

BROADMEAD EXPANSION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS - Update 1



1 Initially the concrete slab floor of the demolished building and tarmac of the road through which the trench passes were broken up and removed by this large mechanical excavator.

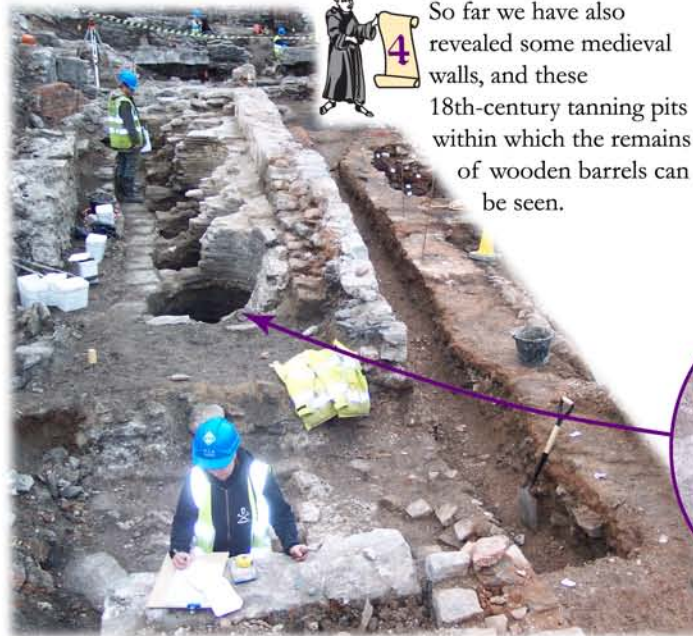
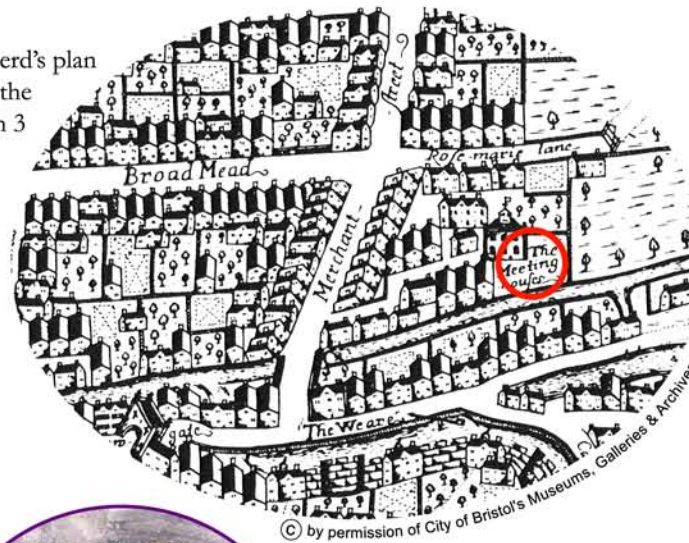


2 Before the archaeologists could begin to dig down they had to carefully remove modern concrete foundations and cellars using jackhammers. Once this was done, and the loose rubble and soil removed with shovels and wheelbarrows, the archaeologists began to uncover earlier walls and structures.



3 This massive culvert was constructed so that buildings could be built above a part of the River Frome known as the 'Back Ditch' in the 19th century. The arched roof of the culvert was pushed in during the construction of the Broadmead shopping centre in the 1950s. The culvert seems to have been built over earlier stone walls marking the edge of the ditch.

Extract from Miller's plan of 1673 showing the position of trench 3



4 So far we have also revealed some medieval walls, and these 18th-century tanning pits within which the remains of wooden barrels can be seen.



5 The pits were filled with lime and ground oak bark, which was used to transform animal hides into leather.

Follow the progress of the excavation of Trench 3 through our regular updates, which will be posted both on the hoarding along Broadweir and on the Cotswold Archaeology website www.cotswoldarch.org.uk

For further details on the Broadmead Expansion development please visit: www.bristolcitycentre.com