

## The Winery, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief



**ARS Ltd Report 2016/57**  
April 2016

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Archaeological Research  
Services Ltd

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*In September 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Winery, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. Archaeological monitoring was requested as the development area lies adjacent to the Burton upon Trent Abbey, Scheduled Monument No. SM ST 243.*

*The monitoring was carried out during ground works for the construction of a single-story kitchen extension. A 0.5m wide trench was excavated along the northwest side of the existing kitchen building. The majority of the deposits encountered were modern overburden and made ground deposits of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. A laid brick floor or path surface dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was encountered in the north end of the trench; no other finds or features were identified.*

**1. INTRODUCTION**

**1.1. Location and scope of work**

1.1.1. In September 2015 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Winery, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire (Figure 1). The work was carried out during ground works for the construction of single-storey kitchen extension to the northwest of the existing kitchen at The Winery. The archaeological monitoring of the ground works was undertaken on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 by Alvaro Mora-Ottomano and Elise McLellan of ARS Ltd.

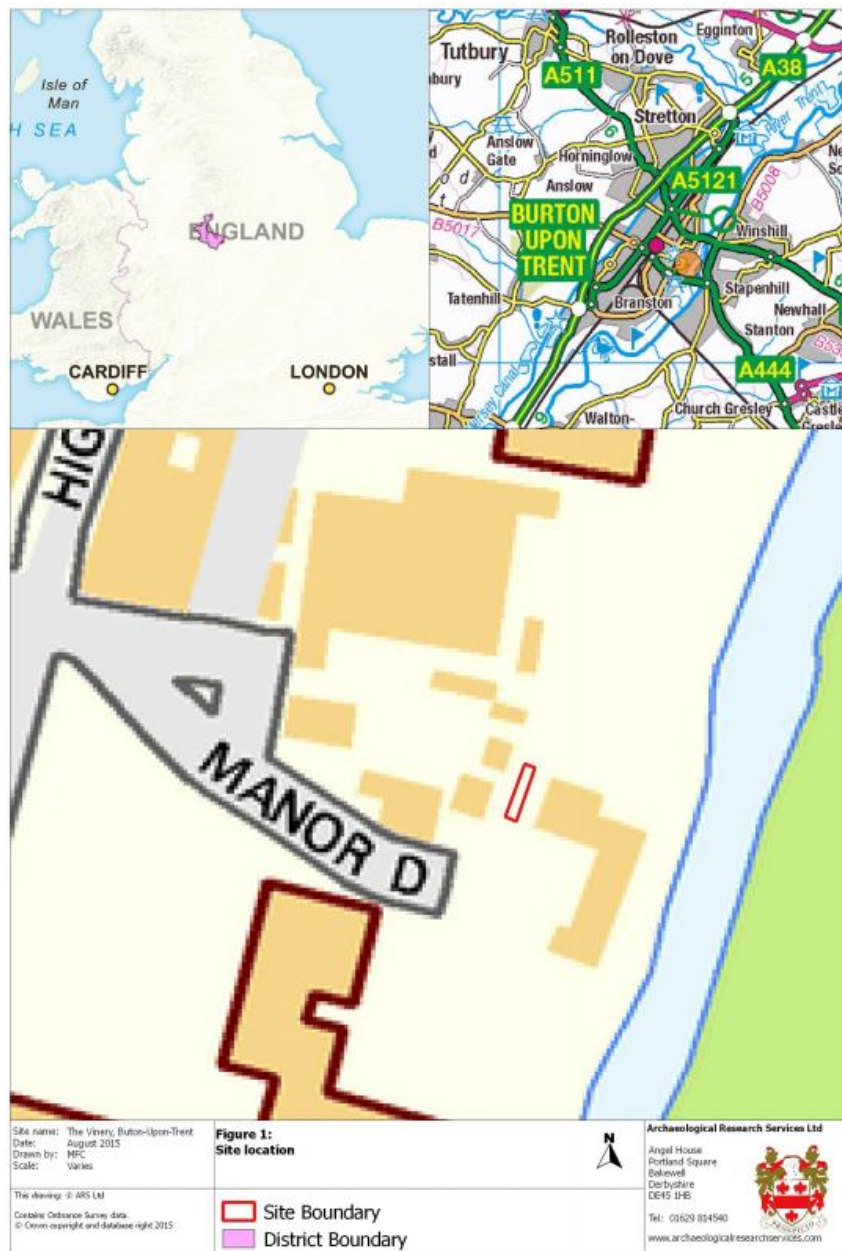


Fig. 1 Site location

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1.1.2 The site is centred at NGR SK 25095 22620, on the south side of the Burton upon Trent Abbey. The present building is first depicted on OS maps dating to 1923.

