

Land Rear of Bay Tree  
South Street  
Castle Cary  
Somerset

An Archaeological Field Evaluation

**REPORT**

January 2018



Land Rear of Bay Tree  
South Street  
Castle Cary  
Somerset


for

**C1 project code: C1/EVA/18/BTC**

**DLHM Ltd**

#### REPORT

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

Client project/scheme ref.	N/A
Planning Application ref.	17/03613/FUL
Local Planning Authority	South Somerset District Council
Scheduled Monument Consent ref.	N/A
Historic Environment Record ref.	44104
Collecting Museum	South West Heritage Trust
Museum accession code	TTNCM 4/2018
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## Summary

*Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out an archaeological field evaluation through trial trenching to fulfil a condition of planning consent (planning reference: 17/03613/FUL) for the erection of a single storey dwelling at Land Rear of The Bay Tree, South Street, Castle Cary, Somerset. The project was commissioned by Mr Dave Bissex on behalf of his client, DLHM Ltd.*

*The Site lies within the area of the medieval town of Castle Cary. Elongated burghage plots extend back from the street frontage of South Street on both sides of the road, and may reflect the divisions within the medieval planned town. Despite this location, no archaeological features or deposits were observed, and no artefacts observed or collected. It is likely that this area, to the rear of the plots, was not heavily utilised during the establishment of the medieval town.*

## Contents

Summary.....	1
1. Introduction.....	2
2. The Site.....	2
3. Archaeological aims and research objectives.....	3
4. Methodology.....	3
5. Results.....	4
6. The finds.....	4
7. Discussion and conclusion.....	4
8. Archive and dissemination.....	4
9. Bibliography.....	5
Appendix 1: Context summary.....	8

## Figures

Figure 1. Site setting and trench location.....	6
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## Plates

Plate 1. Trench 1 (facing ESE; 1m scale).....	7
Plate 2. Trench 1 (facing E; 1m scale).....	7

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Context One Heritage & Archaeology (C1) carried out an archaeological field evaluation through trial trenching to fulfil a condition of planning consent (planning reference: 17/03613/FUL) for the erection of a single storey dwelling at Land Rear of The Bay Tree, South Street, Castle Cary, Somerset (the 'Site') (**Figure 1**). The project was commissioned by Mr Dave Bissex on behalf of his client, DLHM Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation was requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), South Somerset District Council (SSDC) on the advice of the county Historic Environment Service (HES), South West Heritage Trust (SWHT), as the Site is in an area of high archaeological potential. This relates to Condition 5 of Determination of Application for Planning Permission (ref. 17/03613/FUL), ensuring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. In a reply to an email consultation from Mr Bissex on 16 January 2018, Mr Steven Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, South West Heritage Trust suggested that should comprise:
- "[excavation of] trenches alongside (or as close as possible to) the already dug and filled foundation trenches under the supervision of an archaeologist. This would enable the archaeologist to assess if there was any archaeology present in the foundation trenches."*
- 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; trial trenching; post-excavation and report production (this document); and archive preparation and deposition.
- 1.4 The requirement follows advice by Central Government as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012) and accords with policy EQ3 of the South Somerset Local Plan 2016-2018.

## 2. The Site

- 2.1 The Site (centred on NGR ST 363657 131761) covers 480 square metres and is located within the southern part of Castle Cary, on the north-west side of South Street (**Figure 1**). The Site is west of The Bay Tree restaurant and to the rear of Alma Cottages; there are further residential buildings to the south and west, and gardens and dwellings to the north. The Site is largely situated on level ground at an average height of c. 96m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The recorded geology for the Site is Bridport Sand Formation - Sandstone (BGS, 2018). There is no recorded superficial (drift) geology. The soils are characterised as freely draining slightly acid loam (CSAIS, 2018). The Site currently comprises hard standing.
- 2.2 The county Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that there are numerous heritage assets recorded within a 500m radius of the Site, many of which are historic buildings which line South Street and are within the centre of Castle Cary. The table below provides brief details of a selection of these assets organised by period.

