WILLSTOCK FARM
RHODE
BRIDGWATER
SOMERSET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

CGMS

on behalf of

BLOOR HOMES

CA PROJECT: 2552
CA REPORT: 08047

MARCH 2008

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

WILLSTOCK FARM
RHODE
BRIDGWATER
SOMERSET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CA PROJECT: 2552
CA REPORT: 08047

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Date	6 March 2008
checked by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
Date	10 April 2008
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
Signed	
Date	10 April 2008
Issue	01

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Willstock Farm
Location:	Rhode, Bridgwater, Somerset
NGR:	ST 292 351
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	28 February to 3 March 2008
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with North Somerset Museum
Site Code:	WIF 08

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February and March 2008 at the request of CgMs on behalf of Bloor Homes at Willstock Farm, Rhode, Bridgwater, Somerset. Fourteen trenches were excavated.

Two ditches dating to the post-medieval period were identified. An undated ditch and an undated pit were also identified.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February and March 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for CgMs on behalf of Bloor Homes at Willstock Farm, Rhode, Bridgwater (centred on NGR: ST 292 351; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of 91 residential buildings.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a *Specification* (CgMs 2007) prepared by CgMs and approved by Mr Steven Membery, Somerset County Council Archaeology Service, archaeological advisors to Sedgemoor District Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). It was monitored by Mr Membery, including a site visit on 3 February 2008.

The site

1.3 The site is bounded to the South by Willstock Farm and to the north, east and west by open farmland, currently utilised as pasture (Fig. 2). The site lies between 5m and 10m AOD, with the ground sloping gently downwards from the south to the north of the site.

1.4 The site encloses an area of approximately 2.2ha, and is currently utilised as pasture for cattle.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Mercian Mudstone with the majority of the site overlain by Alluvium (CgMs 2007). The Alluvium deposits were encountered across the site.

Archaeological background

1.6 The site was probably incorporated into the areas of common pasture during the 13th century, and enclosed by the 17th century. The site has remained an area of agricultural activity to the present day. Roman artefacts, including coins, have been found in the area (SMR 17891), although no detailed locations of the finds have

been recorded. A number of possible late prehistoric or Roman cropmark enclosures have been identified within the Stockmoor area to the south and south-west of the site. Neolithic finds were recovered *c*. 930m to the north of the site (SMR 18108 and 12420) (CgMs 2007).

Archaeological objectives

1.7 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Sedgemoor District Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

1.8 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2).

1.9 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

1.10 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) however, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).

1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with North Somerset Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2)

2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B.

2.2 A total of fourteen trenches were excavated during the evaluation, twelve of which did not contain any archaeological features.

Trenches 1-11, 14 (Fig. 2)

2.3 Trenches 1-11 and 14 were devoid of archaeological features. The natural orange brown clay was encountered within all of these trenches at varying depths across the site. The majority of the trenches contained a subsoil layer *c*. 0.10m in thickness, which was in turn overlain by topsoil 0.30m in thickness.

Trench 12 (Figs 2 and 3)

2.4 The fill 1204 of pit 1203 contained some charcoal but no artefacts. Fill 1204 was overlain by subsoil 1201 and topsoil 1200. Ditch 1205 was orientated north-west/south-east and was cut through the subsoil, with no artefacts found in its fill 1206.

Trench 13 (Figs 2 and 3)

2.5 Ditch 1302 was orientated south-west/north-east; its fill 1303 contained pottery dating to the post-medieval period. Parallel and immediately to the south of this feature was ditch 1304. Both ditches were cut through subsoil 1301, and overlain by topsoil 1300.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

2.6 One sherd of post-medieval glazed earthenware of likely 16th–18th century date was recovered from deposit 1302.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 No features certainly pre-dating the post-medieval period were located within the evaluation area. Ditch 1302 is dated to the post-medieval period by a single sherd of pottery. Ditch 1304 is considered by association to be of the same date. Both these ditches are still visible in the field and converge to the west of evaluation trench 13. These features acted as drainage channels and still function in this manner to a limited degree, although they have silted considerably since being dug. Ditch 1205 is undated but may similarly have acted as a drainage channel. Pit 1203 is undated. And was an apparently undated feature.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Mark Collard.

