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An archaeological watching brief during
ground-works at
The Old Greyhound Inn.
Main Street,
Aslockton,
Nottinghamshire
(SK 74161 40022)

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Shean



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**An archaeological watching brief
During ground-works at
The Old Greyhound Inn, Main Street,
Aslockton, Nottinghamshire. NG13 9AB.
(SK 74161 40022)**

Chloe Cronogue-Freeman and Cathryn Shean

for
Waters Homes
Planning application number: 14/00002/FUL

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at The Greyhound Public House, Main Street, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire (SK 74161 40022).

The public house is situated on the main road of Aslockton within site of the railway station. The site is due to be developed into housing including renovating the Old Greyhound Inn, which is a Grade II listed building.

The stripping of the topsoil recorded only modern features associated with the redevelopment of the Inn and development of the stables in the 19th Century. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during either the stripping or the foundation/service trenches. Only post-medieval finds were recovered from the spoil.

The site code OGA2014 was used to identify the records.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Waters Homes to carry out an archaeological watching brief on the site of The Old Greyhound Inn, Main Street, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire.

The work has been undertaken in accordance with NPPF section 12 Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment to provide a record of any archaeological remains on the site of The Old Greyhound Inn and addresses the requirements from Rushcliffe Borough Council for a scheme of work comprising archaeological observation, investigation, recording, analysis and publication as set out in Condition 6 of the consented application (14/00002/FUL).

The site lies on the main road of Aslockton where there is currently a shop with a post office, a pub and a hairdresser. The train station is a few minutes' walk from the Inn. The archaeological investigation is associated with the residential development at the former Old Greyhound Inn Public House, Main Street, Aslockton. This includes internal and external alterations to the former public house and outbuildings, the erection of 6 new dwellings and garages on the former public house car park and garden area and associated works.

Recording of the old public house has already been undertaken and archaeological mitigation in the form of an archaeological observation, investigation and recording was requested by the Planning Archaeologist at Nottingham County Council (NCC) as advisor to the planning authority. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to and approved by the Planning Archaeologist, NCC prior to the work starting (ULAS 2013).

Location and Geology

Aslockton is a small village that lies approximately 12 miles east of Nottingham (Fig1). The site of the Old Greyhound Inn is situated on the corner of Main Street and Abbey Lane, which is within the Aslockton Conservation area (SK 74161 40022; Fig 2). The site is rectangular in plan; approximately 3052m² and is generally level.

The Old Greyhound Inn, the coach house & stables and the remains of the car park face Main Street to the east. The north side of the site is surrounded by gardens from houses on Dawns Lane. The southern end of the site is blocked from Abbey Lane by a fence and a hedgerow. The west of the site is next to some modern stables and a garden and house on Abbey lane.

The British Geological Survey mapping indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Branscombe Mudstone Formation and the superficial geology, sand and gravel river terrace deposits with a band of Alluvium to the south (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

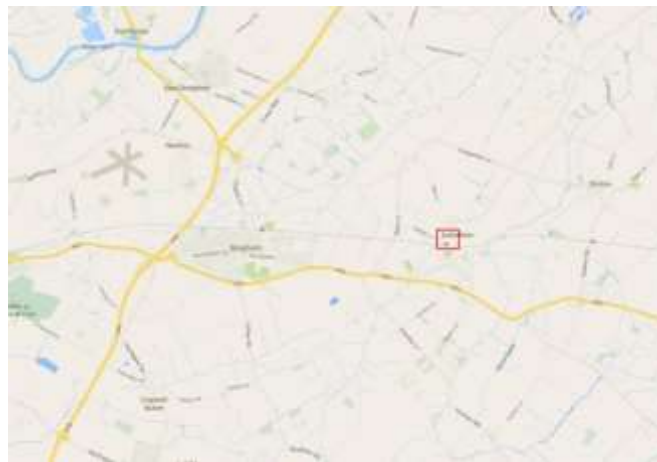


Figure 1: General location plan of Aslockton



Figure 2: Detailed location plan of the site (provided by client)

Historical and Archaeological Background

Aslockton is first recorded in the Domesday Book in the 11th century and contains the remains of a 12th century motte and bailey castle, which is a Scheduled Monument. The motte is locally known as Cranmer's Mound due to the association with Thomas Cranmer who was born in the village in 1489 and later became Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Henry VIII.

The inn and the coach house and stables are a Grade II listed building because it is an 18th century building with the front range dating to the 19th century with some 20th century renovations. The coach and stable house is also dated to the 19th century which brickwork matches the front of the Inn.

The whole of the north side of Aslockton lies above a large Iron Age/Romano-British settlement where crop marks are associated with enclosures, boundary ditches as well as other features.

The majority of the Heritage Environment entries for the village itself are of medieval and post-medieval buildings, however there is some suggestion from the earthworks to the west of the village suggesting an earlier settlement. There are ridge and furrow earthworks to the south-east of the site.

Archaeological Objectives

The main objective was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth and significance of the heritage assets within their regional and local context.

