END COTTAGE, 8 LOWER ROAD,

STOKE ALBANY,

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL

OBSERVATION

October 2015





PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY R12250

END COTTAGE, 8 LOWER ROAD, STOKE ALBANY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd				
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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire:

An Archaeological Observation

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Planning Reference:	KET/2015/0181
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Abstract

Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Mr & Mrs Hull to undertake an archaeological observation on groundworks as a requirement of planning consent for development on their property at End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire. The archaeological observation was carried out on 11th and 12th September 2015.

A feature filled with Ironstone blocks was interpreted as a foundation pad for a post of pre-existing buildings on the Site depicted on 19th century maps. It is uncertain when these buildings were constructed but it is quite feasible that they were contemporaneous with the 17th Century End Cottage. A small assemblage of finds consisting of $18^{th} - 20^{th}$ century pottery, clay pipe and a copper alloy button was recovered from a pit and an overlying subsoil layer.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (hereafter PCA) was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Hull (hereafter the client), as a condition of a planning application, to undertake an archaeological observation on their property at End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire, hereafter 'the Site'.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises two storey side and front extensions to End Cottage, and the erection of a detached double garage with a stone boundary wall and gated access.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the archaeological methodology by which the archaeological observation would be undertaken was prepared and submitted by PCA (WSI; PCA 2015) prior to the commencement of fieldwork in response to advice given by Liz Mordue the Assistant Archaeological Advisor (AAA), Northamptonshire County Council. The WSI was approved by the AAA.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The Site comprises an irregular-shaped parcel of land covering an area of approximately 100 square metres located towards the northern end of the village and Civil Parish of Stoke Albany within the borough of Kettering, Northamptonshire, centred at NGR SP 61624 83574 (Figures 1 & 2). The Site is located in a rural setting bounded to the north by Lower Road, by the property of No. 6 Lower Road to the west and grass-covered fields to the south and east.

1.3 Topography and Geology

- 1.3.1 Topographically the Site is broadly level and lies at a height of *c*.84m aOD.
- 1.3.2 The underlying geology is recorded as Whitby Mudstone Formation Mudstone. A Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 176 to 183 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas according to the British Geological viewer. No Superficial geological deposits are recorded on the Site.

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

1.4.1 General

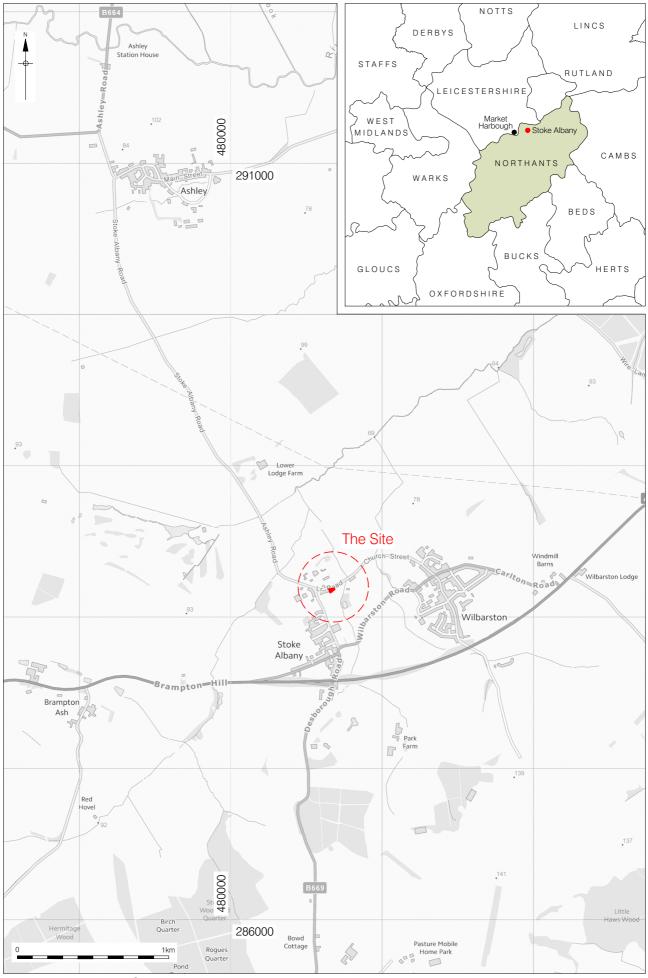
1.4.1.1 The development site lies within an area of known historic settlement. A search of the Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER) reveals that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. No evidence of any activity pre-dating the medieval period is recorded within the village.

