

RAPID APPRAISAL OF ENGINEERING IMPACT

(for Bristol Water)

MAINS RENEWAL SCHEME

STANSHAWES COURT DRIVE

YATE

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

NGR: ST 7121 8190 – ST 7140 8187

JOB N°: BA1303BWSCDY



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Report specification

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Executive Summary

This Rapid Appraisal of a mains renewal scheme extending along Stanshawes Court Drive, to the W of Stanshawes Court Hotel, Yate (South Gloucestershire) has been undertaken in response to an instruction from Bristol Water in advance of engineering works.

No archaeological sites of prehistoric or Roman date have been identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route, based on a consultation of the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record. The potential for archaeological features and deposits of prehistoric or Roman origin has therefore been assessed as **Low**.

The E terminus of the pipeline route runs in close proximity to Stanshawes Court Hotel, a late Victorian mansion built on the site of an earlier medieval manor house, first documented in the 13th century. The potential for evidence of medieval activity would appear to be limited as the area traversed by the pipeline route appears to have remained as agricultural land from the medieval period through to the mid-1870s. Vestiges of ridge and furrow depicted in fields to the N and S of the route on an RAF aerial photograph of 1946 appears to have been removed by later residential development in this area from the mid-1960s onwards.

The pipeline route follows the course of a formal avenue leading to Stanshawes Court, which is first depicted on the OS 1st edition map of 1882. The pipeline also appears to cross the line of a ha-ha feature running N-S across the avenue. Both the avenue and the ha-ha feature appear to form part of a post-medieval landscape park contemporaneous with the building of the present house in the late 19th century.

Further to the E, the pipeline extends through a subterranean brick vaulted culvert or tunnel located beneath the road opposite No. 4 Court Gardens. The tunnel appears to be of late 19th-early 20th century date; it could be contemporary with or post-date the building of the late Victorian mansion and landscape park. Its function is unclear but it may have been associated with a nearby ornamental pond feature shown on the OS 1st edition map of 1882. It should be emphasized that the impact of engineering works on the tunnel will be **minimal**.

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

Conclusion and Recommendation: The overall potential of the mains renewal scheme to reveal evidence of significant archaeological remains has been assessed as **Low**. This assessment reflects the very limited scope of the proposed engineering works within the roadway and the marked paucity of archaeological evidence. Consequently, Border Archaeology concludes that no archaeological observation of ground-works is necessary or practical.

1. Introduction

The proposed mains renewal scheme is located on the southern outskirts of the town of Yate (South Gloucestershire), extending along Stanshawes Court Drive for a distance of approximately 190m from Sundridge Park (NGR ST 7121 8190) up to the Stanshawes Court Hotel (NGR ST 7140 8187) (**Fig. 1**).

The proposed engineering methodology consists of directional drilling (requiring the excavation of small access pits) for the installation of a 63mm 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 South Gloucestershire 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

Relevant primary documentary sources were consulted at Bristol Record Office and Gloucestershire Archives, including the tithe apportionment for Yate (1839).

Evaluation and study of secondary sources

Secondary sources relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Bristol Record Office, 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.

Evaluation and study of cartographic and other pictorial evidence

A limited number of historic maps were consulted including the tithe map for Yate parish (1839) and the OS 1st-4th edition 6 inch and 25 inch maps. Aerial photographic evidence was consulted utilising the collections held at the National Monuments Record and readily available online sources (eg. Google Earth, www.ukaerialphotos.com).

Soils and Geology

The study area lies on the southern outskirts of the urban settlement of Yate, which is classed as Unsurveyed in the Soil Survey of England and Wales. However immediately S of the study area, the predominant soil type consists of the typical argillic pelosols of the WORCESTER (431) series comprising slowly permeable non-calcareous and calcareous reddish clayey soils overlying Permo-Triassic reddish mudstone (SSEW, 1983).

