

A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme

Preliminary Environmental Information Report - Appendix 6.1
Archaeological and Historic Background

HE551508-ARP-EHR-ZZ-RP-LH-000003

27/09/21

Table of contents

	Pages
1 Introduction	i
1.1 Purpose	i
1.2 Methodology	i
2 Archaeological and historical background	ii
2.1 Definition of periods	ii
2.2 Geology and topography	iii
2.3 Prehistoric (700,000 BC to 43 AD)	iii
2.4 Romano-British (43 to 410 AD)	v
2.5 Early medieval (410 to 1066 AD)	vi
2.6 Medieval (1066 to 1540 AD)	vii
2.7 Post-medieval (1540 to 1901 AD)	viii
2.8 Modern (1901 AD to present)	x
2.9 Unknown	xi
2.10 Remote sensing and map regression	xi
2.11 Geophysical survey: preliminary results	xv
3 Archaeological potential	xvii
3.1 Extent of past disturbance	xvii
3.2 Potential by period	xviii
4 Built heritage	xx
4.1 Medieval	xx
4.2 Post-medieval	xx
4.3 Modern	xxii
5 Summary	xxiii
References	xxiv

Table of Tables

Table 2-1 Definition of periods	ii
Table 2-2 Remote sensing and map regression	xi

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 This appendix provides the detailed archaeological and historical background to inform the cultural heritage baseline discussion found in Chapter 6 Cultural heritage. It should be read in conjunction with Appendix 6.2 Historic Landscape Characterisation, Appendix 6.3 Gazetteer of Heritage Resources and Appendix 6.5 Geophysical Survey Report. Designated heritage resources referred to in this appendix are mapped on Figure 6.1 Designated Heritage Resources while non-designated heritage resources are mapped on Figure 6.2 Non-designated Heritage Resources.
- 1.1.2 There are three main sections following this introduction. The first is an archaeological and historical background (section 2). This is followed by an examination of archaeological potential (section 3), based on the evidence laid out in section 2. Section 4 is a discussion of the built heritage of the study area. While individual buildings are examined in more detail in Appendix 6.3 Gazetteer of Heritage Resources, this section aims to provide the overall context for the built heritage in the area, highlighting aspects of particular interest and allowing a consideration of them in relationship to the historic landscape and other designated and non-designated heritage resources.

1.2 Methodology

- 1.2.1 This appendix has been written in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIFA) *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* [1], South West Heritage Trust's *Somerset Archaeological Handbook* [2] and *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB) LA 106 *Cultural heritage assessment* [3]. This appendix is intended to provide a more detailed and holistic appraisal of the historic environment potentially impacted by the proposed scheme, including contextual information which has informed discussion of individual resources' value and more qualitative discussion allowing the interrelationships between built heritage, archaeological remains and historic landscape to be explored.
- 1.2.2 As described in Chapter 6 Cultural heritage, a study area of 1 kilometre (km), buffered from the proposed scheme boundary, has been used for the identification and assessment of all designated heritage resources, with additional resources included if they have a high degree of theoretical intervisibility with the proposed scheme, as shown in the ZTV (see Chapter 7 Landscape), or are potentially impacted by a change in noise levels. A smaller 250 metre study area has been used for the identification and assessment of non-designated heritage resources. Areas within the proposed scheme boundary will be further examined through geophysical survey and trial trenching, the results of which will be added to this assessment when completed (later in 2021). Initial results of the geophysical survey completed to date have been summarised in section 2.11 and the draft report included in Appendix 6.5 Geophysical Survey Report. The finalised report will be included to support the DCO.
- 1.2.3 The following sources have been consulted:
- Historic Environment Record (held by South West Heritage Trust)
 - *Somerset and Exmoor National Park Historic Landscape Characterisation* [4]

- *South West Archaeological Research Framework* [5]
- Aerial imagery (open source) [6]
- Lidar [7]
- Historic maps (Ordnance Survey mapping and 19th century tithe maps)
- Reports from past archaeological investigations
- Published sources, including historical accounts of Somerset, its towns and villages

- 1.2.4 Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of archives and libraries as a result, it has not been possible to access all the potential published and unpublished sources relevant to this assessment. If, and when it becomes possible to obtain these prior to the submission of the DCO, this appendix will be updated to include them.
- 1.2.5 Discussion of all the sources listed above are integrated into the archaeological and historical background. This includes reference to the historical map regression which is referred to in sections 2.7 and 2.8 where it relates to the development of the historic environment and is further detailed in Table 2-2.
- 1.2.6 This appendix contains all the baseline elements of a desk-based assessment (DBA). The other elements required in a DBA, which include an assessment of the significance of potentially impacted heritage resources, assessment of potential impacts and the development of a strategy for mitigation, can be found in Chapter 6 Cultural heritage, and Appendices 6.3 Gazetteer of Heritage Resources and 6.4 Preliminary Impact Assessment.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Definition of periods

- 2.1.1 The periods used in this assessment are broadly based on Historic England's national chronology [8], but have been refined to reflect the variations in the local archaeological resource, as defined in the *South West Archaeological Research Framework* [5].

Table 2-1 Definition of periods

Name	Date range
Palaeolithic	700,000 to 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 to 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 to 2,200 BC
Bronze age	2,600 to 700 BC
Iron age	700 BC to 43AD
Roman/Romano-British	43 to 410 AD
Early-medieval	410 to 1066 AD
Medieval	1066 to 1540 AD
Post-medieval	1540 to 1901 AD
Modern	1901 to the present

2.2 Geology and topography

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology of the proposed scheme and study area is formed of mudstones and interbedded mudstone and limestone lias rocks, overlain by superficial diamicton and gravel head deposits as well as bands of alluvium along the watercourses that thread across the area. Mudstone formations are found at the western end of the proposed scheme, transitioning to the Blue Lias Formation in the vicinity of West Hatch [9]. For a full analysis of the geology within the proposed scheme boundary, see Chapter 9 Geology and Soils.
- 2.2.2 The building stone used across the study area reflects the geology, with both lias and ham stone, the latter quarried from near Yeovil to the south of the study area, frequently used. There is also widespread evidence of extraction across the study area, with the HER including numerous records of former quarry pits. While a detailed analysis to match pit location to underlying geology has not been carried out, it is likely that these reflect the extraction of a range of materials. Lime and marl were likely extracted for use in agriculture, the former clearly indicated by the association of quarry pits and limekilns in the area north of West Hatch (NHLE: 1177092, HER: 39009). Building stone was likely locally extracted for the construction of buildings, and gravel for the construction of the post-medieval turnpike roads and railways. Many of the quarry pits are visible as depressions in the LiDAR data and some have become distinctive small woods, either due to their deliberate use for orchard planting, using the slight shelter offered by the former quarry, or through natural regeneration.
- 2.2.3 The landscape crossed by the proposed scheme is a gently rolling area of hedgerow-enclosed fields between the towns of Taunton and Ilminster. It lies between the high ground of the Quantock and Blackdown Hills, to the north-west and west, and the low-lying Somerset levels to the east. The western end of the proposed scheme is located within the Vale of Taunton, which is relatively low-lying and flat, with little woodland. Moving south the ground becomes more elevated and varying as the underlying geology transitions onto the lias rocks. The proposed scheme runs along the edge of the low-lying levels and the Blackdown Hills with the ground rising along long ridges, one of which spans the study area and is notable for its woodland and the historic estate parklands at Hatch Court and Hatch Park which trace the edge of it. In the south of the proposed scheme the ground levels fall away to the low-lying valley along the River Isle.
- 2.2.4 The historic landscape is dominated by a mixture of anciently enclosed and recently enclosed land, the former containing traces of medieval field systems fossilised into the later fields. The area was an important area for livestock farming, the wool trade bringing wealth and prestige to its towns. It is also known for its cider orchards, although few still survive. Across the study area, many of the hedgerows are potentially 'important' under *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997* [10], as they are shown on the 1840s tithe maps. Further assessment of this will be done as part of the habitat surveys being undertaken prior to the DCO submission. A detailed examination of the historic landscape of the study area can be found in Appendix 6.3.

