

# Site at Gaunts Ham Park, Lincoln Street, Lawrence Hill, Bristol

## Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (Watching Brief)

Bristol SMR 22379



On behalf of:

**Leadbitter Construction.**

R K Ducker

**Avon Archaeological Unit Limited**

Bristol: June 2006

**Archaeological Monitoring during Development at  
Gaunts Ham Park, Lincoln Street, Lawrence Hill, Bristol**

**NGR ST 60780 73249**

**Bristol Sites and Monuments Record Number BSMR 22379**

## CONTENTS

### Summary

### Acknowledgements

### Copyright

### Note

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Methodology
  - 2.1 Construction Methodology
  - 2.2 Archaeological Methodology
- 3 Geology, Topography and Landuse
- 4 Detailed Site Observations
- 5 The Finds
- 6 Discussion and Conclusions
- 7 References

## FIGURES

**Figure 1** Site Location, 1: 25,000  
**Figure 2** Boundary of the Study Area, Scale 1: 1,250  
**Figure 3** Location of the Reduced Level Platform, Scale 1: 2,500

## PLATES

**Cover** **Left:** General working view of excavation of the Reduced Level Platform  
**Right:** Cleaned Section on the east of the Reduced Level Platform, Scale 1 x 1 m

**Plate a** General View of the excavation of the Reduced Level Platform, North  
**Plate b** North facing section over the Reduced Level Platform  
**Plate c** General Working view of the Reduced Level Platform, South  
**Plate d** Cleaned Section on the east of the Reduced Level Platform, Scale 1 x 1 m

## Summary

The following report details the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief (monitoring and recording exercise) undertaken by the Avon Archaeological Unit Limited on behalf of Leadbitter Construction. The monitoring was undertaken on an area of open ground, formerly occupied by an old peoples home, at Gaunts Ham Park, Lincoln Street, Lawrence Hill, Bristol, (NGR ST 60780 73249, **Figures 1 and 2**). The Bristol City Archaeologist required the Watching Brief programme under the general guidance of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16, DoE 1990).

The objective of the programme was to recover artefacts and record all archaeological features and deposits exposed during preliminary groundworks for the excavation of a Reduced Level Platform for new 55 residential properties for elderly persons.

Those deposits recorded comprised modern made-up ground deposits overlying archaeologically sterile deposits of geological origin. At the south end of the site the overburden also overlay a sequence of earlier buried surfaces including topsoil and subsoil. These deposits were undated but were not thought to represent material of archaeological significance. No significant archaeological features, deposits or finds were located during the course of the development work.

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Mr Glynn Lowther of Leadbitter for his assistance during the project, thanks are also due to Leadbitter for funding the archaeological project.

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## Note

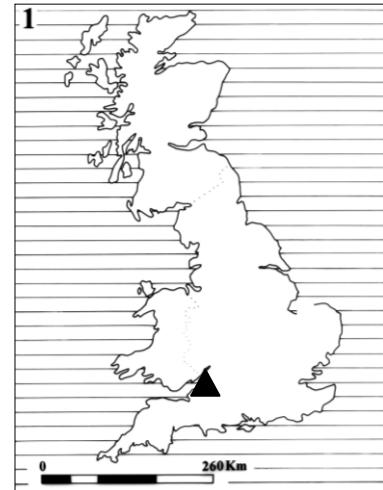
Whereas Avon Archaeological Unit Limited have taken all care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

