



# **Longshaw Estate, Peak District – Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

**National Trust**

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## ECUS Ltd

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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## Executive Summary

*Ecus Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust to carry out archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the Longshaw Estate, Peak District (Figure 1, hereafter 'the site') centred on National Grid Reference 426446, 379908. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the site between 18th September 2017 and 21st September 2017.*

*The groundworks at the site comprised the excavation of a service trench through the courtyard to the north of Longshaw Lodge for the installation of fibre optic cables.*

*The archaeological monitoring resulted in the identification of the foundations of the nineteenth-century carriage house and a sandstone structure of uncertain function. The sandstone structure is likely to be a drainage feature and may predate the buildings within the courtyard as it was aligned on a differing orientation to the courtyard itself. However, the narrow dimensions of the service trench excavated during the groundworks means that a more thorough investigation of this feature was not possible.*

*The general site stratigraphy observed during the archaeological monitoring indicates that the courtyard is likely to have been terraced in the past. The kitchen garden to the southeast of the courtyard is at a significantly higher height above the courtyard whilst the landscape to the west slopes down towards Burbage Brook. No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring but it is considered that any terracing is likely to have been associated with the initial construction phases of Longshaw Lodge and its ancillary buildings.*

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Ecus Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust to carry out archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the Longshaw Estate, Peak District (**Figure 1**, hereafter ‘the site’) centred on National Grid Reference 426446, 379908. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the site between 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017.
- 1.1.2 The groundworks at the site comprised the excavation of a service trench through the courtyard to the north of Longshaw Lodge for the installation of fibre optic cables.
- 1.1.3 The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, National Trust 2017) and in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (CIfA 2014).

## 1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site was located within the stable courtyard located immediately north of the Grade II Listed Longshaw Lodge (NHLE: 1109833). Longshaw Lodge is situated within the Longshaw Estate in the Peak District National Park and located approximately 12 km southwest of the city centre of Sheffield (**Figure 1**). The courtyard is defined by Longshaw Lodge to the south, an L-shaped range of buildings comprising the former stables and carriage house to the west and north, and a retaining wall to the east with a raised kitchen garden beyond (**Plates 1-2**).
- 1.2.2 The site is situated approximately 325 m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone and siltstone of the Rossendale Formation with no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2017).



**Plate 1: View of north of the courtyard with former stable block and carriage house**



**Plate 2: View across south of courtyard with Longshaw Lodge and retaining wall for kitchen garden beyond**

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 The history of Longshaw Lodge and the Longshaw Estate has been researched in detail for a recent historic building recording of the principal estate buildings (Tyler 2016). The following summarises the archaeological and historical background provided in that report.
- 1.3.2 The landscape surrounding the site has provided a variety of evidence for prehistoric activity including barrows, ring-cairns and field systems. Approximately 1.5 km north of the site is Carl Wark, a probable Iron Age hillfort.
- 1.3.3 The Domesday Survey of 1086 indicates that the landscape surrounding the site was relatively sparsely occupied by the end of the eleventh century. Hathersage, located approximately 3.5 km west of the site, and Dore located approximately 5 km east of the site are both recorded as small settlements of two households (Palmer and Powell-Smith 2017).
- 1.3.4 Evidence for medieval settlement is located to the west of the site at Lawrence Field and comprises an enclosed field system and two longhouses dating from the twelfth century. For much of the medieval and post-medieval periods the site was located within moorland which was unsuitable for intensive agricultural activity. The name of Longshaw is not recorded until 1722 and is thought to refer to woodland within Padley Gorge, extending from Grindleford in the south towards Granby Wood (Tyler 2016).
- 1.3.5 The earliest evidence for the development of the Longshaw Estate dates to the early nineteenth century. The Hathersage Enclosure Act of 1808 awarded the land incorporating the current estate to Robert Tricket. A lodge had been built on the site of the current Longshaw Lodge by 1814 and in 1826 the estate was sold to the Duke of Rutland. Following the purchase of the estate, Longshaw Lodge underwent a series of refurbishments and expansions during the remainder of the nineteenth century.
- 1.3.6 During the First World War the lodge was made available by the Duke of Rutland and in 1915 was converted into a convalescent hospital for recovering soldiers. The estate was put up for sale in 1927 and purchased by a joint committee of the Sheffield Council of Social Services and the local branch of the Committee for the Protection of Rural England. The estate was subsequently donated to the National Trust in 1931.



