

ARS Ltd Report 2019/87 Oasis No. archaeol5-344020

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Archaeological Works at Croft House, Tatenhill, Staffordshire ARS Ltd Report No. 2018/91



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Executive Summary

Project Name: Archaeological Works at Croft House, Tatenhill, Staffordshire

Site Code: CHT18

Planning Authority: East Staffordshire Borough Council

Planning Application Reference: P/2018/00133

NGR: SK 20424 22041

Date of Attendance: 3rd of December 2018 – 26th February 2019.

Date of Report: 2019

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr Jack Loggin (the client) on behalf of Urban Designers UK Ltd, to undertake a scheme for an archaeological watching brief at Croft House, Main Street, Tatenhill, Staffordshire. Archaeological monitoring comprised a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried for the site development. The proposed development area encompasses some 0.41ha and it is located to the rear of Croft House, Main Street Tatenhill.

A total of nine post-medieval features including gullies, field boundaries and refuse pits as well as a number of buried soils and landscaping layers were encountered within the site.

This report presents the results of the archaeological work which took place between 3rd of December and 26th February 2019. The work was undertaken by Alexis Thouki Assistant Projects Officer at Archaeological Research Services Ltd and the project was managed by Adam Lodoen, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

1 Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

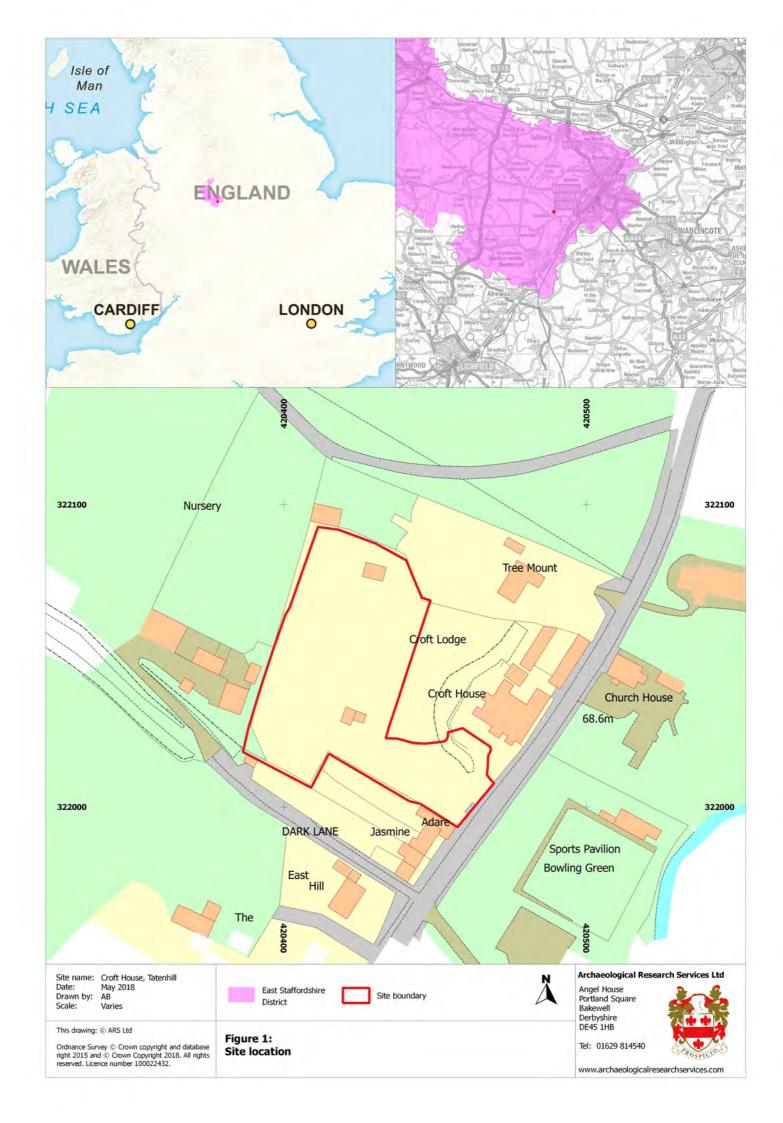
- 1.1.1 In November 2018, Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was engaged by Mr Jack Loggin (the client) to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring at *Croft House, Main Street, Tatenhill, Staffordshire*, DE13 9SD (NGR: SK 20424 22041). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared which detailed a scheme of archaeological works in satisfaction of planning consent (P/2018/00133) for the construction of three dwellings, the widening of an access drive, and associated ancillary works.
- 1.1.2 This WSI confirms the nature of the archaeological works to be undertaken by ARS Ltd at Croft House, Tatenhill, comprising a watching brief during ground works for the site development in accordance with guidance from Debbie Taylor, Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter PDA) is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1 and covers an area of 4110m2. It is located to the rear of Croft House, Main Street Tatenhill, and is wholly within its curtilage, and is currently largely occupied by lawns, along with a few trees and outbuildings. The site is centred at NGR SK 20424 22041.1.3

1.3 Geology and Soils

- 1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA is comprised of mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by hot deserts. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2018).
- 1.3.2 The soils of the PDA are classified as belonging to the Worcester Soil Association (431), which are typical argillic pelosols soils, which have a clay-enriched subsoil (SSEW 1983b, 4). These soils form over Permo-Triassic reddish mudstone, and are characterised as 'Slowly permeable non-calcareous and calcareous reddish clayey soils over mudstone, shallow on steeper slopes. Associated with similar non calcareous fine loamy over clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion.' (SSEW 1983b, 17).



2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.1 Tatenhill is not included in Domesday, but is mentioned in a charter of 942, which grants it as one of a number of estates to a thegn named Wulfsige Maur. The proposed development site is located close to the presumed medieval core of the 13th settlement within 100m of the 13th century church (HER 08611) and c.55m from the village cemetery. The Staffordshire HER records ridge and furrow within the field c.20m the north-east of the PDA, which is bisected by a hollow way (HER 53952). In the field immediately to the southwest of the PDA (HER 56857), the HER records another hollow way (HER 53953), and another area of ridge and furrow (HER 56899).
- 1.4.2 The Staffordshire Historic Landscape Characterization records the PDA as being located within the *Settlement* broad type, and *Pre-1880s Settlement* sub-type, which confirms that it is within the historic core of the village.

