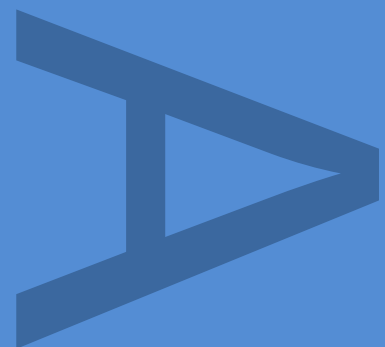


**LAND AT THE REAR OF  
61 MAIN STREET,  
FOXTON,  
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

**X.A99.2013**

**April 2014**





**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND AT THE REAR OF 61 MAIN STREET,  
FOXTON, LEICESTERSHIRE  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
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**Land at the rear of 61 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Local Planning Authority:** Harborough District Council

**Central National Grid Reference:** SP 70022 89916

**Site Code:** X.A99.2013

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**April 2014**

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## ABSTRACT

*This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at the rear of 61 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire. The work was commissioned by Peckleton Homes and was undertaken between the 20<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and was conducted in order to define and record any archaeological deposits exposed during the construction of a two-storey domestic house, a garage, and an associated soak away.*

*Foundation trenches approximately 56m total in length by 0.8m wide by 1.3m deep revealed a former cultivation soil dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. An environmental sample taken from this context revealed evidence of oat, wheat and barley – a result of possible storage, processing or in the case of wheat, cultivation. This layer sealed four post holes, possibly relating to an earlier or contemporary structure. Sealing the cultivation layer was a layer of subsoil containing 16<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Pre-construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Peckleton Homes to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundation trenches for a two-storey domestic house, garage, and an associated soak away, on land at the rear of 61 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The development site is located on the south-east side of Main Street, leading north-east out of the central core of Foxton village, between the existing properties of 61 Main Street to the north-west and 39 Middle Street to the south-east. Bounded to the north-east by formal gardens with Middle Street to south-west. The site is centred at NGR SP 70022/89916.
- 1.3 A written scheme of investigation (PCA 2013) detailing the method by which the watching brief would be undertaken was prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork in consultation with the County Archaeology Office for Leicestershire, and in accordance with the Institute for Field Archaeology Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 1.4 Foundation trenches totalling approximately 56m by 0.8m wide and 1.3m deep were excavated and recorded between the 20<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013 with the aim of identifying and recording any surviving archaeological remains and or deposits that would have been impacted upon by the groundworks. This was achieved through the identification of four post holes sealed by a former cultivation layer dating between the late 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, and through the recovery of 16<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery within a sub-soil. An environmental sample taken from this context revealed evidence of oat, wheat and barley – a result of possible storage, processing or in the case of wheat, cultivation.
- 1.5 Following approval of the project by the Local Planning Authority, the completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museums Service (LMS).
- 1.6 Site records were compiled using the unique site code X.A99.2013.

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **Geology**

- 2.1.1 The solid geology of the site is characterised by the bedrock formation of Blue Lias and Charmouth Mudstone formed during the Jurassic and Triassic periods. There are no overlying superficial deposits recorded in the area.

### **Topography**

- 2.1.2 The subject site is located to the south of the central core of Foxton at the junction of Main Street and Middle Street. The upper level of the topsoil of the site related to a level formal garden at a height of 104m AOD.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment has not been undertaken in advance of the forthcoming fieldwork, although the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) show that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest.
- 3.2 The earliest known evidence relates to a late Saxon settlement recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The Domesday Book records (1, 4) *'In Gartree Wapentake that the King holds (Great) Bowden. Within Bowden are the villages of Medbourne; Cranoe; Shangton; Carlton; Illston; Galby; (Kings) Norton; Stretton; Smeeton and Foxston. Foxston 2 c. of land. Meadow, 5 acres. (Within) these villages are 60 Freemen with 2 villagers and 16 smallholders who have 13 ploughs and pay 150s 18d'*.
- 3.3 The Survey also records (40, 16) *'that the land of Countess Judith in Gartree Wapentake Robert of Bucy holds 7½ c. of land in Foxton. There were 6 ploughs. Now 2 ploughs in lordship; 5 male and 1 female slaves. 3 Freemen with priest, 18 villagers and 3 smallholders have 9 ploughs. Meadow, 20 acres The value was 20s; now £4'*.
- 3.4 In the late Saxon early medieval period Foxton (MLE 10125) was most likely established in and around the church of St. Andrew (MLE 11505). A Saxon carving found during restoration work on the church in 1892/3 may have derived from an earlier Saxon church.
- 3.5 The medieval village of Foxton, surrounded by ridge and furrow, contains the medieval church of St Andrew. This church has a Norman front, 13th century west tower and 14th century porch. Within the churchyard is a socket stone for a medieval cross (MLE1494). The overall extent of the medieval village is archaeologically unknown.
- 3.6 An archaeological watching brief carried out in Main Street, Foxton during the renewal of the water main, identified a post medieval cobbled surface (National Monument Record: PRN10926). In 2012 a watching brief carried out at the Shoulder of Mutton Inn (MLE20621) encountered a 17th /18th Century levelling layer containing 21 sherds of post-medieval pottery.



## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Field Work**

- 4.1.1 The watching brief fieldwork was designed to monitor all groundwork's associated with the erection of two single storey house and garage, at 61 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire. This covered an area of some 480m<sup>2</sup>.
- 4.1.2 The aim of the watching brief fieldwork was to demine the location, extent, date, character, condition, and significance of any surviving archaeological remains. The watching brief also aimed to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbances and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of archaeological deposits of whatever period.
- 4.1.3 All excavation was undertaken by a wheeled JCB mechanical excavator using a flat-bladed bucket, monitored under close archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.4 All deposits were recorded using Pre-Construct Limited's recording system: Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological events recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), whilst events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.1.5 Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:50; representative sections at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10. The locations of the trenches and the heights of deposits compared to Ordnance Survey benchmarks were surveyed using a Global Positioning System (GPS) rover unit and Total Station Theodolite (TST).
- 4.1.6 A full photographic record was made, including digital, black and white prints and 35mm colour transparencies.

### **4.2 Post Excavation**

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 17 archaeological contexts were defined within the foundation trenches. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records as well as identification of the finds recovered. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5 and Appendix A.
- 4.2.2 The artefactual material from the evaluation comprised a small assemblage of pottery, fired clay, bone and a single iron object. Specialist examination of all the arefacts was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into the Archaeological Sequence (Section 5), with assessment reports/tables in Appendix's B-E. No other artefactual material was recovered

from the site and no material recovered during the watching brief required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research. An X-ray was undertaken of the single iron object that required no further work other than dry storage. The assessors recommend all artefacts be retained.

- 4.2.3 The palaeo-environmental sampling strategy was to recover bulk samples where appropriate, from well-dated stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation. To this end several bulk environmental samples were taken, with the productive assessment report/tables in Appendix C. No other biological material was recovered. The charcoal recovered from the samples was scanned by Grahame Morgan and the results have been integrated into the main text.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCES

### Phases 1: Natural Deposits (Figure 3)

5.1.1 The earliest deposit encountered during the watching brief was a sub strata of clay. This deposit of compact bluish clay was recorded in the trenches to the north west of the existing dwelling as (109), and encountered here at c.102.93m AOD (see Fig. 3). Above this a compact yellow clay (108) (104) was evident at c.103.07m this represents the top of the superficial deposits as described by the British Geological Survey for the area. These deposits predate human occupation of the site or human modification of the surrounding landscape and referred to here as being of 'natural' origin.

### Phase 2: Medieval (Figure 3)

5.1.2 Phase 2 represents the medieval activity on the site. Three steep-sided features with rounded bases were recorded in the foundation trenches in the eastern portion of the site. All of these features, whilst only partially visible within the foundation trenches, are characteristic of post holes. A further post hole was identified c.4m to the northeast.

5.1.3 Post hole [107] contained a single fill (106) of firm pale grey clay (Fig. 3, Section 3). This measured 0.26m wide by 0.1m deep, and is likely to have been broadly sub circular in plan. Seven small sherds of pottery from a single St. Neots ware jar were recovered from the posthole indicate the feature dates to the late 11<sup>th</sup> to mid-12<sup>th</sup> century AD.

5.1.4 Some 4m to the southwest three other postholes were revealed. Post hole [113] is very similar in profile to [107] with shallow sloping sides and a concave base, 0.32m wide by 0.14m deep. It contained firm dark grey silty clay (112). Post holes [111] and [115] were somewhat deeper at 0.4m, with steep near vertical sides. Post hole [115] is V-shaped, measuring 0.4m wide containing firm dark grey silty clay (114). Whereas post hole [111] is u shaped, measuring 0.3m wide with similar softer friable dark grey silty clay (110). All three post holes contained occasional charcoal flecks preliminary identified by Grahame Morgan as oak, no artefactual material was recovered from the fills of these features.

5.1.5 Sealing these post hole features, and visible across the whole site, was a buried soil (103) (105) (116). It varied in depth across the site from 0.12m – 0.38m, consisting of mid-brown compact silty clay containing occasional small rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks (Oak and Hazel Grahame Morgan, pers. comm.). A good assemblage of pottery was retrieved from this layer with sherds of domestic wares (jug, bowl and jar fragments) dating the 11<sup>th</sup> century through to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, they include Stamford wares, St Neots wares and Lyverden wares (Young J appendix B). An environmental sample taken from [103] revealed evidence of a low density scatter of cereal processing or storage waste bases on the grains of oat, wheat and barley found in the assemblage. There is also an intimation of the cultivation of wheat (V Fryer appendix C). A single iron ferrule from an agricultural tool was recovered, along with fired clay and

fragments of an un-butchered cattle bone, suggestive of an animal used either for work purposes (possibly oxen) or for milk production. (K Rielly, appendix D).