## **2. Methodology**

### **2.1 Aims and Objectives**

2.1.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the excavation works associated with the installation of the new fibre cabling were fully recorded and interpreted and that any disturbed remains were recovered.

### **2.2 Fieldwork Methodology**

2.2.1 The methodology for the archaeological monitoring was outlined within a project brief (National Trust 2017). All archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) '*Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (CIfA, 2014).

2.2.2 The tarmac in the courtyard was initially broken up by a pneumatic drill prior to being removed by hand. All paving slabs were lifted using a mechanical slab lifter. Following removal of tarmac or paving slabs all trenches were excavated by hand under the supervision of the on-site monitoring archaeologist.

2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were cleaned and investigated and recorded using Ecus' *pro forma* recording sheets. Digital photographs were taken of the general site conditions, location of the trench and of archaeological deposits to produce a photographic record of the works.

2.2.4 Strategies for the recovery of artefacts, taking of environmental samples and the recovery of human remains were included within the project brief (National Trust 2017). No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring works, no environmental samples were taken and no human remains were encountered.

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following section presents the results of the archaeological monitoring. The context descriptions for recorded archaeological deposits are reproduced in **Appendix 1**. Where referenced within the text, context numbers are indicated in bold text. The groundworks comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring 18.3 m in length, 0.3 m wide and 0.4 m deep. The extent of the trench excavated during the archaeological monitoring is depicted on **Figure 2**.

3.1.2 No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring.

### 3.2 General Site Stratigraphy

3.2.1 The courtyard is surfaced in three different materials. The oldest surface is made up of roughly squared millstone grit setts (**107**) and located in the northeast corner of the courtyard. The southwest of the courtyard is tarmacked (**101**) and there is an area of paving slabs (**103**) which runs alongside the former stable block in the northwest of the courtyard.

3.2.2 The underlying natural substrate (**102**) comprised a mid-yellowish brown sandy clay and was encountered at 0.10 m below ground level (bgl). The tarmac surface was laid directly onto the natural (**Plate 3**). The paving slabs overlaid a thin levelling layer of light yellowish brown sand (**104**) identified at 0.05 m bgl and 0.07 m thick. This layer in turn overlaid a dark brownish grey clay sand (**105**; **Plate 4**).

### 3.3 Structures

3.3.1 The northeast end of the trench extended into the southwest corner of the former carriage house. The floor of the carriage house was paved with sandstone slabs (**108**). The carriage house foundations (**109**) were also revealed during the excavations and were found to be of millstone grit and extended beyond 0.25 m bgl (**Plate 5**).

3.3.2 The only other archaeological feature encountered during the archaeological monitoring was a sandstone structure (**106**) aligned east-west. The structure was one course, single skinned and constructed from roughly squared sandstone blocks (**Plate 6**).



**Plate 3: Representative section of the southern portion of the groundworks**



**Plate 4: Representative section of the northern section of the groundworks**



**Plate 5: Detail of foundations (109) for carriage house from the southwest**



**Plate 6: Probable drainage structure (106) from the west**

## 4. Conclusion

### 4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The archaeological monitoring resulted in the identification of the foundations of the nineteenth-century carriage house and a sandstone structure of uncertain function. The sandstone structure is likely to be a drainage feature and may predate the buildings within the courtyard as it was aligned on a differing orientation to the courtyard itself. However, the narrow dimensions of the service trench excavated during the groundworks means that a more thorough investigation of this feature was not possible.
- 4.1.2 The general site stratigraphy observed during the archaeological monitoring indicates that the courtyard is likely to have been terraced in the past. The kitchen garden to the southeast of the courtyard is at a significantly higher height above the courtyard whilst the landscape to the west slopes down towards Burbage Brook. No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring but it is considered that any terracing is likely to have been associated with the initial construction phases of Longshaw Lodge and its ancillary buildings.

