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## Archaeological Observation

Bristol Water

Water Main Renovation

Sneyd Park

Bristol

August 2014

The logo for Bristol Water, featuring the words "BRISTOL" and "WATER" in a blue, sans-serif font, with a stylized blue wave graphic underneath.

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Report Ref:  
BA1317BWSPB

Grid Reference (centre):  
NGR: ST 5657 7532

Date: August 20<sup>th</sup> 2014

*Cover: View NE from Downleaze Road across Durdham Down*

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## 1 Executive Summary

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*This report details the results of a programme of archaeological observation undertaken by Border Archaeology on behalf of Bristol Water plc during water mains renovation works carried out along carriageways in the Sneyd Park area of Stoke Bishop in North Bristol. Observation was carried out intermittently between July 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 and May 9<sup>th</sup> 2014.*

*Trenches were opened along the course of the existing water main to facilitate slip-lining and thus minimise the need for more extensive excavation.*

*Monitoring along Stoke Road between the water tower and reservoir and the area to the NW of the junction with Ladies Mile was deemed especially important given the existence of the Roman road travelling NW-SE across the central Sneyd Park area. However, ground works carried out along the NW -bound carriageway revealed considerable truncation of earlier deposits by modern road construction activity and also a large utility cut excavated in the road on a parallel alignment immediately to the NE; no remains of archaeological significance were revealed.*

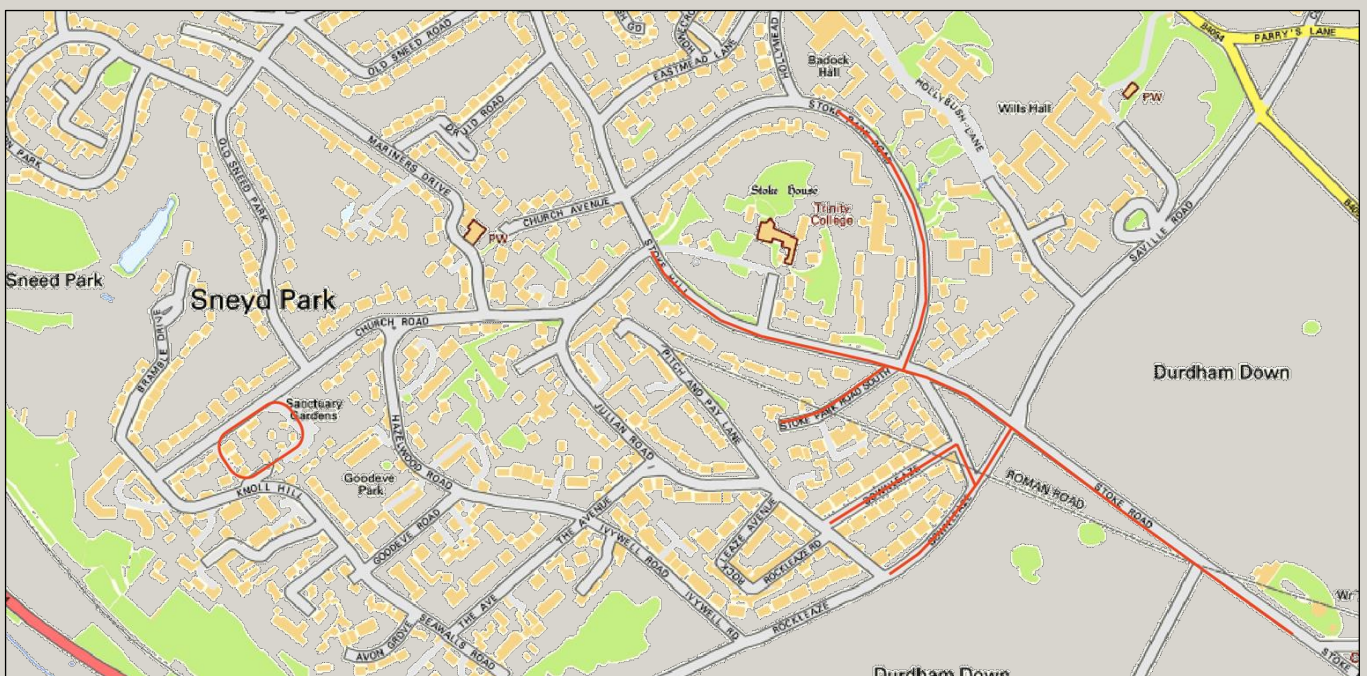
*In addition to the work in Stoke Road, a number of other carriageways were impacted, including Ladies Mile, Stoke Park Road, Stoke Park Road South and Downleaze. In each of these areas, excavations confirmed that the archaeological record had been heavily truncated by infrastructure development in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.*

