

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire



View south west showing front elevation of the Yeomanry
Headquarters

ARS Ltd Report 2020/97

July 2020

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An Archaeological Watching Brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire

ARS Ltd Report 2020/97

July 2020



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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Executive Summary	3
1 Introduction	6
1.1 Project Background	6
1.2 Purpose of this Document	6
1.3 Site Location	7
1.4 Landform Topography and Soils	7
1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background	9
2 The Watching Brief	10
2.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives	10
2.2 Fieldwork Aims and Objectives	10
2.3 Professional Standards	11
2.4 Health and Safety Standards	11
2.6 Recording	12
2.7 Finds	12
2.8 Environmental Sampling Strategy	12
3 Summary of Results	12
3.1 Introduction	12
3.2 Stratigraphic Sequence	13
4 The Finds	31
4.4 Environmental Samples	32
5 Conclusion	32
6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright	35
7 Statement of Indemnity	35
8 Archive	35

9	References	35
	Appendix I: Context Summary Table	37
	Appendix II: Figures.....	42
	Appendix III: OASIS Form	46
	Appendix IV: Written Scheme of Investigation.....	47

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site Location	5
Figure 2: Site Plan	8
Figure 3: View looking south-west of Trench 1. Scale 2x1m in 0.5m graduations.	13
Figure 4: South-east section of Trench 1 (Southern end) showing contexts (101) and (102). Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.	14
Figure 5: View looking north-west of Trench 1. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.	14
Figure 6: South-east facing section of Trench 1 (north end) showing contexts (101), (102) and (103). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.	15
Figure 7: View looking north-west of Trench 2 (west end). Scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.	16
Figure 8: North-west facing section of Trench 2 (east end) showing contexts (201), (202), (203) and utilities trench [204] and backfill (205). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.....	16
Figure 9: View looking north-west of Trench 2 (east end). Scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.	17
Figure 10: South west facing section of Trench 2 (east end) showing contexts (201), (202) and (203). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.....	17
Figure 11: View looking west of Trench 3. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.....	18
Figure 12: South-east facing view of Trench 3 showing contexts (401) and (402). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.....	19
Figure 13: View looking south west of Trench 4. Scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.	20
Figure 14: South-east section of Trench 4 showing contexts (401), (402) and (403). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.....	21
Figure 15: View looking north west of Trench 5. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.....	22
Figure 16: South-west facing section of Trench 5 showing contexts (501) and (502). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.....	23
Figure 17: North facing section of Fence post footing 3. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.	24
Figure 18: North-east facing section of Fence post footing 4. Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations.	24
Figure 19: North-west facing section of fence post footing 9. Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations.	25
Figure 20: North west facing section of fence post footing 18. Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations.	26
Figure 21: Phase 2 watching brief plan.....	27
Figure 22: View looking south-east showing thin asphalt surface (001) overlaying mixed levelling deposit (002). Scale 2m in 0.5m graduations.	28
Figure 23: View North-west looking across main courtyard. The mixed levelling deposits (002) can be seen. Scale 1x1m and 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.	28
Figure 24: Show's levelling deposit (002) with recent service trenches.....	29
Figure 25: A German Kar98k Mauser rifle, and the bayonets are S98/05 pattern; appropriate to the Mauser.	30
Figure 26: A Kar98k rifle and bayonet in good condition.	30
Figure 27: Fired blank rounds of ammunition discovered in association with the rifle.	31
Figure 28: Plan of sub-surface intervention locations.....	43
Figure 29: Representative sections a - f, located on plan (Figure 21)	44
Figure 30: Representative sections g - j, located on plan (Figure 21).....	45

Chronology (calendar years BC-AD)	Glacial Eras		British Archaeological Periods	Climatic Phases	Environment	
AD 1901 AD 1837 AD 1714 AD 1485 AD 1066 AD 410 AD 43 0 500 BC 700 BC 800 BC 1800 BC 2400 BC 3800 BC 4000 BC 4200 BC 6175 BC 6400 BC 7000 BC 9700 BC	Holocene		modern Victorian Georgian post-medieval medieval early medieval Roman Britain Iron Age Bronze Age Beaker period Neolithic (advent of farming) Late Mesolithic Early Mesolithic	Sub-atlantic (climatic warming) (abrupt climatic deterioration) (climatic warming) Sub-boreal (episodes of abrupt climatic deterioration, colder and wetter) (climatic optimum) Atlantic (Abrupt climatic deterioration, colder and drier) Boreal Preboreal (very rapid decadal warming)	Open landscapes with forested areas. Mixed farming widespread Deciduous woodland clearance for agriculture Last of large North Sea islands submerged Elm decline Mixed deciduous forest (oak, elm, pine, alder, hazel and full range of trees) Increased amount of alder Storegga Slide tsunami Britain becomes an island Mixed forest (hazel, birch, pine, willow, heather) Temperate forest (birch, pine, willow)	
11500 BC 15000 BC 18000 BC	Pleistocene ↓	Loch Lomond Stadial (known as Younger Dryas across NW Europe)	Palaeolithic ↓	Late Upper Palaeolithic Ahrensburgian	Arctic	Tundra
		Windermere Interstadial or 'Late Glacial Interstadial'		Upper Palaeolithic Creswellian/ Magdalenian	Sub-arctic	Plains and woodland (dwarf birch, willow) Mammoths in Britain
		Devensian		Upper Palaeolithic	Arctic	Ice and tundra steppe
		'LGM' (Last Glacial Maximum)				

Acknowledgements

ARS Ltd would like to thank Kieran Latham at Entrust Support Services Ltd for commissioning the project and Shane Kelleher of Staffordshire County Council for his advice and guidance.

Executive Summary

Project Name: *An Archaeological Watching Brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire*

Site Code: *BSS20*

Planning Authority: *Staffordshire County Council*

Location: *Stafford, Staffordshire*

Geology: *Sedimentary bedrock of mudstone and halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel*

National Grid Reference: *SJ 92307 22819*

Date of Fieldwork: *19/05/2020 to 22/05/2020 and 06/10/20 to 09/10/20*

Date of Report: *July, October and November 2020*

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Entrust Support Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, to monitor and record the excavation of utility trenches and fence post footings for the proposed development. The site is located within Stafford Town Conservation Area and potentially within the bounds of an Augustinian Friary founded in 1344 but dissolved in 1539.

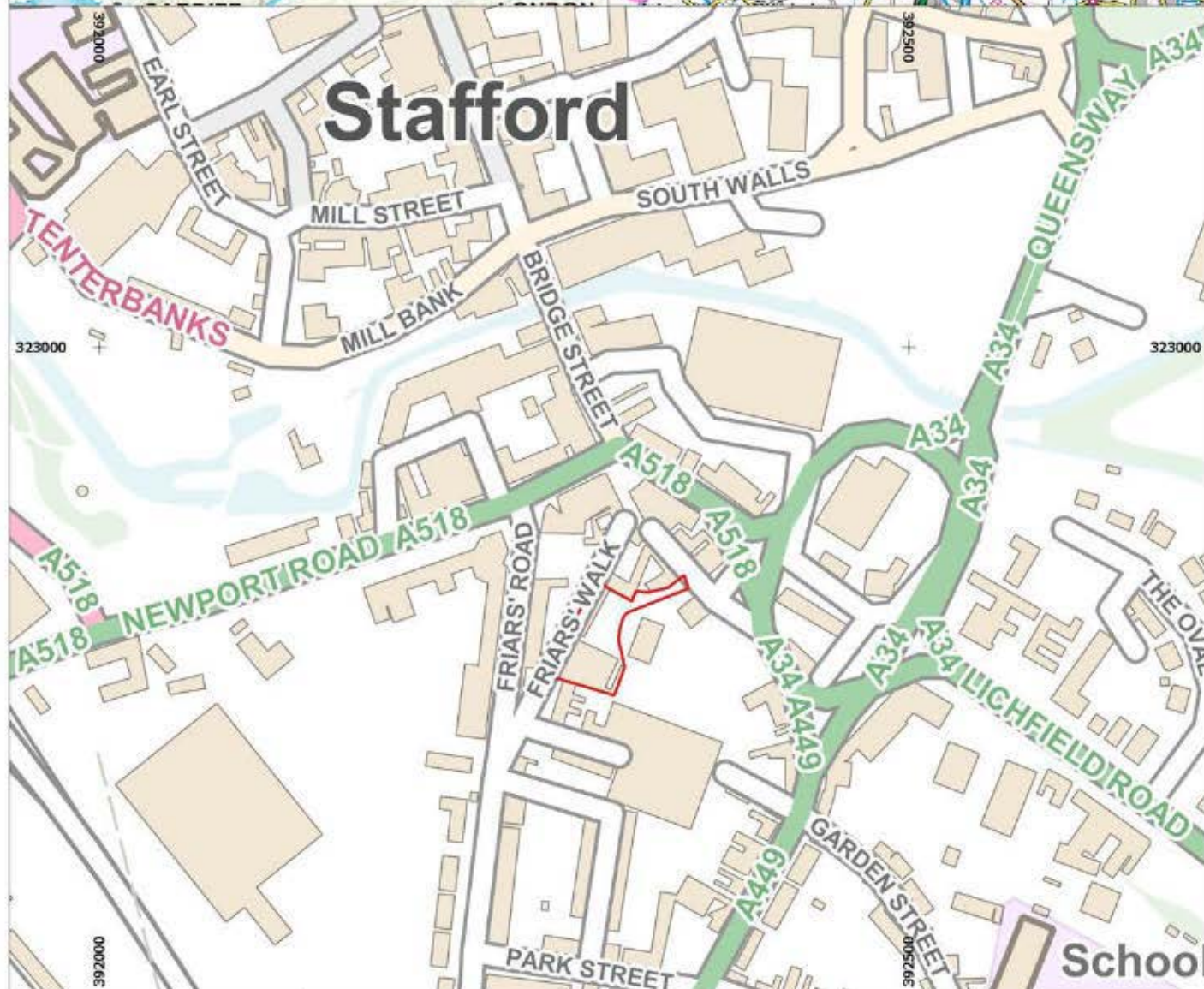
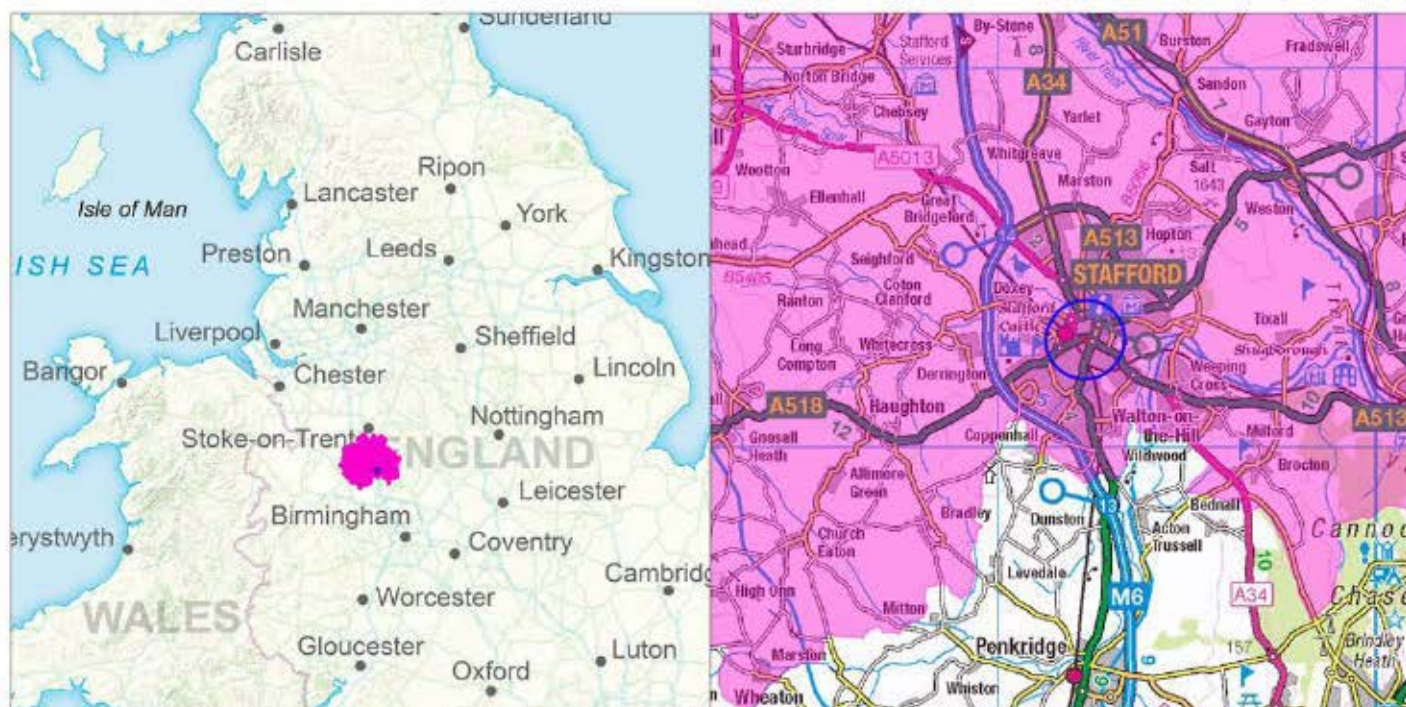
As such, Condition 4 of the planning consent required an archaeological watching brief during the ground works associated with the extensions and alterations at 1a Bailey Street. The aim of the watching brief was to record and better understand the significance of any heritage assets encountered during the proposed development. Works were undertaken in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Development Control Archaeologist at Staffordshire County Council and took place between the 19th and 22nd May 2020.