2.3 Prehistoric (700,000 BC to 43 AD)

- 2.3.1 There is no recorded evidence of early prehistoric (Palaeolithic or Mesolithic) activity in the study area. However, there has been limited archaeological investigation

so the absence of such evidence should not be assumed to reflect a lack of potential. Regionally, evidence from the Palaeolithic is typically limited to the findspots of stone artefacts with more substantial evidence limited to the rarer cave sites found in the limestone areas of Somerset [11]. Analysis of environmental remains taken from cores from the Somerset Levels suggests that the area to the east of the study area was a mixture of wet woodlands, open water, and swamps, while the Blackdown Hills to the west were forested, with some areas of open grassland. In the Mesolithic, there is increasing evidence of human interaction with the landscape, with evidence of small-scale woodland clearance in the forests of the Blackdown Hills, although there is no archaeological evidence of activity within the study area [11].

- 2.3.2 The Neolithic is typically seen as a period where Mesolithic hunter-gatherer lifestyles were replaced by more sedentary farming, associated with the construction of ritual monuments, new tool types and the introduction of ceramics. Some of the earliest evidence for the Mesolithic to Neolithic transition in the UK comes from the Somerset Levels, where trackways have been preserved in waterlogged conditions. The artefacts found in association with the trackways indicate that the people living in the region were connected with much wider social changes and able to access artefacts from as far afield as the Alps [12]. Environmental evidence from the region suggests that there was widespread woodland clearance by the end of the Neolithic/early Bronze Age, with expansions in the quantities of grasses, ruderals and cereal pollen [13]. The earliest archaeological evidence in the study area dates to the Neolithic, with a small quantity of likely Neolithic artefacts found during an evaluation and excavation carried out in advance of the construction of the Park and Ride facility, immediately east of the proposed scheme boundary, south of Junction 25 of the M5 (HER: 28213-4) [14]. Some worked flint and chert was also found during fieldwalking in advance of the construction of the Ashill bypass near the southern part of the proposed scheme (HER: 28816).
- 2.3.3 There is evidence from the Bronze Age within the study area. An archaeological evaluation carried out approximately 270m to the south of the proposed scheme boundary at Hort Bridge found evidence of late Bronze Age activity, including spreads of burnt flint deposits, suggesting that there may have been one or more 'burnt mound' in the vicinity (HER: 28385). Burnt mounds are a typically Bronze Age type of site, comprising spreads of heat-damaged stone associated with troughs or pools. They tend to be located beyond the edges of Bronze Age settlements and close to a source of water. The River Isle runs close to the Hort Bridge site and would have provided water which would have been heated with hot stones. Burnt mounds are typically interpreted as having been used for cooking or as saunas. The probable burnt mounds at Hort Bridge suggests there may have been a settlement in close proximity, perhaps on the higher, drier ground to the south [15]. At the western end of the study area, where the Park and Ride site is located, excavations found another possible Bronze Age burnt mound, this time alongside substantive settlement evidence, including two large late Bronze Age roundhouses (HER: 28213) [14]. It is also possible that reputedly prehistoric pottery and bone found in 1936 near Hatch Beauchamp could also be of Bronze Age date (HER: 43250). While there is limited evidence, regionally, for Bronze Age farming practices, the extensive traces of enclosures and fields which survive on Exmoor could be indicative of now erased patterns which would have spread across the wider area. However, the excavations at the Park and Ride site found no evidence of a contemporary field or enclosure system associated with

the settlement and suggested that the roundhouses may have been located in an open landscape [14]. It is likely, however, that the people were farming cereal crops, perhaps in open fields, as environmental evidence from the Hort Bridge site included charred grains of Emmer wheat, which is typical of the Neolithic or Bronze Age [15].

- 2.3.4 Regionally, there is relatively limited evidence of Iron Age settlement beyond the elite hillfort sites the period is famous for. The largest hillfort in the region is Ham Hill, where the defences enclose an area of 88 hectares [16]. The closest such site to the proposed scheme is Norton Camp, which is located 3.6 miles (5.8km) to the north-west. The site displays evidence from the Neolithic to the Roman era and is thought to have been a 'central place' in the region, perhaps becoming important in the Iron Age as a defensive site on the border between the lands of the Dumnonii in Devon and Cornwall and the Durotriges who held the land in the Dorset area [17]. Another possibly fortified site is Castle Neroche, the site of a medieval motte and bailey castle approximately 4km west of the proposed scheme, on the edge of the Blackdown Hills. Excavations in the 1960s revealed a potential early defensive ditch which was tentatively identified as being part of an Iron Age or early medieval (pre-1066) fortification (NHLE: 1008252).
- 2.3.5 The proposed scheme is likely to have crossed an area used for farming and smaller-scale settlement. Evidence of such settlement was found during the excavations carried out in advance of the construction of the Taunton Park and Ride, including two large roundhouses alongside a number of ditches, some containing Iron Age pottery and there were the bones of domesticated animals (HER: 28213-4) [14]. Evaluation at the neighbouring Nexus site, which is within the proposed scheme boundary, found more limited Iron Age evidence, including two ditches with Iron Age pottery, suggesting that the site was peripheral to the settlement recorded at the Park and Ride site (HER: 41233). A potentially later prehistoric circular enclosure was also identified from aerial imagery, located to the west of the Nexus (215m from the proposed scheme boundary), east of Haydon (HER: 38691). To the north-east of the proposed scheme boundary, during the development of the retail park at Hankridge, evidence of a field system was discovered, with a single sherd of late Iron Age or Roman pottery recovered (HER: 44651).

2.4 Romano-British (43 to 410 AD)

- 2.4.1 The start of the Roman period in Britain is traditionally dated to the invasion of AD 43, although in the south of the country there is evidence of trade and cultural exchange in the decades preceding this. While not located in the heartlands of Roman Britain, there is considerable evidence for Roman settlement and farming in the region. There were Roman towns at Ilchester and Exeter, and smaller settlements at Axminster and Honiton [18]. The Roman road, the Fosse Way, connected the south-west to London and the north and is partially followed by the A303 today. The modern road diverges from the historic route near Petherton to the east of the study area meaning that it would have been several km from the proposed scheme boundary [19]. Environmental evidence indicates that the landscape in this part of Somerset was used for mixed farming, with evidence for the cultivation for hulled barley and spelt wheat [20]. Archaeological investigations in the western part of the study area show have found evidence for a small Romano-British settlement (HER: 28221), perhaps a continuation of the Iron Age settlement discussed in section 2.3. Evidence of the Roman settlement here was identified during early GI works on the site, approximately 20m east of the

proposed scheme boundary, where a ditch containing Roman pottery and a small amount of animal bone was found (HER: 14359). Subsequent evaluation and excavation on the site led to the discovery of a Romano-British field system (HER: 28213-4). Although structures were not found, large quantities of Romano-British finds, including ceramic building material and slate suggest that there was a building or buildings in close proximity. The excavation report suggests that this was likely a small, low-status agricultural settlement located perhaps immediately south-west or west of the Park and Ride site [14]. However, subsequent geophysical survey and evaluation carried out at the neighbouring Nexus site, part of which is within the proposed scheme boundary, and which lies to the west and south-west of the Park and Ride site, found evidence of enclosures and ditches, likely to be of Roman date, but still apparently peripheral to the settlement (HER: 41233, 36108, 37657). In addition to the settlement evidence, a Romano-British cemetery, with 30 inhumation burials and three possible cremations, was found. The cemetery dates from the 2nd-4th centuries AD. The evidence from the Park and Ride site indicates that there was Roman occupation throughout most of the Roman period, with coins found which date until the very end of the 4th century and it's possible that settlement continued into the early 5th century [14]. There is also a record of 'RB' (Romano-British) pottery found south of Bathpool, approximately 235m north of the proposed scheme boundary (HER: 44226)

