

**72 St John's Road
Bathwick
Bath and North East Somerset**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Rathbourne Ltd

CA Project: 5873
CA Report: 16276

June 2016



72 St John's Road
 Bathwick
 Bath and North East Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 5873
 CA Report: 16276



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	13/06/16	Ray Holt	Richard Young	Internal review		Ian Barnes

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	4
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	5
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	6
8. REFERENCES.....	6
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	7
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	8

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:2000 and 1:200)
- Fig. 3 Trench 2: section and photograph (1:10)



SUMMARY

Project Name: 72 St John's Road
Location: Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset
NGR: ST 75340 65475
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 23 May 2016
Planning Reference: 16/00067/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum
Site Code: STJR 16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a single and two storey rear extension and new porch at 72 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Rathbourne Ltd at 72 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 75340 65475; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent granted by Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) Council for the erection of a single and two storey rear extension and new porch (BANES Council Planning ref: 16/00067/FUL).
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a condition for a programme of archaeological works (Condition 2), recommended by Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer, BANES Council, the archaeological advisor to BANES Council, and with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2016) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of Mr Sermon. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014)*.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 250m², and comprises an existing residential property and gardens. The site lies at approximately 21.6m AOD, on land that falls gently to the south.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic era with overlying Quaternary period deposits of Alluvium - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (BGS 2016). Natural substrate was not observed during the watching brief.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A review of the known archaeological assets within the City of Bath has defined 36 character zones (BANESC 2004). The site is located within Zone 14, approximately corresponding to the core of the medieval settlement of Bathwick on the eastern bank of the River Avon.

- 2.2 The site is located within the proposed extent of Bathwick Roman cemetery (HER ref: MBN30193). The cemetery has not been archaeologically defined, however a spread of burials (including a coffined burial 70m north-east of the site and a single human tibia at the adjoining property to the north; MBN 1862 and 30464) has been identified extending south-east from the current site of Cleveland Bridge, approximately 160m north of the site, to the junction of Sydney Gardens and Bathwick Hill, 500m south-east of the site. The presence of the cemetery in this location suggests that Cleveland Bridge may be located at the point of a Roman river crossing. There is therefore potential for an unknown Roman road to be present near the site.
- 2.3 Zone 14 is characterised as having further notable Roman activity, and discoveries within the zone include columns (MBN1861) and mosaics, indicative of stone-built buildings (BANESC 2004, 10). Recent archaeological investigations in the zone have identified well preserved Roman features cut into the alluvium and gravels, including a large ditch, which may substantiate that a Roman settlement was located within the zone (MBN 11297).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising machine excavation of foundation trenches (Trenches 1-4; Fig. 2).

4.2 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Roman Baths Museum. 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.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 The natural geological substrate, mapped as Mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation was not revealed in any of the observed groundworks. A similar sequence of deposits was observed in all four of the interventions.

5.2 The lowest observed deposit 103/203/302/402 consisted of artefactually sterile greenish grey silty clay revealed at between 0.8m and 0.95m below present ground level (BPGL), the function and thickness of this deposit was not ascertained. Overlying the silty clay deposit was a dark greenish brown sandy silt subsoil 102/202/301/401. It measured between 0.3m and 0.4m thick and contained animal bone and modern pottery (not recovered). The subsoil was overlain by a 0.5m thick dark brown sandy silt topsoil 101/201/300/400 which contained modern plant pot fragments (Fig. 3, Section AA and photograph).

