

# The Former Baptist Church, No. 177 East Street, Bedminster, Bristol

Archaeological Recording and Monitoring  
(Standing Building Recording and Watching Brief)

BSMR 24595, BRSMG 2008/76



For:  
Urbis Development Limited

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## Abstract

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited was commissioned by Urbis Development Limited to undertake a Standing Building Survey and Archaeological Watching Brief at the former East Street Baptist Church, No. 177 East Street, Bedminster, Bristol, BS3 4EQ (NGR ST 58360 71447).

This project was generated in response to a request from the office of the City Archaeologist for a Standing Building Survey prior to and during partial demolition of the church buildings, together with an Archaeological Watching Brief during remedial ground works associated with the conversion of the church and church hall site into residential accommodation. The project was carried out according to a brief and specification prepared by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited and agreed with Mr Jones, the City Archaeologist for Bristol City Council, and in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (2) and the standard procedures of Avon Archaeological Unit Limited.

The Study Area, a parcel of land c. 990 m<sup>2</sup>, is located on the south side of East Street, towards the western end of the street, Bristol. At the commencement of the survey the site comprised two adjoining late 19th century structures: the main church building, with a stone exterior in the Romanesque and gothic styles, on an east to west alignment; with the church hall, a more functional building in brick, on a northwest to southeast alignment, adjoining the east end of the church.

The Standing Building Survey was undertaken prior to partial demolition and redevelopment of the Study Area. Notes and digital colour photographs were made of all accessible external areas of the buildings within the Study Area. Selected views of the interior were also recorded. The position of the photographer and the angle of view for each photograph were recorded on scale plans supplied by the developer. Detailed photographic recording was undertaken on the interior of the two 19th-century structures. Particular attention was paid to the original fabric and details of the church where visible.

The Watching Brief was undertaken during operations to demolish the church hall and to reduce the ground level in that area. During the monitoring exercise several features of archaeological significance were recorded. A rock-cut rectangular pit, possibly a former cistern, measuring 2.45 m long, 2.35 m and up to 1.3 m deep, was exposed in plan. The surviving upper portion of the pit was lined with up to four courses of dry-stone walling. Pottery from the uniform fill of the pit was dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, indicating the feature was excavated and backfilled during the later medieval period.

An east-west aligned north facing section, up to 20 m long, towards the southern boundary of the site, revealed several post-medieval cut features, together with later 19<sup>th</sup> century walling associated with the demolished church hall, and a cut feature interpreted as a ditch and dated by ceramics to the 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. This ditch may represent a former tenement boundary for a property originally fronting East Street.

Archaeological monitoring continued as this section was machine excavated to the foot of the southern boundary wall and during the subsequent works to underpin it. During this exercise a sub-rectangular pit cut was revealed in sloping section, measuring c. 3.7 m by 2.2 m by 1 m deep. The primary fill of the pit produced an exceptional assemblage of pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe, together with other artefacts of the period, dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. This important collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century artefacts, many of which were complete on deposition, was probably disposed of in a single event, in what was most likely a freshly dug rubbish pit located in the rear yard of a tenement fronting East Street.

Archaeological monitoring ceased after all remedial groundworks had reached the level of the underlying bedrock.



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## Note

Whereas Avon Archaeological Unit Limited have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

## 1 Introduction

A programme of Archaeological Recording and Monitoring (Standing Building Survey and Watching Brief) during part demolition and change of use of the former East Street Baptist Church (No. 177 East Street, Bedminster, Bristol, NGR ST 58360 71447) was requested by the City Archaeologist of Bristol City Council as a standard requirement of Planning Permission, in accordance with the guidelines set out in PPG 16 (Department of the Environment 1990). This programme was requested to record any elements of the church building that could be lost or obscured through redevelopment, together with the recording of archaeological deposits or features revealed during subsequent ground-works.

The proposed development included conversion of the church building into residential accommodation, full demolition of the adjoining church hall, with the construction of residential property on the site of the hall.

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited were commissioned by Urbis Development Limited to carry out the above work in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, the English Heritage "Management of Archaeological Projects" and the standard aims, objectives and procedures of Avon Archaeological Unit Limited.

## 2 Geology, Topography and Land use

The study area is located at the former Baptist Church, No. 177 East Street, Bedminster, Bristol (see **Figures 1, 2 and 3**). The site is located on the east side of East Street and bounded to the south and east by the former Robinsons works buildings and to the north by adjoining East Street properties.

The Study Area encompasses the East Street Baptist Church and Church Hall at No. 177 East Street, Bedminster and covers an area of approximately 650 m<sup>2</sup>. The underlying geology of the Study Area consists of weathered red sandstone, part of the Triassic Redcliffe Sandstone formation (BGS 2004). The site was mainly level at a height of approximately 16 m aOD, though there was a distinct downhill slope on the East Street frontage towards the northeast corner of the Study Area.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Standing Building Recording

The standing building survey was undertaken on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. Standing structures within the Study Area were recorded internally to the English Heritage Level 2 specification (English Heritage 2006, 14). Where practical external recording up to English Heritage Level 2 was also undertaken.

The client provided scale plans of the interior in digital format. These were annotated and amended on site with handwritten notes and measurements.

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. Initial photography and survey was undertaken by Richard Payne on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March using a digital SLR camera, subsequently archive photographs were taken by David Etheridge and Jo Janik on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, using a medium format camera with both colour negative and black and white film.

### 3.2 Archaeological Methodology

The writers and Lynn Hume monitored all excavations and preliminary earthmoving. Deposits and features of archaeological significance were recorded using standard written and drawn techniques, and photographed using both digital SLR and 35 mm SLR cameras.

## 4 Historical Background

### 4.1 General Environs

The Manor and village of Bedminster are known to have been in existence since before 1066, and the place name evidence implies the existence of an Anglo Saxon minster church. The exact location of this suggested activity is unknown, but thought to be on the site of St John's Church, outside but close to the present Study Area. In 1988 buried archaeological features dated by pottery to the 11th or 12th centuries were excavated on the site of the former tram depot at the corner of Sheene Road and St. John Street, less than 100 m from the Study Area.

No documentary evidence for the Study Area could be found earlier than the c. 1786 *Plan of the Manor of Bedminster* (Bristol Record Office, AC/PL/92) although it is thought that East Street formed part of the nucleus of early Bedminster, and settlement on that road is attested in Medieval documents. The long narrow tenements shown on 19th century maps, on that part of East Street adjacent to and including the Study Area, suggest an earlier, Medieval origin for the layout.

The Medieval Church and many houses of the same period are believed to have been burnt to the ground on the orders of Prince Rupert of the Rhine in 1645, during the siege of Bristol. This is perhaps one of the main reasons why few Medieval structures are preserved above ground in Bedminster.

The adjoining structures on East Street appear to be mid to late Victorian shops, much altered, on the site of, and possibly incorporating, earlier tenements evidenced at that location from 1786 onwards.

Recent and ongoing archaeological excavations (BSMR 22135 and 22159) in the grounds of the former Mail Marketing building at nearby West Street have located buried remains of prehistoric, Roman and Medieval date that significantly increases the range of evidence for previous human activity in this part of Bedminster. In particular the evidence from the West Street site lends weight to the theory that a Roman road once ran from the junction of the Rivers Avon and Frome on the line of East Street and West Street, towards Bedminster Down.

The documentary evidence for the Study Area is limited but indicates the site is located in a focal part of the historic settlement of Bedminster and possibly close to an early ecclesiastic centre. Moreover, the pattern of narrow tenements that still front part of East Street today, and which once extended into the Study Area, are indicative of typical medieval urban properties that mainly date from the 12th to 15th centuries. This, coupled with the archaeological deposits and finds located from nearby excavation during the 1980's and recent prehistoric and Roman evidence located at nearby West Street, indicates potential for the preservation of significant buried archaeological remains within the Study Area.

### 4.2 East Street Baptist Church

The church is a late Victorian building constructed (1893) in the Gothic style, of brick with a pennant sandstone west façade and a slate tiled roof, located adjacent to part of the former Robinson buildings. The church building was designed to seat 750 people. The congregation was originally formed in 1884 but met at a different location until 1893. Alterations to the church were proposed in 1908 (BRO/[Building plan/Volume 55/34a](#)), but it is unclear if these were ever carried out. Both church and church hall appear for the first time in the cartographic evidence on the 1:2,500 scale OS map of 1903 (Gloucestershire 75.4).

### 4.3 Archaeology

A 200 m radius trawl of the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record (BSMR) produced the following results.

No records were retrieved for sites and finds within the Study Area. There is a concentration of records north east of the Study Area, with smaller concentrations of records slightly further away to the southeast, south, and west of the Study Area.

The cluster of records north east of the Study Area relate chiefly to building recording along the southern side of East Street and buildings immediately behind. The records that are closest to the Study Area relate to No. 145 East Street, and an unnumbered property off Norfolk Place.

The records for No. 145 East Street are for a c. 1870 photographic record of three buildings in the location of Nos. 143-147 East Street (BSMR 21187), and an observation of No. 145 undertaken in 2003 (BSMR 21681).

The unnumbered property off Norfolk Place is referred to in the Bristol Sites and Monuments Record as 'building on the East side of Allen Square' (BSMR 21190-21191). The name 'Allen Square' is not recorded on the current OS Map (see Figure 3), it was not recorded on any of the historical maps consulted during this survey, neither does it appear as a modern postal address (Royal Mail Postal Address Book, South West Edition 1997). The building implied appears to be the limestone built house described above, believed to have been the former location of a clay tobacco pipe manufacturer (Bob Jones, City Archaeologist, Bristol City Council, personal communication).

To the west of the Study Area on the west side of East Street, records BSMR 21175-21176 refer to the former location of Bedminster Gate, a toll gate probably established in 1727 (Latimer 1970c, 274) on the highway to Bedminster Down, indicated on the Ashmead plan of 1828. The gate was twice burnt down in 1749 during toll riots (*ibid.*). It is not shown on later maps, and was presumably removed soon after 1828. The tollhouse, if any, is not indicated, but may have been amongst the adjacent structures indicated to the east on the Ashmead map.

Records BSMR 21227 and 21228 relate to a school on the west side of East Street first recorded on the Tithe map of 1841. The school was still extant in 1930 but has since been demolished.

To the south of the Study Area, on the south side of St. John's Street and along Sheene Road, is a cluster of five records around what is now a drive through fast food establishment, but was formerly a Tramway depot (late 19th century to 1941; BSMR 9636). An archaeological evaluation of the site in 1988 revealed buried archaeological features cut into the bedrock, including several pits and a slot interpreted as a beam slot for a timber building (BSMR 9637). Pottery dated these features to the 11th and 12th centuries AD (*ibid.*). A later desk based assessment, evaluation and subsequent watching brief revealed no further details of medieval or earlier activity (BSMR 20010, 20082-20083).

The final set of records relate to the site of the former St. John's Church. BSMR 882 relates to a written observation of the church in 1849, which was built c. 1663 after the original was destroyed by fire in 1645 on the orders of Prince Rupert of the Rhine (BSMR 906, Latimer 1970b, 244). It is believed the church was on the site of the former Saxon minster church (BSMR 906). The c. 1663 church was demolished in 1853 and a new one built on the site in 1855 (*ibid.*). This building was gutted by enemy action in 1941 and was not rebuilt (*ibid.*). In 1966 the standing walls of the church were demolished; Bristol City Council purchased the churchyard in 1973 (*ibid.*). Archaeological recording of the monuments in the churchyard took place in 1980 and 1981 prior to clearance for the creation of a park (*ibid.*).

Other references refer to documentary evidence for the medieval church and the replacement for it (BSMR 20351, 20691, 20696 and 21221).

Recent and archaeological excavations in the former grounds of the Mail Marketing building, on the South side of West Street, Bedminster have revealed evidence for Medieval, Roman and later prehistoric activity on that site.

East Street is considered to be at the heart of Medieval Bedminster, with a triangular market place located where West Street and North Street meet East Street (La Trobe-Bateman, 10). It has been suggested the long narrow plots south of East Street and north of the church were burgage plots initially laid out in the Middle Ages (*ibid.*). It is also possible that these plots were laid out slightly earlier in the 10th or 11th centuries when such patterns became common in the early Middle Ages.

Prior to the excavations at the Mail Marketing site there had been some speculation about Roman activity in the Bedminster Area, but little hard evidence. A cobbled causeway and Roman coins were found in 1912 during the construction of the Hippodrome theatre (now demolished) on the north side of East Street (La Trobe-Bateman, 6). The location of a Romano-British villa is known on Bedminster Down. Chessel Street leading north from West Street, preserves a field name recorded in 1350, which may indicate Roman, remains at that location (*ibid.*). It has been suggested that a Roman road ran from the documented road from Bitton to Sea Mills, across the Avon at the original confluence with the Frome, then up the course of East Street and West Street towards the villa on Bedminster Down (*ibid.*).

There was little evidence for prehistoric activity in the Bedminster area prior to the Mail Marketing excavations on West Street. The nature and extent of these activities is still under analysis.

A trawl of the English Heritage 'Images of England' database revealed no records of Listed Buildings within the Study Area or in the immediate vicinity.

## 5 Standing Building Recording by Richard Payne

A programme of Standing Building Recording was requested by the Archaeological Officer of Bristol City Council as a standard requirement of Planning Permission and in accordance with the guidelines set out in PPG 16 (DOE 1990 *Planning and Archaeology*). The programme was required to record the East Street Baptist Church and Church Hall at No. 177 East Street, Bedminster, Bristol (NGR ST 58360 71447) during part demolition, change of use and renovation (planning reference 07/02918/F and 07/02919/LC).

### 5.1 Baptist Church Ground Floor (Figure 4)

The main façade of the church contains a central rose window of stained glass held in stone tracery flanked on either side by two quatrefoils set at a slightly lower level. The central bay projects slightly and above the rose window there are three stepped openings in the gable. The dimensions of the church were up to 22 m long by up to 15 m wide with a roof ridge height of 19 m. The church hall was up to 27 m long by 13.5 m wide with an approximate roof height of 9 m and constructed from brick with a rendered exterior.

At the time of recording the main entrances to the church, which were small entrance ways from East Street, were inaccessible, so the church was entered through the church hall via an alley way approximately 26 m long by 1.1 m wide, that ran between the south side of the church and the north side of the Cameron Balloons building (see **Figure 4**, Plate 4.7). Access to the church from the church hall was via two doorways in the east end of the church, one to either side of the Baptismal Pool (see **Figure 4**, plate 4.2 and **Plate C**).

The ground floor of the church measured approximately 17 m long at its longest and 13 m at its widest points with an overall ceiling height of 11 m. Where visible the walls on the interior were constructed in brick, the exterior of the front wall was constructed from pennant sandstone and the north and south exteriors constructed from a mixture of brick and stone (see **Figure 4**, plates 4.7 and 4.8). Where visible the bonding was English Bond on the east wall and English Garden Bond on the north wall.

The flooring consisted mainly of wooden floorboards except for a tiled area surrounding the baptismal pool at the east end of the church. The floor joists were supported on brick and stone plinths built on the underlying natural bedrock (see **Plate A**). There did not appear to be any cellars or undercroft, except for a small below ground boiler room abutting the exterior of the north wall of the church (see **Figure 4**, plates 4.3, and **Plate E**).

The internal north, west and south walls were of brick with a plaster finish together with a wooden panel surround over the lower 1m (see **Figure 4**, plate 4.5). At the time of the recording much of the wooden fixtures and fittings of the church had been removed from the interior, including all the pews and the handrail around the edge of the first floor balcony.

There were two two-light and three single light windows set into arched recesses in the ground floor north wall. The windows consisted of small stained glass squares set in a random pattern of three colours, some of which had hinged upper sections for ventilation. There were four two-light and one single light stained glass windows set into the south wall.

The north wall has a centrally positioned four light window set into the wall in an arched recess, with a single light window to the north (see **Figure 4**, plate 4.1 and 4.4). A doorway immediately to the south of the central window gave access via a small entranceway to East Street.

An area three meters deep had originally been partitioned off, separating the main area of the church from the two front entrances and the access to the upper balcony; the partitioning had been removed at the time of the recording.

Set approximately 2.5 m in from the north and south side of the church and 3.4 m in from the west a total of ten iron support columns were located providing support for the balcony. The columns were 2.2 m high with a decorative Corinthian style capital (see **Plates B and F**).

Located on the north and south walls between the windows at a height of approximately 1.8 m were a number of decorative corbel-like features approximately 600 mm high by 300 mm wide with flat tops but not supporting anything. The features were further decorated with a small hand clutching a cylindrical scroll-like object (see **Plate G**).

At the east end of the church in a central position 1 m from the wall was located a Baptismal Pool constructed from marble with a tiled floor, this measured 2.5 m long by 1.5 m wide and was 700 mm deep. At either end steps lead down to the pool gave the whole feature an overall length of 4.6 m (see **Figure 4**, plate 4.3 and **Figure 5**, plate 5.7).

Located immediately to the east of the Baptismal Pool the remains of a wooden framework with steps leading up one side could be seen. The structure measured approximately 1.5 m high by 3.5 m long by 900 mm deep and was probably originally used like a pulpit (see **Figure 4**, plate 4.2).

## 5.2 Baptist Church First Floor (Figure 5)

At the time of recording, the two stairways at the west end of the church that allowed access to the first floor balcony from East Street were inaccessible from the ground floor (see **Figure 5**, plates 5.3 and 5.6), so access to the first floor was made via the church hall stairs and then through a doorway behind and to one side of the partly dismantled organ.

The first floor of the church consisted of a large open area measuring 17 m long by 13 m wide with a balcony on three sides. The balcony was 2.3 m deep on the north and south side and 3 m deep at the west end, consisting of wooden floorboards in a series of steps. At the time of recording the seating and handrails had been removed (see **Figure 5**, plates 5.1 and 5.2).

There were four twin-light windows and one single light window set into arched alcoves in the wall on the north side and three twin-light and two single light windows on the south side. The windows were stained glass with a random pattern of three colours.

The ceiling consisted of plastered panels in a wooden framework, the central part of which was a false ceiling at 11.06 m high, in to which were mounted five circular vents with a decorative pattern and appeared to be part of a heating system. The roof was supported by four wooden roof joists each resting on a stone corbel, each joist was further strengthened by an iron framework (see **Figure 5**, plates 5.1 and 5.8).

The east end of the first floor protruded into the church hall by approximately 6 m forming a large alcove that was 8 m wide at the front narrowing to 4 m wide at the back. The floor of the alcove rose towards the back by a series of wooden steps where the organ was positioned. The front of the alcove had a decorative surround; a skylight measuring 2 m by 2.2 m was positioned centrally over the alcove in the ceiling (see **Figure 5**, plate 5.9).

The main façade at the west end of the church contained a central rose window of stained glass held in stone tracery flanked on either side by two quatrefoils set at a slightly lower level (see **Figure 5**, plates 5.4 and 5.5).

### 5.3 Church Hall Ground Floor (see Figure 6)

The Church Hall abutted the east end of the East Street Baptist Church; the hall measured approximately 26 m by 14 m with a roof height of just over 9 m and was built of brick with a rendered finish. The roof was flat and there was a sky light that ran the length of the east side of the building.

Room G1 was in the north half of the Church Hall and was a large open area utilizing over half the ground floor space (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.1 and 6.2). The dimensions of the room were approximately 6 m by 6.8 m with a ceiling height of 4.2 m, and the floor, walls and ceiling were all covered in wooden tongued and grooved boarding. A raised area 12 m by 3.5 m forming a stage was located at the south end of the room. In the northeast corner of the room two small partition rooms (G8 and G9) were located beneath a heating unit.

