

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT SCHEME

VICTORIA STREET TO TRINITY

BRISTOL

NGR: ST

JOB N^o: BA1209BWWST



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Frontispiece: View looking W along Highwood Lane showing a densely overgrown, tree lined hedge to the S of the road, to the rear of which is Almondsbury Reservoir and pumping station (NGR ST 58875 81145)

Report specification

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1. Executive Summary

This archaeological desk-based assessment of a mains replacement scheme at Almondsbury Reservoir has reached the following conclusions.



2. Introduction

Border Archaeology undertook this archaeological desk-based assessment on behalf of Bristol Water to determine the nature of the archaeological resource within the vicinity of a proposed replacement water main pipeline (**Fig.1**), the route of which extends for a distance of approximately 500m from the Almondsbury Reservoir at NGR ST 58875 81145, crossing Highwood Road and extending N through the ASDA Superstore car park before reaching its terminus immediately SE of the M5 motorway at NGR ST 58770 81620.

Copies of this assessment will be supplied to Bristol Water for their initial consideration of the inherent implications of archaeological impact, engineering considerations, cost and programming. Any revisions (other than minor) as to route may require additional research & consideration in a revised Report; subsequent to this process a copy of this report will be submitted to David Evans, Archaeology and Historic Environment Record Officer, South Gloucestershire Council.

2.1 Soils and Geology

Fig 1: Bristol Water Scheme Plan showing the route of the proposed replacement water mains pipeline marked in red)

3. Methodology

3.1 Archaeological Assessment

3.1.1 Research Aims

This archaeological desk-based assessment seeks to identify any known or potential archaeological resource within the study area and to establish its character, extent, quality and importance, within a local, regional and national context.

3.1.2 Research Methods

The research carried out for this detailed archaeological assessment consisted of the following elements:

3.1.3 Evaluation and study of archaeological databases

A search was made of the National Monuments Record (English Heritage) and the Bristol City Council Historic Environment Record for any sites of archaeological or historic interest within a 100m corridor (50m on either side of the pipeline route).

3.1.4 Evaluation and study of primary sources

Primary documentary sources relating to the study area were consulted at the Bristol Record Office and the Gloucestershire Archives.

3.1.5 Evaluation and study of secondary sources

Secondary sources relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Bristol Record Office, Gloucestershire Archives, the Bristol City Council Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record at Swindon, including relevant articles in the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*, as well as published and unpublished reports relating to archaeological work in the vicinity of the study area.

3.1.6 Evaluation and study of cartographic and other pictorial evidence

Historic maps dating back to c.1600 were consulted at the Bristol Record Office, Bristol City Council Historic Environment Record and Gloucestershire Archives.

Copies of the Ordnance Survey 1st-3rd edition 6 inch and 25 inch maps and later OS 1:2500 and 1:10000 scale maps (c.1960 to present) were obtained from the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record and the Bristol Record Office.

4. Site Specific Analysis

The specific study area comprises a

4.1 Consultation of Archaeological Records

This section analyses the information available from records of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline route and discusses its implications for the nature of the archaeological resource within the study area and the likely depth and survival of significant archaeological deposits and features.

4.1.1 Conservation areas

The pipeline route runs through four designated Conservation Areas

4.1.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the study area.

4.1.3 Archaeological Sites

The South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record was consulted to determine the nature and extent of the archaeological resource within the pipeline corridor, defined as being 200m in width (100m on either side of the pipeline route).

A total of 16 recorded archaeological sites were identified in the vicinity of the pipeline route, of which only two, a flint scatter of Neolithic date (SGHER 1090), a series of cropmark features of possible prehistoric date (SGHER 2215) and the boundary of the medieval deer park of Over (SGHER 3200) were situated within the specific pipeline corridor (defined as 100m on either side of the proposed route).

- **Prehistoric**

Table 1: List of prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the study area



Limited evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the study area. A search of the South Gloucestershire HER identified two sites of prehistoric date on the periphery of the pipeline corridor. At NGR ST 5870 8160 (SGHER 1090), a scatter of flint flakes (mostly debitage) of possible Neolithic date was recovered during the excavation of a drainage ditch for the construction of the M5 (Fowler, Bennett & Hill, 1976, 89). The location of the findspot appears to be situated approximately 50-60m NW of the northern terminus of the pipeline route

Located approximately 200m to the NE of the northern terminus of the route (located at NGR ST 58770 81620), the HER lists the site of a possible round barrow at NGR ST 58830 81780 (SGHER 1088). The site of the barrow is marked as a 'tumulus' on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1881 and was apparently 'nearly levelled' in about 1873. When recorded by L. Grinsell in 1960, the barrow was approximately 15 paces in diameter and 1ft high with faint traces of an outer ditch around the S and E quadrants of the feature (O'Neil & Grinsell, 1960, 101). It has been suggested that this barrow may be identified with the site of a 'tumulus' investigated in 1650, within which two inhumations were found, however this remains unconfirmed.

Two other possible prehistoric sites were identified as cropmarks from pre-1980s aerial reconnaissance to the S of Highwood Lane; however both of these sites are now occupied by modern retail development and consequently no visible trace of these features has survived. A series of cropmark features were identified from aerial photography in the two fields lying to the W of Almondsbury Reservoir, approximately 100m W of the pipeline route at its closest point (SGHER 2215; NGR ST 5860 8120) comprising a possible causeway feature, truncated in places, extending through the northern part of the fields and a series of irregular, sub-circular features in the easternmost field. It is possible that these features may represent evidence of prehistoric activity (the HER entry assigns a broad date range from the early Neolithic to the late prehistoric period); they certainly appear to pre-date the pattern of field enclosure which is visible on historic maps of the area.

Another series of cropmark features has been recorded on pre-1980s aerial photography in fields approximately 120-130m SE of Almondsbury Reservoir (SGHER 5241; ST 5900 8100), consisting of what appear to be two adjoining double circles with associated linear features linking the two enclosures. Unfortunately the fields containing these enclosures have been completely occupied by modern retail development, although potential remains for the survival of buried features and associated deposits.

In connection with this, it is worth noting that recent fieldwork undertaken on two sites located on the wider periphery of the pipeline route has yielded evidence of prehistoric activity. An extensive programme of trial trenching undertaken in June-October 2008 on the North Field site at Filton Airport (NGR ST 598 606), approximately 500m SE of Almondsbury Reservoir revealed evidence of a large pit or waterhole of Iron Age date together with a number of small pits and boundary features dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period (Oxford Archaeology, 2008). Another programme of archaeological fieldwork undertaken in 1997-98 on the site of the Cribbs Causeway Leisure Centre at Merlin Road (approximately 350m W of Almondsbury Reservoir) revealed significant evidence of an Iron Age settlement site comprising a substantial enclosure ditch containing a single round house together with elements of an associated field system and stock enclosures (SGHER 11360; King, 1998).



