

An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land off Stockwell Mews, Leek, Staffordshire



ARS Ltd Report 2019/40
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March 2019

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An Archaeological Watching Brief on land off Stockwell Mews, Leek, Staffordshire

ARS Ltd Report 2019/40



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Project Name: An Archaeological Watching Brief on land off Stockwell Mews, Leek, Staffordshire

Site Code: STLK'19

Planning Authority: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC).

Planning Ref: SMD/2018/0220

Superficial Geology: Sandstone, Pebbly (gravelly), compacted fine sand.

NGR: SJ 98400 56700

Date of Fieldwork: 21/01/19 - 28/01/19

Date of Report: March 2019

In January 2019 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by LAC Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land off Stockwell Mews, Leek,

The archaeological works monitored the excavation of 15 foundation trenches. The monitoring was undertaken by Assistant Projects Officers Dimitrios Katsifas and Stephanie Blues under the management of Project Manager Adam Lodoen.

A large probable quarry pit was identified on site which could potentially date from the 17th or 18th century. A modern intrusion of uncertain nature, made ground relating to the modern car park, and modern tree throws were also observed on site.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC) for the proposed development (planning ref: SMD/2018/0220) for the construction of three new dwellings. Condition 26 of the planning permission requires the following.

“Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, a written scheme of archaeological investigation (‘the Scheme’) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall provide details of the programme of archaeological works to be carried out within the site, including post-excavation reporting and appropriate publication and interpretation. The development shall thereafter be implemented in full in accordance with the approved Scheme”.

1.1.2 In accordance with the requirements of Condition 26, an Archaeological Evaluation Trench was monitored on the 11th of January 2019.

1.1.3 Following on from the evaluation, an Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out during the excavations for the foundations for the three new dwellings.

1.1.4 The works were undertaken in fulfilment of an archaeological condition attached to planning consent (SMD/2018/0220) for the proposed new development of the site as a complex of three dwellings.

1.1.5 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (2014a) and Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014b), and with

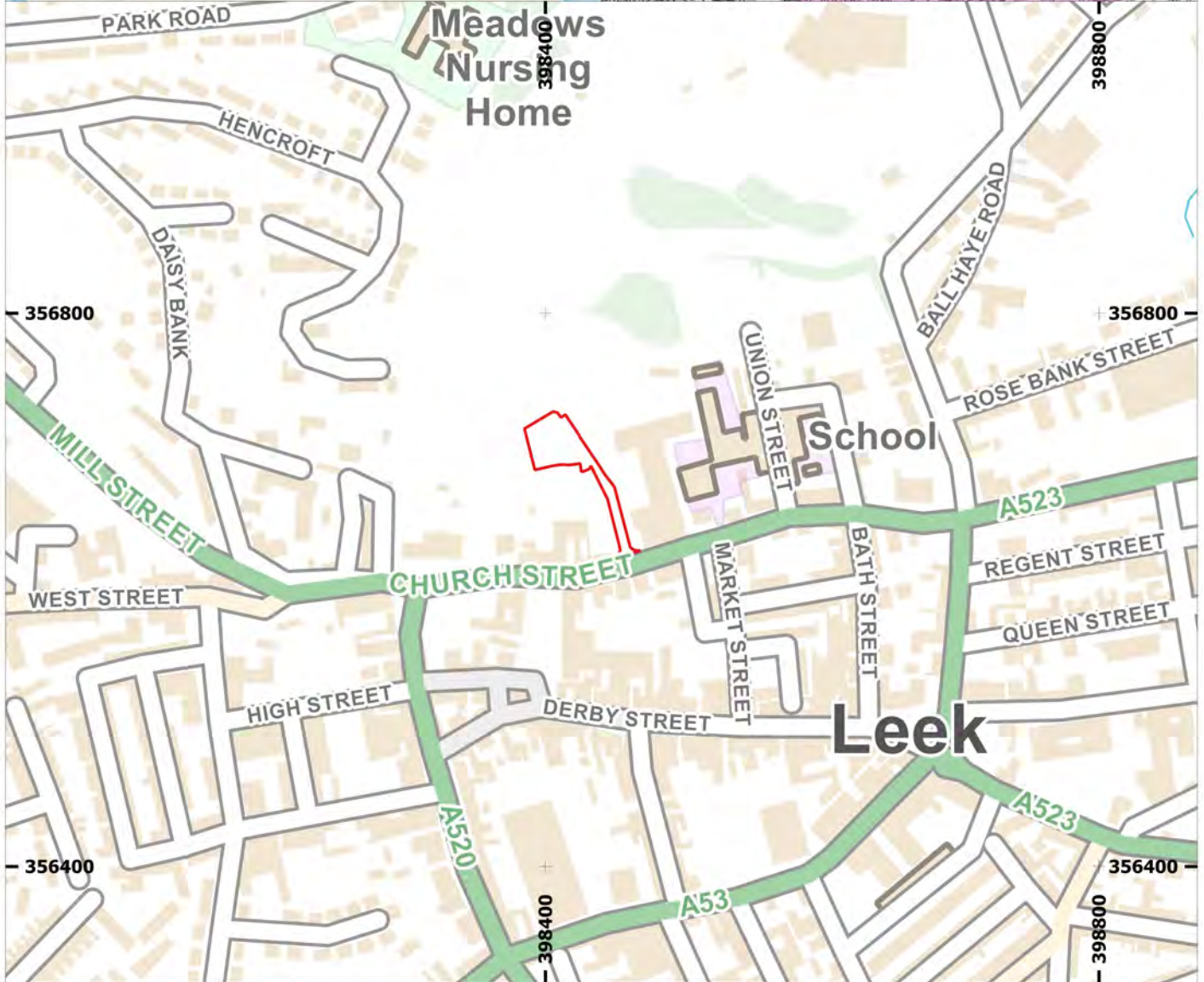
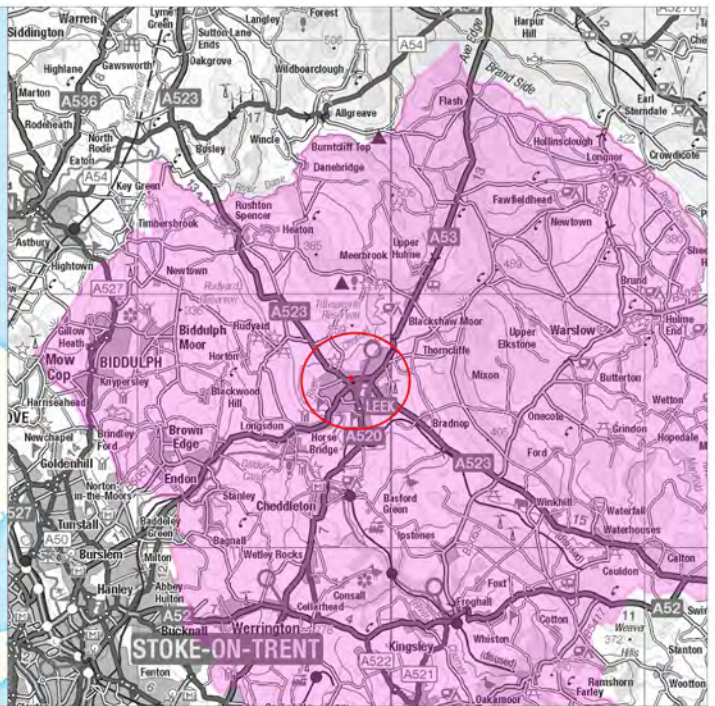
1.1.6 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared following consultation with and under the guidance of Shane Kelleher, the Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) occupies an irregular shaped area of land which extends to approximately 0.19 hectares which lies to the rear (north) of The Foxlowe Art Centre, Leek. The site is centred at NGR SJ 98400 56700 (Figure 1).

