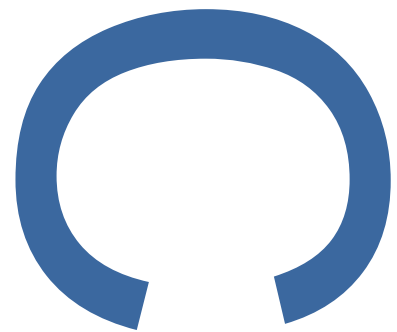


**LAND TO THE REAR OF THE
HATCHERY,
MAIN STREET,
LEIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE,**



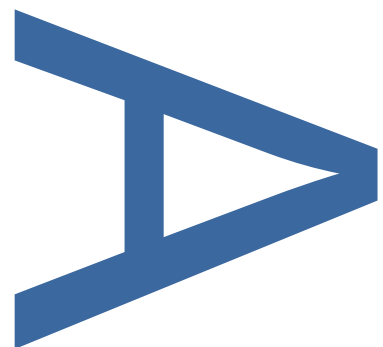
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION**



**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PLANNING APPLICATION: 13/01786/FUL

PCA REPORT: R12731



DECEMBER 2016

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND TO THE REAR OF THE HATCHERY, MAIN
STREET, LEIRE,
LEICESTERSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4636
Report Number	R11963

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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**The Hatchery, Main Street, Leire, Leicestershire:
Report on an Archaeological Observation**

Local Planning Authority: **Harborough District Council**

Central National Grid Reference: **SP 52475 90197**

Planning Reference: **13/01786/FUL**

PCA Site Code: **HGMS16**

Written and researched by: **Donald Sutherland**

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December 2016

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PCA Report: R12731

CONTENTS

Abstract	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Background	4
1.2 Site Location and Description	4
1.3 Topography and Geology	4
1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background.....	4
2 AIMS & OBJECTIVES	6
3 METHODOLOGY	7
3.1 Fieldwork Methodology.....	7
3.2 Post Fieldwork Methodology.....	7
3.3 The Contexts	7
4 THE RESULTS	8
4.1 The Archaeological Sequence	8
4.2 Additional Deposits	9
5. CONCLUSIONS	10
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	11
7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	11
PLATES	12
FIGURES	15
APPENDIX 1: Context Table	18
APPENDIX 2: Report On The Tile And Post-Roman Pottery.....	22
APPENDIX 3: Leather Assessment.....	24
APPENDIX 4: Oasis Sheet.....	25

Abstract

An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land to the rear of The Hatchery, Main Street, Leire, Leicestershire during the levelling of ground and excavation of footings for a new residential building. The works followed a programme of demolition on outbuildings to the rear of The Hatchery which had undergone a Historic Building Assessment prior to this (Garwood 2014) and a previous archaeological observation (Sutherland & Trott 2016).

During the recent observation, that relates to this report, three probable occupation/backyard layers were identified, two of which held post-medieval artefacts. Additionally, two drains were recorded which were probably modern in date but potentially dated to the late post-medieval period. The only other activity observed was modern.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Cheriton Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological observation on land to the rear of The Hatchery, Main Street, Leire, Leicestershire (**Figure 1**). 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 2014).

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 in the grounds of The Gables which is sited on the west side of Main Street, c.64m north of the junction with Back Lane. The site is bound to the south by several domestic properties, all fronting Back Lane. To the north lies a residential property called Ash House, consisting of a domestic dwelling and formal gardens. Back Lane bounds the site to the west and to the east is Main Street. The site lies within the central core of Leire and is centered at NGR SP 52475 90197.

1.3 Topography and Geology

1.3.1 The subject site is located in the central core of the village of Leire. Prior to the works, the site consisted of a relatively level formal garden with large trees and bushes. To the north and south are gardens of domestic properties; to the west is Main Street with Back Lane to the east. A spot height taken in front of the house is recorded at 109.62 AOD.

