

Witham Archaeology

A Report to Mr Kevin Smith

September 2020



**LAND NORTH OF NETHER HALL, HAMILTON LANE,
SCRAPTOFT, LEICESTERSHIRE**

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

LAND NORTH OF NETHER HALL, HAMILTON LANE, SCRAPTOFT, LEICESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

PROJECT QUALITY CONTROL DETAILS:

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Role	Name
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Report Illustrations:	C J Moulis
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Environmental Assessment:	
Other Finds	

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LAND NORTH OF NETHER HALL, HAMILTON LANE, SCRAPTOFT, LEICESTERSHIRE

Site Code: HLST20
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NGR: SK 64450 05834

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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LAND NORTH OF NETHER HALL, HAMILTON LANE, SCRAPTOFT, LEICESTERSHIRE.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on land to the north of Nether Hall, Hamilton Lane, Scraptoft, Leicestershire. The project was commissioned to comply with a condition of planning permission relating to the proposed construction of a new dwelling.

The site was considered to have potential to hold surviving archaeological remains partly on account of its location at the periphery of the historic core of the village. In addition, previous archaeological work in the surrounding area had revealed finds of Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon date.

No deposits or features of archaeological significance were revealed by the trial trenching. Five sherds of Post-medieval and Modern pottery and two fragments of Modern brick were recovered from the topsoil

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed housing development comprising a single new dwelling on land to the north of Nether Hall, Hamilton Lane, Scraptoft, Leicestershire. The project was commissioned in response to a condition of planning permission issued by The Historic and Natural Environment Team (HNET) at Leicester County Council (LCC). Archaeological fieldwork was undertaken and completed on 17th August 2020.

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

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

The village of Scraptoft, in the civil parish of the same name, lies in the administrative area of Harborough District and is located on the eastern outskirts of the city of Leicester, approximately 20km south-east of Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

The application area, centred at National Grid Reference SK 6445 0583, lies on the north-western outskirts of the village, on the west side of Hamilton Lane. The site comprises an approximately rectangular area of garden measuring approximately 850 square metres located immediately to the east of Nether Hall Farm and to the north of Nether Hall.

Solid geology in the area comprised Blue Lias Formation mudstone which is overlain by glacial Oadby Member Diamicton deposits (British Geological Survey).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Scraptoft is listed as a settlement of 20 households in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when the manor was held by the abbey of St. Mary, Coventry (Open Domesday).

The place-name appears to be Old Norse in origin and could refer to ‘Skrapi’s (personal name) Farm’ or a scrap of poor land (KEPN). The combined evidence of Domesday and the place-name suggest that the village has late Saxon origins at least. A summarised history of the village, particularly regarding post-medieval landownership, has been collated in a Heritage Impact Assessment previously presented as part of this planning application (Taylor, 2018).

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Records (HER) records the discovery of a palaeolithic flint core (MLE6053) and a Bronze Age Adze at Church Hill on the south side of the village.

Roman and Saxon material has been recovered during investigations north of Mucklehill Spinney on the southeastern outskirts of the village. Roman finds at the site included a large quantity of coins and pottery and various metal items such as buckles, brooches, rings, and spoons (MLE2280). The material of Saxon date included pottery and brooches, possibly indicating the presence of a cemetery. A rare late Anglo-Saxon metalwork hoard discovered in 1997 consisted of an axe, a plough coulter, a long seax, a scythe and a collar/clip (MLE2281).

The HER places Nether Hall and the proposed development within the bounds of the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Scraptoft. (MLE9024). However, the Heritage Statement (Taylor 2018) submitted in support of the planning application contains aerial photographs showing Nether Hall surrounded by fields of ridge and furrow earthworks, suggesting that the site lies outside, or at the periphery of, the inhabited area of the village.

The HER also records medieval village earthworks in the area to the west of the church (MLE2286). These may now be flattened but are visible on aerial photographs.

The earliest parts of Nether Hall are thought to date to the early 18th century with extensions being added in the 19th and 20th centuries (Taylor, 2018).

4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Harborough District Council have approved planning application (18/01764/FUL) for residential development at the site subject to a programme of archaeological works as specified in Condition 8 of planning permission. The development will comprise construction of a single two storey dwelling.

