

**ODD DOWN
BATH
BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

WYG ENVIRONMENT

on behalf of

**SAINSBURY'S SUPERMARKET LTD AND
ODD DOWN DEVELOPMENTS**


CA PROJECT: 3228
CA REPORT: 10171

SEPTEMBER 2010

ODD DOWN
BATH
BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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CA REPORT: 10171

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signed	
date	21 September 2010
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Odd Down
Location: Bath, Bath and North East Somerset
NGR: ST 7415 6200
Type: Evaluation
Date: 6-7 September 2010
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Roman Baths Museum
Site Code: ODB 10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2010 at Odd Down, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset. Six trenches were excavated.

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the course of the evaluation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for WYG Environment on behalf of Sainsbury's Supermarket Ltd and Odd Down Developments at Odd Down, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset (centred on NGR: ST 7415 6200; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a planning application for the construction of a Sainsbury's supermarket, residential properties, and associated car parks.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by WYG Environment (2010) and approved by Richard Sermon, Archaeological Officer, Planning Services, Bath and North East Somerset Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd edition* (English Heritage 1992) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The site is relatively flat, is currently under rough grass and covers an area of approximately 2.7ha that was previously used as a school sports field and tennis court. The site is bounded to the north by Frome Road, to the west by St Martins Garden primary school, to the south by residential properties facing Cranmore Place and to the east by Three Ways and The Link School (Fig. 1).

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Great Oolitic Limestone of the Jurassic period (BGS 2000). The natural geological substrate comprising limestone brash was encountered within all six trenches.

Archaeological background

1.5 The archaeological background has been derived from the WSI (WYG Environment 2009) and is summarised below.

- 1.6 Within the vicinity of the site, prehistoric activity has been recorded through chance finds of flint artefacts dating from the Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic periods. The study area contains no notable remains of human activity from the Iron Age. An east-west section of the West Wansdyke runs approximately 75m to the south of the site. Although believed to date to the Early Medieval period (410AD-1066AD) it is possible that this earthwork may have a prehistoric origin (ibid.).
- 1.7 Romano-British activity within the area comprises both settlement and funerary activity. Two stone coffins were found c.400m to the north-east of the site in 1794 and 1824. A further stone coffin was found c.600m to the south-west of the site during building works in 1936. The Fosse Way Roman road is located approximately 250m to the west of the site. Buildings from two phases of Roman occupation have also been recorded to the south of the site at the approach to Fuller's Earth Works (ibid.).
- 1.8 During the medieval period the site in all likelihood formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Bath, but by the post-medieval period, the agricultural nature of the area had been altered by the increasing presence of industry is noted in the area, with a glasshouse documented as manufacturing bottles at Odd Down in 1696 (ibid.).
- 1.9 Within the site there have been several documented changes of land use and layout. During the 19th century, the northern part of the site had been divided into small parcels of land containing dwellings (since removed). A cottage was located within the north-western part of the site until at least 1994. The northern part of the site was quarried from at least 1932 and this was shown as disused and partially reinstated on the 1949/1950 Ordnance Survey map. By this time the southern part of the site was sub-divided by a north-south field boundary and the Wansdyke Infant School had been built in the eastern part of the site. By 1989 the school had been demolished (ibid.).
- 1.10 A magnetometer survey was carried out over 2.5ha of the site in November 2009 (Archaeological Surveys Ltd). This identified widespread magnetic debris, possibly relating to the infilling of the former quarry and/or ground make-up associated with the levelling of the school playing field. Areas of magnetic debris and services associated with demolished buildings were identified in the northern and eastern

