

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

## MAINS REPLACEMENT SCHEME FARM LANE STREET, SOMERSET

NGR: ST 48617 37320 - ST 48175 37123  
JOB N<sup>o</sup>: BA1236BWSRS



**Border Archaeology Limited**

Registered in England and Wales

Company Registration Number 07857388

**Registered Office:** 45 Etnam Street Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8AE

**Head Office:** Chapel Walk Burgess Street Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8DE Tel: 01568 610101

Email: [info@borderarchaeology.com](mailto:info@borderarchaeology.com) Web: [www.borderarchaeology.com](http://www.borderarchaeology.com)

MAY 2013



## Contents

---

<b>1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. HISTORICAL &amp; ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. RESULTS</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7. COPYRIGHT</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>8. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9. CARTOGRAPHY</b>	<b>16</b>

*Frontispiece: View SW showing probable ridge and furrow features in field E of Farm Lane, Street*

**Report Specification**

Archaeological Observation: Andy Tizzard BA PhD, Jess Cook BSc, Dan Broadbent BSc.

Draft Report: Dan Broadbent BSc

Report editing: Stephen Priestley MA & Kath Crooks BA

Approved: Neil Shurety Dip.M. G.M.Inst.M



## 1. Non-Technical Summary

---

*In February and March 2013, Border Archaeology undertook a programme of Archaeological Observation on three access pits excavated as part of a water mains replacement scheme located in fields to the E of Farm Lane, on the N outskirts of Street (Somerset), extending as far as the A39 (Westway) bypass and roundabout. An Archaeological Assessment previously carried out in 2012 had identified the moderate to high potential of the archaeological resource in the area.*

*During the course of the groundworks, evidence for a series of N-S aligned linear features, probably representing ridge and furrow cultivation features of post-medieval date, was identified in the field immediately E of Farm Lane. Documentary and cartographic evidence indicates that these ridge and furrow features are probably of late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century date, postdating the enclosure and drainage of Hulk Moor, a tract of moorland lying on the boundary between Glastonbury and Street parishes.*

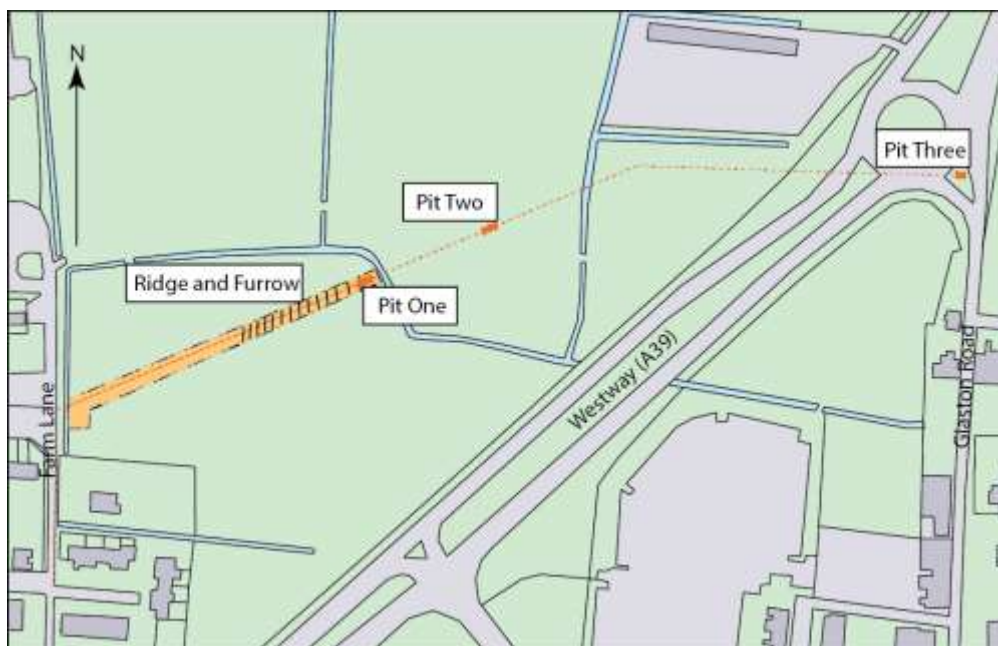
*However, within Pit 1, located in the NE corner of this field, a fragment of worked limestone was observed in the upper fill of a probable furrow [111]. The date and provenance of the stone fragment is unclear although it could possibly relate to the site of a possible medieval manor house known as the 'Brutasche', traditionally located to the ESE of the field containing Pit 1, or it could represent building materials from a nearby monastic grange site, Street Farm, which was substantially rebuilt in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*Despite its proximity to the pipeline, no evidence for the medieval causeway, known to exist to the east of Street Roundabout, was revealed during the groundworks. It is assumed that this must have been heavily truncated during the construction of the Westway bypass in the 1970s.*

