



**Bristol and Region
Archaeological
Services**

Archaeological Watching Brief
**WALLSCOURT PARK SITE, UWE FRENCHAY CAMPUS,
STOKE GIFFORD,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

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Report No. 2962/2014
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FAME
Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers



Archaeological Watching Brief
at
**WALLSCOURT PARK SITE, UWE FRENCHAY CAMPUS,
STOKE GIFFORD,
SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Centred on NGR ST 58412 75925

Prepared for **University of the West of England**

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Abbreviations

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

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.

April 2014.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of new student accommodation at Wallscourt Park, UWE Frenchay Campus, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire, uncovered a stone wall associated with a pre-1853 farm, and a system of stone-lined land drains, a quarry and a trackway associated with agricultural improvements undertaken in the early 1850s.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) for Interserve Construction Ltd on behalf of University of the West of England (UWE) during the construction of new student accommodation and associated external works at Wallscourt Park Site, UWE Frenchay Campus, Stoke Gifford, South Gloucestershire (Planning Permission No. PT12/3809/O).
- 1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken between the 31st of October 2013 and the 24th of March 2014.
- 1.3 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under Accession Number BRSMG 2013/53 and a copy of the report will lodged at the English Heritage Archive. The project has been entered in the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record as: SGHER 20327 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-162546.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 58412 75925; **Fig. 1**) comprises an irregular plot of open land that contains playing fields and the site of a demolished commercial building at UWE Frenchay Campus, in Stoke Bishop, South Gloucestershire. The site is bounded Wallscourt Farm to the north, car parks to the east, an unnamed drive to the south and east, and playing fields to the west.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (2013) the underlying solid geology comprises inter-bedded early Jurassic limestone and mudstone of the Wilmcote Limestone Member of the Blue Lias Formation. The site slopes downhill gently from 80m aOD in the south-east corner to 70m aOD in the north-west.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

General

- 3.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment & building assessment (CA 2009) and an archaeological evaluation (CA 2007). The evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features within the present site. A heritage statement for the UWE Frenchay Campus was undertaken in October 2012 (Stride Treglown 2012) and heritage impact assessment for the Wallscourt Park development site in September 2013 (GLA 2013).

The Parish of Stoke Gifford

- 3.2 The parish of Stoke Gifford is not yet covered by the *Victoria History of the Counties of England*. Early and general descriptions of the parish include those by Atkyns (1712) and Rudder (1779), with more recent accounts by Broomhead (n.d.), Evans (1958), Moore (1981) and Harris (1981).
- 3.3 The parish is approximately 14 square miles (36 km²) in area and originally comprised the main village (Great Stoke) and two hamlets, Harry Stoke and Little Stoke. Prior to modern developments Stoke Gifford was, essentially, an agricultural parish. Approximately two-thirds of the modern conurbation of Bradley Stoke (approximately 1000 acres) is now situated within the parish.
- 3.4 Stoke Gifford is mentioned in Domesday Survey of 1086 as a property of Osborne Gifford was granted the Manor of 'Stoche', along with the Manor of Brimpsfield near Cheltenham, for his services to William the Conqueror. Prior to this, both manors were held by the Saxon thane Dunn.
- 3.5 Originating from the valley of Scie in Normandy, Osborne Gifford was a lieutenant of William the Conqueror and a member of the family known as the 'Lords of Longueville-la-Giffard'. Hence, the name Stoke Gifford (Stoche meaning 'property' [of] Gifford).
- 3.6 The Gifford family based themselves at Brimpsfield where they built a castle. John Gifford became involved in skirmishes with the King and even managed to take the City of Gloucester on one occasion.
- 3.7 Following the execution of John Gifford in 1299, Stoke Gifford passed into the hands of Maurice de Berkeley, founder of the Stoke Gifford branch of the Berkeley family. It was the Berkeley family who were responsible for the construction of the present (late 14th century) church, although this incorporated elements of the earlier church erected by the Gifford family in Norman times. The Berkeley family lived in the mansion of Stoke Gifford, presently Stoke Park Hospital, which enjoys commanding views across Bristol and what was then the Kingswood Forest (see Braine 1891; Moore 1982b). The family fell out of Royal favour during the reign of Richard II (reigned 1377-1399) for enclosing parish common land without license.
- 3.8 The last member of the Berkeleys at Stoke Gifford was Norborne Berkeley who, in 1760, renovated and extended the original Elizabethan mansion. Norborne Berkeley was appointed Governor of Virginia in 1768 but died two years later at the State Capital, Williamsburg. Stoke Gifford passed to Norborne's sister Elizabeth, Duchess of Beaufort, who had married Charles Noel, Fourth Duke of Beaufort, in 1740. The estate then passed to the Beaufort family who remained owners until the early 20th century.
- 3.9 In 1712 Atkyns noted that *'this parish lyes in the Hundred of Henbury, 4 miles distant north from Bristol, 6 miles south west from Sodbury, and 26 miles south west from Gloster. It has the additional name of Giffard, from its belonging to the family of the Giffards of Brimesfield'* and that *'there are 42 houses in this parish, and about 200 inhabitants, where of 8 are freeholders'*.
- 3.10 In the mid-19th century a number of substantial properties in the parish were either replaced or underwent modernization, including Walls Court, Stanley Farm, Baileys Court, Court Farm and Little Stoke.

