

RAPID APPRAISAL OF ENGINEERING IMPACT

(for Bristol Water)

WICK LANE

WICK, GLASTONBURY

SOMERSET

NGR: ST 5233 3940- ST 5250 3876

JOB N^o: BA1309BWWLW



Head Office: Chapel Walk Burgess Street Leominster Herefordshire HR6 8DE Tel: 01568 610101
Winchester Office: Unit 25 Basepoint Business Centre Winnall Valley Road Winchester Hampshire SO23 0LD Tel: 01962 832720
Email: neil@borderarchaeology.com Web: www.borderarchaeology.com

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Report specification

Report compilation: Stephen Priestley MA

Editing: George Children MA MIFA

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

Executive Summary

This Rapid Appraisal of a water mains scheme extending from Wick Farm to Norwood Park, to the E of the historic town of Glastonbury (Somerset) has been undertaken in response to a request from Bristol Water in advance of engineering works.

Limited evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity has been identified to the W of Wick Farm. A possible Roman road alignment crosses Wick Lane in the immediate vicinity of Norwood Park Farm and continues W along Stone Down Lane.

The pipeline route runs close to a late 15th century hunting lodge of the Abbots of Glastonbury at Norwood Park Farmhouse, to the E of which lay a substantial medieval deer park established in the early 14th century. A section of the route extends along Wick Lane, which represented the W boundary of the medieval deer park.

The potential for encountering significant archaeological deposits and features on the route of the proposed pipeline has been assessed in overall terms as **Low**, primarily reflecting the limited scope of the proposed works, the fact that the entirety of the route extends along existing carriageways or metalled drives (with the sole exception of a short section of pipe, approximately 10m in length, immediately S of Lower Wick Farm) and the lack of recorded archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route.

However, in the immediate vicinity of Norwood Park Farm, there may be limited potential for A/identifying evidence of a possible Roman road alignment where it crosses Wick Lane and continues W along Stone Down Lane and B/revealing evidence of medieval settlement adjacent to Norwood Park Farm. However it is likely that any extant remains will have been heavily disturbed by previous road construction works.

A copy of this Appraisal will be supplied to Bristol Water and remitted to Somerset Council for their approval.

Conclusion and Recommendation: The likelihood of archaeological remains being revealed is relatively low, due to the fact that almost the entire route extends along existing carriageways or metalled drives and the chosen methodology of directional drilling utilising small access pits, consequently archaeological observation of ground works is not required.

1. Introduction

The route of the proposed water mains scheme (approximate distance 950m) extends E of Wick Farm about 1km E of Glastonbury (NGR ST 5233 3940) along a metalled driveway and then turns S, following Wick Lane, an unclassified road heading S towards Norwood Park Farm, terminating approximately 150m S of Norwood Park at NGR ST 5250 3876. Two small branches of the pipeline extend W of Wick Lane at NGR ST 52535 39322 (immediately S of Lower Wick Farm) and NGR ST 52545 39001 (along Stone Down Lane to the W of the junction with Wick Lane).

The proposed engineering methodology consists of directional drilling (requiring the excavation of small access pits) for the installation of a 63/90mm diameter mains pipe.

This rapid appraisal constitutes a rapid trawl of archaeological databases and other readily available sources of historical and archaeological information (where deemed appropriate) to identify whether a proposal has a potential archaeological dimension requiring further clarification.

The following sources were consulted in the preparation of this Rapid Appraisal.

Evaluation and study of archaeological databases

A search was made of the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) for any sites of archaeological or historic interest within a 200m corridor (100m on either side of the pipeline route).

Evaluation and study of primary sources

Primary documentary sources relating to the study area, where deemed necessary, were consulted at Somerset Heritage Centre in Taunton.

Evaluation and study of secondary sources

Secondary sources relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Somerset Heritage Centre, including the Extensive Urban Survey for Glastonbury (Gathercole, 2003), the *Victoria County History of Somerset* and relevant articles in the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, as well as published and unpublished reports relating to archaeological work in the vicinity of the study area.

Evaluation and study of cartographic and other pictorial evidence

A limited number of historic maps were consulted including Day and Masters map of Somerset (1782), Cox's survey of Glastonbury (1799) the parish map for Glastonbury (1821) and the OS 1st-4th edition 6 inch and 25 inch maps.