## 2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Bristol Water plc to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation during the ground works phase of a mains replacement scheme at Farm Lane, Street, Somerset (*fig. 1*). The majority of the scheme (carried out in February-March 2013) comprised directional drilling through fields which required the excavation of access pits, the excavation of which was archaeologically observed by Border Archaeology in compliance with Bristol Water's *Code of Conduct*. This programme of Archaeological Observation was informed by the results of an Archaeological Assessment carried out by Border Archaeology in October 2012, which concluded that the route had Moderate to High potential for revealing significant archaeological remains (BA, 2012).

The aim of the Archaeological Observation was to locate and record any archaeological finds, features or deposits within the ground works area and to confirm that no impact on the archaeological resource occurred during the course of works without the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording.



*Fig. 1 Site Location Plan*

The pipeline route (approximate total length of 500m) extended W for c.160m from the E side of the roundabout (NGR ST 48617 37320) at the junction of the B3151 (Glaston Road) and the A39 (Westway bypass) crossing a field to the E of the A39 before proceeding SW across several fields and drainage ditches for 300m to Farm Lane. From this point, the route proceeded for approximately 50m to its terminus close to the junction of Farm Lane and Dovecots Close (NGR ST 48175 37123).

The predominant soil type in the area crossed by the pipeline route comprises the pelo-alluvial gley soils of the MIDELNEY (813a) series, consisting of stoneless clayey soils mostly overlying peat (SSEW, 1983).

### 3. Historical & Archaeological Background

---

The Archaeological Assessment of the proposed mains renewal scheme previously undertaken by Border Archaeology identified that the pipeline route crosses an area of **Moderate to High** potential for revealing significant archaeological remains (BA, 2012).

The pipeline route lies to the S of a long established crossing point of the River Brue between Street and Glastonbury and in close proximity to an important area of historic settlement dating back to the early medieval period (with possible prehistoric and Roman precursors). This early settlement appears to have been centred on Holy Trinity Church (recorded as 'Lantokay' in pre-Conquest documents) but may well have extended over a much larger area to the W of the church.

Evidence for late prehistoric and Roman occupation in the vicinity of the study area was chiefly represented by finds recovered from the churchyard of Holy Trinity Church, located approximately 170m SE of the pipeline route. A small quantity of Roman pottery was also recovered during excavations on the line of an early medieval causeway (PRN 25522) extending N towards the River Brue, to the E of the present A39 trunk road and approximately 15m E of the pipeline route (Morland, 1881, 43-50).

The eastern terminus of the pipeline route lay in very close proximity to the southern end of a late 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century causeway, identified during a 2000 watching brief on gas main excavations close to the roundabout (BA, 2012, 3). This was built to replace an earlier timber and stone structure dated to the 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, situated immediately to the E of the later structure and designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no 27984). The pre-Conquest causeway is located approximately 15m E of the eastern terminus of the pipeline route.

To the W of Street Roundabout, the pipeline crossed a field reputed to contain the site of a possible manor house or fortified site of medieval date called 'Brutasche', marked on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1886. First mentioned in a chronicle of Glastonbury Abbey compiled in about 1340 its exact location and extent is difficult to determine, due to the lack of further documentary information. Structural remains of uncertain date and function were found during the excavation of drainage trenches in the field in the late 1950s.

In spite of disturbance by 1970s ground works associated with the construction of the A39 Westway bypass and roundabout and earlier road construction activity, it was considered that there was **Moderate to High** potential for remains of the later medieval causeway to be identified, and at least **Moderate** potential for encountering archaeological deposits and features associated with the 'Brutasche' site (BA, 2012, 5)



## 4. Methodology

---

The programme of archaeological work detailed herein consisted of the monitoring of ground works forming part of a mains renewal scheme on the northern outskirts of the historic town of Street, Somerset. The ground works consisted of the excavation of three access pits for the purposes of directional drilling, all of which was archaeologically observed.

The programme of Archaeological Observation within the specified area was carried out in accordance with standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (IfA 2008a). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (IfA 2008b). Ground works were carried out either by machine and toothless bucket, or by hand, under archaeological supervision.

Full written and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (BA, 2010). The written record comprised detailed stratigraphic recording using a context numbering system.

