

# RAPID APPRAISAL OF ENGINEERING IMPACT

(For Bristol Water)

BROCKLEY WAY

CLAVERHAM

NORTH SOMERSET

NGR: ST 4528 6706 – ST 4585 6712

JOB N<sup>o</sup>: BA1305BWBWC



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## CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SUMMARY ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>8</b>

**Report specification**

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## Executive Summary

This Rapid Appraisal of a mains renewal scheme extending along an unclassified lane (Brockley Way) to the NE of Claverham has been undertaken in response to a request from Bristol Water in advance of engineering works.

No archaeological evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity has been recorded in the immediate locality of the pipeline route.

Evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the route is similarly limited in scope; the pipeline route runs approximately 60m N of Claverham Green Farm, a farmstead of possible medieval origin while a medieval pottery scatter was recorded in Claverham Field approximately 250m N of the pipeline route.

The site of a ruined post-medieval cottage on the S side of Brockley Way lies in close proximity to the route; however, the site will not be impacted by the pipeline works, which extend along the opposite side of the road, approximately 20m N of this site.

The potential for encountering significant archaeological deposits and features on the route of the proposed pipeline has been assessed as **Low**, reflecting the limited scope of the proposed works and the marked paucity of recorded archaeological remains in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route.

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

**Conclusion and Recommendation: Given the limited scope of the proposed mains renewal works and the paucity of archaeological evidence for the area traversed by the route, no archaeological observation of groundworks is deemed necessary in this instance.**

## 1. Introduction

The proposed mains renewal scheme runs along or immediately parallel to a 600m long section of an unclassified lane (Brockley Way) to the NE of Claverham (North Somerset). The route extends E from the junction of Brockley Way and Lower Claverham (NGR ST 4528 6706) and terminates just to the W of the junction of Brockley Way and Littlewood Lane (NGR ST 4585 6712)

At the time of writing, the proposed engineering methodology had not been finalised, but is likely to be either directional drilling (requiring the excavation of access pits) or open-cut trenching, or a mixture of both.

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 North 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*

The tithe apportionments for Brockley and Yatton parishes were both consulted.

*Evaluation and study of secondary sources*

Secondary sources relating to the study area were consulted using the collections held at the Somerset Heritage Centre, 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), an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1811, the tithe maps for Brockley (1839) and Yatton (1840) and the OS 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> edition 6 inch and 25 inch maps.

*Soils and Geology*

Two predominant soil types have been identified in the vicinity of the study area.

At the western end of the route, the predominant soils are stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the HODNET series (572c), comprising reddish fine and coarse loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, with some similar well-drained reddish fine loamy soils with a slight risk of water erosion. The underlying geology consists of Permo-Triassic and Carboniferous reddish mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

Towards the eastern end of the route, the predominant soil type comprises stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the WHIMPLE 1 series (572d), consisting of reddish fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, overlying drift over Permo-Triassic reddish mudstone (SSEW, 1983).

