

# NEW SPITTLES FARM, ILCHESTER, SOMERSET

(NGR ST 51218 22343)

Results of an archaeological watching brief

South Somerset District Council planning reference  
16/01379/FUL, condition 5

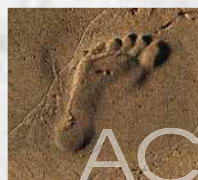
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On behalf of:  
Mr Mark Knight

Document No: ACD1441/2/0

Date: January 2017

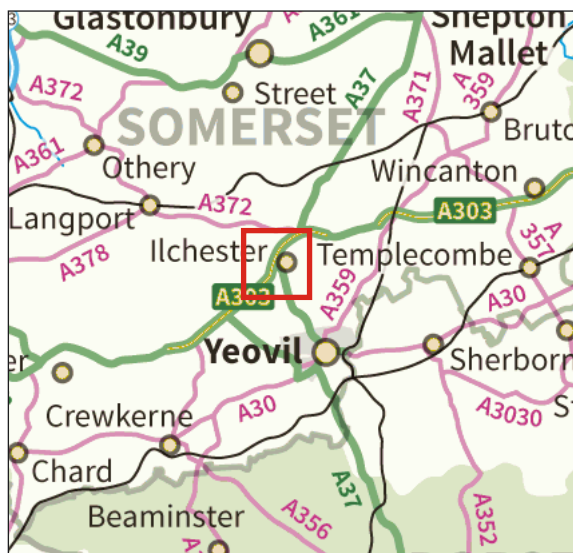


AC archaeology

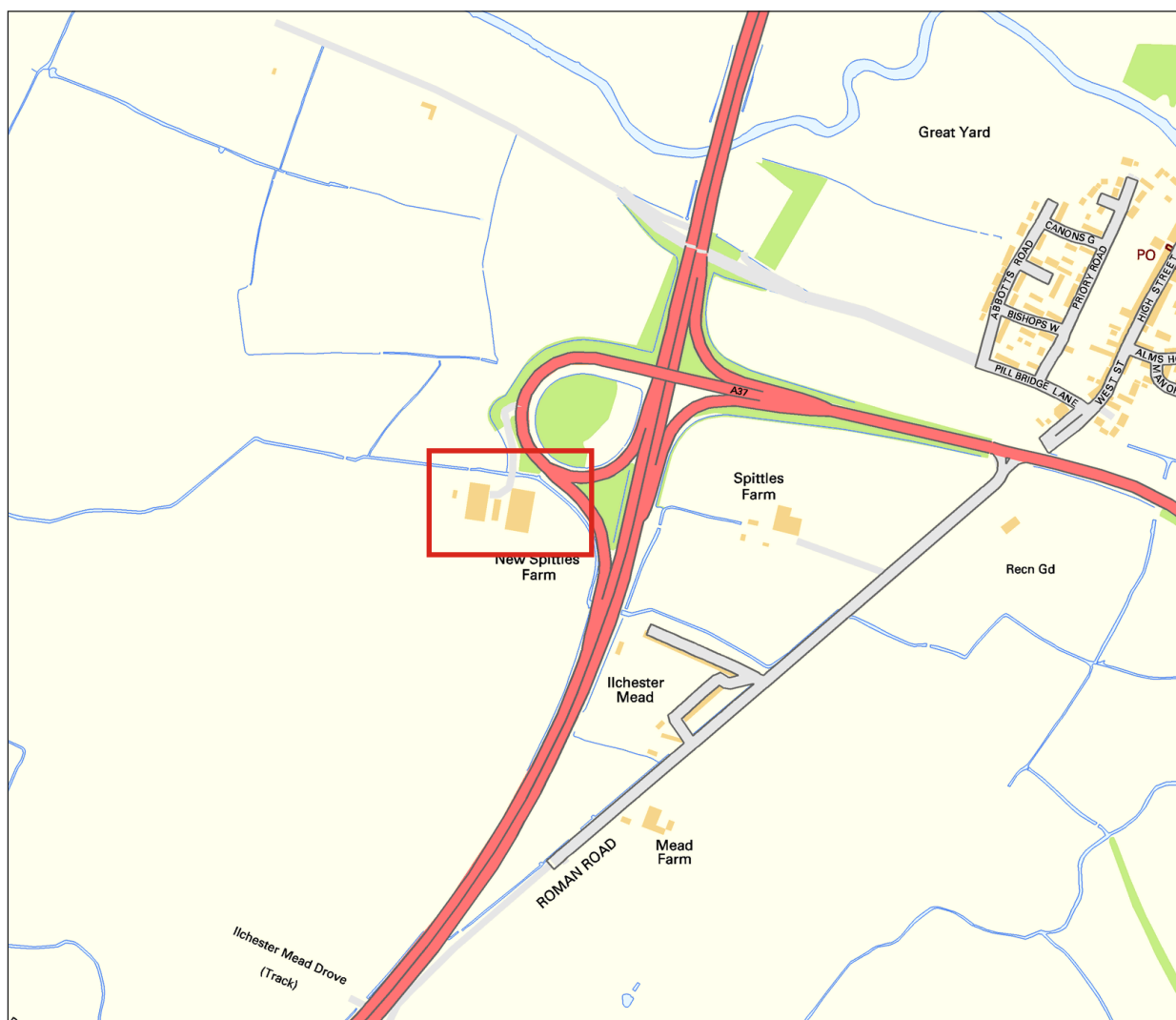
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# Somerset County Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Ilchester, South Somerset	<b>National Grid Reference</b> ST 51218 22343	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> New Spittles Farm, Ilchester, Somerset: Results of an archaeological watching brief		<b>Photo attached?</b> Yes
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 16/01379/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Somerset Heritage Centre	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> 271761	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> TTNCM 127/2016	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b>  ACD1441	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b>  19 August 2016	
<b>Description of works.</b>  <i>Introduction and archaeological background</i> An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of an extension to an existing agricultural building at New Spittles Farm, Ilchester (Fig. 1). The farm was built in the late 20th-century following the construction of the A303 to the east.  The site is located 650m northwest of an enclosure which is protected as a Scheduled Monument (SCC Historic Environment Record (HER) 53089; SM no. 512). This has been interpreted as a possible Oppidum and has been dated to the late pre-Roman Iron Age. The main road through Ilchester is a Roman road – the Fosse Way (HER 55101) – and to the south of New Spittles Farm, its course is followed by the A303. At least one Roman fort (1st century AD) was constructed at Ilchester where the