

Written Scheme of Investigation

The Former Christadelphian Hall Site Midland Road, St Philips Bristol

Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning Reference 19/02785/F

May 2021

Avon Archaeology Limited



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Document Subtitle	Written Scheme Of Investigation for a Watching Brief
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Figure 1: Location of Study Area

Figure 2: Site Plan



1 Introduction

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring (Archaeological Watching Brief) has been requested as a condition by Bristol City Council in relation to a proposed development of land which fronts Midland Road, in St Philips, Bristol. The development in question is a small block of six, self-contained flats (4x1 bed, 1x2 bed and 1x3 bed), planning reference 19/02785/F.
- 1.2 Avon Archaeology Limited have been commissioned by David Cahill to produce this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and to undertake the archaeological fieldwork during the construction groundworks.
- 1.3 This document will set out the aims and objectives, methodology and the standards that will be employed by Avon Archaeology Limited.
- 1.4 The work will be conducted in accordance with the relevant guidelines for watching briefs issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA 2014 rev 2020) and the guidelines for archaeological projects set out in MoRPHE (2015).
- 1.5 Health and Safety will take priority over all archaeological matters, and fieldwork will be undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy of Avon Archaeology Limited (produced in collaboration with AAL's health and safety advisors (Acorn Health and Safety), and in accordance with the guidelines set out by FAME (the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers). A project specific Health & Safety risk assessment will be produced by Avon Archaeology Limited prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
- 1.6 Bristol City Council have been informed of our appointment and will be notified of the project commencement date before work begins on site. Avon Archaeology Limited will ensure that excavated trenches are, if required, available for inspection by the Archaeological Officer prior to backfilling if necessary.

2 National Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy

- 2.1 Between March 2010 and March 2012, national planning guidelines as they related specifically to the historic environment were outlined in the document known as PPS (Planning and Policy Statement) 5, Planning for the Historic Environment. However, in March 2012, PPS5, and indeed all the other planning policy guidance and statements which underpinned the operation of the national planning process, was replaced by a single, greatly simplified, overarching and integrated document known as the National Planning Policy Framework (Dept. for Communities and Local Government). A revised edition of this document was published in July 2018 (updated February 2019), wherein matters relating to archaeology and the historic environment generally are dealt with in Section 16 (pages 54-57), *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*.
- 2.2 A detailed examination of the implications of the new framework for the specific site being reported on here is outside the scope of this document. By far the majority of the document consists of guidance to local authorities on how they should handle matters relating to the historic environment in their own areas, and the essence of the narrative is that, in most cases, decisions relating to the historic environment are devolved down to local authorities in the form of their own Local Plans, Core Strategies, Development Frameworks, Supplementary Planning Documents etc.
- 2.3 Archaeology figures in the Bristol Development Framework Core Strategy, adopted in June 2011, as part of its wider approach to the historic environment in general. Policy BCS22, Conservation and the Historic Environment, seeks to ensure that sites and areas of particular heritage value are safeguarded for the future or enhanced both for their own heritage merits and as part of wider heritage regeneration proposals.
- 2.4 In addition to the Core Strategy, archaeological considerations for development are outlined in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Local Plan (adopted July 2014) and the Bristol Local

Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document Number 7: Archaeology and Development (adopted March 2006). The first of these two documents states, as regards archaeological remains:

2.5 Scheduled monuments and other non-designated archaeological sites of equivalent importance should be preserved in situ. In those cases where this is not justifiable or feasible, provision should be made for excavation and record with an appropriate assessment and evaluation. The appropriate publication/curation of findings will be expected. [...] Where a proposal would result in the partial or total loss of a heritage asset or its setting, the applicant will be required to:

- i. Instigate a programme of recording of that asset; and
- ii. Ensure the publication of that record in an appropriate form.

