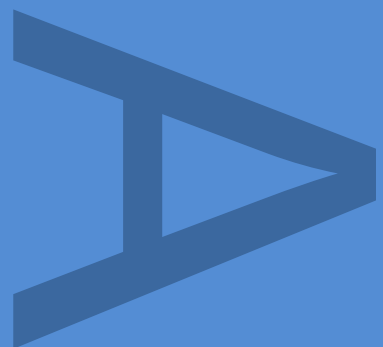


**LAND AT GABLE END,
MILL HILL ROAD, ARNESBY,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION**

July 2016



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12551**

Land at Gable End, Mill Hill Road, Arnesby, Leicestershire: Report on an Archaeological Observation

Local Planning Authority:	Harborough District Council
Central National Grid Reference:	SP 61478 92275
PCA Site Code:	MHAL16
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July 2016

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PCA Report Number: R12551

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Abstract

An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Gable End, Mill Hill Road, Arnesby, Leicestershire during the groundworks for the footings of a new detached dwelling. The observation was commissioned by Corlett Homes. During the observation ceramic material was recovered which suggested possible medieval activity on the site. The material was recovered from a possible track/surface and a possible levelling layer however residual material was also recovered from the topsoil. Additionally, a small amount of post-medieval material was recovered from an area of possible bank slumping and a modern, linear feature was identified as running across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd were commissioned Corlett Homes, to undertake an archaeological observation on at land at Gable End, Mill Hill Road, Arnesby, Leicestershire. The programme of archaeological works is based on the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which followed discussions with the Assistant Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, Sophie Clarke (Brook 2016).

1.1.2 The following report contains the archaeological record from this observation.

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The development site is located within the central core of Arnesby Village, on the southeast side of Mill Hill Road, at its junction with Church Lane. The development site is bounded to the east by the domestic property, Maple House fronting Church Lane. To the southwest is a further domestic property Gable End, fronting Mill Hill Road. To the north and northwest are the converging roads, Church Lane and Mill Hill Road. The development site is fan shaped totalling approximately 439m², centred at NGR SP 61478 92275.

1.3 Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The subject site is currently access off Mill Hill Road form a path adjacent to Gable End. At present the site is a formal laid out garden containing a mixture of flower borders, bushes, trees, and lawns. The area of the development is reality flat. A spot height taken within the centre of the site is recoded at c. 122.371 m AOD.

1.3.2 The subject site is characterised by the bedrock of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation sedimentary bedrock formed during the Jurassic and Triassic periods, when the local environment was dominated by shallow lime-mud seas. The overlying superficial deposits are Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton, formed during the Quaternary period, when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions. (British geological Survey 2016).

1.3.3 These superficial deposits were encountered across the site as a firm, orangey brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments (context **101**) which overlay a moderately compact yellowish brown sandy clay with occasional limestone fragments (context **105**).

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

1.4.1 Since the historical and archaeological background has already been discussed in detail prior to this report, a summary based on the Written Scheme of Investigation (Brook 2016) will follow. The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest.

1.4.2 The only evidence for prehistoric activity within the village of Arnesby is a single chance find of a Neolithic polished axe (MLE7169) in the garden of White Cottage, Robert Hall Road.

1.4.3 There is no evidence of Roman activity recorded within the LRHER for the village of Arnesby.

1.4.4 The development site lies within the historic settlement core of Arnesby (MLE9279). The names Arnesby is thought to derive from the old Scandinavian male name *larund* and *by* Scandinavian for farm stead / village. Therefore meaning the 'Settlement associated with Larund' (Bourne 2003).

The village is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Erendesberie*. The villages' inclusion in the Domesday Book indicates it was established before the medieval period. However, no archaeological evidence for the pre Domesday settlement has been found.

- 1.4.5 Arnesby has two entries In Domesday Book: the first (Phillimore 4,1) entry records:

The Bishop of Countances holds 2½ c. and 1 b. Wulfricholds for him land for 2½ ploughs. In lordship 1 with 1 slave. Three villagers, two smallholders have 1 plough.

The second entry (Pillmore 25,2) records:

William Peverel holds ½ hide and 3 b. of land. 2 of William's men with 14 villages and 3 smallholders have 7 ploughs. Meadow 4 furlongs long and many wide.

