



# University of Leicester

## Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation of  
The Former Begleys Builders Yard,  
Mowsley Road, Husbands Bosworth,  
Leicestershire  
(SP 643 844)**

**Gerwyn Richards**



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**An Archaeological Evaluation  
Of The Former Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road,  
Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.  
(NGR SP 643 844)**

**Gerwyn Richards**

**Planning Application: 08/01335/FUL**

**For: Evans Bros Ltd.**

Checked by:

Signed:



Date: 26 October 2011

Name: ..R J Buckley

University of Leicester  
Archaeological Services  
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH  
Tel: (0116) 252 2848 Fax: (0116) 252 2614  
[www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

**An Archaeological Evaluation of the Former Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 643 844)**

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**Summary**

*University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Evans Bros Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of proposed re-development of the former Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.*

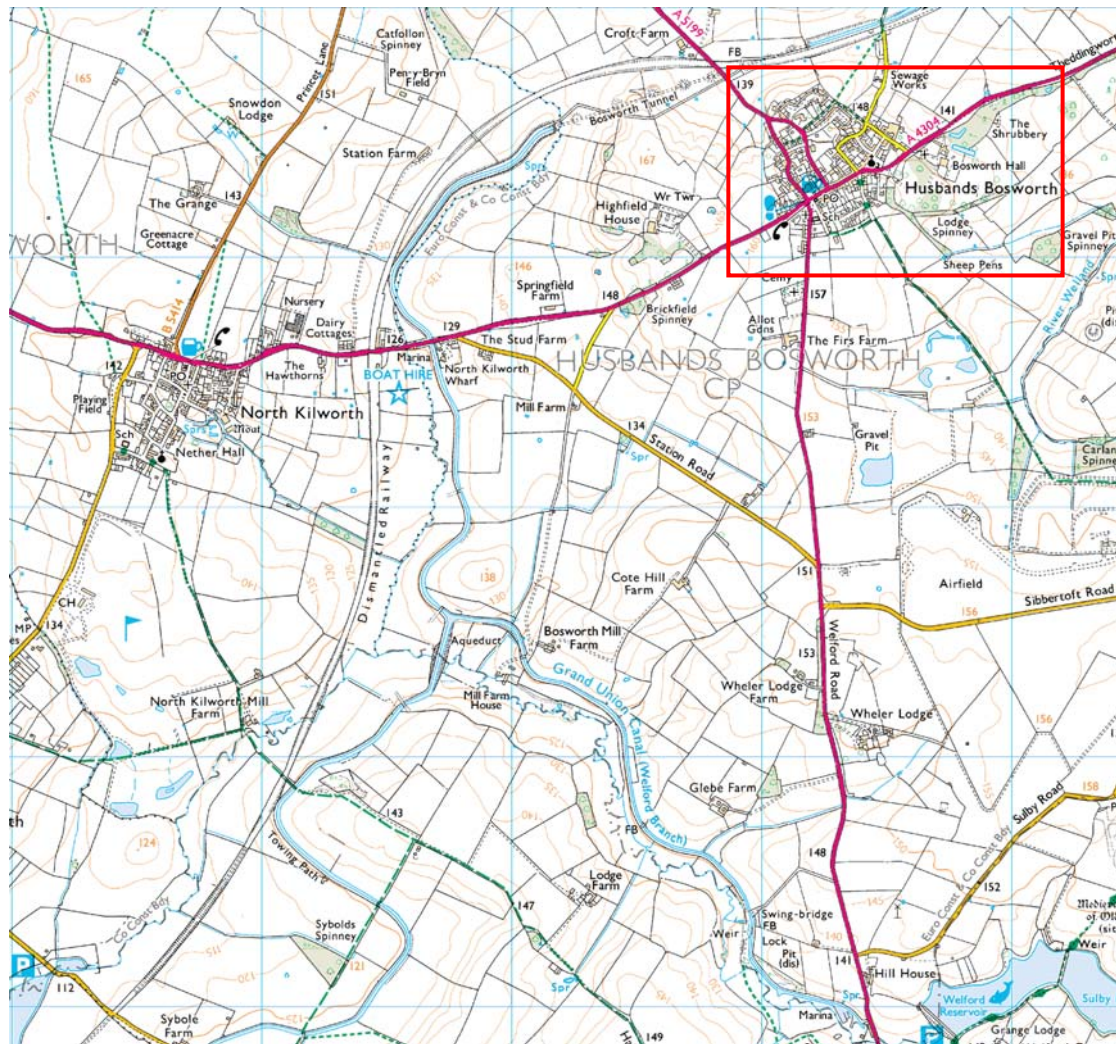
*The proposed development area had been identified as being of archaeological potential, located within an archaeologically diverse landscape with sites of known archaeological significance nearby. The archaeological evaluation revealed a limited number of archaeologically significant features including a single pit, dating from the 12th century adjacent to the Mowsley Road frontage. A number of post-medieval features were also recorded including the likely remains of a pond and a substantial ditch.*

*The archive for the archaeological work will be held by Leicestershire County Council, under the museums accession number X.A156.2011.*

**1. Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services was commissioned by Evans Bros Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed re-development of the former Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 643 844; *Figures 1 & 2*). The proposed development area was located within the historic settlement core of the village. Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing buildings and for the construction of 11 new residential units (Planning Application 08/01335/FUL. The archaeological works are intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

Following Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5), Leicestershire County Council, Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the planning authority required an evaluation by trial trenching to be undertaken, to follow up the results of a desk-based assessment (Bocock & Clay 2007). This document presents the results of that evaluation.