3 Aims and Objectives

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

- 3.1.1 Research topics identified in The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research (Watt 2011) considered to be the most relevant to the project include 6.2.1 Rural Settlement (Hunt 2011, 174-179); 6.4.1 Life in town and countryside (Hunt 2011, 186-187); 6.4.3 Material culture (Hunt 2011, 188-189); 6.5.1 The agricultural resource (Hunt 2011, 189-190); and 6.5.2 Industry in town and country (Hunt 2011, 190-192).
- 3.1.2 These research topics assisted in informing the aims and objectives for the watching brief outlined in section 3.2 below.

3.2 Archaeological Works Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1 The aims of the programme of work were to gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about any archaeological remains existing within the area of investigation, and to provide an appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination
- 3.2.2 The objectives were as follows.
 - To produce a photographic, drawn and descriptive record of any surviving belowground archaeological remains.
 - To produce dating and phasing for archaeological deposits recorded on the site.
 - To establish the character and delimit the extent of archaeological deposits in order to define functional areas on the site, e.g. industrial and domestic.
 - ♦ To produce information on the economy and local environment

3 Methodology

3.1 Professional Standards

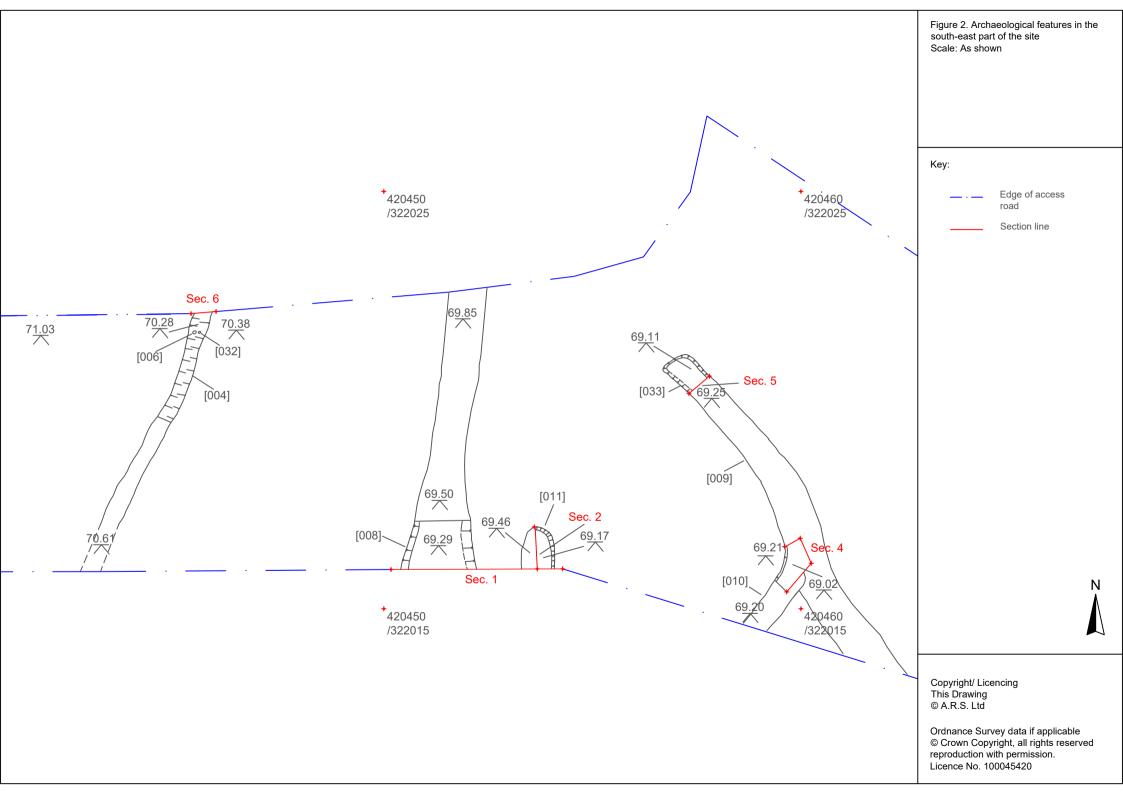
- 3.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the methodology specified in the WSI produced by ARS Ltd (Brown, 2018) (Appendix II).
- 3.1.2 In all circumstances, the groundworks were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014b).

