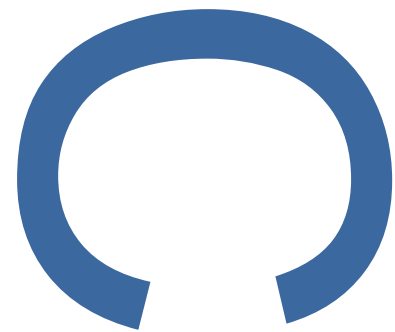


**EXTENSION TO THE REAR OF
67 MAIN STREET,
COSBY,
LEICESTERSHIRE:**



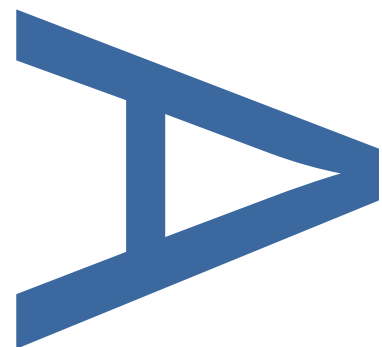
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION**



**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: HARBOROUGH
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:
15/0923/FUL**

PCA REPORT NO: R12788



FEBRUARY 2017

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

EXTENSION TO THE REAR OF 67 MAIN STREET,
COSBY, LEICESTERSHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION REPORT

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4741
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**Extension to the Rear of 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire:
An Archaeological Observation Report**

Local Planning Authority: Blaby District Council

Central National Grid Reference: SP 54789 94896

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February 2017

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PCA Report Number: R12788

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological observation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology to the rear of 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire (NGR SP 54789 94896). The observation occurred on the 17th of November 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Pharmacy Services Group. The proposed development will comprise the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing property. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

Only a series of modern/post-medieval build-up/levelling and surface layers and some modern services were identified during the works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological observation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) during groundworks for a rear extension at 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 54789 94896). The observation took place on the 17th of November 2016 (**Figure 1; Plates 1-4**).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Pharmacy Services Group. The proposed development will comprise the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing property (Planning Reference 15/0923/FUL).
- 1.1.3 The archaeological works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Matthews & Brook 2016) following consultation with Teresa Hawtin, the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The development site is located on the northwest of Main Street, within the Cosby Conservation Area and lies to the rear of the existing building. It is centred at SP 54789 94896. The site is bounded to the north and west by domestic properties and to the south by a restaurant. Access to the property is off Main Street which bounds the site to on the east.

1.3 Topography and Geology

- 1.3.1 The area to be developed is small level area which forms the backyard of the existing building. A spot height taken within the centre of the site is recorded at c.74.3m AOD.
- 1.3.2 The subject site is characterised by the bedrock of Mercia Mudstone Formation. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 200-251 million years ago, during the Triassic period, when the local environment was dominated by hot deserts. 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 2017).
- 1.3.3 The superficial geology (**07**) was present across the site as a loose-firm mid-orange-grey sandy gravel with occasional inclusions of sand and clay and frequent small-medium sub-rounded stones and pebbles. Overlying this was a similar layer of friable, mixed mid-grey and orange sandy clay with frequent small-medium sub-rounded stones and pebbles (context **06**). The layer was sterile and is interpreted as another possible natural layer relating to either glacial or fluvial activities.

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 1.4.1 The name Cosby derives from a combination of the Old Norse personal name Cossa or Kofsi and by the Old Norse for farmstead or village. The village name is recorded as Cossebi in the

Domesday Book in 1086 with 40 families living in the village. The Church of St Michael and All Angels lies to the north of the Pharmacy on the west side of Main Street is thought to date from the 11th century.

