

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

WATCHING BRIEF: 7-8 CHEAP STREET BATH NORTH-EAST SOMERSET

NGR: ST 7506 6480

on behalf of MG Project Management



Mo Muldowney BA PIfA

October 2012

ASC: 1477/BCS/2



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Site Data

ASC project code:	BCS		ASC Project No:	1477		
OASIS ref:	115538		Event/Accession no:	TBC		
County:		Somerse	et			
Village/Town:		Bath				
Civil Parish:		Bath				
NGR (to 8 figs):		ST 7506	6480			
Extent of site:		c.300 sq	m			
Present use:		Retail				
Planning proposal:		Building refurbishment and deepening of existing basement				
Local Planning Aut	hority:	Bath and North East Somerset District Council				
Planning applicatio	п	11/04597/FUL and 11/04581/LBA				
Date of fieldwork:		22/03/20	012 to 06/07/2012			
Client:		MG Project Management				
		Tanfield Tye				
		West Hanningfield				
		Chelmsford				
		Essex				
		CM2 8UD				
Contact name: James Griffiths						

Internal Quality Check

Primary Author:	Mo Muldowney	Date:	23rd October 2012
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Revisions:		Date:	
Edited/Checked By:	Mum	Date:	25 October 2012
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CONTENTS

Su	mmary	4
1.	Introduction	4
2.	Aims & Methods	8
3.	Archaeological & Historical Background	9
4.	Results.	11
5.	Conclusions	16
6.	Acknowledgements	18
7.	Archive	18
8.	References	19

Appendices:

ASC Watching Brief Monitoring Sheets	.21
Pottery and other finds	.37
Struck Flint	. 39
Environmental Assessment	.42
Pollen Analysis	.43
List of Photographs	.44
ASC OASIS Form	.46
	Pottery and other finds Struck Flint Environmental Assessment Pollen Analysis List of Photographs

Figures:

1.	General location	.3
2.	Site location	.5
3.	Proposed development	.6
4.	Site plan	.7
5.	Test pits and Void 1	13

Plates:

Co	ver: 7-8 Cheap Street, viewed from the south-west	
1.	Pad 6, wall footing 006, facing north	. 14
2.	Room 2, side view of wall footing 023, facing north	. 14
3.	Room 2, test pit showing layer 041 (049), facing south	.15
4.	Quernstone fragment from modern layer 045, upper surface	. 38

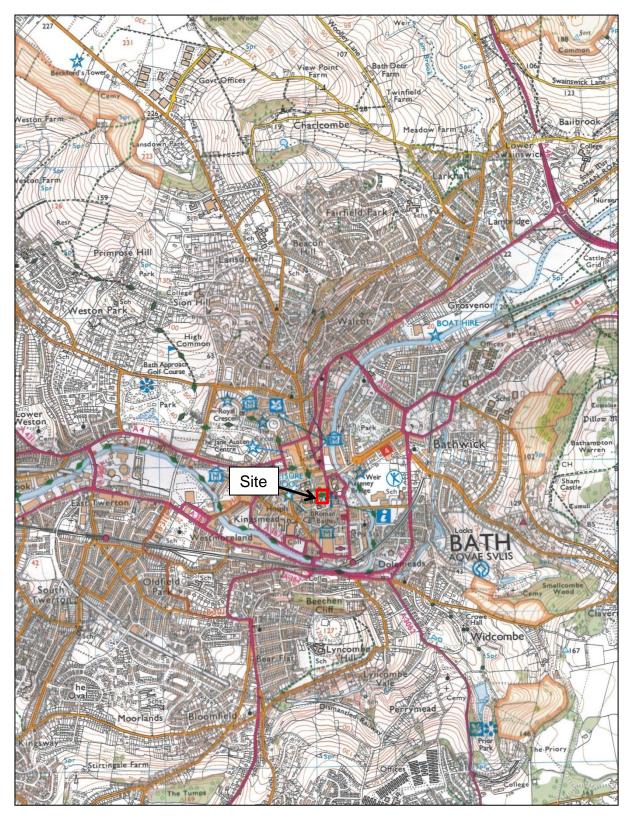


Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

Between March and July 2012, a watching brief was undertaken at 7-8 Cheap Street, Bath, NE Somerset during groundworks associated with building refurbishment and deepening of the existing basement. The work identified several aspects of prehistoric activity in the area in the form of a possible Palaeolithic flake and proximity of a potential late Mesolithic camp site. In addition, Roman masonry remains and services of post-medieval and modern date were also identified.

1. Introduction

1.1 During March to July 2012 Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd (ASC) carried out a watching brief at 7-8 Cheap Street, Bath, NE Somerset. The project was commissioned by MG Project Management, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Fell 2012), and approved by the Archaeological Officer of the *Planning Services Department*, archaeological advisor (AA) to the local planning authority (LPA), *Bath and North-East Somerset District Council*. The relevant planning application references are 11/04579/FUL and 11/04581/LBA.

1.2 **Planning Background**

This watching brief was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site.

1.3 Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

ASC is an independent archaeological practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Organisation* by the Institute for Archaeologists and is also accredited ISO 9001, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.4 The Site

1.4.1 Location & Description

The development site is situated in Bath, in the administrative district of Bath and North-East Somerset (Fig. 1). It is located in the historic core of the city, on the north side of Cheap Street, and is centred on Ordnance Survey national grid reference ST 7506 6480 (Fig. 2).

