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# Site North of Brand Lane, Ludlow, Shropshire.

October 2016 : V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Evaluation

Project Code: A0091.1

Report no. 0108

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**Site North of Brand Lane, Ludlow,  
Shropshire.  
October 2016 : V 1.0**

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Archaeological Evaluation

Aeon Archaeology

25, Mold Road

Broughton

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Project Code: A0091.1

Date: 25/10/2016

Client: John Cave

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## 1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by John Cave (hereafter the Client) to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a new dwelling with associated parking provision and detached outbuilding on land to the north of Brand Lane, Ludlow, Shropshire (**ref. 15/05049/FUL**) (centred on **NGR: SO 51224 74567**) (Figure 1).

The archaeological evaluation at Brand Lane, Ludlow produced post-medieval archaeological remains and artefacts however these were considered to be of low significance in relation to the anticipated potential of the site within the historic centre of Ludlow. The site appeared to have been backfilled and levelled with mixed overburden consisting of modern coarse building materials; both the excavation of trench 1 and trench 2 revealed that the ground level had undulated quite severely at some point in the past as evidenced in the stratigraphy. Trench 2, close to Brand Lane, produced the archaeological remains of a brick ornamental planter that appears to correspond with a formal garden depicted on the Ordnance Survey Ludlow Town Plan of 1885. This planter had been partially constructed upon a stone wall that ran from west to east before turning north and continuing beyond the limit of excavation. This wall corresponds with the garden wall of the former bank depicted on the 1835 Plan of Ludlow, which was moved further to the west by the production of the 1862 map.

To the immediate east of the stone garden wall a refuse pit was uncovered which produced Victorian ceramics and oyster shells.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by John Cave (hereafter the Client) to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the construction of a new dwelling on land to the north of Brand Lane, Ludlow, Shropshire (ref. **15/05049/FUL**) (centred on **NGR: SO 51224 74567**) (Figure 1).

The proposed development area was located north of Brand Lane to the east of Broad Street, west of Old Street and towards the center of Ludlow and consisted of a residential garden (Figure 2). The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two archaeological trenches; trench 1 - measuring 12.0m by 1.8m and trench 2 - measuring 8.0m by 1.8m. These trenches were excavated in order to evaluate the potential for preserved buried remains at the site.

The Archaeological Advisor (Charlotte Orchard) at Shropshire Council produced a brief for the archaeological evaluation with the following pre-commencement recommendation:

*In view of the above, and in relation to Paragraph 141 of the NPPF, it is recommended that a phased Programme of archaeological work be made a condition of any planning permission for the proposed development. This should comprise a pre-commencement trial trenching exercise, and provision for further archaeological mitigation as appropriate. It is understood that a degree of clearance work will be necessary if planning consent is granted. As part of these works, no ground disturbing work should take place prior to the evaluation and, where appropriate, any subsequent mitigation. Therefore the ground level at the point of access should not be lowered, tree roots should not be removed, and garden structures should be carefully demolished to ensure minimal ground disturbance in advance of the evaluation.*

Planning permission for the development was secured on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 with the following made a condition of full planning permission:

### *Condition 7*

*No development, including site clearance works, shall commence until the applicant/owner/developer has secured the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which shall first be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

### *Reason*

*To safeguard any evidence associated with known archaeological sites and features in the vicinity of the application site, in accordance with policies CS6 and CS17 of the Shropshire Local Development Framework Adopted Core Strategy. This information is required prior to commencement of the development since it relates to matters which need to be confirmed before subsequent phases proceed, in order to ensure a sustainable development (ref. 15/05049/FUL).*

Relevant UK legislation on heritage includes the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 sets out the requirement for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent for any works of demolition, repair, and alteration that might affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument. For archaeological sites that are not covered by the above Act, protection is afforded through development control, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the National Planning (NPPF) Paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment).

The current design conforms to the guidelines specified in the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

### 3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the evaluation works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation of the archaeological evaluation trenches.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the Senior Archaeological Projects Officer to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Shropshire and the Telford and Wrekin areas.

The archaeological evaluation trenches consisted of the following:

**Trench 1** – 12.0m x 1.8m: Located at the central/northern end of the site and was testing the site for discreet features. This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.6m.

**Trench 2** – 8.0m x 1.8m: Located at the southern end of the site was to test the site for discreet features. This trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m where archaeological features were encountered.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2010), and in the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute For Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

- Phase 1: project planning
- Phase 2: fieldwork
- Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design
- Phase 4: analysis and report preparation
- Phase 5: dissemination

In this instance it was not necessary to prepare a revised project design as alluded to in Phase 3; due to the comparatively shallow depth allowance required for 'raft' foundations and there was also a paucity of evidence recovered in Phase 2 in terms of archaeological features and the residual ceramic finds only offered minimal potential for analysis and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase was to carry out the analysis as identified in phase 3, (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies, if required, with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Shropshire Historic Environment Record and the OASIS database so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving any material and documentary records from the project.



