

TEMPLE INN, TEMPLE CLOUD, BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

NGR ST 6219 5811

Results of an archaeological watching brief

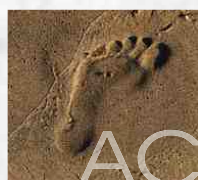
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Prepared by:
Paul Cooke

On behalf of:
EDP Ltd

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AC archaeology

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Checked by	Paul Rainbird
Approved by	Andrew Passmore

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The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC archaeology and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology between November 2016 and November 2017 at the former Temple Inn, Temple Cloud, Bath & North East Somerset (ST 6219 5811) during groundworks associated with the construction of new buildings around renovation of the existing public house buildings. Temple Inn is a Grade II Listed building.

Site-wide bulk reduction and deeper excavation of trenches for footings and drainage revealed a limited number of modern features, comprising two land drains, a pit feature and a subterranean water tank. No archaeological features, deposits or finds providing evidence for earlier activity on the site was observed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AC archaeology between November 2016 and November 2017 on land at Temple Inn, Temple Cloud, Bath & North East Somerset (ST 6219 5811; Fig. 1). The archaeological works were commissioned by EDP Ltd on behalf of their client and were required under condition 4 of the grant of planning permission (Bath & North East Somerset Council reference 13/04456/FUL) for 'mixed use development comprising a 10 bed letting rooms building, 9 residential dwellings, and renovation of the existing public house'. Guidance on the scope of works was provided by the Bath & North East Somerset Council Senior Archaeological Officer in his official consultation to the planning application.

1.2 Temple Inn is positioned within the centre of Temple Cloud, a small village 5km northwest of Midsomer Norton. The site covers an area of 0.3ha located on the northeast side of the A37 at the junction with Temple Inn Lane (Plates 1-2). It is situated at a height of approximately 128m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology comprises Carboniferous sandstone of the Mangotsfield Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The principal archaeological interest in the site is its close proximity (approximately 300m) to the findspot of a Roman coffin (MBN1003), which was discovered during the construction of a residential development at Tilldown. The coffin was destroyed during the construction works and no further information is available. The Historic Environment Record also has an entry (MBM1105) for the late 18th- or early 19th-century discovery of silver Roman coins at Highbury Hill, located to the southeast of the village. An Iron Age hillfort is situated on the top of this hill (MBN1104).

2.2 Temple Inn is a Grade II Listed Building (National Heritage List for England no. 1320787) with the following description:

Public House. C17 wing to north, C18 and C19 alterations and additions. Rubble to rear and end walls, render to C17 wing and ashlar to C18 facade and quoins with stone copings, pantiles to C17 wing and double Roman tiles to C18 wing. 3 storeys, 3 windows. West front with 2 C19 canted bays through 2 floors either side of central glazed C20 door with lean-to porch on slim wooden pillars. Windows in bays are plate glass sashes with marginal glazing. Central sash window on 1st floor, 5 upper windows with single panes and marginal glazing. 1st floor string course, moulded eaves cornice, plain parapet. End stone stacks on C18 wing, one brick stack on C17 wing.

- 2.3 The application area has been the subject of a Heritage Impact Assessment (Crutchley 2013), which included an appraisal of the public house. This confirmed the phasing outlined in the List description. The Heritage Impact Assessment also identified two outbuildings (structures 1 and 2) within the Inn's curtilage. The former is of 18th-century date, but has been largely rebuilt during the early 20th century. The ground floor has probably been a stable, whilst the first floor was last used as a skittle alley. Structure 2 was a 20th-century cattle byre.
- 2.4 The Heritage Impact Assessment outlined the history of the application area from the mid-18th century onwards. The earliest detailed map (from 1766) records the principal building (although it is not described as an inn) as a two-part structure, with a further larger building to the rear. The same arrangement is depicted on a map of 1794.
- 2.5 The 1840 tithe map shows the Inn building to have been enlarged with further buildings constructed to the rear. Later 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps depict a very similar layout, but with the addition of smaller outbuildings.

3. AIMS

- 3.1 The aim of the investigation was to observe, investigate, excavate and record any surviving below-ground archaeological artefacts and deposits across the area affected by the development, in particular any evidence for Romano-British settlement and the historical development of Temple Cloud.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Attendance by the site archaeologist conducting the monitoring was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (published 2014), and an approved written scheme of investigation prepared by AC archaeology (Passmore 2016).
- 4.2 All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC archaeology pro-forma recording system, here comprising only written and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2* (revised August 2012).

5. RESULTS (Fig. 1)

- 5.1 Monitoring of the initial bulk reduction and later footings and drainage trench excavations revealed limited survival of archaeological remains. Observations from multiple visits across the site identified a very shallow surviving soil containing 17th-19th century finds (clay tobacco pipe stems, glass, and china, which were not collected). In the northeast corner of the site this was overlain by clear modern dumping, material which included concrete block fragments. In the southeast corner there were no modern dumped layers present. However, an increase in the depth at which the natural subsoil was exposed to the east of the surviving outbuilding east of Temple Inn indicated that the area containing the pub and associated hard-standing to the southwest had been terraced into the natural subsoil to some extent. The deeper resulting soils contained large amounts of large angular sandstone, no doubt deriving from terracing/construction activities.

