



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance and
Recording during Groundworks on
Land to the rear of 'Lobourne',
Nottingham Road, Lount, Ashby-de-la-
Zouch, Leicestershire
(SK 3860 1941)**

James Patrick



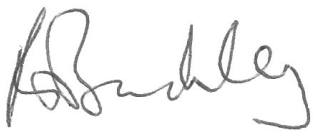
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for

Avant Homes

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Summary

Archaeological Attendance and Recording during groundworks was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on former Horticultural land, now unmaintained grassland, situated directly north of Lobourne, Lount, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 3860 1941). The work was undertaken in advance of the construction of a single two Storey dwelling and associated garage Planning Ref: 16/00428/FUL. Immediately to the south exist earthwork and cropmark remains of medieval to early post-medieval coal mining works (MLE18779). The objective therefore was the identification of further remains associated with coal extraction including medieval/post-medieval bell pits. An additional prompt for the Archaeological groundworks was due to the site's location within the former medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Lount (MLE4508), therefore there was also potential for associated settlement remains. The watching brief proved negative for any archaeological remains. While natural geology was encountered up-slope (South) of the new building's footprint, heavy modern disturbance was revealed down-slope (North). This consisted of modern brick fragments and late Post-Medieval Pottery dating to 19th/20th Century within mixed grey clay, sandstone and re-deposited natural material. The disturbance was extensive covering a large area of the new development and probably extending northwards to the existing East to West field boundary under the new garden associated with the new development. A machine trench was excavated through the modern deposit in order to view the extent, but continued down well in excess of 1.0m depth below top-soil. It was subsequently backfilled prior to potential flooding and collapse. The Southern area up-slope towards the rear of the existing dwellings also proved negative for remains together with the area for the new garage. The natural geology was clean and undisturbed. The archive for this work will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A89.2017.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) was commissioned by John Gillespie Sale Ltd to carry out archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks on land to the rear 'Lobourne', Nottingham Road, Lount, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire (SK 3860 1941).

Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a two-storey dwelling subject to planning conditions which included the requirement for archaeological attendance and recording (Planning Ref: 16/00428/FUL). The work was undertaken in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment and followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ULAS 2017) submitted approved by the local planning authority.

Site Location, Details and Geology

Lount is a small Village located approximately three kilometres North-east of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and within the Parish of Staunton Harold in North-west Leicestershire (Fig. 1). Access to the site is off the North-west side of the B587 Ashby to Melbourne Road and reached via a gravelled lane behind present dwellings including 'Lobourne' which backs directly onto the site. The application area is bounded by hedgerows and wooden fences from the surrounding properties.

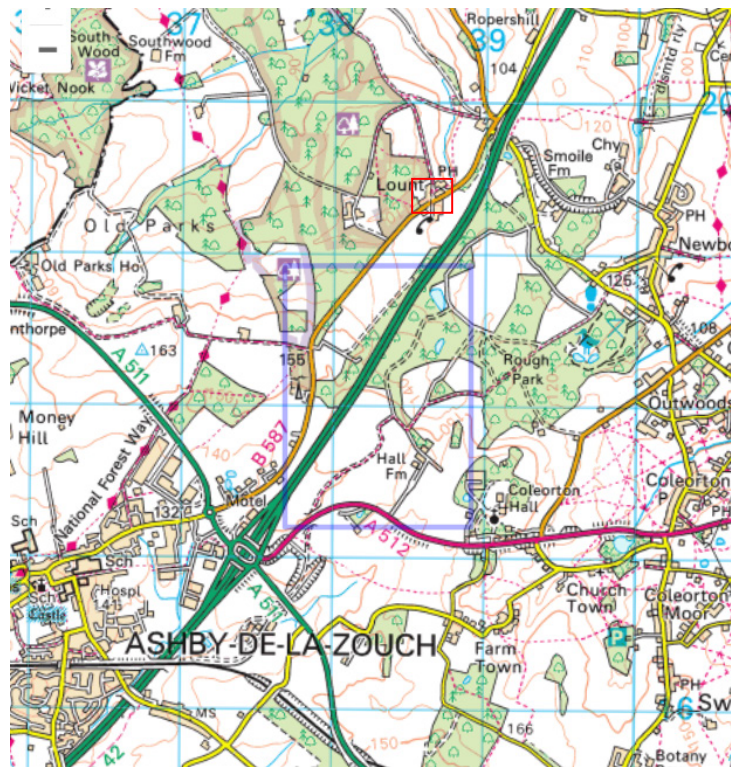


Figure 1: Site Location

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The site is currently on un-maintained grassland, once used for Horticultural activity. It is rectangular in shape covering a total area of *c.*400m², with the groundworks covering under half (Figs 2). The ground level averages at *c.*110m aOD with a gradual slope down up from North-west to south-east, then levels out behind the boundary of 'Lobourne'. The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone.

