Teffont Evias Rising Main Replacement, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

context one
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

Teffont Evias Rising Main Replacement, Wiltshire

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for

Wessex water plc

by

Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.
T: 01963 824696
F: 07092 259858
E: mail@contextone.co.uk
W: www.contextone.co.uk

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COAS Team:
Project Director: Richard McConnell
Fieldwork Manager: Stuart Milby
Project Officer: Daniel Brace
Fieldwork: Daniel Brace
Post-Excavation Coordinator: Tara Fairclough
Report: Richard Tabor
Research: Richard Tabor
Graphics: Tara Fairclough

June 2012

Front cover image: Precipitous Descent.

Contents

Illustrations

Plates

Non-technical Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for replacement of the rising main at Teffont Evias in Wiltshire (from NGR ST 97937 30437 to ST 99138 31141) in February 2012. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc.

The easternmost segment of the pipeline passed through a field in which earthworks have been recorded from the air. However, no subsurface archaeological features or deposits were identified, nor any finds. It is possible that the recorded earthworks were well-established farm animal tracks.

1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the replacement of the rising main at Teffont Evias in Wiltshire (from NGR ST 97937 30437 to ST 99138 31141; hereafter referred to as the Site) on 22nd and 24th February 2012. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc.

1.2 The watching brief was requested by Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council) as part of a consultation process with Wessex Water. The scope of the archaeological work was agreed in an email dated 23rd June 2012 between Ms King and Mr. Ben Fox (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc).

1.3 Ms King noted that:

> *'The vast majority of the route has no archaeological records. However, the easternmost field is adjacent to Teffont Manor (a medieval settlement) and is recorded as having some earthworks…. I also note that the line goes through the woodland associated with the Teffont Evias SSI. If this woodland is earlier than modern date, I would recommend that you consider that there may be ancient woodland management features within it.'*

1.4 Ms King therefore recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken in the easternmost field. The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010).

1.5 This report summarises the topographical, geological, archaeological setting of the Site, and presents the results of the archaeological investigation.

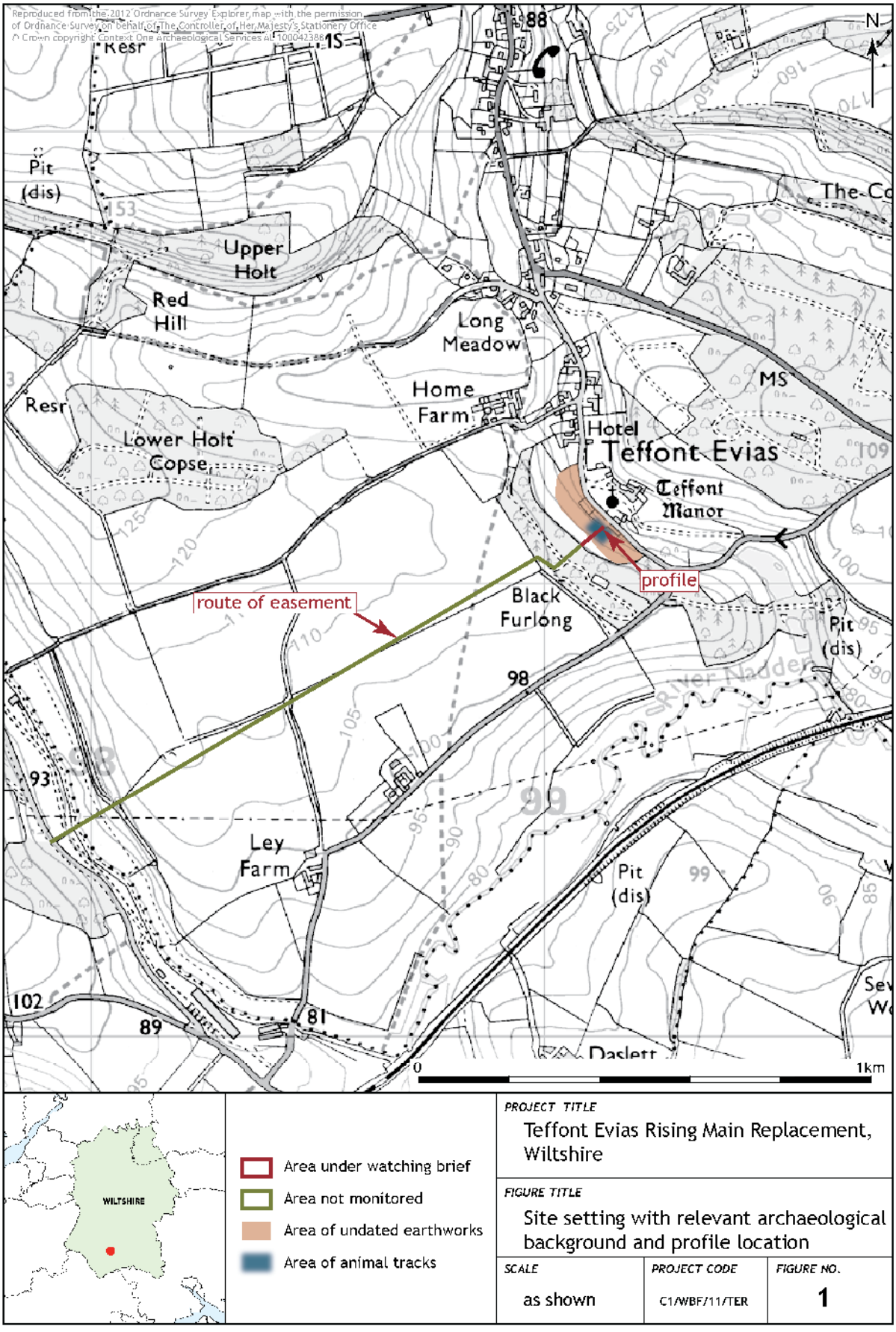
2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

