

**Plot ND6
Avon Street
Temple Quay
Bristol**

Archaeological Watching Brief

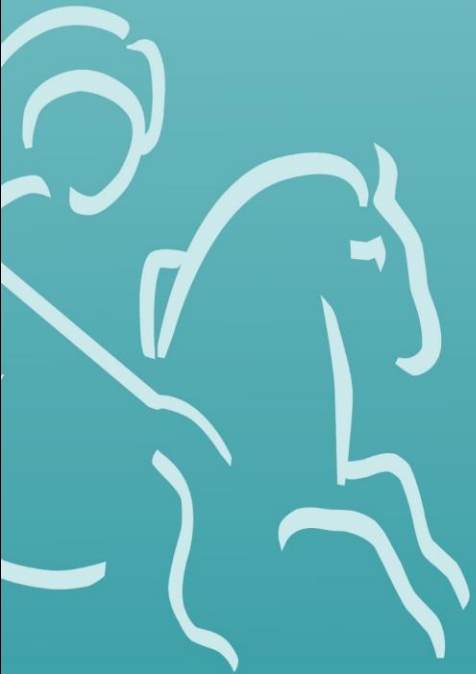


for:
Cast Real Estate and Construction Consultancy

on behalf of
Legal and General BTR Residential

CA Project: 6486
CA Report: 6486_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-510807

December 2022



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Plot ND6
Location:	Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol
NGR:	359694 172818
Type:	Watching brief
Date:	March 2018 and May 2019
Planning reference:	Bristol City Council ref: 17/04673/F
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-510571
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Bristol City Museums, Galleries and Archives and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	TQA 19

In March 2018 and May 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Plot ND6, Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol.

Wall foundations and a well of post-medieval date were encountered during the course of the monitored groundworks, which likely relate to structures depicted on historic 1884 OS mapping. The levels of truncation due to posterior demolition were observed towards the north-west of the site.

No artefactual material was recovered during the course of these works.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In March 2018 and May 2019, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief at Plot ND6, Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol (centred at NGR: 359694 172818; Fig. 1). This watching brief was undertaken for Cast Real Estate and Construction Consultancy on behalf of Legal and General: BTR Residential.
- 1.2. Bristol City Council (BCC) has granted planning permission for the construction of a mixed-use building comprising residential and commercial units (BCC planning ref: 17/04673/F), conditional on the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in the form of a watching brief.
- 1.3. The scope of this watching brief was defined by Peter Insole, Principal Historic Environment Adviser, BCC. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CA (2019) and approved by Mr Insole.
- 1.4. The watching brief was also undertaken in line with *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

Plot ND6

- 1.5. Plot ND6 is located c. 1km to the south-east of Bristol city centre and measures c. 0.2ha in extent; it comprises a single, open plot of land, with an electricity sub-station located at the south-western corner of the plot. The plot is bounded to the west by Providence Place, to the south by Avon Street, to the east by New Kingsley Road and to the north by Old Bread Street. The surrounding area is relatively flat and low-lying, and historically comprised part of the River Avon floodplain. The ground level in the vicinity of the plot lies at approximately 9.5m AOD and is broadly flat.
- 1.6. The bedrock geology within the plot is mapped as sandstone of the Redcliffe Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed during the Triassic Period. The overlying superficial deposits are mapped as Tidal Flat Deposits, comprising superficial clays and silts formed during the Quaternary Period (BGS 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The plot has been the subject of a Desk-Based Assessment (DBA; CA 2016) and an archaeological trial trench evaluation (CA 2017). What follows is a brief summary of the results of these reports.
- 2.2. The land on which the plot is located comprised agricultural land throughout the medieval period, and it is thought that a number of market gardens were located here, with little evidence of development of any kind before the later medieval period (CA 2016).
- 2.3. The River Avon Navigation, which runs c. 70m to the south-west of the plot, has been utilised by ships since the medieval period. In 1808, the river was converted into the Floating Harbour, which increased its commercial capacity by stopping the tidal action of the river, thus allowing ships to stay afloat at all times. This encouraged the development of local industries, particularly those directly located on the riverside. Historically, the area became a centre for the production of glass, soap, sugar, malt and beer, and this is reflected in a large number of post-medieval and modern industrial sites (CA 2016).
- 2.4. The plot lies just off the 1673 James Millerd plan, which depicts the area surrounding the plot as largely undeveloped. The earliest available map to depict the plot is the 1742 Rocque Map of Bristol, which shows the plot as partly occupied by a brickyard which extended into the northernmost corner of the plot. Millerd's 1673 Plan of Bristol shows '*The Brick Kilns*' to the south of the plot. This evidence all suggests that a widespread and intensive brickmaking industry existed in this part of Bristol during the late 17th to early 18th centuries, utilising alluvial clay extracted from the area, and potentially mixed with other clays and materials from elsewhere, brought in along the river to the south (CA 2017).
- 2.5. The 1773 Donne's Map of Bristol depicts built forms within the eastern half of the site and a glasswork to the south of Cheese Lane, now Avon Street (CA 2016).
- 2.6. Ashmead's 1828 Plan of Bristol shows buildings located in the northern half of the plot, and yards associated with probable terraced housing occupying much of the south of the plot (CA 2016).

