

**Land at Doniford Road,
Watchet**

**Archaeological Desk-
Based Assessment**

Client: GRASS ROOTS PLANNING LTD

AB Heritage Project No:10500

Date: 23/02/2015

Land at Doniford Road, Watchet Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

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Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1.0	Draft	ZE	HS	23/02/2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AB Heritage Limited have been commissioned by Grass Roots Planning Ltd to produce an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment covering proposed development at Doniford Road, Watchet, Somerset. The proposed development site is currently occupied by fields.

This assessment has reviewed all of the known cultural heritage features within 1km of the centre-point of the proposed development site in order to gain an understanding of the potential for the presence of archaeological features within the site boundary and surrounding area, and assess the potential impact of the proposed development upon these.

Based on the known historical development of the proposed development site and surrounding study area and the presence of features within the proposed development boundary, it is concluded that there is a potential for the recovery of archaeological remains within the limits of the proposed development.

This may take the form of Prehistoric - Roman features relating to the ditched enclosures **[AB 12 & 13]** adjacent to the site and additional features of this date within the surrounding study area, including a Romano-British settlement **[AB 14]** c. 170m to the east. There is a perceived low potential for the recovery of features of this date, which may be of local to regional importance at most.

There is also potential for the recovery of remains relating to the Second World War use of the site, including buried remains of Liddymore Camp **[AB 37]**, ammunition debris, and a pillbox **[AB 40]**. Additional Modern features which are known to be situated within the proposed development site include a limekiln **[AB 39]**, and two quarry features **[AB 54 & 55]**. There is a high potential for the recovery of these features, which may be of local importance at most.

The results of the geophysical survey which has been undertaken (report forthcoming) may provide additional detail on the surviving buried remains within the boundary of the proposed development site. The forthcoming report will define any additional recommendations for further works, should they be required.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited (hereinafter AB Heritage) has been commissioned by Grass Roots Planning Ltd to produce an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment covering the proposed development at Doniford Road, Watchet, Somerset (see Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This report includes a description of the baseline conditions; an examination of available documentary, cartographic and known archaeological evidence; and identifies any known and potential cultural heritage receptor(s) within the application site or its immediate vicinity. It proposes a suitable mitigation strategy for archaeology, where such works are deemed appropriate.

1.2 Site Location & Description

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site covers an area of c. 14.2 hectares, centred at approximately ST 08054 42730 to the south of Doniford Road. The majority of the boundary is defined by field boundaries, between Doniford Road and Liddymore Farm, and the surrounding modern developments at Watchet to the west, and Normandy Avenue to the east. The Taunton to Minehead branch of the Great Western Railway [AB 38] passes between the edge of the proposed development site and Doniford village, c.100m to the east.
- 1.2.2 The site itself is currently occupied by several fields of pasture.

1.3 Geology & Topography

- 1.3.1 The geology of the proposed development site consists of mudstones, including those of the Langport Member, Blue Lias Formation, Charmouth Mudstone Formation, Westbury Formation, Cotham Member, Mercia Mudstone Group and Anchor Formation. These were formed primarily from the sediments of shallow and fluctuating seas and lakes, while the mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group were formed in hot deserts (BGS 2015).
- 1.3.2 No superficial geology has been recorded for this area.

1.4 Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 The proposed development consists of plans for a residential development of c. 250 – 350 houses. No formal plans have been made available to AB Heritage at this stage, due to the early stage of the planning process. Therefore a detailed impact assessment could not be conducted.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Works

- 2.1.1 Early consultation on the results of archaeological research and consideration of the implications of proposed development are the key to informing reasonable planning decisions.
- 2.1.2 The aim of this report is to facilitate such a process by understanding the historical development of the application site and the likely impact upon any surviving archaeological resource resulting from the proposed development, devising appropriate mitigation responses where necessary.

2.2 Methodology of Works

- 2.2.1 The assessment has been carried out, in regard to the collation of baseline information, in line with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment (1994, latest revision November 2012).
- 2.2.2 The assessment has been carried out, in regard to the collation of baseline information, in line with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment (1994, latest revision November 2012).
 - Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979
 - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
 - The National Planning Policy Framework, 2012
- 2.2.3 The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) is the primary source of information concerning the current state of archaeological and architectural knowledge in this area. For reporting purposes the HER information has been re-numbered with AB numbers, which can be viewed in Appendix 1. The information contained within this database was supported by examination of data from a wide range of other sources, principally:
 - The Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk) for information from English Heritage National Monuments Record, Pastscape and other research resources, including the Access to Archives (A2A)
 - The English Heritage website professional pages, particularly the National Heritage List For England
 - A site-walk over on the 19th February 2015
 - Additional relevant documentary and online historic sources
- 2.2.4 Information from these sources was used to understand:
 - Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites
 - Information on heritage assets recorded on the Somerset HER
 - Readily accessible information on the site's history from readily available historic maps and photographs

- Any information on the site contained in published and unpublished archaeological and historical sources, including any previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the study area
- A greater understanding of key cultural heritage issues of the site and surrounding area, developed through the onsite walkover, including information on areas of past truncation within the site boundary
- The impact of proposed development on the known and potential archaeological resource, resulting in the formulation of a mitigation strategy, where required, which appropriately targets any future works to those required to gain planning consent.

2.2.5 During consultation between Zoe Edwards (Archaeological Technician; AB Heritage) and Steven Membury (Senior Historic Environment Officer; Somerset County Council), on the 5th February 2015, it was agreed, given the location and form of development, that the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment would examine heritage records within 1km of the proposed development site boundary, with additional consideration for significant features a short distance beyond this remit should any be present.

2.3 Assessment of the Cultural Heritage Resource

2.3.1 This desk-based assessment contains a record of the known and potential cultural heritage resource of an area. In relation to buried archaeological remains, where there is a potential for encountering a particular resource within the application site this is assessed according to the following scale:

Low	-	Very unlikely to be encountered on site
Medium	-	Possibility that features may occur / be encountered on site
High	-	Remains almost certain to survive on site

2.3.2 There is currently no standard adopted statutory or government guidance for assessing the importance of an archaeological feature and this is instead judged upon factors such as statutory and non-statutory designations, architectural, archaeological or historical significance, and the contribution to local research agendas. Considering these criteria each identified feature can be assigned to a level of importance in accordance with a five point scale (Table 1, below).