- 3.11 The parish essentially retained its rural character until the coming of the railway in 1903. A main line connecting London to the South West and South Wales was constructed cutting through the parish, taking part of Church Road in the process. To compensate, the Great Western Railway Co. constructed New Road (Mile Straight).
- 3.12 Save for Stoke Park, which had previously been purchased by the Rev. H.N. Burden, the Beaufort Family ownership of the estate came to an end in 1915. The 'Stoke Gifford Estate' (over 2300 acres) was auctioned by some 70 lots at Bristol's Grand Hotel in November of that year, with many of the lots being sold to sitting tenants.
- 3.13 Major changes to the area took place during the first half of the 20th century, firstly with the arrival of the railway in 1903, and then following the creation of Sir George White's British and Colonial Aeroplane Company at Filton (c 1910). British Aerospace was founded in 1980. Not surprisingly, the aerospace industry has had a considerable demographic and economic impact on Filton and Stoke Gifford over the past century, especially since the 1950s.

Wallscourt Farm

- 3.14 Wallscourt Farm is first recorded in the 14th century, but it may have existed by at least the 12th century (Kerton 2005). The development site is depicted as agricultural land on a 1725 map of Stoke Gifford (GRO PC258) and similarly on a map of 1768 (GRO PC259); Wallscourt Farm is shown in approximately the same position as the present (19th century) building. There is a second building depicted to the north of the site, which can be identified as Hither Wallscourt.
- 3.15 In 1853 all of the existing farm buildings were demolished in order to clear the site for the construction of a new model farm, designed by George Godwin (1815-88) for its then tenant, the manure manufacturer Thomas Proctor (Kerton 2005). The model farm comprised two new farmhouses and an extensive range of outbuildings. Thomas Proctor also invested significant amounts of money in fertilising and draining the heavy clay soils of the farm.
- 3.16 Historic Ordnance Survey plans, dating from the 1880s onwards, show that there was little significant change within the site or the surrounding area until the farm was acquired by Hewlett-Packard in 1984. Most of the outbuildings to the north of the site and the northernmost farmhouse were subsequently demolished.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Townsend 2013), *BaRAS Site Manual* (2009) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundworks.
- 4.2 The groundwork was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with toothed and toothless buckets. Topsoil stripping to the west of Wallscourt Farm and in the south-east corner of the site was carried out using 360° mechanical excavator fitted with toothless grading bucket; topsoil in the field to the south of Wallscourt Farm was stripped using a D6 bulldozer. The watching brief involved monitoring topsoil stripping, ground reduction and the excavation of service trenches and an attenuation tank; foundation trenches were not monitored as the area had already been stripped down to the top of the natural geology.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 Full context descriptions are provided in **Appendix 1**, a summary of which is presented below. Significant features are illustrated in **Fig. 2**.
- 5.2 The geology of the site (103) comprises fissured limestone interbedded with bands of clay, which was overlain by post-medieval ploughsoil 102, which was in turn cut by contexts 106, 119 and 121.
