

# Warleigh Water Main Replacement, Bath & North East Somerset.

An Archaeological Watching Brief.



**CONTEXT ONE**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

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# Warleigh Water Main Replacement, Bath & North East Somerset.

An Archaeological Watching Brief  
for  
Wessex Water plc

by



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**Wessex Water scheme reference:** BQ087  
**Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room Accession No.** BATRM 2007.84

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## Non-technical summary

*Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief during the groundworks for a water main replacement pipeline from Court Lane, Bathford to Sheephouse Farm, Warleigh (NGR ST 7870 6650 to NGR ST 7940 6390) between the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2007. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc.*

*The investigation was advised by Mr Richard Sermon (Archaeological Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council) following a consultation request by Mr Ollie Williams (Environmental Services Team, Wessex Water plc). In an email from Mr Sermon, dated the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2006, it was stated that the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists five archaeological events within close proximity to the Site, including crop marks and Roman buildings, along with Warleigh Manor, gardens and earthworks.*

*Groundwork excavations throughout the pipeline revealed a simple horizontal sequence of topsoil, which in Field 10 overlay a deposit of buried medieval ploughsoil. A simple sequence of medieval occupation deposits was observed on the western slope of Field 10 as were a possible medieval wall footing and a small ditch.*

*Excavations within the easement of the western slope of Field 10 revealed a pronounced terrace formed by occupation deposits. The primary occupation deposit contained 5 sherds of pottery (1 Roman and 4 medieval), whilst the secondary occupation deposit contained 219 sherds of pottery (3 Roman and 216 medieval), 3 stone tiles, 3 iron nails and a number of animal bones showing evidence of butchery. The amount and condition of the finds recovered from the two deposits is suggestive of domestic occupation in the immediate area. However, it is likely that the Roman pottery recovered from this area is residual.*

*The footings of a possible medieval wall were also revealed on the terraced platform. Although there was a large amount of loose, natural stone on site in general, the stones within this possible structure looked as though they may have been deliberately placed. If this was the case, the wall may well have formed part of a boundary wall or domestic structure and could therefore be directly related to the occupation deposits. The secondary occupation deposit directly overlay the possible wall footing indicating that the wall went out of use while the area was still occupied. This may have been due to an expansion of the occupation area being expanded. However, given the topographical location of the Site (on a relatively steep slope) it is probable that many of the finds recovered from the Watching Brief were residual, having come to rest on the terraced platform after rolling or being washed down the hillside. As such the secondary occupation deposit may represent occupation from further up the hill as well as relating directly to the Site.*

*A linear ditch, aligned north-west, south-east was observed c. 15m to the north-west of the terraced platform. The relatively small size of the ditch and its direction (sloping downhill, away from possible areas of occupation) suggests that it was probably a drainage ditch, used to direct water run off from the hillside into the River Avon below. The recovery of a fragment of flint blade from the fill of the ditch may indicate that the ditch dates to the prehistoric period. However, given that a large amount of material is likely to have washed through the ditch, it is more probable that the blade is residual, and the ditch is related to much later land management.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks for a replacement water main from Court Lane, Bathford to Sheephouse Farm, Warleigh (NGR ST 78700 66500 to NGR ST 79400 63900) (hereafter referred to as the Site) between the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2007. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc.
- 1.2. The investigation was advised by Mr Richard Sermon (Archaeological Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council) following a consultation request by Mr Ollie Williams (Environmental Services Team, Wessex Water plc). In an email from Mr Sermon, dated the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2006, it was stated that the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) lists five archaeological events within close proximity to the Site, including undated crop marks, Roman buildings and a Grade II listed building comprising Warleigh Manor, gardens and earthworks.
- 1.3. It was therefore considered that further archaeological features/deposits could be present on the Site, and that these would be damaged or destroyed by the development. However, as the nature or presence of such features/deposits had not been proven on the basis of currently available information, it was determined that a reasonable archaeological response would be to carry out a Watching Brief during all ground disturbance.
- 1.4. At the request of Mr Sermon, COAS issued a *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Warleigh Water Main Replacement, Bath & North East Somerset* (January 2007), which provided a strategy for the archaeological works. This was submitted to and approved by Mr Sermon prior to the commencement of the Watching Brief.
- 1.5. The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 1 (PPG1), General Policy and Principles*, 1997 and *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16)* issued by the DoE in 1990. The recommendation also conforms to Policy 19 and of the *Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Joint Replacement Structure Plan* (adopted September 2002), Policy BH.12 of the *Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan Revised Deposit* (adopted December 2002), and *Archaeology in Bath and North East Somerset: Supplementary Planning guidance* (adopted 2004).
- 1.6. This report summarises the topographical, geological, archaeological and historical setting of the site, and presents the results of the Watching Brief.

## 2. Definition and objectives of a Watching Brief

- 2.1. An Archaeological Watching Brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) as:

