

# C9447: Cold Harbour First Time Sewerage, Bere Road, Wareham, Dorset.

A Programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



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for

**Wessex Water Plc**

by



Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.

T: 01963 824696

E: [mail@contextone.co.uk](mailto:mail@contextone.co.uk)

W: [www.contextone.co.uk](http://www.contextone.co.uk)

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**COAS project team:**

**Project Director:** Richard McConnell

**Fieldwork Manager:** Stuart Milby

**Post-excavation Manager:** Dr Cheryl Green

**Fieldwork:** Peter Fairclough, Holly Rodgers, Luke Jarvis, Stuart Milby

**Report:** Peter Fairclough, Luke Jarvis and Tara Fairclough

**Illustration:** Tara Fairclough

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## Non-technical summary

*Context One Archaeological Services (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relating to groundworks associated with the installation of a new sewer and rising main along Bere Road, between Wareham and North Trigon Farm, Wareham, Dorset, over 29 days between 6 May 2011 and 28 April 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water Plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.*

*The monitoring programme was requested by Mr Steve Wallis (Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council) following a consultation request by Ms Rebecca Howell (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc). Mr Wallis identified three areas of archaeological interest that may have been potentially impacted by the scheme comprising a group of post-medieval milestones, possible Roman origins for Bere Road and three groups of prehistoric barrows.*

*Despite this, development excavations did not reveal any evidence of activity from these periods and no finds were observed or recovered. There was no impact to the scheduled areas surrounding the barrows and similarly the post-medieval milestones were unaffected by the scheme.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relating to groundworks associated with the installation of a new sewer and rising main along Bere Road between Wareham and North Trigon Farm, Wareham, Dorset (the 'Site'), over 29 days between 6 May 2011 and 28 April 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water Plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.
- 1.2 The monitoring programme was requested by Mr Steve Wallis (Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council) following a consultation request by Ms Rebecca Howell (Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc) on the potential archaeological impact of the scheme. Mr Wallis identified three areas of archaeological interest comprising a group of post-medieval milestones, possible Roman origins for Bere Road and three groups of prehistoric barrows, all of which are Scheduled Monuments (SM Nos. 28272, 28273 and 28377) (see **Figure 1**).
- 1.3 The requirement followed advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Methodology document which set out the project strategy; monitoring and recording during development groundworks; post-excavation and report production; and archive deposition.

## 2. Site location and topography

- 2.1 The route of the pipeline (centred on NGR ST 90330 89645) ran between Wareham and North Trigon Farm, c. 4 km to the north-west, following Bere Road (**Figure 1**). Initially it ran through a residential and industrial area on the north-west side of Wareham before passing through the rural Dorset countryside. Here the pipeline was bounded on both sides by intermittent residential housing and agricultural land. The topography throughout the route of the scheme is gently undulating, located at a minimum height of c. 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and rising to 25m (aOD) just outside Wareham, subsequently falling to between 20m (aOD) and 30m (aOD) for the rest of the course.

