

# Wessex Water Domestic Supply Pipe Repair, Land off Thorney Lane, Marston Magna, Somerset:

Results of archaeological monitoring

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By  
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On behalf of:  
Wessex Water

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archaeology

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# **Wessex Water domestic supply pipe repair, Land off Thorney Lane, Marston Magna, Somerset: Results of archaeological monitoring**

**NGR 358800,121325**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** Following advice from Historic England that archaeological monitoring of any groundworks would be required, Wessex Water commissioned AC Archaeology Ltd to carry out archaeological observations and recording during the urgent repair of a leaking water supply pipe in agricultural pasture west of the 'The Bungalow', Thorney Lane, Marston Magna, Somerset; NGR 358800 121325 (ST 58800 21325). The work was undertaken on 21 September 2023.

**1.2** The site of the repair falls within a scheduled monument (List Entry Number 1008251), defined as 'Deserted medieval village of Nether Adber', but also mapped as 'Site of medieval village of Thorney' by the Ordnance Survey.

**1.3** The broken pipe is an approximately east-west aligned spur supplying domestic water to 'The Bungalow', and the emergency repair works were therefore carried out under a Class 5 Health and Safety consent from Historic England (property at risk of losing water supply).

## **2. RESULTS**

**2.1** On arrival, running water was seen breaking ground and displacing small amounts of liquified soil onto the surrounding ground surface (Plate 1). Remedial works (Plates 2 & 3) comprised hand-excavation by Wessex Water groundworks staff of a sub-oval access hole measuring approximately 0.50m by 0.70m, and up to c 0.60m deep, with arisings stored on an adjacent rubber ground-mat. The majority of digging was within the modern backfill of the pipe trench, with only minor, peripheral impacts on in-situ soils to either side.

**2.2** Soils were locally saturated, requiring de-watering with a small petrol-driven pump, and no detailed soil profile was obtainable during the works; although in broad terms upper dark brown humic pasture soil was underlain by lighter brown loamy clay at c 0.30-0.40m below local ground level. No archaeologically significant features or deposits were identified, and no artefacts were noted during scanning of excavated soil.

**2.3** The location of the works was recorded by taped measurements to fixed landscape features, and subsequently digitally converted to Ordnance Survey National Grid.

**2.4** Following replacement of the broken pipe segment (Plate 4), the access hole was backfilled with excavated arisings and water-displaced soils, and the site vacated.

## **3. CONCLUSIONS**

**3.1** The works did not expose, damage or remove any significant archaeological deposits associated with the scheduled monument. No artefacts were present on the observed deposits.



**Plate 1: Condition of leak site on arrival. View from SSE**



**Plate 2: Excavation of pipe access pit. View from south**



**Plate 3: Detail of pipe repair works in progress. View from west**



**Plate 4: detail of completed pipe repair and full extents of access pit immediately prior to backfilling. View from south west**

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