

Land at Watton Gardens, Bridport, Dorset:

Results of an archaeological evaluation

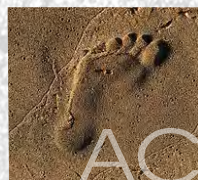
Centred on NGR: 47226, 93620

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
Watton Hill Trust

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archaeology

LAND AT WATTON GARDENS, BRIDPORT, DORSET:

Results of Archaeological Evaluation

NGR SY 47207 93617

SUMMARY

In June 2017, archaeological evaluation consisting of two machine-excavated trenches, was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd on land at Watton Gardens, Bridport, Dorset (NGR: SY47226 93620). The work was undertaken in support of a planning application for a new dwelling. Two trenches, their positions determined by the footprint of a proposed dwelling, formed a 'T' shaped evaluation area. Each trench measured 15m by 1.6m. The reason for undertaking the evaluation is that in 1965, during construction of a house adjacent to the present site, a Roman burial in a lead coffin was discovered. As such burials are often part of a cemetery, or located in close proximity to Roman settlements, the senior archaeologist at Dorset County Council recommended trial trenching in advance of the determination of the planning application. No archaeological deposits, or finds of archaeological significance, were found during the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results of an archaeological trench evaluation on land at Watton Gardens, Bridport, Dorset (NGR SY 47207 93617). The report has been prepared by AC archaeology Ltd on behalf of Watton Hill Trust, the site owners. The location of the site is shown on Fig.1.
- 1.2 The trench evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an agreed strategy, requested by the Dorset County Council's Senior Archaeologist (DCCSA), in order to identify any heritage assets on the site that may require mitigation.
- 1.3 The proposed development is located on the northwest end of the access road at Watton Gardens, Bridport and lies at around c. 46m OD. The site slopes from north west to south east and is bounded by residential properties to the east and south. The land to the north and west is down to pasture.
- 1.4 The geology comprises Sandstone of the Bridport Sand Formation.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 An Historic Environment Assessment (HEA) undertaken by AC archaeology in October 2014 (Cottam, 2014) included the site area as part of a wider assessment of northern Bridport.

2.2 Approximately 200m to the east, on St Andrews Road, are three buildings designated as Grade II listed buildings. In land to the west and north west of the site area, there are five undesignated sites described in the HEA report. These include two cropmark features of possible ploughed out barrows, part of a strip lynchet, a quarry site shown on the 1885 OS map and the site of a WW2 'Auxiliary Unit'. In addition, and most relevant, as it was located c100m to the east of the site area, was a probable Roman burial in a lead coffin with a cist capstone. This was found in 1965 during housing development.

3. OBJECTIVES

3.1 The trench evaluation was undertaken to determine, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present on the site, as dictated by current best practice.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The trench evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a trench plan prepared by AC archaeology, which was approved prior to commencement by the DCCSA.

4.2 The investigations comprised the machine-excavation of two trenches, which were positioned in relation to the footprint of the proposed dwelling. Each trench measured 15m x 1.6m and formed a 'T' shape area of evaluation. Trench locations are shown on Fig. 2.

4.3 All soil removal was undertaken under the control and direction of the Site Archaeologist. Topsoil was removed by a mechanical excavator, using a wide toothless bucket, and stored alongside each trench, separated from any subsoil as necessary. Stripping by mechanical excavator ceased at the level at which archaeological deposits or natural subsoil was exposed.

4.4 'Negative' trenches were recorded using trench record forms; and using the full range of the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording systems.

4.5 The archive has been prepared using the site code ACW1036 and is currently stored at the offices of AC archaeology (Wiltshire).

5. RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2 and Plate 1)

- 5.1 This trench measured 15m in length and was aligned approximately east to west. No evidence for archaeological activity was encountered. A maximum depth of 0.2m was excavated through topsoil (context 101). At the eastern end of the trench, a 0.8m deep sondage was excavated through the subsoils. The recorded layer sequence for this trench is summarised in Table 1.



Plate 1: View of Trench 1 from the west

Table 1: Trench 1 general depositional sequence

Context	Depth b.g.s.	Description	Interpretation
100	0 – 200mm	Light brown soft sandy clay loam	Topsoil/turf
101	200 - 88mm max	Brownish yellow, soft sandy clay. Less than 1% sub-angular gravel - mudstone	Natural bedrock

Trench 2 (Fig. 2 and Plate 2)

5.3 This trench measured 15m in length, and was aligned approximately north to south. No evidence for archaeological activity was encountered. A maximum depth of 0.2m was excavated through topsoil (context 201). At the southern end of the trench, a 0.53m deep sondage was excavated through the subsoils. The recorded layer sequence for this trench is summarised in Table 2.



