Cotswold Archaeology

Hinkley Point C Connection Project
Stage 1.2: Churchill Substation
North Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief

for:
Grant Construction

on behalf of:
National Grid

CA Project: CR0079
CA Report: CR0079_1

April 2020

Andover Cirencester Exeter Milton Keynes Suffolk

Hinkley Point C Connection Project
Stage 1.2: Churchill Substation
North Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: CR0079
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A	3 December 2019	Jerry Austin	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Duncan Coe
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C	27 April 2020	Jerry Austin	Derek Evans	Curator (Cat Lodge) review	Amended Fig. 1 in line with Curator comments	Duncan Coe

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CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

SUMMARY

Project name:	Hinkley Point C Connection Project, Stage 1.2
Location:	Churchill Substation, Stock Lane, North Somerset
NGR:	345365 162386
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	1–30 May 2019
Location of archive:	To be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	HPCC19

In May 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Churchill Substation, Stock Lane, North Somerset. This watching brief was part of the Hinkley Point C Connection Project and was maintained during Stage 1.2 of the authorised development at Churchill Y Route. The monitored groundworks comprised the machine excavation of a new haul road and a new compound footprint.

The watching brief recorded two ditches. Neither of these ditches were dated artefactually, but both appeared to represent former elements within the extant field system. There were no archaeological remains clearly associated with medieval occupation which has been recorded previously in the vicinity of the site. This supports the hypothesis that the site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to these settlements, although it is possible that associated archaeological remains were not exposed in the relatively limited works area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. In May 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Churchill Substation, Stock Lane, North Somerset (centred at NGR: 345355 162386; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Grant Construction, who were acting on behalf of National Grid.

1.2. The watching brief was part of the Hinkley Point C Connection Project and was maintained during Stage 1.2 of the authorised development at Churchill Y Route. The watching brief was required by Schedule 3 Requirement 6(1)(h) of The National Grid (Hinkley Point C Connection Project) Order 2016 (as amended).

1.3. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with an Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; National Grid 2015), an Archaeological Method Statement (AMS; National Grid 2018) and a Project Design (PD; CA 2018).

1.4. CA acted as the Archaeological Contractor for this project. This role is defined in the AMS (National Grid 2018) as: "an appropriately qualified archaeological contractor appointed by the contractor to carry out the works described in the archaeological method statement."

1.5. Jacobs acted as the Consultant for this project. This role is defined in the AMS (National Grid 2018) as the organisation "…appointed by WPD [Western Power Distribution] to prepare the Archaeological Method Statement for the archaeological watching brief." Jacobs also monitored the progress of the watching brief fieldwork through the receipt of updates from CA.

1.6. The fieldwork followed *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

1.7. The watching brief site was located to the immediate north-east of the junction between Stock Lane and Iwood Lane, some 1.1km south-east of Congresbury and *c*. 1.6km north of Langford (Figs. 1 and 2). The monitored groundworks were within agricultural fields to the east of Churchill Substation, which lay on the opposite side

of Iwood Lane. The site lies at approximately 17m AOD and the ground is broadly flat.

1.8. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group mudstone and halite-stone, which formed in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded at the site (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1. The following section presents a brief summary of data outlined in the AMS (2018), which should be referred to for a full archaeological background.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

2.2. No prehistoric heritage assets are known within the works area, although a Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint scatter was recorded *c*. 450m to the north.

Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

2.3. No Roman heritage assets are known within the works area, although two surface scatters of Roman pottery were recorded *c*. 300m and *c*. 100m to the north.

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

2.4. No early medieval heritage assets are known within the works area.

2.5. The works area is surrounded by farmsteads with medieval origins (such as Brinsea, Iwood and Stock) and is near the small towns of Congresbury and Wrington.

2.6. Archaeological evidence for medieval occupation has been recorded *c*. 325m to the north of the works area. Additionally, a medieval house platform has been recorded at Manor Farm (*c*. 225m to the west of the works area) and the earthwork remains of a probable medieval settlement are noted at Stock (*c*. 275m to the south of the works area).

