

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

THE DOLLS HOUSE,

29 ST NICHOLAS CHURCH STREET,

WARWICK

NGR SP 28601 64954

On behalf of

Mr S Cox

AUGUST 2015

REPORT FOR Mr S Cox
The Dolls
29 Saint Nicholas Church Street
Warwick
Warwickshire

WRITTEN BY Dr Stephen Yeates MA, D.Phil, MCIfA

ILLUSTRATION BY Andrej Čelovský

EDITED BY John Moore

AUTHORISED BY John Moore

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ENQUIRES TO John Moore Heritage Services
Hill View
Woodperry Road
Beckley
Oxfordshire OX3 9UZ

Tel/Fax 01865 358300
Email: info@jmheritageservices.co.uk

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at the Dolls House, 29 Saint Nicholas Church Street, Warwick (NGR SP 28601 64954), by John Moore Heritage Services. Warwick is a historic County town that has evidence of underlying Iron Age activity and early medieval settlement prior to the establishment of a burh and subsequent medieval and post-medieval county town. Warwick has a historic parish associated with All Saints and St Mary, of which St Nicholas's parish is a later development from. The eastern suburbs are known to have been in existence from about the 11th century.

Cartographic analysis and watching brief observations noted lower soil horizons which were a metre or so below the ground level, which contained 17th century pottery. The limited nature of the open area made it difficult to properly interpret these deposits. The deep nature of the deposits and the compaction raised the possibility that underlying this area may be a cut feature such as a ditch, though this was not confirmed. The boundary wall on the north side of the exposed archaeology was also noted, which appears to be the oldest feature recognised on the site. A number of stone walls were uncovered, which correspond to the wall lines on the earliest maps to show a plan of the Dolls House and the previous buildings that once stood in the garden. The map evidence appears to place the current Dolls House and the rear buildings to a period from 1793 to 1806. There were two constructions in this period, the Dolls House that survives, and the outbuildings that must have been carried out slightly later as they were butted up to an ashlar face. In the 19th century there is evidence of brick structures being constructed that must be associated with some industrial process, however, what this activity was is not overly evident. The brick structures are a trough containing ash residue and a larger oval tank, which could have been associated with possibly tanning. If this is the case then the process was being carried out on a small scale and may be associated with one of Warwick's recognised industries such as shoe manufacturing. Problems of analysis occur here because neither of these two features was bottomed by the excavation of the footings of the building. The outbuildings were demolished in the 20th century at some time towards the middle of the century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site was located at 29 St Nicholas Church Street also known as the Dolls House, Warwick (NGR SP 28601 64954). The site is now known by the name of the Dolls House but was listed under the name of St Nicholas Cottage. The parish of St Nicholas at Warwick was undoubtedly created out of the parish of All Saints, Warwick, which was probably the location of a mother church or minster. The site was in the historic County of Warwick, and is now in the modern Warwick District and County of Warwick.

To the south the site is bordered by the cemetery of St Nicholas's church and to the northwest by St Nicholas Church Street. To the northeast there are domestic dwellings that front onto St Nicholas Church Street.

The site is located on an east facing slope between 50 and 55m Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geology (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html) is part of the Bromsgrove Sandstone Formation, sedimentary sandstone; it was formed 237 to 251 million years ago in the Triassic. The proposal site is located where this is covered by a superficial deposit known as River Terrace Deposits 2, a sand and gravel formation that was formed 3 million years ago in the Quaternary.

