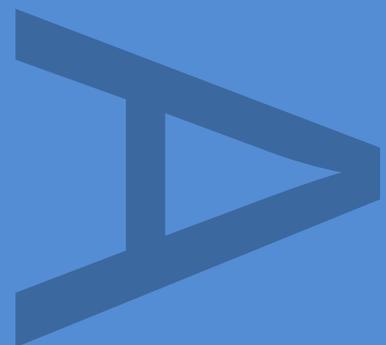


**Genevieve, The Green,
Great Bowden,
Leicestershire, LE16 7EU**

**An Archaeological Watching
Brief**

October 2014



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11877**

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GENEVIEVE, THE GREEN, GREAT BOWDEN,
LEICESTERSHIRE, LE16 7EU

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Kathryn Brook		03/10/2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		06/08/2014
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown		07/08/2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Kevin Trott		06/10/2014

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

**GENEVIEVE, THE GREEN, GREAT BOWDEN, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE16 7EU
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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Written and researched by: Kathryn Brook

Project Manager: Kevin Trott

Commissioning Client: Mark Turner

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Midlands Office
17-19 Kettering Road
Little Bowden
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 8AN

Tel: 01858 468333

E-mail: ktrott@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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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 Genevieve, The Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire, LE16 7EU. The work was commissioned by Mark Turner and undertaken between the 30th June and 19th July 2014. This was conducted in order to define and record any archaeological deposits exposed during the construction of a two-storey domestic dwelling, and associated services.

The investigation identified a large early medieval (11th – 12th Century) sub circular pit within the south-western portion of the site. This was sealed by a later 13th - 14th century subsoil layer. Subsequent subsoil and topsoil layer produced a scattering of pottery from the 17th -19th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Mr Mark Turner was granted planning consent for the development on land at Genevieve, The Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire, LE16 7EU. As a condition of the planning consent the Leicestershire County Senior planning Archaeologist (Teresa Hawtin) stipulated that a programme of archaeological works must be undertaken in mitigation of the proposed groundwork's for the development consisting of, in the first instance, an archaeological evaluation to inform on the planning process.

1.1.3 In June 2013 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (hereafter PCA) undertook the evaluation. Two 15m long trenches were excavated located over the foot print of the proposed new development. The evaluation identified a subsoil horizon containing an assortment of artefacts from various periods.

1.1.5 Based on the results of the Evaluation the Senior Planning Archaeologist decided that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken on all ground reduction work associated with the development (foundations and services trenches).

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

1.2.1 The study site, centred on NGR SP 74466 88716 within the Great Bowden Conservation Area. Located within the central core of the village, within the south-western corner of The Green that is set south of Main Street which interconnects with Station Road to the south.

1.2.2 The site lies within the former gardens of Genevieve (Figure 1) situated to the east of the existing house. The boundaries of the site are flanked by residential gardens and a wooded area to the west, with a small stream abutting the southern boundary.

1.3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.3.1 The upper portion of the site adjacent to 'The Green' is located on a relatively flat ground that slopes south south-west towards the wooded area and adjacent stream. A spot height on the corner of 'The Green' and Main Street to the north-east of the site is recorded at 77.7m AOD.

1.3.2 The British Geological Survey (Geology of Britain Viewer) shows the solid geology of the site to be bedrock of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, formed in the Jurassic and Triassic periods

1.4 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.4.1 Leicestershire and Rutland's Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted for the archaeological background to the site looking at a 100m radius of the site; reference numbers are included in the text.
- 1.4.2 Great Bowden is an established historic settlement (HER Ref: MLE9021). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a footpath running along the northern boundary of the site, which could represent the line of an earlier track or route way. To the north of the site an early 19th Century, row of terrace houses nos. 11- 19 all Grade II Listed (MEL14909 -14915). A further grade II Listed 19th Century terrace continues along the south side of the Green, to the east of the development site nos. 5 -7 (MLE14906 -14908) at the most eastern end of the terrace is the late 18th Century Shoulder of Mutton Public Houses (MLE14905).
- 1.4.3 At the Red Lion, in Main Street, c.96m to the north-west a hammered medieval coin dating from 1369-1411AD was discovered (MLE 6974). Excavations in 2005 at 1 Main Street c. 86m to the north revealed a scatter post Medieval and Modern pottery.
- 1.4.4 An evaluation carried out on the site by PCA (July 2013) identified a soil horizon contain a mix of prehistoric flints (MLE21167), Roman pottery (MLE21168) and medieval and post medieval pottery (MLE21169). Although no features were identified, the results suggest past human activity on or within the vicinity of the site from prehistory onwards.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The main aims and objectives of the investigation were:

- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the investigation.
- To assess where appropriate the ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.

