

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

WOODFORD LODGE  
CHEW STOKE  
BATH & NORTHEAST SOMERSET

NGR: ST56514 60708 to NGR: ST55965 60807  
JOB N<sup>o</sup>: BA1246BWWLCS



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## Contents

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

### Report Specification

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## 1. Non-Technical Summary

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*Border Archaeology was instructed by Bristol Water plc, to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation during the ground-works phase of a mains renewal programme at Woodford Lodge, Chew Stoke.*

*The pipeline ran close to the NW perimeter of Chew Valley Lake, an area considered to be archaeologically sensitive due to significant evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation having been identified in the wider locality of the route, mainly during an extensive programme of excavations undertaken by the Ministry of Works in the early 1950s.*

*However, an initial Rapid Appraisal, conducted by Border Archaeology, identified the potential for encountering significant archaeological remains in the vicinity of the pipeline route itself as moderate, an assessment confirmed by the results of the Archaeological Observation.*

*The scheme of works required the excavation of five engineering access pits located at approximately 150m intervals along the pipeline route, two of which were located over known existing services. The ground within these pits was, therefore, disturbed and no archaeological features were encountered. The remaining access pits were similarly devoid of significant archaeological features comprising largely sterile clays.*

## 2. Introduction

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Border Archaeology was instructed by Bristol Water plc to carry out a programme of Archaeological Observation during the ground-works phase of a mains renewal scheme at Woodford Lodge Chew Stoke Bath & Northeast Somerset. 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 without the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording.

The study area was located on the NW side of Chew Valley Reservoir, approximately 0.5km S of the village of Chew Stoke. The route (approximate distance 620m) extended between NGR: ST56514 60708 to NGR: ST55965 60807 through fields parallel and to the N of an access road leading E from Stoke Hill (NGR ST 5596 6081) and terminated approximately 30m W of Woodford Lodge (NGR ST 5652 6071), adjacent to the NW perimeter of Chew Valley Reservoir (*fig. 1*).

The engineering methodology consisted of directional drilling for the full extent of the route, with five access pits excavated at approximately 150m intervals along the route.

## 3. Historical & Archaeological Background

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A Rapid Appraisal of the pipeline route previously undertaken by Border Archaeology (2013) identified no known archaeological sites or events along the pipeline corridor. However, a number of sites lie within the surrounding area.

A series of earthworks and a possible stone platform (MBN 11843) lie approximately 300m NW of the western end of the route (NGR ST 55825 61065) (Harmsworth, 2002) and significant evidence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval occupation has been previously identified, mainly during excavations undertaken by the Ministry of Works in the early 1950s (Rahtz & Greenfield, 1977).

A medieval moated site identified as 'St Cross Nunnery' (MBN 724), excavated in 1954, is located approximately 500m S of the access road to Woodford Lodge (NGR ST 565 601) with an assemblage of prehistoric worked flint and Romano-British pottery also being recovered during excavations at this site (MBN 725-6).

A group of four field boundaries or lynchets of medieval or post-medieval date are recorded in the English Heritage *Pastscape* database, centred on NGR ST 5617 6077, approximately 40-50m to the N of the pipeline route. There is also a farmstead site of early post-medieval date (Whitehall Farm) located immediately S of the eastern terminus of the route.

