



North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) Metrobus – Zone 1 Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



South Gloucestershire Planning Application: PT14/1004/F

Accession Number: TBC

Ref: 110830.02

May 2017



**North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) Metrobus – Zone 1
Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke,
South Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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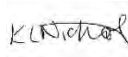
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Figure

Figure 1: Location of site and watching brief areas

Plates

Caption: Topsoil strip on Zone 1b, viewed from the south

Plate 1: Representative section of Zone 1b stratigraphy, facing north-west (with 1 m scale)



North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) Metrobus – Zone 1 Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Atkins to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the Zone 1 construction of the North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) Metrobus route (South Gloucestershire Planning Application Ref. PT14/1004/F).

The watching brief was undertaken intermittently between March and April 2017 and comprised the archaeological monitoring of ground reduction works associated with road-widening and the mechanical excavation of service trenches.

Artefacts recovered from the topsoil across the Site dated from the Neolithic period to the present day. However, no secure archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks.



North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) Metrobus – Zone 1 Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology (WA) would like to thank Atkins for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular Andrew Holmes. We would also like to thank Paul Driscoll, South Gloucestershire County Archaeological Officer (SGCAO), for his advice throughout the project.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Lynn Hume, Roy Krakowicz, Liam Powell and Michael Fleming. The report was written and compiled by Liam Powell and Michael Fleming with specialist flint identification by Erica Gittins and ceramics and other small finds by Cai Mason. The illustrations were prepared by Nancy Dixon, and the project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Kirsty Nichol.



North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) Metrobus – Zone 1 Bradley Stoke Way, Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Atkins on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council (hereafter 'the Client'), to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the Zone 1 section of the North Fringe to Hengrove Package (NFHP) Metrobus route, (South Gloucestershire Planning Application ref. PT14/1004/F) hereafter 'the Site'.

1.1.2 Due to the Site's proximity to known heritage assets the Archaeological Advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) imposed a planning condition (Condition 18) requiring the Zone 1 works to be monitored. Ground reduction associated with road-widening and the mechanical excavation of service trenches was monitored between March and April 2017.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The overall route of the NFHP Metrobus runs from Cribbs Causeway in the north-east to the Long Ashton in the south-west. The route runs through Patchway and Bradley Stoke, via the A38 Gloucester Road, Aztec West Roundabout, Bradley Stoke Way and Great Stoke Way (Zone 1), continuing via a new road (Zone 2) from Parkway North Roundabout to the A4174 Filton Way, along the A4174 to Emmerson's Green (Zone 3) and the M32 (Zone 4) and southwards towards the City Centre (Zone 5) then out to Hengrove (Zone 6). Each Zone is the subject of separate stages of archaeological recording and have been reported upon accordingly.

1.2.2 Zone 1 originally comprised two areas for monitoring (Zones 1a and 1b, **Figure 1**) to the north-east of Bradley Stoke Way in the suburb of Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire. Although Bradley Stoke is technically a separate town, the built-up area is contiguous with the suburbs of North Bristol. It was quickly established that previous disturbance caused by the construction of Bradley Stoke Way meant that Zone 1a groundworks did not require monitoring.

1.2.3 Zone 1b is bounded by Bradley Stoke Way to the west, Great Stoke Roundabout to the south and undeveloped land to the east (between NGR ST 63262 80676 and ST 63262 80446). It is situated on level ground at a height of approximately 35 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), overlooking the valley of a small tributary of the Bradley Brook to the west. The geology comprises Triassic mudstone, halite-stone and sandstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (British Geological Survey (BGS) 2017).



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background to the Site is drawn from Appendix A of the scheme's Environmental Statement (Atkins 2012), and other primary and secondary sources, including the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (SGHER).

2.2 Neolithic

2.2.1 In 1961 a Neolithic stone axe (SGHER 1523) was found on the edge of a clay pit, immediately to the west of the Site.

2.3 Medieval and post-medieval

2.3.1 Historically this part of South Gloucestershire lay within Winterbourne parish. Winterbourne village lies to the north-east of the Site and is recorded in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086. The site of the original medieval manor, Winterbourne Court (SGHER 17044), is believed to have been located adjacent to the Church of St Michael (SGHER 1524). It is likely that Zone 1b was part of the agricultural hinterland associated with the manor throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

2.4 19th century

2.4.1 The 1881 published edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey (OS) plan shows the area of Zone 1b as lying within two fields to the north of Winterbourne Lane; the surrounding fields were depicted as undeveloped agricultural land.