- 1.4.6 The scheduled earthwork remains of Arnesby medieval village, moated manorial site and fishponds (MEL1190, MEL1185 & MEL1186) are located approximately 198m southeast of the development site on the outskirts of the village. The closest evidence for medieval activity to the development site is the Church of St. Peter (MEL11249), located adjacent to the manorial site. The church is of partial 12th century construction with later remodeling. Looking at the wider landscape surrounding the village, many of the fields contain evidence of the medieval and early post medieval, ridge and furrow, strip farming system (MEL10658).
- 1.4.7 Cartographic evidence demonstrates the site has had no previous development, it has been part of an enclosed parcel of land since at least 1835, early maps suggest the area may have been partially wooded; it is unclear if the land was used for agriculture. The closest listed building is the late 18th / early 19th century, brick built, manor house (MEL12819) located approximately 28m east of the development site.

2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the investigation were:

- To establish the location, nature, extent, date and state of preservation of any archaeological or geo-archaeological 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.
- To deposit the site archive with the Leicestershire Museum Service for long term conservation.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Between 5th and 11th of May 2016, archaeological supervision took place during the excavation of footings required in the preparation of land for the construction of a detached dwelling on land at Gable End, Mill Hill Road, Arnesby, Leicestershire (**Plate 1**).
- 3.1.2 All exposed deposits/layers 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 *pro forma*.

3.2 Post Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.2.1 Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015) was used as the framework for post-excavation work.
- 3.2.2 A small amount of medieval pottery as well as modern and post-medieval material was recovered from the fieldwork phase; the assemblage is in a stable condition and will be kept for future study. A paper and digital archive was also produced that will be transferred to the receiving museum with the agreement of the landowner.

3.3 The Contexts

- 3.3.1 A unique context number was assigned to each distinguishable depositional event. Context numbers will be discussed in greater detail in Section 4 and will be given in bold.
- 3.3.2 Four context numbers were allocated to layers whilst another three were given to deposits and a surface was also observed. In addition, a cut was identified which had a single fill which was allocated its own context number. The ten distinct contexts observed during the works are presented in Appendix 1.

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 The Archaeological Sequence

- 4.1.1 A possible levelling layer was identified in the northeast of the site (see **Figure 3**). This layer consisted of a firm, mid-grey sandy clay with occasional water worn pebbles and angular stones (context **104**); the layer is interpreted as either a possible levelling layer or as re-deposited clay and held a single small Potters Marston pottery sherd from a jar or bowl of mid-12th to 14th century date (Appendix 2).
- 4.1.2 On the western edge of the site a possible yard or track surface was identified consisting of a firm mid-grey silty clay with small and medium round pebbles (context **109**). The surface produced a single sherd from a Potters Marston type jar or bowl of probable 13th to early 14th century date however it is possible that this pottery is residual (Appendix 2).
- 4.1.3 The surface was sealed by a layer of friable, pale brown silty clay which was interpreted as bank slumping (context **108**). A single left valve from an oyster and one fragment from the basal kick of a dark green wine bottle of late 18th to early 19th century date was recovered from this context.
- 4.1.4 A single modern linear feature was identified on the site, running on a north-south alignment. This feature consisted of a cut with vertical sides and a flat base (context **102**) which contained a single fill of friable, mid-grey silty clay containing frequent brick and stone fragments (context **103**).

4.2 Additional Deposits

- 4.2.1 The non-archaeological deposits encountered during the observation (see **Plates 3, 4 and 6**) consisted of a dark greyish brown topsoil containing common rooting, occasional charcoal, sub-rounded stones and occasional modern material such as brick (dating to the 20th century) and plastic (context **100**); pottery ranging from the mid-12th to the 19th or 20th century was recovered from this topsoil (Appendix 2). In the west of site, this was underlain by a subsoil of mid-grey friable silty clay which contained occasional charcoal fragments and small angular stones (context **107**) however this subsoil did not extend into the eastern portion of the site. A single fragment from a sheep mandible was recovered from this subsoil.
- 4.2.2 Two distinct natural layers/deposits were identified during the archaeological observation. A natural layer of firm, orangey brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments was identified across the site, underlying the subsoil in the west and topsoil/levelling layer in the east (context **101**). Beneath this was a further natural layer of yellowish brown, moderately compact sandy clay with occasional limestone fragments (context **105**).