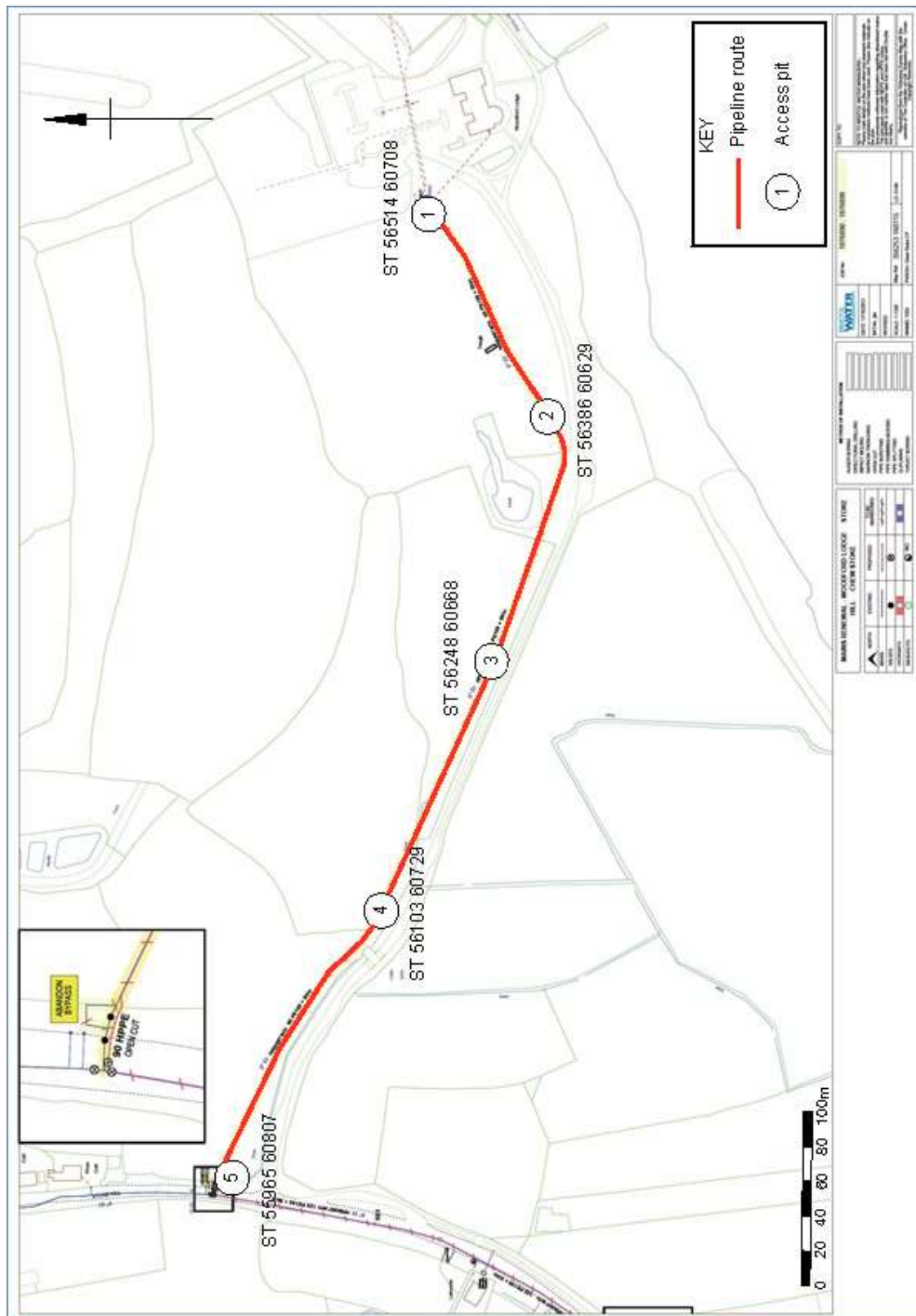


Fig. 1: Site location plan

## 4. Methodology

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The programme of archaeological work carried out within the specified area was in accordance with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008). Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* (2012) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology* (2008).

All ground-works were carried out by machine and toothless bucket under archaeological supervision and associated spoil was scanned for artefacts.

### 4.1 Recording

Full written and photographic records were made in accordance with Border Archaeology's *Field Recording Manual* (2012).

The written record comprised detailed stratigraphic recording using a context numbering system.

The photographic record was made using a high-resolution 14.2MPX digital camera, comprising photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. Included in each photograph was an appropriate scale. All photographic records were 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.



