

Land adjacent to 5 Hoares Lane, Kilmersdon,
Frome, Somerset:

Results of a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring

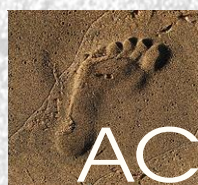
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On behalf of:
White Horse Housing
Association Ltd

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AC archaeology

LAND ADJACENT TO 5 HOARES LANE, KILMERSDON, FROME, SOMERSET: Results of a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring

HER Number: 42346

NGR 369742 152198

Summary

Archaeological watching briefs were undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd on land adjacent to No 5 Hoares Lane, Kilmersdon, Frome. The monitoring was carried out during groundworks (including geotechnical investigations) associated with the construction of two semi-detached two storey dwellings, as well as parking provision and associated infrastructure. While the works were located within an area of potential archaeological interest, no archaeological deposits were revealed, and no finds or artefacts were recovered.

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out the results a programme of archaeological monitoring undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of two semi-detached two storey dwellings and related infrastructure on land adjacent to 5 Hoares Lane, Kilmersdon, Frome (NGR 369742 152198). The site location and construction details are shown in Fig. 1.
- 1.2 The monitoring was undertaken by AC archaeology Ltd for Nixey Powell Partnership on behalf of the White Horse Housing Association Ltd in compliance with the requirements of the planning consent for the works granted by Mendip District Council (Planning Ref: 2018/1026/FUL). As part of the consultation process, the Officer's Report (based on advice from the Senior Historic Environment Officer (hereafter SHEO) at Southwest Heritage Trust) states:

The site lies within the Kilmersdon Area of High Archaeological Potential. Investigations on land to the west identified the remains of an early manorial centre. It is therefore possible that this development may impact upon associated heritage assets. For this reason, it is recommended that the applicant be required to provide archaeological monitoring of the development and a report on any discoveries made as indicated in the National Planning Policy Framework (Paragraph 141). This should be secured with a condition requiring a programme of Works in Accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation.

- 1.3 Condition 9 of the planning consent states:

No works shall be undertaken on site until the Local Planning Authority has first approved in writing details of a programme of access which will be afforded to a named archaeologist to observe and record all ground disturbance during construction (such works to include any geological (sic) trial pits, foundations and service trenches). The named archaeologist shall thereafter be allowed access in accordance with the details so approved.

Reason: This pre-commencement condition must be a pre-commencement condition because the local planning authority needs to ensure that an archaeologist can observe and record all ground disturbance during construction.

- 1.4 A WSI was issued that provided the written details of the programme of works required by Condition 9 (Clark 2020).
- 1.5 The site area is located on the southern side of the village of Kilmersdon and is situated on the south side of Hoares Lane. The bedrock geology consists of Mercia Mudstone Group, a sedimentary bedrock of mudstone and Halite stone. This was formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period (BGS website). There are no records of superficial deposits.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As noted above, the site area is in the Kilmersdon Area of High Archaeological Potential. The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) includes references to listed buildings in the area, together with limited information on other heritage assets. Of most significance to the site area, are the records for an archaeological excavation that was undertaken in 2011, on land on the western side of Hoares Lane. This is located approximately 200m to the west of the site area (HER32385).
- 2.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording of an area of about 35m x 45m was carried out between October and November 2011 by Southwest Archaeology Ltd. This work followed on from a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation (HER30301). The excavations provided a significant contribution to the dating and construction of early manorial sub-rectangular enclosures, as seen within Somerset and elsewhere in Britain. The excavation uncovered the outer ditch(es) of the original 11th-13th century manorial enclosure, the earthworks of which can be seen in the adjoining playing field to the west.
- 2.3 These were probably laid out when Kilmersdon became a Royal Manor in 1065. Kilmersdon was a Hundredal Manor and thus of regional importance in the early medieval period. This small group of features recorded within these excavations provides the first definite evidence of early medieval activity in the parish.
- 2.4 Most of the rest of the excavated features relate to the post-medieval development of the village.

3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological watching brief were:
 - To monitor, under constant archaeological supervision, all ground disturbance including the geotechnical pits until sufficient natural geology was exposed to indicate an absence of archaeological deposits.
 - To record and excavate any archaeological features exposed that would be adversely affected by the site investigations and construction works.
 - To contribute to archaeological research framework questions and in particular regarding those outlined in the Southwest Archaeological Research Framework (Somerset County Council 2012).

- To provide an archive and interpretive report on the results of the monitoring.

3.2 'Theme A: Settlement Sites and Landscapes – urban, rural and prehistoric' in the Southwest Archaeological Research Framework (Somerset County Council 2012) contains Research Aims that were considered to be relevant to the site area in relation to the 11th to 13th manorial enclosure located to the west, should archaeological deposits be recorded. As examples, Research Aim 33 relates to widening our understanding of the origins of villages, and Research Aim 31 aims to address themes associated with early medieval landscapes and territories.

3.3 All groundworks, including geotechnical site investigations were monitored comprehensively by the site archaeologists.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Two stages of initial geotechnical investigations were monitored by the site archaeologists in August 2021 and in August 2022. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

4.2 In September 2022 the main phase of groundworks was completed and the site archaeologist was present during all the main works. The site area comprised an elongated parcel of land gently sloping towards the north west. Initial groundworks involved the excavation of the topsoil horizon comprising a relatively uniform 0.40m thick dark brown silt loam interspersed with frequent clinker debris.

4.3 The removal of the topsoil revealed a natural substrate consisting of a reddish brown clay silt diffused with yellow gleying. Despite the known archaeological potential of the area, no deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were exposed in the natural deposits.

5. REFERENCES & GUIDELINES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. CIFA: Reading

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KEY:
 Extent of proposed new build

PROJECT  AC Archaeology

Kilmerston, Somerset

TITLE

Fig. 1: Site location plan



Plate 1: General view of machining



Plate 2: Reduced levels at rear of site



Plate 3: General view of groundworks



Plate 4: General view at completion of groundworks

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