

**DEVONIA  
ST MARGARET'S STREET  
BRADFORD-ON-AVON  
WILTSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**CURTIS CRYER ARCHITECTS LTD**

CA PROJECT: 2686  
CA REPORT: 08186


OCTOBER 2008



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CA PROJECT: 2686  
CA REPORT: 08186

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date	17 October 2008
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date	21 October 2008
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signed	
date	28 October 2008
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:250).

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Devonian, St Margaret's Street  
**Location:** Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire  
**NGR:** ST 82587 60663  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 04 – 11 September 2008  
**Planning Reference:** 08/01855/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum  
**Accession Number:** DZSWS:2008.43  
**Site Code:** DEW08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing bungalow and garage, and the construction of a replacement dwelling at Devonian, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

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

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Curtis Cryer Architects Ltd at Devonia, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: ST 82587 60663; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the demolition of an existing bungalow and garage, and the construction of a replacement dwelling (West Wiltshire District Council Planning ref: 08/01855/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Vanessa Clarke, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire County Council (WCC), the archaeological advisor to West Wiltshire District Council (WWDC) and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the Wiltshire County Archaeological Service (WCAS) *Standards for Archaeological Assessment and Field Evaluation in Wiltshire* (WCAS 2003) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is bounded by St Margaret's Street (A363) to the east, residential properties to the south, Frome Road (B3109) to the west and a railway line to the north (Fig. 2). The eastern end of the site lies at approximately 37m AOD and slopes down to 35m AOD at Frome Road to the west. The proposed development encloses an area of 0.1ha and comprises the former bungalow, garage and gardens of Devonia.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Bathonian Great Oolite limestone of the Jurassic era (BGS 2000). Limestone was observed during the watching brief.

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.5 The only securely located evidence for prehistoric activity within Bradford-on-Avon lies to the north-west of the site across the River Avon. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is centred on the probable Iron Age hillfort on Budbury Hill, 600m to the north-west, whilst a Mesolithic flint borer was apparently discovered 400m from the site. Parch marks observed in 1999 have demonstrated that Budbury Hill is also the location of a Roman period villa complex, including an associated bath-house (WCAS 2002, 8). A Romano-British coin and a stone coffin were recovered c. 400m to the north-west of the site (Sites and Monuments Record (SMR): ST86SW314; ST86SW308). Although a mosaic and Roman foundations were also reportedly observed during building work at the Barge Inn, c. 300m to the south of the site (WCAS 2002, 8) no firm evidence for Romano-British settlement or activity is recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site (CA 2008).
- 1.6 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle contains the first documentary record of Bradford-on-Avon, where it is listed as the scene of the battle of Witenesburg in AD 652. In AD 705 a monastery was founded by St Aldhelm in what is believed to be a pre-existing settlement (WCAS 2002, 9). To the immediate south-west of the site lies Barton Farm, originally a monastic grange for the abbey. The 14th-century tithe barn still remains and is a Scheduled Monument (SMR26710; SMR: ST86SW453). The church also held land to the south-eastern edge of the town where St Margaret's hospital was established. The exact site of the hospital is unknown, but the rectangular block of land immediately south of St Margaret's Hill and to the immediate north-east of site is seen as a likely position, with steps leading directly to it from the river, and there are cellars here which appear to pre-date the current buildings (WCAS 2008). The chapel of St Leonard also remains, and lies 200m to the north of the site across the River Avon. Although a charter of AD 1001 makes it clear that Bradford-on-Avon occupied both sides of the River Avon at this time, no evidence for occupation within the immediate vicinity of the site has been recovered (CA 2008).
- 1.7 The site lies on the periphery of the postulated extent of the medieval settlement of Bradford-on-Avon (WCAS 2002, 14). The commercial focus of the medieval town again lay on the north bank of the River Avon, away from the development area

(ibid.). To the north-east of the site lies Bradford-on-Avon Bridge. This is one of the earliest surviving structures in the town, having two 13th-century arches. It has been suggested that the construction of the bridge may have been part of a planned redevelopment of the town or its position may simply have been the result of an organic expansion of the town (WCAS 2002, 14-5). It has also been suggested that the construction of the bridge at this point necessitated the realignment of St Margaret's Street, the then main road south out of Bradford-on-Avon (WCAS 2002, 15). Up until the mid 19th century this road followed the course of the present day Frome Road (CA 2008).

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising reduction and levelling of the site prior to the construction of the new dwelling (Fig. 2).
- 1.9 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. This will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum under accession number DZSWS:2008.43. 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.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 103 consisting of limestone pieces in a sandy clay matrix, was revealed at an average depth of 1m below present ground level (bpgl) throughout the site. In the central section of the area of groundworks, this was overlain by subsoil 105. This was cut by walls 104, 106 and 107, the former bungalow's foundation walls. These were butted by a modern make-up layer 102, which was sealed by the present garden soil 101.

- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains of the medieval period or earlier within the area of observed groundworks. It is likely that levelling took place during the construction of the former bungalow and garage, indicated by the lack of subsoil in the western and eastern ends of the site, which may have removed any archaeological deposits. Alternatively, the absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that they do not extend into the site and that medieval occupation and industry was concentrated to the north as has been previously suggested (WCAS 2002, 14).

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett and Steven Sheldon. The report was written by Jonathan Bennett. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Gray. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Bennett, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

### 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2000 *Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), Sheet 281, Frome, Scale 1:50,000*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Devonia, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

WCAS (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service) 2002 *The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns, An Extensive Urban Survey: Bradford-on-Avon*



WCAS (Wiltshire County Archaeology Service) 2008 *Archaeological Detailed Monitoring, Recording and Potential Excavation: Devonia, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon*

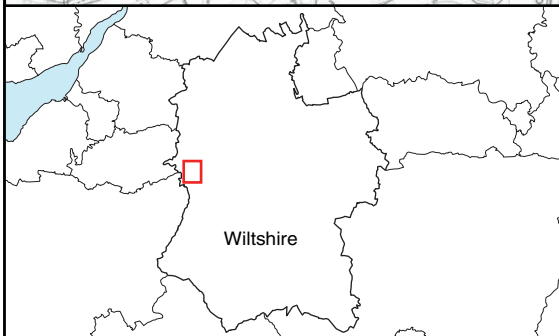
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APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot- date
101	Layer	Garden soil including modern rubble			0.6m	
102	Layer	Modern makeup incl. modern ceramics			0.4m	
103	Natural	Limestone fragments in a sandy clay matrix				
104	Wall	Bungalow wall N-S, bathstone blocks, grey cement		0.3m		
105	Layer	Mid reddish sandy clay - subsoil			0.25m	
106	Wall	Bungalow wall NW-SE, bathstone blocks, grey cement		0.3m		
107	Wall	Bungalow wall NW-SE, bathstone blocks, grey cement		0.3m		

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Devonia, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the demolition of an existing bungalow and garage, and the construction of a new replacement dwelling at Devonia, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.</p> <p>No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	04 – 11 September 2008	
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Watching Brief	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Devonia, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	0.1ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 82587 60663	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Vanessa Clarke, WCC	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Wiltshire Heritage Museum	Trench recording form, site plan, black and white, and colour photographs
Digital	N/A	N/A
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Devonia, St Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA report <b>08186</b></p>		



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**Devonia, St Margaret's Street  
 Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:25,000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2686

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- site
- area of observed groundworks



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

Devonia, St Margaret's Street  
Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The site, showing location of  
groundworks**

DRAWN BY

LG

SCALE

1:250@A4

PROJECT NO.

2686

FIGURE NO.

**2**