The monitored groundworks identified a series of superimposed 20th century levelling deposits overlying a buried soil from which fragments of 19th and 20th century roof tile and pottery were recovered as evidence of previous development of the site. The 20th century development of the site is believed to have impacted on earlier in-situ archaeological remains.

A second phase of watching brief, monitoring resurfacing works, took place during October 2020, due to the discovery of a cache of Second World War period firearms. The weapons comprised a German Mauser rifle and two bayonets which were retrieved from a 20th century levelling deposit and directly below a 20th century asphalt surface. Further removal of the old asphalt surface revealed 3 areas in which fired blank rounds were recovered. These finds are likely related to when the site was the headquarters of the Staffordshire Yeomanry and the 6th Staffordshire Battery of the Royal Field Artillery (1913-1967).

No archaeological deposits or features relating to the Friary or other medieval activity was identified during the watching brief. The limited extent of the brief means only a small area of the ground across the development site was observed and the results cannot be used to suggest there is no evidence of the Friary or associated medieval activity within the property boundary.

The levelling deposits, revealed during the watching brief, have provided some insight into the 20th century development of the site and point towards extensive horizontal truncation which has probably destroyed or obscured any preserved post-medieval or medieval features or deposits which were present within the boundary of the development area. This interpretation should be tempered by the relatively small scale of the watching brief and that there may remain the potential for isolated pockets of preserved medieval, or earlier, features or deposits to remain present on the site.



Site name: 1a Bailey Street, Stafford
 Date: March 2020
 Drawn by: MB
 Scale: Varies

**Figure 1:
 Site location**

- Site Boundary
- Stafford Borough Council



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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Entrust Support Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford to monitor sub-surface groundworks and discharge a condition as part of the planning permission granted by Staffordshire County Council (Application Ref. No. S.19/09) ahead of building renovation at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire (Figure 1), centred at NGR SJ 92307 22819.

1.1.2 Planning permission was granted for the proposed development subject to Condition 4 by Staffordshire County Council, for the change of use of the former SCC workshops/offices (Use Class B1) to a pupil Referral Unit (Use Class D1) to include external social space, alterations to the existing buildings, utilities, external secure fencing, provision for taxi drop off and collection, and 4 parking spaces for staff/visitors including one accessible space.

1.1.3 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process under the provisions of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (MHCLG 2019). The site lies within an area of potential archaeological sensitivity and the Stafford Borough Council's defined town centre boundary (Figure 1). As such, Condition 4 of planning consent required the implementation of a scheme of archaeological works (watching brief) during the ground works associated with the alteration to the existing buildings. The brief aimed to record and better understand the significance of any heritage assets found during the proposed development.

1.1.4 The programme of works was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) (Burpoe 2020) approved by Shane Kelleher of Staffordshire County Council.

1.2 Purpose of this Document

1.2.1 This document brings together information gathered during successive stages of fieldwork and post-fieldwork identification and quantification. Through the execution of a programme of further analysis, it assesses the potential of the work to address national, local and regional research questions as outlined in *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A framework for research* (Watt 2011).

1.2.2 This assessment report was compiled in accordance with a scheme of works outlined within the WSI (Burpoe 2020) and is consistent with the principles outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

1.3 Site Location

1.3.1 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 c.0.23 ha (c.2430m²) centred on NGR SJ 92307 22819. It is sited within the town centre of Stafford and is bounded to the north by commercial buildings, by Friars Walk and residential properties to the west, further residential properties to the south and commercial properties with associated car parking to the east. The development is potentially located within the possible site of Augustinian Friary, founded in 1344, as part of Stafford's medieval suburban expansion.

1.4 Landform Topography and Soils

1.4.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA is comprised of Sedimentary bedrock of mudstone and halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago during the Triassic Period when the local environment was dominated by hot deserts. This is overlain by superficial deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2020).

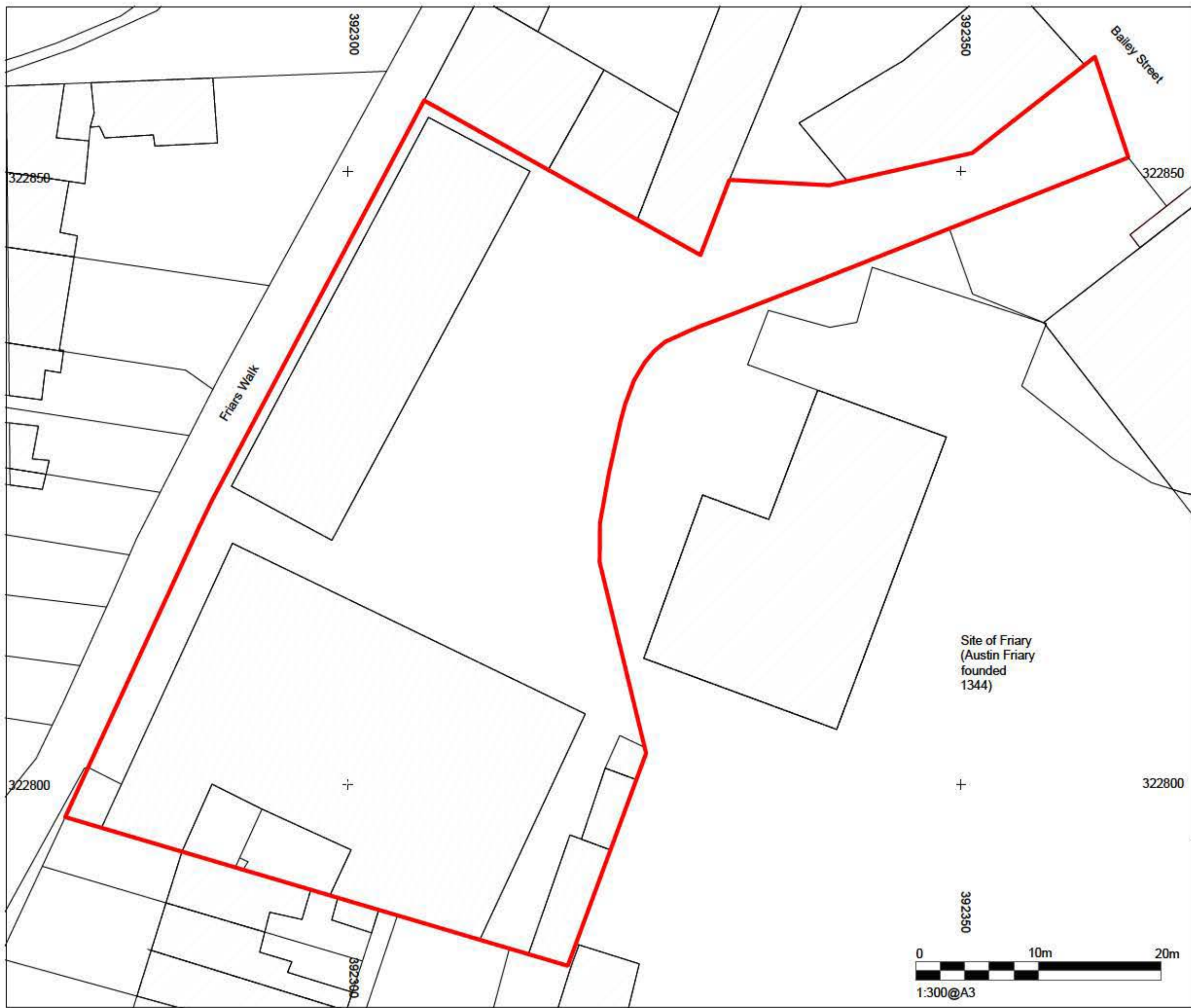




Figure 2: Site plan

Drawn: MN
Scale: 1:300 @A3

Key:

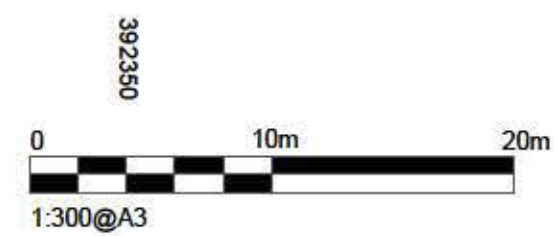
 Site boundary

 Existing Buildings



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1.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.5.1 This report focuses on the scheme of archaeological monitoring undertaken in relation to the works associated with properties within the boundary of 1a Bailey Street sited within the presumed location of friary and within the Stafford Town Conservation Area which contains a number of listed buildings. While the specific works are focused on the alterations to the existing buildings, the context of these works should be acknowledged and their potential for impact on these neighbouring assets assessed. A heritage statement (Latham 2019) sets out the historical and archaeological background of the area and concludes that the area might contain the archaeological remains of an Augustinian Friary, founded in 1344 but dissolved in 1539; ultimately concluding that “...there is a high potential for groundworks in the area to encounter archaeological deposits of a high value.” (2019, 7).

1.5.2 Additionally, Stafford has a rich and well documented history, first chronicled during the Anglo-Saxon period when St Bertelin established a church within the centre of town, adjacent to the current site of the Parish Church of St Mary’s. Stafford was officially established in 913AD when it was made into a burh by Aethelfled, with the town becoming the centre of Mercia (SBC 2011, 14). As mentioned in 1.5.1, the location of the PDA is potentially within the undefined extent of an Augustinian Friary (Latham 2019, 7).

1.5.3 Although the extent of the friary is unknown, groundworks undertaken as part of the development of the adjacent Friary Retail Park, located to the east and south-east, encountered at least five human remains of a medieval date. These burials are believed to have formed part of a graveyard associated with the Friary. A further burial encountered at Friar Road, approximately 40m to the west of the proposal site, is also likely to be associated with the Friary (Latham 2019).

1.5.4 The Ordnance Survey map of 1881 depicts two simple rectilinear structures in an L-shape configuration against the western and southern boundaries with two smaller extensions against the southern building labelled ‘Timber Yard’ towards the southern extent of the PDA.

1.5.5 The headquarters of the Staffordshire Yeomanry replaced the timber yard in 1913 in the southern extent of the PDA. The drill hall also accommodated the 6th Staffordshire Battery of the Royal Field Artillery (RFA). After defence cuts of 1967, the drill hall was decommissioned and converted for use by the maintenance department of Staffordshire County Council (Latham 2019, 8). A late 20th century brick and metal building was constructed against the western boundary of the site for the storage and maintenance of County Council vehicles.

2 The Watching Brief

2.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The ground works had the potential to identify evidence pertinent to research objectives and overarching research themes identified in *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A framework for research* (Watt 2011) and offered the potential to enhance understanding in the development and activities of Austin Friary in the medieval period. The research agenda for West Midlands recognises the poor understanding of the medieval period in the region which in turn highlights the potential significance of the medieval friary and its outbuildings (Watt 2011, 184). The proposed development has the potential to contribute to the following regional research objectives include,

- The medieval period
- Important work has been done on major churches, including Hereford Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral, and a number of monastic sites, but there remains a crucial gap in our knowledge at the level of the parish (2011, 184).

2.2 Fieldwork Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The aims and objectives of the scheme of archaeological fieldwork were laid out in the WSI (Burpoe 2020);

- Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site
- Record all archaeological features and deposits encountered
- Sample a sufficient percentage of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation
- Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives outlined in Section 2.1 of this document

2.2.2 The objectives of the fieldwork were to;

- Record any archaeological features and deposits encountered
- Sample sufficient archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation

- Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform established aims and objectives and identify if additional aims might be achieved

2.3 Professional Standards

2.3.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2020) Section 3.4 to 3.6. The post excavation assessment was undertaken in accordance with Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO) *Advice Note for Post-Excavation Assessment* (2015), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE), notably *Project Planning Note 3 Archaeological Excavations* (English Heritage, 2008).

2.3.2 A risk assessment was undertaken before commencement of the work. Health and Safety regulations were adhered to at all times.

2.4 Health and Safety Standards

2.4.1 All works were undertaken in full compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and with the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. A Risk Assessment (ARS 004/B/19_RA), Health and Safety Plan and H&S Method Statement were prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

2.5 Watching Brief

2.5.1 All relevant ground works were undertaken using a mechanical 360 excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket supported at times by a hydraulic breaker (for removal of concrete and tarmac) under constant archaeological supervision by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times, as specified in the project WSI (Burpoe 2019).

2.5.2 All archaeological features were cleaned by hand and investigated through excavation with manual tools and further cleaned by hand.

2.5.3 A detailed drawn, written, and photographic record was compiled in accordance with the ARS recording system.

2.5.4 All drawings were referenced to the Ordnance Survey co-ordinate system (X,Y,Z values) using a Leica Total Station.

2.5.5 All stratified finds were retained and cleaned, air dried, marked (where necessary/appropriate), quantified, and dated/analysed by sufficiently qualified individuals.

2.6 Recording

2.6.1 Subject to agreement with the Planning Officer at Staffordshire Archaeology Advisory Service please note that the following categories of material will be recommended for discard, however no material will be discarded prior to this agreement being in place:

- i. modern pottery
- i. material assessed by third party specialists as having no potential for further study *and* having no grounds for retention
- ii. unstratified material that is of no intrinsic value or research potential

2.6.2 All environmental samples recovered would be returned to our environmental facility in Sheffield where they would be treated in accordance with the Guidelines outlined in *“Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation”* (English Heritage, 2011). Samples from dry deposits would be processed by flotation and the flots and residues sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds, technological residues and any charred materials.

2.7 Finds

2.7.1 All artefacts have been retained from all excavated contexts and machine/hand-excavated spoil was examined for artefacts and were retained and recorded.

2.8 Environmental Sampling Strategy

2.8.1 A site specific strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures was formulated, as outlined in the project WSI (Burpoe 2020).

2.8.3 Bulk soil samples were to have been processed by flotation and assessed. The residues and sieved fractions would have been recorded and retained with the project archive.

3 Summary of Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following section provides an overview and synthesis of the results from the watching brief. Depths of deposits are expressed as below ground level (BGL) and in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The works were undertaken in two phases. Phase 1 comprised a watching brief project monitoring groundworks during summer 2020 and Phase 2 was undertaken in response to the identification of Second World War armaments during re-surfacing works.

3.1.2 A context summary table of the depositional sequence encountered in the foundation trenches is presented in Appendix I: Context Summary Table. This should be viewed in association with the figures and the photographs presented in this section.

3.2 Stratigraphic Sequence – Phase 1 (July 2020)

3.2.1 The archaeological monitoring works observed a broadly uniform stratigraphic sequence across the development area and can be described as follows; the uppermost deposit within Trench 1 comprised a concrete floor surface (101) (average depth 0.26m). This overlaid a thin asphalt surface (102) (average depth 0.15m) and a mixed levelling deposit of demolition debris (103) (average depth 0.15m). A dark silty loam buried soil was observed at the base of the trench (104) (0.24m+ depth). This buried soil was observed throughout the rest of the subsequent ground works. The foundation of the northern wall (105) (internal) of the Yeomanry Headquarters was also revealed, comprising of brick sat on concrete foundations. The trench was excavated to include a sloping gradient which resulted in the depth being 0.42m and 0.73m at the southern and northern ends of the trench, respectively. This sequence is shown in Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, 28 and 29 below.

