

**Cannington Flood Defence Scheme GI Works
Cannington
Somerset**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Royal HaskoningDHV


CA Project: 5049
CA Report: 14527

November 2014

CANNINGTON FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME GI WORKS CANNINGTON SOMERSET

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5049
CA Report: 14527

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date	6 November 2014
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	10 November 2014
approved by	Cliff Bateman, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	11 November 2014
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of observed groundworks (1:5000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Cannington Flood Defence Scheme GI Works
Location: Cannington, Somerset
NGR: ST 25391 38920
Type: Watching Brief
Date: September 2014
Planning Reference: N/A
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Somerset County Museum
Site Code: GIC14

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during ground investigation works associated with the proposed Cannington Flood Defence Scheme at Cannington, Somerset.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Royal HaskoningDHV at Cannington, Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 25391 28920); Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken during Ground Investigation works along the proposed route of the Cannington Flood Defence Scheme.
- 1.2 The watching brief was recommended by Steven Membrey, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council Heritage Service, Somerset County Council (SCC) and Ed Wilson, Environment Agency Senior Archaeologist, National Environmental Assessment Service (NEAS). A detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by CA (2014) and approved by Mr Membrey. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (SCC 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area comprises agricultural land adjacent to the A39 and Cannington Village. The site lies at approximately 19m AOD, with the ground level dropping away to the east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mercia mudstone of the Triassic period (BGS 2013). Borehole investigations in the northern part of the site, adjacent to the A39, revealed the natural mudstone at a depth of between 1.4m and 1.65m below present ground level (bpgl). This was sealed by alluvial deposits measuring between 0.6m to 0.95m in thickness (WYG 2013). An archaeological evaluation of the site in 2013 showed the natural substrate to comprise mid red brown sandy gravel with frequent patches of light brown silty sand (CA 2013).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An archaeological evaluation of the western part of the current site was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in October 2013 (CA 2013). Seventeen trenches were excavated. The evaluation identified a number of archaeological features across the site which generally correlated well with the results of a preceding geophysical survey (Stratascan 2013).
- 1.6 A curving ditch identified during the evaluation, may be prehistoric in date and could represent the remains of a ring ditch, circular drip gully or stock enclosure associated with possible funerary or settlement activity.
- 1.7 A number of other ditches, identified to the west of the current site, appear to confirm the presence of a postulated Roman ladder settlement previously identified by the geophysical survey. Pottery ranging in date from the Late Iron Age/ 1st century AD to the 2nd to 4th-century AD was recovered from the fills of these ditches.
- 1.8 Undated ditches and ditches of post-medieval date appear to relate to agricultural activity and/or land division.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 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 development groundworks;
 - 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

- 1.10 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014) An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of five test pits.

1.11 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).

1.12 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with Somerset County Museum. A summary of information from this project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

2.1 The natural geological substrate (104, 302, 402 and 502) comprising sandy gravels was the earliest identified deposit in test pits 1, 3-5. In test pit 2 pale blue alluvial clay 203 was the earliest deposit encountered. In test pit 1 alluvial clays (102 and 103) were recorded sealing the natural substrate. The alluvial clays in test pit 1 and 2, and the natural substrate in test pits 3-5, were sealed by sandy clay subsoil (101, 201, 301, 401 and 501 respectively), which in turn was overlain by sandy silt topsoil (100, 200, 300, 400 and 500 respectively).

