



JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ACTION**

**AT**

**CRUSHER YARD SITE, PIPEYARD LANE,  
NEWBOLD COLEORTON, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**NGR SK 39890 19337**

**MARCH 2021**

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## SUMMARY

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out archaeological excavation and recording at the Crusher Yard Site, Pipeyard Lane, Newbold Coleorton (NGR SK 39890 19337). The excavation recorded evidence of the Cloud Hill Plateway, a mineral tramway dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This evidence comprised several sleeper stones and a retaining wall. Evidence of a 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage, Pipe Yard House, was also recorded.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Location (Figure 1)

The development site is located to the west of Newbold Coleorton, at the north western end of Pipeyard Lane (NGR SK 39890 19337). The site sits at a height of approximately 107m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology consists of Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, comprising mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### 1.2 Planning Background

Planning permission was been granted by North West Leicestershire District Council for **Erection of twelve single storey dwellings, garaging and associated infrastructure at Pipeyard Lane Works Pipeyard Lane Newbold Coleorton Coalville (19/01609/FULM)**. Due to the historic background and archaeological potential of the development site a condition was attached to the planning permission:

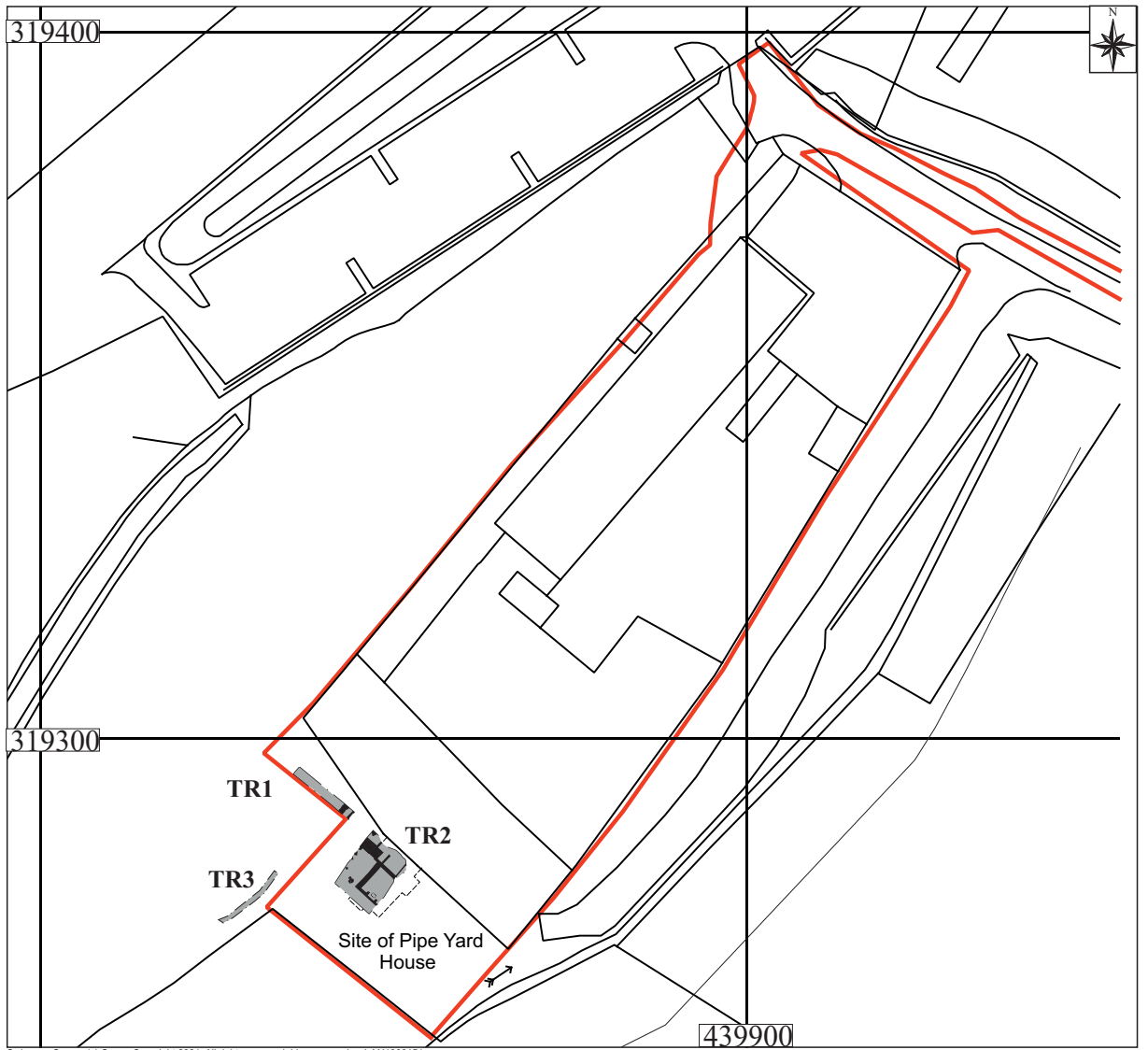
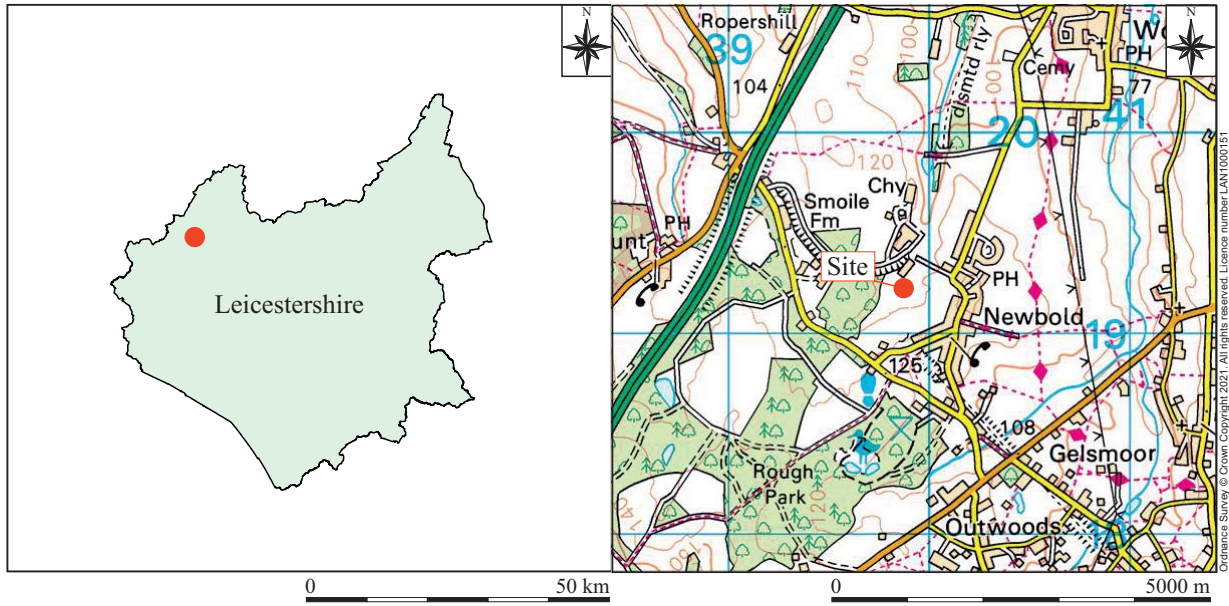
*16. No development shall take place/commence on site until a staged programme of historic building recording and archaeological investigation, commencing with an initial phase of trial trenching has been undertaken. Each stage will be completed in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI), which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include the statement of significance and research objectives, and*

