

Archaeological Evaluation Report for

# **RIVERSIDE HOUSE PENKRIDGE**

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For Cruden Construction Ltd

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C M Matthews BSc

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report for

# RIVERSIDE HOUSE PENKRIDGE

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Client: Cruden Construction Ltd

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Local Authority: South Staffordshire Council

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NGR: 392350,314350

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Planning App: 14/01026/FUL

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Author(s): C Matthews

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Doc Ref: LP2060C-AER-v1.2

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Site Code: LP2060C

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Date: April 16

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## L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

A trading name of the L – P : Heritage LLP

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# Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Riverside House, Penkridge, Staffordshire. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Christopher Matthews of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Cruden Construction Ltd.

The site is located on an area of land formerly occupied by Riverside House and prior to its construction in the 1980s the site was primarily undeveloped land. A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) conducted by Hislop Heritage Services showed that the site occupies an area of crofts visible on a map of 1754, which are likely to have earlier origins as burgage plots dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The objectives of the evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

The remains assessed during excavation were modern in date and it would seem that the extent of modern development on the site has removed any possible archaeological deposits. A total of 0.4m of disturbed soils remain above the natural deposits. The disturbed soils and depth of hardcore suggest that the site was significantly reduced prior to development.

No archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation works.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This evaluation report has been prepared by Christopher Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Housing Plus. Additional research was carried out by Hislop Heritage services (2014)
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Christopher Matthews of L – P : Archaeology on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2016.
- 1.3. The evaluation is located to the north of Mill Street on the site of the former Riverside House, Stanford Close in Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5DD at grid reference NGR (SJ) 392350,314350 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L – P: Archaeology is LP2060C.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Blair Poole of L – P: Archaeology (POOLE 2015) and also in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation (2014).

## **2. Site Background**

### **2.1.PLANNING**

- 2.1.1. This evaluation was carried out as part of plans to redevelop the site of Riverside House which was granted planning permission for 41 assisted living apartments (14/01026/FUL).
- 2.1.2. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and local Government Issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2012). This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidelines, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.
- 2.1.3. The Local Planning Authority is South Staffordshire Council who take advice from Suzanne Blake, Staffordshire Historic Environment Record.
- 2.1.4. The methodology for these works were agreed by South Staffordshire Council in a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by L - P : Archaeology.

### **2.2.GEOLOGY**

- 2.2.1. The site lies in south Staffordshire, in an area of Bromsgrove Sandstone bedrock (BGS GEOINDEX). The drift deposits are recorded as alluvium and glaciofluvial deposits (BGS GEOINDEX).

### **2.3.TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.3.1. The site lies to the north of the town of Penkridge, 7km northwest of Cannock. The site area measures 1.25 hectares and is located to the north of Mill Street and is bounded by residential estate to the west and open land to the north and east, with a small canalised stream running along the eastern boundary.

### **2.4.SITE CONDITIONS**

- 2.4.1. The site, as visited prior to the opening of the evaluation trenches, was in a post-demolition phase and was mostly covered by large areas of demolition

debris. In the far southeastern corner of the site an area of tarmac remained *in situ*.

## **2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

- 2.5.1. The archaeological Desk Based Assessment carried out by Hislop Heritage services (2014) revealed that the development site is located over an area occupied by part of two former crofts noted on the 1754 OS maps. It has been suggested that these crofts may have earlier origins as burgage plots which may date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.5.2. The site appears to have been largely undeveloped until the construction of Riverside House in 1986.
- 2.5.3. For a more detailed summary of the archaeology and history please refer to the Desk Based Assessment by Hislop Heritage services (2014).