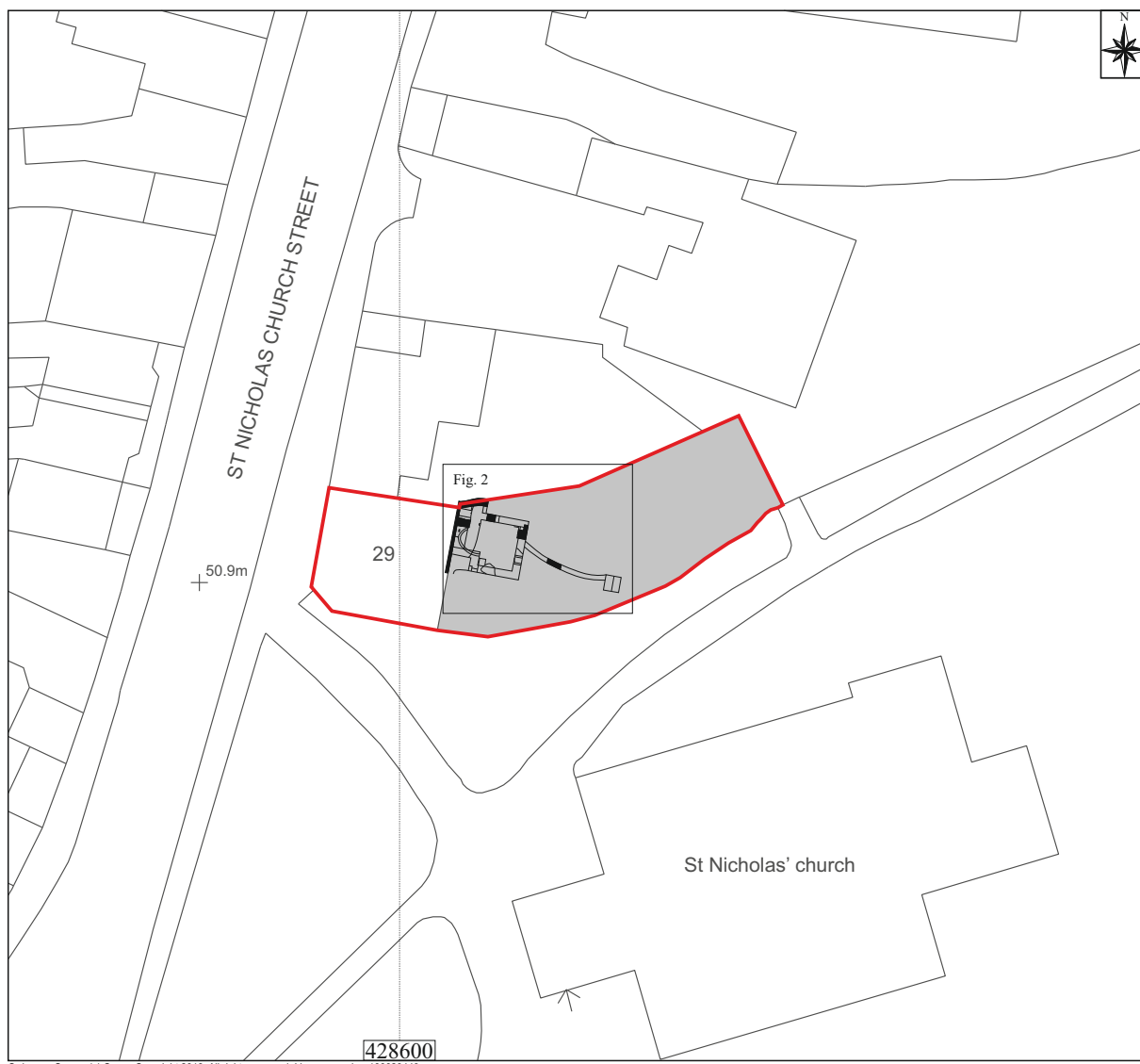
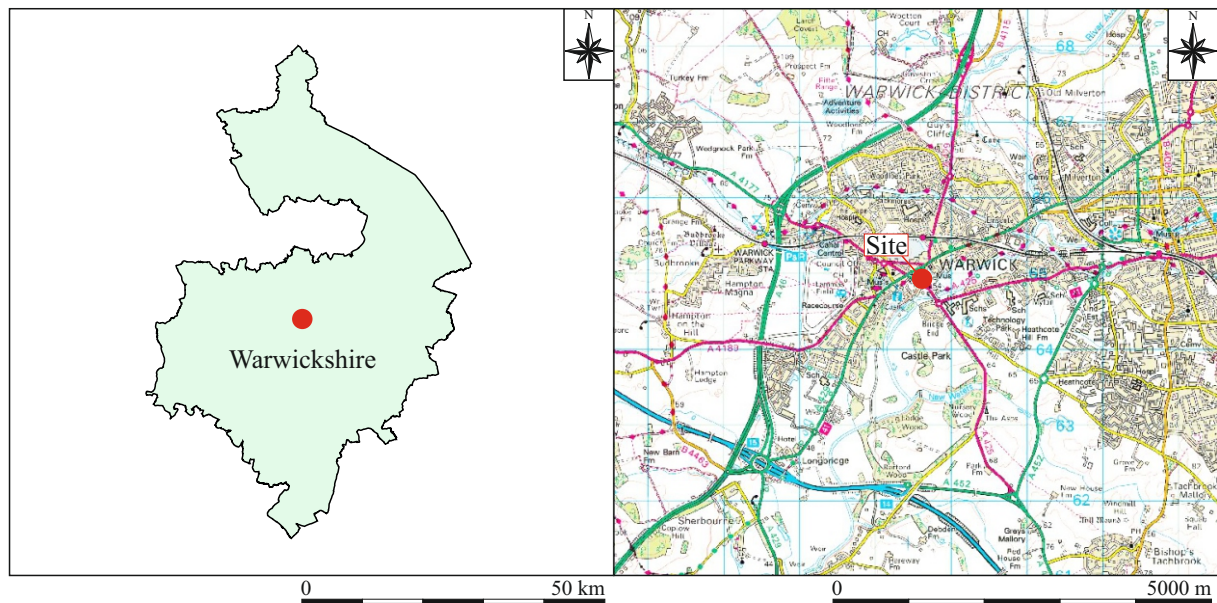
1.2 Planning Background

Warwick District Council granted planning permission for the erection of a rear extension at 29 St Nicholas Church Street (ref. W/13/1085). Due to the archaeological and historical importance of the surrounding area a condition was attached to the permission requiring a watching brief to be maintained during the course of building operations or construction works on the site. This was in line with NPPF (the planning policy current at the time) and other Local Planning policies.

1.3 Archaeological Background

A significant number of sites are listed in this area of Warwick on the Historic Environment Record. The earliest of which is the remains of a Roman cemetery with burnt bones identified in the Priory Park that was identified in the 19th century (MWA1999: SP 2836 6516). The name Warwick is recorded from 705 as Wærinc wicum, originated as a folk-name of which the name was Old English *Wering* (Gover, Mawer et al. 259-60).

Though Warwick is considered to have been in existence in some form from the mid part of the early medieval period (7th-8th centuries), it is only in the 10th century that the site becomes more frequently noticed (VCH 1969, 417-27). In 914 the burh was established by Æthelflæd of Mercia, from which it developed into a county town. Such sites were normally established in earlier defended sites, so it is not surprising that Iron Age material has been recovered from Brook Street and an undated ditch noted at Castle Hill (Yeates 2006, iii.1260-61).



Key Site boundary Monitored area Archaeological features

Figure 1: Site location

The medieval Castle was established in 1068 in the burh (VCH 1969, 417-27; Morris 1976, B.2), and the earliest mother church of All Saints was also located on that site. The walls influenced the later design of the town. In 1086 some 244 houses are noted in the town and some 100 cultivation plots outside the town (Morris 1976, B).

The eastern suburb may already have been in existence in some form in 1086 (VCH 1969, 417-27) as 20 individuals were recorded as living at Coton End. The suburb was originally focused along Smith Street, St Nicholas Church Street, Mill Street, Gaol Hall Lane, Poke Lane and Dog Lane. The street on which the Dolls House fronts is first recorded as *Seynt Nicholas strete* in 1425 (Gover, Mawer 1936, 261).

