

Historic Environment Record

Input Form

Subject: Timberscombe to Wootton Courtenay, Exmoor, Somerset.		
National Grid Reference: SS 95607 42810	Civil Parish: Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay	ENPHER Monument Number(s): 13984
Planning Application Number: N/A	OASIS ID: contexto1-83208	Museum Accession Number: TTNCM 52/2010
Contractor's Reference: COAS/WBF/10/TWC		Recorder and Organisation: Stuart Milby, Context One Archaeological Services Ltd.
Date of Site Visit(s) or Fieldwork: 22-24/06/10, 30/06/10, 08/07/10, 29/07/10, 09/08/10		Date of Report: 11/10/2010
Description of Works, Monitoring and Results:		
<p>Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks relating to a pipeline replacement scheme between Timberscombe and Wootton Courtenay, Exmoor, Somerset (see Figure 1). The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc.</p> <p>Three compound areas (c. 30m x 30m) were set out by Wessex Water ground workers, two of which were topsoil stripped using a tracked 360 degree machine fitted with a toothless bucket. All topsoil stripping was observed by a qualified archaeologist</p> <p>The majority of the pipeline was replaced by bursting the existing pipe with a new sleeved pipe. Access to the existing water pipe was gained via a series of mechanically excavated launch pits. However, where the pipeline followed the line of the road, open cut trenching was employed (see Figure 1).</p> <p>Five launch pits were observed, two of which were recorded in profile; the soil sequence observed in each launch pit was the same and comprised a red (10R 5/6) cemented, silty clay topsoil ((1200) and (1202)) with frequent angular stone fragments (<0.20m in diameter) and very occasional shale and sandstone, overlying a red (10R 5/6) natural silty clay natural sediment ((1201) and (1203)).</p> <p>Open cut trenching was observed in the area of Ranscombe Farm (NGR SS 9480 4313), which is shown on the Exmoor National Park Historic Environment Record (HER) as a shrunken settlement. The soil sequence revealed in the open cut trench was the same as that observed in the launch pits except that the topsoil (and part of the natural) had been removed and replaced with modern made ground and Tarmac.</p> <p>No archaeological features/deposits were observed during groundwork excavations, despite lying in close proximity to a number of known archaeological sites; most notably The Kennels (a deserted farmstead), Ranscombe Farm (a shrunken settlement) and Manor Farm (medieval settlement). A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the topsoil within Compound 1.</p> <p>The Finds (by Cai Mason)</p> <p>With the exception of metalwork, the finds recovered from the evaluation were washed and, where necessary, will be marked with an accession number issued by Somerset County museum service.</p>		

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The finds were separated into artefact types and quantified by context number, quantity and weight in grams. Bulk finds such as post-medieval and modern brick, tile and slate were noted but not collected. A request will be made to the site owner to transfer the title of all finds to the above Museum

A total of seven pottery sherds, three clay tobacco pipe stems and the neck of a glass wine bottle were recovered. All of the finds were recovered from the topsoil and are post-medieval or modern in date.

Pottery

The pottery is all relatively unabraded and has a mean sherd weight of 69.42g. This small assemblage is dominated by locally produced red earthenwares, which include a sherd of sgraffito decorated slipware. Pitcher, bowl, dish and baluster jar forms are all represented in the assemblage. This pottery is known as South Somerset ware, which is known to have been produced at a number of sites in the southern half of the county from the mid 16th to the early 20th century. The nearest known kilns producing this type of pottery are situated in Nether Stowey, Wiveliscombe and Crowcombe (Allan 2000); all of which lie within 15 miles of the site.

A single sherd of 19th or 20th century Bristol glazed stoneware was also collected.

Other finds

A single dark brown free blown glass bottle neck shard was also recovered. The bottle's lip has a double string ring and can be identified as a 'mallet' or 'squat' wine bottle produced between c. 1730 and 1830.

Three clay tobacco pipe stems were also collected. These could have been produced at any point from the mid 17th century onwards.

