

**Archaeological Evaluation on
land to the rear of the Red Lion
High Street
Goldenhill
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
NGR SJ 85157 53357**

Site Code: HLG12

Produced for
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Non-technical summary

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of the Red Lion (899 High Street), Heathside Lane, Goldenhill, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ 85157 53357) in advance of the residential development of the site. The evaluation took place on the 14th February 2012 and sought to determine the presence of activity associated with the Red Lion pub, a building of at least early 19th-century date that may have replaced an earlier building. Located within a medieval township but undeveloped in recent history, the site also held potential for undisturbed material of an earlier date.

The evaluation comprised a single trench, which revealed little of archaeological significance beyond 19th-century land drains. The site appeared to have been re-levelled thereafter, possibly for the bowling green, which was constructed at some point between 1924 and 1950. Finds retrieved from the evaluation trench largely related to the 19th-century occupation of the site, with the exception of pottery sherds of late 17th-century date which suggest an earlier phase of activity in the vicinity.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A planning application (SOT/52670) for residential development on land to the rear of 899 High Street (the Red Lion pub), Goldenhill, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ 85157 53357) was granted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Stoke-on-Trent City Council, on the 24th January 2012. Given the site's location within an area of archaeological significance the LPA Planning Archaeologist recommended that an archaeological evaluation, to take place prior to development, should be a condition of consent. Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was subsequently appointed to undertake the work by the developer, Mr D. Hopewell.

1.2 The site is located to the west side of High Street (A50), the main road from Stoke-on-Trent north towards Manchester (Fig. 1). It is a roughly rectangular plot to the rear of the Red Lion, with Heathside Lane to the south east, residential development to the north west, and Heathside House, a care home, to the south west (Fig. 2).

2.0 Scope and aims of the project

2.1 An archaeological evaluation, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), is intended to establish the extent, preservation and character of any archaeological features or deposits on the site. The project aimed to determine the presence of any archaeological material, such as waste deposits or privies, associated with the public house and to assess the potential for any earlier activity in the area. Deposits recovered from land to the rear of public houses can be rich in artefacts relating to the occupation and use of the property (see Boothroyd 2000; Pearce 2000, 144-186). The project aimed to establish the presence/absences of such artefact-rich deposits and features within site behind the Red Lion.

3.0 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Goldenhill lies roughly one mile north of Tunstall. The area formed part of the old townships of Oldcott and Ravenscliffe within the manor of Tunstall. The manor is thought to have been part Thursfield, held by Richard the Forester at the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086. More certainly, by c.1200 Tunstall manor was held by Richard's great granddaughter, Aline, and her husband Engenulph de Gresley (Greenslade 1963, 86).

3.2 The village of Goldenhill existed by 1686, at which date it is evident on Plot's map of Staffordshire (Fig. 3). The economy of the area was largely based on agriculture until the 19th century, but benefitted from the turnpiking of the main road in 1763 and the construction of the Trent and Mersey Canal in 1777 (Greenslade 1963, 84). Somewhat later, Goldenhill was one of the stops on the Potteries Loop Line, opened 1873 (Greenslade 1963, 85). Pottery manufacture is known to have been carried out in the area since at least the 16th century, when Goldenhill was known for the production of coarse ware. By the beginning of the 19th century there were six manufacturers in Goldenhill, but the pottery industry in the locale became increasingly concentrated upon Tunstall and by 1834 only two manufacturers remained in Goldenhill (Greenslade 1963, 99). Coal and ironstone mining became an important industry in the 19th century, one of the largest enterprises being the Goldenhill Colliery on Colclough Lane, which operated into the early 1920s (Greenslade 1963, 102).

3.3 The proposed development area is first indicated on an 1822 map of Tunstall and environs (Fig. 4). It appears as a narrow plot to the rear of a building facing on to the main road. A footpath, the likely predecessor to Heathside Lane, is evident in the field to the south. The 1880 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig. 5) indicates that the plot had been extended southwards towards the footpath. The map also shows the building clearly marked as the Red Lion Inn. Little change to the development area is apparent on the historical maps from 1880 to 1924. By 1950, however, the plot to the rear of the Red Lion was being utilised as a bowling green (Fig. 6).

