



North Bristol Trunk Main 2, Hambrook, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**NORTH BRISTOL TRUNK MAIN 2,
HAMBROOK,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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HAMBROOK,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**



Watching Brief Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bristol Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a water pipeline which was located on the outskirts of Bristol, running between National Grid Reference (NGR) 363580 178955 to 3693312 179891.

A previous desk-based assessment has been completed for the pipeline route which identified two areas with increased archaeological potential. Following consultation with the Historic Environment Record Officer at South Gloucestershire Council, a watching brief in both areas was agreed.

The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the easement and pipe trench in the areas with increased archaeological potential. Despite the presence of features recorded on the Historic Environment Record which had been transcribed from aerial photographs, no archaeological features were recorded during the fieldwork.

The exact photograph from which the features were transcribed was not referenced and aerial photographs examined as part of the desk-based assessment did not identify any evidence for these features. Although no agricultural features were identified which could explain the features, the underlying geology formed of Mercian Mudstones with sandstone banding could have caused a variation in the crop.

The fieldwork was carried out for 3 days between 20th July and 8th September 2011.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Bristol Water and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to them in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Mick Reece (May Gurney) for his co-operation during the works.

The fieldwork was carried out by John Powell and Darren Baker. This report was compiled by Matt Kendall and illustrations were completed by Kenneth Lymer. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**NORTH BRISTOL TRUNK MAIN,
HAMBROOK
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE****Watching Brief Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bristol Water ('the Client') to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a water main and associated construction easement (hereafter 'the Route'). The Route was c. 1.25km long and ran from the western side of the M32 at Hambrook, at National Grid Reference (NGR) 363580 178955, to the eastern edge of Stoke Gifford at NGR 363312 179891 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 A desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2010) was completed for the Route and identified two areas of increased archaeological potential. Following consultation with the Historic Environment Record Officer at South Gloucestershire Council, a watching brief in both areas of the Route was agreed.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Wessex Archaeology 2011) was produced before the commencement of any intrusive works. This document detailed the methodologies and standards which would be employed during the watching brief and was submitted to Wiltshire Council for approval.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The Route lies on the north-eastern fringes of the modern built-up area of Bristol on the eastern side of the watershed between the Rivers Severn, Frome and Avon on a shallow ridge between the River Frome and the Stoke Brook. It runs through a mixture of agricultural land varying between arable and pasture cultivation, lying between the M32 and Stoke Gifford, and along existing roadways. The northern section of the Route crosses the main railway line between London and South Wales. The Route follows an existing road known as Curtis Lane before crossing a small watercourse, the Ham Brook, close to its southern end. The ground surface slopes gently south-eastwards along the Route, falling from c. 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its northern end to c. 40m aOD at its southern end.

1.2.2 The underlying geology is formed of Mercian Mudstones with sandstone banding. To the south of Hambrook Lane, this is capped by head deposits comprising clays, silts, sands and gravel. Soils along the Route are slightly acid loams and clays and have impeded drainage (British Geological Survey, 1:50,000, Sheet 264)

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 A previous desk-based assessment prepared by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2010) focused on a Study Area of 500m around the Route and identified evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British activity within the Study Area.

- 1.3.2 The assessment indicated that, on the basis of available evidence, no significant buried deposits were anticipated along the Route, and the area appeared to have formed the agricultural hinterland of the villages of Hambrook and Stoke Gifford during the medieval and later periods. The central section of the Route avoids an area of cropmarks of potential archaeological origin identified by an earlier survey by running along Curtis Lane.
- 1.3.3 There are no statutory or locally designated heritage assets lying along the Route. The only statutory designated heritage assets lying within the Study Area are a group of fourteen Listed Buildings in the village of Hambrook which comprise of domestic and agricultural buildings, such as stores and barns, of post-medieval to early 19th century date.
- 1.3.4 The prehistoric potential is attested by the discovery of a single prehistoric pit, located during an evaluation immediately west of the northern end of the Route in advance of development.
- 1.3.5 In the late 1940s a Romano-British burial was discovered during gardening works at Standen Lane in Hambrook and subsequently excavated. Although the burial may have been part of a larger cemetery, the burial was sited 500m from the Route and it is unlikely that any associated cemetery would extend into the Route.
- 1.3.6 An area of linear and curvilinear cropmarks was identified by a previous desk-based assessment of the proposed Winterbourne – Frampton Cotterell bypass to the north of Hambrook Lane. At the time of the earlier assessment, it was unclear whether these were archaeological in origin or derived from agricultural practices or the underlying geology. The exact photographs from which these features were transcribed is not stated in the HER record, and no evidence of these features was identified on the photographs examined during this project.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to establish within the constraints of the agreed strategy the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains which may be affected by the proposed development.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 All groundworks associated with the excavation of the water pipe and associated 11m wide easement which impacted undisturbed ground within the agreed watching brief areas were monitored. The groundwork was carried out, under constant archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket.
- 3.1.2 The mechanical excavation proceeded in spits to the base of the intended easement level and then to the required depth from the water pipe trench. The machine excavated arisings were stored along the Route and were scanned for artefacts at regular intervals.
- 3.1.3 Archaeological features and deposits were subsequently hand cleaned and sample excavated as per the methodology set out in the WSI (Wessex

