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The Old Castle, Bridge Street,
Tutbury, Staffordshire:

An Archaeological
Watching Brief 2006

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**The Old Castle, Bridge Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire:
An Archaeological Watching Brief 2006**

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For

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SUMMARY

On 3rd August 2006 Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at The Old Castle, Bridge Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire (NGR SK 2131 2911). The work was commissioned by Mr. A. M. Cox, to satisfy a condition of planning consent for the construction of a detached garage. The work consisted of the monitoring of excavations for the concrete raft foundation of the proposed garage and the recording of any archaeological features and deposits revealed. Nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered during the excavations.

The Old Castle, Bridge Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire.

An Archaeological Watching Brief 2006

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the project

On 3rd August 2006 Birmingham Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief at The Old Castle, Bridge Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire. The work was commissioned by Mr. A. M. Cox, to satisfy a condition of planning consent (Planning Application Ref. HO/04782/007) for the construction of a detached garage. The condition was imposed as it was thought that there was potential for archaeological features and deposits to be present within the proposed development area. The work consisted of the monitoring of excavations for the concrete raft foundation of the proposed garage and the recording of any features and deposits thereby revealed.

The watching brief conformed to a written scheme of investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2005) as required by the Development Services Department, Staffordshire County Council and adhered to a specification by Staffordshire County Council (SCC 2005). Any variation in the scope of work was to be agreed with Stephen Dean the Historic Environment Officer for Staffordshire County Council, on behalf of East Staffordshire Borough Council, before implementation.

1.2 Site location and geology

The development area is located on land adjacent to the SW side of a former public house, The Old Castle, Bridge Street, Tutbury, Staffordshire (centred on NGR SK 2131 2911, Figs. 1 & 2; hereafter referred to as the site). Tutbury is situated in East Staffordshire close to the River Dove. The area proposed for the construction of the garage was previously a driveway. The site is at height of 55m AOD and the underlying geology is Mercia Mudstone.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The general historical and archaeological background of the area has been covered in a desk-based assessment, which was carried out on a nearby site (Hislop 2003). The site is located within the historic core of the medieval settlement of Tutbury. The name Tutbury is of Anglo-Saxon origin and means "Tutta's burg" or Stut's

burg" – the fortress of Tutta or Stut (Ekwall 1960). This suggests that the town may have been founded as an Anglo-Saxon burh (Palliser 1972, 65).

The Domesday Book of 1086 shows Tutbury, Tamworth and Stafford as the only three boroughs in the county, with Tutbury being the only place in the county with a market (Palliser and Pinnock 1971, 51). This market probably dated from 1066 – 85, having been set up to serve the castle which is recorded in the Domesday Book. The castle, established in 1071 by Hugh de Avranches was the caput, or administrative centre, of the Honour of Tutbury. Over the following centuries the castle was demolished, rebuilt or augmented a number of times until, during the Civil war, it was once again demolished and left as the ruins which are visible today. The site lies about 200m south-east of Tutbury Castle.

A new borough was founded at Tutbury by Robert de Ferrers I, Earl of Derby (d.1139). Burgage tenure is mentioned there in 1141 and c.1150, with further extensions being planned in 1150 and 1159 (Palliser 1972, 69). The street frontages of burgage plots were normally occupied by residential and/or commercial premises with industrial/craft activities and rubbish disposal often taking place in the areas to the rear.

A Benedictine Priory, founded in 1080, was built just to the south-west of the site close to Monk Street.

The quarrying of alabaster, popular in the 15th and 16th centuries for funerary monuments and altar screen panels, had begun at Tutbury in the late 12th century. By the 14th century large-scale extraction was taking place in open pits, and the area became one of the main sources of the material. Quarrying continued up until the 19th century (Sherlock 1976, 100). By the 18th century, however, the main business of the town was wool combing, and cotton work had also recently been established "on an extensive scale" (Jackson 1796, 55) at a large mill powered by the River Dove.

Glass-making had also begun at Tutbury by 1810. Initially the Tutbury Glass Co. produced plain and cut-glass material, whilst by 1868 flint-glass was being made at the Castle Glassworks c.300m to the south-west of the site (Sherlock 1976, 230).

