

Cross Farm Wedmore Somerset

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Acorn

CA Project: 880236
CA Report: 17647

December 2017



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Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	4 December 2017	Christina Tapply	Derek Evans	Internal review	–	Derek Evans

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Cross Farm
Location:	Wedmore, Somerset
NGR:	343833 147932
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	2 November 2017
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with the Somerset Museums Service
Site Code:	WED 17

In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset. A total of four trenches was excavated within the site.

A large area of modern disturbance containing frequent late post-medieval/modern building rubble may relate to the demolition a mid/late 18th century water mill though to have lain partially within the north-western area of the evaluation site. There were no other features clearly associated with the mill, and no archaeological features pre-dating the late post-medieval/modern period were identified.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset (centred at NGR: 343833 147932; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Acorn.
- 1.2 The evaluation results will inform a planning application for residential development of the site, which is to be made to Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC). The scope of this evaluation was defined in consultation with Steve Membery of the South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), the archaeological advisors to TDBC.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2017) and approved by Steve Membery. The fieldwork also followed: *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (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

- 1.4 The proposed development site lies on the eastern edge of Wedmore village. It encloses approximately 2.2 hectares and is currently under grass. A slurry lagoon and a corrugated iron shed are present in the north-western part of the site. The site is bounded by residential development and further fields to the north, Combe Lane to the east, the Combe Batch Rise residential estate to the south and residential/retail development to the west.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as Mercia Mudstone group, which formed in the Triassic Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There are mid/late 18th century documentary references to a water mill in a field called Benpool. This mill appears to have been partially within the north-western area of the proposed development site. There are also earlier references to a mill,

but they may not necessarily relate to this site (Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) record number: 12550).

- 2.2 A geophysical survey of the site (Stratascan 2014) did not identify any anomalies of likely archaeological origin. There were several areas of magnetic disturbance linked to nearby ferrous objects and possible disturbed or made ground. Some of these areas of disturbance were in the north-western part of the site, where the former water mill is believed to have been located.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide further information about the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. This information will enable TDBC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage assets of archaeological interest within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Dept. for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches (Fig. 2). One trench was 10m long, one trench was 15m long and two trenches were 30m long. All trenches were 1.8m wide. The trenches were located to test the north-western area of the site, where the former water mill is recorded as having been located (see *Archaeological background*, above).
- 4.2 Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual*. All trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

- 4.3 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*. No deposits were identified that required sampling. All recovered artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.4 CA will arrange for the deposition of the site archive with the Somerset Museums Service. 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 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Figure 2 shows the recorded features in plan. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2 The natural geological substrate comprised reddish/grey brown clay. It was exposed in all trenches at a depth of 0.4m–0.6m below the present ground level. It was sealed by 0.2m–0.4m of silty clay subsoil, which was generally covered in turn by 0.1m–0.2m of modern topsoil. T4 featured a 0.12m-thick demolition/made ground layer (401) between the subsoil and the topsoil.
- 5.3 A large modern cut (206/309) was exposed in T2 and T3. This feature was cut through the subsoil and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m without its base being reached. It was filled by a series of modern fills containing frequent late post-medieval/modern building rubble/debris.
- 5.4 T1 and T4 contained two modern pits (104 and 106) and a modern ditch (405), all of which were cut through the subsoil and contained modern artefacts.
- 5.5 No archaeological features pre-dating the late post-medieval/modern period were identified.



6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 A large area of modern disturbance containing frequent late post-medieval/modern building rubble/debris was recorded in T2 and T3. This feature corresponded broadly to an area of magnetic disturbance interpreted as a possible area of disturbed or made ground (Stratascan 2014). Additionally, T4 featured a brick rubble and hardcore made ground layer. This disturbance may relate to the demolition of the mid/late 18th century water mill though to have lain partially within the north-western area of the evaluation site (see *Archaeological background*, above).
- 6.2 There were no other features clearly associated with the mill, and no archaeological features pre-dating the late post-medieval/modern period were identified.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Christina Tapply, assisted by Victoria Parson and Jake Godfrey. This report was written by Christina Tapply. The report illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The project archive has been compiled, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neil. The project was managed for CA by Derek Evans.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Accessed 03 November 2017

