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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND AT THE REAR OF
THE FORMER BLACK HORSE PUBLIC HOUSE,
21, BOLTON LANE,
HOSE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

National Grid Reference: SK 7362 2916
Planning Reference: 13/00080/FUL
(Resubmission of 12/00582/FUL)
Accession Number: X.A129.2014

PREPARED FOR MR. MIKE HARMAN

By

Neville Hall MIFA

July 2014

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Summary

The archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential dwelling on land at the rear of the former Black Horse Public House, 21, Bolton Lane, Hose, Leicestershire was carried out at the development site by Neville Hall MIFA on the 28th, 29th and the 30th of April and on the 1st of May 2014.

This archaeological watching brief identified a simple deposit sequence over much of the monitored area, which consisted of a topsoil horizon which overlay a natural horizon of boulder clays. This deposit sequence was recorded within three Representative Sections. Both during the initial phase of ground reduction and also during the subsequent foundation trench excavations, various remains mostly consisting of brick and concrete foundations of a former bowling alley to the Black House Public House within the south-western area of the site were identified overlying the natural horizon of boulder clays; a building, which was also featured on the Ordnance Survey map of 1930.

This archaeological watching brief did not identify any archaeological activity or finds,

No archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds associated with the late Anglo-Saxon, medieval or post-medieval settlements of Hose were identified.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by Mr. Mike Harman to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at the rear of the former Black Horse Public House, 21, Bolton Lane, Hose, Leicestershire. The archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of a new residential dwelling took place at the development site on the 28th, 29th and the 30th of April and on the 1st of May 2014.
- 1.2 The work was carried out according to the requirements of an archaeological condition, which was attached to the granting of planning consent for this development by Melton Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority, and acting on the advice of Mr. Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council in his capacity as archaeological advisor on planning issues to the local planning authority. This is in accordance with the principles established in *NPPF: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department of Culture, Media and Sport, 2010), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (IFA, 2008).
- 1.3 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the client, Mr Richard Clark, the Planning Department of Melton Borough Council, the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) and with the Leicestershire Museums Service, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The development site is situated on land off the south-western frontage of Bolton Lane and to the rear of the former Black Horse Public House, at National Grid Reference SK 7362 2916, and at a height of approximately 50m AOD. The development site is situated within the historic core of the modern village of Hose. The settlement of Hose is located approximately 9 kilometres to the north of Melton Mowbray and in the modern civil parish of Clawson, Hose and Harby, administrative district of Melton Borough, county of Leicestershire [**Figures 1 and 2**].
- 2.2 The development site is located within the Vale of Belvoir and within an undulating upland area of the Leicestershire Wolds. The development site is situated on calcareous and non calcareous clayey and fine loamy or fine silty soils over clayey soils of the Evesham 2 Series, which have developed on Lower Lias limestones of the Lower Jurassic [Soil Survey, 1983; BGS, 2003].

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 An application for planning consent (Planning Reference: 13/00080/FUL (resubmission of 12/00582/FUL)) for the proposed construction of a new residential dwelling on land to the rear of the former Black Horse Public House, 21, Bolton Lane, Hose, Leicestershire has been submitted to and granted consent by Melton Borough Council, the Local Planning Authority. However, as the proposed new development was to be situated within an area of archaeological potential, an archaeological condition was attached to this planning consent, which stated that:

No development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

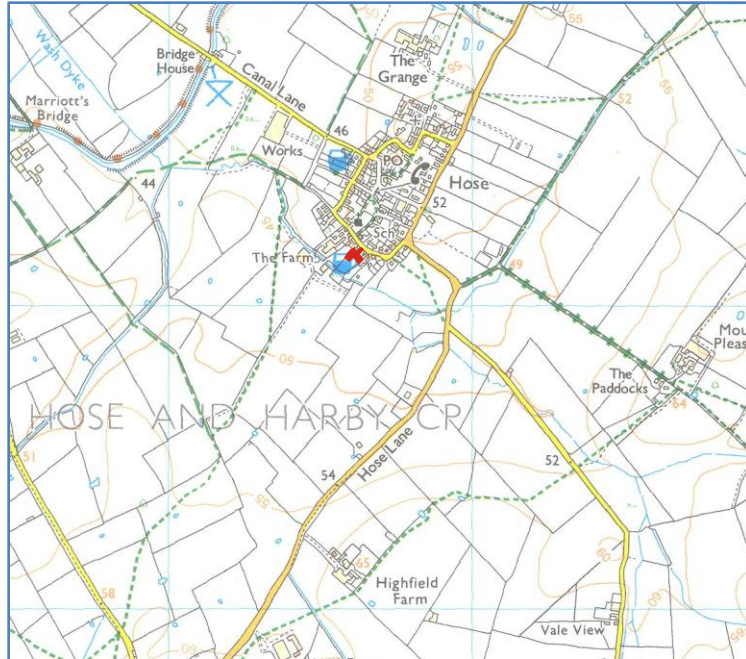


Figure 1: Site location at a scale of 1:25,000. The site is shown in red. (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

- 3.2 It was understood that the programme of archaeological works referred to in the above condition would comprise an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the groundworks pertaining to the construction of the new residential dwelling.
- 3.3 In response to this condition, Neville Hall MIFA was commissioned by the applicant to prepare a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological watching brief.
- 3.4 A Specification or a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological watching brief was duly submitted to and agreed by Mr Richard Clark, Principal Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council (on behalf of the Local Planning Authority) prior to the commencement of the archaeological site programme of works.

4. Aims and Objectives of the Archaeological Watching Brief

- 4.1 The aims of the project were the **continual** archaeological monitoring of the site groundworks during the construction stage of development, which comprised an initial phase of mechanical area ground reduction followed by the mechanical excavation of the foundations for the new residential dwelling.

- 4.2 The objectives of the project were:

To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the monitored area of the new residential dwelling;