In addition, the investigation aimed to address the following research questions:

- To set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the adjacent settlement and its wider landscape.
- To confirm the presence or absence of any Saxon or earlier activity and land-use relating to the earlier settlement in the Great Bowden area.
- To confirm the presence or absence of medieval and post-medieval activity relating to the wider settlement of Great Bowden

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The groundwork's were excavated by a 360° slew excavator monitored under constant archaeological supervision. The spoil from machine excavation was scanned for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological and potential archaeological deposits were cleaned using hand tools and recorded as set out in the PCA fieldwork manual (Taylor and Brown 2009). Contexts were recorded according to PCAs fieldwork manual approved for use in Leicestershire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 3.1.3 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 utilising PCAs printed proforma.
- 3.1.4 Trench plans were drawn using a single context recording system at a scale of 1:50 and representative sections at a scale of 1:20. 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). A full photographic record was made, including digital, black and white prints and 35mm colour transparencies.

3.2 POST FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 3.2.1 English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.2.2 All finds remain the property of the landowner (except for those defined as Treasure and human remains) but ownership of all archaeological finds will be transferred to the receiving museum with the agreement of the owner.
- 3.2.3 The artefactual material from the watching brief comprised of forty-two sherds of pottery, fifty fragments of animal bone, and a small assemblage of clay pipe, metal work, glass and ceramic building material. Specialist examination of all the artefacts was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 5, with assessment reports/tables in Appendix's B-E.
- 3.2.4 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.

4. THE CONTEXTS

- 4.1 A unique context number was assigned to each distinguishable depositional event. In the text below context numbers are given in **bold**.
- 4.2 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of seven archaeological contexts were defined within the building foundation and service trenches. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix A). A summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.3 Cultural periods encountered on site were as follows:

Prehistoric	Pre 100BC
Romano-British	AD 43-410
Medieval	AD1066-1500
Post-Mediaeval/ Modern	AD1500-Present

5. THE RESULTS

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Deposits (Figure 3)

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents the natural geological material encountered during the watching brief. It consisted of a firm to compact yellow brown clay (Context **304**) seen within the base of all excavated trench sections 1-5.

5.4 Phase 2: Medieval (AD1066-AD1500) (Figure 2 & 3)

5.4.1 The earliest and only feature observed during the watching brief was a large early Medieval sub-circular pit **[305]** (c.6.20m wide and 1.05m deep), encountered within the south-western portion of the site. The lower fill was a c.0.40m thick, moderately compact, greyish brown, sandy clay (**306**) with occasional flint and charcoal inclusions. Eight fragment of 11th -12th century pottery from jars and pitchers were recovered along with 20 fragments of animal bone from cattle, sheep/goat and pig. The Upper fill (**307**) comprised a moderately compact light bluish grey, sandy clay with angular flint fragments and charcoal flecks c.0.60m thick. Artefactual material contained within this fill consisted of 17 fragments of pottery derived from pitchers, jugs, jars and bowls, dated to the early to mid -12th century. Twenty-eight fragments of animal bone from cattle, sheep/goat and pig were also retrieved. Environmental samples were taken from both fills of this pit that produced sparse plant macrofossils results, along with occasional charcoal/burnt wood pieces, and very few poorly preserved cereal grains. The assemblage is typical of windblown deposition becoming accidentally incorporated within the fills (Fryer section 6.8)

5.4.2 Pit **[305]** was sealed beneath a later medieval subsoil layer (**303**). This light brown sandy clay was encountered across the whole site and is the same as layer (**103/203**) recorded during the 2013 evaluation (Trott 2013). This subsoil produced a variety of archaeological artefacts that included seven 13th – 14th century pottery sherds, five abraded/fragmented animal bones, and two fragments from a single riveted iron plate.

