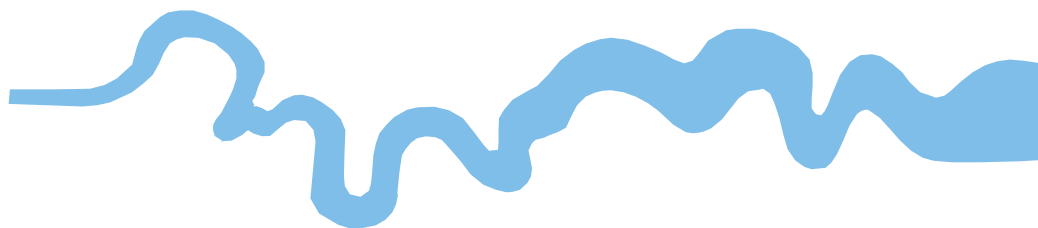


**T V A S**



**NORTH MIDLANDS**

**Wall Farm, Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Garreth Davey**

**Site Code GLW 17/234**

**(SK 0989 0685)**

**Wall Farm, Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr and Mrs Moseley**

by Garreth Davey

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd.

GLW 17/234

**November 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Wall Farm, Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire

**Grid reference:** SK 0989 0685

**Site activity:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 31st October 2017

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Garreth Davey

**Site code:** GLW 17/234

**Summary of results:** The excavation of trenches for new building foundations was monitored but nothing of archaeological interest was exposed.

**Location of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:  
[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓03.11.17
--

Steve Preston ✓ 03.11.17
--------------------------

# Wall Farm, Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Garreth Davey

Report 17/234

## Introduction

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Wall Farm, Green Lane in Wall, Staffordshire (SK 0989 0685) (Fig. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Commercial Archaeology on behalf of Mr and Mrs Moseley.

Planning permission (17/00624/FUL) has been granted by Lichfield District Council for the construction of a two-storey extension and associated works at Wall Farm. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Governments *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012, para 141). It was determined that this investigation would take the form of an archaeological watching brief during construction. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Debbie Taylor of Staffordshire County Council, the adviser to the district on matters relating to archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey on 31st October 2017 and the site code is GLW17/234. The archive is presently held at TVAS Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke, in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is a rectangular parcel of land located to the north-east of the existing dwelling at Wall Farm. It is located north of Green Lane, to the north of Wall and 3km south-west of Lichfield (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies at approximately 115m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as sandstone and conglomerate bedrock of the Triassic Rocks formation with overlying superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits and Till (BGS 2017).

## Archaeological Background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a detailed specification prepared by Ms Debbie Taylor of Staffordshire County Council (Taylor 2017). In summary, the site is located within an area of recorded Roman occupation, where several sites have been excavated.

Wall is the location of a Roman fort, located 270m south-west of the site, to the north of the key Roman road, Watling Street. The earliest fort here dates to the mid-late 1st century AD with the latest dated to the early 2nd century. The fort developed a surrounding civilian settlement (known as *Letocetum*) which included a postal station and a bath house. As the need for military occupation in the area diminished so did the use of the fort and a number of high-status timber-framed buildings were erected across the site.

Whilst little evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation or activity has been recorded from Wall, the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon treasure in the country, the “Staffordshire Hoard” was discovered approximately 3.5km west of the site (Leahy and Bland 2009; Fern *et al.* in press).

The manor of Wall was first recorded in the 12th century and by 1666 there were at least 12 households. It is possible that Wall Farm is located within the medieval settlement and the farmhouse is a Grade II listed building dated to the 18th century though it is believed to have been reconfigured around an earlier core.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits prior to any impact caused by the ground works. This involved the archaeological monitoring of all areas of intrusive ground works, in this case the excavation of foundation trenches.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to identify, record and understand any evidence for Roman or earlier activity within the development site and to set this within its local context, as far as possible, notably in relation to the known military and settlement phases associated with *Letocetum*;
- to identify, record and understand any evidence for sub-Roman and early Anglo-Saxon activity;
- and
- to identify, record and understand evidence for any other archaeological remains within the development site.

## **Results**

The area where the foundations were to be dug was first stripped of concrete and then two 0.6m wide foundation trenches and two 0.9m square pits (Fig 3) were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

The average depth of the foundation trenches was approximately 0.8m. The stratigraphy was uniform throughout the site and consisted of approximately 0.05m of topsoil onto a firm clay natural geology, confirmed as Till formation.

