

## ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE M5 MOTORWAY: THE GAZETTEER OF SITES IN SOMERSET

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### SUMMARY

Between 1971 and 1973 a series of reports was published reporting the results of archaeological fieldwork in advance of construction of the M5 motorway. For various reasons the reports envisaged for Somerset were never completed. This gazetteer completes the listing of sites discovered in the section from the Avonmouth Bridge to the Devon border between 1971 and 1975.

### INTRODUCTION

The M5 Research Committee was constituted on 6th March, 1969, under the chairmanship of Peter Fowler by most of the archaeological bodies then concerned with the counties of Gloucestershire, Bristol and Somerset. It had the specific aim of organising and co-ordinating archaeological fieldwork in immediate advance of the construction of the motorway as it proceeded southwards from Bredon. It was a pioneering project of rescue archaeology combining field survey, planned excavation and site watching. It was of unprecedented proportions – 165km of new roadbed and associated drainage works, 16 major junctions and associated link roads and four service areas. It was a truly collaborative effort by volunteers, amateur archaeologists, professional field archaeologists and university and museum staff. As construction progressed southwards, the Committee published its work in a series of reports: the first, North Gloucestershire 1969 (Fowler and Walthew 1971), the second, Central Gloucestershire 1969–70 (Fowler and Bennett 1973), the third and fourth, South Gloucestershire 1969–70 (Fowler and Bennett 1974; Fowler, Bennett and Hill 1976), and the fifth devoted to the excavation of a round cairn on Court Hill, Tickenham, Somerset, in 1969 (Green 1973). Some publication was completed later but for various reasons the Somerset section has not been finalised (Fowler 1977). What follows is a beginning to make up this deficiency.

Results proved to be as plentiful as the northern sections though the techniques used in the construction of the motorway were markedly different for significant lengths. The huge excavation and bridge works carried out to build the two separate carriageways along the south flank of the Gordano Valley still impress by their scale. Less obvious now but more extensive by far were the vast quantities of fly ash brought from Llanwern steel works to 'float' the route of the motorway across the peat moors of north and central Somerset. This effectively masked

the underlying archaeology, leaving only the substantial new drainage ditches cut into the land surface for investigation.

The authors are grateful to Ann Linge for drawing the accompanying distribution map (Fig. 1) and to Robert Bolton, Colin Clements, Steve Minnitt and many others for their assistance in the preparation of this gazetteer.

## GAZETTEER

Abbreviations used: Pal = Palaeolithic; Meso = Mesolithic; Neo = Neolithic; EBA = Early Bronze Age; LBA = Late Bronze Age; IA = Iron Age; RB = Romano-British; Med = Medieval; P-Med = Post Medieval; ASMR prefixes the former Avon Sites and Monuments Record numbers, now those of North Somerset Sites and Monuments Record; SomSMR those of the Somerset Sites and Monuments Record.

### PORTBURY

*Site 1* ST488746 (ASMR 562). 'Celtic' field system.

### CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO

*Site 2* ST488748–479741 (ASMR 563). Flint scatter, including a late Neo/EBA tanged and barbed arrowhead at ST485745.

*Site 3* ST472737 (ASMR 550). The site of an RB coin hoard and presumed settlement was excavated. Coins and pottery were found but almost all structural features had been ploughed away.

*Site 4* ST472735 (ASMR 10586). Two coking piles and some slag in the field next to that in which the RB coin hoard was found.

*Site 5* ST467734 (ASMR 546). A trackway bounded to east by a stone wall c. 1m thick with RB sherds in the lower levels and Med sherds in the upper.

### TICKENHAM

*Site 6* Court Hill, ST43697219 (ASMR 516). Complete excavation of a round cairn revealed two phases of construction which may relate to the two successive burials discovered. Phase (i) consisted of a cairn 6m in diameter surviving to its original height of 0.3m. The cairn was composed of large blocks of conglomerate (outcropping c. 50m to the north) and of large and small blocks of both freshly quarried and weathered limestone. Demarcating the edge of this cairn and lying at a slope actually on its margin was a ring of blocks of varying sizes. Phase (ii) consisted of a coursed drystone wall laid horizontally on the old ground surface at a distance of 0.75m from the inner wall: the space between the two walls was then filled up with stones mostly small in size. An entrance 2m wide lay on the north. It is quite possible to reverse the sequence of construction and to interpret the Phase (ii) wall as a primary freestanding feature demarcating an area for burial and ritual and for the eventual construction of a cairn.

The first burial was a cremation and was probably laid unaccompanied on the old ground surface at the centre of the cairn. It was completely dispersed by a secondary tightly crouched unaccompanied inhumation placed at the bottom of a pit dug from the top of the cairn to a depth of 0.4m into the underlying gravel. The skeleton was edged with stones and lay over a clearly defined rectangular area of dark soil 0.8 x 0.25 x 0.03m which may represent the remains of a rug. Superficially in the cairn material were over 50 abraded IA potsherds.