2.5 Early medieval (410 to 1066 AD)

- 2.5.1 There is only one, tentatively identified, early medieval site within the study area. This is a large, post-built aisled rectangular structure dated with a single sherd of early medieval pottery at the Park and Ride site (HER: 28214) [14]. Environmental evidence from the region indicates that southern Somerset was a mostly open pastoral landscape, but with increasing evidence for arable farming towards the end of the period [21]. The Blackdown Hills to the west are thought to have been wooded and placenames within the study area, specifically Ashill which derives from 'æsc' and 'lēah', or 'ash forest/glade' suggest that at least part of the study area was wooded in this period [22]. Despite this, it is quite possible that the area was inhabited and farmed throughout this period, particularly in the lower-lying valley areas to the north and south of the study area. It is known that there was a monastery and possibly small urban settlement at Taunton from the 8th or 9th century [23]. In AD 904 a charter of King Edward made a grant to clergy in Taunton and it is from this document that we see an early connection between the area and Bishops of Winchester, who became major landowners in the area throughout the medieval period [24]. Similarly, there is documentary evidence that there was an early medieval minster and settlement at Iminster, the name meaning 'Minster on the River Isle' [25]. The unusual dedication of St Aldhelm and Eadburgha may also suggest an early establishment. Further, an early ditch excavated at Castle Neroche, approximately 4km from the proposed scheme, may be early medieval in date (NHLE: 1008252).
- 2.5.2 Early medieval evidence can be difficult to identify, particularly where there are no artefacts. There are a number of sites in the wider south-west region where scientific dating has shown that features which would have been interpreted as late Roman have early medieval dates [23]. Further afield, recently published excavations from central Scotland showed quite extensive reworking and reuse of prehistoric ritual features, opening up new avenues for identifying early medieval activity [26].

2.6 Medieval (1066 to 1540 AD)

- 2.6.1 A large number of features, buildings, and historic landscape features within the study area date to the medieval period. As described in Appendix 6.2, there are substantial areas of surviving traces of ancient enclosures across the study area. Much of this is formed of often small fields with sinuous boundaries, which reflect patterns of pre-enclosure agriculture. This would have included the cultivation of open fields, where long ridges or 'rigs' were created by ploughing and farmed by individual families or groups amidst larger areas farmed by the community. While the characteristic earthworks which sometimes survive from this practice, called ridge and furrow, have not been identified surviving above ground within the study area, archaeological investigations in the western part of the study area recorded evidence of the furrows, indicating that this kind of farming was in use (HER:36108, 44651). Where medieval open fields were enclosed relatively early in the post-medieval period, or late medieval, the lines of the hedgerow boundaries still in use today have fossilised the pattern of medieval farming, although this has been lost in places through later agricultural improvement. Even where the former boundaries have been lost, there may still be traces visible. Aerial photograph and LiDAR analysis carried out as part of the Blackdown Hill National Mapping Programme project has led to the identification of numerous former field boundaries of likely medieval date, surviving as low banks and slight ditches within later field systems (HER: 28815, 38461, 38459, 38388, 38355, 38371, 38372, 38454, 38471, 38493, 38503, 38505, 38506, 38507, 38607, 38693, 38750, 38749, 39032, 39031, 39029, 38699, 38751, 39004, 39025, 38362, 38695, 38697, 44648). It should be noted that the Blackdown Hills National Mapping Programme has only published the first phase interpretative report for the project. The study area lies within the phase 2 area, which is unpublished, so this data is based on the polygons provided by Somerset HER.
- 2.6.2 Alongside the open fields there would have been areas of common or 'waste' where communities would have grazed livestock. Capland Common, in the central part of the study area, remained unenclosed until the 19th century and is depicted on the tithe map for the area (c1840). The other major land use in the medieval period is likely to have been woodland. The southern and central part of the study area, north of Horton Cross and Broadway, may have been within the Neroche Forest, a royal hunting forest which extended across parts of Broadway, Bickenhall, Ashill, Ilminster, Donyatt, Isle-Abbots and Hatch Beauchamp parishes [27]. The HER includes the locations of two medieval deer parks, one at Donyatt immediately south-west of the proposed scheme boundary (HER: 53331) and the other partially within the proposed scheme boundary east of Ashill (HER: 53514). While it may be coincidental, and resulting from more intensive post-medieval agriculture, there are very few surviving traces of medieval field boundaries or medieval fields in the central part of the study area, broadly corresponding with the area which was likely within the royal hunting forest. Please note that it has not been possible to view individual tithe maps for the preparation of the PEI Report, due to the Covid-19 related closure of local archives. The Somerset tithe maps have been reviewed via the website Know Your Place [28] but original copies will be consulted, if possible, prior to the completion of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and publication of the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 2.6.3 There is both documentary and archaeological evidence of medieval settlement, alongside the unusually large number of surviving medieval buildings which are discussed in section 4. In much of this part of Somerset, medieval settlement was

typically nucleated, with small villages built around a church, with open fields, woodland, and meadow beyond [29]. The Domesday Survey of 1086 created a record of the settlements present at the time of, or just after, the Norman Conquest. This shows that, at the start of the medieval period, Taunton was the largest settlement in the area, with 479 households [30]. The town had developed from the early medieval settlement around the minster and was a defended 'burh' at this time [29]. Ilminster was also a sizeable settlement, with 57 households [30]. Ashill, Bickenhall, Hatch Beauchamp, and Donyatt were the next largest settlements, with between 18 and 21 households, all with agricultural land, meadow and woodland. The remainder of the settlements within the study area named within Domesday Book, Thornfalcon, Capland, Rapps and Broadway, were smaller, with between one and 12 households. Some of the smaller settlements are only represented today by a single farmstead and indeed, at Capland it has been suggested that the village has shrunk, although there is no evidence for where a larger settlement would have been located (HER: 44497). It has also been suggested that the village of Broadway may have shifted west as the current village is set apart from its church, St Aldberg and Eadburgha (NHLE: 1248192), meaning that there is the possibility of archaeological evidence of a deserted medieval village around the church (HER: 53374). There was also a possible medieval chapel located south of Horton Cross, which could have archaeological evidence associated with it (HER: 53355).

- 2.6.4 Located approximately 4km west of the proposed scheme boundary, the motte and bailey castle at Castle Neroche would also have been an important site during the medieval period. It was constructed as a ringwork fortification, probably in the early years following the Norman Conquest, and was first developed into a motte castle and then a stone keep with curtain wall in later centuries (NHLE: 1008252).
- 2.6.5 There have been relatively few archaeological traces of medieval activity found within the study area, although there has been very limited archaeological investigation and none within any of the villages, where settlement remains might be anticipated. Prior to the construction of the Ashill bypass in the southern part of the proposed scheme boundary there was a programme of field walking. Medieval pottery was found during this process (HER: 28816, 55460, 55323), as well as several probable medieval earthworks, tentatively interpreted as evidence of a deserted medieval settlement preserved by the parkland at Jordans (HER: 55322). An evaluation carried out to the north of Ashill, beyond the village core, found a single sherd of late medieval pottery associated with a ditch (HER: 37701). A scatter of medieval pottery found during an evaluation during prior to the construction of Blackbrook Business Park 170m west of the proposed scheme boundary at its western end (HER: 28903). This, similarly, to other medieval pottery found within the study area, may have been spread with household waste as a fertiliser, a process known as manuring.

