

7 Castrum Court, Rocester, Staffordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



7 Castrum Court, Rocester

ARS Ltd Report 2013/41

May 2013

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7 **Castrum Court, Rocester, Staffordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

ARS Ltd Report 2013/41

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

In March 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Claire Bettany to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 7 Castrum Court, Rocester, Staffordshire. The monitoring was carried out during ground-works relating to an extension to the rear of the existing building.

The archaeological watching brief identified an earlier stone foundation wall acting as the present foundation of the existing brick-built house as it is in an excellent condition. These remains may date from the late 18th century through to the 19th century as indicated by the artefacts within the foundation trench. The 1880s Ordnance Survey map depicts the footprint of the present range which would have been stone built as the current brickwork is a much recent construction.

The stratigraphic sequence revealed within the excavated trenches consisted of a substantial overburden varying in thickness from 700 to 800mm. Below this layer there was a buried topsoil overlaying an alluvial deposit which in turn overlay the natural sub-stratum at 1.4 metres below the present ground level. The buried topsoil produced two sherds of pottery of early medieval date. These may be residual as further artefacts of later date were also retrieved from the same layer. No further archaeological deposits or features were identified.

1 Introduction

1.1 In February 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Claire Bettany to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 7 Castrum Court, Rocester, Staffordshire, following the granting of planning permission (ref. no P/2012/00845) for the construction of an extension to an existing dwelling.

1.2 7 Castrum Court lies within the environs of the Scheduled Ancient Monument site of Rocester Abbey and part of the Roman town (Scheduled Ancient Monument number ST 066) and as such Ian George, the English Heritage Inspector of Monuments for the West Midlands, requested monitoring on all ground-works and an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken.

1.3 The proposed development site comprised a residential area in the centre of the town of Rocester, Staffordshire (NGR: SK 11091 39378). The watching brief area is enclosed by Church Lane to the north, Mill Street to the south, West View to the east and Ashbourne Road to the west (Fig. 1). St Michael's Church is adjacent to the investigation area at Castrum Court. The remains of Rocester Abbey lie approximately 100m to the south-east and the site of Rocester Roman fort and *vicus* lies approximately 200m to the north-east.

1.4 The local superficial geology within the investigation area comprises alluvium, a soft to firm consolidated, compressible silty clay, potentially containing layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel (British Geological Association 2012).

1.5 The Archaeological Watching Brief has been carried out under the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* (DCLG 2012), *'The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs'* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and a Written Scheme of Investigation issued by Archaeological Research Services Ltd which was subsequently approved by Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council (Appendix I).

1.6 The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the Government's requirements for the planning system only to the extent that it is relevant, proportionate and necessary to do so. The purpose of the NPPF is to contribute to the achievement of *sustainable development*, which includes "...contributing to, protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment..." (DCLG 2012, 30). The Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (PPS5), now superseded by the NPPF, is still the only detailed extant Historic Environment guidance) and is a much more in-depth document than the policy statement itself. This practice guide "supports the implementation of national policy, but does not constitute a statement of Government policy" (DCLG/DCMS/EH 2010, 6). This document has been presented by English Heritage as a 'live' document and is therefore intended to be subject to future changes as techniques and practice develop.