2.5 20th century

2.5.1 Zone 1b is located immediately to the west of the site of the Imperial Brickworks (SGHER 3568). Cartographic evidence suggests that the brickworks was established c. 1921-35 and had closed by 1955. The surrounding area remained largely undeveloped until the development of Bradley Stoke in late 1980s.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aim

3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014b), the principle aim is to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area, using appropriate methods and practices and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

3.2 Project Objectives

3.2.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives were defined:

- *To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works, including;*
- *to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
- *to confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*



- *to determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
- *to determine the condition, state of preservation and significance of the remains and to place them within their historical context; and*
- *to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *to prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1.1 A detailed description of the watching brief methodology is set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2015).
- 4.1.2 Where the soil stratigraphy was least disturbed by previous roadbuilding, topsoil and modern overburden was removed using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant supervision by an experienced WA archaeologist. Layers were removed at discrete 0.20 m spits and ceased at the upper surface of significant archaeological features/deposits or the top of natural deposits (whichever was encountered soonest).
- 4.1.3 The South Gloucestershire County Archaeological Officer (SGCAO) was kept informed of the progress of the archaeological fieldwork throughout the project.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The results of the watching brief are summarized below. Full context descriptions are provided in **Appendix 1** and the area of monitoring is shown on **Figure 1**.

5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 5.2.1 Soil deposits undulated within Zone 1b. Topsoil (101, 201) was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35 m below ground level (BGL) across the Site. The topsoil overlay a subsoil horizon (102, 202) which was revealed between 0.20 m and 0.55 m BGL. Natural deposits (103, 104, 105, 203) were encountered from a depth of 0.40 m BGL onwards (a representative section of the stratigraphy in Zone 1b is recorded in **Plate 1**).
- 5.2.2 No archaeological cut features or deposits were revealed during the course of the groundworks, although a mixed assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the topsoil.

6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The artefacts recovered were all from topsoil 201. The assemblage comprises struck flints, pottery, glass, iron and clay tobacco pipe. The artefacts have a potential date range

spanning the prehistoric to modern periods; these have been quantified by material type and context. The results are presented in **Appendix 2** below.

6.2 Flint

6.2.1 Six pieces of worked flint were recovered from topsoil 201. Of these, five were flakes and one a partially worked Transverse arrowhead. The latter shows retouch along the base of the flake forming a concave shape, and bifacial surface shaping on one edge. The attempt was abandoned probably due to the unsuitability of the flake. The remaining flakes show some post-depositional damage in the form of crushing and rolling.

6.3 Pottery

6.3.1 Two small sherds of heavily abraded grog-tempered prehistoric pottery were recovered from topsoil 201; these sherds were found in association with modern finds (see below).

6.3.2 The post-medieval and later assemblage comprises redwares (16th-19th century), white salt-glazed stoneware (c. 1720–70), edged pearlware (c. 1770–1840) and transfer-printed and painted whiteware (post-1780). The latter includes a fragment of a 19th-century nursery cup printed with the letters L and OR in green.

6.4 Glass

6.4.1 The glass assemblage comprises a single shard from a 19th-century aqua-coloured octagonal bottle, embossed with the letters -IARY.

6.5 Metalwork

6.5.1 A single iron object was also recovered from topsoil 201. The object is annular, with a square cross-section, and measures 110 mm in diameter. Although superficially similar to a horseshoe, this is clearly not its function. The purpose and age of this object remains unknown, but a post-medieval/modern date seems probable.

6.6 Discussion

6.6.1 The date range of the artefact assemblage is very wide and from one single context. The arrowhead is datable to the Late Neolithic period. However, it was recovered from a topsoil deposit containing post-medieval/modern finds which indicates that they were not in-situ. They are therefore not considered to be evidence of prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1.1 No secure archaeological features or deposits were revealed during the groundworks.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 Prior to deposition with Bristol Museum, the archive will be temporarily stored at Wessex Archaeology West under a unique Site code of **110830**. All elements of the Site archive will be marked with an accession number issued by Bristol Museum and Art Galleries.

8.2 Preparation of Archive

- 8.2.1 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 excavated archaeological material by the museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013). Two copies of the archive report will be deposited with the museum. A copy of the report and the surveyed spatial digital data (.dxf or shapefile format) relating to the archaeological findings will be provided to the South Gloucestershire HER.

8.3 OASIS

- 8.3.1 An OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/>), has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the evaluation have been entered under OASIS ID **wessexar1-278320**. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

8.4 Discard Policy

- 8.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal...* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.5 Copyright

- 8.5.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The 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*.

8.6 Security Copy

- 8.6.1 In line with current best practice (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.

