

41 Manor Road, Fishponds, Bristol.

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Bristol SMR: 22112



on behalf of:

Churchill Retirement Living

D. Etheridge B.A. MPhil. FSA Scot

Avon Archaeological Unit

Bristol: January 2005

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Report Prepared by:
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ABSTRACT

An Archaeological Desktop Study of a site comprising approximately 3,000 m² and occupied by a detached house, bungalow, gardens and associated outbuildings, at 41 Manor Road, Fishponds, Bristol (NGR ST 6324 7603), produced the following results.

The Study Area comprises a detached two storey house, a bungalow, greenhouses, outbuildings, sheds and gardens. It is surrounded to the North, East and South by a high pennant sandstone wall.

The Study Area was not fully enclosed until 1780, prior to which it was on the edge of Downing Common, part of the Forest of Kingswood. No structures are recorded within the Study Area on maps and plans up to 1803. A structure is first recorded at the location of the present house on a map of 1832, when it was part of the Duke of Beaufort's estate. Outbuildings shown on the Tithe Map of 1839 to the west of the house are no longer extant.

Nothing of potential archaeological significance pertaining to the Study Area and its immediate environs was seen on historic aerial photographs viewed in the National Monuments Record, Swindon.

The core of the main house is probably no earlier than c. 1820. However much of the exterior, including the front, rear and West sides have been altered and extended. There have also been major alterations to the roof. Much of the building fabric was inaccessible, but it was probably of mortared pennant sandstone with features in brick. The interior shows evidence of having been altered significantly on several occasions. The house would appear to be of little historic interest and of low architectural merit, given the lack of original features.

Other buildings within the Study Area are of 20th century construction, of which the only ones of possible interest are the early 20th century brick built greenhouses along the western boundary of the site.

The majority of the surviving sand stone boundary wall appears to be an original feature, probably dating from the construction of the house, but possibly pre dating it, though not earlier than 1780. This wall gives visual character to Guinea Lane and the Manor Road frontage, and its present height screens off most of the Study Area from public view. The Study Area is adjacent to St. Mary's Parish Church, a Grade II listed building, and the visual impact of proposed alterations to the Study Area may therefore need to be assessed.

On the basis of the evidence gathered during this study the general archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low. The historic sources do not indicate any significant activity prior to 1803. The presence of Medieval deposits cannot be discounted but is also thought unlikely, as the Study Area was part of the Royal Chase of Kingswood Forest at that time. The presence of earlier, Roman or prehistoric, buried archaeological deposits cannot be established from the documentary sources alone and there has been no recent archaeological fieldwork in the Fishponds area to elucidate whether the preservation of such remains is likely.

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NOTES

Whereas Avon Archaeological Unit 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.

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ABBREVIATIONS

aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
BCL	Bristol Central Library
BRO	Bristol Record Office
BSMR	Bristol Sites and Monuments Record
GRO	Gloucester Record Office
OS	Ordnance Survey

1. INTRODUCTION (see Figures 1, 2 and 3)

1.1. It is proposed to develop an area of land (c. 3,000 m²) fronting the South side of Manor Road, Fishponds, Bristol (NGR ST 63245 76030).

1.2. Avon Archaeological Unit were commissioned to undertake a desk based archaeological assessment of the Study Area on behalf of Churchill Retirement Living.

1.3. The Study Area has been used for residential purposes since at least 1832. At the time of the Site Visit it was occupied by members of the same family who had owned it since c. 1940. It is proposed to demolish the present standing structures, including the house and bungalow, which presently occupy the site, and erect a residential home within the Study Area.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. Searches were made of all indices of information held by Bristol City Council Sites and Monuments Record. Indices and collections were also consulted in the Bristol Record Office, Bristol Central Library, and the aerial photographic archive of the National Monuments Record, Swindon. All information was collated, summarized and presented in the report below under the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record Number 22112. All photocopies, manuscript copies and notes, including still photographs, are preserved in the project archive to be stored at Avon Archaeological Unit. It is no longer the policy of the Bristol Museums service to accept material that can later be reproduced by a similar exercise.

2.2. The author carried out the survey in December 2004 and January 2005. The Study Area was visited on the 22nd December 2004, during which digital still photographs were taken. The aerial photographic archive of the National Monuments Record, Swindon was consulted on the 18th January 2005.

3. GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND CURRENT LAND USE (see Figures 1, 2, 3 and Plates)

3.1. The Study Area is located in Fishponds, East Bristol, which lies between Downend and Eastville, on the A432 Fishponds Road. The Study Area is situated on the South side of Manor Road, an unclassified highway that links Fishponds Road with Stapleton and Frenchay villages. The underlying geology of the Study Area belongs to the Pennant Series of the Upper Coal Measures; the Study Area is located just North of the *Cock* coal seam (OS 1962).

3.2. The Study Area lies on near level land between 55 and 61.3 m aOD. At present the Study Area is occupied by two domestic structures, accessed by a tarmac surfaced drive that opens onto Manor Road. The structures consist of one two-storey house with extensions (including a loft), and a separate bungalow. Gardens, sheds, greenhouses and tarmac surfaced parking occupy the remainder of the property. A composite wall constructed mostly of the local Pennant Sandstone encloses the Study Area.

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1. A History of Fishponds and Stapleton Parishes

- 4.1.1. Historically the Study Area was located within the parish of Stapleton, within the Royal Forest of Kingswood.
- 4.1.2. The civil parish of Stapleton was until the later 19th century part of the Hundred of Barton Regis in the County of Gloucester. In the 1880's the parish was incorporated into the City of Bristol in which it has remained.
- 4.1.3. The religious parish was formerly in the diocese of Gloucester, later the diocese of Bristol and Gloucester, which was split in the later 19th century. Stapleton was retained within the diocese of Bristol.
- 4.1.4. The age of the original parish church of Stapleton is unknown, but it probably dated to the later middle ages as it was recorded as being in the gothic style and was thought to be a cell of the Priory of St James, Bristol. (Atkyns 1712, 687; Frith 1992 1155-1160). An earlier church was pulled down and replaced with the present Victorian gothic building c. 1855, on the same site. That church may itself have been a 17th century replacement for an earlier medieval church (Smith 2003, 3).
- 4.1.5. The Domesday survey does not mention Stapleton by name. The historic manor is thought to have been part of the Domesday manor of Barton (Regis) in Swinehead Hundred. This manor included the City of Bristol, and Mangotsfield. The full translation (Morris 1982) is as follows:

[1] LAND OF THE KING

[In SWINEHEAD Hundred]

21 In BARTON (Regis) at 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 27s

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

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

In MANGOTESFIELD, 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 BRISTOL 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.

- 4.1.6. 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. St. James's Priory was founded in Bristol as a cell of Tewkesbury Abbey (ibid.). The 1 hide held by 1 riding man is thought to be Ridgeway Manor (ibid.), which was half in Stapleton and half in Mangotsfield parish (Rudder 1779, 693).
- 4.1.7. A document c. A.D. 1170 gifts from William Earl of Gloucester to the monastery of St. James, Bristol, among other things, a tenth of the revenue from his mills at Stapleton, from his pannage (right to allow pigs to feed on beech mast) in Kingswood Forest, and from fishing in the River Frome (BRO/5139/177). A later deed, dated 1305, relates the lease of *all the land which Robert was accustomed to hold of Thomas, with the meadow adjoining in the town [villa] of Stapleton in the hundred of la Barton near Bristol* (BRO/11375).

4.1.8. In 1494 the Abbot and convent of Tewkesbury leased to John Walsh Esq. of Olveston, *the tithes of Stapleton... a chaplain to be provided for Stapleton church* (BRO/5139/101).

4.1.9. Part of the parish of Stapleton lies within the former royal forest of Kingswood. In the 13th century one Petronilla de Vivonia had established her ancestral right to dig coal within the forest (Page 1907, 235). By the 15th century there were many more people recorded digging or selling coal within the forest (ibid.). There also appear to have been several encroachments on the forest, according to the various litigations in the 15th and 16th century (ibid.).

4.1.10. A map of Kingswood Forest dated 1610 (BRO/FCPL/WIL/2 and BRO/FCPL/WIL/3) does not show any coalmines. This is confirmed by the returns from the Gloucestershire Men-at-Arms survey of 1522 (Hoyle 1993), in which no coalminers were recorded in the parish of Stapleton, compared to the neighbouring parish of Easton, where a large proportion of the male population were recorded as coalminers. The majority of the men recorded in Stapleton were either husbandmen or yeomen, with a few servants. The King (Henry VIII) was lord of the manor. A similar survey undertaken in 1608 (Smith 1980, 238) also recorded the professions of those men considered fit to bear arms. No coalminers were recorded in Stapleton, and the majority of the men recorded were employed in agriculture.

