

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Ms R Bedford and Mr M. Lovett
March 2012



LAND ADJACENT TO MOAT FARM, NETHER BROUGHTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief

R Trimble

LAND ADJACENT TO MOAT FARM, NETHER BROUGHTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

Site Code: NBMF11
Leicestershire Museums Accession No.: X.A172.2011
Planning Application No.: 11/00443/FUL
NGR: SK 6957 2582

Archaeological Watching Brief

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY	1
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES	2
5.0 METHODOLOGY	2
6.0 RESULTS	2
7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION	3
8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS	4
10.1 Project Details	4
10.2 Archive Details	4
<i>Colour plates</i>	
<i>Plate 1: View including Section 1, looking SE with 1m Scale.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Plate 2: Brick Structure (007), looking S with 1m Scale.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Plate 3: Section 4, looking SE with 1m Scale.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Plate 4: Section 5, looking SE with 1m Scale</i>	<i>6</i>

Illustrations

Fig. 1 Site Location Map - Scale 1: 50 000

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan - Scale 1:200

Fig. 3 Section Location Plan - Scale 1:100

Fig. 4 Sections 1, 2 and 3 – Scale 1:20

Fig. 5 Sections 4, 5 and 6 – Scale 1:20

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX B – CERAMICS REPORT AND ARCHIVES *by Jane Young*

LAND ADJACENT TO MOAT FARM, NETHER BROUGHTON, LEICESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of a new house and garage on land adjacent to Moat Farm, Middle Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Ms Rachel Bedford and Mr Mitchell Lovett to satisfy the requirements of a condition of planning permission imposed by Melton Borough Council.

The new house (Moatsby House) lies within gardens to the south of the existing, post medieval farm buildings at Moat Farm. The existing house, with outbuildings to the east, is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1885, with a farmyard to the north and an enclosure to the south (correlating with the present day garden). Well preserved medieval earthworks are present on land to the east of Moat Farm, including a moated site, probable house platforms and remnants of ridge and furrow (part of the medieval and post medieval field system).

The watching brief resulted in the identification of an extensive hollow or shallow cut on the eastern side of the plot. A charcoal-rich primary fill suggests a possible association with an oven or kilns, although the deposit might simply have originated as refuse from elsewhere on the holding. A small quantity of pottery recovered from the deposit, indicated a probable 18th century date. Part of a brick structure (possibly a soakaway) and two amorphous cuts (probably modern) were also recorded.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Witham Archaeology during groundworks relating to the construction of a new house and garage on land adjacent to Moat Farm, Middle Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Ms Rachel Bedford and Mr Mitchell Lovett to satisfy the requirements of a condition of planning permission imposed by Melton Borough Council. Attendance on site was required on three occasions during the period 24th to 29th November 2011.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Nether Broughton, in the parish of Broughton and Old Dalby and the administrative district of Melton Borough Council, lies c. 9km northwest of Melton Mowbray.

The site, at NGR SK 6957 2582, lies on the eastern side of the village, on the east side of Middle Lane, within gardens located to the south of the existing Moat Farm farmhouse.

The site is located upon geology of the Brandon Sandstone Bed (British Geological Survey 1:50 000, maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/geologyviewer.html).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record describes Nether Broughton as a shrunken medieval village (HER Ref. MLE9700). Earthworks in pasture to the east of the Moat Farm farmyard include a moated site with traces of small enclosures and several building platforms to the north (MLE3437) and ridge and furrow to the south. The earthworks were recorded as part of a survey of medieval earthworks in northeast Leicestershire (Hartley 1987).

The parish church of St Mary (NGR SK 69583 26214) lies to the north of the earthwork site. It is listed Grade II* and is primarily 13th to 14th century in date, with a clerestory and chancel added in the 15th century (Heritage List No. 1075069). Major restoration of the church took place in 1881.

The farmhouse at Moat Farm is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1885, situated within a small enclosure with an L-shaped arrangement of outbuildings to the east. An enclosure to the south more or less conforms to the present day garden (the area containing the current site). There are no structures depicted in the enclosure.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 20th September 2011, were to:

- *allow the preservation by record of any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts exposed by the development groundwork within the constraints imposed by the contractor's working methods, programme and development design.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.*
- *provide information for accession to the County Historic Environment Record.*

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The footprint of the new house and garage covers an area of approximately 100m square, formed on split levels to accommodate a drop in level to the south (see Fig. 3). Initial ground reduction varied in depth between 0.20m (most of the house plot), and c. 0.50m in the vehicle turning area and the northern part of the garage plot (cutting into the slope). The majority of the material removed as part of this operation was topsoil. Foundations trenches were uniformly 0.60m wide, ranging in depth between 1.00m to the north and 1.50m to the south, where deeper footings were required to mitigate the impact of root disturbance from nearby trees.

