

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT 3-5 STAFFORD STREET,
MARKET DRAYTON, SHROPSHIRE 2014**

by
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A report for
SEDDON CONSTRUCTION LTD

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2014 work began on a development of a site at 3-5 Stafford Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire (NGR SJ 6755 3423). The development will erect 18 affordable apartments following the demolition of existing buildings.

1.2 The development site is located within the historic core of the medieval town of Market Drayton (Historic Environment Record [HER] No. 06006), as defined by the Central Marches Historic Towns Survey, and within a group of tenement plots which are thought to have been established in the later medieval period (HER 06000).

1.3 An archaeological evaluation of the site was conducted in 2001 by Castlering Archaeology (Frost, 2001), which comprised the excavation of two archaeological trial trenches in the central and rear (north-western) parts of the site (HER Event No. ESA6957). This revealed only post-medieval and/or modern deposits above the natural red sand in the central part of the site. In the trench in the northern part post-medieval and/or modern deposits were seen to a depth of up to 0.6m and 1.1m below the existing ground level, with other made deposits of earlier but undefined date surviving to a depth of up to 1.5m below ground level. It was considered that there remained also a possibility that archaeological features and deposits might survive towards the frontage of the site and beneath the older outbuilding proposed for demolition.

1.3 Because of the potential significance of the archaeological resource, it was considered necessary that the groundworks be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief. The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council, was commissioned by Seddon Construction Ltd to undertake the archaeological work.

1.4 The aim of the watching brief was to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that might be encountered during the groundworks.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF.

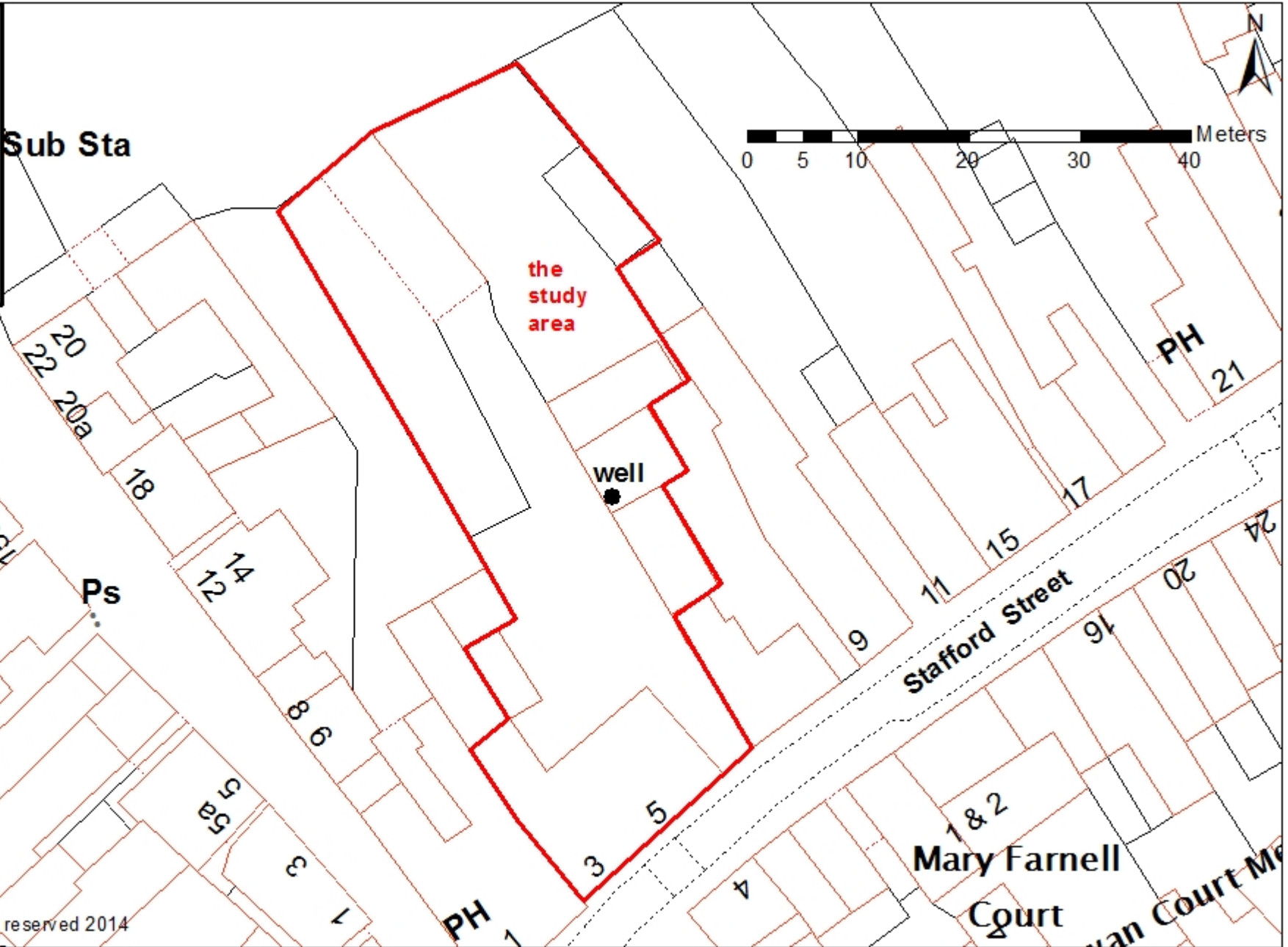
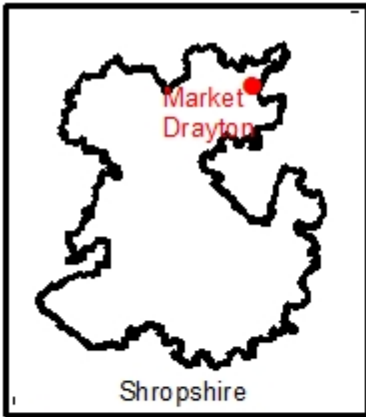
2.1 The site was visited on two occasions in January and February 2014 following the demolition of the buildings behind the street frontage and the removal of floor slabs.

2.2 A sandstone well was revealed beneath the floor of one of the former buildings about 25m back (northwest) from the street frontage. The well was of about 1m internal diameter and was constructed of un-bonded red sandstone blocks. The well had been sealed by a concrete slab within the removed floor.

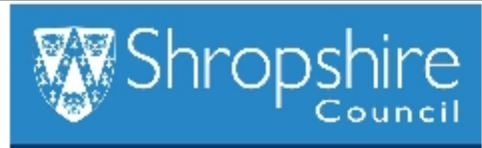
2.3 No significant archaeological features or deposits were recorded during the watching brief.

3 REFERENCES

- Dalwood, H, et al**, 1996: *Archaeological Assessment of Market Drayton, Shropshire*, Hereford and Worcester County Council Archaeology Service Report No. 330
- Frost, P**, 2001: *3/5 Stafford Street, Market Drayton, Shropshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Castlering Archaeology Report No 115



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Figure 1: Location of the study area

Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council,
Historic Environment Team, Business Growth & Prosperity,
Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

Scale: 1:500

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Photo 1: The site at 3-5 Stafford Street, looking SE



Photo 2: The location of the well



Photo 3: The sandstone well, (scale bar 1m)

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