

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

CHURCH TERRACE CAVERSWALL

For Balfour Beatty

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

CHURCH TERRACE CAVERSWALL

Client: Balfour Beatty

Local Authority: Staffordshire County Council

NGR: 395205,342790

Planning App: N/A – Permitted Development

Author(s): R. Jones

Doc Ref: LP2555C-WBR-v1.2

Date: July 17

Site Code: LP2555C

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Abstract

An archaeological Watching Brief was carried out during groundworks at Church Terrace, Caverswall, Staffordshire. The Watching Brief 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 Rebecca Jones of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Balfour Beatty.

The first known recording of Caverswall is in the Domesday Survey of 1086, recorded as Cavreswelle. Valued at 30 shillings the village was an already established settlement by 1086 and was likely founded earlier. The Medieval period saw construction throughout the village and founded the historic core which remains to this day.

For its entire length the pipeline has been excavated through the Caverswall Conservation Area. The Conservation Area centres on The Square from which four roads radiate out and each of which are recognised for the individual style and design of buildings. The village is recognised for being largely unaltered and preserved.

The objectives of the Watching Brief were to record the character, date, type, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains on site. To specifically identify any archaeological evidence of the Early Medieval to Post Medieval settlement of the village and to mitigate against any removal of the archaeological resource.

No archaeological features were exposed within the limits of excavation. The stratigraphic sequence remained fairly consistent across the excavation which comprised a series of natural subsoil deposits overlain by gravel and tarmac.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Church Terrace, Caverswall for Balfour Beatty. The local authority is Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Rebecca Jones of L - P : Archaeology during the 19th, 20th and 28th of June 2017. This report was written by Rebecca Jones of L - P : Archaeology.
- 1.3. The site is located at Church Terrace, Caverswall, ST11 9EA, within Staffordshire (FIGURE 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 395205,342790.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L - P : Archaeology is LP2555C.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with a Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief by Stephen Dean, Principle Archaeologist for Staffordshire County Council (DEAN 2017).
- 1.6. The site work was also carried out in accordance to the Cifa's Code of Conduct (CIFA 2014A) and Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIFA 2014B).

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

2.1.1. An archaeological Watching Brief was conducted during works for the Caverswall Gas Replacement works at Church Terrace, Caverswall.

2.1.2. In 2015 the Town and Country Planning (General permitted Development) (England) Order was enacted, which is a national grant of planning permissions allowing certain building works and changes of use to be carried out without having to make a planning application.

2.1.3. The relevant part of the Act for these works is:

Part 15, Class A: gas transporters, relevant permitted development is granted for:

(a) the laying of underground mains, pipes or other apparatus

(d) the placing and storage on land of pipes and other apparatus to be included in the main or pipe which is being or is about to be laid or constructed in pursuance of planning permission granted or deemed to be granted under Part 3 of the Act (control over development)

2.1.4. The Local Planning Authority is Staffordshire Moorlands District Council (SMDC). Balfour Beatty and SMDC have agreed the methodology for these works in the Specification (DEAN 2017).

2.1.5. This document seeks to complete the works by describing the results of the Watching Brief and clarifying the status and location of the project archive.

2.2. GEOLOGY

2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex indicates the site lies on the boundary of two underlying bedrocks, the northern extent over Hawksmoor Formation, an interbedded sandstone and conglomerate and the southern extent over Mercia Mudstone Group. The bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of Diamicton Till (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2017).

2.3. TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located in the centre of Caverswall village c.7.5km to the southeast of central Stoke-on-Trent. The site incorporates a section of the The Square and Blythe Bridge Road running north to south from St. Peter's Church to Dove Farm Barns.
- 2.3.2. The site is limited to the extent of the road and is bounded by structures on the eastern and western sides.
- 2.3.3. The site lies on a slight south-facing incline at an average elevation of 189.7m OD at the northern extent and 186.5m OD at the southern extent.

