

**Taurus House, Union Road,
St Philips, Bristol.**

**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and
Standing Building Survey**

Bristol SMR 24584

BRSMG 2007/102

On behalf of:

Milton Developments Bristol Limited

Joanne Bruce BA (Hons)

D. Etheridge B.A. M.Phil. FSA Scot

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited

Bristol

January 2008

CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NOTES

COPYRIGHT

ABBREVIATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. METHODOLOGY
3. GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND CURRENT LAND USE
4. THE SITE VISIT
5. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND
6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

APPENDIX 1: Extracts from the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record.

FIGURES

- Cover View of Taurus House from the Kingsland Road bridge, looking South West.
- Figure 1 Location of the Study Area. Scale 1:50,000.
- Figure 2 Location of the Study Area. Scale 1:25,000.
- Figure 3 Boundary of the Study Area. Scale 1:1250.
- Figure 4 Extracts from John Rocques 1742 Plan of the City of Bristol (BRO/07770/1).
- Figure 5 An Extract from a 1780 plan of the City of Bristol by R. Benning, reproduced as a frontispiece in Barrett, W. 1982
- Figure 6 An Extract from the 1828 Plan of the City of Bristol and its Suburbs by G. Ashmead and J. Plumley, BRO/04481/North Sheet
- Figure 7 Extract from the 1847 Tithe 'Plan of the Parish of St Philip and Jacob in the City and County of Bristol and County of Gloucestershire'.
- Figure 8 Extract of an 1855 Map of Bristol Surveyed by G. Ashmead BRO/40860/Sheet 78
- Figure 9 Extract of an 1874 Map of Bristol Surveyed by Ashmead. BRO/Bristol Plans/Arranged/Map 78
- Figure 10 Extract from the 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 Plan of Bristol Sheet 72.13.22
- Figure 11 Extract from the 1918 Ordnance Survey Plan of Gloucestershire Sheet 72.13
- Figure 12 Extract from 1907 Building Plan showing the proposed Mission Room and Class Rooms at Union Road, St Philips (BRO/Folio53A/Plan65/1907).
- Figure 13 Extract from the 1950 Ordnance Survey Plan of Gloucestershire Sheet ST 6072 NW
- Figure 14 Extract from the 1972 Ordnance Survey Plan of Gloucestershire Sheet ST 6072 NW
- Figure 15 Exterior of the Study Area, plan and views. Scale 1:250.
- Figure 16 Elevations of the Study Area. Scale 1:200.
- Figure 17 Ground Floor of the Study Area, plan and interior views. Scale 1:150.
- Figure 18 First Floor of the Study Area, plan and interior views. Scale 1:150.

ABSTRACT

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of a site off Union Road, St Philips, Bristol (NGR ST 600 728), produced the following results:

The study area consists of a plot measuring approximately 510 square metres occupied by Taurus House which was constructed in the early 20th century as The Emmanuel Mission Hall and Classrooms.

The site lay in the civil parish of St Philip and Jacob Without in the County of Gloucestershire until 1899 when it was transferred to the City and County of Bristol. The historic manor is thought to have been part of the Domesday manor of Barton (Regis) in Swinehead Hundred.

At the start of the 18th century, the area consisted largely of barley fields, orchards and pasture. By the end of the century many of these fields had become market gardens and several large industrial works also occupied the area. Industrial development further increased with the arrival of the railway in 1835. During the 19th century numerous churches, chapels and mission halls were established, partly to counteract the drunken behaviour seen in the disproportionately high number of public houses in the area. Poor housing constructed during the 19th century was replaced in the 1930s.

The earliest cartographic depiction of the study area is Rocques 1742 plan which shows the site within a large enclosed field. By 1828 the district has been heavily developed and six terrace houses occupy the site. By 1855 further buildings have been constructed within the study area and the general area has been further developed. More buildings are shown within the site by the 1885 Ordnance Survey Plan. By the 1918 Ordnance Survey Plan, all of the buildings except one cottage have been demolished and the Emmanuel Mission Hall (Taurus House) has been constructed. Building Plans show the proposed layout of the Mission Hall and outbuildings as well as the earlier cottage to the rear. Subsequent Ordnance Survey Plans indicate some alterations to the outbuildings and cottage as well as the increasing industrialisation of the surrounding area.

A trawl of the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record returned 148 records relating largely to the post medieval development of the area and programmes of previous archaeological work which have taken place in the area. No records relate directly to the study area.

A Standing Building Survey at the English Heritage level 2 standard was requested by the Archaeological Officer of Bristol City Council, prior to the demolition of all above ground structures within the Study Area. The survey was undertaken by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited in December 2007.

This survey found the majority of the structures were of a single period, dated to 1908 by a commemorative plaque on the frontage of the main gable ended central building, a former meeting and sports hall. The adjoining gable ended building had been converted internally to offices, whilst the adjoining lean-to structures on the South East side appear to have been altered in the later 20th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited wish to acknowledge the assistance given by the following in the production of this report: Geoff Milton, Milton Developments Bristol Limited; T M Ventham Pactice; Mr Peter Insole, Archaeological Officer Bristol City Council; the staff of the Bristol Record Office; and the staff of the Bristol Central Library. Thanks also go to Lynn Hume of the Avon Archaeological Unit Limited.