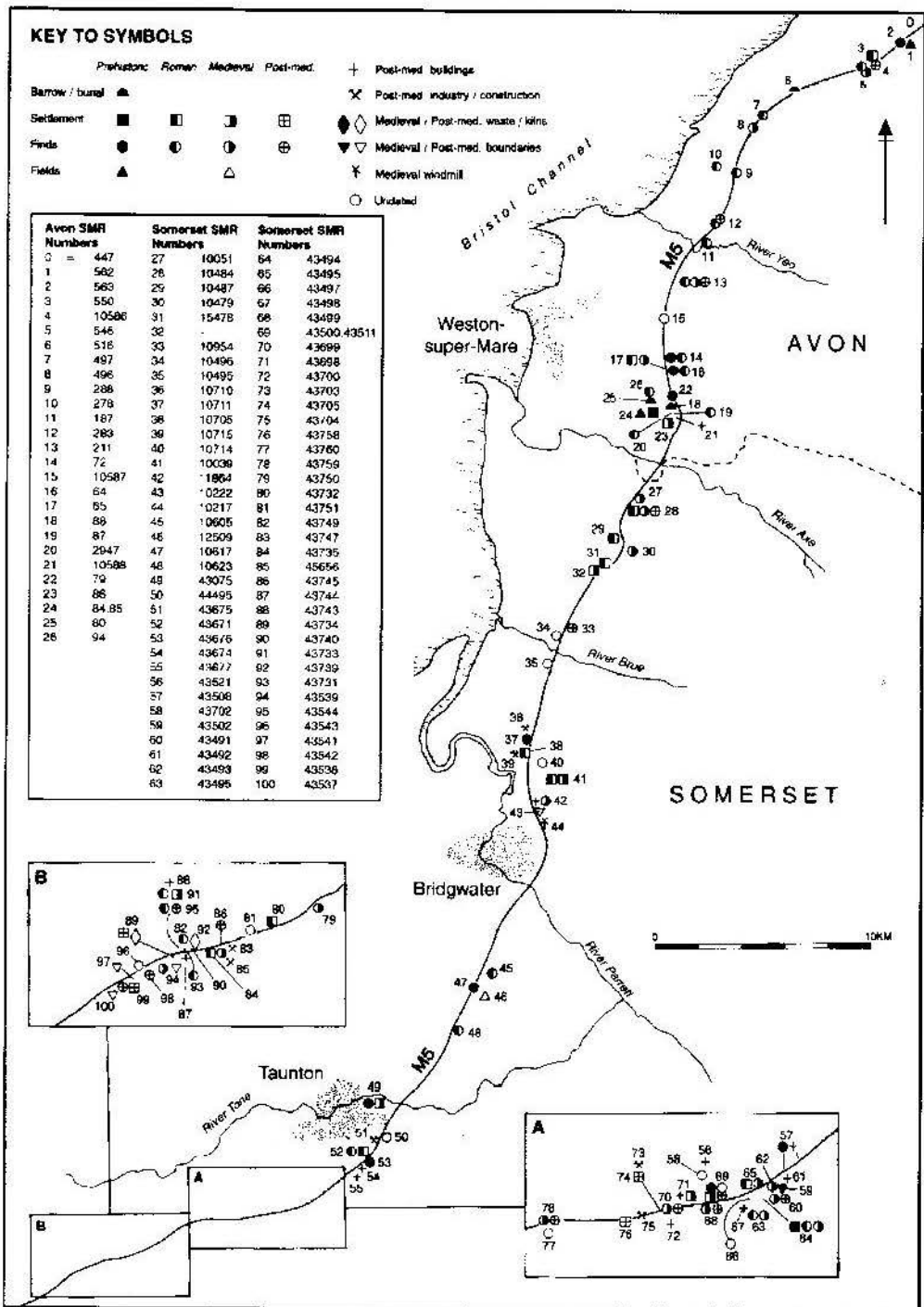


Fig. 1 Location and types of sites

Bone samples from both the cremation and the inhumation were submitted to Teledyne isotopes (New Jersey) for radiocarbon analysis. The estimate obtained for the cremation (I 5734) was  $2665 \pm 130$  BP ( $715 \pm 130$  bc) and for the inhumation (I 5735)  $3325 \pm 100$  BP ( $1375 \pm 100$  bc).

Finds: *Bristol City Museum*

Report: Green 1973.

#### CLEVEDON

*Site 7* ST421710 (ASMR 497). RB sherds.

*Site 8* ST416707 (ASMR 496). Med sherds.