1.2.2 There were numerous trees within the site, some of which were covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Public Footpaths 13 and 14, which provide a link between the Town and Brough Park, run contiguous with the eastern boundary of the site.

1.2.3 For the purposes of the Development Plan the application site lies within the Leek Town settlement boundary. It also lies within the Leek Conservation Area (Sammons Architectural 2018).



Site name: Stockwell Mews
 Date: October 2018
 Drawn by: BD
 Scale: Varies

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- Site boundary
- Staffordshire Moorlands District



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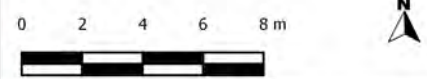
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Figure 2: Location of Foundation Trenches

-  Site boundary
-  Trench_layout



Site name: Stockwell Mews Watching Brief
 Date: February 2019
 Drawn by: AL
 Scale: 1:250 @ A4

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1.3 Landform, Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology comprises the Chester Formation – Sandstone, Pebbly (gravelly) or very well compacted fine sand in places above the bedrock. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded for the area (BGS 2018).

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1 The PDA lies within the Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA) 1: Historic Core. This area is considered in the Extensive Urban Surveys (EUS) to have high evidential (archaeological), historical, aesthetic and communal value. It lies within the core of the medieval planned town which was laid out by the Earl of Chester in the 13th century and close to the Grade I listed Church of St. Edwards. Two scheduled early medieval crosses sit within the churchyard of St. Edwards and while it is difficult to say whether they originated at Leek or were moved here from elsewhere, the EUS does raise the potential for early medieval activity within the northern portion of the town. As such there is considerable potential for medieval, post-medieval and possibly even early medieval archaeological remains to survive within the area of proposed development.

2.2.2 An evaluation trench was monitored on the 11th of January 2019 (Jacklin 2019). No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. However, the trench contained a modern waste dump which consisted of a mix of brick, slate, glass, plastic and paper. Made ground consisting of brick rubble was also present in the trench.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological works were to ensure that any potential archaeological remains associated with medieval and post medieval Leek, as well as any earlier or later activity, would not be destroyed during ground works without first being recorded and interpreted.

3.1.2 The objectives of the archaeological works was to gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the PDA and to provide an appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

3.1.3 This research priority assisted in informing the aims and objectives for the watching brief outlined in section 3.2 below.

3.2 Principal Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aims of the programme of work were to gather sufficient evidence as have been described in section 3.1.2.

The objectives were:

- To produce a photographic, drawn, and descriptive record of any surviving below-ground archaeological remains related to the medieval periods.
- 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. Method Statement

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The methodology for the monitoring of works is outlined in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix II) but has been summarised here.

4.2 Coverage

4.2.1 The watching brief involved the continuous monitoring during ground works on top of the central hill within the site.

4.3 General Statement of Practice

4.2.1 All elements of the archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and followed the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014b).

