

Archaeological Evaluation at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire



View of Whittington Youth Centre

ARS Ltd Report No. 2020/102

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Chronology (calendar years BC-AD)	Glacial Eras	British Archaeological Periods	Climatic Phases	Environment	
AD 1901 AD 1837 AD 1714	Holocene	modern Victorian Georgian	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)	
AD 1485		post-medieval			
AD 1066		medieval			
AD 410		early medieval			
AD 43		Roman Britain			
0		Iron Age			
500 BC		Bronze Age			
700 BC 800 BC					
1800 BC		Beaker period			
2400 BC		Neolithic (advent of farming)			
3800 BC		Late Mesolithic			
4000 BC					
4200 BC					
6175 BC					
6400 BC	Early Mesolithic				
7000 BC					
9700 BC	Pleistocene	Palaeolithic	Arctic	Tundra	
11500 BC			Late Upper Palaeolithic Ahrensburgian		
15000 BC			Upper Palaeolithic Creswellian/ Magdalenian	Sub-arctic	Plains and woodland (dwarf birch, willow) Mammoths in Britain
18000 BC			Upper Palaeolithic	Arctic	Ice and tundra steppe
	Loch Lomond Stadial (known as Younger Dryas across NW Europe)				
	Windermere Interstadial or 'Late Glacial Interstadial'				
	Devensian 'LGM' (Last Glacial Maximum)				

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name: Archaeological Evaluation at Whittington Youth Centre

Site Code: WYC'20

Planning Authority: Staffordshire County Council

Planning Ref: 17/01160/FUL

Superficial Geology: Sandstone and pebbly gravel

NGR: SK 16064, 08292

Date of Fieldwork: 13/07/2020 - 14/07/2020

Date of Report: 15/07/2020

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Fisher German LLP in February 2020 to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching prior to proposed development at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire as a consequence of a planning condition attached to the development's planning approval. The proposed development comprises the conversion of existing buildings, the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of new dwellings including a new driveway and parking spaces.

The work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) between the 13th and 14th July 2020 by Dimitrios Katsifas, and Kylie Bassendale, Assistant Project Officers at Archaeological Research Services Ltd. The project was managed by Lawrence Pontin, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches across the site each measuring 30m x 2m. A total of three features were found on site, two were identified as modern disturbances while the third represented the remains of a possible post medieval boundary ditch. All featured underlay topsoil and subsoil horizons and had been cut into the underlying natural substrate.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 In 2020 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Fisher German LLP to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching prior to development at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire SK 16064 08292.

1.1.2 The works undertaken related to the proposed developments, comprising the conversion of existing buildings, the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of new dwellings, including a new driveway and parking spaces. One of the existing buildings within the site boundary is a Listed Building and the site is located fully within the Whittington Conservation Area. A planning application was submitted to the Lichfield District Council for the proposed development (Ref. 17/01160/FUL) and has been granted planning permission with the following archaeological condition:

'Before the development hereby approved is commenced, the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of works shall thereafter be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme and timescales.'

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter PDA) is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 2 and covers an area of 3565m². It is located on the corner of Church Street and Main Street, with residential housing to the north-east and tree cover to the north-west. The PDA was occupied by the Youth Centre buildings with an accompanying tarmac car park and open grassed area. The site is centred at NGR SK 16064 08292.

1.3 Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA is comprised of Helsby sandstone formation consisting of sandstone and pebbly gravel.

1.3.2 The soils of the PDA are defined as freely draining, slightly acidic loamy soils (LandIS 2020).

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The historical and archaeological background of this site has been explored previously in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Hunter, 2020) but for ease of access has been summarised below.

2.2 The medieval village of Whittington was first recorded in the 12th century. It stands at the junction where an east-west road met a road north to the town of Alrewas

and south to Whittington Common. Two important medieval sites were located in close proximity to the site, St Giles' church (PRN 12564) and Whittington Old Hall (PRN 12567). The church contains fabric dating back to the 14th century while the Hall is a late 16th/17th century manor house possibly located on the site of an earlier medieval building (Entrust Property Services 2017).

2.3 The PDA was first used as a school in 1741 when a Free School for boys was founded. A new school, now a Grade II Listed Building (NHLE 1405559), was designed by Thomas Johnson of Lichfield and constructed in 1864 in a late Gothic style. This 1864 building has not been altered much since its original construction and is of high aesthetic and architectural value. Internally, the building has retained a number of original details.

2.4 A further new school building, which is undesignated, was constructed fronting onto Church Street in 1878. This was extended in 1910 to provide an additional classroom and cloakroom facilities and in the early 1950s the school was expanded again to include two HORSAs (Hutting Operation for the Raising of the School-leaving Age) classroom blocks and a dining block. Further alterations were undertaken in 1958.

2.5 The site was used as a school until 1968 and then as a Youth and Community Centre between 1968 and 2014 (Entrust Property Services 2017).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.2 The archaeological works were intended to safeguard any archaeological interests in accordance with the requirements of *Core Policy 14: Our Built & Historic Environment*, and *Policy BE1: High Quality Development*, of the *Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy*.

3.1.2 The archaeological excavation was adjudged to have the potential to provide evidence relating to research objectives and themes identified in *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for research* (Watt 2011), in particular:

- ◆ *Chapter 6. The medieval period:*

- 6.2.1: *Rural settlement*

- 6.4.1: *Life in town and countryside*

- ◆ *Chapter 7. 'The archaeology of everything' – grappling with post-medieval, industrial and contemporary archaeology*

3.2 Principal Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aims of the programme of works were to gather evidence sufficient to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about any archaeological remains existing within the area of investigation, and to provide an appropriate post-excavation assessment, analysis, reporting, archiving and dissemination.

3.2.2 The objectives were as follows:

- ◆ To test for the presence and condition of surviving archaeological remains that have the potential to be impacted upon by the development.
- ◆ To produce a photographic, drawn and descriptive record of any surviving below-ground archaeological remains.
- ◆ To produce dating and phasing for archaeological deposits recorded on the site.
- ◆ To establish the character and delimit the extent of archaeological deposits in order to define functional areas on the site, e.g. industrial and domestic.

