



Bore Street Flood Alleviation, Lichfield

Archaeological Watching Brief

ARCUS report 1311.1(2)

October 2009

Client: Severn Trent



Site Name: Lichfield, Bore Street Flood Alleviation

Grid Reference: SK 117 095

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1311.1(2)

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Planning reference: PA 42773

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Checked by:	Passed for submission to client:
Date:	Date:
Chris Harrison <i>Archaeological Supervisor</i>	Richard O'Neill <i>Project Manager</i>

OASIS SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS identifier	Arcus2-66354	
Project title	Bore Street Flood Alleviation, Lichfield	
Short description of the project	ARCUS were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a site at Lichfield, Bore Street (SK 117 095). A test trench was excavated prior to proposed groundworks that would enable a new 1800mm diameter pump chamber together with an inlet sewer, a rising main and a control kiosk within the road corridor of Bore Street. A post-medieval brick-lined culvert and post-medieval and modern made ground deposits were identified. Residual medieval ceramics were also recovered.	
Project dates	09-09-2009 to 10-09-2009	
Previous/future work	None	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Residual medieval 12 th - or 13 th -century ceramics	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	Lichfield	
Site address	Bore Street, Lichfield	
Site co-ordinates	SK 177 095	
Site area	c. 2.5m ²	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	ARCUS	
Project design originator	ARCUS	
Project supervisor	Richard Jackson	
Project manager	Richard O'Neill	
Sponsor or funding body	Severn Trent Water	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	To be confirmed	Ceramics to be retained
Paper	To be confirmed/ Staffordshire HER	Site records and bound copy of report
Digital	Staffordshire HER	.pdf report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Bore Street Flood Alleviation, Lichfield	
Report no	1311.1(2)	
Author	Chris Harrison	
Date	October 2009	

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Illustrations

- 1 Site location map
- 2 Location of groundworks
- 3 South west facing section

Plates

- 1 View of general excavation area
- 2 View of section of excavation area

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

ARCUS were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a site at Lichfield, Bore Street (SK 117 095). The watching brief monitored excavation of a test pit in advance of proposed groundworks for a 1800mm diameter pump chamber together with an inlet sewer, a rising main and a control kiosk within the road corridor of Bore Street.

Excavations removed the modern sett surface which lay above a mixed rubble and tarmac layer used to bed the setts. Underneath this were deposits of made ground for the modern ground surface. Below these deposits was a red brick-lined culvert which had been later altered with the addition of a concrete capping. Residual medieval ceramics of 12th or 13th century date were recovered from a made ground deposit. This is not surprising given that there is known medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of Report

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on a test pit at Bore Street, Lichfield. The watching brief was undertaken in line with the government's planning guidelines set down in PPG16 (1990). A scoping advisement note was prepared for the work. ARCUS were commissioned by Severn Trent Archaeology to undertake the watching brief.

1.2 Site Location

The site (centred on SK 117 095) is located on Bore Street in Lichfield (**Illustration 1**).

1.3 Archaeological Background

No previous archaeological investigation has occurred in the area of the proposed work. The following section is summarised from a scoping note issued to Severn Trent Water.

The earliest recorded remains within the search area consists of Neolithic (4000-2300 BC) stone tools and possible settlement or activity remains. A leaf-shaped arrowhead and polished stone axe were recovered as individual finds nearly 500m to the west and north of the site. Neolithic pits and a possible cooking area were identified in excavations to the south of Cathedral Close, underlying a medieval cemetery.

Lichfield is predominately of medieval origin, and was founded by Bishop Roger de Clinton in the mid-12th century, although it is thought that the medieval remains of the cathedral exist on top of a Saxon church. The proposed works lie within the centre of the medieval town, with the line of the boundary ditches having been recorded to the south, east and west. The Cathedral was within a defended enclosure, now known as Cathedral Close, of which some of the defensive walls still survive as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A medieval mill was located to the south of the Close, with the milldam still surviving as part of the large Registered Garden. Stowe Pool to the northeast was also probably constructed in the medieval period. A stone cross of probable medieval date was located on Tamworth Street.