- 5.2 The only features observed were a pair of probable 'soak-away' style linear land drains and a possible pit. One of the linear features was located in the southeast part of the site on an approximate northwest-southeast alignment (Plate 3), while the other was located in the northeast part of the site on an approximate northeast-southwest alignment (Plate 4). Both were cut through the post-medieval soil, and were primarily in-filled with large stone (aiding drainage), with a loose soil matrix above.
- 5.3 The pit was situated central to the eastern side of the site and was in-filled with large stones, brick and a large piece of metal sheet (Plate 5).
- 5.4 Against the southeast boundary of the site a slate capstone was found, which when lifted revealed an iron grill (Plates 6-7). This covered a manhole measuring 0.6m by 0.54m and providing access to a subterranean water-filled tank which was at least 2m wide and 4m deep and continued under the pavement to the southeast of the development area. Although little of the tank was visible it was constructed of brick and local stone and the metal mechanism for a probable pump was also observed.

6. COMMENTS

- 6.1 Monitoring of groundworks associated with redevelopment of the Temple Inn has revealed no surviving archaeological remains pre-dating the 1700s, with no evidence for Roman or medieval activity on the site.
- 6.2 Observations on soil depths during works strongly indicates considerable landscaping in this plot. The drop in height of the natural subsoil indicates that the main plot area on the junction between the A37 and Temple Inn Lane was terraced into the natural geology to form natural hard-standing for the public house building.
- 6.3 The perpendicular nature of the alignment of the probable soakaway land drain features, coupled with their similar appearance, suggests contemporaneity. Their positions enclosing the main plot containing Temple Inn and its associated outbuildings indicates they were designed to manage water flow and prevent drainage off the hard sandstone geology down into the depression created for the buildings.
- 6.4 The purpose of the pit is unknown, however the material incorporated within its fill suggests a date no earlier than the construction of Temple Inn and potentially much later based on the relatively good condition of the metal sheet. The large stone inclusions could suggest it is another feature concerned with drainage, perhaps being fed by a gutter/drain.
- 6.5 The specific purpose and origin of the subterranean water tank is also unknown. It probably dates to the 19th or early 20th century.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 7.1 The paper and digital archive is currently held at the offices of AC archaeology Ltd, at 4 Halthaies Workshops, Bradninch, near Exeter, Devon, EX5 4LQ under the unique project code of **ACD1398**. It will ultimately be deposited at the Roman Baths Museum, Bath, under a museum-allocated accession number that has been applied for and is awaited, but if they are unable to accept this, then it will be dealt with under their current accession policy.

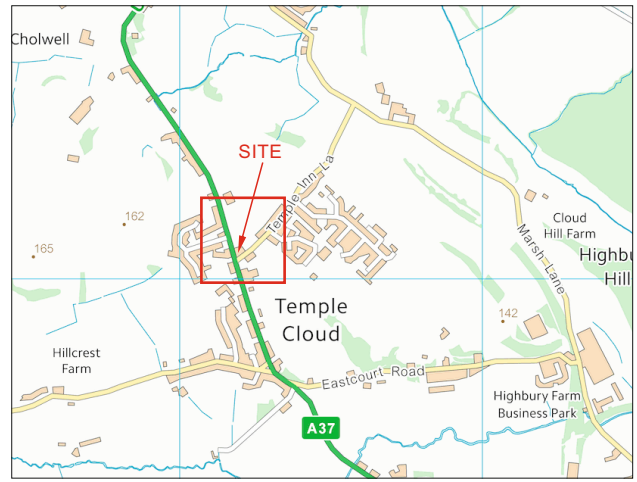
7.2 An online OASIS entry has been completed, using the unique identifier **308175**, which includes a digital copy of this report.

8. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey Online Viewer, www.bgs.ac.uk

Crutchley, A., 2013, *Temple Inn, Temple Cloud, B&NES, Heritage Impact Assessment*. Unpublished EPD Ltd report reference EDP2076_01a

Passmore, A., 2016, *Temple Inn, Temple Cloud, Bath & North East Somerset, (NGR ST 6200 5810), Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief, Bath & North East Somerset planning reference 13/04456/FUL, condition 4, AC archaeology document no. **ACD1398/1/1***



PROJECT
Temple Inn, Temple Cloud, Bath & North East Somerset

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and watching brief observations





Plate 1: General site view, looking southeast



Plate 2: General site view, looking south



Plate 3: Southeast-facing section of land drain in southeast part of the site (1m scale)



Plate 4: Northeast-facing section of land drain in northeast part of the site (1m scale)



Plate 5: East-facing section of pit feature (1m scale)



Plate 6: Manhole for access to subterranean tank, looking west (0.4m scale)



Plate 7: Manhole for access to subterranean tank, looking southeast (0.4m scale)

Devon Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Unit 4, Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Nr Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone/Fax: 01392 882410

Wiltshire Office

AC archaeology Ltd
Manor Farm Stables
Chicklade
Hindon
Nr Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP3 5SU

Telephone: 01747 820581
Fax: 01747 820440

www.acarchaeology.co.uk