



## Buxton Pipeline, Buxton, Derbyshire

### Archaeological Watching Brief





**BUXTON PIPELINE,  
BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

Prepared for:

**Alps Group**  
4 Vernon Street  
Derby  
DE1 1FR

on behalf of

**Nestlé Waters UK Ltd**

by  
**Wessex Archaeology**  
Unit 6, Riverside Block  
Sheaf Bank Business Park  
Sheffield  
S2 3EN

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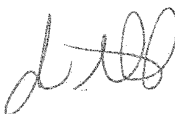
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## **BUXTON PIPELINE, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE**

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**BUXTON PIPELINE,  
BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alps Group on behalf of Nestlé Waters UK Ltd to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief and trenching exercise, during the construction of a new pipeline in Buxton between The Crescent and a proposed bottling plant at Waterswallows Lane (NGR SK 0574 7350 to SK 0804 7509; hereafter 'The Scheme').

The eastern extent of the Scheme is adjacent to an area of prehistoric activity and the Glossop to Buxton Roman road bisects the pipeline route. The Roman core of Buxton lies at the western end of the route.

The Glossop to Buxton Roman road can be seen as earthworks either side of the pipeline route, between Nunsfield Farm and St Peter's Road to the south. A 20m by 2.5m trench was machine excavated over the assumed line of the Roman road, prior to the start of the pipeline groundworks. No evidence for the postulated Roman road, or any other archaeological features, was identified and the road may have been removed by a modern trackway and ploughing in the area of the pipeline.

The watching brief was undertaken between 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and comprised the monitoring of all ground works; including the monitoring of a series of trial pits and sieving samples of topsoil along the route. No evidence for human activity prior to the modern period was revealed during the watching brief. No prehistoric flints were recovered from sieving the topsoil.

The lack of archaeological remains can largely be explained by widespread truncation through services at the western end of the pipeline route, and the landscaping of Nunsfield Golf Course in the east. Nevertheless it may be concluded that the general lack of residual finds in the topsoil throughout the pipeline, is indicative of an area of low archaeological significance.

The site archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield office and will be deposited with Buxton Museum under the accession number: DERSB:2011.31 in due course.

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**BUXTON PIPELINE,  
BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief****Acknowledgements**

This project was facilitated by Archaeology and Planning Solutions and Alps Group, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Alan Thomas and Peter Alcock for their assistance throughout the work. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Steve Baker of Derbyshire County Council.

The report was compiled by Michael Hartwell and James Thomson. Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Fairhead, Michael Keech, Jess Tibber, and James Thomson. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton. The illustrations were produced by Chris Swales and the finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram.

## **BUXTON PIPELINE, BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Watching Brief**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Alps Group on behalf of Nestlé Waters UK Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new pipeline in Buxton, Derbyshire, between The Crescent and a proposed new bottling plant at Waterswallows Lane (hereafter 'The Scheme'). The Scheme runs between NGR SK 0574 7350 and SK 0804 7509.
- 1.1.2 The pipeline route runs through an area of high archaeological potential and as such, High Peak Borough Council's Development Control Archaeologist (Steve Baker) produced a specification requesting that the proposed Scheme was subject to an archaeological watching brief and trenching exercise (HPBC 2011).
- 1.1.3 The programme of archaeological works was undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Wessex Archaeology (2011), and approved by Steve Baker.

### **1.2 The Scheme, Location and Geology**

- 1.2.1 The route of the Scheme extends north-east from The Crescent, Buxton and proceeds within Station Road, Charles Street, Lightwood Road and Hogshaw Villas Road. After crossing the Hogshaw Brook the Scheme turns northwards at the foot of the valley where it crosses the Nun Brook and climbs the eastern valley slope, passing to the south and east of Nunsfield Farm. After Nunsfield Farm the Scheme turns east to the A6 and then north-eastwards alongside the A6 within an adjacent golf course. The Scheme passes under the A6 opposite the entrance to Barns Farm, and runs southeast towards Waterswallows Road, before turning parallel to it until it reaches the proposed bottling plant (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the western part of the route is recorded as the Bowland Shale Formation, crossing the Eyan Limestone Formation on the eastern slope of the valley containing the Nun Brook, and then the Bee Low Limestone Formation across Fairfield Common and Waterswallows Road ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).
- 1.2.3 The route lies at 305m AOD at the foot of the valley containing the Nun Brook, and rises to 345m AOD to the south of Nunsfield Farm and under the A6 before falling to 325m AOD on Waterswallows Road.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 General**

- 2.1.1 The background to the Scheme is presented in an archaeological assessment (APS 2011) and is summarised below.