1.4.2 Medieval

1.4.2.1 Stoke Albany is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Stoche* from the Old English *Stoch* meaning 'outlying farmstead or hamlet, secondary settlement'. The addition of Albany to the place name dates from circa 1200 when the then possessor of the land William de Albini

obtained licence to enclose *'his park in Estokes, named the Lund, with all liberties belonging to it* . . .' (J. Bridges, *Hist. of Northants.*, II (1791), 339; *Northants. P. and P.*, 5 (1975), 231). The villages' inclusion in the Domesday Book indicates it pre-medieval origins.

- 1.4.2.2 Stoke Albany has two entries in the Domesday Book as *Stoch* under the land held by Robert of Tosny (Phillimore 26, 1). *Robert holds 6 ploughlands, 2 lord's plough teams, 3 men's plough teams. There are 9 villagers, 2 smallholders, 3 slaves and 1 freemen. Woodland 5 * 3 furlongs. 1 mill, value 0.05.* The land was previously held by Oswulf (son of Frani).
- 1.4.2.3 To the immediate east and south-east of the site is the site of a complex of medieval fishponds, a possible moat and building platforms (NHER 345990). All the remains are part of the manorial complex of Stoke Albany and are associated with the existing medieval manor house, a Grade II Listed building approximately 220m to the south of the Site.
- 1.4.2.4 In the fields to the immediate south of the Site, medieval Ridge and Furrow earthworks survive and evidence of earlier activity may survive beneath these earthworks.
- 1.4.1.6 The earthwork remains of a medieval watermill, including a building platform, dam, reservoir and water channels, also lie approximately 240m to the north of the Site on a tributary of the River Welland (**NHER 345994**).



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

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

2.1 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority are guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), by Local policy and by other material considerations.

The principal aims of the archaeological observation 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 any ecofactual and palaeo-environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the Site.
- To set the Site and its potential archaeological remains into the context of the wider landscape.

2.2 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) will be referenced for specific research criteria.

In addition, the archaeological observation sought to address the following specific research questions:

- Is there any evidence relating to the medieval fishponds on the Site?
- Is there any evidence of the medieval Ridge and Furrow earthworks surviving to the immediate south of the Site extending into the Site and is there any evidence of earlier activity surviving beneath the earthworks?
- To confirm the presence or absence on the Site of the foundations of a preexisting building of possible 17th century date that is depicted on 19th century maps.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Development groundworks comprised the excavation of an area measuring roughly 9m x 9m at the rear, southern end of End Cottage (**Figure 2**; **Plate 1**).
- 3.1.2 All excavation was undertaken by a mini-digger, monitored under archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.3 Archaeologically significant deposits were cleaned with hand tools. Deposits and layers were recorded using the PCA *pro forma* 'Context Recording Sheet'. Plans were representative sections were drawn at an appropriate scale. A full photographic record was made, including digital, black and white prints and 35mm colour transparencies. The locations of all the ground disturbances were surveyed using GPS and TST survey equipment. Site records were compiled using the unique site code ESAN 15.

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 Following approval of the project by the Local Planning Authority, the completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the Northamptonshire Museums Service (NMS).

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 Fourteen context numbers were allocated to cuts, fills and layers. They are presented in table form in the Appendix (**APPENDIX 1**).
- 4.3 Cultural periods encountered on site were as follows:
 - Post-medieval 1500-1800
 - 19th century 1800-1900
 - Modern 1900-present

5. THE RESULTS

5.1 Natural Deposits

5.1.1 Natural deposits encountered on the Site comprised a stiff, yellowish brown sandy clay, **101**, representing Mudstone of the bedrock Whitby Mudstone Formation geology.