The aims of the watching brief were:

- 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 establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To produce an archive and report any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2012) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

Archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project involved the observation of ground works by an experienced professional archaeologist. The work consisted of removal of topsoil across the site and excavating further for the foundation and service trenches for the houses .

The soils were removed using a Bobcat E80 Compact Excavator with a toothless bucket.

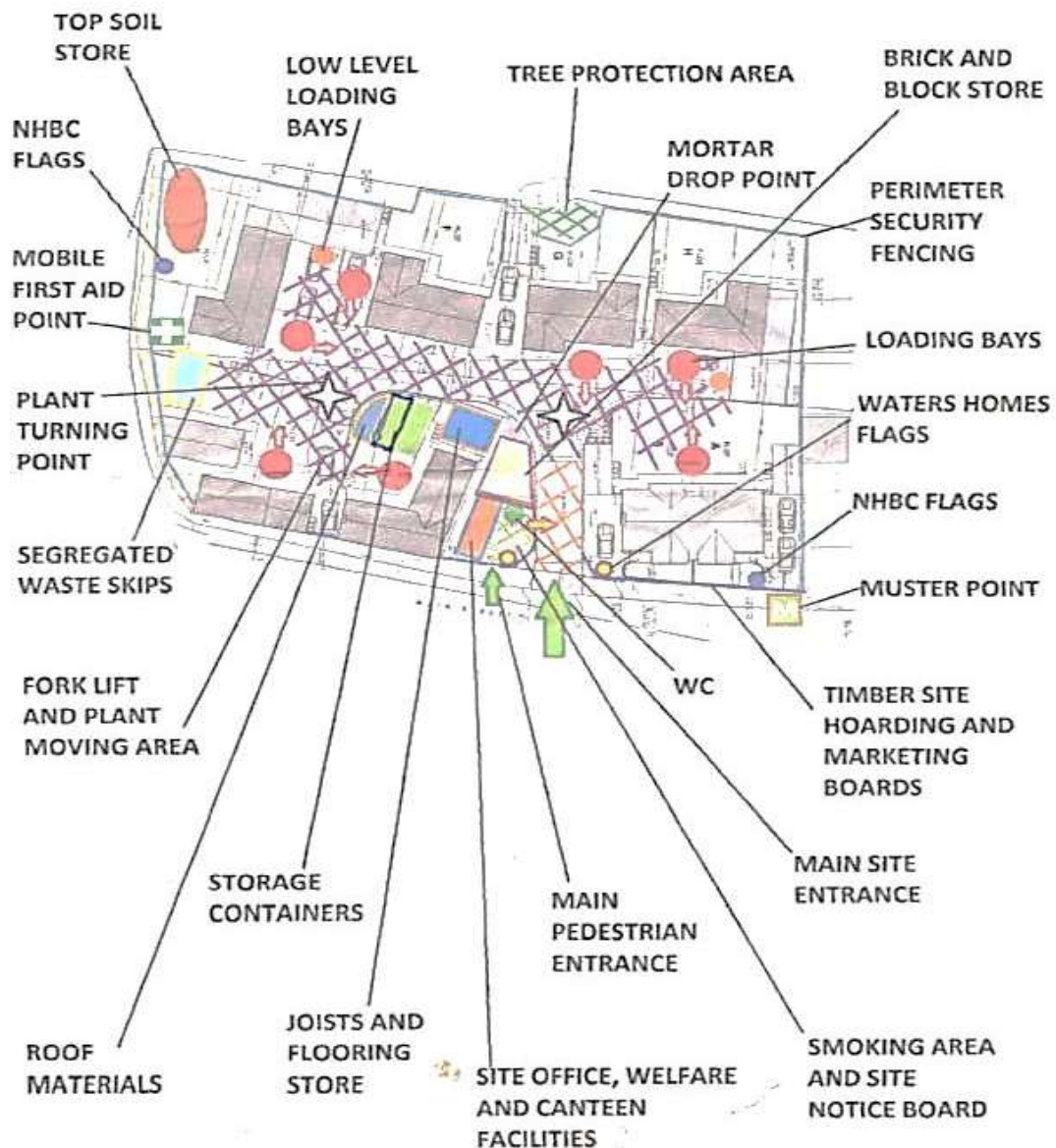


Figure 3: Detailed of the proposed site, west to top (provided by client)

Results

An archaeologist visited the site on the 17th, 20th- 22nd, 29th and 31st of October and 3rd and 6th of November 2014 where ground works on behalf of the new development were undertaken and observed.

Between 20th - 22nd October 2014 the topsoil was stripped to a depth ranging from 30-50cm deep. Unstratified modern (1750-2000) material was discovered such as bricks, clay pipe pieces, broken glass, iron nails and pottery/ceramic sherds. The pottery included pancheon ware, salt glazed pottery and decorated Victorian pottery. Fragments of Victorian bottle glass and animal bone were also found along with a moulded pewter button (see below).

