

The Full Moon Backpacker Hotel & Attic Bar North Street, Stokes Croft Bristol

Archaeological Watching Brief

Interim Statement

ST 59056 73656



For
Nick Morley on behalf of Eco-Properties Ltd
by
Rachel Heaton BSc

Avon Archaeology Limited: July 2015



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ABSTRACT

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Nick Morley on behalf of Eco-Properties Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (Archaeological Watching Brief) during groundworks associated with proposed redevelopment and renovation at the Full Moon Backpacker Hotel and Attic Bar on North Street, Stokes Croft, Bristol. Application has been made to demolish the Attic Bar and replace the structure with a new two storey block containing further hotel accommodation.

The current groundworks consisted of a single 'L' shaped trench of 4m by 2m, approximately 0.9m wide, and was excavated to provide the footings for a corner of the proposed new structure.

The small 'L' shaped trench was located adjacent to an archaeological evaluation Trench excavated in 2009 by Avon Archaeological Unit Ltd. The backfill of the 2009 evaluation trench was apparent in the north facing section of the new foundation trench. The southern facing section provided a straightforward stratigraphic sequence of natural marl, sealed by subsoil, overlain by modern surface materials. No archaeological deposits were recorded during this piece of work, which was limited due to the small size of the area and the location of the excavated trench.



NOTES

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

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All enquiries should be addressed to:
Avon Archaeology Limited
Avondale Business Centre
Woodland Way, Kingswood
Bristol BS15 1AW
Telephone and Facsimile 0117 960 8487.
Email: mail@avonarchaeology.co.uk

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ABBREVIATIONS

AAL	Avon Archaeology Limited
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
HER	Historic Environment Record
NGR	National Grid Reference



INTERIM STATEMENT

- Introduction

Avon Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Nick Morley of NJM Architects on behalf of Eco-properties Ltd to monitor the excavation of a short 'L' shaped section of trenching ahead of a proposed renovation and building project at the Full Moon Backpacker Hotel and Attic Bar, North Street, Stokes Croft Bristol.

The formal planning application relating to this development has been allocated the reference 12/02315/FUL by the local planning authority. The watching brief arose as the result of a condition imposed by the local authority, and for which a WSI was subsequently written and approved by the Bristol City Archaeological Officer (Heaton, 2015).

This represents the first phase of works intended at the site and took place on the 16th of June 2015, with the attendance of the writer. A more significant programme of archaeological monitoring is set to follow at an unspecified date in the future. The results of this work will be incorporated with the results of the forthcoming project and will be presented in a final report.

- The Site

The Full Moon Backpacker Hotel and Attic Bar are located immediately to the north of the St James Barton roundabout in central Bristol. The site is bounded on the west by Stokes Croft, on the north by part of the line of Moon Street, and on the south by the former Avon County Council office complex, now the 5102 residential building.

The underlying geology of the site, which occupies level ground at approximately 15m aOD, comprises Triassic Mercia Mudstone of the Redcliffe formation interrupted by the Ashton Little Coal Seam of the Lower Coal Measures (BGS, 2004).

- The Monitoring

The location of the trench is shown on **Figure 3**, positioned in a confined space to the rear (east) of the site. The current foundation trench 'hugs' the north side of an evaluation trench (Trench 2) which was excavated in 2009



(Hume, 2009). Deposits recorded during the groundworks mirrored those recorded in 2009.

Visibility of deposits was limited due to the small dimensions of the trench and confined space in which the trench was excavated. The backfill of evaluation Trench 2 (2009) was apparent in both the north and west facing sections of this foundation trench, and clearly discernable stratigraphy was only visible in the south and west facing sections.

The natural substrate, context (1003), a soft orange brown clay sand was reached at 0.5m below the current surface in the north west corner of the trench, but sloped away to a greater depth of 0.95m below towards the west of the trench. It was sealed by context (1002), a mid to dark brown, homogenous sandy silt up to 0.5m thick. This was sealed by two modern layers: Context (1001) was a mix of rubble/hardcore containing pieces of red brick and larger lumps of stone (Pennant sandstone) of up to 0.2m thick, which supported the modern concrete yard surface, Context (1000) (**See Plates 1 to 4**).

No archaeological deposits were recorded and no artefacts were retrieved from the trench.



