



making sense of heritage

Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



SHES Accession Number: TTNCM 71/2013
SHER Number: 32281
WA ref: 100031.03
October 2013



**Axbridge Pipeline
Axbridge, Somerset**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared for:
Bristol Water
Bridgwater Road
Bristol
BS99 7AU

SHES Accession Number: TTNCM 71/2013

SHER number: 32281

Prepared by:
Wessex Archaeology
Portway House
Old Sarum Park
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP4 6EB

www.wessexarch.co.uk


October 2013

Report Ref.: 100031.03



Quality Assurance

WA Project Code	100031	Accession Code	TTNCM 71/2013	SHER No.	32281
Planning Application Ref.		Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	343450 154190		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	E	PF	DDR		09.10.13
File:	X:\PROJECTS\100031\WSI				
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

DATA LICENSES

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2013

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents

Summary.....	iv
Acknowledgements	v
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION	1
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	2
3.1 Introduction	2
4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	2
5 WATCHING BRIEF.....	2
5.1 Introduction	2
5.2 Fieldwork and recording	3
6 RESULTS	3
7 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL	3
7.1 Finds	3
7.2 Environmental	3
8 DISCUSSION.....	4
9 ARCHIVE.....	4
9.1 Deposition.....	4
9.2 Preparation of Archive.....	4
9.3 Security Copy	4
9.4 Oasis	4
9.5 Copyright	4
10 REFERENCES.....	5
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE.....	6

Figure 1: Site location and route of water pipeline

Plate 1: Laying the pipe

Plate 2: Representative section



Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bristol Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief along the c.280m long Route of a proposed new water pipeline in the vicinity of Axbridge, Somerset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 343450 154190.

The watching brief was carried out between 31st of July and 3rd of October 2013.

The watching brief was maintained along the line of the Route during the excavation of a c. 0.70m wide easement for the removal of topsoil followed by the excavation of a c.0.30m wide pipe trench to a depth of c.1.0m in total depth. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief and a small quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery sherds were recovered, but not retained.



Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Bristol Water and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Gareth Lloyd of Bristol Water in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Tanya James the planning archaeologist at Somerset County Council.

The fieldwork was carried out by Ralph Collard, Mark Bagwell and Peter Fairclough. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology Damian De Rosa. This report was compiled by Peter Fairclough and the illustrations were by Kenneth Lymer



Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bristol Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief along the route of a proposed water pipeline in the vicinity of Axbridge, Somerset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 343450 154190 (hereafter 'the Route', **Figure 1 site location**).
- 1.1.2 The Route of the proposed scheme comprised the installation of a c. 280m long 125mm HPPE water main. This will join an existing connection at the south-eastern edge of Axbridge with a c.85m long 355mm PE water main at the Bristol Water pumping Station located on the north western edge of Cheddar Reservoir.
- 1.1.3 A desk-based assessment for the scheme was completed by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2013a) which identified no overriding cultural heritage constraints likely to prohibit the proposed works. The DBA suggested that archaeological monitoring of the excavation of the pipe trench via an archaeological watching brief may constitute a satisfactory mitigation strategy.
- 1.1.4 Following consultation with the planning archaeologist at Somerset County Council (SCC), it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained throughout all groundworks that may have an impact on any archaeological remains that are revealed, so that they can be appropriately recorded.
- 1.1.5 A written scheme of investigation (WA 2013b) setting out the methodologies and standards that would be employed by Wessex Archaeology in order to undertake the watching brief, was submitted to and approved by the planning archaeologist at Somerset County Council prior to the commencement of any works at the Site.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1.1 The Route is located between the south-eastern edge of the town of Axbridge and the north-western bank of Cheddar reservoir in Somerset, approximately 2.5km to the north-west of Cheddar town centre.
- 2.1.2 The Route follows a staggered course from the southern end of Knightstone Close, to the south, turning to the east along a boundary between the residential area to the north and an agricultural field to the south. The route continues to the south along the eastern edge of an extant field boundary dividing two agricultural fields, before turning to the east to enter land owned by Bristol Water surrounding the north-western edge of Cheddar Reservoir and the pumping station in that location.
- 2.1.3 The Route is located within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of approximately 10-12m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).



- 2.1.4 The underlying geology of the Route is mapped as Triassic mudstone and halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, overlain by head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel formed in the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A DBA was prepared for the Route (WA 2013a), which set out its archaeological and historical background, along with its archaeological potential and the impact that the proposed development may have on any surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 The DBA established that there is an archaeological interest within the Site. This was defined as the potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains, in particular relating to Romano-British occupation, the documented Saxon burh and subsequent medieval settlement and agricultural activity. Previous archaeological investigations have identified only limited traces of prehistoric activity in the area, though this has included the recovery of preserved organic Early Bronze Age remains from waterlogged deposits. It is anticipated that waterlogged deposits, if encountered during the proposed works, would offer excellent preservation of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains present. There is also a relatively high potential for post-medieval to modern drainage features and land divisions being encountered.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1.1 The aims of the archaeological work are to:
- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development.
 - Identify, within the constraints of the watching brief, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
 - Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits
 - The production of a report which will present the project information in sufficient detail to allow interpretation without recourse to the project archive.