*- The programme and methodology of site investigation, building recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*

*- The programme for post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

*Reason: To ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation, recording, dissemination and archiving.*

John Moore Heritage Services (JMHS) were commissioned to undertake this work after construction work on the site had proceeded without archaeological monitoring and investigation. Following discussion with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was



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**Key** Site boundary Trenches  
 Archaeological features

0 25 m  
1:1000

Figure 1: Site location

produced (JMHS 2021) in order to ensure that, where possible, the initial condition could be fulfilled.

The WSI proposed the methodology by which the archaeological investigations were to be carried out.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) notes that the former Pipe Yard House is present on the 1st edition 25" OS mapping (c. 1880). The line of the former Cloud Hill Plateway, an early mineral railway, ran through the development area, leading towards the former Pipe Yard House. Other mapping, including Priors' 1779 map of Leicester, depicts a 'Fire Engine', or static steam engine, also located in the vicinity.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the WSI were:

- To make a record of any archaeological remains present.

And in particular:

- To record any remains associated with Pipe Yard House, the Cloud Hill Plateway and the Fire Engine depicted on Prior's 1779 map of Leicester.
- To place the results in the regional context, referring to the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (Cooper 2006, Knight 2012).

## **3 STRATEGY**

### **3.1 Research Design**

In accordance with WSI (JMHS 2021) approved by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council, JMHS carried out the archaeological investigation of the development area. Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in the WSI.

### **3.2 Methodology**

Two trenches were excavated, sited in order to target areas not yet impacted by the development.

Trench 1, 10m in length by 1.3m in width was excavated to the south west of Plot 12, with the intention of targeting the possible route of the Cloud Hill Plateway.

Trench 2, an area of 65m<sup>2</sup> was excavated in the area of the former Pipe Yard House, in order to recover the plan of the building. The position of the trench was modified slightly due to the presence of an electrical cable and areas of Japanese Knotweed remediation.

A third trench, labelled Trench 3, was a short length of service trench excavated by groundwork contractors prior to the arrival of JMHS. This trench was included in the

investigation as it was noted during an earlier site visit by JMHS to contain a section of historic walling.

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Field Results

All features and deposits were assigned with individual context numbers. Context numbers with no brackets indicate feature cuts, numbers in the round brackets ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material and numbers in bold indicate any form of masonry.

### 4.2 Trench 1 (Figure 2, 3)

Previous site stripping had resulted in the removal of any topsoil or subsoil within the area of Trench 1; as a result the natural geology (101), a compact mid orange brown clay, was directly overlain by a loose mid to dark brown silty clay (100) with frequent fragments of brick, tile and timber, 0.2m in thickness. This deposit was recent in origin, associated with the ongoing construction works, and was encountered throughout Trench 1.