1.1.3 As pile foundations were being used for the kitchen extension, the only ground works below a depth of 0.25m consisted of a 0.5m wide trench dug along the northwest side of the existing kitchen of the restaurant and bar which formed the subject of this watching brief.

## **1.2. Geology**

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site consists of mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group (British Geological Survey 2016). Superficial geology consists of sand and gravel river terrace deposits.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

2.1 The specification required that a watching brief should be carried out to observe any ground works taking place for the proposed development, in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved monitoring the excavation of a single trench to a depth of c.1m.

2.2 The trenches were excavated by machine, using a 0.5m wide toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The machine removed subsequent deposits in level spits to reach the depth required for development.

2.3 A single context recording system was employed. Each layer encountered was given a unique context number and a full written description (a Harris matrix is shown in Appendix I and a full context register is shown in Appendix II). Digital colour photographs were taken in order to record the ground works. A photographic register can be found in Appendix III.



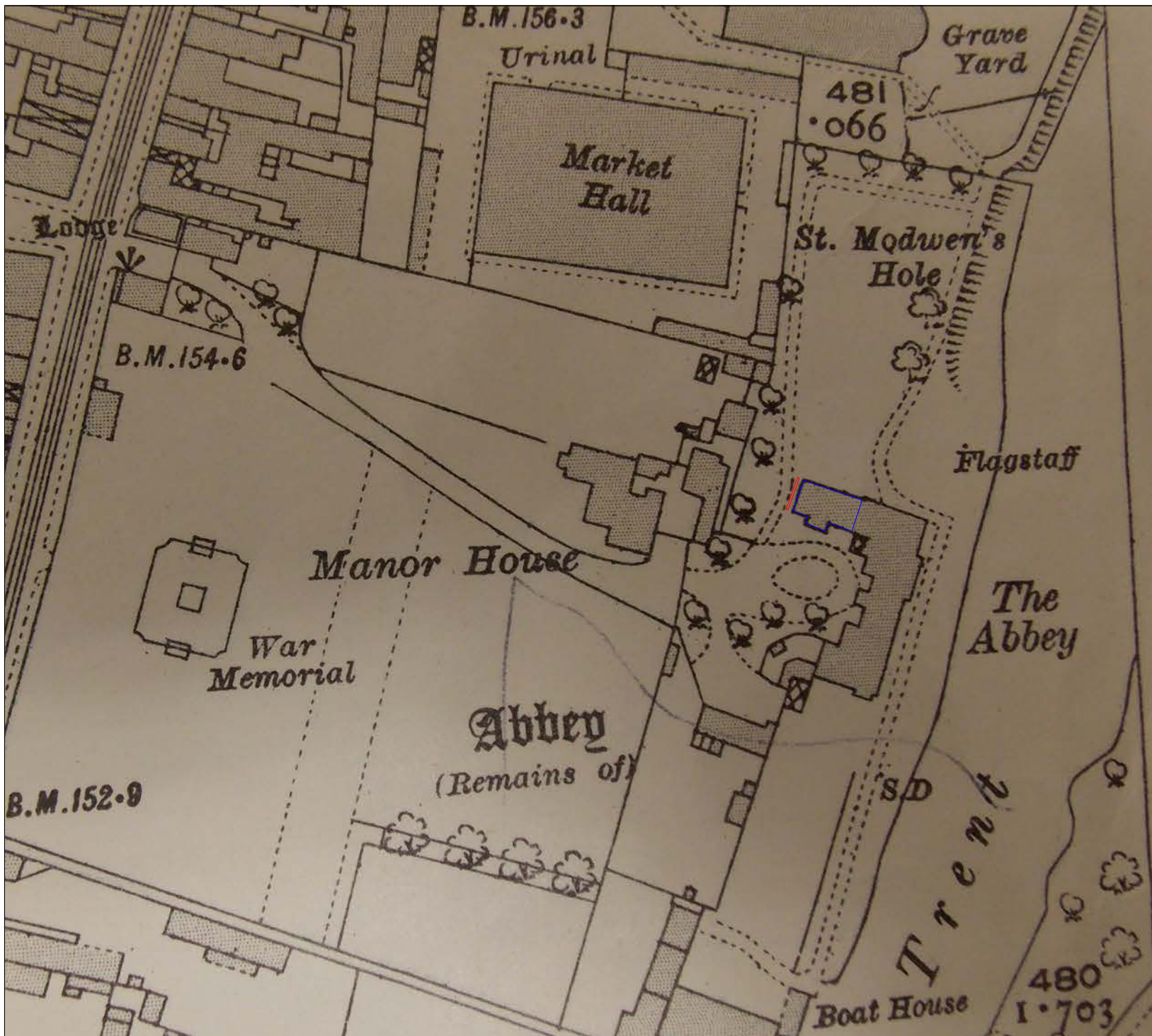


Figure 2: 1923 OS Map

Key:

Restaurant and Bar

Area of Excavation

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### 3. RESULTS

3.1 A single trench was excavated along the northwest wall of the current kitchen building.

3.2 The stratigraphic sequence consisted mainly of a series of made ground and levelling deposits (Figure 3). The development area is currently in use as a pathway and storage area behind the kitchen, and the two upper contexts (101 and 102) consist of modern spreads of sand and gravel to a depth of 0.3m. These seal a redeposited black organic silt deposit (103) with frequent brick inclusions which was c.0.2m thick, potentially representing another levelling deposit or a demolition layer. The ground level in the development area has been significantly reduced in the past (Figure 4), potentially for the construction of the current restaurant which is evident on OS maps from 1923 onwards. The redeposited black silt (103) context may originate from this period when the ground was reduced and the current restaurant building was constructed. Throughout most of the trench the redeposited black silt (103) overlies an orange brown clay (106) at a depth of 0.9m (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Stratigraphy in west-facing trench edge



Figure 4. Ground level around the tree adjacent to the development area shows a previous reduction in the ground level, prior to the deposition of made ground deposits.

3.3 At the northern end of the excavated trench, a floor section or path surface (104) was encountered (Figure 5) at a depth of 0.5m. The surface consisted of handmade dry-bonded bricks which measured 220x120x70mm. The surface was roughly 0.8m in width, and continued to the east and west of the excavated area, suggesting it may form part of a buried footpath. The surface was located directly below the redeposited black organic silt (103), and therefore predates that episode of made ground deposition. The brick surface was removed to reach the depth necessary for development (Figure 6). The brick surface (104) overlay a grey sand deposit (105); it was probably a levelling deposit laid down under the brick surface, as it was not observed elsewhere in the excavated area.





Figure 5. Exposed surface of the brick floor or path (104).



Figure 6. Stratigraphy above and below the brick floor or path (104).

#### **4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

4.1 Excavation of a single trench at The Winery exposed a sequence of mainly made ground deposits which identify a sequence of changes to ground level and ground-making activities which took place at The Winery over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first phase of identified activity is the reduction of the ground level in comparison to adjacent trees, potentially during the construction of the current restaurant building, which map regression analysis of OS maps place between 1901 and 1923. The orange-brown clay deposit (106) 0.9m below the current ground level may represent the ground level reduction which took place when the current building was constructed.

4.2 A brick floor section or path (104) was identified, constructed at this lower ground level. The stratigraphic position of the floor section or path suggests it was related to the construction of the current building following the reduction of the ground level. The possible path or floor of an outbuilding would therefore also have been laid between 1901 and 1923, which is consistent with the form and characteristics of the bricks. A black organic silt made ground (103) with frequent brick inclusions was subsequently deposited over the entire excavated area.

4.3 The uppermost two contexts represent modern spreading of sand and gravel for the current use of the area as a path and for storage.

4.4 Apart from the brick floor section or path, no finds or features were identified during archaeological monitoring. The deposits to a depth of 1m mainly consisted of made ground of recent origin; therefore the archaeological impact of development to this depth will be minimal.

#### **5. ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION**

5.1 Digital and paper copies of this report will be submitted to the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.2 As no archaeologically significant finds were encountered, no physical archive will be deposited.

5.3 A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record.

#### **6. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT**

6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

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

## **7. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY**

7.1 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.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

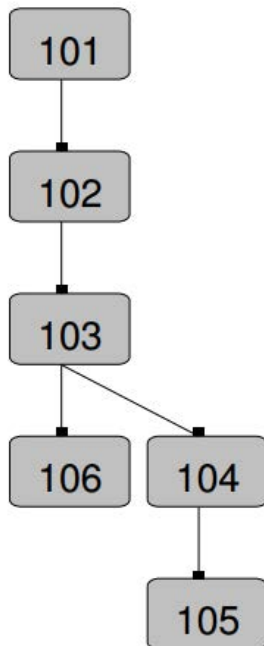
8.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular James Kerry of The Winery for commissioning the watching brief and for providing access to the site; and Ian George, Inspector of Ancient monuments for Historic England, and Stephen Dean, the Principal Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council, for their advice.

