ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

ON

THE VICARAGE,

STATION ROAD,

PILL, NORTH SOMERSET

NGR ST 5234 7596

On behalf of

Knightstone Housing Association Ltd

MARCH 2011

REPORT FOR   Knightstone Housing Association Ltd
                         (part of the Arcadia Housing Group)
                         Station Road
                         Worle
                         Weston-super-Mare
                         BS22 6AP

PREPARED BY   Stephen Yeates

ILLUSTRATION BY   Eoin Fitzsimons

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ENQUIRES TO   John Moore Heritage Services
                         Hill View
                         Woodperry Road
                         Beckley
                         Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

                         Tel/Fax 01865 358300
                         Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

JMHS Project No: 2367

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SUMMARY

This document represents an investigation of the potential for archaeological remains in the area of the Vicarage at Pill, Station Road, North Somerset (ST 5234 7596). Though there is no evidence as yet for Prehistoric or Roman activity, there is enough evidence from the historical textual sources to indicate that Pill had become a settlement by the 12th century AD. The extent and location of this settlement under the present settlement is unknown. The major industry of this settlement was ceramic production, the settlement was called Crewkerne Pill, the potters' pill, and the important medieval pottery of Ham Green ware was located in this area. The church of Saint Augustine in Bristol through other churches had major land-holdings in the area, some of which were connected with the pottery industry. The Lodway is the location of an ancient track-way of an unknown date, but certainly in use in the medieval period, the site fronts onto this road. The settlement of Pill in the 16th and 17th century is known to have extended up the Lodway towards Easton-in-Gordano. In the 19th century the area was the location of Heywood Hall and its formal gardens.

1   INTRODUCTION

1.1   Origins of the Report

Knightston Housing Association Ltd has commissioned this archaeological desk-based assessment on The Vicarage site at Station Road, Pill, Easton-in-Gordano, North Somerset (ST 5234 7596). The report has been prepared and is intended to inform any proposal under consideration within the defined area.

1.2   Planning Guidelines and Policies

This report has been prepared in accordance with *Planning Policy Statement* 5. Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5 2010) provides guidance related to archaeology within the planning process. The following Policy points are key to this development:

> 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.

> HE6.2 This information together with an assessment of the impact of the proposal should be set out in the application (within the design and access statement when this is required) as part of the explanation of the design concept. It should detail the sources that have been considered and the expertise that has been consulted.
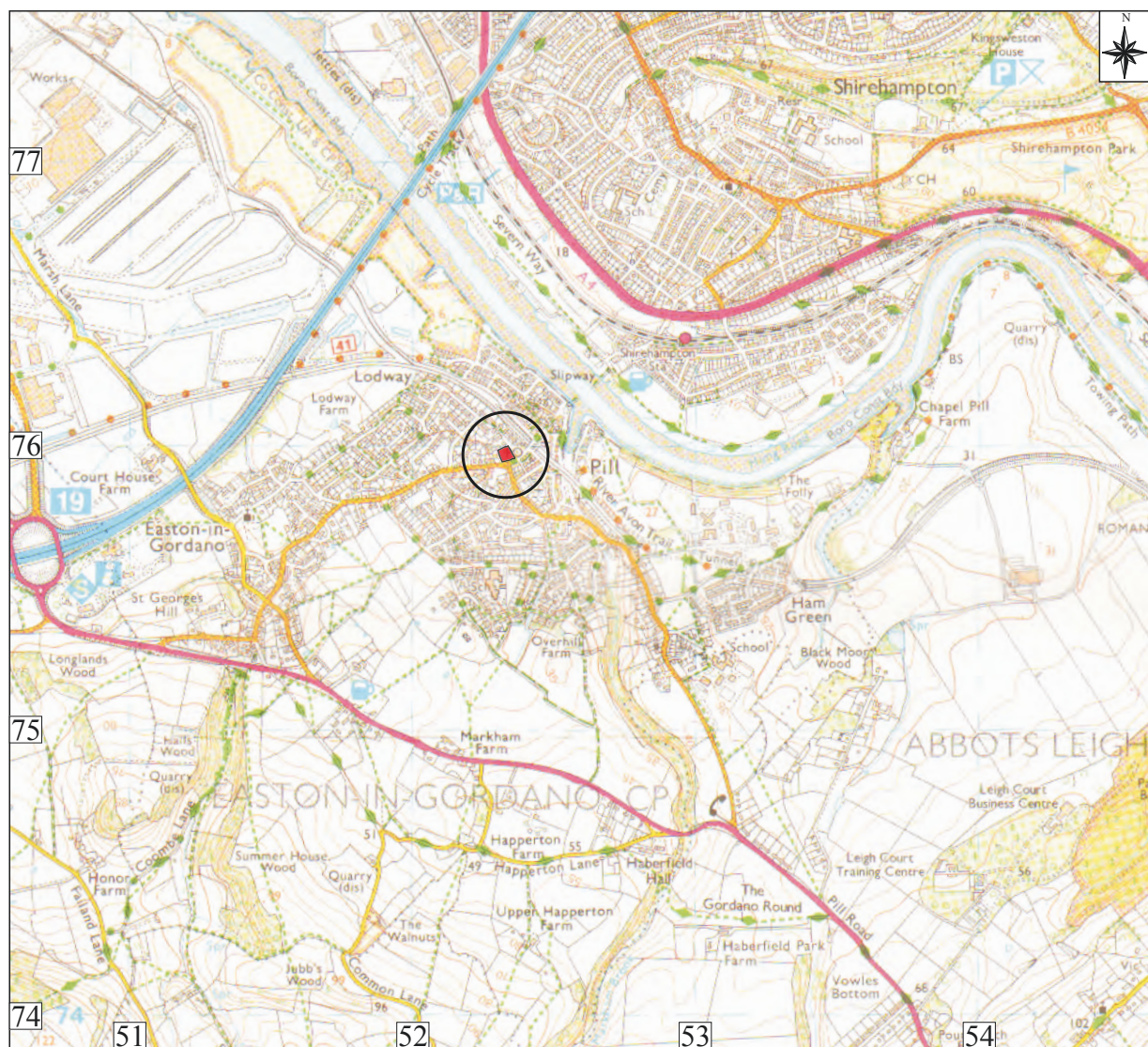
Site Outline

0 m   1000 m

Figure 1. Site location and study area

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> HE6.3 Local planning authorities should not validate applications where the extent of the impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets affected cannot adequately be understood from the application and supporting documents.

