



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Watching  
Brief at the Manor House,  
19 Main Street, Snarestone,  
Swadlincote Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 7198 2121**

**Wayne Jarvis**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Manor House, 19 Main  
Street, Snarestone, Swadlincote Leicestershire**

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**For: Mr & Mrs M. Harrison**

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# **An Archaeological Watching Brief at the Manor House, 19 Main Street, Snarestone, Swadlincote Leicestershire**

**Wayne Jarvis**

## **Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at the Manor House, 19 Main Street, Snarestone, Swadlincote (NGR: SK 7198 2121). The work was undertaken as part of an archaeological impact assessment in advance of a proposed development, a single storey building extension. No significant archaeological features were identified, with only a probable modern pit being exposed. Additionally, a single worked flint was recovered from an unstratified context. The Planning authority is North-west Leicestershire District Council (Planning application No. 10/00951/FUL), and the site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, with the accession no. XA91.2011.*

## **1. Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by ULAS on land at the Manor House, 19 Main Street, Snarestone, Swadlincote (NGR: SK 7198 2121). This was undertaken during the major groundworks for a single storey extension to the standing buildings. This work was required in order to assess the nature, extent, date and significance of any archaeological deposits which might be present. This report presents the results of this work, and the work was carried out on behalf of Mr. And Mrs. M. Harrison of the Manor House.

## **2. Site Description, Land use, Topography and Geology**

The proposed development site lies immediately to the north-east of the Manor House, 19 Main Street, Snarestone, Swadlincote (NGR: SK 7198 2121). The Manor House is within though somewhat to the east of the historic core of Snarestone village, a village with pre-Domesday origins.

Historically the area of land for development was used as an orchard (Mrs. Harrison pers. comm.), and the layout of the ground around the Manor House building suggests that this was originally a walled garden area. The application area comprised a lawned and hard-standing area prior to groundworks, and is bounded to the north by a fenced tennis court, to the south by a copse of mature conifers, and to the east by the site boundary with Quarry Lane. Access in to site is from the latter.

The Geological survey of Great Britain shows the underlying geology to be sandstone and mudstone/siltstone (Tarporey Siltstone Formation). The site lies at a height of c.100m aOD, with the site location being on a slight crest overlooking Main Street to the south.





Figure 1: Site Location.

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### 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest. The Manor House is a Grade II listed building dating from the late 18th century (LB 1124/31/6/80, HER MLE10960) and is situated within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Snarestone (MLE 6002). Consequently there is a likelihood that buried archaeological remains might be affected by the development. Additionally, archaeological records of earlier date have been made within the site vicinity (Meek 2006). The latter records include worked flint of Mesolithic and later date to the west of Measham (MLE7663, SK 322 119), probable Iron Age enclosures to the west of Snarestone (MLE4257, SK 330 097; MLE4269, SK 325 108), and Roman activity is also known c.2km to the north of site (MLE8996, SK 345 117)

### 4. Aims and Objectives

An application has been made for an extension to the Manor House in the form of a single storey structure here to comprise garages and stores and ancillary services to

these buildings (Planning application No. 10/00951/FUL). Following Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) Policy HE6, LCC HNET as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken.

The purpose of the archaeological work may be summarised as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## 5. Methodology

The work followed the approved design specification (Score 2011) and adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