#### KENN

*Site 9* ST410685 (ASMR 288). RB sherds.

#### KINGSTON SEYMOUR

*Site 10* ST402687 (ASMR 278). RB sherds.

*Site 11* ST395653 (ASMR 187). RB sherds.

*Site 12* ST40256638, ST40146620 (ASMR 283). RB and P-Med sherds.

#### PUXTON

*Site 13* ST389634 (ASMR 211). RB, Med and 16th-century sherds.

#### BANWELL

*Site 14* Hillend Farm. ST379590 (ASMR 72). RB sherds and flint flakes.

*Site 15* 'Ploughmen and Two Horses'. ST377617 (ASMR 10587). A group of small limestone slabs was excavated but no material was found, and it is presumably a late feature.

*Site 16* ST378595 (ASMR 64). Half of an EBA perforated mace-head, 2 flints, and RB sherds.

Finds: *Bristol City Museum*.

*Site 17* ST378594 (ASMR 65). RB building, sherds and animal teeth; and Med? cross-bow bolt head.

#### LOXTON

*Site 18* Christon, Dibble's Farm. ST384575 (ASMR 88). Eleven of 65 pits, varying in depth from 0.3m–1.4m and up to maximum diameter of c. 1.8m, contained 13 inhumations together with large quantities of domestic rubble. The burials, often in pits already at least half full of refuse, were generally in a tightly crouched position and unaccompanied, but two shared pits with dog inhumations; one wore an iron armband. Pottery ranged from very early to late IA; other material included typical IA bonework and an early type of penannular brooch. Timber structures separated from the pits were indicated by an arc of postholes and a palisade trench, but there was no evidence that the settlement/cemetery was enclosed.

Finds: *North Somerset Museum*: 1977.139–64, 1987.26.1–21

Report: Morris 1988

*Site 19* ST384575 (ASMR 87), and *Site 20* ST382574 (ASMR 2947). RB sherds and slight field boundaries.

*Site 21* ST383572 (ASMR 10588). Ox-house at end of Med sunken track.

*Site 22* ST381581 (ASMR 79). Flint scatter.

*Site 23* ST381573 (ASMR 86). Earthworks of Christon shrunken village.

*Site 24* ST375575 (ASMR 84, 85). 'Celtic' field system and settlement.

*Site 25* ST37155795 (ASMR 80). Mound 7.6m diameter, 0.6m high, possibly a round barrow.

#### HUTTON

*Site 26* ST371582 (ASMR 94). Much 3rd to 4th-century pottery and animal bones, probably indicating RB settlement.

#### EAST BRENT

*Site 27* Scott's Wharf. ST366536 (SomSMR 10051). Fourteenth to 15th-century pottery was recovered from the fill of a pond or shallow waterway in a field named Scott's Wharf. To the south-east a mound c. 15 x 5m and 1.5m high lay at the confluence of the Old Axe and the Mark Yeo, with a curving bank 60m to south. A second mound 4 x 3m and 1m high lay just north of the pond.

*Site 28* Edingworth. ST362532 (SomSMR 10484). A series of ditches with RB pottery, possibly 2nd to 3rd-century, and a layer of flat Lias stones, perhaps a path, was traced for c. 170m north-east-south-west. It predated a number of V-shaped features, themselves earlier than a Med occupation level with 14th to 16th-century pottery.

*Site 29* Chapel Farm. ST359515/358514 (SomSMR 10487). RB pottery and building material.

*Site 30* Lakehouse Farm. ST360510 (SomSMR 10479). RB sherds.

*Site 31* Lakehouse Farm. ST356503-357507 (SomSMR 15478). RB buildings extending under the motorway indicated by an area of RB pottery and building material: dressed stone blocks and slabs, sandstone roofing tiles, tegulae and imbrices, box and pilae tiles, painted wall-plaster, window-glass. Med pottery scatter.

Finds: *Somerset County Museums Service*: 120/2002.

*Site 32* Slocombe Lane. ST347499 (SomSMR 10086). House platforms with Med pottery.

#### HIGHBRIDGE

*Site 33* Yew Tree Farm. ST336470 (SomSMR 10954). P-Med pottery 17th to 18th century.

*Site 34* Westhill Rhyne. ST330470 (SomSMR 10496). Bank undated.

#### EAST HUNTSPELL

*Site 35* New Road Farm. ST326457 (SomSMR 10495). Sea wall but no finds.

#### PURITON

*Site 36* Colthurst Symons. ST316426 (SomSMR 10710). Plant, buildings and methods were recorded at, and sample products preserved from, the handmade tile factory which closed in 1971 and has since been obliterated by motorway construction.

