

**1 and 2 Wilson Street
Bristol**

Archaeological Watching Brief

AEF

for

Ellson Build Limited

on behalf of

Urgent Front Limited

CA Project: 3493

CA Report: 11336


Bristol HER Event No. 25022

March 2012

1 and 2 Wilson Street
Bristol

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3493
CA Report: 11336
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date	9 March 2012
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	13 March 2012
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	22 March 2012
issue	01

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Fig. 2 The site, showing area of observed groundworks (1:500).



SUMMARY

Project Name:	1 and 2 Wilson Street
Location:	Bristol
NGR:	ST 5954 7369
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	13 and 17 January 2012
Planning Reference:	10/03623/F
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery
Site Code:	WSB 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of 12 residential units at 1 and 2 Wilson Street, Bristol.

A flagstone floor of probable 19th-century date was identified. No features or deposits of archaeological interest pre-dating the 19th century were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2012 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Ellson Build Ltd on behalf of Urgent Front Ltd at 1 and 2 Wilson Street, Bristol (centred on NGR: ST 5954 7369; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition (condition 13) attached to a planning consent granted by Bristol City Council (BCC) for the development of 12 residential units, comprising the conversion of two existing properties and the construction of a two-storey building to the rear (Planning ref: 10/03623/F). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Mr Bob Jones, City Archaeologist, BCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The site is located within a row of terraced houses within the central part of Bristol. The property fronts onto the southern side of Wilson Street and is bounded to the east by domestic properties and their associated gardens, to the south by a warehouse and to the west by Lemon Lane (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 12m AOD.

1.4 The proposed development area encloses an area of approximately 0.03ha, and comprises two Georgian terrace houses and their rear yards.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Redcliffe sandstone of the Triassic Era (BGS 2011). Red sand was encountered within the watching brief area.

Archaeological background

1.6 A full account of the history of the properties can be found in the Conservation Statement prepared by GCP Chartered Architects (2010) that accompanied the planning application and it is not intended to repeat that information in full. In summary, the area around Wilson Street was open land until the 18th century, when

it was occupied by market gardens. During the late 18th and early 19th century the area was gradually developed. It is unclear when 1 and 2 Wilson Street were constructed but it appears likely that the properties were first occupied in 1823.

- 1.7 The buildings are Grade II listed and described as follows in the listing description (List Entry No. 1220314):

‘Pair of attached houses, part of a terrace. Late C18. Brick with ashlar dressings and a pantile mansard roof. Late Georgian style. Each of 3 storeys and attic; 2-window range. Left-of-centre doorcase has a pediment and fanlight; 5 stepped voussoirs to 6/6-pane sash windows. The right return has a rusticated semicircular-arched doorway and fanlight and a semicircular window above. INTERIOR: No.1, central dogleg stair with a curtail handrail, fluted reveals to semicircular hall arch, panelled window reveals and shutters. The rest of the terrace to the right has been demolished.’

- 1.8 In May and June 2004 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during redevelopment of numbers 3 to 6 Wilson Street (Bristol HER Event No. 4128). The sandstone wall of the original street frontage and demolition deposits relating to the remainder of the buildings were encountered. No other archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Methodology

- 1.9 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising ground reduction and the excavation of service trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.10 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.11 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain under reference number 102737.

2. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate, 103, consisting of mid red brown sand, was revealed at an average depth of 1.45m below present ground level. This was overlain immediately the rear of the buildings (Trench 1) by a series of dumped deposits (100, 101, 102) post-dating the construction of the buildings. The lack of *in-situ* topsoil or subsoil would suggest that the site has previously been truncated. A drainage trench (Trench 2) running north-west/south-east under no. 2 Wilson Street lay wholly within an existing pipe trench. This identified deposits associated with the original pipe trench, 203 and 204, overlain by flagstone surface 201 and modern concrete surface 200. The flagstone surface 201 was not uncovered anywhere except the drainage trench so its extent and relationship with the 19th-century structures on the site couldn't be ascertained. It is likely however that, as the site was apparently empty until the buildings were constructed, that the surface is contemporary with the structures and is therefore 19th century in date. General ground reduction across the southern area of the site (Trench 3), remained wholly within modern make-up 300.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains pre-dating the 19th century within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits may indicate that archaeological remains were either not exposed by the development, or that they may have been removed during construction or remodelling of the Georgian properties or later works. The depth of the natural substrate would suggest that the latter is most likely.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Stuart Joyce and Kelly Saunders. The report was written by Stuart Joyce. The illustrations were prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The

archive has been compiled by Stuart Joyce, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html. Viewed 18/01/2012

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *1 and 2 Wilson Street, Bristol: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GCP Chartered Architects 2010 *1 and 2 Wilson Street, St Paul's, Bristol: Conservation Statement*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Deposit	Dumped deposit. Brick, rubble and sand				
101	Deposit	Dumped deposit. Silty sand			0.7	
102	Deposit	Dumped deposit. Brick and concrete				
103	Deposit	Natural. Red sand				

