

Archaeological Watching Brief
on land at
**PLOT 3, TEMPLE QUAY,
BRISTOL.**
for
Bristol City Council



Report No. 2671 / 2012
BHER No. 25107

By Cai Mason & Tracey Smith



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services



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



Archaeological Watching Brief
on land at
**PLOT 3, TEMPLE QUAY,
BRISTOL.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 59700 72600

Client: Bristol City Council

<i>Author:</i>	Cai Mason & Tracey Smith
<i>email:</i>	cai.mason@bristol.gov.uk
<i>Approved by:</i>	John Bryant
<i>Signature:</i>	 
<i>Date Issued:</i>	28 May 2012

CONTENTS

Summary

List of Illustrations

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	The Site.....	1
3.	Archaeological and Historical Background.....	2
4.	Aims and Methodology	2
5.	Results.....	3
6.	Conclusion.....	3
7.	Project Team.....	4
8.	Bibliography and Sources Consulted.....	4
9.	Acknowledgements.....	4

Appendix 1: Policy Statement

Appendix 2: Context Descriptions

Illustrations and Plates

Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

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.

May, 2012.

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 Bristol City Council 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, 2012.

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with the construction of six temporary modular buildings comprising four retail units, a bar/restaurant, a WC block, and a covered temporary events space, on land at Plot 3, Temple Quay, next to Temple Meads Railway Station in Bristol.

The groundworks revealed only layers of modern make-up and concrete floor slabs or footings, overlaying probable 19th century made ground.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

- Figure 1 Site location plan, 1:10000
- Figure 2 Site plan with plate directions, 1:1000

Plates

- Cover Overview of the site looking south towards Temple Meads Station
- Plate 1 New drainage trench, showing modern made ground overlying 19th century made ground, viewed from the west
- Plate 2 Foundation and drainage trenches for the new temporary events space, viewed from the east

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Jon Sawyer, Engineering Consultancy, on behalf of Bristol City Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of six temporary modular buildings comprising four retail units, a bar/restaurant, a WC block, and a covered temporary events space, on land at Plot 3, Temple Quay, next to Temple Meads Railway Station in Bristol.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning consent 12/00494/LDO and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (Mason 2011).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 5th and the 23th April 2012.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2012/15 and a copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 25107 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-122736.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 59700 72600) is a car park, bounded by another car park to the south-east, by Friary, Isambard Walk and The Square to the west, by Temple Back East and Temple Meads Station Ferry Landing to the north, and the Floating Harbour to the north-east. The present ground surface slopes slightly from 12.90m aOD in the east to 11.53m aOD in the north-west corner of the site.
- 2.2 The geology of the study area comprises Triassic Redcliffe Sandstone overlain by superficial Holocene Tidal Flat Deposits (BGS 2012). Geotechnical investigations have shown that the tidal flat deposits are between 4m and 12m deep and comprise soft silty clay, which contains frequent lenses of sand and occasional peaty horizons. Natural deposits are overlain by approximately 5m of made ground (Halcrow 2011).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There is no evidence of any prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity within the site boundaries. Historically the site lay within Temple parish, outside the medieval town walls, in an area of low-lying land known as Temple Meads. Historic maps show that this area remained undeveloped until the early 19th century.
- 3.2 There is no evidence of any significant activity in the area prior to the construction of Temple Meads Station (BHER 205M) between 1839 and 1841; this development was followed by the construction of a Goods Depot (BHER 1254M) and Dock (BHER 1253M) on the western half of the site in the 1840s. Both structures are shown on Ashmead's 1854 map. Parts of the Dock and Goods Depot were exposed during a watching brief in 1998-9 (Parry 1999).
- 3.3 In 1872 a new goods line, the Bristol Harbour Railway, was built to link Temple Meads Station with the rest of the port. Ashmead's 1874 map shows the original Goods Depot and Dock remained standing two years after the Harbour Railway had opened, but by the end of the decade the dock had been in-filled, and the depot had been demolished, to be replaced with a new goods shed (BHER 1255M). Construction of the 1870s goods shed was accompanied by the construction of railway sidings over the rest of the site. Parts of the goods shed were uncovered during the 1998-9 watching brief (*ibid*). The goods shed was demolished in 1926 to make way for a covered goods yard, which for a time was the largest in western Europe. In 1983 the goods yard was demolished to make way for the redevelopment of the Temple Quay area. Since 2007 Plot 3 has been used as a temporary car park.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Mason 2012) The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundworks.
- 4.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of the mechanical excavation of service and drainage trenches within Plot 3, the deepest of which was associated with the manhole excavation and reached 2m in depth (**Plate 1**).

