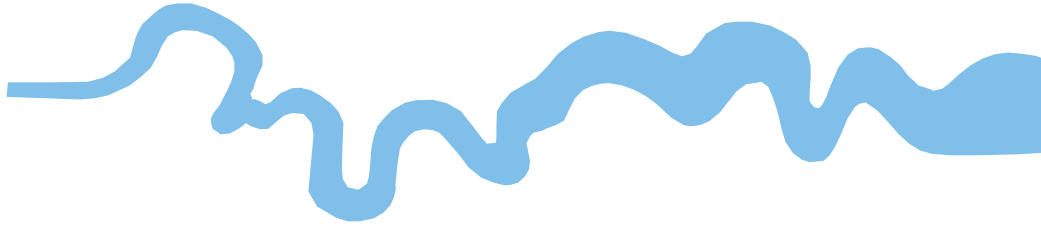


**T V A S**



**SOUTH WEST**

**Water pipeline, Stowell Hill Road,  
Tytherington, South Gloucestershire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Nicholas Dawson**

**Site Code: TSG21/238**

**(ST 6680 8823)**

# **Water pipeline, Stowell Hill Road, Tytherington, South Gloucestershire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
for Wessex Water**

by Nicholas Dawson  
TVAS South West

Site Code TSG 21/238

**January 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** Water pipeline, Stowell Hill Road, Tytherington, South Gloucestershire

**Grid reference:** ST 6680 8823

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 6th October – 4th November 2021

**Project coordinator:** Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

**Site supervisor:** Nicholas Dawson

**Site code:** TSG 21/238

**Area of site:** c. 120 sq m

**Summary of results:** Although the pipe trench lay close to the historic centre of the village close to the parish church, no find nor deposits of medieval date were observed. The dated features found were all from the 19th/20th century several of which related to the railway for the nearby quarry. A ditch with no artefacts and a pit containing a single prehistoric struck flint might be of earlier date.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Bristol Museum and Art Gallery in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ .04.02.22 Steve Preston ✓ 02.02.22
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# Water pipeline, Stowell Hill Road, Tytherington, South Gloucestershire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Nicholas Dawson

Report 21/238

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief for a new water pipeline carried out at Stowell Hill Road, Tytherington, South Gloucestershire (ST 6680 8833) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Diarmuid O Seaneachain of RSK ADAS Limited, 11D Park house, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4RS on behalf of Wessex Water, Operations Centre, Claverton Down Road, Claverton Down, Bath, BA2 7WW.

Wessex Water under their general duties in section 4 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended) (section 2) were to lay c. 120m of drainage pipe connecting a new housing development with drains located on Stowell Hill Road. Due to the route passing through the Tytherington Conservation Area a programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken, in the form of this watching brief.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the Water Industry Act. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Paul Driscoll, Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer for South Gloucestershire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Nicholas Dawson and Piotr Wrobel, between the 6th October and 4th November 2021 and the site code is TSG 21/238. The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery with an accession number to be obtained in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the centre of the village of Tytherington, South Gloucestershire some 2km to the south-east of Thornbury and 7km to the north-east of the outskirts of Bristol (Fig. 1). The site comprise the route of the pipe trench, in three parts. The first short stretch runs 20m south-east from ST 66738 88359, then the second part turns ENE, following a track way east for 45m before passing through a hedge and then the final part turns south-east across a grass play area for 56m to ST 66838 88326 (Fig. 2). The land sits at 69m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Mercia Mudstone conglomerate, with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2015).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bowen 2021). In brief the site's potential stems from its location within the Tytherington Conservation Area and its proximity to St James' Church. Built by the Monks of Llanthony Abbey the church is believed to be of Norman origin though the current building is of largely 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century construction with later 19<sup>th</sup> restorations. The presence of the church is thought to indicate early settlement though little evidence has been found.

Much of what remains or has been found of historic Tytherington dates to the post-medieval period with the earliest still extant non-ecclesiastical within the village being Boyts Farm, dating to the late 16th century.