*Site 37* Champion's Farm, Long Field. ST316421 (SomSMR 10711). A small excavation on the spring line where the Lias dips to the Levels produced no structures but, below ploughsoil down to c. 0.2m, four small ?Meso flint flakes, two with secondary working, and a flint core (Langdon 1971).

*Site 38* Cricket Field. ST315415 (SomSMR 10705). A RB settlement of unknown extent was briefly revealed during topsoil stripping. It extended 100m north–south and 15m west–east, apparently continuing to both east and west outside the motorway line. Stone paving and a Lias stone-wall footing were the only structures recorded; pottery included samian, colour-coated mortaria and coarse greyware sherds, plus one sherd with curvilinear and hatched decoration of late IA type. Three undated west–east ditches, one partly underlying RB occupation, were also observed (Langdon 1971).

*Site 39* Downend. ST313416 (SomSMR 10715). Nineteenth-century lime kilns, disused and now destroyed, were recorded. See Whittaker 1970 for saltworks in same area.

*Site 40* Puriton Hill. ST322411 (SomSMR 10714). M5 sectioned the ridge road, supposedly RB, along the crest of the Poldens. Roughly laid metalling of small Lias stones as much as 0.2m thick and 2–3m wide partly underlay the existing lane and the south hedge, both of which had disturbed it. No ditches and no finds were observed.

#### BAWDRIE

*Site 41* Bush Marsh *alias* Crandon Bridge. ST326404 (SomSMR 10039). Some 300m of RB occupation was recorded along the south side of the Crandon Bridge–Puriton road during its re-alignment. The upper levels only of an area 110 x 20m were excavated in the three weeks available; within that a 20m square was excavated to water level. Ten stone-based late-Roman structures were approximately aligned north–south: one was a latrine but the others were not obviously domestic and may have been warehouses. The earliest structures were timber, associated with Durotrigan pottery; the latest ‘Roman’ structure(s) overlying a corridor building, was also probably timber. Extensive Med use of the site was represented by ditches, road metalling and a building with clay floor and hearth. A drystone ?P-Med wall or sheepdip cut through all levels to subsoil. The 129 coins ranged from Nerva to Valens but were mainly 4th century; the pottery included c. 25kg of mainly large, unabraded sherds from big storage jars and amphorae, some being stamped handles. Med pottery included imported wares.

Note: Langdon and Fowler 1971.

#### BRIDGWATER WITHOUT

*Site 42* Horsey, Boards Orchard. ST319391 (SomSMR 11864). Cobbled Lias stones on edge and a wall foundation trench of an 18th-century cottage overlay a hard clay surface with charcoal and unglazed 14th-century pottery. Salvage excavation produced no associated structures. Horsey DMV is 200m to the north.

*Site 43* Horsey, Boards Farm. ST319388 (SomSMR 10222). Ditches cut on both sides of the M5 showed, in section, a north-east/south-west flood bank or raised courseway 4–5m wide at base with 1.5–2m of small cobbling on top. The top of the bank lay under 0.4m of brown clay and was not indicated in the pastureland above. Glazed, reddish 16th to 17th-century pottery was in the red earth of the bank.

*Site 44* Chedzoy. ST32163865 (SomSMR 10217). A mound 21m in diam, 1.8m high and surrounded by a superficially broad and shallow ditch, was excavated and shown to have been the base of an early 15th-century post-mill. Beneath the mound a foundation trench 0.9m wide and 0.6m deep, forming in plan an equal-armed cross, was filled with large Lias slabs laid at random. On these, level with the old ground surface, were laid 6.06m-long cross beams of rough hewn timber (?elm), halved together at the centre. Four diagonal tie-beams had originally run from the cross-trees to support a centrally placed post. Three survived, but the central post and the fourth tie beam had been removed. The weight of the post supporting the mill had not been borne by the cross-trees at the central point. An extra timber, which had been removed

with the post, had spread the load along one of the cross-trees. Two mortice holes survived in this cross-tree, apparently connected with this timber. The three surviving joints consisted of tendons on the ends of the tie-beams, cut to fit at an angle into corresponding mortices on the cross-trees. Holes for pegs survived, drilled through both sides of the mortices and through the tenons. The pegs, presumably in a different timber, had totally decayed.

Sherds of a jug with an external green glaze and brushed cream slip decoration were found on the old ground surface adjacent to the cross-trees. Other pottery, glazed and unglazed, was both in the body of the mound and just beneath the turf on its surface.

No traces of the mill itself or of a track for its turning gear could be detected on the surface of the mound. The mound itself was composed of clay dug from a surrounding shallow and irregular quarry ditch. A slight mound nearby was tested in a search for ancillary buildings but this proved to be natural and no sign of other buildings was found.

