

**SOUTHMEAD POLICE STATION,
SOUTHMEAD ROAD, BRISTOL
BS10 5DW**

Report on Archaeological Fieldwork
Prepared for: Care UK



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Appendix 01: Context Register

Status of report: Final

Author	John Winfer ACIfA
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The SLR staff involved in the implementation of this project were:

Tim Malim MA MCIfA	Technical Director	QA review and Project Management
John Winfer BA ACIFA	Project Archaeologist	Excavation fieldwork and report
Andrew Burn BA	Associate Archaeologist	Surveying

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SLR is grateful for the assistance of Richard Smith (Care UK) and Lee Vile (Halsall) and Peter Insole (Bristol City Council) during the course of the site works.

The investigation was designed by Tim Malim (SLR). Fieldwork was undertaken by John Winfer.

SLR is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), an audited status which confirms that work is carried out to defined standards. SLR operates a quality management system to help ensure all projects are managed in a professional and transparent manner, which enables it to qualify for ISO 9001. SLR is a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 SCOPE OF WORK

Following an Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment¹, a heritage statement for the grade II listed Gazebo² and consultation with Bristol City Council Planning Archaeologist, Peter Insole, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by SLR Consulting Ltd on behalf of Care UK Limited (CUK) outlining a methodology for landscape survey, archaeological evaluation and watching brief at the site of Southmead Police Station, Southmead Road, Bristol, BS10 5DW³. This WSI was approved by the Council Planning Archaeologist.

The work was carried out between 25th May 2017 and 14th March 2018 and this report details the results from implementation of the WSI. The results are recorded on OASIS. The evaluation stage is recorded as record slrconsu1-285935, the watching brief as slrconsu1-316245 and the survey as slrconsu1-317522. The project is recorded on the Bristol City HER as record 25675

1.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

By way of introduction, CUK is a leading independent provider of health and social care services, and currently provides care and support for over 6,000 people in over 110 nursing and care homes. CUK are passionate about providing high quality specialist dementia care, are founder members of the Dementia Action Alliance and have won national awards for the quality of dementia-aware interior design in our new homes. Care UK is proposing to develop a state-of-the-art care home on the site of the old police station, comprising:

- demolition of the police station and associated buildings (not including 149 Southmead Road which will be retained and refurbished);
- redevelopment of the site to comprise a three-storey 66 bed residential care home (use class C2) to include bedroom areas, treatment rooms, management and administration areas, communal dining and socialising areas including restaurant/cafe, hairdressers, cinema, and attractive terraces off the dining rooms on the first and second floors;
- reconfiguration of the remaining site area to include landscaped gardens, parking (23 car parking spaces including two disabled spaces plus secure cycle parking facilities) and service areas; and
- conversion of an existing building at 149 Southmead Road for use as a residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to include, private garden and separate parking places. The care home and the residential dwelling will be accessed via the existing access off Southmead Road.

The new home will provide 24 hour support and care for the frail elderly. The care home will be registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the design and specification of the facility will reflect the latest way of thinking in relation to the care of older people suffering from conditions such as dementia and Alzheimer's. It is proposed that the new building be of a sustainable design and construction and that it is 'futureproofed' to meet future care needs and expectations.

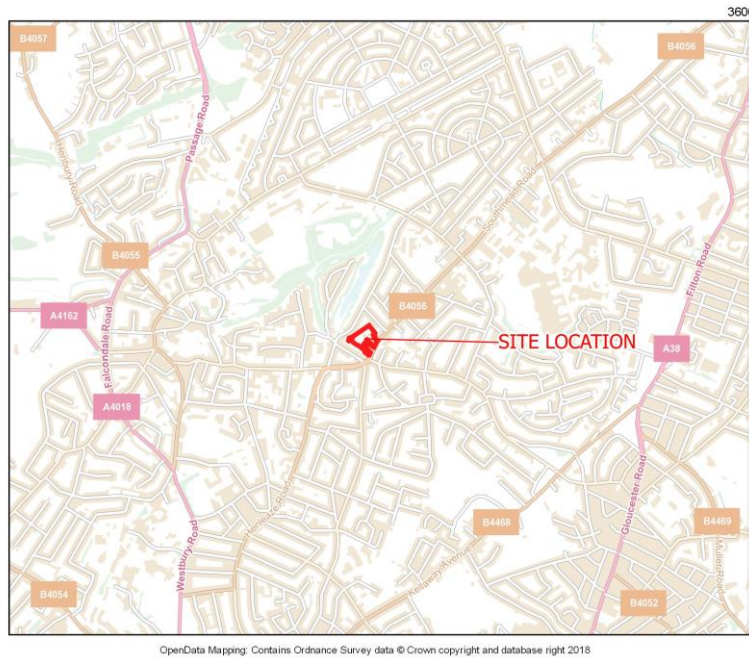
¹ SLR Consulting 2015 Demolition of Existing Buildings and Redevelopment to Provide a Care Home and Associated Access, Car Parking and Landscaping as well as the Conversion of the Retained Frontage Building to form a Single Dwelling Southmead Police Station, Southmead Road, Bristol BS10 5DW Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

² Listed Structure on land to the rear of Southmead Police Station, Southmead Road, Bristol BS10 5DW; Condition Survey

³ SLR Consulting 2017 Southmead Police Station, Southmead Road, Bristol, BS10 5DW; Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation

2.0 Site Location

Figure 1
Site Location



2.1 THE SITE

The site is located in the northern part of Bristol, towards the southern end of Southmead Road, near the junction of Wellington Hill West (Figure 1) (NGR: 0358155,0177374 / ST 58155 77374). It comprises an irregular shaped piece of land covering approximately 0.82 hectares, located within the historic core of Southmead's medieval manor. It fronts on to Southmead Road to the south east with a stream to the south west, and residential properties along both Charis Avenue to the north east and Lake Road to the north west (Figure 1).

