

Archaeological Watching Brief
at
NO. 61 OLD MARKET STREET, BRISTOL.
for
Color Estates Limited



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Archaeological Watching Brief
at
NO. 61 OLD MARKET STREET, BRISTOL.

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 59710 73108

Client: Color Estates Limited

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Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

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.

July, 2011.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Colin Walker of Color Estates Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief at No. 61 Old Market Street, Bristol during groundworks associated with the construction of a new residential property and associated parking.
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning consent (Bristol City Council Planning Reference Number 10/01948/F) and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2010).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken between August 12th 2010 and February 10th 2011 under the supervision of Timothy Longman and Raymond K. Ducker, whom also compiled this report.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery under the Accession Number BRSMG 2010.56 and a copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project has been entered in the Bristol Historic Environment Record as: BHER 24937 and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-80818.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 59710 73108) is situated at the rear (south) end of No. 61, Old Market Street, central Bristol. The site, which occupies approximately 150 square metres, is bounded by the rear of the Old Drill Hall site (west) and the Verdigris development (east). The new building occupies approximately 110 square metres of the site. The site is fronted by Old Market Street and bounded to the rear by Jacob Street and sits at approximately 17m aOD. There are no listed buildings on or immediately adjacent the site and the site is not within a Conservation Area.
- 2.2 The geology of the study area comprises Redcliffe Sandstone of the Triassic Period (British Geological Survey 1: 50,000, 1967).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There has been no previous archaeological work on the site, however, a Desk Based Assessment of the site adjoining to the east was undertaken in 2004 by Bryant and Townsend (BaRAS 2004). A brief summary of the historical background from the Desk Based Assessment follows.
- 3.2 A subsequent evaluation and watching brief on the adjoining site produced evidence of post-medieval gardens and possibly medieval structures on the Jacob Street frontage (BHER 4426). Further excavations of the site adjoining to the west at the rear of No. 62 Old Market Street found medieval rubbish pits and evidence of medieval and post-medieval cultivation as well as earlier post-medieval structural remains.
- 3.3 Excavation on another nearby locality, the Old Drill Hall, also produced evidence of cultivation from the medieval period as well as the sugarhouse which had operated on the site from the late 17th century until the early 20th century.
- 3.4 Historically the site lay in the parish of SS. Phillip and Jacob. Old Market Street is an ancient thoroughfare, the beginning of the road to Oxford and London, and also, as the name suggests, a market place of long standing. Jacob Street is a typical “backlane” running along the rears of tenement plots that front Old Market Street. In shape and size the present No. 61 is a typical such single plot. It can reasonably be assumed to have a history extending well back into the medieval period. However at this distance from the street frontage, it may have remained in use as a garden until well into the post-medieval period, although there was sometimes development immediately on the back lane frontage from relatively early on, with the centre of the site only developed later in history.

4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2010) and the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundworks.
- 4.2 An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of three trial pits and a foundation trench for a new end-wall for the retail premises on Old Market Street. This work was associated with the planned redevelopment of the rear half of the property, which will comprise a new three-storey dwelling fronting Jacob Street. Later works consisted shallow ground-level reduction, chiefly the removal of a concrete surface. Foundations for the new building were then piled and no further monitoring of the works was considered necessary.

5. RESULTS

Test Pits (Figure 2, Plate 1)

5.1 Initially three test-pits were excavated on the site during August 12th 2010.

Test Pit 1

Measured 250 x 600mm in size and was up to 500mm deep. A modern concrete floor surface (101) up to 60 mm thick sealed a thicker concrete slab (102) up to 100 mm thick and this had been laid butting and over a concrete wall foundation (114). The foundations had been cut into a deposit of made-ground (103) which in turn sealed a layer of what was probably garden soil (104).

Test Pit 2

Measured 260 x 700mm and was excavated to 600mm deep. The sequence of deposits recorded was very similar to that in Test Pit 01. A concrete floor (105) sealed stepped concrete foundations (106) and subsequently made-ground material (107) and a garden soil horizon (108).

Test Pit 3

Measured 350 x 440mm and was excavated to 1m deep. Up to 300mm of concrete (109) sealed an earlier brick surface (110). The surface had been bedded upon approximately 100mm of sandy mortar (111), below which was up to 300mm of garden soil (112) and finally up to 200mm of a reddish brown sand with occasional weathered sandstone fragments (113) within it that may have been natural.

