Former Westcliffe Hospital,
Turnhurst Road,
Chell,
Stoke-on-Trent

Archaeological Investigation Final Report

Oxford Archaeology North
June 2014

Seddon Construction Ltd
Planning Application SOT/56179

Issue No: 2014-15/1525
OA North Job No: L10733
NGR: 386700 353165
FORMER WESTCLIFFE HOSPITAL, TURNHURST ROAD, CHELL, STOKE-ON-TRENT

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SUMMARY

In December 2013, a planning application (Planning Application SOT/56179) was submitted to Stoke-on-Trent City Council for the redevelopment of a c. 2.2ha site off Turnhurst Road in Chell, Stoke-on-Trent (centred on NGR 386700 353165). The proposals detailed in the application allow for the erection of a residential development, comprising a 140 apartment extra care retirement unit, with associated communal and retail/commercial facilities, which includes the refurbishment of an existing lodge building. Associated ground works, car parking, landscaping and the erection of a substation will also be required, which will inevitably necessitate earth-moving works.

The application site was occupied from the early 1840s by the Wolstanton & Burslem Union Workhouse, which was one of a several new workhouses that were erected in the wake of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. The workhouse was expanded during the second half of the nineteenth century and remained in use until 1948, when it became part of Westcliffe Hospital and the component buildings were adapted for hospital use. Most of the former workhouse was demolished in the late twentieth century to enable a new nursing home to be erected, although a detailed record of these buildings was compiled prior to their ultimate loss. A further programme of historic building recording was carried out by in 2008, which was focused on the New Infirmary, the Lodge, and the Vagrants’ Ward. The latter building was in poor structural condition at the time of the archaeological survey in 2008, precluding any recording of its interior prior to their demolition, and thus its internal layout remained uncertain.

In order to secure archaeological interests, and following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Stoke-on-Trent City Council, the Local Planning Authority attached two conditions (Conditions 11 and 12) to planning consent for the proposed development. These conditions required an English Heritage Level I-type building investigation of the Lodge, and the intrusive investigation of the former Vagrants’ Ward via a targeted evaluation trench. In March 2014, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Seddon Construction Ltd to carry out the required scheme of works, which was undertaken in April 2014.

The results obtained from the evaluation trench demonstrated that the demolition of the former Vagrants’ Ward had been comprehensive, and no buried remains survived in-situ. It was thus concluded that no further archaeological investigation of the site is merited in advance of development. Similarly, whilst access to the Lodge was limited due to the poor structural condition of the structure, a photographic record of the interior of the building was compiled, coupled with a written description of the historic fabric.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) is grateful to Bill Cooper of Seddon Construction Ltd for commissioning and supporting the project. OA North is also grateful to Jon Goodwin, the Planning Archaeologist for Stoke-on-Trench City Council, for his advice and consultation.

The building survey was undertaken by Andy Phelps, and the evaluation was carried by Graham Mottershead, Phil Cooke and Sarah Mottershead. The report was compiled by Andy Phelps and Sarah Mottershead, and the drawings were prepared by Mark Tidmarsh. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Seddon Construction Ltd has submitted a planning application to Stoke-on-Trent City Council for the redevelopment of a c.2.2ha site off Turnhurst Road in Chell, Stoke-on-Trent (Planning Application SOT/56179). The proposals detailed in the application allow for the erection of a residential development, comprising a 140 apartment extra care retirement unit with ancillary communal and retail/commercial facilities, which include the refurbishment of an existing lodge building to house ancillary facilities. Associated ground works, car parking, landscaping and the erection of a substation will also be required, which will inevitably necessitate earth-moving works that could potentially damage or destroy any surviving buried remains of archaeological interest.

1.1.2 The site occupied from the early 1840s by the Wolstanton & Burslem Union Workhouse, which was one of a several new workhouses that were erected in the wake of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. The archaeological importance of the workhouse complex was highlighted in a survey that was carried out in the 1980s, prior to the demolition of most of the historic buildings (Baker 1984). Further archaeological investigation of the site was carried out in 2008, when the remaining few buildings were subject to a programme of recording (Ironbridge Archaeology 2008), although some structures could not be accessed safely at that time. These included the former Vagrants’ Ward, which was built in 1893-5 and demolished in 2008, and the Lodge at the entrance to the site from Turnhurst Road (Plate 1).

1.1.3 In order to secure archaeological interests, and ensure that a complete record of the site has been compiled, Stoke-on-Trent City Council attached two conditions (Conditions 11 and 12) to planning consent for the proposed development. These conditions required an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation to be carried out in advance of development. Following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to the local authority, it was recommended that an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation should comprise an English Heritage Level I-type building investigation of the Lodge, and the intrusive investigation of the former Vagrants’ Ward via a targeted evaluation trench. In March 2014, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Seddon Construction Ltd to carry out the required scheme of works. In the first instance, a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced in response to a Project Brief supplied by the Planning Archaeologist, which presented a detailed methodology for completing the archaeological building investigation and the evaluation trenching (Appendix 1). Following the formal approval of this document by the Planning Archaeologist, OA North was commissioned by Seddon Construction Ltd to undertake the agreed scheme of works. This was carried out in April 2014.
1.2 **SITE LOCATION**

1.2.1 The site lies within the north-western corner of the grounds of the former Westcliffe Hospital (centred on NGR 386700 353165), on the north-eastern side of Turnhurst Road in Chell, Stoke-on-Trent (Fig 1). Most of the site comprises post-demolition scrub grass, which is crossed by tarmac road surfacing. The evaluation trench was situated immediately to the north-east of the now derelict Lodge building, which lies just within the gated entrance to the site off Turnhurst Road (Plate 1). The study area lies across the 196m contour (Fig 1).