2.4. ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.4.1. The Prehistoric periods within Caverswall are recorded by isolated findspots; a stone axe with signs of secondary use is thought to have been found in St. Peter's Churchyard (MST3706) directly to the east of site and a Bronze Age perforated stone hammer is recorded to the south east of site from the western bank of Blythe River (MST77800). As of yet no features or further indication of settlement activity have been recorded.
- 2.4.2. The greater part of Staffordshire lay within the territory of the Cornovii at the end of the Iron Age. The Roman army arrived in this area around or shortly after AD 47 (TODD 2002: 47). No Roman artefacts or features have been recorded for Caverswall, with the closest feature, of this date, being the Roman road running from Chesterton to Rocester c.1.25km to the south of Caverswall (ALLEN ET AL. 2016).
- 2.4.3. Although there is no direct evidence for the Early Medieval occupation of Caverswall the etymology and the recording of the village in 1086 attests to its early foundations. Caverswall from the Old English personal name *Cafhere* and the Anglian *wella*, meaning a spring or stream (EKWALL 1960: 92).
- 2.4.4. Caverswall is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Cavreswelle*, in the Totmonslow Hundred in the county of Staffordshire under the lordship of Arnulf de Hesdin. It was a small settlement with 12 households, including 10 villagers and 2 smallholders. The village had 4 ploughlands, 6 acres of meadow,

'half' a church and was valued at 30 shillings, a not inconsiderable amount at this time (DOMESDAY ONLINE 2017).

2.4.5. The Medieval period saw construction throughout the village and founded the historic core which remains to this day. The Church of St. Peter (1204471) (PLATE 1) was built in the late 12th century with the arcade constructed in the 13th (PEVSNER 2002) and became the centre of Medieval settlement.



Plate 1 - St. Peter's Church, north facing aspect

2.4.6. Caverswall Castle (1038000) (PLATES 2 & 3) is a Grade I listed building and was originally constructed in the 13th century with licence being granted to William de Caverswall in 1275 to crenellate the house resulting in the moated castle which remains.



Plate 2 - Caverswall Castle, gates and bridge



Plate 3 - Caverswall Castle, south facing aspect

2.4.7. Between 1811 and 1853 the castle was occupied by Benedictine monks, a cemetery dedicated to whom became incorporated into the eastern side of St. Peter's churchyard in the 1970s (PERS. COMM. LOCAL VISITOR AND LIZ OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH).

2.4.8. The site is bounded by several Listed Buildings, from north to south along the pipeline. These include the Grade II listed east lodge to Caverswall Castle and balustrading screen wall (1038002) dating to 1890, the Grade II listed church

wall and northern gates piers of St. Peter's Church (1204471). For 65m of the pipe trench length it is bounded by the Grade II* listed St. Peter's Church (1374655) and churchyard (MST22128).

2.4.9. Grade II listed Dove House Farmhouse (1038004), an early 19th century red brick farmhouse originally constructed as part of a Model Farm bounds the western side of the southern extent of the pipeline. Dove House Farm is a village farmstead laid out around a courtyard, possibly of Medieval or early Post Medieval origin (MST22297). The range to the north of the farmhouse is believed to be the earliest section and was potentially originally a Medieval monastic building (MST12269).

2.4.10. For its entire length the pipeline has been excavated through the Caverswall Conservation Area. The Conservation Area centres on The Square from which four roads radiate out and each of which is recognised for the individual style and design of buildings. The village is recognised for being largely unaltered and preserved.

2.5. SITE CONDITIONS

2.5.1. The trench was excavated through the modern road surface. No buildings or temporary structures were present on the site.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. The overarching project aim was to ensure the intermittent archaeological monitoring of groundworks across the development area.

3.2. The general aims of the archaeological Watching Brief were to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.

3.3. The specific objectives were to:

- ◆ Identify, record and understand any evidence for Medieval and Post Medieval activity present within the exposed sections of the excavated trench; and
- ◆ Identify, record and investigate evidence for the Early Medieval activity in association with the nearby church and castle sites.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the Specification (DEAN 2017).
- 4.2. Groundworks were undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator with a narrow, toothless ditching bucket and all ground disturbances were monitored by an experienced archaeologist.
- 4.3. Initially two test pits were excavated, one at the southern end of the pipe trench (TP1) and one in the centre (TP2) to locate the original gas pipe. TP1 measured 0.58m wide x 1.68m long x 0.95m deep and revealed the gas pipe at 0.7m below ground level. TP2 was excavated to 0.58m wide x 1.3m long x 1.1m deep and revealed the gas pipe at 0.75m below ground level.
- 4.4. A 0.4m wide x 0.9m deep trench was then excavated for the length of the new pipe.
- 4.5. All plan and section surfaces were examined for archaeological deposits and features, with each deposit being allocated a three digit identifier (context number) and recorded on standard L - P : Archaeology recording sheets. Digital photography played an integral part in the recording of this site with specific shots taken of deposits and features and general shots taken to show wider site context. Black and white photography was also utilised for archive shots of soil stratigraphic sequence.
- 4.6. All works were carried out in accordance with the Code of Conduct as set out by the Cifa (CIFA 2014A). Accordingly the site archaeologist abided by the Cifa's Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (CIFA 2014B).

