

# South Quays Site Bath Bath and North East Somerset

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
Bath and North East Somerset Council

CA Project: 6010  
CA Report: 16483

October 2016



# South Quays Site Bath Bath and North East Somerset

## Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 6010  
CA Report: 16483



Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	4 October 2016	Alison Roberts	Steven Sheldon	Final LPA Issue		Laurent Coleman

*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.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY .....	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	6
6. DISCUSSION.....	7
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
8. REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	9
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	10

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing observed groundworks, previous trial pit locations and archaeological features (1:4000)
- Fig. 3 Trial Pits 8 and 10: Sections (1:20)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	South Quays Site
<b>Location:</b>	Bath, Bath and North East Somerset
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 74632 64460
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	22 and 23 August 2016
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum
<b>Site Code:</b>	SQSB16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016, at South Quays, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset. A total of five geotechnical site investigation trial pits were monitored.

Probable alluvial deposits were identified in four of the excavated trial pits at depths of between 1.5m and 2.5m below the present ground level (17.2m-16.7m AOD). These deposits were overlain by deposits representing episodes of modern make-up/levelling.

A limestone wall was identified in the western part of the site (Trial Pit 8) and appears to correspond to a row of buildings depicted on the First Edition 1886 OS map. A red brick wall was identified in the eastern part of the site (Trial Pit 10) and probably represents part of a 19th or 20th-century cellar.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) Council at the South Quays Site, Bath, BANES (centred on NGR: ST 74632 64460; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site is currently being proposed for redevelopment. Following consultation between CA and Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer, BANES Council, it was determined that a watching brief was required during an additional phase of geotechnical site investigation works at the site. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (CA 2016a) and approved by Mr Sermon. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 1.9ha in extent and lies between the Lower Bristol Road and the River Avon. The site is currently occupied by a number of disused 19th and 20th-century industrial buildings and areas of hardstanding, currently used as car parks. The site lies at approximately 19m AOD, and is broadly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Charmouth Mudstone Formation of the Jurassic Period with superficial alluvial deposits of Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel (BGS 2016). Probable alluvial deposits, comprising compact blue grey clay, were identified in Trial Pits 7 and 9-11.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has been subject to a number of desk-based archaeological assessments in relation to previous development proposals (Pearson 2007, Wessex archaeology (WA) 2013). A Built Heritage Assessment (CA 2015) and an Archaeological Appraisal (CA 2016b) have also been undertaken in association with the current proposed development. This section provides a brief summary of the archaeological background as outlined within these previous studies:

### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2 The presence of Mesolithic flintwork within alluvial deposits has been demonstrated in Bath to the north of the River Avon and in the location of the hot springs. The current site occupies the first area to the west of the great bend of the river around the city centre where such deposits might survive on the rivers south bank (WA 2013).
- 2.3 No prehistoric features or artefacts are known from the site itself and there is no evidence for later prehistoric (c. 4000BC onwards) activity in the immediate vicinity.

### *Romano-British*

- 2.4 A large Roman villa has been located on the hill slopes c. 150m to the south of the site. How this might have affected the riverside is unclear, although what appears to have been a metalled road led down from the villa towards the site, but was not traced to the north of the railway line (c. 40m to the south of site). This road may have connected to the putative Roman predecessor of the Lower Bristol Road (CA 2016b). There is no further evidence for Roman period activity on the river side.

### *Medieval*

- 2.5 The available historical records indicate that Bath was an important Anglo-Saxon centre from at least the 7th-century AD, although its earlier post-Roman character is poorly understood (*ibid.*). No evidence from this period has been identified in the vicinity of the site, although it is possible that the Lower Bristol Road, if not older, developed in this period as the route to Keynsham and Bristol. Evidence for the later medieval (post-Norman Conquest) period is sparse and it is likely that the site was in agricultural use during this period.

