

Land off Small Way Congresbury North Somerset

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
The Landmark Practice

CA Project: 6126
CA Report: 17023

February 2017



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	23 February 2017	George Gandham	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land off Small Way, Congresbury
Location:	North Somerset
NGR:	NGR: ST 4361 6462
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	11–12 January 2017
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service
Site Code:	LMV 17

In January 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation works on land off Small Way, Congresbury, North Somerset. The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of eight test pits (each c. 2m long and c. 0.6m wide) and seven boreholes (each c. 80mm in diameter).

The watching brief identified no archaeological remains. This may indicate that the watching brief site did not experience extensive historical activity; however, the very limited nature of the monitored groundworks means that definitive conclusions cannot be drawn at this stage.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for the Landmark Practice on land off Small Way, Congresbury, North Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 4361 6462; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken as part of a programme of archaeological assessment to inform a potential planning application for the development of the Mendip Vale Medical Centre at the site.
- 1.2 The scope of this watching brief was agreed in consultation with Catherine Lodge, North Somerset Council Archaeologist, via email on 21 November 2016. A subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by CA (2016) and approved by the Catherine Lodge. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.3 The site is located at the northern extent of Congresbury. It encloses approximately 0.76 ha and currently comprises part of an agricultural field. The site is bordered to the east by Smallway Road and to the north, south and west by agricultural fields. The site lies on a gentle south-facing slope, falling from c. 10m to c. 5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone Group of the Triassic period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the site is set out in a desk-based heritage assessment (CA 2016). The following text is summarised from this source.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.2 There have been several find spots of Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints within 1km of the proposed development site.

2.3 Cadbury Hill Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, lies c. 350m north-east of the proposed development site.

Roman (AD 43–AD 410)

2.4 Congresbury is located on the edge of the Somerset levels, which were exploited by Roman populations for salt production.

2.5 A possible Roman pottery making site has been recorded c. 800m north-west of the proposed development site and further Roman kilns have been recorded south of Congresbury.

2.6 A Roman temple site has been investigated at Henley Wood, c. 800m north-east of the proposed development site.

2.7 There is evidence that Cadbury Hill Camp continued to be a focus of activity in the Roman period.

2.8 Further known Roman sites in the vicinity of the proposed development site include rubbish pits (c. 620m north-west of the site) and Roman mosaics (c. 450m and c. 480m south-east of the site).

Early medieval (AD 410–1066) and medieval (1066–1539)

2.9 Cadbury Hill Camp is thought to have been re-fortified between c. AD 450–480, and continued to be occupied in the early medieval period.

2.10 In the medieval period, the proposed development site is likely to have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Congresbury and Yatton.

2.11 Archaeological works c. 710m south of the proposed development site recorded the remains of stone buildings which are likely to be associated with a medieval farmstead.

2.12 The earthworks of a possible medieval house platform have been recorded c. 170m west of the proposed development site.

Post-medieval (1539–1900) and modern (1900–present)

2.13 The site appears to have remained in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval and modern periods.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 As defined in the WSI (CA 2016), the objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- to monitor site investigation works, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits thus revealed;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out in the WSI (CA 2016). An archaeologist was present during geotechnical investigation works, which comprised the machine excavation of eight test pits (each c. 2m long and c. 0.6m wide) (Fig. 2). The archaeologist was also present during the excavation of seven bore holes (each c. 80mm in diameter), but due to the restricted nature of these borehole excavations, useful observations were limited and the boreholes are not discussed in detail below.

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

4.3 It is anticipated that the watching brief archive will be combined with the archive(s) from any further archaeological fieldwork which may take place at the site. CA will make arrangements with the Somerset Museums Service for the deposition of the final combined site archive.

4.4 A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

5.1 The natural geological substrate comprised sandy clay and was revealed 0.3m–0.5m below present ground level. It was overlain in TP5, TP6 and TP7 by 0.2m of



sandy silt subsoil, which was sealed in turn by 0.3m of modern topsoil. In TP1–TP4 and TP8, the natural substrate was overlain directly by 0.3m of modern topsoil.

- 5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains. This may indicate that the proposed development site did not experience extensive historical activity; however, the very limited nature of the monitored groundworks means that definitive conclusions cannot be drawn at this stage.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by George Gandham, who also wrote this report. The report illustrations were prepared by Tilia Cammegh. The project archive has been prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2016 Geology of Britain Viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 8 December 2016

Cotswold Archaeology 2016 *Mendip Vale Medical Centre, Congresbury, North Somerset: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment CA Report 16578*