### **2.2 Prehistoric**

- 2.2.1 An archaeological excavation on the proposed site of the bottling plant recorded Late Mesolithic to Late Neolithic and later prehistoric features, which may form part of a possible settlement site (ArchHeritage forthcoming).

### **2.3 Iron Age/Romano-British**

- 2.3.1 North of the Crescent the proposed pipeline route crosses the Buxton Area of Archaeological Interest (AAI; an area of high archaeological potential) and the Buxton Conservation Area.
- 2.3.2 Buxton has its origins as the site of a Roman Spa settlement (Aquae Arnemetiae), and baths and associated structures have been revealed in and around The Crescent. A Roman building was also found during the construction of Holker Road, 200m south of the pipeline route in 1903.
- 2.3.3 The Roman road linking Glossop (Melendra) with Buxton, runs north-eastwards past Fairfield Church and Nunsfield Farm, and along the boundary of the Buxton and High Peak Golf Club. The route of the road was traced across Fairfield Common by archaeological fieldwork in 1959-1960 (Bellhouse 1975). The camber is visible as a hump in the paddock south of Nunsfield Farm, close to the point where the proposed pipeline crosses the road. The Roman road is also preserved as a minor road running alongside Fairfield Church. The road was recorded as being 5-6m wide and c. 0.3m below ground level.
- 2.3.4 A Roman milestone adjacent to the Roman road is recorded near Brook House, and a second potential milestone and road have been identified c. 340m to the south of the proposed pipeline.

### **2.4 Medieval/Post-Medieval**

- 2.4.1 The medieval church of St Peters underlies the existing Grade II listed 19<sup>th</sup> century church, c. 170m to the south of the pipeline. The Buxton to Sheffield turnpike road follows Waterswallows Road, and a medieval well was described by antiquarians on the site of an earlier Roman structure in The Crescent. A 19<sup>th</sup> century railway housing survives under Hogshaw Villas Road.
- 2.4.2 The route lies adjacent to the Grade II\* listed Registered Park and Garden of the Slopes, and the Grade II\* listed Buxton Pavilion Garden.
- 2.4.3 A map regression exercise determined that much of the route formed pasture in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but farms/barns, meadows, gardens, allotments, piggeries and quarries are also recorded. Of note is the site of a possible kiln and a former race course to the north of the centre of the route.

- 2.4.4 By 1853 the proposed pipeline route comprised a railway building, tracks and sidings and a slaughterhouse directly north-east of The Crescent. Railway worker houses are recorded to the north of Hogshaw Lane. The Buxton and High Peak Golf Course was founded in 1897, and aerial photographs dating to 1948 revealed extensive quarrying at the northern end of the golf course.

### **3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims**

- 3.1.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to mitigate the impact of the proposed pipeline route by securing 'preservation by record' in accordance with Planning Policy HE12 of 'Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment'.
- 3.1.2 The programme of archaeological works comprised archaeological monitoring during the excavation of trenches in greenfield areas and in the Buxton AAI; and a detailed archaeological evaluation between Nunsfield Farm and St Peter's Road to investigate the assumed line of the Roman road between Glossop and Buxton.
- 3.1.3 The principal aims of the Watching Brief were:
- To establish the extent of buried archaeological remains within the proposed pipeline route, specifically in the vicinity of Nunsfield Farm;
  - To record in detail all archaeological remains present within the proposed route;
  - To record and retrieve artefactual and environmental evidence;
  - To consider the archaeology of the route within its local, regional or national context, as appropriate;
  - To make available the results of the work.
- 3.1.4 The principal aims of the evaluation were:
- To establish the extent of the survival of the Glossop to Buxton Roman road;
  - To record in detail all archaeological remains present within the excavation area;
  - To record and retrieve artefactual and environmental evidence;
  - To make available the results of the work.

#### **3.2 Watching Brief**

- 3.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. This written record is hierarchically based and centred on the context record. Each context record fully describes the location, extent, composition and relationship of the subject and is cross-referenced to all other assigned records. Context numbers used in recording the excavation are not repeated.

3.2.2 During the topsoil stripping a 30 litre sample of topsoil was sieved (10mm mesh) every 10m along the pipeline route for the recovery of lithics and pottery sherds.