The development site is occupied by a three storey building and is now vacant.

1.4.2 Topography & Geology

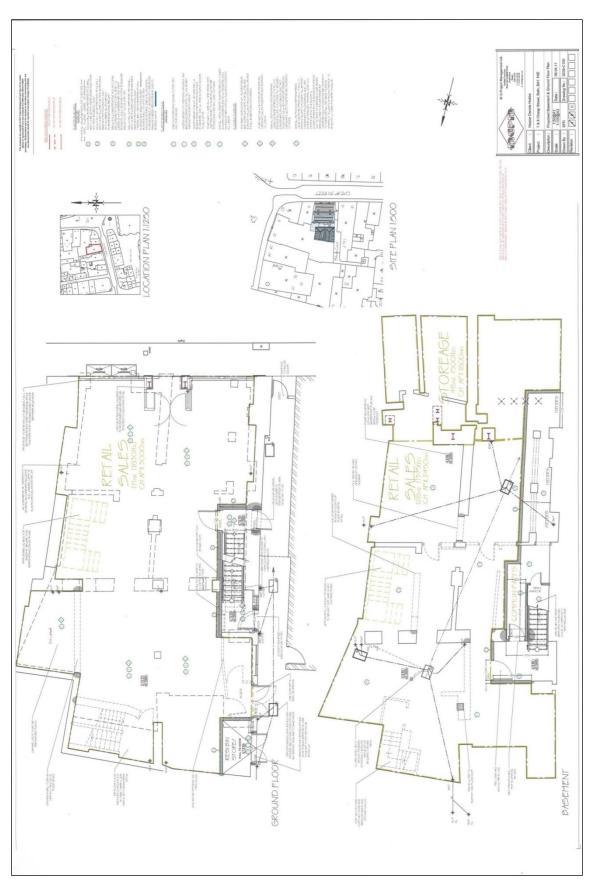
The development site is in an urban area and the natural soils have not been documented. The city is situated within a meander of the valley of the river Avon and the underlying geology comprises river alluvium (BGS, Sheet 265). The development site is flat and lies at an elevation of c.26m.

1.4.3 Proposed Development

The planning proposal comprises the refurbishment of the existing building and reducing the basement floor level by up to 300mm in order to create additional retail floor space (Fig. 3).



Figure 2: Site location (*scale 1:1250*)



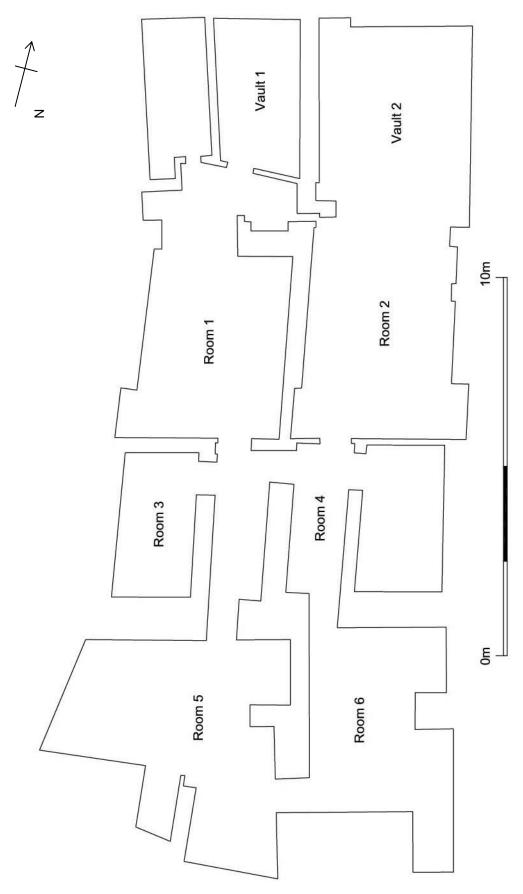


Figure 4: Site plan (scale 1:100)

2. Aims & Methods

2.1 *Aims*

As described in the project design, the aims of the watching brief were:

- To ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to have an impact upon archaeological deposits.
- To secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas, and through cartographic, documentary and other research.

2.2 *Standards*

The work conformed to the requirements of the AA, to the relevant sections of the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2008) and *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010), to English Heritage guidelines (EH 1991), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 *Methods*

The work was carried out according to the project design, which described:

• Archaeological observation and recording during groundworks.

2.4 *Constraints*

No constraints were encountered.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The following section provides a summary of the readily available archaeological and historical background to the development site and its environs. The site lies within an area of archaeological and historical interest, and has the potential to reveal evidence of a range of periods.

This section has been compiled with information ASC's in-house library and internet sources.

3.2 **Prehistoric** (before AD43)

Little is known of Bath during the prehistoric periods but the hot springs and valley of the river Avon attracted settlement. There is limited evidence for Mesolithic activity adjacent to the hot springs (Cunliffe 2000, 11) while evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements has been found on the neighbouring hills (*ibid*).