1.3.2 The subject site is characterised by the bedrock of Mercia Mudstone Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed during the Triassic period, in a local environment previously dominated by hot deserts. The overlying superficial deposits are clay and silt of the Bosworth Clay Member, formed during the Quaternary period, when ice age conditions dominated the local environment (British geological Survey 2016).

1.3.3 These superficial deposits were encountered across the site as a firm-soft, mid-reddish brown/greyish brown sandy clay with occasional limestone (context **106**). The natural sandy clay consisted of firmer grey clay to the east and increasingly softer, more reddish brown and sandy to the west.

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 2014) 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 Leire is an historic settlement which is thought to take its name from the old English name for the river Soar: *Legre* a tributary of which has its source to the south of the village. Leire is mentioned on three occasions in the Domesday Book with the Bishop of Lincoln holding *1 c. of land* (3.3), Robert of Bucy holding *2 c. of land* (17.2) and Robert of Bursar holding *5 c. of land* (19.1). It lay within the hundred of Guthlaxton and prior to 1066 was under the lordship of Alwln.

- 1.4.3 The remains of a medieval settlement have been uncovered in Leire, as has material dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods; however none of this material is of direct relation to the study area.
- 1.4.4 Several archaeological investigations have taken place within 100m of the site. An investigation by ULAS in 2002 at the junction of Main Street and Back Lane, c.60m south of the development site, revealing nothing of archaeological interest. A watching brief undertaken at The Old Manor, c.96m to the southeast, of the site located several post-medieval and modern pits. During 2015 PCA undertook an archaeological observation on an adjacent new build to the rear of the Hatchery where residual medieval pottery was encountered within 18th century layers and a possible trackway (Sutherland & Trott 2016).
- 1.4.5 The Hatchery is an 18th/19th century, brick built ancillary building within the grounds of The Gables. It is not a listed building but is considered an undesignated heritage asset of local historic interest. The Hatchery has been considerably altered externally and internally over the centuries and, as a result, retains few extant original fixtures and fittings and little spatial integrity relating to its original function as a part stable, part storage 'barn' serving the adjacent Gables. (Garwood 2014).
- 1.4.6 There are five Grade II listed property's within 250m of the site, all of which front Main Street. The oldest is The Old Manor, a timber framed building with brick infill and thatch, dating from the 17th/18th century. There are two late 18th century houses: Gleb House, a 3-storey brick dwelling, and Rose Cottage, a one and a half storey building which was formerly two dwellings now just one, built from rough cast over bricks. Finally, Western House with its Flemish bond brickwork was built in the early 19th century at a similar time to the brick built, domestic residence, Airdale.

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 18th and 21st of July 2016, archaeological supervision took place during the levelling of ground and excavation of footings required in the preparation of land for the construction of a residential building on land to the rear of The Hatchery, Main Street, Leire, Leicestershire (**Figures 1 and 2; 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 per 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 Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fieldwork phase along with two pieces of leather. The pottery assemblage is in a stable condition and the leather is undergoing conservation; the post-medieval pottery and leather has been retained for future study (**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 Thirteen context numbers were allocated to layers whilst another single context was given to a deposit. In addition, three cuts were identified along with three fills which were allocated their own context numbers. The twenty distinct contexts observed during the works are presented in **Appendix 1**.

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 The Archaeological Sequence

