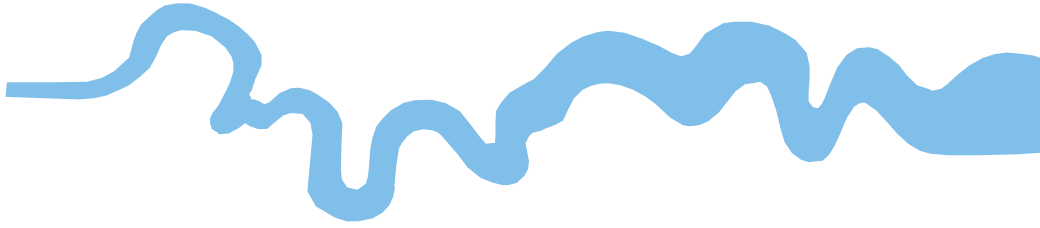


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Helen Daniel

Site Code: GLL22/157

(SK 1204 0962)

**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr Ali Saneie

by Helen Daniel

TVAS (North Midlands)

Site Code: GLL22/157

September 2022

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to 11 George Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire

Grid reference: SK 1204 0962

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 12th August 2022

Project coordinator: Helen Daniel

Site supervisor: Helen Daniel

Site code: GLL22/157

Area of site: 164 sq m

Summary of results: The evaluation identified deposits probably of Victorian date at a depth of c. 1.1m beneath modern backfill/terracing. Due to the small size of the development area and the unstable nature of the loosely-packed backfill encountered on site, it was not possible to safely investigate to a greater depth. However, there is the potential that further archaeological deposits from earlier time periods may still be preserved below the Victorian levels.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with ADS or at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: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.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 21.09.22
	Steve Preston✓ 21.09.22

Land adjacent to 11 George Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

by Helen Daniel

Report 22/157

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land adjacent to 11 George Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire (SK1204 0962) (Fig. 1). The work was undertaken on behalf of Mr Ali Saneie of 9 Brook Close, Lichfield, WS13 7ES.

Planning permission (22/00028/FUL) has been obtained from Lichfield District Council for the erection of a bungalow along with associated landscaping and hard standing (Fig. 2). The consent is subject to a condition (3) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and Lichfield District Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Shane Kelleher, the County Archaeologist and archaeological adviser to Lichfield District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Daniel on 12th August 2022, and the site code is GLL22/157. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with ADS or at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in a built-up area near the centre of the city of Lichfield, south-east of the Cathedral which marks the historic core of the town (Fig. 1). The site lies close to the junction of Tamworth Street and George Lane. The eastern site boundary is formed by George Lane and to the north the site is bounded by the brick gable wall of a modern dwelling, No. 11 George Lane. The southern boundary is defined by a parking area belonging to No. 71 Tamworth Street, a locally listed building (Pl. 1), whilst the western boundary is contiguous with that of the aforementioned building (Fig. 2). In recent times, the land has been used as additional parking with the site being covered in concrete and hardcore (Pl. 2). The topography of the site was level at a height of 89m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Helsby Sandstone Formation with no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the city's historic core and within the Lichfield City Conservation Area, as part of Character Area 12. The site is also close to a number of designated and non-designated heritage assets, the majority of which are listed buildings. In addition, the site lies within an area which has been identified as having high evidential (archaeological), historical, aesthetic and communal values. Although there are no known heritage assets within the site, there is considered to be the possibility of hitherto unidentified buried archaeological remains being present (AH 2022).

In particular, the site is immediately adjacent to a section of the town defences, the course of which has been fossilised by the present course of George Lane. This lane, which is slightly sinuous in form, slopes gradually down towards the north and as a consequence of this topography the site has been terraced so that the northern end of the plot is at least 1.8m above the level of the road. Character Area 12 marks the eastern edge of the medieval city being located within the city defences and was also the location of two of the medieval gates one on the corner of Tamworth Street and Gresley Row and the other at No. 39 Lombard Street (AH 2022).