5.5 Phase 3: Post-Medieval/Modern (AD1500 - Present)

5.5.1 Six sherds of 17th -18th century pottery and a fragment of a similar dated clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from subsoil layer (**302**), this overlay the medieval subsoil layer (**303**). Topsoil (**301**) produced two sherds of 18th /19th century pottery and a single stem fragment from a clay tobacco pipe of a style commonly associated with a 17th century. Both subsoil and topsoil layers are the same as those encountered during the evaluation; subsoil (**102/202**) and topsoil (**101/201**) (Trott 2013).

6. THE FINDS

6.1 OVERVIEW

One-hundred and three finds were recovered from four contexts. The finds were processed according to PCAs systems approved for use in Leicestershire and are discussed in the text below.

6.2 MEDIEVAL & POST MEDIEVAL POTTERY *by Jane Young and Johanna Gray*

Introduction

In total forty-two sherds of pottery representing forty vessels were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to early modern periods. Where possible the codenames used for the archive of this site have been related to known Leicestershire codes (Connor and Buckley 1999), although the lack of an official printed or digital Leicestershire ware type series with adequate definitions seriously hampers consistency in the ceramic record. The post-Roman Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University was consulted and every effort was made to parallel the sherds found on this site with examples in it.

The 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. The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (Young et al.) and Nottingham (Nailor and Young 2001) fabric codenames 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).

Conclusion

The pottery is mostly in a slightly abraded to fairly fresh condition with sherd size mainly falling into the small to medium size range (below 50grams). The shell is leached from the surface of all of the shell-tempered sherds. Only two vessels are represented by more than one sherd and there are no cross-context joining sherds were found.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of fifteen post-Roman pottery ware types was identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The post-Roman pottery ranges in date from the Saxo-Norman to the early modern periods and includes local and regionally imported ceramics. A fairly limited range of vessel types was recovered including a range of bowls, jars, and pitchers/jugs.

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

Lincolnshire Codename	Leicestershire Codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BERTH	CW	Brown glazed earthenware (Cistercian type)	1550	1800	1	1
BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	2	2
BL	EA2	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1	1
FREC	FR	Frechen stoneware	1530	1680	1	1
LERTH	EA	Late earthenwares	1750	1900	1	1
MISC	CG	Unidentified types (Shelly)	400	1900	1	1
PEARL	EA9	Pearlware	1770	1900	1	1
SCAR	MS	Scarborough ware	1150	1350	1	1
SLOOL	CG	South Lincs Oolitic (generic)	1050	1500	2	2
SNEOT	SN	St Neots-type ware	870	1200	8	7
ST	ST1	Stamford Ware (Fabric B/C)	970	1200	2	2
ST	ST2	Stamford Ware (Fabrics A/B and B)	970	1200	14	13
STANLY	LY1	Stanion/Lyveden ware (Fabric B)	1150	1250	3	3
STANLY	LY4	Stanion/Lyveden ware (Fabric A)	1150	1250	3	3
TGW	EA11	Tin-glazed ware	1640	1770	1	1

Saxo-Norman to early medieval

A group of twenty-four vessels of Saxo-Norman type and one undiagnostic shell-tempered sherd were recovered from the site. Fifteen of the vessels are Stamford ware (ST) jars, pitchers or bowls of mid/late 11th to mid-12th century date. An unglazed lid-seated jar in Fabric A/B could date to as early as the immediate post-conquest date but equally could date to as late as the mid-12th century. The twelve vessels in Fabric B and two in Fabric B/C include glazed and unglazed sherds from jars or pitchers and one unglazed flanged-rim bowl. These vessels are probably of late 12th to mid-12th century date, although potentially the two unglazed sherds in Fabric B/C could date into the second half of the 12th century.

Eight sherds from seven vessels are in shell-tempered St. Neots ware (SNEOT). Most sherds come from jars of small to medium size but one could be from a bowl. The two jar rims present are of post-conquest to mid-12th century type.

Two sherds are in Saxo-Norman Oolitic-tempered fabrics (SLOOL). These are similar to vessels recovered from sites with 11th to 12th century occupation in the South of Lincolnshire and in Rutland. No production site is known for these fabrics and it may lie outside of South Lincolnshire where the type is most common.