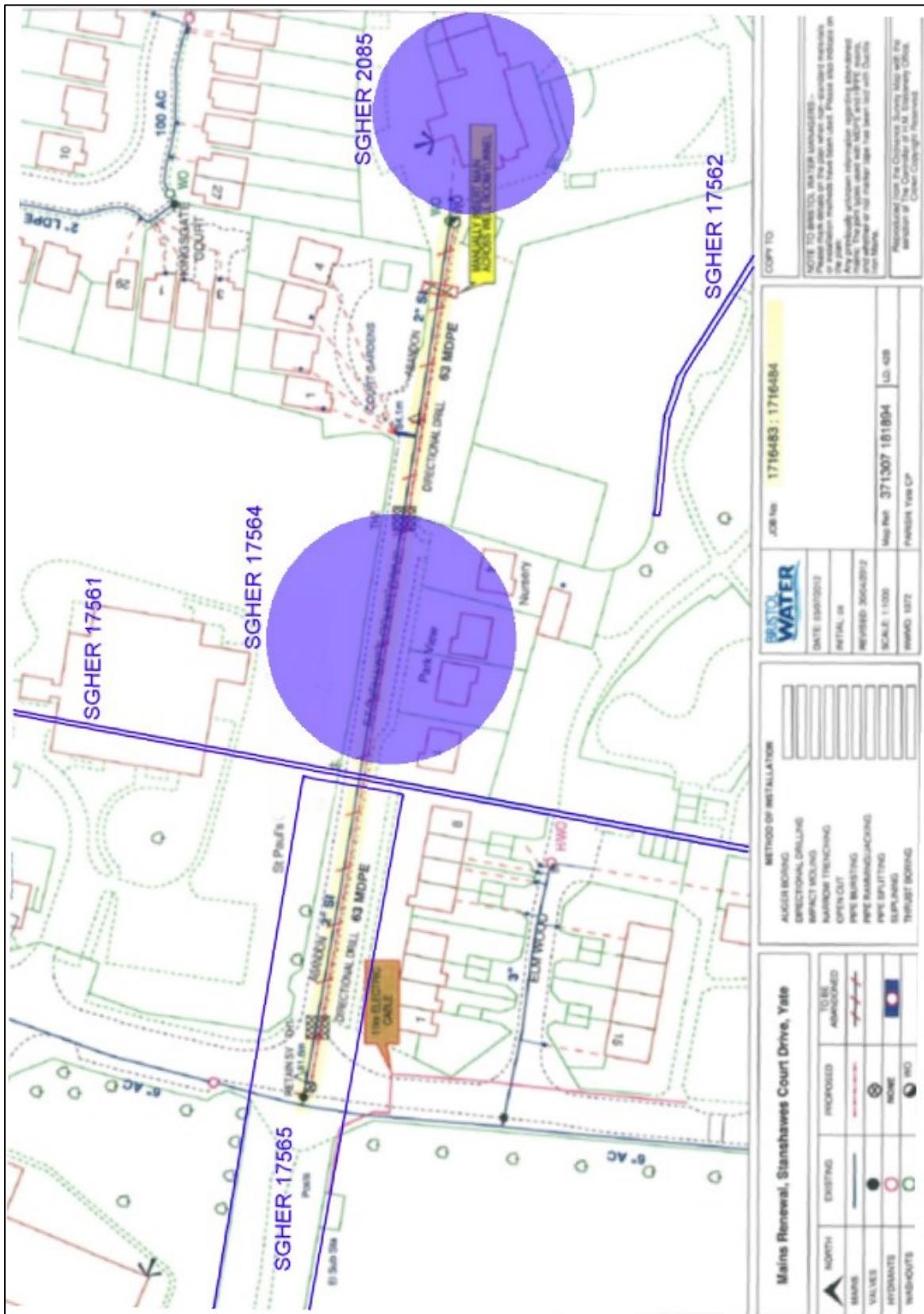
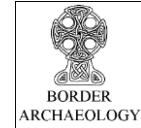


Fig. 1: Plan showing pipeline route and location of archaeological sites listed in the vicinity of the pipeline corridor

2. Summary Assessment

The area traversed by the proposed scheme lies on the southern outskirts of the town of Yate, extending E from Sundridge Park (NGR ST 7121 8190) along Stanshawes Court Drive up to the Stanshawes Court Hotel (NGR ST 7140 8187).

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 South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). The nearest recorded find of prehistoric date is a late Bronze Age socketed axe recovered during blasting at Barnhill Quarries, located approximately 1km NE of the eastern terminus of the route (SGHER 2090). A possible standing stone to the rear of a property at Stanshawes Drive (about 250m W of the W terminus of the route) was identified during a walkover survey undertaken as part of an archaeological assessment of King Edmund Community School (BaRAS, 2009, 9; SGHER 18973); however this stone could well be a parish boundary marker of medieval or post-medieval date. The potential for prehistoric activity has been assessed as **Low** which reflects the paucity of evidence for activity of this period within the study area; although it should be noted that relatively little fieldwork has been carried out in the immediate locality.

