



Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: BRISTOL PARKWAY RAILWAY STATION BRISTOL

NGR: ST 625 795

on behalf of Tony Gee and Partners



David Fell BA MA MIFA & Calli Rouse BA PIFA

April 2008

ASC: 1054/BPW/1

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Site Data

ASC site code:	BPW	Project no:	1054
OASIS ref:		Event/Accession no:	
County:	Gloucestershire (historic county)		
Village/Town:	Stoke Gifford		
Civil Parish:	Stoke Gifford		
NGR (to 8 figs):	ST 625 795		
Extent of site:	TBC		
Present use:	Car park		
Planning proposal:	Construction of new multi-storey car park		
Planning application ref/date:	Permitted development		
Local Planning Authority:	South Gloucestershire District Council		
Date of assessment:	April 2008		
Commissioned by:	Tony Gee and Partners Prudence House Proctor Way Luton LU2 9PE		
Contact name:	Simon Fraser		

Internal Quality Check

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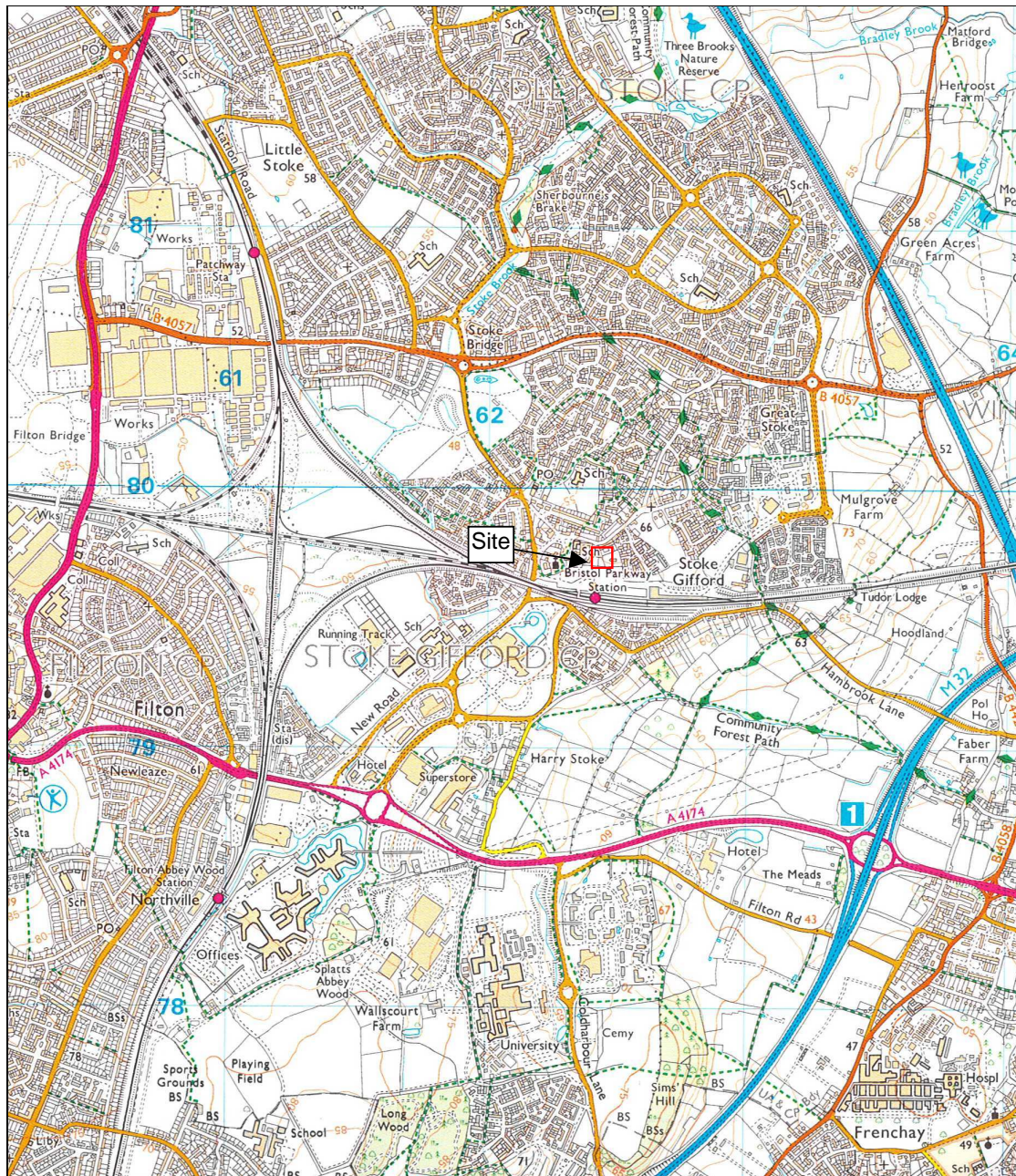


Figure 1: General location (Scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In March and April 2008, ASC Ltd undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment of Bristol Parkway Railway Station, Bristol, in advance of the construction of a multi-storey car park on the site. The assessment found that while there was a relatively large amount of activity in the area surrounding the site, especially in the medieval and post-medieval periods, the site is thought to offer a limited potential for the survival of archaeological remains due to the fact that the site has been terraced, either during the construction of the nearby railway or the construction of the current car park on the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 In March and April 2008 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site at Bristol Parkway Railway Station. The assessment has been undertaken to inform an Environmental Impact Assessment, to be submitted in relation to the proposed construction of a multi-storey car park. The project was commissioned by *Tony Gee and Partners LLP* on behalf of the *Network Rail*. It was carried out according to ASC's standard Method Statement (Appendix 1), which conforms to current professional standards.