A tiny shell-tempered sherd with the fossil shell leached from the surfaces (MISC) is likely to be of early medieval type being of mid-12th to 13th century date. The fossil shell is too coarse to be any of the known Saxo-Norman types found in the region.

Medieval

Overall, seven of the pottery vessels recovered from the site can be dated to the medieval period, between the late 12th and 13th centuries. Three sherds come from handmade Oolitic-tempered Stanion/Lyveden-type (STANLY) jugs or jars in Fabric B. Only one sherd having a thick reduced glaze can be positively identified as a jug. The type is dated to between the 13th and 14th centuries. Three sherds are from jars in shell-tempered Stanion/Lyveden Fabric A (STANLY). This ware type can be dated to between the mid-12th and 13th centuries.

An abraded grooved rod handle with a bright copper-green glaze is from a Scarborough ware jug of 13th century type.

Post-medieval to early modern

Eight vessels are of post-medieval to early modern type and date to between the 17th and mid-19th centuries. The single black-glazed earthenware sherd recovered from the site (BL) is in a coarse buff/grey fabric and has an internal glaze. The basal sherd comes from a large cylindrical jar of 17th to 18th century date. The fabric of this vessel suggests a Staffordshire or Derbyshire source.

Two Brown-glazed Earthenware sherds (BERTH) with very dark brown internal glazes come from jars or bowls of mid-17th to 18th century date. A third Brown-glazed Earthenware sherd is in a Cistercian-like fabric and represents the transition of Cistercian ware into post-medieval earthenwares between the early and mid-17th century.

An unglazed earthenware flake (LERTH) found in deposit 302 comes from an unglazed early modern vessel or tile.

An unusual Tin-glazed Earthenware (TGW) base was recovered from deposit 301. The external wall of the vessel has been pressed into an ornate mould resulting in a pattern reminiscent of that found on some Victorian Mason and Cash baking bowls. The thick white internal and external glaze suggest a date in the second half of the 18th century, or even early in the 19th century.

The latest sherd found on the site is a Pearlware (PEARL) handle decorated with blue sponging. The handle probably comes from a chamber pot and is of late 18th to early/mid-19th century date.

A single continental import was recovered from the site. The rim sherd is from a 17th century German Frechen-type stoneware (FREC) drinking jug. The jug is of the narrow-necked Bartmann-type, although there is no evidence for a face mask.

The Site Sequence

The pottery was recovered from five of the excavated deposits.

Topsoil 301 produced two sherds of late post-medieval to early modern type. One sherd is from an unusual Tin-glazed Earthenware bowl of probable mid to late 18th century date whilst the other comes from a Pearlware vessel, probably a chamber pot, of late 18th to early/mid-19th century date.

Six post-medieval sherds were recovered from subsoil 302. They include black and brown-glazed earthenware jars or bowls of 17th to 18th century type and a 17th century Frechen Stoneware drinking jug. The group probably belongs to the period between the mid-17th and mid-18th centuries.

Seven medieval sherds and two residual Saxo-Norman vessels were recovered from subsoil 303. The seven medieval sherds include one jug and two jugs or jars in oolitic-tempered Stanion/Lyveden Fabric B and three jars in shell-tempered Fabric A. Vessels in Fabric A date to between the mid-12th and 14th centuries whilst the glazed Fabric B is of 13th to 14th century date. The other medieval sherd is a 13th century copper-glazed Scarborough ware jug.

Pit 305 produced pottery from two fills (306 and 307). The lower fill 306 produced a small group of eight sherds each representing a single vessel. The group includes four glazed jars or pitchers of post-conquest date in Stamford ware Fabric B. Also in the group are three St. Neots ware jars and an oolitic-tempered jar of South Lincolnshire-type. This small group is probably of late 11th to mid-12th century date. The uppermost fill 307 contained seventeen sherds representing fifteen vessels. Ten of these vessels are in Stamford ware. These vessels include an identifiable pitcher and a bowl in Fabric B. Other fabric B sherds come from jars or pitchers. A single sherd in Fabric A/B is from a jar and two unglazed sherds in Fabric B/C are undiagnostic but most probably come from jars. Four shell-tempered St. Neots ware vessels include two small and one medium-sized jars. A tiny shell-tempered sherd with the fossil shell leached from the surfaces is likely to be of early medieval type being of mid-12th to 13th century date. This small group is most probably of early to mid-12th century date.

