

Archaeology Service Report Number 313
© Shropshire Council
April 2012

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT
ST JAMES WORKS, BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE, 2012**

by

H R HANNAFORD MIFA

A Report for

DKM Homes Ltd

Archaeology Service

Historic Environment Team, Environment,
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND
Tel: (01743) 252575 Fax: (01743) 252505



A WATCHING BRIEF AT ST JAMES WORKS, BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE, 2012

In January 2012 work started on a redevelopment for housing of part of the former St James Works, Stourbridge Road, Bridgnorth. The St James Works occupies part of the site of the medieval lepers' hospital of St James, and it was considered possible that archaeological remains relating to the medieval hospital might survive within the site.

Because of its potential historical and archaeological significance, an archaeological evaluation of the site was carried out by the Archaeology Service in November 2011. Trial excavations on the site revealed buried soils containing a small quantity of medieval pottery of 13th – 14th century date. No other significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered. It was recommended that the development be accompanied by a programme of archaeological work in order to record the archaeological deposits that would be disturbed by the development.

The first phase of the development was carried out in January 2012 at the eastern part of the site, and the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on the excavation of foundation trenches for the new housing.

Topsoil and overburden had been removed to level the site prior to the watching brief commencing, with approximately 0.6m being removed at the southern edge of the site to 0.2m at the northern edge. The archaeological deposits noted in the watching brief were as seen in the evaluation of November 2012. At the southern edge of the site, the top of the natural red sandy subsoil was seen at the level of the reduced ground surface. The natural sand dropped down to the north to lie beneath about 0.25m of light brown sandy silt, 0.4m of brown sandy loam, and 0.25m of dark greyish brown sandy loam. No significant archaeological features or deposits were seen.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location of the study area

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1: The foundation trenches, looking northwest

Photo 2: Deposits in the northeast corner, looking northwest (scale 1m)

Photo 3: Deposits in the southeast corner, looking west (scale 1m)

REFERENCES AND SOURCES CONSULTED

Buteux, V, 1996: *Archaeological Assessment of Bridgnorth, Shropshire*, Hereford and Worcester County Council, County Archaeology Service Report No. 301

Hannaford, H R, 1997: *An Archaeological Evaluation at St James' Priory, Bridgnorth, Shropshire*, Shropshire County Council Archaeology Service Report No.131

Hannaford, H R, 2011: *An Archaeological Evaluation at St James Works, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, 2011*, Shropshire Council Archaeology Service Report No.305

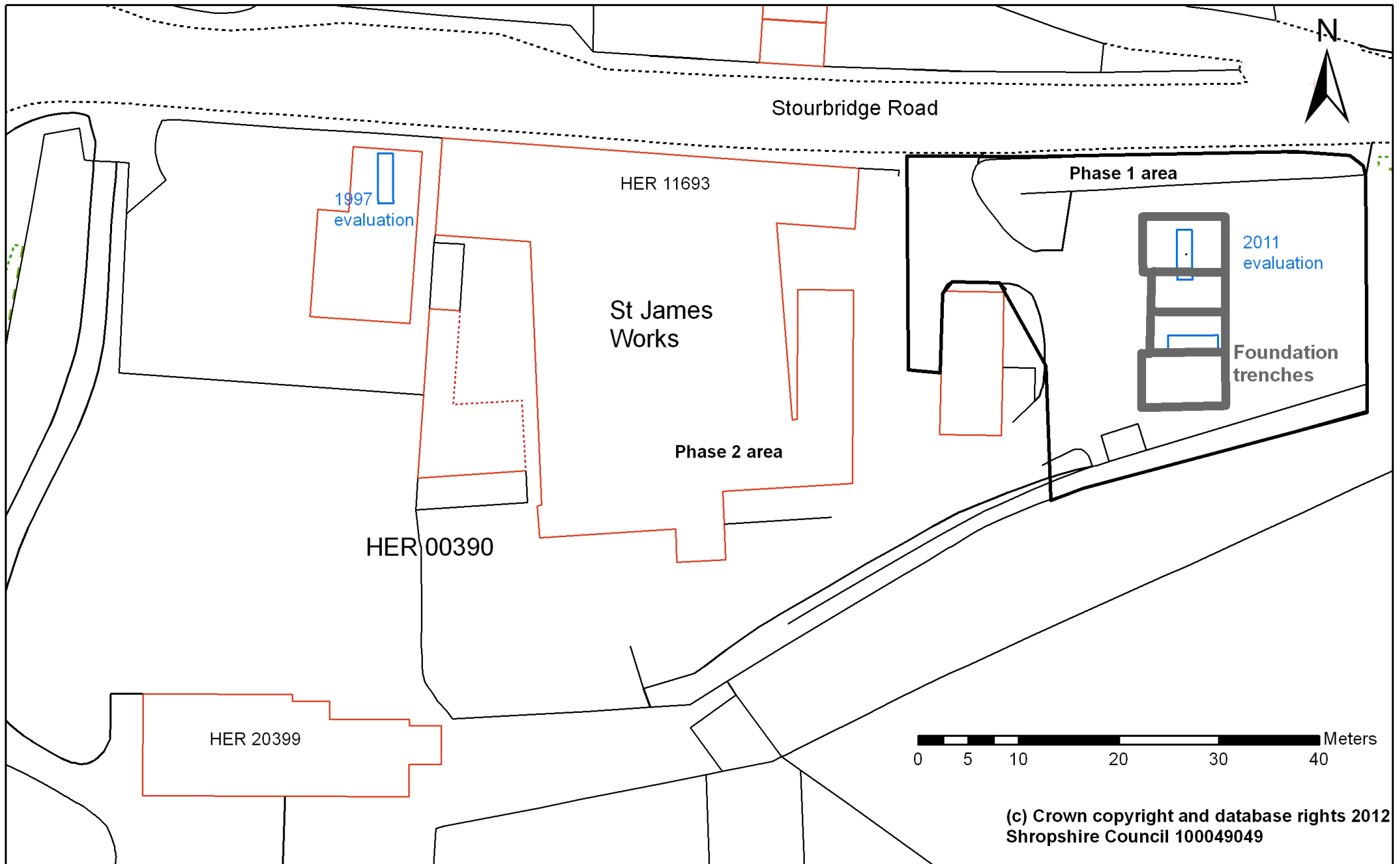




Photo 1: The foundation trenches, looking northwest



Photo 2: Deposits in the northeast corner, looking northwest (scale 1m)



Photo 3: Deposits in the southeast corner, looking west (scale 1m)