- 4.1.1 A backyard surface/occupation layer was identified in the east of the site overlying the natural (context **106**). This possible surface consisted of a layer of soft, light greyish brown sandy clay c.0.04m deep, with common charcoal and occasional pottery sherds was identified in the east of the site (context **102**). A small fragment of a leather strap and 18th century heal lift (**Appendix 3**) along with two post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered from this layer; the pottery sherds were dated to between the 17th and 19th centuries and the condition of the material suggests that it is likely to represent primary deposition (**Appendix 2**). A similar layer was identified further to the west which consisted of soft, very light grey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal, c.0.04m deep (context **118**, **Figure 3**, Section 3).
- 4.1.2 Another possible former surface or occupation layer was identified overlying this. This layer was approximately 0.05m deep and consisted of firm, pale yellowy brown sandy clay with very occasional small, rounded pebbles (context **104**). A similar layer was identified further to the west which consisted of a friable, pale yellowy brown sandy clay with occasional rounded pebbles, c.0.05m deep. This was allocated context number **119** and interpreted as the remnants of an early surface/layer.
- 4.1.3 The remains of a disturbed backyard surface were identified in the east of the site which consisted of a layer of friable, mid-greyish brown sandy clay approximately 0.2m deep, containing common small-medium rounded pebbles and occasional small fragmented brick fragments (context **101**). Fifteen sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from this layer (**Appendix 2**). Another layer, very similar to context **101** overlay this. The upper layer consisted of friable, mid-dark greyish brown silty clay, c.0.3m deep (context **103**) and was more disturbed with less cobbles than context **101**.
- 4.1.4 The cuts of two drains which is likely to be modern or late post-medieval were identified in east of the site and cut contexts **103** and **104** (**Figure 3**, Section 2). The first of these was a linear cut on a northwest-southeast alignment with steep sides and a rounded base, measuring c.0.6m wide and c.0.54m deep (context **110**). The cut contained a single fill of friable/loose, mixed dark-mid greyish orangey brown silty clay and a drain pipe with common brick fragments (context **109**). The cut of the second drain lay c.0.26m to the northeast and was on the same alignment with steep sides and a slightly rounded base, measuring c.1.1m wide and c.0.6m deep (context **112**). This drain had a single fill of friable/loose, mixed dark-mid greyish orangey brown silty clay and a drain pipe with occasional brick, Welsh slate and window glass (context **111**).
- 4.1.5 In the west of the site an undated layer of friable, dark brown sandy clay and gravel was identified which was approximately 0.1m deep (context **114**). This layer sealed a buried topsoil/garden soil (context **115**).
- 4.1.6 A modern layer of concrete approximately 0.2m deep was identified in the east of the site which was associated with the construction of a recent fence (context **105**).
- 4.1.7 The cut for the footings of a modern garage were partially revealed in the east of the site. The

identified cut was linear in plan, on a northwest-southeast alignment with steep sides and a flat base and measured c.0.4m wide and c.0.42m deep (context **107**). They contained a single fill of friable-loose, mid-grey sand and gravel (context **108**).

- 4.1.8 In the southeast of the site a modern, upper levelling layer was recorded which consisted of friable, mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional modern brick fragments and small-medium sub-rounded pebbles, c.0.3m deep (context **116**).

4.2 Additional Deposits

- 4.2.1 The non-archaeological deposits encountered during the observation consisted of a dark greyish brown topsoil containing occasional roots and occasional modern brick fragments (context **100**). Twelve sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered from this layer (**Appendix 2**). This was underlain by a subsoil of light brown, friable/loose silty clay which contained occasional small stones and common roots (context **113**). A possible former garden soil was recorded in the centre of the site which was a maximum depth of 0.4m and consisted of firm-friable, mid-brown silty clay with occasional charcoal, and small limestone fragments (context **117**).
- 4.2.2 A buried topsoil/former garden soil layer was observed in the west of the site, sealed beneath a layer of sandy, clayey gravel (context **114**). The buried topsoil consisted of friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with very occasional limestone fragments and occasional roots and was approximately 0.3m deep (context **115**).
- 4.2.3 A natural layer of firm-soft, mid reddish brown/greyish brown sandy clay with occasional limestone fragments was identified across the site (context **106**). This natural sandy clay was greyer and more clayey at the frontage and increasingly softer, reddish brown and sandy to the rear of the area.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The observation fulfilled the aims and objectives of the monitoring the ground levelling and excavation of 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 or medieval activity was present on this site. The ceramic material recovered from the site suggests that there had been some activity in the vicinity during the post-medieval period however this activity was confined to two occupation layers and a possible backyard surface. Two drains were also identified which were probably modern but potentially dated to the late post-medieval period.
- 5.4 The only other archaeology present on site was modern and related to the existing buildings and previous extensions.

