



Friary, Temple Quay, Bristol

Archaeological Watching Brief



Ref: 114470.01
October 2016



**Friary, Temple Quay,
Bristol**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for:
Dyer & Butler Limited
Mead House
Station Road
Nursling
Southampton
Hampshire
SO16 0AH

Prepared by:
Wessex Archaeology
Unit 9
Filwood Green Business Park
1 Filwood Park Lane
Bristol
BS4 1ET

www.wessexarch.co.uk


October 2016

**Report Ref: 114470.01
Museum Accession ref: BRSMG tbc**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	114470.01	Accession Code	BRSMG tbc	Client Ref.	-
Planning Application Ref.	-	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	359685 172557		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	E	Sam Fairhead	AK		30/09/2016
File:	X:\TENDERS\T22296\Reports				
File:					
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Dyer & Butler limited to undertake monitoring of service trench excavations in the Friary private roadway, Temple Quay, Bristol.

A single trench was opened, at the north-eastern extent of which, part of a wall was exposed beneath the steel shoring. The wall is likely to be associated with the 19th-century railway goods shed complex that formerly stood in this location.

The Fieldwork took place on 15th August 2016.



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Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Dyer and Butler. Fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Fairhead, who also compiled this report with illustrations prepared by Nancy Dixon and Will Foster.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andy King.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Dyer and Butler Limited to undertake monitoring of service trenching in the Friary, a private roadway at Temple Quay, Bristol (**Figure 1**). As the previously commissioned archaeological contractor had recently ceased trading and no methodology (Written Scheme of Investigation - WSI) for a watching brief had been submitted, the advice of the City's Archaeological Officer advising the planning department, Peter Insole, was to follow the same procedures as outlined in an approved WSI, submitted by Wessex for similar trenching that had taken place only a few metres away in Friary within the last 12 months (WA 2015).

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site lies at a height of approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), at the north-eastern end of Friary, centred on NGR 359685 172557. It is bordered on its western side by business properties, and Temple Meads Station to the south. The underlying geology is Redcliffe Sandstone (British Geological Survey 2014), the superficial geology comprises consolidated soft silty-clay with layers of sand, gravel and peat with between 4–12m of Holocene tidal flat deposits of the Wentlooge Formation and from 2–6m of made ground (Majobi 2002; Halcrow 2011; Wilkinson *et al* 2013).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Medieval

2.1.1 The following section is summarised from the results of a Desk-based Heritage Assessment of the Friary undertaken by Mott MacDonald (2014).

2.1.2 In the 12th and 13th centuries AD, settlement at Bristol was expanded south of the River Avon, by the creation of a suburb known as Redcliffe, based around 3 main thoroughfares, aligned approximately north-south, known as Temple Street, Redcliffe Street, and St Thomas Street. Individual narrow burghage plots were set out fronting the roadways and extending back to large drainage/ boundary ditches at the rear. This whole area of Redcliffe was later enclosed by a defensive structure, which became known as the Port Wall (HER 1042M). The low-lying area outside of the Port Wall and west of the present-day Bath Road remained largely agricultural and became known as Temple Meads.

2.2 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.2.1 Following a brief rebuild and re-use in the Civil War period, the Portwall was largely demolished, but is known to have survived in the basement walls of buildings on the former intramural lane known as Pipe Lane. The Temple Meads fields were significantly encroached upon by a large goods shed, dock and rail yard constructed around 1836 for the Great Western Railway. The dock was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and was completed during the 1840s and had been backfilled by the late 1870s, to facilitate an extension to the goods shed complex.

2.2.2 In the 1920s the goods shed was demolished to make way for an even bigger covered goods depot. The covered depot was in turn demolished in 1983 being replaced by an industrial estate. In the late 1990s construction began for the redevelopment of the whole area as Temple Quay.

2.3 Recent investigations in the area

2.3.1 During construction of the Temple Quay area several archaeological investigations were undertaken. Most recently an evaluation carried out in 2013, within the present Plot 3 of Temple Quay to the north of the Friary, revealed structures associated with the 1840s Brunel dock, including the dock wall itself, crane bases at the dock side and associated goods shed, as well as later phases and extensions of the goods shed, including the dock wall itself and crane bases at the dock side (BaRAS 2014).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), the principle aim of the archaeological watching brief is to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

3.1.2 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives were defined:

- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
 - *To ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
 - *To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
 - *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
 - *To determine the condition, state of preservation and significance of the remains and to place them within their historical context; and*
 - *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*
- *To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 A detailed description of standard watching brief methodology was set out in the WSI utilised for the Site (WA 2015).

3.2.2 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of a single service trench. The mechanical excavation was, where possible, undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and under

constant supervision by WA. Machine excavation proceeded to the required construction levels. Groundwork was temporarily halted whilst investigations were carried out by WA staff.

- 3.2.3 Due to the depth of the trenching and the need to employ shoring a full photographic record was maintained using digital cameras, and archaeological features and deposits were surveyed using GPS equipment and related to Ordnance Survey datum.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The trench revealed a short section of wall, associated with the 19th-century railway goods shed complex that lay to the south-west of the former Brunel Dock. The wall was encountered at the north-eastern end of the trench (**Figure 1**), approximately 2.5m below the existing ground level, beneath a deep layer of made ground. Only a 1.5m height of the wall's south-western face was exposed as it extended beyond the base of the trench. The width could not be determined (**Plate 1**).