Plate 2: View of Trench 2 from the north

Table 2: Trench 2 general depositional sequence

Context	Depth b.g.s.	Description	Interpretation
200	0 – 200mm	Light brown soft sandy clay loam	Topsoil/turf
201	200 - 530mm max	Brownish yellow, soft sandy clay. Less than 1% sub-angular gravel – mudstone	Natural bedrock

6. FINDS ASSESSMENT

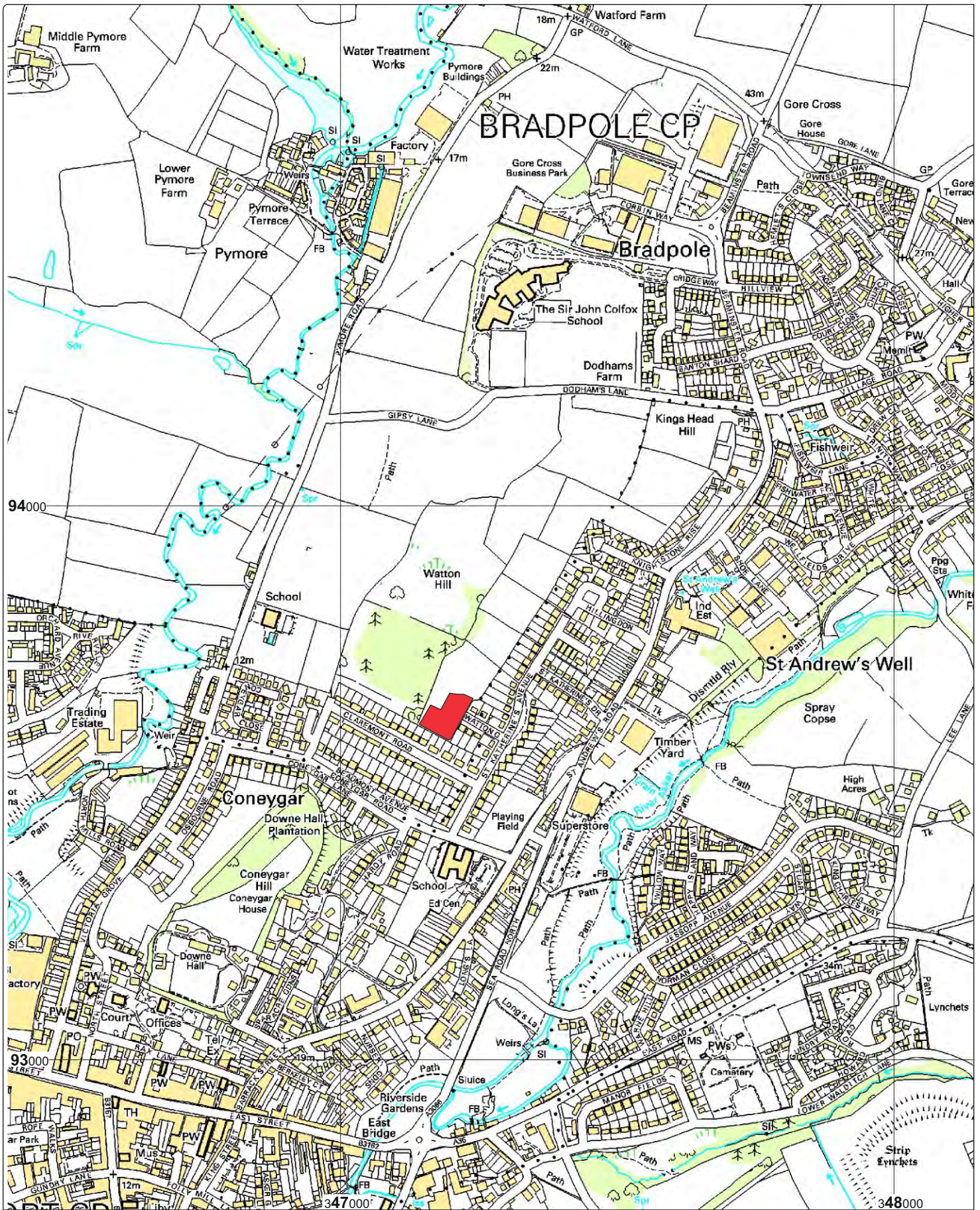
6.1 No finds were recovered from either of the two trenches excavated.