- 5.3 A shallow east-west aligned wall (101) was uncovered to the west of Wallscourt Farm (**Cover & Plate 4**). The wall was constructed with limestone rubble bonded with a soft pinkish red lime mortar, and measured 0.62m wide, 0.1m deep and extended for over 5m. Wall 101 was overlain by robber backfill 118, which comprised a mixture of limestone rubble, pinkish red and grey ashy lime mortar. This structure may have been a boundary wall or the rear wall of an open-sided agricultural outbuilding.
- 5.4 A spread of similarly coloured crushed pinkish lime mortar (117) was uncovered to the north of wall 101; this deposit overlay ploughsoil 102 and was probably associated with the construction or demolition of a nearby stone-built structure.
- 5.5 Layer 117 was cut by two stone-lined land drains (111 & 114; **Plates 5–6**), which formed part of an extensive drainage system (contexts 106-8, 111-16 & 119-20) that was uncovered to the north and west of Wallscourt Farm. The backfill (116) of drain 114 contained 19th-century pottery, animal bones and a copper alloy livery button dating from the period 1815-1823. The finds are indicative of domestic refuse.
- 5.6 An 80m length of well-made north-south aligned trackway (122; **Plates 7–8**) was uncovered in the field to the south of Wallscourt Farm. The trackway comprised a 0.2m deep, 3m wide cut, which was filled with locally quarried limestone rubble slabs, covered with smaller pieces of limestone rubble, topped with limestone gravel. The trackway is depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey plan of 1882 and is clearly visible as a parch mark in modern aerial photographs. The track is likely to have been constructed during farm improvements undertaken in the early 1850s.
- 5.7 The edge of an extensive stone quarry (104) was uncovered to the north-west of Wallscourt Farm. The quarry was over 8m wide, over 2m deep, and was backfilled with a mixture of re-deposited silty clay, stone rubble and topsoil containing 19th-century pottery. The quarry was probably dug to obtain building stone used in the construction of farm buildings and/or trackways around the farm in the early 1850s.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1 Two copper alloy objects were recovered during the watching brief at Wallscourt Park. The finds were cleaned and marked with Accession Number BRSMG 2013/53 and a context number. None of the finds is of more than site importance and no further work is recommended. The finds comprise a livery button and a chape from a walking cane.
- 6.2 The livery button, which was recovered from the context 116, is flat, disk-shaped, tin or silver-plated, and embossed with the words '*FERMIN & LANGSDALE*' on the rear and a ducal crown above the monograph '*EB*' on the front. Fermin & Langsdale were a London-based button manufacturer who operated between 1815 and 1823. The monograph can be identified as the initials of Elisabeth Boscawen (1747–1828), who was styled the *Duchess of Beaufort* following her marriage to Henry Somerset, 5th Duke of Beaufort in 1766 (Cokayne *et al* 2000, 55). Context 116 was probably deposited when Wallscourt Farm was rebuilt in 1853-55; a period when the farm was owned by the Duke of Beaufort. The button would have been worn by a member of the Duchess of Beaufort's household staff, and may have been a casual loss, or it could have been attached to a fragment of old uniform that had been used as a rag prior to discard.
- 6.3 The chape, which was recovered from the topsoil (100) to the south of Wallscourt Farm, is a tapered tube of gilded copper alloy sheet embossed with horizontal lines and raised dots. There are no indications of a join. The chape is probably the tip of a walking cane of 18th or 19th century date.

7. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological work uncovered a post-medieval wall, drains, a quarry and a trackway. The wall, which was uncovered to the west of Wallscourt Farm, probably pre-dates the re-building of the farm in the early 1850s, and may date from the 17th or 18th century. It was not possible to determine if wall 101 was part of an open-sided outbuilding or a boundary wall, but it does lie close to the line of a boundary between Wallscourt and Hither Wallscourt depicted on a 1725 map.
- 7.2 Finds recovered from the backfill of a stone-lined drain to the west of Wallscourt Farm, indicate that it post-dates 1815 and it is likely that the whole system was laid out as part of the land improvements undertaken by Thomas Proctor in the early 1850s. The stone quarry to the north-west of the farm and the trackway to the south are likely to be of a similar date. The quarry may have been dug to provide building stone for the new farm buildings and/or trackways around the farm.
- 7.3 The ploughsoil to the west of Wallscourt Farm contained a moderate amount of post-medieval pottery, primarily of 18th to 19th century date, but there was a notable absence of finds of any period to the south of the farm, which suggests that the focus of any earlier activity lay beyond the extents of the present development site.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Maps & Plans

1725 *A map of Stoke Gifford, the seat of John Berkely Esq.* (GRO PC258 & D2700 QP 15/2)

1882 OS 1:2500 plan

1903 OS 1:2500 plan

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9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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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.

LOCAL POLICY

South Gloucestershire Planning Policy (Archaeology L11) states that:

Development which would not physically preserve sites of national archaeological importance, whether scheduled or not, or would have a significant impact on the setting of visible remains, will not be permitted. Planning permission will not be granted for development on sites or landscapes of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential without an archaeological assessment and if necessary a field evaluation.

Where the assessment indicates that the proposed development would harm a site, structure or landscape of archaeological or historic importance or its setting, development will not be permitted unless applicants can demonstrate a satisfactory scheme indicating how the impact of the proposal on the archaeological resource can be mitigated. The council will negotiate agreements to preserve and manage archaeological remains.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
100	Layer	Topsoil. Soft dark brown silty clay with rare small stone and concrete inclusions. 0.1 – 0.2m deep.	Overlies 101, 105 & 109	Modern
101	Structure	Wall foundations. Partially robbed wall constructed with limestone rubble bonded with a friable pinkish red sandy lime mortar. Over 4m long, 0.62m wide and 0.1m deep.	Overlain by 118; fills 106	Post-medieval
102	Layer	Topsoil/sub-soil interface. Firm brown silty clay with occasional stone, inclusions. 0.1m deep.	Cut by 106, overlain by 117; overlies 103	Post-medieval
103	Layer	Natural. Compact pale brown silty clay up to 0.3m thick.	Underlies 102, cut by 104 and 107; overlies 110	Geological
104	Cut	Quarry. Extensive cut with steep irregular sides and a sloping base. Over 8m wide and over 2m deep.	Filled by 105; cuts 103	19th century
105	Fill	Fill of 104. Compact to friable mixture of re-deposited pale brown silty clay and dark greyish brown topsoil containing common large angular limestone inclusions and 19th-century pottery.	Overlain by 100; fill of 104	19th century
106	Cut	Construction cut of 101. Linear E – W aligned cut with vertical sides and a flat base. Over 4m long, 0.62m wide and 0.1m deep.	Filled by 101; cuts 102	Post-medieval
107	Cut	Cut for 108. Linear SE – NW aligned cut with vertical sides and a flat base. Slopes gently towards the NW. 1.2m deep, 0.65m wide and over 0.6m long.	Filled by 108; cuts 103	Early 1850s
108	Structure	Stone-lined water culvert. Constructed with limestone blocks with limestone cover slabs. 0.65m wide and over 0.6m long, 0.3m deep.	Overlain by 109; fills 107	Early 1850s
109	Fill	Fill of 107. Compact re-deposited natural pale brown clay with common large angular limestone inclusions. 0.9m deep, 0.65m wide and over 0.6m long.	Overlain by 100; overlies 108	Early 1850s
110	Layer	Limestone bedrock.	Overlain by 103	Geological
111	Cut	Cut for 112. Linear NE – SW aligned cut with vertical sides and a flat base. Slopes gently towards the SW. 0.67m deep, 0.6m wide and over 2m long.	Filled by 112; cuts 117	Early 1850s
112	Structure	Stone-lined water culvert. Constructed with limestone blocks with limestone cover slabs. 0.6m wide and over 2m long, 0.37m deep.	Overlain by 113; fills 111	Early 1850s
113	Fill	Fill of 107. Soft brown clay with common large angular limestone inclusions. 0.67m deep, 0.6m wide and over 2m long.	Overlain by 100; overlies 112	Early 1850s
114	Cut	Cut for 115. Linear NE – SW & SE – NW aligned 'Y' shaped cut with vertical sides and a flat base. Slopes gently towards the NW. Over 1m deep, up to 2.2m wide and over 2m long.	Filled by 115; cuts 117	Early 1850s
115	Structure	Stone-lined water culvert. Constructed with limestone blocks with limestone cover slabs. Over 0.5m deep, up to 2.2m wide and over 2m long.	Overlain by 116; fills 114	Early 1850s
116	Fill	Fill of 107. Soft dark brown silty clay with common large angular limestone and 19th century pottery inclusions. 0.65m deep, up to 2.2m wide and over 2m long.	Overlain by 100; overlies 115	Early 1850s
117	Layer	Spread of crushed mortar. Mixture of crushed pinkish lime mortar and soft brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions.	Cut by 111 & 114; overlies 102	Early 1850s
118	Fill	Backfill of partially robbed wall 101. Mixture of limestone rubble, pink sandy lime mortar, grey ashy lime mortar with clinker and lime inclusions, and occasional lumps of lime plaster.	Overlain by 100; overlies 101	Early 1850s