A recent archaeological watching brief at Castle Garage, Monk Street, 100m to the south-west of the site, recorded a large ditch or pond containing organic waterlogged material, from which 13th-15th century pottery and animal bone was recovered, together with

several inter-cutting medieval pits (Martin forthcoming). A watching brief to the rear of 33 High Street (Martin 2004), 200m to the south of the site, recorded a linear ditch containing 14th century pottery. Another watching brief at nearby 39 Cornmill Lane recovered sherds of 14th century pottery and animal bone from two small pits probably associated with back-plot activities. A spread of material overlying the natural subsoil also produced 14th- 15th century pottery.

3 AIMS

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were:

- to monitor all below-ground works likely to affect archaeological remains
- to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains affected by the development works.
- to preserve all archaeological deposits 'by record', and conserve for long term conservation and future analysis all artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

4 METHOD

The trench for the foundation slab of the garage was 6m x 5m (Fig. 3). This trench was mechanically excavated with a mini- digger and the excavated surfaces were cleaned by hand. The main area of the trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.20m below existing ground level, consisting of the stone-paved surface of the driveway. The margins of the trench, at the SE and NW sides, were excavated to depths of between 0.27m and 0.40m. The deepest excavations were at the NE part of the trench. Here the cut of a water pipe trench was excavated by machine in order to expose the extent and direction of the pipe-work.

All ground works were monitored and supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Following the stripping of topsoil and modern overburden the sub-soil was inspected for archaeological features and deposits. Any service and foundation trenches were also be inspected. Spoil heaps were examined for datable artefacts which could be recovered.

Any possible archaeological deposits and features revealed during ground works were rapidly investigated and recorded. The attending archaeologist was able to request a delay in machine excavation or works in order to allow the recording of any features identified. If

archaeological features were found, which were of greater significance than may have been expected at the outset of the development, works could have been halted to allow consultation with the LPA (or personnel nominated by them) to insure adequate recording or preservation. Contingency provisions were made for this within the program of works

Recording was by means of pre-printed pro-forma record cards for contexts and features, supplemented by plans (at 1:20 and 1:50), sections (at 1:10 and 1:20), and monochrome print and colour slide photography. Any recovered finds were to be cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work was to be undertaken, where necessary. Treatment of all finds conforms to guidance contained within *a strategy for the care and investigation of finds* published by English Heritage and the document *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* published by UKIC. Finds which are 'treasure' with reference to the Treasure Act 1997 were to be reported to the Coroner and the appropriate procedures followed.

5 RESULTS (Figs. 3 & 4)

Detailed descriptions and interpretations of all of the deposits and features are set out in the Appendix, below.

A natural subsoil of reddish brown finely laminated sandy clay (1015), 0.30-0.35m below the existing ground level, was revealed in the deeper excavations, at the margins of the trench. Overlying layer 1015 was a uniform sterile layer of reddish brown sandy clay interleaved with grey sandy clay (1014), 0.10-0.15m thick and 0.20m below the existing ground level. Layer 1014 was interpreted as the uppermost layer of natural subsoil. These two natural layers extended throughout the excavated area and were cut near the NE limit of excavation by a modern water pipe trench (1016), 0.50m wide and 0.57m deep, and a brick-built manhole. Beyond pipe trench 1016, to the NE, layer 1014 was not present, but a reddish brown sandy clay (1013) that survived here between later cuts, appeared to be identical to natural subsoil 1015.

The stratigraphy recorded in the SW-facing section (Fig. 4) of the trench was more complex, probably because of the proximity of the house, but nothing of archaeological significance was encountered. Most of the stratigraphy consisted of cut features and foundations for a former porch (1002, 1003 and 1005), all but one of which were demonstrably modern, based on the composition of the fills. The only possible exception was a vertical-edged cut (1009). This was 0.40m wide, greater than 0.40m deep (as revealed and recorded in section) and back-filled with material derived largely

from the natural subsoil (1010). This feature probably represented the cut of a drain connected to the manhole that lay near the SE corner of the trench but no dating evidence was retrieved from it. Another cut (1011) that appeared to be a trench aligned N-S was probably the cut for a drain running from the rear of the house to the manhole. The backfill of this included a few fragments of fairly modern-looking roofing tile and a few fragments of mortar, which appeared to be a Portland cement mix.

Over the majority of the excavated area the natural 1014 and 1015 was sealed by a bedding layer (1001 and 1006) for the stone paving (1000) of the driveway.

6 FINDS

The only finds recovered were fragments of modern tile. These were not retained.

