

Temporary Saltley Primary Care and Well-Being Centre, Saltley, Birmingham

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

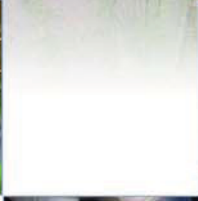
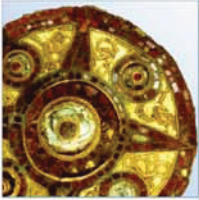
Planning Application Number: N/01528/09/FUL

National Grid Reference Number: SP 103 877

AOC Project no: 30503

Site Code: 24700

Date: July 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Temporary Saltley Primary Care and Well-Being Centre, Saltley, Birmingham. An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of: Rod McMullan
McAvoy Off-Site Building Solutions
76 Ballynakilly Road
Dungannon
County Tyrone
BT71 6HD

National Grid Reference (NGR): SP103 877

AOC Project No: 30503

Prepared by: Ian Hogg

Illustration by: Jonathan Moller

Date: August 2009

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Ian Hogg

Date: July 2009

Approved by:

Date:

Draft/Final Report Stage:

Date:

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Unit 7
St Margarets Business Centre
Moor Mead Road
Twickenham
TW1 1JS

Tel. 020 8843 7380

	Page
List of illustrations	iii
Non-Technical Summary	1
1. INTRODUCTION	2
2. PLANNING BACKGROUND	2
3. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	2
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	3
5. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION	4
6. STRATEGY	5
7. METHODOLOGY	5
8. RESULTS	5
9. FINDS	7
10. CONCLUSIONS	7
11. BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
Appendix A: OASIS Form	14

List of illustrations

Figure 1 – Site Location Plan

Figure 2 - Detailed Site Location Plan

Figure 3 – Trench and Pit Location

Figure 4 – Plans and Sections

Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on the excavation of drainage trenches and pad foundations at the Temporary Saltley Primary Care Centre, Birmingham in July 2009. All archaeological work was carried out by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of McAvoy Off-Site Building Solutions.

No archaeological features were revealed. Natural geology was observed across the site at depths varying from 0.15m to 1.10m below ground level. Significant horizontal truncation appeared to have taken place with subsoil present in only isolated areas. The entire site was overlain by a 19th century garden soil.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is a report detailing the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at the site of the proposed Temporary Saltley Primary Care and Well Being Centre development, in Saltley, Birmingham (Figure 1) on behalf of McAvoy Off-Site Building Solutions.
- 1.2 The development site is located on the west of Clodeshall Road, Saltley, c. 0.5km northeast of Addersley Park Railway Station and c. 3km to the east of Birmingham city centre. It covers an area of approximately 0.8ha and comprises an L shaped plot of land with dimensions of roughly 60m x 140m (Figure 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) **SP 103 877**, and is bound by Clodeshall Road to the east, Couchman Road to the south and residential properties to the west and north.
- 1.3 The site was overgrown prior to the commencement of works. The proposed development comprised the construction of a temporary modular Health Centre building in the southwest of the site and adjacent car parking. The later works are part of a separate application.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Birmingham City Council. Archaeological advice to the Council is provided by Mike Hodder.
- 2.2 Planning Application No. N/01528/09/FUL is for the erection of a temporary primary care centre. The site lies within the centre of the medieval village of Saltley and, accordingly, planning permission to undertake the development was granted on condition that archaeological observation and recording was carried out during development.
- 2.3 A Desk Based Assessment was not produced for this site. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2009) was produced which conformed to the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990) (PPG16).
- 2.4 This Report conforms to the requirements of Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (DoE, 1990) (PPG 16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:
 - English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
 - Institute of Field Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IFA 1997).

3. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 168) indicates that the site is underlain by Glacial Till and Glaciofluvial sand, gravel and clay deposits.
- 3.2 A geotechnical study was undertaken at the site in March 2009 (Applied Geology, 2009). It revealed deposits of sandy, gravely clay made ground that extended between 0.60m and 1.20m below ground

level, which was deepest within the southeast and centre of the site. The Glaciofluvial deposits comprising firm light brown sandy gravelly clay were below the made ground and overlay another alluvial deposit of reddish brown, sandy gravelly clay.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric (Before c.AD 43)

- 4.1 While the SMR does not record any prehistoric features or finds within 100m of the site, Birmingham itself is relatively rich in prehistoric finds. Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint tools have been found in the city centre, whilst a Paleolithic hand axe was found 370m from the site and Neolithic polished axes have been found to the south and the north-west of the site.
- 4.2 Around 40 burnt mounds dating to the Late Bronze Age have been recorded across Birmingham. These mounds usually contain many burnt quartzite which have led to the interpretation of the mounds as being either debris from cooking or a system for bathing in warm water. However few associated settlements have been recorded near to the mounds.
- 4.3 There is no evidence of Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the site.

Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

- 4.4 A Roman Fort at Vincent Drive in Edgbaston, has been excavated a number of times. Its earliest phase dates to the mid 1st century AD, indicating an early military presence in the area. A Roman road running between the fort and Shenstone just to the east of Icknield Street and a pottery kiln was recorded at Perry Bar to the north of Birmingham.
- 4.5 Birmingham SMR records that a Roman coin (Denarius) of Antoninus Pius AD 150 was found in October 1915 within a garden behind No. 303 Alum Rock Rd, Saltley. The garden was centred to SP 1048 8781.
- 4.6 A Roman coin hoard was also discovered within 1km of the site. In 1919 in the garden of 27 Jackson Road, Birmingham. Details are vague and the hoard seems to have been dispersed immediately after discovery. It is reported to have consisted of a small number of large Roman bronze coins. From this description it would appear that the hoard comprised late 1st or 2nd century coins.

Anglo-Saxon (c.AD 410 – 1066)

- 4.7 There is very little evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity in Birmingham. The name Birmingham seems to have Saxon origins as *Beormaham*. There are no SMR records within 500m of the site.

Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)

- 4.8 Medieval Birmingham seems to have been centred near St Martin's Church to the east of the site. Excavation in this area has revealed evidence of settlement and a market which was known to have existed in this area.
- 4.9 The Domesday Book records Birmingham as being a small settlement worth only 20 Shillings. The settlement grew during the medieval period to become a prosperous town based on the wool and cloth trade.

- 4.10 The SMR contains no records for medieval remains within 1km of the site. However, historic maps and field names suggest that a medieval village, comprising houses around a triangular village green existed within the vicinity of the site (Applied Geology 2009).

Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)

- 4.11 Birmingham developed rapidly in the 16th century, becoming a centre of the ironworking industry; it was noted for producing knives, guns and swords. During the Civil War Birmingham's arms industry became increasingly important as its refusal to support the king led to it being sacked. Subsequently it became a major supplier of arms to the Parliamentary cause.
- 4.11 By the 18th century Birmingham was expanding even faster, tripling in size between 1750 and 1800. Canals, and later, railways, increased Birmingham's transport links in the late 18th and 19th centuries, leading to further expansion. As a result of the city's expansion and the unsanitary conditions created by it, a sewer system was constructed during the mid 19th century.
- 4.12 The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the clearing of many of Birmingham's slums and its further expansion into the surrounding countryside. During the Second World War Birmingham was again a centre for the arms industry and was heavily bombed. The site itself was bombed and was only cleared of debris relatively recently.
- 4.13 Excavations at Couchman Road in 1997 revealed remains of an 18th century agricultural structure.
- 4.14 Cartographic evidence suggests that the site was part open fields until between 1890 and 1905 when terraced houses were built across the site, fronting onto Clodeshall Road and Couchman Road.
- 4.15 Within the area surrounding the site several gravel and clay pits represent quarrying activity that took place in the late 19th and early 20th century. The closest pit is approximately 60m to the east of the site, which was infilled in 1907.

5. AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 5.1 The aims of the Watching Brief are defined as having been:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
 - To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
 - To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
 - To enable Mike Hodder, archaeology advisor to Birmingham City Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.

- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation in order to inform the mitigation strategy as part of the planning process.

5.2 The specific aims of the Watching Brief were:

- Determine the presence of any remains that pre date the medieval period
- Determine the presence of any remains of the medieval village.
- Determine the presence of post-medieval remains.
- Assess the degree and extent of truncation of earlier deposits by the known Victorian structural and quarrying activity, or any other phases of modern building on the site.

5.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6. STRATEGY

6.1 **A unique site code (HER Event No:24700) was obtained prior to the commencement of fieldwork.**

6.2 The Watching Brief was monitored by Mr Mike Hodder, Birmingham City Archaeologist on the behalf of Birmingham City Council and Andy Leonard for AOC Archaeology.

6.3 The Watching Brief was undertaken by a Project Supervisor under the overall direction of Andy Leonard, Fieldwork Manager.

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1 An experienced archaeologist was present to observe all ground works, positioned outside the working area of the mechanical excavator, in the normal working arrangement. When access to the trench was needed the machine would cease operations and if necessary relocate to ensure safe access while the archaeologist entered the excavation area to carry out close inspection or record limited sections.

7.2 Excavations monitored included 52 pad foundations and associated drainage excavations.

7.3 All works were carried out in accordance with the methodology as sat down in the WSI (AOC 2009).

8. RESULTS

Drain Excavations

8.1 Two drain trenches were excavated within the site (Figure 3). Trench 1 was rectangular, located in the east of the site and measure 7.40m x 4.50m. Trench 2 was located in south of the site. It was T-shaped, ran north to south, and measured 8.00m x 0.50m with a 2.00m x 2.00m square in the south.

Trench 1

Depth (BGL)	Context	Description
0.00m	101	Garden Soil
0.60m	102	Subsoil
1.00m	103	Natural

- 8.2 In Trench 1 natural reddish brown clay (103) was observed at 1.00m below ground level. This was overlain by firm mid brown clayey sand subsoil (102) which was 0.40m thick; this was overlain by 0.60m of dark brownish black clayey silt garden soil (101). No archaeological remains were observed in this trench although occasional 19th century pottery and CBM was observed in layer (101).

Trench 2

Depth (BGL)	Context	Description
0.00m	201	Garden Soil
0.80m	202	Subsoil
1.10m	203	Natural

- 8.3 Within Trench 2 natural reddish brown clay (203) was observed 1.10m below ground level; this was sealed by 0.30m of mid brown clayey sand subsoil (202). This layer was overlain by a layer of firm black clayey silt garden soil (201) 0.80m thick. No archaeological remains were observed in this trench, although occasional 19th century pottery and CBM was observed in layer (201).

Pad Excavations

- 8.4 A total of 52 1.00m x 1.00m pits were excavated for concrete pad foundations under the main building (Figure 3). These pits were all approximately 1m in depth.

Depth (BGL)	Context	Description
0.00m	301	Topsoil
0.30m	303	Subsoil
0.15m-0.85m	302	Natural

- 8.5 Natural yellowish red clay (302) was observed in all pits, the deepest being to the northeast at 0.85m below ground level in Pit 17, the shallowest to the south at 0.20m below ground level in Pit 22.
- 8.6 The natural clay was overlain by a layer of pale brown clayey silt subsoil (303) which was only visible in Pit 27 and was 0.20m thick. It is probable that the lack of subsoil in other pits is due to heavy horizontal truncation across the site.
- 8.6 The subsoil (303) was overlain by dark brown clayey silt garden soil (301) which varied in thickness between 0.15m in Pit 24 and 0.85m in Pit 17. Concrete, glass and bricks were all observed in this layer but were not retained.