In format and contents this report conforms to the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008).

1.3 Desk-Based Assessment Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of the desk-based assessment is to provide a professional appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site. This follows the Government guidance in *PPS* 5 by presenting a synthetic account of the available archaeological and historical data and its significance at an early stage in the planning process.

In accordance with *PPS* 5, the report presents a desk-based evaluation of existing information. It additionally follows the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard* definition of a desk-based assessment (IFA 2008). In brief, it seeks to identify and assess the known and potential archaeological resource within a specified area ('the site'), collating existing written and graphic information and taking full account of the likely character, extent, quantity and worth of that resource in a local, regional and national context. It also aims to define and comment on the likely impact of the proposed development scheme on the surviving archaeological resource.

The Institute for Archaeologists *Standard* states that the purpose of a desk-based assessment is to inform appropriate responses, which may consist of one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the resource
- The formulation of a project design for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research

In accordance with *PPS* 5, the desk-based assessment forms the first stage in the planning process as regards archaeology as a material consideration and also an assessment of the impact on the historical character of the area. It is intended to contribute to the formulation of an informed and appropriate mitigation strategy.

1.4 Desk-Based Assessment Methodology

The format and contents of this section of the report are an adaptation of the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance paper for desk-based assessments (IFA 2008). The work has involved the consultation of the

available documentary evidence, including records of previous discoveries and historical maps, and has been supplemented with a site walkover. The format of the report is adapted from an Institute for Archaeologists *Standard Guidance* paper (IFA 2008).

In summary, the work has involved:

- Identifying the client's objectives
- Identifying the cartographic and documentary sources available for consultation
- Assembling, consulting and examining those sources
- Identifying and collating the results of recent fieldwork
- Site walkover

The principal sources consulted in assessing this site were:

- The North Somerset Historic Environment Record
- The National Monuments Record, Swindon
- The Somerset County Archives

The National Monuments Record, Swindon and North Somerset County Historic Environment Record, hold details of known archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of the proposal site.

There has been no archaeological work carried out at the proposal site, though construction work is known to have occurred on the site before. The assessment of its potential has, therefore, relied on predictive modelling based on the known distribution of remains within 250 metres of the centre of the site (from a central grid reference of ST 5234 7596, shown on figure 1). The information about standing historical and listed buildings within the same radius of the proposal area has also been collated.

The available evidence is derived from casual finds, archaeological investigations, standing buildings and historical records. It should be stressed that the distribution represents the extent of current knowledge and is the product of chance and investigation. For this reason, apparently blank zones should not be automatically regarded as being devoid of remains.

The assessment of the likely condition of any potential archaeological remains has relied upon a study of the available historical maps and observations made during the site walkover, which provide evidence for the impact of previous land-use on the site.

There have been no restrictions on reporting or access to the relevant records. The copyright to the North Somerset Historic Environment Record belongs to North Somerset District Council (Figures 1).

2 THE SITE

2.1 Location (Figure 1)

The proposal site lies in Pill Civil Parish, North Somerset District Council. Prior to the late 19th century Pill was a hamlet in the parish and manor of Easton-in-Gordano or Saint George (ST 5234 7596). In the late 19th and early 20th century it became the centre of its own parish, but this was short lived.

2.2 Description (Figure 1)

Though it can be recognised that Pill undoubtedly has its origins in the medieval period, it is apparent that few of the buildings in the area date to before the 19th century. Though some 19th century houses exist the present plan is created by much post Second World War estate development and infill.

The hamlet, later village, takes its name from a small stream that enters the River Avon a small distance above the confluence of that river with the River Severn. The name pill refers to a creek, usually tidal, the defining name Crockern Pill recorded in 1830, and before, contains the Old English word *crocc-œrn*, with an etymology of **pottery** or **potter** (Watts 2004, 472). The latter would tie in with the known medieval pottery traditions attributed to Ham Green.

The land at present is used as a garden for the Vicarage, and was previously arranged as a formal garden.

2.3 Geology and Topography

The geology of the Pill area has been dated to the Triassic period, much of it must be marlstone, but there are also bands of conglomerate and sandstone.

The site lies on a northeast-facing slope above Marcham stream and pill, and has an ordnance datum between 20-25m.

3 PROPOSED SCHEME (Figure 1)

The proposed scheme is for the demolition of the existing building and the construction of further residential buildings on the site. This would include 8 three bedroom sheltered flats, 3 three bedroom houses, and 3 two bedroom houses with bays for 18 parking spaces, besides bikes and cycles.

4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Early History of the Gordano Region: The Setting (Figure 2)

Historically Pill emerges as a named location in the high medieval period, (1066-1400). Prior to Domesday this hamlet's site was part of a larger estate

or manor, which may have some antiquity. The estate extended down the Gordano valley: including Portbury, Portishead, Easton-in-Gordano, Weston-in-Gordano, Clapton-in-Gordano and Walton-in-Gordano (see figure 2). The names Easton recorded as *Eston in Gordano* in 1293, is Old English *ēast-tūn*, the **east settlement** (Watts 2004, 205), while Weston was recorded as Weston in Gordenland in 1271, from Old English *west-tūn*, the **west settlement** (Watts 2004, 666). These two names are directional estate names pointing to an estate centre located in the vicinity of Portishead or Portbury. The other name that points to a common political origin for this estate is the common suffix Gordano, used for all the four major sub-manors in the area. The name Gordano has been given an etymology of **gār-denu**, the triangular valley (Watts 2004, 140), although not all etymologists are agreed with this and some suspect a Celtic or Brittonic origin for the name, for example Breeze (2004, 23-4) that **gara** may be a Welsh river-name.

Within the vicinity of Pill archaeological sites of a prehistoric or Roman date are not known, however, in and around the larger Gordano estate a number of important sites of these dates can or have been recognised. An Iron-Age camp has been identified at Woodhill in Portishead (Yeates 2006, 1115; Webster 2003, 140). At Portbury there are descriptions of two camps in 1875 (Grover 1875, 68-75), only one of which survives at Conyar Hill (Yeates 2006, 1115-6). The location of the other is not known. Most interesting in this respect is the description of a bank on Windmill Hill near the Portbury parish boundary with Easton of a bank 200m in length (Iles 1978, 149-52), which may be the remains of the second camp that Grover described. The Tithe Award map of 1841 for Easton-in-Gordano (SRO D/D/Rt/M/270; SO 524 747) contains the field-name Old Walls near Happerton, some 1200m from the site. This type of name normally refers to the remains of a *vallum* (wall) of a camp or linear bank, it is perhaps an indicator that the pill, with its natural harbour, may have seen prehistoric or Roman activity, although this is not conclusive evidence.

