

**Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill
Easter Compton
South Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Persimmon Homes Limited

CA Project: 3756
CA Report: 12192

August 2012

HILLCREST, LAND OFF CATBRAIN HILL
EASTER COMPTON
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 3756
CA Report: 12192

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date	13 August 2012
issue	01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Trench location plan, showing archaeological features (1:1000)



SUMMARY

Project Name:	Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill
Location:	Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire
NGR:	ST 5764 8053
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	18-20 July 2012
Planning Reference:	PT10/3060/F
Location of Archive:	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number:	BRSMG 2012/10
Site Code:	HIC12

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2012 at Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill, Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire. Eight trenches were excavated.

Three medieval or post-medieval furrows and agricultural features of modern date were identified. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Persimmon Homes Limited at Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill, Easter Compton, Bristol, South Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: ST 5764 8053; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of 51 new houses and their infrastructure.
- 1.2 Planning permission for the demolition of an existing dwelling to allow for a redevelopment comprising 51 new dwellings with parking, access, open space and landscaping was granted by South Gloucestershire Council (ref: PT10/3060/F), conditional (no. 16) on a programme of archaeological work. Mr David Haigh, Natural and Built Environment Team Leader, South Gloucestershire Council (SGC) is responsible for the curation of the archaeological works and requested an archaeological evaluation. A subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by CA (2012) and approved by David Haigh. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by David Haigh, including a site visit on 20 July 2012.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 1.4ha bounded by hedgerows. In the northern part of the site a small bungalow had been demolished before the evaluation and a hedgerow removed. The small field to the south was located on a south-facing slope (Fig. 2). The underlying solid geology of the site comprises Mudstone, part of the Triassic Mercian Group. No superficial geological deposits are recorded within the site (BGS 2012). Exposed geological deposits were a clay, reddish brown in colour with pale blue patches, and occasional deposits of limestone.
- 1.4 The area of the former bungalow lies at approximately 53m AOD, falling to 47m AOD in the southern part of the site. The site was under grass.

Archaeological background

- 1.5 In 2010 Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site (CA 2010). A summary of the findings of this report are presented below.
- 1.6 An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out 500m to the east of the site in 1998, this recorded evidence for an Iron Age settlement. The settlement comprised a single roundhouse and a large enclosure ditch, along with evidence of a surrounding field system. Several pits and postholes within the enclosure may represent a separate phase of occupation. No evidence of prehistoric activity has been recorded within the site.
- 1.7 The Roman road that previously ran between Gloucester and Sea Mills (Margary 1973, **541**, 140 and Fig. 5) lay to the south-west of the site. No evidence of Roman activity has been recorded elsewhere within the within the site or its immediate environs.
- 1.8 Earthworks indicative of a deserted medieval village are recorded at Passage Road, 550m to the south-west of the site. Charlton, a hamlet with medieval origins, previously lay 450m to the south-east of the site, but was destroyed in 1948 to make way for the Brabazon runway at RAF Filton. Charlton was probably a shrunken medieval village, and earthworks indicative of its former extent were recorded 550m to the south-west of the site.
- 1.9 Cribbs Farm is a post-medieval farmstead lying 400m to the west of the site. Catbrain is similarly recorded as a post-medieval settlement by the South Gloucestershire HER but is not recorded on the 1841 Tithe Map, suggesting it is of late 19th-century origin.
- 1.10 The site is first recorded on the 1841 Tithe Map of Charlton, an area which existed as a separate Tithing in the parish of Henbury. This map records the site lying across two fields adjacent to a lane. No buildings are recorded within the site or its vicinity, suggesting that the existing settlement at Catbrain is of later origin.
- 1.11 The site is recorded throughout the late 19th and 20th centuries by the Ordnance Survey. The 1903 Edition map records the removal of the internal field boundary shown on the Tithe Map, leaving the site as a single field. This map is also the first

to record the houses to the west of the site, forming the modern settlement at Catbrain. The subsequent 1915 map is the first to record development in the site, comprising a small house, now demolished. This map is also the first to record the north-east/south-western boundary which divides the site in two.

- 1.12 The results of a geophysical survey carried out in 2010, did not suggest the presence of archaeologically significant anomalies. A number of linear anomalies were classified as uncertain in origin, although these are considered likely to relate to former agricultural cultivation (Archaeological Surveys 2010).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.13 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist the South Gloucestershire Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.14 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of eight trenches of 25m length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trenches were located to intersect linear and dipolar anomalies detected by the geophysical survey. Trenches 7 and 8 had to be rotated to avoid a foul water sewerage pipe, with the approval of David Haigh, Natural and Built Environment Team Leader, SGC. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009).
- 1.15 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.16 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that

required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (2010).