No archaeological features were identified within any of the excavated trenches or pits.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the excavations.

## **Conclusion**

The excavations of the foundation trenches at Wall Farm were monitored for finds and features of archaeological interest due to the site's location in an area of known Roman and Anglo-Saxon archaeological potential. In this case neither features nor finds of archaeological interest were present.

## **References**

- BGS 2017, *British Geological Survey*, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>  
Fern, C, Dickinson, T and Webster, L (eds), in press, *The Staffordshire Hoard: an Anglo-Saxon Treasure*, Soc Antiq London, London  
Leahy, K and Bland, R, 2009, *The Staffordshire Hoard*, British Museum Press, London  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Taylor, D, 2017 'Specification for an archaeological watching brief, Wall Farm, Green Lane, Wall, Lichfield', Staffordshire County Council, Stafford

**Appendix 1: Staffordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record**  
*Activity and Source Submission Form*

Submission date - 03/11/2017

*Site Activity or Event*

Name of **event** (eg. Watching Brief at The Blue Boar, Ipstones.)

Archaeological watching brief at Wall Farm, Green Lane, Wall

Location of **event** (eg. The Blue Boar P.H. Overton Lane, Ipstones.)

Wall Farm, Green Lane, Wall  
NGR SK 0989 0685

Civil Parish

Wall

Brief Description of **event** (eg. Watching brief during cellar alterations and renovation, prior to conversion to residential use.)

The excavation of trenches for new building foundations was monitored.

“Activity Type(s)” (highlight as appropriate) *Air Photography / Evaluation-trial excavation /*

*Field Walking / Measured survey-drawing / Geophysical survey / Archaeological excavation-full /*

*Archaeological excavation-part / Field survey / Photogrammetric survey / Rectified photo survey /*

*Photographic record / AP interpretation / Salvage-rescue excavation / Watching brief / Environmental sampling / Post-excavation analysis / Documentary research*

Commencement date (eg. 01-May-1978)

31-October-2017

Completion date (eg. 02-Sept-1983)

31-October-2017

**Organisation or contractor details** (organisation name, address, telephone, e-mail etc.)

TVAS North Midlands, 2b Stanton Road, Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 6DD. Tel. 01782 595648 email northmidlands@tvas.co.uk

*Report Details*

Date

2017

Type of document (highlight as appropriate) *Written / Photographic / Cartographic / Drawn*

Title

Wall Farm, Green Lane, Wall, Staffordshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief

Author(s)