#### BRIDGWATER AND NORTH PETHERTON

East Bower and Huntworth. ST3205–3860. Buried peat and flood levels were recorded and sampled at various points where exposed in the motorway side ditches, but archaeological features and material were absent from this length across the flood-plain of the R. Parrett (Langdon 1971).

#### NORTH PETHERTON

*Site 45* Parker's Field. ST298314 (SomSMR 10605). Construction work revealed a U-shaped ditch c. 0.5m wide and c. 0.4m deep containing black fill with RB pottery, including samian and coarse grey sherds of 2nd to 3rd century and a coin of Tetricus. At one point stakeholes and flat sandstone slabs were in the ditch bottom. But no other traces of occupation were found and quarrying has probably destroyed any other evidence.

*Site 46* Moonlane Barn. ST290307–288302 (SomSMR 12509). Med field system.

*Site 47* Moonlane, Greenway Farm. ST290304 (SomSMR 10617). Meso and later flint scatter.

Report: Norman 1975.

*Site 48* West Newton. ST28352885 (SomSMR 10623). RB occupation.

#### WEST MONKTON

*Site 49* Bathpool (Alvin's Orchard and Creech Castle). ST249255 (SomSMR 43075). The site, bisected by the A38, was demarcated by a ditch 2m wide and 1.5m deep with a slight internal bank enclosing an area c. 150 x 75m. Excavation on either side of the A38 examined the enclosure ditch and about a quarter of the enclosed area, revealing both slight IA occupation and an extensive Med settlement. The earliest features consisted of linear ditches and nebulous pits associated with earlier IA pottery. The exact character of this evidence is uncertain and no structures were recognised.

In the 12th century, or possibly earlier, the area was enclosed by a bank and ditch. Internal ditches and timber structures of at least 20 x 15m appeared to represent aisled timber buildings. A large number of stakeholes suggested internal partitioning which had been continually replaced. Later Med activity was indicated by a circular, 2m diam ?limekiln, probably 14th century, and by 15th to 16th-century pottery. In the P-Med period, a series of large pits was dug on the site, badly disturbing earlier levels. Their purpose is not clear. A Post Office cable marker dated 1901 was recovered from the A38. It marked the London–Penzance telegraph cable, the first long distance cable in the SW and one of the first in the country.

Finds: *Somerset County Museums Service*: 117/2002, 118/2002.

## STOKE ST MARY

*Site 50* New Barn Farm. ST25072394 (SomSMR 44495). A north-south bank 2m wide x 1m high with a ditch 4m wide x 1.5m deep on the east with traces of a second on the west was recorded but produced no dating evidence.

*Site 51* Broughton Brook. ST25102389 (SomSMR 43675). Traces of a brick and stone bridge abutment on the west bank of the Brook are locally reputed to belong to an 'accommodation bridge' of 18th to 19th century date.

*Site 52* Holway, Ten Acres, ST24632317 (SomSMR 43671). Preliminary checking located, and resistivity survey and trial excavation pinpointed, a RB settlement on Keuper Marl right on the line of a length of M5 due for construction from early 1972. Advance excavation of a 20m square produced evidence of a stratified occupation sequence but the extent and nature of the site remain unknown.

The earliest feature (?2nd-3rd century) was part of a rectilinear posthole structure 9 x 7m with what was possibly a drain or storm gully along 1½ sides leading into a sump. A continuous curving (? boundary) ditch 1.3m wide by 0.9m deep crossed the excavated area and contained large quantities of animal bones and 4th-century coarse pottery. Contemporary with and 'inside' it was part of a rectilinear timber building, covering c. 40m<sup>2</sup>, of both posthole and timber slot construction, and containing an oven and possibly wooden partitions. 'Outside' the ditch but also apparently contemporary was the eaves-drip gully, 0.15m wide, from part (6 x 4m) of a slight timber structure overlying the earliest posthole structure. The latest RB phase was represented by an area of cobbling 'inside' the ditch and over the structure there. The material included a lot of iron objects but bronze, apart from 51 coins, was scarce although including a decorated zoomorphic strap end.

Further excavation at this extensive RB settlement investigated part of the remaining threatened area. The earliest structure was the corner and adjoining sides, at least 10m long, of a rectilinear timber-slot structure producing late IA type pottery. This was overlain by an oven, ditch and postholes of 1st to 4th-century date, but these formed no coherent plan. The boundary ditch was examined further and part of a similar ditch on a different alignment containing a Constantinian coin was also located. A second rectangular structure, 7 x 5m and also probably 4th century, proved to be of timber-slot and posthole construction with chert footings in the base of the slots. The whole site was c. 160m west-east and at least 50m north-south. Though that part of it within the motorway fences has been destroyed, more probably exists outside.

Finds: *Somerset County Museums Service*: 57/1995.

At ST245231, the lower stone of a rotary quern was recovered from below a hedge.