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7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Cheriton Homes Limited 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 Jennifer Simonson of PCA Ltd's CAD department.

PLATES



Plate 1: View of house footings area; taken facing northeast.



Plate 2: View of bank at rear of site (including Section 2) and levelled area; taken facing west-southwest.



Plate 3: View of Section 1; taken facing south-southeast.



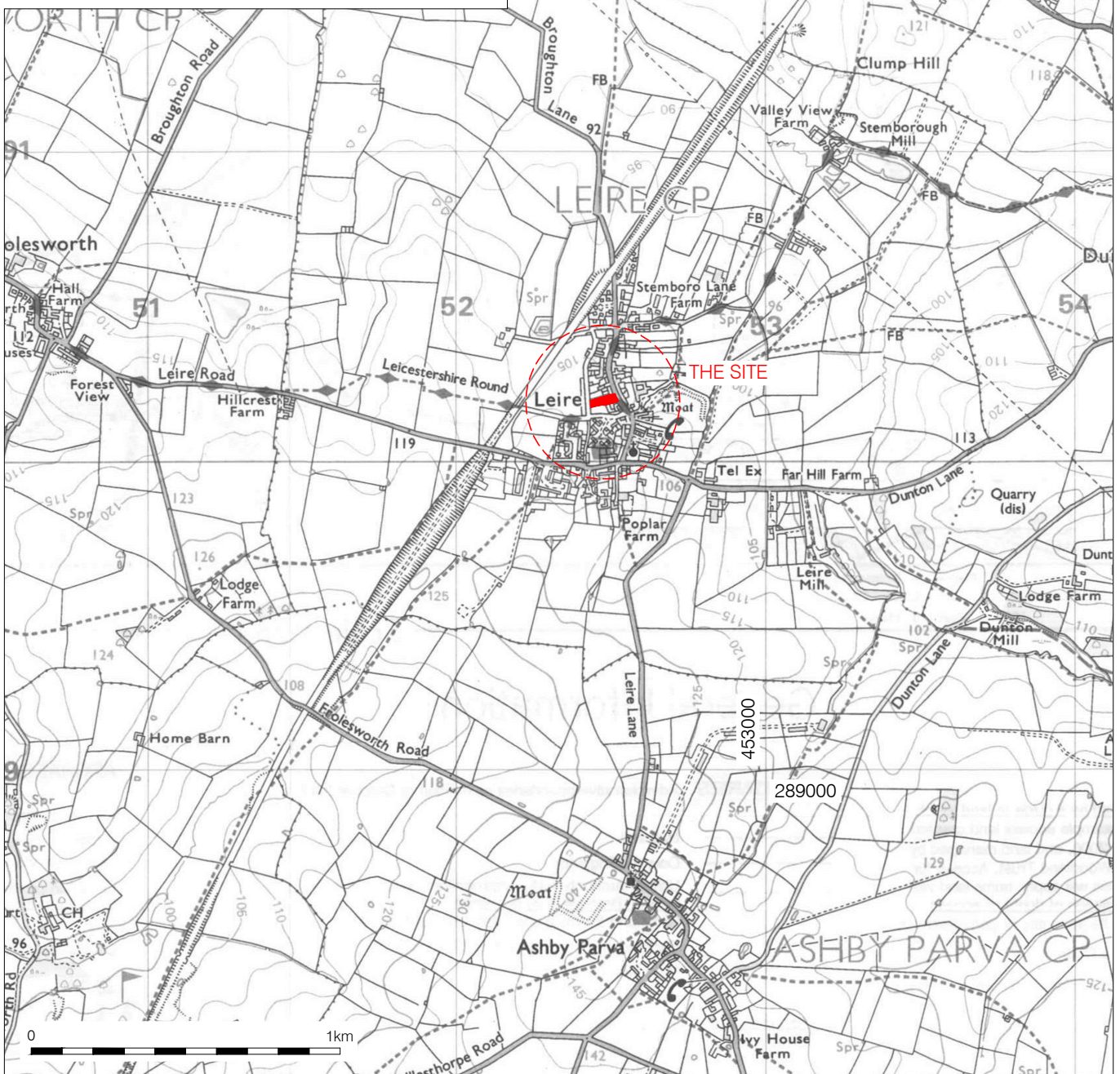
Plate 4: View of Section 3; taken facing north-northwest.