Archaeological monitoring has also for the most part uncovered mainly post-medieval activity such as at Tytherington Quarry where the remains of building known as 'Ramsoak Cottage' were recorded, or features relating to the rebuilding of the 17th-century vicarage in 1819 at The Manor House. The exception to this is that during monitoring next to St James' tower, skeletal material was recovered and radiocarbon dated to AD960-1060.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The general aims of the project as stated in the WSI (Bowen 2021) are:

- to ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development are identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;

- to ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard; and

- to inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains identified.

The specific aims of the project are:

- to identify and record any unknown buried archaeological deposits or artefacts associated with medieval Tytherington; and

- identify and record any earlier deposits or artefacts that survive along the Route

The fieldwork was take place within, and to contribute to the goals of, the regional research agenda contained in the document *The Archaeology of the South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework* (Grove and Croft 2012).

## **Results**

The groundworks comprised of the excavation of 112.6m of trench 1m wide in three sections interspersed by four manholes up to 2m<sup>2</sup>. These were located at either end of the route and at changes in directions in the trench

(Fig. 2) giving a total length of *c.* 120m. Depths of excavations ranged from 2.6m at the north west end to 0.6m at the south east (Fig 2). A complete list of features identified is given in Appendix 1.

### *Trackway*

The initial section comprising about half the trench's length and three out of the four manholes, was dug following the route of a track connecting to the rears of several houses to Stowell Hill Road. Here stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of light grey fine gravel track surface set on 0.2m of light yellow brown coarse levelling gravel (50) on top of *c.*0.1m of subsoil (51). All this sat above a natural geology of red brown clay.

The features identified in this section of the excavations comprised four parallel walls on a north-east to south-west orientation, located just north of where the track makes a turn to the east (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1). The two outer walls (57, 59) remained only as the stone footings some 0.53m wide, 0.4m high and 0.4m below ground surface in cuts 1 and 3 respectively. Their construction is of irregularly sized limestone bonded with a dark grey mortar with frequent white inclusions. Evidence for an upper wall comes from a single course of bricks (66) laid side to side atop footing (53). The remains of this upper wall were 0.1m high and 0.23m wide. Sitting lower in the stratigraphy with their tops at 0.7m below ground level, and at 1m from the outer walls were the two inner walls (54, 56). These were connected from the top of the wall to the outer walls by a gentle slope cut (2) into the natural. The walls themselves consisted of eight courses of bricks with cement bonding to a height of 0.7m, with the width of wall 56 at 0.35m and of wall 54 slightly wider at 0.4m due to a skim of mortar on its northern face. Both walls sat on top of and were connected by a concrete surface (55) some 1.86m wide and 0.3m deep. This surface and the two inner walls formed a rectangular trench some 1.1m wide and 0.7m deep which was subsequently been filled by a dark brown, grey silty clay fill (52) from which several later post-medieval or early modern finds were recovered, recorded but not retained. These included pottery, glass and animal bone fragments, a metal spoon, the head of a metal shovel and track chair with remnant of wood attached to its underside.

### *Playground*

This section of the route consisted of a single straight trench running south-east across an area of grass with children's play area with a manhole at the southern end to connect to an existing drainage pipe. The general stratigraphy here consisted of *c.* 0.5m of garden soil (59) followed by *c.* 0.15m of subsoil (51), overlying natural geology. Along its route a number of archaeological features were identified starting with a shallow ditch cut (5) 1.8m from the manhole at the north-west end of this stretch. The ditch was orientated almost due north-south,

0.18m deep and 1.8m wide (Fig 3 and 4; Pl. 2). Its fill (60) was a mid-brown silt clay and contained two fragments of animal bone and a single fragment of flint.

Moving south-east along the trench the next feature at 5.5m was a pit (4) 1.2m in diameter and 0.5m deep sitting partially outside of the excavation area (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3). Its fill (58) was a slightly reddish-brown silt clay containing several medium-sized chunks of limestone. The only finds recovered consisted of small fragments of unidentifiable animal bone.

The next feature at 9.5m was a post hole (7) 0.35m in diameter and 0.26m deep with a fill (63) of dark grey brown silty clay (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4). From this fill three fragments of late post-medieval or early modern pottery and a fragment of clay pipe stem were recovered and recorded but not retained.