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Willstock Farm, Rhode, Bridgwater, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

CgMs 2007 *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation Willstock, Bridgwater.*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1 Present ground level: 10m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
101	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.19	
102	Layer	Natural – Pink brown clay, firm compaction. Infrequent stone inclusions.			0.12	

Trench 2 Present ground level: 10m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
201	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.12	
202	Layer	Natural – Pink brown clay, firm compaction. Infrequent stone inclusions.			0.32	

Trench 3 Present ground level: 10m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
301	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.09	
302	Layer	Natural – Yellow brown clay with frequent stony/gravel patches. Firm compaction (clay), loose compaction for gravel patches.			0.09	

Trench 4 Present ground level: 10m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
401	Layer	Natural – Orange brown clay, frequent small to medium stone inclusions, rare quartz inclusions.			0.06	

Trench 5 Present ground level: 8m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
501	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.80	
502	Layer	Orange brown clay, frequent stone inclusions, occasional quartz fragments. Firm compaction. Manganese flecks throughout.			0.06	

Trench 6 Present ground level: 8m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable			0.30	

		compaction. Very few stone inclusions.				
601	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.14	
602	Layer	Natural – orange brown clay, manganese inclusions. Firm compaction.			0.18	

Trench 7 Present ground level: 7m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions..			0.33	
701	Layer	Natural – Orange brown clay, frequent manganese flecks throughout. Firm compaction.			0.17	

Trench 8 Present ground level: 7m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.28	
801	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.26	
802	Layer	Natural – orange brown clay, manganese inclusions. Firm compaction.			0.06	

Trench 9 Present ground level: 7m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
901	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.16	
902	Layer	Natural – orange brown clay, manganese inclusions. Firm compaction.			0.06	

Trench 10 Present ground level: 7m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
1001	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.20	
1002	Layer	Natural – orange brown clay, manganese inclusions. Firm compaction.			0.12	

Trench 11 Present ground level: 7m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
1101	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.20	
1102	Layer	Natural – orange brown clay, manganese inclusions. Firm compaction.			0.06	

Trench 12 Present ground level: 7m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable			0.30	

		compaction. Very few stone inclusions.				
1201	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.10	
1202	Layer	Natural - Light yellow brown clay. Firm compaction. Manganese flecks throughout.			0.10	
1203	Cut	Cut of pit.	0.26	0.20	0.09	
1204	Deposit	Fill of 1203. Mid yellow brown silty clay.	0.26	0.20	0.09	
1205	Cut	Cut of linear ditch.	>2.00	1.75	0.60	
1206	Deposit	Fill of 1205. Mid pink brown silty clay.	>2.00	1.75	0.60	

Trench 13 Present ground level: 5m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.30	
1301	Layer	Natural – Blue grey clay, firm compaction, occasional small stone inclusions.			0.10	
1302	Cut	Cut of drainage channel.	>2.00	1.09	0.15	Post-med
1303	Deposit	Fill of 1302. Yellow brown silty clay.	>2.00	1.09	0.15	Post-med
1304	Cut	Cut of drainage channel.	>2.00	0.70		
1305	Deposit	Fill of 1304. Yellow brown silty clay.	>2.00	0.70		

Trench 14 Present ground level: 5m AOD

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1400	Layer	Topsoil – Mid yellow brown, clay silt. Friable compaction. Very few stone inclusions.			0.34	
1401	Layer	Subsoil – Mid orange brown silty clay. Firm compaction. Infrequent mudstone inclusions.			0.17	
1402	Layer	Natural – orange brown clay, manganese inclusions. Firm compaction.			0.10	

