

**MAINS REPAIR AT NASH ROAD,
AVEBURY TRUSLOE,
WILTSHIRE**

NGR: SU 0902 6926

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No. 848

November 2012



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Quality Assurance

This Document has been compiled and authorised in accordance with AMS's Quality Procedures (BS EN ISO 9001: 2000)

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Date : 05/11/12

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QA Checked: D. King

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Nash Road, Avebury Trusloe, Wiltshire.

Grid Reference: NGR SU 0902 6926

Site Activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and Duration of Project: 8th-19th September 2012 (2 days)

Project Manager: Roy King

Site Supervisor: Roy King

Site Code: NRA12

Summary of Results: The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of groundworks associated with the required repair of a leaking underground water main at Nash Road, Avebury Trusloe (Figure 1). The works were located within the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument known as South Street Long Barrow, 70m South East of the Long Stones (SM 21735) (Figure 2). The site also lies within Avebury World Heritage Site. The work was undertaken under Scheduled Monument Consent (S00037970).

In accordance with the principles set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the *Ancient Monuments and Areas Act 1979* and the archaeological policies of Wiltshire Council, a programme of archaeological works was devised to mitigate these proposals.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the monitored areas. The presence of intact subsoils in Trench 1 suggests that natural deposits are undisturbed with no evidence for previous truncation other than the targeted pipe trench. The absence of archaeological deposits within the monitored area does not preclude the possibility of significant deposits in the vicinity.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into: Palaeolithic – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; Neolithic – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; Iron Age – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between the 8th and 19th September 2012 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Nash Road, Avebury Trusloe, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0902 6926, Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Thames Water Utilities Ltd.
- 1.2 The project required the monitoring of groundworks associated with the exposure and repair of an existing water main. The site lies within Scheduled Monument South Street Long Barrow (SM 21735) and within Avebury World Heritage Site. The archaeological work was required in accordance with the principles of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012), the *Ancient Monuments and Areas Act 1979* and the archaeological policies of Wiltshire Council in order to mitigate against the proposals.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2012). The project was undertaken in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008) and Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines) issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.4 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Thames Water was required to repair a leaking underground water main within the boundaries of the Scheduled Monument known as South Street Long Barrow, 70m South East of the Long Stones (SM 21735) at Nash Road, Avebury Trusloe (Figure 2). The site also lies within Avebury World Heritage Site. The work was undertaken under Scheduled Monument Consent (S00037970).
- 2.2 In accordance with the principles set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012) and the *Ancient Monuments and Areas Act 1979* and the archaeological policies of Wiltshire Council, a programme of archaeological works was devised to mitigate these proposals.
- 2.3 The study area therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Prehistoric period. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of finds or features associated with other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this will allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed works.
- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the following objectives:
- i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;
 - iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.
 - iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The monitored groundworks comprised the exposure of an existing pipe trench and its excavation to facilitate a repair to a leaking water pipe, as shown in Figure 2. Two sections of trench, Trench 1 and Trench 2, were excavated at different times (08/09/12 and 19/09/12). Trench 1 failed to locate the leak, but Trench 2 did so successfully.
- 4.2 The excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All excavation was carried out under constant archaeological observation. Potential archaeological deposits were manually investigated, and, where appropriate, hand excavated and recorded. Spoil heaps were visually scanned for finds.

5 RESULTS

Trench 1

- 5.1 The excavated trench measured a total of 6.3m in length and 1.30m wide for the first 1.60m and 0.80m wide for the remainder of the trench. The trench was 1m in depth, and exposed the existing 6" cast iron water pipe.
- 5.2 Natural deposits of chalk were encountered at an average depth of 0.83m, becoming more solid with depth. The natural was overlain by (102), a pale grey brown friable clay silt colluvium/subsoil which was 0.55m thick. The uppermost deposit was a dark grey brown silt clay topsoil (101), which was up to 0.28m thick. The existing pipe trench was clearly visible as a vertical sided cut [104], which was filled with (105) a chalky soil backfill.

Trench 2

- 5.3 The excavated trench measured 3m in length, 0.8m in width and 1m in depth. The trench was excavated entirely through the backfill of the pipe trench and natural chalk was not reached. The backfill comprised a chalky soil (202), at least 0.6m thick, overlain by (201), a light brown silt clay with chalk inclusions, 0.4m thick.