Three separate visits were made, timed to coincide with the main phases of groundwork. Continuous attendance was provided during initial excavations for footings across the majority of the house plot, with follow up visits to inspect residual excavations (primarily the garage area). All trench sides were closely inspected for evidence of archaeological features and deposits.

Trench sides were cleaned at selected locations, where potential archaeological deposits and features were identified. The cleaned areas were subsequently recorded as Sections 1 to 6 (see results). All archaeologically significant features and deposits were photographed using 35mm monochrome film, supplemented by colour digital views. Drawings were produced at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate, while individual written context descriptions were made on *pro forma* recording sheets.

6.0 RESULTS (see Figs. 3 - 5)

Detailed context descriptions are presented in Appendix A.

Geological deposits of soft silty clay (005) extended throughout the the majority of the area, apart from the southeast corner of the garage footprint, where a degree of differentiation was noted, between light yellowish brown clay, 0.54m thick (014), and an underlying deposit of light grey silty clay (015).

A broad hollow [011] extended throughout much of the eastern side of the plot (see *Plates 3 and 4*). The feature was 5.8m long N-S, extending across the widths of the eastern trenches. It contained a primary fill (010) of charcoal rich silty sand, which was particularly well defined in the central part of the feature (see Section 5). An increase in charcoal content was evident towards the base of (009) in Section 4 but was not definable as a distinct layer. A small quantity of pottery recovered from (010) suggests a probable 18th century date (also context 016 – see Appendix A). Some brick and tile was visible in the trench side but was not collected.

Part of a brick structure (007) was located in the north facing side of the trench on the north side of the plot (see *Plate 2*). The wall was 0.7m long E-W, surviving to a height of 0.44m and might be interpreted as forming part of a soak-away. The cut [008] of the feature was filled by a silty clay (006), which had the appearance of redeposited natural material.

A small cut, [004], probably a pit, was located on the western side of the plot. Measuring 0.7m across by 0.3m deep with a fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (003) the feature was not dated but was presumed to be modern. Another small cut [013] recorded on the eastern side of the plot may reflect disturbance by tree roots.

Tosspoil (001) extended throughout the upper levels of plot.

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Features and deposits representing post medieval and modern activity were located during the watching brief at Moat Farm

The most notable feature was an extensive hollow or cut, [011], located on the eastern side of the house footprint. Frequent charcoal occurring in the primary fill, (010), suggests a possible association with an activity involving the use of fire (a kiln or ovens?) but the material might simply have derived from domestic waste.

The only structural feature encountered was a fragment of brickwork, (007), interpreted as probably forming part of a soakaway. The absence of structural remains associated with the post medieval farm is consistent with the OS map of 1885 (see Item 3.0, Archaeological and Historical Background, above) which depicts the area as open ground.

The absence of medieval remains would tend to suggest that the area of the site lay outside the settlement denoted by earthworks to the east.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr Lovett and Ms Bedford for their interest and support in ensuring the successful completion of the project, and Jane Young for the report on ceramic finds.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hartley, R F 1987 *The Medieval Earthworks of North-East Leicestershire*. Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Record Service Archaeological Reports Series

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Details

SITE CODE: NBMF11

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 11/00443/FUL

FIELD OFFICER: R Trimble

NGR: SK 6957 2582

CIVIL PARISH: Nether Broughton

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 24-29th November 2011

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr M. Lovett and Ms R Bedford

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, Unit 6, Sleaford Station Business Centre, Station Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7RG

FINAL LOCATION: Leicestershire Museums

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: X.A172.2011

INTENDED ACCESSION DATE: May 2012

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	15
Plans at Scale 1:50	-
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	2
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	4
Colour Digital Photographs	23
Monochrome print Photographs	23

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: View including Section 1, looking SE with 1m Scale