2.7 Post-medieval (1540 to 1901 AD)

- 2.7.1 During the post-medieval period, the landscape within the study area developed into much of what it is today. The open field system of agriculture was replaced, gradually, by hedgerow-bound enclosed fields reflecting different structures of landownership and changes in agricultural practice. While there was piecemeal enclosure of medieval fields from the end of the medieval period, it was not until the 18th and 19th centuries that the study area became completely enclosed [31]. Post-medieval field boundaries form a key part of the historic landscape,

discussed in more detail in Appendix 6.2, and the HER includes numerous records of former field boundaries of this date, which although removed can still be traced as slight earthworks and ditches on LiDAR imagery (HER: 13957, 38361-2, 38371, 38458-61, 38471, 38479, 38493, 38499, 38503-7, 38575, 38598-9, 38686-8, 38670, 38372, 38692, 38695-7, 38698-9, 38748-9, 38753, 38693, 39003, 39005, 39026, 39028-32). Historic maps show that, by the mid-19th century almost all of the farmland within the study area was enclosed, with the exception of Capland Common. The common is shown on the 1840 tithe map but had been enclosed by the 1st edition six inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1886. As well as pasture and arable farmland, a major landuse shown on historic mapping is orchard planting. The area is famous for its cider production and 19th century mapping, both the tithe maps and later Ordnance Survey maps, show orchards associated with almost every farm and surrounding the villages. There has been considerable decline in the number of orchards since the end of the 19th century. However, the distinctive ridges created for orchard tree planting is found across the study area, recorded from LiDAR imagery (HER: 38357, 38373, 38398, 38451-2, 38456-7, 38462-3, 38473, 38476, 38478, 38502, 38689, 38743). Much of the post-medieval built heritage, discussed in section 4.2, consists of farmhouses and other agricultural buildings associated with these fields and orchards.

- 2.7.2 Alongside the houses and farms, there are also estate parklands, associated with high-status houses and featuring landscape gardens. In the western part of the study area, Henlade House, now the Mount Somerset Hotel and Spa (NHLE: 1060397), is associated with a small park. The house dates to the early 19th century but is thought to replace an earlier mansion house (HER: 43529). It is surrounded by a small park (HER: 43530), shown on the c1840 tithe map as an oval area around the house. Within the parkland there is earthwork evidence of possible fishponds (HER: 43531) and pillow mounds, an earthwork feature associated with farming rabbits, as well as for traces of earlier settlement (HER: 38749). By the late 19th century, the park had been expanded across the three fields to the north, west and south of the house, with a curved drive approaching from the north-west. New estate buildings were constructed in the 1870s, likely associated with this expansion (NHLE: 1307621, 1344559). In the central part of the study area, north and north-east of Hatch Beauchamp, are two parks – Hatch Park (HER: 13929) and Hatch (Beauchamp) Park, the latter being a Grade II registered park and garden. Both likely date to the 18th century. The principal building of Hatch Park (HER: 39034), the western of the two parks, no longer survives, but its stables were built in the late 18th century, suggesting the parkland is at least of that date (NHLE: 1307932). Hatch (Beauchamp) Park was designed in the mid-18th century and includes 30ha of gardens and pleasure grounds and c30ha of parkland. In the south of the study area there was also a large formal park at Jordans (HER: 38976). As with Hatch Park, the principal building of the park (HER: 15666) was demolished in the 20th century, but the park itself is still clearly identifiable due to its ornamental lake, formal planting and buildings dressed in a cottage ornée style (see section 4.2). Within the park there are a number of earthwork features, including several mounds which may have had an ornamental purpose, although they may also have been associated with a mill (HER: 38388-90), as well as tree enclosure rings (HER: 38385-7) and remains of a terrace next to the former house (HER: 38384). There may also have been another high-status building and park in the vicinity of Capland, where the name ‘Folly Farm’ suggests the possible former location of an ornamental building

(HER: 53512). As there is no sign, beyond the place name, of a folly on the c1840 tithe map, the origins are likely to be earlier post-medieval.

- 2.7.3 One of the key features of the post-medieval historic environment is infrastructure. In the 18th and 19th century canals, turnpike (toll) roads and railways transformed the landscape. By the time the tithe maps of the study area were drawn up in the 1840s, multiple turnpike roads had been constructed (HER: 26221, 26225, 24659-60, 24648, 24644, 25434) as well as the Taunton to Chard railway line (HER: 55451) and the Bridgewater and Taunton canal, which itself replaced the earlier River Tone Navigation (HER: 22905). These infrastructure corridors were a dramatic change in the landscape, cutting across the field systems and requiring considerable material to build. It is likely that at least some of the numerous extractive pits recorded from LiDAR imagery across the study area, were opened to obtain gravel and other materials for construction, while others would have been used to extract lime for agriculture (HER: 38397, 38453, 38458, 38474-5, 38477, 38496-9, 38500-1, 38561-2, 38600, 38610, 38719, 38722, 38731, 38733-5, 39007, 39009, 39035-6). Other features associated with the infrastructure are the numerous milestones (HER: 19920-1, 19977, 19872, 19936, 19659, 29068), bridges (HER: 39241, 29986; NHLE: 1057081, 1057099, 1060459, 1177245, 1177277, 1342043, 1345848) and tollhouses (NHLE: 1298249, 345842 and HER: 45123).
- 2.7.4 There are also a range of other post-medieval features within the study area, including earthwork and cropmark traces of ponds (HER: 13930, 43087) and trackways (HER: 38388), post-medieval pottery and agricultural evidence found through archaeological investigation (HER: 55460-1, 28215-6, 37701, 36108, 44648, 44607) and cartographic evidence for mills (HER: 53457, 43689), a culvert (HER: 29704), a tanyard (HER: 43360), and wells (HER: 53511, 30242).

2.8 Modern (1901 AD to present)

- 2.8.1 The study area has remained largely the same through the modern period to date, with change being restricted to the expansion of Taunton and smaller scale addition to the villages, the loss of some historic field boundaries to the amalgamation of fields, the reduction in the number of orchards, and the expansion of the A358 road in the 1980s and 1990s. There are some modern heritage resources of note, however. This includes two relatively early reinforced concrete bridges, built in the early 20th century (HER: 14367 and 014360). The remainder of modern heritage resources identified relate to the extensive defences and military establishments which were constructed during the Second World War. The Taunton Stop Line was constructed through the area and included pillboxes (HER: 18147), anti-tank defences (HER: 42125, 38360), road blocks (HER: 42271) and potentially other structures identified close to it (HER: 38359). One grouping of structures including five pillboxes, a rail block and anti-tank tetrahedra near Ruishton is included on the National Heritage List as a Grade II listed building (NHLE: 1430527). There was also a searchlight site at Bickenhall (HER: 38608) and a heavy anti-aircraft battery near Haydon (HER: 44598). Within Hatch Park a military camp was established (HER: 39033, 13928). Aerial photographs from the late 1940s show the remains of the camp, which included tented accommodation and Nissen huts, possibly used as a transit camp for US forces prior to the D-Day landings. While little trace of these modern features survives above ground, it is possible that there are archaeological remains.

2.9 Unknown

2.9.1 In addition to the features described above, there are a number of potential archaeological features of unknown date within the study area. This includes a, now levelled, mound north of Blackbrook Bridge in the north of the study area (HER: 38690), another mound near Bickenhall (HER: 38609), a possible ditch and trackway (HER: 38725) and an enclosure at Blackbrook Inn, now removed by construction of the business park (HER: 43077). Other features, such as the Hazel Well (HER: 53354) and 'gravelands' place name (HER: 45149) have been identified from historic mapping but are of uncertain date and/or nature.

2.10 Remote sensing and map regression

2.10.1 Lidar data [7]¹, open source aerial imagery [6] and historic mapping has been examined across the area within the proposed scheme boundary. The results are detailed in Table 2-2².