The photographic record was made using a high-resolution (12 MPX) digital camera, comprising photographs of all excavated contexts and archaeological features and structures. Included in each photograph are appropriate scales and all photographic records have been indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view were maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

Associated artefacts were bagged and labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site and have been retained, cleaned, labelled and stored according to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008c)



## 5. Results

---

### 5.1 Access Pit 1 (NGR ST 48330 37260)

Access Pit 1 measured 1.5m (NNW-SSE) × 3m (WSW –ENE) and was excavated to a depth of 1.1m. The pit was located in the NE corner of a field lying approximately 150m ENE of Farm Lane. A series of N-S aligned features, probably representing ridge and furrow, was identified extending across the field, defined by an embankment (*Plate 1*). This field appeared to be slightly raised in comparison to the lower lying fields to the N.



*Plate 1: View looking SW showing linear features, probably representing ridge and furrow in field immediately E of Farm Lane*

A small piece of worked limestone, possibly representing a quoin fragment, measuring 45mm × 35mm × 40mm was identified within buried soil horizon (109) forming the upper fill of furrow [111] (*Plate 2*).

The date and provenance of the worked stone (possibly Hamstone) was uncertain; it could possibly represent building materials associated with the presumed site of a nearby medieval manor house referred to as the 'Brutasche' in medieval records and marked on late 19<sup>th</sup> century OS mapping within the field roughly ESE of Pit 1 (now partially truncated by the Westway bypass and roundabout). The precise location and extent of the 'Brutasche' site remains unclear although a raised platform of unknown date is visible in the field ESE of Pit 1 (*Plate 3*). Another possibility is that the worked stone could have been derived from the nearby farmstead of Street Farm, originally a monastic grange belonging to Glastonbury Abbey which was substantially rebuilt in the early 1820s.



*Plate 2: N-facing section of Pit 1 showing worked stone fragment in (109)*



*Plate 3: Raised platform located to ESE of field containing Pit 1*





LOCATION GRID REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
ACCESS PIT 1 NGR ST 48330 37260	(100) Soft, mid-dark brown, silty clay; rare small sub-angular stone; extends pit-wide to a depth of 0.2m. Overlies (109)	(100) Topsoil
	(101) Soft, mid-yellowish brown, slightly silty clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide at a thickness of 0.24m. Overlies (102) Underlies (109) Cut by [111]	(101) Subsoil
	(102) Dark brown peat; traces of degraded wood; extends pit-wide at a thickness of 0.45m. Overlies (103) Underlies (101)	(102) Upper peat horizon
	(103) Mid brown peat; traces of wood; extends pit-wide at a visible thickness of 0.21m. Underlies (102)	(103) Lower peat horizon
	(109) Semi -compact, dark grey silty clay; rare small sub-angular stone < 2cm; visibly extends E-W 1.2m x N-S 15m at a thickness of 0.06m. Overlies (101) (110) Underlies (100) Fill of [111]	(109) Buried soil horizon forming upper fill of [111]
	(110) Compact mid-yellowish brown, very fine silty clay; includes one small fragment of worked stone; visibly extends E-W 1.2m x N-S 15m at a thickness of 0.14m. Underlies (109) Fills [111]	(110) Primary fill of [111]
	[111] Linear cut; rounded corners visible toward northern extent. Visibly extends E-W 1.2m x N-S 15m to a depth of 0.16m; break of slope (top) very gradual; sides straight c.30°; break of slope (base) gradual; base concave; orientation NE-SW. Cuts (101) Filled by (109) (110)	[111] Cut of furrow within ridge & furrow system

Table 1: Pit 1 Context Register

5.2 Access Pit 2 (NGR ST 48380 37286)

Pit 2 was situated ENE along the pipeline route from Pit 1 (Plate 4). It measured 1.5m (NNW-SSE) × 7m (WSW- ENE) and was dug to a depth of 1.3m. Underlying the topsoil and subsoil deposits was a layer of friable dark brown silt containing frequent charcoal and clinker and occasional fragments of post-medieval ceramics, extending pit-wide to a depth of 0.5m. No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed.