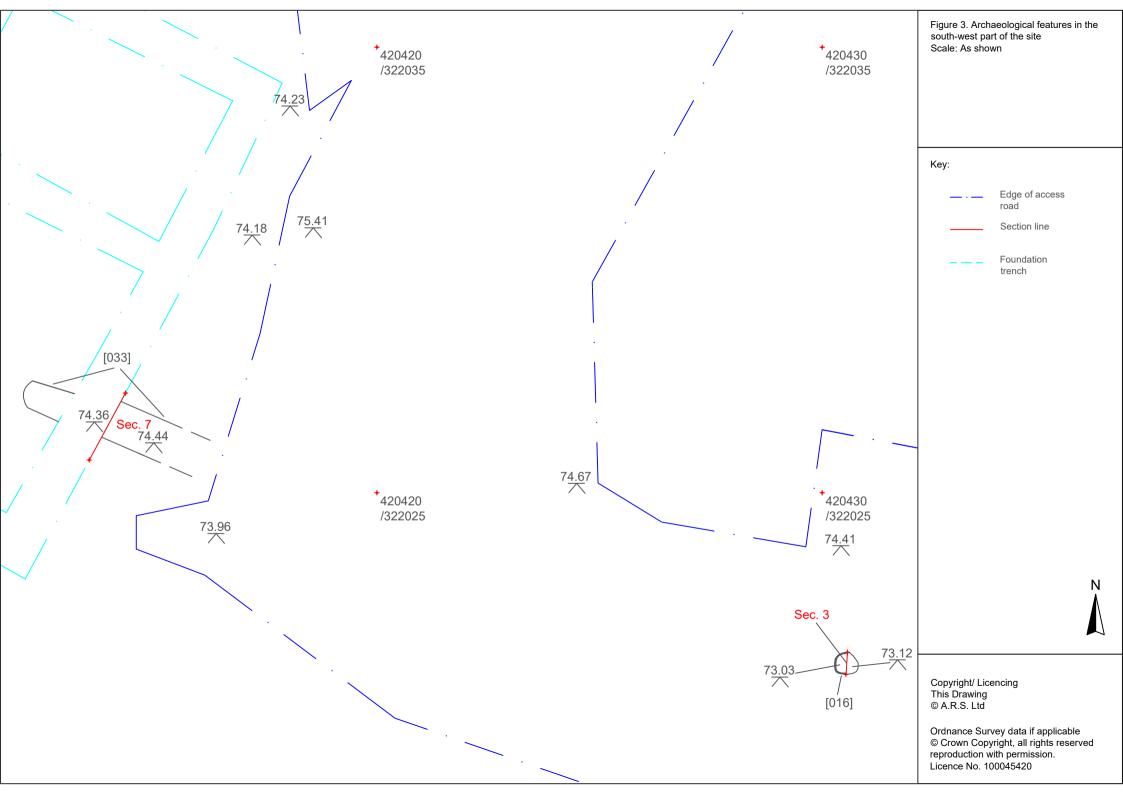
3.2 Coverage

3.2.1 The works comprised archaeological monitoring of three dwellings, the widening of an access drive, and associated ancillary works. During the monitoring process, the topsoil/overburden was removed by a mechanical excavator in level spits across all areas of the proposed groundworks. These areas were excavated down to the first archaeological horizon or depth of development (whichever was higher), followed by hand excavation of any identified features. The archaeological monitoring was conducted between 3rd of December 2018 and 26th February 2019 (Figures 2-3).

3.3 The Watching Brief

- 3.3.1 The detailed methodology is in the Written Scheme of Investigation, presented in Appendix II, however it is summarised here.
- 3.3.2 The watching brief comprised archaeological supervision and monitoring of all ground works. Site recording followed standard conventions outlined in the Site Recording Manual for Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS) (2002).
- 3.3.3 All ground works covered under this specification have been undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3.4 All archaeological features and/or deposits identified during the watching brief were cleaned to an appropriate level before recording, and a sufficient quantity of the said features were investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed
- 3.3.5 Regular contact was maintained between ARS Ltd, the Stffordshire Historic Environment Team and the site project manager to ensure that all relevant parties were kept up to date with site works and given the chance to respond appropriately.
- 3.3.8 A full photographic record was compiled using a digital camera, a Fuji XP90 with a 16.4 MP resolution, and a register of all photographs was kept.
- 3.3.9 A plan of the excavated areas was maintained. All drawings were carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts were recorded using a single context recording system.
- 3.3.10 Sample representative levels were taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and /or natural where no archaeological features were uncovered.





4 Results

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A site plan of the features uncovered after stripping is presented in Figure 2. Detailed information on all excavated contexts is presented in Appendix I.
- 4.1.2 The site slopes from west to the east. The stratigraphy varies across the site comprising buried deposits, made ground and colluvium. The soils in the north-west part of the site contain an abundance of pebbles. In the south-west part of the site, a colluvial deposit is present under the subsoil (Figure 5). In the south-east part of the site, the soils consisted of buried deposits and made ground (Figure 4).
- 4.1.3 Overall nine archaeological features were encountered during the archaeological monitoring. Aside from a modern field drain [019] (see 4.4.1) identified in the north-east part of the site, all of the features were encountered in the south-eastern part of the PDA, specifically the area planned for the access road.

4.2 The soil sequence across site

- 4.2.1 In the north-west part of the site around Units 1 and 3 two deposits were identified beneath the topsoil (001). The upper deposit, (026), is a subsoil comprising mid-greyish brown silty clay. The lower deposit (024) is directly overlying the natural geology (014), and has a similar soil matrix to deposit (026) but is paler in colour (Figure 4).
- 4.2.2 In the south-west part of the site around Unit 2 two deposits were identified beneath the topsoil (001). The upper deposit, (002), is a mid reddish brown silty clay. The lower deposit (031) is a colluvial deposit comprising light reddish brown clay silt. (031) is directly overlying the natural geology (014) (Section 7 / Figure 13).
- 4.2.2 In the south-east part of the site by the access road (Figures 3 and 5), three layers were identified beneath the topsoil (001). The deposit immediately below topsoil (001) was interpreted as made ground (015), and this was overlying a deposit of buried topsoil (003) and a deposit of buried subsoil (002), and finally the natural geology (014) (Section 1 / Figure 9).

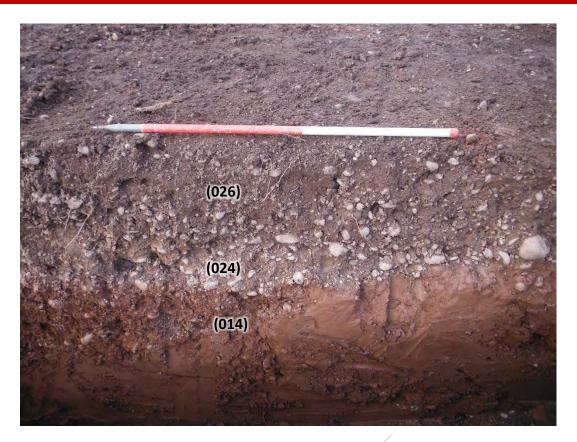


Figure 4. East facing section of foundation trench. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.50m gradations



Figure 5. North facing bulk section of access road

4.3 The Access Road area

4.3.1 Four features, [009], [010], [011], and [016], were found to cut through the natural geology (014), and two features [008] and [004] were found to cut through the buried subsoil (002) (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Features [008], [011, [009] and [010] in the Access Road area, looking south-east. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.50m gradations

4.3.2 Two gullies, [009] and [010] intersecting each other perpendicularly, were encountered at the eastern part of the access road (Figures 2 and 6). Gully [009] runs northwest to south-east. It can be tracked to a length of 9m within the DPA and it is cut by gully [010] which extends outside of the PDA. However, the fact that these two features are perpendicular to each other may suggest that they are part of a larger drainage system and hence could be broadly contemporary.

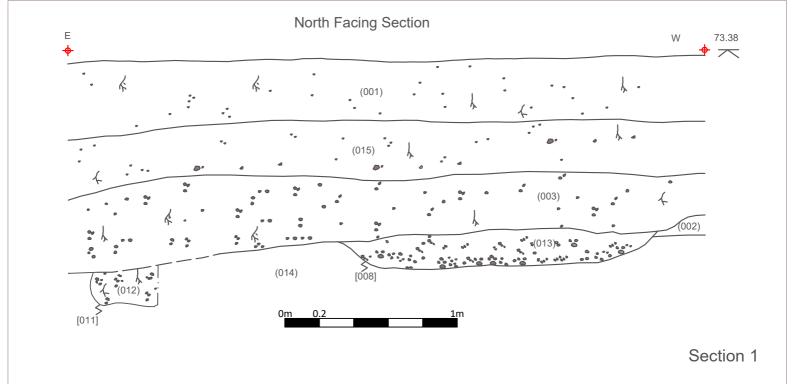
4.3.3 A linear feature [004] (Section 6 in Figure 13) was encountered cut through subsoil (002), and running across the width of the access road (Figure 7). It was aligned north-east to south-west, and runs parallel to the modern road (c.27m east of the edge of the PDA). The feature was extremely shallow and it is not clear how it should be interpreted. However, at the base of [004] two probable stake holes [006] and [032] were discovered (Figure 8). Hence, it is possible that the feature [004] represent a fence line.

