

**Site 3, Camera Recognition  
Bridgwater  
Somerset**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*

**NNB Generation Company Ltd**


CA Project:4212  
CA Report: 13085

April 2012

# Site 3, Camera Recognition Bridgwater Somerset

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 4212  
CA Report: 13085

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
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| date        | 8 April 2013  |
| issue       | 01  |

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Site 3, Camera Recognition  
**Location:** Bridgwater, Somerset  
**NGR:** ST 2955 3688  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 5-12 March 2013  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Somerset County Museum  
**Site Code:** SIE13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of new cable trenches and manholes for camera equipment at Broadway and Albert Street, Bridgwater, Somerset.

An undated posthole was observed along with a 19th century red brick wall and drain. No artefacts pre-dating the late 17th/early 18th century were recovered. Rubble resulting from the demolition of 19th-century buildings during the construction of the modern roads was also observed.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for NNB Generation Company Ltd at Broadway and Albert Street, Bridgwater, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 2955 3688; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken at the request of Steve Membery, Development Control Archaeologist, Somerset County Council (SCC). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the excavation of new cable trenches and manholes for camera equipment.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by AMEC (2013) and approved by SCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Somerset County Council Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (SCC 2008) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The groundworks were located at the road junction between Broadway and Albert Street in central Bridgwater (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 12m AOD, was approximately 0.1ha in size and consisted of public footpaths and main roads.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone and Halite-Stone of the Triassic era (BGS 2013). A red clay mudstone with inclusions of gravel and yellow sand was observed during the excavations.

### ***Archaeological background***

- 1.6 The work was located within the precinct of Bridgwater's Medieval Franciscan Friary and Graveyard (AD 1245-1538) (Somerset HER No. 12435). The summary below has been taken from the Somerset Historic Environment Record (AMEC 2013):

- 1.7 The Friary site extends from West Street through Albert Street and Friarn Avenue beyond Durleigh Brook; the location of Camera 3 is positioned over the Friarn Street entrance to the Friary and its associated lay graveyard.
- 1.8 The Franciscan Friary at Bridgwater was founded by William Brewere in AD1245 and dissolved in AD1538.
- 1.9 In AD 1349 a licence was obtained by the Friary to acquire six acres of land in Bridgwater. The church was rebuilt in the 15th century and was consecrated in AD 1445. The surrender deed from AD 1538 mentions chambers, a frater, kitchen and buttery as well as the church.
- 1.10 After the dissolution the site became a "mansion house" by AD 1571 with the subsidiary buildings sold off.
- 1.11 Strachey's map of Bridgwater (early 18th century) shows three fields in the area called 'The Fryery', 'Lower Fryery' and 'Garden' which appear to indicate the former lands of the Friary. The map shows a bridge, which still exists, crossing the Durleigh Brook.
- 1.12 Excavations in 1934 (Somerset HER No. 57184) revealed an aisled building and another building with traces of a tiled floor. An aisled building is mentioned in historical records by William Worcester and is described as a building with a nave and quire of approximate equal length with "walking space" between. The dimensions of this building in the late 15th century were approximately 63m long and 15.6m wide with aisles and a nave of 7.2m.
- 1.13 Excavations (Somerset HER No 12442) by the Western Archaeological Trust in 1983 at 43 Friarn Street showed no evidence of medieval buildings. This together with the great size of the church as described by Worcester suggests that the Friary lay outside the town walls. There are references to nine burgages "where the grey friars used to dwell" in the late 14th century which may suggest that they moved from Friarn Street (so called from at least AD 1298) before that date.
- 1.14 Further remains of the Friary were revealed in 2003 (Somerset HER No 17085) and include a probable part of the friary church. This building was oriented north-west to

south-east and was over 20m long and at least 9m wide. The building appeared to be cruciform in plan and had two aisles.

- 1.15 An evaluation (Somerset HER No 28222) was undertaken on part of the site in 2008. Medieval features were recorded including eleven pits, two ditches and a buried soil.
- 1.16 In 2012, archaeological monitoring of a trench to contain a new sewer pipe allowed the recording of a section through the medieval Franciscan Friary (Somerset HER No 31971). Towards the eastern end of the trench human bones were recovered from a possible grave, cut into a buried soil horizon. These appeared to include the lower part of an intact burial on a north-west/south-east orientation, in addition to scattered, fragmented remains. To the west the profile of a possible robber trench was revealed which contained a single fragment of 15th century encaustic floor tile and late medieval/post-medieval pottery. Further to the west lay an intact masonry foundation, 2m in width and marking the location of a substantial north-west/south-east wall or a possibly a column base similar to examples recorded in the vicinity in the 1930s excavations.