4 METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 Standards

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the works specified in a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (Hunter, 2020) and agreed with the Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council, reproduced in Appendix III at the rear of this report.

4.1.2 In all circumstances the groundworks were undertaken in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (2014b).

4.2 Coverage

4.2.1 The WSI initially stipulated the excavation of two trenches, 30m x 2m each (Figure 2).

4.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were both excavated to the first archaeological horizon at the level of the geological natural.

4.3 General Statement of Practice

4.3.1 All staff employed on the project were suitably qualified for their respective project roles and had suitable experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff were made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and were fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff was fully conversant with the aims and methodologies of the evaluation and was given a copy of the WSI to read prior to the commencement of work on site.

4.3.2 The trenches were located in accordance with a pre-agreed trench plan using a Leica Smartrover GPS to a tolerance of 0.025m. The same GPS was also used to locate drawn plans and sections and to take spot heights within the trenches.

4.3.2 All trenches were excavated using a twelve tonne excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision.

4.3.3 All trenches were cleaned by hand to an appropriate level before recording.

4.3.4 All features were tied into Ordnance Survey and all deposits were levelled and their spot heights calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

4.3.5 Site survey was undertaken using a Leica Smartrover GPS with a set accuracy tolerance of $\pm 0.025\text{m}$.

4.3.6 Site photography was undertaken using a Fuji XP90 (16.4 megapixel resolution). Photographic images comprise general site working shots and images of the excavation area.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section presents a narrative descriptive summary of all of the archaeology encountered, details of each context is presented in a context summary table in Appendix I which should be read in conjunction with this section.

5.1.2 The two evaluation trenches when excavated (Figure 2) covered some 120m^2 . Both trenches contained archaeological features.

5.1.3 A relatively simple depositional sequence was encountered on the site. In Trench 1 Topsoil (101) was a minimum of 0.18m thick overlay subsoil (102) which was a minimum of 0.36m thick. In Trench 2 Topsoil (201) was a minimum of 0.40m thick overlay subsoil (202) was a minimum of 0.40m thick. The topsoil (101) and (201) had been heavily disturbed by modern actions and root penetration was found to extend into the geological natural.

5.1.4 In both trenches a number of brick and concrete footings were observed (as in Figure 8 – Trench 2) possibly for the construction of the new school building as mentioned in section 2.3.

5.2 Trench 1

(Figures 2,4)

5.2.1 Topsoil (101) and subsoil (102) were removed to c.0.60m BGL (66.12m aOD) to reveal the upper horizon of the geological natural (103).

5.2.2 Various finds were recovered from the subsoil (102) which indicate late medieval, post-medieval, and modern deposition on the site.

5.2.3 Two features [104] and [106] were exposed in Trench 1 (Fig.5 and 6). Feature [104] was large and sub-oval in plan that contained a single backfill (105) within which glass, porcelain, metal, and animal bone were present and visible on the surface. Feature [106] was small and rectangular in plan and contained one fill (107) interpreted as modern with inclusions of metal and glass. Both features were interpreted as modern waste pits associated with the demolished carpenter's workshop which had stood on the

site, based on the finds that were laid on top. Neither of these features were excavated further due to the likelihood of them containing asbestos.

5.2.4 Deposit (108) represents a layer of asphalt at the top of the sequence associated with the pre-existing Youth Centre playground and car park.

5.2.5 Deposit (109) represents a made ground deposit acting as a levelling and bedding deposit prior to laying of asphalt (108).

5.3 Trench 2

(Figures 2,7)

5.3.1 Topsoil (201) and Subsoil (202) were removed to a depth of c.0.97m BGL (65.40m aOD) to reveal the natural substrate into which the archaeology had been cut.

5.3.2 A linear archaeological feature [204] (Fig. 3 and 8) was exposed running on a northeast-southwest alignment and containing two well-sorted fills (205) and (206). Both fills produced a large number of finds including pot, CBM (Ceramic building material), animal bone, and a few pieces of clay pipe. The animal bone and the pieces of clay pipe came from the primary fill (205) of the ditch [204].

5.3.3 Deposit (207) was a layer of concrete associated with a previous school building (carpenter's workshop) created during the late 20th century (Figures 3 and 8).

5.3.4 Deposit (208) was a fine pink silty sand which represented a bedding deposit associated with the construction of concrete footing/floor (207).

5.3.5 Structure (209) was a block of mixed handmade and machine-made red and yellow bricks lying on concrete slab (210). Structure (209) and concrete (210) constitute one solid constructed block in association with the footings of the previous school building. Blocks like this were present inside and outside of the two trenches and were cut from the level of the topsoil (Fig. 3 and 8).

5.3.6 No other archaeological features were encountered in Trench 2.

6 FINDS

6.1 Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA, FSA

6.1.1 Eight fragments of pottery weighing 107.23g were recovered, dating to the 18th-20th centuries, as summarised in Table 1. These represent black-glazed utilitarian earthenware fragments which came from the same vessel (a bowl) and refined earthenware used for storage, preparation and consumption of food.

Artefact type	Date range	Artefact count by context
		(206)
Black-glazed red-bodied earthenware	18 th -19 th century	2
Brown-glazed earthenware	19 th -early 20 th centuries	1
Multi-coloured glazed earthenware	Late 19 th -early 20 th centuries	2
Transfer-printed whiteware	Late 19 th -early 20 th centuries	3
Weight		107.23g
Total count		8

Table 1: Pottery

Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.1.2 A total of 18 fragments of roof tile with a sandy fabric and four handmade brick fragments weighing c.1.840kg in total were recovered, as summarised in Table 2. All these fragments date from the 17th-early 20th centuries.

Artefact type	Date range	Artefact count by context	
		(205)	(206)
Roof tile fragments	17 th -early 20 th centuries	4	16
Brick fragments	18 th -early 20 th centuries	2	2
Weight		521.52	1.318kg
Total count		6	18

Table 2: Ceramic Building Material

Discussion

6.1.3 The finds recovered from the site are not unusual in any respect for a 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 disposed of.