As early as 1791 Collinson (1791, iii.141) described massive foundations of a Roman town at Portbury and claimed that the name referred to the fortified Roman town. It is now generally accepted that Portishead was the location of a major Roman town and port (Rippon 1997, 136-7; Lewis 1845, iii.574; Yeates 2006; 1112-3). These sites are near to where the centre of the early medieval estate is considered to have been located. A further Roman town is recognised on the north bank of the River Avon at Sea Mills (Yeates 2006, 1295-7). The location of these two significant Roman sites, both probable ports, may mean that the creek at Pill was never developed in the Roman period, this is possibly circumstantial evidence that significant Roman material of a town like nature may not be expected in the Pill area, although a villa or temple above the pill could still be a possibility.

Portbrig was recorded as the earliest of these sites historically in 899 x 925 (Watts 2004, 478). The other settlements in the estate enter history like many English places in 1086 in the book of Winchester (Domesday) and at that time it is apparent that the majority of the estate had been granted to the Bishop of Coutance. Easton (the manor in which Pill probably lay) was an estate of 12 hides (Thorn and Thorn 1980, 5.24) that contained 9 ploughs, there were 14
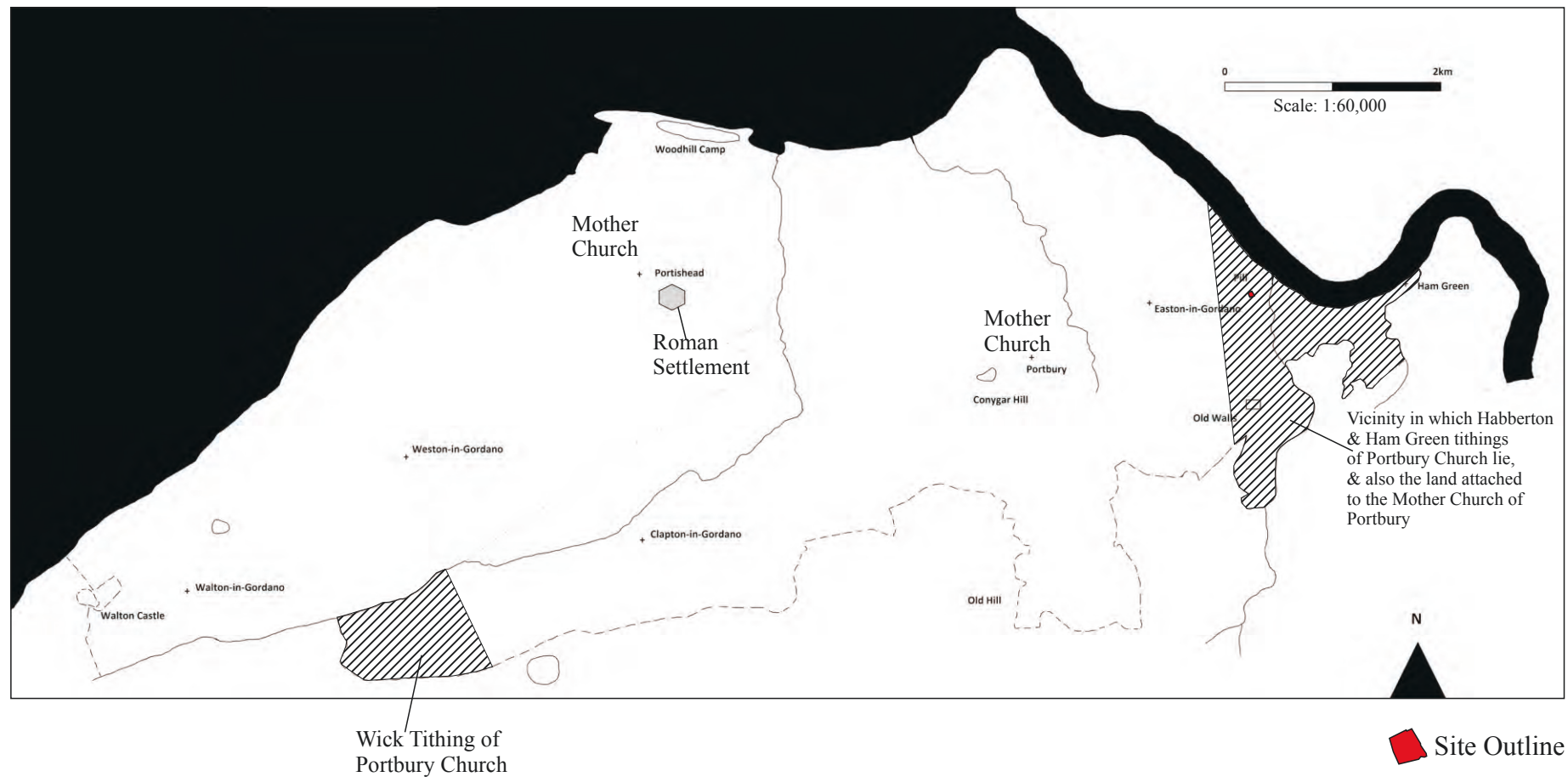
Figure 2. Pill in the Medieval period. The estate of Portbury-cum-Portishead

villagers, 7 smallholders, 3 slaves, a mill paying 50d, meadow land, woodland of 36 acres, and pasture of 100acres. The Somerset part of the Domesday Book contains reference to animals also: 2 cobs, 3 unbroken mares, 12 cattle, 20 pigs, and 200 sheep. The reference to the mill is of interest as a mill field-name occurs on the 1841 tithe award near Markham stream (Pill), besides potential remains of mill ponds, this indicates that there was probably an early mill at Pill some 500m to the east of the site.

Of the other manors (Thorn and Thorn 1980, 5.22, 25, 26, 27, 33, 29.1): Weston contained two manors of 10 hides 1 virgate, Clapton 5 ½ hides, Portishead 8 hides, and Portbury 8 hides. Some of the Portbury estate may have been a detached part of the manor located in the vicinity of Ham Green, Happerton or Pill (see below). The only part of this estate removed by this time is Walton-in-Gordano an estate of 3 ½ hides that was held by Richard of Barre from Ralph of Mortimer from the King.