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The archaeological evaluation took place on the 14th February 2012 and was carried out in accordance with standards and guidance advocated in the *By-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists* (revised October 2008).

4.2 The evaluation took the form of one 4m x 5m trench, located at the south corner of the development area (Fig. 2). The trench was initially opened using a 180° backhoe excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and excavated until either the first archaeological horizon was encountered or to a point where undisturbed natural subsoil could be confirmed.

4.3 All archaeological deposits and features were cleaned by hand and recorded by means of written records (site notes and pro forma context sheets), scale plans (1:20 and 1:50) and sections (1:10 and 1:20), and photography (35mm monochrome and high-resolution digital). A temporary benchmark (TBM) with a value of 100.00m was established on south the corner of the Red Lion (Fig. 2). All site levels were related to this TBM. Finds were sampled where appropriate. The site archive is stored at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (site code: **HLG12**)

5.0 The evaluation

5.1 Excavation of the trench involved the removal of approximately 0.10m of rough turf followed by 0.35m of loose dark-brown silty brick rubble (100). Below this was a 0.10m to 0.20m thick layer of dark-brown, slightly sandy silt (101), possibly buried top soil (Fig. 7, Plate 2). This lay above a layer of mixed yellow clay and dark-brown silt (102), 0.20m to 0.35 thick. A 0.16m to 0.20m thick layer of compact yellow-brown sandy clay (103) containing flecks of charcoal was seen below (102). Layer (104), dark-brown clay containing flecks of charcoal, 0.19m to 0.25m in thickness, underlay (103). Below (104) was a layer of compact yellow-brown clay (105), identified as the natural subsoil.

5.2 This general soil profile differed somewhat along the south-western and south-eastern edges of the trench, where land drainage was evident. The most modern example of this was a blue, ridged-plastic pipe of 0.09m in diameter, which was seen in the north-east facing section of the trench (Fig. 8, Plate 3) on a north-west to south-east alignment. The pipe appeared below rubble layer (100) and was contained within a cut [106], made into mixed silt and clay layer (102) and back-filled with greyish-pink-gravel (107). The relatively shallow depth of the cut, approximately 0.10m, not much more than the pipe it contained, suggested that it had been truncated from above, perhaps in the laying down of rubble (101).

5.3 An earlier phase of land drainage was also evident in the north-east-facing and north-west-facing sections (Plate 3). This appeared as layers of broken saggar in a matrix of ashy silt, 0.15m to 0.20m thick and laying above the natural clay (105). That in the north-east facing section (112), was overlain by (109), a 0.21m thick loose dark-brown gritty ash containing fragments of brick and tile. Both (109) and (112) were contained

within a straight-sided cut [113], made through (103) and (104) and evident only in the south-east-facing section. A cut [111] for the saggar drain extending along the north-west-facing section (110), was seen at the end of the south-west-facing section (Fig. 7, Plate 2). Cut [111], made into layer (104), had straight sides, a flatish base and was approximately 0.20m deep.

6.0 Finds

6.1 Few finds were encountered during excavation. Mixed silt and clay layer (102), contained two clay pipe stems of 19th-century date and a sherd of an ironstone-type fabric, probably from a large bowl or basin and dating from the mid to late 19th-century. The saggar fragments that made-up layers (110) and (112) had been used in the biscuit firing of ceramics. A single sherd of a transfer-printed white earthenware plate, of 'Willow' design, was also retrieved from (110) and both this and the saggar fragments were of mid-late 19th-century date. Sherds from (109) dated to the late 19th-century and comprised four sherds of white earthenware, including a painted jug handle and part of a slip-decorated bowl. Finally, two sherds of slipware, from a hollow ware vessel with a handle, possibly a porringer, were retrieved from the interface between layer (104) and natural subsoil (105) and dated to the period c.1680-1700.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of the Red Lion found little evidence of activity relating to the public house or to earlier settlement. Trenching revealed that saggar-filled land drains were located in the southern corner of the site. They were of similar construction, probably established contemporaneously, and may have formed part of a larger drainage system. Sherds of pottery from the upper fill, probably the back-fill, of cut [113] provided a *terminus post quem* of the late 19th century. The overlying layers, sandy clay (103) and mixed silt and clay (102) topped with silty layer (101), may be indicative of a subsequent phase of re-leveling, perhaps associated with the construction of the bowling green in the first half of the 20th century. The upper layer of brick rubble (100), most likely represented a more recent phase of leveling on the site.