### 4.2 Archive

- 4.2.1 The complete project archive will be prepared and arrangements for the deposition of the archive on completion of the project will be made in accordance with guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990).
- 4.2.2 The archive is currently held at Ecus' office in Sheffield under the project code 10561, and will be deposited with the National Trust. An OASIS form (OASIS ID: ecusltd1-300028) has been initiated and a copy is included within this report as **Appendix 2**.

## 5. References

British Geological Survey 2017. Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [accessed 01/11/2017]

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). 2014. *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.*

National Trust. 2017. *National Trust Archaeological Brief: Archaeological Monitoring during the installation of ducting and fibre cabling, Longshaw Estate, Peak District.*

Palmer J.J.N & Powell-Smith, A. 2017. Open Domesday Available at <http://opendomesday.org/> [accessed 01/11/2017]

Tyler, R. 2016. Longshaw Estate, Hathersage, Derbyshire: Historic Building Record and Assessment. Unpublished Client Report Ref: 2015\_015.v2.

## Appendix 1: List of Contexts

Context Number	Description	Depth (m)
101	Tarmac: Surface running alongside Longshaw Lodge within courtyard	0-0.10
102	Natural: Mid-yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional sandstone inclusions	0.10-0.40+
103	Paving Slabs: Modern paving slabs running alongside former stable block in west of courtyard	0-0.05
104	Made Ground: Light yellowish brown sand and concrete, levelling layer for paving slabs (103)	0.05-0.12
105	Buried Soil: Dark brownish grey clay sand with frequent fine gravel. Only present below paving slabs (103)	0.12-0.23
106	Structure: One course, one skin, roughly squared sandstone blocks aligned east-west. Visible dimensions: 0.75x0.22x0.1	0.18-0.38
107	Cobbles: Sandstone setts covering majority of northern portion of courtyard	0-0.20
108	Floor: York stone flags in former carriage house	0-0.10
109	Foundation Wall: Millstone grit foundations for former carriage house	0-0.25

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS FORM - Print view

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

### OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: ecusltd1-300028

#### Project details

Project name	Longshaw Estate, Peak District
Short description of the project	Ecus Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust to carry out archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the Longshaw Estate, Peak District centred on National Grid Reference 426446, 379908. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the site between 18th September 2017 and 21st September 2017. The groundworks at the site comprised the excavation of a service trench through the courtyard to the north of Longshaw Lodge for the installation of fibre optic cables. The archaeological monitoring resulted in the identification of the foundations of the nineteenth-century carriage house and a sandstone structure of uncertain function. The sandstone structure is likely to be a drainage feature and may predate the buildings within the courtyard as it was aligned on a differing orientation to the courtyard itself. However, the narrow dimensions of the service trench excavated during the groundworks means that a more thorough investigation of this feature was not possible. The general site stratigraphy observed during the archaeological monitoring indicates that the courtyard is likely to have been terraced in the past. The kitchen garden to the southeast of the courtyard is at a significantly higher height above the courtyard whilst the landscape to the west slopes down towards the Burbage Brook. No artefacts were recovered during the archaeological monitoring but it is considered that any terracing is likely to have been associated with the initial construction phases of Longshaw Lodge and its ancillary buildings.
Project dates	Start: 18-09-2017 End: 21-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	10561 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DRAIN Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

1 of 3

15/11/2017, 10:15



OASIS FORM - Print view

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

**Project location**

Country England  
Site location DERBYSHIRE DERBYSHIRE DALES GRINDLEFORD Longshaw Estate  
Postcode S11 7TZ  
Study area 400 Square metres  
Site coordinates SK 426446 379908 52.937301770757 -1.365414363439 52 56 14 N 001 21 55  
W Point.  
Height OD / Depth Min: 325m Max: 325m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation ECUS ltd  
Project brief originator National Trust  
Project design originator ECUS ltd  
Project director/manager James Thomson  
Project supervisor Alex Cassels  
Type of sponsor/funding body National Trust

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient National Trust  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient National Trust  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Report","Plan"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Longshaw Estate, Peak District - Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Cassels, A.  
Other bibliographic details 10561