### **Phase 3: Post-medieval/Modern activity**

- 5.1.6 Across the site the medieval buried soil was capped by a layer of subsoil (102), some 0.25m deep and in turn sealed by a topsoil (101) c. 0.12m thick, consisting of firm- dark brown sandy clay. The subsoil, slightly more compact and lighter in colour than the topsoil, contained several abraded sherds of late 16th- to 17<sup>th</sup>-century pottery suggesting the site may have been under cultivation at this time.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS AND RESEARCH AIMS**

### **6.1 General Conclusions**

6.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor all ground-works associated with the construction of the two storey dwelling and garage and to record any archaeological features and /or deposits that may be present. This has been achieved through the identification of former cultivation soils and post holes dated by associated pottery to the late 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>h</sup> centuries. These findings reflect what is known of the history of the immediate area, and support the conclusion that Foxton was a rural arable agricultural area throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

### **6.2 Research Aims**

- *To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape.*

The investigation reinforces what is known of Foxton as an arable farming community during the medieval and post medieval periods. The Eco-factual data suggests the cultivation of wheat within the wider landscape.

- *To confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon or earlier activity and land-use relating to its origins later documented in the Domesday Survey;*

No evidence of Saxon or earlier activity at the site was encountered during the investigation.

- *To confirm the presence or absence of medieval and post-medieval activity relating to the village of Foxton.*

The archaeological monitoring demonstrated a presence of medieval activity on the site in the form of post holes and a buried soil horizon. Eco – factual data suggested the presence of agriculture activity within and around the site during this period.

The presence of abraded 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century pottery in the subsoil indicate cultivation activity on the site during the post-Medieval period.

### **6.3 Archive Destination**

6.3.1 Upon completion of all phases of the archaeological work the archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museum Service under the unique site code X.A99.2013.

## **6.4 Confidence**

- 6.4.1 The archaeological watching brief was completed in accordance with all relevant guidelines, best-practice documents, and the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The work was undertaken in very good weather conditions. The results detailed in this report are considered reliable, and allowed good identification of the archaeological and natural deposits contained within the excavated trenches; this is considered to be representative of the depositional sequence within the bounds of the site.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

7.1 PCA would like to thank Peckleton Homes for commissioning the project.

7.2 PCA would also like to acknowledge the following people contributions to this report

- *Fieldwork:* Kevin Trott & Steve Jones
- *Report:* Steve Jones & Kathryn Brook
- *Specialist:* Jane Young, Kevin Haywood, Val Fryer
- *Project Manager & Editing:* Kevin Trott
- *CAD:* Jennifer Simonson

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## PLATES



Plate 1: Section 4, layer [105], post holes [111], [113], [115] (south west facing .1x 2m scales).



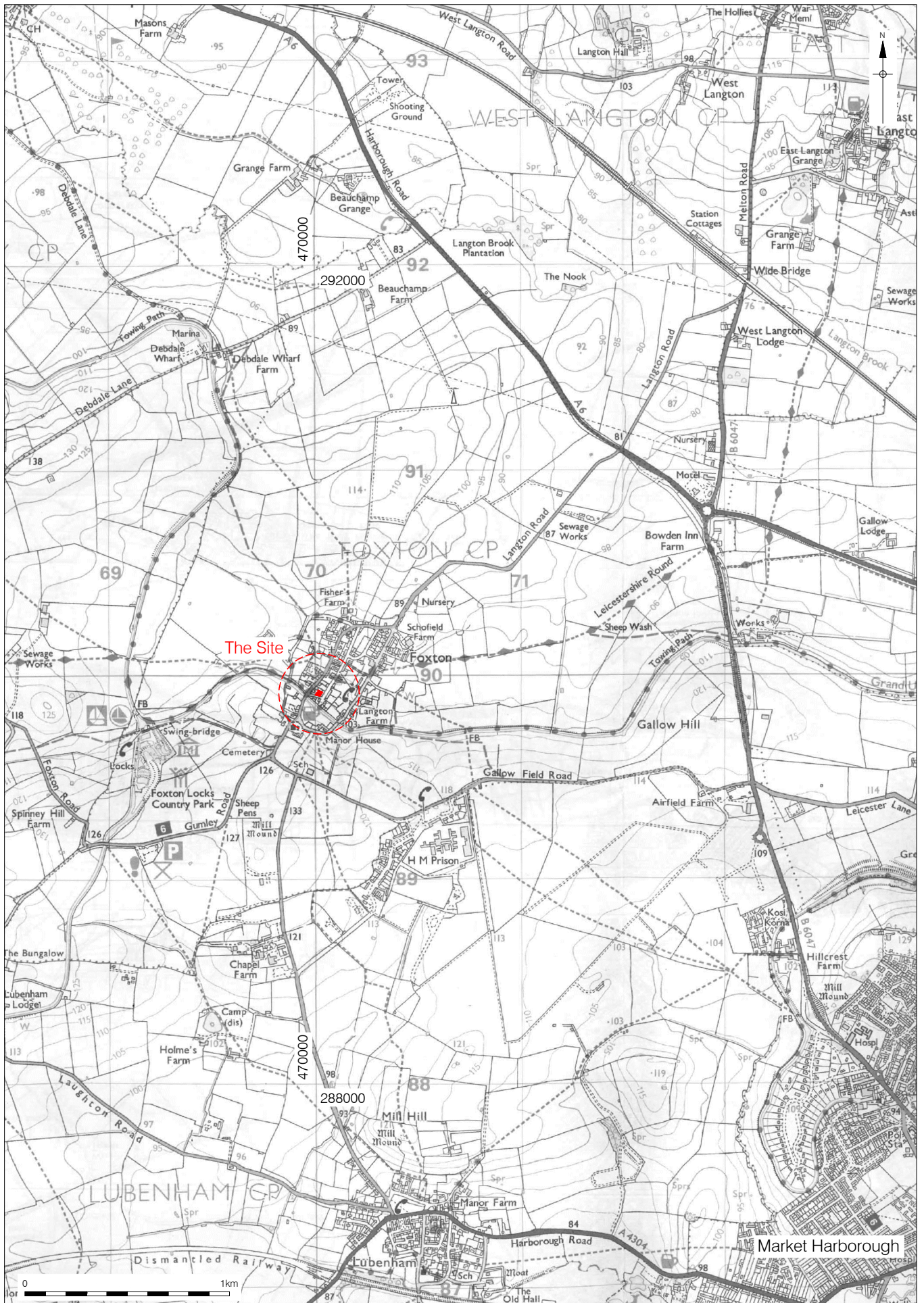
Plate 2: Section 2, layers [116], [117] [101] (west facing 1x2m scales)