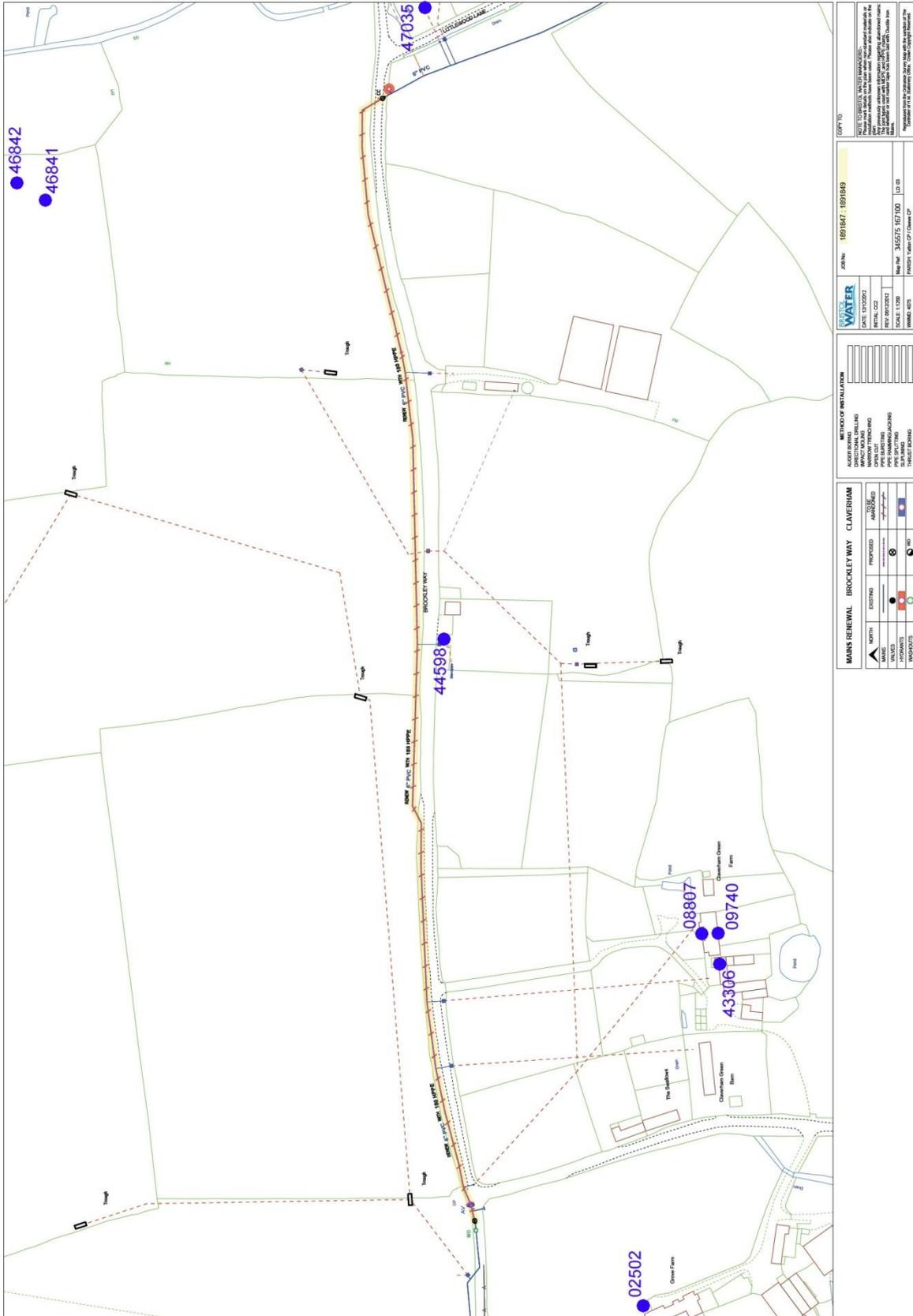


Fig. 1: Plan showing pipeline route (marked in blue) and location of archaeological sites listed in the North Somerset Historic Environment Record in the vicinity of the pipeline corridor

## 2. Summary Assessment

The proposed runs route along and through fields immediately adjacent to a 600m section of an unclassified lane (Brockley Way) lying about 0.8km NE of Claverham village.

### *Prehistoric*

No archaeological evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the route, based on a consultation of the North Somerset Historic Environment Record. Possible evidence for a funerary site of prehistoric date is indicated by the field name 'barrows' recorded in the Brockley tithe apportionment to the NW of Brockley Court, approximately 400m ENE of the eastern terminus of the route (PRN 04694), although it is possible that it could also refer in this context to pillow mounds associated with a rabbit warren (Pullan, 1974).

### *Roman*

No evidence for Roman activity has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline route. The nearest recorded site of Roman date is represented by a Roman pottery scatter found in the garden of Brockley Elm Farm (PRN 00336), approximately 950m ENE of the eastern terminus of the route.

### *Medieval*

Limited evidence has been identified for medieval occupation in the vicinity of the pipeline route. The area traversed by the route lies close to the eastern boundary of the extensive parish of Yatton (of which Claverham formed a constituent part) adjoining the parish of Brockley.