5.2 Post-Medieval Deposits (Late 17th Century)

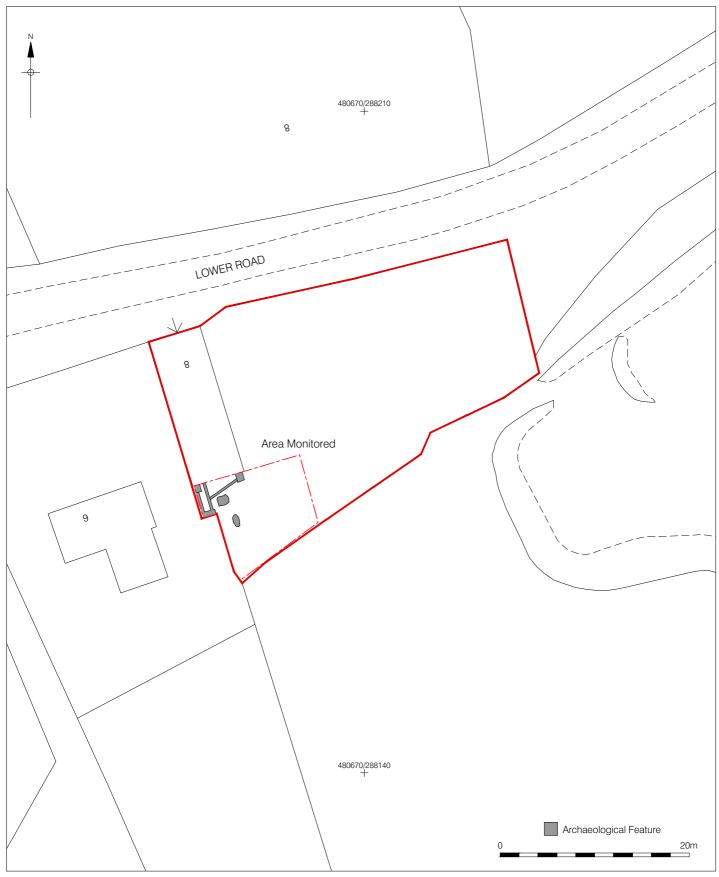
5.2.1 The earliest human activity recorded during the archaeological observation appears to be a sub-square feature, **107**, which cut into natural, **101**, in the north-west corner of the Site. It measured 1.2m in length x 1m in width and had gradual sloping sides down to a flattish base which extended only 0.1m in depth from the top of the feature, and quite clearly had been truncated. **107** was filled with a friable, greyish brownish sandy clay, **106**, in which a number of ironstone blocks, **104**, measuring, on average, 0.2m x 0.2m x 0.1m had been inserted. This feature probably represents the post-pad foundations of a pre-existing building depicted on 19th century maps (not reproduced here) which may be of similar date to the extant 17th century converted barn on the Site.

5.3 Post-Medieval Deposits (Late 18th - Late 19th Century)

- 5.3.1 A second feature, 108, cutting natural to the south of feature 107, (Figures 2 & 3; Plate 5) was elliptical in shape with steep sloping sides to a depth of 0.3m from the top of the feature. Excavation ceased at this depth as it became apparent from the brick inclusions from its fill, 109, that the feature was relatively modern. Three sherds of 18th 20th century pottery were recovered from 109, in addition to a single stem fragment of clay pipe dating to the 18th 19th century.
- 5.3.2 Features **107** and **108** were overlain by a dark grey silty clay subsoil layer, **100**, which contained evidence of building demolition in the form of red brick, mortar and charcoal inclusions. This layer contained a small assemblage of $18^{th} 19^{th}$ century ceramics (Young, this report), and a copper-alloy tin-washed button of a style prevalent in the late 19^{th} century (Trott, this report).

