

VALLEY OF THE ROCKS WATER MAIN REPAIR, LYNTON, DEVON

SS 70858 49759 TO SS 70935 49753

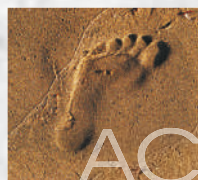
Results of an archaeological watching brief

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
South West Water Ltd

Document No: ACD937/2/0

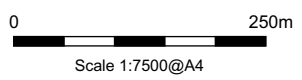
Date: March 2015



AC archaeology

Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

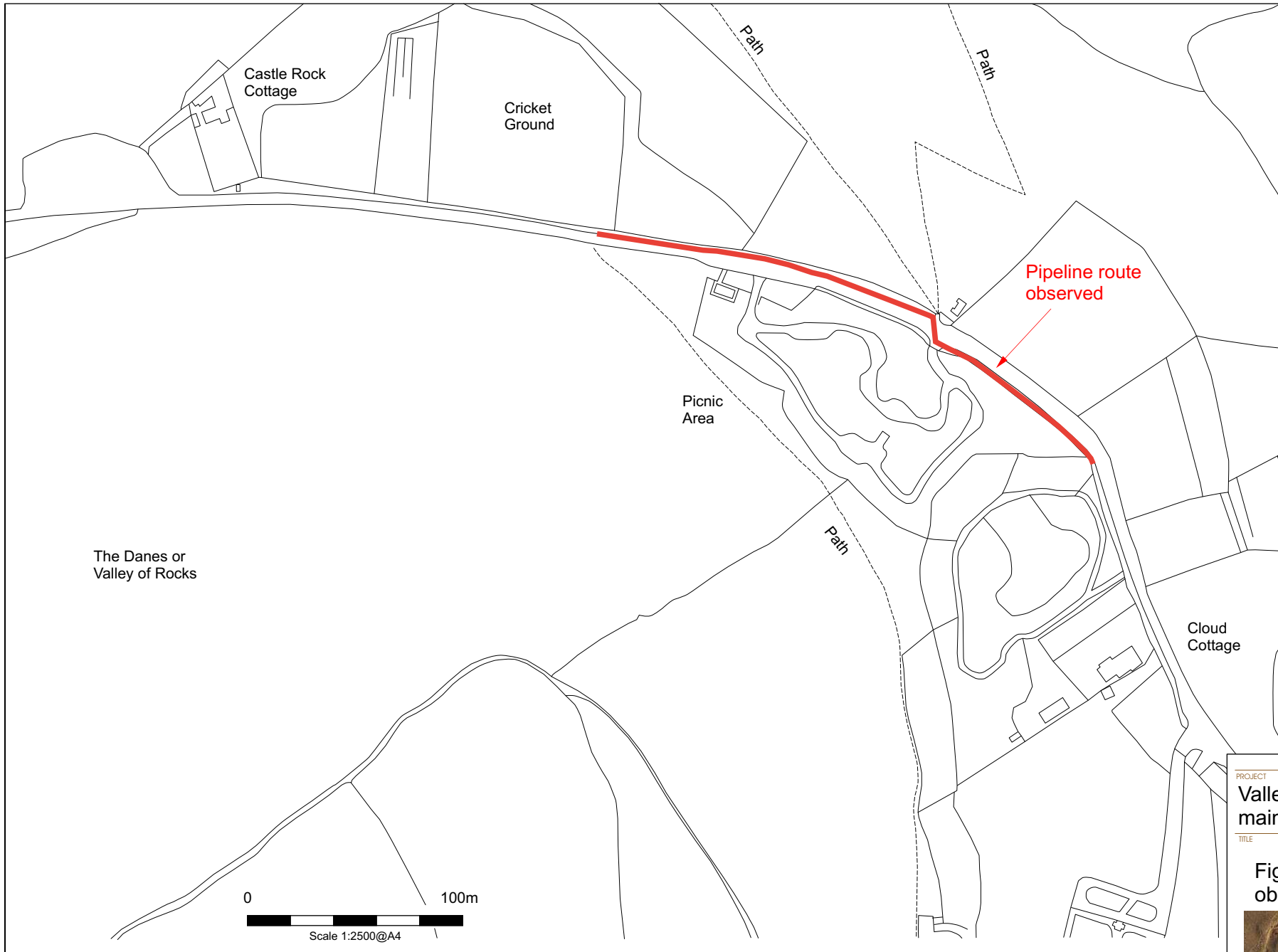
Civil Parish & District: Lynton, Exmoor National Park	National Grid Reference SS 70858 49759 to SS 70935 49753	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Valley of the Rocks Water Main Repair, Lynton, Devon; Results of an archaeological watching brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: N/A	Recipient museum: N/A	
OASIS ID: 205212	Museum Accession no: N/A	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD937	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 16 June 2014 – 24 June 2014	
<p>Introduction</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by AC archaeology during the repair of the water main in the Valley of the Rocks, Lynton, Devon. The work was required by the Exmoor National Park Authority Conservation Officer and was commissioned by South West Water Ltd. The route of the new water main covered a distance of 430m eastwards from Mother Meldrums Café along Longmead Road (between SS 70858 49759 and SS 70935 49753; Fig. 1). Of the total distance, approximately 175m of excavations were monitored (Fig. 2); the remainder of the trench was within the road down to the café.</p> <p>The surrounding valley contains evidence for prehistoric settlement and field systems in the form of stone roundhouses and enclosures, as well as a possible prehistoric burial mound. A post-medieval quarry is located to the north of the café and a Royal Observer Corps post was situated to the higher ground to the north.</p> <p>Results</p> <p>At the eastern end of the scheme the water main is located under the south pavement (Plates 1 and 2). A length of approximately 100m of this pavement was removed. The trench here was 0.40m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m. The sequence of deposits consisted of a minimum depth of 0.50m of made ground (102) consisting of dark grey gravelly silt with a large amount of demolition material including industrially produced red bricks, white lime mortar and roofing slates. Above this were 0.10m of modern make up (101) and the 0.10m thick tarmac pavement surface (100). A total of five pieces of post-medieval pottery, weighing 136g, was recovered from context (102). These all date to the 19th century or later.