

**Land at Bristol Street
(University Technical College Site)
Swindon
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
BAM Construction Ltd


CA Project: 4497
CA Report: 14043

April 2014

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 (University Technical College Site)
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date	14 April 2014
checked by	Ian Barnes, Project Manager
date	14 April 2014
approved by	Laurent Coleman
signed	
date	16 April 2014
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	University Technical College Site, Swindon
Location:	Swindon, Wiltshire
NGR:	SU 14390, 84770
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	October 2013 - January 2014
Planning Reference:	Planning App. No. S/13/0555
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Swindon Museum and Art Gallery
Accession Number:	SWIMG B2013.40
Site Code:	SUT 13

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of a range of buildings associated with the Great Western Railway for use as a higher education facility at the University Technical College, Swindon.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between October 2013 and January 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for BAM Construction Ltd at the University Technical College, Swindon site (centred on NGR: SU 14390, 84770; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the conversion of a range of buildings associated with the Great Western Railway (GWR) for use as a higher educational facility (Planning App. No. S/13/0555). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2013) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2009), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Wiltshire* (WCC 1995), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area comprises a sub rectangular plot of land and two story buildings along the north-east and south-west edges. The site lies at approximately 95m AOD and is flat.
- 1.4 The proposed development area is 0.6ha in extent and was used as a car park.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Ampthill and Kimmeridge Clay Formation (BGS 2012). The actual geology was encountered only in the north-western part of the site.



Archaeological background

- 1.6 The main development at the site is associated with the arrival of the railway, immediately to the north of the site and the construction of the new engineering works (GWR Works) in 1841-1843, designed for the maintenance, repair and manufacture of locomotives (Swindon Borough Council 2006). The Site is situated within the Swindon Railway Village Conservation Area and two Grade II Listed Buildings (the former Infant School and the Water Tower) and two Key Buildings of Interest (The Great Western One buildings and the former Mill) are located within the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2012). Early modern activity represented by the 19th-century construction of the buildings associated with the railway resulted in the truncation and contamination seen across site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.7 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2013). A competent archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks connected with the development. The eastern part of the site was not archaeologically monitored due to the heavy contaminated soil.



- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.10 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 1-2-3)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate (contexts 202 and 302) consisting of a silty clay, was revealed only at the north-western part of the site at a typical depth of 0.5m below present ground level. This was overlain by a dark layer with abundant degraded building rubble, plastic and tarmac averaging 0.4m in thickness (contexts 101, 201 and 301).
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 While the archaeological potential of the proposed development site was acknowledge (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The site has been heavily truncated and contaminated by the 19th-century industrial development associated with the construction of the Great Western Railway Works which was the cause of absence of archaeological deposits.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by CA Project Supervisors Peter Busby and Jonathan Castro Orellana. The report was written by CA Project Supervisor Designate

Jonathan Castro Orellana. The illustrations were prepared by Aleksandra Osinska. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Castro Orellana, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by CA manager Ian Barnes.

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land at Bristol Street (University Technical College Site), Swindon, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Scott Brownrigg 2013 *Heritage Statement for Swindon UTC Railway Village, Swindon*

Wessex Archaeology 2012 *Swindon UTC, Wiltshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, Ref No. **87520.01**

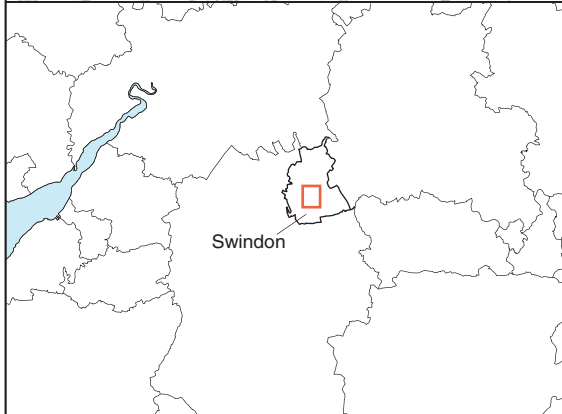


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	101	Layer		Dump	Bluish black silty clay and stone and rubble			0.8	
1	102	Struct		Foundation	Concrete and brick wall foundation	1.72	0.76	0.5	
1	103	Struct		Foundation	L shaped concrete and brick foundation	1.82	1.66	0.5	
1	104	Struct		Foundation	Concrete block and brick wall foundation	2.9	2.2	0.5	
2	201	Layer		Dump	Mid greyish black sandy clay with abundant brick and concrete rubble, plastic and tarmac			0.5	
2	202	Depos		Natural subst rate	Firm bluish grey silty clay				
3	301	Layer		Dump	Mid greyish black sandy clay and modern rubble, plastic and tarmac			0.6	
3	302	Depos		Natural subst rate	Firm bluish grey silty clay				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	University Technical College Site, Swindon
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the conversion of a range of buildings associated with the Great Western Railway for use as a higher education facility at the University Technical College, Swindon. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.
Project dates	October 2013-January 2014
Project type	Watching Brief
Previous work	Watching Brief (CA 2013)
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Land at Bristol Street, Swindon, Wiltshire
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.6ha
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 14390, 84770
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	Swindon Borough Council (SBC)
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Ian Barnes
Project Supervisor	Peter Busby and Jonathan Castro Orellana
MONUMENT TYPE	
None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Swindon Museum and Art Gallery (SWIMG B2013.40)	
Physical	None
Paper	Context sheets, trench sheets, photo registers
Digital	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>University Technical College Site, Swindon: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> , CA typescript report 14043	