Historical and Archaeological Background

The Leicestershire Historic Environment record (HER) records the application area as lying within the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement core of Lount (MLE4508). Cropmark and earthwork remains dating from the medieval to early post-medieval periods exist in the form of coal mining works including Bell Pits immediately to the south of the site (MLE18779). A single building within close proximity to the North-east of the site which is of Historical and Archaeological interest is Rose Cottage, Nottingham Road. Heritage category Listing Grade II. List Entry Number 1361216. SK 32 SE 3/81 Rose Cottage 9.4.79 II.



Figure 2: Plan and location of the new dwelling. (taken from wsi)



Figure 3: Application area prior to ground-works looking North-west

Archaeological Objectives

The main objectives of the Archaeological Attendance & Recording (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 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 of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the watching brief is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

Methodology

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological Attendance and Recording during groundworks, which took place on the 8th August 2017. It follows a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the WSI (ULAS 2017).

All work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) in accordance with their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

An area covering approximately 200 square metres was observed in advance of the construction of the single two storey dwelling including garage.

The site was excavated specifically for the archaeological observation by a mini excavator with a 1.0m ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. After inspection and recording, the site was backfilled for safety reasons. A single constraint included a foul waste pipe from the nearby septic tank.



Figure 4: Excavation of area showing natural and modern deposits. Looking South (waste pipe diagonally across site)



Figure 5: Mid excavation through modern deposits looking South-west

Results

Topsoil and any subsoil (modern deposits) were removed separately. The topsoil consisted of a very dark brownish-grey loam garden soil probably resulting from the recent horticultural activities prior to the dis-use of the land. The area was initially stripped down slope from south to north with the natural showing as a clean light yellow sandy clay with frequent sandstone and occasional coal flecks. Approximately two metres from the southern edge of the new dwelling's footprint, modern material consisting of brick fragments and late post-medieval pottery was encountered within a mixed grey clay, re-deposited natural and waste material. Prior to further stripping east, a machine bucket width trench along the western excavation limit was excavated to establish the depth of the deposit and its impact on any potential archaeological remains. This was excavated to a depth well in excess of a metre below top-soil with the modern deposit continuing. Due to potential flooding, and the bad weather, the trench was backfilled after photographing the section before the abandonment of the trench excavation. The modern material deposits extended across most of the new dwellings footprint and probably North under the proposed garden. However the natural remained undisturbed below the remainder of the new development at the Southern end including the proposed new garage. Despite the natural here being undisturbed, no archaeological remains were encountered.

Conclusion

The watching brief proved negative for archaeological remains with no evidence of any medieval/ early post-medieval coal mining activity. It has been suggested by local knowledge gathered during the groundworks that the present site had in the past been subject to open-cast mining. Any domestic archaeological remains would have been obliterated by the modern pit, and depending on the depth to natural, any surviving Bell Pits would be heavily truncated if not obliterated if as suggested open- cast mining activity took place. Alternatively it is possible that any Bell Pit present within the study area may have partially collapsed in during the recent past. Subsequently the deposit encountered was simply used to the fill in and level the area, but to what depth is undetermined. Despite clean natural to the South, no Archaeological remains were found.

Archive

The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Watching brief record sheets
- 1 Index of photographic record sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report
- 1 CD digital report
- 1 Contact sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD digital photographs

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank John Gillespie Sale Ltd their co-operation with this project. Also thanks to Terry Rushton for driving excavator and Mrs Betty Court, the local Historian for the area for additional information during the project. The project was managed by Richard Buckley and the fieldwork was carried out by Jamie Patrick, also of ULAS.

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09-08-2017

OASIS data entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1- 292559		
	Project Name	Archaeological Attendance and recording during groundworks on Land to rear of Lobourne, Nottingham Road, Lount, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire		
	Start/end dates of field work	08- 08-2017		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Attendance and Recording during Groundworks		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Former garden land		
	Monument Type/Period	None/none		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Housing		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning Condition		
Planning Ref.	16/00428/FUL			
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Land to rear of Lobourne, Nottingham Road, Lount, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire		
	Study Area	0.02 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SK 3860 1941		
	Height OD	c 100m OD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Richard Buckley		
	Project Director/Supervisor	James Patrick		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Developer : John Gillespie. Sale Ltd		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	NA	DCC	DCC
	ID (Acc. No.)		X.A89. 2017	X.A89.2017
	Contents		Photos Survey data	Fieldwork records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
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