2.7. It is probable that the works area formed part of the agricultural hinterland to these settlements in the medieval period. LiDAR has recorded traces of ridge and furrow in the fields to the south and east of the works area.

Post medieval (1540–1800) and modern (1800–present)

2.8. The works area appears to have remained in agricultural use in these periods.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. The objectives of the watching brief were:

- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The monitored groundworks (Fig. 2) principally comprised the machine stripping of a new haul road (*c*. 5.5m wide; T1) and a new compound footprint (*c*. 48m wide and *c*. 52m long; T2).

4.2. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3. Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*. No deposits were identified that required sampling.

Project archive

4.4. The Stage 1.2 watching brief archive will be deposited as a stand-alone archive. It is not proposed to combine it with further archives produced during other elements of the wider scheme.

4.5. An ordered, indexed, and internally consistent site archive will be prepared in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007) and *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe: EAC Guidelines 1* (Europae Archaeologia Consilium 2019), as well as the relevant Somerset Museums Service guidelines.

4.6. CA will make arrangements with the Somerset Museums Service for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the

Archaeology Data Service (ADS), in accordance with the *ADS Guidelines for Depositors*.

4.7. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.

5.2. The natural geological substrate (1002) comprised mixed bands of red, blue and white clays. It was revealed in T1 at an average depth of 0.35m below present ground level. The natural substrate was overlain by silty clay subsoil 1001 (averaging 0.15m in thickness), which was sealed in turn by 0.25m of silty clay topsoil 1000. The natural substrate was not exposed in T2; only the topsoil was stripped from this area, exposing the upper surface of the underlying subsoil layer.

5.3. North-north-west/south-south-east aligned ditch 1011 (Fig. 3) was cut into the natural substrate to the immediate east of modern disturbance 1009 (see below), by which it was partially truncated. Ditch 1011 was 1.1m wide and 0.25 deep, with a single undated fill (1012). It terminated at its south-eastern end.

5.4. North-north-east/south-south-west aligned ditch 1003 was cut into subsoil 1001 at the western end of T1. This ditch was 1.75m wide and 0.9m deep, with four undated fills (1004–1007).

5.5. A substantial area of modern disturbance (1009) was recorded towards the eastern end of T1. This cut had been backfilled with a dump of modern waste, including plastic, metal and brick fragments.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. The watching brief recorded two ditches, both of which were undated artefactually. Shallow ditch 1011 is on the same broad alignment as the extant field system and is presumably an associated boundary/drainage feature. Ditch 1003 is cut into the subsoil and runs immediately parallel to an extant field boundary; it is presumably late post-medieval/modern in date.

6.2. There were no archaeological remains clearly associated with the medieval occupation recorded previously in the vicinity of the site (see *Archaeological background*, above). This supports the hypothesis that the site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to these settlements, although it is possible that associated archaeological remains were not exposed in the relatively limited works area.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Jerry Austin, Paolo Guarino, Francesco Catanzaro and Jon Dobbie. This report was written by Jerry Austin. The report illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2019 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html Accessed 2 December 2019

Cotswold Archaeology 2018 *Hinkley Point C Connection Project, Stage 1.2, North Somerset: Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

National Grid 2015 *Hinkley Point C Connection Project: Environmental Statement Construction Environmental Management Plan Appendix 3: Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*