</p> <p>The trench was then excavated obliquely across the road for a distance of approximately 10m. The sequence of deposits was the same as those encountered in the pavement described above. Several modern services were encountered.</p> <p>The monitored trench was then excavated along the verge on the north side of the road towards the café for a distance of approximately 175m (Plates 3 and 4). The sequence of deposits encountered consisted of natural material – angular blocks of weathered slate and sandstone within a loose yellow-brown sand (202) – present 0.50m below the ground surface, which was overlain by 0.25m of mid-brown silty clay loam subsoil (201) which contained one scrap of post-medieval pottery, weighing 0.4g, and one small piece of industrially produced brick, weighing 3g, all dating to 19th century or later. This was overlaid by 0.25m of very loose grey-brown sandy topsoil (200). Several modern services were encountered within this area extending as deep as 0.50m below the ground surface.</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>No archaeological features were exposed during the groundworks. The large amount of modern disturbance created by the construction of the road will have destroyed any surviving archaeological remains along its route. The deposits in the verge along the north side of the road are also late post-medieval and modern in date.</p> <p>This report and the associated OASIS entry represent the archive for the project.</p>		
<p>A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.</p>		
Recorder: Kerry Kerr-Peterson AC archaeology	Date sent to HER: 4 March 2015	



PROJECT
Valley of the Rocks water main repair, Lynton, Devon
 TITLE

Fig.1: Location of site and route of pipeline





PROJECT
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Fig. 2: Location of area observed





Plate 1: Working view of pavement trench from the southeast



Plate 3: View of the verge trench from the east



Plate 2: Northeast facing section of the pavement trench, scale 0.50m



Plate 4: South facing section of verge trench, scale 0.50m

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