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**45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire:**  
**Report on an Archaeological Observation**

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**Local Planning Authority:** Harborough District Council

**Planning Ref:** 15/01703/FUL

**Central National Grid Reference:** SP 68035 94494

**PCA Site Code:** LKHL16

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**September 2016**

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**PCA REPORT NO. R12632**

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## **Abstract**

*An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at 45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire during the groundworks for the footings of a garage extension. The observation was commissioned by Roger Lott. During the observation ceramic material was recovered which suggested possible medieval activity in the vicinity of the site however the material itself appears to have been redeposited in a more recent levelling/landscaping layer. The layer also held a fragment of post-medieval brick which is also potentially redeposited. The only other activity observed on the site related to a modern storm drain and the footings for the existing garage.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

1.1.1 Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd were commissioned Roger Lott, to undertake an archaeological observation 45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire. The programme of archaeological works is based on the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which followed discussions with the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, Teresa Hawtin (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 centrally within the village of Kibworth Harcourt. It is situated on the eastern side of the A6, Leicester Road opposite its junction with Hall Close, centered at SP 68035 94494. The site is bounded to the north by domestic properties fronting Main Street, and to the east and south is an enclosed field counting the earthwork remains of a Motte. Access to the property is off Leicester Road which also forms the western limits of the site.

### **1.3 Topography and Geology**

1.3.1 The subject site is currently access off Leicester Road form a short driveway. At present the site contains a detached domestic residence and garage. The area to be developed is located immediately north of the house within a broadly flat garden area containing occasional bushes and other plants. A spot height taken on the entrance to the site is recoded at c.132m 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 in the north of the site as a friable, mid-yellowish grey sandy clay with common small limestone fragments and occasional roots (context **109**). Overlying this was a layer of friable, mid-brown sandy clay with occasional roots which was approximately 0.22m deep and has been interpreted as an upper 'strata' of or possible lens within the natural (context **110**).

### **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 There is no recorded evidence for prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the development site.

1.4.3 Evidence of Roman activity had been identified immediately east of the development site in Hall Field (MLE7858). Excavations in 1837 and 1863 revealed 'pavements', burnt bones, burnt wood,

bones, teeth and Roman pottery whilst an additional pennanular brooch was found at the site in 1956. It is thought the Roman site was potentially later re-used as a Norman motte and bailey. Additionally, two sherds of Roman pottery were found approximately 32m north of the site at 112 Main Street (MLE19264), during test pitting in 2009. The test pitting was carried out as part of a television series presented by Michael Wood and under the direction of Access Cambridge Archaeology (Lewis 2011, p.228).

- 1.4.4 The development site lies within the historic settlement core of Kibworth Harcourt which is referred to as Chilburde in the Domesday Book (1086). The name of the settlement is thought to derive from Cybba (male personal name and worth (farmstead or enclosure) – the enclosed settlement associated with Cybba. The Harcourt element of the name is likely to have been added in the 12<sup>th</sup> century when Ivo de Hauecurt held the manor here (Bourne 2003, p.55). The village's inclusion in the Domesday Book suggests it was established before the medieval period, dating back to at least the Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval. However, scant archaeological evidence for the pre-Domesday settlement has been found.
- 1.4.5 As mentioned previously, there was a potential motte and bailey which overlay an earlier Roman site in Hall Field. A mound here was recorded as being 12 yards high and 16 yards across with a single ditch c.122 yards in circumference. The potential site is tentatively dates to the late Anglo-Saxon period (MLE1772). In 1951 the site was given scheduled monument protection and is listed by historic England as 'Motte in Hall Field'. Additionally, 46 sherds of late Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval pottery were recovered at 112 Main Street during the test pitting carried out in 2009 (MLE19943).
- 1.4.6 Kibworth Harcourt is recorded as Chiburde in the Domesday Book 1086: (Phillimore 16,8) The entry records:
- Robert of Vessey holds 12 c. of land. Before 1066, 10 ploughs. In Lordship 3 ploughs; 6 slaves. 10 villagers with 6 freemen, 6 smallholders and 1 Frenchman have 5 ploughs. Meadow 16 acers.*
- 1.4.7 The development site lies within the historic settlement core of Kibworth Harcourt (MLE16877) which dates to at least the early medieval period and, due to its presence in the Domesday Book and name, is likely to have its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period; the historic core is a designated Conservation Area.
- 1.4.8 The Manor House (MLE10794) is the oldest house in the village; it is a Grade II Listed building which is mentioned in AD1283-4 and lies c.90m northeast of the development site. The current building potentially has medieval origins but was altered in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is constructed of red brick, in part chequered with black, with high rubble stone plinth and Welsh slate roof with a brick right-centre ridge stack and left end stack.
- 1.4.9 Fishponds north of Albert Street (MLE1778) were visited in 1991 at which time they were still water filled. In their present state the ponds date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century however earlier records show less formal ponds in the same location and the origins of these potentially date back to the medieval period. Additionally, a stone cross was recorded as standing opposite the Manor House and was