5.3 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. Due to its date and unknown provenance this material was not retained. Concrete paths and yard surfaces related to the current property were also observed.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the Roman settlement and cemetery, and medieval settlement either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the



shallow foundation trenches, or that they may have been removed during previous development.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Ray Holt. The report was written by Ray Holt. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Ray Holt, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. REFERENCES

BANESC (Bath and North East Somerset Council 2004) *Archaeology in the City of Bath: Supplementary Planning Guidance*

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 25 April 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *72 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Test Pit No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth /thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Yard surface	concrete	0.9	0.9	0.1	
1	101	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.5	modern
1	102	Layer		subsoil	Dark greenish brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.35	modern
1	103	Layer		deposit	Greenish grey silty clay	0.9	0.9	n/a	
2	200	Layer		Yard surface	concrete	0.9	0.9	0.1	
2	201	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.5	modern
2	202	Layer		subsoil	Dark greenish brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.3	modern
2	203	Layer		deposit	Greenish grey silty clay	0.9	0.9	n/a	
3	300	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.5	modern
3	301	Layer		subsoil	Dark greenish brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.3	modern
3	302	Layer		deposit	Greenish grey silty clay	0.9	0.9	>0.05	
4	400	Layer		topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.4	modern
4	401	Layer		subsoil	Dark greenish brown sandy silt	0.9	0.9	0.4	modern
4	402	Layer		deposit	Greenish grey silty clay	0.9	0.9	>0.1	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	72 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of a single and two storey rear extension and new porch at 72 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	23 May 2016	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	72 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset	
Study area (M ² /ha)	250m ²	
Site co-ordinates	ST 75340 65475	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	None	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Ray Holt	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	n/a	n/a
Paper	Roman Baths Museum	Trench recording sheets, permatrace drawing
Digital	Roman Baths Museum	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>72 St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 16276		

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

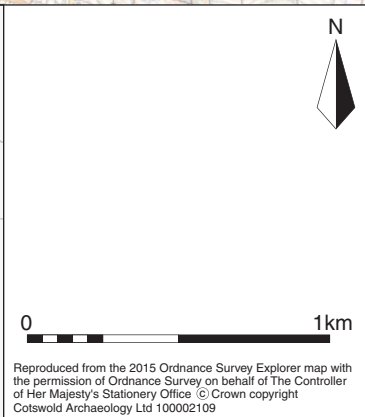
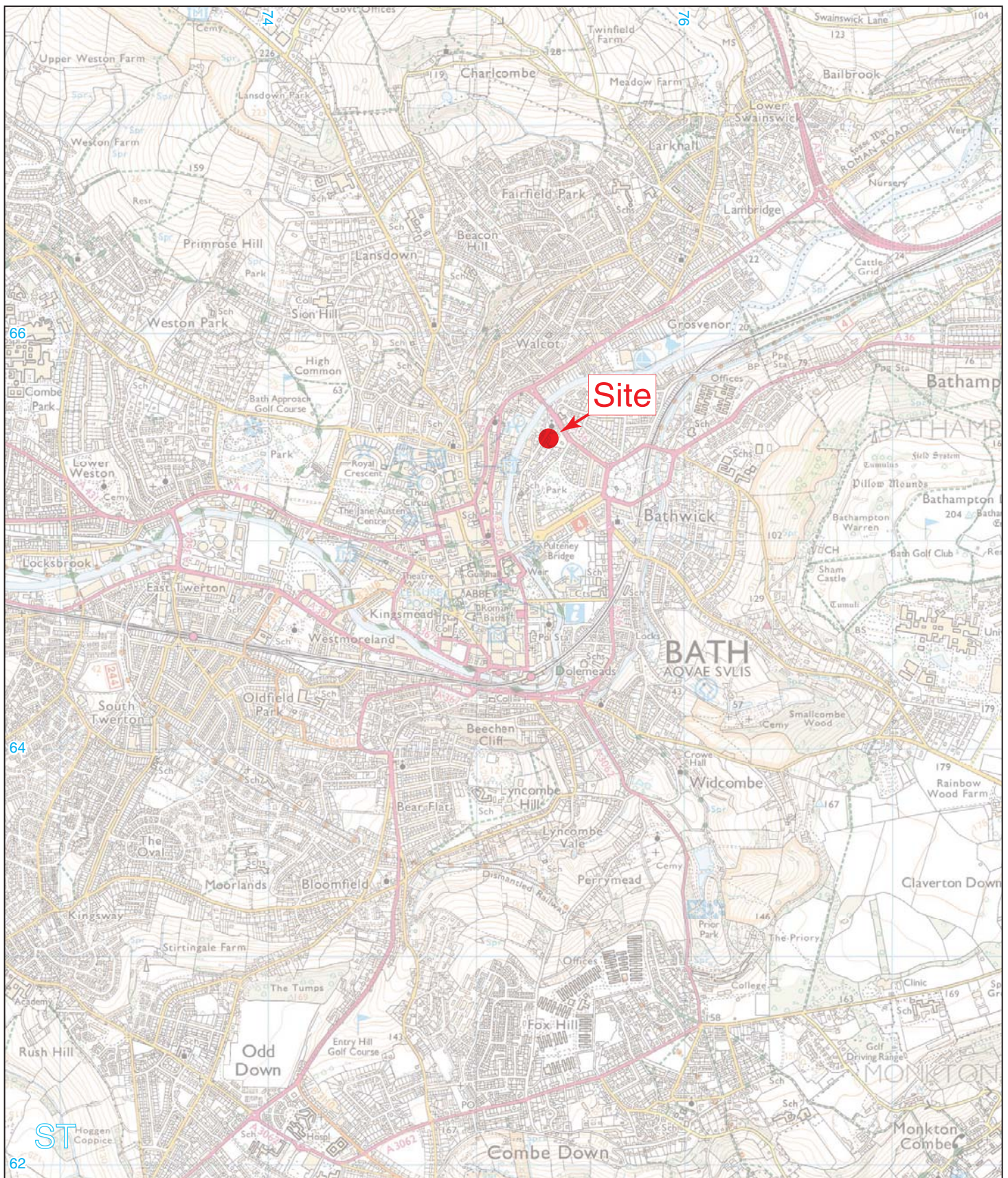
Unit 53
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