(BCC 2014, 65 and 66)

3 Site Location, Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The study area fronts the west side of Midland Road, within a sub-rectangular block which is bounded by Horton Street to the north-west, Jubilee Street to the south-west and Midland Street to the south-east. The block is completely built upon with buildings of varying size and stature, with the exception of the study area which has been vacant since the hall was demolished in c.2013.
- 3.2 The site lies approximately 1 kilometre east-south-east of Bristol city centre, and less than 250m south of the historic Old Market and Lawfords Gate.
- 3.3 The underlying geology of the study area is comprised mainly of Butcombe Sandstone of the Triassic Period (BGS).
- 3.4 On Midland Road, the local topography falls from 14m aOD at the Horton Street junction to 12.5m aOD at the junction with St Phillip's Road.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The study area was historically located in the parish of St Philip and St Jacob, Bristol, and is approximately 250m to the south of the Old Market part of the city (**Figures 1** and **2**). Part of this area, to the south-east of the site itself, has also traditionally been popularly referred to as 'The Dings', although contrary to some claims the derivation of this word is presently unknown – its earliest documented appearance in any source held at the Bristol Record Office seems to be in a lease dated 1739 (BRO 37941/4. The civil parish of St Philip and Jacob Without (outside Bristol), was created in 1720 and abolished in 1896, although the church itself was founded before the late 12th century, and has been serving a large parish community in this area since that time (Foyle 2004, 107-108). In 1899, the relatively recent civil parish was transferred to the City and County of Bristol.
- 4.2 When John Wesley came to Bristol to preach in 1739, one of the first places he visited was St Philips. As there were no buildings large enough to hold a congregation in this area, Wesley preached in the open air near the local brickyards. During the early part of the eighteenth century, the area consisted largely of barley fields, orchards and pastureland. By the end of the century, many of these fields had become market gardens. Writing in 1779, Rudder describes the district as having several large works, such as iron foundries, glass-houses for the production of crown glass (window glass) and glass bottles, a white lead works, a lead ore smelting works and at Baptist Mills a very large brass works (Rudder 1779, 601-602). Glass and pottery cones are known to have existed in Avon Street, and the district also housed soap boilers and hoopers. In 1789, The Phoenix Glassworks, the largest flint-glass works in the city, founded by Benjamin Lund, was taken over by Messrs Wadham, Ricketts & Co. It later became Powell, Ricketts and Co. and was converted into a glass bottle manufactory. The factory eventually closed in July 1923. Later industrial establishments included iron works and paint works, and, in 1819, a coal and gas plant was opened.

- 4.3 Between 1804 and 1809, the Feeder Canal was cut, dividing the area in two and separating it from the marsh. In 1835, the railway came to St Philips. Initially it was horse drawn and ran from the district to the Coalpit Heath coalmines. It was later amalgamated into the Midland line, and during the 1840s, Stothert's were manufacturing locomotives in the district. The factory later became known as the Avonside Works and it was moved to Fishponds in 1905. In 1865, Derham's built a seven-storey boot and shoe factory in Barton Street which was subsequently destroyed by fire in 1905.
- 4.4 Lysaght's steelworks and Butler's ironworks had premises in Silverthorne Lane, and the famous Bristol company 'Gardiner', which is still in evidence today, started in nearby Nelson Street. By 1897, Gardiner had opened the Midland Road Ironworks and in 1953 they took over the old soap factory premises to expand the business. The soap factory later became a warehouse for the Dunlop Tyre Company. In the 1970s Gardiner Sons & Co. joined forces with the Shepton Mallet based furniture store, 'Haskins', to create one of Bristol's largest department stores in New Thomas Street.
- 4.5 The area acquired an unenviable reputation which may have been largely attributable to the presence of a pub on almost every corner. Disturbances of one sort or another were common and the police only walked the streets in pairs. Many of the most enthusiastic rioters involved in the 1831 Bristol riots are thought to have hailed from the Dings area. It was religion which sought to amend the situation and by the latter part of the nineteenth century there were numerous churches, chapels and mission halls of various denominations co-existing with the local pubs. The Salvation Army, which later had premises in nearby Unity Street attempted to lure inebriated customers from the pubs by preaching in the open air.
- 4.6 The earliest cartographic source identified for the study area is the 1742 Plan of the City of Bristol by John Rocque (BRO 07770/1). This map shows the study area within an area of market gardens or allotments. The site

