

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report:

Repair and Maintenance Works: No 113 High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire

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Date: April 2018

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Quality Assurance

ADAS Project Code	Accession Code	Local Authority HER No.	Scheduled Consent Ref.	OASIS Reference No.	Site Code
1050052- 113 High Street, Avebury	ТВС	N/A	S00181284	adasuklt1- 313765	AVE17

Author	Checked	Approved	
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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment



Summary

In November 2017 and January 2018 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Kier Integrated Services and Clancy Docwra (KCD) of groundworks for the repair and maintenance works to an existing water hydrant located within the existing carriageway of High Street, Avebury (Trench 1 NGR: SU 10026 69905) and to an existing stop cock located outside No. 113 High Street, Avebury (Trench 2 NGR: SU 10048 69914) (Figures 1 and 2).

The proposed works at No. 113 High Street (Trench 2) lies within the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument. Following initial consultation with Historic England it was determined that the development had the potential to impact upon unknown buried archaeological remains associated with the remains of the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument. It was recommended that archaeological monitoring with Scheduled Monument Consent should be carried out during the groundworks in order to identify, assess and record any unknown archaeological remains.

The evidence indicates that although Trench 1 is located approximately 3.14 m to the west of, and Trench 2 is approximately 20 m inside the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument, the ground within both trenches had been disturbed to a depth of at least 0.9m below present ground level by the modern water service. The archaeological monitoring confirmed the results of previous archaeological works in 2001 on the High Street (1819326) which recorded only disturbed ground within pre-existing service trenches.

The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring of Trenches 1 and 2 may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the groundworks and due to the impact of previous development, specifically the construction and installation of the existing water infrastructure.



Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Kier Integrated Services and Clancy Docwra (KCD) on behalf of Thames Water, and thanks are due in this regard. Fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Brown. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by Andrew Brown, and checked by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain. The archive was compiled by Andrew Brown.



1 Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1.1 In November 2017 and January 2018 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Kier Integrated Services and Clancy Docwra (KCD) of groundworks for repair and maintenance works to an existing water hydrant located within the existing carriageway of High Street, Avebury (Trench 1 NGR: SU 10026 69905) and to an existing stop cock located outside No. 113 High Street, Avebury (Trench 2 NGR: SU 10048 69914) (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of the statutory undertaker Thames Water, and therefore were not subject to a planning application.
- 1.1.3 The works at Trench 1 (NGR: SU 10026 69905) were located approximately 3.14 m outside the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument but within the Stonehenge, Avebury and associated sites World Heritage Site.
- 1.1.4 Following consultation with Ms. Melanie, Pomeroy-Kellinger, the Local Authority Archaeologist for the Wiltshire Archaeological Service; Mrs Melanie Barge, the Inspector of Scheduled Monuments for Historic England; and Dr Nicola Snashall, the National Trust Archaeologist for Wiltshire, it was determined that the proposed groundworks had the potential to impact upon unknown buried archaeological remains associated with the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument. It was recommended that archaeological monitoring should be carried out during the groundworks in order to identify any unknown archaeological remains.
- 1.1.5 The groundworks for Trench 2 (NGR: SU 10048 69914) were located approximately 20 m within the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument. Initial consultation with Mrs Melanie Barge, the Inspector of Scheduled Monuments for Historic England, indicated that the development had the potential to impact upon unknown buried archaeological remains within the development area associated with the remains of the Scheduled Monument. It was recommended that archaeological monitoring with Scheduled Monument Consent should be carried out during the groundworks in order to identify, assess and record any unknown archaeological remains.
- 1.1.6 Scheduled Monument Consent (S00181284) was subsequently sought and granted under Section 2 of the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 for the works at No.113 High Street, Avebury.