### 3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.

3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological evaluation, as defined by the WSI were to:

- ◆ determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or features on the site and the need and extent of further investigation and reporting,
- ◆ establish the date, character, location and condition of any below ground deposits or features,
- ◆ recover palaeo-environmental samples of relevant deposits for assessment in order to better understand the environmental conditions at the time of deposition.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the WSI.
- 4.2. The evaluation comprised two target trenches located in the southeastern corner of the development area. Trench 1 measured 15m by 2m and Trench 2 measured 25m by 2m.
- 4.3. Due to the discovery of live services by the on site contractors, the location of Trench 2 had to be slightly altered from the original specifications detailed within the WSI. The trench retained its intended length and orientation, however it was moved 2m to the north.

## 5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trench by trench for the archaeological evaluations at Riverside House, Penkridge. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are in the archive. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets].

### 5.2. TRENCH 1

5.2.1. Trench 1 was located in the southeastern corner of the development area running parallel to the southern terrace housing boundary walls and overlapping the earth bank of the stream that runs along the eastern boundary (FIGURE 2). The trench measured 15m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m below the tarmac carpark surface. The top of the trench, at its western extent was recorded at 80.53mOD, with the top of the eastern extent recorded at 81.14mOD.



Plate 1: South facing section of turf bank

5.2.2. At the eastern edge of the trench a turf and clay bank was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.9m below ground level (PLATE 1). This bank consisted of turf and topsoil (02), 0.1m thick, overlying redeposited clays (06), 0.15m thick, which sealed a layer of tipping comprised of 20<sup>th</sup> century soil, brick

rubble, mortar and concrete slab (07), 0.58m thick. Below (07) was a 0.15m thick layer of crushed red gravel (04). A 1m deposit of grey silty clay with brick inclusions (05) was identified below (04). At the base of the trench was a layer of orange sand and gravel identified as the natural (10).



Plate 2: Trench 1 South facing section

5.2.3. The centre and western extent of the trench was excavated into the modern carpark and comprised of the surface tarmac and hardcore (01), 0.14m thick, overlying a layer of crushed stone (11), 0.26m thick. Below this was a layer of grey gravel layer, approximately 0.15m thick (03). Below (03) was (04) the crushed red gravel seen at the eastern end of the trench, measuring 0.33m thick (PLATE 2).

5.2.4. Below (04) was the grey silty clay with brick inclusions (05), measuring 0.41m thick in this area. This is thought to be a 20<sup>th</sup> century cultivation soil. This could be seen to overlay the natural sand and gravel (10), which extended beyond the base of the trench.

5.2.5. Below (04) at the eastern extent was a concrete service measuring 0.6m wide (09) and orientated northwest-southeast, which also contained fragments of ceramic drain pipe. The service was cut [08] into the grey silty soils (05) but no cut was visible in the upper layers which formed the bank.

### 5.3. TRENCH 2

5.3.1. Trench 2 was located in the south east corner of the development area and to

the north of Trench 1. The trench was orientated northeast-southwest and was excavated into the carpark surface. The trench location was moved from the original location stipulated in the WSI, 2m to the north, due to the identification of an active service. The top of the western extend of the trench was recorded at 79.03mOD, with the eastern at 80.64mOD. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m below ground level.

- 5.3.2. The eastern extent of the trench encroached by up to 1m onto the eastern boundary turf bank and consisted of the same makeup as the excavation in trench 1, this was comprised of Turf and topsoil (02) over a redeposited clay (06) which further capped a dump of mixed 20<sup>th</sup> century organic soils, brick rubble and concrete (07).



Plate 3: Trench 2 north facing section

- 5.3.3. Below (13) was the grey silty clay (14), which could be seen to be the same as deposit (05). This is thought to be a remnant 20<sup>th</sup> century cultivation soil.
- 5.3.4. The majority of the trench, up to the eastern extent, was excavated into the the hardcore (11), revealing similar stratigraphy to trench 1 (PLATE 3). Below the hardcore, which measured 0.3m thick, were two crushed stone layers, the first a crushed grey gravel (12) same as (03), measuring 0.15m thick and the second a crushed red gravel measuring of varied thickness up to 0.45m (13) could be seen to be the same as (04). This sealed a layer of grey silty clay soils (14), 0.3m thick, which were the same as (05).

