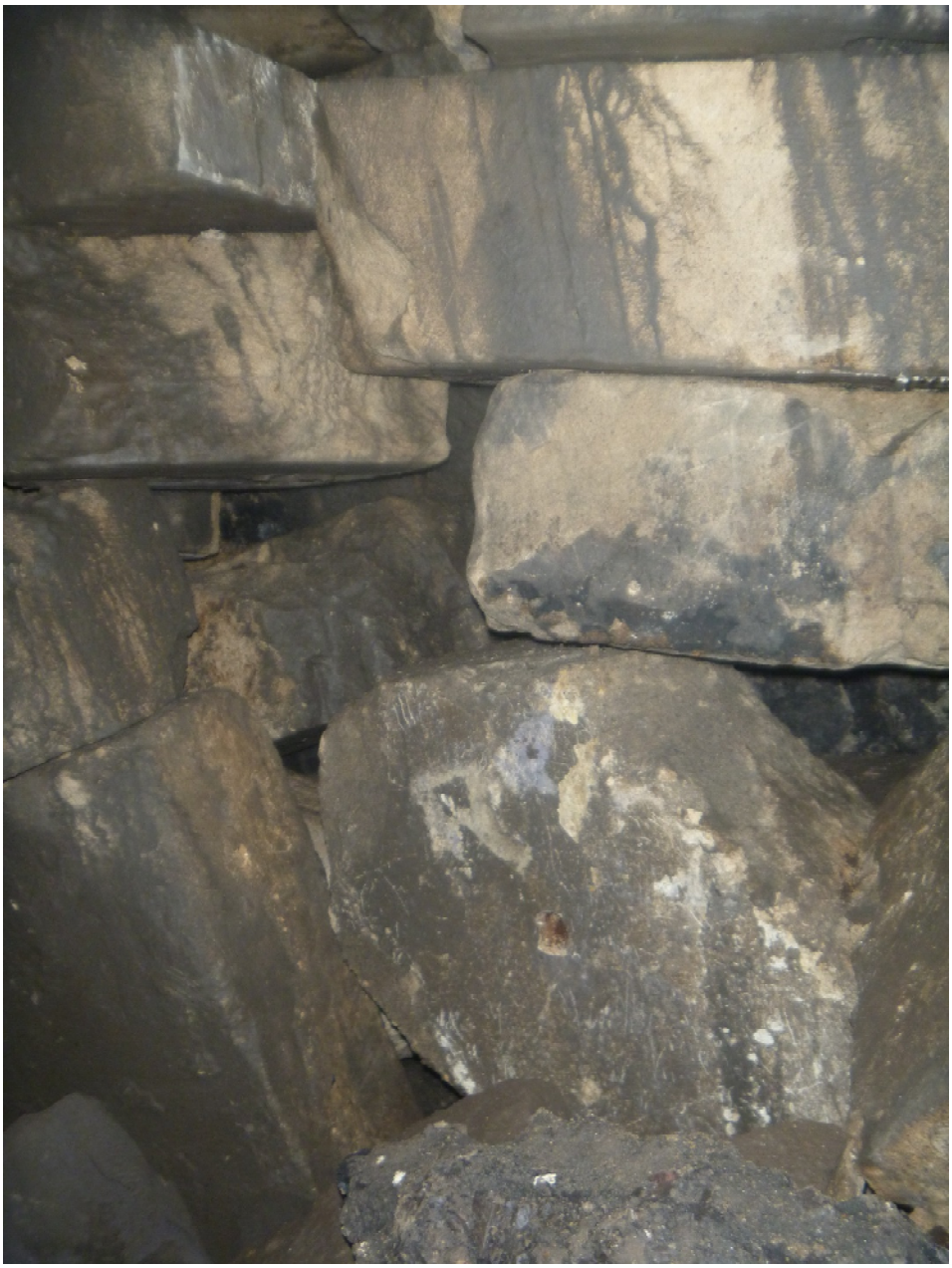
5583141: 37 Walcot Street, Bath.

A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



context one
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD

5583141: 37 Walcot Street, Bath.