5 WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The work was undertaken in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (WA 2013b) and guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006), Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook (SCC 2011) and the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008)
- 5.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken to monitor any groundworks as part of the development that may have an impact on any potential buried archaeological remains.
- 5.1.3 Two 5m square trial holes were initially excavated to establish location of the existing water main and form the connection. Following this the method of construction along the line of the c.280m long Route was the excavation of a narrow easement of 0.70m width to a depth of c.0.30m to remove topsoil. This was followed by the excavation of a c.0.30m wide by up to 1.00m deep trench within which the 125mm HPPE water main pipe was laid (**Plate 1**)



5.2 Fieldwork and recording

- 5.2.1 The archaeological watching brief was carried out, subject to prior and adequate notification having been given by the Client, on the commencement of groundworks. The planning archaeologist at SCC was notified of the start date prior to the commencement of groundworks.
- 5.2.2 The intermittent groundworks were monitored along the whole line of the Route from 31 July 2013 to 3 October 2013.
- 5.2.3 One suitably qualified archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's core staff was present during all groundworks for the development.
- 5.2.4 All mechanical excavation was carried out under the constant supervision and direction of the attending archaeologist.
- 5.2.5 Excavated spoil was scanned for the enhancement of artefact recovery.
- 5.2.6 Where appropriate sections within the trench were cleaned by hand to allow for recording and documentation of the soil profile.
- 5.2.7 All recording during the course of the watching brief was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. This included the following minimum details: character; contextual relationships; detailed description (soil components, colour, texture and consistency); associated finds, photographic and finds registers. Each context was recorded on an individual record. Sections of the soil profile were levelled to ordnance datum.
- 5.2.8 A full photographic record was maintained using digital photography. The photographic record illustrates both the detail and the general context of the Site as a whole

6 RESULTS

- 6.1.1 Soil profiles were broadly consistent across the site and comprised of a natural strata (**103**) of red firm silty clay with blue grey patches. This was overlain by a subsoil (**102**) up to 0.30m in depth comprised of a mid brown sandy clay loam containing occasional sandstone and mudstone inclusions. The subsoil was capped by a dark to very dark brown sandy to friable clayey silt topsoil (**101**) up to 0.20m in depth (**Plate 2**).
- 6.1.2 No archaeological features and/or deposits were recorded during the course of the watching brief. The work was restricted by the very narrow nature of the trench being excavated. Late post-medieval and modern pottery sherds were recovered from both the topsoil (**101**) and subsoil (**102**).

7 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL

7.1 Finds

- 7.1.1 A small collection of post medieval and modern pottery sherds were noted during the course of the watching brief, but were not retained.

7.2 Environmental

- 7.2.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified.



8 DISCUSSION

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

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Deposition

- 9.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the watching brief be deposited with the Somerset County Museums Service under the accession code **TTNCM 71/2013** and entered on to the Somerset HER under number.

9.2 Preparation of Archive

- 9.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of archaeological material following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013) and the guidelines of the Somerset County Museums Service.
- 9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code **VAU12**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 1 file/document case of paper records & plans

9.3 Security Copy

- 9.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011) on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.4 Oasis

- 9.4.1 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> has been completed and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms (**Appendix 2**). All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed and will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

9.5 Copyright

- 9.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003.
- 9.5.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), 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.

10 REFERENCES

- ADS, 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)
- English Heritage, 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.
- Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.
- Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*
- SMA, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Somerset County Council, 2011. *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook*
- Wessex Archaeology, 2013a. *Axbridge Pipeline, Axbridge, Somerset. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. WA Ref: 100030.01
- Wessex Archaeology, 2013b. *Axbridge Pipeline, Axbridge, Somerset. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief* WA Ref: 100031.01



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Context	Type	Description	Depth below ground level
100	<i>Layer</i>	Topsoil – Dark to very dark brown sandy to friable clayey silt containing sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded sandstone inclusions and modern artefacts.	0 – 0.20m
101	<i>Layer</i>	Subsoil – Mid brown sandy clay loam containing occasional sandstone and mudstone inclusions (<0.12m) and modern artefacts.	0.20 – 0.50m
102	<i>Layer</i>	Natural – Red firm silty clay with blue grey patches.	0.50m+



APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-160916

Project details

Project name	Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Bristol Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief along the c.280m long Route of a proposed new water pipeline in the vicinity of Axbridge, Somerset centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 343450 154190. The watching brief was carried out between 31st of July and 3rd of October 2013. The watching brief was maintained along the line of the Route during the excavation of a c. 0.70m wide easement for the removal of topsoil followed by the excavation of a c.0.30m wide pipe trench to a depth of c.1.0m in total depth. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief and a small quantity of post-medieval and modern pottery sherds were recovered, but not retained
Project dates	Start: 31-07-2013 End: 03-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	100031 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TTNCM 71/2013 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	32281 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Prompt from SCC planning archaeologist