5.3.5. Below this was a thin layer, 0.1m thick, of light grey silty clay (15) with rounded cobble and sub angular stone inclusions. This layer extended throughout the trench and overlay the natural sand and gravel (16) at the base of the trench.

## 6. Finds

6.1. The evaluation produced a small quantity of modern material totalling 3 objects of ceramic and glass. Finds were collected and recorded by context and then washed by hand.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	SIZE (MM) BTL	DESCRIPTION	PERIOD
(07)	Glass	94mm / 55mm	Green Glass bottle base	20 <sup>th</sup> century
(07)	Ceramic	25mm / 22mm	White China fragment (base)	20 <sup>th</sup> century
(14)	Glass	164mm / 35mm	Intact strait sided bottle with screw-top lid	20 <sup>th</sup> century

Table 1- Finds

6.2. The assemblages from (07) show a small quantity of deposited domestic material likely to be associated either with Riverside House or the adjacent properties. The objects were recovered from a layer of tipping that formed a bank that sits between the modern carpark surface and the stream along the eastern boundary. It is likely that this bank and the associated canalization of the stream were formed during the construction of Riverside House.

6.3. The find recovered within (14) also suggests domestic origin which is also likely to be associated with local housing, however, its location below the construction layers of the Riverside House carpark would suggest that it predates that phase.

## 7. Summary and Conclusions

### 7.1. Summary

- 7.1.1. An archaeological evaluation was conducted to determine the presence and extent of archaeological deposits or features on the site of the former Riverside House, Stanford Close in Penkridge, Staffordshire ST19 5DD. The evaluation was conducted on behalf of Cruden Construction Ltd in prerequisite to the construction of supported living apartments.
- 7.1.2. This document has been prepared on behalf of Cruden Construction Ltd, by Christopher Matthews of L – P : Archaeology. Site works were conducted by Christopher Matthews of L – P : Archaeology in April 2016.
- 7.1.3. The archaeological works comprised of two evaluation trenches located in order to assess the presence of burgage plots adjoining Mill Street which were identified by Desk Based Assessment carried out by Hislop Heritage Services (2014).
- 7.1.4. Within the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) and Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), it was predicted that the construction and development of Riverside House would have had a substantial impact on any surviving archaeology.
- 7.1.5. The site is located to the north of Mill Street with open land to the North and East and Stanford Close to the West. The Desk Based Assessment has suggested that the site may also be situated close to the location of burgage plots fronting Mill Street.

### 7.2. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.2.1. The evaluation revealed a relatively homogeneous stratigraphy within both trenches, which consist of the modern tarmac and hardcore carpark surface visible in both trenches, overlying 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground, which sealed an intact 20<sup>th</sup> century cultivation layer, which in turn overlays the natural deposit.
- 7.2.2. The site as a whole appears to primarily consist of 20<sup>th</sup> century development material associated with Riverside House, extending to approximately 0.8m below ground level. Below this, the 20<sup>th</sup> century cultivation activity extends to



natural. The surviving soils did not contain any visible features and appeared to have been heavily disturbed by the subsequent development.

- 7.2.3. No archaeological features were encountered during the works, suggesting that 20<sup>th</sup> century activity on the site had destroyed any potential archaeology that may have been present.

