



Bristol and Region
Archaeological
Services

Archaeological Watching Brief
**FORMER PORTWAY DAY CENTRE,
ST. BERNARD'S ROAD,
SHIREHAMPTON, BRISTOL.**

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FAME
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Archaeological Watching Brief
at the
**FORMER PORTWAY DAY CENTRE,
ST. BERNARD'S ROAD,
SHIREHAMPTON,
BRISTOL.**

Centred on NGR ST 53417 76714

Prepared for **Connolloy & Callaghan Schools**

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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
BHER	Bristol Historic Environment Record	m	Metre
BL	British Library	NGR	National Grid Reference
BRO	Bristol Record Office	OS	Ordnance Survey
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.

May 2014.

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the residential redevelopment of the former Portway Day Centre, St. Bernard's Road, Shirehampton, Bristol (NGR ST 53417 76714).

No significant archaeological features or finds were observed during the watching brief.

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- Figure 1 Site location plan, scale 1:1250
- Figure 2 Existing Site Plan and proposed development (inset)
- Figure 3 Ground Floor/Foundation Trench Plan (approx.1:100)

Plates

- Cover View across the site, looking south-west
- Plate 1 Representative section, looking west
- Plate 2 Representative trench, looking north

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) on behalf of Connolloy & Callaghan Schools, during groundworks for a residential redevelopment at the former Portway Day Centre, St. Bernard's Road, Shirehampton, Bristol (Planning Permission No: 13/00117/F).
- 1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken on the 14th April 2014.
- 1.3 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2014/24 and a copy of the report will lodged at the English Heritage Archive. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 25349 and in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) as: bristola1-177029.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is situated in the Shirehampton district of Bristol, approximately 7km to the north-west of the City Centre (NGR ST 53417 76714) (Figs 1 & 2).
- 2.2 The site had been cleared of surface material, vegetation and the level reduced before the date of the watching brief. The majority of the foundation trenches had also been excavated prior to the 14.04.2014.
- 2.3 The bedrock geology of the area comprises Mudstone and Halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone group. No superficial deposits are recorded for the site, though there are river terrace deposits to the North-West and South-East of the site (BGS, 2014).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

General

- 3.1 The study area lies in the tything of Shirehampton in the historic parish of Westbury-on-Trym (Henbury Hundred); two other tythings comprised the parish: Stoke Bishop and Westbury. The other parishes comprising the Henbury Hundred were Henbury, Redwick, Stoke Bishop, Yate, Austcliff, Compton Greenfield and Itchington.
- 3.2 Shirehampton is one of two areas within Bristol Avon region recorded as having high concentrations of significant Palaeolithic archaeological remains. These have predominantly been found on the terrace gravels that are found on both the North and South banks of the River Avon here. It must, however, be noted that this material has also been found away from these terraces and that further mapping is required to fully understand their extent and the deposition patterns of these finds. In addition to this Roman pottery has been found near the site.
- 3.3 The evidence suggests that, prior to the construction of the Portway Day Centre, the land comprising the study area was in agricultural use and this appears to have been the case since at least the medieval period.
- 3.4 According to the HER records, No evidence has been found on the study area for any of the following:
- Scheduled monuments;
 - Statutory or locally listed buildings;
 - Historic battlefields;
 - Registered parks or gardens;
 - Ecclesiastical establishments, consecrated ground, faith buildings or places-of-worship;
 - Burial grounds (in use or disused);
 - Conservation Area (see § 1.4).

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Greig, 2014), *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 groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket. Monitoring was carried out for the footing trenches 1.10m below existing ground levels. Photographs were taken as the works were monitored and records / plans of the soils exposed made where relevant.
- 4.3 The service trench excavations were not observed due to the site being dug to below the level they were to be laid at, necessitating the need to make up the ground on the site.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1 No archaeological features were observed during the groundwork on the 14th April. Unstratified finds comprised of post-medieval pottery and clay tobacco pipe stem fragments with dumped modern domestic rubbish.
- 5.2 The lowest observed deposit in the foundation trenches (**Fig. 3**) was orangey red sandy clay with infrequent mudstone inclusions (context 003), a depth of 150mm being exposed (**Plate 1**). Above this was 200-400mm orangey red sandy silt-clay with frequent building debris inclusions suggestive of made up ground during the construction of the day centre (context 002). This was covered with 10-500mm of light brown, silty sand-loam topsoil with dumped building waste/demolition material covered in wasteland weeds and grass (context 001) (Appendix 2).

