

Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish: Wootton Courtenay	National Grid Reference SS 93518 42996 to 93672 43086	Number: (Leave blank)	
Subject: Archaeological monitoring of groundworks relating to the excavation of a compound and slip line launch pits Planning Application no: N/A		Plan/Photo attached? Y	
Description of works. Context One Archaeological Services (COAS) conducted an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to a pipeline replacement scheme between Bishops Cottages and Ford Farm, Wootton Courtenay, Exmoor, Somerset (from SS 93518 42996 to SS 93672 43086; Figure 1). The project has been commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term of Agreement contract with COAS. The investigation was requested by Rebecca Howell (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc) following a consultation request to Ms Jessica Turner (Countryside Archaeological Adviser, Exmoor National Park Authority (NPA)), as several archaeological sites are situated in the surrounding area: The Kennels - a deserted farmstead (centred on NGR SS 9520 4298), Ranscombe Farm - a shrunken settlement (centred on NGR SS 9480 4313) and the area surrounding Manor Farm (centred on NGR SS 93924337) which is situated within the medieval core of Wootton Courtenay. <i>A Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief</i> was submitted to and approved by Ms Jessica Turner (Countryside Archaeological Adviser, Exmoor National Park Authority) prior to the commencement of the watching brief. It was followed by desk-based research to place the Site within its historic and archaeological context. This work comprised map regression, based on Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments, examination of documentary records and assessment of air photographs held by the HER and HES. The collected data was assembled as a digital archive. Ms Turner was kept fully informed during the project. It was not deemed necessary to make a monitoring visit to the Site. In the absence of archaeological features/deposits, representative profile sections of the deposit sequence across the Site are recorded using standard COAS <i>pro forma</i> 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		Reference. COAS site code: COAS/WBF/12/WCE OASIS ID: contexto1-132960 Exmoor National Park HER Event Number: EEM14006	Date. <i>of site visit(s)</i> 17/04/2012, 15/05/2012, 23/05/2012

core details of any artefacts. The frequency with which profile sections are recorded is based entirely on any variation of the deposit sequence.

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 archaeological work involved monitoring and recording of a ca. 65m x 4.5m wide easement strip across a field (**Plate 1**), the stripping of a compound and the excavation of a ca. 0.40m to 0.80mm wide pipe trench along a road (**Figure 1**).

The location, extent and altitude of the archaeological work, features and deposits were mapped relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using a TopCon GRS-1 Global Positioning System receiving real-time calibrations to produce accuracies of 1-2cm.

The topsoil (200) and (100) in the compound (Profile 1) and field (Profile 2) was ca. 0.20m deep and of soft to firm silty clay with rare stone inclusions, overlying a similar subsoil (201) and (101) (**Plates 2 and 3**). Stone land drains perpendicular to the field easement were noted, as well as a parallel dark soil (202) which was regarded as the fill of a natural feature, possibly due to solifluction (**Plate 1**).

The sequence along the road comprised a ca. 0.05m deep layer of tarmac (unnumbered), a very gravelly subsoil (300) which may have been, at least in part, a make-up layer, and a silty clay natural (301) (**Plate 4**). Midway along the trench a disused 19th century water pipe was exposed (**Plate 5**).

Modern brick fragments were noted but not collected from (200). There were no finds elsewhere.

Recorder
Richard Tabor, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.

Date sent to HER
26/02/2010



Plate 1. Easement strip across field (from SSE; 1m scale)



Plate 2. Profile 2, easement strip (from SW; 1m scale)



Plate 3. Profile 1, compound (from E; 1m scale)