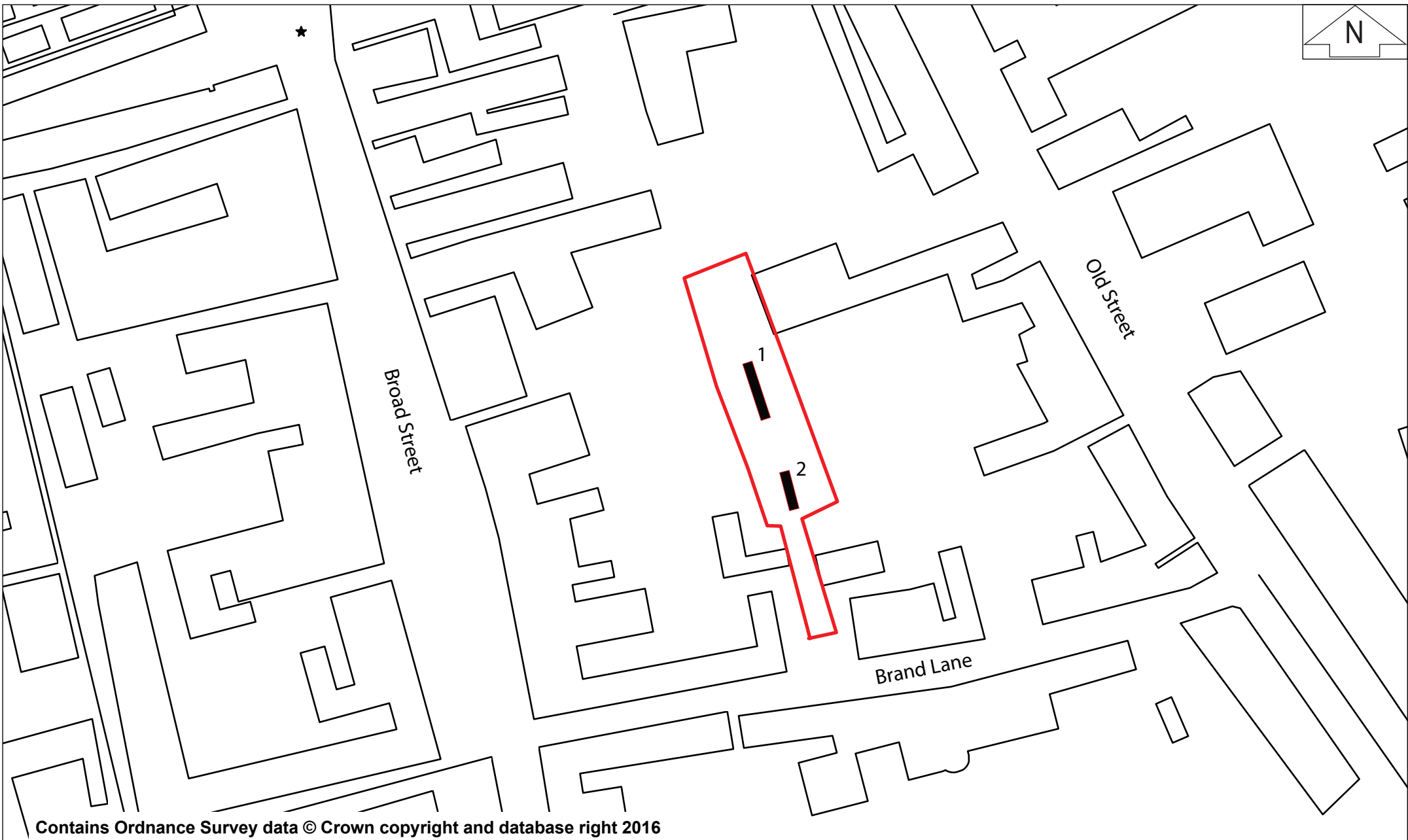
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**Figure 01:** Location of development site at Brand Lane, Ludlow. Scale 1:10,000 at A4.



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**Figure 02:** Location of proposed evaluation trenches at Brand Lane, Ludlow.

Scale 1:1,000 at A4.



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## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

Before the evaluation trenching commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client and the Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Shropshire county council.

### **4.1 Evaluation trenches**

The evaluation trenching array was designed to investigate areas that may contain archaeological features. There was latitude on the location of each trench and slight repositioning to take account of buried services and other constraints was acknowledged as a possibility within the WSI.

A tracked excavator with toothless ditching bucket was used to open the trenches under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and overburden were to be removed by machine in spits down to archaeological deposits or natural sub-soils, whichever were encountered first. All uncovered archaeological features were to be excavated by hand.

A written record of the deposits and all identified features in each evaluation trench was completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas. All subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations. The photographic record was completed using a digital SLR camera (Canon Eos 550D) set to maximum resolution.

Contingency provision was made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches and archaeological features within them were accurately located on a site plan prepared at the most appropriate and largest scale. All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure the site was left in a safe and tidy condition.

### **4.2 Data Collection from Site Records**

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

### **4.3 Artefact Methodology**

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required, artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the Archaeological Advisor at Shropshire Council. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

#### **4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

#### **4.5 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs and written material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced.

Upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record, the Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Shropshire County Council, and the OASIS online database.

## 5.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

### 5.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation trenching:

Trench sheets	2
Digital photographs	37
Context Sheets	0
Drawings	2

### 5.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the evaluation trenching as no suitable deposits or fills were encountered.

### 5.3 Artefacts

A selection of diagnostic ceramic sherds were found within the refuse pit within trench 2; these included 1 sherd of blue-on-white china (Willow Pattern C.19<sup>th</sup>); 1 rim sherd of green transferware dish (C.19<sup>th</sup>); 1 sherd of white bone china (C.19<sup>th</sup>); 1 sherd glazed black earthenware (Late 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>); glass sherd heavily decayed and iridescent, wine bottle? (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>); 1 half Oyster Shell (*Ostrea*) edible Oyster.

Further finds including numerous pieces of Victorian transferware, bone china and a single rim sherd of yellow on brown Staffordshire slipware (C.17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>), were recovered from a light-brown clay-silt deposit into which the refuse pit had been cut.