**Figure 1. Site location**  
(1:50,000)

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## 2. Background

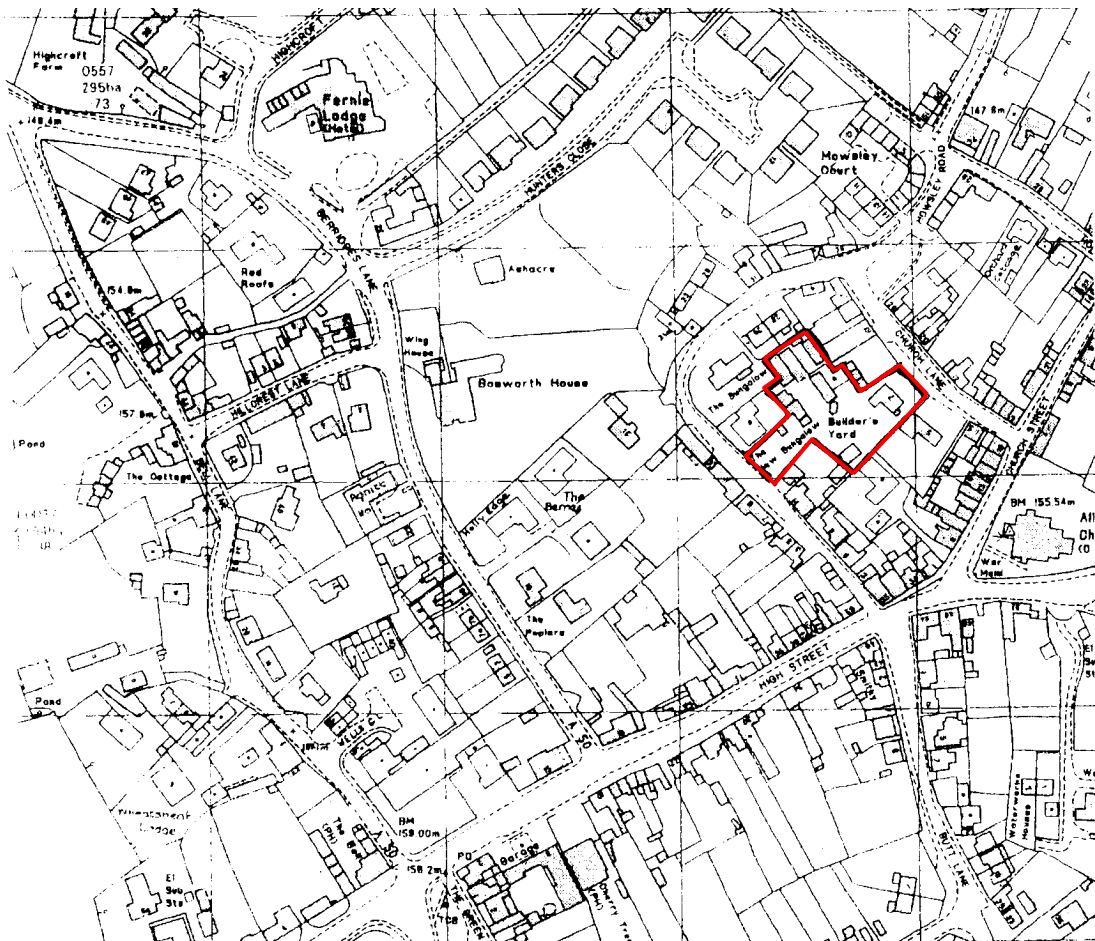
The proposed development area lies within a rich and varied archaeological landscape, within the historic settlement of Husbands Bosworth. An archaeological desk-based assessment (Bocock & Clay 2007) indicated that there are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. The Historic Environment Record for Leicestershire & Rutland (HER) indicates a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the proposed development area, including the medieval and post-medieval village core of Husbands Bosworth (HER Ref MLE9467), which is likely to have Anglo Saxon origins and is referred to in the Domesday Book as Baresworde (Morris 1979). Other medieval remains include Bosworth Hall which is listed as an extant building with a medieval core and late 16th century timber framed additions located *c.* 500m to the north-east (HER Ref MLE1724), at 3 Bell Lane there is an extant late medieval house, approximately 300m to the southwest (HER Ref MLE1726) as well as several sections of former road surfaces containing medieval tile fragments exposed at various locations in the village



during a water mains renewal scheme (HER Ref MLE9466). Archaeological sites from the post-medieval period have also been recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area. An archaeological evaluation at Ashacre, Berridges Lane located three pits of Late/post-medieval date, as well as a ditch of unknown date and two postholes of possible late medieval date (HER Ref MLE16148). A watching brief at Butt Lane, Husbands Bosworth, revealed a 19th century brick-lined well (HER Ref MLE9469), and a watching brief during water mains renewal revealed evidence of medieval pebbled and cobbled road surfaces at various locations in the village (HER Ref MLE16698). A large pond and Stone lined well was recorded on the street frontage of 1-3 High Street during trial trenching. The pond contained 16th-century pottery (HER Ref MLE15922-4). A watching brief undertaken at Fernie Lodge, Berridges Lane, located a brick-lined well (HER Ref MLE10285).

In addition, various other archaeological sites and finds have been recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area. (<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>):

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 170 indicates that the underlying geology is likely to consist of boulder clays. The proposed development area slopes from the south west down to the north east at a height of c.159m OD.