- 1.4.2 By the late 18th century, the main industry in the village, like many in Leicestershire, was framework knitting; the village had a population of 555 people in 1801. Cosby was described as a 'considerable village' in 1810 by the historian John Nichols. The Cosby Appointment Map of 1833 shows the village strung out along Main Street. A building with an upside down and reverse L-shaped footprint is depicted on the site of the present Pharmacy. This building is detached and lies some distance from its neighbours to the north. The Church of St Michael and All Angels is also shown to the north.
- 1.4.3 The Tithe map of 1846 does not show a building in the location of the Pharmacy. William White's History, Gazetteer & Directory of Leicestershire & Rutland, produced in 1846 describes Cosby as a 'pleasant village, on both sides of a small brook... It has in its parish 779 souls and 2341 acres of freehold land ... Many of its inhabitants are framework knitters'. The knitting frame made it possible for workers to produce knitted goods approximately 100 times faster than by hand. In the late 19th century framework knitting gave way to shoe and boot making.
- 1.4.4 In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson in his 'Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales' described Cosby as: 'COSBY, a village and a parish in Blaby district, Leicestershire. The village stands on an affluent of the river Soar, near the Midland railway and the Fosse way, 1¼ mile NNE of Broughton-Astley r. station, and 7 SSW of Leicester; and has a post office under Lutterworth. The parish includes also the hamlet of Little Thorpe... Pop., 974. Houses, 228... A number of the inhabitants are stocking-makers. The living is a vicarage in the diocese of Peterborough. The church is old but good. There are a Baptist chapel and charities...'
- 1.4.5 The 1886 Ordnance Survey map shows the village in greater detail than previous maps. A building with an upside down and reverse L-shaped footprint is again depicted on the site of the present Pharmacy. The building has a small rectangular extension on its south-west side. A pump 'P' (still extant) is shown on the northwest side of the building. A row of buildings is attached to the north-west projection of the building and a separate small building is shown to the northeast. Kelly's directory of Leicestershire & Rutland for 1899 states in its description of Cosby that 'several of the inhabitants are engaged in the boot and shoe trade'. By 1901, the population of the village had increased to 1351 people, more than doubling in a hundred years.
- 1.4.6 The 1904 Ordnance Survey map shows a different although similar footprint for the building on the site of the present Pharmacy. The main L-shaped shown on the 1886 map is shown on the 1904 as two similar sized buildings with the one to the northeast set back slightly from the road as at present, otherwise the footprint is the same as on the 1886 map.

- 1.4.7 The 1938 Ordnance Survey map shows that although the footprint of the building on the site of the Pharmacy has not changed, the surrounding plot boundaries have. A new boundary divides the backyard from its neighbour to the southwest.
- 1.4.8 The 1963 Ordnance Survey map shows the same arrangement of buildings with no. 67 Main Street labelled as a 'Surgery'. The 1977-1990 Ordnance Survey map shows the same arrangement of buildings.

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 On the 17th of November 2016, archaeological observation took place during the excavation of footings required in the preparation of land for the construction an extension to the rear of 67 Main Street, Cosby, 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 Only post-medieval brick was recovered from the fieldwork phase (**Appendix 3**). In addition, a paper and digital archive was 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 Nine context numbers were allocated to layers whilst a single number was given to a cut for modern services; there were two distinct fills associated with this feature, each of which was allocated its own context number. The twelve distinct contexts observed during the works are presented in **Appendix 1**.

4 THE RESULTS

4.1 The Archaeological Sequence

4.1.1 Only a series of build-up/levelling and surface layers and modern services were encountered during the archaeological observation.

4.1.2 In the west of the site a modern backyard pebble/gravel surface, approximately 0.06m deep, formed the uppermost layer (context **01**). This overlay a dark grey/black layer of loose sandy gravel approximately 0.12m deep (context **02**). This layer was interpreted as a backyard build up or levelling layer and held occasional fragments of mid-18th-mid-19th century handmade bricks (**Appendix 3**). Beneath this was a single course of un-bonded bricks which did not extend into the east of the site (context **03**). The bricks measured c.0.08m high, c.0.23m long and the layer was c.1.75m long; the layer is interpreted as a surface/levelling layer which was potentially laid in part of the backyard to create a firm and level surface or to stabilise the overlying surface(s). Beneath this was a build-up/levelling layer of loose, mid-grey/orange sand with frequent small-medium sub-rounded stones which was c.0.24m deep (context **04**). Underlying this was a final layer of firm, mid-grey sandy clay with very occasional sandy clay with very occasional charcoal/coal fragments (context **05**). This layer was c.0.12m deep and is interpreted as a possible levelling layer which was laid to create a firm base of clay for the overlying layers. This layer overlay natural deposits which were discussed in **Section 1.3.3**.

