

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield



View north of foundation trench.

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield
Archaeological Research Services Ltd Report 2016/3
January 2016



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Prepared on behalf of: Mr & Mrs Gill
Date of Report: January 2016
Compiled by: Caitlin Halton
Checked by: Dr Clive Waddington
Planning Reference: 15/01044/FUL
Local Authority: Staffordshire County Council
Site central NGR: SK 411479 309978

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Figure 6. General shot of the site looking south-west.

Executive Summary

Project Name: 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire

Site Code: GLL 15

Planning Authority: Staffordshire County Council

Location: 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7LW

Geology: Pebbly sandstone of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation

NGR: SK 411479 309978

Report Date: January 2016

In December 2015 and January 2016 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Gill to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

A planning application had been granted by Lichfield District Council for the erection of a four bedroomed dwelling. A watching brief was carried out as a requirement of the planning permission to ensure that any potential archaeological remains on site encountered during the course of groundworks was recorded and interpreted prior to removal. Particular attention was given to any surviving buried archaeological features associated with prehistoric or medieval activity in the area of Gaia Lane.

No significant archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief other than modern material. The material consisted of pottery, tile, glass, animal bone and a single fragment of a clay tobacco pipe stem which were all recovered from the topsoil and subsoil.

1 Introduction

1.1 In December 2015 and January 2016 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Gill to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire.

1.2 A planning application has been submitted to Lichfield District Council and approved for the construction of a four bedroomed dwelling

1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014b).

2 Location and Geology

2.1 The site is centred at NGR SK 411479 309978 (Figure 1). The underlying solid geology of the site is pebbly sandstone of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation, formed during the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers (BGS 2015). Although no superficial geology is recorded by the BGS the Country rock was found to be overlain by a brash layer comprising the weathered Country rock in a clay matrix.

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 The historical and archaeological background is outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in Appendix 3.

4 Aims and Objectives

4.1 The overall objective of the watching brief was to ensure that any potential archaeological remains encountered during the course of the groundworks were recorded and interpreted prior to removal.

4.2 The specific project questions that could potentially be addressed by this watching brief were:

- Is there further evidence for late prehistoric activity to the north of the Cathedral?
- Is there evidence for early medieval settlement activity in this area of Gaia Lane and how does it manifest itself in the archaeological record?
- Does 13th/14th century suburban expansion along Beacon Street/Gaia Lane extend further to the east or is it restricted to main street frontages and is therefore evidence for back plot activity/orchards during this period?
- What is the evidence for Civil War activity within and impact upon the northern suburbs of Lichfield?

5 Method Statement

5.1 In total seven foundation trenches were excavated to depths between 0.5m and 2.7m (Figure 2).

5.2 All mechanical excavation was carried out by a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision.

5.3 The watching brief was carried out according to the detailed method provided in the Written Scheme of Investigation (See Appendix 3).

6 Results

6.1 The stratigraphic sequence of the site consisted of a layer of demolition debris (001) which included bricks, electrical cables, tiles and wooden architectural fragments. These were derived from the recently demolished structure (information obtained from the building contractors). This demolition layer had a maximum thickness of 0.4m and covered the whole of the stripped area (see Figure 2).

6.2 Demolition layer (001) overlies a black silty topsoil (002) with an overall thickness of 0.3m.

6.3 Topsoil (002) overlies a subsoil layer (003) consisting of a light brown silty sand, with a thickness ranging from 0.5m in the most northern extent of the foundation trench to 2m within the eastern area (Figure3). This in turn overlay the natural substratum (004) which varied from red clay to grey sandy clay.

7 The Finds

Caitlin Halton and Robin Holgate

All of the finds came from topsoil (002) and subsoil (003).

