



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services



**An Archaeological Strip, Plan
and sample excavation at 13
Church Lane, Husbands
Bosworth, Leicestershire**

NGR: SP 643 844

Mathew Morris

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at 13 Church Lane, Husbands Bosworth**

Leicestershire

NGR: SP 643 844

Mathew Morris

For: Evans Brothers Ltd.

Planning application no. 12/01043/REM; 12/01815/MMA

Checked by:

Signed:



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CONTENTS

Summery	1
Introduction	1
Geology and Topography	1
Historical and Archaeological Background	1
Archaeological Aims and Objectives	3
Methodology	3
Results	3
Discussion	7
Bibliography	7
Archive	7
Publication	7
Acknowledgements	8

FIGURES

Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted	2
Figure 2: Location plan showing area of work	4
Figure 3: Site view from Church Lane, showing site of three-dwelling development. Looking south-west.	5
Figure 4: Typical area of natural ground with overburden removed in site's south-east corner. Looking south.	5
Figure 5: Discolouration of ground from diesel contamination on Church Lane frontage. Looking north-west.	6
Figure 6: Pit containing oil-contaminated glass (beneath digger bucket), looking north-west from Church Lane frontage.	6

TABLES

Table 1: OASIS database entry summary	7
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An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample Excavation at 13 Church Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 643 844)

Mathew Morris

Summery

An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at 13 Church Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 643 844) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 23 April 2013. The work was carried out on behalf of Evans Brothers Ltd. in advance of construction of three new dwellings. Work involved supervision and inspection of machine removed overburden over the unexcavated footprint of the proposed buildings. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and the results of the investigation proved negative. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A54.2013.

Introduction

This document constitutes the final report for an archaeological scheme of work (strip, map and sample excavation) carried out at 13 Church Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 643 844; Figure 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Evans Brothers Ltd. by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 23 April 2013.

The proposed construction of three dwellings at 13 Church Lane (Planning Application Nos. 12/1043/REM & 12/01815/MMA) was located on the west side of Church Lane in the centre of Husbands Bosworth, approximately 21km south of Leicester (Figure 2). The total development area covered c.500 square meters.

The strip, map and sample excavation was requested by Leicestershire County Council Historic and Natural Environment Team (LCCHNET) as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, Harborough District Council, in accordance with *NPPF Sec. 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* (DCLG March 2012), as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work* (Clay 2013).

Geology and Topography

The British Geological Survey of Great Britain, Sheet 170 (Market Harborough), indicates that the underlying geology likely consists of superficial deposits of diamicton till overlying bedrock deposits of Jurassic siltstone and mudstone belonging to the Dyrham Formation (BGS 1968). The site lies on high-ground at c.148m above Ordnance Datum (OD) with the ground dropping down gradually from south-west to north-east.

Historical and Archaeological 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) indicates that there are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. However, the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) indicates a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the site, 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

