

TYNINGS BRIDGE, COMBE HAY, BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

NGR ST 73534 60189

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Bath & North East Somerset Council planning reference
15/00793/FUL, condition 6

Prepared by
Fiona Pink MA ACIfA

On behalf of
Hammond (ECS) Ltd

Document No: ACD1178/2/0

Date: December 2015



AC archaeology

Bath & North East Somerset Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Combe Hay, Bath and North East Somerset	National Grid Reference ST 73534 60189	Number: (Leave blank for HES to fill in)
Subject: Tynings Bridge, Combe Hay, Bath & North East Somerset: Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief		Photo attached? Y
Planning Application no: 15/00793/FUL	Recipient museum: Roman Baths Museum, Bath	
OASIS ID: 233475	Museum Accession no: BATRN 2015.58	
Contractor's reference number/code: ACD1178	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 25 September 2015	
<p>Description of works.</p> <p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology during engineering works for the provision of long term support to Tynings Bridge, Combe Hay, Bath and North East Somerset (Fig. 1). The bridge is located 200m north of the centre of Combe Hay and carried a track over the course of the former Camerton and Limpley Stoke Branch Line. The programme of works included the infilling of the bridge with foamed concrete; the creation of an embankment against the west face of the bridge to tie into the surrounding ground levels; the installation of a replacement concrete pipe bat roost in mitigation for the infilling of current habitats beneath the structure, and the covering of the surface structure with 150mm of topsoil.</p> <p><i>Historical Background</i></p> <p>The Somersetshire Coal Canal was authorised by an Act of Parliament in 1794, and constructed between 1794 and 1805. It linked the North Somerset coalfields, via basins at Timsbury and Paulton with the Kennet and Avon Canal at Dundas. The venture was initially successful, but during the later 19th century its profitability suffered due to the rise of the railways. The canal company went into liquidation in 1898.</p> <p>In 1904 the abandoned canal was sold to the Great Western Railway, who, in 1907-10, built the Camerton to Limpley Stoke Branch Line over much of its course. This closed in 1951. Although the course of the branch line generally followed the earlier canal, in places, due to engineering requirements, the footprint of the railway deviated. Northeast of Combe Hay the railway line took a different course bypassing two routes of the canal that involved locks and an inclined plane. The current works are located immediately east of the location where the canal and branch line diverged (see Appendix 1, Maps 1 and 2).</p> <p><i>Results (Fig. 1; Plates 1-5)</i></p> <p>The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by AC archaeology (Passmore 2015). The aim of the investigations was to observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits across the area affected by the development, in particular the excavations for the new bat habitat, which may expose remains associated with the former Somerset Coal Canal.</p> <p>The groundworks for the new bat habitat comprised the bulk excavation of an area adjacent to the west side of the railway bridge into which the roost would be constructed. This measured 9.40m long, 3.50m wide by 0.90m deep. All deposits exposed were modern, and varied across the excavated area. The vertical north and south faces of the excavation were cleaned to enable a record to be made; the east-facing section was battered during excavation. The material within the south-facing section consisted of 0.15m of a dark greyish-brown sandy-clay overlying 0.75m of pale yellowish-grey crushed mortar with large blocks of stone and concrete throughout. At the far western end of the section this overlaid a mid orangey-brown sandy-clay with blocks of concrete and rubble. A small patch of light greyish-brown clay was exposed at the bottom of the section. The material within the north-facing section consisted of between 0-0.45m of concrete rubble overlying a deposit of dark blackish-brown sandy-clay, measuring up to 0.45m deep. This overlaid a deposit of mid greyish-brown sandy-clay with abundant rubble fragments throughout.</p> <p>No archaeological features were exposed, and no finds were recovered.</p>		

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits were exposed within the pit that was excavated for the new bat roost. All deposits exposed were shown to abut the western elevation of the bridge, and with the ground level almost at the top of the northernmost arch indicating that they represent modern made ground far above the height of the former railway line. This material clearly post-dates the abandonment of the railway in 1951. The extent of this material on the west side of the bridge is indicated on Fig. 1.

Source Consulted

Passmore, A., 2015, *Tynings Bridge, Combe Hay, Bath and North East Somerset, (NGR ST 73534 60189), Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief, Bath and North East Somerset Council Planning Reference 15/00793/FUL (Condition 6)*, AC archaeology Document No. **ACD1178/1/0**.

