



Bristol and Region  
Archaeological  
Services

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment  
**THE RECREATION GROUND,  
SPRING GARDENS ROAD,  
BATH.**

Simon Roper





Archaeological Desk-based Assessment  
of  
**THE RECREATION GROUND,  
SPRING GARDENS ROAD, BATH.**

Centred on NGR ST 75368, 64856

Prepared for **Arena 1865**

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**Date Issued:** 6 November 2013



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#### Adopted Chronology

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

#### Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	EHA	English Heritage Archive
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	Km	Kilometre
BC	Before Christ	m	Metre
BHER	Bath Historic Environment Record	NGR	National Grid Reference
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
C	Century		
DCLG	Dept. for Communities & Local Government		
DCMS	Dept. for Culture Media & Sport		

#### 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.

November, 2013

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## SUMMARY

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Arena 1865 to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of The Recreation Ground, Bath. It is proposed to redevelop the Rugby Ground with new stands on the north and west sides, while the east stand will remain a temporary stand but of different design and the existing south stand will be extended. The buildings at the north edge of the study area will be demolished.

The north-west end of the study area has the highest archaeological potential. Crossing points of the river from a number of periods (Roman ford, medieval ferry, post-medieval bridge) are all located 50 to 150m to the north, as are the remains of a medieval mill. In the 18th century Spring Gardens was established immediately to the north-west and may have extended slightly on to the study area. In the later 19th century part of a complex of industrial buildings, which included the Victoria Iron and Brass Works, was located in the north-west corner of the study area, and remains associated with either the buildings or the processes carried out there may survive.

The study area as a whole is considered to have a low archaeological potential for Roman, medieval and early post-medieval remains and a moderate potential for later post-medieval remains at the north-west end.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### General

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services were commissioned by Arena 1865 to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) at The Recreation Ground, Bath (centred on NGR ST 75368 64856; **Fig. 1**).

### Details of study area

- 1.2 The study area is situated approximately 300m to the east of Bath city centre, on the east bank of the river Avon, bounded by Pulteney Mews and Beazer Gardens to the north-west, Pulteney Road and properties along it to the east, Bath Sports and Leisure Centre to the south, and the Avon to the south-east. Features noted during the walkover survey (see § 5.9; **Cover & Plates 1 – 10**) include late 20th century spectator stands, tarmac areas, grassed pitch, and reused limestone blocks at the west end of the 20th century clubhouse.
- 1.3 The ground within the study area is mostly level and measures approximately 18.3m aOD in height. The geology of the study area is Jurassic Charmouth Mudstone Formation overlain by alluvium (BGS 2013).
- 1.4 There are three Listed Buildings within the Recreation Ground, the Presidents Lounge (**Plate 1**), a sports pavilion (**Plate 9**) and an entrance kiosk and gates (**Plate 10**), all listed Grade II. Only the Presidents Lounge is within the area of redevelopment and located on the north-west side of the study area. It is within both the World Heritage Site and the Bath Conservation Area. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 100m of the site.

### Development proposals

- 1.5 The intention is to redevelop the Rugby Ground with new stands on the north and west sides, while the east stand will remain a temporary stand but of different design and the existing south stand will be extended. The buildings at the north edge of the study area will be demolished.



## 2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The study was undertaken in accordance with criteria set out the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments* (revised 2011).
- 2.2 Selected material from the holdings of the Bath Record Office, the Roman Bath Museum and Bath Library were consulted. All information considered appropriate to the study was collated, summarised and is presented in the following report. All digital photographs and notes are preserved in the Project Archive to be retained at BaRAS's office in St Nicholas Church, Bristol. A copy of the report will be lodged at the English Heritage Archive, and included on the English Heritage *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) website as bristola1-162996.
- 2.3 The following legislation and guidelines have informed this assessment:
- *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979)
  - *Town and Country Planning Act* (1990)
  - *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012)
  - *Scheduled Monuments: Identifying, Protecting, Conserving and Investigating Nationally Important Sites Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. DCMS (2010)
- 2.4 The aim of this report is to assess the archaeological potential of the study area using selected locally available documentary sources combined with a rapid walkover survey and reference to the Bath Historic Environment Record (BHER). Archaeological potential is taken to include the built and burial environment, any historic parkland/garden landscapes, important hedgerows and other bio-archaeological features. The assessment is intended to provide information that will enable a reasonable informed planning decision to be made relating to the impact of future development proposals on the historic environment in the study area.
- 2.5 A rapid walkover survey of the study area was undertaken by Simon Roper (BaRAS) on the 22nd of October 2013. Photographs (see **Fig 1, Cover & Plates 1 – 10**) and notes were taken during the visit. The insides of the buildings were not inspected.

### **3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

#### **Prehistoric**

- 3.1 There is no evidence of any prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, the river is likely to have been used in this period for transport and fishing, therefore remains associated with these activities may be present close to the riverside.

#### **Roman**

- 3.2 Considerable Roman activity took place in the surrounding area with the centre of the Roman settlement of Aquae Sulis/Bath located approximately 300m away across the river. Another significant settlement was located to the north-east at Bathwick, and it is possible that the road linking the two settlements via a crossing point on the river may have passed close to the study area.

#### **Anglo Saxon and Medieval**

- 3.3 Bath continued to be occupied into the Anglo Saxon period, however there is no indication of settlement on the east bank of the river. This situation continued into the medieval period, with any activity within the study area likely to be associated again with routes to the river crossing points located to the north. At some point during this period a boat ferry appears to have been established. Bathwick mill was also located just to the north of the site.

#### **Post-Medieval**

- 3.4 In the 1700s the study area was part an area of open river meadows (as it probably had been during earlier periods), with the Spring Gardens pleasure gardens established on the northern side of the site in an area known as Bathwick. In the later 18th century Sir William Pulteney (who had changed his name from Johnstone when his wife inherited the Bathwick estate) began plans to develop Bathwick, the first stage of which was to link it to Bath via a bridge. Pulteney bridge was completed in 1773 after a number of delays, and it was not until 1788 that construction of the imposing suburb began. The bridge and new roads were constructed at a higher level than the surrounding meadows, with the rear gardens of properties built along Argyle and Great Pulteney Street dropping by c.6m below the street level. Construction on such a large scale would have required considerable infrastructure itself, a remnant of which survives in the form of the late 18th century limekiln located within the study area and later converted into the President's lounge. This took advantage of the discrepancies in height described above to be charged from Johnstone Street.
- 3.5 At the end of the 18th century plans were made with proposed road layouts covering the open ground to the south of the main boulevard of Great Pulteney Street and the surrounding streets. However these plans were never carried out, as a result of which the limekiln survived, with the study area remaining open ground until the mid 19th century when a small complex of industrial buildings was established in the north-west corner. These industrial buildings included an iron and brass works and were at one time occupied by Joseph Day who developed the widely used crankcase-compression two-stroke petrol engine. In the second half of the 19th century other areas of what would become the Recreation Ground were starting to be used for leisure activities.
- 3.6 In the 1890s the Bathwick Estate was owned by Captain G. W. Forester, who granted a lease to the Directors of The Bath and County Recreation Ground Company Limited. This allowed the land to be used for cricket, tennis, football and other outdoor sports. The lease was extended in 1908 and in 1922 the land was conveyed to the Bath and County Recreation Ground Company Limited. In 1956 the Recreation Ground was conveyed to the City of Bath Corporation.
- 3.7 The first Rugby matches were played on the ground in 1884, and Bath F. C. (Bath Rugby) have held a series of leases to approximately a quarter of the recreation ground ever since. The west stand and the clubhouse building were constructed during the 1950s.