In summary, based on the evidence of cropmark features and recorded archaeological sites of prehistoric date both in the immediate and wider locality of the study area, there certainly appears to be potential for evidence of prehistoric occupation and funerary activity to have survived in the vicinity of the pipeline route.

However, the extensive modern retail development and associated road construction and landscaping activity in the immediate vicinity of the route could well have impacted upon the survival of archaeological deposits and features, although the extent of this impact remains undetermined (due to the fact that there does not appear to have been any archaeological work undertaken during the construction of the superstore and associated car park). Consequently the likelihood of encountering archaeological features and deposits of prehistoric date has been assessed as **Moderate**.

- **Roman**

Table 2: List of Roman sites in the vicinity of the study area

No recorded evidence for Roman activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route. In the wider locality of the route, the South Gloucestershire HER records a single site of supposed Roman date, namely the burial of a large individual described as 'a giant' seated within a stone coffin which contained two coins of possible Roman date (SGHER 3275). The inhumation was apparently located within an earlier round barrow site, suggesting a re-use of an earlier funerary monument (SGHER 1088). However, the description of the burial by the late 18th century antiquarian Samuel Rudder specifically mentions that 'the corpse was buried sitting', which would be extremely unusual practice for a Roman burial and appears more likely to be associated either with prehistoric or early Saxon burial practice (Rudder, 1774, 222).

Evidence for Roman settlement in the wider vicinity of the study area is represented by a small group of ditch and pit features recorded during an evaluation on the North Field site at Filton Airfield (Oxford Archaeology, 2010), located approximately 500m to the SE of Almondsbury Reservoir. In view of the relative scarcity of evidence for Roman occupation in the vicinity of the study area, the potential for encountering archaeological features and deposits of Roman date has been assessed as **Low**.

- **Medieval**

Table 3: List of medieval sites in the vicinity of the study area

Recorded evidence of medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline corridor (defined as 100m on either side of the proposed route) is limited. Only one site of medieval date is recorded in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as lying within the pipeline corridor, namely the medieval deer park of Over (SGHER 3200), which may be identified with the 'park of la Lee' (Lea Manor), first recorded in the early 13th century.

The medieval extent of Over Park appears to have survived until the early 18th century and is depicted in an engraving of Over Court by Johannes Kip dated 1712. The boundary or pale of the park can be traced between Over Court and Highwood Road, with field names such as 'Park Leaze' and 'Little Park Leaze' recorded in estate surveys and the Almondsbury tithe apportionment confirming the former existence of the park.



Remnants of the park are still visible to the NW of the M5 motorway, mostly incorporated within the grounds of the Bristol Golf Club, while the portion of the park lying to the S and SE of the M5 has been completely built over by modern development although it has been suggested that buried archaeological deposits and structural remains relating to the park might survive in this area. The proposed pipeline route runs (at its closest point) approximately 40m W of a section of the former deer park boundary, running NW-SE, the course of which is preserved by the NE boundary of the existing ASDA Superstore site (which in turn respects an earlier field boundary shown on historic mapping dating back to as early as 1742).

Four other sites of medieval date have been recorded in the wider locality of the pipeline route; however these sites are located to the NW of the M5 motorway. Possible remains of the park pale or boundary of Over Park have been identified at NGR ST 5860 8170, approximately 330m NW of the northern terminus of the pipeline route, represented by two ditches with a bank, measuring approximately 4.2m x 0.4m high, surrounding the SE and SW edges of Oak Covert (SGHER 10226).

The remains of St Swithin's Chapel (SGHER 1089) probably identifiable with the chapel of 'La Lee' recorded in a charter of 1234, are incorporated within the northern wing of a 17th century farmhouse, St Swithin's Farm, located approximately 300m WNW of the northern terminus of the proposed route. The dedication to St Swithin, Bishop of Winchester (852-862) could possibly indicate a late Saxon origin for the chapel although the earliest record of the dedication dates from 1285.

The farmhouse (SGHER 2708; NGR ST 5846 8162) may well have originated as a manor house associated with the chapel (although the extant building appears to date largely from the 17th-19th centuries). Historic maps of the St Swithin's Farm estate (the earliest being Wilstar's survey of 1742) show evidence for a moat (SGHER 3276) surrounding the farmhouse, which appears to have been gradually filled in and occupied by farm outbuildings during the 19th century, with the NW corner of the moat being built over by a modern garage and associated forecourt. Trial excavations on the area of the moat surrounding the farmhouse undertaken in 2000 revealed slight evidence for the moat, however it appeared to have been damaged by post-medieval and later landscaping (SGHER 13916).

A linear feature of possible medieval date that is directly crossed by the pipeline route (but which is not listed in the South Gloucestershire HER) is the surviving remnant of the original course of Highwood Lane (located at NGR ST 5877 8127) consisting of a short stretch of a heavily overgrown holloway located immediately to the S of the existing roadway, bordered to the S by retail development and to the SE by the curtilage of Almondsbury Reservoir (opened in 1965). This section of the original route of Highwood Lane (which was superseded by the existing roadway by the late 1960s) represented the boundary between the parishes of Almondsbury and Henbury and could therefore be of medieval origin.

In overall terms, the potential for encountering archaeological deposits and features of medieval date in the vicinity of the pipeline route has been assessed as **Low**, reflecting the generally limited evidence of archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route and the probable extent of disturbance by construction and landscaping activity associated with the construction of the modern reservoir, the M5 motorway and the adjacent Superstore and car park. However, it should be noted the pipeline route will directly cross a holloway feature of likely medieval date at NGR ST 5877 8127 representing



the surviving remnant of the original Highwood Lane, marking the boundary between the parishes of Almondsbury and Henbury.

- **Post-Medieval**

Table 4: List of sites of post-medieval date in the vicinity of the study area

No recorded sites of post-medieval date have been identified within the immediate vicinity of the pipeline corridor. Within the wider vicinity of the pipeline route, evidence of post-medieval activity is chiefly represented by St Swithin's Farmhouse, a Grade II listed building mostly of 17th century date (although incorporating earlier medieval fabric) which was remodelled and extended in about 1840 (SGHER 2708). Immediately the NE of St Swithin's Farm, the site of another deserted farmstead (approximately 250m WNW of the northern terminus of the pipeline route) is recorded in mid-17th century surveys of the St Swithin's estate and Wilstar's survey of 1742 (SGHER 5367).