*Site 53* Dowslands Farm. ST243228 (SomSMR 43676). Two flint cores and six worked flakes were recovered during topsoil stripping.

*Site 54* The Gore. ST24192275 (SomSMR 43674). Remains of a ?18th-century cobbled yard and outbuildings.

*Site 55* Haygrass House. ST24092254 (SomSMR 43677). Eighteenth to 19th-century concrete floor and brick wall footings.

*Site 56* Amberd Lane. ST21692163 (SomSMR 43521). A cottage, first recorded in 1842, was partially destroyed by road widening for motorway access.

*Site 57* Kibbear Farm. ST225214 (SomSMR 43508). Pal hand-axe. Local information suggests that many others have been found here over a period of years, but their present whereabouts are unknown.

ST2262129. A substantial oak beam fitted to take a wooden partition was in use as a gatepost. It could have come from one of three nearby ?late Med buildings.

ST222142124. The walls of an abandoned barton, first documented in 1838, were recorded.



## TRULL

*Site 58* Stone House. ST202211 (SomSMR 43702). An undated c. 40m diameter circular ditch enclosure with interior linear depressions was recorded but then not affected by M5.

## PITMINSTER

*Site 59* Poundisford Old Deer Park. ST221211, ST212206 (SomSMR 43502). The park pale was cut in two places by the M5. At ST221211 the bank was of earth and stone, 3m wide and 1–2m high, with an external ditch. At ST212206 the bank was also of earth and stone but was better preserved with near-vertical faces 7m wide, 2m high and with a 4m wide track on its summit. It had wet ditches up to 2m wide and 1m deep on both sides.

See Vivian-Neal and St George Gray 1940, 75–8.

*Site 60* ST217208 to ST220210 (SomSMR 43491). Surface spread of late Med to 20th-century pottery.

*Site 60* ST21962098 (SomSMR 43491). In a field named Brickdale Park in 1838, layers of powdered and broken red brick, soot, coke and small coal were recorded.

*Site 61* ST22132107 (SomSMR 43492). The end wall of a stone building first recorded in 1838 still survives. An overgrown dump of building debris lies on the site.

*Site 62* ST21772089 (SomSMR 43493). Cropmarks revealed the existence of charcoal layer containing slag and early Med pottery.

*Site 62* ST21782088 (SomSMR 43493). Possibly connected with the last were twelve circular hearths producing similar Med pottery.

*Site 62* ST21682085 (SomSMR 43493). Half a metre of river gravel sealed a linear charcoal spread 2 x 1m containing a saucer-shaped hearth lined with chert blocks and filled with charcoal in which was an IA rim sherd. This hearth cut an earlier clay-lined hearth.

*Site 62* ST21752084 (SomSMR 43493). An undated spread of crazed and burnt chert overlay unburnt stones.

*Site 63* ST21522080-21262053 (SomSMR 43495). An RB ditch was cut by a later (?Med) ditch which runs along the crest of a low hill and terminates at P-Med field boundaries.

*Site 64* Poundisford Park. ST21552078 (SomSMR 43494). A south–west to north–east ditch, not completely excavated, may have been associated with the BA/IA site recorded below. It contained some iron slag in its upper levels.

*Site 64* ST21492076 (SomSMR 43494). A layer of ash with stones and flecks of charcoal which produced pottery of a BA/IA type may also have been associated with the next site.

*Site 64* ST21562074 (SomSMR 43494). Three areas were excavated and showed BA, IA, RB and Med occupations: Site A. A c. 1.5m deep V-shaped ditch enclosed an elliptical area c. 60 x c. 45m. It contained BA pottery in its lowest levels and IA pottery in its upper fill. In the enclosed area were a 9m diam IA hut gully and a series of pits and gullies which also contained material of this period, but none of these features could be stratigraphically related to the enclosure ditch. In Site B was a group of unrelated ‘eaves-drip’ trenches of another circular hut. Possibly related to these were two interconnected oval pits, the earlier containing burnt bone and clay ?lining fragments, the later iron slag. Both contained layers of charcoal and ash and both were probably evidence for iron-smelting. Site C, west of B, included a section of a U-shaped ditch producing 2nd-century RB pottery. A layer of charcoal-rich soil over Sites B and C contained Med pottery.

Within Poundisford Park at ST2160271, ST20702045 and ST19882034 were ‘Devon-type’ round stone gateposts, 1–1.5m high and 1–2m diam.

*Site 65* ST21442067, ST21402066 (SomSMR 43495). Two parallel ditches producing ?2nd-century RB pottery were excavated, and deposits of charcoal and red burnt clay were recorded.

At the latter, the RB ditch was cut by a later irrigation ditch and the charcoal deposit produced slag and early Med pottery.

