



# HPS

Professional Archaeological Services



ABBEY FARM, HINTON CHARTERHOUSE, BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET, BA2 7SD

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**Client:** Armour Heritage Ltd

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological strip, map and record carried out prior to the construction of 2 agricultural buildings on Land at Abbey Farm, Hinton Charterhouse, North Somerset BA2 7SD (the Project Site). The work was commissioned by Armour heritage Ltd and was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

The results of the strip, map and record supported the results of the geophysical survey which suggested an absence of archaeological activity within the development area, although there is potential for archaeology to be preserved further to the north-east and south-east of the Project Site. However, the lack of residual finds should be noted.

The results were negative and no further work is recommended in conjunction with the proposed development.

## **Acknowledgements**

Heritage Planning Services would like to thank Mr Paul Martin, Absolute Archaeology, Ms Sue Farr & Mr R Armour Chelu (Armour Heritage Ltd) for their assistance throughout the project. We would also like to thank Mr Richard Coles (the Developer) and Mr John Smith (Digger Operator) for their patience during the fieldwork. We would also like to thank Mr Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer (Bath & North East Somerset Council) for his help and expertise.



# 1. Introduction

## Background

- 1.1. This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological strip, map and record carried out prior to the construction of 2 agricultural buildings on Land at Abbey Farm, Hinton Charterhouse, North Somerset BA2 7SD (hereafter referred to as the Project Site). The work was commissioned by Armour heritage Ltd and managed by Heritage Planning Services Ltd. The monitoring was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015.
- 1.2. The need for the programme of work was informed by the following conditions of planning-
  - 1.2.1. Condition 2: *No development shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of archaeological work should provide a field evaluation of the site to determine date, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits or features, and shall be carried out a competent person and completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation;*
  - 1.2.2. Reason: *The site is within an area of potential archaeological interest and the Council will wish to evaluate the significance and extent of any archaeological remains.*
  - 1.2.3. Condition 3: *No development shall commence until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has presented the results of the archaeological field evaluation to the Local Planning Authority and has secured the implementation of a subsequent programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has first been agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The agreed programme of archaeological work shall be carried out by a competent person and completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.*
  - 1.2.4. Reason: *The site is within an area of potential archaeological interest and the Council will wish to record and protect any archaeological remains.*
  - 1.2.5. Condition 4: *The development shall not be brought in to use or occupied until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of post-excavation analysis in accordance with a publication plan which has been submitted to and*



*approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of post-excavation analysis shall be carried out by a competent person(s) and completed in accordance with the approved publication plan, or as otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority;*

*1.2.6. Reason: The site may produce significant archaeological findings and the Council will wish to publish or otherwise disseminate the results.*

- 1.3. This project comprises phase 3 of a staged approach, which commenced with a desk based assessment, carried out by Armour Heritage (Farr: 2015). This was followed by a geophysical survey, carried out by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Southwest (Dawson & Beaverstock: 2015).
- 1.4. Following consultation with Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer, Bath & North East Somerset Council it was agreed that an archaeological strip, map and sample investigation should be carried out ahead of development.
- 1.5. The project has been completed under HPS project reference HPS-101/15.

### The Project Site

- 1.6. The Project Site is located 850m to the north-east of the North Somerset Village of Hinton Charterhouse and comprises an area of relatively flat ground, which is defined by rough pasture. It is bounded to the south-west by agricultural buildings belonging to Abbey Farm, and is surrounded by open pasture fields.
- 1.7. The Project Site comprises mature pasture bordering an area of made ground to the south –west and measuring 37m (l) x 35m (w). The land is situated on a gentle north-west facing gradient.
- 1.8. The Project Site lies at an elevation of 132m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), dropping gently down the access route to 119m aOD, where the farm entrance meets the B3110 (Fig. 1).
- 1.9. The Site's broader environs comprise a rolling landscape, typical of this part of the historic county of Somerset, consisting of fairly sparsely distributed small and moderately sized settlements and individual farmsteads, set within a patchwork of fields, some relatively large and open, alongside areas of woodland and wooded streams. Settlements and farms are linked by a network of minor and more major roads, such as the A36 which lies some 700m to the east.



- 1.10. The underlying geology of the Site is described by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as Forest Marble Formation: Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 165 to 168 million years BP. No superficial geological deposits are recorded.
- 1.11. The geophysical survey was completed, covering the north-eastern portion of the Project Site and land to the south. The results revealed several magnetic anomalies which had the potential to represent buried archaeological features, located to the north-east and south-east of the Project Site (Dawson et al: 5, 2015).
- 1.12. The Project Site is located in an area of Prehistoric activity. Monuments include a potential Bowl Barrow, 150m NNW of Abbey Farm and a circular earthwork mound, identified as probably representing a Bronze Age round barrow, 540m north-east of the Project Site.
- 1.13. The Project Site is located in the vicinity of the earthwork remains of a section of Roman road situated some 160m to the north. In assessing the location of the road, Armour Heritage observed that whilst BANES Historic Environment Record "*projects the line of the road as passing through the extreme west of the [Project] Site,...on-site observations, taking into account a slight curve in the earthworks, suggest it may pass through the eastern side of the Site or possibly slightly beyond, a notion supported by the negative results for the road in the geophysical survey.*"



Figure 1 Detail project site location highlighted with purple rectangle



Figure 2 Project Site location circled

## 2. Methodology

2.1. All on site monitoring was carried out by Absolute Archaeology under their specific site code AARC 196.



2.2. The broad aim of the strip, map and sample was to identify and record features of archaeological interest discovered during groundwork associated with the excavation, in order to mitigate the impact of the work on any archaeological resource.