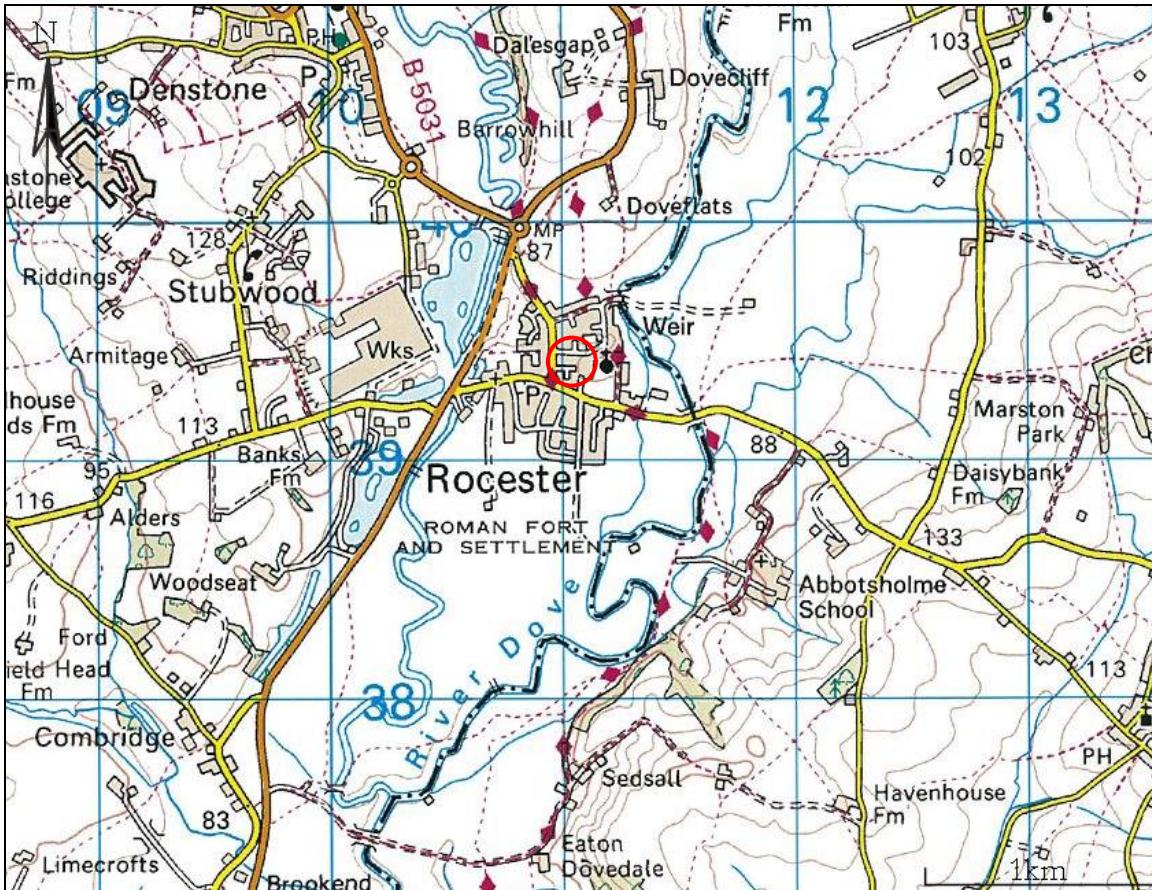


Figure 1: General site location (circled in red)

(Ordnance Survey data Copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence No. 100045420)

2 Background

2.1 The proposed development is located in a well known area of historic and archaeological importance. A search of the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 250m radius of the investigation area retrieved 28 records, the majority of which relate to substantial Roman and early medieval remains (Heritage Gateway 2012a).

2.2 The investigation site lies within the environs of Rocester Roman Fort and Vicus (HER record number 01803), and Rochester Abbey (HER record number 00083), which comprise the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Rocester Abbey and part of the Roman Town (Scheduled Ancient Monument number ST 066).

2.3 Rocester Roman Fort was built in AD 160 and expanded further in AD 280. The fort represents three phases of military occupation, at least two of which represent defensive phases. Evidence of late 1st century barrack blocks, modified in the early 2nd century, along with officer's quarters and kitchens have been recorded at the site. A substantial *vicus*, associated with the fort, is also known to have existed in the area (Heritage Gateway 2012b).

2.4 The remains of Rocester Abbey lie directly south of the current churchyard of St Michael's, adjacent to the proposed development area. Rocester Abbey was a small

Augustinian abbey founded in 1146 and built within the site of the former Roman fort and *vicus*. It was dissolved in 1538 by Henry VIII, with part of the Abbey church surviving and being incorporated into the Parish Church of Saint Michael's (Heritage Gateway 2012c).

2.5 The Grade II Listed Saint Michael's Church (HER record number 08848) lies within 100m of the proposed development area, and is thought to contain 12th century foundations and 13th and 16th century fabric, although the majority of the fabric is 19th century following substantial rebuilding in 1873 (Heritage Gateway 2012d). A Grade II* Listed stone cross of 13th/14th century date in the churchyard is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (HER record number 00082, Scheduled Ancient Monument number ST065), consisting of 4 circular steps up to a three tier plinth, surmounted by a 20ft high shaft, although the head of the cross is missing (Heritage Gateway 2012e).

2.6 Settlement in the area is likely to have continued from the Roman period onwards, the Domesday survey (1086) recorded 18 villagers and 10 smallholders with 9 ploughs at Rocester (*Rowecestre*). Rocester was not included in the recent Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey although it clearly performed marketing functions for the settlements wider agricultural hinterland as a market was granted to be held on Thursdays by Rocester Abbey in 1283. Excavations have revealed evidence of settlement from the Roman period onwards (Heritage Gateway 2012f).

3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to ensure that any archaeological features encountered during the ground-works for the extension were recorded, interpreted and, if at all possible, protected.

4 Methodology

4.1 A detailed project design –Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)– was prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) which was subsequently approved by Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist, Staffordshire County Council (Appendix I).

4.2 ARS Ltd provided an archaeological officer at all times during the ground-works. A toothless ditching bucket was used at all times. The on-site archaeologist was given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate and fully record any exposed archaeological features such as masonry or floors. Adequate time was allowed for the recording of any such features.

4.3 Where any features of potential archaeological significance were identified by the archaeologist, all further excavation was carried out by hand.

4.4 The archaeologist inspected and monitored the upcast spoil from the excavations.

4.5 A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained during the watching brief and all significant archaeological remains were recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations were recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation upon pro forma

context sheets. All significant architectural features were photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.

4.6 Where archaeological features and/or deposits were identified during the watching brief, a sufficient quantity of the said features was investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed. All features thus investigated were recorded in plan and section and any significant archaeological finds recovered were retained for analysis. Any archaeological features identified were photographed and drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. The stratigraphy, where relevant and observable, was recorded.

4.7 A plan of the excavated areas was maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings were carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts were recorded using a single context recording system. The site archive included plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent. Where archaeological features were identified then the locations and height AOD of the features were accurately fixed, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.

4.8 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the respective guidance by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

4.9 ARS Ltd ensured that heavy plant or machinery was not operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains had been recorded.

4.10 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations were adhered to at all times.