Plate 3: General view of excavated foundations, (south west facing 1x 2m scales)



Plate 4: General view of excavated foundations (east facing)

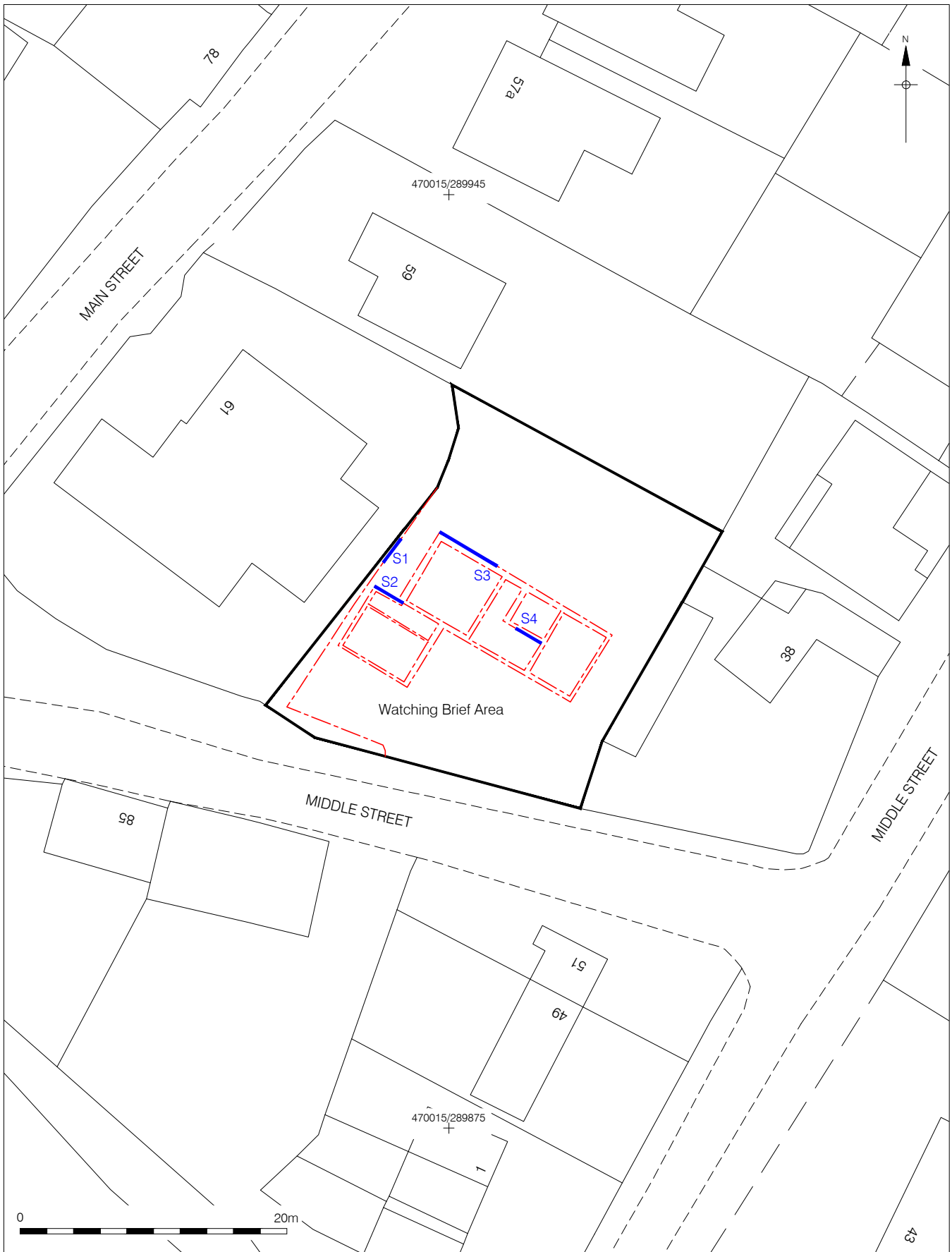


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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:25,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
 Watching Brief Area and Section Location  
 1:400 at A4

