

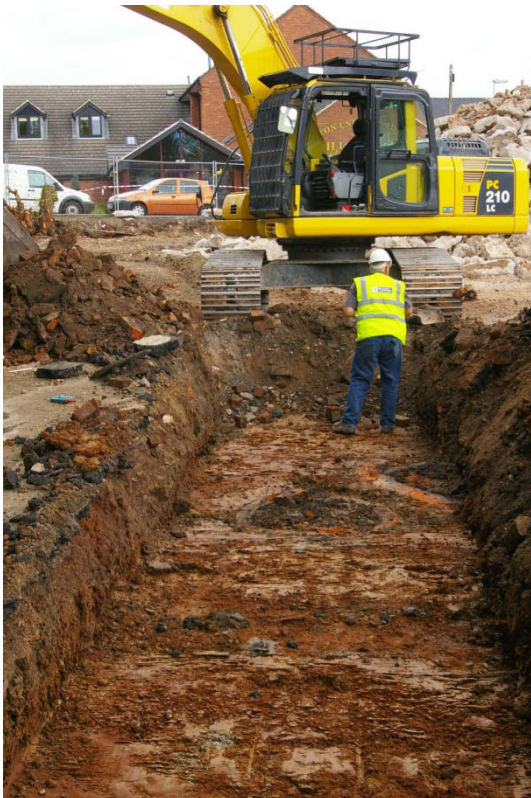


**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation of
The Former Petrol Station, Main Street
Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire
(SK 18663 18707)**

By Gerwyn Richards



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**An Archaeological Evaluation of
The Former Petrol Station,
Main Street, Barton-under-Needwood,
Staffordshire.**

(NGR SK 18663 18707)

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Planning Permission: PA/02379/019

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Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Midlands Co-operative Society Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the former Total petrol station on the junction of Main Street and Crowberry Lane, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire in advance of the construction of a new retail development. The proposed development area had been identified as being an area of archaeological potential.

A total of five evaluation trenches were machine excavated and recorded. None revealed any evidence of archaeological significance. The frontage trenches indicated significant truncation had occurred along the Main Street frontage.

The archive for the archaeological work will be held by The Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent, under the temporary accession number BUN.2011.

1. Introduction

University of Leicester Archaeological Services were commissioned by Midlands Co-operative Society Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed development works at the former Total petrol station on the junction of Main Street and Crowberry Lane, Barton-under-Needwood, Staffordshire (SK 18663 18707; Fig. 1). The proposed development involves the construction of a new retail unit with associated infrastructure and an extension of the existing hard standing car park on a site of approximately 0.17 hectares. A geotechnical assessment has been carried out but no previous intrusive archaeological work has been carried out within the proposed development area.