The Lichfield Historic Character Assessment (SCC 2011), assigns the area including the site to Historic Urban Character Area (HUCA) 3: Lichfield Historic Core. It is considered likely that early medieval settlement may have existed within this area along Bird Street, Dam Street, Tamworth Street and Lombard Street. Archaeological investigation at a site in Cross Keys, approximately 120m north-west of the site uncovered evidence of medieval activity and indicated that there was likely to have been Roman activity in the vicinity. The site is also within an area of burgage plot settlement and whilst the majority of buildings date from the 17th to the late 19th century, it is possible that this area was developed by the 12th or 13th centuries (SCC 2011).

At some point the site has been levelled up to create a terrace against the northerly slope of George Lane. Cartographic evidence suggests that this may have happened during the latter half of the 20th century. It therefore follows that should archaeological remains of earlier periods be present they could be well preserved in the northern half of the site where the levelling up is deepest (assuming that the levelling was not preceded by works which would have scoured out any surviving archaeological remains (AH 2022)).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Specific research aims of this project were:

to determine if there are later prehistoric or Roman deposits present on the site; and

to determine if there are Medieval deposits present on the site.

Two trenches were intended to be dug, each 4m long by 1.6-2m wide, targetting the footprint of the proposed bungalow. Topsoil, subsoil and any other overburden were to be removed using a 360°-type machine fitted with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision, to expose the natural geology or archaeological deposits. Spoil heaps were to be monitored throughout the process to aid finds recovery and any archaeological deposits identified were to be hand cleaned, dug, recorded and sampled to satisfy the aims of the brief. The excavation and recording of archaeological deposits was to be done without compromising any deposits which would warrant preservation *in-situ* or would have been more effectively excavated under conditions pertaining to a full excavation.

Results

Two trenches were excavated in the intended locations (Fig. 3). Both of the trenches were 4m long by 1.6m wide and 1.1m deep. The natural geology was not reached as it was not possible to safely excavate to any greater depth, due both to the extremely dry and loose nature of the backfill encountered as well as the spatial constraints of the site, which made any stepping-out of the trenches impossible. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadth, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1 and the features are summarised in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3–5, Pls 3 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned NW-SE and was 4m long and 1.1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of concrete (50) over *c.*1m of backfill/demolition rubble (51) consisting of brick, tile, and modern rubbish. At around 2m from the south-western end of the trench was a 0.75m long section of a red-brick wall foundation (52). This was aligned N-S and comprised at least three courses and the bricks measured 238mm x 112mm x 64mm. Further excavation was not possible for reasons of safety and the natural geology was not reached. No finds of pre-modern date were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3–5, Pls 4 and 6)

Trench 2 was aligned close to E-W and was 4m long and 1.1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of concrete (50) over *c.*1m of backfill/demolition rubble (51) consisting of brick, tile, and modern rubbish. At 0.6m from the western end of the trench and aligned roughly N-S, was a 0.9m long by 0.75m wide section of brick

floor. This comprised a single course of red-brick above 0.04m of pinkish-grey lime mortar (54) over a levelling base made of medium-sized rounded pebbles set in compacted mortar (55). The bricks measured 230mm x 110mm x 60mm and were laid mainly in rowlock stretcher bond but with at least one row laid in shiner stretcher bond. Further excavation was not possible for reasons of safety and the natural geology was not reached. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

The evaluation was carried out as intended and identified below-ground deposits in both trenches preserved at a depth of around 1.1m. Due to the small size of the development area and the unstable nature of the extremely loosely-packed backfill encountered on site, it was not possible to safely investigate to a greater depth. Whilst these deposits most likely date from the Victorian period, their preservation beneath modern backfill/terracing indicates the potential for further archaeological deposits to remain at greater depth.

