

# 20 Filton Road, Hambrook, South Gloucestershire

## Report on Archaeological Watching Brief



Rachel Heaton BSc

**Avon Archaeology Limited**  
Bristol: January 2018





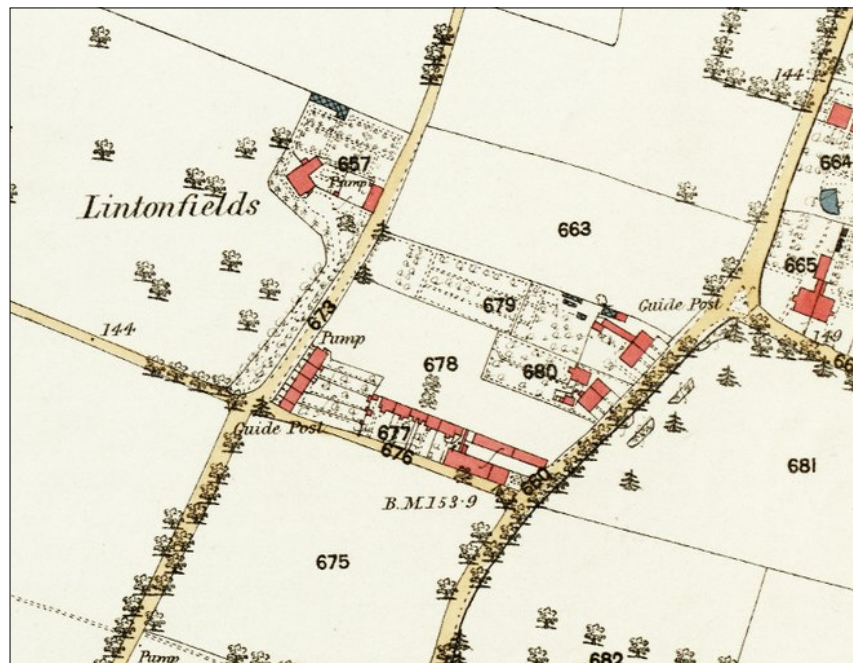
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PT17/2528/F

OS NGR ST 63720 78324.

BRSMG 2018/



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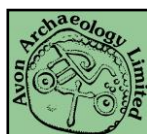
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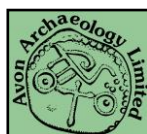
## **Abstract**

*Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (Archaeological Watching Brief) during ground works associated with the construction of a new residential building to the rear of number 20, Filton Road, Hambrook.*

*A condition for archaeological monitoring was imposed by the County Archaeologist to preserve any archaeological features or artefacts which might be uncovered and lost during the work.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.*

*The archaeological monitoring took place between January 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and was overseen by the writer of this report, Rachel Heaton, of Avon Archaeology Limited.*



## Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Ben Cottle and the team for their assistance during the project, and to Gareth Dickinson for his assistance with post excavation report production.

## Notes

Whereas Avon Archaeology Limited have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

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## Abbreviations

AAL	Avon Archaeology Limited
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
HER	Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation



## 1 Introduction

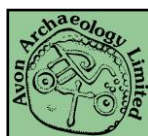
1.1 Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Mr Frank Ghaidan on behalf of his client, Mr Benjamin Cottle to undertake an archaeological watching brief, which is required by South Gloucestershire Council, during the development of a small plot of land associated with number 20, Filton Road, Hambrook, South Gloucestershire. The local authority application reference is PT17/2528/F, and the site is centred on OS NGR ST 63720 78324.

1.2 At present, the development site is an unoccupied parcel of land used as garden, which currently has no formal access. South Gloucestershire Council has granted permission for the demolition of a garage structure adhering to the west side of the cottage known as number 20, Filton Road, to allow access to the parcel of land, so that a detached three bedroomed house can be built.

1.3 A WSI was subsequently written (Heaton 2017), and approved by the South Gloucestershire Archaeological Officer, Paul Driscoll.

1.4 Archaeological monitoring took place between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2018. Rachel Heaton of Avon Archaeology Ltd managed the project and was in attendance during the groundworks.

1.5 The archive for this project will be deposited with the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery; an accession number is yet to be provided, though one has been requested.



## 2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

2.1 The site is located on the north side of Filton Road, on the southern edge of the village of Hambrook. The road is predominantly residential, aligned approximately east-west, between the Old Gloucester Road (east end) and the Bristol Road (west end). The main centre of the village is to the north, and beyond the Bristol Ring Road, A4174, which bisects the settlement. In addition to the Ring Road, the site is passed closely by the M32 motorway, just over 300m to the west, heading into the city of Bristol which is just short of 5 miles to the south.

