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# **Bore Street Flood Alleviation, Lichfield**

Archaeological Watching Brief

ARCUS report 1311.1(1)

October 2009

Client: Severn Trent

**Archaeological Watching Brief**



# Site Name: Lichfield, Bore Street Flood Alleviation

Grid Reference: SK 117 095

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1311.1(1)

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Client: Severn Trent Water

Planning reference: PA 42773

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Checked by:	Passed for submission to client:
Date:	Date:
Chris Harrison <i>Archaeological Supervisor</i>	Glyn Davies <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	In August 2009 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 was required as a condition of planning consent for redevelopment at the site. The scope of works consisted of 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. Modern made ground and a brick culvert were found.	
Project dates	09-09-2009 to 10-09-2009	
Previous/future work	None	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	Lichfield	
Site address	Bore Street, Lichfield	
Site co-ordinates	SK 177 095	
Site area	3 m <sup>2</sup>	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	ARCUS	
Project design originator	ARCUS	
Project supervisor	Richard Jackson	
Project manager	Glyn Davies	
Sponsor or funding body	Severn Trent Water	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	None	None
Paper	Staffordshire SMR	Site records
Digital	Staffordshire SMR	Site Records and report
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Bore Street Flood Alleviation, Lichfield	
Report no	1311	
Author	Chris Harrison	
Date	October 2009	

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- 2 Location of groundworks
- 3 Sketch plan of excavation area
- 4 South west facing section

### **Plates**

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

## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*In August 2009 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 was undertaken on a geotechnical test pit in advance of 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. The works centred on land previously undisturbed by Severn Trent Water.*

*Excavations removed the modern sett surface which lay above a tarmac layer used to bed the setts. Underneath the tarmac were a red sandy deposit and a yellowish brown deposit, which functioned as made ground for the modern ground surface. Below these deposits existed a red brick culvert which had been altered to have a concrete top.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of Report

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical test pit at Bore Street, Lichfield. This was in advance of groundworks on the proposed site works. 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 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-12<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>-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 16<sup>th</sup>-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 Evaluation Methodology**

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

The test pit subject measured 3 by 1 meters and was excavated to a depth of 1.5 meters.

Archaeological recording comprised of the assignment of numbers (context) to individual archaeological events, allowing for the stratigraphy of the groundworks to be chronologically identified. Digital photographs were taken of features to provide visual examples of the archaeology. Sketch plans were also made so that features could be represented accurately.

Day record sheets were filled out for both days on site, allowing for a description of the archaeology to be written down.

### **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 Jackson.

## **3 RESULTS**

(Please refer to illustration 1, 2, 3, and 4, and plates 1 and 2)



The archaeological investigation took place outside the Guildhall on Bore Street and measured 3 meters by 1 meter to a depth of 1.5 meters. Removal of sets and tarmac (100 and 101) that functioned as the modern pavement and road along Bore Street, revealed two deposits. The first a red sandy deposit (102) existed alongside a Yellow Brown Clay (103). Excavation of 102 and 103 revealed a northeast southwest running brick culvert with a concrete top. The concrete top appears to be later than the brick culvert and exists exclusively below 102, suggesting that the concrete top is a late addition to the culvert and that 102 is an infill after this addition. The bricks within the culvert are of post medieval type.

Finds from the site were limited to 102 and 103. Although 13<sup>th</sup> century material was found within 102, 19<sup>th</sup> century material was also uncovered (see appendix 3). This suggests that medieval material was in the vicinity of the site but has been later mixed with 19<sup>th</sup> century material when 102 were deposited. 19<sup>th</sup> century material formed the entire of the assemblage recovered from the site.

## **4 CONCLUSION**

### **4.1 Summary and Discussion**

It is most likely that the brick culvert was built and proceeded by the depositing of a yellow brown clay made ground (103). Subsequently the brick culvert was altered by the addition of a concrete top which had a red sandy deposit placed above it (102). After this a road and pavement surface was constructed.

### **4.2 Recommendations for Further Work**

The test pit watching brief has identified mixed deposits containing medieval and post medieval material which suggest the deposits date to the post medieval period. However, the inclusion of medieval material within the excavated deposits suggests that medieval deposits may be close by. It would therefore appear appropriate that a watching brief on further excavations in the area should be considered. This should be discussed with the council archaeologist.

