



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LEICESTER**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, map & Sample  
Excavation at Holy Bones, 10 Church  
Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 40691 03221**

Nathan Flavell



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Church Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire**

**NGR: SK 40691 03221**

**Nathan Flavell**

**For: Ms S Kennedy and Mr K O'Higgins**

**Planning application no. 15/01264/HOU**

Checked by:

Signed:



**Date:** 29.02.2016

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## **An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation at Holy Bones, 10 Church Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (SK 40691 03221)**

*Nathan Flavell*

### **Summary**

*An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was carried out at Holy Bones, 10 Church Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (SK 40691 03221) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 16-18 February 2016. The work was carried out on behalf of Ms S Kennedy and Mr K O'Higgins in advance of the proposed property extension and separate garages. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A26.2016. A medieval pit, an undated gully and a number of small post-medieval features were uncovered.*

### **Introduction**

This document constitutes the report for an archaeological investigation carried out on land at Holy Bones, 10 Church Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (SK 40691 03221) (Fig. 1). The work was carried out on behalf of Ms S Kennedy and Mr K O'Higgins by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on 16-18 February 2016.

The development site is located on land to the rear of Holy Bones 10 Church Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire CV13 0LG, in the borough of Hinckley and Bosworth. The site lies within the parish of Market Bosworth and in the former Sparkenhoe Hundred. The proposed development is located within the historic settlement core of Market Bosworth in close proximity to the church.

Mitigation in the form of a Strip, Plan and Record excavation was required in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. The work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, map and Sample Excavation* (Gonzalez-Rodriguez 2016).

### **Geology and Topography**

The site lies within the Conservation Area and historic core of Market Bosworth and comprises an area of c.2000m<sup>2</sup>, lying at a height of c. 131m aOD, on relatively flat ground.





Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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### Historical and Archaeological Background (from Gnanaratnam and Clay, 2014)

Market Bosworth was established before 1086 and is mentioned in the Domesday Book, which records two Norman landowners for Market Bosworth. The Count of Meulan held six carucates of land. The demesne had three ploughs and two slaves, and there was a wood. The land was formerly held by Saxi and it was valued at £4 before the Conquest and 50s after. The second land holder was Hugh of Granmesnil, the first Earl of Leicester. He held two carucates of land, with land for one plough. A priest and deacon are mentioned together with twelve acres of meadow and a wood, worth 10s before the Conquest and 20s after (Morgan 1979). The historical evidence suggests that Market Bosworth was a settlement of at least Late Saxon date and had a market from 1285 (Welding 1977, 33). Far and Near Coton are both subsidiary hamlets.

The Historic Environment Record data indicates that the application site lies within the historic core and Conservation Area of Market Bosworth (MLE2935). Most of the heritage assets close to the application area comprise historic buildings. Approximately 50m to the north-east of the proposed development site is the Grade II Listed Church of St. Peter (MLE12178) dating back to the 14th century. Within the same distance are a further two Grade II Listed 19th century buildings, The Grey House (MLE12177) and 5, Church Street

(MLE12176). Undated human remains of a young female were found approximately 50m to the south-east on Park Street. The site of medieval building (MLE2925) is located circa 70m to the west on Barton Road. Fieldwork in 1996 recorded Iron Age/Roman pits and ditches (MLE8334) roughly 120m to the south. A number of post-holes may also date from this period. The features and finds suggest Iron Age activity in the vicinity with a possible later Roman field system.

## **Archaeological 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 range for 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 heritage assets
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

## **Methodology**

Two areas were excavated to cover the footprint of the proposed house extension and garages (Fig. 2). The entire area of the two footprints was not possible due to the presence of mature root systems and wall foundations.

Area 1 (Fig. 3) was located to the south directly behind the existing house, and measured 9.1m x 3.1m. Area 2 (Fig. 4) was to the south-west of the house on the old bowling green, and measured 15m x 3.6m, with a small extension to 4.5m wide.