During the Iron Age the valley of the river Avon probably lay within the tribal territory of the *Belgae*. There is only limited evidence for Iron Age occupation within the later Roman city but evidence of this period has been found at the site of the King's Bath. A rubble and gravel causeway leading to the spring has been recorded, which predated the bath. The spring was probably regarded as a sacred spot and offerings to the goddess of the spring *Sulis* were made. Eighteen Celtic coins have been found during excavations in the spring (Cunliffe 2000, 12).

Elsewhere in the area a small Iron Age walled enclosure has been excavated southeast of the city on Bathampton Down (Wainwright 1967). A more strongly defended site dating from the 5th century BC has been recorded to the north, on Little Solsbury Hill (Cunliffe 2000, 12).

3.3 **Roman** (AD43-c.450)

The Roman settlement of *Aquae Sulis* developed around the sacred springs during the first century AD (Cunliffe 2000; Burnham & Wacher 1990, 165-176). The early development of the settlement is not well understood but finds of Claudio-Neronian pottery and military tombstones suggest the presence of a military settlement (Burnham & Wacher 1990, 165).

A range of antiquarian investigations and archaeological excavations have taken place in Bath since the 18th century but the majority of the work has concentrated on the monumental buildings centred on the springs. Consequently the remaining parts of the settlement are less well understood (Cunliffe 2000, fig. 77).

The Roman settlement was centred on the sacred spring, which is situated *c*.100m south of the development site. A reservoir was constructed in *c*.AD65-75 in order to contain the spring water. These waters fed a large bath house immediately to the south, which has been the subject of extensive archaeological excavation (Cunliffe 2000, figs 16, 57, etc.). A classical temple dedicated to *Sulis Minerva* was constructed to the north of the baths. The temple was enclosed within a precinct, the northern side of which was situated a little to the south of Cheap Street.

There is currently no evidence for the presence of Roman remains on the development site, but a variety of remains, notably mosaic pavements have been found elsewhere in the north part of the Roman settlement (Cunliffe 2000, fig. 77).

3.5 *Saxon and Medieval* (*c.*450-1500)

Little is known of the demise of the Roman settlement and the emergence of the Saxon and medieval town. A settlement was in existence in AD577 as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that Bath was one of three towns captured by the Saxons after the Battle of Dyrham (Garmonsway 1984, 19).

The development site is situated to the northwest of Bath Abbey. The first church on the site was constructed c.757 but nothing is known archaeologically of the building or the accompanying Benedictine monastery. King Edgar was crowned King of England in the Abbey in 959 (Page 1911).

Following the Norman Conquest the city of Bath was granted to John of Tours, Bishop of Wells, who subsequently moved the bishopric to Bath. A building programme was instigated comprising the construction of further monastic buildings, a bishop's palace and the building of a new cathedral to replace the original Saxon building. The latter was consecrated in the early 1160s by Bishop Robert of Lewis.

3.6 **Post-Medieval & Modern** (after 1500)

The present abbey church was founded in 1499 by Oliver King, Bishop of Bath and was constructed partially on the site of the Norman Cathedral. Construction work extended over the first three decades of the 16th century but the building was never completed and, as a result of the dissolution of the monasteries, the site was surrendered to the crown on 27 January 1539. The partially robbed building was sold to a Bath citizen named Humphrey Colles in 1542.

The church was repaired in 1616 when it was brought back into use as the parish church. Extensive alternations were made during the early 19th century by local architect George Manners and the interior of the building was remodelled into the Victorian Gothic style by George Gilbert Scott between 1864 and 1874.

Cheap Street may have developed during the medieval or early post-medieval periods. The early appearance of the street is not known, but the road is shown on Stukeley's map of Bath, which was compiled during the early 18th century. The map shows the north side of Cheap Street faced with a continuous row of buildings, with an open area to the rear.

The present building on the site is listed Grade II (n. 1404113). It is a three-storey structure (originally two properties) of limestone ashlar, with a Welsh slate roof, of double-depth plan. On the upper floors of the street frontage there are four plain horned sash windows with plain eared architraves to each storey, and a sill band to the first and second floors. The listing description notes that 7-8 Cheap Street is seemingly of the same build as 3-6 Cheap Street, but to a significantly different design. The building is dated to the late 19th century, but may incorporate earlier fabric (http://list.english-heritage.org.uk).

4. **Results**

- 4.1 The first phase of work involved the inspection of three voids that had appeared during removal of the floor. Each one exposed only post-medieval material, including in Void 1 a curved, single course of late-19th century white bricks (Fig. 5).
- 4.2 During the second phase of work, a series of holes was excavated in the north half of the building in Rooms 3 to 6, in advance of the construction of structural pads (Fig. 5, Table 1).

