

**JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**AT**

**3 BROADWELL,**

**DURSLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ST 75715 98085**

**JULY 2004**

**PREPARED BY**

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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services conducted an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension to the property. This trenching revealed post-medieval garden deposits and a 19<sup>th</sup> century soak-away.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)**

The development site is located to the north of Silver Street and south-east of St James's Church (NGR ST 75715 98085). The house is situated on the south-west side of an alley. The development site was in the garden of the property.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Stroud District Council granted planning permission for the construction of a single-storey extension to the rear of the building. Due to the potential presence of below ground archaeological deposits a condition was attached to the planning consent that required the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the course of the groundworks in order to preserve by record any archaeological remains of significance.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

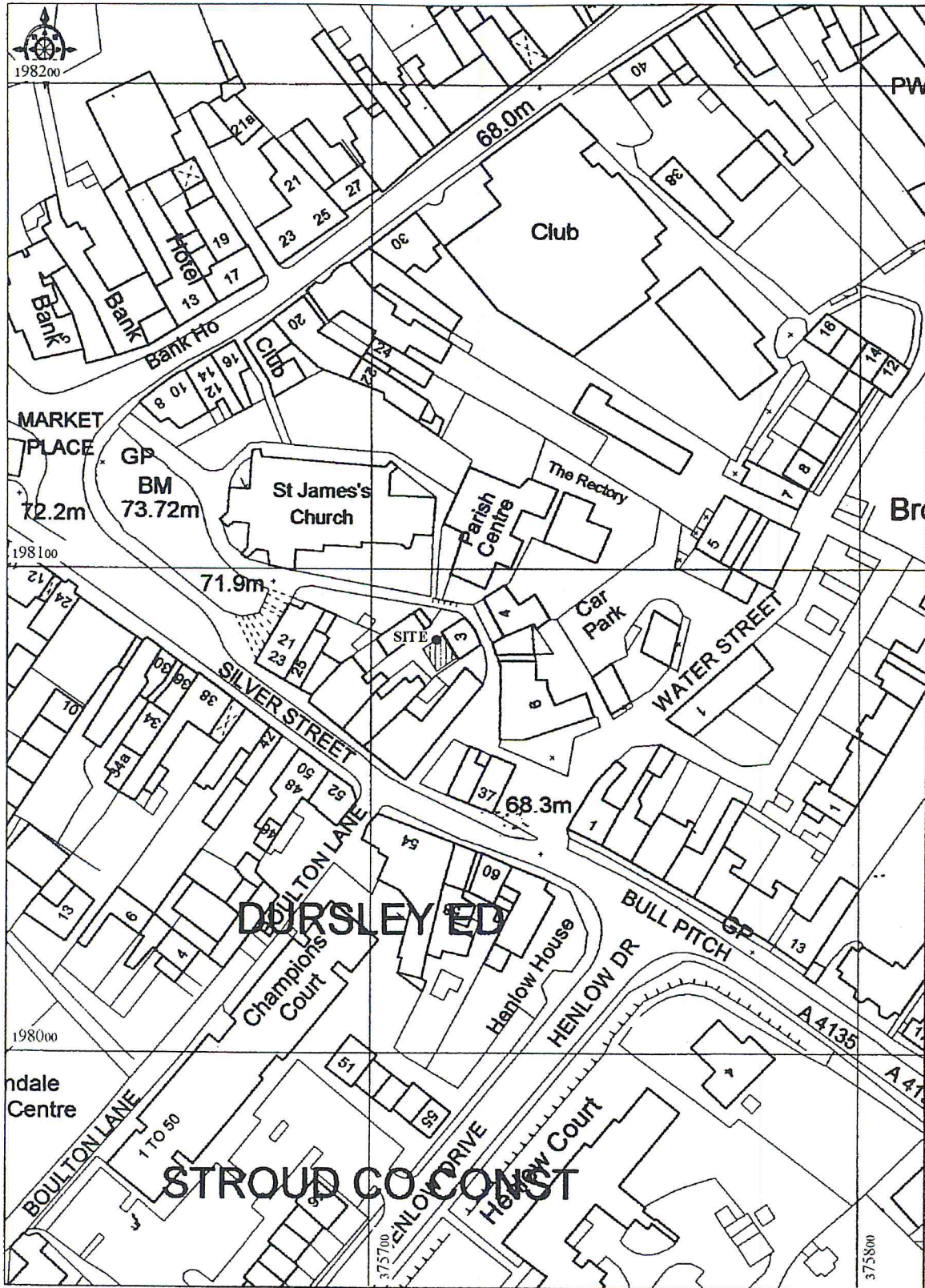
The development site lies within the area of the medieval settlement of Dursley and in close proximity to the medieval parish church. Dursley is mentioned in Domesday as Dersilege. The present church of St James is 13<sup>th</sup> century but is mostly the product of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries with later additions and a 19<sup>th</sup> century refurbishment. Dursley obtained borough status in 1471 and was once the market centre for the whole of the Vale of Berkeley and also having a significant role in the local wool industry.