NOTES

Whereas Avon Archaeological Unit Limited have taken all 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.

COPYRIGHT

The copyright to the following text, drawings and photographs is, unless otherwise credited, the property of the author and Avon Archaeological Unit Limited. Full joint copyright passes to the commissioners of the project upon the full settlement of the project account.

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited
Avondale Business Centre, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1AW
Telephone and Facsimile 0117 960 8487
Email avonarch@yahoo.co.uk
Visit our website at: www.avonarch.freemove.co.uk

Plans and maps based on the Ordnance Survey Sheets are reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright Reserved.
License number AL 100005802

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| aOD | Above Ordnance Datum |
| BRL | Bristol Reference Library |
| BRO | Bristol Record Office |
| BSMR | Bristol Sites and Monuments Record |
| NMR | National Monuments Record |
| OS | Ordnance Survey |

1 INTRODUCTION (see Figures 1, 2 and 3)

1.1 It is proposed to develop an area of land measuring approximately 510 square metres off the north east side of Union Road, St Philips, Bristol, (NGR ST 600 728).

1.2 Avon Archaeological Unit Limited were commissioned to undertake a Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment and Standing Building Survey of the study area by Milton Developments Bristol Limited to research the documentary history and to fully record the standing buildings on the site prior to their redevelopment.

1.3 The Study Area is currently occupied by Taurus House, an early twentieth century former Mission Hall.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Searches were made of all indices of information held by the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record. Indices and collections were also consulted in the Bristol Record Office and Bristol Central Library. All information was collated, summarized and presented in the report below under the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record Number 24584. All photocopies, manuscript copies and notes, including still photographs, are preserved in the project archive to be stored at Avon Archaeological Unit Limited.

2.2 The author carried out the documentary research during December

3 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND CURRENT LAND USE

(see Figures 1, 2, 3 and Cover)

3.1 The study area is located at St Philips, Bristol. It lies approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the centre of the City of Bristol. The underlying geology of the study area is comprised mainly of Butcombe Sandstone of the Triassic Period (OS 1962).

3.2 The study area lies on near level land at approximately 12 m aOD. It is currently occupied by Taurus House, a former Mission Chapel and classrooms affiliated to the former Emmanuel Parish Church. The building is constructed in two sections, the southeast section of which is a large single storey hall, whilst the northwest former classroom section has two storeys. A small flat roofed building housing a kitchen and WC adjoins the south corner of the hall. Taurus House has most recently been utilised as a printer's workshop although it is currently unoccupied.

4 THE SITE VISIT

4.1 The Study Area was visited by David Etheridge on the 19th and 20th December 2007 at which time he carried out a Standing Building Survey to the English Heritage Level 2 standard. The results of the survey follow the documentary research within this report.

5 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 History of St Philips

5.1.1 The study area is located in ‘The Dings’ area of St Philips, Bristol. The name ‘Dings’ is most likely derived from an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning ‘the meadow where withies grow’. Historically the study area lay outside Bristol in the County of Gloucestershire.

5.1.2 The historic manor is thought to have been part of the Domesday manor of Barton (Regis) in Swinehead Hundred. This manor also included the City of Bristol. The full translation (Morris 1982) is as follows:

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

[Chapter 1]

LAND OF THE KING

[In SWINEHEAD Hundred]

Item 21

In BERTUNE [Barton Regis] at BRISTOV [Bristol] there were 6 hides. In lordship 3 ploughs;

22 villagers and 25 smallholders with 25 ploughs. 9 slaves and 18 freedmen who have 14 ploughs.

2 mills at 27 s.

When Roger acquired this manor from the King he found there 2 hides and 2 ploughs in lordship;

17 villagers and 24 smallholders with 21 ploughs. 4 slaves and 13 freedmen with 3 ploughs.

In Manegodesfelle [Mangotsfield], a member of this manor, 6 oxen in lordship.

Bristol Church holds 3 hides of the same land; 1 plough is recorded there.

1 riding man holds 1 hide and has 1 plough. 4 smallholders with 1 plough.

This manor and BRISTOV pay 110 marks of silver to the King; the burgesses state that Bishop G[eoffrey] has 33 marks of silver and 1 mark of gold besides the King’s revenue.

5.1.3 In the accompanying notes to the above translation (ibid.) it is explained that Roger (of Berkeley) only acquired the rights to collect the manorial revenues, not the manor itself. Bristol Church probably refers to St. Peter’s, which was given to Tewkesbury Abbey before A.D. 1107 (ibid.).

5.1.4 During the Middle Ages the manor and hundred of Barton passed in and out of royal and noble hands on many occasions (Atkyns 1712, 421; Rudder 1779, 460). On at least three occasions it formed part of a royal dowry (ibid.). The most notable lord of the manor was Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick ‘the King Maker’ (ibid.). Such overlords, rarely, if ever, resided in the manor, and there may never have been a manor house as such.

5.1.5 Walter Dennis, the brother of Maurice Dennis, held the manor and hundred in 1562, selling it soon after to Thomas Chester of Knowle (Rudder 1779, 460). At the time of Rudder, the manor was still in the hands of Thomas Chester’s descendants (ibid.).

