

Archaeological Watching Brief  
at  
**CHURCH HAYES, LEA,  
NEAR MALMESBURY, WILTSHIRE.**  
for  
Mr Alexander Badenoch



Report No. 2288/2010



Bristol and Region Archaeological Services

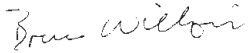

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Archaeological Watching Brief  
at  
**CHURCH HAYES, LEA,  
NEAR MALMESBURY, WILTSHIRE.**

Centred on  
N.G.R. ST 9576 8617

Client: Mr Alexander Badenoch

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<i>Date Issued:</i>	6 May 2010 

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### Abbreviations

AD	Anno Domini	Km	Kilometre
aOD	Above Ordnance Datum	m	Metre
BaRAS	Bristol & Region Archaeological Services	NGR	National Grid Reference
BC	Before Christ	NMR	National Monuments Record
c.	Circa	OS	Ordnance Survey
HER	Historic Environment Record		

### NOTE

Notwithstanding that Bristol and Region Archaeological Services have taken reasonable care to produce a comprehensive summary of the known and recorded archaeological evidence, no responsibility can be accepted for any omissions of fact or opinion, however caused.

May, 2010.

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## **SUMMARY**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks associated with excavation of foundations for a new garage at Church Hayes, Lea, near Malmesbury, North Wiltshire. The area of the garage was initially reduced in level between 200 and 450mm, after which footings were excavated. The footings comprised a rectangle of 600mm wide, standard strip foundations excavated to a maximum depth of 900mm.

The groundworks revealed topsoil and rubble sealing natural clay of geological origin. A length of ditch of post-medieval date and a modern post-hole were also located but a third possible sub-rounded soil feature was found to be a former tree-root hole. A wall of post-medieval date was also recorded along the southern edge of the reduced level dig.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the intrusive groundworks.

## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

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- Plate 1 The southern half of the platform as excavated, looking west, 1m scale
- Plate 2 Foundation trench excavation in the south-east corner of the footings, looking north-east, 1m scale
- Plate 3 Foundation trench excavated through cut [105] and fill (106) looking east, scales 2m 0.5m
- Plate 4 General view of the site near the completion of groundworks, looking east

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS) were commissioned by Alexander Badenoch to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage at Church Hayes, Lea near Malmesbury (**Fig. 1**).
- 1.2 The watching brief was commissioned to comply with the condition of planning consent Wiltshire County Council Planning Reference Number N/09/02097/FUL and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services (BaRAS 2010).
- 1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken on 14 & 15 April 2010 under the supervision of R. K. Ducker who also compiled this report.
- 1.4 The project archive will be deposited with Wiltshire Heritage Museum, Devizes and a copy of the report will be made available to the National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage. The project will be entered in the Wiltshire Historic Environment and in the OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations as: bristola1-75525.

## 2. THE SITE

- 2.1 The site (centred on NGR ST 9576 8617) lies in the village of Lea, located about 40m south of Church Hayes, which is itself just south of the T-junction of roads next to Lea Parish Church (**Fig.1**). The site is approximately 2.5km ESE of the centre of Malmesbury. The site occupies an area of about 0.2 hectares being approximately some 50m (E - W) by 40m (N - S) and is relatively flat lying at around 86.5m a.O.D. The footprint of the garage itself comprises an area about 10m x 6.7m or 670 square metres of this. The site is not within any conservation area and has no listed buildings upon it, though the parish church of St. Giles, various churchyard monuments and a late 18th-century barn (Manor Farm, Grade II Listed) are all nearby.
- 2.2 The geology of the study area comprises Oxford Clays and Kellaway Beds of the Jurassic Period (British Geological Survey 1: 625, 000 map).