## 6.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHES

The evaluation trenches were designed to assess and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains. Each of the trenches are described and discussed separately. The location of the trenches can be found on Figure 2 and the location and orientation of photographs is shown on Figure 7.

### **Trench 1** (Plates 1-3)

12<sup>th</sup> October - 2016

Trench 1 was located towards the north of the site and (centred on **NGR: SO 51386 74567**). The trench measured 12.0m in length by 1.8m in width, orientated north to south and was targeting unknown buried archaeological remains within the development area. The trench was excavated and subsequently recorded before being backfilled.

Trench 1 was excavated through a 0.18m deep dark brown, clay-silt topsoil; this was filled with heavy root inclusions due to a decorative hedgerow that had existed in the garden above. This overlaid a 0.40m deep dark grey-brown clay-silt subsoil with occasional charcoal and infrequent brick fragment inclusions. Beneath this was a >0.1m deep almost black clay-silt deposit with frequent large angular pebble inclusions and occasional remains of butchered cattle bones; which is likely to have been a former garden topsoil deposit. No discernible features were discovered in this trench.

Anecdotal evidence has suggested that the garden had previously been used as a tennis court by the client's family. It was noted that the garden wall to the east of the trench exhibited metal fittings which projected above the wall by approximately 0.50m which may have been used to support a net, although this net was no longer present. Furthermore the dark grey-brown clay-silt subsoil layer characterised by the presence of brick and charcoal fragments appeared to be filling undulations within the black clay-silt deposit below, this was evident when viewed in section (plate 7). Therefore the garden may have been subjected to an occasion of backfilling, perhaps to level the area by filling undulations in an existing topsoil deposit for use as a tennis court.

### **Trench 2** (Plates 1-4; 8-13, figures 3-6)

12<sup>th</sup> October - 2016

Trench 2 was located towards the south of the site and centred on (**SO 51239 74546**). The trench measured 8.0m in length and 1.8m in width, orientated north to south. The trench was excavated and subsequently recorded before being backfilled.

Trench 2 was excavated through a 0.25m deep dark-brown clay-silt topsoil with frequent root inclusions. Beneath this layer at the northern end of the trench was 0.65m deep dark grey-brown clay-silt deposit which tapered to 0.40m in depth at the southern limit of excavation. It included frequent brick, mortar, slate and charcoal inclusions and appeared to have been laid down as levelling material across the site. Beneath this deposit and at the southern end of the trench there was a visible tip-line of vitrified stone fragments or '*clinker*', which in turn lay above a light-brown clay-silt subsoil which extended to a depth greater than 0.30m, with occasional small sub-rounded pebble inclusions, very frequent charcoal flecks and frequent small fragments of bone china.

At the southern end of the trench and at a depth of 1.0m below ground surface, a rectangular brick planter was uncovered, measuring 2.36m in length by 1.2m in width orientated north to south. The planter stood to approximately 0.2m in height and had been constructed from two courses of unfrosted red-bricks bonded with a pink mortar. The individual bricks measured 0.23m in length by 0.10m in width by 0.08m in depth. The top of the brick planter (Figure 03) sat directly below, and had

been sealed by, the light-brown clay-silt subsoil deposit. Fragments of blue ornamental bricks found while machining suggests that the planter had once been edged with these (plate 14).

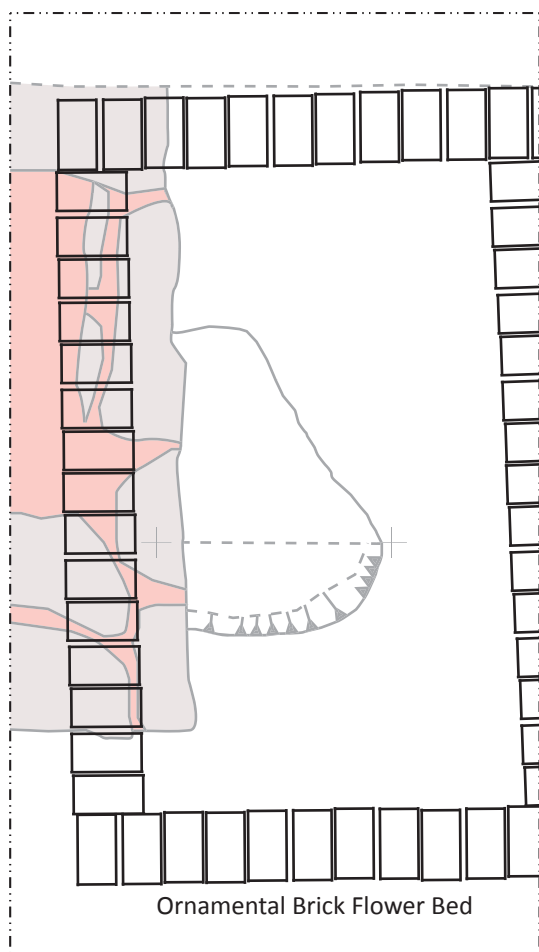
Once the bricks were removed it was found that the planter had been partially constructed upon a stone rubble wall, bonded by mortar and measuring 1.84m north to south by 0.56m east to west. The stones used in construction were of medium size, angular and made from limestone, there appeared to have been an effort to dress the stone to form possible quoins at its north-eastern corner. A slot was excavated along its northern elevation 0.25m in width in order to discover the wall base which was found to extend to 1.45m below the existing ground level.

Directly to the west of the stone wall a refuse pit filled with a dark-brown clay-silt with frequent brick and tile fragments, glass, oyster shell, and ceramic inclusions was found. The pit abutted the stone wall on its eastern face and measured 1.67m in length by 0.87m in width by 0.18m in depth, orientated north to south (figure 06). The recovered ceramics were all Victorian in date and included blue on white bone china with willow pattern, green transferware, blue transferware and white slipped bone china with clear lead glaze.

