LAND AT THE BUTCHERS' ARMS, MAIN STREET, LANEHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

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Report prepared for

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by

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Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of nine new houses, associated garages, parking and access on land at the Butchers' Arms, Main Street, Laneham, Nottinghamshire.

Monitoring revealed a sequence of structural elements and deposits associated with the Butchers' Arms public house, with no significant archaeological remains being present.



Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000: the position of the site is shown in red (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Mr P. Castle, to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording on all development groundworks associated with the construction of two terraced blocks of houses, garages, parking and access.

The development site lies near the historic village core of Laneham in an area of potential archaeological significance; therefore the Senior Archaeological Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council advised that a scheme of monitoring be undertaken on all related groundworks for this project.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Laneham is situated close to the River Trent, approximately 17.5km west of Lincoln, and 10km east of Retford in the administrative district of Bassetlaw. Laneham parish includes the two settlements of Laneham and Church Laneham, located approximately 1km to the east on the west bank of the River Trent (Savage, 2009).

Main Street stretches over 1.5 miles between the western village entrance and Church Laneham, where it curves as it meets the Trent. It was formerly the road to the Trent Ferry, and runs along a low ridge, providing a dry foundation for housing and transport in an otherwise flood-prone landscape (LPPWG, 2008).

The development site lies on the south side of Main Street, near its junction with Broadings Lane (SK 805 762). It comprises a single rectangular plot, measuring approximately 70m by 35m, the long axis perpendicular to the street: this appears to be a remnant of a medieval burgage plot, now divided in two with a separate development to the rear.

3.0 Geology and topography

Laneham lies at the eastern edge of a broad band of Fluvio-Glacial or Older River Gravel that traverses the west side of the Trent valley. Laneham lies on a gravel 'island', surrounded and separated by veins of alluvium marking the course of tributaries of the River Trent. The underlying solid geology is Mercia Mudstone/Keuper Marl (BGS, 1971).

Laneham is located on low-lying land at the base of the Trent valley at between 5 and 10m OD, with the land sloping gently towards the river to the east.

4.0 Planning background

Full planning permission was granted by Bassetlaw District Council for a residential development of nine dwellings with associated garages, parking and access on land at the Butchers' Arms, Main Street, Laneham, Nottinghamshire (planning application number 28/11/00003).

This permission was granted subject to the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and agreed in writing by the District Planning Authority (condition 9).

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The village of Laneham may be of Old English origin, 'the settlement at the lanes' (Mills, 1993), suggesting that Main Street, as the old road to the Trent ferry, has pre-Norman antecedents.

Laneham and Church Laneham are noted in the Domesday Survey of 1086, where they are recorded as a single manor in the ownership of the Archbishop of York. A church, a priest, two fisheries and a mill are recorded, but as seven *berewics* (additional outlying properties) are included in the estate, the population and land of the village itself cannot be accurately assessed (Williams and Martin, 1992). The Laneham parish church, St. Peter's (in Church Laneham), still incorporates the tower of the Norman church, as well as other surviving Norman masonry (Pevsner, 1951, p.92).

The historic core of Laneham features a small cluster of older houses around St. Peter's church. Other, older houses in the village are well spaced out along Main Street. This spacing of the houses in a linear pattern was one of the characteristics of the village, once based on medieval burgage plots. The enclosure of Laneham's open fields in 1772 resulted in a small number of new farms being built off Main Street in Rampton Road and Broadings Lane, but other working farms remained on Main Street and are still active today, making a strong contribution to the village's rural aspect (LPPWG, 2008).

The development site is centred on the now demolished Butchers' Arms public house, which is marked on the 25" to the mile 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, in the shape it retained up to the present day. Two free-standing rectangular buildings are also depicted to the rear of the inn: one directly behind and parallel to the main block, and one on the western side of the plot, parallel to the outbuilding range and extending the same distance to the south (old-maps.co.uk).

6.0 Methodology

Test pits were excavated with a 3-ton mini-excavator fitted with a 2' (60cm) toothed bucket. Three pits between 2.2 and 3m long by 0.75m wide by a maximum of 2.1m deep were excavated, recorded by the on site archaeologist, then immediately backfilled to comply with standard health and safety best practise.

For the building footings, a 360° excavator cleared demolition rubble from the site with a toothed bucket, removing excess rubble. A flat-bladed bucket was then used to excavate footings trenches for the new buildings and garages. Footings were generally 0.50m wide and a maximum of 1.70m deep.

All features and deposits seen were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan. A colour slide and digital photographic record was maintained; a selection from which is reproduced as Appendix 1.

Geotechnical test pits were excavated on the 3rd November 2011 and monitored by Simon Savage. The footings trenches were completed over eight days between the 30th January and 22nd February 2012. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Neil Parker and Julian Sleap.

7.0 Results

7.1 Test pits (Figure 5)

Three test pits were excavated across the site within the footprint of the development. A fourth pit, within the cellar area towards the north-east corner of the site was deemed too unsafe to enter and a photographic record made instead.

The earliest deposit encountered within all three pits comprised mid orange / red blue clay with grey veining; (008), (014), (018).

