

The Barns
Pound Lane
Downhead
Shepton Mallet
Somerset

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING &
RECORDING

WRITTEN SCHEME
OF INVESTIGATION

November 2020

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Looking after the past, today...





The Barns
Pound Lane
Downhead
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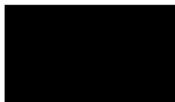
for

C1 project code: C1/AMR/20/BDS

**Mr H Thomas of db+PAUL on behalf of their
clients Mr and Mrs Yeoman**

WSI

Prepared by	Tara Fairclough
Date	19/11/20

Approved by	Richard McConnell
Signed	
Date	19/11/20

Issue	01
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PROJECT DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	N/A
Planning Application ref.	2018/2570/FUL
Local Planning Authority	Mendip District Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	Requested on 19/11/20
Collecting Museum	SWHT
Museum accession code	Requested on 19/11/20
OASIS reference	Requested on 19/11/20

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Front cover image: satellite image of the Site © Google maps

Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) has been instructed to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of granting planning permission for the conversion and extension of existing agricultural barns to form a new farm shop and associated café; and new access arrangements and parking at The Barns, Pound Lane, Downhead, Shepton Mallet, Somerset. The project has been commissioned by Mr H Thomas of db+PAUL on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Yeoman.

There is potential for archaeological activity on the Site relating to the remains of the shrunken medieval settlement of Downhead which is recorded within the vicinity. Finds spots have also been recorded that attest to prehistoric settlement in the locality.

Historic map regression assessment shows that the Site has formed part of open farmland from at least the early 19th century though interrogation of the 1940s RAF aerial photograph shows that groundworks may intercept one relict field boundary towards the southern end of the Site.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) has been instructed to carry out archaeological monitoring and recording as a condition of granting planning permission (planning reference: 2018/2570/FUL) for the conversion and extension of existing agricultural barns to form a new farm shop and associated cafe; and new access arrangements and parking at The Barns, Pound Lane, Downhead, Shepton Mallet, Somerset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project has been commissioned by Mr H Thomas of db+PAUL on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs Yeoman.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Mendip District Council (MDC) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES), South West Heritage Trust (SWHT). In a reply to a consultation request from Ms Anna Clark (Case Officer, MDC) undated, Mr Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust stated:
- "The site lies in close proximity to an area known to contain the remains of a shrunken medieval settlement and field system. It is therefore possible that associated remains may be impacted by this development.*
- Accordingly a condition to require the developer to provide archaeological monitoring of the development and a report on any discoveries made as indicated in the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 199) would be reasonable and necessary if planning permission were approved"*
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works will comprise four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which sets out the project strategy (this document); archaeological monitoring and recording; post-excavation and report production; and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 199 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2019). The client and/or agent will ensure that the archaeological works are implemented as described below in order to avoid breach of the imposed condition.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The proposed access arrangements and parking involve a track which splits into two (NGRs northern end, 369266 146364; southern ends, 369268 146130 and 369323 146121). Covering a linear distance of c. 490m, one track terminates at the new farm shop and associated facilities while the other runs into an existing lane to Manor Farm Dairy. The proposed track runs through an open agricultural field and is accessed at its northern extent from Park Lane which borders the field to the west (**Figure 1**). The Site is situated on land that is c. 197m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north gradually descending to c. 190m aOD in the south. The recorded geology for the Site is Avon Group - Limestone and Mudstone, Interbedded. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2020). The soils are characterised as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (CSAIS 2020).
- 2.2 The county Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that a number of heritage assets have been recorded within a 500m radius of the Site. The most southern part of the access track and the barn for conversion lies within the northern extents of the medieval Shrunken Settlement, Downhead (**HER ref. 23429**). Fragmentary earthworks in the form of field boundaries, land divisions and ridge and furrow represent the remnants of an agricultural field system associated with the settlement. Medieval or post-medieval field boundaries (**HER ref. 18888**) and a holloway (**HER ref. 18887**) located c. 60m south of the Site maybe the remains of an earlier agricultural system and thoroughfare associated with the medieval settlement. These still show as very slight earthworks on the 1m DTM LiDAR survey of the area. Located immediately to the north of the shrunken settlement and to the west of the Site is Grade II* listed Church of All Saints and churchyard, Downhead (**Historic England (HE) ref. 1174065 and HER ref. 23427**) and Manor Farm complex (**HER ref. 23430**). Architectural evidence dates the church to at least the 14th century though a Norman font may push its date back further. Documentary evidence mentions a moated manor house with drawbridge standing near the church. Although the present-day Manor Farm dates from the 19th century, the church and previous iteration of the manor certainly formed the spiritual and administrative centres of the shrunken medieval settlement of Downhead.

