



**Bristol and Region  
Archaeological  
Services**

Archaeological Watching Brief  
**BROAD LANE, ENGINE COMMON,  
YATE, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

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**FAME**  
Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers



Archaeological Watching Brief  
at  
**BROAD LANE, ENGINE COMMON,  
YATE, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**


Centred on NGR ST 7005 8350

Prepared for **Newland Homes Ltd**

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## CONTENTS

Summary

List of Illustrations

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	The Site.....	1
3.	Archaeological and Historical Background .....	1
4.	Aims and Methodology.....	2
5.	Results.....	2
6.	Bibliography and Sources Consulted.....	3
7.	Acknowledgements.....	3

Appendix 1: Policy Statement

Appendix 2: Context summary

Illustrations and Plates

### Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	OS	Ordnance Survey
c.	Circa	SGHER	S. Glos. Historic Environment Record
EHA	English Heritage Archive		

### NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

June, 2013

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## **SUMMARY**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with a new housing development on land at Broad Lane, Engine Common, Yate, South Gloucestershire, at the end of Engine Common Lane. No archaeological finds or deposits were uncovered during the course of the construction work.

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

### Figures

Figure 1 Site location plan, scale 1:2500, showing plate directions

### Plates

Cover The site, looking east

Plate 1 Drainage trench, looking east

Plate 2 Foundation trench, looking west

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) on land at Broad Lane, Engine Common, Yate, South Gloucestershire.
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Newland Homes Limited in order to comply with a planning condition for the erection of 14 dwellings, with access, landscaping and associated works (Planning Application No. PK12/0397/F).
- 1.3 The archaeological work took place between the 16th of November 2012 and the 4th of February 2013.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2012/51. A digital copy of the report will be sent to the English Heritage Archive. The project has been entered in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as: SGHER 20181 and in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) as: bristola1-136029.

## **2. THE SITE**

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 7005 8350) is situated in Engine Common, on the north-west outskirts of Yate, and comprises a narrow, 1.8ha sub-rectangular plot of level waste-ground, which stands at a height of approximately 50m aOD, and is bounded by Broad Lane to the north, The Fox public house to the west and Goose Green Way (B4059) to the south.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (2013), the solid geology comprises Carboniferous South Wales Lower and Middle Coal Measures Formation (undifferentiated), which give way to interbedded sandstone and conglomerate of the Downend Member along the western edge of the site.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The site was the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Longman 2009), a summary of which is presented below.
- 3.2 The site lies approximately 175m to the east of the projected line of a Roman road from Bitton to Berkeley (SGHER 1353), but there is no evidence of any other significant activity within the environs of the site until the post-medieval period.
- 3.3 During the early 19th century, a coalmine was established on the north side of Broad Lane, approximately 250m to the north-east of the site, which was owned and operated by Messrs Long & Co. Engine Common and developed around the same time as a dispersed settlement focused along North Road. The coalmine was demolished in the early 1840s to make way for the Bristol & Gloucester Railway, which opened in 1844. Shortly afterwards, a new mine known as Yate Colliery (SGHER 2961), was established on the north side of Broad Lane. Yate Colliery has also been known as New Engine Pit, Yate No. 1 Pit, and Dog Trap Pit, after Dog Trap Lane – the old name for Engine Common Lane. Yate Colliery closed on the 31st of December 1887, and the plant was dismantled and sold in February 1888.
- 3.4 In 1841 the site formed part of a pasture field known as '*Goosy Riding*'. This field appears to have remained undeveloped agricultural land until Goose Green Way (B4059) was constructed in the 1980s. A garden centre was subsequently constructed in the north-west corner of the site, but the rest of the land remained undeveloped.

#### 4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Longman 2012), *BaRAS Site Manual* (2009) and complied with the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008). The aim of the archaeological work was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of construction work.
- 4.2 The construction work involved topsoil stripping and the digging of foundation and service trenches. A photographic record of the construction work was made using a digital camera.

#### 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 No archaeological features were uncovered during the course of the construction work.
- 5.2 Deposits uncovered during the course of the watching brief are discussed below. Full context descriptions are provided in **Appendix 2**.
- 5.3 The natural geology of the site comprised purplish red and grey clay 103, which was interspersed with occasional patches of black clay (108), and overlain by yellowish orange clay 102. Natural deposits were overlain by mid greyish brown subsoil 101, which was in turn sealed by reddish brown topsoil 100.
- 5.4 A trench along the south side of Broad Lane exposed a sequence of natural clay 102, overlain by modern road make up layers 105-7, which were in turn sealed by modern soil layer 104.
- 5.5 No archaeological finds or deposits were uncovered during the course of the construction work.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

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## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement**

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local-authority policies.

### **NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)**

The *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) for England published by the UK Government in March 2012 states that the historic environment, which includes designated and non-designated heritage assets, is an irreplaceable resource and, as such, should be taken into account by Local Planning Authorities when considering and determining planning applications. This is taken to form part of a positive strategy set out in the respective Local Plan (i.e. *Bristol Core Strategy*) to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. The assigned significance of heritage assets will be key factor in terms of their conservation.

Given their irreplaceable nature, any harm to, or loss of, a heritage asset, or heritage assets, should be clearly and convincingly justified as part of a planning application. As part of this, applicants are required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. Where a heritage asset, or assets, are to be harmed or lost as the result of a proposal, the applicant will be required to record and advance the understanding of the significance of that asset or assets, to include making the evidence arising publicly accessible, but this will be in proportion to the significance of the asset/assets in question. While the NPPF takes into account the historic environment as a whole, additional protection is afforded to designated heritage assets under current English Law. Any proposal that would result in harm or loss of a designated heritage asset is also required to be justified by the applicant in meeting strict criteria set out in the NPPF.