3.2.3 All artefacts were recorded by context, and washed, weighed, counted, identified, and assessed for conservation needs. All artefacts were examined and reported by specialists. Those classes of artefact that can be used for dating evidence, such as pottery, ceramic building materials, stone objects, clay pipes and glass, have been spot-dated where possible.

### **3.3 Evaluation**

3.3.1 A 20m by 2.5m trench was machine excavated over the assumed line of the Glossop to Buxton Roman road, between Nunsfield Farm and St Peter's Road to the South (**Figure 2**). Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits to the level of the natural geology using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, and working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.

3.3.2 No significant archaeological remains were revealed within the trench, and as detailed in the WSI the evaluation trench was extended to the full width of the easement strip in order to 'chase' the assumed line of the Roman road. No significant remains were found within the extended trench area and the evaluation area was recorded as part of the general watching brief.

### **3.4 Best Practice**

3.4.1 All works were conducted in compliance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2008a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994: revised 2008). Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given by the IfA (2008b), the UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines *Conservation Guideline No 2* (1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1992).

## **4 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Fieldwork was undertaken between the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012. The following section provides a summary of the information held in the site archive with observed features and contexts tabulated in **Appendix 1**.

### **4.2 Evaluation Trench**

4.2.1 A 20m by 2.5m evaluation trench was excavated over the proposed route of the Roman road from Glossop to Buxton between Nunsfield Farm and St Peter's Road to the South (**Figure 1**). No significant remains were revealed within the trench and as such the trench was extended to the full width of the easement in order to 'chase' the Roman road.

- 4.2.2 Bedrock (context **1005**; **Plate 1**) was encountered at 0.79m but no archaeological deposits were encountered within the extended trench (**Plate 2**).

### **4.3 General Stratigraphy**

- 4.3.1 Sample sections along the Scheme (located on **Figure 2**) illustrating the stratigraphy described below are reproduced as **Figures 3-4**.
- 4.3.2 Fractured limestone bedrock (contexts **106** and **203**) were exposed within the central part of the Scheme (**Sections 2** and **3**), with a dark mudstone (**1015**, not illustrated) and interbedded limestone-mudstone (context **1005**; **Section 1**) encountered on the eastern side of the valley rising from Nun Brook.
- 4.3.3 The overlying deposits typically comprised silty clay (contexts **104**, **202**, **1004** and **11004**) with frequent sandstone at the interface with the bedrock below (context **105**; **Section 2**). These were presumably derived from relic plough soils or colluvium (**1003** and **1004**).
- 4.3.4 The colluvium and soils on the eastern side of the Nun Brook were overlain by a relic ploughsoil and the modern topsoil (**102**, **103**, **1001** and **1002**). Dumped deposits (**204**) were observed alongside Fairfield Road that were overlain by the modern topsoil (**200**).
- 4.3.5 The deposits within the golf course were overlain by dumps of redeposited slag rich clayey silt below a relic ploughsoil and the modern topsoil (**11001**, **11002** and **11010**; **Section 4**).
- 4.3.6 Within Buxton, groundworks were monitored along George Street (**Plate 3**). The trench was excavated within previously disturbed deposits over an existing water main comprising road surface and bedding deposits overlying mixed made ground deposits (**301-304**; **not illustrated**).

### **4.4 Archaeological Features and Deposits**

- 4.4.1 No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified within the Scheme or the evaluation trench.
- 4.4.2 Evidence for made ground and landscaping was encountered on the eastern bank of Nun Brook (**1006**; **not illustrated**), on the western side of the A6 (**204**), and on the eastern edge of the golf course beside Waterswallows Road (**11010**).
- 4.4.3 A shallow pit was recorded to the east of Peak Practice Golf Driving Range (**11005**; **Figure 2**), filled with three dumped deposits. Fragments of modern demolition material were noted within the contexts, but not retained.
- 4.4.4 A structure comprising large roughly hewn sandstone was encountered in George Street (**305**). Whilst the structure appeared to have been previously disturbed, it was probably part of a culvert (**Figure 5**).