The sections and existing spoil heaps were visually inspected for features and finds. Archaeological features were hand cleaned, planned, photographed and sample excavated as detailed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014) and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological field evaluations* (2014).

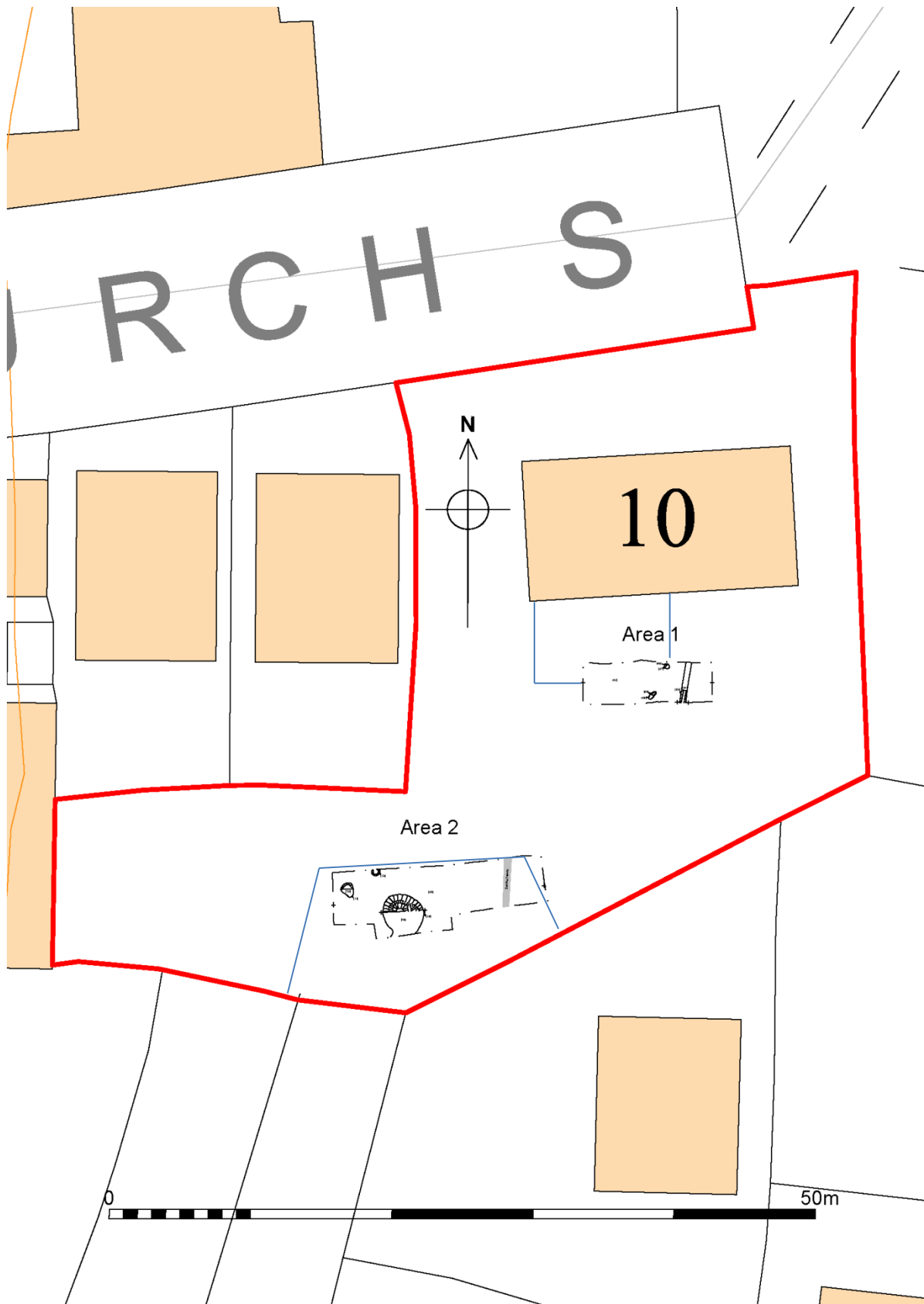


Figure 2: Site plan. New building footprints in blue

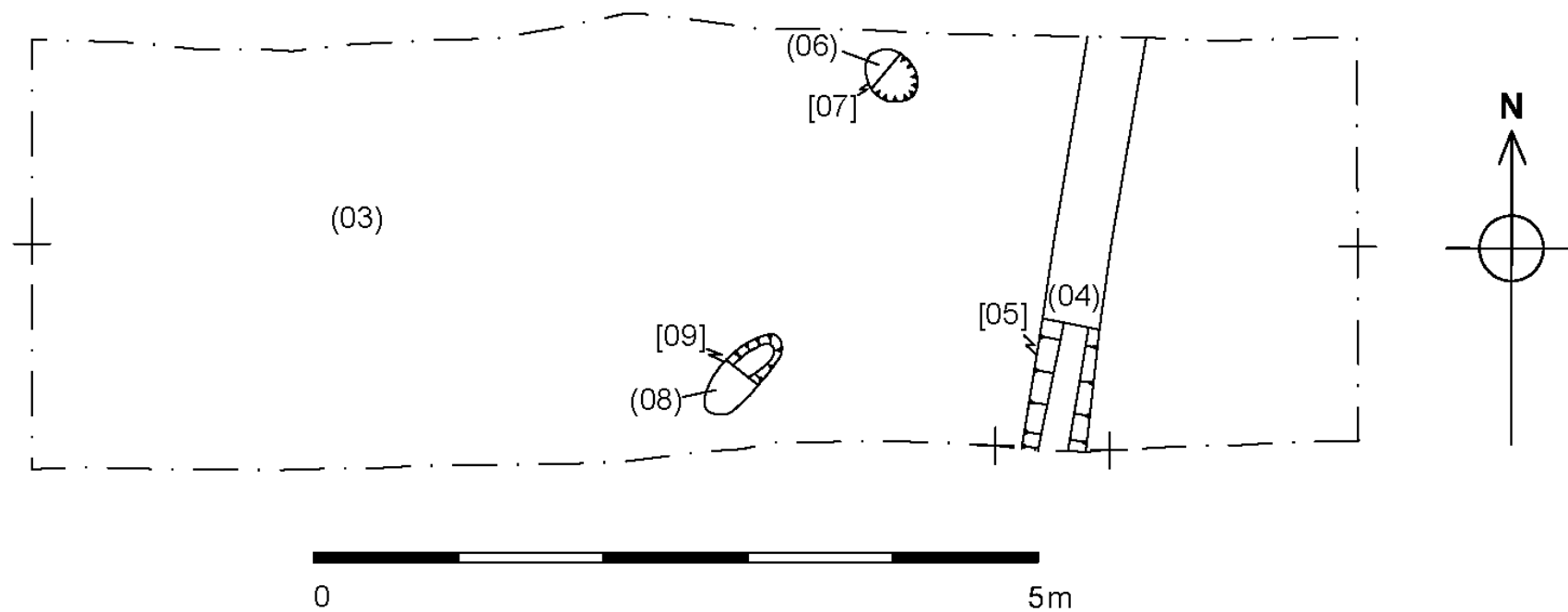


Figure 3: Area 1 plan



