

Bovington Link Road Bovington Camp Dorset



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology

July 2005

Client: Debut

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2752

NGR: SY 837 897

Client Name: Debut

Client Ref No:

Document Title: Bovington Link Road, Bovington Camp, Dorset

Document Type: Watching Brief

Issue Number: 1

National Grid Reference: SY 837 897

Planning Reference:

OA Job Number: 2752
Site Code: EASLRB 05
Invoice Code: EASLRB WB
Receiving Museum: Dorset County Museum
Museum Accession No: TBC

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Date: 5th July 2005

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Date: 9th July 2005

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Date: 11th July 2005

Signed.....

Document File Location S:\projects\Dorset DO\5630\ Link Road, Bovington camp
wb

Graphics File Location servergo:\oaupubs1_AthruH\EASLRBWB*Bovington
Link Road*GS*27.06.05

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Bovington Camp Link Road, Bovington Camp, Dorset

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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SUMMARY

Between the 9th and the 13th of June 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bovington Camp, Dorset. The work was commissioned by Debut in advance of a new link road for the purposes of tank training at Bovington Camp. The watching brief revealed no remains of archaeological significance.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Between the 9th and the 13th June 2005 Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Bovington Camp, Dorset (NGR: SY 837 897). The work was commissioned by Debut prior to the construction of a new link road, forming a new tank track for training purposes.

1.1.2 Project advice was given by Claire Pinder (Senior Archaeologist) of Dorset County Council.

1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA 2005).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.1.4 The site is located within Bovington Camp, off the A352 north of Wool, Dorset (NGR: SU 837 897). The site lies on a slope between 42.44 m OD and 51.87 m OD. The site is situated on heath land and the underlying geology is Bagshot Beds (sands and clay) overlain by sand.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.1.5 The archaeological background to the watching brief was prepared for the WSI for the project (OA 2005) and is reproduced below.

1.1.6 The site lies within an area of known archaeological and historical potential. Two scheduled bowl barrows (SAM 33172) are situated on Clouds Hill *c* 1,750 m to the north-west of the development site. Bowl Barrows are the most numerous form of round barrow funerary monuments. These features date from the late Neolithic period through to the late Bronze Age. Although the Clouds Hill barrows will remain unaffected by the development, their presence in the vicinity may attest to further prehistoric remains within the development area.

1.1.7 The only activity from the Iron Age within the vicinity of the site is evidenced from a find of a Durotrigan pot (SMR 51).

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 1.1.8 To identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development.
- 1.1.9 To signal, before destruction of the material in question, the discovery of a significant archaeological find, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.
- 1.1.10 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

2.2 Methodology

- 1.1.11 The area of the link road was machine excavated under archaeological supervision. A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket was employed to ensure clean excavation and a clear view of any potential archaeological remains.
- 1.1.12 Machine excavation took place to the top of the first archaeologically significant horizon, or the impact level of the link road, whichever was encountered first.
- 1.1.13 The resultant surface was cleaned. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.
- 1.1.14 A general photographic record of the work was made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 1.1.15 The area measured 234 m x 11 m and was excavated to between 0.48 and 0.6m below ground level (Fig. 2).
- 1.1.16 The secondary subsoil (102) consisted of a coarse grained light yellow-brown sand. Overlying this was a primary subsoil (101) made up of a fine grained dark yellow-brown sand and the topsoil (100) that overlay (101) consisted of a dark greyish brown silt sand.
- 1.1.17 No archaeological features were uncovered.

3.2 Finds

- 1.1.18 No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

- 1.1.19 Do deposits suitable for sampling were identified during the watching brief.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 1.1.20 There were no archaeological features or deposits identified during the watching brief, nor any evidence of truncation that may have occurred as a result of previous

land use such as plough marks.