5 Results

5.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 21st – 26th March 2013 to observe the ground-works associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of 7 Castrum Court, Rocester. The location of the excavated trenches is shown on the site plan (Fig. 2). A detailed plan of the excavated trench is included on a plan (Fig. 3). Drawn sections and/or elevations are also provided (Fig. 4). The excavation consisted of four small trenches located at each corner of a rectangular area adjoining the north elevation of the present building (Fig. 5). These trenches were dug down to the natural sub-stratum, yielding an overall depth of *c.* 1.40 metres below the present ground level. The central area amongst the trenches was reduced to a maximum depth of *c.* 700mm. Each trench is described below.

5.2 Trench 1 was located at the north-west corner of the proposed development. The stratigraphic sequence consisted of a layer of topsoil (101) with an overall thickness of *c.* 200mm overlying a substantial made-up ground (102) composed of a mixture of building demolition materials within a silty clay matrix (700mm thick), which in turn overlay a dark brownish grey hard silty clay layer (103) with occasional cobbles and charcoal flecks (200mm thick). This layer might have been an earlier buried topsoil which overlay an alluvial deposit (104), composed of mid brownish grey firm silt clay with few charcoal flecks, which in turn overlay the natural sub-stratum (105) consisting of a reddish brown silty clay (Fig. 6). The buried topsoil (103) produced a single sherd of pottery of early medieval date. Further

discussion of this find is provided in the following section 6. No archaeological deposits or features were identified.

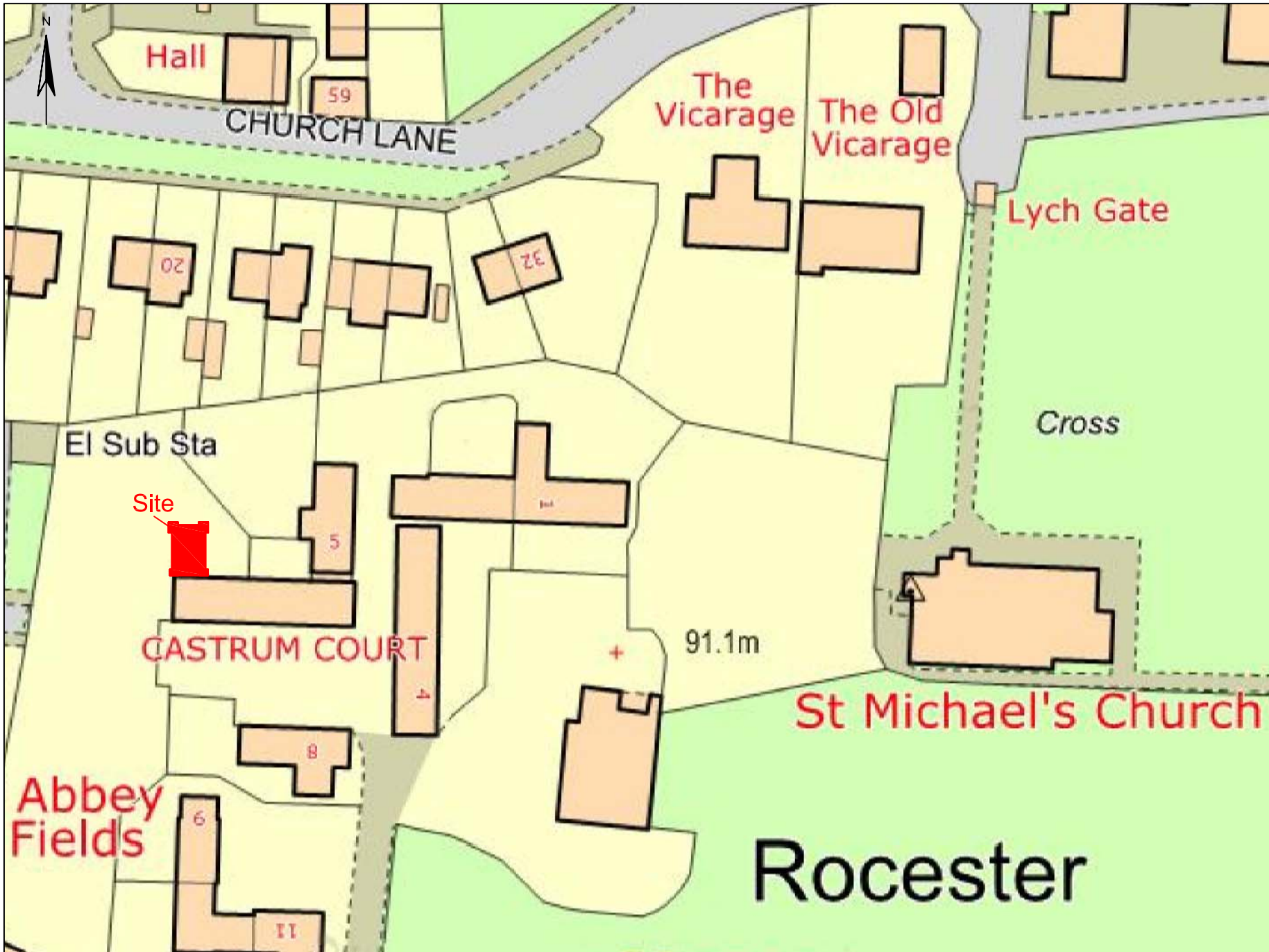
5.3 Trench 2 was located at the north-east corner and the stratigraphic sequence was equivalent to Trench 1 (Fig. 7). Layer (203), corresponding to an earlier buried topsoil, also produced a sherd of pottery of early medieval date (see section 6 for further details). No archaeological deposits or features were identified.