LOCATION GRID REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
<b>ACCESS PIT 2 NGR ST 48380 37286</b>	(112) Moderately compact, mid-brown, clayey silt; occ. small stone <4cm; extends pit-wide at a depth of 0.2m. Overlies (113)	(112) Topsoil
	(113) Firm, mid-yellowish brown, silty clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide at a thickness of 0.13m. Overlies (114) Underlies (112)	(113) Subsoil
	(114) Friable, dark brown silt; frequent charcoal & clinker, occ. large stone < 35cm, mod. small stone <8cm, occ. CBM fragments, rare post-medieval pot; extends pit-wide at a thickness of 0.5m. Overlies (115) Underlies (113)	(114) Possible dump of post-Medieval waste material
	(115) Firm, mid yellowish-brown, clay; no inclusions, extends pit-wide at a visible thickness of 0.47m	(115) Natural clay

Table 2: Pit 2 Context Register



Plate 4: View showing NW-facing section of Pit 2



### 5.3 Access Pit 3 (NGR ST 48601 37315)

Pit 3 was located immediately ESE of the A39 roundabout on the Westway bypass and was hand dug to locate the existing gas main. It measured 1.5 m (NE -SW) × 0.9m (NW – SE) and extended to a depth of 1.0m. The pit indicated that serious disturbance had taken place with tarmac surfaces sealed by the topsoil and subsoil. No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed.

LOCATION GRID REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION	INTERPRETATION
<b>ACCESS PIT 3 NGR ST 48601 37315</b>	(104) Friable, dark brown silty clay; rare sub-angular stones; extends pit wide to depth of 0.1m. Overlies (105)	(104) Topsoil / Overburden
	(105) Soft, mid-brown, fine silty clay; occasional small angular stones and gravel; extends pit-wide at a thickness of 0.35m. Underlies (104) Overlies (106)	(105) Subsoil
	(106) Very hard, black, tarmac; extends pit-wide at a thickness of 0.08m. Underlies (105) Overlies (106)	(106) Tarmac
	(107) Loose, light yellowish-red, small angular stone deposit; extends pit-wide at a thickness of 0.17m. Underlies (106) Overlies (108)	(107) Scalpings
	(108) Loose, grey, fine gravel; occ. CBM and natural stone fragments. Underlies (107)	(108) Gravel & rubble deposit – backfill of gas services

*Table 3: Pit 3 Context Register*

## 6. Conclusions

Pit 1 was excavated across a N-S aligned linear feature [111], one of fourteen linear features on the same alignment found in this field, each measuring approximately 1.2m across and separated by ridges approximately 8.8m in width. It seems likely that these features represent evidence of ridge and furrow, rather than drainage ditches, due to the lack of any means for water to drain into the rhyes at the northern, lowest, part of the field. Moreover, no evidence of ceramic land drains was noted within the field.

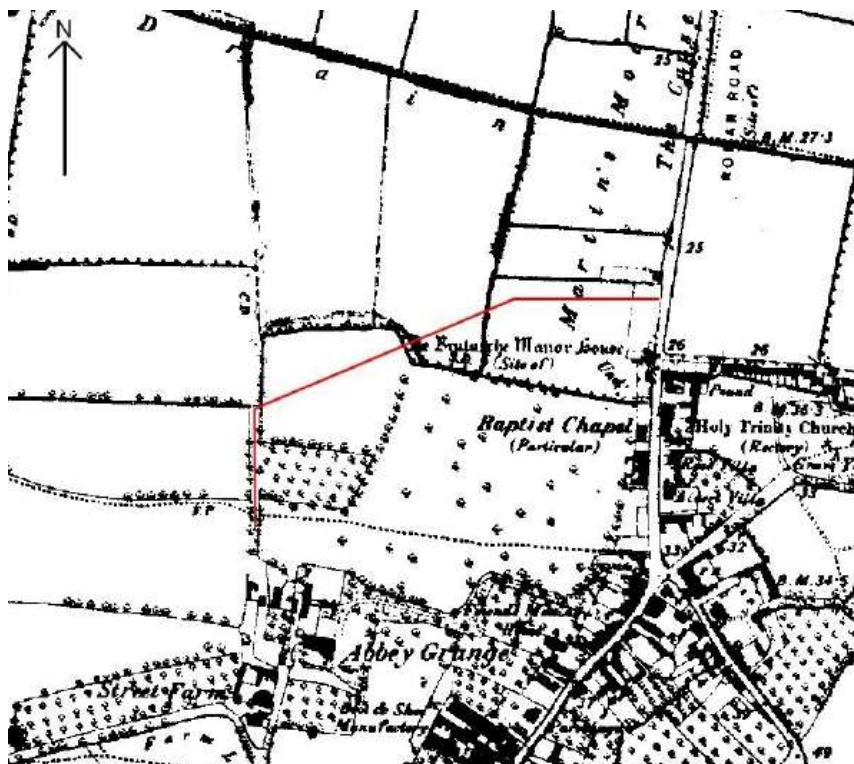
The date of this ridge and furrow is difficult to gauge; a masonry fragment of uncertain, possibly medieval date was recovered from the primary fill of the furrow but no other artefactual evidence was identified within the primary or secondary fills. The regular spacing and straight edges of the furrows would appear to imply an 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date but the somewhat broad width of the ridges seems to suggest an earlier date, possibly medieval.