HER ref.	Description	Period
16569	Iron-age settlement, Castle Cary	Prehistoric
53651	Town of Castle Cary	Medieval
57031	Evaluation (1999), South Street, Castle Cary	Medieval
53640:	Castle, Castle Cary. Scheduled Monument	Medieval
36263	Tudor Cottage, Fairdene, Jasmine Cottage and Dene Cottage, South Street. Grade II Listed 18 <sup>th</sup> century cottages	Post-medieval
52143	Sandybank, South Street. Grade II Listed 18 <sup>th</sup> century cottages	Post-medieval
52144	Westholme and Avenue House, South Street. Grade II Listed 19 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval
52145	Scotland House, South Street. Grade II Listed 18 <sup>th</sup> century cottage	Post-medieval
52147	Park Cottage, South Street (East side). Grade II Listed early 19 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval
52148	South Dene, and front boundary walls and railings, South Street. Grade II Listed 18 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval
52150	Knowle House, and front boundary railings, South Street. Grade II early 19 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval
52149	Maxdene, with front boundary railings, South Street. Grade II Listed early 19 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval
52151	South Cary House, South Street. Grade II Listed 18 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval
52152	Belle Vue Villa and Ferndale Villa, with front boundary walls and railings, South Street. Grade II Listed 17 <sup>th</sup> century farmhouse	Post-medieval
52153	South Cottage, South Street. Grade II Listed 17 <sup>th</sup> century and 18 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval

52154	South and east boundary walls, railings and gates to South Cottage, South Street. Grade II Listed 19 <sup>th</sup> century	Post-medieval
52155	Silver Ash (formerly listed as Annadale), South Street. Grade II Listed 19 <sup>th</sup> century house	Post-medieval
52156	Bay Tree inn and Alma Cottages, South Street. Grade II listed early 19 <sup>th</sup> century row of cottages	Post-medieval

- 2.3 The Site lies within the area of the medieval town of Castle Cary (HER No. 53651). Elongated burghage plots extend back from the street frontage of South Street on both sides of the road and may reflect the divisions within the medieval planned town. The Castle (HER No. 53640), was situated c. 500m to the north-east of the Site. The organisation of plots is reminiscent of other planned towns of the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. An evaluation was carried out on land to the south of the Site in 1999 (HER No. 57031), but there was little evidence of any archaeological features or deposits, other than a few sherds of medieval pottery. There is some evidence of earlier, Iron Age, settlement c. 300m north-east of the Site (HER No. 16569).

### 3. Archaeological aims and research objectives

- 3.1 The principal aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits encountered;
- 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 evidence specifically relating to the medieval town of Castle Carey and the burghage plots off the north-west side of South Street.

### 4. Methodology

- 4.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA), 1994, rev. 2001, 2008, 2014) and in accordance with the *Somerset Archaeological Handbook* (2017). 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, but it was not necessary for a representative to visit the Site and monitor archaeological fieldwork. Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the Site archive.
- 4.3 The archaeological evaluation consisted of a single trench measuring 5.2m long and 0.90m wide (see **Figure 1**). A machine equipped with a toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil/overburden under the constant supervision of COAS archaeological staff. Spoil was examined for the retrieval of artefacts. In this instance, manual excavation was not required.
- 4.4 Once machine work was completed, the trench was examined and recorded on a C1 pro-forma evaluation trench form in digital format using an iPad mini tablet. This included logging a representative section of the trench to allow an understanding of the stratigraphy. A digital photograph of the trench in plan and representative section was taken in .jpg format. The photographic record of the evaluation involved the sole use of digital images. This included photographs illustrating in detail, and in general context, the trench location and stratigraphic sequence. The photographic record also included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted

## 5. Results

- 5.1 The deposit sequence (**Plates 1 & 2**) comprised a topsoil of dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand (100) with frequent angular stone chippings and sandstone fragments <0.20m, 0.30m deep. This overlay a subsoil of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sand (101) with moderate angular sandstone fragments <0.10m, 0.70m deep. This was in turn immediately over a natural deposit of yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand (102) with moderate angular sandstone fragments <0.10m.
- 5.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

## 6. The finds

- 6.1 No archaeological artefacts or ecofactual material were observed or collected.

## 7. Discussion and conclusion

- 7.1 Despite the Site being situated within the area of the planned medieval town of Castle Cary, no archaeological features or deposits were observed, and there were no finds. An evaluation was previously carried out c. 50m to the south of the Site in 1999 (HER No. 57031). Five trenches were excavated and contained undated, and possibly modern features comprising robbed walls which were located at the street front. A few sherds of 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered from this area. Further back from the street front, the deposits largely comprised an undisturbed natural/topsoil sequence. The evidence from the current Site is similar, with an undisturbed deposit sequence and absence of finds suggesting that this area was not utilised for settlement in the medieval period. It is likely that, being to the rear of the plots and away from the road frontage, there were no structures in this area or that it was not utilised for settlement during the establishment of the town.

## 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 In this case, no archaeological features or deposits were observed, and 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 No archaeological artefacts were observed or collected, so there is no physical 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, the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*.