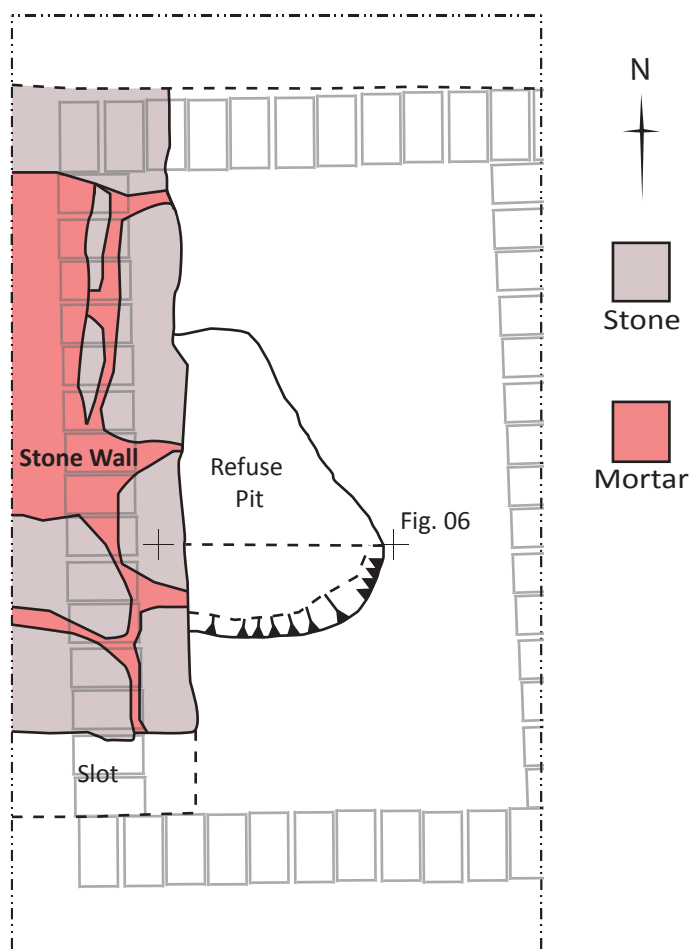
The stone planter appears to correspond with the former location of the boundary wall of the properties to the west and fronting on to Broad Street, as shown on the 1835 Town Plan of Ludlow (see ABRS report 2015\_BLLS\_v1). In particular, the location of the uncovered wall would appear to correspond with the garden of the former Bank, which occupied number 20 Broad Street. This boundary wall appears to have been moved further west by the production of the 1862 map of Ludlow to where it now currently stands.

By the production of the 1885 Town Plan of Ludlow a formal garden, with what appear to be flower beds, is depicted and it is probable that the red-brick planter dates to this time period.

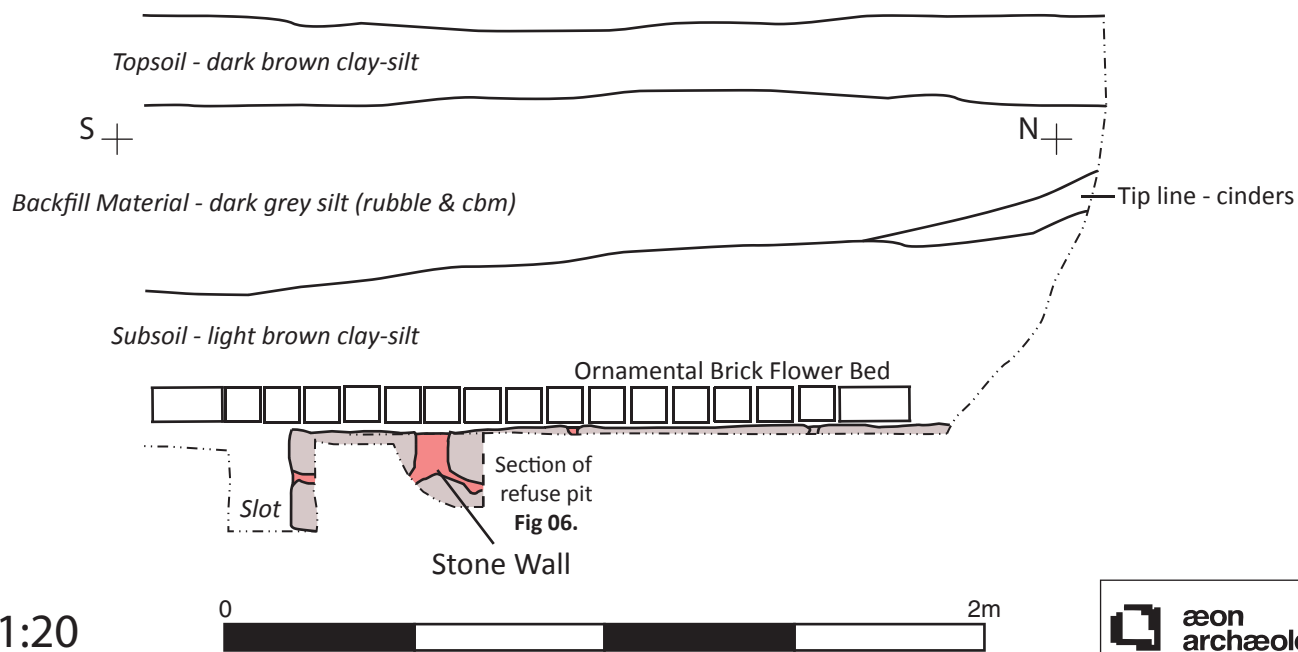
**Figure 03.** Trench 2 - Location of Ornamental brick flower bed with stone wall and refuse pit below