However, a close examination of the documentary and cartographic evidence, as well as aerial photographs of the study area, provides some clarification as to the likely date of the ridge and furrow. The drainage ditch marking the staggered N boundary of the field containing the ridge and furrow appears to be a long established feature. This staggered boundary is visible on an undated mid-18<sup>th</sup> century plan showing those tracts of moorland in Glastonbury parish which had been enclosed as a result of the enclosure award of 1722 and subsequent enclosures up to 1760 (SRO Ref. MAP\DD\SAS C/1461/1) (*fig. 2*).



*Fig.2: Extract from enclosure map of Glastonbury parish (c.1722-60) showing the staggered drainage ditch/boundary feature  
(Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre)*

By 1843, this staggered boundary appears to have been taken to mark the division between Street and Glastonbury parishes, and is clearly marked as such on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1886 (*fig. 3*). However, the former, ancient boundary of Street parish, as shown on the 1821 parish enclosure award and marked with a dotted line on the 1843 tithe map, actually ran diagonally NE-SW from the junction of Glaston Road and The Mead to Street Farm, some distance to the S of the staggered feature. It cannot therefore represent an ancient parish boundary although it could represent the northern extent of the Street Farm estate.



*Fig. 3: Extract from OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1886 showing the staggered field boundary ENE of Farm Lane and the presumed site of the 'Brutasche' manor house (Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre)*

It appears that the land to the S of this boundary was largely unenclosed moor, forming a southern outlier of Hulk Moor, a large tract of moorland on the southern fringes of Glastonbury parish. The land lying both to the N and S of this staggered boundary was enclosed by an Act of Parliament passed in 1778, as depicted on an enclosure map drawn up five years later in 1783 (SRO Ref. Q/RDE/118). The field to the S of the boundary (containing Pit 1) is marked as 'Notleys' on the 1783 enclosure map and later appears as 'Huck (or Hulk) Close' (Plot No. 339) on the 1843 tithe map.

In connection with this, is noticeable that an aerial photograph of the study area taken in 1946 shows blocks of ridge and furrow within the two rectilinear fields immediately to the N of the staggered boundary, which exhibit a very similar regular spacing and N-S alignment compared to the field immediately S of this boundary. It is reasonable to assume that the ridge and furrow within these fields has to either be contemporary with or shortly post-date the creation of these enclosures, and is therefore likely to be either of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date.





It may therefore be argued that the establishment of this ridge and furrow most likely reflects the expansion of arable cultivation into marginal areas which appears to have coincided with high grain prices during the Napoleonic Wars. Assuming this to be correct, it would appear that the ridge and furrow only had a short period of active use, since by 1843 all these fields were again under pasture and are characterised as permanent grassland in the Land Utilisation Survey of 1936.

Also of interest was the identification of a fragment of worked building stone in Pit 1, possibly associated with the demolition of the medieval manor house or fortified site of 'Brutasche' as noted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1886). The precise location of 'Brutasche' is uncertain. However, the truncated remains of a raised rectilinear earthwork platform are clearly visible in the enclosure immediately ESE of the field containing Pit 1, now bisected by the construction of the A39 Westway. This platform appears to correspond to the approximate location of the 'Brutasche' on the OS map. In connection with this, it is worth noting that trenches excavated within this field in 1959, in connection with drainage work, revealed a wall foundation of uncertain date and function (Gathercole, 2003, 13). It is also possible that the worked stone could have been derived from the nearby farmstead of Street Farm, originally a monastic grange belonging to Glastonbury Abbey which was substantially rebuilt in the early 1820s (Dunning, 2006. 174-5).

Underlying topsoil (112) and subsoil (113), in Pit 2, was a deposit of apparently dumped waste material (114) including charcoal and clinker, occasional stone rubble, ceramic building material and post-medieval (late 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century) pottery fragments. The presence of this material is difficult to explain with certainty, no obvious evidence of a pit or ditch cut was visible within the limits of the excavation. It appears unlikely, in view of the very late date of the ceramics recovered, that this deposit was in any way connected with the medieval 'Brutasche' site, it is possible that it could represent debris associated with the demolition and rebuilding of Street Farm in the early 1820s, although the farm is located some distance to the SW of the field containing Pit 2.