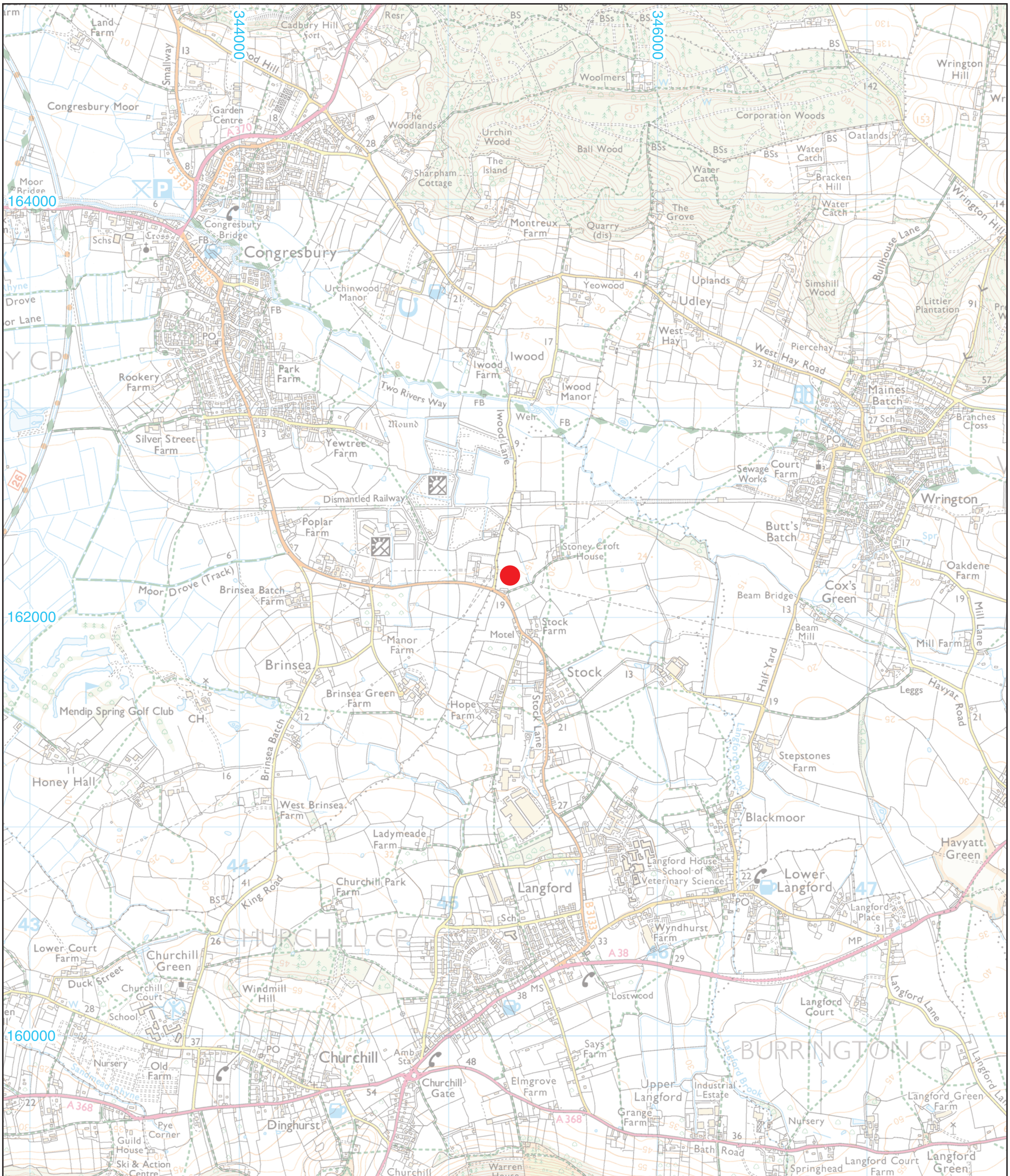
National Grid 2018 *Hinkley Point C Connection Project, Stage 1.2 of the authorised development: Archaeological Method Statement Requirement 6(1)(h)*

