

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

at land off

**HAWKINS CRESCENT and SAVAGES WOOD,
BRADLEY STOKE, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

for

Barratt Bristol



**Bristol and Region
Archaeological Services**

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SGSM12768

Land at
**HAWKINS CRESCENT and SAVAGES WOOD,
BRADLEY STOKE, SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

Centred on
N.G.R. ST 6200 8176

Client: Barratt Bristol

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December, 1996.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological field evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Hawkins Crescent, west of Bradley Stoke Way in Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire (NGR ST 6200 8176). The fieldwork was commissioned from Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) by Barratt Bristol in response to a planning application for the construction of domestic houses on the site.
- 1.2 The fieldwork took place between 2nd December and 4th December 1996 to determine whether there was surviving archaeology on the site and, if so, to provide information to formulate a suitable mitigation strategy should the proposed development be shown to have a damaging affect on the archaeology.
- 1.3 The site record has been deposited at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery. At the time of writing, no Accession Number had been received.

2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The area of the evaluation covers portions of three fields separated by mature hedges and dense undergrowth. The site is bordered to the east by Bradley Stoke Way, south by Hawkins Crescent, north by Savage s Wood Road and west by a development of recent housing.
- 2.2 The underlying geology is yellow-brown lias clay, with bands of limestone of the Jurassic period which exist just below topsoil across much of the local area. The site lies at approximately 55m AOD.
- 2.3 The three fields have been heavily ploughed in the recent past so that the ground surface is very uneven and overgrown with long grass, thistles and other weeds.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies within the ancient parish and manor of Stoke Gifford, originally just `Stoke , within the hundred of Henbury.
- 3.2 At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 Osbern Gifard held the manor of Stoke as part of an honour bestowed on him for his assistance to William I in the campaign against the Saxons. The Domesday Survey also tells us that prior to the Norman Conquest Duns a Thane held Stoke in Ledbury hundred in the reign of Edward the Confessor (Broomhead).
- 3.3 The descendants of Osbern Gifard held the manor until John Giffard was imprisoned and stripped of his lands after the battle of Boroughbridge, a rebellion against Edward II. The manor was then held of the honour of Gloucester (Rudder, 1779) and granted to Sir Maurice De Berkeley in 1338.
- 3.4 The Berkeleys held the manor until 1770, with a brief break of four years after the Battle of Bosworth and the death of Richard III when Henry VII granted the land to Jasper, Duke of Bedford before reversing the decision and regranteeing the land to Sir William Berkeley.
- 3.5 With the death of Norborne Berkeley in 1770 the manor was passed to Norborne's sister, Elizabeth who was married to Charles-Noel, Duke of Beaufort. The dukes of Beaufort held the land until 1915 when the entire manor was sold at auction, the majority of which was bought by the tenants of the individual properties.
- 3.6 Study of the historic maps and plans of the area show that the majority of the land has remained farmland, mostly pasture, until the development of the roads and houses of the Bradley Stoke housing estates of the 1980s. Comparison of the tithe map of 1842 (Fig.2), the 1881 OS map (Fig.3) and 1946 OS map show that the field boundaries have remained unchanged for at least the last 150 years. Many of the present boundaries on the site appear to be in the positions shown by the 1842 tithe map. On all the historic plans the area of the site is shown as open fields.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The area of the evaluation lies close to several sites listed on the Sites and Monuments Record for South Gloucestershire dating from the Bronze Age to the recent past.
- 4.2 Two Bronze Age settlement sites have been found within 1 km of the evaluation. Both were found in 1991 SGS MR 7424 (ST 6210 8210) to the north of the site and SGS MR 7442 (ST 6290 8120) to the south east. A further evaluation by Avon Archaeological Unit located Iron Age and Romano-British material, including Roman burials, approximately 1km south east of the site at NGR ST 6285 8100. A Roman coin has also be found by metal detecting close to this site (SGSMR 10486).
- 4.3 Romano-British artefacts have also been recovered east and north of the evaluation site. Metal detecting along the line of Webbs Wood Road to the east recovered numerous Romano-British objects including brooches and coins. To the north of the site Romano-British finds were recovered during a watching brief on land opposite Tesco Stores on Bradley Stoke Way.
- 4.4 An evaluation at Webbs Wood immediately east of the study area on the opposite side of Bradley Stoke Way recovered a number of medieval pottery sherds of 11th - 14th century date, although there were no other signs of occupation.
- 4.5 One further site in the vicinity of the evaluation is listed on the Sites and Monuments Record at Webbs Farm, SMR 5200, south of the site (ST 626 811). The farmhouse was recorded prior to demolition and was shown to date back to the 17th century.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Ten trenches were excavated by 180 degree JCB mechanical excavator in the positions shown on the location plan (**Fig.1**). All the trenches were cleaned, recorded, photographed and located onto plan before being back-filled.

