



Land on the North Side of Belgrave Hill, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2UA

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Client: Mr James King

Project: Historic Building Recording



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Non-Technical Summary

This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological work to secure the recording of the fabric of buildings of historic or architectural importance on Land to the North Side of Belgrave Hill, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2UA (the Project Site). Permission has been granted for the erection of two dwellings with associated external works (Planning Application Number 14/02366/F). The main fabric of the structure will be preserved in situ to the rear of the new development.

The Project Site preserves remnants of unique architecture which made use of a disused quarry and provided housing for working class families from the mid-19th century to the first half of the 20th century. They appear to have comprised at least five separate dwellings by the end of the 19th century and represent one of the earliest tenements be developed in this area of Clifton, following the closure of the works.

It is considered that groundwork to facilitate the development of the new dwellings will offer an opportunity for the recording of preserved internal partitions and perhaps floor surfaces and may shed some light on the purpose of the recesses which are currently partially visible. It is therefore planned to continue the recording of the Project Site in conjunction with ongoing works.

The main fabric of the structures will not be removed as a result of the site development.

Acknowledgements

HPS would like to thank Mr James King for his assistance with the Project and for facilitating the recording of the buildings.



1. Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1. This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological work in order to secure the recording of the fabric of buildings of historic or architectural importance on Land to the North Side of Belgrave Hill, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2UA (hereafter referred to as the Project Site).
- 1.2. Permission has been granted for the erection of two dwellings with associated external works (Planning Application Number 14/02366/F). The main fabric of the structure will be preserved in situ to the rear of the new development.
- 1.3. This document has been informed by the Notice of Decision which states the following-

1.3.1. Condition 4: To secure the recording of the fabric of buildings of historic or architectural importance-

No development (including demolition/ alteration to existing base rock/ wall structures or stabilisation works to the retaining wall - other than basic works to ensure the safety of the archaeologists/ other contractors to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to being carried out) shall take place until the applicant/developer has recorded those parts of the building which are likely to be disturbed or concealed in the course of redevelopment or refurbishment. The recording is to be carried out by an archaeologist or archaeological organisation approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological or architectural importance within a building are recorded before their destruction or concealment.

1.3.2. Condition 5: To ensure implementation of a programme of archaeological works-

1.3.3. No development (including demolition/ alteration to existing base rock/ wall structures or stabilisation works to the retaining wall - other than basic works to ensure the safety of the archaeologists/ other contractors to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to being carried out) shall take place on site until the applicant/developer has secured the



implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the developer and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

The development (including demolition of existing structures or stabilisation works to the retaining wall - other than basic works to ensure the safety of the archaeologists/ other contractors to be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to being carried out) shall be carried out only in accordance with the approved programme of archaeological work and timetable for work. The publication of the analysis and records and the archive deposition or the records shall be carried out in accordance with the timetable agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that archaeological remains and features are recorded prior to their destruction.

- 1.4. The programme of work took the form of a Level 2 building recording, with photographic survey. This project was completed under HPS project reference HPS-136/16 on the 1st September 2016.
- 1.5. All recording was completed by Sam Driscoll BA (Hons), MA, MCIfA, Director, Heritage Planning Services Limited.

The Project Site and Study Area

- 1.6. The Project Site is located to the north of Belgrave Hill, in the Clifton area of Bristol, 2.2km to the northwest of the City Centre. The development area is located at the base of one of Clifton Down's historic open area quarries and today it is defined by a high wall which shores up the original rock face. The feature defines the rear of the development area, extending >29m north-east to south-west. The wall also defines the rear plot boundaries of properties located along Upper Belgrave Road, to the north-west.
- 1.7. Geologically the development area is defined by Carboniferous Clifton Down Limestone Formation (CDL), which was subject to piecemeal mineral and stone extraction through the 18th and 19th centuries.



Figure 1 Detailed Project Site Location (outlined in red).



Figure 2 Project Site Location (circled).



Figure 3 WNW facing view of the Project Site

1.8. The quarry was active from the mid-18th century. Figure 4 shows part of the 1746 survey of the Manor of Clifton, with the location of the development area in the region of quarry pits.