## 9. Bibliography

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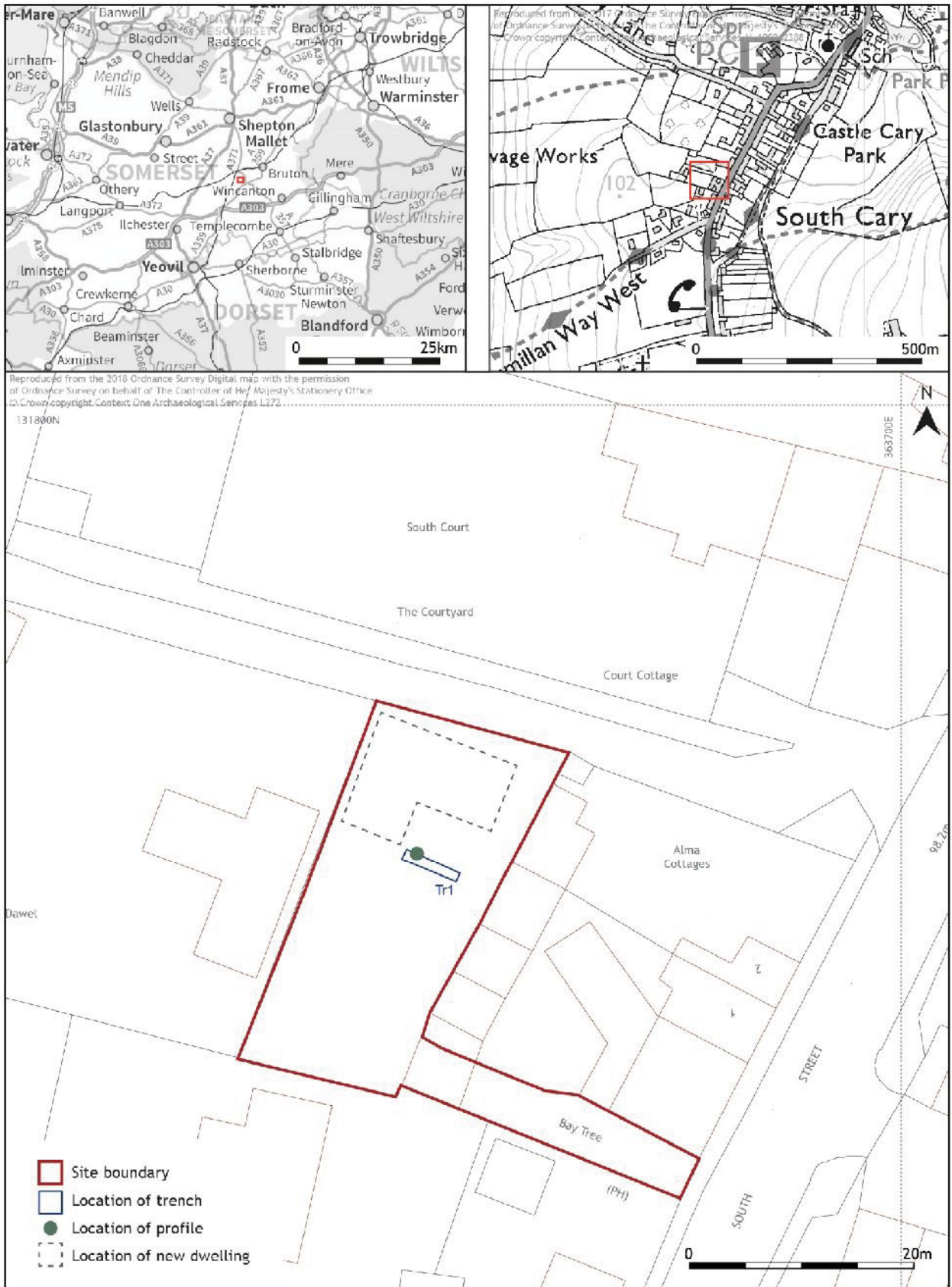


Figure 1. Site setting and trench location





Plate 1. Trench 1 (facing ESE; 1m scale)



Plate 2. Trench 1 (facing E; 1m scale)



**Appendix 1: Context summary**

CONTEXT NO.	PERIOD	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	EARLIER THAN	CONTEMP. WITH	LATER THAN	LENGTH	WIDTH/DIAMETER	THICKNESS/DEPTH (m)
<b>Trench 1</b>									
(100)	Modern	Layer	Topsoil - Friable dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand with frequent angular stone chippings and sandstone fragments <0.20m	NA		(101)	5.90m	0.90m	0.30m
(101)	Modern	Layer	Subsoil - Soft dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty sand with moderate angular sandstone fragments <0.10m	(100)		(102)	5.90m	0.90m	0.70m
(102)	Geological	Layer	Natural - Soft yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand with moderate angular sandstone fragments <0.10m	(101)		NA	5.90m	0.90m	>0.20m

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