Extending from 10.8m to 18.2m the next feature consisted of a shallow depression (6) cut through the subsoil. It was at least 7.4m wide and *c.* 0.6m deep, with a fill (62) of dark brownish grey clay (Figs 3 and 4). From this fill large quantities of late post-medieval to early modern ceramic and glass fragments were recovered. These included several fragments of ceramic building material, amongst which was a fragment of malting tile. Several animal bone fragments were also recovered including the articulated remains of a small canine (Pl. 5) located at the northern edge of the cut. At 15.5m the remains of a wall (64) comprising of a single course of stone with degraded mortar bonding was cut (8) into the top of fill 62 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 6). The wall had a width of 0.6m and height of 0.2m.

The last feature to be identified consisted of a concrete surface (61) starting at 30.1m and extended for a further 5m (Fig. 3; Pl. 7). This large slab of concrete sat just 0.1m below current ground surface and was only 0.12m thick. No cut was visible in section and no dating evidence or other finds were identified as being associated with the concrete surface but it is clearly modern.

## **Finds**

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

A single struck flint ( a flake) was recovered from pit 4 (58). It is not closely datable but is likely to be of neolithic or Bronze Age date.



## Conclusion

The watching brief was successfully undertaken on the route for the laying of new drainage pipes and their associated manholes. Despite the potential for medieval archaeology given the close proximity of St James' Church the only features and finds identified were almost entirely late post-medieval or early modern. The exception to this being pit 4 which contained a single worked flint fragment and no other dating material. A single flint could easily be residual and thus contributes at best tenuous evidence for dating the pit but does indicate some prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

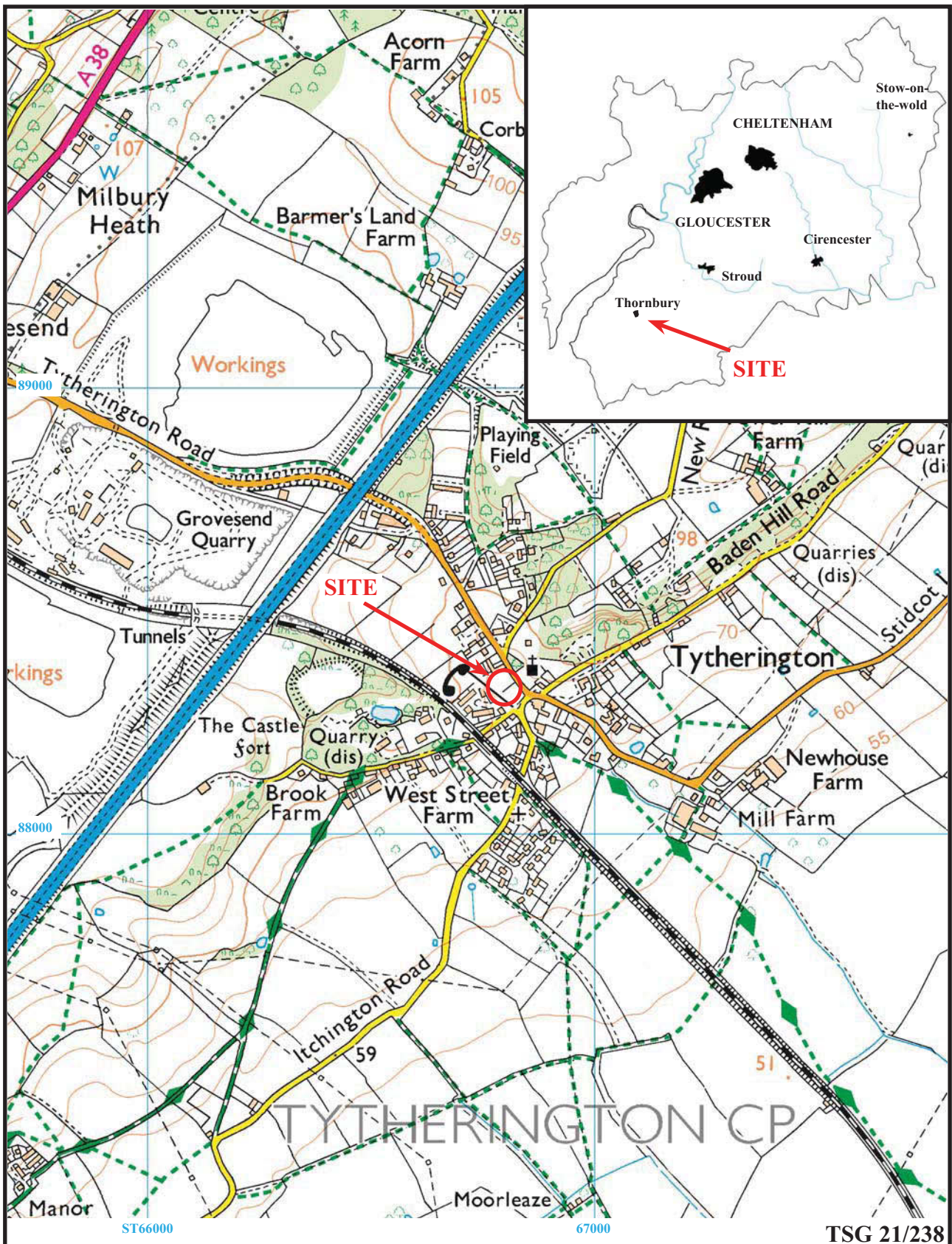
Of the post-medieval and modern features, the four parallel walls (53, 54, 56 and 57) area highly likely to be the remains of an engine shed that is first shown but not labelled on the 1903 OS six-inch map and still appearing and labelled on the 1955 OS national grid map. It sits on an offshoot of the railway from the main line located *c.* 100m to the south-west heading north-east across Stonewell Hill Road to a quarry located just north east of St James' Church. Walls 54 and 56 would have held the track sleepers connected to the walls by track chairs, such as the one recovered from backfill 52. The trench formed by the interior walls and surface 55 would have been the inspection pit and walls 53 and 57 likely formed the footings for the exterior shed walls. The purpose of pit 4 and post hole 7 are unclear as is wall 64 and the concrete surface (61). Shallow cut 6 appears to have been used a rubbish dump including the disposing of a dog's carcass.