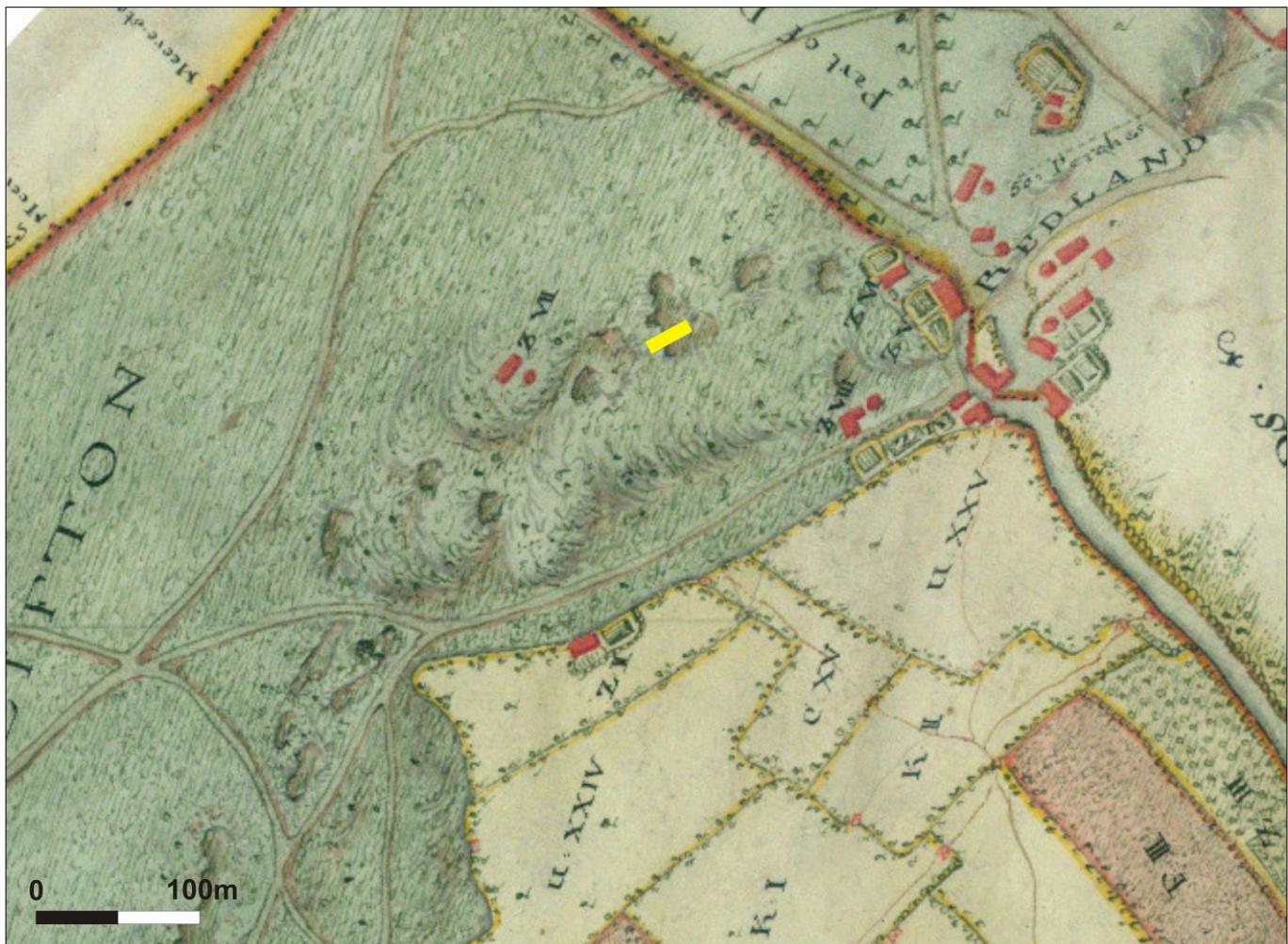


Figure 4 1746 Survey of the Manor of Clifton, by De Wilstar (approximate location of the Project Site marked in yellow)

- 1.9. By 1840, the Tithe Map shows that properties were beginning to be established along the southern side of Upper Belgrave Road. Figure 5 shows the approximate location of the Project Site to the rear of the shaded developed areas. The unmarked area to the south-east of the properties illustrates the extent of the quarry. It is likely that the advent of private development marks the end of active stone extraction on the Project Site by this time. A Chain Quarry is still active to the north of the plot.