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphic relationships	Date
119	Cut	Cut for 120. Linear SE – NW aligned cut with vertical sides and a flat base. Slopes gently towards the NW. 0.8m deep, 0.4m wide and over 1m long.	Filled by 120; cuts 102	Early 1850s
120	Fill	Land drain. Limestone rubble land drain. Due to disturbance during machining it is unclear if this was a stone-lined culvert or a 'French' rubble-filled drain.	Overlain by 100; fills 119	Early 1850s
121	Cut	Construction cut for 122. North south aligned linear cut over 80m long, 3m wide and 0.2m deep, with shallow concave sides and a flat base.	Filled by 122; cuts 102	Early 1850s
122	Structure	Trackway. Constructed with limestone rubble slabs laid on bed covered with smaller limestone rubble and gravel. Over 80m long, 3m wide and 0.2m	Overlain by 100; fills 121	Early 1850s

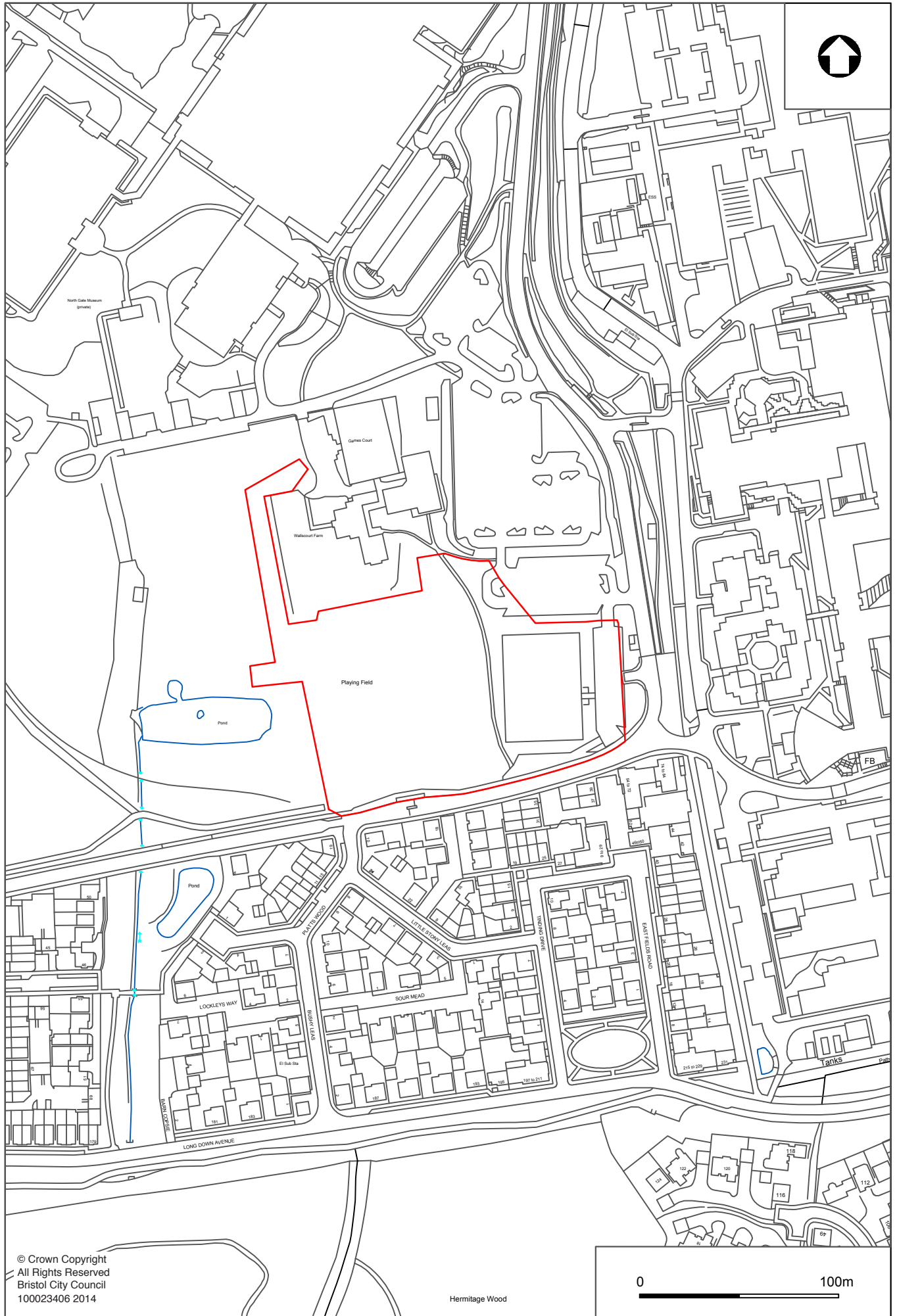


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:2500

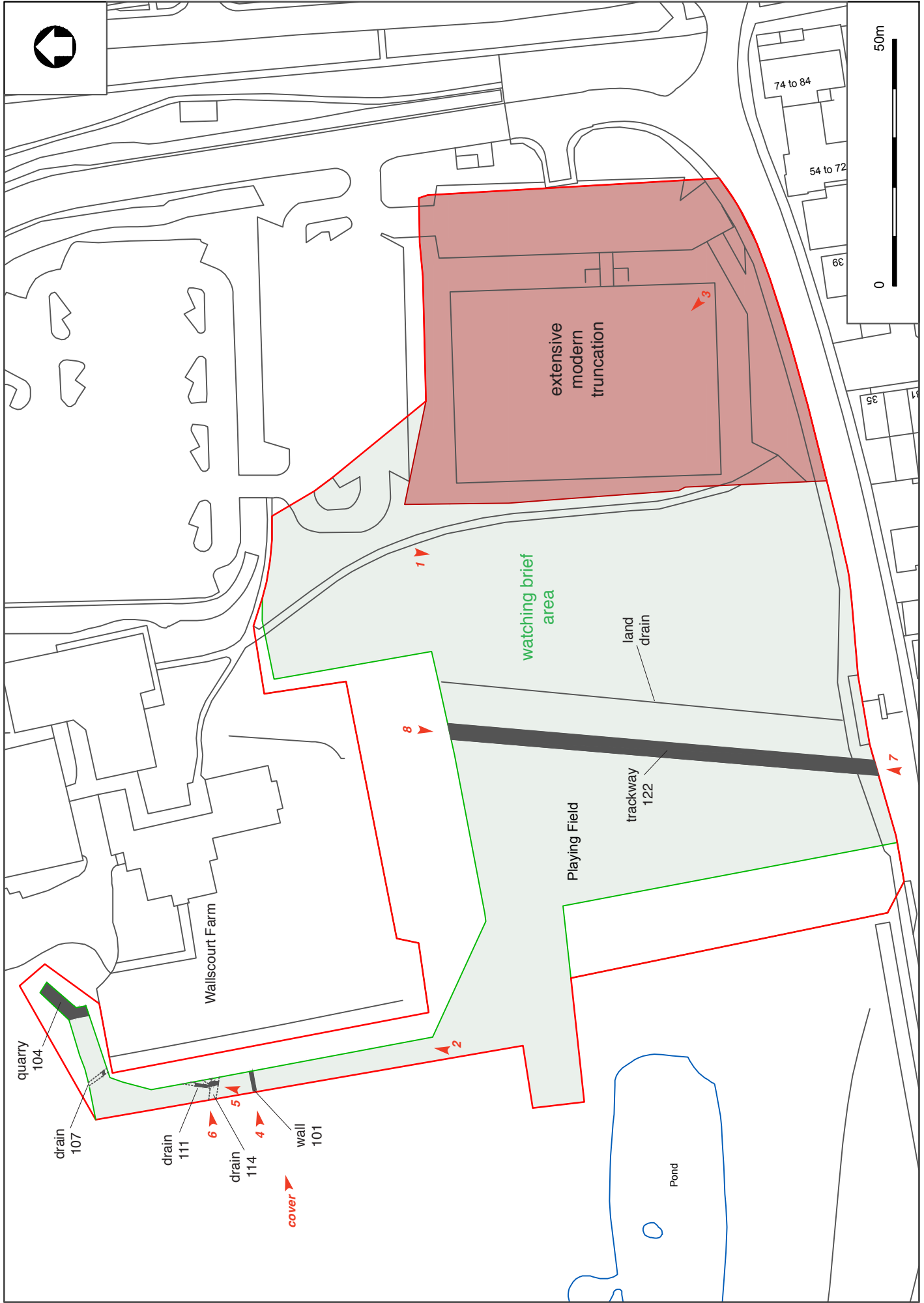