Cotswold Archaeology 2017 *Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Stratascan 2014 *Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset: Geophysical Survey Report*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1						
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown-black silty clay		0.1
101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid reddish grey silty clay		0.37
102	Geology		Natural	Mid brownish red clay		
103	Fill	104	Fill of pit	Dark brown/black silty clay, charcoal	0.7	
104	Cut		Cut of pit	Cut of modern pit	0.7	
105	Fill	106	Fill of pit	Dark brown silty clay	0.4	
106	Cut		Cut of pit	Cut of modern pit	0.4	

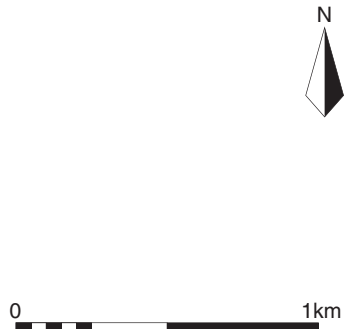
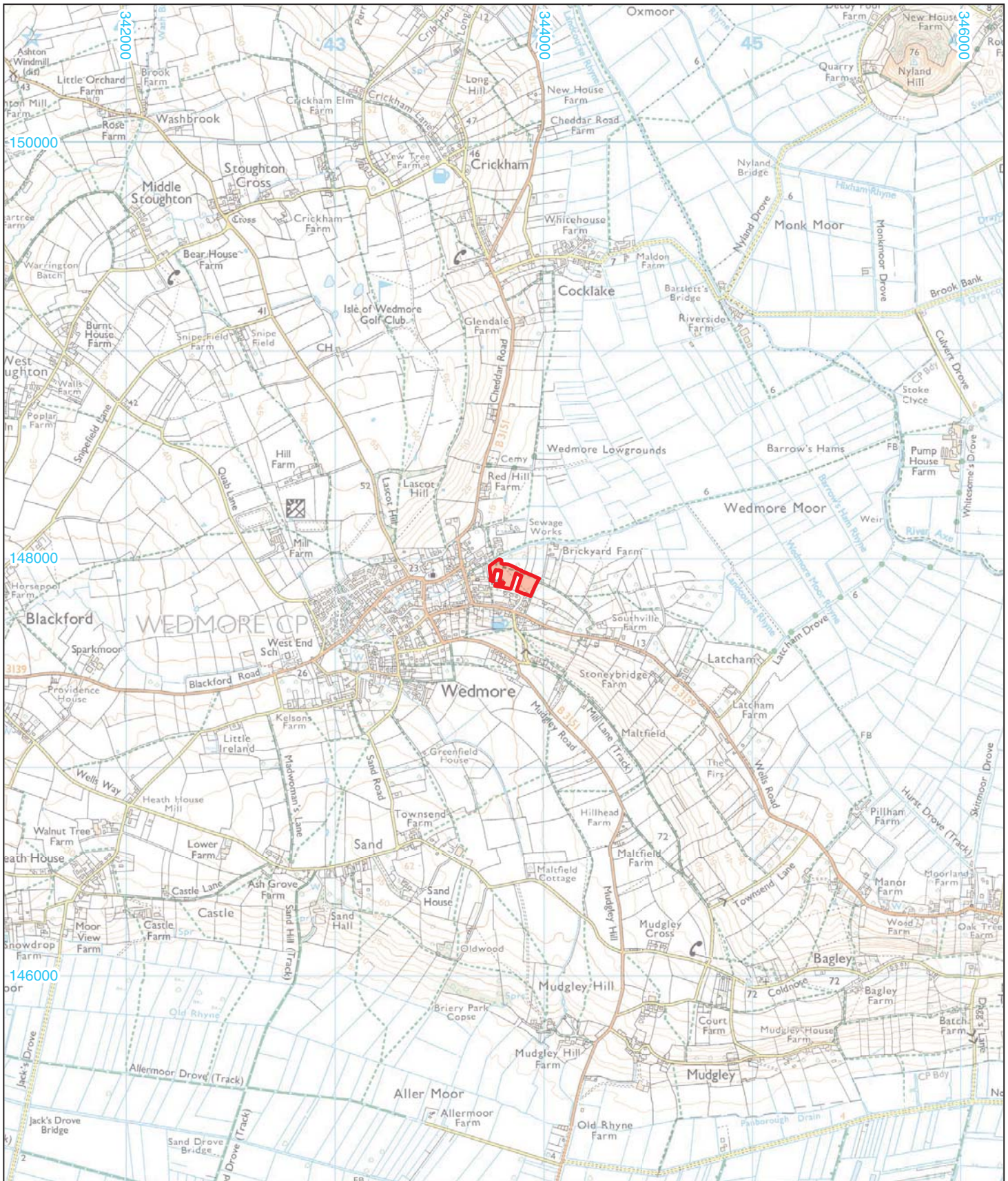
Trench 2						
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)
200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown-black silty clay		0.1
201	Fill	206	Fill of feature	Grey/brown/orange silty clay		0.4
202	Fill	206	Fill of feature	Orange/yellow clay with building rubble		0.2
203	Fill	206	Fill of feature	Mid yellow/grey/brown clay with building rubble		0.1
204	Fill	206	Fill of feature	Mid brown/orange mixed clay with building rubble, large limestone rubble		0.1
205	Fill	206	Fill of feature	Light red/brown silty clay with limestone rubble		0.1
206	Cut		Cut of feature	Modern ?demolition cut		
207	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay		0.4
208	Geology		Natural	Light grey/brown silty clay		