4.1.3 In the east of the site the same upper layers of gravel (contexts **01** and **02**) were observed which overlay a layer of loose, mid-brownish grey very slightly clayey sandy gravel which was replete with medium-large sub-rounded stones and held occasional brick fragments (context **08**). The layer was approximately 0.18m deep and is interpreted as a modern build-up/levelling layer. This overlay a layer of loose, mixed mid-grey and orange, very slightly clayey sand, with occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones and very occasional mid-18th-mid-19th century, handmade brick fragments (**Appendix 3**). The layer **09** is interpreted as a probable levelling layer and is potentially the same as context **04**. This overlay the same natural deposits that were identified in the west of the site.

4.1.4 In the southeast of the site a cut for modern services was identified on a roughly north-northeast-south-southwest alignment (contexts **10** and **11**).

4.2 Additional Deposits

4.2.1 The remaining natural layers have been discussed previously, in **Section 1.3.3** (contexts **06** and **07**).

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The observation fulfilled the aims and objectives of monitoring the footings for the proposed building extension.
- 5.1.2 Natural deposits on the site consisted of clay and sand deposits, discussed with reference to the British Geological Survey.
- 5.1.3 No evidence of any Prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval activity was identified on this site.
- 5.1.4 A number of late post-medieval/modern layers were identified on the site, which are interpreted as build-up/levelling layers or surfaces potentially relating to the backyard of the existing property. In addition, modern services were observed during ground reduction, in the southeast of the footings.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 Written Sources

Bower, K. and Matthews, C., 2016, *Historic Building Recording of Cosby Pharmacy, 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire, LE9 1UW*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

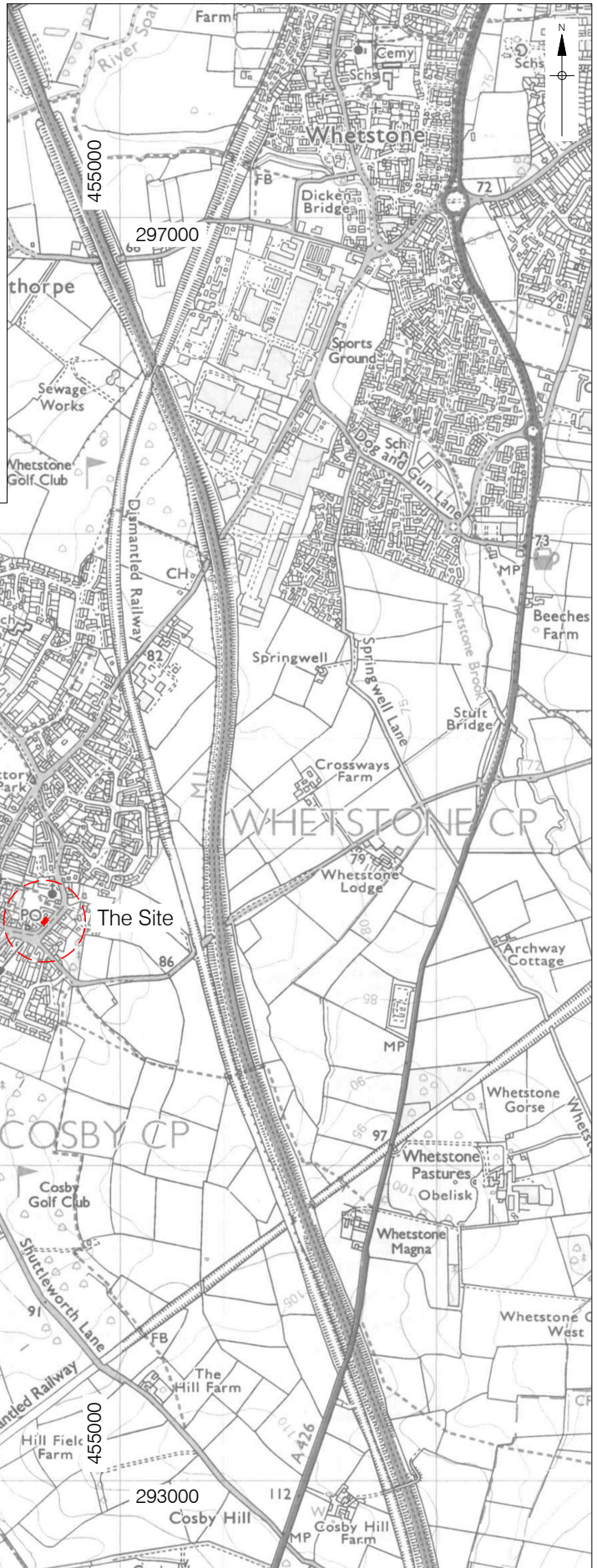
Matthews, C, & Brook, K, 2016, Written Scheme of Investigation at Cosby Pharmacy, 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire, LE9 1UW, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