4.1.11. Stapleton village is shown on the map of 1610 as a small, nucleated settlement around the parish church. Stoke house, now the location of the 18th century Duchess' Dower House, is also shown, as are numerous mills along the banks of the Frome. Two pools, marked *the newe pooles*, are shown at the approximate location of the former 'Fishponds', either side of a road marked the *Westerley and Sadbury waye*. The shape of the pools, their position and location, confirms that these are the features later known as the Upper and Lower Fishponds. There was no settlement shown in the vicinity, the nearest being a house at *Channell hill* (Channons Hill) and a house and settlement at *Oldburye house* (Oldbury Court). A roughly ovoid area, marked as *the quarres*, is shown between Oldbury and the ponds. This appears, from the map, to be an area of quarrying.

4.1.12. The forest is again shown on a map of 1672 (BRO/FCPL/WIL/3). This map is less graphical in detail, but does show the location of several coal mines and their owners. This probably reflects the rise of the first Kingswood coal masters and the increased encroachment of the forest after the Crown effectively relinquished its claim to the chase. The *new pooles* are again shown, either side of the *London way* (Fishponds Road). The nearest settlement is shown at *Leyshowe* or *Leyshouse ground*, between Channons Hill and the Lower Fishpond. Rubbles Yate is marked as an entrance to the Forest, though no settlement is shown at that location (Rubbles Yate lay at the present junction between Manor Road and Snowdon Road, West of the Study Area). A lodge is marked on land west of Rubbles Yate. Land to the north of the Lower Fishpond is shown outside the Forest boundary, and marked *Longwalls ground* and *Smits hills*. The exact location of the Study Area in relation to these features cannot be defined, but it was probably close to the Forest boundary in the vicinity of *Smits hills*. No coal mines are shown West of *London way*.

4.1.13. Atkyns (1712, 686-687) does not mention any antiquities in the parish of Stapleton. He does record there were two manors in Stapleton Parish. At the time of his writing John Berkeley of Stoke Gifford was the lord of the manor of Stapleton. There was also the manor of Oldbury (now Oldbury Court Park and Estate), extant since at least the 15th century.

4.1.14. Rudder (1779, 693), mentions 3 manors in Stapleton parish. Like Atkyns (1712, 686), he attributes the lordship of the manor of Stapleton to Richard Berkeley in 1608. Reference to the 1608 survey (Smith 1980, 238) shows that there were four lords of the manor in the parish of Stapleton: Richard Berkeley, Roger Kemis, John Cotterell, and Sir Hugh Smith. The third manor was Ridgeway (also Ruggeway; the site of the manor house was off Fishponds Road, Eastville, adjacent to Eastville Park). Sir Jarrit Smyth was lord of the manor

in 1779 (Rudder 1779, 693). It is not clear whether there was a fourth manor in 1608 or whether one manor was shared between two lords.

4.1.15. Rudder (1779, 693) notes one antiquity in the parish, a small camp (i.e. hillfort or enclosure) upon a hill, adjacent to Oldbury House. He mentions nothing specifically pertaining to the Study Area. The exact location of this camp is not known, but it may have been a promontory fort on cliffs overlooking the gorge of the Frome. There are two possible locations, both close to the former site of Oldbury Court.

4.1.16. Settlement at Fishponds first appears in the cartographic record around 1750, in an undated plan book of Stapleton Parish (BRO/AC/WH/5/86, see **Figure 4**). The area of modern Fishponds had been divided over several sheets. Two large houses are shown either side of Rubbles Yate, at the junction of what is now Snowdon Road and Manor Road. A smaller house is shown between them. The land between Snowdon Road, Manor Road and what appears to be Pound Lane is shown as enclosed, with a small house at what appears to be the junction of Pound Lane and Snowdon Road. To the east of Pound Lane, two further fields are shown, with a house and garden adjacent to the lower Fishpond. Land to the east of the house is marked as *the Common*, and *Downing Common*. The boundary with the Common appears to be similar to the present course of Guinea Lane, to the rear of the Study Area.

4.1.17. A further sheet from the same Plan Book indicates that there were five houses in a row, between the lower Fishpond and Channons Hill. No name was given for the settlement, and land further to the east appears not to have been enclosed at that date.

4.1.18. The plan book may be unreliable on details. The free school for girls, constructed c. 1729 (BSMR 21666), is not shown, yet one of the recorded landowners in the area is Norborne Berkeley, who did not succeed to his estates until 1738 (Etheridge 2003, 8).

4.1.19. During the 1750's and 1760's there was increasing industrialisation along the lower Avon Valley, resulting in a growing demand for coal. Much of the land in Stapleton Parish, within the Kingswood, was found to be rich in accessible coal, with the subsequent opening up of the Forest to mining and enclosure.

4.1.20. A second Plan Book of Stapleton Parish, dated 1780 (BRO/AC/PL/59a) clearly documents the changes that had taken place. Much of the material relating to the Kingswood is repeated in the Sturge 1781 *Plan of that part of the Common called Kingswood in the Parish of Stapleton, Gloucestershire* (BRO/AC/PL/90, see **Figure 5**). From these two maps it can be observed that the nucleus of modern Fishponds had by that time been established. Much of the surrounding land had been enclosed and sold for auction in 1779 (BRO/AC/WH/5/108), and the core of the present day road network had been laid, but the scene was still essentially a rural one. The main route through had been made into a Turnpike road, but still passed between the two fishponds. The full course of Manor Road had been laid out, but it was called Stapleton Road.

4.1.21. The free school is shown, and marked as such, but there is no church in the vicinity. The largest building in the area, located on the north side of the junction between Stapleton Road and the Turnpike Road, is marked late Dr Mason. This is very probably the location of *Mason's Madhouse* (BSMR 2270), a private lunatic asylum, which was established in 1740, closed in 1852, and demolished in the 1880's (ibid.).

4.1.22. The area is mapped again in 1803 by William Maule (AC/PL/60a). The main apparent change in the area is the disappearance of the two fishponds. The author has been unable to confirm the story that the Dowager Duchess of Beaufort (d. 1799) ordered the ponds to be filled in after a boy fell in and drowned.

4.1.23. The area is mapped in 1832 for the duke of Beaufort's Estates only (GRO/D2700/QP/15/14), and again in 1839 for the Tithe Survey (BRO/FCTM/Stapleton, See **Figure 6**). The latter is more complete. While the character of the area is still essentially rural, the settlement is beginning to take on the appearance of a small town. This is also the first occasions where the settlement is actually named as *Fishponds*.

4.1.24. Perhaps the most important addition to the settlement is the church of St. Mary, built on land between the Free School and the Study Area. The church was built in 1821 and extended c. 1860 (BSMR 20618). It initially served as a Chapel of Ease to Stapleton Parish Church, but in 1869 the District Chapelry was established as the Parish of St Mary, Fishponds (BRO District Parishes Folder). The Church is a Grade II listed building.

4.1.25. A second important addition to the settlement was the early arrival of the railway to the south. Initially established to transport coal from South Gloucestershire to Bristol on horse-drawn wagons, it was converted in 1844 to the Bristol to Gloucestershire main line.

4.1.26. The buildings, later known as the Manor House, are shown as plot 656, along the north side of Manor Road, west of the Study Area. These structures were not visible on Maule's map of 1803.

4.1.27. The area is not mapped again in detail until the publication of the first edition OS 1:2,500 County Series maps of the area in 1882 (see **Figure 7**). Fishponds is divided between two sheets, 72.6 and 72.10. The area still had a rural appearance, with fields and orchards between and behind the houses. The location of *Mason's Madhouse* had been developed as a housing estate. Additions to the urban scene included an Infant School on the north side of Manor Road; the Diocesan Teacher Training College on Oldbury Court Road (Now St. Matthias Campus, University of the West of England); and a Police Station and Public House on Fishponds Road. Land to the rear of the Study Area, south of Guinea Lane, was largely undeveloped. Property on the North side of Manor Road, opposite the Study Area, comprised the Manor House, gardens, and lodge.

4.1.28. The second edition of the OS 1:2,500 map of the area charts the growth of Fishponds as an urban industrial centre. Most of the empty plots along Fishponds Road had been filled with terraced housing. A terraced row along Devon Road was also constructed to the south of the Study Area. Fishponds Road was served by a tramway and a railway station with goods facilities. Manor Road had acquired its present name, and Fishponds Park had been laid out, east of the Church.

4.1.29. By the third edition OS map of 1918 there had been continued urban growth in the Fishponds Area. Subsequent maps of the Study Area in this series were not available from the Bristol Archives. A 1949 OS Map of land to the North shows the Manor House to have been redeveloped as a housing estate by that time.

4.2. A History of the Study Area (see Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9)

4.2.1. It was not possible to reconstruct the history of the property in great detail, as enemy action in the 1940's had apparently destroyed all traceable deeds relating to this property (Bob Collins, Pers. Comm.).

4.2.2. The first plan book of Stapleton Parish (BRO/AC/WH/5/86, see **Figure 4**) appears to indicate that c. 1750 the Study Area was open and unenclosed land on the edge of what was known then as *Downing Common*, i.e. inside the boundary of the Kingswood Forest. However, this plan book may be unreliable, as several important features, extant by 1740, were not illustrated.