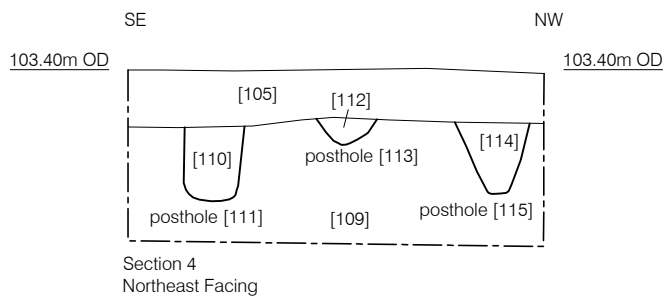
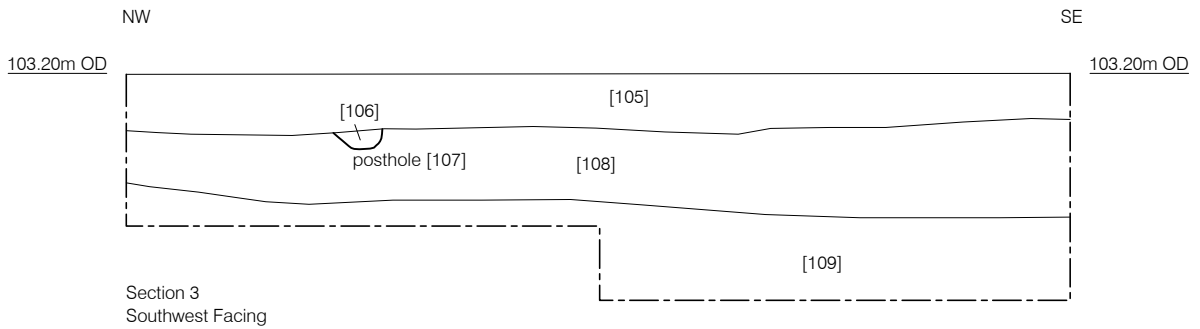
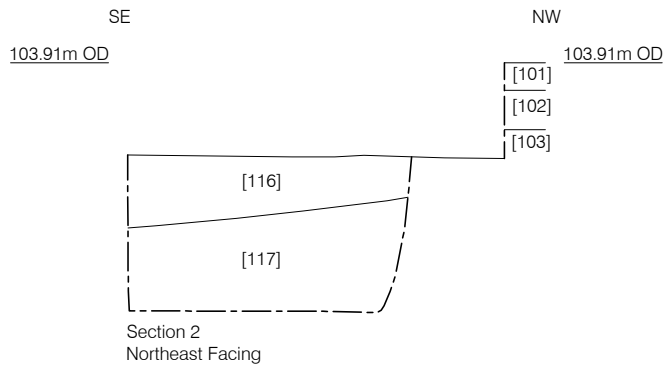
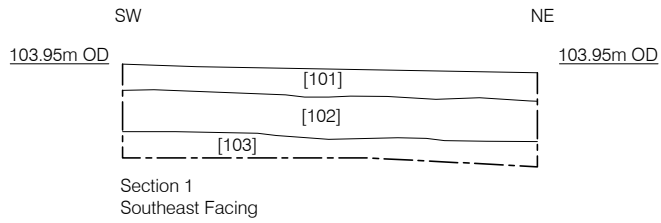


Figure 3  
Sections  
1:40 at A4

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Description	Detail
101	Layer	Garden soil	Firm dark brown sandy-clay with occasional medium sized pebbles
102	Layer	Subsoil	Compact medium -brown sticky clay with occasional medium pebbles and charcoal
103	Layer	Medieval Cultivation soil	Medium compact medium greyish-brown sandy clay with occasional pebbles. Contained pottery dating late 10 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> century and bone fragments
104	Layer	Natural	Very compact mid brownish-yellow clay with occasional flint gravel inclusions
105	Fill	Medieval Cultivation soil	Same as (103)
106	Fill	Post Hole [107]	Compact pale grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks
107	Cut	Post Hole	Steep tapering sides, rounded base with rounded basal corners 0.11m diameter x 0.1m deep
108	Layer	Natural	Same as (104)
109	Layer	Natural	More mixed blue grey substrata below (106)
110	Fill	Post Hole [111]	Friable-soft dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks.
111	Cut	Post Hole	Steep tapering sides, very slightly rounded base 0.3m diameter x 0.4m deep
112	Fill	Post Hole [113]	Firm dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks
113	Cut	Post Hole	Gradual sides, very slightly rounded base 0.22m diameter x 0.12m deep
114	Fill	Post Hole [115]	Firm dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks
115	Cut	Post Hole	Steep tapering sides, rounded base 0.33m diameter x 0.38m deep
116	Fill	Medieval Cultivation soil	Same as (103)
117	Layer	Natural	Same as (104)