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 All groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator.
- 5.2 Excavation of the trenches uncovered modern make-up and levelling dumps of crushed concrete, rubble and scalplings (100) to a depth of 1.40m, overlaying a concrete raft foundation (101) 0.30m in depth. In the deeper trenches associated with the new manhole, a layer of made ground (102) was exposed below (101) to a depth of 0.20m, comprising of mixed 'ashy' grey and black silty-sands with inclusions of broken stone, brick, clinker and 19th century pottery fragments (**Plates 1 & 2**).
- 5.3 No significant archaeological remains were exposed and no finds were recovered.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No significant archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief within the area of the intrusive groundworks. The earliest deposit, exposed in the base of the deepest trench was a layer of being made ground.
- 6.2 The lack of significant archaeological deposits seems to indicate that any surviving structural remains related to the 1840s dock area and goods depot are likely to be at a greater depth than that excavated to in the development area.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Cai Mason (MifA) and Roy Krakowicz, this report was written by Tracey Smith. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The project was managed by John Bryant.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Maps and plans

Rocque's map	1742
Plumley and Ashmead's map	1828
Ashmead's plan	1854
Ashmead's plan	1874
Ordnance Survey 1:500 plan	1883
Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan	1949

Unpublished Material

Halcrow (2011). *South West Regional Development Agency. Plot 3, Temple Quay, Bristol, Secondary Infrastructure Study*. Exeter: Halcrow.

Mason, C (2012). *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief at Plot 3, Temple Quay, Friary, Temple Meads, Bristol*.

Parry, A. (1999). *Archaeological watching brief of Bristol Temple Quay, Primary Infrastructure programme*. BaRAS Report No. 579/1999.

Internet sources

British Geological Survey (2012). *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Available at: http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Last accessed 05 April 2012.

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank John Sawyer (BCC Engineering Consultancy) for his assistance and co-operation and Bob Jones (BCC Senior Archaeological Officer) for his advice.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

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

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY (ENGLAND)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for England published by the UK Government in March 2012 states that the historic environment, which includes designated and non-designated heritage assets, is an irreplaceable resource and, as such, should be taken into account by Local Planning Authorities when considering and determining planning applications. This is taken to form part of a positive strategy set out in the respective Local Plan to ensure the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment. The assigned significance of heritage assets will be key factor in terms of their conservation.

Given their irreplaceable nature, any harm to, or loss of, a heritage asset, or heritage assets, should be clearly and convincingly justified as part of a planning application. As part of this, applicants are required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. Where a heritage asset, or assets, are to be harmed or lost as the result of a proposal, the applicant will be required to record and advance the understanding of the significance of that asset or assets, to include making the evidence arising publicly accessible, but this will be in proportion to the significance of the asset/assets in question.

While the NPPF takes into account the historic environment as a whole, additional protection is afforded to designate heritage assets under current English Law. Any proposal that would result in harm or loss of a designated heritage asset is also required to be justified by the applicant in meeting strict criteria set out in the NPPF.

DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

(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: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
100	Layer of made ground, consisting of mixed deposits of rubbles, crushed concrete and scalplings. The remains of brick structures were visible within this make-up. Modern in date.
101	Concrete raft or foundation footings. Modern.
102	Made ground. Mixed grey and black ashy silty-sands, with clinker, brick rubble, stone rubble, industrial waste and pottery fragments. 19th century in date.

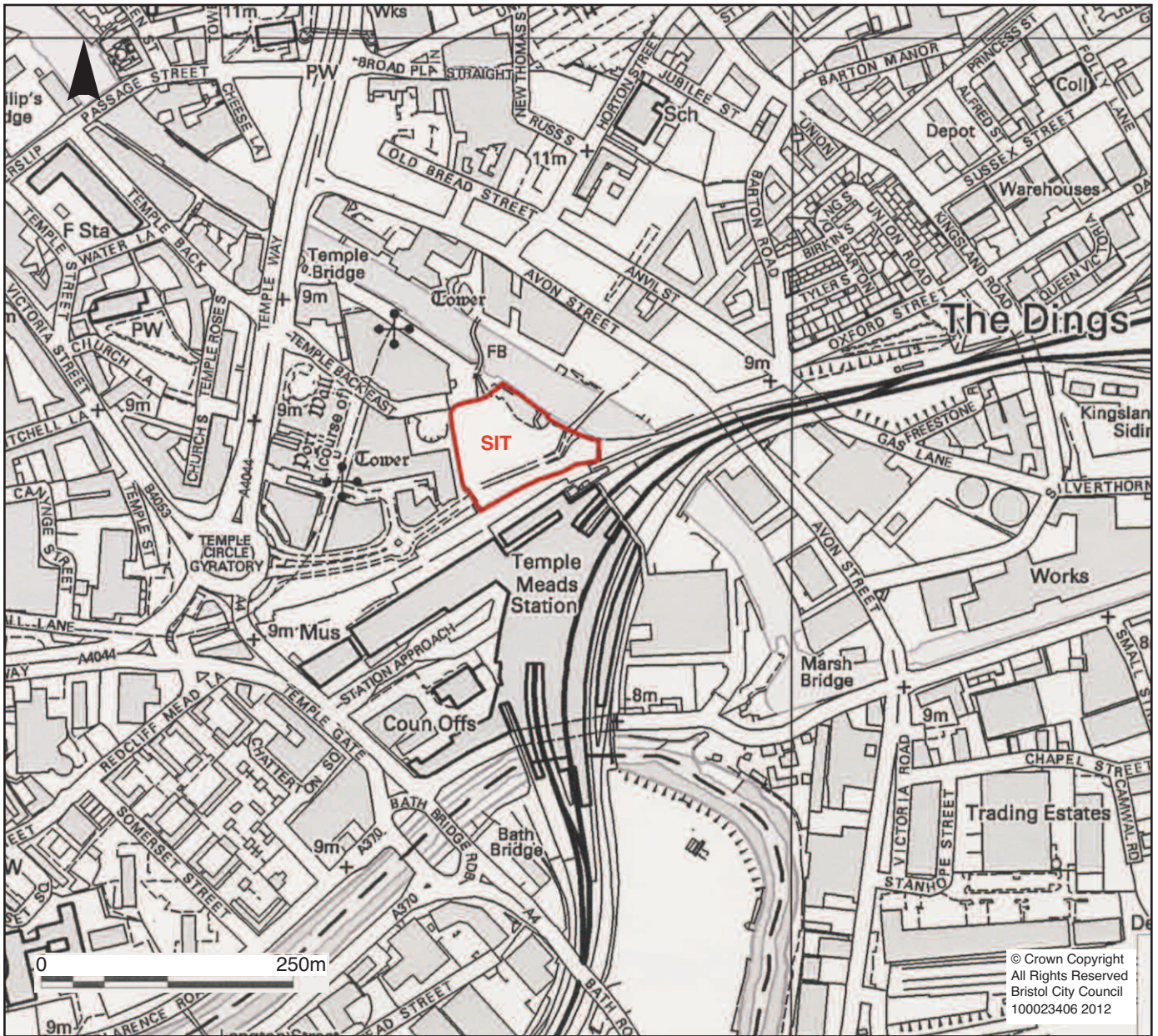


Fig.1 Site location plan, 1:10,000

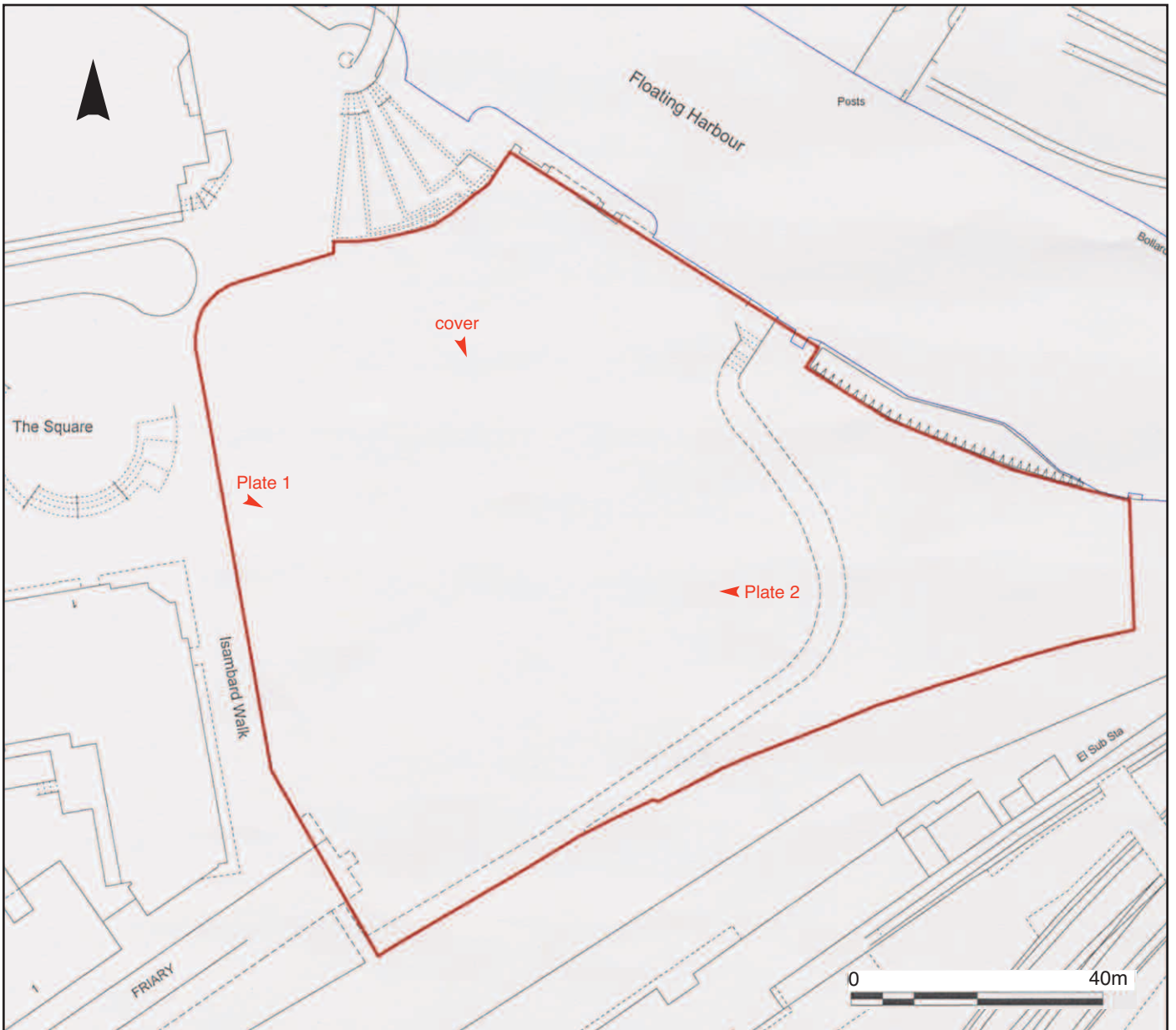


Fig.2 Site plan with plate directions 1:1000

Plate 1
New drainage trench, showing
modern made ground overlying
19th century made ground,
viewed from the west



Plate 2
Foundation and drainage trenches
for the new temporary events space,
viewed from the east