7 DISCUSSION

Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed during this work. It is likely that either no archaeological features or deposits were present within the site, or any possible archaeological deposits were shallow and were removed by the construction of the modern driveway.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The watching brief was undertaken in the field by Andrew Gittins BA, who also wrote the report. The project was managed, and the report edited, by Laurence Jones Cert He (B. Archaeol) MIFA.

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APPENDIX
LIST OF CONTEXTS

NO.	DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION	EARLIER THAN	LATER THAN
1000	Stone paving, squared granite setts to NE, sandstone setts to SW. Present day surface of driveway	N/A	1001
1001	Fine grained, yellow, sand. Bedding for 1000.	1000	1004
1002	Cut, 0.37m deep, Construction trench of porch 1003	1008	1006
1003	Horizontally truncated red brick wall and contemporary concrete foundation. As revealed, the wall consisted of two courses of machine-made red brick bonded with Portland cement that formed the eastern corner of a building. The SW wall ran obliquely into the section so all that could be illustrated was its NW end. Remains of recently demolished porch of C20th date	1005 1007	1008
1004	Dark grey-brown sandy humic silt. Redeposited topsoil. Upper fill of construction trench 1002.	1001	1005
1005	Reddish brown sandy clay. Redeposited natural. Lower fill of construction trench 1002.	1004	1003
1006	Black ashy material. Bedding for stone setts 1000.	1002	1010 1012
1007	Reddish brown sandy clay containing lenses of ash. Redeposited natural with lenses of ash that probably derived from 1006. Obscured most of SW wall of porch 1003. Same as 1005.	1001	1003
1008	Reddish brown sandy clay with lenses of ash. Derivation as for 1007. Material used to level up bottom of construction trench 1002 immediately prior to pouring of concrete foundation 1003.	1003	1002
1009	Cut: 0.40m wide with near vertical sides. Depth > than 0.40m. Fill 1010. Probably the cut for a foul or R.W. drain connecting to manhole near SE corner of site.	1010	1013
1010	Reddish brown sandy clay containing frequent medium to large lenses of dark grey clay. Backfill of cut 1009. Largely composed of redeposited natural subsoil.	1006	1009
1011	Cut: NW edge, ca. 80 ° inclination, revealed in section only. Depth > 0.30m; not bottomed. Appears to be a linear cut, aligned NNW-SSE, running obliquely into section so that NW edge clear but SE edge extremely vague. Probably the	1012	1013

	cut for a foul or R.W. drain connecting to manhole near SE corner of site.		
1012	Reddish brown sandy clay containing very sparse charcoal flecks, a few small fragments of mortar (probably Portland cement mortar) and sparse small fragments of red roofing tile. SE limit of deposit poorly defined (see 1011 above). Largely composed of redeposited natural subsoil. Backfill of cut 1011.	1006	1011
1013	Reddish brown sandy clay containing sparse water-worn pebbles and a few small, eroded, angular fragments of stone. Natural subsoil. Same as 1015.	1009 1011	N/A
1014	Reddish brown sandy clay interleaved with ca. 50% light grey clay. Thickness 0.10-0.15m. Deposit contains sparse water-worn pebbles and a few small, eroded, angular fragments of stone. Uppermost layer of natural subsoil.	1016	1015
1015	Finely laminated, reddish brown sandy clay containing sparse water-worn pebbles and a few small, eroded, angular fragments of stone. Lower layer of natural subsoil; same as 1013.	1014	N/A
1016	Narrow, vertical-edged trench aligned SE-NW. Width at NE section 0.25m. Pipe trench for pipe 1017.	1017	1014
1017	Lead water main running SE-NW with branch to NE into house.	1018	1016
1018	Mainly redeposited natural clay with other inclusions (not examined in detail). Backfill of pipe trench.	1006	1017

N.B. Contexts 1000 – 1013 inclusive were only revealed in NE section. (Fig. 4). Contexts 1014 – 1017 were revealed in plan and section. Context 1014 did not appear in NE section.