Figure 1

Site Location

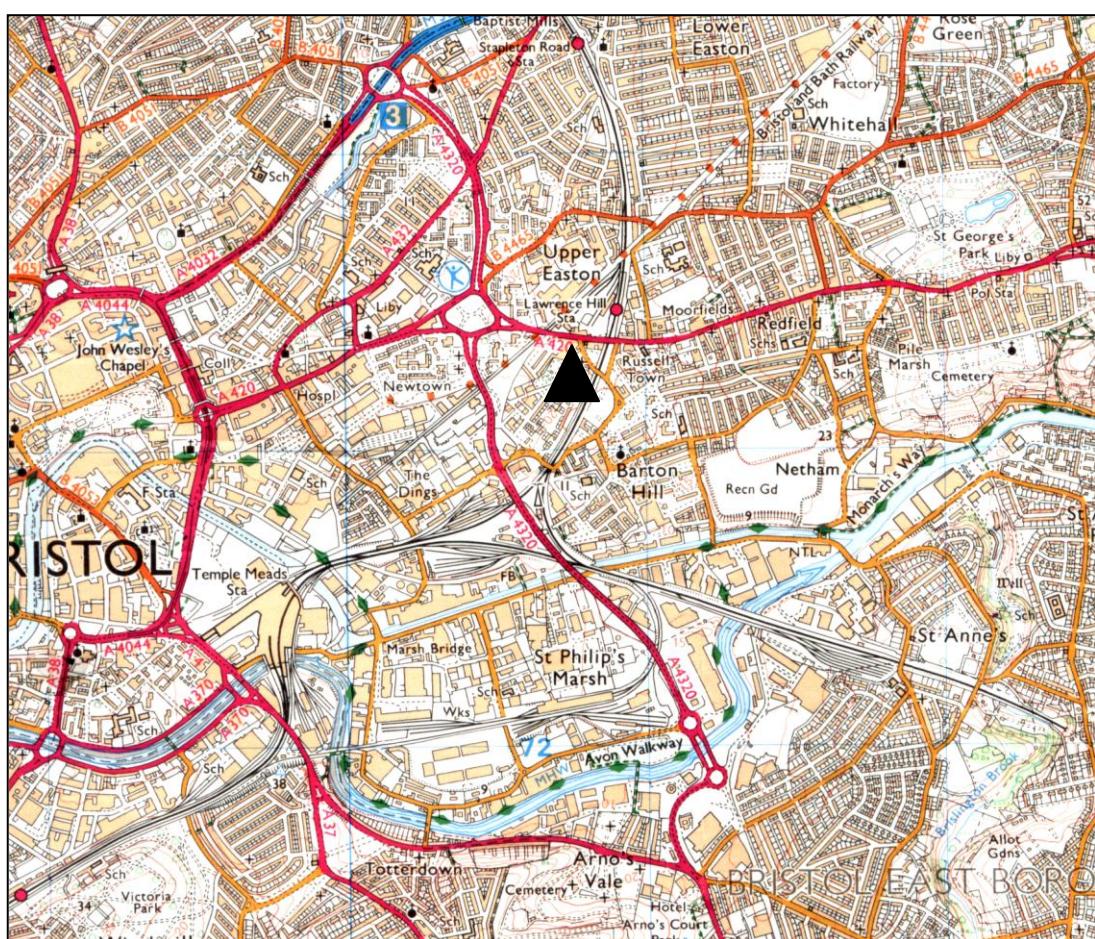


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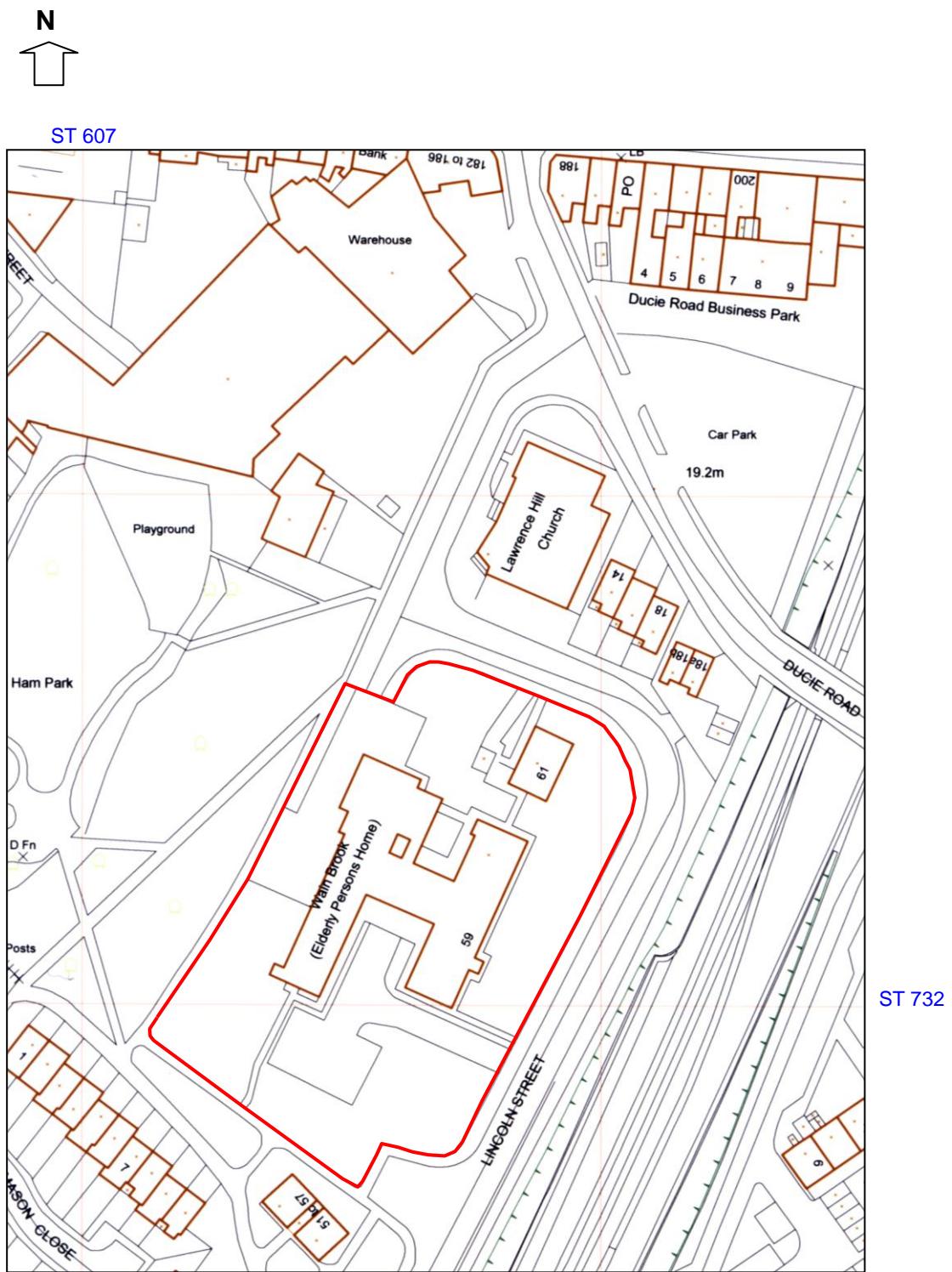


Scale: 1: 25,000

Report Number BSMR 22379

Figure 2

## Boundary of the Study Area



Scale 1: 1,250

Figure 3

Location of the Reduced Level Platform

North platform 

South Platform 



Scale 1: 2,500

## 1 Introduction

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken in accordance with a Condition attached to Planning Permission recently granted to the Guiness Trust (Bristol City Council Planning Reference 05/01842/F). The City Archaeologist for Bristol required, under the general guidance of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16, DoE 1990), that a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording should be undertaken during groundworks on the site and the results made available, in accordance with an approved scheme of work issued by the Avon Archaeological Unit Limited (Young 2006).