Soils and Geology

Three predominant soil types have been identified in the vicinity of the study area, namely:

1/The typical brown earths of the SOUTH PETHERTON series (541m), comprising well drained silty soils, some over soft rock. The underlying geology consists of Jurassic and Cretaceous siltstone and sandstone.

2/The typical stagnogley soils of the MARTOCK series (711d) comprising slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged stoneless silty over clayey soils and clayey soils overlying siltstone or shale, the underlying geology comprising Mesozoic and Palaeozoic siltstone and shale.

3/The typical calcareous pelosols of the EVESHAM 3 series (411c) comprising slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils associated with well drained brashy calcareous soils over limestone, the underlying geology consisting of Jurassic clay and limestone (SSEW, 1983).

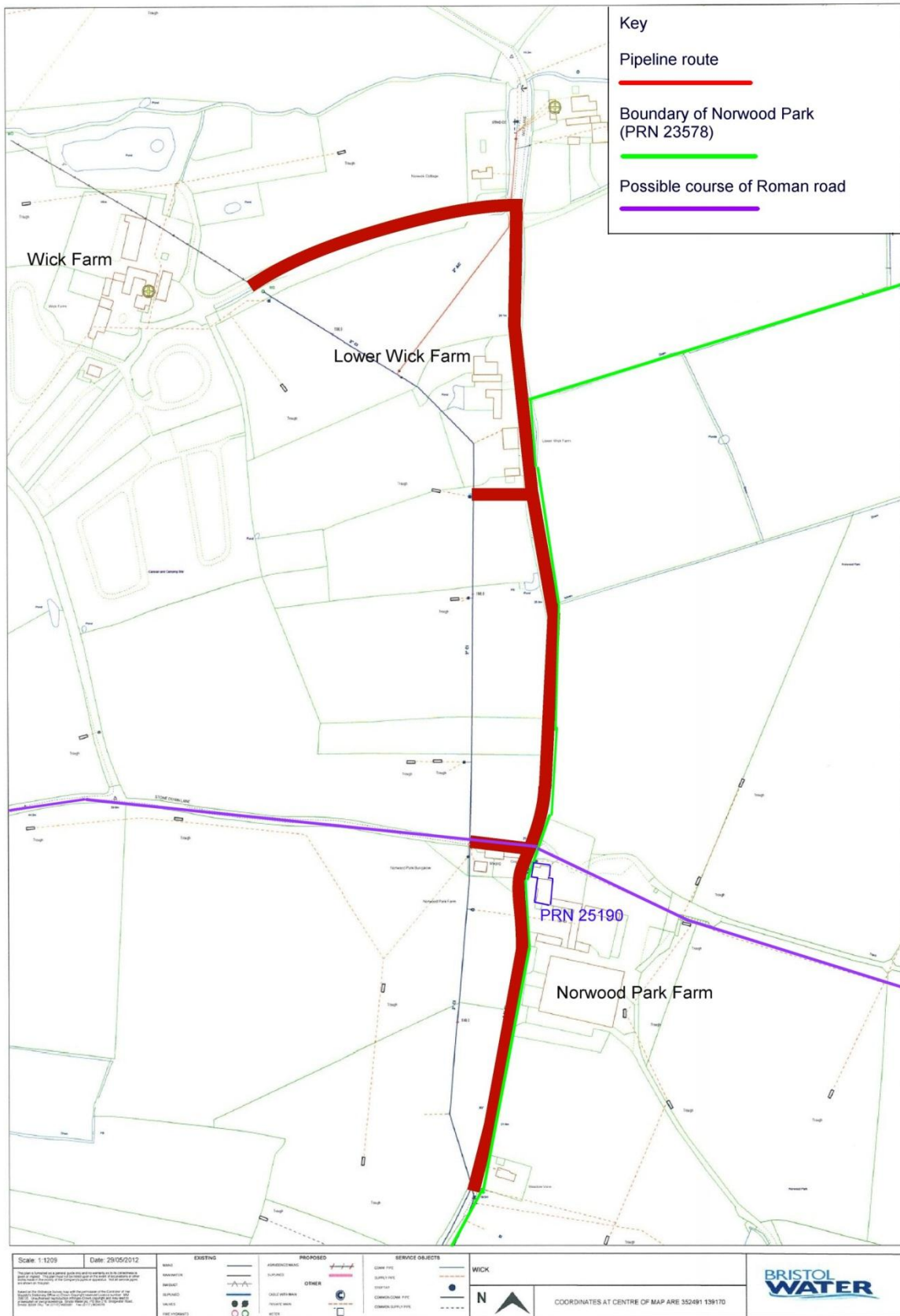


Fig. 1: Plan showing route of proposed water mains scheme at Wick Lane, Glastonbury and archaeological sites identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route

