

Cannington Bends, Cannington, Somerset

Centred on NGR ST 30654023

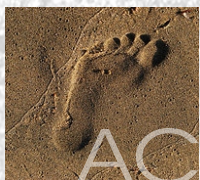
Results of archaeological watching brief

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On behalf of:
Black and Veatch

Document No: ACW766/2/0

Date: June 2015



AC archaeology

CANNINGTON BENDS, CANNINGTON, SOMERSET: RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Centred on NGR ST30654023

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by AC archaeology in April 2015 during the excavation of six trial pits, in advance of the proposed construction of borrow pits at Cannington Bends, Cannington, Somerset. The trial pit excavations and archaeological monitoring, centred on ST30654023, was carried out over two consecutive days. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the site investigations.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd during the excavation of trial pits in advance of the construction of borrow pits at Cannington Bends, Cannington Somerset (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Black & Veatch on the behalf of the Environment Agency during April 2015. The work involved the excavation of six trial pits, 3m in depth and excavated by Fugro site staff.
- 1.3 The area lies at around 5m OD. The superficial geology comprises clay, silt and sand of the Tidal Flat Deposits overlying mudstone and Halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The area contains evidence for former field systems (SCC HER ref 11142), possibly of medieval origin and clay pits associated with former brick and tile works at Chilton Tile factory (SCC HER ref 30281). Previous monitoring of trial pits in the vicinity (Morris 2007, Tapply 2010) revealed no evidence for peat horizons, buried land surfaces, former water channels or previously unrecorded heritage assets.

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were;
 - To record any archaeological features and finds which may be revealed or disturbed by the trial pits;
 - To record the presence (and OD height) of any buried features or palaeo-environmental interest, and;
 - To provide an interpretive report on the results of the monitoring.
- 3.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a project design (Robinson, 2015) submitted to the Environment Agency prior to the commencement of the works

- 3.3** Attendance on site was *comprehensive*- an archaeologist was present during all ground disturbance, and the level of attendance was consistent, over two days. The excavations were undertaken by wheeled excavator, with 0.6m wide toothed bucket.
- 3.4** The drilling of boreholes was not monitored.
- 3.5** Field observations were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, comprising written and graphic records and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*. A digital photographic record was also made. The archive has been prepared using the unique site code ACW766.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1** Six trial pits were excavated, each measuring c2.8m by 0.6m in plan and 3m deep. Their locations are shown in Appendix 1. Results are summarised in Table 1.
- 4.2** Trial pits **TP101**, **TP102**, **TP103**, **TP104** and **TP105** were excavated within enclosed pasture fields. Their exposed stratigraphy comprised topsoil, measuring 130-240mm thick, above reddish-brown, firm silty clay subsoil. The subsoil measured 130-450mm thick and overlay natural grey, alluvial clay. The natural alluvial clay was homogeneous and present in all trial pits at their maximum depth (Plates 1-3). In trial pits **TP101**, **TP102**, **TP104** and **TP105** waterlogging occurred at between 1m and 1.5m deep.
- 4.3** Trial pit **TP106** was excavated within a grassed area, altered by landscaping, with ponds to the south and west. It revealed modern made ground 2.2m thick, overlying natural grey alluvial clay, 1.8m thick. No features or finds were found.

TP No	Max. Depth	Stratigraphic sequence
1	3m	(100) Dark reddish-brown, soft silty clay. Topsoil. 300mm (101) reddish-brown, firm silty clay. Subsoil. 300mm (102) Grey firm, silty-clay. Natural alluvium. From c. 600mm+
2	3m	(200) Dark reddish-brown, firm silty clay. Topsoil. 200mm (201) Reddish-brown. Subsoil. 250mm (202) Grey and blue-grey firm, silty clay. Natural alluvium. From c. 450mm+
3	3m	(300) Dark reddish-brown soft, silty clay. Topsoil. 130mm (301) Reddish-brown firm, silty clay. Subsoil 150mm (302) Grey firm, silty clay. Natural alluvium. From c.150mm+
4	3m	(400) Brown firm, silty clay. Topsoil. 200mm (401) Brown firm, silty clay. Subsoil. 400mm (402) Grey firm, silty clay. Natural alluvium. From c.400mm+
5	3m	(500) Dark reddish-brown firm, silty clay. Topsoil. 200mm (501) Reddish-brown firm, silty clay. Subsoil 240mm (502) Grey firm, silty clay. Natural alluvium. From c. 240+ Contained rare mudstones 10mm long max and land mollusc shells.
6	3m	(600) Reddish-brown firm, silty clay. Topsoil/Made ground. 2.2m (601) Dark grey firm, silty clay. Natural alluvium. From c. 2.2m+

Table 1: Summary of Trial Pit observations

5. COMMENT

- 5.1 No evidence for the presence of peat horizons, buried land surfaces or former water channels was observed in the trial pits. The monitoring of excavations has also demonstrated that no significant archaeological deposits were present within, or disturbed by, the trial pit excavations.

