



**Archaeological Monitoring during redevelopment of land adjacent  
to No. 148 Rose Green Road,  
Rose Green, Bristol.**

NGR ST 62194 74547

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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**HER/Planning Reference no.** BSMR 24667

**Abstract**

This report sets out the methodology and results of a programme of archaeological observation and recording (Watching Brief) during preliminary development groundwork on a parcel of land adjacent to No. 148 Rose Green Road, Rose Green, Bristol (the Site). The site (**Figures 1** and **2**) been granted planning consent for redevelopment (ref: 05/03937/F) and a standard planning condition SC81 has been attached to the permission as the site was thought to have some unspecified potential for the preservation of buried archaeological deposits, in particular dating from the post-medieval period.

The Watching Brief was undertaken on behalf of Riggs Properties Limited to satisfy the planning consent and was designed to monitor archaeologically all intrusive ground work associated with the redevelopment of the site and to record all significant archaeological deposits revealed during the course of such work. Archaeological monitoring took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008, during limited remedial groundworks in preparation for piling. No significant buried archaeological deposits were exposed as a result of these works. As no further intrusive groundworks of note are proposed as part of this development, this archaeological monitoring exercise has been concluded.

**Introduction**

A programme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording during ground disturbance has been requested by the Archaeology Officer, of the Local Planning Authority as a standard requirement of Planning Permission and in accordance with the guidelines set out in PPG 16 (DoE 1990. *Planning and Archaeology*). The monitoring was required to record all unforeseen archaeological deposits revealed during groundwork associated with the redevelopment of the site. The Study Area (**Figure 2**) is disused open ground and is situated on the south side of Rose Green Road to the rear of Nos. 148 -160 Rose Green Road. The west of the site is bounded by residential properties of Rose Green Close and the area to the south by playing fields.

Avon Archaeological Unit Limited (The Unit) were commissioned by Riggs Properties Limited to carry out the work as above and in accordance with the Relevant Guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, English Heritage's "Management of Archaeological Projects (2)" and the standard procedures of Avon Archaeological Unit Limited.

No desk-based study has been carried out for the site although the Bristol City Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) indicates the following:

- The 1840 Tithe Map of Stapleton shows a building on the site of unknown origin or function, fronting Rose Green Road.
- An area of industrial clay pits are noted on the same 19<sup>th</sup> century plan.

### **Geology and Topography**

The underlying geology of the Study Area is comprised of the Middle Coal Measures of the Carboniferous Era (BGS 2004). The Study Area is located on the south side of Rose Green Road (**Plate a**), which climbs steeply up from Royate Hill, through Rose Green to Crofts End. A spot height of 53.9 m at the junction between Rose Green Road and Chapel Lane, some little way below the Study Area, is shown on the accompanying Ordnance Survey map (see **Figure 2**). The Study Area itself slopes moderately from southeast to northwest. Its position, on the crest of a ridge, gives views of both Purdown to the north and the City Centre to the west.

### **The Monitoring**

Machine excavation on site commenced on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008. Debris, overgrowth and turf were removed from across the site to a maximum depth of 300 mm, though in practice this was often much shallower. From the surviving indent around the inside boundary with the adjoining properties to the South East it was evident the site had been cleared on a previous occasion, probably some time ago.

All groundworks were monitored for significant archaeological finds or features. The vast majority of the Study Area was found to be made ground consisting of topsoil mixed with building demolition rubble and coal dust, finds associated with which were identifiably post 1900. Significantly no clay tobacco pipe or other indicators of pre-1900 activity were observed.

In the northern part of the Study Area very little ground disturbance was undertaken, as the ground was already relatively clear and a compacted gravel surface was evident.

In the far southeast corner of the Study Area, a layer of light yellow clay was observed in section against the boundary wall (**Plate c**). This may have been associated with the former clay pits known to have occupied part of the Study Area.

