



**NEW WATER PIPE, KINSON COMMON, BOURNEMOUTH**

**Archaeological Observations and Recording**



**Report No. 53312/3/1**

**March 2010**



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**Archaeological Observations and Recording,**  
**November 2009**

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## **Archaeological Observations & Recording,**

### **November 2009**

#### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Terrain Archaeology in November 2009, during trenching for a 25mm water pipe across Kinson Common Local Nature Reserve, Kinson, Bournemouth (centred on SZ06649606), laid to supply a newly installed cattle trough. No archaeological remains or artefacts were discovered.*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Terrain Archaeology was commissioned by Bournemouth Borough Council's Parks and Countryside Section to undertake archaeological observations and recording during trenching works for a new 25 mm water pipe across part of the Kinson Common Local Nature Reserve, Kinson, Bournemouth (Figure 1). The trench was somewhat over 0.1 km in length and mainly lay within an area of the Common nowadays known as Poole Lane Heights ([www.communigate.co.uk/dorset/kinson](http://www.communigate.co.uk/dorset/kinson)). The pipe (centred on NGR SZ06649606) was required to supply a newly installed cattle water trough in an area of the Common recently fenced-off for livestock.

Archaeological Observations and Recording, also known as an archaeological watching brief, is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as "*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, within a specified area or site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*"

Land north of the site (Poole Lane Meadows) is generally flat, but with a variable gradient toward the northeast, and there was a low, but distinct topographic rise at the southwestern end of the pipe trench. Immediately south and east of the site, ground drops more steeply into the valley of a small brook, flowing towards the River Stour about one kilometre to the north. The underlying geology of the common is Branksome sand and Parkstone clay of the Bracklesham group, overlain by Plateau Gravels along the western edge.

Fieldwork was carried out on the 11th November 2009 by Mike Trevarthen.

Terrain Archaeology would like to acknowledge the help and cooperation of Mark Holloway and Lyndon Forster (Bournemouth Borough Council) during this project.

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

There is little archaeological information regarding the close environs of the site. The presence of redeposited Palaeolithic material in the gravels of this part of the Hampshire Basin is widely attested, and both Lower and Middle Palaeolithic tools have been found locally. Neolithic/Bronze Age flints have also come from the Common ([www.kinson-common.co.uk/html/local\\_history\\_by\\_www\\_us4slush.html](http://www.kinson-common.co.uk/html/local_history_by_www_us4slush.html)). Numerous Bronze Age tumuli exist (or formerly existed) in wider landscape, and three such monuments have been excavated at Kinson (Knocker 1959). Two surviving round barrows lie on the opposite shoulder of the brook, in an area of the Common now

known as Two Barrow Common (about 140 m and 108 m SSE and south east of the site respectively).

Poole Lane Heights was known as 'Furze Ground' in the 19th century, and is shown as arable farmland at this time ([www.communicate.co.uk/dorset/kinsondorset/page4.phtml](http://www.communicate.co.uk/dorset/kinsondorset/page4.phtml)).

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The objective of the archaeological observations was to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site.

The archaeological works aimed to observe and record all the *in situ* archaeological deposits and features revealed during the groundworks to an appropriate professional standard.

## **METHODS**

No formal Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared, but the archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (formerly the Institute of Field Archaeologists) *Code of Conduct and Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (1994, as revised).

The sides and base of the trench were inspected (insofar as was possible given its dimensions). Upcast spoil from the trench was closely visually scanned for finds, and searched again after the trench had been backfilled and levelled.

The location of the trench was manually plotted at 1:200 by measured reference to mapped landscape features.

## **RESULTS**

No archaeologically significant remains or artefacts were discovered. One small lump of undiagnostic post-medieval or recent brick was noted in spoil at the far southwestern end of the trench, but was not retained.

### **Topsoil**

Topsoil along the length of the trench was uniformly about 0.15 m thick. In the northeastern part of the trench it was typically firm- to loose mid-dark greyish-brown humic sandy silt with moderate pebbly- and brecciated gravel. On the elevated ground to the southwest it graded to a dark and humic loamy silt, with scarce- to occasional gravel clasts.