## **5 ARCHIVE**

The project archive will be deposited with Staffordshire SMR. 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 BIBLIOGRAPH**

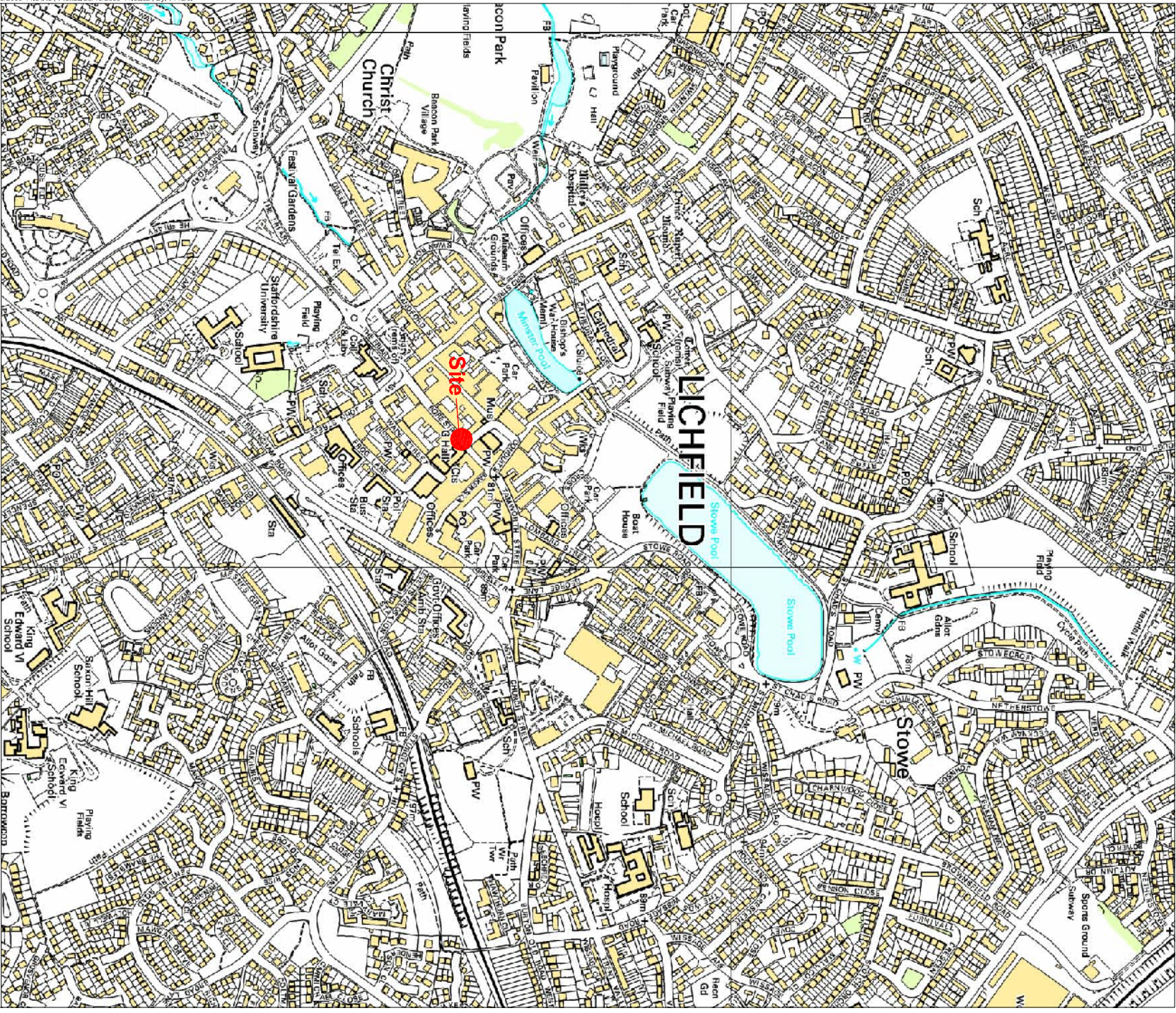
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UKIC. 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*. United Kingdom Institute of Conservation. London.