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the monitored areas. The presence of intact subsoils in Trench 1 suggests that natural deposits are undisturbed with no evidence for previous truncation other than the targeted pipe trench. The absence of archaeological deposits within the monitored area does not preclude the possibility of significant deposits in the vicinity.
- 6.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with the Alexander Keller Museum, under an Accession Code to be confirmed. A note will be published in the local journal. An OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

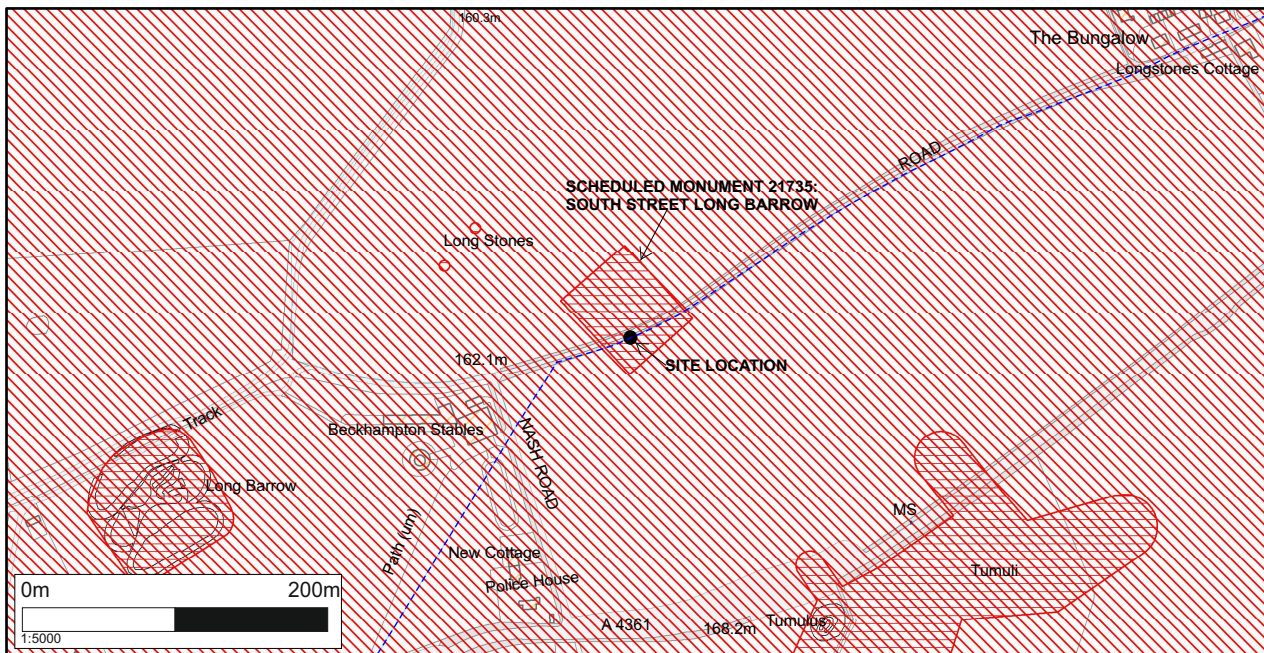
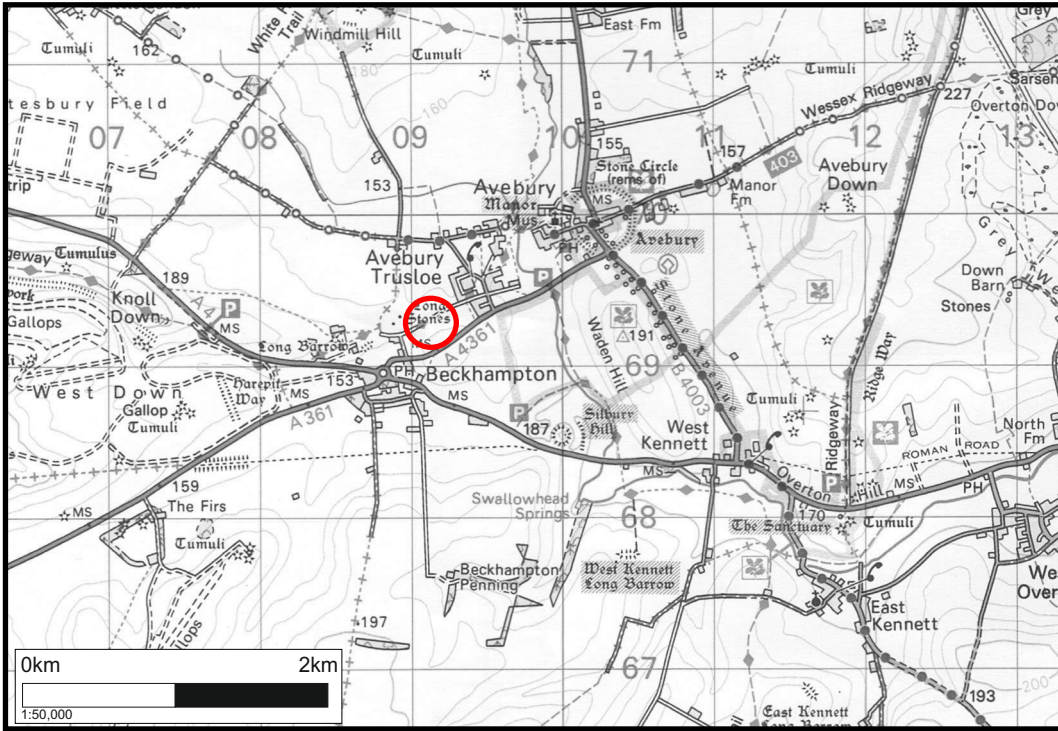
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank Claire Hallybone and Ian Grant of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger of Wiltshire County Council, and the on-site groundworkers for their assistance during the course of this project.