## 4. CARTOGRAPHIC & PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

### General

- 4.1 Historic and Ordnance Survey maps held by the Bath Record Office were examined.

### Cartographic Observations

- 4.2 The observations made on the maps and plans examined are summarised in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1:** Summary of Cartographic Observations

Title/description	Date	General Observations	Fig. No.
J. Wood survey	1735	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General location of study area shown.</li> <li>The study area forms part of open land labelled 'Bathwick Meadows'.</li> <li>A path runs along the south-west edge of the study area alongside the river, labelled 'Footway from Widcombe'.</li> <li>To the north-west are two buildings (one of them Bathwick Mill) and a garden.</li> </ul>	2
	1750	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study area remains largely unchanged.</li> </ul>	-
	1770	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study area remains largely unchanged.</li> <li>Garden now labelled as Spring Gardens.</li> </ul>	-
Coloured map	1776	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study area remains largely unchanged.</li> </ul>	-
	1789	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study area remains largely unchanged.</li> <li>Spring Gardens still labelled but not depicted.</li> <li>Significant development to the north of the study area with Laura Place, Great Pulteney Street and Johnstone Street all laid out.</li> </ul>	-
	1795	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed street layout depicted on study area.</li> </ul>	-
Harcourt Masters map	1800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spring gardens is depicted in considerable detail, with the south-east edge located within the study area.</li> <li>The line of Johnstone Street is shown with the Spring Gardens features overlying it.</li> <li>Much of the study area appears occupied by small plots, possibly market gardens</li> </ul>	
Taylor & Meyler Plan of the City of Bath	1801	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed street layout depicted on study area.</li> </ul>	4
	1810	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed street layout depicted on the study area with market gardens on the south-east and north-east sides.</li> </ul>	-
Tithe map	1840	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of the study area shown as vacant land.</li> <li>North-west corner of the study area occupied by part of a complex of buildings.</li> </ul>	5
Cotterell map	1852	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings in north-west corner of the study area shown in more detail.</li> <li>Limekiln which becomes President's lounge is shown.</li> <li>Rest of study area open ground divided into fields.</li> </ul>	-
First Edition 1884 OS 1:500 plan	c 1884	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some buildings in north-west corner removed, one labelled as 'Victoria Iron and Brass Works'.</li> <li>Southern half of the study area now labelled as 'Cricket ground', with a building on the north side, possibly a pavilion.</li> </ul>	6



Title/description	Date	General Observations	Fig. No.
Second Edition 1904 OS 1:2500 plan	1904	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buildings within the north-west corner of the study area all removed, with remnant of the complex remaining to the north-east.</li> <li>Whole of study area now labelled as part of 'Bath &amp; County Recreation Ground'.</li> <li>A skating rink is depicted to the south of the study area.</li> </ul>	7
Edition of 1923 OS 1:2500 plan	1923	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study area unchanged from the 1904 edition.</li> </ul>	-
Edition of 1950 OS 1: 2500 plan	1950	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stands depicted on the north-west and south-west sides of the study area.</li> <li>Some minor terracing visible on the north-west and south-west of the study area.</li> </ul>	8

### Photographs & Illustrations

- 4.3 Two photos (ref 19656 & 18810) on the Bath in Time website show the remains of the west and north stands following direct hits on both by German bombs in 1942. These impacts are likely to have affected the below ground archaeology in these two specific areas.

### Discussion

- 4.4 The earliest available map is Wood's 1735 survey (**Fig. 2**), on which the study area is depicted as open ground, part of Bathwick meadows. A path is shown running alongside the river and Spring Gardens is depicted to the north-west. This remains unchanged on the following 18th century maps and plans, until the map of 1795 depicts the proposed street layout in this area. The Harcourt Masters map of 1800 (**Fig. 3**) shows the south-west end of the study area as open ground still, with the part of Spring Gardens within the north-east end and the centre occupied by small plots of probable market gardens. The line of Johnstone street is shown but had presumably not been completed, as is the case on the 1801 Taylor and Meyler map (**Fig. 4**) which also shows the proposed street layout for the as did the 1795 map.
- 4.5 It is not until the 1840 tithe map (**Fig. 5**) that structures are recorded within the study area, but not those which were planned at the turn of the century, with part of a complex of buildings occupying the north-west corner of the site. These are shown in more detail on Cotterell's 1852 map, and on the Ordnance survey 1st edition 1:500 plan (**Fig.6**) one of the buildings is labelled as 'Victoria Iron and Brass Works' indicating this was some form of industrial complex. The southern portion of the study area is labelled 'Cricket Ground' on this plan with what was probably a cricket pavilion located in what would now be the east side of the rugby pitch.
- 4.6 By the time of the 1904 Ordnance Survey plan (**Fig. 7**) the study area forms part of the Bath & County Recreation Ground, and the industrial buildings within the study area have gone. After this other than the addition of stands and the club room there is little change to the study area. Some minor terracing on the north-west and south-west sides is shown on the 1923 and 1950 (**Fig. 8**) Ordnance Survey plans, which could have had an impact on archaeological remains in this area.



## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE & RAPID WALKOVER SURVEY

### Introduction

- 5.1 There has been one previous archaeological evaluation within the area within the study area in 1993 the results of which were largely negative.
- 5.2 There is no evidence for any of the following within the study area:
- Scheduled monuments;
  - Important hedgerows;
  - Historic battlefields;
  - Burial grounds (in use or disused).

### Bath Historic Environment Record

- 5.3 In addition to the 1993 evaluation a significant number of archaeological sites and investigations are located close to the study area. An extract from the Bath Historic Environment Record (BHER) was provided by Mr Rod Millard (BANES Historic Environment Record Officer), the results of which are summarised in **Tables 4 (Monuments) & 5 (Events)**. For the location of the entries see **Figs. 9 & 10**.

