

R14747/BG259 Yeovil Highways Improvement Scheme, Yeovil, Somerset:

Results of an archaeological watching brief

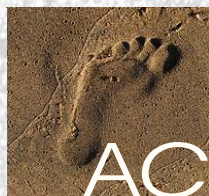
Somerset Historic Environment Record 39477

NGR: ST 53091538 to ST5342 1496

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by
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AC archaeology

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(NGR ST 5309 1538 TO ST 5342 1496)

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The views expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording on land off the Western Relief Road, Yeovil, Somerset, was undertaken by AC archaeology in October 2017 during groundworks associated with the construction of a new water main pipeline on the southwestern outskirts of Yeovil.

Monitored groundworks comprised the stripping of the turf and topsoil for the proposed pipeline easement, compound and works access track. This exposed a simple overlying sequence of topsoil and subsoil above the natural subsoil, which itself was not exposed. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were exposed by the work.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This document sets out the results of archaeological monitoring and recording (controlled watching brief) carried out in October 2017 during groundworks associated with the construction of a new water main on the southwestern outskirts of Yeovil, Somerset, following consultation with the South West Heritage Trust Senior Environment Officer.
- 1.2. The new water main extended from NGR ST 5287 1575 to ST 5342 1496. However, the archaeological watching brief was only required through an area of archaeological potential from NGR ST 5309 1538 to ST 5351 1537. This comprised approximately the southeastern-most 560m of the scheme, from a point west of the A3088 (Western Relief Road) at the northern point of the Lynx West Trading Estate (South Somerset District Council Offices) to the access road that leads to Broadleaze Farm from the A3088 to the south (Fig. 1).
- 1.3. The area monitored consisted of two arable fields, separated by a small triangle of pasture and woodland that was not subjected to archaeological monitoring. In the southern part of the route, there were two areas within the same field that required monitoring (Areas 1a and 1b). The underlying solid geology comprised sandstone of the Bridport Sand Formation formed during the Jurassic Period (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There were no designated heritage assets within the working width for the scheme. The Somerset Historic Environment Record outlined that the southern part of the site (Area 1) lies immediately north of an area previously subject to geophysical survey (PRN 28260) in 2005, where a number of weak and poorly defined anomalies were located. The subsequent field evaluation revealed evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of a single Early Bronze Age cremation burial. As a result of these earlier investigations, the current pipeline route was subject to geophysical survey (Archaeological Surveys 2017).
- 2.2 The geophysical survey produced similar, though inconclusive, results to those recorded in 2005. The southern area investigated consisted of Areas 1a and 1b, and revealed anomalies that appeared as possible ditch-like and pit-like features that could represent archaeological features. Area 2 produced further ditch-like anomalies, while

Area 3 produced little of archaeological potential. Throughout Areas 1 to 3 there were further anomalies likely to represent modern field drains.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to monitor all groundworks in progress and to ensure the adequate investigation, recording and reporting of all significant archaeological features and deposits exposed. This was with particular reference to the potential for prehistoric remains to be present.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The monitoring and recording was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by AC archaeology (Clark 2017) and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (published 2014) and with reference to the SCC document *Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (2011). All archaeological deposits exposed were recorded in accordance with the AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and with reference to AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012).
- 4.2 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012). Detailed sections and plans were produced at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 Monitored groundworks comprised the bulk reduction of the easement for the new pipeline, compound and access track in Areas 1a, 1b and 2 (Fig 1).
- 5.2 Natural subsoil was not exposed in any of the areas monitored. The sequence of deposits observed comprised a mid greyish brown silty loam topsoil, to a maximum depth of 0.38m below existing levels, above a mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil with rare sub-angular gravel present to a depth of 0.4m.
- 5.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were exposed by the work.

6. COMMENT

- 6.1 The groundworks exposed a consistent and simple sequence of topsoil and subsoil with no natural subsoil being exposed due to the limited depth of excavation. Despite the results of the earlier geophysical survey, there were no archaeological features associated with the anomalies present in the survey data within the area monitored.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS ENTRY

- 7.1 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **343679**, which includes a digital copy of this report. This report represents the archive for this project.