Test pit 1 revealed a possible disturbed cobbled yard surface (007) approximately 0.08m thick above natural (008), upon which a sequence of modern levelling and construction for the former public house was laid. This sequence comprised contexts (004) and (005), a mid grey brown sand clay material, interpreted as former topsoil or made ground in which remnants of the rear wall of the Butchers Arms (003) was erected. A thin deposit of crushed lime (002), possibly a floor layer, was present to the immediate north of wall (003) sealed by a covering of recent demolition material (001).

Test pit 2, excavated within the footprint of the garages, was dominated by a large cut [013] containing a substantial concrete slab, possibly part of a septic tank? To the immediate south-east, remnants of a brick outhouse structure (011) were revealed, the cut for which merged with that of [013] and filled with red brown redeposited natural. All of the above was in turn covered by demolition deposit (009).

The third and final test pit appeared to be situated in an area which comprised the former car park to the Butchers Arms. A dense, 0.38m thick deposit of mid grey-brown sandy clay (017), interpreted as buried topsoil was covered by degraded cinder and asphalt, and subsequently sealed by topsoil (015).

7.2 Northern plot (Figures 3 & 4)

As with the previous test pits, the earliest deposit comprised natural red brown clay (107), covered in part by a sandy subsoil (102) = (113).

The following contexts formed structural elements of the Butchers Arms pub: construction cut [109] contained brick remnants of the internal and external walls of the public house (106), also to include (119) and (120). These were in turn backfilled by (110), a dirty, mixed clay and silt deposit.

The wall of a large brick soakaway (108) was revealed adjacent to wall (106) towards the eastern extent of this plot. Assumed to be square in plan, (108) was contained within cut [112], approximately 1.5m in depth and 2.6m+ in length and subsequently backfilled with rubble and clay (111) which yielded two glass bottles dated between 1874 to 1969, one of which carried the embossed text "OWBRIDGE'S" "LUNG TONIC" "HULL".

At the eastern extent of the site was a deposit of topsoil/garden soil (101), present within the west facing section of the footings. This had been truncated in part by cut [103] for the pub cellar previously investigated during the test pit phase of operations. This had been backfilled with loose brick rubble, concrete and clay silt (105) upon which and incorporated within were remains of the brick boundary wall (104) for the public house.

The final depositions appear at the northern extent of the development, adjacent to main street and comprise (114) overburden from the demolished building and a general spread of material (115) laid down by the contractors.

7.3 Southern plot (Figures 3 & 4)

The earliest deposit encountered was natural clay (107) above which was a pale orange sand (116), probably associated with (117), a mid grey brown sandy silt which formed a levelling horizon for an asphalt layer (118), part of the former public house car park. These deposits were sealed by topsoil (101), which together with a concrete decorative edging, formed a boundary between the car park and a possible garden area.

7.4 Garage plot (Figures 3 & 5)

The area investigated for the garage plots revealed a sandy subsoil (102) above natural clay (107). The only feature present [121] was a large rubbish pit, 3m+ wide and 1.5m in depth, filled with mid grey-brown silty sand containing frequent brick, concrete and metal work, old buckets etc. This deposit had in turn been sealed by a plastic membrane upon which topsoil had been laid.

8.0 Conclusion

Monitoring carried out at Land at the Butchers' Arms, Main Street, Laneham revealed no surviving evidence of medieval activity within the development footprint.

It is apparent that, if any significant archaeology was once present, presumably along the frontage of Main Street, then it had subsequently been destroyed by the later construction of the Butchers' Arms public house. The only surviving evidence of earlier activity may tentatively be seen in deposit (007) (Figure 5.3), which comprised a disturbed cobble layer, probably Victorian/Edwardian in date.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology employed during this project achieved its primary objective, ensuring that any archaeological remains that might have been present on the site would not have been destroyed unrecorded, while causing the minimum of disruption to the construction process.

10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank Mr Peter Castle for this commission.

11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition, and will be deposited with Nottingham Museum by December 2012, with the exception of the finds, which are to be discarded.

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Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of location of southern plots, looking south.



Plate 3: South-west facing section of wall footing (106) and soakaway (108) within northern plot.



Plate 5: South-east facing representative section showing natural red clay (107) within southern plot footings.



Plate 2: General view of location of northern plots, looking north.



Plate 4: South facing representative section showing natural red clay (107) within northern plot footings.



Plate 6: North facing section of modern rubbish pit [121] within garage plot.

Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context No.	Туре	Description	Finds/Dating
001	Layer	Modern brick rubble, up to 0.2m thick	Fragments of modern brick rubble. Not retrieved.
002	Structure	Crushed lime floor surface associated with Butchers Arms, 0.03m thick	19 th /20 th century
003	Structure	Rear wall of Butchers Arms, two courses wide, 0.3m deep	Modern bricks noted but not retrieved.
004	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy loam. Modern topsoil, 0.3m thick.	Modern
005	Fill	Mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Make-up below [002]. 0.22m thick	Modern
006	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy loam with frequent pebbles. Remains of former topsoil, 0.08m thick.	Modern
007	Laver	Possible remains of cobbled vard surface, 0.08m thick	19 th /20 th century
008	Layer	Mid orange red and blue/grey veined natural clay, $1.4m_{\pm}$ thick	Natural
009	Layer	Modern rubble (same as 001), 0.3m thick	Fragments of modern brick rubble. Not retrieved
010	Cut	Construction cut for wall foundation [011], 0.4m wide by 0.25m deep.	19 th /20 th century
011	Structure	Foundation for former outbuilding. One course thick orange bricks and lime mortar.	19 th /20 th century
012	Fill	Friable reddish brown re-deposited clay and grey brown sandy clay with frequent pebbles and occasional mortar fragments. Backfill of construction trench for a large concrete block (septic tank?).	Modern
013	Cut	Construction cut for concrete block	Modern
014	Layer	Mid orange red and blue/grey veined natural clay, 1.7m+ thick	Natural
015	Layer	Dark brown sandy loam with occasional pebbles. Modern topsoil, 0.2m thick.	Modern
016	Layer	Asphalt, 0.1m thick. Remains of former car park surface.	Modern
017	Layer	Mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional small round pebbles. Buried topsoil, 0.38m thick.	Modern
018	Layer	Mid orange red and blue/grey veined natural clay, 1.4m+ thick	Natural
101	Layer	Dark grey brown clay silt topsoil with moderate sized stone and brick rubble fragments, 0.35m thick.	Fragments of modern brick rubble. Not retrieved.
102	Layer	Mid brown sandy clay silt subsoil, 0.3m thick	None
103	Cut	Rectangular steep sided, flat based cut marking extent of previously demolished cellar. Extends 1.7m high by unknown other dimensions.	None
104	Structure	Brick wall, 3m long. Probably the remains of the pub boundary wall.	Bricks noted in structure, 110mm x 220mm x 80mm. Not retrieved.
105	Deposit	Dark grey brown clay silt and brick/concrete rubble, 1.6m deep. Backfill of the demolished cellar.	Modern brick rubble. Not retrieved.
106	Structure	Remains of brick foundations. Generic number given out for demolished building.	Bricks noted in footings, 110mm x 220mm x 80mm. Not retrieved.
107	Layer	Mid brown red stiff clay. Natural geology at least 1.5m thick.	None

Context No.	Туре	Description	Finds/Dating
108	Structure	Double thickness brick soakaway, 2.5m long, 1.5m deep.	Bricks noted in structure, 110mm x 220mm x 80mm. Not retrieved.
109	Cut	Rectangular in plan, steep-sided flat based construction cut for pub footings aligned north-south and east-west. 1m wide by 0.5m deep.	None
110	Deposit	Firm mixed red brown clay silt, 0.5m thick. Backfill of construction cut 109.	None
111	Deposit	Firm dark brown clay silt with occasional brick rubble, 1.5m thick.	Glass bottles, modern.
112	Cut	Construction cut for soakaway 108, 2.5m long by 1.5m deep	None
113	Deposit	Firm mid brown silty clay, 0.15m thick, subsoil	None
114	Deposit	Firm grey brown silty clay, occasional brick rubble, and 0.2m thick.	Modern brick rubble noted, not retrieved.
115	Layer	Brown red clay silt with occasional brick rubble. Spread formed from recent site levelling, 0.1m thick.	Modern brick rubble noted, not retrieved.
116	Layer	Compacted yellow orange sand with occasional smooth cobbles. Modern dump layer, 0.22m thick.	None
117	Layer	Friable mid grey brown clay silt with occasional small stones. Buried topsoil, 0.2-0.3m thick	None
118	Layer	Compact tarmac and cinder surface, 0.3m thick.	None
119	Structure	Red brick wall fragment, aligned north-south, 0.6m long by 0.11m high.	Bricks noted in structure, 190mm by 110mm bu 80mm. Not retrieved.
120	Structure	Rendered brick wall aligned north-south, 3.2m long by 0.8m wide by 0.1m deep.	None
121	Cut	Rectangular cut 3m wide by 1.5m deep for modern rubbish pit.	None
122	Deposit	Loose, mid grey-brown silt clay with frequent brick, stone and plastic membrane inclusions. Backfill of pit 121, 1.5m thick.	Modern finds visible; none retrieved.

Appendix 3: Glass bottle archive

Context	Object	Description	Date
(111)	Glass Bottle	Green glass, infrequent bubbles. Conical 23cm high x 6cm deep. No seam, collared. 3.7cm kick-up base.	1890 – Modern
(111)	Glass Bottle	Aqua glass, infrequent bubbles. Rectangular shape, 12cm high x 4.5 cm wide x 2.5 cm deep. Double mould seam on the diagonal. Collared below lip. Embossing in recesses on both sides and the front – "OWBRIDGE'S" "LUNG TONIC" "HULL"	1874 - 1969

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Figure 3: Plan of northern/southern plots & garages.



Figure 4: Northern & southern plot sections.



Figure 5: Representative sections through garage footings & Test pits.