

Archaeological Desktop Study  
of land at  
**NO.232 CHURCH ROAD,  
REDFIELD, BRISTOL.**  
for  
David Cahill Design Consultants Ltd.



Report No. 1465/2005  
BSMR No. 22164



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

St. Nicholas Church, St. Nicholas Street, Bristol, BS1 1UE. Tel: (0117) 903 9010 Fax: (0117) 903 9011

Archaeological Desktop Study  
of land at  
**NO.232 CHURCH ROAD,  
REDFIELD, BRISTOL.**

Centred on  
N.G.R. ST 61934 73512

Client: David Cahill Design Consultants Ltd.

## CONTENTS

Summary

List of Illustrations

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. THE SITE	2
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE	3
4. CONCLUSIONS AND CONTRACTOR'S ADVICE	5
5. SOURCES CONSULTED	6
6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6

Appendix 1: Policy Statement

Appendix 2: Results of SMR trawl

Illustrations and Plates

### NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

April, 2005.

### COPYRIGHT NOTICE:-

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services retain copyright of this report under the *Copyrights, Designs and Patents Act*, 1988, and have granted a licence to David Cahill Design Consultants Ltd. and their agents to use and reproduce the material contained within, once settlement of our account has been received.

Plans reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Bristol City Council, Licence Number LA090551, 2005.

## **SUMMARY**

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by David Cahill Design Associates on behalf of Mr C Dodd and Mr W Honey to carry out a desktop study of 232 Church Road, Redfield, Bristol. The study showed that there was slight evidence for Roman activity in the area of the site, and indicated that some of the buildings currently on the site were built before 1842. It is possible that a well and outbuildings shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey survive beneath the modern yard surfaces.



## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

### **Figures**

- Fig.1 Site location, 1:4000
- Fig.2 Plan of the Parish of St George 1803 surveyed by William Maule
- Fig.3 Tithe map of the Parish of St George, 1842
- Fig.4 First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1882, 1:500
- Fig.5 Church Road: post card of unknown date, but early 20th century, with the top of Seneca Street visible on the right. The colonnaded front of number 230 is as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey. (From Fisher, n.d)
- Fig.6 Ordnance Survey 1968 revision, 1:1250

### **Plates**

- Cover The study area from the north side of Church Road, looking south-west
- Pl.1 Street frontage of hire shop, looking south
- Pl.2 Interior of shop, area of number 226, looking south
- Pl.3 Interior of shop, area of number 228, looking south
- Pl.4 Side wall of number 232 and wall of yard on Seneca Street, looking south-west
- Pl.5 View of yard, looking west

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An application has been made by David Cahill Design Consultants Ltd on behalf of Mr C Dodd and Mr W Honey for the construction of commercial and residential accommodation at 232 Church Road, Redfield, Bristol (Planning Reference Number 04/05215/P/E). The development would involve demolition of the existing building.
- 1.2 Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning, issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990, sets out the requirements for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made. Local Plan Policy B22, while stating that there should be a presumption in favour of the preservation of nationally important archaeological features and sites, outlines the process to be followed in order that the archaeological importance of a site may be determined and mitigation strategies put in place if necessary (see Appendix 1). This is also the requirement of the Deposit Joint Replacement Structure Plan (Policy 7, June 1998).
- 1.3 As a result of the application, and to comply with planning policy, an archaeological desktop study was commissioned from Bristol and Region Archaeological Services. Research was undertaken at the Bristol Reference Library and the Bristol Record Office. The Bristol Sites and Monuments Record was consulted, the results of which are given in Appendix 2. A site visit was made on 4th April 2005.
- 1.4 The purpose of the study was to establish the likelihood of archaeological remains and to carry out initial research on the buildings due to be demolished, sufficient to allow mitigation advice to be given.
- 1.5 A copy of this report will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Swindon.

## 2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The study area is located on the south side of Church Road, on the western corner of the junction with Seneca Street, centred on ST 61934 73512 (**Fig.1**). The site lies at approximately 42m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is Butcombe type sandstone (Redcliff Sandstone).
- 2.2 The study area fronts on to Church Road, and is bounded to the east by Seneca Street, to the west by commercial premises and to the south by properties fronting on to Seneca Street. It was not possible to gain access to the building or rear yard during the site visit.
- 2.3 The development site consists of four houses converted into commercial premises, until recently in use as a tool hire shop (**Cover; Pl.1**). The houses were previously numbers 226-232 Church Road. Numbers 226 and 228 have been extensively altered on the ground floor (**Pls. 2 & 3**), including the addition of a modern shop front, but at first floor level they are largely unchanged. A small inscription with the name “Harford Place” is visible at the point of the party wall between the original two houses.
- 2.4 Numbers 230 and 232 also have a modern shop front at ground floor level, and some alteration has taken place at first floor level as only one window remains. As the building is rendered it was not possible during the site visit to draw any conclusions about the extent of the alterations, but it was noted that the roofline was much lower than that of numbers 226-228. It seems that the building represents the remains of earlier cottages.
- 2.5 To the rear of the shop is an enclosed yard. On Seneca Street, the yard is bounded by a high wall topped with razor wire and accessed through double gates (**Pl.4**), which were locked. It was possible to see into the yard around the side of the gates; a fire escape from the first floor of the building was visible (**Pl.5**).

