

BV161: Fields adjacent to the B3069, Kingston Road, Worth Matravers, Dorset

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 undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with improvement works to the water supply mains in fields adjacent to the south of the B3069, Kingston Road, Worth Matravers, Dorset (from NGR SY 97025 79186 to SY 97883 77929). The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water Plc and was conducted over four days in August and September 2012.

The request for the archaeological watching brief was made by Wessex Water Plc on the advice of Mr Steve Wallis (Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council Archaeology Service).

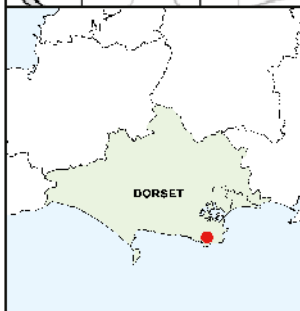
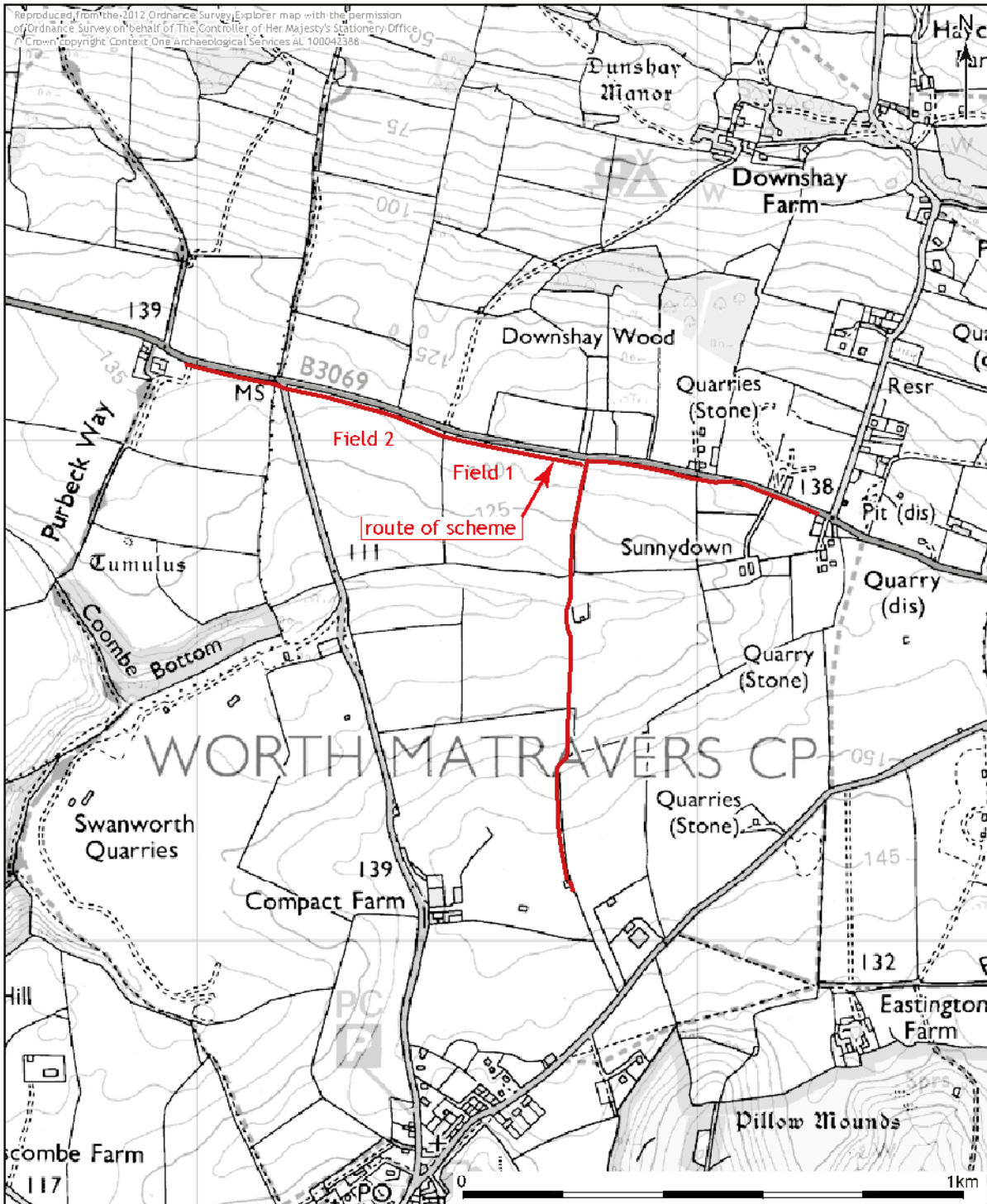
No evidence for archaeological features or deposits were identified and no finds were observed or collected.