Ceramic material

7.1 Ten fragments of ceramic material were recovered as summarised in Table 1. The pottery represents late 19th – 20th centuries utilitarian wares (brown-glazed coarseware) and 19th – 20th centuries refined earthenwares (pearlware and plain and transfer-printed white ware) used for storage, preparation and consumption of food and drink.

| Artefact type | Date range | Artefact count by context | |
|--|---|---------------------------|-------|
| | | (001) | (003) |
| Pearlware | 19 th century | - | 1 |
| Brown-glazed coarseware | Late 19 th – 20 th centuries | - | 1 |
| Whiteware, including blue-and-white transfer-printed varieties | Late 19 th – 20 th centuries | 5 | - |
| Clay tobacco pipe fragment | 19 th – early 20 th centuries | 1 | - |
| White kitchen/bathroom tile fragments | 20 th century | 3 | - |
| TOTAL | | 8 | 2 |

Table 1. The ceramic material.

Glass

7.2 A fragment of clear bottle glass of 20th century date was recovered from the subsoil (003).

Animal bone

7.3 The material recovered consisted of three fragments of animal bone (open proximal end of a metatarsal and two fragments of a vertebrae) which were in good state of preservation. The bones were recovered from subsoil layer (003). The metatarsal and two fragments from a single vertebrae were identified as sheep (*Ovis aries*). Butchery marks were noted on one of the fragments of vertebrae consisting of cuts marks.

Finds Discussion

7.4 This assemblage is small in size and of negligible significance. The finds could, therefore, be discarded or returned to the landowner.

8 Discussion

8.1 The watching brief carried out during the groundworks associated with the construction of a dwelling encountered no significant archaeological remains, other than modern material in the topsoil and subsoil.

9 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

9.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. 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 Acknowledgements

11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those who contributed to the outcome of this project, in particular Mr and Mrs Gill for commissioning the work and Stephen Dean, Principal Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council, for his advice.

References

British Geological Survey. 2015. *Geology of Britain viewer*. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 23 December 2015]

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014a. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.





Dean, S. 2015. *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Land at 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield*. Sheffield County Council

Watt, S. 2011. *The Archaeology of the West Midlands. A Framework for Research*. Oxford, Oxbow Books.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Figures



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Site name: 25 Gaia Lane Date: January Drawn by: MFC Scale: Varies</p> | <p>Figure 1: Site location</p> | <p>Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB Tel: 01629 814540 www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com</p> |
| <p>This drawing: © ARS Ltd Contains Ordnance Survey data. © Crown copyright and database right 2015</p> | <p>Legend</p> <p> District Boundary</p> <p> Site Boundary</p> | <p></p> <p></p> |