7. COMMENT

7.1 Two trial trenches were excavated across the footprint of the proposed dwelling. Neither produced any archaeological deposits, or artefacts of archaeological interest. It is therefore considered unlikely that the application area contains significant archaeological interest.

8. REFERENCES

Cottam, S. 2014, '*Land off Pymore Road, Bridport, Dorset: Historic Environment Assessment*'. Unpublished AC archaeology report No Ref ACW698/1/0 October 2014.



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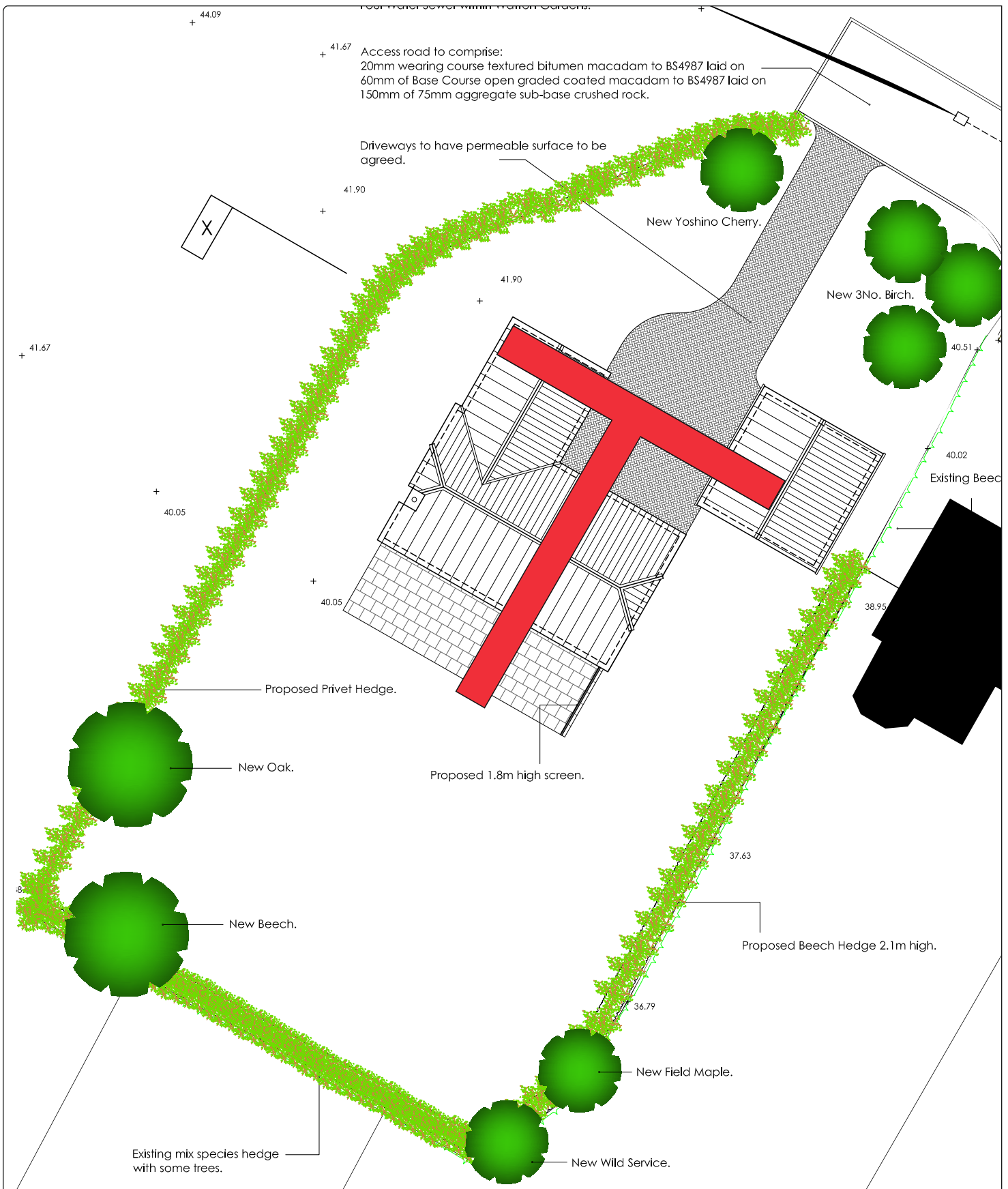


PROJECT

Land off Watton Gardens, Bridport

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location



PROJECT

Land off Watton Gardens, Bridport

TITLE

Fig. 2: Trench location plan

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