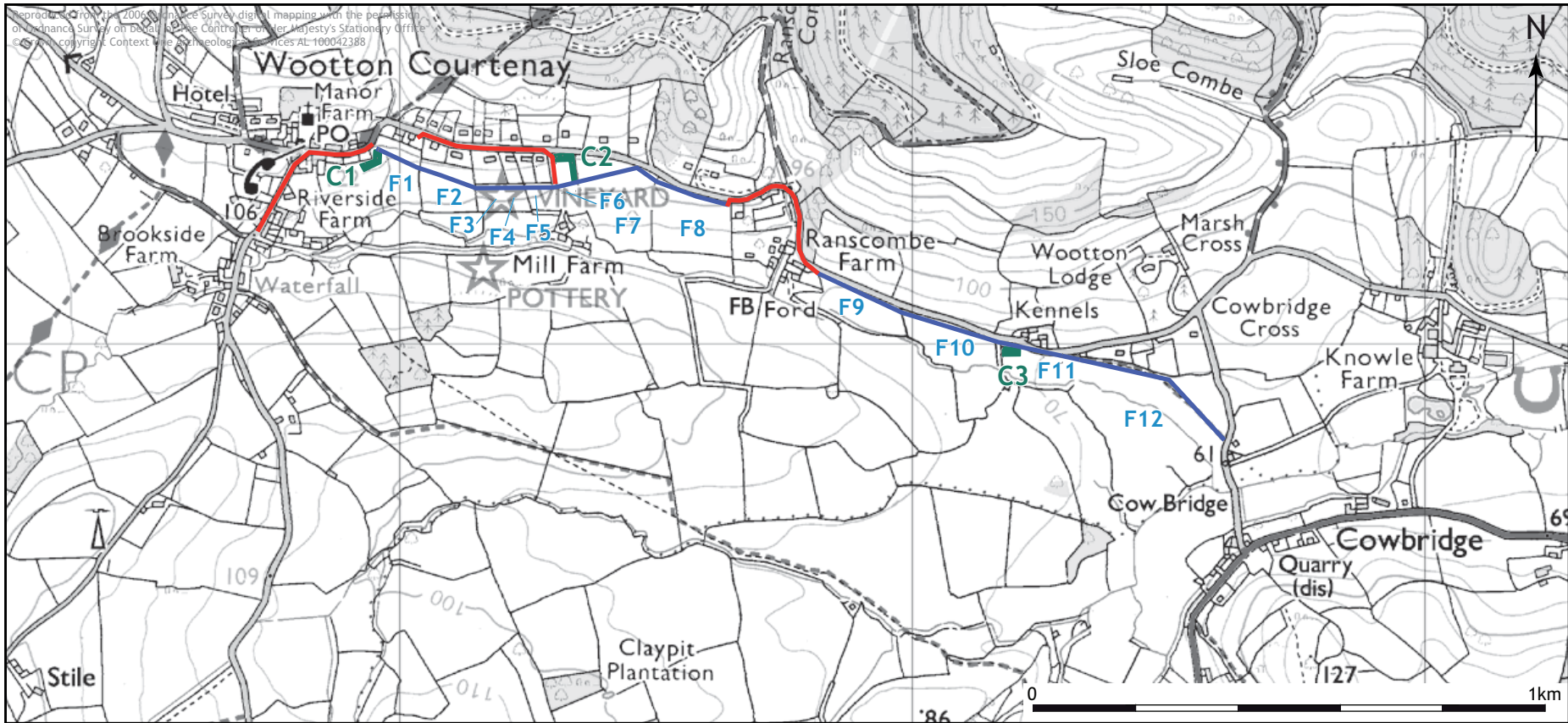
Discussion

This small assemblage was recovered from the topsoil and is likely to be derived from manuring, refuse disposal or casual loss over the last four centuries.



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Please attach a **Location Plan** showing the area investigated and any features exposed. Also attach any relevant drawings or photographs.



- route of water mains (open cut)
- route of water mains (slip line)
- CX compound location and number
- FXX field number

PROJECT TITLE Timberscombe to Wootton Courtenay, Exmoor, Somerset		
FIGURE TITLE Site setting showing location of groundworks		
SCALE as shown	PROJECT CODE COAS/WBF/10/TWC	FIGURE NO. <b style="font-size: 1.2em;">1