4.2.2 All staff employed on the project were suitably qualified for their respective project roles and had substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff was made aware of the circumstances and potential archaeological importance of the work and was fully briefed on the requirements of this specification.

4.2.3 All ground works covered under this specification were undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.2.4 ARS Ltd ensured that neither plant nor machinery was operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until they had been dug by hand (if needed), cleaned, and gets recorded.

4.2.5 All site operations were carried out in a safe manner and in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy.

4.4 Methodology

4.4.1 The site was recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd's field recording manual and single context recording system, and included context record sheets, accurate site plans, drawings and record photography.

4.4.2 Where archaeological features were identified during the evaluation, then a sufficient quantity of the said features were investigated by hand to allow their date, nature, and degree of survival to be ascribed.

4.4.3 A site plan was tied in to Ordnance Survey using a Leica GPS 1200+ global navigation satellite system (GNSS) and a manually laid out grid system.

4.4.4 Site photography was undertaken using a Nikon D3100 camera (14.2 megapixel resolution) digital camera. Photographic images comprised general site working shots and images of the excavation area and excavated features.

4.4.5 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) was made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings were drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate.

5. Results

5.1 The archaeological monitoring was carried out between the 21th and the 28th of January 2019. The foundations of the dwellings were excavated mechanically using a toothless bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision.

5.2 The general stratigraphic sequence of the PDA comprises 600mm thick hardstanding, overlying a layer of modern rubble overlying buried topsoil, overlying natural geological layers of pink gravel / pebbles or sandstone, identified at a depth of 0.60m below ground level (*188.40m aOD*).

5.3 During the course of archaeological monitoring made ground, a modern intrusion of uncertain nature, a large probable quarry feature, and modern tree throws and rooting disturbance (Figure 3) were uncovered.



Figure 3: Root penetration in the north-east part of the site, looking south-west (scale 2m in 0.5m graduations).

- 5.4 The area of the three dwellings forms a rectangular shape and is bounded by four foundation trenches (Figure 2).
- 5.5 A large irregular feature ([106] / [122] / [108]), was discovered in the south-part of the site (Figure 7 and Figure 8). The cut of the feature in the south-west part of the site appears unnatural, and it is possible that it consists of several different cut features. However, the feature appears to have been backfilled with the same materials throughout. The full width of the feature was 7.0m x more than 4.5m wide, and it was more than 1m deep. The feature appears to have been backfilled in a single event with layers of gravel, pebbles, and sand ((107), (123), and (109)). It was excavated through layers of compacted sand (110) layer and solid sandstone bedrock (115), both identified as natural geological layers. The feature was not excavated to its full depth as it exceeded the depth of the foundations as well as going beyond a safe working depth.



Figure 4: North-west section of feature [106] in the south-east edge of the site (scale 2m in 0.5m graduations).

5.6 On the north east side of the site a steep sided modern disturbance of unknown nature was identified [118] (Figure 5). The fills of the feature, (112), (113) and (114), consisted of sand, modern rubble, and machine made bricks.



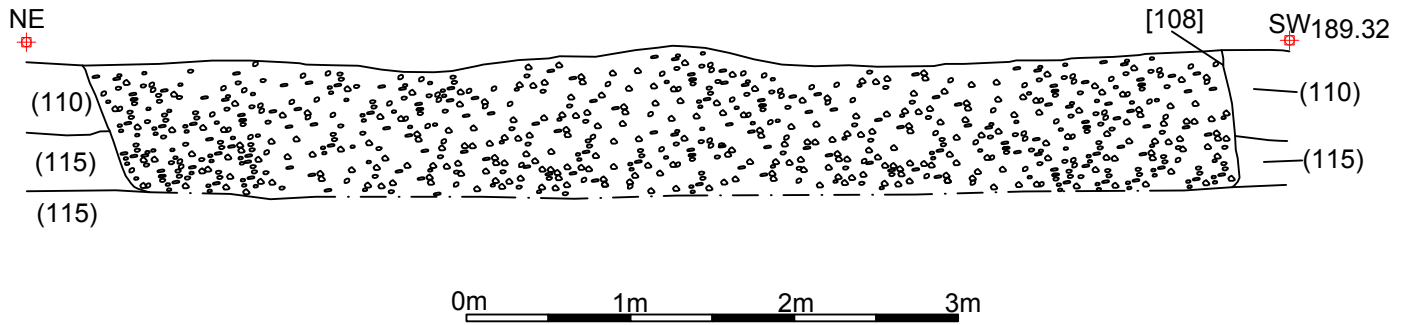
Figure 5: North-west facing section of modern disturbance [118] (scale 2m in 0.5m graduations).

- 5.7 A number of tree-throws were discovered during the watching brief. As described above (section 5.3) several trees on site were removed by the developer during the excavations for the foundations. The area was previously used for garages and as a car park. Other trees may have been present in the area before the construction of the garages and the car park.
- 5.8 Made ground, most likely related to the modern use of the site as a car park, was discovered in the north-west part of the site (Figure 6).