Summary and Recommendations

This small assemblage suggests post-Roman occupation in the area in the Saxo-Norman to early medieval (between the late 11th and mid-12th centuries), medieval (13th century) and post-medieval to early modern (mid 17th to mid-19th centuries) periods. The assemblage is too small to suggest the nature or extent of this occupation.

Retention

The early modern pottery Pearlware sherd could be discarded otherwise the entire assemblage should be retained for future study, especially as part of any characterisation of fabrics for a future local type series.

References

Connor, A. and Buckley, R 1999, Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 5

Nailor, V. and Young, J. 2001. A Fabric Type Series for Post-Roman Pottery in Nottingham (5th to 16th centuries). Unpublished.

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.

6.3 FIRED CLAY by Jane Young and Johanna Gray

Introduction

Two fragments of ceramic building material and eleven pieces of fired clay weighing 118 grams in total were submitted for examination. The fragments were examined both visually and at x 20 binocular magnification. The resulting archive was then recorded using Lincolnshire codenames in an Access database and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001).

Condition

The material is mainly in a very abraded but stable condition.

The Fired Clay

All of the fragments are in a very abraded condition making interpretation of the material difficult. The five fragments recovered from subsoil 303 are in a highly micaceous fabric that appears to contain little quartz. Three pieces are very abraded formless lumps and two are abraded flakes. One of the flakes has a flattened surface. The other six pieces were recovered from the two fills of pit 305. Lower fill 306 produced two more undiagnostic flakes in the same fabric as those recovered from the subsoil. The lower fill 307 contained four fragments of fired clay. Two are very abraded formless flakes in the fine micaceous fabric. Another piece in this fabric has spalled external surfaces. The other fragment is a flake in a fine oxidised sandy fabric containing common fine iron-rich grains. The flake has one flattened surface and may represent structural or hearth daub.

The Ceramic Building Material

Only two fragments of building material were recovered from the site. An abraded flake from a handmade brick of mid-17th to mid-20th century date was recovered from subsoil 302. The upper fill (307) of pit 305 produced a flake from a tile or brick of Roman or post-medieval to early modern date.

Summary and Recommendations

The group of fired clay and ceramic building material recovered from this site is too small and abraded to be of use in site interpretation. The material should be retained for future analysis or use in a local type series.

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

6.4 CLAY TOBACCO PIPE *by Kevin Trott*

Introduction

Two clay tobacco pipe fragments weighing a combined total of 9 grams were recovered from two contexts: Topsoil (301) and from the subsoil (302).

Description

The two plain stem fragments are of a late 17th century style with the fragment from the subsoil layer (302) exhibiting abrasion, whilst the fragment from the topsoil (301) was in excellent condition and showed little signs of soil abrasion.

Table 1: Clay Tobacco Pipe Inventory

Context	Total	Weight (g)	Type	Description	Date Range
301	1	4	Plain stem	Unabraded	17th century
302	1	5	Plain stem	abraded	17th century

Recommendations

The clay tobacco pipe assemblage is in good condition and the collection should be retained for future study with the remainder of the archive.

References

- Higgins D.A., 1999, 'The Clay Tobacco Pipes' in A. Connor and R. Buckley (ed.), Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester. Leicester Archaeology Monograph 5 215-234.
- Mann, J.E. 1977. Clay Pipes from Excavations in Lincoln 1970-74. Lincoln Archaeological Trust Monograph Series XV-I.
- Oswald A., 1975, Clay Pipes for the Archaeologist. British Archaeological Reports 14, 48-49. Oxford.

6.5 THE GLASS REPORT by Kevin Trott

Introduction

During the archaeological investigations a small fragment of glass were recovered from the subsoil layer (302). The sharp glass fragment derived from a dark green wine bottle that is indicative of either 18th or 19th century date.

Recommendations

No further analysis is recommended on the glass. It is recommended that the glass is retained with the site archive.

6.6 METALWORK by Kevin Trott

Discussion

A single item of Iron was discovered during the archaeological investigation at Genevieve, Great Bowden. The iron object, from subsoil layer 303 comprised two fragments of square slightly curvilinear plates that appear to have been riveted together.