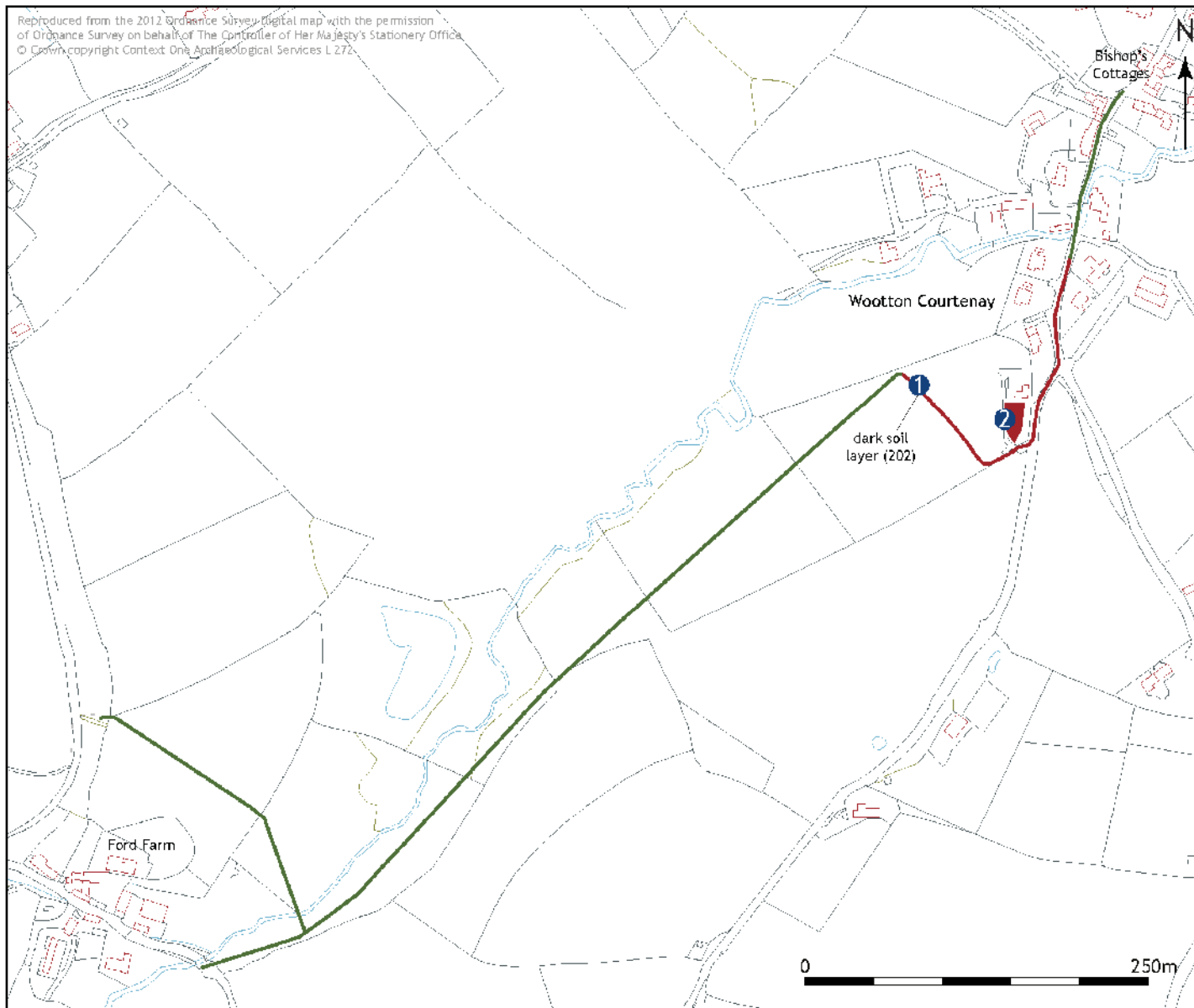






Plate 5. 19th century water pipe (from E; 1m scale)



Plate 4. Road trench (from S; 1m scale)

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-  Archaeologically led watching brief
-  Compound location
-  Rest of scheme
-  Location and number of profile

PROJECT TITLE
BW175: Bishop's Cottages to Ford Farm,
Wootton Courtenay, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Locations of pipeline replacement,
watching brief and profiles

SCALE	PROJECT CODE	FIGURE NO.
as shown	C1/WBF/12/WCE	1