5.4 Trench 3 was located at the south-east corner and against the wall of the present building. The overburden layers were comparable to the preceding trenches except for an upper paved surface with a sandy bedding (rather than turf/topsoil) overlaying the made-up ground (302) which in turn overlay a dark brownish grey hard silty clay layer (303) with occasional cobbles and charcoal flecks (300/400mm thick). A fragment of butchered bovine bone and a small piece of brown glass bottle were retrieved. This layer overlay the same alluvial deposit (304) identified throughout the site which in turn overlay the natural substratum (305).

5.5 The excavation exposed the foundation of the present brick-built house which consisted of an earlier coursed sandstone wall (307) composed of two courses of squared elongated blocks over a foundation (maximum of four courses) projecting outwards up to 70mm (Figs 8 and 9). The sandstone blocks were bonded with coarse yellowish lime mortar although later cement re-pointing was also identified along the upper courses, indicating that these courses would have originally been above ground, thus enabling the re-pointing repair. This sandstone wall contained re-used masonry as the tooling marks within the blocks were fairly inconsistent. Moreover, the lowest course included an architectural fragment of a chamfered plinth which might have been re-used from earlier derelict structures within the vicinity such as the former abbey. This original foundation wall filled a trench [308] with slightly straight side (*c.* 80°) and concave base. This foundation trench was backfilled with a firm silty clay deposit (306) with bricks fragments acting as packing for the stone foundation. One of the brick fragments contained intact *arrises* providing an original thickness of 2" which may date from the 18th century. This deposit also produced two sherds of pottery dating from the 18th century through to the 19th century.

5.6 The upper courses of the earlier sandstone wall were exposed further following the excavation of made-up ground within the central area demarcated by the corner trenches (Fig. 10).

5.7 Trench 4 was located at the south-west corner and also against the wall of the present building. The observation of the trench was somewhat limited due to the presence of a service pipe within it which also created ground instability within the sides of the trench (Fig. 11). The stratigraphic sequence was comparable to its counterpart Trench 3, although the alluvial deposit (404) appeared to be thinner than the equivalent context (304) and it appeared to contain organic material: thus a soil sample was taken for analysis and the result is outlined in section 7.



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Site name and code:
 7 Castrum Court, Rocester
 (CCR'13)
 NGR: SK 111 393
 Date: 28 March 2013
 Drawn: AMO
 Scale: 1:750@A4

Figure 2: Plan of site

Key:

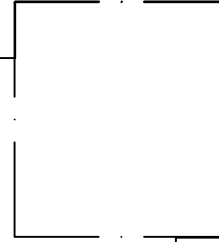
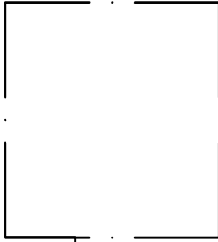
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Tr 1

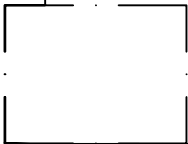
Tr 2



Made-up ground

Tr 4

Tr 3



Existing building



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Figure 3:
Plan of the excavated area

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Site Code: CCR'13
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Scale: 1:50@A4

Notes:

Site Code: CCR'13
 Drawing Ref:
 Date: 16 May 2013
 Drawn: AMO
 Scale: 1:20@A3

Figure 4: Sections through the trenches

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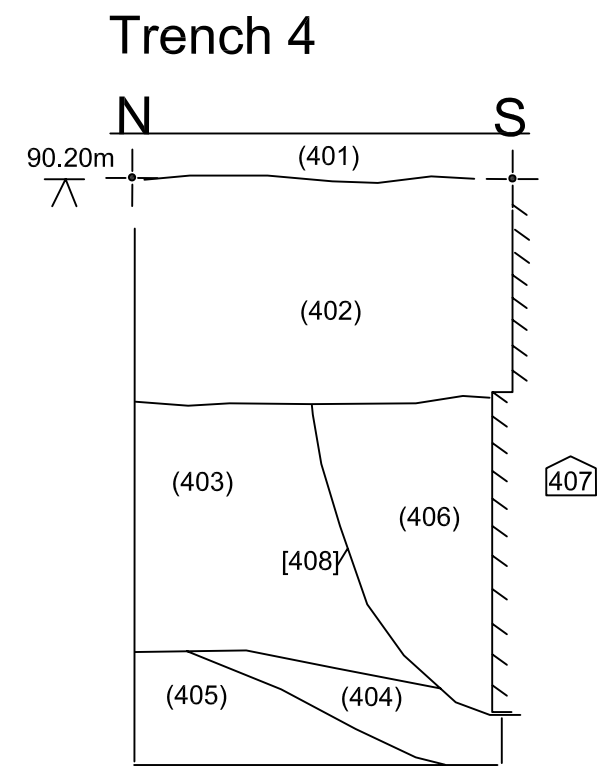
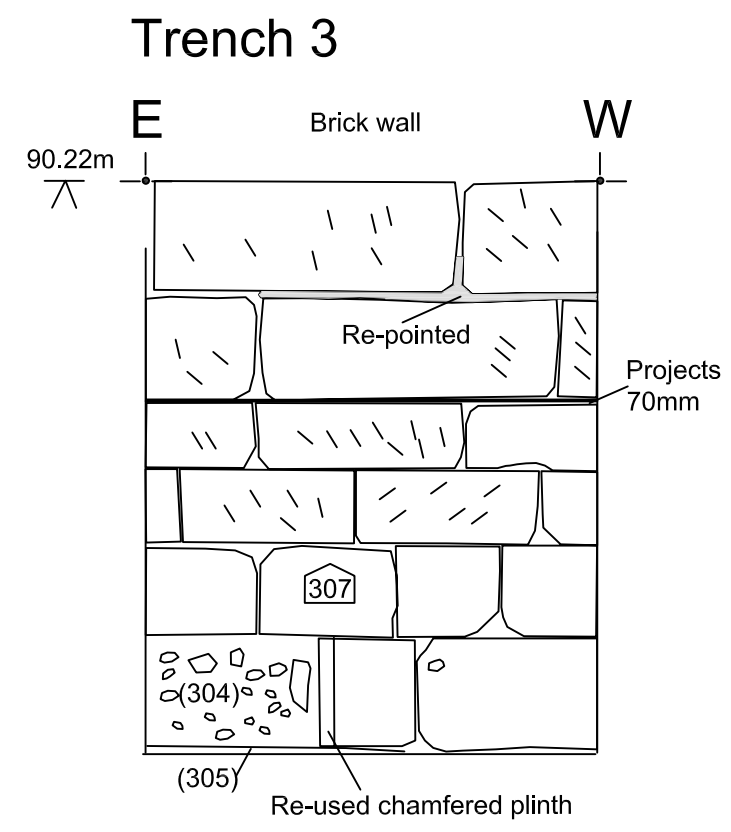
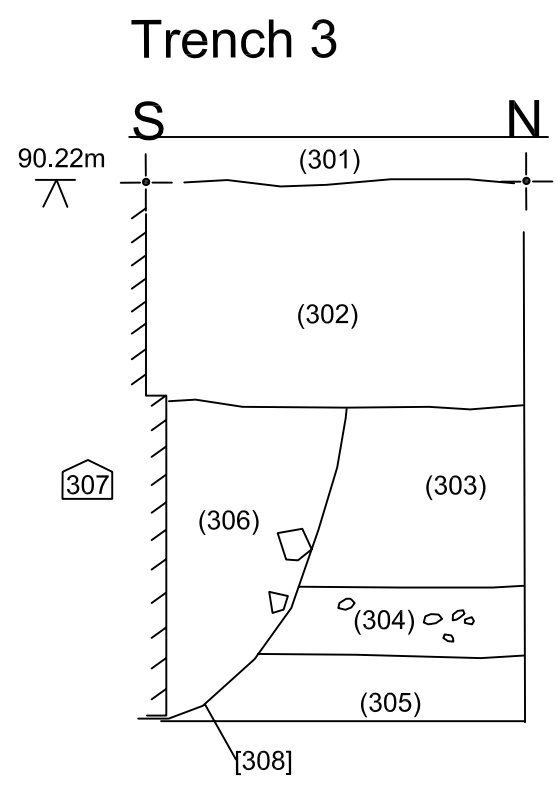
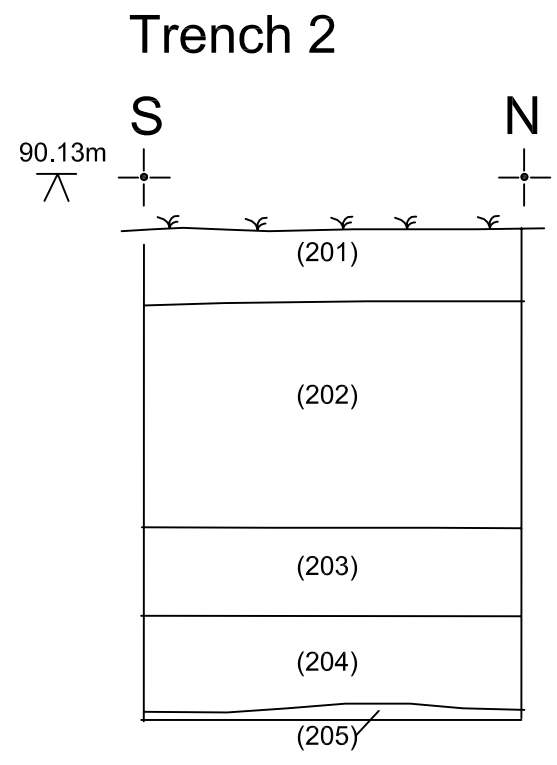
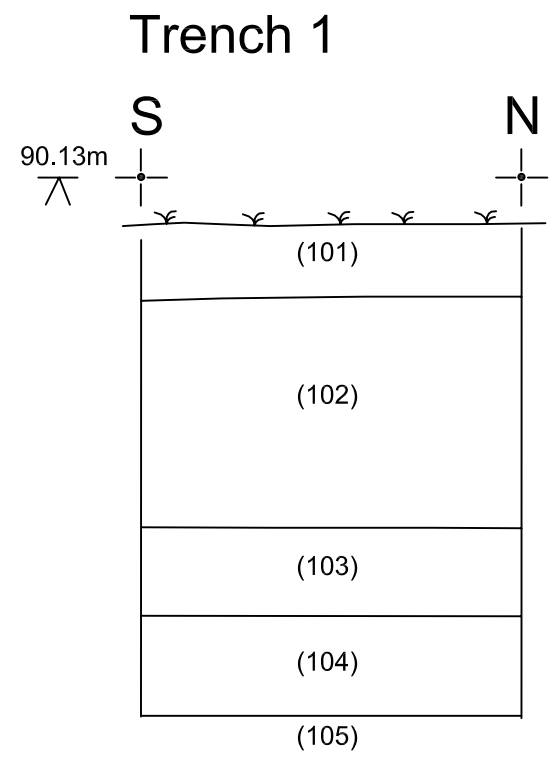




