

## Negative Watching Brief: Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> East Harptree, Bath and North-east Somerset	<b>National Grid Reference</b> ST 56603 55707	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with residential development at Middle Street, East Harptree, Somerset		<b>Photo attached?</b> YES
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 17/01282/FUL	<b>Recipient museum:</b> Roman Baths Museum (RBM)	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> southwes1-306215	<b>Museum Accession no:</b> BATRM2018.8	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> EHM18	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2018	
<p><b>Description of works.</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by South West Archaeology Ltd. at the request of Keith Poole (the Client) during groundworks associated with the construction of a single house plot off Orchard Close, Middle Street, East Harptree, Bath and North Somerset, Somerset (Figure 1). The work was carried out by B. Morris on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Balmond 2018) drawn up in consultation with Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer (SEO) of Bath and North-East Somerset Council Planning and Archaeological Team (BNESCPAT).</p> <p>East Harptree is located on the northern edge of the Mendip Hills, south of the Chew Valley Lake, c.20km south-west of Bath and c.10km north of Wells. The site is located behind the houses flanking Middle Street, on a shallow north-east facing slope at a height of approximately 130m AOD (Figure 1). The soils of this area are transitional between the well-drained gritty reddish loamy soils of the Crediton Association, the reddish fine and coarse loamy soils of the Hodnet Association, and the slowly-permeable non-calcareous and calcareous reddish clayey soils of the Worcester Association (SSEW 1983); these overlie conglomerate and breccia of the Mercia Mudstone Group (BGS 2018). Tithe records indicate that the development site was an orchard in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>A series of foundation trenches, c.50m in total length and measuring 1m wide and up to 2.0m deep, were excavated under archaeological supervision by a 5t tracked mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket, and toothed bucket where ground compaction/concrete/bedrock made the toothless bucket impractical. The only features identified belonged to a later 20<sup>th</sup> century garage (concrete foundations, walls and an inspection pit). The stratigraphy comprised: topsoil (107), a stiff brown slightly sandy clay-silt c.0.20m thick, which overlay three subsoil layers. (101) and (102) were both very stiff red-brown slightly sandy clay-silts up to 0.43m thick, while (103) was a soft grey-brown slightly sandy clay-silt c.0.25m thick. These overlaid the natural, which consisted of hard rock (104) and (106), weathered and soft to the north-east, with a firm moist gritty natural grey-brown clay-silt between (105). Topsoil (107) appears to have been removed from much of the site, replaced by layer (100), the stone rubble that formed the hardcore base for a drive.</p> <p>A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the machining; all the spoil excavated was immediately taken off site for remote disposal. The finds included: ×5 sherds (64g) of Bristol/Staffordshire yellow slip ware with brown marbled trails (×3 plates; ×2 closed form); ×2 sherds (10g) of white refined earthenware with blue transfer print; ×3 sherds (18g) of a sandy oxidised post-medieval coarseware with internal orange (clear) glaze; ×1 sherd (48g) of a sandy oxidised with reduced interior post-medieval coarseware with internal green glaze (these coarsewares are probably Bridgewater products); ×1 (2g) clay pipe stem; ×2 fragments (99g, sample) of terracotta roof tile (from the roof of the former garage); ×1 fragments (8g) C20 ceramic glazed tile. These are all likely to be derived from a domestic context of C18-C19 date with residual elements.</p> <p><b>Bibliography</b></p> <p><b>Balmond, F.</b> 2018: <i>Middle street, East Harptree, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation</i>. SWARCH report no. EMH18WSIv1.</p> <p><b>British Geological Survey</b> 2018: <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i>. <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html</a> [accessed 01.05.2018]. Map sheet E280.</p> <p><b>Soil Survey of England and Wales</b> 1983: <i>Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales</i>.</p>		
<b>Recorder:</b> P. Webb South West Archaeology, The Old Dairy, Hacche Lane Business Park, Pathfields Business Park, South Molton, Devon, EX36 3LH		<b>Date sent to HER:</b> 02/05/2018