Rippon (1997, 136-7) interpreted Portbury as the centre of the medieval estate. In early medieval Wales it is possible to identify estates with two centres, an ecclesiastical or church centre and a lay or lordly centre. It is evident that the two centres Portbury and Portishead must represent these two types of places, but which one is which is more difficult to determine. That the bishop of Coutance held both of these manors in 1086 makes this difficult to discern, Portishead had a parish that included Weston. The register of bishop Bubwith states that the parishioners of Weston were not to prejudice the church of Portishead (Holmes 1914, no.1233), thus indicating that it was a chapel. The churches of Clapton and Easton seem independent churches in most of the medieval texts; however, a list of the tithings of Portbury church (Yeates 2006, 1116) includes Clapton-Wick tithing in the present parish of Clapton, and Happerton and Ham Green tithings, in Easton and detached parts of Portbury. This information indicates that both Easton and Clapton were previously chapels of Portbury as that church took tithes from these parishes. The exact boundaries of these two tithings have not been ascertained and it is possible that parts of Pill may have been linked ecclesiastically through the Happerton or Ham Green tithings to Portbury church and the Domesday manor. The chapel of Saint Katherine at Ham Green Pill was also a chapel annexed to the church of Portbury (Walker 1998, no.13). The association of the Pill area with the church at Portbury seems to be part of a longstanding tradition that emerges out of the configuration of the early medieval estate and its antecedents. It is likely that Portbury is the location of an early medieval church and that some of the hidage attached to this church lay in the Ham Green and Pill area.

4.2   The History of Easton and Pill

An initial account of the Domesday Manor for Easton was given above. The two settlements of Easton and Pill become two distinct settlements in the parish with two different functions. Robert Fitz Harding obtained the estate of Portbury at the beginning of the 12th century (Walker 1998, xii-xiii, xxvii). Fitz Harding was an ancestor of the Berkeley family and the manor of Portbury was one of the two principal manors of the Berkeley Patrimony in

Somerset (Wells-Furby 2004, 527). The abbey of Saint Augustine's, Bristol, acquired most of its estates from Fitz Harding. Richard de Moreville bought half of the manor of Portbury *c*.1150-60 from Robert Fitz Harding (Wells-Furby 2004, 528). These grants included land in and around the modern settlements of Pill and Ham Green. The church of Portbury was granted to the abbey of Bristol in 1148 (Walker 1998, no.70). There is a confirmation of the church of Portbury to Saint Augustine's abbey 1154 x 1172, along with land near the Pill and Saint Katherine's (Walker 1998, no.13). This charter indicates that the land at Pill and Ham Green was anciently held by Portbury church, perhaps as an early holding of an ancient church. There is further reference to this land at *Katerinum* (Saint Katherine's chapel) in a charter covering the Fitz Harding grant in 1159 (Walker 1998, no.73) and in 1220 x 1243 (Walker 1998, no.158). A more detailed description of what is occurring on this land has been identified for 1140 x 48 where land is described at Ham and Pill, with one of the tenants being named as Geoffrey the Potter, from whom the church of Saint Helen at Portbury has the right to collect Peter's pence (Walker 1998, no.289), an ancient church payment associated with early church sites. Specific reference is made to 2 virgates at Ham and Pill belonging to Portbury church (Walker 1998, no.290), and also in 1148 x 71 tithes from the Pill vicinity to that church (Walker 1998, no.291). The exact location of all this land is not known, but it is of interest that some of the tenants identified on this land included potters. Ham Green is a name now synonymous with medieval pottery production (see below), and the texts suggest that some of these potters were tenants of Saint Augustine's Abbey, Bristol. Historically we can recognise that land in and around Pill was the location of an important medieval pottery industry. The Berkeley family granted further land in the area of Pill to the church in 1345 when Edward III granted a licence to Thomas de Berkeley to grant 40 acres of land in Portbury, Easton and Bedminster to the chapel of Saint Katherine (Wells-Furby 2004, 529).

The name Crockern Pill referred to the potter's pill or the pottery (see above). Archaeological evidence has been uncovered to indicate that this association is indeed correct. In 1959 a dump of pottery wasters and a kiln were uncovered adjacent to Ham Green Hospital on Crockern Pill (ST 534 758). The dump of wasters produced some 6,915 pieces consisting of jugs, cooking pots and other vessels. Two types of clay fabrics were identified A and B pastes. Paste A was an alluvial clay washed from the Mendips that contained calcium fragments. Paste B was a clay containing water worn sands. This particular pottery site was 1km from the proposed site, but the ancient name of the pill and the size of the Ham Green industry may indicate further kilns towards Pill and up the Lodway (see below). The medieval pottery industry provides one of the key features for the development of Pill as a port on the River Avon (a medieval port is, therefore, suspected).

The location of Pill has been recognised as a good location for anchorage since the high medieval period (Wigan 1950, 19, 54, 91). It is recognised as being the location of one end of a ferry crossing the Avon, which was controlled by the lords of the manor of Easton-in-Gordano. The Vicarage is located along the line of the road that runs from Easton-in-Gordano Manor

down to the slipway, and it is thus possible that Station Road formed part of the main route between the two locations. The name Lodway, applied to a farm and road in the area, but may be taken to mean the road (via or way) to the lode (river crossing). This road probably lies adjacent to the south of the site. A deed survives from 1783 referring to the Ship and Ferry at the Passage (SRO DD/PN/5), presumably the site from where this ferry sailed from, or the public house that operated the ferry.

