

PECKLETON BARN, CHURCH
ROAD, PECKLETON,
LEICESTERSHIRE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF



July 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12107

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

PECKLETON BARN, CHURCH ROAD,
PECKLETON, LEICESTERSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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Peckleton Barn, Church Road, Peckleton, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire.

Report on a Programme of Archaeological Observations

Local Planning Authority: Hinckley & Bosworth

Central National Grid Reference: SK 47421 00724

Site Code: PBCP 14

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Report Number R12107

CONTENTS

Abstract.....	1
1. Introduction.....	2
1.1 Planning Background.....	2
1.2 Site Location And Description.....	2
1.3 Topography And Geology.....	2
1.4 Historical And Archaeological Background.....	2
2. Aims & Objectives.....	4
3. Methodology.....	5
3.1 Fieldwork Methodology.....	5
3.2 Post Fieldwork Methodology.....	5
4. The Results.....	6
5. Conclusions.....	7
6. Bibliography.....	8
Appendix 1. Plates.....	9
Appendix 2. Context Index.....	10
Appendix 3. Oasis Data Collection Form.....	13
Figure 1. Site Location Plan.....	16
Figure 2. Detailed Site Location Plan.....	17
Figure 3. Plan Of Monitored Area.....	18
Figure 4. Sections.....	19

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken as a condition of planning consent by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during the groundworks for the construction of a new garage, garden and garden wall at Peckleton Barn, Church Road, Peckleton, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. Peckleton Homes Ltd commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. to undertake the watching brief.

The groundworks for the development revealed no significant archaeological deposits. An undated feature (possibly a garden feature) and two modern service trenches were recorded within the trenches. The sequence of layers recorded on the site comprised topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits. The only artefacts recovered from the site was a solitary sherd of post-medieval jug sherd from the topsoil.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

1.1.1 Peckleton Homes Ltd (hereafter the client) were granted planning consent to erect a detached garage and a circuit wall for a garden (planning refs: 12/00811/FUL and 14/00258/COU) at Peckleton Barn, Church Road, Peckleton, Market Harborough, Leicestershire (see **Figure 1**). As a condition of the planning consent for the development, a programme of archaeological observation was stipulated by the Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, (hereafter the PA) who judged that the groundworks for the proposed development might impact on archaeologically significant deposits. Pre-Construct Archaeology (Midlands) – hereafter PCA – were appointed by the client to undertake the archaeological works.

1.1.2 PCA submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation which was approved by the PA in advance of development groundworks.

1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken on 9th & 12th December 2014 and 19th February 2015.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The development site is located c.500m southeast of Peckleton Village approximately 339m along a gravel access road off Church Road centred at NGR SK 47421 00724. The site is within a parcel of trapezoidal shaped land surrounded on all sides by agricultural fields. To the south the site is bounded by a gravel access road and to the west by an agricultural barn now converted into a domestic dwelling.

1.3 Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The site is currently a grassed field, with a recently converted dwelling in the southwest corner and associated driveway/parking area, immediately north and east are open fields, to the south is the gravel access road with a barn to the west. A spot height taken at the entrance to the property is recorded at c.118.18m aOD.

1.3.2 The subject site is characterised by the bedrock formation of Edwalton Member - Mudstone; sedimentary bedrock formed during the Triassic periods. The overlying superficial deposits are Oadby Member- Diamicton (boulder clay containing lenses of sand and gravel along with rock, chalk and flint fragments) formed in the Quaternary – (British geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk).

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; reference numbers in the text are given in bold.

1.4.2 Prehistoric 2400BC – AD43

1.4.2.1 Approximately 400m south of the site a Bronze Age flint thumb scraper (**MEL6360**) was discovered. Approximately 238m to the south of the site are the faint crop marks of a possible sub-rectangular and sub circular Iron Age enclosure (**MEL3034**) and a further

possible Iron Age enclosure (**MEL3033**) has also be identified in aerial photos c.265m to the east of the development site.

1.4.3 Romano-British AD43 - AD410

1.4.3.1 The development site lies within an area identified as a potential Roman Site (**MEL16849**) measuring approximately 339m by 379m metres. In 2001 a small Roman gold wire earring was found within this Roman site. Further metal detecting between 2004 and present have recovered an Iron Age mount possibly from a dress, two brooches both late Iron Age - early Roman. Other finds of a similar date included 2 copper alloy Dupondius (coins), a silver Roman coin of Gordian III (AD 238) and copper alloy object possibly a mount. The only non-metal detected finds are two kiln bars recovered in 2008 suggesting a possible kiln site with the vicinity.