Table 1: Assessing the Importance of a Cultural Heritage Site

SCALE OF SITE IMPORTANCE	
NATIONAL	The highest status of site, e.g. Scheduled Monuments (or undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance). Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings. Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in the listing grade. Conservation Areas containing very important buildings. Undesignated structures of clear national importance. Extremely well preserved historic landscape, whether inscribed or not, with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factor(s).
REGIONAL	Grade II Listed Buildings or other designated or undesignated archaeological sites (in addition to those listed above), or assets of a reasonably defined extent and significance, or reasonable evidence of occupation / settlement, ritual, industrial activity etc. Examples may include areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character, burial sites, deserted medieval villages, Roman roads and dense scatter of finds.
LOCAL	Evidence of human activity more limited in historic value than the examples above, or compromised by poor preservation and/or survival of context associations, though which still have the potential to contribute to local research objectives. Examples include sites such as 'locally designated' buildings or undesignated structures / buildings of limited historic merit, out-of-situ archaeological findspots / ephemeral archaeological evidence and historic field systems and boundaries etc.
NEGLIGIBLE	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest. Examples include destroyed antiquities, structures of almost no architectural / historic merit, buildings of an intrusive character or relatively modern / common landscape features such as quarries, drains and ponds etc.
UNKNOWN	Insufficient information exists to assess the importance of a feature (e.g. unidentified features on aerial photographs).

- 2.3.3 The importance of already identified cultural heritage resources is determined by reference to existing designations. Where classification of a receptor's value covered a range of the above possibilities or for previously unidentified features where no designation has been assigned, the value of the receptor was based on professional knowledge and judgement.
- 2.3.4 For some types of finds or remains there is no consistent value and the importance may vary, for example Grade II Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. For this reason, adjustments are occasionally made, where appropriate, based on professional judgement.

2.4 Impact Assessment Criteria

- 2.4.1 The magnitude of impact upon the archaeological and heritage resource, which can be considered in terms of direct and indirect impacts, is determined by identifying the level of effect from the proposed development upon the baseline conditions of the site and the cultural heritage resource identified. The criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact are set out in Table 2 (below).
- 2.4.2 In certain cases it is not possible to confirm the magnitude of impact upon a cultural heritage resource, especially where anticipated buried deposits exist. Where possible a professional

judgement as to the scale of such impacts is applied to enable the likely 'Significance of Effects' to be established; however, a magnitude level of 'uncertain' is included for situations where it is simply not appropriate to make such a judgement at this stage of works.

Table 2: Criteria for Determining Magnitude of Impact

IMPACT LEVEL	DEFINITION
HIGH	Major impacts fundamentally changing the baseline condition of the receptor, leading to total or considerable alteration of character or setting – e.g. complete or almost complete destruction of the archaeological resource; dramatic visual intrusion into a historic landscape element; adverse change in the setting or visual amenity of the feature/site; significant increase in noise; extensive changes to use or access.
MEDIUM	Impacts changing the baseline condition of the receptor materially but not entirely, leading to partial alteration of character or setting – e.g. a large proportion of the archaeological resource damaged or destroyed; intrusive visual intrusion into key aspects of the historic landscape; or use of site that would result in detrimental changes to historic landscape character.
LOW	Detectable impacts which alter the baseline condition of the receptor to a small degree – e.g. a small proportion of the surviving archaeological resource is damaged or destroyed; minor severance, change to the setting or structure or increase in noise; and limited encroachment into character of a historic landscape.
NEGLIGIBLE	Barely distinguishable adverse change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable effect on a known site, possibly because of distance from the development, method of construction or landscape or ecological planting, that are thought to have no long term effect on the historic value of a resource.
UNCERTAIN	Extent / nature of the resource is unknown and the magnitude of change cannot be ascertained.

- 2.4.3 The overall Significance of Effects from the proposed development upon the Cultural Heritage Resource is determined by correlating the magnitude of Impact against value of the Cultural Heritage resource. Table 3 highlights the criteria for assessing the overall Significance of Effects. Where effects are moderate or above these are classified as significant.

Table 3: Significance of Effects

IMPORTANCE	MAGNITUDE			
	HIGH	MED	LOW	NEG
NATIONAL	Severe	Major	Mod	Minor
REGIONAL	Major	Mod	Minor	Not Sig.
LOCAL	Mod	Minor	Minor	Not Sig.
NEGLIGIBLE	Minor	Not Sig.	Not Sig.	Nt.

2.5 Limitations

- 2.5.1 It should be noted that the report has been prepared under the express instruction and solely for the use of Grass Roots Planning, and any associated parties they elect to share this information with. Measurements and distances referred to in the report should be taken as approximations only and should not be used for detailed design purposes.
- 2.5.2 All the work carried out in this report is based upon the professional knowledge and understanding of AB Heritage on current (February 2015) and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation. Changes in these areas may occur in the future and cause changes to the conclusions, advice, recommendations or design given. AB Heritage does not accept responsibility for advising the client's or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.
- 2.5.3 This report has been prepared utilising factual information obtained from third party sources. AB Heritage takes no responsibility for the accuracy of such information. It should also be noted that this report represents an early stage of a phased approach to assessing the archaeological and cultural heritage resource of the application site to allow the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy, should this be required. It does not comprise mitigation of impacts in itself.

3. PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The following section highlights the key planning and legislative framework relevant to this project. Legislative framework, national planning policy and relevant sector guidance.

3.2 Statutory Protection for Heritage Assets

- 3.2.1 Current legislation, in the form of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, provides for the legal protection of important and well-preserved archaeological sites and monuments through their addition to a list, or 'schedule' of archaeological monuments by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. This necessitates the granting of formal Scheduled Monument Consent for any work undertaken within the designated area of a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 3.2.2 Likewise, structures are afforded legal protection in the form of their addition to 'lists' of buildings of special architectural or historical interest. The listing of buildings is carried out by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. The main purpose of the legislation is to protect buildings and their surroundings from changes that would materially alter the special historic or architectural value of the building or its setting. This necessitates the granting of formal Listed Building Consent for all works undertaken to or within the designated curtilage of a Listed Building. This legislation also allows for the creation and protection of Conservation Areas by local planning authorities to protect areas and groupings of historical significance.
- 3.2.3 The categories of assets with some form of legal protection have been extended in recent years, and now include Registered Parks and Gardens, and Historic Battlefields. While designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is not a statutory designation under English planning law, such a designation is regarded as a material consideration in planning decisions, and World Heritage Sites are in practice protected from development that could affect any aspect of their significance including settings within the Site and a buffer zone around it.

3.3 National Planning Policy

- 3.3.1 The NPPF sets out government policy on the historic environment, which covers all elements, whether designated or not, that are identified as 'having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'.
- 3.3.2 One of the over-arching aims is to 'Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations'. To achieve this, local planning authorities can request that the applicant describe "the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting". The level of detail required in the assessment should be "proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance". It goes on to say that "where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest,

local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”

- 3.3.3 A key policy within the NPPF is that “when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.
- 3.3.4 With regard to non-designated heritage assets specific policy is provided in that a balanced judgement will be required having due regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset affected.