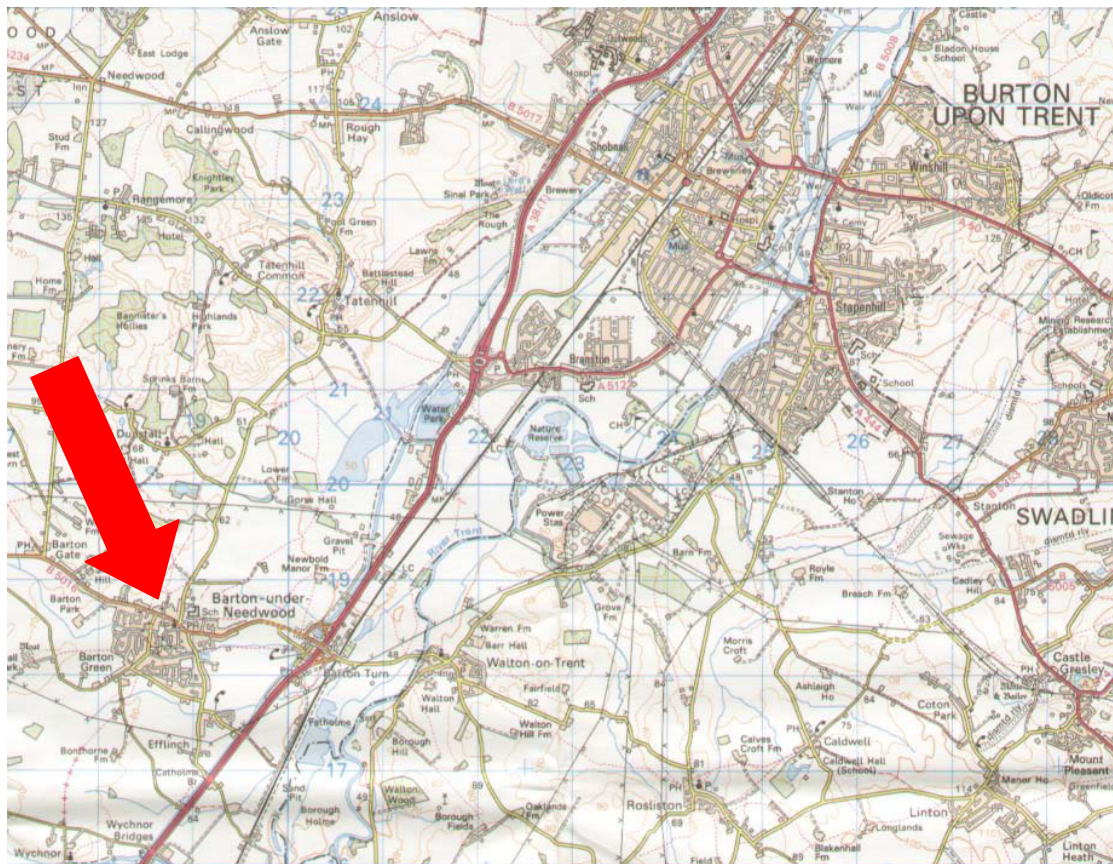


Figure 1: Site location Scale 1:50000

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2. Background

An archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching was requested by Staffordshire County Council as planning advisors to the planning authority.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain showed that the underlying geology comprised river terrace deposits with alluvium to the south.

The proposed development area lies within the historic settlement core of Barton-under-Needwood. An examination of the Historic Environment Record for Staffordshire (HER) indicates a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area, including the medieval and post-medieval village core (HER Ref 02374). The village has Anglo-Saxon origins, being first recorded in AD 942. It was listed in Domesday (AD 1086) as having eleven ploughs and valued at £7-0-0. The settlement name of 'Barton' means barley enclosure or barley farm 'bere-tun'. The 'under Needwood' element is a medieval addition to distinguish it from other Bartons in the area.

In addition, various archaeological remains and sites have been located within the vicinity of the proposed development area including five Roman urns found near the school during the late 18th century (HER Ref 00928). Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing was observed to the north of the proposed development area.

(HER Ref 04083). The Church of St. James, to the south east of the site is 16th century in date, but is thought to be built on the site of an earlier church (HER Ref 08552). There are also a number of listed buildings within the village.