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 Prehistoric**

- 3.1.1 There is no evidence for any prehistoric activity in the area.

#### **3.2 Roman**

- 3.2.1 The Bristol Sites and Monuments Record (BSMR) records two Roman events within a 500m radius of the study area. In St George's Park, in ca 1935/6 a cobbled surface was seen below the topsoil, which was interpreted as part of the Roman road from Bath to Sea Mills (BSMR 1391). This road appears to follow the line of the present A431 as far as St George's Park (Russell and Williams 1984).
- 3.2.2 A hoard of Roman coins was found prior to 1789 (Russell and Williams 1984), apparently near St George's Church although the exact location is not known (BSMR 1392).

#### **3.3 Medieval**

- 3.3.1 The study area lies within the Manor and Hundred of Barton Regis, listed in the Domesday Book as Bertune and belonging to the Crown. The area was known as the barton and included the hamlets of Stapleton, Mangotsfield and Easton; by the thirteenth century it was beginning to be referred to as the king's barton. It included Kingswood Forest, or Gallows Wood as it was formerly known, and was administered from Bristol Castle (Sharp 1982). The western boundary of the forest lay at or near the modern road junction of Church Road, Summerhill Road and Clouds Hill Road.
- 3.3.2 Rudder (1779) lists the various holders of the Manor of Barton from the time of the Domesday Survey until its purchase by Thomas Chester of Knole in the early years of the reign of Elizabeth I. The manor was held at various times by the Earls of Gloucester, Dukes and Earls of Warwick and Earls of Pembroke.

#### **3.4 Post-medieval and modern**

- 3.4.1 Until 1751 the area lay within the out-parish of St Philip and Jacob, the new parish of St George being created by dividing the old parish. The city boundary was extended to include St George in 1897.
- 3.4.2 Maule's 1803 survey of the parish shows the area of the site as part of a field (**Fig.2**), numbered 97 on the plan. According to the terrier, this field was one of several belonging to D Butler.
- 3.4.3 The 1842 tithe map of the parish shows buildings on the study area that correspond to the location of numbers 230 and 232 Church Road (**Fig.3**). It is possible that the current buildings are the remains of those shown on the tithe map, although much altered.
- 3.4.4 The Ordnance Survey First Edition (**Fig.4**) shows the study area with four houses plus outbuildings. On the front of number 230 is what appears to be an open-fronted roofed structure, probably the roof supported on slender columns shown in an undated postcard (**Fig.5**). Number 232 appears to have a small walled area in front of

the building. At the rear of number 230 stood a glass roofed structure, and a well was located in the yard behind number 232.

- 3.4.5 The BSMR records industrial activity in the area, including a clay pit of unknown date shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition 190m east of the study area (BSMR 21862, 21863). The Whitehall Colliery (BSMR 2284) was located 315m north-north-east of the study area and was worked between 1860 and 1911.

- 3.4.6 The Directories for Bristol list the area under Adjacent Villages until 1899 when it becomes part of the main street index. In 1899 the four properties in the study area were occupied as follows:

226	Heard, John	General shop
228	Newman, Mrs F	Draper
230	Gough, William	Butcher
232	Hembrough, Mrs Ellen	General shop

- 3.4.7 Examination of previous and subsequent directories indicates similar commercial activities in all four properties with frequent changes of occupant. By the 1960s the properties were beginning to be combined under one owner.