## **5 FINDS**

### **5.1 Summary**

- 5.1.1 Only a very small quantity of finds was recovered from the Site, deriving from three contexts (see **Table 2; Appendix 7**).
- 5.1.2 All datable items (glass, pottery) are of post-medieval or modern date. The pottery includes coarse redwares, stonewares and industrial refined whitewares with a potential date range from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, although most if not all are likely to date only from the 18<sup>th</sup> century or later. The glass consists of bottle/jar fragments in various colours; the earliest is a base from a green wine bottle of mallet or squat cylindrical type (late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century), while the remainder is of 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 5.1.3 The slag consists of clinker or fuel ash slag, and does not relate to metalworking, but to some other pyrotechnical activity. The iron object is a large nail or bolt, while the lead object is a weight, with the impressed mark IIII on one surface (denoting 4 ounces).
- 5.1.4 Due to the small quantity of finds recovered, their nature and date range, retention for long-term curation is not recommended, and the finds will be discarded prior to archive deposition.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Summary**

- 6.1.1 Archaeological monitoring during the groundworks along the Scheme revealed no deposits of archaeological significance. No evidence for human activity prior to the modern period was recorded and no prehistoric flints were recovered from sieving the topsoil. The remains of a stone culvert revealed within the George Street excavations are thought to be post-medieval in date.
- 6.1.2 The lack of archaeological remains can largely be explained by widespread truncation through services at the western end of the pipeline route, and landscaping in the east. However, the general lack of residual finds in the topsoil throughout the pipeline is indicative of an area of low archaeological significance. The Glossop to Buxton Roman road can be seen as earthworks either side of the pipeline route, but had been removed by a modern trackway and ploughing in the area of the pipeline.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **7.1 Preparation**

- 7.1.1 The project archive, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data, will be prepared by Wessex Archaeology staff in accordance with the requirements of the repository museum and in line with guidelines published by the United Kingdom

Institute for Conservation (1990), English Heritage (2005) and the Museums and Galleries Commission (1992).

## **7.2 Deposition**

- 7.2.1 It is anticipated that the physical site archive will be deposited with Buxton Museum by 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 under the accession number: DERSB:2011.31.
- 7.2.2 A digital copy of the report will be prepared for the client and physical copies will be submitted to Derbyshire County Council, Peak District National Park Authority and, along with the Site archive, to the repository museum.
- 7.2.3 The report will be summarised and published within the Derbyshire Archaeological Journal annual fieldwork roundup within two years. A note will also be submitted to Archaeology and Conservation in Derbyshire.
- 7.2.4 An OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> for inclusion in the ADS database. This will include an electronic copy of the report in PDF format.