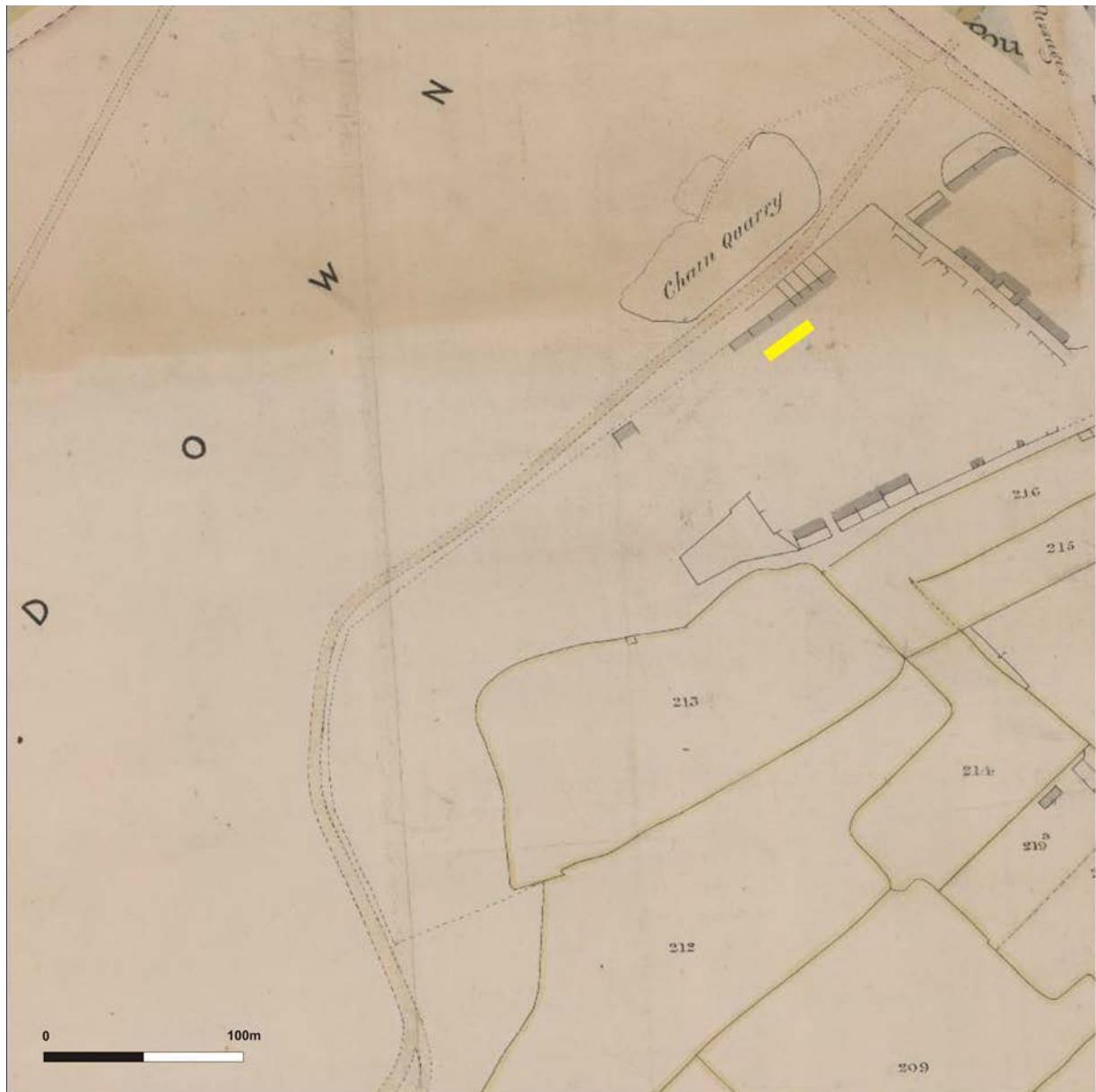


Figure 5 1840 Tithe Map with approximate location of Project Site marked in yellow.

1.10. By 1855 the transformation of the area was complete. Figure 6 shows four structures depicted in the region of the development area. The new street plan is also complete, with Granby Hill (now Belgrave Hill), Richmond Hill (now Richmond Dale) and Quarry Row (now Quarry Steps) fully developed to the south, and High Street and Wesley Place to the east.