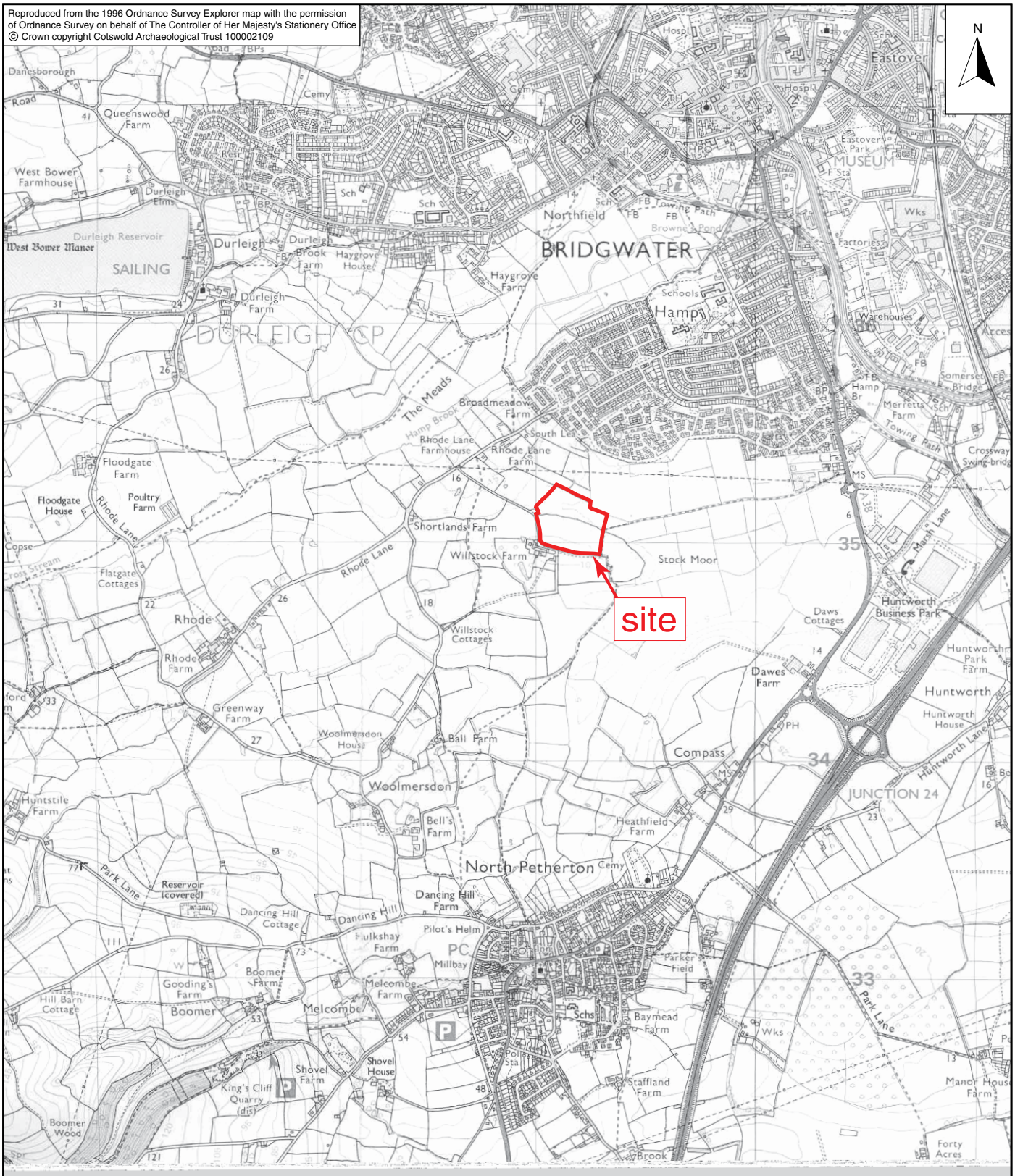
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Finds Concordance

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1302	Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware	1	6	C16–C18

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Willstock Farm	
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in February and March 2008 at the request of CgMs on behalf of Bloor Homes at Willstock Farm, Rhode, Bridgwater, Somerset. Fourteen trenches were excavated. Two ditches dating to the post-medieval period were identified. An undated ditch and an undated pit were also identified.	
Project dates	28 February – 3 March 2008	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	Not known	
Future work	Not known	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Willstock Farm, Rhode, Bridgwater, Somerset	
Study area (M^2/ha)	2.2ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 2920 3510	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Sedgemoor District Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Mark Collard	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	North Somerset Museum	Pottery
Paper	North Somerset Museum	WSI, pro forma registers and recording forms, photographs
Digital	North Somerset Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008, *Willstock Farm, Rhode, Bridgwater, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation.* CA typescript report 08047		



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Willstock Farm, Rhode
Bridgwater, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:25,000@A4	2552	**1**

290 292 290

352

350

ST

N

ETL

Pond

Pond

Pond

Pond

Pond

Pond

Pond

Pon l

Drain

Path (um)

Drain

Stock Moor

Drain

Willstock Farm

Slurry Pit

Slurry Pit

Slurry Pit

Willstock Farm

Willstock Farm

Willstock Cottages
BM 11.59m

Track

Pond

9586

Drain

1600

3500

2187

T1
T2
T3
T4
T5
T6
T7
T8
T9
T10
T11
T12
T13
T14

ditch 1302
ditch 1304
pit 1203
ditch 1205

7.6m

0 250m

site
evaluation trench
archaeological feature

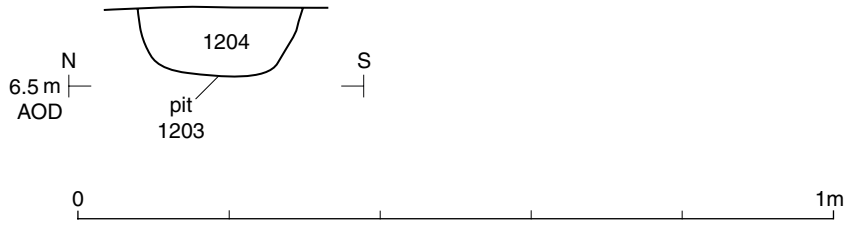
COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Willstock Farm, Rhode
Bridgwater, Somerset