6.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe

Dr Rebecca L Trow, ACIfA

6.2.1 A total of 4 pieces of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the site as summarised in Table 3 below. The material was cleaned, counted, measured and individually examined to identify diagnostic pieces.

6.2.2 A single bowl fragment, as well as a bowl base with surviving spur and stem were recovered. In addition two stem fragments, with no mouthpieces, were found in the same context. All of the fragments were recovered from the fill of a ditch with potentially Medieval origins.

6.2.3 The bowls are too fragmentary to ascertain the style and therefore date of the pipes. No diagnostic marks or patterning survives on any of the pieces. The spur on one of the bowl fragments suggests a date of 17th century or later. On the basis of the bore sizes of the three surviving stems, these may 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).

Cxt	Stem		Bowl				Bore size	Date range	Notes
	No.	Burnish	No.	Burnish	Dec.	Shape			
205	-	-	1	-	-	-	8/64"	C17th-EC18th	Spur heel, bowl lost
205	1	Average	-	-	-	-	8/64"	C17th-EC18th	-
205	1	Average	-	-	-	-	10/64"	C17th-EC18th	-
205	-	-	1	Average	-	-	-	C17th-EC18th	Very Fragmentary

Table 3: Clay Tobacco Pipe Summary Table

6.2.4 The clay pipe fragments recovered are residual to a secondary context. They were recovered along with some animal bone from the earliest surviving fill of a potentially Medieval boundary ditch. The fill was well sorted which indicates a low energy formation process, most likely over a long period of time and primarily comprising natural siltation activity. The presence of the modest clay pipe assemblage in this lowest fill may suggest that this fill was being formed during the 17th century or later.

6.2.5 The clay pipe recovered from the site is very fragmentary in nature and is a very small assemblage from a secondary context. As a result the pieces have a limited

potential for further research and could thus be returned to the landowner, retained in a teaching collection, archived, or discarded.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1. This section aims to synthesise the results of the archaeological evaluation and outline the significance of the archaeological deposits.

7.2 The archaeological evaluation at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire, has revealed a small amount of archaeological finds and features. Trench 1 revealed two modern disturbances relating to a now demolished building (carpenter's workshop). A small assemblage of unstratified pottery was found in Trench 1 which could indicate background activity associated with the late medieval period.

7.3 Trench 2 revealed a possible late medieval boundary ditch. Its alignment, parallel to Main Street (which holds the same approximate location as in the medieval period) hints at the likelihood that ditch [204] represents the rear boundary of plots or fields which would have fronted onto Main Street in the medieval period. This boundary had obviously gone out of use by the time of construction for the later school building which extends beyond it to the north-west.

7.4 In summary, the archaeological evaluation which took place at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire, has confirmed what was already known about the location and demolition of the former building on site, and the likely boundaries of the medieval plots fronting onto Main Street in the area which has been most recently occupied by the Youth Centre.

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 the evaluation produced no significant artefacts, it is not necessary to deposit an archive with The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery. This is in line with the 'The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery Museum', Staffordshire.

9.2 One bound copy with a digital copy of the final report in PDF/A format on disc will be deposited with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report has been uploaded as part of the OASIS record for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

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.

10.2 No responsibility can be accepted by the author 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, in particular Fodens Developments Limited and Shane Kelleher the Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

Evaluation trenching was undertaken on behalf of ARS Ltd by Dimitrios Katsifas and Kylie Bassendale both Assistant Project Officers. The report was compiled by Dimitrios Katsifas and checked by Lawrence Pontin and Tom Parker PCIfA. The project was managed for ARS Ltd by Lawrence Pontin, Projects Manager in Archaeological Research Services Ltd. The finds assessments have been produced by Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA, and Rebecca Trow ACIfA.