5.1.6 The study area lay in the civil parish of St Philip and Jacob without (outside of Bristol), which was created in 1720 and was abolished in 1896. In 1899 it was transferred to the City and County of Bristol. It lay in the ecclesiastical parish of Emmanuel, St Philip; alias the Unity which was consecrated on December 9th 1862 and became a

consolidated chapelry out of St Luke, Barton Hill by order in council on February 4th 1865. The parish was united with St Philip and Jacob in October 1936 and Emmanuel was subsequently demolished in 1938. Reference to the original church of St Philip exists in records dating from 1174.

5.1.7 When John Wesley came to Bristol to preach in 1739, one of the first places he visited was St Philips. As there were no buildings large enough to hold a congregation in this area, Wesley preached in the open air near the local brickyards.

5.1.8 During the early part of the eighteenth century, the area consisted largely of barley fields, orchards and pastureland. By the end of the eighteenth century many of these fields had become market gardens.

5.1.9 Writing in 1779, Rudder describes the district as having several large works, such as iron foundries, glass-houses for the production of crown glass (window glass) and glass bottles, a white lead works, a lead ore smelting works and at Baptist Mills a very large brass works (Rudder 1779). Glass and pottery cones are known to have existed in Avon Street and the district also had a soap boilers and hoopers. In 1789, The Phoenix glassworks, the largest flint-glass works in the city, founded by Benjamin Lund was taken over by Messrs Wadham, Ricketts & Co. It later became Powell, Ricketts and Co. and was converted into a glass bottle manufactory. The factory eventually closed in July 1923.

5.1.10 Later came the iron works and paint works and in 1819 the coal and gas works was opened (Willmott & Stephenson 2005).

5.1.11 Between 1804 and 1809, The Feeder Canal was cut, dividing the area in two and separating it from the marsh (ibid).

5.1.12 In 1835, the railway came to St Philips. At first this was horse drawn and ran from the district to the Coalpit Heath coalmines. It was later amalgamated into the Midland line. During the 1840s, Stothert's were manufacturing locomotives in the district. They later became known as the Avonside Works and moved to Fishponds in 1905.

5.1.13 In 1865 Derham's built a seven-storey boot and shoe factory in Barton Street which was subsequently destroyed by fire in 1905.

5.1.14 Lysaght's steelworks and Butler's ironworks had premises in Silverthorne Lane and the famous Bristol company 'Gardiner' who are still in evidence today, started in Nelson Street. By 1897, Gardiner had opened the Midland Road Ironworks and in 1953 they took over the old soap factory premises to expand the business. The soap factory later became a warehouse for the Dunlop Tyre Company. In the 1970s Gardiner Sons & Co. joined forces with the Shepton Mallet Based furniture store, 'Haskins', to create one of Bristol's largest department stores in New Thomas Street.

5.1.15 The area had a bad reputation which may have been largely attributable to the presence of a pub on almost every corner. Fighting was common and the police only walked the streets in pairs. Many of the most enthusiastic rioters involved in the 1831 Bristol riots are thought to have hailed from the Dings area. It was religion which sought to amend the situation and by the latter part of the nineteenth century there were numerous churches, chapels and mission halls of various denominations co-existing with the local pubs. The Salvation Army attempted to lure the drunken from the pubs by preaching outside and later had premises in Unity Street.

5.1.16 In the late nineteenth century, The Shaftsbury Crusade Christian Mission was founded which became the heart of the community. The Mission encouraged sporting activities and in 1897, H W Rudge founded and established the Dings Crusaders RFC. The club still plays today.

5.1.17 The tightly packed tenements constructed in the area during the early 19th century were replaced by modern dwellings in the early 1930s. The newly developed area was visited in 1934 by the Prince of Wales.

5.1.18 Following a period of neglect, the area is currently the subject of a major redevelopment plan.

5.2 History of the Study Area (see Figures 4 – 14)

5.2.1 The earliest cartographic depiction of the Study Area is John Rocques 1742 Plan of the City of Bristol (see figure 4). The site appears to lie within a large enclosed field in 'The Marsh Grounds'. Barton Road, then called Cooks Lane is laid out, though no development is shown at the location of the study area. 'The Brick Fields' and 'Brick Yard Pool' as well as market gardens are shown to the southwest of Cooks Lane and various industrial works can be seen on Avon Street. The situation is largely unchanged by both Donne's 1773 Map (not illustrated) and R. Benning's 1780 Plan of the City of Bristol (see figure 5).

5.2.2 The study area next appears on Ashmead and Plumley's 1828 Plan of the City of Bristol (see figure 6), by which time significant changes have occurred. Union Road is now laid out and forms the east boundary of the study area and properties have been constructed along both sides of it. Six of the terrace properties in Regent Place on the west side of Union Road appear to be located within the study area and the site is bounded to the south by properties on James Place. Kingsland Road has also been laid out and its west side has been fully developed. The area to the south of the study area has also been heavily developed and the plan now describes the district as 'The Dings'. The Barley Mow Public House and the Smithy recorded by the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record (see below) appear to be present on the south side of Cooks Lane to the west of the study area. Land immediately to the west of the study area remains undeveloped. Much of the land to the east of Kingsland Road appears to be undeveloped enclosed fields and a large withy bed is shown on the north side of the Wain Brook to the northeast of the site. The Wain Brook ran from St George to the River Avon at Cuckolds Pill. The Jews burial ground is now indicated to the west of the study area and the Brick Yard Pool is now reduced to a rectangular area of water adjacent to Cooks Lane.