**Figure 04.** Trench 2 - Figure showing stone wall with refuse pit to west



**Figure 05.** Trench 2 - Section across trench showing stratigraphy and location of features



**Figure 03:** Trench 2 - Location of Ornamental brick flower bed with stone wall and refuse pit below

**Figure 04:** Trench 2 - Figure showing stone wall with refuse pit to west

**Figure 05:** Trench 2 - Section across trench showing stratigraphy (north to south) and location of features



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EAST

WEST

*Topsoil - dark brown clay-silt*

*Backfill Material - dark grey silt (rubble & cbm)*

Tip line - cinders

*Subsoil - light brown clay-silt*

**Ornamental Brick Flower Bed**



E +

+ W

Stone Wall

Refuse Pit

Slot

1:10

0

1m



Stone



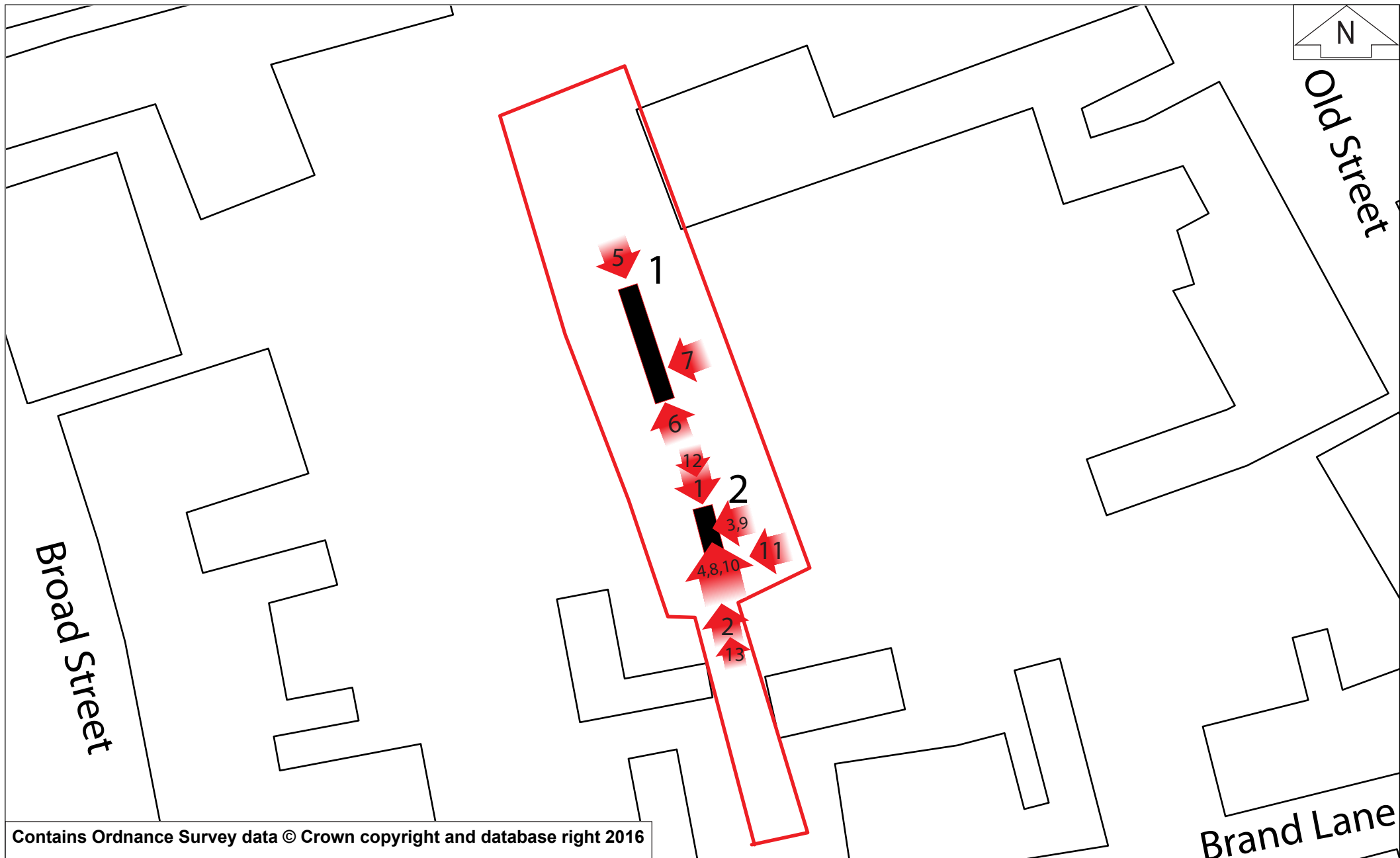
Mortar



**Figure 06:** Trench 2 - Section across trench (east to west) showing stratigraphy and location of features

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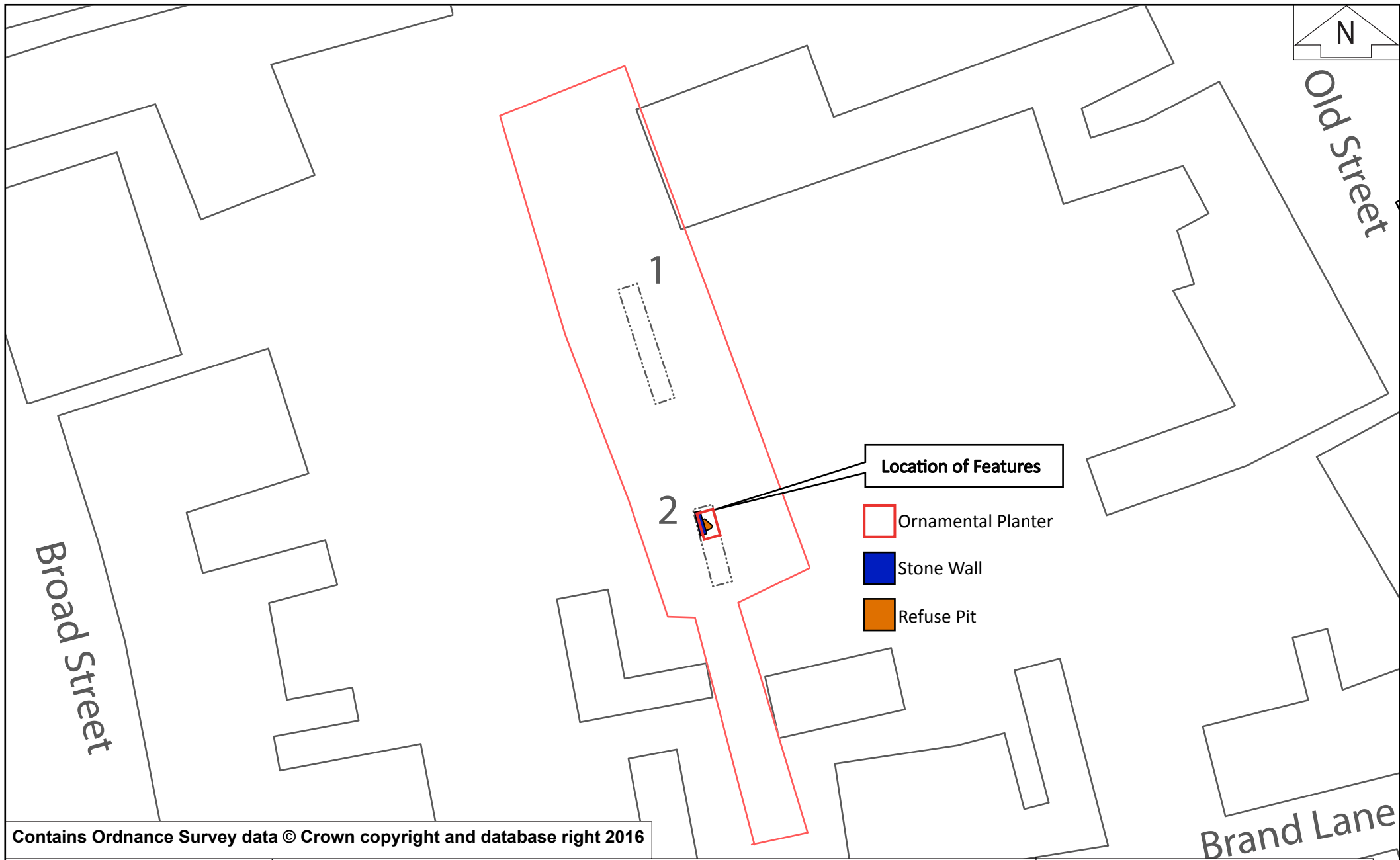


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**Figure 07:** Location of Photographic plates at Brand Lane, Ludlow, Scale is 1:500 @ A4



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**Figure 08:** Location of Archaeological features at Brand Lane, Ludlow,  
Scale is 1:500 @ A4



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**Plate 01:** Pre excavation of trench 2 from north- scale 1m



**Plate 02:** Pre excavation of trench 2 from south - scale 1m



**Plate 03:** Ornamental brick flower bed - from west - scale 1m



**Plate 04:** Ornamental brick flower bed - from south - scale 0.5m



**Plate 05:** Trench 1: trench shot - from south - scale 1m



Plate 06: Trench 1: trench shot - from north - scale 1m