### ***Archaeological objectives***

- 1.17 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the works;
  - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### ***Methodology***

- 1.18 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (AMEC 2013). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of trenches within both the footpath and road. The trenches were generally excavated to 0.55m below present ground level (bpgl) along footpaths and a depth of 0.7m bpgl across roads (Fig. 2).

- 1.19 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Somerset County Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate (204/406) consisting of red clay mudstone with gravel and yellow sand inclusions was revealed in the south-west of site, situated along Albert Street at an average depth of 0.4m bpgl. This was overlain by several layers of re-worked soil and made-ground, the earliest containing pottery dated to the late 17th/early 18th century. These were sealed by tarmac. Demolition rubble consisting of roof tile, red bricks, slate, plastic and air bricks was observed on either side of Broadway, again sealed by tarmac.
- 2.2 Posthole 404 was observed in the south-west of site within Trench 4. It was 0.3m in diameter and 0.22m in depth. It was cut into natural 406 and had been truncated by a modern service trench. No finds were recovered from single fill 405.
- 2.3 Two courses of a red brick wall 103, aligned north-west/south-east were visible in the base of Trench 1. It was approximately 0.3m in width. It was associated with a ceramic, un-glazed, drainage pipe 105 aligned north-east/south-west emerging from the eastern side of wall 103. Both were cut into the top of dark brown silt clay, 107, that contained 19th-century pottery. Wall 103 and drain 105 had been heavily disturbed by the construction of the modern Broadway and were overlain by type 1 gravel.

### ***Finds***

- 2.4 The finds recovered from the watching brief are summarised in Appendix B. The pottery assemblage consisted of 25 sherds weighing 1198g. In addition, fragments of clay tobacco pipe, bottle glass, bone, ivory and plastic were recovered. The assemblage was recorded from six stratified contexts and could be dated to the



post-medieval and modern periods. The level of preservation was good, with the pottery displaying negligible levels of abrasion.

### *Pottery*

- 2.5 The post-medieval pottery assemblage amounted to 15 sherds weighing 1090g. All consists of glazed earthenwares of broad 17th to 18th century date. Sherds of North Devon non gravel-tempered wares, including plate sherds of likely late 17th to early 18th century date, were identifiable from deposits 401 and 502. A small cup, of Staffordshire or Bristol slip ware, featured an overall white slip (appearing yellow) with internally trailed brown slip decoration, and is of similar late 17th or early 18th-century date.
- 2.6 The modern pottery assemblage consists of 10 sherds of refined whiteware and stoneware vessels commercially available during the 19th and 20th century. A fragment from a porcelain figurine, of a woman dismounting a coach (possibly Cinderella), was recorded from deposit 502 and was of likely 19th century date.

### *Other finds*

- 2.7 Fragments of clay tobacco pipes were recorded from deposits 203, 303, 401 and 502. While the stem fragments could only be attributed a broad post-medieval date, the bowls were typical of forms produced from c. 1680 to 1710.
- 2.8 An ivory cutlery handle was retrieved from deposit 401 and, based on the associated pottery dates, may date to the late 17th or early 18th century. The handle is of tapering form with a lozenge shaped section. Unusually the handle terminates with a small pointed bone dowel, apparently the means by which a, possibly decorative, end cap was attached.
- 2.9 A piece of modern bottle glass was identified from deposit 303, from a late 19th century or early 20th century Hamilton's patent 'torpedo' shaped bottle.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified few archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits is most likely due to the demolition of dwellings

and the construction of Broadway as well as the use of the modern pathways as a convenient location for service trenches.

- 3.2 A single posthole 404 was observed. Due to the top being truncated by services, and no finds being recovered from the feature, it is not possible to assign this feature to any period.
- 3.3 The wall 103 and drain 105 cut a deposit 107 that contained early to mid 19th-century pottery. The wall also aligns with a building depicted on the 1888 town plan of the area (Fig. 3) and which was most likely removed during the construction of Broadway in the 20th century. Rubble resulting from the demolition of dwellings down each side of Broadway was observed along the length of the road.

#### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Sausins. The report was written by Daniel Sausins. The finds report was written by Angus Crawford. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Daniel Sausins, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

#### 5. REFERENCES

AMEC 2013 *Excavations for Camera Location 3: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html)

Accessed 13 March 2013



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

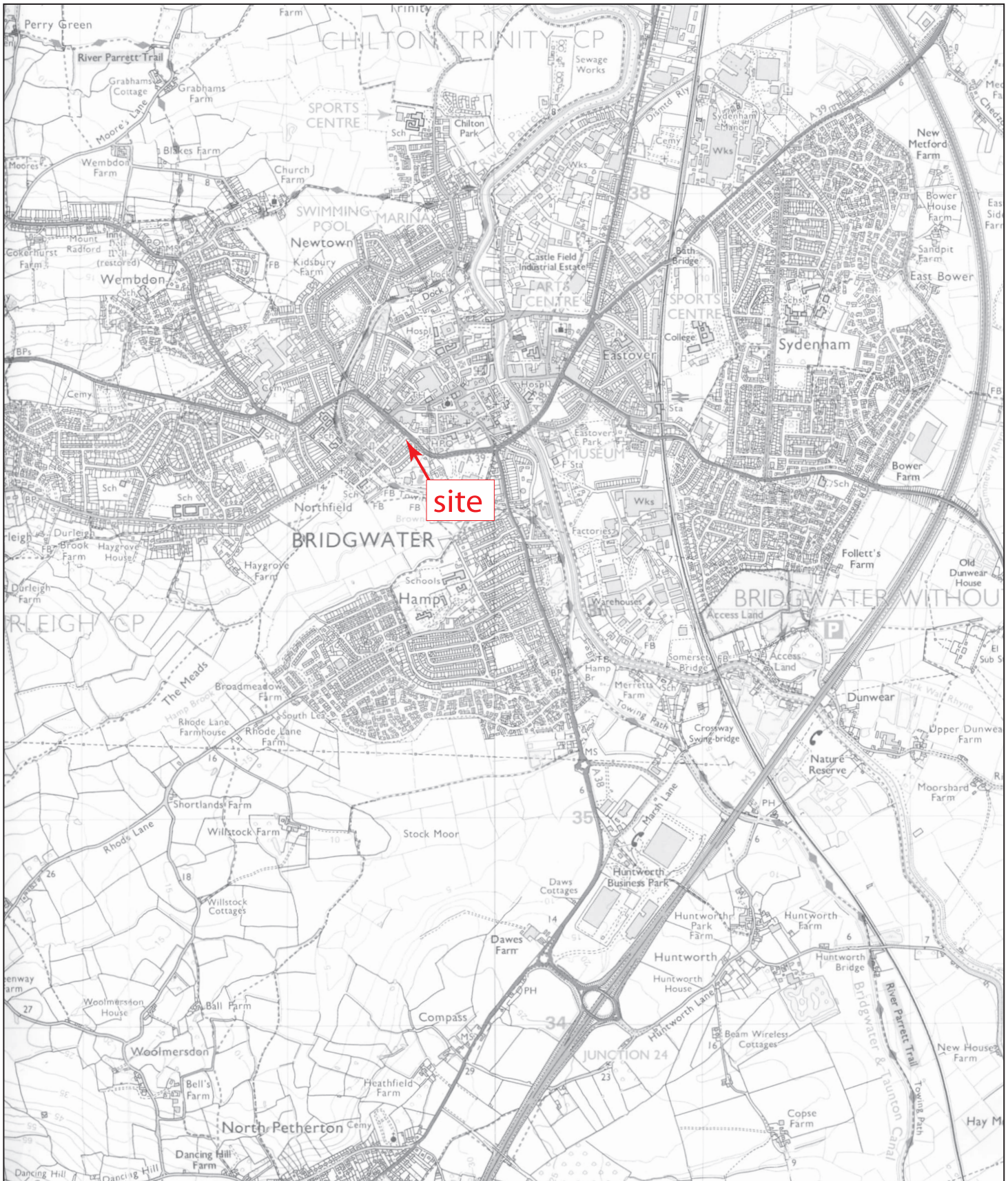
| Trench No. | Context No. | Type    | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description   | L (m) | W (m) | Depth /thickness (m) |
|------------|-------------|---------|---------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------|
| 1          | 100         | Layer   | 102     | Surface                | Tarmac road   |       |       | 0.15                 |
| 1          | 101         | Layer   | 102     | Hardcore               | Type 1 gravel   |       |       | 0.45                 |
| 1          | 102         | Cut     |         | Road                   | Construction cut for Broadway                                   |       |       | 0.60                 |
| 1          | 103         | Masonry | 103     | Wall                   | Unfrogged red brick, yellow and grey sand mortar                | >0.3  | 0.3   | >0.1                 |
| 1          | 104         | Cut     |         | Construction trench    | Linear  | >0.3  | 0.3   | >0.1                 |
| 1          | 105         | Masonry | 106     | Land drain             | Small light orange red soft clay pipe. unglazed                 | >1.0  | >0.2  | >0.1                 |
| 1          | 106         | Cut     |         | Construction trench    | Linear  | >1.0  | >0.2  | >0.1                 |
| 1          | 107         | Deposit |         | Buried soil            | Dark brown black silt clay                                      |       |       | >0.1                 |
| 2          | 200         | Layer   |         | Surface                | Tarmac footpath   |       |       | 0.15                 |
| 2          | 201         | Layer   |         | Demolition rubble      | Dark brown with brick and rubble                                |       |       | >0.4                 |
| 2          | 202         | Layer   |         | Made ground            | Mid purple red silt clay  |       |       | 0.35                 |