References

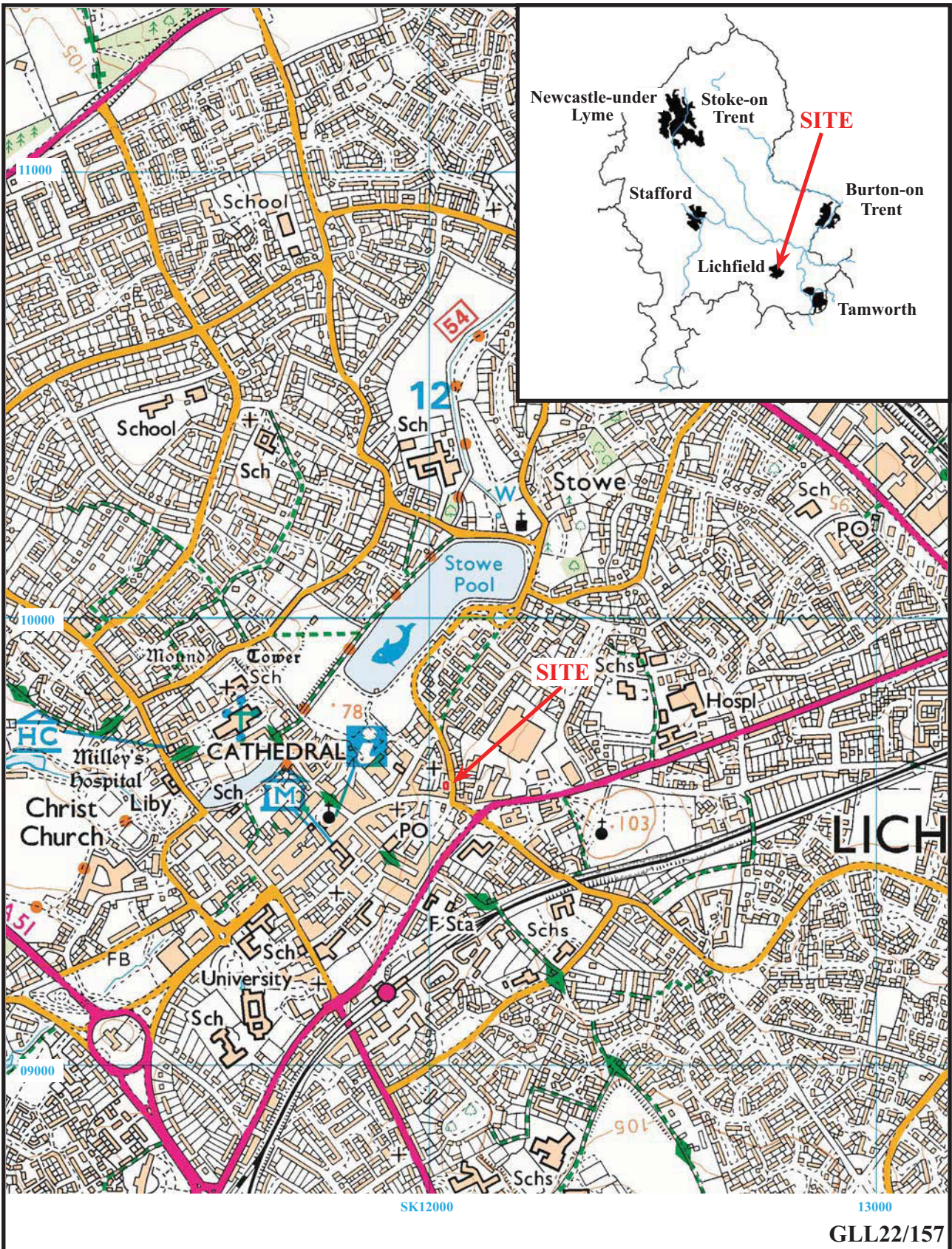
- AH, 2022, Heritage Statement: Land adjacent to 11 George Lane, Avalon Heritage Ltd, Cheadle
BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey* sheet **154** solid and drift 1:63,360/1:50,000, Keyworth
HE, 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London
NPPF, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
SCC, 2011, *Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey*, Staffordshire County Council Historic Environment Team, Stafford
Watt, S (ed.), 2016, *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A framework for research (revised)*, Oxford