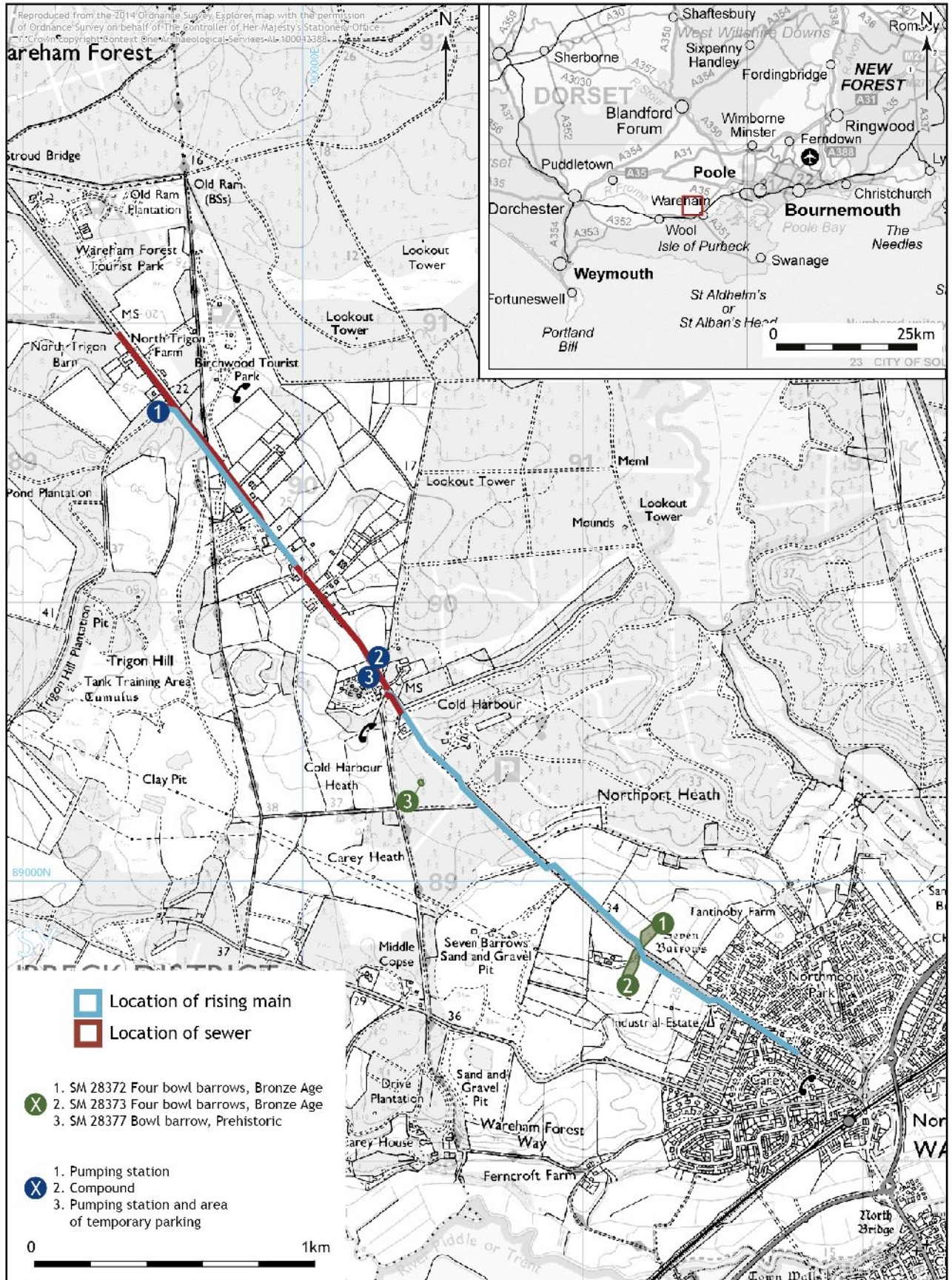


Figure 1. Site setting

### 3. Methodology

#### Development groundworks methodology

- 3.1 The topsoil along the route of the easement, compound, temporary parking area and sewage pumping stations was removed to a maximum depth of c. 0.45m using both tracked and wheeled excavators equipped with toothless buckets of various widths, the parking area and compound subsequently being laid to stone (Plate 1) (Figure 1). An open cut trench was excavated along the easement and within Bere Road using a machine equipped with a 0.3m toothless bucket and shored up where necessary (Plate 2). Directional drilling was employed in order to lay pipes that were located beneath the highway and several trial pits were excavated up to c. 2m deep in order to facilitate this. An area c. 4m wide was excavated to over 10m in depth to accommodate the concrete rings for the pumping stations (Plate 3).

#### Archaeological methodology

- 3.2 The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Dorset Heritage Strategy* issued by Dorset County Council in 2010, and the codes, standards and guidelines set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 1985, rev. 2012; 1990, rev. 2008; 1994, rev. 2008). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 3.3 A visual monument survey was undertaken to assess the current state of preservation of the three scheduled bowl barrows and the potential direct impact of the scheme. The survey indicated that some erosion to the scheduled areas had occurred and consequently the area was fenced off to protect the barrows from further damage (Plate 4).
- 3.4 In the absence of archaeological remains, profile sections of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded using standard COAS *pro forma* profile sheets to illustrate the soil morphology. Each profile was recorded as a graphical representation accompanied by a brief description.
- 3.5 A photographic record of the fieldwork comprised digital images in .jpg format. As a minimum, the record included photographs of each profile section, the Site setting and development works.

### 4. Results

- 4.1 No visible features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the monitoring programme.
- 4.2 Development excavations demonstrated a similar deposit sequence across the Site. This comprised c. 0.2m - 0.4m of topsoil overlying up to 0.5m of yellow/red brown silty sand subsoil above c. 1.5m of sandy natural (Plate 5). A pocket of reddish yellow clay was observed towards the north end of the scheme (Plate 6).



Plate 1. Compound topsoil strip (from NW)



Plate 2. Open cut trenching along Bere Road (from N)



Plate 3. Sewage pumping station (from NE)



Plate 4. Fencing off a scheduled area (from S)



Plate 5. Typical deposit sequence (from N)



Plate 6. Pocket of clay subsoil and natural (from NE)

## 5. The finds

5.1 No finds were collected or observed during the archaeological programme of works.

## 6. Discussion

6.1 Despite the potential for archaeology on the Site relating to the prehistoric round barrows and possible Roman origins of Bere Road, development excavations did not reveal any evidence of activity from these periods. There was no impact to the scheduled areas surrounding the barrows and similarly the post-medieval milestones were unaffected by the scheme.

## 7. Archive

7.1 The project archive is currently held by COAS and consists of the following:

Item	Number	Format
Day Records	8	Paper
Profile record sheets	7	Paper
Photographic Registers	6	Paper
Digital images	285	.JPG

7.2 The paper archive has been scanned as a single file in .PDF format and will form part of the physical Site archive to be deposited with Dorset County Museum.

7.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Dorset Historic Environment Record.



## 8. COAS acknowledgements

- 8.1 We would like to thank the following for their contribution to the successful completion of this project:

Rebecca Howell, Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water  
 Steve Wallis, Senior Archaeologist, Dorset County Council

## 9 Bibliography

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