## 8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ X 1 Drawing Register
- ◆ X 2 Drawing Film
- ◆ X 1 Photographic Register
- ◆ X 26 photographs
- ◆ X 1 Context Register
- ◆ X 16 Context sheets

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

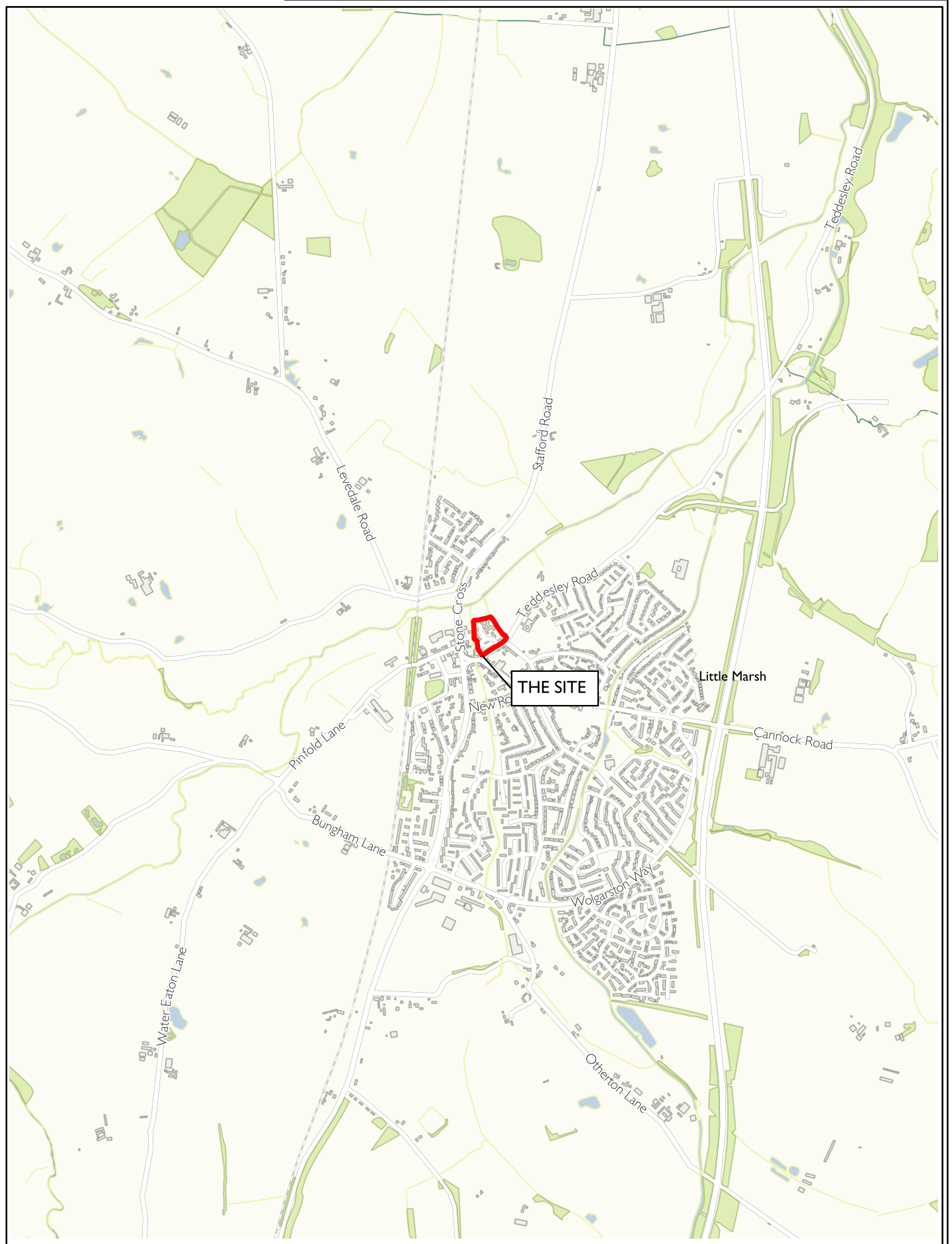
- ◆ X 1 box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at the Staffordshire Museum Service.