## 5. Results

### ACCESS PIT 1

GRID REFERENCE	LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST56514 60708	Located c. 30m NW Woodford Lodge, immediately W of existing water main & over a junction of water, gas and BT services; measured 1.2m NNW/SSE × 4.0m NNE/WWN × 1.05m  <b>No significant archaeological deposits revealed</b>	(1000)	Soft mid greyish-brown slightly sandy silt; occasional small stone < 4cm; extends pit-wide to average depth of 0.17m. Overlies (1001) Same as (2000) (3000) (4000) (5000)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
		(1001)	Firm pale greyish-brown sandy silt; moderate small stone <8cm, occasional large stone <30cm, occasional modern drainpipe fragments, rare black plastic debris; extends pit-wide at average thickness of 0.14m. Underlies (1000) Overlies (1002)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Upper subsoil</i>
		(1002)	Soft pale yellowish-brown silty sand; occasional modern ceramic drainpipe fragments; extends pit-wide at average thickness of 0.20m. Underlies (1001) Overlies (1003)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Lower subsoil</i>
		(1003)	Firm pale brown sandy silt with dark mottling of clay & peat; contains water, gas and BT services; extends pit-wide at average thickness of 0.34m. Underlies (1002) Overlies (1004)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Re-deposited sub-soils and clays forming backfill of services</i>
		(1004)	Firm pale greyish-blue clay; sterile; extends pit-wide at a visible thickness of 0.20m. Underlies (1003) Same as (3002)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Estuarine clay/ inundation deposit</i>



## ACCESS PIT 2

NGR: ST56386 60629	Located 150m WSW of AP 1; measured 1.1m NNW/SSE × 2m WSW/NNE × 1.1m  <b>No significant archaeological deposits revealed</b>	(2000)	Soft mid brownish-grey silt; no inclusions; extends pit-wide to an average depth of 0.20m. Overlies (2001) Same as (1000) (3000) (4000) (5000)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
		(2001)	Soft pale grey silty clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide at average thickness of 0.25m. Underlies (2000) Overlies (2002) Cut by [2005]
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Silty clay subsoil</i>
		(2002)	Firm pinkish-grey clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide at average thickness of approx. 0.30m. Underlies (2001) Overlies (2002) Cut by [2005] Same as (3001) (4002) (5001)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Residual clay deposit</i>
		(2003)	Firm pale buff-brown clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide at an average thickness of 0.25m. Underlies (2002) Overlies (2004) Cut by [2005] Same as (5002)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Residual clay deposit</i>
		(2004)	Moderately compacted very dark brown peat; no inclusions; extends pit-wide at a visible average depth of 0.10m. Underlies (2003)
			<i>Natural peat deposit indicative of waterlogging</i>
		[2005]	Linear cut; visible extent 0.30m (E/W) x 1.10m (N/S) at a depth of 0.45m; break of slope (top) sharp; sides steep and regular; break of slope (base) sharp; base v-shaped; orientation N/S. Cuts (2001) (2002) (2003). Filled by (2006) (2007)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut for modern land drain</i>
		(2006)	Moderately compacted mid brown silty clay containing modern ceramic land drain; visibly extends 0.30m (E/W) x 1.10m (N/S) at a thickness of 0.29m. Underlies (2007) Fill of [2005]
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Primary backfill of [2005]</i>
		(2007)	Moderately compacted mid greyish-brown clayey silt; no inclusions; visibly extends 0.30m (E/W) x 1.10m (N/S) at a thickness of 0.16m. Underlies (2000) Overlies (2006) Fill of [2005]
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Secondary backfill of [2005]</i>



**ACCESS PIT 3**

NGR: ST56248 60668	Located c. 144m NW of AP 2; measured 0.95m (NW/SE) × 2.35m (SW/NE) × 1.05m  <b>No significant archaeological deposits revealed</b>	(3000)	Soft mid greyish-brown, slightly sandy silt; no inclusions; extends pit-wide to an average depth of 0.22m. Overlies (3001) Same as (1000) (2000) (4000) (5000)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
		(3001)	Firm pinkish-grey mottled clay; sterile; extends pit-wide to an average depth of 0.60m. Underlies (3000) Overlies (3002) Same as (2002) (4002) (5001)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Residual clay deposit</i>
		(3002)	Firm pale grey clay; occasional manganese and iron staining; extends pit-wide to a visible depth of 1.05m. Underlies (3001) Same as (1004)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Estuarine clay/ Inundation deposit</i>