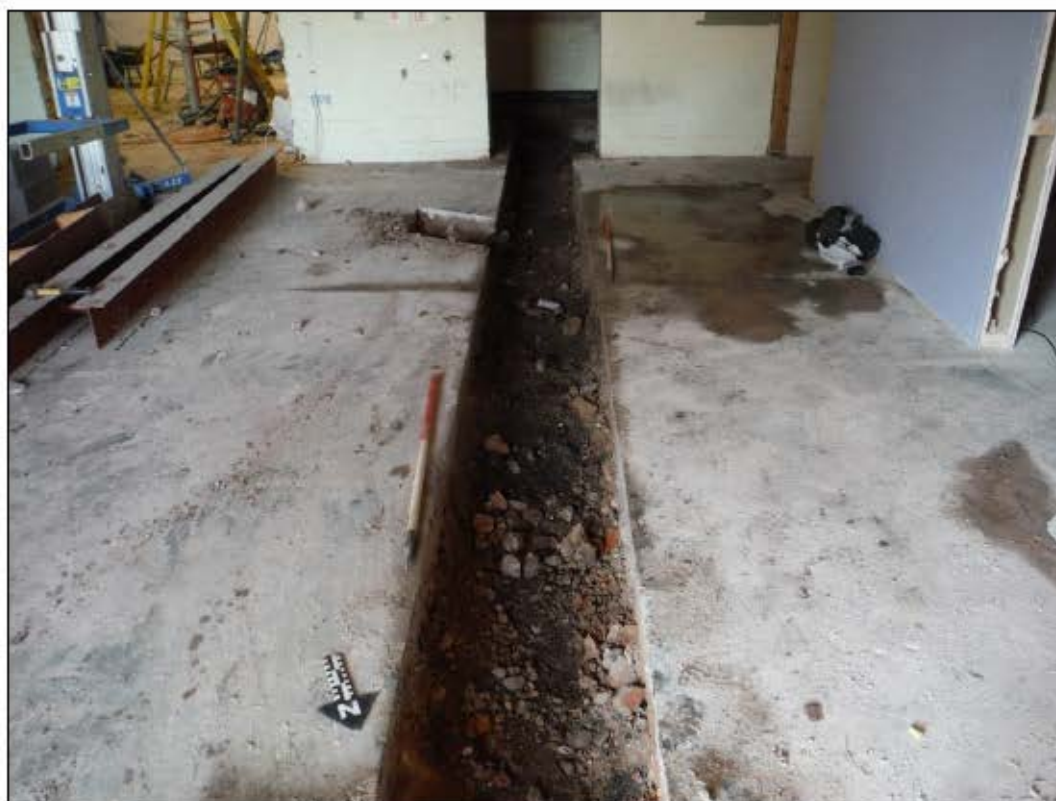


Figure 3: View looking south-west of Trench 1. Scale 2x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 4: South-east section of Trench 1 (Southern end) showing contexts (101) and (102). Scale 1x1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 5: View looking north-west of Trench 1. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 6: South-east facing section of Trench 1 (north end) showing contexts (101), (102) and (103).
Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.

3.2.2 Excavation of Trench 2 (average depth of 0.71) revealed an Asphalt surface (201) (average depth 0.19m) which overlaid a fragmented brick and bitumen bedding deposit (202) (average depth 0.19m) and contained fragments of 20th century roof tiles and mortar. A mid brown sandy loam buried soil was observed within the base of the trench (203) (average depth 0.32m) and contained fragments of 20th century roof tiles and mortar and 19th- early 20th century blue-and-white transfer printed pottery fragments. A concrete bedding deposit (205) (average depth 0.12m) was overlain by square sandstone blocks (204) (0.16m deep) forming a stone paved incline surface as part of vehicle access to the Headquarters building. The Sandstone surface was abutted by the later Tarmac yard (201). During the excavation of Trench 2, Electric cables, plastic utility ducts and a foul pipe were encountered. The foundation of the northern wall of the Yeomanry Headquarters (206) (External) was once again revealed within Trench 2. This sequence is shown in Figures 7, 8, 9, 10, 28 and 29 below.



Figure 7: View looking north-west of Trench 2 (west end). Scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 8. North-west facing section of Trench 2 (east end) showing contexts (201), (202), (203) and utilities trench [204] and backfill (205). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 9: View looking north-west of Trench 2 (east end). Scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 10: South west facing section of Trench 2 (east end) showing contexts (201), (202) and (203). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.

3.2.3 Trench 3 was excavated to an average depth and revealed the same asphalt (201) and stone block (204) surfaces and associated bedding deposits (202:205) first revealed in Trench 2. The excavation of Trench 3 did not exceed either bedding deposit. A continuation of electric cabling was also observed bisecting the trench. This sequence is shown in Figures 11, 12, 28 and 29 below.



Figure 11: View looking west of Trench 3. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 12: South-east facing view of Trench 3 showing contexts (401) and (402).
Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.

3.2.4 Trench 4 was a continuation of Trench 1, separated by the foundation wall of the Headquarters building and comprised the same stratigraphic sequence as described in Trench 2 above (4.2.2). The southern end of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.75m and 1.03m at its northern end at which point the orange sand substrate (207) was observed at a depth of 0.78m. No archaeological deposits or features were observed within the natural substrate. This sequence is shown in Figures 13, 14, 22 and 29 below.



Figure 13: View looking south west of Trench 4. Scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 14: South-east section of Trench 4 showing contexts (401), (402) and (403). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.

3.2.5 Trench 5 (average depth 0.40m deep) comprised an uppermost deposit of asphalt (501) (0.08m deep) which overlaid a stone levelling deposit (502) 0.10m thick. The levelling deposit sealed a dark brown sandy loam buried soil (503) which was observed across the base of the trench. The sequence within trench 5 was a continuation of the sequence recorded within Trenches 2, 3 and 4. No finds or significant archaeological deposits were encountered within Trench 5. This sequence is shown in Figures 15, 16, 28 and 29 below.



Figure 15: View looking north west of Trench 5. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 16. South-west facing section of Trench 5 showing contexts (501) and (502). Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.

3.2.6 A total of 22 fence post footings were excavated within the yard surface of the PDA in an approximate L-shaped configuration which matched the basic layout of the existing buildings. Although differentiations between the bedding deposits was observed the stratigraphic sequence remained broadly similar and have been correlated and described below. This sequence is shown in Figures 17, 18, 19, 20, 28 and 30 below.



Figure 17: North facing section of Fence post footing 3. Scale 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 18: North-east facing section of Fence post footing 4. Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations.

3.2.7 The postholes were roughly square in shape and measured an average width of 0.48m and depth of 0.70m. The uppermost deposit of the Post holes comprised a combination of tarmac, concrete and sandstone blocks (average depth 0.16m) which overlaid a sequence of superimposed 19th/20th century levelling deposits (average depth 0.54m). A dark silt loam buried soil (203), the same deposit observed within Trenches 1-5, was observed within the base of each posthole. Modern utilities and associated service trenches were observed within postholes 14, 15 and 18. The PDA boundary wall was observed within Postholes 21 and 22 and was comprised of 20th century brick. No significant archaeological deposits or finds were recovered from any of the fence post hole footings.



Figure 19. North-west facing section of fence post footing 9. Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations.



Figure 20: North west facing section of fence post footing 18. Scale 1 x 0.3m in 0.1m graduations.

3.3 Stratigraphic Sequence - Phase 2 (October 2020)

3.3.1 The archaeological monitoring works observed a broadly uniform stratigraphic sequence across the Phase 2 area and can be described as follows; the uppermost deposit across site comprised an asphalt road/yard surface (001) with an average depth 0.20m. This overlaid a mixed levelling deposit of demolition debris (002). This is shown in Figure 21 - 23 below. The asphalt surface and levelling deposits were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.30m across the PDA (76.75m AoD). The area monitored is highlighted in (Figure 21).



Site Name: 1a Bailey Street, Stafford
 Date: 15/10/2020
 Drawn by: RE
 Scale: as shown

Figure 21. Showing area stripped and location of ordnance

- Key:
- PDA
 - Area stripped for resurfacing
 - Location of blank rounds
 - Location of Rifles and Bayonets
 - Posts from previous works
 - Existing Buildings

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Figure 22. View looking south-east showing thin asphalt surface (001) overlaying mixed levelling deposit (002). Scale 2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 23. View North-west looking across main courtyard. The mixed levelling deposits (002) can be seen. Scale 1x1m and 1x2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 24. Show's levelling deposit (002) with recent service trenches.

3.3.2 Prior to the arrival on site of an archaeologist, the works team uncovered what appeared to be the remains of two army issue rifles and two bayonets accompanied by two hand-guns. Figure 24 shows one of the rifles and the two bayonets. These were found in the made ground/levelling deposits at the southern edge of the PDA (Figure 2). Photographs of the most intact rifle were reviewed by Jonathan Ferguson (Keeper of Firearms and Artillery, Royal Armouries Museum Leeds). His assessment was that the rifle shown was in fact a Second World War German Kar98k Mauser rifle, and the bayonets are S98/05 pattern; appropriate to the Mauser (*Pers Comm*). Figure 26 is an example of what the rifle would have looked like in good condition.



Figure 25. A German Kar98k Mauser rifle, and the bayonets are S98/05 pattern; appropriate to the Mauser.



Figure 26. A Kar98k rifle and bayonet in good condition.



Figure 27. Shell casings of expended ammunition discovered in association with the rifle.

4 The Finds

Pottery report

Dr Robin Holgate *MCI(A), FSA*

4.1 The Pottery

4.1.1 Five fragments of pottery weighing 29.1g were recovered from context (203). These comprised two rimsherds and three bodysherds of whiteware (probably from plates or dishes), two of which were blue-and-white transfer printed, of 19th - early 20th century date. The pottery represents refined ware used for the storage, preparation and consumption of food.

4.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

4.2.1 Two fragments of roof tile weighing 184.9g were recovered from context (202) and eight fragments of roof tile weighing 1095.8g were recovered from context (203). All these fragments date from the 20th century.

4.3 Discussion and recommendations for further work

4.3.1 The finds recovered from the site are not unusual in any respect for an urban site of this nature. None of the finds require conservation and the finds have no potential for

further analysis. They could, therefore, be archived, returned to the landowner or suitably disposed.

Firearms

Johnathon Ferguson

4.4 The Firearms and Artillery

4.1.1 As mentioned in section 3 of the report, the available photographs were reviewed by Jonathan Ferguson (Keeper of Firearms and Artillery, Royal Armouries Museum Leeds). His assessment was that these items were Second World War artefacts of German origin, most notably a Karabiner 98k a bolt-action rifle produced by Mauser. Due to their poor state of preservation they were not considered suitable for storage/archiving at the Royal Armouries Museum. Further information on the rifle is included within the discussion below.

4.5 Environmental Samples

4.4.1 As no features of archaeological interest were encountered during the monitoring works, it was not deemed necessary to conduct any environmental sampling.

