table 4. The level of recording is consistent with the 'basic record' advocated for the rapid characterisation of pottery assemblages (Barclay *et al*. 2016, Section 2.4.5). Estimated Vessel Equivalents have not been used due to the low number of measurable rims.

6.2.2 The assemblage is in moderate condition which is reflected in a mean sherd weight of 10.1 g; some surface abrasion and edge damage is visible.

Table 4 Pottery by chronological period and ware group

Period	Code*	Ware	No.	Wt. (g)
Iron Age	-	Shell-tempered ware	1288	14,159
	-	Poole Harbour sandy ware	330	4204
	-	Fine shell-tempered	70	370
	-	Limestone-gritted	30	223
	-	Oolitic limestone-tempered ware	25	310
	-	Calcite-gritted	20	269
	-	Sandy ware	15	134
	-	Flint-tempered ware	12	84
	-	Calcareous ware	4	60
	-	Sandstone-gritted ware	2	43
	-	Quartzite-tempered ware	2	32
IA sub-total			*1798*	*19,888*
Prehistoric unspecified	-	Shell-tempered ware	4	7
Latest Iron Age–Romano-British				
Imported wares	-	Samian	27	74
Finewares	-	Fine south-western micaceous greyware	7	63
	-	Fine sandy ware	1	2
Coarsewares	DOR BB1	SE Dorset Black Burnished ware	617	5480
	SOW BB1	Southwestern Black Burnished ware	295	2690
	-	Sandy ware	183	1196
	-	Greyware	31	354
	-	Shell-tempered ware	25	219
	-	Glauconitic sandy ware	12	71
	-	White-slipped red ware	5	70
	SAV GT	Savernake-type ware	4	186
	-	Oxidised ware	3	16
	-	South-western greyware A	1	39
	-	Grog-tempered ware	1	5
LIA–RB sub-total			*1212*	*10,465*
Post-medieval	-	Redware	5	65
	-	Stoneware	1	24
	-	Staffs-type slipware	1	5
	-	Creamware	1	5
Post-med sub-total			*8*	*99*
Total			**3022**	**30,459**

*National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998)

Iron Age

6.2.3 The majority of the pottery (59.5% by count, 65.3% by weight of the total assemblage) dates to this period. Much of the group appears to be of Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age date (891 sherds), a smaller proportion dates to the Late Iron Age (410 sherds) whilst the remainder dates more broadly to the Iron Age (497 sherds). The fabrics are dominated by shell-tempered wares containing crushed fossil shell and some limestone which amount to 75% (by count) of the Iron Age sherds (Table 4). Other calcareous wares containing limestone, oolitic limestone, calcite and unidentified calcareous inclusions are also present in smaller quantities. Sandy wares from the Wareham/Poole Harbour area comprise 18% of the Iron

Age sherds; all are of Late Iron Age date and are characteristic of the Durotrigian ceramic style which precede the Romanised South-east Dorset Black Burnished wares subsequently produced in this area. More minor fabric groups include miscellaneous sandy wares, flint-tempered wares and sherds containing sandstone or quartzite inclusions. This range of wares are entirely typical of the Iron Age ceramic assemblages from the area (Williams and Woodward 2000, 259–61; Tabor and Jones 2021, 60 and 64) with suggested sources for the shelly wares and limestone-tempered wares including the local Jurassic strata, whilst the calcite may possibly derive from the Mendips. The flint-tempered wares are likely to derive from a slightly more distant source, such as the Wessex chalklands (Williams and Woodward 2000, 259).

6.2.4 Most of the sherds appear to be from coarseware jars, along with some bowl and possible jar/bowl forms. Earlier diagnostic forms include a flared rim from a possible carinated bowl in a shell-tempered fabric from pit 5338 - such forms typically date to the Early to Middle Iron Age (Tabor and Jones 2021, 49). Five sherds with red finished exterior surfaces from Iron Age pits 5206 and 5223 and Romano-British pit 5268 are also likely to date to the Early–Middle Iron Age. The small quantities and abraded nature of these pieces suggest they are residual.

6.2.5 Rims from a minimum of 136 vessels date to the Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age. During this period, forms are dominated by barrel-shaped jars with either flattened, sometimes externally, expanded rims (e.g., pits 5151 and 5194) or simple inturned, rounded rims (e.g., pits 5194, 5264, 5303). These equate to jar forms JC1, JC2.2/3 within the South Cadbury Environs Project (abbreviated to SCEP) ceramic scheme (Tabor and Jones 2021). Small numbers of ovoid jars are also present (pits 5151 and 5225) and are equivalent to SCEP forms PA1 and 2 (*ibid.*). Other forms include a straight-sided jar (SCEP form PB1; *ibid*.) from pit 5177, a possible bowl with an everted rim (pit 5175) and four round-shouldered South Western decorated bowls (SCEP form BD6; *ibid*.) from pits 5004, 5031 and 5106 and residually within occupation layer 5351. The bowl from pit 5006 is decorated with a curvilinear motif infilled with cross-hatching whilst the vessel from pit 5031 has tooled arcs above horizontal lines. The bowl from layer 5351 has a narrow band of diagonal lines above paired curvilinear lines. South Western decorated ware ceramics appear in the later parts of the 3rd century BC and continue in use through to the middle of the 1st century BC. The vessel from pit 5106 is in a fine shell-tempered fabric and is associated with sherds in the sandier Poole Harbour fabric and is therefore likely to belong to the latter part of this date range. Shoulder fragments from a further five vessels are decorated with tooled horizontal or diagonal lines (pits 5031, 5206, 5221 and 5349) and one with stabbed impressions (pit 5118), but insufficient of the profiles are present to identify their form.

6.2.6 Late Iron Age forms are dominated by high-shouldered jars with rounded, sometimes upright, bead rims (SCEP form JC3; Tabor and Jones 2021, 60). One example, from pit 5020, is decorated on the shoulder with finger-tip impressions characteristic of Durotrigian-style ceramics seen elsewhere such as Hengistbury Head (Brown 1987, 218, fig. 137, 2012). The flattened bead rims from high-shouldered jars (SCEP form JC4.1) found within pits 5020 and 5281 are a variant of this jar type. Other vessel forms include a wide-mouthed bowl with a neck cordon (pit 5106) and sherds from a high, round-shouldered jar with an out-turned rim from pit 5041. This pit also contained an indented body sherd in a Poole Harbour sandy ware that most likely came from close to a countersunk handle, as well as fragments from a slightly footed base.

6.2.7 During the Middle Iron Age, surface treatments are limited to just a few externally burnished sherds, but this practice becomes far more common in the Late Iron Age, particularly on vessels in Poole Harbour sandy wares which are frequently burnished on their outer

surfaces. Evidence for use is present in the form of burnt residues/soot adhering to the interior and/or exterior surfaces of many sherds indicating that some vessels were used in the preparation of foodstuffs or other materials. Three vessels have post-firing perforations made into their bases, one each found in pit 5020, 5106 and 5281. The perforations measure between 13–15 mm in diameter. This practice suggests that their functions changed at some point in their use-lives

Prehistoric unspecified

6.2.8 Four abraded plain body sherds in a fabric containing sparse shell inclusions can only be dated more broadly to 'prehistoric'; all came from possible Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5040.

Latest Iron Age–Romano-British

6.2.9 Pottery dated to this period amounts to 1212 sherds (10,465 g). This includes pottery identified as either Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British as well as the more confidently dated Romano-British material. Overall, this collection spans the 1st to 4th centuries AD, although there is an emphasis on the 1st to 2nd centuries AD.

6.2.10 The imported wares comprise 27 sherds of samian including products from both Southern (13 sherds, 41 g) and Central (14 sherds, 33 g) Gaul. Several sherds from a footring base found within occupation layer 5351 derive from a Central Gaulish form 33 cup with an almost complete makers' stamp on the interior reading CATVLIF. This is likely to have been made by the potter Catulus II at some time between AD160–200 (Hartley and Dickinson 2008, 297–8). Other diagnostic pieces include fragments from a form 29 bowl (occupation layer 5351) and a body sherd from a form 27 cup (pit 5040).

6.2.11 Finewares are limited to seven sherds of fine south-western micaceous greyware and one piece of fine sandy ware (Table 4). Identifiable forms comprise a fragment from a bead rim bowl copying samian form 29 decorated with diagonal tooled lines and an everted rim jar/bowl fragment, both from occupation layer 5351.

6.2.12 The majority of the Romano-British assemblage comprises coarsewares (Table 4). Amongst these are three plain body sherds in oxidised wares that are likely to be local products and five pieces of white slipped redware. The white slipped redwares may be products of a north Wiltshire industry characterised by coarse, gritty sandy fabrics (Brook and Seager Smith 2018, 46). Their products included cupped mouth flagons (*ibid*., Type 4) similar to the flagon rim fragments from occupation layer 5351.

6.2.13 The unoxidized coarsewares are dominated by Black Burnished wares from the Wareham/Poole Harbour area of South-east Dorset which amount to 51% of the latest Iron Age–Romano-British collection. Proportionally, this fits within the expected range for the region (Allen and Fulford 1996, fig 1). The range of vessel forms includes bead rim jars (Woodward 2000, type JC3.1; Seager Smith and Davies 1993, WA 7) or jar/bowls, everted rim jars (*ibid*., WA 2 and 3), small jars (WA 10), bowls (WA 13) and dishes (WA 20, 22 and 25). There are also rim fragments from a single early Romano-British imitation Gallo-Belgic platter (pit 5220). Overall, these span the 1st–4th centuries AD, although the higher numbers of the earlier forms including the bead rim jars, jar/bowls and some everted rim jar forms (WA 1, 7 and 7/16) suggest an emphasis on the 1st–2nd centuries. This is also reflected in the presence of at least one countersunk handle and a shoulder from a carinated bowl similar to Cadbury Castle form BD7 (Woodward 2000, 40, fig. 21, 8) dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period.

6.2.14 A more limited range of forms are present amongst the Southwestern Black Burnished wares, including bead rim jar/bowls, everted rim jars (WA 1), one small jar (WA 10), rim fragments from at least two possible flagons/narrow necked jars and body sherds from at least two carinated bowls with rib and dot decoration (WA 33). One Southwestern Black Burnished ware sherd (ON 91, occupation layer 5351) has been shaped into a sub-circular disc measuring 34 mm in diameter. This could represent an unfinished spindle whorl or gaming counter, although a more recent suggestion is that they may have been an early form of toilet paper (Charlier *et al*. 2012; Papadopoulos 2002).

6.2.15 One other sherd with a Southwestern origin is an everted rim fragment from a storage jar in the Southwestern greyware A fabric characterised by soft, flaky, sparkly inclusions (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 174, fabric 107) with suggested production centres in the Norton Fitzwarren area (Timby 1989, 54; Bidwell 2021, 321). The inner edge of the rim is decorated with short, tooled lines; such decoration is typical for the fabric and form (*ibid.)*.

6.2.16 A small quantity of sandy wares are present, some of which have a noticeable glauconitic component (Table 4). Diagnostic pieces include rim fragments from round-shouldered jars/bowls (e.g., pit 5169, occupation layer 5351), one bead rim jar/bowl (pit 5326), one necked jar/bowl (pit 5220) and a dish (occupation layer 5351) which are a similar range of forms as those seen amongst the Black Burnished ware component outlined above. At least 74 sherds from a single Early Roman imitation butt-beaker in a fairly fine but gritty sandy fabric were found in pit 5220. The vessel has a sharply everted rim, straight neck decorated with cordons and the body is decorated with crude imitation rouletting, formed by multiple shallow short, tooled impressions. Butt-beakers are not as commonly found in the south-west as they are in the south-east of Britain, with small numbers known from Exeter in Southwestern Black Burnished ware and Exeter sandy grey ware fabrics (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 116 and 155) and a small group in oxidised wares from Somerton, Somerset (K. Trott pers comm) for example.

6.2.17 Romanized greywares consist of sherds in coarse sandy fabrics which are likely to include wares from multiple production centres across the region. Identifiable forms comprise a round-bodied bowl (pit 5268), a bead rim beaker (pit 5220) and a nicely finished bead rim jar/bowl with a central band of diagonal burnished line decoration (pit 5040). The proportionally low quantities of greywares is likely to reflect the chronological emphasis (1st–2nd, possibly into the early 3rd centuries AD) of the wider assemblage as the utilitarian coarseware market was sufficiently provided for by the South-east Dorset and Southwestern Black Burnished ware products that were abundantly available.

6.2.18 The remaining unoxidized coarsewares comprise shell- and grog-tempered wares. Four sherds are of Savernake-type ware and include a pulled bead rim fragment (pit 5220). The shell-tempered wares are harder fired than the preceding Middle/Late Iron Age fabrics. Diagnostic pieces include a round-shouldered jar/bowl with burnished exterior and tooled/burnished diagonal lines on the shoulder which is likely to be of Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British date.

Post-medieval/modern

6.2.19 A small amount of pottery dating to the post-medieval/modern periods was found (Table 4). They include single body sherds of Staffordshire-type slipware (late 17th/18th century), creamware (late 18th/19th century) and stoneware all found within quarry pit 5013. The remaining pieces comprise internally glazed redware body sherds which were found within quarry pit 5013 and intrusively within Late Iron Age/Romano-British ditch 5350, Romano-British pit 5347 and occupation layer 5351.

6.3 Worked flint

6.3.1 A total of 22 pieces of worked flint was collected from 15 Iron Age pits. The collection, which comprises flakes, broken flakes, blades and bladelets, also includes four scrapers, two retouched flakes, one of which may be a broken leaf arrowhead, and a small burnt flake core. Most of the material is unpatinated, although isolated patinated pieces are included. Artefact condition is similarly variable and includes material in sharp condition with other pieces that exhibit post-depositional edge damage. Irrespective of these observations it is clear that the entire collection predates the features in which they were found. Technological attributes include platform abrasion and clear use of intentional blade technology. The retouched tool component, most notably the probable leaf arrowhead, can also be assigned to an early prehistoric period. It is safe to assume that this small collection forms part of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic material spread that has been documented from the lower slopes. The extension of this activity onto the limestone is not surprising and may owe its survival on the otherwise shallow, easily eroded soils to fortuitous inclusion in features of later periods.

6.4 Fired clay

6.4.1 The fired clay (Table 3) was recovered from 69 contexts within 50 features/feature groups but only six contain more than 100 g. The majority (97% by weight) was found in pits of Iron Age or Romano-British date, whilst smaller quantities came from ditches, occupation layers, tree-throw holes and the backfills of three graves. Most are small, abraded, featureless fragments made in predominantly oxidised, slightly sandy (occasionally micaceous) fabrics containing sparse iron oxides and varying quantities of calcareous components including pieces of fossil shell, limestone and mudstone. The dating of all pieces relies on associated material.

