

B0375: Kingston Deverill Stream Support, Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief



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for

Wessex water plc

by



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Non-technical Summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to a stream support scheme at Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire (centred on NGR ST 84022 37108; hereafter referred to as the Site) in January 2012. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc.

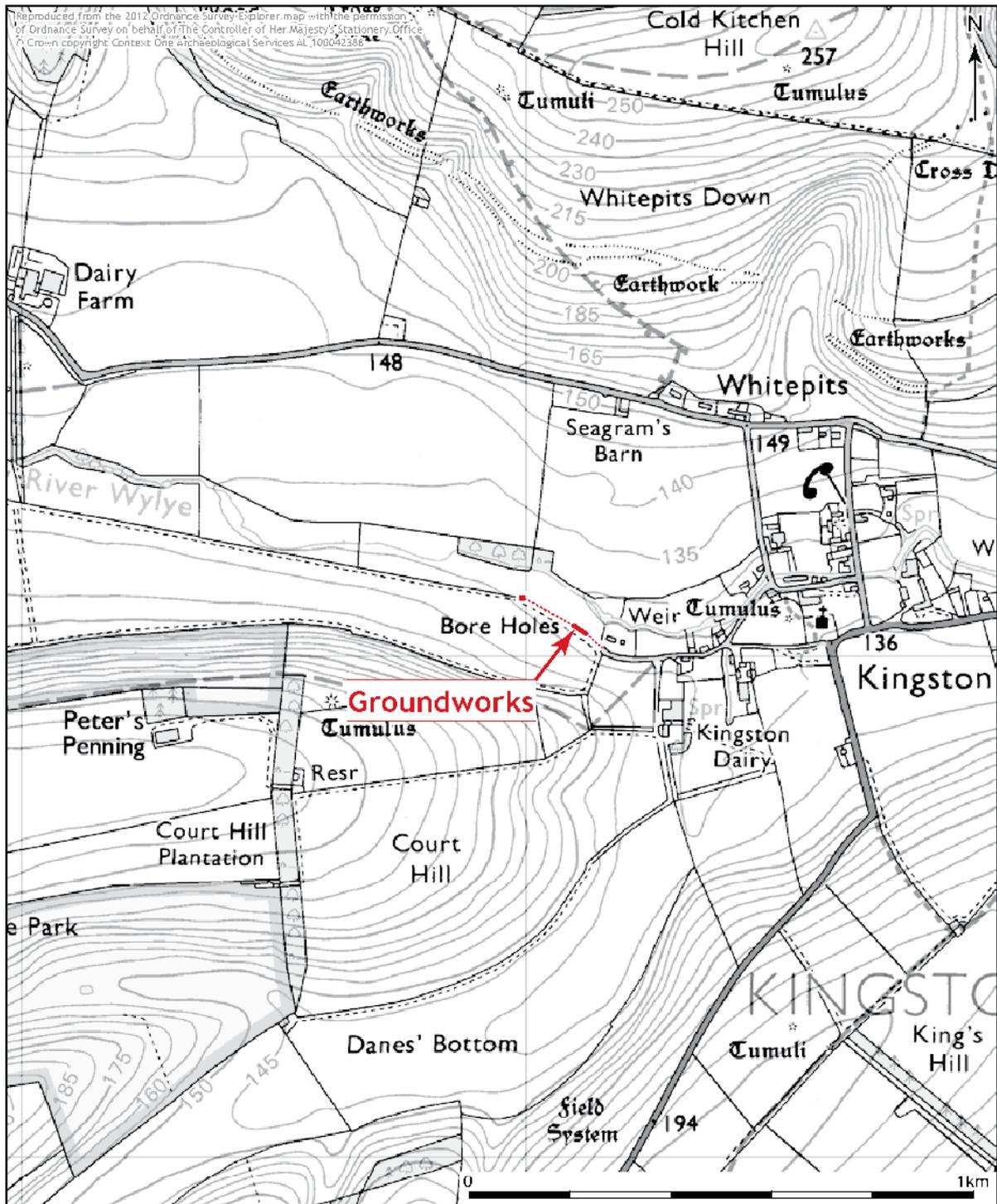
The Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record notes the former survival of features associated with a Medieval village as recently as 1964. The programme of monitoring found no evidence that any such features remain extant and the surmise that they have been reduced by ploughing may be correct, although it should be borne in mind that the investigation covered only a narrow strip in the southernmost part of the field.