8.7 No archaeology was observed during the pad excavations.

9. FINDS

9.1 No finds were recovered during the watching brief although 19th century pottery, brick and glass were all observed in the garden soil layer (101), (201) and (301).

10. CONCLUSIONS

10.1 No archaeological remains or artefacts were observed during the watching brief. The natural underlying geological layers were reached across the site and a stratigraphic sequence of subsoil and garden soil was revealed in the south of the site. Much of the rest of the site appears to have been truncated with little or no subsoil remaining and the natural clay being sealed by a 19th century garden soil.

10.2 Consequently, no further archaeological work is recommended, although the final decision regarding further mitigation will be made by the monitoring archaeologist, Mike Hodder of the Birmingham City Council. The results of the Watching Brief will be made public via the ADS OASIS project (Appendix A). A copy of this report will be made available to the local studies library. No further analysis or reporting is considered necessary.

11. BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC Archaeology (2009). *Temporary Saltley Primary Care And Well-Being Centre, Saltley, Birmingham: A Written Scheme Of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Applied Geology (2009) *Site at Clodeshall Road, Saltley – Temporary Health Centre Building Interim Information – Review of Phase I Desk Study and Phase II Site Work*

British Geological Survey, Sheet 169

Council for British Archaeology (1987). *First Aid For Finds (Second Edition).*

Department of the Environment (1990). *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16).*

Duncan H Brown 2007. *Archaeological Archives; A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.* Archaeological Archive Forum

English Heritage (1991). *Management of Archaeological Projects.*

English Heritage London Region (1992). *Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation Reports (Guidelines) Archaeological Guidance Paper: 5.*

English Heritage (1998a). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork. (English Heritage London Region).*

- English Heritage (1998b). *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Reports*. (English Heritage London Region).
- English Heritage (2002). *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.
- English Heritage (2004) *Geoarchaeology. Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*
- Institute of Field Archaeology (1992). *Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work*.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists (1997). *Code of Conduct*.
- Museum of London (1994). *Archaeological Site Manual (3rd ed)*.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1983). *Conservation Guidelines No 2*.
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1990). *Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice*