1.2.2 The superficial geology comprises Devensian glacial tills overlying middle and upper Pennine Coal Measures.

*Plate 1: Aerial view of the study area in 2008, prior to the demolition of the last elements of the former workhouse complex. The arrow marks the position of the Lodge*
2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 BUILDING SURVEY

2.1.1 A photographic survey of the Lodge building was carried out prior to any development works. This comprised the annotation of existing measured plan drawings and elevations, together with a photographic and a written descriptive record, consistent with an English Heritage Level I/II-type survey. The survey was focussed on identifying and recording evidence of phasing, such as evidence for blocking, repair, joints, fittings and fixtures, and key architectural features.

2.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1), and was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures provided by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.1.3 Photographic Survey: a photographic archive of all the buildings was compiled, consisting of both general and detailed photographs, which were captured using a high-resolution digital camera, together a 35mm SLR camera loaded with black and white print film. General photographs of the exterior elevations were also taken in digital format.

2.1.4 Interpretation and Analysis: a visual inspection of the building was undertaken and a description maintained to English Heritage (2006) Level II. These records are essentially descriptive, and provide a systematic account of the origin, development and use of the building.

2.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

2.2.1 A single trench, aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and measuring 20.15 x 4.56m, was excavated across the eastern part of the former Vagrants’ Ward (Fig 3). Excavation of the modern ground surface was undertaken by a machine of appropriate power using a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological level. The work was supervised closely by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Thereafter, all archaeological deposits were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full archive of the work has been prepared to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, and the material has been allocated a unique archive accession number (2014.LH.16). In addition, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
3. BACKGROUND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 An understanding of the historical background of a site provides the local context within which the extant structure can be assessed archaeologically. The following section provides a summarised chronological account of the development of the study area, and has been compiled largely from detailed studies of the site that have been produced previously (Baker 1984; Ironbridge Archaeology 2008), and the sequence of available historical mapping.

3.2 BACKGROUND TO THE WOLSTANTON & BURSLEM UNION WORKHOUSE

3.2.1 The Wolstanton & Burslem Union Workhouse (also known as Chell Workhouse) was established in the wake of the Poor Law Amendment Act (the New Poor Law) of 1834. Under the terms of this Act, parishes throughout England were forced to combine to form Poor Law Unions, which were controlled by Poor Law Commissioners based in London. Each Poor Law Union was required to have a Union Workhouse, and whilst there was some resistance locally to implementing the new measures, they had been largely adopted across the country by 1841.

3.2.2 The new Wolstanton and Burslem Poor Law Union came into existence formally on the 2 April 1838, representing a merger of the parishes of Wolstanton and Burslem. Construction of the new workhouse commenced in the following year, and the building was completed in 1840. The workhouse was designed by the Stafford-based architectural practice of Boulton and Palmer, who proposed a linear layout of a type that had been popularised by Scott and Moffatt, the leading workhouse architects of the period (Morrison 1999, 73). The design allowed for the erection of three separate buildings, comprising an administration block, a main block and an infirmary, and was intended to house a total of 300 inmates.

3.2.3 The single-storey administration block housed the porter’s lodge, the board room, offices, with receiving wards and possibly vagrants’ wards to the side. The three-storey main block had quarters for the master, matron, schoolmaster and schoolmistress at the centre. The infirmary block lay to the rear. A kitchen, with a chapel above, was located at the back of the main block facing towards the infirmary. Construction work was sub-contracted to Robert Shufflebotham, a local builder, and the final cost was £6,875. The layout of the original workhouse complex was captured by the Ordnance Survey on their first edition 25”: 1 mile map, which was published in 1884 (Plate 2).

3.2.4 Several extensions had been added to the workhouse complex by the end of the nineteenth century, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1899 (Plate 3). In particular, the construction of a larger infirmary (referred to as the New Infirmary), a new entrance lodge and a vagrants’ ward commenced in 1893, together with a boiler house, workroom and a mortuary (Baker 1984).
Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25": 1 mile map of 1884

Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25": 1 mile map of 1899, with arrow marking the Vagrants’ Ward
4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The archaeological investigation at the former Westcliffe Hospital site comprised the excavation of a single evaluation trench, and a photographic survey of the interior of the Lodge. The following section summarises the results obtained from the work.

4.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

4.2.1 The evaluation trench was placed across the footprint of the former Vagrants’ Ward (Fig 2). The trench was aligned north-west/south-east, and measured 20 x 4m (Fig 2). It was excavated to a depth of 1.7m at the north-western end, and 1.3m at the south-eastern end (Plate 4).

![Plate 4: General view along the evaluation trench, looking north](image)

4.2.2 The trench was overlain by turf (001), which had a fairly uniform depth of 0.15m. This sealed a mixed layer (002) consisting of loam, clay, cinder and brick, with a depth ranging from 1.15 to 1.55m (Plate 5), and clearly represented the levelling of demolition material after 2008. Layer 002 contained a large amount of brick dating from the late nineteenth century to the late twentieth century. This overlay a thick deposit of mottled light grey to mid-brown clay (005), which clearly represented the natural geology.