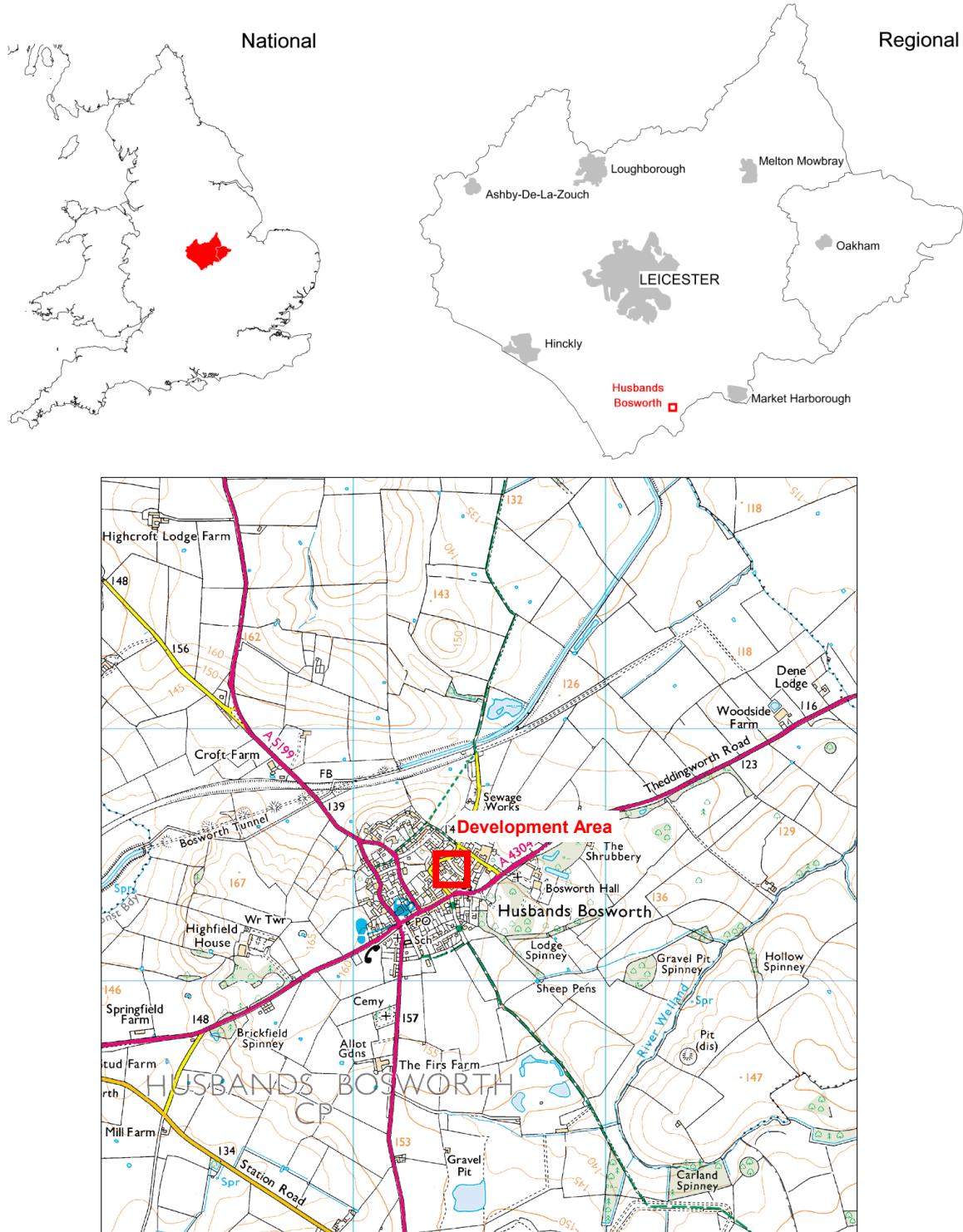


Figure 1: Location maps with development area highlighted

Reproduced from Explorer® 223 Northampton and Market Harborough 1:25,000 OS map by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown copyright 2009. All rights reserved. License number AL100029495.

Book as Baresworde (Williams & Martin 1992, 639, 642 & 645). This is thought to refer to, in Old English, the ‘enclosure of a man called Bār’ (Mills 2011). 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 (MLE1724), at 3 Bell Lane there is an extant late medieval house, approximately 300m to the southwest (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 (MLE9466).

Archaeological sites from the post-medieval period have also been found in the area surrounding the development (MLE1719, MLE1725, MLE9469).

An archaeological evaluation of an adjacent site (Richard 2011) 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.

Archaeological Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date of any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To advance understanding of the local heritage assets.
- To produce a report and archive of any results.

Methodology

The project involved the controlled supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks across the unexcavated footprints of the three proposed dwellings by an experienced professional archaeologist to determine the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. This was carried out using a mini-360° mechanical excavator with a c.1.6m wide ditching bucket.

All exposed areas, sections and spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Any archaeological deposits were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as appropriate to addressing the objectives of the watching brief. Field notes were recorded on a pro-forma ULAS watching brief record form.

All work followed the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Work in Leicestershire and Rutland (LMARS)*.

Results

Before work commenced, former buildings and areas of hard standing had been demolished and removed, leaving c.0.1-0.3m of loose modern overburden lying across the site (Figure 2 & Figure 3). This was found to be lying directly on the natural substratum, comprising firm yellowish-brown clayey-sand and gravel (c.1m thick) overlying compact orangeish-yellow sandy-clay and gravel mixed with lenses of brownish-grey clay (Figure 4).

Approximately 90% of the ground within the proposed building footprint was removed down to a depth of c.1.2m due to diesel contamination from an underground fuel tank once situated in the southern quarter of the site (Figure 5 & Figure 6). Across the north-western half of the site contamination was observed from ground level down to a depth of c.1.5m. The construction of previous structures on site had completely destroyed any evidence of archaeological activity. Modern intrusive features observed during the course of the work included a large pit filled with oil-contaminated glass and a small stone-lined 'well' or 'sump' filled with oil. Across the south-eastern half of the site contamination was only present as a c.0.1-0.2m thick band at a depth of c.1.1m below ground level. Above this the natural substratum was uncontaminated but devoid of features.

