

Absolute Archaeology

Archaeological Watching Brief Chestnut Farm, High Street, Congresbury



Commissioned by
Knott's Properties

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Chestnut Farm, High Street, Congresbury, BS49 5JD

Planning Application 08/P/1714/F

Summary

Absolute Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Robert Knott on behalf of Knott's Properties, to undertake a watching brief in association with the excavation of foundation trenches in conjunction with the extension of the property known as Chestnut Farm, High Street, Congresbury, BS49 5JB (North Somerset Planning Reference 08/P/1714/F).

No features of archaeological interest were revealed during the course of the groundworks. No artefacts were recovered as a result of the watching brief.

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Abbreviations

aOD

Above Ordnance Datum; used to express a given height above mean sea level.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. A watching brief was carried out by Absolute Archaeology on the 8th December 2009 to establish whether any archaeological features were present during the groundworks for the single storey extension at Chestnut Farm, High Street, Congresbury, Somerset, BS49 5JD (Planning Application 08/P/1714/F). The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation commissioned by Knott's Properties and approved by the Archaeological Officer for North Somerset Council.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. 19th century excavations close to the site revealed evidence of Romano-British buildings, including a bath area and the remains of a hypocaust. A large amount of pottery recovered from the site may indicate pottery production in the area in the Romano-British period. Romano-British pottery dating from the 3rd-4th century AD has also been discovered within 500 m from the site.
- 2.2. Various artefacts, including Romano-British and Saxon pottery along with a Romano-British coin and plough share, suggest settlement close to the site from the Romano-British to early medieval period.
- 2.3. Various 15th century buildings area located within 500 m of the development area, including the 1446 Priest's House.
- 2.4. The settlement of Congresbury has Saxon origins and is recorded as Cungresbyri in the 9th century. By 1000 AD 'byri' changed to 'byrig'. By 1065 the name had changed to Cungaresbyrig, which is subsequently recorded as Cungresberie by the time of the Domesday survey in 1086. The site is historically believed to have been named after the 6th century Welsh Bishop, St. Congar (the name being formed of St. Congar's Burgh).

3. METHODOLOGY

- 3.1. Monitoring of all groundworks associated with the extension to Chestnut Farm took place.
- 3.2. This was carried out in accordance with IFA (2008) *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching brief*.
- 3.3. The archive has been prepared using the site code AARC 24.

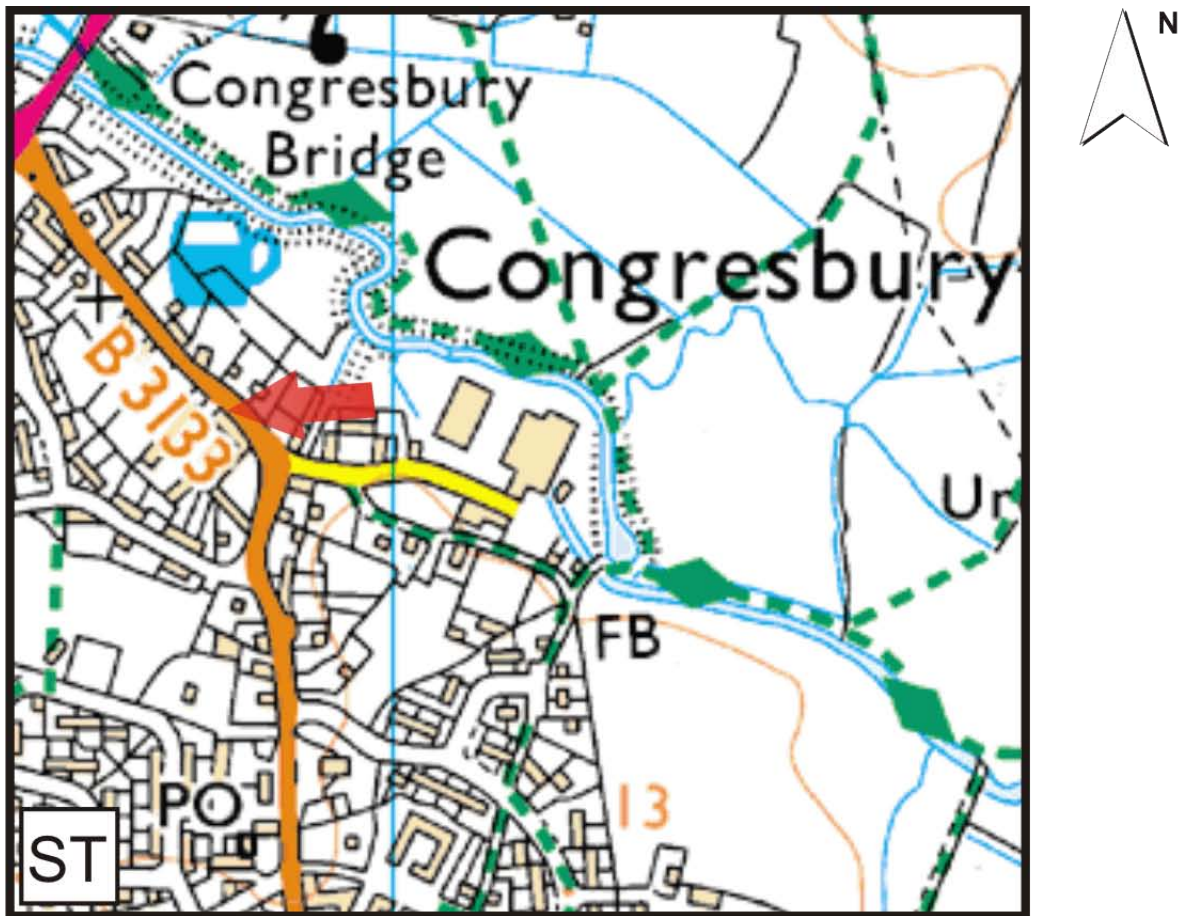
4. RESULTS

- 4.1. Close monitoring was carried out during the reduction of ground and subsequent excavation of footing trenches, adjacent to the SW of Chestnut Farm. The work was carried using a JCB 8060 360° digger, with an 800mm (w) grading bucket. Three sherds of residual 18th century pottery were found during the preliminary grading away of 300mm of topsoil/subsoil. Approximate 20 metres of footing trenches, measuring 800mm in (w) x 900mm (d) were excavated into compacted red clays of the Triassic Mercian mudstone group. The excavation revealed no archaeological features. A well measuring approximately 1 metre in diameter was located to the NW of the development. The late 19th century red brick lined well with a concrete capping was measured to a depth of 4.9m.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. No archaeological features were identified during the groundworks. No significant artefacts were recovered from the spoil heap, which was monitored throughout.

Figure 1. Site Location (Not to Scale)



← = Location of site



Photographs: General Working Shots