4.2.3 At the south-east corner of the trench was the stub of a brick wall 003 (Plate 6). The top of wall 003 was 0.41m below the surface. Wall 003 was 0.24 x 0.27m, and was three brick-courses deep and two-brick courses wide. The component bricks measured 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.09m, and were all of a mid- to late twentieth-century type, bonded with a very hard cement mortar (Plate 6).
Plate 5: North-east-facing section, looking north-west

Plate 6: Brick wall stub 003 looking south-east
4.2.4 The natural geology (005) was cut by a series of modern drains (004). The main branch of these drains extended from the north-western end of the trench to a distance of 4.6m from the south-eastern end (Fig 3). From this main branch ran two other branches of drains. The first was aligned north-east/south-west, and crossed the trench at a right angle to the main drain (Fig 3). The second extended from the south-eastern end of the main branch into the north-eastern edge of the excavated trench. The drains all measured between 0.4-0.55m in width, were filled with mixed clay and brick, and contained ceramic drain pipes.

Plate 7: General view of drains 005, looking south

4.2.5 No other structural remains or features of archaeological interest were exposed within the excavated trench. Similarly, no artefacts were recovered from the evaluation trench.
4.3 **BUILDING SURVEY**

4.3.1 The building investigation was carried out in April 2013, and comprised an English Heritage Level I-type survey of the building, coupled with a written description consistent with Level II-type standard (English Heritage 2006). The exterior of the building was described in detail during a previous study (Ironbridge Archaeology 2008), and has not been repeated here. However, the interior of the building was not accessible at the time of the original survey, and it is this which constitutes the basis of the current programme of works.

4.3.2 Although the majority of the ground floor was recorded, access to the southern portion of the eastern wing was not possible. The absence of a staircase and poor condition of the floor timbers on the first floor meant that no direct access was possible to this floor either, although an inspection was facilitated by the use of a cherry picker and remote camera equipment. The following descriptions of the first floor are therefore based solely on the photographic record, and no measurements were taken. The first-floor plan is by necessity extrapolated from the exterior plan, ground-floor plan and photographic record.

4.3.3 **Exterior:** the Lodge is a small, two-storey, red brick building constructed on a cruciform plan with narrow gabled wings to the east and west, a canted bay window to the south (Plate 8) and a single-storey lean-to structure to the north. It is located immediately to the north of the main entrance into the former hospital site, and was constructed in 1893 as an addition to the Wolstanton & Burslem Union Workhouse complex. The main entry was via either a doorway in the western wall of the southern cell, or from a doorway in the opposing wall.

*Plate 8: The Lodge, looking north-east from the entrance gates*
4.3.4 **Ground Floor Reception Room:** opposing external entrances in the centre of the eastern and western walls gave direct entry into the reception room. However, physical evidence in the fabric of the exterior of the building suggests that both sides had enclosed porches originally.

4.3.5 The front room had a canted bay window to the south (Plate 9), with a blocked fireplace to the north flanked to its east by a doorway leading into the back room. A two-over-two timber-sash window lay to the centre of the canted bay, with narrow one-over-one sashes to the east and west (Fig 4). Each window had a horn at either end of the underside of the upper meeting rail, and a fastener on its upper face.

4.3.6 The walls were lime-plastered and coated in cream coloured paint, although much of this had peeled away from the surface. Plywood sheeting had been laid across the floor, although this may have obscured earlier floorboards, and the loss of sections of the lime plaster ceiling had revealed the sawn timber lathes, which were nailed to the underside of the first-floor joists. The ceiling timbers and floorboards above were suffering from advanced dry rot. With the fireplace blocked up, and the surround removed, few decorative elements survived, although the corners of the bay window had been finished with a roll mould, stopped just below the ceiling (Plate 10), and skirting board lined all four walls.

*Plate 9: Canted bay windows facing south, 1m scale*
Plate 10: Roll-moulded jambs of canted bay window, 1m scale
4.3.7 **Lobby:** the reception room and the back room were linked by a small square lobby, from which it was possible to proceed either south into the reception room, west into the back room, or down a flight of steps below the first-floor stairs to the cellar (Plate 11). The only wall, to the east, retained fragments of wallpaper, and had a row of four metal coat hooks mounted upon a horizontal wooden rail just above the height of the door lintels (Plate 12).

*Plate 11: Lobby between Reception room and Back Room, with staircase corridor beyond*

*Plate 12: Coat hooks on eastern wall of Lobby*
4.3.8 **Back Room:** the back room had a blocked fireplace to the centre of its western wall, flanked to the north and south by a single one-over-one timber sash window of identical design to those in the front room. There were two more of these windows, one on the northern and another on the southern wall (Plates 13 and 14).

4.3.9 A doorway at the northern end of the eastern partition wall led onto the base of the first-floor staircase, while another at the southern end of this wall led back towards the front room. The partial collapse of the ceiling plaster and lathes in this room revealed transversely aligned floor joists (Plate 15).

4.3.10 The walls had been covered in wallpaper, but much of this had come away from the walls to leave the lime plaster exposed beneath. The floor had been covered in ply sheets and a skirting board fitted to the base of the walls consistent with the type observed in the front room, although this room also included a moulded picture rail.
Plate 14: Back room, facing south-west

Plate 15: Transverse joists above sawn lathes in south-western corner of the back room
4.3.11 **The Kitchen:** the kitchen had a fireplace at the centre of its southern wall, and whilst this was blocked it was clearly surmounted by a shallow cambered arch formed in two courses of upright headers (Plate 16). There were three windows in total, two equally spaced on the northern elevation, and a third at the centre of the western elevation (Plate 17).

4.3.12 Each window had a shallow cambered brick arch above, reflecting the design of the fireplace, but also included fillets upon the angle of each jamb, stopped towards the base (Plate 18). None of the window openings retained their frames, although as there were three sash and case windows leaning against the southern wall, it seems likely that originally these windows contained simple casements.