A watching brief undertaken during the construction of the new Bristol Golf Course in 1999 (SGHER 12989; Haines, 1999) identified a number of features of probable post-medieval date associated with nearby St Swithin's Farm, including the cut for a possible trackway at NGR ST 5838 8148 (SGHER 12984), a masonry feature possibly representing the remains of a former building at NGR ST 5838 8161 (SGHER 12986) and the remnants of a farm building or boundary wall at NGR ST 5382 8145 (SGHER 12987).

In view of the fact that the pipeline route runs at a considerable distance from St Swithin's Farm and associated settlement features, and no documentary or cartographic evidence has been found to indicate the presence of post-medieval settlement features within the study area, the likelihood of encountering structural remains and associated occupation deposits of post-medieval date in the vicinity of the pipeline route has been assessed as **Low**.

Fig. 2: Map showing location of archaeological sites recorded in the Bristol City Council Historic Environment Record in the vicinity of the pipeline route (marked in red)



4.2 Documentary Study and Map Regression (including Aerial Photography)

4.2.1 Medieval to c. 1800

The study area straddles the boundary between the extensive parishes of Almondsbury and Henbury, formerly marked by Highwood Lane, the course of which however has been altered since the construction of the M5 and the associated retail/industrial park. The origins of the pattern of settlement and enclosure in this area can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon period (and possibly earlier).

The portion of the study area lying to the S of Highwood Lane (including the reservoir site) lay within the tithing of Charlton, an outlying estate forming the northern part of the manor and parish of Henbury. The place-name Charlton is of Old English origin, denoting the 'settlement of the peasants (ceorls)' although the earliest reference to this name occurs in late 11th century documents (Smith, 1964, 131).

The earliest reference to Henbury occurs in a charter of King Aethelred of Mercia dated c.691-92 granting 30 hides of land at Henbury (Heanburg) and Aust to Offfor Bishop of Worcester (Smith, 1964, 130). By 1086, Domesday Book records Henbury as one of four estates pertaining to the manor of Westbury on Trym (the others being Redwick, Stoke Bishop and Yate) which was held by Worcester Abbey. These estates appear to have formed the endowment of a pre-Conquest house of secular priests at Westbury, which was refounded by Bishop Wulfstan of Worcester after the Norman Conquest (Page, 1907, 106).

A charter of Bishop Wulfstan dated 1093 confirming the endowment of the refounded house at Westbury contains the earliest documented reference to Charlton ('Ceorlatune') as a subsidiary holding of the manor of Henbury. It is unclear whether Wulfstan's endowment represented the entirety of the landholding at Charlton as a 'radman' named Ainulf is subsequently recorded as holding half a hide there in the mid-12th century.

Whatever the case, it appears that the majority of the landholding at Charlton remained in the possession of the religious house at Westbury on Trym (refounded as a college of secular canons in 1194) until its eventual dissolution in 1544, when its endowments passed to the Crown and were granted to Sir Ralph Sadler, Privy Councillor to Henry VIII. Charlton appears subsequently to have been split up into several estates by the late 17th/early 18th century.

One of these estates, comprising an bloc of fields to the N of Charlton village, adjoining the parish boundary with Almondsbury (including part of the study area to the S of Highwood Lane) was held by Thomas Teast and his wife Isabella by the 1720s. A deed of 20th Feb 1724 records a mortgage by Isabella Teast of three closes of land in Charlton, one of which, called 'The Middlehills' represents the site now occupied by the modern reservoir complex (GRO Ref. D2957/160/257). The Teast family retained possession of their estate at Charlton until the late 19th century. Another part of the study area lay within fields belonging to the Harford family of Blaise Castle.

The central and northern parts of the study area lying to the N of present-day Highwood Lane lay within an outlying part of Almondsbury called the Lea ('la Lee' or 'Lega'), which is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a separate estate of 1 hide then owned by Robert de Doynton (together with the adjacent manor of Gaunts Earthcott) from Geoffrey



Bishop of Coutances. The place-name 'Legh' is of Old English origin, denoting a wooded glade or clearing, and may be an indicator of early settlement in this area. It has been suggested that Lea and Gaunts Earthcott, together with other adjoining estates, may originally have formed subsidiary components of the extensive manor of Tockington, which might represent a landholding unit of Saxon or possibly even Roman origin (Pullin & Erskine, 1994, 8).

By the mid-12th century, however, it appears that Lea and Gaunts Earthcott formed subsidiary estates within the barony of Berkeley, which had been granted by Henry II in 1154 to Robert fitz Harding as a reward for his support against King Stephen during the Anarchy. In 1166, Fitz Harding's daughter and heiress, Cecily Gaunsell is recorded as being in possession of the Lea estate. In 1234, Cecily's daughter and heiress Ideona Gaunsell, wife of Richard the Huntsman (keeper of the royal forest of Kingswood) granted to Henry de Gaunt, master of the almonry of St Mark's Hospital, Bristol, 'all her land in Erdycote (Earthcott) and La Lee and the advowson of the chapels of La Lee (Lea) and Erdycote in free and perpetual arms' (Pullin & Erskine, 1994, 9; Ross, 1959, 301-22). The 'chapel of La Lee' can probably be identified with St Swithin's Chapel, the remains of which are incorporated into St Swithin's Farm, located to the NW of the M5 within the environs of Bristol Golf Course.

The manor of Lea together with St Swithin's Chapel remained in the ownership of St Mark's Hospital at Bristol until the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the site and endowments of the hospital (including were purchased from the King by the Mayor and Corporation of Bristol for the sum of £1000 in 1541. From 1541 to 1838, the manors of the Lea and Gaunt Earthcott were in the ownership of the Corporation of Bristol, and the copious records that survive relating to their administration of the estate, including deeds, written surveys and (from the early 18th century onwards) estate plans, provide important information regarding the pattern of land use, ownership and changes to enclosure boundaries during this period.