Plate 2: Brick Structure (007), looking S with 1m Scale

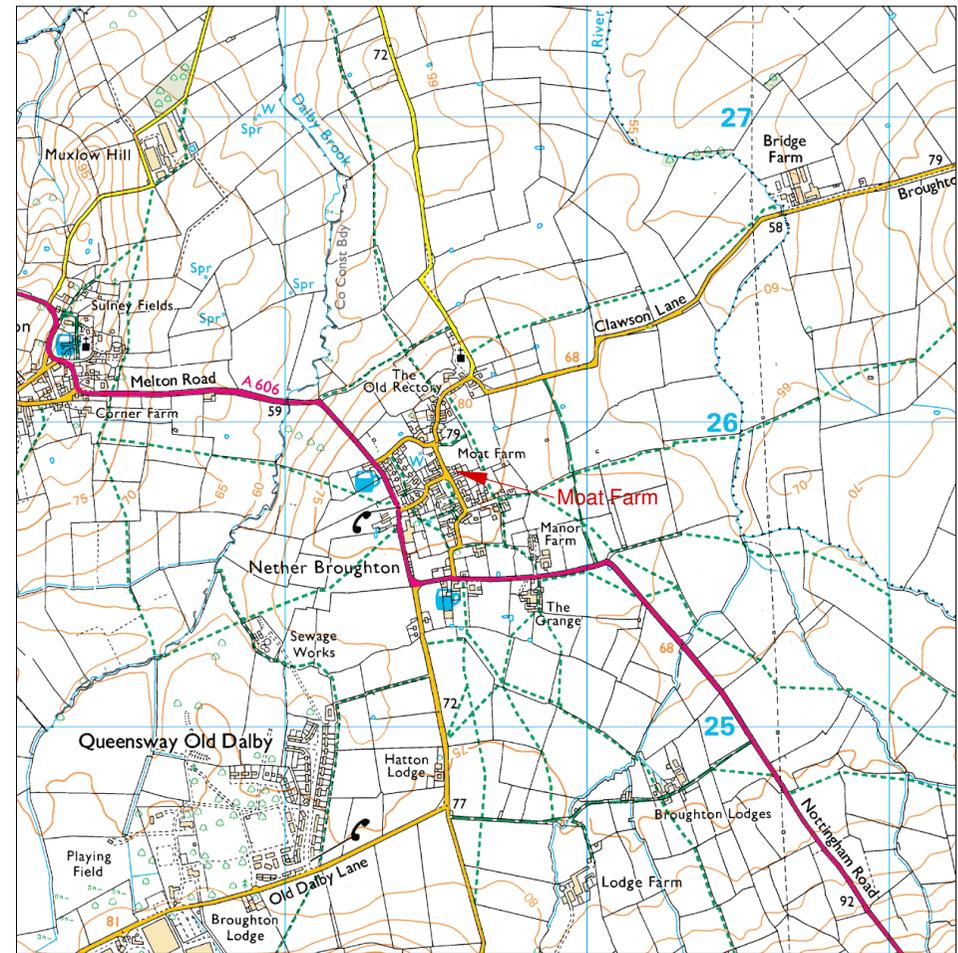
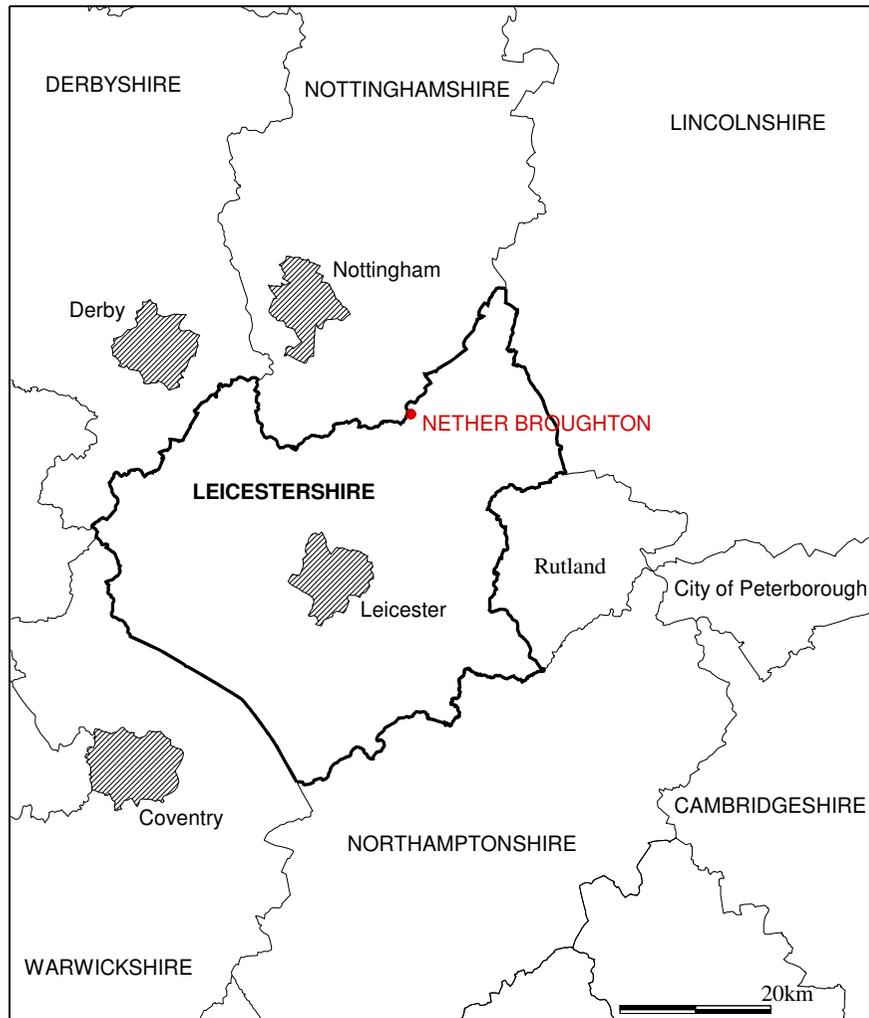
COLOUR PLATES



