

Chantry Farm
Stockwood Lane
Keynsham
Bristol
BANES.

An Archaeological Evaluation report

July 2017



**Chantry Farm
Stockwood Lane
Keynsham
Bristol
BANES**


for

C1 project code: C1/EVA/17/CKB

Mr M Betty

REPORT

Prepared by	Richard McConnell, Director & Dr Clare Randall, Archaeological Officer
Date	28/07/17

Approved by	Dr Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager
Signed	
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PROJECT DETAILS

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Local Planning Authority	BANES
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Historic Environment Record ref.	N/A
Collecting Museum	Bath Spa Museum
Museum accession code	BATRM. 2017.25
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Summary

Context One Heritage & Archaeology carried out an archaeological field evaluation through trial trenching in July 2017 to accompany a planning application for the construction of nine dwellings at the Chantry Farm, Stockwood Lane, Keynsham, Bristol, BANES.

There are no records of any previous archaeological activity on the Site although a 13th century medieval farmstead and a Roman buckle were discovered during pipe laying for a water supply immediately south of the Site in 1976.

The evaluation comprised 5 trenches covering an area of 128 square metres or 5% sample of the proposed site area. Despite the proximity of medieval settlement remains and a Roman period find spot, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the field evaluation. Modern rubble was present in the topsoil in three trenches, but there did not appear to be any disturbance of the sub-soil or natural deposits.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out an archaeological field evaluation through trial trenching between 11 and 21 July 2017 to accompany a planning application (planning reference: 16/03984/FUL) for the construction of nine dwellings at the Chantry Farm, Stockwood Lane, Keynsham, Bristol, BANES (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by David James & Partners on behalf of their client, Mr M Betty.
- 1.2 The evaluation was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Bath and North East Somerset Council (BANES) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES). In a reply to an email consultation request from Mr Christopher Griggs-Trevarthen (Senior Planning Officer, BANES) on 13 October 2016, Mr Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer, BANES Council stated:
- "The above proposed development lies within an area of medieval settlement evidence including the remains of a 13th century farmhouse (BANES Historic Environment Record: MBN1199) and a late Roman buckle. I would recommend that a pre-determination desk-based archaeological assessment is carried out to assess all previous observations/finds in the vicinity and the likely impact of the propose development. This work may then need to be followed up by field evaluation (trial trenching) to fully assess any archaeological impacts. However, in the absence of such an assessment/evaluation I would recommend that this application is refused (see NPPF paragraph 128)."*
- 1.3 It was subsequently agreed by Mr Griggs-Trevarthen on 23 May 2017 that an evaluation through trial trenching alone would be sufficient to accompany the planning application.
- 1.4 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which sets out the project strategy; trial trenching; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.5 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).

2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 62921 68479) covers 2,600 square metres and is located on the eastern fringe of Stockwood, a residential area and council ward in south Bristol, between Whitchurch and Brislington, and c. 2.5km west of Keynsham. The Site is bounded on the west by Stockwood Lane and neighbours residential housing on its north-east and south-west sides. Tree cover on the south-east aspect gives way to open pasture fields and Stockwood Vale Golf Club beyond. The Site is largely situated on level ground at an average height of c. 86m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology for the Site is Rugby Limestone Member - Limestone and Mudstone, Interbedded. Immediately to the east of Site, the geology changes to Saltford Shale Member - Mudstone. (BGS, 2017). There is no recorded superficial (drift) geology. The soils are characterised as shallow lime-rich soils over chalk or limestone (CSAIS, 2017). The Site is currently overgrown with thick vegetation and tree cover with derelict structures and redundant machinery.
- 2.2 The county Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that seven heritage assets have been recorded within a 1km radius of the Site. The table below provides brief details of these assets organised by period.

