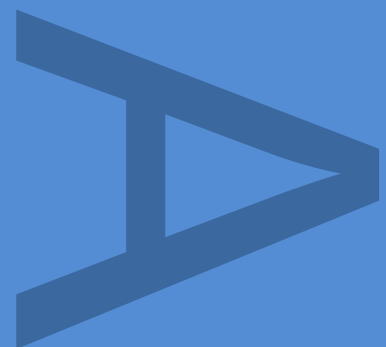


**99 BARTON ROAD,  
CONGERSTONE  
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION**

**June 2014**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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**99 BARTON ROAD, CONGERSTONE LEICESTERSHIRE:  
EVALUATION REPORT**

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**Local Planning Authority:** Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

**Central NGR:** SK 3688 0554

**Planning Reference** 13/01091/FUL

**Written by:** Kathryn Brook,  
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**Project Manager:** Kevin Trott

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of a single trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 99 Barton Road, Congerstone, Leicestershire (NGR SK 3688 0554) on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs as part of a planning condition. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.*

*The evaluation identified an 18<sup>th</sup> Century cobbled yard surface, which lay beneath a series of late 18<sup>th</sup> /20<sup>th</sup> Century make up layers, likely to be associated with the construction and extension of the former public house within the site boundary.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting, the client, to undertake as part of a planning application 13/01091/FUL (condition 4) an archaeological evaluation at 99 Barton Road, Congerstone, Leicestershire (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The development site lies within the heart of the historic village of Congerstone and within the Congerstone Conservation Area. The proposed development is located on the southern side of Barton Road at its junction with Dovecot Close, it comprises of a disused building (former public house) and overgrown yard area. The site is centred at NGR SK 3688 0546.
- 1.3 This archaeological evaluation was conducted in response to discussions with the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, Teresa Hawtin. The appropriate archaeological intervention was deemed to be an archaeological evaluation.
- 1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with the following documents:
- A Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMS May 2014)
  - Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1990);
  - The Institute for Archaeologist's Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations and Excavations (2008).
- 1.6 A single trench 10.25m x 1.65m in length was machine excavated (Figure.2). An 18<sup>th</sup> Century cobbled yard surface was encountered, that lay beneath a series of late 18<sup>th</sup> /19<sup>th</sup> Century make up layers.
- 1.7 Site records were compiled using the unique PCA site code BRCL14

## **2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

2.1.1 The solid geology of the site is characterised by the bedrock of Gunthorpe Member - Mudstone Formation formed during the Triassic Period. The superficial deposits are made up of River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel formed during the Quaternary period when the local environment was dominated by rivers. (British Geological Survey [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk))

### **2.2 Topography**

2.2.1 The development site lies within the heart of the historic village of Congerstone and within the Congerstone Conservation Area. The site is situated on relatively flat ground, with the majority of the site taken up by the former public house, and to its north, a small area of disused scrub land. The site is bound to the north by Barton Road, to the east by Dovecot Close.

2.2.2 Located to the south and west of the site are new residential developments. A spot height taken on the road between the site and Tithe Farm/Glebe Farm opposite, is recorded at c.94m AOD.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site lies within the heart of the historic village core of Congerstone (MLE 3155). The earliest known record of the settlement relates to a late Saxon period that was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. Domesday Book records that: in the lands of Henry Ferrers in the Guthlaxton wapentake, '*Roger holds 2 c. of land in Congerstone from Henry. Before 1066, 2 ploughs. In lordship 1 plough, 10 villagers with 6 smallholders have 2 ploughs. A mill; meadow, 3 acres. The value was 2s; now 20s. (14, 13). Robert the Bursar in the Guthlaxton wapentake; congerstone ½ c. of land. 1 Villager with 1 smallholder has ½ plough. The value 2s'* (19, 7).
- 3.2 The Domesday Book lists the village name as *Cuningestone*, it is thought the name means king village/farmstead. Taken from the Old English *cyning* 'king' and *tun* 'farmstead, village, small estate (Bourne 2003).
- 3.3 There have been no previous recorded archaeological interventions within the bounds of the development site. However, other archaeological work has been undertaken within Congerstone located c.236m south west of the site was where an evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services Unit (ULAS) who identified a post Medieval ditch (MEL17522).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Field Work**