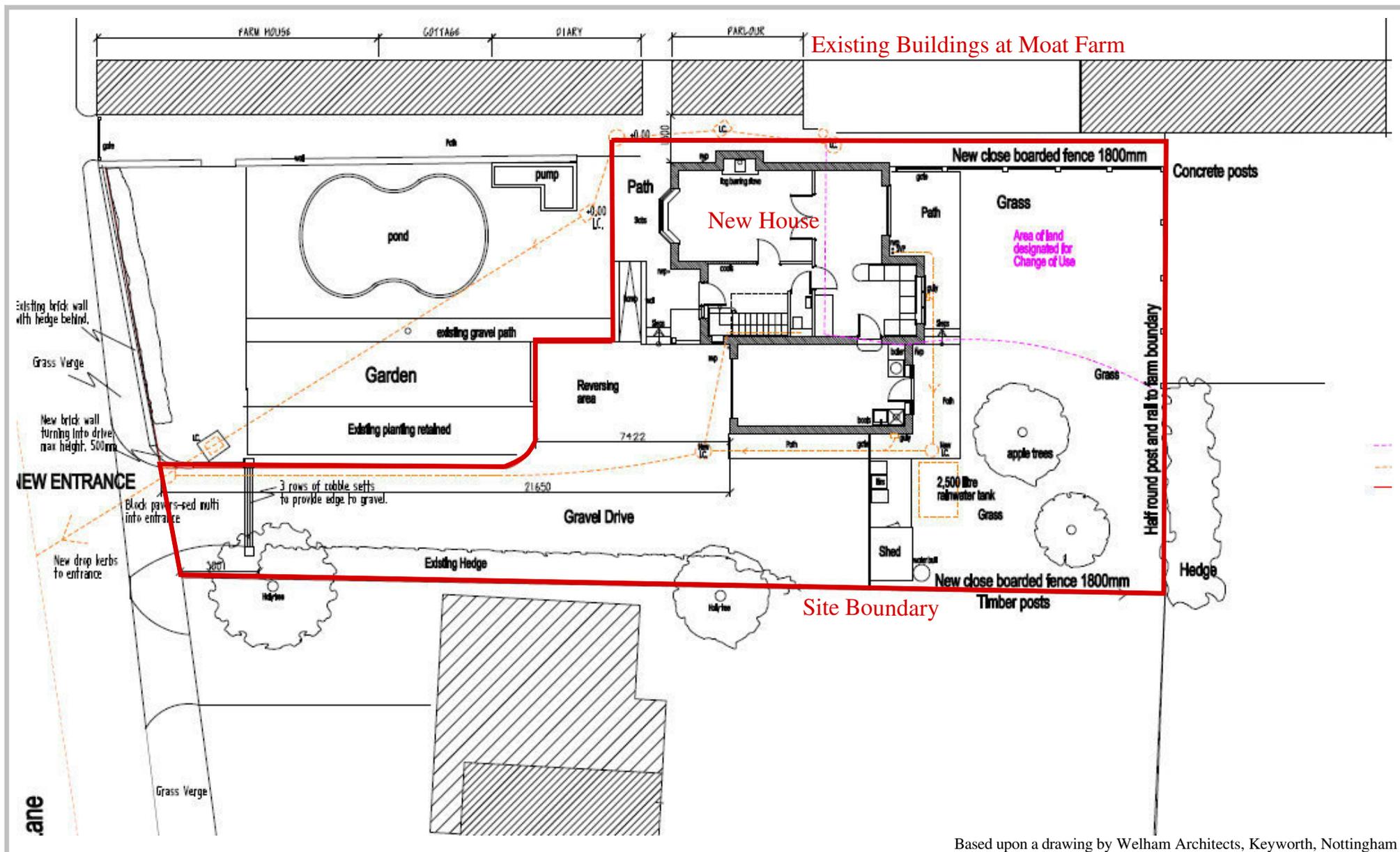
Plate 3: Section 4, looking SE with 1m Scale.