There were 6 plain iron columns in the room, four of which ran in a line north west to south east down the centre, the remaining two columns were positioned west of the southernmost in the row of four, supporting the alcove in which the organ was located on the church first floor (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.2).

Access to Room G1 was through doorways into Rooms G2 and G3 on the south side and two doors on the west side that gave access to and from the church. There were three doorways in the north wall of the room, one was a double door fire exit, one was blocked and the third gave access to an externally located heating unit.

A sky light 2.8 m wide ran down the length of room G1 along the east side and a smaller ceiling light approximately 2 m by 2 m was located in the centre of the south end (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.1 and 6.3).

Room G2 was the second largest room in the hall. It was located in the southeast corner of the ground floor (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.4). The dimensions of the room were approximately 10 m by 6.5 m with a ceiling height of 3.8 m. There were no exterior windows and the only natural light entered through a continuation of the skylight in Room G1 (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.7).

The walls of room G2 were all covered in wooden tongued and grooved boarding, with a dado rail at hand height. Linoleum style flooring overlaid the wooden floorboards. There were two doorways in the west wall, one giving access into Room G4, the other into G7, as well as the doorway in the north wall giving access into Room G1.

Room G3 was a small room on the west side of the Church Hall measuring approximately 2.4 m by 2.8 m with a ceiling height of 4 m (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.8). The lower 1 m of the walls were covered in wooden tongued and grooved boarding while the ceiling and the remainder of the walls were of painted plaster. The floor was concrete. There were three doorways, one doorway in the north wall gave access to Room G1, one gave access through the west wall to Room G4 and the second gave access to Room G7 (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.8). There were two windows, a twin-light sash window in the west wall, and a single-light sash window was located in the north wall to one side of the doorway measuring approximately 2.5 m high by 0.4 m wide and.

Room G4 was located in the central southern half of the Church Hall; it had no exterior walls. The measurements were approximately 4 m by 2.8 m with a ceiling height of 4 m, the lower 1 m of the walls was covered with rectangular white glazed ceramic tiles. The remainder of the walls were painted plaster, as was the ceiling (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.5). Room G4 had last been used as a kitchen.

Room G5 was a small single toilet cubicle measuring 2 m by 0.8 m located to the south of Room G4 and to the east of Room G6 with access off Room G7. Room G6, another toilet measured approximately 3 m by 2 m also with access off G7 and a blocked window in the south wall. Both rooms had painted brick walls, painted plaster ceilings and concrete floors.



Room G7 was the space formed between the Church Hall to the north and Cameron Balloons in one of the former Robinsons Buildings to the south and measured approximately 8 m by 2 m with a total ceiling height of around 8 m. The walls were of painted brick, using English Bond on the south side (Cameron Balloons) and English Garden Wall bond on the north side (Church Hall). The floor was constructed of rectangular flagstones.

Access to G7 was gained from Rooms G2 and G3, via stairs to the first floor, and via a doorway in the west wall to the alleyway that ran between the Church and Cameron Balloons. Room G7 may once have been an exterior space or had its original roof removed as at the time of recording it was only roofed with corrugated plastic sheet (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.6 and **Figure 7**, plate 7.10).

The stairs that gave access to the first floor were narrow and constructed entirely in wood with a second small flight of steps branching off to the south mid way, giving access to Room F4 (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.6 and **Figure 7**, plate 7.8).

Rooms G10 and G11 were located in a triangular space created between the south east corner of the Church and the south west corner of the Church Hall. Room G10 was 5.4 m long and 2 m wide at the south end with a ceiling height of 2.5 m. The west and south walls were constructed using Stretcher Bond laid bricks with a glazed ceramic finish; the east wall was rendered with painted plaster.

A doorway in the south side of G10 gave access in to G11 which had an overall measurement of approximately 5 m x 3 m with a ceiling height of 3 m and included two smaller alcoves in the south east and south west corners (see **Figure 6**, plate 6.9). The southeast alcove was used for storage while the other was used as a toilet. At the south end of Room G11 a double set of doors gave access to the alley that ran along the south side of the Church. The walls and ceiling were rendered in painted plaster. The floor was parquet.

#### 5.4 Church Hall First Floor (see Figure 7)

The overall dimensions of the first floor were approximately 10 m by 24 m. Access was gained from a staircase at the south end and there was an external fire escape on the north side. The first floor was divided into four rooms, F1, F2, F3, and F4 from which access was gained onto an external walkway along the east side of the roof.

There was a line of five undecorated iron support columns which were continuations of those recorded on the ground floor, two of which were located in Room F1, two in Room F2 and 1 in Room F3.

Room F1 was the largest room located in the north half of the first floor measuring approximately 10 m by 5 m with a ceiling height of 3.2 m (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.1). The lower 1.25 m the walls were boarded with tongued and grooved panelling the remainder was painted plaster over brick. The floor was carpet over floorboards and the ceiling was painted plaster within which were located two boarded up skylights.

There were four windows in Room F1, a twin-light sash window at the north west end of the west wall overlooking the north side of the Church and three single-light sash windows at the north end overlooking the backs of houses facing East Street. A blocked doorway was also located in the north wall to the east of the windows (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.1).

In the south west corner of Room F1 there was a modern metal heater and heating duct supported on a wooden framework (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.2), the heater supplied hot air to the Church via an outlet to the north of the organ alcove.

Room F2 was located centrally on the first floor and had an irregular shape due to the projection into the room on the west side of the large alcove that housed the organ on the first floor of the Church. Room F2 had an area of approximately 5 m<sup>2</sup> with a ceiling height of 3.2 m, the lower 1.25 m of the wall was tongued and grooved panelling the remainder was painted plaster (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.5). There was a boarded up skylight in the ceiling and in the centre of the floor an iron framed floor light, the underside of which could be seen in the ceiling of Room G1 (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.4).

The floor light measured 2 m by 2 m and had the name "T. HYATT @ CO - 9 FARINGDON RD - LONDON E-C-" around the surround. The east end of the room had been divided by wooden partitions and the area used for storage (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.3). The two iron support columns located in Room F2 were positioned one adjacent to the north wall and one adjacent to the south wall. There was access through a doorway in the north wall into Room F1 and a doorway in the south wall into Room F3, a third door gave access to the north side of the rear of the organ alcove on the Church first floor.

Room F3 was located at the south end of the first floor and gave access through a doorway in the south wall to the stairs from Room G7. Room F3 measured approximately 9 m by 8 m with a ceiling height of 3.2 m. The lower half of the walls were panelled with tongued and grooved wooden planks to a height of 1.25 m on the east side, rising to a height of 1.6 m on the east side (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.6). The remainder of the walls were painted plaster and the floor was carpet on floorboards. A single iron support column was located centrally in this room, with a boarded up skylight located in the ceiling on either side of it (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.11).

A third doorway in Room F3 gave access to the south side of the rear of the organ alcove. There were three windows in F3, one single-light sash window in the north side adjacent to the door and looking out over the stair well and a twin-light and single-light window on the south side overlooking the alleyway that runs between the Church and Cameron Balloons.

Room F4 was accessed from a flight of steps branching off the main stairs (see **Figure 7**, plate 7.8). This room was sub-rectangular in shape and wider at the east end; it was approximately 6 m long and 3 m wide with a ceiling height of 2.4 m. The walls and ceiling were panelled in tongued and grooved boarding; the floor was in wooden floorboards. Room F4 had been used as a toilet and there were three cubicles with wooden partitions (see **Figure 7**, plate, 7.7 and **Plate D**, a doorway in the north east corner of the room gave access out on to walkway that ran along the east side of the roof (**Figure 7**, plate 7.9).

The walkway was 24 m long and ran along the side of the skylight on the east side of the roof and for 2.5 m along the north side of the skylight. The skylight was constructed from UPVC with glass panes in upright sections and plastic on a sloping roof. The skylight was 2 m wide and 21.5 m long, the sloping roof rose in height from 1.3 m in to 2.6 m. As recorded, the skylight could not have been an original feature of the church Hall.

## 6 The Watching Brief (see Figures 8 and 9)

### 6.1 Demolition of the Church Hall and Excavation of the Church Interior

Archaeological monitoring of the demolition of the Church Hall was commenced on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008. Most of the superstructure and floor had been removed, exposing the steel frame of the hall. Digital still photographs were taken of the remainder of the Church Hall, and the interior of the church after internal stripping.

After removal of the church hall, archaeological monitoring of machine excavations by the contractors to reduce the ground level inside the church was undertaken on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The depth of the reduction was c. 850 mm below the floor level of the church. Nothing but the red sandstone bedrock was exposed during this exercise, suggesting a platform for the construction of the church had been terraced into the bedrock from the level of the church frontage on East Street. This would probably have removed any archaeological remains within the footprint of the church that may have been preserved up to that date.

## 6.2 The North Facing Section

Archaeological monitoring of remedial groundworks within the Study Area commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008. Groundworks entailed reduction of the overall level of the ground surface in the space created by the demolition of the Church Hall between the former church building and the former Robinson's building. In the southernmost part of that area this entailed a surface level reduction of up to c. 1.2 m. Ground level reduction in the area north of the church between the church and Nos. 165 to 169 East Street was also monitored.

The contractors employed a slew tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket to undertake the ground level reduction. A suitably qualified archaeologist employed and supervised by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited monitored all earthmoving exercises resulting in the disturbance of ground.

This excavation exercise left a north facing section c. 19 m long and c. 1.2 m deep, located approximately 4 m north of the southern boundary of the Study Area (see **Figure 8**). Archaeological finds and features were clearly exhibited in the face of the section, which was recorded between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

The majority of this section was aligned roughly east to west for a length of 19 m, with a short northward continuation of this section for a further 2 m at the western end. All contexts relating to this section were numbered from 500 onwards, with context 500 representing unstratified finds from general cleaning on and around the section.

### The Earliest Layers

Stratigraphically, the earliest layer in section was context **510**, representing layers of reddish sands overlying the firmer red sandstone bedrock, and interpreted as the natural geological substrate. This was overlain in places by a sandy deposit (**502**) that probably represents a mix of former subsoil deposits and the natural substrate, which was itself probably of natural/biological origin rather than the result of human activity. In places **502** was found to fill fissures in the bedrock (**510**).

The earliest identifiable layer representing human activity (**501**) was a dark brown silt up to 510 mm thick that yielded no datable artefacts and occurred at two locations in the eastern half of the section. This layer was moderately flecked with charcoal with occasional fine coal grits and is interpreted as a former subsoil. A similar layer (**524**), though distinct, may have been contemporary; it was observed through most of the central and eastern parts of the section, where in places it sealed fissures in bedrock **501** that had filled with deposit **502**. No datable artefacts were retrieved from layer **524**, which was partially sealed by layer **529** and also cut by scoop like feature **531** filled with a dark brown sandy soil.

### **Features 540, 532, 537 and 513**

In the eastern half of the section were a series of overlying cuts, of which the earliest, cut **540**, appeared to have been heavily truncated. As exposed this cut had a convex shape in profile and was c.700 mm wide and c. 540 mm deep, though only part of the western side and part of the base were visible. The single fill (**539**) was principally of dark red sands, mottled with charcoal flecked silty sands, which distinguished it from the surrounding natural into which **540** had been cut. No dating evidence was available for this feature.

Both the top and the sides of feature **540** had been truncated by cut **532**. As seen in section this was a roughly rectangular shaped cut with a splayed western side, with a flat base and sharply rounded corners. The base sloped slightly down to the east. Four layered fills (**536**, **535**, **534** and **533**) were identified in this feature, of which the primary was **536**. No dating evidence could be obtained from these fills. The profile of this cut feature suggests it represents a former ditch, possibly a boundary ditch between burgage plots. It may also represent a re-cut of feature **540**.

The upper fills of cut **532** were truncated by two later cuts, of which the earlier (**537**) appeared as a broad (1.46 m) feature, 360 mm deep with a steep convex western side, which truncated layer **524** and a flattish but undulating base. Cut **537** had a single fill (**538**) of dark brown silt, truncated to the east by cut **513**, the latest in this sequence.

Cut **513** was in section a 680 mm deep feature, with a rounded base and slightly convex sides, measuring 2.07 m wide at its broadest. The single fill (**514**) of soft greyish brown silt was heavily flecked with charcoal and spent coal grits. Crushed lime mortar nodules were also occasionally observed. This context yielded the only datable finds in the sequence, the rim and upper body of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Malvern ware flagon, together with a cup handle of South Gloucestershire Cistercian ware dated to between 1500 and 1650 (Alejandra Gutiérrez, see **Section 7.1**, below). A possible cross match with an unstratified (**500**) cup fragment was identified in the post excavation phase (*ibid.*).

This sequence of overlying cuts, from **540** to **514**, suggests an infrequently re-cut feature, possibly representing a linear boundary ditch between burgage plots, which was finally backfilled some time between c. 1500 and c. 1650. Prince Rupert of the Rhine is known to have set fire to Bedminster in 1645 during the second siege of Bristol (Latimer 1970b, 244), and this may offer one of many possible contexts for the infilling of feature **514** with charcoal deposits.

### **Features 506, 503 and 509**

Another sequence of inter-cutting ditches was observed near the eastern end of the section. The heavily truncated feature **506** cut layer **501**. In section feature **506** appeared as a 900 mm wide straight-sided vertical cut (western side only, eastern side was largely truncated) up to 430 mm deep, with a double flat base either side of a central pedestal of soil (**502**). The lower portions of the base were filled with a very dark brown silt flecked with lime (**508**), up to 40 mm thick, while the remainder of the feature was filled with a dark brown silt (**507**). A fragment of roof tile dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries was found in the lower fill of this cut, the form of which suggests it had been originally excavated as a foundation pit or trench for a standing structure since removed.

A broad (1.81 m) ditch or pit cut (**503**) through layer **515** truncated much of the eastern side of cut **506**. Cut **503** was up to 680 mm deep and appeared in section with steep slightly convex sides and a flat base with rounded edges. The primary fill (**505**) was a very dark grey silt with patches of black ash, patches of sand, and frequent inclusions of limestone rubble. Occasional fragments of brick and tile with nodules of lime mortar indicate an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date of deposition, reinforced by the date of the pottery finds (see **Section 7.1** below). Upper fill **504** comprised alternating lenses of ash and sand.

The latest activity at the eastern end of the section was represented by cut **509**, the base of which was filled with a broken mass of concrete (**512**), overlain by a fill (**511**) of concrete rubble mixed with both sandstone and limestone rubble. The presence of concrete indicates a late 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date for this feature, which was probably related to the church hall that formerly stood over much of this part of the site.

### **The Western End**

At the western end of the section were a series of features dominated by structural remains and deposits. The earliest feature in this part of the section was however a broad (2.90 m) cut (**541**), with a moderate sloped and straight sided eastern edge, a gently rounded base of slope, a flattish but undulating base cut into the natural bedrock (**510**), and a heavily truncated but partly stepped vertical western side. The single fill (**528**) of this cut comprised soft brown sand with, some re-deposited red sandstone fragments, and occasional charcoal flecks, pockets of red sand, and pockets of lime mortar mix. Decayed animal bone fragments were observed in the base of the fill but not retrieved. The backfilling of this feature appears to predate the construction of the church, but the presence of lime mortar still indicates a post-medieval date for the backfilling of this feature. Given the shape of the feature in section it is possible this was a boundary ditch.

The top of fill **528** was sealed by a layer (**529**) of up to 260 mm deep of dark brown sandy soil that also partly overlay layer **524**.

Feature **541** was partially truncated by cut **520**, the lowest fill of which was a lime mortar floor surface (**521**), partially sealed by the remnant of a wall footing (**519**) constructed of lime mortared limestone blocks. On the western side this wall footing was butted by a layer of mixed demolition rubble (**522**) consisting of brick and tile fragments, sandstone rubble, occasional limestone rubble and a large quantity of lime mortar nodules, some of which bore remnants of painted wall plaster. Layer **522** also butted the east-west aligned limestone wall footing **527**, which in turn butted the limestone footing for the now demolished east wall of the church. This layer (**522**) was in turn sealed by a thin layer of lime-based mortar (**523**) that appeared to represent a slightly discontinuous floor surface.

The western side of wall **519** was butted by wall **517**, which filled construction cut **518**. Wall **517** survived as up to seven courses of cement mortared red brick approximately four headers wide, possibly laid in a stretcher bond. As drawn in section this wall was 650 mm high and measured 450 mm wide. It appeared to have been laid on a northwest to southeast alignment. The cement mortar had also been used to bond wall **517** to wall **519**.

The location and alignment of wall **517** all strongly suggest it was a remnant of the eastern wall of the church hall, in the approximate location of room G3 (see above and **Figure 6**). Wall **527** possibly represents the footing for the southern wall of room G10 of the church hall. Of the structures represented in this section, only wall **519** and mortar floor **521** could pre-date the construction of the church and church hall.

Sealing mortar surface **523** and butting the west face of wall **517** was dumped deposit **525**. This consisted of machine made bricks and brick fragments, ceramic roof tile fragments, and much grey charcoal flecked lime mortar, with frequent small nodules of lime. The presence of lime nodules suggests this was a construction deposit related to the building of the church hall. Dark soil layer **526** that overlay deposit **525** appeared to be re-deposited topsoil mixed with construction/demolition debris and probably indicates ground level raising operations during or immediately after the construction of the church and church hall.

The eastern face of wall **517** was butted by the concrete fill (**516**) of cut **542**, made through layer **529**, which was also cut by mortar filled feature **530** of unknown purpose.

### 6.3 A Rock-Cut Feature (105)

During the ground level reduction works a buried archaeological feature having the appearance of a rock-cut cistern (**105**) was identified in plan. This was recorded between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008. It was located c. 10.5 m north of the southern boundary of the Study Area and c. 9.5 m east of the chancel arch of the former church, at NGR ST 58373 71448.

This feature took the form of a broadly sub-rectangular cut in plan, with vertical sides, a flat base, and rounded basal angle. As recorded in plan the cut was up to 2.45 m long and up to 2.35 m wide, taking into account the deliberate splaying to accommodate walling **103**, and was orientated roughly north east to south west. Where the upper portions of the cut had penetrated loose sandy deposits of eroded and decayed bedrock, the cut had been widened and the sides reinforced with up to four surviving (un-mortared) courses of rough hewn but fair-faced limestone slabs (walling **103**). Beneath the lowest excavated course of walling (c. 280 mm deep) the cut narrowed to 1.75 m long by 1.6 m wide.

Machine excavation and trampling in the area, coupled with the soft loose sand overlying the natural bedrock (**107**), had left some of the upper edges of cut **105** indistinct. Parts of the splayed edge of the cut were partially filled with a loose red sand mottled with dark brown silt (fill **104**), interpreted as infilling between the back edge of walling **103** and cut **105**.

The principal fill of feature **105** was a dark brown silt/sand (fill **102**) flecked with charcoal and with the occasional angular limestone fragment, having the general appearance of former garden topsoil. A sondage c. 500 mm wide and up to 300 mm deep was hand excavated along the eastern side of the fill, to reveal the depth of the wall (**103**) coursing. Pottery finds from this exercise indicated a date for the fill of no later than the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Subsequent to the excavation of the sondage and all surface recording, for the purposes of health and safety the contractors initiated a machine-excavated sondage to establish the depth and nature of this feature. Fill **102** was machine-excavated to a depth of 1.30 m when the rock-cut sides and base of the cistern were located and partially exposed. Fill **102** was observed to be uniform throughout, to the base of the cut, indicating the back filling of the cut with **102** had been a single event.

