



BRISTOL & WEST ARCHAEOLOGY

8 Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Client: Kate Felczak

26 September 2016

Bristol & West Archaeology

Planning Authority:

Bristol City Council

Planning Ref: 15/02101/F

National Grid Reference:

ST 59935 73566

Author: Raymond K Ducker

Report Status: Final

Issue Date: 26 September 2016

BWA Ref: 16/2572

© Bristol & West Archaeology Limited

No part of this report is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced by consent of the Controller of H M Stationery Office.

Licence No. WL1005476

Parkfield House, Parkfield, Pucklechurch, Bristol BS16 9NS. Tel. 0117 9372450

Email bruce.williams@bristolandwestarchaeology.co.uk

8 Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol
Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1. INTRODUCTION1

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY2

3. OBJECTIVES AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY2

4. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND2

5. RESULTS.....3

6. CONCLUSIONS.....4

7. APPENDIX 1 TABLE OF CONTEXTS5

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES.....6

Figures

Figure 1. Site location, scale as shown.....7

Figure 2. Location of structures recorded, scale approximately 1: 1008

Plates

Plate 1. Pennywell Road site frontage after demolition and removal of floors and surfaces, showing base for fireplace, looking N. Scale 0.5m.9

Plate 2. General view of the site during removal of modern surfaces, looking W9

Plate 3. General view of the N side of site during hand excavation of foundations showing suggested remains of cellar walls, looking N, scale 2m.10

Plate 4. Strip foundations along the Eugene Street frontage during excavation, looking W, scale 2m.10

8 Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol
Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Bristol and West Archaeology at 8 Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol.

This revealed fragments of masonry walls and made-ground deposits of 19th and 20th-century date. No significant archaeological remains were found.

8 Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol
Archaeological Watching Brief Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was commissioned by Kate Felzak. Thanks are owed to Mr. J Felczak for his on-site co-operation.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning consent (Bristol City Council planning reference 15/02101/F) was granted for demolition of buildings at 8 Pennywell Road, Easton and the construction of a new block of 7 flats. Attached to the planning consent was a planning condition for an archaeological watching brief.
- 1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol & Region Archaeological Services and approved by Bristol City Council (BaRAS 2015) and followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIFA 2014) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE: The Project Managers' Guide)* (EH 2006).
- 1.3 Field visits to the site were made on the 13th May and 8th July 2016.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery but at the time of writing the accession number had not been received. It has been entered in the database of the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) as bristol3-261638. An HER number is awaited for the project.

2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The site is located at 8 Pennywell Road, centred at NGR ST 59935 73566 and comprised a rectangular plot of approximately 162 square metres.
- 2.2 According to British Geological Survey (online viewer 2016) the underlying geology comprises Redcliffe Sandstone of the Triassic Period.
- 2.3 The site is not in a conservation area but lies immediately north the Old Market Conservation Area. There are no Scheduled Monuments or listed buildings on or in close proximity to the site.

3. OBJECTIVES AND RECORDING METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The Watching Brief followed the methodology outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2015) and involved monitoring all intrusive ground-work.
- 3.2 All archaeological and non-archaeological features and deposits were recorded on standard BWA Ltd Sheets with scaled plans and section drawings as appropriate. All records, drawings and photographs have been prepared as a standard archive according to English Heritage MAP2 standards and will be stored eventually at Bristol City Museum together with the material finds. At the time of writing an accession number for the archive has not been received.

4. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 No previous archaeological work has been recorded for this site.
- 4.2 The following background history was included in the WSI for the watching brief (BaRAS 2015). The site lies within an area that was formerly part of Gloucestershire until Bristol

absorbed it within its boundaries in 1835. Pennywell Road (formerly Pennywell Lane) was an ancient thoroughfare leading to the Baptist Mills area, where a brass works was founded in 1702 on what was probably an earlier industrial site.