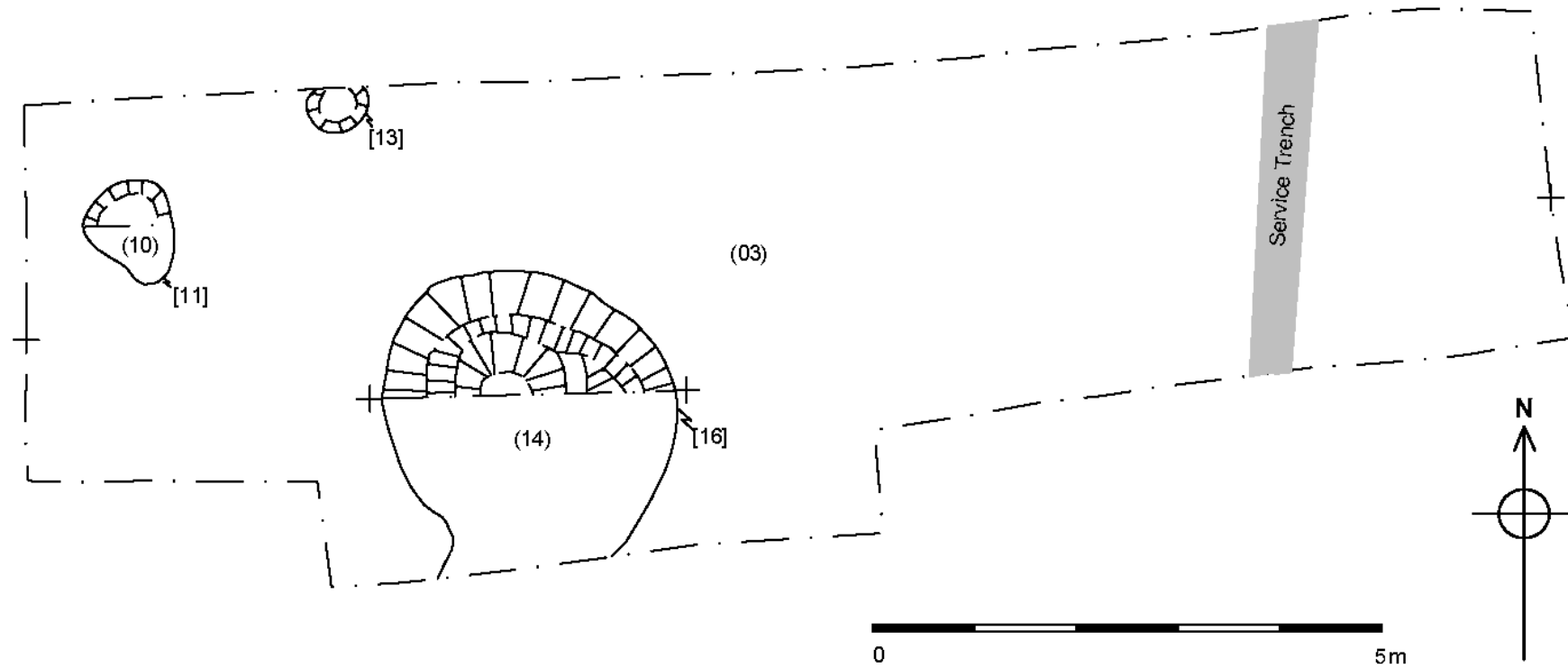


Figure 4: Area 2 plan

## Results

### *Area 1*

The natural geology was an orange red sandy-clay and pebbly sand at a depth of between 0.48m and 0.61m deep (Fig. 5). Cut into this was a small linear gully [05] (Figs. 6 & 7), aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.7m wide. It was filled with an orange-brown clay-sand with some pebble inclusions, 0.22m thick. Covering the gully was subsoil made up of brown-grey clay-sand, 0.18m to 0.3m thick. Two post-holes [07] & [09] to the west of the gully appeared to be cut into this layer. Post-hole [07] (Fig. 8), was circular with a diameter of 0.4m. It was filled with brown grey silty-sand which was very similar to the subsoil, 0.23m deep. A single sherd of 18-19th century yellow glazed stoneware was recovered. The second post-hole [09] (Fig. 9) was oval, 0.7m long by 0.35m wide. It was also filled with brown grey silty-sand with charcoal and pebble inclusions, 0.13m thick. The topsoil was dark brown sandy-loam between 0.2m and 0.35m thick.

