

CK310: Berryfield
Rising Main Replacement
Melksham
Wiltshire

Archaeological Monitoring
and Recording Report

February 2019





**CK310: Berryfield
Rising Main Replacement
Melksham
Wiltshire**

for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/18/BMW

Wessex Water plc

Report

Prepared by Tara Fairclough and Clare Randall
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Signed 
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Issue 01

PROJECT DETAILS

Wessex Water Scheme ref.	CK310
Planning Application ref.	N/A
Local Planning Authority	N/A
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	N/A
Collecting Museum	Wiltshire Museum (Devizes)
Museum accession code	N/A
OASIS reference	contexto1-333055

C1 STAFF

Director, Historic Environment Consultant	Richard McConnell BA (Hons), MCIfA
Post-excavation Manager, Historic Buildings Archaeologist, Stone Specialist	Cheryl Green FSA, BA Hons, PhD, MCIfA
Illustrator, Project co-ordination, Historic Buildings Archaeologist	Tara Fairclough BA (Hons), PCIfA
Archaeological Officer, Animal/Human bone Specialist, Archivist	Clare Randall FSA, BA (Hons), BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, MCIfA
Senior Field Archaeologist	Peter Fairclough BA (Hons)

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Summary

Context One Heritage and Archaeology Ltd (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording relating to the construction of a new water main at Berryfield, Melksham, Wiltshire. The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc (WW) under a Term Agreement with C1.

The portion of the pipeline broadly coincides with an area that could include the remains of a former medieval settlement. The place name Berryfield was first recorded in 1286 as ‘Bereghfeld’ which has been interpreted as meaning hill or barrow. A 20th century military camp and associated WWII structures are also visible in the surrounding area of the pipeline.

Despite this potential, no archaeological features or deposits were observed, and no finds observed or collected in the stripping of the compound or easement or in the digging of the drill pits. This does not necessarily preclude the survival of archaeological remains beneath the compound where the ground impact was superficial.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the construction of a new rising main at Berryfield, Melksham, Wiltshire (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Wessex Water plc (WW) under a Term Agreement with C1.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested by the county Historic Environment Service (HES), Wiltshire County Archaeology Service (WCAS). In a reply to an email consultation request from Mr Jared Maxfield, Graduate Environmental and Planning Adviser, WW on 15 June 2018, Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist, WCAS stated:
- “The proposed works (purple route) are within an area with potential for archaeological remains. The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record indicates that there are a couple of areas of archaeological interest along the proposed route. At the western end of the purple route it runs through a projected area believed to represent the remains of medieval settlement, referred to as Bereghfeld in 1286. There is also a listed building which the scheme runs close to which you have marked on your plan (national ref. 1194671, Berryfields Cottages). This route lies just to the north of a military camp, an outlier to the main RAF Melksham further east. Depending on the extent of below ground impact into undisturbed areas I recommend that an archaeological Watching Brief is carried out at the western end of the scheme.”*
- 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 2018).

2. The Site

- 2.1 The pipeline route (NGRs: Eastern end, 390295 162343; Western end, 389531 162531; Southern end, 389398 162258) covered a linear distance of c. 1.15km and the east to west section ran from the sewage station, along the northern flank of Berryfield adjacent to Berryfield Lane and through agricultural land before turning south. The southern length of the route continued towards the pump house. Monitoring and recording was required along the easement of the western portion of the route, the area of a temporary compound and four drill pits for directional drilling (**Figure 1**). The route is situated on land that is c. 38m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east, gradually falling to 35m aOD in the west. The recorded solid geology for the Site is Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone with drift geology noted as River Terrace Deposits, 1 - Sand and Gravel (BGS 2019). The soils are characterised as freely draining lime-rich loam (CSAIS 2019).
- 2.2 The portion of the pipeline identified for archaeological monitoring and recording broadly coincides with an area that could include the remains of a former medieval settlement. The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) records the first mention of the place name Berryfield as being 'Bereghfeld' in 1286 (HER ref. MWI1875). The name Bereghfeld has been interpreted as meaning hill or barrow (Beorg). A Bronze Age barrow (HER ref. MWI1919) is recorded c. 0.4km to the north west of Site. The HER also records several earthworks in the vicinity of the pipeline. An area of medieval ridge and furrow (HER ref. MWI73892) is located to the north east, and undated earthworks (HER ref. MWI1908) and a rectangular enclosure (HER ref. MWI1902) situated to the north-west. A 20th century military camp (HER ref. MWI73883) and associated WWII structures are also visible in the surrounding area of the pipeline. The pipeline also runs close to a Grade II listed building known as Berryfields Cottages (HE ref. 119467), comprising a pair of cottages thought to represent a good example of late 18th century artisan dwellings in unaltered condition.