Medieval deposits have been found in excavations and evaluations within the town, including a medieval tenement at Wade Street, a possible cruck building on Frog Lane, medieval pits and ditches at Swan Street, and possible brewing and domestic activity at Sandford Street. Conduit Street, running parallel with Breadmarket Street probably marks the route of a medieval conduit, which ran from Aldershawe to Bore Street.

The immediate vicinity of the site houses Lichfield Guildhall, most likely constructed in the 15th or 16th centuries. It has been postulated that the site of the medieval castle servicing Lichfield was located within the site, although the possibility is considered slim. Opposite the site of the kiosk exists the current location of the church of St Mary's, built in the 19th century on top of an earlier medieval church associated with the Guild of St Mary and St John the Baptist. It is Grade II* listed. This guild also constructed the original Guildhall, itself much rebuilt in the 18th and 19th century, as well as No.5 Breadmarket Street, to the north of the proposed kiosk and opposite St Mary's. This latter building, constructed c.1600 or earlier, was reportedly used as a guild priest's house, and is Grade II* listed.

Further listed buildings on Breadmarket Street consist of Nos. 7-9, a former inn of

18th-century date (Grade II), and the birthplace of Dr Samuel Johnson at the north end of the road, which is now a dedicated museum and is Grade I listed. A statue of Dr Johnson (Grade II*) on Market Place is also within visual distance of the proposed kiosk. Grade II* listed buildings on Bore Street within visual distance of the proposed kiosk consist of No.32, now a cafe, with probable 16th-century origins and Donegal House, the tourist information centre, built c.1730. Grade II listed buildings facing the proposed kiosk, Nos. 39 and 41-3. The proposed works are within Lichfield Conservation Area.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and Objectives

The general aim of the watching brief was to assess the potential of the site in advance of development.

The specific aims were:

- to identify, record and, where possible, characterise any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks;
- to identify the state of preservation of archaeological remains and inform procedure during further groundworks that will impact on the archaeological record.
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local and regional context and for an assessment of the significance of archaeology within the proposal area to be made.

2.2 Methodology

All site work was carried out in accordance with IfA guidelines (2008), health and safety regulations (SCAUM 2007) and current industry best practice.

The test pit measured lengths of 3m (north-east to south-west) and 2.5m (north-west to south-east) and was excavated to a depth of 1.5 m.

Archaeological recording comprised day record sheets, the assignment of individual context numbers, digital photographs, sketch sections and sketch plans.

2.3 Fieldwork Programme

The project was managed by Richard O'Neil. Fieldwork was undertaken between 09/08/2009 to the 10/08/2009, by Richard O'Neill and Richard Jackson.

3 RESULTS

The archaeological watching brief monitored the excavation of a test pit outside the Guildhall on Bore Street (**Illustrations 1, 2 and 3, and Plates 1 and 2**).

The earliest feature was a brick-lined culvert (106) running north-east to south-west observed at the base of the trench. The bricks in the culvert were of post-medieval type. The culvert (106) then appears to have been overlain with a made ground deposit of yellow brown clay (103). At a later date this was disturbed with a cutting (105) for the insertion of a concrete capping (104) at the top of the culvert (106). The

capping (104) was sealed with a made ground deposit of red sand and gravel (102). The deposits were then sealed with a mixed tarmac and rubble bedding deposit (101) which in turn overlain with setts (100) that formed the modern pavement and road surface.

Finds were limited to deposits (102) and (103) (Appendix 3). Medieval 12th- or 13th-century ceramics were found within deposit (103), however given the stratigraphy observed, and the presence of 19th-century and 19th- to 20th-century material in deposits (102) and (103), this was almost certainly residual in nature.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Summary and Discussion

ARCUS were commissioned by Severn Trent Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a site at Lichfield, Bore Street (SK 117 095). The watching brief monitored excavation of a test pit in advance of proposed groundworks for a 1800mm diameter pump chamber together with an inlet sewer, a rising main and a control kiosk within the road corridor of Bore Street.