Wall Foundation Trench (Figure 2, Plate 2)

5.2 Excavation of a single foundation trench was also undertaken to a depth of approximately 1m. A simple stratigraphic sequence of deposits was observed comprising concrete (109) over a brick surface (110) sat over mortar bedding (111) and subsequently garden soil (112) and subsoil (113). No archaeologically sterile geological deposits were observed in the trench and the full depth of the subsoil remained unrecorded. Two modern service trenches were observed to cross the line of the foundation trench.

Concrete Floor Removal (Plates 3 – 6)

5.3 A concrete surface running the length of the study area was removed during the watching brief. Below the surface was an earlier yard surface of bricks (124) that had been cut by a variety of features. At the north end and on both west and east sides the surface had been cut for construction of walls of standing buildings on these sides (cut/fill 114, 115 and cut 117, Foundation 118). A further internal dividing wall (116) had also cut the surface but this had been demolished leaving only the scar of its location in the surface. Other features included four stanchion bases (119, 120, 121 & 122) beam slots (123, 127, 131,132 & 136) and concrete pads (125, 128, 130, 135 & 137). Two other inserts of wood (133 & 134) within the brick surface were also noted. A number of backfilled cuts into surface 124 (126, 129, 132 & 139) were also recorded and these appeared to have been opened for the construction of the beam-slots/concrete pads within them. The purpose of the beams and pads remains uncertain but could include bases for machinery or other internal fixtures.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Initially, monitoring comprised a watching brief during the excavation of three small test pits measuring approximately 0.5m wide by up to 1m deep. The natural, weathered red sandstone was recorded at a depth of 0.8m in TP3, but was not encountered in the other two. Sealing the geology in TP3, and recorded also in Test Pits 1 and 2, was a layer of reddish brown sandy silt (a so-called 'garden soil'). No finds were recovered from the context, which in turn was sealed beneath a layer of made-ground, comprising dark greyish-brown sandy silty soil with abundant small stone inclusions and mortar flecks plus occasional brick fragments. The latter deposit lay beneath modern concrete foundations and floor slabs.
- 6.2 Later monitoring of removal of the concrete yard surface revealed deposits comprising a post-medieval, brick, yard surface which had been cut for the insertion of a variety of concrete pads, stanchion bases, beam slots and walls prior to the laying of a modern concrete floor above it. Below the brick surface were made-ground deposits of post-medieval date the full extent of which was not tested. No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the intrusive groundworks.
- 6.3 The lack of archaeologically significant deposits or structures would appear to result from the shallow depth of excavation reached during the works mainly due to the fact that the majority of the site was piled though structural remains in the application area may have been truncated by previous development of the area.

7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Timothy Longman and Raymond K. Ducker of BaRAS who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by the author and the project was managed by John Bryant.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Published Works

IFA 1999 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*
(Institute of Field Archaeologists).

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1: 50,000 Bristol District, *Geological Survey of England and Wales, Solid and Drift* 1967.

Unpublished Material

BaRAS 2004 *Archaeological Desktop Study of Land at No.114 Jacob Street, St Phillips, Bristol (BaRAS report No. 1326/2007).*

BaRAS 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Recording Programme (Watching Brief) at 61 Old Market Street, Bristol as Archaeological Mitigation for Redevelopment of the site for Residential purposes (unpublished client report by Bryant, J.).*

9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Alex Kolodotschko, Igor Kolodotschko of Cut and Thrust Wargaming and Colin Walker of Color Estates Ltd for their assistance and co-operation.

APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

DISTRICT POLICY

Bristol City Council Supplementary Planning Document (2006) states (policy SPD No.7, p4):

- (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 desktop 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.

APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
101	Floor surface of concrete in Test Pit 1
102	Main concrete floor slab, butts wall foundation (114)
103	Made-ground deposit, cut for wall foundation (114)
104	Garden soil deposit, very dark grey-black, sandy silt with abundant small gravel/stone inclusions and occasional mortar flecking.
105	Concrete floor in Test Pit 2
106	Concrete wall foundation in Test Pit 2
107	Made-ground deposit in Test Pit 2 – same as (103)
108	Garden soil deposit in Test Pit 2 – same as (104)
109	Concrete floor in Test Pit 3
110	Brick floor surface below concrete in Test Pit 3. Same as (124)
111	Mortar bedding deposit for brick floor (110) grey lime mortar with charcoal and lime fleck inclusions
112	Garden soil deposit in Test Pit 3
113	Reddish-brown, sand and weathered sandstone – possibly archaeologically sterile natural deposit
114	Cut and fill for modern wall construction
115	Cut through brick surface with mixed modern fill, foundation cut
116	Cut of former wall through surface (124)
117	Cut for foundations of wall on east side of surface (124)
118	Foundations on the east side of surface (124) in cut (117)
119	Modern stanchion base cutting surface (124)
120	Modern stanchion base cutting surface (124)
121	Modern stanchion base cutting surface (124)
122	Modern stanchion base cutting surface (124)
123	Beam slot in surface (124)
124	Brick surface covering much of the study area after removal of concrete surface and bedding see also (110). surface approximately 21m x 3.5m in area. Individual bricks 230 x 105 x 80 mm. Nearly all laid to stretcher pattern and bonded with mid-grey lime mortar with lime and charcoal flecking
125	Concrete insert in surface (124) within cut/fill (129)
126	Unexcavated backfilled slot between (125) and (127) possibly part of larger cut/fill (129)
127	Wooden beam slot set into deposit (126)
128	Concrete insert in surface (124)
129	Part of a large backfilled cut into surface (124), partially occupied by concrete pads (125) and (130)
130	Concrete insert set in cut/fill (129) within surface (124)
131	Wooden beam set into concrete deposit (130)
132	Part of a large backfilled cut into surface (124), partially occupied by concrete pad (130)
133	Small wooden board held between concrete slabs in surface (124)
134	Small wooden hatch set into surface (124)
135	Concrete insert into surface (124)
136	Wooden beam set between concrete blocks
137	Concrete insert in surface (124)
138	Spoil and rubble deposit obscuring part of the site
139	Part of a large backfilled cut into surface (124) partially occupied by (135), (136) and (137)
140	Concrete floor see also (101), (105) & (109). Up to 250mm thick



Fig.1 Site location plan, scale 1:1250

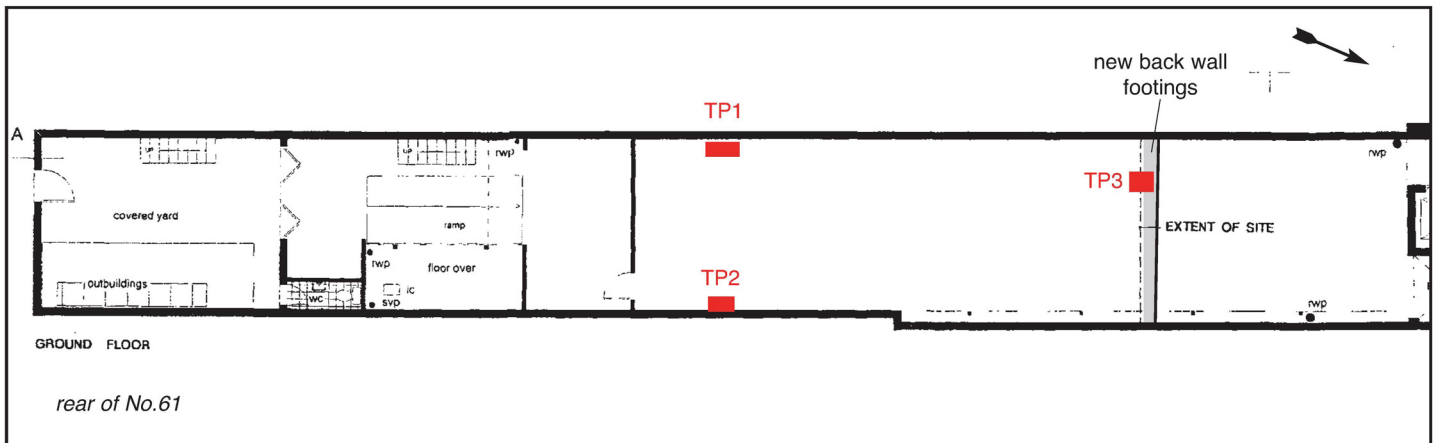


Fig.2 Plan showing study area in detail, scale 1:500 (top)



Plate 1 Test Pit 3 as excavated, exposing brick floor below concrete, looking north-west, Scale 0.5m



Plate 2 Partition wall foundation trench as excavated, looking south-west, 1m scale



Plate 3 Detail of former wall cutting the brick surface and the scar of where it butted the property boundary, looking south-west, 2 x 0.5m scales



Plate 4
Detail of concrete pad
and suggested backfilled
pit, looking north-east, 2
x 0.5m scales



Plate 5
Detail of surface and
associated features in
approx. centre of brick
surface, looking south-
west, 2 x 1m scales



Plate 6
Features exposed during
cleaning of the southern
part of the brick surface,
looking north-west, 2 x 1m
scales