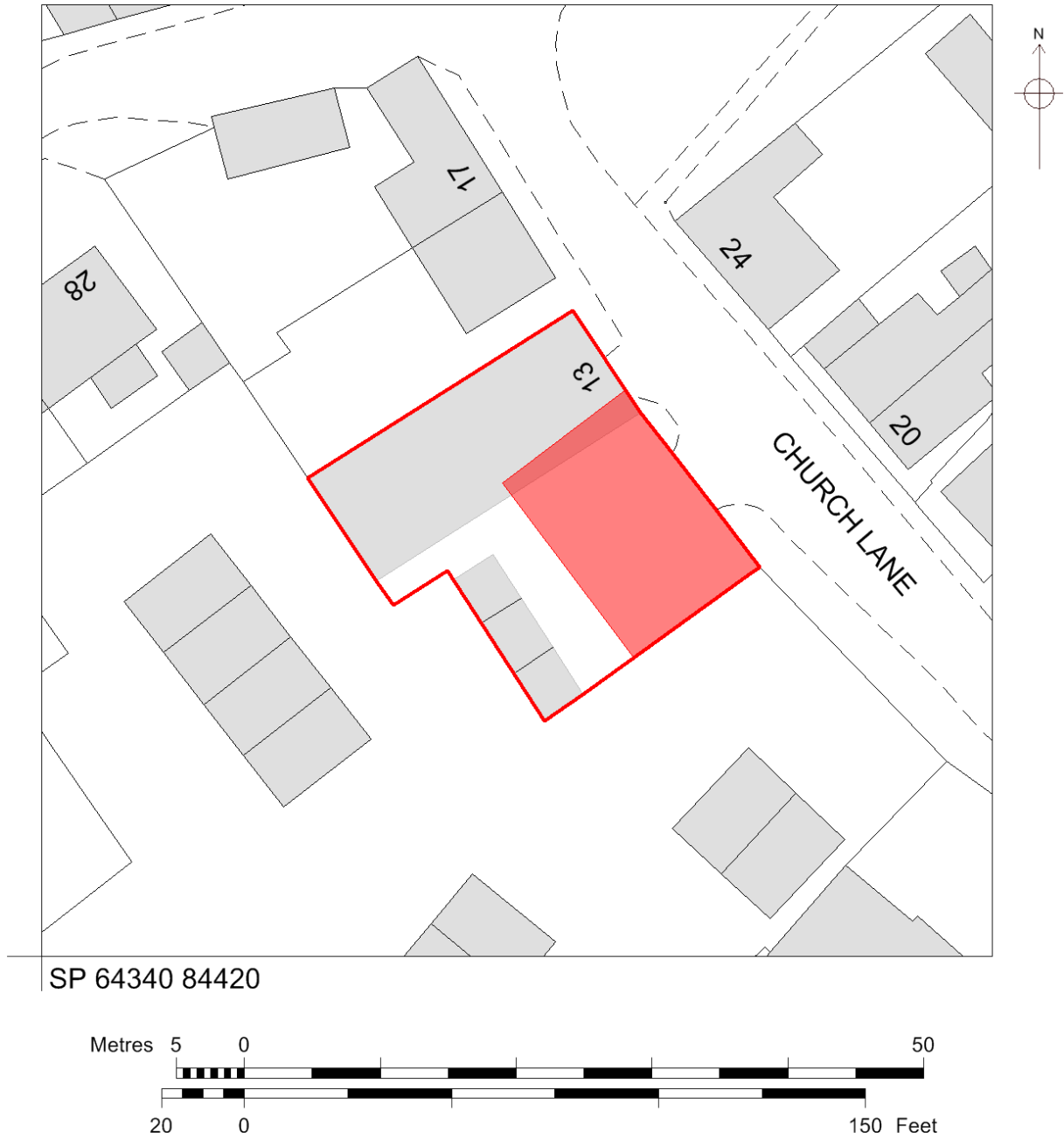


Figure 2: Location plan showing area of work

The development area (c.500sq m) is outlined in red, with the footprint of the proposed dwellings (c.185sq m) shaded in.



Figure 3: Site view from Church Lane, showing site of three-dwelling development. Looking south-west.



Figure 4: Typical area of natural ground with overburden removed in site's south-east corner. Looking south.



Figure 5: Discolouration of ground from diesel contamination on Church Lane frontage. Looking north-west.



Figure 6: Pit containing oil-contaminated glass (beneath digger bucket), looking north-west from Church Lane frontage.

Discussion

Overall, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the course of the work and the result of the investigation proved negative. Much of the ground within the site appeared to have been extensively disturbed during previous occupation as a lorry depot and a factory. This had left various modern intrusions across the site, including building footings, drains and underground fuel tanks.

Bibliography

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Archive

The site archive consists of: 1 A4 watching brief record form
8 digital photographs

The archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A54.2013

Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York (Table 1).

Table 1: OASIS database entry summary

Project Number	universi1-149812
Project Name	4 Measham Road, Packington
Project Type	Watching Brief (strip, map & sample excavation)
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Mathew Morris
Previous/Future work	None
Current Land Use	Industrial
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF Section 12
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 643 844
Start/end dates of field work	23/04/2013
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museum Services
Study Area	500 square meters

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in the local archaeological journal, the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, in due course.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to the client and contractors for their co-operation and assistance on site. Fieldwork was undertaken, and the report written by Mathew Morris. The project was managed for ULAS by Patrick Clay.

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