1. Introduction

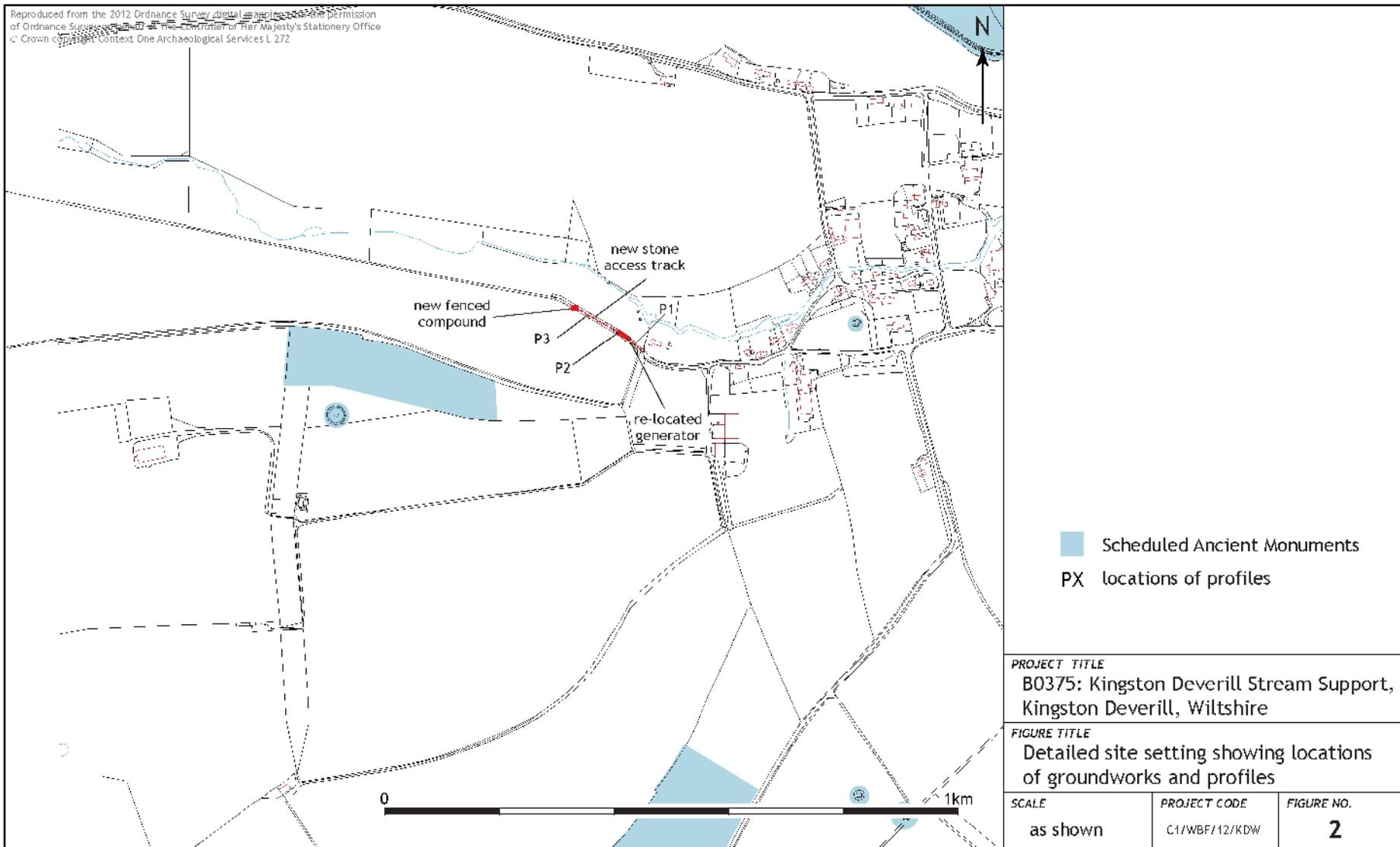
- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to a stream support scheme at Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire (centred on NGR ST 84022 37108; hereafter referred to as the Site) on the 16th and 18th January 2012. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with Context One.
- 1.2 The request for the archaeological watching brief was made by Ms Vanessa Clarke (Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Ms Vickie Plummer (Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water). In a consultation email dated 30th September 2009 Ms Clarke stated that:
- 'The Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) shows that the field immediately to the north and which the proposed new track runs alongside, once contained extant village features associated with the settlements of 'Devrel' recorded as far back as AD1086 and later on 'Kingesdeverell' in AD1206AD. These appear to have been ploughed down since the Ordnance Survey visit of 1964. However, archaeological remains associated with the origins and development of the modern day settlement of Kingston Deverill may survive below ground to be destroyed and/ or disturbed by the scheme.'*
- 1.3 It was therefore considered that archaeological features/deposits could be present on the Site, and that these could be damaged or destroyed by development. However, as the nature or presence of such features/deposits had not been proven on the basis of the available information, it was determined that a reasonable archaeological response would be to carry out a watching brief during all ground disturbance associated with the development.
- 1.4 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).