Plate 5: View of Section 4; taken facing east-northeast.



Plate 6: View of Section 5; taken facing north-northwest.



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11/11/16 JS

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

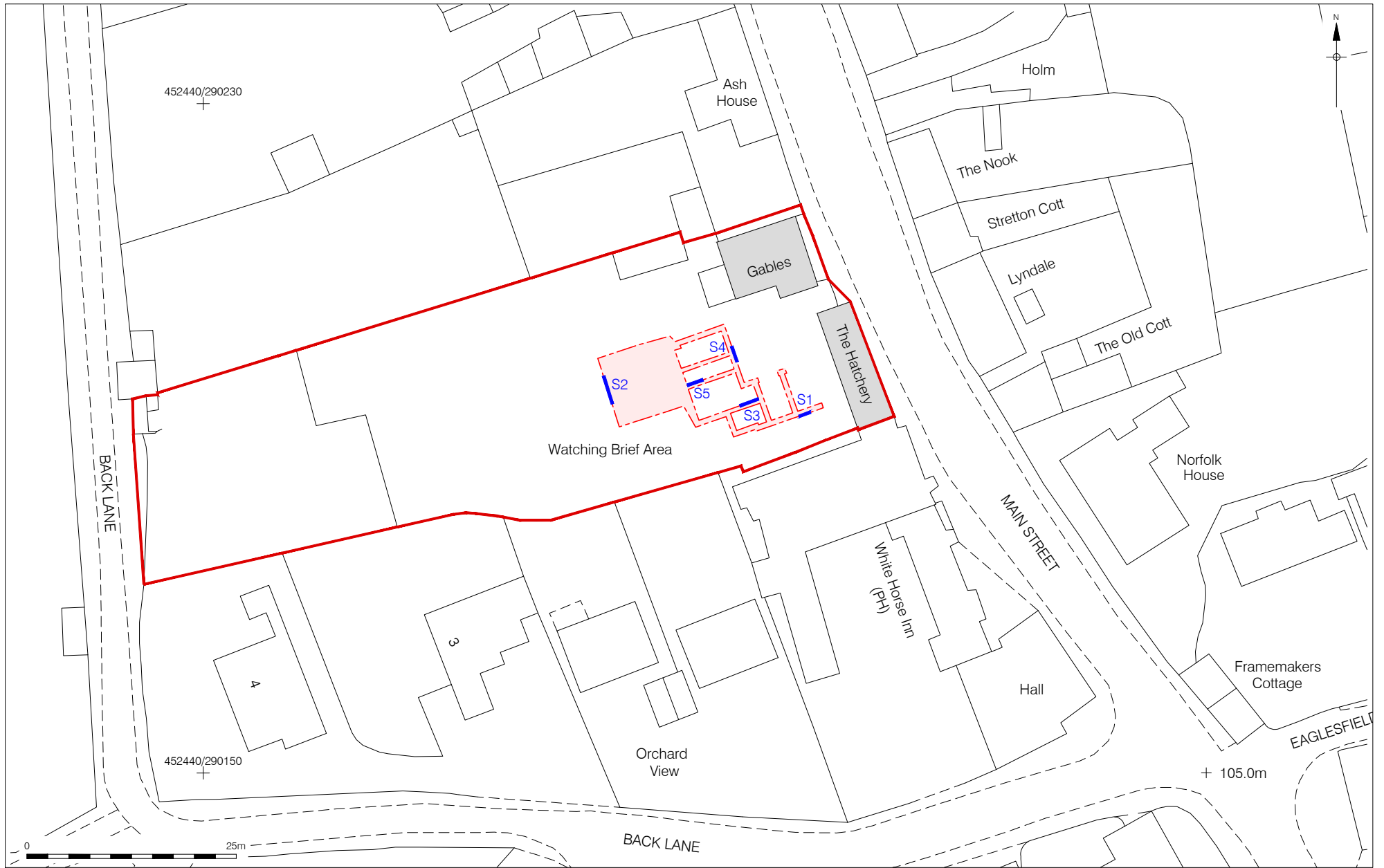


Figure 2
 Watching Brief Area
 1:625 at A4

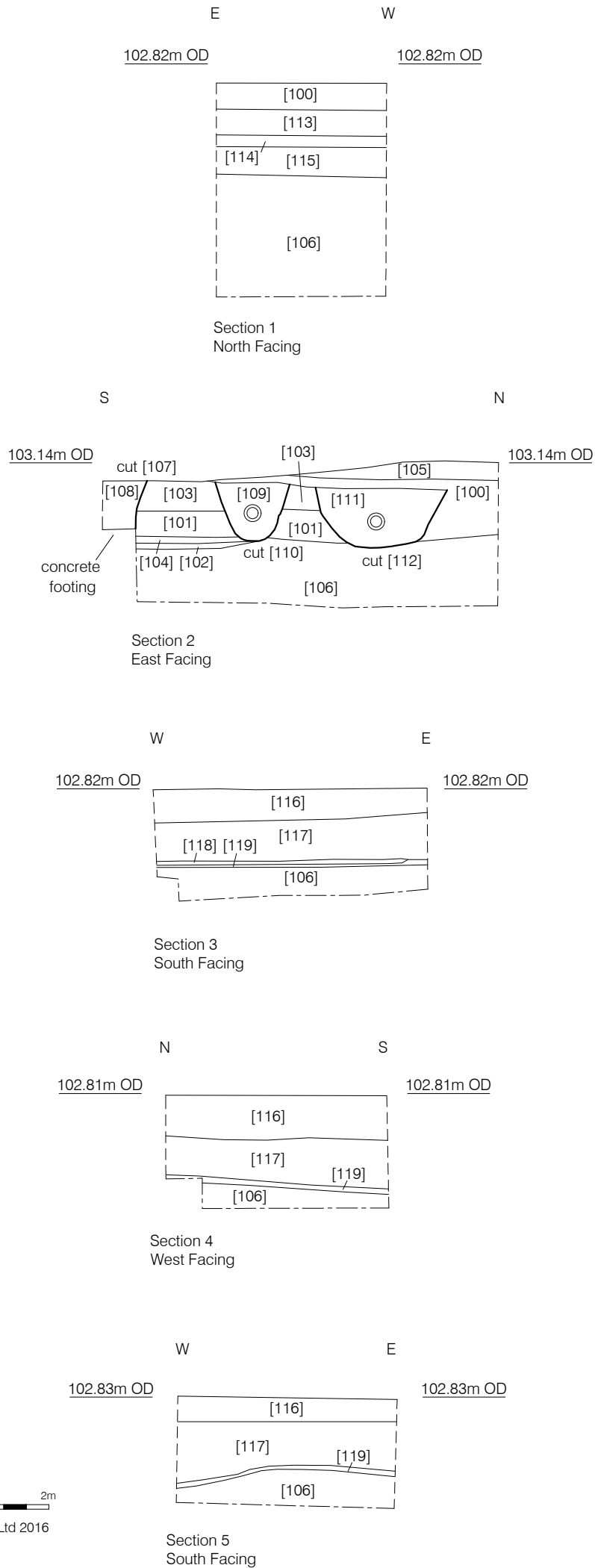


Figure 3
 Sections 1 - 5
 1:50 at A4

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); and their critical stratigraphic relationships.