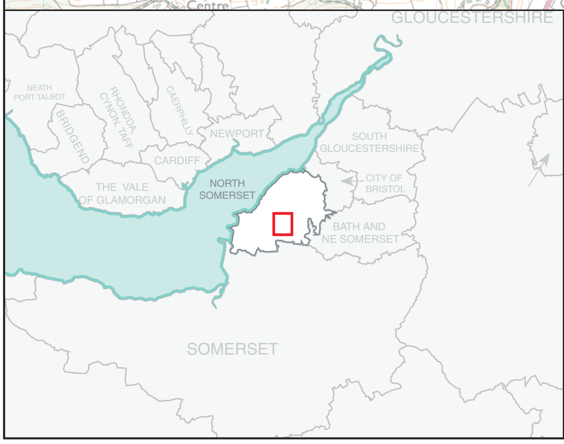
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	1000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown silty clay		0.25
1	1001	Layer		subsoil	mixed reddish brown silty clay		0.15
1	1002	Layer		natural	mixed bands of red, blue and white clays		
1	1003	Cut		ditch	steep straight sides, flat base N/S aligned. Hedge bank ditch	1.75	0.9
1	1004	Fill	1003	1st fill of ditch	mid brown silty clay, cbm inclusions	1.4	0.45
1	1005	Fill	1003	2nd fill of ditch	dark grey silty clay, isolated on west side	0.27	0.2
1	1006	Fill	1003	3rd fill of ditch	bank slump, light brown silty clay	1.1	0.25
1	1007	Fill	1003	4th fill of ditch	bank slump, reddish brown silty clay	1.57	0.37
1	1008	VOID					
1	1009	Cut		pit	irregular cut	>5	0.25
1	1010	Fill	1010	refuse pit	modern brick plastic and metal inclusions	>5	0.25
1	1011	Cut		ditch	concave sides, gentle slope. Concave base. NW/SE aligned, terminates in SE	1.1	0.25
1	1012	Fill	1011	single ditch fill	mid grey silty clay	1.1	0.25
2	2000	Layer		topsoil	mid grey brown silty clay		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Hinkley Point C Connection Project, Stage 1.2: Churchill Substation, North Somerset	
Short description	In May 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Churchill Substation, Stock Lane, North Somerset. This watching brief was part of the Hinkley Point C Connection Project and was maintained during Stage 1.2 of the authorised development at Churchill Y Route. The monitored groundworks comprised the machine excavation of a new haul road and a new compound footprint. The watching brief recorded two ditches. Both of these ditches were undated artefactually but both appeared to represent former elements within the extant field system. There were no archaeological remains clearly associated with medieval occupation which has been recorded previously in the vicinity of the site. This supports the hypothesis that the site formed part of the agricultural hinterland to these settlements, although it is possible that associated archaeological remains were not exposed in the relatively limited works area.	
Project dates	1-30 May 2019	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Desk based assessment (National Grid 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Churchill Substation, Stock Lane, Langford, North Somerset	
Study area (m^2/ha)	11,700m²	
Site co-ordinates	345365 162386	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	National Grid	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Jerry Austin	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	**Intended final location of archive**	**Content**
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Somerset Museums Service	Site recording forms
Digital	Archaeology Data Service (ADS)	Database, digital photos, survey, etc.
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2019 *Hinkley Point C Connection Project Stage 1.2: Churchill Substation, North Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief*		