| 2          | 203         | Layer   |         | Made ground            | Mid grey brown silt clay  |       |       | 0.27                 |
| 2          | 204         | Layer   |         | Natural                | Red clay and gravels with yellow sand                           |       |       |                      |
| 3          | 301         | Layer   |         | Surface                | Tarmac footpath   |       |       | 0.15                 |
| 3          | 302         | Layer   |         | Made ground            | Dark brown silt loam with plastic                               |       |       | 0.34                 |
| 3          | 303         | Layer   |         | Demolition rubble      | Brick, roof tile, plastic in a brown clay matrix                |       |       | 0.35                 |
| 4          | 400         | Layer   |         | Surface                | Tarmac road   |       |       | 0.1                  |
| 4          | 401         | Layer   |         | Demolition rubble      | Brick and rubble in a brown clay matrix with black lenses       |       |       | 0.34                 |
| 4          | 402         | Layer   |         | Hardcore               | Type 1 gravel   |       |       | 0.15                 |
| 4          | 403         | Layer   |         | Deposit                | Mid-dull brown-red with sandstone blocks                        |       |       | >0.1                 |
| 4          | 404         | Cut     |         | Posthole               | Steep sides, flat base  |       | 0.3   | 0.22                 |
| 4          | 405         | Fill    | 404     | Backfill               | Dark grey-black clay loam                                       |       | 0.3   | 0.22                 |
| 4          | 406         | Layer   |         | Natural                | Red clay and gravels with yellow sand                           |       |       |                      |
| 5          | 500         | Layer   |         | Surface                | Tarmac footpath   |       |       | 0.08                 |
| 5          | 501         | Layer   |         | Made ground            | Possible service trench infill, dark brown clay silt with brick |       |       | >0.4                 |
| 5          | 502         | Layer   |         | Made ground            | Mid brown clay silt   |       |       | >0.3                 |
| 5          | 503         | Layer   |         | Demolition rubble      | Mixed brown clay with brick                                     |       |       |                      |