- 4.3 Rocque's 1742 map of Bristol showed the present site as already developed. Immediately beyond these plots was the parish Poor House. Large-scale surveys by Ashmead in 1828, 1854 and 1874 show that there were four small properties on this site, all identified as housing. Next door to the north-west, on the corner of the short lane ('Whore Lane' on one map) that led to Dolman's Burial Ground, was the Wool Pack public house. At some point after the 1912 revision of the OS 1:2500, but before the 1946 aerial photograph, the site was rebuilt on new frontages set back from both streets, and with a cut off corner, which was the shape of the recent standing building on the site. The Royal Oak Garage, which until recently operated at these premises, was also listed at the same address in the 1938 edition of Kelly's.
- 4.4 Two watching briefs on the Saints Court development at the southern end of Pennywell Road produced nothing earlier than 19th century in date (BHER 4454 & 24954). In the opposite direction, in the fork between Pennywell Road and Goodhind Street, another watching brief found nothing of much interest other than a backfilled post-medieval well (BHER 22488). South-west of Newton Street, beside Pennywell Court, 19th-century tobacco clay pipe wasters were discovered in 1988 (Baker et al, 1989). To the west and south-west of the present site, several evaluations, excavation and watching briefs have taken place in the Wade Street area, although none have produced anything of interest from earlier than the 17th century other than abraded medieval pottery sherds. However, in 1865 two Roman pigs of lead were discovered at the bottom of Wade Street (BHER 2518).
- 2.5 Bristol's Historic Environment Record (BHER) records several monuments in the vicinity of 8, Pennywell Road. The closest, the public house called The Wool Pack (now demolished) adjoined the site at its north-west end (5093M). Only a short distance to the north is the Vestry Hall, built in 1880 and still standing (1567M).
- 4.5 The hall occupies part of the site of the St Philips parish Poor House (1007M). Behind the poor house was Dolman's (or Allen's) Burial Ground, one of several private facilities in this district that were closed in 1854 (1180M). On the opposite side of Eugene Street to the present site was a Malthouse (1362M), still in use in the early 1950s but changed to a 'Works' by 1963. South of the Malthouse lay Pennywell House (1363M), now demolished, while further away again was a 'Smithy' (1364M), again no longer in existence. A short distance to the south of No. 8 is the Roman Catholic Church of St Nicholas of Tolentino, erected from c. 1848 onwards, and still in use as a place of worship (1366M). The associated school buildings of several dates west of the church, on the corner of Pennywell Road, no longer exist (1365M).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 Initial work after demolition of standing structures on the site centred on removal of floors and surfaces as well as foundations of the former structures on the site.
- 5.2 At the front of the site, below the concrete floor and bedding deposits were extensive deposits of made-ground (Deposit 101) which, at the front of the site, appeared to have filled a large void, possibly a cellar. At the rear of the site were deposits of garden soil (102). The only features of note comprised the street frontage walls of the recently demolished buildings on both Pennywell Road and Eugene Street frontages and possible remnants of a fireplace (104) in the wall abutting the vestry hall.

- 5.3 Subsequent removal of two large oil tanks in the centre of the site showed the made-ground deposits (101) continuing to increased depth (2m) but nothing of any note was encountered.
- 5.4 Trenching for foundations was undertaken after the removal of remaining foundations and largely comprised re-excavation of the holes caused by these works. Those deposits recorded comprised made-ground and demolition rubble, with the underlying Redcliffe sandstone (103) occurring at between 1m and 3.5m depth.
- 5.5 On the north of the site further evidence of earlier walls was recorded that appeared to predate the recently demolished structures on site. Hand excavations here for foundations and underpinning exposed two fragments of wall (105) and (106) that may have formed parts of a suggested cellar, and two further fragments of wall (107) and (108) under the foundations of the adjoining building, which appeared to have been bonded with clay survived as protruding stubs at the rear of the buildings, indicated an earlier phase of structure, possibly of 18th century date.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Initial monitoring of the removal of surfaces exposed only made-ground (101) and garden soil deposits (102) as well as some limited evidence of earlier structures, Fireplace (104) and Walls (105) and (106) that may predate the current buildings on the site though were still of suggested 20th century date.
- 6.2 Continued monitoring of strip foundations revealed the extent of the made-ground which reached 2.5m around the former oil storage tanks as well as some further surviving fragments of apparently clay bonded masonry, Walls (107) and (108) of suggested 19th century date.
- 6.3 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed by the construction groundworks.

7. APPENDIX 1 TABLE OF CONTEXTS

Context Number	Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Date
101	Deposit	Loose, poorly consolidated and sorted very dark greyish brown/black fine, sandy silt with abundant rubble, predominantly brick and sandstone but also limestone including Oolitic and modern concrete and tarmac. Frequent coal waste, lime mortar and gravel inclusions. Demolition/made-ground deposit.	Whole frontage of site.		Up to 1.5m avg. 2m max	-
102	Deposit	Firm, dark greyish brown/dark brown fine sandy silt with occasional small stones/gravel and limestone rubble and inclusions of brick and tile fragments as well as lime mortar and charcoal flecks. Garden soil.	Whole rear of site.		300mm	-
103	Deposit	Weathered red sandstone and sand	All foundation trenches		2.5m	-
104	Structure	2 projecting columns of brick masonry with a slab of pennant sandstone as a base, abuts the elevation of the adjoining property to the north. Possible Fireplace.	-	2m	-	C20
105	Structure	Stump of masonry, bricks bonded and rendered with grey lime mortar. Appears to be abutted by thick demolition rubble or made-ground deposit possibly backfilling a former cellar. No evidence of truncation to	300mm	500mm	300mm+	C20