taken down in 1825. It is presumed that this is the square pillar with a hobby horse sketched in relief which is mentioned by Nichols in 1798 and acted as the market cross for the village, potentially dating to the medieval period.

- 1.4.10 Medieval pottery was recovered at a number of properties on Main Street as well as the Spinney, Jubilee Green and Priory Farm during test pitting by Paul Blinkhorn in 2009 (as part of the television series mentioned previously). Closest to the development was a small assemblage of potter dating between 1100 AD & 1400AD encountered at 112 Main Street (MLE19943).
- 1.4.11 Post-Medieval activity in the vicinity of the development site is primarily represented by a number of Grade II Listed buildings that lie within the historic core of the village and contribute to its distinct character and resulting designation as a Conservation Area.
- 1.4.12 The Grade II buildings in the vicinity are predominantly built of red brick with either Swithland or Welsh slate roofs. The closest of these is Priory Farmhouse which lies c.100 m to the site's northeast. This is a Grade II Listed building dating to the 16th-17th centuries. The property is a timber framed building that was probably re-faced in the 18th century and was restored in the 20th century. It was re-faced in red brick and coursed rubble stone in part; the building has a Welsh slate roof with right-centre brick ridge stack. Some of the other Grade II Listed buildings are rendered or colour-washed such as 80 Main Street and 55 Leicester Road.
- 1.4.13 Additionally, a significant amount of post-medieval pottery has been recovered across Kibworth Harcourt through the test pitting which took place in 2009.
- 1.4.14 Modern heritage assets in the vicinity of the site are represented by the Conservation Area itself which was designated in 1982 and a Grade II Listed cast iron K6 telephone box which was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott in 1935. The telephone box is a square kiosk with domed roof, unperforated crowns to top panels and margin glazing to windows and door.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2016, archaeological supervision took place during the excavation of footings required in the preparation of land for the construction of a garage extension on land at 45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, 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 single abraded sherd of medieval pottery as well as a post-medieval fragment was recovered from the fieldwork phase. The assemblage is in a stable condition however the CBM recovered was too small to be used for site interpretation (**Appendices 2 and 3**). 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 Six context numbers were allocated to layers whilst another single context was given to a deposit. In addition, two cuts were identified along with three fills which were allocated their own context numbers. The twelve 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/landscaping layer was identified in the west of the site (see **Figure 3**). This layer consisted of a compact, mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small, angular limestone fragments and some roots (context **111**); the layer was approximately 0.3m deep and lay between the topsoil (context **100**) and subsoil (context **101**). It is interpreted as a possible levelling or landscaping layer and held a single, small fragment of medieval pottery (Stanion/Lybeden type ware1) which probably dates from the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century AD (**Appendix 3**). Also found within this layer was a single fragment of ceramic building material. This CBM consisting of a single, abraded fragment of handmade brick dating from the mid-17<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century AD (**Appendix 2**). As this feature is interpreted as a probable landscaping/levelling layer, it is likely that these finds had been re-deposited from elsewhere. However, their presence does suggest some medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity.
- 4.1.2 A context number was allocated to the cut for the foundation footings of the existing garage wall which was linear, with steep sides, on a northwest-southeast alignment (context **108**). Above the concrete foundations was a layer of loose orange sand which formed the upper backfill of the foundations and was approximately 0.2m deep (context **107**).
- 4.1.3 A modern storm drain was identified, running on a roughly northwest-southeast alignment across the south of the site (context **103**). The linear drain had steep sides and was not bottomed during the groundworks. Two fills were identified within the cut of the storm drain. The lower fill consisted of a friable, dark greyish brown sandy clay with common brick fragments, stones and pea gravel; this was exposed to a depth of c.0.7m (context **104**). The fill held a single sherd of brown glazed earthenware dating to the late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century AD (**Appendix 3**); due to the nature of this feature, this sherd will have been re-deposited from elsewhere. The upper fill of the storm drain consisted of a loose, orangey brown gravel made up of small, angular stones to a depth of c.0.1m (context **105**).
- 4.1.4 Overlying the storm drain was a layer of loose grey gravel/stone chippings approximately 0.05m deep (context **106**) which formed the upper layer in the east of the site and also overlay a disturbed topsoil layer (context **102**).