Roman

No archaeological evidence for Roman activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline corridor. The closest recorded findspot of Roman date is a small assemblage of tegula (one fragment bearing the stamp 'LCH'), coarse ware and Samian ware sherds found in 1953 in upcast soil to the W of Barnhill Quarries (SGHER 2100). The potential for Roman activity has been assessed as **Low**, although little fieldwork has been undertaken in the immediate surrounding area.

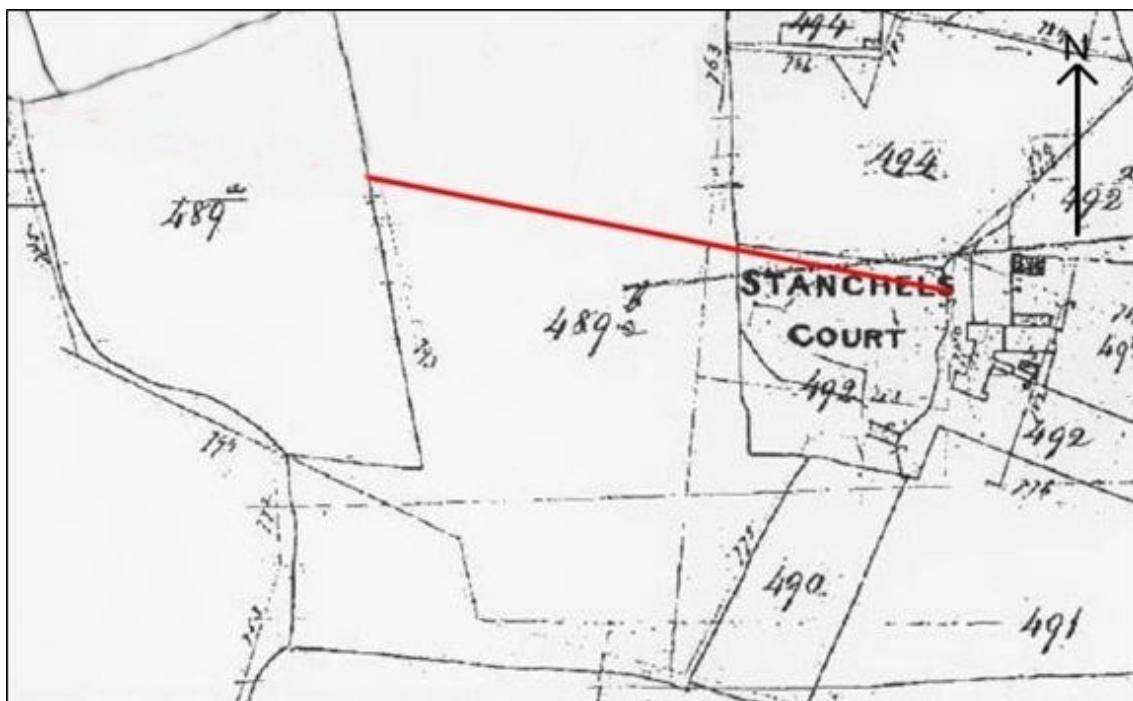
Medieval

The eastern terminus of the pipeline route lies in close proximity to Stanshawes Court (SGHER 2085), a late 19th century mansion occupying the site of an earlier manor house, dating back at least to the early 13th century. Stanshawes is first recorded as 'Stanschawe' in an inquisition post mortem of 1285 (Smith, 1964, 44). The etymology of the name 'Stanshawes' is unclear; it may simply denote a 'stony copse or wood' (derived from the OE place name elements *stän* and *sceaga*) or it could be derived from the surname of a family who held the estate in the late medieval period (Atkyns, 1712). The manor was in the possession of Sir John Smyth of Ashton Court in 1541 and was sold to Christopher Stokes of Castle Combe in 1561 (BRO Ref. AC/D/3/57); the estate subsequently remained in the hands of the Stokes family until the middle of the 19th century.