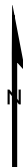
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# FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



0 500 m



PROJECT // 2060C - Riverside House

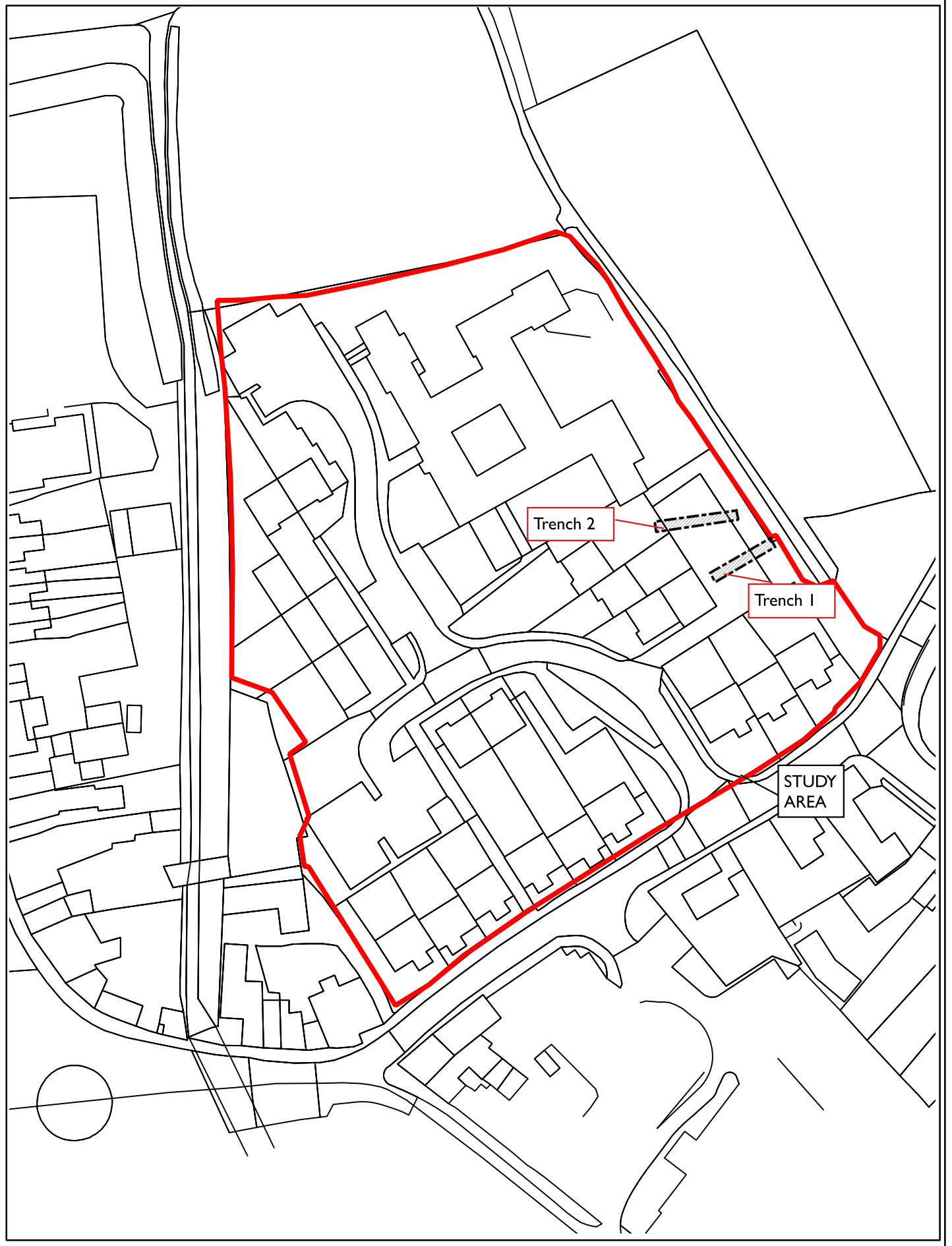
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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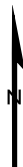
DOC REF: LP2060C-AER-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Trench Location