Davey, G

Brief summary of contents

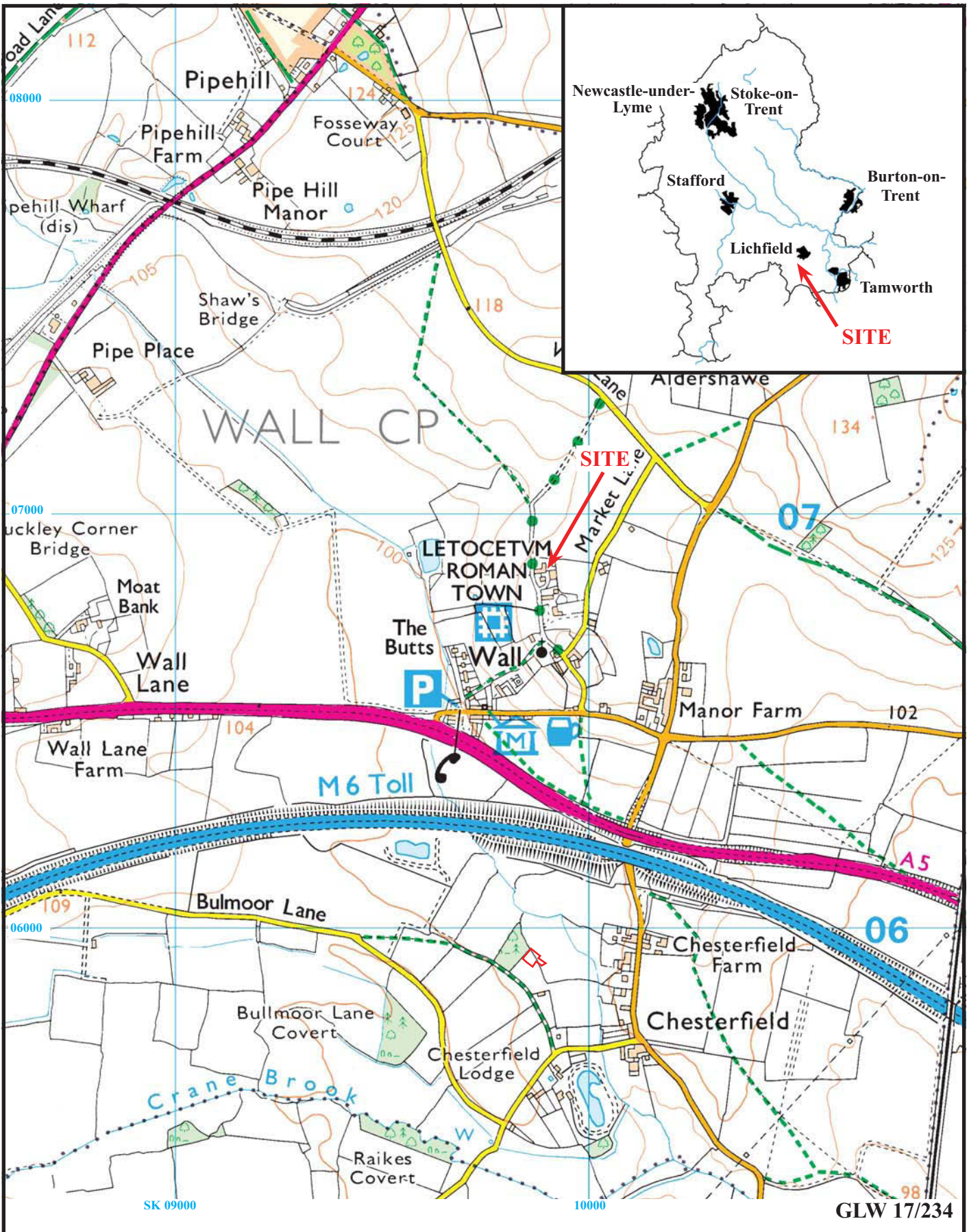
Cover; Summary page; Introduction; Location, topography and geology; Archaeological Background; Objectives and Methodology; Results; Finds; Conclusion; References; Appendix 1: Staffordshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record; Activity and Source Submission Form; Map; Plans; Section; Plates

Brief description of document (eg. Written text with illustrations, bibliography and references. Appendices dealing with environmental sampling. 32 pages. etc.)

Written text with illustrations and references. Appendix. 12 pages

Cross references to Staffordshire SMR (if applicable please list Primary record numbers)