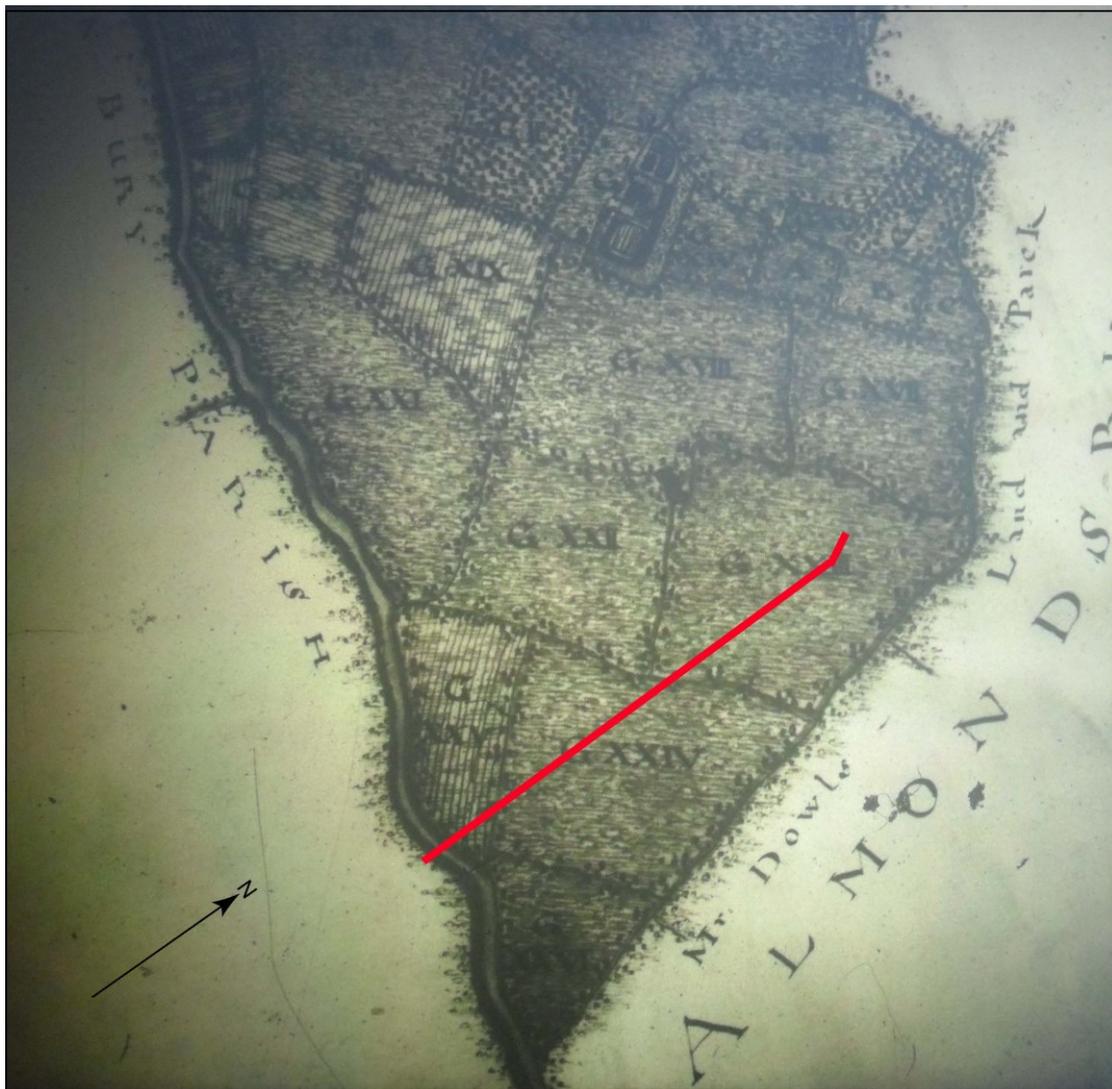
From these documents, it appears that the study area lay within a sub-holding of Lea manor centred on St Swithin's Farm, so named after the medieval chapel of St Swithin which was incorporated into the farmhouse. A survey of the Lea and Gaunt's Earthcott manor dated 1647 reveals that the estate of St Swithin's Farm had been leased to a local gentleman farmer named Thomas Browne (BRO Ref. 04236 f.98).

The estate is described as comprising 'a dwelling house and 3 other outhouses with a backside, 2 gardens, an orchard and a paddock on the backside'. Attached to the St Swithin's Farm estate was a compact bloc of pasture fields and meadow which are listed in the 1647 survey as 'Hay Layne grounds', 'Hassell Croft', 'Hollister Ground', 'Gough's Ground' (11 acres) and 'Sampson's Mead' (12 acres). With the exception of Sampson's Mead, all the other fields are described as being under pasture. The latter two field names are of especial relevance as it can be demonstrated that the pipeline route extends through these two particular fields, located in the SE corner of the St Swithin's Farm estate.

A later survey of Lea manor taken in 1655 shows Thomas Browne to have still been in occupation of St Swithin's Farm, which is described as 'a very pretty seate' (BRO Ref. 04237 f.130v). The farmhouse is described as 'a faire mansion house wherein ye said Mr Browne lives adjoining to a little structure built in ye forme of a chappell upon ye east part of the hall of the said house'. The field referred to as Gough's ground in the 1647 survey is described as 'a ground east ye former sometimes Goughs, in pasture', while Sampson's mead is referred to as 'Sansoms meads, called also Old Field, in two grounds'. Of particular interest is a tantalising, if somewhat vague description of 'some ruines of old foundations near the house

of which the stones have been carried away so low that the grass grows over them' (BRO Ref. 04237, f.132).

The earliest pictorial survey of the study area is contained in a volume of plans of estates belonging to the Corporation of Bristol drawn up by Jacob de Wilstar in 1742 (BRO Ref. 04480) which includes a plan of the manors of Gaunts Earthcott and the Lea. Wilstar's survey shows a series of irregularly shaped field enclosures lying to the SE of 'St Swithin's Chappell Farme' within a roughly triangular shaped area bordered to the S by the tree-lined meandering course of Sands Green Lane (later Highwood Lane) marking the boundary between the parishes of Almondsbury and Henbury and to the N and NE by the boundary of Over Park (**Fig.3**).



*Fig. 3: Extract from a plan of the manors of Gaunts Earthcott and the Lea by Jacob de Wilstar (1742)
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office)*

Five of these field enclosures marked on Wilstar's plan lie within or immediately adjacent to the pipeline corridor, namely Plot Nos. XXII and XXIII (listed as Sampson's Lower Mead and Sampson's Upper Mead respectively) and Plot Nos. XXIV, XXV and XXVI (listed as Goughs Upper Ground, Lower Ground and Topp Ground). It appears that the division of Sampson's

Mead into two field enclosures had been carried out at some time between 1647 and 1655, since the latter survey refers to Sampson's Mead' as comprising 'two grounds'. Wilstar's plan of 1742 refers to Plot Nos. XXIV-XXVI as being 'formerly one parcel', which implies that the sub-division of Goughs Ground into three separate enclosures probably occurred at some time after 1655 and before 1742.

