CHARLTON ROAD,

BRENTRY,

BRISTOL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

C.A.T. JOB: 1250
C.A.T. REPORT: 01101

OCTOBER 2001

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SUMMARY

Site Name	Charlton Road
Location	Brentry, Bristol
NGR	ST 582 791
Type	Watching brief
Date of fieldwork	8th October 2001
Site code	CRB 01
Location of archive	Bristol City Museum

In October 2001 Cotswold Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of nine geotechnical trial pits on a site at Charlton Road, Brentry, Bristol. The southern part of the site would appear to be substantially undisturbed, having been occupied by open fields, or by parkland associated with Brentry Hospital. The northern portion appears to have been subject to limestone quarrying. No significant archaeological deposits or artefacts were revealed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on 8th October 2001 on land adjacent to Charlton Road, Brentry, Bristol, (centred on NGR ST 582 791) (Fig. 1). The watching brief was carried out on behalf of Benson Bros. (Bristol) Ltd in connection with a proposal to develop the site for housing.

1.1.2 Brentry is located on the northern outskirts of Bristol, approximately 2.5km west of Filton. The site itself lies near to the apex of a triangle formed by Charlton Road, which borders the site to the south-east, and Knowle Lane which runs close to the northern boundary. At the time of the works the site had lain vacant for some time and was occupied by rough grass, young trees and areas of scrub growth.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies near the crest of a north-facing slope, formed of Devonian/Carboniferous limestone. The northern portion of the site forms a bowl cut into the face of the wider slope, suggesting that some form of quarrying activity has taken place.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 An archaeological desk based assessment of the site was carried out by Cotswold Archaeological Trust in 1994 (CAT 1994). This showed the site to be of relatively low archaeological potential. Various features of possible interest were, however, identified in the vicinity, including lead mining, lime

kilns and limestone quarrying of various periods, and a nineteenth-century landscaped park to the south-west surrounding Brentry Hospital (*ibid*).

1.4 Methodology

1.4.1 A project design was prepared by Cotswold Archaeological Trust (CAT 2001) in line with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1994), and with the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

1.4.2 Nine test pits were excavated in the locations shown on Figure 2, each pit being the width of a narrow machine bucket (0.75m), and between 2m and 4m in length. Excavation took place using a JCB wheeled excavator under archaeological supervision, with the contingency for detailed hand excavation and recording of any significant archaeological deposits which might be encountered. In the event no hand excavation was required.

2. RESULTS

2.1 The deposits revealed in each of the nine trial pits are tabulated on Table 1. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were observed during the works.

2.2 Throughout the southern extent of the site (Trial pits 1-5), the natural limestone brash was typically revealed at a depth of 0.2m below the modern ground surface. Trial-pit 1 was excavated within a low, linear earthwork previously noted close to the south-eastern limit of the site. The earthwork was typically 0.1m in height, and is interpreted as upcast forming an extant modern hedged boundary.

2.3 In the northern half of the site (Trial Pits 6-9) evidence of truncation, possibly quarrying scoops, was revealed. Here the limestone brash was revealed at depths varying from 0.25m to 0.6m below the existing ground surface, with evidence from a preceding programme of trial-pits indicating localised truncation to depths exceeding 1.3m. This area also corresponds with the observed scarp illustrated on Figure 4 of the 1994 assessment.

3. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Although the identified stratigraphic sequence varied across the site, the current and preceding programme of trial pits, coupled with the evidence from the desk based assessment (CAT 1994) enables the provisional interpretation of earlier landuse within the application area. The southern part of the site would appear to be substantially undisturbed, having been occupied by open fields, or by parkland associated with Brentry Hospital. The northern portion appears to have been subject to limestone quarrying, although it is not known when this took place. The fact that quarrying is shown on historic maps adjacent to Quarry House immediately to the north of the site, but not within the site itself, may suggest that the disturbance within the site is of more recent date.

4. PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was carried out by David Kenyon. This report was compiled by David Kenyon and illustrated by Gail Stoten. The project was managed for CAT by Cliff Bateman.