4.2.3. By the time of the second plan book, of 1780 (BRO/AC/PL/59a), it appears that much of the western part of the Common had been enclosed. Both this plan, and that by Sturge in 1781 (BRO/AC/PL/90, see **Figure 5**) show the Study Area in some detail. That part of Guinea Lane to the rear of the Study Area had been laid out as far as the junction with the lane bounding the east of the Study Area. The boundary to the North, with Stapleton Road (now Manor Road) was extant. The western boundary differed from the present. Part of two adjacent plots on the West lay partly within the bounds of the Study Area. Plot 119 belonging to I. Strong forms the core of the Study Area, it was listed as a house and garden, but appears undeveloped on both maps. Plot 81, belonging to I. Strong was partly built on, but the buildings lay just outside the bounds of the Study Area. Plot 82 belonging to S. Flook was mostly outside the Study Area, a row of terraces had been built along its southern boundary, but they were also outside the Study Area.

4.2.4. The Study Area is shown on a map by William Maule from 1803 (BRO/AC/PL/60, not illustrated). It appears indistinct and undeveloped, but that area of the map shows signs of mould damage.

4.2.5. A map of 1832 (GRO/D2700/QP/15/14, not illustrated) shows the Study Area to have been part of the estates of the Duke of Beaufort. One rectangular structure is shown within the Study Area, at the location of the present house, and probably representing it. The boundaries appear unchanged since 1781.

4.2.6. On the Tithe Map of 1839 (BRO/FCTM/Stapleton, See **Figure 6**), the boundaries of the Study Area still have the same essential outline of those recorded in 1781. Plot 888 was listed as a house, outbuildings, garden and pasture belonging to John Powell of Winterbourne, and let to Charles Cross. This plot forms the bulk of the Study Area, and shows a rectangular house at the location of the present structure, fronting a small East-West lane off the main lane to the East. During the site visit the author noted the presence of a doorway in the eastern boundary wall at approximately the junction of the two lanes. The house is shown with a small extension or outhouse on the West side. Further outbuildings are shown along the western boundary of the plot. The adjacent plots to the West, which are now partly included in the Study Area, were plot 874, a house and garden belonging to John Powell and let to Samuel Monks, and plot 877, a house and garden belonging to George and Samuel Flook, and let to Henry Stone. None of the structures in the adjacent properties appear to fall within the present Study Area.

4.2.7. The OS map of 1882 (see **Figure 7**) shows little change in the Study Area since 1839. The main access to the Study Area was still from Guinea Lane, to the east. Structures on the former western boundary of the property were still extant. The main house appears to have been extended further on the West side.

4.2.8. The second edition of the OS Map, dated 1903 (see **Figure 8**), shows further extension of the house westward. The fabric of the house was joined with the structures to the West. The garden to the north of the house had been planted with an orchard.

4.2.9. The OS map of 1918 (see **Figure 9**) shows several major changes to the Study Area. The present access drive from Manor Road had been installed, and the boundary to the West had been straightened to its present line. All but one of the former outbuildings to the West of the house had been demolished. Along the inside of the western boundary were a row of outbuildings with two greenhouses. There appear to have been some small extensions to the rear of the house. The orchard was not shown.

4.2.10. Subsequent maps of the Study Area were not available prior to the Metric Edition of 1959. These show the Study Area almost as it appears at present. The last of the former outbuildings to the West of the house had been demolished, and replaced by the large garage. A smaller garage had been constructed adjacent to the main entrance. Sheds and outbuildings had been constructed in the South West corner of the Study Area.

4.3. An Archaeology of Fishponds (see Appendix 1)

4.3.1. A standard one kilometre trawl of the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record yielded the following results. Twenty records were retrieved, of which 8 sites were of 18th century date or earlier, 10 sites were of 19th century date, and two were of 20th century date.

4.3.2. The SMR trawl indicated that there has been no reported archaeological field work within a one kilometre radius of the Study Area. Field observations were made of one standing building, No's 11-15 Manor Road, the Hannah More Building (BSMR 21665). This structure probably dates from c. 1729, and is now a Grade II* listed building (BSMR 21666).

4.3.3. The parish church of St. Mary, which lies between the Hannah More building and the Study Area, on the south side of Manor Road, is also a Grade II listed building (BSMR 20618).

4.3.4. None of the surviving cartographic evidence indicates that there were ever any mine shafts in the immediate area of Fishponds, nor were there any further to the west within Stapleton Parish. The main area of coal mining within the historic bounds of Stapleton Parish took place further to the east in the areas of Speedwell/Chester Park, Hillfields, and Lodgeside.

4.3.5. Surviving cartographic evidence does indicate that stone quarrying was undertaken on land north and south of the Study Area, though not immediately adjacent.

4.3.6. The potential, in Fishponds, for the preservation of buried archaeological remains is untested.

4.4. An Archaeology of the Study Area (see Appendix 1)

4.4.1. There is no known reference to previous archaeological excavation or finds within the Study Area. BSMR 22013 indicates that a study of 41 Manor Road was undertaken in July 2004. The results of that study are not widely available.

4.4.2. The presence or absence within the Study Area of buried archaeological remains has not been tested by archaeological techniques.

4.4.3. There is no record of a well or pump within the Study Area, but it seems probable that a property of this size was equipped with one.

4.4.4. It is possible that unrecorded quarrying and back filling was undertaken within the Study Area.

4.4.5. The high walls of pennant, which screen the North, South and East sides of the property from public view, probably date from the time of the first house building on this site, c. 1832. These walls show signs of later alterations, extensions and repairs. At present they screen the house and bungalow from external view, whilst affording good views of Fishponds from the upper storey of the house. They also add character to the public access lanes on the south and East side of the Study Area, and to a lesser extent along the Manor Road frontage.

4.5. Aerial Photographs of the Study Area (see Appendix 2)

4.5.1. Aerial photographs of the Study Area and its environs, held in the National Monuments Record, Swindon, were viewed by the author on Tuesday 18th January 2005. One Military oblique print and 42 specialist oblique prints was viewed, together with 127 stereoscopic vertical prints. Thirteen vertical prints were unavailable for production.

4.5.2. The earliest dated photographs appear to be from an RAF sortie made on 29th September 1941 (RAF/HLA/313). This is a significant early survival, as regular aerial photographic coverage of Britain did not commence until late 1945 or early 1946. Unfortunately, although the Fishponds District is covered, central Fishponds and the Study Area are obscured by cumulus cloud.

4.5.3. No archaeological features in or around the Study Area could be identified from any of the aerial photographs viewed. Some slight changes and modifications to the Study Area over time could be observed.

4.5.4. On the earliest photographs on which the Study Area is visible (RAF/106G/UK/1401: Frames V2/5178-5179), it was observed that adjoining the east side of the house was a large single storey rectangular roofed structure, extending as far as the eastern boundary of the Study Area. This feature was probably a large adjoining shed or workshop. It was visible on aerial photographs from 1946 to 1948, but on the photographs from 1955 it had been removed (RAF/540/1576: Frames F22/107-109).

4.5.5. On the earliest photographs from 1946 land opposite the Study Area on the North side of Manor Road was vacant and under grass. On the 1955 photographs most of this land had been developed for housing.

4.5.6. Also visible on the 1955 photographs was the large garage, not extant on earlier photographs (now the bungalow). On later photographs from 1963 it is evident that the extension to the rear of the house had been built (RAF/543/2332: Frames 1F22/122-123). It was also visible that further house building had taken place along Oldbury Court Road.

4.5.7. On photographs from May 1970 a conservatory at the rear of the house is visible (OS/70118: Frames V/51-53). Later photographs from 1980 show the garage roof overgrown, and lean-to sheds against the North and East boundary walls in the North East corner of the Study Area (OS/80156: Frames: V/432-434). On photographs from 1989 and 1990 it could be seen that the large garage had been converted into a bungalow, with an extension built on the South East side. Skylights in the roof of the main house were visible for the first time (OS/89283: Frames V/30-32 and OS/90030: Frames V/616-617).

4.6. The Site Visit (see Plates)

4.6.1. The Study Area was visited on the 22nd December 2004. It is accessed through a gated entrance from a tarmac surfaced drive, part of the Study Area itself, which opens onto the South side of Manor Road.

4.6.2. The boundary of the Study Area is defined by a high wall of mortared pennant sandstone along the northern frontage, the unnamed lane to the East, and Guinea Lane to the South. This wall is in places topped with wooden fencing. The wall has also been repaired and replaced in places, occasionally in brick. One side doorway through the wall was observed on the eastern side. It did not appear to have been used for some time. This doorway may represent the former entrance to the Study Area observed on maps prior to 1918.

4.6.3. The majority of the present Study Area is occupied by a garden comprising lawn, flower beds, shrubs and trees. Several brick and masonry built structures also occupy the Study Area.

