

**Summary of Results for an
Archaeological Watching Brief at
Duke Street
Tutbury
Staffordshire
NGR SK 2118 2887**

Planning Application No: PA/18357/006

Site Code: DST08

Museum Accession No: 2008.LH.64

Produced for

JRT Construction

by

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Non-technical summary

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at Duke Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire (NGR SK 2118 2887). The development site lies within the historic core of Tutbury; a settlement with probable Anglo-Saxon origins. The watching brief took place on the 1st and 14th February 2008, during a programme of site stripping and foundation trenching for the construction of three dwellings.

The only find of any significance made during the watching brief was the discovery of two cellars in the western half of the site. These related to one of the properties that occupied the site from at least 1773 until the 1920s. No evidence was encountered of earlier activity on site.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A planning application was received by East Staffordshire Borough Council (application number PA/18357/006) for the construction of three dwellings on the site of a former garage at Duke Street, Tutbury (NGR SK 2118 2887) (Figs. 1 & 2). An archaeological watching brief was recommended by the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) as a condition attached to planning permission for the development. Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was subsequently commissioned to undertake the watching brief by the developer, JRT Construction Ltd.

1.2 The development area is situated within the historic core of Tutbury, a settlement of probable Anglo-Saxon origins. A desk-based assessment on the development (Hanna 2005) identified some potential for background medieval activity within the boundaries of the scheme, but indicated that the site had been built upon from at least the 18th to the early-mid 20th century.

2.0 The watching brief

2.1 The watching brief was undertaken on the 1st and 14th February 2008. All work was conducted in accordance with the CAO's *Brief and Specification* (Dean 2008) and in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2001).

2.2 The watching brief monitored the surface stripping of the site and all subsequent excavations within the footprint of the proposed development (Fig. 3). Written records (*pro-forma* context sheets) were made, sketch plans and sections produced and digital and 35mm monochrome photographs taken. The site archive is stored at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (Museum Accession No. 2008.LH.64) (site code DST08).

2.3 The results

2.3.1 A stiff, mixed orange and grey clay (**102**), interpreted as the natural subsoil, was encountered across the site at between *c.*0.39m (in the western half and along the street frontage) and *c.*0.80m (in the eastern half) below existing ground level (Plates 1 & 2). Cut into (**102**) in the western half of the site, were two red-brick cellars (Figs. 3 & 4); no doubt the remains of one of the properties that occupied the site until at least the 1920s.

Cellar 1 was located to the front of the site and was *c.*4.40m N-S x *c.*2.30m E-W x *c.*1.40m deep. The southern wall of the cellar contained three small alcoves, each *c.*0.32m deep and arranged one next to the other (Plate 3). Two brick supports for a shelf were identified below the alcoves. The floor of the cellar was of blue brick. Cellar 2 was located immediately to the north of cellar 1 and measured *c.*2.60m N-S x *c.*3.10m E-W x *c.*1.32m deep (Plate 4). The cellar was accessed via a flight of red-brick steps positioned in the south-western corner. An alcove or possible doorway was recorded opposite the steps in the northern wall. The remains of a barrel-vaulted ceiling were also discernible at the top of the northern wall. Both cellars 1 and 2 were filled with brick and roof tile fragments held in a silty matrix **(126)**.

2.3.2 Above **(102)** and the two back-filled cellars was a layer of black/brown silty loam and brick rubble **(101)**, ranging in thickness from *c.*0.24m to *c.*0.56m. Overlying **(101)** in the western half of the site was a black humic topsoil **(100)**, between *c.*0.15m and *c.*0.29m thick. In the eastern half of the site, **(101)** was covered by a layer of tarmac with patches of concrete **(128)**, *c.* 0.24m thick.

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 The only find of any significance made during the watching brief at Duke Street was the discovery of two cellars in the western half of the site. These related to one of the properties that occupied the site by at least 1773 until *c.*1923. No evidence was encountered of earlier activity on site.

4.0 Acknowledgements

4.1 This summary was written and illustrated by Jonathan Goodwin of Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology. Fieldwork was undertaken by Zoë Sutherland and Jonathan Goodwin. Thanks are due to Amanda and Nick Tomkinson of JRT Construction. Valuable assistance was provided by Stephen Dean, County Archaeological Officer and the staff of Tutbury Museum.

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5.0 Bibliography

Hanna, A. 2005. *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land off Duke Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire NGR SK 2118 2887*. Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology Report 160.

Dean, S. 2008. *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief: Land to the rear of Duke Street, Tutbury*. Staffordshire County Council.