Pad	Dimensions	Description
1	1.1m sq x 0.6m	0.4m modern brick rubble debris with modern service
		0.2m dark grey clay with red mottling
2	1.1m sq x 0.7m	0.4m modern brick rubble debris
		0.3m dark grey clay with red mottling
3	1.1m sq x 0.7m	0.4m modern brick and concrete rubble
		0.3m loose dark brown silty clay
4	1.5m x 1m x 0.8m	0.2m brick rubble
		0.6m orange grey clay in NE corner
		0.6m dark brown grey clay
		Modern service running N-S on W side of pad
5	1.1m sq x 0.7m	0.3m brick rubble
		0.4m soft dark brown silty clay
6	1.2m sq x 0.8m	Possible pit 005 in NW corner severely truncated by
		modern intrusions. Samian ware, bone and oyster
		shall recovered from fill (004)
		Wall footing 006 (Plate 1)
7	1m sq x 0.8m	0.3m modern floor and rubble
		0.5m light yellow grey clay natural (020)
		Pit 012 identified in S half, filled with (010) dark brown
		loose silty clay and (011) orange red brown silt
8	1m sq x 0.7m	0.25m modern floor and rubble
		0.5m (020)
		Pit 014 identified in E half, filled with (013) dark brown
		grey silty clay. Animal bone and pot recovered from fill
9	0.7m x 0.6m x 0.9m	0.3m modern rubble
9	0.711 x 0.611 x 0.911	Pit 016 filled by (015) dark brown friable silty clay,
		truncated.
		Pit 019 filled by (017) firm orange silty clay and (018)
		firm grey blue grey.
10	0.6m sq x 0.9m	0.3m modern rubble
10		Pit 016 , see above, truncated natural (020)

Cable 1: Deposits observed in Pads 1-10
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4.3 The third and final stage of the watching brief covered the ground reduction in Room 2. Amongst a series of modern truncations and drains were the remains of a possible Roman wall (023) and a prehistoric layer (049) from which a moderate assemblage of worked flints were recovered.

Roman wall (023) was located approximately 1m from the east wall of Room 2. It survived to a length of approximately 7m and was 0.4m wide by 0.5m high and retained up to three courses of roughly dressed and mortared limestone/Bath stone blocks (Plate 2). Where excavated the foundation cut 035=042 had vertical sides and was

approximately 0.5m wide by more than 0.5m deep. It was filled with (044) pale grey clay silt. No finds were recovered. It may have been a return of wall 006, as identified in Pad 6, but the scale of the works did not allow this to be confirmed. Wall (023) was truncated by a modern pit at its south end and by a modern service trench along its length on the east side.

Prehistoric layer (049) (Plate 3) was pale yellowish orange silt and was observed in Rooms 1, 2, 4 and 6. It was up to 0.18m thick and produced a moderate assemblage of predominantly Mesolithic worked flints. Two samples taken from this layer (1 and 3) contained very sparse microbiological remains (Appendix 4) and a further one hundred flints. A very small quantity of remains were also recovered from a single pollen sample (Appendix 5).

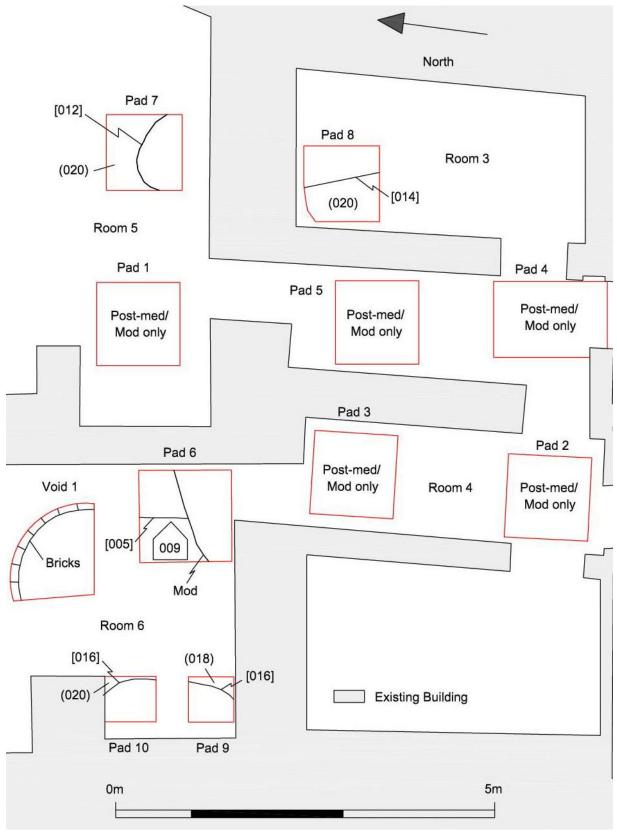


Figure 5: Test pits and Void 1 (scale 1:50)



