



BRISTOL & WEST ARCHAEOLOGY

The Salvation Army Candle Building, Ashley
Road, Bristol

Standing Building Survey Report

Project Ref: 14/2488

Client: Wellesley Project Management Ltd

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Bristol & West Archaeology

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Bristol City Council

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The Salvation Army Candle Building, Ashley Road, Bristol

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In line with current government guidelines and national legislation, the Archaeology Service of Bristol City Council has asked for a Standing Building Survey Report on The Salvation Army Candle Building, Ashley Road, Bristol, BS6 5NL. The study area occupies a 330m² irregular polygon of land (centred NGR ST 5922, 7409) located on the south side of Ashley Road and the west side of Brigstocke Road, at the junction of the two. The Standing Building Survey Report was requested in advance of permitted demolition of the present structure to facilitate construction of a new community facility.

The results of this survey are set out in the following report and summarised here. A photographic and drawn record has been made of the building. Wherever possible internal and external photographic views of the building have been taken, with the position of the photographer and the angle of view for each frame marked on paper plans. These plans have been checked against the building and annotated or amended as necessary.

The recorded structures were found to be commensurate with the historical facts, as known. That the building, now known as the Candle Building, was originally a single storey brick-built structure, part of the original Salvation Army citadel at No. 6 Ashley Road opened in 1896. A second storey was added to the building c. 1911-1912. In 1985 a mezzanine level was introduced together with an extension and covered fire escape, during major works which saw the demolition of the remainder of the 19th century citadel and the construction of its replacement. Internal refurbishment also saw the introduction of false ceilings and internal partitions.

As a result of this project a record has now been made of the Salvation Army Candle building. The associated documents, plans and digital media will in due course be deposited with the Bristol museums service for long term curation and public access.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and West Archaeology Limited wish to acknowledge the assistance given by the following in the production of this report: Paul Saggars, Wellesley Project Management Ltd; Major Ian Mountford, The Salvation Army, Bristol Citadel, Church and Community Centre; Peter Insole, Archaeological Officer, Bristol City Council.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Bristol City Council has requested a Standing Building Survey Report of The Salvation Army Candle Building, Ashley Road, Bristol, BS6 5NL (centred NGR ST 5922, 7409). This work was requested as a condition of planning approval. The project was commissioned by Paul Sagers of Wellesley Project Management Ltd.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Land Use (see Figures 1 and 2)

- 1.2.1 The study area is located on the south side of Ashley Road, Bristol, which lies approximately 1.2km northeast of the city of the city centre. The study area is located at c. 22m aOD, on the northern side of the lower Frome valley. Ashley Road runs east from the A38 Cheltenham Road to Junction 3 of the M32.
- 1.2.2 In plan the study area is an irregular four-sided polygon approximately 20.2m long by 18.1m wide, aligned approximately north northwest by south southeast; it encompasses 330m². The study area is entirely occupied by the Candle Building, a late 19th century purpose built structure with early and later 20th century additions.

1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 The study area lies on Redcliffe Sandstone of the Triassic period, dated 250-251 million years BP (BGS 2014). No surface deposits are recorded (ibid.).

1.4 Methodology

- 1.4.1 In compiling this Standing Building Survey Report the standards and guidelines of the IfA, NPPF, and English Heritage were followed as appropriate (DCLG et al. 2010; IfA 2011; DCLG 2012).
- 1.4.2 Bruce Williams and the author visited the study area on 8 May 2014, during which digital still photographs and black and white negatives were taken. The position of the photographer, the direction of view and the frame number of each photograph were recorded on a pre-printed scale plan of the study area. Measured sketch plans and scale drawing were also made of areas not on the pre-printed plan or modified since.
- 1.4.3 This document was compiled using MS Word 10, references were compiled using Mendeley 1.92 following the current *World Archaeology* (Harvard) style. Figures were produced using QGIS 2.01, TurboCAD 19 and Paint Shop Pro 8. Photographs were taken with a Fuji Finepix HS10 digital SLR camera and a Pentax K1000 35mm SLR using Ilford 400ASA black and white negative film.
- 1.4.4 On completion of the project the archive will be deposited at the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery.

2 BASELINE SURVEY

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The author and Bruce Williams of Bristol and West Archaeology Ltd undertook the EH Level 2 walkover and photographic survey on the 8 May 2014. The weather at that time was wet and overcast.