3.4 Local Policy: The Taunton Deane Borough Council Adopted Core Strategy 2011-2028

CP 8: Environment

- 3.4.1 The environment policy for Taunton Deane as set out in the Core Strategy document, states that the Borough Council aims to:
- Protect, conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment
 - Will not permit development proposals that would harm the natural or historic environment
 - Will not permit development proposals that would harm the settings of rural centres unless their comparable need is greater in importance
- 3.4.2 The document also states that the historic environment and heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed by this and future generations, as indicated by the NPPF.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE BASELINE

4.1 Statutory Designated Features

- 4.1.1 There are no designated features within the bounds of the proposed development site.
- 4.1.2 There are nine designated features within the surrounding 1km study area, including seven Grade II Listed Buildings [AB 19, 33 & 49 – 53], one Conservation Area [AB 21], and one Scheduled Ancient Monument which is also registered as a Grade II* Listed Building [AB 18].

4.2 Historic Environment Data

- 4.2.1 There are a total of 59 cultural heritage features within the 1km study area, including 55 recorded by the Somerset Historic Environment Record, two recorded on Pastscape [AB 4 & 9], and two additional features which were recorded during examination of historic maps [AB 54 & 55] (see Section 4.6).
- 4.2.2 Five of these features are situated within the boundary of the proposed development site [AB 37, 39, 40, 54 & 55]. These all relate to the modern industrial and military history of the area.

4.3 Previous Archaeological Works in the Study Area

- 4.3.1 Several archaeological events have occurred within the study area and have been conducted in advance of previous developments.
- 4.3.2 A watching brief (Event Number: 16110) at c. 150m to the east of the proposed development site identified a flint scatter and pottery finds [AB 5] dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age, as well as a Romano-British settlement c. 170m to the east of the proposed development site [AB 14].
- 4.3.3 Other finds have been recorded during watching briefs, in which a Neolithic pit [AB 7] was uncovered, containing charcoal and pottery sherds (Event Number 24581) c. 230m to the north-west of the proposed development site.
- 4.3.4 Large areas have been covered by field walking within the 1km study area, including an area c. 500m to the south and south-west of the proposed development site, in which findspots of unknown date were found and recorded.

4.4 Archaeology & History Background

The Prehistoric Periods (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.4.1 There are no cultural heritage features of Prehistoric date located within the proposed development site, and 13 within the surrounding study area [AB 1- 13].
- 4.4.2 There is evidence of activity in Somerset dating from the Palaeolithic onwards. There is considerable evidence within the Quantock Hills c.45km to the south-east of Doniford, and in Exmoor c. 7km to the west, including burial monuments and hillforts.

- 4.4.3 On the eastern edge of the town of Williton c. 1.5km to the south of Doniford is a round barrow cemetery which suggests that this landscape was significant to the Bronze Age inhabitants of the area.
- 4.4.4 While there are no burial monuments within the study area, the Prehistoric period here is defined primarily by flint findspots [**AB 1 – 5, 9 & 11**] dating to between the Palaeolithic and Bronze Age, which surround the proposed development site between c.150m and 1km of the boundary.
- 4.4.5 There are also a number of cropmark features of this date, including two Prehistoric – Roman ditched enclosures [**AB 12 – 13**] at c. 50-100m to the east of the proposed development site boundary, and immediately to the south.

The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.4.6 There are no cultural heritage features of Roman date located within the proposed development site, and four [**AB 14 – 17**] within the surrounding study area.
- 4.4.7 The proposed development site is located close to the western edge of the Roman empire in Britain, and therefore the nearest point of significant authority would have been the town and fort at *Isca Dumnoniorum* (modern day Exeter) at c. 55km to the south of Doniford. This centre of Roman occupation would have held significant authority and influence over the surrounding area, possibly including the Romano-British settlement [**AB 14**] consisting of shallow features and occupational debris, which falls within the study area at c. 170m to the east of the proposed development site.
- 4.4.8 The remaining features of this date within the study area are findspots including coins [**AB 15 & 17**], one of which has been dated to the 3rd century AD [**AB 15**].

The Medieval Period (AD 410 – AD 1536)

- 4.4.9 There are no cultural heritage features of Medieval date within the proposed development site, and eight [**AB 18 – 25**] within the surrounding study area.
- 4.4.10 Semi-urban settlement in the area is not thought to have been present until the Saxon period, when the town of Watchet (centred at c. 1km to the east of the proposed development site) was developing.
- 4.4.11 By the 10th century, there was a fort at Watchet, as well as a local mint. The goods from the trading centre of Watchet, or '*Wecedport*' as it was named in the Burghal Hidage, were probably being traded via a harbour. However, the harbour was badly damaged in storms of the 1450s, after which trade appears to have ceased (Gathercole 2003).
- 4.4.12 Within the study area, the features identified of Medieval date consist mainly of industrial structures, including three mills associated with the farmhouses at Doniford Farm [**AB 20 & 23**] at c. 475m to the east of the proposed development site, and Egrove Farm [**AB 24**] at c. 580m to the south-east of the proposed development site.
- 4.4.13 The study area also encompasses the western side of the modern extent of Watchet, and a small section of the former Medieval town and port, which is designated as a Conservation Area [**AB 21**] at c. 700m to the north-west of the proposed developments site boundary.

- 4.4.14 A Listed and Scheduled 15th century cross **[AB 18]** is situated on the roadside c. 450m to the east of the proposed development site, on the edge of Doniford village, which demonstrates that there was also settlement to the east of the proposed development, beyond the edge of the centre of trade at Watchet.
- 4.4.15 This is also evident from the Easenton village **[AB 25]** at c. 800m north-north-west of the proposed development site boundary, which was lost to coastal erosion.

The Post Medieval Period (AD 1537 – AD 1800)

- 4.4.16 There are no cultural heritage features of Post Medieval date within the proposed development site, and five within the surrounding study area **[AB 26 – 30]**.
- 4.4.17 It was during the Post Medieval that the harbour at Watchet was re-built and trade grew once again, primarily with Wales and Bristol. This was short lived, however, as trade declined with the development of Minehead, c. 12km along the coast to the west of Doniford (Gathercole 2003).
- 4.4.18 The area of the proposed development was occupied by enclosed fields at this time, as identified by the Historic Landscape Character Area **[AB 26]** which covers the area. The remainder of the monuments of this period within the 1km study area relate to buildings **[AB 27 & 28]** and two turnpike roads **[AB 29 & 30]**, which would have allowed trade access to the coast.

