

Drain repair at No. 4 Christmas Steps, Bristol.

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Wessex Water plc.

by



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COAS reference: COAS/WBF/08/CSB

National Grid Reference: centred on ST 58631 73182

Wessex Water plc scheme reference: CW151

Bristol City Museums and Art Gallery Accession Number: 2008/9

Bristol Urban Archaeological Database Number: 4443

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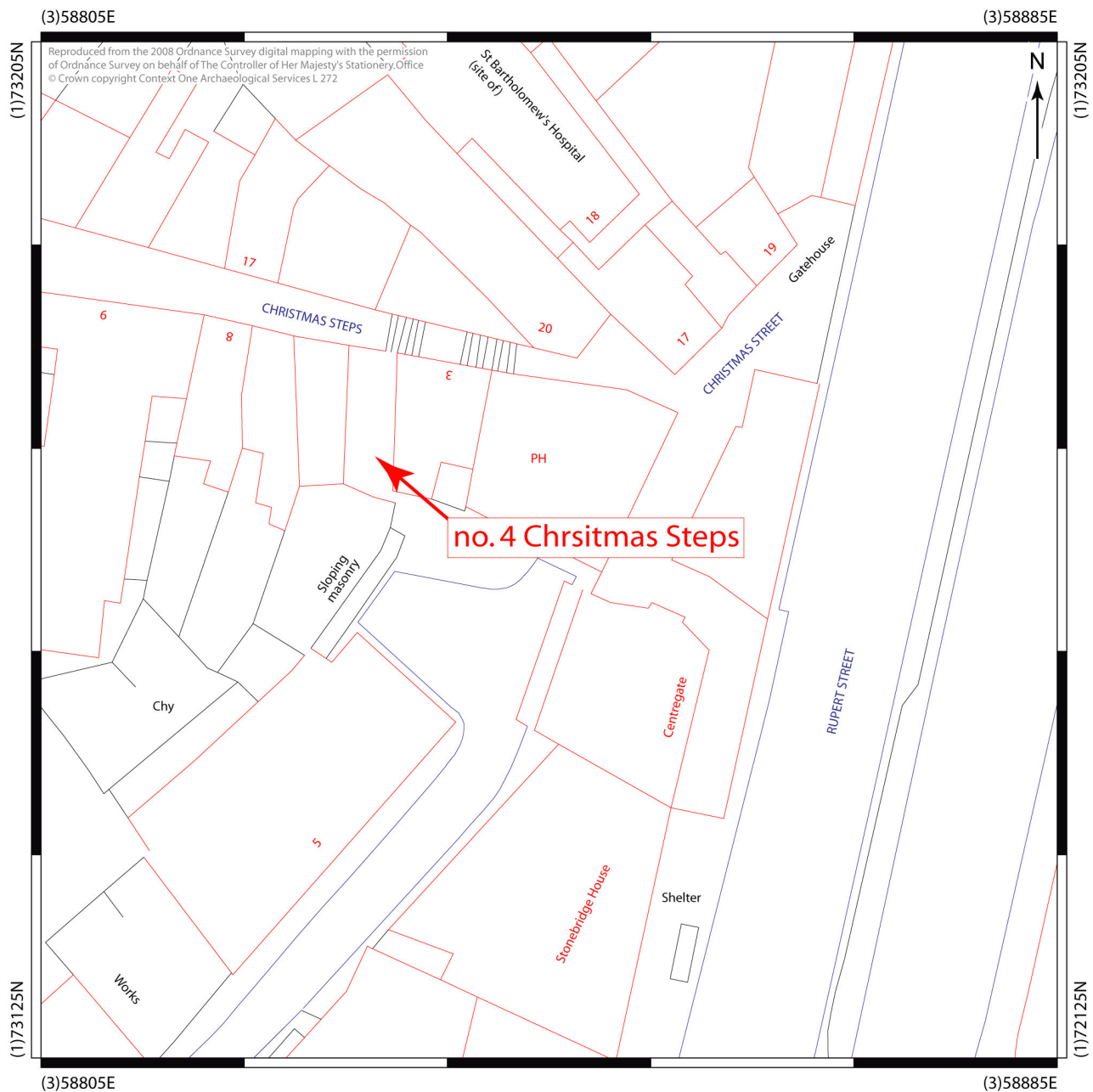
June 2008

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Front cover image: General view down Christmas Steps from the west. © Context One Archaeological Services 2008

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief during reparation of a sewer drain at No. 4 Christmas Steps, Bristol (centred on NGR ST 58631 73182, see **Figure 1**) (hereafter referred to as the Site), on the 30th of January 2008. The project was commissioned and funded by Wessex Water plc.
- 1.2. The investigation was requested by Mr Peter Insole (Archaeological Officer, Bristol City Council), following a consultation request by Ms Ryvar (Environmental Scientist, Wessex Water plc). The Site lies within the medieval quarter of historic Bristol and the Christmas Steps Conservation Area, where several of the surrounding buildings are listed.
- 1.3. It was therefore considered that archaeological features/deposits could be present on the Site, and that these would be damaged or destroyed by the development. However, as the nature or presence of such features/deposits had not been proven on the basis of currently available information, it was determined that a reasonable archaeological response would be to carry out a Watching Brief during all ground disturbance.
- 1.4. At the request of Mr Bob Jones (City Archaeologist, Bristol City Council), COAS issued a *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Christmas Steps, Trap Replacement, Bristol* (January 2008) which provided a strategy for the archaeological works. This was submitted to and approved by Mr Jones prior to the commencement of the Watching Brief.
- 1.5. The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 1 (PPG1), General Policy and Principles*, 1997 and *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) issued by the DoE in 1990. The recommendation also conforms to Policy 19 of the *Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Joint Replacement Structure Plan* (adopted September 2002) and Policy B22 of the *Bristol Local Plan* (adopted December 1997).
- 1.6. This report summarises the general nature of the work carried out on Site, and presents the results of the investigation.



			PROJECT TITLE	
			Christmas Steps trap replacement, Christmas Steps, Bristol	
			FIGURE TITLE	
			Detailed site setting showing area of watching brief	
SCALE		PROJECT CODE.	FIGURE NO.	
as shown		COAS/WBF/08/CSB	1	

2. Methodology

Wessex Water Methodology

- 2.1. Works comprised the lifting of an existing drain inspection cover and removal of a low breeze block wall that was approximately 0.60m in length and formed the side of the sewer drain (not part of the buildings structure). The works involved no new ground intrusion.

Archaeological Methodology

- 2.2. The programme of archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) in 1995 (revised 1999). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* issued by the IFA in 1985 (revised 2000), and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, revised September 2000), at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on site.
- 2.3. As the scheme involved no ground intrusion, the Watching Brief was confined to a photographic record of the repair works.

3. Results

- 3.1. No archaeological remains/features were observed during the course of the Watching Brief.

4. Archive

- 4.1. The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 10 digital images in .jpg format and a photographic register.
- 4.2. As part of our commitment to public archaeology, an e-report will be available to view online or download as an Adobe Acrobat™ file from the COAS website at www.contextone.co.uk/bristol.htm following entry onto the Bristol Historic Environment Record (HER) and Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS), where it will become a publicly accessible document.

5. Bibliography

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