6.4.2 Some fragments have flattish surfaces which suggests that they derive from the linings of ovens, kilns or hearths. Definite evidence for structural fired clay includes pieces with concave/rod impressions from pits of Middle Iron Age (5151) and Romano-British (5093, 5169) date. Five joining pieces from Romano-British pit 5220 have roughly flattened surfaces and two curved edges that form parts of one large and one smaller perforation (both are unmeasurable). These are similar to Type 2 perforated oven plates identified at Danebury (Poole 1984, 118).

6.4.3 The only other identifiable object is part of a spindle whorl (ON 95) found in Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5175. It is sub-cylindrical and has a central perforation measuring approximately 7 mm in diameter.

6.5 Stone

6.5.1 Only items considered to be from portable stone objects were collected (Table 3). These comprise fragments from three possible whetstones, three shaped fragments of uncertain function and two pebbles.

6.5.2 The possible whetstones are all utilised natural sandstone pebbles - two are of probable Old Red Sandstone (one each from Middle Iron Age pit 5022 and Romano-British pit 5220 (ON 78)) and a third is of fine-grained sandstone (Middle Iron Age pit 5022). The fine-grained sandstone item is a complete, almost bar-shaped, elongated pebble with oval cross section, whilst the other two are broken at both ends. All have highly polished surfaces, and that from pit 5220 has a transverse groove along one edge. Similar items are described amongst the stone items from Cadbury Castle (Bellamy 2000, 231–3).

6.5.3 Three flat pieces of fine-grained limestone show evidence of having been worked, although their functions are uncertain. One is an almost hexagonally shaped fragment (ON 46) from Iron Age pit 5037. It has a sub-rectangular cross section and a central perforation (probably naturally formed) measuring 5 mm in diameter. A second flat fragment has one curved, deliberately shaped edge (Iron Age layer/colluvium 5227) and the third is a roughly shaped, sub-circular piece (ON 90) measuring 28 mm by 25 mm found in Romano-British occupation layer 5351. The latter is similar to ceramic discs that may have been utilised as counters (see pottery above).

6.5.4 Two pebbles, one of flint from Middle Iron Age pit 5102 and one of fine-grained limestone from Romano-British pit 5347, show no obvious signs of working but may have been deliberately collected and retained in antiquity.

6.6 Metalwork

Copper alloy coin

6.6.1 A single coin (ON 41) was recovered from Middle Iron Age pit 5029. The coin is a Romano-British *as* or *dupondius* which dates from the mid-1st to mid-3rd centuries AD. The surfaces are covered in soil and corrosion products which currently renders further identification difficult.

Other copper alloy

6.6.2 Two copper alloy brooches were found. One is a T-shaped brooch (ON 77) from the upper fill of Roman-British pit 5220. The brooch is decorated with a panel of enamel-filled lozenges with additional grooves on the crossbar and foot. This type of brooch has a distribution focussed on the south-west of Britain and dates to between AD 60–150. The second is a flat, tapering bow fragment (ON 87) from a strip bow type found in Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5326. The bow is decorated with a central longitudinal groove and narrow parallel grooves either side.

6.6.3 The other copper alloy comprises a tapering shank fragment (ON 97; Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5175), a thin sheet fragment (ON 80; Romano-British pit 5220) and a sub-circular melted waste fragment (ON 48) from possible Romano-British occupation layer 5351.

Iron

6.6.4 The iron (Table 3) came from nine contexts within eight features. Half of these (16 pieces; 174 g) comprise flat, round-headed coffin nails (Manning 1985, Type 1) or nail shank fragments from probable Romano-British grave 5091. A further 11 nails/nail shank fragments were also found within topsoil layer 5001, possible Romano-British occupation layer 5351 and post-medieval quarry pits 5011 and 5013. Two dome-headed hobnails/tacks were found, one each in topsoil layer 5001 and post-medieval quarry pit 5011.

6.6.5 Six joining fragments from a brooch (ON 98) were found in Late Iron Age pit 5106. Parts of the flat tapering bow, spring and circular sectioned pin are present; the x-ray also shows the presence of a possible axis bar. The shape and method of manufacture are similar to La Tene III/Nauheim-derived type brooches, with examples of similar form in copper alloy present amongst the finds from Meare Village East dating to the 1st century BC (Coles 1987, 75).

6.6.6 The remaining pieces of iron comprise a flattish fragment with one curved edge from possible Iron Age pit 5285, a rectangular sectioned bar/rod fragment that tapers towards

one end from Iron Age pit 5297 and a fragment from a bladed object from possible Romano-British occupation layer 5351.

6.7 Worked bone and antler

6.7.1 Twenty-nine pieces (342 g) of worked bone or antler from 27 objects were recovered.

6.7.2 Three combs made from red deer antler were found within Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5098 (ON 70), Iron Age pit 5255 (ON 84) and residually within Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5163 (ON 94). The comb from pit 5255 is almost complete, it has a pointed butt and handle which flares towards the teeth and is decorated with paired transverse tooled lines at both ends. The examples from pits 5098 and 5163 are less complete but both have squared butt ends with paired transverse tooled line decoration. In addition, the comb from pit 5098 has a triple ring and dot motif on the shaft; this comb and that from pit 5255 have highly polished surfaces probably resulting from use. Traditionally these combs have been associated with textile working, although it is unclear precisely how they were used. Elsewhere in Somerset, large groups of these items have been found at the Meare and Glastonbury lake villages (Coles 1987) and their presence may reflect the importance of sheep, and the availability of wool, in local farming regimes during the Iron Age.

6.7.3 There is a total of 10 worked bone points/gouges made from sheep/goat tibia. All but two have had their distal ends cut obliquely to create a point. The other two examples have oblique cuts to their proximal ends with holes measuring between 3–4 mm in diameter drilled through their distal ends (Middle Iron Age pits 5022, ON 44 and 5139, ON 75); the example from pit 5022 is complete. Three worked bone points, one from Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5278 (ON 96) and two from Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5204 (ONs 82 and 86) have raised flanges at either side and would fit within Sellwoods' Danebury Class 1 (1984, 385). The remaining five examples are represented by just shaft fragments from Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5278 (two items) or tip fragments from Iron Age pit 5004 (ON 92), Late Iron Age pit 5041 (ON 50) and Romano-British pit 5220 (ON 79). All these items have highly polished surfaces. Various interpretations for the use of these points include pins, skewers, weaving shuttles or pin beaters connected to textile manufacture. It is also possible, however, that they may have been used in other tasks such as basketry.

6.7.4 Fragments from two bone needles were also found, both within Iron Age pits (5027, ON 43; 5102, ON 54). Both have oval sectioned tapering shafts.

6.7.5 Further items include a bead or 'tube' made from a sheep/goat metatarsal (ON 42), similar to those found at Meare Village East (Coles 1987, 56, fig. 3.5, B66) and Maiden Castle (Laws 1991, 238, fig. 189, 6), and a cattle-sized rib fragment with one end shaped into a rounded point, both found in Middle Iron Age pit 5027. Other miscellaneous objects include a fragment of possible deer antler with a sub-rectangular cross section, one shaped edge and two perforations drilled through it (Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5158; ON 93), and other perforated sheep/goat long bones (Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5158, ON 76; Iron Age pit 5115).

6.7.6 Polished bone fragments with no other signs of working also came from Middle Iron Age pit 5102 (ONs 72 and 74), Middle Iron Age pit 5027 (ON 47), Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5264, Romano-British pit 5220 (ON 83) and possible Romano-British occupation layer 5351. One splinter fragment from a cattle-sized scapula could possibly be from butchery rather than truly worked (Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5131).

6.7.7 This range of object types is typical of those found on sites of Iron Age and Romano-British date within southern Britain and highlights the domestic nature of many of the activities, including crafts such as weaving and sewing. Numerous parallels can be found amongst

the worked bone/antler assemblages from Meare Village East (Coles 1987, 51–61 105–17 and 137–8), Cadbury Castle (Britnell 2000, 181–7), Maiden Castle (Laws 1991, 234–8) and Danebury (Sellwood 1984, 371–95) for example.

6.8 Shell

6.8.1 A fragment from a scallop shell was found in possible Romano-British pit 5054. A hole measuring 6 mm in diameter has been drilled through the shell towards its apex - the edges of the hole are smoothed in places, suggesting that it may have been hung. Scallop shells, like other marine shells, are attractive in appearance and are commonly collected. Their modification and use as items of jewellery is known throughout the world from prehistoric times onwards. It is possible that the shell from pit 5024 may have been used as an ornament such as a necklace.

6.9 Human bone

6.9.1 Human remains were recovered from 10 contexts including the remains of six inhumation burials. Most of the burials had been made within what were probably pre-existing pits or in graves cut through the fills of pits, all of which lay within a 28 x 10 m 'strip' in the central area of the site (Fig. 3). Redeposited bone was recovered from five contexts including amongst the remains of one of the *in situ* burials, and skeletal elements deriving from two of the other *in situ* burials were recovered elsewhere within the related grave fills having been redeposited due to animal disturbance (Appendix 2). Single skeletal elements were recovered from the fills of two pits devoid of *in situ* remains, one within the same area as the pit burials and the other some 40 m to the west (Romano-British pit 5220).

6.9.2 With the exception of the one coffined burial, made in grave 5091 at the northern end of the central group, which is probably of Romano-British date, no datable artefactual materials were directly associated with any of the burial remains. Mid–Late Iron Age, Late Iron Age–Romano-British, and more general Iron Age or Romano-British dates have been attributed to the various funerary and mortuary-related deposits on the basis of the often substantial quantities of pottery recovered from the underlying/overlying deposits within the various pits and/or the grave fills (see pottery above).

Methods

6.9.3 The human remains were subject to a rapid scan to assess the condition of the bone, demographic data, potential for indices recovery and the presence of pathological lesions. Assessments were based on standard ageing and sexing methods (Bass 1987; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). Grading for preservation of the bone accords with McKinley (2004, fig 6). These data were considered in consultation with the site context data to assess potential taphonomic effects on the remains. A summary of the results is presented in Appendix 2.

Results

6.9.4 The grave depths or below ground level (bgl) of the *in situ* deposits (where no grave cut was apparent; see site discussion above) was generally relatively shallow at 0.08–0.27 m. The commonly observed burial position – flexed or (for the neonates/infants) crouched on one side – had inevitably rendered one side of the skeletal remains (the uppermost) exposed to preferential disturbance due to horizontal truncation. The latter is most evident in the case of grave 5086 where most of the left side of the skeleton and the skull have been lost due to this mechanism, hence the very low percentage of skeletal recovery (Appendix 2). The shallow surviving depth of material overlying some of the adult skeletal remains had also resulted in extensive fragmentation of the surviving bone, some of the damage being of long standing but much of it apparently sustained during machine stripping of the site.

The highest level of skeletal recovery (88%) was seen in the coffined burial remains (pit/grave 5091) which, at 0.27 m bgl, were not subject to horizontal truncation nor the level of bioturbation (?animal activity) seen in grave 5123 where few of the skeletal elements appear to have remained undisturbed.

6.9.5 The absence of most of the skull, half the cervical and four of the thoracic vertebrae from grave 5204 cannot be attributed to bioturbation or modern disturbance, the burial remains lying 0.30 m bgl sealed by two later deposits. Here, the absence of these skeletal elements suggest disturbance in antiquity after skeletalisation of the body; whether this comprised an accidental or deliberate removal remains open to question.

6.9.6 Most of the bone is in good condition (Grades 1–2: Appendix 2), but that from the two shallowest adult graves – 5079 and 5086, located 0.36 m apart – shows moderate root erosion (Grades 2–3).

6.9.7 A minimum of seven individuals are represented within the assemblage; four immature individuals and three adults (Appendix 2). The former were all less than one year of age at death, all except one being less than three months. The remains of two of the neonates and the young infant were each recovered from discrete graves. The recovery of disarticulated and redeposited skeletal elements from a third neonate within one specific area – with the displaced foot bones – of one of the adult graves (5079), could reflect one of several taphonomic processes. The later burial could have disturbed the remains of an earlier interment within the pit fill, with a few skeletal elements from the latter collected and 're-buried' at the foot-end of the later grave; alternatively, the baby could have been buried with the elderly man and the remains of both subject to later disturbance.

6.9.8 A single neonatal skeletal element was recovered from pit 5220 situated some 62 m north-west of grave 5079. This element was not present amongst the redeposited neonatal remains from the grave and, consequently, it is possible that the bones from both locations could have derived from the same individual. The distance between the features and the relatively good condition of the bone – not suggestive of repeat episodes of disturbance – renders the latter observation unlikely however, and it is probable that the scapula derived from a fourth neonate, increasing the MNI to eight (NB: only a quarter of the large pit 5220 was subject to excavation and further elements of redeposited bone could remain within the uninvestigated pit fills).

6.9.9 The adult remains comprised those of two females and one male, with a broad age range (young to elderly). The axis vertebra (2nd cervical) – together with numerous other skeletal elements (see above and Appendix 2) – was missing from the grave of the young adult female (5086). An adult axis vertebra was found in the lower fill of pit 5131, situated some 2–3 m to the south of grave 5086, which could have derived from the same individual. Were this to have been the case it would indicate that the disturbance to the young woman's remains had occurred in antiquity before pit 5131 was backfilled (or, potentially, dug).

6.9.10 Pathological lesions were observed in the remains of at least three individuals. The elderly male had suffered various dental conditions which are generally considered to increase in extent and severity with age including: moderate dental calculus (calcified plaque) and periodontal disease, occasional dental caries and an apical cyst (probably an abscess linked to caries infection).

6.9.11 Metabolic disease is indicated by new bone formation in the orbital vaults of the young infant from grave 5091 – likely a vitamin deficiency directly affecting the baby and/or possibly the breastfeeding mother. The healed new bone on the radius shaft could relate to the same or

similar condition, but the limited involvement of this one bone could suggest a discrete soft tissue infection affecting the bone.

6.9.12 Evidence for trauma is suggested in the remains of the two adult females. The young woman from grave 5086 seems to have severed the tip of one finger, but the damage was limited in extent and had healed. More extensive are the lesion in the more mature woman who had healed fractures to several left ribs and the left forearm. The location of the latter lesions suggest a possible 'parry' fracture which could indicate she was subject to a violent attack from an assailant with the injuries all being sustained at the same time. One of the rib fractures had not united and shows signs of a secondary infection (active at the time of death) possibly due to the broken ends of the bone puncturing the overlying soft tissues. Spondylolysis, as seen in this woman's 5th lumbar vertebra, involves the loss of bony continuity between the superior and inferior vertebral articular processes. Its cause is not fully understood but it is believed there is an underlying congenital weakness which is likely to represent a stress fracture, arguably in the immature individual (Adams 1986, 224). The condition is often symptomless but may cause deep lumbar back pain.