### *Area 2*

The natural geology was yellow clay changing to orange sandy-clay toward the east (Fig. 10). Cut into the natural substratum was a large pit [16] (Figs. 11 & 12). It was circular, with fairly steep sides and a diameter of 2.9m. The primary fill (15) was grey-brown sandy-clay with frequent pebble inclusions, 0.9m thick. A total of 14 pottery sherds from 13-14th centuries was recovered. The secondary fill (14) was dark brown clay-sand with some pebble inclusions, 0.15m thick. A single sherd of 12th century pottery was recovered. This fill seemed to be deep as it was evident within the baulk section, and may have been an imported soil to fill in the hollow left by the pit to level the area. To the west of this pit were two more features, [11] and [13]. Pit [11] (Fig. 13), was sub-oval, 1m long and 0.85m wide. It was filled with brown grey clay-sand, 0.18m deep, which was a similar fill to that of the subsoil. A single fragment of post-medieval brick was recovered. A small post-hole or burrow [13] (Fig. 14), was located further to the north. It was 0.6m in diameter, filled by grey sandy-clay, 0.2m thick. The subsoil sealed the fill but as it was dome shaped it was more perhaps more likely to be an animal burrow than an actual man-made feature. The subsoil was the same as in that in Area 1, 0.12m to 0.25m thick. The topsoil was also the same, 0.14m to 0.43m thick. The increasing thickness accounts for the levelling for the private Victorian bowling green that still occupied the site.