Modern Period (AD 1801 – present)

- 4.4.19 There are five cultural heritage features of Modern date within the boundary of the proposed development site **[AB 37, 39, 40, 54 & 55]**, and an additional 20 within the surrounding study area **[AB 31 – 36, 38 & 41 – 53]**.
- 4.4.20 By the 19th century, trade in Watchet had been re-established, and was followed by a phase of business expansion, along with the construction of the Great Western Railway **[AB 38]** and the re-building of the harbour.
- 4.4.21 The civil parish of Watchet was created in 1902 from part of the former parish of St Decumans, which was centred on the Church of St Decumans c. 1.5km to the south-west of the proposed development site.
- 4.4.22 Within the study area, this period is defined by the development of industry and settlement, which is demonstrated by the surviving mid-19th century buildings on the eastern side of Watchet which fall into the study area **[AB 49 – 53]**, and a number of limekilns and quarry pits in the area **[AB 33, 39, 54 & 55]** including two quarried areas **[AB 54 & 55]** within the proposed development site.
- 4.4.23 The expansion of Watchet was followed by the defence of the area during the Second World War, when the coast was observed and defended by a coastguard lookout **[AB 34]**, pillboxes **[AB 32 & 46]**, a gun emplacement **[AB 31]**, a gunnery training site **[AB 44]** and a gun-laying radar **[AB 45]**, primarily situated along the coast to the north of the proposed development site (see Figure 1).

- 4.4.24 This is also evident within the proposed development site, where Liddimore Camp [AB 37] was used by the 21st Royal Artillery Regiment into the 1950s, in the proximity of an additional pillbox [AB 40] in the north-western corner of the proposed development site.

4.5 Historic Map Sources

- 4.5.1 The earliest available map of the area is the 1802 map of Dunster. This map shows that the area of the proposed development site was occupied by numerous enclosed fields at the start of the 19th century. There is a small cluster of buildings at the location of Doniford village, and 'Siddymore Farm' appears to be in the location of what is known as Liddymore Farm in the present day, which is situated on the south-western edge of the proposed development site boundary.
- 4.5.2 The Tithe Map of St Decumans (now reduced in size due to the parish at Watchet forming in 1902) shows the area of the proposed development site was primarily under pasture at this time. There were also areas of orchard and meadow. Some of the fields have been amalgamated since the publication of the 1802 map of Dunster.
- 4.5.3 The later First Edition OS map of 1887 shows that the fields within the proposed development site have become comparable to the present layout of the site. Of particular note are the industrial features which are labelled on the map within the boundary of the site, including a limekiln [AB 39], a gravel pit [AB 55], and a quarry [AB 54]. These also appear on the Second Edition OS map of 1904 (Plate 1).

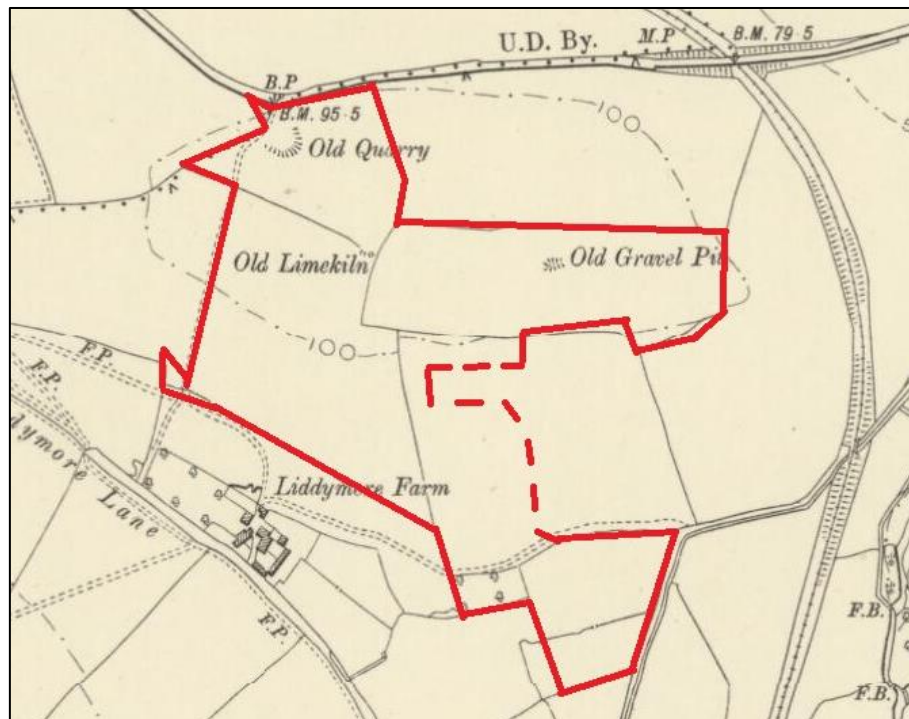


Plate 1: Second Edition OS Map of 1904 (© Crown Copyright 2015. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100050237)

- 4.5.4 The Provisional OS map of 1939 shows the Second World War Liddymore Camp [AB 37] in the area of the proposed development site, including an access route around the edge of the Camp, and dispersed buildings.

4.6 Site Visit

- 4.6.1 A site visit was undertaken by Glenn Rose (Senior Project Archaeologist; AB Heritage) on the 19th February 2015. The purpose of this visit was to gain a greater understanding of the existing land use and past impacts within the current site limits, along with an appreciation for the potential survival of below ground archaeological deposits.
- 4.6.2 The proposed development site consists of several fields under pasture, which have been further divided with temporary electric fencing to enclose paddocks.
- 4.6.3 Access to these, and a few small barns within the site, can be made via concreted roads and gaps in the hedgerow field boundaries.



Photo 1: The view from the centre of the proposed development site to the north-west



Photo 2: The view from the centre of the proposed development site to the south-west, showing a concrete road allowing access to a barn

- 4.6.4 The northern-most fields are shown on the current OS mapping as areas of bracken, heath or rough grassland (see Figure 1). This was true of some sections of the fields, although there were clusters of trees (Photo 3) and evidence of tree felling (Photo 4).



Photo 3: The view from the west of the proposed development site looking west

- 4.6.5 Small cut features were noted in these areas (Photo 4 & 5). It is uncertain whether they are the result of the tree felling which has taken place at the site, or remnant features relating to the former Liddymore Camp [**AB 37**].
- 4.6.6 The pillbox [**AB 40**] which was known to have been located in the north-eastern corner of the proposed development site was not visible.



