

Land adjacent to Drove Lane, Yapton, West Sussex

Archaeological Watching Brief



for:
Barratt David Wilson Southern
Counties

CA Project: AN0249
CA Report: AN0249_1

August 2022



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	7
4. METHODOLOGY	7
5. RESULTS.....	8
6. DISCUSSION.....	8
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
8. REFERENCES.....	9
APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Figure 2 Watching brief area location plan (1:500)
- Figure 3 Photographs of Watching Brief area

SUMMARY

Project name:	Land adjacent to Drove Lane
Location:	Yapton, West Sussex
NGR:	497347 103161
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	4 April to 20 May 2022
Planning reference:	Y/49/21/RES
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Littlehampton Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	DLWB22

In April and May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundwork associated with Drove Lane, Yapton, West Sussex for Barratt David Wilson, Southern Counties.

The watching brief consisted of the removal of ground vegetation around areas of ground associated with Yapton Canal. The overburden over the path was under 60mm deep and revealed the extent of the hard standing underneath. The construction methods used did not involve any below ground disturbance, and the hard standing was not disturbed and left in place. The design involved building up from this level.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In April and May 2022 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Drove Lane, Yapton, West Sussex centred at National Grid Reference (NGR): 497347 103161; (Figure 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Barratt David Wilson, Southern Counties.
- 1.2. Planning permission (Y/49/21/RES) for the development of up to 300 dwellings, link road, surface drainage, open space and landscaping was granted by Arun District Council (ADC), conditional on a programme of archaeological work.

Condition 24:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: The site has the potential to contain unknown remains of archaeological importance therefore in accordance with Policies D DM1 and HER DM6 of the Arun Local Plan. It is considered necessary for this to be a pre-commencement condition because archaeology can only be investigated before construction commences.

This evaluation represents the first stage of archaeological investigations, if significant archaeological remains are identified further works may be required. The scope of any further works will need to be agreed with James Kenny, the archaeological advisor to Arun District Council and another WSI will need to be produced and approved before this work can be carried out.

- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by James Kenny, Archaeological Advisor (hereafter the Curator) to Chichester District Council (CDD). The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by the Curator.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also in line with Sussex Archaeological Standards (2019), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) PPN 3: *Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The wider proposed development site is approximately 13ha in extent and comprises of a large sub rectangular field bounded by Drove Lane to the north-west and a faint track and a mature hedge line to the south-east. To the south-west of the site is agricultural land with residential properties located towards the north-east. The site lies at approximately 4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.6. The underlying chalk bedrock is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation of the Cretaceous Period formed approximately 72-94 million years ago representing a landscape dominated by warm chalk seas. Superficial River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) - Sand, Silt, and Clay formed up to 3 million years ago during the Quaternary Period, have been mapped in this area suggesting this area was once a landscape dominated by rivers.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. This is a succinct summary of the archaeological background found in the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) carried out by TVAS (2017).

Prehistoric

- 2.2. In advance of residential development on the land at Fellow Gardens (south of Burndell Road), directly east-south-east of the site, three early prehistoric flints were recovered. Additionally, an undated stone axe was recovered in the land north-east of the site.

Bronze Age

- 2.3. Located 1km to the east of the site, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an evaluation which revealed three areas of archaeological activity. The eastern limits of the site revealed Middle Bronze Age pits and a contemporary burnt flint filled trough. The western part of the site revealed a number of Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age enclosure ditches and postholes. The central area of the site revealed a number of undated ditches which have been interpreted as probable prehistoric field systems (CA 2011).

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- 2.4. Several Bronze Age hoards have been located within the vicinity of the site, with one located within the south-east of the site. To the south-west, a Middle Bronze Age hoard was recovered from a ploughed field, along with a small scatter of Bronze Age flints.

Iron Age

- 2.5. From a ploughed field to the south-west of the site, Iron Age pottery, burnt flint and daub was recovered. Located at Sparks brickyard, east of the site, a silver coin (*tetradrachm* of Demetrius II of Syria; 146-138BC) dating to the Middle Iron Age in British chronology was recovered, however it is unlikely the coin would have found its way to the United Kingdom so early (though not impossible).

