

**THE ROSE,  
LAWRENCE WESTON,  
BRISTOL.**

**NGR: ST 5452 7833**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

January 2009  
Report No. 626

**Quality Assurance**

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## **SUMMARY**

In January 2009 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation on land at The Rose, St. George, Bristol (NGR: ST 5452 7833). The project was commissioned by Halsall Construction Ltd.

A proposal was submitted for the redevelopment of land at The Rose, Lawrence Weston (planning application number: 08/03944/X). In accordance with the principles of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) and the archaeological policies of Bristol City Council, a programme of pre-planning determination archaeological works was requested. In the event, however, The Rose was demolished and new domestic dwellings and services were constructed prior to the archaeological work. It was subsequently agreed with the archaeological officer of Bristol City Council that a single trench would be excavated to the rear to the newly built dwellings, in order to discharge the planning condition.

The evaluation required the excavation and recording of one 20m trench within the development area.

No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the course of the project. No deposits pre-dating the modern period were present.

A total of five features were present within the trench; four postholes and a possible pit. The postholes could have formed part of a linear post setting, although it was unclear if this represented part of a modern building or a fence line. The fifth feature [111] cut through the modern demolition rubble and was clearly of very recent date.

The natural deposits were present at an average depth of 0.34m below modern ground level. These were overlain by a disturbed subsoil which was in turn overlain by a layer of topsoil mixed with modern demolition rubble, clearly deposited during the building of the new dwellings.

## **GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

### **Archaeology**

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

### **CBM**

Ceramic Building Material.

### **Medieval**

The period between AD1066 and AD1500.

### **Natural**

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case Pennant Sandstone overlaid by alluvial clay.

### **NGR**

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

### **OD**

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

### **OS**

Ordnance Survey.

### **Post-medieval**

The period between AD1500 and AD1900.

### **Roman**

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology during January 2009, at the former Rose site, Lawrence Weston, Bristol (NGR: ST 5452 7833). The project was commissioned by Halsall Construction Ltd.
- 1.2 A proposal was submitted for the redevelopment of land at The Rose, Lawrence Weston (planning application number: 08/03944/X). In accordance with the principles of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) and the archaeological policies of Bristol City Council, a programme of pre-planning determination archaeological works was requested. The project was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2008), based upon discussions with Bob Jones of Bristol City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with IFA *Standards and Guidance on Archaeological Evaluation* (1994, revised 2001) and Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: *Archaeological Evaluation: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.3 This report constitutes the results of the archaeological works. The code of conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists was adhered to throughout.

## **2 PROJECT BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A planning application has been made for the residential development of the site (Application number: 08/ 03944/X). Although a programme of pre-planning determination archaeological works was requested in accordance with PPG16, in the event The Rose was demolished and new domestic dwellings and services were constructed prior to the archaeological work. It was subsequently agreed with Bristol City Archaeology Service that a single trench would be excavated to the rear to the newly built dwellings in order to discharge the planning condition.
- 2.2 The site is located on the corner of Stile Acres and Broadlands Drive in Lawrence Weston. The former public house has been demolished and been replaced with a new residential development.
- 2.3 The site potentially lies in an important location on the slope from Kingsweston to the interface between the solid geology of Lawrence Weston to the alluvial floodplain of the Severn. Significant Roman finds have been made in this area including the scheduled monument of Kings Weston Roman Villa.
- 2.4 The study area therefore contained the potential for significant archaeological features and deposits, predominantly associated with the Roman period. This

did not prejudice the evaluation against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

### **3 AIMS**

3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains. It also hoped to seek to elucidate the nature, date of formation and development of the sedimentary deposits above the rockhead and to establish the full date range of human activity and occupation within the site.

3.2 The evaluation will also make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this will allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development. These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

3.3 i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these were possible.

ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site;

iii) to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

iv) to determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The WSI required the excavation of one trench, measuring 20m x 1.8m. Due to on-site constraints it was necessary to reduce the length of the trench to 16m. The trench amendments were agreed, on site, with the City Archaeologist. The final trench location is shown in Figure 2.

4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the archaeological deposits or the underlying natural deposits, whichever were encountered first. This was achieved through the use of a JCB type mechanical excavator with a toothless grading bucket. Thereafter cleaning and excavation was conducted by hand. Spoil tips were scanned for finds.