### *Post-medieval/modern*

- 2.6 The site appears to have remained undeveloped until after 1819 (*ibid.*). The 1836 Tithe Map shows a number of buildings occupying the eastern part of the site. An apparent row of buildings fronting the Lower Bristol Road are also shown, along with a further row of buildings set at right angles from this row.
- 2.7 Research has shown that Stothert and Pitt were paying rates for land on the site in the 1830s (*ibid.*). During the life of the industrial complex and foundry on the site, especially in its early years, a number of structures are known to have been constructed and replaced as plant developed and technology changed. Map regression and analysis of the surviving buildings on the site has allowed a detailed

portrayal of this development to be constructed and this is detailed in the Built Heritage Report (CA 2015). Although the state of survival is poorly understood, it is likely that below ground remains of some of these structures and features still survive on the site.

#### *Previous archaeological works*

- 2.8 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in October 2015 during an earlier phase of geotechnical site investigation works at the site (*ibid.*). A total of seven trial pits, including one which was abandoned due to the presence of reinforced concrete (TP2), were excavated (Fig. 2). Probable alluvial clays were identified in Trial Pits 2a, 3, 5 and 6 at between 1.2m and 2.5m below present ground level (bpgl). These deposits were sealed by modern made ground. A red brick wall, probably associated with the extant foundry building, was identified in Trial Pit 2a. Trial Pit 1 was excavated within a modern concrete shaft and Trial Pit 4 was excavated within a probable modern cellar.

### **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 2016a). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of five site investigation trial pits (Fig. 2). A sixth trial pit was originally proposed but was not excavated. Non-archaeologically significant deposits were removed by the contactors under archaeological supervision. Where mechanical excavators were used, these were equipped with a toothless bucket.



- 4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble prior to being deposited with Roman Bath's 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)

### *Trial Pit 7 (Fig. 2)*

- 5.1 Alluvial clay 702 was revealed at 2.1m bpgl (16.9m AOD). It was overlain by make-up/levelling layer 701, which measured 1.9m in thickness and contained frequent concrete, limestone and red brick fragments. This was in turn sealed by modern concrete surface 700, measuring 0.2m in thickness.

### *Trial Pit 8 (Figs 2 & 3)*

- 5.2 The earliest deposit encountered was north-west/south-east aligned wall 803, identified at a depth of 0.4m bpgl. It survived to a depth of at least 1.6m and was of rough limestone block construction, bonded by a friable lime mortar. Wall 803 was butted by probable make-up/demolition deposit 802. It measured at least 1.6m in thickness and contained abundant mortar flecks as well as frequent limestone and red brick fragments.
- 5.3 Wall 803 and make-up/demolition deposit 802 were overlain by a compact layer of silt-sand and slag, 801, which measuring 0.2m in thickness. This was in turn sealed by modern concrete slab, 800, which measured 0.2m in thickness.

### *Trial Pit 9 (Fig. 2)*

- 5.4 Alluvial clay 902 was revealed at 2.3m bpgl (16.7m AOD). It was overlain by make-up/levelling layer 901, which measured 2.1m in thickness and contained concrete, slag, limestone and red brick fragments. This was in turn sealed by modern concrete surface 900, measuring 0.2m in thickness.



*Trial Pit 10 (Figs 2 & 3)*

- 5.5 Alluvial clay 1004 was identified at 1.7m bpgl (17.2m AOD). It was cut by north-west/south-east aligned construction cut 1005 for red brick wall 1003, which survived to at least 0.7m in depth. Wall 1003 was overlain by make-up/levelling layer 1002, which measured 1.4m in thickness and contained frequent slate, slag and red brick fragments. This was sealed by a compact layer of silt-sand and slag, 1001, measuring 0.2m in thickness which was in turn sealed by modern concrete surface 1000, measuring 0.2m in thickness.

*Trial Pit 11 (Fig. 2)*

- 5.6 Alluvial clay 1104 was revealed at 1.5m bpgl (17.1m AOD) and measured at least 0.8m in thickness. It was overlain by make-up/levelling layer, 1103, which contained frequent concrete and limestone fragments and measured up to 0.9m in thickness. Layer 1103 was sealed by a compact layer of silt-sand and slag, 1102, measuring 0.3m in thickness which was in turn overlain by two concrete surfaces, 1101 and 1100, measuring 0.2m and 0.1m in thickness respectively.