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:

- determine whether there was any evidence specifically relating to the medieval settlement of Bereghfeld;
- determine whether there was any 20th century remains in the landscape relating to the military camp.

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 *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). The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.

4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HES but it was not deemed necessary for a representative to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.

4.3 Construction groundworks comprised the machine excavation of the following:

- Topsoil removal in the location of a temporary compound;
- Topsoil removal along the length of the pipeline across open ground where this included open-cut trenching. This was generally an easement 15m wide across fields, narrowing to 5m where it breached field boundaries;
- Excavation of pipe trenches, usually 0.50m wide and up to 2m deep and centrally placed within the easement;
- Deep excavation of directional drill pits at entry and exit locations where new pipe sections were bored underground.

4.4 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor these operations with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits/finds present. Manual excavation was not required.

4.5 Core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded on C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. Soil colours were logged using a Munsell soil colour chart and spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts. A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out and involved the sole use of digital images. These included photographs illustrating in both detail, and general context, the operations subject to monitoring. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

5. Results

5.1 Profiles of the deposit sequence were recorded in six locations during groundwork excavations, the compound, easement and four drill pits. The compound area (**Plate 1**) was only soil stripped to a depth of 0.30m. The easement for the pipeline (**Plate 2**) was stripped to 0.55m. The drill pits (**Plate 3**) were excavated to between 0.7m and 1.2m.

- 5.2 The deposit sequence observed was very similar in all locations. The topsoil was the same, a very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments (<0.10m). It was 0.20m deep in each of the drill pits and the compound, and 0.30m deep along the pipeline easement. In drill pit 1, the subsoil (101) was a grey (10 YR 5/1) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments (<0.10m), in excess of a meter in depth. In the other three drill pits, the subsoil (201), (301) and (401), was a dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments (<0.10m), observed to be in excess of 0.5-1.0m deep. In drill pit 4, the subsoil was only 0.30m deep, and overlay natural (402) which comprised in excess of 0.50m depth of yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) friable gravels with frequent angular sand and gravel.
- 5.3 In the compound area, the topsoil overlay a similar subsoil (501) to that seen in most of the drill pits, a dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments (<0.10m), in excess of 0.10m deep. The subsoil along the easement (601) was the same, but in this case, it was 0.20m deep and overlay natural deposits (602) of yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) silty sandy clay with moderate angular flint and limestone. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No archaeological artefacts or ecofacts were observed or recovered during archaeological monitoring.

7. Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 Despite the groundwork excavations broadly coinciding with an area relating to a former medieval settlement, and close to the 20th century military camp, no archaeological evidence was observed in the compound soil strip, easement strip or drill pits. It may imply that historical use of the area impacted by the pipeline was ephemeral. However, this does not necessarily preclude the survival of archaeological remains where the ground impact was superficial in the compound area.

8. Archive

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 199). 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 As no archaeological artefacts or ecofacts have been observed or collected, there is no physical archive in this case.

Dissemination: report

- 8.6 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:
- Wessex Water plc
 - 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 county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