6.9.13 Other lesions are indicative of degenerative joint changes affecting both the elderly male and, somewhat unusually, the younger-mature adult female. The latter had gross changes in both knee joints revealing what must have been very debilitating and painful osteoarthritis. She also had slight-mild degenerative changes (marginal osteophytes) in several joints of her hands and parts of the lower spine. More extensive lesions were seen on the margins of many of the extra-spinal joints and spinal body surface margins in the elderly male. This large and very robust individual also had extensive enthesophytes and some exostoses (i.e., new bone formation) at/around tendon/muscle insertions in the upper and lower limbs which, although generally indicative of repetitive soft tissue trauma in the form of strains and tears – signalling strenuous physical exertion – might also be related to a further condition, evidence for the onset of which was observed in the individual's spine. Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis (DISH) involves ossification of the anterior longitudinal ligament in the spine, eventually leading to ankylosis, and is often accompanied by a general tendency to hyperostosis (i.e., new bone formation) elsewhere in the skeleton. Symptoms of the disease are generally minimal other than understandable stiffness and some aches/pains. It is predominantly seen in older males and, although the aetiology is unknown, there are indications of a link with diabetes and obesity (Aufderheide and Rodríguez-Martín 1998, 97–9; Rogers and Waldron 1995, 47–54).

6.9.14 Potential infection in the mature adult female's left knee joint is suggested by lesions (sinus with associated new bone) in the intercondylar eminence of the tibia; an x-radiograph will be required to further investigate this possibility.

6.10 Animal bone

6.10.1 A total of 4382 fragments (20.753 kg) of animal bone was recovered. Most of the bones were recovered by hand during the normal course of excavation, with a negligible amount retrieved from sample residues. Once refits are accounted for the total falls to 3010 fragments (Table 5). The assemblage was assessed following current guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019).

Results

6.10.2 The animal bones are in generally good condition and have intact cortical surfaces, although some poorly preserved fragments were also recorded from a few Iron Age pits and post-medieval quarry pit 5011. The poorly preserved elements in these deposits containing bones in different states of preservation can be considered to be residual (i.e.,

reworked/redeposited). The bones are highly fragmented, with both old and new breaks recorded, although the former generally correspond to butchery marks, and provide a general indication that bones were extensively exploited including for marrow.

6.10.3 Gnaw marks are present on approximately 4% of post-cranial bones, the majority from Iron Age features. The evidence suggests scavenging carnivores had access to surface accumulations of midden material prior to its disposal in pits. Fragments of burnt bone were recovered from several of the Iron Age pits. Charring generally occurs when meat is cooked on-the-bone over an open fire, while calcined bone results from more intense, direct heat and may result from incidental/deliberate attempts to incinerate waste. The small quantities from individual pits probably derive from dumps of hearth debris mixed with general waste.

Table 5 Animal bone: number of identified specimens present (or NISP) by phase

Species	Iron Age	Romano-British	Post-medieval	Total
Cattle	152	18	1	171
Sheep/goat	554	85	2	641
Pig	44	1	-	45
Horse	55	3	-	58
Dog	19	1	-	20
Red deer	1	-	-	1
Fox	1	2	-	3
Domestic fowl	-	2	-	2
Duck (c.f. teal)	1	-	-	1
Crow/rook	4	-		4
Passerine	2	-	-	2
Vole	6	-	-	6
Frog/toad	5	1	-	6
Total identified	**844**	**113**	**3**	**944**
Total unidentifiable	**1786**	**312**	**-**	**2066**
Overall total	**2630**	**425**	**3**	**3010**

Iron Age

6.10.4 Most of the animal bones came from 73 pits of Iron Age date, with particular emphasis on the Middle to Late Iron Age part of this period. The largest concentrations came from pits 5204, 5278 and 5326, with some bones also recovered from ditch 5350, inhumation graves 5079, 5086 and 5123, layers 509 and 5227, and tree-throw hole 5161. Most deposits comprise a range of bones from different stages in the carcass reduction sequence, from primary butchery through to meat consumption. The bones recovered from grave backfills are in a fragmentary state and mostly from sheep/goat. These are all considered to be incidental inclusions rather than grave goods.

6.10.5 The Iron Age assemblage is dominated by bones from sheep/goat, which account for approximately 66% of identified fragments. The bones are from small, gracile, horned breed(s), typical of this period. All parts of the mutton carcass are represented, and this indicates that sheep/goat were slaughtered and butchered nearby, and the meat consumed locally as part of a self-sufficient economy. The bones are from sheep/goats of all ages, from neonatal lambs through to older adult animals. The age structure of the flock, which includes mostly sub-adult and adult animals, is consistent with a husbandry strategy focused on wool production, with meat a secondary consideration. The recovery of significant numbers of worked bone tools used in textile production from several of the pits, many made from modified sheep/goat long bones (see section 6.7), adds weight to this

initial interpretation. However, it is also noteworthy that the proportion of older lambs, aged approximately 6–12 months, is relatively high and this could indicate a seasonal (autumn) kill-off pattern. High mortality rates amongst lambs in this age class have been linked to strategies influenced by the supply of winter fodder and the need to mitigate losses over the winter months, but also a connection to arable cultivation (see for example Hambleton 1999).

6.10.6 Cattle bones account for a further 18% of identified fragments. The range of skeletal elements is also consistent with a closed system of supply and demand, with animals slaughtered and butchered for local consumption. Butchery marks on cattle bones include evidence for skinning, secondary reduction and more extensive utilisation, potentially for marrow. Of note is a cattle scapula from Middle Iron Age pit 5082, which has hook-hole damage to the blade consistent with the shoulder joint having been hung for storage, potentially to cure the meat. Similar evidence is often recorded on scapula from Romano-British contexts (see for example Dobney *et al*. 1995, 26; Dobney 2001, 40–1). Most of the bones are from adult cattle, but some juvenile and calf bones were also noted. The mortality profile suggests that dairying played some part in the husbandry strategy, although cattle were probably managed for a range of commodities and also valued as traction animals.

6.10.7 Pig bones are a comparatively rare component of the assemblage and are outnumbered by horse bones. The range of elements, which includes bones from most areas of the carcass, is sufficient to suggest that whole animals are represented. Many of the pig bones are from juvenile animals, and canine teeth from both males and females were recovered. Butchery evidence for filleting pork off-the-bone were noted on a few bones, and cut marks on the occipital condyles of a pig skull from Late Iron Age pit 5041 are consistent with decapitation.

6.10.8 As previously indicated, horse bones are comparatively common in relation to pig bones and were recovered from several pits. They generally occur as single elements, with loose teeth being particularly common, but also as articulated groups, for example a femur, tibia and astragalus from the hindlimb of a pony-sized animal from Late Iron Age/Romano-British pit 5228. Butchery marks were recorded on a few of the horse bones, including filleting marks along the thoracic margin of a scapula and tibia shaft. The evidence is similar to the butchery noted on cattle bones and indicates that horse carcasses were exploited for meat. While most of the horse bones are from adult animals, the butchered tibia mentioned above is that of a juvenile.

6.10.9 Rarer components of the assemblage include dog, red deer, fox, birds, rodents and amphibians (see Table 5). Dog is represented by disarticulated remains from several pits and a skull fragment from ditch 5350. Participation in hunting is indicated by the recovery of a piece of red deer tibia with clear butchery marks from Middle/Late Iron Age pit 5278.

Romano-British

6.10.10 A small quantity of animal bones came from Romano-British contexts, mostly pit fills, but also from the backfill of inhumation grave 5091, and layers 5024 and 5057 which overlay some of the earlier pits. Particularly large concentrations of animal bones were recovered from pits 5237 and 5220. It may be significant that one of these features, pit 5220, also contained fragments of disarticulated human bone.

6.10.11 Most of the identified bones are from sheep/goat and all parts of the carcass are represented. The bones are mostly from adults, including one mandible from a mature individual with irregularly worn teeth from malocclusion with the upper jaw. A single lamb bone was also recovered. The majority of the other identified bones are from cattle, many of which show signs of butchery, including evidence for extensive processing for marrow.

One or two bones from pig, horse, dog, fox and domestic fowl were also identified, together with a single frog (or toad) bone.

Post-medieval

6.10.12 A cattle tooth and two sheep/goat bones, fragments of scapula and humerus, were recovered from post-medieval quarry pit 5011. The post-cranial bones are in poor condition and likely to be residual.

6.11 Other finds

6.11.1 The burnt, unworked flint (Table 3) came from pits 5020 (12 pieces, 16 g) and 5102 (1 piece, 12 g). This material type is intrinsically undatable but is frequently associated with prehistoric activity – in this case of probable Middle and Late Iron Age date. Twenty pieces of vesicular fuel ash slag (72 g) were found in Iron Age pits 5020, 5151, 5206 and 5210 and Late Iron Age/Romano-British pits 5163 and 5204 but need not be indicative of any metallurgical process (Bayley 1985).

6.11.2 Other finds comprise an undatable featureless fragment of ceramic building material from possible Romano-British occupation layer 5351, and one fragment of post-medieval bottle glass from quarry pit 5011.

6.12 Conservation

6.12.1 No immediate conservation requirements were noted in the field. Finds which have been identified as of unstable condition and therefore potentially in need of further conservation treatment, comprise the copper alloy and iron objects. As a potentially unstable material type, these items are stored with supportive packaging and a desiccant (silica gel) to ensure a dry environment below 35% humidity. The condition of these items is frequently monitored.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Six bulk sediment samples were taken from pits of Iron Age to Romano-British date and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence. Charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed (Appendix 3).

7.2 Aims

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site (charcoal, charred plant remains, terrestrial molluscs) and their potential to address the project aims. Appropriate recommendations for further work are provided. This assessment follows recommendations from Historic England (English Heritage 2011).

7.3 Methods

7.3.1 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 40 and 0.3 litres, with an average volume of approximately 23 litres. The inhumation samples were on average 2.4 litres. The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank; the flot retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 4 mm and 1 mm fractions. The inhumation samples were processed by wet-sieving on a 9.5 mm and 1mm size mesh. The coarse fractions of the residues (>9.5/4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains and discarded. The environmental material extracted from the

residues was added to the flots. The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned and sorted using a Leica MS5 stereomicroscope at magnifications of up to x40.

7.3.2 Different potential indicators of bioturbation were considered, including the percentage of roots, the abundance of modern seeds alongside the presence of animal remains, such as burrowing blind snails (*Cecilioides acicula*), or earthworm eggs and modern insects. The preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains, as well as the presence of other environmental remains such as terrestrial molluscs, and small animal bone was recorded.

7.3.3 Plant remains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (e.g., Cappers *et al*. 2006). The volume of charcoal (≥2 mm) from the flots and fine residue fractions was recorded, and preliminary classifications were undertaken through examination of the transverse section: oak, non-oak/diffuse porous and coniferous. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al*. (2012) for cereals and other cultivated crops (using traditional names).

7.3.4 Remains were recorded semi-quantitively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Common'), A** = 100–500 ('Abundant'), A*** = >500 ('Very abundant'/Exceptional').

7.4 Results

7.4.1 The results are presented in Appendix 3. The flots vary in volume. Potential indicators of bioturbation are abundant (e.g., modern roots, modern cereal chaff, modern seeds, burrowing blind snails, fungal sclerotia, modern insects, earthworm eggs).

7.4.2 Environmental evidence comprises plant remains preserved by charring, wood charcoal, and a small quantity of terrestrial molluscs. The charred plant remains and wood charcoal were generally well preserved. Highly fragmented coal was present in some of the samples.

7.4.3 The samples from pits 5027, 5106, 5125, 5204 and 5221 are all very similar in composition. Charred cereal remains (both grains and chaff) recovered include cereals such as spelt/emmer wheat (*Triticum spelta*/*dicoccum*), spelt wheat (*T. spelta*), indeterminate wheat (*Triticum* sp.), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and indeterminate cereals (*Triticeae*). Coleoptiles (detached cereal sprouts) and detached embryos of indeterminate cereals were also noted in the sample from pit 5027, alongside some evidence for the spelt/emmer wheat having germinated (e.g., wrinkled grains, missing embryo ends). Other potential economic crops recovered include a small-seeded variety of broad beans (*Vicia faba*) and large-seeded legumes noted to resemble broad beans/garden peas (*Vicia faba*/*Pisum sativum*).

7.4.4 An array of wild taxa was present including grasses (Poaceae) such as bromes (*Bromus* spp.), ryegrass/fescues (*Lolium/Festuca* sp.) and meadow grasses/cat's tails (*Poa/Phleum* sp.). These grasses were identified alongside a range of taxa which generally prefer disturbed environments (e.g., arable field margins, waste ground). These species include vetches/tares (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), cleavers (*Galium* sp.), species of the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae), docks (*Rumex* sp.), persicaria (*Persicaria* sp.), trefoils/medicks/clovers (Trifoilieae), narrow fruited corn salad (*Valerianella dentata*), red bartsia/eyebrights (*Odontites vernus/Euphrasia* sp.), buttercups (*Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus*), field madder (*Sherardia arvensis*), stinging nettles (*Urtica dioica*), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), and species of the pink family (Caryophyllaceae) including catchflies (*Silene* sp.). Also identified were false oatgrass (*Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp. *bulbosum*) tubers and monocotyledon stems.

7.4.5 Woodland/scrubland is also indicated by the present of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) fruit stones.

7.4.6 The charcoal recovered was predominantly limited to the samples from pits 5027 and 5106. The charcoal noted in these pits was identified as comprising predominantly oak (*Quercus* sp.) with a small quantity of non-oak species, including cherries (*Prunus* sp.).

7.4.7 The sample from pit 5004 was sterile in charred plant remains but contained a small volume of highly fragmented though well-preserved wood charcoal. The sample from the vessel (ON 81) in pit 5347 was also sterile in charred plant remains, and only contained very rare <2 mm fragments of charcoal.

7.5 Discussion

7.5.1 A potentially significant series of cereal-rich pit fills have been identified through environmental sampling across SMR05.

7.5.2 Pits 5027, 5106, 5125, 5204 and 5221 are very consistent in the array of plant taxa, comprising glume wheat grains and chaff together with barley and wild taxa. Some wild taxa such as brome grass, black bindweed and narrow-fruited corn salad, amongst others, are likely to be arable weeds. The cereal remains suggest that some of the samples contain some crop-processing debris, and germinated cereals have been indicated in the sample from pit 5027. Hulled barley and glume wheat species such as spelt were the main crops cultivated in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods (Campbell and Straker 2003; Lodwick 2017).