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	4	1.6	1.1	0-0.1m concrete, 0.1-1.1m loose backfill/demolition rubble Natural geology not reached. Foundation 52 [Pls 3 and 5]
2	4	1.6	1.1	0-0.1m concrete, 0.1-1.1m loose backfill/demolition rubble Natural geology not reached. Floor 53, surface 55 [Pls 4 and 6]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	-	52	Foundation (red brick)	Victorian/Post-medieval	Form, materials
2	-	53	Floor (red brick)	Victorian/Post-medieval	Form, materials
2	-	54	Lime mortar	Victorian/Post-medieval	Form, materials
2	-	55	Levelling surface	Victorian/Post-medieval	Form, materials

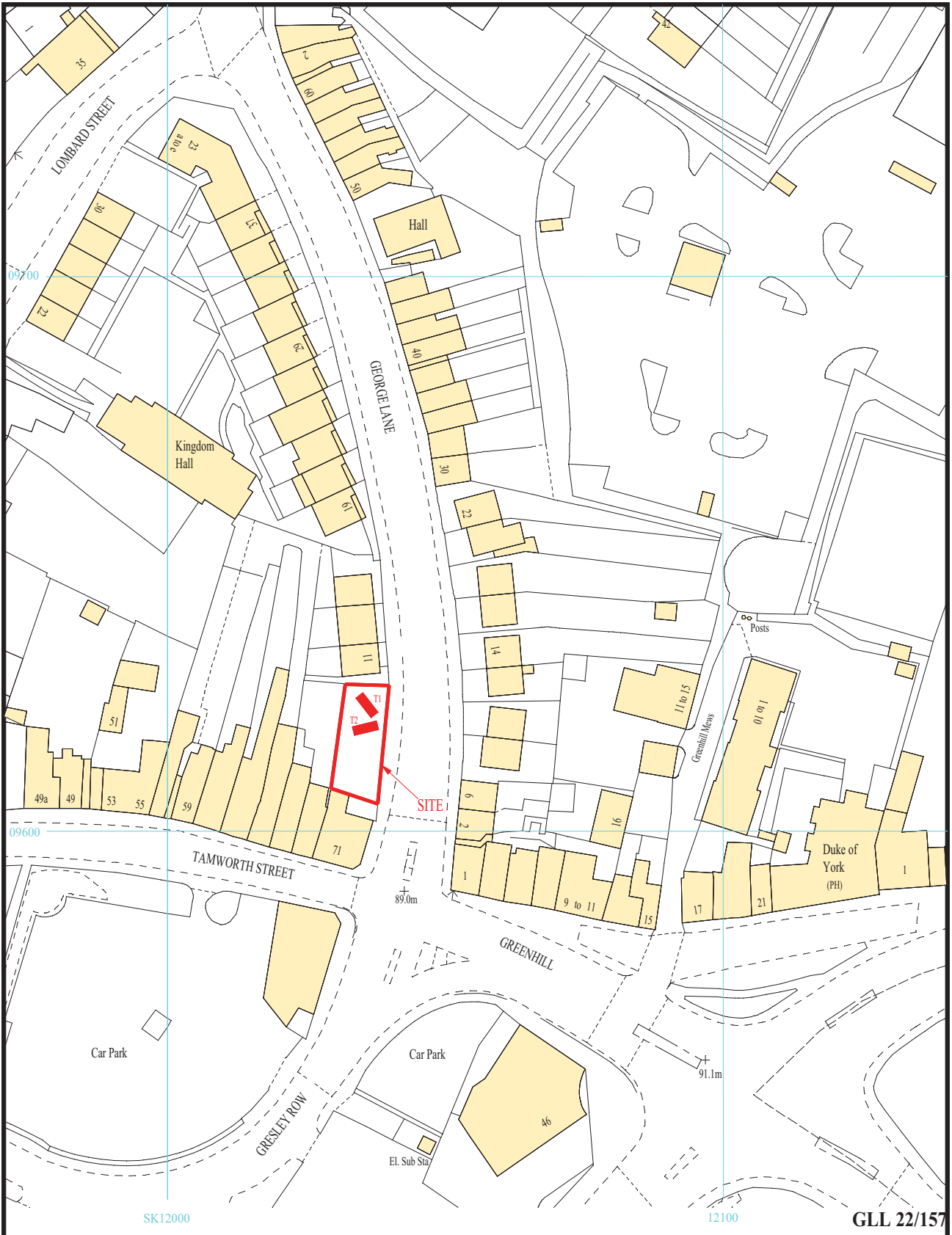


**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire,
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Lichfield and Staffordshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved

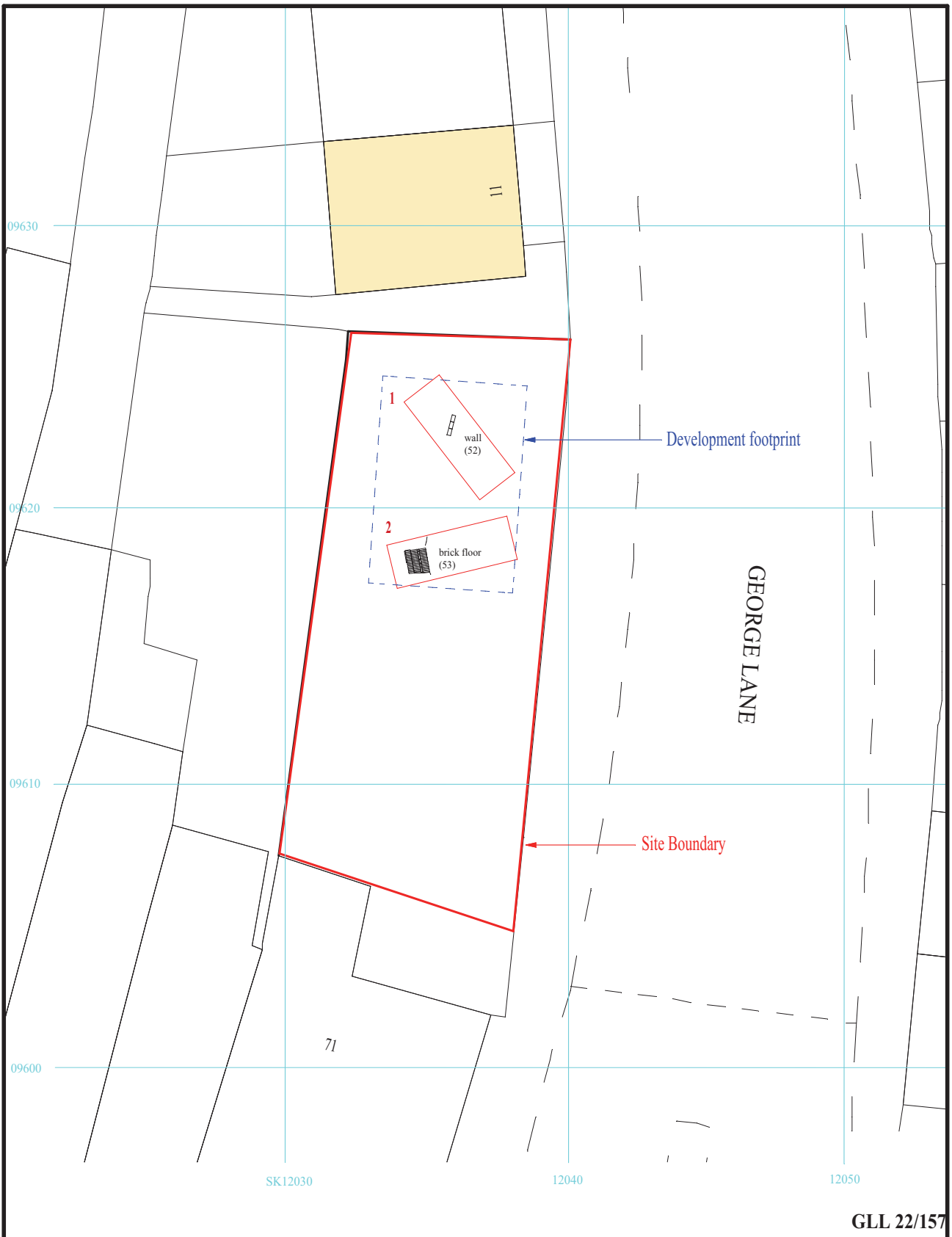




**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site showing position of trenches.

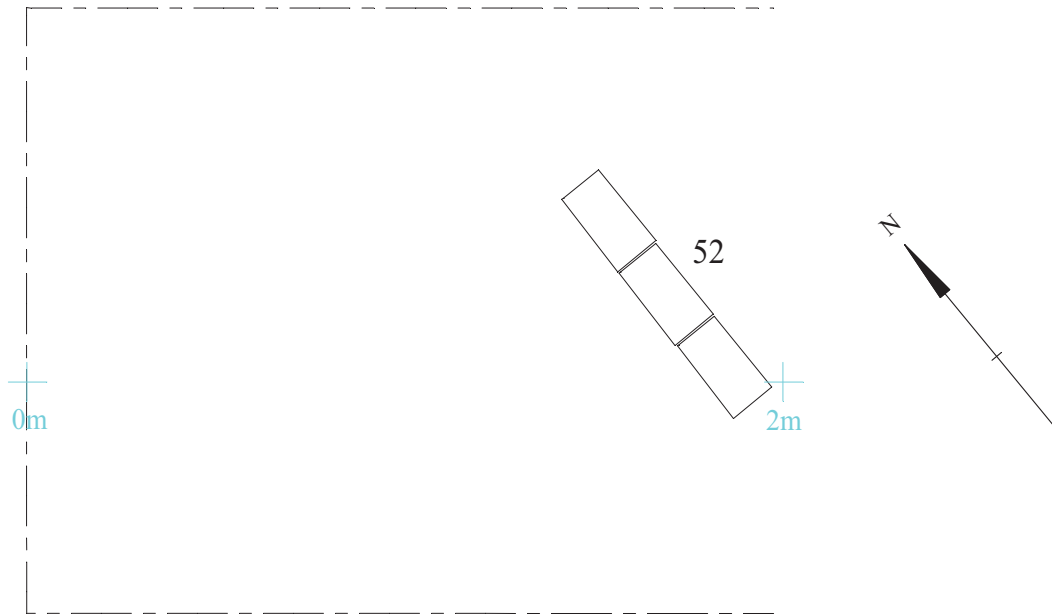




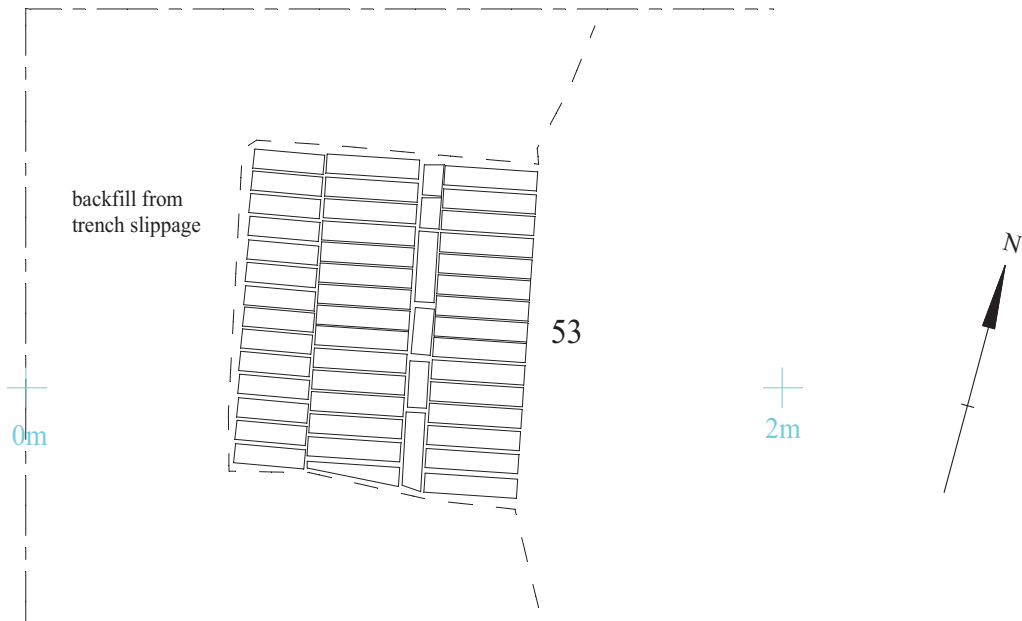
GLL 22/157

	<p style="text-align: center;">Land adjacent to 11 George Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire Archaeological Evaluation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 3. Location of trenches in relation to development footprint.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0 10m</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">T V A S</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NORTH MIDLANDS</p>
--	---	--