1.2 *Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd*

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd (ASC) is an independent practice providing a full range of archaeological services including consultancy, field evaluation, mitigation and post-excavation studies, historic building recording and analysis. ASC is recognised as a *Registered Archaeological Organisation* by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, in recognition of its high standards and working practices.

1.3 *Management*

The assessment was managed by **Karin Semmelmann** BA MA AIFA, and was carried out under the overall direction of **Bob Zeepvat** BA MIFA.

1.4 ***The Site***

1.4.1 *Location & Description*

The site is situated at Bristol Parkway Railway Station, in the parish of Stoke Gifford and the administrative district of South Gloucestershire (Figure 1). It is on the north side of the railway station within part of the existing car park and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference ST 625 795 (Figure 2).

The proposed multi-storey car park will be rectangular in shape, with dimensions of xxm by xxm

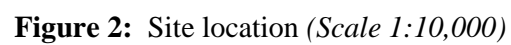
A detailed description of the site appears in Section 4 of this report.

1.4.2 *Geology*

The site is in an urban area and has probably been truncated (below, section 4.1.2). If any of the natural soils survive they are likely to comprise the Denchworth Association, namely slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils (Soil Survey 1983, 712b). The underlying geology comprises Triassic mudstone (BGS, Sheet 264, wbct).

1.4.3 *Proposed Development*

The development proposal is for the construction of a new multi-storey car park (Figure 3).



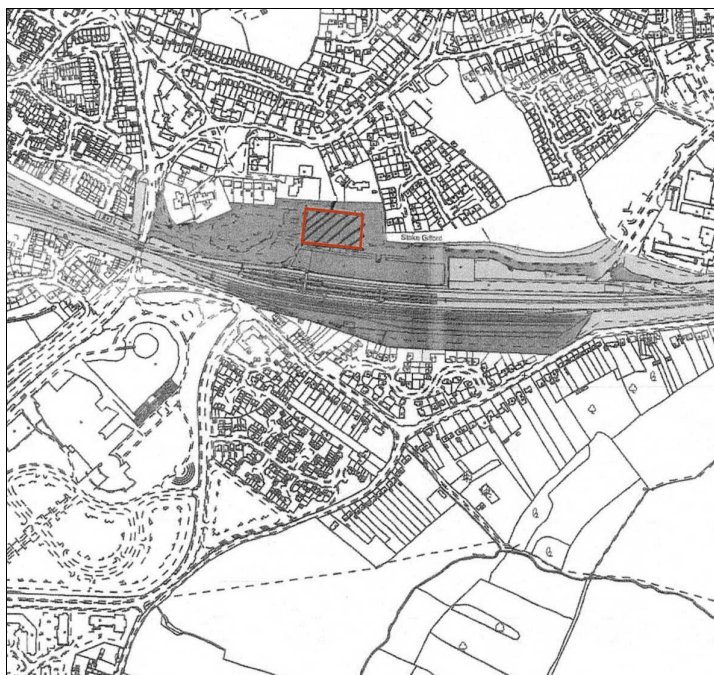


Figure 3: Location of proposed development (*not to scale*)

2. Aims and Methods

2.1 'Archaeological desk-based assessment is an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a given area, consisting of a collation of existing information in order to identify the likely extent, character and quality of the known or potential archaeological resource, in order that appropriate measures might be considered' (IFA 2000).

2.2 The assessment was carried out according to the brief, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 2001).

2.3 The following readily available sources of information were consulted for the desk-based assessment:

2.3.1 Archaeological Databases

Archaeological databases represent the standard references to the known archaeology of an area. The principal source consulted was the *South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record* (HER). The study area employed in the HER search includes the site itself, and a surrounding study area of approximately 1km radius.

2.3.2 Historic Documents

Documentary research provides an overview of the history of a site and its environs, suggesting the effects of settlement and land-use patterns. The principal source consulted was the *Bristol Records Office* (CRO).

2.3.3 Cartographic & Pictorial Documents

Old maps and illustrations are normally a very productive area of research. The principal sources consulted were the *Bristol Records Office* and *Bristol Central Library*.

2.3.4 Geotechnical Information

A description of the topography and solid and surface geology of the site and its environs was compiled, so as to appreciate the potential condition of any archaeological remains, to assess the hydrological conditions, and to appraise the potential for the survival of buried waterlogged archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits.

2.3.5 Secondary & Statutory Sources

The principal source consulted was the Bristol Central Library.

2.4 Walkover Survey

As part of the assessment a walkover survey of the site was undertaken on 17th March 2008, with the following aims:

- To examine any areas of archaeological potential identified during research for the assessment, in particular with a view to gauging the possible survival or condition of any remains present.
- To consider the significance of any above-ground structures, historic buildings or historic landscape features present.
- To assess the present site use and ground conditions, with a view to the appropriate deployment of fieldwork techniques, if required by the AA.