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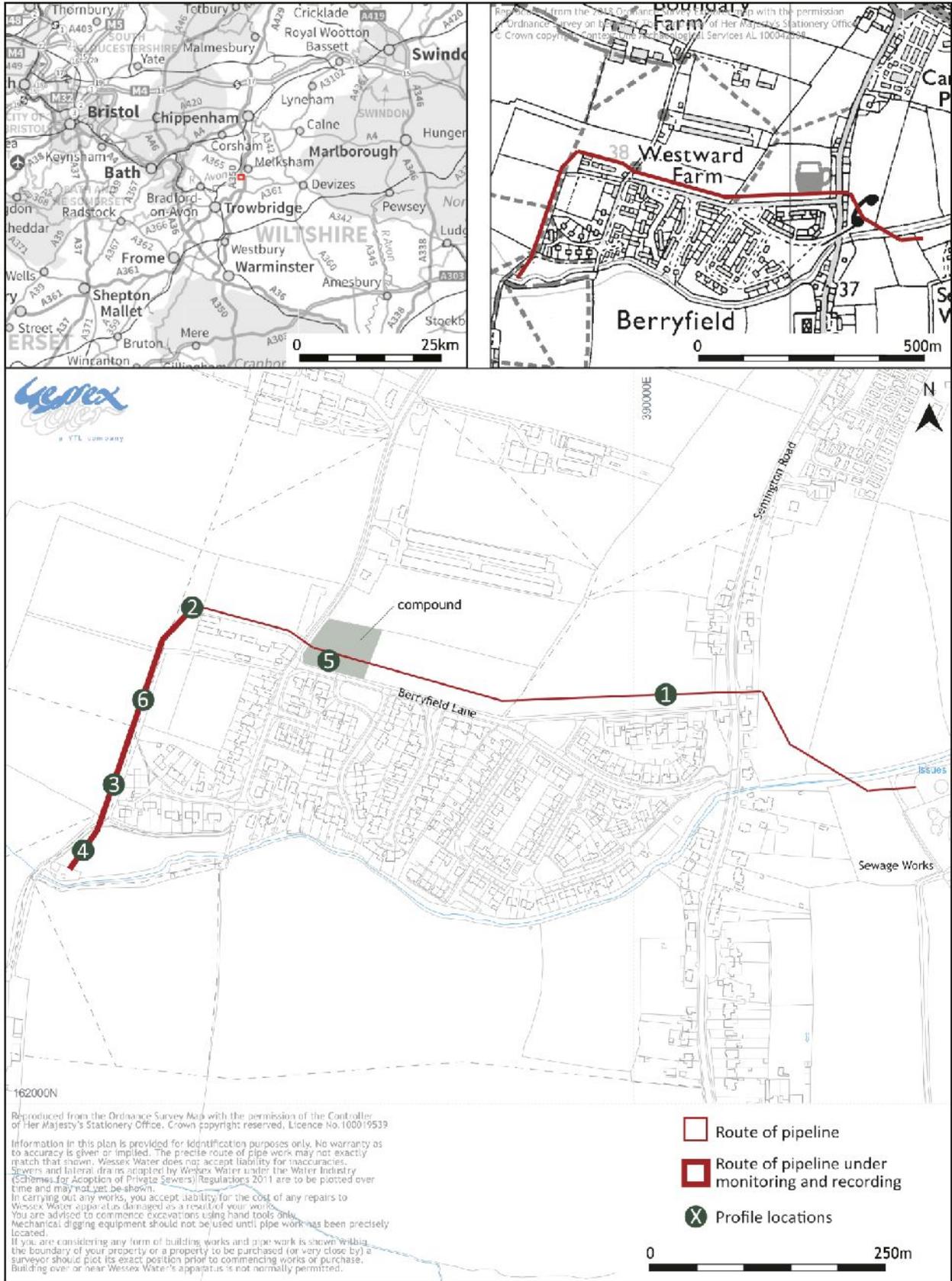


Figure 1. Site setting, route of pipeline and area subject to archaeological monitoring and recording



Plate 1. Compound (facing E)



Plate 2. Easement (facing SW)



Plate 3. Drill pit 4 (facing SW)

Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
Drill pit 1									
100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	NA		101	3	2	0.2
101	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Grey (10 YR 5/1) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	100		NA	3	2	>1.0
Drill pit 2									
200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	NA		201	3	2	0.2
201	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	200		NA	3	2	>1.0
Drill pit 3									
300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	NA		301	3	2	0.2
301	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	300		NA	3	2	>0.50
Drill pit 4									
400	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	NA		401	3	2	0.2
401	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	400		402	3	2	0.3
402	Geological	Layer	Natural - Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) friable gravels with frequent angular sand and gravel	401		NA	3	2	>0.50
Compound									
500	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	NA		501	50	50	0.2
501	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	500		NA	50	50	>0.10
Easement									
600	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	NA		601	1000	15	0.3



601	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Dark yellowish brown (10 YR 3/6) friable silty sandy clay with occasional angular flint and limestone fragments <0.10m	600		602	1000	15	0.2
602	Geological	Layer	Natural - Yellowish brown (10 YR 5/6) silty sandy clay with moderate angular flint and limestone	601		NA	1000	15	>0.05