The Trenches

- 5.2 The evaluation trenches all measured between 10 and 20 metres in length and 1 metre across; most were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m (**Plate1**). All the trenches produced a similar sequence of stratigraphy with no archaeological features and no finds being recovered.
- 5.3 Removal of the topsoil from the trenches revealed a clean yellow-brown lias clay with the occasional fragment of limestone (**Plates 1-2**). The topsoil was very uneven, due to the recent ploughing, and varied in depth between 0.1m and 0.3m. The yellow-brown clay beneath was 0.3m to 0.5m deep and this overlay a thin band of grey limestone (approximately 0.1m deep) with a lower deposit of yellow-brown clay.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No archaeological features or finds were recovered from the evaluation. The lack of finds from the topsoil would suggest that the study area has seen little activity except as an area of pasture. Even if the majority of archaeological evidence had been destroyed by recent ploughing or development activity then residual pottery would have been present in the topsoil or clay subsoil.
- 6.2 Despite being unable to gain access to the southern field, from the evidence of the other trenches it is highly probable that there is no archaeology here either. A brief field walk across the southern area of the site detected no sign of earthworks or archaeological finds.
- 6.3 Information from this evaluation emphasises the character of the archaeology in the Bradley Stoke area. Whilst Bronze Age and Romano-British activity is widespread it is also sporadic and unpredictable in nature.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendix 1: Policy Statement

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

NATIONAL POLICIES

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

DOE PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

The Planning Policy Guidance of Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) consolidates advice to planning authorities. The Guidance stresses the non-renewable nature of the archaeological resource, details the role of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), encourages early consultation with county and district archaeological officers and sets out the requirement for developers to provide sufficient information on the archaeological impact of development to enable a reasonable planning decision to be made.

PPG 16 also indicates the circumstances where further work would be necessary and outlines the use of agreements and conditions to protect the archaeological resource.

COUNTY COUNCIL POLICY

Avon County Structure Plan Written Statement - Third Alteration (July 1994) BE4A states: The archaeological implications of development proposals affecting either sites of archaeological interest or of high archaeological potential shall be examined and evaluated before planning applications are determined. Planning permission will not be granted without adequate assessment of the archaeological implications. Where sites, structures or areas of archaeological interest would be adversely affected by the granting of planning permission, the applicant will be required to demonstrate that the particular archaeological interest will be satisfactorily preserved, either in situ or by record, before permission is granted.

In the case of the Avon levels and shore, any groundbreaking development above a minimal size, should be subject to archaeological assessment before the determination of any planning application, as this is the only realistic way that information regarding the effect of the proposals can be obtained. This is also covered by an explicit policy in the Deposit Bristol Local Plan, and a recommendation for its inclusion in the Woodspring and Northavon Districtwide Local Plan is being made.