3.2 *Archaeological & Historical Background to the Study Area*

3.2.1 *Prehistoric (before 600BC-AD43)*

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area. The South Gloucestershire SMR records that an evaluation carried out c.0.75km to the south of the site revealed evidence for scattered prehistoric settlement (SGHER11006). Three further sites are noted c.0.7-0.8km to the east of the site. Two of these represent pits uncovered during excavation, one of which has been dated to the Mesolithic period (SGHER14044). The SMR records the other as probably prehistoric (SGHER13088). The third entry records the presence of a set of irregular cropmarks that may be prehistoric in date (SGHER10268).

3.2.2 *Roman (AD43-c.450)*

Located c.0.85km to the northwest of the site are the remains of a Roman settlement (SGHER1331). Excavation carried out on the site revealed floors of buildings, including a cowshed, workshop and a barn. Pottery from the 2nd to 4th centuries has been recovered from the site, as well as a hoard of 4th century coins. The settlement is likely to represent a small farming community. Further settlement evidence was found c.0.5km to the northeast of the site, where the remains of a villa were uncovered during topsoil stripping (SGHER9676). The remains comprised a square room constructed of coursed, faced rubble, with floor slabs of the same material, and three/four courses surviving *in situ* of a larger building, which was not excavated. An 'ancient road' running parallel to the Stoke Brook on a southwest-northeast alignment is also recorded in the SMR, and is dated to the Roman period (SGHER10278).

3.2.3 *Saxon (c.450-1066)*

The SMR records that the settlement of Stoke Gifford has Saxon origins, and that is likely to have been centred c.0.2km to the northwest of the site (SGHER1332). Stoke Gifford appears in the *Domesday Survey*, which dates to 1086. It is given a value both before and after the Conquest, suggesting that the settlement pre-dates 1066 (Williams & Martin 2002).

3.2.4 *Medieval (1066-1500)*

There are several SMR records within the study area that refer to medieval settlements. Located c.0.65km to the southwest is the shrunken settlement at Harry Stoke (SGHER1334, SGHER11033), which comprises a series of enclosures and other earthworks, probably representing a manorial complex. An excavation in the area revealed a complex of high status medieval buildings, including a probable manor house and two dovecotes (SGHER11034). Further earthworks were identified c.0.2km southeast of these, but were not excavated.

The approximate area of the medieval settlement of Great Stoke (SGHER13010) is recorded as being c.0.75km to the north of the site. It is also noted that the prefix Stoke (or Soke) implies holdings by a bishop. A farm and ancillary buildings are also recorded in the SMR (SGHER16585), close to SGHER13010, which are thought to have medieval origins. Further evidence

of medieval settlement can be found in the form of house platforms and ridge and furrow earthworks (SGHER2779, SGHER13102) located c.0.32km and c.0.5km to the north of the site respectively. A possible infilled pond of medieval date is also recorded c.0.62km to the north of the site (SGHER10280) and further ridge and furrow has been identified c.0.42km to the northeast of the site (SGHER5258).

The most significant SMR entry located to the north of the development site is an abandoned section of Stoke Gifford village, uncovered during salvage excavations. The site revealed a medieval floor surface with a semi circular hearth beneath a layer of 13th-14th century pottery that contained a glazed louver or medieval chimney pot (SGHER13101).

St Michael's Church and its surrounding churchyard (SGHER1335, SGHER14565) are likely to have medieval origins, although it was greatly altered in the 18th century (Verey & Brooks 2002). Parts of the church date to the 14th century, and as Stoke Gifford had a priest at the time of the Domesday Survey, a church is likely to have been in existence at that time as well (Williams & Martin 2003).

A medieval deer park is recorded in the SMR (SGHER5204), located c.0.1km to the west of the site, but it's shape cannot readily be defined as the railway marshalling yard has covered a large part of it.

3.2.5 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

The SMR records post-medieval occupation at the Nursery Garden site (SGHER10277) in Hambrook, c.0.8km south of the development site, as early as 1677, and the present house was built in 1888.

Both editions of Dunnes *Map of the County 11 Miles around Bristol* (1769 and 1778) show the settlement of Stoke Gifford, but the scale of both these maps is sufficiently small that only the church has been depicted in any detail.

A limekiln is recorded c.0.55km from the development site (SGHER4418), and it is thought to have been associated with a quarry (SGHER16589), which is located to the southeast of the kiln. Both were recorded from the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map. (Fig. 5)

The First Edition OS map (Fig. 5) shows Stoke Gifford to be a relatively small, linear, heavily wooded settlement. The main focus of the village is likely to have been to the west, where St Michael's Church and Court Farm may have formed part of a manorial settlement. Also shown is a pound (SGHER16586), located c.0.3km to the northwest of the development site.

3.2.6 *Modern (1900-present)*

Located c.0.85km to the southwest of the development site is a cluster of three WWII sites: a barrage balloon mounting with associated structures (SGHER18185); an anti aircraft gun post (SGHER18186), both of which were

identified on a late to post WWII aerial photograph; and an anti aircraft battery the exact location of which is unknown.

A series of clay pits is recorded in the SMR (SGHER16595), and are likely to be associated with a series of railway branches built to serve brick works in the area (SGHER16594). These are located c.0.4km to the east of the site.