## APPENDIX B: POTTERY & FIRED CLAY

by Jane Young

### Introduction

In total, forty-one sherds of pottery representing twenty-six vessels and five fragments of fired clay were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to post-medieval periods. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of the medieval pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. Reference has been made to the Leicestershire Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University (see Davies and Sawday 1999). The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (see Young et al.) fabric codenames with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames (see Table 1). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001).

### Condition

The pottery is in a variable condition with most sherds being in a slightly abraded condition. Six vessels are represented by more than a single sherd. No cross-context joins were noted.

### Overall Chronology and Source

A range of ten pottery types and five pieces of fired clay were identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to post-medieval periods. A limited range of form types is present, with most sherds coming from jars.

Lincolnshire codename	Leicestershire codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
CIST	CW2	Cistercian-type ware	1480	1650	2	2
EMX	OS	Non-local Early Medieval fabrics	1150	1250	1	1
FIRED CLAY	-	Fired clay	-	-	5	3
MISC	-	Unidentified types	-	-	2	1
PMAR	PM	Potters Marston	1100	1300	1	1
SLOOL	CG	South Lincs Oolitic (generic)	1050	1500	1	1
SNEOT	SN	St Neots-type ware	870	1200	18	6
ST	ST7	Stamford Ware (Fabric A)	950	1150	4	4
STANLY	LY1	Stanion/Lyveden ware (Fabric B)	1200	1400	4	2
STANLY	LY4	Stanion/Lyveden ware (Fabric A)	1100	1400	7	7
STSL	EA7	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800	1	1

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

The material was recovered from four different deposits on the site. Layer 102 produced three post-medieval sherds. The two Cistercian ware sherds come from a 16th century cup and a jug of probable mid-16th to early/mid-17th century date. These vessels were quite probably manufactured at Ticknall in Derbyshire, but could have been produced elsewhere in the East Midlands. Both fragments are in a fairly fresh condition. The third vessel is a decorated wheel-thrown Staffordshire-type Slipware dish.

The dish has trailed and combed decoration of late 17th to 18th century type. This dish is probably a product of kilns in North Staffordshire but could possibly have been made at Ticknall in Derbyshire.

Layer 103 produced a mixed group of twenty-three sherds representing sixteen vessels. The earliest closely dateable vessels are in Stamford ware Fabric A and comprise a glazed jar or pitcher sherd and an unglazed Type 1 large bowl with a flanged rim (Kilmurry 1980). These two vessels could date to as early as the late 10th century but are most likely to be of pre-conquest 11th century date. Two other glazed jar or pitcher sherds in Stamford ware Fabric A are more probably of post or peri-conquest date. Five vessels are in shell-tempered St. Neots ware. Most of the sherds are small and undiagnostic; possibly coming from jars or bowls of general late 10th to mid-12th century date. Five sherds however come from a single small jar that is most probably of 11th century date. A small basal sherd in an oolitic-tempered fabric is similar to vessels produced in South Lincolnshire between the mid-11th and 14th centuries. A slightly ridged body sherd in an oxidised sandy fabric comes from a large jar. This vessel appears to have been hand built and wheel-finished and superficially resembles some Potters Marston vessels although it is tempered with abundant mixed quartz. The jar is most probably from an unidentified regional production site operating between the 12th and 13th centuries. Four sherds are in shell-tempered Stanion/Lyveden ware Fabric A. Two of the sherds come from jars whilst the other two could come from jars or bowls. Similar vessels in this fabric are conventionally dated to between the late 12th and 14th centuries, but there is the possibility that the type originates earlier in the 12th century. Two minute and very abraded flakes in a mixed quartz and iron-rich fabric, also containing some carbonised organics, are not dateable and could belong anywhere between the prehistoric and early medieval periods. This deposit also contained five pieces of heat-altered clay. The largest lump weighs 266 grams and is very abraded and formless. Two small fragments have flaked off this large piece revealing a pale grey core with pale orange surfaces. The fabric has some white clay streaks and contains no inclusions other than some crystals that appear to be gypsum. The other two small flakes are also composed of clean clay. The poor condition of all of these fragments makes it impossible to determine if they were structural or just accidentally baked natural clay or mudstone.

A small group of eight sherds of pottery representing six vessels was recovered from layer 105. Three of the sherds come from shell-tempered Stanion/Lyveden ware Fabric A vessels. The largest sherd contains moderate to common iron-rich grains and comes from a large jar. The other two small sherds are abraded and have leached surfaces. These vessels are likely to be of late 12th to 14th century date. Two other vessels are in oolitic-tempered Stanion/Lyveden ware Fabric B. The sherds are undiagnostic and could come from jars or jugs but are most likely to come from the unglazed parts of glazed jugs of 13th or 14th century date. One sherd comes from a Potters Marston ware jar of general 12th to 13th century date.