7.5.3 This assemblage is strongly indicative of a broad late prehistoric to Romano-British date and consistent with the range of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery identified across the site. However, further refinement of the phasing of these features based on the sample compositions themselves is not possible in the absence of direct radiocarbon dates.

7.5.4 Small quantities of fragmented coal, present in some samples, may have become reworked into some features across the site due to bioturbation. Coal became widely used as a fuel source in the later medieval/post-medieval periods, although there is some evidence for its use in the Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Claughton *et al*. 2016).

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 Stratigraphic potential

8.1.1 The excavation at SMR05 has produced evidence for activity dating from the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to post-medieval periods, with a focus during the Iron Age and Romano-British phases. The excavation has been successful in its broad aims in that the archaeological resource has been investigated and recorded. Evidence of earlier prehistoric activity was limited to finds of residual worked flint and represents at least a presence during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic. During the Iron Age a series of pits were dug across the area and form a likely continuation of that located to the north of the A303. The activity continued into the Romano-British period but was more limited, possibly indicating occupation was focussed on the known Romano-British settlement to the north. During the post-medieval period the eastern part of the area was utilised for quarrying.

8.1.2 Earlier prehistoric activity at SMR05 is represented by a small assemblage of residual worked flint found within later features. The material forms part a wider spread of worked flint and chert recovered from excavations associated with the road scheme and adds

further detail to the earlier prehistoric presence in the landscape. The flints from SMR05 probably date to the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic and include a probable leaf arrowhead from post-medieval quarry 5013; material of similar date was recovered during excavations at SMR06 and SMR08, some 650 m and 1.3 km to the east respectively (Wessex Archaeology 2022b and c).

8.1.3 The main period of occupation at SMR05 occurred during the Iron Age and continued into the Later Iron Age or Romano-British periods, the area the focus of repeated pit digging. Across the area some 95 pits were cut into the limestone bedrock from the 8th–1st centuries BC and in the 1st century AD. The peak of this activity seems to have occurred within the Middle to Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age or Romano-British periods. The pits appear to form a broad north-west to south-east band, which may form a continuation of similar activity identified by geophysical survey to the north of the A303 (Wessex Archaeology 2019). Within this broad band, pits were found to be dug in large intercutting groups, intercutting pairs or clusters, a possible rectangular shaped setting, and as discrete examples. Variation in their size and form was evident, the pits ranging from 0.4 m diameter up to 3.3 m by 2.5 m across, with depths of 0.07–1.63 m, although a number continued beyond 1.2 m deep and could not be bottomed.

8.1.4 The pits may originally have been used as storage pits, their excavation would have provided a ready source of limestone; as such the pits may have had multiple uses – functioning as quarries, storage pits or perhaps both. Little evidence of their original use as storage pits was recovered during the excavations, although samples from the basal fill of pit 5125 contained charred plant remains and could indicate the storage of cereals. Storage may have been the primary use of the deeper cylindrical pits, while the more irregular, shallow features may suggest quarrying or other uses. The pits had been purposely backfilled with rapidly deposited material and contained between one and eight deposits. Limestone rubble was common throughout the fills, possibly suggesting upcast material was included within the backfills of earlier pits.

8.1.5 The finds assemblage from the Iron Age and Romano-British pits amount to approximately 52 kg, with pottery (27.5 kg) and animal bone (19.5 kg) the dominant material types. The pottery dates to the Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age, Late Iron Age to Romano-British and Romano-British periods. Environmental samples from the backfills of pits (e.g., 5027 and 5106) produced charred plant remains, which contained cereals, likely arable weeds and wood charcoal. The deposits of finds and environmental remains have the potential to add to our understanding of the economy, agriculture, trade and depositional practices in this part of Somerset in the late centuries BC and early centuries AD. Additional work on the stratigraphic and finds sequences may allow for a more nuanced appreciation of the development and phasing of the pit digging and associated activities. Radiocarbon dating deposits of animal bone, human bone or charred plant material may also aid this process and provide further detail on the chronological setting of the remains.

8.1.6 Human bone was recovered both as disarticulated elements and from inhumation burials in graves within or cut into the upper layers of pits. Human bone and burials were found in both Iron Age and probable Romano-British features, although precise dating of the deposits is lacking. Burials were made towards the top of Iron Age pits and, based on their stratigraphic position, are assumed to probably date to the later part of the period, while the coffined inhumation burial is suggestive of a later Romano-British date. Radiocarbon dating a selection of the remains would aid the interpretation of these deposits and provide a chronological setting for the deposits, helping to illustrate shifting perceptions on the role of the dead during the late centuries BC and early centuries AD.

8.1.7 Further work on the stratigraphic sequence will aim to set the remains in their local context, with a particular focus on the scheduled Romano-British settlement remains, located 50 m to the north across the current route of the A303. The work at SMR05 has confirmed the probable earlier Iron Age origins of the settlement, which appears to have continued into the Romano-British period. The Iron Age pits and their deposits, including human remains, will be compared to local sequences at sites such as Cadbury Castle (Barrett *et al*. 2000), Cannards Grave, Shepton Mallet (Birbeck 2000) and Ham Hill (McKinley 1999; Leivers *et al.* 2007; Cambridge Archaeological Unit 2014) to aid our understating of the local economy and depositional practices. Parallels for the rectangular setting of pits, possibly associated with a structure, and the dry-stone limestone revetments will be sought. The relationship of the Romano-British remains, both spatial and temporal, to the scheduled Romano-British settlement (Wessex Archaeology 1993; 2019) will be explored in order to better understand the relationship of the sequences to either side of the current A303. It may also be possible to review the projected alignment of the Roman road between Ilchester and Andover with reference to the orientation of the settlement and remains recorded along the scheme (Wessex Archaeology 2022d–f) and in the wider landscape (e.g., Leech 1975; Leach 1994).

8.1.8 The post-medieval and undated features have little potential for further work but provide evidence for the continued use, exploitation and development of the agricultural landscape.

8.2 Finds potential

8.2.1 Chronological evidence indicates activity dating from prehistoric to post-medieval, with an emphasis on the Middle/Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. The preservation of artefacts across the site is good. Further analysis of the Iron Age and Romano-British assemblages may contribute to understanding the character of human activity within the landscape.

8.2.2 The pottery has provided a chronological framework for the site through the spot-dating of contexts. Detailed fabric and form analysis of the Iron Age material and further comparison of both the Iron Age and Romano-British assemblages with those of comparable dates in the area (e.g., Leach 1982; Morris 2009; Mepham 2002; Tabor and Jones 2021; Woodward 2000), as well as a review of key feature groups with deposits for which radiocarbon dates may be obtained, may enable further refinement of the ceramic chronologies for these periods in their regional setting.

8.2.3 The coin provides dating evidence, but its usefulness is hindered by being a single item and by corrosion. It is not possible to undertake any meaningful statistical analysis as a result.

8.2.4 Full analysis of the human bone might enable the age of the individuals to be refined. The heavily fragmented and incomplete condition of most of the bones will severely limit the recovery of metric data but it should be possible to calculate some skeletal indices. A full record and study of the pathological lesions should enable a broad assessment of the health of individuals and, by comparison with contemporaneous data – once the date of the burials has been more firmly established – an indication of their economic and social status.

8.2.5 Viewed as a single contemporaneous group – which they might not comprise, the dates currently covering a broad range – the neonate cohort comprises a high proportion within the assemblage (approx. 57%). Although, given the nature of the similarly dated (Late Iron Age/Romano-British) burial ('massacre') group from the southwest gateway at Cadbury Castle, some 3 km to the east, renders it 'non-normative', only 17% of that assemblage comprised individuals of less than 10 years (Woodward and Hill 2000). It is unlikely that the small funerary area at Sparkford (which could extend further to the south) will have comprised the burial place for all of the community within the vicinity and it is possible that

this small cemetery represented an area predominantly designated for the burial of neonates/young infants.

8.2.6 Most of the inhumation burials at Sparkford had been made in re-purposed pre-existing pits or in graves cut through pit fills. Whether the latter was a deliberate policy, placing the interments in the 'pit fill' tradition, or comprised a pragmatic alternative to having to cut through the limestone bedrock is open to question. The 'pit burial' tradition is considered to have been most prevalent in the Mid–Late Iron Age (Boylston *et al* 1995; Whimster 1981), and neither age nor sex appear to have formed qualifying factors for this mode of disposal (Whimster 1981, 14–15 and 198–225; Cunliffe 1991, table 8.4). Philpott (1991, 97) notes that a large proportion (31%) of the pit burials recorded from southern England were those of young infants of less than 2 years of age. Whimster (1981, 15) queried the nature of some of these deposits suggesting they comprised a 'class' of their own and might have signalled a 'haphazard disposal of individuals too young to merit proper ceremonial burial'. The neonatal burials from SMR05 do not differ significantly in form or location from those of the adults, however, and generally appear to comprise part of a unified burial group.

8.2.7 The remains of an inhumation burial of probable late prehistoric date were recovered from a grave cutting the natural in SMR06 (Wessex Archaeology 2022b), some 650 m to the east, demonstrating the differing nature of what might prove to be roughly contemporaneous funerary deposits made in relatively close proximity. Two Mid–Late Romano-British inhumation graves, both those of adult males, have also been found approximately 1.6 km to the east at SMR03 (Wessex Archaeology 2022e).

8.2.8 The area immediately to the north of the current road was subject to archaeological evaluation some three decades ago (Wessex Archaeology 1993). Although some features and deposits of Early Iron Age date were recovered, the archaeological evidence predominantly comprised the remains of Mid–Late Romano-British structures indicative of a small roadside settlement (the current A303 purportedly following the route of the former Roman road; see above). It is probable that the infant buried in grave 5091, which was situated some 50 m to the south of the settlement and some 20 m from the route of the current road, derived from this community; the form (a coffined burial) and location (outwith but within sight of the settlement) of the burial of such a young child being suggestive of a later Roman date when the attitudes towards the funerary treatment of this cohort of individuals appears to have undertaken a slight shift (Philpott 1991, 101).

8.2.9 The latter did not comprise the only burial remains likely to have been linked to the settlement, the remains of a Late Romano-British urned cremation burial having been recovered in the 1993 evaluation approximately 20 m to east of the buildings. This deposit is intriguing for various reasons including its proximity to the settlement, such burials not generally being made so close to occupied buildings; the very large size of the deposit, which at 1745 g places it within the highest weight range of bone weights recovered from an archaeological cremation burial; and its late date. Cremation comprised a minority rite in the Late Romano-British period (Smith 2018, fig. 6.15). Occasionally found in some large urban cemeteries (e.g., Birbeck and Moore 2004; Molleson 1993, 30), with growing numbers coming to light in rural settings (e.g., Dinwiddy and Bradley 2011; Lovell 2005) such as that seen here – including a deposit of pyre debris from a small inhumation cemetery in Yeovilton some 8 km to the south-west – their occurrence is most frequent in the cemeteries of the northern frontier forts (Cool 2004). This is likely to be linked to the place of origin of those using these cemeteries; cremation remained the predominant rite amongst the northern Germanic peoples (Todd 1980, 147–151; Topal 1981, 75) from amongst which the military drew many of its personnel (Jarrett 1994). It is, therefore, possible that the occasional persistence of the cremation rite in Late Romano-British

settings is indicative of a few foreign migrants retaining the rite with which they were familiar. Unfortunately, the cremated remains from the 1993 evaluation were not subject to assessment or analysis so no details of the burial's contents or potential formation processes are forthcoming.

8.2.10 The animal bone assemblage, while modest in size, presents a good opportunity to further enhance understanding of Iron Age and Romano-British livestock husbandry regimes in South Somerset. Most of the bones came from secure contexts, in this instance the fills of relatively well-dated pits, a few of which also contained burials. It is likely that some of the animal bones were deliberately selected for deposition into pits, for example the semi-complete cattle skull associated with disarticulated human bone from pit 5204. However, while no further examples were noted during the assessment, further analysis may define additional examples.

8.2.11 The assessment results indicate that the livestock economy was largely based on sheep-farming, potentially with wool production as the primary strategy and meat a secondary consideration. Analysis of age information, particularly tooth wear data from mandibles, of which there are significant numbers available (Table 6), will provide a better understanding of the husbandry strategy for sheep/goat.

Table 6 Animal bone: quantity and type of detailed information available for main phases

Type of information	Iron Age	Romano-British	Total
Age – epiphyseal fusion	131	16	147
Age – mandibles 2+ teeth	63	5	68
Biometric	35	3	38
Butchery	66	9	75
Total	**295**	**33**	**328**

8.2.12 The other material categories including worked flint, burnt flint, ceramic building material, fired clay, glass, metalwork (with the exception of the coin), shell, slag and stone have limited potential to provide further information beyond that already recorded.

8.3 Environmental potential

8.3.1 The Iron Age and Romano-British activity evidenced at the site is highly likely to be associated with the scheduled monument of Romano-British settlement remains, situated approximately 50 m to the north of the excavated area at SMR05.

8.3.2 Analysis of the charred plant remains identified in cereal-rich pits 5027, 5106, 5125, 5204 and 5221 has good potential to provide further information on arable agriculture, trade, the local economy and the past environment of this area. The data would also be valuable to future research and the synthesis of data from within this archaeologically significant area. Analysis of the charred plant remains from these samples would be best incorporated into a wider programme across the scheme, particularly the Neolithic remains from SMR08 and the Bronze Age evidence from SMR06 (Wessex Archaeology 2022b and c). This would enable shifting farming practices and the local environment to be examined through time.

8.3.3 It is therefore recommended that further analysis of the plant remains is undertaken on these samples, alongside targeted radiocarbon dating. All of the assessed samples have the potential for radiocarbon dating, with the exception of the sample from pit 5347, which was essentially sterile.

8.3.4 Further analysis of the wood charcoal and terrestrial mollusc components of the environmental assemblage would not significantly add to the information outlined in the assessment report.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Summary of the recommendations

9.1.1 It is recommended that the results of the excavation should be prepared for inclusion in the overall publication for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme. The format and contents of the publication will be decided on at a later stage following the conclusion of the fieldwork phase of the project.