4.3.13 A doorway in the eastern wall provided direct external access, removing the need to pass through the building, but again it appears that originally there may have been an enclosed porch beyond. Much of the lathe and plaster ceiling had fallen away to leave the rafters exposed from beneath, and these projected downwards at approximately 30 degrees from the wall behind to rest upon the northern wall plate (Plate 19). A single purlin, resting within sockets at the head of the eastern and western walls supported the rafters at the mid-point. Horizontal battens were nailed to the backs of each rafter, and ceramic tiles were laid upon these.
Plate 18: Filleted and stopped jambs on kitchen window surrounds

Plate 19: Exposed section of roof structure
4.3.14 Eastern Wing: the eastern wing of the building had been sub-divided into a tiny northern cell accessed internally through a doorway to the east of the foot of the staircase, and a larger southern cell, entered from a doorway on the southern elevation. A window at the centre of the eastern elevation had been modified to provide a second narrow doorway into the larger cell. Unfortunately, no access was possible to the southern cell at the time of the survey, but the northern cell had exposed brick walls coated in white paint, a plastered ceiling, and a plywood sheet floor (Plate 20). There was a single window opening with a cambered brick arch and filleted jambs on the northern and eastern walls, but the window frames had been removed. As far as could be ascertained, the basic arrangement of the eastern wing was part of the original design, although the exact function of the very small but well-lit northern cell is unclear.
4.3.15 **Staircase:** prior to removal, the staircase had sat within a narrow corridor between the eastern wing and the back room, and from the scars in the wall plaster left behind by the string or raking beam, it evidently rose from north to south (Plate 21). The remnants of the timber hand rail were recorded on the western wall of the staircase corridor.
4.3.16 **Cellar:** at the southern end of the staircase corridor there was a set of steps which led from the small lobby space linking the reception room and back room, northwards down to a small coal cellar beneath the eastern wing. The ceiling was low, the floor laid in concrete, and the walls were of exposed brick coated in white paint, where it remained. There was a recess on the eastern wall with an opening at the top, now boarded over externally but through which coal had once been delivered (Plate 22). A series of flat wrought-iron bars protruded at regular intervals from the western wall at half height, and these presumably once supported a wooden shelf (Plate 23). The southern end of the cellar was not fully visible, although there may have been a low stone shelf on brick piers at the end (Plate 23).
Plate 23: Former location of shelf denoted by projecting flat iron bars and low stone shelf, just visible to left at southern end of cellar.
4.3.17 **First Floor, Front Bedroom:** at the top of the staircase three four-panel doors opened off a small square landing, leading south into the front bedroom, west into the back bedroom, and east into the bathroom. The front bedroom was a small square room immediately above the reception room on the ground floor (Plate 24). Its walls were plastered, papered and finished with a coating of white paint, which was peeling with age, while the partially collapsed plaster ceiling revealed the machine-cut timber lathes above. The ceiling was canted to the east and west to accommodate the pitch of the gable roof, but the remainder of the room reached full height. Floorboards had been used to cover the floor, and a simple skirting board lined all four walls. A row of three narrow one-over-one timber sash windows were located at the centre of the southern wall, all with horns at either end of the upper sash meeting rail.

4.3.18 On the opposing northern wall there was a projecting chimney breast, which may at one time have housed a fireplace at its centre, but any such opening had been blocked and the wall papered over. The doorway into the room lay to the east of the chimney breast, while to the west a high wooden shelf with a row of clothing hooks sat in the recess created by the projecting face of the chimney breast (Plate 25).

4.3.19 **First Floor, Back Bedroom:** the back bedroom was the largest of the upstairs rooms, and was decorated in the same manner as the front bedroom (Plate 26). The junction between the projecting northern gable and the western gable produced an awkward angle on the northern wall, reflected in the presence of an exposed rafter between the two. An exposed roof purlin ran along the northern and southern slopes of the canted ceiling within the western gable, but no other structural details were visible.

4.3.20 There were a total of four sash windows, two at the eastern end of the northern wall and another two on the western wall, either side of a projecting chimney breast. The windows were each as described previously, and the fireplace had been blocked. At the western end of the southern wall there was a deep recess into which a cupboard had been fitted beneath the eaves with a four-panel door at the centre (Plate 27). The room had not been fitted with a skirting board, and there were no other decorative features visible.

4.3.21 **First Floor, Bathroom:** the bathroom lay within the eastern wing, making it a narrow space, with a partial return around the northern end of the stair corridor to create an L-shaped plan. The walls were plastered and painted white, along side the ceiling, which was again canted to the north and south to allow for the pitch of the gable roof. The floor appeared to have been covered in plywood or perhaps linoleum, but the limitations of the present survey prevented further determination. There was a metal bath that projected south from the northern wall and a toilet to its east, missing its wall-mounted cistern (Plate 28). An enamelled sink lay to the west, mounted upon the southern wall of the western projection (Plate 29). At the southern end of the room there was a cupboard built into a deep recess and hung with a four-panelled door (Plate 30).
Plate 24: Southern bedroom, facing east

Plate 25: Wooden shelf and hooks in recess
Plate 26: Back bedroom facing west

Plate 27: Back bedroom, facing south-west towards fitted cupboard
Plate 28: Northern end of bathroom

Plates 29 and 30: Sink on southern wall of the western projection with entrance door to right and cupboard
5. DISCUSSION

5.1 EVALUATION TRENCH

5.1.1 The evaluation trench was targeted on the footprint of the former Vagrants’ Ward, which been constructed in 1893. It was intended to establish the presence or absence of any buried remains of archaeological interest, and assess the impact of development on the archaeological resource.

