

**An Archaeological Watching Brief during
groundworks on land adjacent to
6, Main Street, Hartshorne,
Derbyshire.
(SK 327 207)**

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For: Elmtree Development Ltd

<p>Checked by Project Manager</p> <p>Signed:Date:</p> <p>Name:</p>

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An Archaeological Watching Brief during groundworks on Land Adjacent to 6, Main Street, Hartshorne, Derbyshire. (SK 327 207)

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Summary

The University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land adjacent to The Old Manor House, 6, Main Street, Hartshorne, Derbyshire. The site lies within the historic core of Hartshorne close to the church and site of the Manor House. The site, therefore, had some archaeological potential. However, the watching brief revealed no archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features. The archive will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery with accession number DBYMU: 2005-71.

Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Elmtree Developments Ltd to carry out a watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches on land adjacent to The Old Manor House, Hartshorne, Derbyshire (SK 327 207). Archaeological work was required as a condition of the planning permission granted by Derbyshire County Council (planning application No. 9/2004/0855/F) and is detailed in Condition 14 of the planning permission.

The site lies within the historic core of Hartshorne and is very close to St. Peter's Church and in the garden of the 17th century Manor House.

The planned development of a detached dwelling on the site was seen to have the potential to have a damaging impact on any archaeological remains if present.

A Design Specification for a watching brief was prepared by ULAS (appendix 1).

Site Location and Geology

The development site is located in the village of Hartshorne in South Derbyshire, c.10 miles northwest of Ashby-de-la-Zouch and c.14 miles south of Derby.

The Manor House is situated on top of an incline, with the site located on a flat garden area serviced by a cobbled driveway, with turf and trees on a terrace either side of the drive.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of England and Wales (Solid and Drift) Sheet 141 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of shale with sandstone beds and coal seams. The land is at a height of c.83m and covers an area of c.1400 square metres.

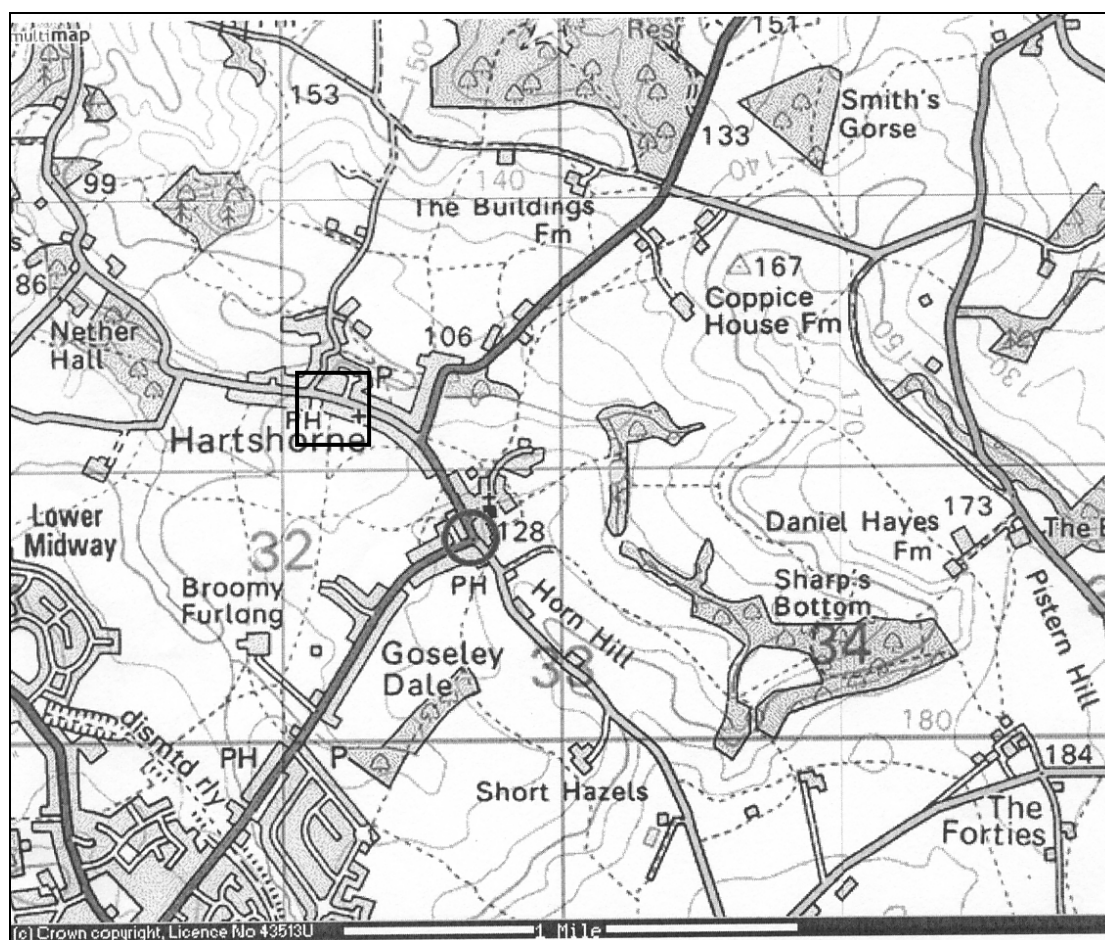


Figure 1: Site location

Licence No. AL100021186

Aims and Methods

The purpose of the watching brief was to ascertain whether archaeological deposits were present. If so, the character, extent and date range of any deposits identified would be established, in order to assess their significance (see Appendices, Design Specification). Recording of these deposits would be carried out as appropriate, and an archive and this report produced. The work followed the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy.

The site was visited by an archaeologist on 30th March 2005, when topsoil stripping was observed and on 1st April 2005 when foundation trenches were observed (Fig.2). The spoil heaps were also examined for archaeological finds.