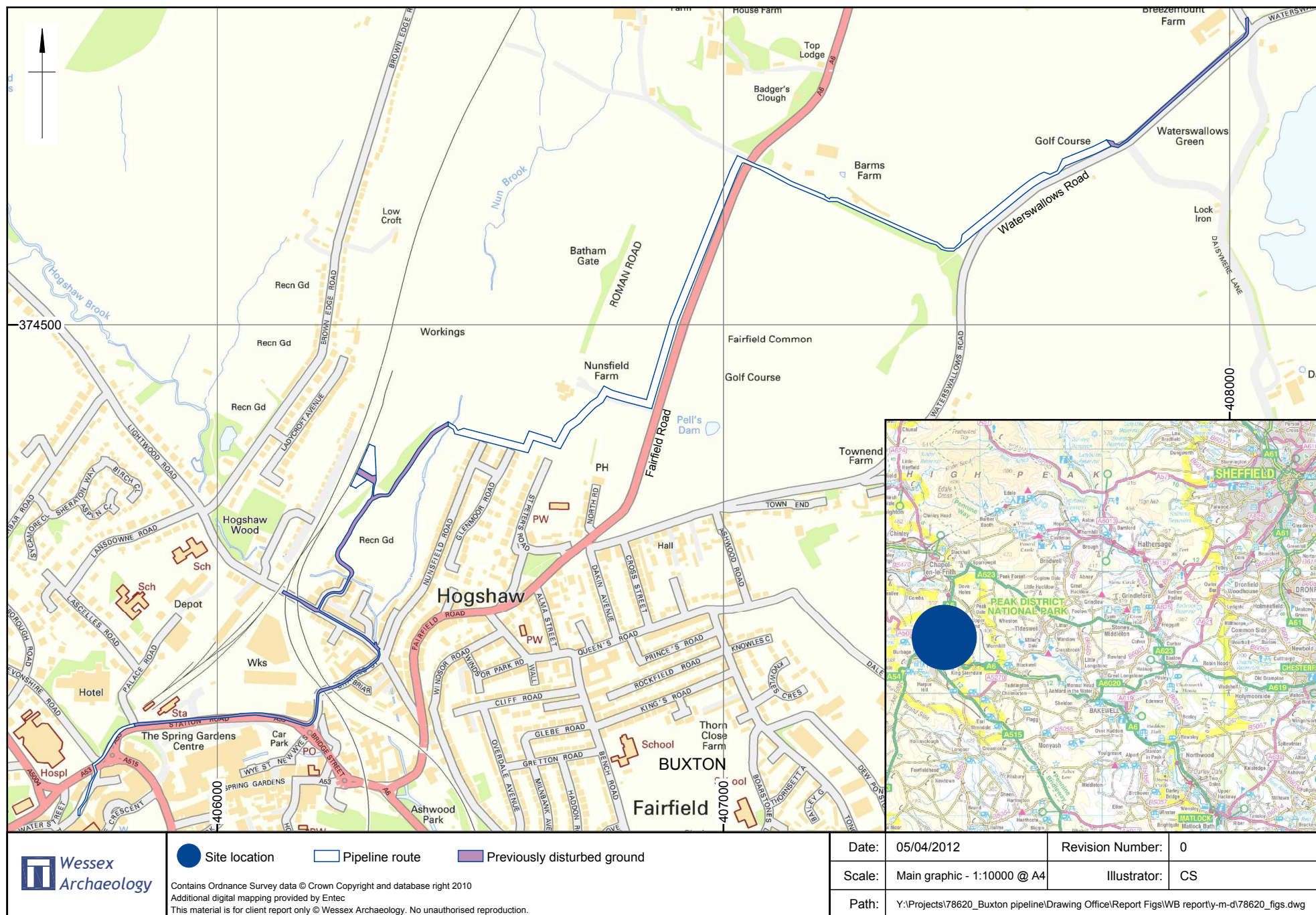
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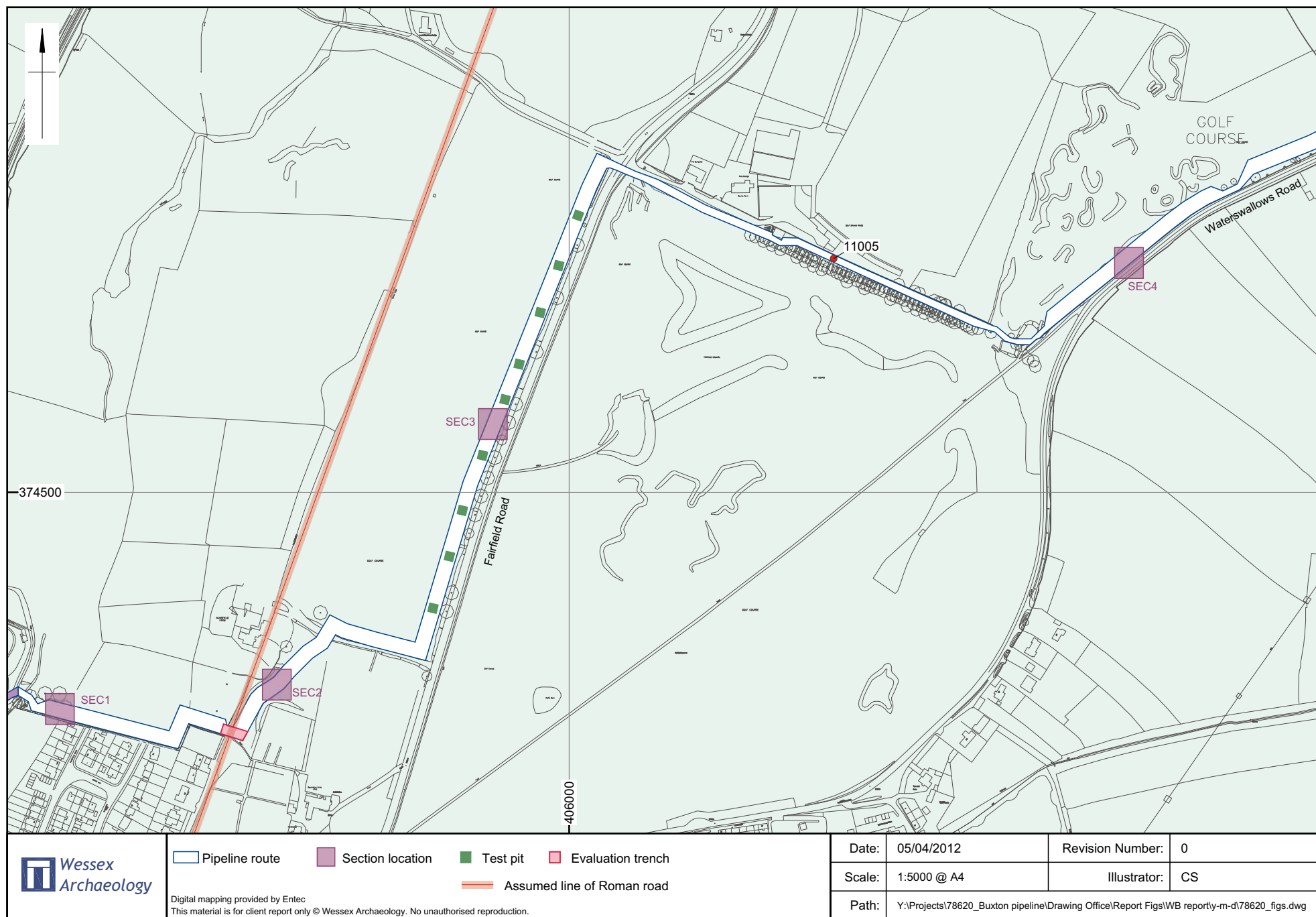
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## 9 APPENDIX I: TABLES