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out on-site on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. The work was undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, 2008a); PCA is an IfA Registered Organization. The PCA WSI (2014), approved by Teresa Hawtin should be consulted for full details of the methodologies that were to be employed regarding archaeological recording, sampling, etc.
- 4.1.2 A single 10.x1.6m trench was excavated within the proposed development area; this was laid out following the trench location plan illustrated in Figure 2. The ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mini excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Modern overburden and underlying recent deposits were removed in spits to a depth where the first potential archaeological horizon or features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.1.3 OD heights and trench locations were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit. Field excavation and recording techniques are described in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) (Taylor and Brown 2009) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). The exposed sections and surfaces were cleaned by hand to define the archaeological features, structures and deposits, these were described on pro-forma recording sheets and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 showing the sequence of deposits and features in each trench. Limited later post-medieval/modern finds, mainly consisting of pottery and tile, were encountered during the investigation. These were recorded on the context sheets from the deposit/layer/fill from which they were recovered, then bagged and processed during the post excavation phase. The trench and subsequent excavated spoil was scanned with a metal detector during and after machining. Photographs were taken of trench, in addition to general site/ working shots.

### **4.2 Post Excavation**

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of eight archaeological contexts were defined within the single trench (Appendix A). 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.
- 4.2.2 The artefactual material from the evaluation comprised a small assemblage of late 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and tile. Specialist examination of all the artefacts was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into the Archaeological Sequence (Section 5), with assessment reports/tables in Appendix's B. No organic artefactual material was recovered from the site and no material recovered during the evaluation required specialist



stabilisation or, an assessment of its potential for conservation research. The assessors recommend all artefacts should be discarded due to their recent date.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **5.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-Stratum**

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents Natural Geological material exposed within the base of the trench. This generally comprised of moderately compact, mid orange/brown silty clay with occasional lenses of silty grey clay (104) and angular gravel.

5.1.2 These deposits predate any human occupation on the site or human modification of the surrounding landscape and are referred to here as being of 'natural' origin. This deposit represents the top of the superficial deposits as described by the British Geological Survey for the area: River Terrace deposits.

### **5.2 Phase 2: 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

5.2.1 Phase 2 represents the 18<sup>th</sup> century activity on the site. At the base of the trench, a compacted cobbled surface (103) was encountered. The surface comprised smooth water-worn stones c. 0.05 -0.12m in diameter, and in-filled with dark greyish silty clay with inclusions of fragmented brick (0.01-2mm in diameter). This cobbled surface overlay the natural (104) within the east portion of the trench. No datable material was retrieved from the cobbled surface apart from tiny chips of fragmented brick that was noted on the context sheet.

### **5.3 Phase 3: Late 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

5.3.1 Subsoil (108) was recorded throughout the excavated trench and it directly overlay the natural (104) and the cobbled surface (103). It was comprised of friable mottled orange-grey/brown sandy clay with occasional small brick fragments. Its thickness varied between 0.22m -0.40m. Four fragments of pottery dated to the late 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from this context and they included a base from a cream ware bowl, a brown glazed vessel and a stoneware storage jar.

### **5.4 Phase 4: 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

5.4.1 Sealing the subsoil layer (108), within the eastern portion of the trench, was a thick deposit of made-up ground (101) that was similar in colour and consistency to the underlying subsoil layer (108). Occasional tiny brick fragments were recorded on the context sheets from this layer, but no closely datable artefactual material was recovered.

5.4.2 Within the western portion of the trench sealing subsoil (108), was a mixed layer of friable dark greyish silty clay (107) and brick rubble. This layer is characteristic of made-up ground that includes modern LBC bricks and it must relate to a phase of building work carried out on the site.