OASIS FORM - Print view

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

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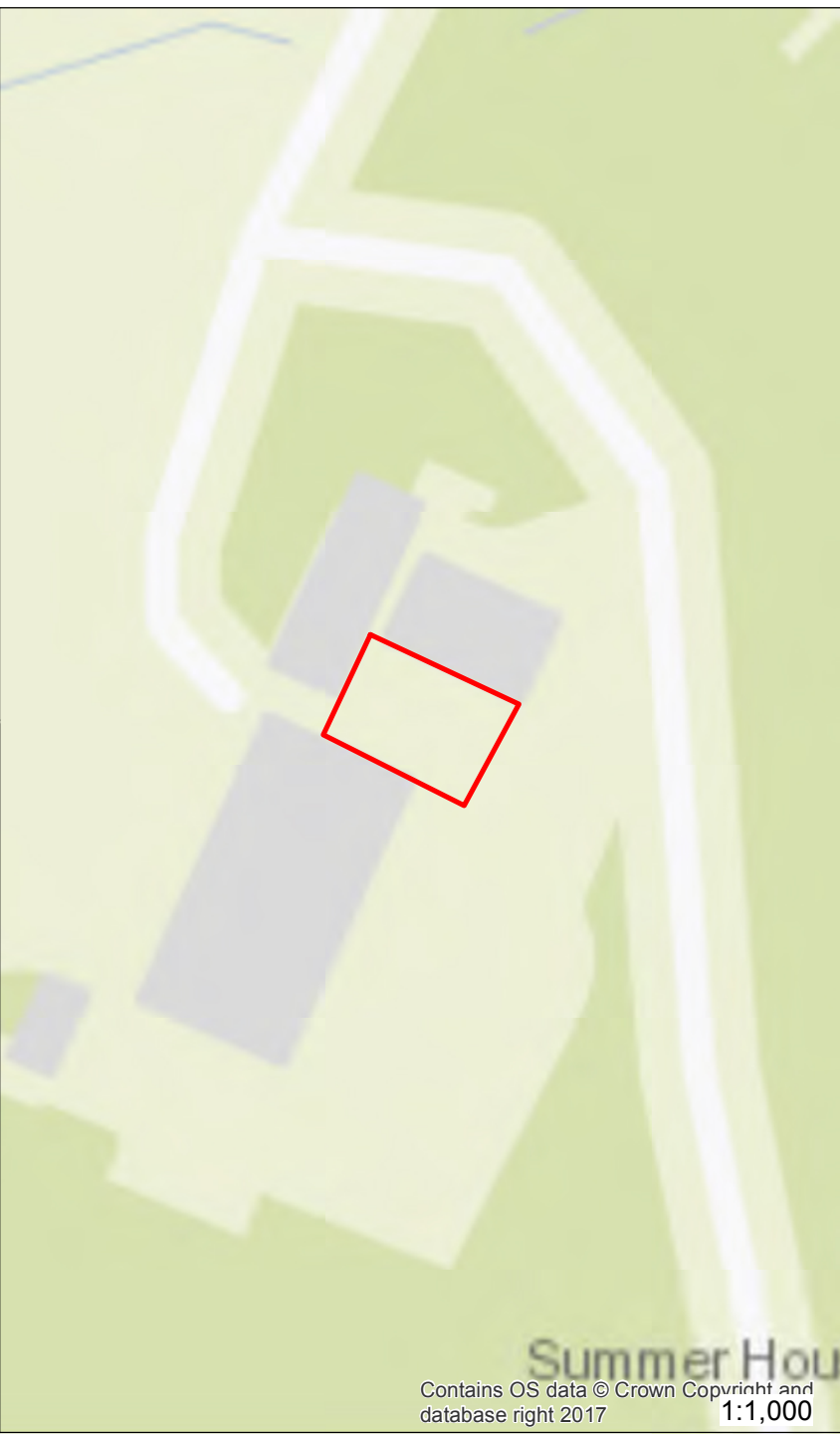
## OASIS:

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## Illustrations



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Site





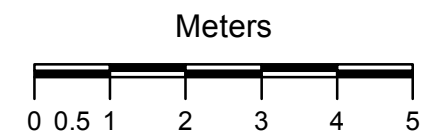
National Trust  
Longshaw Estate, Peak District

Figure 1: Site Location

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**Legend**

-  Trench
-  Sandstone



**National Trust**  
Longshaw Estate, Peak District

**Figure 2: Trench Plan**

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