In the 17th and 18th century it is apparent that the hamlet of Pill is providing an important economic function in the Bristol area, and is a satellite settlement to the port of Bristol. Collinson (1791, iii.146) mentions the hamlet in one or two sentences and impresses on us that Crockerne Pill contained the dwellings for pilots that navigated the Avon to Bristol. An assessment of Pill in the 17th century by Walmsley (PAM 1267) has brought together some of dispersed textual data to paint a picture of Pill as a harbour with mooring posts or trees for boats, beyond which and ranging up the hill towards Easton, were a series of dwellings. This design of the hamlet is emphasised in the persistent disputes between the pilots of Pill and the Morgan family in 1604, 1627, 1630, 1634, 1637, and 1652, when the family tried to build premises between the mooring posts and trees and the existing house line. The recognisable trades from Pill included: merchants, millers, a smith, mariners, tidesmen, shoemakers, tailors, sailors, seamen, boatmen, ships carpenters, searcher, brewer, tapster, inn servants and pilots; thus a sizable and diverse population. The hamlet in the 1600s was described as a town of alehouses (Wigan 1950, 92). The presence of some of these trades may make one realise why in 1755 Pill was described as the place renowned throughout the Forest of Kingswood for stupid, brutal and abandoned wickedness (PAM 1267). The association between Pill and the port of Bristol may have a far older antiquity as Saint Augustine's Cartulary contains an agreement dated 1240 (Walker 1998, no. 588) with the mayor of Bristol over the alteration of the course of the Frome in the vicinity of Canon's Marsh. This agreement is to do with the development of port facilities, Saint Augustine's abbey as an important facilitator of wealth in the medieval city seems to have connections with both locations.

The census of 1801 (PAM 1267) mentions the following road-names in Pill: Pill Street, Pump Square, Mariners Parade, Union Row, Star Lane, Bull Lane and Myrtle Hill. The settlement is known to have extended along Lodway (see above) and along the banks of the Avon to Ham Green.

A description of Pill is provided by Wigan for 1829 (1950, 133-9). Here we find that much of the building activity in Pill started after this date when Cann Wilkins mortgaged the manor of Easton due to financial problems. Thus although the settlement has a medieval origin the expansion of the settlement occurred in the late Georgian period and into the Victorian era. About this time the hamlet of Pill is known to have several streets, dwelling houses, dry docks, a dockyard, warehouses, a brewery, and 18 public houses. A Salvation Army Hall was built at some time after 1865. Lodway Farm, some 250m to the west of the site on the outskirts of modern Pill, is allegedly built from the remains of the dismantled manor of Easton-in-Gordano.

Heywood Hall was constructed on the site of the Vicarage *c*. 1840 (Tozur 1988, 47-8). The hall was demolished in the 1930s. The tithe award map (SRO D/D/Rt/M/270) shows the hall set in a series of formal gardens (see below). The Reverend Richard Wilkins had the Vicarage built in Pill on the site of Hayward Hall (Wigan 1950, 133-9). A Reverend Richard Wilkins is mentioned in a deed of 1809 (SRO DD/PN/5), as is the Reverend George Wilkins.

The parochial system and church holdings see reorganisation in the latter part of the 19th century as the new parish of Christ Church at Pill is created. The Ecclesiastical Commission created a report in 1852 on providing better spiritual care for the community at Pill (SRO D/D/ord 9/1-15/6). The report describes the sale of land by the church of Bath and Wells on behalf of Easton-in-Gordano rectory, and the purchase of land by Bath and Wells; presumably for the establishment of the new parish facilities. In 1861 the boundary of the chapelry was arranged with all parochial rights released to the new vicarage at Pill except those of burial (PAM 2304). The bishop of London became patron of the church at Easton in 1867 (Wigan 1950, 133-9). The new church of Christ Church was built in Pill in 1872 (Wigan 1950, 133-9). An incendiary device damaged the church in 1941 (Tozur 1988, 6).

Land in Pill held by the church may have gone through a series of hands. The church at Portbury held land in the 12th century in and around Pill and Ham Green. The tenants on these holdings were associated with the Ham Green pottery industry. The land at Easton belonging to that church was located to the south of the village. The dissolution of the monasteries, Civil War, Inclosures and church commissions probably saw the re-organisation of parish land holdings, it is possible that land once held by Portbury church in Easton-in-Gordano might have ultimately ended up with the vicar or Pill. Hence it is feasible that the site of the Vicarage and Christ Church in Pill may be built on the location of earlier church land. Thus these may be associated with pottery production besides the hall and formal garden of the 19th century, or medieval and post-medieval settlement extending along the Lodway.

4.3   Known Archaeological Sites (Figure 3)

The Historic Environment Record (HER) of North Somerset District Council contains seven references to sites located in the 250m radius of the site. The first two are general references to the settlement of Pill itself. Pill (North) covers the settlement pattern to the north of the railway (2); this refers to the core settlement marked on Somerset maps of the late 18th and 19th century (ST 5248 7601). The date of this settlement is unknown and even though the present surviving map data is late some of the present boundaries of the settlement could originate in the medieval period or even before. Pill (South) covers the settlement to the south of the railway line (7). This has been catalogued for the same reasons, it occurs on the same maps as the north settlement, and the antiquity of the settlement is also unknown, perhaps showing older characteristics (ST 5236 7585). This broad area encompasses the present development area suggesting that possible medieval activity is to be found.
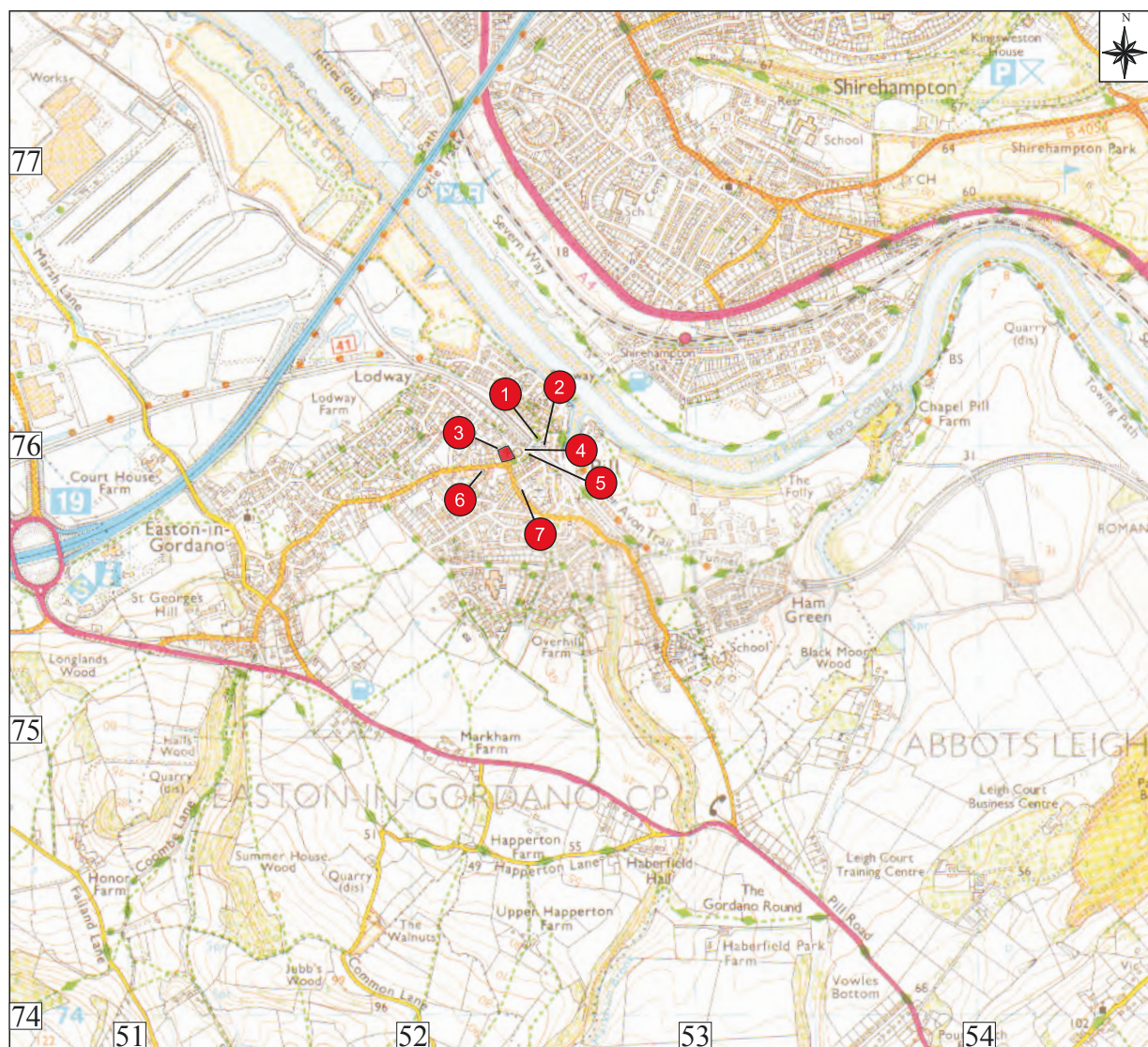
Site Outline