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PROJECT TITLE

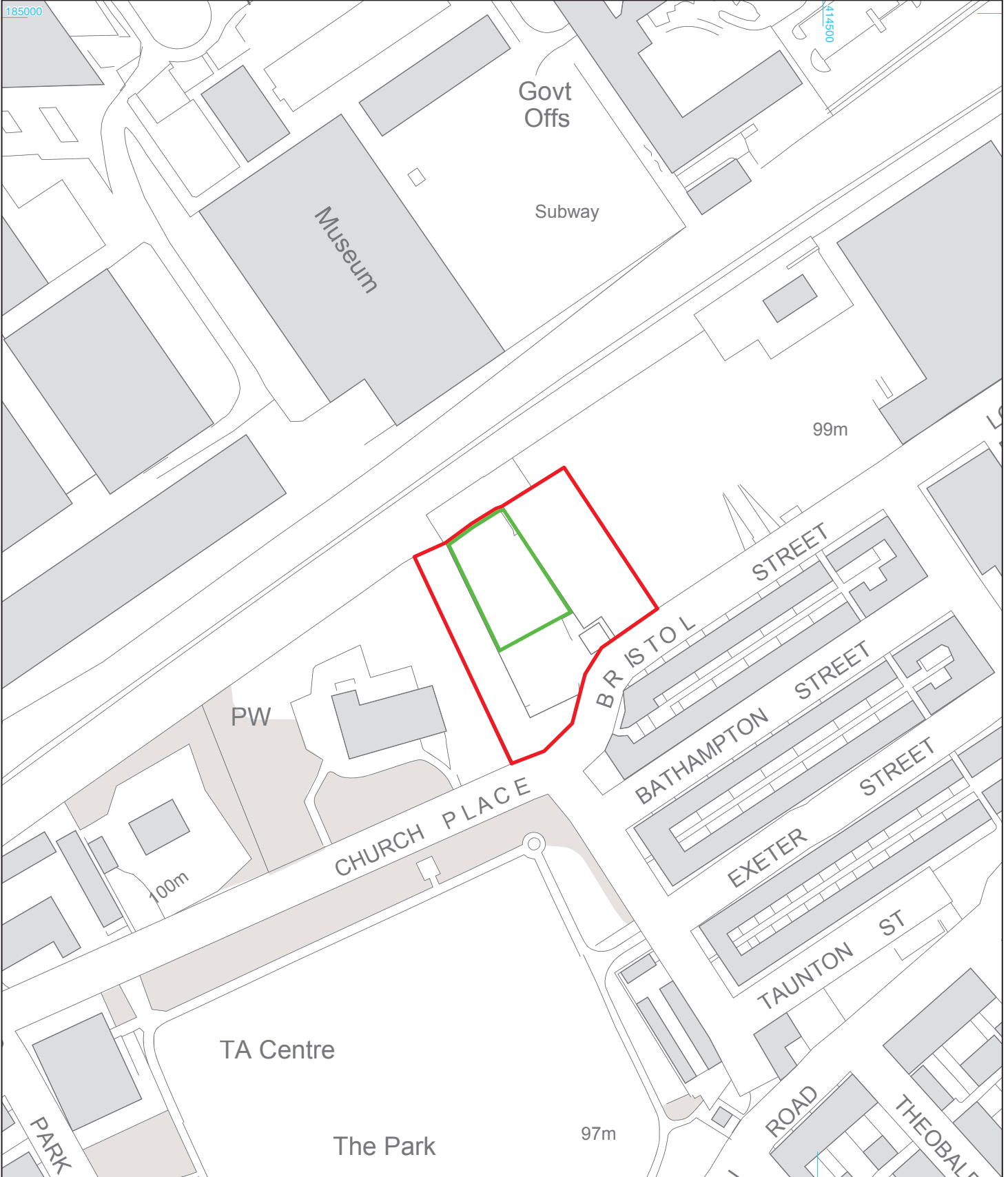
Land at UTC, Bristol Street, Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

PROJECT NO.	4497	DATE	20/03/2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	AO	REVISION	00	
APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

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- site
- observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at UTC, Bristol Street, Swindon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Plan showing location of the groundworks





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3 General view of the site (looking south)



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PROJECT TITLE

Land at UTC, Bristol Street, Swindon,
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

PROJECT NO. 4497 DATE 20/03/2014
 DRAWN BY AO REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 N/A

FIGURE NO.

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