-
- 2.7. On the Tithe Map of 1847, further buildings are depicted in the north of the plot, and some buildings now depicted in the south within the yard spaces. A central building had been constructed by the time of Ashmead's Map of 1855. Fewer buildings are depicted on Ashmead's 1874 Map of Bristol (CA 2016).
- 2.8. By First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1884 (the buildings within the plot are labelled as '*Atlas Works*'). The same building layout is depicted on Second Edition OS of 1900. Fewer buildings are depicted on 1951 OS, and the buildings are labelled as '*cooperage*', suggesting that the plot was probably utilised for cask or barrel production, and therefore likely to have served the numerous malting houses in the vicinity (CA 2016).
- 2.9. 1980 aerial photographs of the plot indicate that the eastern range of buildings had been removed by this stage. The buildings to the south were removed by 1989, as not present in this year aerial photographs. The remaining buildings were demolished between 2005 and 2006 (Google Earth 2005 and 2006). In more recent years, the site has been used for car parking and hardstanding, and wooden railings which remain within the site related to this former use (CA 2016).
- 2.10. To the immediate west of Plot ND6, archaeological excavations at Plot 2, Glassfields, by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2020) identified late 17th to early 18th-century clay extraction pits, possibly relating to brick making given the presence of a brickyard and brick kilns shown nearby on Millerd's 1673 plan. The excavations also revealed remains of buildings associated with the Bristol Distillery and 18th century residential properties, as well as a 19th-century clay tobacco-pipe manufactory on Old Bread Street (CA 2016).

Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.11. During the evaluation of Plot ND6 (CA 2017) post-medieval clay extraction pits were identified within the western area of site and potentially related to brick manufacture. Post-medieval structural remains were also identified which may relate to 18th and 19th-century residential and industrial buildings shown on historic mapping. A significant degree of modern truncation was evident within the northern area of site, and modern made ground sealed the archaeological remains throughout.
- 2.12. Archaeological evaluation of Plot ND7 to the east of the site identified 2-3m of made ground, modern disturbance, garden soils and two truncated post-medieval features, including a well, cutting alluvial deposits (CA 2015).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objectives of the watching brief were:
- to monitor the development groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record any significant buried archaeological deposits/features thus revealed;
 - at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated project archive and a report setting out the watching brief results and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.
- 3.2. The specific objective of the watching brief was to investigate and record any remains associated with post-medieval activity within the plot, as per the results of the previous evaluation (CA 2017).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The watching brief comprised the archaeological observation of all intrusive groundworks associated with the proposed development, including the excavation of foundation and service trenches.
- 4.2. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.4. CA will make arrangements with Bristol City Museums, Galleries and Archives for the deposition of the project archive Bristol City Museums, Galleries and Archives. The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated October 2020).
- 4.5. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the watching brief results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. The earliest deposit observed was alluvium 503/705, comprising light orange brown sandy clay, which was revealed at a depth of 1.6m below present ground level (bpgl)

in Trench 5 and 2.8m bpgl in Trench 7. The archaeological features, where present, were recorded cutting this alluvium. The alluvium and archaeological features were overlain by dark grey sandy silt and rubble made ground 502/702, averaging 1m in thickness, which was sealed in turn by up to 1.05m of modern crushed stone.