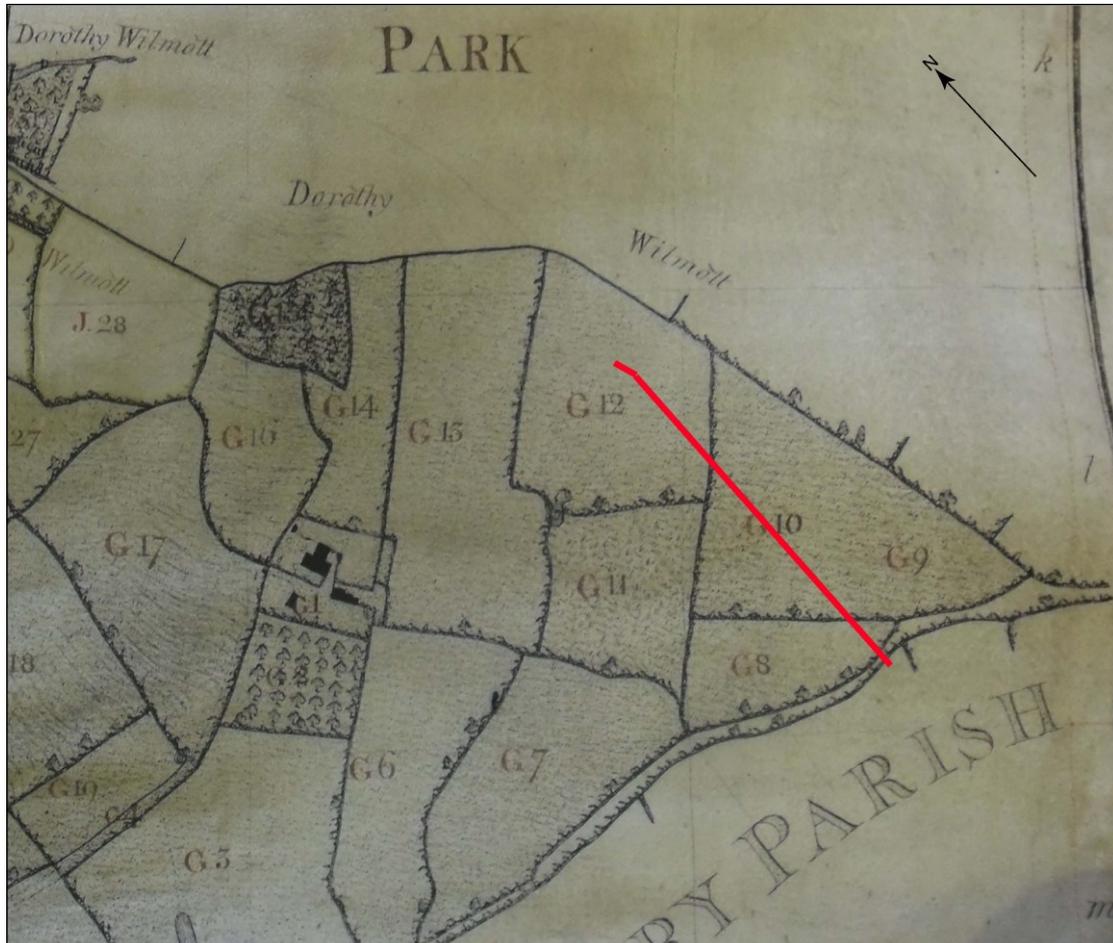


Fig. 4: Extract from a plan of estates in the Lea Tything in the parish of Almondsbury and the County of Gloucester belonging to the Mayor and Corporation of Bristol - 1784.
(Reproduced by courtesy of Bristol Record Office)

A later survey of Gaunts Earthcott and the Lea produced by the surveyors Player and Stone in 1784 (**Fig. 4**) shows that there had been some limited change to the pattern of enclosure in the far SE corner of the St Swithin's Farm estate, where the boundary between Plot Nos. G9 and G10 had been removed to form a single, roughly triangular shaped enclosure. At some time between 1742 and 1784, the fields lying within the study area to the SE of St Swithin's Farm appear to have been renamed. Plot No. G8 is listed as 'Gough's Lower Ground or the 3 Acres' while Plot Nos. G9 and G10 appear as 'Gough's Upper Ground or the Ten Acres'. Plot No. G11 is recorded as 'Sampsons Lower Mead or the Five Acres while No. G12 is listed as 'Sampsons Upper Mead or Park lease'. All five fields were then held by a tenant farmer named Alexander Edgar and were presumably under pasture.

4.2.2 c.1800-1850

In contrast to the marked lack of documentary evidence and historic mapping for the southern portion of the study area, to the S of Highwood Lane (which lay within Charlton tithing in Henbury parish), the northern and central parts of the study area are much more copiously documented.

Another plan of the estate at St Swithin's Farm drawn up in 1824 (**Fig.5**), shows that the pattern of enclosure had remained intact however land use had changed significantly. Plot Nos. 14 and 15, which were still under pasture in 1784, are shown as being under arable cultivation on the 1824 plan, while Plot Nos. 16 and 17 are still marked as pasture fields. The tenant of St Swithin's Farm is listed as one John Vaughan Esq. who had leased the property from the Corporation of Bristol in 1814.



Fig. 5: Extract from a plan of estates in the Lea Tything in the parish of Almondsbury and the County of Gloucester belonging to the Mayor and Corporation of Bristol by Y & J.P. Sturge – 1824
 (Reproduced by courtesy of Bristol Record Office)

In 1838, the estate at St Swithin's Farm, Almondsbury was sold by the Corporation of Bristol to raise funds for defraying damages sustained in the Bristol Riots of October 1831. The estate, which amounted to 151 acres in total, was sold on 30th January 1838 to trustees under the will of the late Sir Henry Cann Lippincott, for the sum of £12,400 (Bristol University Library Ref. DM 2146).



Fig. 6: Plan attached to a deed of sale of the Bristol Corporation estate at St Swithin's Farm dated 30th January 1838
 (Reproduced by courtesy of the University of Bristol)

A detailed plan attached to the deed of conveyance shows that the overall pattern of enclosure had changed relatively little since 1824, although a small number of woodland plantations had been established in the fields within the study area (**Fig. 6**). One of the plantations, semi-circular in shape, was located on the W boundary of 'Gough's Upper Ground' at the boundary between 'Sampson's Lower Mead' to the S and 'Sampson's Upper Mead/Park Lease' to the N. Another semi-circular plantation is marked roughly midway along the NE boundary of 'Sampson's Upper Mead' with a longer, rectangular wooded enclosure extending from the NW corner of the same field along the northern boundary of the estate.