**Table 4:** Summary of BHER extract - Monuments

BHER No.	Name	Description/comments
MBN 1919	St. Mary's Church	ST75136493 - St. Mary's Church, the tower was used as a gaol from 1590 - 1634. The nave was used as a Grammar School from 1675 - 1752.
MBN 1923	The Eastgate	ST75196488 - The East Gate is the only one of Bath's Medieval gates to survive. Its exact date of construction is not known, but is perhaps as late as the 14th century. It is small and unobtrusive, and was linked to the main street grid by the lane later known as Boat Stall Lane. It gave access to a way down to the ferry across the river. It is some 3.5m below the present street level. The gate is 1.7m deep and 2.4m wide. A short stretch of stone walling, about 4' thick, containing an archway with two centred head.
MBN 1926	Fish Cross	ST75186489 - Fish Cross, removed before 1749.
MBN 1939	Boat Stall Quay	Boat Stall Quay is the name applied to the river front between Boat Stall Lane and north east corner of the city wall. From here a ferry crossed the river.
MBN 1940	Monks Mill	ST75246481 - Monks Mill, a monastic fulling mill. A small section of walling 2m high is alleged to be original but cannot be substantiated. The site pre-dates Domesday but only fragments survive.
MBN 2345	Bath weir and mills	Weir at Pulteney Bridge intact, with plan of mill on east side still clear although the building has been dismantled (Old Town and Bathwick Mile): site of mill on west side (Town Mill proper) obliterated by North Parade Gardens.
MBN 2440	Tessellated Floor (fragment)	A fragment of blue and white tessellated floor found near the railway at Bathwick. ST755650: Roman Building.
MBN 2448	Burial east of Orange Grove	Area ST75226481 - burial found in 1815. As likely to be Medieval as Roman.
MBN 4283	Parade Gardens	Late C19 municipal pleasure park, with bandstand and flower bedding. Municipal park laid out 1933-4 on site of C18 and C19 pleasure Gardens. Of some interest as a good example of late C19 municipal development.
MBN 4293	Orange Grove Garden	A small circular garden planted with flowers is all that remains of the original Orange Grove. Communal garden created in early 18th century as a social walking area, with linear tree-planting and gravel surface, road macadamised 1830 now a floral roundabout Obelisk (LBII) erected 1732 by Beau Nash.

BHER No.	Name	Description/comments
MBN 4761	Romano-British altar and occupation east of the Guildhall	ST75156487 - Romano-British altar found in 1871 during removal of a portion of the Market Building adjoining the Guildhall. In Roman Baths Museum, Bath. The fragments of the altar had been re-used in the market building along with several decorated fragments from the Abbey. The altar measures 34 x 16ins (86 x 40cms). Now in two pieces, its capital damaged and moulding on the base broken off. Inscription: GENIO LOCI . . . IA. N. P. . . . . LEG VI [VIC] FORIANVS V. S. L. L. M. 'To the Genius of this place . . . of the 6th Legion Victrix, Forianus gladly, willingly and deservedly fulfilled his vow'.
MBN 4766	Roman Coffin	In 1815 a stone coffin was found in the garden of Mr Upham's Library, Terrace Walk. In 1874 several stone coffins were found in garden at Terrace Walk (claim doubted by a newspaper reporter). Probably Romano-British.
MBN 6041	Guildhall	The Guildhall, in the centre of Bath, provided the reference point for the Bath Turnpike Trust, one of the earliest road improving trusts in the country. Guildhall built 1775-8. Architect Thomas Baldwin. Very fine interior. Banqueting hall with engaged Corinthian columns. Central dome 1893 and C19 wings, in similar styled. Grade I Listed.
MBN 6281	Pulteney Bridge	A three arched bridge built by Robert Adam in 1769. The roadway is 27ft wide and there are shops on either side. Reference dates the bridge to 1774. The site appears to have been descheduled between 1990 and 1994.
MBN 10039	Pulteney Weir	Just below Bath's famous Pulteney Bridge built by Robert Adam 1n 1774, lies the weir rebuilt in 1971 on the site of an ancient structure. It served mill sites on either bank, both grist and fulling mills at various times.
MBN 10091	Bathwick Mill	Approximate site of Bathwick Mill (a series of mills stood at or about this site) mainly removed and the leat rebuilt in 1971. It appears on Saviles Map of Bath of 1600 and is almost certainly medieval in origin.
MBN 10189	Congregational Church	Built in two stages lower 1821. Upper 1852. Chapel by Baldwin 1789, front by H E Goodridge 1823 Neo-Grecian Front, photo in
MBN 10194	Art Gallery	This purpose built art gallery was built 1897-1900 by J M Brydon.
MBN 10211	North Parade Bridge	Designed by W Tierney Clark, of London 1835 is of cast iron, springing from stone piers, supporting also two remarkably handsome lodges, the arch is 183 feet span, and the bridge which connects Bathwick with the Manvers estate, was a desideratum to the lower town.
MBN 10263	Roman Ford above Pulteney	Roman ford suggested at this location
MBN 10264	Roman Road, possible	A suggested line for a road from a ford on the east side of Bath to the Jurassic way north of Bathampton Down probably connected with a fort in the area of Bathwick.
MBN 11383	Bathwick Mill	Cloth fulling as well as flour milling were being carried out on this site after the middle ages, the mill itself probably rebuilt in the 17th/18th century. It was still producing flour when it finally closed in the early years of the 20th century.
MBN 11384	Spring Gardens	A public pleasure garden set up in the meadow adjoining Bathwick mill, following the first of this type on the opposite side of the river in Harrison's Garden (now the Parade Gardens) already established in c. 1709. Spring Gardens also offered entertainments and refreshments. It was reached by a ferry until the building of Pulteney Bridge c. 1772. The gardens included fishponds and although initially occupying a small area of ground the site was extended eastward until its closure in 1796.
MBN 11553	Summerhouse by the Avon	A summerhouse stood on this site, as appears on plans and views of the early 18th century. It stood beside the 'Green Walk', opposite the town mill, which ran along the bank of the Avon from Harrison's Assembly Rooms to the ferry below South Parade. It was still in existence in 1806, but probably disappeared soon after.
MBN 11554	Grotto by the Avon	A grotto or garden seat appears on this site on the plans and views of the 18th century. It stood beside the 'Green Walk' which ran from the Harrison Assembly Rooms along the bank of the Avon to the ferry below South Parade. Grotto in garden of Sheridan's House dedicated to Delia.
MBN 11595	Bathwick Ferry (site of)	A ferry, operated by overhead rope, is shown leading from the city across the Avon to Bathwick meadows on earliest maps. On the city side it was moored at a quay known as the 'Boatstall', above the weir, where there was also a Fish cross. The boatstall was reached by Boatstall lane or (on the north) Slippery Lane.