Table 2-2 Remote sensing and map regression

Chainage	Sources	Summary
0-2,500	Ordnance Survey surveyor drawings (3":mile): Taunton, 1802	This section of the route is shown as an area of enclosed fields crossed by a roadway (the Hartrow to Ashill turnpike – HER: 26221). The Black Brook is depicted running north of Haydon (labelled Henlade Haydon) which has several buildings and extensive orchards. Only the southern part of Henlade is shown (with no buildings along the turnpike road which is now the A358), and also has orchards to its north-west and east.
	Tithe Maps of West Monkton, Ruishton and Taunton St Mary Magdalene parishes c1840	The proposed scheme boundary runs along the boundary between the Ruishton and St Mary Magdalene parishes, with the Black Brook forming the boundary at this point. The tithe maps show the area as enclosed fields, with the turnpike road clearly shown. On the south-side of the parish boundary, in the area now being developed as part of the Nexus site, there is an orchard shown. Many of the fields shown are long and narrow and possibly represent fossilised medieval strip fields and linear fields along the Black Brook may be water-meadows. The village of Henlade is shown entirely surrounded by orchards. Musgrave Farmhouse (NHLE: 1177045) is shown on the western side of the Stoke Road/Greenway Lane junction, with a group of five farm buildings to the north of it, and a pond.
	Historic aerial imagery (1/1/2001)	The construction of the M5 motorway, which has a roundabout junction at the western end of the proposed scheme boundary (Junction 25) , was a major change to the landscape in the latter part of the 20 th century. Large retail and business parks have been built on the northern (Taunton) side of the junction. To the south, there is less evidence of change. A white-roofed industrial or farm complex is located just south of the roundabout and the orchard, formerly shown in the field to the south of it, has

¹ The study area has had considerable examination through the Blackdown Hills AONB NMP project. No additional features were identified within the proposed scheme boundary.

² Note – After the tithe maps only changes are detailed.

Chainage	Sources	Summary
		been removed and the field shown as under the plough. Beyond this, the only other change is some minor boundary loss in the fields between the M5 and Henlade.
	Historic aerial imagery (4/6/2015)	In the fields north-west of Henlade a small square cropmark is visible. This is not seen on any other aerial imagery and it possibly the result of a modern mobile agricultural structure, such as a feeder.
	Historic aerial imagery (6/21/2017)	West of Stoke Road there is a cropmark of a paleochannel visible running south of the Black Brook. This is likely a former course of the watercourse and may have paleoenvironmental interest.
	Historic aerial imagery (6/2009)	This image shows the Taunton Park & Ride under construction.
	Historic aerial imagery (3/24/2020)	The Nexus development is shown under construction in the western part of the proposed scheme boundary. Substantial ground works through the three former fields in the area south of the M5 junction. On the same image, probable former field boundaries north-west of Henlade can be seen as parch marks (HER: 38698)
2,500-5,000	Ordnance Survey surveyor drawings (3":mile): Taunton, 1802	A small number of buildings are shown on the eastern side of the turnpike road where it joins the road from Thornfalcon (Thorn Lane). The area within the proposed scheme boundary is shown as enclosed fields away from the road with a stippled area where Henlade House is located, possibly representing an area of parkland although this is not labelled. There is a small block of woodland on the western side of the turnpike road north of Greenway Lane (still extant). An orchard and houses are shown where Ashe Farm is located, and Huishe Copse is also shown.
	Tithe Maps of Ruishton and Thornfalcon parishes, c1840	An area of orchards is shown to the east and south-east of Henlade, with Henlade Park shown to the west. This has parkland planting along the drive to the house, with open fields in front of the main building. North of the park, within the proposed scheme boundary, is a long, sinuous pond, included in the HER as possible fishponds (HER: 43531). A small group of buildings is shown on the eastern side of the turnpike road where it has a junction with Thorn Lane. From this point south, the modern course of the A358 follows the line of the turnpike shown on the tithe map. Woodland (still extant) is shown north of the junction with Greenway Lane. A small settlement is shown at Ash Cross with houses on all sides of the junction. South of the crossroads, a narrow band of woodland is shown along the western side of the road. At Mattock's Tree Green there are buildings shown to both the north and south of the junction with the road that is now the A378. The houses each have small orchards. Opposite the junction, on the western side of the road, a small pond is shown, likely the remains of a small quarry. Houses and orchards shown at Ashe Farm.
	Ordnance Survey County Series 25":mile map c1888	The Taunton & Chard Branch of the Great Western Railway is shown cutting across the landscape (and the area within the proposed scheme boundary) crossing the proposed scheme boundary east of Henlade and at Ash Farm and the area to the south (where it is now followed,

Chainage	Sources	Summary
		in part, by the modern course of the A358). This was a major change to the landscape, with sections in cutting and requiring new bridges to carry existing lanes across the railway. Additional changes since the tithe map include the loss of the pond at Musgrave Farmhouse and considerably more development at Henlade House (south of the proposed scheme boundary), where tennis courts, stables and lodges had been built.
	Ordnance Survey County Series 25":mile map c1904	Ruishton House is shown for the first time to the north of the proposed scheme boundary.
	Historic aerial imagery (1/1/2001)	Other than some widening along the A358 road, this section of the route is relatively unchanged since the earlier mapping. The biggest difference since the early 20 th century Ordnance Survey mapping was the closure of the Taunton to Chard railway line, although the earthworks remain.
	Historic aerial imagery (6/27/2018)	East of Stoke Road a continuation of the paleochannel visible to the west can be seen on this image. It has been added to the gazetteer in Appendix 6.3 (CH_001).
5,000-7,500	Ordnance Survey surveyor drawings (3":mile): Taunton, 1802	The proposed scheme crosses an area to the west of the line of the former turnpike road and is shown as enclosed fields. Hatch Park is clearly depicted, with dense woodland crossing the proposed scheme boundary (no longer extending so far west). The woodland follows the brow of the ridge.
	Tithe Maps of West Hatch, Hatch Beauchamp and Bickenhall parishes, c1840	Opposite the modern location of the Somerset Progressive School, the former turnpike road is shown bending to the east while the modern A358 follows a new course southwards. To the east of the modern A358, but formerly to the south-west of the turnpike is Bath Cottage – an extant unlisted building, discussed in more detail in section 4.2. The proposed scheme boundary crosses an area of enclosed fields, including some very narrow linear fields which may be fossilised strip fields, some shown with orchard planting on the tithe map. Hurford's Plantation is shown (although not labelled) as an area of conifer woodland. The proposed scheme boundary then crosses the western edge of Hatch Park. This is shown as an extensive area of parkland with woodland along its northern boundary.
	Ordnance Survey County Series 25":mile map c1888	The Taunton & Chard Branch of the Great Western Railway is shown cutting across the landscape (and the area within the proposed scheme boundary) from just south of West Hatch Lane to Ash Farm (to north of this section), from where it continues north to the west of the proposed scheme boundary.
	Historic aerial imagery (1/1/2001)	The modern road layout of the A358 reflects changes in the 1980s and 1990s. The current road layout deviates from the turnpike layout south of Bath House Farm, partially following the now disused course of the Taunton to Chard railway before running southwards across former fields east of West Hatch.
7,500-10,000	Ordnance Survey surveyor drawings (3":mile): Taunton, 1802	This is an unwooded area, although Ashill Forest is labelled. The map shows enclosed fields alongside the turnpike road, which the modern A358 rejoins in this