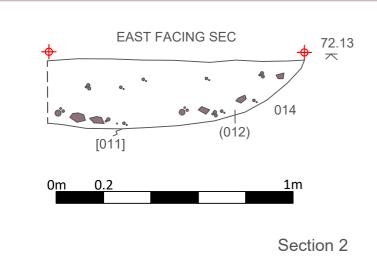


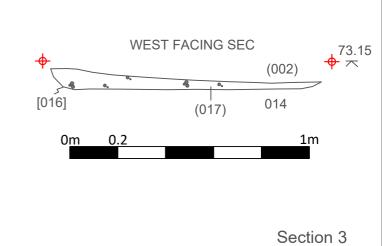
Figure 7. Field drain [004], looking north-east. Scale 1 x 2m in 0.50m gradations

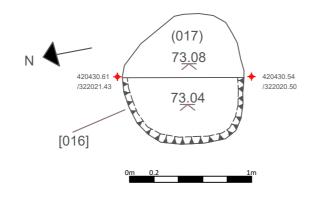


Figure 8 North-west view of linear [004] and stake holes [006] / [032]









Plan 1

Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB	Figure 9: Sections 1-3 and Plan 1	Key:	 Limit of excavation Truncation Break of slope Context line	Consideration in the second
Site Code: CHT18 Drawing Ref: Sections 1-3 Plan 1 Date: 27/02/2019 Drawn: Alexis Thouki Scale: Section 1:10 Plan 1:20	Notes: Please see Figure 2 for feature plans and locations		Stone Rooting	Copyright/Licencing: This drawing A.R.S. Ltd Ordnance Survey data if applicable Crown Copyright, all rights reserved reproduced with permission. Licence No. 100045420

4.3.4 A shallow curvilinear ditch [008] running south-west to north-east (Figure 10) was cut through subsoil (002) (Section 1 in Figure 13). The ditch appears to have been naturally silted up.



Figure 10. North-east facing baulk section of linear [008]. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.50m gradations

4.3.5 Two additional features, pit [011] (Figure 11) and pit [016] (Figure 12), were encountered in the area of the access road. The pits are similar in profile and depth. Pit [011] was backfilled in a single action. It was located in the south part of the access road, beneath the southernmost bulk of the access road and it extends beyond the PDA. It produced a relatively large amount of unsorted assemblage of glazed pottery sherds and fragments of tobacco pipes.

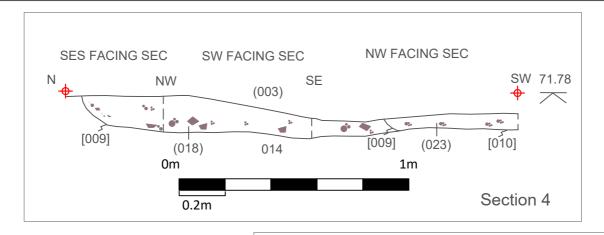
4.3.6 Pit [016] was located in the middle of the access road. No finds were retrieved from it.

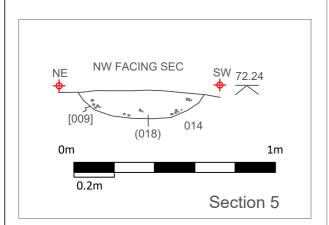


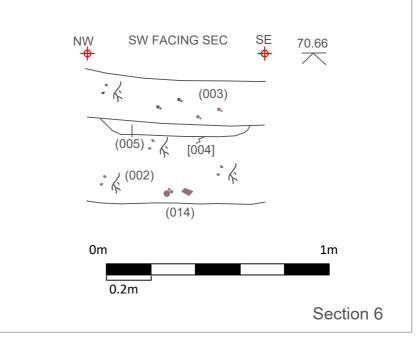
Figure 11. Pit [011], looking south-west. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.50m gradations

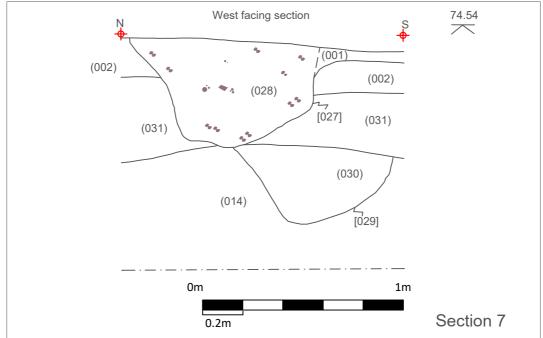


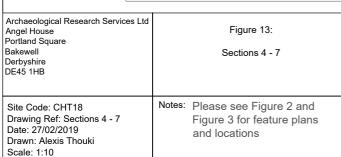
Figure 12. Pit [016], looking east. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.50m gradations

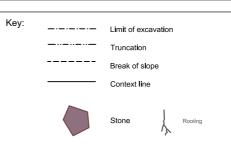












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4.4 The area of the new dwellings

4.4.1 In the north west corner of the PDA, approximately four meters east of the site boundary, an east to west aligned modern field drain [019] was identified (Figure 15).



Figure 14. Field drain [019]

4.4.2 Two more features were encountered in the footings of Unit 2 (Section 7 in Figure 15 and Figure 19). Linear feature [027] was cut through the topsoil and was backfilled with a single fill (028), while feature [029] was backfilled with a single deposit (030) and it lies beneath layer (031). The soil matrices of both fills were similar to the overlying layers ((topsoil 001) and colluvial deposit (031)).



Figure 16. Footings, dwelling (Unit) 1, looking west. Scale 1 x $\,$ 1m and 1 x $\,$ 2m in 0.50m gradations



Figure 15. Footings, dwelling (Unit) 3, looking south-west. Scale 1 x 2m in 0.50m gradations



Figure 17 West facing section of [027] and [029]. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.50m gradations

5 Finds

5.1 Pottery

Paul Blinkhorn

5.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 60 sherds with a total weight of 863g. It was all post-medieval or modern. The following fabric types were noted:

HORT:Horticultural Earthenwares, 19th – 20th century. 5 sherds, 71g.

IGW: Iron-glazed Buff Ware, 18th – 19th century. 19 sherds, 442g.