The railway line that runs through Stoke Gifford was constructed in order to shorten the route from London to South Wales, and according to the SMR was completed in 1903 (SGHER14222). However, the 1903 OS map (Fig. 6) shows the railway as still being under construction. Figure 6 shows little change within the village itself, apart from the Portcullis Inn being renamed 'Old Portcullis'.

The 1921 OS map (Fig. 7) shows the completed railway line to the south of the site. By this time, Stoke Gifford has become significantly less wooded, although the amount of housing within the village does not seem to have increased significantly.

By 1935 Stoke Gifford had begun to expand slightly, especially to the south of the railway line (Fig. 8). The 1946 OS map (Fig. 9) is not at a sufficient scale to allow any conclusions about individual buildings or features to be drawn, but it does demonstrate that at this time, Stoke Gifford was still a relatively small settlement that had not yet been subsumed by Bristol.

Also associated with the railway is a large marshalling yard (SGHER1333), which was made into a major passenger platform at Parkway Station in c.1973. The marshalling yard was located less than 0.1km to the southeast of the development site.

The most recent OS map of the site and its environs show that a considerable amount of development has taken place over the past sixty years. Stoke Gifford is now a suburb of Bristol, which is located c.10km to the south. A large amount of the expansion is undoubtedly a result of the settlement's close proximity to the railway.

3.3 *The Known Archaeology & History of the Site*

3.3.1 *Prehistoric* (before 600BC-AD43)

There are no known instances of Prehistoric activity within the site boundaries.

3.3.2 *Roman* (AD43-c.450)

There are no known instances of Roman activity within the site boundaries.

3.3.3 *Saxon* (c.450-1066)

There are no known instances of Saxon activity within the site boundaries.

3.3.4 *Medieval* (1066-1500)

There are no readily available sources that can provide any detailed information about the site during the medieval period.

3.3.5 *Post-Medieval (1500-1900)*

The 1882 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig. 5) shows the development site was partially in an area of what was presumably open farmland, and partially within a wooded area at this time.

3.3.6 *Modern (1900-present)*

The 1903 OS map (Fig. 6) shows that the southern half of the development site has been encroached upon by the northernmost boundary of the new railway. The northern half of the site remains unchanged. The site appears to remain unchanged until 1935 (Fig. 8). Two small rectangular buildings had been constructed towards the east of the site by the time the 1935 OS map was produced.

Today the site comprises a car park for the Parkway Station (Fig. 3, Plates 1-5).