9.2 Updated project aims

9.2.1 The original project aims set out in the DPD (Wessex Archaeology 2021) and in the DHWSI (Highways England 2021) included both broad aims and specific research objectives. The excavation has been successful in these aims and has allowed for the examination and understanding of the archaeological resource. Moreover, the results from SMR05 have the potential to assist with the following specific research objectives as outlined in the DHWSI:

- Establish whether there is continuity of activity within archaeological sites (settlements, industrial or agricultural) across prehistoric and historic periods.
- Identify whether any of the archaeological settlement and features identified through the trench evaluation in SMR05 are contemporary with the scheduled monument at Camel Hill, or whether they represent changing use of the landscape.
- Record evidence in order to improve the understanding of non-villa Roman settlement, in particular in the area surrounding the Romano-British roadside settlement at Camel Hill.
- Implement scientific dating and environmental sampling strategies in order to securely date deposits, especially those of a transitional period date, where appropriate and where samples are not contaminated.

9.2.2 The Iron Age and Romano-British remains have the potential to address areas of the South West England Research Framework Agenda and Action Plan (Webster 2008; Grove and Croft 2012). Further work may allow for an understanding of the following themes:

- Theme B: Artefacts and Built Environment – Aim 14 Widen our understanding of Iron Age material culture.
- Theme C: Environment and Dating – Aim 16f Scientific dating for the Iron Age; and Aim 16h Scientific dating in development control projects.

9.2.3 Additionally, the results of the excavations at SMR05 have the potential to add to research themes identified in Historic England's Research Strategy for Prehistory, such as:

- Theme PR3 – Understanding prehistoric society

9.3 Stratigraphic evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.3.1 The phasing presented within this report is based on the assessment of stratigraphic relationships and the dating of finds (principally pottery). It is presented as provisional

although few changes are envisaged. The stratigraphic records have been checked, grouped and entered on to the project database, which will require updating as the project progresses. Further stratigraphic analysis may allow for the refinement of the dates of the Iron Age and Romano-British pits. Following further analysis of the pottery, other finds and their stratigraphic position within the features, it may be possible to assign more specific dates to the pits and develop further the site sequence and phasing. To enhance the site mapping, areas of intercutting pits will be digitised, via a combination of hand-drawn site plans and photogrammetric models, which will allow for an accurate representation of the phases of activity recorded.

9.3.2 Radiocarbon dating of the human bone from the inhumation burials may allow the date of the burial activity to be better understood, as well as refining their place within the site sequence and in relation to the settlement to the north of the A303.

9.3.3 The excavation results will be considered further following the completion of planned excavations at SMR01, and in light of the results of work at SMR02–04. These four areas contain additional evidence of Iron Age and Romano-British activity and will allow for a wider landscape appreciation of the remains. The works at SMR05 are intrinsically linked to the Iron Age and Romano-British scheduled settlement (NHLE 1020936; Wessex Archaeology 1993; 2019), 50 m to the north. Here, the remains include stone foundations for at least three buildings, believed to be timber-framed, and at least one cremation burial. Dating suggests the settlement originated in the late 2nd to early 3rd century and survived into the 4th century AD. The results from SMR05 will be considered in relation to this settlement to aid our understanding of any continuity or change between the Iron Age and Romano-British activity. Local settlements from both periods will be reviewed, including Iron Age activity at Cadbury Castle (Barrett *et al*. 2000), Cannards Grave, Shepton Mallet (Birbeck 2000) and Ham Hill (McKinley 1999; Leivers *et al.* 2007; Cambridge Archaeological Unit 2014), while local Romano-British sites such as those at RNAS Yeovilton (Lovell 2005; Wessex Archaeology 2016 and Queen Camel (Graham 2009; Newton 2018) will provide a local context for the later activity.

9.3.4 No further work is proposed on the post-medieval quarries, their date is well understood and they probably form part of increased exploitation of the local limestone during this period.

9.4 Finds evidence – recommendations for analysis

Pottery

9.4.1 Fabric and form analysis is recommended for the Iron Age pottery in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's guidelines (Morris 1992) which equates to either a 'basic record' or 'detailed record' where appropriate according to the nationally recognised guidelines (Barclay *et al*. 2016, 16–17). The data will then be analysed and a report prepared discussing the assemblage within its local and regional context. Provision should be made for the illustration of up to 25 vessels.

9.4.2 The Romano-British and post-medieval pottery has been recorded to a fairly detailed level, equating to a 'basic record' as outlined by the national guidelines (Barclay *et al*. 2016, 16). A review of key Romano-British feature groups will be undertaken and the intra-site distribution will be summarised within the stratigraphic framework of the site. Up to 20 vessels will be selected for illustration and allowance should be made for the temporary reconstruction of some vessels prior to illustration. No further work is recommended for the post-medieval material.

Metalwork

9.4.3 The coin appears to be a good candidate for conservation cleaning in order to enable full identification and the refinement of the date. Following cleaning, the catalogue entry should be updated, with a short note prepared for inclusion in any future publication. The copper alloy T-shaped brooch (ON 77) and iron brooch (ON 98) should also be illustrated. Further parallels for the latter will be sought and the report updated as appropriate.

Worked bone and antler

9.4.4 A selection of worked bone and antler items will be illustrated (possibly up to eight pieces).

Human bone

9.4.5 The age of individuals will be considered in further detail and potentially more tightly defined using standard methodologies (Brothwell 1972; Beek 1983; Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994; Scheuer and Black 2000). The sex of the adults is considered secure, but it is proposed that the sex of the immature individuals be secured via peptide analysis undertaken by an external specialist.

9.4.6 The recovery of metric data is likely to be limited due to the heavily fragmented condition of the remains, but some reconstruction will be considered to enable any of the standard suite of measurements it is possible to obtain to be taken (Brothwell and Zakrzewski 2004). Non-metric traits will be recorded (Berry and Berry 1967; Finnegan 1978). Pathological lesions will be recorded in text and, where appropriate, via digital photography; some lesions will warrant photographing for publication purposes and a minimum of one x-radiograph is required to assist with diagnosis. The data will be discussed in their temporal and regional context once more secure dating is obtained.

9.4.7 To facilitate the latter it is recommended that a minimum of four radiocarbon dates are obtained: 5212, 5081, 5088 and, if possible, 5092. A standard component of radiocarbon dating is the recording of carbon and nitrogen isotopes which reflect trophic levels associated with the individual's diet. Given the advanced age of the adult male, it is worth undertaking carbon and nitrogen analysis of a fragment of rib – which will illustrate the individual's diet in the last few years of life – to assess any changes in diet over the man's extended lifetime (the radiocarbon date will pertain to a mid-life period).

9.4.8 Strontium and oxygen isotope analysis could be undertaken on at least one tooth from the two adult graves to help define the geographic origin of the individuals. A record of the sulphur isotopic values – which can be undertaken during the radiocarbon analysis would also assist in this respect. However, a review of the value of such destructive analysis would be best undertaken on a scheme-wide basis once the overall scope of remains potentially available for such analysis can be considered.

9.4.9 Peptide analysis to determine the sex of the individuals should be undertaken in three cases: 5122, 5030 and 5091.

9.4.10 It is also strongly recommended that analysis of the cremated bone from the 1993 evaluation – an earlier stage of the same development scheme – be undertaken (see section 8.2).

Animal bone

9.4.11 The assemblage merits detailed analysis and reporting as part of the proposed publication of the fieldwork results for the overall scheme.

9.4.12 The information quantified in Table 6 should be recorded using industry-wide standard methods as outlined in the current guidelines for best practice (Baker and Worley 2019). It is, however, recommended that sheep/goat tooth wear is recorded following Jones (2006), which provides more refined results amongst younger age classes than the current standard method (Payne 1973).

9.4.13 The resulting dataset will provide a better understanding of the livestock husbandry strategy, particularly for sheep/goat, as well as carcass processing and the size and conformation of livestock. This will form the bases for wider comparison and discussion and allow the assemblage to be placed within a broader local/regional context (Hambleton 2008; Allen 2017).

Other finds

9.4.14 The bar-shaped whetstone may be illustrated and the perforated scallop shell will be photographed.

9.4.15 No further work is recommended for the for the worked flint, burnt flint, ceramic building material, fired clay, glass and slag. The information gathered as part of this assessment will be adapted for use in the final publication.

9.5 Environmental evidence – recommendations for analysis

9.5.1 The samples proposed for analysis are indicated with a 'P' in the analysis column in Appendix 4. All identifiable charred plant remains will be extracted from the flots, or a subsample of the flots. These remains will be quantified, and the analysis results tabulated. Recording will follow Antolín and Buxó (2011) for cereals. The identifications will be undertaken using a stereomicroscope at up to x40 magnification through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al*. 2006; Jacomet 2006). Plant nomenclature will follow Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al*. (2012) for cereals, using traditional names.

9.6 Radiocarbon dating recommendations

9.6.1 A selection of samples from those listed below and in Table 7 will be submitted for radiocarbon dating to the 14CHRONO Centre, Queen's University, Belfast, or the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory.

9.6.2 Articulated animal bones and mandibles retaining teeth represent good candidates for radiocarbon dating. Potential examples comprise:

- Articulated cattle forelimb from fill 5246 in Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pit 5245;
- Articulated horse hindlimb from fill 5229 of Late Iron Age/early Romano-British pit 5228;
- Sheep/goat mandible from fill 5083 of Middle Iron Age pit 5082.

9.6.3 It is also recommended that four radiocarbon dates are obtained for inhumation burials 5212, 5081, 5088 and, if possible, 5092, which will aid our understanding of their temporal and regional contexts.

Table 7 Environmental radiocarbon dating recommendations

Feature	Cut No.	Context	Sample code	Radiocarbon sample
Pit	5027	5019	229432 _362	Wood charcoal/charred plant remain (to be selected)
Pit	5106	5108	229432 _394	Wood charcoal/charred plant remain (to be selected)
Pit	5125	5126	229432 _404	Charred plant remain (to be selected)
Pit	5204	5212	229432 _405	Charred plant remain (to be selected)
Pit	5221	5222	229432 _414	Charred plant remain (to be selected)

10 STORAGE AND CURATION

10.1 Museum

10.1.1 The archive resulting from the excavation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. Somerset Museum Service has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project, under the accession code **TTNCM 81/2021**. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

10.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

10.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records, graphics, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Somerset Museum Service, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

10.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **TTNCM 81/2021**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive, for the whole project, currently comprises the following:

- 11 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- two files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics;
- nine A1 graphics.

Digital archive

10.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata. Full details of the collection, processing and documentation of digital data are given in the project Digital Management Plan (available on request).

10.3 Selection strategy

10.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

10.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy: available on request) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

10.3.3 Detailed selection proposals for the complete project archive (excavation), comprising finds, environmental material and site records (analogue and digital), are made in the site-specific Selection Strategy to be included in an updated project design at the conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The proposals are summarised below.

Finds

10.3.4 All finds have been recorded to an appropriate archive level prior to any selection proposals being implemented, and the selection process will be fully documented in the project archive. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

10.3.5 Note that human remains are not included in this selection strategy; their recovery and subsequent treatment and curation will be governed by a Ministry of Justice licence(s).

10.3.6 Animal bone (4382 fragments): reasonable sized, well-preserved assemblage from Iron Age and Romano-British pits. Further research potential of local/regional significance. Retain all. Small number of bones from post-medieval quarry pit of little intrinsic value and can be discarded at next stage.

10.3.7 Burnt flint (13 pieces): small quantities, intrinsically undatable, no further research potential; discarded.

10.3.8 Ceramic building material (1 piece): negligible quantity; little further research potential; discard.

10.3.9 Copper alloy (6 pieces): from stratified Romano-British deposits; some further research potential; retain.

10.3.10 Fired clay (451 fragments): from stratified Iron Age and Romano-British deposits, some further research potential; retain featured pieces.

10.3.11 Flint (22 pieces): residual within features of later date; limited research potential; retain all.

10.3.12 Glass (1 piece): post-medieval date; no further research potential; discard.

10.3.13 Iron (38 pieces): from stratified deposits of Iron Age and Romano-British date; some further research potential; retain all.

10.3.14 Pottery (3022 sherds): Iron Age and Romano-British (3014 sherds) – of local significance with further research potential, retain all; post-medieval (8 pieces), small assemblage, no further research potential, discard.

10.3.15 Shell (1 piece): from stratified Romano-British deposit, retain.

10.3.16 Slag (20 pieces): negligible quantity, no further research potential; discard.

10.3.17 Stone (8 pieces): from deposits of Iron Age and Romano-British date; limited further research potential; retain.

10.3.18 Worked bone (29 fragments): from Iron Age and Romano-British deposits; further research potential; retain all.

Palaeoenvironmental material

10.3.19 Some of the material retrieved from environmental samples merits retention with the site archive for future access. This is a summary of proposals for a site-specific Selection Strategy (Appendix 2).