## 8 ILLUSTRATIONS AND PLATES



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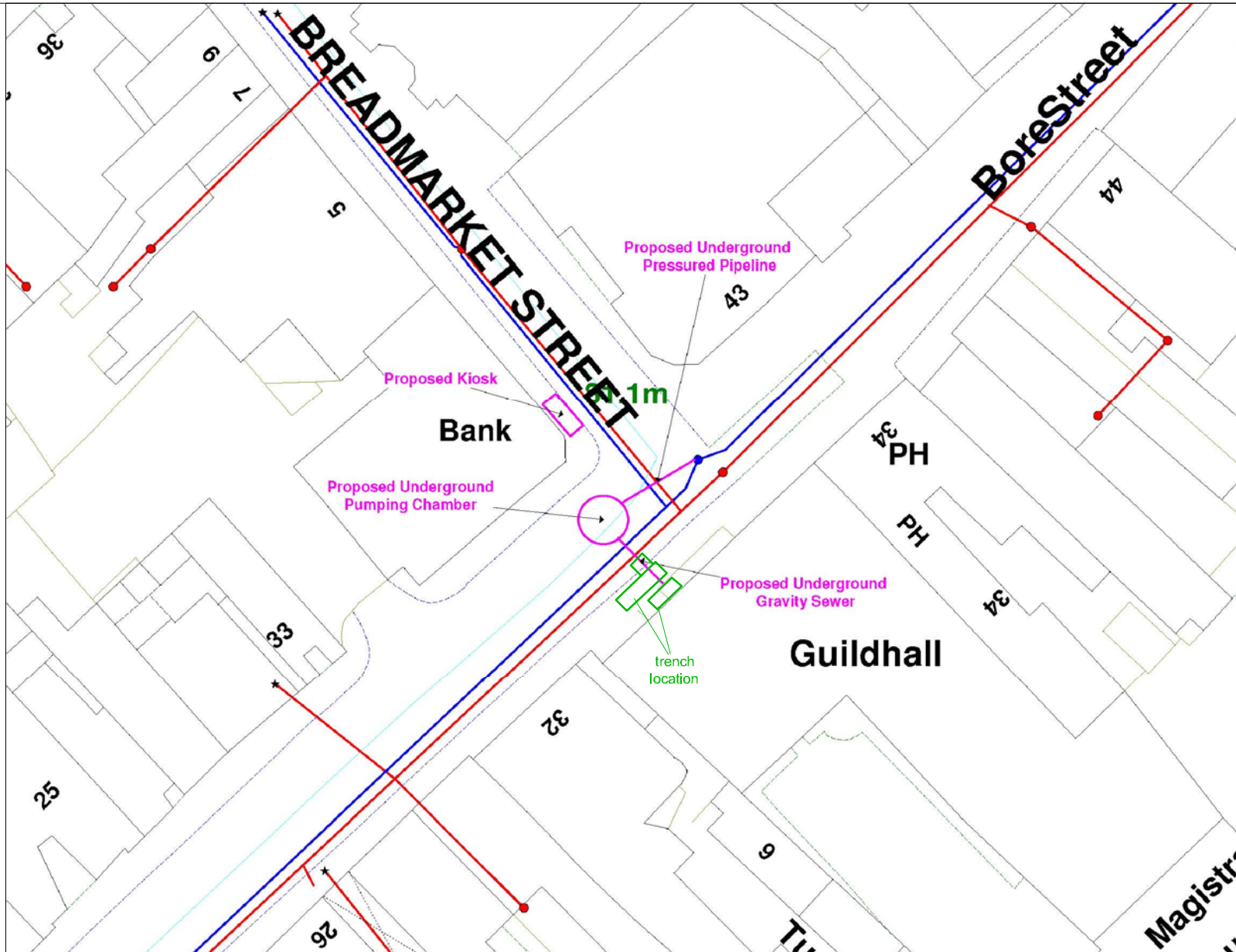


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Project:		Scale	
Lichfield		1:10 000	
Date		NGR	
October 2009		SK117 095	
Drawn		Project No.	
J Debska		1311	
Illustration No.		1	
Title		Site Location Map	