*Site 66* ST21262062 (SomSMR 43497). A layer of chert blocks c. 3.1m wide and c. 0.25m deep may be a buried trackway.

*Site 67* Poundisford Park. ST21392050 (SomSMR 43498). A disused barton with a paved yard, pond and pump was first recorded in 1838. The cob walls with stone extensions and thatched roof were still fairly well-preserved.

#### FULWOOD

ST21022059. A glacial erratic 2.25m high, 1.29m broad and 0.5–0.7m thick which was unearthed by mechanical scrapers, had a rounded base tapering towards the top which may be artificial. The nearby field name, Yonder Cross, and the BA/IA site 64 (above) might hint that the stone was once upright.

*Site 68* ST210205–202204 (SomSMR 43499). Quantities of early Med–Modern pottery, bone, glass and iron nails were recovered before and during motorway scraping.

*Site 69* ST20732050, ST20352049 and ST20592047 (SomSMR 43500). Flint implements.

Canonsgrove Farm. ST20682053 (SomSMR 43511). A buried trackway had chert lias brick metalling.

ST20722053 (SomSMR 43511). Building remains and a cobbled area 15 x 15m produced Med and P-Med pottery.

#### TRULL INCLUDING THE TAUNTON DEANE SERVICE AREA

*Site 70* ST194204–190203 (SomSMR 43699). A large scatter of ?13th to 20th-century pottery, other domestic refuse and slag was recovered.

*Site 71* ST19872034 (SomSMR 43698). The demolished house was occupied from 1804 onwards but 17th-century pottery suggests earlier occupation of the site. In 1939 the site was concreted over to form a cattle shed. There were formerly two stone bread-ovens. A partially stone-lined well and a 'Devon-type' gatepost survived until the motorway work.

*Site 71* ST199203 (SomSMR 43698). The DMV of 'Sennage' as defined by earthworks, covered c. 1100m<sup>2</sup> on a north-facing slope which had probably not been disturbed since desertion. It was badly damaged by machinery in 1972 after advance excavation had begun. It was demarcated on the south by a stone-covered flat-topped bank and on the west and east by linear ditches but its north boundary was not clear. Within this enclosure were a large pond, several platforms, possibly building sites, at least six rectangular mounds and a west–east holloway with possible wheel-ruts. Small scale excavation revealed small areas of roughly set chert blocks and localised scatters of charcoal and burn clay, but the only clear structural evidence was the excavated base of an undated cob wall. Both Med and P-Med pottery was recovered, most being 12th to 13th century.

*Finds: Somerset County Museums Service: 119/2002.*

*Site 71* Zany. ST19652039 (SomSMR 43698). Three elements of a former Med–Modern settlement can be distinguished: the foundations of a demolished barton known to have been standing in 1842 and a paved area were visible. The barton is connected by a footpath to the nearby house.

*Site 72* Zany Lane. ST19402001 (SomSMR 43700). Two stone walls and some charred roof timbers survive from a P-Med linhay recorded in 1842. An adjoining garden may indicate possible earlier use of a dwelling.

*Site 73* Cutsey House. ST19222025 (SomSMR 43703). A footbridge and culvert (OS 1886) were excavated and recorded.

*Site 74* Cutsey House Lane, ST19172003 (SomSMR 43705). The cottages and barton recorded here in 1842 survived as a disused farm outbuilding. Seventeenth to 19th-century pottery and rotting timbers were found outside. The front garden was cut by the motorway approach road.

*Site 75* Weir Mead, ST18782015 (SomSMR 43704). The hydraulic ram installation, installed in 1842, was recorded.

#### WEST BUCKLAND

*Site 76* Steart, ST18102050 (SomSMR 43758). Large quantities of 14th/15th century to 18th/19th century pottery and domestic refuse indicated the site of a building, but no plan could be recovered.

*Site 77* Five Cross Way, ST17652005 (SomSMR 43760). Undated earthwork.

Vokers Cross, ST16551984. Worked chert flakes were found at a depth of 0.9m on a buried surface in the flood plain of a stream.

*Site 78* Intsoms Close, ST16541998 (SomSMR 43759). Sherds of ?RB and P-Med pottery together with a hammer-stone were found.

#### WELLINGTON WITHOUT

*Site 79* Blackham Bridge, ST153194 (SomSMR 43750). Med hearth reported.

*Site 80* Maylands Road, ST143188 (SomSMR 43732). RB homestead site defined by a sub-circular perimeter ditch c. 100m diameter enclosing a complex of paddocks and a possible corn drier. Domestic debris indicated a fairly substantial building.

*Site 81* Middle Green, ST137187 (SomSMR 43751) Earthworks reported but not examined.

*Site 82* Bryant's Farm ST133185 (SomSMR 43749). Trackway and scatter of RB pottery sherds found on line of M5.