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APPENDIX I: FIGURES

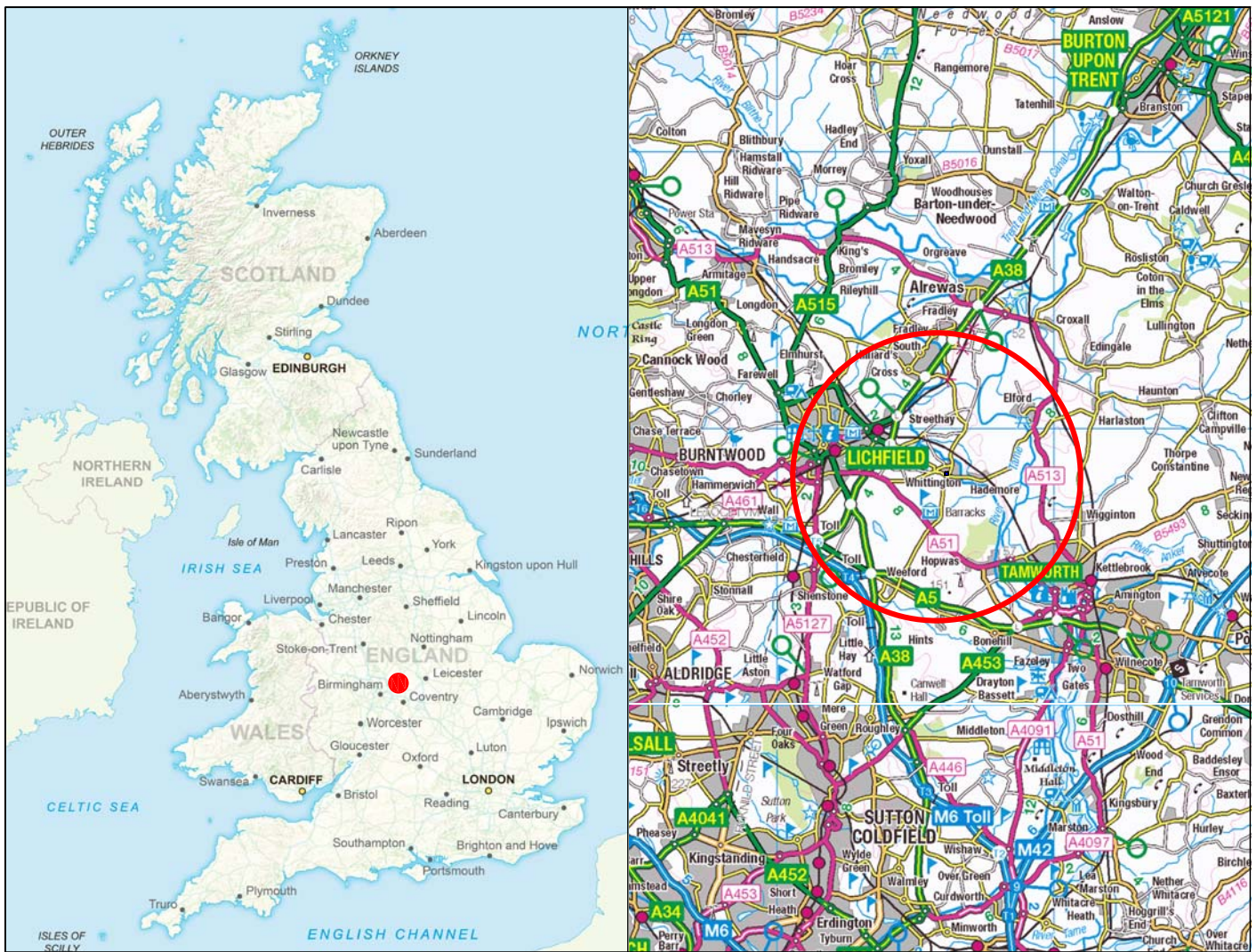


Figure 1:
Whittington Youth Centre location map.
Scale = various

Key:



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Figure 2:





Whittington Youth Centre showing trench locations.

Scale: As shown @ A4

Ordnance Survey data if applicable
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Key:

-  Buildings to be demolished
-  Buildings to be retained and converted
-  Evaluation trenches
-  Site boundary

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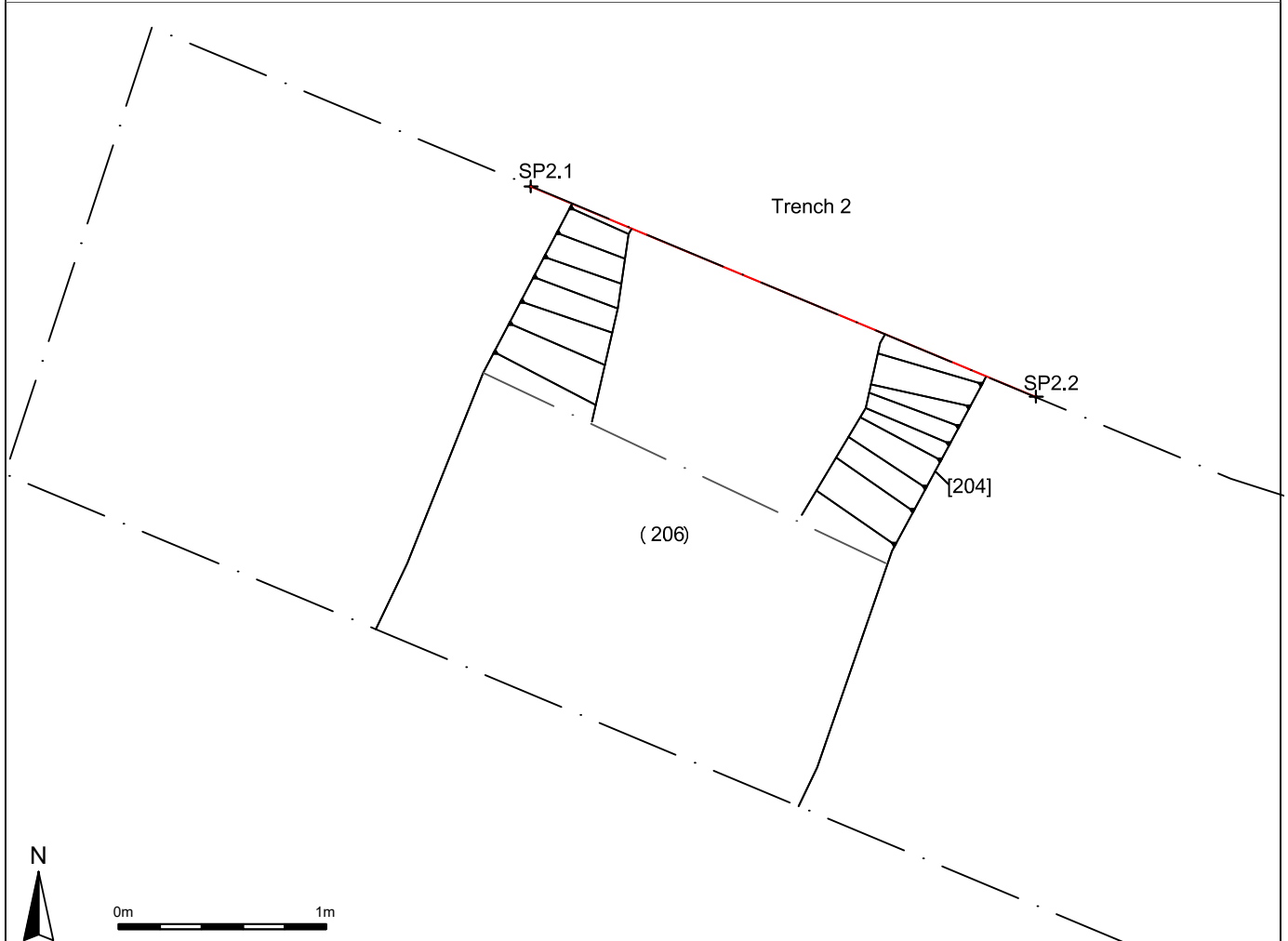
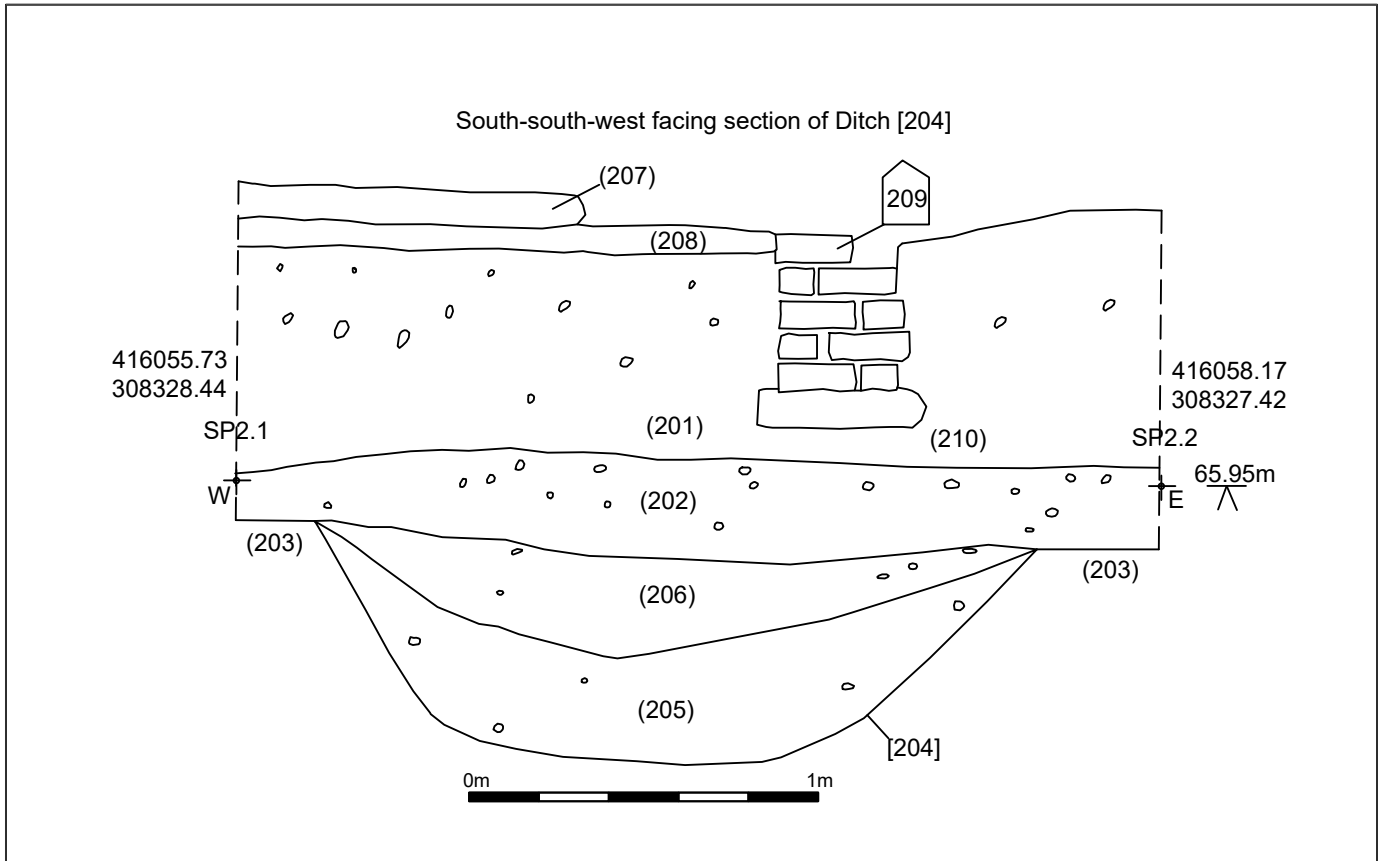