parts of the site. Several linear anomalies, perhaps relating to cut features of archaeological origin, were identified in the far north-west of the site.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.11 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Bath and North East Somerset Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 4 was moved slightly from its original position and Trench 5 was split in two to avoid ecological fencing.
- 1.13 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first.
- 1.14 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* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.15 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Roman Baths 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.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 2.2 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the archaeological evaluation. A broadly similar stratigraphic sequence was identified in trenches 1-5; this comprised natural tabular limestone brash at depths between 0.39 and 0.46m below present ground level (bpgl), this was overlain by between 0.1m and 0.23m of subsoil which was itself overlain by the modern topsoil.
- 2.3 In Trench 6, the natural geological substrate was identified at a depth of 0.72m bpgl. Two tarmac footpaths, 603 and 604, closely correlating to anomalies depicted by the geophysical survey, were identified sealed by modern make-up or levelling deposit 601, which was subsequently sealed by topsoil.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the archaeological evaluation, and despite the scanning of spoil both visually and with a metal detector, no artefactual material was recovered.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Steven Sheldon, assisted by Jon Pick. The report was written by Steven Sheldon. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Steven Sheldon, and prepared for deposition by James Joyce. The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman.

5. REFERENCES

Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2010 *Odd Down, Bath: Magnetometer Survey Report*, Ref. no. 292

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

WYG Environment 2010 *Odd Down, Bath, Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation Excavation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil			0.27	
101	Layer	Subsoil: orange brown clay sand with sparse limestone fragments			0.13	
102	Layer	Natural substrate: mid orange-yellow limestone brash in a sandy clay matrix				

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.2	
201	Layer	Subsoil: orange brown clay sand with sparse limestone fragments			0.19	
202	Layer	Natural substrate: mid orange-yellow limestone brash in a sandy clay matrix				

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.26	
301	Layer	Subsoil: orange brown clay sand with sparse limestone fragments			0.2	
302	Layer	Natural substrate: mid orange-yellow limestone brash in a sandy clay matrix				

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.31	
401	Layer	Subsoil: orange brown clay sand with sparse limestone fragments			0.1	
402	Layer	Natural substrate: mid orange-yellow limestone brash in a sandy clay matrix				

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil			0.26	
501	Layer	Subsoil: orange brown clay sand with sparse limestone fragments			0.2	
502	Layer	Natural substrate: mid orange-yellow limestone brash in a sandy clay matrix				

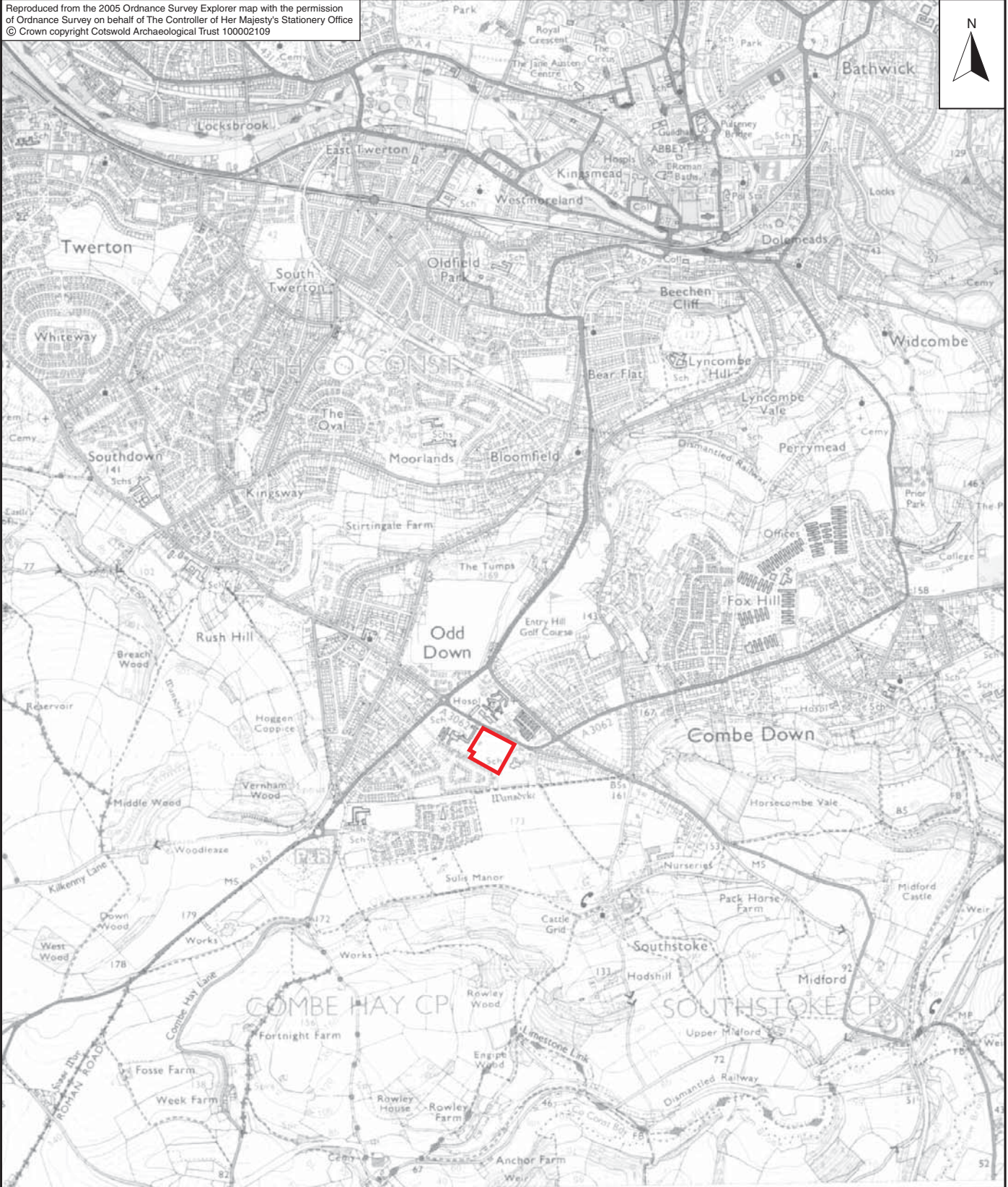
Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil			0.15	