A single archaeological feature was encountered within the trench. This was a linear cut, 112, situated at the southernmost end of the trench (Figure 2; Plate 1). The cut appeared to be aligned NE-SW and measured 1.25m in length, continuing beyond the limit of excavation (l.o.e.) to the NE and SW, at least 2.4m in width, also continuing beyond the l.o.e to the SE and 0.6m in depth. The SE side of the feature had been truncated by a modern service trench 104. The cut, which had steep sides and a flat base, was associated with a wall or revetment **113**, built into its NW side. This structure was built of large sandstone blocks measuring approximately 400mm x 300mm x 300m; no coursing was evident as the structure only survived to the height of one block. The wall was bedded in a packing deposit of compact mid grey silty clay (115) which contained occasional angular stones.



Plate 1: Section 3; Wall **113**. Looking NE



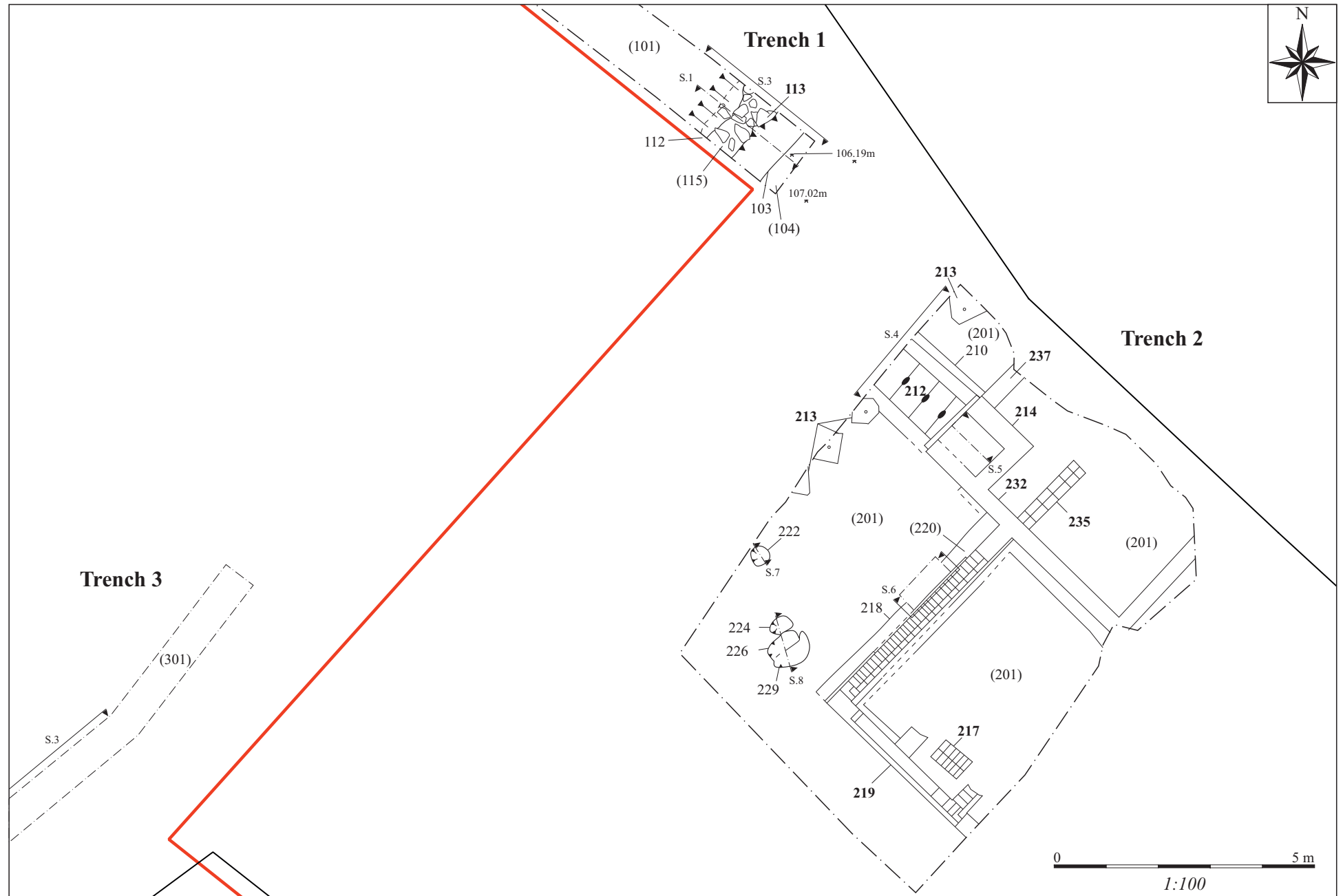


Figure 2: Plan of Trenches 1 to 3

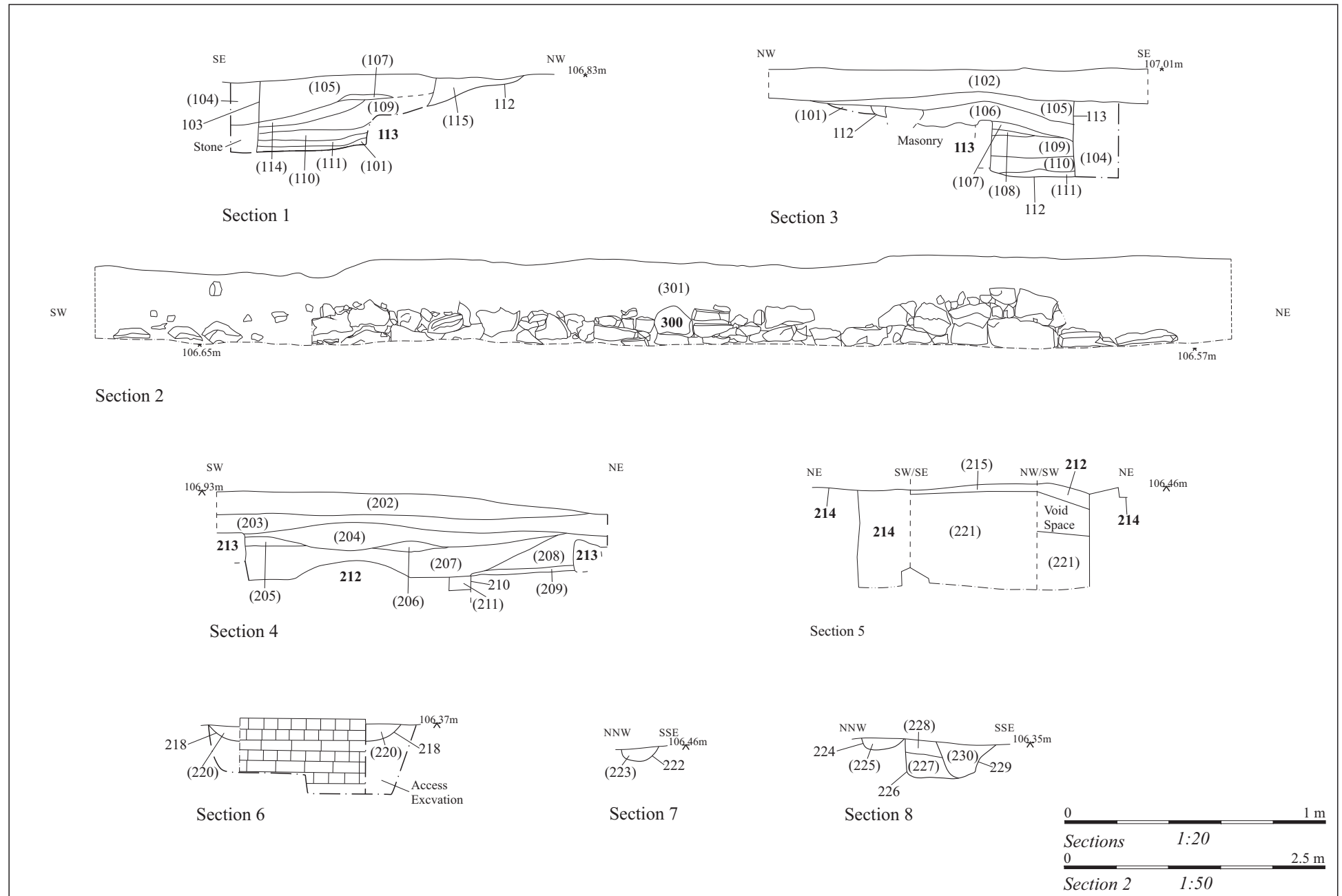


Figure 3: Sections

The cut was filled with a series of layers that were likely to have been deposited in order to backfill the feature (Figure 3; sections 1 and 3). The lowest of these was (111), a thin lens of coal dust; this was overlain by (110) a soft mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.18m in thickness. Deposit (109), overlying (110), was a friable dark brownish grey sandy silt containing coal dust, 0.2m in thickness. This in turn was overlain by a small deposit of coal dust (108) and a brownish red firm sandy silt (107), both approximately 80mm in thickness. These deposits were overlaid by a thicker deposit of firm mid grey sandy silt (106) measuring 0.2m in thickness. The final