**Plate 07:** Generic section of Trench 1 - from west - scale 1m



**Plate 08:** Section of stone wall Trench 2 - from south - scale 0.5m



**Plate 09:** Shot in plan of stone wall and refuse pit - from west - scales 0.5 & 1m



**Plate 10:** Shot in plan of stone wall and refuse pit - from west - scale 0.5m



Plate 11: Generic section of Trench 2 - from west - scale 1m



**Plate 12:** Trench 2: trench shot - from north - scale 1m



**Plate 13:** Trench 2: trench shot - from south - scale 1m



**Plate 14:** Ornamental edging tile from Brand Lane, Ludlow - scale 0.3m



## 7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation at Brand Lane, Ludlow, Shropshire produced archaeological features and some diagnostic pottery which allowed for relative dates to be obtained for those features. These remains are not considered to be highly significant but can be said to legitimise the methods presented within the archaeological WSI for this project and respect the aims promoted by the *Shropshire Local Development Framework: Adopted Core Strategy*.

The excavation of trench 1 revealed that undulating areas of the previous garden surface had probably been backfilled with some residual building materials in order to create a level, a theme which was continued to the south as shown within trench 2; where the material appeared to have been deposited from a southerly direction toward the northern garden wall, as evidenced by a visible tapering in section and a small concentrated tip line of vitrified stone. Perhaps this took place to create a suitable surface for a tennis court as suggested by the anecdotal evidence provided by the client.