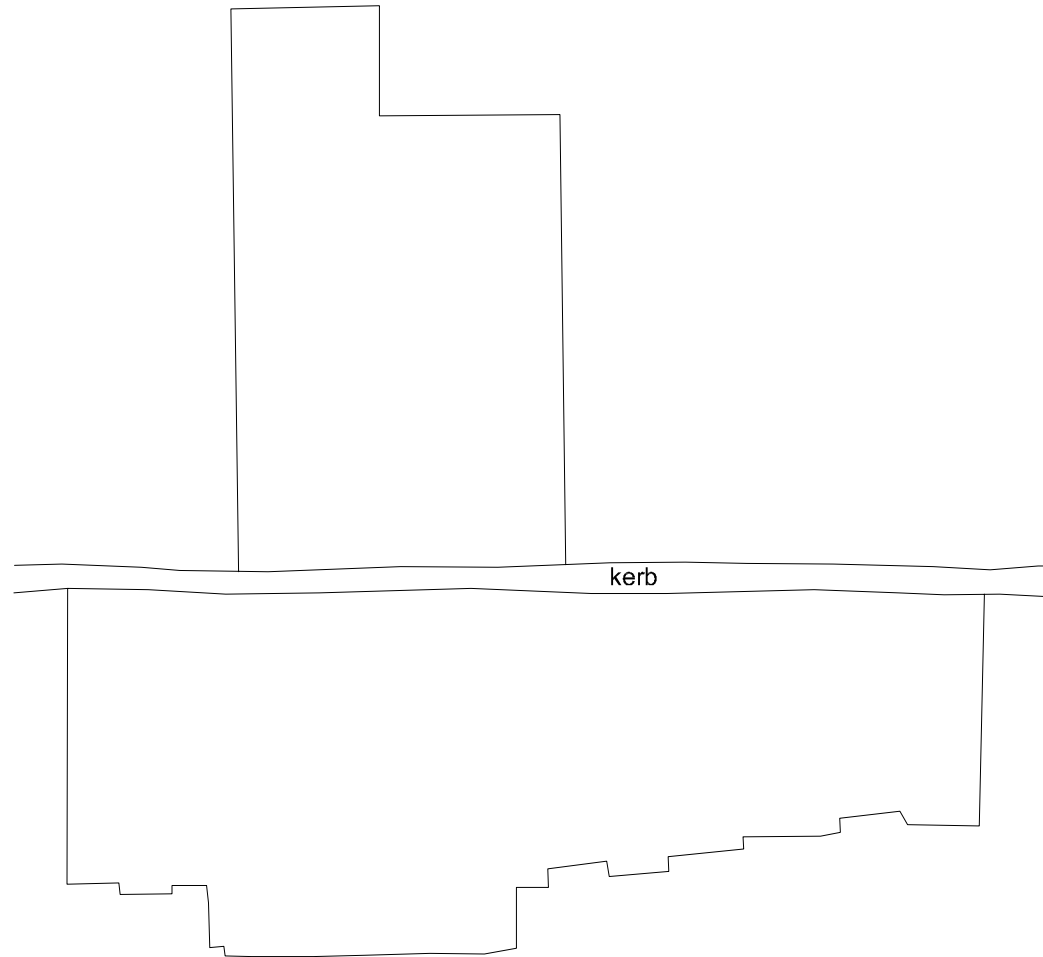
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Project:	<b>Lichfield</b>		Scale	-	Date	October 2009
Title	<b>Site Location Plan</b>		NGR	SK 117 095	Drawn	J Debska
			Project No.	<b>1311</b>	Illustration No.	<b>2</b>

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Project:

**Lichfield**

Title

**Sketch plan**

Scale

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NGR

SK 117 095

Project No.