Trench 3						
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)
300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown/black silty clay		0.2
301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay		0.4
302	Geology		Natural	Light grey/brown silty clay		
303	Fill	309	Fill of feature	Grey/brown/orange silty clay		0.3
304	Fill	309	Fill of feature	Orange/yellow clay with building rubble		0.2
305	Fill	309	Fill of feature	Mid yellow/grey/brown clay with building rubble		0.2
306	Fill	309	Fill of feature	Mid grey/ brown silty clay with building rubble		0.3
307	Fill	309	Fill of feature	Mid brown/orange mixed clay with building rubble, large limestone rubble		0.3
308	Fill	309	Fill of feature	Mid grey/orange clay with building rubble, very large limestone rubble		0.5
309	Cut		Cut of feature	Cut of modern ?demolition cut		

Trench 4						
Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	Width (m)	Depth (m)
400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brown/black silty clay		0.1
401	Layer		Made ground	Brick rubble and hardcore in a mid-brown/red clay matrix		0.1
402	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty clay		0.5
403	Layer		Natural	Light grey/brown clay		
404	Fill	405	Fill of ditch	Dark brown silty clay		
405	Cut		Cut of ditch	Cut of modern ditch (north-east/south-west)		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset	
Short description	<p>In November 2017, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation at Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset. A total of four trenches was excavated within the site.</p> <p>A large area of modern disturbance containing frequent late post-medieval/modern building rubble/debris may relate to the demolition a mid/late 18th century water mill though to have lain partially within the north-western area of the evaluation site. There were no other features clearly associated with the mill, and no archaeological features pre-dating the late post-medieval/modern period were identified.</p>	
Project dates	2 November 2017	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)	2.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	343833 147932	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Derek Evans	
Project Supervisor	Christina Tapply	
MONUMENT TYPE	N/A	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	N/A	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Somerset Museums Service	Context sheets, trench sheets, drawings
Digital	Somerset Museums Service	Database, digital photos, survey data
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2017 <i>Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 17647		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	880236	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	17/11/2017	1
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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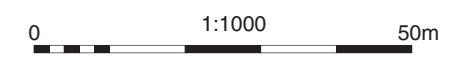


- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Modern feature
- Cable and buffer

**STRATASCAN
GEOPHYSICAL KEY**

OTHER ANOMALIES

	Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
	Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
	Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
	Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
	Scattered magnetic debris
+	Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object



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PROJECT TITLE
Cross Farm, Wedmore, Somerset

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan, showing recorded features and geophysical survey results

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	880236	FIGURE NO.	2
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	17/11/2017		
APPROVED BY	DE	SCALE@A3	1:1000		



Trench 3, looking east (1m scales)



Trench 1, looking east (1m scales)

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