- 2.3 The HER lists several entries in the vicinity of the Site providing evidence that Downhead's medieval and later landscape sits within an older prehistoric setting. Two flint finds (**HER refs. 12155 and 41654**) and flint scatter (**HER ref. 29296**) located north and north-east respectively suggest a prehistoric presence in the wider landscape.
- 2.4 Historic map regression assessment shows that the Site formed part of open farmland from at least the early 19th century, though an examination of the 1940s RAF aerial photograph indicates a possible relict field boundary towards the southern end of the Site.

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring will be 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 will be to:
- determine whether there is any evidence specifically relating to the shrunken settlement of Downhead

4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work will be 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 Archaeological Handbook* (2017). 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 will give notification of the commencement of the works to the HES, and arrangements will be made for a representative to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork, if appropriate. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.3 Prior to the commencement of Site works, the excavation methodology will be agreed between those responsible for carrying out the groundworks and C1 to ensure that all parties are aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.4 An archaeologist will be on Site to monitor all specified groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present. Provision must be made to allow extra time for the appropriate excavation and recording of features revealed as a result of groundworks. Areas of the Site that have been subject to appropriate monitoring will be identified to the groundwork contractor so that work here might continue without archaeological supervision. It is expected that all groundworks carried out with a machine will be fitted with a toothless grading bucket.
- 4.5 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site will be recorded on C1 *pro-forma* profile forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. The frequency with which profiles are recorded will be based entirely on any variation of the deposit sequence. Spoil will be examined for the retrieval of artefacts and will be scanned with a metal detector for the recovery of metal objects, where possible.

- 4.6 Suspected archaeological features/deposits will first be assessed to determine the level of investigation needed to characterise them satisfactorily. This may not always require sampling through manual excavation, particularly for low-grade layers where it can be demonstrated that they will not provide any research value. However, in most instances, manual excavation will be required.
- 4.7 Any archaeological features/deposits will be recorded using standard C1 *pro-forma* feature intervention recording forms and/or context forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. Stratigraphic relationships will be recorded using a “Harris-Winchester matrix” diagram. Soil colours will be logged using a Munsell soil colour chart. Any features will be drawn on dimensionally stable media at suitable scales. This is usually 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections. All archaeological remains will be levelled to Ordnance Datum, either directly with an Emlid Reach RTK GPS unit or by means of a temporary bench mark, using an Ordnance Survey bench mark. A photographic record of the monitoring and recording will be carried out, and will involve the sole use of digital images. This will include photographs illustrating in both detail, and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- 4.8 Wherever possible, features/deposits to be excavated will be carried out with the aim of producing at least one representative cross-section. Small discrete features will be fully excavated; larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length (usually a 10% sample) with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. However, it should be recognised that the extent to which a feature/deposit is excavated and the percentage that it can be sampled will, to an extent, rely on how much is exposed through groundworks whilst also taking into account health and safety considerations.
- 4.9 In the event that complex and deep stratigraphy is encountered, it may not be possible to fully excavate such features/deposits due to the constraints of groundwork operations and/or health and safety considerations. In these circumstances, other methods such as the use of manual augering will be considered to yield information that might not otherwise be possible.
- 4.10 Should significant palaeoenvironmental deposits be exposed, provision will be made to consult a geoarchaeologist with relevant experience to advise on the initiation of a suitable sampling strategy. This may include a specialist site visit. Sampling might be carried out by members of the excavation team or by relevant specialists as deemed appropriate. When samples are to be collected, the exact sampling strategy will reflect the complexity of the site and its spatial and chronological extent. This strategy will be determined using guidance set out by English Heritage (Campbell et al. 2011).
- 4.11 Any human remains that are encountered will initially be left *in situ*, covered and protected. Should it become necessary to remove any human remains from the Site, a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained and any conditions attached complied with. The removal of human remains will be done with due reverence and in accordance with current best-practice and legal requirements. The site will be adequately screened from public view during excavation.
- 4.12 If human remains are not to be removed, a minimum record will be made before backfilling and this will include noting the position of grave cut, alignment, burial position and stratigraphic relationships. If possible, a rapid skeletal study will also be carried out and this might comprise a metrical (age, sex and height) and pathological (disease, injury or deprivation) examination.
- 4.13 If items that may be subject to the Law of Treasure Trove are recovered, the appropriate authorities will be notified (in accordance with The Treasure Act 1996, Code of Practice, England and Wales issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 1996).
- 4.14 In the event of particularly significant discoveries being made, the HES will be informed and a Site meeting will be held to discuss and implement any specific requirements.
- 4.15 Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