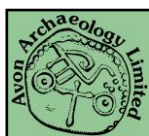
2.2 There are two conservation areas in the vicinity, but neither extends across the site itself. Hambrook village and the surrounding area was designated as a conservation area in 1975, while the Frenchay Conservation area extends to the south and includes Frenchay village, common and a section of the River Frome. The River Frome snakes past Hambrook some 400m to the east.

2.3 Geologically, the site is underlain by Redcliffe Sandstone Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. These sedimentary rocks are fluvial in origin. They are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained sedimentary rock, and form beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (if in a coastal setting). (BGS).

## 3 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Hambrook or *Han Broc*, meaning 'brook by the stone' (Mills, 2011) existed at the time of the Domesday Survey, 1086, where it is listed as a manor in its own right, part of land held by the Bishop of Countances, though it later became included as a part of the larger Winterbourne Manor.

3.2 The principal industrial activity in the area was related to timber production, although the village also had its own wool factory. At the beginning of this century a





corn-mill was still in existence, but this was demolished during the construction of the M4 motorway.

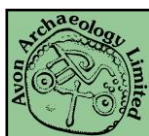
3.3 There are a number of listed buildings in the village. They include Hambrook House, a Grade II listed building which is of 17th century origin. An ice house to the rear of this property is also listed. Hambrook Grove and Hambrook Court are both grade II listed buildings, both are of 18<sup>th</sup> century date and have impressive boundary walls and wooded grounds, which make a significant contribution to the landscape.

3.4 Hambrook Court was once tenanted by Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Brereton who commanded the troops during the Bristol Riots of 1831 and who unfortunately committed suicide because of the general condemnation over his lack of strong action against the rioters ([www.southgloucestershire.gov.uk/environment](http://www.southgloucestershire.gov.uk/environment)).

3.5 The Old Gloucester Road and the Bristol Road, which both pass either end of this section of Filton Road were turnpike routes, both part of the Stapleton Turnpike. The Old Gloucester Road route links Bristol to Tytherington via Stapleton, Frenchay, Hambrook, Winterbourne, and Froglands Cross and passes the site to the west, and the Bristol Road route on the east end links Bristol to Rangeworthy via Stapleton, Hambrook, Winterbourne, Frampton Cotterell and Iron Acton. The Stapleton Turnpike was managed by the Bristol Turnpike Trust, established in 1727. Not only was it one of the earliest trusts, but it also grew to manage one of the largest turnpike networks in the country. Use of turnpike routes peaked in the 1830s, but these were shortly afterwards replaced by the construction of the railway system, which was a much more efficient method of transport (Heaton 2017, [www.turnpikes.org.uk](http://www.turnpikes.org.uk)).

### **The Development Site**

3.6 Number 20, Filton Road is shown on maps dating from the 1840s. It is shown as an end of terrace property on the 1841 tithe map, from which we can infer that it was built sometime prior to this date. The building as it stands today does not have the same configuration as it did on this early map, but it is likely that some elements of the early structure remain within the building today. The land proposed for the development, however, is shown as open field.



3.7 Successive maps show little development of the site, apart from gradual alterations to the cottage, and the construction of small outhouses which were later modified into the garage which will be demolished during this development. The development site has remained as a field throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is labelled specifically as 'allotment garden' from the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition OS of 1898-1939.

3.8 The land was enclosed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and has remained as a garden ever since.

## **4 Aims and Methodology**

### **4.1 Aims**

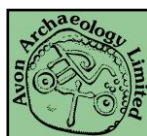
The aims of the archaeological Watching Brief were:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological features encountered
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of any archaeological deposits
- To enable the archaeological officer at South Gloucestershire Council to make an informed decision on the basis of the extent and condition of any archaeology revealed and to add any further possible requirements for further work in order to satisfy the planning conditions
- To make available to all interested parties the results of the investigation.

### **4.2 Methodology**

The work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Heaton 2017) previously approved by South Gloucestershire Council Archaeological Officer, Paul Driscoll.

Excavation was carried out by the contractor, using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with grading bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. All trenches were 0.7m wide.



## 5 The Monitoring

Solid bedrock was reached between 1.4m and 1.7m below current ground level. It was overlain by an orange brown sandy silt of up to 1.5m thick. The deposit was completely sterile and identified as natural geology. There were no discernible changes within the deposit, though some collapsing of the sides towards the base of the foundation trenches could suggest increasing sand content.

The natural geology was sealed with a narrow band of subsoil, which consisted of a soft mid to dark brown sandy silt, approximately 0.1m thick, which in turn was overlain by the topsoil. Topsoil of 0.2m-0.3m thickness was removed prior to the excavation of the foundations. It was a soft, dark brown sandy silt and contained a moderate amount of root action within it.



