



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

The Coach House, The Street, Horsley, Stroud, GL6 0PU

24 May 2021

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Project Site: The Coach House, The Street, Horsley, Stroud, GL6 0PU
National Grid Ref: ST 83820 98088 / 383820, 198088
Client: Flint Construction
Planning authority: Stroud District Council
Planning reference: 19/1290/FUL
Collecting Museum: Museum in the Park, Stroud
Accession Number: Not currently collecting

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Summary

This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in conjunction with the erection of 3 new dwellings with associated access and parking on land belonging to The Coach House, The Street, Horsley, Stroud (Stroud District Council Planning Ref 19/1290/FUL).

It is noted that the above planning reference also covers permission for the erection of a new garage to serve the existing house known as Forres, to the northwest of the site. This programme of work relates to the southeast portion of the Project Site only, within the ownership of Mr Ian Flint and covers groundwork relating to the development of the 3 new dwellings. Land to the northwest is under separate ownership and is not included in this report.

The results of the monitoring were negative, with made ground sealing truncated natural deposits. The archaeological potential of the Project Site has been greatly reduced by the development of the land for industrial purposes in the 20th century. No evidence of historic land use was preserved.

Land to the northwest of the Project Site is beyond the boundary of the former garage and has the potential to preserve archaeological activity relating to historic roadside development, however it is noted that this area was also developed with a private garage in the 20th century which is likely to have had a detrimental impact on any significant deposits.

No further investigation or recording is recommended in line with the development to the southwest of the Project Site.

The potential of the northwest portion of the site to preserve archaeology has not yet been tested.

Acknowledgements

HPS would like to thank Ian Flint, Flint Construction for commissioning the project, and Helen Page, W H Architects for her help with arranging the programme of monitoring. HPS are also grateful to Rachel Foster, Gloucester County Council Archaeologist, for her help and advice throughout.



1. Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1. This document sets out the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording in conjunction with the erection of 3 new dwellings with associated access and parking on land belonging to The Coach House, The Street, Horsley, Stroud (Stroud District Council Planning Ref 19/1290/FUL).
- 1.2. It is noted that the above planning reference also covers permission for the erection of a new garage to serve the existing house known as Forres, to the northwest of the site. This programme of work relates to the southeast portion of the Project Site only, within the ownership of Mr Ian Flint and covers groundwork relating to the development of the 3 new dwellings. Land to the northwest is under separate ownership and is not included in this report.
- 1.3. The programme of work was required in order to satisfy Condition 13 of the planning permission, which states:

"No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason:

It is important to agree a programme of archaeological work in advance of the commencement of development, so as to make provision for the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains that may be destroyed by ground works required for the scheme. The archaeological programme will advance understanding of any heritage assets which will be lost, in accordance with paragraph 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework."

- 1.4. The programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in conjunction with all significant groundwork, including landscaping and service trenching.



1.5. This project was completed under reference HPS-376/21.

The Project Site

1.6. The Project Site is situated in the Gloucestershire village of Horsley, 1.7 km to the southwest of Nailsworth. The plot accessed north off The Street (B4058), the main thoroughfare through the village.

1.7. The development area was redeveloped c. 1970 and comprises a mixture of hard standing areas and coach maintenance sheds with inspection pits, to the east. The west portion of the Project Site was occupied by offices (Packman 2019). The site was formerly in use as a small petrol filling station; however, the tanks are reputed to have been removed 20 years ago.

1.8. Geologically the Project Site is defined by Fuller's Earth Formation – Mudstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 166 to 168 million years ago in the Jurassic Period (BGS 2021). No superficial deposits are recorded.

1.9. The site is located on high ground, dropping from c. 135 m aOD to 133 aOD west to east.



Figure 1 Detailed Project Site location, with red line boundary relating to Stroud District Council planning consent 19/1290/FUL shown. The Project Site is Centred on ST 83820 98088 and covers land to the southeast of the red line boundary only (shaded in green).

2. Archaeological & Historic Background

- 2.1. This information is derived from the Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (Know Your Place), the National Mapping Programme, Portable Antiquities Scheme and designated heritage assets from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE).
- 2.2. The Project site is situated close to the postulated site of the early settlement of Horsley and 50 m to the north of the Grade II* Parish church of St. Martin, which preserves structural evidence dating from the 15th century and is believed to be sited on the plot of an earlier church, recorded in 1105 (Baggs et al 1976). Settlement of the village is believed to have focussed around the crossroads, 50 m to the east of the Project Site, which may also have been the site of the Medieval market (ibid).
- 2.3. In the 18th and 19th centuries development spread west along The Street, towards Nupend, incorporating land belonging to the Project Site.
- 2.4. The earliest available map at the time of writing was the Tithe Map of Horsley dated 1841. There is a notable lack of development recorded in the region of the Project Site and



crossroads to the east. However, an example of 17th century development survives on the crossroads today, listed as Grade II house and shop with 19th century additions. Therefore, it is likely that further development in this area was omitted from the map, and it is possible that the Project site was developed at this time.