The Historic and Natural Environment Team (HNET) at Leicester County Council (LCC) has advised that in the first instance a programme of archaeological trial trenching should be undertaken to provide information so that an informed decision can be made on appropriate mitigation measures to protect any significant archaeological remains which may survive at the site.

5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 10th August 2020 were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on a planning application.*
- *provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other*

mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.

- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*
- *provide information for accession to the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER)*

6.0 METHODOLOGY

One trench 1.6m wide by 10m long was located as closely as possible to the positions indicated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and approved by the curatorial archaeologist. The line of a live electrical service and the presence of standing trees at the time of the fieldwork compromised the intended trench location. It was necessary, therefore, to move the trench to an unobstructed area just south of that originally defined from the site plans (Fig. 4). The most recent deposits were removed mechanically, using a small 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. All mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was discontinued when archaeological deposits were exposed, or when undisturbed natural deposits were revealed. Exposed surfaces, both vertical and horizontal, were then cleaned by hand to define the archaeological remains.

Potential archaeological features were further investigated by manual excavation in line with the sampling guidelines outlined in the WSI.

A record of the investigations was compiled through:

- Notes detailing the progress of archaeological fieldwork.
- Individual written descriptions of archaeological contexts made on pro-forma recording sheets and indexed appropriately.
- Measured section drawings showing specific archaeological contexts as well as general stratigraphic sequences, produced at scales 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate.
- Measured plans of archaeological contexts (individual and/or multiple) at scale 1:20
- Sequences of colour digital and black and white 35mm film photographs showing individual archaeological features and overall site circumstances.

The trenches, the features and the sample hand-excavated slots were located using survey grade GPS equipment, referenced to the Ordnance Survey National Grid..

7.0 RESULTS (Fig. 4. Fig. 5, Section 1. Plate 4)

The results of the investigations are described below, with reference to numbers assigned in the field to the various archaeological contexts. The numbers in square brackets refer to cut features, whereas those in parentheses describe deposits. Appendix A, the Context Summary, provides full descriptions of the contexts.

No archaeological features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed within the trench. The earliest layer exposed was mid yellowish-brown sandy silt (102), interpreted as a natural geological deposit. It included frequent small rounded limestone fragments and was revealed as a general layer through the entire base of the trench. Above natural layer (102) lay 0.17m thick mid greyish brown sandy silt (101) which included occasional small limestone fragments, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional brick or tile flecks and fragments. Deposit (101) was interpreted as subsoil, immediately above which 0.1m thick dark greyish brown sandy silt layer (100) comprised the modern topsoil, from which Post-medieval and modern pottery and brick fragments were recovered.

8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

No deposits or features were revealed within the evaluation trial trench to suggest early occupation of the site, or to indicate previous archaeologically significant utilisation of the site.

Finds recovered during the investigation comprised five Post-medieval and Modern pottery sherds and two modern brick fragments which derived from the post-medieval occupation of Nether Hall and Nether Hall farm.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr Kevin Smith for commissioning the fieldwork and this report, and also for his cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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UKIC, 1998. First Aid For Finds United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

Walker, K., 1990. *Guidelines for the Presentation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage, Guidelines no.2*. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

11.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: HLST20

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 18/01764/FUL

FIELD OFFICER: A Pascoe

NGR: SK 64450 05834

CIVIL PARISH: Scraftoft

SMR No.: n/a

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 17th August 2020

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr Kevin Smith

11.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Leicestershire County Museum Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: X.A59.2020

ACCESSION DATE: -TCB

The Site Archive Comprises:

Daysheet	1
Trench Sheet	1
Photo Register	1
Section Register	1
Context Records	3
Section Drawings at Scale	1
Black and White photographs	18 exposures
Digital Photographs	18 image files

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 across the site looking south south-west towards Nether Hall



