

The Square, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

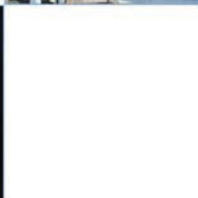
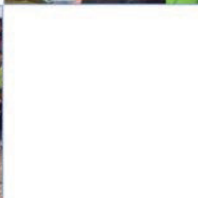
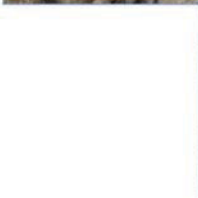
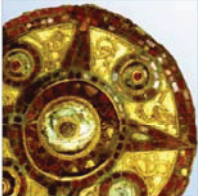
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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

The Square, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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National Grid Reference (NGR): SP 458612 295489

AOC Project No: 32417

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Non-Technical Summary

On 23rd May 2013 and between 22nd and 26th July 2013 AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief on land at the former King William IV public house, The Square, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire. The site is located at National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 458612 295489. The watching brief was commissioned by Falcon Group and was undertaken as a condition of planning permission.

The watching brief recorded a sequence of natural clays covered by topsoil which in places was in turn covered by 19th or 20th century made ground. This was covered by tarmac, concrete or imported topsoil. Foundations of a modern wall at the north east of the site were observed. Pottery dating to the late 19th or early 20th century was recovered from the made ground.

No further work is recommended. Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society' and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, and digital records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Collections Resource Centre.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during site investigation works and groundworks for the development of land at The Square, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (NGR SP 458612 295489; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The plot is an irregular shape and measures approximately 1535sq m. It is bound by Church Street to the south and Central Street/Main Street to the west and neighbouring properties to the north and east (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The scheme of works involves single storey side extensions, including new entrance doors and access ramp. The initial phase involved site investigation works across the site and the second phase involved the main groundworks, including electric duct work.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Blaby District Council. Archaeological advice is provided by Teresa Hawtin, Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.
- 2.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is situated within the historic settlement core of Countesthorpe.
- 2.2 The site is located within the Countesthorpe Conservation Area, as designated by Blaby District Council. The town has 12 listed buildings. There are no Scheduled Monuments within the town.
- 2.3 A planning application (Ref: 12/0763/1/PX) for the development has been submitted and approved subject to condition. The archaeological condition covers the development groundworks but the site investigation works were also archaeologically monitored at the request of the developer. Following advice from the archaeological advisor, Teresa Hawtin, the following conditions were placed on the application as stated below:
 - *No demolition/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.*
 - *No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

Reason: *To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording*

- 2.4 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by Falcon Group to carry out an archaeological watching brief in a response to a Brief for Archaeological Work produced by Teresa Hawtin, Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council, in March 2011. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), detailing the methodology that would be used for the watching brief and including some background history of the site, was produced by Tara Fidler of AOC Archaeology (AOC 2013). This report presents the results of those investigations.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The geological mapping suggests the town of Countesthorpe lies on a bedrock of Blue Lias Formation and Charmouth Mudstone Formation, overlain with superficial deposits of mid Pleistocene till. The Sedimentary Bedrock was formed approximately 190 to 210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. The local environment was previously dominated by shallow lime-mud seas (BGS 2013).

3.2 The site is approximately 89-90m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The following background material has been extracted from the Written Scheme of Investigation for the site (AOC 2013).

Prehistoric (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2 Excavation work in 2010 at Ladbroke Grove, c.380m north of the site, revealed a sub-circular posthole/ pit, with a piece of *in-situ* worked stone and a small quantity of flint. It was dated to the Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic periods (MLE19035). There is further evidence of prehistoric findspots within Countesthorpe including a flint scraper and serrated blade 42 Station Road, c.300m west of the site (MLE6256)

4.3 Also at Ladbroke Grove, c.380m north of the site, there was evidence of Early Bronze Age activity in the form of three heavily truncated cremation burials, buried in collared urns. Nine small features containing charcoal were noted in the vicinity as well as a larger pit and a ditch (MLE19036).

4.4 There is possible Iron Age evidence recorded from a geophysical survey in 2010 at Willoughby Road c.1.14km southwest of the site, which identified a series of curvilinear and rectangular enclosures and probable associated ditches. There is also evidence for circular ditches inside the enclosures (possibly roundhouses) (MLE19061). However, this maybe dated to the Roman or early medieval periods.

Roman (c.AD 43 – 410)

4.5 The only evidence of Roman activity within Countesthorpe is the findspot of an openwork ornament, which is possibly a buckle plate. It was found in a field east of Leicester Road, c.548m northeast of the site. This was found with two other metal objects (one indexed at MLE6619) in 1989 by a metal detectorist (MLE7682).

Early Medieval (c.AD 410 – 1066) and Medieval (c.AD 1066 – 1485)

4.6 The proposed development site is situated within the historic settlement core of Countesthorpe (MLE9098). Located near Main Street, to the south of the site, excavations have recorded evidence of medieval activity in the form of boundary ditches and other features indicating domestic activity within the area (MLE16240). The potential for archaeology to be present is high, due to the lack of development through the 19th and 20th centuries.

4.7 The villages of Leicestershire, and the wider English Central Midlands, appear to have evolved alongside their open field systems, during the later 1st millennium AD. The presence of buried archaeology within the proposed development area can therefore be expected, due to extensive period of development from the first villages (Hawtin 2013).

4.8 There is evidence of early medieval activity including a findspot of a 33 numia piece of the emperor Justinian, 527-565 AD, struck at Alexandria, at 13 Station Road, c.300m west of the site (MLE6083).

4.9 It is perceived that the three circular mounds identified from aerial photographs near Cosby Road, were early medieval in date or possibly later (MLE54). However, they were destroyed before February 1969.

4.10 There is a chapel documented at Countesthorpe in the 12th century, which possibly refers to the present St Andrew's Church, although there are no 12th century structural elements remaining. This is located c.480m west of the proposed site.

4.11 In 1989, a metal detectorist discovered a curved arm from a copper alloy buckle, which possibly dates to the late medieval period. It was found along with two other metal objects (one indexed at MLE7682) in a field east of Leicester Road, c.548m northeast of the site (MLE6619).

Post-Medieval (c.AD 1485 - Modern)

4.12 St Andrew's Church has a 15th century west tower, but the aisled nave and the chancel were rebuilt entirely in 1841 by H Goddard. The interior was remodelled in 1907 by TP Brown. It is a Grade II listed building.

