



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For The Coach House, Langton Hall,
West Langton, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP71539 93060

Kim Sidwell-Smith



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West Langton,
Leicestershire NGR SP71539 93060**

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**For:
Mr and Mrs J. Holdin**

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Summary

An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at The Coach House, Langton Hall, West Langton, Leicestershire NGR SP71539 93060 during groundworks associated with the erection of a single story extension. The Coach House forms part of the mid-18th century stable block and lies within the Registered gardens and therefore had potential to contain buried archaeological remains. Modern disturbance within the subsoil was noted on site, attributed to the laying of utilities pipes and cables. The work produced no evidence relating to the former medieval settlement, the construction of the Hall or its predecessor, and/or early garden features. The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under the Accession Number X.A123 2015.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by ULAS in November 2015 on land at the Coach House, Langton Hall, West Langton, Leicestershire (NGR: SP71539 93060; Fig. 1). Harborough District Council has granted permission for the erection of a single story extension (PA: 15/00827/FUL & 15/00828/LBC), subject to an archaeological condition. The location of the site within the mid-18th century stable block and Registered gardens indicates that buried archaeological remains could be affected by the development. Archaeological attendance (watching brief) was therefore required by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, in their capacity as advisor to the planning authority, in order to identify and record any structural or archaeological remains of significance that might exist.

2. Topography and Geology

West Langton lies west of the villages of Church Langton and East Langton and 4km east of Kibworth Beauchamp on a low ridge. The site is within the estate of Langton Hall, which is bordered to the south by West Langton Road. The British Geological Survey (GBS) identifies the bedrock as Dyrham Formation Siltstone and Mudstone and Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone, overlain with Diamicton Till.

3. Background

The West Langton Hall estate was put together in the late 16th century and the Hall was rebuilt in the early 17th century. West Langton Hall (Grade II Listed) was constructed on the site of the former medieval village of West Langton (HER ref: MLE2619), the earthwork remains of which still survive within the gardens and park.

The Coach House forms part of the mid-18th century stable block (Grade II Listed) which was converted for residential use in the 1990's. The application site lies within the Registered gardens and it is considered likely that the application site contains below-ground archaeological remains relating to the former medieval settlement, the construction of the Hall or its predecessor, and/or early garden features.

