

**26 – 28 GLOUCESTER LANE  
OLD MARKET  
BRISTOL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP  
AND SAMPLE**

*For*

**ADR Holdings Ltd**


CA PROJECT: 2933  
CA REPORT: 09175

OCTOBER 2009

26-28 GLOUCESTER LANE  
OLD MARKET  
BRISTOL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE

CA PROJECT: 2933  
CA REPORT: 09175

prepared by	Hazel O'Neill, Project Supervisor and Alistair Barber, Senior Project Officer
date	29 October 2009
checked by	Richard Young, Project Manager
date	30 October 2009
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	
date	4 November 2009
issue	01

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- Fig. 2 Location of strip, map and sample (1:1000)
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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	26-28 Gloucester Lane
<b>Location:</b>	Old Market, Bristol
<b>NGR:</b>	ST 59894 73327
<b>Type:</b>	Strip, Map and Sample
<b>Date:</b>	22 September – 9 October 2009
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	08/01072
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives
<b>Site Code:</b>	GLA 09

An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September and October 2009 at 26-28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol. An area covering approximately 98m<sup>2</sup> was excavated.

A series of north/south and east/west-aligned sandstone and brick-built walls were partially revealed. Although undated artefactually their style of construction, locations and alignments together suggest that they represent structural elements of the buildings depicted fronting onto Gloucester Lane on the 18th-century mapping. The structural remains were subsequently sealed by 19th-century or later demolition/make-up deposits.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September and October 2009 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological Strip, Map and Sample exercise for ADR Holdings Ltd at 26-28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol (centred on NGR: ST 59894 73327; Fig. 1). The Strip, Map and Sample exercise was undertaken to satisfy a condition for a programme of archaeological recording placed on the planning permission for the demolition of the current buildings and construction of a five storey building to form 14 flats (Bristol City Council (BCC) ref. 08/01072).

1.2 The Strip, Map and Sample exercise was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2009) and approved by Bob Jones, City Archaeologist, Bristol City Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE; English Heritage 2006). It was monitored by Mr Jones, including a site visit on 24 September 2009.

### ***The site***

1.3 The proposed development area is bordered by Bragg's Lane to the north, Gloucester Lane to the west, by domestic dwellings to the south and by wasteland to the east.

1.4 The underlying geology is mapped as Triassic Redcliffe Sandstone (BGS 1974). The *in situ* natural geology was not encountered.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.5 No previous archaeological works or desk-based assessment have been carried out for this site. The recently demolished buildings that once occupied the site probably date from the early 20th century. However the historic mapping suggests there has been development here from as early as 18th century. Directly to the south an excavation revealed traces of a possible Civil War period defensive ditch, possibly as an outer defensive work to protect Lawford's Gate (King 2003). During the excavation a possible medieval structure was identified, however this could not be dated independently. To the east of the site an archaeological evaluation revealed a

possible 17th-century wall, considered to be the rear wall of properties on West Street depicted on Millerd's map of 1673 (BaRAS 2004). Evidence of this boundary may be present on the current site, possible forming the southern boundary.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.6 The academic objectives of the programme of archaeological recording were to:
- i. ensure the adequate record of any buried archaeological remains that might be exposed within the defined strip, map and sample area and in particular the full range of occupation sequences on the Gloucester Lane and Braggs Lane frontages.
  - ii. explore the possibility of medieval settlements in the area, previously hinted at, but not corroborated by excavations at the neighbouring site to the south.
  - iii. assess the early modern and post-medieval sequences, exploring in particular the potential for further evidence relating to Civil War outworks
  - iv. through a detailed sampling exercise, establish a picture of diet, living standards, industry and former land use.

### **Methodology**

- 1.7 The excavation area was stripped 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* (2007). The stripping was done in two phases. The first phase comprised the removal of the overburden. The second the excavation of pile caps.
- 1.8 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* (2003), however no deposits suitable for sampling were identified.
- 1.9 The archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. The site archive will be deposited with Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives. 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.