Trench 2 produced archaeological remains which attest to the history of the area as a functional garden dating back into the Victorian period; this previous garden surface 1.0m below the current ground level. The presence of an ornamental brick planter finished with ornate blue edging tiles, overlying the former garden wall of number 20 Broad Street demonstrate the distinct character of the location as a decorative garden. The ceramics finds present in the refuse pit provide reliable dates for the Victorian period however the light brown, clay-silt at the base of the trench was full of examples of bone china and transferware sherds; making this deposit generally consistent in period with the refuse pit cut into it.

Considering the results of the archaeological evaluation trenches the category of preserved remains at the site is considered as low significance, furthermore the depth at which these remains were discovered far exceed the required depth of the 'raft' foundations of the proposed development. Therefore the impact upon these remains is considered to be low to insubstantial due to their depth below the ground surface. Considering these findings no recommendations for further archaeological mitigatory works are proposed, and it is recommended that the archaeological condition be discharged.

## 8.0 SOURCES

### *OS Maps*

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SO 57 NE, SO 57 SE, SO 57 SW and SO 57 NW.

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**APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**



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**Site off Brand Lane, Ludlow,  
Shropshire.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for Archaeological Evaluation**

**aeon archaeology**



Planning ref: 15/05049/FUL  
Archaeological WSI  
Project Code: A0091.1

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mr John Cave (hereafter the Client) has secured planning consent for the construction of a new dwelling with associated parking provision and detached outbuilding on land to the north of Brand Lane, Ludlow, Shropshire (ref. 15/05049/FUL) (centred on NGR: SO 51224 74567) (figure 1).

The proposed development area is located north of Brand Lane to the east of Broad Street, west of Old Street and towards the centre of Ludlow and consists of a residential garden.

The Archaeological Advisor (Charlotte Orchard) at Shropshire Council has produced a brief for the archaeological evaluation with the following pre-commencement recommendation:

*In view of the above, and in relation to Paragraph 141 of the NPPF, it is recommended that a phased programme of archaeological work be made a condition of any planning permission for the proposed development. This should comprise a pre-commencement trial trenching exercise, and provision for further archaeological mitigation as appropriate.*

*It is understood that a degree of clearance work will be necessary if planning consent is granted. As part of these works, no ground disturbing work should take place prior to the evaluation and, where appropriate, any subsequent mitigation. Therefore the ground level at the point of access should not be lowered, tree roots should not be removed, and garden structures should be carefully demolished to ensure minimal ground disturbance in advance of the evaluation.*

Planning permission for the development was secured on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 with the following made a condition of full planning permission:

### Condition 7

*No development, including site clearance works, shall commence until the applicant/owner/developer has secured the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which shall first be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

### Reason

*To safeguard any evidence associated with known archaeological sites and features in the vicinity of the application site, in accordance with policies CS6 and CS17 of the Shropshire Local Development Framework Adopted Core Strategy. This information is required prior to commencement of the development since it relates to matters which need to be confirmed before subsequent phases proceed, in order to ensure a sustainable development (ref. 15/05049/FUL).*

The evaluation will consist of the excavation of 2 archaeological trenches (trench 1 and trench 2) measuring 12.0m by 1.8m and 8.0m by 1.8m respectively, to evaluate the potential for preserved buried remains at the site. The topsoil and any overburden will be removed by mechanical excavator, and any archaeological features encountered will be sample excavated by hand in order to determine their character and date. The location of the trenches is shown on Figure 2.

Relevant UK legislation on heritage includes the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 sets out the requirement for Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent for any works of demolition, repair, and alteration that might affect a Scheduled Ancient Monument. For archaeological sites that are not covered by the above Act, protection is afforded through development control, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the National Planning

Policy Framework (NPPF) Paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment).

The current design conforms to the guidelines specified in the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



