

**Scot's Lawn
East Brent
Highbridge
Somerset**

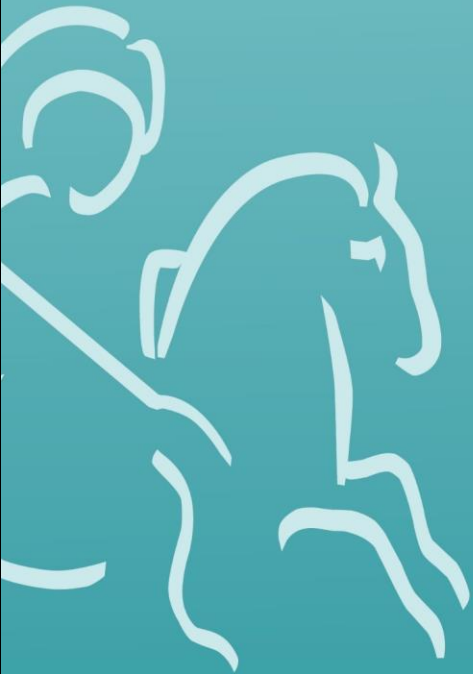
Archaeological Evaluation



for:
Autograph Homes Ltd

CA Project: CR1157
Somerset HER ref: 47336
Somerset Museums Service Accession No.: TTNCM 36/2022
OASIS ID: cotswold2-508092

September 2022



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A	7 September 2022	Liam Wilson	Alex Thomson	Draft	–	Steven Sheldon

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SUMMARY

Project name:	Scot's Lawn
Location:	East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset
NGR:	334438 152195
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	17–18 March 2022
Planning reference:	Sedgemoor District Council ref: 24/22/00006
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-508092
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Somerset Museums Service and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Accession Number:	TTNCM 36/2022
Site Code:	EBRE 22

In August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset. A total of four trenches were excavated.

No finds, deposits or features of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material predating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset (centred at NGR: 334438 152195; Fig. 1). This evaluation was undertaken for Autograph Homes Ltd.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform a planning application for residential development of the site, which has been made to Sedgemoor District Council (SDC; planning ref: 24/22/00006).
- 1.3. Following consultation comments by Tanya James, Historic Environment Officer – Archaeology, South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), the archaeological advisor to SDC, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation was prepared by CA (2022) and approved by Steven Membery, SWHT.
- 1.4. The evaluation was undertaken in line with the WSI, *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014; updated October 2020), *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: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is approximately 0.5ha in extent. It lies on the north-eastern side of Brent Road, on the north-western outskirts of East Brent, Somerset. The site currently comprises of a series of derelict outbuildings and former dwellings, surrounded by domestic gardens. The site is bounded to the north-east, south-east, and north-west by further domestic properties, and to the north by agricultural fields. The site lies at approximately 7m AOD, with the ground level rising gently to the north.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Dyrham Formation, which formed during the Jurassic period (BGS 2022). This is overlain by clay, silt and sand Tidal Flat Deposits, which formed in the Quaternary period (ibid.). The natural geological substrate identified during the course of the evaluation comprised compact mixed clay.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The site has not previously been subject to archaeological assessment; therefore, the following is a summary of information gathered from publicly available sources.
- 2.2. Extensive prehistoric and Roman archaeological remains have been identified within the vicinity of the site. Archaeological evaluation and a subsequent watching brief on land to the west of Sycamore Lodge and at Rossholme School, 275m to the south of site, identified archaeological features, including a probable Roman building, and Iron Age occupational remains (Broomhead 1998; 1999; 2002). A geophysical survey, undertaken 70m to the west of site, identified anomalies consistent with a possible settlement enclosure, associated drainage ditches and a fragmented field system (LG 2021).
- 2.3. Brent Knoll hillfort (Historic England List Entry: 1008248) is located approximately 1km to the south of the site, and the site falls into an area that would have been under its direct influence. It is a large, univallate Iron Age hillfort, with a complete circuit of defences, an entranceway flanked by guardrooms, and a hollow way leading to it. Although much of the interior has subsequently been quarried, areas of undisturbed ground remain, and the discovery of Roman building foundations in the 19th century demonstrates a continuation of use.
- 2.4. The parish of East Brent comprises a component of an estate granted to the Abbey of Glastonbury in AD 693. Recent research suggests that this estate may represent an earlier land unit whose origins lie in the later Iron Age or Roman periods (Broomhead 1998).
- 2.5. The Church of St Mary is located c. 200m to the south of site. It is a Grade I listed monument which was originally constructed in 1637. The church is reputed to have an earlier origin, dating back to AD 725 but this claim may be spurious (Broomhead 1998).
- 2.6. An archaeological evaluation was conducted by CA in 2002, approximately 1.7km to the south-west of the site, identified three phases of activity, including medieval, post-medieval and late post-medieval/modern remains, although the medieval period was represented by a single post-hole only (CA 2002).