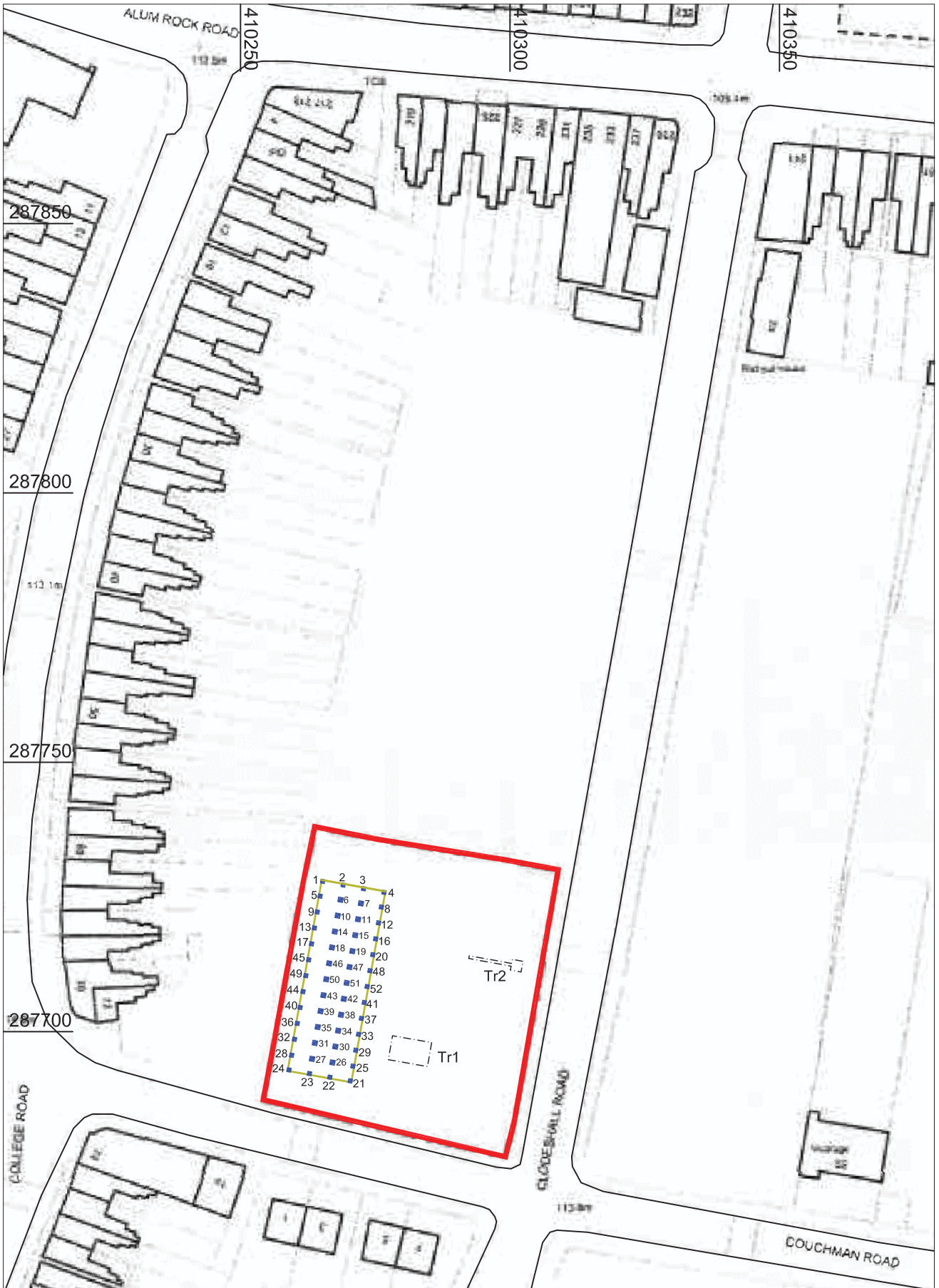
SALTLEY PRIMARY CARE AND WELL-BEING CENTRE, SALTLEY, BIRMINGHAM: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2004 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757



Figure 1: Site Location



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:1250 Superplan Digital Data of 2008 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 100023757