Roman

- 2.6. Located within the vicinity of the site, two surface scatters have been associated to the Roman period. Located in a field to the south-west of the site Roman pottery and coins were recovered. To the south-east of the site Roman pottery, tile, a flue tile fragment, several loom weights and several coins were recorded.

Medieval

- 2.7. In a pastured field, east-northeast of the site and adjacent to Yapton Place and St Mary's Church, a number of banks and linear depressions demarcating rectangular areas, probably relate to the Deserted Medieval Village of Yapton. St Mary's Church is a listed building and dates to the late 12th to early 13th century. A 13th century steelyard weight was recovered in the early 1920's within the northern corner of the site.

Post-Medieval

- 2.8. There are a large number of listed post medieval buildings within a 1km radius of the site, details of which can be found in the DBA (2017).
- 2.9. Along the northern edge of the site, the early 19th century Portsmouth-Arundel Canal was originally projected to run from the River Arun at Ford to Salterns in Chichester Harbour, with a branch from Hunston to Chichester; the western section from Salterns to Chichester was finally cut as a ship canal. Work began in 1818 and the canal opened in 1822, but by 1833 it had fallen into disuse. The canal survives today as an earthwork along most of its alignment except where destroyed by agriculture or development, and several bridges can be seen, although in varying states of repair with one such bridge located directly north-west of the site.

Previous investigations

- 2.10. In 2020 Cotswold archaeology conducted an evaluation consisting of 112 trenches with further mitigation work centred on **Trench 82**. A total of 90 trenches were archaeologically sterile, with a further 22 trenches containing archaeology. A Bronze Age phase was recorded with a pit and burnt flint mound located in **Trenches 58 and 82** respectively. Additionally, a series of post medieval fields boundaries were recorded towards the centre and the northeast of the site along with two separate undated ditches, thought to be either Medieval or Modern in date.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable the Arun District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).
- 3.2. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed.
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.
- 3.3. The specific objective of the watching brief was to investigate and record any remains associated with the adjacent Yapton Canal which were exposed by the development groundworks.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the observation by a competent archaeologist of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development. These works comprised the machine removal of ground vegetation from hardstanding and modern surfaces (Figure 2).

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- 4.2. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with Littlehampton Museum for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The ground works consisted of machine removal of vegetation from the watching brief area. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. In April and May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with Drove Lane, Yapton, West Sussex for Barratt David Wilson, Southern Counties.
- 6.2. The watching brief consisted of the removal of ground vegetation around areas of ground associated with Yapton Canal. The overburden over the path was under 60mm deep and revealed the extent of the hard standing underneath. The construction methods used did not involve any below ground disturbance, and the hard standing was not disturbed. The design involves building up from the level of the hardstanding.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard and Steffan Klemenic. This report was written by Adam Howard. The report illustrations were prepared by Krissy Moore. The

project archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Richard Greateorex.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2022 *BGS Geology Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/> Accessed 18 November 2020

Cotswold Archaeology 2011 *Land off Brundell Road, East Yapton, West Sussex: Archaeological Watching Brief*, CA Report No **11143**

