

C9878: The Nag's Head  
Durrington Sewage Pumping  
Station  
Bulford Hill  
Durrington  
Wiltshire

Archaeological Monitoring and  
Recording

**REPORT**

December 2017



**C9878: The Nag's Head  
Durrington Sewage Pumping Station  
Bulford Hill, Durrington  
Wiltshire**

for

**C1 project code: C1/AMR/16/NHD**

**Wessex Water plc**

**REPORT**

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Approved by Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager

Signed

Date 13/12/17

Issue 01

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## Summary

*Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during construction of a new rising water main and new gravity sewer at Durrington Sewage Pumping Station, Bulford Hill, Durrington, Wiltshire.*

*The monitoring and recording was advised by Wiltshire County Archaeology Service as the Site sits within a very well-known and significant prehistoric landscape that is characterised by numerous barrows, earthworks and heritage assets dating to the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. These include the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge, Woodhenge and Durrington Walls, all of which are Scheduled Monuments.*

*Despite the degree of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Site, no archaeological features or deposits were identified. Whilst the area of the pipe trench was limited, and only topsoil was observed along the majority of the easement, it may be that there is a lower density of prehistoric features in this area.*

## Contents

Summary.....	1
1. Introduction.....	2
2. The Site.....	2
3. Archaeological aims and research objectives.....	4
4. Methodology.....	4
5. Results.....	5
6. The finds.....	5
7. Discussion and Conclusion.....	5
8. Other considerations.....	5
9. Bibliography.....	6
Appendix 1: Context summary.....	12

## Figures

Figure 1. Site setting and trial hole, pipe trench and profile locations.....	7
Figure 2. Heritage assets within a 1km of the Site.....	8
Plate 1. Trial pit 1 (facing E; 1m scale).....	9
Plate 2. Trial pit 2 (facing W; 1m scale).....	9
Plate 3. Trial pit 3 (facing S; 1m scale).....	10
Plate 4. Easement (facing S).....	10
Plate 5. Pipe trench Profile 7 (facing N).....	11
Plate 6. Pipe trench Profile 8 (facing S).....	11

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during construction of a new rising water main and new gravity sewer at Durrington Sewage Pumping Station, Bulford Hill, Durrington, Wiltshire (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement with C1.

1.2 The monitoring and recording was advised by the County Historic Environment Service (HES), Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS), and was divided into two phases. Phase I was carried out in June 2016 when a series of trial holes were excavated, and Phase II comprised the monitoring and recording of a compound easement and pipe trench between April and October 2017. In an initial response to an email consultation request from Ms Nyika Suttie (Graduate Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc) on the potential archaeological impact of the scheme, Ms Clare King (Assistant County Archaeologist, WCAS) stated:

*"I think the overall advice is, unless any new works are within the existing roads, there is potential throughout the area to encounter significant archaeological remains. The Scheduled Monuments...should be avoided as Scheduled Monument consent would be required. The World Heritage Site should also be avoided where possible."*

1.3 Following confirmation of the scope of the works and further consultation between Ms King and Mr Sergio Perez (Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc) on 16 November 2015, Ms King stated:

*"I'd definitely recommend that the interventions outside the road area are monitored by an archaeological watching brief (where an archaeologist is present throughout the groundworks). If archaeological remains are encountered, then the works will need to halt whilst the archaeologist deals with the remains."*

*The interventions in and around the road bed are potentially less sensitive. However, if the depth is greater than the disturbance of the existing road bed and verges (and any services that are already there), then there is some potential to encounter archaeological remains (albeit truncated ones). It might be worth having some initial monitoring of those trenches to see if the existing disturbance is too great to allow for any significant discoveries in the main works."*

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; archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.