Excavations removed the modern sett surface which lay above a mixed rubble and tarmac layer used to bed the setts. Underneath this were deposits of made ground for the modern ground surface. Below these deposits was a red brick-lined culvert which had been later altered with the addition of a concrete capping. Residual medieval ceramics of 12th or 13th century date were recovered from a made ground deposit. This is not surprising given that there is known medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

No further analysis is recommended on the finds from the site although the ceramics should be retained. Given the residual context of the medieval ceramics it would seem appropriate to recommend a watching brief on any further excavations in the area. This should be discussed with Staffordshire HER.

5 ARCHIVE

The project archive will be deposited with Staffordshire HER. The archive will be prepared by ARCUS staff in accordance with the requirements specified in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006) and with UKIC guidelines (1990). In addition, copies of this report will be deposited with the Staffordshire HER, circulated to the client, and retained in the offices of ARCUS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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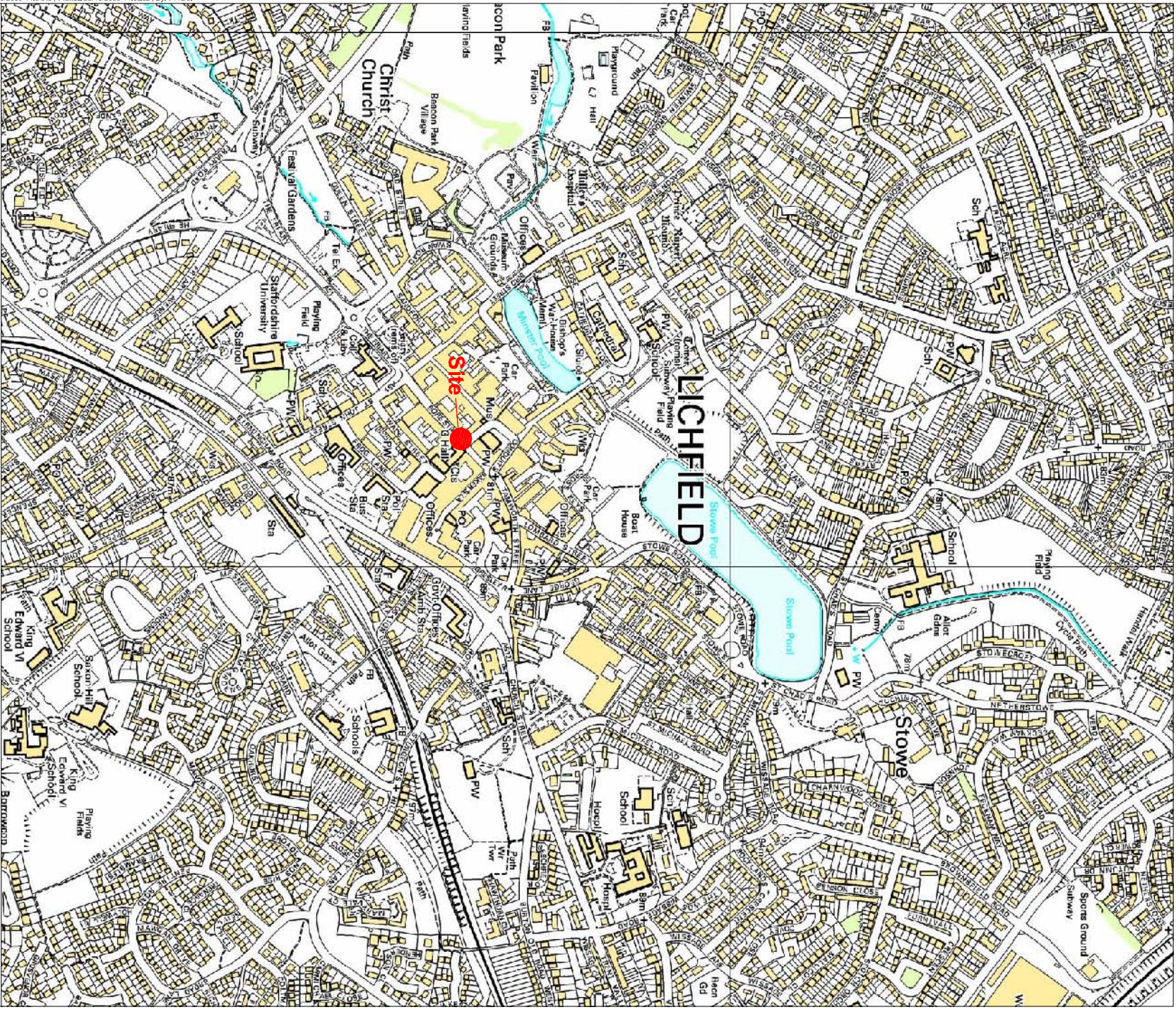
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8 ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES



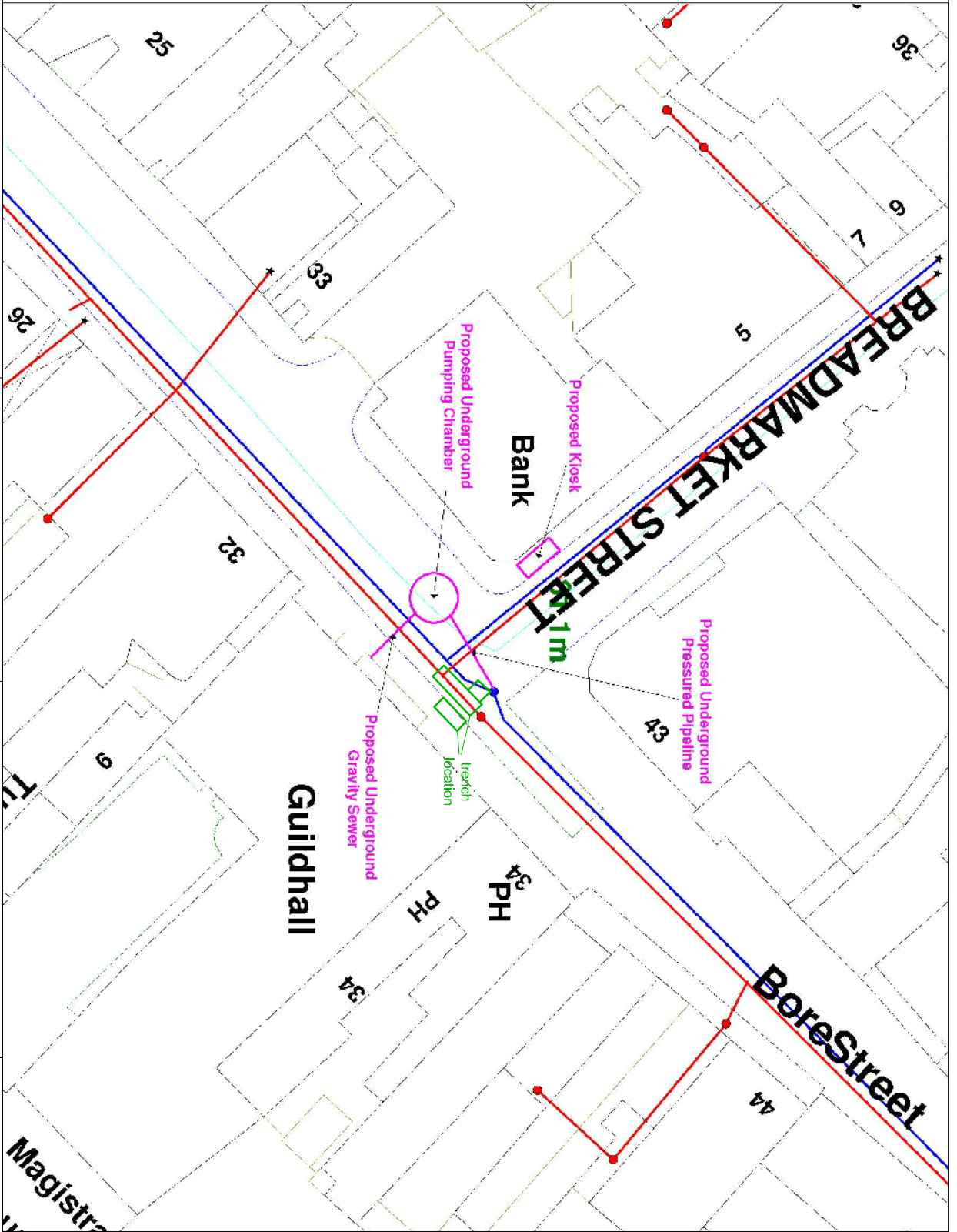
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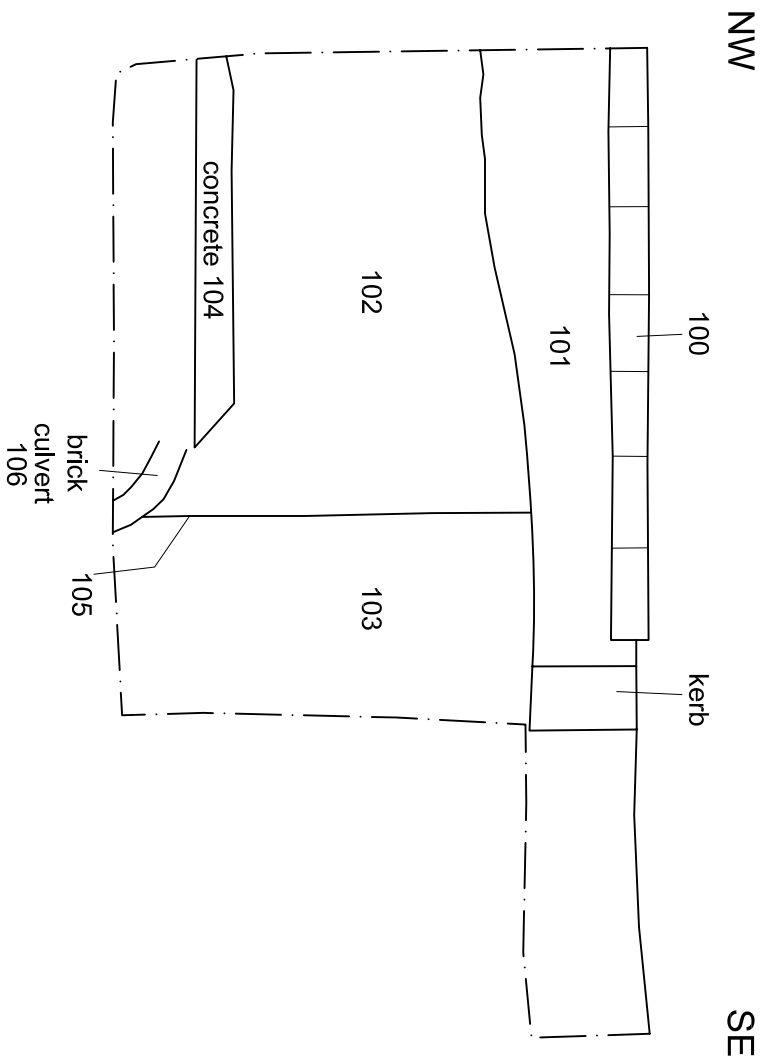
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Lichfield		1:10 000	
Title		NGR	
Site Location Map		SK117 095	
Project No.		Drawn	
1311		J Debska	
		Illustration No.	
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Date		October 2009	