Plate 2: View of the trench, looking north

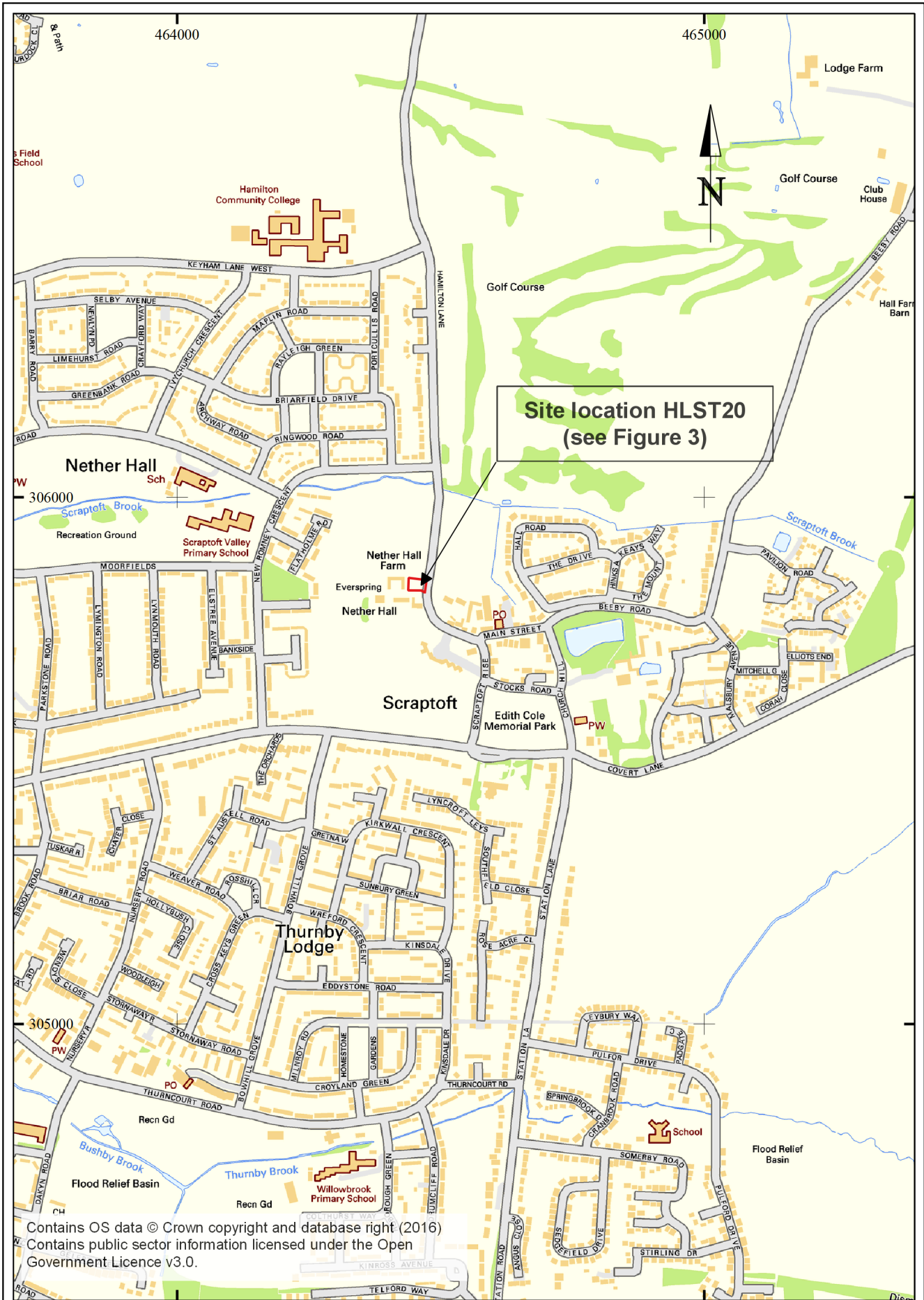


Plate 3: View of the trench, looking south

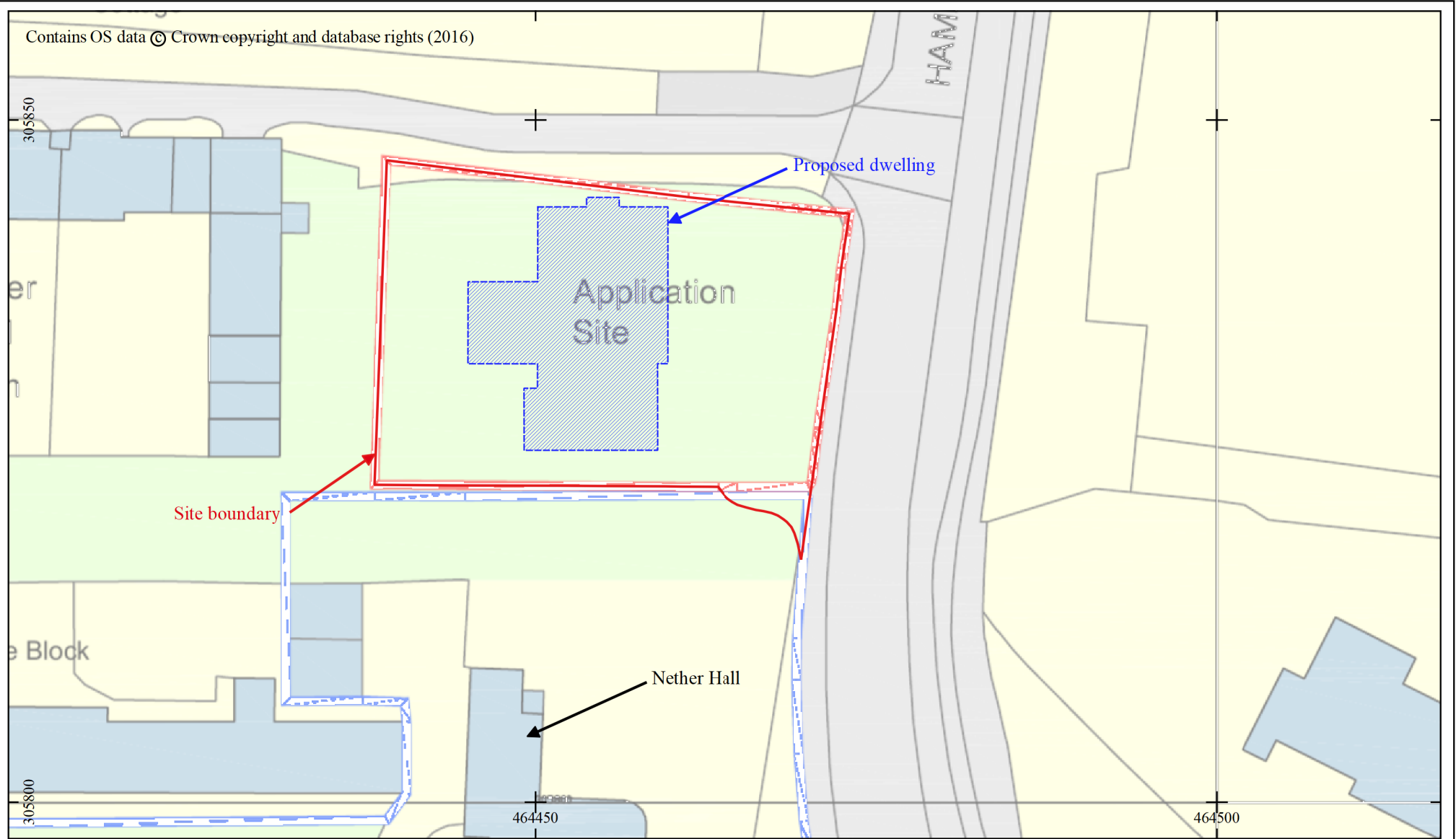


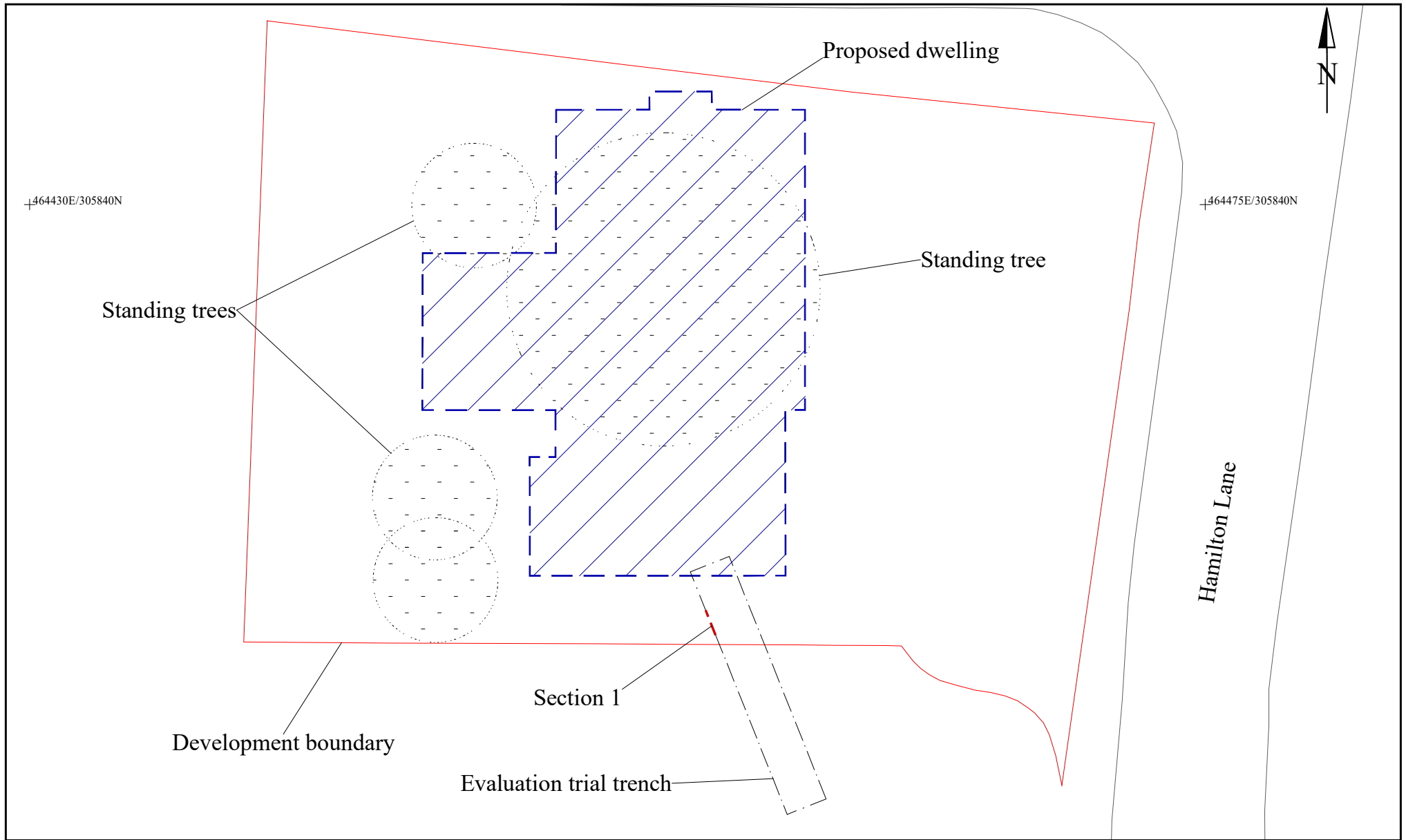
Plate 4: Section 1, looking west



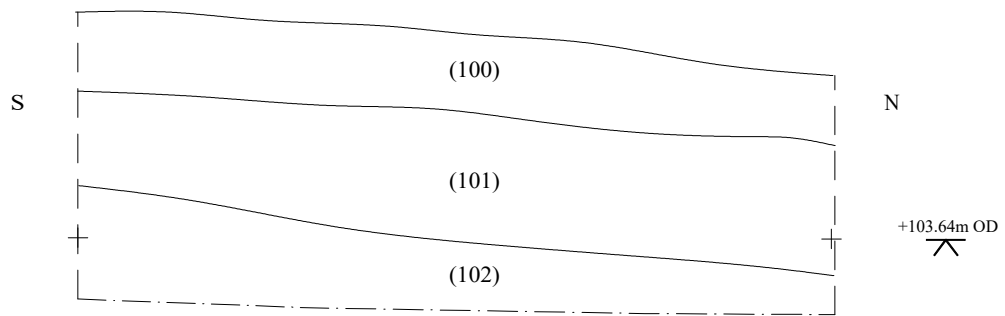


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Section 1



Appendix A. Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
100	Friable dark greyish brown sandy silt. Occasional small rounded limestone fragments. Occasional charcoal flecks. 0.1m thick	Topsoil
101	Firm mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small limestone fragments, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional brick and tile flecks and fragments. Up to 0.17m thick	Subsoil
102	Hard mid yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent small rounded limestone fragments	Natural deposit

APPENDIX B
SCRAPTOFT, HAMILTON LANE, LEICESTERSHIRE (HLST20)
Ceramic Report

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

Five sherds of Post Roman pottery, weighing a total of 183 grams was recovered. The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) using the system devised for the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit (Young *et al.*, 2005). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Leicestershire (Sawday, unpublished).

