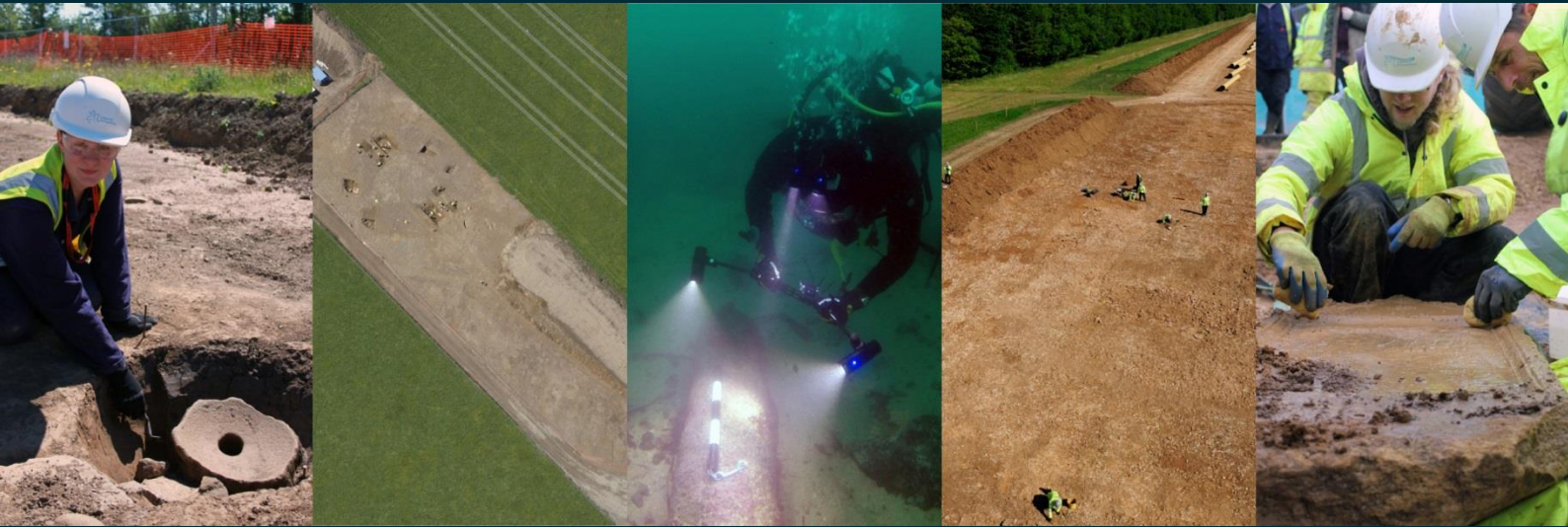


Land at Queen Victoria House Redland Hill Bristol

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Pegasus Life Developments Ltd

CA Project: 5792
OASIS Ref: cotswold2-257526
CA Report: 16443

August 2016



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Redland Hill
Bristol

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land at Queen Victoria House
Location:	Redland Hill, Bristol
NGR:	ST 57459 74842
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	3–4 August 2016
Planning Reference:	15/01681/F
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives
Site Code:	QVH 16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016 on land at Queen Victoria House, Redland Hill, Bristol. Two trenches were excavated.

Evidence for extensive limestone quarrying dating to the post-medieval period was present across both trenches. No evidence for any activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was found and remains of the Roman road from Sea Mills to Bath, which was projected to cross the site, could not be identified in either trench.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Pegasus Life Developments Ltd at land at Queen Victoria House, Redland Hill, Bristol (centred on NGR: ST 57459 74842; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in respect of planning conditions attached to permission for demolition works, building conversion and new build accommodation for assisted living for the elderly (Bristol City Council (BCC) Planning ref. 15/01681/F). Planning permission was conditional on a programme of archaeological work (Conditions 9 and 26) and an archaeological watching brief during development groundworks (Condition 27). Following correspondence between Cotswold Archaeology and Bob Jones, the BCC Archaeologist, it was agreed that an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching would be an appropriate first stage of works to address Conditions 9 and 25, with a particular interest being the possible presence of a Roman road within the grounds of Queen Victoria House.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016) and approved by Mr Jones. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). It was monitored by Mr Jones, including a site visit on 4 August 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 1.09ha, and comprises Queen Victoria House and grounds. The site is bounded to the north by Redland Hill Road, Grove Road to the south and east, and by buildings fronting St Vincent's Hill and Whiteladies Road to the west. It lies at approximately 92m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Clifton Down Limestone Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 335 to 343 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period (BGS 2016). No superficial geological deposits are recorded.