Catalogue

Iron Object

SF 1 (303) A fragment of two square, riveted, slightly curvilinear plates; length 4.6cm; width 3.7cm; thickness 1.1cm; weight 26 grams.

References

Garratt, B. 1994. 'The Small finds' in Cunliffe, B & Garratt, B. Excavations at Portchester Castle, Volume V: Post Medieval 1609-1819. Society of Antiquaries Research Report LII, 98-129.

6.7 ANIMAL BONE *by Kevin Trott*

Introduction and Methodology

A total of 43 fragments (255 grams) from three contexts (303), (306) & (307) were recovered by hand during the archaeological watching brief. The animal bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of long bone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

Description of faunal assemblage by phase

Most of the sites bone assemblage was taken from the fills (306) & (307) of a single medieval pit [305] that contained pottery between the 11th- mid 12th century. A medieval subsoil (303) was found with pottery dated to the 13th century.

Medieval

The earliest bone assemblages from the lower fill (306) of pit [305] mainly consisted of snapped and fragmented cattle elements and smaller fragmented pig & sheep/goat limb bones. The presence of two mammal ribs (unidentified species) could represent accidental fatalities trapped in this sub-surface feature. The upper fill (307) of this pit contained further snapped and fragmented cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones, along with the rib of a larger mammal (possibly rabbit).

All the bone elements from both fills of this pit [305] derived from snapped long bones suggestive of marrow extraction and fragments from the heads of cattle, sheep and pigs. The almost uniform size of the bone fragments recovered is suggestive of soup/broth waste (Van Mensch 1974).

The few proximal and distal bone elements recovered were fused, and when compared to the various teeth recovered from cattle, sheep and pig exhibiting full wear, it displays characteristics that mature and older adults, probably around 5 years of age (after Maltby 1981, 182) were utilised for their meat yields, once all secondary needs (milk, wool etc. had been fulfilled. The age of the cattle were clearly from animals used either for work purposes (probably an oxen) or for milk production. Both fills of pit [305] contained heat altered shaft fragments from either cattle or sheep/goat.

Context	303	306	307
Species			
Cattle		6	8
Sheep/Goat	2	1	4
Pig		3	1
Mammal		2	1
Unidentified		3	12
Burnt		5	2
Grand Total	2	20	28

Table 1: Counts of animal bone in context sorted by parent context, type of deposit or feature.

Conclusion and recommendations for further work

While in good condition, the potential value of this assemblage is severely hampered by the quantity of bones recovered. The available information clearly suggests the use of cattle with a probable bias towards work/dairy animals were present, along with sheep during the medieval period.

In conclusion, the medieval collection can provide some basic information concerning animal usage within this part of Leicestershire. However a greater quantity of bones would be required to produce a better and more thorough understanding of this usage. Considering this assemblage was recovered during the limited monitoring works it would be recommended that any future animal bone assemblages recovered during archaeological work in the village would enable a better understanding of animal husbandry in Great Bowden.

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6.8 AN EVALUATION OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS *by V Fryer*

Introduction and method statement

A watching brief at Great Bowden, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), recorded a large pit of probable twelfth to thirteenth century date. Two samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within the pit.

The samples were bulk floated by PCA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. All plant remains were charred. Modern roots were also recorded.

Results

The Both assemblages are exceedingly small and sparse. Although plant macrofossils are present, they are limited to occasional pieces of charcoal/charred wood and a very small number of extremely poorly preserved cereal grains. The latter appear to have been burnt at a very high temperature, as all are puffed and fragmentary, with some broken edges being fringed with tarry globules

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, given the size of pit [305], the paucity of the assemblages is, perhaps, a little surprising. There does not appear to have been any deliberate deposition of material within the feature, and the few remains which are recorded are almost certainly derived from wind-dispersed detritus which was accidentally incorporated within the pit fills. Whilst this may indicate that the pit was entirely peripheral to any focus of either domestic or agricultural activity, this hypothesis is difficult to prove on the basis of such limited data.