*“...a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.” (IFA rev.1999).*

2.2. The purpose of a Watching Brief is similarly defined by the IFA and is:

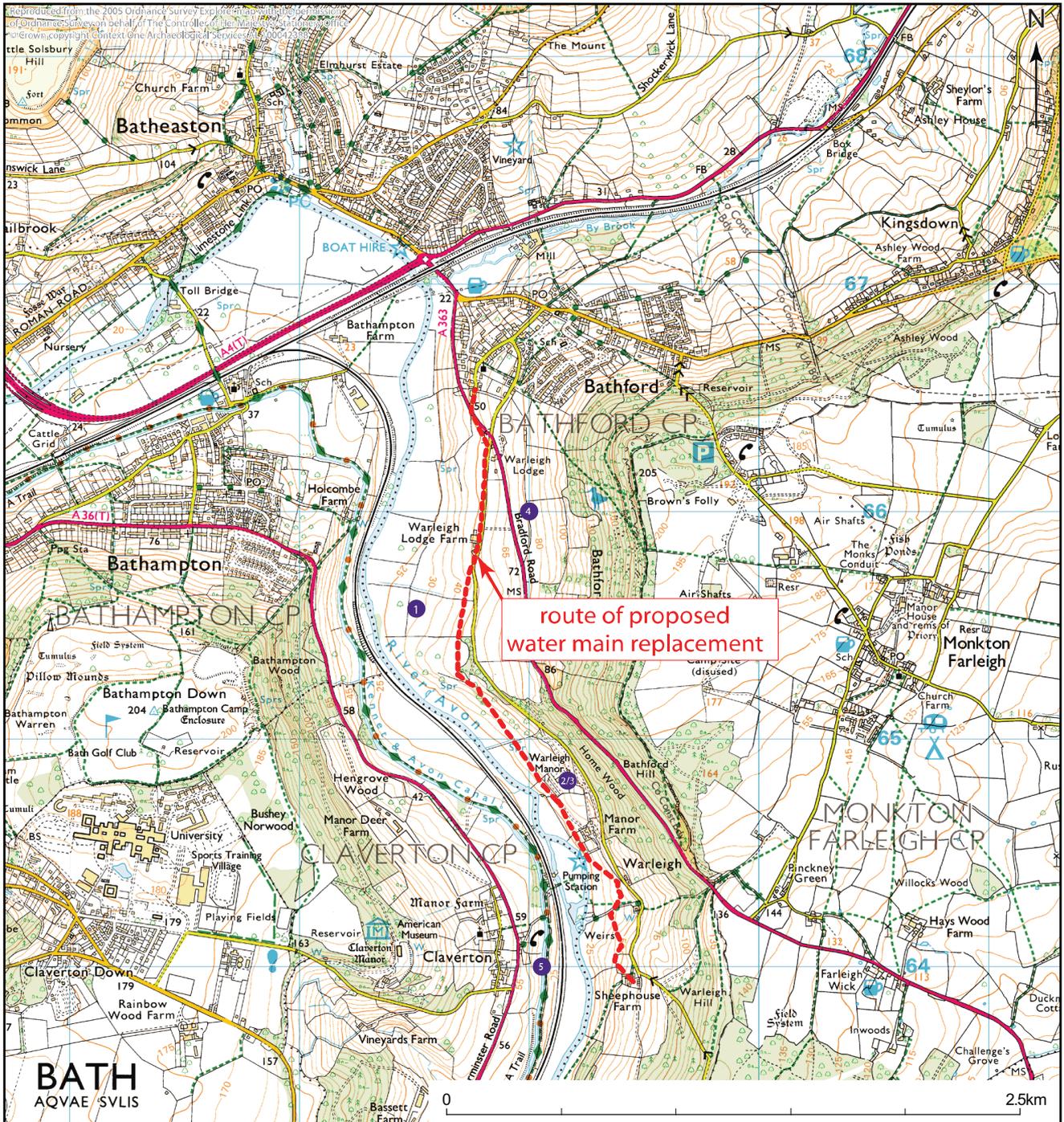
- *“To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, their presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.*
- *To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the Watching Brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.” (IFA rev.1999)*

2.3. The results of a Watching Brief are used to:

- produce a record of the location, nature, significance, importance and date of any archaeological remains encountered on the Site;
- add to the knowledge about the previous history of activity on the current site and its surroundings; and
- provide information to influence future planning decisions in the area.

### 3. Topography and geology

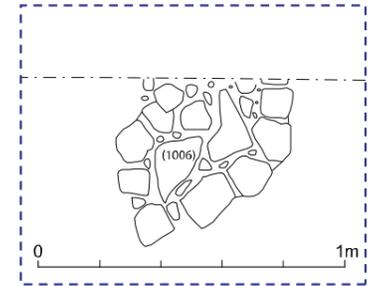
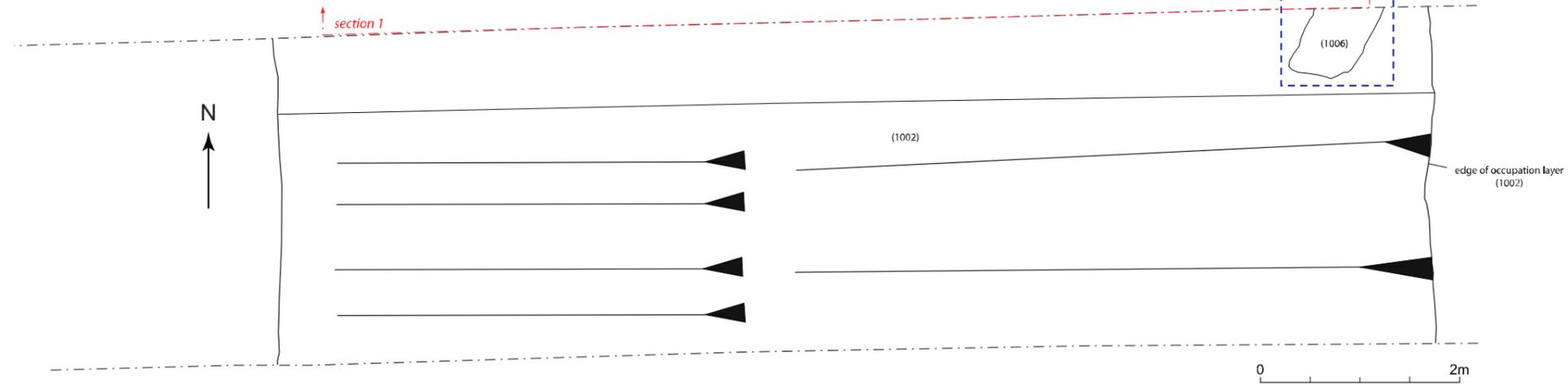
3.1. Warleigh is situated c. 4.3km east of Bath in Bath & North-East Somerset. The Site (NGR ST 78700 66500 to NGR ST 79400 63900) occupies undulating ground running in a south to south-easterly direction (**Figure 1**). The aspect of the Site was generally on a west facing flank of terrain that generally sloped down to the river valley. The height of the Site above Ordinance Datum (AOD) ranges from c. 47m (AOD) in the north to c. 43m (AOD) in the south, reaching a maximum height of c. 79m (AOD) c. 1.2km south of Bathford. According to the British Geological Survey (2001), the underlying geology is of Inferior Oolite. The soils in this area are characterised by freely draining, slightly acid but base-rich sediments and freely draining lime-rich sediments, over chalk or limestone (Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), 2006).