4.6.4. The main structure is the two-storey house. The core of the building is a rectangular double roofed structure, entered from the North side. Two doorways here are a relict from the time, prior to c. 1940, when the property was two separate cottages (Bob Collins, Pers. Comm.). The division appears to have passed longitudinally from front to back. This internal division has since been removed completely. It is possible that the house was originally intended to be one structure, as only one coal cellar was built. The cellar was the only place at which the fabric of the house was visible. This showed the main building material to have been the local pennant sandstone.

4.6.5. The later extensions on the West side of the house were clearly visible. Before c. 1940 these were not accessible from inside the house (Bob Collins, Pers. Comm.). The south side of the house had clearly been extended, with windows giving it the appearance of a typical 1960's detached house.

4.6.6. A lean-to garage of corrugated plastic adjoins the East side of the house. The lines of the 1960's extension to the lofts and rear of the house can be observed in the rendering on this face.

4.6.7. With the possible exception of the cellar, no interior rooms appeared to retain their original shape or form. No internal features, including staircases, ceiling fittings etc. appeared to be originals or even pre 1900.

4.6.8. The bungalow in the grounds was originally built c. 1950 as a garage (Bob Collins, Pers. Comm.). It appears to have been converted in the late 1980's.

4.6.9. The two greenhouses along the western boundary are now used as sheds. Most of the windows and doors appear to be intact original features, but the glass roofs of both have been replaced with corrugated material and ceramic tiles respectively.

4.6.10. The shed to the rear is probably of brick construction. Other sheds in the North East corner of the Study Area are mostly lean-tos of corrugated iron, with some wooden garden sheds. There are two modern garages to the North West of the house.

4.6.11. The garden does not appear to retain any features pre 1918, and has probably been remodelled several times since. All of the trees were planted post c. 1940 (Bob Collins, Pers. Comm.).

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1. Little is shown at the location of the Study Area on maps dated before 1752. At that time the Study Area appears to have formed part of Common land within the bounds of Kingswood Forest, a Royal Chase.

5.2. Maps of 1780 and 1781 show the Study Area and land around to have been recently enclosed. The land comprising the Study Area was undeveloped, although plots immediately to the east had been built on.

5.3. A subsequent map of 1803 shows little change in the immediate area. No buildings are shown within the Study Area.

5.4. A building is shown at this location on a map dated 1832 and the structure probably forms the core of the present house. A site visit and preliminary photographic survey have confirmed that this structure has been heavily altered both internally and externally with additions and extensions. Other structures within the Study Area are of 20th century date.

5.5. The documentary evidence would suggest that the potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains dating from the historic period is low. There appear to be no records of previous archaeological work in Fishponds, and the potential for the survival of buried remains for all periods prior to the late 18th century has not been tested.

5.6. Although there is no direct evidence, it is thought likely that there was a well within the bounds of the property. It is also possible that unrecorded quarrying and back filling has taken place within the Study Area.

5.7. In view of the evidence examined during the project, the archaeological and architectural potential of the site is considered to be low.

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- OS 1903 (2nd ed.) *Gloucestershire*. County Series, Scale 1:2,500 Sheet 72.10. Southampton.
- OS 1918 (3rd ed.) *Gloucestershire*. County Series, Scale 1:2,500 Sheet 72.10. Southampton.
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- OS 1959 *Metric Survey*. Scale 1:1,250 Sheet ST 6376 SW. Chessington.
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- Anon. 1774 Perambulation of the Parish of Stapleton with plans of the Tithe Divisions. BRO/AC/WH/5/76a-w.
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Sturge, J. 1781 Plan of that part of the common called Kingswood in the parish of Stapleton,
Gloucestershire. BRO/AC/PL/90.

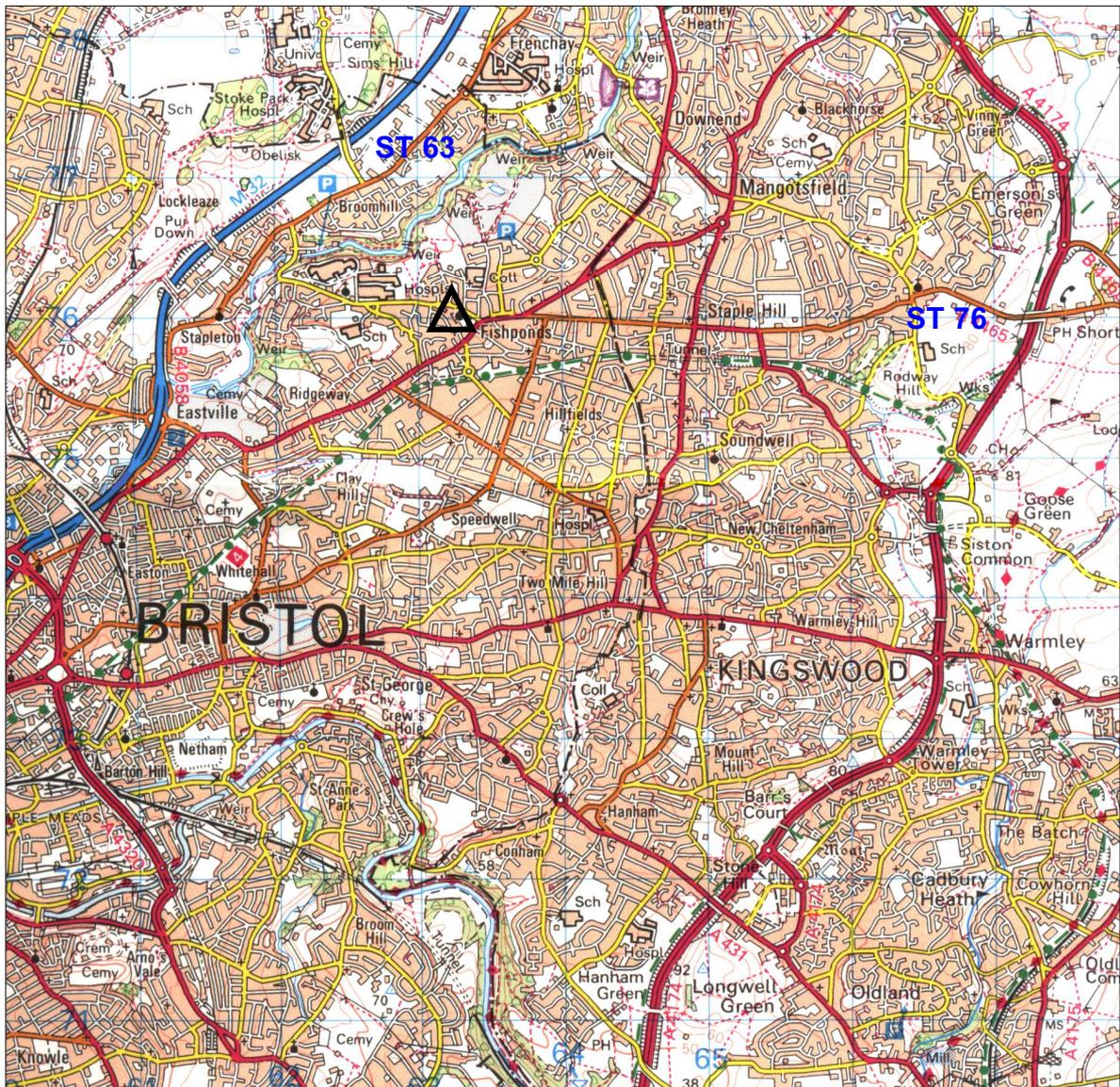
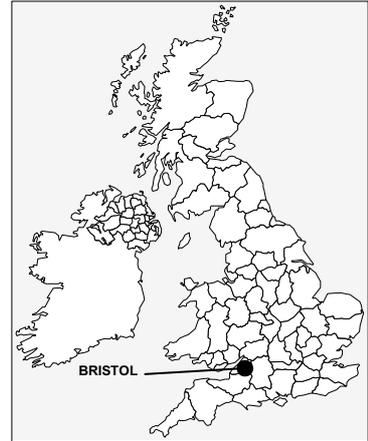
Maule, W. 1803 *Plan of the parish of St George and that part of the parish of Stapleton called
Kingswood, Gloucestershire*. BRO/AC/PL/60.

Figure 1

Location of the Study Area

The Study Area

Plans and maps based on the Ordnance Survey Sheets are represented by the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.