## 2 Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by Bristol Water to carry out Archaeological Observation of engineering ground works in the Sneyd Park area (centred on NGR: ST 5657 7532) associated with water-mains renovation. The work was carried out intermittently between July 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 and May 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 (*fig. 1*).

Areas of moderate to high archaeological potential were previously identified by Border Archaeology (BA 2013), namely, Stoke Park, where evidence of prehistoric activity and post-medieval settlement, at Sanctuary Gardens, where artefacts of Roman date have been found, and along those streets which are crossed by the projected line of the Roman road, namely Stoke Road, Stoke Park Road South, Downleaze and Pitch & Pay Lane. However, the pipeline route ran for almost its entire length along existing carriageways and significant disturbance was anticipated as a result of previous road construction works and service trenching.

The aim of this programme of 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 the ground works without the implementation of a programme of archaeological recording. The work was carried out in compliance with Bristol Water's *Code of Conduct*.



*Fig. 1: Plan showing location of ground works (marked in red)*

## 3 Geology

The study area is classed as 'unsurveyed' in the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW, 1983). However, Durdham Down overlies the Tickenham Ridge, an extensive carboniferous limestone ridge running from Clevedon to N Bristol. The calcareous soils which cover much of the Downs plateau have formed due to the weathering processes on the underlying limestone (Goldthorpe, 2006, 1).

## 4 Brief Historical & Archaeological Background

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Archaeological evidence for activity in the vicinity of the study area dates back to the Bronze Age and previous investigations have indicated a possible focus of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Stoke Park, based on the discovery of Bronze Age ditch features at Stoke Park Road South. An Iron Age pit or hearth feature has also been revealed at Stoke Road.

The Roman road between Bath (*Aquae Sulis*) and Sea Mills (*Ebona*) travels across Durdham Down and its projected course runs directly through the central Sneyd Park area. A surviving section designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. AV88) survives on the Down itself between Downleaze and the reservoir (HER No. 2351M), the construction of which, coupled with the impact of quarrying, appears to have been responsible for the destruction of much of the course of the road across the Downs (Martin, 1890, 309). Although previous investigations in the Sneyd Park area have yielded poor results, this is not to rule out the possibility that further evidence of Roman activity survives elsewhere within the study area, with the highest potential likely to be at those locations crossed by the projected route of the Roman road, namely Stoke Road, Stoke Park Road South, Downleaze and Pitch & Pay Lane.

There is a lack of archaeological evidence for the medieval period, although documentary sources indicate the presence of a medieval deer park to the NW of the study area (including the area of Sanctuary Gardens). The post-medieval period is better represented. The pipeline runs close to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century mansion of Stoke House and its associated grounds and landscape features and structural remains have also been identified during archaeological work at Sanctuary Gardens.

## 5 Methodology

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Archaeological observation was carried out in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008 – updated Nov 22 2013), *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008– updated Nov 22 2013) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (EH 2006).

Reference is also made where appropriate to relevant English Heritage Historic Environment Local Management (HELM) resources. Border Archaeology adheres to the IfA *Code of conduct* (2013 – updated Mar 20 2014) and *Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology* (2008– updated Mar 20 2014) and work was carried out in compliance with Bristol Water's *Code of Conduct*.

All ground works were carried out by machine and toothless bucket wherever possible under archaeological supervision.

Full written and photographic records were made in accordance with BA's *Archaeological Field Recording Manual* (BA, 2014). A detailed written stratigraphic record was made using numbered *pro-forma* context sheets. The photographic record was compiled using a high-resolution (12 MPX) digital camera, comprising photographs of all excavated contexts and archaeological features and structures. A scale is included in each shot and all photographs have been indexed and cross-referenced to written site records. Details concerning subject and direction of view are maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.