## **9. REFERENCES**

British Geological Survey 2016. Geology of Britain Viewer. Available online at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html?src=topNav> [Accessed 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016].



**APPENDIX I: HARRIS MATRIX**



**APPENDIX II: CONTEXT REGISTER**

Context No.	Description
101	Mid-grey sand >50% sub-rounded gravel inclusions. Made ground levelling deposit present at surface.
102	Pale yellow sand >50% sub-rounded gravel inclusions. Made ground levelling deposit, probably a previous ground surface.
103	Black organic silt with frequent brick inclusions. Redeposited made ground material, possibly a demolition layer.
104	Floor or path surface of dry-bonded red handmade bricks. Bricks measure 220 x 120 x 70 mm.
105	Grey sand with 20% gravel inclusions. Levelling deposit beneath (104).
106	Orange-brown clay with 20% rounded gravel inclusions.

**APPENDIX III: Photograph Register**

Shot No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Photo By	Date
1	W	1m	East facing section	EM	08/09/2015
2	W	1m	East facing section	EM	08/09/2015
3	N	1m	Post-excavation, north half of trench	EM	08/09/2015
4	N	1m	Post-excavation, north half of trench	EM	08/09/2015
5	S	1m	Post-excavation	EM	08/09/2015
6	N	1m	Post-excavation, south half of trench	EM	08/09/2015
7	E	1m	West-facing section, (104) following removal	EM	08/09/2015
8	W	1m	West-facing section, (104) following removal	EM	08/09/2015
9	W	1m	Tree showing reduced ground level	AMO	07/09/2015
10	N	1m	Pre-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
11	NE	1m	Pre-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
12	S	1m	Initial excavation of north end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
13	W	1m	Initial excavation of north end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
14	N	1m	Initial excavation of north end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
15	NW	1m	Initial excavation of north end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
16	W	1m	Initial excavation of north end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
17	NE	1m	Initial excavation of north end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
18	NE	1m	Initial excavation of north end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
19	NE	-	Working shot	AMO	07/09/2015
20	SW	-	Working shot	AMO	07/09/2015
21	SW	-	Working shot	AMO	07/09/2015
22	SW	-	Working shot	AMO	07/09/2015
23	SW	-	Working shot	AMO	07/09/2015
24	NE	1m	Initial excavation of south end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
25	E	1m	Initial excavation of south end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
26	NE	1m	Initial excavation of south end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
27	NE	1m	Initial excavation of south end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
28	NE	1m	Initial excavation of south end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
29	NE	1m	Initial excavation of south end of trench	AMO	07/09/2015
30	NE	1m	(104) brick surface	AMO	07/09/2015
31	E	1m	(104) brick surface	AMO	07/09/2015
32	E	1m	(104) brick surface	AMO	07/09/2015
33	NE	1m	(104) brick surface	AMO	07/09/2015
34	E	1m	(104) brick surface	AMO	07/09/2015
35	E	1m	(104) brick surface	AMO	07/09/2015
36	E	1m	(104) brick surface	AMO	07/09/2015
37	SE	-	Working shot	AMO	07/09/2015
38	E	1m	(104) post-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
39	E	1m	(104) post-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
40	SE	1m	(104) post-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
41	SE	1m	(104) post-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
42	SE	1m	(104) post-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
43	SE	1m	(104) post-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015
44	SE	1m	(104) post-excavation	AMO	07/09/2015

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OASIS ID: archaeol5-249331

## Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Winery, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief undertaken during excavations for the erection of a single story building extension to the northwest of the existing bar and restaurant at The Winery, Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. Excavations were carried out to the impact depth of 1m. A brick floor section or path was identified, no other finds or features were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 07-09-2015 End: 08-09-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	ABBEY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BURTON UPON TRENT The Winery
Postcode	DE14 3RW
Study area	5 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 25095 22620 52.800222508748 -1.627743043029 52 48 00 N 001 37 39 W Point

## Project creators

Name of	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
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Organisation  
Project brief originator Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Project design originator Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Project director/manager Andy McWilliams  
Project supervisor Elise McLellan  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Staffordshire HER  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"  
Paper Archive recipient Staffordshire HER  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Report"  
  
Entered by Elise McLellan (elise@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)  
Entered on 22 April 2016

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