5.2.3 By the time of the 1847 St Philip and Jacob Tithe Map (see figure 7) only four properties on Regent Place are depicted within the study area. It is possible that this may reflect an inaccuracy in one of the plans as the situation within the site appears otherwise unchanged. The surrounding area has been further developed and the Midland Railway has been built and runs past the southeast side of the site. Regent Place has been extended to the north and land on the east side of Kingsland Road has also been developed. Barton Street has now been laid out to the west of the study area and a large Iron Works is shown at the location of the 'The Brick Fields' and 'Brickyard Pool'.

5.2.4 The next cartographic depiction of the study area is Ashmead's 1855 Map (see figure 8) of Bristol. The plan indicates that the site has altered considerably. The plan again shows six terrace properties belonging to Regent Place in the west of the site. These are now shown without gardens and it is unclear whether or not they are the same properties previously depicted. The properties formerly belonging to James Place, to the south of the site also appear to have been either altered or replaced. The land which previously formed the rear gardens of the terrace properties on Regent Place has been divided into three sections, the northernmost of which now contains a small structure, whilst two houses and an adjoining outbuilding have been built within the middle section. A long narrow structure now occupies the south section and adjoins the rear of the properties on James Place. Barton Place has been constructed to the north of the site and further development and alteration has occurred in the surrounding area.

5.2.5 By Ashmead's 1874 Plan (see figure 9), the study area appears largely unchanged except that the small building in the northernmost section to the rear of Regent Place has gone. Kingsland Road Bridge has been constructed immediately to the east of the study area whilst land to the north of Barton Road has now been developed.

5.2.6 The 1885 Ordnance Survey First Edition Plan (see figure 10) indicates that further changes have taken place within the study area. A building has been constructed close to the centre of the site to the rear of Regent Place, whilst the long narrow structure to the rear of James Place has been replaced by two smaller structures. A small structure is also depicted to the rear of the property in the west corner of the site. The plan also indicates garden divisions or pathways on the open ground within the site.

5.2.7 Wrights Bristol and Clifton Directories for the latter part of the nineteenth century list the occupants of Union Road as a mixture of residential properties, general stores and public houses.

5.2.8 By the time of the 1918 Ordnance Survey (see figure 11) Plan of Gloucestershire, significant changes have occurred within the study area. All of the buildings previously within the site with the possible exception of the southernmost house on Regent Place and its outbuilding have been demolished and the present Emmanuel Mission Hall (Taurus House) has been erected. No other structures are shown within the site. The immediate surrounding area appears largely unchanged. Kelly's Bristol Directory first lists Emmanuel Parish Hall in 1912.

5.2.9 Building Plans relating to the construction of the Mission Hall are held in the Bristol Record Office (BRO/Folio53A/Plan65/1907) (see figure 12). The plans to erect a Mission Room and Class Rooms were submitted on 27th September 1907 and approved on October 3rd 1907. The building was to be constructed of brick walls, a tile roof and red deal timbers with eight stoneware drains to the main sewer in Union Road. The water was to be supplied by the Bristol Water Company. The plans show the proposed building as having two sections, the southeast of which was a single storey Mission Room measuring 30 feet in width and 48 feet in length with an internal enclosed lobby and sliding doors. The plans show the northwest section of the building as having two storeys, the ground floor of which comprised three classrooms, an entrance hall and stairwell whilst the first floor comprised a further classroom, a clubroom and a stairwell and landing area. The ground floor was separated from the Mission Room by a corridor measuring five feet in width. The first floor incorporated the corridor into its overall width and measured 20 feet wide. The plan shows an existing cottage, kitchen and boiler room to the rear of the Mission Room as well as a proposed coal house and two WCs.

5.2.10 The exterior of the building contains a memorial stone laid on May 16th 1908 by Dr Annie F. M. Cornall, daughter of the Reverend Richard Cornall who was the first vicar of Emmanuel Parish Church from 1862 to 1908.

5.2.11 Kelly's Bristol Directories show that during the 1930s Emmanuel Parish Hall was the headquarters of the First Emmanuel Scout Troop.

5.2.12 By the 1950 Ordnance Survey Plan (see figure 13), a building is shown adjoining the southwest side of the hall and linking it to the cottage in the south corner of the site. The cottage may have previously belonged to Regent Place. A further small structure is depicted in the west corner of the site which corresponds with the location of a WC proposed by the above building plan. The surrounding area has also changed significantly by this date. Buildings previously on the east side of Barton Vale and the west side of Kingsland Road have gone and the street layout to the southeast of the railway has altered substantially. Kelly's Directories indicate that by 1950 the properties on Union Road are largely residential. By the 1972 Ordnance Survey Plan (see figure 14), the study area is unchanged although the surrounding area has become increasingly industrialised with factories and industrial works replacing residential properties.

5.2.13 The current Ordnance Survey Plan (see figure 3) indicates that the building previously adjoining the southwest side of the hall has gone, as has the WC in the west corner of the site. A small building now appears to adjoin the south corner of Taurus House.

