

The Nursery  
Bradford-on-Tone  
Somerset

Archaeological Monitoring and  
Recording Report

June 2017



The Nursery  
Bradford-on-Tone  
Somerset


for

**C1 project code: C1/AMR/15/NBS**

**Simon Sidhu**

#### REPORT

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Approved by	Cheryl Green, Post-excavation Manager
Signed	
Date	06/06/17

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#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL DETAILS

Client project/scheme ref.	N/A
Planning Application ref.	07/13/0014/REX
Local Planning Authority	Taunton Deane District Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	34680
Collecting Museum	SWHT
Museum accession code	N/A
OASIS reference	N/A

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## Summary

*Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks related to the construction of a two-storey extension and garage at The Nursery, Bradford-on-Tone, Somerset. The project was commissioned by Mr Simon Sidhu.*

*The monitoring and recording was requested as a condition of planning consent due to prehistoric flint and medieval pottery having been observed on the Site in the past.*

*Despite this potential, the groundworks did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits, and no further archaeological finds were observed. Previous construction on the Site may possibly have removed any features, but it is also likely that the area was peripheral to past settlement, and the prehistoric flint and medieval pottery previously seen resulted from manuring of fields in the past.*

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage and Archaeology (C1) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks related to the construction of a two-storey extension and garage at The Nursery, Bradford-on-Tone, Somerset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**) during May 2017. The project was commissioned by Mr Simon Sidhu.
- 1.2 The monitoring and recording was requested as a condition of planning consent (Taunton Deane Borough Council planning application ref. 07/13/0014/REX, Condition 4), in accordance with the Retained Taunton Deane Local Plan Policy EN23 which seeks to protect the archaeological heritage of the district. The Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER) records the discovery of prehistoric flint implements and medieval pottery sherds within the site boundary during groundworks in the 1940s (Somerset HER No. PRN 43379). The potential for further discoveries was therefore likely, and although the nature of the finds was not necessarily indicative of intensive occupation, it was felt that further finds and associated features may be identified during the works.
- 1.3 The programme of archaeological works comprised four elements: the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which set out the project strategy; monitoring and recording during development groundworks; post-excavation analysis and report production (this document); and archive deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).

## 2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 17409 22625) is located on the south-eastern side of the village of Bradford-on-Tone, which is situated c. 7.5km to the north-east of Wellington, and a similar distance to the south-west of Taunton (**Figure 1**). The area of impact of the development was c. 200 square metres, on level ground at a height of c. 45m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology is Mercia Mudstone Group - Sandstone (BGS 2017) and the soils are slightly acid loam and clay with impeded drainage (CSAIS 2017).

## 3. Archaeological aims

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring was 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 environment history;
  - provide sufficient information to enable further mitigation strategies to be determined, where appropriate

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1 The area of the demolished building was stripped using a tracked machine equipped with a 2m toothless bucket. A clean profile was achieved at the undisturbed southern end of the area.
- 4.2 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (December 2014) and the *Somerset County Council Heritage Service Archaeological Handbook* (2011). 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.

- 4.3 Prior to the commencement of site works, the excavation methodology was agreed between those responsible for carrying out the groundworks and C1 to ensure that all parties were aware of the monitoring requirements.
- 4.4 An archaeologist was on Site to monitor all specified groundworks with the aim of identifying and recording any archaeological features/deposits present.
- 4.5 By default, core details of the deposit sequence across the Site were recorded on a C1 *pro-forma* profile form in digital format using an iPad mini tablet. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts.
- 4.6 A photographic record of the monitoring and recording was carried out, and involved the sole use of digital images. Context numbers are referred to in standard terms e.g. (7-100), with the prefix relating to the recorder.

## 5. Results

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the removal of the existing foundations and excavation of footings for the new building (**Figure 1; Plate 1**).
- 5.2 A single profile was recorded in the foundation trench (**Figure 1; Plate 2**). The sequence observed consisted of topsoil (3-100), which was a soft, very dark greyish brown (2.5 Y 3/2) loamy clay, measuring 0.35m thick. This overlay a subsoil of firm light olive brown (2.5 Y 5/4) sandy clay, of 0.3m thickness. This in turn was situated over natural deposits of compacted red (5 R 5/8) clay, including gravel patches which comprised about 20% of the context. This natural deposit was observed to a depth of 0.85m. No archaeological features or deposits were noted.

## 6. The finds

- 6.1 No finds were noted or retained during the monitoring project.

## 7. Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 Despite the record of previous archaeological finds having come from the Site, monitoring of the groundworks did not observe any archaeological features or deposits, and no further archaeological finds were observed. As there has been previous construction and disturbance on the Site, it may be that this removed any features. However, it is also likely that the area was peripheral to settlement in the past, and that prehistoric flint and medieval pottery seen in the 1940s was introduced via manuring of fields in the past.