Documentary records

10.3.20 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

10.3.21 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

10.4 Security copy

10.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

10.5 OASIS

10.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 2). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the SWHT on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue

11 COPYRIGHT

11.1 Archive and report copyright

11.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with

all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

11.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

11.2 Third party data copyright

11.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Iron Age and Romano-British pits

CUT NO	SHAPE	DIMENSIONS (m)	DEPTH (m)	SIDES	SLOPE	BASE	FILLED WITH	Finds	Phase
5004	Oval	1.64 x 1.48	0.71	Stepped	Moderate	Flat	5005–5006	AB, FC, WB, P	IA
5009	Sub-circular	1.25 x 0.8	0.85	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5010	AB, P	IA
5020	Sub-circular	1 x 1	0.25	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5021	AB, BF, HB, HB*, S,	IA
5022	Sub-circular	Approx 6 m	0.35	Irregular	Irregular	Uneven	5023	AB, CBM, WF, P, WS, S	MIA
5027	Circular	1.6 x 1.1	0.95	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5019, 5028	AB, FC, P, WB	MIA
5029	Circular	2 x 2+	1.2+	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5003	AB, CU alloy coin, FC, P,	MIA
5031	Incomplete	2.75 x 1.06+	1.2+	Concave	Moderate	Not bottomed	5032–5036	AB, FC, P, WS	M/L IA
5037	Circular	1.5 x 1.4	1	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5038, 5039	AB, P, WF, WS	IA
5040	Sub-oval	2.65 x 1.8	1.2+	Stepped	Vertical	Not bottomed	5042-5046	AB, FC, P, WF	LIA/ERB
5041	Circular	1.1 x 1.1	1.8+	Irregular	Vertical	Not bottomed	5047, 5050	AB, P, WB, WF	LIA
5048	Irregular	1.1 x 1+	1.05+	Irregular	Vertical	Not bottomed	5049	AB, P	IA
5054	Circular	1.4 x 1	1.2+	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5055, 5056	AB, P, worked shell	RB
5063	Circular	0.6 x 0.6	0.12	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5064	P	MIA
5065	Sub-circular	1.12 x 1.12	0.4	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5066, 5067	AB, FC, P	IA
5068	Sub-oval	2.1 x 1.64	1.45	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5069-5072	AB, P, WF, WS	IA
5073	Circular	1 x 0.8	0.12	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5074	-	IA
5075	Sub-oval	1.36 x 1.3	0.8	Irregular	Vertical	Irregular	5076	-	IA
5077	Sub-circular	1.5 x 1.5	1.63	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5078, 5150	AB, P	MIA
5082	Circular	1.1 x 0.9	1.2+	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5083	AB, P	MIA
5084	Sub-circular	0.8 x 0.73	0.27	Concave	Moderate	Concave	5085	AB, P	LIA/ERB
5093	Sub-circular	1.52 x 1.3	1.1	Irregular	Steep	Flat	5094-5096	AB, FC, P	IA
5098	Sub-circular	1.2 x 1.2	0.6+	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5099	AB, FC, P, WB	M/L IA
5100	Sub-circular	1.10 x 1	0.6+	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5101	-	IA
5102	Sub-circular	1.8 x 1.8	1.46	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5103-5105	AB, BF, P, WB, WS	MIA
5106	Sub-circular	2 x 1.8	1.46	Irregular	Irregular	Flat	5107, 5108	AB, FC, Iron, P	M/L IA
5112	Sub-circular	1.5x 0.8+	1.8	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5113	FC	IA
5115	Sub-circular	1.46 x 1.44	1.83	Straight	Steep	Flat	5114	AB, P	IA
5118	Sub-circular	1.8 x 1.4	1.2 +	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5119-5121	AB, FC, P, WF	M/L IA

5125	Sub-circular	1.6 x 1.32	0.8	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5126, 5127	AB, FC, P	RB
5128	Sub-circular	1.8 x 1.5	1.45	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5129	-	IA
5131	Circular	2 x 2	0.98	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5132, 5190, 5191	AB, FC, P, WB	LIA/ERB
5133	Oval	1.5 x 1.45	0.73	Straight	Steep	Flat	5134, 5135	AB, FC, P	IA
5136	Oval	1.63 x 1.38	0.9	Straight	Steep	Flat	5137, 5138, 5141	AB, FC, P	LIA
5139	Sub-oval	1.4 x 1.4	1.24	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5140	AB, P	MIA
5142	Circular	1.6 x 1.6	1.3	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5143, 5144	AB, FC, P, WS	IA
5146	Sub-oval	1.55 x 1. 2	1.2 +	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5147	AB, P	IA
5148	Circular	1.5 x 1.4	1.2	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5149	AB, P	MIA
5151	Sub-oval	1.9 x 1.74	0.86	Irregular	Irregular	Flat	5152-5155	AB, FC, P, S, WF, WS	MIA
5156	Sub-oval	1.17 x 1.64	0.2	Concave	Moderate	Flat	5157	AB, FC	IA
5158	Sub-circular	1.4 x 1.15	1.3	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5159, 5160	AB, P, WB	M/L IA
5161	Sub-oval	1.46 x 0.82	0.1	Concave	Shallow	Flat	5162	AB, FC, P	IA
5163	Sub-circular	2.3 x 2.3+	0.87+	Concave	Steep	Not bottomed	5164-5166	AB, FC, P, S, WB	LIA/ERB
5167	Sub-oval	0.4 x 0.84	0.24	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular	5168	FC	
5169	Sub-oval	1.9 x 1.34	0.56	Stepped	Irregular	Flat	5170, 5171	AB, FC, P	RB
5173	Oval	1.3 x 1.3	0.6+	Straight	Undercut	Not bottomed	5174	AB, FC, P	IA
5175	Sub-oval	1.88 x 1.7	1.6	Straight	Vertical	Not fully bottomed	5176, 5177	AB, P	LIA/ERB
5178	Circular	2.1 x 2	1.1+	Irregular	Vertical	Not bottomed	5179-5182	AB, FC, P	LIA/ERB
5183	Irregular	1 x 1	0.2	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular	5184	-	-
5185	Oval	0.6 x 0.58	0.18	Concave	Shallow	Concave	5186	P	IA
5187	Irregular	2.4 x 2.04	0.64	Concave	Steep	Irregular	5188, 5189	AB, FC, P, WF	LIA/ERB
5192	Circular	0.54 x 0.55	0.14	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5193	AB	IA
5194	Circular	1.4 x 1.35	0.8+	Irregular	Vertical	Not bottomed	5195	AB, P	IA
5198	Oval	1.14 x 0.94	0.4	Stepped	Vertical	Flat	5199-5201	AB, FC, P	-
5202	Sub-circular	1.4 x 1.3	0.8+	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5203	P, WS	IA
5204	Oval	3.12 x 2.0	1.2	Straight	Vertical	Irregular	5247, 5212, 5214, 5205, 5308	AB, FC, HB, HB*, P, S, WB	
5206	Sub-circular	1.96 x 1.7	0.82	Concave	Steep	Flat	5207, 5208	AB, P, S,	M/LIA
5210	Circular	1.1 x 1	0.3	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5211	AB, FC, P, S	MIA
5220	Sub-oval	5.76 x 2.9	0.93	Irregular	Irregular	Flat	5215-5219	AB, CU alloy, FC, P, WB	RB
5221	Sub-oval	2.06 x 1.56	1.05	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5222	AB, P	M/LIA
5223	Sub-circular	1.8 x 0.9+	0.53	Stepped	Moderate	Flat	5224	AB, P	IA
5225	Circular	2 x 1.65	0.6	Stepped	Steep	Flat	5226	AB, P	MIA

5228	Sub-circular	1.86 x 1.78	1.08	Stepped	Vertical	Flat	5229	AB, FC, P	LIA/ERB
5230	Sub-circular	1.7 x 1.2	0.65+	Irregular	Irregular	Not bottomed	5231	-	IA
5232	Circular	1 x 1	0.15	Straight	Steep	Flat	5233	-	IA
5234	Sub-circular	1.8 x 1.8	1.26	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5235, 5236	AB, P	IA
5241	Sub-circular	1.37 x 1.2	0.19	Irregular	Vertical	Irregular	5242	-	IA
5243	Sub-oval	0.68 x 0.56	0.12	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5244	AB, P	IA
5245	Circular	1.7 x 1.9	1.75+	Irregular	Vertical	Not bottomed	5246	AB, P	LIA/ERB
5248	Sub-oval	0.43 x 0.37	0.18	Concave	Steep	Flat	5249	P	IA
5250	Sub-rectangular	1.34 x 0.62	0.22	Stepped	Vertical	Flat	5251	AB, P	M/LIA
5252	Sub-oval	0.9 x 0.76	0.22	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular	5253, 5254	FC	IA
5255	Sub-circular	1.4 x 1.5	0.77	Straight	Vertical	Flat	2556-5259	AB, P, WB	IA
5262	Sub-oval	1.84 x 0.87	0.34	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5263	AB, FC, P	IA
5264	Sub-oval	1.3 x 1.5	1.2+	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5265-5267	AB, FC, P	M/LIA
5268	Sub-rectangular	2+ x 1.3	0.66	Straight	Steep	Flat	5269-5272	AB, FC, P, WS	RB
5273	Irregular	0.9 x 0.72	0.21	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular	5274	AB, P	IA
5276	Sub-oval	0.8 x 0.62	0.22	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular	5277	AB, P	-
5278	Circular	2.8 x 2.6	1.2+	Irregular	Vertical	Not bottomed	5279, 5280	AB, P, WB	M/LIA
5281	Circular	2.1 x 2	1.1	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5282-5284	AB, FC, P	LIA
5285	Irregular	0.56 x 0.48	0.3	Irregular	Irregular	Irregular	5286	Iron, P, WF	IA
5287	Sub-circular	0.52 x 0.48	0.26	Stepped	Irregular	Flat	5288	-	IA
5289	Sub-circular	2.05 x 1.34	0.52+	Stepped	Steep	Not bottomed	5290-5292	AB, P	IA
5293	Sub-circular	0.56 x 0.48	0.09	Concave	Shallow	Irregular	5294	AB	IA
5295	Circular	0.2 x 0.2	0.07	Concave	Shallow	Irregular	5296	FC	IA
5297	Sub-circular	1.24 x 1.2	0.9+	Irregular	Undercut	Not bottomed	5298	AB, Iron, P	IA
5299	Sub-oval	0.96 x 0.54	0.25	Stepped	Irregular	Flat	5300	-	IA
5301	Sub-oval	0.82 x 0.46	0.06	Stepped	Irregular	Flat	5302	P	IA
5303	Sub-oval	1.6 x 1.48	1.16	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5304-5307	AB, FC, P, WF	M/LIA
5309	Circular	1.8 x 1.65+	0.4	Straight	Steep	Flat	5310, 5311	AB, P	IA
5312	Sub-circular	1.1 x 1	1.2+	Stepped	Steep	Not bottomed	5313-5316	AB, P	M/LIA
5317	Oval	0.3 x 0.5 +	0.98	Stepped	Moderate	Flat	5318-5321	AB, P	LIA
5322	Circular	1.1 x 0.9	0.5+	Straight	Vertical	Not bottomed	5323	-	-
5324	Circular	1.7 x 1.7	0.65	Irregular	Vertical	Flat	5325	AB, WF	IA
5326	Sub-circular	3.3 x 2.5	0.93+	Irregular	Irregular	Not bottomed	5327, 5328, 5341-5343	AB, CU alloy, FC, P	LIA/ERB
5334	Sub-oval	1.45 x 1.28	0.75	Concave	Steep	Flat	3535	-	IA
5336	Irregular	1.02 x 0.68	0.29	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5337	AB, FC, P	LIA/ERB
5338	Irregular	1.42 x 0.89	0.12	Straight	Vertical	Sloping	5339	-	IA
5340	Sub-circular	1.9 x 2.24	0.6	Straight	Vertical	Flat	5344, 5345	AB, P	LIA/ERB

5347	Irregular	8.74 x 1.56+	0.75	Irregular	Irregular	Flat	5209, 5238-5240, 5330-5333	-	RB
5350									

AB = animal bone; BF = burnt flint; FC = fired clay; HB = human bone; HB* = human bone disarticulated; P = pottery; S = slag; WB = worked bone; WF = worked flint; WS = worked stone;

Appendix 2: Summary of results from scan of human bone

Context	Cut	Date	Deposit type	Quantification	Age/sex	Pathology	Comment
5021	5020 (0.25 m)	LIA	R (grave fill)	14 elements	neonate = 5030		1–2 (very slight degradation metaphyses); right femur, 3 vertebral body centres, T neural arch & frags. cranium, 3 ribs, neural arch
5030			*in situ*	75%	neonate (0–4 weeks)		1–2; inconclusive if 1.0 m diam. pit was cut as a grave or a pit reused as a grave – burial made on base, just off-centre
5081	5079 (0.18 m)	IA	*in situ* + R	82 % 8 frags. s.a.u.	1. adult 50-65 yr male 2. neonate	dental calculus; dental caries; amtl; apical cyst; pd; crowding & displacement teeth; DISH (1L & 2T); new bone (?infection) right acetabulum; op – right patella, left 1st MtT-P joint, right prox. ulna, scapulae glenoid fossae, C1-2 anterior facet, 2C bsm. acetabulae, S1 bsm, 2T bsm, 2L bsm; exostoses – right lateral clavicle, ischial tuberosity; destructive lesion – L 1st MtT juxta-head; enth – femur shafts, posterior calcanea right distal fibula & shaft, right patella, prox. ulnae, right distal humerus; marked ossification ligamentum flavum 3-4T; plastic changes – 1T spinal process; MV – prox. femur (?possible pathological)	1–3 (root erosion) very large, very robust individual; very heavy fragmentation some old but mostly fresh breaks (upper limb esp. some comminuted) – been badly damaged in machining & heavy-handed excavation might get some recon. for metrics but stature & no cranial (all just too heavily smashed & much cranium missing) unlikely; *neonatal bone* with 'displaced foot bones' inc. vault, rib & ulna, & with R ribs *animal bone* with displaced foot bones, in 'misc' bag from trashed surface material, sheep tooth with skull, with pelvis & R ribs
5088	5086 (0.20 m)	LIA	*in situ* (flexed right, truncated)	32%	adult 20–25 yr female	?trauma – left distal end 1st distal phalanx (right)	2–3 (root erosion), heavily fragmented – much comminuted, mostly all fresh breaks, several with no joins; very limited metrics, no major indices; right LL & UL only, vertebrae mostly lumbar, no skull except displaced tooth not conclusively from this burial; 'foot bones' = hand, 'left scapula' = ?cattle radius, 'L fibula' is a right, right tibia labelled 'left'; 'right fibula' = right ulna, 'left hand/foot' bone = right hand (?suggests bioturbation), some left hand bones with ribs, all 'misc bone' from N side is animal, 'misc. S side' mix human (mostly) & animal
5092	5091 (0.27 m)	RB	*in situ* (coffined)	88%	infant 9 mths	?healed new bone – left proximal-lateral radius shaft; fine new bone orbital vaults	1

Context	Cut	Date	Deposit type	Quantification	Age/sex	Pathology	Comment
5122	5123 (0.08 m)	LIA/RB	*in situ*	68%	neonate 1–3 mth ??female		1–2 (root erosion), old breaks; tentative sexing on pelvis ; 'lower limb' = femora, right humerus & left ulna, 'limb bone area' = rest left femur, toe bones, pelvis, ribs & vertebrae, 'upper limb' = tibia & right forearm, 'hand/foot' bone = mix, 'loose on surface' = skull, vertebra, ribs & upper limb, 'pelvis' inc. vert & rib, half 'vertebrae = skull, rib & upper limb, 'ribs & vert' inc. UL. i.e. so disturbed cannot say what position was as nothing seems to have been *in situ* save the ?tibiae which exc thought were upper limb, although probably all was in this grave originally
5191	5131	M-LIA	R/?placed	axis vertebra	adult 20–40 yr	op – anterior facet	1; from lowest excavated fill pit (rapid/deliberate backfill)
5212	5204 (0.30 m bgl)	LIA/RB	*in situ* (flexed left, slumped forwards)	82%	adult 25–35 yr female	oa – knee joints (lateral femora & patellae; gross lesions left, moderate right), 2C, T3–4; fractures – left ulna & radius (distal 1/3rd shaft – ?Parry fracture), left ribs (4–5, one unhealed with infection); spondylolysis – L5; op – left lateral prox tibia, L bsm, Tbsm; ossification anterior ligament (?infection – erosion trabecular bone/osteoporosis?); enth – femur shafts, patellae anterior surfaces (slight); exo – left anterior-medial tibia shaft, iliac crest; new bone – left tibia inter-condylar eminence (?infection/sinus), 1st prox. phalanx & 2 middle phalanges heads (hand); pitting – acromio-clavicular joints, both humeri lesser tubercles, auricular surface; MV – Vastus notch (left)	1–2; main indices (X cranial); C1–4 missing & all x right malar of skull vertebrae, 4T missing, MtT & prox. foot phal with hand bones; animal bone in 'misc', with hands, from base sample. X-rays required Pit 5204 >1.20 m deep, burial made in 3rd fill from top layer
5247			pit fill	14 elements a/u/l			fill immediately below *in situ* remains; hand & foot bones, rib & T vertebrae
5215	5220	RB	R (pit fill)	right scapula	neonate		2 (slightly degraded/eroded – roots); 3rd of 4 fills (next to upper), tipped in from E? – v. large pit! (*c.* 6 x 3 m, 0.93 m deep) not fully excavated