-
- 2.7. Historic cartographic sources depict the site in an agricultural setting until the construction of Scot's Lawn house around the turn of the 20th century, with limited development along Brent Road continuing into the 21st century.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable SDC, as advised by SWHT, to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets 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 proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation was to determine if any remains associated with the adjacent settlement enclosure, associated drainage ditches and fragmented field system identified by earlier geophysical survey continue into the proposed development site.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of four trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Three trenches measured 20m in length and one trench measured 15m in length. All trenches measured 1.8m in width.
- 4.2. The trenches were located to provide a representative sample of the site. During the course of the evaluation, Trenches 1 and 2 were both relocated due to the presence of overhead services, and Trench 2 was shortened from 20m to 15m due to its proximity to an upstanding structure.
- 4.3. The trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate.
- 4.4. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

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- 4.5. 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*, but no deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.7. CA will make arrangements with Somerset Museums Service (under accession No: TTNCM 36/2022) for the deposition of the project archive and, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.8. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix C, 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. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are given in Section 6 and Appendix B.
- 5.2. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was recorded throughout the evaluated area. The natural geological substrate, comprising compact mixed clay, was identified within all of the excavated trenches at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level (bpgl). The natural substrate was sealed by c. 0.2m of silty-clay subsoil, which was in turn covered by c. 0.2m of silty-clay topsoil.
- 5.3. Modern land-drains were identified in all of the excavated trenches, and pottery, glass, iron objects, ceramic building material (CBM), and clay tobacco pipe fragments, all broadly dating to the post-medieval/modern period, were recovered from the subsoil horizon in Trench 1 and topsoil horizon in Trench 4.
- 5.4. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within any of the trenches.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. Artefactual material, comprising pottery, iron, ceramic building material (CBM), clay tobacco pipe and glass was hand recovered from topsoil and subsoil layers. The artefacts have been recorded by deposit and according to fabric (the pottery) and sherd/fragment count and weight. The data was recorded direct to an Excel spreadsheet; this is summarised in Table 1 (Appendix B). The recording undertaken is in accordance with the *CIfA finds Toolkit* (CIfA 2022, Level 2). In view of the post-medieval/modern dating of the finds and their recovery from topsoil/subsoil deposits, none of this material will be retained.

Pottery

- 6.1. Two small bodysherds of pottery, weighing 10g, were hand recovered from subsoil layer 101. The fabric code used for recording is defined below (Table 2, Appendix B). The two small bodysherds are in a modern transfer printed refined whiteware (TPWW) of late 18th to 19th-century date.

Iron/ferrous

- 6.2. Two iron nails (13g) were recorded from subsoil layer 101. Both have square sectioned shanks but are missing their heads and therefore do not lend themselves to dating. A modern penknife was also recovered from topsoil layer 400.

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

- 6.3. Two fragments of CBM were recorded in subsoil layer 101. They are in a hard, red, sandy fabric typical of products dating to the post-medieval period. The fragments are abraded and have lost their surfaces; however, their thickness suggests that they are likely to belong to bricks rather than flat tiles.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 6.4. Two stems and a bowl fragment of clay tobacco pipe, weighing 5g, were recovered from subsoil layer 101. Their plain forms broadly date from the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

Glass

- 6.5. Two fragments of glass were recovered from subsoil layer 101. One fragment of natural (blue green) coloured glass (19g), probably from a bottle, is of post-medieval date. A fragment of a green glass jar lid (59g) is embossed with the legend 'WRIGHT & Co./STAFFORDSHIRE'. The rest is broken and missing but would have read as

'BRIERLEY HILL', where the factory was based and produced glass between c. 1850–1890 (Phoenix 2022).

7. DISCUSSION

7.1. Despite the archaeological potential of the site (see *Archaeological Background*, above), the evaluation identified no archaeological features. The absence of archaeological deposits would appear to indicate that remains associated with the adjacent prehistoric or Roman settlement activity, identified to the west, does not extend as far as the site.