Figure 5: General view of the excavated area, looking north



Figure 6: Trench 1, looking south (scale 1m)



Figure 7: Trench 2, looking east (scale 1m)



Figure 8: Trench 3, looking west (scale 1m)



Figure 9: Foundation wall (307) with reused chamfered fragment indicated by an arrow (scale 1m)



Figure 10: Excavated central area exposing further stone wall, looking south (scale 2 x 1m)



Figure 11: Trench 4, looking east (scale 1m)

6 Ceramic assessment

By C.G. Cumberpatch BA PhD – Freelance Archaeologist

Introduction

6.1 Two sherds of medieval pottery from excavations at 7 Castrum Court, Rocester were examined by the author on 20th May 2013. The details are summarised in the catalogue below.

Catalogue

6.2 Context 103. One sherd of pottery (7 grams) in Stafford type ware; dull brown to grey, sandy textured with abundant rounded quartz sand up to 0.5mm, sometimes larger; unabraded.

6.3 Context 203. One sherd of pottery (6 grams) in Stafford type ware, dull brown to grey, sandy textured with abundant fine rounded quartz sand up to 0.5mm, occasionally larger; unabraded.

Discussion

6.4 An account of the Stafford ware industry has been provided by Ford (1995) in which she suggests a long date range for the type spanning the 10th and 11th centuries although with some degree of uncertainty as regards the exact start and end dates. The fact that both the

sherds were featureless body sherds makes any closer determination of the date with reference to the typology of the vessels impossible. As it stands, the evidence of the two sherds suggests activity on or close to the site in the earlier medieval period.

7 Environmental assessment

By Laura Strafford – ARS Ltd Palaeo-environmental Analyst

Introduction

7.1 This report describes one sample taken from the watching brief at 7 Castrum Court, Rocester, in March 2013. The sample was taken for the recovery of charred plant remains (CPR) and artefacts. In total the sample comprised 0.5 litres and was taken from a spread of alluvial material.

Aims

7.2 Sampling was undertaken to:

- determine whether ecofacts and environmental evidence (such as plant remains, animal bone, human bone and molluscs) are present.
- determine the quality, range, state and method of preservation of any ecofactual evidence.
- recover and identify any small artefacts.

Methodology

7.3 The sample was processed for the recovery of CPR, bones and artefacts by water flotation using bucket flotation. The flots were collected on a 250µm mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500µm. Both were air dried at room temperature, after which the residues were sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flot was scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x15 magnification.

Result

Plant Remains

7.4 The flot produced very little CPR. Less than 10 fragments of charcoal were observed, each <10mm and most <1mm, and therefore proved unidentifiable. No other CPR was observed.

Bones and artefacts

7.5 No further ecofacts or artefacts were present in the residue.

Discussion

7.6 Charred plant remains were limited, but clearly present on the site and in reasonable condition. Should further work be carried out at the site, standard 40L bulk samples should be taken from a range of potentially datable features in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

8 Discussion and Conclusion

8.1 The archaeological watching brief identified an earlier stone foundation wall acting as the present foundation of the existing brick-built house as it is in an excellent condition. These remains may date from the late 18th century through to the 19th century as indicated by the artefacts within the foundation trench. The 1880s Ordnance Survey map depicts the footprint of the present range which would have been stone built as the current brickwork is of much more recent construction. The original foundation wall contained re-used masonry as the tooling marks within the blocks were fairly inconsistent. Moreover, the lowest course included an architectural fragment of a chamfered plinth which might have been re-used from earlier derelict structures within the vicinity such as the former abbey.

8.2 The stratigraphic sequence revealed within the excavated trenches consisted of a substantial overburden varying in thickness from 700 to 800mm. Below this layer there was a buried topsoil overlaying an alluvial deposit which in turn overlay the natural sub-stratum at 1.4 metres below the present ground level. The buried topsoil produced two sherds of pottery of early medieval date which is significant as there has been little archaeological evidence for early medieval activity from Rocester beyond four Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds recovered from unsecure contexts during the excavations at the new cemetery, Rocester (1985-87) by Esmonde Cleary and Ferris, 1996 (Stephen Dean pers. comm.). However, these sherds may be residual as further artefacts of later date were also retrieved from the same layer. Despite the well-documented presence of Roman-British remains in Rocester, no Roman finds or features were recovered. No further archaeological deposits or features were identified.