Scale 1:50,000

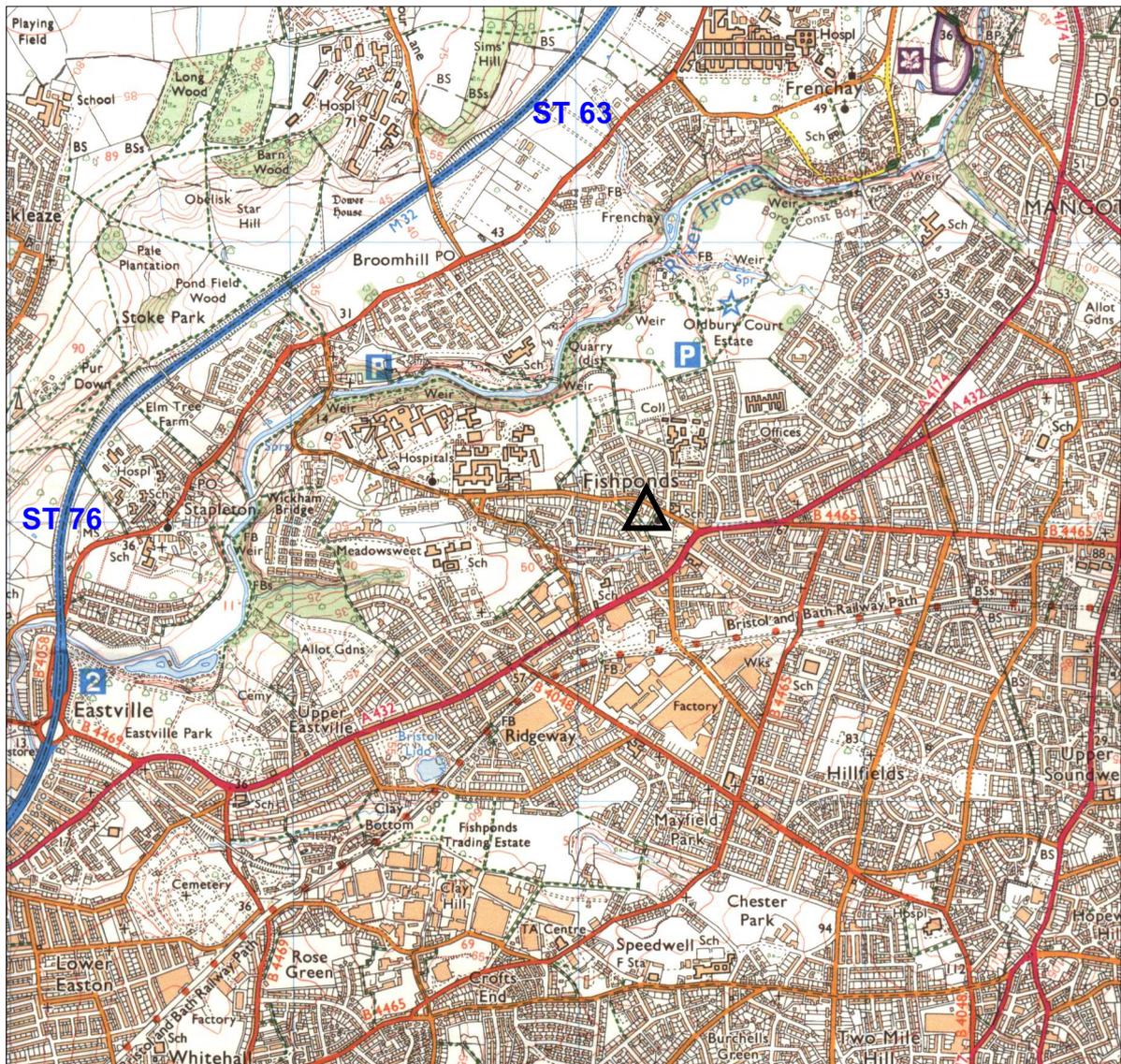
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Figure 2

Location of the Study Area

The Study Area 

Plans and maps based on the Ordnance Survey Sheets are represented by the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

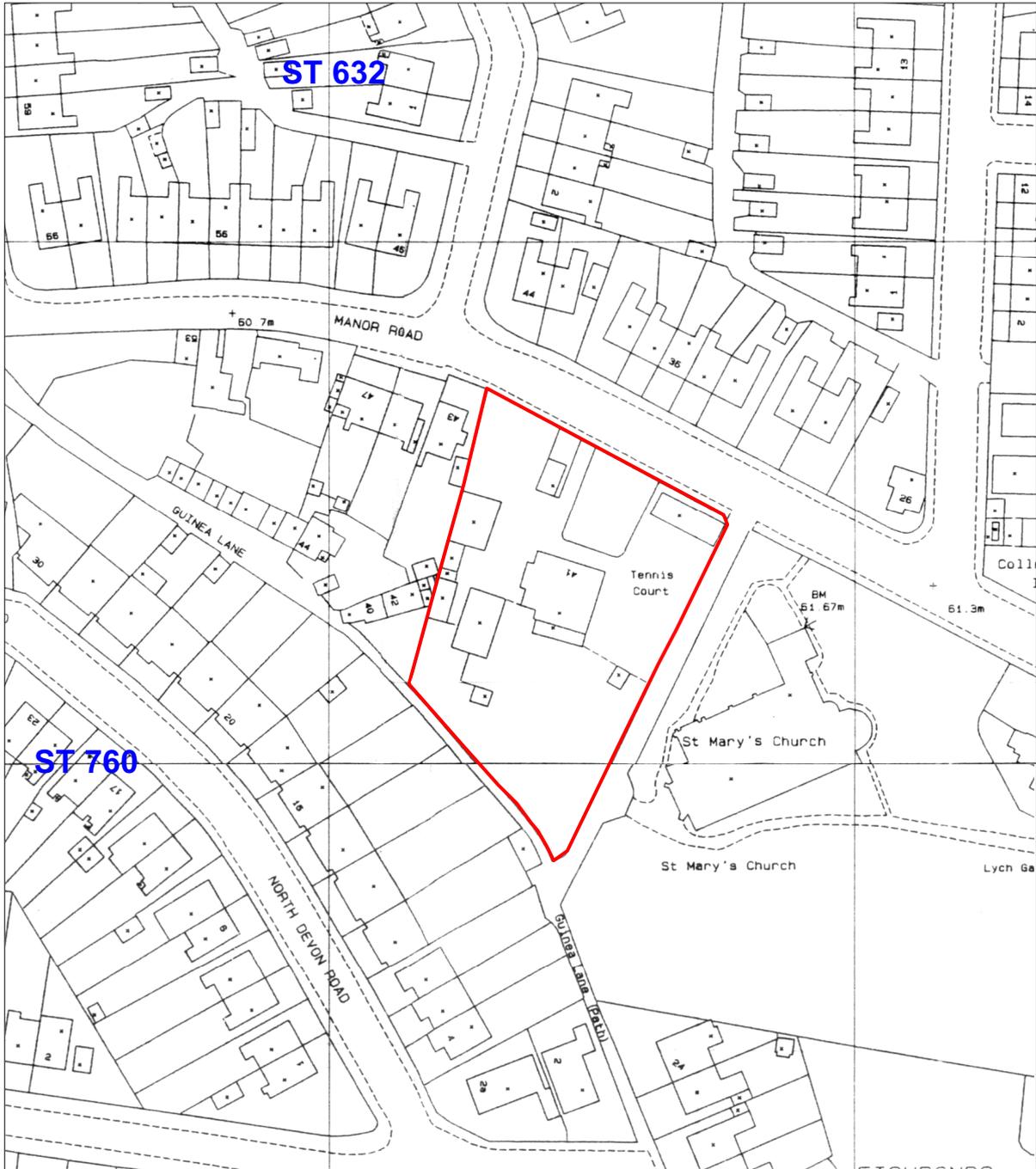


Scale 1:25,000

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Figure 3

Boundary of the Study Area (outlined in red)
Map taken from Ordnance Survey 1994 Sheet ST 6376 SW and 1993
Sheet ST 6375 NW