4.13 There is documented evidence for the Grade II Listed Jettied House dating to 1603. However, the standing building dates to the early 18th century (MLE11235). There is also a timber framed house at 10 Orchard Lane with a 16th/17th century structure, which is Grade II listed (MLE12249).

4.14 There are a total of 12 listed buildings within the town of Countesthorpe, predominantly constructed in 18th-20th centuries. This includes the farmhouse at 4 Green Lane, thought to be early 19th century but referred to in a document dating from 1751 (MLE12241); a woolmakers workshop on Wigston Street (MLE11236) and the Old School House which was built in 1873/4 and further developed in 1913. The original part still contains features such as Victorian Neo-Gothic doors and boiler stoke holes. The later extension has a bell tower (MLE15456).

4.15 In 1863, a Baptist Chapel was built, less than 50m southeast of the proposed site. The chapel was constructed of brick with a Welsh slate roof. It has a pedimented gable, of two storeys and three bays articulated by blank arcading with slim pilasters. The building is still in use and is Grade II listed. There are several houses in close proximity constructed with the same materials, which are also Grade II listed. This includes the house on 2 Main Street (MLE12246) and the cottages on 1-7 Church Street (MLE12238).

4.16 In the town of Countesthorpe, eleven cottage homes were constructed in 1884 to the design of the architect I Baradale. They were built by the Leicester Poor Law Authority to accommodate the children of the paupers who lived in the workhouse. The buildings included a school, an infirmary, an isolation ward, workshops, a laundry and swimming baths. These were converted to private homes in the 1970s and are now Grade II listed.

5 Aims of the Investigation

5.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:

- To record any archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any remains encountered.
- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To confirm the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To enable the archaeology advisor to Blaby District Council to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.

5.2 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

6 Methodology

- 6.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2013). All work was carried out in accordance with national guidelines (IfA 2008, IfA 2010).
- 6.2 The watching brief initially monitored the excavation of ground investigation works involving 15 test pits and two boreholes. Subsequent work involved observing the removal of modern surfaces to the north of the existing structure where an extension to the building was to be built. A three sided foundation trench was dug for this extension. Two further pits dug through the floor of the existing building, which will hold roof supports, were also monitored.
- 6.3 Prior to commencement of work, a unique accession number for the project (X.A56.2013) was issued by Leicestershire County Council. This was retained as the site identifier for the watching brief.
- 6.4 The archaeological watching brief on the site investigation works was undertaken on 23rd May 2013 and the work associated with the extension at the north of the building was undertaken from 22nd to 26th July 2013.
- 6.5 The archaeological watching brief was conducted by Chris Clarke and John Winfer under the overall management of Paul Mason, Project Manager.

7 Results

7.1 Ground Investigation Works

The monitored ground investigation works involved the excavation of ten test pits outside of the structure, five in the interior and two boreholes to the north.

Test Pit 1

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(101)	Made ground, firm black silt clay
0.22	(102)	Backfill, soft grey sandy clay
0.22	(103)	20 th century foundations
0.22	(104)	Made ground, dark brown sandy clay
0.42	(105)	Soil horizon, dark grey silty clay
0.67	(106)	Cut of wall foundation trench

- 7.1.1 TP 1 was located at the very south east of the site. It was excavated to the north of a 20th century brick building. Dark grey silt clay soil horizon (105) lay under 0.20m of made ground (104). These were cut by foundations of the building to the south, 0.58m deep, which was backfilled by (102). All these contexts were covered by made ground (101).

Test Pit 2

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(201)	Made ground, firm grey sandy clay
0.36	(202)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay
0.86	(203)	20 th century foundations
0.36	(204)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.36	(205)	Soil horizon, dark brown silty clay
0.91	(206)	Natural subsoil, dark brown grey silt

		clay
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7.1.2 TP 2 was located to the north of TP 1. It was excavated to the east of the former public house. Dark brown grey silt clay subsoil (206) lay under 0.36m of dark brown silt clay soil horizon (205). These were cut by the foundation trench for the building to the west, 0.70m deep, which was backfilled with (202). All these contexts were covered by made ground (201).

Test Pit 3

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(301)	Backfill, grey clay silt
0.30	(302)	20 th century foundations
0	(303)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0	(304)	Topsoil, dark grey black clay silt
0.4	(305)	Soil horizon, dark brown clay sand
0.62	(306)	Natural, soft orange brown sandy clay

7.1.3 TP 3 was located to the north of TP 2. It was excavated to the east of the former public house. Soft orange brown sandy clay subsoil (306) underlay a dark brown clay sand soil horizon (305), 0.22m deep, which was covered by 0.40m of dark grey black clay silt topsoil (304). These were cut by the foundation trench for the building to the west, 0.7m deep, which was backfilled with (301).

Test Pit 4

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(401)	Tarmac
0.3	(402)	Made ground, dark grey silt, clinker
0	(403)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay
0.4	(404)	20 th century foundations
0	(405)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.62	(406)	Natural, firm dark brown silt clay

7.1.4 TP 4 was located at the very north of the former public house. Firm dark brown silt clay subsoil (401) underlay made ground (402). The subsoil was cut by foundation trench (405) up to a depth of 0.60m. This was backfilled with (403). Tarmac (401) covered this area 0.10m deep.



Plate 1: Ground Investigations Test Pit 4 looking south

Test Pit 5

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(501)	Tarmac
0.18	(502)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay
0.18	(503)	20 th century foundations
0.18	(504)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.18	(505)	Soil horizon, grey/dark brown silt clay
0.42	(506)	Natural, firm dark brown/grey silt clay

7.1.5 TP 5 was located to the north of the former public house, south west of TP 4. Firm dark brown/grey silt clay subsoil (506) was overlain by 0.24m of grey/dark brown silt clay soil horizon (505). These were cut by foundation trench (504) up to a depth of 0.45m. This was backfilled with (502) and (503). Tarmac (501) covered this area 0.18m deep.

Test Pit 6

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(601)	Tarmac
0.18	(602)	Made ground, soft dark grey sand
0.18	(603)	Backfill, grey sandy clay
0.18	(604)	20 th century foundations
0.18	(605)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.42	(606)	Soil horizon, dark grey sandy clay

7.1.6 TP 6 was located at the very north of the site. Dark grey sandy clay soil horizon (606) was cut by foundation trench (605) up to a depth of 0.40m. This was backfilled with (603). This activity was overlain by 0.16m of dark grey sandy made ground (602). Tarmac (601) covered the area 0.12m deep.