### **5.5 Phase 5: Modern**

- 5.5.1 Within the central portion of the trench cutting through all the above mention contexts except the cobbled surface (103), was the cut for a modern drainage pipe [105]. This linear feature was aligned northwest-southeast across the footprint of the trench. The sides of the cut were steeply tapered, but the base was not fully excavated although it would have cut into the natural (104). The fill of this pipe trench (surrounding a plastic pipe) contained friable dark greyish sandy silt that was mixed with modern brick rubble and concrete (106).
- 5.4.1 The sealing topsoil (100) consisted of firm dark brown silty clay with frequent modern LBC brick fragments interspersed with occasional charred wood. This formed the upper soil horizon across the site. A single piece from a 19<sup>th</sup> century transfer printed ware plate and a machine made peg tile fragment were retained from this context.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCLUSION AND RESEARCH AIMS**

6.1 The archaeological evaluation recorded the natural horizon and an overlying cobbled surface of 18<sup>th</sup> Century date within the base of the trench.

6.1.2 The natural horizon and cobbled surface was overlain by the subsoil (108) where small quantities of late 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Century pottery fragments were retrieved. This was sealed beneath several made-up ground deposits (101) & (107) that contained relatively modern fragments of brick.

6.1.3 A modern drain pipe [105] was present that cut into the underlying deposits. This was subsequently sealed under a modern topsoil layer (100).

### **6.2 Original Research Aims**

- *To establish the presence of below-ground archaeological assets within the open area to the rear of the disused building.*

The Archaeological evaluation demonstrated the survival of a cobbled surface within the eastern portion of the trench excavated. This was sealed beneath the late 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries subsoil, that in-turn was buried beneath relatively modern made-up ground deposits. No other archaeological features were encountered

- *To determine – as far as is feasible – the date, character, function and significance of any such feature.*

The Cobbled surface contained no datable material apart from tiny fragments of brick that were embedded within the surface matrix. The sealing subsoil layer containing late 18-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery indicating the cobbled surface is 18<sup>th</sup> century in date. The overall function of the surface is unclear due to the small area excavated. Although it is likely to have formed a yard surface associated with the adjacent building.

6.2.1 There was no evidence within the excavated trench for any Pre-18<sup>th</sup> century activity relating to the wider environs of earlier the late Saxon or Medieval village of Congerstone.

## 7 REFERENCES

Bourne, J. 2003 Understanding Leicestershire & Rutland Place names. Heart of Albion Press

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Taylor, J. & Brown, G. 2009. PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual. Operations Manual 1

### Websites

- 1) British Geological Survey:  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP28%207PT>
- 2) Heritage gateway  
<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>
- 3) Old Maps  
<http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

8.1 PCA would like to thank Myk Flitcroft of CgMs for commissioning the project.

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

- *Fieldwork:* Steve Jones
- *Report:* Kathryn Brook
- *Specialist:* Kevin Trott
- *Project Manager & Editing:* Kevin Trott
- *CAD:* Jennifer Simonson

## PLATES



Plate 1: General View of Trench (looking North West)