1. Introduction

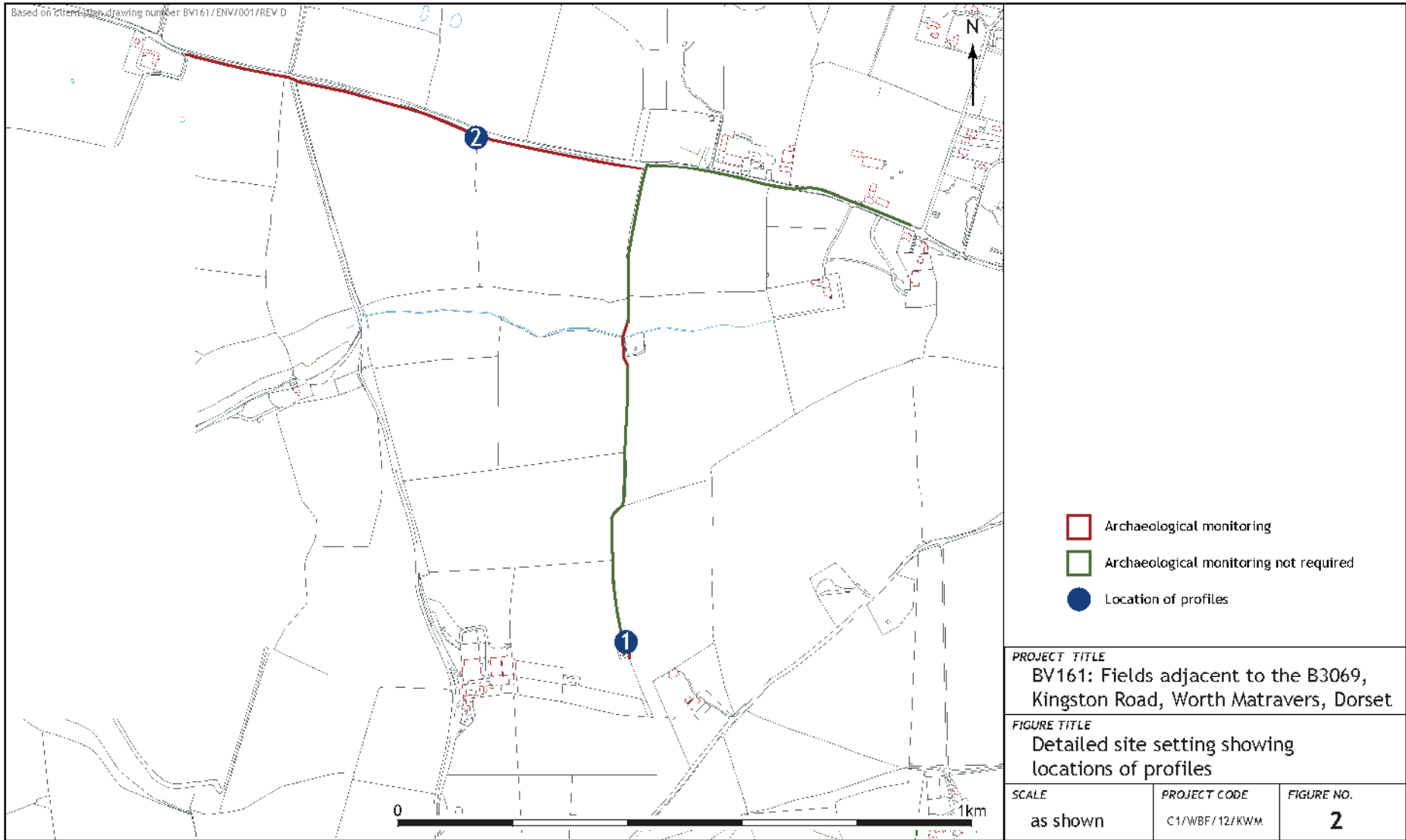
- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with improvement works to the water supply mains in fields adjacent to the south of the B3069, Kingston Road, Worth Matravers, Dorset (from NGR SY 97025 79186 to SY 97883 77929; hereafter referred to as the Site). The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water Plc under a Term Agreement contract with COAS and was conducted over four days between 13th August and 14th September 2012.
- 1.2 The request for the archaeological watching brief was made by Wessex Water Plc on the advice of Mr Steve Wallis (Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council Archaeology Service). In a consultation response Mr Wallis stated that:
- “Archaeological remains of Iron Age and Roman date have been recorded in two quarries near the B3069. These lie just east of the section of open-cut that would run beside the B3069. So, it seems to me that there is a high potential for this element of the scheme to disturb archaeological remains.”*
- 1.3 Given the recorded archaeological and historical data for the environs, it was 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 was unproven on the basis of currently 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 At the request of Mr Wallis, COAS issued a *Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (COAS 2012), which provided a strategy for the archaeological works. This was submitted to and approved by Mr Wallis prior to the commencement of the watching brief. Mr Wallis was kept fully informed during the project. It was not deemed necessary to make a monitoring visit to the Site.
- 1.5 The request for the archaeological work followed advice given by central government as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).
- 1.6 This report summarises the topographical and geological setting of the site, and presents the results of the watching brief.