**Figure 2** Husbands Bosworth village core with proposed development area highlighted.  
(Original Scale 1:25,000)

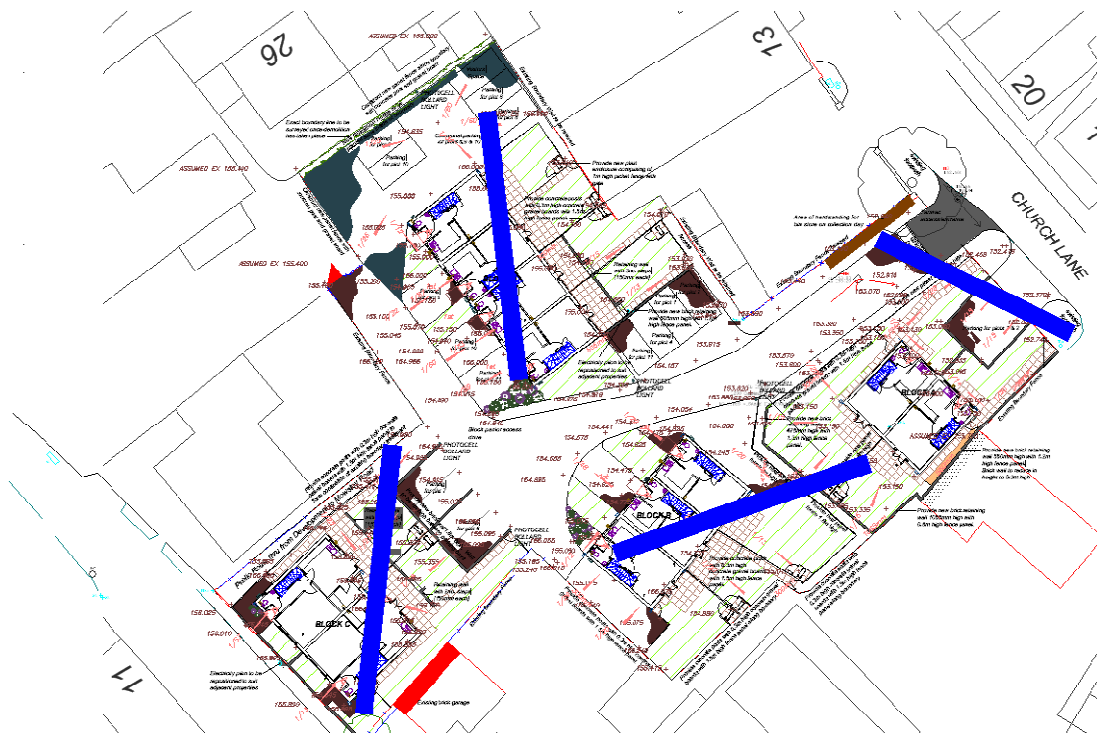
### 3. Aims and Methodology

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results

The work followed the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008) and adhered to the University's Health and Safety policy. The methodology to be followed was detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road/7 Church Street, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire* (ULAS 2011).

A 152 sq m sample of the c.0.14 hectare proposed development area was agreed by LCCHNET, the equivalent of three 25m by 1.6m trenches and one 20m by 1.6m trench (*Figure 3*). The excavations were carried out by a machine with a back actor fitted with a ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The exposed substratum was observed and the spoil searched for finds. The archaeological work took place on October 24th 2011. Based upon the site constraints and unknown service, the trenching plan was altered to include one 25m by 2m trench, one 15m by 2m trench, one 40m by 2m trench and a single 11m by 2m trench, a total area of approximately 182sq m.



**Figure 3** Proposed trench location plan overlaid on proposed development.  
(original drawing supplied by Evans Bros Ltd)



## 4. Results

### 4.1 Trench 1

Interval	0m	3m	6m	9m	12m	15m
<b>Topsoil Depth in mm</b>	300	300	300	230	400	380
<b>Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural</b>	300	460	600	700	700	760
<b>Base of Trench</b>	360	600	600	700	700	760

Trench 1 was located adjacent to the Church Lane frontage of the proposed development (*Figure 4*). The trench was 15 metres long by 2 metres wide and aligned north to south. Approximately 0.23m to 0.4m of topsoil was excavated revealing a shallow subsoil layer, below which was a grey-orange clayey-sandy gravel substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.36m to 0.76m below the current ground level.

Towards the northern end of the trench a small modern pit containing late 20th Century Fletton bricks was exposed. Approximately 5 metres from the northern end of the trench a linear feature, aligned approximately east-west was exposed within the trench [002]. Unfortunately the majority of this linear had been truncated by a service run on a similar alignment. Limited excavation of the least disturbed western end of [002] revealed a small gully, approximately 0.54m wide and 0.24m deep with near vertical sides and a flat base (*Figures 5 & 8*). The fill, (001) consisted of grey silt, from which a number of sherds of 18th to 19th century local coarse earthenware pottery was recovered.

The trench contained nothing further of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

### 4.2 Trench 2

Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m
<b>Topsoil Depth in mm</b>	400	300	300	200	300	290
<b>Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural</b>	500	Feature Fill (004)	490	400	Feature Fill (005)	370
<b>Base of Trench</b>	600	700	500	490	1100	450

Trench 2 was located adjacent to the southernmost boundary of the proposed development area, approximately 8 metres south of the southernmost end of trench 1 (*Figure 4*). The trench was 25 metres long by 2 metres wide and aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. Approximately 0.2m to 0.4m of topsoil was excavated revealing the same subsoil layer seen in trench 1, below which was the mixed substratum. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.45m to 0.6m below the current ground level.

At the easternmost end of the trench there was a large deposit of green-brown silt, (005), with no clear evidence of the undisturbed substrata; in order to confirm the extent of this deposit it was decided to machine excavate it. The excavation confirmed that (005) was over 1 metre deep and overlay the mixed substrata seen in the remainder of the trench and within trench 1. The deposit also became increasingly water-logged towards the base. A number of sherds of 18th to 19th century local coarse earthenware pottery were recovered. It is likely that (005) represents a silted up pond which had gone out of use by the 19th century prior to the proposed development area being used as an orchard, as recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1886).