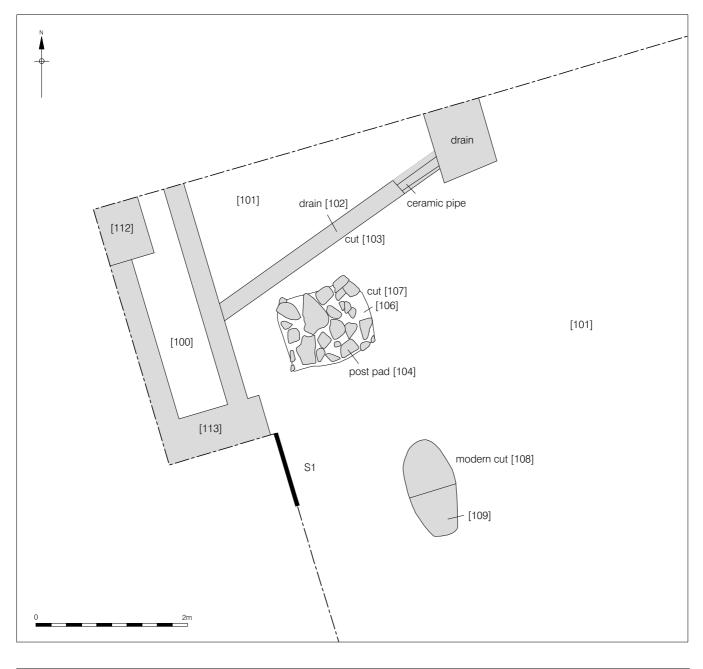
5.4 Modern Deposits

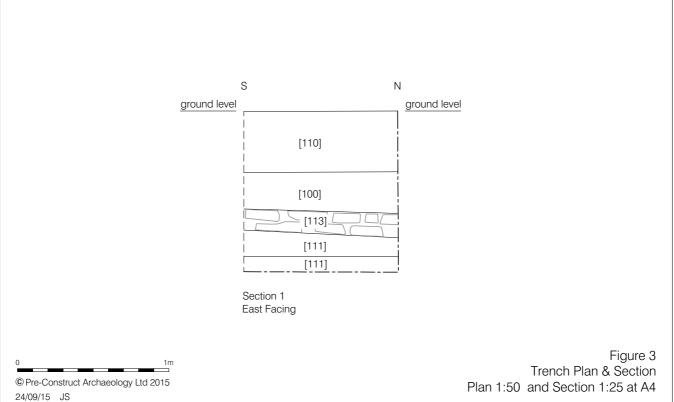
- 5.4.1 In the east-facing section of the Site a sequence of layers was exposed above natural 107 (Figure 3; Plates 5 & 6). Stratigraphically above 107 was a dark yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal inclusions, 111. This layer appeared to be somewhat disturbed, with patches of the underlying natural deposits present within it. This may have been the result of levelling for an overlying brick floor for a pre-existing modern structure, 113, which extended the full extent (8m) from its northern extent 3.5m from the southern end of the cottage. Layer 111 noticeably sloped down towards the southern end of the Site.
- 5.4.2 A modern service trench, **102**, for a drain, **103**, was exposed beneath topsoil, **110**, in the north-west corner (**Figure 3**; **Plate 2**).



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Figure 2 Area Monitored 1:400 at A4





6. THE FINDS

6.1 General

6.1.1 Eight finds were recovered from two contexts. They were processed according to systems approved by Northamptonshire Museums Service. They are discussed in the text below.

6.2 Ceramics by Jane Young

6.2.1 Introduction

6.2.1.1 In total, six sherds of pottery representing six vessels were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered is of late post-medieval to early modern type. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Reference has been made to the Northamptonshire Pottery Type Series (Blinkhorn 1996). The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series fabric codes (CTS) with a concordance to their full name (see Table 1). Recording of the assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, *et al.* (2001).

6.2.2 Condition

6.2.2.1 The pottery is in a variable condition with most sherds being in a fairly fresh to slightly abraded condition. No cross-context joins were noted.

6.2.3 Overall Chronology and Source

6.2.3.1 A range of three pottery types was identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in

Туре	Date	Total sherds	Total vessels	Weight in grams
Brown-glazed Earthenwares	18 th to mid-20th	2	2	57
Black-glazed Earthenwares	18 th to mid-20th	1	1	8
Nineteenth Century Buff	19 th to 20th	3	3	30

Table 1. A limited range of form types is present, with most sherds coming from bowls.

6.2.4 The Pottery

6.2.4.1 The material was recovered from two deposits with all of the sherds being recovered from layers 100 & 109. Layers 100 & 109 produced a small group of three sherds, per context, from six vessels. The sherds are in a fairly fresh condition. Two Brown-glazed Earthenware bowls are represented by one sherd per context, i.e. two sherds in total. They are of late 18th to mid-20th century type. Another large bowl of similar date is in a Black-glazed Earthenware fabric was from Layer 109. Three sherds are from vessels in Nineteenth Century Buff-coloured Earthenware. They are most likely to come from jars or bowls of 19th century date. This small group is most probably of mid to late 19th century date.