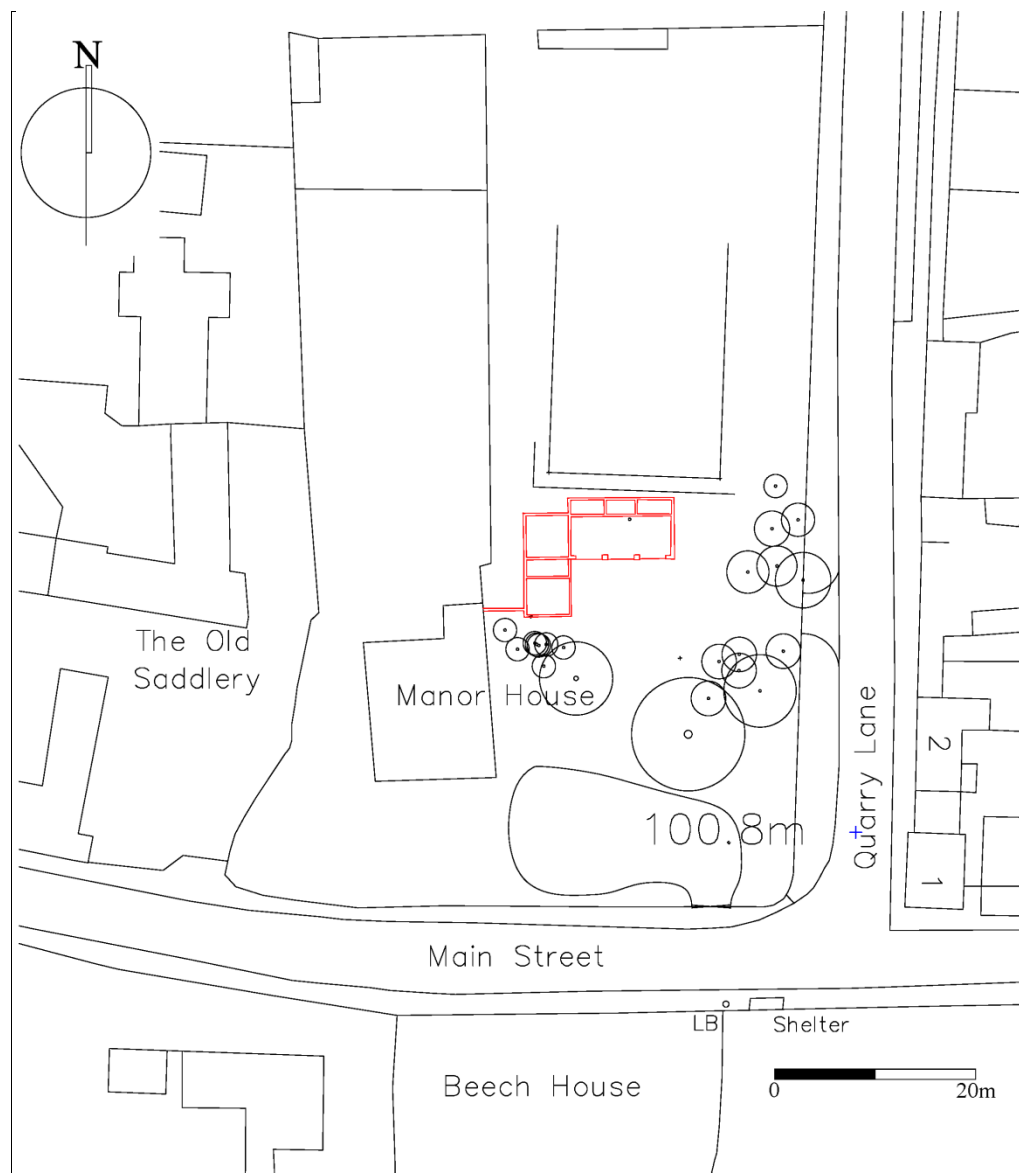


Figure 2: General location of site.



