

Civil Parish & District: Newton St. Loe, Bath & North East Somerset	National Grid Reference ST69359 64076	HER Number: PRN 69325
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording of the restoration works of the First Pond on the grounds of Bath Spa University, Newton Park, Bath & North East Somerset		Photo attached? YES
Planning Application no: 22/02065/FUL	Recipient museum: Museum of Somerset	
OASIS ID: southwes1-509260	Museum Accession no: n/a	
Contractor's reference number/code: BSUP22	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 5 th April 2023	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) during restoration works of the first pond which required excavations to remove the build-up of silt from the silt trap (Figure 1). This work took place at the request of Bath Spa University (the Client), and was carried out by P. Scrivener on the 5th April 2023 and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boyd 2022) and with best practice and ClfA guidelines.</p> <p>The site lies to the south west of the small parish village of Newton St Loe, and c. 5.5km for the centre of the city of Bath. The area under investigation know historically as the First Pool lies above the Upper and Lower Lakes, within Park Wood, to the southwest of Newton Park House. It forms part of the historic pleasure grounds of the House, which is now the central administrative offices of Bath Spa University.</p> <p>The <i>First Pool</i> also lies in the vicinity of several undesignated heritage assets, recorded on the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER). These include the Upper and Lower Lakes, recorded as <i>63073 Fishponds W of Newton Park, Newton St Loe</i>; a possible medieval field system on the wooded slope northwest of the Upper Lake, recorded as <i>66026: Medieval strip lynchets, South Cleve, Corston</i>; the findspot of an undated end of a human femur bone in Corston Brook, around 160m upstream from the pond, recorded as <i>68399: Human bone find, Newton Park, Newton St Loe</i>; and the site of a conjectured burial ground east of the Upper Lake, recorded as <i>62816: Possible burial ground, Newton Park, Newton St Loe</i>.</p> <p>The stratigraphy of the monitored area was comprised of the following: The topsoil, measuring 0.02m – 0.15m deep (001), was a very soft brown-grey silty loam which lay directly over a light grey brown silt (modern silt build up) which measured up to 1.25m deep (002). The natural beneath the silt was a very soft mid brown-yellow clay (003). The historic stone walling which would have edged the original pond and is depicted in some of the early illustrations of the site (Fig 2), was visible under the shallower sections of topsoil. This feature was not impacted by these developments. No archaeological deposits were identified, no finds were recovered, and no structural remains were impacted.</p> <p>Bibliography.</p> <p>Boyd, N. 2022: Written Scheme of Investigation for The First Pond, Bath Spa University, Newton Park, Bath & North East Somerset</p> <p>British Geological Survey 2022: Geology of Britain Viewer: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html. [accessed 01.08.2022].</p> <p>Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
Recorder: P. Scrivener of South West Archaeology Ltd.		Date sent to HER: May 2023

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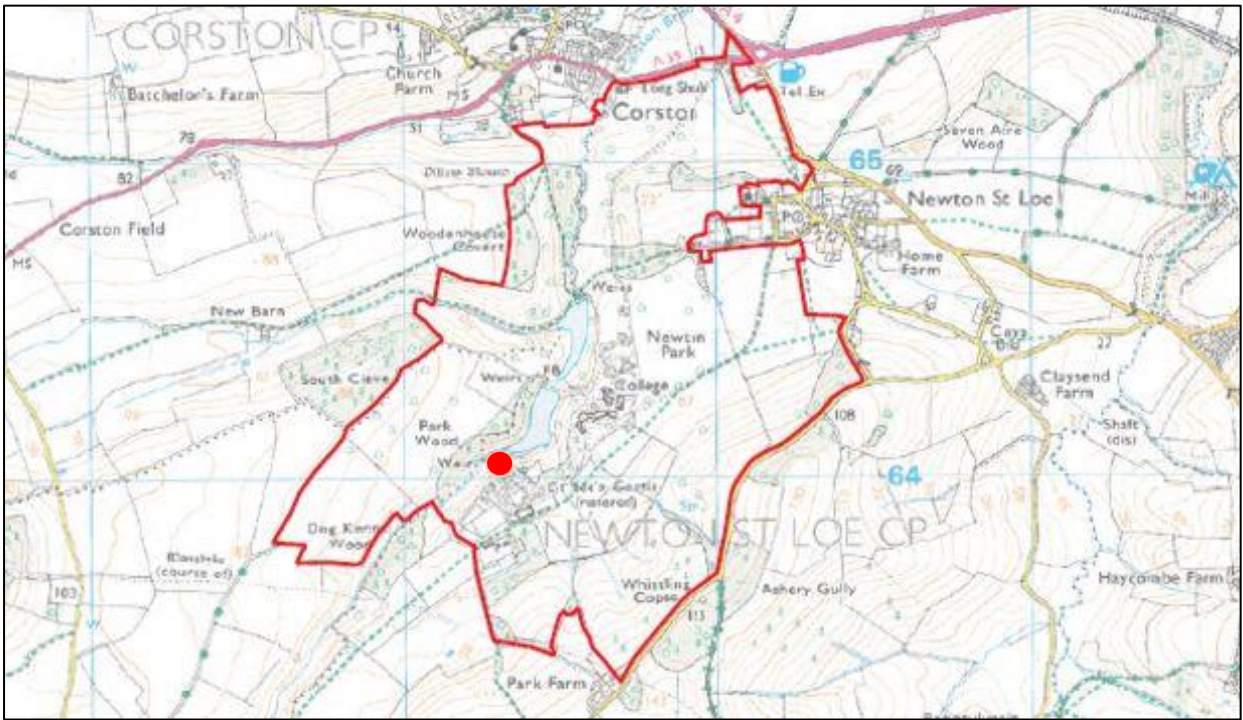


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP SHOWING THE REGISTERED PARK AND GARDEN (RED OUTLINE) AND THE SITE (RED DOT).



FIGURE 2. VIEW OF THE FIRST POOL (AS EXISTING), NEWTON PARK RED BOOK, HUMPHREY REPTON, 1797.
THE WALLING VISIBLE TO THE RIGHT OF THIS IMAGE WAS LOCATED (FOUNDATION STONES ONLY) AND WAS NOT DAMAGED BY DEVELOPMENTS.



FIGURE 3. PRIOR TO DE-SILTING THE SILT TRAP, WITH TOPSOIL REMOVED. VIEWED FACING NORTH-EAST.



FIGURE 4. MIDWAY THROUGH DE-SILTING: HALF OF THE EXCAVATED AREA HAS ALREADY BEEN FLOODED. THE DARKER AREA TO THE LEFT OF THE IMAGE INDICATES LOCATION OF A PREVIOUS TREE. VIEWED FACING NORTH-WEST.