5.3 Archaeology of the Study Area (see Appendix 1)

5.3.1 A 500 metre radius trawl of the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record returned 148 records relating to the Study Area and its environs. The majority of records refer to post-medieval and modern sites and monuments and programmes of archaeological monitoring and recording.

5.3.2 The earliest sites recorded by the trawl are those shown on John Rocques 1742 Plan of The City of Bristol. These include 'The Brick Yard' (SMR978M), 'The Sty' (SMR977M) and 'The Brick Yard Pool' (SMR979M) to the northeast of Avon Street. The trawl also records other early buildings indicated by Ashmead and Plumley's 1828 Plan of Bristol, including the Whitelead Works (SMR21278), Vitriol Works (SMR21280) and Phoenix Bottle Works (SMR480M) at Avon Street, St Vincents Iron Works (SMR21289) at Silverthorne Lane and a Smithy at Barton Vale (SMR1715M). The trawl records numerous later sites and monuments shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:500 Plan. These include various industrial works, Chapels, Public Houses and structures associated with the railway. Other notable records relate to a Jewish Burial Ground (SMR1130M) at Barton Road which was in existence by 1759 and the Emmanuel Church at Clarke Street (SMR1276M) which was constructed in the early 1860s.

5.3.3 Whilst no records relate directly to the study area, several are located close to it. These include the late eighteenth century Barley Mow Public House (SMR1714M & 4379), the previously mentioned Smithy (SMR1715M & 4380) and Jewish Burial ground (SMR1130), all on Barton Road and the late seventeenth century Brick Yard Pool (SMR979) to the northeast of Avon Street.

5.3.4 The trawl identifies that twenty five programmes of archaeological monitoring and recording have taken place in the vicinity of the study area. These include four Desk-Based Assessments, seven Watching Briefs, seven Building Recordings and seven Archaeological Evaluations and Excavations. No significant deposits predating the post medieval period were identified. The programmes of archaeological work which have

occurred in closest proximity to the study area are a Desk-Based Assessment of the Seymour Club (SMR4366) on the south-western side of Barton Vale carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) in 2006 and an Archaeological Watching Brief (SMR4417) carried out in 2007 at nos. 47-49 Barton Vale also by BaRAS (report forthcoming). No deposits predating the post medieval period were identified.

5.3.5 No archaeological work has previously taken place within the study area.

5.4 Aerial Photographs of the Study Area

5.4.1 A series of Aerial photographs of the study area and its environs held by the Bristol Reference Library were viewed by the author on 11 December 2007. Due to the early date at which the area was developed and industrialised, no buried archaeological features were identified and structures within the study area corresponded to those viewed on maps and plans.

6 THE STANDING BUILDING SURVEY

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The Archaeological Officer for Bristol City Council, Mr. R. H. Jones, requested a Standing Building Survey of the Study Area, prior to redevelopment of the site (Planning Application No. 07/02209/F, condition 13).

6.1.2 Avon Archaeological Unit Limited was commissioned by Milton Developments Bristol limited to undertake the Standing Building Survey of Taurus House, the former Emmanuel Parish Hall, Union Road, St. Philips, Bristol (NGR ST 60023 72884).

6.1.3 This survey was undertaken on the 19th and 20th December 2007, in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Building Recording* issued by the Archaeological Officer on the 19th November 2007 and a *Scheme of Work for Archaeological Building Recording* prepared by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited and agreed with the Archaeological Officer.

6.2 Methodology

6.2.1 The Study Area was recorded internally and externally to the English Heritage Level 2 specification (English Heritage 2006, 14), as specified in the *Brief for Archaeological Building Recording*.

6.2.2 Annotated scale plans of the exterior and both floors of the Study Area were provided in digital (CAD based) format by the clients. These were further annotated and amended on site with handwritten notes and measurements. The plans were related in level to the Ordnance Datum.

6.2.3 For all photographs, the location of the photographer and the direction of shot were recorded on paper copies of the scale plans of the exterior and interior of the buildings supplied by the client. These plans are part of the archive and will be deposited at the appropriate museum under the project accession number.

6.2.4 Photography was primarily undertaken with a digital SLR camera (**Film 1**). Frames were numbered consecutively from 184 to 275. Selected views were also recorded using a medium format camera with both black and white film (**Film 2**) and colour negative (**Film 3**). At the time of writing both medium format films were unavailable, as the usual professional film processor for the South West had recently gone into receivership. These films will be developed at the earliest opportunity and submitted to the museum with the rest of the project for long-term storage and archiving.

6.2.5 Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates on **Figures 15, 17 and 18** have been provided for guidance only. The site surveys of the interior and exterior of the Study Area were not originally related to the National Grid. Grid co-ordinates are therefore approximate, but the margin of error is likely to be less than 1 m in all cases.

6.3 The Exterior of the Study Area (see **Figures 15 and 16**)

6.3.1 The buildings of the Study Area fronted the South West side of Union Road, St. Philip's, Bristol. The buildings were divided into three adjoining groups, each defined by their roofing style (see **Figure 15, 1:184**). The central building was the tallest of the three, with a simple gable ended roof, the ridge height of which had been surveyed at 20.05 m aOD.