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Deposit	Concrete floor surface			0.1	
201	Deposit	Flagstone floor surface	0.5	0.4	70mm	
202	Deposit	Bedding layer/construction trample			10mm	
203	Deposit	Red sand backfill of pipe trench			0.87	
204	Deposit	Six inch salt glazed pipe			0.15	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Deposit	Dumped deposit. Brick, rubble and sand. Same as 100				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	1 and 2 Wilson Street, Bristol	
Short description	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of 12 residential units at 1 and 2 Wilson Street, Bristol.</p> <p>A flagstone floor of probable 19th-century date was identified. No features or deposits of archaeological interest pre-dating the 19th century were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	13 and 17 January 2012	
Project type	Archaeological field evaluation	
Previous work	GCP Chartered Architects 2010 <i>1 and 2 Wilson Street, St Paul's, Bristol: Conservation Statement</i>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	1 and 2 Wilson Street, St Paul's, Bristol	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.03ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 5954 7369	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	N/A	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Stuart Joyce	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery	
Digital	Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>1 and 2 Wilson Street: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report 11336		



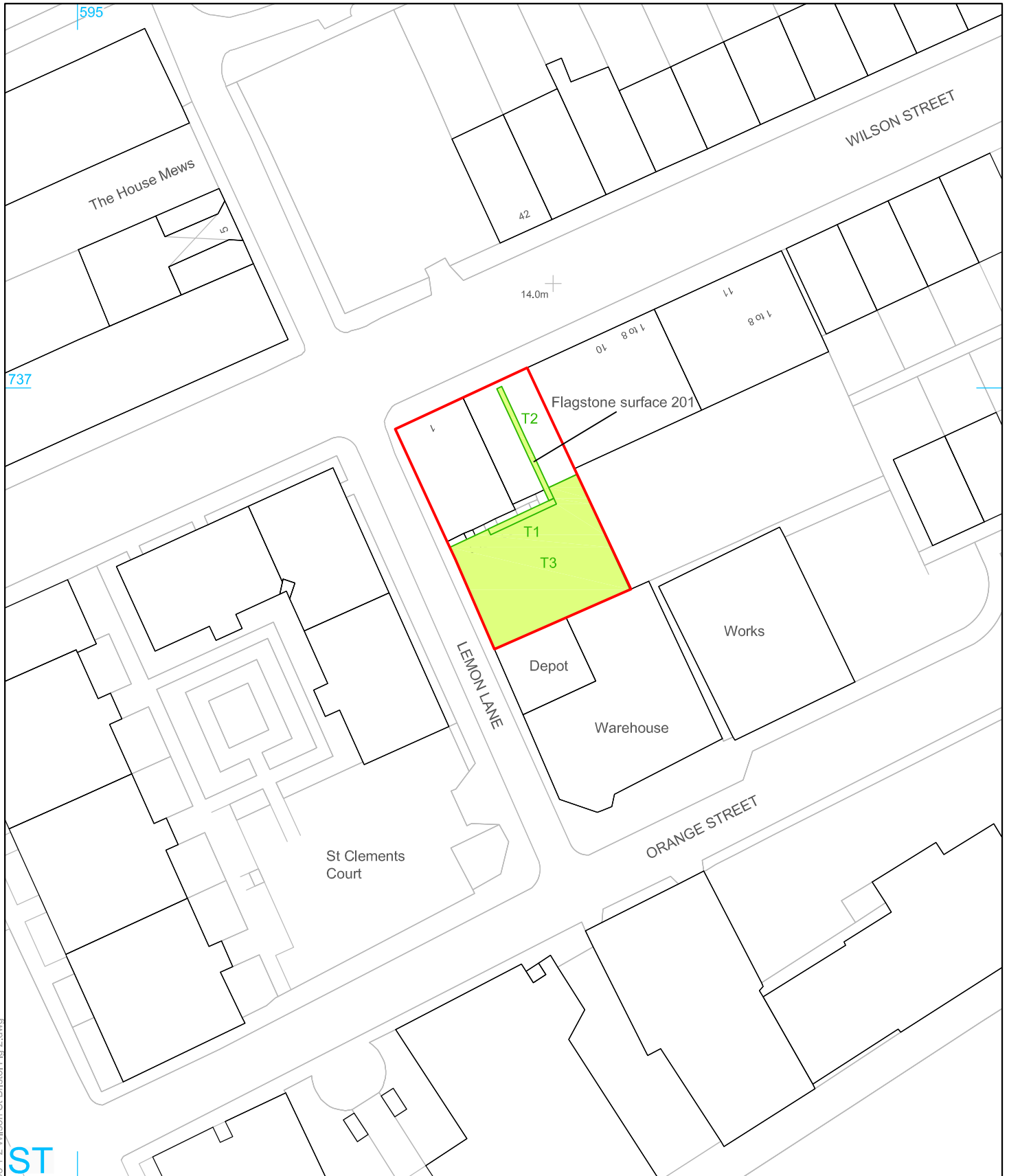
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PROJECT TITLE
 1 and 2 Wilson Street, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

Reproduced from the 2005 Ordnance Survey Explorer map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright
 Cotswold Archaeology Ltd 100002109

PROJECT NO. 3493	DATE 24-01-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	1
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A4 1:25,000	



- site
- area of observed groundworks



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PROJECT TITLE
1 to 2 Wilson St, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing area of observed groundworks

PROJECT NO. 3493 DATE 25-01-2012
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:500

FIGURE NO.

2

0 20m