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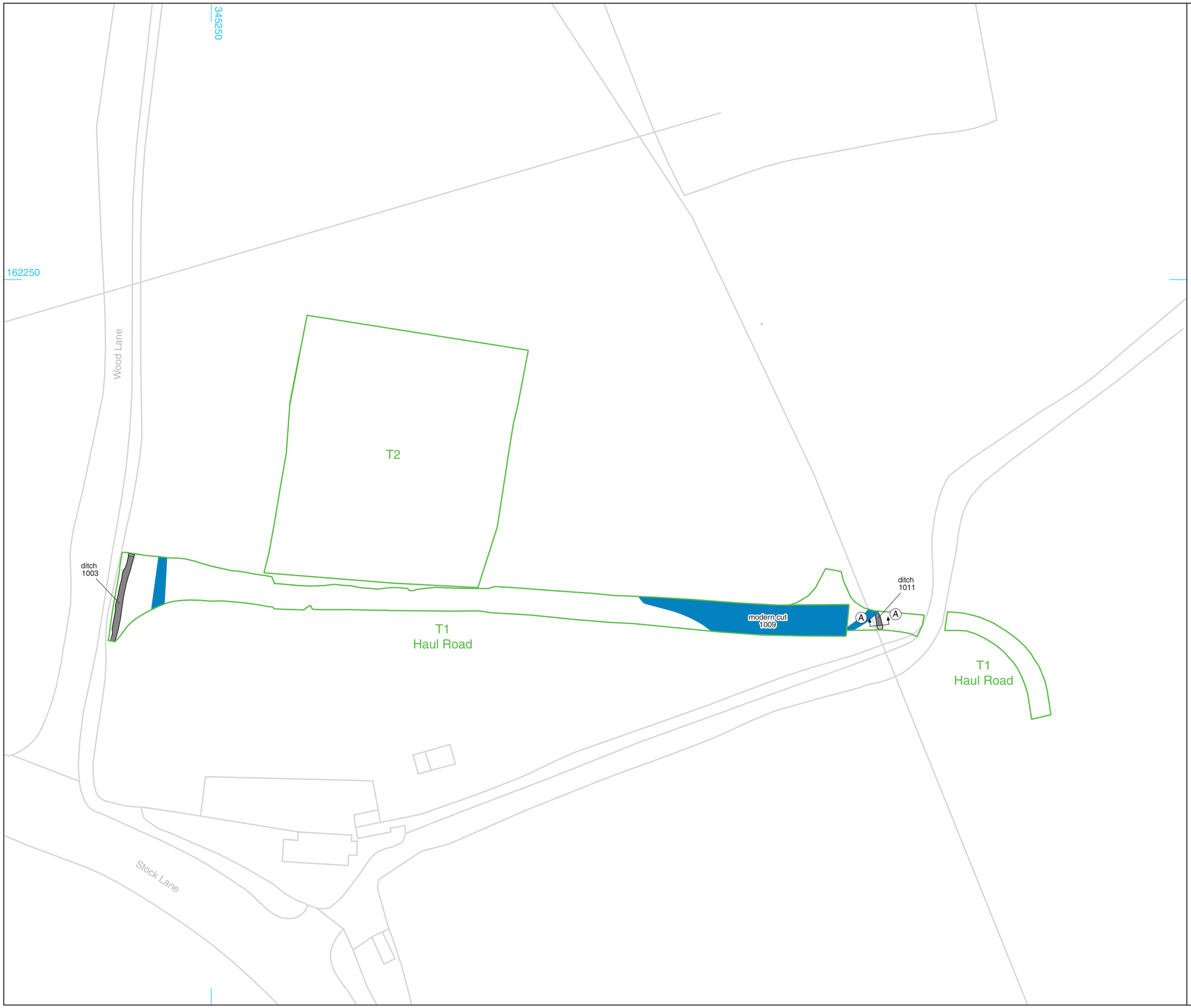
PROJECT TITLE

Hinkley Point C Connection Project, Stage 1.2: Churchill Substation, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	GB	*PROJECT NO.*	CR0079	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	DJB	*DATE*	24/10/2019	1
APPROVED BY	JA	*SCALE@A4*	1:25,000	



N

Evaluation trench

Cut feature
(excavated / unexcavated)

Modern

0 1:800 40m

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PROJECT TITLE

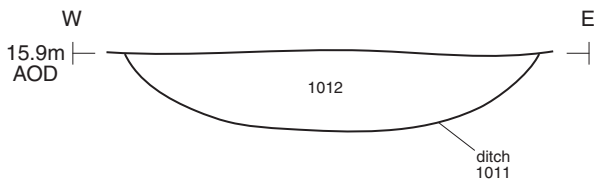
Hinkley Point C Connection Project, Stage 1.2: Churchill Substation, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing location of monitored groundworks

DRAWN BY	**GB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR0079**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**24/10/2019**	**2**
APPROVED BY	**JA**	*SCALE@A3*	**1:800**	

Section AA



Ditch 1011, looking north (1m scale)

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PROJECT TITLE

Hinkley Point C Connection Project, Stage 1.2: Churchill Substation, North Somersetv

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 1: section and photograph

DRAWN BY	**GB**	*PROJECT NO.*	**CR0079**	*FIGURE NO.*
CHECKED BY	**DJB**	*DATE*	**24/10/2019**	**3**
APPROVED BY	**JA**	*SCALE@A4*	**1:20**	

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