7.2. The recovery of post-medieval/modern material from the subsoil horizon in Trench 2 is consistent with the development of the site and wider area in the early 20th century.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

8.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Liam Wilson, assisted by Andrew Frith. This report was written by Liam Wilson. The finds evidence report was written by Claire Collier-Jones. The report illustrations were prepared by Helena Munoz-Mojado. The project archive has been compiled by Liam Wilson and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Alex Thomson.

9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2022 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> Accessed 22 August 2022

Broomhead, R. A. 1998 *Sycamore Lodge, East Brent: An Archaeological Evaluation*

Broomhead, R. A. 1999 *Sycamore Lodge, East Brent: Archaeological Observations*

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CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2002 *Orchard Hill Residential Home, 132 Brent Street, Brent Knoll, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation*, CA Report **02085**

CA 2022 *Scot's Lawn, Highbridge, East Brent, Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CIfA 2021 *CIfA Finds reporting toolkit* <https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit> accessed August 2022

LG (Lefort Geophysics) 2021 *Land off Brent Road, East Brent, Somerset:
Gradiometer Survey Report*, ref: **21-0022.01**

Phoenix, D. 2022 *Wright & Co. [glass lid]*
<https://oldsmithfield.com/omeka/items/show/39> accessed August 2022

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	topsoil	dark grey brown silty clay	>20	>1.8	0.2
1	101	Layer	subsoil	mid grey brown silty clay	>20	>1.8	0.3
1	102	Layer	natural	U-shaped ditch, east/west orientated	>20	>1.8	>0.1
2	200	Layer	topsoil	mid grey sandy clay	>1.5	>1.8	0.1
2	201	Layer	subsoil	light yellow sand	>1.5	>1.8	0.3
2	202	Layer	natural	mid grey sandy clay and brick rubble	>1.5	>1.8	>0.1
3	300	Layer	topsoil	large river cobbles set in grey silt	>20	>1.8	0.1
3	301	Layer	subsoil	mid grey brown silty clay	>20	>1.8	0.4
3	302	Layer	natural	light grey brown silty clay	>20	>1.8	>0.1
4	400	Layer	topsoil	U-shaped ditch, east/west orientated	>20	>1.8	0.1
4	401	Layer	subsoil	mid grey sandy clay	>20	>1.8	0.3
4	402	Layer	natural	light yellow sand	>20	>1.8	>0.1

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Table 1. Quantification of finds

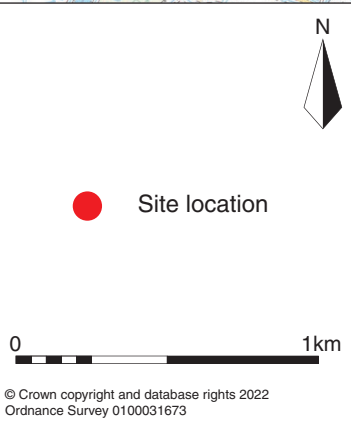
Type	Category	Count	Weight(g)
Pottery	Modern	2	10
Metal (objects)	Iron	3	85
CBM	Post-medieval	2	87
Clay Tobacco Pipe		3	5
Glass		2	79

Table 2: finds concordance

Context	Material	Fabric	Comments	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
101	Mod pottery	TPWW	Transfer printed refined whiteware	2	10	LC19
	Iron		Nails, square sectioned shanks	2	13	
	CBM		Brick, red sandy hard fabric	2	87	
	Clay Tobacco Pipe		2 stems, 1 bowl	3	5	
	Glass		Natural coloured body sherd	1	19	
			Lid 'Wright & Co. Staffordshire'	1	59	
400	Iron		Composite object	1	72	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset	
Short description	In August 2022, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset. A total of four trenches were excavated. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed and no artefactual material predating the post-medieval or modern periods was recovered.	
Project dates	17-18 August 2022	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	334438 152195	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	N/A	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Alex Thomson	
Project Supervisor	Liam Wilson	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content:
Paper	Somerset Museums Service (Accession No: TTNCM 36/2022)/ ADS	Field recording forms and registers
Digital	Somerset Museums Service (Accession No: TTNCM 36/2022)/ ADS	Digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2022 <i>Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report CR1157_1		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge, Somerset

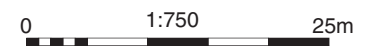
FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	HMM	PROJECT NO.	CR1157	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	23/08/2022	1
APPROVED BY	AT	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Land drain
- Service area constraint
- LV overhead



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PROJECT TITLE
 Scot's Lawn, East Brent, Highbridge,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

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Trench 1, general shot, looking south-east (1m scales)



Trench 3, general shot, looking south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trenches 1 and 3: photographs

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FIGURE NO.

3

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