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The observation fulfilled the aims and objectives of the monitoring the footings for the new dwelling.
- 5.2 Natural deposits recorded on the site consisted of sandy clay discussed earlier with reference to the British Geological Survey.
- 5.3 No clear evidence of any Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon was present on this site. The ceramic material recovered from the site suggests that there had possibly been some activity in the area during the medieval period with a possible levelling layer (context **104**) and track/surface (context **109**) holding material from this period.
- 5.4 Some post-medieval material was recovered from an area of possible bank slumping (context **108**). A single, modern linear feature was also identified as running across site (context **102**) and a mix of late post-medieval and modern pottery was recovered from the topsoil (context **100**).

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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 14/06/2016

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Corlett Homes for commissioning the work. The watching brief was carried out by Steve Jones of PCA Ltd. Project management undertaken by Kevin Trott of PCA Ltd. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Josephine Brown of PCA Ltd's CAD department.

PLATES



Plate 1: Shot facing southwest across house footings area.



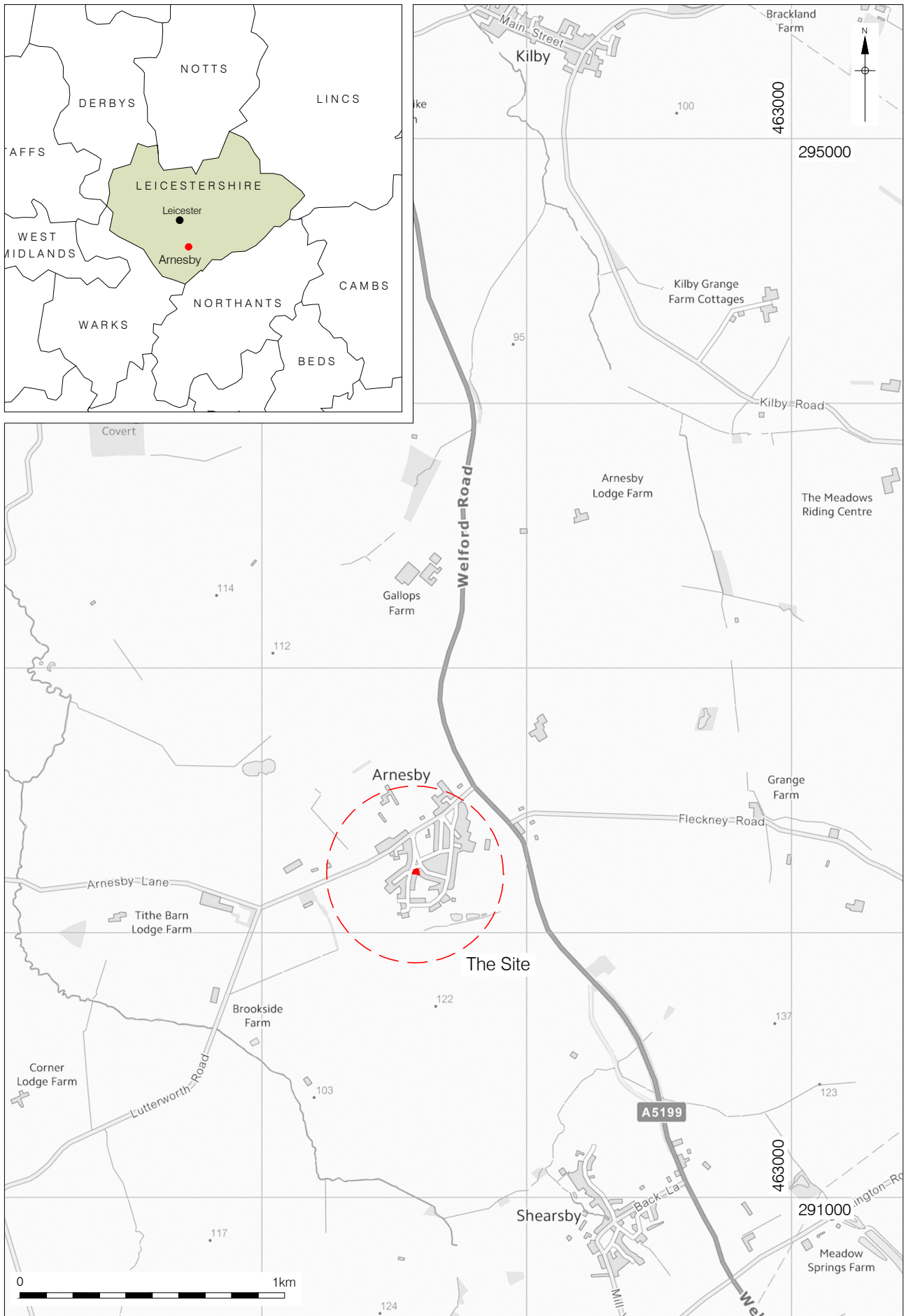
Plate 2: East-southeast facing shot of Section 1.