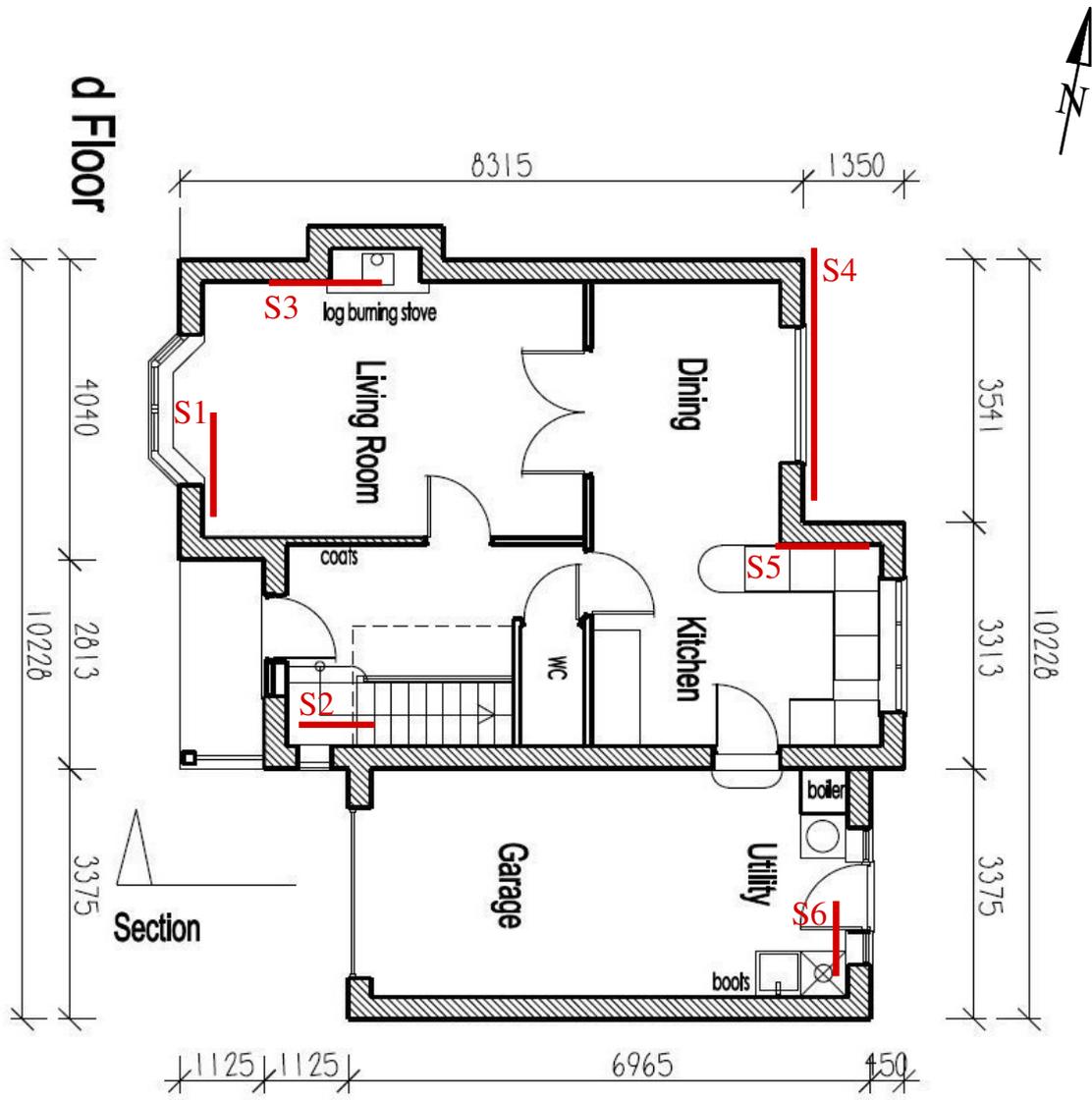
Plate 4: Section 5, including [011] and context (010), looking SE with 1m Scale