Test Pit 7

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(701)	Tarmac
0.2	(702)	Made ground, soft dark grey sand
0.36	(703)	Backfill, grey sandy clay
0.56	(704)	20 th century foundations
0.36	(705)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.36	(706)	Soil horizon, dark grey sandy clay

7.1.7 TP 7 was located at the west of the former public house. Dark grey sandy clay soil horizon (706) was cut by foundation trench (705) up to a depth of 0.7m. This was backfilled with (703) and (704). This activity was overlain by 0.16m of tarmac (702) and 0.2m of slabs and associated sand (701).

Test Pit 8

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(801)	Tarmac
0.1	(802)	Made ground, loose black clinker
0.28	(803)	Backfill, grey sandy clay
0.28	(804)	20 th century foundations
0.28	(805)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.28	(806)	Soil horizon, brown grey silt clay

7.1.8 TP 8 was located at the south of the site to the west of the former pub building. Brown grey silt clay (806) was cut by foundation trench (805) up to a depth of 0.60m. This was backfilled with (803) with brick foundation (804) visible at the very edge of the trench. This activity was overlain by 0.18m of made ground (802) and 0.10m of tarmac (801).

Test Pit 9

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(901)	Tarmac
0.13	(902)	Made ground, loose black clinker and bricks
0.13	(903)	19 th century foundations
0.28	(904)	Natural subsoil, orange brown sand with veins of grey clay

7.1.9 TP 9 was located at the south west of the site. Orange brown sandy natural subsoil (904) was overlain by 19th century foundations (903) and loose black clinker filled made ground (902). This activity was overlain by 0.13m of tarmac (901).



Plate 2: Ground Investigations Test Pit 9 looking south

Test Pit 10

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1001)	Tarmac
0.18	(1002)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay
0.56	(1003)	19 th century foundations
0.18	(1004)	Cut of 19 th century foundation trench
0.18	(1005)	Soil horizon, grey brown silt clay

7.1.10 TP 10 was located at the north west of the site. Grey brown silt clay soil horizon (1005) was cut by 19th century foundation trench (1004) which was backfilled with (1002). This was covered by 0.18m of tarmac (1001).

Test Pit A

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1101)	Concrete floor
0.26	(1102)	Backfill, dark brown grey silt clay
0.35	(1103)	20 th century foundations
0.26	(1104)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.26	(1105)	Soil horizon, dark grey/black clay silt

7.1.11 TP A was located inside of the north west of the former public house. Dark grey/black clay silt horizon (1105) was cut by the foundations of the building to the east, 0.80m deep. This was backfilled by (1102). The inside of the building was covered by 0.26m of concrete (1101).

Test Pit B

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1201)	Concrete floor
0.18	(1202)	Backfill, dark brown grey silt clay
0.92	(1203)	20 th century foundations
0.18	(1204)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.18	(1205)	Made ground, firm grey silt clay
0.43	(1206)	Soil horizon, black clay silt

7.1.12 TP B was located inside of the west of the former public house. Black clay silt horizon (1206) was covered by made ground (1205) which was 0.25m deep. These contexts were cut by the foundations of the building to the east 1.18m deep. This was backfilled by (1202). The inside of the building was covered by 0.18m of concrete (1201).

Test Pit C

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1301)	Concrete floor
0.25	(1302)	Backfill, dark brown grey silt clay
0.25	(1303)	20 th century foundations

0.25	(1304)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.25	(1305)	Made ground, firm brown grey silt clay
0.51	(1306)	Made ground, firm grey silt clay
0.81	(1307)	Soil horizon, dark grey black clay silt

7.1.13 TP C was located inside of the south west of the former public house. Dark grey/black clay silt horizon (1307) was covered by two phases of made ground (1306) and (1305). These were 0.30m and 0.26m deep respectively.



Plate 3: Ground Investigations Test Pit C looking east

7.1.14 These contexts were cut by the foundations of the building to the east 1.35m deep. This was backfilled by (1302). The inside of the building was covered by 0.25m of concrete (1301).

Test Pit D

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1401)	Concrete floor
0.15	(1402)	Backfill, firm grey sandy clay
0.6	(1403)	20 th century foundations
0.15	(1404)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.15	(1405)	Soil horizon, dark grey clay silt

7.1.15 TP D was located towards the north west of the inside of the building. Dark grey clay silt horizon (1405) was cut by the foundations of the building to the west 0.60m deep. This was backfilled by (1402). The inside of the building was covered by 0.15m of concrete (1301).

Test Pit E

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1501)	Concrete floor
0.18	(1502)	Backfill, dark grey silt clay
0.6	(1503)	20 th century foundations

0.18	(1504)	Cut of wall foundation trench
0.18	(1505)	Made ground, brown grey silt clay
0.73	(1506)	Soil horizon, soft dark grey clay silt

7.1.16 TP E was located towards the west of the inside of the building. Dark grey clay silt horizon (1506), which was over 0.30m deep, was covered by made ground (1505) that was 0.25m deep. These contexts were cut by the foundations of the building to the west 0.72m deep. This was backfilled by (1502). The inside of the building was covered by 0.18m of concrete (1501).



Plate 4: Ground Investigations Test Pit E looking east

Borehole 1

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1701)	Tarmac
0.2	(1702)	Made ground, dark brown grey silt clay
0.44	(1703)	Soil horizon, brown grey silt clay
0.61	(1704)	Soil horizon, hard orange brown sand
0.81	(1705)	Natural sub soil, hard dark brown clay
1.31	(1706)	Natural sub soil, dark grey clay

7.1.17 BH 1 was located at the north east of the site, where the extension to the main building was to be built. Natural clay subsoils (1706) and (1705) were overlain by soil horizons (1704) and (1703) which were 0.20m and 0.17m deep respectively. These were covered by 0.20m of made ground (1702). This area was under 0.20m of tarmac.



Plate 5: Ground Investigations core from Bore Hole 1 looking east

Borehole 2

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1601)	Tarmac
0.18	(1602)	Made ground, firm blue grey silt clay
0.48	(1603)	Soil horizon, grey brown silt clay
0.72	(1604)	Soil horizon, soft orange brown sand
1.12	(1605)	Natural sub soil, hard dark brown clay
1.64	(1606)	Natural sub soil, hard dark grey clay

7.1.18 BH 2 was located at the north of the site, to the west of BH1. Natural clay subsoil (1606) and (1605) were overlain by soil horizons (1604) and (1603) which were 0.40m and 0.23m deep respectively. These were covered by 0.30m of made ground (1602). This area was under 0.10m of tarmac (1601).