Chainage	Sources	Summary
		section, as well as Bickenhall Lane. A structure to the west of the proposed scheme boundary is labelled 'Folly' (now Folly Farm).
	Tithe maps of Bickenhall, Hatch Beauchamp, Broadway and Isle Abbots parishes, c1840	The modern course of the A358 crosses an area of farmland depicted on the tithe map as far south as Capland Lane, where it re-joins the historic course of the Hartrow to Ashill turnpike. Saltfield Copse is shown on the tithe map. Farm buildings are shown north of Capland Lane (still extant) and in amongst the fields to the west (likely removed by the construction of the modern A358). To the west and south of Capland Lane is a large area of unenclosed land labelled 'Capland Common'. South of the common, in the northern part of the Isle Abbots parish, the extremely regular nature of the enclosed fields suggest a relatively late date of enclosure. Folly Farm is shown amidst these fields.
	Ordnance Survey County Series 25":mile map c1888	North of Capland there are additional areas of orchard planting shown, although the field boundaries have remained the same. Capland Common is shown as enclosed and Ivy Farm is shown for the first time.
	Historic aerial imagery (1/1/2001)	Between these chainages the modern road layout was altered in the 1980s and 1990s. The current road was built offline to bypass Hatch Beauchamp, cutting across fields and the edge of Hatch Park to rejoin the historic road course from Capland.
10,000-12,500	Ordnance Survey surveyor drawings (3":mile): Taunton, 1802	Most of the area is shown as enclosed fields. The turnpike runs in a straight line to Ashill (the modern A358 now bypassing to the east). To the south of Ashill the more curved course of the Ashill to Chard turnpike is shown (HER: 24648). Immediately east of the proposed scheme boundary are Ashill Wood and Every's Copse, which are still extant today. The settlement of Raps Heathfield, now mostly truncated by the current course of the A358, is shown as a small linear settlement along the east west road (now only western part survives as Thickthorn Lane).
	Tithe Maps of Isle Abbots and Ashill parishes, c1840	South of Capland Lane the current course of the A358 again diverts from the turnpike course shown on the tithe map, which runs in a straight line into Ashill. Where Stewley Lodge is located there were two small areas of woodland around the junction with Capland Lane with another block of woodland north of Kenny Bridge. Ashill is shown surrounded by orchards. South of the village there are a number of probably former quarry pits in the fields. Thickthorn House (NHLE: 1057073) is shown as a relatively extensive group of buildings, surrounded by orchards, including an area to the east which remains as woodland today.
	Ordnance Survey County Series 25":mile map c1888	Stewley Lodge is shown along with another building to the north, with trees around the boundaries of the two properties. A milestone is shown on the turnpike road just south of Stewley Lodge, labelled as 'Taunton 8, Ilminster 4'.
	Historic aerial imagery (1/1/2001)	The modern road layout of the A358 reflects changes in the 1980s and 1990s. The current road layout deviates

Chainage	Sources	Summary
		from the turnpike layout, with the modern road running through former fields south of Stewley.
12,500-14,634	Ordnance Survey surveyor drawings (3":mile): Taunton, 1802	Jordans Park is clearly shown as a roughly square park with a large house at its centre. There is woodland planting around the north, eastern and southern boundaries of the park, with the western boundary formed by the turnpike road. South of Jordans the current road runs to the east of the turnpike, crossing north of the village of Horton, which is shown with orchards to its north. Rose Mills is shown as 'factory' to the south of the proposed scheme boundary.
	Tithe Maps of Broadway, Ashill and Ilminster parishes, c1840	The proposed scheme boundary crosses an area of enclosed fields shown on the tithe map, with a number of small ponds suggesting former quarries. The modern A358 runs to the west of the turnpike road at this point, crossing over to the east of the turnpike's course south of Jordans. Jordans is shown as a large estate parkland with house, terrace, woodland planting and ponds. South of Jordans there are enclosed fields north of the village of Horton.
	Ordnance Survey County Series 25":mile map c1888	The entrance into Jordans Park is shown as a track west of the principal building, with lots of trees shown on the 25" map, labelled as Hawthorn. Shrubbery Farm was reached by a separate trackway from the north of the park and would have been screened from the parkland by trees. A milestone 'Taunton 10, Ilminster 2' is labelled, south of Jordans. At the south of the proposed scheme, the proposed scheme boundary crosses an area shown as orchards east of Horton village.
	Historic aerial imagery (1/1/2001)	The modern road layout of the A358 reflects changes in the 1980s and 1990s when a new roundabout junction was built at Horton Cross, with services to the north-west of the junction.

2.11 Geophysical survey: preliminary results

- 2.11.1 To support the assessment of archaeological potential, magnetometry survey will be carried out over all suitable areas within the proposed scheme boundary. This excludes existing roads, woodland, watercourses and residential properties. Although this survey is ongoing and will be reported on in full for the DCO submission, the preliminary results have been used to inform the Cultural Heritage assessment.
- 2.11.2 To date, 154ha of the 236ha of surveyable land within the proposed scheme boundary has been successfully surveyed with a fluxgate gradiometer. While anomalies relating to agricultural practices can be found across the area, anomalies interpreted as of possible archaeological origin, including enclosures and linear anomalies, have been found in three distinct groups. These are all possible enclosures and include a curvilinear anomaly, located west of Mattocks Tree Hill at CH 4500, a sub-rectangular anomaly east of Ashill at CH 11500 and a group of linear anomalies, thought to be subdivisions, south of Capland Lane at CH 9200.
- 2.11.3 It is planned to complete the remaining areas outstanding and then undertake a trial trenching evaluation across the suitable areas within the proposed scheme

boundary, avoiding areas of current road and ecological constraints such as areas along hedgerows and within watercourses. The trial trenching evaluation will both test the interpretation of anomalies identified within the geophysical survey and, additionally, take a random sample of 'blank' areas from the survey to ensure that the potential for remains not identified within the survey can be assessed.

2.11.4 The draft report can be found in Appendix 6.5 Geophysical Survey Report.

3 Archaeological potential

3.1 Extent of past disturbance

- 3.1.1 In addition to known heritage resources, there is the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains to be found within the proposed scheme boundary. Geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching will be carried out prior to the submission of the DCO to provide further evidence on archaeological potential, but there are also desk-based sources which can be considered at this stage. The first of these is the level of past ground disturbance, which is discussed over the various types of land use within the proposed scheme boundary.
- 3.1.2 The majority of land within the proposed scheme boundary is agricultural. While modern and earlier ploughing and planting will likely have had an impact on the survival of near-surface archaeological remains, there would be little to prevent good archaeological survival across these areas, if present. However, the geophysical survey indicates that most potential archaeology identified to date is evidence of the agricultural practices themselves, tentatively indicating that the area may have been mostly farmland since prehistory. There is evidence of three possible enclosures, which may be associated with settlement, and a greater number of anomalies thought to be geological which will be further assessed through trial trenching.
- 3.1.3 Within the corridor of the existing roads, archaeological remains are less likely. This is particularly the case in the more modern sections of the A358. However, the 18th and 19th century turnpike network has some archaeological and historic interest, and the modern roads largely follow the course of these post-medieval roads. It is possible that remains of the turnpikes survive beneath the more recent surface layers, particularly along the narrow, rural roads which connect to the A358.
- 3.1.4 The proposed scheme boundary is crossed twice by the line of the disused Taunton to Chard Railway line. The former cutting has been filled in, in places, with unknown waste (see Chapter 9 Geology and Soils). It is unlikely that any archaeological remains predating the railway's construction in the mid-19th century will survive. However, as with the turnpikes, the railway itself is of some archaeological and historical interest, and remains of its construction are likely to survive. There is also surviving built heritage associated with the railway (see 4.2.5).
- 3.1.5 The only developed area within the proposed scheme boundary is the Nexus site at the western end of the proposed scheme. The site has been partially built out, with the road connection already constructed. Within the areas where there has already been ground works and construction there will be no archaeological remains. Examination of aerial imagery (Table 2-2) shows that the three former fields south of the M5 junction have all had considerable ground disturbance but, depending on the status of the development by the time of the construction of the proposed scheme, there may be archaeological remains surviving to the south of this. There has been extensive archaeological evaluation within the site, so its potential is well understood. Further work and liaison will be carried out prior to the submission of the DCO to establish whether any further mitigation may be required in this area.