5 Conclusion

5.1 Trench 1 was excavated within the floor space of the Yeomanry Headquarters building over an area of reinforced concrete flooring. No evidence of floor surfaces associated with the previous timber yard was evident. It is probable that during the construction of the Yeomanry Headquarters, the immediate area was levelled, perhaps lowered, and any structural evidence of earlier buildings and surfaces removed.

5.2 Subsequent trenches 2-4 and the fencepost footings were excavated at the front of the extant building and within the yard of the PDA. Again, no structural elements or previous yard surfaces were observed, likely removed in the early 20th century during the initial construction of the Yeomanry Headquarters and then subsequent late 20th century conversion into a County Council Vehicle maintenance depot.

5.3 Interestingly, the groundworks did reveal a thick buried soil containing 19th century roof tiles, mortar and willow ware pottery fragments and attest to the development of the site during this period, however, no additional deposits or structures prior to the 1913 construction of the headquarters building were identified. Reference to the second edition Ordnance Survey mapping data indicates that the site of the proposed development was occupied by parkland during the mid-late 19th century and the buried soil periodically identified during the course of the watching brief almost certainly relates to the sites former use as a probable park which partially fronts onto Friars Walk to the west.

5.4 Furthermore, no medieval remains of Austin Friary, or associated activity, were discovered during the watching brief. The excavated trenches monitored were limited and only observed a small area of the ground at the front of the 1913 building. As such, the

absence of archaeological evidence within these trenches cannot be held to indicate the absence of archaeology in the wider area of the Yeomanry.

5.5 Although limited in its scope the Phase 2 watching brief provided information regarding the use of the site by the Staffordshire Yeomanry and the 6th Staffordshire Battery of the Royal Field Artillery during the early to mid-20th century. The Staffordshire Yeomanry (Queen's Own Royal Regiment), whose headquarters, located on Bailey Street, Stafford, began as a volunteer cavalry regiment formed in 1794 (Wikipedia 2020a). At the outbreak of the Second World War, they were initially deployed in the North African campaigns as part of the 6th Cavalry Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division initially serving in Palestine (Joslen 1960). By 1941, the unit was incorporated into the 8th Armoured Brigade of the Royal Armoured Corps and fought at El Agheila, Alam Halfa, and El Alamein under the command of the 7th Armoured Division (Joslen 1960; Strawson 2004). As part of the preparations for the Normandy landings, the Staffordshire Yeomanry were assigned to the 27th Armoured Brigade as a conventional tank unit until July 1944 when the brigade was disbanded due to heavy losses (Wikipedia 2020a). In the closing year of the War, the Staffordshire Yeomanry would engage in conflicts as part of the Battle of the Scheldt, the Allied campaign for Antwerp and its harbour, as well as Operation Plunder, the combined Allied offensive across the Rhine (Canadian Battlefield Tours 2020). The 6th Staffordshire Battery were also headquartered at Bailey Street and served as part of the 3rd North Midland Brigade however by the Second World War they were incorporated into the 73rd Anti-Aircraft Regiment and were based at Wolverhampton.

5.6 The recovered rifle, a Karabiner 98 kurz, was the standard issue bolt-action service rifle for the Wehrmacht from 1935 to the close of the War in 1945 (Wikipedia 2020b). They remain in active use today as the Soviet Union used captured rifles as military aid and they have stayed in circulation ever since (*ibid* 2020b). Further complicating the dating of these finds, the standard bayonet for the Karabiner 98 kurz was the S84/98 III rather than the S98/05 sawback pattern identified here which was issued with the Karabiner 98a (from 1908 onwards). The S98/05 sawback bayonet was removed from service by the German army in 1917 and reissued as a flattened version until the close of World War I. This was because British and French troops would execute rather than capture troops carrying the saw-bladed variant likely to due to anti-German propaganda accusing them of torturing prisoners with them (Bygone Blades 2020).

As the Staffordshire Yeomanry and the 6th Staffordshire Battery saw significant conflict in the closing years of the Second World War, it is more likely that *both* the bayonet and the rifle were obtained during their campaigns in Belgium and the Rhine given the lack of materiel among the *Wehrmacht* during this period. It is unclear as to the reason why Second World War firearms of German origin would end up buried at the former Yeomanry barracks but discussion with Alex Sotheran (Ministry Of Defence Archaeologist) seemed to indicate that these items were likely brought home as 'trophies' by personnel from either the Staffordshire Yeomanry or the 6th Staffordshire Battery of the RFA and

when the base was decommissioned in the 1960's the easiest way to dispose of them was to simply bury them (*Pers Comm*).

5.6 In summary, the watching brief succeeded in ensuring that no heritage assets were damaged or remained unrecorded during the groundworks. The foundations of the headquarters building and the stratigraphic sequence of its floor and yard surfaces revealed during the work have provided some insight into the 20th century development of the site and point towards extensive horizontal truncation which has probably destroyed or obscured any preserved post-medieval or medieval features or deposits which were present within the boundary of the development area. This interpretation should be tempered by the relatively small scale of the watching brief and that there may remain the potential for isolated pockets of preserved medieval, or earlier, features or deposits to remain present on the site. The watching brief has also provided some narrative of the practices of returning military personnel stationed at the site during the early 20th century and although the burial of captured weaponry within military property might not be anticipated to be standard military practice the identification of the weapons does raise the potential for similar occurrences on other former Ministry of Defence properties.

6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

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

7 Statement of Indemnity

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

8 Archive

- 8.1 As the project produced no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the repository museum, which in this case is the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke. This is in line with the Potteries Museum (2015) *Guidelines for the Preparation and Preservation of Archaeological Archives*.
- 8.2 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 (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

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Appendix I: Context Summary Table

Context	Type	Description / Processual Interpretation	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x depth)	Depth to top (BGL)
101	Floor Surface	Concrete surface <i>20th Century floor surface</i>	c.0.26m depth	N/A
102	Floor Surface	Asphalt surface <i>20th Century floor surface</i>	0.15m depth	0.26m
103	Deposit	Mid grey loam with brick and mortar crush <i>19th/20th Century levelling deposit</i>	0.15m depth	0.41m
104	Deposit	Dark silt loam <i>19th century buried soil</i>	0.24m+ depth	0.56m
105	Structure	Machine made red brick wall. (same as (206). <i>20th Century wall. Part of the Yeomanry Headquarters</i>	0.56m+ depth	N/A
201	Deposit	Asphalt surface <i>20th Century floor surface</i>	0.19m depth	N/A
202		Dark brown/black fragmented brick and bitumen deposit <i>20th Century bedding deposit</i>	0.19m depth	0.19m
203	Deposit	Brown sandy loam <i>19th/20th Century buried soil.</i>	0.32m+ depth	0.38m
204	Floor surface	Sandstone blocks	0.16m depth	N/A

Context	Type	Description / Processual Interpretation	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x depth)	Depth to top (BGL)
		<i>20th Century external floor surface</i>		
205	Deposit	Concrete <i>20th century bedding deposit</i>	0.12m depth	0.16m
206	Structure	Machine made red brick wall. (same as (105)) <i>20th Century wall. Part of the Yeomanry Headquarters</i>	0.62m+ deep	N/A
207	Deposit	Orange sand <i>Natural Substrate</i>	0.25m+ deep	0.78m
501	Floor surface	Asphalt surface. Same as (201) <i>20th Century floor surface</i>	0.08m deep	N/A
502	Deposit	Stone crush <i>20th century bedding deposit</i>	0.10m deep	0.08m
503	Deposit	Brown sandy loam. Same as (203) <i>19th/20th Century buried soil</i>	0.22m+ deep	0.18m
4001	Deposit	Concrete with rebar mesh within posthole 4. Below (201) <i>20th century bedding deposit</i>	0.12m deep	0.08m
9001	Deposit	Black ash and clinker deposit within posthole 9. Below (202) <i>19th/20th Century levelling deposit</i>	0.06m deep	0.25m

Context	Type	Description / Processual Interpretation	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x depth)	Depth to top (BGL)
14001	Cut	Modern service trench within posthole 14 <i>20th Century service trench</i>	0.56m+ deep 0.38m+ width	0.14m
14002	Fill	Orange/yellow stone crush backfill within trench cut [1401]. <i>20th century service trench backfill</i>	0.56m+ deep 0.38m+ width	0.14m
15001	Cut	Modern service trench within posthole 14 <i>20th Century service trench</i>	0.54m+ deep 0.33m+ width	0.16m
15002	Fill	Grey stone and concrete mix backfill within trench cut [1501]. <i>20th century service trench backfill</i>	0.54m+ deep 0.33m+ width	0.16m
18001	Cut	Modern service trench within posthole 18 <i>20th Century service trench</i>	0.54m+ deep 0.37m+ width	0.16m
18002	Fill	Grey stone and concrete mix backfill within trench cut [1501]. <i>20th century service trench backfill</i>	0.54m+ deep 0.37m+ width	0.16m
18003	Floor Surface	Concrete <i>20th Century floor surface.</i>	0.16m deep	N/A
21001	Structure	Machine made brick wall <i>20th Century boundary wall</i>	0.35m+ deep	N/A

An Archaeological Watching Brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire

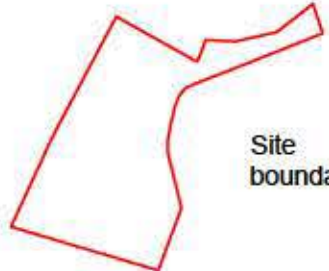




Context	Type	Description / <i>Processual Interpretation</i>	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x depth)	Depth to top (BGL)
22001	Structure	Machine made brick wall <i>20th Century boundary wall</i>	0.23m+ deep	N/A