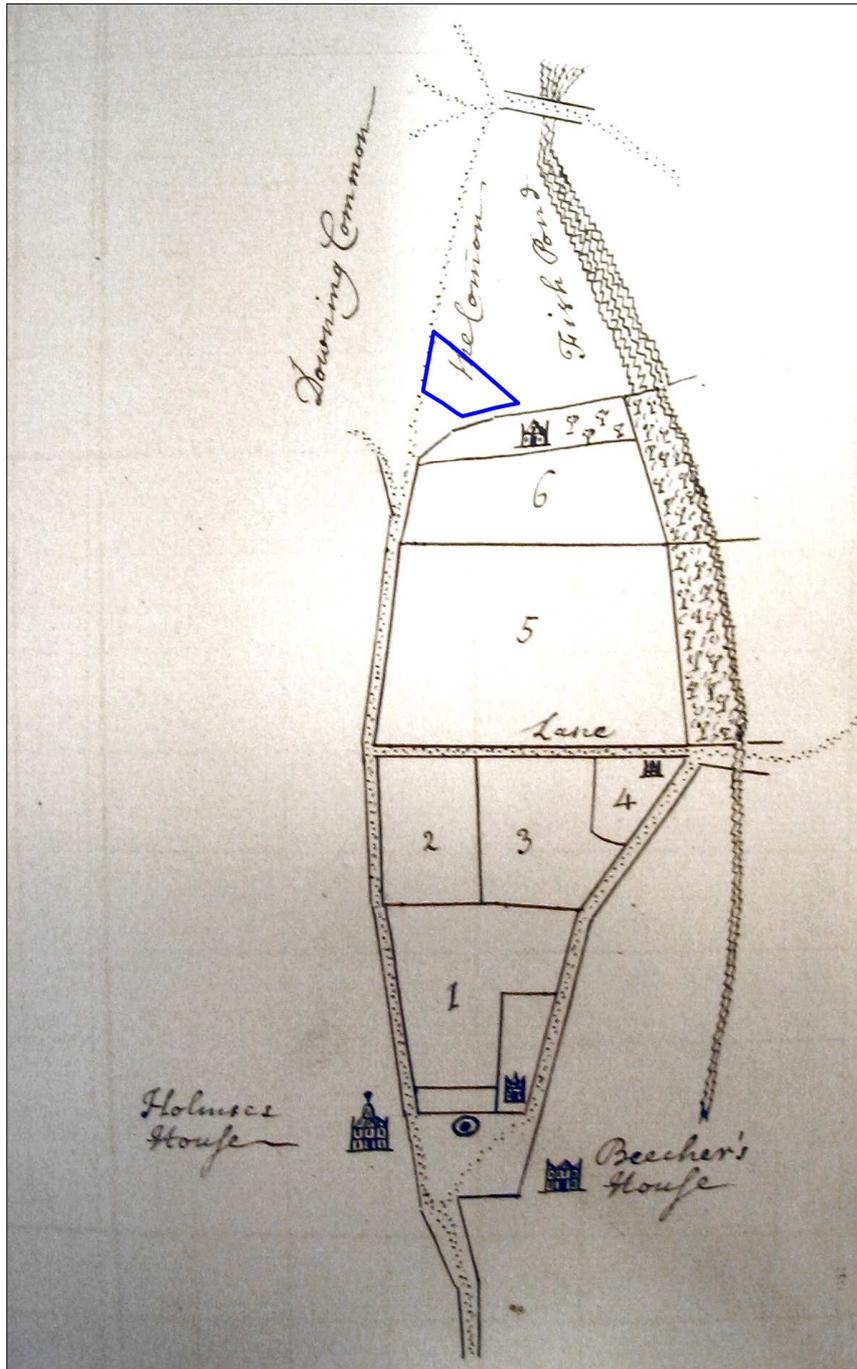


Scale 1:1250

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Figure 4

Extract from c.1744-1752 *Plan Book for Stapleton Parish*
(BRO/AC/WH/5/86a)
Approximate location of the Study Area (outlined in blue)

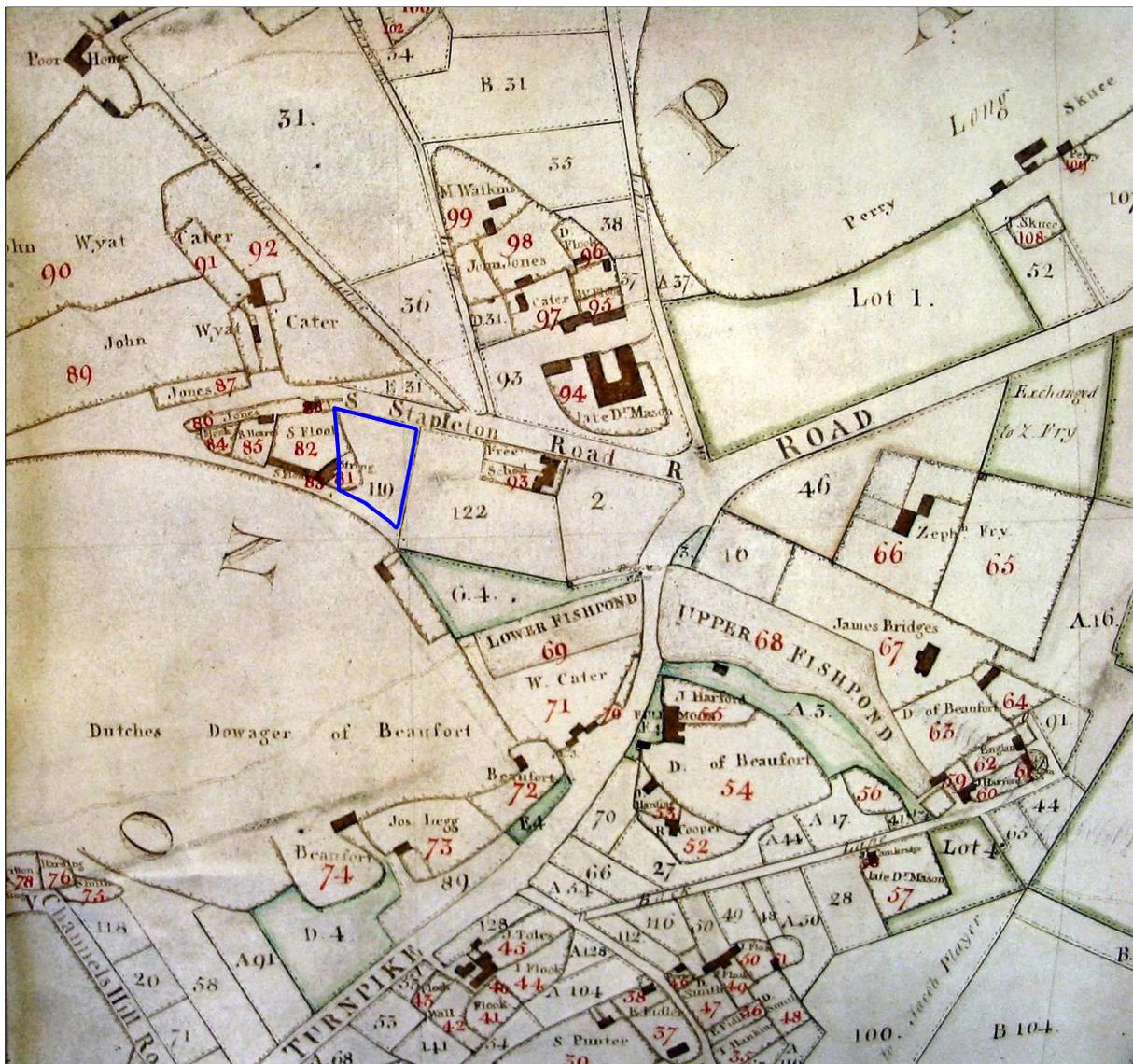


Not to Scale

Reproduced by courtesy of the Bristol Record Office

Figure 5

Extract from Sturge 1781 *Plan of that part of the Common called Kingswood in the Parish of Stapleton, Gloucestershire* (BRO/AC/PL/90)
Approximate location of the Study Area (outlined in blue)