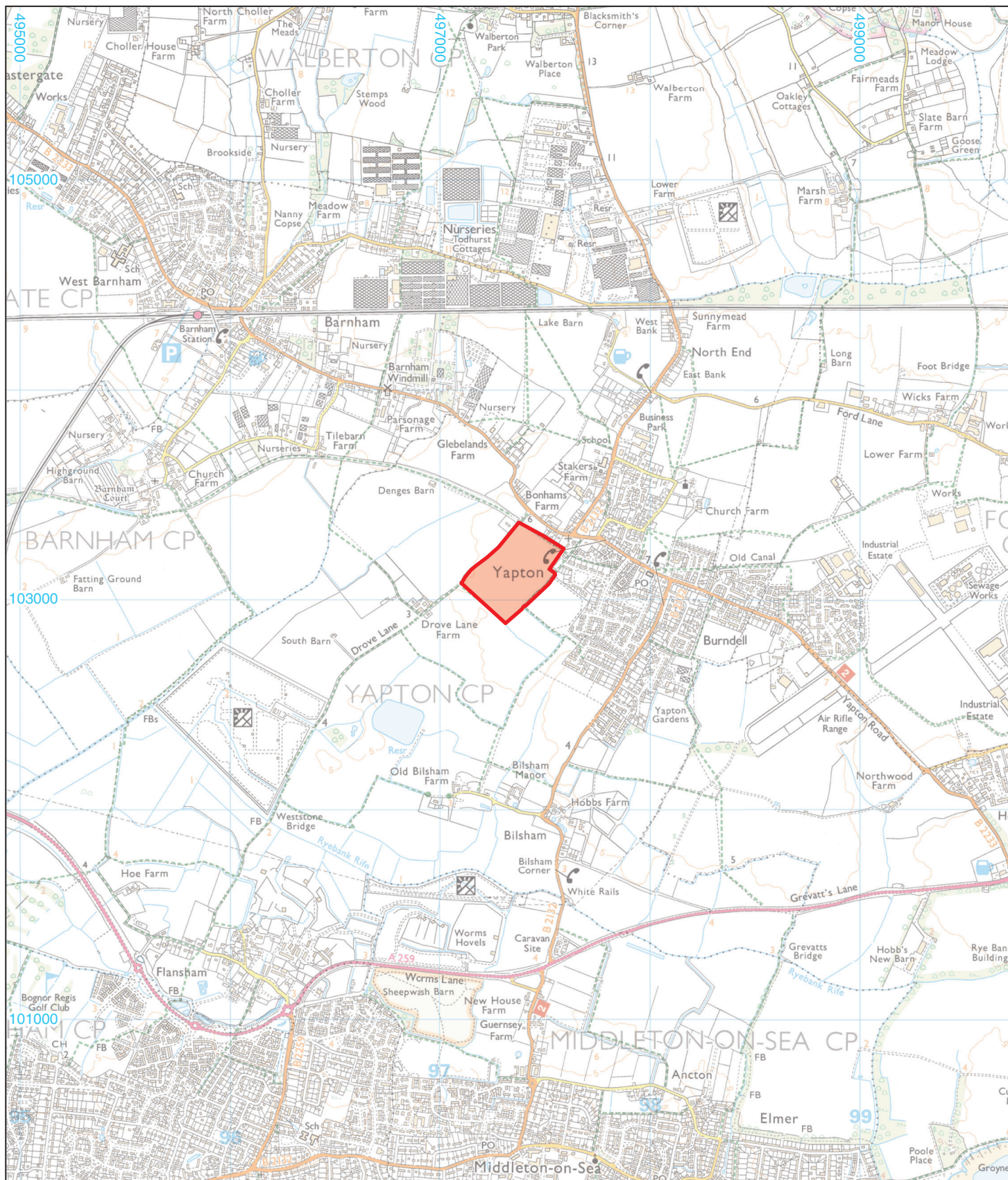
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 *Land adjacent to Drove Lane, Yapton, West Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation Report*, CA Report No **AN0113**

HCLG Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*

TVAS 2017 *Drove Lane, Yapton, West Sussex, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*

APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land adjacent to Drove Road, Yapton, West Sussex.	
Short description	In April and May 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with Drove Lane, Yapton, West Sussex at Barratt David Wilson, Southern Counties. The watching brief consisted of the removal of ground vegetation around areas of ground associated with Yapton Canal. The overburden over the path was under 60mm thick and revealed the extent of the hard standing underneath, the construction methods did not involve any below ground disturbance, and the hard standing was not disturbed.	
Project dates	4 April to 20 May 2022	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (TVAS 2017)	
Future work	N/A	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land adjacent to Drove Road, Yapton, West Sussex	
Study area (m ² /ha)	13ha	
Site co-ordinates	497347 103161	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	West Sussex Council	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greateorex	
Project Supervisor	Adam Howard and Steffan Klemenic	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Littlehampton Museum	Site records
Digital	Littlehampton Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 Drove Lane, Yapton, Sussex: <i>Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report AN0249-1		



 Site boundary

0 1km

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Ordnance Survey 0100031673



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PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to Drove Lane, Yapton,
West Sussex

