

BROADMEAD EXPANSION ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS - Update 4



excavation of lift shaft next to Trench 3



Towards the end of the trench 3 excavations a very early timber structure was revealed right at the base of the trench. This consisted of planks against which a substantial masonry wall was constructed. It appears to represent an early form of trench shoring to enable the wall to be partially built out into silty material on the edge of the former River Frome, therefore adding a handy rear extension to a property on Broad Weir which had previously been restricted by the presence of the River.



cleaning the timber structure



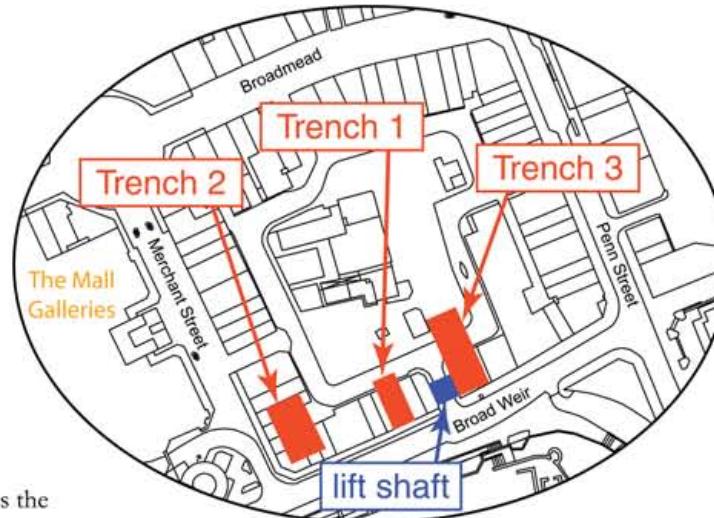
A timber specialist will identify the wood used and assess the condition of the timber planks, which survive because they were waterlogged. The planks were drawn and photographed before being removed and wrapped in plastic to prevent them from drying out.



making measured drawings of the timber structure



Excavations in trench 3 are now complete and have largely been infilled, but as the project develops further areas have been identified and the excavation has been extended to the west in the location of a new lift shaft. This has revealed what appear to be further tanning pits, hearths, a well and the walls of earlier, probably medieval, properties in which other industrial activities such as metalworking were taking place.



As the construction process gets into full swing and foundation designs are finalised proposed archaeological trenches have been moved, or new ones added, to ensure that archaeological remains are fully recorded in areas where deep disturbance due to the construction of lift shafts or drain runs are unavoidable. Trenches 1 and 2 are just getting underway. They have both been moved to new locations, and will again examine areas close to the Frome. A new drainage trench will also provide an exciting opportunity to examine the Friary cloisters and church.



excavation of Trench 2 gets underway

Pottery sherds recovered in association with the planks and adjacent wall suggest a 12th-century date, so this property may be even earlier than the 13th-century Dominican Friary, which lay to the north on the opposite site of the River Frome, and could even be broadly of the same period as Bristol Castle to the south, which was built in the late 11th century.

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

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