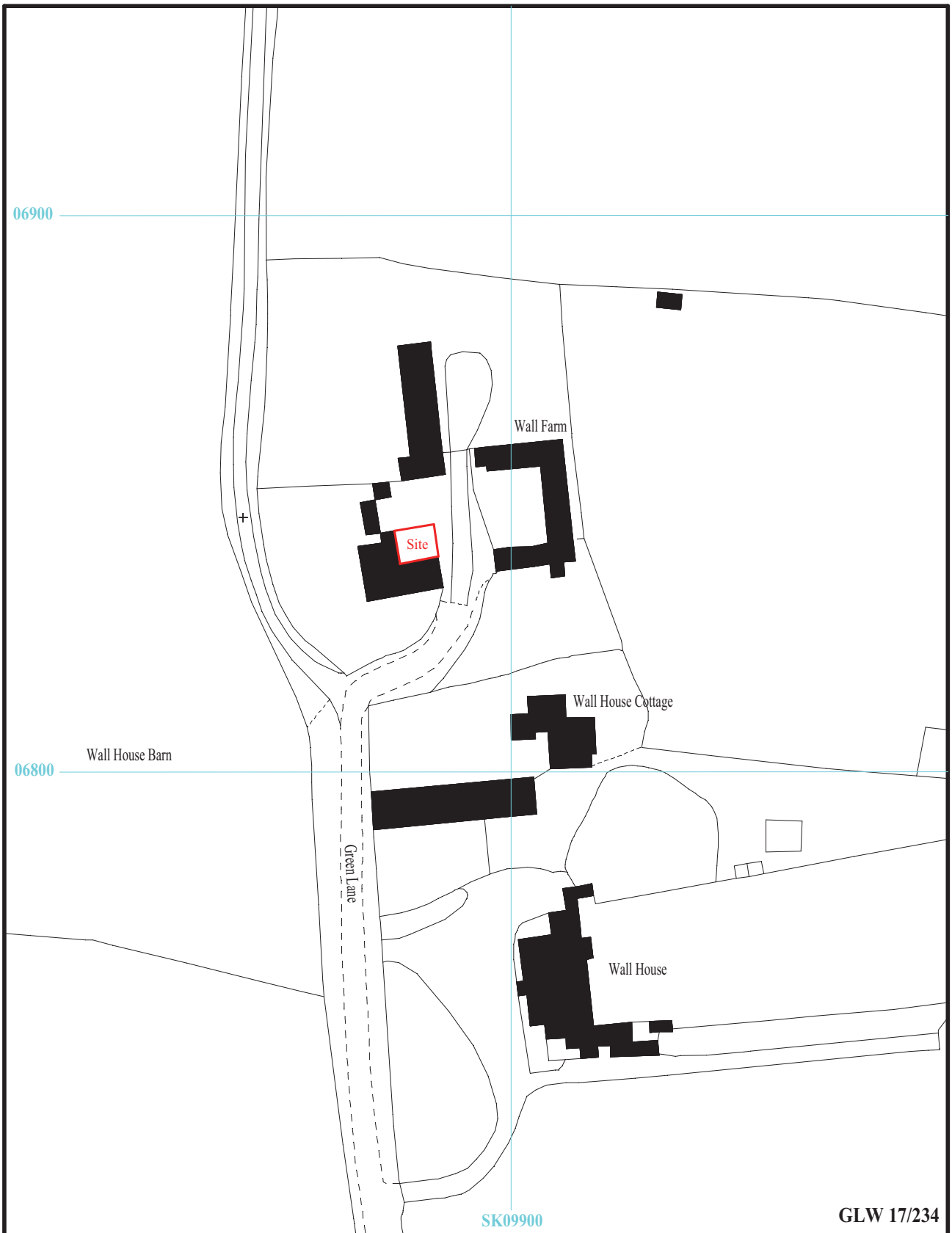


**Wall Farm, Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Wall and Staffordshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown Copyright reserved. Scale 1:12500