1.1.21 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>
100	Layer	0.12m	-	Topsoil	-
101	Layer	0.24m	-	Subsoil	-
102	Layer	> 0.12m	-	Secondary subsoil	-

APPENDIX 2 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

OA, 2005 *Bovington Camp Link Road, Dorset : Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

OAU, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson)

APPENDIX 3 SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name: Link road, Bovington Camp, Dorset

Site code: EASLRB 05

Grid reference: NGR: SY 837 897 (centred)

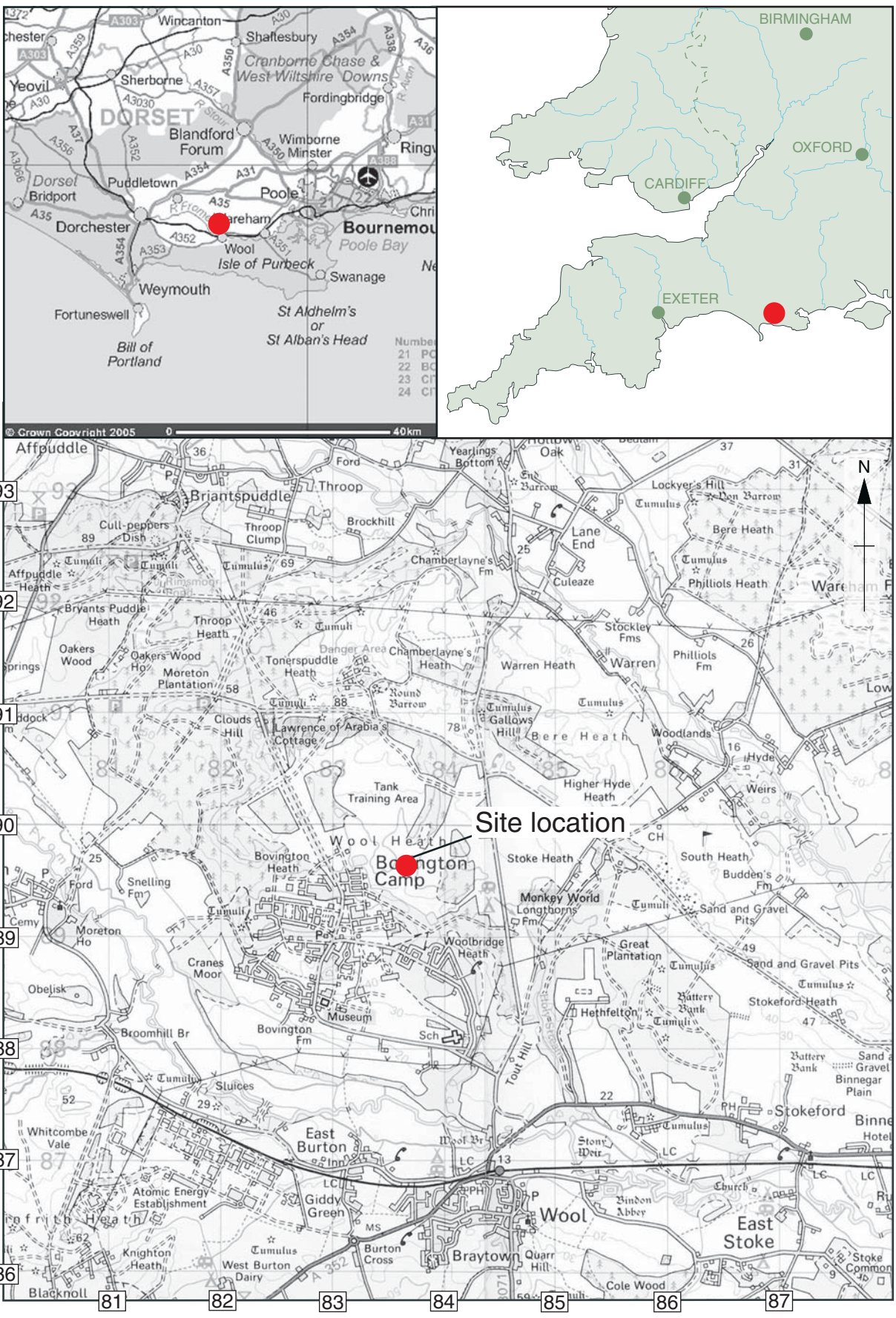
Type of watching brief: Watching Brief on soil strip for a link road

Date and duration of project: Three visits on the 9/6/05, 10/6/05 and 13/6/05

Area of site: A 234 m x 11 m strip

Summary of results: The watching brief revealed no archaeology, only natural subsoil.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with Dorset County Museums Service in due course.



