

Saltford Sewage Treatment Works Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief

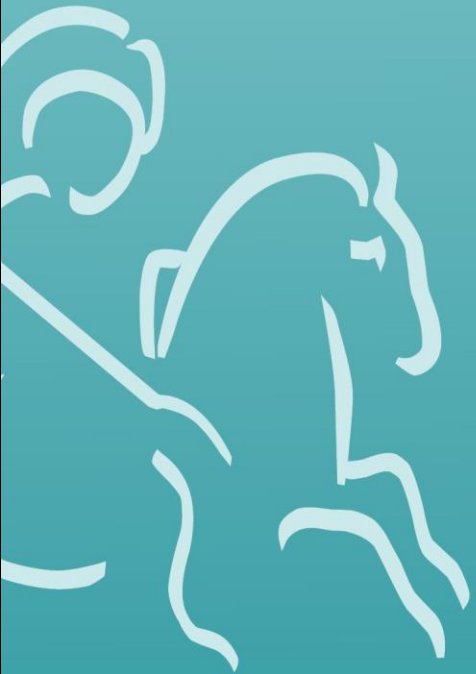


for:
Atkins Heritage

on behalf of:
Wessex Water

CA Project:CR0547
CA Report:CR0547_1

March 2021



Saltford Sewage Treatment Works Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: CR0547
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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	01/02/21	CJ	Ray Kennedy	Internal review	General Edit	Richard Greatorex

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Fig. 2 The site, showing the location of the monitored groundworks (1:2000)

Fig. 3 Working Photographs

SUMMARY

Project name:	Saltford Sewage Treatment Works
Location:	Somerset
NGR:	369282 168726
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	26 th , 28 th January 2021
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	SSTW21

In January 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new access road at Saltford Sewage Treatment Works, Somerset.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In January 2021, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Salford Sewage Treatment Works (centred at NGR: 369282 168726; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Atkins Heritage, on behalf of Wessex Water
- 1.2. An application will be made to Bath and North East Somerset Council (BaNAS) for a new access road to Salford Water Recycling Centre (WRC), at Salford, Somerset.
- 1.3. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2021) and approved by Steve Membery.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *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

- 1.1. The works scheme comprises a thin strip of open ground immediately north of the existing Salford Water Recycling Centre (WRC). It is bordered to the south-west by an existing access road into the WRC, and to the north-east by the A431. The Scheme is bisected by the River Avon.
- 1.2. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone, Formation with superficial deposits of Alluvium – Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (BGS 2021).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The archaeological background given below is a succinct summary of a Heritage Desk Based Assessment of the site by Atkins Heritage (2019).

Prehistoric

- 2.2. A watching brief on a new sludge pipe in 2000 identified a collection of possibly Mesolithic to Neolithic flints, 470m south-west of the site, on the higher River Gravel Terrace deposits, suggesting that dry-land activity was focused in this area. A possible later-prehistoric crop-mark feature is recorded on the South Gloucestershire

HER (SGHER), 995m north-west of the site. The sites location in the floodplain of the River Avon would have made it unattractive for intensive occupation.

Roman

- 2.3. The northern limit of the site adjoins the A431, which follows the conjectured line of the Fosse Way, a major Roman road. Roman settlement appears to be located some distance from the site. A possible Roman villa or settlement was noted at Manor Farm, North Stoke, in 1888, c.980m north-east of the site. Building material, finds, and a possibly associated wall were identified 845m north-west of the site, on Brewery Hill, which may be indicative of an area of settlement.

Medieval

- 2.4. The site would have likely been on the edge of the extensive manor of Saltford, which appears was divided between four Thanets of King Edward in 1066. The settlement area was likely focused c. 1.3km south-west of the site along the High Street. The BaNESHER notes the presence of an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery c. 525m west of the site, on an area of gravel terrace. It is possible that a smaller settlement existed, on the modern site of Saltford, to the west of the site during this period. It is possible that features relating to wetland management, such as revetments or drainage ditches may be present within the site.
- 2.5. At the time of the Domesday survey (1086) the site remained in the manor of Saltford, which was then held by Roger Whiting on behalf of Bishop Geoffrey of Coutances. Medieval activity is focused on North Stoke, 870m north-east of the site, where lynchet field systems, and a former medieval barn are known.

Post-medieval

- 2.6. Throughout the post-medieval period, the site remained on the periphery of Saltford, within the floodplain of the River Avon.
- 2.7. Between 1724 and 1727, the Bristol Avon Navigation, extending from the Kennet and Avon lock to the Bristol Channel, was constructed. This entailed the construction of several locks along the river, including Swineford Lock, c.315m to the north-west, and Saltford lock, c. 730m to the south-east. It is around this time the Grade II listed Jolly Sailor pub was opened, 695m to the south. A towpath, marked on historic Ordnance Survey maps, was built crossing the site at this point.