A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

for

Wessex Water plc

by

Brickfield Offices, Maperton, Wincanton, Somerset. BA9 8EG.
T: 01963 824696
E: mail@contextone.co.uk
W: 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: Sam Worrall, Luke Jarvis
Report: Tara Fairclough and Cheryl Green
Illustration: Tara Fairclough

November 2014

Front cover image: Interior of collapsed culvert. © Context One Archaeological Services 2014

Contents

Illustrations

Plates

Non-technical summary

Context One Archaeological Services (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relating to essential repair works to the underground pipe network at 37 Walcot Street, Bath, over 2 days on 27 and 29 May 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.

Monitoring was required due to the location of the Site within the boundaries of the World Heritage site of the City of Bath, with the potential for the discovery of significant Roman, medieval or Georgian remains.

Despite this, archaeological features were confined to a collapsed Georgian culvert and an iron drainage grate at a depth of c. 2m below the modern tarmac. No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered, the deposit sequence comprising modern road surfaces and make-up layers above deep natural clay. No finds were observed or collected during the course of the archaeological works.

1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording relating to essential repair works to the underground pipe network at 37 Walcot Street, Bath (the 'Site'), over 2 days on 27 and 29 May 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.

1.2 Monitoring was required due to the location of the works on Walcot Street within the City of Bath, a World Heritage site. The requirement followed advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and the *Local Development Framework* (Bath and North East Somerset District Council (BANES), 2013).

1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised three elements: monitoring and recording during development groundworks; post-excavation and report production; and archive deposition.

2. Site location and topography

2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 75061 65151) comprised one test pit located at 37 Walcot Street, Bath (**Figure 1**). Walcot Street itself lies in the centre of Bath and is situated *c*. 440m north of the Roman Baths and Pump Room Museum and *c*. 75m west of the River Avon. The Site was largely situated on level ground at an average height of *c*. 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

3. Methodology

Development groundworks methodology

3.1 A trench (*c*. 1.5 m wide, 3m long and up to 2.8m deep) was excavated by a machine in order to carry out essential emergency repairs to the underground pipe network.

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. 2012; 1990, rev. 2008; 1994, rev. 2008). Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.

3.3 In the absence of archaeological remains, a fieldwork day record sheet was completed accompanied by a photographic record of the fieldwork comprising digital images in .jpg format. As a minimum, the record included photographs of the Site setting and development works. Photographs including a suitable scale where possible were also taken of a culvert and iron drainage works (see below). Profile sections were not recorded as the trench sections were obscured by shuttering.