Boundary walls around the southeast corner of the Study Area exhibited re-used hand-made brick indicating a possible nearby source (**Plate d**). Parts of these boundary walls appeared to be thicker than expected, suggesting they may formerly have been structural (**Plate c**). Building scars and significant traces of white paint on parts of these walls also indicate there may have been a structure within the Study Area (**Plates c and e**). However no walls or floor surfaces were observed in this area during the Watching Brief. As the boundary walls were not scheduled for demolition only a brief photographic record of them was made.

On the north face of the southern boundary wall towards the southwest corner of the Study Area building scars were also noted. These indicated later 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings, probably garages or sheds, were formerly located there. No floor surfaces or standing walls associated with these buildings were observed within the Study Area.

By Midday on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008 all remedial groundworks had been completed. As the Study Area is due to be piled it is unlikely that further useful opportunities to investigate the archaeological potential of the Study Area will present themselves during the present development.

Given the results of the above monitoring exercise and the general topography of the Study Area, it seems likely that all trace of the building shown in this area on the 1840 Tithe Map has been removed, probably by quarrying for clay. Alternatively, surviving archaeological deposits could be below the level of significant groundworks, and therefore unlikely to be severely disturbed by the present development.

### **Summary and Conclusions**

All remedial groundworks in association with a proposed development at land adjacent to No. 148 Rose Green Road have been monitored for the presence of significant buried archaeological remains. This was undertaken in accordance with a Brief for Archaeological Monitoring issued by the office of the City Archaeological Officer, and a Written Scheme of Investigation proposed by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited and approved by the City Archaeological Officer.

The remedial groundworks were less intensive than initially proposed as it was evident the Study Area had been cleared on a previous occasion. Where exposed the majority of the Study Area was found to comprise made ground of topsoil mixed with demolition rubble and other waste deposits, with finds indicating a 20<sup>th</sup> century date for the deposition of this material. Significantly no finds were retrieved that could be dated with any certainty to earlier than 1900. No walls, floors or other structural deposits were observed within the Study Area.

In the light of the above results it is therefore concluded that in all probability clay pits known to have been operating in the vicinity in the 19th century have heavily disturbed the Study Area. As no further ground disturbance that could provide a significant opportunity to examine the archaeological potential of the Study Area is proposed, this monitoring exercise has been concluded.

Retrieved finds will be briefly recorded before discarding. The remainder of the site archive will be deposited with the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The OASIS entry for this project will be updated and completed.

### **General References**

#### **British Geological Survey 2004**

*Bristol*. England and Wales Sheet 264, 1:50,000. Nottingham.

#### **DoE 1990**

Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 in *Archaeology and Planning*  
Department of the Environment. London.