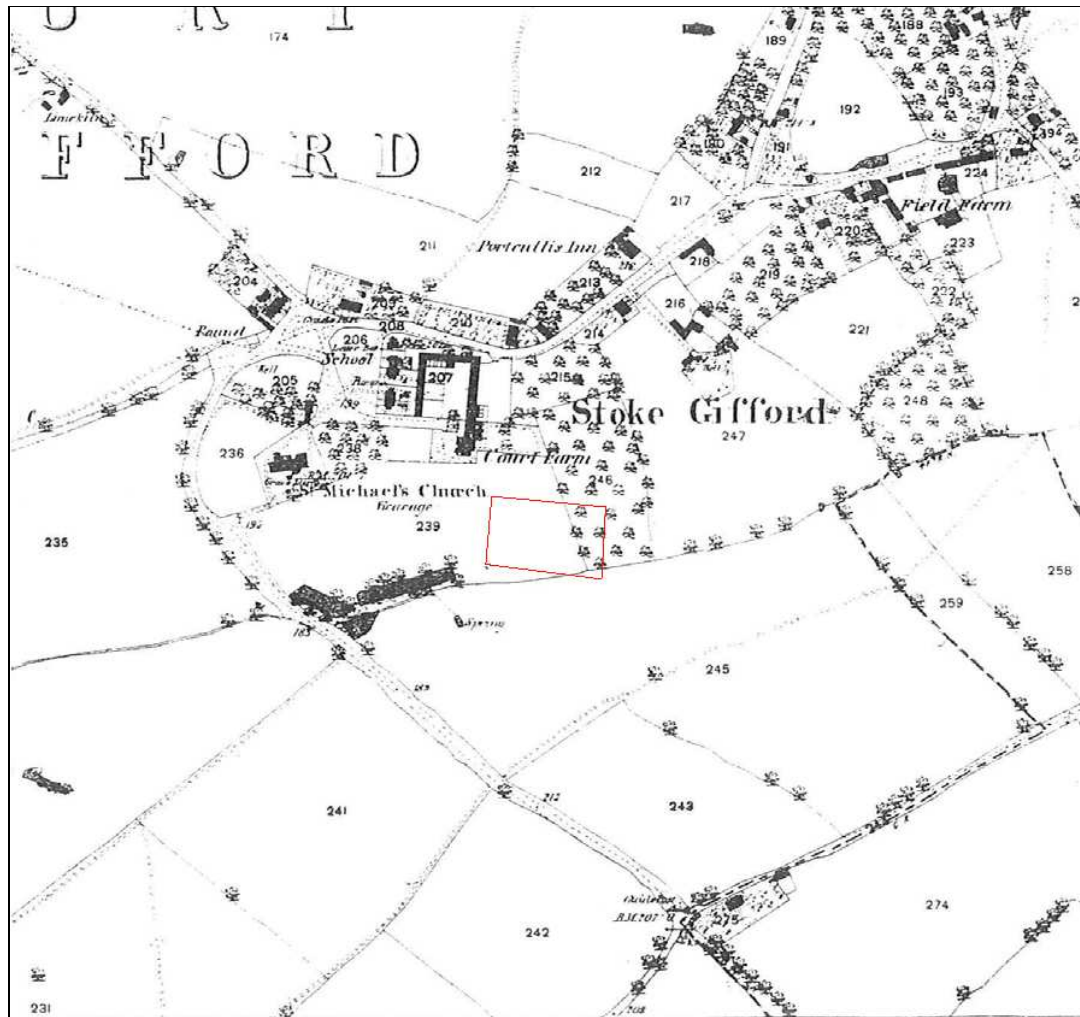


Figure 5: Extract from the 1882 edition Ordnance Survey 1: 10,560 scale map (*not to scale*)

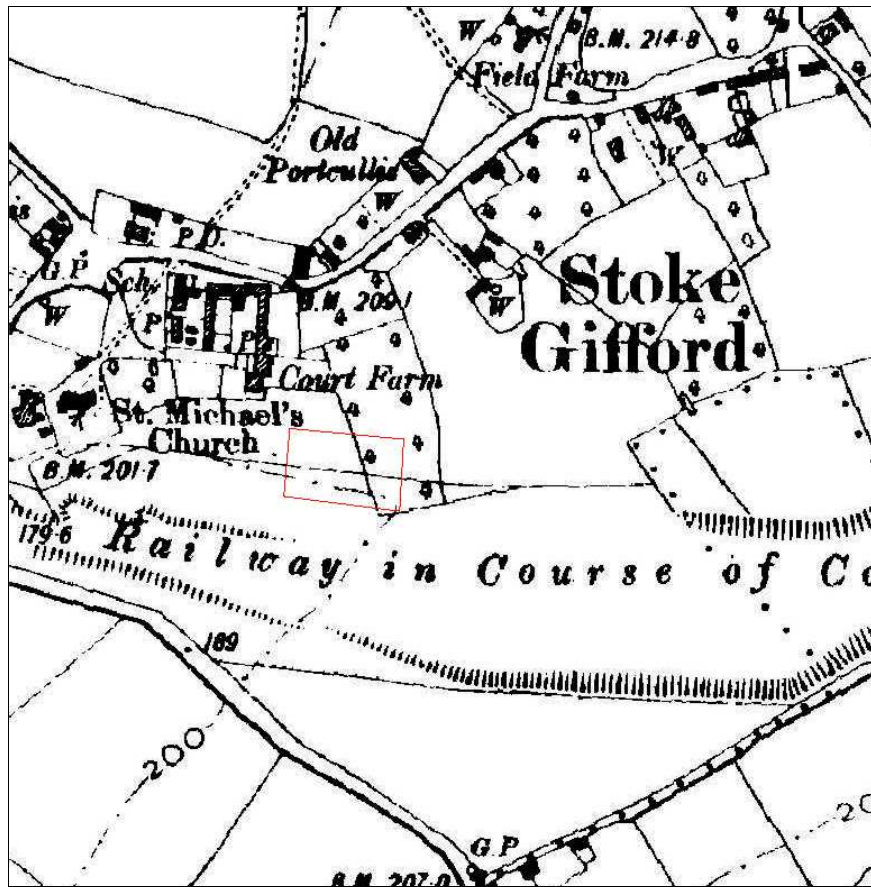


Figure 6: Extract from the 1903 edition Ordnance Survey 1: 10,560 scale map (*not to scale*)