		south.				
106	Structure	Same as (105) above	300mm	500mm	300mm+	C20
107	Structure	One of two stubs of masonry under the northwest corner of the adjoining property on the north of site. Random coursed sandstone rubble with red/brown sandy clay bond and no visible mortar. Part of an earlier structure than the adjoining property or the recently demolished buildings on site	300mm	500mm	300mm+	C20
108	Structure	Same as (107) above	300mm	250mm	300mm+	C18/C19

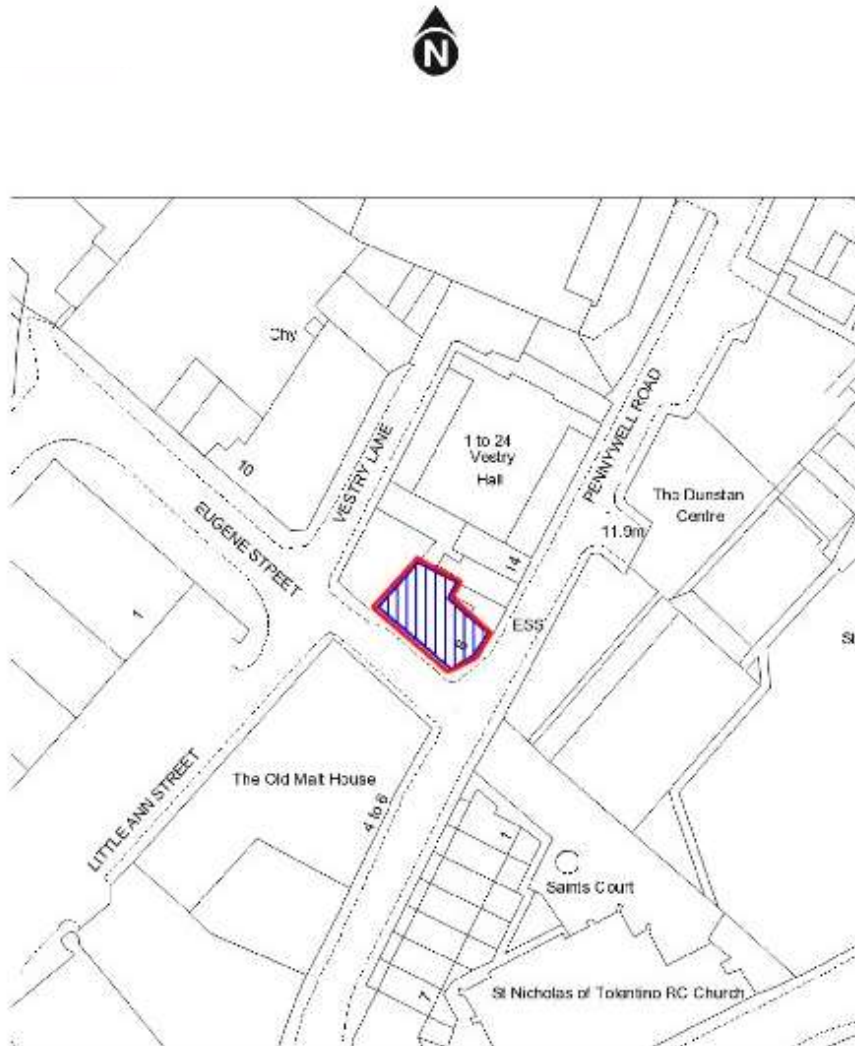
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

Baker, M, Beckey, I, Jackson, R. 1989 *Nineteenth Century Clay Tobacco Pipe Kiln Waste from Newton Street, Bristol*. Bristol & Avon Archaeology, **8**.

BaRAS 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 8 Pennywell Road, Easton, Bristol* .

English Heritage 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MORPHE Project Managers' Guide*. English Heritage, Swindon.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.



Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited without the prior permission of Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey and the OS Symbol are registered trademarks and OS MasterMap® is a trademark of Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency of Great Britain.

The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way.