layer of the sequence was a soft dark blackish brown silt (105), up to 0.4m thick, which had the appearance of a former topsoil. Finds recovered from this deposit indicated a 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### 4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 2, 3)

Trench 2 was positioned in order to target the footprint of the former Pipe Yard House and any related archaeological features.

The lowest deposit encountered was natural (201), a compact mid orange brown clay. Towards the southern, lower, end of the trench this was overlain by a thin layer of subsoil (200). This was a compact mid greyish brown clayey silt, up to 0.1m in thickness. Throughout the rest of the trench modern construction material (202) overlay the natural geology; as encountered in trench 1 this was a loose light grey to dark brown silty clay with frequent fragments of brick, tile and wood, up to 0.27m in thickness.

A row of four sandstone blocks **213**, extending for a length of 5m, were encountered against the western l.o.e (Figure 2). Each block was between 0.5 to 0.8m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.2 to 0.5m in depth; no construction cut was observed, instead it appeared that each block sat within subsoil (200) directly on top of the natural geology. Three of the blocks contained a central hole with a diameter of approximately 40mm; the fourth had been damaged. The blocks appeared to form a line, aligned NNE-SSW, extending beyond the l.o.e. in both directions.



Plate 2: Structure **213**; showing sandstone blocks and central holes. Looking NNW

This structure was truncated by construction cut 210 for a vaulted brick culvert or cess pit **212** and **214** associated with Pipe Yard House (Figure 3; Section 4).