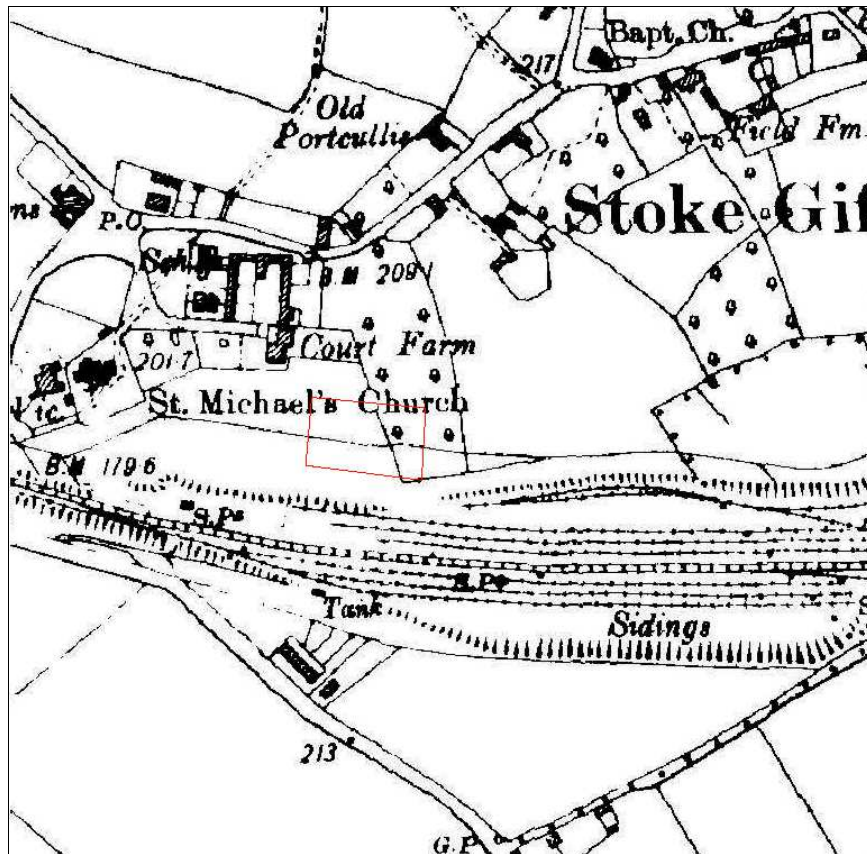


Figure 7: Extract from the 1921 edition Ordnance Survey 1: 10,560 scale map (*not to scale*)

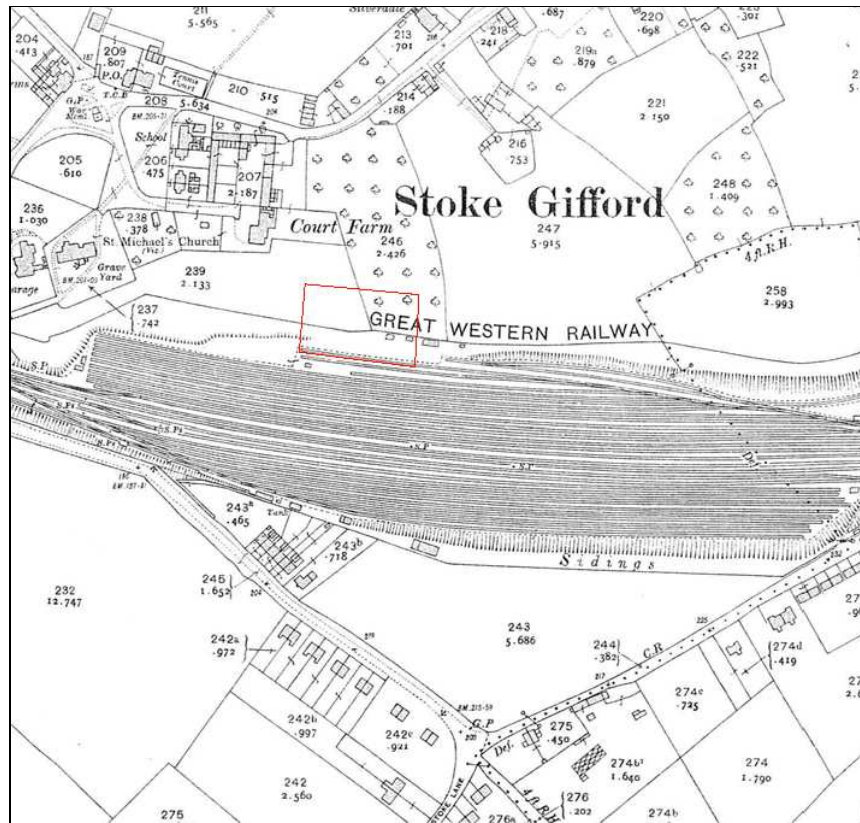


Figure 8: Extract from the 1935 edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map (*not to scale*)