Figure 6 1855 Ashmead Map with Project Site outlined in yellow.

1.11. By the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in 1883 the Project Site has seen further development, with the north-eastern dwelling redeveloped to create two units. Open area quarries to the north of Upper Belgrave Road were decommissioned in 1880 and are not depicted, however the remnant of the south-western extent of the quarry that defined the development can still be seen, clearly marked Old Quarry on Figure 7.

1.12. Census records from 1891 give us the names of some of the tenants at the time. Although the housing is not numbered on the 1883 map, it is believed that records for the occupants of lower Ganby Hill represent those living in some of the dwellings on the Project Site. The table below gives their names and details. From the records, it appears that John and Sarah Tudball and Jemima Jones occupied rooms in the same building. The general occupations of the occupants give us an idea of the nature of the housing, which appears to have been for low income, working class families.

Total of rooms occupied	Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation
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	John Tudball	Head	28	General Labourer
"	Sarah Tudball	Wife	22	-
2	Jemima Jones	Head (Widow)	72	Living on Charity
3	William Orchard	Head	39	General Labourer
"	Clara Orchard	Wife	37	Charwoman
"	Frank Orchard	Son	9	-
"	Edith	Daughter	5?	-
"	Daisy	Daughter	2	-
3	Eliza Summers	Head	62	Quarry Labourer
"	Charlotte Summers	Wife	60	-
"	Robert Summers	Son	15	Quarry Labourer
"	Matilda Summers	Daughter	19	General Servant

Table 1 Census Records Gloucestershire, Clifton 1891. Occupants of lower Granby Hill



Figure 7 1883 1st Edition Ordnance Survey with Project Site shown in purple



1.13. Although three of the structures are still recorded in 1949, by 1965 the site is described as ruins (National Grid survey). The gradual dereliction of the buildings most likely accounts for the steep uneven ground fronting the Project Site, which is most likely comprised of demolition rubble.

2. Methodology

Level 2 Building Recording

- 2.1. The programme of work was carried out by Heritage Planning Services Limited under their specific Site Code HPS-136/16.
- 2.2. All work was carried out in accordance with the following standards and guidance:
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIIfA), 2014a. Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures;
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b. Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives;
 - Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2012. National Planning Policy Framework;
 - Historic England, 2016. Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice.
- 2.3. A photographic survey was carried out, in order to compile a record of the fabric of buildings of historic or architectural importance which will be destroyed or concealed by the approved programme of work.
- 2.4. Significant characteristics and features identified have been interpreted, and their form and function discussed in order to better inform on the historical use of the Project Site.

Photography

- 2.5. Digital cameras were used to capture the primary data. Digital images were captured in high resolution uncompressed Tiff format. Exterior images were enhanced with the use of a 50mm lens and interior by way of a wide angle lens (28mm), where necessary.
- 2.6. An illustrative selection of digital images shall be provided in hard copy on silver halide paper as part of the project archive. All digital photography and subsequent data storage shall follow Historic



England guidance provided in Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice (Historic England 2015c).

- 2.7. Flash photography was the preferred choice of image capture for internal shots.
- 2.8. Main area shots were captured by way of a tripod mounted camera, to avoid the effects of camera shake and to aid composition. This will be supplemented by detailed photography of significant features.
- 2.9. All photograph points have been located in relation to existing plans and exact camera locations will be deposited with Bristol City Council in GIS format.
- 2.10. All photographs will be catalogued, indexed and stored in accordance with Bristol Museum & Art Gallery Conditions of Acceptance or Archaeological Archives.

3. Archive

- 3.1. The site archive contains all the data collected during the programme of work and has been quantified, ordered, indexed and checked for internal consistency.
- 3.2. The archive was prepared to the standards outlined in MoRPHE PPN 3 - Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008), and in accordance with the guidelines published in *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1994) and MoRPHE (2006).

4. Results

- 4.1. In photographing the site, several restrictions were encountered due to the narrowness of the road and steep incline (gradient 1:15), it was not possible to take a clear image of the structure in its entirety.