- 4.3 All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 **Trench 1** was excavated onto the top of archaeological deposits at an average depth of 0.34m (49.31m OD) from the modern ground surface. The natural substrate was a red brown sandy clay with stone inclusions, possibly a degraded red sandstone. This was overlain by layer (102) up to 0.1m thick, which consisted of a red brown sandy clay with modern inclusions of brick and builders sand churned up by previous site works. This was overlain by layer (101), which was a mixed layer of topsoil and building debris up to 0.15m thick. Five features were identified within the trench.
- 5.2 Feature [103] was 0.8m in diameter, 0.26m in depth and consisted of a sub-circular feature with steep sides and a flat base. This feature cut the natural deposits and was sealed by layer (102). It was filled with (104) which comprised a red brown plastic/friable sandy clay with some root disturbance. A large fragment of modern pipe tile was present within the excavated section.
- 5.3 Feature [105] was 0.4m in diameter, 0.14m in depth and consisted of a circular feature with steep sides and a flat base. Feature [105] cut the natural deposits and was sealed by layer (102). It was filled with (106), a red brown plastic/friable sandy clay. Stone and tile fragments were present on the surface of the feature.
- 5.4 Feature [107] was 0.5m in diameter, 0.12m in depth and consisted of a circular feature with shallow sloping sides and a flat base. Feature [107] cut the natural deposits and was sealed by layer (102). It was filled with (108), a red brown friable/plastic sandy clay which contained large fragments of modern brick.
- 5.5 Feature [109] was 0.27m in diameter, 0.09m in depth and consisted of a small sub-circular feature with steep sides and a flat base. Feature [109] cut the natural deposits and was sealed by layer (102). It was filled with (110), a yellow/ red brown, friable/ plastic sand clay and included what appeared to be cinders and building sand.
- 5.6 Feature [111] was 0.75m in length at least 0.4m in width; the full extent of the feature was beyond the limit of excavation and was not excavated as it was clearly modern in origin. It consisted of a roughly rectangular modern cut which cut the natural deposits and was sealed by layer (101). It was filled with (112), a black friable sandy clay which contained cinders, tin cans and metal springs.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the course of the project. No deposits pre-dating the modern period were present in the trench. A number of features were present at an average depth of 0.34m below modern ground level.
- 6.2 A total of five features were present within the trench; four postholes and a possible pit. Postholes [103], [105], [107] and [109] were overlain by a disturbed subsoil and were clearly of modern date. Feature [111] was cut from the surface, through modern topsoil/building rubble layer (101), which was clearly associated with the construction of the new dwellings.
- 6.2 The natural deposits were present at an average depth of 0.31m below modern ground level.
- 6.3 Features [103], [105], [107] and [109] may have formed part of a linear post setting. It was unclear if this represented part of a modern building or a fence line.
- 6.4 A small finds assemblage was recovered from the excavations. All the finds were of modern date, predominantly consisting of ceramic building material fragments. The finds are not considered significant to the interpretation of the site, therefore retention is not recommended. Retention is, however, at the discretion of the Bristol Museum officer.
- 6.5 No suitable contexts were present for palaeoenvironmental sampling.
- 6.6 The evaluation has identified no significant archaeological finds features or deposits. This does not preclude the possibility of significant archaeological finds or deposits in the vicinity of the site.
- 6.7 The archive, comprising context records, photographs, index lists and background information, is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology and will be deposited with Bristol Museum in due course under accession number BRSMG:2009/9. An OASIS form will be completed and submitted and a short note will be submitted for publication.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage (London Region). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Evaluation*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 (revised 2001). *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

Foundations Archaeology 2008 *Land at The Rose, Lawrence Weston: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