### 4.2 Additional Deposits

- 4.2.1 The non-archaeological deposits encountered during the observation consisted of a dark greyish brown topsoil containing frequent rooting and occasional brick fragments (context **100**). This was underlain by a subsoil of mid-greyish brown, friable sandy clay which contained very occasional small rounded stones and common roots (context **101**). A disturbed topsoil layer was also observed which appeared to have formed after levelling, following the construction of the existing garage. This consisted of a layer of friable, mid-greyish brown sandy clay with occasional brick fragments which was approximately 0.24m deep (context **102**).
- 4.2.2 A natural layer of friable, yellowish grey sandy clay with common limestone fragments was identified

in the west of the site (context **109**), underlying the subsoil and an additional context which has been interpreted as some possible upper strata of natural or lens within the natural. This layer consisted of friable, mid brown sandy clay with occasional roots and was approximately 0.22m deep (context **110**).

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The observation fulfilled the aims and objectives of the monitoring the groundworks for the garage extension.
- 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 vicinity during the medieval period however only a single pottery fragment from this period was recovered which is likely to have been re-deposited in a more recent levelling layer (context **111**). Post-medieval CBM was also recovered from this layer which is also probably re-deposited.
- 5.4 The only other archaeology present on site was a modern storm drain, which contained a single, redeposited post-medieval pottery sherd, along with the footings of the existing garage building.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brook, K., 2016, 45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Observation

Historic England, 2015, *Managing Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide*, Historic England, online.

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

### Online Sources

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain viewer –

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 14/08/2016

## 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 Charlotte Faiers of PCA Ltd's CAD department. Thanks are also extended to Jane Young for her specialist reports.