**Table 1: Context descriptions**

Area	Context	Category	Description	Depth bgl (m)
Nunsfield Farm (E)	101	Topsoil	Dark brown silty loam	0.00-0.10
Nunsfield Farm (E)	102	Subsoil	Mid-grey silty clay	0.10-0.24
Nunsfield Farm (E)	103	Deposit	Mid grey-brown friable silty clay with occasional sub-angular stones, frequent root and demolition rubble	0.24-0.47
Nunsfield Farm (E)	104	Deposit	Mid yellow brown compact silty clay with infrequent small sub-angular stones	0.47-0.76
Nunsfield Farm (E)	105	Deposit	Compact dark grey-black silty sand with frequent dark frost shattered bedrock	0.76-0.95m
Nunsfield Farm (E)	106	Deposit	Compact mid grey brown silty clay with dense frost shattered bedrock	0.95+
Nunsfield Farm (E)	107	Deposit	Compact mid orange-brown silty clay with frequent very small pea grit	0.76+
Golf Course(S)	200	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown sandy silt with frequent root and sparse very small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones.	0.00-0.15
Golf Course(S)	201	Subsoil	Moderately compact mid orange-brown clay silt with occasional sub-angular stones	0.15-0.55
Golf Course(S)	202	Natural	Compact mid yellow-brown silty clay with occasional shattered pieces of limestone bedrock	0.55-0.92
Golf Course(S)	203	Bedrock	Fractured limestone bedrock	0.92+
Golf Course(S)	204	Deposit	Dark red-brown, moderately compact, sandy silt with frequent broken bottles, pottery and CBM (Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century).	0.15-0.72
George Street	301	Surface	Tarmac	0.00-0.05
George Street	302	Bedding	Pale-grey sandy gravel	0.05-0.25
George Street	303	Deposit	Yellow-brown sandy gravel	0.25-1.00
George Street	304	Deposit	Mottled dark-brown silty clay	0.25-1.00
George Street	305	Structure	Disturbed sandstone structure, possibly a culvert	0.85+
Nunsfield Farm (S)	1001	Topsoil	Dark-brown silty loam with common fine gravel inclusions and occasional post-medieval pottery and glass	0.00-0.24
Nunsfield Farm (S)	1002	Subsoil	Mid-grey silty clay with moderate fine gravel and small cobbles. Occasional charcoal flecks and post-medieval material	0.34-0.59
Nunsfield Farm (S)	1003	Colluvium	Mid orange-brown silty clay	0.59-0.68
Nunsfield Farm (S)	1004	Natural	Dark orange-brown silty clay with occasional large cobbles/small boulders of limestone.	0.68-0.79
Nunsfield Farm (S)	1005	Bedrock	Limestone bedrock interbedded with mudstone	0.79+
Nunsfield Farm (S)	1006	Deposit	Mixed silty clay deposit with significant inclusions of mudstone and tarmac fragments.	0.28-0.48
Nunsfield Farm (S)	1015	Natural	Black mudstone	0.80-0.90
Golf Course (N)	11001	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand with dense roots, and inclusions of infrequent small sub-angular stones	0.00-0.15
Golf Course (N)	11002	Subsoil	Mid red-brown silty sand, moderately compact, with occasional small sub-angular stone	0.15-0.27
Golf Course (N)	11003	Colluvium	Mid grey-brown, moderately compact, sandy silt with occasional roots	0.27-0.47
Golf Course (N)	11004	Deposit	Mid yellow-brown, moderately compact, silty clay	0.47+
Golf Course (N)	11005	Cut	Shallow U-shaped cut	0.00-1.20
Golf Course (N)	11006	Deposit	Mid brown-grey silty sand, Fill of <b>11005</b>	0.00-1.20
Golf Course (N)	11007	Deposit	Light yellow-grey silty clay, Fill of <b>11005</b>	0.10-1.20
Golf Course (N)	11008	Deposit	Mid yellow-brown silty clay, Fill of <b>11005</b>	0.27-1.20
Golf Course (N)	11009	Bedrock	Large sub-angular weathered limestone	0.50+
Golf Course (N)	11010	Deposit	Light yellow clayey silt, friable, with frequent limestone and slag,	0.27-0.63