Towards the western end of the trench, a large linear feature aligned approximately north-west to south-east was exposed within the trench, [003]. A section was excavated across [003] revealing a substantial ditch, approximately 2.5m wide and 0.69m deep with concave sides and a flat base (*Figure 6*). The fill, (004) consisted of dark-grey clayey silt, from which a large number of un-abraded sherds of 18th to 19th century local coarse earthenware pottery, including pancheon wares, midland purple ware and midland yellow ware was recovered. It is likely that [003] represents a land division or field boundary, which like the pond, (005) had gone out of use before the 1886 Ordnance Survey was recorded

The trench contained nothing further of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

### 4.3 Trench 3

Interval	0m	10m	20m	30m	40m
Topsoil Depth in mm	300	200	380	360	400
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	500	280	260	240	240
Base of Trench	500	480	640	600	540

Trench 3 was located towards the centre of the proposed development area and was extended to traverse the majority of the site (*Figure 4*). The trench was 40 metres long by 2 metres wide and aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. Approximately 0.2m to 0.4m of topsoil and overburden was excavated revealing mixed substrata seen in previous trenches. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.48m to 0.64m below the current ground level.

Towards the south-westernmost end of the trench a single pit, [007] was exposed, partially below the eastern trench section (*Figures 7 & 8*). Excavation revealed a sub-rounded pit measuring approximately 1.05 metres by 1.85 metres and approximately 0.42 metres deep. There were at least three separate instances of in-filling visible in the excavated section, the primary fill (009) consisted of grey silt containing large inclusions of re-deposited substrata, possibly indicating a quarry pit, above which was a secondary fill (008) consisting of greyish orange silty sand. The final fill (006) consisted of orange-grey sandy sit containing several sherds of medieval pottery. The

sherds were 12th century coarse Shelly ware and appeared to be from at least three individual vessels.

The trench contained nothing further of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 4.4 Trench 4

Interval	0m	2m	4m	6m	8m	11m
Topsoil Depth in mm	200	290	150	100	160	300
Subsoil Depth/Top of Natural	200	290	150	100	160	300
Base of Trench	460	440	450	500	420	510

Trench 4 was located at right angles to the western side of trench 3, approximately half way along its length adjacent to the westernmost corner of the proposed development area (*Figure 4*). The trench was 11 metres long by 2 metres wide and aligned west-north west to east-south east. Approximately 0.1m to 0.3m of topsoil and overburden was excavated directly onto the same substrata recorded in previous trenches. Excavation ceased at this level, approximately 0.42m to 0.51m below the current ground level. The lack of any discernable subsoil layer and the disturbed nature of the topsoil and overburden suggest significant recent ground disturbance has occurred within this part of the proposed development area.

The trench contained nothing of archaeological significance and was recorded and released for backfilling.

#### 5. Conclusion

The proposed development area occupied a promising location within a rich archaeological landscape. The archaeological evaluation recorded a limited amount of archaeologically significant features and deposits. A single medieval pit was located towards the southern end of the proposed development area, adjacent to the Mowsley Road frontage. The evaluation also located a large post medieval linear feature, probably a land division or field boundary towards the centre of the proposed development area as well as what appeared to be a pond feature of a similar date. Neither is recorded on the 1886 Ordnance Survey, suggesting that they were no longer visible by the middle of the 19th century.

## 6. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of:

- 2 A2 permagraph sheets of plans & sections
- 1 A3 permagraph overlay showing trench ID
- 1 A3 paper final trench location plan
- 22 Black & White negatives and contact prints
- CD containing 30 digital images
- 1 A4 contact sheets
- 1 A4 photo index sheet
- 4 A4 trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 context summary sheets
- 2 A4 context sheets
- 1 box of finds
- Unbound copy of this report (ULAS Report Number 2011-163)

The archive will be held at Leicestershire County Council Museums under the Accession Number X.A156.2011

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* for inclusion in the next edition.

## 7. References

Bocock, S. & Clay, P. 2007 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for Residential Development at Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 643 844)*. ULAS Report No 2007-099.

IfA, 2010 *Code of Conduct*

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

ULAS, 2011 *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological work. Begleys Builders Yard, Mowsley Road/7 Church Street, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.*