There was no exposed evidence of any waterproof lining for this feature, so it was not possible to confirm the postulated use of this feature as a cistern, and unfortunately no dating was obtained for the initial excavation of cut **105**, nor was there any evidence to indicate the length of time the feature had been employed for. Although the finds from fill **102** may well be a secondary deposit, having initially been deposited in the topsoil from which **102** appears to have been derived, the complete absence of recognisable post-medieval finds does indicate this feature was backfilled in the Middle Ages, and makes plausible a 13<sup>th</sup> century date for that exercise.

After the machine excavation of the fill, the resulting void was immediately backfilled with spoil from the surrounding machine excavations. Further excavation in that area is limited to a maximum 300 mm reduction in the recorded level, to which depth archaeological recording has already been undertaken, as described above.

There was one small, truncated stake-hole (**106**) cut into the natural bedrock, located just 500 mm west of the present feature. No associated dating evidence was found, and there was nothing but proximity to suggest these features were related in any way, though it is just possible the stake-hole did represent a superstructure or surround for the pit cut.

## 6.4 Other Features

Ground level reduction in the area north of the church between the church and Nos. 165 to 169 revealed in plan a curvilinear cut feature (**109**, see **Figure 8**) located at NGR ST 58355 71458. As exposed the feature measured 2.60 m long and 1.9 m wide. The southward extent of this feature had been truncated by the cut for a ceramic drain, while a wall underlying the southern wall of No. 169 East Street had truncated the northward extent. The present ground excavations truncated the feature by a depth of 400 mm, but the base of the cut was not exposed. The feature was filled with a brown silty-sand (**108**). No finds were observed during the excavation and recording of this feature, consequently no absolute dating was available. The truncating northward wall appeared to be the rear face of a lime mortared brick and stone rubble built retaining wall, re-used as a footing for the rear boundary wall of No. 169 East Street. Thus cut feature **109** pre-dates both present No. 169 and an earlier boundary wall on that line.

Two adjoining subterranean brick and stone built structures (**110** and **111**) were exposed in ground level reduction against the northern boundary of the Study Area (see **Figure 8**). Neither of these features was exposed in its entirety, and both appear to have been truncated at some point in the past. As exposed both features appeared to be adjoining passageways to a cellar or cellars, of a type common in the Bristol area in the later 18<sup>th</sup> and earlier 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Both were constructed with walls of rough hewn but fair-faced blocks and slabs of pennant sandstone with occasional use of limestone, laid in regular courses. The segmental arches were constructed of hand-made bricks laid in a stretcher bond along the length of each passage. Both walls and arches were bonded with a pinkish lime mortar. The east wall of feature **110** was also the west wall of **111**. No cellars associated with these features were observed.

Both features were exposed to a maximum height of 1.07 m. Neither floor was revealed due to earlier rubbish dumping part-filling each feature. The base of each feature was clearly still below the finished ground level of the present excavations. Feature **110** to the west measured 770 mm wide, while feature **111** to the east measured 860 mm wide. This partially reflects the lime plaster coat observed on both internal walls and roof of **110**, but absent from **111**. A dumped deposit of stone rubble and lime mortar sealed both roofs, indicating a 'cut and cover' method of construction and excavation had been employed and further reinforcing the contemporaneous nature of both features.

On initial exposure the southern end of feature **110** had been blocked internally by a lime mortared stretcher bonded brick wall. This was partly removed by machine to expose the interior. The northern end of the feature had also been blocked by a modern breezeblock wall on the line of the present property boundary, which appeared to seal the entrance to the feature. No such blocking was evident in the southern end of **111**, which apparently just ended in a soil section. A two-phase wall constructed of regularly coursed bricks and stones sealed the northern end of **111**. While the lower course appeared to fill the width of the feature, the upper course was stepped back, and appeared to block the feature externally.

No evidence was found for a cellar attached to either end of either of these features. Two explanations for their occurrence are suggested here. Firstly it is possible these represent aborted cellar builds, though the effort to plaster **110** argues against this. Secondly, and more likely, this was an attempt to gain a bit of underground cupboard space from the adjoining properties on East Street. The construction technique and materials employed suggest an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date for these features is the most likely.

## 6.5 Archaeological Monitoring undertaken in February 2009

Archaeological monitoring was resumed in February 2009 when works to underpin the adjoining wall of the present Cameron's Balloons building were commenced. Preparatory to the actual underpinning the north facing section described above was machine excavated to a 45 degree angle to prevent slippage, then excavated back at a 45 degree angle until the top of the slope coincided with the wall edge. These works took place over the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February.

During this process no further information was gained regarding features described above, however a single large sub-rectangular pit (Cut **612**) not previously described was observed. Because this feature was recorded at an angle of 45 degrees, with only part revealed in plan, exact measurements of its size were difficult to obtain. As exposed this approximately east-west aligned pit measured c. 3.7 m east-west by c. 2.2 m north-south, and was approximately 1 m deep. There appeared to have been several fills (605, 606, 607, 608 and 610), of which the latest, **605**, a dark red brown sandy silt, was the most extensive and the thickest, at c. 900 mm. Fills 606 and 607 appear to have been lenses in layer **605**, while a red sand layer beneath (**610**) extended across the whole of the feature but was only 120 mm thick.

The primary fill (**608**) of Cut **612** generated much interest on site, due to the relatively high number of artefacts recovered (see **Section 7**, below). The soil was a friable grey clay/sand extending across the base of the cut up to 300 mm thick. Excluding the artefacts there were inclusions of red sandstone lumps, worked limestone slabs, together with bands of white lime mortar flecks and lumps.

There were a few discarded artefacts from fill **608**: a single limestone block c. 350 mm by 350 mm by 150 mm, partly rectangular in shape and faced on two adjoining narrow sides, interpreted as a former quoin block; there were also two moulded house bricks with traces of white lime mortar adhering to the bonding planes, these measured 240 mm by 117 mm by 75 mm; a few similar fragments of brick were also discarded.

Artefacts retrieved from machining of fill **608** immediately prior to and following hand excavation were assigned to hypothetical fill **613**, as their stratigraphic security could not be guaranteed. Given the paucity of finds in the other fills of Cut **612** and surrounding layers, the vast majority of finds assigned to fill **613** are likely to be from layer **608**.

After final machining to batter the section, a remaining skim of fill **608** was hand excavated to reveal the rock cut base of cut **612**. For this recording exercise the sandstone bedrock was numbered **611**.

## 6.6 Archaeological Monitoring during Underpinning (March 2009)

Following the completion of the above remedial works, temporary stanchions were installed to support the adjoining wall with Cameron's Balloons. These stanchions had foundations excavated directly into previously exposed bedrock, which did not therefore require further monitoring. Work to underpin the adjoining wall commenced on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009 and was completed on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The affected portion of the wall was divided into 15 equal lengths of one metre each, of which each length was allocated a number between 1 and 5.

From east to west the numbering sequence ran:

4, 2, 5, 3, 1, 4, 2, 5, 3, 1, 4, 2, 5, 3, 1, 4, 2, 5, 3, 1



The excavation and backfilling with concrete of each section was undertaken in numerical order, i.e. all no. 1s, then all no. 2s etc, with an appropriate amount of time between to allow for the concrete to dry. For archaeological recording purposes each section was numbered uniquely from east to west, e.g. 4/1, 2/1,.....4/2, 2/2.....4/3, 2/3 etc. The exact location of each is indicated on **Figure 8**. With the completion of all sections from 1/1 to 4/4 further monitoring was discontinued, as little of archaeological significance had been revealed.

By the nature of the work all monitored sections revealed the foundations (**615**) of the wall to be underpinned. These were 1.4 m thick and composed of cement and aggregate, laid directly on to natural sand (**611**) or sandstone bedrock. There were several instances of ceramic drain pipes (**618, 619, 623, 624** and **625**) laid parallel and adjacent to the foundations, on the north side. These probably represent two parallel drains at approximately the same depth (e.g. **623** and **624**). Where these were not visible a layer of brown soil probably indicated the fill of the drainage trenches.

## 7 The Finds

### 7.1 The Pottery and Roof Tile by Alejandra Gutiérrez

#### INTRODUCTION

A total of 373 sherds (14.4 kg) of pottery was recovered from excavations in 177 East Street, Bedminster. The pottery was sorted into fabrics by eye, counted and weighed. All the pottery, except for eight sherds, dates to the 18th century, many comprising almost complete vessels (broken into small sherds but with reconstructable profiles).

The average weight of the modern sherds was 39g, although this does not reflect accurately the composition of the assemblage. While most of the vessels are thin-walled and light (25g average), others are heavier stonewares and redwares (53g average) which influence the average weight. The fabric types identified are listed and described below ('BPT' refer to Bristol Pottery Types).

This is an unusual and interesting assemblage. Although the majority of the pottery was made locally, most of the vessels are almost complete (but broken) and most are represented by large number of sherds per vessel. The vessels were found filling a single feature, in other words, they were deposited in a single event and were contemporary. Moreover the assemblage also includes some biscuit wares (unfinished products of pottery manufacture), probably from delftware production.

A breakdown of pottery by date is shown in Table 1.

Pottery date	Sherds		Weight	
	No.	%	g	%
Medieval	8	2.1	129	0.9
Modern	365	97.8	14342	99.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14471</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 1**  
*Distribution of pottery by date*

#### MEDIEVAL POTTERY

Only eight sherds of medieval pottery were found. Fabrics are as follows:

**Ham Green coarsewares** (BPT 32). Bristol. 12th–13th centuries (Vince 1988, 258). Red or black throughout with red surfaces. Abundant subangular quartz <0.2mm; moderate rounded mudstone <1mm, grey, pink or red; sparse calcareous grains <0.5mm. Hand-made jars.

**Ham Green jugs** (BPT 26). Bristol. 12th–13th centuries (Barton 1963; Ponsford 1991). Grey core; buff or white margins; pink, orange or buff interior surface. Inclusions of well-sorted quartz, limestone and clay pellets of varying sorting and size. Hand-made jugs, finished on a low wheel. Green glaze on exterior surface and over the interior of the rim only.

**Bath A** (BPT 46). Avon Valley-West Wiltshire? Late 11th–13th centuries (Vince 1979). Usually grey core, buff margins and grey surfaces. Abundant mica, rare calcareous inclusions, moderate flint/chert <3mm, clay pellets, moderate glassy quartz <2mm. Smoothed-over surfaces. Hand-made jars. Occasional combing on exterior surface and green glaze.

**South Gloucestershire Cistercian-type Ware** (BPT 93). 16th–17th centuries. Dark brown throughout. Moderate to sparse inclusions of quartz and quartzite up to 1mm and rounded iron ore up to 0.4mm. Very thick dark brown (almost black) glaze all over, except on underside of the base, where a purple wash is visible.

Quantities of medieval pottery are surprisingly slight, especially given that known medieval stratigraphy exists on site and that medieval pottery has been recovered from the same area (Gutiérrez 2008). The lack of medieval wares seems to be related to the type of stratigraphy encountered during this watching brief (mainly modern features). All the medieval sherds derive from contexts 608 and 613 (most likely the same context). They are all small sherds, except for the Cistercian ware whose four sherds may belong to the same vessel (a handled conical cup).

**Table 2**

*Quantification of medieval fabrics showing total number of sherds and weight*

<b>Fabric</b>		<b>Date</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Ham Green jugs	BPT 26	12th–13thC	2	39
Bath A	BPT 46	12th–13thC	1	1
Ham Green cw	BPT 32	12th–13thC	1	19
S Glos Cistercian ware	BPT 93	16th–17thC	4	70
<b>Total</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>129</b>

## **MODERN WARES (1700+)**

Most of the assemblage was formed by modern wares (365 sherds; 14.3 kg) in a range of types which can be grouped as follows:

–**Modern earthenwares:** slipwares, glazed and unglazed wares.

–**Delftware:** tin-glazed earthenware.

–**Refined wares:** pearlware (BPT 202), dipped white stoneware (BPT 179), agate ware (BPT 179) and mottled ware.

–**Brown stonewares,** including lead-glazed wares (Bristol-type) and salt-glazed brown stonewares (BPT 277).

### **Modern earthenwares**

This is the most important group in terms of sherd numbers (268) and weight (11.6 kg). The group is dominated by Bristol slipwares, which make up almost half of all the modern wares recovered (Table 3).

#### ***Bristol slipwares***

Almost all the Bristol slipwares are of the typical ‘feathered’ decoration (BPT 100) in dark brown and white colours under a transparent (yellowish) glaze with an off-white fabric (Figure A.1). Most of the vessels found are hollow wares (posset pots, porringers, cups, chamber pots) (145 sherds; 3.6 kg) and only one dish decorated in the same fashion was also identified (1 sherd; 17 g) (**P1-P10**). Decoration is created by covering the vessel with a layer of white slip, then trailing the dark brown slip and pulling the lines of the dark colour with a thin object (bristle, tip of a feather or similar) while the slips are still liquid enough to create the decorative effect. Details of the process of manufacture can be seen on one of the vessels, where marks left by the combed object used to pull the brown slip are still visible on an area not covered by the glaze (Figure A.2). Additional decoration is sometimes added in the form of brown pellets or dots, usually around the rim, although a

small cup was only decorated with pellets across the body in similar way to that illustrated by Barton (1961, Fig. 2, no. 2) (P1).

A variation in this type of slipped decoration is to cover the vessel with an over-all dark brown slip over which white slip has been trailed. Two vessels (4 sherds; 84 g) were found so decorated (P8-P9); on one of the vessels there is not enough to show the full pattern, but the flatware shows the trailed white slip (Figure A.3).

One of the feathered vessels has 'jewelled' decoration in the form of writing around the rim (P4). The letters have been drawn with brown slip over which small dots of white slip have been added (Figure A.4). They are all capitals with some serifs reading 'GEORGE ...A...L[?]OR : 1738 :'. The letter preceding 'OR' is not a G since it is notably different to the other two G in 'George'. There are several possibilities for the reading of the wording. First, it could be a mis-spelt name (a common occurrence on pottery of this period) and therefore now impossible to reconstruct due to the missing sherds. Second, the letter may be a badly drawn L or even a ligature of I and L, making 'TALOR' or 'TAILOR'. The writing is certainly similar to a dish inscribed 'William Taylor' which also reads 'Talor' with a similarly graphic representation of the middle L (Figure A.5). The William Taylor dish is thought to have been made in Staffordshire in around 1670 and documentary sources show that William was a potter active during the second half of the 17th century in that county (Fitzwilliam Museum Catalogue). Sadly, no potters named George Taylor have been identified from the early 18th century (only in the second half of the 17th century) (Cooper), although Taylor potters continued to be active in Staffordshire until the 19th century (though none have been found in Bristol).

Inscribed vessels with names are infrequent in the archaeological record. Of those that survive, some are the names of known potters who appear to be 'signing' their complex decorative work (on early examples from Staffordshire, such as those of Ralph Toft, Ralph and William Simpson or John Wright; Barker 1993; Godden 1974). There are also other vessels with the name of the owner ('Ann Brit her cup'), those with only the date and others with more complex phrases ('Fill me ful of sidar, drink of me', 'The best is not too good for you 1697'; Figure A.6). Another possible clue in this case is that the pot is dated to 1738, the year of the future George II's birth. Although royal subjects were increasingly common as decorative matter on pottery of the later 17th and 18th century, given the possible addition of a surname it seems less likely that this inscription refers to the royal birth. Instead it may be a more simple commemorative record of an ordinary citizen, perhaps of a birth or another event. The date, however, is late in comparison with other slipware examples, most of those recorded being dated to the late 17th or beginning of the 18th century.

A distinctive type of slipware is that with moulded decoration in which the patterns are delineated with raised lines (press-moulded), which are then rouletted and filled-in with slips of different colours. Their manufacture was time-consuming, producing vessels of more elaborate and singular decoration. The watching brief produced only two sherds decorated in this way, but they are very similar and may well belong to the same dish. Interestingly, one of the sherds has been trimmed into a rectangular shape indicating that, once broken, the sherd has been reused, perhaps as a gaming piece (P10).

This type of white and brown slipware was produced both in Staffordshire and in Bristol, where wasters from the manufacture process have been recovered (Barton 1961; Dawson 1979). Fabrics from the two centres are very similar but those containing flint are considered Staffordshire products (Kelly 1979). Wasters so far found in Bristol are mainly of hollow wares and do not include flatwares. The only type of decoration whose production has not been documented as yet in Bristol is the complex moulded slipware, although it is well attested in Staffordshire, where it was made from the middle of the 17th

and 18th centuries (Barker 1993, 6). A few examples are found in Bristol but they are less frequent than the feathered vessels, and include, for example, a dish decorated with a peacock from St Nicholas's Almshouses (Barton 1964, 202, no. 24) and another with a geometrical design from West Street (Jackson 2009).

### **North Devon wares**

The watching brief produced two types of North Devon wares: gravel-tempered and sgraffito. Gravel-tempered wares have a distinctive coarse fabric (Allan 1984) and are dated to the 17th–18th centuries, appearing in Bristol at least from the middle of the 17th century (Good 1987, 38). There are at least four different gravel-tempered vessels (29 sherds; 2.7 kg). The heavy walls and large dimensions of these vessels account for the heavy weight of just a handful of sherds. These are mainly jars with their interiors glazed with green or brown glaze though there is also one bowl/pancheon, also green glazed and with a thumbled band around the rim (**P11-P13**).

A single North Devon sgraffito jug or pitcher (vessel AC) was recovered (**P14**). This has a finer fabric and characteristic profile, with a pouring lip and grooved neck. The top half of the body is covered externally by white slip and transparent (yellowish) glaze. The interior of rim and neck is also covered by slip, with an over-all transparent glaze applied to most of the interior surface. Decoration has been applied only to the exterior wall, where incised lines, drawn freehand, have cut through the slip. The visible design is a grid that could be part of a flower motif similar to examples of the end of the 17th century recovered in America (Watkins 1960, Fig 13). Of all the sgraffito wares produced in north Devon dishes and bowls seem to dominate in the archaeological record whereas jugs such as this are less frequent, judging from assemblages from Exeter, Plymouth and even the kiln sites themselves (Allan 1984; Gaskell Brown 1979; Allan *et al* 2005). The mass-production of North Devon sgraffito wares peaked at the end of the 17th century, the theory being that their production declined in the early 18th century with the arrival of Bristol/Staffordshire decorated slipwares (Watkins 1960); nevertheless some less sophisticated production seems to have continued in the 18th century, mainly for dishes and a few jugs, although these are poorly documented at present (Allan *et al* 2005, 193).

### **Somerset redwares**

Most of the redwares are plainly glazed and undecorated, except for two dishes, one with trailed slip (**P15**) and the other with over-all white slip and sgraffito (too small to illustrate). They are typical post-medieval products from South Somerset, with brown fine fabrics, and transparent (brown) glazes. The type of trailed slipware belongs to the 18th-century type of design described for other examples from Bristol and Exeter (Pearson 1979; Allan 1984, Fig. 66).

An unglazed flower pot (**P16**) is also probably a Somerset product whose best documented production is that from Donyatt where similar forms occur and are dated to the 18th and 19th centuries (Coleman Smith and Pearson 1988, Fig. 134).

A characteristic type of glazed redware with a very fine, dense fabric is a later product probably also from Somerset (**P17**). Parallels from nearby Shapwick date this type of production to the 18th century on stratigraphical grounds (Gutiérrez 2007, fabric C20N). Forms are predominately bowls of characteristic thin walls, such as that recovered from the watching brief (8 sherds; 466 g).

### **Bristol modern red earthenwares**

These are products of the 18th and 19th centuries, with a hard, red or brown fabric with occasional quartz and limestone inclusions. They are covered with honey or brown lead glazed, sometimes mottled and their production is documented at Bristol (Jackson 2002). Three different vessels were found during the watching brief (**P18-P19**) (33 sherds; 3.6 kg).