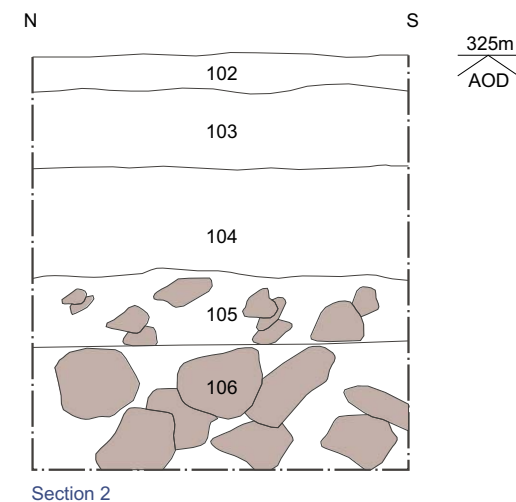
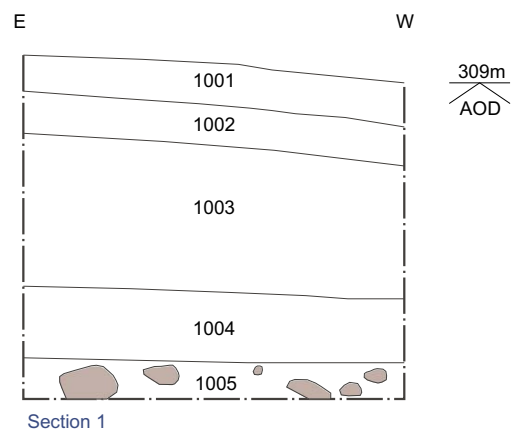




Site plan showing trench, test pit and section locations

Figure 2

Stone



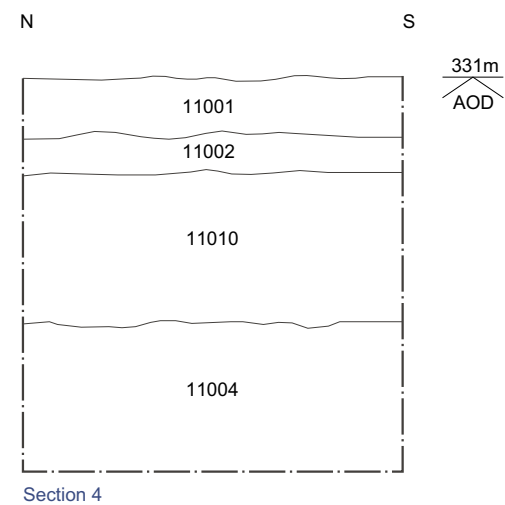
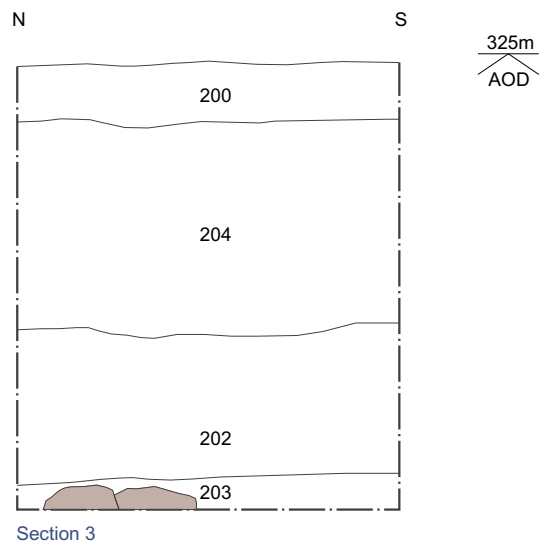
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Sections 1 and 2