Fig.2 Site plan, scale 1:1000 (with plate orientations in red)



Plate 1
Field to the south of
Wallscourt Farm,
looking south-east



Plate 2
Pipeline easement to the
west of Wallscourt Farm,
looking north-east



Plate 3
Area to the south-east of
Wallscourt Farm,
looking north-west



Plate 4
Wall 101, looking east



Plate 5
Drain 111, looking north-east



Plate 6
Drain 114, looking east

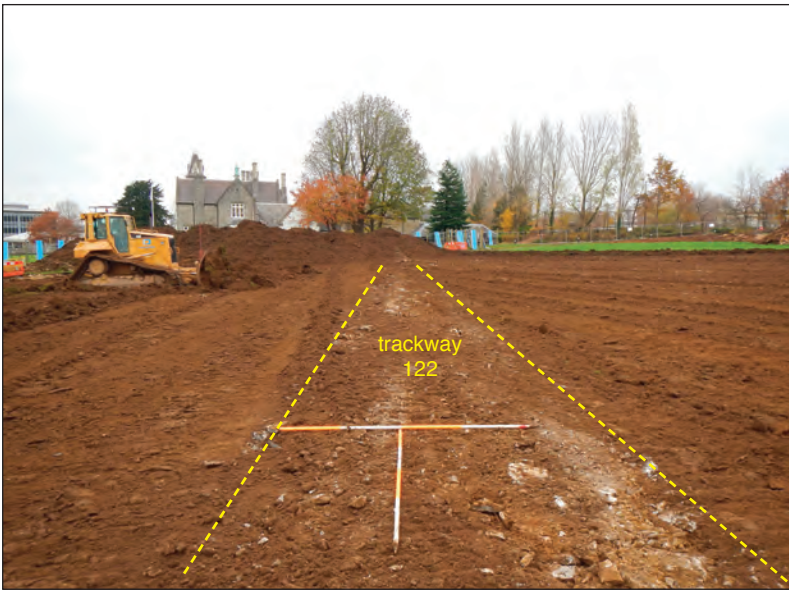


Plate 7
Trackway 122,
looking north



Plate 8
Trackway 122, looking south