### **Delftware**

At least eight vessels were found with a fine buff or light orange fabric and over-all white tin glaze (28 sherds; 502 g); they are mostly undecorated sherds, although there are also a few with painted decoration (**P20-P25**). Most of the decorated sherds are painted in blue, including an 'ointment' jar (Figure A.8) and a bowl (**P20, P22**). Decorated with others colours are a plate with a red line on the rim in the style of Chinese porcelain (**P23**), on which the central motif has not survived, and a plate sherd with polychrome decoration in blue, green and red which too small to illustrate. A sherd (plate?) with the tin glaze totally gone from the internal surface has been trimmed to a rectangular shape, showing it has been reused and that some time elapsed between the breakage and discarding (Figure A.9).

All the delftwares are all probably Bristol products and parallels are known from the city (for example, Price 2005, Fig. 5.1, no. 8; Jackson *et al* 1991, Fig. 9, no. 75).

A small group of biscuit sherds (fired prior to applying the tin glaze) representing four different vessels was also found (26 sherds; 651 g), together with a decorated sherd that may be a waster. This is decorated with blue lines and purple/black motifs, but the firing of the glaze was defective, leaving many bubbles on the underside, loss of glaze on the upper surface, plus an overall blacking effect on the glaze which may indicate overfiring or a problem with the colours (Figure A.10). The small is too small to determine if this is a real waster or a second (ie. a not-perfect sellable finished product). The biscuit wares are all in the same sort of fine buff fabric, and the profiles (foot rings and rolled rims) indicate they are probably delftwares (vessels AG, AH, AJ). Their appearance here is of some interest. Wasters are a by-product of pottery manufacture consisting of defective vessels which had to be discarded, hence their natural association with production sites. They were too abundant to be discarded regularly on the kiln site; this could provoke complaints from local inhabitants, the potsherds being described as 'nuisances' and potters being asked to remove them (as in 1749; Jackson *et al* 1982, 276). They may have been used as convenient leveling material across the city or even as part of the 'rubbish' used to fill in the holes left by clay extraction (the infilling being a requirement specified in a let agreement of 1815; Jackson *et al* 1982, 208). In any of these cases wasters are expected to be found in quantities; the small numbers recovered from East Street and their being mixed with domestic vessels is therefore surprising and cannot be explained easily, especially since there are no known pottery workshops producing delftwares in the immediate vicinity. The only documented Pottery at the end of the 18th century in this part of Bristol is in Boot Lane, not far from the site, where 'brown ware' was being produced (Jackson *et al* 1982, 44).

### **Refined wares**

Mottled wares were made with a fine buff fabric similar to that used for the slipwares described above. They are thin, finely thrown wares covered with an over-all streaky brown glaze. Wasters collected from Bristol attest to their production in the city (Dawson

1979, 206). Only two sherds belonging to the same vessel were found during the watching brief (too small to illustrate).

Agate wares may have also been produced at Bristol, perhaps at Brislington (Dawson 1979, 207) although they seem impossible to distinguish from Staffordshire products. They have a red and white striated fabric under an over-all clear glaze; the effect is that of marbled colours due to the mixture of the coloured fabrics. Thin and finely thrown wares, they are represented by a single bowl from the watching brief (9 sherds; 140 g) (**P29**).

Dipped white stoneware has a white fabric and vessels are 'double-glazed', covered in white slip and then salt-glazed in white. These are delicate pieces with very thin walls, thrown rather than moulded, and undecorated. Three vessels (14 sherds; 137 g) recovered from East Street form a set: a tea bowl, saucer and bowl (**P30-P32**).

The topsoil produced four sherds of pearlware, only one decorated with a blue printed transfer. A possible further plain sherd was also found in context 608 but is too small to identify.

### **Brown stonewares**

Most of the stoneware recovered during the watching brief is salt-glazed with a 'tiger' skin. Wasters recovered from several sites in Bristol confirm that this type of stoneware was produced in the city (Barton 1961; Burchill *et al* 1987, 13; Jackson 2003; Price 2005, 93), especially tankards such as those two (almost complete) recovered from East Street (**P33-P34**). These products are very similar to wares from London, where similar shapes with the same decoration were also being produced (Green 1999). One of the tankards found during the watching brief bears the stamp GR, the excise mark for 'Georgius Rex' (and thus would date to after 1714, Figure A.11). Excise marks were applied to pint and quart size tankards to indicate that they conformed to government standards of capacity; the GR stamp is very rare in London and may well be confined solely to Bristol products (Green 1999, 272; Oswald 1982, 278). The base of a jug in similar type of grey stoneware was also found (**P35**).

The watching brief produced other types of stoneware, but mainly as small sherds, including one from an orange lead-glazed Bristol stoneware from the topsoil (context 600). A further small sherd from a Nottingham-type tankard was also found in context 608.

### **Continental imports**

A single imported vessel is a Westerwald stoneware chamber pot from Germany (**P36**). It has the typical blue-grey fabric and salt glaze. The example from East Street is decorated only in blue (purple being added after 1665; Hurst *et al* 1986, 222) with applied lions and rosettes. Imports of Westerwald stonewares dominated the cross-Channel trade during the 18th century (especially of chamber pots and tavern tankards), and were not copied by English manufacturers (Gaimster 1997, 83 and 94). Other almost identical examples have also been recorded from Bristol, for example from Old Market (Jackson 2009, no. 3).

**Table 3**

Quantification of modern wares showing total number of sherds, weight and percentages (MNV: minimum number of vessels)

Group	Fabric	Date	Sherds		Weight		MNV
			No.	%	g	%	
Earthenwares	Bristol slipware BPT 100	1680-1800	152	41.6	3780	26.4	11
	Glazed red/greywares BPT 96		9	2.47	188	1.31	
	Modern red earthenwares BPT 336	18th–19thC	33	9.04	3613	25.19	3
	Modern brown earthenwares (C20N)	18thC	8	2.2	466	3.2	1
	North Devon gravel-tempered ware BPT 112	17th-18thC	29	7.9	2765	19.3	4
	North Devon sgraffito BPT 108	late 17thC	6	1.6	227	1.6	1
	South Somerset sgraffito/slipwares BPT 96	17th-18thC	2	0.6	32	0.2	2
Delftware	Unglazed redware BPT 96	18thC	1	0.3	42	0.3	1
	Delftware BPT 99	18thC	28	7.7	502	3.5	8
	Biscuit ware	18thC	26	7.1	651	4.5	4
Refined wares	Pearlware BPT 349	1780s+	4	1.1	287	2.0	
	Dipped white stoneware BPT 179	1700-1740	14	3.8	137	1.0	3
	Agate ware BPT 347	1730s-1760s	9	2.5	140	1.0	1
	Mottled ware	18thC	2	0.5	10	0.1	1
	Pearlware? BPT 349?		1	0.3	10	0.1	1
Brown stonewares	Modern stoneware BPT 277	18th–19thC	16	4.4	915	6.4	3
	Nottingham-type stoneware BPT 212	end 17th- 19thC	1	0.3	22	0.2	1
Imports	Westerwald stoneware BPT 95	17thC	24	6.6	555	3.9	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>365</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>14342.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>43</b>

### Distribution on site and dating

Except for seven sherds (409 g) (from contexts 600 and 607), all the sherds were found in two contexts: 608 and 613, the latter being finds recovered from machining. It is evident from the pottery assemblage that context 613 is largely the same as 608 (fill of pit 612) and many almost complete pots showing fresh breaks are found dispersed between both contexts. A list of the main vessels and their crossfits between contexts 608 and 613 is shown in Table 4.

Many of the types of pottery found in these two contexts are traditionally dated to the late 17th and 18th centuries. Typological features do not change significantly overtime and it is often difficult to provide a more precise date for such wares. There are, however, a few good pointers to help refine the date span of the assemblage. The first and most obvious is the posset pot inscribed with the date of 1738 (**P4**). This would be the date of manufacture, and we might suppose the pot had been in use for some time before it was discarded. Of the later types of pottery present in the group, Agate ware (**P29**) is dated to between around 1730s and 1760s, and the dipped white stoneware (**P30-P32**) to c1700–1740. Other dating references are given by the tankard stamped GR, which is post-1714; and one of the delftware with the chain border (**P22**), a motif of long currency traditionally dated to 1686 to c1750 (Price 2005, 65, no. 8). Based solely on the pottery, the assemblage seems to have discarded sometime in the middle of the 18th century. Notably, none of the more ubiquitous wares of the later 18th century are present, such as creamwares (c1740–1800) or blue-printed pearlwares (c1775 onwards).

There is no reason to believe that all the pottery dates exactly to the middle of the 18th century, although all wares may have been contemporary (especially those discarded almost complete): the Bristol slipwares, delftware and tankards, North Devon gravel-tempered and sgraffito, and the dipped white stoneware, for example. A couple of sherds,



however, had been clearly broken some time before dumping the pottery into pit 612, long enough to be trimmed into rectangular-shaped pieces and perhaps reused as gaming pieces. Presumably the assemblage was composed of 'recent' pieces (the latest in the group) together with others that had been acquired some time before, although it is impossible to ascertain if this time difference would have been weeks or years (see also below). What is clear nevertheless is that the group was deposited at the same time.

**Table 4**

*Distribution of individual number of vessels, showing crossfits and distribution across the fill of pit 612 (contexts 608 and 613) (73 sherds of assorted walls and other small sherds not included; MNV: minimum number of vessels; \* probably the same dish as vessel BB)*

Vessel no.	Fabric	Form	Context 608		Context 613		MNV
			sherds	gr	sherds	gr	
P1	Bristol slipware	cup			1	27	1
P2	Bristol slipware	porringer	12	229	5	77	1
P3	Bristol slipware	porringer	6	279			1
P4	Bristol slipware	posset pot	7	200	8	436	1
P5	Bristol slipware	posset pot	9	262	8	273	1
P6	Bristol slipware	posset pot	12	285	18	275	1
P7	Bristol slipware	chamber pot	15	841			1
P8	Bristol slip-coated slipware	chamber pot			2	63	1
P9	Bristol trailed slipware flatware	dish			2	21	1
-	Bristol slipware flatware	dish	1	17			1
P10	Bristol slipware flatware moulded dec	dish	1	7			1
-	Bristol slipware flatware moulded dec	dish			1	25	*
P17	Modern brown earthenwares C20N	bowl	3	166	3	41	1
P18	Modern glazed redware	bowl	10	718	12	1065	1
P19	Modern glazed redware	chamber pot	8	1685	2	140	1
P15	South Somerset trailed slipware	bowl/dish			1	16	1
-	South Somerset sgraffito	dish	1	16			1
P16	Unglazed redware	flower pot			1	42	1
P13	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	jar/bowl	2	405			1
P12	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	bowl	11	755	11	1381	1
P11	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	bowl/pancheon	1	164			1
-	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	jar			1	30	1
P14	North Devon sgraffito	jug			6	227	1
P20	Delftware	ointment jar	4	88	1	89	1
P21	Delftware	dish	1	25	2	51	1
P22	Delftware	bowl	2	37	8	56	1
P23	Delftware	small plate	1	11	1	2	1
P24	Delftware	chamber pot?	1	75			1
P25	Delftware	plate	1	23			1
-	Delftware	bowl	1	4			1
-	Delftware polychrome	plate			1	9	1
P26	BISCUIT ware	bowl	8	390	6	82	1
P27	BISCUIT ware	bowl	7	84			1
P28	BISCUIT ware	bowl			1	44	1
-	BISCUIT ware	bowl?			4	51	1
P29	Agate ware	bowl	2	72	7	68	1
-	Mottled ware	bowl	2	10			1
P30	Dipped white stoneware	tea bowl	1	25	2	5	1
P31	Dipped white stoneware	bowl			10	97	1
P32	Dipped white stoneware	saucer	1	10			1
P33	Brown stoneware tiger glaze	tankard	8	259			1
P34	Brown stoneware tiger glaze	tankard			1	431	1
P35	Modern stoneware	jug	1	68			1
-	Nottingham-type stoneware	tankard	1	22			1
P36	Westerwald stoneware	chamber pot	3	141	21	414	1

## Forms and use

All the vessels discarded in pit 612 are domestic wares, including drinking vessels, bowls, jugs, jars, dishes, chamber pots and flower pots (Table 5). There are at least 44 vessels representing the following:

- 1 cup
- 2 porringers
- 3 posset pots
- 1 tea bowl
- 3 tankards
- 13 bowls of assorted sizes
- 6 dishes
- 1 flower pot
- 3 jars
- 2 jugs
- 2 small plates/saucers
- 5 chamber pots

The assemblage is clearly biased; there are, for example, almost no dishes in comparison to drinking vessels or bowls, whereas the number of chamber pots seems high in comparison to jugs, for example.

It is impossible to know why the vessels were discarded as many seem to be quite complete, but this is not infrequent and other similar assemblages of same date have also been recorded from Bristol (for example from Old Market; Jackson 2009). They may be the result of a house clearance before a change of ownership, or the disposal of wares after an infectious illness, or disposed of before updating the crockery with a more fashionable set of wares. The vessels may represent either the remnants left behind or the contents of a specific room/s.

Only one of the porringers (**P3**), one of the posset pots (**P5**), one of the stoneware tankards (**P33**) and one of the North Devon bowls (**P12**) show any distinctive sign of usage in the form of soot/burning on the underside. The porringer is burned vertically on one side (that opposed to the handle), similarly to the North Devon jar. This type of sooting indicates the vessels have been placed near a fire for heating up and cooking foodstuffs. The small size of the porringer may indicate that it was either warming up an individual ration or a more delicate foodstuff that needed to be cooked in small quantities, such as custard or posset (a mixture of milk, eggs and brown ale; Brears 1993, 175).

Not all the vessels may have been for everyday use in the home. Moulded dishes with complex and elaborated decoration, like the example recovered here, may have been for special occasions only. In one instance, recorded in Staffordshire, the dish was passed from generation to generation to be used only once a year to serve Christmas pudding (Dean 1994, 159).

**Table 5**  
*Distribution of forms identified in contexts 608 and 613*

Vessel	Form	Fabric	MNV
P1	cup	Bristol slipware	1
P6	posset pot	Bristol slipware	1
P5	posset pot	Bristol slipware	1
P3	porringer	Bristol slipware	1
P2	porringer	Bristol slipware	1
P4	posset pot	Bristol slipware	1
P17	bowl	Modern brown earthenwares C20N	1
P18	bowl	Modern glazed redware	1
P11	bowl/pancheon	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	1
P22	bowl	Delftware	1
-	bowl	Delftware	1
P26	bowl	BISCUIT ware	1
P27	bowl	BISCUIT ware	1
P28	bowl	BISCUIT ware	1
P29	bowl	Agate ware	1

-	bowl	Mottled ware	1
P31	bowl	Dipped white stoneware	1
P15	bowl/dish	South Somerset trailed slipware	1
-	bowl?	BISCUIT ware	1
P9	dish	Bristol trailed slipware flatware	1
-	dish	Bristol slipware flatware	1
P10	dish	Bristol slipware flatware moulded dec	1
-	dish	Bristol slipware flatware moulded dec	*
P15	dish	South Somerset sgraffito	1
P21	dish	Delftware	1
P16	flower pot	Unglazed redware	1
P13	jar/bowl	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	1
P12	bowl	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	1
-	jar	North Devon gravel-tempered ware	1
P14	jug	North Devon sgraffito	1
P35	jug	Modern stoneware	1
P20	ointment jar	Delftware	1
P25	plate	Delftware	1
-	plate	Delftware polychrome	1
P32	saucer	Dipped white stoneware	1
P23	small plate	Delftware	1
P33	tankard	Brown stoneware tiger glaze	1
P34	tankard	Brown stoneware tiger glaze	1
-	tankard	Nottingham-type stoneware	1
P30	tea bowl	Dipped white stoneware	1
P7	chamber pot	Bristol slipware	1
P8	chamber pot	Bristol slip-coated slipware	1
P19	chamber pot	Modern glazed redware	1
P36	chamber pot	Westerwald stoneware	1
P24	chamber pot?	Delftware	1

### Illustrated sherds

#### P1

Bristol slipware ?cup (1 sherd). Context 613.

#### P2

Bristol slipware porringer (17 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

#### P3

Bristol slipware porringer (6 sherds). Context 608.

#### P4

Bristol slipware posset pot (15 sherds). Decorated with jewelled lettering 'GEORGE ...A...L[?]OR : 1738 :'. Contexts 608 and 613.

#### P5

Bristol slipware posset pot (17 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

#### P6

Bristol slipware posset pot (30 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

#### P7

Bristol slipware chamber pot (15 sherds). Context 608.

#### P8

Bristol slip-coated slipware chamber pot (2 sherds). Context 613.

#### P9

Bristol trailed slipware on dark brown over-all slip; dish (2 sherds). Context 613.

#### P11

North Devon gravel-tempered ware bowl/pancheon (1 sherd). Context 608.

**P12**

North Devon gravel-tempered bowl (22 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P13**

North Devon gravel-tempered jar/bowl (2 sherds). Context 608.

**P14**

North Devon sgraffito jug (6 sherds). Context 613.

**P15**

South Somerset trailed slipware bowl/dish (1 sherd) (white slip under transparent glaze). Context 613.

**P16**

Unglazed flower pot (Somerset?) (1 sherd). Context 613.

**P17**

Modern brown earthenware (Somerset?) bowl (6 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P18**

Modern glazed redware bowl (22 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P19**

Modern glazed redware chamber pot (10 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P20**

Delftware oinment jar with light buff fabric, white tin glaze and blue painted decoration (5 sherds); some glaze and decoration have flaked off from the surface. Contexts 608 and 613.

**P21**

Delftware dish with light orange fabric and thick bluish white tin glaze; undecorated (3 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P22**

Delftware bowl with buff fabric and blue painted decoration over bluish white tin glaze (10 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P23**

Delftware small plate with light orange fabric and bluish white tin glaze; red line on edge of rim (2 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P24**

Delftware chamber pot(?) with buff fabric and plain white tin glaze (1 sherd). Context 608.

**P25**

Delftware plate with dark buff fabric and thick white tin glaze (greyish); undecorated (1 sherd). Context 608.

**P26**

Biscuit delftware bowl (8 sherds). Context 608.

**P27**

Biscuit delftware bowl (7 sherds). Context 608.

**P28**

Biscuit delftware bowl (1 sherd). Context 613.

**P29**

Agate ware bowl (2 sherds). Context 608.

**P30**

Dipped white stoneware tea bowl with white fabric (3 sherds). Contexts 608 and 613.

**P31**

Dipped white stoneware bowl with white fabric (10 sherds). Context 613.

**P32**

Dipped white stoneware saucer with white fabric (1 sherd). Context 608.

**P33**

Brown stoneware tankard with the stamp 'GR' under the crown (8 sherds). Context 608.

**P34**

Brown stoneware 1 pint tankard (1 sherd). Context 613.