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

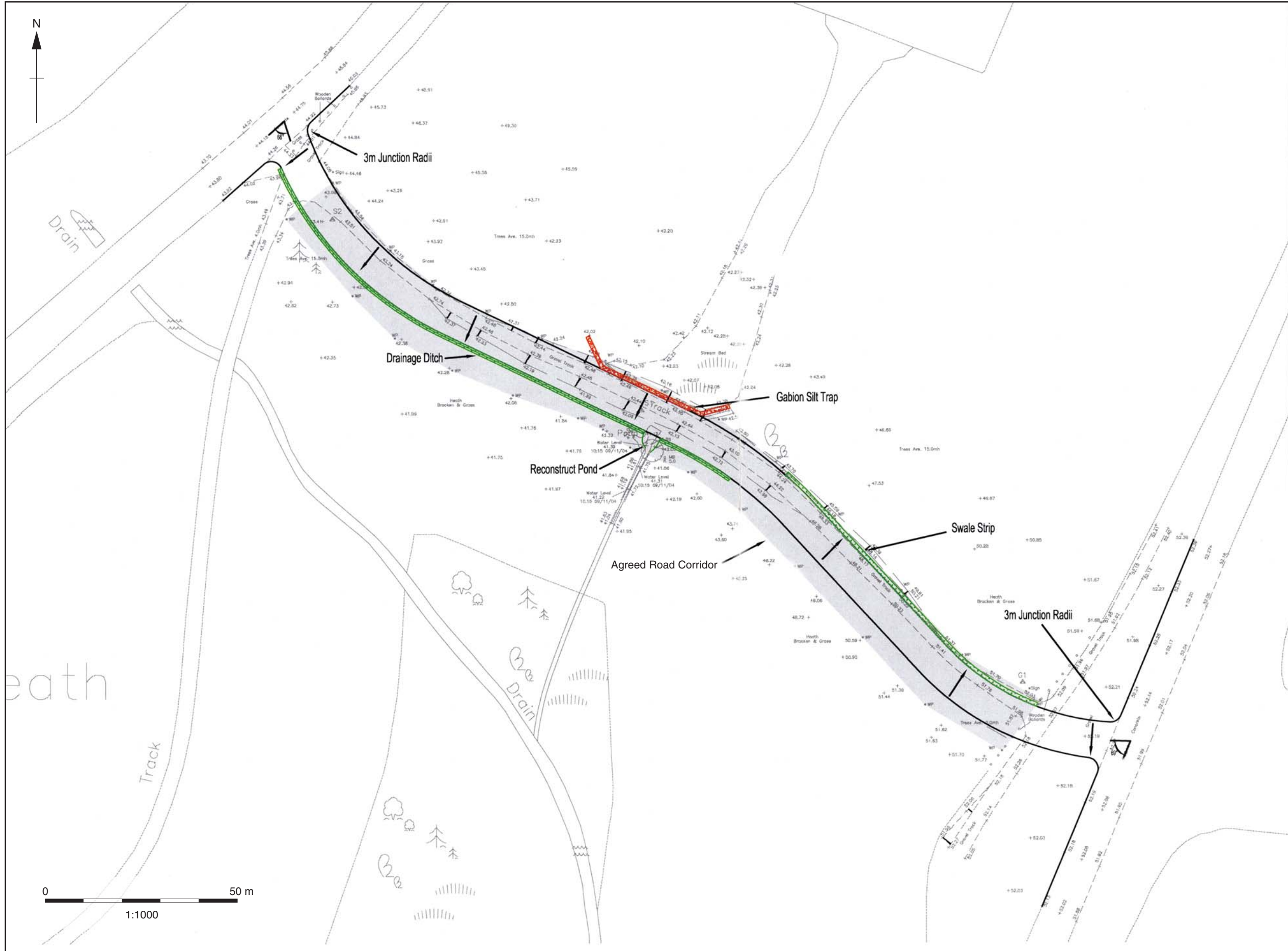


Figure 2: Location of watching brief



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