0 m   1000 m

Figure 3. Medieval & Post Medieval

The ambiguity of the dates for when the settlement of Pill was historically established is reflected in the information available for some of the other sites catalogued on the Historic Environment database. The Vicarage was built on the grounds of Heywood Hall (3), the site is classed as a post-medieval manor house, but again the exact date that this site was first used for an important residential home is not know. The HER places the site of the manor to the north of the present plot on which the Vicarage stands (ST 5230 7600). The Lodway Brewery (6) also has doubts concerning the date of its foundation, which is certainly pre-1830 (ST 5222 7590). The site closed in 1912, but it is known that the brewery at the height of its commercial success owned all of the inns in Portishead and all but two of the inns in Pill. The building was demolished for the construction of flats. The reason for the doubts concerning the foundation of the brewery is that in the 1600s a brewer was mentioned as a trader at Pill. The site is located 200m to the south of the site along the Lodway. Myrtle Hill is mentioned as the name of a road in the 1801 census (see above) a terrace of 6 houses has been given a grade II listing (5). The date of the cottages has not been precisely ascertained but as the street was in existence in 1801 a late 18th century date is likely for the structures (ST 5241 7595). Myrtle Hill runs adjacent to Station Road and Back Lane and it is possible that this is the original route of the Lodway. The name of the street Back Lane indicates that this was seen as a secondary thoroughfare, hence Myrtle Hill was the main road, or the road originally lay to the west.

The other two sites on the HER are both related to the construction of the railway line, which would have been built in the 1860s. The railway station (4) was opened on 18/4/1867 and closed 7/9/64. The building (ST 5240 7590) is part of the industrial heritage of the Victorian period. The accompanying Station Hotel (1) has first been noted on a map of 1915, thus indicating its construction at sometime between 1867 and 1915 (ST 5242 7603).

A search of the English Heritage listed buildings database in a 500m radius produced three listed structures. One of the structures listed lies just outside the 250m-radius search zone required. This is Lodway Croft a grade II listed building (EH.LB.no.33460) a mid 17th century building (ST 52154 75891). The significant of this latter building is that it like other structures inside the search radius indicates that settlement straggled along the Lodway and Myrtle Hill in a form of ribbon development.

4.4   Cartographic Research (Figures 4-8)

Few maps survive that show the hamlet of Pill in great detail prior to *c*. 1900. The oldest surviving map was by Bowen of 1750, this shows Pill as part of Portbury Hundred, as it was not the location of a church at that time the settlement is marked only by two squares. The significance of these two features is not known, but they are located uphill and away from the actual pill, perhaps in the vicinity of Heywood Hall.

Day and Masters published one of the oldest maps surviving of the Pill area in 1782 (SRS 1981). The map was of the county (Fig. 4), and the houses are shown straddling the land between the site and extending down to the pill. The

detail is not great but it indicates that the site is on the southern edge of the area in which one would expect to find medieval or early post-medieval settlement.

An estate map of 1799 (SRO DD/CC/T/6693), from Easton-in-Gordano parish, shows the southern area of Easton Village, lands called Boardalls and Long Elms, this is over some 250m to the west of the site. This shows the extent of church land held by Saint George's or Easton church.

The Somerset map of Greenwood was published in 1822 (SRS 1981) and shows a larger concentration of houses in the area again between the site and the pill from which the settlement takes its name (Fig. 5). This indicates that the hamlet obtained some expansion between 1782 and 1822.

The Tithe Award map of 1841 (SRO D/D/Rt/M/270) shows the remains of Heyward Hall on the site of the present Vicarage (Fig. 6). The site at this time is described as being leasehold, rented, under James Adam Gordon Esq. Heyward Hall has been given a co-ordinate on the HER indicating that the hall would lie outside the area of the proposed build, the Tithe Map may indicate that it lies further to the east than indicated and may lie on the edge of the present proposed development area.