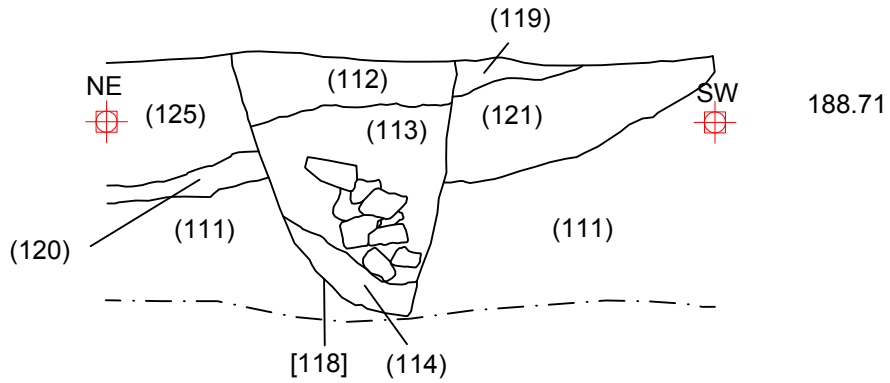


Figure 6: South-east facing baulk section of the north-west part of the site, showing the made ground in this area (scale 1m in 0.5m graduations).

Section 1. North-west facing section through probable quarry pit [108]



Section 2. North-west facing section through modern disturbance [118]



Section 3. North-east facing section through tree throw [116]

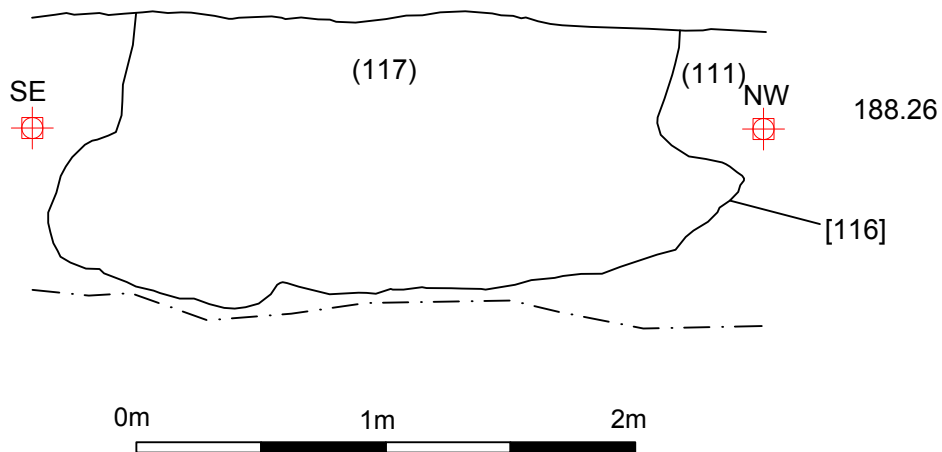


Figure 8. Sections
Scale: Varies

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6. Finds Assessment

Dr Rebecca L. Trow ACIfA

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 A small quantity of unstratified pottery and clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the site. The material was cleaned, counted, and individually examined to identify diagnostic pieces.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Two sherds weighing a total of 16 grams were recovered as summarised in Table 1 below. The material is likely of 19th century date although the slip coated ware has the potential to date to the late 18th century. The pottery is typical of material recovered from unstratified deposits across the United Kingdom.

Table 1. Unstratified Pottery

Type	N	W	EN	Part	Form	Decoratio n	Date
Slip coated ware	1	1	1	Rim	Hollow ware	Black slip	LC18th-LC19th
Whiteware	2	4	2	Base, Body	Flatware	-	EC19th-EC20th

6.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

6.3.1 Three pieces of clay tobacco pipe were recovered as summarised in Table 2. A single abraded bowl fragment was recovered, likely dating to the mid to late 17th century. The remainder of the pieces were stem fragments. Based on the stem bore sizes, these likely date to the 17th or early 18th century. Dates derived from stem bore sizes have a considerable margin for error and should therefore be used as a guideline only (Higgins 2017; Oswald 1975).

Table 2. Unstratified Clay Tobacco Pipe

No. stem	No. Bowl	Bore size	Date range	Notes
2	0	6/64"	C17th- EC18th	-
1	0	7/64"	C17th- EC18th	-
0	1	6/64"	M-LC17th	Spur heel, milled rim , bulbous

6.4 The post-medieval finds recovered from the site are by no means unusual for a site of this nature and were all unstratified. Parallels can be found at numerous other sites across the United Kingdom. The finds have no potential for further research and could thus be returned to the landowner retained in a teaching collection, archived, or discarded.

7. Discussion

7.1 The interpretation of the large irregular feature [106]/[122]/[108] is uncertain, but it may originally have been a quarry pit, likely for the extraction of fine sand and sandstone. The feature has an irregular shape and is not likely to have been created in a single action, but has probably been extended incrementally. This may indicate that this is quarrying on a small scale, not associated with any large-scale industrial or commercial operations

7.2 No finds were retrieved from the likely quarry [106]/[122]/[108]. However, the unstratified finds from the site date from the late of 17th to the early of 18th century, which is consistent with a late post-medieval or modern date for the archaeological features on site.

7.3 All other observed disturbances were of modern origin as evidenced by the presence of modern materials, for example machine-made bricks. The fact that the site was formerly a car park, explains the make-up layers discovered at the north-west end of the site.

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

8.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

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

9. Archive

- 9.1 As no significant archaeological finds or features were identified, a project archive will not need to be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.
- 9.2 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> has been initiated and completed for this work and all parts of the OASIS online form completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded pdf version of the entire report.

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 involved with this work, including LAC Homes for commissioning the work.

