

5738762: Land adjacent to Poachers Croft, Cherhill, Calne, Wiltshire.

A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording



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for

Wessex Water plc

by



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Non-technical summary

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during trial hole investigations and pipe trenching associated with the construction of a new water pipeline on Land adjacent to Poachers Croft, Cherhill, Calne, Wiltshire, over 4 days between 25 March and 01 May 2014. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.

The monitoring programme was requested by Ms Clare King (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Mr Andrew Fell (Graduate Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc).

A medieval road is recorded as running behind the Poachers Croft houses and across the track adjacent to the planned pipeline. Despite this, no visible archaeological features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during development excavations. The trial hole investigations were carried out directly on top of late 20th century oil pipelines and the pipeline trench did not reveal any evidence of archaeological activity.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during trial hole investigations and pipe trenching associated with the construction of a new water pipeline on Land adjacent to Poachers Croft, Cherhill, Calne, Wiltshire, over 4 days between 13 and 26 August 2015. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with COAS.
- 1.2 The level and scope of archaeological works were requested by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS)), following a consultation request from Mr Andrew Fell (Graduate Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc). In a correspondence email dated 22 January 2015, Ms Pomeroy-Kellinger stated:

“In this case I think there is a need for an archaeological watching brief.....There is a medieval road that runs behind Poachers Croft and across the track.”
- 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; monitoring and recording during development groundworks; post-excavation and report production; and archive deposition. The WSI was approved by Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, WCAS) on 12 August 2015 prior to the commencement of any Site works.

2. Site location and topography

- 2.1 The pipeline (centred on NGR SU 04620 70083) measured c. 150m long, and ran adjacent to an existing metalled trackway directly to the east of the Poachers Croft houses. The A4 road runs directly to the north and the Site sits c. 900m east of the centre of the village of Cherhill and c. 5km south-east of the town of Calne (**Figure 1**). The pipeline is located at a height of c. 154m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