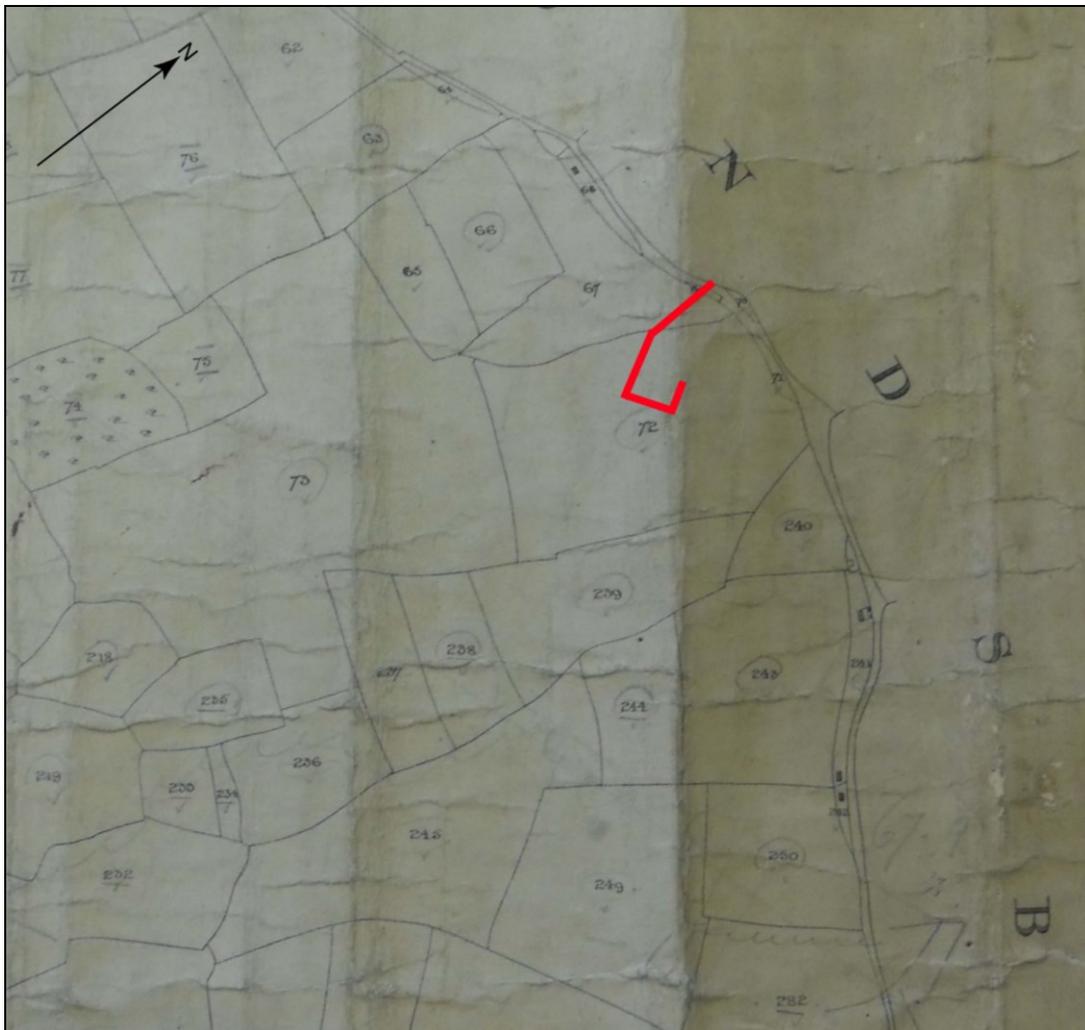
The Almondsbury tithe map and apportionment of 1839 lists the fields within the study area as follows: Plot Nos 549 (Three Acres), 550 (Ten Acres), 551 (Eight Acres) and 554 (Four Acres). Plots 549 and 550 were under arable, the other two being under pasture (**Fig. 7**). All these fields and plantations formed part of the St Swithin's estate which was then owned by Robert Cann Lippincott Esq. and occupied by a tenant farmer named George Cole.



*Fig. 7: Extract from the Almondsbury tithe map of 1839
(Reproduced by courtesy of Bristol Record Office)*

The southern part of the study area, S of Highwood Lane, is somewhat less well documented compared to its northern counterpart. A map of Charlton tithing in Henbury parish, dated 1841, shows the study area as comprising three fields (**Fig. 8**). Plot No. 72 (Middle Hill & Great Land), a large, roughly pentagonal shaped field, comprises the site now occupied by the modern reservoir. It is described in the tithe apportionment for Charlton as being under pasture; Teast Sidenham is listed as the owner while the occupier is named as one James Creswell Wall.

Lying immediately NW of Plot No. 72, the map depicts Plot No. 67 'Old Acre', which was also under pasture, the owner is named as one John Battersby Harford of Blaise Castle, while the occupier is listed as one George Iles. To the N of this field, adjoining Sands Green Lane (later Highwood Lane) the tithe map depicts a small, elongated plot of land listed in the tithe apportionment as Plot No. 69, a garden which was held by one William Boulton from the Lords of Henbury Manor.