9 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

9.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

9.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

10 Statement of Indemnity

10.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

11 Archive Deposition

11.1 A digital and paper archive will be prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data, and it is due to be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (accession number: 2013.LH.5) within three months of completion of fieldwork.

12 Acknowledgements

12.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with the archaeological project, especially Claire Bettany for commissioning the work; and Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council for monitoring and providing advice throughout the project. The author would also like to thank Kate Mapplethorpe (ARS Ltd osteo-archaeologist) for her comments on the identification of the bone assemblage.

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APPENDIX I: SPECIFICATIONS

**7 Castrum Court, Rocester,
Staffordshire.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for an
Archaeological
Watching Brief.**



**Archaeological Research
Services Ltd**

Archaeological Research Services Ltd
September 2012

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7 Castrum Court, Rocester, Staffordshire.

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

1.0 Introduction

7 Castrum Court lies within the environs of the Scheduled Ancient Monument site of Rocester Abbey and part of the Roman town. As such, Ian George the English Heritage Inspector of Monuments for the West Midlands has requested monitoring on all groundworks and a watching brief to be maintained.

Planning permission (ref. no P/2012/00845) has been granted for the construction of an extension to an existing dwelling subject to a condition that no development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of an archaeological watching brief in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted by the applicant and approved by English Heritage on behalf of East Staffordshire Borough Council.

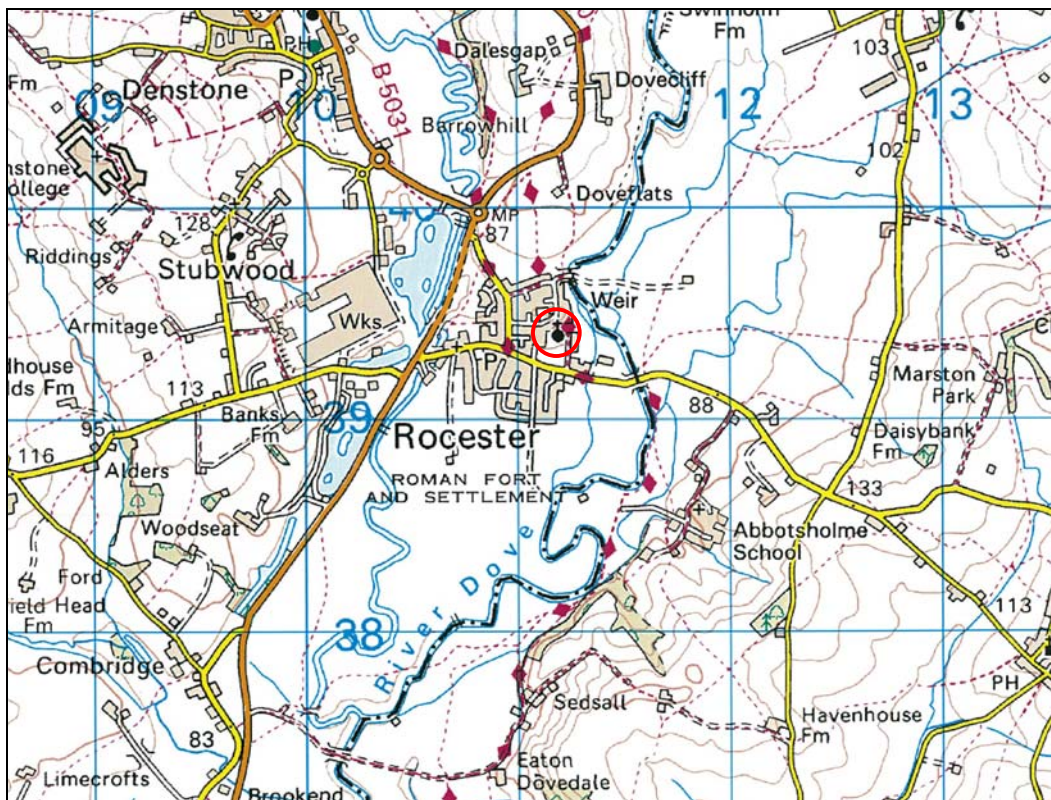


Fig. 1: Site Location at 1:25,000 (circled in red)

2.0 Objective

The objective of the watching brief is to ensure that the groundworks match those agreed in the conditioned work and any archaeological features encountered during the ground works in the specified area are recorded and interpreted and, if at all possible protected aiming to achieve an appropriate level of *preservation by record* for any archaeological deposits exposed during the development groundworks.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The site is located in an area of known archaeological potential including the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Rocester Abbey and part of the Roman town. The scheduled site of Rocester Roman Fort built in AD160 and expanded in AD 280 lies near the proposed development and may also represent a small walled town.
- 3.2 The remains of Rocester Abbey lie directly south of the current church yard, adjacent to the proposed development. Rocester Abbey was founded in 1146 and dissolved in 1538 by Henry VIII, with part of the Abbey church surviving and being incorporated into the Parish Church of Saint Michael's
- 3.3 St Michael's retains some medieval material, but was substantially rebuilt in 1873
- 3.4 A well-preserved 13th century decorated sandstone cross (monument 307302) lies in St Michael's Churchyard.