6.2 Websites

The British Geological Survey Map (BGS) - <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
Accessed on 20/01/2017

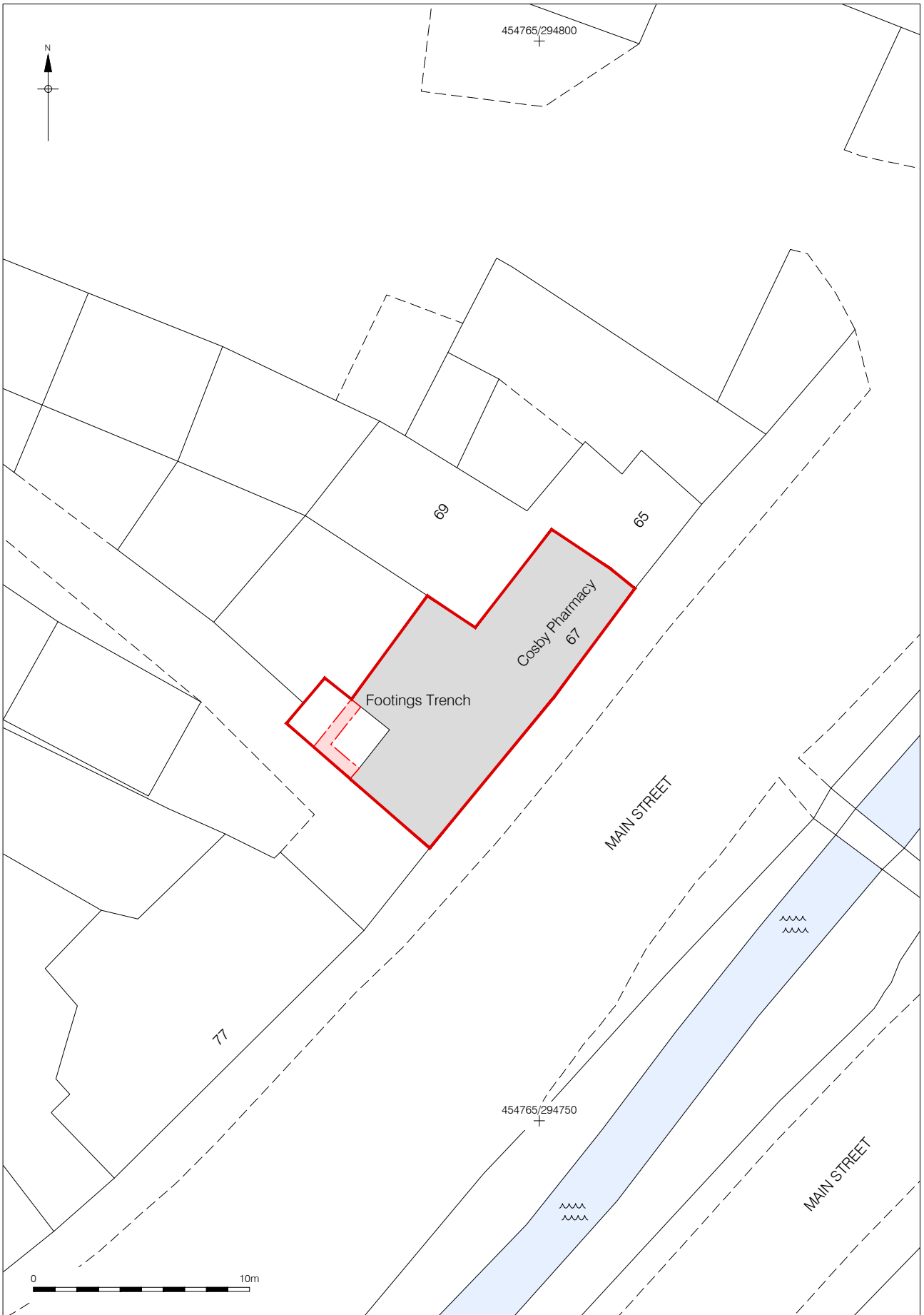
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Pharmacy Services Group for commissioning the work. The observation was carried out by the author. Project management undertaken by Kevin Trott of PCA Midlands. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD department. Thanks to Kathryn Brook for the analysis of the CBM found on site.