**P35**

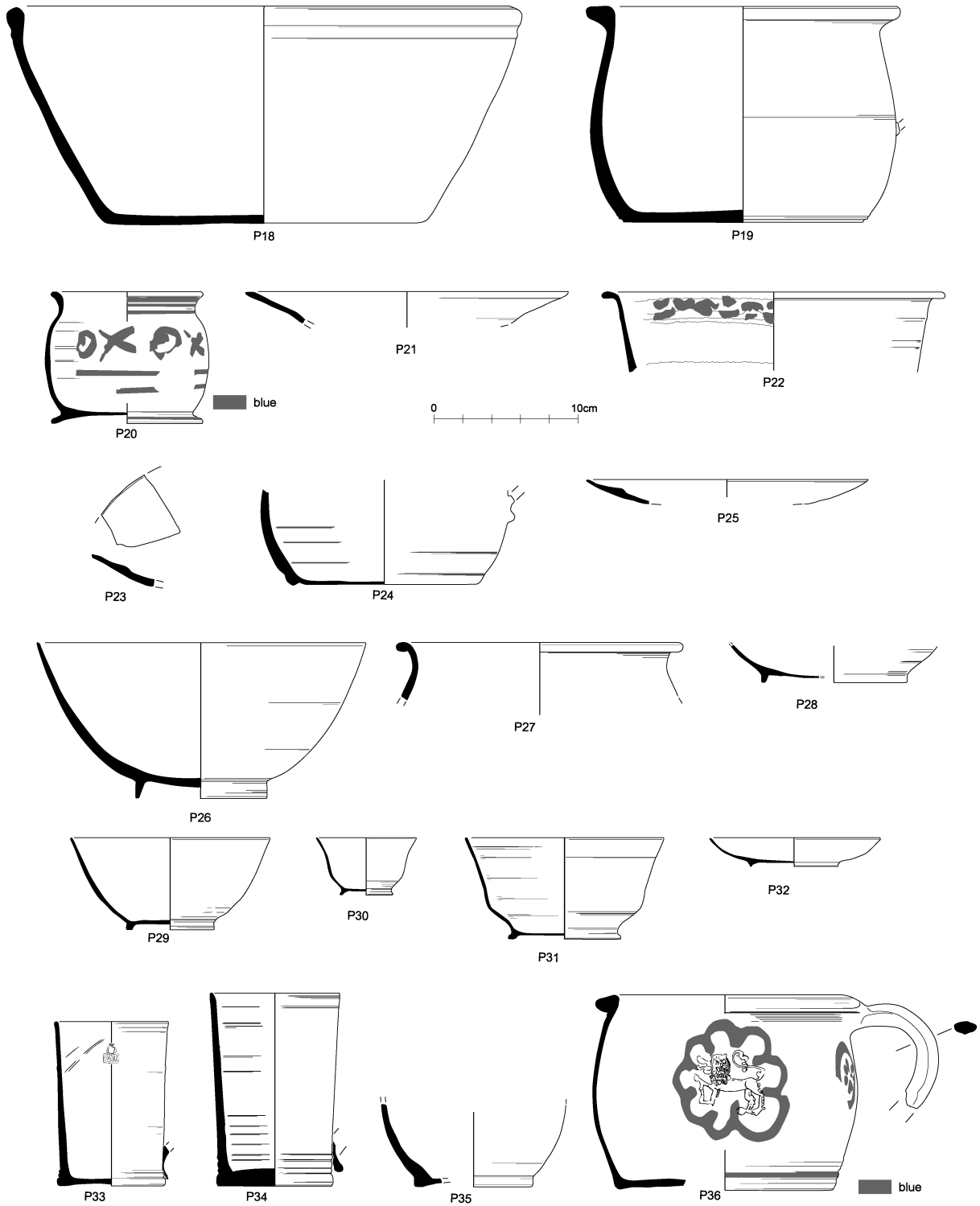
Brown stoneware jug with light grey fabric, interior iron (brown) wash and exterior (grey) glaze (1 sherd). Context 608.

**P36**

Westerwald stoneware chamber pot (3 sherds) with applied medallion (lion motif), incised floral motif and blue painted decoration. Context 608.



Illustrated sherds (P1–P17) (1:4)



Illustrated sherds (P18–P36) (1:4)

## BUILDING MATERIAL

The building material was very scarce, amounting to just two sherds of brick and five of modern pantiles (18th–19th centuries, Table 8). The brick is in a fine red fabric and very fragmented so that only the thickness is present (12 cm; 4 ¾ in). The roof tiles have the typical sinuous profile of the pantiles; most of the sherds are in a yellow fabric and only one has a red fabric.

**Table 8**  
*Quantification of building material*

		Context	Sherds	g
Brick		613	2	389
Modern tile	roof	608	3	538
Modern tile	roof	613	2	202
<b>Total</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>1129</b>

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## 7.2 Wig Curlers and Clay Tobacco Pipes by Sarah Newns

### Introduction and Methodology

A relatively large assemblage of clay tobacco pipe material, weighing a total of 1,029g, was retrieved during the watching brief from the fill (Context 608) of Pit Cut 612 and from the associated Context 613 (at higher risk of artefact contamination).

Material from the assemblage was washed, bagged and numbered with the context number and site code, before being weighed, counted and catalogued. The pipe bore stem diameters were measured and the pipe bowls were compared with typologies established by Oswald (1960) and Peacey (1979). Makers' marks were compared with the lists of Bristol pipe makers given in Jackson and Price (1974, 25-81) and Walker (1971, 4-12).

The material consisted, for the most part, of pipe stem fragments, of which 135 were retrieved in total, but there were also 38 pipe bowls, most of which were complete, including some that retained a large portion of their original stem. The assemblage also included one complete pipe clay wig or hair curler and five curler fragments.

### The Wig or Hair Curlers

The hair-curlers (see plate 1, below) retrieved from Contexts 608 and 613 comprised one medium-sized, complete example (53 mm long, 12 mm maximum diameter), two further fragments of medium-sized curler (12mm maximum diameter), three fragments of curler of 11mm maximum diameter and one fragment of a larger curler (14mm maximum diameter). The curlers are all made of white kaolin pipe clay and are cylindrical in form, with bulbous ends, which helped to retain the curls. None of the fragments bear makers' marks or any form of decoration. Clay wig curlers are known to have been in use from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and tend to occur on sites of higher social status (Darton 2004, 257).



Plate 1

## **The Clay Tobacco Pipe**

The assemblage of clay tobacco pipe retrieved from Contexts 608 and 613 is remarkable largely for the relatively high proportion of undamaged pipe bowls, many of which retain significant lengths of stem (up to 230mm long). The assemblage is also characterised by the fact that the majority of the bowls, with the exception of two residual examples, are very similar in form, and date broadly to the early-later 18<sup>th</sup> century.



**Plate 2**

## **The Pipe Bowls**

Most of the bowls from Contexts 608 and 613 are in very good condition, with 32 complete examples and only 6 small fragments. All except one appear to have been smoked and at least two also show signs of external burning. Eleven of the bowls and several of the pipe stems show patches of brown discolouration in the clay and a further three bowls show concretions, probably as a result of contact with substances in the surrounding soil.

Of the 32 complete or near complete examples, all but two have flattened spur heels. The two bowls with pedestal heels are of 17<sup>th</sup> century date and are both from Context 608. The smaller of the two is an early example, a very small barrel-shaped bowl, with milling around the narrowed rim. The heel is nearly in a direct line with the stem and bears the stamped initials, "NC", incuse, with a star motif above and below the letters. Similar examples have been found at both Shaftesbury and Taunton (Pearson 1984), but unfortunately the maker has not been identified. The form alone would suggest a date of 1630-60 (Oswald type 10, Peacey type 2a), as would the very large bore diameter (Walker 1967, 99).

The second pedestal heel example is unmarked and of a later date, slightly larger in form and with a more pronounced heel. Examples of this form have been found in Gloucestershire and Somerset (Taunton), Peacey type 5 (dating to 1670-1700) and Pearson type 65 (dating to c.1700).

The remaining 30 bowls are roughly similar in form, with flattened spur heels and elongated bowls, relatively thin-walled, with the mouth of the bowl roughly parallel to the stem. The bowls most closely resemble Oswald type 26 (dating from 1740-1800).

Eleven of the bowls bear makers' marks, most of which are mould-imprinted on the side of the bowl. Five of the bowls bear the same mark, the initials "IT" within a cartouche, with dots above and below the letters. Jackson and Price list eight Bristol pipemakers with these initials, only three of whom were operating within the broad time period suggested by the Oswald typology (above). These makers comprise John Tidcombe, (apprenticed to Henry Hoare in 1723, see below) fl.1739 onwards; John Tippet, fl.1734-1754 and John Thomas, fl.1743-1754 (Jackson and Price 1974, 73).

Two further bowls bear the same maker's mark, the initials, "HH", incuse, on the upper face of the bowl (one with a star motif above the letters). This maker has been identified as Henry Hoare, an apprentice of the well-known Bristol maker, Robert Tippet II and probably in business with him, as some pipes are marked with both sets of initials. Hoare was freed from his apprenticeship in 1699 and is known to have been resident in St James' parish in 1722. He had a will proved in 1728 and is known to have died by 1739 (Jackson and Price 1974, 46-47 and 110; Walker 1971, 10 and 36). This shows the Oswald typology alone cannot be relied on for specific dating, as the form of the bowls would have assigned them to the period 1740-1800.

A further bowl bears the initials, "AB" (see plate 3, below, within a cartouche on the right-hand side of the bowl. Jackson and Price list only one Bristol pipe maker with these initials, Anthony Bayley, who was freed from his apprenticeship in 1721 and is last recorded in 1759 (1974, 28). Pipes made by this maker were recovered from a possible kiln site in Water Lane, Temple Street, during excavations in 1971 (*ibid.*).

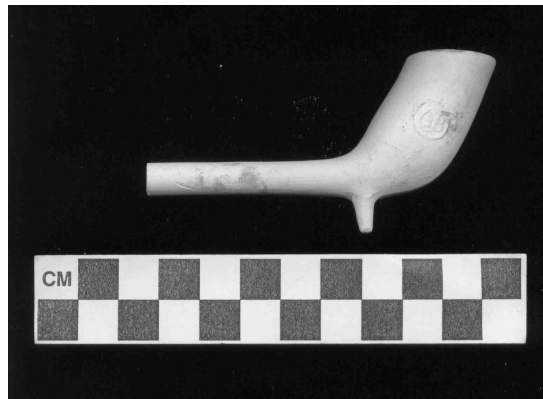


Plate 3

One of the bowl fragments consists of a fractured cartouche, bearing the initials, "IW", which may refer to any one of six Bristol pipe makers with these initials, who were operating broadly within the period suggested by the Oswald typology. The earliest, John Wickham, is recorded between 1723 and 1752 and the latest, John White, is recorded in 1755 (Jackson and Price 1974, 25-81).

A further bowl, bearing the initials, "II", within a cartouche, has been identified by Jackson and Price as the work of James Jenkins, fl.1707-1738 (Jackson and Price 1974, p.51). Pipes marked with his initials and those of Henry Hoare were found in a clay tobacco pipe dump north of Lewins Mead and probably represent the site of James Jenkins' kiln ().

The one near complete pipe in the assemblage (see plate 3, above), with a stem 260mm long, bears the initials, "NW", within a cartouche on the left-hand side of the bowl. Only one Bristol maker with these initials has been identified, Nicholas Willis, who was freed from his indentures in 1734 and is also recorded in 1749 (Jackson and Price 1974, 79). The spur heel of this example is significantly longer than most and the stem is slightly bowed and discoloured.

The remaining bowls (22 in number) are unmarked and most are roughly similar in form to Oswald type 26 (dated 1740-1800) and Peacey type 14 (dated 1730-1800). Two examples slightly less upright in form may more closely resemble Peacey type 11 (dated 1690-1720). A further ten bowls may more closely resemble Peacey type 15 (1780-1820), which has a slight variation in the angle of the spur. As with the Oswald typology, it is probably unwise to rely on the Peacey typology to provide absolute dates without reference to the makers' marks, particularly as the typology relies on some very subtle variations in bowl form.

## The Stem Fragments

A total of 135 stem fragments were retrieved from the two contexts (84 from Context 613, 51 from Context 608). These ranged in length from 15mm to 142mm (not including those stems with bowls attached). One of the stem fragments is decorated with fairly crude rouletting (milled bands and bands of impressed diamond shapes with central dots). The decoration is similar to that found on pipes of Llewelin Evans (fl.1660-1686) and William Evans I and II (fl.c.1660-1700). Llewelin Evans is recorded as resident in the parish of St Thomas and St Mark's in 1684. A pipe maker named William Evans is recorded as resident in King Street in 1696 (Jackson and Price 1974, 42 and 43; Walker 1971, 18, 27-28).

The stem fragments included six possible mouthpieces, sixteen fragments with brown discoloration, eleven burnt fragments and six with soil or mortar concretions. The majority of the stem fragments had bore diameters of 4/64" or 5/64", giving a date range for these stems of late 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Walker 1967, 99).

## Discussion and Conclusions

The assemblage consists of a collection of mainly 18<sup>th</sup> century clay tobacco pipe, with a high proportion of complete bowls of similar form and two smaller residual bowls of mid-late 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

Typologically, the bowls fall within the broad date range of 1690 to 1820 (Peacey types 11, 14 and 15; Oswald type 26). However, where the makers have been positively identified, this range has been narrowed considerably to a late 17<sup>th</sup> to later middle 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

The earliest maker who can be positively identified is Henry Hoare (fl.1699-pre-1739), of St James' parish, Bristol. It is perhaps significant that five of the ten remaining marked bowls are marked with the initials, "IT", which may be linked with one of Hoare's apprentices, John Tidcombe, also of St James' parish (fl.1739 onwards). The bowl marked "II" may be linked with another of Hoare's contemporaries, James Jenkins, also operating in the north of the 18<sup>th</sup> century city (see above and Ashmead 1828).

The latest maker identified, Anthony Bayley, last recorded in 1759, was working in the south of the city (off Temple Street), nearer to the Bedminster area (above and Ashmead, 1828). This provides a *terminus post quem* of mid/late 18<sup>th</sup> century for the pit deposit as a whole. The presence of a small number of pipe clay wig or hair curlers is also consistent with a late 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century date for the assemblage.

The only marked bowl whose maker has not been identified is the very early example from Context 608, marked "NC" (above). It is perhaps significant that similar bowls have been recovered from both Shaftesbury and Taunton, suggesting the maker may not have originated from Bristol.

## 7.3 The Bottle and Vessel Glass by Sarah Newns

### Introduction and Methodology

A large assemblage of 124 glass shards, primarily bottle glass, weighing a total of 9480g, was recovered from Contexts 608 and 613, during a Watching Brief at East Street Chapel, Bedminster, BSMR 24595, BRSMG 2008/76. Context 608 represented the primary fill of a large post medieval rubbish pit and Context 613 was the number assigned to finds probably from the same fill, but retrieved during machining, and therefore more prone to the accidental inclusion of finds from other contexts.

The glass was separated into two categories, bottle glass shards and window/other vessel shards. The bottle glass assemblage is discussed below.

Hugh Wilmott (Wilmott 2002, 7) suggests that there are two main questions to be addressed when examining a glass assemblage, the identification of vessel types and their quantification. Accordingly, the shards were weighed, counted and their form compared with bottle typologies established by Denis Ashurst (Ashurst 1970, 116), R.J. Charleston and Alan Vince (Charleston and Vince 1984, 84-85;). The shards were also compared with similar bottles in the Museum of London collection, using the Museum of London web site ([www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics)). Wilmott suggests the most useful quantification for glass is that of minimum and maximum vessel count (Wilmott 2002, 8), the former being possibly more accurate in the case of sealed contexts such as pits (ibid; see "Form of the Bottles" below).

### Historical Background

Since the end of the seventeenth century, Bristol merchants had established trading links with ports in New England, Virginia, Portugal, Spain and northern Europe, conveying cargoes which included window glass and "English glass bottles" (Witt, Weeden and Schwind 1984, 22). The Bristol area was also well situated for the availability of the raw materials needed in glass production: sand, limestone, kelp (imported from Ireland) and clay (for crucible manufacture) from Stourbridge (ibid.). The bottles themselves were also used for containers in the well-established wine trade, for locally produced beer, cider, mineral water, and in the newly founded liquor trade (using sugar imported from the West Indies).

By 1710, a map produced by the local surveyor, Joseph Millerd, shows six glasshouses on his map of Bristol (Millerd, c.1710, in Witt, Weeden and Schwind 1984, 19). Those at Redcliffe Gate, St Thomas Street and Temple Backs are known to have been used for bottle manufacture (ibid., 23). Two further bottle glasshouses were later established, one on Cheese Lane in 1715 and the second at Canons Marsh in 1720 (ibid., 24). The Mathews Directory for 1793-4 (quoted in Morgan, 1993, 98), states:

*"the great demand for glass bottles for the Bristol water, for the exportation of beer, cider and perry; for wine, and for the use of town and country keep the various bottle warehouses here constantly at work."*

### Bottle Manufacture

Wine bottles were first produced in England in the mid-seventeenth century, using a green-tinted glass called potash glass. Potash (a form of potassium carbonate) was added to the sand during the firing process in order to alter the structure of the silica and reduce its melting point (Wilmott 2002, 5). In Bristol, potash was obtained from burning kelp (seaweed imported from Ireland), which was already being imported in large quantities for the soap-making industry (Witt, Weeden and Schwind, 1984, 22). Calcium carbonate was required to stabilise the glass and ensure that it hardened on cooling (Wilmott 2002, 5). This was obtained from either natural limestone or another product associated with the soap industry, *soapers ash* (Witt, Weeden and Schwind, 1984, 49, 50). Hence the Cheese Lane bottle kiln (above) was established by merchants involved in the soap-making industry (ibid.).

Prior to the nineteenth century, almost all vessel glass (including bottles) was free-blown, using a hollow blowpipe called a blow-iron. A blob of molten glass was collected from the furnace on the end of the blow-iron. This was then shaped by rolling on a flat surface (a process known as *marvering*) and blown to the correct size (Wilmott 2002, 14).

Before the bottle was removed from the blow-iron, a solid iron pontil-rod was attached to the base of the bottle. The pontil-rod was inserted a little way into the base of the bottle, producing the characteristic “kick-up” of seventeenth century and later bottles. The blow-iron could then be removed and the sheared-off end could be tooled and rotated in the furnace mouth to remove the sharpness (Wilmott 2002, 14). At this stage, a molten glass neck ring was also applied, which served to secure the string that held the loose-fitting cork in place (Hedges, 1975, 6, 8). The pontil-rod was removed, leaving “pontil-marks” on the base of the bottle, which varied according to the method of attachment of the rod (see “Typologies” below). The bottle was then placed in an annealing furnace, in which the temperature could be gradually lowered, to allow the glass to cool slowly, without shattering (Wilmott 2002, 15).

## Typologies

The main typology for pre-nineteenth century bottle forms was produced by Noel Hume (Hume, 1961), summarised in Charleston and Vince, 1984, 85). In the Hume typology there are only four basic bottle forms, the “shaft and globe”, the “onion”, the “mallet” and “tall” bottles. The mallet bottle, which covers most of the Bedminster examples, was introduced around 1730 and has a squat, cylindrical body, with a long neck and a string ring just beneath the mouth. Most examples have round bases with a pronounced kick-up. This form was gradually replaced from c. 1760 onwards by the tall bottle, which was a more slender version with a slightly bulging neck. A variation of the mallet bottle, noted by Charleston (*ibid.*) has an oval base and is dated slightly earlier, from 1710 to 1728 (latest recorded find, 1758). The form of the bottle more closely resembles a present day “Mateus Rose” bottle, with two flattened sub-oval faces. Comparative material from the Museum of London collection ([www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics)) suggests dates ranging from 1601 to 1800 for the oval-shaped bottles and dates ranging from 1711 to 1770 for the cylindrical mallet bottles.

The relatively wide date range reflects the eighteenth century usage of wine bottles, which, rather than being disposable items, were treated as decanters and re-used over a length of time before their eventual disposal (Sutermeister 1968, 112).