## 6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief has demonstrated that alluvial deposits survive in Trial Pits 7 and 9-11 at a depth of between 1.5m and 2.5m bpgl (17.2m-16.7m AOD). The identified alluvial deposits were overlain by deposits representing episodes of modern make-up/levelling. The watching brief has further demonstrated that structures, seemingly relating to the 19th and/or 20th-century industrial use of the site, survive below the present ground level. These results are comparable to those obtained from the earlier phase of watching brief undertaken at the site (CA 2015).
- 6.2 Limestone wall 803, identified in Trial Pit 8, appears to correspond to part of a row of buildings, probably representing workers accommodation (CA 2015), depicted by the First Edition 1886 OS map. These buildings are shown on all later editions of OS mapping until 1930-1933 when they appear to have been replaced by a large structure, presumably relating to the continuing expansion and development of the industrial site, on a different alignment.
- 6.3 Red brick wall 1003, identified in Trial Pit 10, is similarly aligned to the extant foundry building. A number of ancillary buildings are shown to the east of the

foundry on the detailed 1902 Goad Insurance map of the site (CA 2016) and it is likely, due to the depth at which the wall was identified, that it relates to a cellar associated with one of these structures.

## 7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts. The report was written by Alison Roberts. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Alison Roberts, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Steven Sheldon.

## 8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 30 August 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *South Quays Site, Lower Bristol Road, Bath: Built Heritage Assessment*, Unpublished Client Report

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016a *South Quays Site, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016b *South Quays Site, Lower Bristol Road, Bath: Archaeological Appraisal*, CA Report No. **16354**

Pearson 2007 *Dyson Scheme ES Chapter: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage* (Appendix 5.2)

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2013 *Bath Quays Waterside, Bath and North East Somerset: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, WA Ref. No. **101270.01**



