

D9649 Combwich STW to
Cannington STW
Somerset

Archaeological Monitoring and
Recording

REPORT

August 2017



**Combwich STW to Cannington STW
Somerset**


for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/17/CCS

Wessex Water plc

Report

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Signed 
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Issue 01

PROJECT DETAILS

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Collecting Museum South West Heritage Trust
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Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks relating to the installation of a rising main between Combwich Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and Cannington STW, Somerset. The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement contract with C1.

The route of the pipeline covered a total length of c. 3.5km between Combwich STW and Cannington STW although the majority of the scheme has been subject to directional drilling. The monitoring and recording related to a c. 100m section of open cut trenching that could not be drilled as it passed through an outcrop of solid geology.

There are no recorded heritage assets for the pipe section itself although the county Historic Environment Record (HER) had entries for a contiguous set of field systems within proximity of the Site that is conjectured to form part of an abandoned medieval/post-medieval settlement. Despite this potential, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the monitoring operation.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks relating to the installation of a rising main between Combwich Sewage Treatment Works (STW) and Cannington STW, Somerset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc under a Term Agreement contract with C1.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested by the county Historic Environment Service (HES), South West Heritage Trust (SWHT). In a reply to an email consultation request from Ms Nyika Suttie (Environmental Scientist) on 11 August 2015, Ms Tanya James, Historic Environment Officer, SWHT stated:
- "The proposed scheme passes through an area known to contain the extensive remains of former field systems and palaeo-channels. Some of these field systems may be early in date (Romano-British)."*
- 1.3 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; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).

2. The Site

- 2.1 The route of the pipeline covers a total length of c. 3.5km between Combwich STW (ST 26189 42161) and Cannington STW (ST 26869 39210), with the majority of the scheme subject to directional drilling to install the new rising main (**Figure 1**). However, a c. 100m long section of the pipe (centred on ST 26728 40281, **Figure 2**) could not be drilled due to the presence of solid geology. The section subject to monitoring was in a maize field just beyond the eastern end of Cannington Golf Centre and situated on level ground at a height of c. 6m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology is Mercia Mudstone Group - Mudstone and Halite-stone (BGS, 2017). The soils are characterised as freely draining slightly acidic and loamy (CSAIS, 2017).

Heritage assets

- 2.2 There were no recorded heritage assets for the pipe section itself although the county Historic Environment Record (HER) does have entries for a contiguous set of field systems within proximity of the Site arcing around the northern, eastern and southern sides (**HER no. 11142**). These comprise sets of rhyndes, flood banks and traces of ridge and furrow cultivation. The field network is conjectured to form part of an abandoned medieval/post-medieval settlement (**HER no. 10695**).

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 provide 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:
- ascertain the presence of any further evidence relating to the recorded medieval/post-medieval farming/settlement activity

4. Methodology

- 4.1 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 *Somerset County Council Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (2011). C1 will adhere 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.
- 4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HES, but it was not necessary for a representative to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The initial groundworks comprised the machine excavation of topsoil along the length of the proposed open cut pipe section. The pipeline easement was up to 15m wide. An archaeologist was on Site to monitor this operation with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits/finds present.
- 4.5 Areas of the Site that were subject to appropriate monitoring were identified to the groundwork contractor so that work could continue without archaeological supervision. All groundworks were carried out with a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket.
- 4.6 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 any variation of the deposit sequence. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.
- 4.7 Suspected archaeological features/deposits were assessed to determine the level of investigation needed to characterise them satisfactorily, but manual excavation was not required.
- 4.8 A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out, and involved the use of digital images. This included photographs illustrating in both detail, and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5. Results

- 5.1 Stripping of the easement topsoil was carried out. The topsoil (7-100) was a friable red (2.5YR 4/6) sandy silt measuring 0.30m deep with moderate rounded pebbles <0.01m (**Plate 1**). This overlay a similar subsoil (7-101) of friable red (2.5YR 5/6) sandy silt with moderate rounded pebbles <0.01m. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No archaeological artefacts were observed or collected.

7. Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 Despite the potential for there to be archaeological features or deposits associated with field divisions and features in the environs of the Site, none were observed in this area. The field system features previously recorded occur on the north, east and south sides of the Site, so it may be conjectured that the system did not spread in this direction. However, the groundworks did not penetrate beneath the subsoil, and as such the works were too shallow to encounter any potential palaeochannels.