6. REFERENCES

Morris, N, 2007 *Archaeological Monitoring of Trial Pits at Cannington Bends, nr Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset (centred on NGR ST27724082)*. Unpublished report by AC archaeology ref AC1166/1/0. December 2007.

Robinson, S., 2015, *Cannington Bends, Cannington, Somerset: Project Design for archaeological watching brief*, AC archaeology Document ACW766/1/1

Tapply, T, 2011 *Archaeological Monitoring of Trial Pits at Cannington Outfalls Framework For Action, Cannington, Somerset (centred on NGR ST277240820)*. Unpublished report by AC archaeology ref ACW221/1/0. March 2011.



Plate 1: East facing section of TP101 (scale 1m)

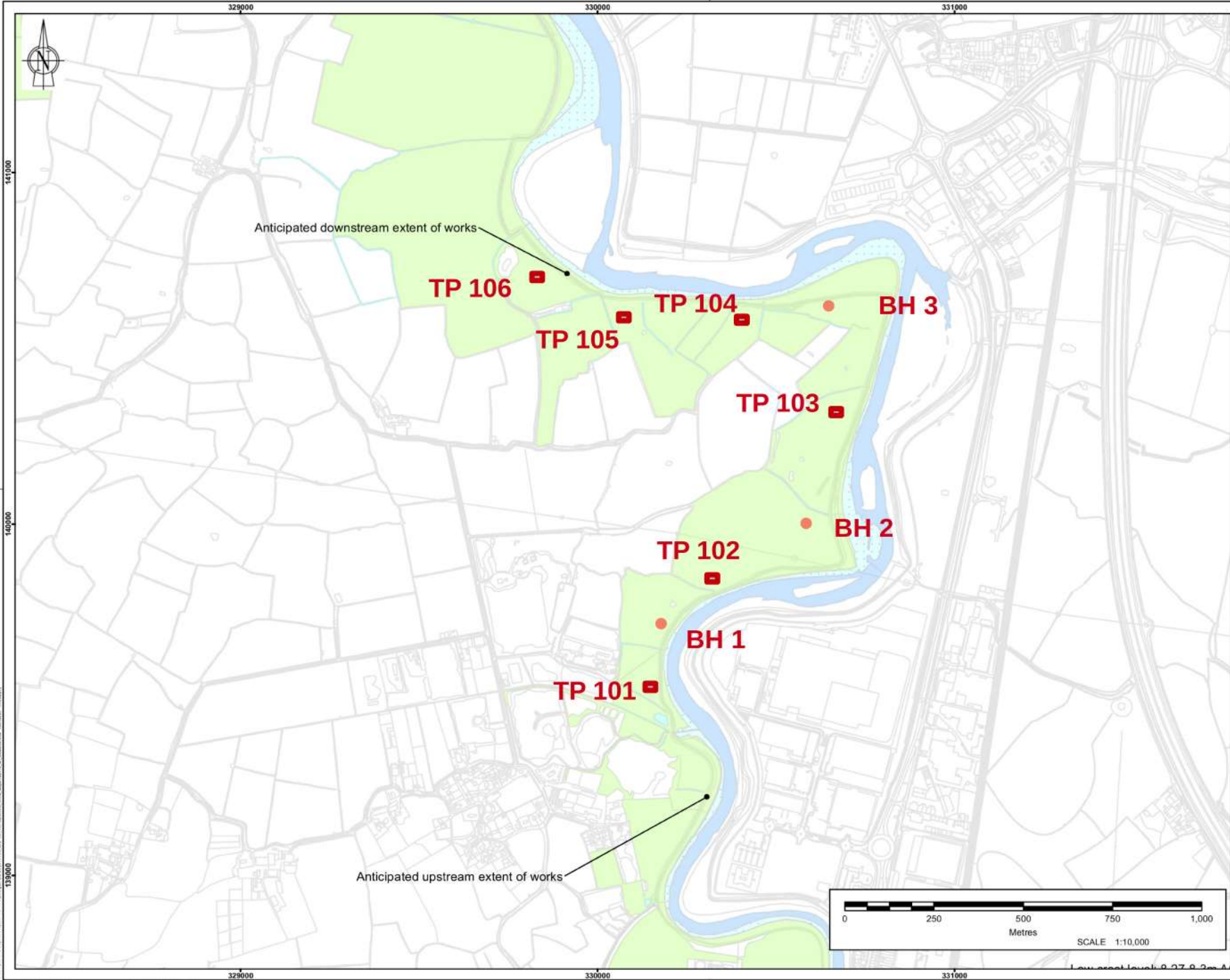


Plate 2: Northeast facing section of TP103 (scale 1m)



Plate 3: Northwest facing section of TP106 (scale 1m)

APPENDIX 1: Trial pit locations



Note: The areas, including the heights and depths of the Works, shown in the drawing are for the client's information and do not constitute a guarantee of the accuracy of the information.

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CANNINGTON BENDS APPRAISAL AND ESE

Drawing title:

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