### **LOCAL POLICY**

South Gloucestershire Planning Policy (Archaeology L11) states that:

Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted. Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

## APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Description	Date
100	Layer	<b>Topsoil.</b> Soft reddish brown silty clay. 0.1m thick	Modern
101	Layer	<b>Subsoil.</b> Firm mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. Up to 0.1m thick	-
102	Layer	<b>Geological deposit.</b> Compact yellowish orange clay.	-
103	Layer	<b>Geological deposit.</b> Compact purplish brown and pale grey clay with occasional sub-angular sandstone inclusions	-
104	Layer	<b>Soil layer.</b> Friable dark brownish black humic loam with occasional stone, metal, glass and plastic inclusions. 0.25m thick	Modern
105	Layer	<b>Road base.</b> Compact grey crushed concrete and stone. 0.36m thick	Modern
106	Layer	<b>Road base.</b> Compact angular grey gravel. 0.15m thick	Modern
107	Layer	<b>Road base.</b> Compact angular pinkish red gravel. 0.2m thick	Modern
108	Layer	<b>Geological deposit.</b> Firm black silty clay. Up to 1m thick	-

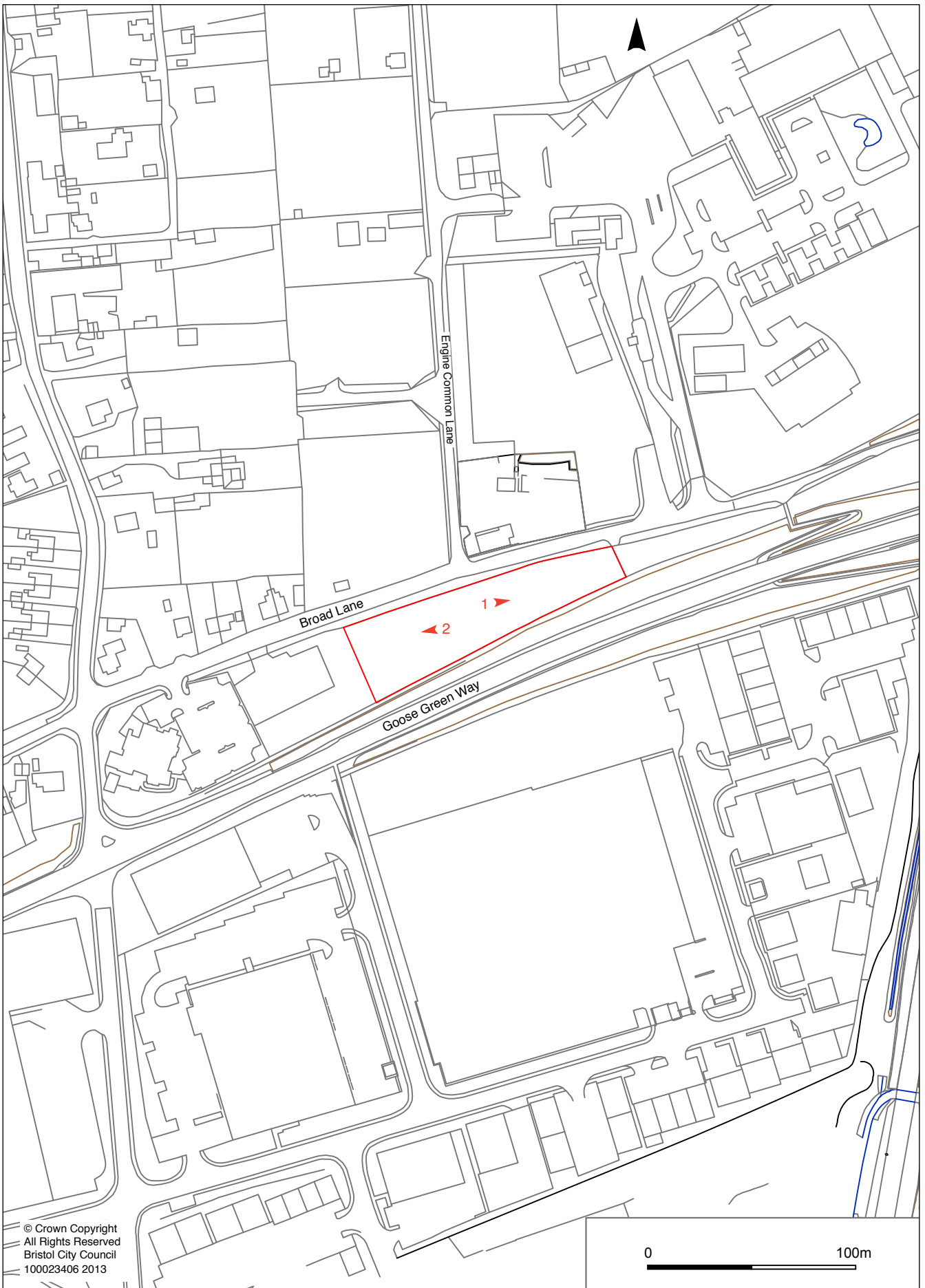


Fig.1 Site location plan, scae 1:2500, showing plate directions



Plate 1 Drainage trench, looking east



Plate 2 Foundation trench, looking west