**ACCESS PIT 4**

NGR: ST56103 60729	Located c. 150m NW of AP 3; measured 1.0m (NW/SE) × 2.4m (E/W) × 0.95m.  <b>No significant archaeological deposits revealed</b>	(4000)	Soft mid greyish-brown silt; moderate small stone < 5cm; extends pit-wide to an average depth of 0.15m. Overlies (4001) Same as (1000) (2000) (3000) (5000)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
		(4001)	Soft pale brown, silty clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide to an average depth of 0.39m. Underlies (4000) Overlies (4002)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Silty clay subsoil</i>
		(4002)	Firm pale pinkish-grey mottled clay; very rare small stone < 3cm; Underlies (4001) Overlies (4003) Same as (2002) (3001) (5001)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Residual clay deposit</i>
		(4003)	Hard dark red and grey mottled mudstone; sterile; extends pit-wide to a visible depth of 0.95m. Underlies (4002)
		<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Mudstone – natural geology</i>



## ACCESS PIT 5

NGR: ST55965 60807	c.150m NW of AP 4 immediately N of junction of B3114/ Woodford Lodge access road & directly over existing water main; measured 0.9m (NW/SE) × 1.8m (SW/NE) × 1.05m  <b>No significant archaeological deposits revealed</b>	(5000)	Firm mid greyish-brown slightly sandy silt; occasional small stones < 4cm; visibly extends 0.90m (N/S) × 1.09m (E/W) at an average depth of 0.20m. Overlies (5001) Cut by [5005] Same as (1000) (2000) (3000) (4000)
		INTERPRETATION:	Topsoil
		(5001)	Firm pinkish-grey clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide to an average depth of 0.54m. Underlies (5000) Overlies (5002) Cut by [5005] Same as (2002) (3001) (4002) (5001)
		INTERPRETATION:	Clay subsoil
		(5002)	Firm pale buff-brown clay; no inclusions; extends pit-wide to a visible depth of 1.05m. Underlies (5001) Same as (2003)
		INTERPRETATION:	Residual clay deposit
		(5003)	Moderately compacted mid greyish-brown sandy silt; occasional small stones < 4cm; visibly extends 0.90m (N/S) × 0.71m (E/W) to a depth of 0.12m. Overlies (5004) Fill of [5005]
		INTERPRETATION:	Re-instated topsoil forming upper fill of [5005]
		(5004)	Loose mid grey clayey silt; frequent small stone and gravel < 4cm; visibly extends 0.90m (N/S) × 0.70m (E/W) × thickness of 0.70m. Underlies (5003) Fill of [5005]
		INTERPRETATION:	Made-up ground forming back fill of [5005]
		[5005]	Cut of uncertain shape; visibly extends 0.90m (N/S) × 0.71m (E/W) × 0.82m; break of slope (top) sharp; sides steep/irregular; break of slope (base) gradual; base irregular; orientation unknown. Cuts (5000) (5001) Filled by (5003) (5004)
		INTERPRETATION:	Cut of recently installed new water main



*Plate 1: Access Pit 1 - south-facing section*



*Plate 2: Access Pit 2 - south-facing section*



*Plate 3: Access Pit 3 - west-facing section*





*Plate 4: Access Pit 4: north-facing section*



*Plate 5: Access Pit 5 – south-facing section*



## 6. Conclusion

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The Access Pits were located at approximately 150m intervals along the pipeline route. Those at both the eastern and western extremes (Pit 1 and Pit 5) were located over existing modern services and, as such, the deposits within them were disturbed and no identifiable archaeological features were encountered. Pit 2 contained evidence of a post-medieval ceramic land drain.

Naturally deposited clays were observed in all five pits; however, their pedological characteristics were distinctive and appeared to represent three phases of formation and deposition. Beneath the deepest of the clay deposits in Pit 2 and Pit 4 peat and the natural mudstone geology were encountered, respectively.

## 7. Copyright

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