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The proposed development site has been subject to previous archaeological studies, including two Desk-Based Assessments (DBAs; Leech 2000 and COAS 2014) and trial trench evaluation (BaRAS 2000), to which reference should be made for greater detail.
- 2.2 The main archaeological interest of the site is that it is located on the projected route of the Roman road from Sea Mills to Bath, which is extant as a raised 25m wide earthwork on Durdham Downs (Scheduled Ancient Monument number 88), to the north-west of the site. An excavation of a section of the road on Durdham Downs in 1899 revealed a layer of yellow sand overlying the bedrock, which was in turn covered by red clay into which the road surface was set (Leech 2000). Flanking ditches were identified on either side of the road. The course of the road to the south-east of the site is more conjectural, although its route may have been preserved in the layout of extant streets, such as Elm Lane (Bob Jones *pers comm.*).
- 2.3 A house is known to have occupied the site since at least the time of the de Wilstar map of 1746, which shows a building with a garden to its west, set in an area of open downland (COAS 2014). This building was replaced by Vincent House (HER 2593M) in the early 19th century, and it was at this time that the land to the south-east of the house was arranged into a landscaped garden, complete with an obelisk commemorating the recently deceased Princess Charlotte. Vincent House was itself replaced in 1885 by the extant building (HER 2594M), which was originally built as the Waynelete Private School for Boys, but was renamed Queen Victoria House in 1899 when it became a convalescent home for Bristol's hospitals (COAS 2014).
- 2.4 The 2000 evaluation of the site comprised two trenches located in the garden to the south-east of the house to attempt to locate any surviving remains of the Roman road (BaRAS 2000). The evaluation identified evidence of extensive post-medieval quarrying, which was dated to the 17th century from a fragment of clay tobacco-pipe stem recovered from a quarry pit backfill, but no sign of the road, which was assumed to have been completely removed by the quarrying (*ibid.*). However, the projected course of the line of the road shown on the 1883 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig. 2) suggests that the evaluation trenches may have been located too far to the south to pick up the road.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable BCC to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of two trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was 11m long and 1.8m wide, and Trench 2 was 26m long and 1.8m wide. Due to the depth of excavation (2.32m) required to reach the natural substrate in Trench 1 the trench was not entered, and was instead backfilled following recording and a monitoring visit from Mr Jones. Both trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain, under OASIS ref. *cotswold2-257526*.

5. RESULTS (FIG. 2)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively. Details of the relative heights of the principal deposits and features expressed as metres Above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) appear in Appendix C.
- 5.2 No features pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified in either of the trenches, which only identified evidence of limestone extraction pits. The natural geological substrate was only visible in small patches in both trenches. It was not possible to determine individual quarry pit cuts, and so all quarrying activity has been given the same cut number in each trench.

Trench 1

- 5.3 The natural geological substrate 107, comprising limestone bedrock, was encountered at 2.32m below present ground level. It was cut by post-medieval quarry pitting, 106, which was 0.4m deep and contained a stony sand backfill, 105. The quarry pit was sealed by buried topsoil 104, which was 0.35m thick and was observed to contain post-medieval pottery, but this could not be recovered due to the depth of the excavation.
- 5.4 Buried soil 104 was overlain by a 0.37m thick layer of made ground, 103, which comprised loose limestone pieces within a sandy silt matrix and contained post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material (CBM). The made ground was in turn sealed by buried soil 102, which was 0.37m thick and contained modern pottery, animal bone, CBM and a fragment of clay tobacco-pipe stem. A further made ground deposit, red clay 101, was up to 0.86m thick and was overlain by the modern garden soil 100.

