

**Land at the Red House, 23 Main Road, Nether Broughton,  
Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 3HB**

**Evaluation Report**

Approx. central NGR: SK 69600 25451  
Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council  
Planning app.: 15/00163/LBC; 15/00001/FUL  
Acc. No. X.A60.2015  
PCAS Site code: NBLE15  
PCAS Job No.: 1468  
OASIS Ref. No.: preconst3-222285

Prepared for

Havenwood Construction

by R. Mandeville

September 2015



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## Non-Technical Summary

This document details the results from a scheme of archaeological trenching on land adjacent to The Red House, 23 Main Road, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire. The centre of the site is NGR SK 69600 25451. The site lies on the southern periphery of the village, the former car park of the former Red Lion public house.

There are few known archaeological monuments in Nether Broughton; a pair of Iron Age quern stones unearthed in the Vicarage garden are the only evidence of prehistoric occupation, and the site lies over 4km from the Roman Fosse Way (the modern A46). Settlement here likely began in the Saxon period as a farmstead on the east side of the Dalby Brook, from which the settlement name is derived. Medieval occupation was focused around the Church of St. Mary on the north side of the modern village, where earthworks indicate settlement activity and a possible moated site.

The Red House is a Grade II Listed Building, with two associated mounting stones to the fore (also Listed Buildings). The development of the three new bungalows lies within the curtilage of the former pub, and is therefore subject to Listed Building consent as well as planning consent, both of which have been granted conditionally by Melton Borough Council.

The evaluation proved to be negative, and nothing of archaeological interest was revealed.



**Fig. 1:** Site location map at scale 1:25,000. Site location shown in red. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

## **1 Introduction**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Havenwood Construction to conduct a scheme of archaeological trial trenching on land at The Red House, Main Road, Nether Broughton, Leicestershire.

Conditional planning permission for the construction of three new bungalows has been granted by Melton Borough Council. The site lies adjacent to earthworks relating to the medieval settlement, therefore an archaeological condition attached to the permission requires the completion of a scheme of trial trenching prior to the development groundworks to investigate the archaeological remains on the site. The site is being considered for a forthcoming planning application. This document details the results of the scheme of trial trenching, or archaeological evaluation. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
- IFA Code of Conduct (1994 as revised);
- IFA Standards and Guidance for Evaluations (2014);
- IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (revised 2014);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

This strategy is subject to the approval of the Senior Planning Archaeologist for Leicestershire County Council.

## **2 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1-2; Plate 1)**

Nether Broughton is a village in the parish of Broughton and Old Dalby, on the border of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. It lies primarily on the north side of the A606 between West Bridgford on the outskirts of Nottingham approx. 14km northwest, and Melton Mowbray some 9km southeast.

The Red House is a former hotel and restaurant which closed in late 2013. The building lies on the south side of the A606, opposite the junction with Middle Lane, and is an 18<sup>th</sup> century inn, a Grade II Listed Building. The address of the building is 23 Main Road, Nether Broughton.

The site lies on the east side of The Red House, in the former car park and yard area of the pub. At present, most of the site is hard-surfaced for the parking, with a large marquee in the southwest corner. Site access is from the A606. There is an overhead cable running across the street to the corner of The Red House, another about half way down the site, and overhead lighting runs around the car park.

The central NGR of the site is SK 69600 25451.

## **3 Topography and Geology**

The majority of Nether Broughton lies on an island of Brandon Sandstone, however the development site lies on a bedrock geology of Charmouth Mudstone, described as dark grey laminated shales and dark pale and bluish grey mudstones. There are no recorded drift deposits covering the site (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies below the 75m contour line; a benchmark on the north side of the Red House (rivet) is recorded at 72.994m OD, 0.50m above existing ground level (<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>).

## 4 Planning Background

Planning permission for the demolition of the existing marquee and the construction of three new detached bungalows with associated garages and access road has been granted conditionally by Melton Borough Council, application ref: 15/00001/FUL. As the site lies within the curtilage of the Listed Red House, Listed Building consent has also been requested and granted, ref: 15/00163/LBC.