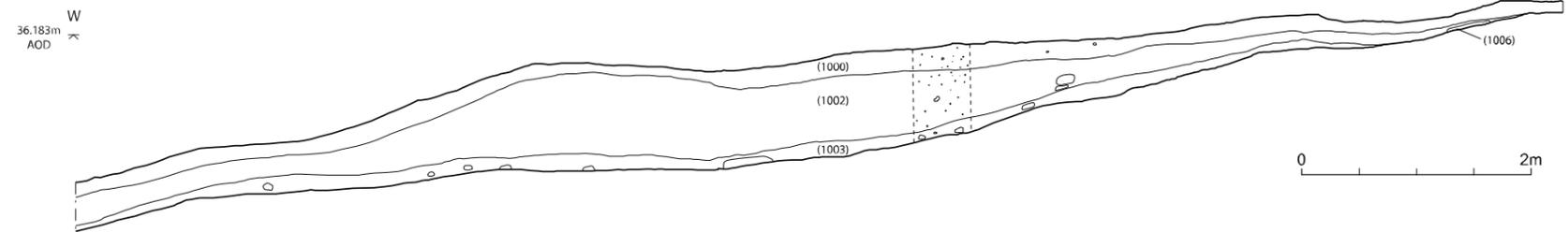
SMR entry	
1	MBN1742
2	MBN6623
3	MBN4211
4	MBN6367
5	MBN3052

PROJECT TITLE		
Warleigh Water Main Replacement		
FIGURE TITLE		
Site setting		
SCALE	PROJECT CODE.	FIGURE NO.
as shown	COAS/WBF/07/WMR	1

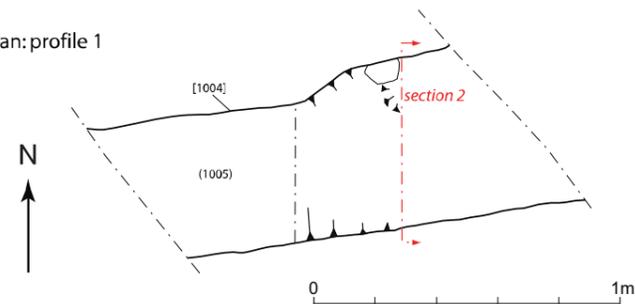
Plan of occupation layer (1002)



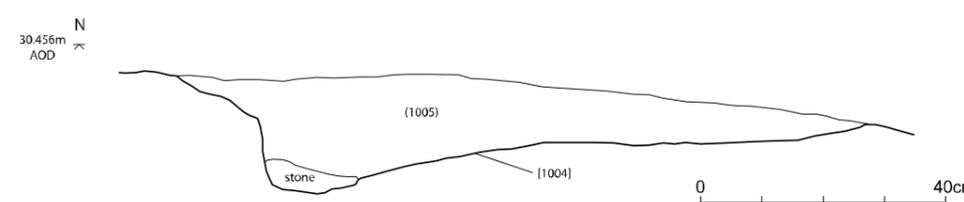
section 1



Plan: profile 1



Profile 1: section 2



section drawing location  
 (000) context number  
 [000] cut number  
 XXXm AOD height above ordnance datum (AOD)

PROJECT TITLE  
**Warleigh Water Main Replacement,  
 Bath and North East Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Plans and sections**

SCALE  
 as shown

PROJECT CODE  
 COAS/WBF/07/WMR

FIGURE NO.  
**3**

## 4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1. The archaeological background for the Site has been drawn from secondary sources. This comprised a data search of archaeological records held by Bath & North East Somerset Council as part of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). A summary of this information is displayed below in **Table 1** and the records located on **Figure 1**.

SMR No.	Description	NGR	Distance/Direction from Site
<b>Roman (AD43 - AD450)</b>			
MBN1742	<b>Building.</b> A room and pavements of a Roman villa. A Roman capital and a stone coffin were found on site. Banks and terraces of old field boundaries are visible at the site.	ST 78500 65600	c. 220m W
<b>Modern (1801 - present)</b>			
MBN6623	<b>Building.</b> Manor House. Comprises a principal, L-shaped house, an open courtyard stables block and an orangery with extensive mature woods. Built between 1811 and 1816. Grade II listed.	ST 79200 64800	c. 70m E
MBN4211	<b>Gardens.</b> Now sparse. Comprise all the elements of the early C19th style known then as 'gardenesque'. Part of Manor House.	ST 79200 64800	c. 70m E
<b>Unknown</b>			
MBN6367	<b>Earthwork.</b> Cropmark site	ST 79000 66000	Exact location not given
MBN3052	<b>Earthwork.</b> Vague area of earthworks on E side of River Avon between Manorhouse and Sheephouse Farms.	ST 79000 64000	Exact location not given

**Table 1.** Summary of archaeological events within 250m of the Site

## 5. Methodology

### Wessex Water methodology

- 5.1. The total length of the pipeline under archaeological observation was c. 2.8km. An easement between c. 3m – c. 12m wide was machine excavated in order to provide a working surface and facilitate access (**Figure 1**). To create the easement, a machine equipped with a toothless bucket removed the topsoil to a maximum depth of c. 0.20m. A machine equipped with a 0.45m wide bucket was used to excavate the trench for the replacement water supply main to a maximum depth of 1.10m and a maximum width of 0.50m.