To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered; and

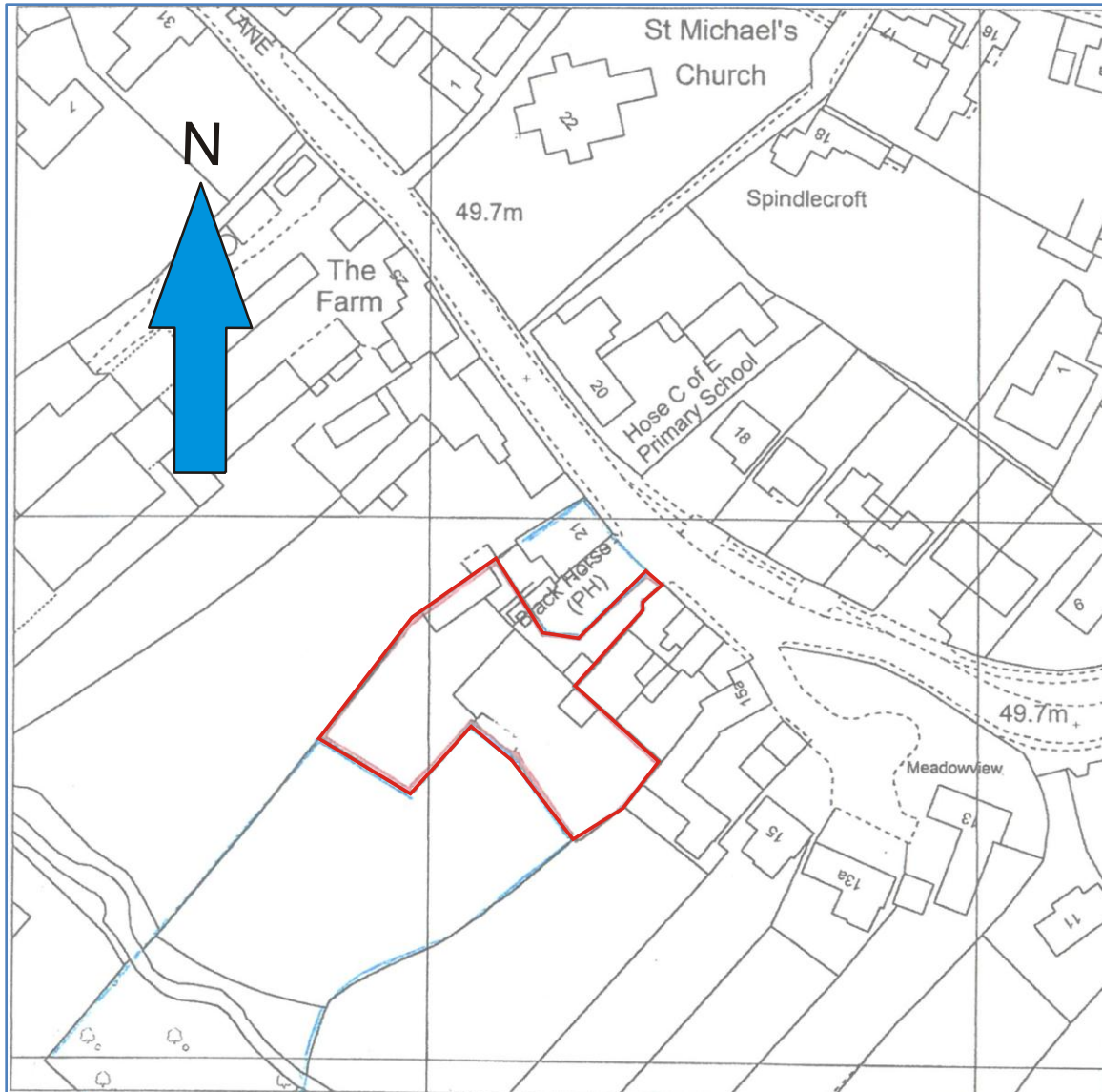


Figure 2: Site location at a scale of 1:2.500 (O.S. copyright licence number 100048723)

To allow the preservation by record of any encountered archaeological deposits.

- 4.3 The development site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, to the south of the parish church and within the historic core of the late Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlements of Hose. The specific objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to record any archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds associated with these settlements within the context of local and regional archaeological research frameworks in terms of late Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlements as detailed in The Archaeology of the East Midlands, An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda (2006).