41 Burners Lane South
Kiln Farm
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK11 3HA

t: 01908 564660





Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk




PROJECT TITLE
 72 St John's Road, Bathwick
 Bath and North East Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	LJH	PROJECT NO.	5873	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	24-05-2016	
APPROVED BY	REY	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

Reproduced from the 2015 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 boundary
-  location of observed groundworks
-  section location



Andover 01264 347630
 Cloucester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
**72 St John's Road, Bathwick
 Bath and North East Somerset**

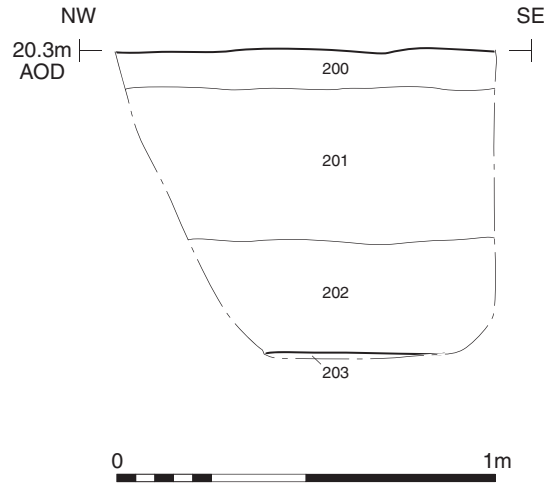
FIGURE TITLE
**The site, showing location of
 groundworks**

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 5873
 CHECKED BY L M DATE 14/06/2016
 APPROVED BY R E Y SCALE@A3 1:200 & 1:2000

FIGURE NO.

2

Section AA



Trench 2 looking north-east (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Exeter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

72 St John's Road, Bathwick
Bath and North East Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 2: section and photograph

DRAWN BY L J H PROJECT NO. 5873
CHECKED BY L M DATE 26/05/16
APPROVED BY R E Y SCALE@A4 1:20

FIGURE NO.

3