The land formerly comprised the brick-built Southmead police station with associated hardstanding for parking to the northeast, and to the southwest the site is undeveloped and overgrown forming the remains of what was once part the gardens to the manor house.

The proposed development as a whole lies within the gardens and grounds of Southmead's 14th century medieval manor house, of which the 18th century house (not listed) is still extant and adjacent to the site. The remains of a Grade II listed gazebo stand at the west of the site.

2.2 GEOLOGY

The centre of the site has an elevation of approximately 53m AOD. The local geology comprises Clifton Down Mudstone Formation (mudstone), Westbury Formation and Cotham Member (interbedded mudstone and limestone), and Clifton Down Limestone Formation (limestone)⁴.

⁴ British Geological Survey, available from <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

3.0 Archaeological and Historic Background

3.1 SUMMARY OVERVIEW

The following is summarised from a historic environment desk based assessment carried out by SLR Consulting in 2015⁵. The proposed development lies within the historic parish of Westbury on Trym and is situated to the east of the settlement of that name. It lies within the Brentry Hundred, originally in Gloucestershire. It lies on an ancient route way, midway between the early settlements of Horfield in the east and to Westbury on Trym in the west, both mentioned in Domesday Book as large to medium settlements respectively at the time.

The name Southmead refers to the 'Southern Meadow', meadows being lush grazing land normally adjacent to streams and rivers. A stream to the southwest of the site flows in a north westerly direction to join the River Trym which lies some 350m away. The Manor of Southmead was mentioned in the Worcester Register (1319) of Bishop Cobham who 'granted licence to hear Divine Service in the Chapel' within the house. It was owned by the Nunnery of St Mary Magdalene, situated at the foot of St Michael's Hill in Bristol, but had been granted to Thomas Haines on long term lease. At dissolution in 1536 it was acquired by the Haynes family and was passed through several hands. It was acquired by Joshua James a Bristol Distiller who made 'great improvements' to the building according to Samuel Rudder in his history of Gloucestershire.

The Westbury tithe map of 1841 shows the Manor House as an extensive range of buildings surrounded by outbuildings and with a large pond (possibly a former millpond) to the south-east. The Manor house was bought by Dr Stanley Badock in the late 19th century, who laid out the gardens.

Southmead Road was established c.1903 dividing the manor house from its outbuildings and the site of the pond; these now lie beneath, and on the south side of the road. The manor house was sold again and rebuilt in 1912 although it is reported that several features were retained. A sale document of 1926 refers to lawns, kitchen gardens, orchards, outbuildings, and a 70ft long swimming pool. Boore reports that a 'wet' cellar or possible icehouse was located beneath the entrance of the building, with access below the nursery doorway⁶. The property was owned by the Courtney family from the late 1930s until the 1980s. The plot was then broken up and the gardens divorced from the main house. It appears from the modern Ordnance survey 1:1250 Landline plan that the northern buildings of the (?18th century) manor house were situated to the north of the present building at no 149 Southmead Road.

Although Southmead Road was created in 1903, an existing route way is already clearly visible in the 1880s map and also visible as a field boundary in the 1841 Tithe map. An ancient route along this trajectory could have run from beyond Filton in the northeast, to the Iron Age Clifton Down Camp in the southwest. It crosses an east-west route way linking Westbury on Trym with Horfield, placing the manor at a crossroads.

3.2 DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Within the site boundary lies a Grade II listed Gazebo (NHLE 1202591) believed to have been built in the late 18th century (although not visible on historic mapping and a recent survey by SLR suggests it is 20th century⁷). The local Historic Environment Record (HER) also lists Southmead Manor Garden as an adopted 'NE9 Park and Garden'⁸, part of which lies within the site boundary.

⁵ SLR Consulting 2015, *Southmead Police Station, Southmead Road, Bristol: Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment*

⁶ Boore, E. 1995 *Southmead manor House Gardens: Desk-based Assessment* (HER 20085) Bristol and Region Archaeological Service

⁷ SLR Consulting 2017 *Condition Survey*

⁸ NE9 *Historic parks and gardens and other designed landscapes of national and local importance defined on the Proposals*

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1 AIMS

The written scheme of investigation for these works set the aims of the project as being:

- to establish the extent and significance of any extant archaeological remains relating to historic garden features and also to the interior and surrounds of the gazebo;
- to establish the extent and significance of any buried archaeological remains which might exist within the Site especially in regard to evidence for the manor;
- to identify archaeological remains which would merit preservation through record;
and
- to assess the impact on their heritage significance from the permitted development in order to recommend a detailed mitigation strategy.