1.4.4 Medieval AD1066 – AD1500

1.4.4.1 In 1985 a watching brief undertaken at the Church of St Mary (**MEL13072**) to the west of the investigation area, uncovered an earlier wall predating the 14th Century church. Fragments of roof tile and wall plaster dated to the c.1250-1400 AD were also recovered along with fragments of stained glass and a reused piece of Roman Tegula.

1.4.4.2 To the east of the site at Glebe Lane (now the site of three fish ponds) a geophysical survey (**ELE 3853**) identified several possible archaeological features. A target Evaluation undertaken by University Leicester Archaeology Services in 2002 produced negative results (**ELE 6761**).

1.4.5 Post-Medieval AD1500 – AD1800

1.4.5.1 To the east of the site at Glebe Lane (now the site of three fish ponds) a geophysical survey (**ELE 3853**) identified several possible archaeological features. A target Evaluation undertaken by University Leicester Archaeology Services in 2002 produced negative results (**ELE 6761**).

1.4.6 Early Modern AD1800 – AD1900

1.4.6.1 The domestic dwelling on site is a set of converted 1820-35 farm buildings (**MEL17269**). A historic building photographic survey carried out in 2009 recorded a barn, Cart shed and thrashing barn (**ELE 5715**). The building formed an 'out farm': a collection of farm buildings acting as a satellite for another farm (Sheppard 2009).

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims and objectives of the investigation were:

- to establish the location, nature, extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological or geoarchaeological deposits or features within the site, to recover any associated objects and to record the surviving evidence.
- to analyse and interpret the site archive and to disseminate the results to promote local and national research objectives: *The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*, Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**, ed. N Cooper (2006), along with the *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*, ed. D. Knight, B. Vyner & C. Allen (2012) were used as references for specific site criteria.

2.2 In particular, the archaeological mitigation works sought to address the following research objectives:

- to set the site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape;
- to confirm the presence or absence of any Prehistoric activity that may relate to the possible enclosure features identified within the wider landscape;
- to confirm the presence or absence of Roman activity possible associated with the artefacts (kiln bars, coins etc.) found immediately south of the site;
- to confirm the presence or absence of Saxon/medieval activity possibly relating to the nearby village of Peckleton recorded in the Domesday Book;
- to confirm the presence or absence of any post medieval activity.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 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 PCA systems approved for use in Leicestershire, including written, photographic and drawn records.
- 3.1.2 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 pro-forma.
- 3.1.3 Trench plans and representative sections were drawn at an appropriate scale (usually 1:50 for plans and 1:20 for sections). The locations of the trenches and the heights of deposits compared to Ordnance Survey benchmarks were recorded.
- 3.1.4 A full digital colour photographic record was made.

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 The archive from the mitigation works is currently held by PCA at their office in Leicestershire. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the site archive will be deposited under Accession Number **X.A145.2014**.

4. THE RESULTS

4.1 The Garage Foundation Trenches

4.1.1 Observation of the foundation trenches for the erection of a garage to the east of the barn revealed a sequence of deposits comprising a mid-dark greyish brown loose silty clay topsoil, **100**, containing small rounded pebbles throughout. This topsoil sealed a dark greyish brown, loose silty clay backfill, **105**, of a modern drainage trench, **106**, visible in the west-facing section of the trenches and which served the barn (**Figures 3 & 4; Plate 2**). Drainage trench **105** cut, at its southern edge, a firm, mottled reddish-brown, stony, silty sand fill, **103**, of a feature with an irregular profile, **102**, which, given the frequency of rootlets in its fill, may have been a natural feature or vegetation. Feature **102** cut a light grey, firm, sandy silt subsoil, **101**. The sequence of stratigraphy recorded in a west-facing section of a trench at the eastern edge of the site comprised topsoil, **100**, overlying subsoil, **101**. The presence of a modern feature cutting subsoil **101** in this section was noted but not characterised. No natural deposits were recorded at the excavated depth within these trenches.

4.2 The Garden Wall Foundation Trenches

4.2.1 To the west of the barn, the foundation trenches for a garden wall and level reduction exposed a mottled mid-brown and mid-grey silty clay topsoil, **109**, similar to **100** (and annotated as **100** in sections 3 - 5) which contained brick inclusions and charcoal flecks. A single sherd of post-medieval Nottingham Stoneware Jug was recovered from **109**. In the north-facing section of the trenches, **109** overlay subsoil layer, **101**, previously encountered in the trenches to the east of the barn. Subsoil **101** sealed a loose, grey silty sand fill, **111**, of a cut, **110**, which had steep sloping sides and an irregular concave base (**Figures 3 & 4; Plate 5**). Fill **111** contained a few charcoal flecks but no artefacts. Feature **110** cut natural deposits comprising a greyish brown sandy gravel with orange mottling, **108**. In the south-facing section of the northern foundation trench a section of mortar-bonded brick courses forming the foundations of a pre-existing structure, **112**, were observed beneath the topsoil. No other features were recorded in the trenches.