Produced from the Explorer 1:25 000 Ordnance Survey map with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright
Licence No.: 10001998



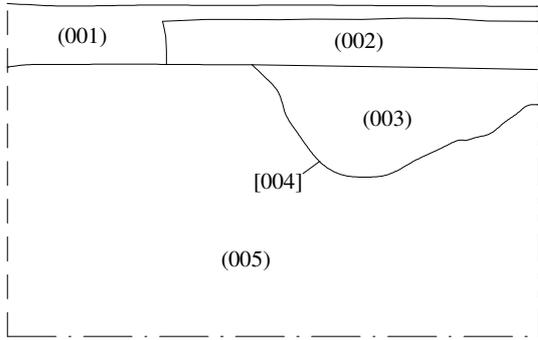
Based upon a drawing by Welham Architects, Keyworth, Nottingham



Based upon a drawing by Welham Architects, Keyworth, Nottingham

N

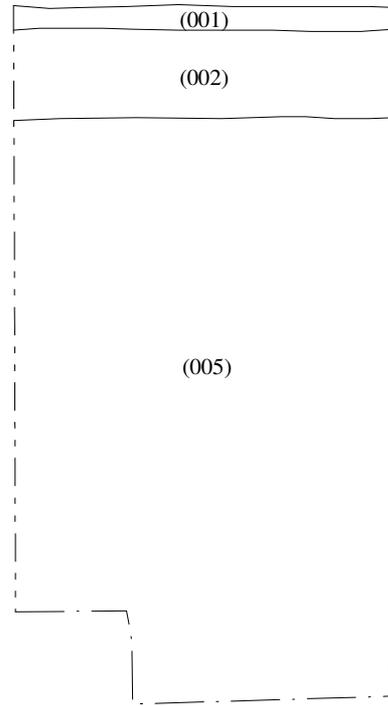
S



Section 1

W

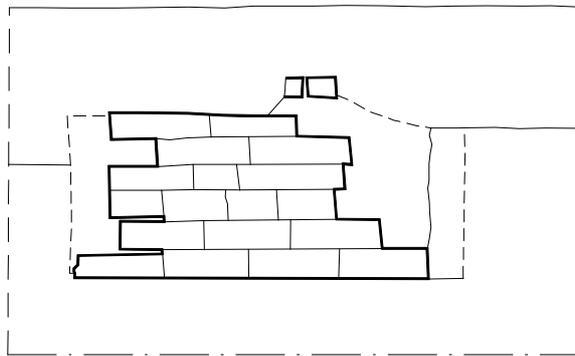
E



Section 2

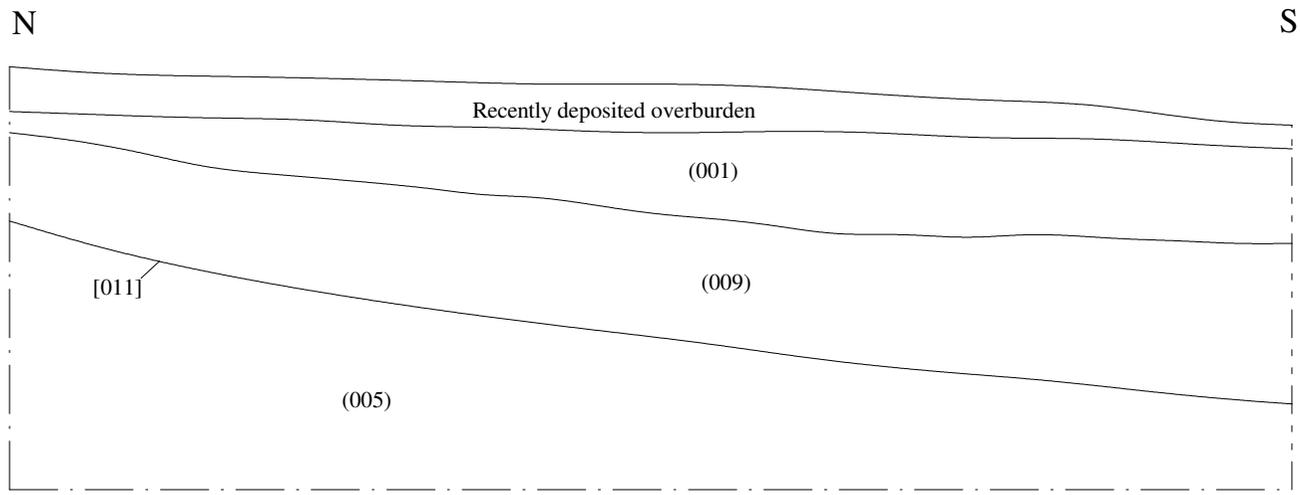
E

W

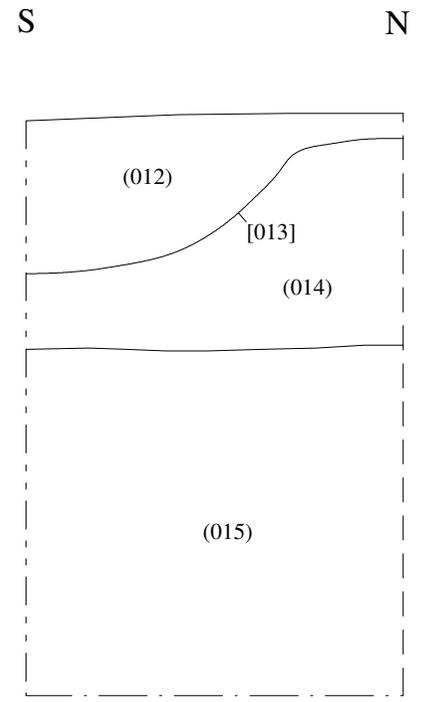


Section 3

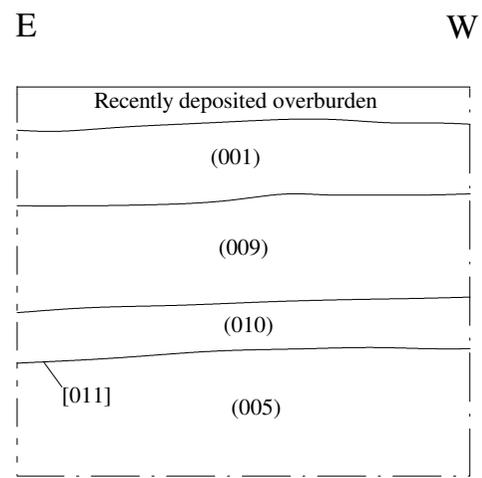




Section 4



Section 6



Section 5



APPENDIX A - CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

<i>No.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Topsoil	Soft/friable, mid to dark grey sandy silt containing occasional charcoal lumps and roots; 0.17m thick over northern part of the plot; 50 – 100mm over the remainder.
002	Layer	Moderately compact mid brown sandy clay containing frequent yellowish brown clay lumps, charcoal to 50mm, mortar lumps and flecks. Present throughout plot on the western side, ranging in depth between 0.14m to the north and 0.22m to the south.
003	Fill of [004]	Moderately compact, mid greyish brown silty clay containing frequent large (to 70mm) yellow brown clay lumps, occasional charcoal and mortar flecks.
004	Pit?	Cut measuring 0.75m across by 0.3m deep; sides steep to north, gradual to south, breaking to a concave, irregular base.