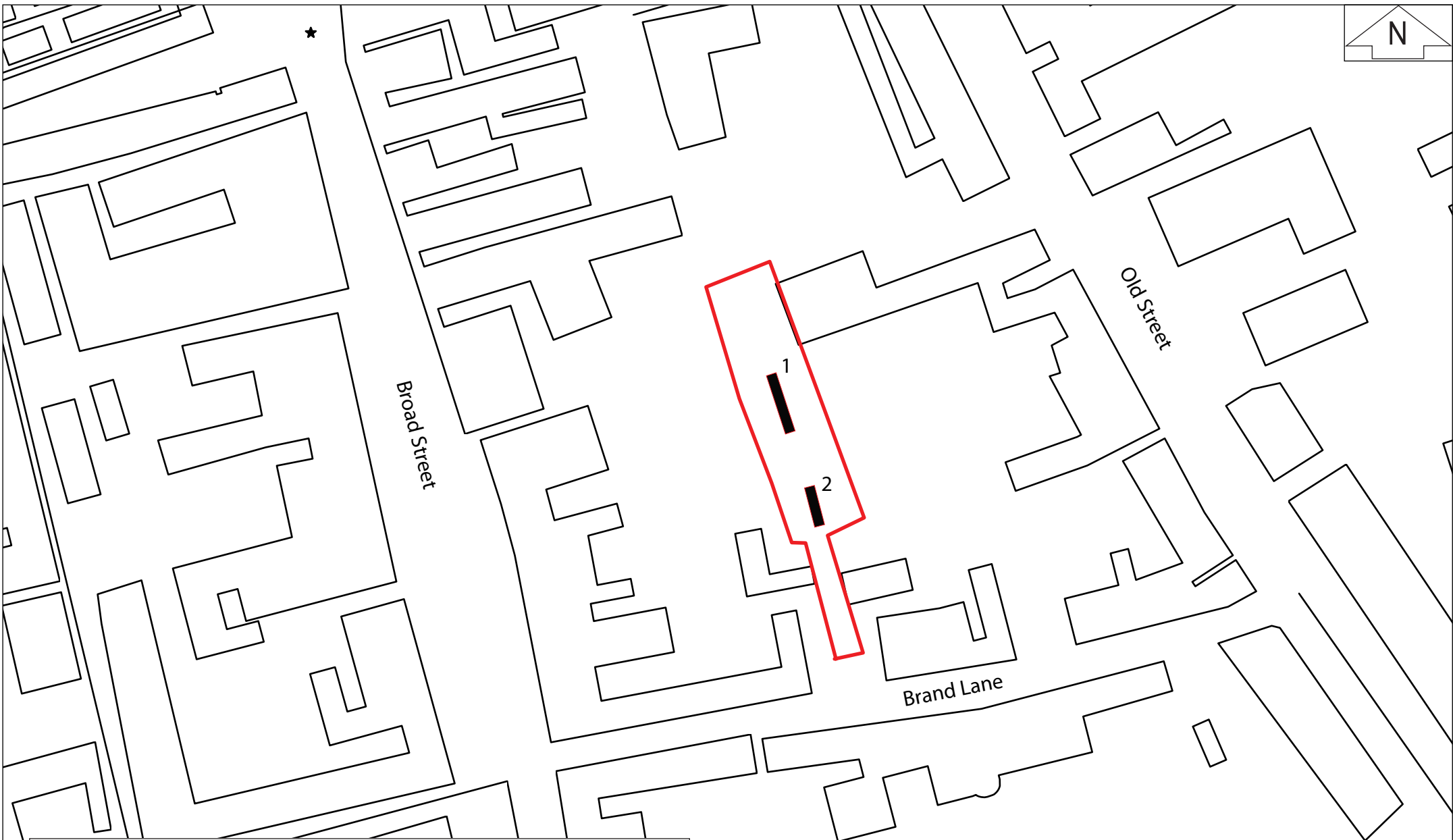
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Figure 01: Location of development site at Brand Lane, Ludlow. Scale 1:10,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of proposed evaluation trenches at Brand Lane, Ludlow.  
Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AIMS

Before trial trenching commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Client and the Senior Archaeological Projects Officer.

The number, size, orientation and distribution of trenches will be agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain the archaeological features within the development footprint.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation are:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the Senior Archaeological Projects Officer to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Shropshire.

The archaeological evaluation trenches will consist of the following:

**Trench 1** – 12.0m x 1.8m: Located at the central/northern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or to a depth of 0.6m, whichever occurs first.

**Trench 2** – 8.0m x 1.8m: Located at the southern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or to a depth of 1.2m, whichever occurs first.

### 3.0 METHOD STATEMENT – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

If archaeological deposits are identified they will be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of evaluation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features will be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. Photographic identification boards will also be used.

All trenches will be opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Due to access restrictions to the site a 3 ton mini-digger will be utilised for the excavations. It is anticipated that there will be a maximum disturbance depth of 1.0m within the driveway and 0.45m for the raft-beam foundations for the new dwelling, as such trench 1 will be excavated to a depth of 0.6m and trench two will be excavated to a depth of 1.2m or on to the first archaeological horizon, whichever is encountered first.

Trenches and spoil heaps will be routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as outlined in section 8.0.

To prevent any potential health and safety risk to the public and staff the trenches will require cordoning with orange mesh fencing secured with road pins.

All excavations will be backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology has not been requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface nor reinstate hard standing surfaces as found.

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for delays and subsequent costs incurred through the onset of adverse weather. If such conditions occur additional costs may be incurred.

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0091.1**.

## 4.0 EVALUATION REPORT

### 4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the archaeological evaluation, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the Shropshire Historic Environment Team, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

### 4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the evaluation trenches and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.

- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

### **4.3 Archive**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER).

Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, the Shropshire Historic Environment Team and to the OASIS database for long term archiving. Copies of all digital files (inc. photos, report as PDF and Word, spreadsheets, databases, survey data etc) to be presented to each of above on optical disc (ie DVD).

## 5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

The identification of significant archaeological features during the evaluation stage may necessitate further archaeological works. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the Client and may be subject to a separate WSI, to be agreed with the Shropshire Historic Environment Team prior to implementation.

This WSI does not include a methodology or cost for examination of, conservation of, or archiving of finds discovered during the evaluation, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples associated with any peat deposits. The need for these will be identified in the post-fieldwork programme (if required), and a new WSI will be issued for approval by the Shropshire Historic Environment Team prior to implementation.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

If necessary, relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

## 7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Shropshire Historic Environment Team informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

## 8.0 SMALL FINDS

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (i.e. they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is recommended that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be granted to Aeon Archaeology for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Shropshire Historic Environment Team. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds with the exception of unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material, type, form, identification and weight, and discarded.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location will be recorded; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

## 9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10). Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

## **10.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE**

### **10.1 Staff**

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

### **10.2 Timetable**

The archaeological evaluation can currently be undertaken from August 2016, although the client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently high.

## **11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

## **12.0 INSURANCE**

### *Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002*

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/16

### *Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002*

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/16



### 13.0 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the *Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork and circulated to all staff concerned.

Please note the following:

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for any delays to the work programme resulting from the discovery of archaeological sites or finds.

The cost quoted does not include examination of, conservation of or archiving of finds discovered during the archaeological programme, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples.

### SPECIALISTS

Specialist advice required will be sought from the following list if required:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: Oxford Archaeology
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Bulth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Waterlogged environmental: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Environmental samples: Oxford Archaeology
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Pottery (all periods): Oxford Archaeology
- Clay pipe: Oxford Archaeology

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

