

# birmingham archaeology



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

33 HIGH STREET  
TUTBURY,  
STAFFORDSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF, 2006.

Checked by

**Supervisor** K. Krawiec date 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006

**Project Manager** M. Hewson date 10<sup>th</sup> September 2006



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**Project No. 1437**

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By

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### **FIGURES**

Figure.1 General location map

Figure.2 Watching brief and development location

**SUMMARY**

*In April and May 2006 an archaeological watching brief was carried out on land to the rear of 33 High Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire (NGR SK 2138 2894). The work was commissioned by Dominic Dillon of Macpherson Dillon Building Contractors in advance of residential development and was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology, following recommendations made by Steve Dean Principal Historic Environment Officer for Staffordshire County Council.*

*The watching brief was carried out during groundworks for the construction of a four-bedroom house. Although a previous watching brief recovered evidence of medieval occupation no features of archaeological significance were observed in any of the foundation trenches on the site.*

## **33 HIGH STREET TUTBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF, 2006.**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

In April and May 2006 Birmingham Archaeology carried out an archaeological watching brief at 33 High Street, Tutbury (hereafter referred to as the site). The work was commissioned by Dominic Dillon of *Macpherson Dillon Building Contractors* in advance of a proposed residential development (Planning Application Number PA/01194/074).

This report outlines the results of the watching brief, which was carried out in May 2006, and which was prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IFA 2001). The watching brief conformed to a brief produced by Staffordshire County Council (Dean 2006) in accordance with guidelines laid down in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990).

### **2 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY**

The site is located in Tutbury, Staffordshire (NGR: SK 2138 2894), on the banks of the River Dove, which forms the boundary with Derbyshire (Fig. 1). Tutbury is located on Gypsum geology (BGS map sheet 140). The site is located close to the town centre at the rear of the High Street, and to the east of Ye Olde Dog and Partridge hotel (Fig.2). The character of the site prior to groundworks was wasteland.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aims of the watching brief were to provide a record of any archaeological deposits or features present below the modern surface which may have been affected by the new development and to provide an understanding of the history and the significance of the archaeology of the site as a whole.

More specific aims were to:

- Monitor all below-ground works
- Record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains affected by the development works.
- Identify all previously unrecorded sites in order to update the SMR.
- Preserve all archaeological deposits 'by record', and conserve for long term conservation and future analysis all artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

#### 4 METHODOLOGY

Foundation trenches for the building were excavated by a mini-digger, fitted with a toothless bucket, to a depth of up to 2.0m. All excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision. Recording was by means of *pro-forma* context and feature cards. Sections, where required were drawn at scales of 1:20 or 1:50 and plans at scale 1:100. Colour print and monochrome photographs were taken and all finds retained by context. The archive is currently stored at the offices of Birmingham Archaeology.

#### 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The historical and archaeological background of the site has been discussed extensively in a desk-based assessment of the locality (Hislop 2003), and will only be briefly summarised here.

The place name Tutbury is of Anglo-Saxon origin and means "Tutta's burg" or Stut's burg" – the fortress of Tutta or Stut (Ekwall 1960). This suggests that the town may have been founded as an Anglo Saxon burh (Palliser 1972, 65).

The Domesday Book of 1086 shows Tutbury, Tamworth and Stafford as the only three boroughs in the county, with Tutbury being the only place in the county with a market (Palliser and Pinnock 1971, 51). This market probably dated from 1066 - 1085, having been set up to serve the castle which is recorded in the Domesday Book. The castle, established by William the Conqueror was the *caput*, or administrative centre, of the Honour of Tutbury.

A new borough was founded at Tutbury by Robert de Ferrers I, Earl of Derby (d.1139). Burgage tenure is mentioned there in 1141 and c.1150, with further extensions being planned in 1150 and 1159 (Palliser 1972, 69). The quarrying of alabaster, had begun at Tutbury in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century large-scale extraction was taking place in open pits, and the area became one of the main sources of the material. The stone was popular in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries for funerary monuments and altar screen panels. Quarrying continued up until the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Sherlock 1976, 100). By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, however, the main business of the town was wool combing, and cotton work had also recently been established "on an extensive scale" at a large mill powered by the Dove (Jackson 1796, 55).

Glass-making had also begun at Tutbury by 1810. Initially the Tutbury Glass Co. produced plain and cut-glass material, whilst by 1868 flint-glass was being made at the Castle Glassworks (Sherlock 1976, 230).

The medieval phase of the town is likely to have been characterised by street frontage properties with burgage plots extending to the rear, and these were documented in the town in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Dean 2006). Activity within burgage plots often related to industrial processes of the time, including butchery, tanning and metalworking (*ibid.*). Such activity, together with domestic waste materials, is often recorded in the form of backfilled pits.

To the northwest of the site, a previous watching brief, relating to an earlier phase of groundworks, recorded a possible boundary ditch associated with two sherds of 14<sup>th</sup> century medieval pottery (Martin 2004). Previous archaeological work to the north,

to the rear of Cornmill Lane, has also recorded pits and layers with 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century medieval pottery and animal bone (Bain 2004).