6.3.2 The frontage of the central building, c. 10.10 m wide was executed in dull red brick in English Bond, mortared with sand cement. A sample four courses of brick measured 333 mm in height. There were four string courses in glazed blue brick. A basal string along the foot of the building was four courses high. A second intermediary string two courses high was located at approximately the height of the main door. The third string course, which also formed the springer for the upper window arches, was also two courses high. A final string, two courses high, was located immediately above the head of the central arch.

6.3.3 There was a single central doorway c. 2.65 m high and c. 1.95 m wide at the base, closed with wooden double doors. The threshold was a step in two blocks of pennant sandstone. The piers of the arch were in brick as a continuation of the main brickwork, interspersed with four ashlar blocks of Bath Stone each. Every block was two brick courses high and the blocks were evenly spaced four courses apart. Each block projected slightly from the surrounding masonry for effect. The pointed arch was executed in moulded brick with Bath Stone ashlar. There were six regularly spaced Bath Stone voussoirs with a moulded keystone, interspersed with three courses each of moulded arch bricks.

6.3.4 The area of walling immediately above the arch had been infilled and rendered. Four brick sized voids and a noticeable building scar all indicated there had been a superstructure, probably a wooden porch, above the doorway.

6.3.5 Immediately to the left of the doorway there was a moulded plaque in Bath Stone (see **Figure 15**, 1:204), which bore the following inscription:

THIS MEMORIAL STONE
WAS LAID ON MAY 16, 1908
BY
D^R. ANNIE F. M. CORNALL,
DAUGHTER OF
THE REV^D. RICHARD CORNALL,
1ST VICAR OF EMMANUEL 1862 TO 1908
IN THE PRESENCE OF
THE LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL

6.3.6 On the right hand side of the doorway was a scar for a wooden notice board. On either side of these two locations was a lancet window in moulded brick (see **Figure 15**, 1:203). Two inscribed Bath Stone Ashlars were located below the intermediate string course, one on either side of the doorway. The blocks were each three brick courses high and approximately six stretcher bricks long. Both blocks were inscribed in capitals, the left hand block read 'EMMANUEL', the right hand block read 'PARISH HALL'.

6.3.7 At the time of viewing the three main windows were boarded up (see **Figure 15**, 1:192). Details of the frames could be ascertained from internal views and the elevation surveys (see **Figure 16**). The central window, c. 3.75 m high by c. 1.95 m wide, located above the doorway c. 3.57 m above ground level, was a slightly pointed arch in moulded arch bricks. The two flanking windows were in a similar style, but lower, being c. 3.35 m above ground level, and smaller, being c. 1.20 m wide by c. 2.85 m high.

6.3.8 Immediately above the upper string course towards the nape of the gable the rendered masonry was framed in white painted timber. The barge boards of the roof were also in white painted timber; the lower portions of which were each supported by a wooden bracket.

6.3.9 The gable-ended building that adjoined to the North West was of such a similar style of construction that the two were likely to be contemporary. It was c. 9.05 m high and c. 6.80 m wide, with the ridge at 18.99 m aOD. The frontage was slightly recessed from that of the main hall.

6.3.10 There were two ground floor entrances at either end of the frontage. Both were single doorways and each had a pennant sandstone step. The left hand of the two was the grander, with a pointed arch in moulded brick similar to the windows of the central building. The doorway itself was surrounded by a wooden window frame. The right hand doorway was narrower, with a simple wooden door and frame, surmounted with a segmental arch in moulded arch brick.

6.3.11 As with the central building there were four string courses in blue glazed brick, but on different levels (see **Figure 15**, 1:199). The basal string was four courses high and subsequent strings were two courses high. The brickwork was in English Bond, with a sample four courses measuring 330 mm. The three frontage windows of the upper storey were in moulded arch brick, but formed three-centred arches. The central window was the largest at c. 2.63 m high by 1.20 m wide. The other two were 1.20 m wide by 1.00 m wide.

6.3.12 The barge boards and nape of the gable end were of similar construction to the central building.

6.3.13 The frontage to the single storey building on the South East side was relatively plain (see **Figure 15**, 1:192 and **Figure 16**). The original brickwork was a continuation of the central building's frontage, but with the basal string of blue glazed brick narrowed from four to one course. The single rectangular doorway appears to have been a rebuild. The slated lean-to roof was screened from view by a rendered parapet. Both the parapet and the doorway appeared to be contemporary with the adjoining later 20th century building. The slope of the lean-to ran down towards the central building, with guttering along the join.

6.3.14 At the time of this survey the South East elevation was abutted by adjoining properties and unavailable for view.

6.3.15 The North West elevation was principally of the northernmost of the three buildings. At the eastern end there was an area of brick and concrete infilling, probably representing a former doorway with window overhead. On the ground floor there were six windows arranged in three bays of two each. There were five windows along the upper storey. The ground floor windows were c. 1.80 m high and c. 1.05 m wide, located c. 1.35 m above ground level, each was surmounted by a rough segmental arch. The five upper floor windows were rectangular, measuring c. 1.15 m high by c. 1.25 m wide, located c. 4.35 above ground level.

6.3.16 The South West elevation of the buildings was rendered, making description of the brickwork impossible. The central gable ended building was dominated by three pointed arch windows similar to those on the frontage of the building. The central window was c. 4.05 m high and 1.95 m wide, located c. 3.45 m above ground level. The two flanking windows were c. 1.20 m wide by c. 2.90 m high, located c. 3.30 m above ground level.