Appendix 3: Assessment of the environmental evidence

Area	Feature type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample code	Sample vol. (l.)	Flot vol. (ml.)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Other taxa	Other taxa notes	Preservation	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal notes	Other
5	Pit	5004	5006	5004	229432_361	1.5	<10	60%, *Cecilioides acicula* (A), E, I, F	-	-	-	-	-	-	<5	Highly fragmented. Good to moderate condition.	Moll-t (C)
5	Pit	5027	5019	5027	229432_362	40	150	20%, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**), C, E, I	A***	A**	*Hordeum vulgare, Triticum spelta/dicoccum* grains (grains, incl. germinated grains, and glume bases), Triticeae, coleoptiles, detached embryos	A**	*Crataegus monogyna, Vicia faba, Vicia faba/Pisum sativum, Vicia/Lathyrus*, Poaceae (inc. *Bromus* spp., *Lolium* sp., *Poa/Phleum*), *Fallopia convolvulus, Galium* sp., Chenopodiaceae, *Rumex* sp., *Persicaria* sp., Trifolieae, Caryophllaceae *Valerianella dentata, Odontites vernus/Euphrasia, Sherardia arvensis*	G	15	Mostly *Quercus* sp. with some *Prunus* sp. roundwood. Good condition.	Moll-t (A*), Sab (A*)
5	Pit	5106	5108	5106	229432_394	38	350	30%, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**), A*, E, I	A***	A**	*Triticum spelta* (grains and glume bases), *Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare*, Triticeae, spikelet forks	A**	*Vicia/Lathyrus, Raphanus raphanistrum* seed capsule frags, Poaceae (inc. *Bromus* sp., *Lolium* sp., *Avena* sp.), *Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp *bulbosum* tuber, Trifolieae, *Silene* sp., *Fallopia convolvulus, Galium* sp., *Rumex* sp., *Sherardia arvensis*, monocot. stem.	H	30	Mainly mature *Quercus* sp. Good condition.	Moll-t (A***), Sab (A)

Area	Feature type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample code	Sample vol. (l.)	Flot vol. (ml.)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal notes	Other taxa	Other taxa notes	Preservation	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal notes	Other
5	Pit	5125	5126	5125	229432_404	19	70	80%, *Cecilioides acicula* (A*), B, E	A	A*	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum vulgare.,* Triticeae, *T. spelta/dicoccum* glume bases and spikelet forks	A*	Poaceae (inc. *Lolium* sp., *Poa/Phleum*), Trifolieae, Vicieae, *Sherardia arvensis, Odontites vernus/Euphrasia, Rumex* sp., *Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus,* indet	H	<1	Fragmented	Moll-t (A*), Fired clay/CBM (A), Sab (A)
5	Pit	5204	5212	5204	229432_405	-	60	80%, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**), E	A	A*	*Triticum* sp., *Hordeum* sp., Triticeae, *T.spelta/dicoccum* glume bases*, T. spelta* glume bases	A*	Poaceae (inc. *Bromus* sp., *Poa/Phleum* sp.), Trifolieae, *Arrhenatherum elatius* ssp. *bulbosum* tuber (small), *Urtica dioica*, Vicieae, monocot. stem	P	<1	Fragmented	Moll-t (A**), charred insect (C), bone frags. + Sab (A**)
5	Pit	5221	5222	5221	229432_414	38	175	30%, *Cecilioides acicula* (A**), A, E, I	A*	A	*Hordeum vulgare* (some twisted grains), *Triticum* sp., Triticeae, *T. spelta/dicoccum* glume bases	A	Poaceae (inc. *Poa/Phleum, Bromus* sp.), *Ranunculus* subg. *Ranunculus, Vicia/Lathyrus, Fallopia convolvulus, Rumex* sp., Trifolieae, *Corylus avellana* nutshell	H	<1	Fragmented	Moll-t (A***), Coal frags (A), Sab (A*)
5	Pit	5237	5209	5347	229432_415	0.3	15	90%, *Cecilioides acicula* (C), E	-	-	-	-	-	-	Trace	-	Coal - <1mm (A)

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A* = 30–100, A** = 100–500, A*** = >500; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab = small animal bone, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs. Preservation: G = Good; H = Heterogeneous; P= Poor.

Appendix 4: Environmental analysis potential and recommendations

Area	Feature type	Feature	Context	Group	Sample code	Analysis potential	Material available for C14? (Y/N)	Analysis recommendations
5	Pit	5004	5006	5004	229432 _361	C?	Y	-
5	Pit	5027	5019	5027	229432 _362	P, C	Y	P, C14
5	Pit	5106	5108	5106	229432 _394	P, C	Y	P, C14
5	Pit	5125	5126	5125	229432 _404	P	Y	P, C14
5	Pit	5204	5212	5204	229432 _405	P	Y	P, C14
5	Pit	5221	5222	5221	229432 _414	P	Y	P, C14
5	Pit	5237	5209	5347	229432 _415	-	N	-

Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, C14 = radiocarbon.

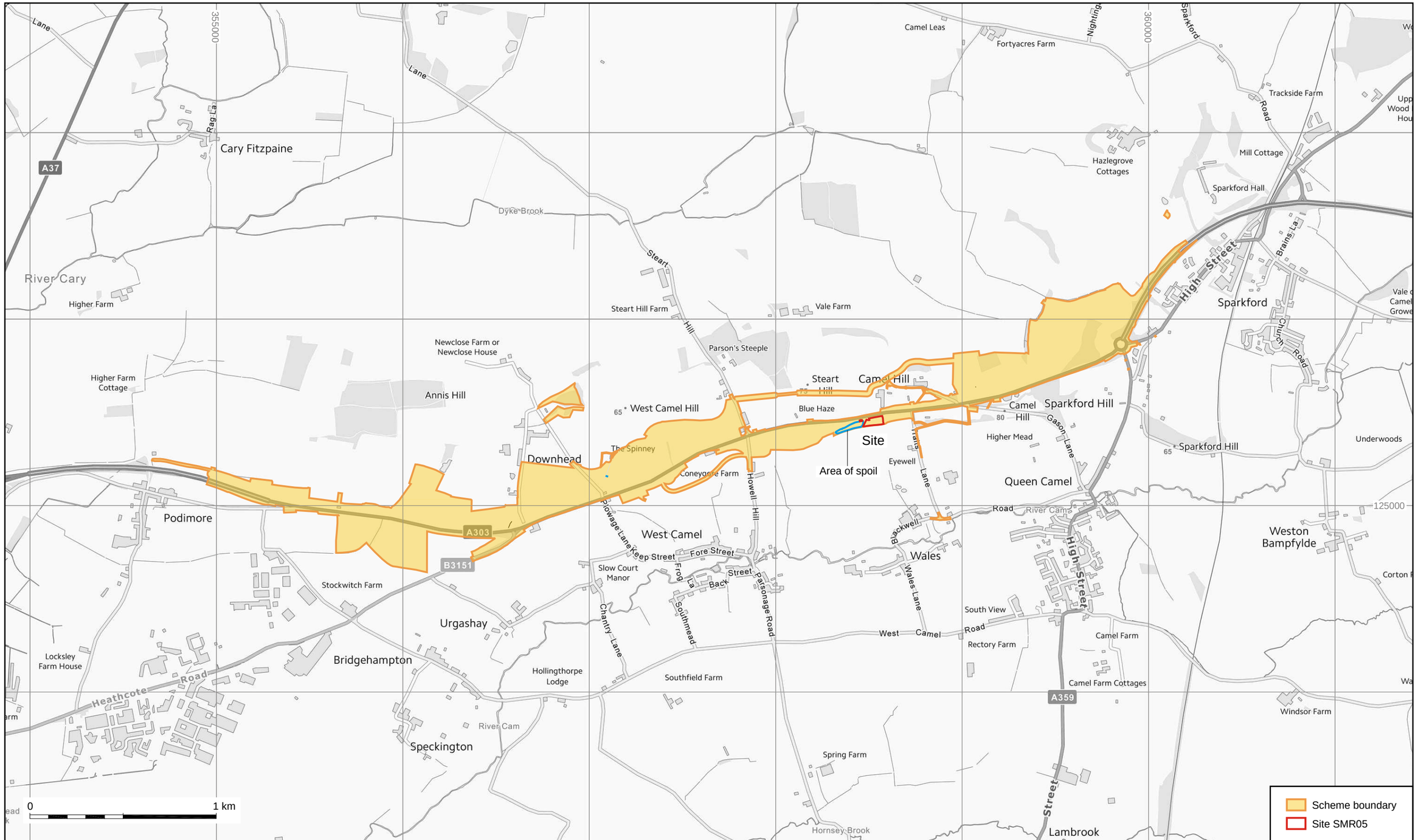
Appendix 5: OASIS summary wessexar1-504834

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-504834
Project Name	Excavation at A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme
Activity type	Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	Development Consent Order 2021 No.125
Reason for Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	22-Sep-2021–31-Dec-2022
Location	A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme NGR : ST 56473 24929, LL : 51.022079, -2.621968, 12 Fig : 356473,124929 NGR : ST 56516 24926, LL : 51.022055304252, -2.62135562687601, 12 Fig : 356516,124926 NGR : ST 56884 25034, LL : 51.023048, -2.616122, 12 Fig : 356884,125034 NGR : ST 56905 25049, LL : 51.0231896052947, -2.61582455002668, 12 Fig : 356905,125049 NGR : ST 57029 25152, LL : 51.024119, -2.614065, 12 Fig : 357029,125152 NGR : ST 57031 25166, LL : 51.024245799196, -2.61404368861816, 12 Fig : 357031,125166 NGR : ST 58530 25460, LL : 51.027002, -2.592697, 12 Fig : 358530,125460 NGR : ST 58539 25460, LL : 51.027006162764, -2.59257461649985, 12 Fig : 358539,125460 NGR : ST 59091 25600, LL : 51.028305, -2.584716, 12 Fig : 359091,125600 NGR : ST 59151 25639, LL : 51.0286567428481, -2.58386314777081, 12 Fig : 359151,125639 NGR : ST 59664 25872, LL : 51.030791, -2.576576, 12 Fig : 359664,125872 NGR : ST 59681 25889, LL : 51.0309415459555, -2.5763347808486, 12 Fig : 359681,125889 NGR : ST 59760 25841, LL : 51.030516, -2.575207, 12 Fig : 359760,125841 NGR : ST 59775 25855, LL : 51.0306416051908, -2.57498892010887, 12 Fig : 359775,125855 NGR : ST 59808 26033, LL : 51.032243, -2.574547, 12 Fig : 359808,126033 NGR : ST 59807 26029, LL : 51.032209582592, -2.57455123535555, 12 Fig : 359807,126029 NGR : ST 59968 26161, LL : 51.033403, -2.572279, 12 Fig : 359968,126161 NGR : ST 59972 26163, LL : 51.033423771143, -2.57221922079487, 12 Fig : 359972,126163 NGR : ST 57551 25372, LL : 51.0261386682563, -2.6066438321156, 12 Fig : 357551,125372 NGR : ST 57133 25263, LL : 51.0251290578294, -2.61258943014785, 12 Fig : 357133,125263 NGR : ST 58883 24934, LL : 51.0222961567068, -2.58761223363276, 12 Fig : 358883,124934 NGR : ST 57822 25400, LL : 51.0264150619185, -2.60278109377177, 12 Fig : 357822,125400 NGR : ST 57103 25255, LL : 51.0250529203183, -2.61301684700592, 12 Fig : 357103,125255 NGR : ST 56856 25574, LL : 51.0279031211918, -2.61657819745182, 12 Fig : 356856,125574 NGR : ST 60098 26561, LL : 51.0370142918601, -2.57045984217776, 12 Fig : 360098,126561 NGR : ST 56867 25499, LL : 51.0272340031265, -2.61641001464045, 12 Fig : 356867,125499 NGR : ST 58807 25679, LL : 51.0289916289907, -2.58877550492117, 12 Fig : 358807,125679 NGR : ST 58815 25584, LL : 51.0281385840369, -2.58864769078825, 12 Fig : 358815,125584 NGR : ST 57152 25286, LL : 51.0253334188899, -2.61232402973482, 12 Fig : 357152,125286 NGR : ST 60035 25908, LL : 51.0311346060702, -2.57128685280223, 12 Fig : 360035,125908 NGR : ST 57612 25213, LL : 51.0247136217682, -2.60575418819898, 12 Fig : 357612,125213 NGR : ST 60955 26605, LL : 51.0374705456885, -2.5582477475737, 12 Fig : 360955,126605 NGR : ST 59876 25780, LL : 51.0299754439443, -2.57353806436669, 12 Fig : 359876,125780 NGR : ST 59891 25732, LL : 51.0295422354033, -2.57332148609607, 12 Fig : 359891,125732 NGR : ST 58284 25533, LL : 51.0276445419338, -2.59621633665211, 12 Fig : 358284,125533
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Somerset District : South Somerset