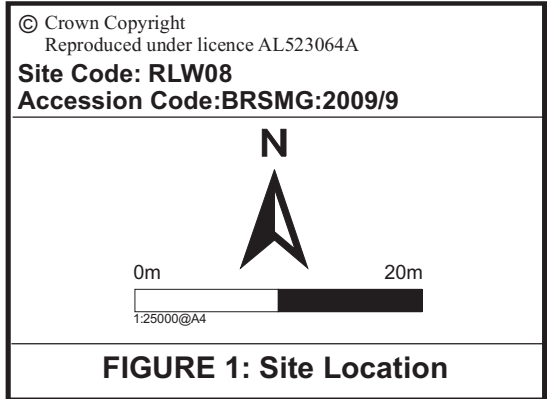
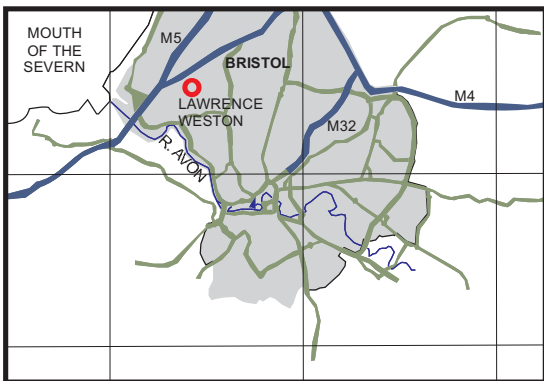
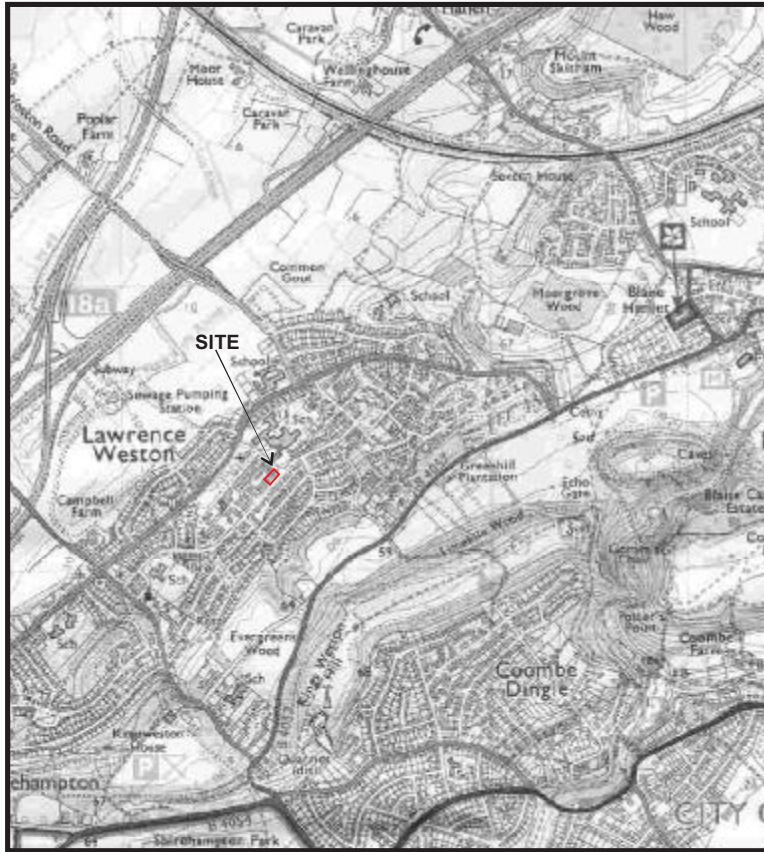
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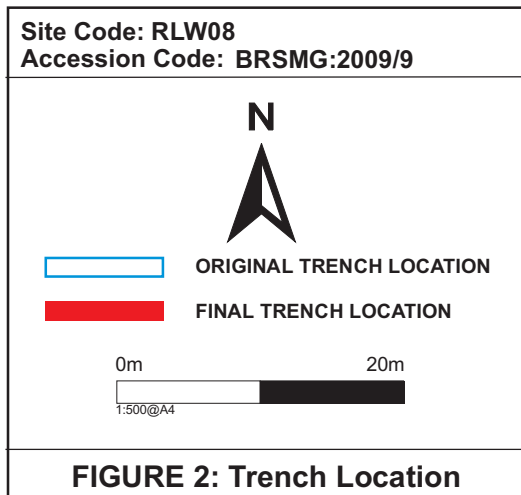
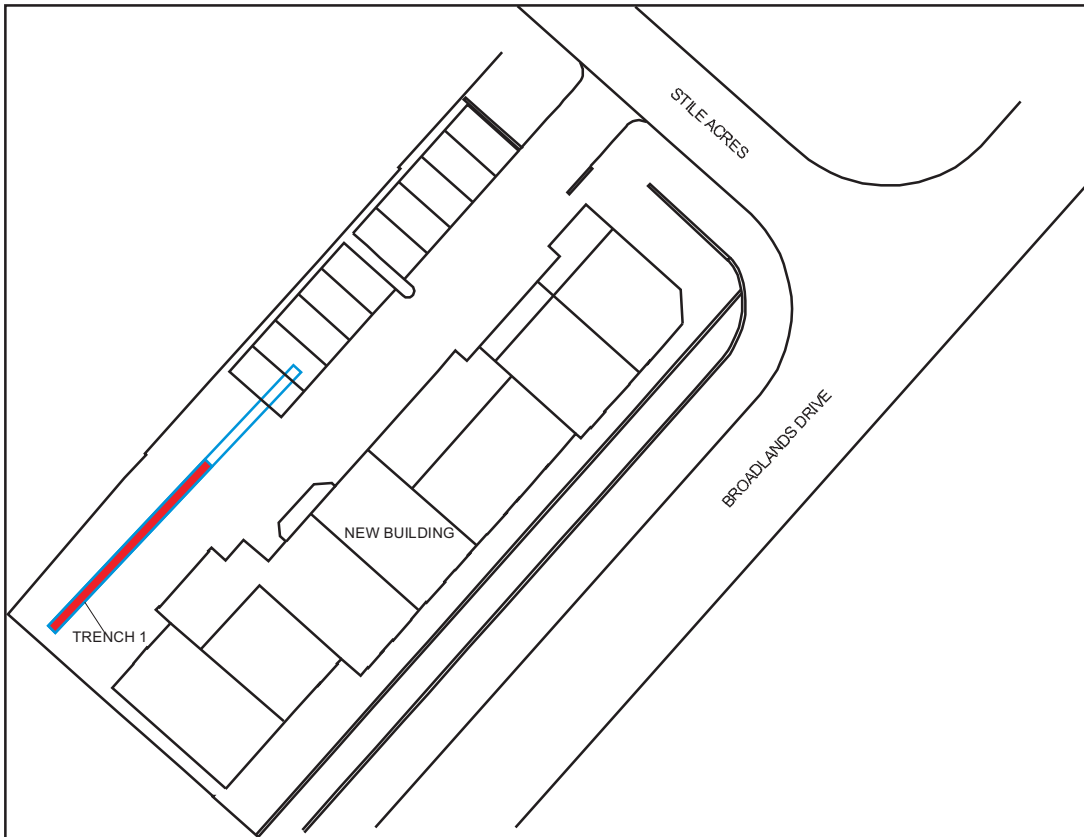