12. References

- British Geological Survey. 2018. Geology of Britain viewer. Available online at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> [Accessed 23rd October 2018].
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Appendix I. Context Summary Table

Context Number	Type	Description/Interpretation	aOD*(above Ordnance Datum) to top	Length/Width/Depth (metres)
101	Void	Void	Void	Void
102	Void	Void	Void	Void
103	Void	Void	Void	Void
104	Void	Void	Void	Void
105	Deposit	Medium textured, dark greyish-brown colour penetrated by live roots / <i>Tree bole</i>	188.50m	2.60m Diameter, 0.40m Depth
106	Cut	Sharp break of slope, concave sides, unseen base / <i>Quarry pit, same as [108], and [122]</i>	188.24m	8.68m L, 7.00m W and 1.00m+ D
107	Fill	Poorly sorted medium reddish – brown sand with frequent inclusions of small and medium size pebbles / <i>Backfill of [106]</i>	188.24m	8.68m L, 7.00m W and 1.00m+ D
108	Cut	Sharp break of slope, concave sides, unseen base / <i>Quarry pit, same as [106], and [122]</i>	188.03m	8.68m L, 7.00m W and 1.00m+ D
109	Fill	Medium reddish brown sand with frequent inclusions of small and medium size pebbles / <i>Backfill of [108]</i>	188.89m	8.68m L, 7.00m W and 1.00m+ D

Context Number	Type	Description/Interpretation	aOD*(above Ordnance Datum) to top	Length/Width/Depth (metres)
110	Geological Natural	Fine light orange sand / <i>Geological Natural</i>	188.70m	0.44m D
111	Geological Natural	Medium light reddish brown sand with frequent pebbles / <i>Geological Natural</i>	187.64m	0.48m D
112	Fill	Medium textured, light reddish-brown sand with some rounded pebbles / <i>Backfill of cut [118]</i>	187.93m	0.90m W, full length unknown, 0.28m D
113	Fill	Medium textured, dark reddish-brown sand with frequent rubble / <i>Backfill of [118]</i>	188.07m	0.76m W, full length unknown, 0.72m D
114	Fill	Fine textured, dark blackish-brown silty sand without notable inclusions / <i>Backfill of [118]</i>	187.93m	0.26m W, unknown length, 0.20m D
115	Geological natural	Coarse textured, medium reddish-brown sandstone / <i>Geological natural</i>	188.74m	Across site
116	Cut	Sub-circular in plan, with uneven irregular sides, breaking sharply at the top and gradually at the bottom onto an uneven base / <i>Tree bole</i>	187.36m	2.94m W, 2.56m L, 1.07m D

Context Number	Type	Description/Interpretation	aOD*(above Ordnance Datum) to top	Length/Width/Depth (metres)
117	Fill	Medium textured dark blackish-brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and some modern pot and glass bottle inclusions / <i>Fill of tree bole [116]</i>	187.36m	2.94m W, 2.56m L, 1.07m D
118	Cut	Unknown shape in plan, steep, almost vertical sides, breaking sharply at the top and bottom onto an almost flat base / <i>Modern disturbance</i>	187.93m	0.92m W, unknown length, 1.04m D
119	Fill	Medium textured light reddish-brown sand with some small medium rounded pebbles / <i>Made ground</i>	188.56m	0.50m W, unknown length, 0.15m D
120	Deposit	Fine dark blackish silty sand deposit with frequent rootlets / <i>Made ground</i>	188.49m	0.64m W, length unknown, 0.48m D
121	Fill	Fine dark blackish-brown silty sand with no notable inclusions / <i>Made ground</i>	188.49m	1.08m W, unknown length, 0.46m D

Context Number	Type	Description/Interpretation	aOD*(above Ordnance Datum) to top	Length/Width/Depth (metres)
122	Cut	Irregular shaped in plan with unevenly sloped sides breaking gradually at the top and bottom onto an almost flat base / <i>Quarry pit, same as [106] and [108]</i>	188.41m	8.68m L, 7.00m W and 1.00m+ D
123	Fill	Medium textured dark reddish-brown sandy fill with frequent small and medium rounded pebble inclusions / <i>Backfill of quarry pit [122]</i>	188.41m	8.68m L, 7.00m W and 1.00m+ D
124	Deposit	Medium textured dark reddish-brown sand with frequent rubble inclusions including 19 th -20 th red bricks – concrete / <i>Modern demolition debris</i>	186.80m	1.44m W, unknown length, 0.62m D
125	Deposit	Medium textured, light reddish-brown sand with frequent small and medium rounded pebble inclusions / <i>Made ground</i>	188.49m	0.60m W, unknown length, 0.46m D

Appendix II. Written Scheme of Investigation

Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Stockwell Mews, Leek, Staffordshire

Written Scheme of Investigation

January 2019



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www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: LAC Homes

Compiled by: Adam Lodoen

Planning Reference: SMD/2018/0220

Local Authority: Staffordshire Moorlands
District Council

Site central NGR: SJ 98400 56700

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) for LAC Homes (Staffordshire) (the client). It details a scheme of works relating to the proposed residential development at Stockwell Mews, Stockwell Street, Leek, Staffordshire. The development comprises the erection of three terraced dwellings following the demolition of an existing garage court.