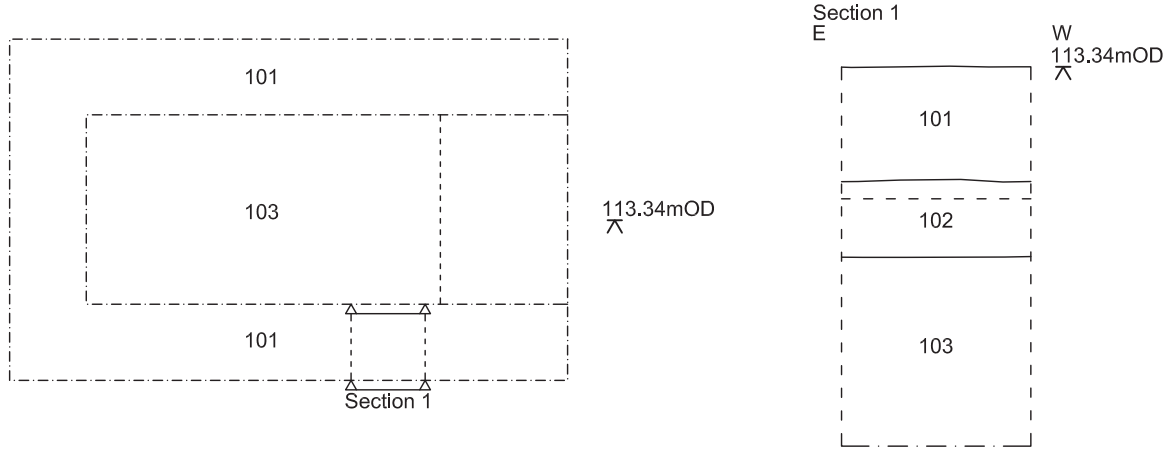


□ Site Outline ■ Foundation Pads

1:1000

Figure 2: Detailed Site Location Plan

Trench 1



Trench 2

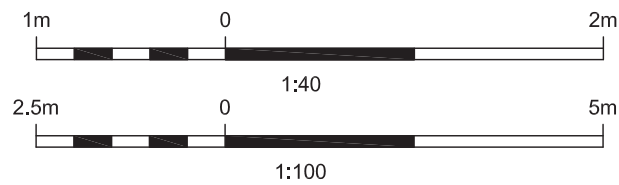
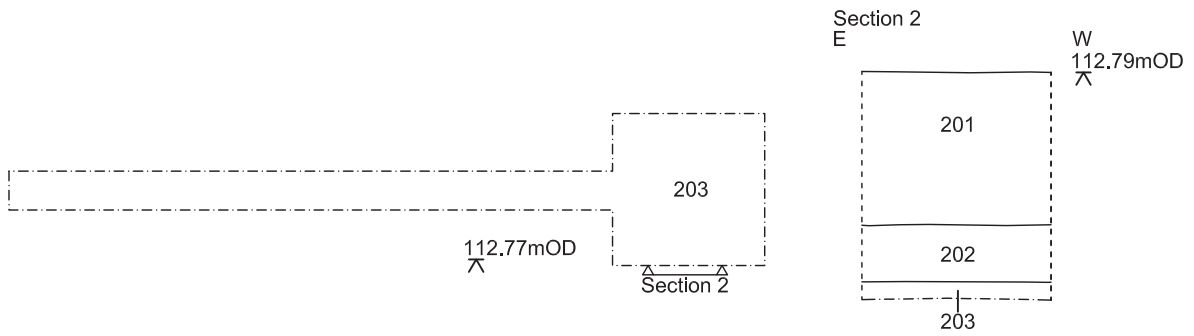


Figure 3: Trench Plans (1:100) & Sections (1:40)

Figure 4 Plans and Sections

Appendices

Appendix A: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-62584

Project details

Project name Temporary Saltley Primary Care Centre, Birmingham

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology at the site of the Temporary Saltley Primary Care Centre, Birmingham in July 2009. No archaeological features were revealed. Natural geology was observed across the site at depths varying from 0.15m to 1.10m below ground level. Significant horizontal truncation appeared to have taken place with subsoil present in only isolated areas. The entire site was overlain by a 19th century garden soil.

Project dates Start: 16-07-2009 End: 22-07-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 30503 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 24700 - HER event no.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST MIDLANDS BIRMINGHAM BIRMINGHAM Saltley Temporary Primary Care Centre, Birmingham

Postcode B8 3SU

Study area 0.80 Hectares

Site coordinates SP 103 877 52.4867518105 -1.848299451520 52 29 12 N 001 50 53 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Project creators

Name of AOC Archaeology
Organisation

Project brief Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
originator

Project design Local Planning Authority
originator

Project Andy Leonard
director/manager

Project supervisor Paul Harris

Project supervisor Chris Clarke

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of McAvoy Off-Site Building Solutions
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Birmingham City Museum
recipient

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

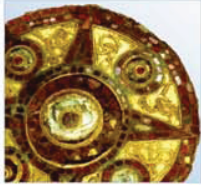
Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography'
available

Paper Archive Birmingham City Museum
recipient

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Plan','Report','Section'
available

Entered by Chris Clarke (chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 14 August 2009



AOC Archaeology Group, Unit 7, St Margarets Business Centre, Moor Mead Road, Twickenham
TW1 1JS tel: 020 8843 7380 | fax: 020 8892 0549 | e-mail:
london@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com