

Riverside House, London Road West, Bath BA1 7HY

Results of an archaeological watching brief

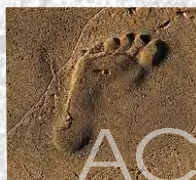
Centred on NGR 376480,166469

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AC archaeology

RIVERSIDE HOUSE, LONDON ROAD WEST, BATH BA1 7HY

Results of an archaeological watching brief

Centred on NGR 376480 166469

Summary

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during May 2018 during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling at Riverside House, London Road West, Lower Swainswick, Bath (NGR 376480 166469). The work was undertaken as a condition of planning consent granted by Bath and North-East Somerset Council. No archaeological features or deposits were observed, nor were any finds recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out the results of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling at Riverside House, London Road West, Lower Swainswick, Bath (NGR 376480 166469). The site location and details of the proposed development are shown in Fig. 1.

1.2 Bath and North-East Somerset Council has granted planning permission for the development at the site. Following planning application consultations, the Bath and North-East Somerset Council Senior Archaeological Officer (hereafter B&NESCSEO) has required that the ground works be monitored under a controlled archaeological watching brief. As a result, Condition 10 of the approved planning application (17/01468/FUL) states:

Archaeology (Prior to commencement)

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.

1.3 The approved development comprises the construction of a single-storey dwelling with associated driveway and gardens.

1.4 The application area is located on the north-western slopes overlooking the River Avon in Lower Swainswick, Bath and lies between 29.3m OD and 19.3m OD, with the land sloping gently downwards from north-west to south-east. The proposed development area is approximately 0.23 hectares and consists of predominantly bare and disturbed ground, with a steep embankment sloping down to the river bank.

1.5 The underlying geology comprises Charmouth Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic Period, approximately 183 to 199 million years ago. The superficial deposits consist of River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel formed during the Quaternary Period, up to 3 million years ago (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The proposed new house lies in close proximity to an area of possible Saxon/Norman occupation. This was identified during an archaeological evaluation undertaken in 1992 of the neighbouring sports ground to the west (B&NES Historic Environment Record: MBN8266).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were:

- To record any archaeological features and finds, which may be revealed or disturbed by the ground works for the new construction on the site, and;
- To provide an archive and interpretive report on the results of the monitoring.

3.2 The site works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Clark 2017). Attendance by the site archaeologist was comprehensive, i.e. *present during all relevant ground disturbance*.

3.3 The archaeological monitoring commenced prior to the removal of a large dump of mixed imported topsoil and subsoil that had been dumped to a depth of approximately 1.2m.

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

3.5 The archive has been prepared using the unique site code ACW1065.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the reduction of ground levels within the footprint of the principal dwelling and associated driveway. This material comprised a 1.20m⁺ thickness dump of modern demolition material comprising fragmentary concrete and frogged red brick fragments, all within a dark brown coarse sand. Directly overlying this uniform imported deposit was the present patchy topsoil layer.

4.2 Following the removal of this overburden it was apparent that the site had previously been stripped of topsoil/subsoil and that the dumped material lay directly above the

limestone bedrock. The final reduction levels did not fully expose the bedrock across the entire footprint of the new building, but the site archaeologist was assured that no further excavation was required. The site archaeologist was therefore satisfied that no further exposure of archaeological deposits was possible and concluded the monitoring.

4.3 No archaeological features or artefacts were observed during the monitoring.

5. COMMENT

5.1 The results of the watching brief were wholly negative, with no archaeological features or finds identified. It is considered unlikely that any archaeological evidence of any significance is present within the application area.

6. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey. Geology of Britain Viewer (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). Accessed October 2017

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Professional guidance

Clark, R. 2017, '*Riverside House London Road West Bath BA1 7HY: Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological watching brief*. AC archaeology Ltd. Doc. No. ACW1065/1/0



Plate 1: NE facing section of dumped material immediately over bedrock within the footprint of proposed dwelling (Scale 1m)



Plate 2: View of site (from north)