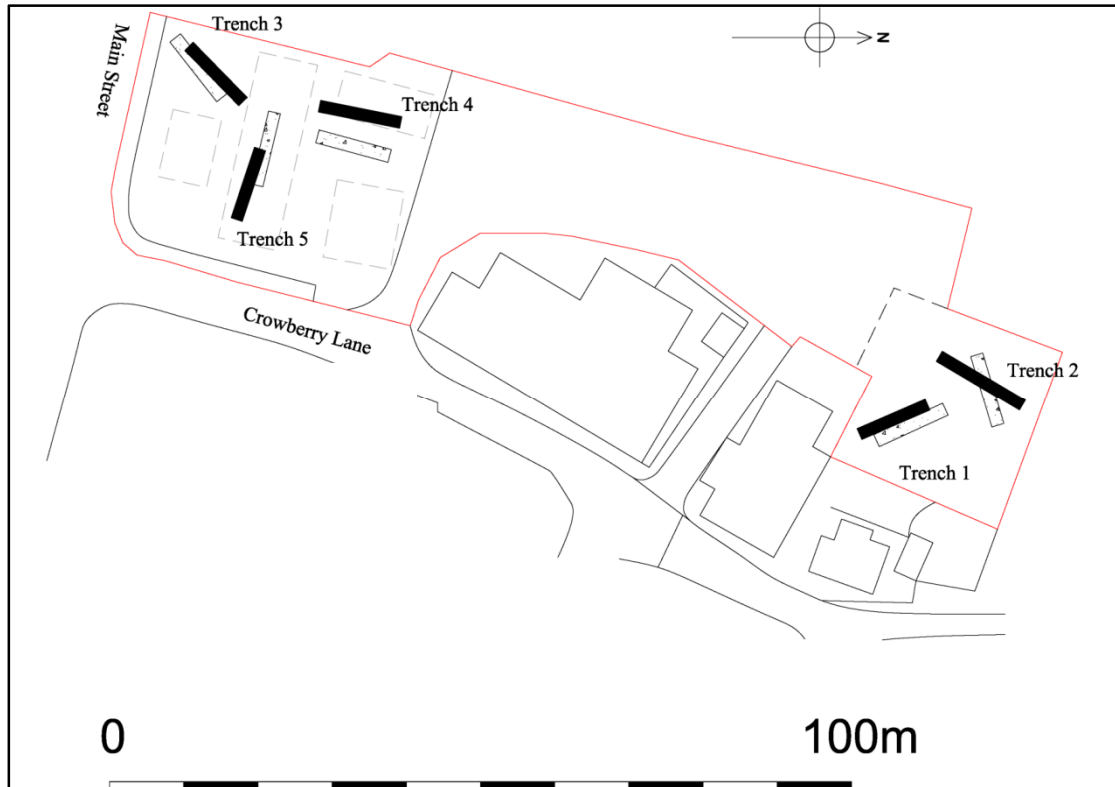


Figure 2: Proposed development area in detail with trench location plan (grey proposed, black actual).

3. Aims and Methodology

The main objectives of the evaluation were through archaeological trial trenching:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits in areas to be affected by the development.
- To provide information on the extent, character, condition and date range of archaeological deposits within the application area.
- To assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

In consultation with Planning Control Archaeologist it was decided to evaluate the impact of proposed development with the excavation of five 10m x 1.8m trenches (Fig. 2). Three trenches were located on the Main Street frontage, within the footprint of the proposed new build and a further two trenches were located within the northernmost extent of the proposed development area, earmarked for additional car

parking. Some of the trenches were moved slightly from their proposed location due to site constraints (Fig. 2). The evaluations took place on May 17th 2011. The trenches were excavated by a 21 tonne excavator using a ditching bucket on a back actor.

The archaeological work addressed the requirements detailed in the *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation. Former Total Garage and Land to the Rear of Crowberry Cottage, Barton Under Needwood*. (Staffordshire County Council) and *Design Specification for archaeological work* (ULAS 11-306).

4. Results of Trial Trench Evaluation

Trench 1

Interval from NW End of Trench	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
Depth of Topsoil	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.25	0.25	0.3
Subsoil Depth	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Top of Natural	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7
Base of Trench	0.7	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75

Trench 1 was aligned north west– south east, within the northern most part of the proposed development area (Fig. 3). The trench was 10m long.

Approximately 0.2m to 0.3m of garden soil was excavated, exposing a layer of silty clayey subsoil. Beneath the subsoil a horizon of light yellow brown mixed sands and gravels with frequent clay lenses was exposed. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.7m to 0.75m below the existing ground level.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

Trench 2

Interval from NE End of Trench	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
Depth of Topsoil	0.2	0.25	0.25	0.3	0.3	0.3
Subsoil Depth	0.55	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.7	0.7
Top of Natural	0.55	0.55	0.6	0.55	0.7	0.7
Base of Trench	0.55	0.55	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8

Trench 2 was 10m long and aligned north-east to south-west, approximately 7m north-west of trench 1 (Fig. 4).

A similar depth of garden soil and subsoil as trench 1 was excavated and the underlying substratum appeared very similar. Excavation ceased approximately 0.55m to 0.8m below the existing ground level. A single furrow, aligned west north-west-east south east was observed towards the southern end of the trench as well a ceramic field drain on the same alignment.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

Trench 3

Interval from SW End of Trench	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
Depth of Overburden	0.25	0.25	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35
Disturbed Natural Depth	0.55	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.7	0.7
Top of Natural	0.55	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.7	0.7
Base of Trench	0.55	0.6	0.65	0.7	0.7	0.7

Trench 3 was the first of the Main Street frontage trenches. The trench was 10m long and aligned north-east to south-west, adjacent to the south-westernmost corner of the proposed development area (Fig. 5).

The demolition build-up lay directly on to weathered mudstone substrata. Approximately 0.3m of this stratum was excavated to confirm its presence and excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.55m to 0.7m below the existing ground level. A brick lined well and a brick built cellar were exposed towards the centre of the trench. Brick dimensions suggest both are early to mid-19th century in date. The cellar had been tanked in blue bricks, suggesting it may have remained in use into the 20th century.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

Trench 4

Interval from NNE End of Trench	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
Depth of Overburden	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.25	0.8	1.2
Top of Natural	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.25	0.8	1.2
Base of Trench	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.28	0.8	1.2

Trench 4 was 10m long and aligned north to south, approximately 10m north of trench 3 (Fig. 6).