7.2 The few finds retrieved were largely of domestic origin and of 19th-century date, and may well be associated with the nearby public house. The two slipware sherds from the

interface between layers (104) and (105) would furthermore indicate activity in the immediate area from at least the late 17th century onwards.

8.0 Acknowledgments

This report was written and illustrated by Zoe Sutherland of Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology. Fieldworks was undertaken by Joseph Perry and Zoe Sutherland. Thanks are due to Mr D. Hopewell and to Jonathan Goodwin, Stoke-on-Trent City Council Planning Archaeologist.

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9.0 References

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Pearce, J. E. 2000. 'A late 18th-century inn clearance assemblage from Uxbridge, Middlesex' *Post-Medieval Archaeology* **34**, 144-186.

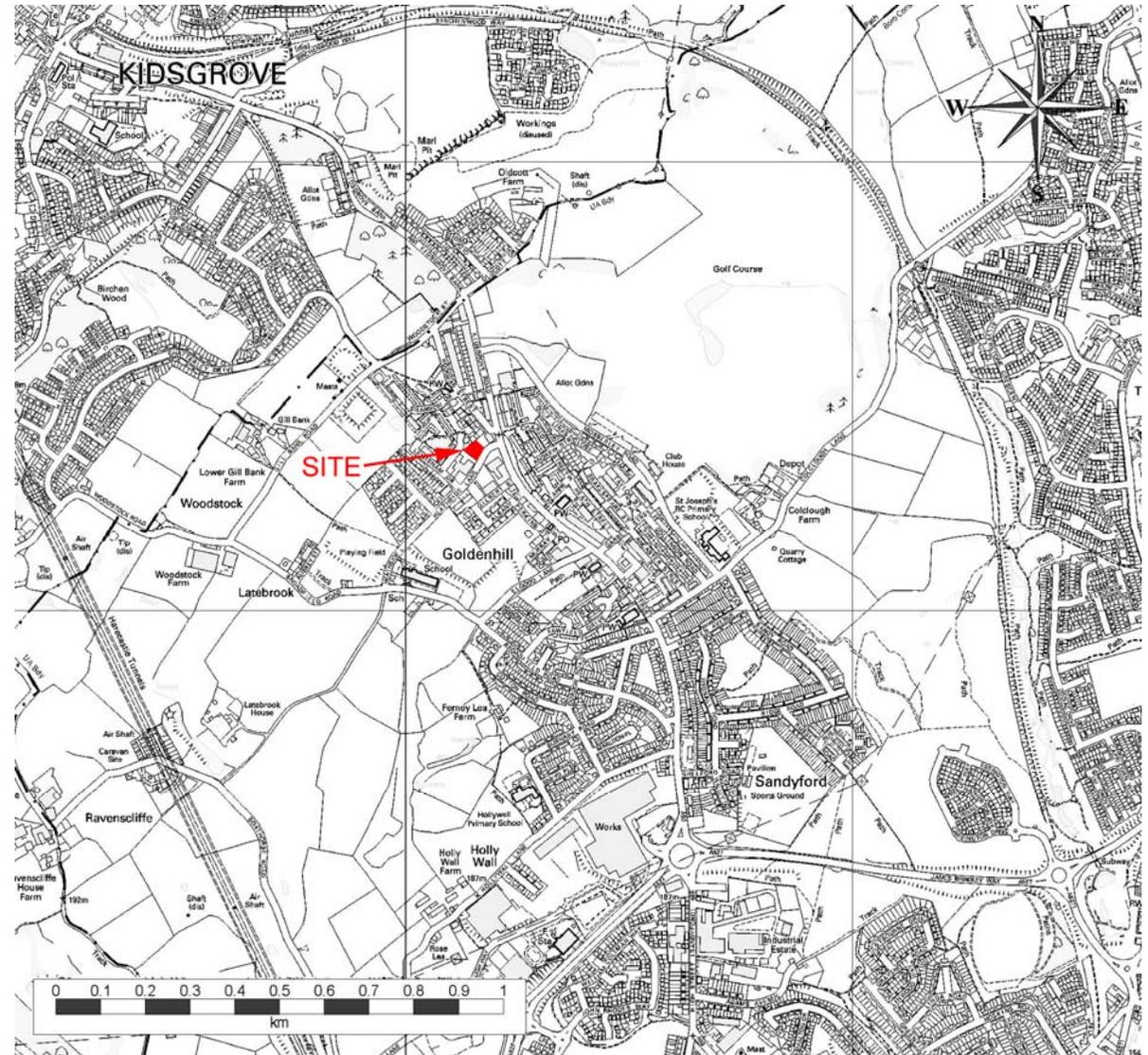
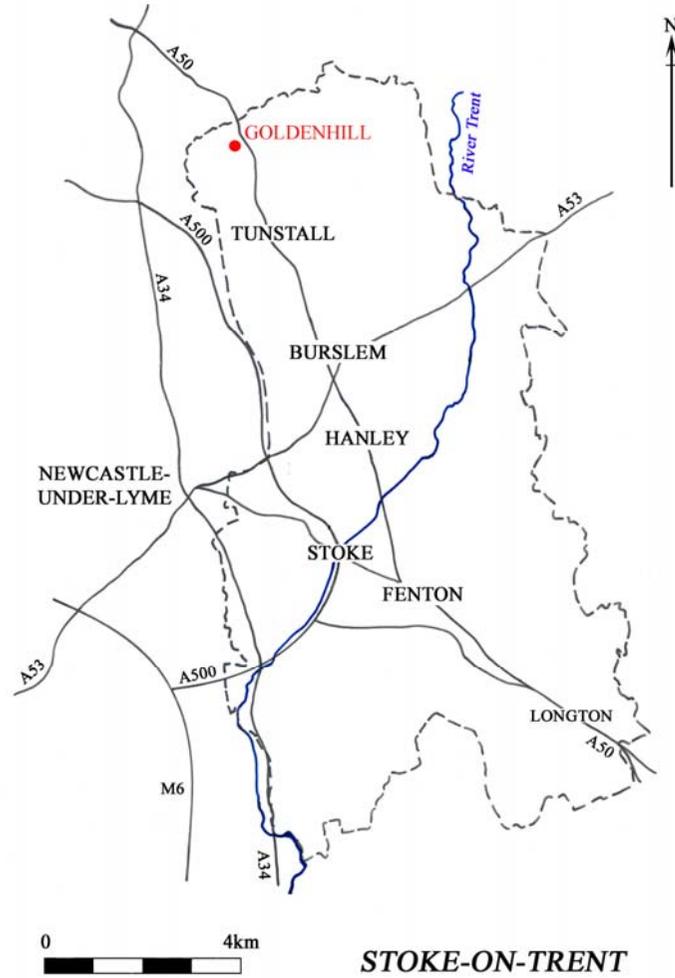