Plate 3: Southwest facing shot of Section 2.



Plate 4: Southwest facing shot of Section 3

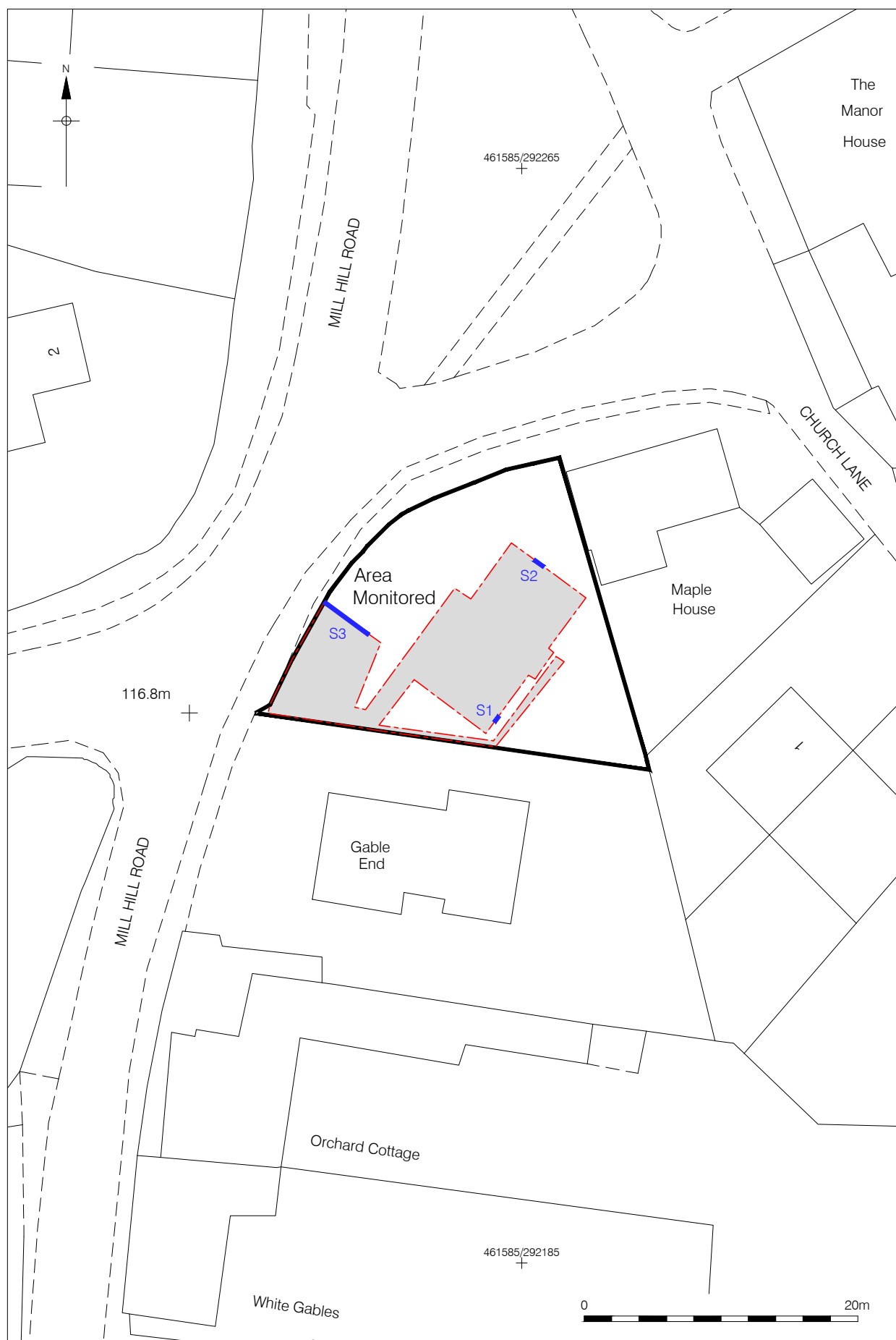


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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 & 1:20,000 at A4