- 5.3. Structural remains were recorded in Trenches 5-7.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

- 5.4. A broadly south-west/north-east aligned foundation wall 505 was observed within the south-west of Trench 5, measuring at least 1m in length and 0.6m in width, and built of limestone bounded with light grey mortar.

Trench 6 (Figs. 2, 3 and 5)

- 5.5. Toward the north-eastern corner of the site the cap of a possible well was uncovered. The cap was made of concrete with limestone inclusions, sealing a well shaft, which was not investigated further.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 3, 6 and 7)

- 5.6. Two stone wall foundations and one brick wall were observed in Trench 7.
- 5.7. Construction cut 707 was observed at the north-eastern limit of the trench, cutting through alluvial deposit 705 on a roughly north-east/south-west alignment. It measured 0.5m in width and was filled by a dark brown orange sand clay backfill containing ash, mortar and gravel inclusions. This fill was covered by stone foundation wall 704, which was made of limestone and sandstone bounded with light grey ashy mortar and measured 0.5m in width and survived to a maximum height of 0.6m.
- 5.8. Foundation wall 704 was perpendicularly abutted by brick foundation wall 703, which was made of orange bricks bounded by ashy mortar and was broadly north-west/south-east aligned. It survived to a maximum height of 1m, and to a maximum length of 1.55m.
- 5.9. North-west/south-east aligned construction cut 709 was recorded cutting alluvium 705 at the north-western limit of the trench. At the base of the cut two courses of sandstone foundation wall 708 was observed, being in turn covered by fill 710, a grey-red sandy clay with grey ashy mortar inclusions, and by structure 711, a single layer of orange bricks of unknown function.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. The watching brief identified archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks consisting of foundation walls and a well. Similar structures were recorded during the preceding archaeological evaluation (see above *Archaeological Background*). However, this central are of the site was subject to modern truncation. It was recorded by the preceding evaluation (CA 2017) that the modern truncation due to demolition of former buildings was particularly prevalent on the north-west of Trench 2 and that truncation may have also been extend towards the north-east.
- 6.2. Foundation Walls 703/704 align with foundation wall recorded by the preceding evaluation (Trench 2, wall 2008, CA 2017), that were probably associated with the 'Atlas Works' depicted in 1884 OS map.
- 6.3. Foundation wall 708/7011 may relate to the same internal structure identified by the Evaluation and interpreted as privies (CA 2017). However, due to the level of truncation this remain uncertain.
- 6.4. Foundation Wall 505 was recorded in the location of a backyard separation wall depicted in 1884 OS map (see Fig. 3) and therefore it may relate to this feature.
- 6.5. A well not depicted by historical cartography was encountered towards the north-eastern corner of the site. Similar wells were encountered in plot ND7 towards the east of the site.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Noel Boothroyd and Peter Searle. This report was written by Noel Boothroyd. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2022 *BGS Geology Viewer*
<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/>, Accessed
November 2022

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Plot ND7 Temple Quay, Avon Street, Bristol: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript report no. **15119**

CA 2017 *Plot ND6 Temple Quay, Bristol: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript
report no. **17645**

CA 2018 *Plot ND6 Temple Quay, Bristol: Written Scheme of Investigation*

D. Large & F. Round 1974 *Public Health in Mid-Victorian Bristol* Bristol Branch of the
Historical Association, The University, Bristol