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 No archaeological desk-based assessment had been carried out prior to the site work but an outline historical and archaeological background to the site is summarised below.
- 3.2 The County HER reveals that the approximate southern boundary of the medieval settlement of Lea lay just to the north of the present site. The village of Lea stands in the west of the Parish on sandy soil. Historically the village lay in the Parish of Lea and Cleverton. The Parish Church of St. Giles still retains a 15th century-tower at the west end but the remainder of the building was rebuilt, slightly larger, during the Victorian period. A post-medieval burial has been recorded on the south side of The Street, on the site of the Quaker burial ground. Manor Farm, about 100m northeast of the site is suggested to have once been moated, the present house there is of late 17th or early 18th century construction.
- 3.3 Before the Conquest the lands of Lea and Cleverton were probably held by Malmesbury Abbey and may have been a part of the large estate called Brokenborough, c 1100. By the later 13th century the abbey had alienated some of its lands in the parish and there may have been a separate estate called Lea. In 1377 Lea had 40 poll-tax payers (with another 55 in Cleverton). Richard Moody was granted the former abbey estate at Lea after the dissolution of the monasteries, after which it passed through various owners.
- 3.4 By the early 19th century much of the village had been rebuilt, though its extent had changed little by the 1840s. The manor, by then 1,050 acres, was sold in portions by the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery in 1916 and 1917. Manor Farm was purchased by a member of the Sellwood family and they retained ownership until 1973.
- 3.5 The History of Wiltshire, Volume XIV (Crowley 1991) states that “between Manor Farm and Brill's Court, near the church, another farmhouse is of 18th century origin” and it is suggested that refers to the main house at Church Hayes.



#### **4. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The fieldwork complied with the methodology contained within the Written Scheme of Investigation (BaRAS 2010) and the Wiltshire County Council's Standard Guidelines for an Archaeological Watching Brief. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (1999). The aim of the watching brief was to record any archaeological features or deposits revealed during the course of intrusive groundworks.
- 4.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring a shallow reduced level excavation of the area of the new garage followed by the mechanical excavation of a simple rectangle of standard strip foundation trenches.

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 All groundworks were carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator using a 600mm toothless grading bucket.
- 5.2 The watching brief groundworks comprised an initial reduced level excavation across the whole of the area of the new garage, followed by excavation of four standard strip foundation trenches.

### REDUCED LEVEL EXCAVATION (Fig. 2)

- 5.3 Along the west side of the new garage the foundations of the old garage or possibly the boundary wall (wall 107, **Fig. 2**) against which the garage was built were removed. The depth of reduced level excavation here was 450mm, across the remainder of the area the depth of excavation ranged between 200 and 250mm.
- 5.4 A simple sequence of stratigraphy was recorded, on the west of the platform, mainly in section but also partly covering the remains of wall 107 was an in-situ topsoil (101). The rest of the platform was wholly excavated through a mixed layer of redeposited topsoil and demolition rubble, mainly Lias limestone but also with occasional fragments of Oolitic limestone and ceramic building material.
- 5.5 Exposed below context 102 was archaeologically sterile fine sandy clay into which two possible features were cut. Feature 104 was sub-rounded and approximately 1.5 x 1.8m in diameter and up to 550mm deep, this was believed to have been a former tree-bole hole. The second feature, cut 105, fill 106 (**Plate 3**) appeared to be a small ditch and this was dated from pottery recovered from it to the post-medieval period.

### FOUNDATION EXCAVATION (Fig. 2)

- 5.6 The footings for the new garage comprised a rectangle approximately 10m x 6.7m in size. The footings were excavated to a maximum of 900mm, on the west side of the platform but averaged about 450mm deep over the remainder of the block.
- 5.7 Cut 105/fill 106 had a section excavated through it by the foundations enabling detailed recording to be undertaken, Feature 104 was twice sectioned by the footings and conclusively proven to be a tree-bole hole but no new features or deposits were exposed during the foundation work. A modern post-hole (cut and fill 108, **Fig. 2**) with a rotted post remaining in-situ was also exposed in the foundation trench on the west side of the garage.
- 5.8 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed and no artefacts predating the modern period were recovered during intrusive groundworks at the site.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were located during the groundworks. Those deposits recorded comprised topsoil and mixed topsoil/demolition rubble over archaeologically sterile deposits of geological origin. Features and structures recorded comprised a length of ditch of post-medieval ditch, probably a former drainage or boundary ditch, a modern post-hole and a boundary/building wall also of modern date. The wall comprised either the south wall of the former garage or the boundary wall against which the garage had been built and was located along the southern edge of the excavation. A third possible sub-rounded feature was found to be a tree-bole hole.
- 6.2 The watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of the intrusive groundworks. The lack of archaeological deposits may indicate that any structural remains related to the adjacent church or suggested Quaker burial ground did not extend into the application area or that they may have been truncated by previous development of the area.