2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the areas of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that remains associated with the possible prehistoric funerary or settlement activity, the postulated Roman ladder settlement and post-medieval agricultural activity identified by the evaluation (CA 2013), either do not extend into areas monitored during the watching brief or do not survive within observed areas.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Anthony Beechey. The report was written by Anthony Beechey. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been

compiled by Anthony Beechey, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2013 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 17
October 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Cannington Flood Defence Scheme, Cannington, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report **13617**

CA 2014 *Cannington Flood Defences GI Works, Cannington, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Stratascan 2013 *Geophysical Survey Report: Cannington* Unpublished Stratascan report No. **J5754**

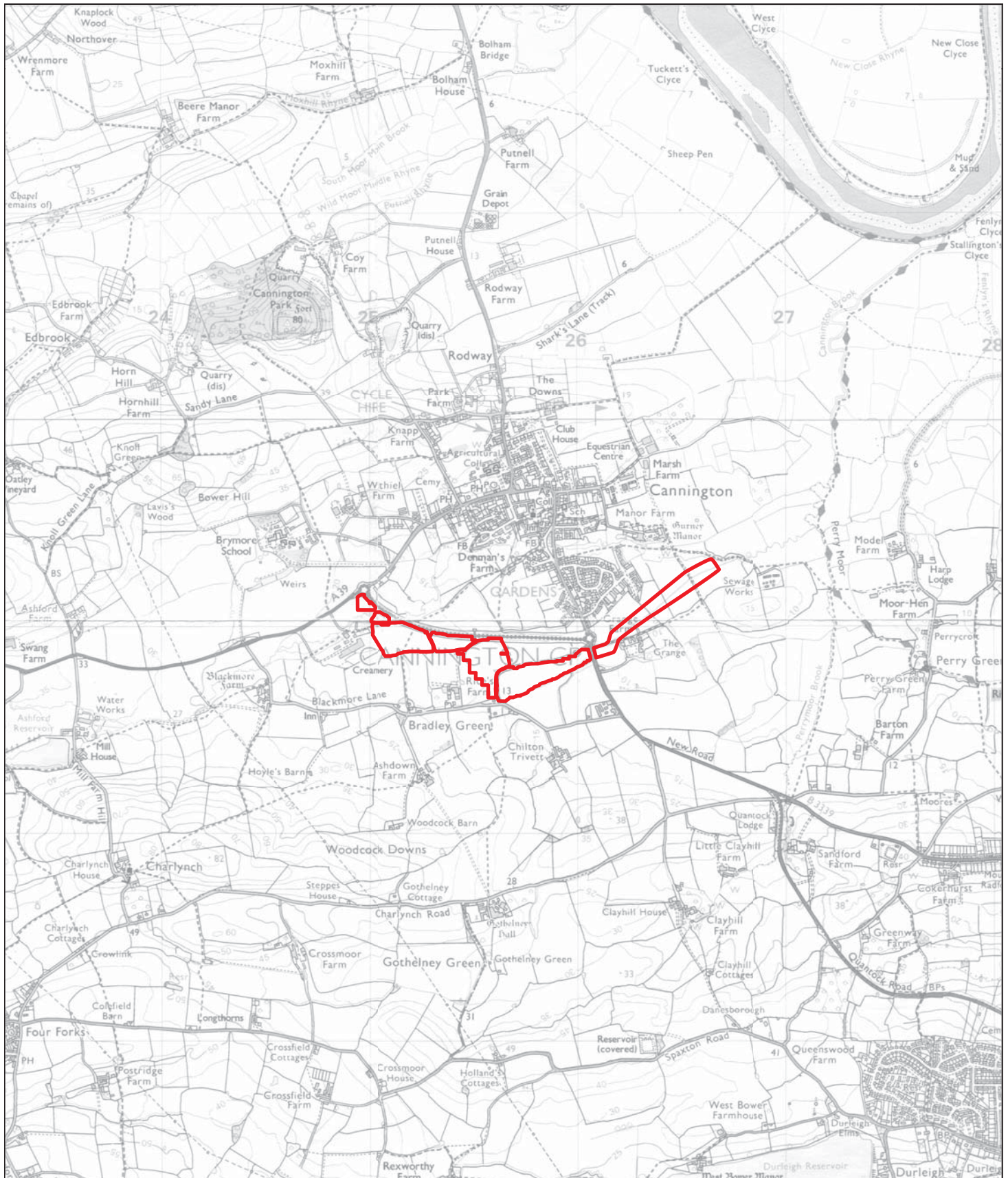
WYG Planning and Environment, 2013, *Cannington FDS Ground Investigation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Light orange brown, clay - silt	>3.8	>1.6	0.29
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Light pinkish brown, clay-silt	>3.8	>1.6	0.12