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- 1.1.7 ADAS prepared and issued a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to carry out the required archaeological works and record any archaeological remains during the monitoring of the groundworks (ADAS 2017).
- 1.1.8 The fieldwork followed the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014), the Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991) and the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (EH 2006) and the RSK Technical Manual (RSK 2018).
- 1.1.9 In carrying out this work Thames Water complied with their obligations to the historic environment under the Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The proposed development involves groundworks for repair and maintenance works to an existing water hydrant located within the carriageway of the High Street, Avebury (Trench 1 NGR: SU 10026 69905) and to an existing stop cock located outside No. 113 High Street, Avebury (Trench 2 NGR: SU 10048 69914) (Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area at Avebury is recorded as chalk of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation. This sedimentary rock was laid down approximately 90-101 million years ago. No superficial deposits are recorded. No useful borehole data is recorded in the immediate area (BGS 2018).

2 Objectives

Aims and Scope

- 2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:
 - To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;
 - To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;
 - The specific aim of the fieldwork was to identify and record any unknown buried archaeological remains or artefacts that may be associated with the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument and the Beckhampton Avenue.
 - To ensure that the works were carried out in compliance with the conditions of the Scheduled Monument Consent (REF: S00181284).



- To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) for the south-west of England (Grove J, Croft B. Eds. 2012)
- To report the results as appropriate.

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

- 4.1.1 An online search was conducted which assessed the historic environment potential of a 100 m Study Area around both proposed works located on the High Street within Avebury (Figure 2). The results of this assessment are described in more detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation produced for these works (ADAS 2017) but have been briefly outlined below. All designated heritage assets are referred to in the text by their Historic England (Heritage List Entry) number (National Heritage List 2018; National Trust 2018). Recorded previous archaeological investigations identified by Heritage Gateway or by the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record's online search facility within the 100 m Study Area are referenced by their HER Excavation Index number (ADS 2018; Heritage Gateway 2018; Wiltshire HER 2018).
- 4.1.2 The proposed groundworks are both located within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (HE No. 1000097; National Trust Number: 117020*0/MNA138326). Stonehenge and Avebury are among the most impressive groups of megaliths in the world. The two sanctuaries consist of circles of menhirs (standing stones) arranged in a pattern whose astronomical significance is still being explored. These holy places and the nearby Neolithic sites are an incomparable testimony to Prehistoric times (National Heritage List 2018; National Trust 2018).
- 4.1.3 Avebury Circle (HE No. 1015546) covers an area of approximately 11.4 hectares and is four fifths of a mile in circumference. It consists of an outer bank between 4.2m and 5.4 m high



built with chalk from the inside ditch which is interrupted by four causewayed entrances. Inside the now partly silted-up ditch is the main stone circle which originally contained nearly one hundred stones. In the centre of the monument are the remains of two smaller stone circles, set approximately 20 degrees west of a north-south axis. The northern stone circle, known as The Cove, originally had three stones which stood in its centre. However, only two survive today. In the centre of the southern stone circle a very large stone called The Obelisk previously stood, although a number of smaller stones known as the Z feature are still standing and are associated with the Obelisk (National Heritage List 2018; National Trust 2018).

- 4.1.4 A single stone known as the Ring Stone once stood between the southern inner stone circle and the main outer stone circle. Henge monuments like Avebury, which contained evidence for internal timber or stone settings seem to be particular to the British Isles (National Heritage List 2018; National Trust 2018).
- 4.1.5 The Medieval Dovecote at Manor Farm Scheduled Monument (HE No. 1005656) is located 99 m to the north of Trenches 1 and 2. This Scheduled Monument has been designated from an 'old county number' and was not originally reviewed under the Monuments Protection Programme. As a result this monument does not have a full description available (National Heritage List 2018).
- 4.1.6 Historic England records one Grade I Listed Building and twenty Grade II Listed Buildings of either Medieval or Post-medieval date within 100 m of Trenches 1 and 2. The three closest Listed Buildings to Trenches 1 and 2 are the Grade II Listed Gates and Gateposts to the Driveway of Avebury Manor (1286327) which is 14 m to the north of both trenches; the Grade II Listed Lychgate (1033764) which is located over 23 m to the west of Trenches 1 and 2; and the Grade II Listed Pearce's Cottage (1193249) which is located 27 m to the south-west of Trenches 1 and 2.
- 4.1.7 The earliest recorded archaeological excavation took place in 1888 on Preshute Down (1867798). No archaeological remains were discovered at that site. The archaeologist H St George Gray excavated cuttings across the ditch at Avebury Henge between 1908 and 1922. He recorded that the ditch was irregularly cut with steep sides. One section dug by Alexander Keiller in 1938 found that the upper part of the inner side of the ditch rose in a series of broad, shallow steps, marked deeply in several places by antler picks. There was a berm up to 4.5 m wide between the ditch and bank, and in some places at least a rough chalk block wall approximately 1.5 m thick had been built to retain the inner side of the bank. This has now slipped down towards the edge of the ditch.



