



Water Main Replacement (Site 011) Shepherd's Row Stow-on-the-Wold Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
eight₂0

on behalf of
Thames Water Utilities Ltd

CA Project: 5764
CA Report: 16045

March 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Water Main Replacement (Site 011)
Location: Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 1935 2585
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 18-25 January 2016
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester
Site Code: SRSW16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of a water main at Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for eight₂0, on behalf of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, during the replacement of a water main (Site 011) at Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 1935 2585; Fig. 1). The watching brief comprised Permitted Development for the replacement of the water main but is governed by Thames Water's responsibilities under the *Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation*.
- 1.2 Following consultation with Charles Parry, Archaeologist, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council (CDC), it was agreed that a watching brief was required during the excavation of access pits and open-cut trenches along the line of the existing water main. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (CA 2016) and approved by Charles Parry. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

The site

- 1.3 The water main replacement works were located along Shepherd's Row, a predominantly residential street located approximately 100m to the east of the historic core of Stow-on-the-Wold. The site lies at approximately 224m AOD and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Chipping Norton Formation Limestone of the Jurassic Period (BGS 2016). No superficial deposits are recorded. The natural substrate was not observed during the watching brief due to either the limited depth of groundworks undertaken or the level of modern truncation encountered.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The water main route is situated in an area of known archaeological potential. The following is a summary of information pertinent to the site:
- 2.2 The water main route lies within the conjectured limits of a reputed prehistoric camp, possibly 'Maethelgeres Byrig' referred to in a charter of 949 AD (Leech 1981, 79). Ditches associated with the Camp have been identified on several occasions, and one yielded radiocarbon dates centred on the Middle Bronze Age (Parry 1999).
- 2.3 Shepherd's Row lies on the eastern periphery of the medieval and later settlement, approximately 100m to the east of the historic core of Stow-on-the-Wold. The town is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086 as Edwardstow or Stow St. Edward (Morris 1982), and was probably named after Edward the Martyr who died in AD 978 (Leech 1981). A market was granted in AD 1107 and the town subsequently flourished as a medieval and later market centre.
- 2.4 An archaeological trench evaluation (CA 2005a), undertaken c. 50m to the south-west of the site, revealed evidence of post medieval or later quarrying waste; the natural substrate was only encountered in one trench, at a depth of 1.2m below the present ground level. An archaeological watching brief, undertaken c. 80m to the south-east of the site, revealed a large quarry pit containing eighteenth to nineteenth-century pottery (CAT 2000). A further watching brief (CA 2005b), undertaken c. 100m to the north of the site, revealed further evidence of post-medieval quarrying activity.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during the excavation of access pits and open cut trenches along the line of the existing water main (see Fig. 2 for the location and extent of the observed groundworks). Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contractors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.
- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Corinium Museum, Cirencester. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 Trenches 1 and 7 were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the present ground level (bpgl) and were entirely contained within the service trench of the existing water main. The earliest deposits encountered in both of these trenches related to the backfilling of this service trench. These deposits were overlain by modern bedding/levelling deposits, typically measuring 0.2m in thickness, which were in turn overlain by the modern tarmac road surface.
- 5.2 Trenches 2-6 were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3m bpgl and did not penetrate below modern bedding/levelling deposits for the existing modern tarmac footpath or road surface of Shepherd's Row.
- 5.3 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 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. In Trenches 1 and 7 any possible archaeological deposits, had they existed, would have been removed to a depth of at least 1.2m bpgl by the installation of the existing water main. Within Trenches 2-6 the observed groundworks did not penetrate beneath modern bedding/levelling deposits, consequently the survival of archaeological features in these areas remains unproven, but is considered unlikely due to the depth of modern truncation seen in Trenches 1 and 7.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts and Sikko van der Brug. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The illustrations were prepared by Sam O'Leary. The archive has been compiled by Alison Roberts, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

8. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 26 January 2016
- CAT (Cotswold Archaeological Trust) 2000 *7 Chapel Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*, CAT Report No. **001180**
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- CA 2005b *Well View, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Recording*, CA Report No. **05166**
- CA 2016 *Water Mains Replacement (Site 011), Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the Wold, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Leech 1981 'Stow on the Wold' in *Historic Towns in Gloucestershire*, 79-81

Morris, J. 1982 *Domesday Book 15: Gloucestershire*

Parry, C. 1999 'The Surgery, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire' in *Trans B.G.A.S.* **117**, 75-87