The topsoil was consistently dark brown silty-clay approximately 18cm. Beneath this, the subsoil was a mid brown clay-silt, which contained consistent spreads of charcoal throughout as well as modern debris (Fig. 4).



Figure 4: The northern area after topsoil stripping.

Within the subsoil, areas of disturbance were noted. These included modern rubble and areas of burning and 20th century deposits containing broken glass bottles and ceramics as well as animal bone. One shallow modern charcoal filled feature included a cattle pelvis which showed evidence of being cut with a saw.

The foundation trenches were between *c.* 0.92-1.2m deep and 0.8m wide. The stratigraphy comprised disturbed subsoil overlying the modern red and pale grey natural mudstone clay.

Close to the pub, modern make-up layers for the building and the car park were identified (Fig. 7).



Figure 5: General stratigraphy of the site looking south-east.

There was no archaeological evidence visible in the majority of the trenches. However, in Plot F directly behind the existing pub, a pit or ditch was visible in the section at the east of the trenches, small lumps of charcoal were present in the fill, which were sampled. There were no finds in the feature, however the feature was cut through a modern deposit containing glass and brick.



Figure 6: Modern pit/ditch in Plot F looking east.



Figure 7: General view of foundation trenches looking south towards the pub and showing make-up layers.

The Finds- Deborah Sawday

Pottery

The pottery, 31 sherds, weighing 1.059 kg., was listed with reference to the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989, Davies and Sawday 1999). The results are shown below (Table 1).

All of the material came from unstratified contexts, and only that thought to be possibly contemporary with the demolished 18th and 19th century outbuildings adjacent to the former Greyhound Inn, was retained for future reference. This small assemblage of twelve sherds, weighing 770 grams, included a wide mouthed bowl or pancheon in coarse black glazed earthenware. Another black glazed ware, a fine Jackfield type, was painted with flowers over the glaze. The Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware included the profile of an oval shallow dish or bowl with a pale blue wash on the interior; another fragment, probably from a jar, had an impressed band of decoration around the body, and was probably a Nottingham or Derby product. A dish in Fine White Earthenware was transfer printed blue and white under the glaze with an Asiatic pheasant design, which was common throughout the Victorian era; this particular example dates from c.1838.

Miscellaneous Finds

Fragments of Victorian bottle glass and animal bone were also found in unstratified contexts and discarded. Another unstratified find was a moulded pewter button with two button-holes. This relatively unusual item is thought to be contemporary with the pottery described above, and has been retained.

Table 1: The finds by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/ware	no	grams	Comments
POTTERY				
U/S	Cream ware	1	3	Yellow glazed abraded fragment – mid- later 18 th - 19 th C.
U/S	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	132	Profile shallow bowl/dish brown glazed externally, pale blue wash internally, 18 th - 19 th C.
U/S	Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	29	Machine decorated – possibly Nottingham or Derby 18 th – early 19 th C.
U/S	Stoneware	1	47	Basal angle fragment, 18 th - 19 th C..
U/S	Black ware	2	143	Abraded base – slipped and glazed internally – 18 th -19 th C.
U/S	Black ware	1	155	Wide mouthed bowl/pancheon rim, slipped & glazed internally – 18 th - 19 th C.
U/S	Black ware/Jackfield type	2	30	Painted decoration over glaze – possibly 18 th or 19 th C.
U/S	Fine White Earthenware	1	118	Dish - transfer printed blue & white under glaze, Asiatic pheasant pattern – most common from c.1838
U/S	Fine White Earthenware	2	113	Jar base – wheel thrown with moulded decoration – 19 th C.
U/S	Fine White Earthenware/China	9	94	Transfer printed blue & white under glaze – willow pattern design modern - discarded
U/S	Fine White Earthenware/China	1	25	Transfer printed green & white under glaze – modern - discarded
U/S	Fine White Earthenware/China	5	148	Misc. undecorated sherds – discarded.
U/S	Fine White Earthenware/China	1	5	Painted blue & white under glaze – modern - discarded
U/S	Fine White Earthenware/China	1	5	Painted blue & white under glaze – modern – discarded.

U/S	Earthenware	1	7	Flower pot rim – modern - discarded
U/S	Earthenware	1	5	Body – modern discarded
MISCELLANEOUS				
U/S	Pewter	1		Button – 18 th -19 th C.
U/S	Bottle Glass	7		Rim & base fragments of minimum three Victorian bottles – discarded.
U/S	Animal Bone	7		discarded

Conclusion

No evidence for archaeological deposits dating earlier than the post-medieval period was recorded during the watching brief, despite the medieval date of the village and much of the site seems to have been disturbed by the building of the public house and associated car park. The unstratified pottery recovered from the site dates from the 18th – 19th Century, contemporary with the stables and public house.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Richard Smith (site manager) for his co-operation during the watching brief.

Archive and OASIS

The archive for this project comprises recording sheets and digital photographs and will be held by ULAS under the Site Code: **OGA.2014**. The unstratified finds were recorded but not retained.

The report has been 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/> The OASIS ID is universi1-220469.

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