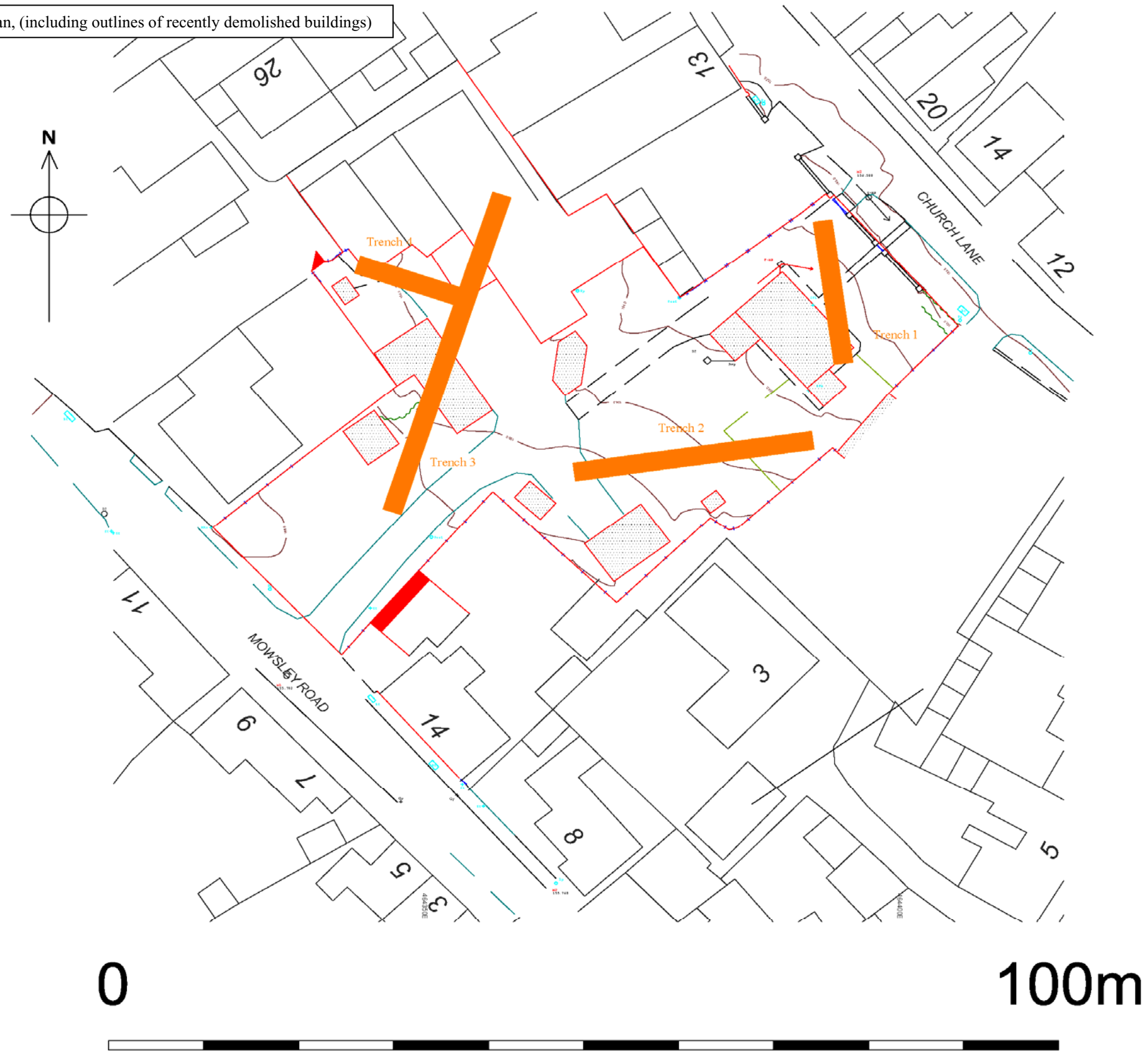
Gerwyn Richards  
ULAS  
University of Leicester  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH

Tel:0116 252 2848

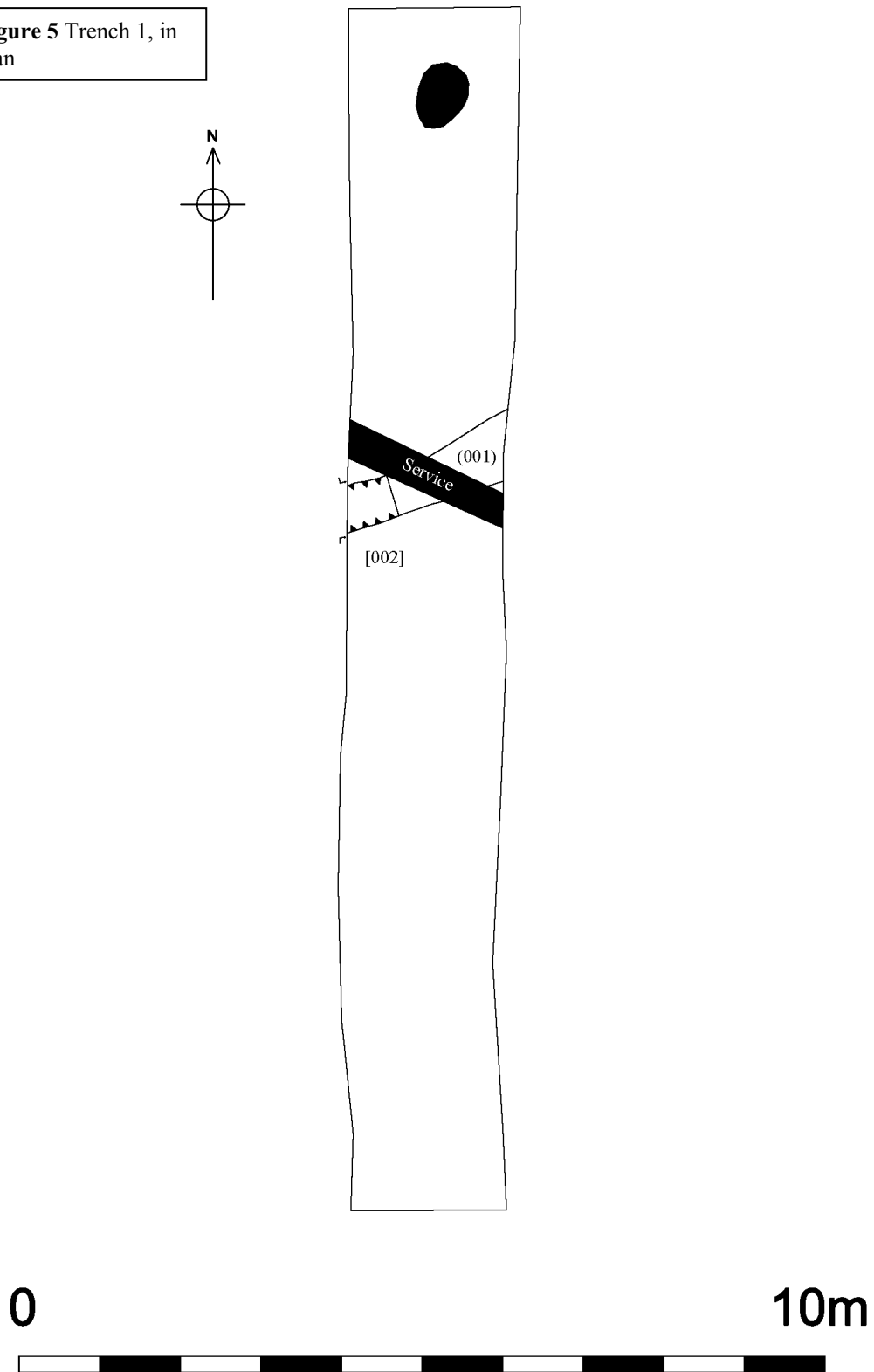
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Figure 4 Trench location plan, (including outlines of recently demolished buildings)