6.2.5 Summary and Recommendations

6.2.5.1 The ceramic material recovered suggests that there had been deposition of pottery as possible primary discard on the site between the late 18th and late 19th centuries. There is no ceramic evidence of earlier occupation. The assemblage is in a stable condition and pottery should be kept for future study.

6.2.6 References

Blinkhorn, P. 1996. Northamptonshire Anglo-Saxon and Medieval County Ceramic Type-Series. Unpublished Report

Slowikowski, A. Nenk, 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 Clay Pipe by Kevin Trott

6.3.1 Introduction

6.3.1.1 A single clay tobacco pipe fragment weighing a combined total of 0.5 grams was recovered from layer **109**.

6.3.2 Description

6.3.2.1 The plain stem fragment derives from near the mouth-piece of an 18-19th century style pipe fragment. It exhibits signs of being near a heat source with occasional soil abrasion stains on its exterior.

Context	Total	Weight (g)	Type Description		Date Range
100	2	6	Plain stems	Unabraded with soil staining	18-19 th century
108	2	4	Plain stems	Slightly abraded with soil staining	18 th -19 th century

Table 2. Clay Tobacco Pipe Inventory

6.3.3 Recommendations

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

6.3.4 References

Higgins, D.A. 1999. 'The Clay Tobacco Pipes', in A. Connor & Buckley *Roman & 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.

6.4 Metalwork by Kevin Trott

6.4.1 Introduction

6.4.1.1 A single Copper-Alloy tin-washed button of twin sew-through type weighing a total of 0.5 grams was recovered from layer **100**.

6.4.2 Description

6.4.2.1 The copper alloy button was produced from a blank cut from a metal strip using a leaver press. The embossed circular design required additional pressing, using a more powerful stirrup press that also perforated the double sewing holes. The date for this manufacturing process was established in the late 18th century and the style of the button recovered from layer **100** is of a type and style common in the early part of the 19th century. A small part of the lip edge has been bent over on this example.

Context	Total	Weight (g)	Туре	Description	Date Range
			Sew-through	Slightly worn with bent-over lip.	Early 19th century
100	1	0.5	type	Embossed circular design with	
				double perforation sew-holes	

Table 3. Metalwork Inventory

6.4.3 Recommendations

6.4.3.1 The cu-alloy button is in a stable condition and should be retained for future study with the remainder of the archive. The button was examined by a conserver (Grahame Morgan), who commented that it was in a stable condition and if required for a future display it could be cleaned.

6.5.3 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.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological observation demonstrated the presence of both geological and archaeological deposits within the Site.
- 7.2 Natural geological deposits were represented by a yellowish brown sandy clay representing Mudstone of the bedrock Whitby Mudstone Formation which appeared to extend across the entire area of the Site.
- 7.3 No evidence of the fishponds associated with Stoke Albany medieval Manor located to the south-east of the Site, or evidence of the Ridge and Furrow earthworks mapped to the South of the Site were encountered during the watching brief. This absence suggests truncation, presumably during levelling and landscaping groundworks for the construction of End Cottage and its neighbouring property, No.9 Lower Road.
- 7.4 A feature filled with Ironstone blocks is interpreted as a foundation pad for a post of a preexisting building on the Site and approximates the location of buildings depicted on 19th century maps. It is uncertain when these buildings were constructed but it is quite feasible that they were contemporaneous with the 17th century End Cottage. A small assemblage of finds consisting of pottery, clay pipe and a copper alloy button was recovered from a pit and an overlying subsoil layer.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Slater, M-A, 2015, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Monitoring & Recording at End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire.

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

Watt, S. (ed.), 2011. The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research. Oxbow Books.

Online Sources

British Geological Survey website: http://www.bgs.ac.uk

'Stoke Albany', in An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the County of Northamptonshire, Volume 2, Archaeological Sites in Central Northamptonshire (London, 1979), pp.136-138 http://www.british-history.ac.uk /rchme/northants/vol2/pp136-138 [accessed 1 October 2015].

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

9.1 Acknowledgements

9.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank the client Mr & Mrs Hull for commissioning the work.

Liz Mordue (Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council) for her collaborative role.