## 6 Results

### 6.1 Trench A

A trench measuring 290m × 0.6m × c.1.2m was opened along the NW carriageway of Stoke Road, between the covered reservoir on Durdham Downs to the SE (ST 57132 74936) and the junction with Downleaze and Saville Road at the NW (ST 56738 75222).

Trenching was observed between the reservoir and a point 120m NW of the junction with Ladies Mile, this being considered the most likely area to contain evidence of the Roman road and any associated features. The line of the Roman road passes NW-SE through the junction of Stoke Road and Ladies Miles before doglegging slightly to the E. The trenching revealed 11 contexts.

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
ST 57132 74936 to ST 56738 75222  Covered reservoir on Durdham Downs (SE) & junction with Downleaze and Saville Road (NW)	(001)	Compact/cemented, sand/grit & pebbles, extends; trench-wide × 0.5m. Underlies (004) Cut by [012], same as (006), overlies (009)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Extensive sub-base layer associated with construction of the modern road</i>
	(002)	Soft, pale reddish sandy clay & angular stones; extends trench-wide × 0.3m. Underlies (009), same as (007), overlies (003=008)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Extensive bio-turbated or weathered naturally derived soil layer observed throughout the study area</i>
	(003)	Well compacted, dark reddish sandy clay & angular stones; extends trench-wide × >0.45m. Underlies (002=007), same as (008)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural soil deposit underlying (002=007)</i>
	(004)	Soft, dark brown/blackish sandy silt, sandy inclusions; extends 18m × 0.3m × 0.25m. Underlies (005), overlies (011)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern sub base deposit locally deposited</i>
	(005)	Soft, mid-brown sandy clay; extends 36m × 0.3m × 0.52m. Underlies modern road surface Overlies (004)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern made-ground deposit</i>
	(006)	Same as (001)
	(007)	Same as (002)
	(008)	Same as (003)
	(009)	Well compacted, silt & stone; extends 12m × >0.3m × 0.5m. Underlies (001=006), overlies (002=007)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Late C19 or modern levelling deposit</i>	
(010)	<i>Void</i>	
(011)	Loose, stone; extends >290m × >0.7m × >1.1m. Underlies (004) Fills [012]	
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Scalplings forming fill of utility cut [012]</i>	

	[012]	Cut; linear in plan; oriented NW-SE; break of slope (top) sharp, SW side (opposite side not visible) sides steeply sloping- near-vertical, break of slope (base) and base not excavated. Filled by (011) Cuts (001=006)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of modern utility trench</i>
<b>No significant archaeology</b>		



## 6.2 Trench 1

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56985 75045  Stoke Park Road NW of the junction with Ladies Mile	(100)	Indurated, grey tarmac; extended trench-wide to maximum thickness 0.10m. Overlies (111)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern tarmac surface</i>
	(101)	Compacted, small & medium rounded & sub-rounded stones; encountered 0.10m below ground level, average thickness of 0.40m. Overlies (104), (109)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Gravel hardcore bedding layer for (100)</i>
	(102)	Soft, light red sandy clay; moderate sub-angular stones; encountered 0.48m below ground level, average thickness of 0.5m. Same as (107), underlies (104), (109), overlies (103)=(108)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>
	(103)	Compact, red silty sand; moderate angular stones; encountered 0.98m below ground level, average thickness of 0.22m to the limit of excavation. Same as (108), underlies (102)=(107)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>
	(104)	Soft, dark brown-black sandy silt, lenses of black sand; encountered 0.1m below ground level, average thickness of 0.22m. Underlies (101), (105), (106); overlies (107)=(102)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Made ground deposit</i>
	(105)	Soft, mid brown sandy clay; extends 36m; encountered 0.1m below ground level, average thickness of 0.45m. Overlies (104), (109)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Made ground deposit</i>
	(106)	Compacted gravel; encountered 0.1m below ground level, average thickness 0.3m. Overlies (104), (109), cut by [112]
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Hardcore bedding layer for (100)</i>
	(107)	Firm, mid brown sandy clay; occasional angular stones & tree-root disturbance; encountered 0.3m below ground level, average thickness 0.35m. Underlies (104), (109), overlies (108)=(103), same as (102)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural Geology</i>
(108)	Compact, dark red sandy clay; moderate angular stones; encountered 0.65m below ground level, average thickness 0.6m to limit of excavation. Underlies (107)=(102), same as (103)	
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>	
(109)	Compact, silt and gravel; extended 0.12m; encountered 0.5m below ground level, average	