BHER No.	Name	Description/comments
MBN 11596	Bath City Market	Produce market of Bath located at the High Cross (and later Market House) in the High Street in the middle ages, with a butcher's shambles occupying the rear of the present Guildhall site in the early 17th century. A major improvement of the shambles in c. 1745 was followed in the 1760s by the formal laying out of stalls there for the market gardeners. A decade later, a full scale reorganisation was further carried out with the building of the present Guildhall, with appropriate new regulation by the Corporation. A more permanent roofed rotunda was added on the north-east side in the late 19th century, but by the end of the century trade had diminished and the stalls on each side of the Guildhall were removed for the present extensions. There are cellars and vaults beneath the market which are related to the construction of the high platform on which stand the market and Newmarket Row.
MBN 11599	Tudor Guildhall (site of)	The Tudor Guildhall of Bath is recorded on this site which appears to have been occupied for this purpose throughout the middle ages. It had become dilapidated in 1626-7 and the hall was relocated over the market house in the High Street. All traces of the old hall (still used as a butchers' shambles) were completely removed by the building of the present Guildhall and adjoining market in the 18th century.
MBN 11663	Empire Hotel	Straddles City wall on eastern side of medieval city, near Boatstall Lane. Construction of hotel began 25 July, 1899. Hotel officially opened November, 1901. It was Bath's second largest purpose-built hotel. Designed, in Queen Anne revival style to exploit the city's fortunes as a spa town, and built by City architects, Major C. E. Davis and A.J.Taylor. In WWII it was taken over by the Admiralty, and until recently was still maintained by the MOD. It is now converted to a restaurant with flat accommodation above.
MBN 11664	City wall	Portion of Saxon City wall known to have been in place by 1180AD, may have been of Roman origin. On the eastern side of Medieval city and adjacent to Boatstall Lane and River Avon. East gate still survives in Boatstall Lane. Portion of the wall belonging to medieval mill still stands in Parade Gardens.
MBN 11665	Lot Lane	Lane covered by 19th century cobbles that was medieval in origin and partially buried during construction of Empire Hotel. Runs perpendicular (NW-SE) to Boatstall Lane and parallel to riverbank. Eastern side fronted by approx 6 cottage plots.
MBN 30193	Bathwick Roman Cemetery	What could be termed the Bathwick Roman Cemetery does not lie along a known road, as does the Walcot area one (Monument Record No.32), but a sufficient number of burials and tombstones have been discovered over the years to provide circumstantial evidence that a road did exist and to justify classifying the group as a cemetery. They stretch in a south-easterly direction from the vicinity of the present Cleveland Bridge, further evidence for there having been a river crossing at about this point in Roman times and for the position of the putative early fort.
MBN 30197	Roman Coin, Orange Grove, Bath	Chance find of a Roman coin by the City Parks Dept., during gardening work in October 1984. Possibly brought in with topsoil. Dated to the reign of Constantius II (337-61) pre-reform issue, 337-46AD.
MBN 30210	Roman Finds 9 & 10 High Street, Bath	Roman pottery, and a fragment of glass, found in 1963 during building work in the cellars of No.9 & 10 High Street. There are no records to confirm this, although the finds, now with the Roman Baths Museum, bear trench and layer numbers.
MBN 30249	Norman and Saxon remains uncovered during Guildhall extension	Norman graves and a Saxon gold finger ring found during building operations on the south extension of the Guildhall in 1893. The hoop of the ring is formed by a two-wire twist with plain wire borders, in two bands. The wires are crudely beaten together at the back. The bands separate into an openwork plaited knot bezel formed by two double loops. It is of 10th or 11th century date.

BHER No.	Name	Description/comments
MBN 30356	Bath Recreation Ground	<p>The Recreation Ground was initially leased to the Bath and County Recreation Ground company in 1894 enabling them to develop it for public use as a sports ground, including the building of the County Cricket Pavillion on the north side. The first Somerset County Cricket Festival was held there in 1897.</p> <p>The land was acquired by the Recreation Ground Company in 1922, although the portion accessed from North Parade (including the Pavillion Ice Skating Rink) was sold on to Bath Artcraft Ltd, who conveyed it to the city council in 1930. The Western portion of the Recreation ground was leased to Bath FC, together with a grandstand and pavillion in 1927. A new West Stand was constructed in 1933, but this was badly damaged by bombing in 1942. The current Stands and clubhouse in the north-west corner were erected in the 1950s. The Recreation Ground was conveyed to the Bath Corporation as a trust in 1956, and inherited by Bath City Council along with the North Parade site. An indoor leisure centre was built facing onto North Parade in the 1970s, while the majority of the ground is occupied by Bath Rugby Club whose lease was renewed in 1995.</p>

**Table 5:** Summary of BHER extract Events

BHER No.	Name	Description/comments
EBN 1941	Empire Hotel Excavation 1995	Two hand dug trenches were excavated, Trenches 8 and 9. Investigations in Trench 8 established the likely overall width of the city wall at 2.7 metres. A construction date for this wall could not be established but it was determined that the blocks forming the eastern face of the wall are an early Nineteenth century re-facing and that they were inserted when Lot Lane was lowered and resurfaced with carboniferous limestone setts. South of Trench 8 and to the west of plots A-F, the construction of the hotel, the lowering of Lot Lane and the re-facing of the wall mean that, apart from any surviving wall core, no pre-Nineteenth century deposits are likely to survive. Trench 9 lies a short but significant distance north of Trench 8. At or slightly beyond the northern edge of trench 8 is the point at which the terrace cut for the insertion of the final surfacing of Lot Lane starts to cause serious damage to the pre-Nineteenth century surfaces of the lane. Within Trench 9 the primary and secondary surfaces of Lot Lane still survive and the ceramics tend to suggest that these surfaces date to the Twelfth and Thirteenth centuries respectively. Trench 9 offered a keyhole view of the basement of a Seventeenth century building occupying the western end of Plot B. The basement was cut into the "natural" clay. The building had, towards the end of its life, formed part of a complex of Corporation slaughter houses all of which were demolished in 1871. It would appear that all the properties which fronted the eastern side of Lot Lane were cellared and that the oldest building is not likely to be earlier than Seventeenth century. For this reason it seems unlikely that any pre-Seventeenth century deposits survive, at least across the western portion of plots A-F.
EBN 2529	Old Police Station and Magistrates Court Evaluation 14/09/1998 - 15/09/1998	The site is situated within the medieval monastic precinct which had a cemetery at its north-eastern limit. Three test pits were hand dug, cleaned and recorded. No significant archaeological deposits were found apart from some disarticulated human bones in pits 1 and 3. These probably originated in the monastic cemetery. It is likely that archaeological deposits were removed in the creation of the cellars contemporary with the Old Police Station and Magistrates Court.
EBN 2772	Empire Hotel Evaluation 21/11/1994 - 02/12/1994	An archaeological evaluation at the Empire Hotel, Bath was undertaken by Bath Archaeological Trust in November-December 1994. Two trenches (TP6 and TP7) and a test pit (TP8) that uncovered the stratigraphy of Lot Lane followed a programme of engineering test pits (BN2771) that also informed the evaluation interpretation. The evaluation suggested that survival of the City wall and its footings after construction of Empire Hotel are minimal.