4.2 OBJECTIVES

The works seek to address the following objectives:

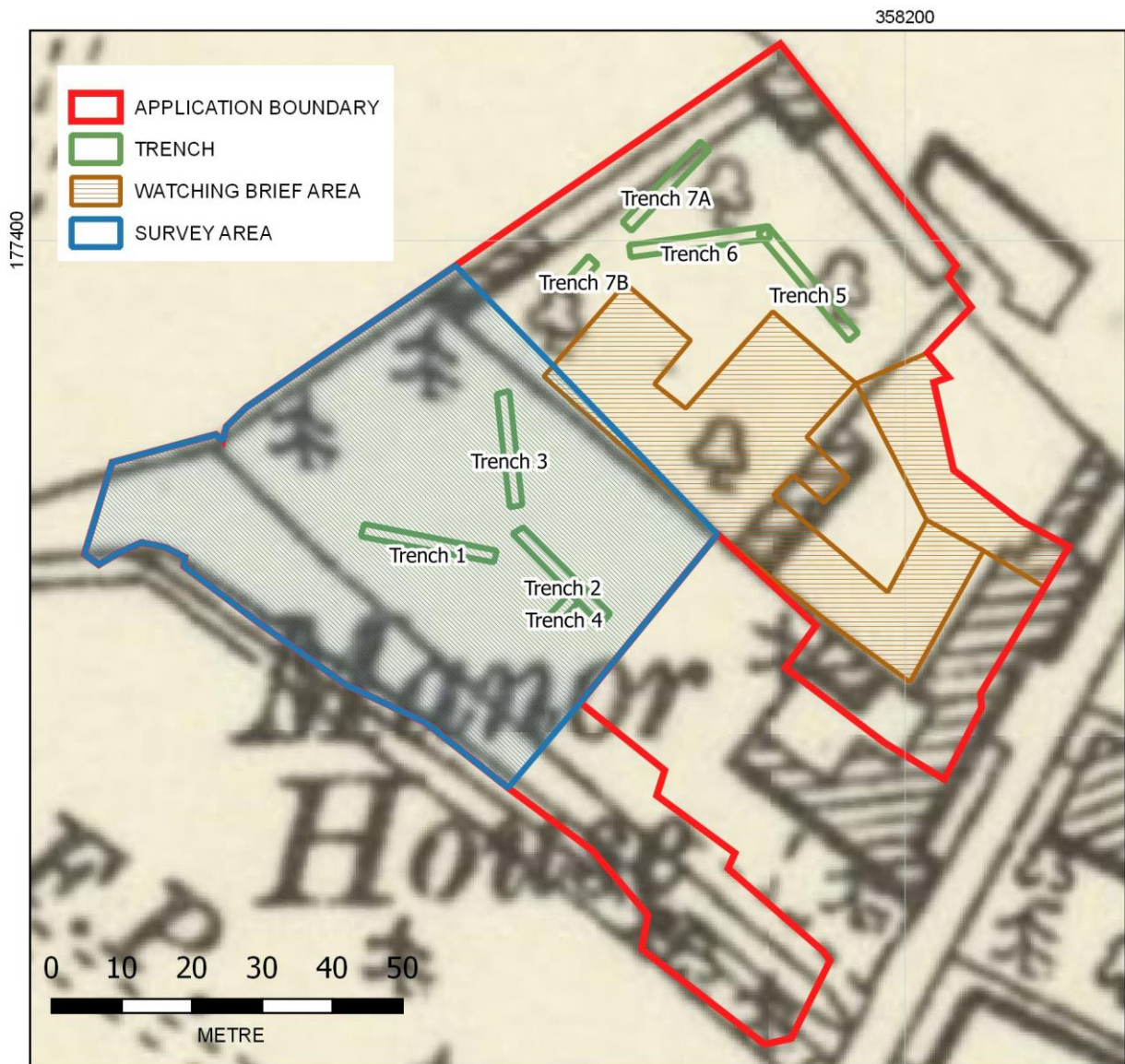
- to identify and record extant archaeological features
- to interpret the features within the historic context of the Site;
- to record the general deposit–sequence;
- to establish the nature, date, extent and condition of preservation, for any manmade archaeological features or remains which may be present on the site;
- to assess the potential for evidence on past environment related to human activity to exist within the site;
- to investigate the inter-action between human and natural activity within the site;
and
- to provide an appropriate level of information for discharging the planning condition and planning further mitigation (if required).

5.0 Methodology

5.1 SCOPE

The evaluation fieldwork involved the excavation of seven trenches totalling 124 linear metres (223 square metres) equal to approximately 2.7% of the total area of the site (8,262 square metres). A trench layout is shown in Figure 2. A watching brief was carried out on the removal of the footings of the police station. A Grade 3 archaeological survey was carried out in the grassed area at the south west of the site using a survey grade GPS.

Figure 2
Areas of fieldwork showing OS map of 1904



Contains National Library of Scotland Mapping 2018

All works were carried out as set out in the WSI written by SLR Consulting Ltd in February 2017 and agreed by Peter Insole, Planning Archaeologist (PA) at Bristol City Council (BCC).