The shape of the settlement of Pill on the Tithe Map is of interest in that it shows Back Lane and Myrtle Hill diverging before running adjacent to each other. Myrtle Lane by this time has presumably become the main road, possibly because if newer it is likely to be wider. However, the course of Myrtle Hill turns abruptly at right angles where Church Walk is now located. This road and others seem to respect the piece of land that is numbered on the Tithe Map as field no.272 (ST 524 7590). At the least it may be the case that land-ownership has caused this development, alternatively it may be the case that a now lost archaeological site caused this development. This plot of land lies immediately to the south of the proposal site and the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map names the house on the site as Haywood Villa, and this house is on the Tithe Map of 1841. Though no old versions of the name Heywood have been collected it is possible that the place-name is Old English *haga-wudu*, the **wood enclosure**. If this is what is causing this development in the settlement here, it is also providing the name of the area. The area would have seen pan age and also charcoal production for the ceramics industry.

The Tithe Award map is more detailed than any previously produced, which shows the settlement extending around the pill and also extending up the hill towards Lodway. A lane running to the east of the road running from Pill to Easton is called Cross Lane (reference nos. 388 and 409), this is indicative of a medieval cross in the vicinity of this road (perhaps 600m to the south of the site). Public Houses and brewing establishments are named on this map along the Lodway or on roads leading onto the main thoroughfare. These include the New Inn and Premises (no.380), the Brewhouse and Malthouse (no.379), the Old Brewery (no.360), and the Oathouse (no.377).

Figure 4. Day & Masters 1782

0 _____ 250 m

🟥 Site Outline

Figure 5. Greenwood 1822

0 _____ 250 m

🟥 Site Outline

Site Outline

Figure 6. Extract from the 1841 Tithe Map

Figure 7. OS Map 1903. 2nd Series

Site Outline

0   500 m

Figure 8. Map of 1957 showing parochial alterations

Site Outline

0 m   1000 m

17

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 shows the Vicarage with orchards to the north; with the site of the new Christ Church to the south. Lodway is an area and location name set on the road from the ferry passage to the manor at Easton-in-Gordano. The Lodway Brewery has been constructed some 150m to the south of the site. The railway is shown for the first time to the north of the vicarage, which was constructed in the 1860s. Buildings extend from the location of the vicarage down either side of the road to Pill or the passage. Buildings are shown fronting the Avon and Markham Pill. There was a triangle of roads with houses between the main road to the passage (the Lodway or Back Lane) and Markham Pill. Prior to this the Vicarage was located on the periphery of the settlement along the Lodway. Here the settlement is shown encroaching upon from the northeast.

The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1903 (Fig. 7) shows an expansion of the town in the Springfield Terrace area of the town in the area to the south of Christ Church. Further buildings have been constructed to the south of the Vicarage in the area of Lodway. This means that the fields around the vicarage have been encroached upon in the southeast.

A later map of 1957 (Fig. 8) showed the original form that the parish of Christ Church at Pill took, and also the proposed alterations to the parish (SRO D/D/ord/98/5). The village has become enlarged, with the fields around the rectory land on the west being development from 1903-1957.

4.5   Photographs

Due to the way Pill has developed it is unlikely that aerial photography would provide any further data for archaeological remains around the site. Tozur (1988, 47-8) has produced a publication of old photographs in the Gordano Valley. This contains a photograph of Heywood Hall as it was when standing and a further picture of it being dismantled. Further pictures are shown in and around Pill (Tozur 1988, 29-50).

5   DISCUSSION

5.1   The Archaeological Potential of the Site

Map evidence and historical texts indicate that there is/was archaeology on the proposed site in the form of a post-medieval manor house. About 1840 Heywood Hall was constructed on the site, of the Vicarage, and was demolished in about 1930. This building is shown with formal gardens on the Tithe Award map of 1841 (SRO D/D/Rt/M/270). It is not known if this was the first high-status residential premises constructed on this site or if an earlier structure existed, thus there is potential for earlier structures. The Vicarage was obviously designed to replace this and is presumably a 1930s or post-1930s structure.

Two other factors point to a potential for archaeology on the site, but cannot be confirmed by a desk-based assessment. The area around Pill and Ham

Green are recognised in the 12th century as part of the land attached to the church of Saint Helen at Portbury. Portbury church is probably on or near the site of an early medieval church, and the land at Pill may have been part of the church's early holdings. There are indications that some of this land in the 12th century and later was rented out to tenant potters, which are recognised archaeologically as being part of a major medieval pottery centre. If as later documents suggest the land at Heywood Hall was church land, then it has the potential to have a kiln site or charcoal burning sites. Such sites due to their intensive firing can be identified by non-intrusive means.

The second of the potential areas for archaeology is that the Vicarage fronts onto the road that was anciently called the Lodway, this is the location of an ancient trackway leading from the manor to the ferry point across the river. Descriptions of the settlement, and the early maps show ribbon development along the Lodway. The exact nature and location of pre-map development along this road is not known, but there is the potential for medieval and pre-medieval structures fronting onto this road.

The desk-based assessment has identified one sequence of archaeological activity on the site and two potential points for archaeological activity on the site, but cannot state precisely whether the two potential areas of archaeology would be identified.

5.2   The Impact of Previous Development on Potential Archaeological Remains

Heywood Hall and its gardens are a positive and certain archaeological feature. The building was dismantled in the 1930s. To what extent this was truncated at the time, and its planned formal garden removed is unknown. There is the possibility that foundations and cellars remain of this structure on the northern edge of the site. With the formal gardens also it is not known if they remain as buried features in places. This cannot be fully ascertained from a desk-based assessment. It is possible that the vicarage garden retained some of these earlier features. Features underneath the vicarage are presumably severely truncated, and there is a possibility of this under the driveway to the house. Garden features potentially lie under the lawn, and grass marks are evident in this area on google satellite images.

The Lodway (including Station Road and Back Lane) was the route of an ancient trackway of an unknown date. Roads are recognised archaeologically as being focuses along which settlement developed. If this did exist then the only way in which this could have been truncated is with the construction of the late Georgian gardens (early 19th century) or root activity of the large trees along the front of the site.

Pill also seems to have suffered from Second World War bombing, with the Victorian church of Christ being amongst the recognised buildings damaged. This indicates that Pill generally was one of the locations in the vicinity of Bristol that suffered bombing; the location of each of these missile strikes is

unknown/un-plotted. Any development of the potential site in Pill would require a check.