5. Report

- 5.1 For Sites that yield limited results, an illustrated summary report will be completed within three months following completion of fieldwork, subject to the appropriate assessment of any finds. This document will be produced in accordance with the standards set out in the documents Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015). The report will comprise the following layout:

Cover page	Site address; form of investigation; report date
Information matrix	Report author/contributors; planning application reference; HER reference; HES reference; ADS reference; OASIS reference; museum accession code; internal report review matrix
Summary	Non-technical summary of monitoring results
Introduction	Planning background; archaeological justification for works
The Site	Summary of archaeological background; Site setting; topography; recorded geology; soils description
Methodology	Groundwork and archaeological methodology employed
Results	Description of the results
The Finds	Assessment of finds including specialist contributions; finds tables
Discussion	Interpretation of the results; significance of the heritage assets encountered; confidence rating of the results
Archive	Table of written/digital-born to be archived (if applicable); Table of finds/ecofacts to be archived (if applicable);
Acknowledgements	List of people/organizations that assisted the completion of the project
Bibliography	List of sources consulted
Figures	Figure 1 – Site setting showing groundworks; location of features/deposits; north arrow; scale bar Figure 2+ – plans and sections of features at appropriate scales; north arrow; scale bar; key to drawing conventions Additional figure (if applicable) – Site interpretation
Plates	Images of significant features/deposits including view from and scales; general shots of the monitoring work; Site setting; significant finds (if applicable)
Appendices	Context summary; finds tables (if applicable); research material (if applicable)

Dissemination: report

- 5.2 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

- 5.3 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical. If particularly significant archaeological features/deposits/finds are encountered, then these are likely to merit wider publication in line with NPPF (para. 199). This might include the production of an article in a county journal; a specialist journal; a standalone monograph or popular publication. The requirement for such a publication, including any further analysis that may be necessary, will first be confirmed with the HES. Once a publication strategy has been agreed, a separate Publication Project Design will be compiled for approval by the HES.

6. The finds

- 6.1 Bulk finds from all periods and/or mass produced post-medieval artefacts encountered during the investigation may be noted but not collected if they are considered to be surplus to future research needs. If

some form of retention is considered necessary, then a sampling strategy will be initiated following consultation with the HES. Depending on the character of other bulk assemblages, a discard policy/sampling strategy will be discussed with the HES as such assemblages are encountered.

- 6.2 All other finds collected during the course of the investigation will be removed from Site for processing in preparation for assessment and archiving/discard. Vulnerable finds may require immediate protection once excavated and this will be carried out by the field team in accordance with prevailing guidance (Watkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001). Provision will be made for further specialist treatment of finds by a conservator for long-term curation, where necessary.
- 6.3 All finds recovered from the monitoring excluding metalwork, will be washed, air-dried and bagged in preparation for assessment. Upon completion of the assessment report, finds may be further retained for full analysis as part of any analytical report/publication work.
- 6.4 Specialists that will be asked to carry out an assessment of the main finds groups are as follows:
- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Ceramics | Lorraine Mephram (Wessex Archaeology Finds Service)
Mark Corney (freelance)
Rachel Hall (freelance) |
| Animal bone | Dr Clare Randall FSA (C1) |
| Human bone | Dr Clare Randall FSA (C1) |
| Metalwork | Dr Jörn Schuster (Archaeological Small Finds) |
| Stone | Dr Cheryl Green FSA (C1) |
| Flint | Dr Rebecca Devaney (freelance) |
| Glass | Dr Rachel Tyson (freelance) |
| Tobacco clay pipe | Marek Lewcan (freelance) |
| Environmental remains | Alys Vaughan-Williams (freelance) |
| Charcoal | Dr Imogen Poole (freelance) |
| Conservation | Wessex Archaeology Finds Service |
| Geoarchaeology | ARCA, University of Winchester |
- 6.5 Other specialists may be invited to provide advice or assessment depending on the nature of the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

7. Archive

- 7.1 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

- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 If no archaeological evidence is encountered, all relevant data will be incorporated into the assessment report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 7.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding human remains and any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, in accordance with NPPF (para. 199), there is a presumption that the landowner will 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. In the event that the designated museum cannot receive the physical archive, the material will be stored for a time-limited period with C1.

- 7.5 Regardless of the destination of the artefact/ecofact assemblage, an ordered archive will be prepared in accordance with prevailing standards for deposition (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992) and will be formally transferred within three months of final report submission.

