

**Summary of Results for an
Archaeological Watching Brief at
76 Lennox Road
Lightwood
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire NGR SJ 9176 4231**

Planning Application No: SOT/48336

Museum Accession Number: 2008.LH.29

Site Code: LSL 08

Produced for

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Non-technical summary

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was appointed to undertake an archaeological watching brief during extension works at number 76 Lennox Road, Lightwood, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ 9176 4231). Archaeological interest in the site was governed by its proximity to the find spot of the Lightwood Hoard, a deposit of AD 3rd-century Roman coins and jewellery found in the 1960s.

The watching brief took place on the 11th and 12th November 2008 and monitored the reduction of ground levels across the site and the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches to the south and west of the present property. The project revealed nothing of archaeological significance. The deposit profile indicated that the site had been subject to levelling prior to the construction of the present building in the late 20th century. Modern, 20th-century, disturbance on site had impacted to depths of between 0.98m and 1.21m below ground level.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Planning permission (SOT/48336) for the construction of an extension to number 76 Lennox Road, Lightwood, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ 9176 4231) (Fig. 1) was granted by Stoke-on-Trent City Council with an attached condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during all ground works on site. Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was subsequently appointed to undertake the work by the developer, Mr. D. Hussain.

1.2 Archaeological interest in the site was governed by its proximity to the find spot of the Lightwood Hoard (PRN 01222), a deposit of AD 3rd-century Roman coins and jewellery found in the 1960s. The exact nature of Roman occupation in the vicinity is unclear, but the possibility remains that further evidence may survive in the area.

2.0 The watching brief

2.1 The watching brief took place on the 11th and 12th November 2008 and was conducted in accordance with a project brief (Boothroyd 2008) produced by the Planning Archaeologist for Stoke-on-Trent City Council and a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology (Goodwin 2008).

2.2 The watching brief monitored the reduction of ground levels across the site and the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches to the south and west of the present property (Fig. 2). All ground works were undertaken by a mechanical excavator. A written record of the watching brief was maintained and annotated sketch plan and section drawings made. A digital colour and 35mm monochrome print photographic record was also produced. The site archive is now stored at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (site code **LSL 08**, Accession Number: **2008.LH.29**).

2.3 Results

2.3.1 Ground intervention works revealed a simple soil profile across the site. The clay-silt topsoil (100), a maximum of 0.28m thick, sat above a 0.07m-0.10m thick red ash (101) in the area immediately adjacent to the house, where it had formed a bedding layer for a paved area removed prior to the commencement of excavations. Elsewhere, topsoil (100) lay above a black silty charcoal (102), a maximum of 0.35m thick, which appeared to represent levelling material deposited in preparation for the construction of the present

house (Plate 1). Context (102) lay above a grey/yellow silty clay with inclusions of brick rubble (103), the thickness of which, due to the north-south slope of the site varied considerably between 0.25m and 1.12m. This sat above the natural orange/yellow clay subsoil (104), 0.25m thick to the limit of excavation (Plate 2).

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 The archaeological watching brief at 76 Lennox Road revealed nothing of archaeological significance. The deposit profile indicated that the site had been subject to levelling prior to the construction of the present building in the late 20th century. Historical map evidence indicates that the site was undeveloped for at least a century before the current property was built. Modern, 20th-century, disturbance on site had impacted to depths of between 0.98m and 1.21m below ground level (those that existed at the start of the project, not the reduced levels).

4.0 Acknowledgements

4.1 The watching brief was undertaken by Zoë Sutherland of Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology. The report was written and illustrated by Zoë Sutherland of Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology. Valuable assistance was provided by Mr D.Hussain and by David Broad. Thanks are also due to Noel Boothroyd, Planning Archaeologist for Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

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5.0 References

Boothroyd, N. 2008. *Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: 76 Lennox Road, Lightwood, Stoke-on-Trent*. Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

Goodwin, J. 2008. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 76 Lennox Road, Lightwood, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire*. Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology.