HER ref.	Description	Period
MBN30345	Bronze Age settlement at Whitchurch	Bronze Age
MBN1212	Roman Brooch, Stockwood Hill	Roman
MBN1201	Roman Buckle, East of Oakleaze	Roman
MBN4926	Roman site Charlton Bottom	Roman
MBN1199	Medieval farmstead site south of Stockwood	Medieval
MBN2236	Coalmine Charlton Bottom	Post-medieval
MBN6064	Strip Lynchets (?)	Unknown

- 2.3 The nearest assets include a 13th century medieval farmstead (**MBN1199**) and the find of a Roman buckle (**MBN1201**) discovered during pipe laying for a water supply immediately south of the Site in 1976. Finds

included quantities of 13th century pottery, a little 14th century Ham Green Ware, stone, burnt material and bone. The Roman buckle is likely to be a residual find although a Roman site is recorded at Charlton Bottom (**MBN4926**), c. 930m to the east-south-east and a brooch (**MBN1212**) from the same period was found at Stockwood Hill further to the north. The site at Charlton Bottom included a scatter of pottery, iron and lead slag, and some undressed limestone.

3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological monitoring were to:

- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during groundworks;
- determine the character of the archaeological remains, where present;
- recover environmental information, which may provide further information relating to the local historic environment of the area;
- provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

3.2 The research objectives were to:

- determine whether there is any further evidence of the medieval farmstead previously discovered adjacent to the Site or associated remains
- ascertain whether there is any settlement activity related to the Roman find found in the same locality

4. Methodology

4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA), 1994, rev. 2001, 2008, 2014). C1 adhered to the *Code of Conduct* of the CifA (1985, rev. 2000, 2014), and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CifA, 2014, rev. 2015) at all times. The fieldwork methodology is summarised below.

4.2 C1 gave notification of the commencement of the works to the HES. There was no requirement to monitor the fieldwork.

4.3 The archaeological evaluation comprised 5 trenches: Trench 1 (TR1) measuring 13m long x 4m wide; Trenches 2 and 5 (TR2 & TR5) 14m long x 1.6m wide; Trench 3 (TR3) 10m long x 4m wide; and Trench 4 (TR4) 10m long x 1.6m wide. Combined, this represented a 5% sample of the proposal area. The trench locations were altered from the original plan to take account of un-anticipated constraints. An ecological survey had identified reptile populations and sufficient ground cover needed to be retained as refugia. The removal of ground vegetation around the original trench areas would have reduced this to an unacceptable level. In addition, a series of live services, mostly originating from an adjacent electricity sub-station, further constrained trench location. Together with derelict structures and redundant machinery, the limitations on positioning trenches was severe. The final trench positions were recorded with a TopCon GRS1 GPS unit (**Figure 1**).

4.4 An 8 tonne slew equipped with a toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil/overburden under the constant supervision of C1 field staff. Machine excavation continued until natural geology was encountered. Spoil was mounded either side of each trench and inspected for artefacts.

4.5 Once machine work had been completed, the trenches were examined for evidence of features/deposits. Core details of each trench was recorded on C1 *pro-forma* evaluation trench forms in digital format using iPad mini tablets. This included logging a representative section of the trench to allow an understanding of the stratigraphy. A digital photograph of each trench in plan and representative section was taken in .jpg format.

5. Results

- 5.1 The deposit sequence encountered during the evaluation is tabulated and described in **Appendix 1**. In the summary below, individual deposits are represented as a unique number allocated on site with a prefix that serves as a staff identifier. Both sets of numbers are enclosed in standard brackets, e.g. (7-102). Soil colours are given with their Soil Munsell reference, e.g. dark greyish brown10 YR 3/2.
- 5.2 The deposit sequence was very similar in all five evaluation trenches. The topsoil ranged between 0.20m and 0.40m deep. In all cases this was a soft very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels. In TR1 and TR2, (7-100) and (7-200), there were significant amounts of rubble associated with a yard sub-base. There were also frequent rubble blocks in TR3 (7-300).
- 5.3 In all trenches, the topsoil overlay a subsoil of compacted strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) gritty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels, which was generally 0.20m thick, but 0.15m in TR2 (7-201) and 0.30m thick in TR4 (7-401). This subsoil in all five trenches overlay natural deposits of compacted olive brown (2/5 YR 4/3) clay and gravel with frequent blocky limestone fragments.
- 5.4 No archaeological features or deposits were noted in any of the evaluation trenches (**Plates 1-5**) although a number of modern services and/or field drains were noted.

6. The finds

- 6.1 No finds were observed or recovered during the course of the evaluation.

7. Discussion

- 7.1 Despite the proximity of medieval settlement remains and a find spot of a Roman period buckle, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the field evaluation. Modern rubble was present in the topsoil in three trenches, but there did not appear to be any disturbance of the sub-soil or natural deposits.