2.2 An Outline History

- 2.2.1 The site at no. 6 Ashley Road was probably acquired by the Salvation Army sometime after 1st September 1895, when their original premises at The Circus, Stokes Croft, burnt down (Saggers 2013, 2). The new site consisted of a purpose built 'Citadel'; the present study area formed the easternmost part of the site and was occupied by a single storey brick built structure (Saggers 2013, 2–3). This was rebuilt with a second storey c. 1911–1912 (Saggers 2013, 3). Refurbishment of the building took place in the 1990s (Saggers 2013, 4).

2.3 Survey of the Exterior

- 2.3.1 The Candle building is in appearance a late 19th century brick-built two-storey structure located on the western side of Brigstocke Road at the junction with Ashley Road, St. Pauls, Bristol. The core building is a four-sided irregular polygon, measuring c. 20.2m long along the west face and c. 13.3m along the south face, on a northwest to southeast alignment, with the east face parallel to Brigstocke Road and the north face parallel to Ashley Road.
- 2.3.2 The north and east faces of the building are executed in engineering style red brick, with details picked out in moulded red brick and blue brick. The east face is mostly rendered and painted, with modern extensions adjoining. The south face is entirely obscured from public view, being adjoined by No. 2 Brigstocke Road, a three storey later 19th century terraced house. The roof of the Candle Building is gable ended, aligned on the long axis, and tiled in slate.
- 2.3.3 The east face is the most visible, since it can be seen at least in part from some distance east along Ashley Road (Plates a & b). The two main levels are divided externally into six recessed bays each, with a wooden framed 12 pane louvre window in all but the northernmost ground floor bay. The latter contains a narrow double door entrance accessible by ramp, surmounted by a six pane wooden frame louvre window. Around the top of this face runs a low level parapet capped with blue ceramic tiles. The external sills of each window bay are picked out in moulded blue coping bricks, while the upper edge of each bay is picked out in moulded red brick. Above the door and each window is a segmental arch in red brick.
- 2.3.4 One of the most striking features of the building is the northeast corner, on the angle between Brigstocke and Ashley Roads, which is rounded. This is the only corner of this building to be executed in this fashion.
- 2.3.5 The north face of the building (Plates c & d) is possibly the most decorative, but is harder to observe, since Ashley Road is narrower than Brigstocke Road, with mature trees on the north side that obscure views from the houses opposite and from the pavement. The two main storeys are each divided into three rectangular recessed bays of similar form to those described previously. With the exception of the ground floor central bay all contain a wooden framed louvre window surmounted by a segmental arch in brick. The former is a wooden double-door entrance with a single sandstone step up, with wooden framed four pane glass transom over, surmounted by a segmental brick arch.
- 2.3.6 East of the door three rectangular sandstone dedication stones are set into the brickwork at selected locations, but these are worn and largely illegible. Centrally located in the gable end roof space above the upper storey, are three parallel vertical air vents. The parapet to the roof is in equal steps, with flat topped coping in brick or stone. Where the parapet meets the rounded northeast corner it becomes crenelated, giving a turret effect.

- 2.3.7 The west side of the building (Plates e & f) is the least decorative but the most complex, since it has been heavily modified. Here the differences between ground and first floor are most apparent, since the walls of both are on a different alignment. The first floor is therefore narrower but more rectangular in shape than the ground floor, with a 1.8m difference between the two at the southwest corner. This area is the most obscured, since a later 20th century covered fire escape and extension has been built against the original brickwork, obscuring it. All the modern work has been rendered and painted, as has all the ground floor brickwork of the original building. Therefore only the northern upper half of this face is visible. Here the quality of the brickwork indicates it was not intended for public display. Windows consist of one wooden framed sash with segmental arch over, about mid-way up the northern end of the wall, together with four wooden framed louver windows a little way to the south, two up two down.
- 2.3.8 Throughout the building the majority of the exposed brickwork is in Flemish bond. The rounded northeast corner is in Header bond. The piers created between the recessed window bays have alternate rows in an arrangement similar to Rat Trap Bond, where the stretchers are laid on edge. The exposed brickwork of the upper north face is in English Bond.