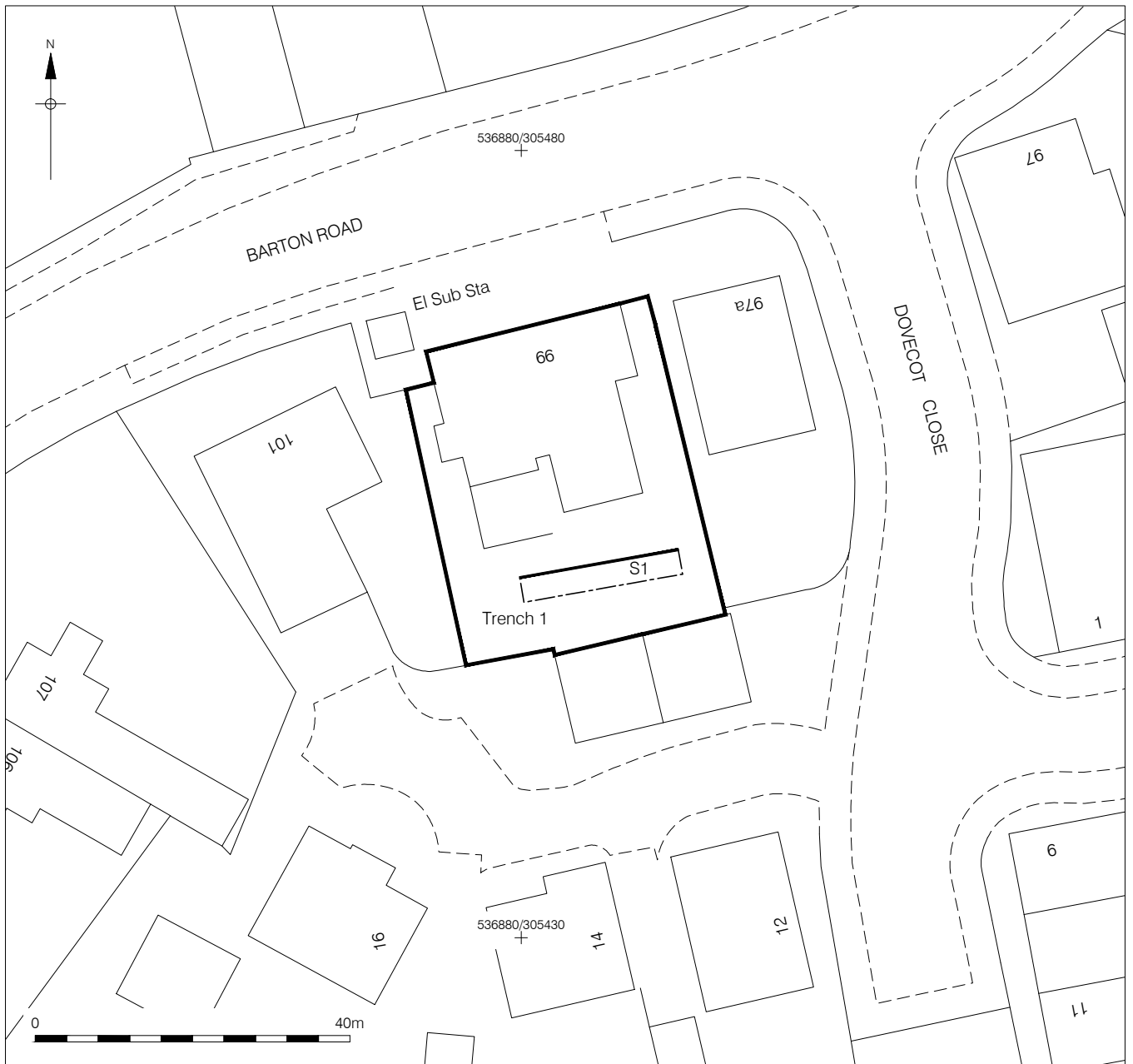
Plate 2: View of Trench (looking south west 1x1m, 1x 2m scales)