Plate 1: Pad 6, wall footing 006, facing north

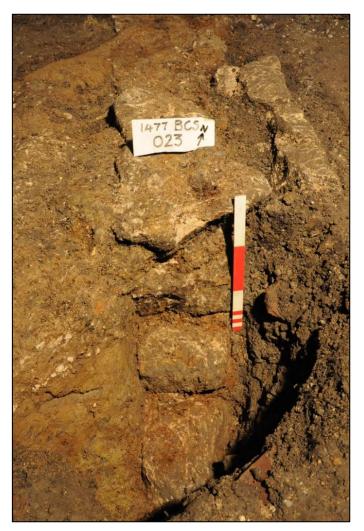


Plate 2: Room 2, side view of wall footing 023, facing north



Plate 3: Room 2, test pit showing layer 041 (049), facing south

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Work at 7-8 Cheap Street, Bath revealed evidence for early prehistoric activity, the remains of two Roman walls and significant post-medieval and modern activity related to the most recent development of the plot.
- 5.2 Evidence for prehistoric activity consisted of a layer, identified in Rooms 1, 2, 4 and 6, from which was recovered a moderate assemblage of worked flint, comprising contexts 041, 043, 047, 048 and 049. The layer was widespread across the development area and was probably alluvial, containing pebbles and rounded flints and evidence of oxidisation (from contact with air). Ninety-four flints were recovered from the layer and comprised a variety of artefacts from an end scraper to bladelets, but mostly consisted of flakes (33) and irregular waste (38). Analysis of the struck flint indicates that the area under development was used primarily during the Late Mesolithic period for the production of blades (Appendix 3). The presence and survival of these flints is somewhat surprising given the urban and heavily developed nature of the site, set in the heart of Bath, where it might be expected that Roman and later occupation would have destroyed evidence for pre-Roman activity. Evidence for prehistoric occupation is not unusual in this location however, as only 150m south-west of Cheap Street at the New Royal Baths, an assemblage of contemporary similar lithic material was recovered.

As no features or other remains from the prehistoric period were observed, it appears likely that activity here was limited to the occasional use of the area, with the presence of a few burnt flints indicating hearths or fires in the immediate vicinity. This is fairly typical of Mesolithic activity across the UK.

5.3 No further occupation or use of the site took place until the Romano-British period, from the first and second centuries AD onwards, during which time Bath was known as *Aquae Sulis*. The remains comprised two separate sections of wall in Room 2 and Room 5, constructed from either limestone or the local Bath Stone and part of a pit containing Samian ware and other finds in Pad 6. The sections of wall were set at near right-angles to each other, but not close enough to suggest a relationship, so may instead indicate two phases of building. Pottery recovered from layers associated with the walls included a small number of abraded fragments of Samian ware and greywares, probably deposited during the 3rd/4th centuries AD (Appendix 2). Other finds included a fragment of quernstone of probable Roman origin, recovered from a modern deposit in Room 5 (Plate 4).

The structural remains identified here are clearly part of the Roman occupation of Bath and lie close to the north precinct wall of a temple dedicated to *Sulis Minerva*, however little more can be said about them due to the constrained nature of the development.

5.4 All the other remains identified in the development area date to the post-medieval and modern period and are likely to have related to the redevelopment of the area from the 19th century onwards. Any medieval remains were almost certainly destroyed at this time, during the creation of the cellars.

5.5 The results of the watching brief are consistent with patterns of known activity and occupation in this part of central Bath, as set out in Section 3 above, but add little to the broader picture of the prehistoric and historic development of the city.

Confidence Rating

Although carried out within the confines of a building and under artificial light there were no difficulties identifying the remains described above and thus a high confidence rating can be applied to the results of the work.

6. Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by James Griffiths on behalf of MG Project Management. The project was monitored by Richard Sermon on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed for ASC by Jonathan Hunn PhD FSA MIfA. Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA PIfA and Andrew Hunn. Finds and environmental processing was carried out by Janice McLeish BA and other specialist reports were produced by Rob Scaife PhD (Pollen) and Jim Rylatt (Flint). The report was prepared by Mo Muldowney BA PIfA and edited by Jonathan Hunn.

7. Archive

- 7.1 The project archive will comprise:
 - 1. Project Design
 - 2. Initial Report
 - 3. Clients site plans
 - 4. Site Monitoring Sheets
 - 5. Finds records
 - 6. Finds
 - 7. Sample records
 - 8. Site record drawings
 - 9. List of photographs
 - 10. B/W prints & negatives
 - 11. Original specialist reports and supporting information
 - 12. CDROM with copies of all digital files.
- 7.2 The archive will be deposited with the Roman Baths Musuem.

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Appendix 1: Monitoring Sheets

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A.S.C. LTD

WATCHING BRIEF RECORD

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Appendix 2: Pottery and other finds

By Dr Jonathan Hunn

The pottery (Table 2) came from four contexts (004, 022, 029 & 038) and dates to the mid-Roman period $(2^{nd}/3^{rd}$ century). The only imports are fragments of Samian pottery. With the exception of a fragment of greyware from (038), all are relatively small fragments and in an abraded condition. This assemblage appears to be residual and so a $3^{rd}/4^{th}$ century date for their deposition is probable.

Other find types recovered during the work can be seen in Table 3.

Context	Туре	Fabric	No.	Weight	Provenance	Condition	Date
004	bowl	samian	1	6	S. Gaul	fair	L1st/E2nd
022	too small	sandy pink	3	2	local	poor	unknown
029	jar?	greyware	2	6	local	poor	2nd/3rd C
029	bowl	red slipware	2	10	Oxfordshire	abraded	2nd C
038	too small	samian	1	1	S. Gaul	burnt/abraded	?
038	bowl/jar	grey ware	1	12	local	fair	2nd/3rd C
Totals			10	37			

Table 2: Pottery by context

Context	Pottery No:	Weight (g)	Animal Bone	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)	Other/ (g)
004	1	6	1	16	-	-	1	17	-
09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Mortar 156g
013	-	-	2	29	-	-	-	-	-
022	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Glass x 2 <1g
025	-	-	-	-	2	68	-	-	-
029	4	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
038	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
043	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Stone x 4 :160g
045	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Quernstone fragment 4.4kg
Total	10	37	3	45	2	68	1	17	-