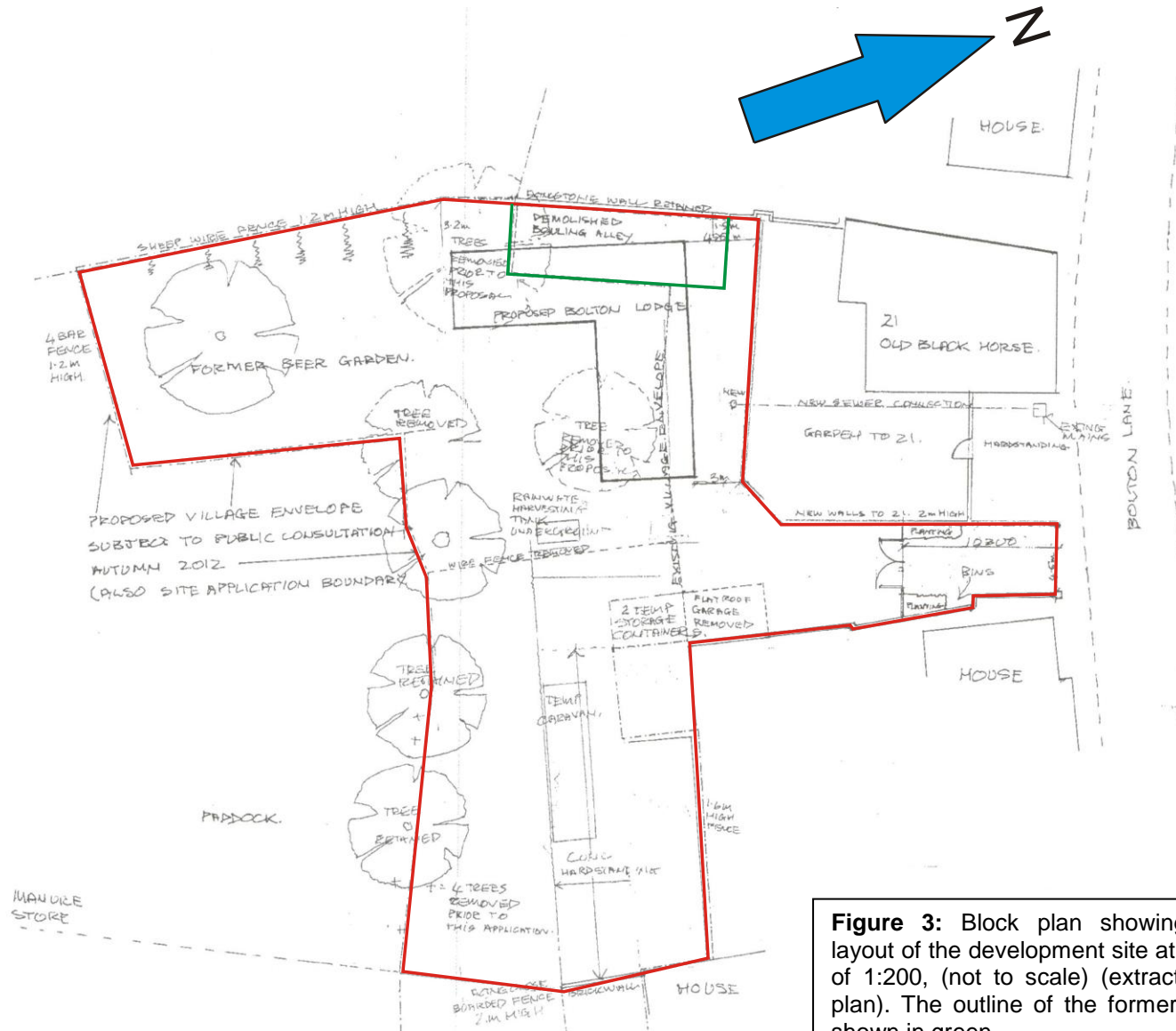


Figure 3: Block plan showing the proposed layout of the development site at an original scale of 1:200, (not to scale) (extract from Architects plan). The outline of the former bowling alley is shown in green

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1 Background research sources were consulted at the Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office and Local Studies Collection. A search of the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) was conducted within the vicinity of the development site.
- 5.2 No archaeological activity or finds pre-dating the Roman period have been identified within the study area.
- 5.3 Around a dozen sherds of Roman pottery were found in a small field to the south-west of Mount Pleasant in the 1980s (HERMLE7966). Twenty-seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the Grey House in Hose in the 1980s (HER MLE7967). Further sherds of Roman pottery were found to the west of Hose in 1996 along with fragments of undated brick and tile in an allotment (HER MLE8136).
- 5.4 At the Domesday Survey of AD1086, lands in Hose or *Hoches* or *Howes* in the Hundred of Framland were variously held by Robert of Tosny, Robert Usher and Earl Hugh. It is clear from place name evidence that the settlement of Hose has late Anglo-Saxon origins. The place name itself is derived from the Old English *hoh* or 'the hill spurs', thus having a topographical origin. Hose lies in the Vale of Belvoir below the Wolds which form a series of spurs to the south of the village. Later medieval documentary sources variously refer to this settlement as *Houwes* (AD1130); *Houus* (AD1209); *Hous* (AD1174); *Hoys* (AS1534) and as *Hoose* (AD1535) [Cox, 2002; Cox, 2005; Poulton-Smith, 2008; Morris, 1979].
- 5.5 The parish church, which is dedicated to St Michael and All Angels is situated on Church Close to the north of the development site and provided a focus for the medieval settlement of Hose (HER MLE8747). The church is Grade II* listed and consists of a west tower, nave, chancel, north and south aisles and north and south porches. The church is of 13th-15th century construction and was repaired in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The south arcade was rebuilt in 1887. The south porch is of 18th century date (HER MLE12808) [Pevsner & Williamson, 1998].
- 5.6 The remains of medieval settlement earthworks are situated to the north of the modern settlement (HER MLE3538). This may perhaps represent evidence of shrunken medieval settlement remains at Hose. These were the subject of a topographical survey in the 1980s, which identified traces of building foundations, a rectangular shaped mound that was thought to be a house platform or a 'pillow mound' and a holloway, which extended southwards from the site. A second holloway was also noted between this site and a moated site further to the north at The Grange. This moated site at The Grange consists of a rectangular shaped area with traces of building platforms that are enclosed by ditches and two ponds to form the moat (HER MLE3526). The site is scheduled as an ancient monument (SM No. 17024). There are medieval documentary references to a Croxton Abbey grange, which may well be this site.
- 5.7 Situated to the south-west of Mount Pleasant are several large degraded hollows of medieval origin, which may be the remains of possible fish ponds or of clay extraction pits (HER MLE3513). These were first noted in the early 1980s.
- 5.8 Millstone fragments of medieval date was found in a stream to the south-west of Mount Pleasant in 1984, suggesting the site of a possible contemporary windmill (HER MLE3511). This may be the site of 'Minholm', which in the medieval period was owned by Croxton Abbey. A small mound recorded adjacent to the basin in the stream where the millstone was found, may mark the site of this former windmill. A scatter of medieval pottery comprising at least fifty sherds were found close to the aforementioned findspot of