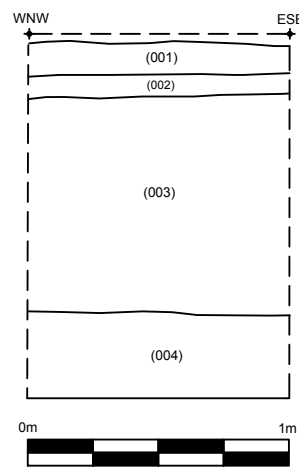
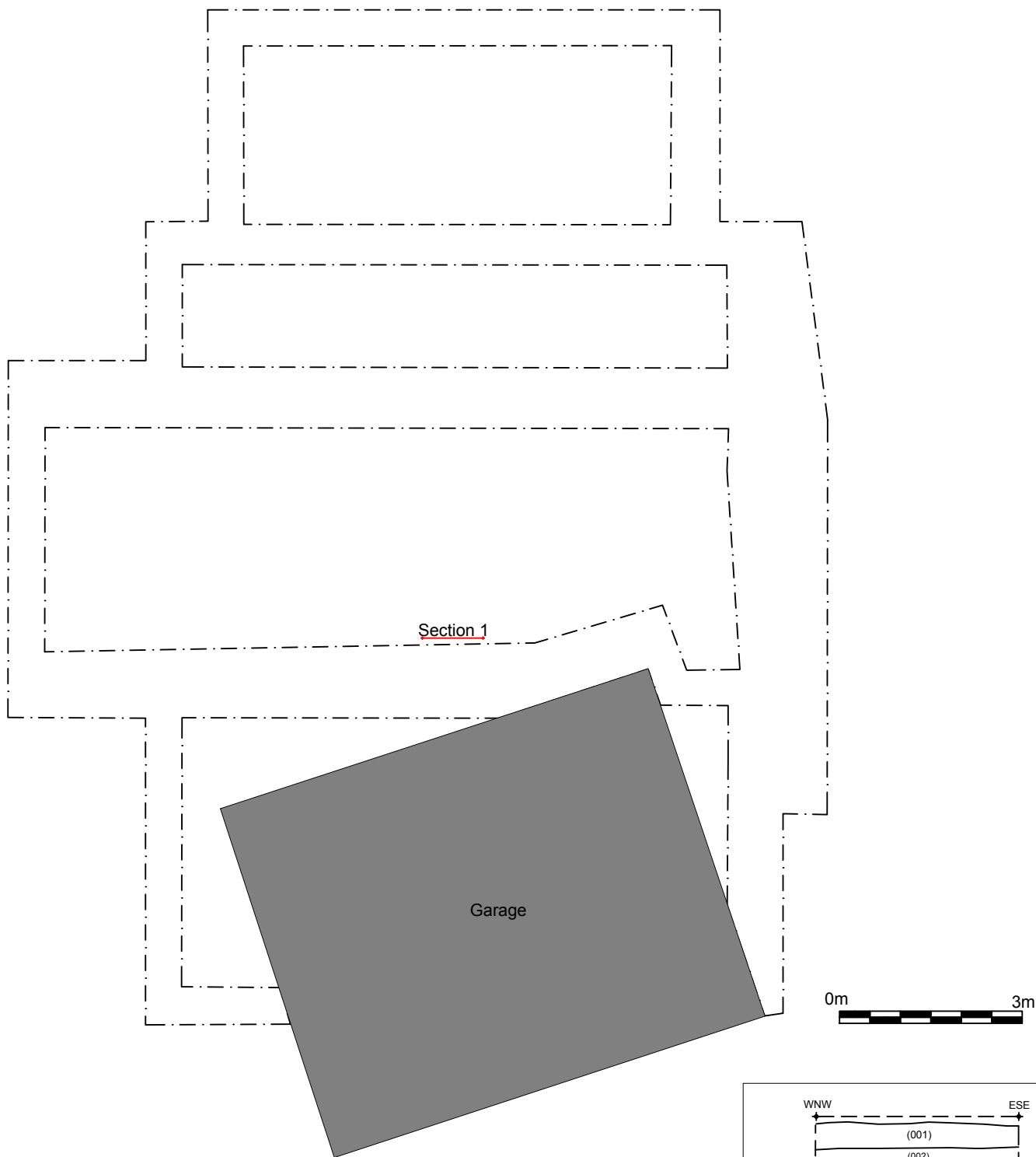


Figure 2. Site plan. Scale: 1:100 @ A4
Inset of section. Scale: 1:30

Key:

- Existing building
- Section Line
- - - Foundation trench



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Figure 3. View north of foundation trench (scales = 0.5m graduations).



Figure 4. View south-west of foundation trenching (scales = 0.5m graduations).



Figure 5. View north of the foundation trenching (scales = 0.5m graduations).



Figure 6. General shot of the site looking south-west.