FIG. 1
Site location.

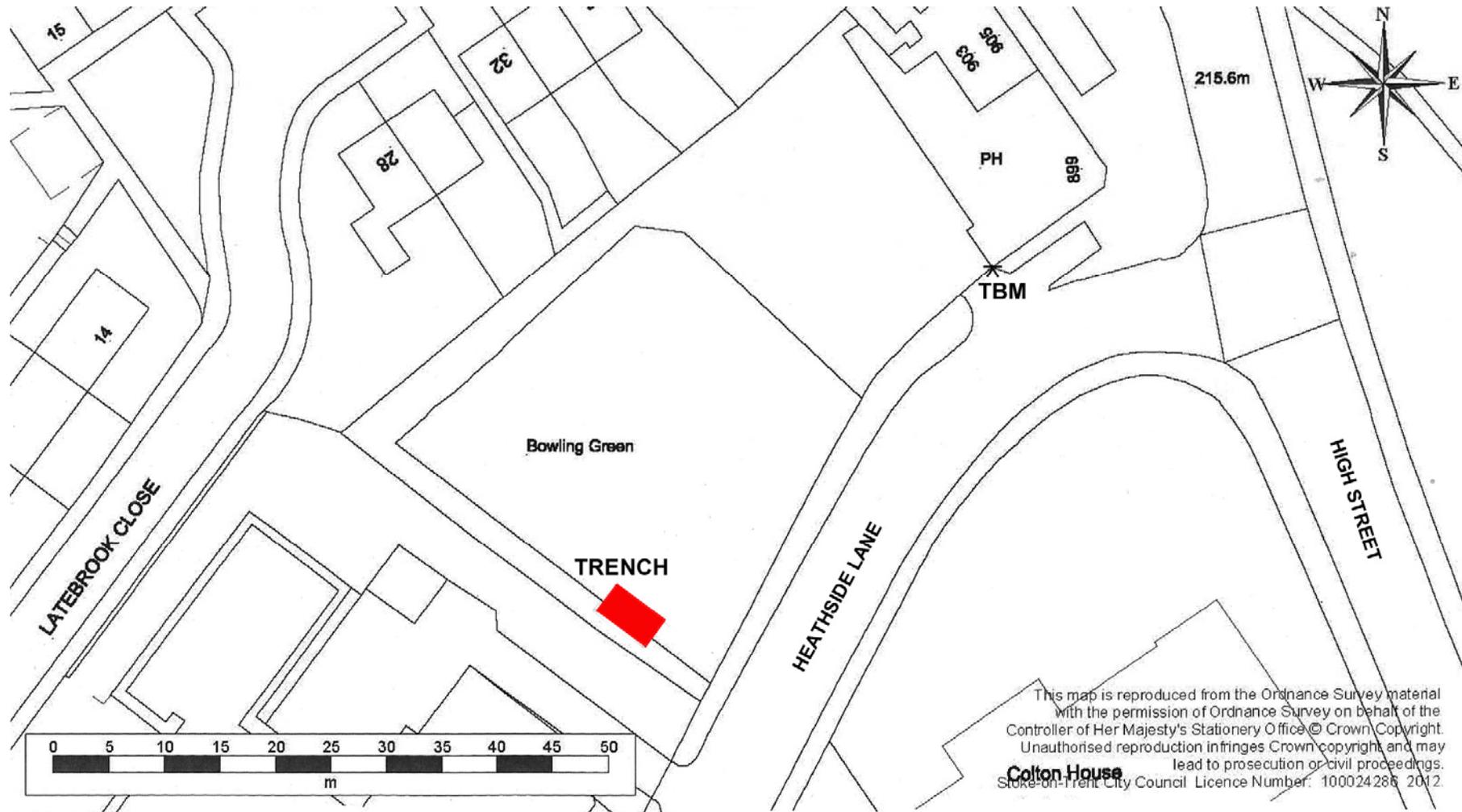


FIG. 2
Trench location plan.