### Archaeological methodology

- 5.2. The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) in October, 1994 (rev. September, 1999). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* issued by the IFA in October, 1997, and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, rev. September, 2000), at all times during the course of the investigation. The current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.

### Easement stripping

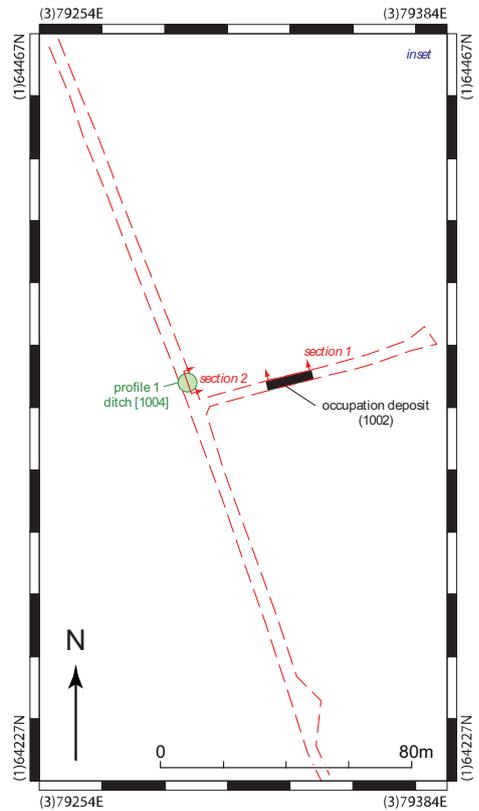
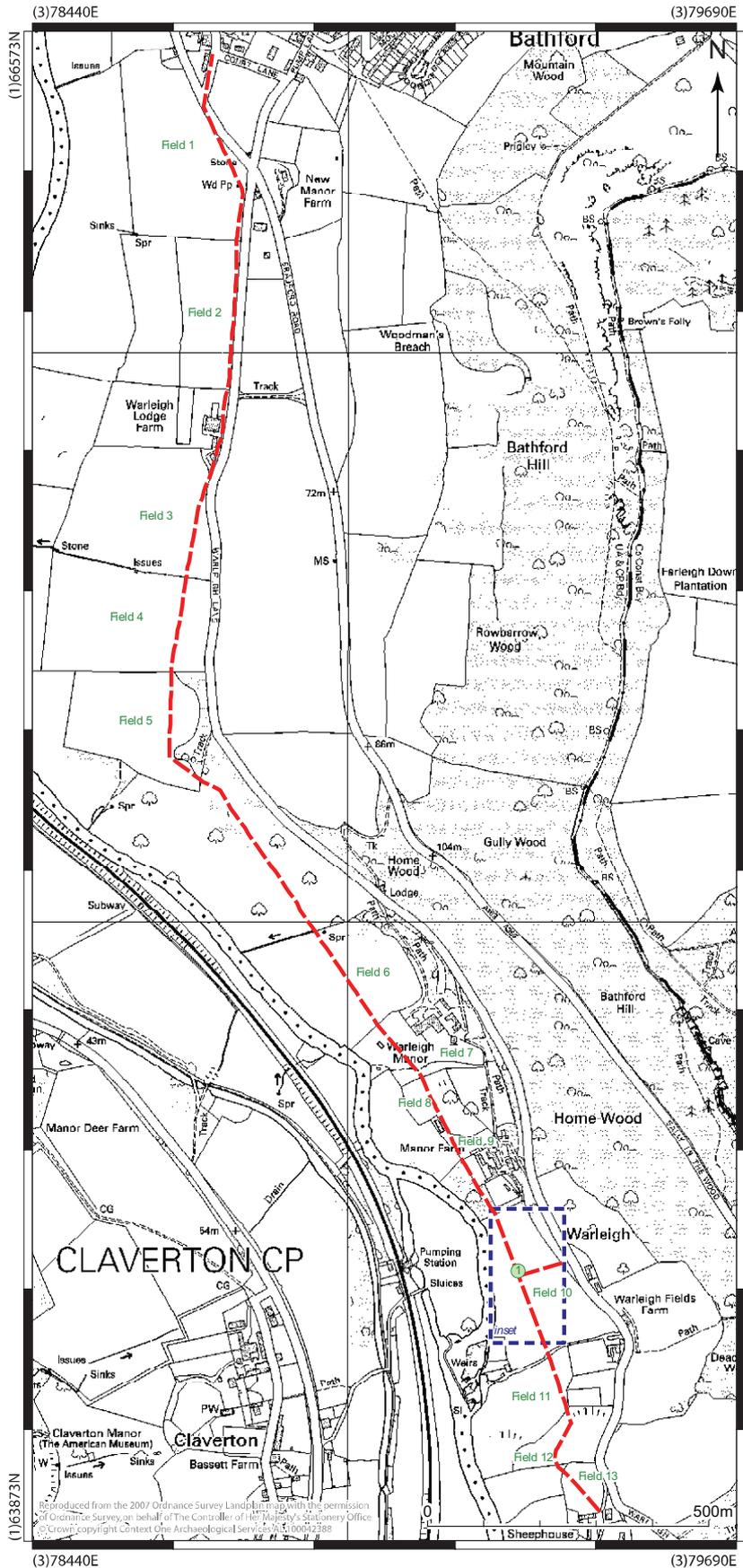
- 5.3. The machine removal of the ploughsoil/topsoil along the route of the pipeline was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 5.4. For the purposes of archaeological recording, all areas exposed through development excavations were systematically scanned for features/deposits by walking in 'zig-zag' traverses across their width. The location of any archaeological features/deposits were initially recorded using a handheld GPS unit capable of <3m accuracy and cordoned off.
- 5.5. The surface collection of cultural material (excluding modern bulk material) was also carried out during scanning operations and these were bagged according to field/land unit. Significant objects or concentrations of artefacts were issued with an Object Number (ON) and bagged separately, and their location was recorded using a handheld GPS.