- 1.11 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery under accession number BRSMG 2012/10), along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Trenches 3, 4 and 5 each contained a single wide shallow linear feature. These three features, were c. 1m in width and less than 0.1m in depth. The feature in Trench 3 contained a small sherd of medieval pottery and in Trench 4 there was a sherd of modern, blue and white pottery (not retained) in the fill of the feature. These features almost certainly represent furrows of medieval and/or post-medieval date.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.6 Artefactual material comprising a single sherd of medieval pottery and an iron staple of medieval or later date was recovered. The medieval sherd, from gully fill 302, is a bodysherd in an oxidised unglazed coarseware, probably Ham Green redware (Bristol pottery type 26). As such it probably dates to the 12th or 13th centuries (Ponsford 1998).

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation identified three probable furrows of medieval and/or post-medieval date. The remains of ridge and furrow cultivation have also been identified immediately to the south-east of the site (David Haigh pers. com.).



- 3.2 None of the furrows correlated to anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (although a number ran parallel to them). These anomalies (and those representing possible discrete features) were not identified by the trial trenching).

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright, assisted by Alex Thomson. The report was written by Jamie Wright and the finds report by Ed McSloy. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Jamie Wright, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Laurent Coleman.

5. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2010 *Catbrain Hill, Cribbs Causeway, South Gloucestershire: Magnetometer Survey Report*, Ref. no. **335**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2012 Geology of Britain Viewer http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill, Easter Compton, Bristol: *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

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Price, R. with Ponsford M.W. 1998 *St Bartholomew's Hospital, Bristol: The Excavation of a Medieval Hospital 1976–8* CBA Research Report **110**, York, Council for British Archaeology Research

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
102	Layer	Natural			>0.25	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
201	Layer	Topsoil. Dark grey for 0.1m then pale greyish brown, undulating lower boundary.			0.25	
202	Layer	Pale grey clay with bands of ?limestone. In S of trench clay is grey or reddish brown.			>0.25	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
301	Layer	Subsoil			0.15	
302	Fill	Fill of 303	1.6	1	0.1	C12-C13
303	Gully	Linear feature, wide and shallow	1.6	1	0.1	
304	Fill	Fill of 305	0.2	0.2	0.2	
305	Cut	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.2	
306	Fill	Fill of 307	0.3	0.3	0.25	
307	Cut	Posthole	0.3	0.3	0.25	
308	Fill	Fill of 309	0.35	0.35	0.25	
309	Cut	Posthole	0.35	0.35	0.25	
310	Fill	Fill of 311. Void of post still visible.	0.25	0.25	0.15	
311	Cut	Posthole	0.25	0.25	0.15	
312	Fill	Fill of 313	0.25	0.25	0.15	
313	Cut	Posthole	0.25	0.25	0.15	
314	Fill	Fill of 315, tho' more void than fill.	0.15	0.15	0.25	
315	Cut	Posthole	0.15	0.15	0.25	
316	Fill	Fill of 317	0.28	0.28	0.17	
317	Cut	Posthole	0.28	0.28	0.17	
318	Layer	Natural			>0.3	

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
401	Layer	Topsoil.			0.2	
402	Layer	Subsoil			0.2-0.4	
403	Layer	Natural			>0.4	
404	Fill	Fill of 405	1.5	1	>0.1	
405	Cut	Shallow gully or ?furrow	1.5	1	>0.1	

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
501	Layer	Subsoil			0.15-0.3	
502	Fill	Fill of 503	1.6	c. 1	c.0.08	
503	Cut	Shallow gully/?furrow	1.6	c. 1	c.0.08	
504	Layer	Natural			>0.3	

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
601	Layer	Subsoil			0.2-0.4	
602	Layer	Natural			>0.4	

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil.			0.15	
701	Layer	Subsoil			0.15-0.45	
702	Layer	Natural			>0.45	
703	Layer	Natural				
704	Layer	Natural				

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	
801	Layer	Subsoil			0.15-0.35	
802	Layer	Natural			>0.35	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
302	Medieval pottery: Ham Green redware (BPT 26)	1	3	C12-C13
306	Iron object: staple	1	-	-

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill, Easter Compton, Bristol	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2012 at Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill, Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire. Eight trenches were excavated. Three medieval or post-medieval furrows and agricultural features of modern date were identified. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.	
Project dates		
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-based assessment, Geophysical survey	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill, Easter Compton, Bristol, South Gloucestershire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	1.4ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 5764 8053	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Laurent Coleman	
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery BRSMG 2012/10	Ceramics
Paper	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery BRSMG 2012/10	Trench sheets, Photo sheets etc
Digital	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery BRSMG 2012/10	Survey data, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill, Easter Compton, Bristol: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 12192		