Seven small sherds from a single small St. Neots ware jar were recovered from the fill of posthole 107. The jar has a simple rounded rim and is of 11th to mid-12th century date.



## Summary and Recommendations

The ceramic material recovered from this site suggests that there had been post-Roman activity in the area from the Saxo-Norman period. Most of the Saxo-Norman and medieval material is in a slightly abraded to abraded condition that indicates disturbance, probably by ploughing. The post-medieval pottery however is in a quite fresh condition possibly suggesting that this activity was confined to the medieval period.

The assemblage is in a stable condition and should be kept for future study.

## References

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- Kilmurry, K. 1980 *The Pottery Industry of Stamford, Lincolnshire, c. AD 850-1250*, BAR Brit. Ser., **84**, Oxford: British Archaeological Reports
- 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

context	Lincolnshire cname	Leicestershire cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	Description	Date
102	STSL	EA7	cream	thrown dish	1	1	11	brown on	BS	probably Staffs but possibly Ticknall& combed	
102	CIST	CW2		cup	1	1	46		base	int & ext glaze;purple fabric	16th
102	CIST	CW2		jug	1	1	164		base	int & ext glaze;purple fabric	mid 16th to early/mid 17th
103	ST	ST7	Fabric A	jar/pitcher	1	1	3		BS	very abraded;thin glaze	11th to mid 12th
103	STANLY	LY4	Fabric A	jar/bowl	1	1	3		BS	unglaze;leached surfaces	late 12th to 14th
103	ST	ST7	Fabric A	jar/pitcher	1	1	3		BS	thick glaze	late 10th to 11th
103	ST	ST7	Fabric A	large bowl	1	1	15		rim	flanged folded rim;unglaze	late 10th to 11th
103	SNEOT	SN		?	1	1	2		BS	abraded;fabric incl some fe & quartz	late 10th to mid
103	SNEOT	SN		jar/bowl	2	1	5		BS	leached surfaces;some quartz in fabric	late 10th to mid
103	SNEOT	SN		jar ?	1	1	4		BS	soot int;abraded	late 10th to mid
103	ST	ST7	Fabric A	jar/pitcher	1	1	9		BS	thin glaze	11th
103	SNEOT	SN		small jar	5	1	3		BS	soot	late 10th to mid
103	STANLY	LY4	Fabric A	jar/bowl	1	1	3		BS	leached surfaces;abraded	late 12th to 14th
103	EMX	OS		large jar	1	1	15		BS	slightly ridged body;prob hand built wheel finished;hardfired;abundant mixed quartz;light grey fabric light orange surfaces	12th to 13th
103	STANLY	LY4	Fabric A	jar ?	1	1	16		base	abraded;soot	late 12th to 14th
103	SLOOL	CG		jar ?	1	91	15		base	soot	mid 11th to 14th
103	MISC	-	reduced med	?	2	1	3		BS	very abraded flakes; moderate sandy mixed quartz moderate fe in tabular occ carbonised veg	IA to Early Med

context	Lincolnshire cname	Leicestershire cname	sub fabric	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	decoration	part	Description	Date
103	STANLY	LY4	Fabric A	jar	1	1	6	pressed rim	rim		late 12th to 14th
103	SNEOT	SN		jar/bowl	2	1	3		BS	thick int carb deposit	late 10th to mid
105	STANLY	LY1	Fabric B	jug/jar	3	1	11		BS	fabric incl comm fe	13th to 14th
105	STANLY	LY4	Fabric A	large jar	1	1	15	applied pressed body strip	BS	fabric incl mod to comm fe	
105	PMAR	PM		jar	1	1	5		BS		12th to 13th

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**Fired Clay Archive**

Context	Cname	Fabric	Frag	Weight	Description
103	FIRED CLAY	fine light oxid	3	269	1 x large lump & two flakes from single original lump; very abraded; formless; pale grey with pale orange surfaces; pure clay with veins white clay & some gypsum ?;poss. heat altered natural
103	FIRED CLAY	fine oxid	1	1	Tiny abraded formless; poss. heat altered natural
103	FIRED CLAY	fine reduced	1	1	Tiny abraded formless; poss. heat altered natural

## **APPENDIX C: PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS**

by Val Fryer

### **Introduction and method statement**

Excavations at Foxton, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), recorded a cultivation soil horizon context [103] of probable medieval date and several post hole fills of similar date context [107]; [110]; [112] & [114]. Five samples were taken for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage.

The samples were processed by PCA and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern seeds were also recorded and the charcoal sent (via PCA) to Grahame Morgan in Leicester.