Archaeology 2010). Features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets and a unique numbering system for individual contexts, and were planned at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at 1:10. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

- 3.1.4 A photographic record of the watching brief was maintained through digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the archaeological remains revealed, and the Site as a whole.

4 FIELDWORK RESULTS

4.1 Deposit Sequence

- 4.1.1 The deposit sequence in Areas 1 and 2 of the Route was broadly consistent and comprised a dark reddish brown sandy silty loam topsoil overlying a mid reddish brown sandy clay loam subsoil.

- 4.1.2 The topsoil contained sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded sandstone and modern artefacts and was recorded to a maximum depth of 0.17m from the ground surface. The subsoil consisted of a 0.25m thick mid reddish brown sandy clay loam which contained occasional inclusions of sandstone and mudstone, roughly 0.12m in length. Both deposits contained modern artefacts.

- 4.1.3 The underlying geology comprising sandstone and mudstone, was visible in places (**Plate 1 & 3**) during the stripping of the easement and was uncovered throughout the majority of the pipe trench.

4.2 Archaeological Features

- 4.2.1 No archaeological features were identified during the excavation of the pipe trench and its associated easement.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 Artefacts were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in the monitored areas but all were of a modern date and were therefore not retained for further analysis.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

- 6.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental analysis were present within the monitored areas.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The watching brief did not identify any archaeological features in Areas 1 and 2, and the only artefacts that were recovered were of a modern date and were most likely deposited through agricultural practices, such as ploughing.

- 7.1.2 The lack of archaeological features indicates that the crop marks that were identified during the desk-based assessment for the proposed Winterbourne – Frampton Cotterell bypass are unlikely to be of archaeological in origin and are perhaps derived from undulations in the bedrock.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

8.1.1 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology under the site code **75721**. The complete archaeological project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

8.1.2 At a later date, the archive will be deposited with the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery.

8.1.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the Museum's archive preparation standards. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 The Archive

8.2.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing a watching brief attendance form, site 'day book', trench record sheets, photographic register and *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

8.3 Copyright

8.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

9 REFERENCES

Geological Survey of England and Wales, 1974, Bristol, Solid and Drift Geology. Sheet 264, 1:50,000

IfA, 2008, *Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief*

Wessex Archaeology, 2010, North Bristol Trunk Main 2, Hambrook, South Gloucestershire, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, unpub client report ref. 75720, January 2011

Wessex Archaeology, 2011, North Bristol Trunk Main 2, Hambrook, South Gloucestershire, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief, Unpublished Client Report ref. 75721.01, June 2011

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Context	Description	
100	Layer	Topsoil – Dark to very dark reddish brown sandy to silty loam containing sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded sandstone inclusions and modern artefacts.
101	Layer	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown sandy clay loam containing occasional sandstone and mudstone inclusions (<0.12m) and modern artefacts.
102	Layer	Natural – Solid sandstone and mudstone geology

APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

OASIS ID - wessexar1-113601

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	11 November 2011

Completed sections in current version

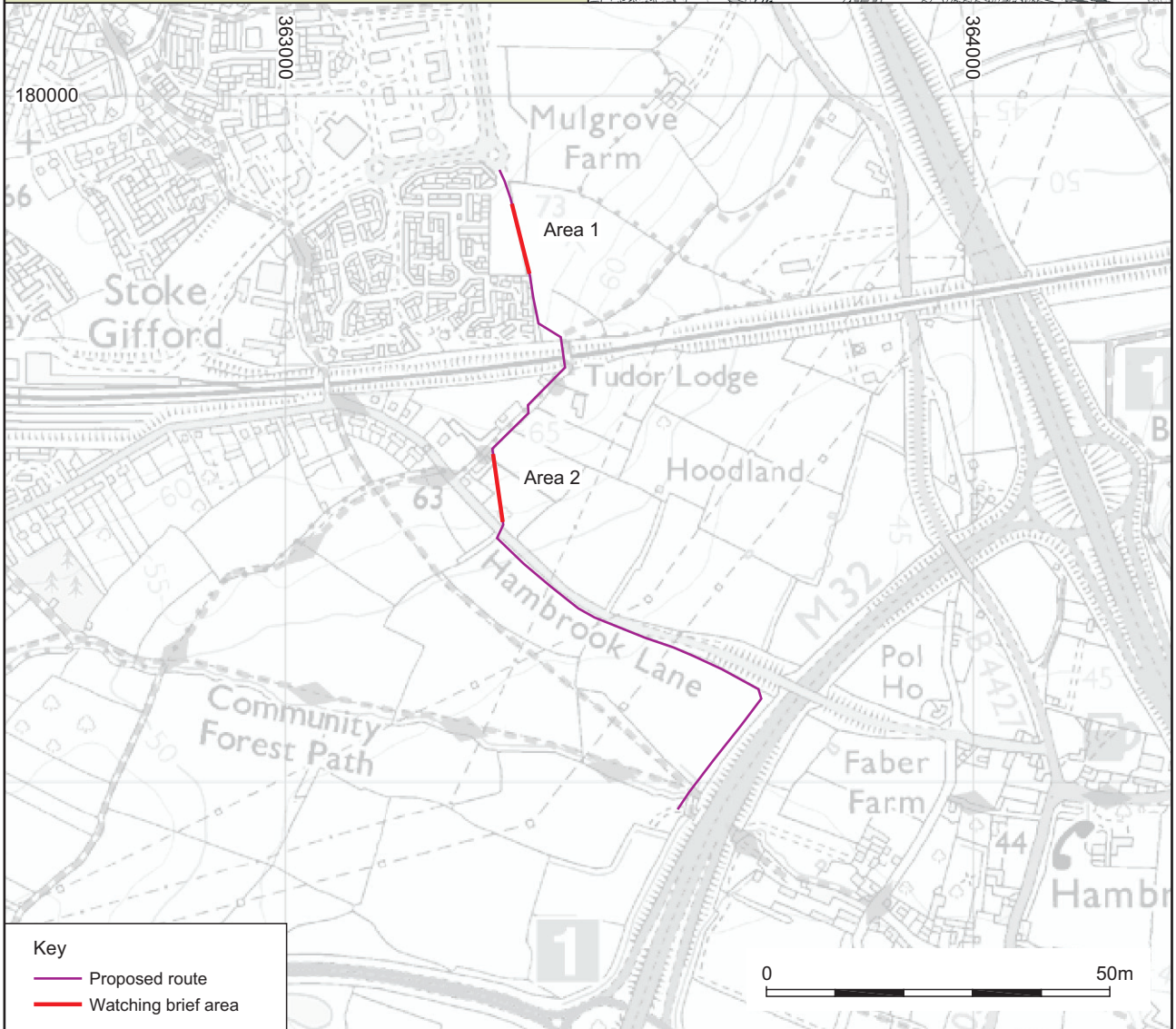
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s
Images submitted?	No	Image filename/s
Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename



Key

- Proposed route
- Watching brief area

0 50m



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Scale:	1:25000 & 1:10000	Illustrator:	WAF/KJF
Path:	Y:\PROJECTS\75721\Drawing Office\Report figs\WB\11_11_14\75721_WB.dwg		

The Route showing watching brief areas.

Figure 1



Plate 1: East facing section of Area 1 showing the depositional sequence



Plate 2: Area 1 following initial topsoil strip

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Plate 3: Pipe trench in Area 1



Plate 4: East facing representative section of pipe trench in Area 2

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