Appendix 2- Context Register

| Context Number | Description |
|----------------|--|
| 001 | Modern demolition layer |
| 002 | Black silt subsoil 1 (Former top soil) |
| 003 | Light brown silty sand sub soil 2. |
| 004 | Natural red clay |

Appendix 3- Written Scheme of Investigation

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

LAND AT 25 GAIA LANE, LICHFIELD

November 2015



1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A planning application (15/01044/FUL) was submitted for the construction of a single residence on land at 25 Gaia lane, Lichfield (NGR 411479 309978). The Staffordshire County Council Principal Archaeologist (SCCPA) advised (as part of the planning process) that there was demonstrable archaeological potential from the site and surrounding area (see s.2). Bearing in mind the scale of the scheme and this demonstrable potential, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) granted planning permission but attached a condition requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks across the site.
- 1.2 The objective of this Specification therefore is to inform the relevant individuals/organisations of the archaeological works to be carried out on the site and the procedure for subsequent post-excavation, reporting and, where appropriate, publication in order to satisfactorily discharge the relevant planning condition. This Specification will also establish a mechanism for the monitoring of the archaeological work by the SCCPA on behalf of the LPA.
- 1.3 The watching brief will be conducted in accordance with this specification and will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014). All stages of the project will be carried out in accordance with the requirements established in the English Heritage volume entitled the 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (MoRPHE).
- 1.4 Bearing in mind the modest scale of the proposed scheme it is considered that this Specification may act as the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) identified within the planning condition. Alternatively the appointed archaeological organization may choose to prepare a separate WSI based upon the content of this Specification. Any variation in working methodology in either case must be agreed in advance with the developer and the LPA through the SCCPA.

2.0 HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The scheme lies within the bounds of the study area of the Lichfield Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) in Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA) 13: Gaia Lane. The EUS considers that this area has high evidential, historic and aesthetic value lying as it does to the north of Lichfield Cathedral's Close.
- 2.2 Evidence for late prehistoric activity (Neolithic in date) within Lichfield has been recovered during excavations to the south of the Cathedral and across the city to the south east at Greenhill. Roman activity is also considered likely at Lichfield, however evidence is restricted to stray finds recovered from early medieval deposits in the city. The excavation of a 6th century AD (Phase 1) structure at Cross Keys car park revealed the reuse of rubble masonry dated to the 3rd century AD and was suggestive of a Roman structure in the vicinity.
- 2.3 It wasn't until the early medieval period that Lichfield appears to have

developed as a settlement, or rather a loose collection of small settlements associated with an ecclesiastical centre. At AD669, Lichfield was chosen as the centre of the Mercian Bishopric with the consecration of Bishop Chad. While there is little physical evidence for an earlier church, the selection of Lichfield is taken to suggest a well-established church prior to Chad's consecration.

- 2.4 Evidence suggests that Lichfield was badly damaged during the conflict with the Danes and indeed, the 'town' appears to have developed little beyond its loose group of early medieval nucleated settlements between the mid-11th and mid-12th centuries. At this point Stowe Pool appears to have been flooded (whether naturally or by human hand) and the Bishop begins to lay out a planned town (with straight streets and standardized burgage plots) to the south of the Close and Minster Pool. It is likely that the walled Cathedral Close was present by the mid-12th century (and is widely credited to Bishop de Clinton). The focus of mercantile activity to the south of the Cathedral does not appear to have significantly impacted upon settlement to the north of the Close along Beacon Street and Gaia Lane. Suburban expansion is recorded along Gaia Lane (beyond the town boundary) by the early 13th century. This growth may reflect unofficial development designed to avoid the payment of tolls to the Bishop and it appears to have occurred outside each town gate by this time.
- 2.5 The EUS considers that the Lichfield generally did not expand beyond its medieval core and suburbs during the post-medieval period. Indeed, the area along Gaia Lane back from Beacon Street is likely to have been dominated by open paddocks, gardens and orchards rather than building plots.
- 2.6 During the Civil War, Lichfield was besieged three times. The first siege of the Cathedral Close (March 1643) resulted in its capture and garrisoning by parliamentary troops. The second siege followed shortly after (April 1643) when the Close was re-captured by the Royalists under Prince Rupert. The third siege (1646), lasted for five months and resulted in the final surrender of the Royalist garrison. Prince Rupert's Mound (a Scheduled Monument) is traditionally associated with the second siege, and is thought to be the battery from which the Cathedral Close was bombarded for 15 days. However, the earthwork faces outwards and may be a gun battery referred to as 'Gloucester Mount' which was built or modified at the time of the third siege in 1646 to defend the Close from bombardment from the north. A metal detector survey on the mound resulted in the recovery of a number of lead musket balls (15 of various different sizes) and a number of other melted lead items. A roughly cast lump of iron, thought to be the possible fragment of a hollow mortar shell, was also recovered.
- 2.7 This townscape character identified in s.2.5 is likely to have continued through into the later 18th century and it is not clear what effect the Civil War had upon this suburb. Snape's map (1781) of Lichfield supports this view depicting limited building along Gaia Lane. The EUS identifies greater levels of 19th and early 20th century building along Gaia Lane which likely reflects the gentrification of the area and the drive to develop previously open land within