As with trench 3, the demolition build-up lay directly onto weathered mudstone substrata. Approximately 0.2m of this stratum was excavated to confirm its extent and excavation ceased at approximately 0.2m below the existing ground level. This depth was increased at the southern end of the trench to approximately 0.8m to remove a deeper deposit of 20th century rubble.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

Trench 5

Interval from W End of Trench	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	10m
Depth of Overburden	0.7	0.55	0.5	0.35	0.5	Service Trench
Top of Natural	0.7	0.55	0.5	0.35	0.5	Service Trench
Base of Trench	0.7	0.55	0.5	0.5	0.6	Service Trench

Trench 5 was aligned east to west approximately 6m north-east of trench 3 (Fig. 7) The trench was 10m long and 1.6m wide.

The stratigraphy was the same as that recorded within trenches 3 and 4. Excavation continued to approximately 0.55m to 0.7m below the existing ground level. A brick line structure, probably a vehicle inspection pit was observed at the eastern end of the trench.

No remains of archaeological significance were found within the trench and it was recorded and released for backfilling.

5. Conclusion

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within a rich archaeological landscape within the historic settlement core of Barton under Needwood, but no evidence of archaeological deposits or artefacts were encountered during the course of this evaluation. The evaluation trenches along the Main Street frontage confirmed that extensive ground disturbance had taken place when the petrol station was originally built. There is a step up into the car park to the north and it appears that the frontage had been levelled in the past.

Similarly the area of ground to the north of the car park lay at a higher level indicating that the main car park area had also previously been levelled. The northern trenches contained limited evidence of medieval ploughing, suggesting that this part of the proposed development area has always remained undeveloped.

6. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 1 A3 permagraph sheet showing trench location plan
- 1 A3 paper trench location plan
- CD containing 21 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheet
- 21 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- 1 A4 photo index sheet
- 5 A4 trench recording sheets
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-076)

The archive will be held at The Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent under the temporary Accession Number BUN.2011

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition.

7. References

Cawood, T. 2010. *Midlands Co-op. Ground Investigation for Main Street, Barton under Needwood.* WYG Environment A065701.

IfA, 2008 *Code of Conduct*

IfA, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*

Staffordshire County Council, 2010. *Brief for An Archaeological Evaluation. Former Total Garage and Land to the Rear of Crowberry Cottage, Barton Under Needwood .* Staffordshire County Council August 2010.

ULAS 2011 *Design Specification for archaeological work at Main Street, Crowberry Lane, Barton under Needwood, Staffordshire NGR SK 18663 18707.*



Figure 3: Trench 1 (looking north west).



Figure 4: Trench 2 (looking south west)

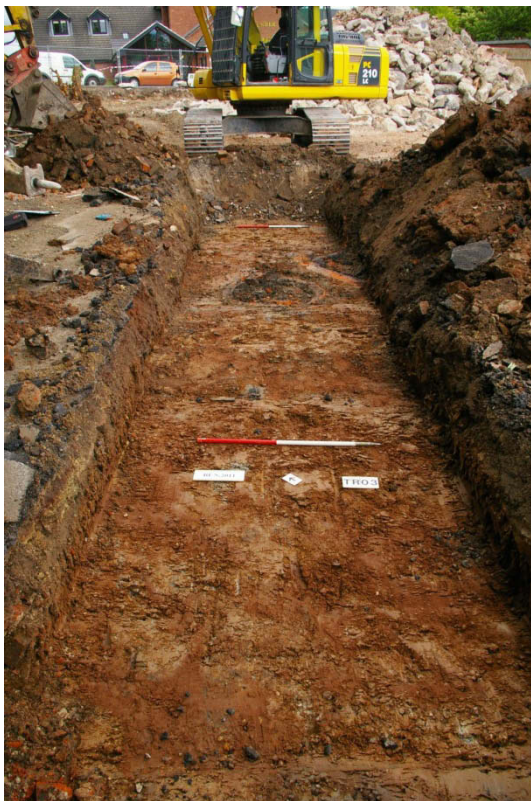


Figure 5: Trench 3 (looking north east).



Figure 6: Trench 4 (looking south).



Figure 7: Trench 5 (looking west north west).

Appendix: Summary Oasis Record

INFORMATION REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
Project Name	Main St, Barton under Needwood
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future work	Previous: None. Future: Unknown
Current Land Use	Derelict
Development Type	Retail
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 18663 18707
Start/end dates of field work	May 2011
Archive Recipient	Potteries Museum, Stoke on Trent
Height min/max	61mOD
Study Area	0.17 hectres
Finds	None

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