Conditions 18-20 relate to archaeological conditions attached to the permission. They read:

*18. no demolition/development shall take place/commence until a programme of archaeological work commencing with an initial phase of trial trenching, has been detailed within a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*

*+ The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording (including the initial trial trenching, assessment of results and preparation of an appropriate mitigation scheme)*

*+ The programme for post - investigation assessment*

*+ Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording*

*+ Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation*

*+ Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation*

*+ Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation*

*19. No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 18*

*20. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 18 and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured*

*Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording*

## 5 Archaeological and Historical Background

A search of the Leicestershire HER has been requested, results to follow.

There is little evidence of Prehistoric or Roman occupation around the site; the only recorded prehistoric monument within 1km is a pair of Iron Age quern stones found in the Vicarage garden (LHER ref: MLE6582), which indicate Iron Age agriculture and settlement however there are no recorded cut features or other artefacts dating from this period. Roman remains have been found in Long Clawson c.4km NW of Nether Broughton, and the village lies approx. 4.5km east of the A46 which follows the line of the Roman Fosse Way, linking the Roman towns of Ilchester and Bath in the southwest with Leicester, Newark and Lincoln (Margery, 1973).

Settlement at Nether Broughton began in the Saxon period. The place name derives from the Old English *broc* and *tun*, meaning *farmstead by the brook* (Mills, 1998), likely relating to the

Dalby Brook which lies less than 1km to the west. Archaeological recording during work at Church End, approx. 600m north of the site revealed a Saxo-Norman ditch, and recovered a number of unstratified sherds of early-late Saxon pottery (LHER ref: MLE20073). A carved stone in the Church of St. Mary is thought to be Saxon in origin, but there is no record of a church here in the late Saxon period.

Domesday Broughton was a very large settlement of 37 households. A total of 12 plough teams and 10 acres of meadow indicate the village was agricultural; neighbouring Upper Broughton also had a mill but was a smaller village overall (<http://opendomesday.org/place/>).

The pre-fix Nether is added to the place name Broughton in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century; prior to this Upper and Nether Broughton may have been differentiated by the different Hundreds they lay in, Bingham for Upper Broughton, and Framland for Nether Broughton, or the different sides of the Dalby Brook they lie on.

The Church of St. Mary lies on the north side of the village, over 700m from the development site. It dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with additional works in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and was restored in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. A complex of earthworks on the south side of the church, including a clear rectangular enclosure thought to have been a moated hall, depicts the remains of the medieval village (LHER ref: MLE3437; MLE3438).

Occupation has extended away from this focus over the medieval and post medieval period towards the A606 which runs through the village and the farms along it. The Red House itself dates from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, a former inn later a public house by the name of the Red Lion, the pub closed in late 2013 and is now a private house (List entry ID 1075075). To the front of the building lies two stone mounting block, both Listed Buildings (List entry ID 1360890; 1294966). Pinfold Farmhouse and The Grange with the associated cottage The Hollies to the east and west of the site are also Listed Buildings. Historic mapping indicates the development site has remained unoccupied throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, although a footpath ran N-S through the site in the late 19<sup>th</sup> - early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **6 Methodology (Fig. 2)**

The evaluation consisted of three trenches spaced across the site, positioned to investigate the areas that will be impacted by the development layout. Trenches 1 and 3 measured 15m x 2m, and Trench 2 which had to be shortened due to the presence of a live electricity cable, measured 13m x 2m. The trenches were randomly positioned to sample the whole site, as there was no earlier information on which they could be targeted.

The trenches were located on the site by triangulation. After cutting the tarmac surface, the trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 180° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand, and representative sections taken from each trench. Any features encountered were hand excavated.

The evaluation trenches were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:50, and sample sections of the trench baulks were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Layers and deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was kept. A digital photographic record, supplemented by colour slide photography, was made, and extracts from this are reproduced in Appendix 1.

The fieldwork was carried out by Julian Sleaf on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2015, and weather conditions were dry and overcast.

## **7 Results**

### **7.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3, Plates 2-3)**

Trench 1 was positioned in the north of the site, inside the entrance to A606, measured 15m by 2m and was aligned north to south.