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOMERSET SEDGEMOOR AXBRIDGE Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset
Postcode	BS26 2DB
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	343450 154190 343450 00 00 N 154190 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian de Rosa
Project supervisor	Pete Fairclough
Project supervisor	Ralph Collard
Project supervisor	Mark Bagwell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Water Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Bristol Water

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Somerset County museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Somerset County Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Axbridge Pipeline Axbridge, Somerset Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Fairclough, P
Author(s)/Editor(s)	De Rosa, D
Other bibliographic	100031.03

details

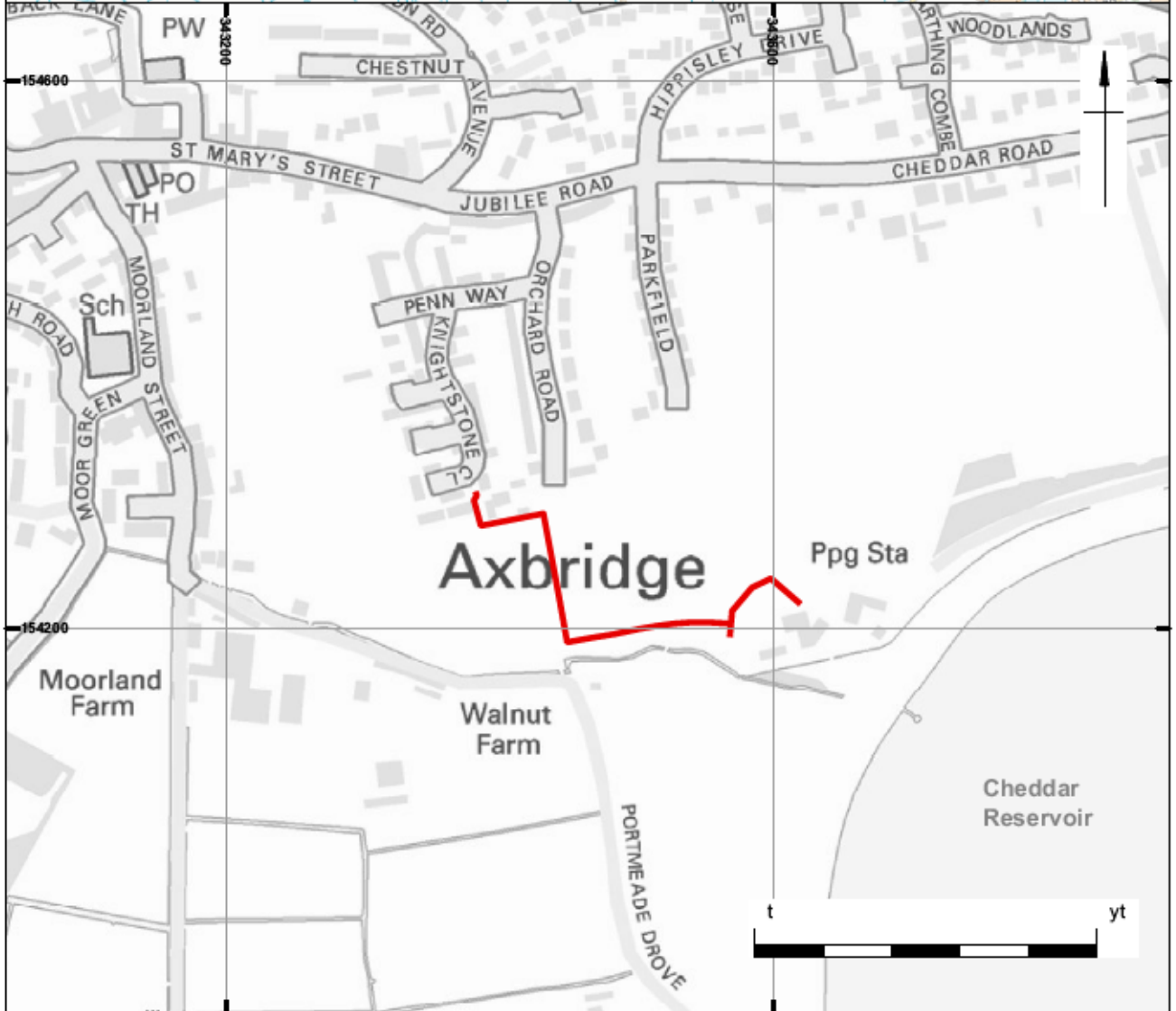
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Unpublished - Salisbury
Description	Standard WA A4 format with text, 1 figure and two plates. Further plate on front cover
Entered by	Damian De Rosa (d.derosa@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	9 October 2013

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: /export/home/web/oasis/form/print.cfm for this page





	a a	a a a a a a a a a a tu		
		t u t u	a	t
		u yatt auytta a		
	□	uttt u	a	uttt u t u



Plate 1: Laying the pipe



Plate 2: Trench 2 representative section

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	09/10/13	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	n/a	Layout:	KL
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\100031\Drawing Office\wb\10031_wb_plates.cdr		



salisbury rochester sheffield edinburgh



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.