Photo 4: The view to the east from the centre of the proposed development site, showing an area of tree clearance



Photo 5: Cut feature in the south of the north-east field

- 4.6.7 The 'old quarry' [AB 54] and 'old gravel pit' [AB 55] noted on modern historic maps of the area were still present as earthwork depressions at the depicted locations (Photo 6). However, the location of the former limekiln within the proposed development site had recently been felled and therefore the ground was uneven and contained piles of tree debris. Therefore, there were no visible remains of the limekiln at the time of the site visit.



Photo 6: The view to the north-east from the centre of the north-eastern field of the proposed development site, showing the depression at the depicted location of an 'old quarry' [AB 54] on historic maps

- 4.6.8 A short distance to the east of this was an area of disturbed ground in a linear form, which may relate to the placement of recent pipes/cables (Photo 7).



Photo 7: The view to the west from the centre-south of the north-western field at the proposed development site showing the linear of recently disturbed ground

- 4.6.9 An additional depressed of unknown origin was also noted on the eastern edge of the north-western field during the visit.
- 4.6.10 Other recent impacts noted during the visit included a number of small pylons which were visible across the site (e.g. Photo 7), and a water pipe marker in the southern area of the site (see Figure 3). It is uncertain whether the pipe runs beneath the proposed development site or along the edge.
- 4.6.11 Much of the eastern boundary consists of a Modern housing development, which is visible from the site (Photo 8). Figure 2 shows that this development occupies much of the known area of the former Second World War Liddymore Camp **[AB 37]**.



Photo 8: The view to the north-east from the south of the proposed development site, showing the modern housing development on the eastern boundary.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL & MITIGATION

5.1 Known Heritage Resource

- 5.1.1 There are five known heritage features within the boundary of the proposed development site.
- 5.1.2 These all relate to the modern industrial and military history of the site, and include a pillbox [AB 40] and the Liddymore Camp [AB 37] of the Second World War, a limekiln [AB 39], and two quarried areas [AB 54 & 55].
- 5.1.3 The surrounding 1km study area contained heritage features showing activity in the area of the proposed development from the early Prehistoric to the Modern period. The majority of the heritage features are of Modern date and represent the Modern industrial, military, and settlement development of the area.
- 5.1.4 Enclosures [AB 12 & 13] of Prehistoric or Roman date are known to be present immediately to the south and c.50-100m to the east of the proposed development site. Other finds and features of these dates, including a Romano-British settlement [AB 14] c. 170m to the east of the proposed development site, demonstrate that this location was inhabited from at least the Roman period and in close proximity to the proposed development site.

5.2 Past Impacts within the Site Boundary

- 5.2.1 The visible impact on-site included tree roots, evidence of deforestation, concrete roads, barns, and small pylons.
- 5.2.2 Other potential impacts on features pre-dating the modern period relate to construction and use of the site, including the Second World War Liddymore Camp [AB 37] and pillbox [AB 40], a limekiln [AB 39] and two areas of quarrying [AB 54 & 55].
- 5.2.3 Whilst the quarrying activity may have removed or truncated any pre-dating below ground archaeological features the extent of the quarrying activity is currently unknown and it is therefore possible that localised pockets of surviving archaeology remain on site.

5.3 Potential Archaeological Resource

- 5.3.1 The nature of the cultural heritage features which have been recorded within close proximity of the proposed development site boundary suggests that there is some potential for the presence of archaeological features below the ground surface of Prehistoric or Roman date.
- 5.3.2 It is also possible that there is debris in the area relating to the use of the site during the Second World War [AB 37 & 40].
- 5.3.3 Based on the overall knowledge of heritage resource within the proposed development site and the surrounding study area, and the known past impacts within the limits of the proposed development, it is concluded that there is:
 - A low to medium potential for the recovery of remains dating to the Prehistoric or Roman period, which may be associated with the nearby Prehistoric or Roman enclosures [AB 12 & 13]. These may be of regional importance at most (in line with Table 1).

- A high potential for the recovery of remains of Modern date, including the known limekiln [AB 39], and possible buried remains of Liddymore Camp [AB 37], along with other features relating to the Second World War use of the site. These may be of local importance at most (in line with Table 1).

5.3.4 There is believed to be a more limited potential for the recovery of previously unrecorded archaeology of all other forms and dates within the proposed development site.

5.4 Predicted Impact of Proposed Development

5.4.1 The limited present knowledge of the proposed development consists of plans for a residential development of c. 250 – 350 houses.

5.4.2 It is possible that the groundworks associated with the proposed development could impact on potential surviving, below ground archaeological deposits, which may include the known Second World War features [AB 37 & 40], known industrial features [AB 39, 54 & 55], and potential unknown features of Prehistoric – Roman date. At this stage as no detailed designs have been made available, no detailed impact assessment could be made in line with Table 2 and therefore judged against Table 3.

5.5 Further Works

- 5.5.1 Further works in advance of this proposed development are already underway in the form of geophysical survey, which will cover the full area of proposed development.
- 5.5.2 Further recommendations may be posed as a result of the geophysical survey (see the geophysical survey report, forthcoming).
- 5.5.3 Any further recommendations would need to be approved by Somerset County Council.

6. REFERENCES

6.1 Documentary Sources & Cartographic Sources

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Somerset Heritage Environment Record

Institute for Archaeologists 1994; rev.2001 & 2008 Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment

6.2 Electronic References

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Features

This gazetteer incorporates all archaeological and historical sites identified on the Somerset Historic Environment Record and other sources within a radius of 500m from the boundary of the proposed development site.

Abbreviations

NGR	National Grid Reference	CA	Conservation Area
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument	HLC	Historic Landscape Character Area
LB	Listed Building		

AB No.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NGR	HER/ID No.
1	Prehistoric	Findspot	Palaeolithic flint and pottery finds, Nine Elms Nursery, Watchet	-	ST 0766 4307	34161
2	Prehistoric	Findspot	Palaeolithic flint finds, east of Five Bells, Warchet	-	ST 0718 4231	15517
3	Prehistoric	Findspot	Mesolithic flint scatter, north of Battle Gore, Williton	-	ST 074 421	34192
4	Prehistoric	Findspot	Mesolithic findspot, Doniford stream	-	ST 087 430	Pastscape 188560
5	Prehistoric	Findspot	Flint scatter and Pottery finds near Doniford, dating to the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age	-	ST 0853 4295	16111
6	Prehistoric	Findspot	Mesolithic flint scatter, Doniford Stream, Williton	-	ST 087 431	34190
7	Prehistoric	Monument	Neolithic pit, containing charcoal and pottery sherds, north-east of Doniford Road, Watchet	-	ST 077 431	24582