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 30/11/16 MR

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



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 30/11/16 JS

Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:250 at A4

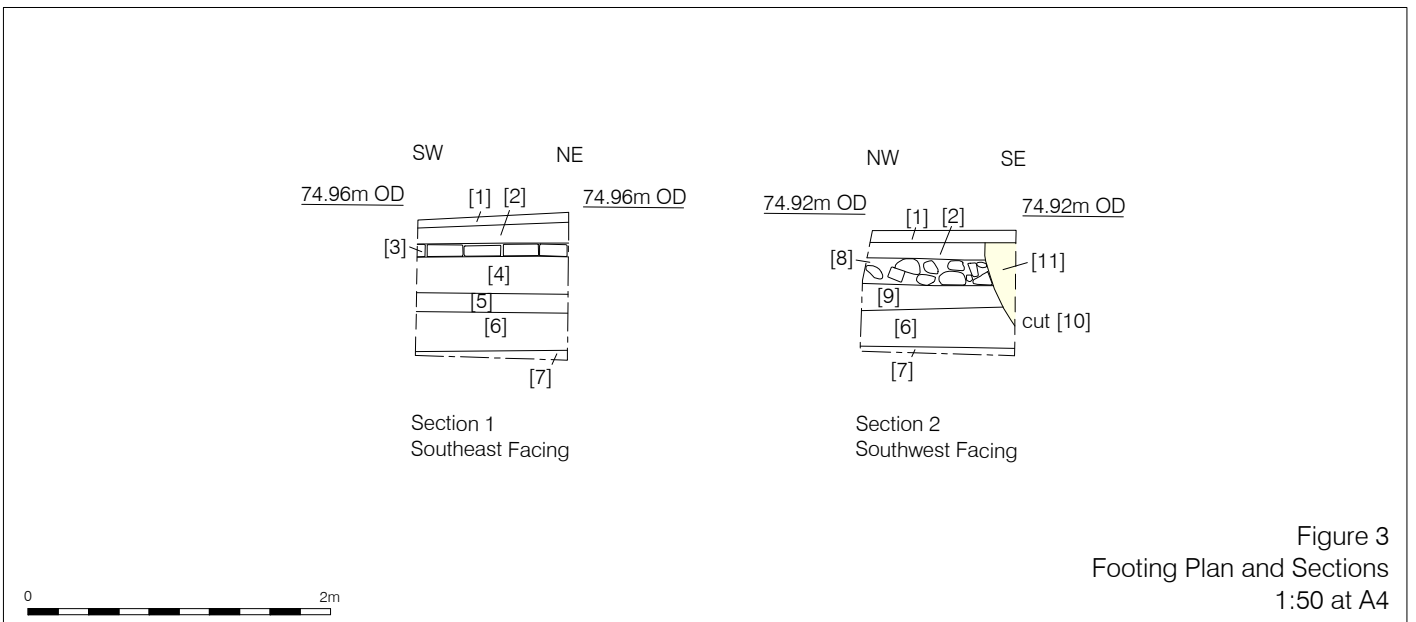
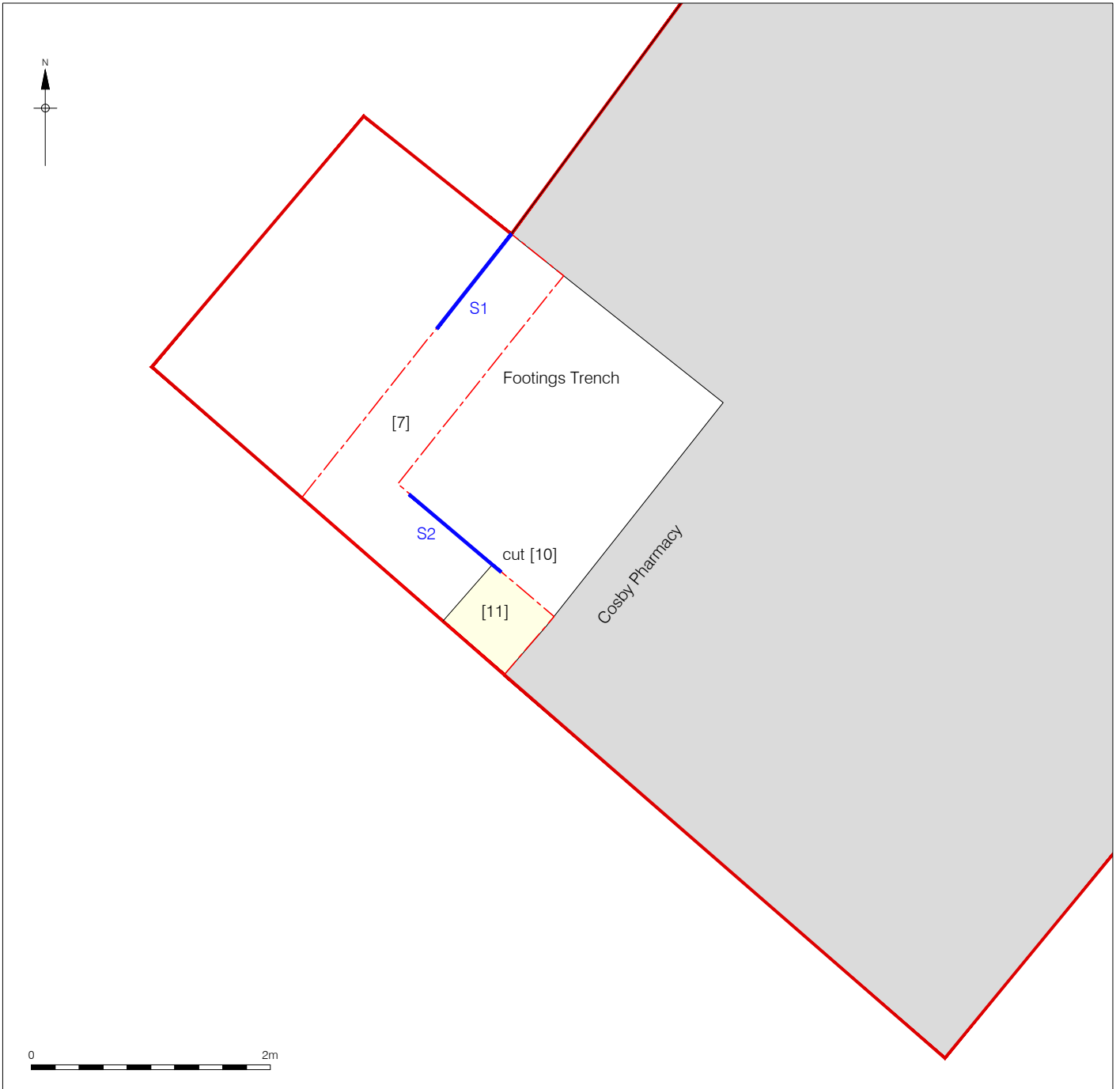


Figure 3
Footings Plan and Sections
1:50 at A4

Appendix 1: Site Photographs



Plate 1: View facing north-northeast across house footings.



Plate 2: View facing north-northeast towards existing house footings.



Plate 3: View facing west-northwest towards Section 1.



Plate 4: View facing north-northeast towards Section 2.