A typology has been produced for the evolution in form of string rings and neck shapes (Ashurst 1970, 116, also with reference to Hume, 1961). As in the case of the bottle forms, the Bedminster examples fall largely within one category, string rings that are triangular in section, with an apex that is either horizontal, or marvered upwards or downwards. These are dated by Ashurst to the eighteenth century and replaced an earlier form, the rounded string rim, found on late seventeenth/early eighteenth century bottles (*ibid.*).

Pontil-marks found on the base of bottles may occur in various forms, although these do not appear to evolve through time. A detailed discussion of pontil-marks has been produced by Jeremy Kemp (Kemp, 2007 [www.diggersdiary.co.uk](http://www.diggersdiary.co.uk)). Bottles from the present assemblage show three different types of mark, the *disc*, *sand* and *glass chip* (*ibid.*). The disc pontil-mark is a round mark, showing where the bare pontil-rod has been broken off from the base of the bottle. The sand and glass chip pontil-marks occur where the pontil-rod has been coated in either sand or glass chips before applying it to the base of the bottle, in order to facilitate its later removal. The bottle base, although less likely to be damaged, is thus likely to retain some of the sand or glass chips. Kemp suggests that these varying methods may represent the personal preferences of individual glass-workers, rather than being a series of technological advances (*ibid.*).

## **The Vessel Glass**

A moderate assemblage of vessel and window glass, comprising twenty shards, mainly of domestic table-ware and phials, was also recovered, weighing a total of 142g.

The largest of these shards consisted of a base shard (with a conjoining fragment) from a possible decanter or flask, in very fine pale green glass with frequent air bubbles (<1mm thick), with a high domed kick-up and in-curving vessel walls. Three shards were of thin-walled (1mm thick) very fine potash glass, from vessels of small diameter, probably cylindrical phials of eighteenth century date (Wilmott 2002, 90,91). These comprised two base shards, both with sharp kick-ups and one out-turned rim shard with a short, vertical neck. Three body shards from vessels of a similar diameter were also recovered, all of very fine, pale green glass. A further thin-walled domed shard, of clear glass, may come from a vessel of similar dimensions.

Five of the shards are thicker-walled (2-3mm thickness), of cloudy pale green potash glass. Four of these shards are slightly flaring upright rims (two of which conjoin), probably from cylindrical beakers, very common in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (Wilmott 2002, 37).

A small cylindrical opaque blue glass bead was also recovered, measuring 10mm long by <3mm diameter. Beads of this type have been commonly recovered from 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century contexts onwards, and may have been used in dress decoration, necklaces or rosaries (Courtney in Rodwell and Bell 2004).

In addition to the vessel glass shards, five shards of window glass were recovered, most of clear glass with a greenish tinge. All the shards are small (<35mm by 35mm) and 1mm in thickness. One of the shards has weathered to a milky colour and shows the outline of the lead came along one edge.

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## **The Bottle Glass Assemblage**

This assemblage of bottle glass consists of: 104 glass shards or larger fragments of vessel, comprising 77 body shards, 12 neck shards, 13 bases or base shards and 2 complete or near-complete vessels.

## **The Glass**

The majority of the glass of which these bottles are composed is olive green in colour, probably due to the use of potash in the manufacturing process, (see above) and varies in shade according to the thickness of the glass. It is probable the glass was produced locally, at one of the five bottle kilns known to have been operating in Bristol in the eighteenth century. One shard only, from Context 608, is a base shard of a very distinctive, clear glossy bluish green glass. It is possible that this shard is an import, rather than of local manufacture.

The surface of the shards was generally glossy, especially internally, although a significant number were becoming cloudy or iridescent, especially on the external surfaces. It is possibly significant that the only bottleneck to display a large amount of iridescence is also of a probable earlier date, as the string ring is rounded and the mouth



out-turned and very lop-sided. Several of the larger shards and the two complete/near-complete bottles, also showed surface concretions, as a result of contact with substances within the surrounding soil. A significant number of shards contained rare small air bubbles, which appeared as elongated bubbles when they occurred at the neck or shoulder of the bottle.

Many of the base shards showed signs of abrasion, where the bottle would have rested on a supporting surface. This indicates the frequency of re-use of bottles of eighteenth century date and suggests that the bottles may have been in use over a lengthy period.

### The Form of the Bottles

All the typologically identifiable bottle shards and the two complete/near-complete bottles fall within the broad "mallet" category (Charleston and Vince 1984, 85), dating to the eighteenth century (see plate 1 below). This category may be further sub-divided into bottles with an oval base (cf. *Mateus* Rose shaped bottles) and cylindrical bottles with a round base.



Plate 1

Thirteen of the sixteen typologically identifiable shards come from bottles of the cylindrical mallet type, dating c.1730-1800. The two largely complete bottles are also of the same type. The one complete example (from Context 608) measures 202mm in height and has a body diameter of 127mm. The neck is short in comparison to the body, giving the bottle a squat appearance. The neck has a triangular string rim, unevenly applied, with some trails of molten glass and a slightly out-turned mouth. The second, near-complete bottle (from Context 613) has a slightly taller, thinner body, which tapers very slightly towards the base. The original overall height is unknown, but the maximum body diameter (just below the shoulder) is 120mm. Body diameters for the remaining base shards of this type range from 105mm to 132mm. The shape and size of these bottles conform closely to those in the Museum of London collection ([www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics)), dated c.1711-1760. The resemblance between 18<sup>th</sup> century bottles from Bristol and those from London is noted by Witt, Weeden and Schwind (1984, 53), who refer to an advertisement in the "Freeholders Journal" for 1722:

*Bristol Water for sale in Bottles. The empty bottles at 2s per dozen. N.B. The bottles are large and London-shaped.*

One of the base shards and a conjoining body shard appear to come from an oval-based mallet-type bottle, dated by Charleston and Vince to c.1710-1728 (1984, 85), although London examples of this type of bottle are given a wider date range, encompassing the entire seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (above). Two of the bottle-necks and the bottle seals (see below) may also belong to bottles of this category.

All of the base shards and the bases of the two bottles have more or less pronounced kick-ups (as seen also in the Museum of London examples). Most of the bases, including the oval base, have a glass chip pontil-mark, two have a sand mark and two have a disc pontil-mark. The distinctive bluish-green shard (above) is one of the two to have a disc pontil-mark and may be from a finer quality vessel, possibly an import.

All except one of the identifiable bottle-necks in the assemblage have a triangular string rim below the shorn off mouth of the bottle, of a type dated by Ashurst to the eighteenth century (1970, 116). Four of the string rings are marvered downwards and the remainder (nine) have a roughly horizontal apex. All are fairly unevenly applied, some with adhering trails of glass around the mouth and neck of the bottle.

The one bottle-neck of slightly different form has a rounded string rim and out-turned globular mouth, very unevenly applied. The neck also shows a blob of metal (?iron) within the glass matrix just below the rim and one external longitudinal groove, produced during the manufacturing process. Ashurst dates bottles with a triangular string rim to the late seventeenth/early eighteenth century (1970, 116), suggesting this neck may be slightly earlier than the other examples.

The number of near-complete base shards (ten) and the number of near-complete bottle-necks (twelve), in addition to the two complete bottles would suggest a minimum vessel count of fourteen bottles and a maximum vessel count of twenty-four.

## **Two Bottle Seals**

Two conjoining shards from Contexts 608 and 613 together form a complete seal (plate 2 below), marked with the arms of the Lisle family and the words:

HOLT MINERAL WATERS  
H EYRE PURVEYOR FOR MINERAL WATER TO HER MAJESTY.

A further shard, from Context 608, is part of a second seal and shows the word "MAJESTY" only.



**Plate 2**

Shards and bottles bearing this seal have been traced to the village of Holt, near Trowbridge, one of several small mineral water spas that sprang up in the Wiltshire area

in the early/mid eighteenth century (Crittall 1959, 386-388). The first Holt well was sunk in 1688 and the village was known as a spa from c.1713 onwards (ibid.). By 1725 the waters were being bottled and sent once a week to London (ibid.). By that time there were at least four wells, sited on land belonging to the Lisle family (ibid.) hence the coat of arms. The waters were used for both drinking and washing, as contemporary advertisements claimed their effective use in the case of skin diseases and “bad eyes”, amongst other ailments (ibid.).

By 1731, Henry Eyre, a professional mineral water agent, probably from London, had become “master” of the Holt wells (Crittall 1959, 386-388). Eyre was responsible for distributing mineral waters throughout London and the south-west, selling:

*the Foreign Waters as fresh and frequent as the distant situation of the Places will admit*

and

*our own Mineral Waters fresh and good, viz. those of Holt, Bath and Bristol*

(Extracts from a booklet by Henry Eyre dated 1731 *A Brief Account of the Holt Waters, containing one Hundred and Twelve eminent Cures, perform'd by the Use of the Famous mineral Waters at Holt, (near Bath) in Wiltshire To which are added, Directions for drinking the Holt Waters, and some experimental Observations on the several Wells*, reproduced in [www.vialibri.net/item\\_pg/2021473-1731-eyre-henry-brief-account-the-holt-waters-containing-eyre-henry.htm](http://www.vialibri.net/item_pg/2021473-1731-eyre-henry-brief-account-the-holt-waters-containing-eyre-henry.htm) and accessed May 2009)

Although it is known that Eyre had returned to London by 1733 (Crittall 1959, 386-388), it is possible he continued to run the business from there for some time. An advertisement in the Bath Chronicle in 1780 suggests the spa was still thriving, but by then it was under the ownership of a Charles Nott (ibid.).

The shards with this seal may thus be dated from c.1731 to before 1780 and are more likely to originate from the earlier part of this period. The curvature of the larger shard would suggest the bottle of which it formed a part was of the oval-based “Mateus Rose” type (see above).

## Discussion and Conclusions

This assemblage of bottle glass may be dated largely to the period c.1730-1800 and is mainly composed of shards from squat, cylindrical “mallet” type bottles. At least five of the shards (some of which may be from the same bottle) are from oval-based “Mateus Rose” style bottles, whose form may suggest a possibly earlier date. The one dateable seal, from a bottle of Holt mineral water, can be dated c.1731-1780 and would imply the assemblage cannot have been deposited before c.1731. Evidence of wear on the base of many of the bottles would suggest a date of deposition somewhat later than their date of manufacture.

The shards probably represent the remains of between fourteen and twenty-four bottles, deposited over a relatively short period of time, if not in a single action.

The glass itself is a green-tinted potash glass, probably of local manufacture, using products associated with the well-established soap-making industry. One base shard in a distinctive bluish-green glass may be of a higher quality vessel, possibly imported. The bottles themselves are likely to represent a fairly standard collection of domestic glassware that were used and re-used for local mineral waters, wines or locally produced beer, cider or perry.

## 7.4 The Animal Bone by Lorraine Higbee

### Quantity and provenance

Twenty-four fragments (or 882g) of animal bone were recovered from the watching brief during the normal course of hand-excavation. Most of this material is from the fill (102 / 112) of a medieval cut feature. A small number of bone fragments were also recovered from the fill (115) of a medieval ditch.

### Methods

This report follows general guidelines for the assessment of environmental remains outlined by English Heritage (2002). Due to the small size of the assemblage it was decided early on in the assessment to fully analyse the material in order to provide a complete archive of the assemblage. The following information was recorded: species, skeletal element, age and biometric data, butchery, taphonomy, pathology and non-metric traits.

The following standard methods were used to distinguish between related taxa, and record age, biometric data and other relevant information: Boessneck (1969); Cohen and Serjeantson (1996); Grant (1982); Halstead (1985); Lauwerier (1988); O'Connor (1989); Payne (1973, 1985 and 1987); Silver (1969); Von den Driesch (1976). An appendix of individual measurements can be found in the site archive.

Quantification methods take into account the recommendations of Davis (1992). In summary, a selected suite of skeletal elements was counted in order to assess the potential of the assemblage for further analysis. These elements are generally those which show a good survival and recovery rate in most assemblages, and also provide detailed information (e.g. age and biometric data). Bones that could not be assigned to species, mostly fragments of long bone shaft, rib and vertebra, have been quantified into general size categories and small splinters into more general taxonomic categories. This information is presented in order to provide an overall fragment count.

### Condition of material

Bone preservation is generally good and only a small number of fragments show signs of deterioration, this takes the form of minor exfoliation and cracking of cortical surfaces. Only one bone, a proximal cattle humerus, was recorded with gnaw marks.

**Table 1** Number of specimens identified to species (or NISP) by context, species and skeletal element.

	Cistern (102) and (112)			Ditch (115)	Total
	cattle	sheep/goat	chicken	cattle	
mandible		1		1	2
horn core	2				2
scapula	1				1
humerus	1				1
ulna	1				1
femur	1				1
metatarsal	1				1
carpometacarpus			1		1
<b>Total identified</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
mammal					5
large mammal					6
medium mammal					2
bird					1
<b>Total unidentified</b>					<b>14</b>
<b>Grand total</b>					<b>24</b>

### **Medieval Cut Feature (102) and (112)**

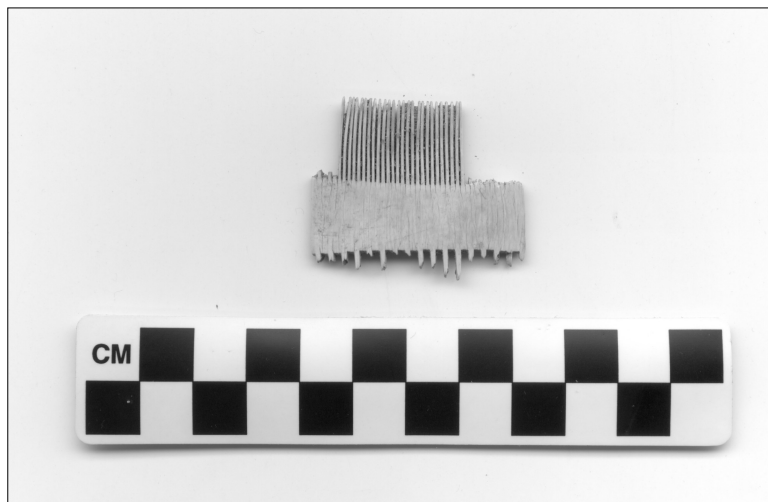
Identified fragments include seven cattle bones, a sheep/goat mandible and chicken carpometacarpus (Table 1). The sheep/goat mandible is from a 3-4 year old animal (wear stage F after Payne 1973). Butchery marks were noted on the cattle metatarsal and scapula, and these marks are consistent with division of the carcass during primary butchery.

### **Medieval ditch (115)**

One cattle mandible was identified from the small number of fragments recovered from the ditch. The mandible is from a 1-8 month old calf (wear stage B after Halstead 1985).

## **7.5 Worked Bone Object**

A fragment of double-sided worked bone comb (see plate below), measuring 41mm by 32mm by 2.5mm, was retrieved from pit-fill, Context 608. The comb had fine teeth on one side, surviving to a length of 15mm and the fractured remnants of coarse teeth on the other. The comb was gently curved along its length and undecorated. Similar bone combs were excavated at Upper Maudlin Street, Bristol, where they occurred in contexts ranging in date from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (Burchill in Jackson 2000, 103).



## **7.6 The Project Archive**

A complete catalogue of the finds assemblage recovered from the site plus descriptive reports and summaries can be found in the project archive.

## 8 Discussion and General Conclusions

The Archaeological Recording and Monitoring Project undertaken at 177 East Street has been conducted in accordance with a Planning Condition issued by Bristol City Council and the Scheme of Work submitted by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited (Young 2008) and approved by the City Archaeologist of Bristol City Council.

The Standing Building Survey has created a permanent archive of the East Street Baptist Church and adjoining church hall, prior to the demolition of the hall and conversion of the church building into residential flats. Unfortunately at the time of recording much of the woodwork such as the pews and balcony rail had already been removed. The main features of note were: The main façade of the church containing a central rose window of stained glass held in stone tracery flanked on either side by two quatrefoils set at a slightly lower level and the Baptismal Pool located at the east end of the Church.

The church hall, which was subsequently demolished, was of similar age to the church, but had few features of note, excepting the iron framed ceiling light and the iron support columns.

During archaeological monitoring of remedial groundworks in the location of the demolished church hall, several features of archaeological significance were revealed. One rectangular rock cut feature (**105**) measuring 2.45 m long, 2.35 m and up to 1.3 m deep was revealed. Part of the upper portion of the cut was lined with up to four courses of dry stone masonry. The uniform soil fill contained only pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century origin. The exact function of this pit could not be determined, though the possibility it represents a former medieval cistern could not be discounted.

Towards the southern boundary of the church hall site, machining exposed a c. 20 m long north facing section up to 1.2 m deep. A late medieval/early post-medieval ditch (possibly representing a former tenement boundary) and several later post-medieval cut features were revealed and recorded in section. During subsequent machining of this section, a sub-rectangular pit cut (**612**) was revealed in 45-degree angle section, measuring c. 3.7 m by 2.2 m by 1.0 m deep. The primary fill (**608/613**) of cut **612**, up to 300 mm thick, was found to contain an exceptional assemblage of pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipe, together with other artefacts of the period, dated to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. This important collection of 18<sup>th</sup> century artefacts, many of them whole or near whole on deposition, was probably disposed of in a single event, in what was most likely a freshly dug rubbish pit located in the rear yard of a tenement fronting East Street.

Following the discovery and excavation of the 18<sup>th</sup> century rubbish pit, archaeological monitoring was undertaken during excavations along the southern boundary of the site to underpin the wall of the adjoining building. Nothing further of archaeological significance was revealed, and with all exposed areas of the site excavated to the level of the sandstone bedrock or below, archaeological monitoring was ceased.