AB No.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NGR	HER/ID No.
8	Prehistoric	Findspot	Possible Rhino tooth found on Doniford Beach	-	ST 08515 43041	28375
9	Prehistoric	Findspot	Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowhead findspot	-	ST 0751 4236	Pastscape 188540
10	Prehistoric	Monument	Four Bronze Age negative features, probably pits which contained distinctive Cornish pottery	-	ST 0850 4228	16125
11	Prehistoric	Findspot	Palaeolithic flint finds	-	ST 0882 4313	27209
12	Prehistoric-Roman	Monument	Prehistoric or Roman ditched cropmark enclosure, north of Williton	-	ST 0830 4225	35453
13	Prehistoric-Roman	Monument	Prehistoric or Roman ditched cropmak enclosure, north of Williton	-	ST 0830 4225	34183
14	Roman	Monument	Romano-British settlement near Doniford, consisting of shallow features, and finds of occupation material and iron slag with coal.	-	ST 0859 4266	16112
15	Roman	Findspot	The findspot of a Roman coin - follis of Constantine I, found in a garden in Flowerdale Road, Watchet	-	ST 073 429	27010
16	Roman	Findspot	Roman samian pottery find, Doniford beach	-	ST 0846 4304	15518
17	Roman	Findspot	Roman coin find, Doniford Road, Watchet	-	ST 0751 4317	20652

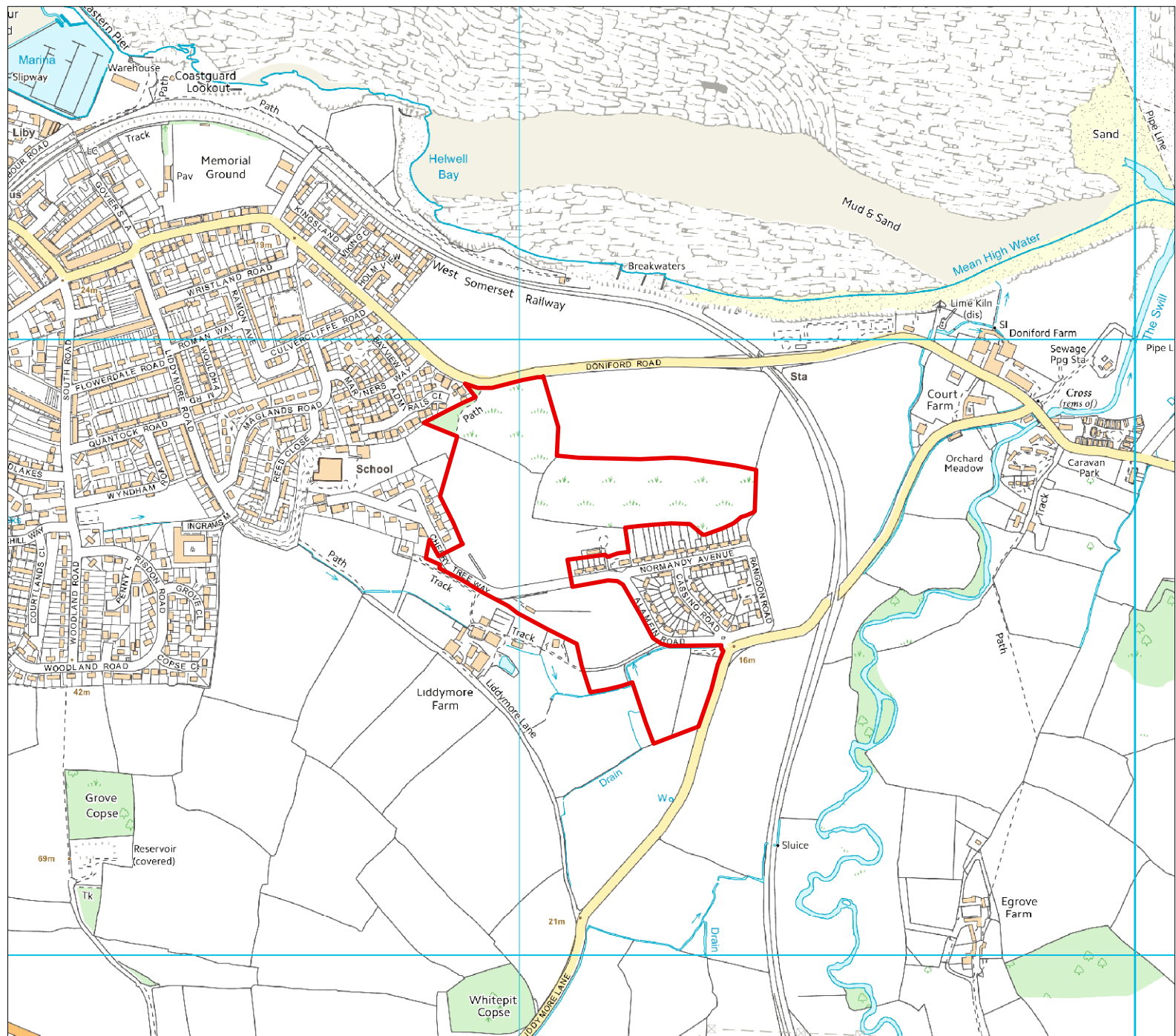
AB No.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NGR	HER/ID No.
18	Medieval	Monument	Early 15th century roadside cross, Doniford	SAM Grade II* LB	ST 0884 4289	34630 NHLE 1019292 & 1057482
19	Medieval	Building	Late Medieval Farmhouse, Doniford House	Grade II LB	ST 08752 42984	30913 NHLE 1057481
20	Medieval	Monument	Doniford Mill, Orchard Meadow, Doniford, Williton.	-	ST 0887 4285	26270
21	Medieval	Conservation Area	Medieval town and port, Watchet	CA	ST 07 43	34163
22	Medieval	Findspot	A silver penny of Edward I of the London mint found in the Nine Elms Nursery, Watchet	-	ST 0882 4313	27169
23	Medieval- Post Medieval	Monument	Farm waterwheel, Doniford Farm, Doniford	-	ST 0877 4300	34201
24	Medieval- Post Medieval	Monument	Farm waterwheel and Leat, Egrove Farm, Williton	-	ST 0875 4201	34200
25	Medieval- Post Medieval	Monument	Easenton village site, Watchet, now lost to coastal erosion	-	ST 07 43	34165