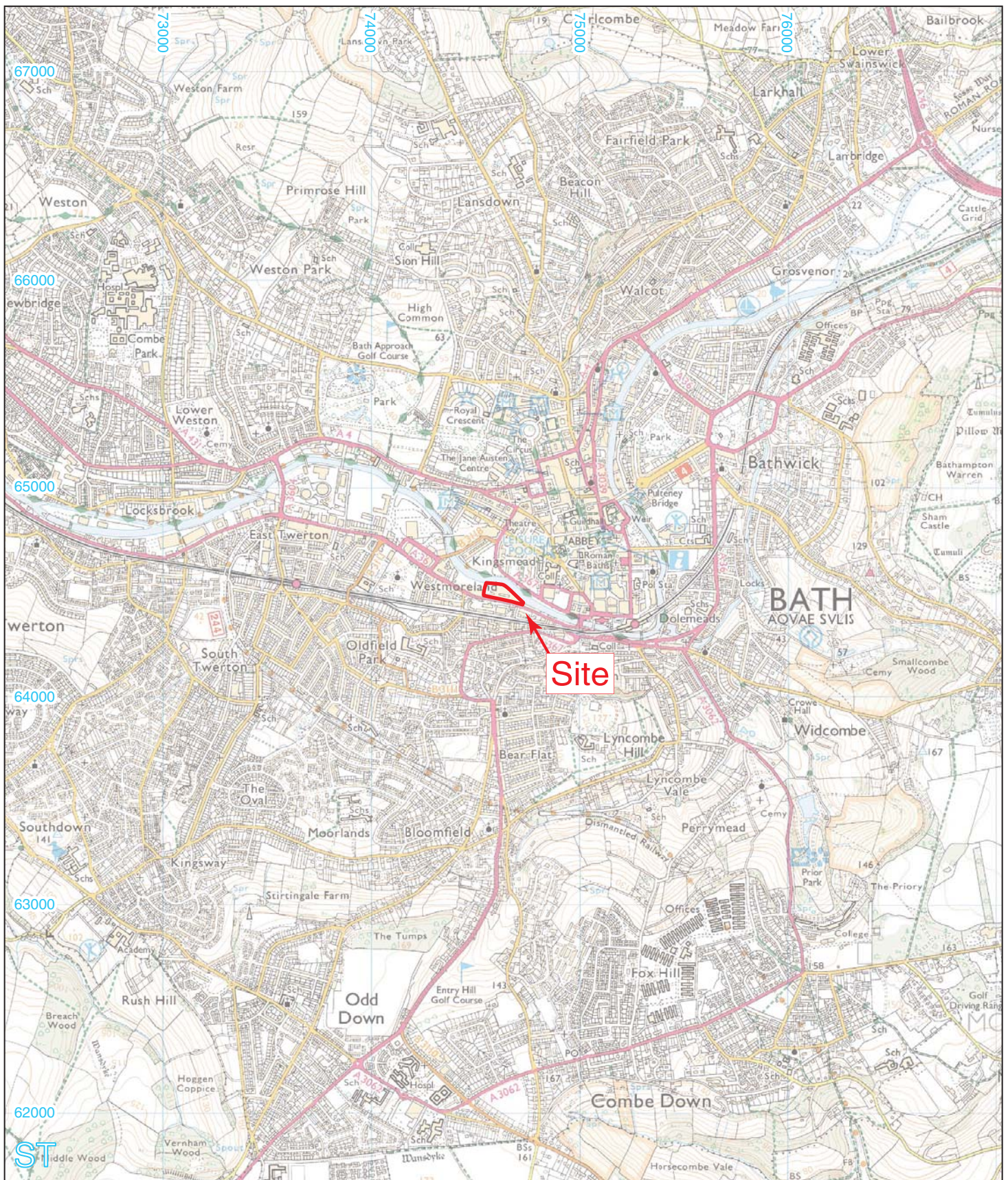
## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/ thickness (m)
7	700	Deposit		Concrete surface	Concrete surface	>2.2	>1.1	0.2
7	701	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Dark grey black sand silt with abundant concrete, limestone and red brick fragments.	>2.2	>1.1	1.9
7	702	Layer		Alluvial clay	Compact mid grey blue clay, no visible inclusions	>2.2	>1.1	N/A
8	800	Deposit		Concrete surface	Concrete surface	>2	>1	0.2
8	801	Layer		Layer	Compact layer of silt sand and slag	>2	>1	0.2
8	802	Layer		Demolition? Make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown silt sand with abundant mortar flecks and limestone/red brick fragments	>1.5	>1	>1.6
8	803	Deposit		Wall	NW/SE aligned, rough dressed limestone blocks, lime mortar	>2	>0.5	>1.6
9	900	Deposit		Concrete surface	Concrete surface	>2.6	>1.4	0.2
9	901	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Dark grey black sand silt with abundant concrete, slag and red brick fragments.	>2.6	>1.4	2.1
9	902	Layer		Alluvial clay	Compact mid grey blue clay, no visible inclusions	>2.6	>1.4	>0.1
10	1000	Deposit		Concrete surface	Concrete surface	>1.5	>0.8	0.1
10	1001	Layer		Layer	Compact layer of silt sand and slag	>1.5	>0.8	0.2
10	1002	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid grey brown silt sand with frequent slate, slag and red brick fragments	>1.5	>0.8	1.4
10	1003	Deposit	1005	Wall	E/W aligned, red brick wall with dark grey black mortar	>0.8	>0.4	>0.7
10	1004	Layer		Alluvial clay	Compact mid grey blue clay, no visible inclusions	>1.1	>0.8	>0.2
10	1005	Cut		Construction cut for wall 1003	E/W aligned construction cut for wall 1003	>0.8	>0.2	>0.2
10	1006	Fill	1005	Fill of construction cut 1005	Mid grey brown sand silt	>0.8	>0.2	>0.2
11	1100	Deposit		Concrete surface	Concrete surface	>2.8	>0.8	0.1
11	1101	Deposit		Concrete surface	Concrete surface	>2.8	>0.8	0.2
11	1102	Layer		Layer	Compact layer of silt sand and slag	>2.8	>0.8	0.3
11	1103	Layer		Modern make-up/levelling	Mid-dark grey brown silt sand with frequent concrete and limestone fragments	>2.8	>0.8	0.9
11	1104	Layer		Alluvial clay	Compact mid grey blue clay, no visible inclusions	>2.8	>0.8	>1.1