During the medieval period, the fields immediately to the N of Brockley Way appear to have formed part of an open-field system which was gradually enclosed during the late medieval/early post-medieval period. Lying to the N and W of these open fields was a substantial area of reclaimed inland moor which was subject to episodes of tidal inundation during the Romano-British and early medieval periods before more systematic reclamation took place during the later medieval and post-medieval periods.

A possible settlement focus of medieval date is located at Claverham Green Farm, approximately 100m S of the W terminus of the route (PRN 43306). The existing Grade II listed stone-built farmhouse (PRN 08807; LSB911) is dated to 1721 (from a chimney inscription) but probably incorporates the remains of an earlier structure.

Another focus of medieval settlement is located at Brockley Court, approximately 900m ESE of the eastern terminus of the pipeline route (PRN 43378). The Court and the adjacent parish church of St Nicholas represent the focus of the medieval manorial settlement of Brockley, first recorded as 'Brochelié' in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Morris, 1980).

Recent fieldwalking undertaken close to the boundary between Yatton and Brockley parishes has identified two unstratified scatters of medieval (chiefly 13<sup>th</sup> century) date. The nearest scatter was found in Claverham Field (PRN 46842) approximately 250m N of the pipeline route, while another medieval pottery scatter was identified in fields to the W of Brockley Court, about 460m ESE of the eastern terminus of the route (PRN 47607).

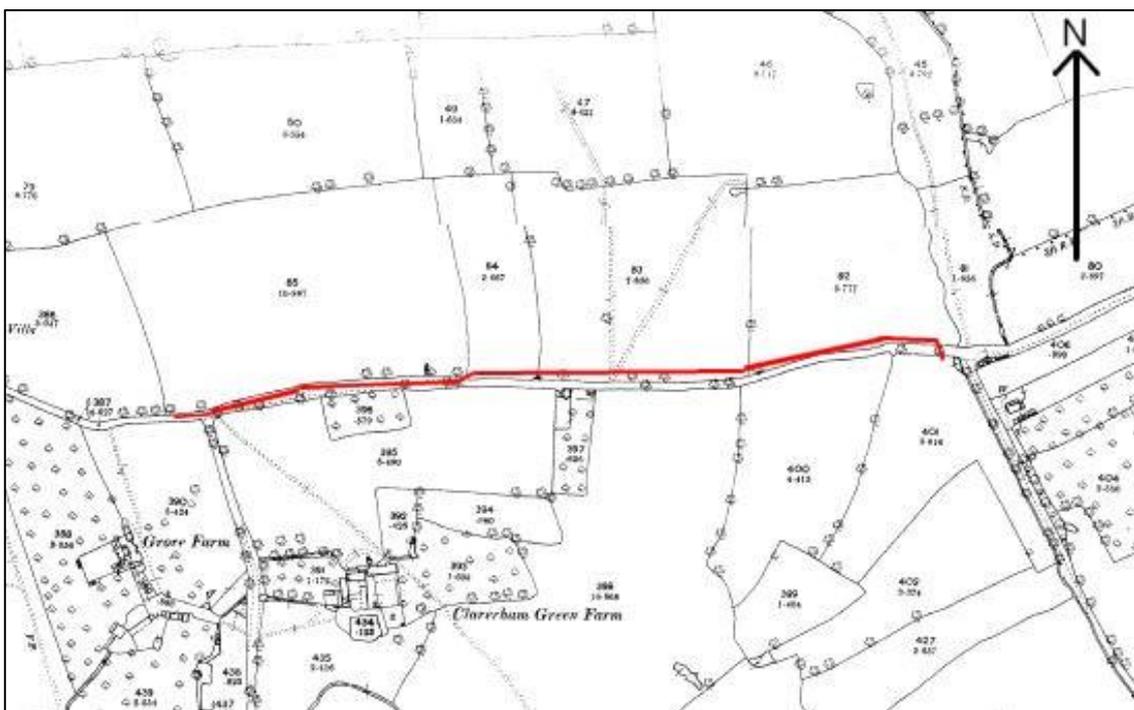
The potential for revealing evidence of medieval activity in the vicinity of the route has been assessed as **Low**, reflecting the fact that the pipeline runs along or immediately adjacent to the existing carriageway (Brockley Way) and the distance of recorded findspots and settlement sites from the pipeline route.