a millstone in the early 1980s to the south-west of Mount Pleasant. The pottery may support the theory that this was the former site of a medieval watermill (HER MLE3512).

- 5.9 Several sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were found in 1996 on an allotment to the west of Hose (HER MLE6977).
- 5.10 A small archaeological excavation in the early 1980s was undertaken at the garden of the Grey House in Hose (HER MLE3523). This identified over two thousand sherds of medieval pottery along with a number of archaeological features which consisted of a beam slot, postholes and some stone foundations. This was interpreted as being the site of an early medieval manor house.
- 5.11 A fishpond of probable post-medieval date is situated to the north of The Grange (HER MLE3525). Associated earthworks adjacent to this feature were surveyed in the 1980s.
- 5.12 There are several Grade II listed buildings and structures within the study area. These comprise: 10, Chapel Lane, an 18th century cottage with 20th century alterations (HER MLE2810); an attached iron pump to the farmhouse at 25, Bolton Lane, dated to 1813 (HER MLE12815); the farmhouse at 25, Bolton Lane, a late 18th-early 19th century farmhouse with 20th century alterations (HER MLE12814); Grange Farmhouse, Harby Lane, a late 18th century farmhouse with 19th and 20th century alterations (HER MLE12811) and Lion House, 5, Church Close, a late 18th or early 19th century house with later 19th and 20th century additions and alterations (HER MLE12809). Adjacent to the development site is the Grade II listed Old Farmhouse at 23, Bolton Lane (HER MLE12807). This is a former farmhouse of early 18th century date, which was extended in the late 18th century and also has 19th and 20th century alterations (HER MLE12807).
- 5.13 A farmstead of late post-medieval to modern date is situated at Holly Tree Farm, 51, Bolton Lane (HER ME20909). It is featured on the enclosure map of 1790, which show a long range of outbuildings that had been demolished by the late 19th century, by which time further barns had been constructed on the site. A barn to the north of the farmhouse is the only older barn on the site to have survived demolition. An archaeological watching brief here in 2013 recorded the farmhouse following the demolition of an extension. A backfilled cellar underneath the farmhouse was also noted under the rear part of the farmhouse.
- 5.14 Copies of early edition Ordnance Survey (O.S.) maps of the area of the development site were obtained from the Leicestershire and Rutland Record Office. The earliest map consulted was the enclosure map for the parish of Hose of 1790 (Archive ref: PP370). This shows the land whole land plot in which the development site is situated as fronting onto the south-western side of Bolton Lane. The boundaries of this whole plot are more or less the same as at present. On this lane frontage are two cottages. To the south, and within a small enclosure, is the first of these cottages with an outbuilding to the rear. To the north-west and occupying the remainder of the area of this land plot is the second cottage fronting onto the land also with an outbuilding to its rear. The remainder of this land plot comprises an open space with the Dam Dyke, a brook at the south-western rear.
- 5.15 The 1930 Edition 25 inch to one mile scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map shows radical change to the layout of the land plot as a whole. The present boundaries of this development site have become established by this time. The area within this development site is then occupied by an orchard, and two rear outbuildings. The whole rear area of this land plot remains as an open space. However, along the south-western frontage of Bolton Lane are now at least four residential dwellings all with rear outbuildings.