LES: Late English Stoneware, AD1750+. 2 sherds, 18g.

MP: Midland Purple Ware, late 14th – 17th century (Ford 1995. 36). 2 sherds, 46g.

NDG: North Devon Gravel-tempered Ware, AD1600-1800. 1 sherd, 42g.

SSL: Staffordshire Slipware, mid 17th – 18th century. 2 sherds, 18g.

TPW: Transfer-printed White Earthenware, AD1830-1900. 14 sherds, 121g.

YELL: Yellow Ware, AD1840-1900. 15 sherds, 105g.

- 5.1.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. It all occurred in modern contexts. Most of the wares are common finds in the region. The sherd of North Devon Gravel-tempered Ware is an unusual find in Staffordshire, but finds of this material are known from the north-west in Liverpool (Davey 1985), and it also occurs at sites in Worcester and Droitwich (eg. Davenport 2015). The fragment from here is a bodysherd from an internally-glazed bowl, a common product of the tradition. Devon sgraffito wares are also known from Cheshire and south Lancashire.
- 5.1.3 The rest of the assemblage mostly comprises modern pottery such as tablewares in TPW and YEL, flower-pots in HORT and large, internally-glazed bowls or pancheons in IGW. The sherds of SSL are both rather abraded and clearly residual. The sherds of MP are quite fresh, but such pottery is extremely hard and does not wear easily.

	MP		SSL		NDG	ì	HOR	RT	LES		IGW	'	TPW	/	YEL		
Cntxt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
1							4	63			1	3	3	72			MOD
2			2	18			1	8			2	26			1	14	MOD
3	1	42									2	170			3	31	MOD
5									1	7							M18thC
12					1	42			1	11	14	243	11	49	10	55	MOD
26	1	4													1	5	MOD
Total	2	46	2	18	1	42	5	71	2	18	19	442	14	121	15	105	

6 Discussion and conclusions

- 6.1 The archaeological evidence identified within the PDA, particularly close to the town's historical road, demonstrates evidence of likely domestic activity in the late post-medieval period.
- 6.2 Nine features were uncovered during the Watching Brief, seven of which are likely post-medieval and broadly contemporary, one of which is modern and recently backfilled, and one of which is likely a natural geological feature.
- 6.3 There appears to be some evidence of landscaping in the form of made ground in the south-east part of the site (in the Access Road area) but the purpose of this is not quite clear.
- 6.4 The shape and size of ditch [008] suggests that it could have been a field or property boundary.
- 6.5 Gullies [009] and [010], observed in the access road could have been part of a larger drainage system. Although gully [010] clearly post-dates gully [009], the fact that they meet perpendicularly may suggest that the two were near-contemporary parts of the same drainage system.
- 6.6 Ceramic drain [019] is characteristic of the 'Elkington' system, a common drainage system used extensively throughout the 19th century (Sarsen.org 2019).
- 6.7 The shallow ditch feature [004], like [008], runs parallel to the main road. It may represent a field- or property boundary, possibly in the form of a fence line.
- 6.8 Pit [011] appears to represent a late post-medieval waste pit, indicating nearby activity or habitation. There were no dateable artefacts from pit [016], and the precise interpretation of this feature remains unclear. However, as with pit [011], this feature is a likely indication of nearby activity or habitation.
- 6.9 Linear feature [027] is a modern feature cut through the topsoil, which probably was backfilled in a single event.
- 6.10 Feature [029] is visible only in section. It is likely a natural geological feature.

6 Archive Statement

- 6.1 A project archive will be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. The archive will comprise of the primary record and synthetic works arising from the project, including documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice outlined in Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011).
- 6.2 The archive will be deposited in line with Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2007), CIfA's (2014e) Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, and Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery Guidelines for the Preparation and Preservation of Archaeological Archives (2015) will be adhered to. The archive will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report.

Confidentiality, and Copyright

7.1 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).

8 Statement of Indemnity

8.1 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.

9 Acknowledgements

9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank everyone who contributed to the outcome of this project. In particular we would like to thank *Mr Jack Loggin* for commissioning the work and Urban Designers UK Ltd facilitating site access.

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Appendix I: Context Register

Context No.	Type/interpretation	Description/ Processual Interpretation	Height aOD (to top of context) (m)
001	Layer/Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clay silt, varying in depth between c.0.20m – 0.40m / Topsoil	73.07
002	Layer/Buried Subsoil	Reddish-brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of course pebbles, flakes of charcoal and chalk fragments. / Buried subsoil	72.46
003	Layer/Buried Topsoil	Dark greyish brown clay silt with moderate inclusions of course pebbles, flakes of charcoal, frequent fragments of chalk and rooting. / Buried topsoil	72.70
004	Cut / gully	Linear feature with a flattish base cut through the layer 002. The feature is orientated SW/NE and measuring 5.6m length, 320mm wide and 0.05m depth. / Gully, possibly part of fence line	72.75
005	Deposit/Fill	Coarse black charcoal, measuring 5.6m length, 320mm wide and 0.05m depth. / Deliberate backfill	72.75
006	Cut/Stake hole	Cut measuring 10mm in diameter and 8mm in depth / Stake hole	72.75
007	Deposit/Fill	Fine in texture, silty clay dark brown to black with large quantity of charcoal flakes in the fill. Three small corroded iron fragments. / Fill of stake holes (006) / Result of leaching	72.75
008	Cut/Ditch	Linear ditch running SW-NE with flattish base and moderate break of slopes. The feature measures 19mm depth, >5m length and gradually reduces its width from 1.8m (south-west side) to 930mm (north-east side). The feature is cut through the layer 002. Ditch cut/Field System/Boundary ditch	72.38