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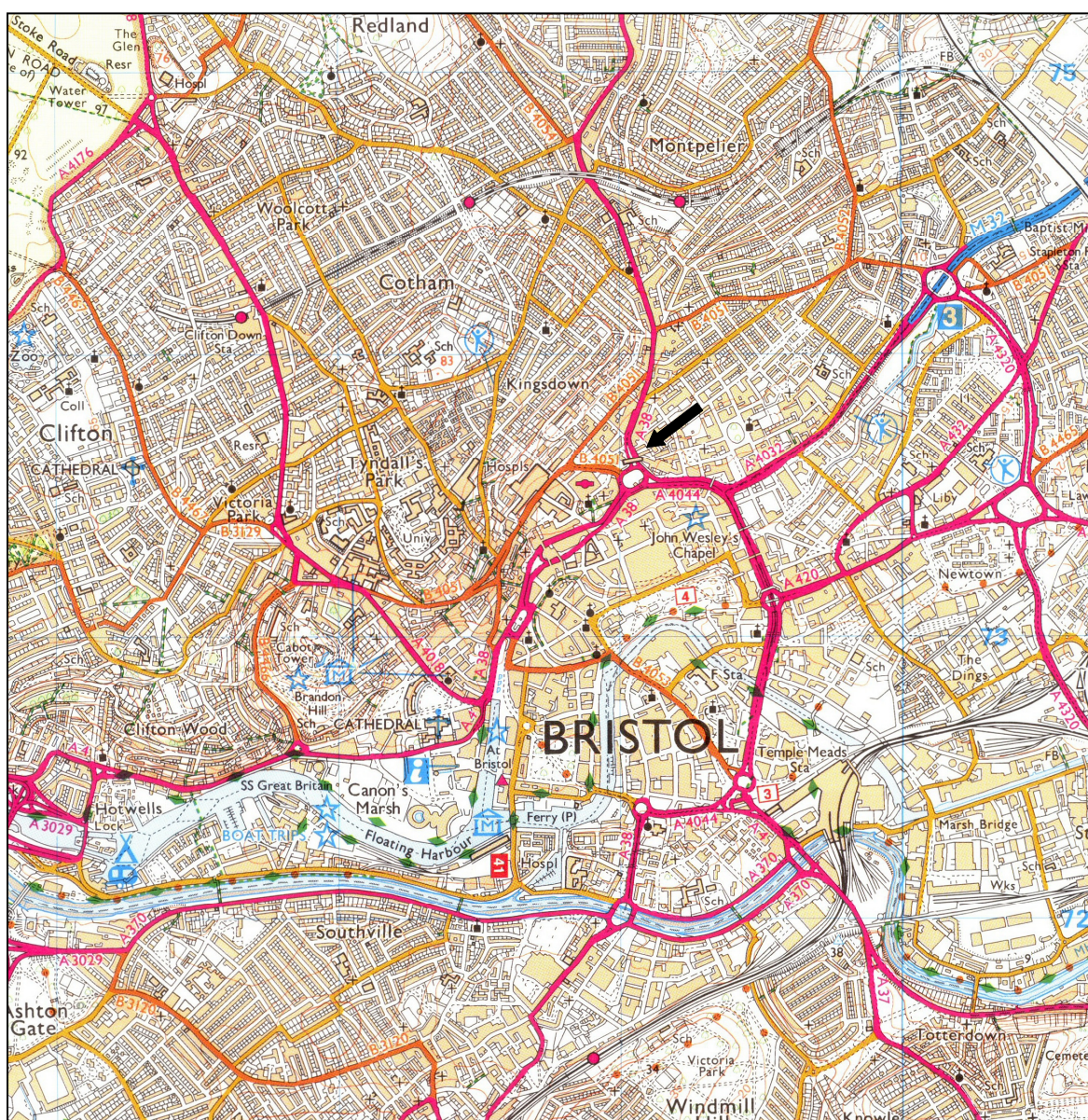
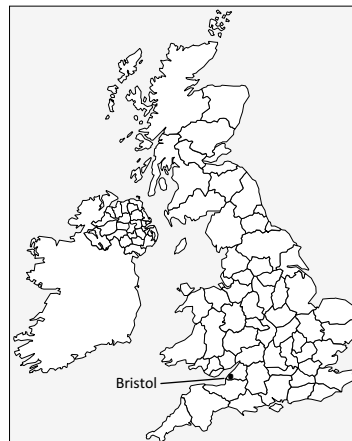
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Figure 1. Showing location of The Full Moon Backpacker Hotel and Attic Bar