## 7. PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by R.K. Ducker who also produced this report. The illustrations were prepared and the report compiled by Ann Linge. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by R. K. Ducker and the project was managed by Bruce Williams.

## 8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED

### Published Works

Crowley, D. A. 1991 The Institute Of Historical Research, Oxford University Press, A *HISTORY OF WILTSHIRE. Vol XIV. Malmesbury Hundred.*

### Maps

British Geological Survey, *Geological Survey Ten Mile Map*, 1: 625, 000, 1979

### Unpublished Material

BaRAS 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief during at Church Hayes, Lea, near Malmesbury* (unpublished client report by Bryant, J.)

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BaRAS would like to thank Mr Alexander Badenoch for the funding of the project and Mr Chris Poolman of Ken Biggs Contractors Ltd for his assistance and co-operation and the Wiltshire County Archaeological Officer for his advice.

## APPENDIX 1: Policy Statement

This report is the result of work carried out in the light of national and local authority policies.

### NATIONAL POLICIES

Statutory protection for archaeology is enshrined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), amended by the National Heritage Act, 1983. Nationally important sites are listed in the Schedule of Ancient Monuments (SAM). Scheduled Monument consent is required for any work that would affect a SAM.

### GOVERNMENT POLICY GUIDANCE

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (1994) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (1990) have been replaced (23 March 2010) by Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010) which sets out the Government's national policies on conservation of the historic environment. Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are called heritage assets.

Of particular relevance within the Planning Policy Statement are:

#### **Policy HE6: Information Requirements for Applications for Consent Affecting Heritage Assets**

HE6.1 Local planning authorities should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets themselves should have been assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary given the application's impact. Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation.

#### **Policy HE9: Additional Policy Principles Guiding the Consideration of Applications for Consent Relating to Designated Heritage Assets**

HE9.1 There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Once lost, heritage assets cannot be replaced and their loss has a cultural, environmental, economic and social impact. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II\* listed buildings and grade I and II\* registered parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

#### **Policy HE12: Policy Principles Guiding the Recording of Information Related to Heritage Assets**

HE12.3 Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, local planning authorities should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, using planning conditions or obligations as appropriate. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant historic environment record. Local planning authorities should require any archive generated to be deposited with a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it. Local planning authorities should impose planning conditions or obligations to ensure such work is carried out in a timely manner and that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.

### LOCAL POLICY

#### **Wiltshire County Council & Swindon Borough Council**

*Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016* – Adopted April 2006

Chapter 7: Historic Environment

7.2 Archaeology

Policy HE2 FEATURES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST AND THEIR SETTINGS SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM INAPPROPRIATE DEVELOPMENT. WHERE NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL OR HISTORIC REMAINS, WHETHER SCHEDULED SITES OR NOT, ARE AFFECTED BY PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT THERE SHOULD BE A PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF THEIR PHYSICAL PRESERVATION 'IN SITU'.

**North Wiltshire District Council**

*North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011* – Adopted 2006

Chapter 7: Historic Environment

Policy HE7

Enabling Development – Historic Environment

Proposals involving enabling development will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances where:

- a) The scale of the proposed enabling development does not exceed what is necessary to support the principal development; and
- b) The proposal (the principal development) to be subsidised by the proposed enabling development is in the national interest.