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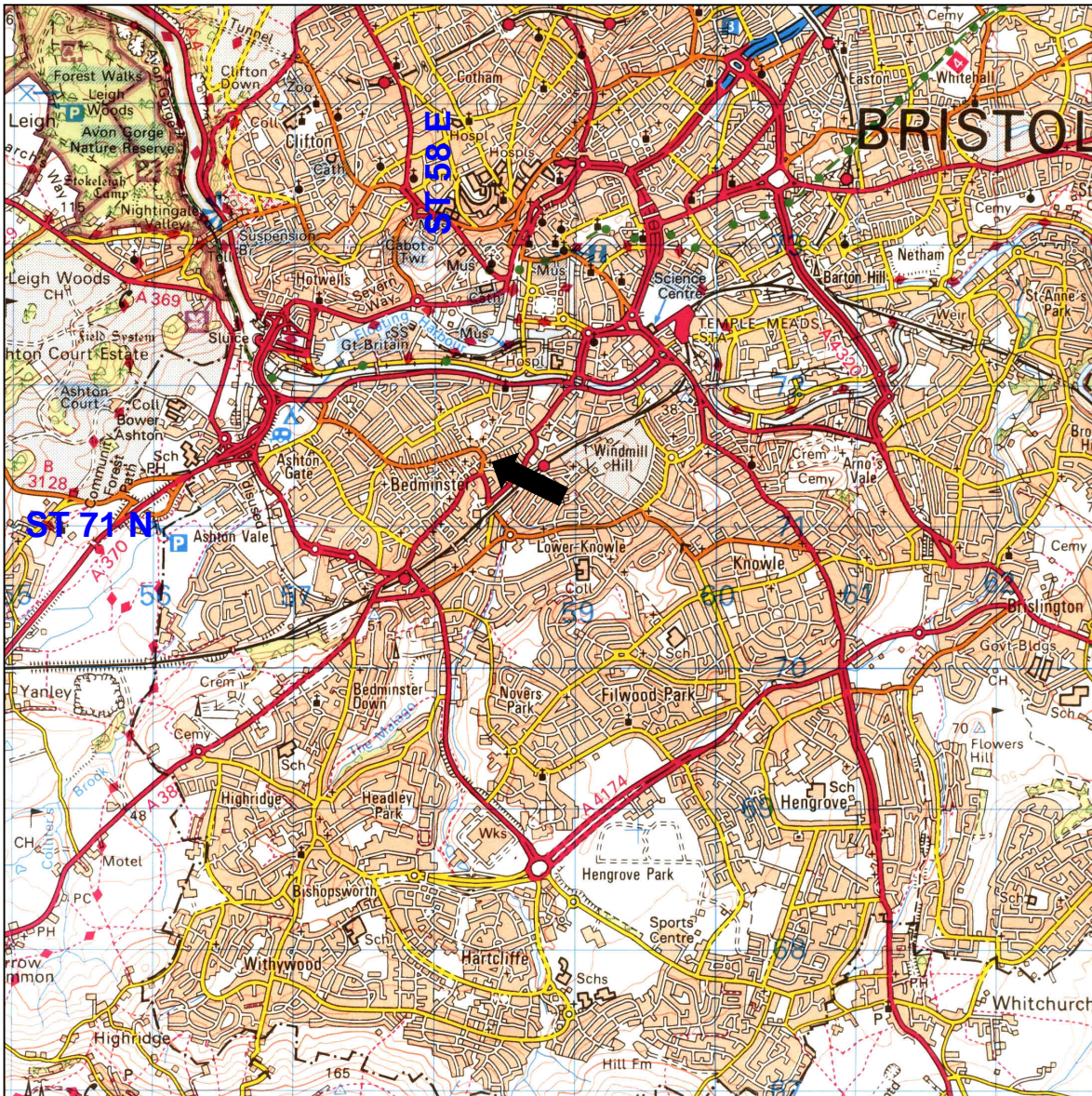
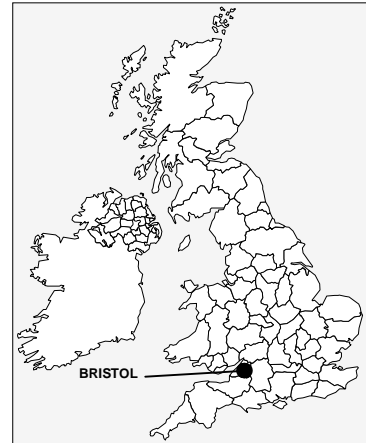


Figure 1

### Location of the Study Area

The Study Area ←

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Figure 2

### Location of the Study Area

The Study Area 

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BHER 24595  
BRSMG 2008/76



Figure 3

Approximate Boundary of the Study Area (outlined in red)

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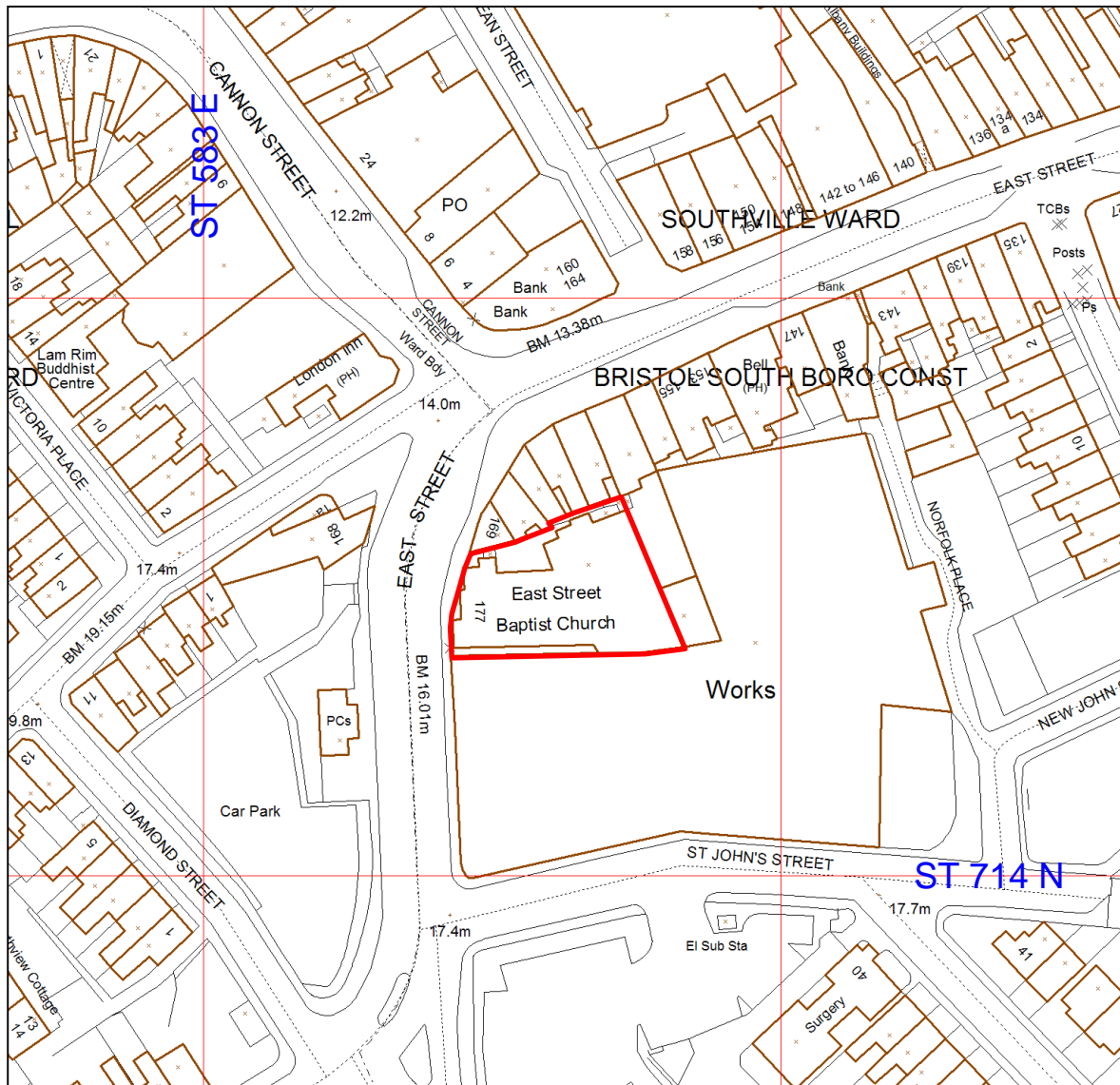




Figure 4

Ground Floor Plan of the Church (outlined in blue)



4.1 View of west end of church.



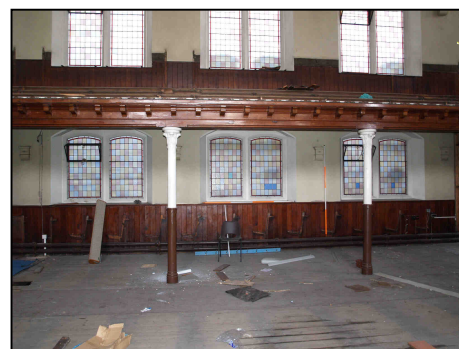
4.2 View of partially dismantled organ, pulpit framework and Baptismal Pool at east end of church.



4.3 View of baptismal pool looking northeast. Scales 1 m by 1 m by 1 m.



4.4 View of partitioned area at west end of church.



4.5 View of north side of church interior showing gallery and metal supports.



4.6 View of north side of church, looking south. Scale 2 m.



4.7 View of alleyway between church and Cameron Balloons looking east.



4.8 View of north side of church looking southwest



4.9 View of the north west corner of the church hall abutting the church

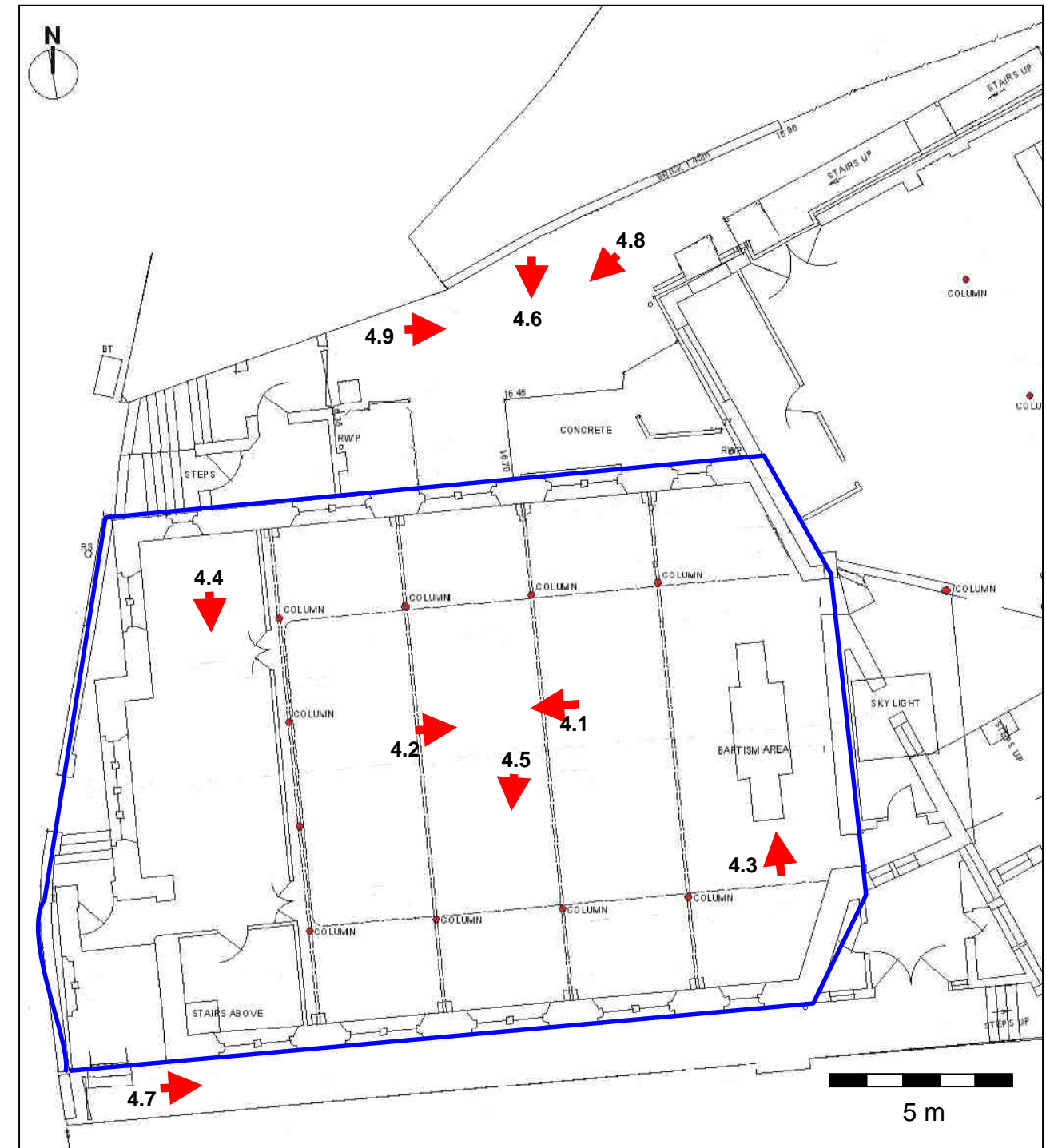


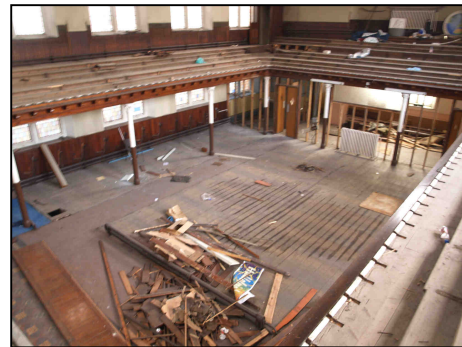


Figure 5

First Floor Plan of the Church (outlined in blue)



5.1 View of south side of gallery.



5.2 View of ground floor of church from gallery looking southwest.



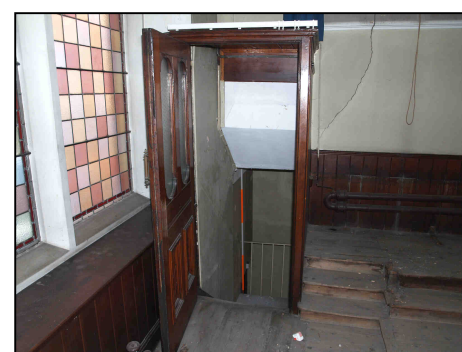
5.3 View of access to north side of gallery.



5.4 View of rose window west end of church.



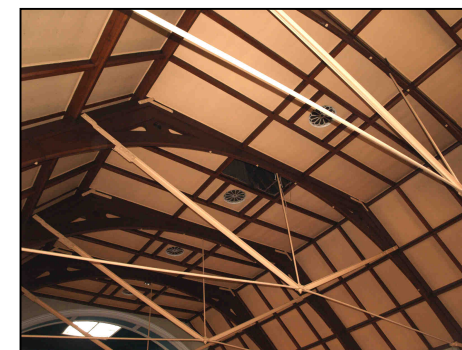
5.5 View of quatrefoil window to south of rose window.



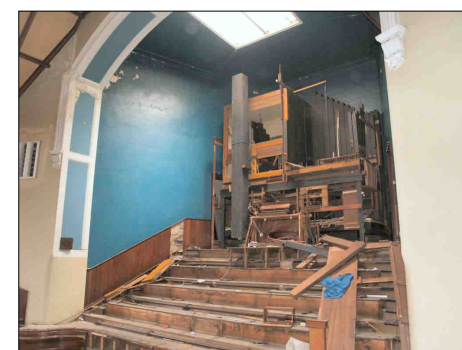
5.6 View of access to south side of gallery.



5.7 View from gallery of baptismal pool looking northeast.



5.8 View of ceiling and structural supports looking southeast.



5.9 View of partially dismantled organ looking northeast.

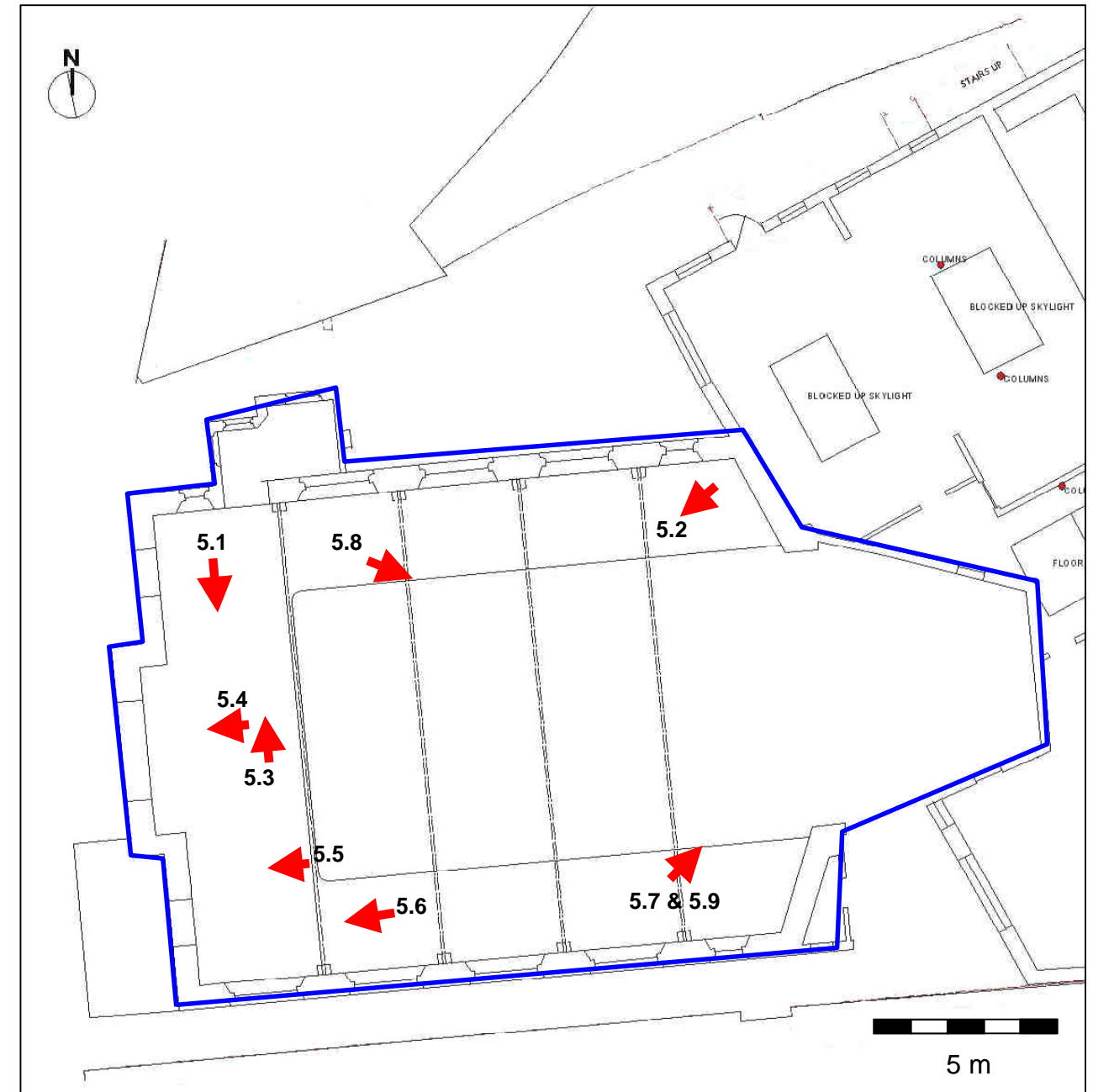
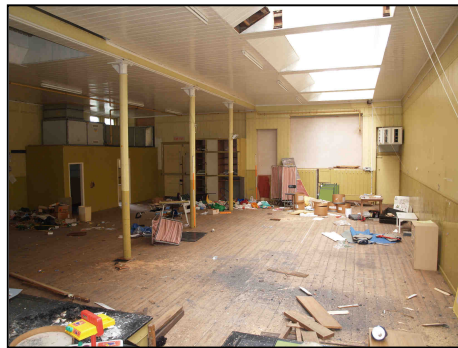




Figure 6

Plan of Ground Floor of Church Hall (outlined in blue)



6.1 View of north end of Room G1 looking northwest towards Rooms G8 and G9.



6.2 View of south end of Room G1 looking south.



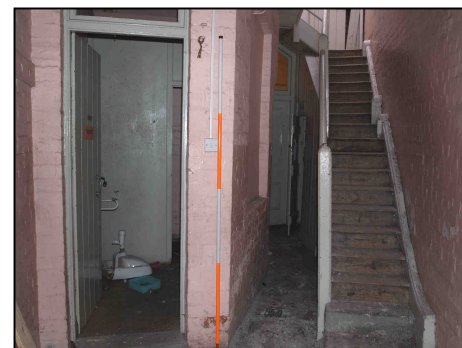
6.3 View of underside of ceiling light in Room G1.



6.4 View of south end of Room G2.



6.5 View of north side of Room G4.



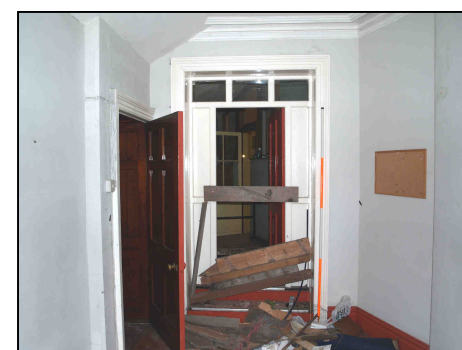
6.6 View of stairs giving access to first floor.