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context No.	Type	Fill off	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
5	500	Layer		Made ground	Light brown crushed stone hardcore	>7.5	>7.5	0.3
5	501	Layer		Made ground	Red brown crushed stone hardcore	>7.5	>7.5	0.4
5	502	Layer		Made ground	Black sandy silt and rubble	>7.5	>7.5	0.9
5	503	Layer		Alluvium	Light green brown clay	>7.5	>7.5	1
5	504	Layer		Alluvium	Light grey brown clay	>7.5	>7.5	>0.4
5	505	Structure		Foundation Wall	Limestone wall bounded with light grey mortar	>1	0.4	>0.5
7	700	Layer		Made ground	Light brown crushed stone hardcore	>12.5	>12.5	0.6
7	701	Layer		Made ground	Red brown crushed stone hardcore	>12.5	>12.5	0.8
7	702	Layer		Made ground	Black sandy silt and cbm inclusions	>12.5	>12.5	1.4
7	703	Structure		Foundation wall	Red brick wall aligned N/S	1.55		1
7	704	Structure	707	Foundation wall	SW/NE aligned limestone and sandstone with light grey ashy mortar		0.5	0.6
7	705	Layer		Alluvium	Light orange brown, sand clay	>12.5	>12.5	>1.2
7	706	Fill	707	Backfill	Dark orange brown, sand clay with ash, mortar and gravel inclusions		0.5	0.9
7	707	Cut		Construction cut	With vertical sides and flat base		0.5	0.9
7	708	Structure	709	Foundation wall	NW/SE aligned, made of sandstone		0.5	0.9
7	709	Cut		Construction cut	NW/SE aligned, with steep sides and flat base		>1	0.9
7	710	Fill	709	Backfill	Dark orange brown, sand clay with ash, mortar and gravel inclusions		>1	0.9
7	711	Structure	711	Structure	A layer of two orange bricks		0.32	0.8

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Plot ND6, Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol	
Short description	<p>In March 2018 and May 2019, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Plot ND6, Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol.</p> <p>Wall foundations and a well of post-medieval date were encountered during the course of the monitored groundworks, which likely relate to structures depicted on historic 1884 OS mapping. The levels of truncation due to posterior demolition were observed towards the north-west of the site.</p> <p>No artefactual material was recovered during the course of these works.</p>	
Project dates	March 2018 and May 2019	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 2017) Desk-based assessment (CA 2016)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol	
Study area (m ² /ha)	0.2ha	
Site co-ordinates	359694 172818	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator	n/a	
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Noel Boothroyd and Peter Searle	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content
Paper	Bristol City Museums, Galleries and Archives	Context sheets, trench sheets, photographic registers
Digital	Bristol City Museums, Galleries and Archives	Digital maps, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2022 <i>Plot ND6 Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 6486_1		

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 Site boundary



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PROJECT TITLE
 Plot ND6 Avon Street, Temple Quay,
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FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

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APPROVED BY	MF	SCALE@A4	1:25,000		

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- Site boundary
- Monitored works (CA 2018)
- Evaluation trench (CA 2017)
- Sondage
- Archaeological feature
- Structural feature
- Surface
- Deposit