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the later post-medieval period to the modern period.

Condition

The condition of the assemblage is fresh. None of the material is abraded. A fragment of garden pot is sooted both internally and externally, perhaps damage incurred during garden rubbish burning activity.

Results

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	Form	Part	Comment	Date	NoV	NoV	W(g)
100	EA	Misc. post-medieval fabrics	Garden Pot	Base	Late red earthenware; internally and externally sooted	L19th-20th	1	1	46
100	EA6	Black glazed ware	Bowl	Rim; BS	Complex rim	M17th-18th	2	1	114
100	EA2	Glazed earthenware	Bowl	BS		M17th-18th	2	2	23
Total							5	4	183

Provenance

The pottery was recovered from topsoil deposit (100).

Range

In addition to a fragment of domestic garden pot, there are fragments from at least four vessels in later post-medieval black and brown glazed earthenware fabrics (EA2 and EA6). These are commonly found domestic types of the 17th and 18th centuries and are likely household waste.

Potential

There is no potential for further work. The pottery is not worthy of long-term storage and can be discarded.

CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Alex Beeby

Introduction

The material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (2002). Two fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 148 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology

The ceramic building material was examined visually, viewed and weighed. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Table 2 below.

Condition

One piece of brick is burnt, this piece displaying partially reduced external surfaces.

Results

Table 2 Ceramic Building Material Archive

Cxt	Cname	Full Name	NoF	W(g)	Comment	Condition	Date
100	MODBRK	Modern Brick	2	148	Pressed brick	1 piece burnt with reduced surfaces	M19th-M20th

Provenance

The fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from topsoil layer (100).

Range

There are two pieces of modern brick (MODBRK). The items are likely to post-date AD 1850.

Potential

There is no potential for further work on this material. The items can be discarded.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date (Century AD)	Comments
100	Mid 19 th to 20 th	

ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS/S	Body sherd/s
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W(g)	Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2002, *Minimum Standards for the Recovery, Analysis and Publication of Ceramic Building Material*, version

Sawday, D., Unpublished, *A Post-medieval Pottery Type Series for Leicestershire*.

Slowikowski, A. M., 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 Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

APPENDIX C
OASIS SUMMARY FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: withamar1-403066

Project details

Project name	Hamilton Lane, Scraptoft, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Witham Archaeology on land to the north of Nether Hall, Hamilton Lane, Scraptoft, Leicestershire. The project was commissioned to comply with a condition of planning permission relating to the proposed construction of a new dwelling. The site was considered to have potential to hold surviving archaeological remains partly on account of its location at the periphery of the historic core of the village. In addition, previous archaeological work in the surrounding area had revealed finds of Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon date. No deposits or features of archaeological significance were revealed by the trial trenching. Sherds of Post-medieval pottery and fragments of brick or tile were recovered from the topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 17-08-2020 End: 17-08-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HLST20 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	X.A59.2020 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	TOPSOIL Modern
Monument type	LAYER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH SCRAPTOFT Land north of Nether Hall, Hamilton Lane, Scraptoft, Leicestershire
Postcode	LE79SB

Study area 850 Square metres
 Site coordinates SK 64450 05834 52.646058984503 -1.047310059673 52 38 45 N 001 02 50 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 102m Max: 104m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Witham Archaeology
 Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
 Project design originator Dale Trimble
 Project director/manager Dale Trimble
 Project supervisor Andy Pascoe
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Mr Kevin Smith

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Physical Archive ID X.A59.2020
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Digital Archive ID X.A59.2020
 Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
 Digital Media available "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums
 Paper Archive ID X.A59.2020
 Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land north of Nether Hall, Hamilton Lane, Scraftoft, Leicestershire
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Moulis C J
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 Date 2020
 Issuer or publisher Witham Archaeology Ltd

Place of issue or
publication Ruskington

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Entered on 8 September 2020

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