2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The route of the pipeline is situated in the south of the Isle of Purbeck, Dorset (SY 97025 79186 to SY 97883 77929) starting at Purbeck Way reservoir, c. 1.5km north-north-west of Worth Matravers and c. 2km south of Corfe (**Figure 1**). The pipeline followed an eastward route for c. 1.2km south of the B3069, following the contour to an area of quarrying at a height of c. 134m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). A second branch extended from south of Downshay Wood for c. 740m, falling to a height of c. 112m aOD before rising to a terminus at c. 141m aOD.
- 2.2 At the west end of the route the underlying geology is of Mupe Member Jurassic Sedimentary Limestone. Elsewhere along the route it includes Worbarrow Tout Member Jurassic Sedimentary Limestone (BGS 2012). The soils are shallow, lime-rich, free-draining and of moderate fertility (NSRI 2012).



<p>PROJECT TITLE BV161: Fields adjacent to the B3069, Kingston Road, Worth Matravers, Dorset</p>		
<p>FIGURE TITLE Site setting</p>		
<p>SCALE as shown</p>	<p>PROJECT CODE C1/WBF/12/KWM</p>	<p>FIGURE NO. 1</p>



BV161: Fields adjacent to the B3069, Kingston Road, Worth Matravers, Dorset

3. Methodology

Wessex Water Methodology

- 3.1 The construction work comprised the stripping of a c. 1.5m wide easement and the excavation of a c. 0.60m wide, c. 1.2m deep trench. A 360 degree tracked vehicle was fitted with either a 0.40m wide toothed or toothless grading bucket, depending on the nature of the underlying geology.

Archaeological Methodology

- 3.2 The programme of 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.
- 3.3 The archaeological watching brief comprised monitoring of topsoil removal and excavation of a c. 830m length of the pipe trench from the west end of the route, as far as the pipe junction south of Downshay Wood (Figure 2). Two short segments of the south branch of the pipeline trench were observed, one where it bisected a west to east stream, the other where it terminated at an old reservoir.



Plate 1. The old reservoir and trench (from S; no scale)



Plate 2. The old reservoir and trench (from S; 1m scale)



Plate 3. North pipe trench (from E; no scale)



Plate 4. North easement (from W; no scale)

- 3.4 In the absence of archaeological features/deposits, representative profile sections of the deposit sequence across the Site are recorded using standard COAS pro forma profile sheets. These include a graduated graphical representation of a profile section showing the stratigraphical sequence which is annotated to define the depths of each observed deposit. The sheets also include summary context forms in order that the character of each layer is summarised. There are also entry fields for the profile location, photographic reference and core details of any artefacts. The frequency with which profile sections are recorded is based entirely on any variation of the deposit sequence.
- 3.5 A photographic record of the fieldwork comprised digital images in .jpg format. As a minimum, the record included shots of each profile section, the site setting and development works. The location, extent and altitude of the archaeological work, features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a handheld GPS unit capable of <9m.

4. Results

- 4.1 The deposits encountered are described in the text, with the context numbers for layers shown in standard brackets, e.g. (102). Profiles were recorded at the junction of two fields south of the B3069 and at the south terminus (**Figure 2**). No archaeological features or deposits were identified.
- 4.2 The weather varied from sunny to overcast but dry.

Soil Sequence and Geology

- 4.3 The turf and topsoil on the high ground adjacent to the old reservoir (**Figure 2, 1; Plate 1**), comprised greyish brown compacted silty clay including frequent small stones and was only 0.10m thick, probably indicative of long term ploughing. Directly below the topsoil was a c. 0.90m deep build-up of loose angular Purbeck stones slabs set in very friable silty clay (101). It lay over natural of mid yellow brown sticky but compacted clay including sparse angular limestone fragments (102) (**Plate 2**). On the lower ground, towards the stream, the topsoil (101) lay directly over natural (102).
- 4.4 The soil sequence of the north branch of the pipe trench comprised consistently of c. 0.15m deep mid grey brown firm, silty, clay topsoil (200), including sparse fragments of stone, overlying c. 0.70m of homogenous light yellowish grey compacted, very slightly silty, clay (201) including rare stones, interpreted as subsoil. The natural was mid yellow grey brown cemented clay with no visible inclusions (202) (**Plate 3**). The lie of the land implied that the soil sequence would not differ where only the easement was monitored (**Plate 4**).
- 4.5 No finds were observed or recovered.

5. Discussion

- 5.1 The lack of an intervening soil between the topsoil and natural rock on the high ground is indicative of erosion due to prolonged ploughing which is likely to have truncated or destroyed any archaeological features. This interpretation is borne out by the deeper soils on the lower ground, which have formed to a depth which may obscure traces of archaeology. The evidence suggests that the construction work has not encountered any archaeological deposits but this fact should have no bearing on whether or not there are significant remains in the surrounding area when any future development is being considered.

6. Archive

- 6.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of the written paper record of two COAS *pro forma* profile log sheets, one scaled drawing, a sketch plan, four day record sheets, 32 digital images in .jpg format and the related register. 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 Dorset County 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 Road
Claverton Down
Bath
BA2 7WW

Dorset County Museum
High West Street
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1XA

7. COAS Acknowledgements

- 7.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Ms Rebecca Howell (Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc), for her kind assistance throughout the course of the investigation and Mr Steve Wallis (Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council Archaeology Service), for curatorial advice.

8. Bibliography

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