5.1.1 Professional Standards

This document has been prepared with reference to the ClfA's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2014).

SLR is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA, an audited status which confirms that work is carried out to the highest standards of the profession. SLR operates a quality management system to help ensure all projects are managed in a professional and transparent manner, which enables it to qualify for ISO 9001. SLR is a member of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers.

5.1.2 Monitoring

All archaeological work was monitored by the PA via telephone / email conversations with SLR.

5.1.3 Archiving

This report will be uploaded to the OASIS website.

5.1.4 Reporting

Approved versions of this report will be circulated to:

- The Client;
- The PA;
- The Local Planning Authority
- The online OASIS database.

6.0 Results

6.1 EVALUATION TRENCHES

Trenches 1 to 4 were excavated at the south west of the site within a grassed area. Trenches 5 to 7 were excavated to the north through a car park. All were 20m long and 1.8m wide unless otherwise stated.

6.1.1 Trench 1

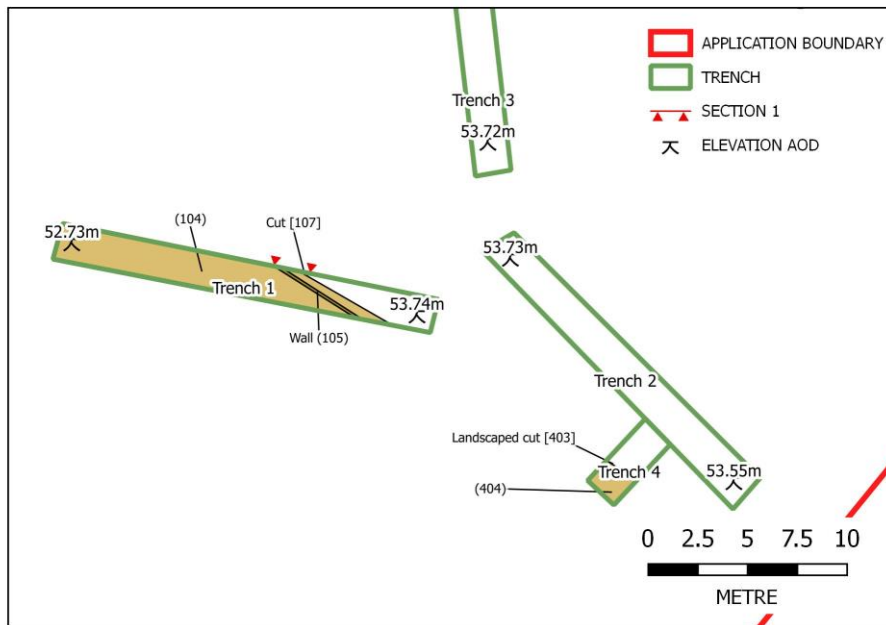
Trench 1 was located at the south west of the site and was orientated roughly WNW – ESE (Figures 2 and 3).

Figure 3
Trench 1 looking east



At the surface of the trench dark brown silt clay topsoil (101) up to 0.2m thick was recorded overlying made ground comprising orange brown silt clay (102) up to 0.2m thick. This covered the natural orange brown silt clay subsoil (103) which contained frequent limestone cobbles. The natural subsoil was identified at about 53.74m AOD.

Figure 4
Plan of trenches 1 and 4

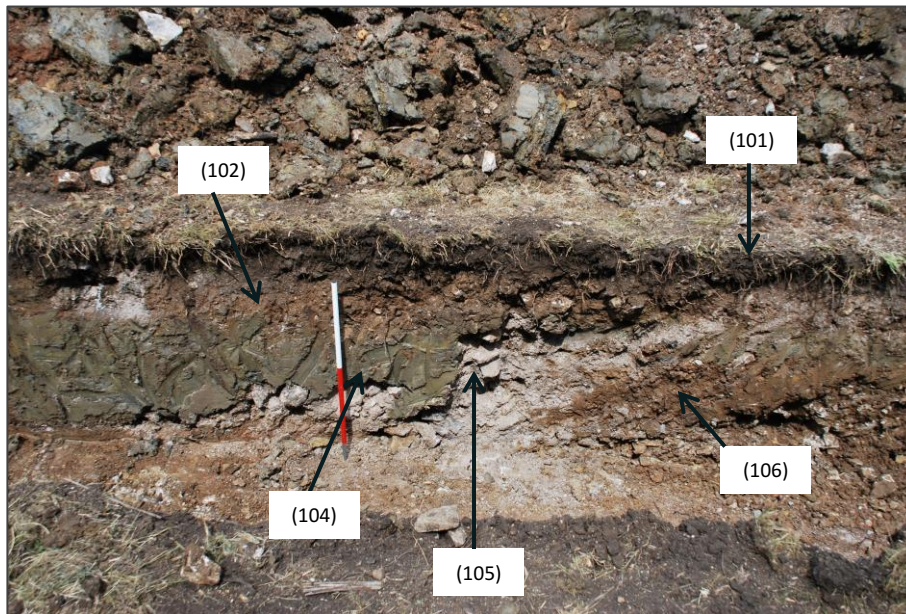


The natural subsoil had been cut away in the western 16.4m of the trench to a depth of 0.9m by cut [107] which had a limestone wall (105) at its eastern end (Figures 3-5). The wall was held together by what appeared to be lime mortar and was on average 0.3m wide. The stone did not appear to have been worked at all. The wall was similar to the southern boundary wall of the site. Its base was cut into the natural subsoil. The area to the east of the wall appeared to have been infilled by brown silt clay (106) suggesting the wall had been constructed freestanding and then the void to the east filled. The cut would have created a large landscaped step in the former gardens which ran parallel (roughly north west – south east) with the edge of the site to the south. This cut continued on beyond the limits of the trench to the north west and south east and was also recorded in Trench 4.