2.4 Survey of the Interior – Ground floor

- 2.4.1 The interior was accessed through a doorway towards the southwest corner of the building. The present porch (G1) appears to have been a late 20th century addition. It was not possible to photograph this external entrance due to on-site parking. Passing through a single glazed door led to a short corridor (G2), with a single door on the left leading into the former Dining Hall (G3, see Plates g and h). This is a roughly rectangular room spanning the width of the building, measuring internally 12.09m along the south wall and 7.38m along the east wall. The high ceiling is covered with foam tiles; artificial lighting is provided by fluorescent strips. A short length of wall projects out from the west wall, forming an alignment with two supporting cast iron columns in rectangular cladding. There are two large rectangular wooden framed louver windows in the west wall and a further two in the east wall. Each has 12 rectangular panes of glass.
- 2.4.2 In the northwest corner of the ground floor is the open plan kitchen (G4, see Plate i). The lower ceiling here is the result of the mezzanine room above. This obscures the upper portion of the single large 12 pane rectangular window in the north wall.
- 2.4.3 The main feature of room G5 (see Plate j) is the solid wooden front double doors, with glass lights above, which open onto Ashley Road. The room itself has been fitted with shelves, indicating the doors have been little used in recent times.
- 2.4.4 Area G6 (Plates k and l) includes the entrance opening onto Brigstocke Road, located in the northeast corner of the building, together with the main staircase to the first floor and mezzanine room above the kitchen. The main entrance consists of a short hallway with two sets of opposing double doors at each end. On the north side of the entrance is a small storage room. The lobby and stairwell are lit by a large wooden framed sash window in the north wall. The entrance faces the main wooden staircase, with turned wooden balustrade and newel post. The posts of the balustrade alternate between turned and rectangular.
- 2.4.5 The south side of the ground floor has been heavily partitioned into toilets, cloakrooms and cupboards, with the addition of a low false ceiling masking the mezzanine storage area above (for example see Plate m). Although all rooms were inspected, no original fabric could be observed in any except rectangular room G7 (Plates n and o), located in the southeast corner of the building. This area was not affected by the addition of the mezzanine. At the time of inspection the false ceiling had largely been removed, though nothing remarkable was observed above it. In the west wall were two large rectangular wooden framed louver windows of 12 panes each, though the lower frames had been boarded over, presumably for security reasons.

2.5 Survey of the Interior – Mezzanine Areas

- 2.5.1 Two mezzanine areas were observed (Figure 4). Although these are both later 20th century additions, they each preserve elements of the core building. Area M1 (Plate p) is a low (1.68m) rectangular room in the southern end of the building, formerly used as a storage space. Area M1 is accessed from a landing at the foot of the first floor external stairway (see Figure 5 and Plate l), also added in the later 20th century. An opening in the west wall of M1 provides access to the under stairs area, where part of the earlier west face, including a blocked window, could be observed (Plate q).
- 2.5.2 The second mezzanine area (M2) is accessed through a door on the west side of the main staircase lower landing. A short flight of two steps leads up to the main floor of this room (Plate r), which is fitted out as a domestic kitchen area. The main feature of interest here is the sash window located in the west wall (Plate s).

2.6 Survey of the Interior – First Floor (see Figure 5)

- 2.6.1 Access to the first floor is via the main staircase in the central northern part of the building. The staircase is U-shaped, with two landings on the west side separated by a short flight (Plates k, l & t). The southern landing is the lower and provides access to the mezzanine room (M2). The stairwell is lit by two 12 pane louvre windows in the north wall at first floor level (Plate u). Room F2 is accessed from the first floor landing F1. Room F2 occupies the northeast corner of the building, but exhibits no unusual features other than the 12 paned louvre window in the east wall, the upper portion of which is obscured by the false ceiling.
- 2.6.2 The majority of this floor is occupied by area F3, a large open plan space formerly used for children's play. This is lit by two 12 pane wooden framed louvre windows on the west side (Plate v) and three on the east (Plate w). The ceiling is false, but in the southern central area enough tiles had been removed to reveal a shaped and painted wooden ceiling above (Plates x & y).
- 2.6.3 In the northwest corner of F3 is a short flight of wooden steps leading to room F4, formerly a clinic room. This room exhibits a single 12 pane wooden framed louvre window in the north wall; it also has a false ceiling.
- 2.6.4 Room F5 in the southeast corner is accessed directly from F3. Formerly a community storage room, the only visible feature of note is the window (Plate aa).
- 2.6.5 Late 20th century partitions separate rooms F5, F6 and F7, all located on the south side of F3. Room F6 is a storage space with adjoining cupboard, while F7 houses the upstairs toilet and washroom facilities. Both rooms have no natural light.
- 2.6.6 The covered L-shaped fire escape F8 (Plate bb), located on the southwest face of the building, is accessed by a door on the south side of the west wall of F3. The mid-stage landing provides access to Mezzanine area M1.