	Parish : West Camel Parish : Queen Camel Parish : Sparkford Parish : Yeovilton
Project Methodology	Archaeological mitigation works undertaken as part of the A303 Sparkford dualling Scheme, this involved strip, map and sample excavation, archaeological monitoring, built heritage recording and historic landscape recording.
Project Results	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Galliford Try Infrastructure to undertake archaeological mitigation works comprising a strip, map and sample excavations covering a programme of archaeological mitigation work in connection with the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme. The wider development comprises the provision of a continuous dual carriageway linking the Podimore Bypass and the Sparkford Bypass, with the removal of at-grade junctions and direct accesses, and the creation of new junctions of differing grades at Hazelgrove Junction, Downhead Junction and Camel Cross. The section of the A303 to be upgraded totals approximately 5.6 km in length. The archaeological excavation at SMR08 confirmed the results of earlier work and identified remains dating from the Neolithic to medieval periods. The excavation area contained four pits of likely Early Neolithic date that contained significant environmental and artefactual assemblages. The results from the pits helps to confirm the prehistoric potential of the area as identified during the evaluation As well as two ditches, two furrows and a short length of gully were also investigated. Dating from these was scarce and included small sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery. The western most ditch accords well with a geophysical anomaly identified by earlier surveys. The results from one pit Neolithic (8014) are of regional, if not national, significance. It contained an exceptionally well preserved assemblage of charred plant remains, predominately hazelnut shells but also crab apple, sloe and cereal remains, as well as worked flint tools, pottery and fragments of animal bone. This deposit and those from the other pits have the potential to improve our understanding of Neolithic activity and landscape use in this part of Somerset. The archaeological excavation at SMR06 confirmed the presence of these features and have highlighted the prehistoric potential of the area. Archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic to post-medieval periods were identified and include worked flints, a rectangular enclosure with a small group of internal features (a hearth, pits, and postholes), field ditches, tree-throw holes and natural features. Worked flint and chert represent the earliest period at SMR06 and date to the Mesolithic. The recovery of diagnostic tools, a microlith and a crested-blade, along with the high proportion of blades in the assemblage suggest activity during the Mesolithic. Continuity of activity into the Neolithic, on a likely intermittent basis, is suggested by further diagnostic finds of worked flints; a Middle Neolithic chisel arrowed and a broadly dated Neolithic bifacial knife/axe. These finds provide the earliest evidence for human activity from the road scheme so far and suggest that groups of people utilised this landscape from potentially the 9th millennium BC. Activity became more formalised during later prehistory with a series of ditches, a rectangular enclosure and pits found within the western side of the area. The rectangular enclosure had entrances on its eastern side and in the north-western corner, ditches extended from the enclosure to both east and west. Dateable material was sparse with small fragments of late prehistoric and Bronze Age pottery recovered. An isolated pit to the north of the enclosure provided more confident Bronze Age dating and along with pottery sherds recovered from colluvial layers may suggest a focus of activity during this period. A small group of pits and a hearth lay close to the north-eastern corner of the rectangular enclosure. The hearth produced a small sherd of Bronze Age pottery, ash and oak charcoal and charred emmer/spelt wheat grains. A badly preserved inhumation burial lay near these features and a placed deposit of a human cranium was found close to the base of one ditch to the east of the rectangular enclosure. The human remains are currently undated although a later prehistoric date seems likely given their spatial association to the enclosure. Later agricultural activity was evidenced by post-medieval field boundaries that cross the area, one ditch is depicted on the pre-1840 Somerset enclosure map but appears to have been backfilled by the 1840s, when Tithe maps shows a single field. Residual worked flint and chert represent the earliest period at SMR03 and one piece, a triangular arrowhead, can be broadly dated to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. These artefacts suggest low levels of activity, with perhaps small mobile groups visiting or crossing the area on a sporadic basis. The first large scale changes on the landscape occurred during Romano-British period with the introduction of regular fields and enclosures. The fields were defined by ditches and gullies on a regular WNW–ESE or NNE–SSW alignment; a larger ditch may have formed the eastern edge of the immediate field system, with further elements located to the north of Plowage Lane. Two inhumation burials, a large pit with occupation and building debris and other

	small pits were found within the fields. Cultural material was predominately of a broad Romano-British date, with Late Roman pottery also present, suggesting activity occurred into the 4th century AD. Later agricultural activity was evidenced by a pair of possible medieval ditches and post-medieval/modern field boundaries. The post-medieval/modern field ditches are shown on historic mapping of the area from the 1840s and continued in use until the modern period when they were backfilled to create one larger field. The archaeological excavation at SMR02 confirmed the presence of these features and has highlighted the late prehistoric to Romano-British potential of the area. Prehistoric use of the area was represented by residual worked flints found within the fills of later features. Recognisable tools, scrapers, a plano-convex knife/side scraper and a broken leaf arrowhead were found amongst the assemblage. The arrowhead can be broadly dated to the Early Neolithic. These artefacts suggest limited activity during the Prehistoric period, with small mobile groups intermittently using or moving through the area. Activity levels appear to have increased during the later prehistoric or early Romano-British with the establishment of a field system and a ring ditch. The ring ditch probably represents the remains of a roundhouse structure set at the corner of a field. A small finds assemblage of animal bone and a worked flint came from the ditch while environmental samples contained charcoal and a charred cereal grain. During the Romano-British period a change in landscape use occurred. The earlier phase of this activity was represented by a series of intercutting ditches towards the east of the area. With the later phase represented by a sinuous trackway, orientated north-west to south-east, which crossed much of the area before turning to the south. Field ditches were laid out to the north of the trackway, a degree of phasing was suggested in the recorded relationships. Few finds were recovered but Romano-British pottery from the trackway ditches suggests activity during the 1st to 4th centuries AD. Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation were recorded across the northern half of the area and may have their origins in the later medieval period. These features probably form part of a wider cultivation system associated to the village of Downhead to the north. Their east to west orientation follows those of field divisions shown on c.1840s Tithe maps either side of Downhead Road. Post-medieval re-use of the furrows was suggested by ceramic land drains found at the centre of the infilled furrows. The archaeological excavation at SMR04 confirmed the presence of and allowed for further investigation of these features; the results highlight the Romano-British potential of the area. Archaeological remains dating from the Early Neolithic to post-medieval periods were identified and include residual worked flints, field ditches, enclosures, gullies and traces of ridge and furrow cultivation. A small assemblage of material culture was recovered from the investigated features. During the Romano-British period physical divisions of the landscape occurred when a series of field ditches and enclosures were laid out across the area. A rectilinear enclosure defined by ditches and sub-divided into two fields, was associated with an L-shaped ditch at its north-western corner; both formed elements of the Romano-British agricultural system. The ditches and enclosures align well with the results of earlier geophysical surveys, which indicate the system continued beyond the excavated area, joining other parts of the wider field system, particularly features recorded in SMR03 to the south. During the Iron Age and Romano-British periods activity at SMR05 increased and is likely to have been associated with the scheduled settlement located to the north of the current A303 carriageway. Geophysical survey of the settlement area had indicated the potential for Iron Age activity, particularly towards its south-western extent, approximately 90 m to the north-west of SMR05. The excavation at SMR05 identified an apparent continuation of this activity with a dense group of Iron Age pits investigated across the western half of the area. Approximately 90 Iron Age pits were hewn into the underlying limestone bedrock, creating concentrations of striking rock-cut features. Pits had been dug in large intercutting groups, smaller intercutting clusters or pairs, and as discrete examples. Some probably functioned as storage pits for the adjacent settlement, while others may represent quarries. Subsequently the pits were rapidly backfilled with deposits rich in limestone rubble and waste domestic material. A large artefact assemblage was recovered from the pit fills that includes Iron Age pottery, animal bone and fired clay; a collection of worked bone and antler highlights craft activities within the associated settlement. The pottery assemblage indicates this activity dates to the Middle or Middle/Late Iron Age and Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British periods. During the Romano-British period activity was focused on the settlement north of the A303; evaluation and geophysical surveys have identified stone foundations of at least three buildings. Dating suggests the settlement originated in the late 2nd to early 3rd century and survived into the 4th century AD. Within the SMR05 area a reduction in activity was identified, smaller numbers of features, including pits and a ditch, were dug and a large deposit formed above a group of intercutting Iron Age pits.

	Deposits of human bone were recorded and display a range of mortuary practices. Burials were made within pre-existing pits or specific graves, and redeposited skeletal elements were also recovered. Dating this activity is problematic as no datable artefactual materials were directly associated with any of the burial remains; the stratigraphic position of most of the burials, within upper layers of pits, suggests a later Iron Age date, although a coffined burial towards the north of the area may date to the later Romano-British period
Keywords	Pit Cluster - NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field System - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Field System - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Grave - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Knife - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Lithic Implement - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ridge And Furrow - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Microlith - MESOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Grave - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Arrowhead - EARLY PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Round House (Domestic) - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ceramic - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ceramic - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
HER	Somerset HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER	Identifiers HER Event No - 45281
Archives	



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Site location and scheme extents

Figure 1

Coordinate system: OSGB36

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Scale:	1:1000 at A3	Initials (studio):	RG/ND
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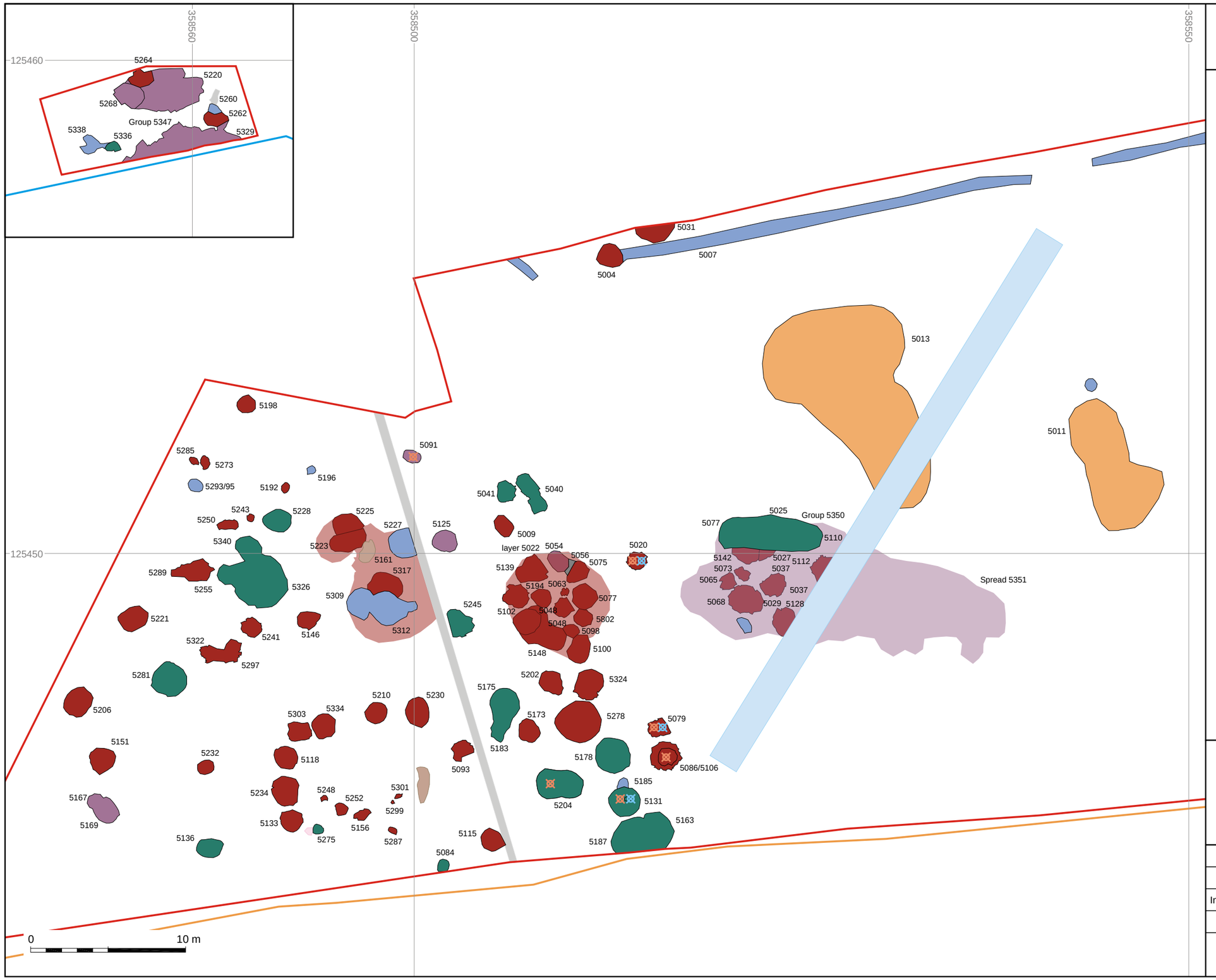
Phased plan of SMR05 (A) and geophysical survey results (B)

Figure 2



Detailed plan of SMR05

Figure 3

Figure 4: General view of SMR05 excavations, from the east (photograph by E. Lewis)

Figure 5: General view of SMR05 excavations, from the north-east (photograph by A. Misiak)

Figure 6: Hand cleaning of Iron Age pits at SMR05 (photograph by A. Misiak)

Figure 7: General view of SMR05 excavations, from the north-east (photograph by T. Westhead)

Figure 8: West facing section of pit 5151, scale 1 m (photograph by A. Misiak)

Figure 9: South facing section of pit 5228, scale 1 m (photograph by N. Hunt)

Figure 10: North facing section of pit 5303, scales 1 m (photograph by A. Misiak)

Figure 11: East facing section of pit 5037, scale 1 m (photograph by J. McCarthy)

Figurer 12: Fully excavated pit 5037, from the west, scale 1 m (photograph by A. Misiak)

Figure 13: Fully excavated pit 5102, from the north, scale 1 m (photograph by A. Wilson)

Figure 14: East facing section of pit 5142, scale 1 m (photograph by J. McCarthy)

Figure 15: Pits 5309 and 5312, from the north-west, scale 2 m (photograph by J. McCarthy)

Figure 16: East facing section of pit 5131, scale 2 m (photograph by J. Loader)

Figure 17: Inhumation burial 5030, pit 5020, from the south scale 0.2 m (photograph by E. Lewis)

Figure 18: Inhumation burial 5030, pit 5020, from the south scale 0.2 m (photograph by E. Lewis)

Figure 19: Inhumation burial 5088, grave 5086, from the south, scales 1 and 0.5 m (photograph by A. Misiak)

Figure 20: Inhumation burial 5081, grave 5079, from the north-west, scale 1 m (photograph by J. Loader)

Figure 21: Romano-British spread 5024 above pit 5029, from the south-west, scale 2 m (photograph by J. McCarthy)

Figure 22: Dry stone wall revetment 5056, in pit 5054, from the north-west, scale 1 m (photograph by L. Newton)

Figure 23: Pit 5220, from the south-east, scale 1 m (photograph by B. Cullen)

Figure 24: North-east facing section of pit 5167 and 5169, scale 1 m (photograph by A. Misiak)

Figure 25: Inhumation burial 5092, grave 5091, from the WNW, scale 0.5 m (photograph by J. McCarthy)

Figure 26: Inhumation burial 5092, grave 5091, from the NNE, scale 0.2 m (photograph by J. McCarthy)

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