6.3.17 This building was adjoined by a small lean-to structure with a single doorway and window on the South West face.

6.3.18 The northern gable ended building was dominated by one upper storey pointed arch window c. 2.30 m high by c. 2.25 m wide, located c. 4.35 m above ground level (see **Figure 15**, 1:235-238 and **Figure 16**). At the South East end of this face was a small blocked window, located in a rectangular area of infilling that post dated the rendering, from which the chimney for the boiler emerged. This indicates that a former doorway had been blocked to create the boiler room inside.

6.3.19 On the South side of the main hall adjoined the small rendered lean-to kitchen, with a single rectangular window (see **Figure 15**, 1:237).

6.3.20 Around the outside of the buildings on the North West and South West sides was a tarmac surface. The boundary of the Study Area on the South West side consisted of a wire fence on concrete posts, whilst the boundary on the North West was a wall of breeze block type material.

6.4 The Ground Floor of the Study Area (see Figure 17)

6.4.1 The main feature of significance was the hall that occupied the large central building. This was accessed via the main door in the northern gable ended structure through a short corridor and then through a small partitioned area inside the hall (see **Figure 17**, 1:208).

6.4.2 As aforementioned the hall occupied the entirety of the main building. All equipment had been removed, providing excellent views of this single storey structure. The main floor of the hall, constructed with wooden floorboards, most of which appeared to have been original, was located at 10.54 m aOD (see **Figure 17**, 1:208 and 219).

6.4.3 The main entrance to the hall from Union Road was a sliding wooden double door that could only be opened from the inside (see **Figure 17**, 1:211). The doors and mechanism all appeared to have been original.

6.4.4 Plaster had been applied to the upper portions of the walls, but the lower portions had been left as brick. Both surfaces had been painted. On each of the two long sides were three equally spaced rectangular pillars supporting the three king post truss roof structure of timber reinforced with iron bars (see **Figure 17**, 1:208, 219, 222 and 224). Where part of the ceiling plaster was missing the lath and plaster construction was visible.

6.4.5 Fluorescent strip lighting was suspended from the purlins, whilst various electrical circuits ran around the room, and in places across the floor, presumably to supply power the printing equipment formerly mounted there.

6.4.6 A wide entrance in the southern end of the North West wall led back into the northern building. Immediately to the left was a cubicle in which the heating boiler was mounted, whilst opposite was a long passageway to the under stairs cupboard. The former stores room was found to have been partitioned in two; apart from the windows no significant details were observed (see **Figure 17**, 1:229).

6.4.7 A doorway in the North East end of the South East wall stepped down 150 mm into an unlit corridor in the southern building (see **Figure 17**, 1:243), which led to the ground floor toilet, storeroom (see **Figure 17**, 1:248) and kitchen. As far as could be ascertained the ceilings were of plasterboard. The roof structure could not be viewed. The floors were of concrete and, where visible the walls were of brick. The majority of the walls were plastered with the exception of the storeroom. There was a step up in the corridor of 190 mm, and a further step up into the kitchen of 100 mm. A short corridor let through the lean-to at the rear, back through a single doorway into the main hall.

6.5 The First Floor of the Study Area (see **Figure 18**)

6.5.1 By hand measurement it was found that the level of the first floor was c. 3.94 m above the level of the ground floor. This floor only extended across the northernmost gable ended building. The other two buildings did not have an upper floor.

6.5.2 It is likely that the internal layout of the first floor had changed significantly since the construction of the original building. Therefore views of the room layout are largely for illustrative purposes only. The primary features of significance were the windows, most of which have been described previously.

6.5.3 As recorded, the floor had been arranged with wooden and glass partitions (see **Figure 18**, 1:259 and 266) into six small offices, a kitchen and two toilets. The floor was accessed via a flight of stairs opposite the main front door, with a landing followed by a further short flight of stairs to the first floor (see **Figure 18**, 1:254 and 266).

6.5.4 The main features, not clearly visible from elsewhere, were the dormer windows (see **Figure 18**, 1:264) in the South East wall of the building. These were simple rectangular windows set relatively high at 1.85 m above the floor level, 680 mm high and 1.29 m wide, with the exception of the window over the staircase that was 1.95 m wide.

6.5.5 Of the rooms, the South eastern (see **Figure 18**, 1:257) was of note for the presence of a dilapidated parquet floor. This was the only room to span the entire width of this building. From this room it could be clearly observed a flat ceiling had been installed to create a loft space (accessed from a hatch in the corridor).

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Avon Archaeological Unit Limited were commissioned by Milton Developments Bristol Limited to undertake a Desk-Based Assessment of a site measuring approximately 510 square metres off the northeast side of Union Road, St Philips, Bristol (NGR ST 600 728). The study area is currently occupied by Taurus House, which was constructed in the early twentieth century as Emmanuel Mission Hall and classrooms.

7.2 The study area is located in 'The Dings' area of St Philips, Bristol. The historic manor is thought to have been part of the Domesday manor of Barton (Regis) in Swinehead Hundred. The site lay in the civil parish of St Philip and Jacob Without in the County of Gloucestershire until 1899 when it was transferred to the City and County of Bristol. The study area lay in the ecclesiastical parish of Emmanuel, St Philip which was consecrated in 1862. The parish was united with St Philip and Jacob in 1936 and Emmanuel was demolished in 1938.