The earliest church established in Warwick is believed to be that of All Saints located in the Castle (VCH 1969, 522-35), as the establishment of St Sepulchre's Priory in c. 1123 saw a payment to that church. This type of payment appears to represent one recognised about old minster churches (Yeates 2006, iii.1261, 1264). St Mary's was established in 1123, when it was amalgamated with that of All Saints. Subsequent to this St Mary's was granted the church of St Nicholas and other churches at that date. These other churches thus appear to be chapels subordinate to the mother church. In 1367 all burial grounds were closed except that of St Mary's and St Nicholas's, but the burial ground of the latter was still subordinate to St Mary's church.

The majority of references on the HER are, however, medieval or later. There is a general listing for the historic medieval core of Warwick (HWA14241, HWA14242). The church of St Nicholas that lies adjacent to the proposal site is a medieval church, which is considered to have an early medieval origin (MWA1944: SP 2863 6494). The Eastgate is of a medieval date, probably on an early medieval site, with a 15th century chapel dedicated to St Peter (MWA1924: SP 2840 6499; MWA1945: SP 2840 6499). The outer grounds of St Sepulchre's Priory were developed from 1109-1536 (MWA10180: SP 28127 65620). An undated ditch has been located on Castle Hill in Warwick which is believed to be medieval in date (MWA8254). A further ditch and pit have been located on Castle Hill at the Baptist Church, they are attributed a 12th to 13th century date but may possibly be earlier (MWA8739: SP 28447 64972). The stables at Warwick Castle are first recorded in 1423, they are a medieval construction that continues to develop into the post-medieval period (MWA1923: SP 2846 6475). There is a medieval chapel and hospital of St John in east Warwick lies to the northeast of the proposal site (MWA1928: SP 2872 6508). Part of a medieval cemetery containing at least 13 burials has been located near the hospital (MWA5065: SP 2875 6514). The medieval suburbs of east Warwick were established by 1123 and the earliest map that shows this settlement is dated 1610 (MWA7050: SP 2851 6500).

At 28-30 Smith Street a pit and wall were identified believed to be of a 13th to 16th century date (MWA10119: SP 28516 65001). A medieval pit and wall dated to the 15th or 16th centuries was located at 36 Smith Street (MWA10120: SP 28541 64991). The remains of a probable medieval vineyard were noted to the south of Castle Hill; a vineyard was documented in the 12th century (MWA5527: SP 2841 6486). A medieval pit and postholes, probably dating to the 12th century, have been identified at 18-28 Jury Street (MWA8394: SP 2835 6490). Of the 18 listed buildings in St Nicholas Church Street and St Johns only one is of a 15th-16th century date (DWA5109). A medieval strap end was recovered from Mill Street (MWA9840: SP 28535 64738).

Significant medieval to post-medieval trades in Warwick include tanners and hosiers, and inference can be given to other trades from street names such as Smiths Street, Shoe Lane and Walker Street (VCH 1969, 480-89). The cloth trade is recognised as not being that extensive.

The Warwick Priory gardens were a post-medieval to modern development that commenced with the construction of the mansion in the 17th century, and they are mentioned in 1709 (MWA12982: SP 2836 6528). Some remains of ridge and furrow have been located in this area (HWA14205). There was a kitchen garden in the Priory Nursery attributed a post-medieval date (MWA12936: SP 2853 6517). A post-medieval house was constructed on the site of the medieval hospital, which was later turned into a school at St John's House (MWA1929: SP 2871 6508). The Oken's and Gifflet's Almshouses are of a post-medieval date (MWA1931: SP 2846 6496). There are post-medieval gardens and outbuildings at 18-28 Jury Street (MWA8862: SP 28354 64907). To the rear of premises in St Nicholas Church Street scatters of post-medieval roof tile, pottery, bottle glass and clay pie has been recovered (MWA8901: SP 28629 65010). Post-medieval stone quarry pits have been identified at the Old Coach House in Gerrard Street (MWA13180: SP 2849 6494). The malting is a 16th century listed building (DWA5104). The Malt House is considered to have 17th century origins (MWA1937: SP 2856 6483). The post-medieval Saint Nicholas' Mill is documented in 1713 and 1772, cottages still survive at the location (MWA2156: SP 2877 6492). Settlement on the south side of Castle Hill can be dated from the 17th to the 19th century (MWA 5528: SP 2843 6486). There were 8 burials located at the site of the Baptist Church on Castle Hill (MWA8740: SP 28447 64972). The Baptist chapel was established as a meeting house in 1861. The remains of walls dated to the 17th century were noted in archaeological work (EWA6831: SP 28417 65054). There are five listed buildings of the 17th century in St Nicholas Church Street and St John.

The park at Warwick Castle is a post-medieval to Imperial creation and is a grade I listed park (MWA6956: SP 2853 6357). The Pleasure gardens at Warwick Castle were an 18th century (Imperial) development (MWA12980: SP 2827 6451). An icehouse of an imperial date was constructed in Castle Park (MWA5529: SP 2846 6480). The church of St Nicholas was rebuilt 1779-80 (MWA5472: SP 2863 6494). At 4 Mill Street the remains of a wall was uncovered that was dated to the 18th century (MWA7933: SP 2853 6485). There are three listed buildings of an 18th century date in St Nicholas Church Street. The turnpike road running from Banbury to Warwick passes close to the proposal site (MWA4774). Tram lines in Jury Street are attributed an Imperial to Industrial date (MWA9070: SP 2842 6499).