- 4.1.2 The wall was constructed of irregularly-sized dressed red sandstone blocks bonded with a soft grey, lime mortar with large lime and charcoal inclusions. Part of what appeared to be a blocked arch was visible in the lowest portion of the wall. The arch was constructed of red bricks and would have measured approximately 1m-1.5m across (**Plate 2**).

4.2 Conclusions

- 4.2.1 The wall revealed during the watching brief lies within the footprint of the 19th-century goods shed complex and from the masonry and mortar type exposed, is most likely to be associated with this structure.

5 STORAGE AND CURATION

5.1 Archive

- 5.1.1 The completed project archive, which will include records, plans and photos will be prepared to comply with current guidelines for long-term storage (e.g. ClfA 2014b; Walker 1990; MGC 1994 *etc.*). It is proposed in principle that, subject to the wishes of the landowner, the entire archive (including the finds) will be donated to and deposited with Bristol Museum and Art Gallery as the designated repository. Provision has been made for the cost of long term storage in the post-fieldwork costs.

- 5.1.2 The composition of the archive will conform to the collecting museum's accession guidelines for depositing archaeological material. All archive elements will be marked with the unique Wessex Archaeology Site code **114470**, the Museum accession code **BRSMG 2016.tbc** and a full index will be prepared. The archive comprises the following:

1 document case of paper records & A4 graphics

9 jpeg digital photographic images

- 5.1.3 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA West in Bristol.

- 5.1.4 A copy of the fieldwork report and ArcGIS Shapefiles of the watching brief area will be submitted to the Bristol Historic Environment Record. The existing OASIS form (OASIS ID **wessexar1-260492**) will be completed and a pdf copy of the report will also be uploaded.

- 5.1.5 WA will in the first instance offer the primary paper record archive to the collecting museum. If the museum confirms that they do not require the hardcopy archive, items may be retained as a teaching resource by WA, or offered to the developer, or applicant, or a third party organisation for public use or as a teaching resource.

5.2 Copyright

- 5.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by WA Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

5.3 Security Copy

- 5.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011) on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving. The digital records will be submitted to the BHER, with a copy retained in the Wessex Archaeology security-copied and backed-up digital archive storage facility, under its designated Wessex Archaeology project code 114470.