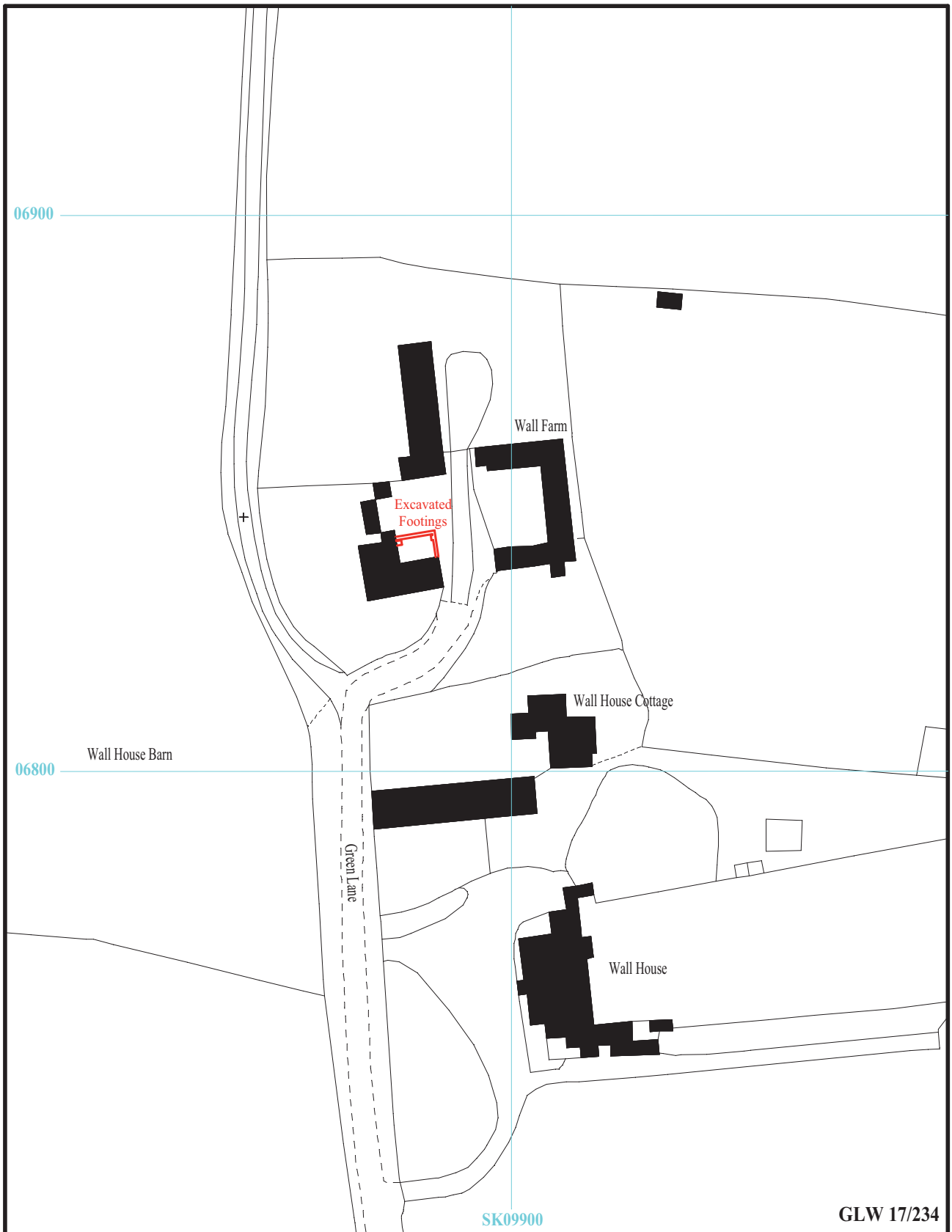




**Wall Farm, Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Detailed site location.

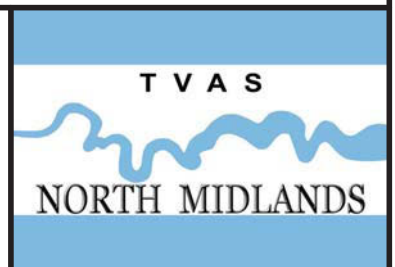




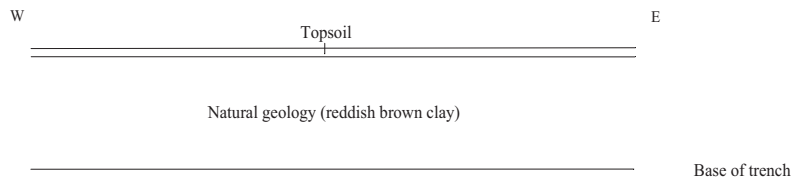
GLW 17/234

**Wall Farm, Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Detailed plan of areas observed.



**Footing Trench**



GLW 17/234



**Wall Farm, Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative Section.





Plate 1. North trench, looking north, Scale: 2m.



Plate 2. East trench, looking west, Scale: 2m.

GLW 17/234

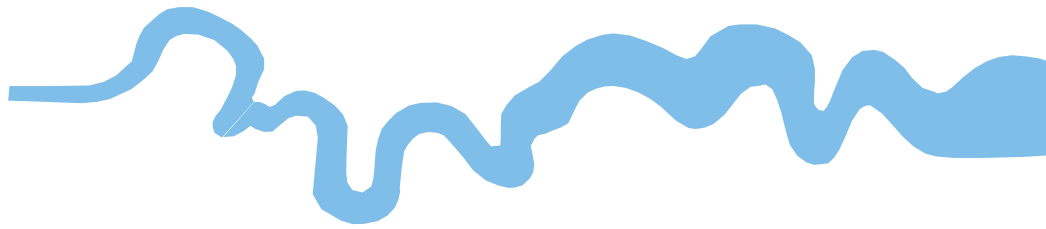
Wall Farm, Green Lane,  
Wall, Staffordshire, 2017  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 and 2.



## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





**TVAS (North Midlands),  
2B Stanton Road, Meir  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 6DD**

**Tel: 01782 595648  
Email: [northmidlands@tvas.co.uk](mailto:northmidlands@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands](http://www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands)**