Appendix II: Figures

Figure 28: Plan of sub-surface intervention locations

Drawn: MN
Scale: 1:200 @A3

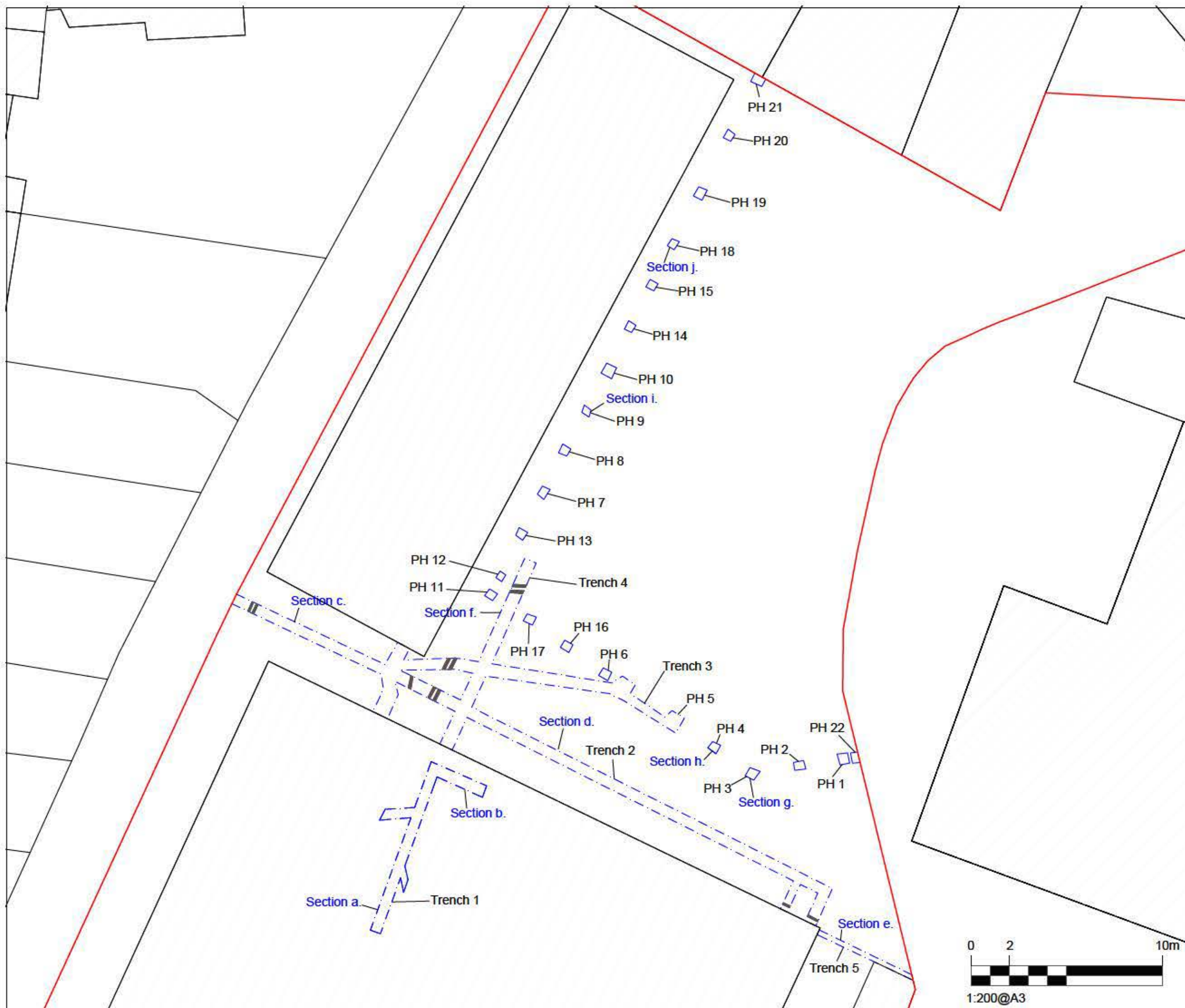
Key:

-  Site boundary
-  Utility trenches
-  Fence post footing
-  Existing utilities within excavated trenches
-  Existing Building



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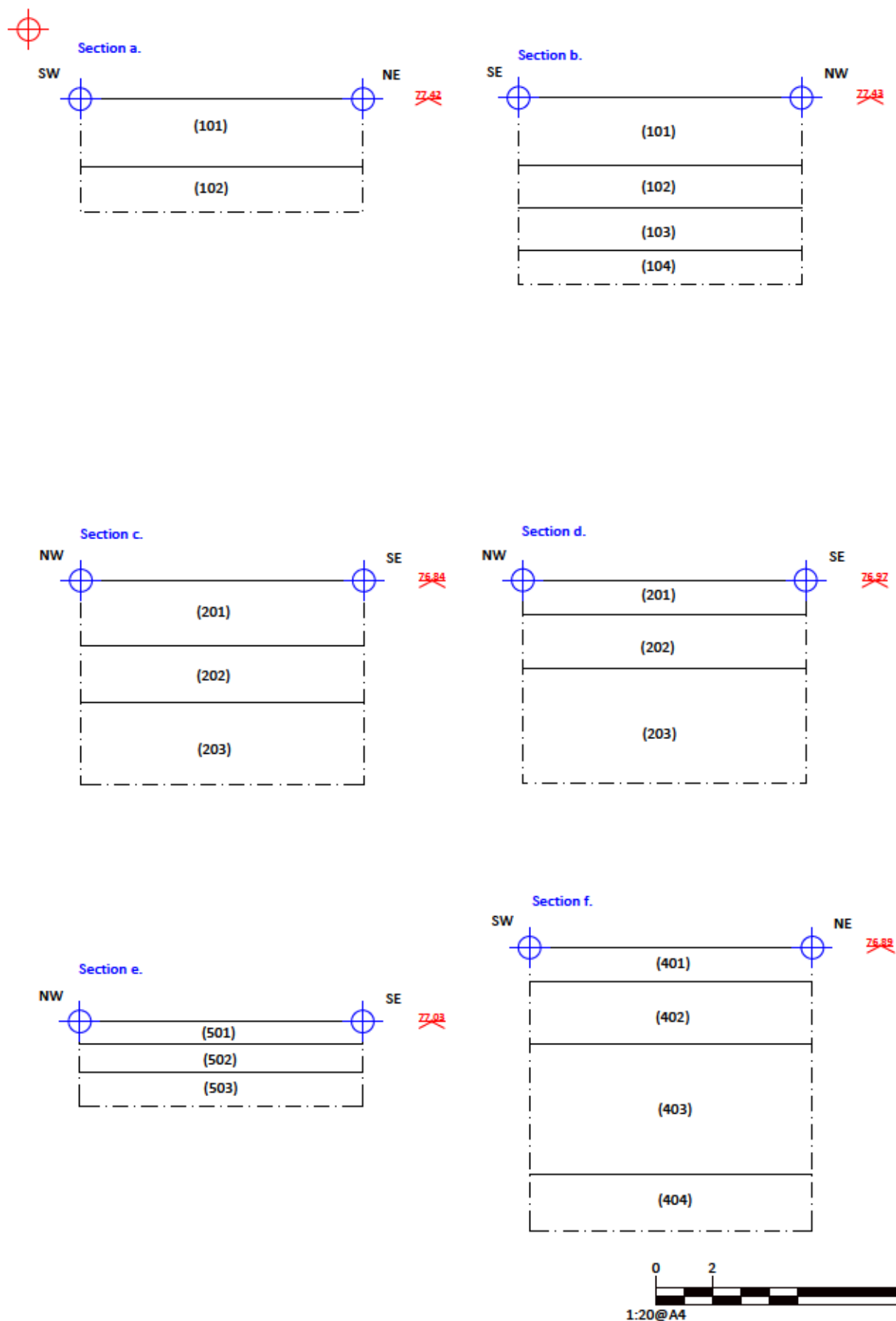


Figure 29: Representative sections a - f located on plan (Figure 28)

Drawn: MN
Scale: 1:20 @A4

Key:

~~77.03~~

Height above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in meters



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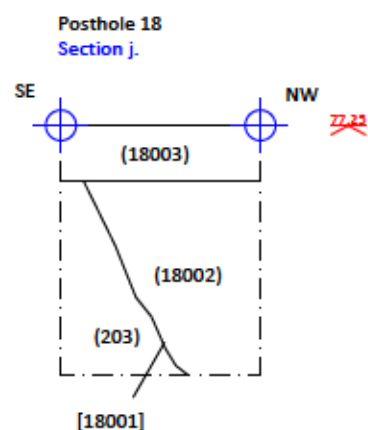
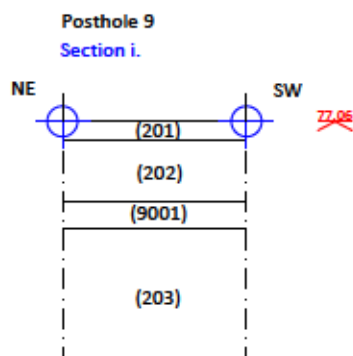
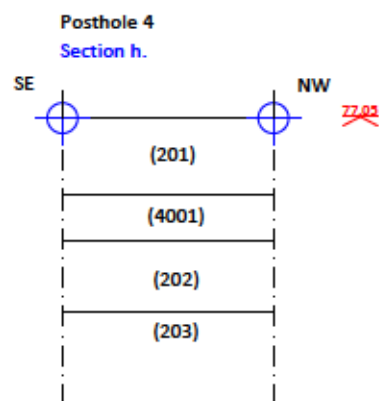
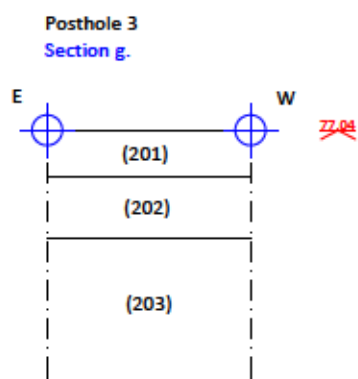


Figure 30: Representative sections g - j located on plan (Figure 28)

Drawn: MN
Scale: 1:20 @A4

Key:

~~77.03~~

Height above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in meters



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Appendix III: OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-399318