005	Natural	Soft, mottled, light grey and yellowish brown (reddish streaks and flecks) silty clay; 1.5m+ thick.
006	Fill of [008]	Soft, light yellowish brown and grey (mottled) silty clay.
007	Brick Structure	Aligned E-W, 0.44m high x 0.7m long x 0.11m thick; irregular bond including occasional half bricks; full bricks typically 0.23m long x 0.11m wide with thickness varying between 60 and 80mm.
008	Cut for (007)	1.10m E-W x c. 0.8m deep; uncertain N-S dimension; vertical sides and flat base.
009	Fill of [011]	Compact, light yellowish brown with mid grey mottles sandy clay, containing occasional charcoal flecks and lumps to 20mm and occasional mortar flecks; 0.26m thick.
010	Fill of [011]	Moderately compact/friable, mid grey clayey, silty sand, containing 10% charcoal flecks and lumps to 30mm, frequent white flecks (possibly burnt bone), occasional tile and brick (none recovered from section) and occasional reddish brown stone; 0.12m thick.
011	'Hollow'	Broad and shallow cut, 5.8m N-S x at least 1.2m E-W x c. 0.6m deep; gradually sloping sides and a broad, concave base.
012	Fill of [013]	Moderately compact mid greyish brown sandy silt; 0.4m thick.
013	Pit?	Uncertain plan shape; 0.7m across N-S x 0.34m deep; gradual sides breaking to a concave base.
014	Natural	Light yellowish brown clay, 0.54m thick (max.)
015	Natural	Light grey silty clay, 0.9m+ thick; interface with (014) above is gravelly and may have been interpreted as another layer.
016	Finds	Finds recovered during machining – probably from (010).