1	102	Layer		Alluvium	Mid grey brown, silt-clay	>3.8	>1.6	0.69
1	103	Layer		Alluvium	Mid grey black, Clay, organic	>3.8	>1.6	0.60
1	104	Layer		Natural	Mid orange grey, sandy-gravel	>3.8	>1.6	>1.70
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Light orange brown, sandy, silt, clay.	>3.8	>1.6	0.27
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown, sandy-clay (10% silt).	>3.8	>1.6	0.18
2	202	Layer		Deposit	Pale orange, Sand Gravel. Homogenous, No inclusions, sterile.	>3.8	>1.6	0.24
2	203	Layer		Alluvium	Pale Blue Clay. Homogenous	>3.8	>1.6	>0.68
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Light orange brown, sandy – silt	>3.8	>1.6	0.24
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Pale yellow grey, sandy – gravel (20% silt)	>3.8	>1.6	0.16
3	302	Layer		Natural	Yellow white, sandy-gravel	>3.8	>1.6	>0.4
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Light orange brown, clay – silt	>3.8	>1.6	0.28
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown, sandy – clay (30% silt)	>3.8	>1.6	0.18
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid orange to light grey, sandy – gravel	>3.8	>1.6	>0.46
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid orange brown, clay - silt	>3.8	>1.6	0.25
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey, orange hue, sandy – clay (20% silt)	>3.8	>1.6	0.24
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid orange to light greyish white, sandy – gravel	>3.8	>1.6	>0.49