- 5.16 The 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1973 shows the current layout of the development site along with the remainder of the area of this land plot.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks pertaining to the construction of the new residential dwelling comprising an initial phase of area mechanical ground reduction followed by the mechanical excavation of the foundations was undertaken by Neville Hall MIFA on the 28th, 29th and on the 30th of April and on the 1st of May 2014. The mechanical excavations were undertaken by a JCB mechanical excavator which was fitted with 0.60m and 1.0m wide toothless buckets.
- 6.2 Where necessary, surfaces were hand cleaned for examination and recording, and the deposits observed were recorded on standard *pro-forma* context recording sheets. A plan of the groundworks at a scale of 1:50 was compiled on site of the monitored groundworks. This plan is reproduced at a scale of 1:100 on **Figure 4**. Three sections at a scale of 1:20 [designated as **Representative Sections 1-3**] were also compiled on site of the recorded site deposit sequence exposed. These are reproduced at this same scale on **Figure 4**. A complimentary digital colour photographic record was also maintained which is reproduced here in **Appendix 1, Plates 1-18**. A list of contexts recorded is reproduced in **Appendix 2**.
- 6.3 All work was carried out according to the agreed Specification and to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs.

7. Results [Figure4; Appendix 1, Plates 1-18]

7.1 The Ground Reduction

- 7.1.1 The first phase of the monitored site groundworks programme consisted of the mechanical reduction under archaeological supervision of an area of the development site, which was slightly larger than the new build footprint. The area of this ground reduction had already been marked out prior to arrival [**Plate 1**]. The mechanical excavations were undertaken by a JCB mechanical excavator, which was fitted with a 1.0m wide toothless bucket.
- 7.1.2 The objective of this initial phase of the groundworks programme was to create a level terrace or building platform for the new build, through which the subsequent building foundations could be excavated from these reduced levels. The area of ground reduction was 'L'-shaped and its full extent is shown on **Figure 4**. The ground reduction reached a maximum depth of 0.60m below ground levels to the north and north-east and was graded and decreased in level to the south and south-west to reflect the differing ground levels [**Plates 2 and 4-8**]. This ground reduction identified a topsoil horizon (**001**), which overlay a natural horizon of boulder clays (**002**). This deposit sequence was recorded in the area of ground reduction within **Representative Section 1 [Plate 3]**. All newly exposed surfaces were walked over and were rapidly scanned for any surface finds. Occasional finds of sherds of 20th century pottery were noted, but were not retained.
- 7.1.3 Where the ground reduction extended to deeper levels, this reached the lower levels of the topsoil horizon (**001**) and in places the upper levels of the underlying natural horizon of boulder clays (**002**). Correspondingly, to the south and south where the ground reduction achieved lower levels, the excavations were confined to within the topsoil horizon (**001**). At the western and south-western ends of the site, various modern brick foundations on a concrete base were removed. These foundations had originated from a

former bowling alley associated with the former Black House public house. These foundations were also from outbuildings previously noted on an Ordnance Survey map of 1930. The topsoil horizon (001) in addition contained a significant amount of demolition material including brick and roof tile within its make-up, which had originated from the demolition of this former building on the site.

7.2 The Excavation of the Foundations

- 7.2.1 Following the completion of this area ground reduction, the foundations for the new build were then set out. The foundation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision to varying lengths, to widths of between 0.50m-0.80m and to depths of 1.10m-1.70m below ground levels. The foundations excavations were also stepped at various points [**Plates 9-13 and 15-18**]. Over most of the monitored area, these excavations extended through the topsoil horizon (001) and into the underlying natural horizon of boulder clays (002). This same deposit sequence was recorded within a further two sections, which were designated as **Representative Sections 2 and 3** [**Plate 14**].
- 7.2.2 The excavation of the foundation trenches in the south-western portion of the area of new build revealed a large area of modern disturbance which included further brick and concrete foundations of the former bowling alley along with modern deeper excavations associated with the underpinning of this building and miscellaneous other disturbances which were associated with the construction of this former building along with a large tree throw. These disturbances were cut into the underlying natural horizon of boulder clays (002).

8. Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 All of the groundworks pertaining to this development which comprised an initial phase of area ground reduction followed by the excavation of the foundations for the new build were continually monitored and recorded over a four day period.
- 8.2 This archaeological watching brief identified a simple deposit sequence over much of the monitored area, which consisted of a topsoil horizon which overlay a natural horizon of boulder clays. This deposit sequence was recorded within three Representative Sections. Both during the initial phase of ground reduction and also during the subsequent foundation trench excavations, various remains mostly consisting of brick and concrete foundations of a former bowling alley to the Black House Public House within the south-western area of the site were identified overlying the natural horizon of boulder clays; a building, which was also featured on the Ordnance Survey map of 1930.
- 8.3 This archaeological watching brief did not identify any archaeological activity or finds,
- 8.4 No archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds associated with the late Anglo-Saxon, medieval or post-medieval settlements of Hose were identified.

9. Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Thanks are gratefully extended to Mr. Mike Harman for commissioning this work. Thanks are also extended to Mr Richard Clark, Senior Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council, and to the staff of the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record, and the Leicestershire and Rutland Archives for their kind assistance.

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Extract from the 1:2,500 scale Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map of 1973, map sheet no. SK 7229-7329.

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Ordnance Survey, (2006), 1:25,000 scale map, *Loughborough, Melton Mowbray & Syston, Explorer Sheet No. 246.*

Soil Survey of England & Wales, (1983), *Soils of South Eastern England, Sheet 6, 1:250,000 scale.*

Appendix 1: Plates

The Ground Reduction



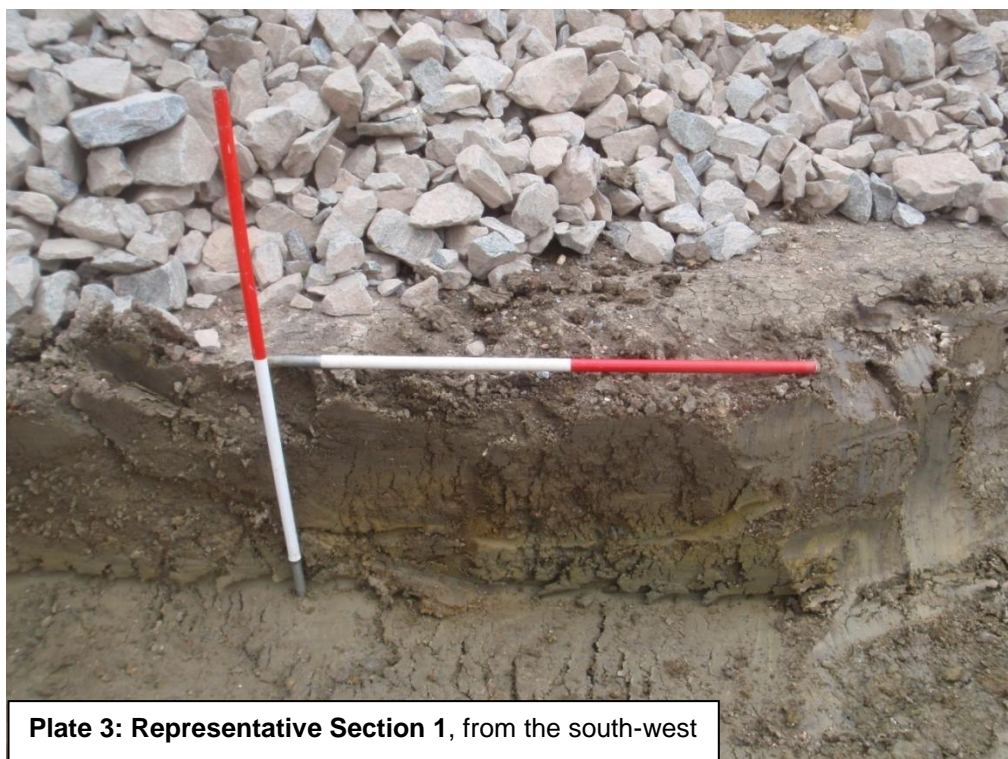


Plate 3: Representative Section 1, from the south-west



Plate 4: Ground reduction, from the east



Plate 5: Ground reduction, from the east



Plate 6: Ground reduction, from the east



Plate 7: Ground reduction, from the south-east



Plate 8: Ground reduction, from the east

The Excavation of the Foundations



Plate 11: Excavation of the foundations, from the east



Plate 12: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 13: Excavation of the foundations, from the east