1.1.2 Planning permission (SMD/2018/0220) has been granted for the proposed development by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC). Condition 26 of the planning permission requires that:

“Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, a written scheme of archaeological investigation (‘the Scheme’) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall provide details of the programme of archaeological works to be carried out within the site, including post-excavation reporting and appropriate publication and interpretation. The development shall thereafter be implemented in full in accordance with the approved Scheme.

Reason: In the interests of archaeology and historic landscape character”

1.1.3 This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of archaeological works to be undertaken by ARS Ltd. An Archaeological Evaluation comprising a single evaluation trench on the proposed footprint of the three houses was carried out in January 2019. The evaluation did not discover any significant archaeological features or deposits. Despite this, the site is deemed to have a high archaeological potential. The Staffordshire County Archaeologist, Shane Kelleher, has therefore requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be carried out during the development.

1.1.4 The archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* paragraph 199 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018, 56) 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 archive generated) publically accessible.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location and Geology

2.1.1 The proposed development area (hereafter PDA) comprises an irregular shaped parcel of land which extends to approximately 0.19 hectares which lies to the rear (north) of The Foxlowe. The site, which forms part of the curtilage to The Foxlowe, which is Grade II Listed, contains a number of disused single storey lock up garages which are laid out in three separate blocks. These are located at a much



lower ground level than the Foxlowe and separated from it via a bowling green. Vehicular access is provided via Stockwell Street via the road leading to the SMDC car park. There are numerous trees within the site, some of which are covered by a Tree Preservation Order. Public Footpaths 13 and 14, which provide a link between the Town and Brough Park, run contiguous with the eastern boundary of the site. For the purposes of the Development Plan the application site lies within the Leek Town settlement boundary. It also lies within the Leek Conservation Area (Sammons Architectural 2018). The site is centred at NGR SJ 98400 56700 (Figure 1).

2.1.3 The underlying solid geology comprises the Chester Formation – Sandstone, Pebbly (gravelly). Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded for the area (BGS 2018).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.2.1 The Stockwell Mews site in Leek lies within the Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA) 1: Historic Core. This area is considered in the EUS to have high evidential (archaeological), historical, aesthetic and communal value. It lies within the core of the medieval planned town which was laid out by the Earl of Chester in the 13th century and close to the Grade I listed Church of St. Edwards. Two scheduled early medieval crosses sit within the churchyard of St. Edwards and while it is difficult to say whether they originated at Leek or were moved here from elsewhere, the EUS does raise the potential for early medieval activity within the northern portion of the town. As such there is considerable potential for medieval, post-medieval and possibly even early medieval archaeological remains to survive within the area of proposed development.

2.2.2 An evaluation trench was monitored on the 11th of January 2019. No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified. However, the trench contained a modern waste dump which consisted of a mix of brick, slate, glass, plastic and paper. Made ground consisting of brick rubble was also present in the trench.

2.3 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 Research topics identified in *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research* (Watt 2011) for the medieval period are concentrated on investigating the origins, re-planning, shrinkage and desertion of medieval settlements (Hunt 2011, 173-209). For the post-medieval period analyses of material culture and the settings of individual sites within wider landscapes have the potential to provide regional insights into the roots of capitalism, industrialisation, consumption and globalisation (Belford 2011, 211-236).

2.4 Watching Brief Objectives

2.4.1 The aim of the Archaeological Watching Brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of any archaeological deposits that might exist within the PDA.



2.4.2 The objective of the Archaeological Watching Brief is to gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the PDA, and to provide an appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

3 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Coverage

3.1.1 Within the PDA, the footprint for the three new houses (Figure 1) will be excavated under continuous archaeological supervision. The proposed methodology of this scheme of works is as follows.

3.2 Staffing and timetabling

3.2.1 The Project Manager for the watching brief will be Reuben Thorpe, MCIfA, Senior Project Manager at ARS Ltd. Work on site will be carried out by suitably qualified field archaeologists as appointed by ARS Ltd.

3.2.2 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
- ◆ Samian Ware: Dr Gwladys Monteil
- ◆ Romano-British small finds: Alex Croom
- ◆ Medieval and post-medieval pottery: Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
- ◆ Medieval and post-medieval clay pipes, glass and metalwork: Mike Wood MCIfA
- ◆ Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Luke Parker
- ◆ Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska
- ◆ Radiocarbon dating: Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
- ◆ Finds conservation: Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

3.2.3 The proposed timetable for the work is as follows:

Task	Proposed commencement date
Evaluation trenching	Late January 2019
Reporting	February 2019

3.3 Methodology

3.3.1 The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (2014a) and Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs (2014b). The site will be recorded in accordance



with 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.

3.3.2 The on-site archaeologist will be fully apprised of the archaeological potential of the site and will be given, at his/her request, the opportunity to stop site work to investigate potential archaeological features. Adequate time will be negotiated / allowed for recording any such features.

3.3.3 Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site. 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 chance to respond appropriately and in line with the Staffordshire County Archaeologist requirements.

3.3.4 All ground works will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If significant archaeological features are identified, the Staffordshire County Archaeologist will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

3.3.5 All spoil removed during groundworks will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Any finds so recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds will be retained and recorded.

3.3.6 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.

3.3.7 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or landuse regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller.

3.3.8 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.

3.3.9 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present column sampling may be considered.

3.3.10 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 provide an evaluation of the type of preservation that may be present.

3.3.11 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an 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.



3.3.12 Limited representative samples of bricks from brick-built structures, and selective products of the brick working process will be retained for specialist analysis where appropriate.