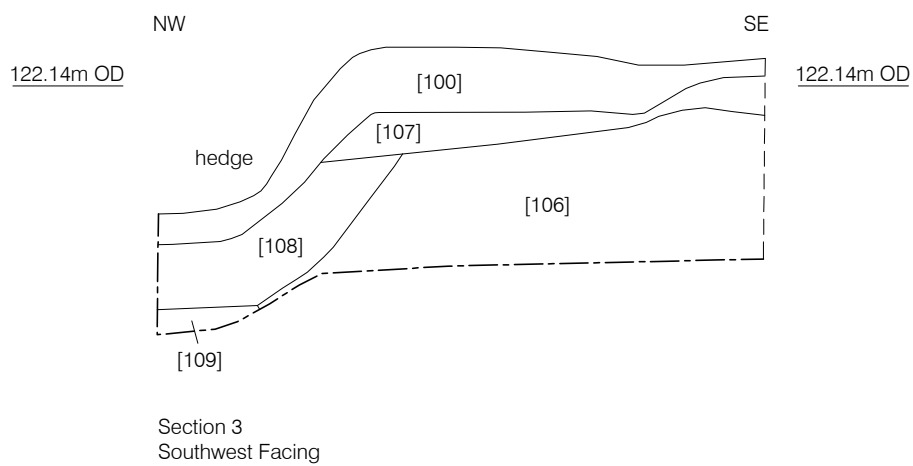
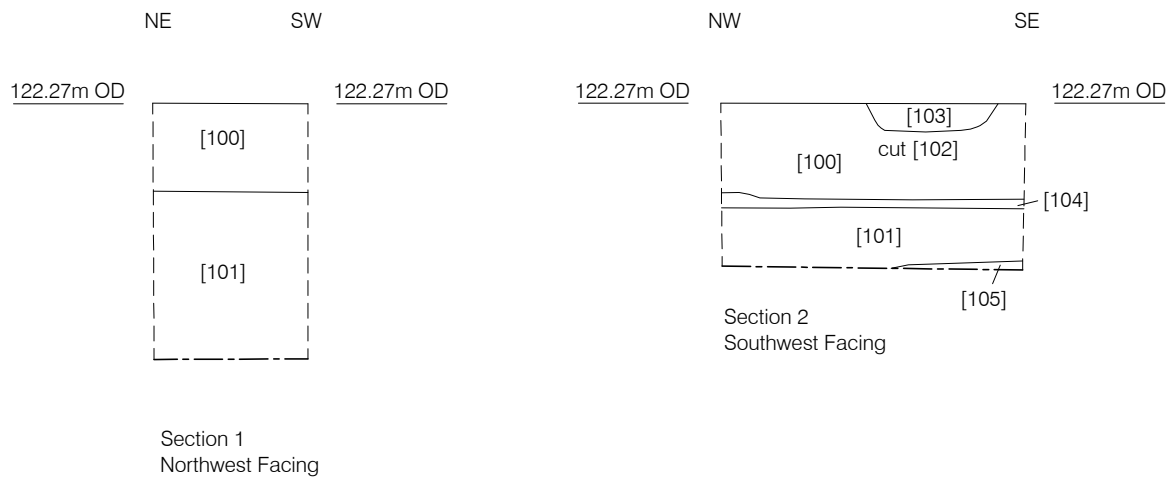


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Figure 2
Location of Area Monitored
1:400 at A4



0 2m

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Figure 3
Sections 1 - 3
1:50 at A4

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Abbreviations: UE means 'unexcavated'; N/A means 'not applicable'; > means 'greater than'; < means 'up to'; 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
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions	
100	Layer	Dark greys brown	Friable Silty Clay	Common rooting, occasional brick, plastic & charcoal	Topsoil
101	Layer	Orange Brown	Firm sandy clay	Frequent limestone fragments	Natural
102	Cut	North –south aligned linear, vertical sides flat base			Modern Linear
103	Fill	Mid Grey	Friable, Silty Clay	Frequent brick and stone fragments	Fill of [103]
104	Layer	Mid Grey	Firm, sandy grey	Occasional water worn pebbles and angular stone	Possibly levelling layer/ redeposited clay
105	Deposit	Yellowish brown	Moderately compact	Occasional limestone fragments	Natural
106	Void				