- 2.5. By the time of the survey for the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map in 1881 there is evidence of a small building to the east of the Project Site, which may be located just outside or partially within the development area, and a larger building set back from the road, to the west. The use of the buildings is not recorded, but the scale suggests a roadside dwelling to the east and a building of possible commercial / community use to the west. A range of buildings had also been developed to the west of the plot, including a Post Office and dwellings (just beyond the red line boundary). Records of the Post Office can be traced to 1873 (Source Stroud Journal - Saturday 01 March 1873) confirming development in the area from at least the 1870's.
- 2.6. The building on the western portion of the Project Site was extended between 1901 and 1919.
- 2.7. By the 1970s three large buildings are indicated on the Project Site, set back from the road. These are likely to be partially preserved by the current site layout. The Project Site was also used as a small-scale petrol station at some point in the 20th century. The subterranean tanks were located to the west of the plot and are reputed to have been removed 20 years ago (Packman 2019).

3. Aims and Objectives

- 3.1. The aims of the Monitoring and Recording, as defined in the CIfA' Standard and guidance for an archaeological Watching Brief (CIfA 2020) were:
- *To allow for the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be ascertained in advance of the development;*
 - *To provide the opportunity, if required, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and*



- *To inform a mitigation strategy allowing for a programme of recording appropriate to the significance of such deposits.*

3.2. The objectives of the Monitoring and Recording were:

- *To determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the Project Site.*
- *To establish and record the extent, character, date, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological remains, to an appropriate level and within the constraints of the Project Site.*
- *To place identified archaeological remains within the wider historical and archaeological context in order to establish their significance; and*
- *To prepare an archaeological report detailing the results of the programme of Monitoring and Recording.*

Service location and other constraints

3.3. There were no constraints in relation to below/above-ground services or ecological and environmental matters.

Recording

3.4. A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels.

4. Results

4.1. Groundwork was monitored on two separate occasions on the 29th February and 11th March 2021.

4.2. Excavation revealed between 0.4 m – 0.6 m of made ground and services sealed by 0.2 m of concrete and hardstanding across the site. The made ground comprised hardcore and broken brick overlying truncated natural deposits.

4.3. Land to the southeast of the Project Site was seen to be heavily disturbed by the removal of large subterranean tanks from the area of the garage.



- 4.4. Land to the northwest of the development area revealed similar truncated natural deposits overlain by 0.4 m of hardcore, sealed beneath a thin concrete surface, c. 0.15 m in depth.
- 4.5. The upper stratigraphy of the site was seen to comprise natural geological deposits, the topsoil and subsoil have been truncated in line with the previous development of the site.
- 4.6. No archaeological features, layers or deposits were identified as a result of the monitoring and no finds were recovered from the area of excavation, or spoil which was monitored throughout.

5. Summary & Conclusion

- 5.1. The results of the monitoring were negative. The archaeological potential of the Project Site has been greatly reduced by the development of the land for industrial purposes in the 20th century. No evidence of historic land use was preserved.
- 5.2. Land to the northwest of the Project Site is beyond the boundary of the former garage and has the potential to preserve archaeological activity relating to historic roadside development, however it is noted that this area was also developed with a private garage in the 20th century which is likely to have had a detrimental impact on any significant deposits.
- 5.3. No further investigation or recording is recommended in line with the development to the southwest of the Project Site.
- 5.4. The potential of the northwest portion of the site to preserve archaeology has not yet been tested.

6. Oasis

- 6.1. An OASIS online record has been created with key fields completed. The record will be completed at the end of the project. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant records.



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9. Appendices

Appendix 1 Site Photographs



Photo 1 Southeast facing view of excavation to the southeast of the Project Site, in the location of one of the removed attenuation tanks. Scale 1 x 2 m.



Photo 2 Northeast facing view of foundation trench to the southeast of the Project Site. Scale 1 x 2m.



Photo 3 Southeast facing view of foundation trench with made ground sealing truncated natural. Scale 1 x 2 m.



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