The majority of the trench was made up of a gravel surface and a thick asphalt deposit (101) for the car park beneath this to a combined depth of 0.5m. The asphalt was slightly deeper to accommodate a water pipe towards the north end of the trench. The trench was excavated to the natural substrate (102), which in Trench 1 consisted of sandy clay at a depth of between 0.50m and 0.60m below existing ground level. A very thin pale grey silt clay deposit (103) containing pieces of white china was noted above the natural, perhaps the remnants of a service ditch cut. Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered.

### **7.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 4)**

Trench 2 was oriented north to south and positioned near the centre of the site. It had to be shortened from its original length due to the presence of a live electricity cable, resulting in a 13m length.

Beneath the gravel surface and a layer of subsoil or redeposited natural (201), at a depth of 0.3m, the natural (202) was revealed. Here, it was a mid yellowish sandy clay with frequent patches of manganese and iron panning. Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered.

### **7.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 5, Plates 4-5)**

Trench 3 was located in the southern end of the site, measured 15m by 2m, and oriented north-east to south-west.

The natural (302) was encountered at a depth of 0.5m; orange sandy clay. In a manner similar to Trench 2, beneath the gravel and hardcore surface there was a layer (301) which was likely to have been subsoil or redeposited natural. Nothing of archaeological interest was encountered.

## **8 Discussion and Conclusions**

The majority of the site was located on the surface of the car park and yard, and consisted of gravel or crushed hardcore, with a layer of subsoil or redeposited natural separating the surface from the natural substrate. A water pipe was present in Trench 1 and a land drain in Trench 2, but there was nothing of archaeological interest anywhere during the evaluation.

## **9 Effectiveness of Methodology**

Archaeological evaluation was effective in demonstrating the absence of archaeological remains on the site. The body of data thus produced will be sufficient to inform the planning and development process.

## **10 Project Archive**

The project archive, consisting of the site recording and the finds, will be deposited with printed copies of this report and the forthcoming full report with Leicestershire County Council Museum before June 2016; following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation under the unique accession number X.A60.2015. A copy of the full report will

also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database, where it will be publicly accessible online under OASIS Reference Number **preconst3-222285**.

## **11 Acknowledgements**

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Havenwood Construction for this commission.

## **12 References**

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## Appendix 2: Colour Plates



**Plate 1:** Main area of the site and location of Trenches 2 and 3. Looking south.



**Plate 2:** Trench 1 seen from the south. The dark deposit is part of the asphalt material and not a ditch cut



**Plate 3:** West facing representative section of Trench 1.



**Plate 4:** Trench 3 looking south-west.  
Two natural layers can be seen.



**Plate 5:** South-east facing  
representative section of Trench 3.

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

### Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Finds/dating
100	Layer	Gravel surface of car park. Thickness 0.06m.	
101	Layer	Thick asphalt deposit for car park surface. Thickness 0.44m.	
102	Layer	Natural sandy clay. Thickness >0.1m	
103	Deposit?	Pale grey silt clay, perhaps service cut remnants. Contains white china. Thickness 0.02m.	

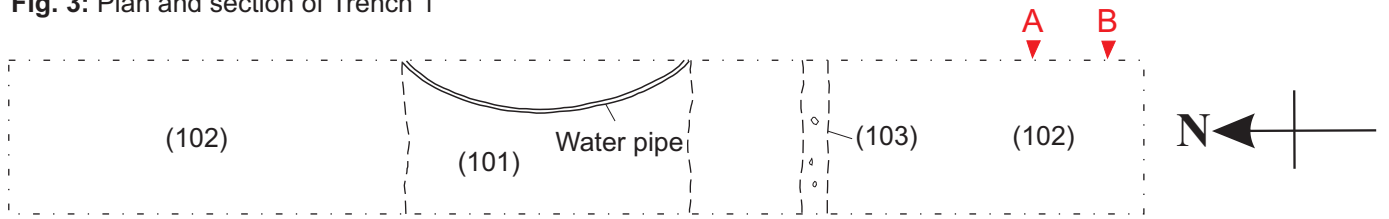
### Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
200	Layer	Gravel surface of car park. Thickness 0.12m.	
201	Layer	Mid brown clay silt, possibly subsoil remnant or redeposited natural. Thickness 0.18m.	
202	Layer	Mid yellow sandy clay, frequent patches of iron panning/manganese. Thickness >0.1m.	