Plate 3: Structure **213**, showing truncation by vaulted cess pit **212**. Looking NNE

The foundation of the former Pipe Yard House was encountered within the trench. The foundation, recorded as **219**, **232**, **235** and **237** comprised two rectangular foundations with internal features including a brick hearth **217** and previously mentioned vaulted culvert or cess pit, **212**, **214** (Figure 2). The foundations were built of bricks measuring 220mm x 110mm x 70mm set in an English bond and bonded with a light whitish grey cement mortar. The walls were built within a construction cut 118 that was cut into the natural deposit to a depth of 0.5m (5 courses). The upper 0.2m of the construction cut was filled with a soft light brownish yellow silty clay, though the lower extent of the cut was not visible (Figure 3; section 6).



Plate 4: The southern end of Pipe Yard House, foundation **119**, looking NE.



Plate 5: Foundation wall **219**; section 6. Looking ESE

The brick built cess pit **214** was built into the western foundation wall and measured 1.4m in length by 1.2m in width; the cess pit was excavated to a depth of 0.8m, though extended deeper. The brick was set in an English bond and bonded with the same light whitish grey cement mortar. Vaulted culvert **212** extended west from the cess pit for a length of 1.2m, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the west. The cess pit and culvert had been backfilled with demolition rubble, presumably associated with the demolition of the building (Figure 3; section 5). The lowest deposit (221) was a loose light brownish grey sandy silt with frequent fragments of brick and tile, at least 0.7m in thickness, extending below the l.o.e. The upper fill (215) was a loose light greyish brown sandy silt 80mm in thickness.



Plate 6: Cess pit **214**; section 5. Looking NE

Where the vaulted culvert **212** had been constructed a series of made ground layers were present, raising the ground level above the structure (Figure 3 section 4, plate 3).

The lowest deposit, a compact mid yellow brown silty clay 50mm in thickness (209), appeared to represent a thin layer of trample, associated with the construction of the culvert. This was overlain by (208) a deposit of friable dark brown silt 0.25m in thickness, present on the NE side of the sequence. This was in turn overlain by (207) a firm mid greyish brown silty clay containing moderate poorly sorted angular stone, 0.2m in thickness. Two small deposits of light brownish yellow clay (205), (206) were present above this layer, both c.80mm in thickness. These were overlain by a firm dark yellowish brown sandy silt containing frequent poorly sorted angular stone, 0.22m in thickness. This final layer of backfill was overlain by former topsoil (203) a friable dark brown silty loam 0.15m in thickness which was in turn overlain by a layer of material deposited during the current construction works (202).

In addition to the structures associated with Pipe Yard House four postholes or pits were recorded. These were located in a small cluster to the west of the former building (Figure 2). Posthole 222 measured 0.29m in diameter and 0.2m in depth, with steep sides and a concave base. The single fill (223) was a friable dark brown silt very similar to subsoil (200). Located c. 1.5m east was ovoid posthole 224, measuring 0.55 in length, 0.35m in width and 0.1m in depth; the single fill (225) was a friable dark brown silt, also similar to subsoil (200). Located immediately east was pit 226. This was sub-circular, measuring 0.67m in length by 0.3m in width with steep sides and a flat base. Both fills (227) and (228) appeared to be a mixture of redeposited natural clay and subsoil. Basal fill (227) was a firm mid greyish yellow silty clay, 0.2m in thickness whilst upper fill (228) was a stiff light brownish yellow silty clay. The pit was truncated on its eastern side by pit 229. This was ovoid in plan, measuring 0.85m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.25m in depth, with steep to irregular sides and a concave base. Fill (230) was a firm mid yellowish brown and greyish brown silty clay, also a mixture of redeposited natural material and soil.



Plate 7: Posthole 222; section 7. Looking ENE



Plate 8: Posthole 224 and pits 226 and 229; section 8. Looking ENE

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 2, 3)

Trench 3 was a previously opened service trench, of interest due to a section of stone walling exposed in section. The wall **300** was aligned NE-SW; the SE face of the wall being visible for a length of 6.6m within the trench, extending beyond the l.o.e. to the NE and SW. The wall was built of sandstone blocks, varying in size from 0.5m x 0.2m to 0.18m by 0.2m, as seen in section. These were roughly squared and set in random courses, surviving to a height of 0.5m. The wall was overlain by soil layer (301) a friable mid greyish brown silty loam with frequent rooting, at least 0.6m in thickness, extending below and beyond the l.o.e.



Plate 9: Wall **300**, orthophoto. Looking NW

### 4.4 Reliability of Results

The reliability of results is considered to be very good. The archaeological investigations took place in generally clement conditions with good light and visibility. On the whole there was good co-operation from the ground workers and site staff during all stages of archaeological field work.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Pottery by *Stephanie N. Duensing*

The pottery assemblage comprised 57 sherds with a total weight of 3103g, recovered from four contexts. Where possible the codenames used for the recording of this site have been related to known Leicestershire codes. The post-Roman Pottery Type

Series held at Leicester University was consulted and every effort was made to parallel the sherds found on this site with examples within it.

The post-Roman assemblage was quantified by three measures: number of sherds, weight and vessel count within each context. Fabric identification of some of the pottery was undertaken by x20 binocular microscope. The ceramic data was entered into a database using Lincolnshire (Young et al.) and Nottingham (Nailor and Young 2001) fabric codenames with a concordance with Leicestershire codenames in brackets (see Table 1). Recording of the post-Roman assemblage was in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski, et al. (2001).