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Fig.1



Fig.2

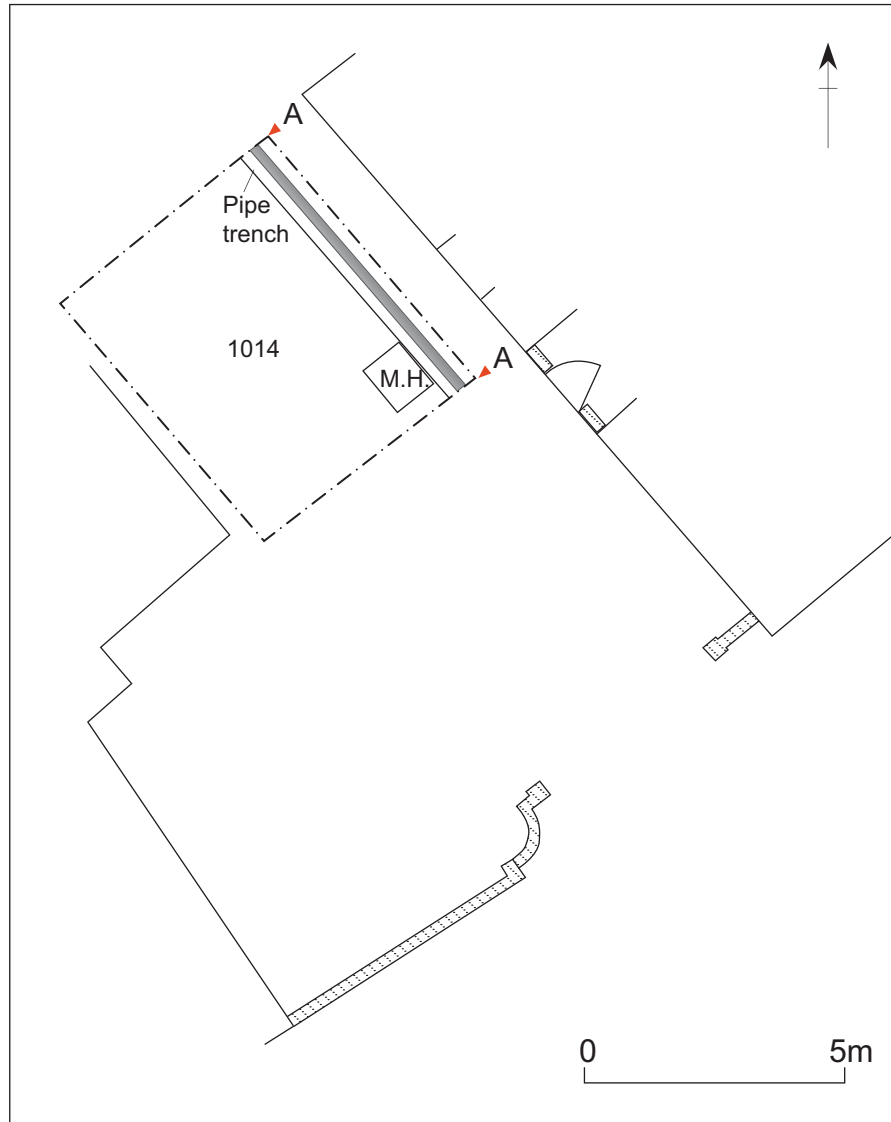


Fig.3

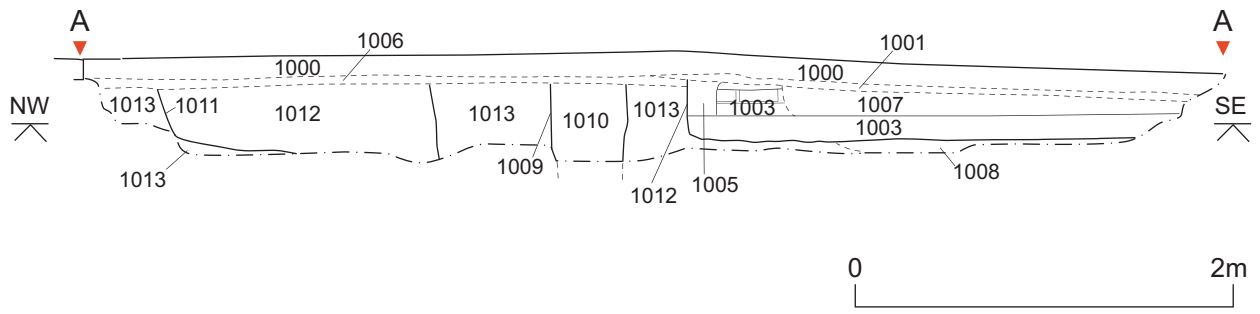


Fig.4