### Trenching

- 5.6. Where undisturbed deposits were not reached during the topsoil stripping of the easement it was necessary to monitor the trenching to ensure that any archaeological features were suitably recorded. A profile section was recorded using COAS *pro-forma* profile log sheets to illustrate the principal stratigraphic and physical characteristics of the deposits encountered (see **Appendix 1**). The character of topsoil/ploughsoil deposits within each field/land unit was also recorded using standard COAS *pro-forma* recording sheets. Soil colours were recorded using a Munsell soil colour chart.
- 5.7. A photographic record of the Watching Brief was prepared involving the use of monochrome photographs and digital images. This included photographs illustrating features identified and working shots to illustrate the general nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 5.8. Where archaeological deposits/features were exposed, manual excavation took place to assess the full depth of the archaeological deposits. Two sections were excavated through archaeological features revealed on Site (**Figure 3**.) These features were then recorded in section at a scale of 1:10 and in plan at a scale of 1:20, on dimensionally stable media.
- 5.9. Artefacts collected from archaeological features/deposits were bagged using a combination of the site code and context numbers. Bulk finds such as post-medieval and modern brick and tile were not collected although location, type and frequency were recorded.
- 5.10. All finds from the site were retained for processing and conservation where necessary, in preparation for further analysis and archiving. Specialist reports of the artefact assemblage were compiled utilising both descriptive and tabular formats (see section 7.)

## 6. Results

- 6.1. The deposits and features encountered during field work are listed and described in **Appendix 1**. In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [901]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (900). Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill numbers.
- 6.2. For most fields the deposit sequence consisted of topsoil over natural sub-soil. In Field 10, however, topsoil (1000) was observed to overly a buried ploughsoil (1001), which in turn overlay the natural sub-soil (1007). Context (1001) has been ascribed a medieval date. A representative profile of the Field 10 sequence was recorded as Profile 1 (**Appendix 1**).
- 6.3. The only archaeological features/deposits revealed during the Watching Brief were observed in Field 10 and include the footings of a possible wall, two layers of occupation debris and a small ditch.
- 6.4. A possible wall (1006) constructed from limestone (c. 0.20m x c. 0.20m x c. 0.50m) and aligned roughly north south, had been set directly into the natural sediment (1007) (**Figure 3**). Two layers of occupation debris were observed (NGR ST 79334 64356) (**Figure 2**) surrounding and directly overlying the wall (1006); primary occupation deposit (1003), which contained large angular stones and secondary occupation deposit (1002), which contained small-medium angular stones. Secondary occupation deposit (1002) directly overlay primary occupation deposit (1003) (**Figure 3**). Finds, including Roman pottery, were recovered from both deposit layers (Section 7.). The occupation deposits formed one of a small number of terraced platforms on the slope of the hill.
- 6.5. A small ditch [1004]/(1005) was observed to the north-west of occupation layers (1002) and (1003) and wall (1006) (**Figure 3**). The ditch was orientated north-west, south-east and was c. 1.10m wide and 0.20m deep. The full length of the ditch was not observed as it lay perpendicular to the pipeline easement.



<p>— route of easement</p> <p>⊗ profile location</p> <p>▬ archaeological feature</p>		
<p>PROJECT TITLE</p> <p><b>Warleigh Water Main Replacement, Bath and North East Somerset</b></p>		
<p>FIGURE TITLE</p> <p><b>Detailed site location plan showing easement, field numbers and profile</b></p>		
SCALE	PROJECT CODE	FIGURE NO.
as shown	COAS/WBF/06/WMR	<b>2</b>

## 7. The finds

- 7.1. With the exception of metalwork, finds recovered from the watching brief were washed and marked, where possible, with a code issued by the Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room identifying the site (BATRM 2007.84), followed by the context number. The finds were separated into artefact types and quantified by context number, quantity and weight in grams. This data is presented in Tables 2-5. Bulk finds such as post-medieval and modern brick/tile and slate were noted on the profile log and context sheets but not collected. A request has been made to the site owner(s) through Wessex Water plc to transfer the title of all finds recovered to the Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room.

### Pottery Assessment Report

#### By Lorraine Mephram – Wessex Archaeology

- 7.2. A total of 382 sherds of pottery (3390g) was recovered from the watching brief, of which four sherds (16g) are Roman, four sherds (33g) are post-medieval, and the remainder (374 sherds; 3341g) are medieval in date. In addition, six pieces of fired clay (33g) and one piece of vitrified ceramic (8g) were also recorded (but are not discussed further here).

### Introduction

- 7.3. The pottery derived from six contexts, five within Field 10 and one in Field 12. Contexts include topsoil in both fields, as well as buried ploughsoil, occupation deposits and a wall footing in Field 10. The majority of the pottery derived either from the buried ploughsoil (1001; 27.3% by weight of the total) or from the upper part of the occupation deposit (1002; 66.6%). Within the buried ploughsoil (1001) and topsoil in Field 12 (1200), sherds have been recorded three-dimensionally as Small Finds (either individually or in small groups).

### Fabrics and Forms

- 7.4. The overall condition of the pottery is fair to poor; most sherds have suffered some degree of abrasion; edges are worn and there are few visible conjoins. Mean sherd weight is 8.9g. The condition of the sherds is consistent with their occurrence as 'secondary refuse' within occupation (midden) deposits or as residual sherds in topsoil.
- 7.5. The assemblage has been quantified (number and weight of sherds) by ware type within each context/Small Find number. Diagnostic forms have also been noted.

### Roman

- 7.6. The four Roman sherds comprise one samian (probably from a platter in the Drag. 18/31 range), one New Forest colour coat, and two coarse greywares. All these sherds came from the medieval occupation deposits (1002/1003), and attest to Roman activity somewhere in the vicinity.