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below. 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]. All elevations referred to in this report are given as metres below ground level (m bgl).

5.2. TEST PITS (FIGURE 2)

- 5.2.1. Two test pits were excavated to locate the depth of the original, active gas pipe. Test Pit 1 at the southern end of the proposed pipe trench and Test Pit 2 towards the centre of the pipe trench, c.35m north.
- 5.2.2. Test Pit 1 (TP1) was excavated to 0.58m wide x 1.68m long x 0.95m deep and Test Pit 1 (TP2) was excavated to 0.58m wide x 1.3m long x 1.1m deep.
- 5.2.3. The stratigraphic sequence remained consistent across both test pits.
- 5.2.4. The 80-120mm thick modern tarmacadam road surface (100) was cut and removed. The tarmacadam sealed a 0.37 – 0.54m thick deposit of unsorted small to medium rounded gravel stones (101) which is interpreted as a levelling hardcore deposit prior to laying the tarmacadam.
- 5.2.5. The gravel (101) sealed a compact mid brownish red coarse sandy clay layer, interpreted as the natural subsoil (102).



Plate 4 - North facing section of TP1, with 0.5m scale

- 5.2.6. The current, active gas pipe was exposed at 0.75m bgl.

5.3.PIPETRENCH

5.3.1. The pipe trench was excavated for the 100m stretch of the new pipeline and was 0.4m wide and to a consistent depth of 0.95m bgl. The pipe trench was excavated from TP1 and along the western side of the road (PLATE 5).



Plate 5 - Shot showing excavation of pipe trench, looking north

- 5.3.2. The stratigraphic sequence remained fairly consistent along the length of the pipe trench, with minor variations within the subsoils to attest to the topography of the site.
- 5.3.3. The modern road surface (100) and gravel deposit (101) were removed to an average depth of 0.6m bgl, at which the various subsoils were exposed (PLATE 6).
- 5.3.4. In the far southern extent of the pipe trench, where the road reaches a flat plateau, the gravel (101) sealed a moderately compact mid red coarse sandy clay natural (102).

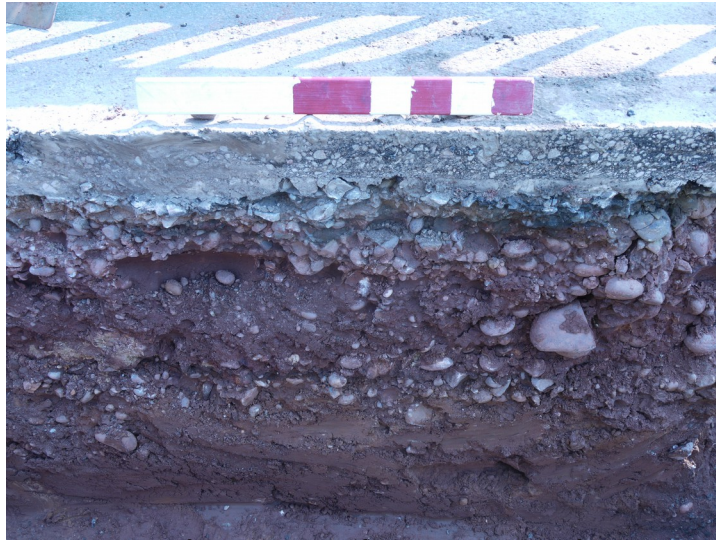


Plate 6 - West facing section of southern extent of pipe trench showing subsoil (102), with 0.5m scale

- 5.3.5. Towards the centre of the pipe trench excavation, at the break of slope for the slight south-facing incline of the road, a compact mid brownish red clayey subsoil (105) was sealed by gravel (101) (PLATE 7).



Plate 7 - East facing section of central portion of pipe trench, showing subsoil (105), with 1m scale

- 5.3.6. In the northern extent of the pipe trench, on the incline of the road the gravel (102) sealed a moderately compact mid brownish red silty sand (104) (PLATE 8).



Plate 8 - East facing section of northern extent of pipe trench showing subsoil (104), with 1m scale

5.3.7. Truncation to a depth of 0.9m bgl was recorded sporadically throughout the trench, in the form of electrical cables, joint boxes and drainage pipes (PLATE 9). Around the modern plastic service pipes a compact dark grey silty sandy gravel deposit (103) has been used as backfilling (PLATE 10).