appears to be in a suburban area, on the outskirts of residential streets and industrial premises; to the southwest lie the Brick Fields and the Brick Yard Pool; to the southeast an area of enclosed fields marked as Marsh Grounds and to the north, properties fronting West Street. To the west and far southwest lie the Brick Yard and Glasshouses fronting Cheese Street and Avon Street. A 1780 Plan of the City of Bristol by R. Benning appears to be heavily based on Rocque's 1742 plan. It shows very little change had occurred in the area, although the field within which the study area lies has a new network of paths running through it.

- 4.7 By the time of the 1828 Plan of the City of Bristol and its Suburbs by G. Ashmead and J. Plumley (BRO 04481/2b/2 (South Sheet)) the study area is shown within the out-parish of St Philip and St Jacob. The earlier field boundaries surrounding the study area have been removed to form one large orchard. The loose grid system of roads still in existence today, were partially set out by this time; Midland Road is illustrated, though not named, and Horton Road to the north of the site is using its former name 'Cheese Lane'.
- 4.8 By the 1840s, the Tithe map illustrated a defined rectangular plot; Cheese Lane (Horton Street) to the north-west, Midland Road north-east and lanes which became Jubilee Street, south-west side and Midland Street (formerly Albert Street) to the south-east side. Housing was constructed along the Cheese Lane frontage, and was partially built along the Midland road frontage also. A gap in the housing is illustrated at the later location of the Christadelphian Hall. By the time of the later Plumley and Ashmead plan of 1855 (BRO 40860/1), a chapel is shown in this location.
- 4.9 Other than additional development of housing to the south-east and south west of the Hall, little changed on the project site. It is only in recent years that The Dings area of St Philips has undergone major redevelopment and modernisation. The Hall, which, as demonstrated above, was originally built prior to 1855, was constructed of coursed Pennant sandstone rubble, and was known as the Ebenezer Chapel. Prior to its demolition in 2013/14, the former chapel building was used by an antiques dealer.

4.10 Very little information is easily available about the site. Know Your Place Bristol records the discovery by David Dawson of a large quantity of 19th century pottery found on or close to the site. A brief report in the Archaeological Review of 1972 suggests that this material was brought to the site to raise the level of the ground during construction of the railway yards which are close to the site. Additionally, a photographic survey was carried out of the former hall, by Jon Brett, for Bristol and Region Archaeological Services in the late 1990s.

5 Aims and Objectives

5.1 The definition of a watching brief, as defined in the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) are:

- To allow for the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be ascertained in advance of the development;
- To provide the opportunity, if required, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- To inform a mitigation strategy allowing for a programme of recording appropriate to the significance of such deposits.
- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the Project Site;
- To establish and record the extent, character, date, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological remains, to an appropriate level and within the constraints of the Project Site;
- To place identified archaeological remains within the wider historical and archaeological context in order to establish their significance; and
- To prepare an archaeological report detailing the results of the watching brief.

6. Methodology

Watching Brief

- 6.1 Avon Archaeology Limited will inform the relevant authorities of the start of the watching brief. Access will be arranged for site visits in order to inspect progress on site if necessary.
- 6.2 AAL will request that, where possible the developer undertakes mechanical excavation using a toothless grading bucket.
- 6.3 The attending archaeologist may ask for groundwork to be halted temporarily to allow for investigation to be carried out. Where necessary, the area of archaeological interest will be defined and protected in advance of further investigation.
- 6.4 Where necessary, the surface of archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand. A sample of the archaeological features and deposits identified will be hand-excavated and recorded, sufficient to address the aims of the watching brief.
- 6.5 All spoil will be visually examined for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts and other finds will be collected and bagged by context.