BHER No.	Name	Description/comments
EBN 2910	3 and 4 Duke Street desk-based assessment 01/09/2002 - 31/10/2002	A desk-based assessment of 3-4 Duke Street was undertaken by Jane Root in September-October 2002. The study was carried out for Chase Homes and included details of; the historical background, the history of the house and gardens and relevant maps, plans and elevations. The study suggests that the buildings form part of the development of North and South Parade by John Wood in 1740. No.3 Duke Street was built by Ralph Allen, possibly as a lodging or boarding house. No.4 Duke Street was built by Henry Fisher as a town house.
EBN 3078	Southern extension of Guildhall Excavation	During 1893 the works on the southern extension of the Guildhall in Bath uncovered Norman burials and a Saxon gold finger ring.
EBN 3081	Measured survey, 12 Northgate Street & 10/11 Bridge Street, Bath 01/07/2006 - 31/07/2006	A measured photographic survey of the sub-basement to 12, Northgate Street & 10/11, Bridge Street, Bath.
EBN 3108	Orange Grove Excavation 01/12/1979 - 31/12/1979	An excavation was carried out by Tim O'Leary for BAT in Alkmaar Gardens to determine as far as possible the plan of the E end of the Norman Cathedral. Phase 1: Construction of the NE chapel of the Norman Cathedral. A total of 17 phases were identified from the 11th to the 20th century.
EBN 3186	Bath Rugby Club 01/01/1993 - 31/12/1993	A new covered stand and 'hospitality pavilion' was proposed for the Rugby Club on the S side of the Recreation Ground. This is an area comparable to Milk Street (Site Record No.371), with little or no archaeological remains reported, on alluvium and historically water meadows. Trenching revealed no cultural material, but compacted silty clay alluvium under modern dump from the construction of the Sports Centre. Observation of the contractor's own test pits confirmed this picture.
EBN 3294	13 North Parade, Bath. Historic Building Report 01/10/2008 - 31/10/2008	A historic building report for 13 North Parade, Bath. North Parade and Duke Street form part of John Wood the elder's scheme for his Royal Forum, renamed the Grand Parade. Built on the former Abbey Orchard, the North and South Parade are set on high terraces above the river. The development was laid out by Wood in 1738 and begun in 1740.
EBN 3305	Watching Brief Parade Gardens 04/11/2009 - 17/11/2009	Monitoring work carried out during the replacement of the C18th drain.
EBN 3404	Historic Building Assessment of The Friends Meeting House, Bath	This survey was undertaken in order to inform redevelopment of the premises after it was sold by the Society of Friends. It catalogues a succession of changes of use, from masonic Hall to Friends Meeting House, to Baptist Chapel before it was restored by the Society of Friends in 1985. The hall has been adapted for different purposes by each owner.
EBN 3488	Spring Gardens Watching Brief 11/05/2012 - 19/05/2012	A watching brief was carried out over 6 days during repairs to a leaking sewer pipe off Argyle Street. The works were located close to the site of the Bathwick Mill and a possible Roman river crossing, however no evidence of either was located. The stratigraphy revealed a number of layers which had built up through attempts to improve drainage and mitigate against flooding, most likely in the 20th century.

## Discussion of Archaeological Evidence

### Prehistoric

- 5.4 No evidence of any prehistoric activity has been found within the study area, however the location adjacent to the river means that material from both local activities and that which has been washed downstream may be present. The eastern parts of the Recreation Ground sit on the second river terrace composed of sand and gravel, however the study area sits within the area of alluvium deposits.

### **Roman**

- 5.5 The study area is located in proximity to the heart of the Roman Town of Aquae Sulis, the Roman baths located approximately 300m away across the river. Numerous Roman finds (MBN 4761, 4760 and 30210) have been recovered on the opposite bank of the Avon. On the east bank the possible locations of a Roman road and ford across the river (MBN 10263 & 10264) have been identified approximately 150m to the north of the study area. On the eastern side of the Recreation Ground part of a tessellated floor from a Roman building (MBN 2440) has been found. The HER maps shows this as approximately 170m from the study area, but the main grid reference in the relevant entry is a less precise one, the record is derived from 19th century antiquarian records of 1882 (with later citations) and the location should perhaps be treated with caution. To the north-east is the Roman settlement and cemetery of Bathwick, the exact limits of which are unknown. Whilst no Roman remains have been found within the study area to date, the Roman settlements to the west and north-east means their presence is a possibility.

### **Early medieval**

- 5.6 Occupation of Bath continued into the Saxon period, and Monks Mill (MBN 1940) a monastic Fulling mill which predated the Domesday Survey was located on the west bank of the Avon opposite the study area.

### **Medieval**

- 5.7 Bathwick Mill (MBN 10091) located 50m to the north of the study area was medieval in date. A ferry (MBN 11595) operated across the river at approximately this point also.

### **Post-medieval**

- 5.8 Spring gardens was developed in the 18th century as a public pleasure garden, with entertainments and refreshments also available. Considerable development occurred around the study area and at one time it was planned for whole of the Recreation Ground to be developed.

### **Rapid Walkover Survey**

- 5.9 A rapid walkover of the study area was undertaken by Simon Roper (BaRAS Project Officer) on the 22nd of October. The study area includes the 20th century stands of the rugby ground (**Plates 2, 4, 5 & 6**), the pitch itself (**Cover**), tarmac areas around the north-west (**Plate 2**), south-east and south-west sides of the pitch and buildings located on the north-west side (**Plate 3**). These buildings include the 20th century clubhouse, the south-west and north-west elevation of which appears to have reused limestone blocks forming the lower courses (**Fig. 1**). These have the traces of keying for plaster on them suggesting they may have originally been the internal face of a wall. Examination of the historic maps (**Fig. 6**) indicates that these do not represent the remains of a pre-existing wall but are reused material.
- 5.10 To the east of the clubhouse is the Presidents Lounge (**Plate 1**), a converted limekiln and the only listed building (Grade II) within the study area. As detailed above (see § 3.4) this would have provided the lime used in the construction of the late 18th century Bathwick suburb and would have been demolished if the development had continued to the south. Also noted here was the south-east end elevation of the south-west terrace of Johnstone Street, which unlike the rest of the terrace or the north-east terrace opposite, has the upper stories constructed in brick. The reason for this may be financial or due to timescale, and appear to be another remnant of the changes to the planned development. Located to the north-east are the other two listed buildings within the Recreation Ground, the late 19th century Cricket Pavilion (**Plate 9**) and entrance Kiosks (**Plate 10**), the latter of which provided access to the ground via William Street which descended quite steeply from Great Pulteney Street. Both of these are Grade II and are outside the study area but as survivors of the early history of the Recreation Ground the impact of any changes to its layout may be greater than on other listed buildings in the locality.