AB No.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NGR	HER/ID No.
26	Post-Medieval	HLC	Anciently Enclosed Land pre-17th century. General field size, 6-12ha. Between 25% and 50% boundary loss since 1905.	-	AREA	2991
27	Post-Medieval	Monument	Post-medieval wall foundations associated with Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery	-	ST 0872 4277	16113
28	Post-Medieval	Monument	18th century brewery site, Watchet	-	ST 07 43	34166
29	Post Medieval-Modern	Monument	Turnpike Road, Watchet to Williton, formed part of the 1765 turnpike to Nether Stowey	-	ST 0085 4093	26214
30	Post Medieval-Modern	Monument	Turnpike Road, Watchet to West Quantoxhead, formed part of the original 1765 turnpike from Minehead to Nether Stowey	-	ST 0716 4191	26215
31	Modern	Monument	WW2 Gun emplacement, Harbour, Watchet	-	ST 0740 4344	35392
32	Modern	Monument	WW2 Beach defence Pillbox, by railway, Doniford	-	ST 0852 4274	35372
33	Modern	Monument	Limekiln, above the beach, Doniford	Grade II LB	ST 0869 4302	34177 NHLE 1174721
34	Modern	Monument	Coastguard Lookout, Watchet	-	ST 0743 4342	35394
35	Modern	Monument	Watchet Railway Station, Watchet. Opened 1862 and closed in 1971. Re-opened as part of the restored railway in 197 and still in use.	-	ST 072 433	35419

AB No.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NGR	HER/ID No.
36	Modern	Monument	Mid-19th century engine shed site, Watchet. Thought to have been dismantled and re-erected in Minehead	-	ST 0730 4332	15348
37	Modern	Monument	WW2 Liddymore Camp, used by the 21st Royal Artillery Regiment into the 1950s.	-	ST 082 426	15840
38	Modern	Monument	Taunton to Minehead section of the Great Western Railway	-	ST 1390 3396	33462
39	Modern	Monument	Limekiln, north-west of Liddymore Camp, Williton	-	ST 0802 4279	34178
40	Modern	Monument	WW2 Pillbox, Doniford Road, Watchet	-	ST 0792 4292	17558
41	Modern	Monument	School, South Road, Watchet, shown on OS map of c.1904	-	ST 0729 4304	19403
42	Modern	Monument	Methodist Church, South Street, Watchet, shown on OS map of c.1904	-	ST 0726 4302	19404
43	Modern	Monument	School, St Decuman's Road, Watchet, shown on OS map of c.1904	-	ST 0724 4305	19405
44	Modern	Monument	WW2 Gunnery training site, Doniford including a range of buildings, gun emplacements and other structures	-	ST 0844 4310	35464
45	Modern	Monument	The site of a WW2 gun-laying radar, Doniford, located tightly beneath a railway bridge ramp	-	ST 0843 4298	22966
46	Modern	Monument	WW2 Pillbox, Harbour, Watchet	-	ST 0740 4342	35393
47	Modern	Monument	Watchet and Williton Gas Light and Coke Company gas works on South Street, 1866 - 1960.	-	ST 0723 4272	28952

AB No.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NGR	HER/ID No.
48	Modern	Monument	Pound, Malvern Road, Watchet, shown on the OS 1903 25" sheet 36(13)	-	ST 0727 4308	34170
49	Modern	Monument	A sports pavilion and grandstand dedicated as a memorial to the fallen of the First World War in July 1929, at the Memorial Ground, Watchet	Grade II LB	ST 0743 4327	32343
50	Modern	Building	Baptist Church and Sunday School, railings and gate, Brendon Road, Watchet, dated 18	Grade II LB	ST 07123 43106	30008 NHLE 1345563
51	Modern	Building	1 - 4 Sea View Terrace, Govier's Lane, Watchet, mid-19th century	Grade II LB	ST 07275 43258	30011 NHLE 1180311
52	Modern	Building	Nos 3 and 3a (Wyndene), railings and gates on north-east and north-west side, St Decuman's Road, Watchet, dated 1859	Grade II LB	ST 07107 42945	30018 NHLE 1057628
53	Modern	Building	No. 41 South Road including front wall and gate piers. Mid-19th century.	Grade II LB	ST 07260 42725	30019 NHLE 1188087
54	Modern	Monument	'Old Quarry' shown on OS 2nd Edition Map of 1904		ST 0794 4289	-
55	Modern	Monument	'Old Gravel Pit' shown on OS 1st Edition Map of 1887		ST 0819 4275	-
56	Undated	Findspot	Few findspots noted during field walking	-	AREA	28817
57	Undated	Monument	Possible industrial features on Doniford Beach	-	ST 08515 43041	28376

AB No.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS	NGR	HER/ID No.
58	Undated	Monument	Limekiln, Watchet	-	ST 072 432	34173
59	Undated	Monument	At least two phases of linear anomalies showing possible earlier field boundaries or enclosures, and an area of in-situ eating		ST 0835 4230	24570



