

### Trench 3

- 5.11 Within the garden area between the entrance drive and the church wall trench 3, a 17m long by 1.5m wide was hand excavated across an area where it was considered internal features may have existed. The trench was aligned east-west, positioned along a lawned area avoiding the flower beds and shrubberies.
- 5.12 The excavation revealed a posthole [3004] cut into the bedrock 3.1m in from the western end of the trench, this feature was 0.4m in diameter with a depth of 0.13m. The fill of this feature comprised a medium to dark greyish brown loam (3003) within a setting of large angular inset upright packing stones. Artifacts discovered within this feature included a single sherd of Roman pottery and a frequent amount of charcoal flecks. Other artifacts discovered in the vicinity of the post hole included a number of flint tools and waste flakes.
- 5.13 As the excavation progressed towards the east, further flint work and occasional sherds of Roman and Iron Age pottery were found. Due to this increase in finds and features it was decided to expand the eastern end of this trench into a larger open area excavation, 6.6m long and 5m wide. The excavation revealed a complicated series of stratified layers with intersecting features dating from the Mesolithic period to the Romano-British period. Discovered in association with these features were a frequent amount of flint tools, flint flakes and flint cores from the Mesolithic period, pottery sherds both Roman and Iron Age and an abundance of fire cracked pebbles.
- 5.14 The features comprised a linear slot [3015]/[3019] almost east-west in alignment c.0.35m wide by 0.25m deep, its length was undefined due to the limit of the excavation. Within the fills (3014) and (3018) of this feature were a frequent amount of stones set upright and on edge within a grey silt with an abundance of charcoal flecks and stains, occasional small pieces of burnt bone and occasional Mesolithic flints. A possible interpretation for this feature is that it was a slot cut into the ground and packed with stones to hold a cover in place for a temporary dwelling.
- 5.15 This feature was truncated twice by other ditch/gully features. The first of these was a 1.15m wide flat bottomed ditch [3009] that was 0.2m deep by an undefined length limited by the edge of the excavation, the ditch was aligned on a northeast-southwest axis. The fill of this feature (3008) comprised a mid-brownish grey loam with occasional small flat sandstone fragments, finds from within this feature included an abundance of fire cracked pebbles, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional Romano-British pottery sherds. It is therefore postulated that the ditch relates either to the Late Iron Age or the Romano-British period, the purpose of this ditch remains uncertain.
- 5.16 The second ditch [3017] ran in a north-south direction, truncating feature [3015] yet terminating before feature [3009], this feature was 0.35m wide narrowing to just over 0.2m wide at its termination point by an overall depth of 0.2m, the length of this feature was undetermined due to the limitation of the excavation. The fill of this feature comprised a dark greyish brown silty loam with an abundance of charcoal flecks, occasional fire-cracked pebbles and the occasional sherd of Roman pottery and single flint flake. The purpose of the ditch remains unclear although it does seem to relate to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British periods.
- 5.17 Further excavation of this area should help clarify the purpose of these features. The area within which these features were located is particularly important, archaeologically, with various periods being represented within the tightly layered stratigraphic sequences.