

Absolute Archaeology

Photographic Survey of the Property
to the Rear of 17 Vyvyan Terrace,
Clifton, Bristol



Absolute Archaeology, 51 St Mary's Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 7PH

paul.martin@absolutearchaeology.co.uk

sam.driscoll@absolutearchaeology.co.uk

www.absolutearchaeology.co.uk

Assessment Undertaken by: Sam Driscoll BA, PIFA
Project Managed by: Paul Martin BSc (Hons), AIFA
Site Visit Undertaken by: Sam Driscoll
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Note

Whereas Absolute Archaeology has taken all care to produce an accurate account of the building, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

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Note on the photographic survey and permissions

All photographs were taken from the public highway and scales were positioned either on the public highway/right of way, or on the property owned by Ms Catherine Coates. Under no circumstances was the garage of 17 Vyvyan Terrace entered, touched or compromised for the purpose of this survey. Vertical scales were placed on the property of 16 Vyvyan Terrace, the property owned by Ms Coates.

Any enquiries should be addressed to:

Absolute Archaeology

51 St Mary's Gardens

Hilperton Marsh

Trowbridge

Wiltshire

BA14 7PH

Telephone: 07825550271

Email: sam.driscoll@absolutearchaeology.co.uk

Website: www.absolutearchaeology.co.uk

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On Sunday 23rd May 2010, Absolute Archaeology carried out an appraisal of the exterior of the garage to the rear of 17 Vyvyan Terrace, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3DG (NGR ST 357125 173400). The weather conditions on the day of the survey were fine and dry. All photographs were taken with an Olympus Camedia C-60 and backed up with an Olympus 404E. Due to the limited timeframe for the completion of the project, no film or colour slide was used on this occasion. All photographic representations were taken from Vyvyan Road. No access was gained to the property noted above and observations were made from the street vantage point (public highway). Due to the absence of permission from the property owner, all measurements will be approximate and estimated from the site notes and photographic images. The above building appraisal was commissioned by Ms Catherine Coates of 16 Vyvyan Terrace.

1.2 Although the garage building is not listed, it is located within the curtilage of the Grade II* listed property, 17 Vyvyan Terrace, Clifton. The site itself is situated to the rear of the garden plot belonging to the above property, fronting onto Vyvyan Road, which was elevated from lane status in 1927 (pers comm. Catherine Coates). To the SW and adjoining the structure are two, two storey modern residential conversions. To the NE the garage abuts the 19th century Coach House, located to the rear of the garden plot belonging to 16 Vyvyan Terrace (the residence belonging to the client). Although the garage structure adjoins the Coach House, the brick coursing and stone masonry cannot be seen to be keyed into the neighbouring structure, the SW corner of which is defined by irregular Bath Stone quoins and dressed dolomite conglomerate, with occasional sandstone slabs. The garage is therefore considered to be a separate structure belonging to a later phase of development.

2 DESCRIPTION

2.1 The structure that forms the focus of this appraisal is a double garage, directly adjacent to and abutting the Coach House to the rear of 16 Vyvyan Terrace. The structure

stands approximately 4m high and measures 6.4m along the length of the SE facing elevation. The garage is constructed of a random mixture of masonry and brick, and appears to have gone through several phases of construction/repair. The two garage doors consist of one aluminium single piece tilt up door with wooden casing to the SW and a swing hung timber double door with wooden lintel and iron hinges to the NE. These are separated by a narrow pier of material consisting of 29 courses, incorporating the lintel of the wooden double door and supporting the lintel of the aluminium door. The pier is edged with reused bricks, mostly *modern* with occasional examples of (19th century?) rough handmade brick incorporated throughout. The brick bond constitutes a random alternating header and stretcher design filled with roughly hewn, uneven coursed stonework with modern sand/cement pointing. A similar pier of mixed brick and stonework can be seen, forming the SW corner of the double garage (adjacent to the modern garage conversion, to the rear of 18 Vyvyan Terrace).

- 2.2 The upper portion of the building consists of further courses of mixed brickwork and stone masonry. No formal bond or coursing structure was identifiable. Brick coursing consists of mainly stretcher bond with two visible courses of header bond identified at irregular intervals. This is perhaps intended to confirm roughly to English Garden Wall design, however it is more likely that the design is functional, with the intention of evening up the coursing. Once again a mixture of materials is evident. Modern bricks are used in the main, with upper courses built utilising older (19th century?) handmade bricks. To the NE (above the wooden double doors) seven random courses of roughly hewn stone are incorporated into the brickwork. The materials appear to match those used in the construction of the adjacent Coach House (dolomite conglomerate and pennant sandstone), however it should be noted that a close inspection of the material was not possible on this occasion.
- 2.3 It is suggested that the garage structure as seen today was not constructed as a single build. Subtle differences between the brick bonds, coursing levels and materials

suggest that the structure surrounding the double wooden door casing represents an earlier build, with a later extension added to the SW (now housing the aluminium garage door). Here it is noted that in two areas the brickwork does not form a continued course across the whole of the structure. Instead of the staggered design required to secure the coursing of a brick bond, in at least two areas separate building phases seem apparent. The upper four courses above the wooden door represent this point most clearly.