### Medieval

- 7.7. The majority of the medieval wares are coarsewares which find parallels within three major assemblages in the local area, each with their own fabric type series – Bath, Trowbridge and Warminster (Vince 1979; Mephram 1993; Smith 1997). The Warleigh assemblage, despite its proximity to Bath, appears to have closer affinities with the Warminster-type wares, and has been recorded using this type series, with additions from elsewhere where necessary (see **Table 2**). The three major assemblages, however, all show a considerable degree of overlap, and it is apparent that most of the coarsewares form part of a ceramic tradition which is widespread over west Wiltshire and north-east Somerset, but for which no production sites

are known, apart from the putative kilns (from documentary references) at Crockerton near Warminster. The coarsewares are frequently micaceous, and contain a range of macroscopic inclusions (quartz, greensand, flint, chalk/limestone) in varying combinations, frequency and sizes. The most commonly recorded type here is Warminster fabric D, which is a relatively broad category comprising sandy wares also containing flint, greensand and chalk in varying quantities. The Bath assemblage shows a heavier emphasis on calcareous (chalk/limestone-tempered) fabrics, which are not so common at Warleigh, although examples of Bath fabrics A (sandy/calcareous) and B (calcareous) were recorded.

- 7.8. Diagnostic sherds amongst the coarsewares are limited to a few jar rims, and there are no reconstructable profiles.
- 7.9. Only one non-local coarseware was identified – four sherds of Laverstock-type ware from the Salisbury area, including one jar rim.
- 7.10. Alongside these coarsewares are a small number of glazed finewares. Some are Warminster/Crockerton types (fabric N), and there are also a few sherds of Ham Green ware from Bristol. One glazed whiteware is of uncertain source, as are five other sherds of glazed sandy wares. All sherds are presumed to derive from jugs, although apart from one rod handle there are no diagnostic sherds. None of these sherds are decorated, although most of the Warminster/Crockerton sherds are white-slipped under the glaze, and may well have carried graffito-style decoration.

#### **Post-Medieval**

- 7.11. All four post-medieval sherds are of coarse redwares, of which at least two are Warminster/Crockerton types. These wares cannot be dated more closely within the post-medieval period. The sherds came from the buried ploughsoil (1001) and the upper occupation deposit (1002).

#### **Discussion**

- 7.12. There are difficulties in attempting to date an assemblage such as this, primarily caused by the lengthy currency of many of the coarseware fabric (Warminster fabric D, for example, spans the medieval period from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century; Smith 1997, fig. 14) and the scarcity of diagnostic sherds, but also due to the secondary nature of the deposits and the consequent likelihood of chronological mixing.
- 7.13. The presence of non-local wares does provide some chronological pointers. The Laverstock-type coarseware is likely to date to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century, as is the Ham Green ware and, given the range (albeit scanty) of diagnostic coarseware forms, it would be appropriate to suggest this date range as the focus for activity on the site. Some elements, such as Warminster gravel-tempered fabric B, could be earlier (11<sup>th</sup> century), and some might be later. Some of the Warminster types (particularly fabrics H and N) could suggest a continuation of activity into the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of four post-medieval sherds is not sufficient to suggest continuity this late, and these could be regarded as intrusive.

#### **Potential and Further Recommendations**

- 7.14. The identification of occupation deposits does indicate nearby settlement, but this is a relatively small assemblage, not in good condition, and almost certainly representing redeposited refuse with a degree of chronological mixing. The assemblage has already been

fully quantified by ware type, and further analysis is not warranted. Any proposed publication text could use information recorded as part of this assessment.

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- Smith, R.W., 1997, *Excavations at Emwell Street, Warminster: the Early Economy and Environment of a Wiltshire Market Town*, Wessex Archaeology
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Context	Romano-British		Warminster Wares					Bath Wares		Other Wares			Post-medieval	TOTAL
	All	B	C	D	G	H	N	A	B	Ham Green	Laverstock coarse	misc. sandy	All	
1000		1/21		1/14	1/2			1/14						4/51
1001		6/55	5/38	82/534	12/95	2/6	4/81	1/3	7/32	1/6	1/15	2/46	1/13	124/924
1002	3/12	8/108	2/51	63/521	30/319	5/34	3/64	44/500	50/495	3/26	2/25	4/31	2/14	219/2200
1003	1/4			2/25					2/12					5/41
1006				2/9										2/9
1200		1/6	2/14	15/86	3/25	1/1	1/7	2/8		1/3	1/9		1/6	28/165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4/16</b>	<b>16/190</b>	<b>9/103</b>	<b>165/1189</b>	<b>46/441</b>	<b>8/41</b>	<b>8/152</b>	<b>48/525</b>	<b>59/539</b>	<b>5/35</b>	<b>4/49</b>	<b>6/77</b>	<b>4/33</b>	<b>382/3390</b>

Table 2. Warleigh - quantification of sherds by ware type and by context (number/weight in grams)

Key:

Warminster-type fabrics

- B Gravel tempered (waterworn quartz; rare flint and greensand)
- C Quartz and greensand
- D Generalised (quartz with occasional flint, greensand and chalk)
- G Small quartz (finer variant of D; rare flint and chalk)
- H Sandy-smooth (fine micaceous sandy)
- N Warminster monochrome (glazed variant of G/H)

Bath fabrics

- A Sandy fabric with chalk/limestone
- B Calcareous fabric (fossiliferous/oolitic limestone, some quartz)

**Stone**

**By Dr. Cheryl Allum**

7.15. Three stone tiles were recovered from context (1002). One of these is of red sandstone, measuring 0.22m x 0.14m and 0.02m thick, with a 0.06m diameter hole piercing the tile at one end. This lithology is likely to have derived from the sandstone member of the New Red Sandstone (NRS) formation, which outcrops in the area around Bristol and Bath. Primarily consisting of quartz, with negligible amounts of other minerals, the grains are cemented together with haematite (ferric iron oxide) imparting a red colour to the rocks. Another tile, measuring 0.28m x 0.12m and 0.25m thick, is a thinly laminated sediment consisting of alternating layers of red sandstone and oolitic limestone, and was probably derived from a local source. The other tile measures 0.18m x 0.145m and 0.01m thick, and is a highly fossiliferous oolitic limestone, which again was probably derived from a local source.