### Trench 3

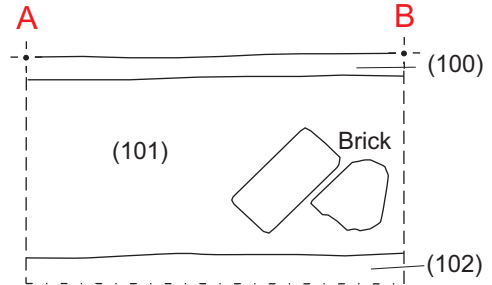
Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
300	Layer	Gravel and crushed hardcore surface of car park. Thickness 0.2m.	
301	Layer	Mid orange brown clay silt, possibly subsoil or redeposited natural. Thickness 0.3m.	
302	Layer	Mid orange sandy clay. Natural, frequent manganese flecks. Thickness >0.17m.	
303	Layer	Natural sandy clay, diffuse colour change. Slightly browner than (302).	

**Fig. 3: Plan and section of Trench 1**

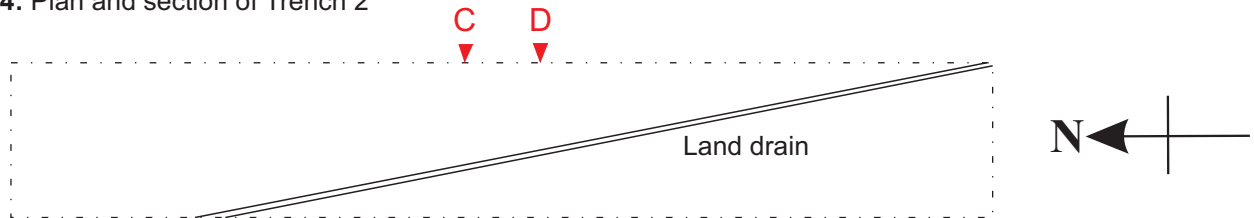


a) Plan of Trench 1

b) Section through Trench 1

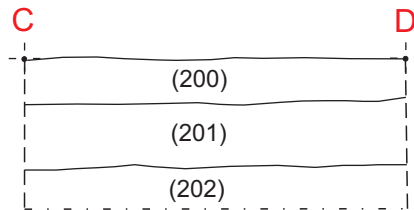


**Fig. 4: Plan and section of Trench 2**

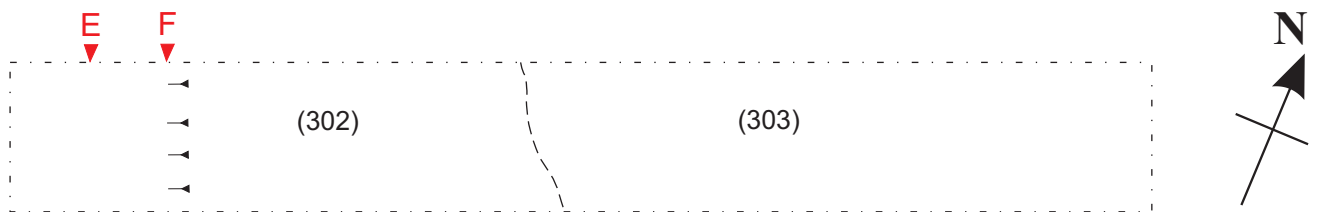


a) Plan of Trench 2

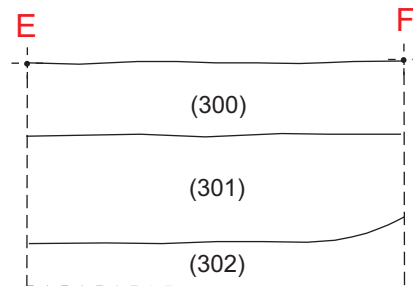
b) Section through Trench 2



**Fig. 5: Plan and section of Trench 3**



a) Plan of Trench 3



b) Section through Trench 3

Plans are at 1:100



Sections are at 1:20



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