**Figure 5** Trench 1, in plan





**Figure 6** Trench 2 in plan.

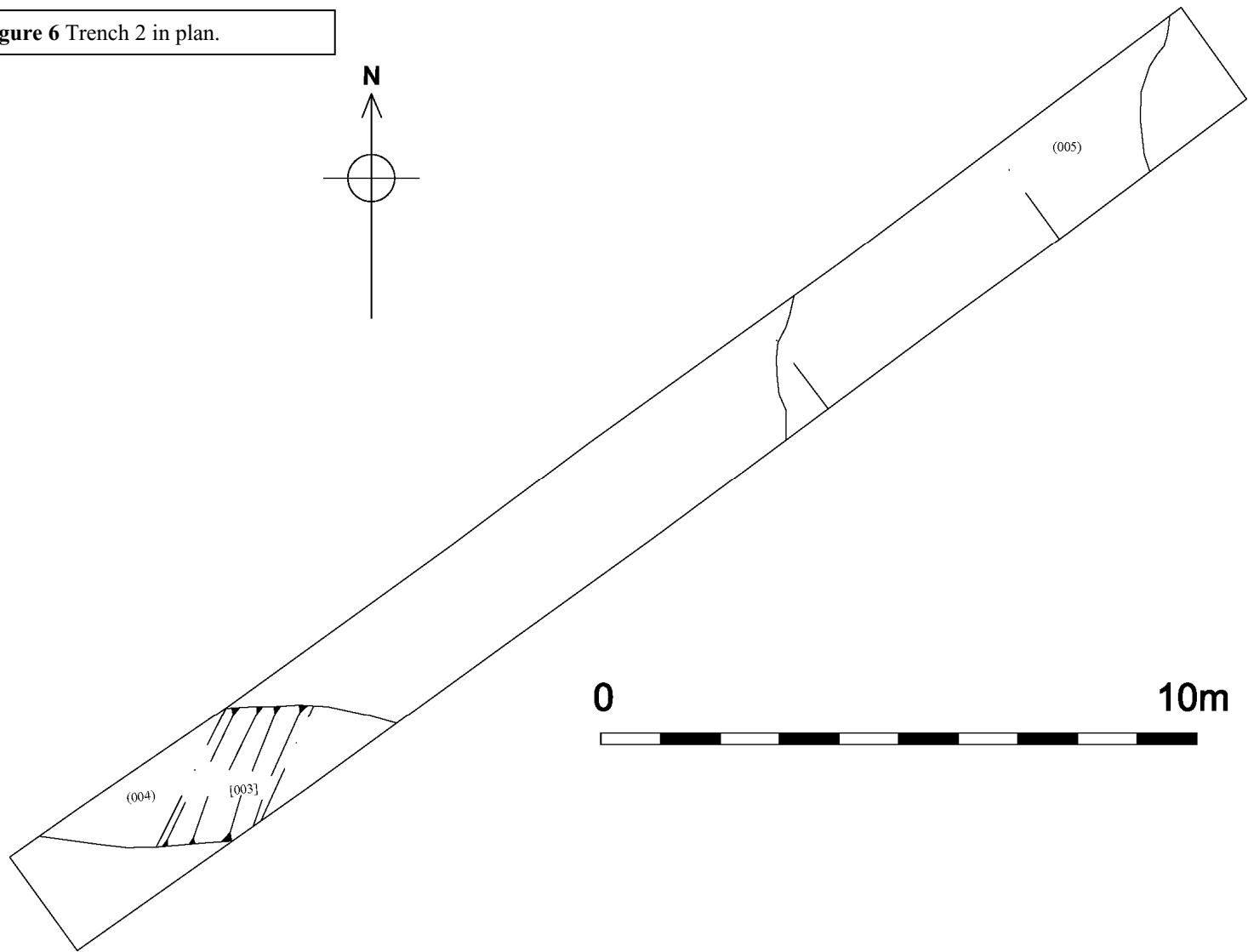
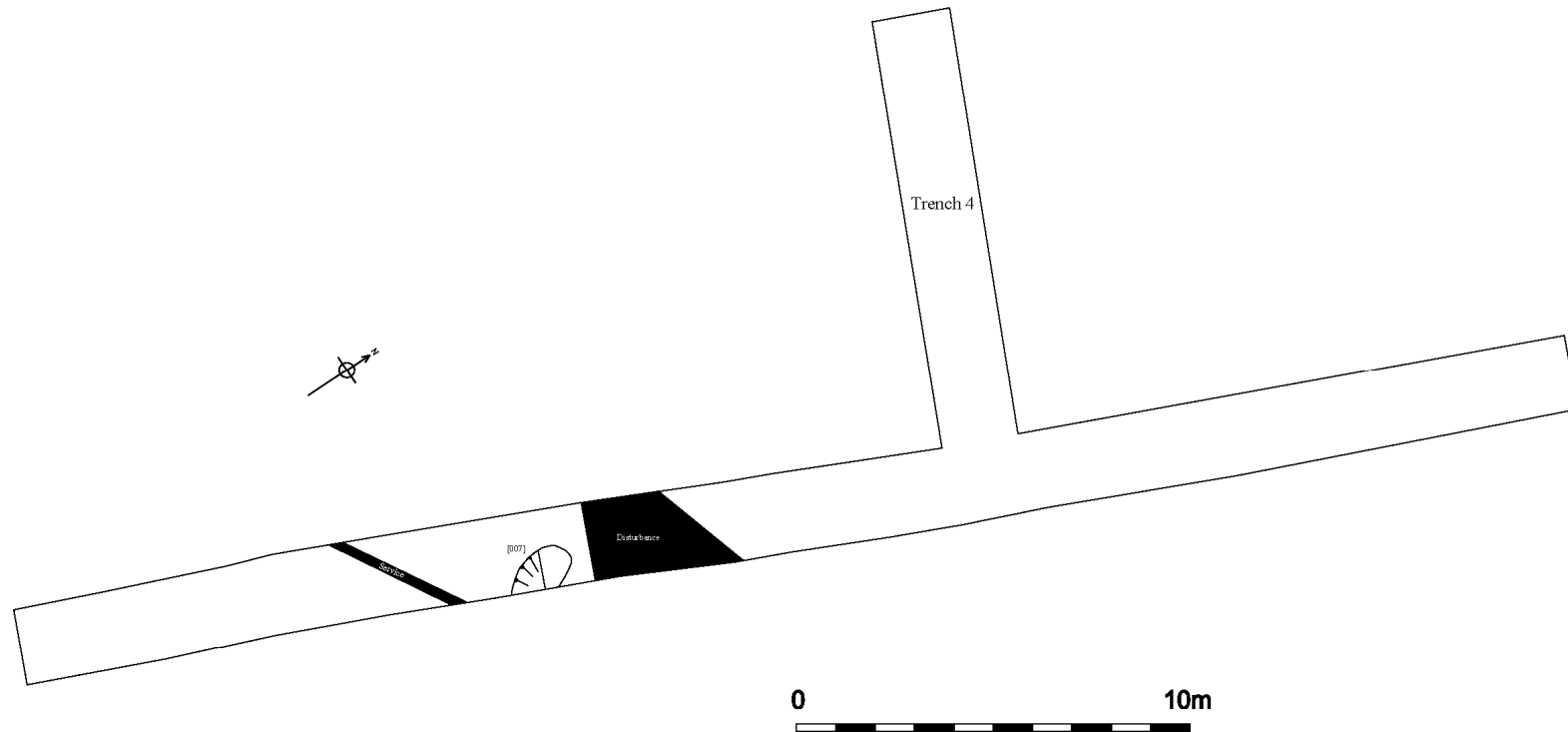