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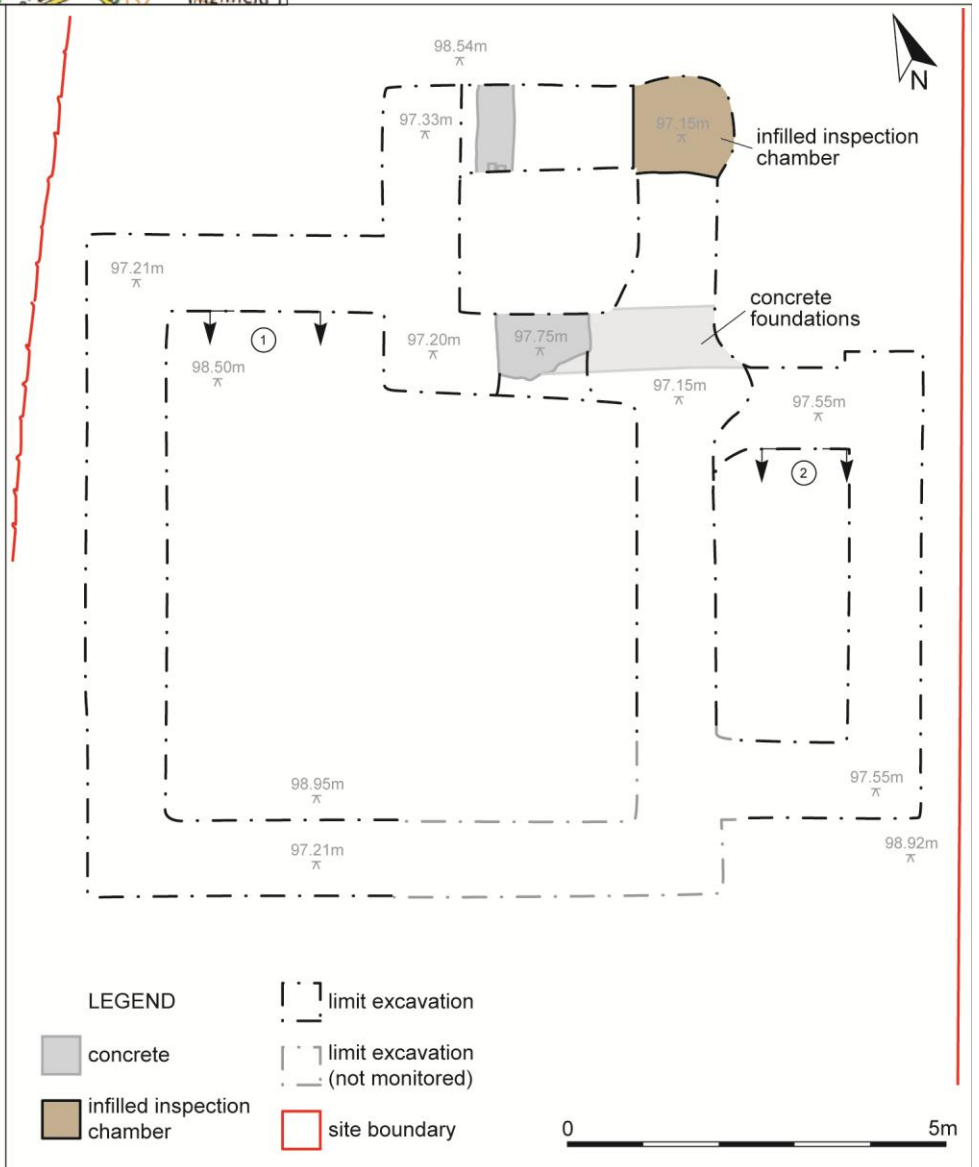
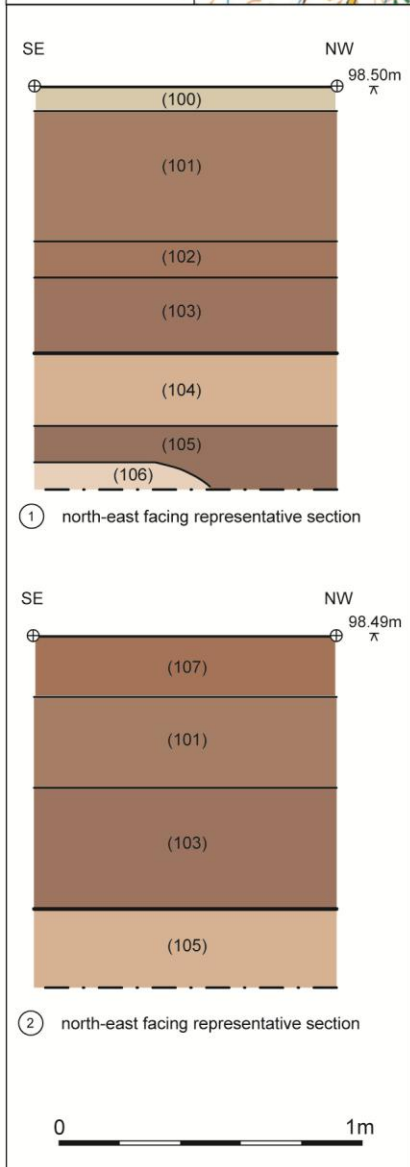
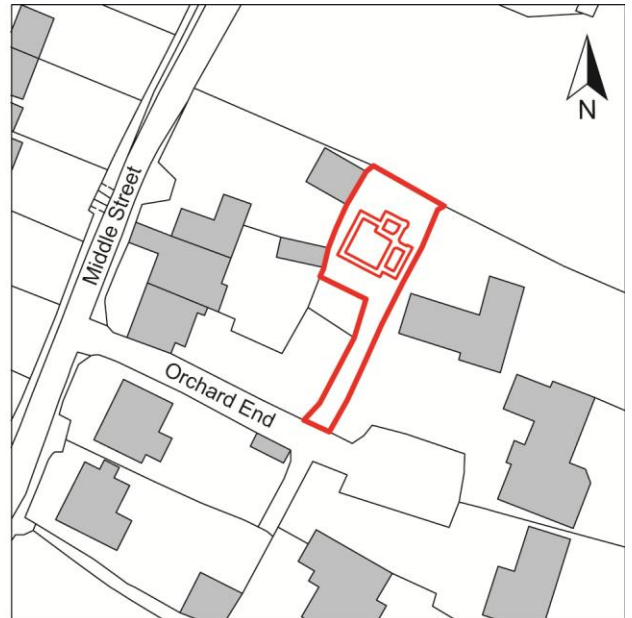


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION, SITE PLAN AND REPRESENTATIVE SECTIONS; HEIGHTS TO AN ARBITRARY BENCHMARK OF 100M AOD.



FIGURE 2: POST-EXCAVATION VIEW OF SITE; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (NO SCALES).



FIGURE 3: NORTH-EAST FACING REPRESENTATIVE SECTION, EAST END OF SITE SHOWING SUBSOIL AND NATURAL LAYERS; VIEWED FROM THE NORTH-EAST (1M SCALES).