

# Proposed new driving practice range, Bath Golf Club, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset

Results of an archaeological watching brief

NGR 376642, 164857

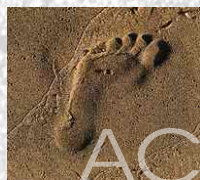
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Prepared by:  
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On behalf of:  
Bath Golf Club

Document No: ACW810/3/0

Date: April 2016



archaeology

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# PROPOSED NEW DRIVING PRACTICE RANGE, BATH GOLF CLUB, BATHWICK, BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

NGR: 376642, 164857

## Results of an archaeological watching brief

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### Summary

*Archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the new practice driving range at Bath Golf Club was undertaken during March 2016. The application involves the upgrading of the existing facilities. The watching brief was required as a condition of planning consent by Bath and North East Somerset Council, as advised by their Archaeology Officer.*

*The site is located on the western slope of Bathwick Down, south of the club house and overlooking Bath to the west. The Scheduled Monuments of Sham Castle and Bathwick Camp lie immediately west and 400m east of the site respectively and a number of Bronze Age barrows and a Romano-British field system are recorded nearby, amongst other monuments. The underlying geology comprises a locally complex sequence of Jurassic limestones and mudstones.*

*No features of archaeological significance were encountered during the watching brief, and no artefacts or other finds were recovered as a result of the groundworks.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

**1.1** This document sets out the results of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with improvements to the practice driving range at Bath Golf Club, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset (centred on NGR 376642, 164857), the location of which is shown on Fig.1.

**1.2** Following the conclusions of a Historic Environment Assessment (HEA, AC archaeology 2015), the Bath and North East Somerset Council Archaeological Officer (B&NESCAO) has required that the initial stages of ground work be monitored under an archaeological watching brief as a condition of approved planning application 15/04086/FUL. Condition 3 of the planning decision states:

*No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of archaeological work should provide a controlled watching brief during ground works on the site, with provision for excavation of any significant deposits or features encountered, and shall be carried out by a competent person(s) and completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.*

**Reason:** *The site is within an area of significant archaeological interest and the Council will wish to examine and record items of interest discovered.*

- 1.3 The application comprises the upgrading of the existing practice area facility, from six individual teeing pads to one continuous level teeing area, with a footpath immediately adjacent to the west. The proposed ground works involve the removal of existing paving slabs within the practice driving range, with the construction of the new mound to be completed using imported material onto the exposed surface (Appendix 1).
- 1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Urmston 2016) was approved by the B&NESCAO prior to the commencement of groundworks, which set out the aims and methodology for the archaeological watching brief.
- 1.5 The application area is located on the western slope of Bathwick Down and lies between 165m OD and 168m OD, with the land sloping gently downwards from east to west. The existing practice area stands to the south of the club house and immediately east of Sham Castle.
- 1.6 The underlying geology comprises sedimentary limestone bedrock of the Combe Down Oolitic Member, formed during the Jurassic period, with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS). However, the geological background of Bathwick Down is a relatively complex sequence of sedimentary Jurassic limestones and mudstones, suggesting there may be localised variations within the natural geology.

## **2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The HEA previously submitted in support of the planning application (AC archaeology 2015) details the archaeological and historical background of the application area and its environs; what follows here is a brief summary of the more comprehensive text.
- 2.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the application area and 178 within the 1km study area considered by the HEA. These consist of the World Heritage Site (WHS) of Bath City, the Conservation Area, two Registered Parks and Gardens, one Grade I Listed Building, 20 Grade II\* Listed Buildings and 153 Grade II Listed Buildings. Of these, the WHS is considered to be of Very High Significance and the others of Medium to High Significance.
- 2.3 The Scheduled Monument of Sham Castle lies immediately to the west of the application area and the early Iron Age univallate hillfort of Bathwick Camp is situated some 400m to the east; both are considered to be of High Significance.
- 2.4 A number of undesignated archaeological sites lie within the vicinity, including nine prehistoric assets; seven Romano-British assets; 10 medieval (one early) assets; and three post-medieval and modern assets. The prehistoric sites comprise five Bronze Age barrows and an Iron Age to Romano-British field system, along with several find spots; due to damage to the surviving earthworks and the nature of the archaeological assets, these assets are typically of low to medium significance, although the imprecise provenances of the finds makes them of



negligible significance. The remainder of the assets are of low significance at best, although several have not been investigated archaeologically and their potential is therefore unknown.

- 2.5 The HEA concludes that, while there is a low to moderate potential for currently unknown archaeological features and deposits dating from the prehistoric and Romano-British periods, the impact of the proposed works on any such archaeology would be minimal, particularly given the use of imported material to build the new mound. The visual impact of the proposed works upon the nearby heritage assets is also considered to be very slight or negligible, given the historic, current and ongoing use of the application area as a golf course.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological watching brief were;

- To record any archaeological features and finds which may be revealed or disturbed by the groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site; and
- To provide an interpretive report on the results of the monitoring.

3.2 Monitoring took place in accordance with AC archaeology's standard practice for archaeological watching briefs and with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Urmston 2016) approved in advance with the B&NESCAO. Attendance by the site archaeologist occurred on 9th March 2016.

3.3 Archaeological monitoring commenced following the removal of paving slabs covering part of the existing practice driving range. Monitoring continued until the intrusive groundworks had been completed and there was no further possibility that archaeological deposits would be exposed. The remainder of the proposed groundworks involve building up from the existing ground surface and will therefore not impact any below ground archaeological deposits.