2.3. The Primary Aims were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be present to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
- confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
- determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
- determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
- prepare an assessment report on the results of the fieldwork;
- relate the archaeological results to their local, county and regional context; and prepare and deposit a site archive with the local museum.

2.4. All work was carried out in accordance with the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (December 2014).

### **3. Archive**

3.1. A complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archived for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project the archive will be deposited with the County Museum Service or similar repository.

3.2. All archive elements will be marked with the Site Code HPS-101/15, and a full index will be prepared.

#### **Reporting**

3.3. Once approved, copies of the report will be issued to Bath and North East Somerset Council, Somerset HER and OASIS. A copy will also be included in the archive submitted to the County Museum Service.



## 4. Results

- 4.1. The reduce level excavation was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015, by way of mechanical excavation using a toothless/grading bucket.
- 4.2. The investigation revealed 400mm of topsoil/turfline (100), sealing a sandy clay subsoil (101), across 26m of the site, which comprised mature pasture (land to the north east). Land to the south-west of the Project Site comprised an area of made ground (102).



*Photo 1 North-east facing view of Project Site.*



*Photo 2 North-east facing view of Field Drain 1*

- 4.3. Three post medieval field drains were identified to the north and north-east of the project site.
- 4.4. No archaeological features, layers or deposits were identified as a result of the monitoring and no finds were recovered from the spoil, which was monitored throughout.

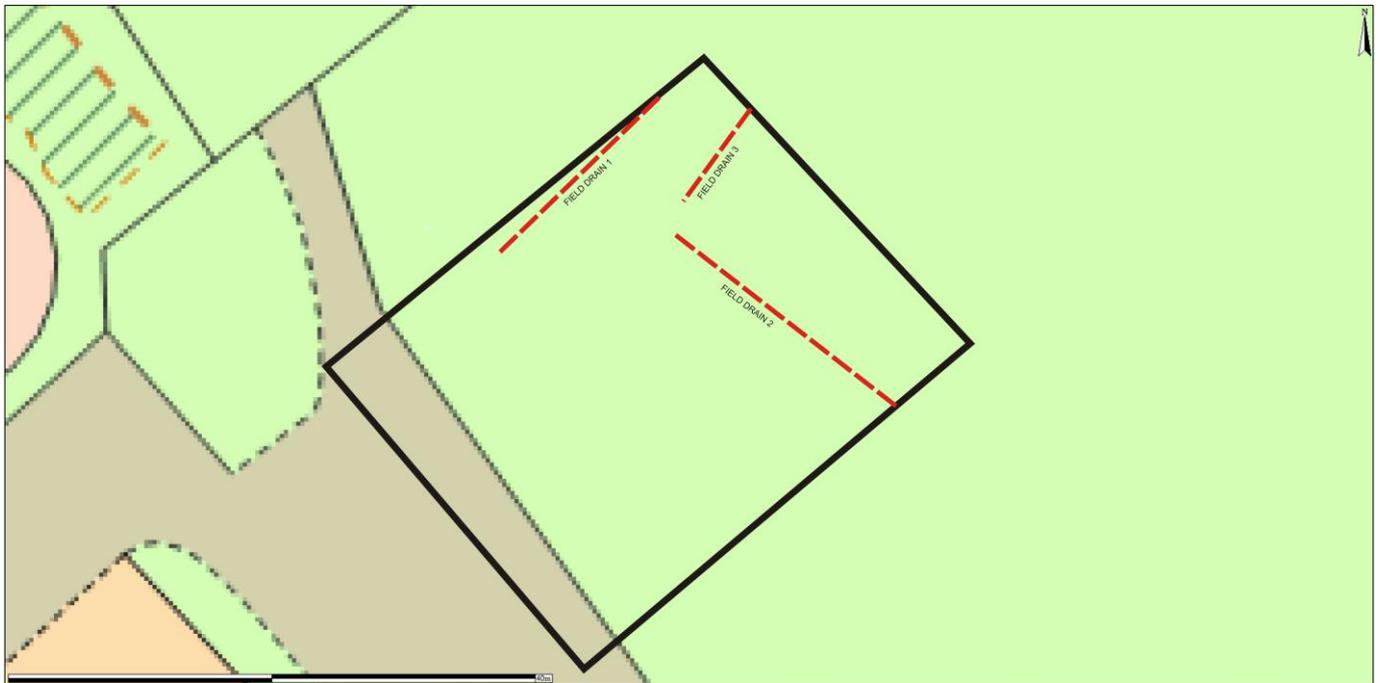


Figure 3 Field Drain Location

## Discussion

4.5. The results of the strip, map and record support the results of the geophysical survey which suggested an absence of archaeological activity within the development area, although there is potential for archaeology to be preserved further to the north-east and south-east of the Project Site. However, the lack of residual finds should be noted.

## **5. Conclusion**

5.1. The results of the monitoring were negative. No further archaeological investigation is recommended in conjunction with the proposed development.



## 6. Bibliography

BGS. Frome: England and Wales. *England and Wales Sheet 281 (Solid and Drift Edition): 1:50000 Series.*

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Dawson, T. & Beaverstock, K. 2015. *Abbey Farm, Hinton Charterhouse, Bath and North East Somerset-Geophysical Survey (Magnetic) Report.* TVAS, Unpublished Report, Taunton.

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## 7. Appendix

Table 1 Context Information

<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth/Height</i>	<i>Width</i>	<i>Length/Diameter</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Recorded Date</i>
100	Topsoil/Turfline	400mm	>35m	>37m	Mid Greyish Brown	-	11.08.2015
101	Subsoil	-	>35m	>37m	Mid Greyish Brown	-	11.08.2015
102	Made Ground	400mm	11m	>37m	-	-	11.08.2015



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