Features



- 4.2. Positions 1 & 2 (Figure 8 / Figure 9) show the south-western structure façade, constructed of local Rubblestone. The wall has been erected to shore up the face of the quarry, following the closure of this section of the works in the mid-19th century. The original quarry face is still evident to the rear of the arches.
- 4.3. Three arches measuring >6m in height x 1.6m in width are present, with one having been infilled (arches highlighted in yellow). A fourth infilled arch is potentially preserved to the north-east. The full height of the arches was not ascertained at the time of the survey, but may be recorded once the ground reduction is carried out to the front of the plot. Double skin walls (now truncated) can be seen to have been built into the original construction, flanking the arches and defining the south-western terminal (Figure 9 highlighted in blue/ detail Figure 10). The central infilled arch can be seen to have a later partition added to the random Rubblestone fill, denoting an alteration to the layout (highlighted in green).
- 4.4. The tops of three lower openings can be seen, with one infilled (arch highlighted in orange on Figure 9 & detail in Figure 11). These recesses appear to be utilitarian.
- 4.5. To the north-east, the height of the wall steps down, with a c. 6m high elevation visible (although it is likely that the height has been truncated). Once again constructed from random local Rubblestone, the corner of a dwelling is preserved (Figure 12) and a portion of the façade, fronting Belgrave Hill. The rear wall appears to be masked by approximately 3m (height) of spoil. Remnants of a partition wall (highlighted in blue Figure 13) are preserved, along with evidence of one of the floor levels (highlighted in yellow Figure 13).
- 4.6. One internal recess is evident and appears to have been carefully constructed, with a roughly dressed stone opening and brick arch with brick vaulted ceiling (Figure 14). The feature appears to have been a full-length doorway, which has subsequently been bricked up to form a smaller opening. Access was not gained to the recess at this time, due to health and safety concerns, however it was clear that the base and rear of the feature comprised the natural face of the quarry. The recess presumably had a utilitarian function, perhaps a larder? Further inspection may shed more light on the nature of the feature, once the current ground level is reduced.
- 4.7. Adjacent and to the north-east of the partition or outer wall (?) two more recesses are evident. Both exhibit brick vaulted roofs and plasterwork. Evidence would suggest that these were located in an external wall, as the end recess appears to comprise an entrance to a small room, with a window



with wooden lintel preserved above (Figure 16). In both recesses the quarry face forms the rear walls.

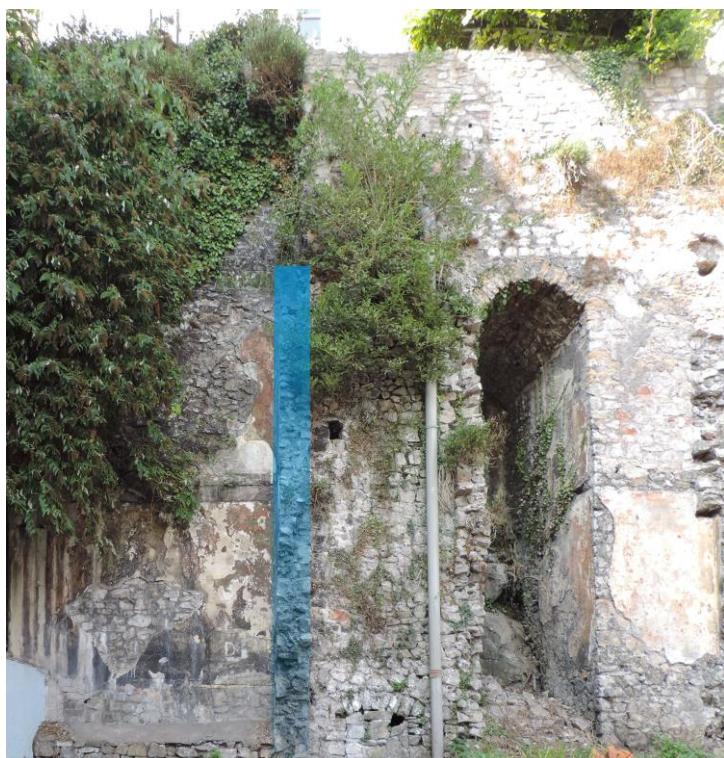
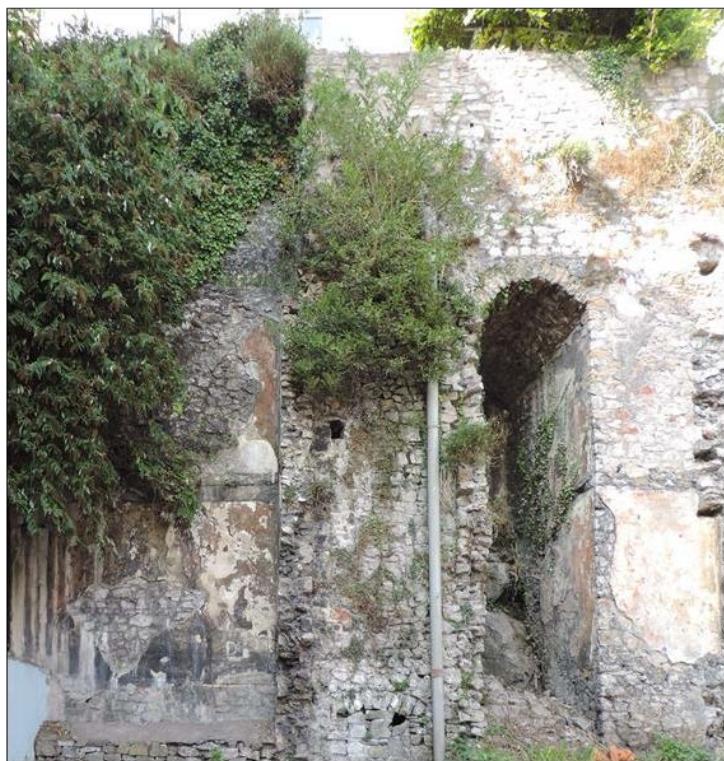