3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1.1 A standing building survey has been undertaken of c. 330m² of buildings located on the Salvation Army site, on the south side of Ashley Road, Bristol (centred NGR ST 5922, 7409) at c. 22m aOD. The study area comprises the oldest surviving structure on the Salvation Army site. This standing building survey has been undertaken at the request of the office of the Bristol City Council Archaeology Service, as a preliminary before permitted demolition of the present structure and construction of a new community facility to replace it.
- 3.1.2 The ground floor, the oldest part of the building, opened in 1896, has been heavily modified by the addition of modern partitions and extensions in the 1990s. Only the centrally placed dining room, with two central columns, which spans the width of the building, retains a feel for the space and layout of the original. South of the dining hall the partitions and extensions have largely masked any surviving original features. The northwest corner of the ground floor has been converted to a modern kitchen, the former Ashley Road entrance has been a storage area, while the Brigstocke Road entrance has been heavily modified by the addition c. 1911-1912 of the second storey. This resulted in the addition of an ornate wooden U-shaped staircase of contemporary design.
- 3.1.3 Visually, on the public facing north and east fronts, the addition of a second storey is absolutely seamless, to the point where only an expert architectural historian might be able to spot the join. The two phases are close enough together in time that the same materials and styles were available to the architect of the second phase. The break is more obvious on the west side, where the architect chose not to follow the line of the ground floor wall but took a narrower line, making the upper floor more rectangular. Much of this work has now been obscured by the addition of a covered external fire escape in 1985. Most of the first floor was modernised at the same time, so although there is a much larger central space, only the windows and part of the original painted wooden ceiling are visible. Both the northern and southern ends of this floor have been subdivided with modern partitions. In the northwest and southwest corners a mezzanine level was added in 1985. This resulted in an extra room in the northwest corner, accessed from a landing on the main staircase. In the southwest corner the available height restricted the room to storage space only, however the modifications in this area allowed inspection of part of the original external wall, including a blocked window.
- 3.1.4 As a result of this survey a final record of the building has been made prior to demolition. This record will be deposited with the Bristol Museums and Art Galleries Service for conservation and public access.

4 REFERENCES

4.1 Abbreviations

aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AD	<i>Anno Domini</i> – year of our Lord, also known as Common Era
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BA	Bronze Age (c. 2,500 BC to c. 800 BC)
BC, BCE	Before Christ, Before Common Era
BGS	British Geological Survey
BP	Before Present
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
EH	English Heritage
GIS	Geographical Information System
HER	Historic Environment Record
Ibid.	See previous reference
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
NMR	National Monuments Record
OS	Ordnance Survey
QGIS	Quantum GIS (mapping software)

4.2 Definitions

- 4.2.1 These suggested dates apply to southern England and may not be appropriate for other parts of Britain and Ireland.

Prehistory	Before AD 43
Pleistocene	Geological time period that partially overlaps with the Palaeolithic (c. 1,640,000 BP to c. 10,000 BP)
Palaeolithic	Old Stone Age (c. 800,000 BP to c. 8,000 BC)
Mesolithic	Middle Stone Age (c. 8,000 BC to c. 4,000 BC)
Neolithic	New Stone Age (c. 4,000 BC to 2,500 BC)
Bronze Age	c. 2,500 BC to c. 800 BC
Iron Age	c. 800 BC to AD 43
Roman	AD 43 to c. AD 410
Early Medieval	AD 410 to AD 1066
Medieval	AD 1066 to AD 1539
Post-Medieval	AD 1540 to c. AD 1837
Victorian	AD 1837 to AD 1901
Modern	1901 to present