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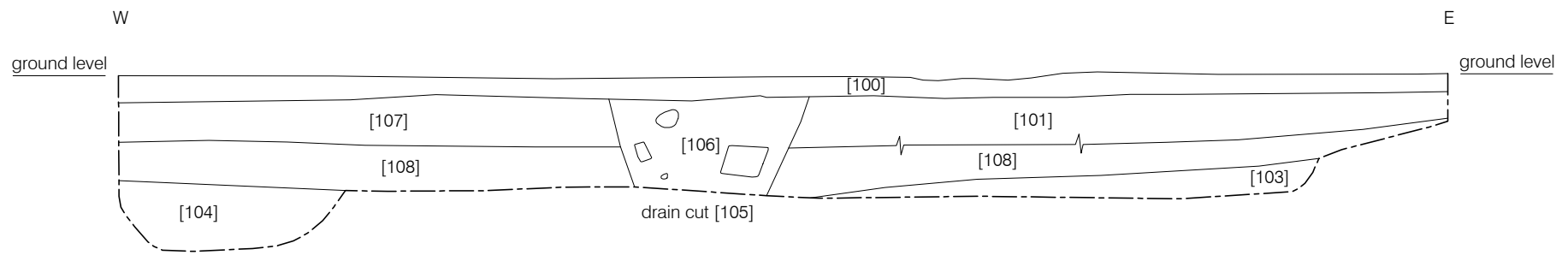
Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4





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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:400 at A4



Section 1  
Trench 1  
South Facing

0 2m

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Figure 3  
Section 1  
1:50 at A4

## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Type	Description	Details
100	Layer	Topsoil	Firm dark brown, slightly clayey silt with frequent brick fragments and occasional rubble and charcoal. Pottery fragments retrieved.
101	Subsoil	Subsoil	Friable, mottled orange brown and greyish brown, predominately sandy silt with occasional tiny brick fragments.
102			VOID
103	Layer	Surface	Compact cobbled surface 85% in filled with dark, greyish brown silty clay 15%. Occasional fragmented brick inclusions. The cobbles range in size from c. 0.05 -0.12m
104	Layer	Natural	Friable mid orange brown silty clay with occasional patches of silty grey clay.
105	cut	Modern Drain	Cut for Northwest-Southeast liners drain feature. Steep 70% sloping side. Base not fully excavated contain [106]
106	Fill	Fill of 105	Friable, dark brown silty clay and brick rubble backfill surrounding a plastic pipe.
107	Layer	Made up ground	Friable, dark greyish brown, silty clay with LBC brick rubble.
108	Layer	Made up ground	Friable mottled orange brown 80% dark greyish brown 20% sandy clay with occasional small brick inclusions.

## APPENDIX B: POTTERY ARCHIVE

By Kevin Trott

Context	Leicestershire	Full name	Sub Fabric	Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Description	Date	Action
100	EA10	Transfer Printed ware		Plate	1	1	5g	Neck		19 <sup>th</sup>	Discard
108	EA8	Cream ware		Bowl	1	1	14g	Base		Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to mid-19 <sup>th</sup>	Discard
108	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware		Bowl	1	1	5g	BS		Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to mid-19 <sup>th</sup>	Discard
108	SW	Stoneware-unclassified		Storage Jar	2	1	71g	BS	External brown glaze	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup>	Discard

## APPENDIX C: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

By Kevin Trott

Context	E-name	Fabric	Sub-Fabric	Frag	Weight	Description	Date	Action
100	PNR	Hard fired coarse stoneware-type		1	35g	Machine made fragment	Late-19th	Discard

## APPENDIX G: OASIS

OASIS ID: preconst1-181724

### Project details

Project name	99 BARTON ROAD, CONGERSTONE LEICESTERSHIRE
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of a single trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 99 Barton Road, Congerstone, Leicestershire (NGR SK 3688 0554) on 19th May 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs as part of a planning condition. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation identified a 18th Century cobbled yard surface, which lay beneath a series of late 18th /20th Century make up layers, likely to be associated with the construction and extension of the building within the site boundary.
Project dates	Start: 19-05-2014 End: 19-05-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH SHACKERSTONE 99 BARTON ROAD, CONGERSTONE LEICESTERSHIRE
Postcode	CV13 6NB
Site coordinates	SK 3689 0554 52.6459915635 -1.4547030383 52 38 45 N 001 27 16 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 92.54m Max: 94.10m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A73.2014
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A73.2014
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

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### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	99 BARTON ROAD, CONGERSTONE LEICESTERSHIRE:
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Kathryn Brook

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Entered by	Kathryn Brook (KBrook@pre-construct.com)
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