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Leicester**

Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Watching
Brief During Groundworks For
A Housing Development At
Manor Cottage, Hillside Road,
Linton, Swadlincote,
Derbyshire.
(NGR SK 27410 16964)**

Jamie Patrick

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During Groundworks For A Housing Development
At Manor Cottage, Hillside Road, Linton, Swadlincote,
Derbyshire.
(NGR SK 27410 16964)**

Jamie Patrick

For

Lychgate Homes

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Checked by Project Manager

Signed:



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An Archaeological Watching Brief During Groundworks for a Housing Development at Manor Cottage, Hillside Road, Linton, Swadlincote, Derbyshire.

(NGR SK 27410 16964)

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken to monitor the groundworks associated with a six-dwelling housing development at Manor Cottage, Hillside Road, Linton, Swadlincote, Derbyshire. (NGR:SK 27410 16964). Although the site is within fifty metres of a Late 16th- to early 17th-century Manor House, with a possibility of earlier medieval structures, the watching brief proved negative. The site archive will be deposited with Derbyshire County Council Museums Service.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by Lychgate Homes Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a six-dwelling housing development at Manor Cottage, Hillside Road, Linton, Swadlincote Derbyshire. (NGR SK 172 076)

This archaeological work is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012).

The watching brief was required as a condition of the planning consent for a housing development at the site issued by South Derbyshire District Council

The site is located on a fairly level ground for approximately 15 metres width of the site but then gradually slopes downwards to Hillside Road. Approximately 20 metres of the sloping ground orientated north-west to south-east will be left as gardens. There are no known archaeological deposits within the immediate vicinity. However, because the site lies 50 metres north-east of a late 16th- or early 17th-century manor house, there was the possibility of archaeological features representing earlier medieval houses. However the area proved negative for any archaeological features.

Location and Geology

The site lies on the north- east side of the present Linton village, 3km south-west from the centre of Swadlincote within the District of South Derbyshire (Figure 1). The British Geological Survey ‘Geology of Britain’ viewer indicates that the underlying geology of the site is likely to be Taporley Siltstone Formation- Siltstone, Mudstone and Sandstone and Taporley Siltstone formation-Sandstone. The land lies at a height of around 90m aOD. Hillside Road bounds the north-west of the site, whilst Manor

Farm forms the perimeter of the application area to the south-east. Access to the site is by a narrow drive from Hillside Road.

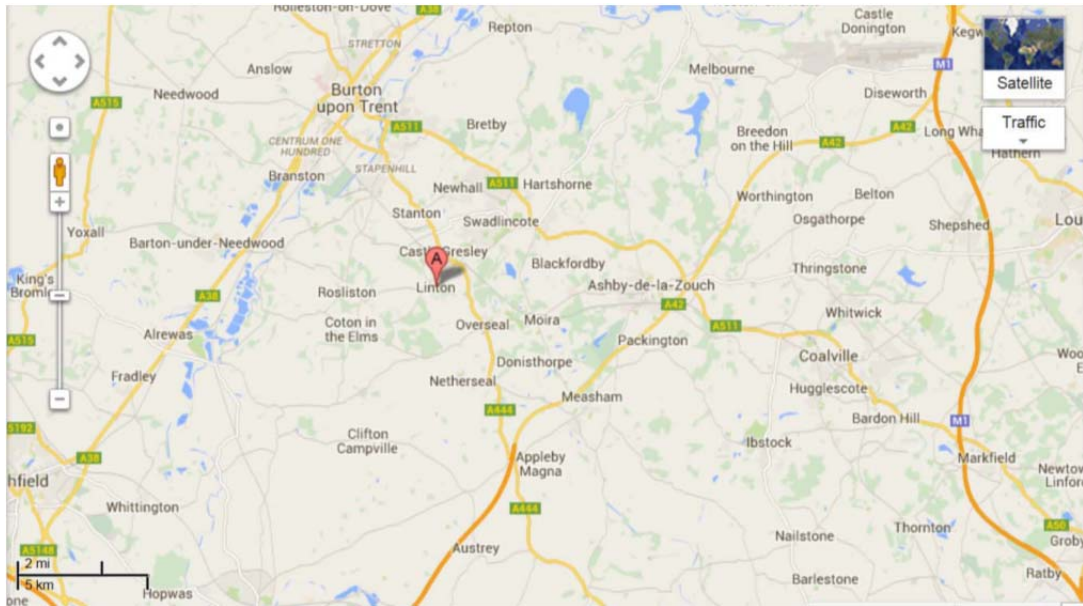


Figure 1: Site Location

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Location Plan
Scale 1:1250

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Indicative North

Figure 2: Application Area (taken from plan supplied by client).

Archaeological Background

The site lies within the likely core of the medieval settlement at Linton within fifty metres of a Grade 2-listed Manor dating from the late 16th or early 17th century. It was therefore thought that during groundworks, evidence for earlier medieval activity might be revealed.

The main objective of the archaeological watching brief was to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the watching brief were:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

Methodology

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken.

The project comprised the archaeological supervision of topsoil removal. This involved groundworks associated with the development of six dwellings, including the excavation of an access road, and parking arrangements. Supervised excavation was undertaken using a tracked JCB 130 mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.90m toothless ditching bucket.

Results

The groundworks were monitored on the 22nd April 2015 by Jamie Patrick of ULAS.

The monitored area had dimensions of approximately 50 metres north-east to south-west by 15 metres north-west to south-east. The ground between the stripped area and Hillside Road was left undisturbed for gardens. The top-soil consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt and was approximately 0.20-0.30 deep. It was quite disturbed with brick fragments and modern pottery and directly overlay the red clay and gravel natural. Once the area was exposed to the natural geology, no archaeological features were revealed although the area did appear to be disturbed by modern activity in many places. Although further groundworks were to take place in the way of foundation trenches no further monitoring was deemed necessary.



Figure 3: Study Area looking South.



Figure 4: Top-soil stripping. Looking North

Conclusion

The archaeological watching brief to monitor the ground-works associated with the housing development at Manor Cottage, Hillside Road, Linton showed no evidence of archaeological deposits or remains.

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Patrick of ULAS and the project was managed by Richard Buckley. ULAS would like to thank Lychgate Homes Ltd for commissioning the work,

Archive

The archive for this project consists of 1 watching brief form and one sheet of digital photographs and will be deposited with Derbyshire County Council Museums Service.

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