2. Summary Assessment

The route of the proposed water mains scheme extends E of Wick Farm about 1km E of Glastonbury (NGR ST 5233 3940) along a metalled roadway and then turns S, following Wick Lane, an unclassified road heading S towards Norwood Park Farm, terminating approximately 150m S of Norwood Park at NGR ST 5250 3876.

Prehistoric

No archaeological records relating to prehistoric activity have been identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline corridor, based on a consultation of the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER). An excavation undertaken in 1988 at Maidencroft Farm, Wick, approximately 400m W of the western terminus of the pipeline route near Wick Farm, recovered a small number of flint flakes and a possible flint tool, all of which were residual (PRN 28389; Hollinrake & Hollinrake, 1989). A series of cropmarks identified from aerial photography to the NW of Higher Wick Farm could possibly represent cultivation features of prehistoric origin (PRN 16301); however definite evidence for prehistoric occupation in the vicinity of Wick remains elusive.

Roman

Consultation of the Somerset HER identified no recorded sites of Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline corridor. The possibility of Roman settlement in this area has been suggested on the basis of the place name 'Wick', which often suggests an association with a nearby Romano-British settlement or *vicus*. Although residual finds of abraded Roman pottery were recovered from the excavations at Maidencroft Farm, the geographical nature and extent of Roman occupation remains undetermined (Gathercole, 2003, 16). The course of a possible Roman road or trackway (not listed in the Somerset HER) has been suggested extending W across Norwood Park and crossing Wick Lane in the vicinity of Norwood Park Farm, from where it continues W along Stone Down Lane towards Stone Down Hill, in the direction of a Roman settlement site probably located at or near Glastonbury Abbey (Gathercole, 2003, 14). This routeway is clearly depicted on an OS surveyor's drawing of 1811 but appears to have declined in use by the late 19th century.

Medieval

The pipeline route runs in close proximity to two sites of medieval date recorded in the Somerset HER. The route extends along Wick Lane immediately W of Norwood Park Farmhouse (PRN 25190; NGR ST 5255 3894), a well-preserved, Grade II* Listed house built as a hunting lodge in about 1480 by John Selwood Abbot of Glastonbury (1456-92), as attested by a carved panel with a mitre and the initials 'J S' inserted in a bay window (**Plate 1**). The lodge at Norwood Park is described in a survey of 1539 as containing 'a little hall, a buttery, and a kitchen, with four rooms above'; it was enlarged in about 1910 but there is significant evidence of surviving original fabric (Dunning, 2006, 47; Pevsner, 1958, 264).

There appears to have been a hunting lodge/manorial complex at Norwood Park since the early 14th century when the Abbots of Glastonbury annexed a large tract of woodland to create a deer park in 1305-6 (Dunning, 2006, 47). A survey of the Park undertaken immediately after the dissolution of Glastonbury Abbey in 1539 described it as containing 'in circuite iiii myles, the payles well repayred, the herbage very good and swete, wherein are DCCC (800) deer, whereof there are of deer of antler CLX (160), deer of rascall DCXL (640)' (Phelps, 1836, I, 539). A section of Wick Lane from NGR ST 5256 3918 - NGR ST 5250 3876 follows the W boundary of the medieval deer park (PRN 23578).