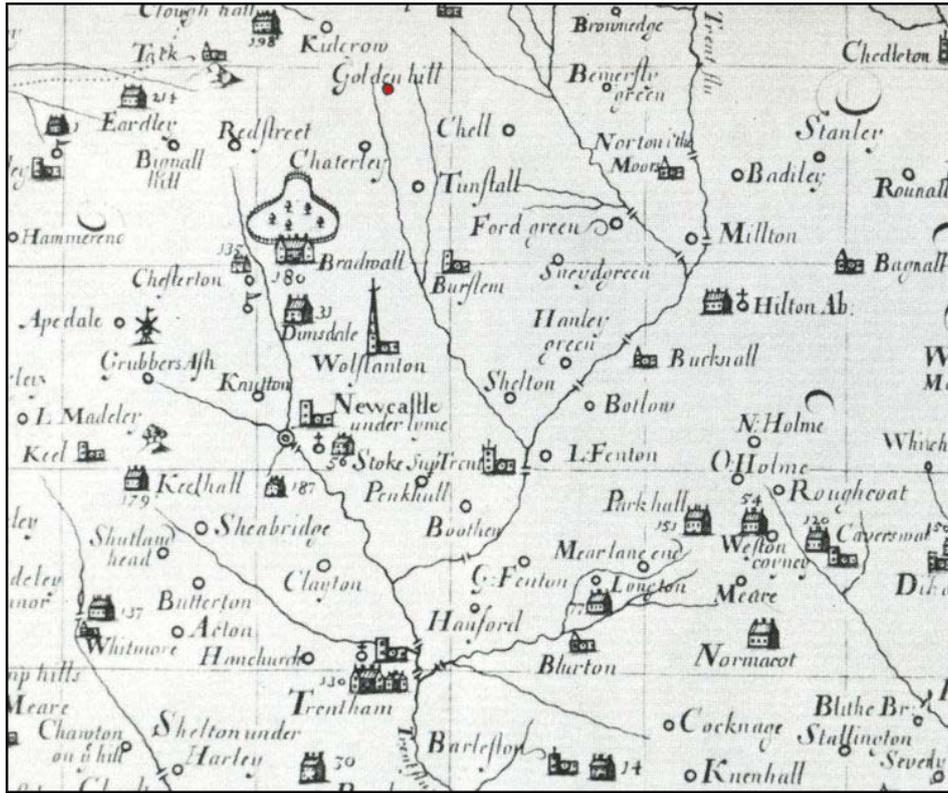


FIG. 3

Plot's map of 1686, with Goldenhill indicated in red.

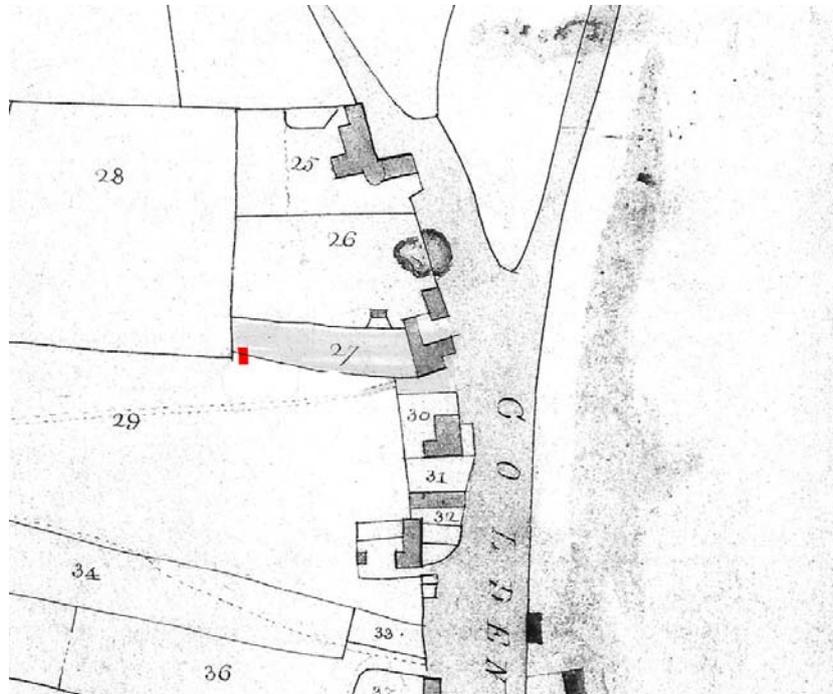


FIG. 4

1822 map of Tunstall and environs showing the approximate location of the evaluation trench marked in red.