Context	Category	Description			Interpretation	Dimensions (m)	Above	Below
		Colour	Texture	Inclusions				
100	Layer	Dark greyish brown	Friable silty clay	Occasional roots to south; occasional brick fragments	Topsoil	<0.5m	113	N/A
101	Layer	Mid greyish brown	Friable sandy clay	Common small-medium rounded pebbles; occasional brick fragments	Remains of disturbed backyard surface	c.0.2m deep - unexcavated	104	103
102	Layer	Light greyish brown	Soft silty clay	Common charcoal; occasional pottery sherds	Backyard/occupation layer/surface	c.0.04m deep - unexcavated	106	104
103	Layer	Mid-dark greyish brown	Friable silty clay	Occasional rounded pebbles; occasional brick fragments	Layer very similar to 101 but less dense cobbles – more disturbed	c.0.3m deep - unexcavated	101	100
104	Layer	Pale yellowy brown	Firm sandy clay	Very occasional small, rounded	Former surface/occupation	c.0.05m deep -	102	101

				pebbles	layer	unexcavated		
105	Layer	Mid grey	Concrete	Concrete	Modern concrete layer associate with construction of modern fence	c.0.2m max depth	100	N/A
106	Deposit	Mid reddish brown/greyish brown	Firm-soft sandy clay	Occasional limestone fragments	Natural sandy clay - firmer grey clay at frontage, increasingly softer and more reddish brown sandy at rear of area	Across site	N/A	102
107	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with steep sides and a flat base.			Cut for modern, newly built garage footings	0.4m wide; 0.42m deep exposed	103	108
108	Fill	Mid grey	Friable/loose sandy/gravel	Common sand/gravel	Backfill of modern garage footings [107]	0.4m wide; 0.42m deep exposed	107	N/A
109	Fill	Mixed dark-mid greyish orangey brown	Friable/loose silty clay and drain pipe	Drain pipe; common brick	Fill of drain pipe trench [109]	c.0.6m wide; c.0.54m deep	110	100
110	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with steep sides and a rounded base. Upper edges of cut are not 100% clear.			Cut for drain – probably modern/Victorian	c.0.6m wide; c.0.54m deep	101	109
111	Fill	Mixed dark-mid greyish orangey brown	Friable/loose silty clay and drain pipe	Drain pipe; occasional brick, slate, glass	Fill of [112]	c.1.1m wide; c.0.6m deep	112	100

112	Cut	Linear cut on northwest-southeast alignment with steep sides and a slightly rounded base.			Cut for drain – probably modern/Victorian; sides to north not 100% clear.	c.1.1m wide; c.0.6m deep	103	111
113	Layer	Light brown	Friable silty clay	Common roots; occasional small stones	Subsoil - same as 100 but layer has more tree roots	c.0.24m deep	114	100
114	Layer	Dark brown	Friable sandy clay and gravel	Frequent gravel; common charcoal; common roots	Layer of charcoal/gravel sealing buried garden/topsoil	c.0.1m deep	115	113
115	Layer	Dark greyish brown	Friable silty clay	Very occasional limestone fragments (medium); occasional roots	Buried topsoil/former garden soil	c.0.3m deep	106	114
116	Layer	Mid greyish brown	Friable silty clay	Occasional brick fragments; occasional small-medium rounded pebbles	Upper levelling layer (modern)	c.0.3m max depth	117	
117	Layer	Mid brown	Firm-friable silty clay	Occasional charcoal; occasional small limestone fragments	Possible former garden soil	c.0.4m max depth	118	116
118	Layer	Very light grey brown	Soft silty clay	Occasional charcoal	Clay surface/occupation layer – similar in appearance to 102	c.0.04m deep	119	117

119	Layer	Pale yellowy brown	Friable sandy clay	Occasional rounded pebbles	Similar in appearance to 104 – remnants of early surface/layer	c.0.05m deep	106	118
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APPENDIX 2: REPORT ON THE TILE AND POST-ROMAN POTTERY FROM THE GABLES, LEIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE (GMSL16)

By Jane Young & Kevin Trott

Introduction

In total, thirty-nine sherds of pottery were submitted for examination. The pottery recovered is all of post-medieval date. The assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Reference has been made to the Leicestershire Pottery Type Series held at Leicester University (see Davies and Sawday 1999). The ceramic data was entered on an Access database using Lincolnshire (see 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 material is in a variable condition with most fragments being in a slightly abraded but stable condition.