Figure 7 Trenches 3 & 4 in plan.



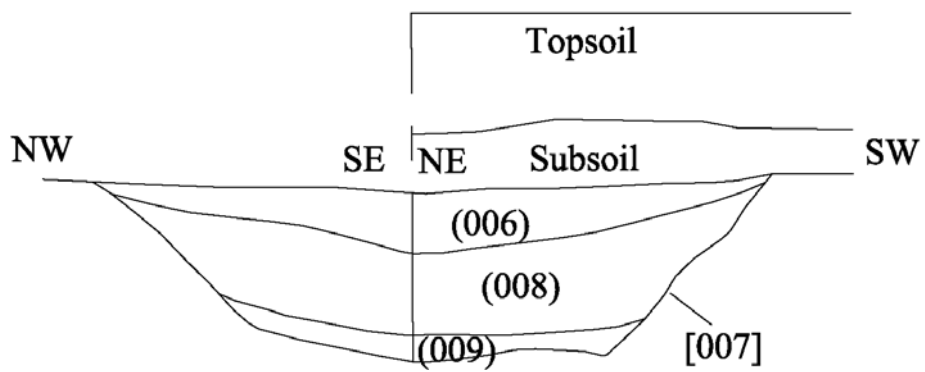
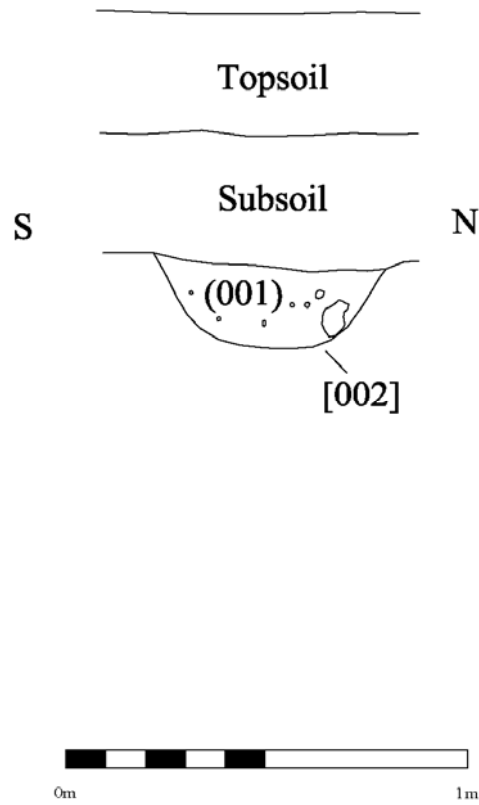


Figure 8 Recorded Sections



**Figure 9** Trench 1 (looking south).



**Figure 10** Trench 2 (looking west-south west).



**Figure 11** Trench 3 (looking south west).



**Figure 12** Trench 4 (looking west-north west).





**Figure 13** East-north east facing section of [002].



**Figure 14** North west facing section of [003].





**Figure 15** West-north west facing section of [007].



**APPENDIX1**

**APPENDIX: THE POST ROMAN POTTERY FROM BEGLEY’S YARD,  
HUSBANDS BOSWORTH.**

*Deborah Sawday*

**The Pottery**

The 28 sherds, weighing 1334 grams, with a vessel rim equivalence of 0.451 (where one vessel equals 1.00), was catalogued with reference to the to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research group, (MPRG, 1998 and 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 1989), (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (Tables 1 and 2).