Table 3: Finds by context



Plate 4: Quernstone fragment from modern layer 045, working surface

Appendix 3: Struck Flint

By Jim Rylatt

Introduction

A programme of archaeological fieldwork recovered 97 pieces of struck flint (Table 4). The three artefacts recovered from (022) are residual, but the remainder of the collection was retrieved from a series of related deposits that potentially represent surviving areas of prehistoric alluvium and associated palaeosols. The majority of the struck flint consists of unmodified flake debitage (55 pieces – 56.7%) and fragments of irregular waste (38 pieces – 39.2%). A series of recurrent morphological traits indicate that a large proportion of this material is a product of blade industries. A particular emphasis upon careful platform edge preparation and the manufacture of very small blades implies that most of this material relates to human activity during the Late Mesolithic.

Context No.	End scraper	Utilised bladelet	Core	Bladelet/Blade	Blade-like flake	Flake	Irregular waste	Totals
022				1	2			3
041	1	1	1	5	6	21	23	58
043			1	7		11	15	34
047					1			1
048						1		1
Totals	1	1	2	13	9	33	38	97

Table 4: Composition and distribution of the assemblage of struck flint.

Methodology

All of the artefacts were physically examined and the attributes of each piece were recorded and compiled to form a digital archive. Macroscopic analysis determined position in the reduction sequence and any observable characteristics of the reduction technology, together with an assessment of the functional potential of the different elements of the assemblage. The catalogue also records the presence of patination, cortex, and whether any piece has been burnt. Metrical data was recorded for complete flakes, and each piece was weighed. Selected artefacts were examined with a x6 hand-lens to determine whether there was any evidence for the types of localised modification that are indicative of use.

Description of the Assemblage

Raw materials

The collection comprises 96 lithic artefacts manufactured from flint, together with one bladelet that was produced from a fine grey chert. The quality and colour of the flint varies across the assemblage, but various hues of grey opaque flint are the most commonly utilised raw material. There are 30 pieces with surviving areas of cortical surface. This cortex is mid-brown to creamy-brown in colour and has a solid matrix, while surfaces are generally abraded and less

than 1mm thick, suggesting that raw materials were obtained from deposits created in high energy fluvial environments. The site occupies the north-western edge of a river terrace, which is covered by lenses of sand and gravel that were probably laid down during the Devensian glaciation (BGS 1965; Jordan 2007). The retrieval of nine pieces of unmodified flint gravel from (041) and (043) suggests there is flint within these gravels and implies that usable pebbles could have been obtained within the immediate environs of the site (*cf.* Brooks 2007).

Burning

The collection contains 29 pieces with identifiable structural changes associated with the burning of flint (Purdy and Brooks 1971): 20 pieces were recovered from (041), the other nine coming from (043). Burning has altered the structure of the flint, creating insipient fractures, many examples also having small pot-lid flakes detached or disaggregation of surfaces and margins. The surfaces of one piece from (043) have a 'greasy lustre', suggesting the possibility that it was detached from a core that had been deliberately heat treated to improve its knapping characteristics (*ibid*.).

Composition of the assemblage

Cores

The assemblage contains two cores. A multi-platform core from (041) has been worked to exhaustion, primarily through the production of very small bladelets. Its reduction was carefully controlled, with clear relationships between platforms and some platform edge trimming, although some spurs have not been removed, potentially reflecting a decision to discard this worked-out piece. The other core, from (043), has been even more concertedly reduced until only a thin cortical sliver survives. In the latter stages of reduction it was worked as an opposed platform blade core.

Flake debitage

Unmodified blades and flakes constitute 56.7% of the total assemblage (55 pieces). This element of the collection is comprised of 21 complete flakes and 34 broken flakes. There were no primary flakes among this material; ten of the complete pieces are secondary flakes and the other eleven are tertiary.

A significant proportion of this material is the product of blade industries (31 pieces). Thirteen pieces have been classified as blades or bladelets, because they have traits associated with deliberate blade manufacture, while also having a length:breadth ratio of at least 2:1. Another nine pieces have been defined as 'blade-like' flakes, a category with less rigidly defined morphological characteristics, which consists of elongated pieces manufactured by the same techniques used to produce blades. Additionally, there are a further nine flakes with traits indicative of products of curated 'narrow flake' reduction technologies. The majority of this material was removed from carefully curated cores that are characteristic of Mesolithic and elements of Early Neolithic industries. However, one of the blade-like flakes, a tertiary flake from (041), has a heavy patina and slight rounding of its arrises. This well-developed patination contrasts with the other elements of the assemblage and, therefore, implies considerable age, suggesting that this is a residual Palaeolithic artefact that once formed part of the river terrace gravels.

Although it is possible that a small proportion of the flake debitage could relate to later hard hammer industries, there are no obvious diagnostic indicators and comparable flakes would also have been produced during the earlier stages of blade core preparation.

Retouched and utilised pieces

There is just one piece with identifiable secondary retouch, an end scraper on a broken blade, which was recovered from (041). Only the tip of the distal end has been modified, the removal of extremely small abrupt chips creating a convex projection less than 9mm wide. The assemblage also contains a small bladelet manufactured from fine grey chert, (041), which has a diffuse use-wear polish along the ventral margin of a slightly concave lateral edge.