7.2 Reducing Ground and Digging of Foundation Trench at North of Site

7.2.1 Work was carried out at the north of the site to reduce the ground level by 0.50m and a foundation trench was dug for an extension to the current building up to 1.35m deep.



Plate 6: Northern side of foundation trench looking west

- 7.2.2 During these works it was evident that across much of the area made ground (3) was lying directly on top of natural soils as had been observed in TP 4. This made ground was more substantial at the very east of the site where it was up to 0.50m deep. A number of finds were recorded within this deposit including fragments of animal bone, clay tobacco pipe, iron, bottle glass and a number of pottery sherds. The pottery assemblage is largely made up of tablewares, typically transfer-printed wares, representing plates, cups and saucers while most of the glass bottle fragments are from beer bottles from local brewers. The assemblage has been dated to late 19th or early 20th century (Capon, Appendix B).

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(1)	Tarmac surface
0	(2)	Imported dark grey brown clay silt topsoil
0.1m - 0.15m	(3)	Made ground, dark grey silt clay, brick, concrete and late 19 th or early 20 th century pottery
0.6m	(6)	Original dark grey clay silt topsoil
0.6m - 0.85m	(7)	Grey clay with pockets of orange sand and gravel.
1.4m	(8)	Grey clay

Table of Stratigraphy

- 7.2.3 Two modern ceramic drains cut through the made ground/topsoil at the north of the site and were cut through by the foundation trench.
- 7.2.4 In the north east of the site the foundation of brick wall (4) ran for 4m aligned roughly north-south. This was a continuation of a site boundary that continues on to the north at a height 2.80m. The wall curved at its terminus at the south to the east and ran for a further 0.30m.
- 7.2.5 The west of the area was covered with tarmac (1) while to the east it was covered with an imported dark grey brown clay silt topsoil (2). The foundations of part of the former public house (4), which had been demolished since the groundworks had taken place, were evident directly to the north of the remaining standing structure.

7.3 Further Pits Inside Building

- 7.3.1 The excavation of two pits to hold roof supports were observed within the building. Both pits were approximately 1m² by 1.30m deep. Pit 1 revealed an internal brick foundation to the structure (13) at its north side while foundations were observed at the north and east of Pit 2. The stratigraphy in both pits was the same as the two pits were only 3.50m apart. It was made up of grey clay (17) covered by 0.45m of dark grey clay silt topsoil (16) which was in turn covered by 0.50m of made ground (15). These were cut by the foundations which were backfilled with (14). This was then covered by 0.10m of concrete (11) which made up the floor of the building. No archaeology was identified in either pit nor were any artefacts recovered.

Depth BGL (m)	Context Number	Description/Interpretation
0	(11)	Concrete surface
0.1	(12)	Cut of foundation trench
0.3m	(13)	20 th century foundations
0.1m	(14)	Backfill, dark grey clay silt
0.1	(15)	Made ground, dark grey silt clay, brick, concrete and modern pottery
0.6	(16)	Topsoil, dark grey clay silt
1.05	(17)	Natural sub soil, grey clay

Table of Stratigraphy



Plate 7: Pit 1 looking south

8 Finds

- 8.1 A small assemblage of late 19th/early 20th century pottery and glass was recovered during the course of the watching brief from the made ground (3). Occasional animal bone was also present. All items are of domestic use and are typical mass-produced items (Capon, Appendix B). Although this is a small assemblage of finds, its use lies in providing a late 19th-20th century date range for this material. Two bricks used in the building of the William IV public house have been reused from a farmhouse that previously stood on the site. They have the name John Gillam carved into them and are dated 1751.



Plate 8: Bricks reused from farmhouse previously on site 'John Gillam 1751'

- 8.2 No further work is recommended and the finds may be discarded after consultation with the receiving museum.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 During the course of the watching brief no archaeological features were identified. The base of a modern wall ran for 4m into the north of the site. This wall was still standing further to the north. The area to the north of the former public house building appears to have undergone some degree of landscaping works with all of the topsoil removed and replaced with made ground which was covered with tarmac and topsoil. At the very south west of the site the topsoil also seems to have been removed and made ground laid. The southern part of the area on which the William IV public house was constructed was also built up.
- 9.2 These sequences provide a limited insight into the general development of this area in the modern period.
- 9.3 A small assemblage of late 19th to early 20th century pottery and glass was recovered from the site. Occasional animal bone was also present. All items are of domestic use and are typical mass-produced. All items came from a single dumped deposit (3).

10 Publication and Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Due to the nature of the project, publication will be restricted to a summary of results in 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Historical and Archaeological Society' and via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix C).
- 10.2 The archive, consisting of paper records, drawings, photographs, and digital records, will be deposited with Leicestershire Collections Resource Centre.