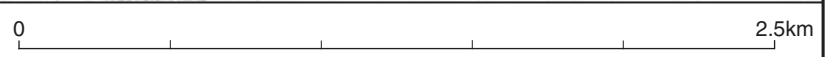
601	Layer	Make-up/levelling deposit: dark brown clay sand with frequent limestone and brick/tile fragments throughout. Contains modern plastic, metal and concrete			0.57	
602	Layer	Natural substrate: mid orange-yellow limestone brash in a sandy clay matrix				
603	Deposit	Tarmac footpath	>1.8	1.5	0.2	
604	Deposit	Tarmac footpath	>1.8	1.3	0.19	

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Odd Down, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2010 at Odd Down, Bath. Six trenches were excavated. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the course of the evaluation.	
Project dates	6-7 September 2010	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Archaeological Surveys Ltd (2010) Odd Down Bath: Magnetometer Survey	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Odd Down, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset	
Study area	2.7ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 7415 6200	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	WYG Environment	
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Steven Sheldon	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Roman Baths Museum	WSI, pro forma registers, recording forms and B+W photographs
Digital	Roman Baths Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Odd Down, Bath, Bath and North East Somerset: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 10171		



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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE
Odd Down, Bath

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:25,000@A4	3228	1



- ▬ site
- ▬ trench
- modern
- geology

geophysics key

- ▬ Positive linear anomaly - possible ditch-like feature
- ▬ Linear anomaly - of agricultural origin (trend only shown)
- ▬ Negative linear anomaly - material of low magnetic susceptibility
- Discrete positive response - possible pit-like feature
- ⊗ Positive anomaly - weakly magnetically enhanced material
- ⊗ Negative anomaly - material with low magnetic susceptibility
- ⊗ Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent material associated with former buildings
- ⊗ Magnetic debris - spread of magnetically thermoremanent/ferrous material
- ▨ Magnetic disturbance from ferrous material
- Strong multiple dipolar linear anomaly - pipeline / cable / service
- Strong dipolar anomaly - ferrous object



PROJECT TITLE
Odd Down, Bath

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
JB	1:1000@A3	3228	2




Trench 1, looking south-east (1m scale)



Trench 3, looking south-west (1m scale)



Trench 6, looking north-east (1m scale)

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<small>PROJECT TITLE</small> Odd Down Bath			
<small>FIGURE TITLE</small> Photographs			
<small>DRAWN BY</small>	<small>SCALE</small>	<small>PROJECT NO.</small>	<small>FIGURE NO.</small>
JB	n/a	3228	3