3.3.13 Any human remains discovered will initially be left *in-situ* and, if deemed necessary, removal will be undertaken once a Coroners license has been obtained in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with the Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

3.3.14 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. The Staffordshire County Archaeologist 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.

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 Email: Teresa.Gilmore@birminghammuseums.org.uk

3.3.15 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording. 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. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies of the evaluation and will be given a copy of this WSI to read.

3.3.16 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. Deep sections, such as those across ditches or pits, will be shored as necessary. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 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 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.

3.4.2 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 scale plans and section drawings will be drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate. In addition to relevant



illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

3.4.3 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

3.4.4 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.

3.4.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken using a digital camera, and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. A selection of working shots will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.

3.5 Finds Processing and Storage

3.5.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA (2014c) *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*.

3.5.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

3.5.3 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.

3.5.4 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). 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.

3.5.5 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.

3.5.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the recipient museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

3.5.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum, i.e. The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent.



3.6 Report

3.6.1 A report shall be produced to include background information, a summary of the works carried out and a description and interpretation of the findings. The report will also include the following.

- ◆ A non-technical summary
- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Geological and topographical setting
- ◆ Methodology
- ◆ Discussion of archaeological and historical background
- ◆ Discussion on the results of the evaluation
- ◆ Specialist descriptions of artefacts or ecofacts
- ◆ An indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development
- ◆ Conclusions and recommendations
- ◆ Sources
- ◆ Copy of brief
- ◆ A location plan showing all excavated areas with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- ◆ Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections.

3.6.2 A digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

4 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 At least 7 days prior notice of the commencement of the archaeological works will be given to the Staffordshire Historic Environment Advisor:

Shane Kelleher
County Archaeologist
No. 1 Staffordshire Place
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH
Tel: 01785 277285
Email: shane.kelleher@staffordshire.gov.uk

4.2 The client will afford reasonable access to the Staffordshire County Archaeologist, or their representative, for the purpose of monitoring the



archaeological works. ARS Ltd will liaise with the Staffordshire County Archaeologist at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

5 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

5.1 Deposition Guidelines

5.1.1 Should the project produce archaeologically significant finds, then the Staffordshire County Archaeologist and The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity, and an accession number will be produced for the site.

5.1.2 A project archive will be prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. The archive will comprise of the primary records and synthetic works arising from the project, including documents, plans, sections, photographs, electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice as outlined in *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice* (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011).

5.1.3 The archive will be deposited in line with *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007), ClfA's (2014d) *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.

5.1.4 The Staffordshire County Archaeologist and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity should the site produce archaeologically significant, unusual, or unexpected finds.

5.1.5 The Staffordshire County Archaeologist 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.

5.1.6 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.

5.1.7 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.

5.2 OASIS

5.2.1 At the start of work 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 Staffordshire



HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included in the archive).

6 GENERAL ITEMS

6.1 Health and Safety

6.1.1 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 Citation as its expert health and safety consultants and the appointed Health and Safety Officer for the company is Tony Brennan.

6.2 Insurance Cover

6.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability (£10 million) public liability (£5 million), professional indemnity (£5 million) and all-risks cover.

6.3 Community Engagement and Outreach

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

6.4 Publication

6.4.1 If significant architectural, historical and/or archaeological findings are made during the course of the building recording exercise, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be prepared for publication. The requirement for, and the final form of, any publication arising from the project will be agreed with the Staffordshire County Archaeologist and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork.

6.5 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

6.5.1 Changes to the approved Written Scheme of Investigation or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

7 REFERENCES

ADS/Digital Antiquity. 2011. Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice.