A number of public houses or inns are first noted in the area in the 19th century. Some of the drinking houses were identified in 1824 such as the Roebuck Inn in Smith Street (MWA13324: SP 2859 6509), the Welsh Harp (MWA13337: SP 2850 6502), the New Bowling Green public house in St Nicholas' Church Street (MWA 13339: SP 2862 6502), the Mattock and Spade public house (MWA13345 / 13346: SP 2856 6484). In 1851 Board of Health map included the Crown Commercial Inn and Bowling Green (MWA13321: SP 2872 6518), the Carpenter's Arms (MWA 13336: SP 2842 6505), the Lake Britain Inn which has a 17th century listing (MWA13338: SP 2853 6502). A further group are first noted in 1874 including the Castle Arms Inn (MWA13351: SP 2843 6498), and the Volunteer public house (MWA13352: SP 2848 6501). There are six listed buildings of the early 19th century in St Nicholas Church Street of which the Dolls House is one under the name of St Nicholas Cottage

(DWA5104). A Victorian post-box cast by Smith and Hawkes stands by the Eastgate (MWA1970: SP 2839 6498). The remains of a 19th century quarry pit in Parkside (MWA10185: SP 28564 65123) is noted.

St Nicholas' Meadow, an area previously of common land, became a public park in 1928 (MWA12951: SP 2924 6495). A carved stone face has been recovered from the area that is undated (MWA2189: SP 2839 6491). Undated pits were located at St John's House (MWA12247: SP 28704 65063). There is an undated well at 23/25 Smith Street (MWA2639: SP 2849 6505).

Warwick Cartographic Details

The earliest map of Warwick that shows the town in any detail is that dated to *c.* 1610 and is an extract of Speed's map. This shows that the church of St Nicholas has its spacious churchyard on the southeast side of the town and that it fronts onto St Nicholas' Church Street. There are a row of houses on the southeast side of the street extending to the churchyard boundary. This implies that at the beginning of the 17th century the plot of land on which no. 29 now stands could have already been occupied by a building or structure.

A map of the early 18th century dated *c.* 1711 shows houses on both sides of St Nicholas' Church Street. There is also a number of buildings shown fronting onto the churchyard. The map seems to show that there are a group of buildings here on a common plot of land; perhaps they may represent a group of Almshouses. The plot may be owned by the Church as on a later map the area is noted as containing the vicarage of St Nicholas' Church.

Beighton's map of 1728 (CR1316) appears to show no buildings on the southeast side of St Nicholas Church Street. One can only presume from this and earlier maps that this representation is erroneous due to the scale of the map.

The estate map of 1788 (WRO CR 1886/M34) simply shows shaded areas indicating that there is a structure that stood in or near the location of the present no. 29.

Yates's map of 1793 (MA1793) shows buildings on the southeast side of St Nicholas Church Street, but the detail of the map is not precise enough to be informative.

The map of 1806 (WRO CR 1886/M24A) shows a building where the corner of the cemetery of St Nicholas' Church meets the structures running along the line of the street. The building has an irregular corner, and the current building has an irregular corner and although they do not match it is likely that the cartographer is perhaps trying to represent the present structure. This structure appears to be a stone neo-Gothic building, which could feasibly have been built after 1740 (when the movement started) to the Victorian period. The building has two further structures marked to the rear on the map, which fail to correspond to the present structure. The larger map of the estate (rather than the borough) also dated 1806 (WRO CR1886/M24A) adds no further details to our knowledge.

The St Nicholas' Tithe Map of 1849 (WRO CR0569/253) just shows the area where no.29 stands as being shaded, and adds no new detail.

The Ordnance Survey Board of Health map of 1851 (WRO Z0733(u)) shows a large building with an irregular corner that does correspond to the current building. To the rear there are further buildings drawn, which are presumably outbuildings. This map would appear to indicate that the map of 1806 probably does try to represent this building and the rear buildings are outbuildings that no longer exist.

The subsequent Ordnance Survey series at 1: 2,500 show the same structure as that on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map. These include the First Edition of 1889 (Warks 33.14), the Second Edition of 1905 (Warks 33.14) and the Third Edition (Warks 33.14). The 1: 10,560 scale maps post this date are not overly clear as to when the structures to the rear of this property were removed, but they may have lasted till 1968-1972.

2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.

In particular:

- To record the features relating to medieval or later activity.

3 STRATEGY

3.1 Research Design

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Archaeological Information and Advice for Warwickshire County Council (WCC) the archaeological advisors to Warwick District Council. Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate and possible.