107	Deposit	Mid Grey	Friable silty clay	Occasional charcoal fragments and small angular stones	Subsoil
108	Deposit	Pale Brown	Friable silty clay	-	Bank slumping
109	Surface	Mid Grey	Firm silty clay and small & medium rounded pebbles	-	Possible yard or track surface

APPENDIX 2: POTTERY REPORT

By Jane Young

Introduction

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

Condition

The pottery is in a variable condition with most sherds being in a slightly abraded but stable condition.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of nine identifiable pottery types was identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The pottery ranges in date from the medieval to early modern periods

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

Leicestershire codename	Lincolnshire codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BB	BRILL	Brill/Boarstall type wares	1250	1500	1	1
CG	PSHW	Peterborough-type Shelly Ware	1175	1400	1	1
EA	LERTH	Late Earthenwares	1750	1900	1	1
EA2	BERTH	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1800	1	1
EA2	BL	Black-glazed wares	1550	1750	1	1
EA2	STCOAR	Staffordshire coarseware	1650	1900	1	1
PM	PMAR	Potters Marston	1100	1300	2	2
SW	ENGs	Unspecified English Stoneware	1750	1900	1	1
SW5	NOTS	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1900	1	1

The pottery was recovered from four different deposits on the site. Surface 109 produced a single sherd from a Potters Marston type jar or bowl (PMAR) of probable 13th to early 14th century date. Potters Marston is the dominant ceramic type to be used in the Leicester area from the later 12th to the mid/late 13th centuries has been discussed in detail elsewhere (Sawday 1991 and Davies and Sawday 1999, 169-174). The type possibly originates in the late 11th century and may continue in use into the 14th century. Layer 108 contained a large fairly fresh sherd from a large Black-glazed Earthenware (BL) cylindrical jar or bowl of 18th or 19th century date and abraded sherd from a decorated Brill/Boarstall-type (BRILL) jug of 13th or 14th century date. Another small Potters Marston sherd from a jar or bowl of

mid 12th to 14th century date was recovered from layer 104. The remaining six vessels were recovered from topsoil layer 100. The latest sherd is from a Late Earthenware (LERTH) flowerpot of 19th or 20th century date. The neck of a Stoneware (ENGs) flagon of mid 18th to mid 20th century date could also be contemporary with this vessel. Sherds from a Brown-glazed Earthenware (BERTH) jar or bowl and a large unglazed Earthenware (LERTH) bowl date to between the late 17th and late 18th centuries. A Nottingham Stoneware (NOTS) with machine decoration is of 18th century date. A small sherd is from a small Perterborough-type Shelly ware jar (PSHW) of mid 12th to 14th century date.

Summary and Recommendations

The ceramic material recovered from this site suggests that there had possibly been activity in the area in the medieval period, although most of the material recovered is of post-medieval to early modern date.

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

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Young, J, Vince A G and Nailor V 2005 *A Corpus of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln*, Lincoln Archaeology Studies 7, Oxbow, Oxford

APPENDIX 3: OASIS SHEET

OASIS ID: preconst1-257308

Project details

Project name	Land at Gable End, Mill Hill Road, Arnesby
Short description of the project	An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Gable End, Mill Hill Road, Arnesby, Leicestershire during the groundworks for the footings of a new detached dwelling. The observation was commissioned by Corlett Homes. During the observation ceramic material was recovered which suggested possible medieval activity on the site. The material was recovered from a possible track/surface and a possible levelling layer however residual material was also recovered from the topsoil. Additionally, a small amount of post-medieval material was recovered from an area of possible bank slumping and a modern, linear feature was identified as running across the site.
Project dates	Start: 05-05-2016 End: 12-07-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	MHAL16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH ARNESBY Land at Gable End, Mill Hill Road, Arnesby, Leicestershire:
Study area	439 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 61478 92275 52.52451259438 -1.093753360502 52 31 28 N 001 05 37 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Kathryn Brook
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	XA8.2016
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	XA8.2016
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A8.2016

Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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