Recording

- 6.6 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded using Avon Archaeology Limited pro forma recording system. A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made, including plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid. The Ordnance Datum heights of all features will be calculated, and the levels added to the drawings.
- 6.7 A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels.

Survey

- 6.8 A survey of all archaeological features will be carried out using a survey grade GPS unit. All survey data will be recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD. In the event that it is not possible to use the survey equipment, archaeological features will be located to client plans or to features that appear on OS mapping. This will be achieved using handheld measuring tapes and the basic principles of triangulation.

Contingency Measures

- 6.9 In the event that significant archaeological deposits are discovered, contact with the client and the archaeological officer based at the South West Heritage Trust will be made, to review any requirements the site may have that are not outlined in this current document.
- 6.10 A contingency fund has been earmarked for possible use to undertake additional work including specialist studies and/or treatment of archaeological finds recovered during the course of the post excavation assessment and reporting.

Finds

- 6.11 All artefacts, ecofacts and bone will be recovered, identified by stratigraphic unit, catalogued and prepared for long term storage after analysis, if appropriate. Provision is made in the form of a contingency to undertake appropriate analysis and reporting of significant artefacts if such finds are located during the site work.
- 6.12 Artefacts from features of modern date (19th-century or later) may be recorded on site and not retained.
- 6.13 Where appropriate, soil samples may be taken and sieved to aid finds recovery. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

Environmental Sampling

- 6.14 No specific Environmental sampling strategy has been requested for this project, and it is not a usual inclusion for Watching Briefs. If deposits that are of geoarchaeological interest are encountered, AAL will seek the advice of Quaternary Scientific (Reading University).
- 6.15 In general, features directly associated with particular activities (e.g. pits, latrines, cesspits, hearths, ovens, kilns, and corn driers) will be prioritised for sampling over features, such as ditches or postholes, which are likely to contain reworked and residual material. Bulk environmental soil samples taken for the recovery of plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, small animal bones and other small artefacts, will be taken as appropriate from well-sealed and dateable contexts or features.
- 6.16 Samples will be of an appropriate size – typically 40 litres for the recovery of environmental evidence from dry contexts, and 10 litres from waterlogged deposits. Following specialist advice, other sampling methods such as monolith, Kubiena or contiguous small bulk (column) samples may be employed to enable investigation of deposits with regard to microfossils (e.g. pollen, diatoms) and macrofossils (eg, molluscs, insects), soil micromorphological or soil chemical analyses.

Human Remains

- 6.17 Any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt) discovered will be left in situ, covered and protected. A Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained by Avon Archaeology Limited before further excavation, if necessary. The need for excavation, removal and or sampling will be determined following discussion with the client, the archaeological officer for South West Heritage Trust, where appropriate. If deemed appropriate, the human remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site in compliance with the terms of the Ministry of Justice licence.

6.18 Any excavation and post-excavation processing of human remains will be undertaken in line with current guidance documents (e.g. McKinley 2013) and Cifa standards (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Please note that appropriate specialist guidance will be provided by Heidi Dawson Hobbis (Winchester University), with site visits undertaken if required. The final deposition of human remains, following analysis, will be in accordance with the terms of the Ministry of Justice licence.

Treasure

6.19 Avon Archaeology Limited will immediately notify the client, and the Archaeological Officer for Bristol City Council on the discovery of any material covered, or potentially covered, by the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended by The Coroners and Justice Act 2009). All information required by the Treasure Act (i.e., finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

7 Personnel

7.1 The project will be managed by Rachel Heaton BSc. Site staff are yet to be confirmed and will remain flexible due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic.

The following key specialist studies will be earmarked to the project for post excavation specialist reporting where necessary.