6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief. The unstratified finds are suggestive of material brought in either through agricultural improvement or during the levelling of the site, during the previous construction work.
- 6.2 The sequence of deposits observed during the groundworks would suggest previous site-wide horizontal truncation of historical soil deposits, with any associated archaeological features being removed. The site was then levelled using dumped demolition rubble with new topsoil being introduced during the construction of the now demolished day centre (**Plate 2**).

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Published material

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8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The archaeological work was managed by Ian Greig (Manager BaRAS). Plans, figures, and plates in this report were prepared by Ann Linge (Design and Production Officer BaRAS). The archaeological work was undertaken by Alistair Byford-Bates. The report was written by Alistair Byford-Bates (Project Officer 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 heritage assets, 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 Descriptions

Context No.	Type	Description	Stratigraphy	Date
001	Deposit	Silty sandy light brown loam topsoil with freq. building waste/demolition debris inclusions.	Above 002	Post-1940
002	Deposit	Orangey red sandy silt clay with frequent building debris inclusions. Made ground.	Below 001 Above 003	Post-1940
003	Deposit	Orangey red sandy clay with infrequent mudstone inclusions.	Below 002	Post-Medieval?

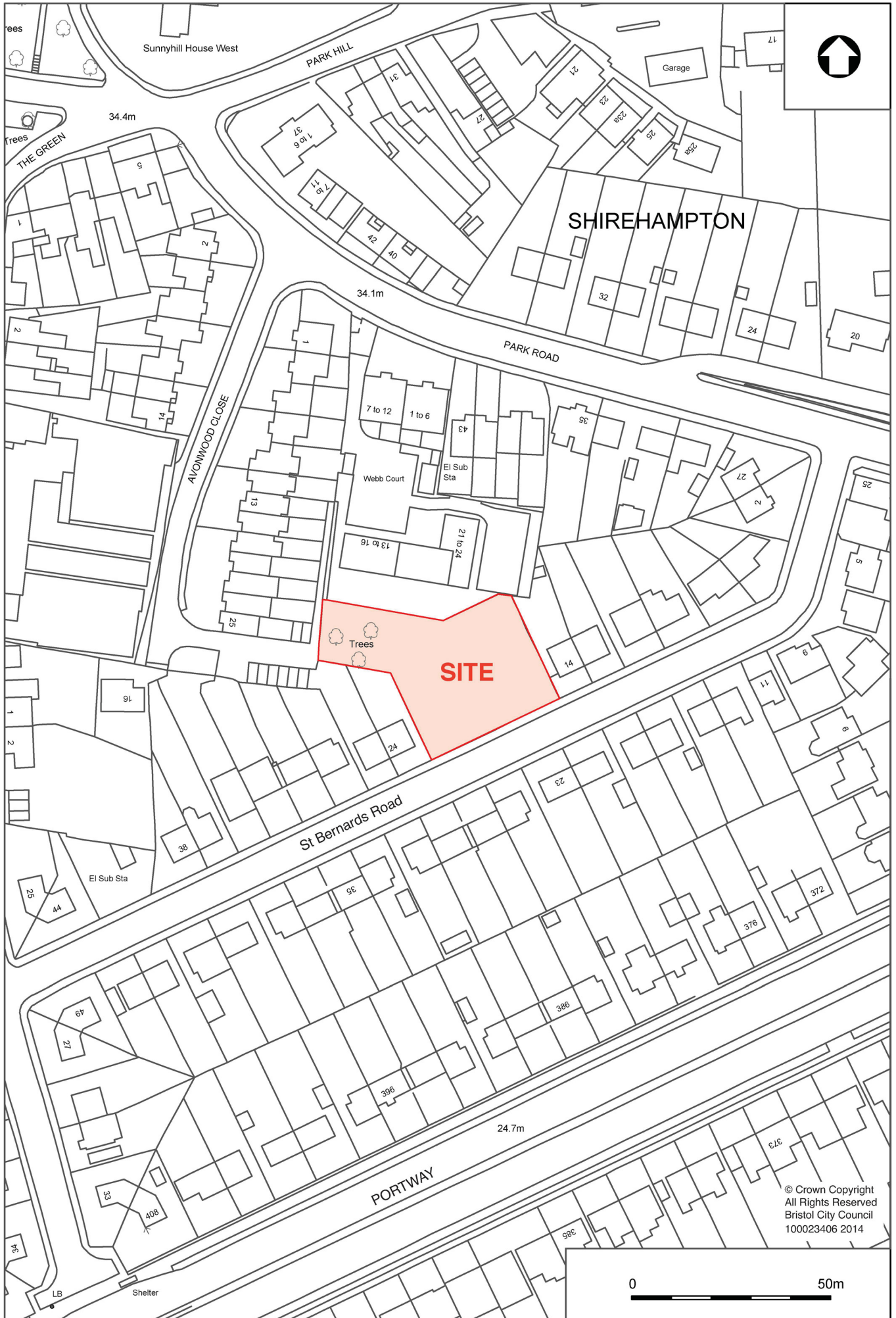


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:1250

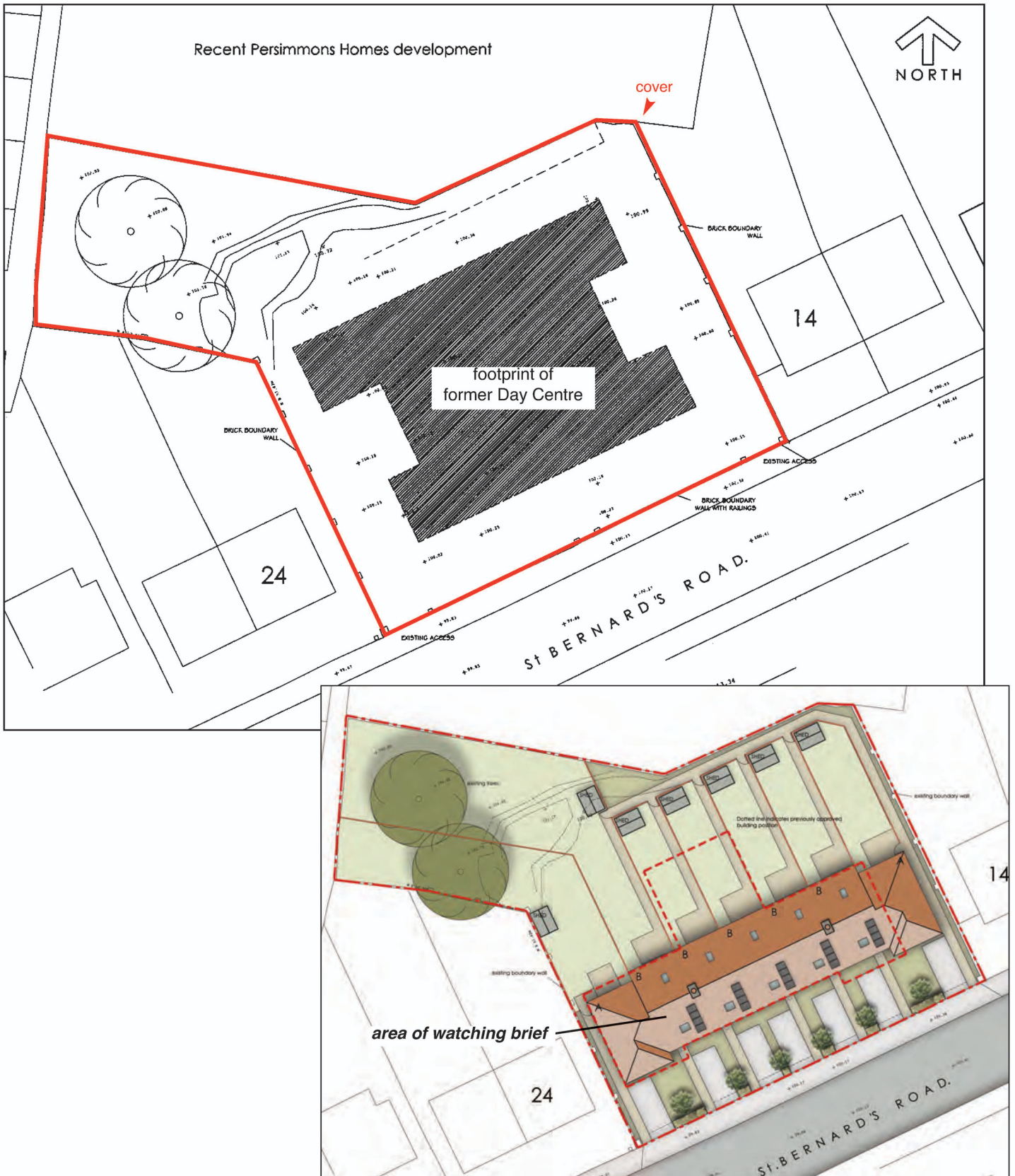


Fig.2 Existing Site Plan and proposed development (inset)