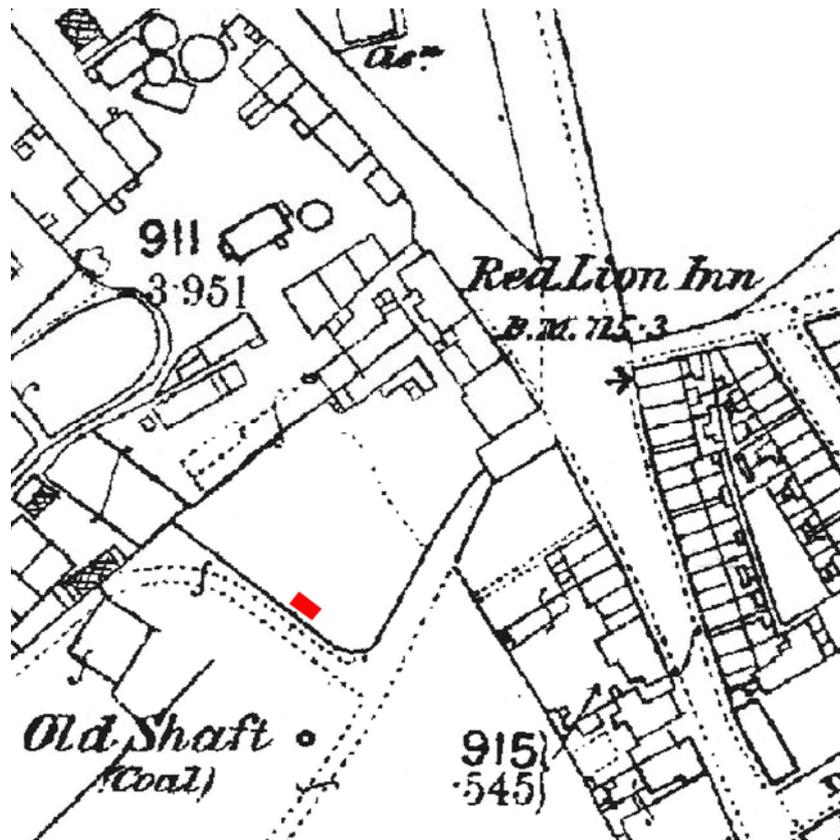


FIG. 5

Extract from the 1880 OS map showing the evaluation trench marked in red.

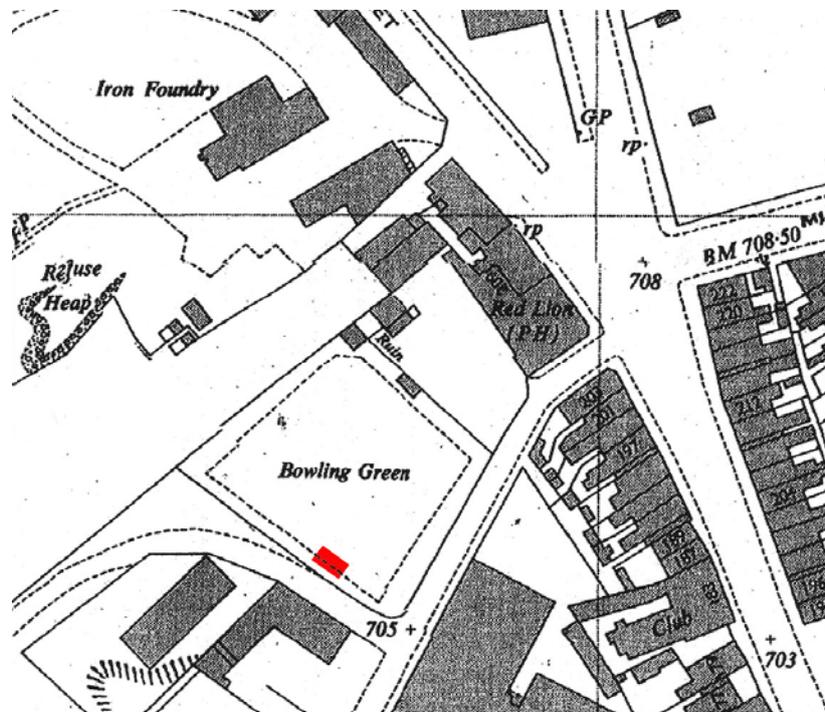


FIG. 6

Extract from the 1950 OS map showing the evaluation trench marked in red.