- Roman pottery and finds – Dr Jane Timby
- Medieval and post medieval ceramics – freelance specialist David Dawson.
- Faunal remains – Joss Davis BA or Lorraine Higbee of Wessex Archaeology Limited
- Environmental Archaeology – Quest (Reading University)
- Small Finds – Sarah Newns and/or Dr Jane Timby
- Osteology – Joss Davis BA or Dr Heidi Dawson
- AMS Dating – Dr Tim Knowles, Bristol University

- Prehistoric lithics – Dr Kath Walker, Visiting Fellow, University of Bournemouth

8 Post Excavation Reporting

8.1 Following the completion of the field work and assessment of data recovered, a draft report will be produced and forwarded to the client and to the relevant Archaeological officer for review. The final report will be issued upon settlement of all outstanding invoices.

8.2. The report will contain the following as a minimum:

- A frontispiece detailing the site name, grid reference, report author(s), project dates, project title and reference number and planning application number;
- Historic Background;
- Archaeological Background to Include Assessment of the HER
- Where Appropriate Historic Map Regression and Landscape Analysis
- The dates of the programme of work;
- The aims and methodology;
- The results of the watching brief including Post Excavation assessment;
- Selected images from the photographic record;
- Interpretation of the historic materials;
- Supporting illustrations;
- Archive preparation and deposition arrangements;
- References.

The Historic Impact Assessment section will also investigate the impact of the development within the site setting.

8.3 The final copy of the report will be submitted to the Historic Environment Record and deposited with the Archaeological Data Service, along with surveyed data in shapefile format. It is anticipated that this will be in a CAD format and will include all survey data.

Publication

- 8.4 If appropriate, a publication of findings will be made in a suitable medium at an appropriate detail, depending on the results of the recording exercise. At the least, a note will be submitted to a suitable local journal.

9 Preparation and deposition of the archive

- 9.1 The project documentary archive will be deposited with the appropriate local museum on completion of the site analysis and report production. Finds (if donated by the landowner) will also be deposited for storage and public access. Before commencement of the project on site, contact will be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Arrangements for deposition will be agreed in advance with the museum accession officer.
- 9.2 Copies of all archaeological reports arising out of the project shall be submitted to the local authority, with an entry detailing the project to be within the local Historic Environment Record (HER). Publication, if appropriate, will be made in a suitable medium at an appropriate detail, depending on the results of the recording exercise. At the least, a note will be submitted to a suitable local journal. Digital geospatial data will be submitted to the local HER along with the project report. It is anticipated that this will be in a CAD format and will include all survey data.

Oasis

- 9.3 An OASIS online record has been created with key fields completed entry number avonarch2 421959. The record will be completed at the end of the project. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and 11 national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

10 Health and Safety



10.1 Health and Safety will take priority over all archaeological matters and fieldwork will be undertaken in accordance with the latest guidelines as issued by the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME). Project specific Health and Safety Risk Assessment and Safe Working documents will be prepared in advance of attendance on site in accordance with Avon Archaeology Ltd Health and Safety Policy, which has been drafted in collaboration with Acorn Health and Safety Ltd. All members of staff are qualified and registered with the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.

11 GDPR Compliance

11.1 We may process the information that we collect from clients and third parties such as landowners, for the legitimate purposes of our business:

- Artefacts provenance (that is, to record the history of an object); and
- To keep a record of our professional services on projects.

11.2 This information may be collected from contract documents, including tender information; and during a project, from information requested by telephone, email or in person, in relation to artefacts. The information includes an individual's or company's name, address, email address and telephone number.

11.3 We do not sell any data that we process. Nor do we use it for marketing or for any purpose other than those stated above. To fulfil our professional obligations, we store data in our project archives. In the case of any artefacts collected, the local collecting museum is permitted to both store the artefacts and store, process and use the names and addresses of clients and landowners referenced in the archive. Data not passed to a museum is stored in our project archives which will be maintained for as long as Avon Archaeology Limited is in operation. Museums may hold data in connection with collections in perpetuity (i.e. forever). Such processing by a museum is strictly for the purpose of collections provenance. The personal



data may be used by the museum to contact the client or third party regarding the archive.