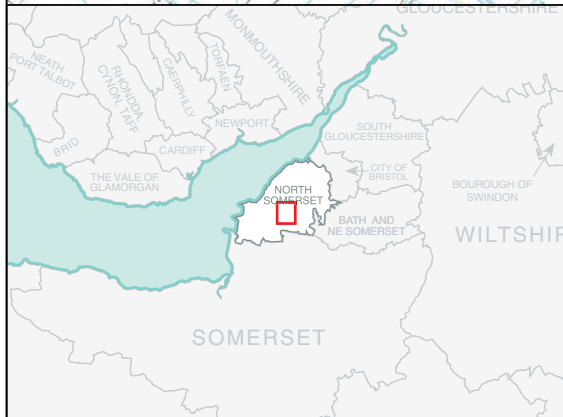
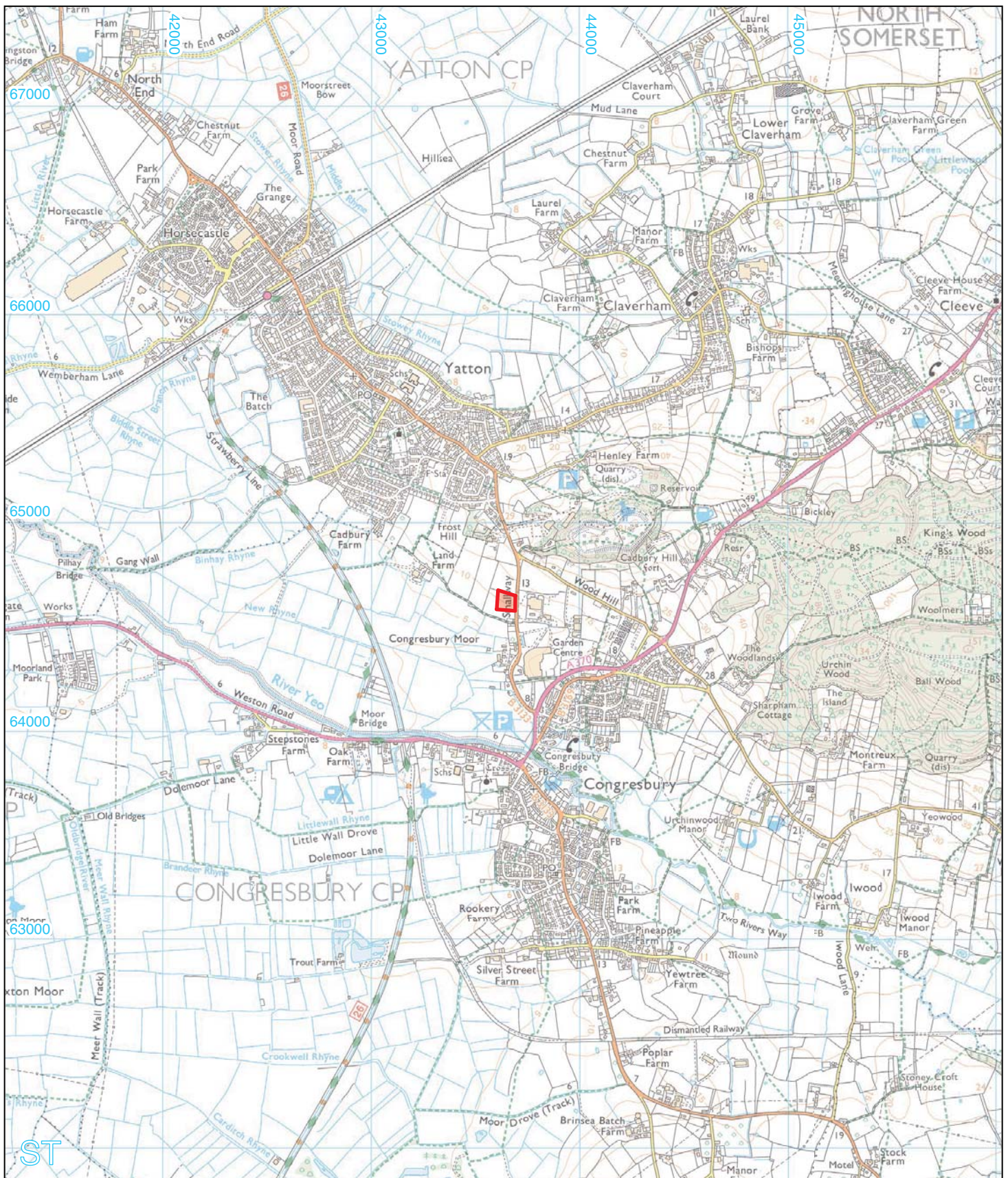


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	Depth/ thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
1	101	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	
2	200	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
2	201	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	
3	300	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
3	301	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	
4	400	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
4	401	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	
5	500	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
5	501	Layer	subsoil	Mid yellow brown sand silt, occasional small stone <50mm and gravel	0.2
5	502	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	
6	600	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
6	601	Layer	subsoil	Mid yellow brown sand silt, occasional small stone <50mm and gravel	0.2
6	602	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	
7	700	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
7	701	Layer	subsoil	Mid yellow brown sand silt, occasional small stone <50mm and gravel	0.2
7	702	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	
8	800	Layer	topsoil	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3
8	801	Layer	natural substrate	Mid purple sand clay, occasional gravel	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Land off Small Way, Congresbury, North Somerset	
Short description	<p>In January 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during ground investigation works on land off Small Way, Congresbury, North Somerset. The monitored groundworks comprised the excavation of eight test pits (each c. 2m long and c. 0.6m wide) and seven bore holes (each c. 80mm in diameter).</p> <p>The watching brief identified no archaeological remains. This may indicate that the watching brief site did not experience extensive historical activity; however, the very limited nature of the monitored groundworks means that definitive conclusions cannot be drawn at this stage.</p>	
Project dates	11–12 January 2017	
Project type	Watching brief	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Land off Small Way, Congresbury, North Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.76 ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 4361 6462	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	George Gandham	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Somerset Museums Service	Fieldwork recording sheets
Digital	Somerset Museums Service	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2017 <i>Land off Small Way, Congresbury, North Somerset: Archaeological Watching Brief Report</i> CA Typescript report 17023		



 Site location

0  1km

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PROJECT TITLE

Land off Small Way, Congresbury,
North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

DRAWN BY	TC	PROJECT NO.	6126	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DB	DATE	19/01/2016	
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- test pit
- borehole



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PROJECT TITLE
Land off Small way, Congresbury, North Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing monitored test pits and boreholes

DRAWN BY TC	PROJECT NO. 6126	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DB	DATE 20/01/17	2
APPROVED BY DE	SCALE@A3 1:750	

ST



Borehole 1



Test pit 2, looking west (1m scale)



Test pit 4, looking south (1m scale)

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