**BERTH (EA): Brown glazed earthenware**, AD 1550-1800, 16 sherds, 1504g.

**ENGS (SW): Unspecified English Stoneware**, AD 1750-1900, 2 sherd, 110g.

**LERTH (EA): Late earthenwares**, AD 1750-1900, 8 sherds, 351g.

**NCBW (EA): 19th-century Buff ware**, AD 1800-1900, 9 sherds, 549g.

**PEARL (EA9): Pearlware**, AD 1770-1900, 4 sherds, 20g.

**WHITE (EA10): Modern whiteware**, AD 1850-1900, 18 sherds, 569g.

Nearly all of the material came from a single deposit, (105) which was a backfill deposit within possible sunken tramway or trackway. In total 45 sherds weighing 2082g came from this deposit, nearly all of which was in the way of various types of earthenware, most from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Among the forms present was a teapot, bowl or jar, and a storage vessel or large bowl. These are all very common, low status fabrics and forms from c. 19<sup>th</sup> century well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The sherds show moderate wear, evidence supporting a redeposition of this material within a later deposit, likely a rubbish dump.

Deposit (221) was the fill of a culvert/cess pit and contained the next most notable collection of ceramic material, with just 8 sherds weighing 979g. One of these items was a complete “Brown Betty” teapot (although missing the lid), and two partial cups and saucers in plane, undecorated modern whiteware (EA10).

The two other contexts containing pottery, (223) and (227), were both fills from small pit features. They each contained 2 small fragments of earthenware, all too small to be able to determine form.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of the sherd per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. The date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The fabric type recovered is typical of sites in this region. The assemblage was modern in date. Overall, the modern nature and high occurrence of mendable fragments present would indicate modern activity associated with dumping.

No further information can be gained from the retention of this material; no further work is recommended.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type



Context	BERTH (EA)		NCBW (EA)		LERTH (EA)		WHITE (EA10)		PEARL (EA9)		ENGS (SW)		Context Date
	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	No	Wt (g)	
(221)	3	648	0	0	0	0	5	331	0	0	0	0	20thC
(223)	1	25	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	20thC
(227)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	12	0	0	0	0	20thC
(105)	8	661	9	549	7	237	4	67	4	20	2	110	20thC
	4	170			1	114	6	154					
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1504</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>110</b>	

## 5.2 Animal Bone by Simona Denis

A very limited assemblage of seven fragments of animal bone, of a combined weight of 35.1g, was recovered during the archaeological works. The material was in a fair state of preservation, although extremely fragmentary.

Table 2. Animal bone occurrence by context and type

Context	Identification	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Marks
105	Small mammal	Cortex	3	2.6	
221	?Sheep/Goat	Pelvis	1	30.4	Saw
225	Small mammal	Rib	1	1	
		Cortex	2	1.1	
<b>Total</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>35.1</b>	

Only one of the animal bone fragments was tentatively identified on the basis of the observation of *Genus*-specific characteristics. The remaining six items were attributed to a 'small mammal' (generally including sheep/goat, pig, and roe deer) of undetermined species (O'Connor 2003), exclusively on the basis of the size range of the fragments. Due to the variable sizes and robustness of animal bones taphonomic factors may favour preservation of certain species, resulting in the under representation of other, smaller animals (Kasumally 2002).

The only butchering mark was a modern saw mark, characterised by regular striations, observed on the pelvis fragment recovered from deposit (221), the fill of a cess pit.

The animal bone fragments are not recommended for retention, due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

## 5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Simona Denis

An assemblage of 22 ceramic building material fragments, of a total weight of 3677.4g, was hand-collected from two different deposits. Although extremely fragmentary, the state of preservation of the material was good and allowed the identification of type for the vast majority of the fragments. All of the material dated to the Post-Medieval to Modern periods.

Table 3. Ceramic Building Material occurrence by context and type

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Fabric	Comments	Date Range
105	Floor tile	1	24.7	Sandy, white, with no inclusions		Modern
	Paver	1	78.1	Sandy, dark orange-reddish with no inclusions	Block paver	Post-Medieval to Modern
	Brick	1	112	Sandy, dark orange-reddish	Brick arris with red slip on one face	Post-Medieval to Modern
	Peg tile	1	34.3	Gritty, dark purple-greyish with frequent small inclusions	Partial circular peg hole	Modern
	Undetermined	6	114	Sandy, pink-orange		Undetermined
221	Floor tile	2	56.8	Gritty grey with very frequent small to medium inclusions		Modern
	Paver	1	540	Sandy, dark orange-reddish with no inclusions	Block paver with raised edge	Post-Medieval to Modern
		2	2196	Sandy, dark orange-reddish with no inclusions	Block paver	Post-Medieval to Modern
	Brick	1	229.3	Gritty, light pink with moderate very small inclusions	Brick arris with white crackle glaze on one face (stretcher?)	Modern
	Nib tile	5	188	Gritty, dark red with frequent small inclusions		Modern
	Undetermined	1	34.2	Sandy, dark orange-reddish with no inclusions	Plaster	Modern
<b>Totals</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>3677.4</b>			

It is not recommended to retain the fragmentary plain tile examples due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

#### 5.4 Glass by *Simona Denis*

A total of 17 glass artefacts, including fragments as well as complete objects, was collected from three different deposits, with the vast majority (13 items) recovered from cess pit deposit (221). The assemblage comprised vessels, bottles and window pane fragments, and was dated to the Late Post-Medieval to the Modern period.