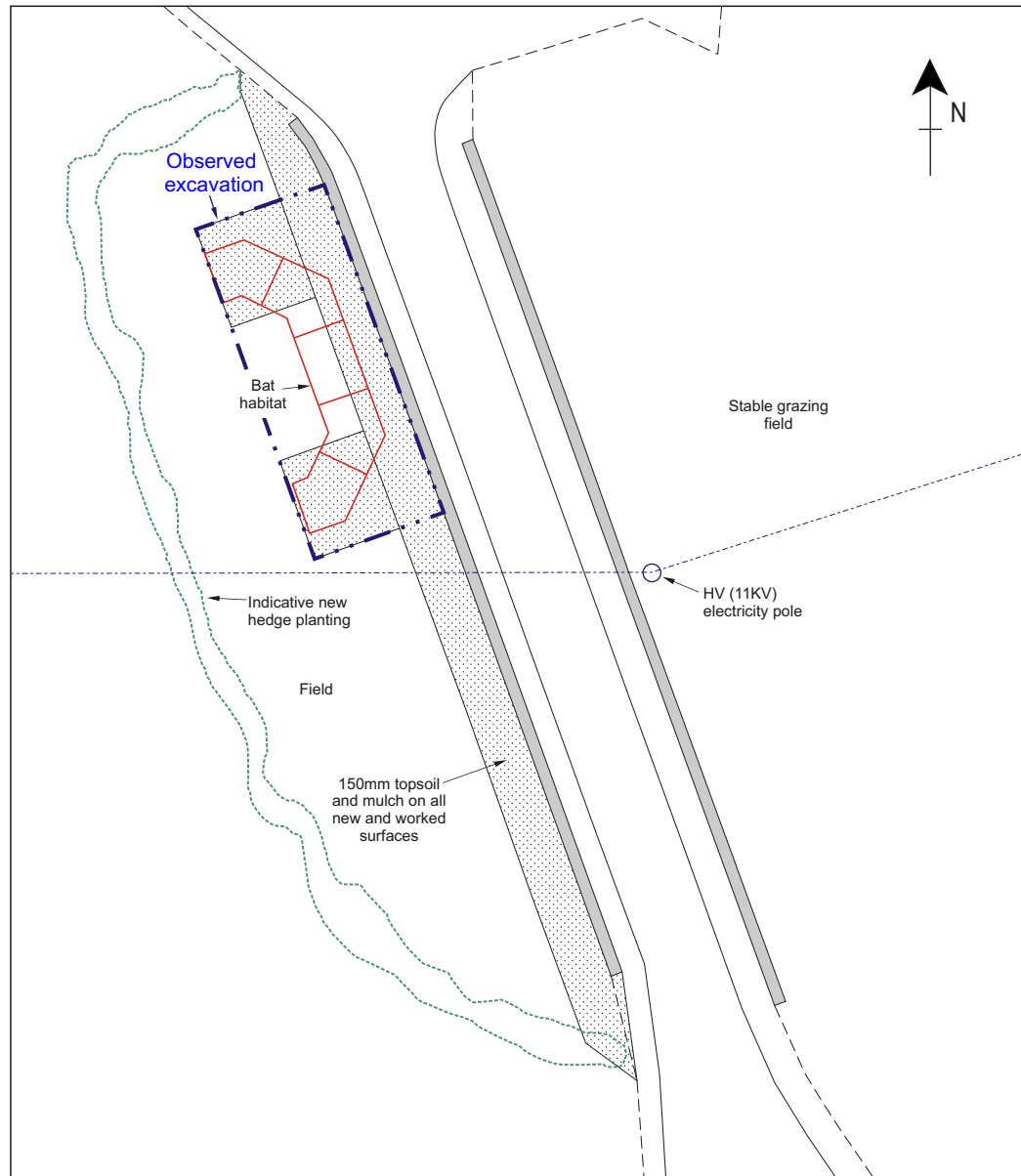
A plan as well as any other relevant drawings must be attached showing the location and extent of site, areas investigated and features exposed.