Trench 2

- 5.4 The limestone bedrock 208 was encountered at 1.01m bpgl at the north-west end of the trench and 0.48m bpgl at the south-east. Quarrying cut 207 was cut through the bedrock across the trench. A sondage through the quarry pit near the centre of the trench (Fig. 2) reached a depth of 1.3m without revealing the base of the pit. The pit was backfilled with initially with loose stony silt, 206, which was covered by compacted stony clay 204 and red clay 203 at the north-west end of the trench, and by compacted stony silt 205 at the south-east end.
- 5.5 Deposit 203 was overlain by buried soil 202, which was very similar to soil layer 102 in Trench 1. This layer was only present in the north-western 14.5m of the trench. At its south-eastern extent it sloped upwards to meet the level of the extant topsoil. In this trench modern pottery and CBM were recovered from the deposit. The buried soil was covered by 0.35m of made ground 201, which was very similar to made ground 101 in Trench 1. The latest layer encountered was topsoil 200, which overlay made ground 101 at the north-west of the trench and quarry pit fill 205 at the south-east end.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Artefactual material from evaluation was hand-recovered from two buried soil layers (102/202). The recovered material dates to the post-medieval and modern periods. Quantities of the artefact types recorded are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Codings for fabrics given in the text in parenthesis, and in Appendix B, correspond to the Bristol Pottery Type (BPT) series (Ponsford 1988).

Pottery: Post-medieval/modern

- 6.2 A base sherd from a vessel in transfer-printed Pearlware (BPT 278a), dateable to the late 18th to mid-19th centuries, was retrieved from buried soil layer 202. The same deposit also produced three sherds of refined whiteware (BPT 202b), of late 18th to 19th-century date. Two of the latter sherds featured transfer-printed decoration (BPT 278b). A total of four sherds of unglazed earthenwares of 'flowerpot' type (BPT 201) was recovered from the two buried soil layers (102/202). These date to the 19th to 20th centuries.

Ceramic building material

- 6.3 Buried soil layer 202 produced two fragments of ceramic building material of post-medieval/modern date. They are in a moderately abraded condition and are too fragmentary to allow further classification.

Other finds

- 6.4 A fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem was recorded from buried soil layer 102: it is broadly dateable to the late 16th to late 19th centuries.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal Bone

- 7.1 A single fragment of animal bone (2g) was recovered from buried soil layer 102, in association with modern artefacts. The bone was well preserved and identified as a sheep/goat molar (*Ovis aries/ capra hircus*). No interpretative information beyond species identification could be gained and given the contextual nature and association with modern material, it is no doubt residual in nature.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 The evaluation identified no evidence that surviving remains of the Roman road were present in the garden to the south-east of Queen Victoria House. If the road did formerly cross the site in this area it appeared highly likely to have been completely removed by post-medieval limestone extraction.
- 8.2 The 1839 Tithe Map and the 1855 Ashmead Map both show the area of the downs immediately to the north of the site as being a large quarry. Hachures shown on the de Wilstar map of 1746 suggest that the quarries were also open at this time, although they are not labelled as such (COAS 2014). The results of the evaluation indicate that this quarrying activity extended south at least as far as the evaluation site, although this was not shown on historic mapping as the site was already part of gardens by that time. Therefore, the extensive quarrying suggested by this evaluation, and the previous evaluation by BaRAS in 2000, appears likely to have taken place by the mid-18th century, if not earlier.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Leonard and Gary Baddeley. The report was written by Christopher Leonard. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Andy Clarke respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.