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 A clean red clay 1014, probably representing a make-up layer consisting of redeposited natural clays, was noted at the limit of excavation, at approximately 1.1m below present ground level (bpgl), across the site. A series of north/south and east/west-aligned walls were partially revealed at the limit of excavation overlying deposit 1014. East/west-aligned wall 1003, 0.4m wide and in excess of 5.5m in length, had an internal plaster finish and appeared to represent part of a basement. Wall 1003, built from red sandstone blocks bonded with a pink-grey mortar, contained a 0.75m wide door opening which had been blocked with a modern brick infill 1004. A north/south-aligned sandstone wall 1007, 0.35m in width, abutted wall 1003 and was of similar construction to, and appeared broadly contemporaneous with, 1003. Wall 1007 was abutted by a modern concrete foundation 1008.
- 2.2 A sandstone and brick-built wall 1006, 0.4m thick, continued the east/west-line of wall 1003 and linked with a north/south wall 1005 with a 1.5m wide doorway. Wall 1005 was abutted by a 3.25m long section of red sandstone wall 1012 and by a grey sandstone wall 1009 bonded with hard grey mortar.
- 2.3 A north/south and east/west-aligned grey sandstone wall 1011, 0.5m thick with a hard grey mortar bonding, and an east/west aligned grey sandstone wall 1015, 0.5m in thickness, were recorded within the eastern part of the site. These walls, which appear to represent further parts of one or more basement structures, were abutted by an east/west-aligned brick-built wall 1013 and north/south-aligned brick-built wall 1016 respectively.
- 2.4 All structural remains encountered were covered by a clay and rubble deposit 1002 containing charcoal and mortar inclusions, which was sealed by rubble and mortar make-up/demolition layer 1001.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No medieval structural remains or later evidence relating to Civil War outworks was encountered during the strip, map and sample exercise. At the limit of excavation, the north-south and east/west-aligned walls encountered appear to identify parts of one or more post-medieval/modern basement structures. Millerd's map of Bristol from 1673 suggests that the site was part of a garden associated with a building

located further south along Gloucester Lane; whereas Millerd's map of 1715 suggests that the site had been developed by this date. Rocque's map of Bristol from 1742 also depicts the area of the current site as built up. The style of construction, locations and orientation of the walls together suggest that they represent structural elements of the buildings depicted fronting onto Gloucester Lane on the 18th-century mapping. The structural remains were subsequently sealed by 19th-century or later demolition/make-up deposits.

#### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

- 4.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Hazel O'Neill and Stuart Joyce. The report was written by Hazel O'Neill and Alistair Barber. The illustrations were prepared by Rachael Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Hazel O'Neill, and prepared for deposition by Victoria Taylor. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

BaRAS 2004 *Archaeological Evaluation at Nos 51A & 57 West Street, Old Market, Bristol*.  
BaRAS Report no 1394/2004.

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1974, *British Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 264*,  
1:50,000

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009, *26 -28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample*

King, A. 2003 *Archaeological Excavations at 30 Gloucester Lane, Old Market Bristol*. BaRAS  
Report no 1084/2003



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1001	Deposit	Demolition/make-up layer: dark brown silt and rubble				
1002	Deposit	Purple-brown clay, with rubble and mortar inclusions				
1003	Wall	Red sandstone basement wall	>5.5	0.4		
1004		Brick blocking of doorway in basement wall 1003	0.75	0.4		
1005	Wall	Stone and brick wall	>6.5	0.5		
1006	Wall	Red sandstone basement wall	>3.7			
1007	Wall	Stone wall	>1.1	0.35		
1008	Structure	Modern concrete pillar	1	1		
1009	Wall	Grey sandstone wall	2.25	0.4		
1010		unused				
1011	Wall	Grey sandstone wall	>6.5	0.5		
1012	Wall	Red sandstone wall	>3.1	0.35		
1013	Wall	Stone and brick basement wall	5.80	0.60	0.50	
1014	Deposit	Make-up layer: redeposited natural red clay				
1015	Wall	Grey sandstone and red brick wall.			>0.74	
1016	Wall	Red brick wall, repair or addition to basement.			0.42	

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	26-28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological strip, map and sample exercise was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September and October 2009 at 26-28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol. An area covering approximately 98m<sup>2</sup> was excavated.</p> <p>A series of north/south and east/west-aligned sandstone and brick-built walls were partially revealed. Although undated artefactually their style of construction, locations and alignments together suggest that they represent structural elements of the buildings depicted fronting onto Gloucester Lane on the 18th-century mapping. The structural remains were subsequently sealed by 19th-century or later demolition/make-up deposits.</p>	
Project dates	22 September – 9 October 2009	
Project type	Strip, Map and Sample	
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	-	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	26-28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	Approximately 98m <sup>2</sup>	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	ST 59894 73327	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Bristol City Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Hazel O'Neill and Stuart Joyce	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		
Paper	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	context sheets, context register, colour/black and white photographs and registers,
Digital	Bristol's Museums, Galleries and Archives	digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA 2009 26 - 28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol. Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample, CA Report No. 09175		

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 **COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 26 - 28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market,  
 Bristol

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**

<b>DRAWN BY</b>	<b>SCALE</b>	<b>PROJECT NO.</b>	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
RK	1:25,000@A4	2933	<b>1</b>



 site



**COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY**

PROJECT TITLE

**26 - 28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol**

FIGURE TITLE

**Location of strip, map and sample**

DRAWN BY

RK

SCALE

1:1000@A4

PROJECT NO.