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Project:		Lichfield	
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Scale:	NGR	SK 117 095	Drawn
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Project:	Lichfield		Scale	-	Date	October 2009
	Title	South-west facing section		NGR		SK 117 095
			Project No.	1311	Illustration No.	3

PLATES



Plate 1 – View of section and general context.



Plate 2 – View of section showing deposits.

9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Archive Index
Appendix 2	List of Contexts
Appendix 3	Finds

APPENDIX 1: ARCHIVE CONTENTS

Summary:

Finds Archive:

Ceramics	Animal Bone	Clay Pipe	Building material
8	6	1	13

Paper Archive

Description	Number of sheets
Watching Brief Day Record Sheet	2
Copy report	1

Photographic Archive

Description	Number of pictures
Digital photographs (1 CD)	9

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Site sub-division	Context No	Context type	Description
Trench 1	100	Structure	Modern sett surface
Trench 1	101	Deposit	Mixed tarmac and stone layer bedding for 100
Trench 1	102	Deposit	Mixed red sand and gravel made ground
Trench 1	103	Deposit	Yellow brown clay made ground
Trench 1	104	Structure	Concrete capping
Trench 1	105	Cut	Cut for 104
Trench 1	106	Structure	Brick-lined culvert

APPENDIX 3: FINDS

by Linzi Harvey

Factual Data

A selection of material was recovered during archaeological works at Bore Street, Lichfield (ARCUS 1311). This included animal bone, ceramic, ceramic building material (CBM) and clay pipe. These 28 items were from two stratified contexts.

Methodology

All objects were individually examined for the purpose of this assessment. Information regarding the material type, dimensions and any other relevant data were catalogued accordingly (see **Table 1** below).

Discussion

The animal bone sample is too small to be diagnostic of activities on-site, although it likely the butchered sheep rib fragments from (103) are associated with rubbish disposal of kitchen waste.

The CBM fragments recovered from deposits (102) and (103) are abraded and incomplete, and are thus archaeologically uninformative.

A single fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from (103). Although clay pipe is difficult to date accurately, it is likely this fragment dates to the 19th century.

A small amount of ceramic was recovered from Bole Street. This included a single transfer printed sherd of 19th century whiteware from (102), in addition to two 18th or 19th century brown-glazed coarseware sherds from (103). An additional 5 fragments were recovered from (103), which have been identified as Staffordware sherds, including three sherds which fit together to form part of a large jar rim. These date to the 12th or 13th century (*pers comm.* Chris Cumberpatch). These may be residual in nature, but would seem to indicate medieval activity in the vicinity.

Statement of Potential

The material from Bore Street, Lichfield has little potential to yield further archaeological information. No further work is recommended, although some items should be retained and deposited at the appropriate museum (see **Table 1** below).

Storage and Conservation

The material recorded here is in a stable condition.

Table 1: Material from Bore Street, Lichfield

Material type	Context	Context information	Quantity	Date range	Description and measurements
Animal bone	103	Yellow brown clay made ground	6	-	Ovis: 1 burnt vertebrae fragment; 2 rib fragments, 1 butchered; 2 metapodial fragments. Bos: 1 long bone fragment.
Clay pipe	103	Yellow brown clay made ground	1	~19 th C	Small plain stem fragment, likely to be 19 th in date.
CBM	102	Mixed red sand and gravel made ground	6	1850+	Abraded CBM fragments, fine red fabric, probably roof tile or brick. 1 fragment vitrified ceramic; 1 fragment of brown-glazed service pipe.
CBM	103	Yellow brown clay made ground	7	19 th -20 th C	Abraded brick and tile fragments, fine red fabric. One with hard pale mortar adhering.
Ceramic	102	Mixed red sand and gravel made ground	1	19 th -20 th C	1 small sherd of transfer printed whiteware.*
Ceramic	103	Yellow brown clay made ground	7	12 th -13 th / 18 th -19 th C	2 sherds brown-glazed coarseware; 5 sherds, including one rim, of white probable medieval vessel.*
Total			28		

* indicates item to retain