### **Archaeological Burial Environment of the Study Area**

- 5.11 An archaeological evaluation carried out in 1993 on the southern edge of the rugby ground is to date the only fieldwork carried out within the study area. This found a 300mm thick deposit of dark grey silt that contained pottery and slate fragments suggesting a 18th century date or later, whilst below this was a silty clay deposit containing no anthropogenic material at all.
- 5.12 Only ten of the forty-eight HER entries listed above were located on the same side of the river as the study area. The burial environment of the northern end of the study area is unknown but has the highest archaeological potential with its proximity to river crossings of various periods and the 18th-19th century redevelopments of Bathwick. The impact of any levelling that may have been carried out to create the existing pitch is unknown, but construction of the stands, and in particular the clubhouse, will have had a major impact on any archaeological remains in this area, such as the 18th century pleasure gardens. However, it appears that the area of the former industrial buildings in the north-west corner is largely in open space and, apart from the north stand, any remains of these may have sustained relatively little impact.



## **6. DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 The study area's location in close proximity to the centre of the city of Bath means that significant levels of human activity have occurred close to it since the Roman period. However the location on the opposite bank of the river means that this proximity may not have resulted in significant activity within the study area itself. Cartographic evidence from the 18th century indicates that the area was open meadows at this time, and it is very likely this was the case in earlier periods.
- 6.2 An archaeological evaluation carried out in 1993 at the south end of the study area found only one deposit containing archaeological material, which dated to the 18th century or later. It is likely this is case across much of the Recreation Ground, and supports the cartographic depiction of the area as meadows, with development occurring around the site from the later 18th century onwards.
- 6.3 The north-west end of the study area has the highest archaeological potential. Crossing points of the river from a number of periods (Roman ford, medieval ferry, post-medieval bridge) are all located 50 to 150m to the north, as are the remains of a medieval mill. In the 18th century Spring Gardens was established immediately to the north-west and extended slightly on to the study area. Much of this area will have been significantly disturbed by the construction of the clubhouse; however remnants of garden features may remain. In the later 19th century part of a complex of industrial buildings, which included the Victoria Iron and Brass Works, was located in the north-west corner of the study area, and remains associated with either the buildings or the processes carried out there may survive.
- 6.4 The study area as a whole is considered to have a low, but currently unproven, archaeological potential for Roman, medieval and early post-medieval remains and a moderate potential for later post-medieval remains at the north-west end.



## **7. CONSULTANT'S ADVICE**

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

- 7.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) states that heritage assets comprise an irreplaceable resource and their conservation, appropriate to their significance, should be a key aspect of planning strategies employed by local planning authorities (LPA).

### **Local Policy & Guidance**

- 7.2 In addition to national policy, the LPA will also take into consideration local policy and related documentation when processing planning applications (see **Appendix 1**).

### **Planning Applications**

- 7.3 Under present national policy, a key requirement for the consideration of planning applications is that the significance of any heritage assets affected by proposals should be determined. The impact of proposals on any heritage assets should also be assessed. This includes the contribution made by their setting and any historical views. Where study areas incorporate, or have the potential to incorporate, heritage assets it is necessary that LPAs require applicants to provide supporting information with planning applications. In this respect, the present desk-based assessment takes into account the historic environment of the study area and its immediate environs, but only in so far as the evidence examined permits. In the present case, apart from the potential for buried archaeological remains (see§ 7.4 below), there are numerous heritage assets that are likely to be affected to some degree by developments within the study area.
- 7.4 Following desk-based assessment or reference to the HER, where study areas incorporate, or have the potential to incorporate, heritage assets with archaeological interest, the LPA should require evidence accrued from on-site investigation (intrusive, non-intrusive, or combination) in order for them to consider applications. Where applications are approved, the LPA may require further work to be carried out in relation to the historic environment of the study area. In the present case, the study area incorporates land (*i.e.* the burial environment) deemed to have moderate archaeological potential.
- 7.5 Where a development proposal will impact on a heritage asset, or heritage assets, designated or non-designated, or its/their setting, the LPA will require clear and convincing justification for this from the applicant.

### **Justification, Offsetting & Mitigation**

- 7.6 Although the nature of the archaeological burial environment remains uncertain, the present assessment indicates that the study area is regarded as having low archaeological potential for Roman, medieval and early post-medieval remains and a moderate potential for later post-medieval remains in the northern portion of the site. The decision as to the need for any further archaeological work lies with BANES's Archaeological Officer, and is likely to be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset, or assets, being impacted upon by the proposal.

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## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Bristol and Region Archaeological Services wish to thank the following for their help and advice: Staff at Bath Record Office, Roman Baths Museum and Bath Library, and Rod Millard (BANES Historic Environment Record Officer).

The historical research was carried out by Kay Ross of McLaughlin Ross LLP. This report was written and compiled by Simon Roper (Project Officer, BaRAS) and produced by Ann Linge (Design and Production Officer BaRAS). The project was managed by Ian Greig (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

The Planning Policy Statement of Archaeology and Planning (PPS 15) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the Local Authority Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district council archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the impact of a development on the archaeological resource to enable a reasoned planning decision to be taken. PPS 15 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan including waste and minerals policies Revised Deposit Draft 2007 as approved for used for Development Control purposes contains the following policies:

**Policy BH.11** – Development which would adversely affect Scheduled Ancient Monuments or any other sites of national importance, and their settings and does not preserve such sites in situ will not be permitted.

**Policy BH.12** – Development which would harm important archaeological remains or their settings outside the scope of Policy BH.11 will not be permitted unless the adverse impact of the development proposal on the remains can be mitigated.

**Policy BH.13** – Development which adversely affects significant archaeological remains within Bath will not be permitted unless the preservation in-situ of these remains can be achieved through a detailed design and construction scheme.

Two Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents '*Archaeology in Bath & North-East Somerset*' and '*Archaeology in the City of Bath*' (both 2004) have been adopted. Their principal purpose is to supplement Policies BH.11, BH.12 & BH.13 of the existing and emerging Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan and should be read in conjunction with these.