Fosse Way crosses the River Yeo (HER 55892), and was superseded by a civil town (HER 53116) of 1st to 3rd century date. Immediately south of the site is a Romano-British villa (HER 53104), dating from the 1st to 5th centuries AD. Further evidence for Romano-British settlement has been identified to the northwest of the site (HER 53103).  Aerial photography has identified an extensive complex of ditched enclosures including trackways and small sub-rectangular enclosures suggesting some settlement in the area around the site. These appear to have developed by accretion from smaller enclosures (HER 54963). They are currently undated, although medieval pottery has been recovered from one spot within this overall area (HER 5129), west of the site. Northwest of the farm, medieval ridge and furrow has been identified adjacent to these enclosures (HER 54982).  <i>Results</i> (Fig. 2; Plates 1 and 2) The monitored groundworks consisted of the stripping of topsoil to the east side of the existing barn on the footprint of a new bund around the new barn. No monitoring of groundworks for the extension itself took place.  The excavation measured 50m long by between 4m and 6m wide, and was taken to a maximum depth of 750mm below the existing ground level. In places the upper 150mm of the agricultural subsoil, which comprised a light greyish yellow silty clay with very rare compact sub-rounded gravel inclusions, was removed. This was overlain by dark brown friable silty clay loam topsoil with rare sub-angular fine gravel inclusions, which measured between 100m thick (north end of trench) and 750m thick (south end of trench). No archaeological features or deposits were exposed, and no finds recovered  <i>Comment</i> The lack of any archaeological features or finds within the area monitored was due to the shallow nature of the excavation, which was too shallow to reach levels of archaeological potential.		
<b>Recorder:</b> Chris Blatchford, AC archaeology		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 11 January 2017