5.1.2 The demolition of the Vagrants’ Ward had evidently been very thorough. All traces of structural remains had been removed down to the natural clay at a depth of between 1.3m at the south-east and 1.7m at the north-west. This level of demolition, including the grubbing up of all foundations, removal of walls and floors and the subsequent levelling of the area using the demolished material is characteristic of modern demolition methods. This fits with the building being demolished after 2008.

5.1.3 The only surviving features were the ceramic drains below the building, which had been cut into the natural clay, and a short stub of walling in the south-east corner of the excavated trench. This suggests that the demolition works left a gap of a few metres between the working area and the extant Lodge. Whilst it is possible that buried remains may survive within this very small area, the fragmentary remains of walling uncovered was of a mid- to late twentieth-century construction, and thus any features within this narrow area are likely to date from the post-war conversion of the complex to a hospital.

5.2 BUILDING SURVEY

5.2.1 The construction, layout, decoration and internal fixtures and fittings of the Lodge reflect its original function to serve as a reception and initial point of contact for those seeking shelter within the workhouse at the end of the nineteenth century. The opposing doors within the southern ground-floor room identify it as the public reception space, through which people might be granted entry into the Workhouse and Vagrants’ Ward. The canted bay windows on the southern elevation, while typical stylistic features of their date also had a practical function, allowing the warden a wider field of vision with which to monitor the entrance gates.

5.2.2 The remainder of the building can be identified as a private space for the use of the warden and his family, reflected in the coat hooks within the small linking lobby, which might otherwise typically be found closer to the front door. Access to the staircase, for example, and therefore the first-floor, is restricted to those who have been admitted via the lobby to the back and probably main living room.
5.2.3 In addition to its location, the back room has the added decorative and functional touch of a picture rail, highlighting its slightly elevated domestic status. With its own fireplace to the west, and fireplaces backing onto it to the north and south, it is also likely to have been the warmest room in the house.

5.2.4 The kitchen is easily identified as a simple functional space with exposed brick walls and a large fireplace for cooking. Its own external exit was no doubt a functional necessity to avoid having to move through the building to perform domestic tasks. The size of the window openings in the kitchen are indicative of casements, with the presence of fillets and stops on each jamb suggesting that these features were originally exposed.

5.2.5 The function of the ground floor of the eastern wing is unclear, but the division does seem to be part of the original design. Lack of access to the southern cell restricts further interpretation, although the size and functional decorative scheme of the northern cell argues for its use as storage, perhaps as a larder.

5.2.6 Again, the simplicity of the decorative scheme of the first floor is in keeping with the remainder of the building, and it would appear that the layout is original, as in all likelihood are the four-panel doors.

5.2.7 There appear to have been very few alterations to the interior of the building beyond those superficial cosmetic changes in wallpaper or paint schemes. The only major change occurred with the installation of central heating, probably in the later half of the twentieth century, when radiators were installed in each of the room, and the fireplaces were blocked to reduce drafts.
6. SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

6.1 BURIED REMAINS

6.1.1 The results obtained from the evaluation trench demonstrate that there is little or no potential for buried archaeological remains of the former Vagrants’ Ward to survive *in-situ*. It is thus unlikely that any deep earth-moving works associated with the proposed development would have a negative impact on the buried archaeological resource, and it is considered unlikely that any further intrusive investigation of the former Vagrants’ Ward is merited.

6.2 STRUCTURAL REMAINS

6.1.2 The design proposals allow for the repair and refurbishment of the Lodge. The building is currently in a very poor structural condition, and whilst some modern materials such as ply board sheeting may obscure original fabric, it is not considered likely that any further investigation of the building will yield significant information pertaining to the original layout and subsequent development of the building.
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SECONDARY SOURCES

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

FORMER WESTCLIFFE HOSPITAL, TURNHURST ROAD, CHELL, STOKE-ON-TRENT

Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Investigation

Written Scheme of Investigation
(Version 1.2)

OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH
April 2014
Planning Application SOT/56179
Seddon Construction
NGR: 386700 353165

Proposals

The following Written Scheme of Investigation is offered in response to a request from Mr B Cooper, acting on behalf of Seddon Construction, for a programme of archaeological evaluation and historic building investigation in advance of a proposed development at the site of the former Westcliffe Hospital on Turnhurst Road in Chell, Stoke-on-Trent.
1. BACKGROUND

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 In December 2013, a planning application was submitted to Stoke-on-Trent City Council for the redevelopment of a c 2.2ha site off Turnhurst Road in Chell, Stoke-on-Trent (centred on NGR 386700 353165). The proposals detailed in the application allow for the erection of a residential development, comprising a 140 apartment extra care retirement facility, with ancillary communal and retail/commercial facilities, together with the refurbishment of an existing lodge building for associated ancillary facilities. Associated ground works, car parking, landscaping and the erection of a substation will also be required, which will inevitably necessitate earth-moving works.

1.1.2 The north-western part of the application site was occupied from the early 1840s by the Wolstanton & Burslem Union Workhouse, which was one of a number of new workhouses that were erected in the wake of the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. Designed by Boulton and Palmer, the workhouse originally comprised three separate buildings: an entrance block; a main block; and an infirmary. The workhouse was subject to remodelling and expansion during the second half of the nineteenth century, and particularly in 1893, when the Lodge, the Vagrants’ Ward and the New Infirmary were all added to the site (although this may not have been completed until 1895). In 1922, the Wolstanton & Burslem Union amalgamated with the Stoke-on-Trent Union to become the Stoke & Wolstanton Union, and the workhouse, or ‘Poor Law Institution’, is annotated as such on the Ordnance Survey map of 1924-5.

Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1924-5, with arrow marking the Vagrants’ Ward
1.1.3 In 1948, following the creation of the National Health Service, the workhouse became part of Westcliffe Hospital, and the component buildings were adapted for hospital use. The site was divided into two parcels in the late twentieth century, with most of the former workhouse buildings, including the main accommodation and administration blocks, being demolished to enable the erection of the Claybourne Nursing Home. However, prior to demolition, a detailed record of these buildings was compiled by Stoke-on-Trent Historic Buildings Survey in the 1980s. A further programme of historic building recording was carried out by Ironbridge Archaeology in 2008, which examined the Lodge, the New Infirmary and the Vagrants’ Ward; the former two buildings have since been demolished, although the Lodge is to be refurbished as part of the present development proposals.

1.1.4 The Lodge and the Vagrants’ Ward were both in poor structural condition at the time of the archaeological survey in 2008, which precluded any recording of their interiors. The internal layout of the Vagrant’s Ward is thus not fully understood, and whilst most vagrants’ wards of the late nineteenth century contained individual cells with attached work rooms, that at the Wolstanton & Burslem Union Workhouse appears not to have followed this model. In the absence of the structure itself, the potentially unusual nature of this building will be more fully assessed by via intrusive archaeological investigation, which will aim to establish the precise internal configuration of the ward. In addition, a photographic survey of the interior of the Lodge will fill a significant gap in the existing archaeological record of the building.

1.1.5 In order to secure these archaeological interests, and following consultation with the Planning Archaeologist in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Stoke-on-Trent City Council, the Local Planning Authority has attached two conditions (Conditions 11 and 12) to planning consent for the proposed development (Planning Application SOT/56179). These conditions require an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation of the site to be formulated and presented in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prior to the commencement of any development works, and completed before the new building is occupied. This document provides the required WSI, and allows for an English Heritage Level 1-type building survey of the Lodge, and the intrusive investigation of the former Vagrants’ Ward via a targeted evaluation trench. It should be noted that evaluation trenching represents an initial stage of intrusive archaeological investigation and, in the event of significant archaeological remains being discovered, further archaeological investigation is likely to be required.

1.1.6 The WSI has been devised with reference to the Brief for Historic Building Recording and the Brief and Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation, which were both produced by the Planning Archaeologist for Stoke-on-Trent City Council; the WSI does not replace the brief and specification, and the requirements outlined in these documents will be adhered to fully. Any additional works that may be prove necessary following the completion of the evaluation trenching will be carried out in accordance with an Updated WSI, which in be formulated in accordance with an Updated Project Brief supplied by the Planning Archaeologist.
1.2 **OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY**

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) is an educational charity under the guidance of a board of trustees, and has over 40 years of experience in professional archaeology. We have offices in Lancaster, Oxford and Cambridge, trading as Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), Oxford Archaeology South (OA South) and Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) respectively, enabling us to provide a truly nationwide service. OA is an Institute for Archaeologists’ Registered Organisation (No 17). All work on the project will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards, including:

- IfA’s *Code of Conduct*, (2012); *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, (2008); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*, (2008);

- English Heritage’s *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, 2006;


1.2.2 It is intended to co-ordinate the project from our northern office in Lancaster, which has considerable experience of working on post-medieval sites, and is recognised as one of the leading archaeological units in the country with regard to dealing with Industrial Period archaeological projects. In recent years, OA North has undertaken numerous historic building surveys, watching briefs, evaluations and excavations of former industrial complexes and hospital sites, providing us with specialist expertise in dealing with this type of site. By way of example, we recently completed the historical research and building survey of the former Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary, and the excavation of a late nineteenth-century isolation hospital in Lancaster.
2. OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The following programme has been designed to: establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains on the site and, if present, characterise the level of preservation and significance, and provide a good understanding of their potential, and also to provide a photographic record of the interior of the Lodge for integration with the existing archive. The approach taken to mitigating the impact of development on the archaeological resource of the proposal area will be in accordance with national guidelines set out in the National Planning Policy Framework: Section 12 – Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. To achieve these objectives, the following stages are proposed:

- **Historic Building Investigation**: to provide a photographic and textual record of the interior of the building to the commensurate English Heritage (2006) Level 1 standard of historic building investigation. This will provide information about the Lodge’s age, fabric, form and function, and create a high-quality, fully integrated archive suitable for long-term deposition in order to preserve by record the building in its current form prior to alteration;

- **Evaluation Trenching**: to establish the presence or absence of buried remains of the former Vagrants’ Ward, and assess the precise internal configuration of the building;

- **Report and Archive**: a report will be produced for the client within six weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (2006) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990).
3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

3.1.1 Following the recommendation of the Planning Archaeologist for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, it is proposed that the historical building investigation of the Lodge will be commensurate with an English Heritage Level 1-type survey, which will be refurbished as part of the proposed development. A photographic record of all parts of the interior of the building that can be accessed safely will be compiled prior to any development works. This will include the ground floor of the building, and elements of the second floor. The photographic record of the other parts of the building will be completed, including the remainder of the second floor and the small basement, when access has been made safe.

3.1.2 Photographic Archive: a photographic archive for the interior of the Lodge will be produced utilising 35mm or medium format camera loaded with monochrome film, coupled with a high-resolution digital camera. Wherever possible, all frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. A full photographic index will be produced, and the archive will comprise the following:

- the external appearance and setting of the building, including a mixture of general shots and detailed views taken from perpendicular and oblique angles. Whilst a photographic record of the exterior has been compiled previously, additional photographs will be taken at this stage for contextual background;
- the general appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas;
- any internal detail, structural or architectural, which is relevant to the design, development and use of the building, and which does not show adequately on general photographs;
- any internal detailed views of features of especial architectural interest, fixtures and fittings, or fabric detail relevant to phasing the building.