Cotswold Archaeological Trust would like to thank Mr Peter Wright of Benson Bros. (Bristol) Ltd, and Mr Bob Jones, Bristol City Archaeological Officer, for their assistance in the course of this project.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CAT, 1994 *Site adjacent to Quarry House, Charlton Road, Brentry, Bristol, Avon: Archaeological assessment.* (CAT Report No. 94158)

CAT, 2001 *Charlton Road, Brentry, Bristol: Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (Cotswold Archaeological Trust)

IFA, 1994 *Standard and guidance for archaeological Watching Briefs*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

TABLE 1: TRIAL PIT RESULTS

Trial-pit	Stratigraphy	Archaeological deposits
1 (cut into linear earthwork)	0.00m – 0.25m topsoil 0.25m + limestone brash	None
2	0.00m – 0.25m topsoil 0.25m + limestone brash	None
3	0.00m – 0.20m topsoil 0.20m + limestone brash	None
4	0.00m – 0.25m topsoil 0.25m + limestone brash	None
5	0.00m – 0.20m topsoil 0.20m + limestone brash	None
6	0.00m – 0.20m topsoil 0.20m – 0.60m mixed soils with occ limestone fragments 0.60m+ limestone brash	None
7	0.00m – 0.20m topsoil 0.20m + limestone brash	None
8	0.00m – 0.20m topsoil 0.20m + limestone brash	None
9	0.00m – 0.20m topsoil 0.20m – 0.60m mixed soils with occ limestone fragments 0.60m+ loose brash within yellow & red sands	None