4.3 Finds

4.3.1 A single sherd of late post-medieval (AD1690-1800) Nottinghamshire Stoneware was recovered from topsoil layer **109**.

The Post-Medieval Pottery

By Jane Young

Context	Leicestershire	Full name	Sub Fabric	Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Date	Action
109	SW5	Nottingham Stoneware		Jug	1	1	21g	BS	1690-1800	Discard

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation works identified no significant archaeological deposits other than two undated features, a modern service trench, topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits.
- 5.2 Natural deposits recorded on the site comprised pale brown sandy gravel with orange mottling in the trenches to the west of the barn; natural deposits were not recorded in the trenches to the east of the barn.
- 5.3 No evidence of any archaeological activity pre-dating the post-medieval period was recorded on the site which suggests, given the general lack of intrusive disturbance from later periods, that activity from these periods did not extend into the development site.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Cooper, N. (ed.), 2006, The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands. Leicester Archaeology Monograph No. 13. University of Leicester.

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Knight, D, Vyner, B & Allen, C. 2012. East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands. University of Nottingham & York Archaeological Trust.

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

APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1. East-facing section of foundation trench for garage (Section 1). Scales 1 x 2m; 1 x 1m.



Plate 2. West-facing section of foundation trench for garage (Section 2). Scales 1 x 2m; 1 x 1m.



Plate 3. General shot of level reduction inside footprint of foundation trenches for garage, looking east. Scales 1 x 2m; 1 x 1m.



Plate 4. General shot of stripped area of footprint for garden, looking north. Scales 1 x 2m; 1 x 1m.



Plate 5. North-facing section of foundation trench for garden wall (Section 3). Scales 1 x 2m; 1 x 1m.



Plate 6. South-facing section of foundation trench for garden wall (Section 4). Scales 1 x 2m; 1 x 1m.



Plate 7. East-facing section of foundation trench for garden wall (Section 5). Scales 1 x 2m; 1 x 1m.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Above	Below	Section No. Figure
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
100	Layer	Mid Dark Greyish brown	Loose silty clay	Small rounded pebbles found commonly throughout the layer	Topsoil	105, 112	-	1, 2 & 3
101	Layer	Light grey	Moderately firm sandy silt	Small rounded pebbles found commonly throughout the layer	Subsoil	111	102	1, 2, 3 & 5
102	Cut	Uneven sloping sides at an approximate 45° angle. Base not seen. It truncates subsoil 101 and natural 108. It is cut by [107] on its northern side. Contained fill (103).			Possible tree throw or natural feature.	101	103	1
103	Fill	Mottled reddish, yellowish brown	Moderately firm silty sand	Occasional pebbles. No artefacts recovered.	Fill of [102]	102	106	1
104	VOID							
105	Fill	Dark greyish brown	Loose silty clay	Occasional small pebbles with pea gravel in the base of the cut	Backfill for modern service pipe [106]	106	103	1
106	Cut	Steep 80° tapering sides, base unseen. It truncated fill (103) and subsoil (101) and contains the backfill (105) and a modern service pipe.			Modern Service trench	103	105	1
107	VOID							

108	Layer	Pale greyish brown with orange patches	Firm sandy Gravel	None	Natural	UE	113	3, 4 & 5
109	Deposit	Mottled mid brown and mid-grey	Loose silty clay and brick fragments	Frequent stone fragments and charcoal flecks. Single fragment of pottery recovered.	Demolition debris	101	-	3 & 5
110	Cut	Steep sloping sides. Irregular concave base. Cuts natural 108 contains fill 111			Pit/linear	108	111	3
111	Fill	Light mid grey	Friable silty sand	Frequent pebbles, rare flecks of charcoal. No artefacts recovered.	Fill of [110]	110	101	3
112	Structure	Brick wall, 3 courses with mortar bond 0.4m high. Only 2m exposed in the northern side of the foundation trench.			Wall	113	100	4
113	Layer	Dark grey	Friable, sandy silt	Rare small pebbles and mortar flecks.	Bedding layer for 112	108	112	4