### **Subsoil/ Natural deposits**

At the northeastern end of the trench, topsoil overlay in excess of 0.35-0.45 m of unconsolidated fine- to medium (occasionally large) river gravel in a loose, dark sandy silt matrix. To the southwest, the nature of this matrix changed to loose, light grey gritty- and sandy silt, and occasional patches of slightly cleaner gravel were also seen toward the base of the trench.

Whilst these lower deposits might represent reworked agricultural subsoil (the area was arable land in the 19th century), it is equally likely that they mark the physically and biotically modified upper exposure of the underlying natural gravels.



## Finds

No finds were recovered from this watching brief.

## CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological significant features, deposits or finds were discovered during the course of the watching brief. However, the undisturbed nature of the soil sequences revealed suggests that there is good potential for archaeological sites, if present, to survive relatively undisturbed elsewhere on this part of Kinson Common. If the interpretation of the lower soil unit as the upper exposure of natural gravel is correct, than any future groundworks could encounter archaeological remains beneath as little as 0.15 m of topsoil.

## REFERENCES

- Knocker, G. M., 1959 'Excavation of three round barrows at Kinson, near Bournemouth', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* **80**, 133-45.

<http://www.communigate.co.uk/dorset/kinson>

<http://www.communigate.co.uk/dorset/kinsondorset/page4.phtml>

[http://www.kinson-common.co.uk/html/local\\_history\\_by\\_www\\_us4slush\\_html](http://www.kinson-common.co.uk/html/local_history_by_www_us4slush_html)