3.2 Potential by period

- 3.2.1 The other indicator of archaeological potential relates to what is currently known in the baseline for the area within the proposed scheme boundary and surrounding area (i.e. the study area). While the absence of known archaeological remains does not necessarily indicate that there is limited potential, as the known evidence is based on the extent of previous investigation, it can provide a sense of the kind of features which might be expected. All assessment of potential described here is based on desk-based sources only and will be revised following the completion of the geophysical survey and trial trenching.
- 3.2.2 There are no Areas of High Archaeological Potential within the proposed scheme boundary, although there are two within the study area, one at the Church of St Aldhelm and Eadbugha and one in the village of Ashill.
- 3.2.3 There is potential for paleoenvironmental remains within waterlogged or organic deposits within the proposed scheme boundary. Further work will be required to establish the level of potential but a possible area for survival would be within the identified paleochannel north-west of Henlade (Table 2-2).
- 3.2.4 There is a **medium to high potential for prehistoric archaeological remains** within the proposed scheme boundary. Where archaeological investigations have taken place within the study area, prehistoric features of Neolithic and later date have typically been found. Near watercourses it is possible that further Bronze Age burnt mounds may be found while settlement and agricultural remains are possible across the area within the proposed scheme boundary. The geophysical survey undertaken to date does not indicate high densities of archaeological remains within the proposed scheme boundary, but what evidence there is, which includes three potential enclosures, could be of prehistoric date. Further geophysical survey and trial trenching will be undertaken prior to the preparation of the ES and submission of the DCO to confirm or refine this interpretation.
- 3.2.5 Similarly, there is a **medium to high potential for Roman or Romano-British remains** within the proposed scheme boundary, particularly at the western end where investigations at the Park and Ridge and Nexus site have indicated the nearby presence of Roman settlement and the proximity of a building or buildings. As with prehistoric remains, the potential enclosures identified from geophysical survey could be of Roman date. Further geophysical survey and trial trenching will be undertaken prior to the DCO to confirm or refine this interpretation.
- 3.2.6 There is a **low potential for early medieval remains**. While a single sherd of early medieval pottery found at the Park and Ride site suggests a tentative date for a post-built structure there, early medieval remains are rare and would be more likely to be present within the villages in the study area, several of which are likely to have been established by the end of this period.
- 3.2.7 There is a **high potential for remains of medieval agricultural features**, such as field boundaries, but a **low potential for other features such as settlement evidence**. While there is some indication of shifting and shrinking villages, the area within the proposed scheme boundary is likely to have been beyond the centres of settlement and used for agriculture or woodland throughout this period.
- 3.2.8 There is a **high potential for post-medieval remains of agricultural features**, such as field boundaries, **and infrastructure**, including features associated with the turnpike roads and Taunton to Chard railway. There is a **low potential for**

other remains of post-medieval date, such as settlement evidence, as the area within the proposed scheme boundary would have been predominantly agricultural throughout this period.

- 3.2.9 There is a **low potential for modern features of archaeological or historic interest**, although made ground may be present in places. There is good evidence for the location of modern heritage resources, including features associated with the defence of Britain during the Second World War, making it unlikely that previously unrecorded features of interest will be present within the proposed scheme boundary.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Medieval

- 4.1.1 Of the 196 listed buildings within the study area, 32 date to the medieval period; there are a further two non-designated buildings which are also of medieval date.
- 4.1.2 There are seven medieval churches and three medieval churchyard crosses within the study area. All except the Church of St Aldhelm and Eadburgha (NHLE: 1248192), which stands some distance from the neighbouring village of Broadway, form central points in the villages which surround them. They are all stone built, utilising a mixture of local lias stone and ham stone, which would have been brought from the Ham Hill quarry to the south. The churches are individually of architectural, historic and often artistic interest, although medieval churches are common nationally.
- 4.1.3 With the exception of churches, surviving medieval buildings are relatively rare nationally, reflecting both the use of organic materials in construction and improvements in expected living standards over time which led to the majority of earlier buildings being pulled down and replaced over the centuries. As a result of this trend, the number of non-religious medieval buildings within the study area is notable. There are 22 listed medieval buildings and two further buildings included in the HER which have medieval origins. They are found across the study area, both within the villages and spread across the surrounding farmland. Probably the earliest is Musgrave Farmhouse, a Grade II* building located in the village of Henlade which is thought to date to the early 14th century (NHLE: 1177045). While it has seen considerable remodelling, it originated as a three-bay open hall building with an inner room and solar. Like the majority of other medieval vernacular buildings, it is constructed in stone rubble with a roughcast exterior. The other medieval buildings date from the end of the period, from the late 15th and early 16th centuries and likely represent the homes of wealthier yeoman farmers (wealthy commoners who were freeholders). Locally sourced rubble stone, often rendered, is the main building material used, although cob, a packed earth material used in traditional construction in the south-west, was also used locally and survives in Lower Farmhouse (NHLE: 106037), Hankridge Farmhouse (NHLE: 1307558) and the former farmhouse, now outbuildings at Rex Hill Farmhouse (NHLE: 1177295). The buildings have internal timber structures, including cruck roofs which are noted in several of them. Roof materials would probably mostly have been thatched, in the medieval period, although now there is a mix of thatch, slate and clay tile. The two non-designated medieval buildings are Honeypt Cottage and Collins Farmhouse, both of which are thought to date to the 16th century (HER: 42259, 39336).

4.2 Post-medieval

- 4.2.1 The majority of built heritage within the study area dates to the post-medieval period. There are 154 listed post-medieval buildings and structures, five non-designated buildings identified within the HER and one additional building which may be of heritage interest. Further surveys will be carried out to establish the heritage interest and value (if applicable) of the non-designated building, Bath Cottage, prior to the DCO submission. Through the post-medieval period the study area remained as a mostly agricultural landscape, but there was growth in the extent of settlement in the villages and as dispersed farmhouses, reflecting

changing patterns and intensity in agricultural practices (see Appendix 6.2). There are also new building types apparent within the landscape from this period, including those related to non-conformist religion, industry and infrastructure, and large country house estates.

- 4.2.2 One of the largest groups of designated structures are burial monuments, mostly chest tombs, which were added to the medieval churchyards across the study area in considerable numbers from the 17th century onwards. Frequently decorative and substantial in size, these reflect changing practices around death and burial as well as the increased wealth amongst some of the local families. Other buildings and structures associated with religion and the church are the post-medieval rectories in Ashill (NHLE: 1295733) and Ruishton (NHLE: 1307669, 1060395), a Methodist chapel, now cottages, and Baptist chapel in Hatch Beauchamp (NHLE: 1344560 and 1176198), a congregational chapel in Broadway (NHLE: 1057042) and a Methodist chapel in North Curry (NHLE: 1307697). There is also a row of 16th century almshouses in Broadway (NHLE: 1248144) and an almshouse in Staple Fitzpaine (1060273). There is also a village cross in Thornfalcon, erected in the 19th century which may have had combined functions as a preaching cross and war memorial (NHLE: 1344543).
- 4.2.3 There are several large estates in the study area, which were the home of wealthy aristocrats or industrialists and were established from the 18th century onwards, although the houses and parkland may have replaced elite holdings associated with earlier manors. Hatch Court (NHLE: 1060405) and its associated stables and home farm, were built in the mid-18th century and are surrounded by an extensive area of landscaped gardens and park (NHLE: 1001146). To the west of Hatch Court was another park, Hatch Park. The principal building no longer survives, but its gate lodges (NHLE: 1060406, 1060439, 1060441) and stables (NHLE: 1307932) do, giving a sense of the grandeur of this estate in the early 19th century. The country house at Jordan's has also been lost, but an elaborate shell grotto built as a retreat within its gardens remains extant (NHLE: 1057070) along with the romantically 'dressed' farm associated with the estate, Shrubbery Farm Cottage (NHLE: 1057069). The cottage was built in the cottage ornée style, a fantasy of a golden age 'tudor-esque' ideal, also reflected in one of the lodges at Henlade House, which is in a 'tudor picturesque' style (NHLE: 1307621). Henlade House, located south-east of the village of Henlade, was built in 1805 and with late 19th century stables and lodge to the east (NHLE: 1060397). Further north outside of the study area, but included because of its wide landscape views over the Vale of Taunton, is Hestercombe, which was developed in the 18th century as a landscape park from the earlier medieval estate on the site (NHLE: 100437). It has reciprocal views with Hatch Court. In addition to these grand houses there are several more which are in the 'polite' style, including Southfields in Horton (NHLE: 1057083), Beauchamp House in Hatch Beauchamp (NHLE: 1060440) and Ruishton House (NHLE: 1176921). Polite, as opposed to vernacular, is architecture which references non-local traditions, typically built with strong aesthetic principles.
- 4.2.4 The majority of the remaining listed buildings, of which there are many, are typically vernacular in style and were cottages, farmhouses or agricultural buildings. There are groupings of such houses within the villages of the study area. Beyond the villages the buildings are typically farmhouses or associated agricultural buildings, although there are also isolated cottages. The larger farmhouses range in date from the 17th to 19th century and potentially reflect new improved buildings which were introduced alongside the enclosure of the older

open fields and more intensive models of agriculture. Cider orchards were numerous in the area in the post-medieval period and many farms would have had their own press. Specific buildings potentially associated with cider making have been identified at Haydon (NHLE: 1177118) and Ashill (NHLE: 1057067). The majority of the farmhouses are built in local stone.