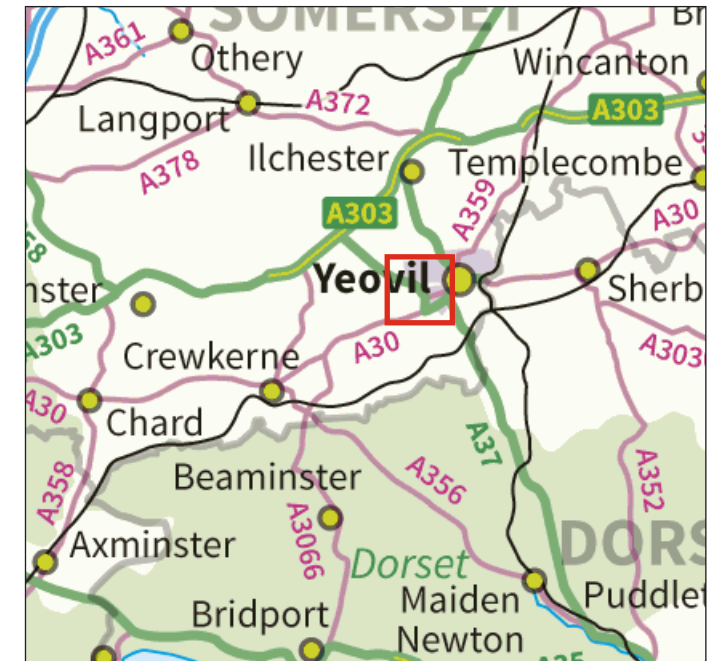
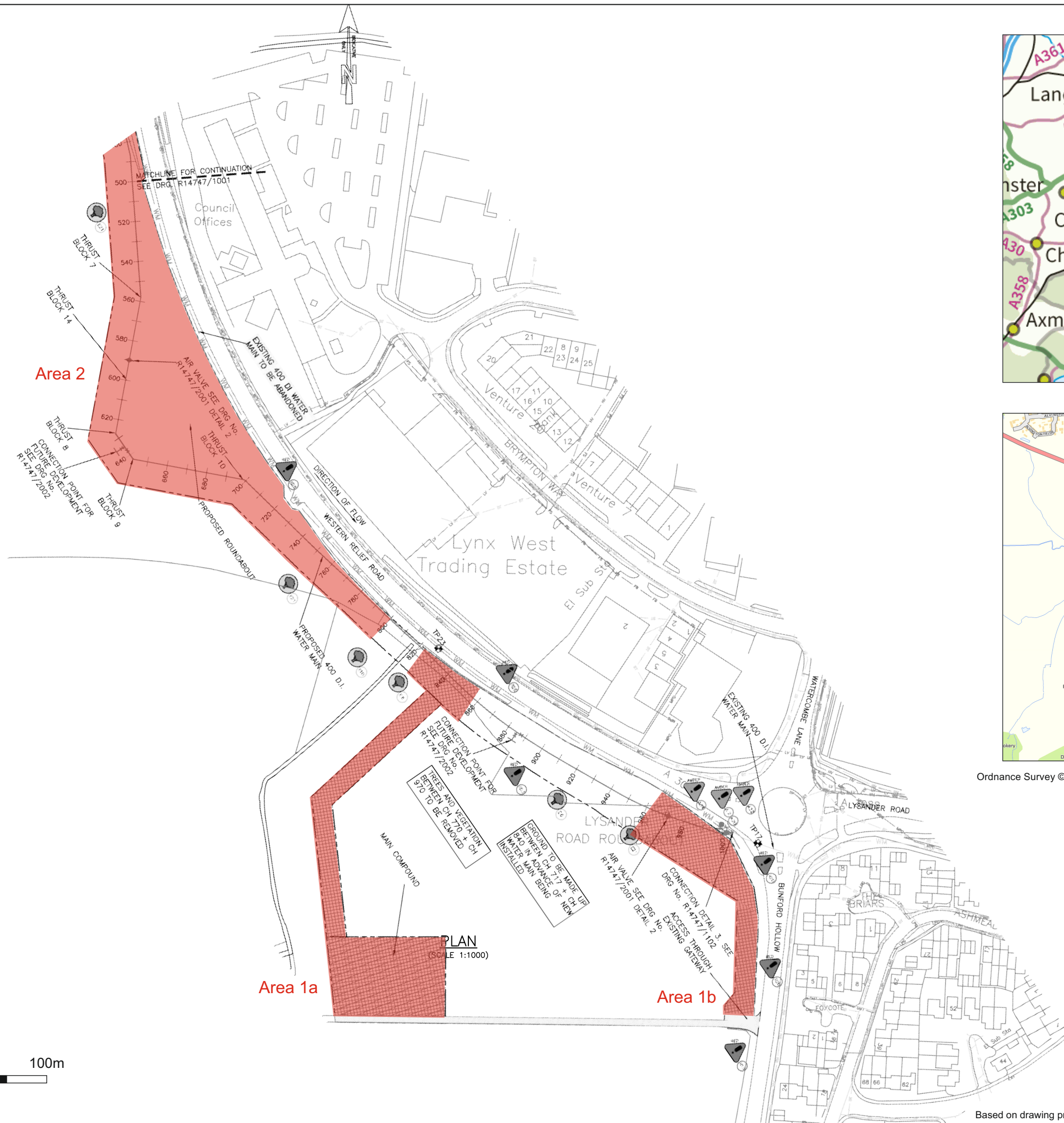
This means that no archive will be deposited with the museum and therefore Museum Accession Number TTNCM7/2019 will not be used.

8. REFERENCES

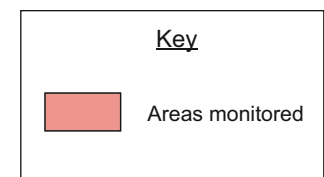
Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2017, *Yeovil Highway Improvements – Magnetometer Survey Report*. Report no. **J699**

BGS 2019, *British Geological Survey Geology of Britain On-line Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Clark, R 2017 *R`14747/BG259 Yeovil Highways Improvement Scheme, Yeovil, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation* (Document ACW 1038/1/0)



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PROJECT
Yeovil Highways Improvement Scheme, Yeovil, Somerset
 TITLE
Fig. 1: Site location and plan of areas monitored

Based on drawing prepared by Wessex Water





Plate 1: Area 1a, compound access track, work in progress, looking to the south



Plate 2: Area 2, work in progress, looking to the northwest (1m and 1m scale)

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