Discussion

The majority of the assemblage was recovered from buried prehistoric soils, and associated horizons, suggesting that its distribution directly reflects human activity at the time of deposition. The virtual absence of diagnostic tools and cores makes it difficult to fully establish a chronological sequence for the prehistoric activity. One artefact could potentially be a residual Palaeolithic flake that is derived from the gravel beds. Otherwise, the majority of the material is broadly characteristic of Mesolithic activity, although a continuing presence in the Early Neolithic cannot be discounted purely on morphological grounds. An emphasis upon the manufacture of small blades is indicative of a Late Mesolithic date for the collection and is consistent with the character of the lithic material recovered from the New Royal Baths site located approximately 150m to the south-west, which suggests that activity at both locales was broadly contemporaneous (Brooks 2007).

Although there is chronological correspondence, there are some significant differences in the assemblages recovered from the two sites. The New Royal Baths site was primarily utilised as a source of flint raw materials during the later Mesolithic (*ibid*.). At 7-8 Cheap Street there is an absence of tested nodules and primary flakes, and a low incidence of cores; the two examples that were retrieved having been reduced until they were no longer viable. The consequent implication is that this was not a site specifically associated with the extraction and initial working of flint nodules; even though it is likely that flint could have been obtained within the immediate vicinity.

While it is possible to discount one form of activity, the assemblage provides limited insight into the actual nature of later Mesolithic activity at 7-8 Cheap Street. One of the principle characteristics of the assemblage is the relatively high incidence of burnt pieces (29.9% of the assemblage). This burnt material provides an indication that one or more hearths were created in the immediate locality, suggesting the presence of some form of camp in this area (Sergant *et al.* 2006). Other than the presence of this burnt flint, the lithic assemblage does not provide any further insight into whether the site at Cheap Street was any more suitable to sustained domestic activity than the 'persistently wet' New Royal Baths site 2 - 3m further down the terrace (Jordan 2007).

A more detailed database of the flint analysis is included in the project archive.

Appendix 4: Environmental Assessment

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Two bulk soil samples were presented for environmental processing for the recovery of potential archaeological and environmental material (Table 5).

The soil samples were processed in the following way. Sample volume and weight was recorded prior to processing. The samples were then processed in a modified Siraf tank using an internal wet sieve mesh of 1mm for residue retention and a flotation (flot) sieve mesh of 250 microns. The coarse residue was then rinsed through graded sieves of 4mm, 2mm & 1mm and along with the rinsed flot, placed on lined and labelled trays to air dry.

Once dried the graded residues and flot were then sorted by eye to recover any archaeological and environmental material, including any magnetic material. The recovered material was then recorded onto the residue description and environmental assessment forms and placed into appropriately labelled self-sealed bags.

At present all coarse, medium and fine fractions have been retained.

Context	Sample	Volume (L)	Weight (kg)	Pottery No:	Animal Bone No:	Flint No:	Other	+ve Mag	Flot
041	3	30	31.6	-	-	>50	Charcoal <1g	1	✓
043	1	30	26.1	-	-	>70	Shell frags< 1g, charcoal <1g	1	1

Table 5: Environmental Results

Appendix 5: Pollen Analysis

By Rob Scaife

One spot sediment sample <5> has been examined to ascertain if sub-fossil pollen and spores are preserved and if so, the range of taxa present.

Standard techniques were used for concentration of the sub-fossil pollen and spores on these sub-samples of 1.5 ml. volume (Moore and Webb 1978; Moore *et al.* 1992). Extracted pollen was identified and counted using an Olympus biological microscope. Pollen was extracted from the samples but proved to be unsatisfactory with only very small numbers recovered. These pollen count data are given in Table 6 below.

Pollen	<5>
Pinus	1
Ulmus	1
Quercus	2
Tilia (degraded)	1
Alnus	13
Corylus avellana type	15
Caltha type	1
Dianthus type	1
Lactucoideae	5
Poaceae	8
Cereal type	1
Unidentified/degraded	1
Spores	
Dryopteris type	7
Pteridium aquilinum	10
Polypodium	1
Pollen total	50
Spore total	18

Table 6: Pollen count data

The sample proved to be very poor with only 50 pollen grains obtained after much effort. The sample contained heavily oxidised, almost lignified plant matter. The only factors of note are relatively high levels of alder (26%) and hazel (30%). There is only a single presence of lime. A single cereal type pollen grain was found which appeared to be a cereal (having a thick exine) rather than one of wild grasses which have similarly large pollen grains (e.g. *Glyceria*). Herbs comprise largely grasses (16%) and dandelion types (Lactucoideae; 10%). The latter were poorly preserved and are typical of such poor pollen preserving conditions where differential preservation of such robust taxa may occur. The single lime pollen recovered also falls into this category.

The presence of cereal pollen and the almost absence of lime pollen suggests that this sample is late prehistoric or historic in date. Because of the very poor pollen preservation no further pollen work on this sequence should be envisaged.