### *Post-Medieval*

Consultation of the North Somerset HER identified a small number of post-medieval sites in the vicinity of the pipeline route.

The closest site recorded in proximity to the route is the site of a dwelling of probable post-medieval date (PRN 44598) located on the S side of Brockley Way at NGR ST 4557 6709, approximately 100m NE of Claverham Green Farm. A cottage and an adjacent rectangular garden or paddock are recorded in this location on an OS drawing of 1811 and on the Yatton tithe map of 1840.

The OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of 1884 (*fig. 2*) shows the cottage as intact, situated within a narrow curtilage, with a barn to the E. The cottage is recorded as being in a ruined state in an archaeological survey of Yatton undertaken by the Yatton Local History Society in 1995, which also recorded the site of a well 'nearly filled in with stones' adjacent to the cottage site (Yatton Local History Society 2011, 50). The pipeline route runs along the N side of Brockley Way approximately 20m N of the cottage site; consequently, the pipeline works will not impact on this site.



*Fig. 2: Extract from the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch map of 1884  
(Reproduced by courtesy of Somerset Heritage Centre)*

Several other post-medieval dwellings or farmstead sites have been identified on the periphery of the pipeline corridor. Littlewood Cottage (PRN 47035), an early 19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling, is situated about 70m ESE of the eastern terminus of the route at NGR ST 4595 6707, close to the junction of Brockley Way and Littlewood Lane. Located approximately 120m SW of the western terminus of the

route, at NGR ST 4521 6696, is Grove Farm (PRN 02502; LSB912), a Grade II listed farmhouse of late 16<sup>th</sup>-early 17<sup>th</sup> date with later alterations and additions. Another Grade II listed farmhouse, Claverham Green Farm, of 18<sup>th</sup> century date but probably incorporating earlier fabric, is located about 100m S of the pipeline route at NGR ST 4542 6694 (PRN 08807; LSB911). Also recorded within the curtilage of the farm is a water pump and basin of 19<sup>th</sup> century date (PRN 09740). The site of a marl-pit of post-medieval date is also recorded approximately 230m N of the pipeline route in Claverham Field (PRN 46841).

The potential for evidence of post-medieval activity to be identified in the vicinity of the route has been assessed as **Low**. The pipeline route runs approximately 20m N of a post-medieval cottage site on the S side of Brockley Way; it is highly unlikely this site will be impacted by the proposed works. It is possible that evidence of earlier road metalling associated with Brockley Way (which appears to be a fairly long established routeway dating back at least to the 18<sup>th</sup> century) might be identified during the pipeline works; however, this would probably be viewed as being of **Low** (i.e. local) importance in archaeological terms.

### 3. References

North Somerset Historic Environment Record: HER Printout

National Monuments Record, Swindon: NMR Printout

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

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

Morris, J. (ed.), 1980, *Domesday Book – Somerset*, Chichester

Pevsner, N., 1958, *The Buildings of England: Bristol and North Somerset*, London

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

Pullan, J.M., 1983, *Brockley with Chelvey*, Nailsea

Yatton Local History Society, 2011, *A Survey of the Ancient Parish of Yatton*

### Cartography

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

Day and Masters' county map of Somerset - 1782

OS surveyors drawing of Bedminster and environs - 1811

Tithe map of Brockley parish - 1839

Tithe map of Yatton parish - 1840

OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch map - 1884



OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25 inch map – 1903

OS 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 6 inch map - 1930

OS 1:10000 map – 1960

OS 1:2500 map – 1973

### **Aerial Photography**

Aerial photographs relating to the study area were consulted at Somerset Heritage Centre and the National Monuments Record, including RAF vertical photos (late 1940s) and vertical and oblique aerial photos of the area (1999, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2009).