Recorder:

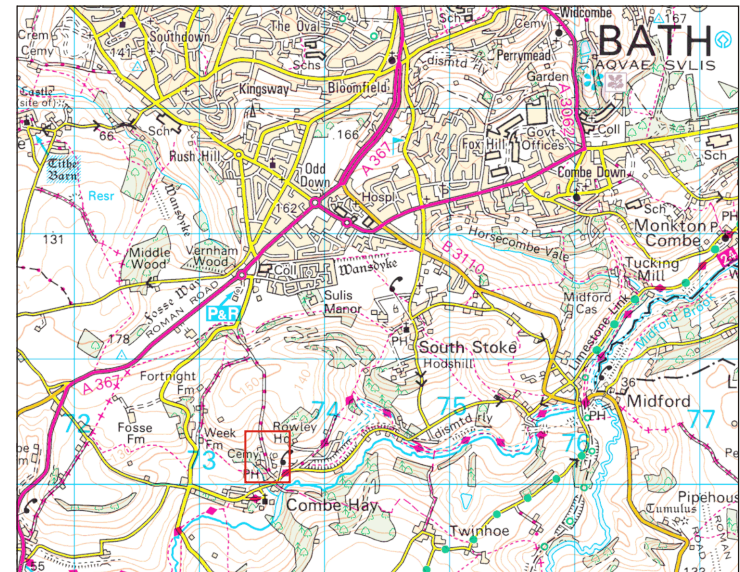
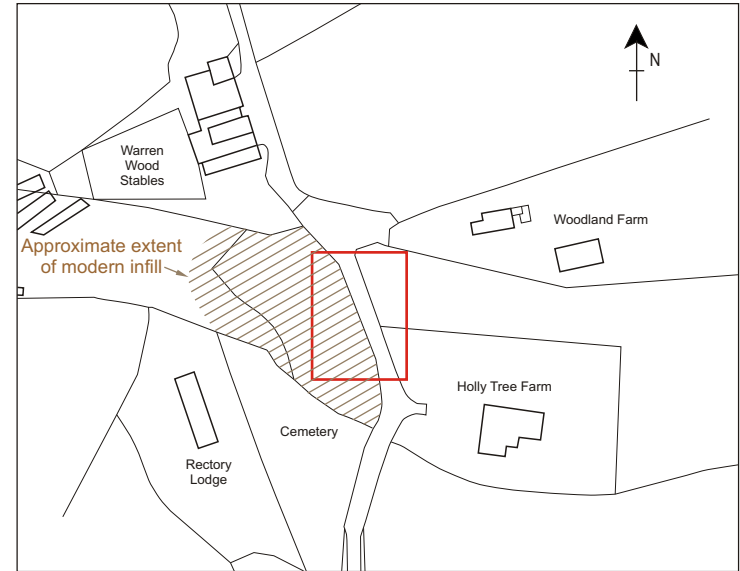
Fiona Pink, AC archaeology

Date sent to HER:

7 December 2015



Plans supplied by the client



PROJECT

Tynings Bridge, Combe Hay, Bath & North East Somerset

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site, showing bat habitat



Plate 1: View to the northwest showing Tynings Bridge with the site of the engineering works beyond



Plate 2: General shot showing the excavation against the western elevation of Tynings Bridge, view to the northeast



Plate 3: South-facing section of excavation for new bat habitat



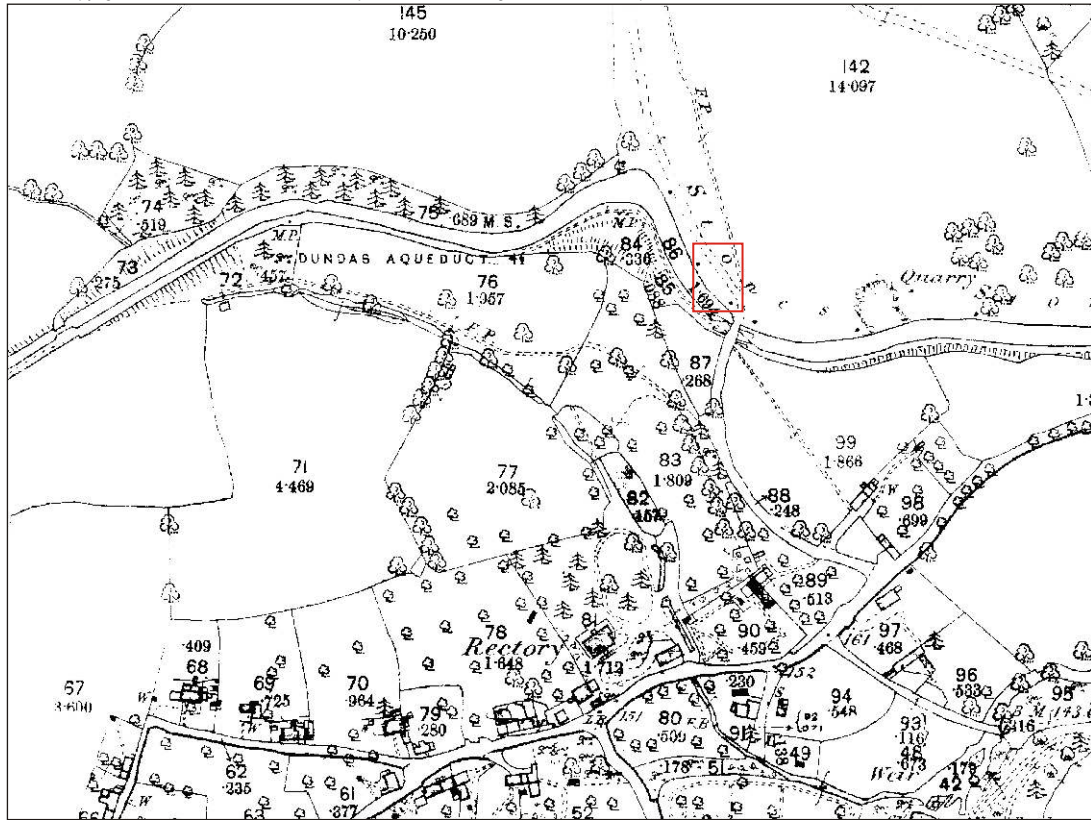
Plate 4: North-facing section of excavation for new bat habitat