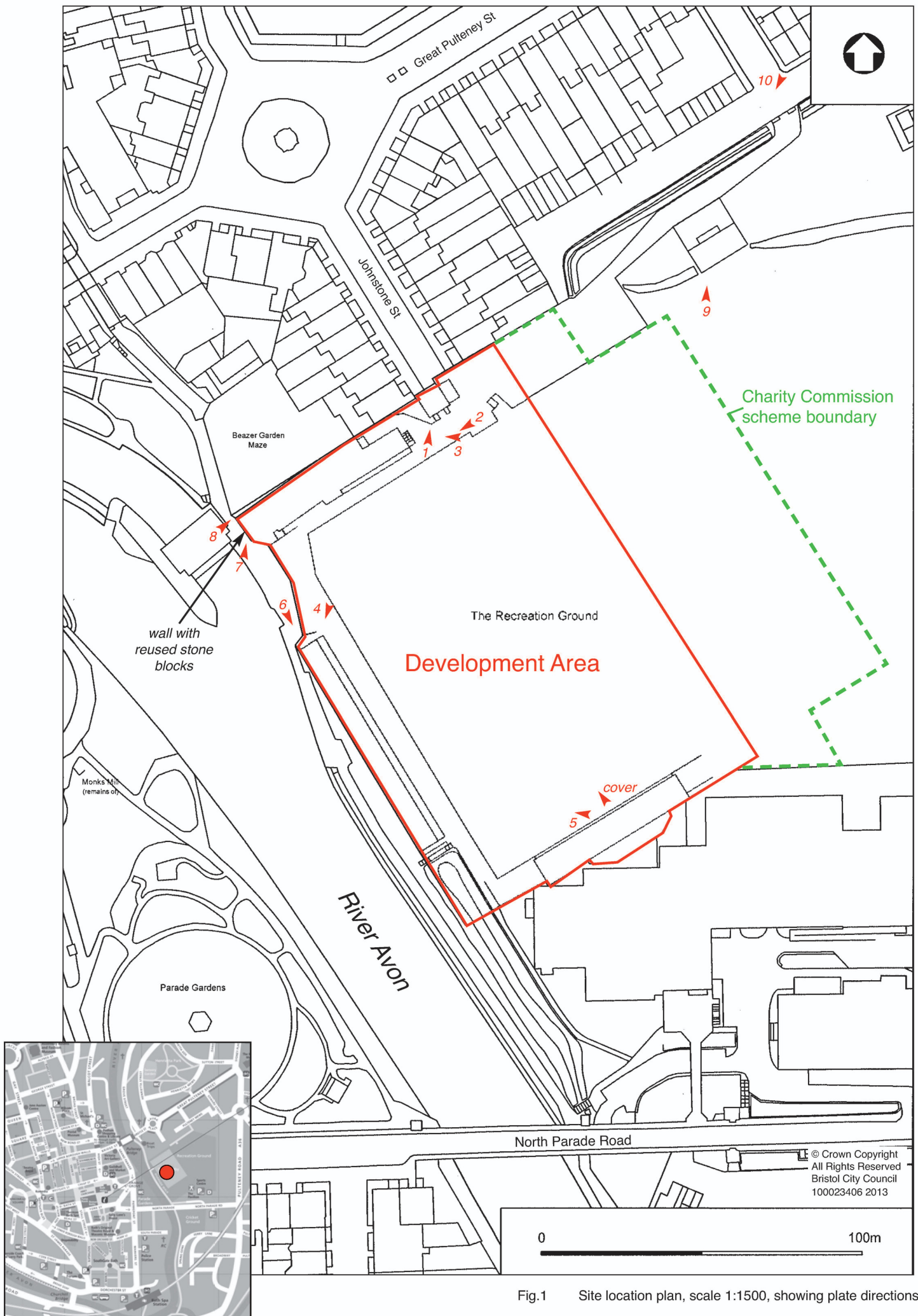


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:1500, showing plate directions