Plate 9 - West facing section with exposed drainage pipes, with 1m scale



Plate 10 - South facing section with exposed pipes, with 1m scale

6. Discussion and Conclusions

- 6.1. An archaeological Watching Brief was conducted during works for the Caverswall Gas Replacement works at Church Terrace, Caverswall.
- 6.2. Two test pits were excavated, one at the southern end of the pipe trench (TP1) and one in the centre (TP2) to locate the original gas pipe and 0.4m wide x 0.9m deep trench was then excavated for the length of the new pipe.
- 6.3. The upper stratigraphic sequence remained fairly consistent along the length of the pipe trench, with the modern 80-120mm tarmac surface having been removed to expose a 0.37-0.54m thick gravel hardcore deposit, used as levelling for the road surface. The gravel deposit in turn sealed the natural subsoils.
- 6.4. Variation in the subsoils attested to the slight south-facing incline of the road, with a compacted coarse sand deposit recorded in the far southern extent of the pipe trench where the road reaches a flat plateau, a clayey hill-wash deposit recorded towards the southern extent of the pipe trench at the break of slope and a silty sand deposit in the northern extent of the pipe trench.
- 6.5. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during these works, attesting to the continuity of use as a road. Truncation from modern services is also recorded to 0.9m bgl, potentially having already impacted on any former archaeological resource.

7. Archive

7.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 3 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 1 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 6 x Context sheets

7.2. No finds were recovered during these works.

7.3. The archive is to be deposited with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery under accession number 2017.LH.53.

