



BRISTOL & WEST ARCHAEOLOGY

Nos 1-4 Canal Bridge, Pulteney Road,
Bathwick, Bath

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Client: Asweb (Canal Bridge) Ltd

13 June 2012

Bristol & West Archaeology

Planning Authority:

**Bath and North East Somerset
Council**

Planning Ref: [Click here to enter text.](#)

09/00653/FUL

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ST 75540 64250

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Bristol & West Archaeology Ltd during groundwork associated with the construction of a restaurant and five number flats at the recently demolished Nos 1-4 Canal Bridge, Pulteney Road, Bathwick, Bath.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief, and no artefacts were retrieved.

Nos 1-4 Canal Bridge, Pulteney Road, Bathwick, Bath

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Acknowledgements

The watching brief was commissioned by Iesis Ltd and I am grateful to Iestyn Lewis and David Steadman of Iesis for their assistance. Richard Sermon, Archaeological Officer for Bath and North East Somerset Council and Susan Fox, Collections Manager, Roman Baths and Pump Room Heritage Services are thanked for their assistance, as are the groundwork contractors and the on-site staff of Ikon.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Harding Holdings UK Ltd obtained conservation area consent (08/01598/CA) and full planning consent (09/04931/FUL) from Bath and North East Somerset Council (BaNES) for the demolition of Nos 1-4 Canal Bridge, Bathwick, Bath and the construction of 5 No flats, restaurant and outdoor seating area. Attached to the planning consent was a planning condition (Condition 7) which required that a '*programme of archaeological work be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. The programme of archaeological work should provide a controlled watching brief during ground work on the site, with provision for excavation of any significant deposits or features*'. The Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol & West Archaeology in February 2012 (BWA 2012) was approved by Bath and North East Somerset Council in April 2012.
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (BWA 2012) and followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE: The Project Managers' Guide* (EH 2006).
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork was conducted by Bruce Williams of Bristol & West Archaeology, commencing on 17 April 2012 and concluding on 4 May 2012 following seven site visits.
- 1.1.4 This report was written by Bruce Williams. The archive will be deposited with Roman Baths and Pump Room Museum with the unique accession number BATRM 2012.5. Paper and digital copies of the report will be provided to Bath and North East Somerset Council for inclusion in the Historic Environment Record database. The project has been entered into the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) with the unique identifier bristola3127882.

1.2 Site location

- 1.2.1 The site occupies about 290²m and is roughly rectangular in plan, measuring c41.5m N-S by 7m E-W. It is located at NGR ST 75540 64250 on the south side of Pulteney Road, near to the point where the road crosses the Kennet and Avon Canal, close to the junction with Claverton Street. Immediately behind the site is a canal pound which provides water to the adjacent Bath deep lock of the canal.
- 1.2.2 The site lies in the City of Bath Conservation Area within the designated World Heritage Site within Character Zone 14 (Bathwick) in the *Archaeology of the City of Bath Supplementary Planning Guidance* (adopted 2004).

1.3 Topography

- 1.3.1 The site slopes slightly down from 8.30 aOD at the north to 7.92 aOD at its southern end.

1.4 Geology

- 1.4.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale map for Bath indicates the following strata beneath the site:

Solid Geology: Lower Jurassic and Middle Jurassic Rocks (undifferentiated)-Interbedded Limestone and Mudstone overlain by alluvium.

2. BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is no direct evidence of early activity within the study site.
- 2.2 The site lies in Widcombe opposite Canal Bridge which spans the Kennet & Avon Canal, completed in 1810, with Widcombe Wharf on its east side, adjacent to a '*pound*' that supplied a head of water to a series of locks on the canal.
- 2.3 The former buildings that stood on the study site until the current development appear to have been built soon after completion of the canal and were occupied variously by a carpenter, coach builder, blacksmith and others. Most recently the site was occupied by a plumbing supplies unit '*City Plumbing*', though the buildings had been derelict for some time.

3. OBJECTIVES AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief followed the methodology outlined within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BWA 2012) and involved monitoring all groundworks beneath modern ground floor slabs.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1 Floor slabs within Nos 1-4 Canal Bridge were removed prior to the watching brief and replaced with a 150-200mm deep layer of Type 1 ballast (101). Mini-concrete piles were then cast around the perimeter and across the short axis of the site.
- 4.2 The only excavations on the site were for cast-in-situ concrete ring beams for which 0.8m deep trenches were dug between the piles. For the most part this revealed, at the south end of the site, beneath context 101, a 0.1-0.15m deep deposit of buff/brown slightly clayey silty soil containing flecks of charcoal and lime (102). This overlay a natural deposit of stiff, blue/grey clay (103) that was observed beneath 101 in all ring beam trenches. The only exception was a north/south trench along the pavement edge which was excavated through the front wall(s) of nos 1-4 Canal Bridge, revealing a Bath stone footing. No archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts were found.

5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed the footing for the west wall(s) of nos 1-4 Canal Bridge and deposits of natural alluvial clay, but otherwise no archaeological features or artefacts.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

BWA (Bristol & West Archaeology) 2012. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 1-4 Canal Bridge, Bathwick, Bath.

www.maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

7. APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF CONTEXTS

No	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Date
101	Layer	Type 1 scalplings			<0.2	
102	Layer	Fine, buff/brown slightly silty, clay.			<0.15	
103	Layer	Natural blue/grey clay				
104	Wall	Footing of west wall of nos 1-4 Canal Bridge			<0.8	
105	Layer	Fill of construction cut for wall 104 – brown and grey ashy soil			<0.8	



Figure 1 Site location



Plate 1 South end of site showing excavation around piles to form concrete ring beam.



Plate 2 East-west trench in centre of site for concrete ring beam.