4.3 Bibliography

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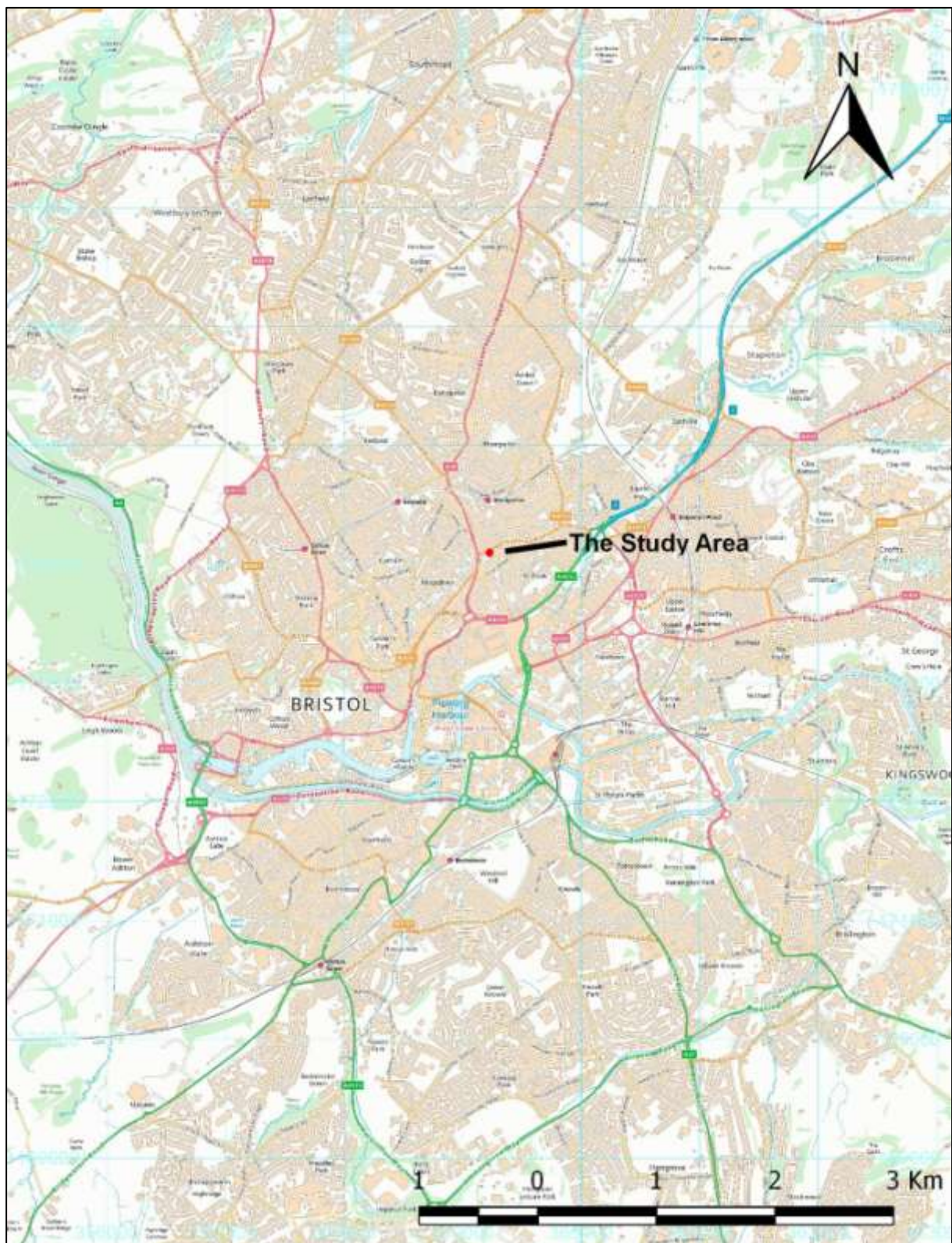
FIGURE 1

Figure 1: Location of the study area (indicated in red). Scale 1:50,000 at A4. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright 2014 all rights reserved. Licence No. WL1005476.

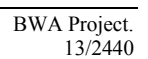


FIGURE 2

Figure 2: Detail plan of the study area, outlined in red. Approximate scale 1:2,500 at A4. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright 2014 all rights reserved. Licence No. WL1005476.