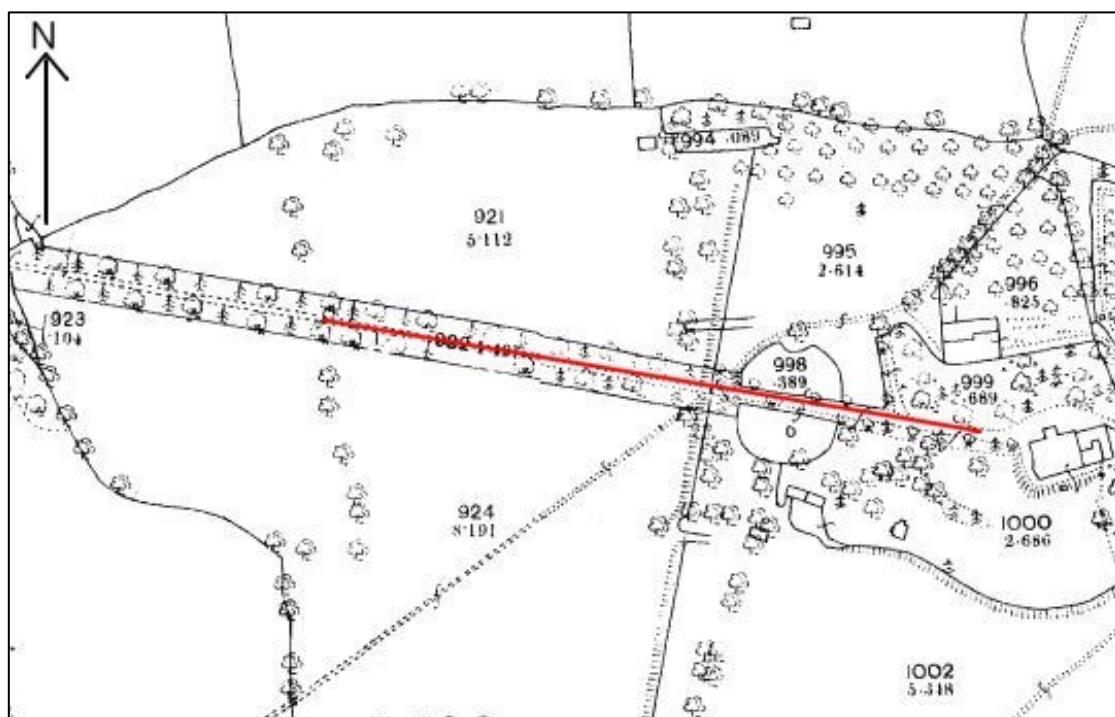
Probable traces of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation have been identified from an RAF photograph of the study area taken on 14th April 1946 within fields lying immediately N and S of Stanshawes Drive (BaRAS, 2009, 8; NMR Ref. RAF/106G/UK/1416 Frame No. 4423). Any visible trace of these ridge and furrow features has since been removed by the construction of King Edmund Community School (to the N) and residential development (to the S) in the mid to late 1960s.

The potential for medieval activity within the study area has been assessed as **Low to Moderate**. Although the pipeline route does extend in relatively close proximity to the site of a medieval manor house at Stanshawes Court, it is possible that evidence of medieval occupation will have been either removed or significantly disturbed as a result of building/landscaping activity resulting from the

construction of Stanshawes Court and its associated park in the late 19th century and later 20th century suburban development.



*Fig. 2: Extract from the Yate tithe map (1839) showing Stanshawes Court
(Reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives)*



*Fig. 3: Extract from the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1882
(Reproduced by courtesy of Gloucestershire Archives)*

Post-Medieval/Modern

The Yate parish tithe map of 1839 (**Fig. 2**) and the Yate inclosure award of 1842 depict the study area prior to the rebuilding of Stanshawes Court and the laying out of its extensive landscape park in the mid-1870s.

In 1839, the central and western parts of the study area comprised two enclosed pasture fields, listed in the tithe apportionment as 'Stew Leaze' and 'Martins Leaze' (Plot Nos. 489a and 489b). The name 'Stew Leaze' implies the presence of a pond, however no such feature is visible on the tithe map or the later inclosure award. Both Plots 489a and 489b appear to be later sub-divisions within a much larger field, the irregular boundaries of which suggest a possible medieval origin. The curvilinear western boundary of the field appears to have marked the boundary between the parishes of Westerleigh (to the W) and Yate (to the E). To the E of Plot No. 489b is Plot No. 492, described as 'a house, garden and orchard'. The old manor house at Stanshawes Court ('Stanchels Court') consisted of a central block aligned NNE-SSW with wings to the N and S and outbuildings lying to the N and E.