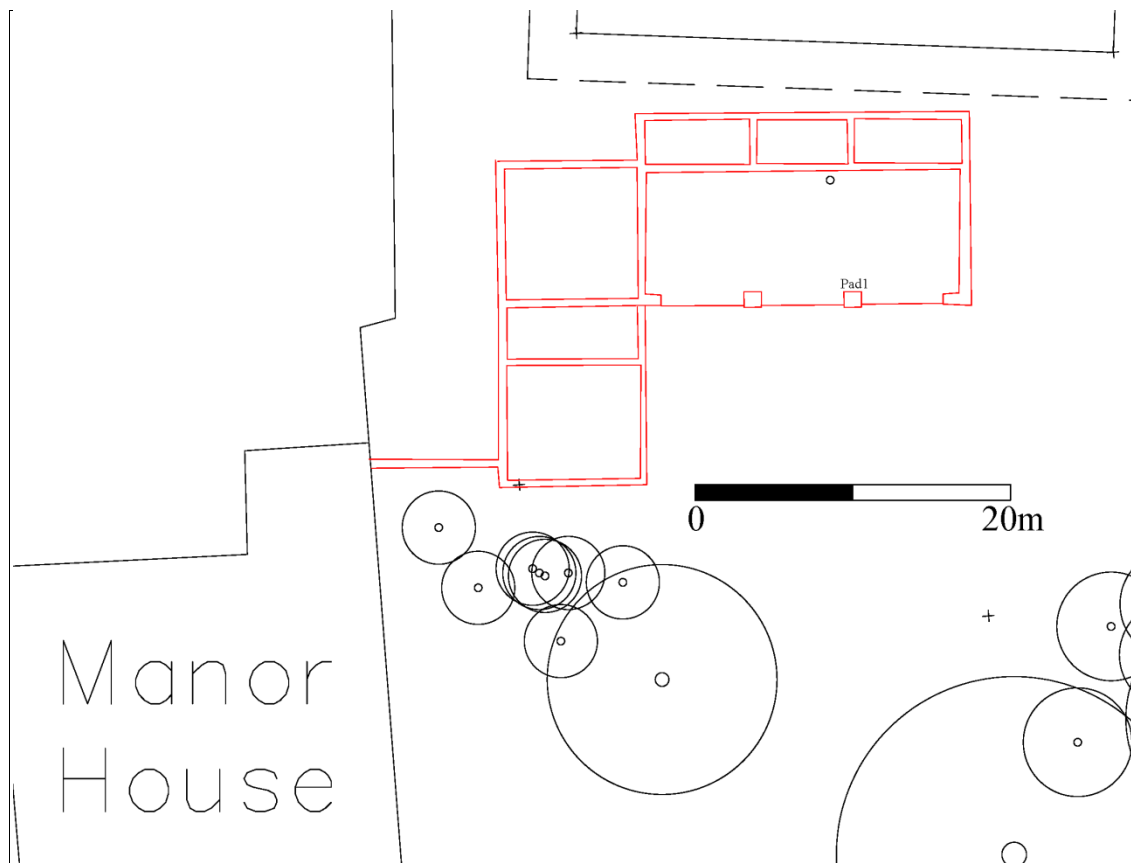


Figure 3: Developer foundation plan.



Figure 4: General view of site during initial topsoiling work, looking west.



Figure 5: Footings being excavated in the south-west of the site, showing occasional outcrops of solid bedrock (foreground).

## 6. Results

Initially the site area was stripped of topsoil, a depth of between 0.15m and 0.25m (Fig. 4). The topsoil consisted of a mid grey brown loam, quite clean of occupation material. Below this was a subsoil some 0.2m deep, a pebbly light orangey brown loamy clay. This had occasional modern building materials in (therefore not retained), along with flecks of coal and charcoal. Below this the natural consisted of a red clay, with occasional blue streaks, and patches of pale sand and gravel. Rare strata of in situ sandstone bedrock were also exposed, concentrated more towards the north-east of site. The footings were excavated through these deposits, and to a depth of 1.0m below the original ground level (Fig. 5). The ground followed the same patterned outlined above across the whole plot, with two exceptions. In the far south-east corner of the footings a 1m long strip of hardcore could be seen sitting on a buried topsoil of modern date, clearly where the hard standing had been levelled onto an unstripped area in the recent past. To the east of this, in the first pad foundation (see Fig. 3, 'Pad1') a possible pit was identified in the western sector of this footing. This had no continuation in the footings around this area so was an isolated discrete feature. It consisted of a bowl shaped pit-like cut 0.45m deep (from natural ground level) and perhaps 1.3m across, with a fill the same as the overlying subsoil and also containing very occasional charcoal and coal fragments (Fig. 6). It is more than likely this is also modern in origin – as indicated by the coal-rich fill being the same as the subsoil. No other features or finds of archaeological significance were identified during the watching brief. A single flint was recovered from the topsoil heap, a retouched flake tool, but this is most likely an isolated 'stray' find.





Figure 6: Possible pit-like feature in foundation pad 1, cf. Fig. 3. Looking south-east.

## 7. Conclusions

The watching brief did not identify any significant deposits or artefacts. The ground exposed indicates very little activity in this area of site, and it does seem likely that this area was undeveloped and probably a garden plot historically. A single worked flint indicates nothing more than a 'background noise' or chance loss in the past.

## 8. Archive

The site archive will be held by LCC HNET, with the accession no. XA91.2011.

The archive contains:

- 1 A4 watching brief recording sheet
- 1 A4 drawing sheet (permatrace)
- Unbound copy of this report
- CD containing digital photographs
- Thumbnail print of digital photographs
- 35mm black and white contact sheet and negatives (11 photographs)

The report is listed on the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. Available at: <http://oasis.ac.uk/>

ID	OASIS entry summary
Project Name	Manor Ho, Snarestone
Summary	A watching brief was carried at the Manor House
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Wayne Jarvis
Previous/Future work	No
Current Land Use	Lawned/hard standing
Development Type	Garages/stores
Reason for Investigation	PPS5

Position in the Planning Process	Post-application
Site Co ordinates	SK 7198 2121
Start/end dates of field work	28/06/2011-29/06/2011
Archive Recipient	LCC HNET
Study Area	150m2
Associated project reference codes	Museum accession XA91.2011 OASIS form ID: universi1-104931

## 9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record* in due course. The report has been added to the Archaeology Data Service's (ADS) Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database held by the University of York.

## 10. Bibliography

- Meek, J., 2006 *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for the Ashby Canal Restoration Project*, ULAS Report No. 2006-049
- Score, V., 2011 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work: archaeological attendance for inspection and recording (watching brief) Manor House, 19 Main Street, Snarestone, Swadlincote Leicestershire, SK71982121*, ULAS Report

## 11. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was funded by Mr & Mrs M. Harrison of the Manor House and was carried out by Wayne Jarvis, of ULAS. Vicki Score managed the project.

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06/07/2011

## Appendix I: The Finds

### *Prehistoric Flint* by Lynden Cooper

A single piece of worked flint was recovered, a retouched and possibly reused scraper on a potlid fracture. The flint was probably originally derived from the local glacial till deposits and likely has a broad later prehistoric (Neolithic to Bronze Age) date.

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