2933

FIGURE NO.

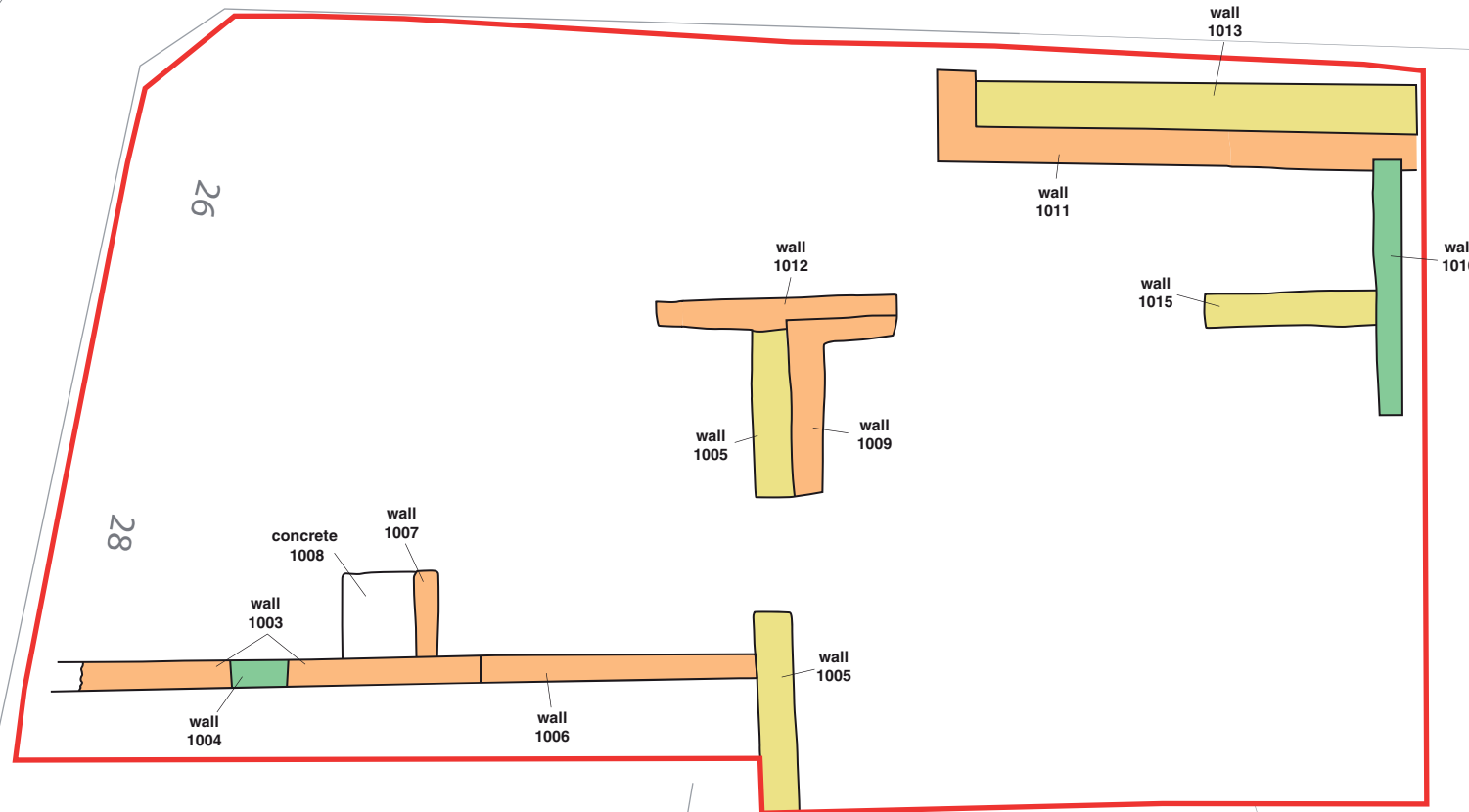
**2**







BRAGG'S LANE

73330

GLOUCESTER LANE



The Old Tannery

-  site
-  wall (sandstone construction)
-  wall (brick and sandstone construction)
-  wall (brick construction)



PROJECT TITLE  
26 - 28 Gloucester Lane, Old Market, Bristol

FIGURE TITLE  
**The site, showing archaeological features**

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
RK	1:100@A3	2933	<b>3</b>