- 4.1.8 Archaeological monitoring for a cable trench which was carried out within the Avebury Scheduled Monument in 1968 recorded no artefacts (1838500). In 1982 a small excavation in a garden at Rosemead (1899365) produced Post-medieval pottery fragments. Another excavation was carried out in 1982 at Crafts Gift Shop (1867570) which recorded a single Post-medieval pit. From 1995 to 1997 a series of observations of grave excavations were undertaken within the Churchyard. In 2000-2001 a survey and analysis of the gravestones within St James' Churchyard was undertaken (Heritage Gateway 2018; ADS 2018).
- 4.1.9 In 2001 archaeological monitoring of groundworks on the High Street (1819326) recorded only disturbed ground within pre-existing service trenches. In 2003 another archaeological watching brief was carried out in St James' Churchyard (1935159) where small quantities of disarticulated human bone was identified. A magnetometry and resistivity survey was undertaken at Ashcroft (1927423) in 2005 in advance of a proposed residential development (Heritage Gateway 2018; ADS 2018).

5 Methodology

Introduction

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS 2017). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to carry out the repair and maintenance works within the watching brief area in full compliance with the Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 5.1.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2014.*

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

5.1.3 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. No archaeologically significant deposits were disturbed by the groundworks, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

Post-Excavation Analysis

5.1.4 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no post-excavation analysis was required.



Archives and Deposition

The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with an approved local museum. A paper archive will be deposited with Alexander Keiller Museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number which will be issued upon deposition. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID reference adasuklt1-313765 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion. The final report on the archaeological monitoring will be submitted to the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record Office and to Historic England within three months of the completion of the works as per conditions (e) and (f) of the Scheduled Monument Consent. It was anticipated that further monitoring may have been required following the groundworks on the 22nd January 2018. However ADAS was informed by the client on Friday 6th April 2018 that no further groundworks were required and was instructed to complete our fieldwork report.

ADAS Project Team

5.1.6 Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Brown. The report was written by Andrew Brown. The illustrations were prepared by Andrew Brown. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Andrew Brown. The project was managed for ADAS by Andrew Brown.

6 Results

- 6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendix A.
- 6.1.2 The two excavated trenches are located within the existing carriageway of High Street, Avebury (Trench 1 NGR: SU 10026 69905) and at an existing stop cock located outside No. 113 High Street, Avebury (Trench 2 NGR: SU 10048 69914) (Figure 1). The ground works were carried out over two days with Trench 1 being excavated on Tuesday 14th November 2017 and Trench 2 being excavated on Monday 22nd January 2018. The weather was overcast and raining throughout the 14th of November 2017. The weather was overcast but dry and became brighter during the afternoon of the 22nd January 2018.