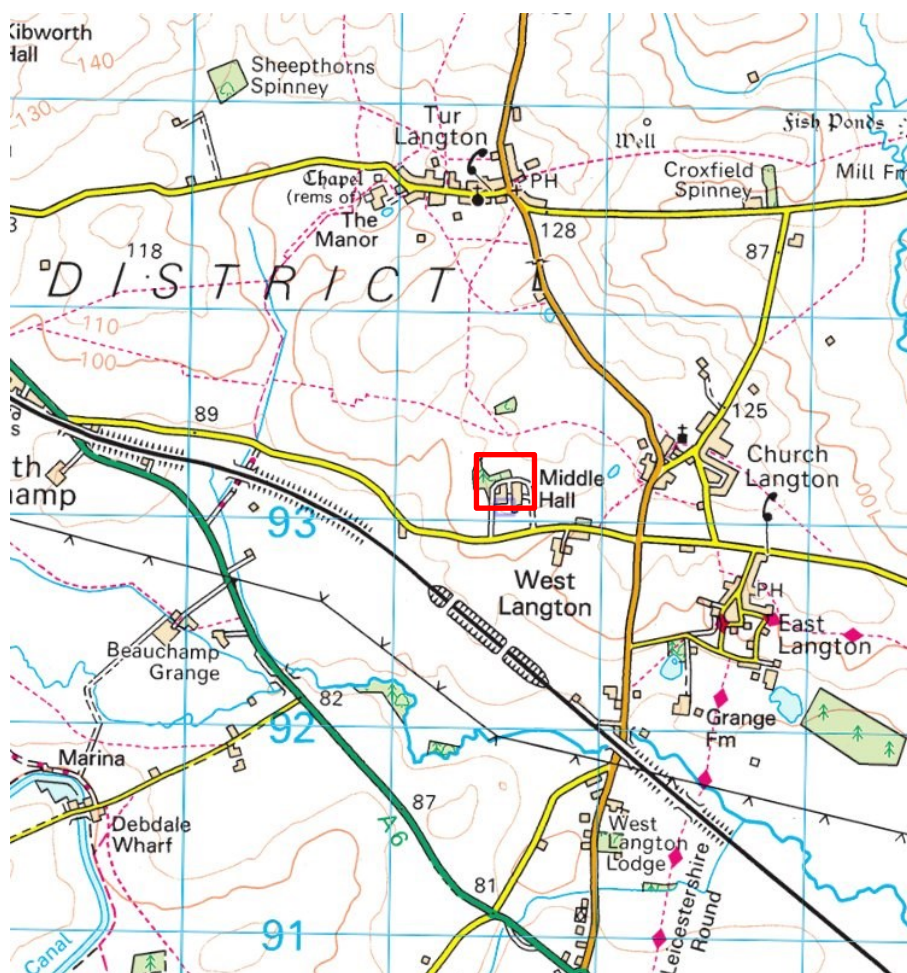


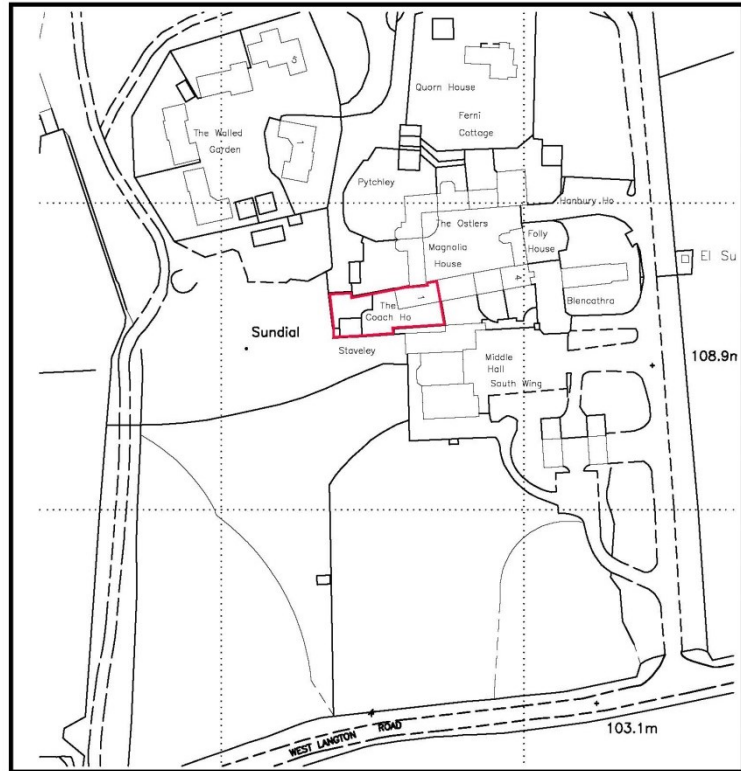
Figure 1 Site Location.

Reproduced from the Landranger 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright 1996. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

4. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the archaeological work was:

- 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.



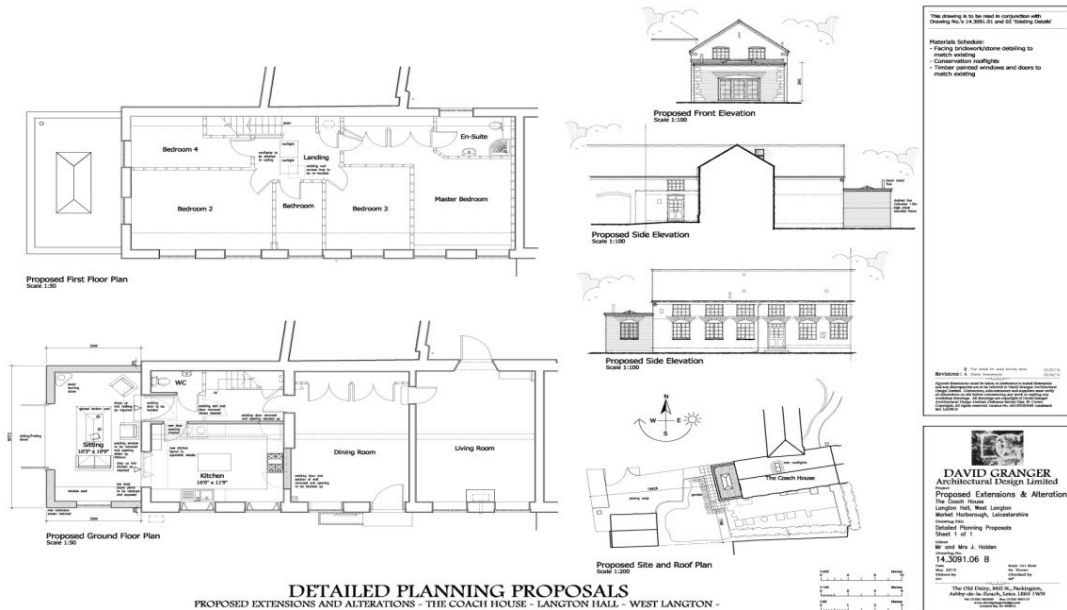
Location Plan
 Scale 1:1250
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DGADL Job Ref: 14.3091



Indicative North

Figure 2 Detailed Location.
 (NTS; plan supplied by client)



DETAILED PLANNING PROPOSALS
 PROPOSED EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS - THE COACH HOUSE - LANGTON HALL - WEST LANGTON -
 MARKET HARBOUROUGH - LEICESTERSHIRE

Figure 3 Detail of the proposals.
 (NTS; plan supplied by client)

5. Methodology

The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Score 2015) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

The programme of work consisted of the excavation of ground trenches using a 1 ½ ton tracked excavator with a 450 flat-blade bucket.