0 50 m



PROJECT // 2060C - Riverside House

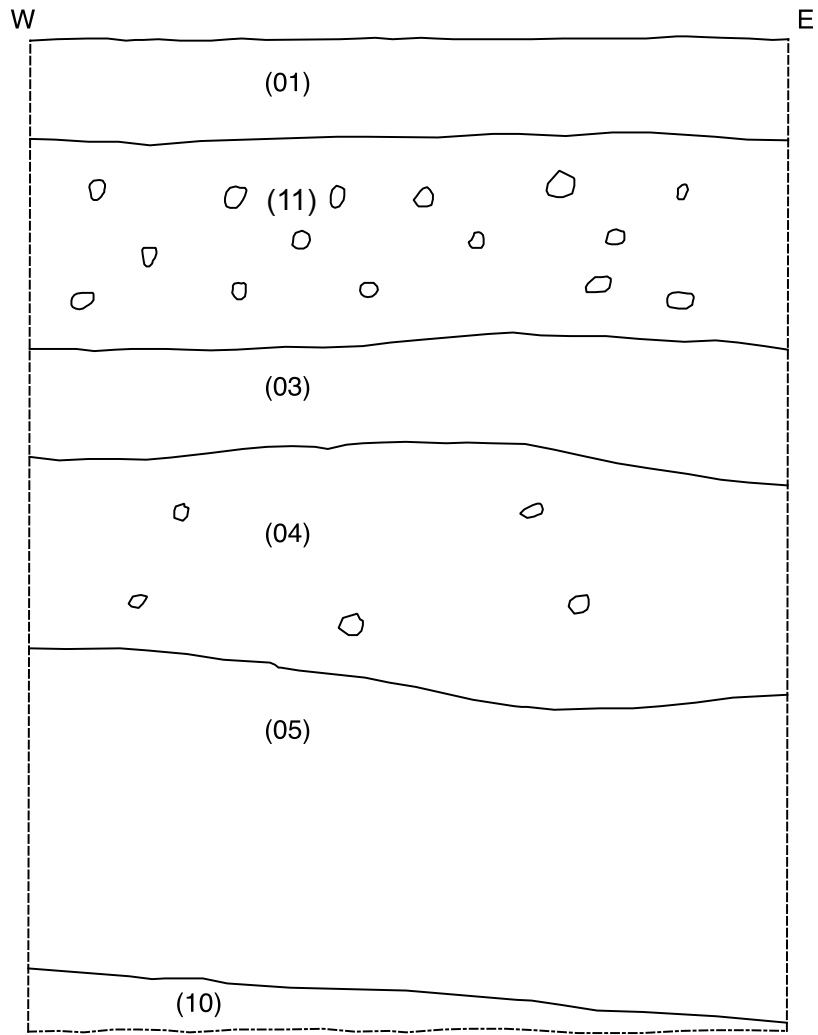
DESCRIPTION // Trench Location and Study Area

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FIGURE 3 // Trench I South Facing Section