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Cannington Flood Defences GI Works: Archaeological Watching Brief.	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during ground investigation works associated with proposed Cannington Flood Defences at Cannington, Somerset.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	3-5 September 2014	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Evaluation (CA 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Cannington, Somerset	
Study area (M ² /ha)	30m ²	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 25391 28920	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Anthony D Beechey	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Somerset County Museum	Trench sheets, Photo register
Digital	Somerset County Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014: <i>Cannington Flood Defence Scheme GI Works, Cannington, Somerset, Archaeological Watching Brief.</i>		



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PROJECT TITLE

**Cannington Flood Defence Scheme GI
Works, Cannington, Somerset**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

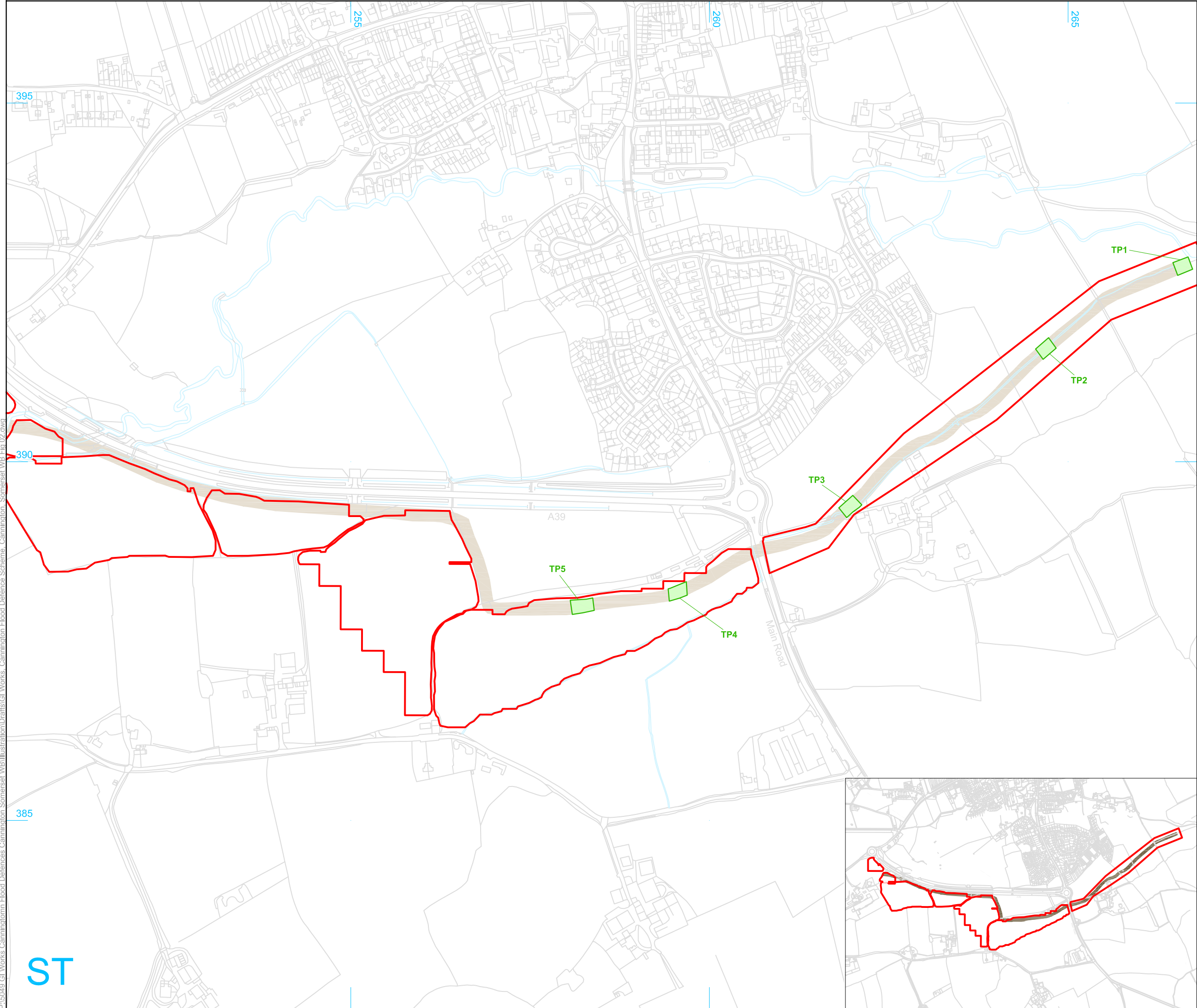
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PROJECT NO. 5049 DATE 04.11.14
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APPROVED BY JB SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- proposed route of scheme
- test pit

0 200m

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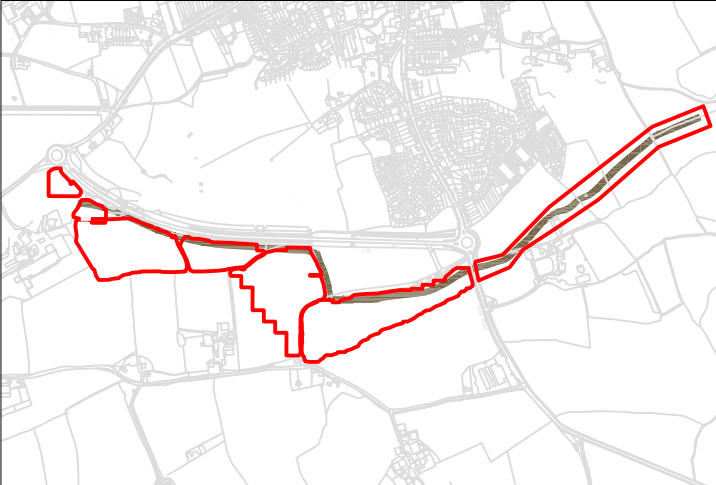


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PROJECT TITLE
Cannington Flood Defence Scheme GI Works, Cannington, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing location of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO.	5049	DATE	04.11.14	FIGURE NO.
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