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PROJECT

New Spittles Farm, Ilchester, Somerset

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location

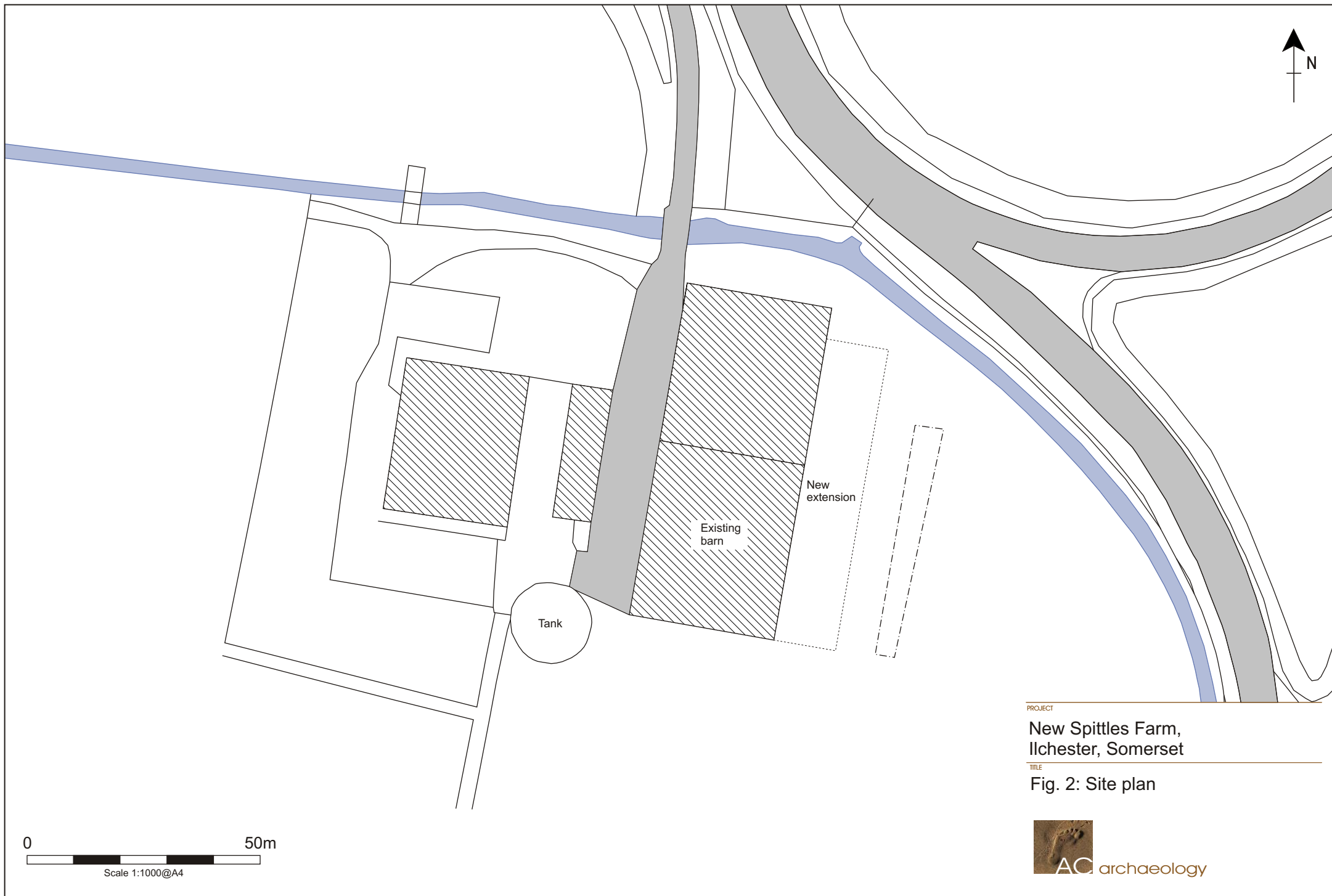






Plate 1: Pre-excavation view of site, view from east



Plate 2: General shot of works, oblique view from southeast. (1m scale)

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