the city's core.

3.0 PROJECT AIM AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The overarching project aim is to ensure the archaeological monitoring of groundworks across the development area.

3.2 The specific project objectives to be addressed by this watching brief are:

- Is there further evidence for late prehistoric activity to the north of the Cathedral?
- Is there evidence for early medieval settlement activity in this area of Gaia Lane and how does it manifest itself in the archaeological record?
- Does 13th/14th century suburban expansion along Beacon Street/Gaia Lane extend further to the east or is it restricted to main street frontages and is therefore evidence for backplot activity/orchards during this period?
- What is the evidence for Civil War activity within and impact upon the northern suburbs of Lichfield?

3.3 More generic objectives to be considered during the watching brief are:

- To ensure that an appropriate degree of sampling is achieved from secure deposits which will inform our understanding of the site and area. The details of this strategy will be agreed with the SCC Principal Archaeologist as and when such features are encountered.
- Where appropriate to secure the recording and assessment of suitable palaeoenvironmental deposits associated with archaeological features where these are encountered during groundworks. Adequate contingency should be identified for this and, where features likely to yield environmental remains are encountered, this is discussed with the archaeological representative to the LPA.
- To secure the analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 The archaeological contractor may use this specification as their WSI or may choose to prepare a separate WSI detailing the recording works to be undertaken during groundworks. If the contractor chooses to prepare their own WSI this must take into account the requirements of this specification. The project should include the following as appropriate:

1. Soil and overburden stripping to be carried out under archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket on a back actor leaving a smooth and flat surface;
2. Inspection of sub-soil for archaeological features;

3. The cleaning, investigation and recording of any archaeological features/deposits identified;
 4. Sub-soil stripping to be carried out under archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket on a back actor leaving a smooth and flat surface;
 5. Examination of any service and foundation trenches (with the exception of areas which have already been stripped to a clean subsoil surface and seen by the archaeologist to be devoid of archaeological features) and the subsequent recording of any exposed archaeological deposits;
 6. Examination of spoil-heaps for archaeological material. This will include the use of a metal detector;
 7. A programme of post-fieldwork analysis, archiving and publication.
- 4.2 A written record of the progress of the watching brief shall be maintained and supported by the production of plans and sections drawings (at appropriate scales). A photographic record (colour digital images and monochrome prints) will also be maintained and supported by an index and site plan of shot locations.
 - 4.3 All spoil removed during groundworks is to be scanned visually and using a metal detector to recover small finds. Any finds to be recovered should be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds should be retained, recorded and discussed within the report and recommendations made for further conservation. The necessity for the long term conservation of finds from the site will be agreed with the archaeological contractor and the County Archaeologist as an advisor to the LPA. Contingency provisions should be made within the programme of work for this.
 - 4.4 A site location plan and detailed feature plan should be prepared of the site. All site drawings will be executed at an appropriate scale and all sections will be accompanied by levels to OS datum. The detailed plan should also locate all small finds (see s4.3), features and feature specific site drawings. A site drawing index shall be maintained throughout the fieldwork and all drawings will form part of the site archive.
 - 4.5 Where necessary, arrangements shall be made for development to be interrupted for reasonable periods in order that satisfactory records might be made.
 - 4.6 Features encountered should be appropriately sampled for paleoenvironmental remains. This work should be undertaken in line with current English Heritage guidance and should be agreed following discussion with the archaeological advisor to the LPA. Contingency provisions should be made within the programme of work for this.