1.5 The requirement followed advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).

## 2. The Site

2.1 The Site comprises three areas; a compound (centred on NGR SU 16031 43492) covering an area of c. 60 square metres; a new gravity sewer (from NGR SU 15837 44015 in the north to NGR SU 16265 43483 in the south) c. 1km in length; and a new rising main (from NGR SU 15911 43281 in the north to NGR SU 15812 42973 in the south) c. 300m in length. The nearest settlements to the Site are Durrington immediately to the north, Bulford Camp c. 2km to the east, Amesbury c. 2km to the south, and Larkhill c. 1km to the north-west. The Site is bounded by the A3028 Larkhill Road to the north, Salisbury Road to the east, the Amesbury Bypass to the south and Countess Road to the west (**Figure 1**). The Site runs across sloping ground with the gravity sewer falling from c. 93m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north to c. 73m aOD in the south; the rising main cut through undulating ground that sits c. 76m aOD at the northern end, rising to c. 80m aOD before falling again to c. 75m aOD at the southern end. The recorded solid geology for the Site is Seaford Chalk Formation chalk and the drift (superficial) geology is Head 1, Gravel (BGS 2017). The soils are characterised as shallow and lime-rich over chalk or limestone (CSAIS 2017).

2.2 The county Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that a number of heritage assets have been recorded within a 1km radius of the Site. The table below provides brief details of these assets and are organised by

period and their distance from the centre of the Site measured in radius bands. The distribution of assets is presented in **Figure 2**.

HE/HER ref.	Description	Period	No. on Figure 2
1000097	Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site. Inscribed 1986.	Prehistoric	1
1009133	Henge monuments at Durrington Walls and Woodhenge, a round barrow cemetery, two additional round barrows and four settlements.	Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British	2
1009130	Long barrow 450m WSW of Woodhenge.	Prehistoric	3
1009131	Bowl barrow 70m west of A345 on Countess Farm.	Prehistoric	4
1009141	Bowl barrow 60m west of A345 on Countess Farm.	Prehistoric	5
1009140	Bowl barrow 150m west of A345 on Countess Farm.	Prehistoric	6
1009137	Bowl barrow 450m north of the A303, on Countess Farm.	Prehistoric	7
1009138	Bowl barrow 400m north of the A303 on Countess Farm.	Prehistoric	8
1015215	Long barrow at Longbarrow Clump.	Prehistoric	9
1015216	Bell barrow 770m north west of New Barn.	Prehistoric	10
1009933	Bowl barrow: one of a group of round barrows south of Bulford.	Prehistoric	11
1009931	Bowl barrow: one of a group of round barrows south of Bulford.	Prehistoric	12
1009545	Bowl barrow: one of a group of round barrows south of Bulford.	Prehistoric	13
1009602	Bowl barrow: one of a group of round barrows south of Bulford.	Prehistoric	14
1009604	Bowl barrow: one of a group of round barrows south of Bulford.	Prehistoric	15
MWI11872	Two Mesolithic flint implements.	Mesolithic	16
MWI11883	Late Neolithic flint mines of open cast and pit-shafts excavated in 1952.	Neolithic	17
MWI12323	Two pits containing Neolithic material and an undated ditch.	Neolithic	18
MWI12324	N/S trackway, boundary ditch, three post holes, all undated and a pit containing Neolithic material found during pipe laying.	Neolithic	19
MWI11880	Four Neolithic pits excavated over a number of years. Contained a remarkable assemblage of objects that they are considered to be ritual pits.	Neolithic	20
MWI11881	A burial which appears to have been associated with Late Neolithic pottery.	Neolithic	21
MWI11889	Neolithic axe.	Neolithic	22
MWI11882	Macehead or hammer of possible Neolithic date.	Neolithic	23
MWI11902	A Neolithic stone adze.	Neolithic	24
MWI72802	Neolithic flint implements were found in the garden at Bulford Road.	Neolithic	25
MWI12305	A Bronze Age barrow.	Bronze Age	26
MWI12267	A Late Prehistoric or Roman field system.	Prehistoric or Romano-British	27
MWI11994	Romano-British coin of Antonianus.	Romano-British	28
MWI12003	Roman coin.	Romano-British	29
MWI11974	Roman pottery and other finds.	Romano-British	30
MWI12368	Ridge and furrow fields, probably Medieval.	Medieval	31
MWI12044	Settlement of Medieval origins.	Medieval	32
MWI12603	A dismantled military railway.	Modern	33
MWI12103	Undated plough or ard marks were revealed cut into the chalk during an evaluation excavation in 1999.	Undated	34
MWI12115	Originally described as a long barrow with three barrows on top. Others consider this to be three undated round barrows. Each mound excavated in the 19th century.	Undated	35
MWI12325	An undated ditch and two gullies were found during pipe laying.	Undated	36
MWI12326	An undated ditch aligned NNW/SSE.	Undated	37
MWI12327	A large shallow sided scoop and two ditches, all undated found during pipe laying.	Undated	38
MWI12328	Three undated ditches found in advance of pipe laying.	Undated	39
MWI12094	Four graves of unknown date uncovered in drainage trench.	Undated	40
MWI12340	Undated ring ditch.	Undated	41
MWI12339	Undated ring ditch.	Undated	42