At the commencement of works the Study Area comprises an area of open ground formerly occupied by an elderly persons residential properties at Gaunts Ham Park, Lincoln Street, Lawrence Hill, Bristol . The site, which is rectangular in plan, is bounded by Lawrence Hill Church/Ducie Road to the north, Lincoln Street and the main northbound rail line out of temple meads to the east, William Mason Close to the south and Gaunts Ham Park to the west. The site is accessed via Lincoln Street (**Figures 1 and 2**) and consists of approximately 0.6 Hectares of land.

A desk-based study of the site was carried out by Bristol and Regional Archaeological Services. The desktop concluded that the earliest references to the site came from 19<sup>th</sup> century maps which showed the area was primarily undeveloped agricultural land with a single probable farm building in the study area. Plumley and Ashley's map of 1828 showed this to be largely unchanged except for a "Rope Walk" within the northwest flank of the study area. More extensive building first appears on the Ashmead's 1870 map, with the inclusion of street names "Lincoln Street" and "Richmond Road" as annotations. The recently demolished old peoples home, was constructed during a 1960's redevelopment of the area and represented the most recent stage of development on the site.

The archaeological site work, designed to monitor all intrusive development works within the Study Area, took place during June 2006 and monitored approximately 80% of the groundwork. This was followed by one week of archive work, post-excavation and report preparation. The project has been assigned Bristol Sites and Monuments Record Number BSMR 22379. All artefacts and records gathered during the project ultimately will be deposited with Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol for long-term curation and storage.

## **2      Methodology**

### **2.1      *Construction Methodology***

The groundworks comprised the excavation of a Reduced Level Platform into which piles were to be inserted. The site work was carried out using a 360-degree tracked excavator with toothed buckets. Once exposed, features of potential archaeological significance were cleaned by hand.

At the commencement of the work the site consisted of an area of open ground that had formerly been occupied by an elderly persons residential home with associated parking spaces and gardens.

### **2.2      *Archaeological Methodology***

Approximately 80% of the excavation work for the new building was monitored by the writer. All artefacts and ecofacts were recovered and given a unique context-based identifier and removed for processing. All archaeological and non-archaeological features and deposits were recorded on standard Avon Archaeological Unit Limited sheets with scaled plans and section drawings as appropriate. Photographs were taken using colour negative and transparency stock. All records, drawings and photographs have been prepared as a standard Archive according to English Heritage MAP2 standards and will be stored eventually at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, together with the material finds. Archaeological features and deposits revealed during the groundworks were related to a nearby Ordnance Survey datum.

## **3      Geology, Topography and Landuse**

The underlying geology of the site consisted of Triassic Sandstone (Including Butcombe) (Ordnance Survey Geology Map 1984). The site, which comprised approximately 0.6 Hectares of land, sloped downwards from a high point in the southeast corner, falling steeply to the west and northwest but more gradually to the north. The level of the site varied from 16.5 (in the northwest corner) to 21.5 m a.O.D (in the south east corner). The site had formerly been occupied by an old-peoples home, but this had been demolished prior to the Watching Brief.

#### 4 Detailed Site Observations

##### **The Reduced Level Platform (Figure 3, Plates a to d)**

Monitored work on the site comprised the excavation of a single large Reduced Level Platform into which piles were subsequently to be inserted.

The depth of the platform varied with the level of the ground surface. On the east and south parts of the site, the ground was higher and excavation reached 2.9 m depth, at the centre and north of the site no excavation was undertaken, whilst the majority of the west side of the platform was actually made up in level.

##### **Reduced Level Platform, North (Figure 3, plates b – d)**

The uppermost deposit over the northern part of the platform comprised a dump of made-ground material, Layer 100. Layer 100 was not a single deposit but rather a mix of predominantly very dark Greyish-brown clayey silt with lenses of coal waste (or similar material) re-deposited red and strong brown, sandy clay and modern gravel. Deposit 100 also had abundant inclusions of rubbish and demolition rubble, (mostly brick). The distribution of the various lenses and rubble inclusions was entirely random throughout the deposit. The base of this mixed deposit was not reached in this part of the site.