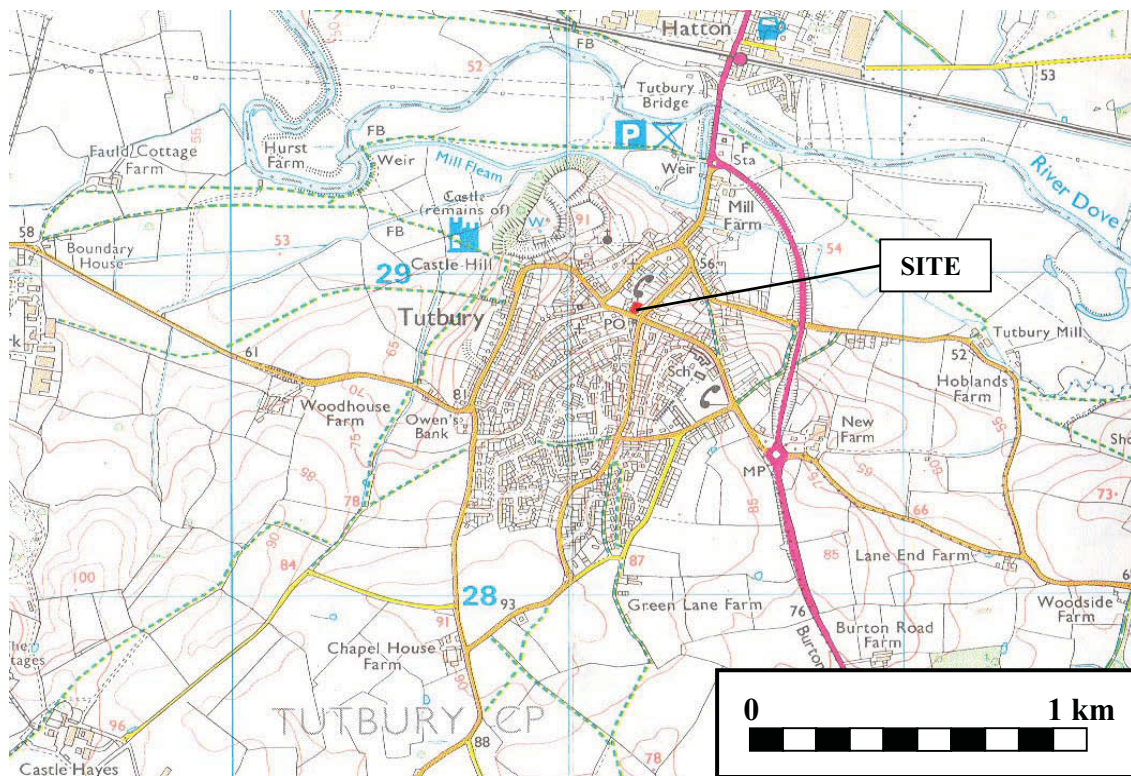


FIG. 1

Location of development area

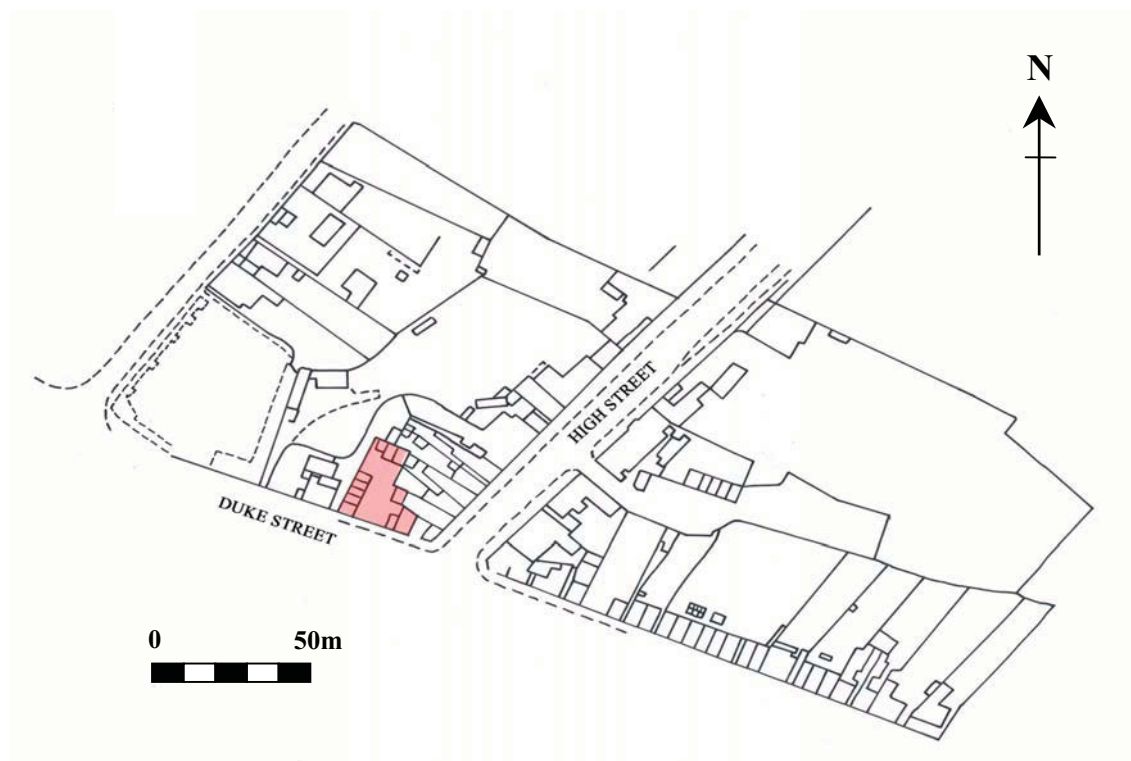


FIG. 2

The proposed development area (marked in red)