2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The village of Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire, is located ca. 5km north east of Mere and ca. 8km south south west of Warminster. It is in the upper Wylve Valley, ca. 3.7km east of the eponymous river's source. The Site is ca. 480m west of the village centre, close to the valley bottom at ca. 134m above Ordnance datum (aOD), between ridges which rise to over 250m aOD at Cold Kitchen Hill to the north, and over 200m aOD at Court Hill to the south.
- 2.2 The Site lies over Quaternary Head and Alluvial deposits of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel set on West Melbury Formation Cretaceous Sedimentary Marly Chalk (BGS 2012). The soils are free-draining, lime-rich loams of moderate fertility (NSRI 2012).



PROJECT TITLE B0375: Kingston Deverill Stream Support, Kingston Deverill, Wiltshire		
FIGURE TITLE Site setting showing groundworks		
SCALE as shown	PROJECT CODE C1/WBF/12/KDW	FIGURE NO. 1



3. Methodology

Wessex Water Methodology

- 3.1 The scheme comprised machine stripping of an area for the new ducting between two boreholes and an associated access track (**Figure 1**).
- 3.2 A 360 degree tracked machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket removed the overburden along the route of the proposed scheme under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation continued to the depth of formation, leaving a good surface on the subsoil to enable identification of any archaeological features.

Archaeological Methodology

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The archaeological work comprised entirely of the observation of groundworks and recording using COAS pro-forma profile sheets. A photographic record was made up of digital images of the Site setting, the construction work and the areas exposed by it, including profiles representative of the soil sequence. The locations, extent and altitude of the profiles were recorded manually.

4. Results

- 4.1 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). No archaeological features or deposits were identified.



Plate 1. Profile 1 (from E; 1m scale)



Plate 2. Profile 3 (from SE; no scale)



Plate 3. Generator compound (from NE; 1m scale)



Plate 4. Profile 2 (from NE; 1m scale)

Soil sequence and features

- 4.2 The area observed comprised a strip of land along the north east side of a field boundary hedge and an area stripped within the compound of an old generator. The soil sequence varied according to recent land use. Along the south east approach to and beyond the old generator a topsoil (100) of mid brown silty clay included up to 20% small flint pebbles. To the east of the generator it was *ca.* 0.15m deep and covered a light brownish grey, gravelly subsoil (102) including up to 10% small flint pebbles (**Plate 1**; Profile 1). Beyond the old generator *ca.* 0.05m of topsoil barely covered a modern track made up of scalplings (101) (**Plate 2**; Profile 3).
- 4.3 The topsoil (200) within the old generator compound (**Plate 3**) was also shallow, with a depth of *ca.* 0.15m, but was of a mid-yellow brown colour and texture of soft sandy clay including moderate subangular and subrounded stones with route mass (**Plate 4**; Profile 2) which contrasted with the darker, heavier, soil in the field. It covered a light brown yellow sandy clay subsoil (201) with sparse inclusions of subangular and subrounded stones. The subsoil was disturbed by services to the generator and pieces of modern brick were also observed but not collected.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The Wiltshire Sites and Monuments Record notes the former survival of features associated with a Medieval village as recently as 1964. The programme of monitoring found no evidence that any such features remain extant and the surmise that they have been reduced by ploughing may be correct, although it should be borne in mind that the investigation covered only a narrow strip in the southernmost part of the field.

6. Archive

- 6.1 The Site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 35 digital images in .jpg format, including three *pro forma* profile sheets, two day record sheets, a photograph and a drawing register. No scaled drawings were necessary. The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines and standards set out by the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC 1984; Walker 1991), the Museum and Galleries Commission (Paine 1992) and English Heritage (Andrews 1991). Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum within 12 months following the submission of this report.
- 6.2 Copies of the Watching Brief report will be deposited with:

Wessex Water plc
Claverton Down
Bath
BA2 7WW

Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum
The Kings House
65 The Close
Salisbury
SP1 2EN

7. COAS Acknowledgements

- 7.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Ms Vickie Plummer (Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water) for her assistance during the course of the project. We are also grateful to Ms Vanessa Clarke (WCAS) for curatorial advice.

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Appendix 1. Context Summary

Context no.	Period	Type	Description	Earlier than	Contemp. with	Later than	Length	Width/ Diameter	Thickness / Depth
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Mid brown silty clay including <20% small flints pebbles			101, 102			>0.12m
101	Modern	Deposit	Track make-up. 100% scalpings	100					<0.20m exc
102	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Light brownish grey gravelly clay including <10% small flint pebbles	100					<0.08m exc
200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Mid yellow brown, soft sandy clay, including moderate subangular and subrounded stones and roots			202			<0.15m
201	Undated	Layer	Subsoil. Light brownish yellow, soft sandy clay, including sparse subangular and subrounded stones. Disturbed by services for generator	200					<0.30m exc