11 Bibliography

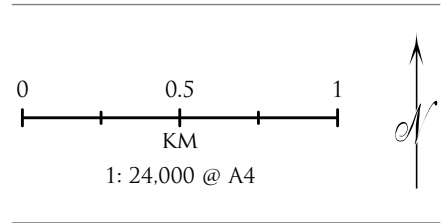
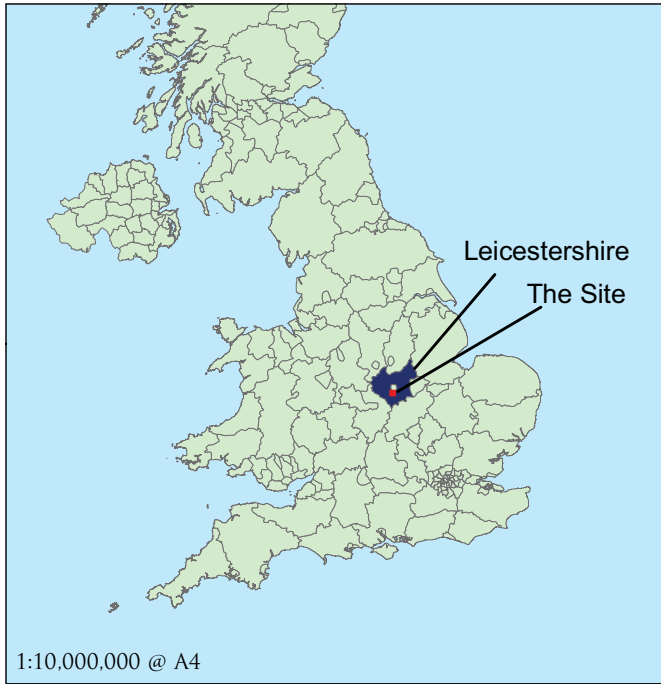
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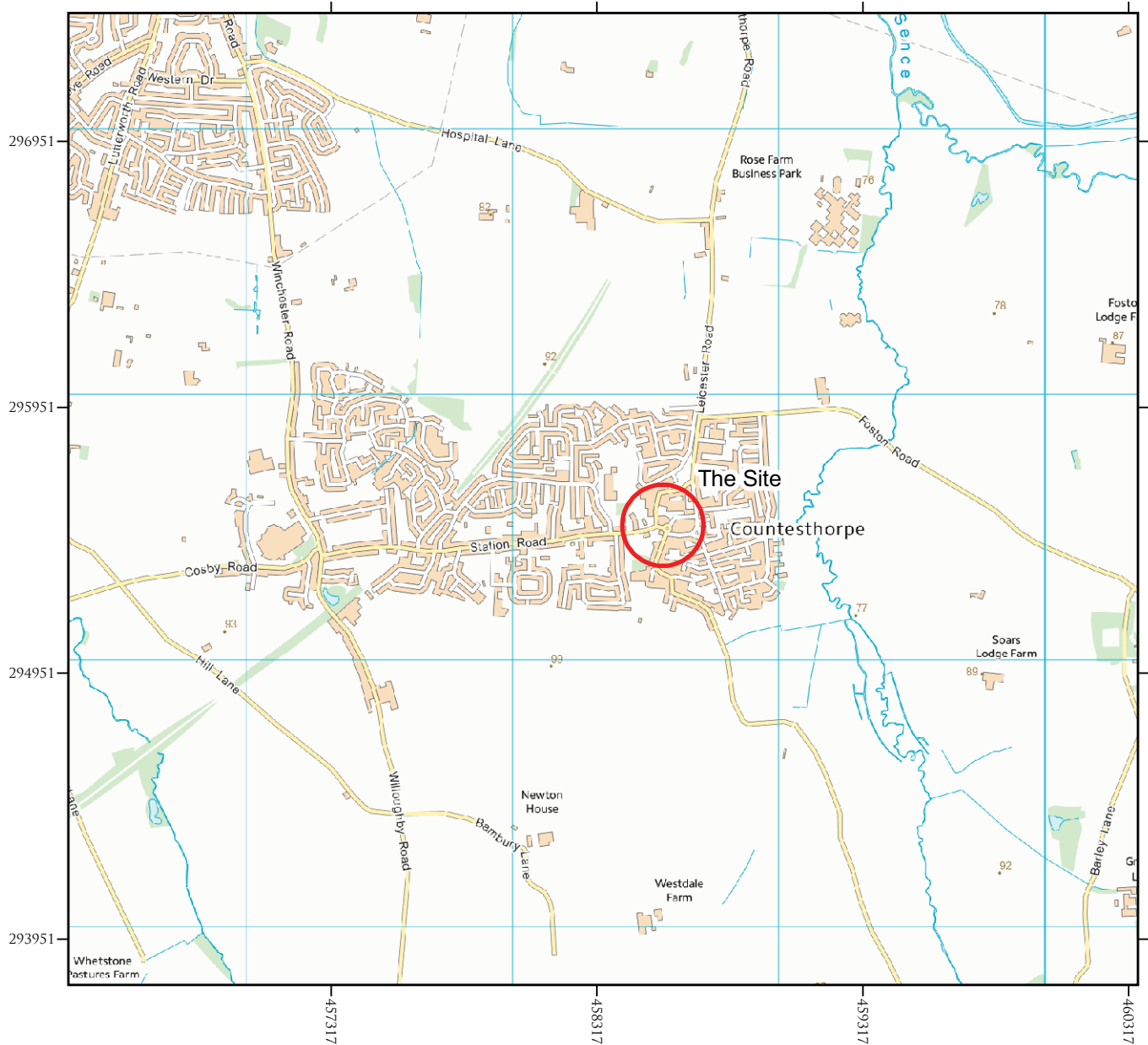
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Figure 1: Site Location



CONTAINS ORDNANCE SURVEY DATA © CROWN COPYRIGHT AND DATABASE RIGHT [2013]