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Figure 2

Boundary of the Study Area with location of groundworks

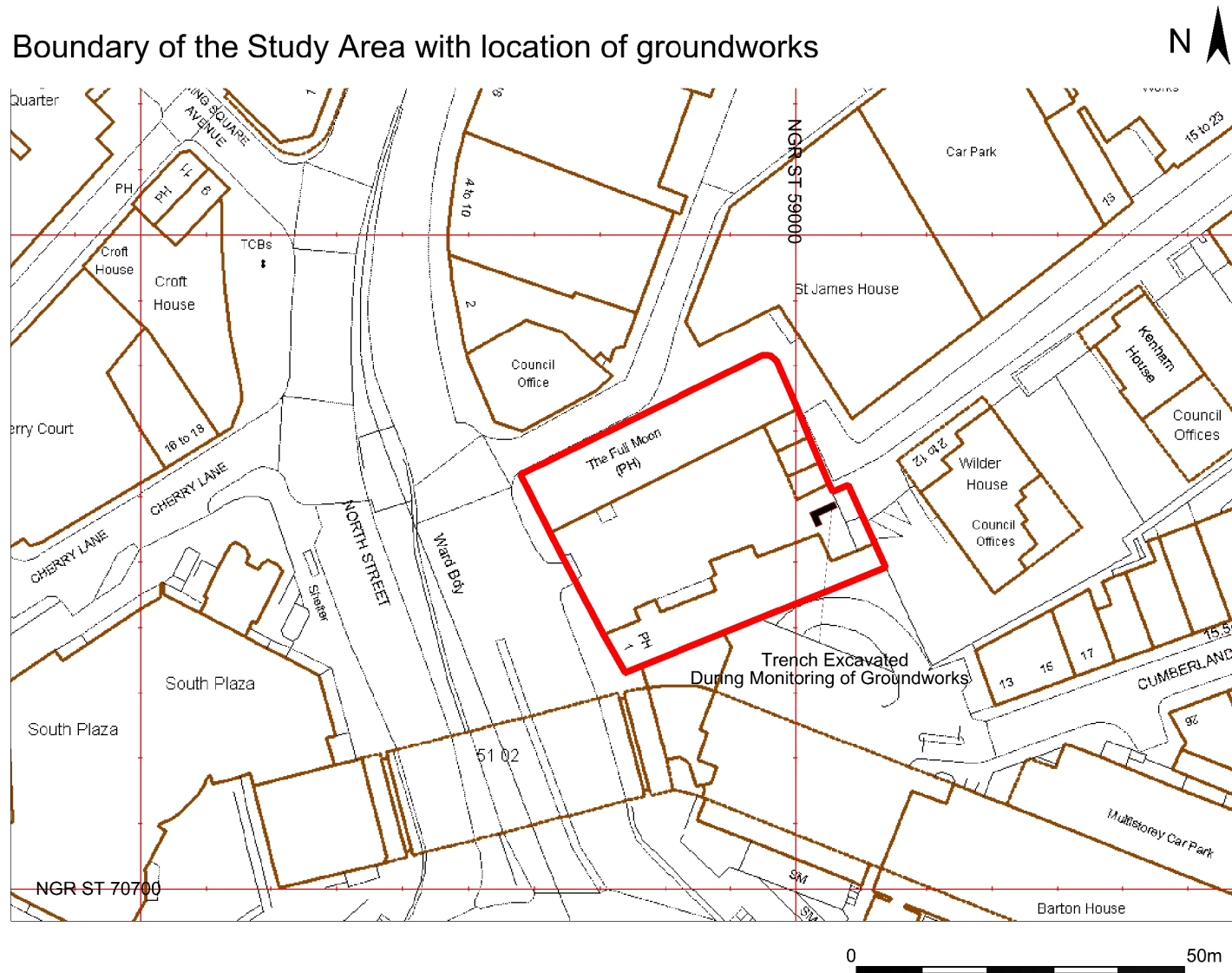


Plate 1. View of trench looking north east before excavation.



Plate 2. South east facing section of the trench showing clear sequence of stratigraphy.

Plate 3. North east facing section of the trench



Plate 4. General view of trench once excavated to the required depth.