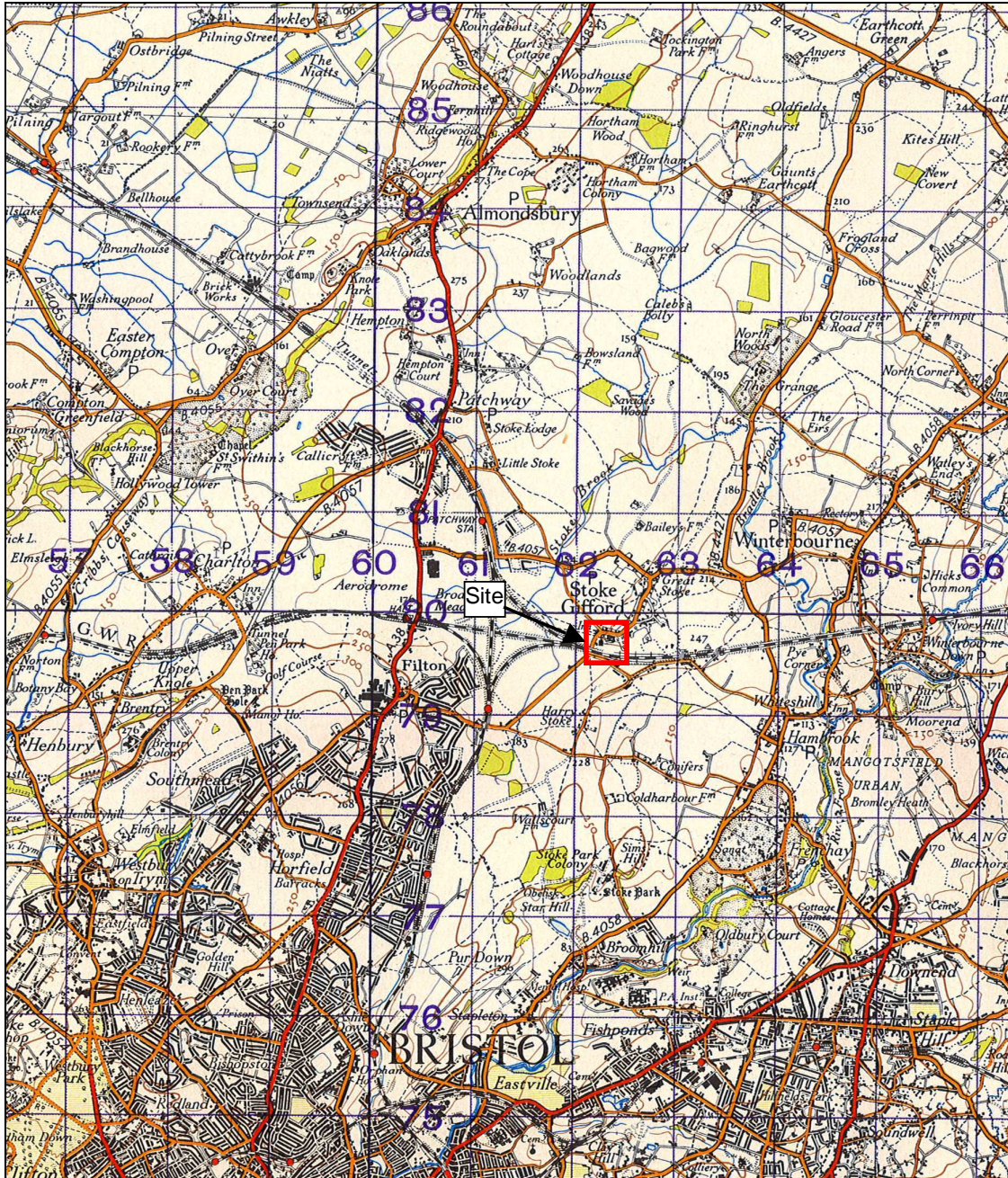


Figure 9: Extract from the 1946 edition Ordnance Survey 1: 63,360 scale map

4. Walkover Survey

4.1 *Extent, Access & Present Use* (Plates 1-5)

4.1.1 The site is situated on the north side of the railway station and comprises part of an existing car park. Vehicular access is from the west, from Hatchett Road and pedestrian access is also available directly from the railway station.

4.1.2 The site is flat and surfaced with tarmac. The north part of the site has been terraced, probably during the construction of the car park (above, section 3.3.6), or during the construction of the modern railway station and laying out of the car park. The north boundary comprises a bank that slopes from north to south, and is visible on Plates 2 and 4.

4.2 *Buildings*

Buildings are not present on the site, but a number of lights, trees and items of street furniture are present.

4.3 *Services*

A number of service runs are present, but a detailed survey of the services present has not been undertaken for the purposes of this assessment.



Plate 1: View of the site from the northeast



Plate 2: View of the north part of the site, looking east



Plate 3: View looking northeast across the site



Plate 4: View of the east end of the site



Plate 5: View of the site from the east

5. Statutory Constraints on Development

5.1 A range of planning constraints are in place in the area of the site. These constraints relate both to the area as a whole, and to individual buildings and sites. These constraints are taken into consideration when assessing the implications of planning and other proposals made to the local authority and to other local and national bodies.

5.2 *Conservation Areas*

The development site does not fall within any conservation areas.

5.3 *Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the boundaries of the development site.

5.4 *Listed Buildings*

There are no Listed Buildings within the boundaries of the development site.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Figure 4 shows the distribution of archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the development site recorded in the South Gloucestershire SMR. As is often the case in urban areas, the earlier periods (Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon) are less substantially represented than those from the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. There are several instances of earlier occupation recorded within the 1km radius of the site, but most are not close enough to have any direct relevance to the development site. Both Stoke Manor (SGHER1332) and the Roman villa at Baileys Court Farm (SGHER9676), may have had boundaries that included the development site, but any remains are likely to have been removed during prior development of the site.

The volume of medieval, post-medieval and modern material recorded with the SMR, combined with the cartographic evidence, suggests that there was a relatively large amount of activity in Stoke Gifford and the surrounding area during these periods. The site may lie within the bounds of the medieval deer park (SGHER5204), but while there may once have been archaeological remains present on the site, it is likely that these remains will have been disturbed or destroyed during the terracing of the site and the construction of the car park (Section 4, above). While the occasional survival of individual isolated remains cannot be entirely discounted, it is unlikely that large quantities of archaeological remains or artefacts survive on the site.

6.2 *Archaeological Potential of the Site*

The site is considered to offer a low archaeological potential, given the level of ground disturbance that it has already been subjected to.

- 6.3 The framework for the management of archaeological issues in the planning system is currently set out in the document PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning*. Decisions relating to archaeological matters within the area of the site are taken by the local planning authority, acting on the advice of David Evans.

7. Acknowledgements

ASC is grateful to *Tony Gee and Partners* for commissioning and funding this assessment. Thanks are also due to David Evans of the South Gloucestershire Historic environment record for providing access to the SMR data. The assistance of the staff of the CRO is also gratefully acknowledged.

The research for the assessment, and the walkover survey, were undertaken for ASC Ltd by David Fell MA MIFA. The report was prepared by David Fell and Calli Rouse BA PIFA and edited by Karin Semmelmann MA AIFA.