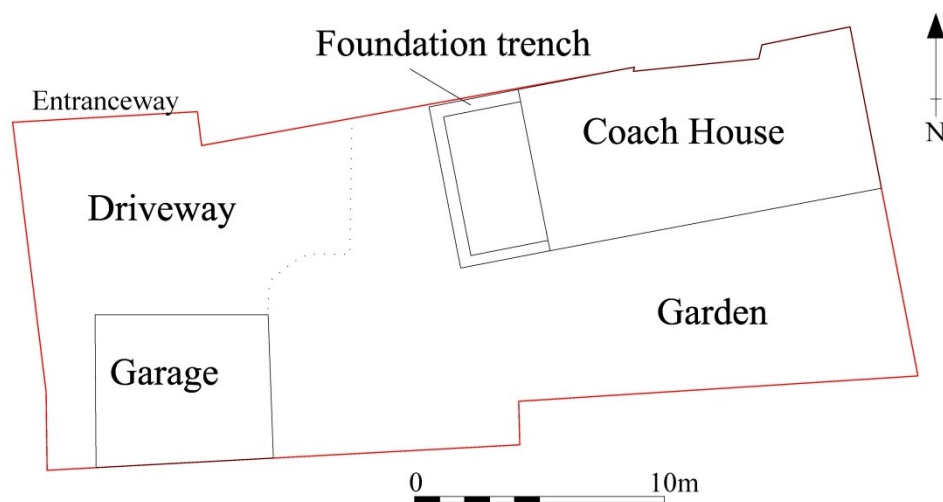


Figure 4: Plan of trench location

6. Results

Foundation trenches were cut at a consistent width of 0.5m and a depth of 1m on the western side of the house and ran 3.65m in a westerly direction from the north-west corner of the house turning south for 6.65m then east for 3.65m to the south-west corner of the dwelling (Fig. 4). The trench to the north of the plot and along the southern part of the western trench contained a distinct layer of small decorative stones incorporated into the 0.2m to 0.3m deep topsoil comprising part of the gravel pathway and patio (Fig 5). A small number of loose cobble stones, brick fragments and charcoal deposits were also contained within this layer. The subsoil was consistently exposed to a depth of 0.78m to 0.82m and comprised yellowish orange-brown clayey-sand with frequent gravel particularly in the trench to the south of the plot. The subsoil was undisturbed in the north and west trenches with the exception of the north-eastern end abutting the house where a modern drain and fibre optics cable were identified running north-south.

In the southern side of the plot the subsoil was heavily disturbed by various modern drains, ceramic land drain and utilities pipes running north-south and east-west and contained a large amount of pea gravel around these disturbances (Figs 6-7).



Figure 5 Western trench looking north.



Figure 6 Southern trench showing pipes, drain and pea gravel, looking south.



Figure 7 Southern trench showing extent of modern disturbance.

7. Discussion

Despite the location of the site in the 18th century stable block, Registered gardens and its close proximity to the Hall, no significant archaeological deposits were identified during the work. All disturbances within the area were modern in nature.

8. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council, with the Accession No. X.A123 2015.

The archive includes: site notes (watching brief sheets); digital photographs.

The report will be 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/>

9. Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

10. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by Kim Sidwell-Smith for ULAS. I would like to thank the contractors on site, G.H.Grant & Sons, for their help and co-operation during the work.

11. Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa), (2014), *Code of Conduct*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa), (2014), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

Score V. 2015, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Attendance during groundworks at The Coach House, Langton Hall, West Langton, Leicestershire*
ULAS Report

Appendix 1 OASIS Information

Project Name	The Coach House, Langton Hall, West Langton, Leics
Project Type	Archaeological Attendance (watching brief)
Project Manager	V. Score
Project Supervisor	K. Sidwell-Smith
Previous/Future work	-
Current Land Use	Residential garden
Development Type	Single story extension
Reason for Investigation	As a condition
Position in the Planning Process	Consented
Site Co ordinates	NGR: SP71539 93060
Start/end dates of field work	10/11/2015
Archive Recipient	LCC
Study Area	25 square metres

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