A number of service pipe trenches and a brick-built manhole structure were observed during the works but not recorded. A few fragments of the former old peoples home structures, in the form of small fragments of brick wall, were similarly not recorded in detail.

##### **Reduced Level Platform, South (Figure 3, plate a)**

During excavation of this part of the platform the base of the made ground deposit was reached and an earlier stratigraphic sequence revealed. The occurrence of the former land surfaces reflected the deeper excavation undertaken in this area due to the higher level of the original ground surface. A section was cleaned (see figure 3) to reveal the following stratigraphic sequence.

The uppermost deposit comprised made-ground Deposit 100, which was 1 m thick and clearly overlay the site access road. The road itself comprised approximately 100 mm of tarmac over a deposit of mixed gravel/scalpings that was up to 700 mm thick. These sealed a 300 – 500 mm thick band of very dark greyish-brown clayey silt (Deposit 101). Towards the north of the site. Deposit 100 thinned out and disappeared and the topsoil (Deposit 102 below) formed the modern ground surface at this point.

Below the part buried topsoil was a possible subsoil deposit of mid-brown clayey silt, (Deposit 102) which was between 200 and 500 mm thick. The boundary between topsoil and subsoil was diffuse. A deposit of strong brown silty clay (Deposit 103) that underlay the subsoil was believed to form the uppermost deposit of the underlying geology and was between 200 and 400 mm thick. A yellowish-brown silty clay (Deposit 104) underlie Deposit 103 averaging 500 mm thick. At the base of excavation Deposit 105 comprised red sandy clay that was excavated to a maximum depth of between 300 mm and 1 m.

A number of service pipe trenches and a deep, (c. 5 m deep) brick-built manhole structure were observed during the works but not recorded. A few fragments of the former old peoples home structures in the form of small fragments of brick wall were similarly not recorded in detail.

## 5 The Finds

Finds of modern pottery and glass were recovered but not retained during the Watching Brief Programme. All were of late post-medieval to modern date and were recovered from unstratified deposits or deposits of made ground. Finds of brick and other ceramic building material were also noted but not retained. No archaeologically significant finds were recovered during the site work.

<b>Table of finds</b>				
<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Find Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>100</b>	Pottery	2	110	Blue transfer print ware
<b>100</b>	Pottery	3	132	White ware
<b>100</b>	Pottery	1	4	Glazed red earthenware
<b>100</b>	Pottery	1	38	English brown stoneware, handle
<b>100</b>	Pottery	1	7	Bristol/Staffordshire pottery
<b>100</b>	Pottery	3	78	Unglazed red earthenware

## 6. Discussion And Conclusions

The Archaeological Watching Brief has been conducted in accordance with a Planning Condition issued by Bristol City Council and the Scheme of Work submitted by Avon Archaeological Unit Limited (Young 2004) and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The monitoring of excavation works for the construction of new residential properties revealed no significant archaeological deposits or finds. Those deposits recorded comprised made ground layers and an earlier topsoil/subsoil sequence. The partly buried topsoil and subsoil were undated but were not believed to be archaeologically significant. No evidence was located to suggest that significant human activity had occurred within the Study Area prior to the modern era.

## 7 References

### **DoE 1990**

*Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 in Archaeology and Planning.*  
Department of the Environment, London

### **Young A.C. 2006**

*Scheme of Work: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Gaunts Ham Park, Lincoln Street, Lawrence Hill, Bristol.* Avon Archaeological Unit Limited, Bristol

### **Ordnance Survey 1984**

*Geological Survey of England and Wales, Bristol District: Composite Sheet (Scale 1: 63,360)*  
Southampton.

### **Bristol and Region Archaeological Services 2005**

Archaeological Desktop Study of land at: *The Wain Brook Elderly Persons Home, Lincoln Street, Lawrence Hill, Bristol.*

## Plates



Plate a



Plate b



Plate c



Plate d