Figure 3:

South-south east faing section and plan of Ditch [204] within Trench 2.
 Scale: As shown @ A4
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Key:

- - - - - Section line
- Limit of excavation
- aOD (m)

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Figure 4. Trench 1 looking north-east. Scale 2m x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 5. Modern waste pit [104] looking north-east. Scale 2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 6. Modern waste pit in trench 1 looking north-east. Scale 0.5m in 10cm graduations.



Figure 7. Trench 2 looking south-east. Scale 2m x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 8. Post Medieval ditch [204], footings {209} and (210) looking north-east. Scale 2m in 0.5m graduations.

APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

Context	Type	Description / Processual Interpretation	Thickness/extent (feature = length x width x thickness)	Depth (Above Sea Level)
101	Deposit / Topsoil	A fine textured dark blackish brown sandy silt with a moderate amount of pebble inclusions. Represents the topsoil within Trench 1.	30m x 2m x 0.40m	66.85
102	Deposit / Subsoil	A fine textured mid orangey brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded pebbles. Represents the subsoil within trench 1.	30m x 2m x 0.40m	66.60m
103	Deposit / Natural	A fine textured mid pinkish orangey brown sandy silt with frequent small pebble inclusions. Represents the geological natural within Trench 1.	30 x 2m x N/A	66.93m
104	Cut	A large sub-circular / oval feature which appears to contain one single backfill (105) of which glass, pot, metal and animal bone were present / visible on the surface. Represents a modern waste pit.	0.40m x 1.30m x N/A	65.87m
105	Fill	A poorly sorted fill of large pit [104]. Contains modern waste material, glass, Chinese pot, animal bone, degraded metal, and CBM. Represents disuse of pit in the form of backfill.		65.87m
106	Cut	A small rectangular feature appears to contain one fill (107) unexcavated. Represents a probable waste pit, possibly contemporary with pit [104].	0.90m x 0.50m x N/A	65.83m
107	Fill	A fine textured dark blackish – brown sandy silt comprised of a moderate amount of degraded metal and broken glass. Appears to	0.90m x 0.50m x N/A	65.83m