APPENDIX B

CERAMIC REPORT

AND ARCHIVES

**REPORT ON THE CERAMIC MATERIAL FROM AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT
LAND ADJACENT TO MOAT FARM, MIDDLE LANE, NETHER BROUGHTON,
LEICESTERSHIRE (NBMF 11)**

Jane Young

INTRODUCTION

In total, four sherds of pottery from three different vessels and one fragment of tile were submitted for examination. The material recovered ranges in date from the late medieval to post-medieval periods. The pottery assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. Reference has been made to the post-Roman Leicestershire Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University. The building material was quantified by fragment count and weight. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire fabric codenames (Young *et al.*) with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see Table 1). Recording of the post-Roman assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001).

CONDITION

The ceramic material is mostly in a slightly abraded condition with recovered sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium size range (between 6 and 33 grams), although all three vessels had freshly broken edges with no recovered joining sherds suggesting that on deposition they were of larger size.

OVERALL CHRONOLOGY AND SOURCE

A range of three different, identifiable pottery types and a late medieval to post-medieval flat roof tile were identified; the type and general date range for the pottery fabrics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Ceramic codenames and date ranges with total quantities by sherd count

Lincolnshire Codename	Leicestershire Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Sherds	Vessels
BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	2	1
BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1	1
STMO	EA3	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed	1690	1800	1	1

The material was recovered from two different contexts with the greatest number of fragments being recovered from deposit 016.

Post-medieval

All three of the vessels recovered from the site are of post-medieval type. Two of the vessels are large bowls, or pancheons, in black (BL) or brown-glazed (BERTH) earthenware. These vessels are of late 17th to 18th century type but are most likely to date to the 18th century. The other sherd comes from an 18th century Staffordshire-type Mottled ware (STMO) vessel, possibly a jar, posset or chamber pot.

A single late medieval to post-medieval flat roof tile (PNR) was recovered from deposit 016. The tile is in an orange-red coloured medium sandy fabric with common iron-rich inclusions.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The post-Roman pottery recovered from this site suggests that there was activity in the area under investigation during the post-medieval period, probably in the 18th century. No late medieval or early post-medieval pottery was recovered from the site but the flat roof tile recovered from deposit 016 is most probably of pre-18th century date.

The material should be kept for future study.

REFERENCES

Slowikowski, A. Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001. *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group, Occasional Paper 2.

Young, J, Vince A G and Nailor V 2005 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeology Studies 7, Oxbow, Oxford

Pottery Archive for Land Adjacent to Moat Farm, Middle Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire (NBMF 11)

Jane Young

context	Lincolnshire cname	Leicestershire cname	full name	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
010	BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	light oxid med sandy	large bowl	2	1	29	base	fresh breaks with no joining sherds;fabric incl some large fe inclusions;knife trimmed at basal angle;part spalled int glaze over red slip	late 17th to 18th
016	BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	coarse oxid	large bowl	1	1	33	BS	fresh breaks with no joining sherds;fabric incl common white clay/mudstone	late 17th to 18th
016	STMO	EA3	Staffordshire/Bristol mottled-glazed		hollow	1	1	11	BS	fresh breaks with no joining sherds	18th

Tile Archive for Land Adjacent to Moat Farm, Middle Lane, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire (NBMF 11)

Jane Young

context	cname	full name	fabric	frags	weight	description	date
016	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	orange-red medium sandy	1	247	common fe inclusions in fabric;flat roofer;corner;thick at 18mm	late medieval to post-medieval

Witham Archaeology

65 Grantham Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 7NG

Tel/Fax: (01529) 300890

Email: info@withamarchaeology.co.uk

© Witham Archaeology