- 4.7 If finds are located of a significance beyond that which might have been anticipated before the development began, development shall cease where they might be disturbed in order that provision for their adequate recording or preservation may be made in consultation with the LPA or personnel nominated by them. Contingency provisions should be made within the programme of work for this.
- 4.8 The developer shall afford access to the development site for the purposes of archaeological monitoring to officers of the LPA or personnel nominated by them at all reasonable times upon compliance with the requirements of health and safety.
- 4.9 The developer shall give the LPA or personnel nominated by them at least ten days' notice in writing of the commencement of the development, and shall keep them informed of the progress of the watching brief during the period in which it is carried out.
- 4.10 The appointed archaeological organisations shall obtain site accession codes from the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. The project archive shall be compiled in accordance with the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC, 1990), and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission, 1992)
- 4.11 The archaeological contractor should agree all on-site working practices with the developer at the earliest opportunity and identify those elements of the construction programme requiring time for recording.
- 4.12 The project should be conducted by an archaeological organisation working in accordance with the By-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists. Archaeologists working on the project should not attempt tasks outside of their areas of competence.
- 4.13 Any articulated human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ until a licence to excavate has been granted by the Department of Justice (Tel: 02070 355532). The provisions for analysis, assessment and reburial of any human remains encountered during groundworks should be discussed with representatives of the County Council and the LPA Archaeologist. A contingency for the recording and excavation of articulated human remains should also be agreed in advance. Similarly provision for the reburial on consecrated ground of any human remains encountered during groundworks should also be made.
- 4.14 Any material recovered which would be regarded as Treasure under the terms of the Treasure Act should be reported to the coroner.

5. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

- 5.1 A report on the results obtained should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and personnel nominated by them within 8 weeks of the completion of site work. The report should follow the guidance laid out in the relevant IfA

standards and guidance but should include consideration of:

1. non-technical summary
 2. the aims and methods adopted in the course of the recording
 3. the nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological and environmental material uncovered
 4. the anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits and structures on the site not disturbed by development - surviving areas of archaeological potential should be indicated on the site plan
 5. appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, and drawings at an appropriate scale and photographs. All plans, sections, etc., created during the watching brief will be related to Ordnance Survey datum levels and their relation to the National Grid referencing system shall be made clear.
 6. summary of results including an attempt to place the site in its local, regional and where appropriate national context
 7. description of the archive and the location for its long-term deposition
- 5.2 If significant remains are recorded during the project, then it may be necessary to undertake a full programme of analysis and publication in accordance with the guidelines contained in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects 2. If this is the case, then a timetable and programme of work for this aspect of the project will need to be submitted to the Local Planning Authority for agreement.
- 5.3 The post excavation work shall be carried out immediately on completion of site investigations. The site archive shall be prepared in accordance with established professional guidelines.
- 5.4 The written and illustrated report of the watching brief shall be copied to:
- i) the client
 - ii) the County Council
 - iii) English Heritage
 - iv) the National Monuments Record
- 5.5 The copy of the report sent to the County Council should be accompanied by a completed copy of the Activity and Source Submission Form (see appendix 1) and a CD Rom containing a full pdf copy of the report, supplementary documents and all drawings.
- 5.6 The archive and finds, including a copy of the watching brief report, shall be deposited at an appropriate museum, such as the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery at Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. The museum guidelines regarding the acceptance of such material should be taken into account. The recipient museum shall be informed in advance of the date when the watching brief is

to commence.