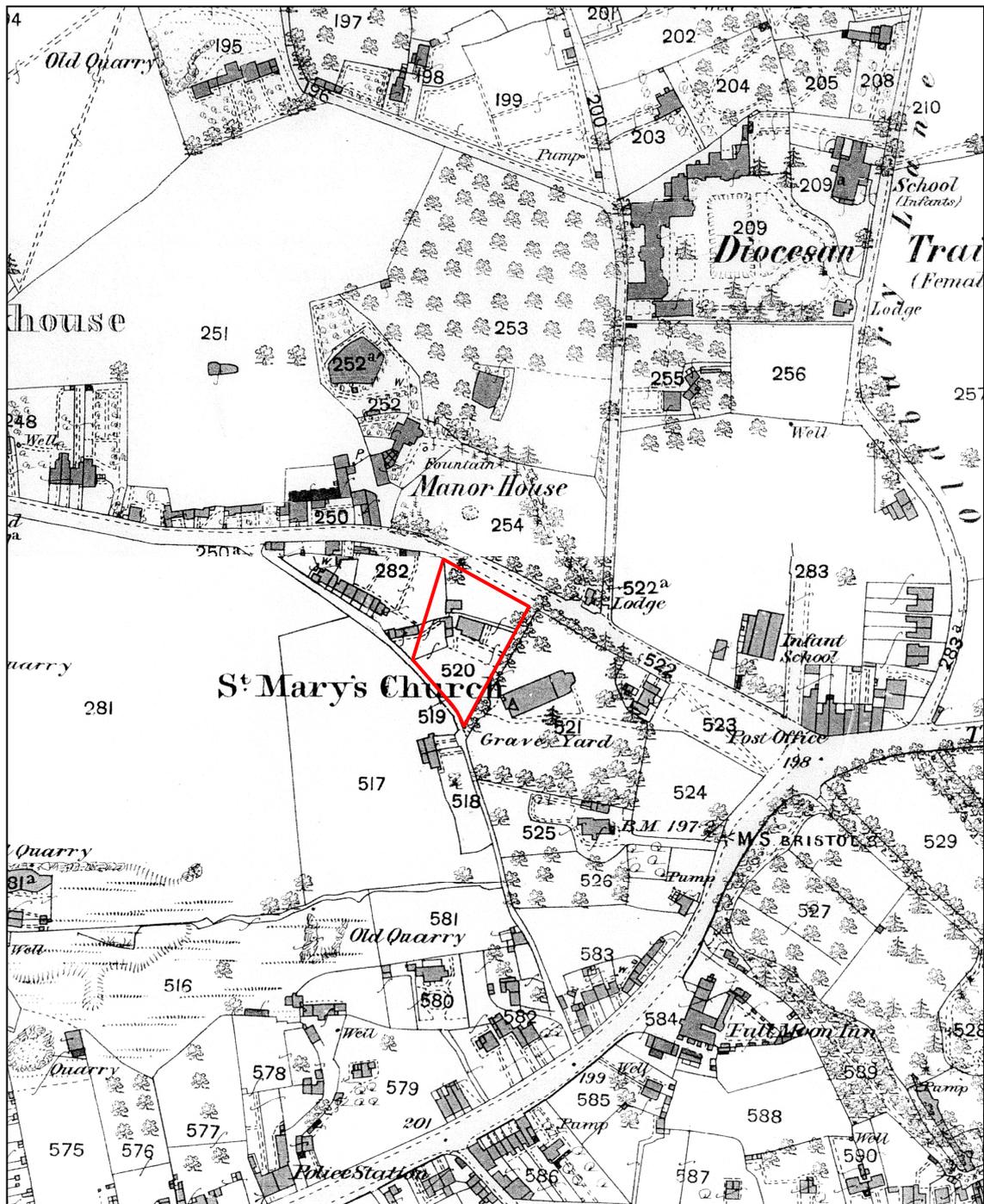


Not to Scale

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Figure 7

Extract from the 1882 Ordnance Survey Map of Gloucestershire,
(1:2,500) Sheets 72.6 and 72.10
Approximate location of the Study Area (outlined in red)



Not to scale

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Figure 8

Extract from the 1903 Ordnance Survey Map of Gloucestershire,
(1:2,500) Sheet 72.10
Approximate location of the Study Area (outlined in red)

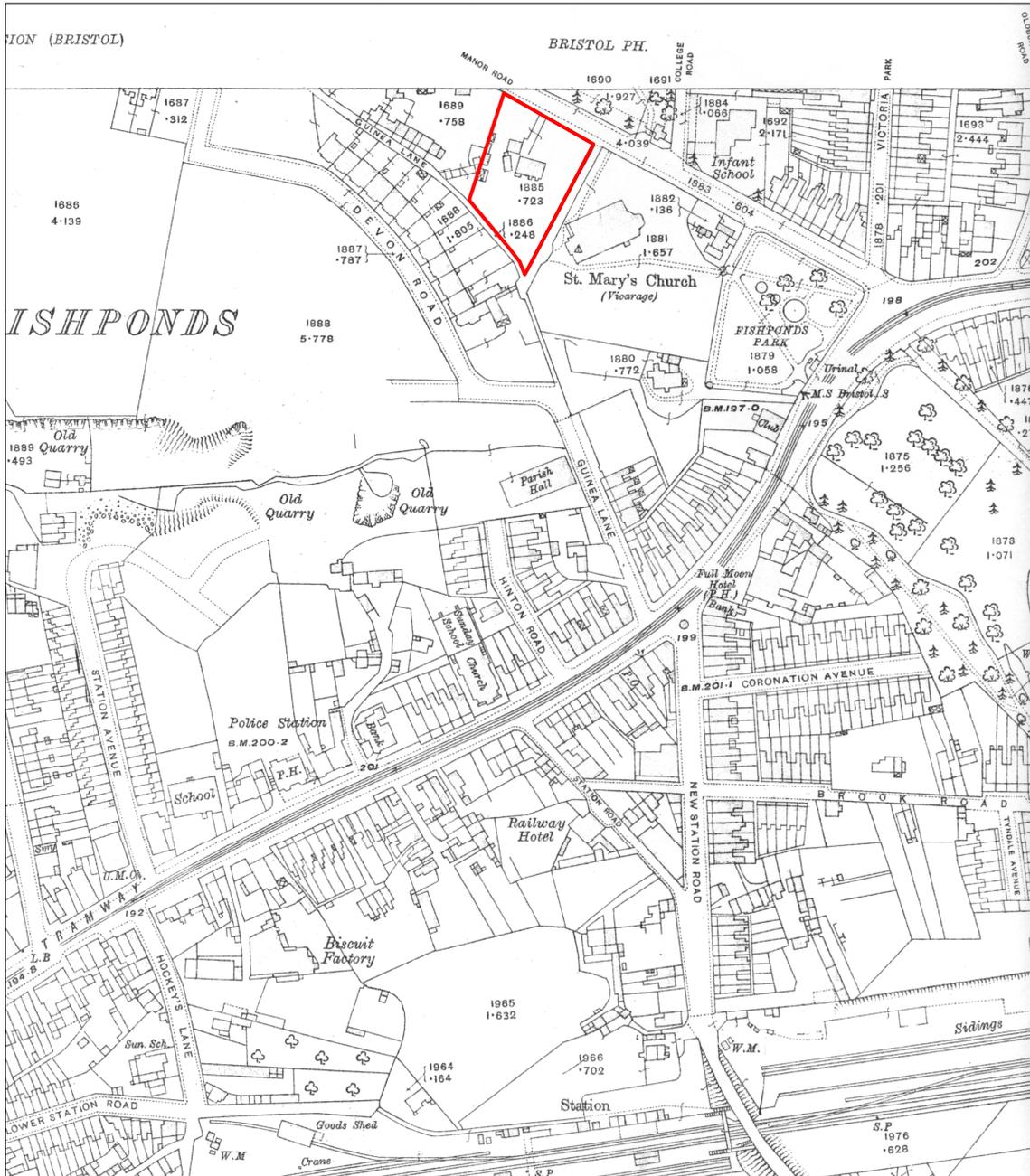


Not to scale

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Figure 9

Extract from the 1918 Ordnance Survey Map of Gloucestershire,
(1:2,500) Sheet 72.10
Approximate location of the Study Area (outlined in red)



Not to scale

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Plates



a) Guinea Lane looking North, Parish Church on the right and Study Area on the left.



b) The North and East Faces of the house, looking South West.



c) The North face of the house, looking South.



d) The North and West Faces of the house, looking South East.



e) The West face of the house, showing extension and veranda.



f) The South face of the house and East face of the bungalow, looking North West.



g) Garden shed to the rear of the bungalow, looking South West.



h) Former greenhouse reused as a shed, looking West. Scale 1 m.



i) Late 20th century garages North West of the house, looking North West.



j) Detail of roof scarring on the East face of the house, showing the former outline of the roof.



k) Detail of the roof and chimney, from the rear loft, looking North West.



l) Detail of the coal cellar, showing steps, looking South. Scale 1 m.

APPENDIX 1

EXTRACT FROM THE BRISTOL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD



BSMR 2270

"Mason's Madhouse," Fishponds Private Lunatic Asylum, Oldbury Court Road, Fishponds ST6339076040

"Mason's madhouse," also known as the Fishponds Private Lunatic Asylum. The building was located on the east side of Oldbury Court Road. It was founded by Dr. Joseph Mason in 1740. Mason died in 1779 but the hospital continued to operate until the mid-nineteenth century. Relatively little is currently known about the form and operation of the hospital in the eighteenth century. However, an inquiry for the Gloucestershire Court or Quarter Sessions into the hospital in November and December 1848 recorded some evidence about its methods at that date. The superintendant of the hospital was then Dr. Joseph Carpenter Bompas who had taken over the licence for the institution after his father's death in 1847. The building had three departments, apparently single rooms. The first department was "the middle department of the house, where the gentlemen are" (Anon., 1848 97). The second department was known as the "Farmer's Department" and was where middle-class patients were housed, while the third department was for the "sick and noisy" (ibid.). There were other restraint rooms, including a secure room known as the strong room, and an exercise yard surrounded by high walls (Anon, 1848 98).

The asylum closed in 1852 and the building was demolished in the 1880s.

References:

Anon., 1848, *The evidence taken on the inquiry into the management of the Fishponds private lunatic asylum*. Bristol: Joseph Leech.

Hudleston, C. Roy & Robinson, A. Bruce, 1938, Two vanished Fishponds houses. In *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* Vol.60 pp238-259.

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BSMR 4271

Fishponds Park
ST6336875966

Fishponds Park, located on the north-western side of Fishponds Road. The land for the park was purchased for £300 by Stapleton Urban District Council in 1887 and a pleasure ground was laid out in 1888. The park was taken over by Bristol Corporation in 1897.

At the entrance to the park from Fishponds Road there is a drinking fountain dated 1893. pennant stone arch with marble basins, inscribed to J Yalland, Chairman of the Local Board, to commemorate the 1888 opening, which still has its spigots. At the centre of the park is a war memorial (SMR 20115), comprising a bronze statue of a British infantry soldier on large granite plinth, commemorating the dead of the Gloucestershire regiment during the First World War.