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

| Context | Description   | Ct. | Wt. | Date      |
|---------|---|-----|-----|-----------|
| 107     | Modern pottery: refined whiteware; pearlware  | 3   | 13  | M-LC19    |
| 201     | Modern pottery: refined whiteware; stoneware  | 2   | 27  | LC19-EC20 |
| 203     | Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware   | 1   | 51  | LC17-EC18 |
|         | Clay tobacco pipe: stem   | 3   | 21  |           |
| 303     | Modern pottery: refined whiteware; porcelain; stoneware   | 3   | 36  | C20       |
|         | Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware   | 1   | 73  |           |
|         | Plastic component   | 1   | 8   |           |
|         | Sanitary ware: stoneware  | 3   | 59  |           |
|         | Clay tobacco pipe: stem   | 1   | 2   |           |
|         | Glass: bottle   | 1   | 127 |           |
| 401     | Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenwares; North Devon non gravel-tempered ware; Staffordshire slip ware | 10  | 702 | LC17-EC18 |
|         | Clay tobacco pipe: stems and bowls  | 5   | 27  |           |
|         | Ivory: knife handle   | 1   | 17  |           |
|         | Bone: animal  | 2   | 48  |           |
| 502     | Modern pottery: refined whiteware; porcelain (figurine)   | 2   | 32  | C19       |
|         | Post-medieval pottery: glazed earthenware; North Devon non gravel-tempered ware                           | 3   | 164 |           |
|         | Clay tobacco pipe: stems  | 2   | 8   |           |

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

| <b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Project Name  | Site 3, Camera Recognition, Bridgwater, Somerset  |   |
| Short description (250 words maximum)   | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during the excavation of new cable trenches and manholes for camera equipment at Broadway and Albert Street, Bridgwater, Somerset.<br>An undated posthole was observed along with a 19th century red brick wall and drain. No artefacts pre-dating the late 17th/early 18th century were recovered. Rubble resulting from the demolition of 19th-century buildings during the construction of the modern roads was also observed. |   |
| Project dates   | 5-12 March 2013   |   |
| Project type<br>(e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)   | Watching Brief  |   |
| Previous work<br>(reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)   | None  |   |
| Future work   | Unknown   |   |
| <b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>   |   |   |
| Site Location   | Broadway and Albert Street, Bridgwater, Somerset  |   |
| Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)   | 0.1ha   |   |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)  | ST 2955 3688  |   |
| <b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>   |   |   |
| Name of organisation  | Cotswold Archaeology  |   |
| Project Brief originator  | Somerset County Council   |   |
| Project Design (WSI) originator   | AMEC  |   |
| Project Manager   | Richard Young   |   |
| Project Supervisor  | Daniel Sausins  |   |
| <b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>  | none  |   |
| <b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>  | none  |   |
| <b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>   |   |   |
|   | Intended final location of archive<br>(museum/Accession no.)  | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)         |
| Physical  | Somerset County Museum  | Pottery, bone, glass                            |
| Paper   | Somerset County Museum  | Trench sheets, photo registers, section drawing |
| Digital   | Somerset County Museum  | Digital photographs                             |
| <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>   |   |   |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Site 3, Camera Recognition, Bridgwater, Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>13085</b> |   |   |



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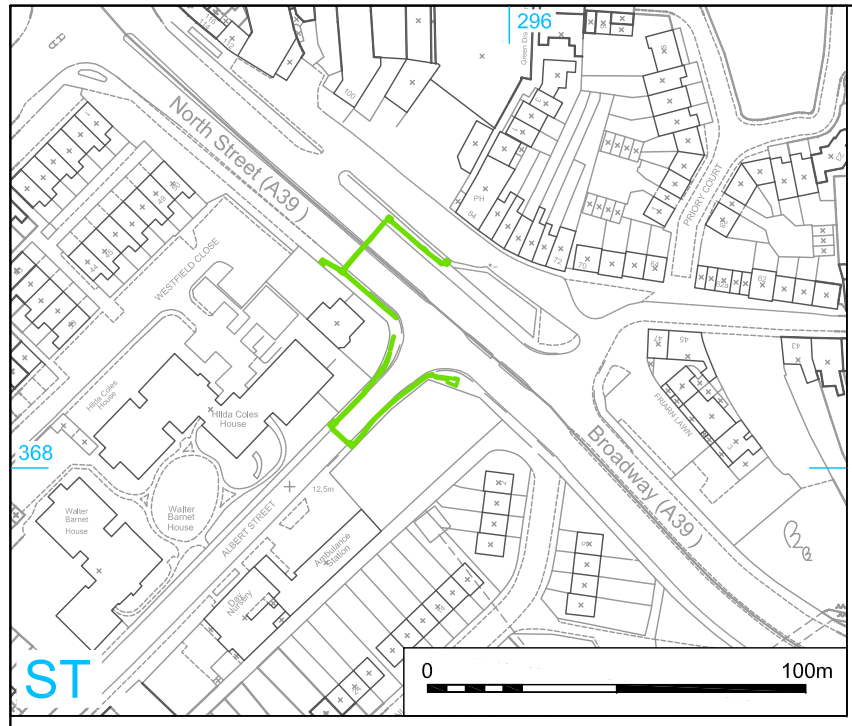
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Site 3, Camera Recognition, Bridgwater  
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