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Entrust Support Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, to monitor and record the excavation of utility trenches and fence post footings for the proposed development. The site potentially lies within the bounds of an Augustinian Friary, founded in 1344 but dissolved in 1539, and within Stafford Town Conservation Area. As such, Condition 4 of planning consent required an archaeological watching brief during the ground works associated with the extensions and alterations at 1a Bailey Street. The aim of the brief was to record and better understand the significance of any heritage assets encountered during the proposed development. Works were undertaken in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Development Control Archaeologist at Staffordshire County Council and took place between the 19th and 22nd May 2020.
Project dates	Start: 19-05-2020 End: 22-05-2020
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE STAFFORD STAFFORD 1a Bailey Street, Stafford
Study area	0.23 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 92307 22819 52.802540582761 -2.114123137218 52 48 09 N 002 06 50 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project	Rupert Lotherington

director/manager
Project supervisor Michael Nicholson
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient stafford
Physical Contents "Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient stafford
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient stafford
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s) Michael Nicholson
Date 2020
Issuer or publisher Archaeological Research Services Ltd
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Entered on 17 July 2020

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Appendix IV: Written Scheme of Investigation

1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Works

March 2020



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www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: Entrust Support Services Ltd

Date of compilation: March 2020

Compiled by: Michelle Burpoe

Planning Reference: S.19/09

Local Authority: Staffordshire County Council

Site central NGR: SJ 92307, 22819

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and Planning Background

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Entrust Support Services Ltd. It details a scheme of works for an archaeological watching brief at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford, Staffordshire. The proposed development comprises the change of use of the former SCC workshops/offices (Use Class B1) to a pupil Referral Unit (Use Class D1) to include external social space, alterations to the existing buildings, external secure fencing, provision for taxi drop off and collection, and 4 parking spaces for staff/visitors including one accessible space.

1.2 A planning application was submitted to Staffordshire County Council for the proposed development (Ref. S.19/09) and has been granted planning permission with the following archaeological condition:

'4. Prior to any external excavations/groundworks, including fence post holes, and Archaeological Investigation Scheme ('the Scheme') shall be submitted for the written approval of the County Planning Authority. The Scheme shall provide details of:

a) an archaeological watching brief (which shall comply with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and 'Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief' (CIfA, revised October 2014)) which shall be carried out by a suitably experienced archaeologist; and

b) the arrangements for post-excavation reporting, publication and archiving which shall be completed no later than 6 months after the development hereby permitted is first brought into use.'

1.3 The archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* paragraph 199 (MHCLG 2019, 56) *'to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportional to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.'*

1.4 This WSI confirms the nature of the archaeological works to be undertaken by ARS Ltd at 1a Bailey Street, Stafford comprising an archaeological watching brief in accordance with guidance from Shane Kelleher, Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

1.2 Site Description and 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 0.23ha. Bailey Street is located within the Stafford Borough Council's defined town centre boundary. Bailey Street is not a through road and beyond the site entrance is access to a small number of businesses. The site is a mixture of large, single portal workshops, a former residential property (used for office purposes for many years) and a detached

run of steel framed and clad garage/units. The site is centred at NGR SJ 92307, 22819 (Figures 1 and 2).

1.3 Geology

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA is mudstone and halite-stone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, formed approximately 201 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by hot deserts. This is overlain by glaciofluvial sheet deposits, Devensian of sand and gravel (BGS 2020).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A Heritage Statement was produced by Entrust Architectural (Latham 2019) for submission as part of this planning application. The following historical and archaeological background is drawn from this assessment.

2.2 Stafford has a rich and well documented history, first chronicled during the Anglo-Saxon period when St Bertelin established a church within the center of town, adjacent the current site of the Parish Church of St Mary's. Stafford was officially established in 913AD when it was made into a burh by Aethelfled, with the town becoming the centre of Mercia (SBC 2011, 14). The proposal site is potentially located within the possible site of an Austin Friary, which was founded in 1344, as part of Stafford's medieval suburban expansion, and dissolved in 1539. The extent of the friary is unknown (Latham 2019, 7), however groundworks undertaken as part of the development of the adjacent Friary Retail Park encountered at least five human remains of a medieval date in what is believed to formed part of a graveyard associated with the Friary. A further burial encountered at Friar Road, approx. 40m to the west of the proposal site is also likely to be associated with the Friary. Furthermore, the EUS (HUCA 25 Forebridge) (English Heritage 2011) notes that there is a high potential for groundworks in the area to encounter archaeological deposits of a high value, particularly relating to the earliest suburban activity in the town'

2.3 The growth and expansion of Stafford continued throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, with the construction of fine houses and various industries. 1a Bailey Street was originally designed by Hanley Architects and completed in November 1913 as the headquarters of the Staffordshire Yeomanry. The drill hall also accommodated the 6th Staffordshire Battery of the Royal Field artillery (RFA). After defense cuts of 1967, the drill hall was decommissioned and converted for use by the maintenance department of Staffordshire County Council (Latham 2019, 8). The site is located within the Stafford Town Conservation Area.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The proposed archaeological works also have the potential to identify the presence of evidence pertinent to research objectives and overarching research themes identified in *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A framework for research* (Watt 2011), in particular:

♦ *The medieval period:*

- ♦ Important work has been done on major churches, including Hereford Cathedral and Worcester Cathedral, and a number of monastic sites, but there remains a crucial gap in our knowledge at the level of the parish (2011, 184).

3.1.2 These aims and objectives will be revisited both during and after fieldwork in order that they may be updated as necessary.

3.2 Fieldwork Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site.

3.2.2 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are as follows.

- ♦ To excavate and record the archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- ♦ To establish a relative chronological sequence and if possible, a dating framework for excavated deposits and features.
- ♦ To establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of surviving archaeological deposits to inform the research aims outlined above.

4 WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 The watching brief will involve the continuous monitoring during all sub-surface groundworks for the development (Figure 3). Should significant areas of archaeological interest be uncovered during the watching brief, discussions will be undertaken with the Staffordshire County Archaeologist on the best archaeological mitigation strategy.

4.1.2 Where deemed appropriate, the advice of the relevant Historic England Regional Science will be sought in relation to the collection of palaeoenvironmental material, industrial residues or other relevant scientific material.

4.2 General Statement of Practice

4.2.1 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* (2014b).

4.2.2 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording.

4.2.3 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 watching brief and will be given a copy of this WSI to read.

4.2.4 All ground works covered under this specification will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket operating under archaeological supervision.

4.2.5 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.

4.2.6 Contractors and plant operators must notify any observations of archaeological remains immediately to the archaeologist on site. The developer will make provision for the necessary archaeological investigation (fieldwork, post-excavation analysis, reporting and archive deposition).

4.2.7 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 requirements of the Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

4.2.8 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.

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

4.3 Methodology

4.3.1 Excavation will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket or by hand. Where a trench is to be excavated through tarmac, a breaker will be used.

4.3.2 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.

4.3.3 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.

4.3.4 A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief. All significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved.

4.3.5 If significant archaeological features are identified during these works, the Staffordshire County Archaeologist will be notified, and a decision made as how to proceed.

4.4 Sampling, Faunal Remains, Human Remains and Treasure

4.4.1 This section outlines sampling methodologies to be utilised.

4.4.2 A minimum bulk sample of 40 litres will be taken from sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits, that are adjudged to have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or land use regime. A 100% bulk sample of the deposit will be taken if the deposit is less than 40 litres in volume.

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

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

4.4.5 Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist and provision will be made for scientific dating, where justified against the project aims.

4.4.6 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or samples of them) will be collected by hand. Separate samples (c.10ml) will be collected from micro-slugs (hammer scale and spherical droplets) in accordance with *Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015a) and *Archaeological Evidence for Glassworking* (Historic England 2018).

4.4.7 Samples will be taken for scientific dating (such as radiocarbon dating) in specific circumstances that will apply where dating by artefacts is insecure or absent.

4.4.8 Appropriate consideration will be given to the need for any geoarchaeological assessment of buried soils and sediment sequences exposed. Where said is necessary these will be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist as field inspection may provide sufficient data for understanding site formation processes. The procedures and techniques presented in *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (Historic England 2015b) will be applied. Samples for laboratory assessment will be collected where appropriate, following discussion with the LCC Principal Archaeologist.

4.4.9 Sampling strategies for wooden structures should follow the methodologies presented in Historic England's *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (2010). For other waterlogged organic finds, guidance provided by Historic England's *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidance on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (2011) will be followed.

4.4.10 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.

4.4.11 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.

4.4.12 Any human remains will initially be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal will be undertaken, if deemed necessary, once a Coroners licence has been obtained in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations, in line with current guidelines (English Heritage 2004; English Heritage and The Church of England 2005; APABE/English Heritage 2013; Mitchell and Brickley 2017) and in discussion with the Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

4.4.13 All finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996, will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer will also be notified.

HM Coroner
Ian Stewart Smith
Coroners Chambers
547 Hartshill Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST4 6HF
Tel: 01782 234783

Finds Liaison Officer
Teresa Gilmore
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
Chamberlain Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 3DH
Tel: 01213 488225

4.4.14 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.

4.5 Recording

4.5.1 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.

4.5.2 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.

4.5.3 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.

4.5.4 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.

4.5.5 Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and/or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered.

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

4.5.7 All heights above sea level will be recorded for all deposits and features in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

4.5.8 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.

4.5.9 A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled for all trenches where superimposed archaeological deposits, features or structures are encountered.

4.6 Finds Processing and Storage

4.6.1 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*.

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

4.6.3 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.

4.6.4 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.

4.6.5 Metal finds will be sampled, processed and analysed in line with *Centre for Archaeology Guidelines: Archaeometallurgy* (English Heritage 2001), and *Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork* (English Heritage 2006a). Any waterlogged artefacts or ecofacts will be sampled, processed and analysed using *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010) and *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidance on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (English Heritage 2012).

4.6.6 Artefacts, ecofacts and deposits suitable for dating purposes will be identified and obtained in line with *Dendrochronology: Guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates* (English Heritage 1998), *Archaeomagnetic Dating: Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates* (English Heritage 2006b), and *Luminescence Dating: Guidelines on using luminescence dating in archaeology* (English Heritage 2008b).

4.6.7 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.