		thickness 0.5m. Underlies (101), (105), (106); overlies (107)=(102)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Made-ground deposit</i>
	(110)	<i>Void</i>
	(111)	Loose to moderately compact, small & medium stones, encountered 0.1m below ground level, average thickness 1.1m. Underlies (100), fills [112]
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Stony backfill of service trench cut [112]</i>
	[112]	Cut; linear in plan; oriented NE-SW; break of slope top sharp, sides near-vertical, break of slope base & base not visible; extended 1.1m × 0.7m (NE-SW). Filled by (111), cuts (106)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern service trench cut</i>
<b>No significant archaeology</b>		

### 6.3 Trench 2

T-shaped trench; the NE-SW section measured 0.5m × 3m and the SW-NE branch measured 5m × 1.3, with a maximum depth of 1.15m.

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56965 75061  Stoke Road, NW of the junction with Roman Road.	(200)	Indurated, grey tarmac; extended trench-wide, average thickness 0.09m. Overlies (201)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern tarmac surface</i>
	(201)	Indurated grey concrete; extended trench-wide; encountered 0.09m below ground level, average thickness 0.12m. Underlies (200), overlies (202)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete bedding layer for (200)</i>
	(202)	Compacted, mid red gravel; extended trench-wide; encountered 0.21m below ground level, average thickness 0.29m. Underlies (201), overlies (203)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Gravel hardcore-made ground deposit</i>
	(203)	Friable, mid red brown sandy clay; moderate inclusions of sub-angular stones; encountered trench-wide, 0.5m below ground level, average thickness 0.65m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (202)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Re-deposited natural</i>	
<b>No significant archaeology</b>		

## 6.4 Trench 3

T-shaped trench; the NW-SE section measured 0.30m × 3m and the NE-SW section measured 1.10m × 1.40m, with a maximum depth of 1.20m.

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56945 75076  Stoke Road, NW of trench 2.	(300)	Indurated, grey tarmac; extended trench-wide, average thickness 0.09m. Overlies (301)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Modern tarmac surface</i>
	(301)	Indurated, grey concrete; extends trench-wide; encountered 0.09m below ground level, average thickness 0.39m. Underlies (300), Overlies (302)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete bedding layer for (300)</i>
	(302)	Compact, mid red grey gravel; extended trench-wide; encountered 0.48m below ground level, average thickness 0.72m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (301)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Gravel hardcore – made ground deposit</i>
<b>No significant archaeology</b>		

## 6.5 Trench 4

Trench 4 ran 480m NW-SE along Stoke Park Road with an average width of 0.40m and depth of 1.1m.

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56574 75321 -	(400)	Soft, dark brown silt; moderate sub-angular stones < 50m; average thickness 0.22m. Overlies (401)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Landscaping deposit</i>
	(401)	Soft, mid grey brown clayey silt; occasional sub-angular stones <50mm; encountered 0.22m below ground level, average thickness 0.17m. Underlies (400), overlies (403).
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Subsoil horizon</i>
	(402)	Soft, light orange-brown clay; frequent sub-angular stones < 100mm; encountered 0.38m below ground level. Cut by [404].
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>
	(403)	Loose, mid grey brown clayey silt; moderate sub-angular stones; extended 0.91m (NW-SE) × 0.40m (NE-SW) with a thickness of 0.5m; encountered 0.22m below ground level. Fill of [404], underlies (401).
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Naturally deposited secondary fill of ditch [404]</i>
	[404]	Cut; linear in plan; oriented NW-SE; extended 0.91m × 0.40m × 0.5m (to limit of excavation); encountered 0.22m below ground level; moderate break of slope at the top; NW-SE aligned. Cuts (402), filled by (403)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of linear ditch</i>	
<b>Linear ditch [404] may potentially relate to the Bronze Age ditches discovered on Stoke Park Road South during previous excavation work</b>		