Overall Chronology and Source

A range of six pottery types were identified; the type and general date range for these fabrics are shown in Table 1. The material is all post-medieval in date and was recovered from three deposits.

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

Lincolnshire codename	Leicestershire codename	Full name	Earliest date	Latest date	Total sherds	Total vessels
BERTH	EA2	Brown glazed earthenware	1550	1900	33	16
LEARTH	EA	Late earthenwares	1750	2000	2	1
NOTS	SW5	Nottingham stoneware	1690	1800	1	1
CREA	EA8	Creamware	1770	1830	1	1
TPW	EA10	Transfer printed ware	1770	1900	1	1
STSL	EA7	Staffordshire/Bristol slipware	1680	1800	1	1

The Pottery

All of the pottery was recovered from layers 100, 101 and 102. The earliest sherd in the group is most probably the Staffordshire/Bristol Slipware cup found in layer 102. This sherd was found with the body sherd from an undiagnostic dated Brown-glazed earthenware bowl of 18th to 19th century date. The bulk of the pottery retained from layer 101 consisted of Brown-glazed Earthenware sherds that come from large bowls of 18th to 19th century date. Within this assemblage was a similar dated handled bowl, also in coarse orange sandy fabric and a chamber pot in fine orange sandy ware. Layer 100 produced the most varied fabric range that was dominated by the coarse orange sandy Brown glazed earthenwares of 18th to 19th century date. Two pieces of late 'garden' earthenwares of 19th-20th century were present along with sherds from a Nottingham stoneware bowl and a creamware bowl of 18th-19th century date. The final sherd derived from the base of a Transfer printed ware of 18th-20th century date.

Summary and Recommendations

The ceramic material recovered from this site suggests that there had been post-medieval activity in the area. The condition of the material suggests that it is likely to represent primary deposition with a

little secondary waste.

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

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APPENDIX 3: LEATHER REPORT

By Kevin Trott

Two items of semi-waterlogged leather was found in context **102** and consisted of an 18th century heal stack fixed with a wood pin and a torn leather strap fragment with perforation holes.

Both items were recovered in a fragile state and kept in with the semi-moist soil that still adheared to the items. Subsequent double sealed bagging of the leather it was stored in a fridge for two days prior to being sent to Grahame Morgan for conservation/stabilisation. A detailed report will be either attached as an addendum or held with the site archive.

APPENDIX 4: OASIS SHEET

OASIS ID: preconst1-270121

Project details

Project name	The Hatchery, Main Street, Leire, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land to the rear of The Hatchery, Main Street, Leire, Leicestershire during the levelling of ground and excavation of footings for a new residential building. The works followed a programme of demolition on outbuildings to the rear of The Hatchery which had undergone a Historic Building Assessment prior to this (Garwood 2014) and a previous archaeological observation (Sutherland and Trott 2016). During the recent observation, that relates to this report, three probable occupation/backyard layers were identified, two of which held post-medieval artefacts. Additionally, two drains were recorded which were probably modern in date but potentially dated to the late post-medieval period. The only other activity observed was modern.
Project dates	Start: 18-07-2016 End: 01-12-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	HGMS16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	YARD SURFACE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HARBOROUGH LEIRE The Hatchery, Main Street, Leire, Leicestershire
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 53475 90197 52.506675921038 -1.212046748479 52 30 24 N 001 12 43 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 Kevin Trott

Project director/manager Kevin Trott

Project supervisor Steve Jones

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Physical Archive ID X.A8.2014

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Digital Archive ID X.A8.2014

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Service

Paper Archive ID X.A8.2014

Paper Contents "none"

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

Project bibliography 1

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