The cottage of 3 Broadwell was built in *c.* 1850 and the remains of a cottage lie immediately to the west partly within the garden of 3 Broadwell and partly within the rear of the garden of 29 Silver Street. This cottage is shown on the 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. 3 Broadwell is built into a slope so that three floors are visible at the front elevation and only the upper two floors at the rear.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To make a record of any significant remains revealed during the course of any operations that may disturb or destroy archaeological remains.



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Figure 1. Site Location

- In particular to record any evidence for medieval and/or later occupation or activity.
- To make public the results of the investigations.

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

John Moore Heritage Services carried out the work to a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service, on behalf of the Stroud District Council.

An archaeologist was present on site during the excavation of the trenches for the new foundations.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

A depth of 400mm of material was removed across the area of the extension. Foundation trenches on the three sides away from the house were then excavated to a depth of *c.* 1.2 to 2.2m from existing ground level and were generally 550-600mm wide. The trenches were deeper by the house and were stepped up away from it. A further 800mm deep trench was excavated north-east/south-west along the centre line of the extension.

Standard John Moore Heritage Services recording techniques were employed throughout, involving the completion of a written record for each deposit encountered, with scale plans and sections drawings compiled where appropriate.

The recording was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

### **4 RESULTS**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers in [ ] indicate features i.e. walls, pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material.

The lowest deposit encountered was a natural deposit of very compact pale white-yellow clay with stone (04). This was seen at the base of the three trenches excavated for the new external foundations.

Lying above the natural geology was a 250mm layer of compact pale yellow grey clay with a slight silt fraction (03), which in turn was overlaid by 550mm of moderately compact mid grey-brown slightly clayey silt with very occasional stone (02). The uppermost deposit was a 400mm thick layer of loose mid grey-brown sandy silt with

5% small and medium stone containing lenses of gravel (01). This last constituted the topsoil of the garden with the gravel probably representing former paths.

Within the north-west foundation trench was a soak-away [05]. The near vertical sided sub-circular pit was filled with large pieces of stone. This feature was cut from within 02, with the top c. 600mm below modern ground level, and was 1000mm deep. The soak-away was c. 2m in diameter and the edge was 550mm from the west corner of the house.

## 5 FINDS

### Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 18 sherds with a total weight of 315g. Each group of pottery was of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date, although three sherds (22g) of residual early medieval material were present. The medieval pottery was recorded using the coding and chronology utilized by Vince (1979) in his analysis of the pottery from 1 Westgate Street, Gloucester, as follows:

TF41B: Cotswolds-type ware, late 11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century. 3 sherds, 22g.

The rest of the assemblage comprised post-medieval wares, as follows:

RE: Red Earthenware, 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century. Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a wide range of utilitarian forms. 8 sherds, 249g.

MANG: Manganese mottled ware, c 1700-1800. A uniform buff-fired fabric in a moderately sorted matrix., occasional sub-angular and rounded black ironstone up to 0.6mm. Characterised by its brown 'tiger striped' manganese glaze. General range of forms include mugs, tankards, cups, chamber pots and conical pots. 1 sherd, 5g.

LES: Late English Stoneware, c. M18th-19th. Generally, the later products of the London and Staffordshire stoneware industries. Hard grey fabric, often with an external iron wash. Utilitarian vessels such as ink-pots and blacking bottles. 1 sherd, 11g.

19<sup>th</sup>: Miscellaneous mass-produced 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century wares. 5 sherds, 38g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

	Cots		RE		MANG		LES		19th		
Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
2	1	12	5	139	1	5			3	26	19thC
3	2	10	2	23			1	11			M18thC
4			1	87					2	12	19thC
Total	3	22	8	249	1	5	1	11	5	38	

NB Not all 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was collected.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The earliest 'garden' deposit (03) is dated from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century while the later garden soil (02) is of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earlier deposit is a derivation of the natural and appears not to have been improved much. The present cottage dates from around the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century and the later garden soil is of much better quality showing fairly intensive use of the garden. The depth of this deposit and the more modern topsoil (01) suggests intensive manuring of the garden to develop a depth of c. 950mm of cultivated soil over a period of c. 150 years. Even allowing for 'double depth' cultivation in the early years, at least 300mm of material has accumulated since then.

The soakaway is dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and therefore must be associated with the present cottage.

The topography and the present layout of boundaries suggests that medieval burgage plots stretched back from Silver Street to the churchyard boundary (or perhaps even a smaller churchyard marked by the path south of the church) and to Broadwell. Therefore the sherds of early medieval pottery could derive from rubbish discarded at the rear of one of these plots. However the possibility of a medieval building existing perhaps in the location of the ruined cottage cannot be discarded.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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