2.1 Teffont Evias is a small settlement in the Vale of Wardour, Wiltshire, occupying the bottom of a narrow V-shaped valley which branches northwards from the River Nadder, *ca*. 450m to the south. Teffont Magna occupies the head of the valley a further *ca*. 1km to the north. The Teffonts lie *ca*. 14km west of Salisbury city centre. The pipeline route extended in an east north easterly direction from 600m west of Ley Farm to a field divided by a road from the Church of St Michael and Angels at Teffont Evias. The west end of the route was on an east-facing lower slope at *ca*. 96m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), dropping to *ca*. 91m aOD at the valley bottom before rising steeply to *ca*. 110m aOD. From this high point it dipped gently to ca. 106m aOD before rising gradually to *ca*. 108m aOD. From the top of the ridge the route fell very sharply over its last *ca*. 160m to *ca*. 94m aOD. It was only this easternmost portion which was the subject of the watching brief.

2.2 The west end of the route is over Chilmark Member Jurassic sedimentary Limestone which underlies Lulworth Formation Interbedded Jurassic Sandstone and Limestone which makes up the higher ground and the valley at Teffont Evias. The middle of the route is dominated by Durlston Formation Jurassic Sedimentary Sandstone and Limestone (BGS 2012). The soils vary from slightly acid loamy clay with impeded drainage and moderate to high fertility in the west and central part of the route to lime-rich and free draining of moderate fertility (NSRI 2012).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 The archaeological record for the pipeline route shown on the Wiltshire Historic Environment online map (WSMM) comprised exclusively earthworks of uncertain date in the field where the watching brief was conducted. Their extent is indicated on **Figure 1**.


Reproduced from the 2012 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Context One Archaeological Services AL 100042388
N
Resr
Pit (dis)
Upper Holt
Red Hill
Long Meadow
Home Farm
Resr
Lower Holt Copse
Hotel
Teffont Evias
Teffont Manor
MS
profile
route of easement
Black Furlong
Pit (dis)
River Nadder
Ley Farm
Pit (dis)
Daslett
0
1km
WILTSHIRE
Area under watching brief
Area not monitored
Area of undated earthworks
Area of animal tracks
PROJECT TITLE
Teffont Evias Rising Main Replacement, Wiltshire
FIGURE TITLE
Site setting with relevant archaeological background and profile location
SCALE
as shown
PROJECT CODE
C1/WBF/11/TER
FIGURE NO.
1

4. Methodology

4.1 Of the *ca.* 1.5km length of the pipeline, *ca.* 160m of easement was stripped under archaeological observation. A 360 degree tracked machine equipped with a *ca.* 3m wide toothless bucket excavated a *ca.* 10m wide easement by removing the topsoil to a maximum depth of *ca.* 0.20m in order to provide a working surface and facilitate access (**Figure 1**).

4.2 All machine excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision to the depth of the upper surface of *in situ* subsoil. The topsoil strip left a good subsoil surface which enhanced visibility but no archaeological features were identified.

Archaeological Methodology

4.3 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, rev. 2010; 1990, rev. 2008; 1994, rev. 2008) at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.

4.4 The soil sequence was recorded using a COAS pro-forma profile sheet. The photographic record comprised digital images of the excavated easement and working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.5 The archaeological work comprised entirely of the observation of groundworks. The location, extent and altitude of the easement were mapped. An easement, excavated in the wooded area above the field before the archaeologist was present, was investigated on arrival.

5. Results

5.1 The deposits encountered during fieldwork are listed and described in **Appendix 1**. In the text, context numbers for layers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (102). There was no evidence for ancient management in the wooded area.

Soil sequence and features

5.2 The topsoil (100) differed little throughout the length of the easement, comprising a mid brown soft silty clay including sparse small stones to a depth of up to 0.20m, overlying a darker, sandier, subsoil (101) (**Plate 2**) of up to 0.10m depth. This sealed a gravelly sandy clay with frequent small and some medium large limestones, some of which were rounded (102), probably constituting a disturbed bedrock (**Plate 2**). Stepping on the surface was due to well established farm animal contour tracks (**Plate 1**).

Plate 1. The Site before construction work (from W; 1m scale)

Plate 2. Profile 1 (from SE; 1m scale)

6. Finds

6.1 No finds were observed or collected.

7. Conclusions

7.1 No archaeological deposits of finds were recovered, despite a record of earthworks in the field. However, there were very well established farm animal contour tracks which from the air, without a well-defined scale, might have appeared to be humanly engineered terracing.

8. Archive

8.1 The Site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 15 digital images in .jpg format, including one profile sheet and registers including two day records and a photographic index. There were no scaled drawings due to the lack of features. The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *Environmental Standards for the Permanent Storage of Excavated Material from Archaeological Sites* (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3)/ *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC 1990)/ *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992)/ *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991). Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum within 12 months following the submission of this report.

8.2 Copies of the Watching Brief report will be deposited with:

Wessex Water plc
Claverton Down
Bath
BA2 7WW

Wiltshire County Historic Environment Record
Wiltshire Archaeology Service
The Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
Cocklebury Road
Chippenham
SN15 3QN

9. COAS Acknowledgements

9.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Mr. Ben Fox (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc) for his assistance during the course of the project. We are also grateful to Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council) for curatorial advice and Ms Monica Suchorska (Site Engineer, Damar Group Ltd) for her cooperation on site.

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Wiltshire Council (WSMM)	*Sites and Monuments Mapping*. http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/artsheritageandlibraries/museumhistoryheritage/sitesandmonumentsmapping.htm (accessed 14th June 2012)