- 11.4 When you enter into a contract with us, or when data is requested, you will be asked to confirm that you agree to the processing of your personal information. You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us using the details at the end of this policy. Where you wish to withdraw your consent for us to share your details with a third party museum please make this known to us and we will contact that third party on your behalf.



12 References

ADS 2013 *Caring for digital data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice.* Archaeological data Service & digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice

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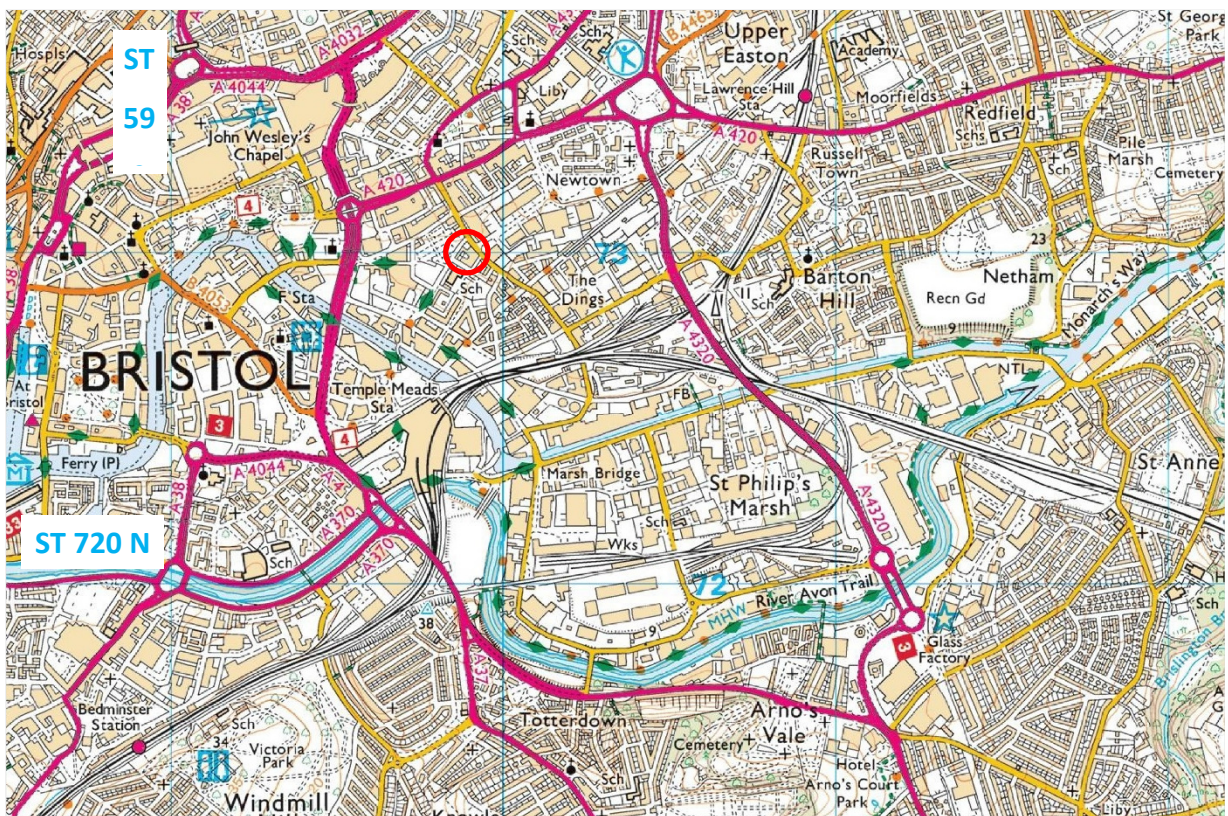
First Aid for Finds. Rescue and United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Archaeology Section, 3rd Edition

Figure 1

Location of the Site

The Site

Plans and maps based on the Ordnance Survey Sheets
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Grid lines at 1km intervals

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Figure 2

Detail of Site Location