Table 4. Glass occurrence by context and type

Context	Type	No. of Items	Weight (g)	Embossing/Label	Comments	Date Range
105	Bottle base	1	43.9		Aqua colour; push-up base	Post-Medieval
	Bottle body	1	8.7		Olive green	Post-Medieval to Modern

	Vial base	1	23.2		Clear colour	Post-Medieval to Modern	
221	Bottle	1	252	Embossing on sides: HAZELWOOD & CO (PRODUCTS) LTD	Complete, clear colour sauce/condiment bottle with square base, screw cap and 3 panelled sides	Modern	
		1	240	Embossing on base: P3 6	Complete, clear colour, machine-made, 8-sided sauce/condiment bottle with tin screw cap	Modern	
		1	340		Complete green glass bottle with circular base, tooled finish and cork, with partial decal label	Modern	
	Canning jar	1	204	Embossing on base: FMF monogram, T145 S32 UGB Paper label: M P Hartley's Marmalade	Complete, clear colour, with paper label and tin cap	Modern	
		1	224	Embossing on base: FMF monogram, CWS 44 P29 Paper label: GOLDEN SHRED	Complete, clear colour with paper label	Modern	
		1	212	Embossing on base: FMF monogram, 8 ABC	Complete, clear colour	Modern	
		1	198	Embossing on base: FMF monogram, 8(?)5	Complete, clear colour	Modern	
		1	198		Complete, clear colour with screw lid	Post-Medieval to Modern	
		Vessel body	1	22		Clear colour	Modern
		Window pane	1	4		Clear colour	Modern
	1		8		Clear colour	Post-Medieval to Modern	
	227	Vessel body	1	3.2		Clear colour	Modern
	<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>2291</b>			

The embossed series of letters and numbers on the base of glass objects refer to individual mould numbers, and had the purpose of identifying a particular mould in an automatic bottle manufacturing machine. This type of machine was patented by

Michael J. Owens in 1904 ([https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Automatic\\_Glass-Bottle\\_Machine](https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Automatic_Glass-Bottle_Machine)). All of the items recovered during the works and bearing embossing on the base are therefore dated to the Modern period.

The condiment bottle marked with the company name of Hazlewood & Co (Products) Ltd. Is also dated to the Modern period, as the company was incorporated in 1900 (<http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/hazlewood-foods-plc-history/>). The glass object are not recommended for retention due to their very limited potential for further analysis.

## **5.5 Miscellaneous Finds by Simona Denis**

### **Stone**

A single fragment of stone, weighing 62.4g, was found in deposit (221). The item did not retain any diagnostic features, therefore its original function remains undetermined.

The stone fragment is not recommended for retention.

### **Tin**

A small group of extremely degraded tin cans, of a total weight of 962g, was recovered from cess pit fill (221); this comprised three complete cans as well as 14 additional fragments, a number of which originated from a single object.

One of the complete cans included the lid and partially preserved the original label; it was therefore positively identified as a can of LYLE'S GOLDEN SYRUP, which appeared on the market in 1885. The brand is recognised as having the world's oldest branding and packaging.

The tins are not recommended for retention due to their extremely poor state of preservation and very limited potential for further analysis.

### **Iron**

Two extremely corroded iron objects were collected during the archaeological works. The item found in backfill deposit (105), weighing 35g, was tentatively identified as a fastener, while the object from deposit (221), weighing 578g, was too corroded to be identified.

The iron objects are not recommended for retention, due to their poor and unstable conditions, and their very limited potential for further analysis.

### **Coke**

A small group of three coke fragments, weighing 24.3g, was found in deposit (105), a backfill deposit within possible sunken tramway or trackway. Derived from coal, coke is a fuel with high carbon content used in Britain from the Late Medieval period.

The coke fragments are not recommended for retention due to the very limited potential for further analysis.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

The archaeological investigations were successful on two counts; firstly a portion of the plan of the former Pipe Yard House was recovered, and secondly evidence of the Cloud Hill Plateway was recorded.

The earliest evidence recorded during the excavation was considered to represent the remains of the Cloud Hill Plateway; this was an early mineral railway constructed in 1802 to transport limestone from Cloud Hill quarry to the Ashby Canal. The date at which the tramway fell out of use is not known; however the opening of the Coleorton railway in 1833 and the Derby to Ashby branch of the Midlands Railway in 1868 presumably resulted in its obsolescence. No evidence of the plateway is present when the site is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Within Trenches 1 and 3 the south east face of a sandstone block wall was recorded, aligned in a north east – south west direction; within Trench 1 this was seen to sit within a shallow cut that had a flat base and extended beyond the edge of the excavation to the south. Though it cannot be said for certain, the orientation and location of the wall is highly indicative of this being the south eastern face of a revetting wall associated with the plateway. The plateway would therefore have sat within the cut seen to the south of the wall in Trench 1. Evidence of the track itself was recorded in Trench 2, where four large sandstone blocks were found, three of which had centrally located holes. It is probable that these represent sleepers associated with the plateway; the holes would have been plugged with wood, into which a metal nail was inserted, securing the track to the sleeper