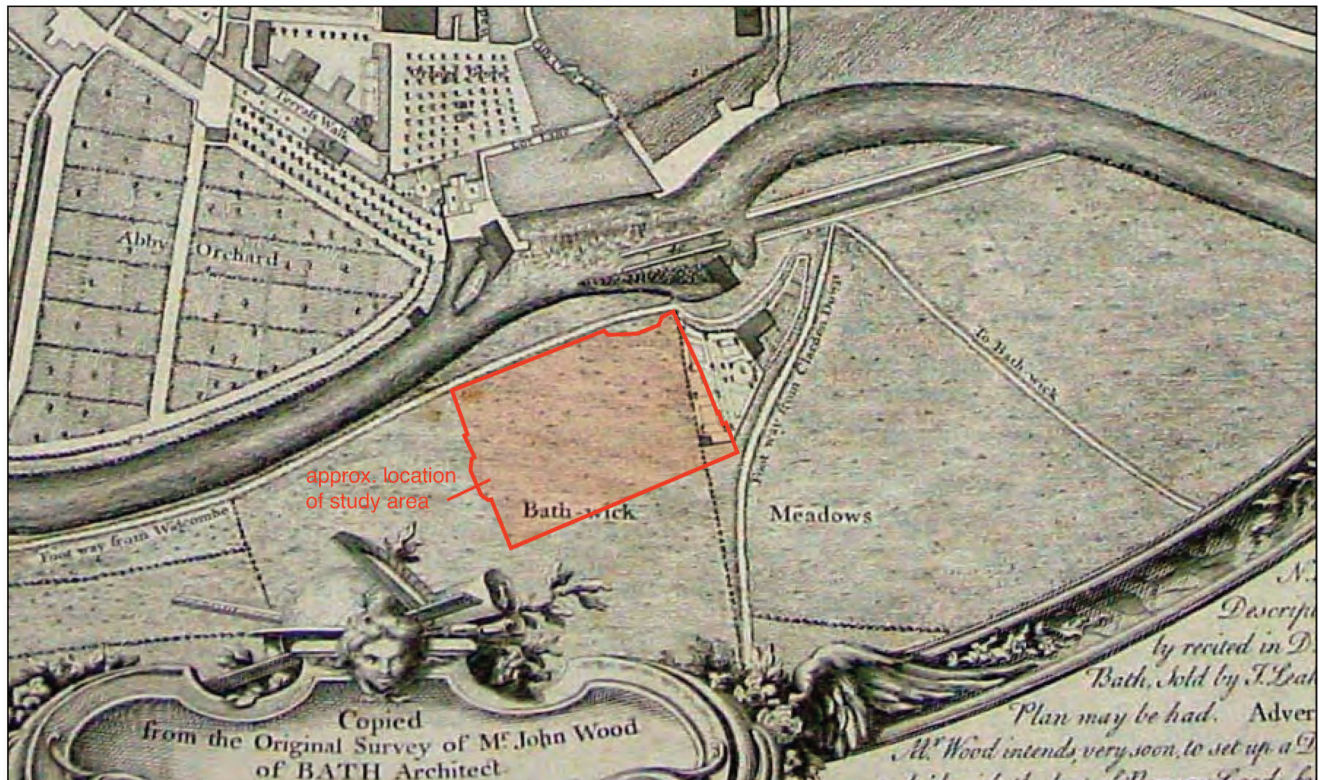


Fig.2 Extract of John Wood's 1735 Survey of Bath



Fig.3 Extract of the Harcourt Masters 1800 map

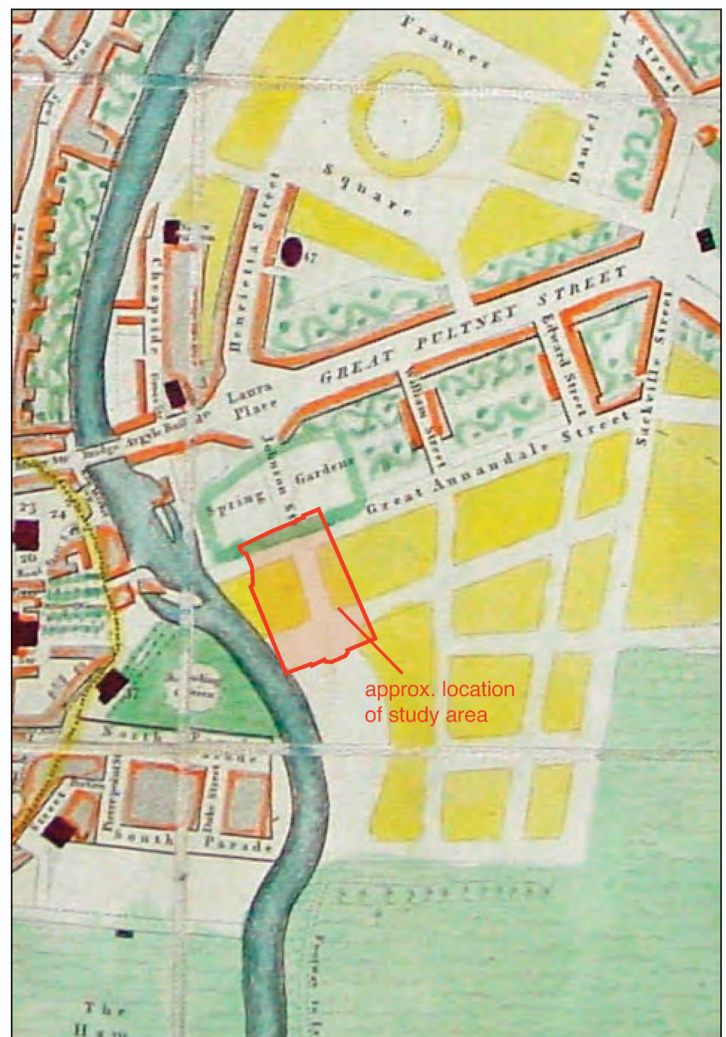


Fig.4 Extract of Taylor and Meyler's 1801 map of Bath





Fig.5 Extract of 1840 Tithe map

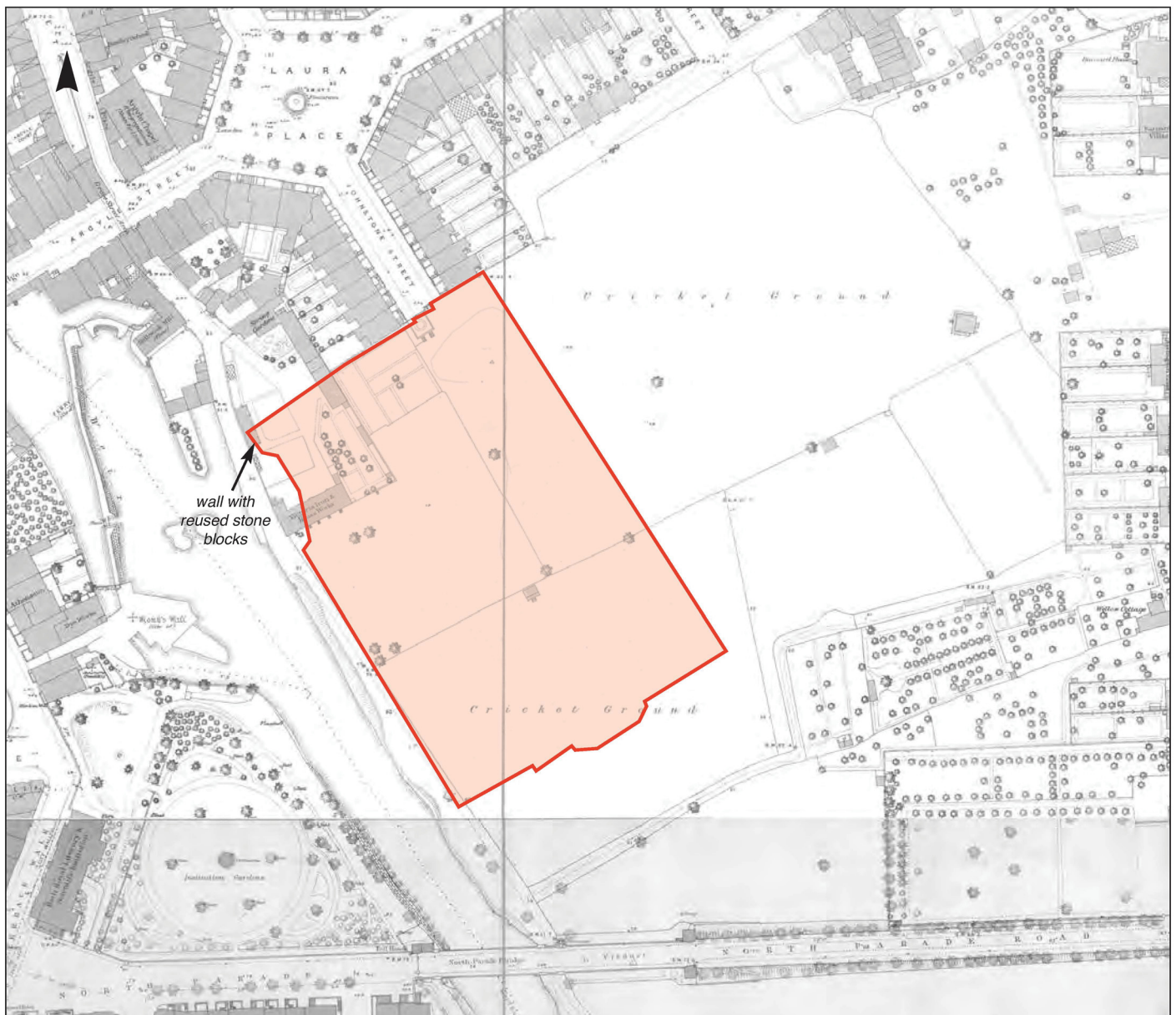


Fig.6 Extract of First Edition 1884 Ordnance Survey 1:500 plan





Fig.7 Extract of Second Edition 1904 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan





Fig.8 Extract of 1950 Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 plan





Fig.9 Location plans of Bath HER monuments entries



Fig.10 Location plans of Bath HER event entries



Plate 1  
Bath Rugby Presidents  
Lounge, a converted  
limekiln Grade II listed,  
looking north



Plate 2 Tarmac area between the north stand and the clubhouse, looking south-west



Plate 3 Clubhouse building, looking west



Plate 4  
West stand, looking south





Plate 5  
View of Bath Rugby  
Ground and the west  
stand, looking west

Plate 6  
External view of the west  
stand, looking south-east



Plate 7  
Reused limestone blocks  
forming the bottom  
courses of the south-west  
elevation of the clubhouse,  
looking north



Plate 8  
Rear of the clubhouse  
and boundary wall,  
looking north-east





Plate 9 Cricket pavilion, Grade II listed, to the east of the study area, looking north



Plate 10 Entrance kiosks and gates to the Recreation Ground, Grade II listed, to the north-east of the study area, looking south