Results

The site was visited on 30th March 2005 and the initial clearing of the site of rubbish and the topsoil stripping was observed (Figure 3). Approximately 0.2-0.3m of dark brown garden soil was removed to expose orangey brown silty subsoil (Figure 4). In some areas the topsoil was very deep and was still retained. In the areas exposed the subsoil appeared mostly undisturbed, but in some areas there were patches of gravel, tarmac and brick, mainly in the north west corner (figure 2).

A few pieces of Pancheon ware and modern pottery were discovered in the garden soil, but were not retained.

The site was then visited on 1st April 2005 and the foundation trenches were observed. These were all 0.65m wide and 0.9m deep. In some areas the topsoil had been up to 0.4m thick and overlay 0.3m reddish brown subsoil in the north west corner. In most other areas the subsoil was very thin.

Under these soils lay 0.35m of pinkish yellowish brown sandstone, which varied in depth slightly across the site. At the very bottom of the trench was a red and light green clay, most likely Mercia Mudstone Group.

Conclusion

No archaeological features or finds associated with archaeological features were discovered in the study area. The patches of gravel and tarmac most likely were associated with a small Portacabin, which had occupied the north west corner of the site some years previously.

Archive

The archive will be deposited with Derby Museum and Art Gallery with accession number DBYMU:2005-71 and consists of the following:

2 watching brief record sheets

8 Colour slides

8 B&W Prints

8 B&W Negatives

Acknowledgements

ULAS would like to thank Elmtree Developments Ltd. for their co-operation. The author carried out the watching brief; Patrick Clay was the Project Manager.

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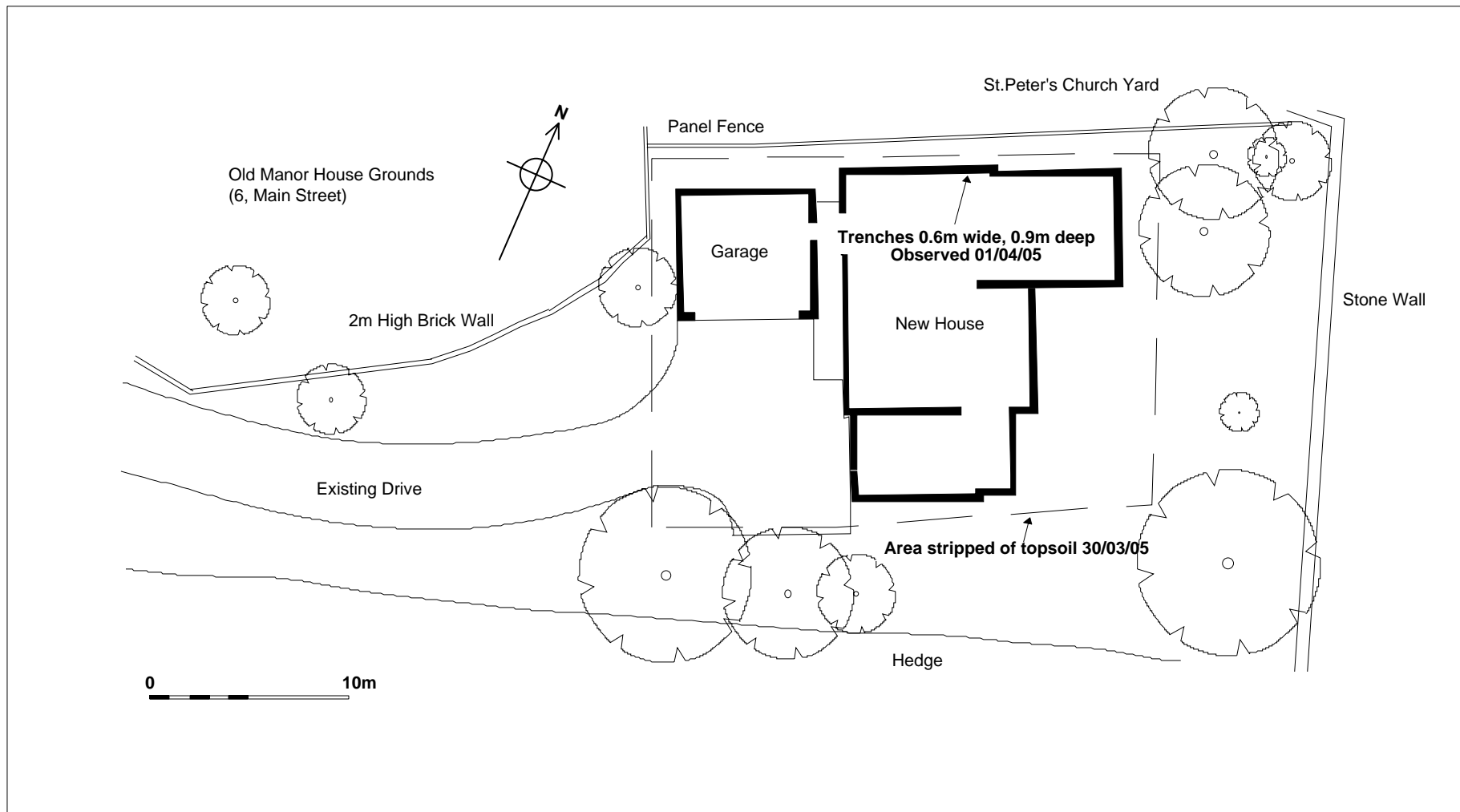


Figure 2: Site Plan showing areas observed during watching brief



Figure 3: Working shot during topsoil stripping, facing north



Figure 4: South east facing section

**APPENDIX: DESIGN SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**