- 3.4.8 The 1968 revision of the Ordnance Survey shows that by this date numbers 226 and 228 had been combined into one property and had new outbuildings in the rear yard. Numbers 230 and 232 were still separate but the area of the well shown on the first edition had been built over, and the glasshouse had also gone by this date.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS AND CONTRACTOR'S ADVICE**

- 4.1 The buildings currently on the site will be demolished as part of the planned development. They have been extensively altered in recent decades. It is likely that numbers 230 and 232 are the remains of buildings shown on the 1842 tithe map. The remains of outbuildings constructed between 1842 and 1882 may survive, as may the well behind number 232.
- 4.2 The site lies close to the line of the Roman road from Bath to Sea Mills, and finds of Roman date have occasionally been found nearby. The possibility exists that Roman material may also survive on the site.
- 4.3 It is recommended that the possible early buildings should be examined to determine the survival of original features; they can be recorded if judged to be of sufficient interest. A watching brief should be maintained on groundworks for the new development, to record any surviving archaeological features.

## 5. SOURCES CONSULTED

### 5.1 Published sources

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Fisher, Janet & Derek, n.d | Bygone Bristol: St George, Hanham on old postcards   |
| Rudder, Samuel, 1779       | <i>A New History of Gloucestershire</i> (1977 reprint)   |
| Russell, J R, &            | Williams, G J, 1984 <i>Romano-British sites in the City of Bristol: a review and gazetteer</i> (Bristol and Avon Archaeology vol 3)                      |
|                            | Sharp, Margaret (ed), 1982 <i>Accounts of the Constables of Bristol Castle in the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries</i> (Bristol Record Society) |
| Various dates:             | Wrights' and Kelly's Bristol Directories   |

### 5.2 Cartographic sources

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1803   | Plan of the Parish of St George by William Maule, with terrier (BRO AC/PL/60a & b) |
| 1842   | Tithe Map of the Parish of St George (BRO EP/A/32/32)                              |
| 1880-1 | First Edition Ordnance Survey  |
| 1968   | Ordnance Survey revision   |

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank David Cahill for his assistance, the staff of the Bristol Record office for their help and Jon Brett of Bristol City Council for providing the SMR search. This report was prepared by Elizabeth Davis; the illustrations were prepared and the report produced by Ann Linge.

## **APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement**

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

### **NATIONAL POLICIES**

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work which would affect a SAM.

### **DOE PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE**

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

### **DISTRICT POLICY**

Bristol City Council Adopted Local Plan Written Statement (1997) states (policy B22):

- (i) There will be a presumption in favour of preserving any archaeological features or sites of national importance, whether scheduled or not.
- (ii) Development which could adversely affect sites, structures, landscapes or buildings of archaeological interest and their settings will require an assessment of the archaeological resource through a desktop study, and where appropriate a field evaluation. Where there is evidence of archaeological remains, development will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that the archaeological features of the site will be satisfactorily preserved in situ, or a suitable strategy has been put forward to mitigate the impact of development proposals upon important archaeological remains and their settings; or, if this is not possible and the sites are not scheduled or of national importance, provision for adequately recording the site prior to destruction is made, preferably by negotiating a planning agreement to ensure that access, time and financial resources are available to allow essential recording and publication to take place.



## APPENDIX 2: Results of SMR Search

BSMR No	Grid ref	Description
878	ST 61709 73353	No. 45 Pilemarsh, built between 1803 and 1842
1391	ST 6212 7380	Observation of a possible Roman Road in St George's Park
1392	ST 625 735	Discovery of a hoard of Roman coins in Hanham "in the high road to Bristol", and "near St George's Church"
1393	ST 62364 73635	Don John's Cross, Church Road, St George
2284	ST 61800 73800	Whitehall Colliery, worked 1860-1911
3490	ST 62308 73529	Tram Depot, Beaconsfield Road, St George
4244	ST 62053 73764	St George's Park
7603	ST 61808 73540	The Fire Engine public house, building of possible 18th-century date
20223	ST 61822 73580	Fire Engine Farm – recorded on 1841 tithe survey, demolished 1894
20615	ST 61721 73583	Archaeological watching brief at Aldi Stores
21713	ST 61685 73350	Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Pilemarsh
21816	ST 61682 73350	Archaeological evaluation of land at Pilemarsh
21862	ST 62118 73544	Cartographic depiction of a clay pit at Church Road, Redfield
21863	ST 62118 73545	Clay pit at Church Road, Redfield
21928	ST 62099 73285	Cartographic depiction of Avon View Cemetery, Beaufort Road, Crews Hole
21929	ST 62100 73285	Avon View Cemetery, Beaufort Road, Crews Hole
21930	ST 62191 73348	War Memorial, Avon View Cemetery, Beaufort Road
21982	ST 62219 73575	Archaeological desk-based assessment of the Don John's Cross public house
22047	ST 62121 73584	Photograph of the Park Picture House, Church Road
22048	ST 62121 73584	Park Picture House, Church Road
22098	ST 61778 73231	Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Beaufort Road

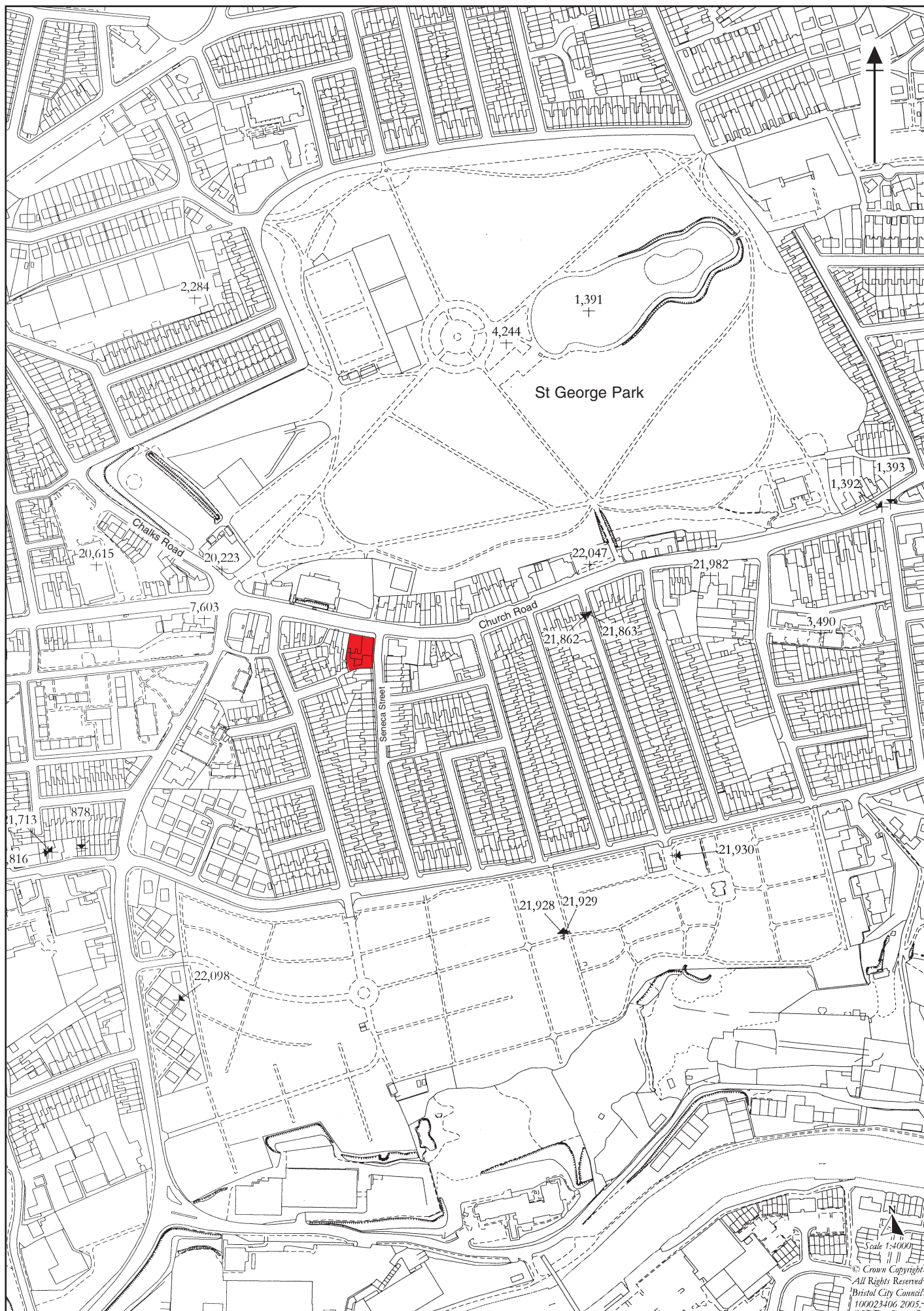


Fig.1 Site location, 1:4000







Fig.3 Tithe map of the Parish of St George, 1842





Fig.4 First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1882, 1:500



Fig.5 Church Road: post card of unknown date, but early 20th century, with the top of Seneca Street visible on the right. The colonnaded front of number 230 is as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey.  
(From Fisher, n.d)



Fig.6 Ordnance Survey 1968 revision, 1:1250





Plate 1 Street frontage of hire shop, looking south



Plate 2 Interior of shop, area of number 226, looking south





Plate 3 Interior of shop, area of number 228, looking south



Plate 4 Side wall of number 232 and wall of yard on Seneca Street, looking south-west



Plate 5 View of yard, looking west