The landscaped step [107] had later been filled with blue grey clay (104) similar to the natural subsoil observed at the north of the site. No dating evidence was recovered from this context. Several pieces of limestone were observed at the base of (104) next to wall (105). These may represent the top of the wall being removed during the landscaping.

No further features of archaeological significance were observed in the trench.

Figure 5
Trench 1 Section 1 showing wall (105) looking north



6.1.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located approximately four metres east of Trench 1 and was orientated roughly north west – south east (Figure 2).

Figure 6
Trench 2 looking south east



Dark brown silt clay topsoil (200) overlay yellow grey clay silt made ground (201) which was above natural orange brown silt clay (202) which comprised 50% limestone pieces (Figure 6). This was observed at between 53.55 m and 53.73m AOD. No features of archaeological significance were observed.

6.1.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located to the north of Trenches 1 and 2. It was orientated roughly north – south (Figure 2).

Figure 7
Trench 3 looking north



Dark brown silt clay topsoil overlay yellow brown silt clay natural subsoil comprising 50% limestone at the south while at the north the natural subsoil was a yellow silt clay with no limestone (Figure 7). The yellow brown silt clay containing the limestone is thought to underly the yellow silt clay. An area of in situ burning was observed approximately 8m from the northern end of the trench. There was no evidence of fire debris observed in any of the contexts above it. The natural subsoil was at between 53.72m and 53.92m AOD.

6.1.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was excavated directly to the south of Trench 2 (Figure 2). It was 7m long and orientated roughly north east – south west. It was dug to try and identify the line of the wall/landscaped step previously identified in Trench 1. This was recorded approximately 2.8m from its southern end as [403] and was filled by blue grey clay (404) (Figure 8). The stratigraphy of the trench was otherwise identical to Trench 2. The natural subsoil was identified at 53.62m AOD.

Figure 8
Trench 4 looking north east



6.1.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located to the north of the police station and was the most north easterly trench on the site (Figure 2). It was orientated north west – south east. This area was evidently contaminated with diesel and several tanks are known within the site.

Figure 9
Trench 5 looking south east



The tarmac of the car park (500) was up to 0.2m thick. It covered 0.3m of red grey hard-core (501) which in turn overlay 0.3m of coarser grey red hard-core (502). This was over the natural subsoil (503) which was a green grey clay and was recorded between 55.39m and 55.49m AOD (Figure 9). A test pit at the east end of the trench identified limestone bed rock at approximately 54.45m AOD. No features of archaeological significance were identified within the trench.

6.1.6 Trench 6

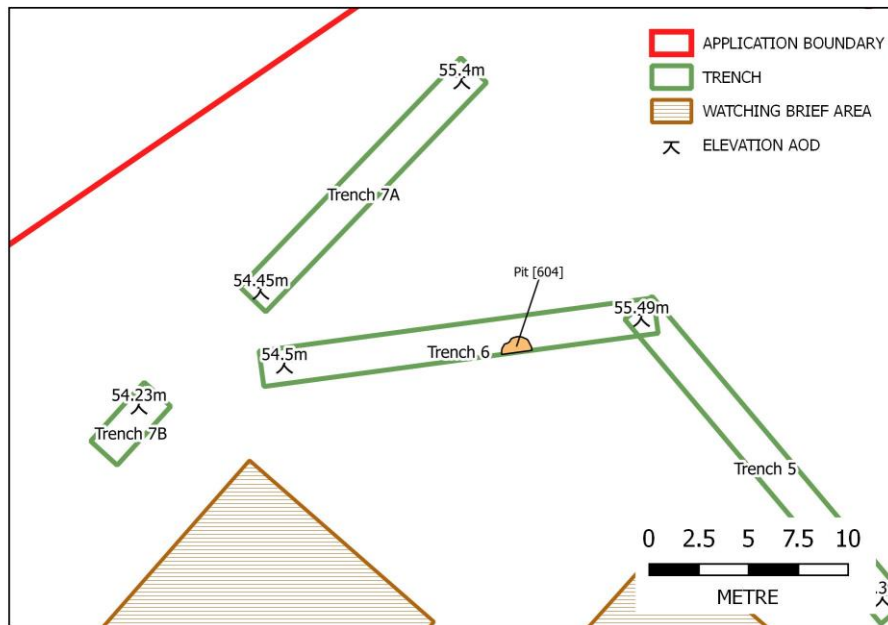
Trench 6 was a continuation of Trench 5 to the west, orientated ENE-WSW (Figure 2). The general stratigraphy was the same as Trench 5 with 0.2m of tarmac (602) overlying two layers of hard-core (601 and 602) with a green grey clay natural subsoil which became more yellow to the west (Figure 10). The natural subsoil was recorded at between 54.5m and 55.49m AOD.