		be the single backfill of pit [106]. Represents disuse of pit in the form of backfill.		
108	Deposit	A course textured dark greyish black deposit comprised of tarmac. Represents a layer of tarmac in association with the pre-existing playground / car park.	50mm – 80mm thick	66.89m
109	Deposit	A poorly sorted, fine – coarse textured mid greyish – brown deposit, comprised of frequent sandstone chips. Represents a layer of made up ground, preceding the laying of tarmac.	0.20m thick	66.84m
201	Deposit / Topsoil	A fine textured dark blackish brown sandy silt deposit comprised of a moderate amount of small rounded pebbles. Represents the topsoil within Trench 2.	30m x 2m x 0.30m – 0.40m thick	66.64m
202	Deposit / Susoil	A fine textured mid orangey brown sandy silt with occasional of small rounded pebbles. Represents the subsoil within trench 2.	30m x 2m x 0.30m – 0.40m thick	66.40m
203	Deposit / Natural	A fine textured mid pinkish orangey brown deposit comprised of sandy silt and frequent small rounded pebbles. Represents the geological natural.	30m x 2m x N/A	65.40m
204	Cut	A north north east to south south west oigned linear feature, characterised by a sharp break in slope, steep concaving sides, which sharply – moderately break into a flat base. Represents the construction of a probable ditch, possibly boundary ditch, late/post medieval in date given the finds within.	2m+ x 2.30m x 0.60m	65.85m

205	Fill	A fine textured well sorted mid orangey brown sandy silt, it contained clay pipe fragments, CBM, a pot handle, and animal bone, all likely late / post medieval. It is the lower fill of boundary ditch [204]. Represents initial disuse of ditch in the form of natural silting.	2m+ x 2.07m x 0.68m	65.85m
206	Fill	A fine textured well sorted mid greysh brown sandy silt containing fragments of pot and CBM, with occasional small pebbles. It is the upper (secondary) fill of ditch [204]. Represents final disuse of ditch in the form of natural silting.	2m+ x 2.07m x 0.39m	65.82m
207	Deposit	A coarse textured light whiteish – greyish deposit, within the western end of Trench 2. Represents a layer of concrete in association with a previous school building (carpenter’s workshop) mid 20th century.	0.10m thick	66.80m
208	Deposit	A fine textured silty sand (mid pink) gravel mix comprised of frequent small rounded pebbles. Represents made ground in association with concrete (207).	80mm thick	66.70m
209	Structure / footings	Eight red bricks and one yellow Lower bricks appear handmade. Laid header / stretcher, the lower layer appears handmade and have been re-used for the structure together with frogged, machine made bricks, banded with pink sandy silt. The visible bricks are south south west facing. Represents the footings for a demolished school building (carpenter’s workshop), mid 20th century.	Frogged ones 0.23m x0.11m x 80mm, handmade ones 0.23m x .11m x 750mm.	66.67m
210	Deposit	A coarse textured light pinkish – white deposit, lays directly beneath	0.11m thick x 0.47m	66.20

		structure {209}. Represents made ground /the base / foundation for the footings of a now demolished building in association with the school.	width	
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APPENDIX III: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Whittington Youth Centre, Whittington, Staffordshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

February 2020



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

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: Fodens Developments Limited

Date of compilation: February 2020

Compiled by: Philippa Hunter

Planning Reference: 17/01160/FUL

Local Authority: Staffordshire County Council

Site central NGR: SK 16064 08292



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and Planning Background

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Fodens Developments Limited. It details a scheme of works for an archaeological evaluation at Whittington Youth Centre, Whittington, Staffordshire. The proposed development comprises the conversion of existing buildings, the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of new dwellings including a new driveway and parking spaces. One of the buildings within the site is a Listed Building and the site is located within the Whittington Conservation Area.

1.1.2 A planning application was submitted to Staffordshire County Council for the proposed development (Ref. 17/01160/FUL) and has been granted planning permission with the following archaeological condition:

6. Before the development hereby approved is commenced, the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of works shall thereafter be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme and timescales.

1.1.3 This WSI confirms the nature of the archaeological works to be undertaken by ARS Ltd at Whittington Youth Centre comprising an archaeological evaluation in accordance with guidance from Shane Kelleher, Staffordshire County Archaeologist.

1.1.4 The aim of the programme of works is, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 199 (DCLG 2018), to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Description and Location

2.1.1 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 3565m². It is located on the corner of Church Street and Main Street, with residential housing to the north-east and tree cover to the north-west. The PDA is currently occupied by the Youth Centre buildings with accompanying tarmac car park and an open grassed area. The site is centred at NGR SK 16064 08292.

2.2 Landform, Geology and Soils

2.2.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA is comprised of Helsby sandstone formation consisting of sandstone and pebbly gravel. The overlying superficial deposits have not been recorded for the site (BGS 2020).



2.2.2 The soils of the PDA are freely draining slightly acidic loamy soils (LandIS 2020).

2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.3.1 The medieval village of Whittington was first recorded in the 12th century. It stands at the junction of a crossroads where an east – west road met a road north to the town of Alrewas and south to Whittington Common. Within close proximity to the PDA are the two important medieval sites of St Giles' church (PRN 12564) and Whittington Old Hall (PRN 12567). The church contains fabric dating back to the 14th century while the Hall is a late 16th/17th century manor house possibly located on the site of an earlier medieval building (Entrust Property Services 2017).

2.3.2 The PDA was first used as a school in 1741 when a Free School for boys was founded. A new school, now a Grade II Listed Building (NHLE 1405559), was designed by Thomas Johnson of Lichfield and constructed in 1864 in a late Gothic style. A further new school building, which is undesignated, was constructed fronting on to Church Street in 1878. This was extended in 1910 to provide an additional classroom and cloakroom facilities and in the early 1950s the school was expanded again to include two HORSAs classroom blocks and a dining block. Further alterations were undertaken in 1958. The site was used as a school until 1968 and then as a Youth and Community Centre between 1968 and 2014 (Entrust Property Services 2017).