2.3 The Site sits within a very well-known and significant prehistoric landscape that is characterised by numerous barrows, earthworks and heritage assets dating to the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Romano-British periods. These include the ‘Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site’ (**1000097**), which lies c. 600m to the west of the Site; Woodhenge and Durrington Walls (**1009133**), both of which are Scheduled Monuments and also lie to the west of the Site. There are 42 known heritage assets within 1km of the Site however only two of these had the potential to be impacted by the proposed works due to their proximity; a dismantled modern railway (**MWI12603**) and an undated ditch (**MWI12326**).

### 3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- recover environmental information, which may have provided further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

3.2 The research objectives were to:

- determine whether there was any surviving evidence specifically relating to the dismantled railway and undated ditch which had the potential to be impacted by the proposed works
- determine whether there was any evidence specifically relating to the development and use of the surrounding prehistoric landscape

### 4. Methodology

#### Wessex Water Methodology

- 4.1 For Phase I, groundwork commenced with the machine excavation of three trial holes (measuring 1.5m x 0.6m and 1.2-1.5m deep), all of which were subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. The trial hole locations are shown on **Figure 1**. Groundworks for Phase II comprised the machine excavation of a compound (c. 60msq), two sections of easement (working width c. 15m), followed by c. 1km of open cut trenching for the new gravity sewer, and c. 300m of open cut trenching for the new rising main (**Figure 1**). A 360-degree tracked machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket was used to excavate the compound, easements and open cut trenches.
- 4.2 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014) and in accordance with the *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (CAS 1995). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CIfA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.
- 4.3 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to WCAS, but a site visit was not found to be necessary. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.4 Prior to the commencement of Site works, the excavation methodology was agreed between those responsible for carrying out the groundworks and C1 to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements. An archaeologist was on Site to monitor groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present.
- 4.5 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded on C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. The frequency with which profiles were recorded was based entirely on variations of the deposit sequence. In the event, manual excavation was not necessary however soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.
- 4.6 A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out, and involved the sole use of digital images. This included photographs illustrating in both detail and general context, the areas subject to monitoring and the profiles recorded within them. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

## 5. Results

- 5.1 Profiles were observed in eight locations along the line of the pipe (**Figure 1**), within the three test pits (**Plates 1-3**) and at regular intervals along the easement (**Plates 4**). Details of the deposit sequence are set-out in **Appendix 1**. Topsoil was seen in six of these profiles (contexts 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600), and in general consisted of dark brown or dark greyish brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with either frequent angular gravels or flint fragments <0.01m. This was generally 0.25m-0.30m deep, but exceeded this in areas where excavation was confined to the removal of topsoil and the underlying deposits were not reached. The subsoil was seen in Profiles 1, 3 and 7 (contexts 101, 301 and 700), and was either a dark greyish brown (10YR 3/3) or dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silty clay with frequent angular gravel fragments <0.01m with frequent rounded chalk <0.005m, and measured 0.23-0.27m thick. In the case of Profile 7, the subsoil comprised yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty chalky clay with occasional angular flint <0.015m, and exceeded 0.80m deep. The natural weathered chalk was seen in the two profiles recorded within the pipe trench (**Plates 5 & 6**). In Profile 7 this comprised light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) silty degraded chalk (701) with occasional angular flint <0.015m, and in Profile 8 white (10YR 8/1) chalk (800) with frequent angular flint fragments <0.01m.
- 5.2 Electricity cables were seen in trial pits 1 and 2 and an existing sewer pipe in Trial pit 3 (**Plate 3**). No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

## 6. The finds

- 6.1 No artefacts or ecofactual material were observed or collected.