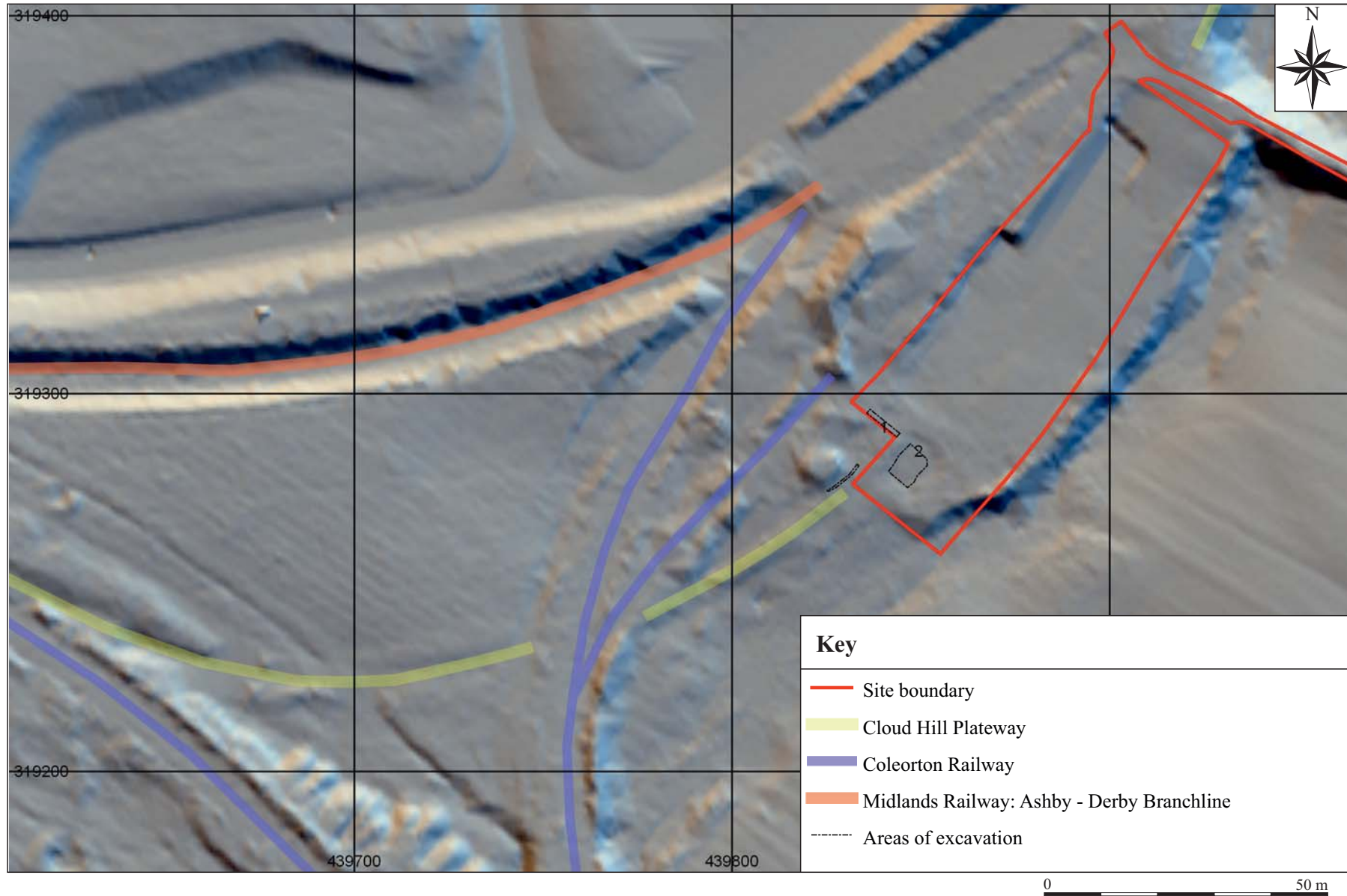


Figure 4: Environment Agency LIDAR: 1m resolution digital terrain model with hillshade from multiple directions.

1:1000

(<http://www.blisworth.org.uk/images/TheHillRailway.htm> accessed 23/02/2021). The gap between sleepers indicates that lengths of track measuring 3' were used in the plateway.

LIDAR data, analysed using a multiple hillshade visualisation, shows earthworks associated with the tramway extending from the site to the south, aligning with the remains recorded during the excavation (Figure 4). These earthworks are truncated by the later Coleorton Railway, which comes from the south, turning east to run parallel to the site boundary.

The foundations of the former Pipe Yard House were recorded in Trench 2. A single phase of construction seemed evident, with bricks, mortar and construction methods appearing consistent throughout. The size and uniformity of the brick suggests a 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Of note was a brick hearth located against the southern wall of the building and a cess pit and vaulted culvert situated on the western side of the building. The construction of this feature had resulted in the removal of some of the stone sleepers associated with the plateway, thus indicating that the house was built after the route had fallen out of use.

## **7 ARCHIVE**

### **Archive Contents**

The archive consists of the following:

#### Paper record

Written scheme of investigation

The project report

The primary site record

The archive currently is maintained by John Moore Heritage Services and will be transferred to the Leicestershire County Museum Services under accession number X.A16.2021.

A copy of the report is available on OASIS (johnmoor1-416097).

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **8.2 Websites**

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