Trench 1 (NGR: SU10026 69905)

- 6.1.3 Trench 1 was a rectangular trench measuring approximately 1.50 m by 0.9 m and was approximately 0.90 m deep. The trench was located within the existing carriageway of High Street, Avebury between the Grade II Listed Lychgate for St James' Churchyard (1033764) and the Grade II Listed Gates and Gate Posts for Avebury Manor (1286327) (See Plate 1).
- 6.1.4 The modern road surface consisted of modern tarmac (1001) 0.14 m thick which overlay another 0.14 m of dark grey stone crush (1002). This overlay 0.9 m of compact mixed whitish grey re-deposited chalk and soil (1003) which contained a modern concrete chamber (1004). This chamber enclosed the modern water hydrant (1005) (Plate 2).
- 6.1.5 This chalk fill (1003) was interpreted as redeposited chalk. This deposit would have filled a construction cut [1006] for the modern water service cutting into the natural chalk (1007) which was not visible in any side of Trench 1 (Plate 3).
- 6.1.6 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

Trench 2 (NGR: SU 10048 69914)

- 6.1.7 Trench 2 was rectangular in plan and measured 0.9 m by 0.80 m and was approximately 0.80 m deep. The trench was located in a cobbled footpath directly outside No. 113 High Street, Avebury (Plate 3).
- 6.1.8 The groundworks consisted of cutting and removing the modern cobbled surface (2001) which was approximately 0.05 m deep and sealed a layer 0.15 m thick which consisted of a midbrownish grey silty, sandy gravel (2002). This layer was interpreted as modern made ground forming a base layer for the modern footpath (Plates 4 and 5).
- 6.1.9 This make-up layer sealed a cut [2003] which, although not clearly visible, contained a modern water pipe (2004) and BT telecommunications pipe (2005). This was filled by a mixed dark brownish-grey silt and re-deposited chalk fill (2006). This water pipe cut into re-deposited chalk (2007).
- 6.1.10 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.



7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed in Trench 1. The archaeological monitoring revealed that below the modern tarmac and made ground of the road make-up layer, the ground at that location has been previously disturbed from the construction of the of the water main that runs along the length of High Street.
- 7.1.2 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed in Trench 2. The archaeological monitoring revealed that below the modern cobbled footpath, the ground at that location has been previously disturbed by the construction and installation of the existing water pipe linking the main water main beneath the High Street with 113 High Street.
- 7.1.3 Historic mapping analysis suggests that the High Street in Avebury has been a roadway for at least the last 150 years with no significant changes or deviations to its alignment. However, its alignment with the western entrance to the Avebury Henge monument suggests it may represent a much older Prehistoric ceremonial route and may be associated with the Beckhampton Avenue.
- 7.1.4 The archaeological evidence indicates that although Trench 1 is located approximately 3.14 m to the west of, and Trench 2 is approximately 20 m inside the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument, the ground within both trenches had been disturbed to a depth of at least 0.9m below present ground level by the modern water service. The archaeological monitoring confirmed the results of previous archaeological works in 2001 on the High Street (1819326) which recorded only disturbed ground within pre-existing service trenches.
- 7.1.5 The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring of Trenches 1 and 2 may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the groundworks and due to the impact of previous development, specifically the construction and installation of the existing water main.
- 7.1.6 The groundworks for the repair and maintenance works were carried out in full compliance with Scheduled Monument Consent (S00101284).



8 References

ADAS 2017 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording: R&M Works at Avebury. Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation.

CIfA 2014 Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief.

English Heritage 1991 The Management of Archaeological Projects 2.

English Heritage 2006 The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide.

Grove J and Croft B (Eds) 2012. *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework Research Strategy 2012-2017.* Somerset Heritage Service, Somerset County Council.