-
- 2.8. In the mid-18th century William Champion of Warmley established the Kelston Brass Mills and its associated cottages and buildings on the eastern bank of the River Avon, c.740m south-east of the site.
- 2.9. The Swineford mill, 480m to the north-west, was established in 1840, by John Freeman and Co. although appears to have been built on elements of an earlier 18th century timber mill. Salford Mead remained undeveloped until at least the 1930s when the sewage treatment works were first established, which has been expanded over time with various associated infrastructure.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general 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.
 - at the conclusion of the project, to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive (see Section 6).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development. These works comprised the machine excavation of thirteen test pits and several boreholes.
- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with Roman Baths Museum for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation,*

compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).

- 4.5. 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 (502,602, 702 and 802) comprised a mid-orange friable silty sand and was revealed at an average depth of 0.40m below present ground level (bpgl). This was overlain by subsoil (501 and 601) a black friable to compact silty sand averaging 0.20m in thickness, or (701 and 801) a mid-brown friable silty clay with sand averaging 0.11m in thickness. This was in turn overlain by topsoil (500, 600, 700 and 800) a dark brownish grey or greyish brown friable silty sand, averaging 0.24m in thickness.
- 5.3. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period 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 area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits is likely the result of the limited nature of intrusive groundworks.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by CA Project Leader Pawel Jablonski. This report was written by Craig Jones. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by Richard Paxford and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

Atkins Heritage, 2019, D9890 Salford WRC Access Road, Heritage Desk Based Assessment

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 15
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Cotswold Archaeology 2021 *Salford Sewage Treatment Works, Somerset Written
Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 *National Planning Policy
Framework*

*Tutt R & Payne R., 2005, Site at Mead Lane, Salford, B&NES: archaeological
recording of a section of riverbank, Avon Archaeological Unit*