Appendix 2: Context Index

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				
01	Layer	Mid grey	Loose sandy gravel	Gravel – replete with small pebbles	Modern backyard pebble/gravel surface	c.0.06m deep	02	
02	Layer	Dark grey/black	Loose sandy gravel	Gravel – replete with small pebbles; occasional brick fragments	Backyard build up/levelling layer – modern?	c.0.12m deep	03	01
03	Layer	Layer of brick in a single course with no bonding.			Brick surface layer. Potentially laid in part of backyard to create flat, firm surface. Does not extend into the east of the site.	Bricks were c.0.08m high, and c.0.23m long; layer was c.1.75m long.	04	02
04	Layer	Mid grey orange	Loose sand	Frequent small-medium sub-rounded stones	Build-up/ levelling layer - maybe the same as 09	c.0.24m deep	05	03

05	Layer	Mid grey	Firm sandy clay	Very occasional charcoal/coal fragments	Possible levelling layer creating a firm base of clay for upper layers.	c.0.12m deep	06	04
06	Layer	Mixed mid grey and orange	Friable mixed sandy clay	Frequent small-medium sub-rounded stones and pebbles	Possible natural layer - sterile. Fluvial/glacial deposit?	c.0.26m deep	07	05
07	Layer	Mid orange - grey	Loose – Firm gravelly sand with occasional inclusions of grey sand and clay	Occasional patches of sand or clay; frequent small-medium sub-rounded stones and pebbles	Natural	>0.06m deep	-	06
08	Layer	Mid brownish grey	Loose very slightly clayey sandy gravel	Frequent/replete with medium-large sub-rounded stones and brick fragments	Modern? build-up/levelling layer	c.0.18m deep	09	02
09	Layer	Mixed mid grey-orange	Loose very slightly clayey sand	Occasional small-medium sub-rounded stones; very occasional brick fragments	Probable levelling layer. Maybe the same as 04.	c.0.18m deep	06	08
10	Cut	Linear cut on a NNE-SSW alignment with steep sides. Not bottomed.			Cut for modern services.	c.1.3m wide; >0.8m deep	07	01

11	Fill	Fill of modern services	-	-	-	-
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Appendix 3: Report on the Ceramic Building Material

By Kathryn Brook

Introduction

Two fragments of ceramic building weighing 328 grams in total were submitted for examination. The fragments were examined visually. The resulting archive was then recorded using Lincolnshire codenames and complies with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001).

Condition

The material is mainly in a very abraded but stable condition.

The Ceramic Building Material

Only two fragments of building material were recovered from the site. An abraded fragment from a handmade brick of mid-18th to mid-19th century date was recovered from the backyard build up/levelling layer (02). The levelling layer (09) produced a second fragment from a brick in a similar fabric and of similar date to (02).

Summary and Recommendations

The group of ceramic building material recovered from this site is too small and abraded to be of use in site interpretation. The material should be retained for future analysis or use in a local type series.

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.

Archive Table

Site Code	Context	cname	Fabric	Frag	Weight (g)	Description
LMSC 16	2	BRK	coarse dull orange with rare iron & frequent crushed brick	1	140	abraded flake;handmade;mid 18 th to mid 19 th
LMSC 16	9	BRK	coarse dull orange with rare iron & frequent crushed brick, occasional gravel flint inclusions	1	187	abraded flake;handmade;mid 18 th to mid 19 th

Appendix 4: Oasis Form

OASIS ID: preconst1-275809

Project details

Project name	Extension to the Rear of 67 Main Street, Cosby
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an archaeological observation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology to the rear of 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire (NGR SP 54789 94896). The observation occurred on the 17th of November 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Pharmacy Services Group. The proposed development will comprise the construction of an extension to the rear of the existing property. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. Only a series of modern/post-medieval build-up/levelling and surface layers and some modern services were identified during the works.
Project dates	Start: 17-11-2016 End: 09-02-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	LMSC16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE BLABY COSBY Cosby Pharmacy, 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire
Postcode	LE9 1UW
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 54789 94896 52.548789584216 -1.191912046108 52 32 55 N 001 11 30 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	Donald Sutherland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Pharmacy Services Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Physical Archive ID	X.A116.2016
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A116.2016
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A116.2016
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Extension to the Rear of 67 Main Street, Cosby, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Observation Report
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