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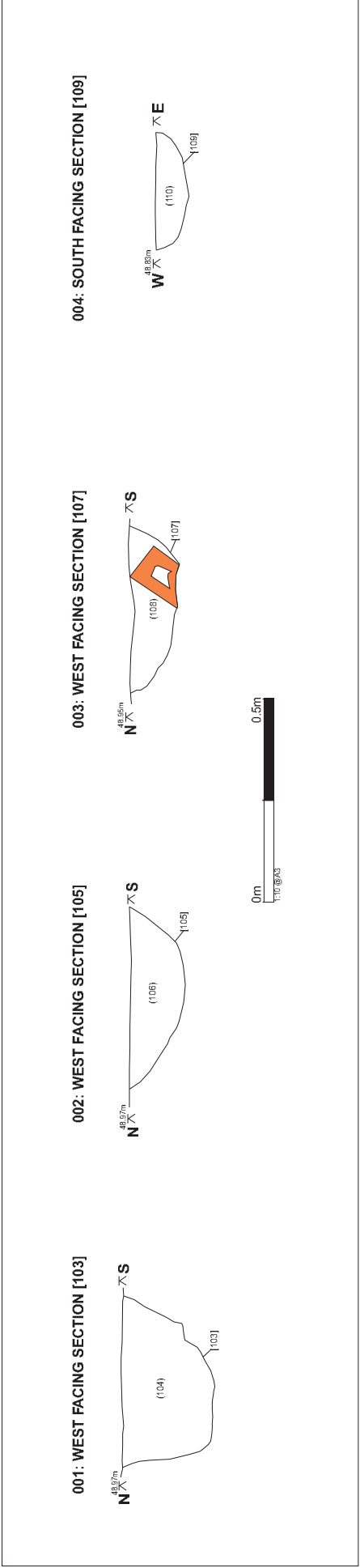


## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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005: TRENCH 1 PLAN