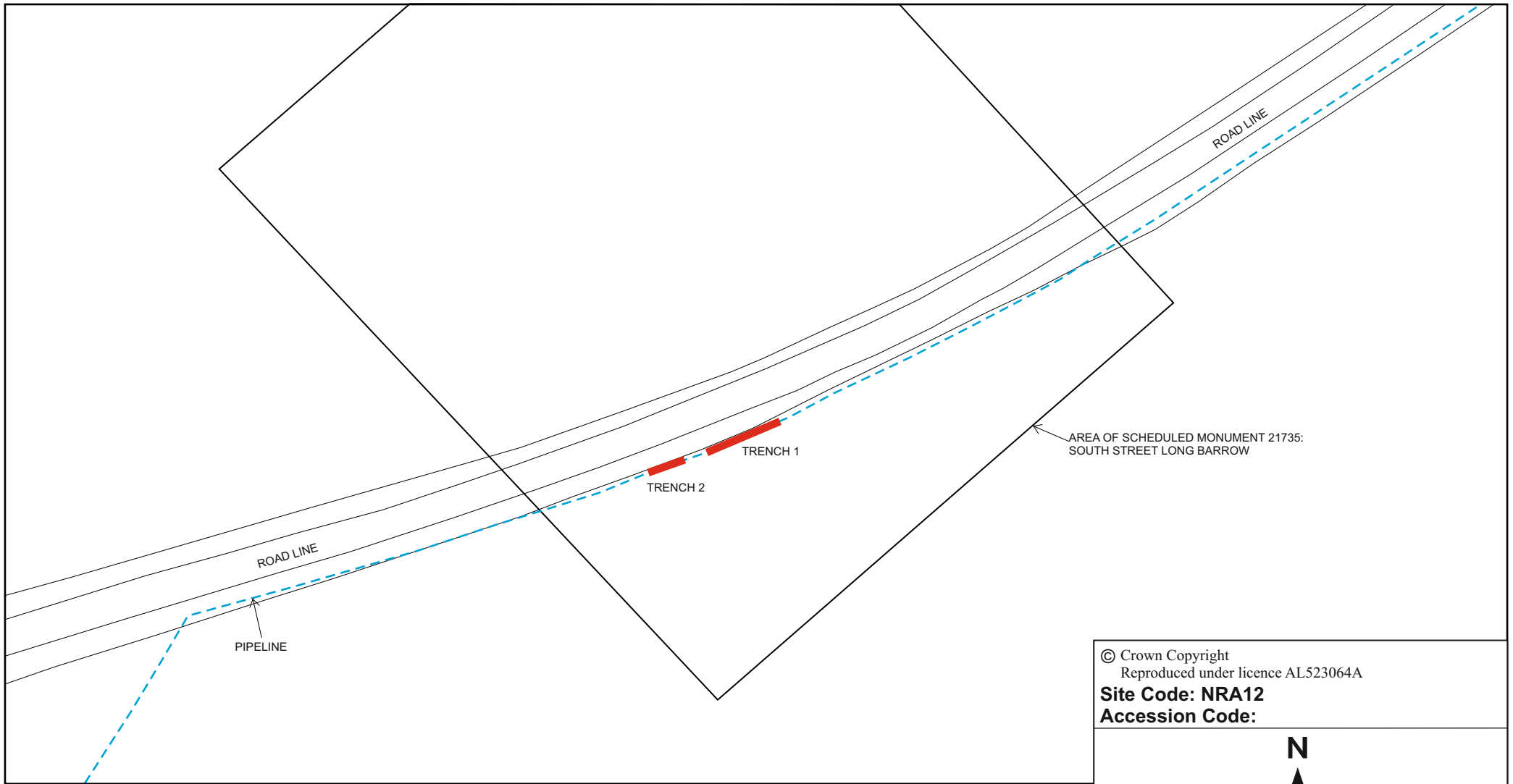


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N

WORLD HERITAGE SITES
SCHEDULED MONUMENTS
CLEAN WATER MAIN
LOCATION OF LEAKING WATER MAIN

FIGURE 1: Site Location



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--- PIPELINE

— TRENCH LOCATIONS



FIGURE 2: Trench Locations