

# The Wider Site

## Excavations at Somerton Road, Langport, Somerset

The excavations at Langport covered an area of approximately 0.58 hectares or just short of the size of a football pitch and have been ongoing since January this year. It is comprised of a rectangular area of excavation that has produced a wealth of finds and features, including prehistoric postholes, large numbers of Iron Age and Roman storage pits, Roman ditched enclosures, Roman corn dryers, a human burial, and a horse burial and of course the Roman Villa.

To carry out archaeological excavations the area first has its topsoil and subsoil removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist. This revealed the natural geology into which archaeological features are cut and therefore visible. Each feature is then individually investigated by archaeologists using hand tools only. Each individual slot is then drawn, photographed and described. All finds are recovered for analysis by specialists after the excavation is complete.



Above: Hand dug slot across a 'V' shaped ditch, 2m deep

### Defensive Enclosure?

A series of very deep 'V' shaped ditches were revealed mainly dating to the Roman period. Their size and shape suggests they are more than just field boundaries. Could their purpose be to keep the rowdy locals out?

### Prehistoric Postholes

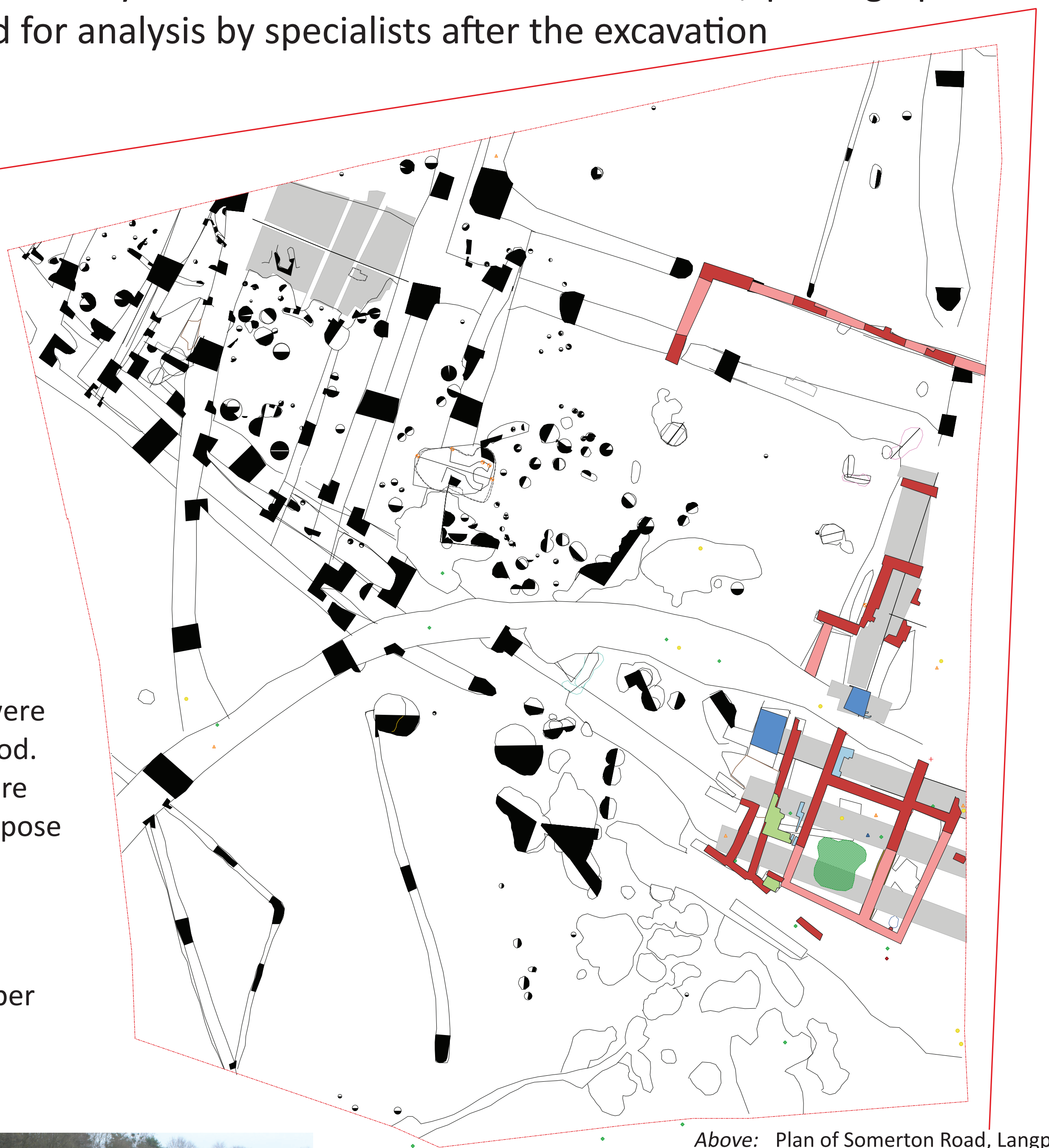
Partially obscured by later ditches, a number of prehistoric postholes arranged to form a roundhouse. This shows the pre-Roman occupation and use of the land.

### Storage Pits

Multiple very large pits dating to the Iron Age and Roman periods are present across the site likely used for the storage of grain or to protect seeds for the following year.



Above: Excavation of the Roman villa.  
Right: The start of excavation on the Roman villa.  
Left: Partially excavated Roman horse remains.



Above: Plan of Somerton Road, Langport excavations with the villa shown in red.

### Roman Villa

The villa sits at the very edge of site and likely continues outside the area of excavations. Its orientation and proximity to a possible barn structure and a corn dryer suggesting that they are likely contemporary.