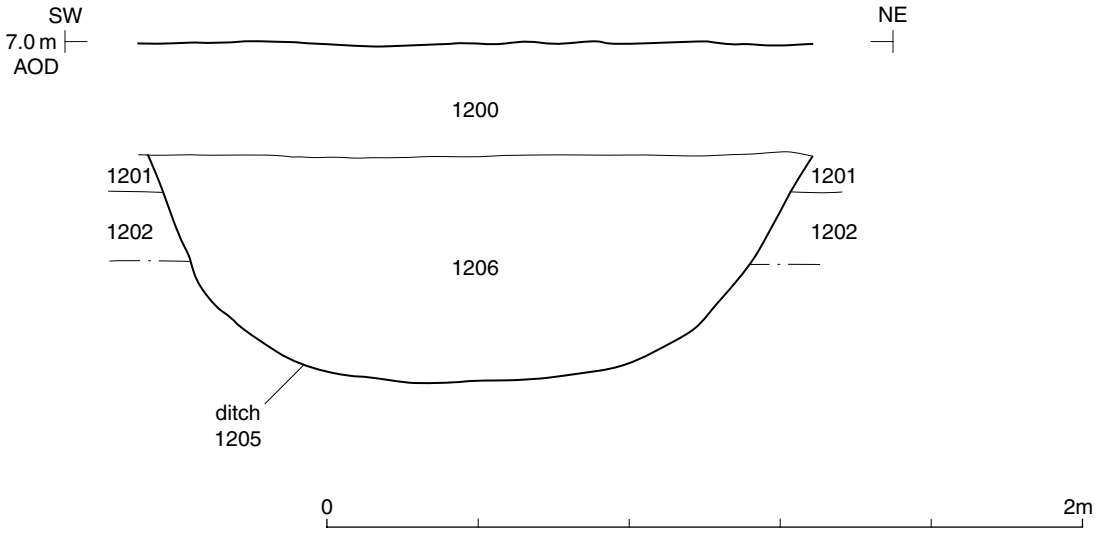
FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing archaeological features

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
LG	1:2000@A3	2552	**2**

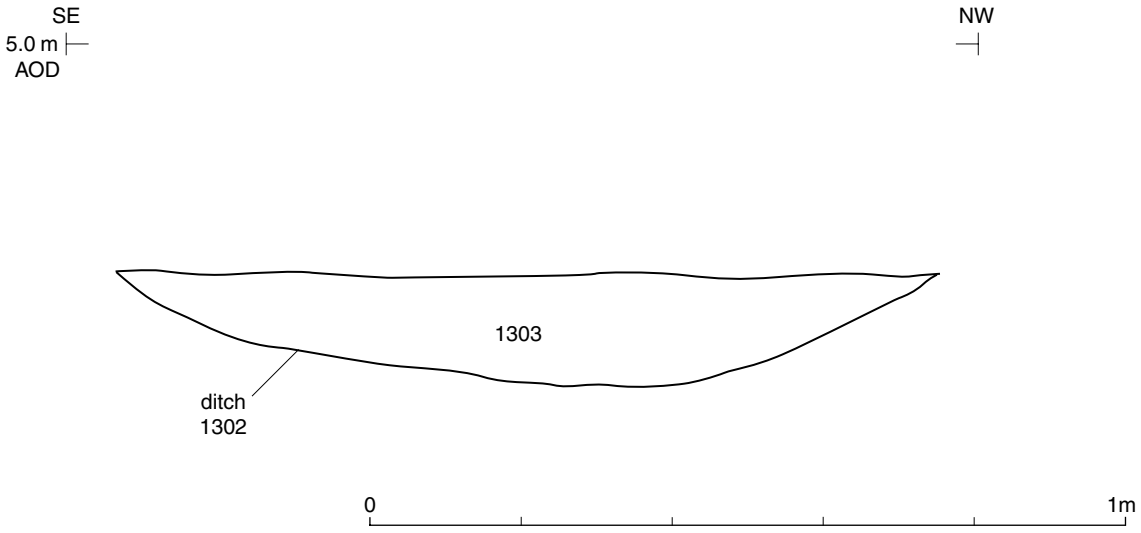
Trench 12: West facing section of pit 1203



Trench 12: South-east facing section through ditch 1205



Trench 13: North-east facing section through ditch 1302



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
Willstock Farm, Rhode
Bridgwater, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Sections

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JE	1:10 & 1:20	2552	**3**