7.3 During the early part of the eighteenth century, the area consisted largely of barley fields, orchards and pastureland. By the end of the eighteenth century many of these fields had become market gardens.

7.4 By the later part of the eighteenth century the district had several large works including iron foundries, glass-houses, lead works and soap boilers. The area became further industrialised by the arrival of the railway in 1835.

7.5 During the nineteenth century, the area had a reputation for violence which was attributed to the large number of public houses in the district. This led to the establishment of numerous churches, chapels and mission halls of various denominations seeking to amend the situation, one of which, The Shaftsbury Crusade Christian Mission became the heart of the community.

7.6 During the early 1930s, the tightly packed tenements constructed during the early nineteenth century were replaced by modern dwellings. Following a further period of neglect, 'The Dings' is currently undergoing major redevelopment.

7.7 The earliest cartographic depiction of the study area appears on John Rocques 1742 Plan of the City of Bristol where the site appears to lie within a large enclosed field in 'The Marsh Grounds'. By Ashmead and Plumley's 1828 Plan of the City of Bristol major development has occurred in the district and six terrace buildings with rear gardens are present within the study area. The 1847 St Philip and Jacob Tithe Map depicts only four terrace properties within the study area although this may be due to an illustrative inaccuracy as the proceeding 1855 plan again shows six properties. By 1847 the surrounding area has been further developed and the Midland Railway has been built running past the southeast side of the site. Ashmead's 1855 plan indicates that the land previously forming the rear gardens within the study area has been divided into three sections with buildings have been constructed within each section. The 1885 Ordnance Survey Plan shows that further buildings have been erected within the study area.

7.8 By the time of the 1918 Ordnance Survey Plan, significant changes have occurred. All of the buildings within the study area with the possible exception of one property in the southernmost corner have been demolished and the present Emmanuel Mission Hall (Taurus House) has been constructed. The building plans to construct a Mission Hall and Classrooms were approved in October 1907. The plans show a single storey Hall with two storey adjoining classrooms. The plans also show the existing cottage, kitchen and boiler room to the rear of the Mission Room as well as a proposed coal house and two WC's. The 1950 Ordnance Survey Plan shows a further building linking the cottage to the

Mission Hall. The 1972 Ordnance Survey Plan shows that the area has become heavily industrialised.

7.9 A standard trawl of the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record returned 148 records relating to the study area and its environs. The majority of records refer to post medieval and modern sites and monuments and programmes of archaeological monitoring and recording. No sites or archaeological deposits predating the post medieval period are identified close to the study area and no archaeological work has previously taken place within the site.

7.10 A Standing Building Survey at the English Heritage level 2 standard has recorded the significant architectural features of the Study Area prior to the complete demolition of all standing structures on site. As recorded the three adjoining brick buildings identified appeared to be largely of one building period. A Bath Stone plaque on the frontage of the main central hall indicated the opening of the building in 1908. Although the main hall remained largely unaltered the adjoining gable ended building may have undergone significant internal reorganisation. In particular the location and orientation of the stairs had been altered, and the first floor had been converted into offices. The adjoining lean-to structures appeared to have been amended and altered during the 20th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

- Ashmead, G. 1855 *Map of Bristol* BRO/40860/Sheet 78
- Ashmead, G. 1874 *Map of Bristol* BRO/Bristol Plans/Arranged/Map 78
- Ashmead, G. & Plumley, J. 1828 *Plan of the City of Bristol and its Suburbs*
BRO/04481/North Sheet
- Atkyns, R. 1712 (facsimile edition 1974) *The Ancient and Present State of Glostershire*.
Wakefield
- Benning, R. 1780 *plan of the City of Bristol* in Barrett, W. 1982
- Ekwall, Eilert. 1960 *Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names*. Oxford.
- English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*. Swindon.
- Kelly's Directory of Bristol *Passim*.
- Morris, J. (trans) 1982 *Domesday Book: a survey of the Counties of England, Gloucestershire*. Chichester.
- OS 1885 *Bristol*. County Series Scale 1:500 Sheet 72.13.22. Southampton.
- OS 1918 *Gloucestershire*. County Series Scale 1:2,500 Sheet 72.13. Southampton.
- OS 1950 *Metric Survey*. Scale 1:2,500 Sheet ST 6072 NW. Chessington.
- OS 1972 *Metric Survey*. Scale 1:2,500 Sheet ST 6072 NW. Southampton.
- Rocque, J. 1742 *Plan of the City of Bristol* (BRO/07770/1).
- Rudder, S. 1779 *A New History of the County of Gloucestershire*. Republished 1977.
Gloucester.
- Stephenson, D. & Wilmott, J. 2005 *The Dings and St Philips*. Tempus, Gloucestershire.
- 1847 *Tithe 'Plan of the Parish of St Philip and Jacob in the City and County of Bristol and County of Gloucestershire'*. (BRO).
- 1907 *Building Plan showing the proposed Mission Room and Class Rooms at Union Road, St Philips* (BRO/Folio53A/Plan65/1907).
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/StPhilipandJacob,Bristol>
- <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk>

APPENDIX 1

Extract from the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record