## 7. Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 Despite the degree of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Site, no archaeological features or deposits were observed. Whilst the area of the pipe trench was limited, and only topsoil was observed along the majority of the easement, it may be that there is a lower density of prehistoric features in this area

## 8. Other considerations

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 141). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.
- 8.2 If archaeological features/deposits have been recorded, the archive generated from this, consisting of born-digital data and digital copies of drawings produced during fieldwork, will be transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository. The only suitable repository for digital archaeological archive is the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website. 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/>).
- 8.3 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into the assessment report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.
- 8.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). It is usual practice for the landowner to transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. Alternatively, the landowner can choose to keep the assemblage, but arrangements must be made to ensure its long-term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF.
- 8.5 No artefacts or ecofactual material was collected, so in this case there is no physical archive.

8.6 Archive deposition will ordinarily be carried out within three months of final report completion.

**Dissemination: report**

8.7 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:

- client and/or agent
- the HES so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
- the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

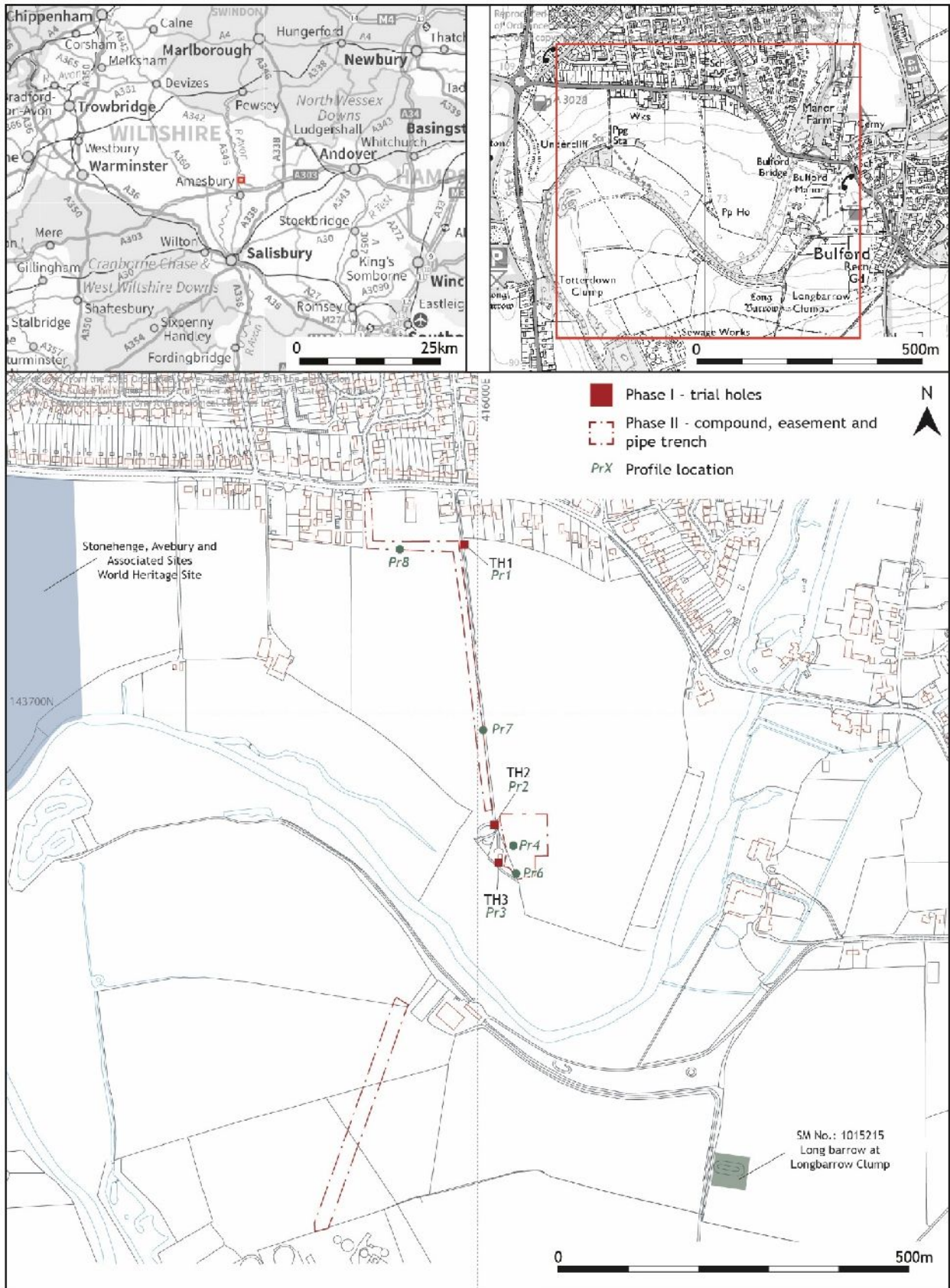
**Dissemination: publication**

8.8. By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

## 9. Bibliography

Cranfield Soils and Agrifood Institute: Soilscales (CSAIS), 2017	Available at: <a href="http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/#">http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/#</a> accessed on 24 April 2017
Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014 (rev. 2015)	<i>Regulations for professional conduct</i> . Reading: CIfA
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), December 2014	<i>Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Reading: CIfA
Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> , London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office
Geology of Britain viewer - British Geological Survey (BGS), 2017	Available at: <a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?</a> , accessed on 24 April 2017
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Wiltshire County Council (WCC), 1995	<i>Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire</i> . County Archaeological Service Wiltshire County Council Libraries, Museums and Arts