Object Number	Context Number	No.	Weight	Period	Comments
-	1002	1	1078	-	Red sandstone tile
-	1002	1	818	-	Sandstone and oolitic limestone facies tile
-	1002	1	763	-	Fossiliferous oolitic limestone tile

Table 3. Table of stone finds

**Flint**

**By Kayt Matthews**

7.16. Six flint artefacts were collected. Two of these, from context (500), can be identified as a fragment of core debitage (2g) with partial retouch (ON1) and a possible blade (23g) with heavily abraded retouch (ON2). Neither of these are diagnostic. Three artefacts derived from context (1001), again, none are diagnostic. These are a possible core fragment (21g) (ON7), a fragment of burnt flint (3g) (ON21) and a fragment of core debitage / blade (1g) (ON25). The only diagnostic artefact collected derived from context (1005), a section of blade (1g), 9mm wide, 24mm long and 3mm thick. There is rippling evident to the ventral face and heavily abraded retouch to lateral edges. The tool type for this object is unclear due to breakage to the proximal and distal ends, but typologically it is most likely to be a Mesolithic blade.

**Reference:**

Butler C. 2005 *Prehistoric Flintwork* Tempus Publishing Ltd

Context No.	Object No.	Material	No.	Wt. (g)	% cortex	Bulb type	Retouch	Condition	Patination	Comments
500	1	Downland flint	1	2	15	diffuse	to one side	good	moderate	fragment of core debitage, retouched to partial one side
500	2	Downland flint	1	23	5	diffuse	partial	fair	good	river terrace gravels orange staining, core fragment
1001	7	Downland flint	1	21	25	none	none	fair	moderate	core fragment
1001	21	Downland flint	1	3	0	none	none	poor	moderate	fragment of burnt flint
1001	25	Downland flint	1	1	10	none	none	poor	moderate	fragment of core debitage
1005	n/a	Downland flint	1	1	0	none	to both long sides	good but broken	moderate	section of linear blade

Table 4. Table of flint finds

**Other finds (COAS)**

- 7.17. A total of 26 other artefacts were recovered from the watching brief comprising 4 iron objects and 22 animal bone fragments.
- 7.18. The animal bones collected consist of a mixture of cattle, horse, pig, sheep/goat and bird bones, a number of the fragments that could not be firmly identified are probably cattle long bones, some of which show signs of butchery. This assemblage is likely to represent domestic refuse of a mixed farming community.

**References**

Hillson, S., 2003, *Mammal bones and teeth, an introductory guide to methods of identification*, Institute of archaeology UCL.  
 O'Connor, T., 2000, *The archaeology of animal bones*, Sutton Publishing Ltd.

OBJECT NUMBER	CONTEXT NUMBER	NO.	WEIGHT	PERIOD	COMMENTS
<b>IRON</b>					
-	1002	1	36g	-	Object of unknown date or function
-	1002	2	18g	-	Nails
26	1002	1	5g	-	Nail
<b>ANIMAL BONE</b>					
20	1001	1	35g	-	Horse tooth
28	1001	1	12g	-	Unidentified
-	1002	1	41g	-	Cattle left calcaneus
-	1002	1	40g	-	Cattle left mandible
-	1002	1	73g	-	Cattle left humerus
-	1002	2	5g	-	Sheep/goat teeth
-	1002	1	3g	-	Pig tooth
-	1002	1	49g	-	Horse distal end of left tibia
-	1002	1	59g	-	Horse innominate
-	1002	1	1g	-	Sheep/goat metapodial fragment
-	1002	2	12g	-	Sheep/goat ribs
-	1002	1	1g	-	Bird right tarsometatarsus
-	1002	8	77g	-	Small unidentified fragments

Table 5. Table of finds

**8. Discussion and conclusions**

- 8.1. Groundwork excavations throughout the pipeline revealed a simple vertical sequence of topsoil, which in Field 10 overlay a deposit of buried medieval ploughsoil. Natural sediments were observed throughout the pipe trench and recorded in Profile 1. A simple sequence of medieval occupation deposits was observed on the western slope of Field 10, as were a possible medieval wall footing and a small ditch.
- 8.2. Excavations within the easement of the western slope of Field 10 revealed a pronounced terrace formed by occupation deposits. The primary occupation deposit contained 5 sherds of pottery (1 Roman and 4 medieval), whilst the secondary occupation deposit contained 219 sherds of pottery (3 Roman and 216 medieval), 3 stone tiles, 3 iron nails and a number of animal bones showing evidence of butchery. The amount and condition of the finds recovered

from the two deposits is suggestive of domestic occupation in the immediate area. However, it is likely that the Roman pottery recovered from this area is residual.

- 8.3. The footings of a possible medieval wall were also revealed on the terraced platform. Although there was a large amount of loose, natural stone on site in general, the stones within this possible structure looked as though they may have been deliberately placed. If this was the case, the wall may well have formed part of a boundary wall or domestic structure and could therefore be directly related to the occupation deposits. The secondary occupation deposit directly overlay the possible wall footing indicating that the wall went out of use while the area was still occupied. This may have been due to an expansion of the occupation area being expanded. However, given the topographical location of the Site (on a relatively steep slope) it is probable that many of the finds recovered from the Watching Brief were residual, having come to rest on the terraced platform after rolling or being washed down the hillside. As such the secondary occupation deposit may represent occupation from further up the hill as well as relating directly to the Site.
- 8.4. A linear ditch, aligned north-west, south-east was observed c. 15m to the north-west of the terraced platform. The relatively small size of the ditch and its direction (sloping downhill, away from possible areas of occupation) suggests that it was probably a drainage ditch, used to direct water run off from the hillside into the River Avon below. The recovery of a fragment of flint blade from the fill of the ditch may indicate that the ditch dates to the prehistoric period. However, given that a large amount of material is likely to have washed through the ditch, it is more probable that the blade is residual, and the ditch is related to much later land management.