9.2 PCA Credits

Project Manager: Kevin Trott Fieldwork: Steve Jones Report: Tony Molloy Finds: Jane Young and Kevin Trott CAD: Jennifer Simonson

APPENDIX 1. CONTEXT INDEX

In the table the abbreviations, where used, mean the following: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; means 'uncertain'; Context numbers are followed by a brief description and interpretation; their dimensions in metres (in the order length x width x depth; or diameter x depth); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

Context	Category	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	After	Before
100	Layer	Friable, mid brown silty sand. Frequent brick frags. Occasional charcoal flecks.	Subsoil	Site layer x 0.2	113	110
101	Deposit	Firm yellow brown sandy clay	Natural	Site layer x UE	UE	104, 108, 111, 112
102	Cut	Cut for modern drain	Modern drain trench	3.5 x 0.26 x UE	101	103
103	Fill	Friable, dark-mid greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional brick fragments	Modern drain trench	3.5 x 0.26 x UE	102	110
104	Structure	Ironstone sub-rectangular structure - average size blocks 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.1m	Post Pad	1.2 x 1 x 0.1	106	100
105			CANCELLED			
106	Fill	Firm mid grey sandy clay, occasional roots	Fill of post pad 104	1.2 x 1 x 0.1	107	104
107	Cut	Cut for 104	Cut of post pad construction	1.2 x 1 x 0.1	101	106
108	Cut	Sub circular cut with steep sides -not bottomed	Cut of modern feature	1.2 x 0.6 x UE	101	109
109	Fill	Soft dark greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional charcoal and brick inclusions	Fill of 108	1.2 x 0.6 x UE	108	110

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Context	Category	Description	Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	After	Before
110	Layer	Friable, dark greyish brown sandy clay containing occasional charcoal, brick rubble fragments and common roots	Topsoil	Site layer x 0.4	103, 109	Air
111	Layer	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay	Levelling Layer	Site layer x 0.18	101	113
112	Structure	Ironstone blocks 0.22m x 0.1m - no mortar bond present	Footings of cottage/barn	0.8 x 0.6 x 0.6	101	111
113	Structure	Mortar-bonded brick wall two courses deep	Footings of pre-existing modern outbuilding	3.5 x 0.5 x 0.18	111	100

APPENDIX 2. PLATES



Plate 1. General shot of the Site after machine stripping, looking north. Scales 1 x 1m, 1 x 2m.



Plate 2. Post pad feature 107 looking west. Scales 1 x 1m,1 x 2m.



Plate 3. Close-up of post pad 107, looking west. Scales 1 x 1m,1 x 2m.



Plate 4. Modern feature 108 half-sectioned, looking. Scales 1 x 0.5m, 1 x 1m.



Plate 5. East-facing section of the Site. Scales 1 x 1m, 1 x 2m.



Plate 6. Close-up of east-facing section of Site. Scales 1 x 1m, 1 x 2m.

APPENDIX 3. OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-226273

Project details	
Project name	End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Hull to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks as a requirement of planning consent for development on their property at End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire. The watching brief was carried out on 28 June and 21 July 2015. A feature filled with Ironstone blocks was interpreted as a foundation pad for a post of pre- existing buildings on the Site depicted on 19th century maps. It is uncertain when these buildings were constructed but it is quite feasible that they were contemporaneous with the 17th Century End Cottage. A small assemblage of finds consisting of 18th - 20th century pottery, clay pipe and a copper alloy button was recovered from a pit and an overlying subsoil layer.
Project dates	Start: 11-09-2015 End: 13-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESAN15 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METALWORK Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"

Project location Country Site location	England NORTHAMPTONSHIRE KETTERING STOKE ALBANY End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire
Study area	115.56 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 80609 88211 52.485484739647 -0.812786235359 52 29 07 N 000 48 46 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	PCA Midlands
Project brief originator	Northamptonshire County Council
Project design originator	Kevin Trott
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Museums Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Northamptonshire Museums Service

End Cottage, 8 Lower Road, Stoke Albany, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Observation		
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Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Plan","Unpublished Text"
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Molloy, T
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	PCA Midlands
Place of issue or publication	Market Harborough
Entered by	Kathryn Brook (k.brook@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	13 October 2015

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