



**Bristol and Region  
Archaeological  
Services**

Archaeological Watching Brief  
**THE FORMER LAMPLIGHTERS PUBLIC HOUSE,  
STATION ROAD, SHIREHAMPTON,  
BRISTOL.**

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**FAME**  
Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers



Archaeological Watching Brief  
at  
**THE FORMER LAMPLIGHTERS PUBLIC HOUSE,  
STATION ROAD, SHIREHAMPTON,  
BRISTOL.**

Centred on NGR ST 52735 76285

Prepared for **A. D. Francis (Builders) 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.

August 2014.

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## **SUMMARY**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with redevelopment at the site of the former Lamplighters Public House, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol.

No significant archaeological features were observed during the watching brief.

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

### **Figures**

- Figure 1      Site location, scale 1:1250
- Figure 2      Area of watching brief located on proposed development plan

### **Plates**

- Cover          Looking north-west towards the back of The Lamplighters Public House
- Plate 1        Representative trench section, looking north-east, 1m scale
- Plate 2        'Topside' of possible quern stone
- Plate 3        'Underside' of possible quern stone

## **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 A.D. Francis (Builders) Ltd during the site development of land adjacent to the former Lamplighters Public House, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol (Planning Permission No. BCC 12/04062/F).
- 1.2 The fieldwork was undertaken on the July 8th, 2014 by Roy Krakowicz (Site Assistant, BaRAS), and the report written by Alistair Byford-Bates.
- 1.3 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number 2014/58. A digital copy will also be available. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as BHER 25377 and in the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) as: bristola1-183075.

## **2. THE SITE**

- 2.1 Planning consent was granted for the building of five dwellings on land adjacent to former The Lamplighters, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol (NGR ST 52735 76285; BCC 12/04062/F) (**Fig. 1**).
- 2.2 The site at the time of excavation comprised a former garden bordered by the public house car-park, a boundary wall, an avenue of lime trees and rough ground with the extant remains of a former gazebo present.
- 2.3 The bedrock geology of the site comprises Mercia Mudstone of the Triassic period, overlain by superficial deposits comprising Tidal Flat Deposits, consisting of clay and silt (BGS 2014).
- 2.4 The site is within the Shirehampton Conservation Area. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings on the site.

## **3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The site has previously been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (King, 2012), followed by an archaeological evaluation (Williams, 2013). Detailed information is included within these reports.
- 3.2 The Lamplighters public house lies close to the slipway of the former Pill (foot) ferry, which was of ancient origin and probably at least medieval in foundation. There is no known evidence for prehistoric or Roman occupation on the site itself. Station Road connected the ferry with Shirehampton, which historically was a detached tithing of Westbury-on-Trym parish.
- 3.3 The earliest building on the site (the present public house structure) may date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, and was extended in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century the main building was known as Lamplighters Hall. Sturge's 1817 parish map showed the main block plus a small L-shaped building at the rear of the plot, but further outbuildings had appeared by the time of the first OS 1:2500 plan (surveyed 1879).
- 3.4 Three evaluation trenches were excavated in 2013, to the east and south-east of the main building. All three exposed natural alluvium at depths of less than a metre, with made-ground or soils above. No features or finds could be dated to earlier than the post-medieval. However, all of the trenches were away from the ferry slip and Station Road, and only one was close to the public house building.

#### **4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Bryant, 2014), *BaRAS Site Manual* (2005) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008).
- 4.2 The site was considered to have archaeological potential. Under condition 18 of the planning permission a watching brief during development groundworks in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by the planning authority was required.
- 4.3 However, due to previous development and disturbance, this watching brief was deemed necessary only on Plots 4 and 5 of the new development. Groundwork associated with Plots 4 and 5 involved some ground reduction and the excavation of strip foundation and service trenches using a 360° 0.70m-wide toothless bucket.
- 4.4 A photographic record of all features was made using digital colour photographs.



## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The groundwork revealed no archaeological features. Full context descriptions are provided in the context summary (**Appendix 2**). Trenches are illustrated on the site plan (**Fig. 2**).
- 5.2 The natural geology of the site is superficial Tidal Flat Deposits, consisting of clay and silt overlying Mercia Mudstone of the Triassic period. The upper weathered layer (101) of these deposits was exposed at between 0.40-0.50m below the surface (**Plate 1**).
- 5.3 The topsoil (100), overlying (101), shows frequent bioturbation from root activity and evidence of it being used as a domestic dump in the southern part of the site (**Fig. 2**). Observed material on the surface and within this deposit included bottles and jar fragments, stoneware sherds, CBM, printed/un-printed glazed white slipware sherds, clay pipe stem fragments and unidentified iron objects. Legends on the bottle fragments included 'G.C. King & Co. Ltd, Bristol', 'Warnink' and 'B & Co<sup>LD</sup> K' and the number '11', as well as a range of soft drink brands.
- 5.4 Embedded in the topsoil (100) in the south-west corner of the site (**Fig. 2**) was a circular worked stone (105), possibly a quern stone (**Plates 2 & 3**).

## 6. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief. The finds are suggestive of material brought in either through domestic dumping or during the site's development. The dating of the finds, therefore, is not indicative of their deposition date.
- 6.2 The circular worked stone is a quern stone probably used as a feature/decoration or for some other unknown function in the public house garden.
- 6.3 No finds were retained.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

### Published material

IfA (2008). *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*. Reading.

### Unpublished material

BaRAS (2009). *Site Manual*.

Bryant, J., 2014. *Written Scheme of Investigation for An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Lamplighters, Station Road, Shirehampton*. Bristol.

King, A. (2012) *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of The Lamplighters Public House, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol*. BaRAS report 2616/2012.

Williams, B. (2013) *Land to the rear of the Lamplighters Public House, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol: Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Bristol & West Archaeology report 13/2461.

### Internet sources

British Geological Survey. (2012). Geology of Britain Viewer. Available: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>. [accessed: 18.06.2014]

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The archaeological work was managed by John Bryant (Assistant 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 Roy Krakowicz (Site Assistant, BaRAS), and the report written by Alistair Byford-Bates.

## 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
100	Deposit	<b>Topsoil.</b> Loose friable dark brown through to black silt with frequent root disturbance and frequent building debris and domestic waste. 0.40±0.10m thick.	Overlies 101
101	Deposit	<b>Natural Alluvium.</b> Dried out/desiccated layer of natural alluvium through root action and loss of water through topsoil. Approximately 0.20m thick.	Overlies 102 Underlies 100
102	Deposit	<b>Natural Alluvium.</b> Dense moist plastic clay layer, predominantly grey in colour with occasional root activity. 0.20-0.30m thick.	Overlies 103 Underlies 101
103	Deposit	<b>Natural Alluvium.</b> Dense reddish-orangey brown moist plastic clay. 0.20-0.30m thick.	Overlies 104 Underlies 102
104	Deposit	<b>Natural Alluvium.</b> Dense alluvial clay, mottled grey and orangey-brown with a moist plastic consistency.	Underlies 103
105	Worked Stone	<b>Worked Stone.</b> Carved/dressed circular shaped stone with hole in centre. 0.60m in diameter and ≥0.12m thick. Possibly granite, high quartz crystal content.	Found in 100

## APPENDIX 3: Finds Quantified by Context

Context	No.	Description	Date
100	1. Not recorded.	Worked stone. Not collected. 19/20th century CBM/industrial waste/domestic detritus. Not collected.	Modern
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>		