*Plate 1: View NE of possible ditch [404]*



*Plate 2: NW-facing section of possible ditch [404]*



*Plate 3: View to the NE, Trench 4 on Stoke Park Road*

## 6.6 Trench 5

Measured 0.71m (NW-SE) × 2.5m (NE-SW) with a maximum depth of 0.81m

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56458 75246  Located on Stoke Park Road South	(500)	Indurated, black tarmac; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.1m. Overlies (501)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(501)	Firm, mottled dark brown and black gravel; encountered 0.1m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.14m. Underlies (500), overlies (504).
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bedding layer for (500)</i>
	(502)	Compact, light grey pennant sandstone; encountered 0.24m below ground level; extends 0.71m (NE-SE) × 0.3m (NW-SE), maximum thickness 0.43m. Cut by [503], Fill of [506]
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Backfill of service trench [506], possibly Georgian/Victorian in date</i>
	[503]	Cut; linear plan; oriented NE-SW; break of slope top sharp, sides vertical break of slope base sharp, base irregular; extends 2.5m × 0.44m × 0.62m (to limit of excavation); encountered 0.24m below ground level. Filled with (504), cuts (502)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Cut of service trench</i>
	(504)	Firm, light orange brown clay; frequent small to medium sub-angular stones, concrete and brick fragments; encountered 0.24m below ground level; extends 0.44m (NW-SE) × 2.5m (NE-SW), maximum depth 0.62m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (501), fill of [503]
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Backfill of service trench [503]</i>
	(505)	Soft, mid orange-brown clay; moderate inclusions of small sub-angular stones; encountered 0.3m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.54m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (507)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Levelling layer derived from re-deposited natural</i>
	[506]	Cut; linear; oriented NE-SW; break of slope at the top sharp, sides steep, break of slope base sharp, base slightly concave base; encountered 0.29m below ground level; extends 0.71m × 0.3m × 0.43m. Filled by (502), cuts (507)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval service trench cut</i>
(507)	Firm, brownish-yellow clay; occasional limestone fragments; encountered 0.23m below ground level; extends 0.34m (NW-SE) ×	



		2.5m (NE-SW) × 0.12m. Cut by [506], overlies (505)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Levelling layer derived from made ground deposit</i>
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



*Plate 4: View to the NE of Trench 5 - deposit (502) visible in SW-facing section*

## 6.7 Trench 6

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56445 75242  Located on Stoke Park Road South	(600)	Indurated, black tarmac; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.09m. Overlies (601)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(601)	Compact, dark grey-black clinker & stone; encountered 0.09m below ground level; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.10m. Underlies (600), overlies (602)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bedding layer for (600)</i>
	(602)	Firm, mid reddish-brown clay; occasional charcoal flecks & slate fragments; encountered 0.19m below ground level; encountered trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.19m. Underlies (601), overlies (603)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval deposit derived from re-deposited natural.</i>
	(603)	Firm, brownish-yellow clay; encountered 0.38m below ground level; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.32m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (602)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 5: View to the SE of Trench 6

## 6.8 Trench 7

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56441 75240  Located on Stoke Park Road South	(700)	Indurated, black tarmac; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.08m. Overlies (701)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(701)	Compact, black clinker; encountered 0.08m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.08m. Underlies (700), overlies (702)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bedding layer for (700)</i>
	(702)	Compact, light grey sandy clay; very frequent inclusions of carboniferous limestone fragments; encountered 0.16m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.22m. Underlies (701), overlies (703)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Levelling layer</i>
	(703)	Firm, brownish-yellow clay; encountered 0.38m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.34m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (702)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>	
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 6: View to the SE of Trench 7

## 6.9 Trench 8

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56434 75237  Located on Stoke Park Road South	(800)	Indurated, black tarmac; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.09m. Underlies (801)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(801)	Compact, black clinker; encountered 0.09m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.10m. Underlies (800), overlies (802)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bedding layer for (800)</i>
	(802)	Compact, light grey clay; very frequent carboniferous limestone fragments; encountered 0.19m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.29m. Underlies (801), overlies (803)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Levelling layer</i>
	(803)	Firm, brownish-yellow clay; encountered 0.48m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.64m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (802)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>	
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 7: View to the SE of Trench 8