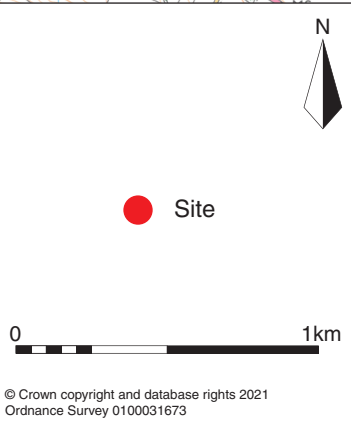
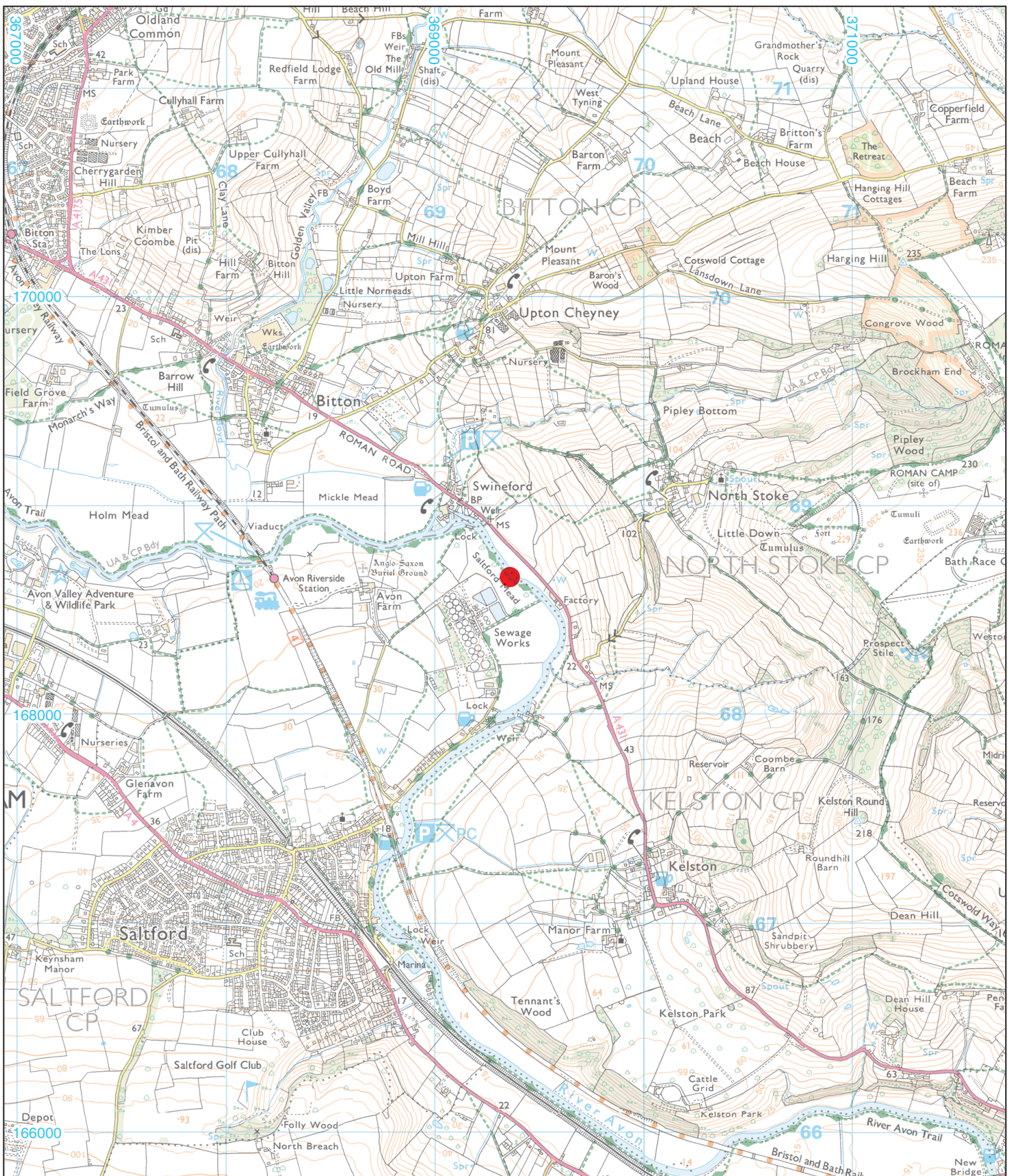
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
TP5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty sand with <10% rounded pebbles.	2.2	0.7	0.36
TP5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Black friable to compact silty sand.	2.2	0.7	0.36- 0.57 (0.21)
TP5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid orange friable silty sand with <10% sub-round and rounded pebbles.	2.2	0.7	0.57- 1.15 (>0.58)
TP6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brownish grey friable silty sand with <10% rounded pebbles.	2.2	0.7	0.28
TP6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Black friable to compact silty sand.	2.2	0.7	0.28- 0.47 (0.19)
TP6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid orange friable silty sand with <10% sub-round and rounded pebbles.	2.2	0.7	0.47-2.10 (>1.63)
TP7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty sand with <10% rounded pebbles.	2.8	0.7	0.16
TP7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with sand and <10% <3mm round pebbles.	2.8	0.7	0.16- 0.27 (0.11)
TP7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid orange friable silty sand with <10% sub-round and rounded pebbles.	2.8	0.7	0.27- 1.45 (>1.18)
TP8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown friable silty sand with <10% rounded pebbles.	1.5	0.7	0.17
TP8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brown friable silty clay with sand and <10% <3mm round pebbles.	1.5	0.7	0.17- 0.29 (0.12)
TP8	802	Layer		Natural	Mid orange friable silty sand with <10% sub-round and rounded pebbles.	1.5	0.7	0.29- 1.10 (0.81)
TP9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey friable silty sand.	0.4	0.4	0.17
TP9	901	Layer		Made ground	Mid orange compact clay.	0.4	0.4	0.17- 1.20 (>1.03)
TP10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey friable silty sand.	0.4	0.4	0.12
TP10	1001	Layer		Made ground	Mid orange compact clay.	0.4	0.4	0.12-1.05 (>0.93)
TP11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Very dark grey friable silty sand with lenses of orange friable clayey sand.	0.4	0.4	0.52

TP11	1101	Layer		Made ground	Mid grey friable clayey sand with lenses of orange friable clayey sand.	0.4	0.4	0.52-1.25 (>0.73)
TP12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Very dark grey friable silty sand with <10% subrounded pebbles.	0.4	0.4	0.41
TP12	1201	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow friable sandy clay.	0.4	0.4	0.41-0.64 (0.23)
TP12	1202	Layer		Made ground	Mid blueish grey compact silty clay with lenses of yellow friable clayey sand.	0.4	0.4	0.64-1.20 (>0.56)
TP13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Very dark grey friable silty sand with <10% subrounded pebbles.	0.8	0.55	0.16
TP13	1301	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow friable sandy clay.	0.8	0.55	0.16- 0.30 (0.14)
TP13	1302	Layer		Made ground	Mid blueish grey compact silty clay with lenses of yellow friable clayey sand.	0.8	0.55	0.30- 0.71 (0.41)
TP13	1303	Layer		Made ground	Mid yellow friable sandy clay.	0.8	0.55	0.71-1.20 (>0.49)