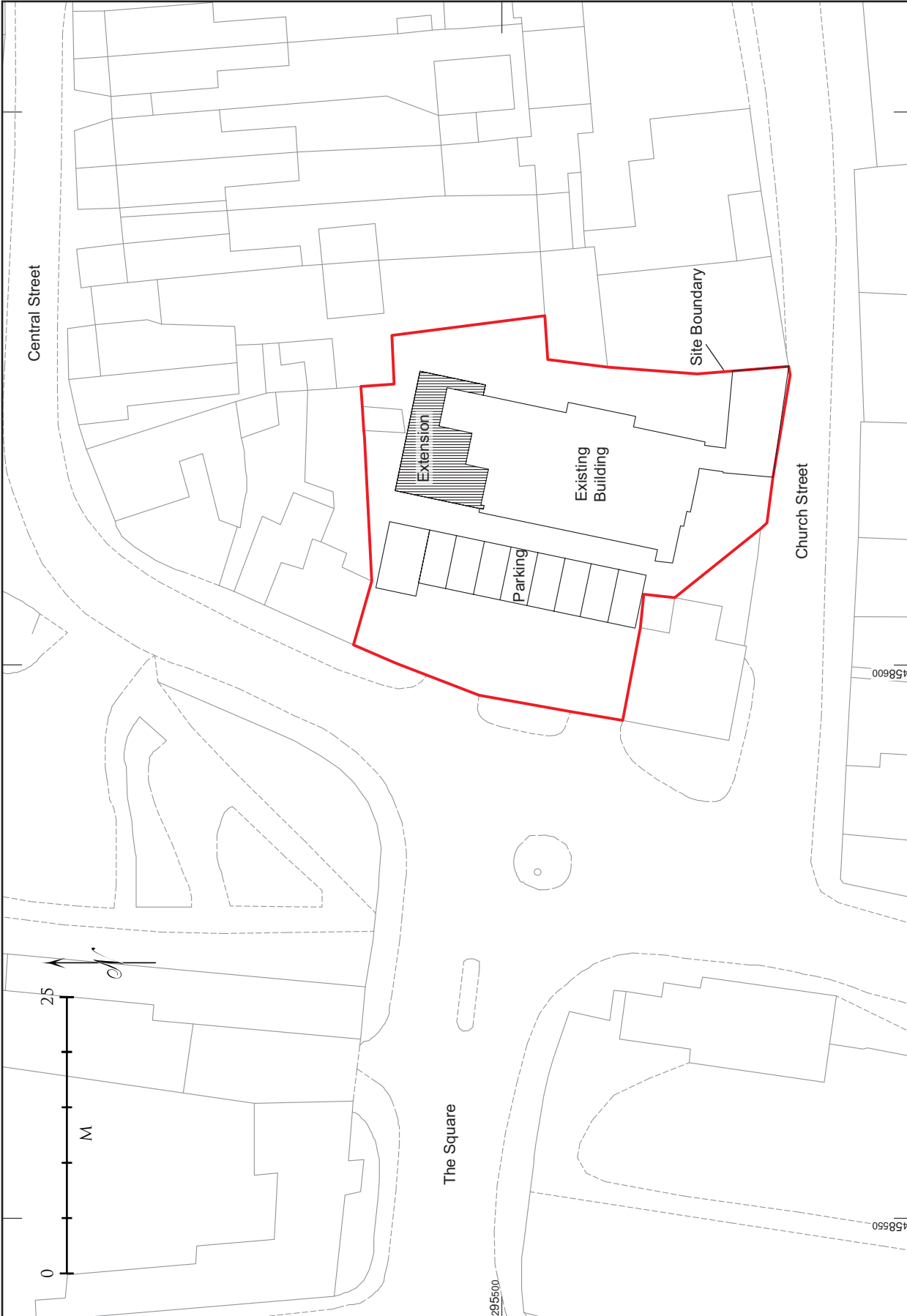


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

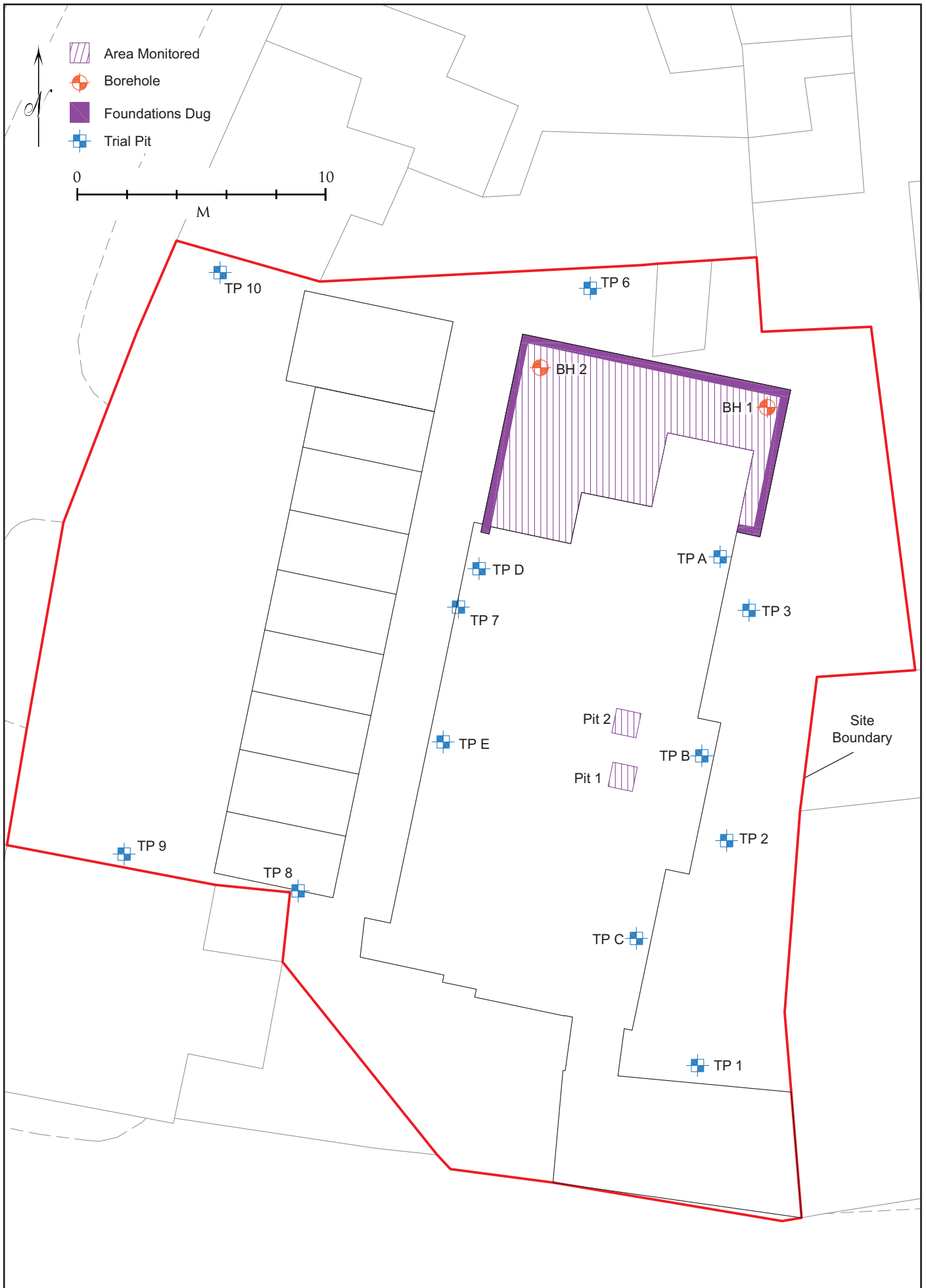


Figure 3: Location of Monitored Areas, Trial Pits and Boreholes



Appendices

Appendix A – Context Register

Context No.	Context Description	Length	Width	Depth
(1)	Tarmac surface	15m	10m	0.1m
(2)	Imported dark grey brown clay silt topsoil	15m	15m	0.15m
(3)	Made ground, dark grey silt clay, brick, concrete and modern pottery	20m	15m	0.7m
(4)	Brick foundations of former public house	24m	11.5m	1.3m
(5)	Brick wall foundation	4m	0.3m	0.4m
(6)	Original dark grey clay silt topsoil	4m	1m	0.5m
(7)	Grey clay with pockets of orange sand and gravel.	20m	15m	0.8m
(8)	Grey clay	20m	15m	Unknown
(11)	Concrete surface	1m	1m	0.1m
(12)	Cut of foundation trench	1m	0.2m	0.9m
(13)	20 th century foundations	1m	0.2m	0.9m
(14)	Backfill, dark grey clay silt	1m	0.2m	0.7m
(15)	Made ground, dark grey silt clay, brick, concrete and modern pottery	1m	0.8m	0.5m
(16)	Topsoil, dark grey clay silt	1m	0.8m	0.45m
(17)	Natural sub soil, grey clay	1m	1m	Unknown
(101)	Made ground, firm black silt clay	0.4m	0.3m	0.22m
(102)	Backfill, soft grey sandy clay	0.3m	0.15m	0.45m
(103)	20 th century foundations	0.4m	0.1m	0.58m
(104)	Made ground, dark brown sandy clay	0.4m	0.2m	0.2m
(105)	Soil horizon, dark grey silty clay	0.4m	0.3m	0.42m
(106)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.3m	0.15m	0.58m
(201)	Made ground, firm grey sandy clay	0.45m	0.45m	0.36m
(202)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay	0.4m	0.1m	0.5m
(203)	20 th century foundations	0.45m	0.1m	0.18m
(204)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.45m	0.1m	0.70m
(205)	Soil horizon, dark brown silty clay	0.45m	0.35m	0.55m
(206)	Natural subsoil, dark brown grey silt clay	0.45m	0.45m	0.2m
(301)	Backfill, grey clay silt	0.35m	0.25m	0.3m
(302)	20 th century foundations	0.35m	0.25m	0.55m
(303)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.35m	0.25m	0.7m
(304)	Topsoil, dark grey black clay silt	0.35m	0.3m	0.4m
(305)	Soil horizon, dark brown clay sand	0.35m	0.3m	0.22m
(306)	Natural, soft orange brown sandy clay	0.55m	0.35m	0.1m
(401)	Tarmac	0.5m	0.4m	0.1m
(402)	Made ground, dark grey silt, clinker	0.5m	0.4m	0.15m
(403)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay	0.4m	0.22m	0.34m
(404)	20 th century foundations	0.4m	0.22m	0.5m
(405)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.4m	0.22m	0.6m

(406)	Natural, firm dark brown silt clay	0.5m	0.4m	0.3m
(501)	Tarmac	0.5m	0.5m	0.18m
(502)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay	0.5m	0.25m	0.45m
(503)	20 th century foundations	0.5m	0.25m	0.45m
(504)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.5m	0.25m	0.45m
(505)	Soil horizon, grey/dark brown silt clay	0.5m	0.25m	0.24m
(506)	Natural, firm dark brown/grey silt clay	0.5m	0.5m	0.5m
(601)	Tarmac	0.5m	0.4m	0.12m
(602)	Made ground, soft dark grey sand	0.5m	0.4m	0.16m
(603)	Backfill, grey sandy clay	0.5m	0.1m	0.4m
(604)	20 th century foundations	0.5m	0.1m	0.68m
(605)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.5m	0.1m	0.4m
(606)	Soil horizon, dark grey sandy clay	0.5m	0.4m	0.4m
(701)	Tarmac	0.54m	0.35m	0.2m
(702)	Made ground, soft dark grey sand	0.54m	0.35m	0.16m