Trench 1



Trench 2



GLL 22/157

Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Plans of trenches.



Trench 1

SW _____ NE 88.76m aOD

 ----- concrete/hardstanding -----

loose backfill/demolition rubble

----- Base of stripping -----

Trench 2

SW _____ NE 88.92m aOD

 ----- concrete/hardstanding -----

loose backfill/demolition rubble

(54) -----
 (55) ----- levelling surface -----

 ----- pinkish-grey lime mortar -----
 ----- red brick (53) -----
 ----- Base of stripping -----

GLL 22/157

**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
 Lichfield, Staffordshire
 Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Site view, looking south, showing rear of 71 Tamworth Street.

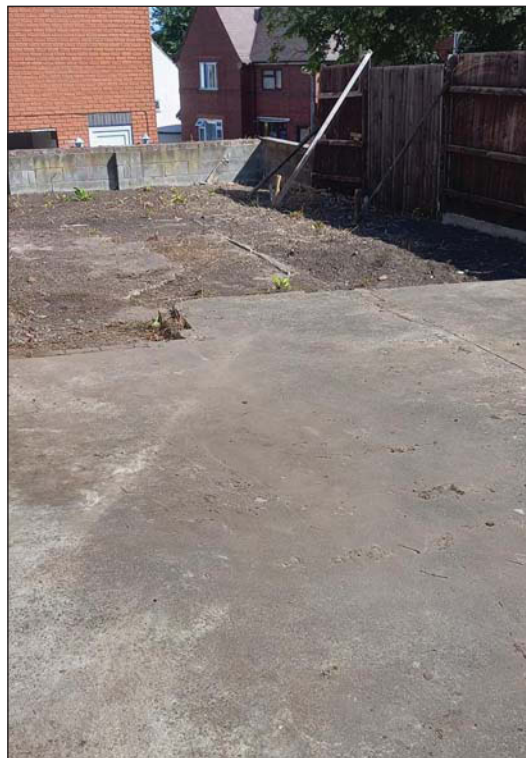


Plate 2. Site view, looking north towards number 11 George Lane.

GLL 22/157

**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**





Plate 3. Trench 1, looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

GLL 22/157

**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**





Plate 5. Floor (53), looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Oblique view of floor (53), showing (54) and (55), Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

GLL 22/157

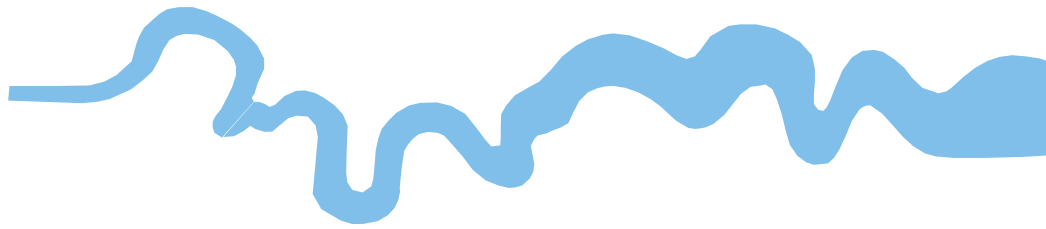
**Land adjacent to 11 George Lane,
Lichfield, Staffordshire
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 and 6.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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, Staffordshire, ST3 6DD**

**Tel: 01782 595648
Email: northmidlands@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands**

***Offices in:
Reading, Brighton, Taunton, Wellingborough
and Ennis (Ireland)***