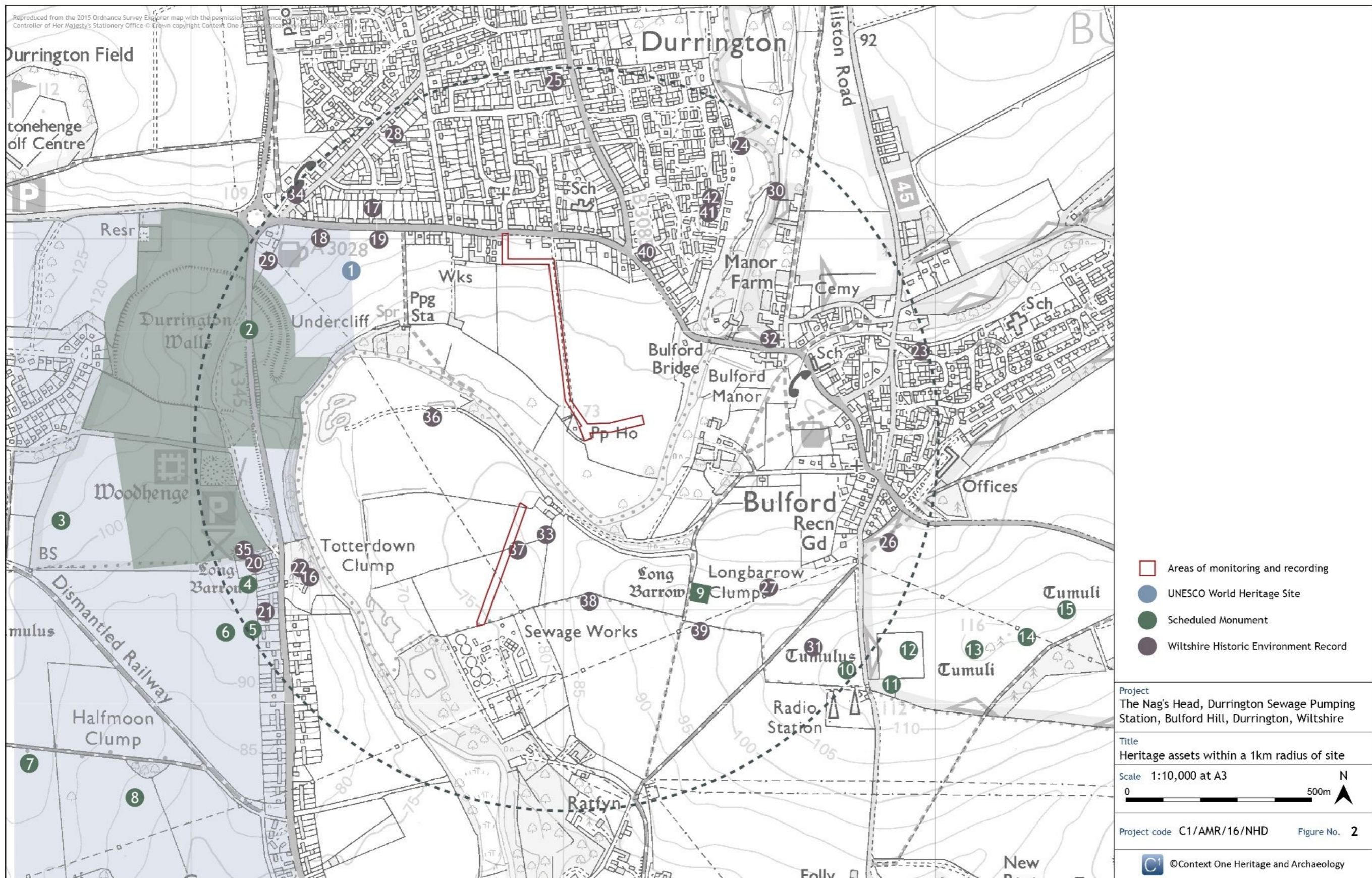


Figure 2. Heritage assets within a 1km of the Site



Plate 1. Trial pit 1 (facing E; 1m scale)



Plate 2. Trial pit 2 (facing W; 1m scale)



Plate 3. Trial pit 3 (facing S; 1m scale)



Plate 4. Easement (facing S)



Plate 5. Pipe trench Profile 7 (facing N)



Plate 6. Pipe trench Profile 8 (facing S)

## Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
<b>Trial Pit 1 – Profile 1</b>									
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Soft dark greyish brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with frequent angular gravel fragments <0.01m with frequent rounded chalk <0.005m	NA		101			0.27m
101	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Soft dark greyish brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with frequent angular gravel fragments <0.01m with frequent rounded chalk <0.005m	100		NA			0.23m
<b>Trial Pit 2 – Profile 2</b>									
200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Soft dark greyish brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with frequent angular gravel fragments <0.01m with frequent rounded chalk <0.005m	NA		NA			0.28m
<b>Trial Pit 3 – Profile 3</b>									
300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Soft dark greyish brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with frequent angular gravel fragments <0.01m with frequent rounded chalk <0.005m	NA		301			0.26m
301	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Soft dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silty clay with frequent angular gravel fragments <0.01m with frequent rounded chalk <0.005m	300		NA			0.26m
<b>Topsoil strip – Profile 4</b>									
400	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Firm dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with frequent angular flint fragments <0.01m	NA		NA			0.30m
<b>Topsoil strip – Profile 5</b>									
500	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Firm dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with frequent angular flint fragments <0.01m	NA		NA			0.25m
<b>Compound strip – Profile 6</b>									
600	Modern	Layer	Topsoil. Firm dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay with frequent angular flint fragments <0.01m	NA		NA			0.25m
<b>Pipe Trench – Profile 7</b>									
700	Modern	Layer	Subsoil. Firm yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty chalky clay with occasional angular flint <0.015m	NA		701			0.80m
701	Geological	Layer	Natural. Friable light yellowish brown (10YR 6/4) silty degraded chalk with occasional angular flint <0.015m	700		NA			>0.30m
<b>Pipe Trench – Profile 8</b>									
800	Geological	Layer	Natural. Firm white (10YR 8/1) chalk with frequent angular flint fragments <0.01m	NA		NA			>0.50m

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