6 REFERENCES

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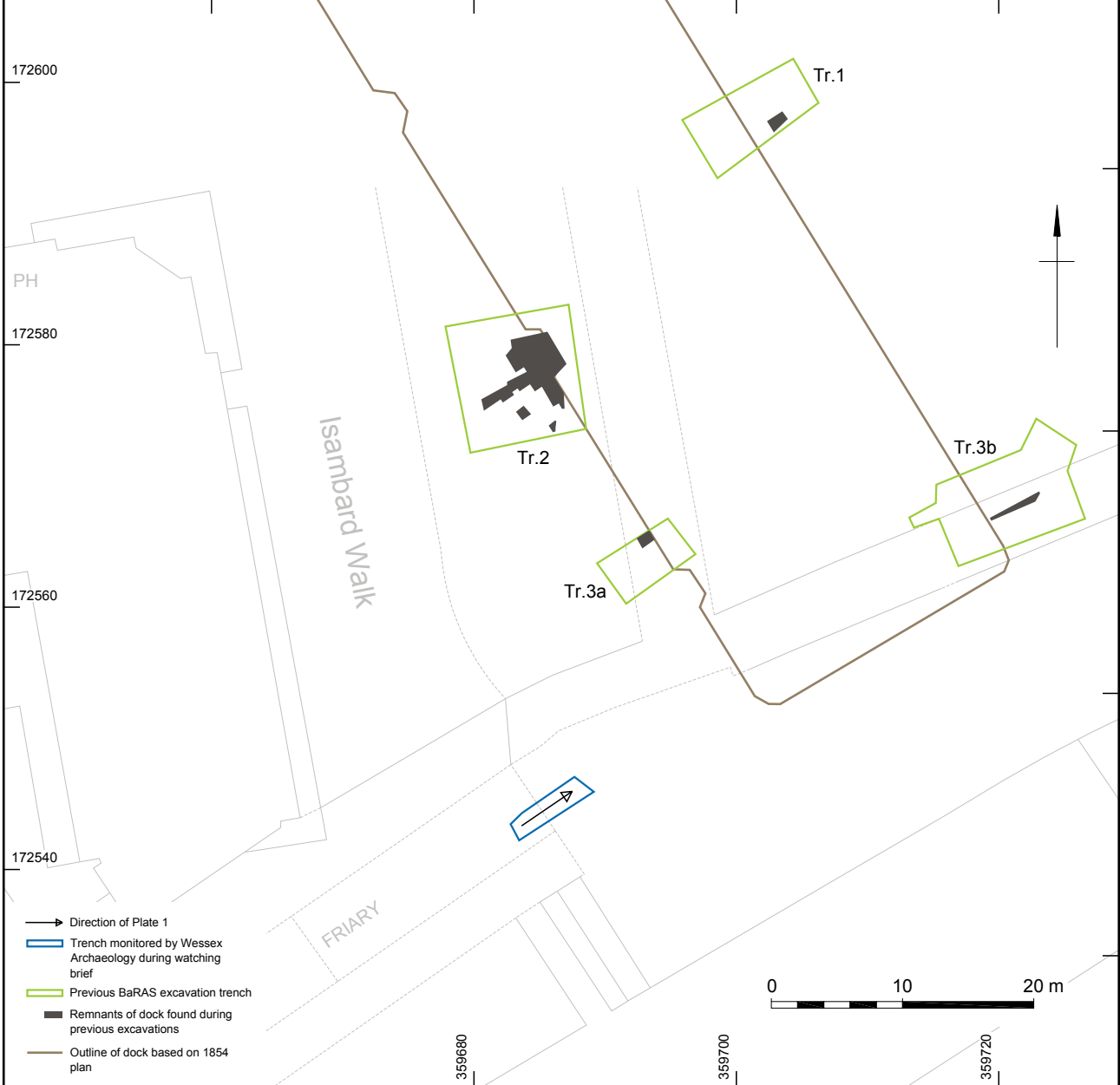
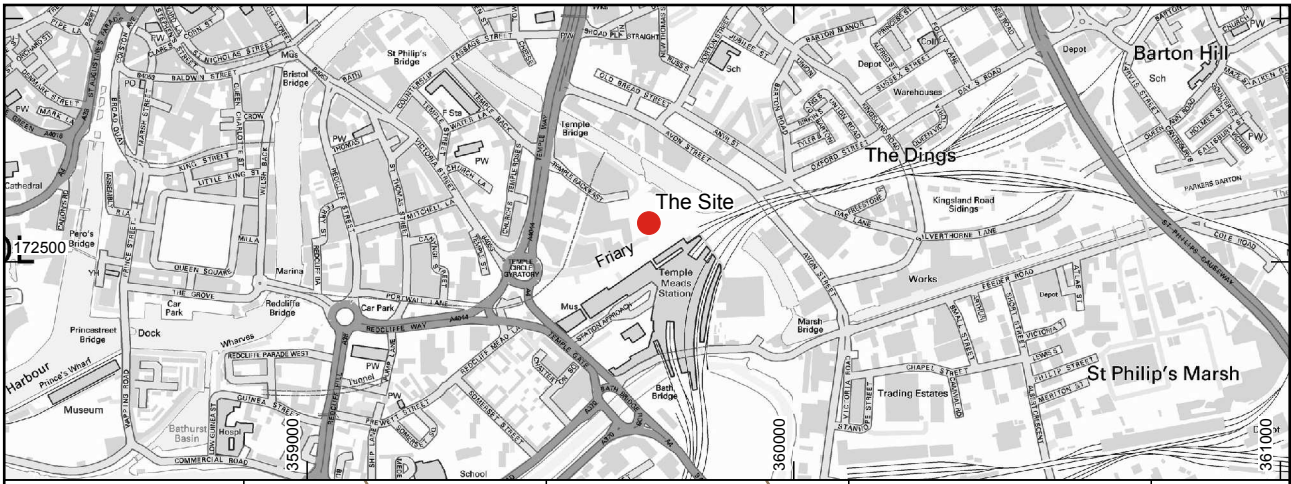
7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: OASIS ID: wessexar1-260492

Project name	Friary, Temple Quay, Bristol, Archaeological Watching Brief, August 2016
Short description of the project	In August 2016 a Watching Brief was carried out on service-trenching within the private roadway known as Friary, at Temple Quay, Bristol. A single shored trench exposed part of a 19th-century rubble and stone wall at a depth of over 4m below present ground level. This wall was probably associated with the goods shed complex that formerly stood on the site.
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2016 End: 15-08-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	114470 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	GOODS SHED WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Country	England
Site location	CITY OF BRISTOL CITY OF BRISTOL BRISTOL Friary, Temple Quay
Postcode	BS1 6EA
Study area	1.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	ST 59685 72557 51.450071817243 -2.580225365988 51 27 00 N 002 34 48 W Point
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology



Project brief originator Bristol City Council
Project design originator Wessex archaeology
Project director/manager Andy King
Project supervisor Sam Fairhead
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Dyer & Butler Limited
Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Media available "GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Contents "Survey"
Paper Media available "Survey ","Unpublished Text","Diary"
Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Friary, Temple Quay, Bristol, Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s) Fairhead, S.
Other bibliographic details 114470
Date 2016
Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication Bristol
Description A4 bound booklet



- Direction of Plate 1
- Trench monitored by Wessex Archaeology during watching brief
- Previous BaRAS excavation trench
- Remnants of dock found during previous excavations
- Outline of dock based on 1854 plan

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Site location


Figure 1



Plate 1: South-west facing elevation of exposed goods shed wall



Plate 2: Detail of possible arch within goods shed wall

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Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