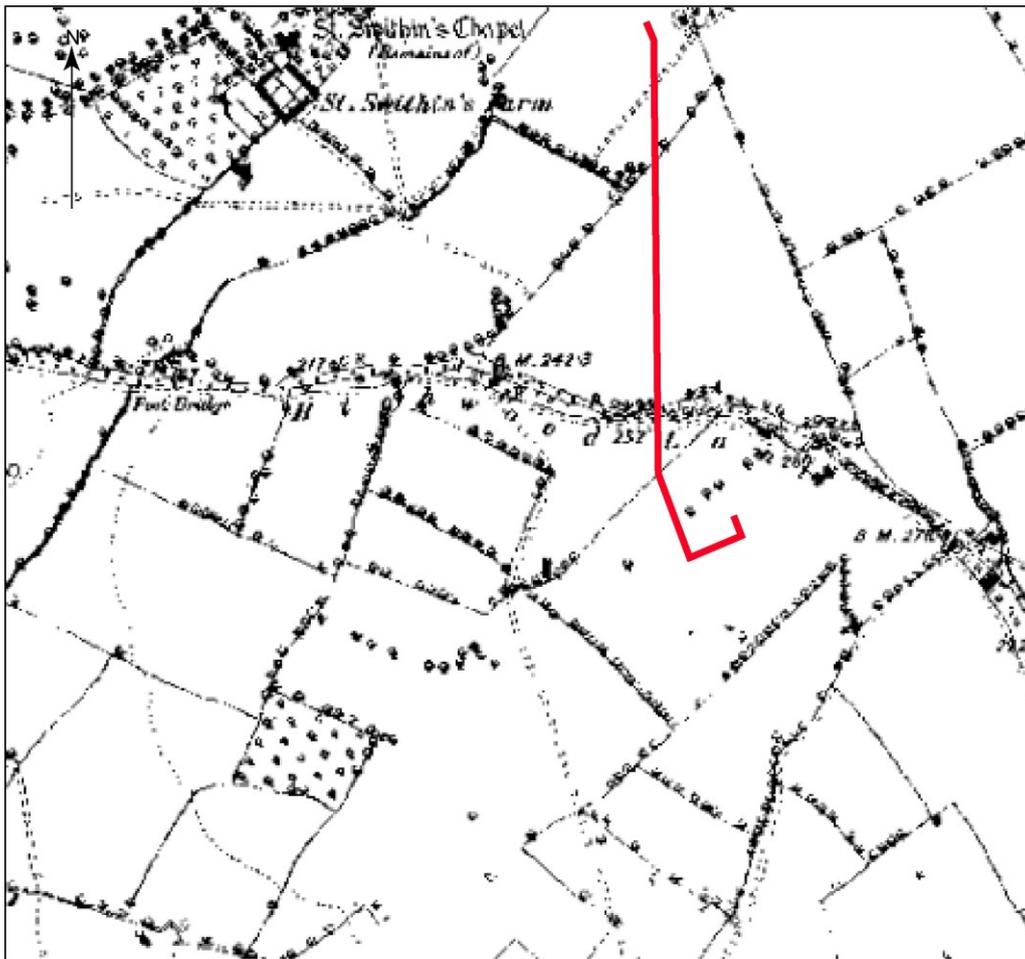


*Fig. 8: Extract from a map of Charlton tithing in Henbury parish dated 1841
(Reproduced by courtesy of Bristol Record Office)*

4.2.3 c.1850 to 1940

There is evidence of limited change to the pattern of field enclosure within the study area between c.1840 and c.1890. The roadway formerly known as Sands Green Lane is marked as Highwood Lane for the first time on the OS 1st edition 6 inch map of 1889 (**Fig. 9**), and is shown as flanked on both sides by thin, sinuous strips of woodland. Immediately to the S of Highwood Lane, a footpath is shown running through fields parallel to the lane for a considerable distance. A trackway or ditch aligned NE-SW is shown as delineating the boundary between Plot Nos. 67 (Old Acre) and 72 (Middle Hills and Great Land) as marked on the Henbury tithe map.

There also appears to have been a limited degree of amalgamation of fields to the N of Highwood Lane; in particular the two fields marked as Plot Nos. 549 and 550 (Three Acres and Ten Acres respectively) had been joined together to form a single large triangular field enclosure. The field marked as Plot No. 554 (Four Acres or Sampson's Lower Mead) on the tithe map had also been amalgamated with a neighbouring field to the S to form a large, irregularly shaped enclosure. The boundaries of the field immediately to the N, marked as Plot No. 551 (Four Acres) on the Almondsbury tithe map, appear to have remained essentially intact although a footpath is shown extending NNE from the southern end of the field and then continuing NE towards Over Court.



*Fig. 9: Extract from the OS 1st edition 6 inch map of 1889
(Reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives)*

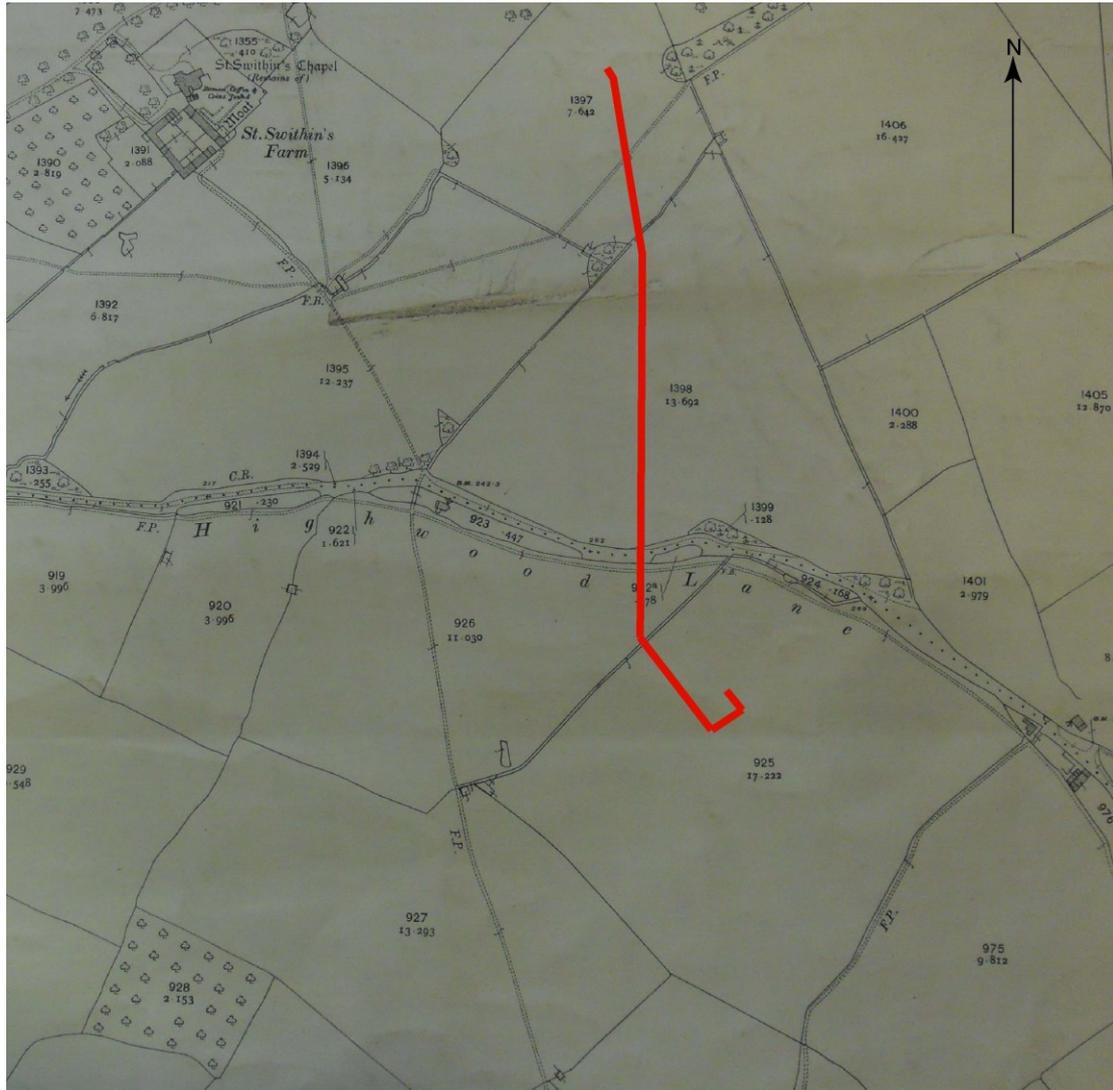


Fig. 10: Extract from the OS 3rd edition 25 inch map of 1915
 (Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office)