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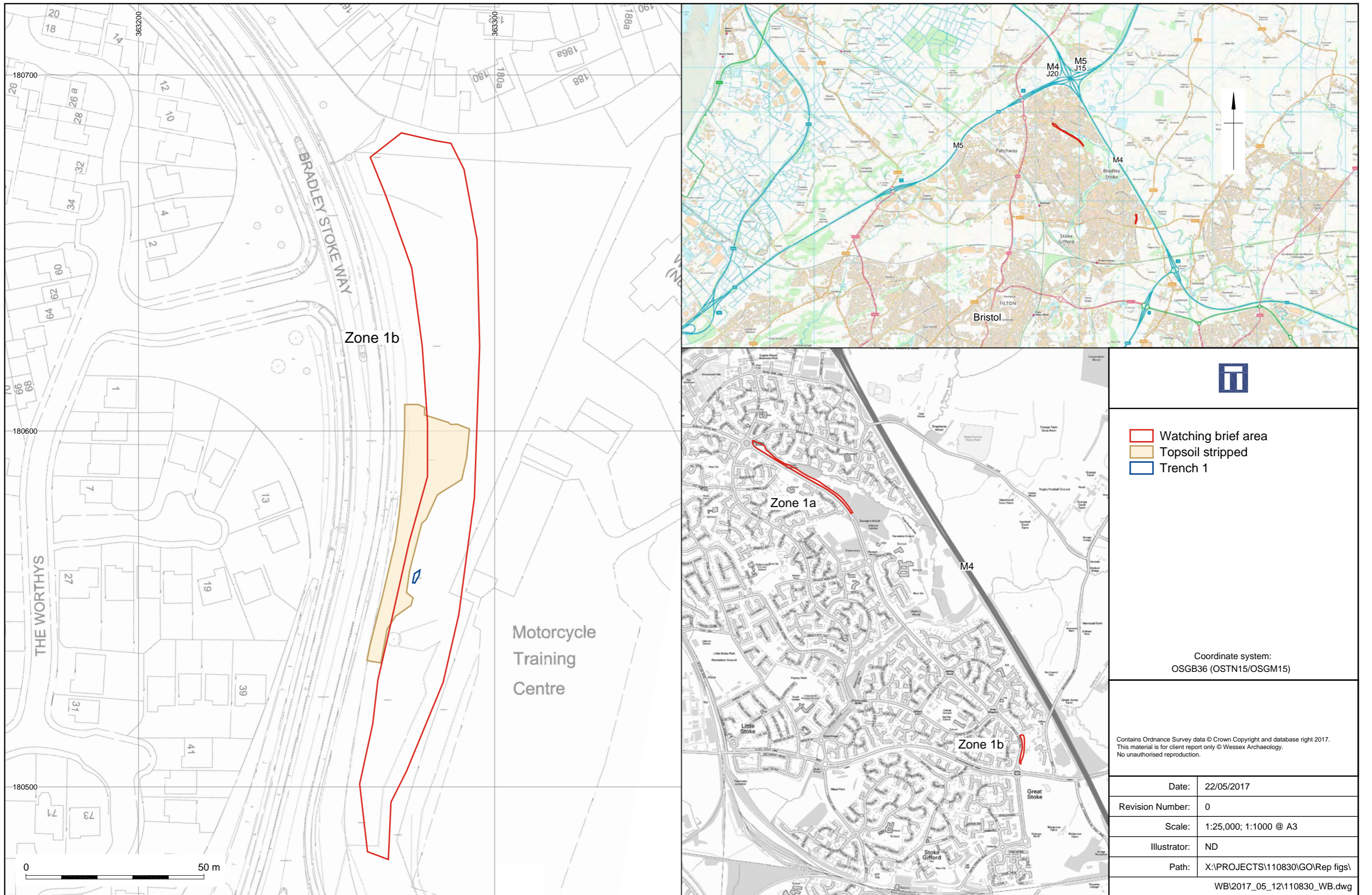
10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Context Table

Zone 1B 50 m x 25 m x 1.77 m			
Context	Description		Depth of deposit (m)
101	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silt-clay-loam	0 - 0.35
102	Subsoil	Light grey-brown silty-clay	0.35 - 0.55
103	Natural	Mid red-brown clay	0.55 – 1.40
104	Natural	Light white-grey Limestone	1.40 – 1.60
105	Natural	Mid red-brown clay	1.60 +
201	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clay-silt	0 - 0.20
202	Subsoil	Mid grey-brown clay-silt	0.20 - 0.40
203	Natural	Mid pink-brown clay with occasional grey-green mottling and lenses of light white-grey Limestone.	0.40+

10.2 Appendix 2: Summary of artefacts by material (count/weight in g)

Context	Pottery	Flint	Clay Pipe	Glass	Iron
201	14/77	6/-	4/7	1/6	1/239




Site location and plan of Zone 1b

Figure 1



Plate 1: Representative section of Zone 1 b stratigraphy, facing north-west (with 1 m scale)

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