(703)	Backfill, grey sandy clay	0.35m	0.32m	0.2m
(704)	20 th century foundations	0.35m	0.32m	1.1m
(705)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.35m	0.32m	0.7m
(706)	Soil horizon, dark grey sandy clay	0.35m	0.22m	0.7m
(801)	Tarmac	0.35m	0.35m	0.1m
(802)	Made ground, loose black clinker	0.35m	0.35m	0.18m
(803)	Backfill, grey sandy clay	0.35m	0.15m	0.6m
(804)	20 th century foundations	0.35m	0.15m	0.85m
(805)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.35m	0.15m	0.6m
(806)	Soil horizon, brown grey silt clay	0.35m	0.2m	0.6m
(901)	Tarmac	0.5m	0.4m	0.13m
(902)	Made ground, loose black clinker and bricks	0.4m	0.25m	0.15m
(903)	19 th century foundations	0.4m	0.25m	0.28m
(904)	Natural subsoil, orange brown sand with veins of grey clay	0.5m	0.4m	0.5m
(1001)	Tarmac	0.4m	0.4m	0.18m
(1002)	Backfill, soft brown silt clay	0.4m	0.15m	0.38m
(1003)	19 th century foundations	0.4m	0.15m	0.7m
(1004)	Cut of 19 th century foundation trench	0.4m	0.15m	0.5m
(1005)	Soil horizon, grey brown silt clay	0.4m	0.4m	0.6m
(1101)	Concrete floor	0.6m	0.6m	0.26m
(1102)	Backfill, dark brown grey silt clay	0.6m	0.3m	0.38m
(1103)	20 th century foundations	0.6m	0.3m	0.8m
(1104)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.6m	0.3m	0.8m
(1105)	Soil horizon, dark grey black clay silt	0.6m	0.3m	0.54m
(1201)	Concrete floor	0.6m	0.6m	0.18m
(1202)	Backfill, dark brown grey silt clay	0.6m	0.25m	1m
(1203)	20 th century foundations	0.6m	0.13m	1.18m
(1204)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.6m	0.25m	1m

(1205)	Made ground, firm grey silt clay	0.6m	0.45m	0.25m
(1206)	Soil horizon, black clay silt	0.6m	0.45m	0.75m
(1301)	Concrete floor	0.6m	0.6m	0.25m
(1302)	Backfill, dark brown grey silt clay	0.6m	0.15m	1.1m
(1303)	20 th century foundations	0.6m	0.05m	1.35m
(1304)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.6m	0.15m	1.1m
(1305)	Made ground, firm brown grey silt clay	0.6m	0.45m	0.26m
(1306)	Made ground, firm grey silt clay	0.6m	0.45m	0.3m
(1307)	Soil horizon, dark grey black clay silt	0.6m	0.45m	0.54m
(1401)	Concrete floor	0.55m	0.55m	0.15m
(1402)	Backfill, firm grey sandy clay	0.55m	0.3m	0.6m
(1403)	20 th century foundations	0.55m	0.25m	0.75m
(1404)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.55m	0.3m	0.6m
(1405)	Soil horizon, dark grey clay silt	0.55m	0.25m	0.6m
(1501)	Concrete floor	0.6m	0.6m	0.18m
(1502)	Backfill, dark grey silt clay	0.6m	0.2m	0.55m
(1503)	20 th century foundations	0.55m	0.55m	0.72m
(1504)	Cut of wall foundation trench	0.6m	0.4m	0.25m
(1505)	Made ground, brown grey silt clay	0.6m	0.2m	0.55m
(1506)	Soil horizon, soft dark grey clay silt	0.6m	0.4m	0.3m
(1601)	Tarmac	0.1m	0.1m	0.18m
(1602)	Made ground, firm blue grey silt clay	0.1m	0.1m	0.3m
(1603)	Soil horizon, grey brown silt clay	0.1m	0.1m	0.24m
(1604)	Soil horizon, soft orange brown sand	0.1m	0.1m	0.4m
(1605)	Natural sub soil, hard dark brown clay	0.1m	0.1m	0.52m
(1606)	Natural sub soil, hard dark grey clay	0.1m	0.1m	2.5m+
(1701)	Tarmac	0.1m	0.1m	0.2m
(1702)	Made ground, dark brown grey silt clay	0.1m	0.1m	0.24m
(1703)	Soil horizon, brown grey silt clay	0.1m	0.1m	0.17m
(1704)	Soil horizon, hard orange brown sand	0.1m	0.1m	0.2m
(1705)	Natural sub soil, hard dark brown clay	0.1m	0.1m	0.5m
(1706)	Natural sub soil, dark grey clay	0.1m	0.1m	0.66m+