6.7 View of skylight in Room G2 looking northwest.



6.8 View of south side of Room G3.



6.9 View of Room G11 looking north towards Room G10 and doorway giving access to Church south of the Baptismal Pool.

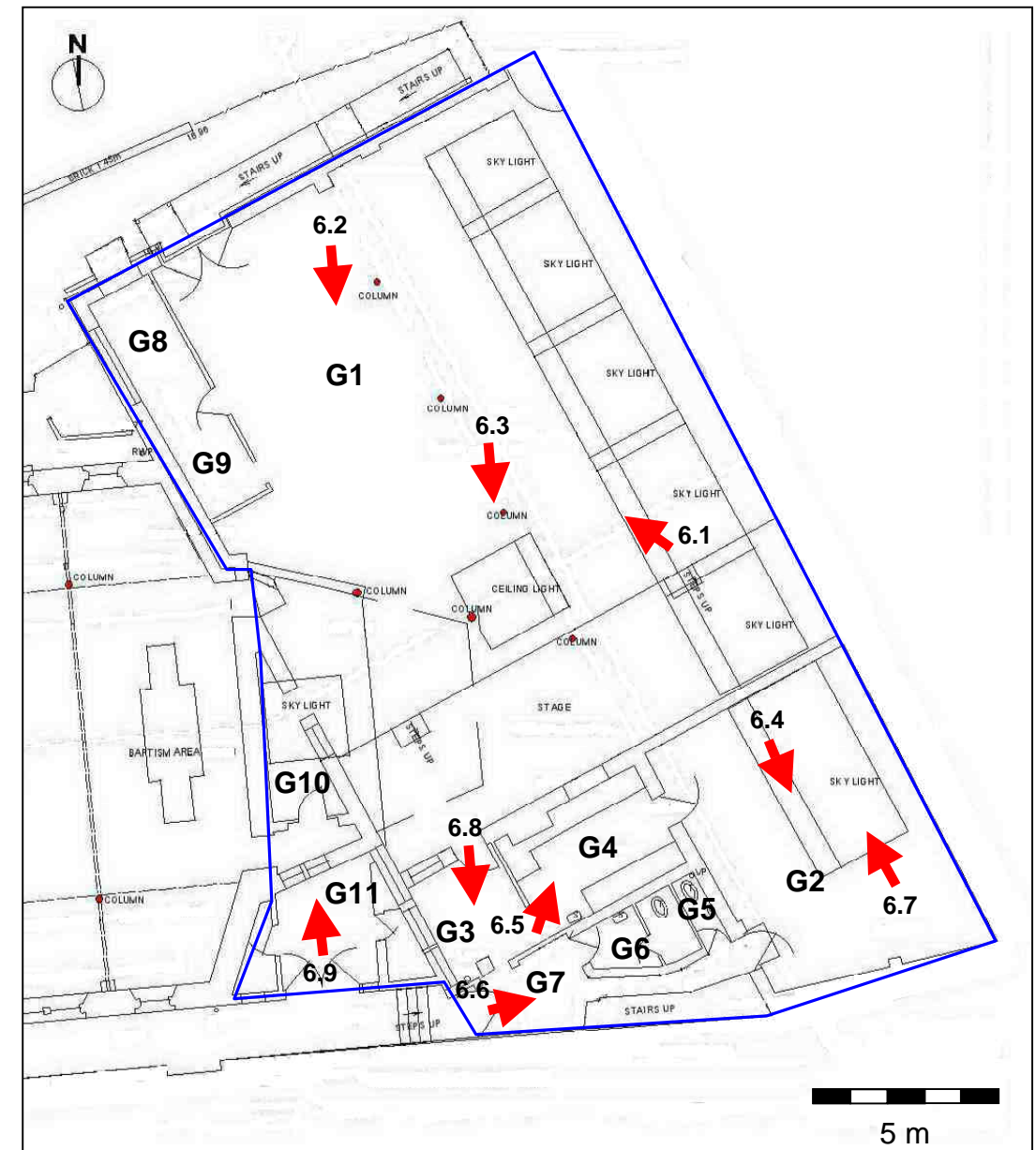




Figure 7

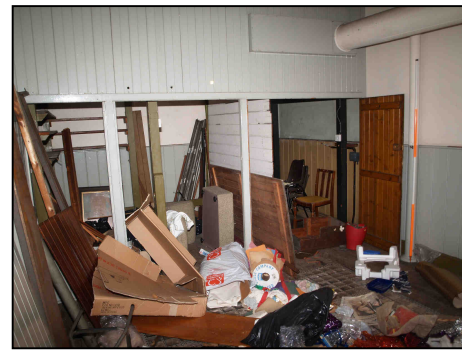
Plan of First Floor of Church Hall (outlined in blue)



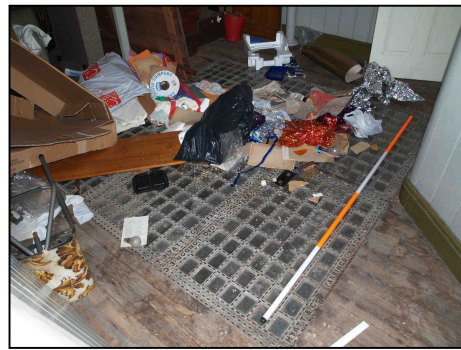
7.1 View of north end of Room F1.



7.2 View of south end of Room F1.



7.3 View of storage area at east end of Room F2.



7.4 View of ceiling light in floor of Room F2.



7.5 View of west end of Room F2.



7.6 View of east side of Room F3.



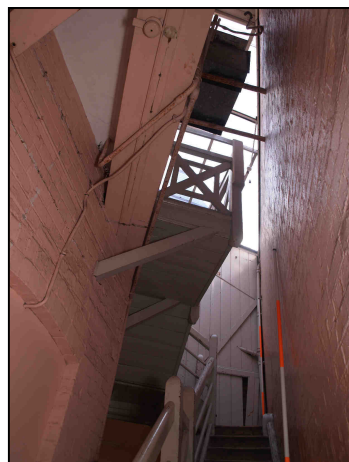
7.7 View of east end of Room F4.



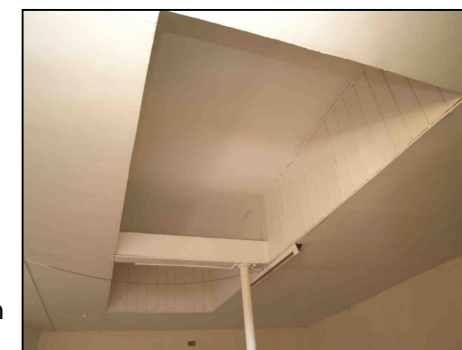
7.8 View of steps up to Room F4.



7.9 View along parapet on east side of church hall looking south.



7.10 View of top of stairs leading up to first floor of church hall.



7.11 View of underside of blocked skylight in Room F3.

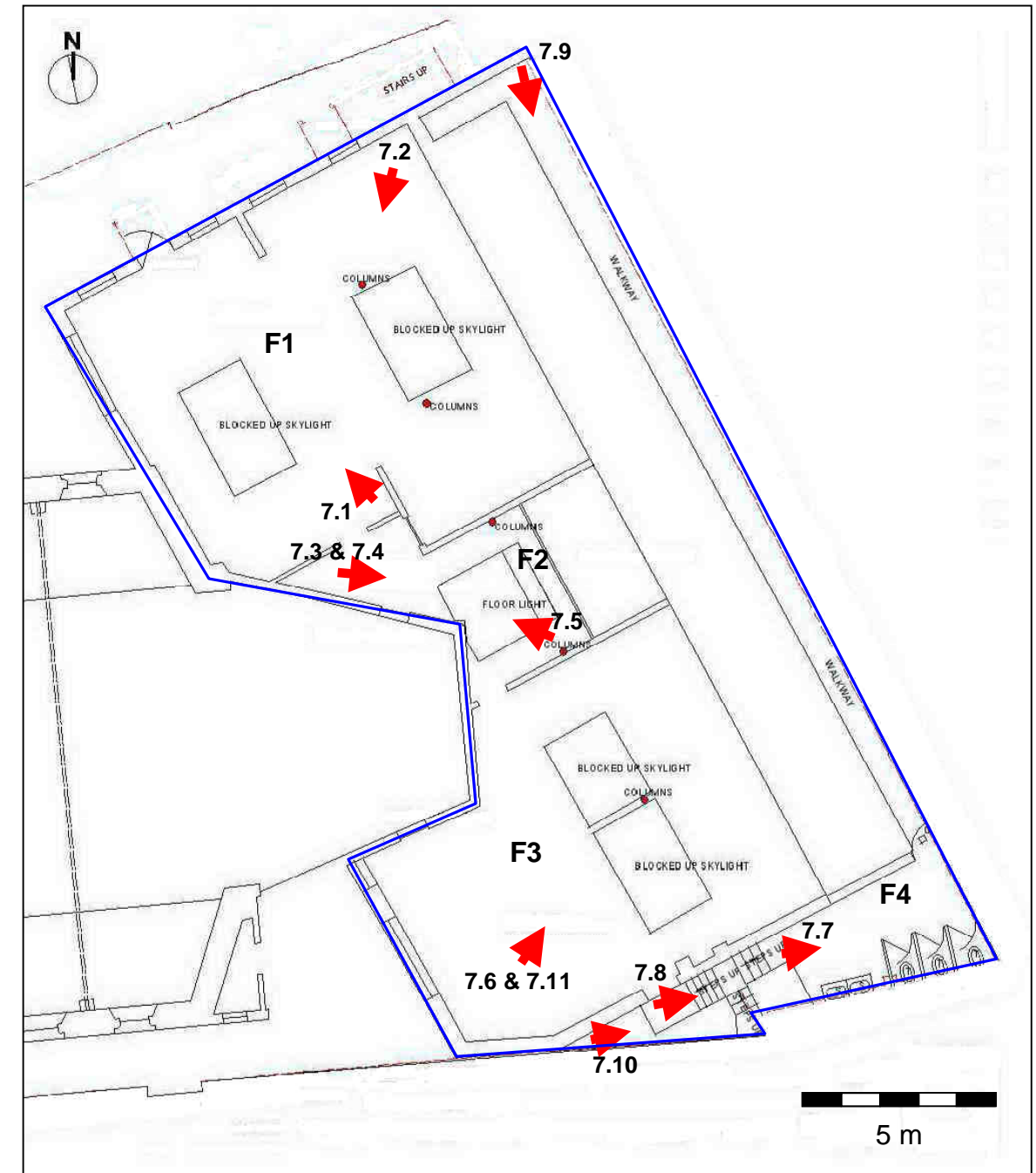


Figure 8

Location Plan of Features and the North Facing Section Recorded during the Watching Brief

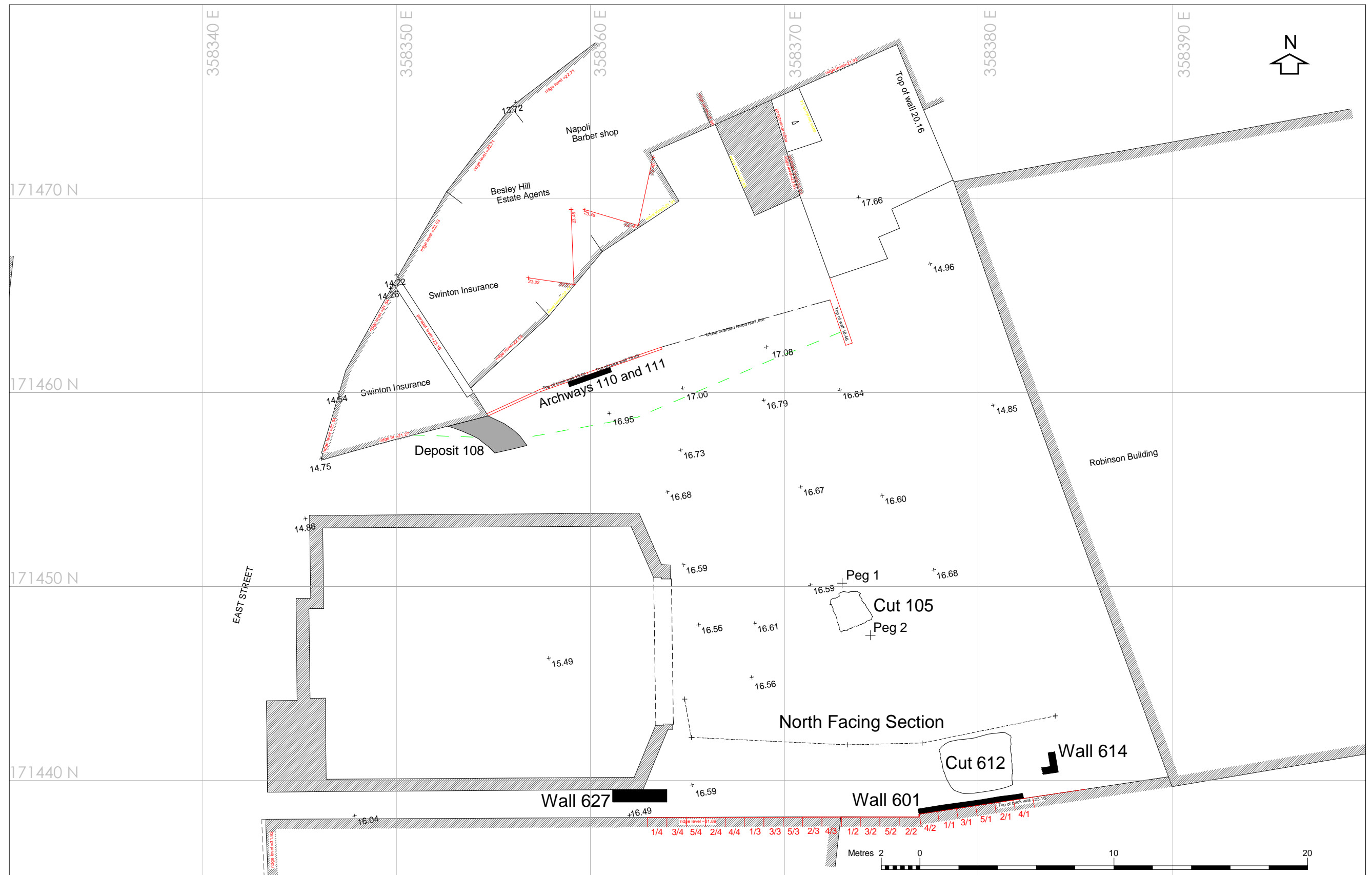
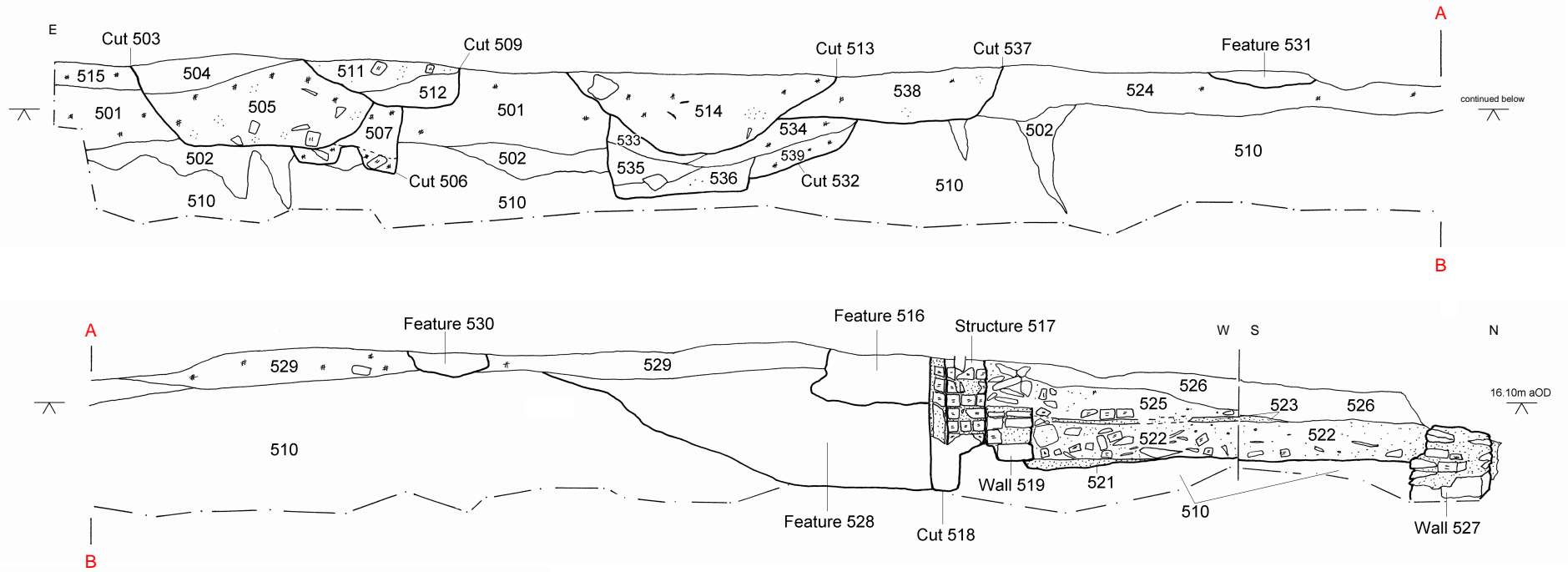
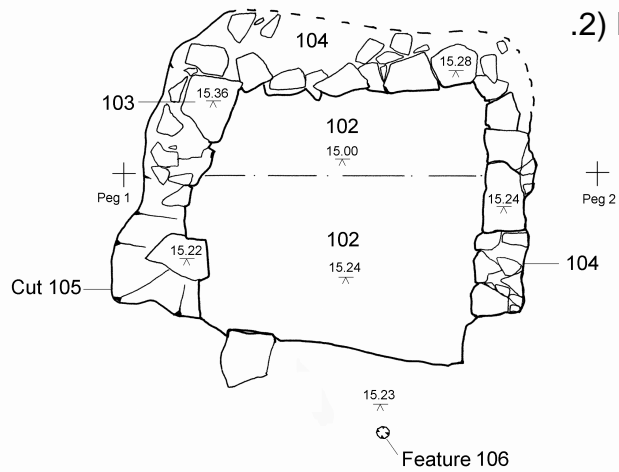


Figure 9

.1) North and East Facing Section



.2) Plan of Cut 105





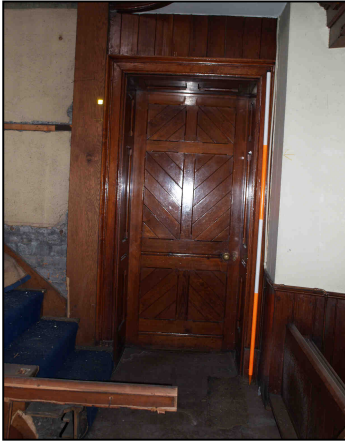
## Plates



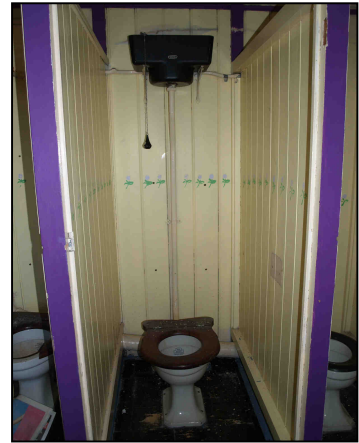
A



B



C



D



E



F



G