- 4.2.5 The final group of post-medieval listed buildings are mostly structures, rather than buildings and relate to the industry and infrastructure which transformed the landscape of the study area in the late 18th and 19th centuries. In the 18th century, turnpike trusts created well-built toll-roads across the area. These would have had a hard-packed and drained surface allowing coaches and horses to travel easily over much greater distances than was previously possible. Associated with the turnpikes were new bridges, milestones, and tollhouses, including one at Horton Cross which was styled in the cottage ornée tradition (NHLE: 1345842). In the 19th century, the Bridgewater and Taunton canal was created, with new bridges built to carry roads across it. The railway that followed a few decades later also required new bridges, as well as stations along its route.
- 4.2.6 One building which warrants further investigation prior to the submission of the DCO is Bath Cottage. This is a stone-built cottage depicted on 19th century mapping which is located within the proposed scheme boundary. Blight has been accepted on this property and, although it is not listed or included in the HER, its probable 19th century or earlier date means that it potentially should be considered as a heritage resource and impacts on it assessed within the EIA. It is known to be much altered, with several approved planning applications for extensions and additions in the latter part of the 20th century, but a historic buildings assessment will be carried out to further investigate its potential value.

4.3 Modern

- 4.3.1 There are six listed buildings of modern date within the study area. While there are numerous modern buildings within the study area, particularly on the fringes of Ilminster and Taunton and within the larger villages, the majority are relatively standard commercial and domestic types of buildings and are not of heritage interest. Of the four listed buildings/structures, two are the war memorials in Hatch Beauchamp and Broadway, simple but very significant structures for the communities who erected them in memory of those who died in the First World War (NHLE: 1430727, 1429603). Two of the other designated resources are cast iron signs, one for the Great Western Railway company in Hatch Beauchamp (NHLE: 1176340) and the other an early road sign on the edge of Ashill (NHLE: 1057104). There is a K6 telephone box in Staple Fitzpaine, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935 (NHLE: 1180241). The final modern structure listed within the study area is a pair of limekilns built in 1906. They were amongst the last limekilns built and the only known dated example in Somerset (NHLE: 1177092).

5 Summary

- 5.1.1 Overall, 392, heritage resources and one possible heritage resource have been identified within the study area or are otherwise potentially impacted by the proposed scheme due to high levels of visibility towards the proposed scheme or potential changes in noise. This includes:
- Two scheduled monuments
 - 196 listed buildings (one of which is also a scheduled monument)
 - Two registered parks and gardens
 - Four conservation areas
 - 189 non-designated features
 - One possible building of historic or architectural interest requiring further research prior to the submission of the DCO
- 5.1.2 Divided by period there are:
- Nine of prehistoric date (including potential prehistoric remains at the scheduled monument of Castle Neroche)
 - Nine of Roman date
 - One of early medieval date
 - 80 of medieval date
 - 299 of post-medieval date
 - 20 of modern
 - Seven of unknown
- 5.1.3 It should be noted that the total by period is a larger number than the overall total as it reflects the multi-period nature of some sites and records.

References

- [1] ClfA, "Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment," Reading, 2020.
- [2] South West Heritage Trust, "Somerset Archaeological Handbook," 2017.
- [3] Highways England, "DMRB LA106 Cultural heritage assessment," HE, 2020.
- [4] O. Aldred, "Somerset and Exmoor National Park. Historic Landscape Characterisation Project 1999-2000," English Heritage and Somerset County Council, 2001.
- [5] C. J. Webster, South West Archaeological Research Framework. The Archaeology of South West England. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda, Taunton: Somerset Heritage Service, 2007.
- [6] Google, "Google Earth," 2021.
- [7] Environment Agency, "LIDAR Composite DTM 2019 - 1m," 2020.
- [8] Historic England, "Periods List (Historic England)," 2015. [Online]. Available: <http://heritage-standards.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Periods-List-HE-FISH-WP.pdf>. [Accessed 10 April 2021].
- [9] British Geological Survey, "Geology of Britain Viewer," 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/>. [Accessed 9 April 2021].
- [10] Secretary of State, "The Hedgerows Regulations 1997," HMSO, London, 1997.
- [11] R. Hofield, V. Straker and P. Gardiner, "Palaeolithic and Mesolithic," in *The Archaeology of South West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset County Council, 2007, pp. 23-62.
- [12] J. Pollard and F. Healy, "Neolithic and Early Bronze Age," in *The Archaeology of South West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Service, 2007, pp. 75-102.
- [13] K. Wilkinson and V. Straker, "Neolithic and Early Bronze Age Environmental Background," in *The Archaeology of South West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Services, 2007, pp. 63-74.
- [14] Context One Archaeological Services, "Cambria Farm, Taunton, Somerset. Excavation of a later Bronze Age and later Iron Age settlement and Romano-British field system and cemetery in the Tone Valley," 2011.
- [15] Wessex Archaeology, "Land at Hort Bridge, Ilminster, Somerset. Archaeological Field Evaluation Report," 2009.

- [16] A. Fitzpatrick, "Later Bronze Age and Iron Age," in *The Archaeology of South West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Service, 2007, pp. 117-143.
- [17] Historic England, "Norton Camp large univallate hillfort," 1 August 1994. [Online]. Available: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1008467>. [Accessed 16 April 2021].
- [18] N. Holbrook, "Roman," in *South West Archaeological Research Framework. The Archaeology of South West England. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Service, 2007, pp. 151-162.
- [19] I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain*, London: John Baker, 1967.
- [20] V. Straker, A. Brown, R. Fyfe and J. Jones, "Romano-British Environmental Background," in *South West Archaeological Research Framework. The Archaeology of South West England. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Service, 2007, pp. 145-150.
- [21] V. Straker, "Early Medieval Environmental Background," in *The Archaeology of South West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Service, 2007, pp. 163-168.
- [22] Institute for Name Studies, "Key to English Place Names," 2021. [Online]. Available: <http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/>. [Accessed 20 April 2021].
- [23] C. Webster, "Early Medieval," in *The Archaeology of South West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Service, 2007, pp. 169-188.
- [24] W. Page, *A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 2*, London: Victoria County History, 1911.
- [25] South Somerset District Council, "Ilminster Conservation Area Appraisal," 2016.
- [26] E. Campbell and S. Driscoll, *Royal Forteviot: Excavations at a Pictish Power Centre in Eastern Scotland. SERF Monograph 2*, York: Council for British Archaeology, 2020.
- [27] His Majesty's Stationery Office, "Neroche Forest (Somerset) Inclosure Bill, passed," *House of Commons Journal*, vol. 85, pp. 241-244, 1830.
- [28] Know Your Place, "Know Your Place - West of England," 2021. [Online]. Available: <http://www.kypwest.org.uk/>. [Accessed 20 April 2021].
- [29] S. Rippon and B. Croft, "Post-Conquest Medieval," in *The Archaeology of South West England. South West Archaeological Research Framework. Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Taunton, Somerset Heritage Service, 2007, pp. 195-208.
- [30] A. Powell-Smith, J. Palmer and G. Slater, "Open Domesday," 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://opendomesday.org>. [Accessed 20 April 2021].

-
- [31] O. Alred, "Somerset and Exmoor National Park. Historic Landscape Characterisation Project 1999-2000," English Heritage and Somerset County Council, 2001.
- [32] Victoria County History, "Somerset vol. XIII - The Hundred and Manor of Taunton Deane," 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/somerset-vol-xiii-hundred-and-manor-taunton-deane>. [Accessed 10 April 2021].