Figure 10
Trench 6 looking WSW



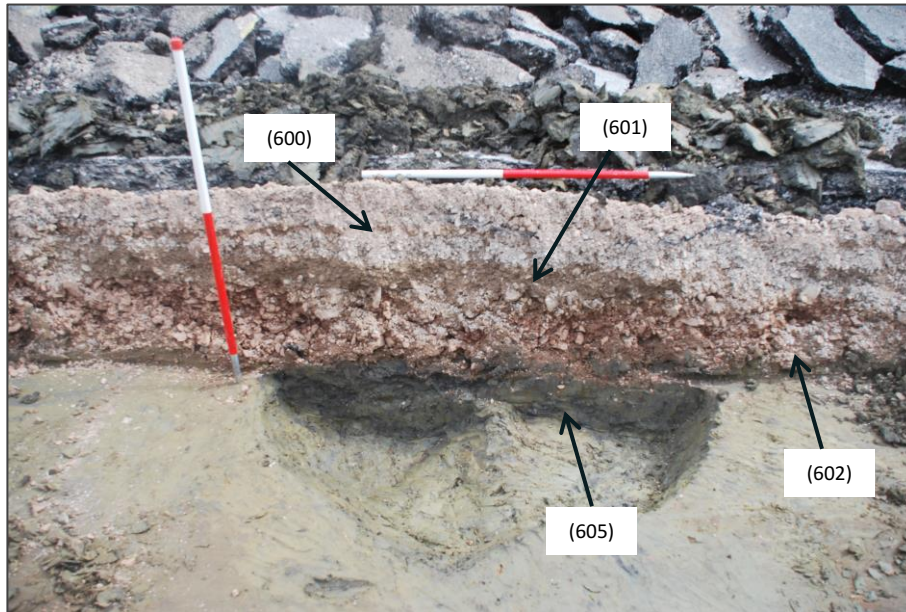
A single pit was identified four metres from the eastern end of the trench. It measured 1.4m by 0.8m in the trench but continued on to the south (Figure 11).

Figure 11
Plan of Trench 6



The pit [604] was sub circular with irregular edges and base and was filled by a green grey mottled black clay silt (605) (Figure 12). Part of a ladies shoe and a piece of clay tobacco pipe (not retained) were recovered from the fill of the pit suggesting it was 19th/20th century in date.

Figure 12
Trench 6 Pit [604] looking south



6.1.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was the most north westerly trench (Figure 2). It was split into two lengths due to services, the northern part was 16m long (7A) and the southern 4m long (7B). It was orientated north east – south west.

Figure 13
Trench 7A looking south west



In Trench 7A up to 0.1m of tarmac (700) overlay 0.32m of rubble (701) comprising brick, tiles and stone (Figure 13). This covered black clay silt (702) which was up to 0.15m thick and overlay the grey yellow clay subsoil (703). Context (702) may represent buried topsoil. The natural subsoil was recorded at between 54.45m and 55.4m AOD.

The stratigraphy in Trench 7B was the same as in 7A (Figure 14). The natural subsoil was recorded at 54.23m AOD.

No archaeological features were observed in either part of the trench.

Figure 14
Trench 7B looking south west



6.2 WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out on the removal of the police station footings and the construction of an access road between 27th February and 14th March 2018 (Figures 2 and 15-17). The watching brief identified similar stratigraphy to that identified in the trenches in the car park area to the north with an average of 0.15m of tarmac (1000) in areas outside the police station overlaying between 0.3m and 0.5m of dark grey hard-core/stony made ground (1001). This also ran below where the police station had stood. It covered grey yellow clay natural subsoil (1002).

Figure 15
Removal of footings at north of former police station looking east



The former police station stood on poured concrete strip footings that were up to 1m wide and 1m deep. These were cut into the underlying natural subsoil. Below the police station any soil appeared to have been removed with up to 0.5m of rubble/stony deposit (1001) lying directly on top of the natural clay. A diesel tank and a number of services relating to the police station were identified cut into the natural subsoil.

Figure 16
Removal of footings at south of former police station looking south west



No remains relating to Southmead Manor were identified nor were any other features of archaeological significance. It is thought any features would have been removed during the construction of the police station.