8. Archive and dissemination

- 8.1 The NPPF requires that an archaeological archive arising from development works is made publicly accessible (para. 141). The archive comprises two parts: the paper/digital archive including site records and images; and the artefact/ecofact assemblage.

Paper/digital archive

- 8.2 Where archaeological features/deposits are recorded, the archive generated from this usually comprises site records, drawings and photographs either in paper format or born-digital data. Within three months of the conclusion of a project this is normally transferred into the care of a Trusted Digital Repository such as the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) as scanned paper records or native born-digital data. The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the standards and requirements of the ADS, as set out on their website.
- 8.3 As no archaeological evidence was encountered, all relevant data has been incorporated into this report and the paper/digital archive will be stored on the C1 cloud storage server or discarded.

Physical archive

- 8.4 The artefact/ecofact assemblage is the legal property of the landowner (excluding any items that fall under The Treasure Act 1996). However, it is usual practice for the landowner to transfer ownership of this assemblage to a receiving institution (usually a museum) once it has been fully assessed and/or analysed. Receiving institutions store the assemblage and make it publicly accessible. Alternatively, the landowner can choose to keep the assemblage but arrangements must be made to ensure its long-term curation and public accessibility in accordance with NPPF.

8.5 In this instance, there is no artefact/ecofact assemblage to archive.

Dissemination: report

8.6 Copies of the report will be submitted to the following:

- client and/or agent
- the HES so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record (HER)
- the ADS, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>)

Dissemination: publication

8.7 By default, a short entry will be prepared for publication in the summary section of the next edition of the county archaeological journal or equivalent periodical.

9. Bibliography

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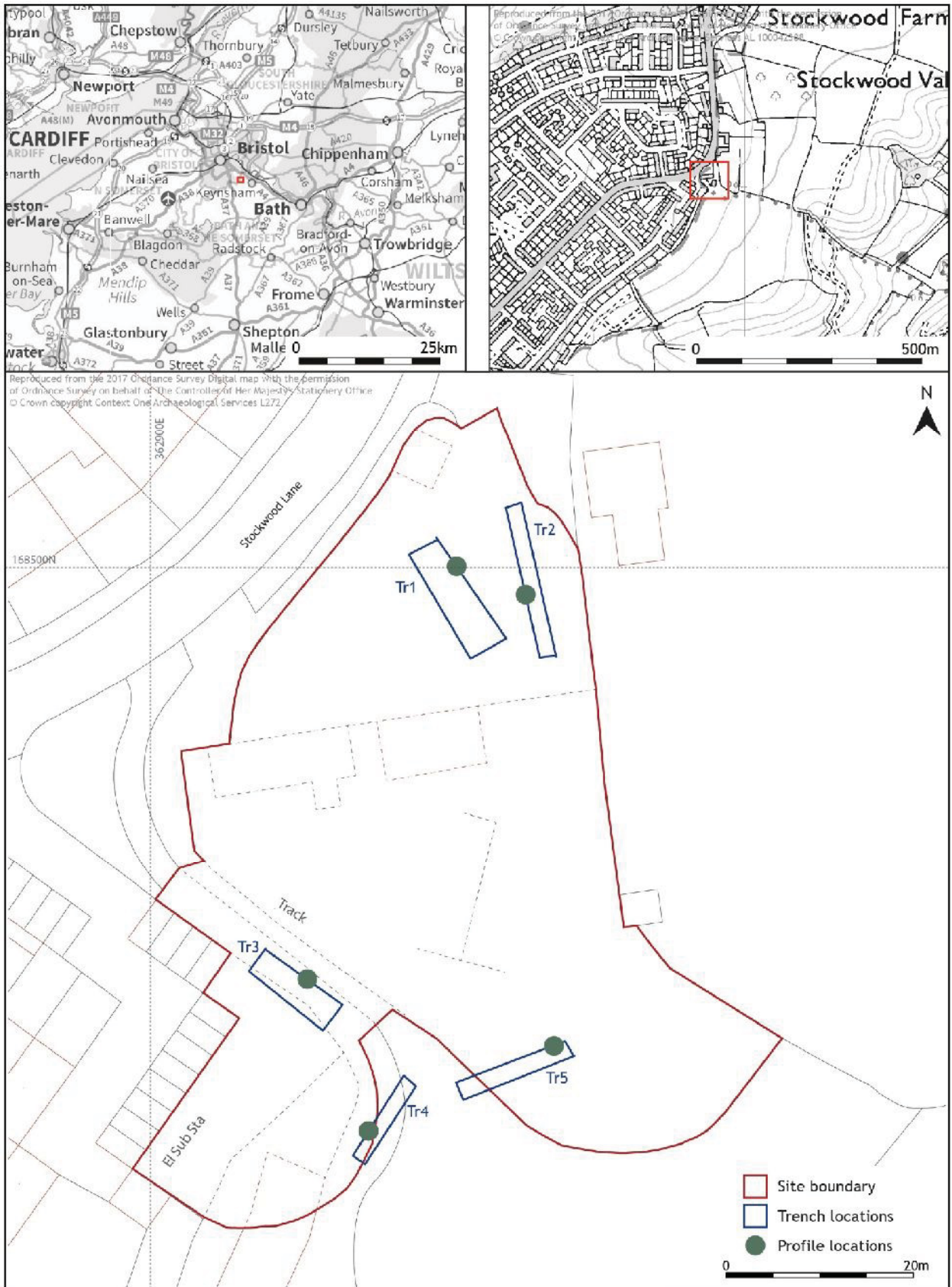