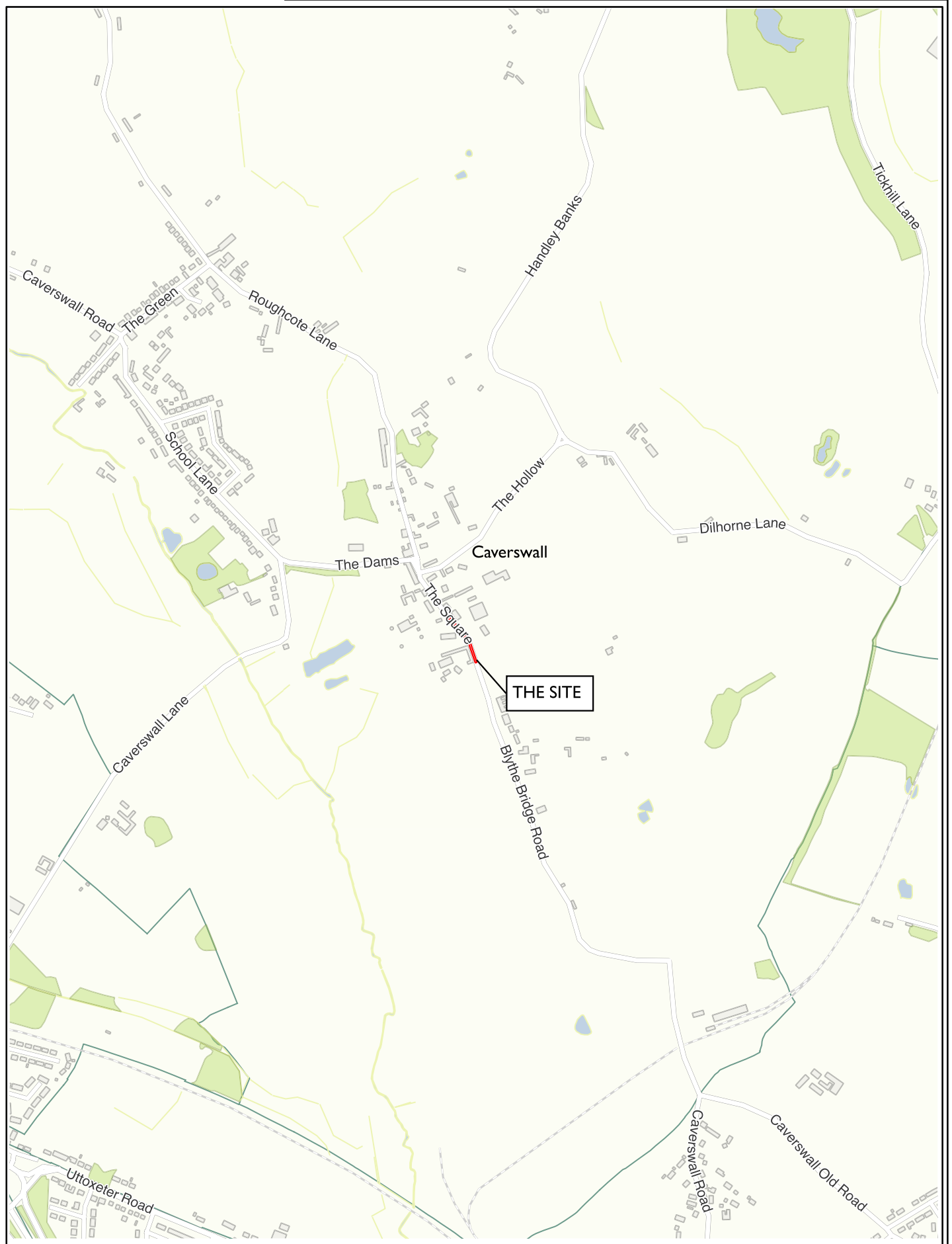
SOURCES CONSULTED

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

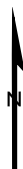
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FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location - General



0 500 m



PROJECT // 2555C - Church Terrace, Caverswall

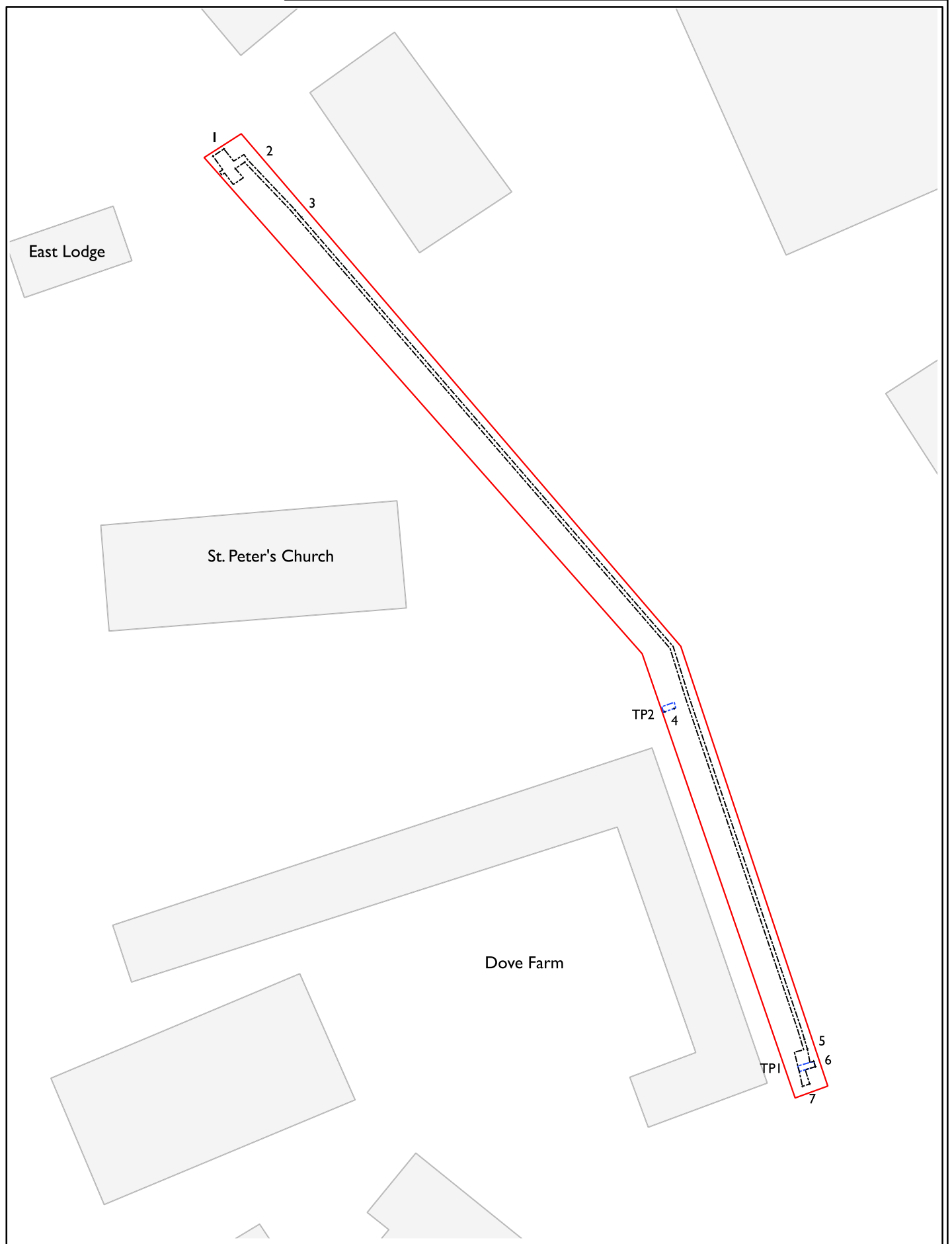
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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FIGURE 2 // Site Plan