Legend

Site Boundary

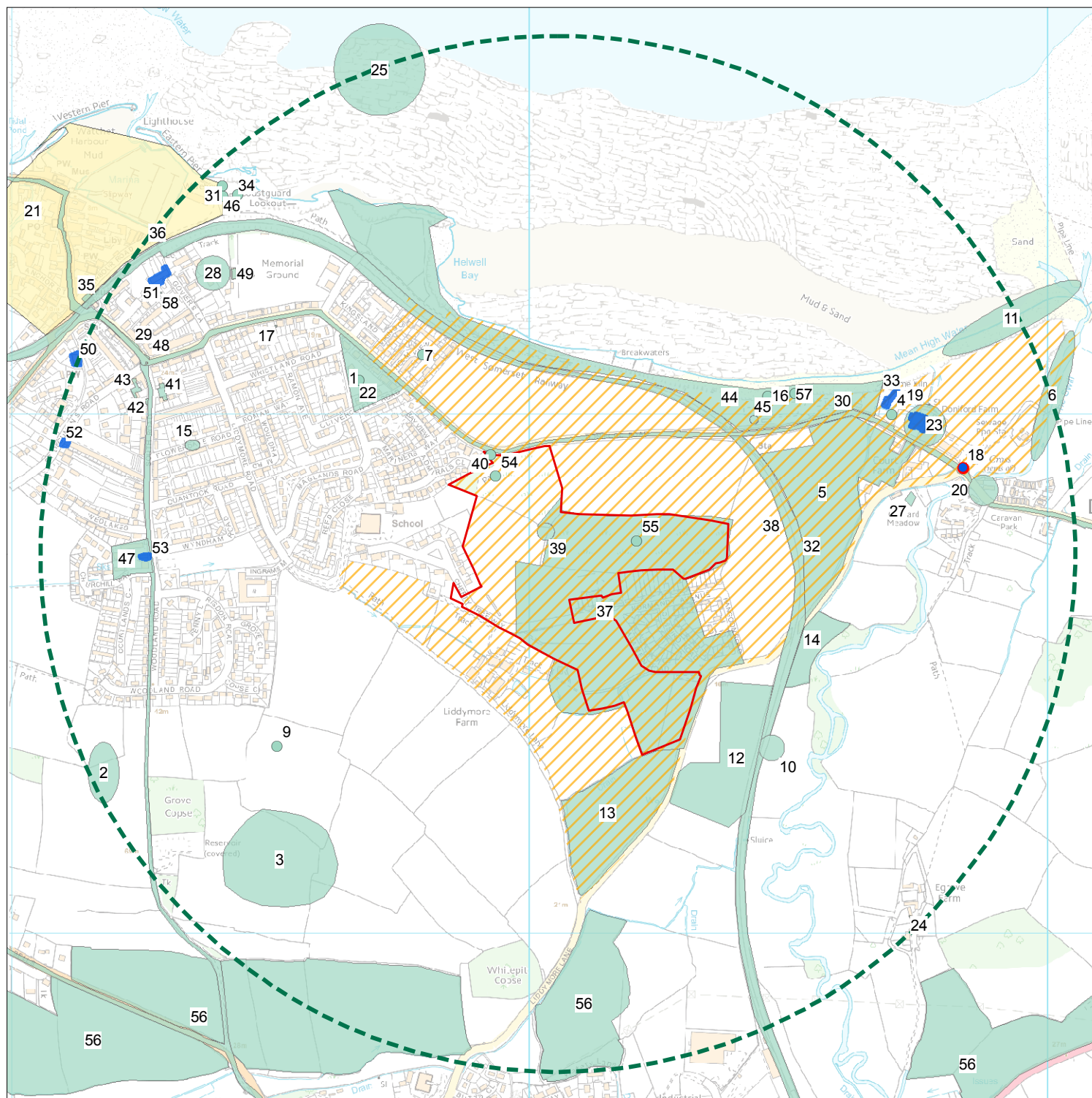
Figure 1: Site Location

Project: Land at Doniford Road,
Watchet

Date: 23/02/15 Job Number: 10500

Drawn by: ZE Approved by: HS





Legend

- Monument
- Conservation Area
- Listed Building
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Historic Landscape Character Area
- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area

0 125 250 500 m

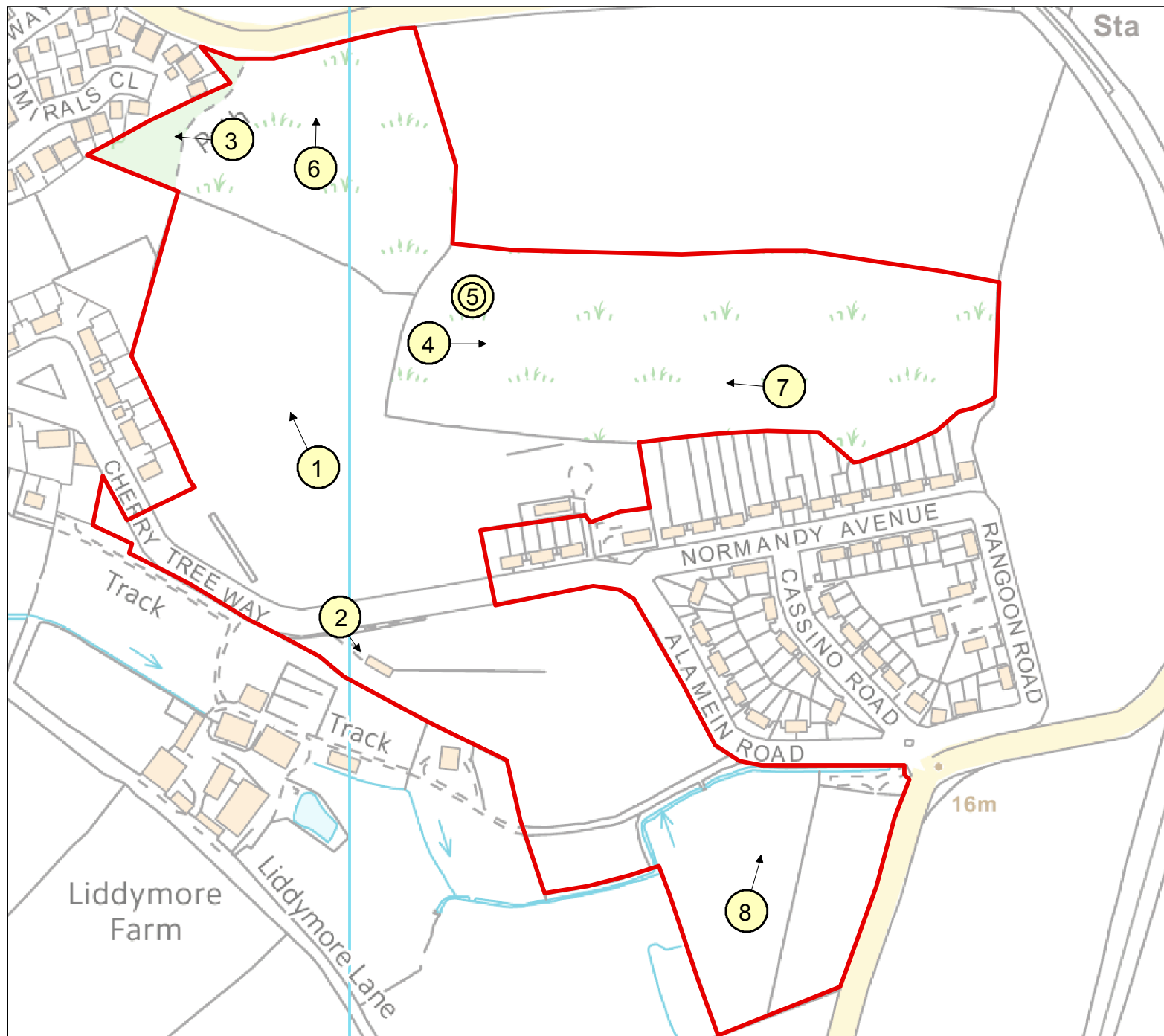
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Figure 2: Cultural Heritage Features Map

Project: Land at Doniford Road,
Watchet

Date: 23/02/15 Job Number: 10500

Drawn by: ZE Approved by: HS



Legend

Site Boundary

↙ Photograph number and orientation

⑤ Photograph spot and photograph number

Photograph numbers refer to the photograph caption numbers in the main document

Figure 3: Site Visit Photograph Positions and Orientations

Project: Land at Doniford Road, Watchet

Date: 23/02/15 Job Number: 10500

Drawn by: ZE Approved by: HS



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