APPENDIX 2. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-211639

Project details

Project name	Watching Brief at Peckleton Barn, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken as a condition of planning consent by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. during the groundworks for the construction of a new garage, garden and garden wall at Peckleton Barn, Church Road, Peckleton, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. Peckleton Homes Ltd commissioned Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. to undertake the watching brief. The groundworks for the development revealed no significant archaeological deposits. An undated feature (possibly a garden feature) and two modern service trenches were recorded within the trenches. The sequence of layers recorded on the site comprised topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits. The only artefacts recovered from the site was a solitary sherd of post-medieval jug sherd from the topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 09-12-2014 End: 19-02-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PBCP 14 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	X.A145.2014 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	BARN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH PECKLETON PECKLETON BARN, CHURCH ROAD,
Postcode	LE9 7QP
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 445462 300709 52.8659492299 -1.33820478312 52 51 57 N 001 20 17 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 117.00m Max: 118.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	PCA
Project design originator	Kathryn Brook
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Building contractor
Name of sponsor/funding body	Peckleton Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

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

Entered by Tony Molloy (tonymolloy@pre-construct.com)

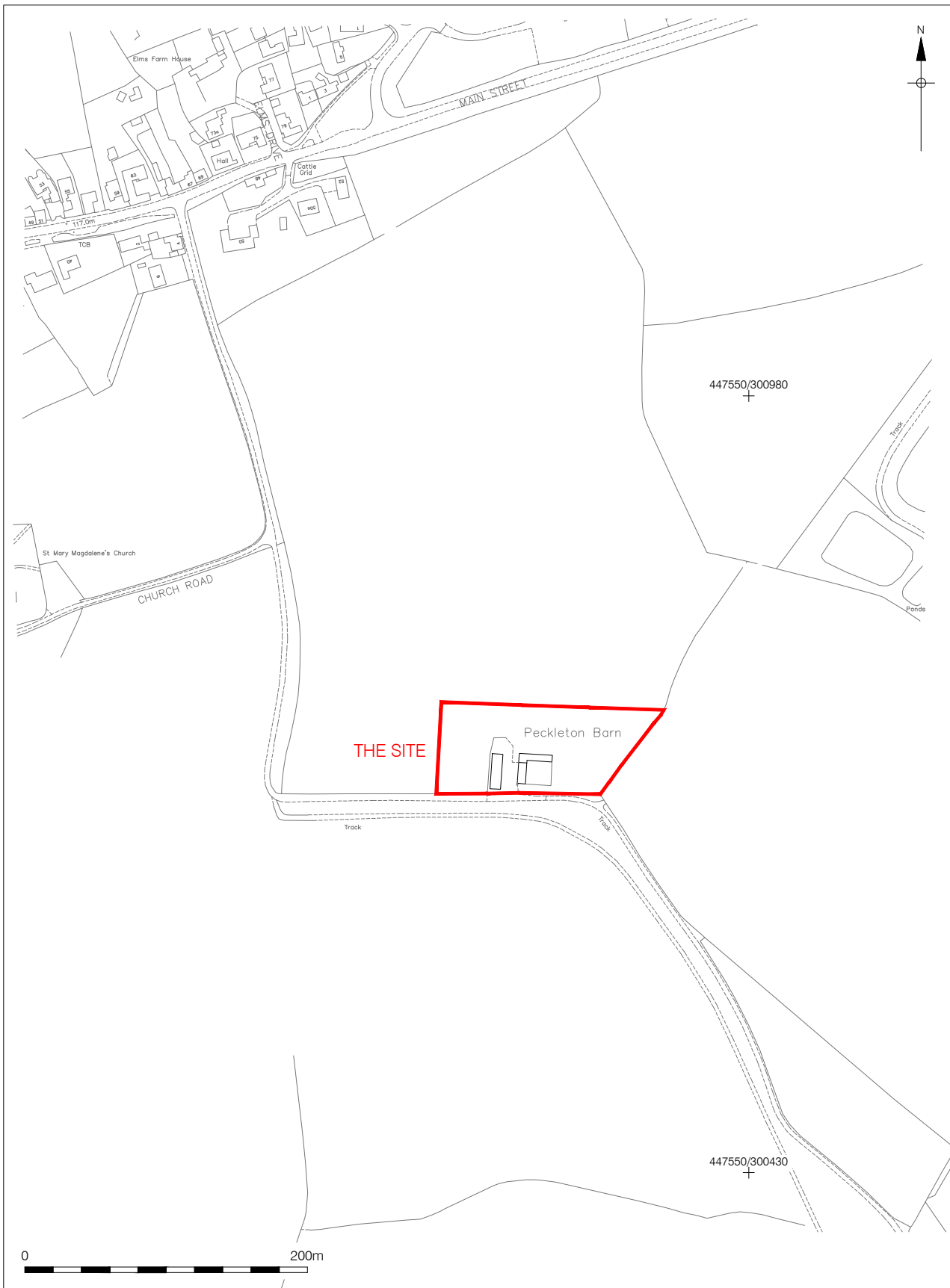
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