8. Sites and Monuments Data

Sites listed below are those within the study area, *i.e.* 1km

SMR no	NGR	Period	Type	Description	Proximity to site (m)
1331	ST 61701 80113	Roman	Settlement	Romano-British settlement	850
1332	ST 62300 79700	Saxon	Manor	Manor of Stoke	150
1333	ST62500 79560	Modern	Marshalling Yard	Large marshalling yard, opened July 1903	50
1334	ST62114 79122	Medieval	Shrunken village	Series of enclosures and earthworks, probably representative of a manorial complex	650
1335	ST 62260 79706	Medieval	Church	St Michael's Church	200
2779	ST 62500 80070	Medieval	House platform	House platforms and depressions in field	300
4177	ST 62900 79700	Post Medieval	Brickworks	Brickworks noted on OS mapping	400
4418	ST 62050 80020	Post Medieval	Lime Kiln	Lime kiln shown on 1 st ed. OS	550
5204	ST 62400 79600	Medieval	Park	Deer park	100
5258	ST 62600 80700	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow	Ridge and furrow	400
5542	ST 62300 79700	Post Medieval	Almshouse	Stoke Gifford almshouse	150
9676	ST 62730 80830	Roman	Villa	Roman villa found at Baileys Court Farm, Bradley Stoke	500
9959	ST 62000 79000	Modern	Anti Aircraft Battery	Anti aircraft battery, exact location unknown	800
10268	ST 63350 79460	Prehistoric	Site	Cropmarks noted on aerial photographs	850
10277	ST 62492 78852	Post Medieval	Garden	Nursery garden	800
10278	ST 62652 79055	Roman	Hollow way	"Ancient road" noted on early maps	600
10280	ST 62290 80280	Medieval	Pond	Small sub-circular vegetation mark, possibly infilled pond	600
11006	ST 62401 78901	Prehistoric	Site	Evidence for scattered prehistoric settlement found during an evaluation	750
11033	ST 62125 79107	Medieval	Site	Complex of high status medieval buildings recorded during excavation	650
11034	ST 62283 79075	Medieval	Shrunken village	Earthworks, partially excavated to reveal medieval occupation	600
12082	ST 62184 79143	Unknown	Site	Remains of boundary wall and substantial stone building uncovered during excavation	600
13010	ST 62735 80386	Medieval	Settlement	Approximate area of settlement of Great Stoke as shown on OS mapping	750
13088	ST 63160 79730	Prehistoric	Site	Probable prehistoric pit uncovered during excavation	700
13101	ST 62478 79965	Medieval	Site	Medieval floor surface and 13 th -14 th century pottery uncovered during excavation	300
13102	ST 62697 80100	Medieval	House platform	Earthworks	500
14044	ST 63216 79837	Prehistoric	Pit	Prehistoric pit uncovered during excavation	750
14222	ST 62141 79637	Modern	Railway	Branch from the Great Western railway mainline at Wootton Bassett to Filton	350
14565	ST 62260 79702	Medieval	Churchyard	Approximate extent of churchyard shown on OS mapping	200
15059	ST 62275	Modern	War	War memorial	250

	79801		memorial		
16191	ST 62744 80412	Medieval	Farmstead	Farm and ancillary buildings as shown on OS mapping	800
16585	ST 62406 79580	Modern	Railway station	Bristol Parkway railway station	100
16586	ST 62236 79801	Post Medieval	Pound	Pound noted on OS mapping	300
16589	ST 62079 79976	Post Medieval	Quarry	Probable quarry associated with lime kiln on 1 st ed. OS	500
16594	ST 62927 79767	Modern	Railway	Series of railway branches servicing brickworks	450
16595	ST 62892 79769	Modern	Clay pit	Series of clay pits as shown on OS mapping	400
18185	ST 61819 79229	Modern	Barrage Balloon Mooring	Barrage balloon mounting and associated structures shown on WWII aerial photograph	750
18186	ST 61865 79288	Modern	Anti Aircraft Gun Post	Anti-aircraft gun post noted on WWII aerial photograph	750

9. References

Standards & Specifications

ASC 2008 *Method Statement for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Bristol Parkway Station*

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2000b Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings)*.

Secondary Sources

BGS *British Geological Survey 1:50,000 Series, Solid & Drift Geology*.

Hale, M 1985 *'Twixt London and Bristol* Oxford Publishing Co.

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpenden).

Verey, D & Brooks, A 2002 *The Buildings of England: Gloucestershire 2: The Vale and The Forest of Dean* Yale University Press

Williams, A & Martin G.H. 2003 *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation* Penguin Classics

10. Cartographic Sources

The following maps and plans were consulted in the course of this assessment:

Date	Reference	Description
1846	FCTM/SG/1	Tithe map of Stoke Gifford
1882	Glos LXVIII	Ordnance Survey 6 inch to the mile scale mapping. County Series
1903	Glos LXVIII	Ordnance Survey 6 inch to the mile scale mapping. County Series
1935	Glos LXVIII.14	Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile scale mapping. County Series
1946	155	Ordnance Survey 1: 63,360 scale mapping. War Office edition
1997	155	Ordnance Survey Explorer
2008	1: 10,000	Ordnance Survey Lndplan data