### **Results**

Although small (<0.1 litres in volume), the flot from Context [103] is relatively rich, containing both cereal grains and seeds of common weeds. Preservation of the remains is moderately good, although some grains are puffed and slightly distorted, probably as a result of high temperature combustion. The fills from the post holes produced only charcoal (oak) fragments probably derived from the decay of the wooden posts.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded in [103] along with a number of grains which are too fragmentary for close identification. Of the identifiable grains, wheat and oats occur most frequently. A small number of grains, which have distinctive concave sides and exaggerated ventral grooves, appear to have germinated prior to charring. A single fragment of a possible large legume (Fabaceae) is also recorded.

The weed seeds are all of common segetal/grassland species, with taxa noted including small legumes, ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), grasses (Poaceae), buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). The abundance of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) seeds probably indicates that many of the cereals were being grown on heavy clay soils. A single, possible flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seed is also recorded, although the specimen is extremely poorly preserved.

Only one small charcoal/charred wood fragment is present within the assemblage from [103] and has been identified as Oak. Other remains are also scarce, but do include a large piece of burnt or fired clay and small fragments of black porous and tarry material. The latter are almost certainly derived from the combustion or organic remains, including cereal grains, at very high temperatures.

### **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

In summary, it would appear most likely that the material within this assemblage is derived from a low density scatter of cereal processing or storage waste. The local cultivation of heavy clay soils is

certainly intimidated by the abundance of stinking mayweed seeds, and it is probably of note that wheat, which is also common within the assemblage, is particularly well suited to cultivation within such situations.

As quantification/analysis of a single productive sample in isolation would add little to the data within this assessment, no further work is recommended. However, this assemblage clearly illustrates that well-preserved plant remains are abundant within the archaeological horizon in this area of Foxton. Therefore, if any further interventions are planned within the immediate area, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres are taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts.

## Reference

Stace, C., 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press

Context No.	103	107	110	112	114
<b>Cereals and other potential food plants</b>					
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grains)	xx				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x				
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	xx				
Cereal indet. (grains)	xx				
Large Fabaceae indet.	xcffg				
<b>Herbs</b>					
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	xx				
Fabaceae indet.	x				
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.	xcf				
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L.	x				
Small Poaceae indet.	x				
Large Poaceae indet.	x				
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i>	x				
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	x				
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	xcf				
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>					
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	x	x	x
<b>Other remains</b>					
Black porous and tarry material	x				
Burnt/fired clay	x				
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>					
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1

**Key to Table**

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    cf = compare    fg = fragment

## **APPENDIX D: ANIMAL BONE**

by Kevin Rielly

### **Description of Bones**

The site collection, provided by a medieval subsoil deposit (103), consisted of the heavily fragmented remains of a cattle mandible. Notably, while fragmented, this bone was in relatively good condition with little to no surface damage.

There was a relatively complete tooth-row consisting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> adult premolar to the third adult molar, the latter tooth in full wear and therefore an old adult, probably in excess of 5 years (after Maltby 1981, 182). This was clearly from an animal used either for work purposes (possibly oxen) or for milk production.

No further analysis is required.

### **Reference**

Maltby, M, 1981 Iron Age, Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon animal husbandry - a review of the faunal evidence, in M. Jones and G. Dimbleby (eds), *The environment of man: the Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon period*, B.A.R. British Series 87, 155-203



## **APPENDIX E: IRON OBJECT**

by Kevin Trott

A small corroded fragment of iron, weighting 26 grams was recovered from the medieval cultivation soil (103). The iron was sent to Grahame Morgan in Leicester for an x-ray that confirmed it derived from the lower tapering base from a hollow ferrule associated with an agricultural tool of unknown function (Grahame Morgan, pers. comm.). The tapering ferrule measured at it widest a diameter of c.0.26m, at its opposing surviving end the diameter was c.0.22m.

## APPENDIX F: OASIS SHEET

**OASIS ID: preconst1-176286**

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### Project details

Project name	Land at the rear of 61 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	This report details the working methods and results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on at the rear of 61 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire. The work conducted in order to define and record any archaeological deposits exposed during the construction of a two-storey domestic house, a garage, and an associated soak away. Foundation trenches approximately 56m total in length by 0.8m wide by 1.3m deep revealed a former cultivation soil dating from the 11th to 14th centuries AD. An environmental sample taken from this context revealed evidence of oat, wheat and barley - a result of possible storage, processing or in the case of wheat, cultivation. This layer sealed four post holes, possibly relating to an earlier or contemporary structure. Sealing the cultivation layer was subsoil containing 16th- to 18th-century pottery.
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2013 End: 02-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	X.A99.2013 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Field observation", "Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH FOXTON Land at the rear of 61 Main Street, Foxton, Leicestershire
Site coordinates	SP 70022 89916 52.5022746025 -0.968323973287 52 30 08 N 000 58 05 W Point

Height OD / Depth            Min: 102.93m Max: 103.07m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Archaeology Office
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

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### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	A.X99.2013
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Iron", "Environmental"
Paper Archive Exists?	Yes
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A99.2013
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

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Entered by	Kevin Trott (ktrott@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	2 April 2014

# PCA

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