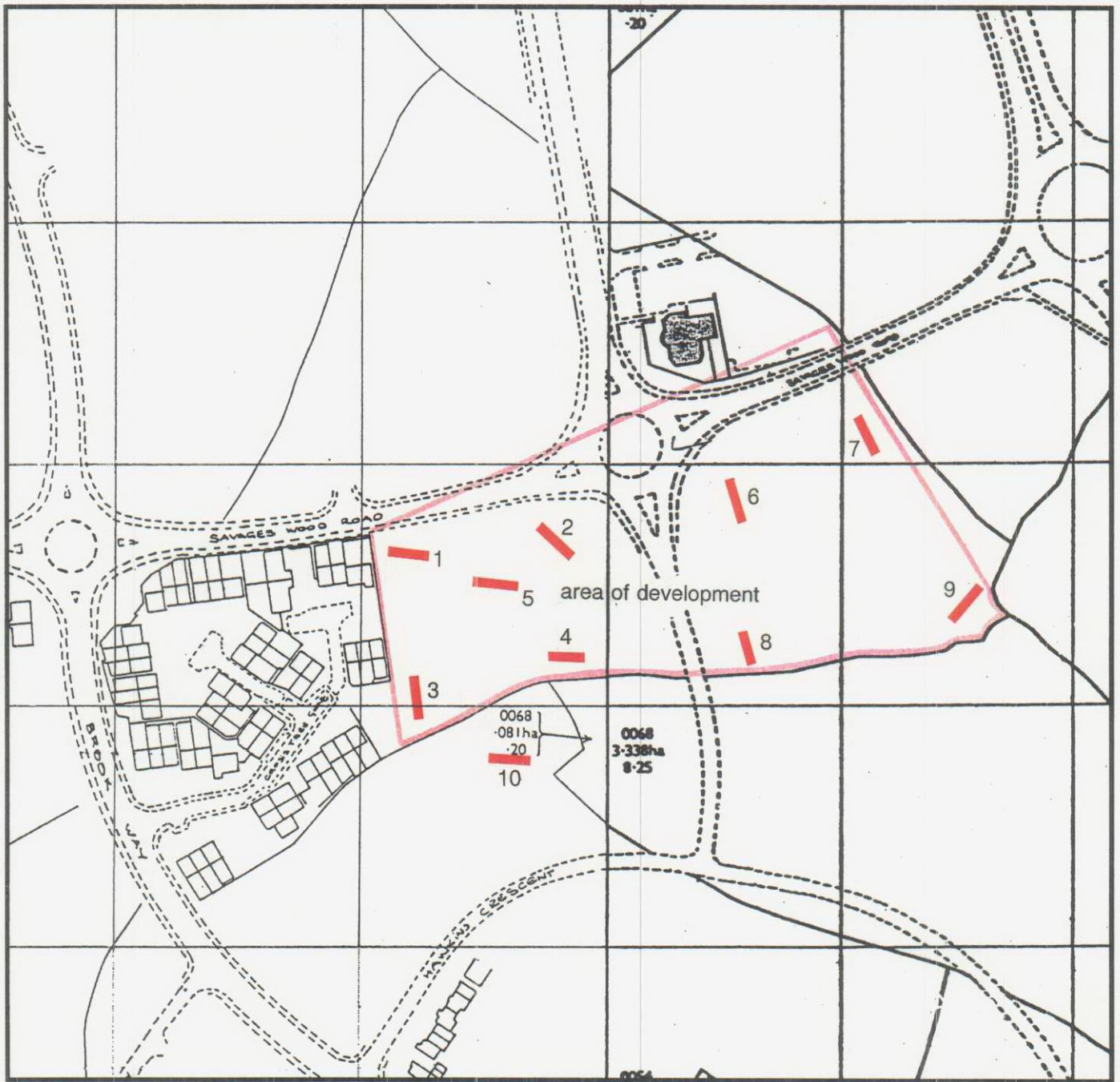


Fig.1 Site and trench location plan

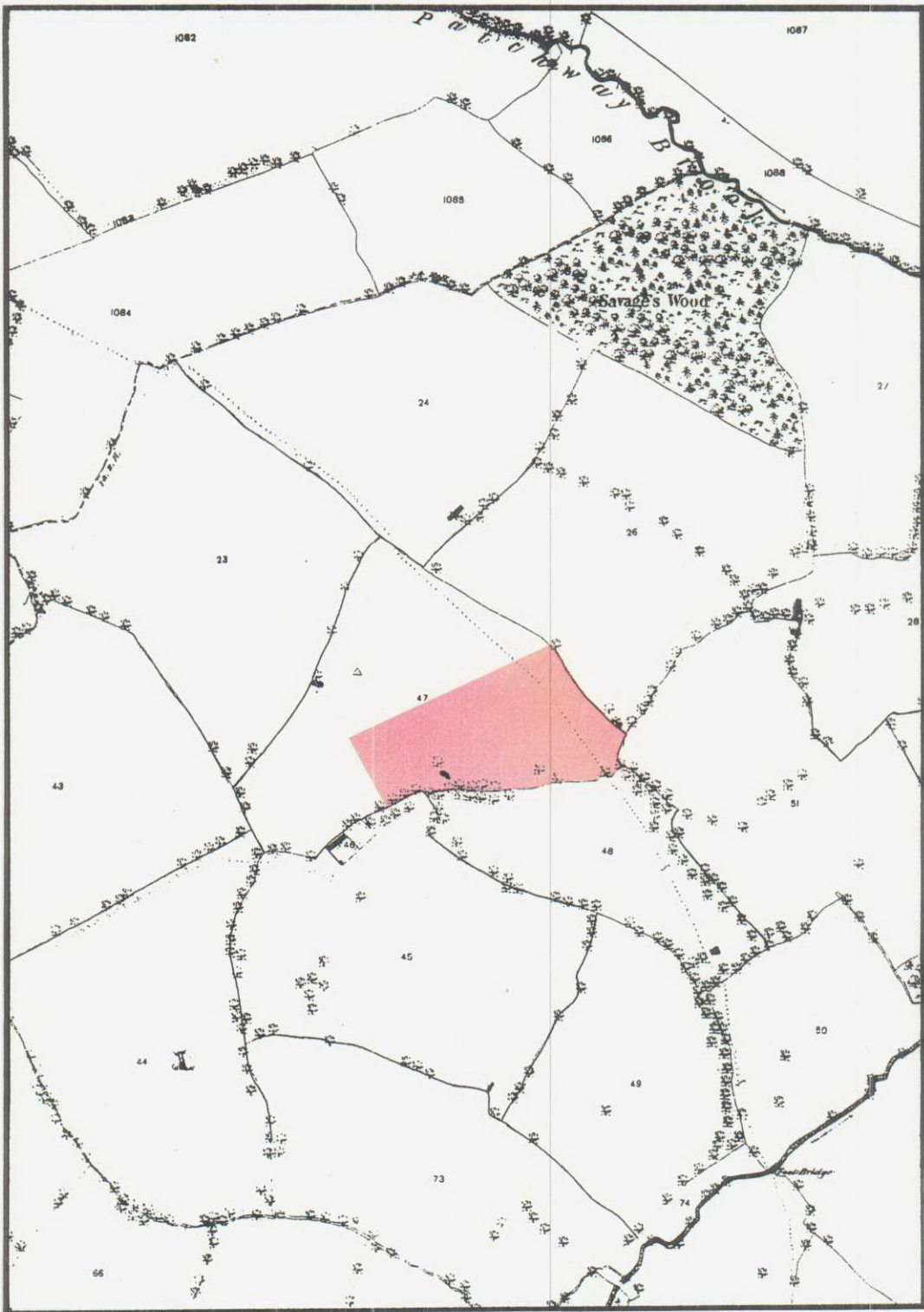


Fig.3 1881 Ordnance Survey



Plate 1 Trench 4 - viewed from the east



Plate 2 Trench 9 - Section through fragmented limestone, viewed from the west