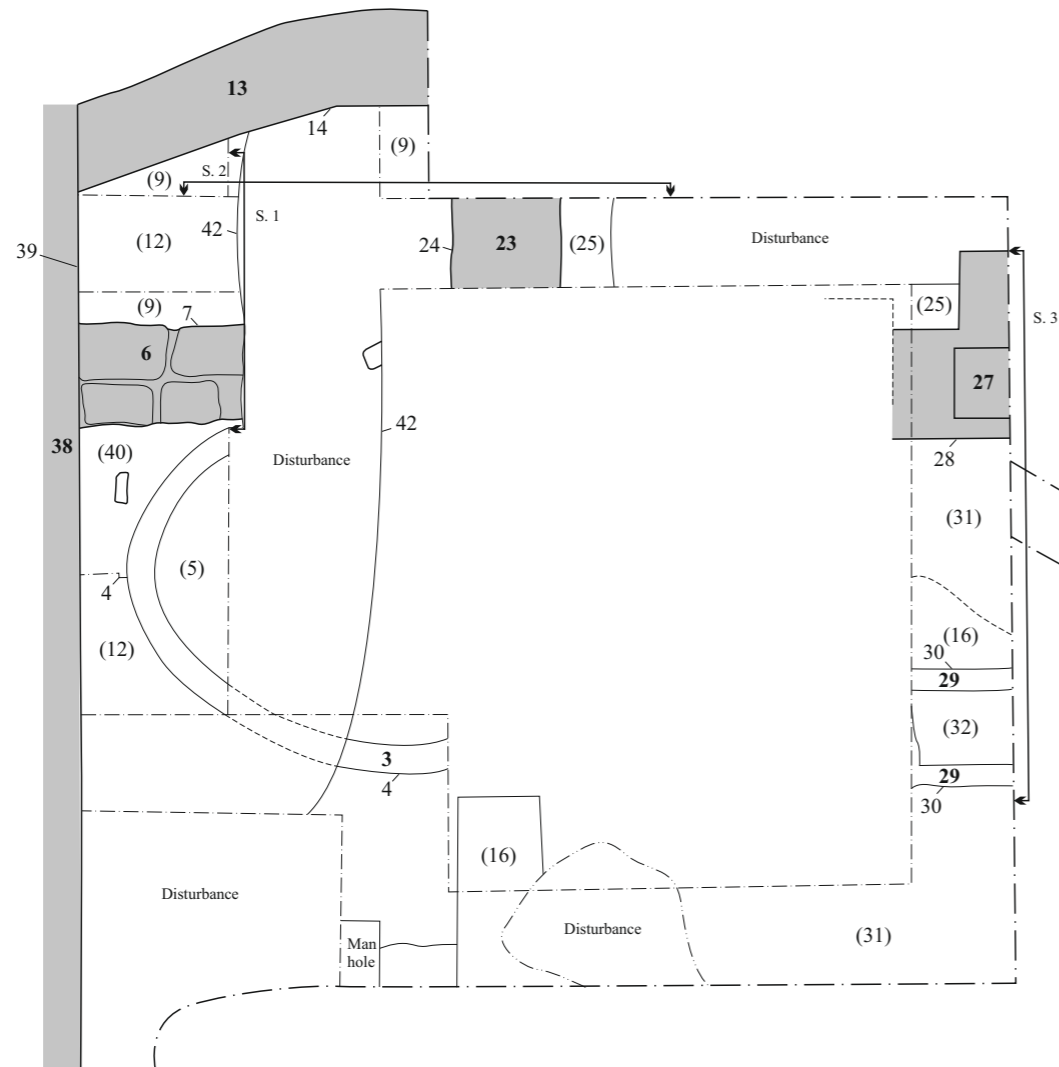
The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

3.2 Methodology

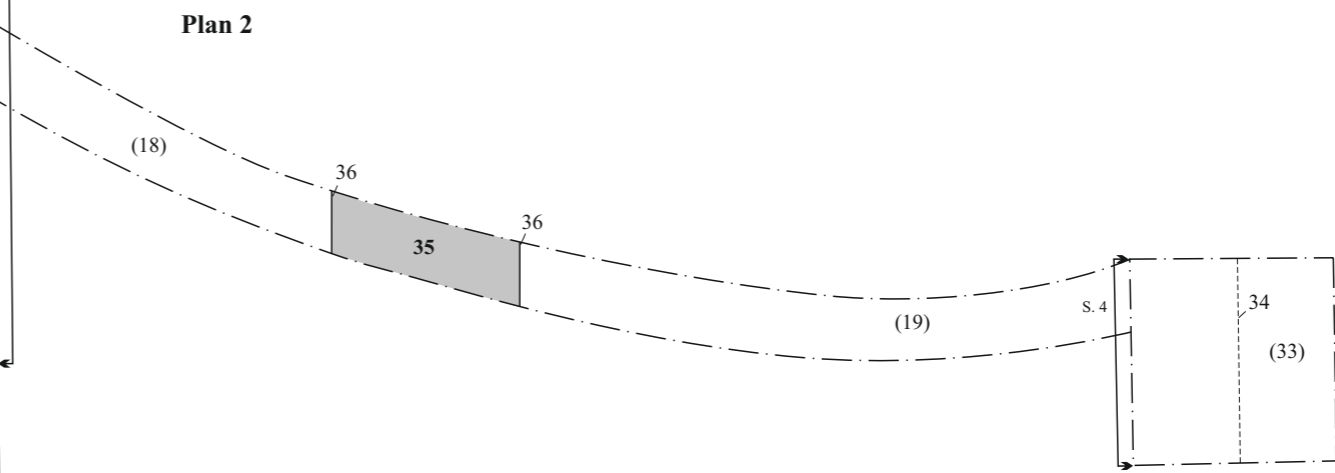
An archaeologist was present on site for any groundwork for stripping, foundations and services. Activities were carried out in accordance with the brief provided.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and section drawings compiled where appropriate. A photographic record was also produced.

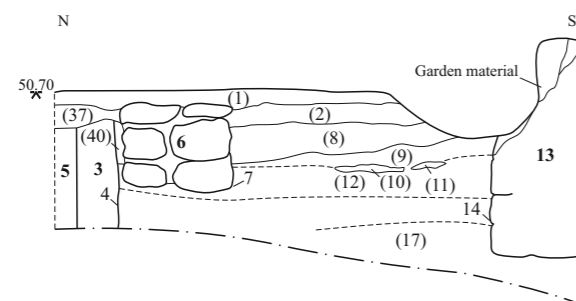
Plan 1



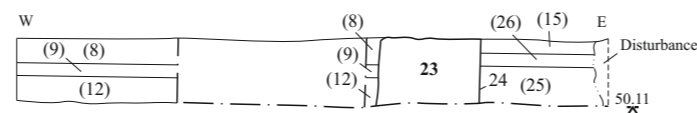
Plan 2



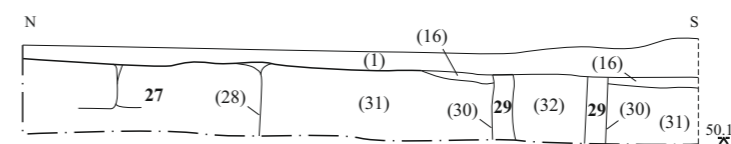
Section 1



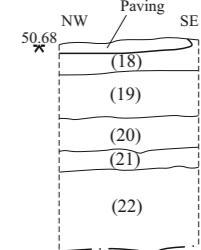
Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Key
 Stone walling 1790-1806

0 2 m

Figure 2: Plan and sections

4 RESULTS (Figure 2)

Natural deposits were not reached across the site when the trenches were excavated to their requested depth for normal foundations. On inspection the soils were considered not suitable to take the weight of the new build and it was requested that piling be carried out on the site down to the bedrock. This implies that there was deep stratigraphy across the site, perhaps which could have been the result of a deep ditch or natural gully.