*Site 83* Bryant's Farm ST13001824 (SomSMR 43747). Disused dam, sluice and outlet associated with possible remains of a fishpond south of Bryant's Farm. Backfilled during construction of M5.

*Sites 84 and 85* Woodford Farm ST12631828. (SomSMR 43735). Excavation of RB and Med occupation. Excavation of existing earthworks, a bank and ditch leading to a stream in Sheepwash Orchard, revealed a stone-faced bank containing sherds of early Med pottery, overlying a large deposit of iron slag. A buried ditch containing an abundance of RB pottery and large slabs of chert drained for over 23m into the stream and suggested settlement on the hill at about 120m OD (Aston 1976).

Finds: *Somerset County Museums Service*: 92/1995.

*Site 86* Wrangway, ST12571826 (SomSMR 43745). P-Med pottery scatter and annular stone.

*Site 87* Wrangway, ST12401816 (SomSMR 43744). Earthwork remains of barn and barton.

*Sites 88, 89 and 92* Wrangway, ST12291822–12251833, ST12361811, ST12301822, ST12371812, ST12241820, ST121181, ST12141813, ST12101815, ST12151814, ST12171806 (SomSMR 43743, 43734, 43739). P-Med settlement and pottery production complex. Within the present village, the remains of four buildings were recorded. One, a rectangular masonry structure with drain and internal postholes was excavated. Two pits filled with pottery wasters lay adjacent and another was excavated in the adjoining field. A general scatter of pottery and wasters, together with slag and glazed pebbles was found on fields and in hedgebanks over a fairly wide area. The fine and course red earthenware of the late 17th century, including white-slip and sgraffito decoration, is similar to wares from Nether Stowey, Donyatt and other sites, such as Langford Budville, in the Vale of Taunton Deane. No foundations of a kiln were located. Three very deep clay pits lie in and near the village (Aston 1976).

Finds: *Somerset County Museums Service*: 91/1995, 93/1995.

*Site 90* Wrangway. ST12251823 (SomSMR 43740). Unclassified earthworks reported.

*Site 91* Phillip's Mead. ST12181820, ST12151816 (SomSMR 43733). Med ditches, RB pottery. A layer of laid chert incorporating early Med pottery was found under a mound at the edge of a clay pit north of the M5. On M5 cutting 25m due south, a linear feature was recorded with early Med sherds in the occupation debris and a charcoal-filled possible timber slot, 0.5m below ground level was excavated (Aston 1976).

*Site 93* Hangeridge Farm. ST12041813–12101815 (SomSMR 43731). RB occupation comprising an occupation layer on a south-east facing slope at 150m OD extending 50m along the M5 and into a field to the north yielded a quantity of abraded course RB sherds (Aston 1976).

*Finds:* *Somerset County Museums Service:* 112/2002.

*Site 94* ST11951805 (SomSMR 43539). Boundary bank and ditch marking the parish boundary with Sampford Arundell was sectioned. The bank was over 1m high and 4.5m broad at the base. An early bank with Med pottery had been added to by a layer of clay and chert revetment. A ditch was found on the east side and an old track lay along the west. An Anglo-Saxon charter and hedge species count point to an early origin (Aston 1976).

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*Site 95* ST119180 (SomSMR 43544). RB and P-Med pottery scatter

*Site 96* ST11211183–11707153 (SomSMR 43543). Metalled trackway, ford and stone-faced bank.

*Site 97* ST10921757 (SomSMR 43541). Ring-bank farm boundary.

*Site 98* Sampford Manor. ST113178 (SomSMR 43542). Two undated hearths and an undated ditch found in addition to P-Med pottery and slag.

*Site 99* ST108175 (SomSMR 43538) P-Med pottery, slag and glazed pebbles.

*Site 99* Chalcotts. ST10701760 (SomSMR 43538). Remains of a series of buildings of a P-Med settlement recorded by map evidence in 1809 were located and found to be associated with P-Med pottery, a stone-floored ditch and garden cultivation ridge. The remains of an open-sided cattle shed, a possible former cottage and parts of two floors, one cobbled, one mortared, were recorded (Aston 1976).

*Site 100* ST10521752 (SomSMR 43537). Somerset-Devon boundary bank, undated, was sectioned to show an internal laid-chert layer and revetting. The bank was 2m high and 3.5m wide at the base with a ditch on the Somerset side. The hedge species count was lower than that of farm boundaries in the parish (Aston 1976).

Compiled from *Archaeological Review* 1969–1972, earlier lists, entries in the Somerset Sites and Monuments Record, and the records of the meeting of Marion Newsom, Madge Langdon, Mike Ponsford, Chris Webster and David Dawson on 4th May 1995.

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