2.4 Due to the limited access dictated by the project, no internal investigation was possible and it should be noted that the comments represent a summary of the results of observations made as part of a brief photographic survey of the garage structure, from the public highway. However, it is suggested as a result of the above, that the facade of the garage to the rear of 17 Vyvyan Terrace represents a modern rebuild incorporating historic reused materials reclaimed from 19th century structures that previously fronted onto Vyvyan Road. It is observed that there was indeed a small building to the NE of the site in existence by 1885 (as shown on the 1885 Ordnance Survey Map) and it is here suggested that the structure is located on the same plot and probably retains some of the original materials. Although this could not be confirmed, it is possible that the garage also incorporates some of the original fabric of the 19th century building in its foundations and form, although the piecemeal appearance of the modern garage frontage does indicate that a significant amount of rebuilding and redesign has taken place.

2.5 It is concluded that the existing double garage to the rear of 17 Vyvyan Terrace is a recent structure, incorporating elements of the 19th century building that stood on the site. Although modern materials have been used to consolidate the garage structure, it is clear that a significant amount of older material has also been reused in the design and elements of an older structure may well remain within the fabric of the building. Although this study was unable to confirm the historical significance of the building, due to the reuse of historic building materials and the preservation of the form of the

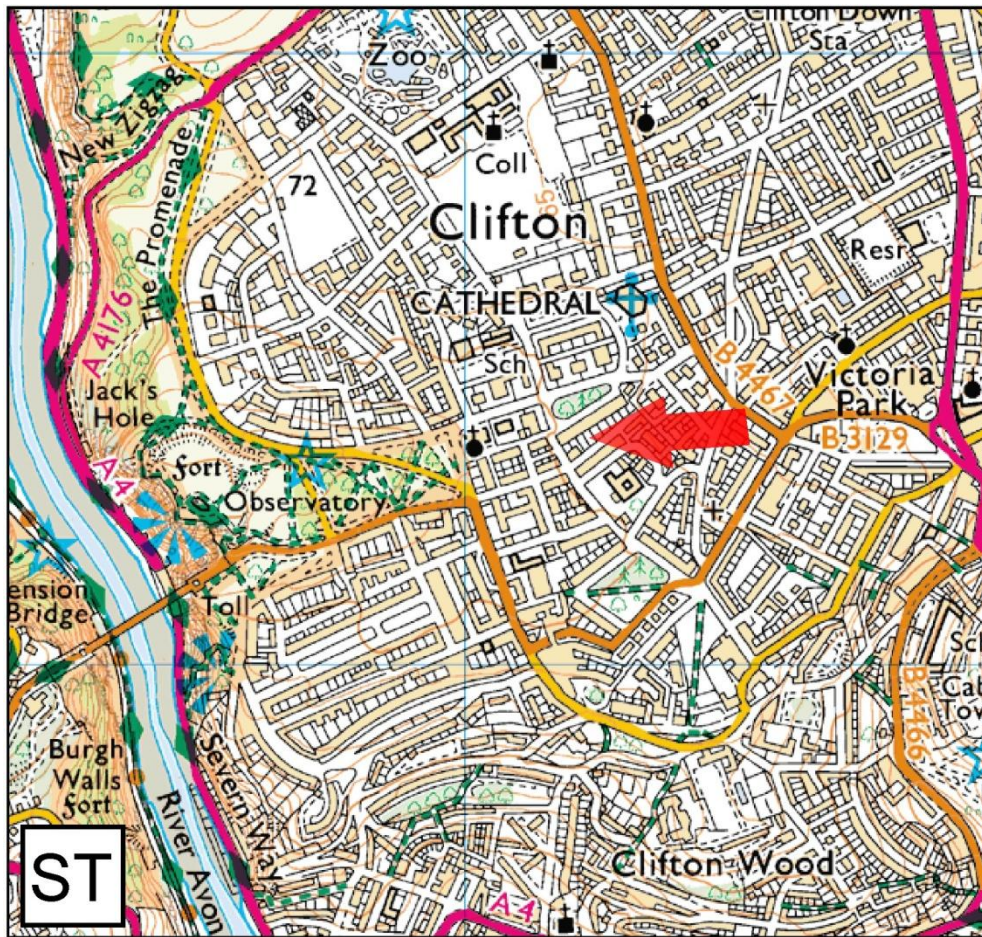
19th century store, it is observed that the existing structure remains in keeping with the architectural style of the historic buildings fronting onto Vyvyan Road.