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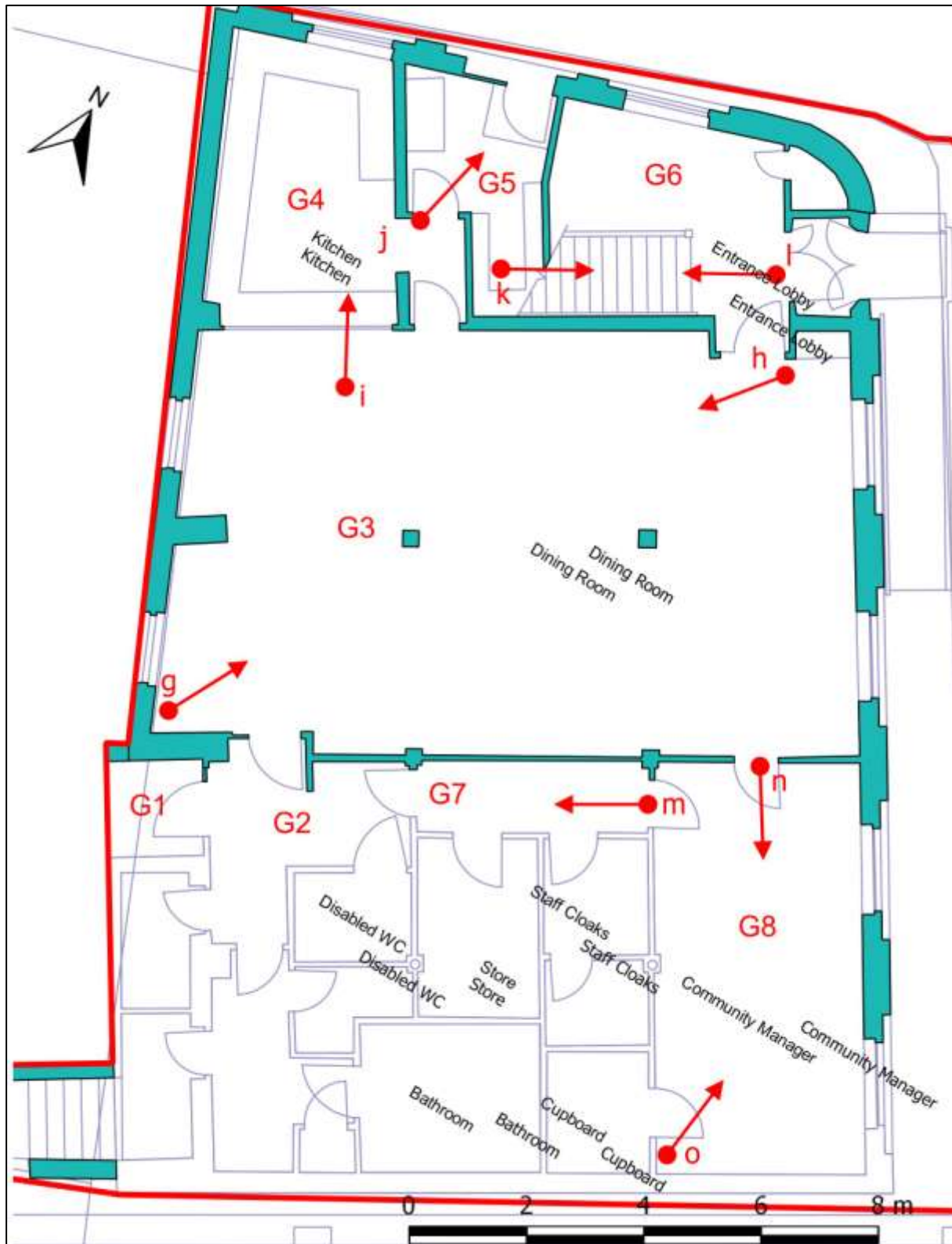


Figure 3: Ground floor plan of the study area, after plans supplied by Wellesley Project Management Ltd. Approximate scale 1:100 at A4.