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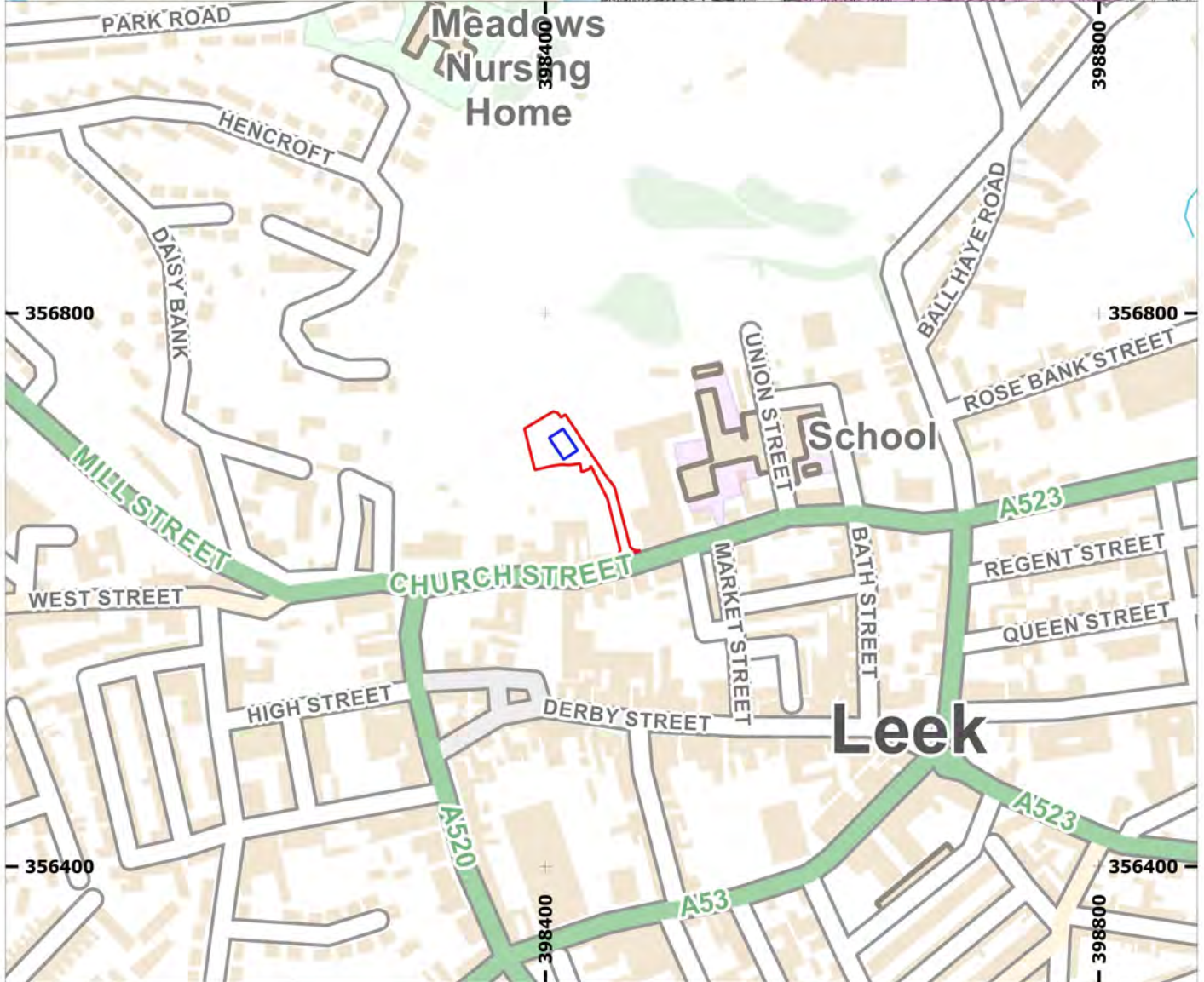
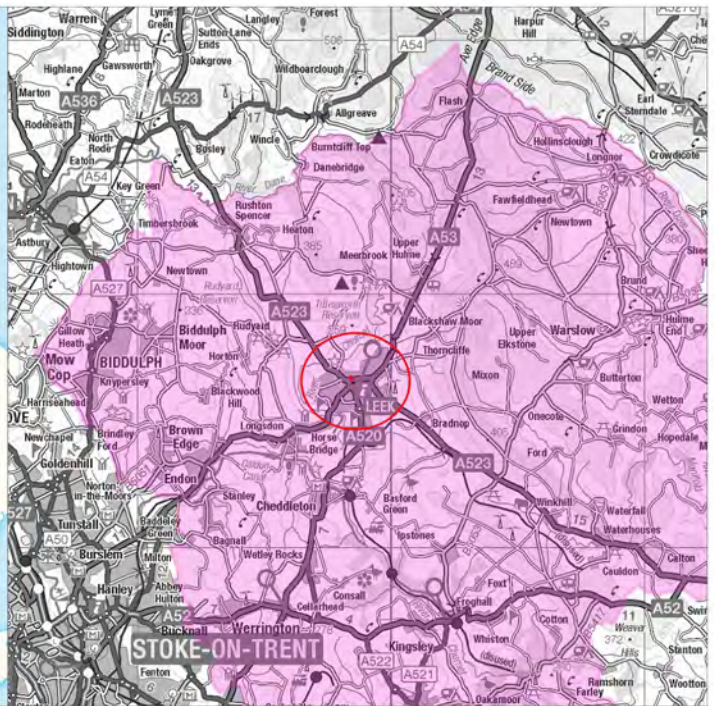


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FIGURES





Site name: Stockwell Mews
 Date: October 2018
 Drawn by: BD
 Scale: Varies

This drawing: © ARS Ltd
 Contains Ordnance Survey data.
 © Crown copyright and database right 2015

 Site boundary	 Construction footprint
 Staffordshire Moorlands District	

**Figure 1:
Site location**

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB

Tel: 01629 814540
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



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: archaeol5-346168

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief on land at Stockwell Mews, Leek, Staffordshire
Short description of the project	In January 2019 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by LAC Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land off Stockwell Mews, Leek, The archaeological works monitored the excavation of 15 foundation trenches. The monitoring was undertaken by Assistant Projects Officers Dimitrios Katsifas and Stephanie Blues under the management of Project Manager Adam Lodoen. A large probable quarry pit was identified on site which could potentially date from the 17th or 18th century. A modern intrusion of uncertain nature, made ground relating to the modern car park, and modern tree throws were also observed on site.
Project dates	Start: 21-01-2019 End: 28-01-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	QUARRY Post Medieval
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS LEEK Stockwell Mews
Postcode	ST13 9SB
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 98400 56700 53.107192928973 -2.023902861063 53 06 25 N 002 01 26 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Staffordshire County Council
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Project director/manager	Adam Lodoen
Project supervisor	Dimitrios Katsifas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land off Stockwell Mews, Leek, Staffordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Katsifas, D.
Other bibliographic details	2019/40
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bakewell
Entered by	Adam Lodoen (Adam@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	19 March 2019

OASIS:

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