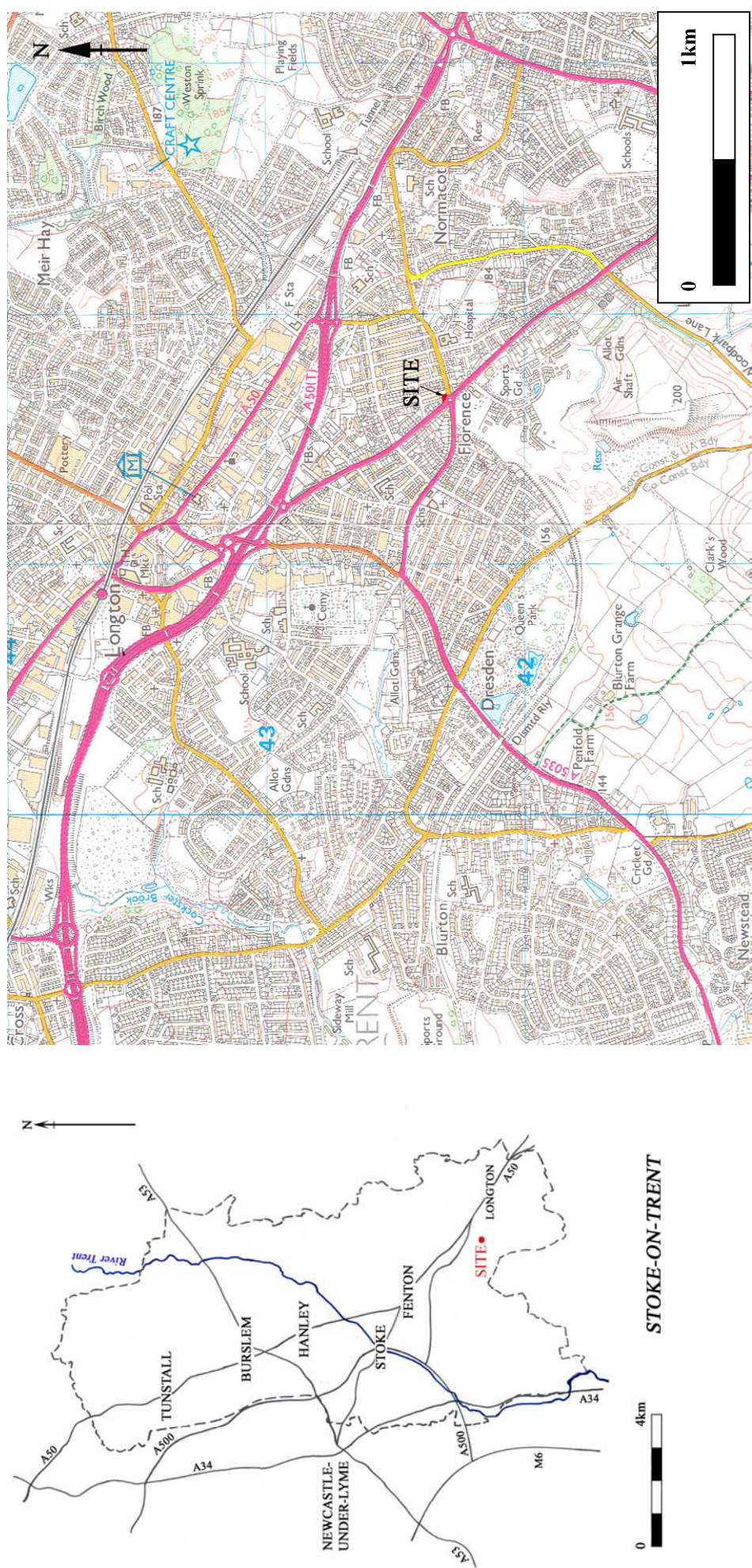


FIG. 1

Site location

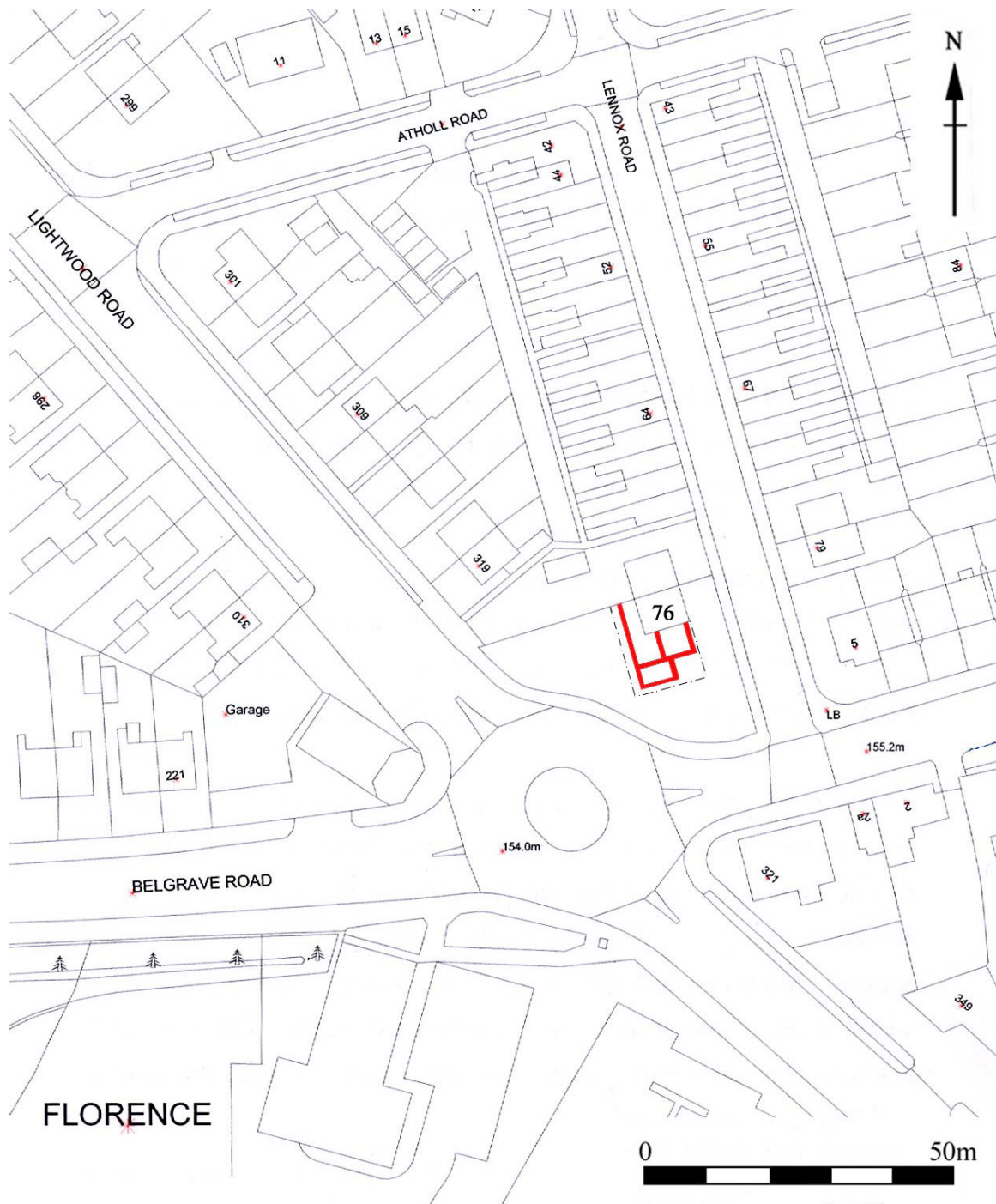


FIG. 2

Site plan with foundation trenches indicated in red.



PLATE 1

The site after the reduction of levels, showing context (102), looking north (the present house can be seen to the north west) (scales: 1.0m).



PLATE 2

The westernmost foundation trench. Natural clay (104) is visible at the northern end of the trench, but, to the south, slopes down beneath silty-clay [103], which can be seen in the foreground (scales:1.0m).