3.4 Site observations were recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*.

3.5 The archive has been prepared using the unique site code ACW810.

### 4. RESULTS

4.1 The original proposal for the groundworks included the removal of the turf within the application area. However, following consultation, Bath Golf Club deemed this additional impact unnecessary and the intrusion was limited to the removal of the slabs, ahead of the construction of the mound using imported material.

4.2 Following the lifting of the existing slabs, it was apparent that they had been installed onto made ground. No archaeological deposits were revealed and no artefacts were visible at the surface.

## 5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The removal of the existing slabs was the only element of the proposed groundworks that had the potential to reveal or impact archaeological deposits, as the remainder of the works involve building up from the existing surface using imported material.

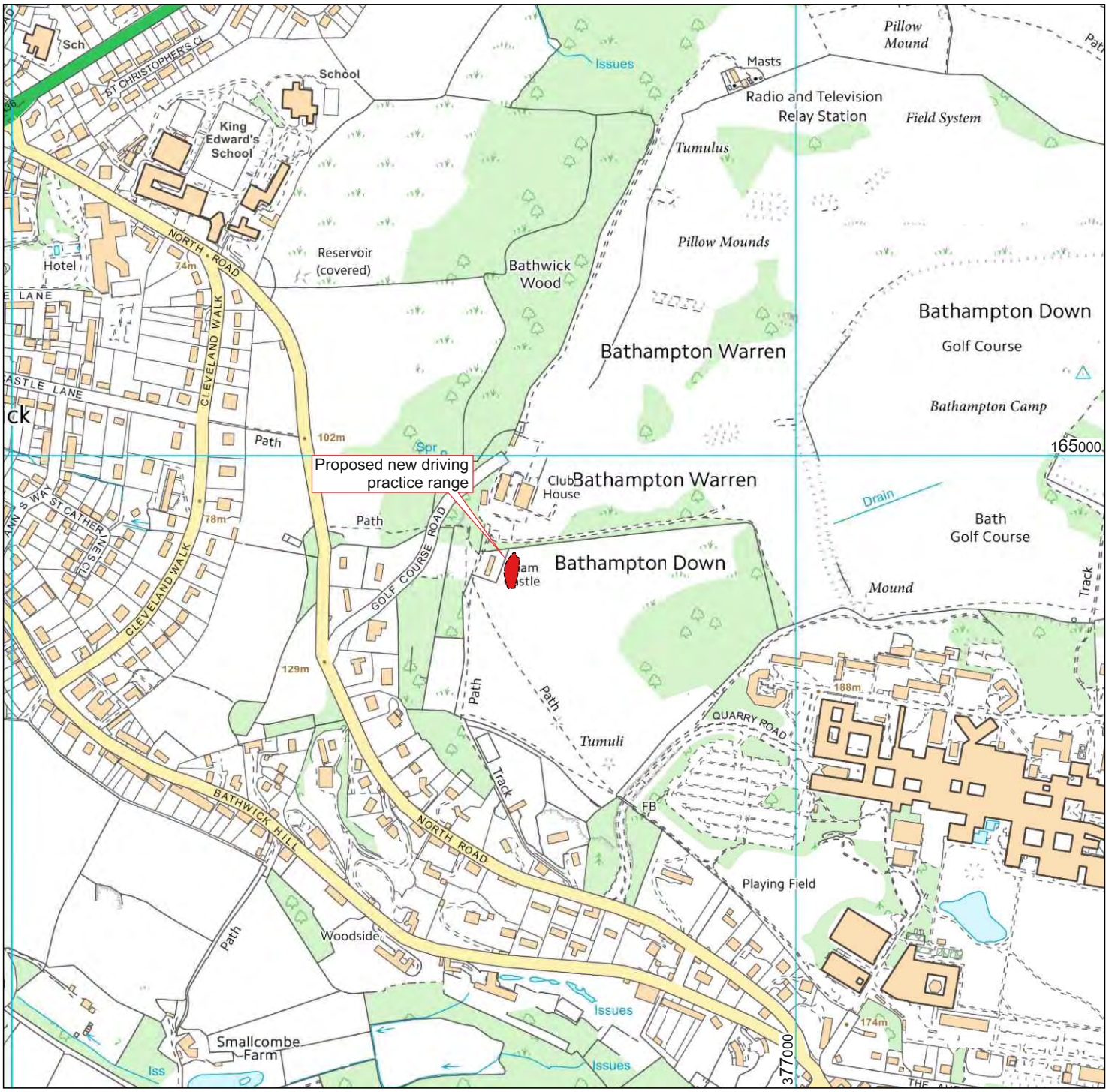
## 6. REFERENCES

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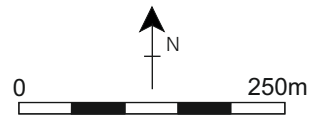
ClfA. 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading.

Urmston, B. 2016. *Proposed New Driving Practice Range, Bath Golf Club, Bathwick, Bath and North East Somerset: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief*. Document ref. ACW810/2/0.

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PROJECT  
**New driving practice range, Bath Golf Club**

TITLE  
**Fig. 1: Site location**



**SELECTED PLATES**



Plate 1: General shot of teeing area following removal of slabs, facing north



Plate 2: General shot of teeing area following removal of slabs, facing northwest

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