Relatively little change to the pattern of enclosure within the study area is depicted on the OS 2nd and 3rd edition maps of 1903 and 1915 respectively (**Fig. 10**). To the N of Highwood Lane, probably the most noteworthy change is the extension of the footpath running SSW from Over Court through the field marked as Plot No. 551 on the Almondsbury tithe map, which is now shown as running SW towards a convergence of several footpaths to the SE of St Swithun's Farm. To the S of Highwood Lane, the field marked as Plot No. 67 on the Henbury tithe map appears to have been amalgamated with two other fields to the SW (Plot Nos. 66 and 67) to form a single large, roughly trapezoidal shaped enclosure.



4.2.4 c. 1940 to present

A Luftwaffe aerial photograph of Filton and the surrounding area dated 1940 and a later RAF vertical photograph of 1946 shows that the pattern of field enclosure on both sides of Highwood Lane remained essentially unchanged since 1915; the large triangular shaped field to the N of Highwood Lane is shown as under arable cultivation. It is worth noting that, within this large triangular field, the original sub-divisions into three separate enclosures as depicted on the Wilstar survey of 1742 are clearly traceable as parchmarks.

An Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of the study area dated 1955 shows that the course of Highwood Lane had been altered, with the establishment of a slightly curvilinear section of roadway to the N of its original alignment, encroaching on the southern edge of the large triangular field to the N of Highwood Lane. At this point, it appears that the older, southerly route still remained in use, although it appears to have finally fallen into disuse by the late 1960s. Otherwise, the pattern of field enclosure to the N and S of Highwood Lane appears to have remained largely intact.

Extensive changes to the topography of the study area occurred during the 1960s-1980s, largely as a result of the construction of the M5 motorway (in the late 1960s) and the subsequent development of the retail/industrial park to the S of the motorway (during the 1980s). In 1965, Bristol Water established Almondsbury Reservoir and pumping station to the S of Highwood Lane, the extent of which is visible on an aerial photograph of 1969. This same photograph shows that the former southerly course of Highwood Lane had now fallen into disuse.

Two small oblong, shed-like structures are shown as occupying a roughly D-shaped area of waste ground between the newly aligned roadway to the N and its disused counterpart to the S. Further to the N, the 1969 aerial photograph shows two NE-SW aligned trackways lying to the SE of the newly built M5 motorway, presumably these trackways were used to provide convenient access routes for work traffic during the construction of the motorway. The route of a water pipeline extending from the Almondsbury Reservoir across Highwood Lane and thence across to the motorway is also visible.

More extensive changes to the topography would occur by the late 1980s, with the construction of the Superstore (formerly a Hypermarket) and associated car parking area to the N of Highwood Lane and the retail park to the W and NE of Almondsbury Reservoir. Comparison of the ASDA Superstore site with its appearance on the aerial photograph of 1969 (when this area was still under cultivation), shows that a substantial amount of landscaping activity and soil removal must have taken place prior to the construction of the Hypermarket and the surrounding car park; however there appears to be no record of archaeological work undertaken either prior to or during its construction.

5. Site Visit

A site visit was carried out on 8th May 2012 and a photographic record of the study area undertaken from key vantage points along the pipeline route. The pipeline route extends along the SE and SW sides of Almondsbury Reservoir before heading due N for a distance of approximately 80m to Highwood Lane.

This section of the pipeline route briefly crosses through the NE corner of a retail property and warehouse before crossing a shallow, slightly curvilinear holloway feature running E-W, heavily obscured by undergrowth, which appears to represent the original course of Highwood Lane prior to its re-alignment in the mid-1950s (**Plates 1 & 2**).

The original course of Highwood Lane is visible on historic mapping of the area up to c.1955; its realigned course, together with the surviving stretch of the original lane marked as a trackway to the S of the new road, is shown on an aerial photograph of 1969 (AP 1969 ST 5881 34-131).



Plate 1: View looking E showing a shallow, densely overgrown holloway representing the original course of Highwood Lane, situated between the present day course of Highwood Lane and Almondsbury Reservoir (NGR ST 5877 8128)



Plate 2: View looking WSW showing heavily overgrown holloway feature immediately S of present-day Highwood Lane (with Bristol Water pipeline marker visible in foreground to left)

The proposed pipeline route then continues on a slightly staggered alignment (parallel to the line of an existing Bristol Water pipeline) across present-day Highwood Lane and down an embankment immediately N of the road, before continuing N for approximately 230m through the ASDA Superstore car park (ST 5879 8130 –ST 5879 8155) (**Plate 3**).

From NGR ST 5879 8155, the route heads NW across an access road to the rear of the ASDA Superstore (**Plate 4**) and continues on a northerly alignment for another 50m, following a rough trackway through an area of thick scrub and waste ground, before turning sharply NW to reach its terminus immediately SE of the M5 motorway at NGR ST 58770 81620. No features of archaeological significance were noted within the area of dense undergrowth and scrub to the rear of the Superstore; this area appeared to have been heavily landscaped, presumably in connection with the construction of the M5 in the late 1960s.



Plate 3: View looking N across ASDA Superstore car park to N of Highwood Lane



Plate 4: View looking NW from access road to rear of ASDA Superstore showing trackway through dense undergrowth and scrub leading towards M5 motorway



6. Conclusion

This archaeological desk based assessment based on an extensive consultation of available sources of archaeological and historical information has concluded that



7. Mitigation and Engineering – Considerations thereof

8. Copyright

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs & Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.



9. Bibliography

Primary Sources

Bristol Record Office

Secondary Sources

South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record – HER Printout

National Monuments Record – NMR Printout and Backup Files

Portable Antiquities Scheme – www.finds.org.uk

10. Cartography & Aerial Photography

(All maps were sourced from Bristol Record Office with the exception of the OS 1st-2nd edition maps, obtained from Gloucestershire Archives)

OS 1:10000 map - 1994

Aerial Photographic Records

Gloucestershire Archives

National Monuments Record



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