009	Cut/Gully	Linear feature with moderate slopes and gradual break of slope. The feature presents a flattish base and it measures 640mm wide, 140mm depth and >9m length. The feature is orientated NWN-SES and it runs downhill following the natural slope of the landscape. Drain cut	72.23
010	Cut/Gully	Linear feature perpendicular to the cut 009. It presents gradual break of slope and gentle sides. It measures 600mm wide, 60mm depth and >1.2m length. The feature is orientated NEN-SWS and it terminates inside the cut 009. Drain cut/Irrigation system	71.76
011	Cut/Pit	Oval in shape feature cut through the natural geology 014. It presents sharp top edges, gradual break of base slope and it is steep sided. The feature measures 700mm wide, 230mm depth and >1m length. Pit/Refuse pit	72.11
012	Deposit/Fill	Firm, mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of medium pebbles. A relatively large amount of glazed sherds and fragments of tobacco pipe have been retrieved from this deposit. Fill/Dumped Deposit	72.11
013	Deposit/Fill	Firm mid reddish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of course and medium pebbles. Fill/Natural silting/Abandonment	72.38
014	Natural Geology	Mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Natural	Varies
015	Layer/Redeposited natural clay	Firm light reddish brown sandy clay, with occasional inclusions of pebbles, rooting and elements of limestone with an average depth of 400mm Made ground	73.02
016	Cut/Pit	Circular feature cut through the natural geology. It presents sharp top edge, gradual base slop and flattish bottom. The feature measures 1.14m diameter and 80mm depth. Pit	73.13
017	Deposit/Fill	Dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional inclusions of pebbles and small fragments of limestone including charcoal and sherds of pottery. The deposit measures 1.14m diameter and 80mm depth. Fill/Backfill	73.13

018	Deposit/Fill	Friable in texture, mid orangish brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of pebbles, degraded limestone and charcoal. The deposit measures 140mm depth, 640mm width and +9m length. Fill/Natural siltation	72.23
019	Cut/Land drain	Modern cut of land drain with straight sites and flattish bottom. The drain presents a linear shape and is W-E orientated following the natural inclination of the landscape. The drain terminates approximately 4 meters east of the existing boundary of the PDA. It measures 17mm depth, 16mm wide and +1.40m length. Cut of land drain	77.77
020	Deposit/Fill	Dark brownish grey sandy clay with occasional inclusions of pebbles and charcoal. It measures 17mm depth, 16mm wide and +1.40m length. Deliberate backfill of land drain.	77.77
021	Drain pipe	Ceramic drain pipe	77.73
022	Deposit	Mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with frequent poorly sorted inclusions of pebbles and cobbles. The fill covers the north side of the PDA and it superimposes the subsoil 024. This layer has an average depth of 150mm. Layer/Alluvium (Same as (026))	
023	Deposit/Fill	Firm in texture, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional inclusions of small rounded pebbles and flakes of charcoal. It measures 580mm wide, 60mm depth and >1.59m length. Fill/Natural siltation	71.76
024	Layer/Buried soil	Soft in texture, mid whitish grey sandy clay with frequent, moderately sorted inclusions of pebbles. The fill covers the north side of the PDA and it presents an average depth of 320mm depth. Subsoil/Alluvium	76.86
025		VOID	
026	Layer/Subsoil	Soft in texture, mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with frequent poorly sorted inclusions of pebbles and cobbles. The fill covers the north side of the PDA and it superimposes the subsoil 024. This layer presents an average depth of 150mm. Layer/Alluvium (Same as (022))	77.26

027	Cut/Ditch	Linear steep sited feature with moderate sides and undulating base. It is West-East aligned. It edge between the feature and the top soil (001) are indistinct suggesting contemporaneity. The features measures 520mm depth, 960mm width and +4m length. Modern ditch	74.53	530mm
028	Deposit/Fill	Medium in texture dark grey silty clay with rounded gravels, charcoal and routings. Few fragments of modern bricks have been retrieved. It measures 520mm depth, 960mm width and +4m length. Single deliberate backfill/Redeposited topsoil	74.53	530mm
029	Cut/Gully	Steeped sited feature with concave base visible on section. It runs beneath the lower subsoil (031). It measures 390mm depth, 790mm width and +600m length / Probably natural geological feature	73.98	390mm
030	Deposit/Fill	Firm in texture mid reddish brown clay silt without inclusions. It measures 390mm depth, 790mm width and +600m length and it represent a single low energy deposit. / Natural silting	73.98	390mm
031	Deposit/ Lower subsoil	Medium to coarse in texture, light reddish brown clay silt. It measures average 300mm depth and is visible on the South-West side of the PDA / Colluvium	74.04	300mm
032	Cut/Stake hole	Depression measuring 10mm in diameter and 8mm in depth, presenting a conical profile. / Stake holes.	72.75	8mm

Archaeological Works at Hey Farm, Wardlow, Derbyshire

Appendix II: Written Scheme of Investigation

Croft House, Tatenhill, Staffordshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

May 2018



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Angel House, Portland Square, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1HB

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: Jack Loggin Ltd

Date of compilation: April 2018

Compiled by: Antony Brown MCIfA

Planning Reference: P/2018/00133

Local Authority: East Staffordshire District Council

Site central NGR: SK 20424 22041

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief at Croft House, Tatenhill, Staffordshire



1 Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Urban Designs for Jack Loggin UK Ltd. It details a scheme of works for an archaeological watching brief at Croft House, Main Street, Tatenhill, Staffordshire. The proposed development comprises the construction of three dwellings, the widening of an access drive, and associated ancillary works.
- 1.2 A planning application has submitted to East Staffordshire Borough Council for the proposed development (Ref. P/2018/00133) and has been granted planning permission with the following archaeological condition:

'No development shall take place until a written scheme of investigation securing the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation work and subsequent suitable reporting and publication has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of work, reporting and publication shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.'

- 1.3 This WSI confirms the nature of the archaeological works to be undertaken by ARS Ltd at Croft House, Tatenhill, comprising a watching brief during ground works for the site development in accordance with guidance from Debbie Taylor, Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor.
- 1.4 The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 141 (DCLG 2012), to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archived generated) publically accessible.

Site Description and Location

1.5 The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter PDA) is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1 and covers an area of 4110m². It is located to the rear of Croft House, Main Street Tatenhill, and is wholly within its curtilage, and is currently largely occupied by lawns, along with a few trees and outbuildings. The site is centred at NGR SK 20424 22041.