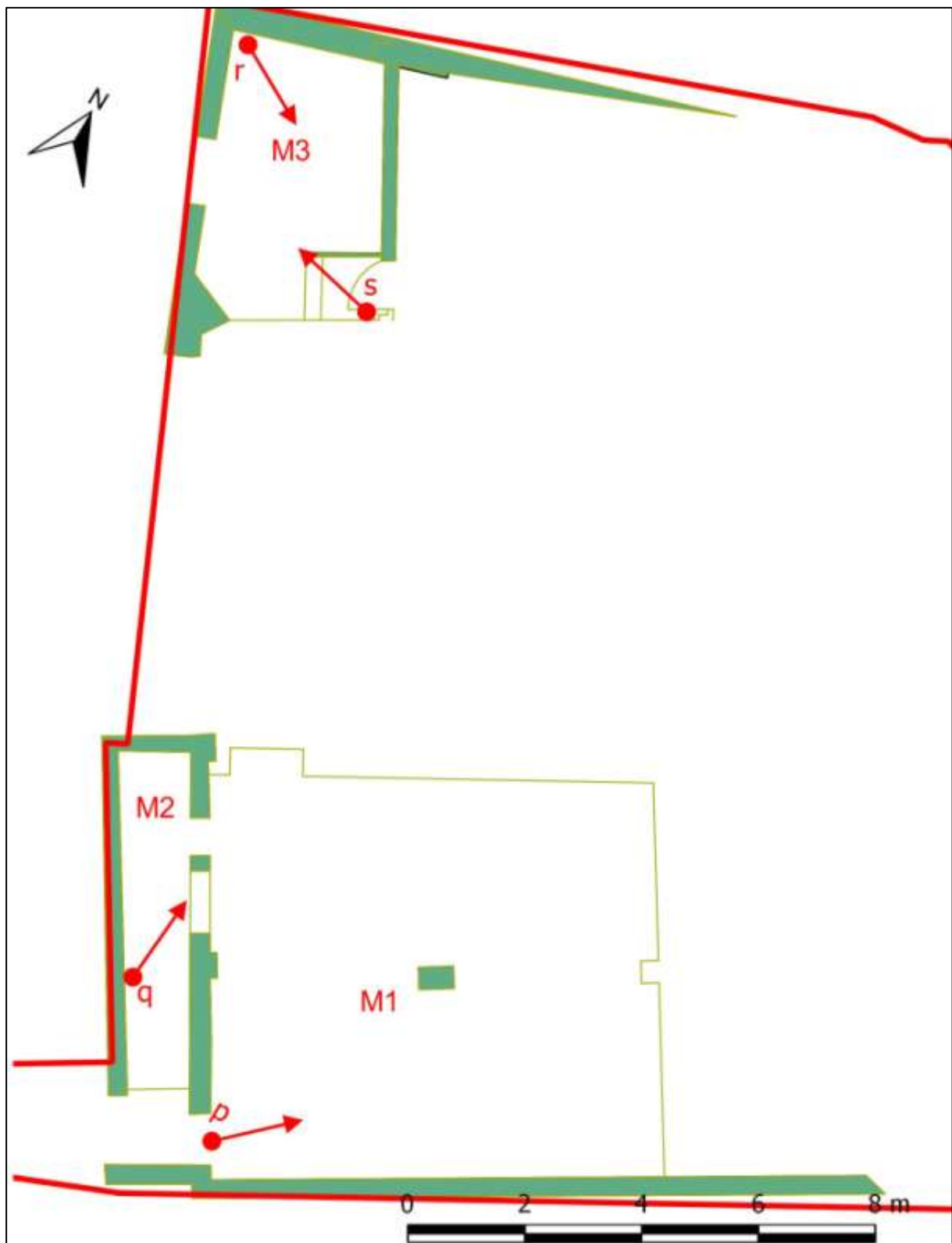
FIGURE 4

Figure 4: Mezzanine floor of the study area, after plans supplied by Wellesley Project Management Ltd. Approximate scale 1:100 at A4.