4.1 Phase 1: 17th century or earlier

The earliest deposit on the site was a layer (17), a loose to moderately compact brown grey sand clay with stone inclusions for which the depth was not known (Fig. 2. S1). There may have been a band some 0.2m deep covering the upper part of this deposit, which was due to a separate depositional process, but simply from colour observation this was difficult to demonstrate. This deposit contained Staffordshire trail slipware and tile. A linear foundation cut 14 with slight bend in its course truncated this deposit. The sides of the cut were vertical and the base flat. The original foundations depth may have been 0.36m, but with the later accumulation of deposit (12) the depth of the foundation increased to 0.56m in depth. Sat within the trench was masonry foundation wall 13 that was constructed of large blocks some 340mm in depth, but of which a whole one was not observed in the dimensions of the excavated trench. The blocks were probably squared with some appearing more ashlar in nature. The width of the wall had to be 0.7m at a minimum but was probably well over 1m. The size of the wall would indicate that this may well be of a medieval origin and be associated with the boundary wall of the cemetery or Warwick's eastern medieval suburb. Whatever its original purpose the boundary became established as this property boundary at an early date.

Layer (31) was a moderately compact brown grey silt clay 0.36m deep, which lay on the limit of excavation (Fig. 2. S3). The colour of the deposit probably indicates that this deposit was similar to that of layer (17), although the intervening cuts and lack of depth of the foundation excavations made it difficult to ascertain this fact. Unlike layer (17) the upper part of this deposit was difficult to recognise as a distinctive layer.

Two other deposits, which appear to be of an early origin with a 17th century date are layers (22) and (21), which were located at the base of the new soak-away (Fig. 2.S4). Layer (22) was a loose black brown silt sand over 0.42m deep. The finds included brick and tile fragments, clay tobacco pipe, bottle and bone, and sherds of Staffordshire slipware and purple slipware. This deposit had not been bottomed by at least 1.1m below the current ground level. This was capped by layer (21) that was a moderately compact grey white sand mortar 0.1m deep. These two deposits appeared to be darker in nature than that of layer (17) mentioned above and were deeper in the stratigraphic horizon.

4.2 Phase 2: 18th to early 19th century (House 1790-1806)

Lying across the top of layer (17) and butting the boundary wall was deposit (12). Layer (12) was a compact dark black brown silt clay with ash, tile, and pottery inclusions (Fig. 2.S1-S2). The pottery comprised cream ware, tin glazed earthenware and stoneware. This deposit was truncated by the foundation cut 39 of the surviving Dolls House, and also by cuts 7 and 24, which appear to be part of slightly later buildings. The linear foundation cut 39 was part of a linear foundation associated with the Dolls House (29 St Nicholas Church Street). Masonry wall foundation 38 was constructed of ashlar sandstone blocks and contained a tile band. The building first occurs on a map of 1806, and thus one could consider that this feature was excavated and constructed in the last decade of the 18th century or in the 19th century prior to 1806. This wall had a plinth and an ashlar face, which would imply that wall 6 was constructed so that it butted up to the rear of the current wall.

The linear foundation cut 7 was 0.56m across and 0.46m deep with vertical sides and a flat base with a sharp break of slope at the base (Fig. 2. S1). Masonry wall foundation 6 was of sandstone of roughly shaped rubble measuring approximately 300mm by 200mm, which were bonded by pink mortar. Overlying deposit 12 were layers (10) and (11). Layer (10) was a friable grey ash sand measuring 0.37m across and 0.05m deep. Layer (11) was a friable black ash sand some 0.2m across and 0.05m deep.



Plate 1: Wall 6 and part of brick structure 3

Layer (25) was a compact brown grey silt clay over 0.22m deep (Fig. 2.S2). This colour of the deposit would appear to indicate that this was a continuation of layer (12). The cut 24 could be seen to truncate this layer on its one side and layer (12) on the other. The linear foundation cut 24 was 0.52m across and its full extent was unknown but revealed to 0.28m deep. The masonry wall foundation 23 was constructed of stone 0.52m across. Walls 6 and 23 are marked on the map of 1806, where they appear to form a rectangular or rather sub-rectangular structure butted up to the back of the back wall of the Dolls House.

Sat between the walls 6, 23, 13 and 39 and capping deposits (10) and (11) was layer (9) that was a compact yellow sand mortar with stone inclusions 0.1m deep. This presumably represented the first floor layer in this small structure.

There were two further wall foundations 27 and 35 that were recognised that had truncation cuts through or into layer (31). The linear foundation cut 28 contained vertical sides, but was not fully exposed. The masonry wall foundation 27 was constructed of stone. The size of the feature observed was 1m by 0.65m. The linear foundation cut 36 contained vertical sides, but no apparent depth to the foundation was observed. The masonry foundation wall 35 was constructed of roughly square stone blocks and measured 0.65m across. Only the top of this feature was seen. Masonry wall 35 appears to correspond to the southeast wall of the structures that were located to the rear of 29 St Nicholas Church Street. The width of the wall compared to the others may indicate the possibility that this wall originated for some earlier purpose and was just reused here; however, this suggestion is only speculative.

4.3 Phase 3: 19th century

Between walls 23 and 35 there are indications of the spreading of a concrete-cement floor. Layer (26), overlay layer (25), a highly compact to dense pink cement floor 0.06m deep. Layer (16), overlay deposit (31), was a highly compact pink sand cement with stone aggregate inclusions measuring 0.08m deep. These may represent a 19th century floor in a late 19th century structure.