Figure 17
Removal of footings towards eastern end of former police station site looking south

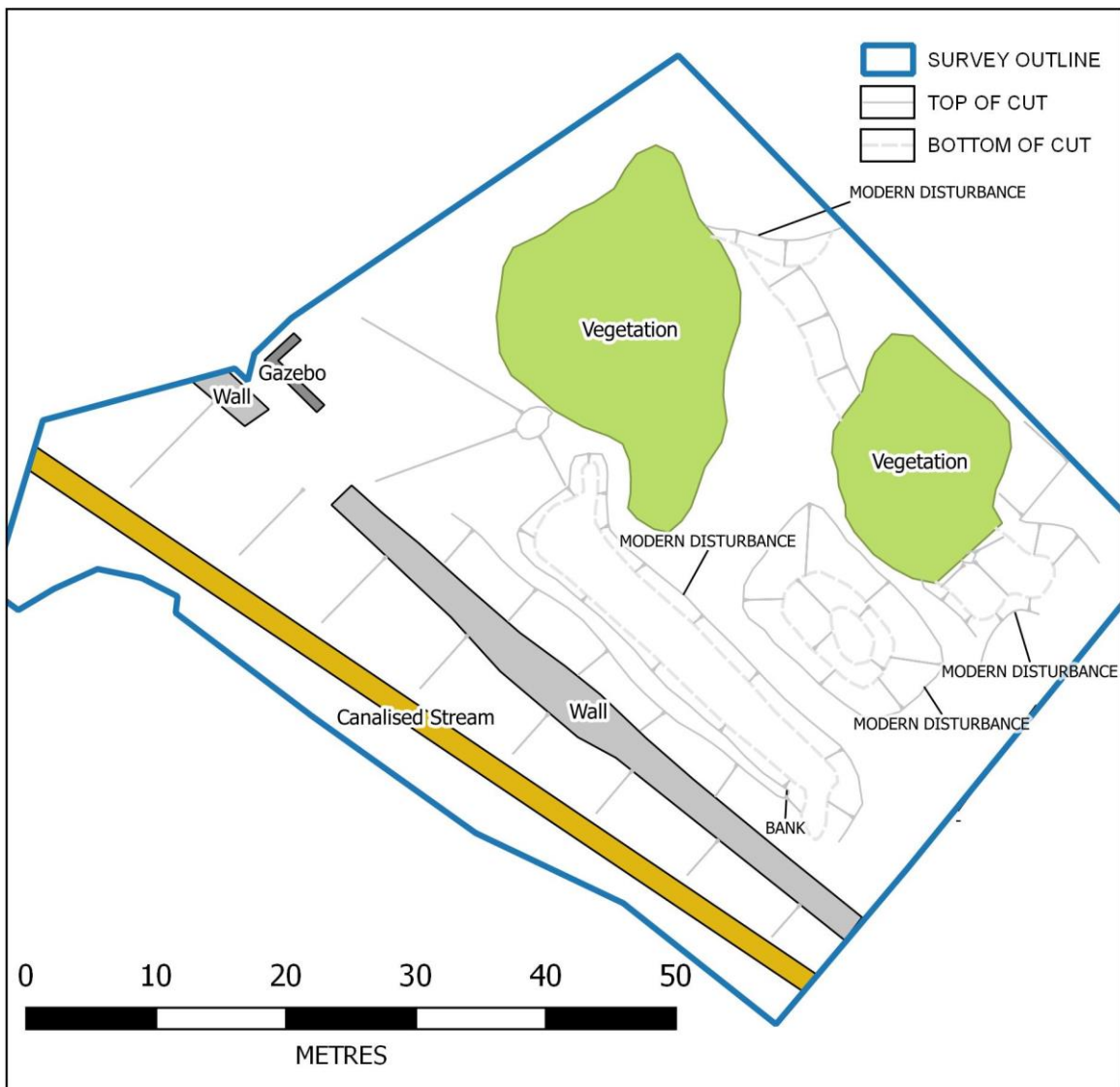


6.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

A level 3 earthwork survey was undertaken to the south west of Southmead police station targeting historic garden features relating to the former manor house. The extant wall, revetment and canalised stream were recorded to Historic England level 3 standard, along with the footprint of the former gazebo structure (Figure 18). The survey also identified three linear depressions, running on similar alignments as the revetment wall at the south west of the site. These were originally thought to relate to the historic planting or flower beds from the use of the area as a garden to the manor. However this appears unlikely given the amount of disturbance identified across the site during the evaluation stage of the work. It seems more likely they relate to clearance and access in this area both prior to the construction and operation of the police station and during its lifespan.

A bank to the north of the wall was also similarly aligned to the wall. It was above the fill of a landscaped step identified during the evaluation phase of the works and is also thought to represent later disturbance.

Figure 18
Results of Archaeological Survey



The revetment wall was observed to have subsequently added buttresses and a ramp and path led down to the stream from the Gazebo. It is possible that this was contemporary and formed part of a designed garden, however it could be a later addition to produce access to the south along Southmead road as the area became more developed.

No other significant archaeological features were observed during the course of the survey and it is concluded that as long as the principal garden features are preserved, namely the gazebo, wall and canalised stream, then any adverse impacts would be negligible

7.0 Discussion

7.1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Seven trenches were excavated in the grounds of the former Southmead Police Station.

At the south of the site the stratigraphy was made up of made ground and topsoil overlaying natural subsoil. The natural subsoil at the very south of the site was an orange brown silt clay comprising 50% limestone. This may represent material deposited by the stream to the south. The natural subsoil across the rest of the site was a yellow/brown green clay.