5.3   The Impact of the Proposal Area on Potential Archaeological Remains

The site was once the location of a post-medieval manor with planned garden, which was dismantled. The construction for the development would destroy any surviving garden features across the site while any surviving buried foundations on the site of Heywood Hall could be potentially large and problematic. These foundations, hopefully, fall into the proposed gardens along the west edge of the site or across the boundary, which means part of it could have already been destroyed by the bungalows to the west of the property. Being precise on the location depends on the accuracy of the ancient map, which are notorious for surveying inaccuracies. Google satellite images show grass scorching to the southwest of the vicarage (probable Hall location).

The Station Road frontage (previously the Lodway) will see some disturbance through the construction of the road scheme and parking places along with service trenches. Depending on the depth of soil or stratigraphy and if this track saw any settlement at this location, again there is the potential for destruction of archaeology.

The proposed site fronts onto a recognised route of an ancient trackway, with the potential for earlier settlement along its course. If this site is longstanding church land, it has the potential for ceramic production activity. If a pottery kiln existed on the site it is an important archaeological feature as ceramic types can be identified as coming from a single kiln site, which can hopefully, be provided with a more precise date. There is the potential that one of these could turn up in the area, but any location could not be ascertained from the desk-based assessment.

The desk-based assessment also has to comment, in accordance with PPS 5, on the visual impact to the area. Pictures used by Tozur (1988, 29-30) from the late 19th and early 20th centuries show the centre of Pill as a series of streets with densely packed cottages, this landscape has changed vastly with some older houses surviving with others suffering clearance. This could be a result of bombing in the Second World War or 1960s clearance. This has left the settlement of Pill as a place without distinctive character and it is unlikely that the development will have a negative impact in other than removing a piece of greenery in its centre.

6   CONCLUSIONS

The settlement of Pill probably originated as part of the large early medieval estate focused on the Portbury and Portishead area. The church of Saint Helen at Portbury was probably the major church on the estate and held land in the vicinity of Pill. In the Domesday record some of the features attributed to the

manor of Easton-in-Gordano may have been located at Pill, but some of those described at Portbury may also have been located in this vicinity.

The settlement took its earliest recorded name, Crockern Pill from the Ham Green pottery industry, some of which was established on church land in the areas of Pill and Ham Green. The location of all of these pottery kilns and waste dumps is not known, neither is the location of all of the land previously held by Saint Helen's church at Portbury, Saint Katherine's at Ham Green, and ultimately Saint Augustine's at Bristol. The village took its name from the ceramic industry, but Heywood also has a significant name in that it refers to a woodland enclosure. This area would have contained land for pan age, but also wood for firing the kilns in the medieval period.

The Lodway was an ancient track between the church and manor of Easton and the ferry terminus at Pill; settlement along this route may occur from any period from which this road or track was in operation. Though it is not provable as yet the course could even be part of a ridgeway along the Kingswood Forest ridge that exists either side of the River Avon.

The site is located on a post-medieval manor with its formal gardens; the documented Heyward Hall was constructed *c*. 1840 and demolished *c*. 1930. It is not known if there was a predecessor to this residence.

Archaeology is present on the site, but how much of it survives and in what condition, is not possible to determine from this desk-based assessment. The most cost effective way of mitigating the archaeological potential is first to carry out a geophysical survey of the site. However, there are certain caveats to this. This should help in three ways; firstly it should directly locate the remains of Heywood Hall physically on the ground. It may even show areas where formal gardens existed. If there was previous occupation along the Lodway/Station Road frontage it may also locate this. Kiln and furnace sites often produce large discrepancies in the data recorded and would also be indicated if a feature of this nature existed on the site. The caveat is that the lawn at the Vicarage is an ideal candidate to carry out such a procedure, the frontage is covered in trees, and this is a problem and would require clearance prior to survey.

The decision on what happens as a result of the findings of a geophysical survey depends on the details found and the interpretation of the survey. The decisions on what happens are not down to John Moore Heritage Services but down to the Archaeologist of North Somerset District Council, Vince Russett. If indications of a kiln turn up on site this may require full excavation in the vicinity of the kiln, if not then this is not a problem. Geophysical survey work along the frontage is difficult due to the tree cover. If clearance takes place survey work can be carried out. If features are detected along the line of the Lodway, this also may be of concern, as the activity there is unknown and undated, a more detailed form of excavation may be required by the NSDC Archaeologist. If no response is obtained then this does not necessarily mean that there is no archaeology there, it is simply less likely and a lower level of mitigation would be considered (an evaluation or a watching brief). If survey

cannot be carried out due to the trees the NSDC Archaeologist may ask for evaluation to take place in this area to physically check potential. In many authority areas it has become standard practice to place evaluation trenches alongside known ancient road or trackways. If there is no indication across the site of a kiln or buildings fronting onto the Lodway/Station Road, and the imprint of the post-medieval mansion lies outside of your planned construction area, then the NSDC Archaeologist may ask for an evaluation followed by a watching brief or simply a watching brief. This sets out the potential of archaeological mitigation depending on what transpires, at the end the decision is with the NSDC Archaeologist.

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7.2   Historic Maps

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7.3 GAZETTEER ON HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

PERIOD	JMHS ID	HER ID	NGR (ST)	DESCRIPTION
Medieval-Post-Medieval				
1867-1915	1	40669-MNS3210	ST 5242 7603	The Station Hotel, Monmouth Road, marked on a map of 1915.
Med-Post-Med	2	43591-MNS5843	ST 5248 7601	Pill (North), the settlement of Pill to the north of the railway line. This settlement certainly has 17th and 18th century features, but there may be older attributes extending back at least to the medieval period.
1840-1930	3	45986-MNS7785	ST 5230 7600	A post-medieval manor house, which was certainly standing 1840-1930.
1860s	4	5040-MNS1445	ST 5240 7599	The Railway Station, opened 18/4/1867 and closed 7/9/64
18th-19th	5	40954-MNS3445	ST 5241 7595	A terrace of 6 houses and PO (Post Office), Upper Myrtle Hill, recorded as a grade II listed building.
Pre-1830	6	1228-MNS715	ST 5222 7590	The Lodway Brewery, established pre-1830 and closed in 1912. This brewery owned all the inns in Portishead and all but 2 in Pill. It has now been demolished and turned into flats.
Med-Post-Med	7	43592-MNS5844	ST 5236 7585	Pill (South), the settlement of Pill to the south of the railway line. This settlement certainly has 17th and 18th century features, but there may be older attributes extending back at least to the medieval period.