Figure 8 Position 1 ENE facing view of south-western extent of structure.



Figure 9 Position 2 WNW facing view of open arches.



Figure 10 north-east facing elevation of arch showing partition masonry keyed into original build.



Figure 11 Detail of blocked recess (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m)



Figure 12 South west elevation of property wall (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m)

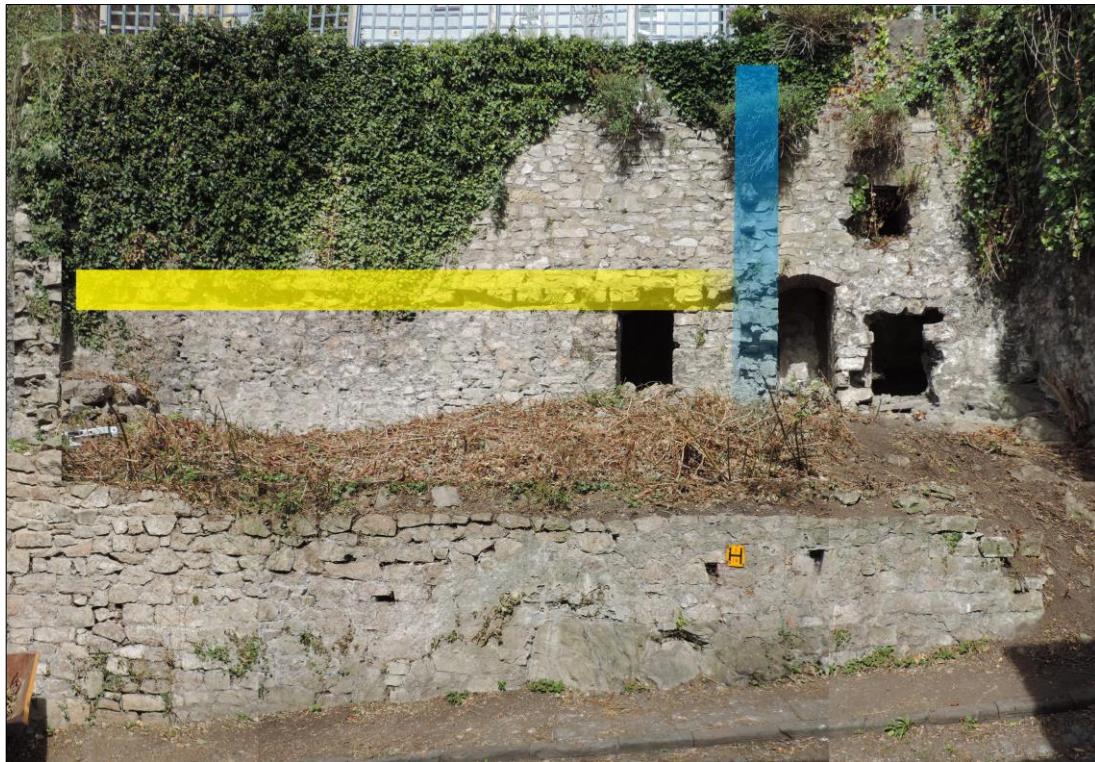


Figure 13 South east facing elevation of north east section of Project Site.