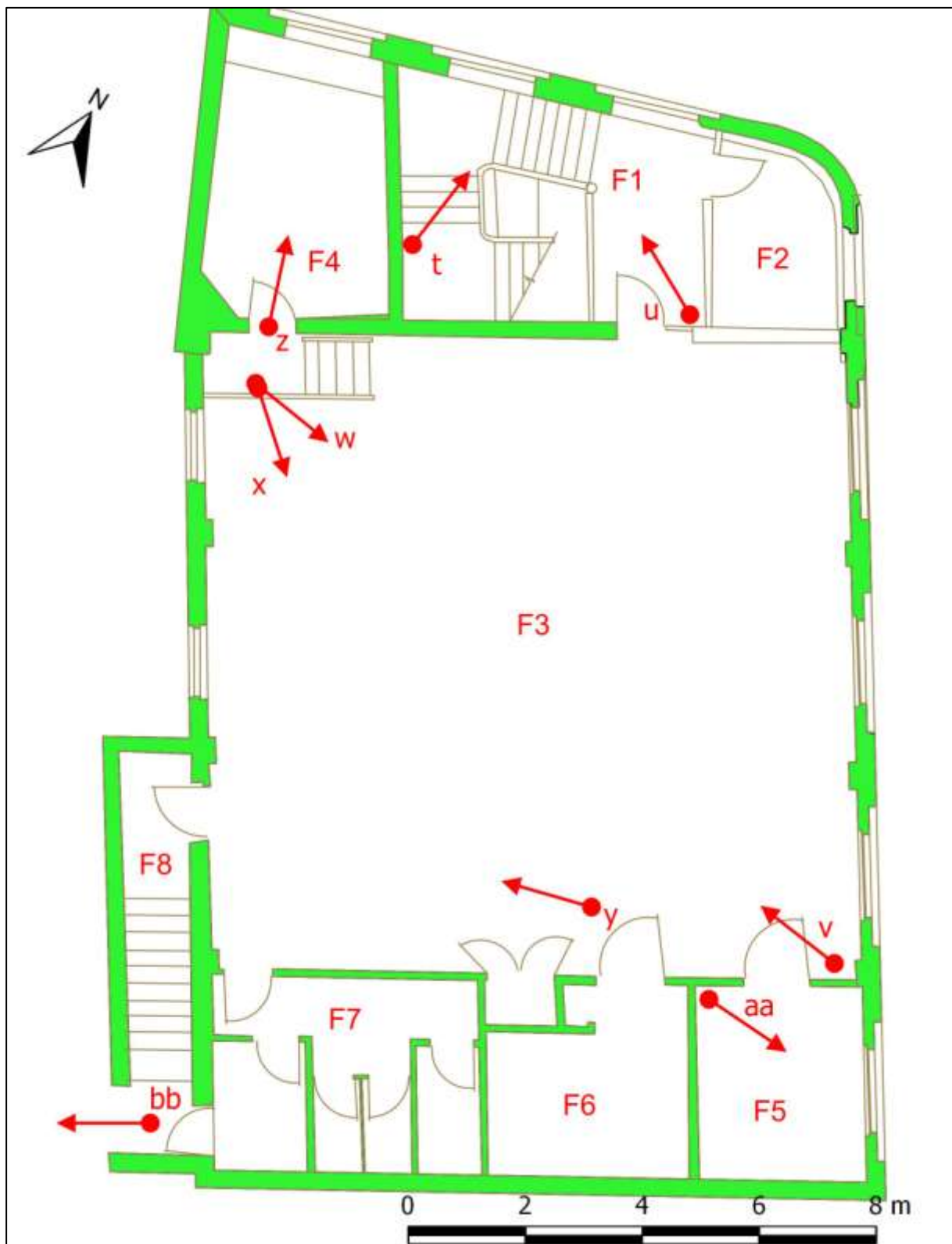
FIGURE 5

Figure 5: First floor of the study area, after plans supplied by Wellesley Project Management Ltd. Approximate scale 1:100 at A4.

PLATES



Plate a: the Candle Building, looking southwest across Ashley Road. No scale.



Plate b: the east face of the Candle Building, looking west across Brigstocke Road. Scale at distance, 2m.



Plate c: the north face of the Candle Building, looking south across Ashley Road. Scale 2m.



Plate d: detail of the north face, looking south, no scale.



Plate e: west face of the Candle Building, looking northeast, scale 2m.



Plate f: west face of the Candle Building, looking southeast, scale 2m.



Plate g: Dining Room (G3), looking northeast.



Plate h: Dining Room (G3) looking southwest, scale 2m.



Plate i: kitchen G4, looking northwest. Scale at distance, 2m.



Plate j: entrance lobby and front door, looking north. Scale 2m.



Plate k: the main staircase and the Brigstocke road entrance lobby, from the lower landing, looking northeast. Scale 2m.

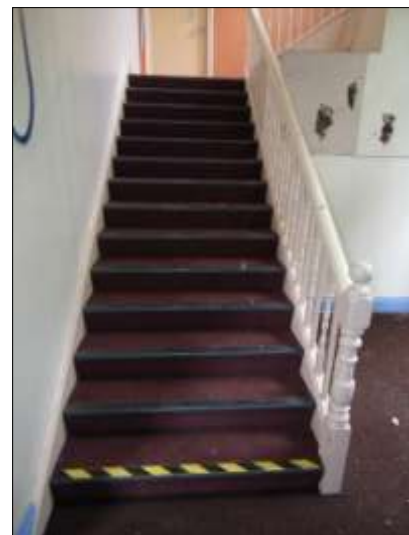


Plate l: the main staircase, looking southwest.



Plate m: corridor G7 looking southwest, scale 2m.



Plate n: room G8 looking south southeast. Scale 2m.



Plate o: the windows in the east wall of room G8, looking north. Scale 2m.



Plate p: room M1 looking northeast, scale 1m.



Plate q: blocked window in former frontage (M2), looking north. No scale.



Plate r: room M3, looking southeast, scale 2m.



Plate s: room M3 looking northwest, scale 1m.



Plate t: the main staircase from the lower landing, looking north. Scale 2m.



Plate u: the staircase windows in the north wall, looking northwest. Scale 2m.



Plate v: Area F3, looking west. Scale at distance 2m.



Plate w: the east wall of Area F3, looking east. Scale at distance 2m.



Plate x: area F3 looking southeast. Scale at distance 2m.



Plate y: area F3, exposed portion of original ceiling.



Plate z: room F4, former clinic, looking north. Scale 2m.



Plate aa: room F5, looking east. Scale 2m.



Plate bb: fire escape from mezzanine landing, looking southwest. Scale 2m.