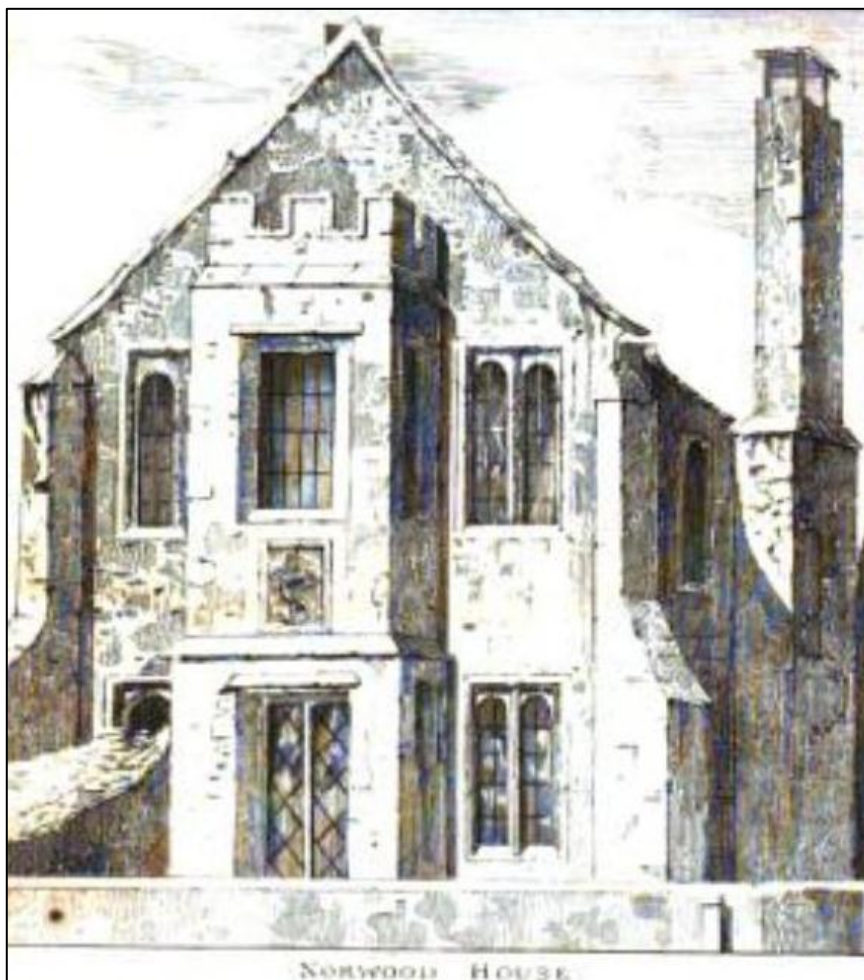


Plate 1: Engraving of Norwood Park Farmhouse (1826)
(Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre)

Post-Medieval

No recorded sites of post-medieval date were identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route, based on a consultation of the Somerset HER. Located approximately 400m W of the W terminus of the pipeline route were the earthworks of a post-medieval farmstead to the E of Maidencroft Farm (PRN 25558), comprising a holloway, a series of enclosure banks and an area of ridge and furrow, together with a substantial house platform which was still shown as occupied by a farmhouse on the Glastonbury parish rate map of 1821. The building was still extant on the tithe map of 1844, but had disappeared by the time of the OS 1st edition map of 1886. A programme of earthworks survey and rescue excavation was undertaken there in 1988 (PRN 28389), which indicated that the structure occupying the house platform was built in the late 16th or 17th century and probably demolished in the mid to late 19th century (Hollinrake & Hollinrake, 1988).

The northern half of the pipeline route extends through the scattered hillside settlement of Wick (or Week), comprising several isolated farmstead sites at Wick Farm, Middle Wick Farm, Higher Wick Farm and Lower Wick Farm. The existing dispersed pattern of settlement appears to have evolved after the dissolution of Glastonbury Abbey although the possibility that at least two of the farmsteads could incorporate fabric of medieval origin cannot be discounted (Gathercole, 2003, 72).

The pipeline route runs along Wick Lane immediately E of Lower Wick Farm, the site of which is marked on a plan of the Duke of Devonshire's estates at Glastonbury dated circa 1609; the existing stone-built farmhouse is not listed but does appear to retain fabric of early post-medieval (possibly 17th or 18th century) date.



*Fig. 2: Extract from the OS surveyors' drawing of 1811
(Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre)*

The existing network of roads and trackways in the vicinity of the study area does not appear to have been fully established until the second half of the 19th century. An Ordnance Survey map of Glastonbury and its environs dated 1811 (**Fig. 2**) shows that Wick Lane originally extended only as far S as Norwood Park Farm, from where two roads are depicted running to the W (along Stone Down Lane) and to the SE of Norwood Park Farm. The 1821 parish rate survey is the earliest map to show the southern continuation of Wick Lane, continuing roughly S of Norwood Park Farm towards Edgarley. Wick Lane is clearly discernible in its present form on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1886 (**Fig. 3**). It is noticeable that the existing metalled road leading E from Wick Farm to Wick Lane is shown as a footpath or trackway running parallel to a tree-lined field boundary, although by 1903 the footpath appears to be somewhat wider. Further to the S, the road depicted on the 1811 and 1821 maps leading SE from Norwood Park Farm is traceable only as a footpath running alongside a field boundary, although Stone Down Lane (to the W of Norwood Park Farm) is still clearly shown to be in use.