Appendix 6: List of Photographs

SITE NA	ME: 7-8	Cheap St	reet, Bath SITE NO/CODE: 1477 BCS
Shot	B&W	Digital	Subject
1		Ŭ	Pad 1, facing south
2			Pad 1, facing north-west
3			Pad 1, detail, facing north
4			Pad 1, facing south-east
5			Pad 2, dressed stone drain edging, facing north
6			Pad 2, as above, facing west
7			Pad 2, detail dressed stone, facing north
8			Pad 2, detail dressed stone, facing north
9			Pad 2, detail dressed stone, facing north-east
10			Pad 2, location, facing south
11			Pad 1, facing west
12			Pad 1, facing north-west
13			Pad 3, facing north
14			Pad 3, facing north
15			Pad 3, facing north
16			Pad 3, facing north
17			Pad 3, location, facing north
18			Pad 4, working shot
19			Pad 4, working shot
20			Pad 4, working shot
21			Pad 4, facing north
22			Pad 4, facing north
23			Pad 4, detail pipe cut, facing north
24			Pad 4, general shot, facing north
25			Pad 4, facing north
26			Pad 4, footing collapse, facing east
27			Pad 5, facing south
28			Pad 5, facing north
29			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing north
30			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing north
31			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing north
32			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing north
33			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing north-west
34			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing north
35			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing north-west
36			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing south
37			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing south
38			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing south-west
39			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing south-west
40			Pad 6, wall 006 and pit 005, facing south-west
41			Pad 7, pit 012, facing east
42			Pad 7, pit 012, facing south-east
43			Pad 7, pit 012, facing south-east
44			Pad 7, pit 012, facing south-west
45			Pad 8, facing west
46			Pad 8, facing west

47	Pad 8, facing north
48	Pad 8, facing north
49	Pads 9 and 10, facing west
50	Pads 9 and 10, facing west
51	Pads 9 and 10, facing west
52	Pads 9 and 10, facing west
53	Selection of worked flints, no scale
54	Selection of worked flints, no scale
55	Room 2, general view, facing north
56	Room 2, surface (025) butting wall 023, facing north-west
57	Room 2, surface (025) butting wall 023, facing north-west
58	Room 5, rotary quernstone fragment
59	Room 5, rotary quernstone fragment
60	Room 2, flint-bearing deposit (041), facing south
61	Room 2, flint-bearing deposit (041), facing south
62	Room 2, flint-bearing deposit (041), facing south
63	Flints from (041), no scale
64	Flints from (041), no scale
65	Room 2, prehistoric layer (041) beneath layer (025), facing south
66	Room 2, prehistoric layer (041) beneath layer (025), facing south
67	Room 1, blocked fireplace in east wall, facing east
68	Room 6, layer (049), facing south
69	Room 2, wall 023 cut by modern drain, facing unknown
70	Room 2, facing north
71	Room 2, surface (025) butting wall 023, facing north-west
72	As above

Appendix 7: ASC OASIS Form

	PROJECT	DETAIL	5				
Project Name:	7-8 Cheap Street, Bath		OASIS reference:	115538			
Short Description:	Between March and July 2012, a watching brief was undertaken at 7-8 Cheap Street, Bath, NE Somerset during groundworks associated with building refurbishment and deepening of the existing basement. The work identified a layer containing late Mesolithic struck flint, Roman masonry remains and deposits and services of post-medieval and modern date.						
Project Type:	Watching Brief						
Previous work: (eg. SMR refs)	None		Site status: (eg. none, SAM, listed)	Listed Grade II			
Current land use:	Commercial and residential		Future work: (yes/no/unknown)	No			
Monument type:	Wall, layers		Monument period:	Prehistoric, Roman, post- medieval and modern			
Significant finds: (artefact type & period)	Pottery, quernstone, flint						
	PROJECT	LOCATIC	N				
County:	NE Somerset	OS refe	rence: (8 figs min)	ST 7506 6480			
Site address: (+ postcode if known)	7-8 Cheap Street, Bath BA1 1NE	I					
Study area: (sq. m. / ha)	c. 300 sq m	Height (DD: (metres)	c. 25m			
	PROJECT	CREATO	RS				
Organisation:	Archaeological Services & Consu	Itancy Ltd					
Project brief originator:	Richard Sermon	Project	design originator:	David Fell			
Project Manager:	Jonathan Hunn	Director	/Supervisor:	Martin Cuthbert			
Sponsor / funding body:	MG Project Management						
	PROJEC	CT DATE					
Start date:	22 March 2012	End dat	e:	06 July 2012			
	PROJECT	ARCHIVE	S				
	Location (Accession no.)	Content	(eg. pottery, animal	bone, files/sheets)			
Physical:	Damar Datha Musaura	Pottery,	quernstone, animal b	one, CBM, flint			
Paper:	Roman Baths Museum Report, record sheets, site drawings, maps, plans						
Digital:		Report, photographs					
BIBLIOGRA	APHY (Journal/monograph, publisl	ned or fort	hcoming, or unpublish	ned client report)			
Title:	Watching Brief: 7-8 Cheap Street, Bath, North-East Somerset						
Serial title & volume:	ASC Ltd Report ref. 1477/BCS/2						
Author(s):	Mo Muldowney BA PlfA						
Page nos	46	Date:		23 October 2012			