Figure 14 Brick vaulted ceiling.



Figure 15 Internal View of north-eastern recess with plastered wall and vaulted ceiling (Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m)

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Figure 16 Internal view of window with wooden lintel (Scale 1 x 300mm)

Plaster

- 4.8. Enough of the original plaster remains to illustrate some of the internal features. For example, the tall arched recesses are plastered internally, confirming that they were incorporated into the layout of the individual dwellings at some point. The depth of the rooms can be ascertained by a line dictating the extent of the plasterwork, which is seen in both arched recesses. An example is shown in Figure 17, where the rear of the dwelling is clearly marked by the line of the plaster.



Figure 17 Internal view of north-east facing elevation of arch, showing internal plasterwork.

4.9. Evidence of the floor levels is also highlighted in the remaining plaster (Figure 18). The level of the Plasterwork to the south-west of the structure corresponds to the floor location demonstrated in the location of the arches, suggesting a similar internal layout.



Figure 18 South east facing elevation. Plaster demonstrating location of floor timbers (floor level highlighted in yellow).



Floor Joists

- 4.10. To the south-west of the structure there is clear evidence of the housing for floor joists. The upper level corresponds to the floor level marked out by the plasterwork, discussed above. However, the south-west facing elevation of the south-western partition wall suggests that the structures are likely to have been three storeys (Figure 19). There may be room to accommodate another level if the masonry continues to the modern street level (which would add approximately 2m from ground level to roof height).



Figure 19 South-west elevation of south-western partition wall showing upper row of floor joist housing and potential lower level.

5. Discussion

- 5.1. The southwestern portion of the structure preserves the rear wall of tenement buildings constructed following the closure of one of Clifton's stone quarries, which it would appear from the cartographic evidence, took place in the mid-19th century. The quarry face has been shored with a random rubble wall, which was designed to incorporate domestic dwellings fronting the then Granby Hill.



- 5.2. It is likely that the uneven ground which rises steeply at the foot of the structure comprises demolition rubble from the housing which fronted the Project Site. If removed, further evidence of the layout and dimensions of the dwellings may be recorded.
- 5.3. Double skin walls flanking the open arches appear to be integral to the original design and it may have been the case that the arches were not originally incorporated into the dwellings, which may have extended to the south-west and north-east of the recesses. Further evidence may be ascertained if footings are preserved.
- 5.4. Following the original construction, it is clear that the central arch has been sealed to allow an additional wall to be constructed, at which time the housing appears to have been extended.
- 5.5. Evidence of the roof height is persevered in the masonry and the level of two rows of floor joists are preserved, suggesting that some of the properties were three storeys. It is assumed that the masonry will continue to the current road level, which will confirm the original height of the dwellings. If this is the case, then the small recesses evident at the base of the wall are likely to be revealed as doorways allowing access to small rooms.
- 5.6. To the north-west of the Project Site, the corner and outer walls of a property are preserved, along with a recess which appears to allow access to a small room.
- 5.7. Further recesses to the north-east suggests that this portion of the wall may have been external, as suggested by the location of a window.
- 5.8. Census records from 1891 give us an indication that the housing was occupied at that time by low income, working class families, sharing three rooms and in one instance, in shared accommodation.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The Project Site preserves remnants of unique architecture which made use of a disused quarry and provided housing for working class families from the mid-19th century to the first half of the 20th century. They appear to have comprised at least five separate dwellings by the end of the 19th century and represent one of the earliest tenements be developed in this area of Clifton, following the closure of the works.
- 6.2. It is considered that groundwork to facilitate the development of the new dwellings will offer an opportunity for the recording of preserved internal partitions and perhaps floor surfaces and may



shed some light on the purpose of the recesses which are currently partially visible. It is therefore planned to continue the recording of the Project Site in conjunction with ongoing works.

- 6.3. The main fabric of the structures will not be removed as a result of the site development.



7. Bibliography

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8. Appendix



Appendix 1 Photo Locations



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