A date from the 12th century is suggested for the Coarse Shelly wares from (6) [7] (Blinkhorn 2001, 273). Later medieval pottery and sherds dating from *circa* 1650 with a terminal date in the early or mid 18th century occurred in contexts (1) [2] and (5). The latest pottery, part of a wide mouthed bowl or pancheon rim in the Earthenware fabric EA2 in (4) [3] is not closely dated, and the same context also contained a fragment of post medieval or possibly modern glass. However, the absence of modern fine ware pottery may also indicate a post medieval date for this context.

Table 1: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams).

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Sherds</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Average Sherd Weight</b>	<b>EVEs</b>
<b>Medieval</b>					
CS	Coarse Shelly	8	126	15.75	0.3255
CC2	Chilvers Coton 2	3	144	48.0	
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>24.54</b>	<b>0.325</b>
<b>Later Medieval/Early Post Medieval</b>					
LY6	Stanion Lyveden 6	1	11		
MP	Midland Purple	1	5		
MY	Midland Yellow	1	12		
EA1	Earthenware	6	541		
EA1/2	Earthenware	3	118		0.0755
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>57.25</b>	<b>0.0755</b>
<b>Post Medieval</b>					
EA2	Earthenware	1	57		0.050
EA5	Imitation Mottled ware	1	5		
EA6	Blackware	3	315		
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<b>Site Totals</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>1334</b>		<b>0.451</b>

The presence of both medieval and early post medieval pottery within the core of the medieval village is of note. The relatively large average sherd weight (Table 1) and the presence of joining sherds notably in the 12th century context (6) [7] also suggests that undisturbed archaeological levels may survive in the vicinity.

Table 2: The medieval and later pottery by fabric, sherd numbers and weight (grams) by context.

Context	Fabric/Ware	Nos	Grams	Eves	Comments
POT					
1 [2]	CC2 – Chilvers Coton 2	1	11		Body – traces of glaze externally, <i>c.</i> 1300-1475.
1 [2]	MP – Midland Purple	1	5		Lead glaze internally – fabric with sparse quartz, transitional into post medieval earthenware, <i>c.</i> 1375-1550..
1 [2]	EA5 – Imitation Mottled ware	1	5		Glazed over red slip internally, <i>c.</i> 1650-1780.
4 [3]	LY6 – Stanion Lyveden D ware	1	11		Body, <i>c.</i> 1400-1500.
4 [3]	EA1 – Earthenware 1	3	408		Two joining sherds – part of a large jar with a reduced body all internally glazed <i>c.</i> 1500+.
4 [3]	EA1	2	45		Miscellaneous reduced body sherds, both internally slipped & glazed
4 [3]	EA1/2 – Earthenware 1/2	1	67	0.0755	Jar rim, patchy slip & pronounced decorative rilling on exterior wall, slipped & glazed internally external rim diameter 180mm, 16th – 17th century.
4 [3]	EA1/2	2	51		Convex base fragment internally slipped & glazed. body with traces of internal glaze.
4 [3]	EA2 – Earthenware 2	1	57	0.05	Pancheon or wide mouthed bowl rim, estimated external rim diameter 500mm, 17th – early/mid 18th century.
4 [3]	EA6 – Blackware	1	35		Jar fragment with foot ring flat base, traces of lead glaze externally, <i>c.</i> 1650-1750.
4 [3]	EA6	2	280		Joining sherds from a hollow ware vessel, possibly a chamber pot. Shiny glaze on both internal & external surfaces.
5	CC2	2	133		Very abraded, flat base & body with traces of brown glaze internally, <i>c.</i> 1300-

					1475.
5	MY – Midland Yellow	1	12		Base fragment, glazed internally, c.1500-1725.
5	EA1	1	88		Internally slipped & glazed body in a reduced fabric, probably from a jar, c.1500+.
6 [7] pit	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	3	73	0.170	Joining sherds, everted externally thickened jar rim, external rim diameter c.190mm. Similar at East Coton where dated to the 12th century. (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.7.63, 273),
6 [7] pit	CS	2	27	0.150	Everted, flat topped jar rim, external rim diameter 200mm.
6 [7] pit	CS	1	14	0.0055	Everted, externally thickened rim, possibly from a bowl, external rim diameter c.2600mm. ,
6 [7] pit	CS	2	12		Miscellaneous fragments.
MISCELLANEOUS					
4 [3]	Glass	1			Vessel glass -? 18th century.
4 [3]	Glass	1			Bottle glass - ?post medieval
6 [7] pit	EA - Earthenware	1			Baked clay/daub
6 [7] pit	Animal Bone	3			

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Site/ Parish: Begleys Yard, Husbands Bosworth. Accession No.: XA156 2011 Document Ref: husbands bosworth2.docx Material: pottery Site Type: village core	Submitter: G. Richards Identifier: D. Sawday Date of Identification: 26.10.2011 Method of Recovery: evaluation Job Number: 12-134
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**Appendix 2 OASIS**

<b>INFORMATION REQUIRED</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Project Name	Begleys Yard, Husbands Bosworth
Project Type	Evaluation
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Gerwyn Richards
Previous/Future work	Previous: Desk-based assessment. Future: Unknown
Current Land Use	Light Industrial
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	PPS5
Position in the Planning Process	As Condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 643 844
Start/end dates of field work	Oct 2011
Archive Recipient	LMARS
Height min/max	159mOD
Study Area	0.14 ha
Finds	Yes

## Contact Details

Richard Buckley or Patrick Clay  
University of Leicester Archaeological  
Services (ULAS)  
University of Leicester,  
University Road,  
Leicester LE1 7RH

**T:** +44 (0)116 252 2848

**F:** +44 (0)116 252 2614

**E:** [ulas@le.ac.uk](mailto:ulas@le.ac.uk)

**w:** [www.le.ac.uk/ulas](http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas)