Landform and Geology

- 1.6 The underlying solid geology of the PDA is comprised of mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by hot deserts. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2018).
- 1.7 The soils of the PDA are classified as belonging to the WORCESTER Soil Association (431), which are typical argillic pelosols soils, which have a clay-enriched subsoil (SSEW 1983b, 4). These soils form over Permo-Triassic reddish mudstone, and are characterised as 'Slowly permeable non-calcareous and calcareous reddish



clayey soils over mudstone, shallow on steeper slopes. Associated with similar non-calcareous fine loamy over clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion.' (SSEW 1983b, 17).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Tatenhill is not included in Domesday, but is mentioned in a charter of 942, which grants it as one of a number of estates to a thegn named Wulfsige Maur. The proposed development site is located close to the presumed medieval core of the settlement within 100m of the 13th century church (HER 08611) and *c*.55m from the village cemetery. The Staffordshire HER records ridge and furrow within the field *c*.20m the north-east of the PDA, which is bisected by a hollow way (HER 53952). In the field immediately to the south-west of the PDA (HER 56857), the HER records another hollow way (HER 53953), and another area of ridge and furrow (HER 56899).
- 2.2 The Staffordshire Historic Landscape Characterization records the PDA as being located within the *Settlement* broad type, and *Pre-1880s Settlement* sub-type, which confirms that it is within the historic core of the village. This location close to the core of the medieval settlement suggests that there is a high potential for medieval or later settlement remains to survive as buried feature or deposits within the PDA.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Regional Research Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 Research topics identified in *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011) considered to be the most relevant to the project include 6.2.1 Rural Settlement (Hunt 2011, 174-179); 6.4.1 Life in town and countryside (Hunt 2011, 186-187); 6.4.3 Material culture (Hunt 2011, 188-189); 6.5.1 The agricultural resource (Hunt 2011, 189-190); and 6.5.2 Industry in town and country (Hunt 2011, 190-192).
- 3.2 These research topics have assisted in informing the aims and objectives for the watching brief outlined in section 3.3 and 3.4 below. It should be noted that other research objectives may come to the fore should any archaeological features from other periods be identified as a result of the mitigation works outlined below.

Principal Aims and Objectives

- 3.3 The aims of the programme of work are to gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about any archaeological remains existing within the area of investigation, and to provide an appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.
- 3.4 The objectives are as follows.



- To produce a photographic, drawn and descriptive record of any surviving below-ground archaeological remains.
- To produce dating and phasing for archaeological deposits recorded on the site
- To establish the character and delimit the extent of archaeological deposits in order to define functional areas on the site, e.g. industrial and domestic.
- To produce information on the economy and local environment.

4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

General Statement of Practice

- 4.1 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording.
- 4.2 All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification.
- 4.3 All ground works covered under this specification will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket working in plan.
- 4.4 ARS Ltd will ensure that plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until they have been recorded.
- 4.5 Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site.
- 4.6 Regular contact will be ensured between ARS Ltd and the site project manager to ensure that ARS Ltd is kept up to date with site works and given the change to respond appropriately and in line with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor's requirements.
- 4.7 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

Watching Brief

4.8 All elements of the archaeological watching brief will be carried out in accordance with ClfA's *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014c).



- 4.9 The watching brief will be undertaken in those areas where groundworks has the potential to disturb buried archaeological remains, i.e. within the house footprints, access road and courtyard, as illustrated on Figure 2.
- 4.10 The watching brief will be carried out during all other associated groundworks, such as service runs, and will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.11 All excavated spoil will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Finds so recovered will be recorded with their location of origin ascribed. Finds will be retained and recorded.
- 4.12 Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features will be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed.
- 4.13 If significant archaeological features are identified during these works, the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor will be notified and a decision made as how to proceed.

Sampling, Faunal Remains and Treasure

- 4.14 This section outlines sampling methodologies to be utilised in all excavation types.
- 4.15 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or land use regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller. This material will be floated and passed through graduated sieves, the smallest being a 500μ mesh.
- 4.16 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits, a minimum sample size of 20 litres will be taken,
- 4.17 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present column sampling may be considered.
- 4.18 In all instances, sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods*, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (Campbell et al. 2011) and will be targeted in order to explore the levels and types of preservation present.
- 4.19 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.



- 4.20 Any human remains will initially be left *in-situ* and, if deemed necessary, removal will be undertaken following once a Coroners licence has been obtained in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor.
- 4.21 Finds of 'treasure' will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison officer will also be notified.

HM Coroner Finds Liaison Officer
Ian Stewart Smith Teresa Gilmore

Coroners Chambers Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

547 Hartshill Road Chamberlain Square

Stoke-on-Trent Birmingham
Staffordshire West Midlands

ST4 6HF B3 3DH

Tel: 01782 234783 Tel: 01213 488225

4.22 The Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor will also be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required.

Recording

- 4.23 The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd's field recording manual and single context recording system, and will include as a minimum context record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present.
- 4.24 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded using a single context planning system in accordance with the ARS Ltd field recording manual.
- 4.25 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate measured scale plans and section/elevations will be drawn where required at the appropriate scale and in accordance with best practice. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.
- 4.26 A plan of the excavated areas will be maintained, features notes 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.
- 4.27 Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and/or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered.



- 4.28 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 4.29 All heights above sea level will be recorded for all deposits and features in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 4.30 A full photographic record will be compiled using a digital camera, a Fuji XP90 with a 16.4 MP resolution, and a register of all photographs will be kept. The photographic record will encompass all encountered archaeological entities. In addition, key relationships between entities, where these help demonstrate sequence or form, will also be photographed. A clearly visible, graduated metric scale will be included in all record shots. A supplementary record of working images will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.
- 4.31 A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled for all trenches where superimposed archaeological deposits, features or structures are encountered.

5 FINDS PROCESSING AND STORAGE

- All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.
- 5.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 5.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.
- 5.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper).
- 5.5 Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.
- 5.6 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.



- 5.7 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 5.8 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

6 TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

6.1 The outline timetable for the works is as follows. This will be updated by email as the project progresses.

Proposed Commencement Date	Task
June 2018	Archaeological watching brief
July 2018	Archaeological watching brief report and archive

- 6.2 The Project Manager for the archaeological works will be Reuben Thorpe MCIfA, Senior Projects Manager at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Tom Parker PCIfA or Caitlin Halton, Assistant Projects Officer at ARS Ltd.
- 6.3 Specialist analyses will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

Flint and prehistoric pottery: Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA

Romano-British pottery: Dr Phil Mills MCIfA

Romano-British small finds: Alex Croom

Samian Ware: Dr Gwladys Monteil

Medieval and post-medieval Dr Chris Cumberpatch or pottery: Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA

Medieval and post-medieval Mike Wood MCIfA metalwork and clay glass, pipes:

Plant macrofossils, charcoals and pollen:

Luke Parker

Human and animal bone:

Milena Grzybowska

Radiocarbon dating:

Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)

Finds conservation:

Vicky Garlick (Durham University)



7 REPORT

- 7.1 A report on the results obtained will be produced by ARS Ltd and submitted to the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor or personnel nominated by her within 8 weeks of the completion of the watching brief. The report will follow the guidance laid out in the relevant CIfA standards and will include the following as a minimum.
 - Non-technical executive summary
 - Introductory statement
 - Aims and purpose of the project
 - Methodology
 - A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
 - Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections
 - 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 WSI and OASIS form.
- 7.2 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disc will be deposited with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.
- 7.3 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).