4.0 Fieldwork Methodology

- 4.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will provide an archaeological officer at all times during any ground works within specified area. A mini-mechanical excavator will be used for the groundworks and the archaeologist on site will ensure that a toothless ditching bucket will be used. The on site archaeologist will be given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time will be allowed for recording any such features.
- 4.2 A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations will be recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation upon pro forma context sheets. All significant architectural features will be photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.
- 4.3 Any archaeological features should be investigated and recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation, and should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded using pro forma record sheets, photographs, summary scale drawings and written descriptions. Individual features will be planned at 1:20 where additional detail is required. Sections and profiles of each feature sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. All plans, sections and profiles will be related to Ordnance Datum, in metres. All site drawings should follow the conventions detailed in the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994).

- 4.4 For brick structures, the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins).
- 4.5 A plan of the excavated areas will be maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings will be carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts will be recorded using a single context recording system. The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent. Should archaeological features be present then the locations and height AOD of the features will be accurately fixed, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.
- 4.6 The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Archaeologists *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.(2008).
- 4.7 Any human remains encountered must initially be left *in situ*. If removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant Ministry of Justice, Diocesan and other regulations, as appropriate. If human remains are identified a strategy for the excavation, analysis, retention and/or reburial of a) disarticulated and b) articulated human remains will be agreed with the West Midlands English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments and the Development Control Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council.
- 4.8 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will ensure that heavy plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded. Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeological officer on site.
- 4.9 A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.
- 4.10 The watching brief will not entail archaeological excavation beyond the areas exposed by the development works.

5.0 Artefact and Ecofact collection and recording

- 5.1 Artefact collection policy will be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. Discarded artefactual materials will be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field. Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists. Retained finds will be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage.
- 5.2 Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (1996).

- 5.3 Collection policies for structural remains and industrial residues have been set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993). The presence of such materials within a context will be recorded even where comprehensive retention is not considered appropriate.
- 5.4 If deposits of palaeo-environmental potential are encountered, an environmental specialist will visit the site to advise on a sampling strategy and their suggested strategy will then be implemented.

6.0 Monitoring Arrangements

- 6.1 During the course of the fieldwork the West Midlands English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments or Development Control Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council may undertake monitoring visits. Reasonable notice of the commencement of fieldwork should therefore be given, including the name and contact number of the archaeologist on site.

Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered the archaeological contractor should contact the West Midlands English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Development Control Archaeologist immediately to arrange a convenient date and time for a site visit.

The Inspector of Ancient Monuments is:

Ian K George
Inspector of Ancient Monuments
English Heritage
The Axis
10 Holliday Street
Birmingham
B1 1TG
Direct line: 0121 625 6859
Mobile: 07967 208 295

The DCA contact will be:

Stephen Dean
Principal Archaeologist
Staffordshire County Council
Wedgewood Building, Block A, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH
Direct Dial: 01785 277290
Mobile: 07976 191041
Email: stephen.dean@staffordshire.gov.uk

6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will liaise with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Staffordshire Development Control Archaeologist at regular intervals through out the course of the work.

7.0 Report

7.1 Following completion of the watching brief Archaeological Research Services Ltd will produce a report which will include,

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- A location plan showing all excavated areas with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- Supporting illustrations at appropriate scales, all to include levels tied to Ordnance Datum. Drawings should follow the conventions developed in the MoLAS *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994)
- Illustrative site photography, including key features and working shots
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements including a provisional timetable for deposition.
- Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections (illustrating height AOD)
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusions
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- A copy of the DCA brief
- A copy of the OASIS form

7.2 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record.

8.0 Archive Deposition

8.1 A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by the repository museum). Contact will be made with the Museum and an accession number obtained prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

- 8.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).
- 8.3 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the HER and deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM along that will be attached with the report.
- 8.4 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.
- 8.5 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

9.0 Changes to Methodology or Work Programme

- 9.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with the prior written approval of the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

10.0 Publication

- 10.1 Where appropriate, a summary of the project, with selected drawings, illustrations and photographs, will be submitted within 2 years of the completion of the project to a suitable regional journal for publication (if significant archaeological discoveries are made).

11.0 References

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). 2012. *The National Planning Policy Framework*. London, The Stationery Office.

English Heritage. 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*. London, English Heritage.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2008. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2009. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Society of Museum Archaeologists. 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*. London, Society of Museum Archaeologists.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: archaeo15-150980

Project details

Project name	7 Castrum Court, Rocester, Staffordshire
Short description of the project	watching brief to the rear of the present house for the construction of an extension. no archaeological deposits or features were identified, however the foundation of the present building were exposed which appear to be of an earlier building of possible 18th century in date re-using earlier masonry
Project dates	Start: 20-03-2013 End: 22-03-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	GARDEN Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE EAST STAFFORDSHIRE ROCESTER 7 Castrum Court, Rocester
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 1109 3937 52 -1 52 57 04 N 001 50 05 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Staffordshire County Council
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Robin Holgate
Project supervisor	Alvaro Mora-Ottomano

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Potteries Museum and Art Gallery
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	7 Castrum Court, Rocester
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Mora-Ottomano, A.
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bakewell
Entered by	Alvaro Mora-Ottomano (alvaro@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	6 August 2013

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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