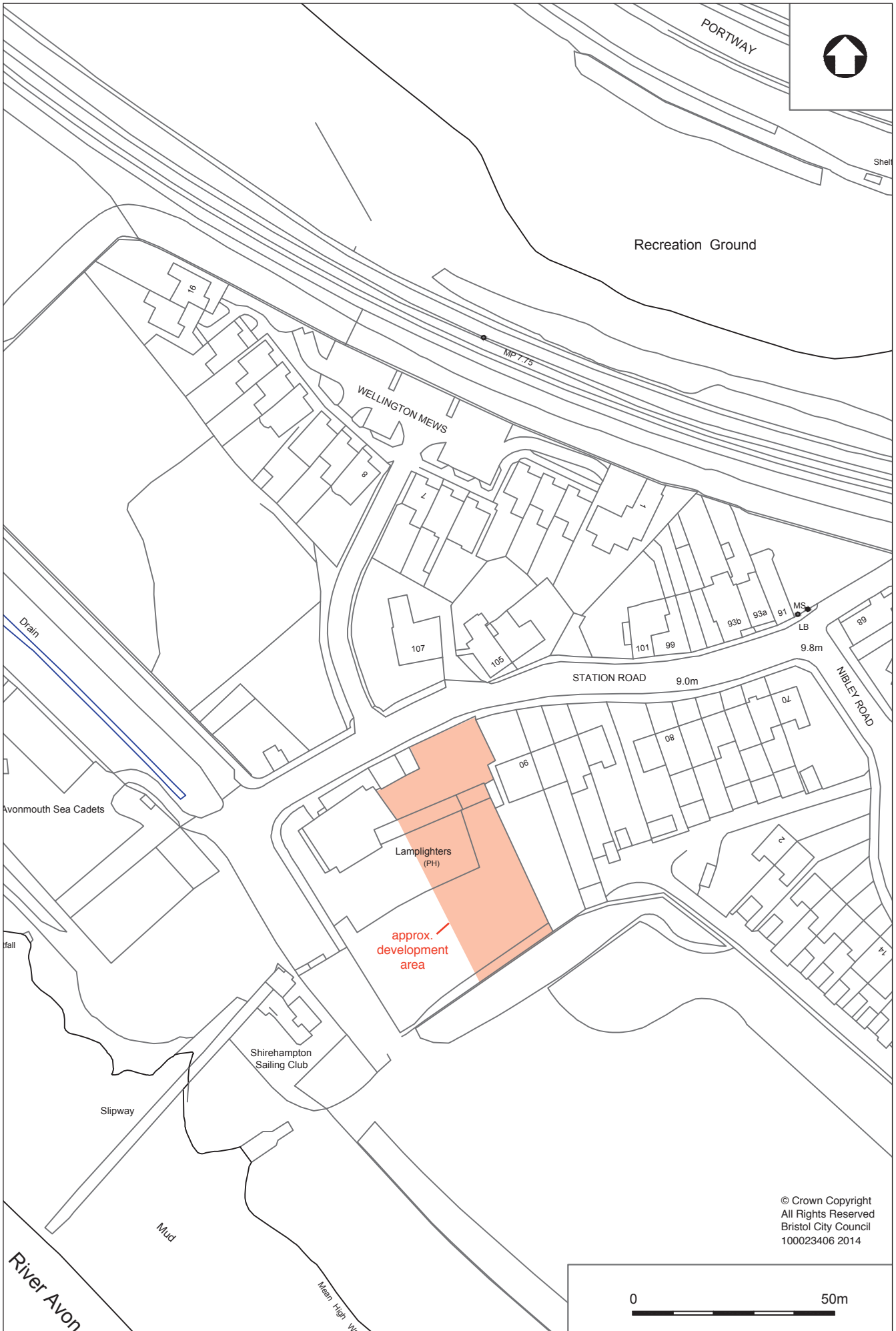


Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:1250

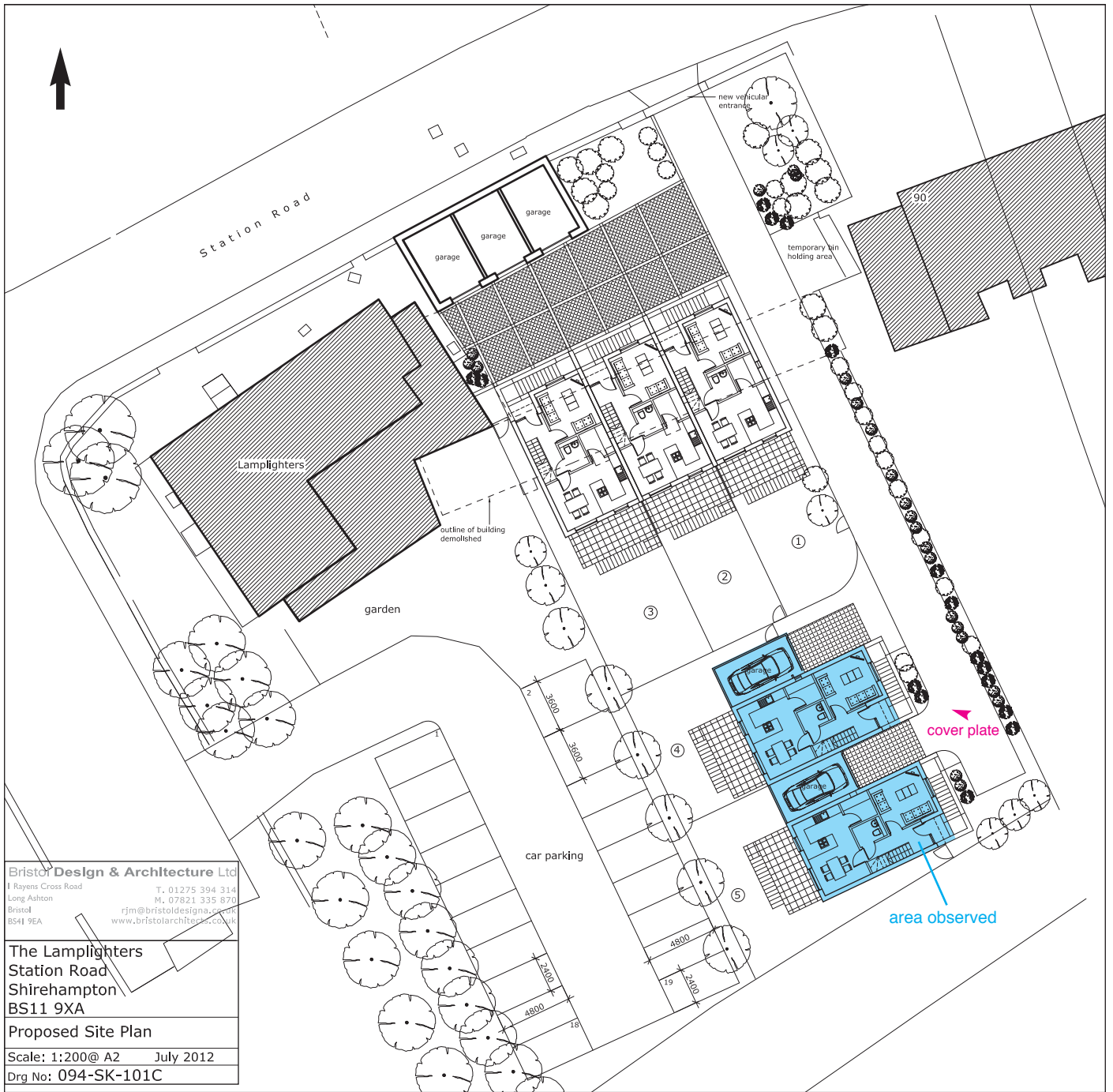


Fig.2 Area of watching brief located on proposed development plan



Plate 1  
Representative trench  
section, looking north-  
east. 1m scale



Plate 2  
'Topside' of possible quern  
stone



Plate 3  
'Underside' of possible  
quern stone