6.10 Trench 9

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56420 75233  Located on Stoke Park Road South	(900)	Indurated, black tarmac; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.08m. Overlies (901)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(901)	Compact, black clinker; encountered 0.08m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.04m. Underlies (900), overlies (902)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bedding layer for (900)</i>
	(902)	Compact, light grey clay; very frequent carboniferous limestone fragments; encountered 0.12m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.24m (truncated by modern service trench). Underlies (901), overlies (903)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Levelling layer</i>
	(903)	Firm, brownish yellow clay; encountered 0.36m below ground level; extends trench-wide with a maximum thickness 0.7m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (902)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 8: View SE of Trench 9

## 6.11 Trench 10

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56415 75232  Located on Stoke Park Road South	(1000)	Indurated, black tarmac; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.08m. Overlies (1001)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(1001)	Compact, black clinker; encountered 0.08m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.03m. Underlies (1000), overlies (1002)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Bedding layer for (1000)</i>
	(1002)	Firm, yellowish-brown mottled with dark grey clayey silt; occasional charcoal flecks and limestone fragments; encountered 0.11m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.3m. Underlies (1001), overlies (1003)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Post-medieval made-ground deposit</i>
	(1003)	Firm, brownish-yellow clay; encountered 0.14m below ground level; extends trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.33m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (1002)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Natural geology</i>	
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 9: View to the SE of Trench 10

## 6.12 Trench 11

The trench measured 106m (NE-SW) × 0.7m (NW-SE) × 1.12m (maximum depth)

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56717 75194 – ST 56659 75105  Located on Downleaze Road	(1100)	Indurated, grey tarmac; extended trench-wide with a maximum depth of 0.06m. Overlies (1101)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(1101)	Indurated, grey concrete; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.15m. Underlies (1100), overlies (1102)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete bedding layer for (1100)</i>
	(1102)	Compact, grey bedrock; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.96m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (1101)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>		<i>Re-deposited natural geology</i>
<b><i>No significant archaeology present</i></b>		



Plate 10: View to the SE, NW-facing section of Trench 11



*Plate 11: View SE, NW-facing section of Trench 11*



*Plate 12: View to the NE of Trench 11*



## 6.13 Trench 12

The trench measured 2.7m (NE-SW) × 1.3m (NW-SE) with a maximum depth of 0.96m.

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56672 75145	(1200)	Indurated, black tarmac; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.07m. Overlies (1201)
Located on Downlease Road	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(1201)	Indurated, grey concrete; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.21m. Underlies (1200), overlies (2102)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete bedding layer for (1200)</i>
	(1202)	Compact, light red brown bedrock; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.82m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (1201)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>		<i>Re-deposited natural geology</i>
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 13: View to the NE of Trench 12

## 6.14 Trench 13

The trench measured 1.16m (NE-SW) × 1.41m (NW-SE) with a maximum depth of 0.83m

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56661 75184  Located on Downlease Road opposite the bus stop	(1300)	Indurated, black tarmac; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.06m. Overlies (1301)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(1301)	Indurated, grey concrete; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.10m. Underlies (1300), overlies (1302)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete bedding layer for (1300)</i>
	(1302)	Compact, light red brown bedrock; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.71m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (1301)
<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>		<i>Re-deposited natural geology</i>
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 14: View NE of Trench of 13

## 6.15 Trench 14

The trench measured 4m (NE-SW) × 0.3m (NW-SE) with a maximum depth of 0.4m

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56652 75192  Located on the footpath area on the SW side of Downleaze Road	(1400)	Indurated, black tarmac; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.05m. Overlies (1401)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(1401)	Indurated, grey concrete; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.06m. Underlies (1400), overlies (1402)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete bedding layer for (1400)</i>
	(1402)	Compact, light red brown silty sand; frequent inclusions of grit; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.3m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (1401)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Made ground deposit</i>
<b>No significant archaeology present</b>		