Online Resources

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Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER 2018). Available at: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshireandswindonhistoricenvironmentrecord/wshermap.htm?a=a [accessed April 201



Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench 1 (*NGR: SU10026 69905*)

No.	Туре	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
1001	Layer	Modern tarmac road surface	> 1.50	> 0.9	0.14
1002	Layer	Dark grey stone crush	> 1.50	> 0.9	0.14
1003	Fill	Re-deposited Chalk	> 1.50	▶ 0.9	> 0.62
1004	Structure	Modern concrete inspection chamber	0.50	0.50	0.62
1005	Structure	Modern water hydrant	N/A	N/A	N/A
1006	Cut	Cut for existing water main/ hydrant	➤ 1.50	▶ 0.9	> 0.62
1007	Natural	Chalk	> 1.50	> 0.9	> 0.9

Trench 2 (NGR: SU 10048 69914)

No.	Туре	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
2001	Layer	Modern cobbled pavement	> 0.9	> 0.8	0.05
2002	Layer	Mid brownish- grey sandy silty gravel	> 0.9	> 0.8	0.15
2003	Fill	Mixed dark brownish-grey silt and re- deposited chalk	▶ 0.9	▶ 0.8	0.6
2004	Structure	Modern water pipe	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005	Structure	Modern BT telecommunications pipe	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006	Cut	Cut for modern water pipe	> 0.9	> 0.8	0.6
2007	Layer	Disturbed Chalk	> 0.9	> 0.8	> 0.8



Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.



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Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: adasuklt1-313765

Project details

Project name R and M Works, 113 High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire

the project

Short description of Archaeological monitoring was carried out on ground works for repair and maintenance works on existing water infrastructure located at 113 High Street, Avebury, Wiltshire. Two small trenches in the existing carriageway and footpath were excavated, however no archaeological remains or artefacts were identified or recovered. The evidence indicates that although Trench 1 is located approximately 3.14 m to the west of, and Trench 2 is approximately 20 m inside the Avebury Henge and Stone Circle Scheduled Monument, the ground within both trenches had been disturbed to a depth of at least 0.9m below present ground level by the modern water service. Historic mapping analysis suggests that the High Street in Avebury has been a roadway for at least the last 150 years with no significant changes or deviations. However its alignment with the western entrance to the Avebury Henge monument suggests it may represent a much older Prehistoric ceremonial route and may be associated with the Beckhampton Avenue. The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring of Trenches 1 and 2 may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the groundworks and due to the impact of previous development, specifically the construction and installation of the existing

water infrastructure.

Project dates Start: 22-11-2017 End: 14-01-2018

Previous/future work

No / No

Any associated project reference

codes

AVE17 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference

codes

1015546 - SM No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Scheduled Monument (SM)

Current Land use Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities

Monument type HENGE Bronze Age

Significant Finds NONE None Significant Finds **NONE None** Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice Prompt

Scheduled Monument Consent Prompt

Project location

Country England

WILTSHIRE KENNET AVEBURY 113 High Street, Avebury Site location

Postcode SN8 1RF

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Study area 5 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 10026 69905 51.427570496371 -1.855774254259 51 25 39 N 001 51 20

Site coordinates SU 10048 69914 51.4276510399 -1.855457526179 51 25 39 N 001 51 19 W

Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 157.5m Max: 157.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation **RSK ADAS Ltd**

Project brief originator

Contractor (design and execute)

Project design originator

RSK ADAS Ltd

Project

director/manager

Andrew Brown

Project supervisor

Andrew Brown

Type of

sponsor/funding

Water Authority/Company

Alexander Keiller Museum

body

Name of

sponsor/funding

body

Thames Water

Project archives

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive recipient

Digital Contents

"none"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Paper Contents

"Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet","Map","Report"