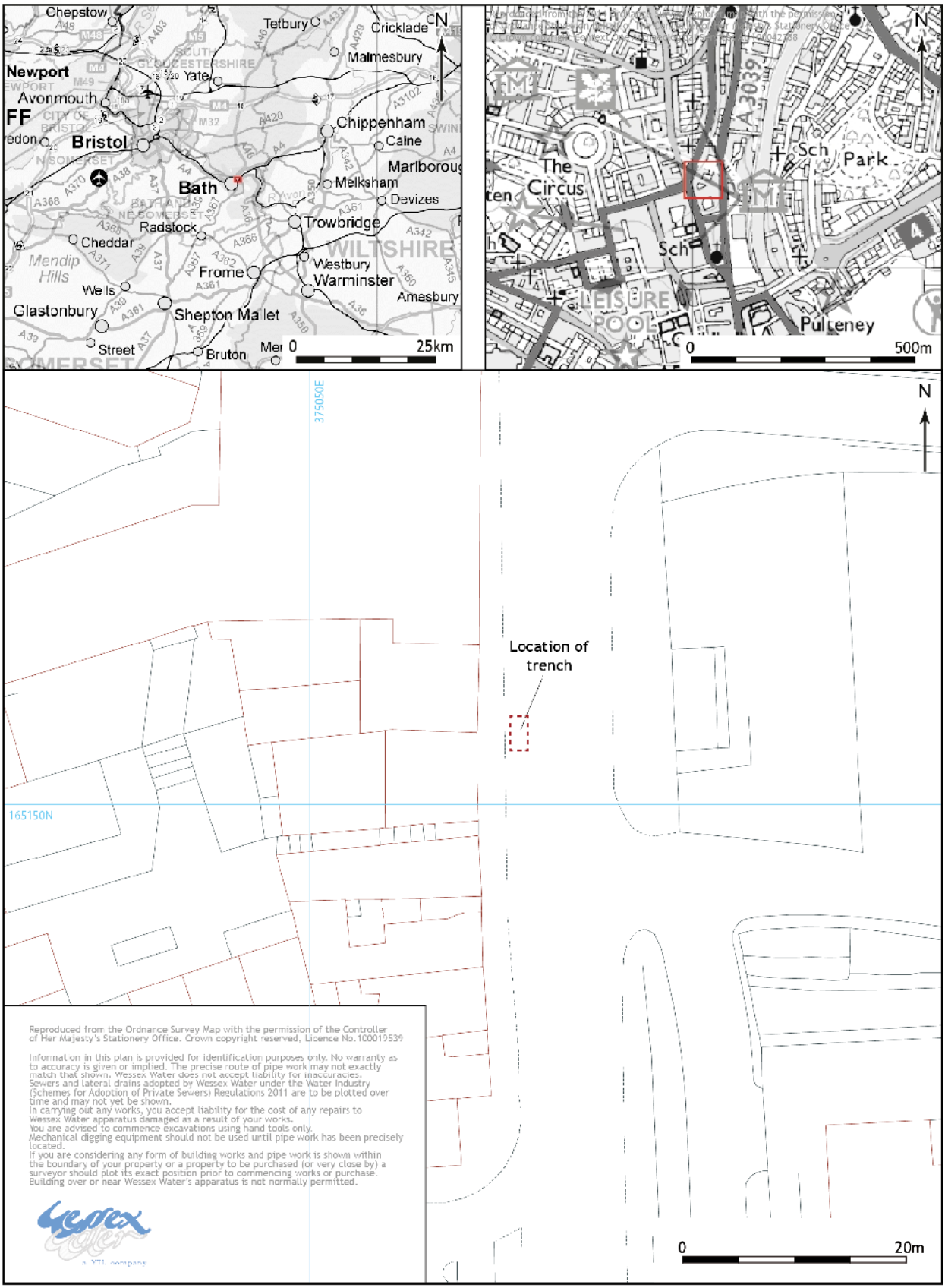

Figure 1. Site setting

4. Results

4.1 The deposit sequence comprised modern tarmac, above a series of make-up layers and (presumably) earlier road surfaces, overlying the modern pipe trench backfill comprising redeposited greenish grey clay with stones. From a depth of *c.* 1.5m below the tarmac this overlay natural green clay which continued to the base of the trench (**Plate 1**).

4.2 At a depth of *c.* 2m a stone culvert (**Plate 2**) and an iron grate (**Plate 3**) were observed within the otherwise undisturbed natural green clay. A void in the culvert revelaed it was constructed of Bath stone and brick (**Plate 2**) and photographs taken within the culvert show it had predominantly collapsed (**Plate 4**).

Plate 1. Deposit sequence (from S)

Plate 2. Void in culvert (0.5m scales)

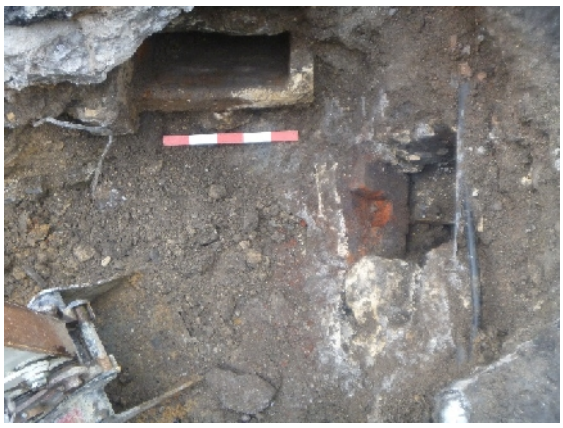

Plate 3. Iron grate & void in culvert (0.5 scales)

Plate 4. View inside collapsed culvert

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 significant Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains on the Site, development excavations exposed only a collapsed Georgian culvert and an iron drainage grate. Both features were set within the seemingly undisturbed natural clay which underlay a series of modern road surfaces and make-up layers, continuing to the base of the trench at a depth of *c.* 2.5m.

7. Archive

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

Item	Number	Format
Day Record	1	Paper
Photographic Register	1	Paper
Digital images	17	.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 Roman Baths Museum & Pump Room.

7.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the B&NES 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:

Ms Natalie Doran (Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc)
Mr Roderick Millard (Archaeologist, B&NES Council)

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