0 25 m



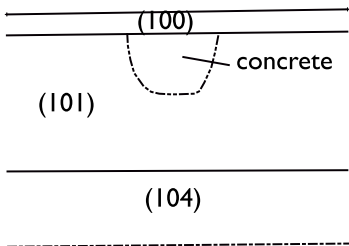
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DESCRIPTION // Site Plan

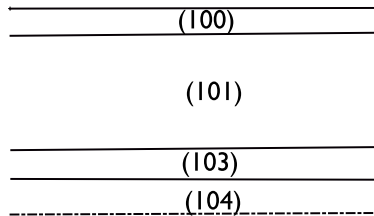
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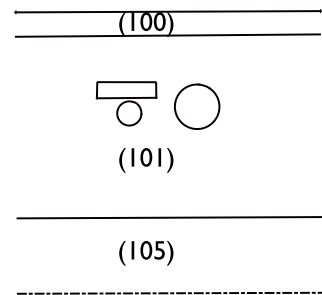
Section 1
South facing section of pipe trench



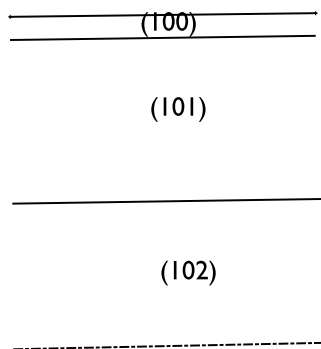
Section 2
South facing section of pipe trench



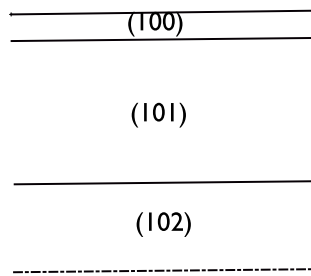
Section 3
West facing section of pipe trench showing service truncation



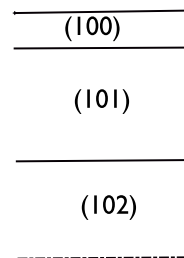
Section 4
North facing section of TP2



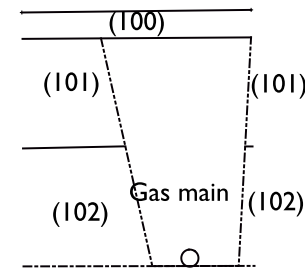
Section 5
West facing section of pipe trench



Section 6
West facing section of pipe trench



Section 7
North facing section of pipe trench



PROJECT // 2555C - Church Terrace, Caverswall

DESCRIPTION // Sections

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OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-289170

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief: Church Terrace, Caverswall
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks at Church Terrace, Caverswall, Staffordshire. The Watching Brief 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 Rebecca Jones of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Balfour Beatty. The first known recording of Caverswall is in the Domesday Survey of 1086, recorded as Cavreswelle. Valued at 30 shillings the village was an already established settlement by 1086 and was likely founded earlier. The objectives of the Watching Brief were to record the character, date, type, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains on site. To specifically identify any archaeological evidence of the Early Medieval - Post Medieval settlement of the village and to mitigate against any removal of the archaeological resource. No archaeological features were exposed within the limits of excavation. The stratigraphic sequence remained fairly consistent across the excavation which comprised a series of natural subsoil deposits overlain by gravel and tarmac.
Project dates	Start: 19-06-2017 End: 31-07-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LP2555C - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 1 - Highways and road transport
Monument type	NA None
Significant Finds	NA None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Prompt	Permitted Development consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS CAVERSWALL Church Terrace, Caverswall
Postcode	ST11 9EA
Study area	34.5 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 95195 42780 52.9820308982 -2.071575658339 52 58 55 N 002 04 17 W Point
Lat/Long Datum (other)	395205,342790
Height OD / Depth	Min: 186.5m Max: 189.7m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Balfour Beatty
Project design originator	Stephen Dean, Staffordshire County Council
Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Rebecca Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, R.

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Entered on	3 July 2017

OASIS:

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