Figure 3

Stone

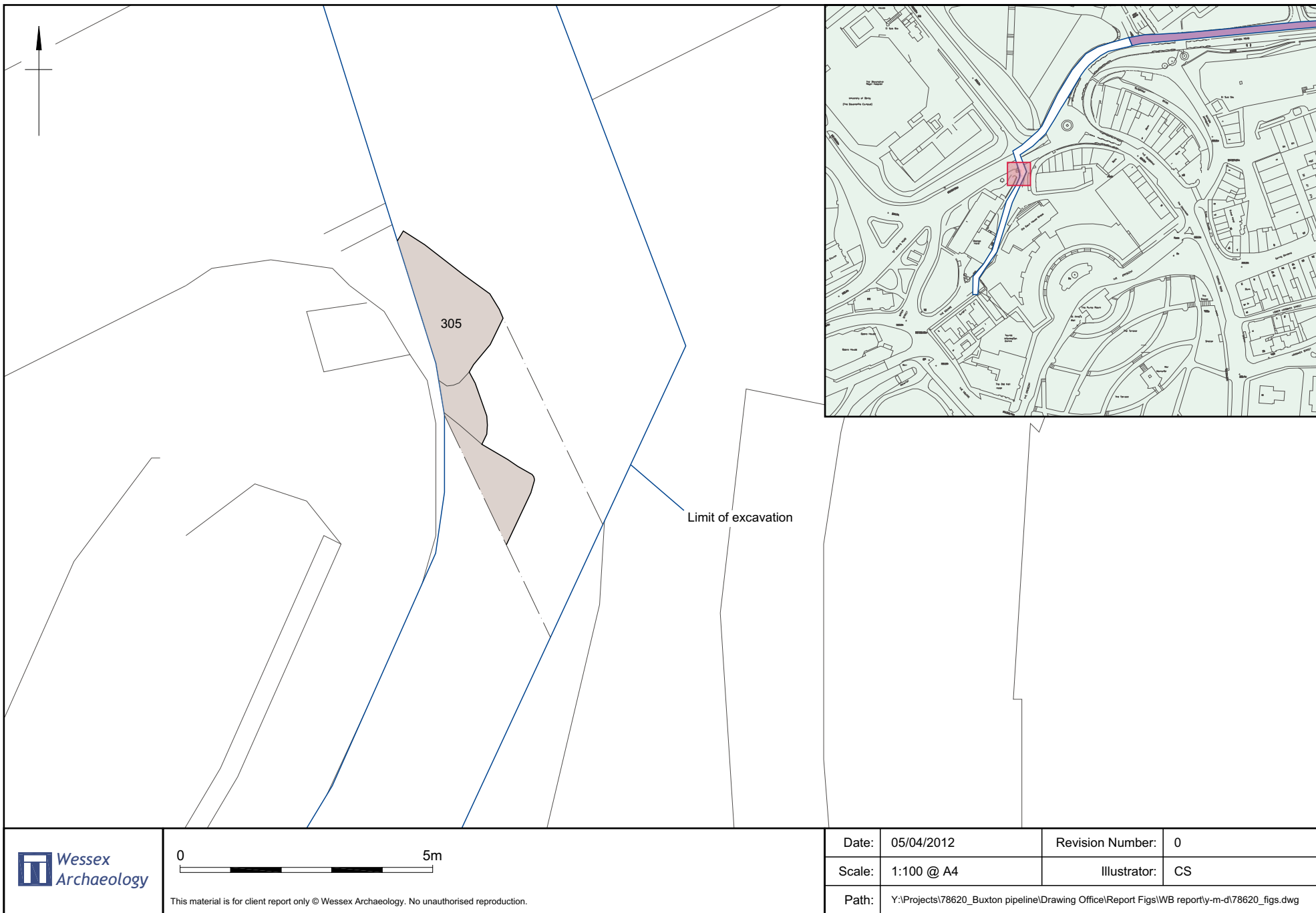


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Sections 3 and 4

Figure 4



Culvert 35, George Street

Figure 5



Plate 1: Detail of bedrock within the evaluation trench.



Plate 2: General view of the extended evaluation trench area

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**WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.**

**Registered Head Office:** Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk)

Regional offices in **Edinburgh, Rochester and Sheffield**

For more information visit [www.wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.wessexarch.co.uk)