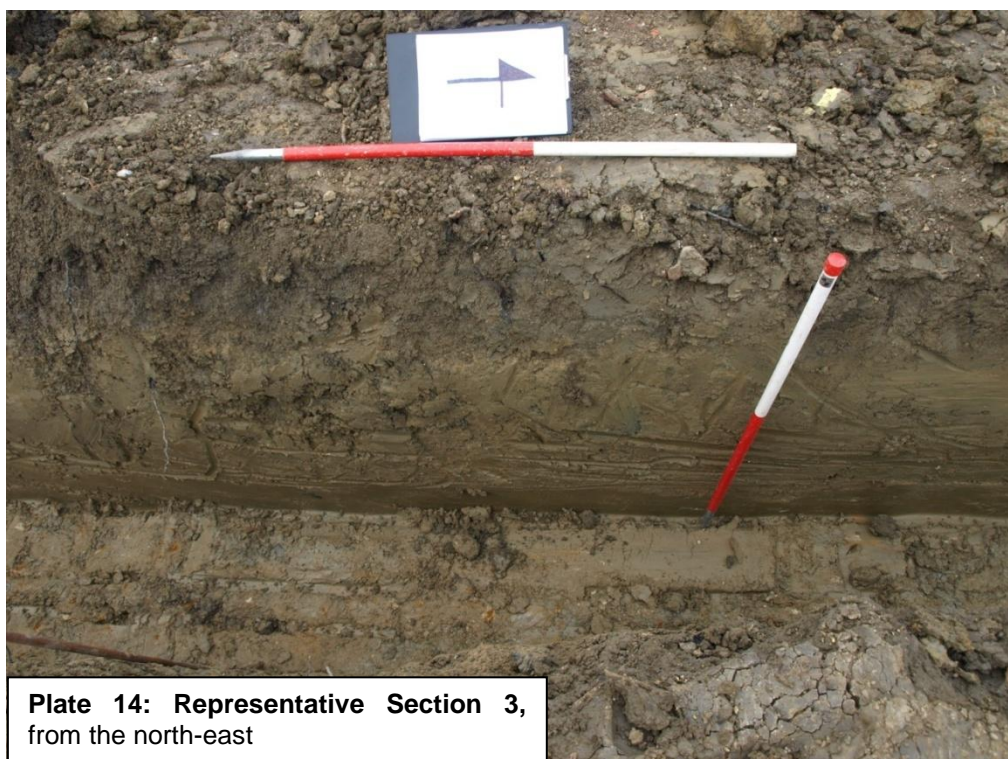


Plate 14: Representative Section 3, from the north-east



Plate 15: Excavation of the foundations, from the west



Plate 16: Excavated foundations, from the west



Plate 17: Excavated foundations, from the west



Plate 18: Excavated foundations, from the north

Appendix 2: List of Contexts

- 001** Topsoil horizon. Soft, light orange brown clayey silt with small-medium brick/tile fragments 10%, small-medium angular stones & flint fragments 2%, frequent small fragments of charcoal & flecking. Above **(002)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-3**. Depth - 0.40m.
- 002** Natural horizon of boulder clay. Soft, light grey brown clayey silt with light orange brown mottling, light blue grey gleying and spreads of light orange brown sand and of spreads of light orange brown ferrous salts. Occasional small fragments of chalk & flecking. Below **(001)**. Recorded within **Representative Sections 1-3**. Depth - >0.80m.

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Sheet

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Land at the Rear of The Black Horse Public House, 21, Bolton Lane, Hose, Leicestershire - Neville Hall MIFA

OASIS ID - nevilleh1-184222

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View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Neville Hall MIFA	nevillehallmifa@googlemail.com	12 July 2014

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

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