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	South Quays Site, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016, at South Quays, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset. Five geotechnical site investigation trial pits were monitored.</p> <p>Probable alluvial deposits were identified in four of the excavated trial pits at depths of between 1.5m and 2.5m bpgl (17.2m-16.7m AOD). These deposits were overlain by deposits representing episodes of modern make-up/levelling.</p> <p>A limestone wall was identified in the western part of the site (Trial Pit 8) and appears to correspond to a row of buildings depicted on the First Edition 1886 OS map. A red brick wall was identified in the eastern part of the site (Trial Pit 10) and probably represents part of a 19th or 20th-century cellar.</p>	
Project dates	22 and 23 August 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Built Heritage Assessment (CA 2015) Archaeological Appraisal (CA 2016) Watching Brief (CA 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	South Quays Site, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.9ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 74632 64460	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Steven Sheldon	
Project Supervisor	Alison Roberts	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>		
	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>		
	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Roman Baths Museum	Context sheets, trench recording forms, photographic register, permatrace sections
Digital	Roman Baths Museum	Digital photographs
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>South Quays Site, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>16483</b>		





**Cotswold Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Exeter 01392 826185  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
[www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)  
[enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 South Quays Site, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the 2014 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

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	RP	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	6010	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
<b>CHECKED BY</b>	DJB	<b>DATE</b>	14.19.16	<b>1</b>
<b>APPROVED BY</b>	SS	<b>SCALE@A4</b>	1:25,000	





- site boundary
- current trial pit
- previous trial pit (CA 2015)
- structural feature
- A B section location



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

**Cotswold Archaeology**

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

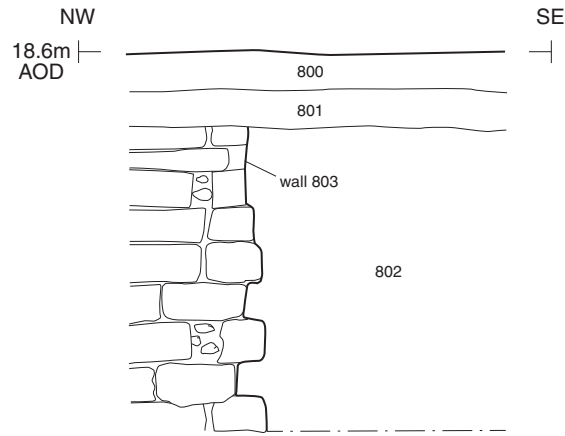
**PROJECT TITLE**  
 South Quays Site, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 The site, showing observed groundworks, previous test pit locations and archaeological features

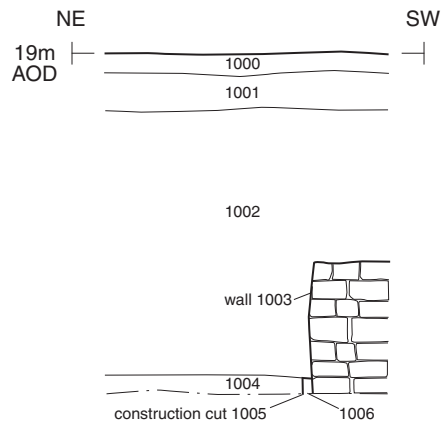
DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	6010	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14.09.16	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	MH	SCALE@A3	1:400	

P:\6010 South Quays Site - Bath BANES\WB\Illustration\Drafts\6010 South Quays WB Eq. 02.dwg

Section AA



Section BB



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

PROJECT TITLE

South Quays Site, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

**Trial pits 8 and 10: sections**

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	6010	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	14.19.16	3
APPROVED BY	SS	SCALE@A4	1:20	



### **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