## **6 RESULTS**

The foundation trenches for the house were 0.80-1.0m wide and between 1.6 and 2.0m deep. No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trenches when viewed in section or in plan. The trenches exposed natural red clay (1002), overlain by a thin layer of orange-brown silty clay subsoil (1001) 0.1m thick, sealed by a layer of topsoil, (1000), up to 0.65m thick. The topsoil was at its deepest towards the north of the site due to the direction and nature of the natural slope of the ground.

## **7 DISCUSSION**

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, no features of archaeological significance were observed during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the house. There was also nothing to suggest the features noted in the earlier watching brief (Martin 2004) continued into this area. It is possible that the site lies beyond areas of former occupation to the rear of the High Street.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The project was commissioned by Dominic Dillon of Macpherson Dillon Building Contractors. Thanks are due to Dominic Dillon for his co-operation and assistance throughout the project. The watching brief was undertaken by Erica Macey-Bracken, Mark Charles and Kristina Krawiec who produced the written report which was illustrated by Nigel Dodds, and edited by John Halsted. Mark Hewson managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology.

### **CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

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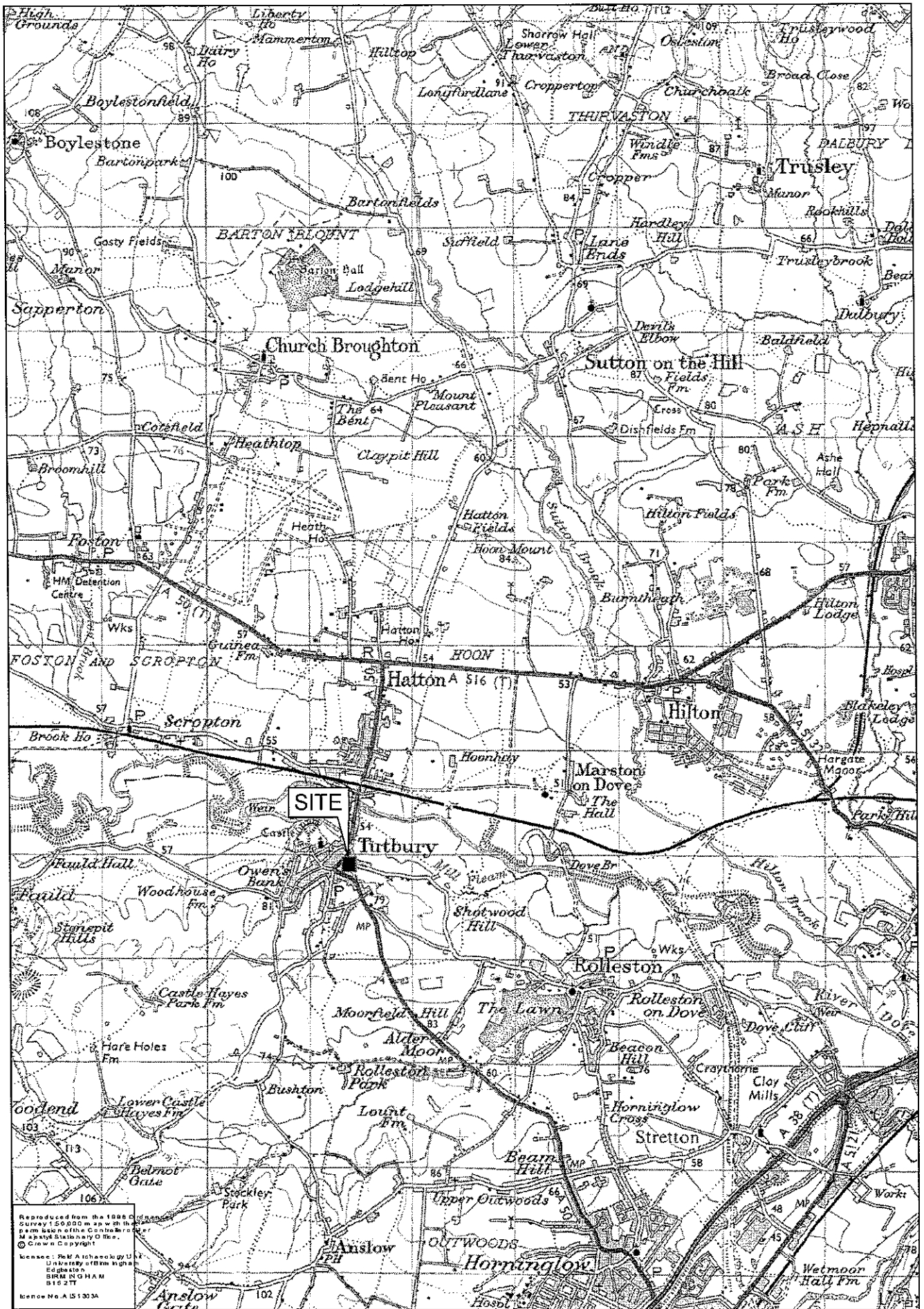


Fig.1



Fig.2