2.3.3 The 1864 building has not been altered much since its original construction and is of high aesthetic and architectural value. Internally, the building has retained a number of original details.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 The proposed archaeological works are intended to safeguard any archaeological interests in accordance with the requirements of Core Policy 14: Our Built & Historic Environment, and Policy BE1: High Quality Development, of the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy.

3.1.2 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:

- ◆ Chapter 6. The medieval period:
 - 6.2.1: Rural settlement
 - 6.4.1: Life in town and countryside
- ◆ Chapter 7. 'The archaeology of everything' – grappling with post-medieval, industrial and contemporary archaeology

3.2 Principal Aims and Objectives



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

3.2.2 The objectives are as follows.

- ◆ To test for the presence and condition of surviving archaeological remains that have the potential to be impacted upon by the development.
- ◆ To produce a photographic, drawn and descriptive record of any surviving below-ground archaeological remains.
- ◆ To produce dating and phasing for archaeological deposits recorded on the site.
- ◆ To establish the character and delimit the extent of archaeological deposits in order to define functional areas on the site, e.g. industrial and domestic.

4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation will involve the excavation of two 30m x 2m trenches (Figure 2).

4.2 General Statement of Practice

4.2.1 All elements of the archaeological evaluation will be carried out in accordance with ClfA's *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (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. 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.

4.2.3 All ground works covered under this specification will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, or by hand. If significant archaeological features are identified, the Staffordshire County Archaeologist will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.

4.2.4 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.



4.3 Evaluation Methodology

4.3.1 Excavation of the trenches 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 The trenches will be excavated in level spits before being appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features or deposits.

4.3.3 All excavated spoil will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Finds so recovered will be recorded with their location of origin ascribed. Finds will be retained and recorded.

4.3.4 Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the evaluation, 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.

4.3.5 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

4.4.1 This section outlines sampling methodologies to be utilised in all excavation types.

4.4.2 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or land use regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller. This material will be floated and passed through graduated sieves, the smallest being a 500 μ mesh.

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 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.

4.4.6 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as



required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

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

4.4.8 Finds of 'treasure' will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison officer will also be notified.

HM Coroner	Finds Liaison Officer
Ian Stewart Smith	Teresa Gilmore
Coroners Chambers	Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
547 Hartshill Road	Chamberlain Square
Stoke-on-Trent	Birmingham
Staffordshire	West Midlands
ST4 6HF	B3 3DH
Tel: 01782 234783	Tel: 01213 488225

4.4.9 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 personnel nominated by her within 8 weeks of the completion of the evaluation. 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 trenches 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 evaluation
April/May 2020	Archaeological evaluation report 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 Tom Parker PCIfA or Caitlin Halton, 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 |
| ◆ 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 evaluation, 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



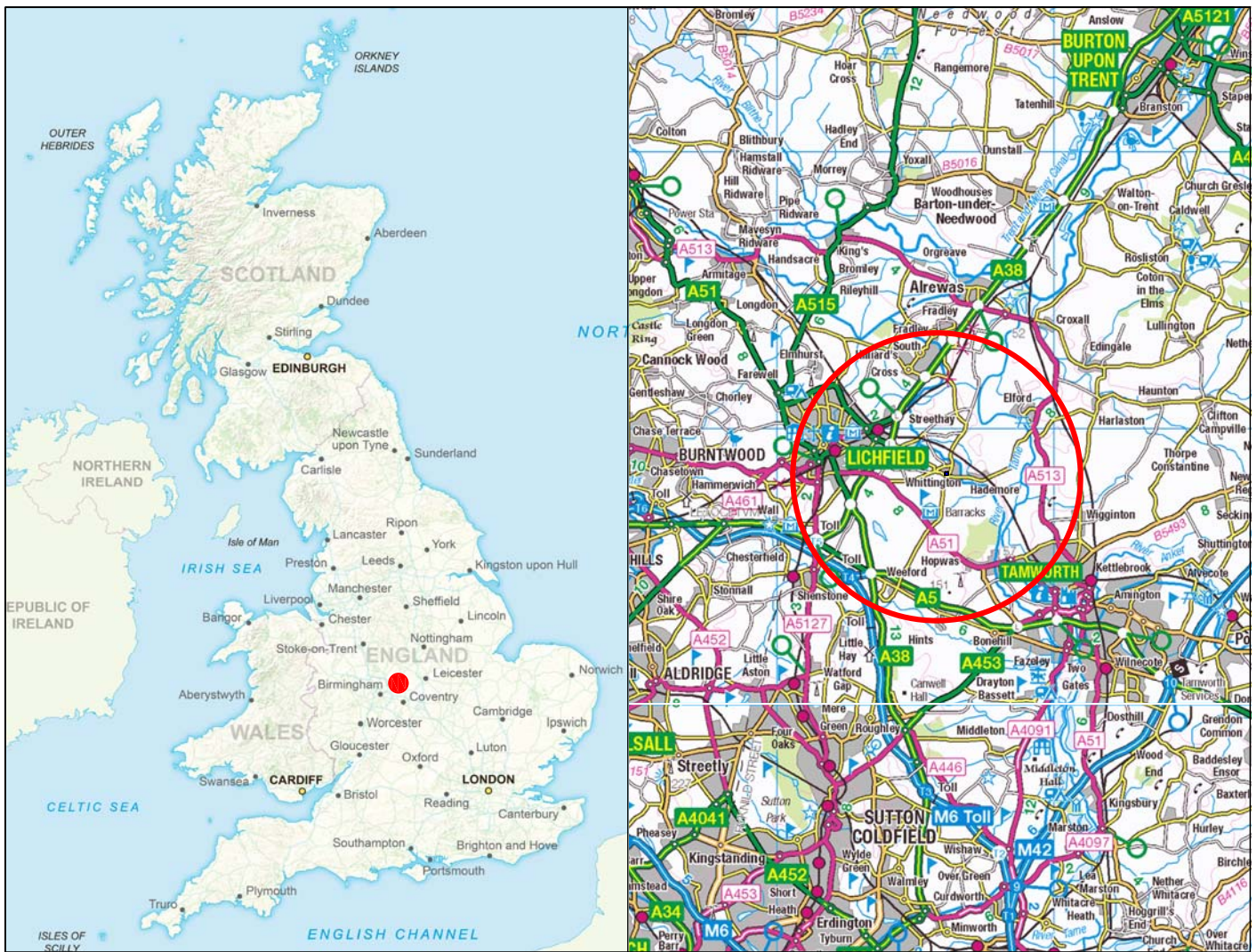


Figure 1:
Whittington Youth Centre location map.
Scale = various

Key:



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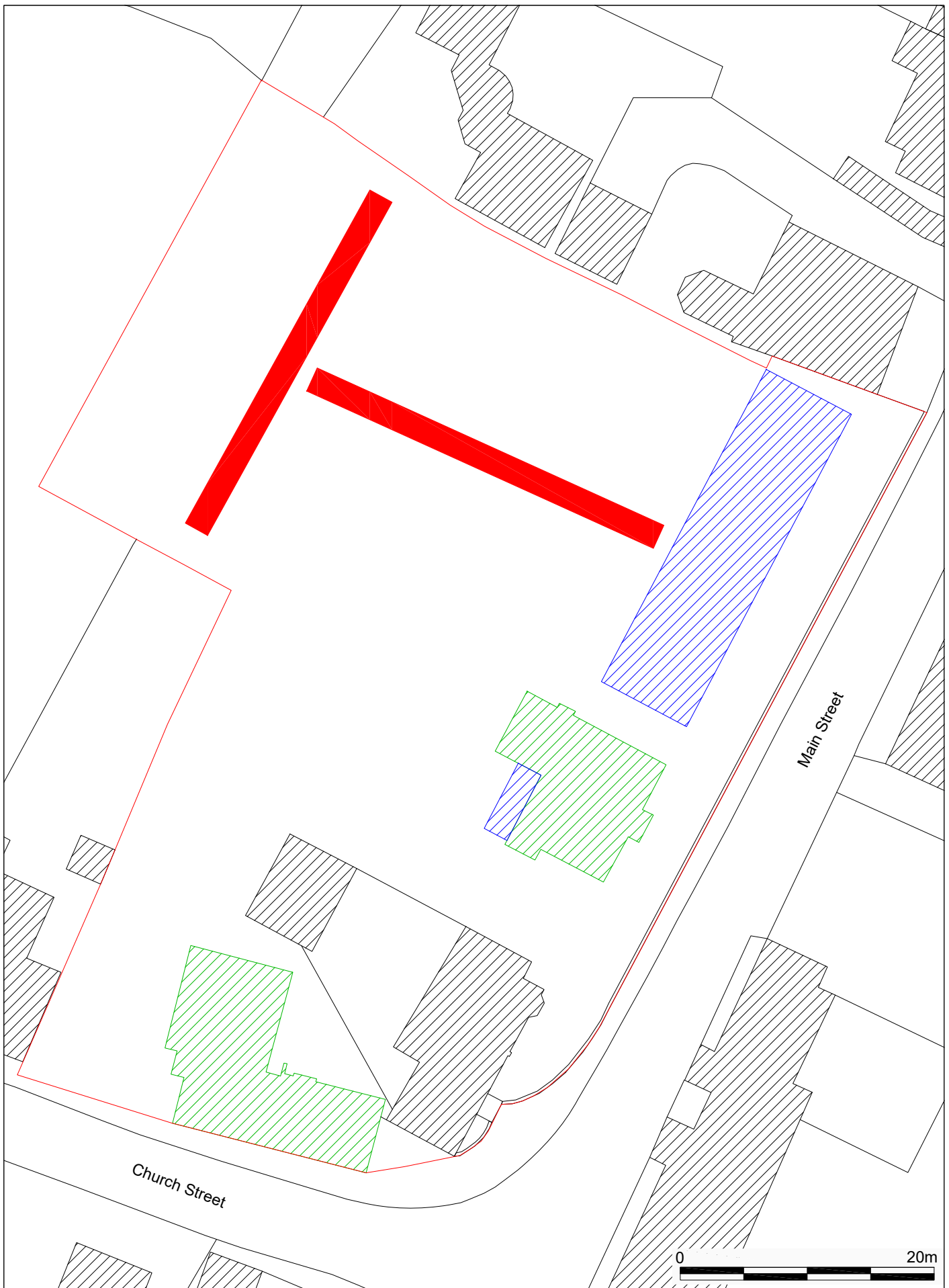





Figure 2:

Whittington Youth Centre site plan with trench locations.

Scale = 1:400 at A4

Key:

-  Buildings to be demolished
-  Buildings to be retained and converted
-  Evaluation trenches (30 x 2m)



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APPENDIX IV: OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeo15-399841

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire
Short description of the project	Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by in February 2020 to undertake Archaeological Evaluation Trenching prior to proposed development at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire. The proposed development comprises the conversion of existing buildings, the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of new dwellings including a new driveway and parking spaces. The work, which was carried out between the 13th and 14th July 2020, comprised an Archaeological evaluation trenching. The works were undertaken by Dimitrios Katsifas, and Kylie Bassendale Assistant Project Officers at Archaeological Research Services Ltd. The project was managed by Lawrence Pontin, Project Manager at Archaeological Research Services Ltd. A total of three features were found on site, two were identified as modern disturbances while the third represented the remains of a possible post medieval boundary ditch. All featured underlay topsoil and subsoil horizons and had been cut into the underlying natural substrate.
Project dates	Start: 13-07-2020 End: 14-07-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WYC20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	17/01160/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM / POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE LICHFIELD WHITTINGTON Whittington Youth Centre
Postcode	WS14 9JU
Study area	3565 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 416060 308324 52.873030461465 -1.381785321458 52 52 22 N 001 22 54 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 65.2m Max: 66.12m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project director/manager	Lawrence Pontin
Project supervisor	Dimitrios Katsifas
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client

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	Archaeological Evaluation at Whittington Youth Centre, Staffordshire, Chesterfield, Derbyshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Katsifas, D.
Other bibliographic details	2020/102
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