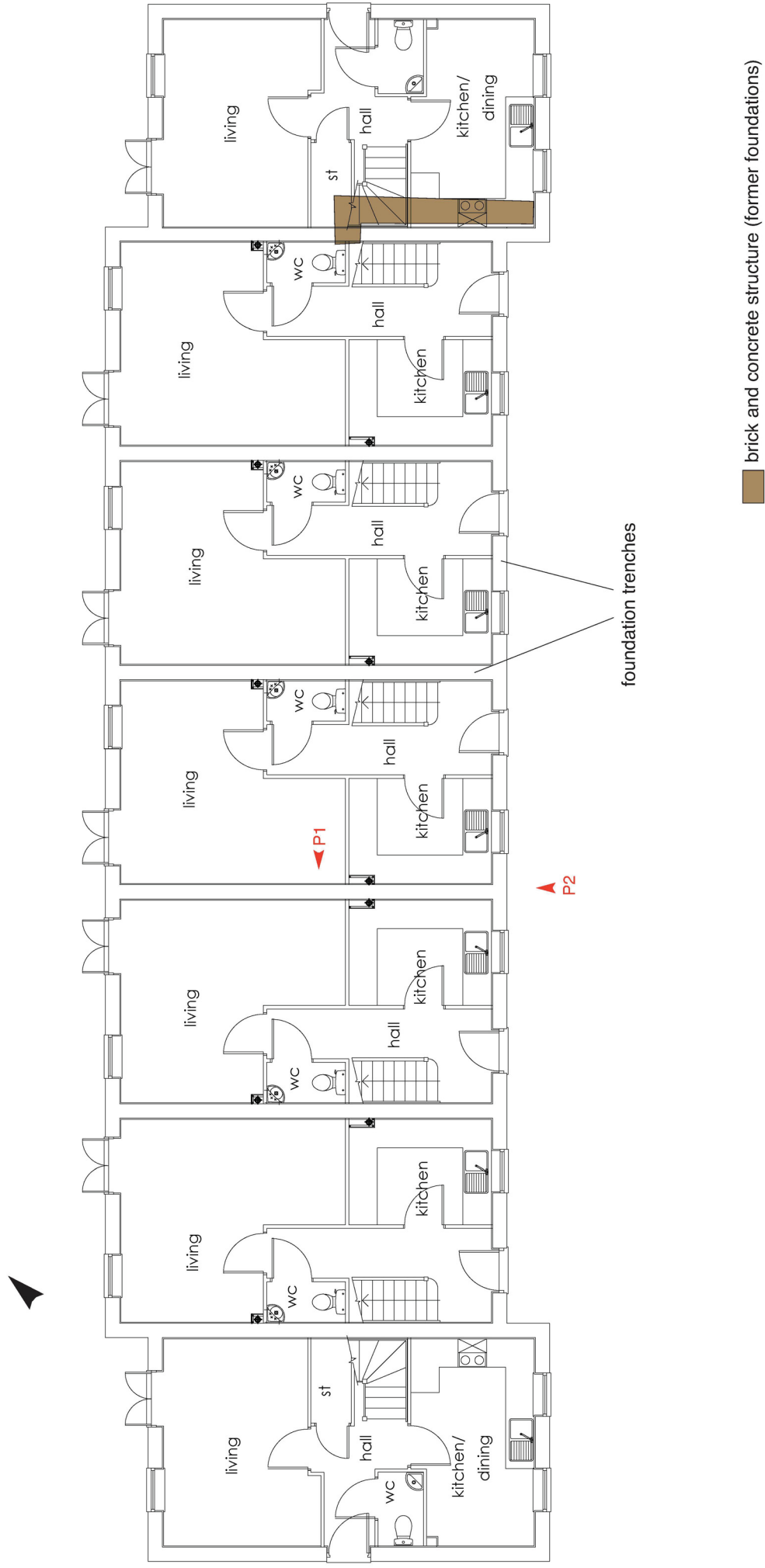


Fig.3 Ground Floor/Foundation Trench Plan (1:100 approx), showing plate directions in red



Plate 1 Representative section, looking west



Plate 2 Representative trench, looking north