## APPENDIX 2: Context Descriptions

Context No.	Description
100	Unstratified finds number
101	Topsoil, mid brown, fine sandy silt with occasional Lias limestone fragment inclusions. Partly recorded over the remains of Wall 107 but mainly only in the east facing section
102	Redeposited topsoil and demolition rubble, dark brown - very dark brown, clayey silt with frequent Lias Limestone rubble inclusions up to 150 x 350 x 500mm in size and occasional Oolitic Limestone and ceramic building Material fragments
103	Yellowish-brown/strong brown mottled, fine sandy clay with rare manganese flecking and chert fragment inclusions
104	Irregular, sub-rounded area of mixed redeposited topsoil and pale brown sandy, silty clay with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded Lias Limestone fragments
105	Linear soil cut feature, has irregular sides - concave/convex with a fairly flat base
106	Greyish brown, fine sandy silty clay with manganese and iron-pan staining and rare Lias Limestone fragment inclusions
107	Linear structure of unworked, large, random coursed, Lias Limestone rubble. No bonding material apparent. Boundary wall adjoined by garage or a wall forming part of the garage
108	Cut and fill of modern posthole, including in-situ rotted post



Fig.1 Site location plans



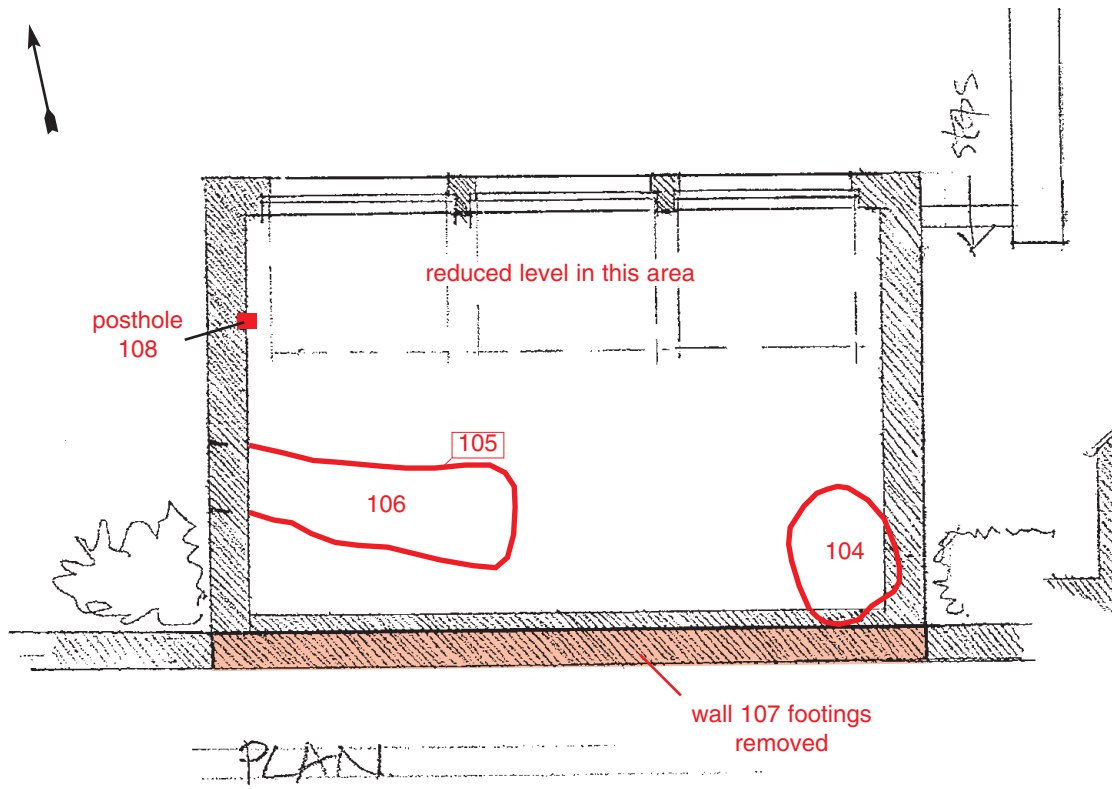


Fig.2 Location of recorded features, scale approximately 1:100



Plate 1 The southern half of the platform as excavated, looking west, 1m scale



Plate 2 Foundation trench excavation in the south-east corner of the footings, looking north-east, 1m scale



Plate 3 Foundation trench excavated through cut [105] and fill (106) looking east, scales 1m & 0.5m in foreground



Plate 4 General view of the site near the completion of groundworks, looking east