## 8. Archive

- 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. In this case, no finds were recovered.
- 8.2 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. A digital copy of the report will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, via OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>).
- 8.3 Archive deposition will be carried out within three months of final report completion.
- 8.4 A copy of this report will be provided to the client/agent and to the HET so that it can be included as part of the county Historic Environment Record.

## 9. Bibliography

- Cranfield Soils and Agrifood Institute: Soilscales (CSAIS), 2017 Available at: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales> accessed on 1 June 2017
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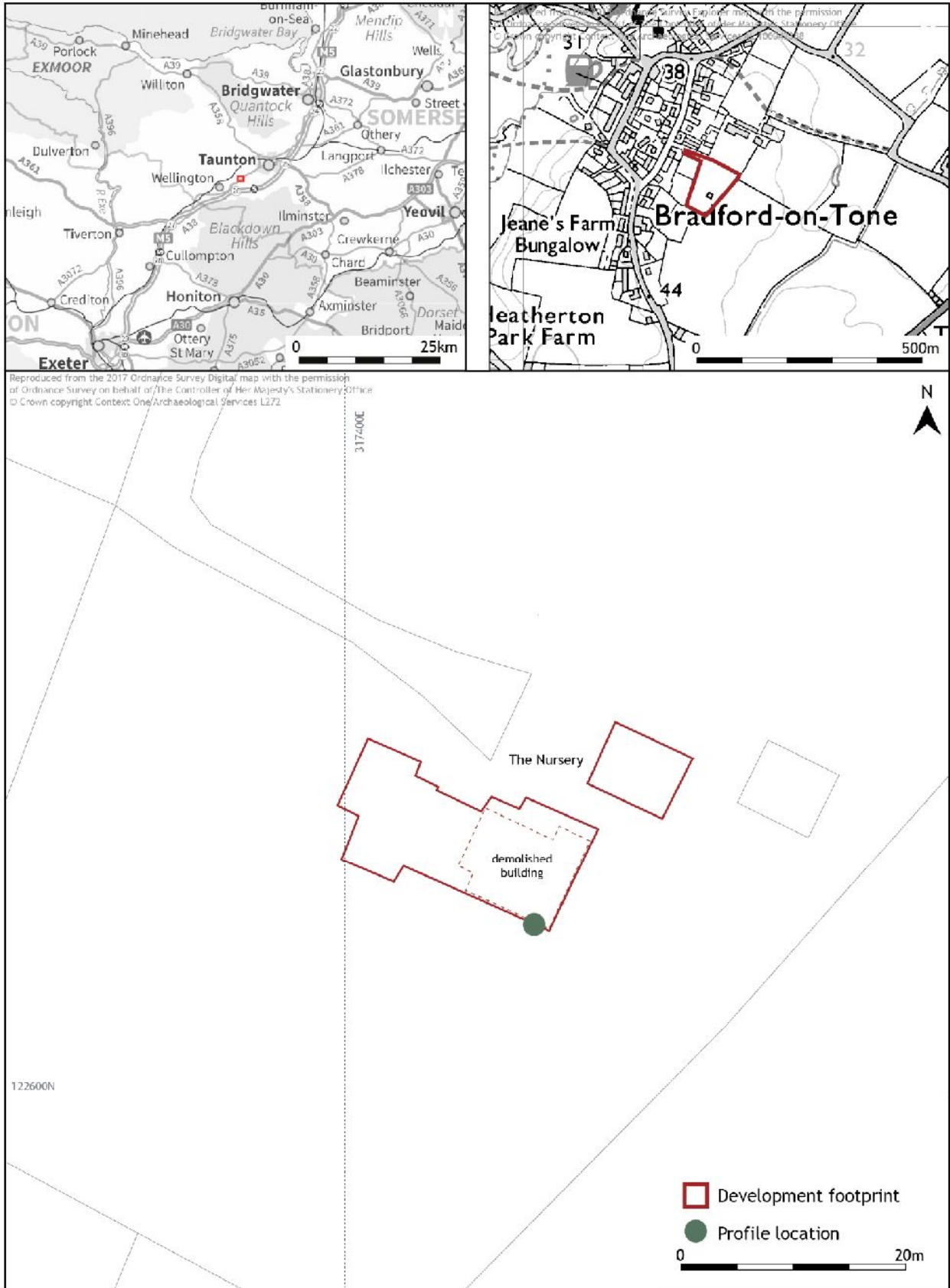


Figure 1. Site setting and profile location



Plate 1. Southern side of development footprint (facing N; 0.50m scale)



Plate 2. Profile 1 (facing S; 1m scale)



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