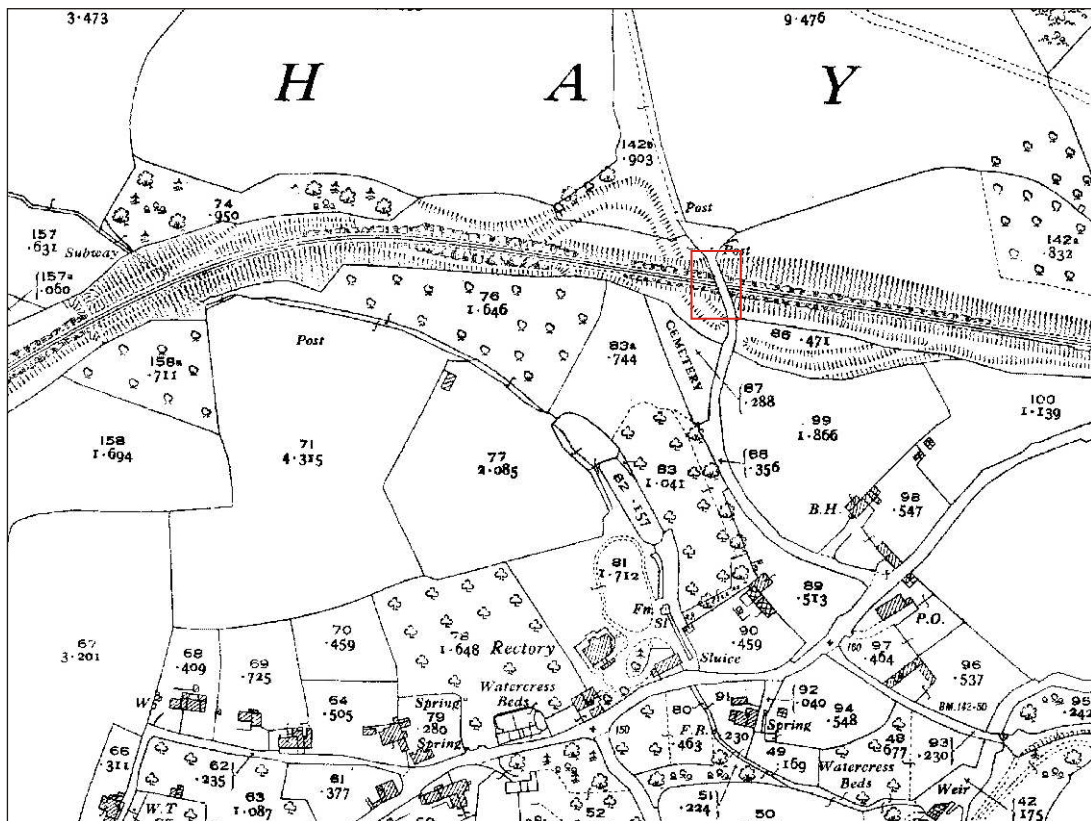
Plate 5: View to the south showing the deposits at the base of the excavation for the new bat habitat

Appendix 1

Historic map extracts



Map 1: Extract from the First Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1885-86



Map 2: Extract from the Revised Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1931

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk