



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

Archaeological Watching Brief **NOS 76-88 HORFIELD ROAD, KINGSDOWN, BRISTOL.**

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Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**NOS 76-88 HORFIELD ROAD,
KINGSDOWN,
BRISTOL.**

Centred on NGR ST 58532 73616

Prepared for **Westbury Guild Ltd.**

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	C	Century
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	DCLG	Dept. for Communities & Local Government
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	DCMS	Dept. for Culture Media & Sport
BC	Before Christ	EH	English Heritage
BCC	Bristol City Council	EHA	English Heritage Archive
BCL	Bristol Central Library	IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
BCMAG	Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery	Km	Kilometre
BH	Borehole	m	Metre
BHER	Bristol Historic Environment Record	NGR	National Grid Reference
BL	British Library	OS	Ordnance Survey
BRO	Bristol Record Office		
c	Circa		

Adopted Chronology

Prehistoric	Before AD43
Roman	AD43-410
Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval	AD410-1066
Medieval	AD1066-1540
Post-medieval	AD1540-present

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.

June 2014.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of nine residential apartments on land between No. 76 and No. 88 Horfield Road, Bristol.

No significant archaeological features or finds were identified. The only features recorded were the fragmentary remains of 18th-20th century buildings formally on the site.

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Figure 2 Site plan, scale 1:200 @ A3 showing key features and plate directions

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Cover Nos 76-88 Horfield Road looking south-east

Plate 1 Wall section showing 116,124, 125, 130 & 134 looking north-west

Plate 2 Cess pit & cellar wall, looking north

Plate 3 Section through made ground and walls, looking south

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) in Horfield Road, Kingsdown, Bristol, for Head Projects on behalf of Westbury Guild Ltd.
- 1.2 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2014/39. A digital copy of the report is available. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as BHER 25369 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-151124.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 58532 73616) is located on the southern edge of Kingsdown, near the top of a steep hill overlooking Bristol City Centre to the south-east. The site is a triangular 710m² plot of waste ground, bounded by Horfield Road to the west, No. 88 Horfield Road and Nos 33 – 45 Alfred Hill to the north-east and Prospect Avenue to the south-east.
- 2.2 The solid geology is Triassic mudstone and halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (BGS 2013). Ground levels within the site range from 64.5m aOD in the north to 60.94m aOD in the south-east corner.

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies within the historic parish of St James, just inside the 1373 boundary of the City and County of Bristol. There has been no previous recorded archaeological work on the site.
- 3.2 Romano-British occupation has been recorded in Upper Maudlin Street, approximately 230m to the south-east, but there is no conclusive evidence of any significant activity within the site boundary before the early 18th century. Although the site is likely to have remained essentially rural throughout the medieval period, it has been suggested there may have been some form of human activity in the area.
- 3.3 Cartographically, Millerd's map of 1673 depicts an un-named lane along the line of Horfield Road; the site appearing to be undeveloped pastureland. Millerd's c 1715 map shows Horfield Road labelled as '*Upper Magdalin Lane*'. Rocque's plan of 1742 shows a building, or a row of buildings, in the south-west corner of the site with the rest of the plot appearing to be gardens.
- 3.4 The first detailed cartographic depiction of the site is Plumley & Ashmead's plan of 1828, which shows a line of buildings along the Horfield Road frontage. Prospect House Passage, which now forms the site's southern boundary, is also shown. By the mid-19th century the Horfield Road frontage was fully built up and by 1854 two new buildings had been built along the Prospect Avenue frontage. Although there was some later infill development behind the houses facing Horfield Road, the pattern of development remained largely static until the whole site was cleared of buildings in the mid-1970s.
- 3.5 The HER contains no records within the site. The only records from the immediate vicinity refer to post-medieval development, the only exception to this being some 13th-14th century pottery found during a watching brief at Kingsdown Parade, to the north-east of the site (Longman, 2012).

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Longman 2013), *BaRAS Site Manual* (2009) and complied with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).
- 4.2 The aim of the archaeological work was to provide data on the date, character, degree of survival, extent and location of archaeological deposits, features and finds within the area disturbed by the groundworks associated with the new development, these involved some ground reduction, the excavation of strip foundations, service trenches, and an attenuation tank.
- 4.3 Archaeological recording of the site included a photographic record of all features using digital colour photography, along with relevant notes, site plans and sections.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 Full context descriptions are provided in the context summary (**Appendix 2**). Major features are shown on the site plan (**Fig.2**).
- 5.2 Ground reduction on the south-west end of site exposed a brick-built Pennant flagstone capped drain (106) and pennant rubble stone walls (108/124, 110 & 111) (**Plate 1**) bonded with white lime mortar. All were contemporary and either external or internal walls related to the demolished buildings shown in the 1820s maps of the area.
- 5.3 Ground reduction at the northern end of the site revealed the rear wall of a cellar (117) and the remnants of a cesspit (118) (**Plate 2**) built against it. Two copper pennies, one a Georg III cartwheel penny, the other unidentifiable, were recovered from the demolition rubble fill (123) of the cellar. This fill appears to be the same as context (109), a layer of demolition rubble, up to 1.50m thick, sealing the remnant 18th-20th century structures across the entire site (**Plate 3**), with a small area in the southern corner of the site having a concrete layer (102) above this.
- 5.4 By agreement with Gail Boyle, Senior Collections Officer (Archaeology) at Bristol Museum, no finds were retained from this site, the coins being returned to the landowners.

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological features were observed during this project.
- 6.2 The watching brief during the ground reduction revealed the remnants remains of demolished 18th-20th century structures.
- 6.3 The datable find, a George (III) Cartwheel penny from c 1797 was found in a demolition/ redeposited context and is therefore not indicative of the formation date of this context (109/123).

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks go to Bob Jones, Senior Archaeological Officer of Bristol City Council, Graham Sheppard and Steve Morgan of Helm Construction for their help and advice during this project. The excavation and recording was carried out by Simon Roper, Tim Longman and Roy Krakowicz (Project Officers, BaRAS). The report was written by Alistair Byford-Bates (Project Officer, BaRAS). Plans, figures, and plates in this report were prepared by Ann Linge (Design and Production Officer BaRAS). The project was managed by John Bryant (Assistant Manager BaRAS).

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 (i.e. *Bristol Core Strategy*) 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 designated 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.

LOCAL POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document 7 *Archaeology and Development* (SPD 7, adopted 2006) has been carried forward for use under the present *Bristol Core Strategy* (adopted 2011). SPD 7, page 4 states that:

- (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 desk-top 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.

The *Bristol Core Strategy* (2011) retains some policies from the 1997 *Bristol Local Plan* including for the protection of the historic environment as Policy BCS22 which states that development proposals will safeguard or enhance heritage assets and the character and setting of areas of acknowledged importance including:

- Scheduled ancient monuments;
- Historic buildings both nationally and locally listed;
- Historic parks and gardens both nationally and locally listed;
- Conservation areas;
- Archaeological remains.

APPENDIX 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic Relationships
100	Natural	Natural. Red clay.	Overlies 101 Underlies 103
101	Natural	Natural. Bedrock.	Underlies 100
102	Structure	Floor. Concrete floor surface. 0.30m thick	Overlies 100
103	Structure	Drain. Stone-built mortar bonded drain.	Overlies 100
104	Structure	Wall. Stone-built wall with pale mortar bonding.	Overlies 101
105	Structure	Wall. Stone-built wall with pale mortar bonding.	Overlies 100
106	Structure	Culvert. Brick-built culvert with pennant flagstone capping.	Overlies 107 Underlies 102
107	Cut	Construction cut for 106.	Overlies 100 Underlies 106
108	Structure	Wall. 0.60m thick wall of former dwelling fronting Horfield Rd. Irregular, rough finished pennant sandstone with pale, creamy lime mortar.	Overlies 100 Underlies 109 Contemporary with 110 & 111.
109	Deposit	Layer. Demolition rubble. Same as 123? Brick, stone and concrete nibble mixed with loose dark brown soil. Up to 1.50m thick.	Overlies 108, 111, 110, 113, 114, 115, 117 & 118.
110	Structure	Wall. 0.40m thick internal/party wall. Random coursed Pennant Sandstone rubble with creamy white mortar bonding.	Contemporary with 108 & 111.
111	Structure	Wall. 0.40m thick internal/party wall. Random coursed pennant sandstone rubble with creamy white mortar bonding.	Contemporary with 108 & 110
112	Structure	Wall. 0.38m thick pennant rubble with pink lime flecked mortar. Party/internal wall?	Contemporary with 114 & 115
113	Structure	Wall. 0.45m thick pennant rubble with pink lime flecked mortar.	Abuts 112
114	Structure	Wall. 0.60m thick front wall of former dwelling fronting Horfield Road.	Contemporary with 112 & 115
115	Structure	Wall. 0.50m thick pennant rubble with pink lime flecked mortar. Party wall.	Contemporary with 112 & 114
116	Structure	Wall. Brick boundary wall alongside road lying on concrete bedding layer. 230x110x60mm bricks capped with concrete, bonded with dark grey/black mortar.	Overlies 108, 114 & 124
117	Structure	Wall. Back wall of cellar/cesspit made with irregular sandstone blocks and greyish mortar, with sandstone fragments and black and white inclusions.	Overlies 128 Underlies 122
118	Structure	Wall. Wall of cesspit. Irregular sandstone blocks with occ. brick fragments and greyish mortar, with sandstone fragments and black and white inclusions.	Underlies 102 Overlies 128 & 129
119	Cut	Construction cut for 117.	Overlies 127 Underlies 117 & 120 Abuts 124 Cuts 127
120	Structure	Wall. Single brick width wall of cellar 117 with pale grey lime render/plaster on north face, bonded with a pale grey lime mortar with small/medium black & white inclusions.	Overlies 119 Underlies 121 Abuts 124
121	Structure	Wall. Mortar remnants of wall visible on walls 120 & 127.	Overlies 120 & 127 Abuts 114?
122	Deposit	Fill of cesspit. Bounded by walls 117/118.	Overlies 117 & 118
123	Deposit	Fill of cellar 117. Same as 109? Finds: George (III) Cartwheel Penny (c.1797) & an unidentified Cu Penny.	Overlies 117, 120 & 124 Abuts 117, 120 & 124
124	Structure	Wall. Boundary wall/frontage of buildings along Horfield Rd. Irregular sandstone blocks bonded with pale coloured mortar with latter repairs visible in the section.	Overlies 127 Underlies 116 & 134 Abuts 130 Abutted by 120, 121 & 127
125	Structure	Drain. Drain cut through 124. Constructed of 230x110x60mm bricks with Pennant Sandstone base and capping, on a mortar bed. 0.50m wide by 0.40m deep.	Overlies 130 Underlies 132

126	Deposit	Deposit. Bedding/levelling layer beneath 116.	Overlies 124 Underlies 116
127	Deposit	Deposit. Dark, brownish-pink silty clay.	Underlies 109 Cut by 119 & 130
128	Cut	Construction cut for 117.	Underlies 117 Overlies 127 Abuts 124?
129	Deposit	Fill. Backfill of cut 128.	Overlies 128 Abuts 118
130	Cut	Construction cut for 125.	Underlies 125 Overlies 124 & 127
131	Structure	Wall. Remnant wall. Undressed irregular grey sandstone blocks bonded with an off white lime mortar.	Underlies 109 Abuts 124
132	Deposit	Fill. Backfill of cut 130.	Overlies 130 Abuts 125
133	Deposit	Fill of 125.	Overlies 125
134	Deposit	Deposit. Repair to 124 beneath bedding for wall 116.	Underlies 116 Overlies 124 Cut by 130

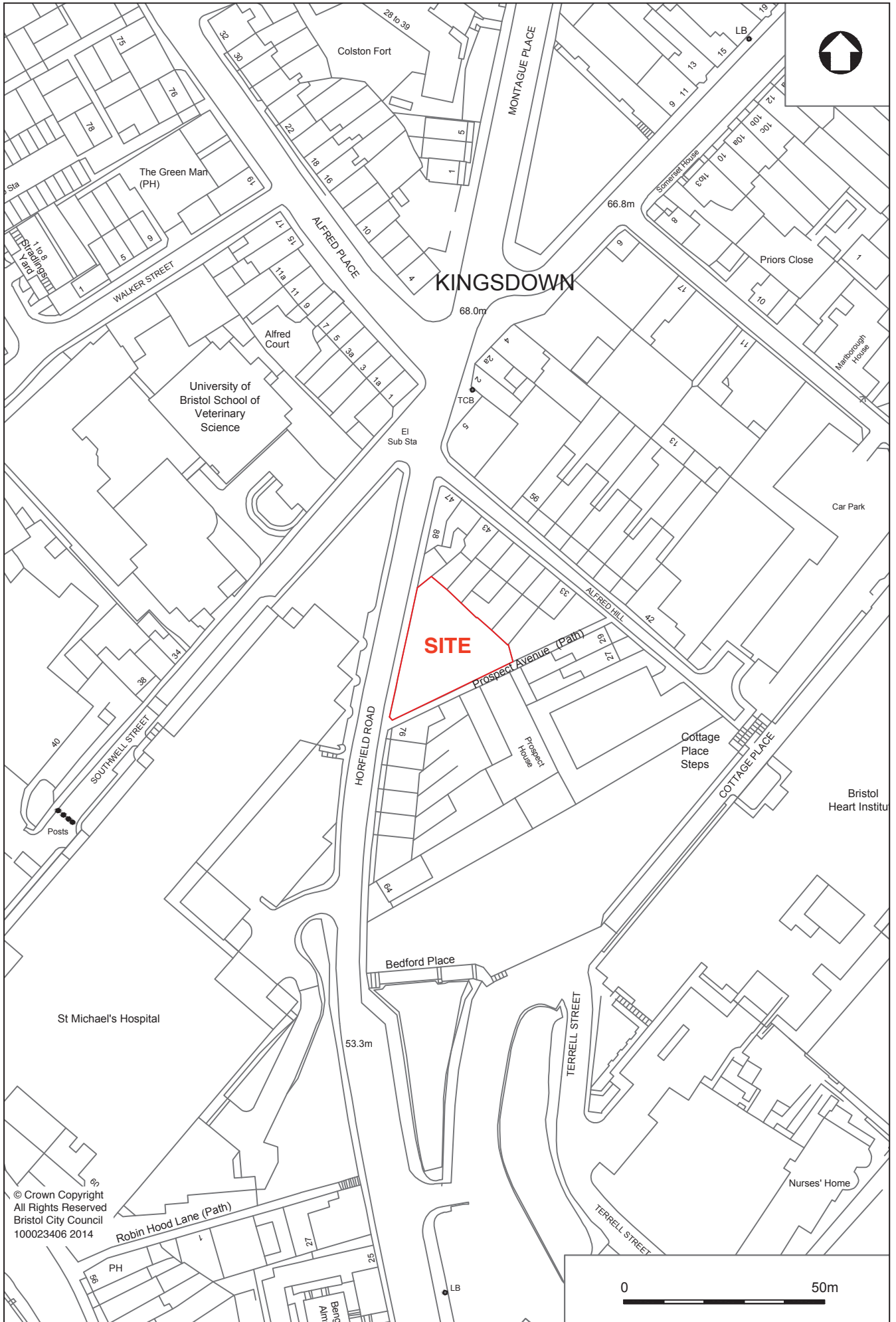


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:1250

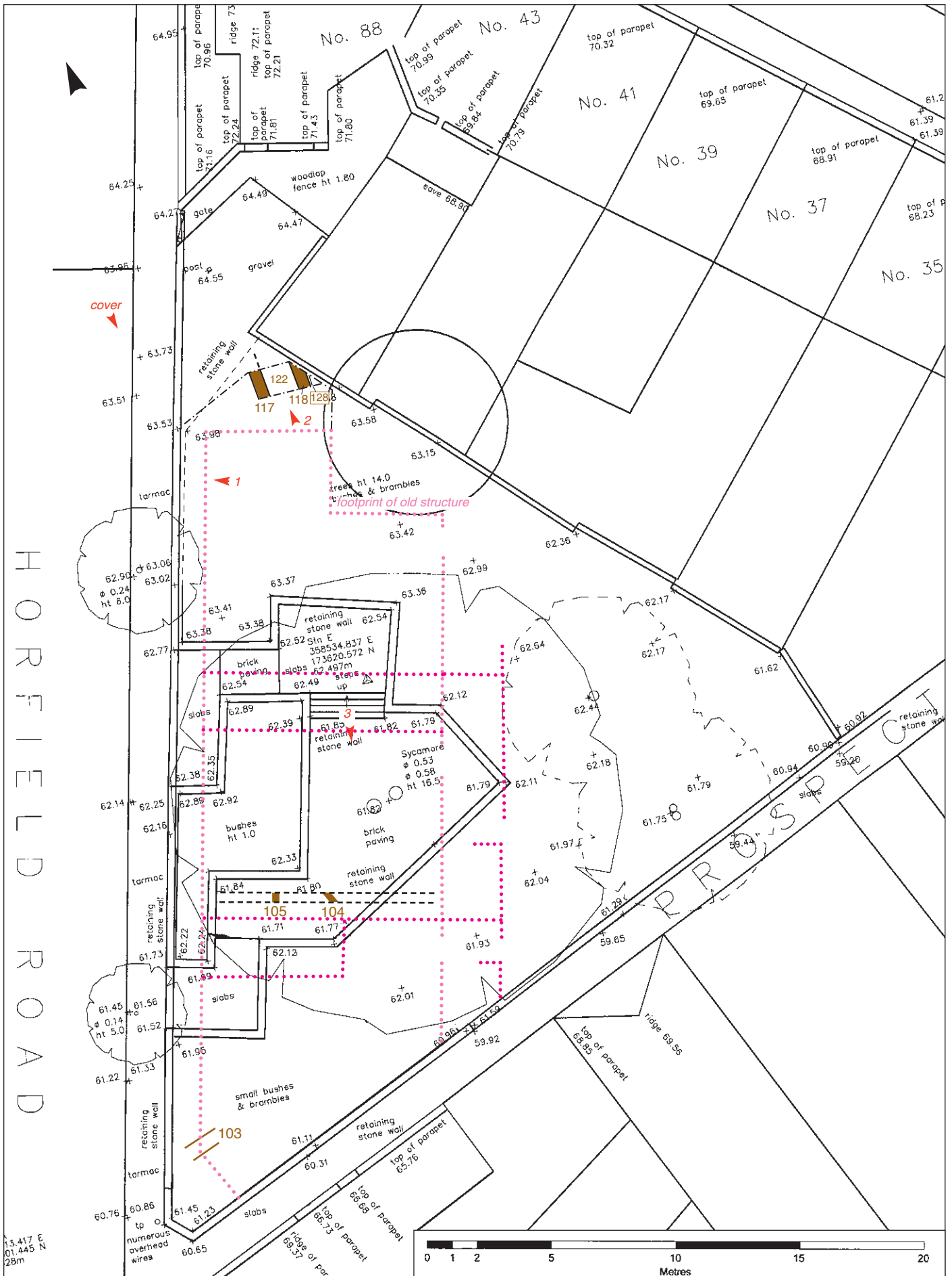


Fig.2 Site plan, scale approx. 1: 200 @ A3, showing key features and plate directions



Plate 1
Wall section showing
116, 124, 125, 130 & 134
looking north-west



Plate 2
Cess pit & cellar wall
looking north



Plate 3
Section through made
ground and walls,
looking south