3.1.3 Site Drawings: architects’ plans (supplied by the Client) will be annotated on site to produce the drawings. These drawings will then be used as the basis of CAD drawings, which will be included within the final report as figures. The drawings will show the location and direction of each of the photographs taken during the historic building recording, and this will be reproduced in the final report at a scale of 1:500.

3.1.4 Visual Inspection: a visual inspection of the building will be undertaken utilising the OA North building investigation pro-forma sheets. A description will be maintained to English Heritage (2006) Level 2 standard, as appropriate. The records will be essentially descriptive and will provide a brief summary of the internal layout of the building, noting evidence for its original and changing uses.
3.2 Evaluation Trenching

3.2.1 General Methodology: the site will be investigated initially via a single evaluation trench, measuring 20 x 4m, which will be placed across the eastern part of the former Vagrants’ Ward. The trench will aim to establish the internal layout of the former Vagrants’ Ward, and establish whether any further archaeological investigation of the site is merited in advance of development.

![Plan of Westcliffe Hospital prior to demolition, showing the position of the Lodge (in green) and the location of the evaluation trench (in red) across the Vagrants’ Ward](image)

3.2.2 The modern ground surface will be excavated by a tracked machine of appropriate power. The uppermost levels of overburden/demolition material will also be removed to the top of the first significant archaeological level using the same machine. The machine will be fitted with a toothless ditching bucket although, if necessary, recourse will be made to a toothed bucket to carefully remove the modern ground surface, which comprises compacted demolition rubble. The work will be supervised closely by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Spoil from the excavation will stored adjacent to the trench, and will be backfilled upon completion of the archaeological works.
3.2.3 Once structural remains have been exposed, these will be cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. If the excavation is to proceed below a depth of 1.2m, then the trenches will be widened sufficiently to allow the sides to be stepped in. Any negative-cut features, such as pits and postholes will, in general terms, be subject to a 50% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, thereby providing a full vertical section for examination and recording. The remainder of the feature may then be excavated quickly keeping only that dating evidence which is securely derived from the feature. Linear cut features, such as ditches and gullies, will be subject to a maximum of 20% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, with the excavation concentrating on any terminals and intersections with other features which would provide important stratigraphic information. As with pits and postholes, should it prove necessary to remove the remainder of the feature to expose underlying features and/or deposits, it will be excavated quickly.

3.2.4 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage. Results of the evaluation will be recorded on pro-forma context sheets, and will be accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and high-resolution digital photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features.

3.2.5 **Context Recording:** all contexts will be recorded using pro-forma sheets, and details will be incorporated into a Harris matrix. Similar object record and photographic record pro-formas will be used. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from pro-forma record sheets using sequential numbering.

3.2.6 **Photography:** a full and detailed photographic record of individual structures/contexts will be maintained, together with general views from standard view points of the overall site at all stages of the evaluation. Photography will be undertaken using high-resolution digital cameras with a resolution of at least 12 mega pixels, using RAW format files for image capture, saved as 8 bit TIFFs for archive purposes. Photography will be undertaken using 35mm cameras on archivable black and white print film. All frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photographs records will be maintained on special photographic pro-forma sheets.

3.2.7 **Planning:** the precise location of the evaluation trenches, and the position of all archaeological structures encountered, will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger. This process will generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which will then be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, but can be output at any scale required. Sections will be manually drafted as appropriate at a scale of 1:10. All information will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
3.2.8 **Finds policy:** finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following current Institute for Archaeologists’ guidelines), and will be formulated in discussion with the Planning Archaeologist. OA North employs in-house artefact and palaeoecology specialists, with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation, and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Emergency access to conservation facilities is maintained by OA North with the Department of Archaeology, the University of Durham.

3.2 **ARCHIVE/REPORT**

3.2.1 **Archive:** the results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*, 2006) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IfA in that organisation’s code of conduct.

3.2.2 **OA** conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. It is intended that the archive and the excavated material will be deposited with the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, and the Collections Officer has indicated a willingness to accept the material generated from the archaeological works. This material has been allocated a unique archive accession number (2014.LH.16).

3.2.3 The material and paper archive generated from the archaeological investigation will be transferred in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

3.2.4 A further copy of the archive can be made available for deposition in the National Archaeological Record. In addition, the Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database project *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

3.2.5 **Report:** a draft copy of the report generated from the historic building record and the evaluation will be submitted for the approval of the Planning Archaeologist within six weeks of completion of fieldwork. It is anticipated that the report will integrate the results obtained from the building investigation and the evaluation trenching into a single document. However, should either element of the archaeological works encounter any delay, then individual reports will be issued. This may prove to be the case with the building investigation, the completion of which is dependent upon safe access to all parts of the building.
3.2.6 Following the approval of the draft report from the Planning Archaeologist one
bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to
the client, and two further bound copies will be supplied to the Planning
Archaeologist. These copies will be deposited in the Stoke-on-Trent Historic
Environment Record (HER), where they will be publicly accessible. A digital
copy of the report will also be provided and/or the report made available
through OASIS. It should be noted that Stoke-on-Trent City Council Heritage
& Design Section may place the information on a web-site once the report has
been submitted to the HER.