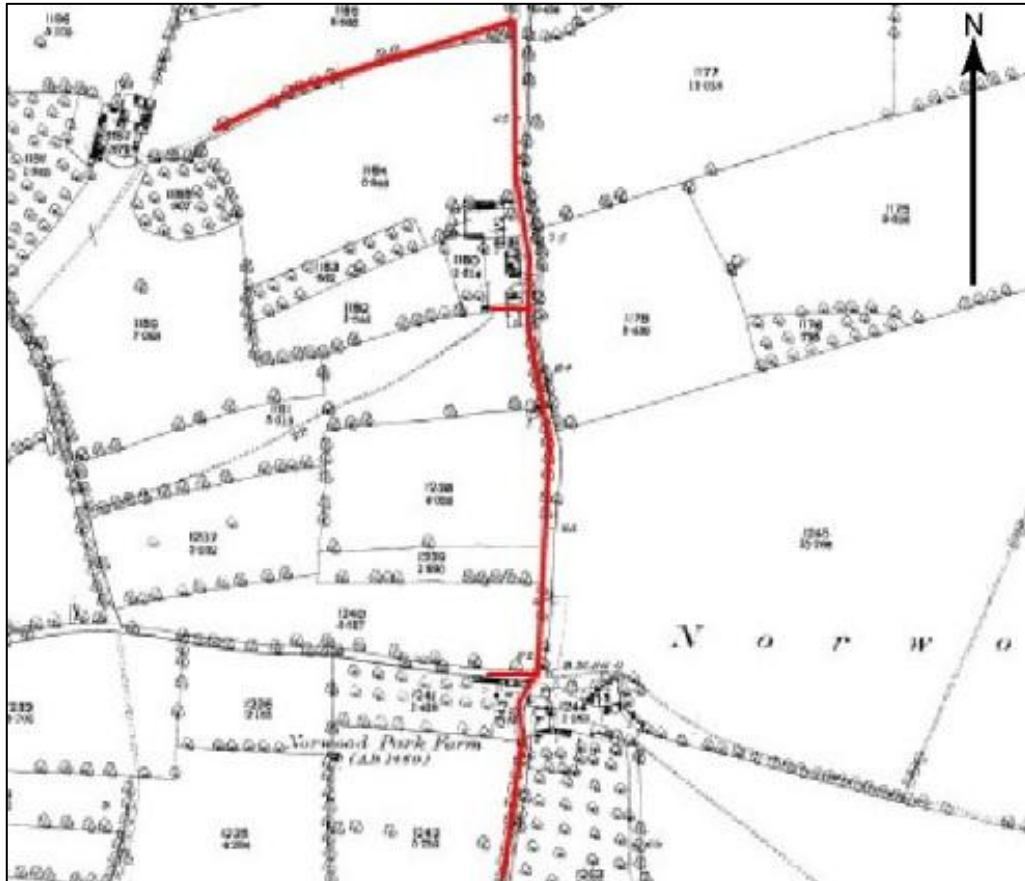


Fig. 3: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1886
(Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre)

4. References

Somerset Historic Environment Record: HER Printout

National Monuments Record, Swindon: NMR Printout

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Warner, R., 1826, *A History of the Abbey of Glaston and of the Town of Glastonbury*, Bath

Cartography

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

Day and Masters' county map of Somerset - 1782

Cox's Survey of Glastonbury - 1799

OS surveyor's drawing of Glastonbury and district- 1811

D\P\gla.j/3/2/4 - Parish rate survey of Glastonbury - 1821

D\D\Rt/M/441 - Tithe map of Glastonbury- 1844

OS 1st edition 25 inch map - 1886

OS 2nd Edition 25 inch map – 1904

OS 3rd edition map - 1930

OS 1:10000 map – 1961

OS 1:2500 map – 1979

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).