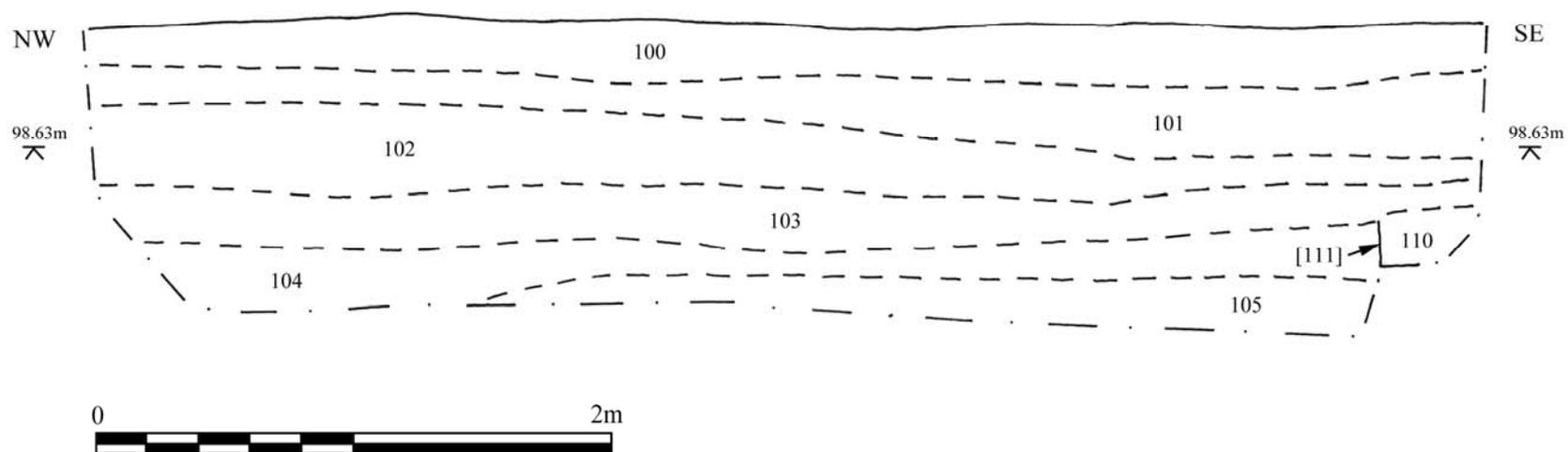


FIG. 7

The south-west-facing section of the trench.

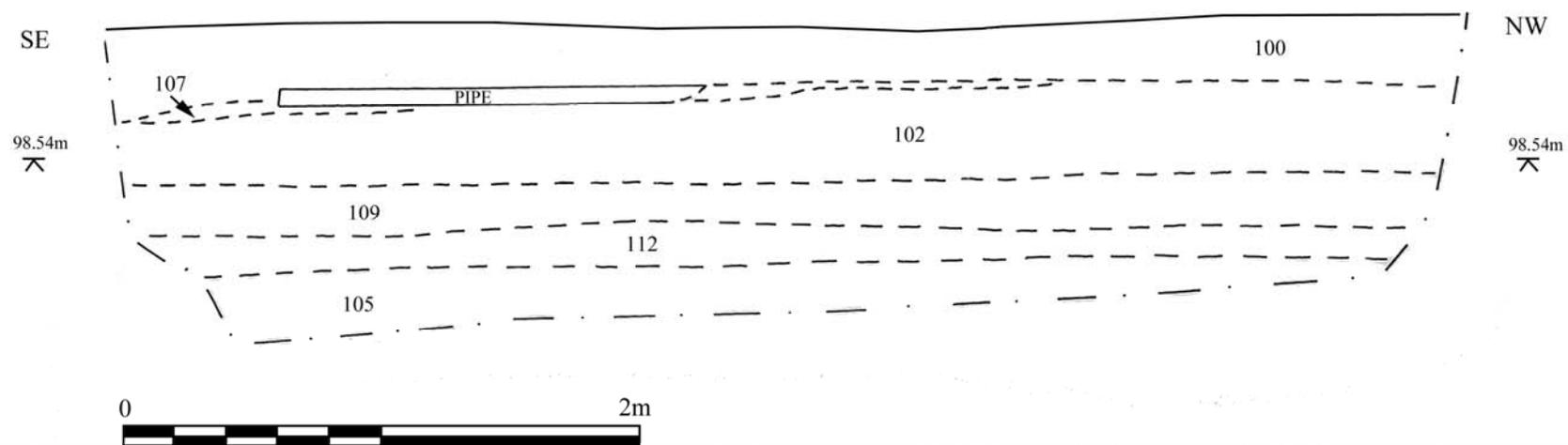


FIG. 8

The north-east-facing section of the trench.



PLATE 1

The trench looking north-west (scales: 2m).



PLATE 2

The south-west facing section showing the general soil profile (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 3

The north-east-facing section showing the saggar-filled drain at the base and the modern drain towards the top (scales: 1m, 2m).