Figure 1. Site setting and trench locations



Plate 1. TR1 (facing SSE; 1m scales)



Plate 2. TR2 (facing N; 1m scales)



Plate 3. TR4 (facing E; 1m scales)



Plate 4. TR3 (facing W; 1m scales)



Plate 5. TR5 (facing ENE; 1m scales)



Appendix 1: Context summary

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
Trench 1 – 13m long x 4m wide									
7-100	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Soft very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m and significant amounts of rubble for yard base	NA		7-101	13.00m	3.80m	0.40m
7-101	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Compacted Strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) gritty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m	7-101		7-102	13.00m	3.80m	0.20m
7-102	Geological	Layer	Natural - Compacted olive brown (2/5 YR 4/3) clay and gravel with frequent blocky limestone fragments <0.01m	7-102		NA	13.00m	3.80m	>0.20m
Trench 2 – 14m long x 1.6m wide									
7-200	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Soft very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m and significant amounts of rubble for yard base	NA		7-201	14.00m	1.60m	0.30m
7-201	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Compacted Strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) gritty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m	7-200		7-202	14.00m	1.60m	0.15m
7-202	Geological	Layer	Natural - Compacted olive brown (2/5 YR 4/3) clay and gravel with frequent blocky limestone fragments <0.01m	7-201		NA	14.00m	1.60m	>0.15m
Trench 3 – 10m long x 4m wide									
7-300	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Soft very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent large rubble blocks >0.25m	NA		7-301	10.00m	4.00m	0.20m
7-301	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Compacted Strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) gritty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m	7-300		7-302	10.00m	4.00m	0.20m
7-302	Geological	Layer	Natural - Compacted olive brown (2/5 YR 4/3) clay and gravel with frequent blocky limestone fragments <0.01m	7-301		NA	10.00m	4.00m	>0.20m
Trench 4 – 10m long x 1.6m wide									
7-400	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Soft very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m	NA		7-401	10.00m	1.60m	0.40m
7-401	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Compacted Strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) gritty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m	7-400		7-402	10.00m	1.60m	0.30m
7-402	Geological	Layer	Natural - Compacted olive brown (2/5 YR 4/3) clay and gravel with frequent blocky limestone fragments <0.01m	7-401		NA	10.00m	1.60m	>0.20m



Trench 5 – 14m long x 1.6m wide									
7-500	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Soft very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) silty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m	NA	7-501	14.00m	1.60m	0.40m	
7-501	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Compacted Strong brown (7.5 YR 4/6) gritty clay with frequent small and large angular limestone gravels <0.005 -0.05m	7-500	7-502	14.00m	1.60m	0.20m	
7-502	Geological	Layer	Natural - Compacted olive brown (2/5 YR 4/3) clay and gravel with frequent blocky limestone fragments <0.01m	7-501	NA	14.00m	1.60m	>0.10m	

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