## PLATES



**Plate 1:** View of garage footings area, taken from south-west.



**Plate 2:** View of Section 1, taken from south-east.





**Plate 3:** View of Section 2, taken from east.



**Plate 4:** View of Section 3, taken from south-south-east.



## **FIGURES**

### **Figure 1 – Site Location**

## Figure 2 – Detailed Site Location



### **Figure 3 – Plan of Archaeology**

## Figure 4 – Sections

## 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	Dimensions (m)	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
100	Layer	Dark greyish brown	Friable Silty Clay	Frequent roots; occasional brick fragments	Topsoil	c.0.3m deep	101	
101	Layer	Mid slightly greyish brown	Friable Sandy Clay	Very occasional small, rounded stones; common roots	Subsoil	c.0.4m deep		100
102	Layer	Mid greyish brown	Friable Sandy Clay	Occasional brick fragments	Disturbed topsoil layer formed after levelling following construction of garage	c.0.24m deep	107	103
103	Cut	Northwest–southeast aligned linear cut with steep sides; un-excavated to full depth			Cut for modern storm drain	c.0.9m wide	102	104
104	Fill	Dark greyish brown	Friable Sandy Clay	Common brick, stones and pea gravel; single sherd of post-medieval pottery	Backfill of modern storm drain [103]	c.0.7m deep exposed; c.0.9m wide	103	105
105	Fill	Mid orangey brown	Loose gravel	Small angular stones	Loose gravel upper backfill of modern storm drain [103]	c.0.1m deep	104	100
106	Layer	Grey	Loose gravel/stone chippings	Gravel/stone chippings	Layer of stone chippings	c.0.05m deep	105	

107	Fill	Mid orange	Soft sand	-	Layer of sand – upper backfill of foundation footings of garage [108]			103
108	Cut	Northwest-southeast aligned linear cut with steep sides			Cut number was allocated to foundation footings of existing garage wall.			107
109	Deposit	Mid yellowy grey	Friable sandy clay	Common small limestone fragments; occasional roots	Natural			110
110	Layer	Mid brown	Friable sandy clay	Occasional roots	'upper' strata of natural?/lens within natural	c.0.22m deep	109	111
111	Layer	Mid yellowy brown	Compact silty clay	Occasional small angular limestone fragments; some roots; two small sherds of medieval pottery	Layer of levelling/landscaping – top of bank	c.0.3m deep	110	100

## **APPENDIX 2: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL (CBM) REPORT**

*By Jane Young*

### **Introduction**

A single fragment of ceramic building material weighing 1 gram in total from Context (111) was submitted for examination along with a small piece from a concrete pan tile of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date from Context (100). The Ceramic building material fragment was 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 CBM is mainly in an abraded but stable condition.

### **The Ceramic Building Material**

Only one fragment of building material was recovered from the site. An abraded portion from a handmade brick of mid-17<sup>th</sup> to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from Context (111).

### **Summary and Recommendations**

The ceramic building material recovered from this site is too small to be of use in site interpretation along with the concrete pan-tile. It is recommended that the material should be discarded.

### **References**

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.

### APPENDIX 3: POTTERY REPORT

By Jane Young

Context	Leicestershire	Full name	Form	Sherds	Vessels	Weight	Part	Description	Date	Action
104	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	Large bowl	1	1	14g	BS	Splashed internal brown glaze	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup>	Retain
111	LY1	Stanion/Lyveden type ware1	Closed vessel	1	1	1g	BS		1200-1400	Discard

## APPENDIX 4: OASIS SHEET

### OASIS ID: preconst1-263176

#### Project details

Project name	45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt
Short description of the project	An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) at 45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire during the groundworks for the footings of a garage extension. The observation was commissioned by Roger Lott. During the observation ceramic material was recovered which suggested possible medieval activity in the vicinity of the site however the material itself appears to have been redeposited in a more recent levelling/landscaping layer. The layer also held a fragment of post-medieval brick which is also potentially redeposited. The only other activity observed on the site related to a modern storm drain and the footings for the existing garage.
Project dates	Start: 12-07-2016 End: 20-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LKHL16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
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 KIBWORTH HARCOURT 45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire:
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 68035 94494 52.543680549317 -0.99665738017 52 32 37 N 000 59 47 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	X.A46.2016
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A46.2016
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A46.2016



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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	45 Leicester Road, Kibworth Harcourt, Leicestershire: Report on an Archaeological Observation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Sutherland, D.
Other bibliographic details	R12632
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Midlands Office
Place of issue or publication	Market Harborough

Entered by	Kathryn Brook (kbrook@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	20 September 2016