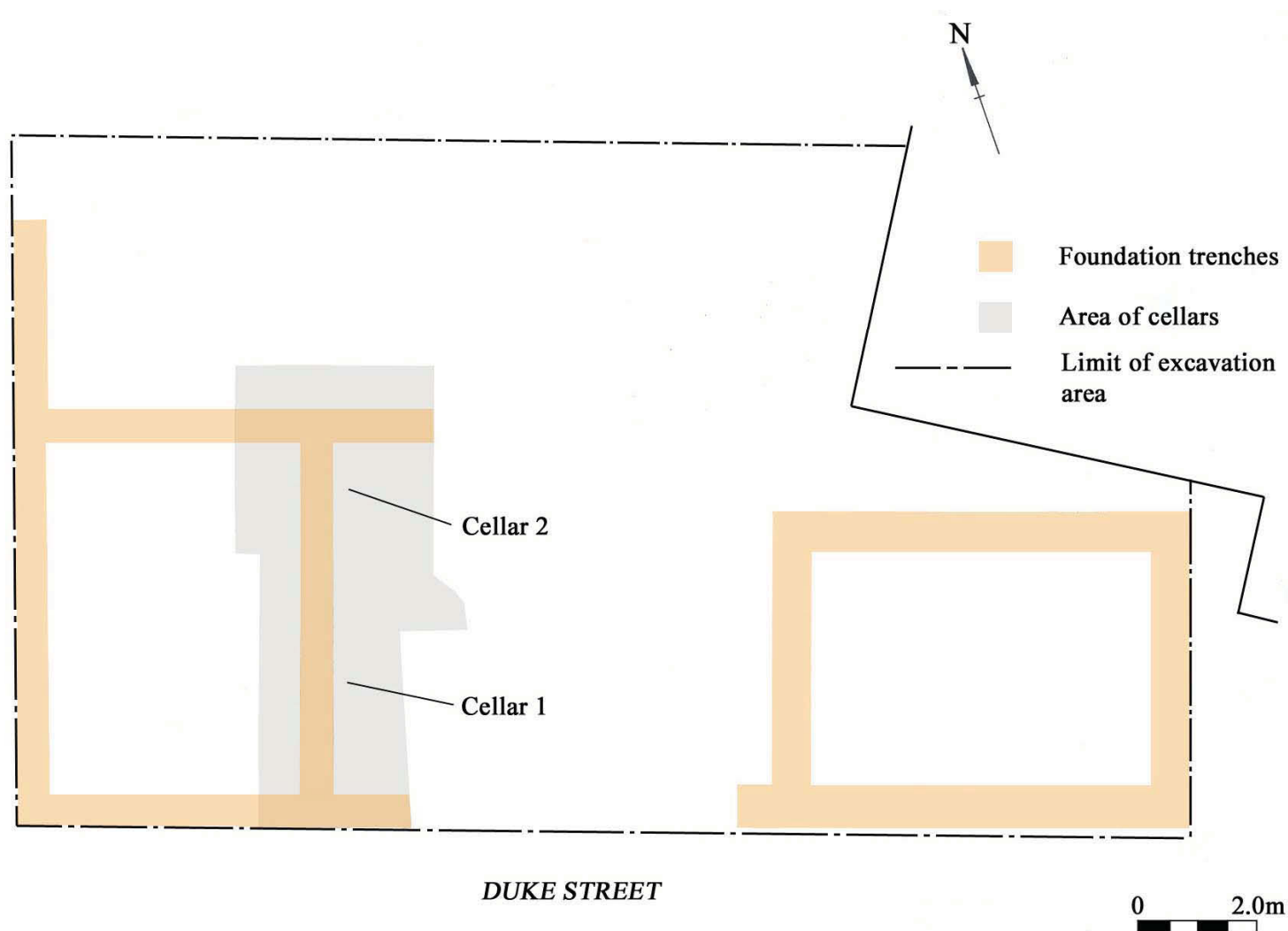


FIG. 3

Location of cellars 1 & 2 within excavation area

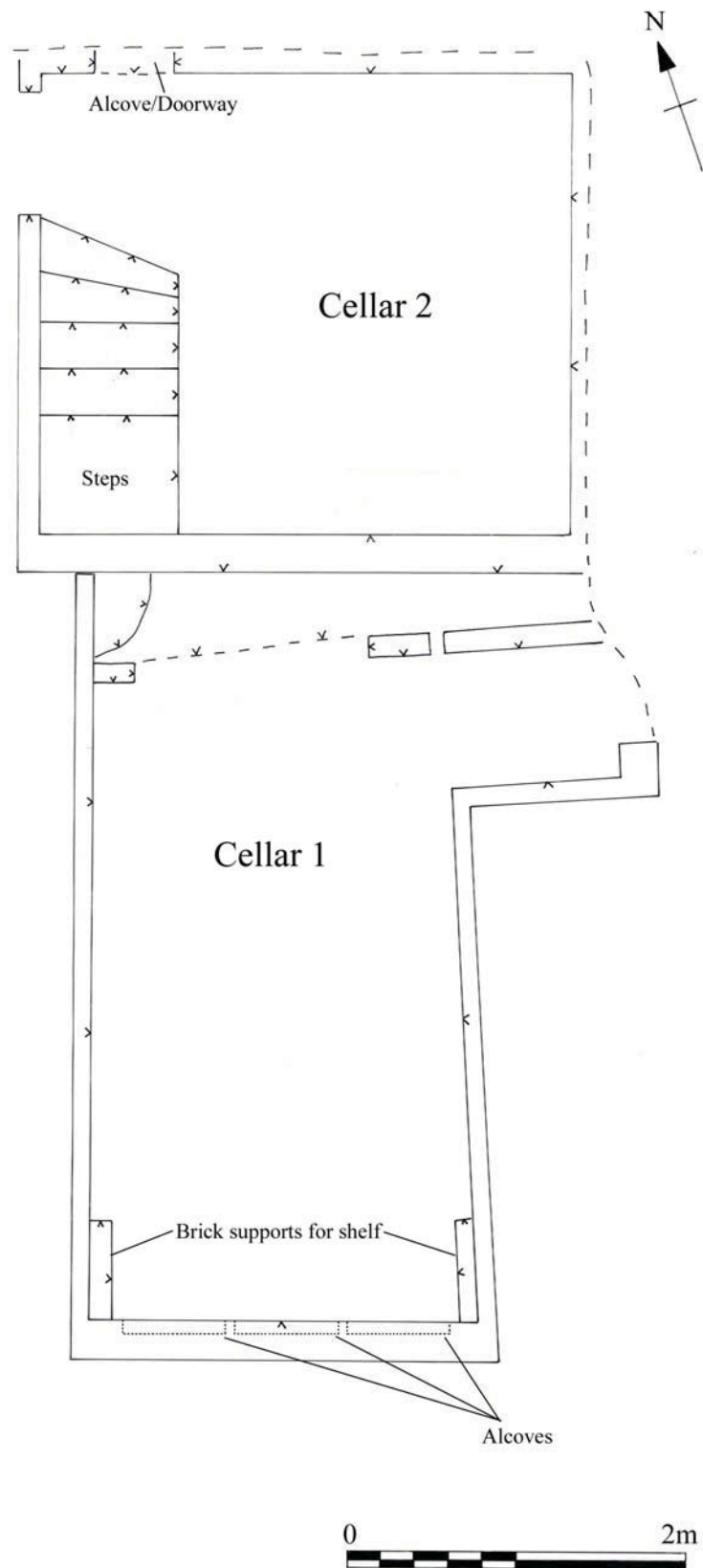


FIG. 4
Plan of the two cellars



PLATE 1

Foundation trenching in the western half of the site showing soil profile (looking NE)
(scales: 1.0m)



PLATE 2

Soil profile along the street frontage (looking SE) (scale: 1.0m)



PLATE 1

Alcoves in wall of cellar 1 (looking SW) (scales: 1.0m)



PLATE 2

Cellar 2, with steps in the foreground (looking SE) (scales: 1.0m)