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FIGURE NO.  
**1**



- ▬ observed groundworks
- ▬ feature
- ▬ modern

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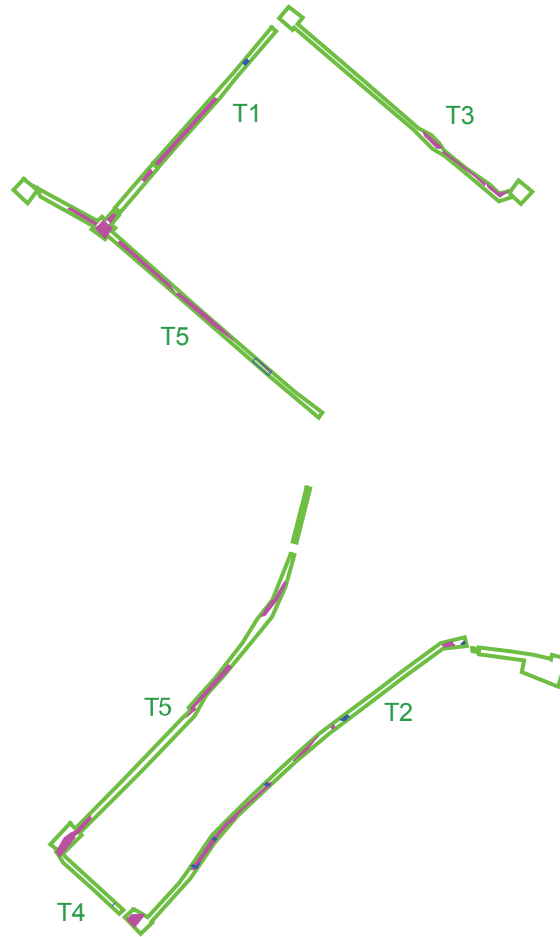
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Site 3, Camera Recognition  
 Bridgwater, Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Observed groundworks, showing  
 archaeological and modern features

|                  |                         |              |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| PROJECT NO. 4212 | DATE 18-03-2013         | FIGURE NO. 2 |
| DRAWN BY JB      | REVISION 00             |              |
| APPROVED BY PJM  | SCALE@A3 1:2000 & 1:250 |              |

P:\4212 Site 3 Camera Recognition Bridgwater Somerset\WB\Illustration\Drawings\4212 Camera Installation Bridgwater Flg 2.dwg



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Site 3, Camera Recognition  
 Bridgwater, Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Extract from 1888 map, showing  
 observed groundworks and  
 archaeological features**



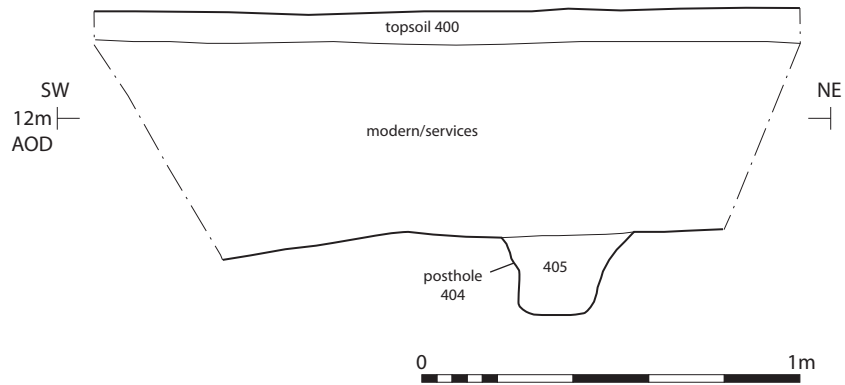
PROJECT NO. 4212 DATE 21-03-2013  
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**FIGURE NO.**

**3**



Trench 4, section AA



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PROJECT TITLE

Site 3, Camera Recognition, Bridgwater  
Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

**Trench 4: section**

PROJECT NO. 4212 DATE 18-03-2013  
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FIGURE NO.

**4**