Overlying deposit (9) was layer (8) a compact grey brown silt clay with stone and charcoal inclusions approximately 0.2m deep (Fig. 2.S1-S2). This deposit contained a piece of bottle glass. Layer (2), overlay (8), a compact yellow brown sand clay with stone inclusions 0.12m thick. This would appear to represent a secondary floor layer after a period of soil accumulation.

Layer (40) a compact rich brown silt clay with stone and charcoal inclusions approximately 0.2m deep that had accumulated against wall 6. Deposit (2) was truncated by a large oval cut 4 of which part of the feature 1.3m by 0.5m was observed, but which had a probable width of at least 1.8m (possibly up to 2m across) and a length over 2.5m. The cut had vertical sides, but the base was not observed as it was only disturbed down to 0.54m deep. The cut was for masonry structure 3 a brick wall bonded by mortar and forming part of an oval arc. There was a hard lime mortar externally and a cement mix internally.

Layer (16) was truncated by the linear foundation cut 30 that was not fully uncovered but had vertical sides (Fig. 2.S3). The masonry feature 29 was constructed of brick and measured 0.6m across and was over 0.5m long. The feature was not fully uncovered but must represent a trough, channel or fire box based on the residue found internally.

Layer (20) was a moderately compact yellow brown silt sand some 0.17m deep (Fig. 2.S4). This contained trailed slipware and purple ware of the 17th century, red slipware of the 18th century and white wares of the 19th century, and Late Midland black ware (1600-1900). Cut 34 was probably square or rectangular in shape, but was not fully seen. The sides were vertical and the base presumably flat. Layer (33) was a loose grey brown silt clay in moderate amounts around a deposit that was about 90%

rubble stone, brick and tile. The depth was over 0.92m. Layer (19) was a loose black silt clay measuring 0.4m deep and probably represents an accumulation layer of topsoil that capped the earlier soak-away. This contained red earthenware and cream ware.

4.4 Phase 4: 20th century

At some time in the 20th century the buildings to the rear of the Dolls House were removed. It would be at this time that the fills of the brick structures 3 and 29 were either back filled or not cleared. The internal fill (5), of structure 3, of the brick oval structure was a moderately compact to loose black grey ash clay with brick and stone inclusions (Fig. 2.S1).

Layer (15) was a loose to moderately compact black silt clay measuring 0.08m deep. The deposit appears to be disturbed or truncated by an extremely recent event, possibly the digging of garden soils (Fig. 2.S2). Deposit (32), fill of structure 29, was a moderately compact black ash clinker deposit over 0.34m thick. In this latter case it would seem that this represents a residue of some industrial process created from the burning of coal.

The following deposits are associated with the development of the current garden after the demolition of the building. Overlying fill (5) was layer (37) a compact brown sand mortar with brick inclusions. This deposit was truncated by cut (42), which was 0.8m across and 1m deep with vertical sides. The fill (41) was a mixed deposit with a moderate compaction. Capping this and other deposits at the rear of the house was layer (1) a firm pink grey gravel 0.1m thick for bedding slabs on.

Capping the original topsoil in the new soak-away was layer (18) a gravel bedding for a path of flag stones some 0.18m deep.

5 FINDS

5.1 Pottery (*Compiled by K Dowding*)

The pottery assemblage comprised of 31 sherds with a total weight of 1.073 kg and is dated from the Post-medieval period and later. The assemblage was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

MP. Midland Purple ware, 15th - mid 17th century. 3 sherds, 275g
TGE01. Tin-Glazed Earthenware, 16th to 18th century. 1 sherds, 2g
GRE. Red Earthenware, 16th -19th century. 2 sherds, 78g
SLPW02. Staffordshire trailed Slipware, 1640-1750. 9 sherds, 471g
MB02. Late Midlands Blackware, 1600-1900. 1 sherds, 2g
CRW. Cream ware, 1740-1850. 2 sherds, 12g
STE01. Late English Stoneware, 1750+. 3 sherds, 26g
MGW. Modern Earthenware, late 18th century +. 10 sherds, 207g

Table 1: Pottery

Cnt	MP		TGE01		GRE		SLPW0 2		MB02		CRW		STE01		MGW		Date
	No	Wt g	No	Wt g	No	Wt g	N	Wt g	No	Wt g	No	Wt g	No	Wt g	N	Wt g	
12			1	2							1	4	2	15	1	72	19th
19					1	58					1	8					18-19th
20	1	77					3	202	1	2					9	135	19th
21							1	93									17-18 th
22	2	198					1	46									17 th
41							1	87									17-18 th
U/S					1	20	3	43					1	11			Mid 18 th +
Tot	3	275	1	2g	2	78g	9	471	1	2g	2	12g	3	26g	10	207	

5.2 Building material (By K Dowding)

Brick

Significant quantities of brick were scattered across the site. The depth of these bricks was shallow indicating a potential early date of the 16th or 17th centuries, and thus implying an earlier structure previously occupied the site. Brick analysis relies on Hammond (1981).

Table 2: Brick

Cxt	No	Wt (g)	Description
U/S	3	2350g	Brick 1: weight 440g, depth 45mm. Brick 2: weight 995g, depth 45mm, width 88mm. Brick 3: weight 926g, depth 42-44mm, width 90mm Dark red with few inclusions. Maximum surviving length 149mm
20	1	754g	Depth 42-44mm, width 80mm, surviving length 172mm. Red brick with lowered edge on one face. Dark red with few inclusions
22	4	781g	Brick fragment 1: weight 290g, depth 57mm, medium to dark red Brick fragment 2: weight 79g, no complete edges for measuring, light red Brick fragment 3: weight 196g, depth 60mm, dark red/purple colour, possibly glazed Brick fragment 4: weight 216g, depth 60mm, dark red/purple colour, possibly glazed

Tile

Tile analysis relies on van Lemmen (2003).