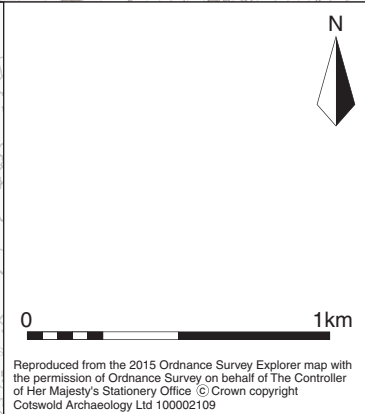
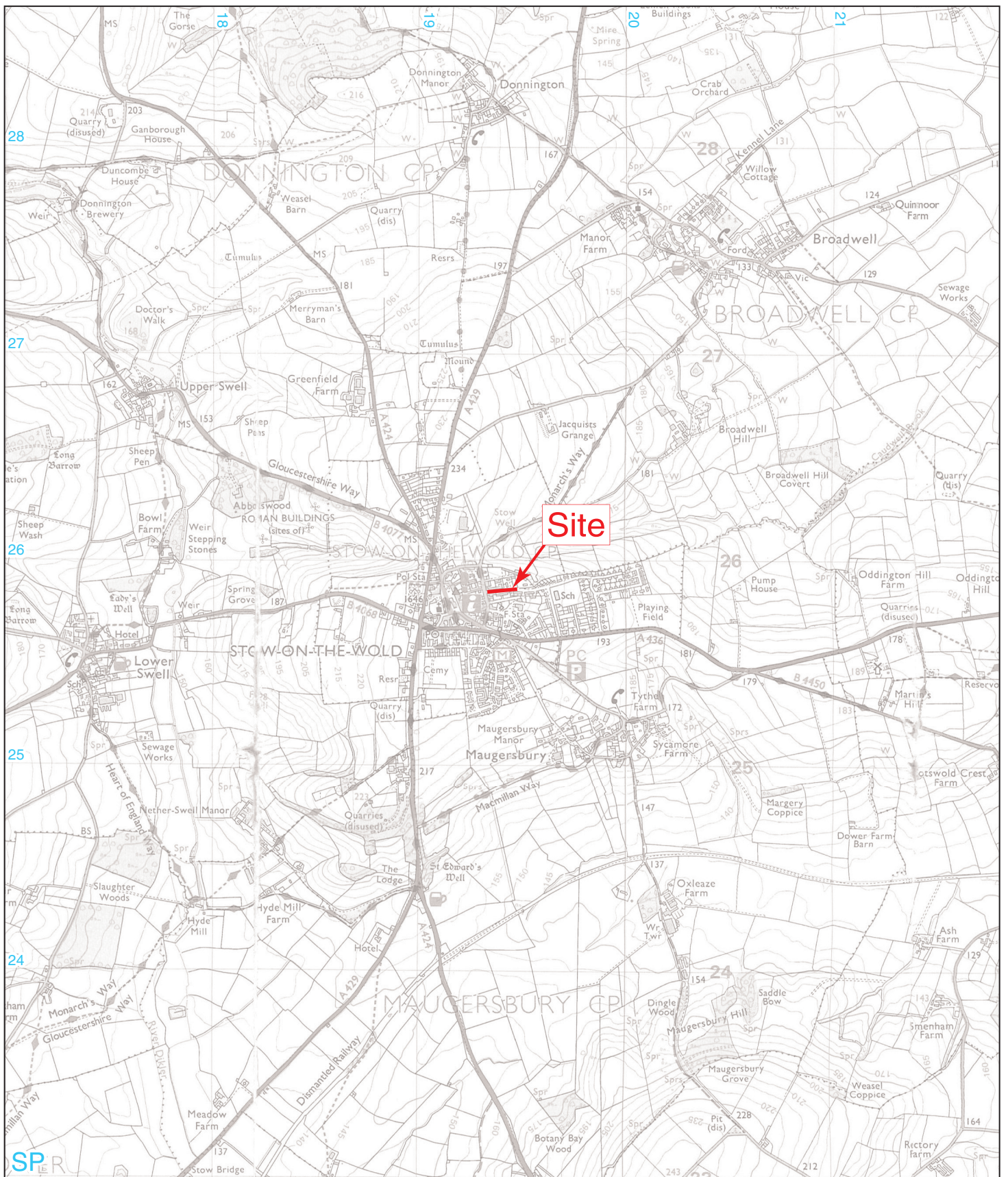



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer		Tarmac surface	Tarmac	>1.5	>1.3	0.15
1	101	Layer		Modern bedding/levelling deposit	Mid black-grey sand and gravel	>1.5	>1.3	0.2
1	102	Fill		Modern service trench backfill	Highly mixed mid grey gravel and sand with limestone fragments	>1.5	>1.3	>0.85
2	200	Layer		Tarmac surface	Tarmac	>1.5	>1.5	0.15
2	201	Layer		Modern bedding/levelling deposit	Mid black-grey sand and gravel	>1.5	>1.5	>0.15
3	300	Layer		Tarmac	Tarmac	>1.7	>0.5	0.1
3	301	Layer		Modern bedding/levelling	Mid black-grey sand and gravel	>1.7	>0.5	>0.2
4	400	Layer		Tarmac surface	Tarmac	>1.3	>1	0.15
4	401	Layer		Modern bedding/levelling	Mid black-grey sand and gravel	>1.3	>1	>0.14
5	500	Layer		Tarmac surface	Tarmac	>1.2	>0.5	0.2
5	501	Layer		Modern bedding/levelling	Mid black-grey sand and gravel	>1.2	>0.5	>0.1
6	600	Layer		Tarmac surface	Tarmac	>0.6	>0.6	0.1
6	601	Layer		Modern bedding/levelling	Mid black-grey sand and gravel	>0.6	>0.6	0.1
6	603	Cut		Pipe Trench	Modern service trench	>0.6	0.5	>0.3
6	604	Fill	603	Modern service trench backfill	Dark grey clay and gravel	>0.6	0.5	>0.3
7	700	Layer		Tarmac	Tarmac	>3	>1	0.15
7	701	Layer		Modern Bedding/levelling	Mid black-grey sandy gravel	>3	>1	0.2
7	702	Fill		Modern service trench backfill	Highly mixed mid grey gravel and sand with limestone fragments	>3	>1	>0.87

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Water Main Replacement (Site 011), Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the replacement of a water main at Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	18-25 January 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire	
Site co-ordinates	SP 1935 2585	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Alison Roberts and Sikko van der Brug	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Trench recording forms, digital photographic register
Digital	Corinium Museum, Cirencester	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Water Main Replacement (Site 011), Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 16045		





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PROJECT TITLE

**Water Main Replacement (Site 011)
 Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold
 Gloucestershire**


FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY SO	PROJECT NO. 5764	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DB	DATE 04-02-2016	
APPROVED BY SS	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	1

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 area of observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE
 Water Main Replacement (Site 011)
 Shepherd's Row, Stow-on-the-Wold
 Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Area of observed groundworks

DRAWN BY SO	PROJECT NO. 5764	FIGURE NO.
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