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**APPENDIX 1: Feature details.**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating Evidence</i>
	50	Topsoil		
	51	Subsoil		
	59	Garden soil		
1	53	Wall footing	Late Post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy/form
1	66	Wall	Late Post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy/form
2	52	Ditch	Late Post-medieval/modern	Pottery
2	54	Wall	Late Post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy/form
2	55	Floor	Late Post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy/form
2	56	Wall	Late Post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy/form
3	57	Wall footing	Late Post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy/form
4	58	Pit	Undated or prehistoric	Struck flint
5	60	Ditch	Undated	
6	62	Pit	Post-medieval/modern	Pottery
7	63	Post hole	Post-medieval	Pottery
8	64	Wall	Post-medieval/modern	Stratigraphy
	61	Concrete surface	Modern	

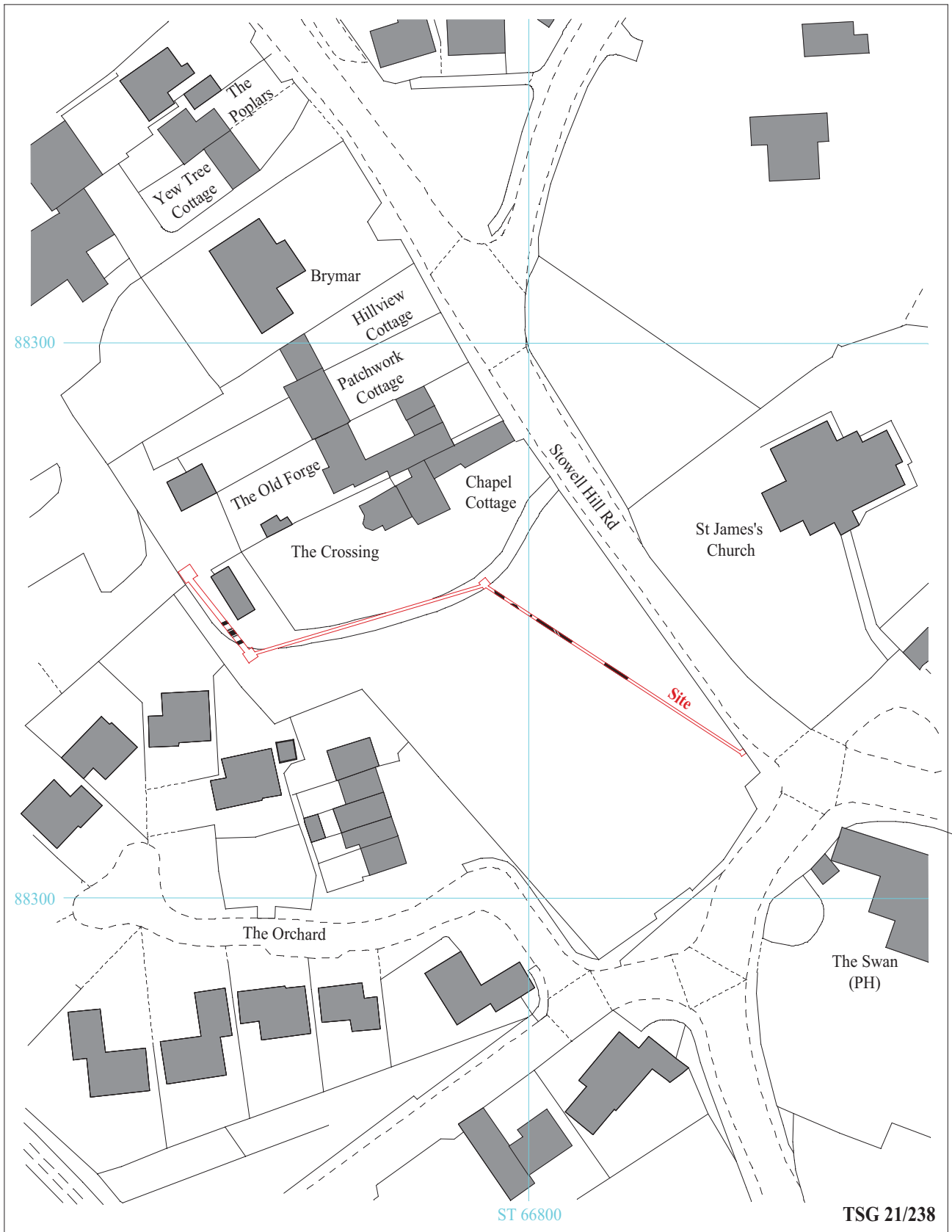


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Figure 1. Location of site within Tytherington and Gloucestershire.

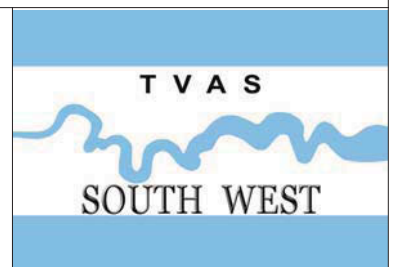
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Figure 2. Site plan.