Figure 1. Location plan

Figure 2. Study area showing location of trial pits

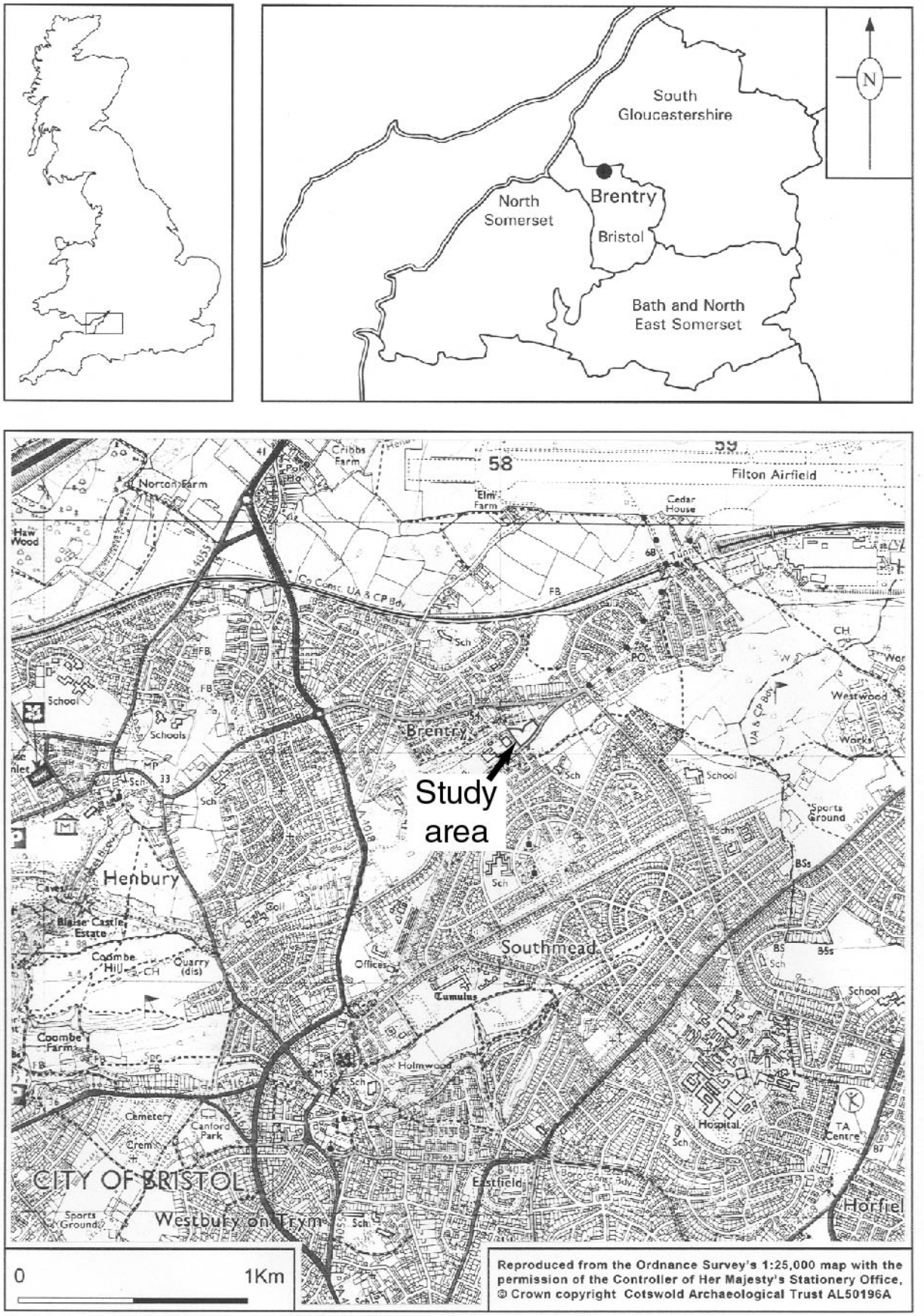
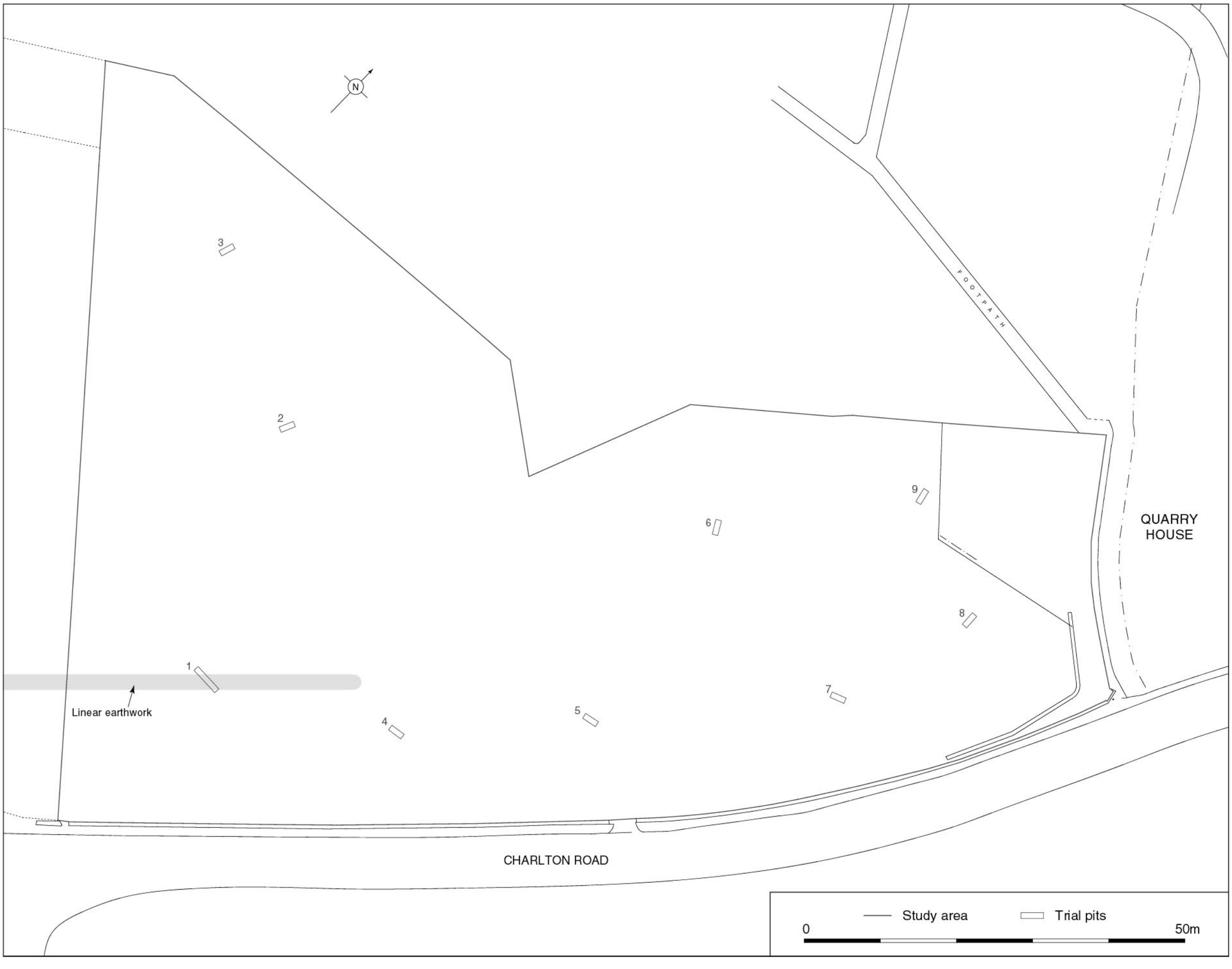


Fig. 1 Location plan


N
FOOTPATH
QUARRY HOUSE
CHARLTON ROAD
Linear earthwork
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
Study area
Trial pits
0
50m