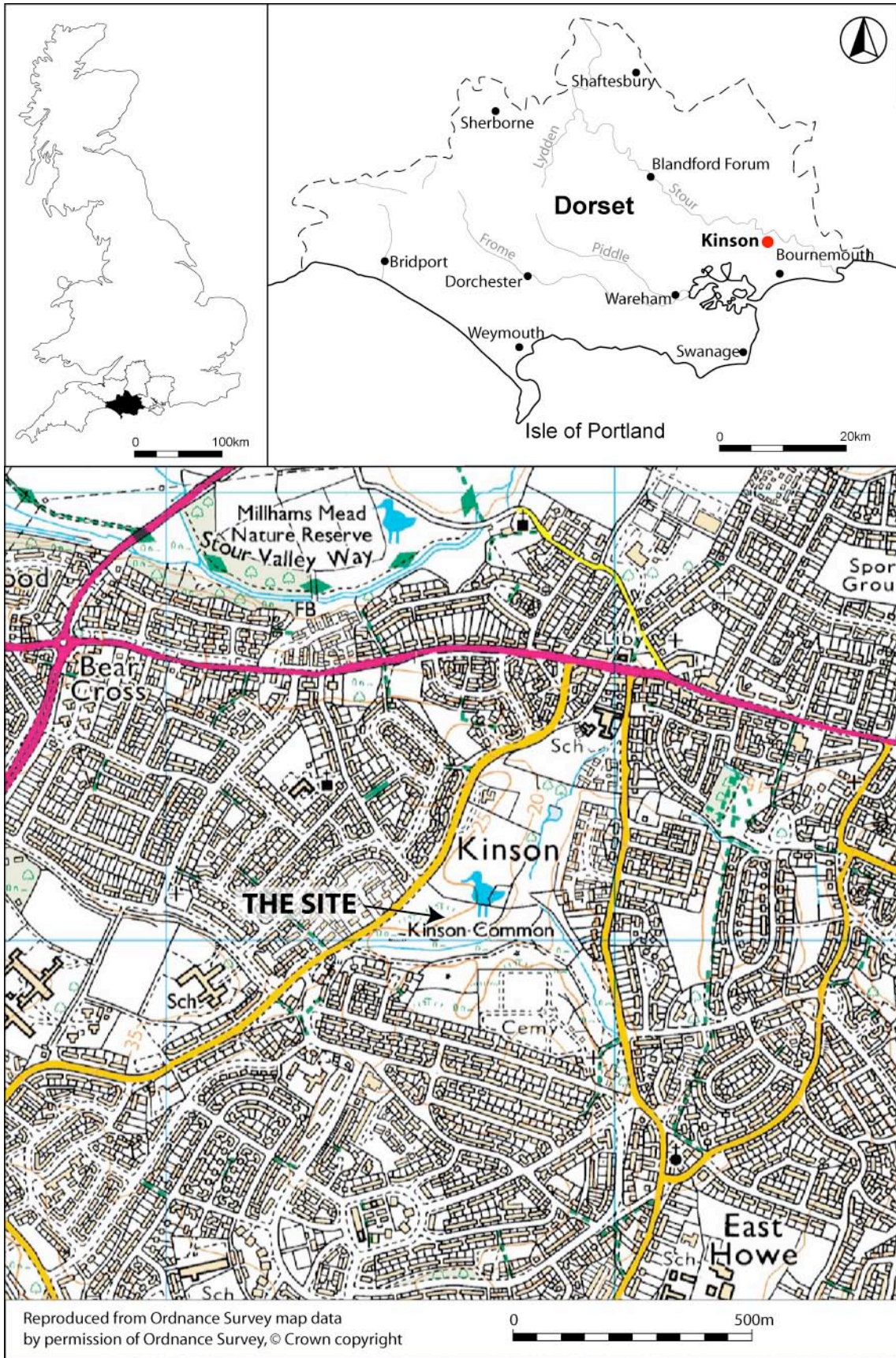


Figure 1: Location map.

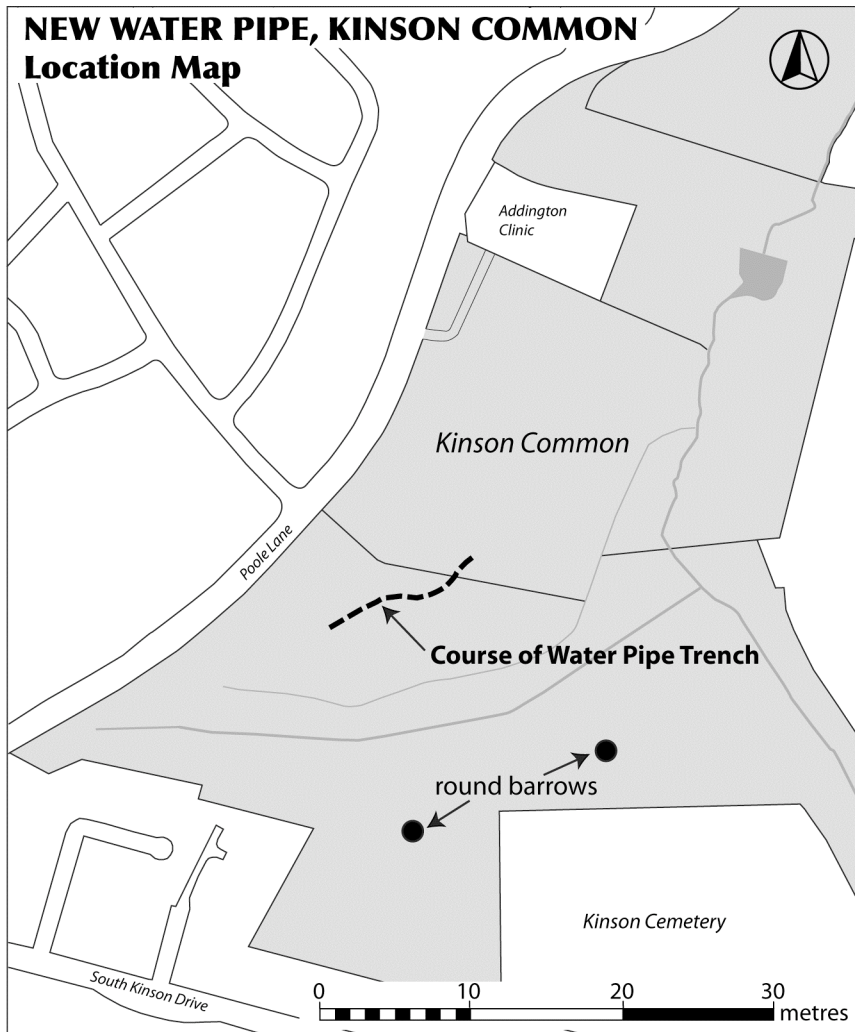


Figure 2: Location of water pipe on Kinson Common



*Plate 1: View of northern part of the central section of the pipe trench.*



*Plate 2: View of northeastern end of the pipe trench.*



*Plate 3: View of southwestern end of the pipe trench.*