- 5.7 The written report will become publicly accessible, as part of the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record, within six months of completion. The appointed contractor shall also submit a short summary report for inclusion in the next edition of the journal *West Midlands Archaeology* within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork.

6.0 Bibliography

English Heritage (1991). *Management of Archaeological Projects*. London, Her Majesty's Stationary Office.

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

Staffordshire County Council (2011). *Lichfield Historic Character Assessment*. Stafford, Staffordshire County Council.

Watt, S. (ed) (2011). *The Archaeology of the West Midlands. A Framework for Research*. Oxford, Oxbow Books.

If you wish to comment on the contents of this brief or require additional information, then please contact Stephen Dean at the address below:

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Historic Environment Team
Staffordshire County Council
Wedgwood Building Block A
Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Tel: (01785) 277290
Email: Stephen.dean@staffordshire.gov.uk

Activity and Source Submission Form

Submission date -

Site Activity or Event

Name of **event** (eg. Watching Brief at The Blue Boar, Ipstones.)

Location of **event** (eg. The Blue Boar P.H. Overton Lane, Ipstones.)

NGR

Civil Parish

Brief Description of **event** (eg. Watching brief during cellar alterations and renovation, prior to conversion to residential use.)

“Activity Type(s)” (highlight as appropriate) *Air Photography / Evaluation-trial excavation / Field Walking / Measured survey-drawing / Geophysical survey / Archaeological excavation-full / Archaeological excavation-part / Field survey / Photogrammetric survey / Rectified photo survey / Photographic record / AP interpretation / Salvage-rescue excavation / Watching brief / Environmental sampling / Post-excavation analysis / Documentary research*
Commencement date (eg. 01-May-1978)

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Completion date (eg. 02-Sept-1983)

Organisation or contractor details (organisation name, address, telephone, e-mail etc.)

Report Details

Date

Type of document (highlight as appropriate) *Written / Photographic / Cartographic / Drawn*
 Title

| Ratio |
|-------|
| |

Author(s)

| Author(s) |
|-----------|
| |

Brief summary of contents

Brief description of document (eg. Written text with illustrations, bibliography and references. Appendices dealing with environmental sampling. 32 pages. *etc.*)

Cross references to Staffordshire SMR (if applicable please list Primary record numbers)

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Appendix 4- Oasis Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: archaeol5-237884

Project details

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Project name | An Archaeological Watching Brief at 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield |
| Short description of the project | In December 2015 and January 2016 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Gill to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 25 Gaia Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire. A planning application had been granted by Lichfield District Council for the erection of a four bedroomed dwelling. A watching brief was carried out as a requirement of the planning permission to ensure that any potential archaeological remains on site encountered during the course of groundworks was recorded and interpreted prior to removal. Particular attention was given to any surviving buried archaeological features associated with prehistoric or medieval activity in the area of Gaia Lane. No significant archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief other than modern material. The material consisted of pottery, tile, glass, animal bone and a single fragment of a clay tobacco pipe stem which were all recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. |
| Project dates | Start: 21-12-2015 End: 06-01-2016 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Monument type | N/A None |
| Monument type | N/A None |
| Significant Finds | N/A None |
| Significant Finds | N/A None |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Planning condition |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | STAFFORDSHIRE LICHFIELD LICHFIELD 25 Gaia Lane |
| Study area | 0 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | SK 411479 309978 52.874552632913 -1.388570796635 52 52 28 N 001 23 18 W Point |

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Archaeological Research Services Ltd |
| Project brief originator | Archaeological Research Services Ltd |
| Project design originator | Archaeological Research Services Ltd |
| Project director/manager | Clive Waddington |
| Project supervisor | Caitlin Halton |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | none |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | n/a |
| Digital Archive recipient | Potteries Museum and Art Gallery |
| Digital Contents | "other" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Potteries Museum and Art Gallery |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Report", "Section" |
| Entered by | Caitlin Halton (caitlin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com) |
| Entered on | 12 January 2016 |

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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