0 0.5 m

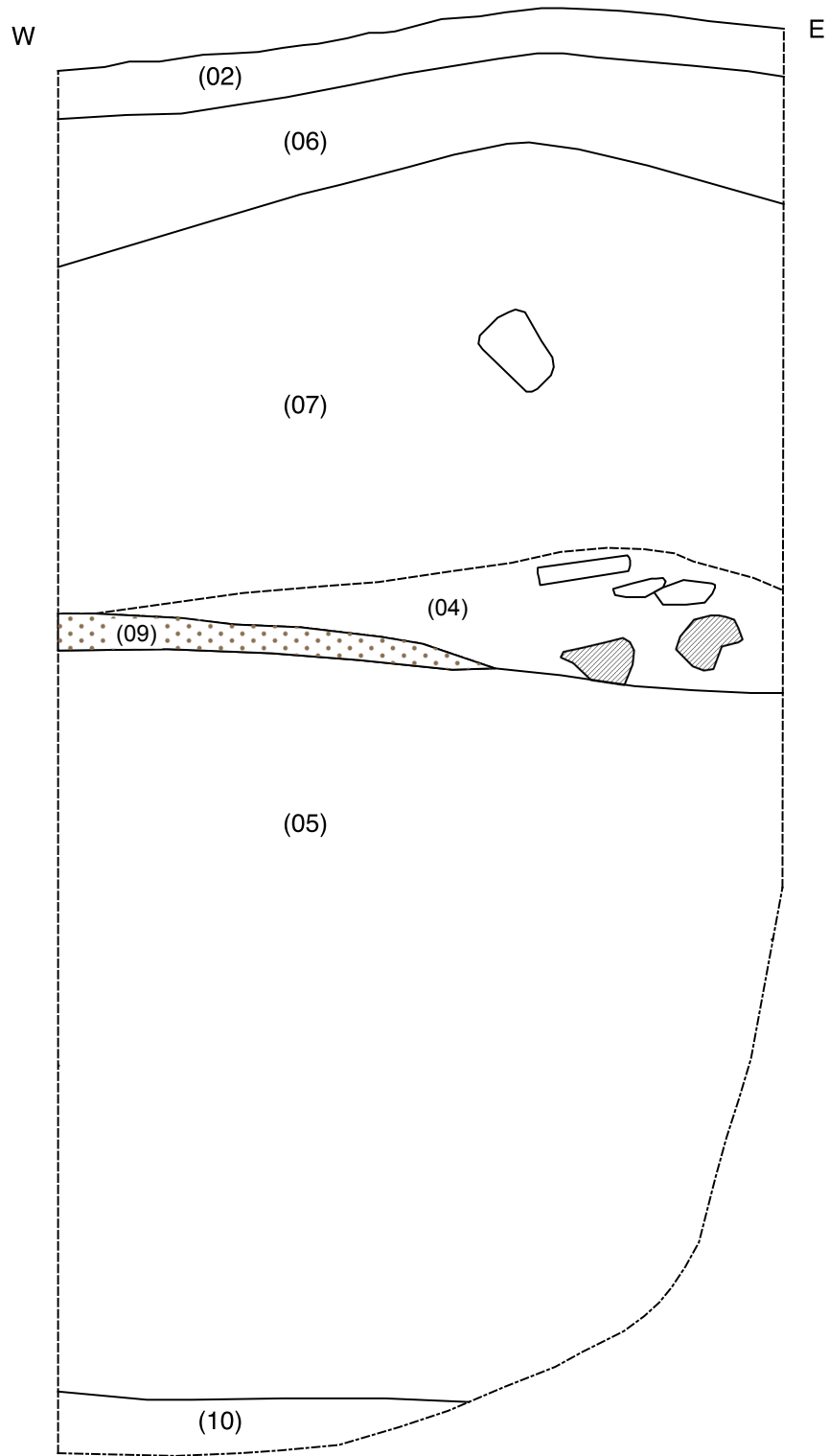
PROJECT // 2060C - Riverside House

DESCRIPTION // Trench I South Facing Section

DOC REF: LP2060C-AER-v1

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FIGURE 4 // Trench I South Facing Section