8. Archive

- 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.

Paper/digital archive

- 8.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.
- 8.3 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 8.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, 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 In this case there is no artefact/ecofact assemblage.

Dissemination: report

- 8.6 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

- 8.7 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next edition of the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, the county archaeological journal.

9. Bibliography

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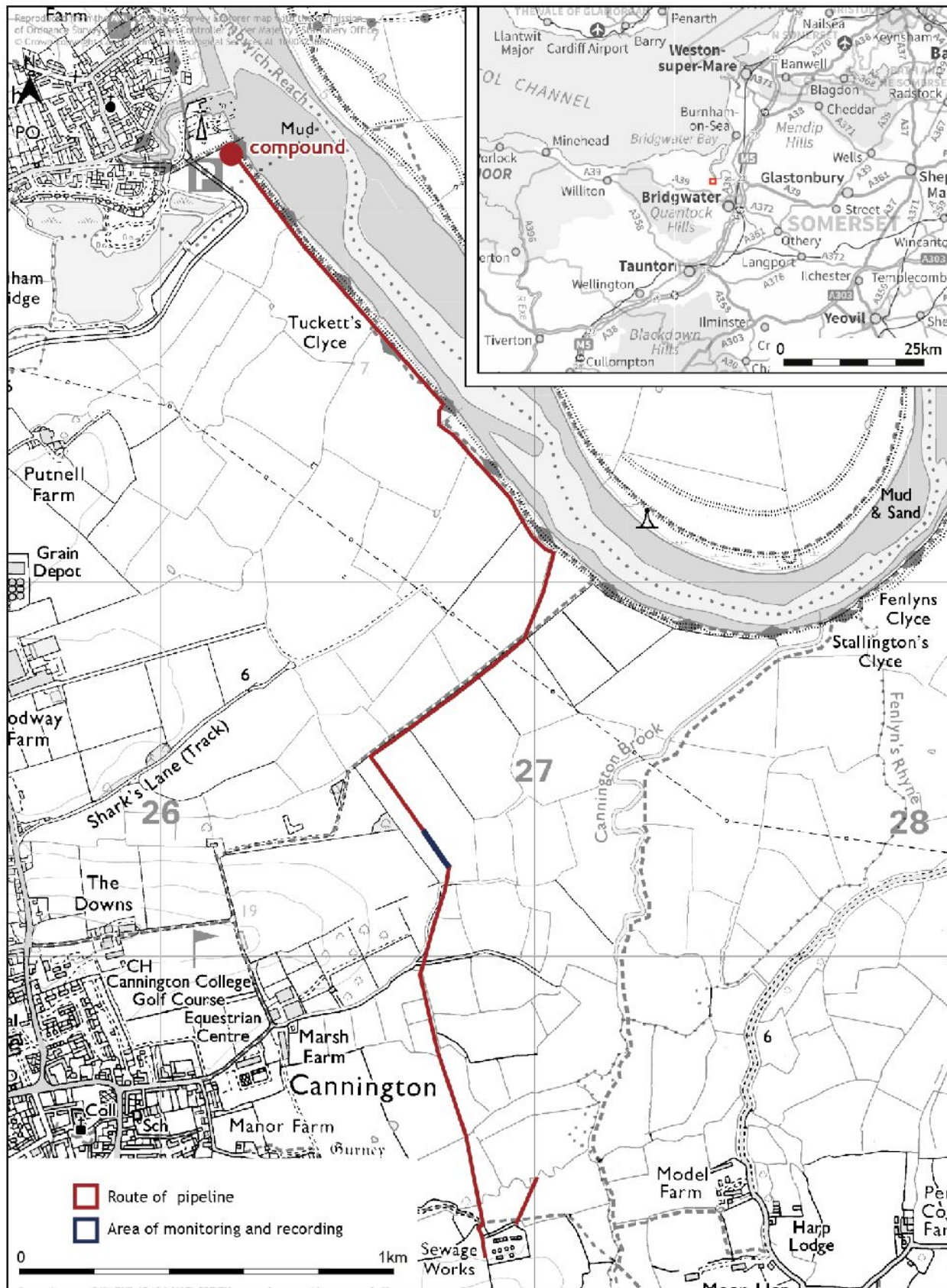


Figure 1. Site setting with route of pipeline and section subject to archaeological monitoring



Plate 1. Area subject to archaeological monitoring (facing NW; no scale)

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