8 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

8.1 Should the project produce archaeologically significant finds, then the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor and The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery



Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity, and an accession number will be produced for the site.

- 8.2 A project archive will be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. The archive will comprise of the primary record and synthetic works arising from the project, including documents, plans, sections, photographs, and electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice outlined in *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice* (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011).
- 8.3 The archive will be deposited in line with Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2007), CIfA's (2014e) Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, and Society of Museum Archaeologists (1993) Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery Guidelines for the Preparation and Preservation of Archaeological Archives (2015) will be adhered to. The archive will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report.
- 8.4 The Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity should the site produce archaeologically significant, unusual, or unexpected finds.
- 8.5 The Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.
- 8.6 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.
- 8.7 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM.

9 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

9.1 At least one week prior notice of the commencement of each phase of ground works to be given to the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor:

Debbie Taylor Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor Design Hub No.1 Staffordshire Place



Stafford ST16 2DH

Tel: 01785 277285

- 9.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.
- 9.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor, or her representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation.

10 GENERAL ITEMS

Health and Safety

10.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork and will be read and signed by all on-site operatives. ARS Ltd retains Peninsula as its expert health and safety consultants.

Insurance Cover

10.2 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.

Community Engagement and Outreach

10.3 Any opportunities for engaging the local community in any archaeological findings should be sought, for example a guided site tour and/or dissemination of information via ARS Ltd's website and local media.

Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

10.4 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor.

Publication

10.5 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, ARS Ltd will submit a short summary report for inclusion in the next edition of the Journal of West Midlands Archaeology within 6 months of the completion of the fieldwork. Additional popular articles will also be produced for local and/or national magazines as appropriate. The final form of the publication is to be agreed with the planning archaeologist and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork.



Publicity and Copyright

10.6 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

11 REFERENCES

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Written Scheme of Investigation for a Watching Brief at Croft House, Tatenhill, Staffordshire

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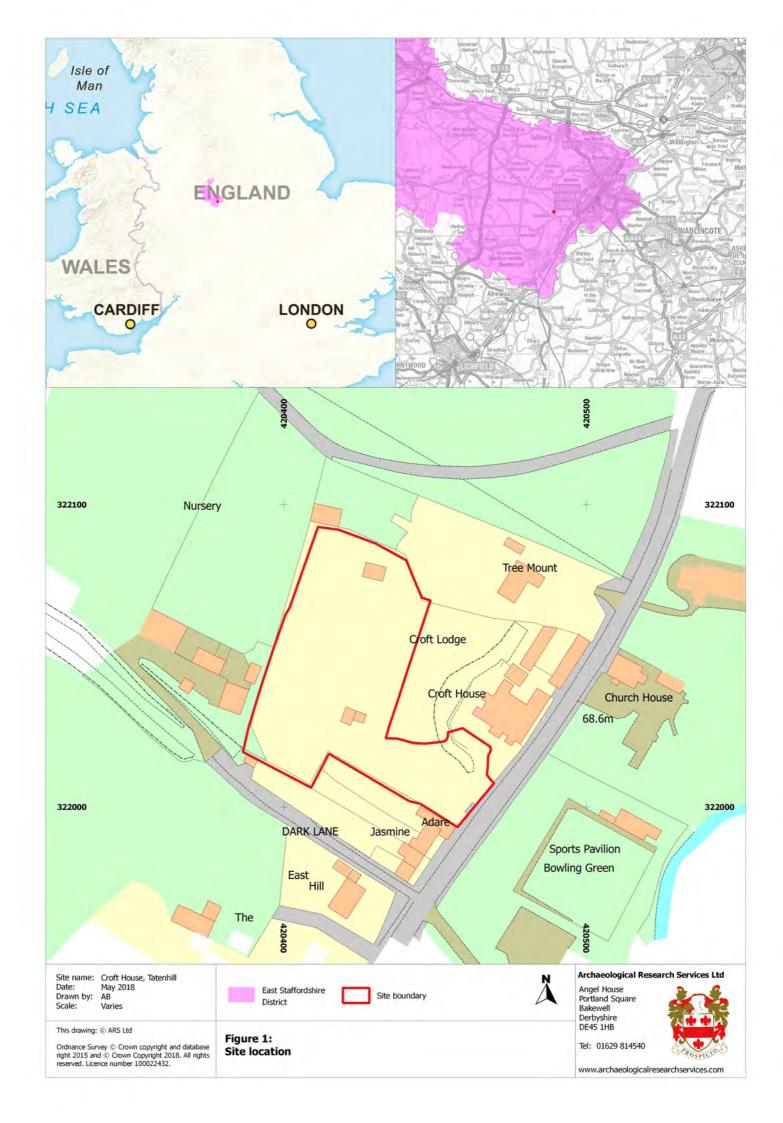
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FIGURES







Appendix III: 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: archaeol5-344020

Project details

Proiect name Archaeological Works at Croft House, Tatenhill, Staffordshire

of the project

Short description Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr Jack Loggin (the client) on behalf of Urban Designers UK Ltd, to undertake a scheme for an archaeological watching brief at Croft House, Main Street, Tatenhill, Staffordshire.. Archaeological monitoring comprised a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried for the site development. The proposed development area encompasses some 0.41ha and it is located to the rear of Croft House, Main Street Tatenhill. A total of nine post-medieval features including gullies, field boundaries and refuse pits as well as a number of buried soils and landscaping layers were encountered within the site. This report presents the results of the archaeological work which took place between 3rd of December and 26th February 2019. The work was undertaken by Alexis Thouki Assistant Projects Officer at Archaeological Research Services Ltd and the project was managed by Adam Lodoen, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

Project dates Start: 03-12-2018 End: 26-02-2019

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated

project reference

codes

P/2018/00133 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Site status

(other)

Watching Brief

Current Land

use

Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed

NONE None Monument type **NONE None** Monument type

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Significant Finds TOBACCO CLAY PIPE Post Medieval

Investigation

type

"Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location STAFFORDSHIRE EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BURTON UPON TRENT Croft House Main

Street Tatenhill

Postcode DE139SD

1/2 oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm

Study area 4110 Square metres

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Project brief originator

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Project design

originator Project

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

director/manager

Adam Lodoen

Project supervisor Alexis Thoukis

Type of sponsor/funding

body

Client

Name of

Urban Designs for Jack Loggin UK Ltd.

sponsor/funding

body

Entered by alexis thouki (alexis@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)

Entered on 28 February 2019

OASIS:

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