Plate 15: View to the SW of Trench 14

## 6.16 Trench 15

The trench measured 2.5m (NW-SE) × 1.4m (NE-SW) with a maximum depth of 0.79m

LOCATION	CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
NGR: ST 56651 75207	(1500)	Indurated, black tarmac; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.05m. Overlies (1501)
Located on Downlease Road	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Tarmac surface</i>
	(1501)	Indurated, grey concrete; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.10m. Underlies (1500), overlies (1502)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Concrete bedding layer for (1500)</i>
	(1502)	Compact, light red brown silty sand; frequent inclusions of gravel; extended trench-wide, maximum thickness 0.56m to the limit of excavation. Underlies (1501)
	<i>INTERPRETATION:</i>	<i>Made ground deposit</i>
<b><i>No significant archaeology present</i></b>		



Plate 16: View to the SE of Trench 15

## 7 Discussion of Results

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The ground works observed on Stoke Road in the vicinity of the reservoir and the junction with Ladies Mile revealed no archaeological remains and no cultural deposits earlier than the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. All of the upper contexts described related to late post-medieval/modern road construction or to the installation of modern utilities, which appears to have completely truncated any earlier deposits. Previous work in the vicinity (Border Archaeology 2013) suggested quite a shallow depth for surviving archaeology on Durdham Down and Clifton Down, with overlying deposits being 0.1m on average in thickness.

Deposit (002/007) appeared to be naturally derived and varied in depth along the pipeline route but typically lay 0.3-0.5m below modern tarmac. The deposit was distinct in colour, composition and compaction from the underlying deposit (003/008), probably as a result of weathering and bio-turbation of the upper deposit.

Elsewhere, the archaeology revealed a typical urban sequence of general disturbance resulting from late 19<sup>th</sup> -to early 20<sup>th</sup> -century infrastructure works compounded by later intrusion relating to service provision and carriageway repairs.

Archaeological finds were thus extremely limited comprising one potential linear ditch intersecting Trench 4 on Stoke Park Road. A number of trenches were excavated along the course of the Roman Road, all of which revealed a similar level of disturbance and truncation.

Trenches 1, 2 and 3 on Stoke Road were opened over existing services and none contained archaeology. The archaeological profile comprised a sequence of modern made-ground deposits with natural geology present at the trench base.

The possible linear ditch identified at the southern extent of Trench 4, on Stoke Park Road, may possibly relate to the Bronze Age ditch features encountered during previous excavation work but the narrowness of trench (0.4m wide) precluded any detailed investigation. No further archaeology was encountered along the trench on Stoke Park Road and no finds were recovered.

Trenches 5-10 were located at the eastern extent of Stoke Park Road South in the area of the Roman Road; however, excavations revealed the extent of truncation by earlier service trench excavations carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Trench 5 appeared to contain the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> -century service trench; context (502) was initially interpreted as a possible Roman road foundation but further excavation suggested it was more likely to be 19<sup>th</sup> -century service trench backfill, as the stone deposit sat within a deep-sided cut inconsistent with the profile of a Roman road. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trenches 6-10 contained no significant archaeology, their profile consisting of sterile modern made ground deposits.

Trench 11 ran NE-SW along Downlease Road at the point projected to intersect with the Roman road. However, no evidence was found in either section of the trench, with bedrock underlying the concrete bedding layer underpinning the tarmac road surface. It appears likely that the ground was levelled during construction of the modern road, thereby removing any trace of construction activity associated with the Roman road.

Trenches 12–15 comprised small pits which were opened on Downleaze Road and which varied in depth between 0.96 and 0.4m. No archaeology was present in any of the four, the stratigraphic profile showing a series of modern made-ground deposits and re-deposited natural overlying services.

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## 8.2 Cartography

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<b>Report title:</b>		<b>Report Ref:</b>	
Archaeological Observation of Water Main Renovation Sneyd Park Bristol		BA1317BWSPB	
<b>Report written by</b>	Claire McGlenn BA & Will Logan BA PgDip		
<b>Reported edited by</b>	George Children MA MIfA		
<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved for issue</b>
1	Final	August 2014	Neil Shurety Dip.M G M Inst M

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