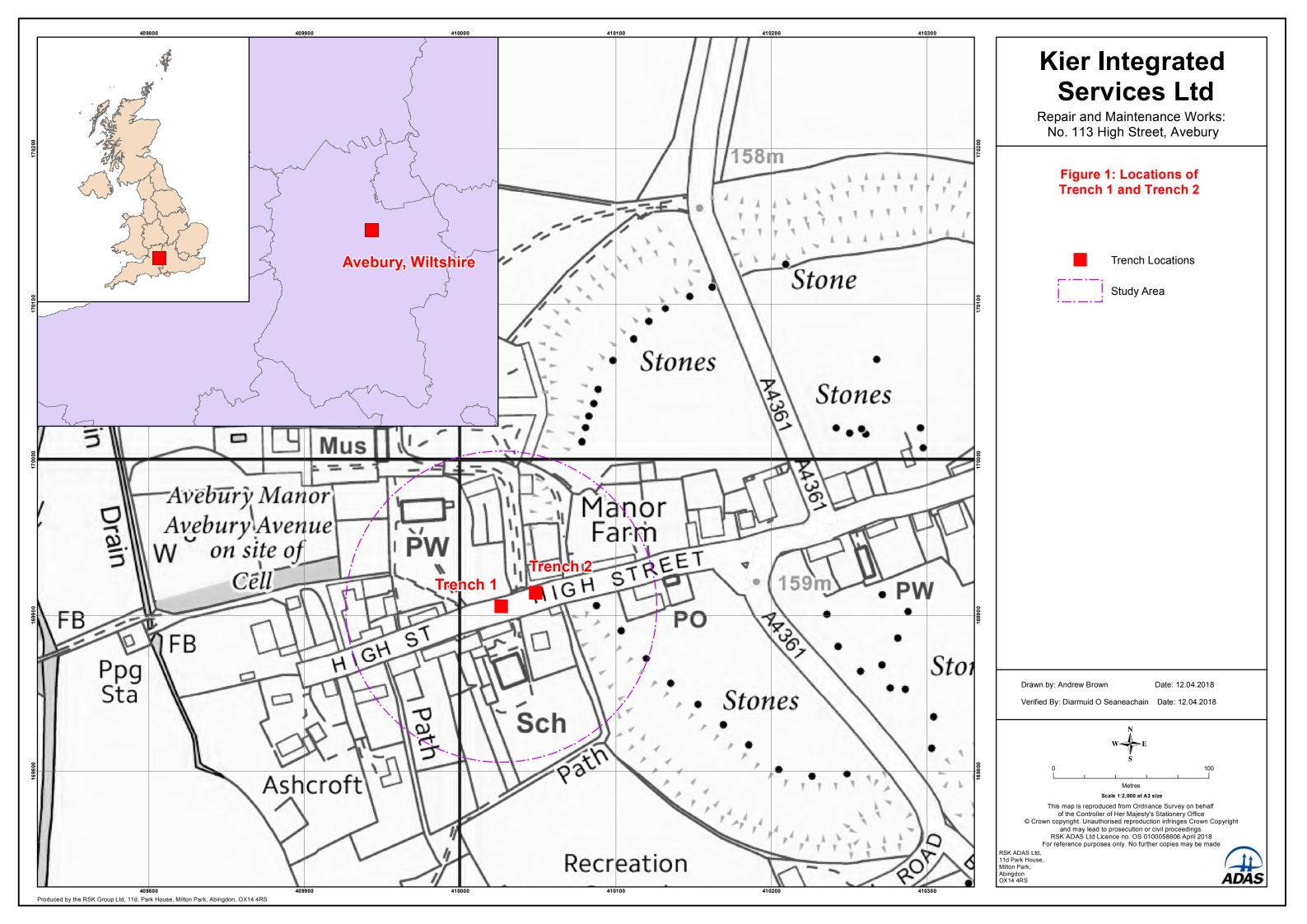
Wiltshire and Swindon HER

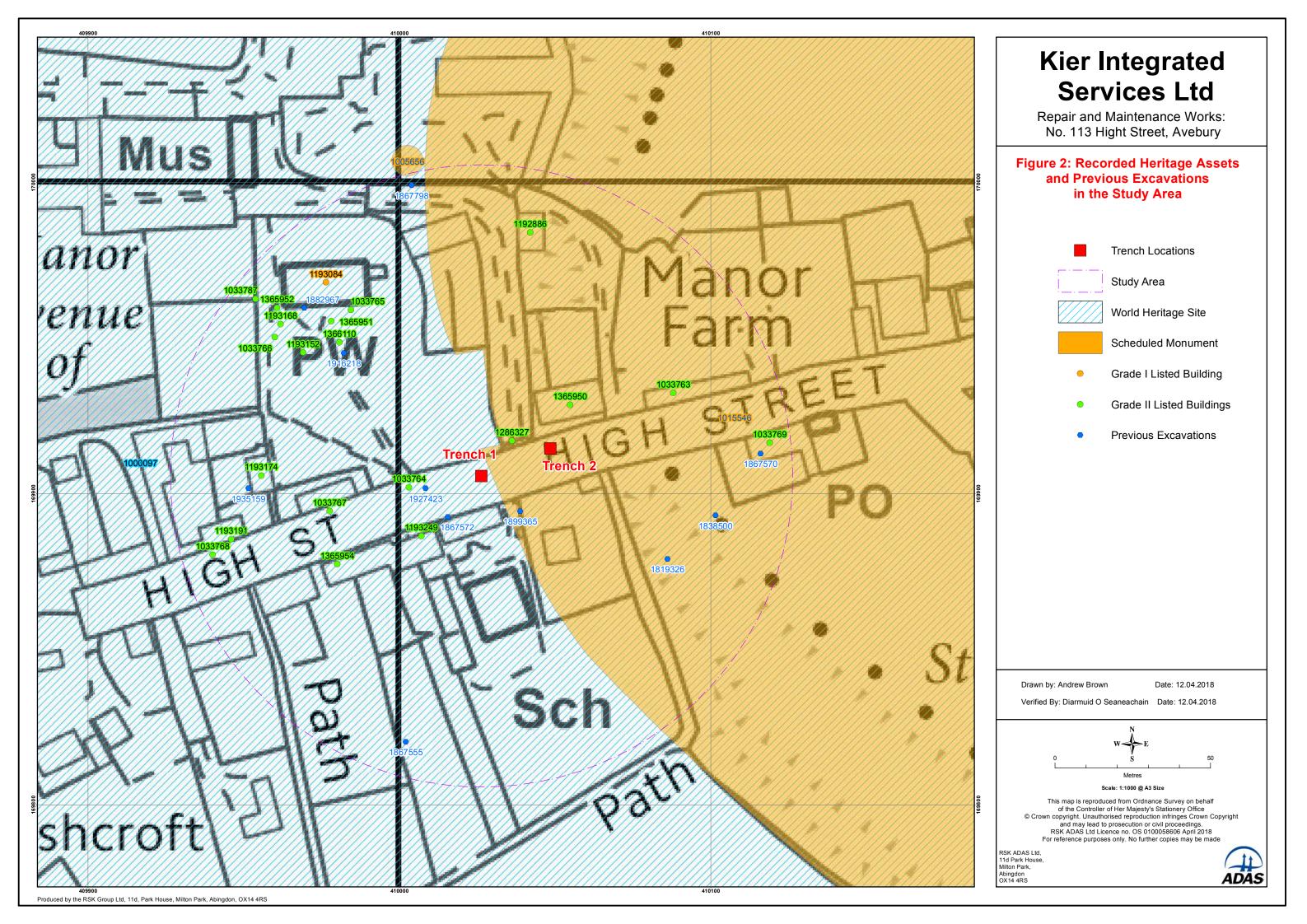
Entered by Andrew Brown (andrew.brown@adas.co.uk)

Entered on 10 April 2018

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Plates



Plate 1: General view of the location of Trench 1 outside St James' Churchyard prior to excavation, looking north-west.

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Plate 2: View of Trench 1 showing the modern concrete chamber (1004) and existing water hydrant (1005).





Plate 3: View of Trench 1 showing the existing water hydrant (1005), looking west.



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Plate 4: View of the location of Trench 2 outside No. 113 High Street prior to excavation, looking north.

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Plate 5: South-facing section of Trench 2 showing cut [1005], water pipe (1004) and fill (1003).