Table 3: Tile

Cxt	No	Wt (g)	Description
41	5		2x Flemish/pantiles 20-25mm thick, with square edge 33mm by 41mm (15 th century +) 1x Flemish/pantiles 11-23mm thick, with square edge 33mm by 33mm (15 th century +) 1x square tile 38mm thick by 233mm wide 1x dark red square tile 14mm thick, slight concave create lip at edge. Mortar on base and possible on top
12	10	921g	1x red clay with possible black glaze (19 th century?). 13mm thick 1x orange with grey centre 15mm thick 3 x rounded edge on back side 15mm thick 1x slight concave in centre and mortar on edge 15mm thick 1x 12mm thick (smallest fragment) 3x square edges, 14mm thick
21	1	131g	19mm thick, orange centre with paler layer on exterior of tile
22	9	640g	1x 15-16mm thick 2x 11mm thick 2x square edge with mortar, 13mm thick 1x 15mm thick with square and grey/black edge 3x possible brick fragments
39	3	357g	2x small pieces, orange red in colour, sand inclusions. 1x pale orange with blackened edge.

5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe (*By Simona Denis*)

A total of three clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered from two different contexts. All of the examples are unmarked and undecorated, and do not show any diagnostic feature.

The off-centre position and the 2 mm diameter of the bore hole suggest a general dating to the middle of the 18th C for the fragment found in context (20) and the thicker example from context (22). The remaining item has a smaller diameter and a centred bore hole, possibly indicating a slightly later date (late 18th C).

It is not recommended to retain the fragments.

5.4 Glass Bottles (*By Simona Denis*)

Two fragments of thick, green bottles were recovered during the excavation: a curved, possible neck fragment found in context (8) and a partial push-up base including the heel, collected from context (22). Thick green bottles are extremely common objects, appearing in the mid-17th C and produced with little variation for over two centuries (Jones 2011, <http://www.sha.org/bottle/colors.htm#Greens> & Blue-greens; <http://www.sha.org/bottle/bases.htm#Push-Up>). A general dating to the mid-18th-early 19th C is proposed on the basis of the presence of 'orange-peel' surfaces and bubbles, imperfections commonly observed in free-blown glass produced in this time span.

It is not recommended to retain the fragments.

5.5 Animal Bone (By *Simona Denis*)*Table 4: Animal bone*

Context	Type	Weight (g)	Identification	Butchering Marks
12	Rib costal groove	<2	?Sheep/Goat	None
20	Unidentified	4	Unidentified	None
	Right humerus, distal epiphysis	162	Cow	Chop, point insertion
	Left radius, distal metaphysis	19	?Goat	?Skinning, ?chop
		13	?Goat	Chop
	Scapula	9	?Sheep/Goat	Chop
	Unidentified long bone diaphysis	8	?Sheep/Goat	None
	Rib costal groove	7		
22	Right radius, distal epiphysis	15	Goat	None
	?Innominate, auricular surface	8	Sheep/Goat	
	?Axis vertebra with foramen	6		

A small assemblage of 15 fragments of animal bone, of the combined weight of 253 g, was recovered from three contexts. With the exception of one unidentified example and a single fragment of cow humerus, the bones were positively identified as belonging to sheep or goat. Four, or 26% of the fragments, show clear butchering marks, and are recommended for retention.

- **Goat right radius**

The distal epiphysis fragment recovered from context (22) was positively identified as belonging to a goat. The deeply pitted facet for the articulation with the intermediate carpal and the broad, angular facet for the articulation with the radial carpal are considered highly reliable criteria for the identification of goat bones (Zeder 2010).

- **?Goat left radius**

Two fragments of distal metaphysis tentatively identified as goat were found in context (20). The largest (19 gr) fragment shows one shallow mark perpendicular to the bone, possibly result of the skinning process. Skinning activity is generally associated with certain elements, as the head and the lower limbs. A single, shallow chop mark was also observed on the same fragment. The smaller (13 gr) example from the same context shows a clear chop mark perpendicular to the bone which resulted to the fragmentation of the bone (Seetah 2009).

- **Sheep/goat scapula**

Evidence of a clear chop mark, produced with a cleaver and resulting in the smooth break of the cancellous bone (Seetah 2009), was observed on the small fragment of scapula found in context (20).

- **Cow right humerus**

The fragment found in context (20) shows several marks produced by primary butchering activity. A single, strong cleaver blow with the typical smooth entry and fractured exit points resulted in the detachment of the distal epiphysis of the bone; several additional shallow chop marks around the fragment were possibly produced to disarticulate the element. Two other small, neat marks with smooth entry and exit points, produced with the use of a large knife, were identified as point insertion marks (Seetah 2009).

6 DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief noted a number of factors, the earliest of which, due to the depth and extent of the excavations could not be proved. The surviving boundary wall on the northwest side of the excavation appears to be extremely wide, which would imply the location of a possible early wall. The excavation of the new soak-away also uncovered some layers that contained 17th century pottery. This is indicative of there being a hollow or drop in the land level here, but the exact significance of this cannot be explained from the limited nature of the Watching Brief.

The oval brick feature which was probably a pit and the trough or channel containing ash and clinker type material, indicate that some sort of industrial process was being carried on to the rear of the Dolls House in the 19th and early 20th century. Finds that would be indicative of this activity were not forthcoming. In one respect this oval feature may simply have acted as a reservoir to collect rain water, but the ash and clinker deposits are indicative of there being some industrial activity carried out here, albeit associated with a domestic dwelling.

Excavations of a brick and clay lined pit of a 17th century date appear to have been associated with the process of tanning for shoemaking (Cook 2009). A clay lining was not identified at 29 Saint Nicholas Church Street, but the fact that cement was placed on the interior and exterior would imply that this structure was not part of a kiln but was probably a tank or cistern.

7 ARCHIVE

Archive Contents

The archive consists of the following:

Paper record

The project brief

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

Physical record

Finds

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Warwickshire Museum.

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