At the south of the site the presence of the made ground directly above the natural subsoil suggested the area had been previously stripped of topsoil. A landscaped cut containing a retaining stone wall was identified orientated roughly north west – south east in trenches 1 and 4. This ran parallel with the stream and wall at the south of the site and appeared to represent a garden feature. No dating evidence was identified from the clay that had been used to fill in this step. The clay may have been taken from the northern part of the site.

At the north east of the site (Trenches 5 and 6) tarmac and made ground were recorded over the natural subsoil suggesting this area had also been previously truncated. A single pit dating to the post-medieval/modern period was recorded in Trench 6. At the north west of the site (Trenches 7a and b) a black clay silt which may represent buried topsoil was recorded below the made ground.

The watching brief during the removal of the foundations of the former police station identified tarmac overlying made ground which directly overlay the natural subsoil. This area was presumably truncated during the construction of the police station.

The archaeological survey recorded the line of the wall at the south of the site, the location of the gazebo and the canalised stream as well as a number of undulations across the site. These undulations are thought to represent modern landscaping.

7.2 CONCLUSION

In conclusion much of the site appeared to have been previously truncated with only the north west of the site possibly undisturbed. A single landscaped step with a retaining wall was identified at the south of the site in two trenches. This is thought to be related to the gardens surrounding Southmead Manor. A pit containing post medieval/modern artefacts was also recorded in the northern part of the site.

APPENDIX 01

Context Register

Context No	Type	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
101	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	Dark brown silt clay	Topsoil
102	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	Orange brown silt clay	Made ground
103	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Orange brown silt clay 50% limestone	Natural subsoil
104	Deposit	107	15.5+	Trench	0.9	Blue grey clay	Made ground
105	Wall	107	4.7+	0.3	0.9	Limestone wall	Wall
106	Fill	107	5+	0.45	0.64	Brown silt clay	Fill of landscaping cut inside wall
107	Cut	N/A	16.4+	Trench	0.9	Step in landscape parallel with extant step to the east. Also recorded in Trench 4	Cut of landscaping
200	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	As 1	Topsoil
201	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.23	Yellow grey clay silt	Made Ground
202	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Orange brown silt clay 50% limestone	Natural subsoil
300	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.24	As 1	Topsoil
301	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Orange brown silt clay 50% limestone	Natural subsoil
302	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Red silt clay 50% limestone	Natural subsoil burnt in situ
400	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.24	As 101	Topsoil
401	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.23	As 201	Made Ground
402	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	As 202	Natural subsoil
403	Cut	N/A	1.7+	Trench	Unknown	As [107]	Cut of landscaping
404	Fill	403	1.7+	Trench	Unknown	Blue grey clay	Fill of landscaping cut inside wall
500	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	Tarmac	Car Park
501	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.3	Red Grey Hard-core	Made ground

Context No	Type	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
502	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.3	Grey red coarse hard-core	Made ground
503	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Green grey clay	Natural subsoil
504	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Limestone	Bedrock
600	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.2	Tarmac	Car Park
601	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.3	Red Grey Hard-core	Made ground
602	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.3	Grey red coarse hard-core	Made ground
603	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Green grey clay more yellow to south	Natural subsoil
604	Cut	N/A	1.4	0.8+	0.33	Sub circular, sharp break of slope top, steep sides, irregular base	Cut of pit
605	Deposit	604	1.4	0.8+	0.33	Green grey mottled black clay silt	Fill of pit
700	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.1	Tarmac	Car Park
701	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.32	Rubble	Made ground
702	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	0.15	Black clay silt	Made ground
703	Deposit	N/A	Trench	Trench	N/A	Grey yellow clay	Natural subsoil
1000	Deposit	N/A	WB Area	WB Area	0.15	Tarmac	Surface
1001	Deposit	N/A	WB Area	WB Area	0.5	Dark grey rubble/stony material	Made ground
1002	Deposit	N/A	WB Area	WB Area	N/A	Grey yellow clay	Natural subsoil

EUROPEAN OFFICES

United Kingdom

AYLESBURY

T: +44 (0)1844 337380

BELFAST

T: +44 (0)28 9073 2493

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

T: +44 (0)1225 309400

BRISTOL

T: +44 (0)117 906 4280

CAMBRIDGE

T: + 44 (0)1223 813805

CARDIFF

T: +44 (0)29 2049 1010

CHELMSFORD

T: +44 (0)1245 392170

EDINBURGH

T: +44 (0)131 335 6830

EXETER

T: + 44 (0)1392 490152

GLASGOW

T: +44 (0)141 353 5037

GUILDFORD

T: +44 (0)1483 889800

LEEDS

T: +44 (0)113 258 0650

LONDON

T: +44 (0)203 691 5810

MAIDSTONE

T: +44 (0)1622 609242

MANCHESTER

T: +44 (0)161 872 7564

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

T: +44 (0)191 261 1966

NOTTINGHAM

T: +44 (0)115 964 7280

SHEFFIELD

T: +44 (0)114 245 5153

SHREWSBURY

T: +44 (0)1743 23 9250

STAFFORD

T: +44 (0)1785 241755

STIRLING

T: +44 (0)1786 239900

WORCESTER

T: +44 (0)1905 751310

Ireland

DUBLIN

T: + 353 (0)1 296 4667

France

GRENOBLE

T: +33 (0)4 76 70 93 41