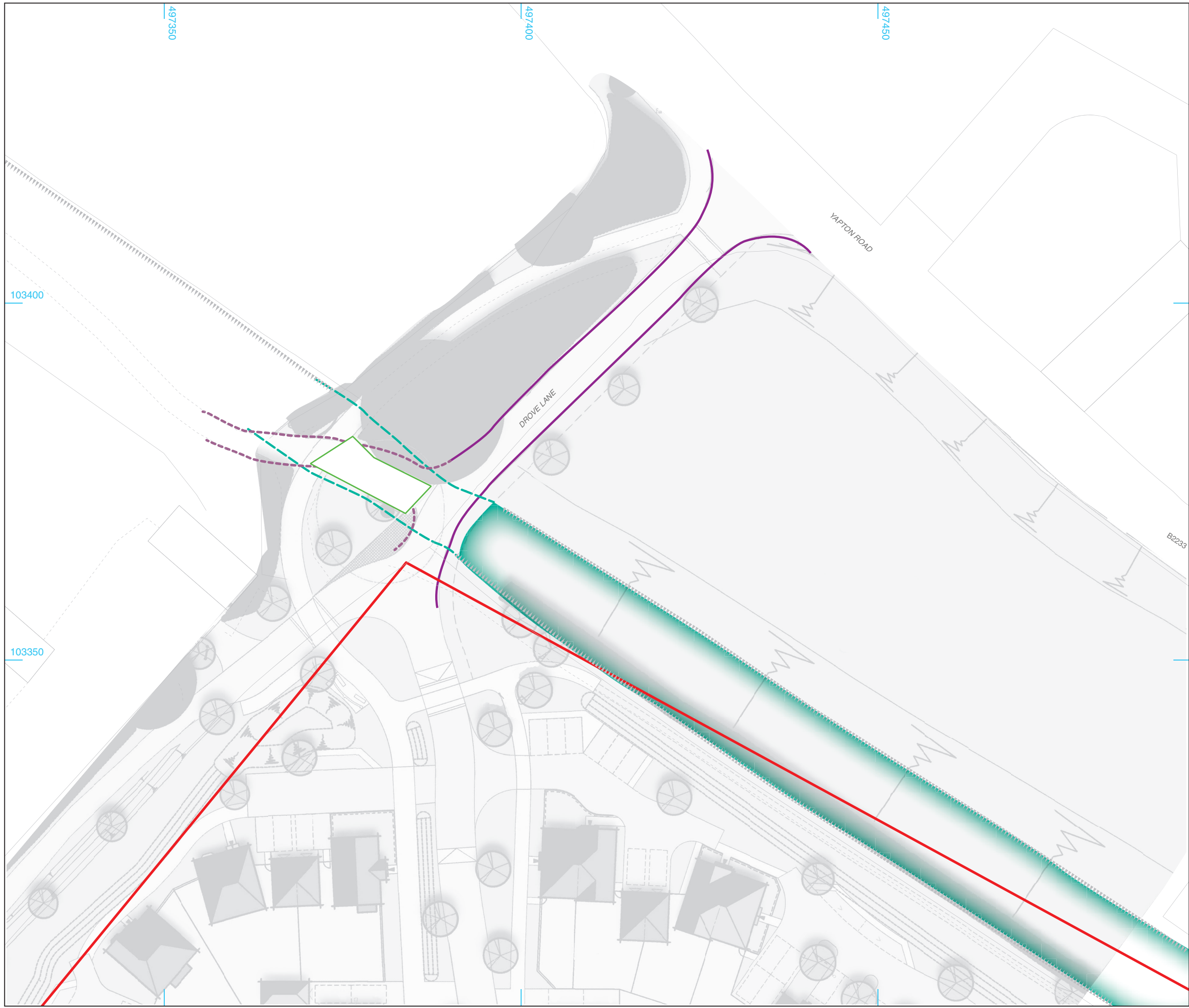
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY KM PROJECT NO. AN0249
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 31/08/2022
APPROVED BY RG SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



-  Original site boundary (CA 2022)
-  Watching brief area
-  Route of existing road (Drove Lane)
-  Route of new road
-  Route of disused canal
-  Projected route of disused canal

0 1:500 25m

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Development plan provided by client



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PROJECT TITLE
**Land adjacent to Drove Lane, Yapton,
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FIGURE TITLE
Watching brief area location plan

DRAWN BY	KM	PROJECT NO.	AN0249	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	31/08/2022	2
APPROVED BY	RG	SCALE@A3	1:500	



Working shot



Working shot



Working shot



Working shot

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