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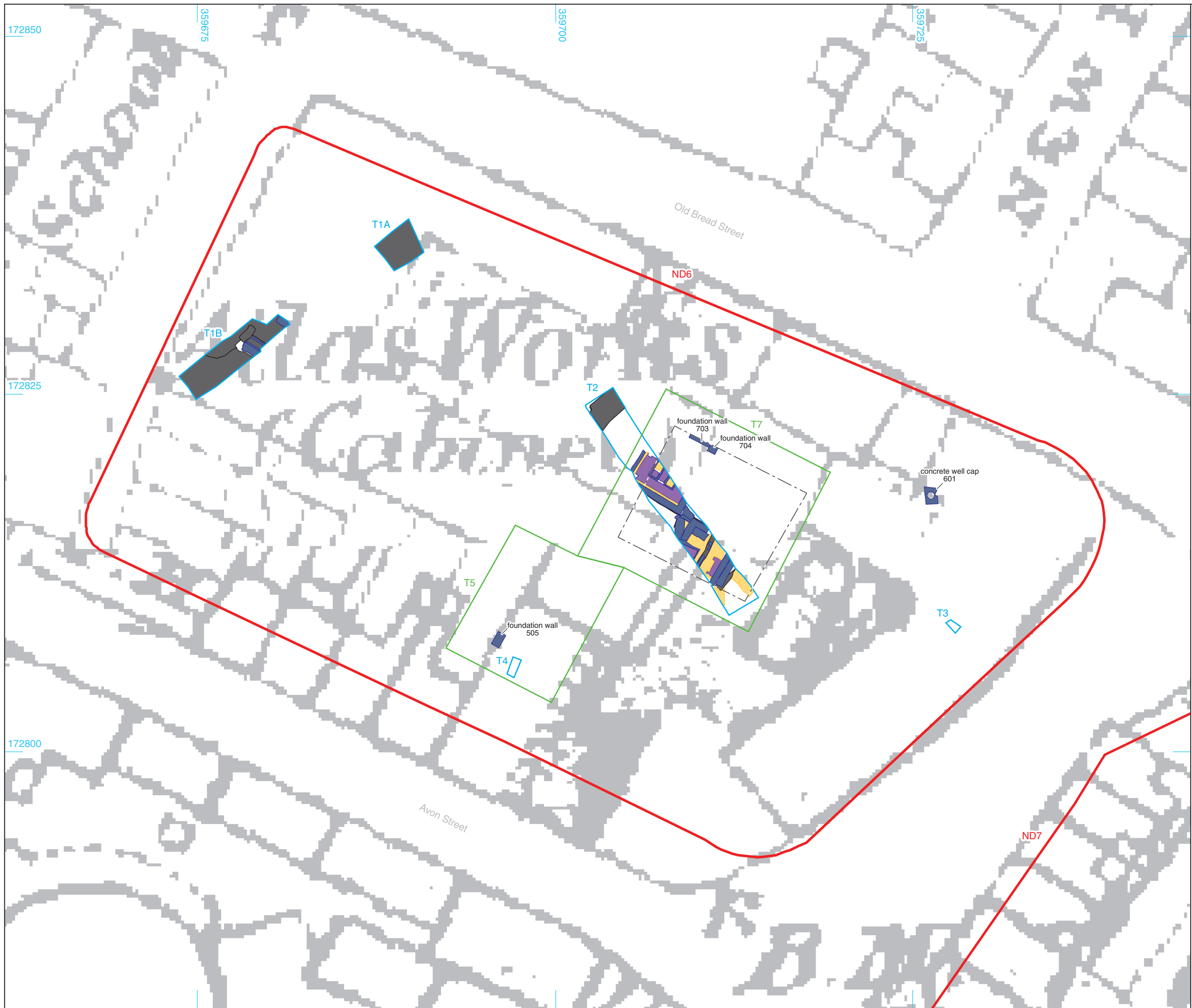
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PROJECT TITLE
 Plot ND6 Avon Street, Temple Quay, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing monitored groundworks, archaeological features and previous archaeological evaluation results

<small>DRAWN BY</small> AO, RW	<small>PROJECT NO.</small> 6486	<small>FIGURE NO.</small> 2
<small>CHECKED BY</small> DJB	<small>DATE</small> 14/11/2022	
<small>APPROVED BY</small> MF	<small>SCALE@A3</small> 1:250	



- Site boundary
- Monitored works (CA 2018)
- Evaluation trench (CA 2017)
- Sondage
- Archaeological feature
- Structural feature
- Surface
- Deposit



Historic Mapping © Landmark Information Group, purchased from www.promap.co.uk

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PROJECT TITLE
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FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing monitored groundworks, archaeological features and previous archaeological evaluation results over 1884 Ordnance Survey

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Trench 5, foundation wall 505, looking west (0.5m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 5: photograph

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FIGURE NO.

4



Concrete well cap 601, looking south (0.4m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 6: photograph

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FIGURE NO.

5



Trench 7, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



Brick foundation wall 703, foundation cut 707 and stone wall 704, looking north-east (0.5m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Trench 7: photographs

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FIGURE NO.

6



Trench 7, looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Foundation wall 708, looking south-west (0.5m scale)