Despite its close proximity to the presumed location of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century causeway, Pit 3 contained no identifiable archaeological deposits or features. Beneath topsoil (104) and subsoil (105), deposits in Pit 3 consisted of modern, made-up ground (108) over existing services which underlay road foundations (107) and tarmac (106). The presence of tarmac *beneath* the topsoil is likely due to the construction of the roundabout and bypass road in the early 1970s (BA, 2012, 9). Any evidence of the causeway has been disturbed in this area by later road construction and installation of services.

## 7. Copyright

---

Border Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides a licence to the client and the Council for the use of the report by the client and the Council in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification to use the documentation for their statutory functions and to provide copies of it to third parties as an incidental to such functions.

## 8. Bibliography

---

### *Primary Sources*

SRO D\D\Rt/A/396: Street tithe apportionment -1841

### *Secondary Sources*

Somerset Historic Environment Record: HER Printout

National Monuments Record, Swindon: NMR Printout

Abrams, L., 1996, *Anglo-Saxon Glastonbury: Church and Endowment*, Woodbridge

Border Archaeology, 2010, *Field Recording Manual*

Border Archaeology, 2012, *Archaeological Assessment of Engineering Impact – Street Roundabout, Street, Somerset*

Carley, J.P. (ed.), 1985, *The Chronicle of Glastonbury Abbey*, Woodbridge

Collinson, J., 1791, *The History and Antiquities of Somerset*, 3 vols., Bath

Dunning, R.W. (ed.), 2006, *A History of the County of Somerset Volume 9: Glastonbury and Street* (Victoria County History), London

Finberg, H.P.R., 1964, *The Early Charters of Wessex*, Leicester

Gathercole, G., 2003, *English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey: An Archaeological Assessment of Street*, Somerset County Council

Haverfield, F.J., 1906, 'Romano-British Somerset' in W. Page (ed.) *The Victoria History of the County of Somerset Volume I*, London

Hearne, T. (ed.), 1726, *Chronica sive historia de rebus Glastoniensibus*, 2 vols, Oxford

Hollinrake, C., 1994, *An archaeological watching brief in the churchyard of Holy Trinity parish church, Street*, unpublished report in HER

Hollinrake, C., 2000, *Archaeological recording of road surfaces within Transco service pits on Street Causeway*, unpublished report in HER

IfA, 2008a, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

IfA, 2008b, *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*



*IfA, 2008c, Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

*IfA, 2008d, Draft Standard and Guidance for the creation, preparation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*

IfA, 2010, *Code of Conduct*

McGarvie, M., 1987, *The Book of Street*, Buckingham

Mills, A.D., 2003, *Oxford Dictionary of British Place Names*, Oxford

Phelps, W, 1836, *History and Antiquities of Somersetshire*, London

Thorn C. & Thorn, F., 1980, *Domesday Book: Somerset*, Chichester

## 9. Cartography

---

*(All historic maps were obtained from Somerset Heritage Centre unless otherwise stated)*

MAP\DD\SAS C/1461/1 – Enclosure map of Glastonbury parish – undated c.1722-60

Day and Masters' county map of Somerset - 1782

Q/RDE/118 – Enclosure Map of Heath Moor, Hulk Moor and Kennard Moor S of Glastonbury - 1783

OS surveyor's drawing of Glastonbury and district- 1811

T\PH\coz/1 Map of the parish of Street - 1821

SRO D\D/Rt/M/396 Street tithe map - 1843

OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch map - 1886

OS 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 inch map - 1888

OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 6 inch map – 1904

OS 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 6 inch map - 1931

OS provisional edition 6 inch map – 1960

OS 1:10000 map - 1972



*Aerial Photography*

Aerial photographs relating to the study area were consulted at Somerset Heritage Centre and the National Monuments Record including RAF vertical photos (1946) and vertical and oblique aerial photos of the area (1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2009).



## DOCUMENT CONTROL

<b>Job title</b>	Archaeological Observation: Water Mains Replacement Scheme, Farm Lane, Street, Somerset	<b>Job No</b>	BA1236BWSRS
<b>Report written by</b>	Dan Broadbent BSc		
<b>Report edited by</b>	Stephen Priestley MA & Kath Crooks BA		
<b>Issue No</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved for issue</b>
1	Final	May 2013	Neil Shurety Dip. M. GM. Inst.M