10. REFERENCES

- BaRAS (Bristol and Region Archaeological Services) 2000 *Queen Victoria House, Redland Hill, Bristol: Archaeological Evaluation*. BaRAS Report No. **758/2000**
- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 5 August 2016
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- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
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- Ponsford, M. W. 1988 'Pottery' in Williams, B. 1988, 124–45.
- Williams, B. 1988 'Temple Street, Bristol, Excavations 1975'. *Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society Transactions*. **106**, 107–68.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Spot date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Garden soil. Mid red-brown clay silt			0.36	
1	101	Layer		Made ground	Mid brown-red silty clay. Common small-medium stones			0.86	
1	102	Layer		Buried soil	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Occasional small stones			0.37	
1	103	Layer		Made ground	Loose limestones within yellow sandy silt matrix			0.37	
1	104	Layer		Buried Soil	Dark grey-brown clay silt. Occasional small stones			0.35	
1	105	Fill	106	Pit fill	Light grey-yellow silty sand. Frequent small and medium limestones			0.4	
1	106	Cut		Quarry pit	Shape and profile not visible in trench			0.4	
1	107	Layer		Natural	Limestone bedrock				
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Garden soil. Same as 100			0.38	
2	201	Layer		Made ground	Similar to 101			0.35	
2	202	Layer		Buried Soil	Similar to 102	>14.5	>1.8	0.25	
2	203	Fill	207	Pit fill	Upper fill. Mid brown-red silty clay. Occasional limestone			0.16	
2	204	Fill	207	Pit fill	Mid brown-grey clay silt. Frequent limestones			0.45	
2	205	Fill	207	Pit fill	Light grey-brown silty clay. Frequent limestones			0.55	
2	206	Fill	207	Pit fill	Lower fill. Loose limestone within yellow clay silt matrix			>0.7	
2	207	Cut		Quarry pit	Shape and profile not visible in trench	>26	>1.8	>1.3	
2	208	Layer		Natural	Limestone bedrock				

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code/	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
102	Modern pottery	Flowerpot	BPT 201	1	33	C19-C20
	Clay tobacco pipe	Stem		1	2	
202	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed pearlware	BPT 278a	1	28	C19-C20
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Transfer-printed refined whiteware	BPT 278b	2	15	
	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Refined whiteware	BPT 202b	1	2	
	Modern pottery	Flowerpot	BPT 201	3	22	
	Post-medieval/modern ceramic building material	Fragment		2	29	

APPENDIX C: LEVELS OF PRINCIPAL DEPOSITS AND STRUCTURES

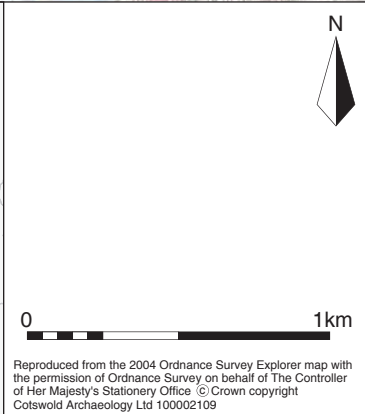
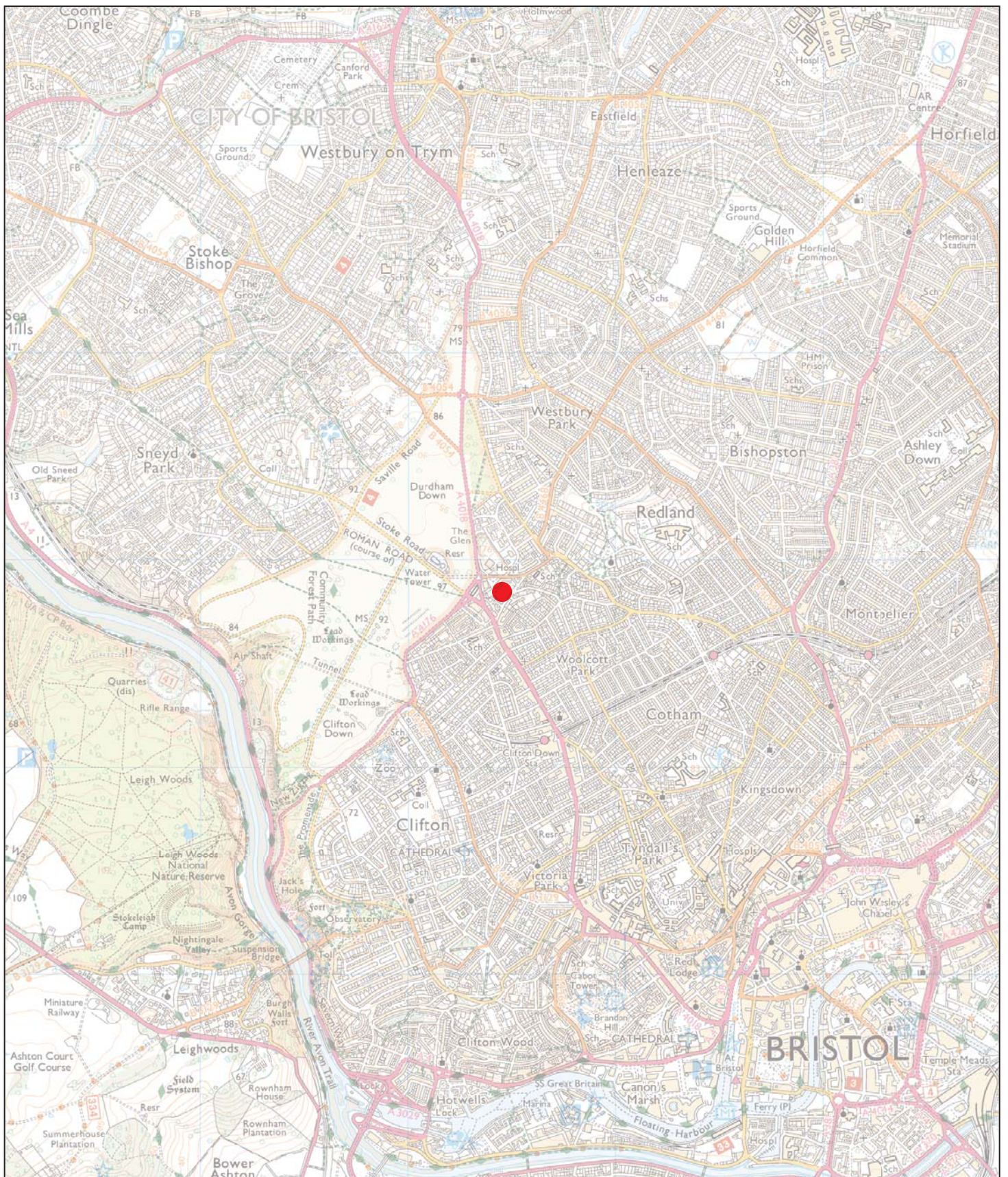
Levels are expressed as metres below current ground level and as metres Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