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Saltford Sewage Treatment Works, Somerset	
Short description	In January 2021, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new access road at Saltford Sewage Treatment Works, Somerset. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	26 th and 28 th January 2021	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	N/A	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Saltford Sewage Treatment Works, Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates	369282, 168726	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Pawel Jablonski	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
	Roman Baths Museum	Indicate the contents of each archive box
Physical		
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2021 <i>Saltford Sewage Treatment Works, Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report CR0547_1		



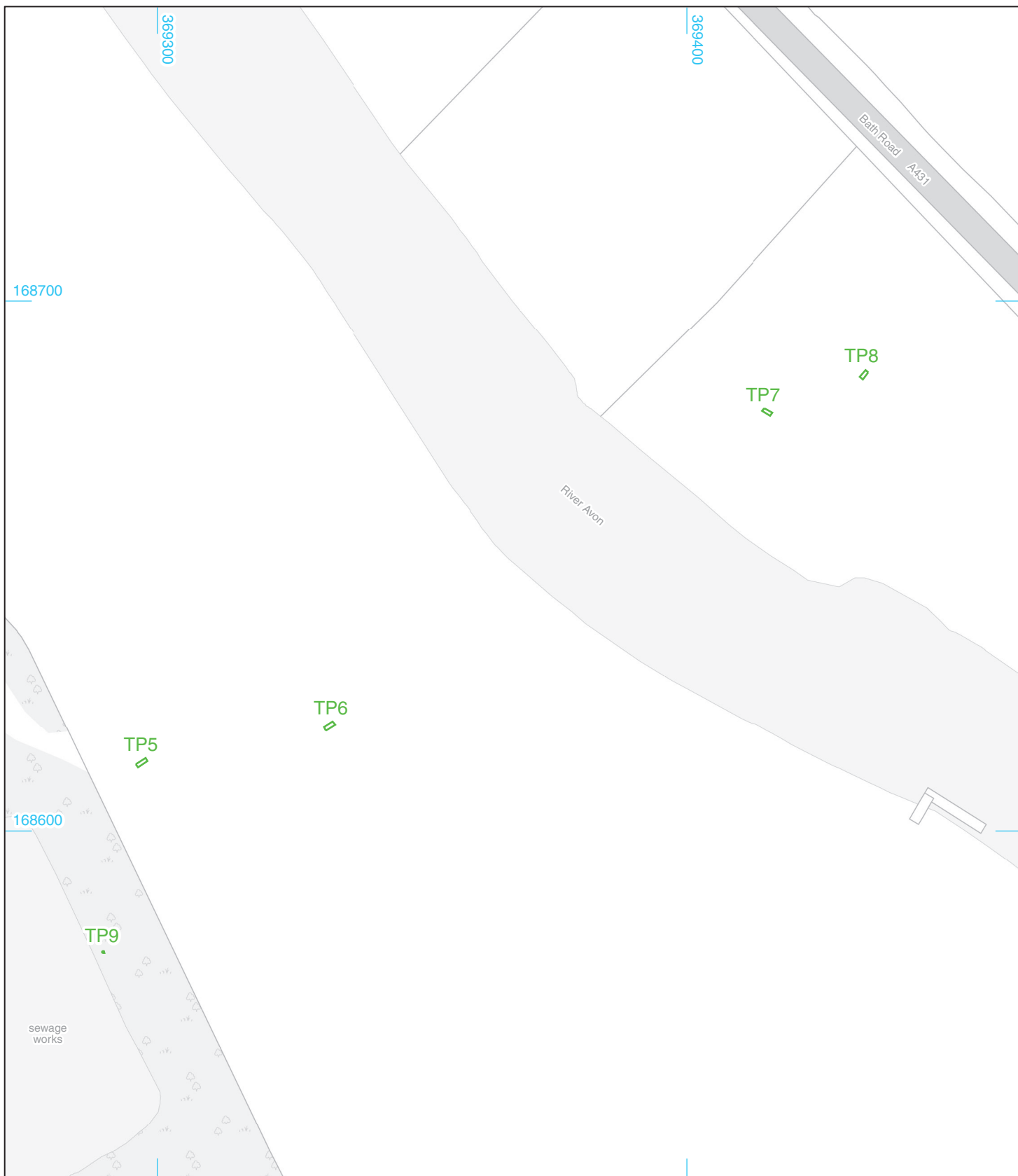

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PROJECT TITLE
Salford Sewerage Treatment Works, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

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 Trial Pit



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PROJECT TITLE

Salford Sewerage Treatment Works,
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FIGURE TITLE

The site, showing the location of the
 monitored groundworks

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FIGURE NO.

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PROJECT TITLE
Saltford Sewerage Treatment Works,
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FIGURE TITLE
Working photographs

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