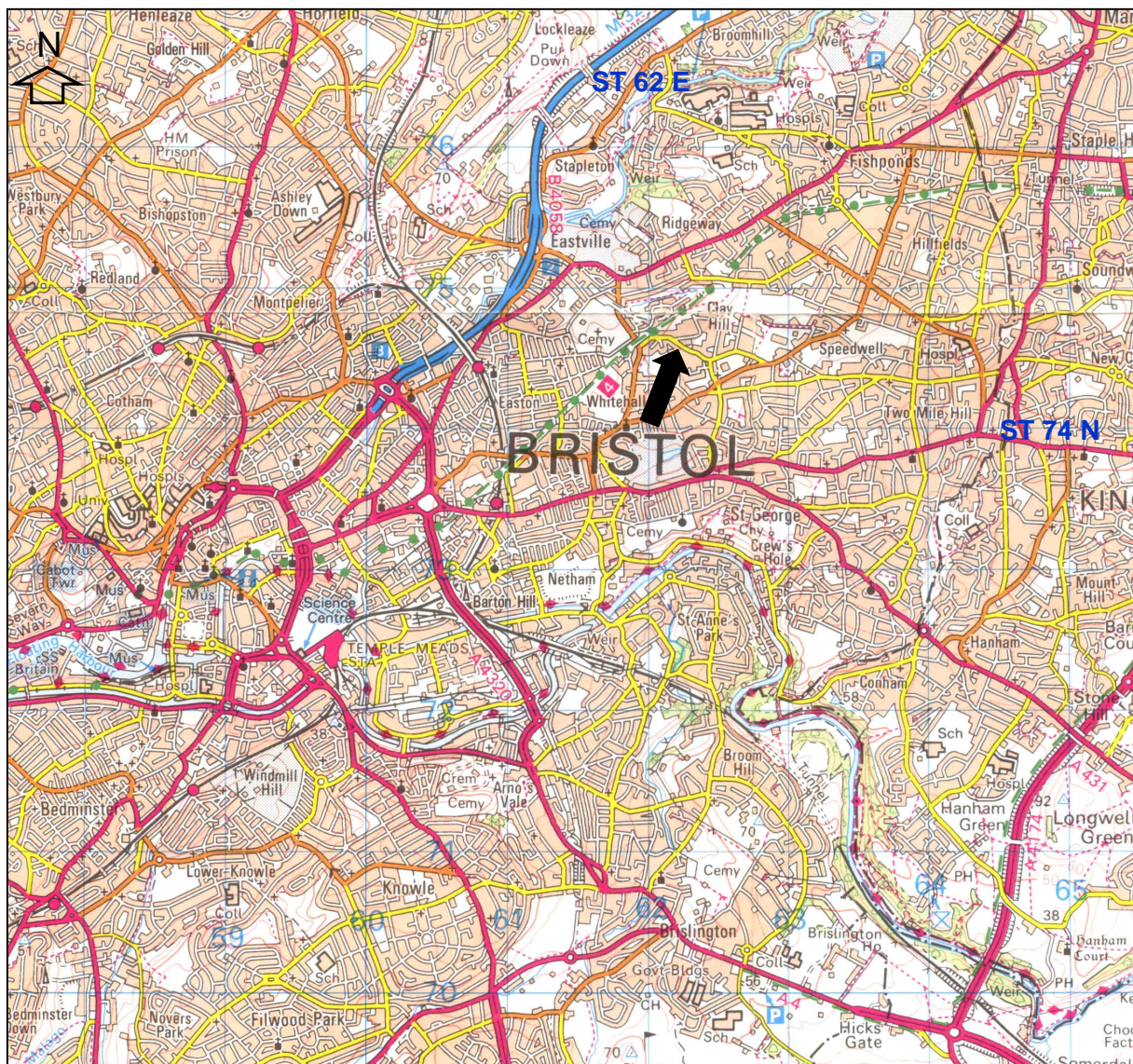
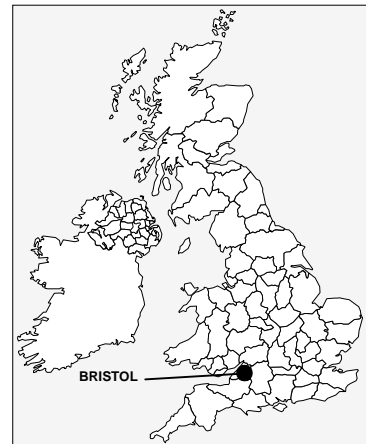
#### **English Heritage 1991**

*Management of Archaeological Projects (2)*. HMSO London.