3 BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

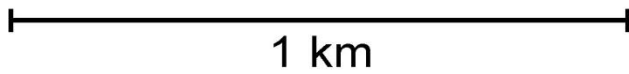
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FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION



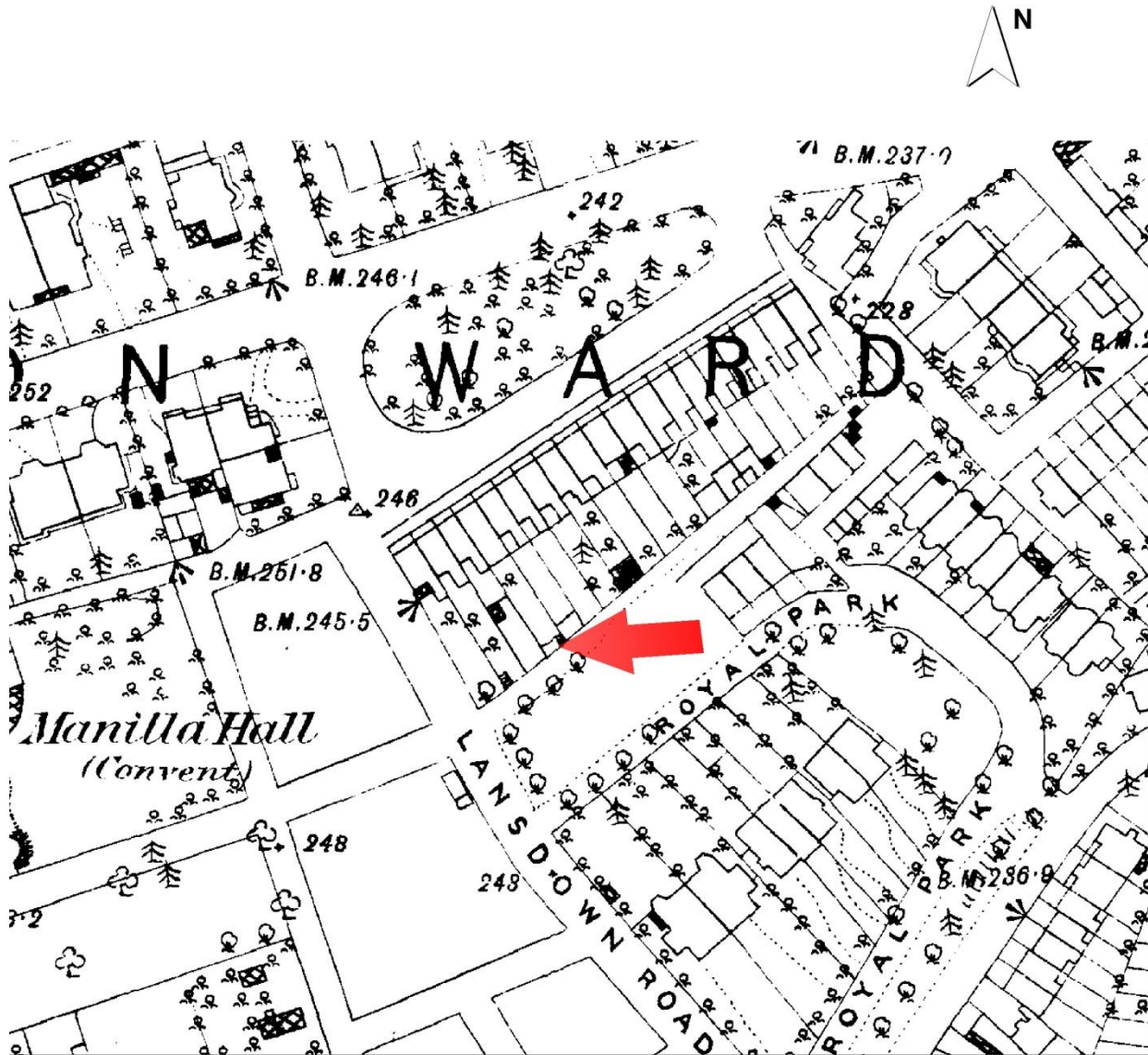
Location Centred on NGR ST 57125 73400



 = Location of site



FIGURE 2: 1885 OS MAP (NO SCALE)



 = Location of site

SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS



SE Facing Elevation (NE section) Scales 1 x 2m & 1 x 1m



SE Facing Elevation (SW Section) Scale 1 x 1m



SE Facing View of Coach House to the Rear of 17 Vyvyan Terrace