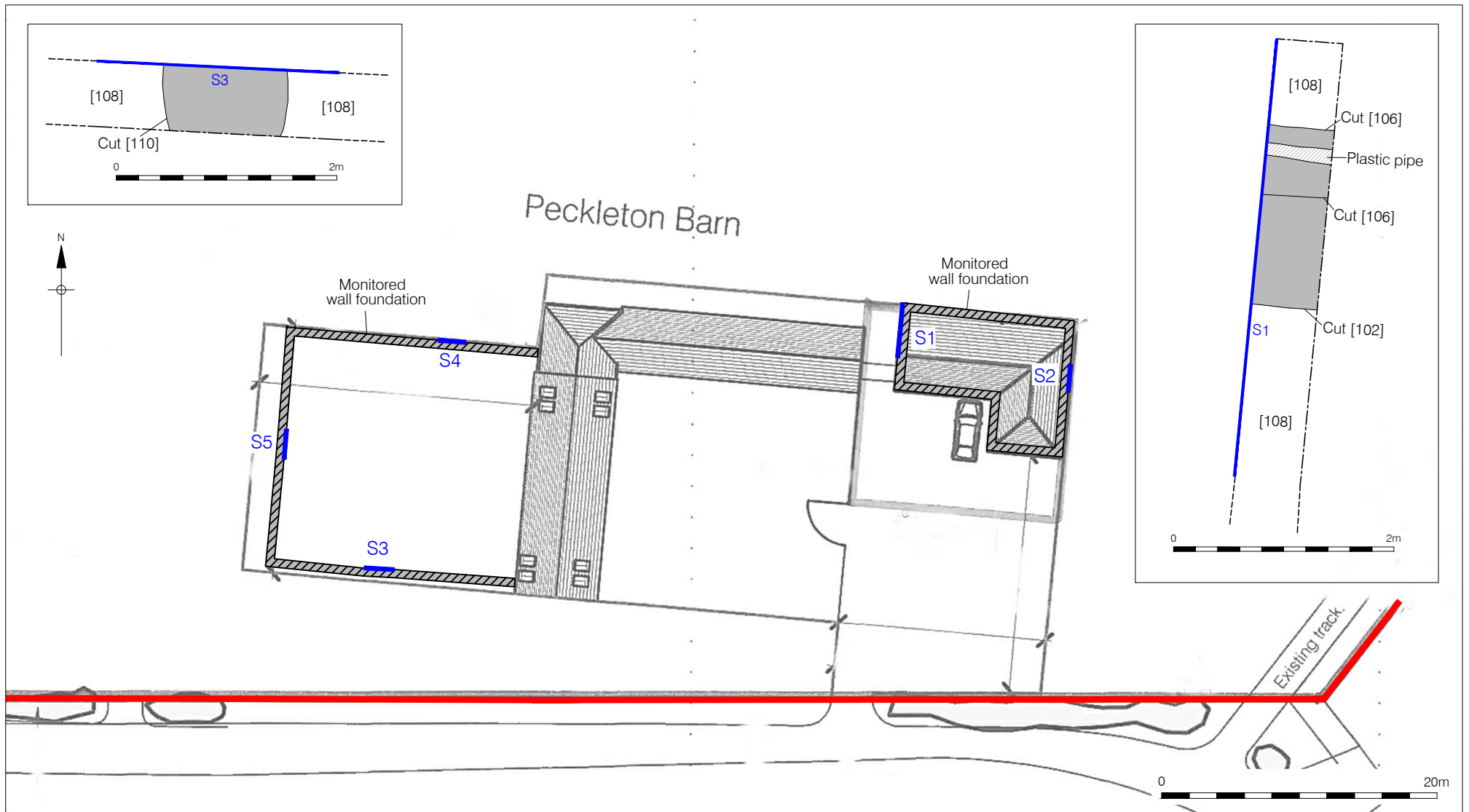


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03/12/14 HB; updated 12/03/2015 AMB

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:4,000 at A4



Base mapping supplied by Halford Jones Architecture
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 12/03/2015 AMB

Figure 3
 Plan of Proposed Development, Monitored Area
 and Section Locations
 1:400 & 1:50 at A4

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