BSMR 4350

St. Matthias College, Oldbury Court Road, Fishponds
ST6334076238

St. Matthias College, located on the western side of Oldbury Court Road. The college was constructed as the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Training Institution for School Mistresses in the early 1850s (the rainwater heads carry the date 1854). The college was designed by John Norton and Joseph Clarke and is a two-storey Gothic structure of Pennant sandstone rubble with ashlar detailing. The main block is on the College Road side of the site, with a range on its north side and chapel on its southern. These enclose a formal garden with some mature trees, including a judas tree, hollies, cherries and a row of limes, and a knot garden. A further range was added to the on the south side of the site between 1903 and the First World War.

The college has a Grade II* listing (Listed Building number 901-1/54/1275). The lodge on the south side of the Oldbury Court Road entrance and the boundary walls to the site have a Grade II listing (Listed Building number 901-1/54/1276).

BSMR 8461

Lower Fishpond, Fishponds Road
ST6332475900

Lower Fishpond, located on the north-western side of Fishponds Road. The original function of the pond is not currently clear, and it may have been a fishpond or possibly a water-filled quarry. However, it was in existence by the beginning of the seventeenth century and was recorded on a plan of Kingswood Forest made in 1610 as one of "the newe pooles." A plan by J. Sturge of 1781 (BRO AC/PL 90) indicates that the pond then measured approximately 100 metres from north-east to south-west and was 28 metres wide. It had apparently been infilled by the time of the Stapleton tithe survey of 1839.

BSMR 10388

Upper Fishpond, Fishponds Road
ST6344575858

Upper Fishpond, located on the south-eastern side of Fishponds Road. The original function of the pond is not currently clear, and it may have been a fishpond or possibly a water-filled quarry. However, it was in existence by the beginning of the seventeenth century and was recorded on a plan of Kingswood Forest made in 1610 as one of "the newe pooles." A plan by J. Sturge of 1781 (BRO AC/PL 90) indicates that the pond measured approximately 200 metres from north-west to south-east and was 42 metres wide. It had apparently been infilled by the time of the Stapleton tithe survey of 1839.

BSMR 20115

War memorial, Fishponds Park
ST6337875964

War memorial, Fishponds Park. The memorial was erected in 1920 at a cost of £600 by the residents of Fishponds. It consists of a bronze statue of a British/Colonial infantry soldier of the First World War set on a granite plinth. The statue faces south-east and immediately below its feet on this face is a bronze scroll bearing the inscription "1914 VICTORY 1918". On each of the four sides of the plinth are bronze plaques recording the names of those killed during the First World War. That on the south-west face records the names of members of the Gloucestershire Regiment. The plinth rests on a three-tier octagonal stone base. There is a signature on the base of the statue on the north-west face.

BSMR 20617

Cartographic depiction of the Church of St. Mary, Fishponds
ST6328276003

The tithe survey for Stapleton of 1839 records the church of St. Mary on the west side of Manor Road, Fishponds.

BSMR 20618

Church of St. Mary, Fishponds
ST6328276002

The Church of St. Mary, Manor Road Fishponds. The church was built in 1821 and the chancel and north aisle were extended c1860. The church is constructed of Pennant sandstone rubble with limestone dressings, ashlar spire, and tiled roof. The church was extended on its northern side between the beginning of twentieth century and the First World War. Pevsner notes that inside the church is a painting of Christ at Emmaus of probable seventeenth-century date (Pevsner, 1958 454).

The church has a Grade II listing (Listed Building no. 901-1/54/1272).

References:

Pevsner, N., 1958, *North Somerset and Bristol*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books Ltd. (The Buildings of England 13)

BSMR 20619

Cartographic depiction of The Full Moon Hotel, Fishponds
ST6336375826

The tithe survey of Stapleton of 1839 records the building now known as The Full Moon Hotel on the southern side of Fishponds Road.

BSMR 20620

Full Moon Hotel, Fishponds
ST6336375825

The Full Moon Hotel, Fishponds. The building is located on the southern side of Fishponds Road. A building stood on the site by the beginning of the 1780s and is recorded on a plan by J. Sturge of 1781 (BRO AC/PL 90). It is not clear whether this was the present building but it was in existence by the time of the 1839 tithe survey of Stapleton parish.

BSMR 20997

Cartographic depiction of a quarry on the northern side of Manor Road, Stapleton
ST6341376012

A plan in the Smyth estate records dated between c.1779 and 1783 (BRO AC/PL59) records a quarry on the northern side of Manor Road, close to the junction with Victoria Park.

BSMR 20998

Quarry on the northern side of Manor Road, Stapleton
ST6341476012

A quarry located on the northern side of Manor Road, close to the junction with Victoria Park. The quarry is recorded by a plan in the Smyth estate records dated between c.1779 and 1783 (BRO AC/PL59). The quarry had been infilled and built over by the time of the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 plan (Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.06) published in 1882. The site is now beneath the houses and gardens of Nos.3-9 Manor Road.

BSMR 21005

Cartographic depiction of a pound on the southern side of Manor Road, Stapleton
ST6297576083

The Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 plan (Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.06) published in 1882 records a pound located on the south side of Manor Road.

BSMR 21006

Pound on the southern side of Manor Road, Stapleton
ST6297576084

A pound located on the south side of Manor Road. The pound is recorded by the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 plan (Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.06) published in 1882.

BSMR 21009

Cartographic depiction of a quarry on the eastern side of Small Lane, Stapleton
ST6296976012

The Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 plan (Gloucestershire Sheet LXXII.10) surveyed in 1881 records a quarry located on the eastern side of Small Lane.

BSMR 21665

Observation of Nos.11-15 Manor Road, Fishponds
ST6334175999

On 16 May 2003 Jonathan Brett of the Department of Environment, Transport and Leisure, Bristol City Council observed Nos.11-15 Manor Road, Fishponds. The building was a two-storey structure constructed of Pennant sandstone and bonded in an orange-red mortar with white lime inclusions, and with an H-shaped plan. The central part of the building consisted of a single room with a porch enclosing the entrance on the south-east facing elevation. Inside there was a stone chimneypiece of eighteenth-century date on the north-eastern wall. The northern and southern elements of the building were two houses, orientated from north-west to south-east, with the entrance to each on the north-east and south-west facing elevations. There were stone chimney stacks at either end of the roof which was covered in Roman clay tiles.

BSMR 21666

Hannah More Building, Nos.11-15 Manor Road, Fishponds
ST6334076000

Hannah More Building, Nos.11-15 Manor Road, Fishponds, located on the south-western side of Manor Road. Under the will of Mary Webb of 1729 a trust was created to establish a free school at Fishponds. This was intended to teach "Twenty poor Boys and Ten poor Girls of the parish of Stapleton" and also to provide accommodation for three "poor old Women" (quoted in Stott, 2003 4). The building was constructed c1729 and is a two-storey structure with an H-shaped plan and is constructed of coursed Pennant sandstone bonded in an orange-red mortar with white lime inclusions. The central element of the building consists of a single room with a porch enclosing the entrance on the south-east facing elevation. Inside there was a stone chimneypiece of eighteenth-century date on the north-eastern wall. The northern and southern elements of the building are two houses, orientated from north-west to south-east, with the entrance to each on the north-east and south-west facing elevations. There are stone chimney stacks at either end of the roof which is covered in Roman clay tiles.

The first master, William Scutts, was dismissed in 1734 for "very obscene practices" towards some of the female students. The master replacing Scutts died in 1743 and Jacob More was appointed as master of the school in October of that year and appears to have remained in post until his death in 1783. More's fourth daughter, Hannah, who became a playwright, educationalist and evangelist was born in the building in early February 1745 (Stott, 2003 4-5).

The building has a Grade II* listing (Listed Building number 901-1/54/1270).

References:

Stott, Anne, 2003, *Hannah More: the first Victorian*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

BSMR 21705

Garden of St. Matthias College, Oldbury Court Road, Fishponds
ST6338076245

Garden of St. Matthias College, located to the rear of the main college building. The garden was designed in the mid-nineteenth century as part of the development of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Training Institution for School Mistresses. It comprises a sunken lawn, a knot garden with a central sundial and a number of specimen trees, including a judas tree (Avon Gardens Trust, 1991 22).

References:

Avon Gardens Trust, 1991, *Gazetteer of historic parks and gardens in Avon*. Bristol: Avon County Council

BSMR 22013

Survey of No.41 Manor Road, Fishponds
ST6324576033

In July 2004 a study was undertaken of No.41 Manor Road, Fishponds by Tina Garratt for CgMs.

References:

Garratt, Tina, 2004, *Historical and architectural analysis: 41 Manor Road, Fishponds, Bristol*. Unpublished report: CgMs

BSMR 22060

Vandyke Cinema, Fishponds Road
ST63275758

The Vandyke Cinema located on the south side of Fishponds Road. The cinema opened in 1926 and is a red brick building. The cinema had 742 seats in the stalls and 332 seats on the balcony (Anderson, 1983, 38).

The building is still extant and is currently a public house (18/11/2004).

References:

Anderson, Charles, 1983, *A City and its Cinemas*. Bristol: Redcliffe Press

APPENDIX 2

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS VIEWED IN THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD, SWINDON