	Trench 1	Trench 2 (NW end)	Trench 2 (SE end)
Current ground level	0.00m (91.79m)	0.00m (91.39)	0.00m (91.42m)
Top of buried soil layer 102/202	1.14m (90.65m)	0.73m (90.66m)	-
Top of buried soil layer 104	1.97m (89.82m)	-	-
Top of natural substrate	2.32m (89.47m)	1.01m (90.38m)	0.48m (90.94m)
Limit of excavation	2.72m (89.07m)	2.15m (89.24m)	1.13m (90.29m)

Upper figures are depth below modern ground level; lower figures in parentheses are metres AOD.

APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Queen Victoria House, Redland Hill, Bristol	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2016 on land at Queen Victoria House, Redland Hill, Bristol. Two trenches were excavated.</p> <p>Evidence for extensive limestone quarrying dating to the post-medieval period was present across both trenches. No evidence for any activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was found and remains of the Roman road from Sea Mills to Bath, which was projected to cross the site, could not be identified in either trench.</p>	
Project dates	3–4 August 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Desk-Based Assessment (Leech 2000) Field Evaluation (BaRAS 2000) Desk-Based Assessment (COAS 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Redland Hill, Bristol	
Study area	1.09ha	
Site co-ordinates	ST 57459 74842	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Bristol City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Christopher Leonard	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives	Ceramics, animal bone, tobacco pipe
Paper	Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives	Trench recording forms
Digital	Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives	Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Land at Queen Victoria House, Redland Hill, Bristol: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16443		




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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Queen Victoria House
 Redland Hill, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	5972	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	09-08-2016	
APPROVED BY	CL	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1