The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary

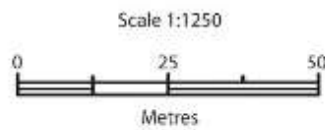


Figure 1. Site Location, scale as shown.

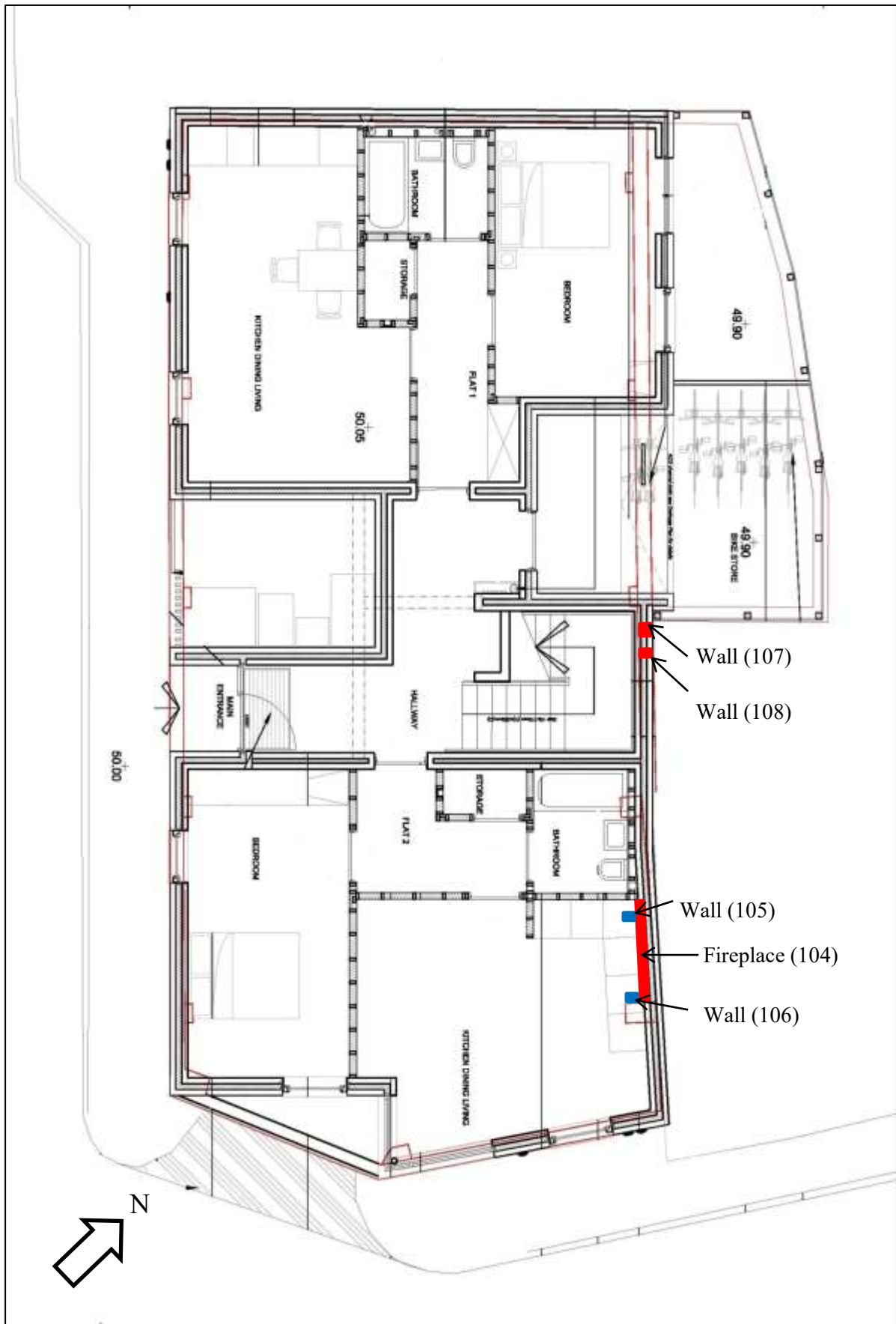


Figure 2. Location of structures recorded, scale approximately 1: 100.



Plate 1. Pennywell Road site frontage after demolition and removal of floors and surfaces showing base for fireplace, looking N. Scale 0.5m.



Plate 2. General view of the site during removal of modern surfaces, looking W



Plate 3. General view of the N side of site during hand excavation of foundations showing suggested remains of cellar walls, looking N, scale 2m.



Plate 4. Strip foundations along the Eugene Street frontage during excavation, looking W, scale 2m.