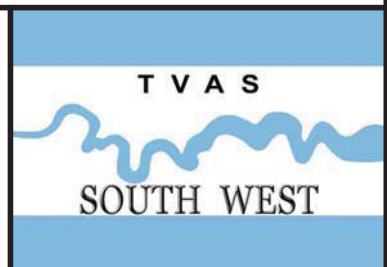


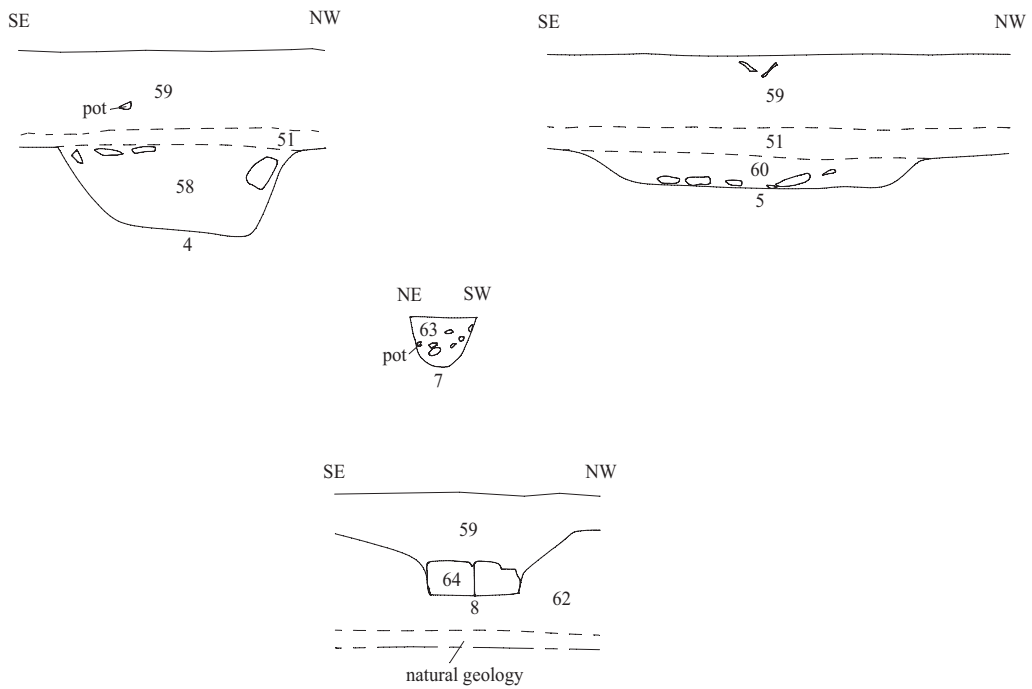
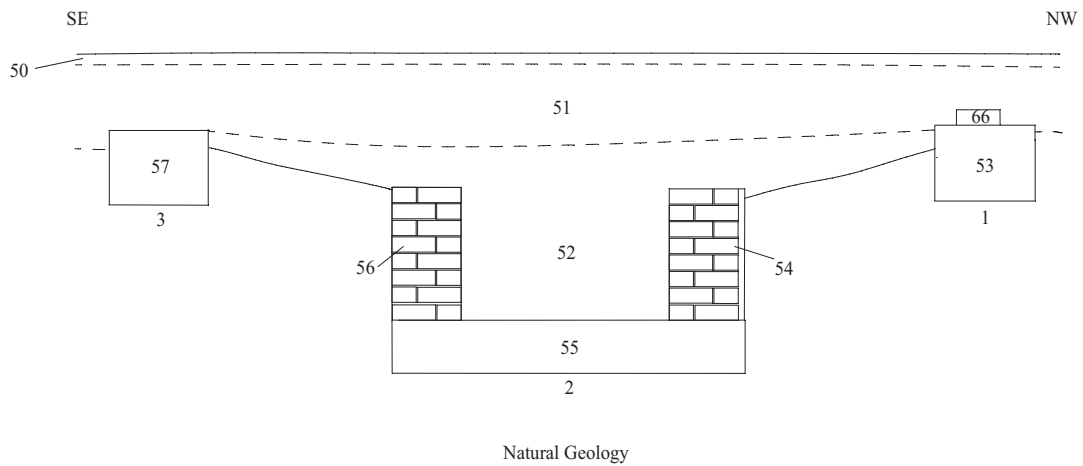




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Figure 3. Plan of features.





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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Walls 54, 56, 57 and deposit 52, looking south east, Scales: 1m, 0.5m, 0.3m and 0.2m.



Plate Ditch 5. looking south west, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Pit 4, looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Post hole 7, looking south east, Scales: 0.3m and 0.2m.

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Plates 1 to 4.**







Plate 5. Canine remains in cut 6, looking south east,  
Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Wall 64, looking south,  
Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 7. Concrete surface 61, looking south east,  
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 8. Working shot of south east end of trench,  
looking south east.

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Plates 5 to 8.**

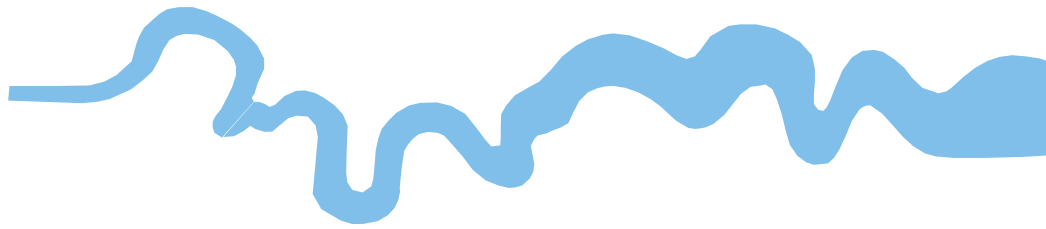




## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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