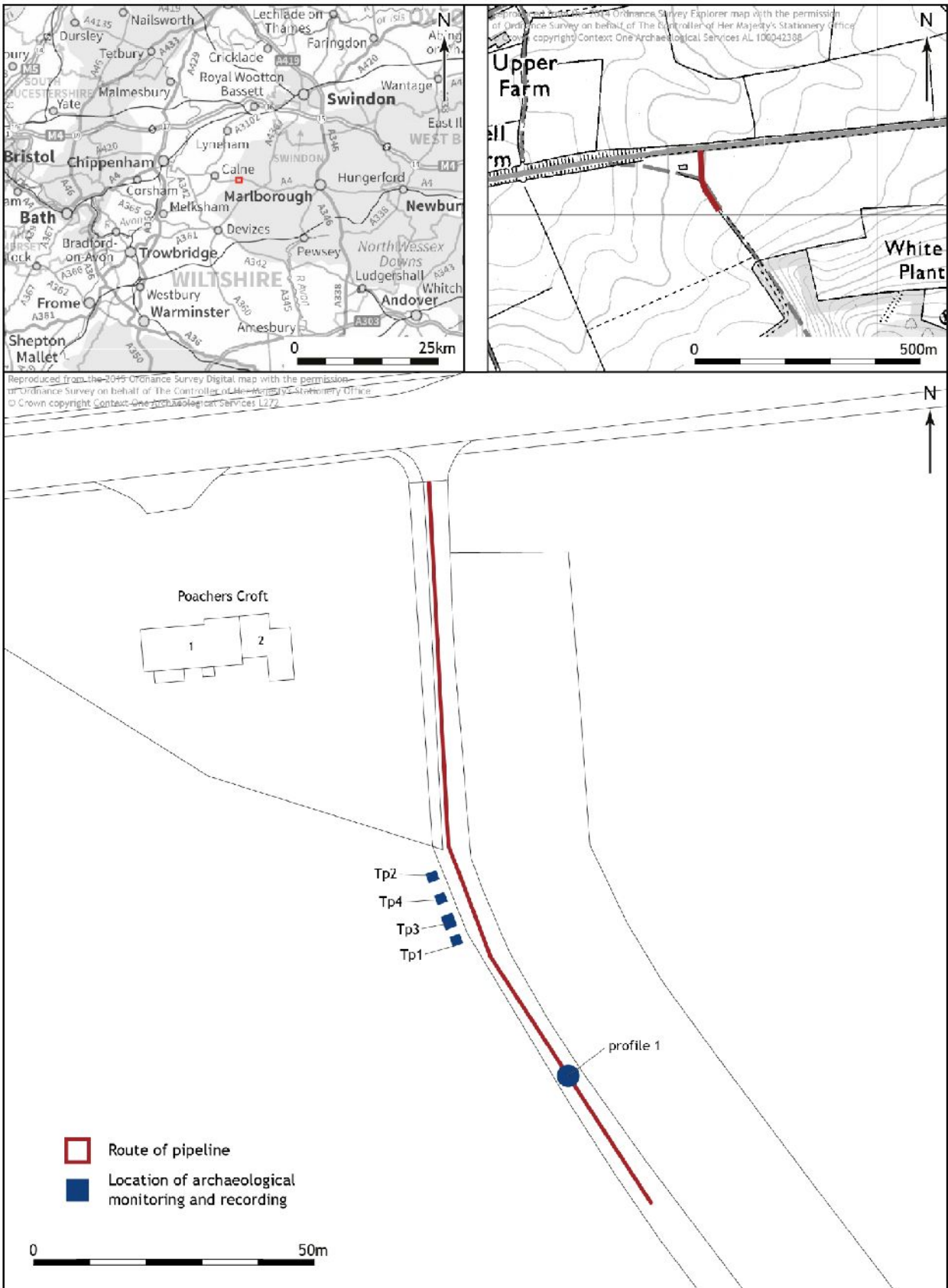


Figure 1. Site setting

3. Methodology

Development groundworks methodology

- 3.1 The groundworks commenced with the machine excavation of four trial holes. This was followed by the open-cut excavation of c. 150m of pipe trench (**Figure 1**) for the installation of a new water supply main. The trial hole investigations and open cut trenching were carried out by a 360 degree tracked machine equipped with a 0.5m toothless grading bucket.

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, 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. A photograph including a suitable scale was also taken and the location recorded (see **Figure 1**). accompanied by a brief description. Any dateable material found within a deposit was also noted.
- 3.4 All deposits were recorded as individual contexts and ascribed a unique number. Contexts referenced in this report are presented in standard terms, e.g. (100), (203).
- 3.5 A photographic record of the fieldwork comprised digital images in .jpg format and monochrome prints. As a minimum, the record included photographs of the test holes, the profile section, easement strip, pipe excavation and Site setting.

4. Results

- 4.1 No visible features or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the monitoring programme.
- 4.2 The trial hole investigations were carried out directly over late 20th century oil pipelines and revealed only domestic backfill from that period. The oil pipes (102) were encountered at depths of between 0.80m and 1.60m below the turf and the deposition sequence consisted of a c. 0.30m topsoil layer (100) over a semi-compacted chalk, subsoil and domestic refuse pipe backfill layer (101). The pipe trench was excavated to a depth of c. 1.0m and the deposit sequence comprised a thin layer of topsoil overlying multiple layers of sand and tarmac (part of the trackway running adjacent to the pipe trench) over white chalk natural.



Plate 1. Profile of TP1 (from E; 2 x 1m scales)



Plate 2. Profile of TP3 (from E; 2 x 1m scales)



Plate 3. Working shot of pipe trench excavation (from N)



Plate 4. Profile of southern end of pipe trench (from E; 2 x 1m scales)

5. The finds

- 5.1 No finds were collected during the archaeological programme of works, although modern ceramic building material and domestic refuse was observed in the backfill of the trial holes.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 The Site is located in an area where a medieval road has been recorded and prehistoric activity is also evident in the vicinity. Nevertheless, archaeological monitoring did not reveal any archaeological evidence. However, the trial hole investigations and the pipe trench were both excavated in previously disturbed ground, with the presence of 20th century oil pipelines and a metallised track having impacted heavily on the deposit sequence. No finds were collected although modern ceramic building material and general domestic refuse was observed in the oil pipeline backfill of the trial holes.

7. Archive

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

| Item | Number | Format |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| Photographic registers | 2 | Paper |
| Day record | 3 | Paper |
| Context sheets | 5 | Paper |
| Profile sheets | 3 | Paper |
| Site sketch plan | 1 | Paper |
| Digital images | 20 | .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 Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.
- 7.3 Copies of this report will be deposited with the client/agent and included as part of the Wiltshire County Historic Environment Record. A digital copy of the report will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>). The OASIS entry will also be completed to include details of the archive contents.

8. COAS acknowledgements

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

Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Archaeology Service
Mr Nick Spellissy, Assistant Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc

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