**Plate 1:** Shows excavated foundation trenches

The remains of two temporary structures were recorded during the watching brief. Just west of the footprint of the new building were the remains of a single skin, brick built, partially rectangular structure. No more than one or two courses remained, along with frequent glass fragments, which suggest it was a former greenhouse. A thin concrete surface was also recorded along the north side of the site, which may have provided a base for a further greenhouse, or maybe a shed.

No features of archaeological interest were recorded, and no artefacts were recovered during the monitoring.



**Plate 2:** General view of the site after topsoil removed.



**Plate 3:** Brick built structure, probably base of a greenhouse or shed.

## 7 Conclusions

The watching brief was carried out in fulfilment of the condition imposed by the local planning authority relating to the construction of a new detached residential building to the rear of 20, Filton Road, Hambrook.

The excavation of the foundation trenches were monitored, exposing only natural geology. No deposits or features of any archaeological significance were identified during the course of the work.

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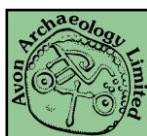

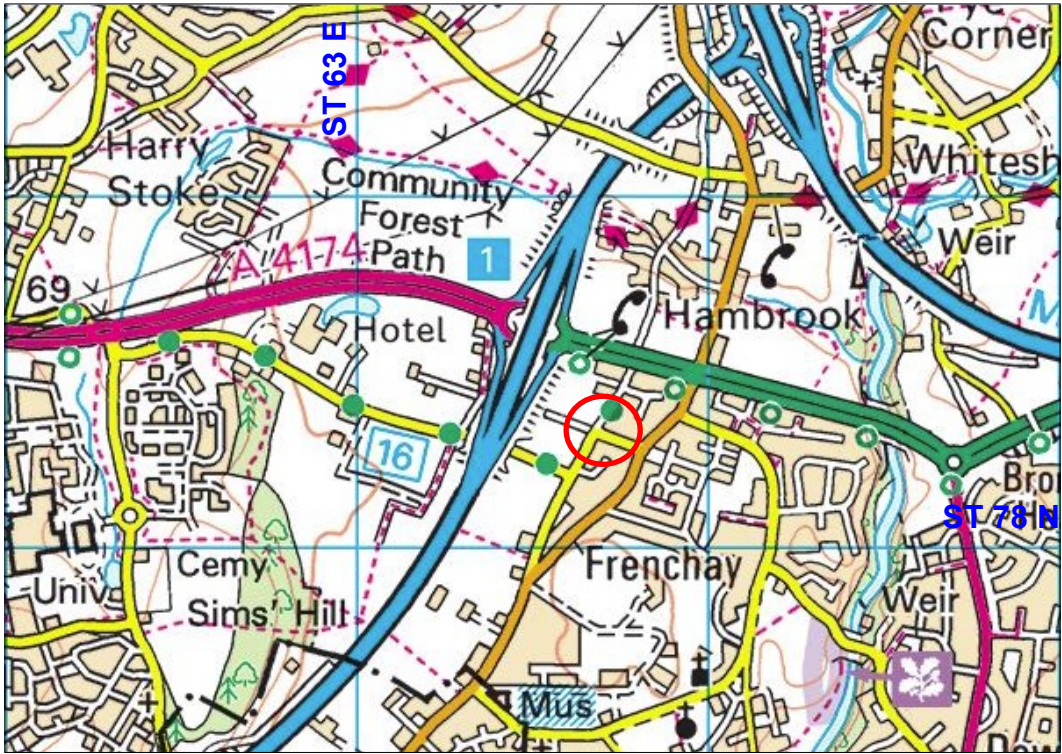
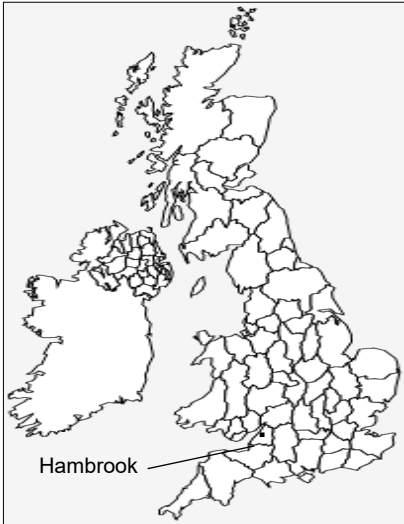


Figure 1

Location of Study Area

The study area 

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Figure 2



Site Plan Showing Site Boundary (in red) and monitored footing trenches