Appendix B – Specialist Finds Report

By Les Capon

Summary

A small assemblage of post-medieval and modern pottery and glass was recovered from the site. Occasional animal bone was also present. All items are of domestic use and are typical mass-produced items from the late 19th to early 20th century. All items came from a single dumped deposit (3)

Pottery

The pottery is largely tablewares, typically transfer-printed wares representing plates, cups and saucers. Soft-drinks bottles also dominate, from S. Quincy of Leicester. The assemblage dates to the late 19th or early 20th century. There is one heavier piece, from a large post-medieval redware bowl.

Form	Fabric	Quantity	Weight	Comments	Date
Saucer	ENPO	2	17g	No decoration	1745-1900
Cup	ENPO	1	2g	Pink rim	1745-1900
Plate	ENPO	1	7g	Burnt	1745-1900
Saucer	ENPO PNTD	1	2g	Polychrome painted, gold rim	1745-1900
Saucer	ENPO	1	37g	Pale blue glaze	1745-1900
Plate	TPW 2	2	7g	Floral pattern	1807-1900
Saucer	TPW 2	2	7g	Rim, willow pattern transfer	1807-1900
Plate	TPW 2	2	51g	Blue and white willow pattern	1807-1900
Plate	TPW 4	1	12g	Red floral pattern	1825-1900
Bowl	TPW 4	1	78g	Rim sherd, green floral transfer	1825-1900
Bowl	CHPO	1	5g	Painted	1580-1900
Bowl	PMR	1	65g	Thick body sherd, internal glaze	1580-1900
Bottle	ENGS	3	22g	Neck and bottle top	1700-1900
Bottle	ENGS	1	8g		1880-1900
Bottle	ENGS	1	32g	Base with pink glaze	1880-1900
Bottle	ENGS	1	8g	Sherd with partial name plate ...ORE...	1880-1900
Bottle	ENGS	1	3g	Salt glazed body sherd	1880-1900
Bottle	ENGS	6	218g	Base and body sherds, "LEICESTER" stamp	1880-1910
Bottle	ENGS	2	78g	Shoulder and neck	1880-1900
Bottle	ENGS	6	397g	Mineral water drinks bottle, "S. QUINCY LEICESTER" stamp.	1880-1910

				70mm d	
Bottle	ENGS	2	113g	Mineral water drinks bottle, "S. QUINCY LEICESTER" stamp. 81mm d	

Glass

Most of the bottles are beer bottles, advertising the contents with raised lettering and in stopper where present. Manufacturers from Northampton and Leicester are present. One bottle may be from Burton-on-Trent.

Form	Colour	Quantity	Weight	Comments
Beer bottle	Green	3	236g	Raised lettering "on TRENT" flat-topped punt, 76mm d bottle.
Beer bottle	Brown	10	651g	Raised lettering "NORTHAMPTON" on bottle, associated galvanised rubber stopper has stamp of Railiffe Brewers, Northampton. Rim, base and body sherds
Bottle	Clear	3	7g	
Cod bottle	Clear	1	13g	
Bottle	Green	1	11g	
Bottle	Olive	1	29g	Broken bottle top with broken galvanised rubber stopper
Bottle	Green	1	38g	Body shred with lettering "...STON..."
Bottle	Green	4	411g	Body and base sherds. Lettering of "LEICESTER"

Other Finds

Three animal bones were collected, all from food animals: a limb bone from a lamb or kid (4g), a juvenile cattle tibia (89g) and a section of a cattle rib (27g) sawn at both ends.

Two fragments of clay-tobacco pipe stems weigh 4g. These have narrow bores, and may indicate a 19th century date.

One hand-made iron nail with square shaft and chisel point was collected (34g). One iron handle from a milk churn or similar two-handled storage jar was collected, with looped ends (31g).

Conclusions/ Recommendations

No further work on the finds is recommended. These are common, every day items, and beyond proving a late 19th / early 20th century date, are of low cultural value. None of the finds are complete. The bottles indicate the source of favoured brewers and manufacturers, but these are not rare nor unexpected. The finds may be discarded after consultation with the receiving museum.

Appendix C – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-150194

Project details

Project name	The Square, Countersthorpe
Short description of the project	Watching brief and site investigation works. No significant archaeology found.
Project dates	Start: 10-05-2013 End: 26-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	X.A56.2013 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	32417 - Contracting Unit No.
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	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE BLABY COUNTTESTHORPE The Square

Postcode LE8 5RN

Study area 1535.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SP 458612 295849 51 -1 51 57 44 N 001 19 56 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 49.00m Max: 50.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator Leicestershire County Council

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor John Winfer

Type of sponsor/funding body developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Falcon Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Leicestershire Museums Services

Physical Archive ID X.A56.2013

Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Glass"

Physical Archive notes Held at AOC until transfer

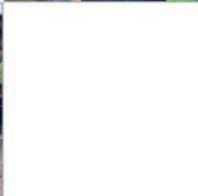
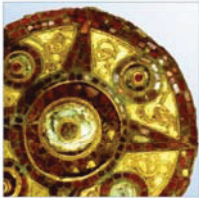
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Digital Archive ID	X.A56.2013
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Digital Archive notes	Held at AOC until transfer
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire Museums Service
Paper Archive ID	X.A56.2013
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Glass","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Microfilm","Photograph","Report","Unpublished Text"
Paper Archive notes	Held at AOC until transfer
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Square, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire, An Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Winfer, J
Other bibliographic details	None
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology

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