4.6.8 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.

4.6.9 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

4.7 Post-Excavation and Reporting

4.7.1 A report on the results obtained will be produced by ARS Ltd and submitted to the Staffordshire County Archaeologist, or other nominated personnel, within 8 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The report 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.

4.7.2 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.

5 TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

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

Proposed Commencement Date	Task
March/April 2020	Archaeological watching brief
April/May 2020	Post-excavation, reporting and archive

5.2 The Project Manager for the archaeological works will be Reuben Thorpe MCIfA, Head of Field Archaeology at ARS Ltd. The Fieldwork Project Officer will be Michael Nicholson PCIfA, Project Officer at ARS Ltd.

5.3 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 pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
♦ Medieval and post-medieval glass, metalwork and clay pipes:	Mike Wood MCIfA
♦ Industrial remains:	Dr Rod Mackenzie MCIfA
♦ Plant macrofossils, charcoal and pollen:	Luke Parker
♦ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska ACIfA
♦ Radiocarbon dating:	Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
♦ Finds conservation:	Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

6 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 At least one week prior notice of the commencement of each phase of ground works to be given to the Staffordshire County Archaeologist:

Shane Kelleher
Staffordshire County Archaeologist
Rural County Office

No.1 Staffordshire Place
Stafford
ST16 2LP
Tel: 01785 277285

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

6.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Staffordshire County Archaeologist, or her representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation.

7 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

7.1 The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery will be notified of the archaeological works, and an accession number will be allotted to the works.

7.2 Should the project produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

7.3 Should the project produce archaeologically significant finds, then the Staffordshire Principal Archaeologist and The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity. A project archive will be prepared for deposition with the Museum by ARS Ltd with the. 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).

7.4 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 (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.

7.5 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 County Archaeologist informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

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

7.7 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.

8 GENERAL ITEMS

8.1 Health and Safety

8.1.1 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 out 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.

8.2 Insurance Cover

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

8.3 Community Engagement and Outreach

8.3.1 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.

8.4 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

8.4.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

8.5 Publication

8.5.1 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.

8.6 Publicity and Copyright

8.6.1 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).

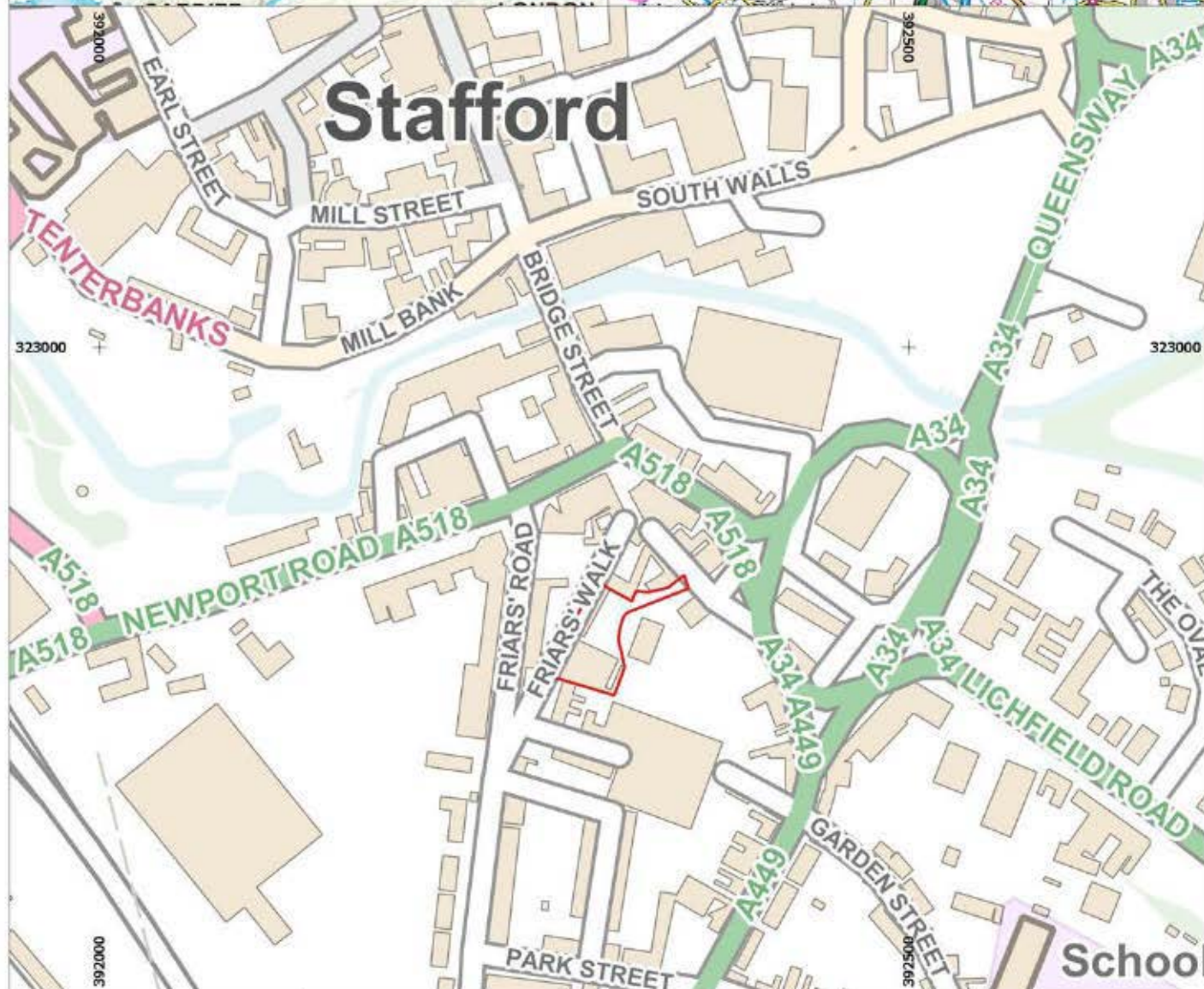
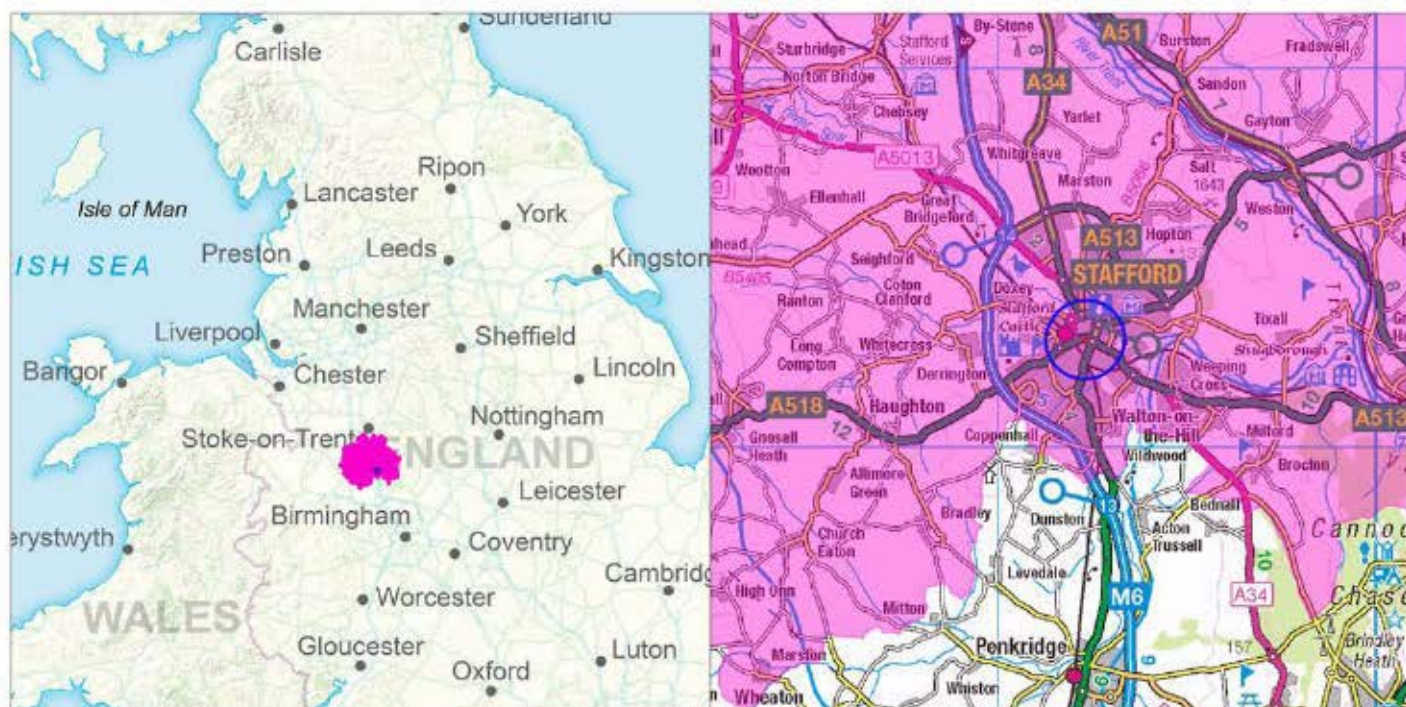
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FIGURES



Site name: 1a Bailey Street, Stafford
 Date: March 2020
 Drawn by: MB
 Scale: Varies

**Figure 1:
 Site location**



Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Angel House
 Portland Square
 Bakewell
 Derbyshire
 DE45 1HB



Tel: 01629 814540

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 RESEARCH SERVICES LTD

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

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 Site Boundary


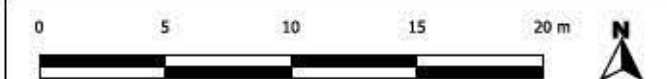
 Stafford Borough Council



Figure 2: Existing Site Plan

Site Boundary



Site name: 1a Bailey Street, Stafford
 Date: March 2020
 Drawn by: MB
 Scale: 1:300 @ A3

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 Entrust Project Reference 5810, Drawing No. A002.

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