3.2.7 Any finds recovered will be assessed with reference to other local material and
any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted. The
report will also include:

- a title page detailing site address, NGR, author/originating body,
  client’s name and address;
- full content’s listing;
- a non-technical summary of the findings of the fieldwork;
- a description of the archaeological background;
- an account of the historical development of the site;
- a description of the topography and geology of the study area;
- a description of the methodologies used during the fieldwork;
- a description of the findings of the fieldwork;
- an illustrated and descriptive account of the interior of the Lodge,
supplemented by a brief consideration of the spatial and functional
arrangement of rooms and circulation spaces. Sufficient background
research will be undertaken in order to place the building in its
historical context;
- plan of the area that was subject to archaeological evaluation, showing
  the archaeological features exposed;
- an overall phased plan with sections of the excavated archaeological
  features, as appropriate;
- appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features;
- specialists’ report of any artefacts recovered from the evaluation, with
  particular emphasis on the pottery assemblage;
- a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present
  on the site in local, regional and national terms.

3.2.8 Pending the results obtained from the evaluation, it may be appropriate to
disseminate the information more widely than through the production of an
archive report. This may involve the production of a short note or longer article
in an appropriate journal.
4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Safety Policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

4.2 OA North undertakes to safeguard, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its staff and of others who may be affected by our work. This applies in particular to providing and maintaining suitable premises, ensuring the safety of all equipment supplied by the Company, and providing all reasonable safeguards and precautions against accidents.

4.3 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

4.4 Normal OA North working hours are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours may be made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for OA North staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the Client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

5. PROJECT MONITORING

5.1 Monitoring meetings will be established with the Client and the archaeological curator at the outset of the project. Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the Stoke-on-Trent Planning Archaeologist, who will be afforded access to the site at all times. A two-week notice period of the commencement of the development ground works must be given to the Planning Archaeologist.

6. WORK TIMETABLE

6.1 A one-week period should be allowed to excavate, record and backfill the evaluation trench, although the trench will not be backfilled without the permission of the Planning Archaeologist. The historic building recording is likely to require two site visits to enable the recording of the interior of the Lodge in its current condition, and a second visit to record those parts of the building that cannot be accessed safely.

6.2 In the event of significant archaeological remains being discovered in the evaluation trench, a programme of further investigation may be anticipated. The time required for any additional investigation cannot be determined until the results of the evaluation are known.

6.3 The client report will be completed within six weeks following completion of the fieldwork.
7. STAFFING

7.1 The project will be under the direct management of Ian Miller BA FSA (OA North Senior Project Manager), to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Ian has considerable experience and particular research interests in Industrial Archaeology and, amongst numerous other projects, was involved in the survey, excavation recording, analysis and publication of the Netherhall blast furnace site in Maryport, Cumbria, the excavation, recording and publication of work at Carlton Bank alum works in North Yorkshire, and the excavation of Macintosh Mill in Manchester. Ian also managed the archaeological fieldwork, analysis and ultimate publication at Murrays’ Mills (Miller and Wild 2007) and the Jersey Street Flint Glass Works (Miller 2007), both in Manchester. More recently, he carried out the desk-based research for the late nineteenth-century isolation hospital in Lancaster, and managed the subsequent programme of excavation, and was also responsible for the research and historic building recording of the Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary.

7.2 The historic building recording and evaluation trenching will be undertaken by Graham Mottershead BA (OA North Project Officer). Graham is an highly experienced field archaeologist, with over 20 years continuous experience of field archaeology. Graham specialises in the excavation and recording of nineteenth-century buildings. It is not possible to provide details of specific technicians that will be involved with the fieldwork at this stage, but all shall be suitably qualified archaeologists with proven relevant experience. It is anticipated that up to two technicians will be required for the initial stage of the fieldwork.

7.3 Assessment of any finds recovered from the evaluation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA (OA North Finds Manager). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England, and is a recognised expert in the analysis of post-medieval artefacts.

7.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples recovered from the evaluation will be carried out under the auspices of Elizabeth Huckerby BA, MSc (OA North Environmental Manager), who has extensive experience of the palaeoecology of the North West, having been one of the principal palaeoenvironmentalists in the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.
APPENDIX 2: INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS

Image 2: Canted bay windows on the ground floor of the Lodge, facing south (1m scale)

Image 3: Roll-moulded jambs of canted bay window on the ground floor (1m scale)
Image 4: Lobby between reception room and back room on the ground floor
Image 5: Coat hooks on eastern wall of the lobby at ground-floor level

Image 6: General view across the back room at ground-floor level, facing north-west
Image 7: General view across the back room at ground-floor level, facing south-west

Image 8: Transverse joists above sawn lathes in south-western corner of back room at ground-floor level
Image 9: Blocked fireplace in kitchen, facing west (1 m scale)
Image 10: General view of the kitchen at ground-floor level, facing north-west
Image 11: Filleted and stopped jambs on kitchen window surrounds at ground-floor level
Image 12: Roof structure in the kitchen
Image 13: Northern cell of eastern wing at ground-floor level, facing east
Image 14: Staircase corridor facing south, showing scars of string beam and remnants of hand rail on western wall
Image 15: Coal chute in eastern wall of the cellar
Image 16: Former location of shelf denoted by projecting flat iron bars and low stone shelf, just visible to left at southern end of cellar
Image 17: Southern bedroom at first-floor level, facing east

Image 18: Wooden shelf and hooks in recess in the southern bedroom at first-floor level
Image 19: General view of the back bedroom at first-floor level, facing west

Image 20: Back bedroom facing south-west towards fitted cupboard
Image 21: Northern end of the bathroom at first-floor level

Image 22: Sink on southern wall of the bathroom
Image 23: Entrance to the bathroom
ILLUSTRATIONS

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Figure 3: Plans and sections of the evaluation trench
Figure 4: Floor plans of the Lodge
Figure 5: Photographic location plan
Figure 4: Floor plans of the Lodge
Figure 5: Photographic location plan