**1311**

Date

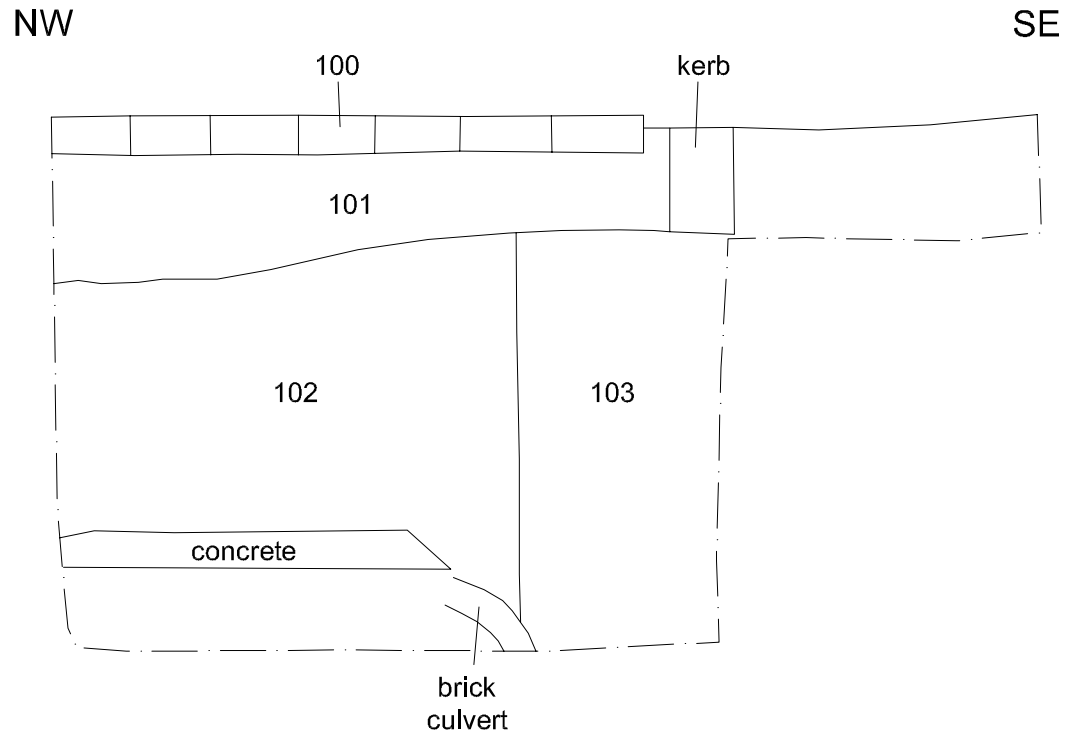
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**J Debska**

Illustration No.

**3**



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Project:	<b>Lichfield</b>	Scale	-	Date	October 2009
Title	<b>South-west facing section</b>	NGR	SK 117 095	Drawn	J Debska
		Project No.	<b>1311</b>	Illustration No.	<b>4</b>

## 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	Metal objects	Glass	Clay Pipe	Industrial process residue	Slag	Leather	Shell	Wood	Building material	Misc	Environmental Samples
8	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0

Paper Archive

Description	Number of sheets
Field drawings	
Drawing register	
Photographic register	
Context sheets	
Context register	
Finds sheets	
Finds register	
Soil sample register	
Soil sample sheets	
Brick recording sheets	
Grindstone recording sheets	
Levels register	
Trench record sheets	
Day Record Sheet	2
Copy report	1

Photographic Archive

Description	Number of pictures
Black & White contact sheets	0
Black & White negatives	0
Colour slides	0
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 100
Trench 1	102	Deposit	Mixed Red Sand and Gravel
Trench 1	103	Deposit	Yellow Brown Clay

## APPENDIX 3: FINDS

by Linzi Harvey

### A3.1 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.

### A3.2 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**).

### A3.3 Discussion

The animal bone sample is too small to be diagnostic of activities on-site, although it likely the butchered sheep rib fragments from subsoil 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 subsoil 103. Although clay pipe is difficult to date accurately, it is likely this fragment dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A small amount of ceramic was recovered from Bole Street. This included a single transfer printed sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century whiteware from mixed sand deposit 102, in addition to two 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century brown-glazed coarseware sherds from subsoil 103. An additional 5 fragments were recovered from subsoil 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 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century (*pers comm.* Chris Cumberpatch). These may be residual in nature, but would seem to indicate medieval activity on-site.

### A3.4 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).

### A3.5 Storage and Conservation

The material recorded here is in a stable condition.

Consultancy  
Planning Advice  
Field Services  
Historic Buildings Analysis  
Parks & Gardens  
Cultural Resource Management  
Material Culture  
Brownfield & Industrial Archaeology  
Palaeoenvironments  
Osteology  
Historic Landscapes  
Archaeometallurgy  
Visualisation & Reconstruction  
Outreach and Community Projects

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