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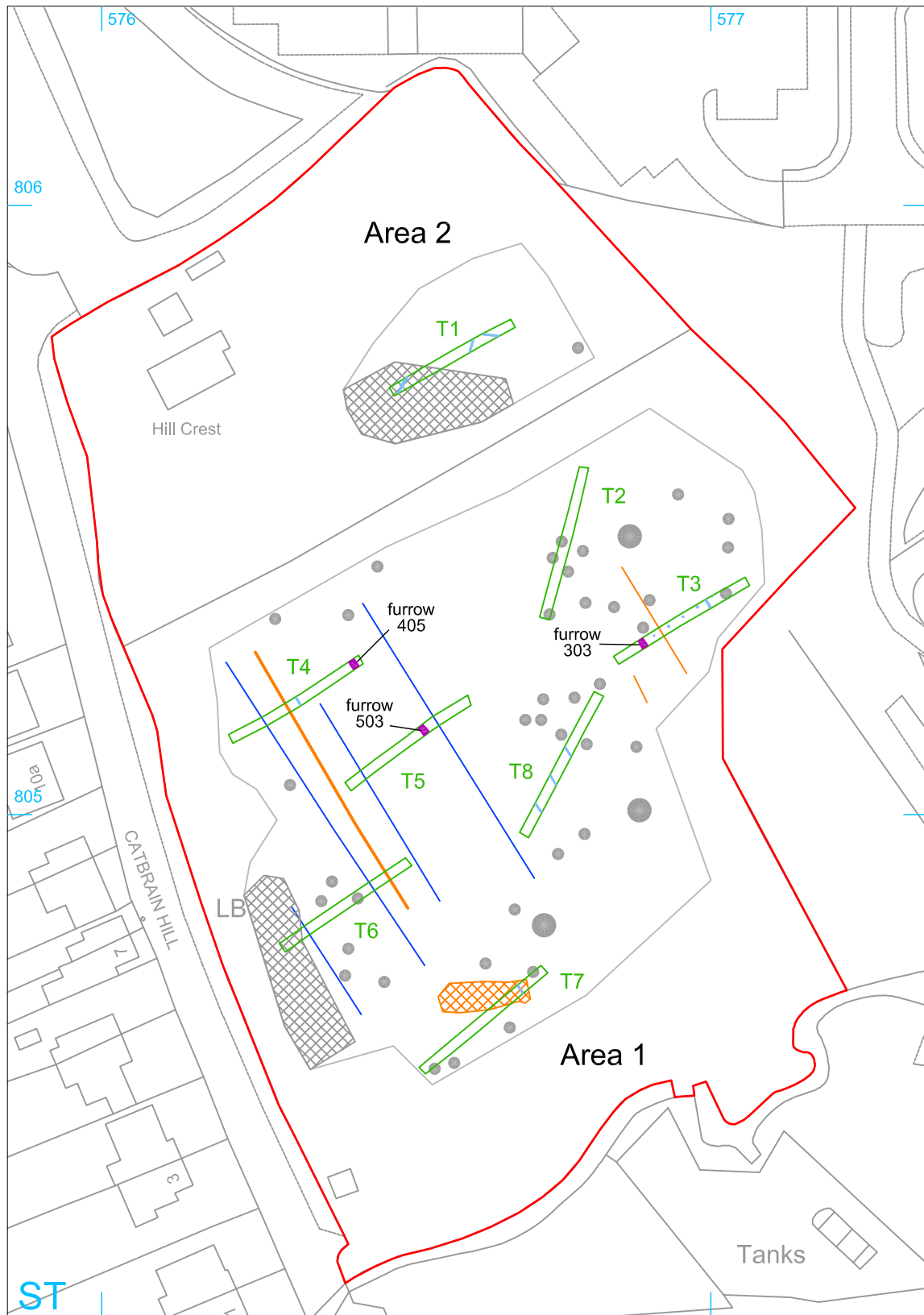
PROJECT TITLE
 Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill
 Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 3756 DATE 31-07-2012
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1

Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109



site

evaluation trench

furrow

modern

Abstraction and interpretation of magnetometer anomalies:

Positive linear anomaly of uncertain origin

Linear anomaly of agricultural origin

Positive area of uncertain origin

Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material

Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
**Hillcrest, Land off Catbrain Hill
 Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire**

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench location plan, showing
 archaeological features**

PROJECT NO. 3756 DATE 31-07-2012
 DRAWN BY LG REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:1000

FIGURE NO.

2