8. Other considerations

- 8.1 The archaeological works will be undertaken with due consideration for any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act, 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSI's, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.
- 8.2 The current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines will be adhered to on site. C1 has Professional Indemnity insurance with £1 million cover, Public Liability insurance with £5 million cover and Employer's Liability insurance with £10 million cover. A copy of Liability Cover Summary is available on request.
- 8.3 C1 endeavours to carry out all archaeological work to the highest possible standards and adhere to all current ClfA Standards and Codes of Conduct. All work is internally monitored by C1 Senior Management in order to ensure best-practice.

9. Bibliography

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|--|---|
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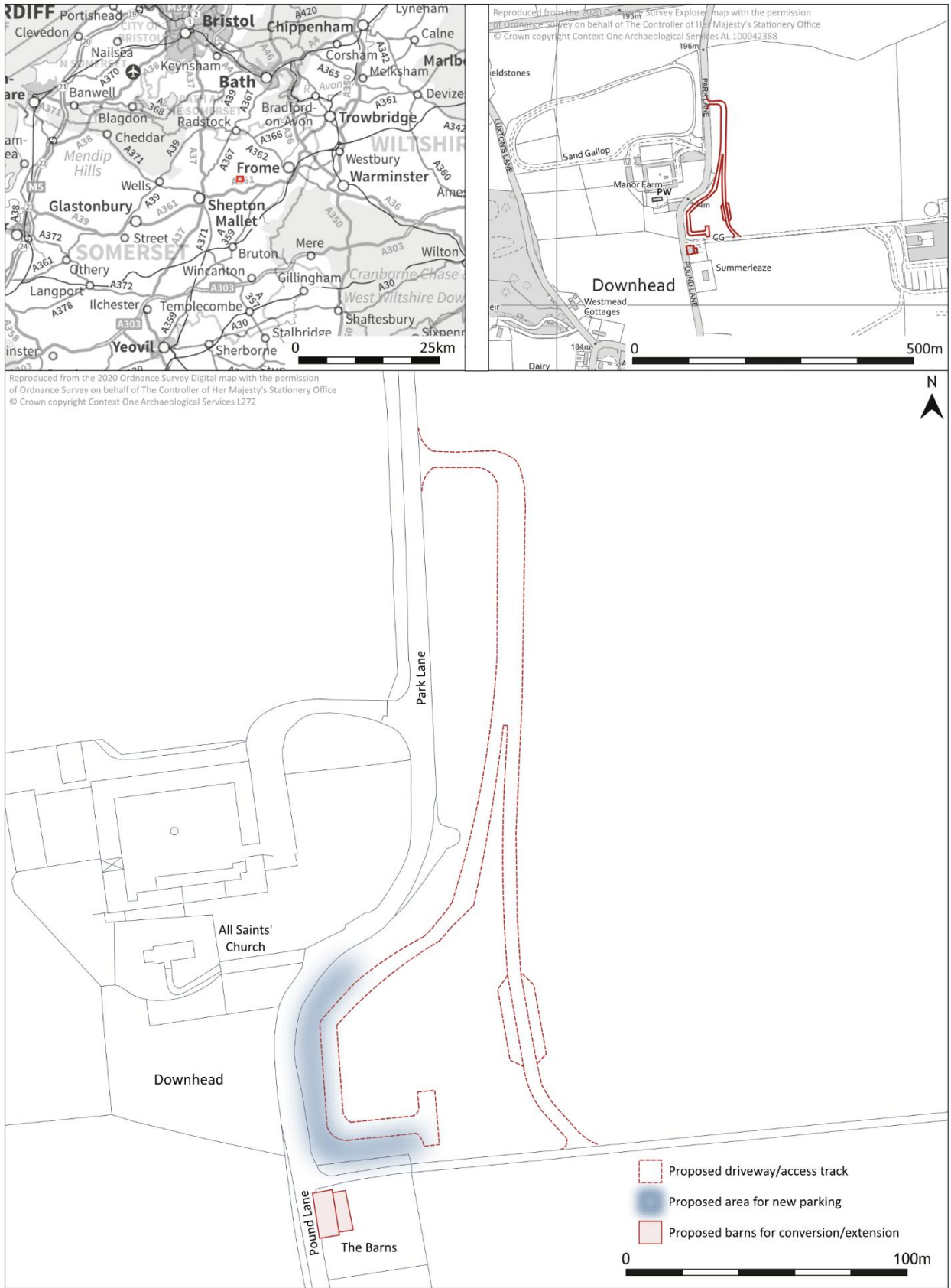


Figure 1. Site setting



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