Figure 1

Location of the Study Area ←



Scale 1:50,000

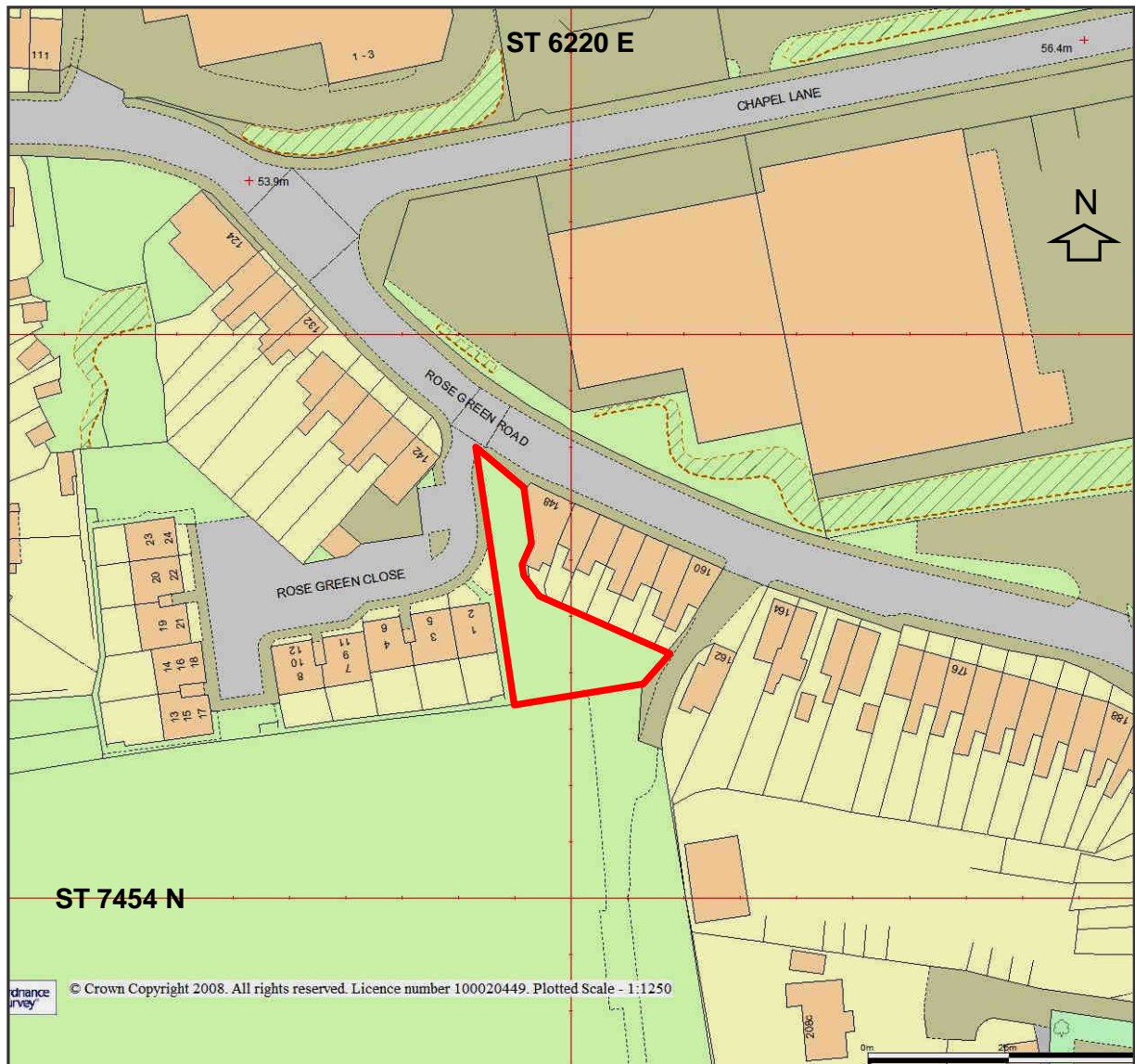
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Figure 2

Boundary of the Study Area (outlined in Red)



## Plates



a. The entrance to the Study Area from Rose Green Road, looking south.



b. A view of the southern portion of the Study Area during initial clearance, looking southeast.



c. The yellow clay deposit, located in the north facing section of the southeastern corner of the Study Area, looking southwest.



d. Reused bricks in the northern boundary wall of the southeast corner Study Area, looking north.



e. Building scars, and paint on the southeastern boundary of the Study Area, looking east.



f. View of the Study Area after completion of the remedial ground works, looking west.