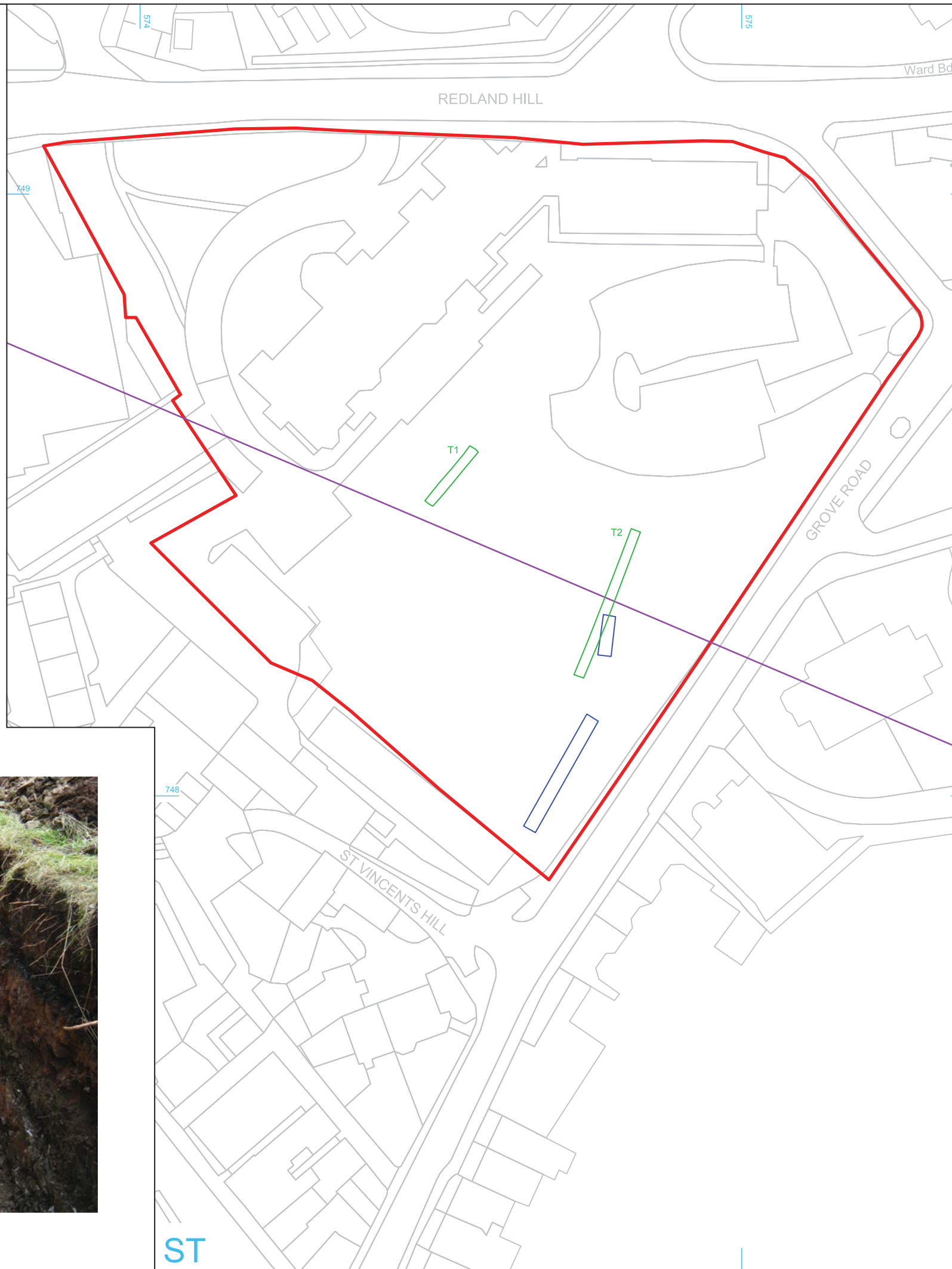
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Trench 1 stratigraphy (scale 2m)



Quarry pit 207, looking south-west (scales 1m)



- ▭ site boundary
- ▭ evaluation trench
- ▭ previous archaeological trench
- projected line of Roman road



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PROJECT TITLE
 Land at Queen Victoria House
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan, showing previous
 evaluation trenches and the projected
 course of the Roman road

DRAWN BY	DJB	PROJECT NO.	5972	FIGURE NO.
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