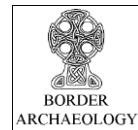
The old manor house and the fieldscape pattern as depicted on the 1839 tithe map was largely swept away in the mid-1870s, following the purchase of the Stanshawes Court estate by Robert Hooper in 1871. Hooper was responsible for the construction of the present house, a substantial Gothic mansion built in 1874 on the approximate site of the old manor house (Verey & Brooks, 2002, 829). Hooper also laid out an extensive, roughly quadrangular landscape park around the new house, the extent of which is depicted on the OS 1st edition 25 inch map of 1882 (**Fig. 3**).

The OS 1st edition map shows that Plot Nos. 489a and 489b had been amalgamated into a single large field enclosure. A long tree lined avenue (SGHER 17565) is shown as approaching the house from the W, the course of which is preserved by present day Stanshawes Court Drive and a footpath extending to the W of present-day Sundridge Park (which was not laid out until the mid-1960s). Close to the E end of the avenue is a linear ha-ha feature (SGHER 17561) extending NNE-SSW across the line of the avenue and then turning sharply ESE, the course of this feature survives as the E and S boundaries of present-day Kingsgate Park.

To the E of the ha-ha feature the roadway continues roughly eastwards, carried on an embankment across a large ornamental water feature comprising two semi-circular ponds (SGHER 17564) before reaching the house, set on a raised bank with tree planted grounds to the N and W. To the SE of the pond, another ha-ha feature is depicted (SGHER 17562), this time curvilinear in form and extending to the S of the house.

Located approximately 20m E of the pond site, a brick vaulted culvert or tunnel has been identified as extending N-S beneath Stanshawes Court Drive opposite No. 4 Court Gardens. The structure appears to be of late 19th or early 20th century date (constructed of standard gauge red brick bonded in cement) and may be contemporary with or post-date the rebuilding of Stanshawes Court and the laying out of the associated landscape park. It is possible that it may have been associated with the nearby pond feature however this remains uncertain. There is no obvious indication of the tunnel (or any associated above-ground structure) on the OS map of 1882 or on later OS maps of the study area.

Later Ordnance Survey maps of the study area dated 1903, 1921 and 1951 respectively show that the layout of the grounds of Stanshawes Court remained essentially unchanged from c.1882 until the early 1950s. Extensive changes occurred from the mid-1960s onwards (as depicted on OS maps



dated 1969, 1972 and 1986 respectively), with the construction of the King Edmund Community School and extensive suburban residential development. Sundridge Park was laid out by no later than 1969, bisecting the former tree-lined avenue leading to Stanshawes Court, while the northern half of the pond to the E was filled in by the early 1970s. The southern half of the pond was occupied by housing (Nos. 1-4 Park View) by no later than 1986.

Extensive late 20th century development has obscured much of the landscape park laid out by Robert Hooper at Stanshawes Court in the mid-1870s. As the pipeline route runs directly along the course of the tree lined avenue (now Stanshawes Court Drive) there may be **Moderate** potential for evidence of earlier metalled road surfaces to be identified although these are unlikely to be earlier than the 1870s. The pipeline will cross a brick vaulted culvert or tunnel of late 19th-early 20th century date which crosses Stanshawes Court Drive, however there will be **minimal** impact on the tunnel structure as the pipe will run through a gap in the brickwork adjacent to the existing main.

In view of their late date, these post-medieval landscape features associated with Stanshawes Court have been assessed as being of **Low** (ie. local) importance in archaeological terms.

Wapley Camp (SGHER 17210), the site of a WWI prisoner of war camp later occupied by a brickworks, is located approximately 270m W of the W terminus of the pipeline route. There is no documentary or cartographic evidence to indicate that its boundaries ever extended further E to incorporate the study area.

4. References

South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record: HER Printout

National Monuments Record, Swindon: NMR Printout

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Cartography

(All historic maps were obtained from Gloucestershire Archives unless otherwise stated)

OS surveyor's map of Chipping Sodbury and environs - 1816

GRO Ref. MF 1129/133 - Yate parish tithe map and apportionment- 1839

BRO Ref. 37959/47 - Yate inclosure award and map - 1842

OS 1st edition 25 inch map - 1882

OS 2nd Edition 25 inch map – 1902

OS 3rd edition 25 inch map - 1921

OS provisional edition 25 inch map - 1951

OS 1:2500 map – 1969

OS 1:10000 map – 1972

OS 1:2500 map - 1986

Aerial Photography

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