On the basis of this evaluation, it is difficult to make recommendations for future sampling should further interventions be made within the immediate vicinity. However, it is suggested that if the opportunity arises, samples of approximately 20 litres in volume should be taken from any additional recorded features in order to establish a general pattern of deposition for the location.

Context No.	306	307	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	Key to Table:
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	
Charcoal >5mm	x		x = 1 – 10 specimens
Black porous 'cokey' material		x	
Sample volume (litres)			
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	
% flot sorted	100%	100%	

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from Genevieve, The Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The watching brief fulfilled its aims and objectives by identifying and recording a sequence of geological and archaeological stratigraphy surviving on the site.
- 7.2 The only archaeological feature encountered during the watching brief were a large sub circular pit dated to the early medieval period (11th -12th century) sealed by a later medieval subsoil dating from the 13th -14th century. The artefactual material suggest the pit had a domestic use, containing bones used in stews/broths and pottery from pitchers/jug, jars and bowls. In contradiction, the environmental assessment identified little or no evidence for the usually cereal / grain assemblage associated with domestic settlements. The function / purpose of this large pit is unclear however, the pit must have been close to a settlement most likely located on the periphery adjacent to the nearby stream.
- 7.3 Activity in the Post-Medieval periods on the site was represented by a low quantity of pottery sherds from the upper layers (subsoil and topsoil) within the site stratigraphy, the evidence is insufficient to characterise the form of that activity, it dose however indicate continuous settlement activity since the medieval period within in the vicinity of the site.
- 7.4 No Evidence for any activity before the early medieval period was identified during this part of the investigation.

8. Bibliography

- | | | |
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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP28%207PT>. Access on 19th September 2014

9. Acknowledgements

Commissioning Client:	Mark Turner
Archaeological Monitoring:	Teresa Hawtin
Fieldwork Staff:	Kevin Trott & Steve Jones
Cad Drawings:	Jennifer Simonson
Report:	Kathryn Brook
Editing:	Kevin Trott

APPENDIX 1. CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions			
301	Layer	Medium-light brown	Sandy silt loam	Grass roots	Topsoil	302	N/A
302	Layer	Light-medium brown	sandy clay gravel-rich lenses within a silty clay	Occasional angular flint fragments	Subsoil	303	301
303	Layer	light brown	Firm sandy clay	No visible inclusions	Subsoil	304 & [305]	302
304	Layer	Yellowish brown	Compact-Firm sandy clay	Occasional angular gravel inclusions	Natural	N/A	303 & [305]
305	Cut	Sub-circular in plan with steep sloping sides, rounded basal corners-flattish base			Pit	303	304
306	Fill	Greyish-brown	Moderately compact sandy clay	Occasional angular flint and charcoal fragments	Lower fill of 305	305	307
307	Fill	Light-bluish-grey	Moderately compact sandy clay	Occasional angular flint fragments and charcoal flecks	Upper fill of 305	306	303

APPENDIX 2. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-191924

Project details

Project name	Genevieve, The Green, Great Bowden, 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 Genevieve, The Green, Great Bowden, Leicestershire, LE16 7EU. The work was commissioned by Mark Turner and undertaken between the 30th June and 19th July 2014. This was conducted in order to define and record any archaeological deposits exposed during the construction of a two-storey domestic dwelling, and associated services. The investigation identified a large early medieval (11th - 12th Century) sub circular pit within the south-western portion of the site. This was sealed by a later 13th -14th century subsoil layer. Subsequent subsoil and topsoil layer produced a scattering of pottery from the 17th -19th century.
Project dates	Start: 30-06-2014 End: 19-07-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	GGGB14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH GREAT BOWDEN Genevieve, The Green, Great Bowden
Postcode	LE16 7EU
Site coordinates	SP 74466 88716 52.4908981508 -0.903128998826 52 29 27 N 000 54 11 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 75.55m Max: 78.98m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Archaeology Office
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project	Kevin Trott

director/manager

Project supervisor Kevin Trott

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Physical Archive ID X.A67.2013

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Glass","Metal"

Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Digital Archive ID X.A67.2013

Digital Media available "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Paper Archive ID X.A67.2013