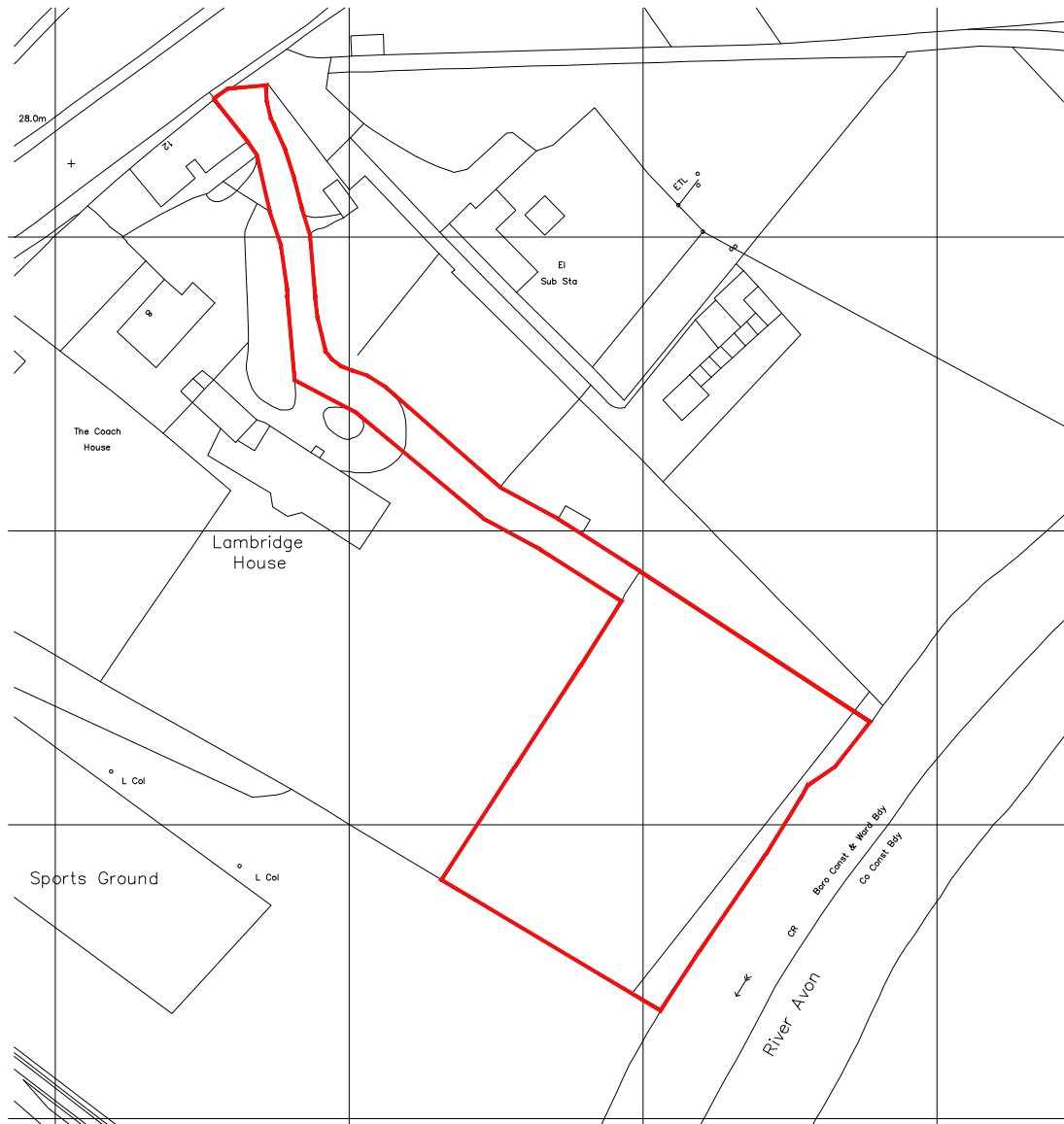
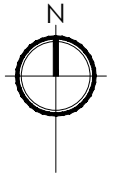


Plate 3: West-facing section of reduced area within the footprint of proposed dwelling. (View from east. Scale 1m)



Plate 4: View of site (from south)

APPENDIX 1: SITE LAYOUT



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Rev	Date	Details	Rev	Status
Project 4011	Stage 3	Drawing 301	—	PLANNING

Scale	Size	Drawn	Check	Creation
1:1250	A4 P	CJ	DW	2017.02.20

New Dwelling Lambridge House, Bath

Site Location Plan



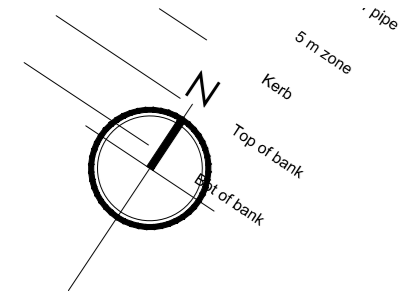
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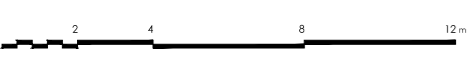




New Dwelling
Lambridge House, Bath
Proposed Site Plan

Rev	Date	Details	Rev	Status
4011	3	305	B	PLANNING

Scale: 1:200 Size: A2 L Drawn: CJ Check: DW Creation: 2017.02.20



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