## 9. Archive

- 9.1. The written archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 11 monochrome photographs, 37 digital images in .jpg format, 1 COAS *pro-forma* profile log sheet, 5 COAS *pro-forma context record sheets*, 13 COAS *pro-forma* fieldwalking record sheets, a graphics register and a photographic register. Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with the Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room within 12 months following the submission of this report. As noted in section 7.1 above, a request has been made to the site owner(s) through Wessex Water plc to transfer the title of all finds recovered to the Roman Baths Museum and Pump Room.

- 9.2. Copies of the Watching Brief report will be deposited with:

**Wessex Water plc**  
Claverton Down Road  
Claverton Down  
Bath  
BA2 7WW

**Planning Services**  
Bath & North East Somerset Council  
Trimbridge House  
Trim Street  
Bath  
BA1 2DP

- 9.3. As part of our commitment to public archaeology, an e-report will be available to view online or download as an Adobe Acrobat™ file from the COAS website at

[www.contextone.co.uk/bath\\_&\\_ne\\_somerset.htm](http://www.contextone.co.uk/bath_&_ne_somerset.htm) following entry onto the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) where it will become a publicly accessible document.

## 10. COAS acknowledgements

- 10.1. Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr Ollie Williams (Environmental Services Team, Wessex Water plc) for his kind assistance throughout the course of the investigation, and Mr Richard Sermon (Archaeological Officer, Bath and North East Somerset Council), for curatorial advice.

## 11. Bibliography

- |   |  |
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| <b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council, 2002</b>   | <i>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Local Plan Revised Deposit</i> (adopted December 2002)   |
| <b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council, 2004</b>   | <i>Archaeology in Bath and North East Somerset: Supplementary Planning guidance</i> ( adopted 2004)  |
| <b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council, 2004</b>   | <i>Archaeology in the City of Bath: Supplementary Planning guidance</i> ( adopted 2004)  |
| <b>British Geological Survey, 2001</b>  | Geological Map of Great Britain 1:625,000 (England & Wales south sheet) 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition: Solid Geology                                     |
| <b>Department of the Environment, 1990</b>  | <i>Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning</i> , London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office  |
| <b>Department of the Environment, 1997</b>  | <i>Planning Policy Guidance Note 1: General Policy and Principles</i> , London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office                                    |
| <b>Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1985 (rev. 2000)</b>  | <i>Code of Conduct</i> , Reading: IFA  |
| <b>Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1990 (rev. 2000)</b>  | <i>Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology</i> , Reading: IFA                                |
| <b>Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 1994 rev. 1999</b>  | <i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i>  |
| <b>Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC), 2006</b>                            | <a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>  |

## Appendix 1. Context Summary

Context no.	Period	Type	Description	Dimensions		
				Length	Width/Diameter	Thickness/Depth
<b>Field 1</b>						
100	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Field 2</b>						
200	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Field 3</b>						
300	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Field 4</b>						
400	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Field 5</b>						
500	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Field 6</b>						
600	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Field 7</b>						
700	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) clay and corn brash.	-	-	0.2m-0.3m
<b>Field 8</b>						
800	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.2m-0.3m
<b>Field 9</b>						
900	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Dark grey (10YR 4/1) silty clay. Contained common angular small-large stones and boulders.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Field 10</b>						
1000	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft silty clay. Contained rare small angular stones and gravel.	-	-	0.20m

Key: (% of inclusions within deposit)

Rare ≤ 1%

Sparse 1% - 10%

Moderate 10% - 20%

Common 20% - 30%

Very common 30% - 50%

Abundant ≥50%

Context no.	Period	Type	Description	Dimensions		
				Length	Width/Diameter	Thickness/Depth
1002	Medieval	Layer	<b>Medieval occupation deposit.</b> Dark greyish brown (2.5YR 4/2) silty clay. Contained sparse angular small-medium stones	11.50m	3.30m+	0.57m
1003	Medieval	Layer	<b>Primary occupation deposit.</b> Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) firm silty clay. Contained moderate large angular stones	11.50m	3.30m+	0.15m
1004	Unknown	Cut	<b>Ditch cut.</b> Linear cut with concave sides and a flat base.	-	-	-
1005	Unknown	Fill	<b>Ditch fill.</b> Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) compact silty clay. Contained no coarse components.	2.60m+	1.10m	0.2m
1006	Medieval	structure	<b>Possible wall footing.</b> Pale yellow (2.5YR 7/4) limestone, possible wall footing. Components dimensions: 50mm-200mm(H) x 100mm-200mm(L) x 300mm-500mm(D)	0.60m+	0.55m	0.15m
1007	Unknown	Layer	<b>Natural.</b> Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay and gravel. Contained moderate large angular stones, gravel and boulders.	-	-	0.15m
<b>Field 11</b>						
1100	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Brown (10YR 4/3) soft silty clay. Contained sparse small stones and gravel.	-	-	0.25m
<b>Field 12</b>						
1200	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Brown (10YR 4/3) soft silty clay. Contained sparse small angular stones.	-	-	0.25m
<b>Field 13</b>						
1300	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Brown (10YR 4/3) soft silty clay. Contained rare small angular stones.	-	-	0.30m
<b>Profile 1</b>						
1000	Modern	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay. Contained moderate small-medium angular stones and some sand.	-	-	0.30m
1001	Medieval	Layer	<b>Buried plough soil.</b> Brown (10YR 4/3) firm silty clay. Contained sparse small angular-rounded stones and gravel.	-	-	0.15m
1007	Unknown	Layer	<b>Natural.</b> Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay and gravel. Contained moderate medium-large angular stones, gravel and boulders.	-	-	0.15m

Key: (% of inclusions within deposit)

Rare ≤ 1%

Sparse 1% - 10%

Moderate 10% - 20%

Common 20% - 30%

Very common 30% - 50%

Abundant ≥50%