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Map","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text","Drawing"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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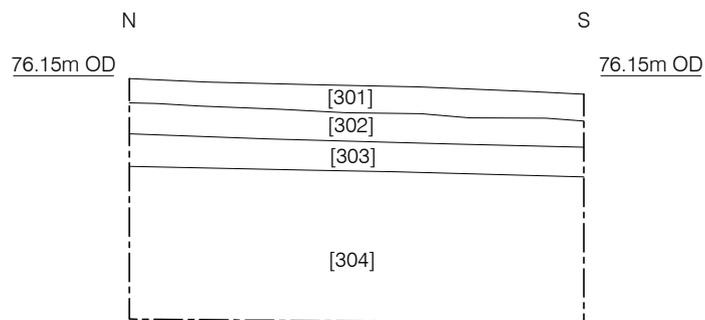
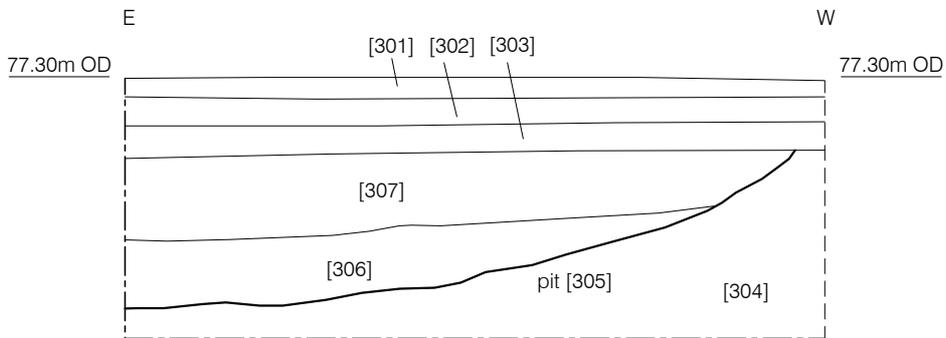
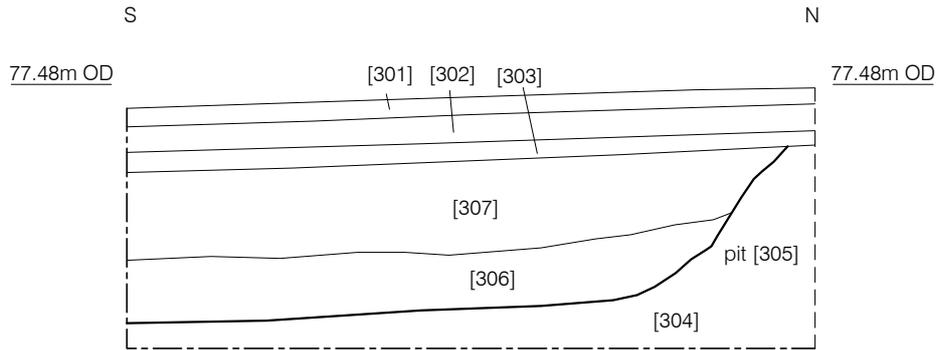
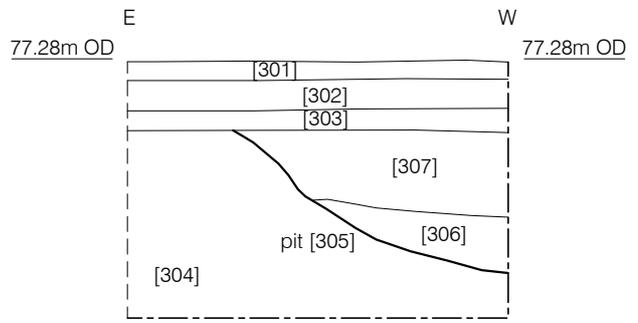
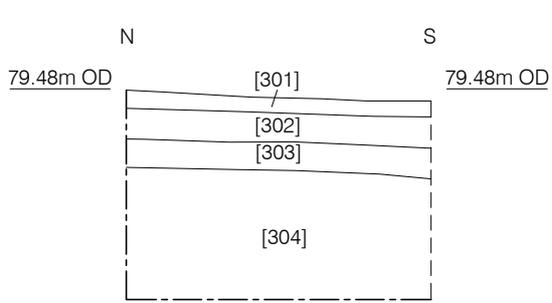
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 and 25,000 at A4



Figure 2
 Trench location
 1:500 at A4



PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