0 0.5 m

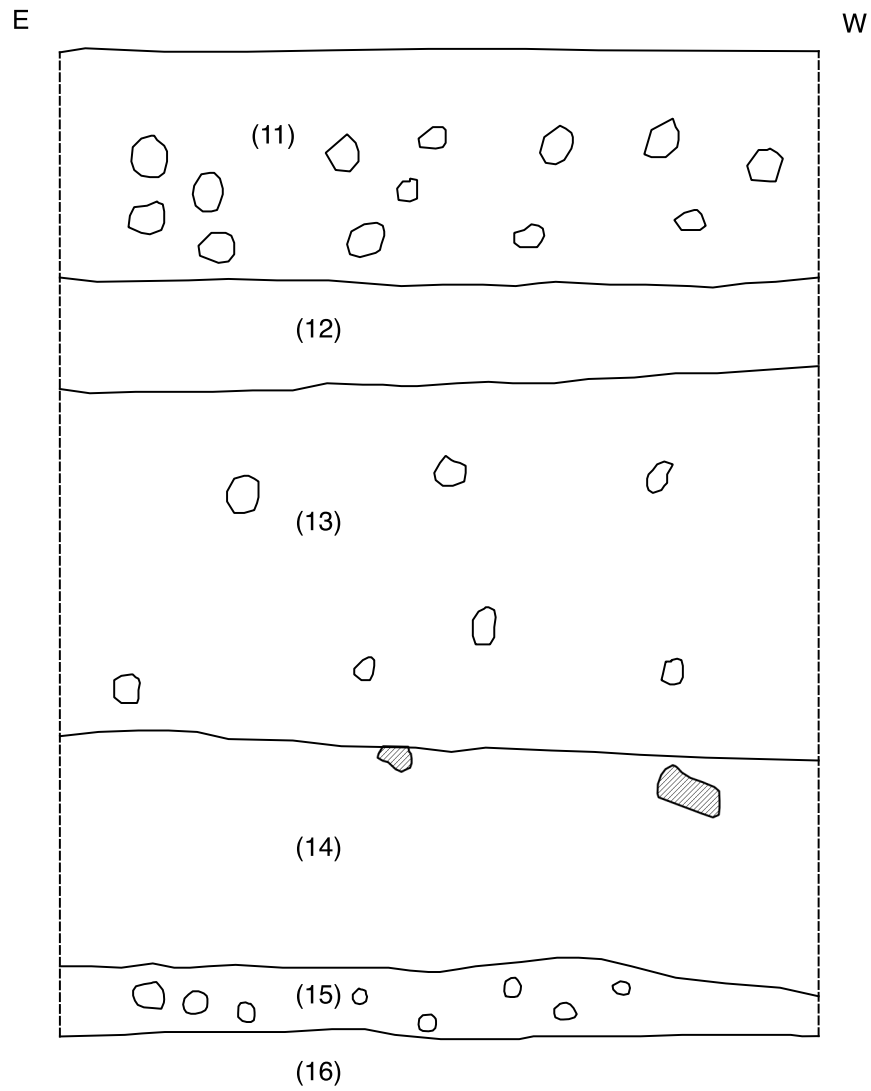
PROJECT // 2060C - Riverside House

DESCRIPTION // Trench I South Facing Section

DOC REF: LP2060C-AER-v1

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FIGURE 5 // Trench 2 North Facing Section



0 0.5 m

PROJECT // 2060C - Riverside House

DESCRIPTION // Trench 2 North Facing Section

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# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX I

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: lparchae1-247603**

## Project details

Project name	Riverside House, Penkridge
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted to determine the presence and extent of archaeological deposits or features on the site of the former Riverside House, Stanford Close in Penkridge. The archaeological works comprised of two evaluation trenches located in order to asses the presence of burgage plots adjoining Mill Street which were identified by Desk Based Assessment carried out by Hislop Heritage Services
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2016 End: 06-04-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	LP2060C - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	14/01026/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE PENKRIDGE Riverside House
Postcode	ST195DD
Study area	1.25 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 392350 314350 52.876623905672 -2.902974220202 52 52 35 N 002 54 10 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 79.03m Max: 81.14m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Chris Matthews
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Cruden

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Staffordshire Museum Service
Physical Archive ID	LP2060C
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Staffordshire Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	LP2060C
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Staffordshire Museum Service
Paper Archive ID	LP2060C
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Report","Section"

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Riverside House, Penkridge
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Matthews, C
Other bibliographic details	LP2069C-AER-v1.2
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Riverside House, Penkridge, Staffordshire. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Christopher Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Housing Plus.
Entered by	C. Matthews (chester@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	6 April 2016

## OASIS:

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