Figure 5: Area 1 looking east



Figure 6: Gully [05] looking south



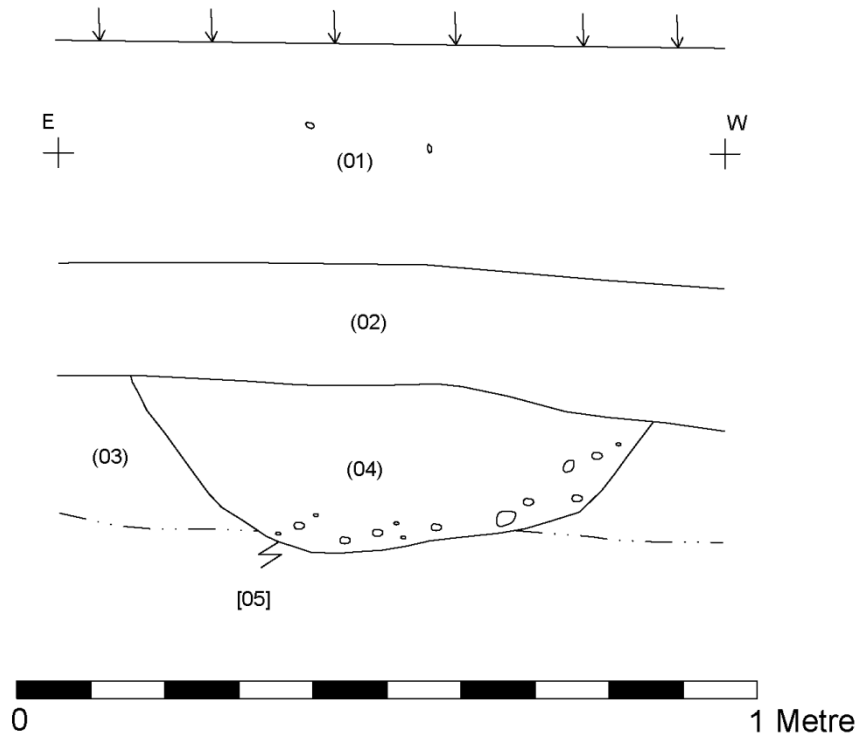


Figure 7: Gully [05] section



Figure 8: Post-hole [07] looking north-west





Figure 9: Post-hole [09] looking south-west



Figure 10: Area 2 looking west





Figure 11: Pit [16] looking south

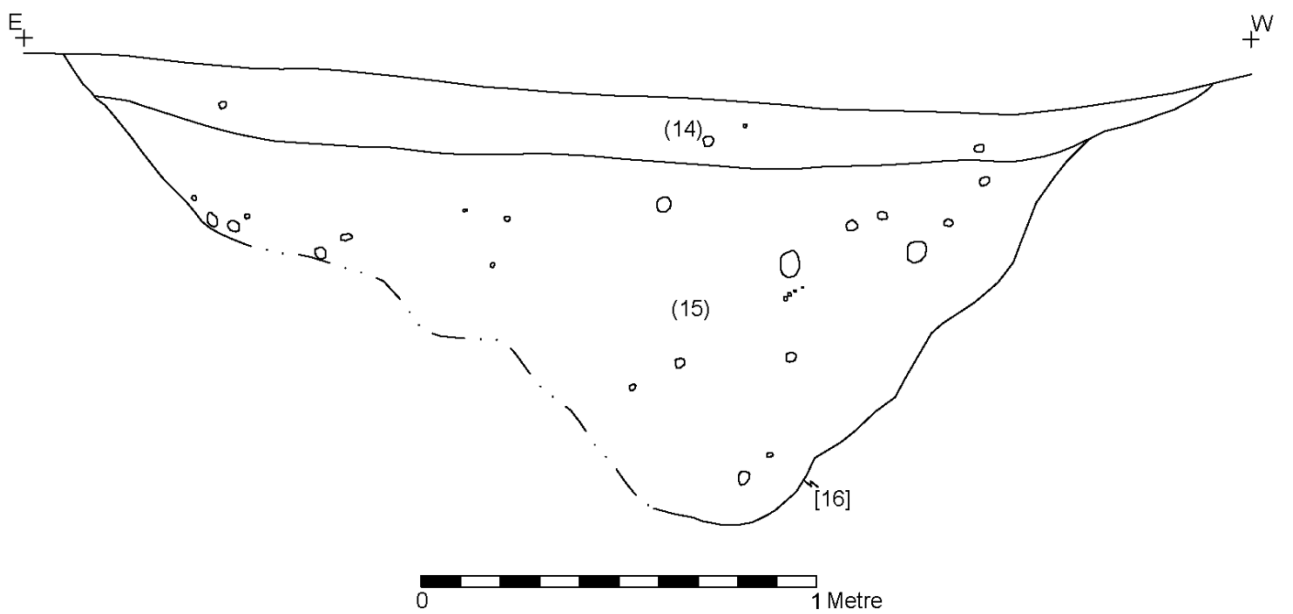


Figure 12: Pit [16] section





Figure 13: Pit [11] looking south



Figure 14: Burrow [13] looking north

**The Ceramic Finds***Deborah Sawday***Methodology**

The sixteen sherds of pottery, weighing 377 grams and a vessel rim equivalent of 0.23 (calculated by adding together the circumference of the surviving rim sherds, where one vessel equals 1.00) was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued with reference to the guidelines set out by the Medieval Pottery Research Group, (MPRG 1998; MPRG, 2001) and the ULAS fabric series (Sawday 2009). The results are shown below (table 1).

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

Context	Fabric/Ware	No	Gr	Comments
POT				
6 [7] p. hole	SW - Stoneware	1	12	Yellow surfaces – salt glazed – later 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C.
14[16] pit	PM – Potters Marston	1	7	Body sherd – thin walled, possibly 12 <sup>th</sup> century. Fabric variant with frequent Fe inclusions?
15 16]	PM	6	61	Misc. body base, 5 sooted/burnt
15	PM	1	63	Externally thickened flared bowl rim & body, estimated diameter 380mm, 0.075 EVEs, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C. (Sawday1999, fig.37.4).
15	CS – Coarse Shelly ware	4	203	Externally thickened flared bowl rim & body, joining sherd, ?reduced internally, heavily sooted externally. Estimated diameter 450mm, 0.105 EVEs, 13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> C. Similar in the shelly Stanion/Lyveden type ware (Blinkhorn 2001, fig.10.22.152/153)
15	CS	1	22	Externally thickened bowl rim similar to the above. ?Sooted/burnt internally. Estimated diameter 320 mm, 0.05 EVEs, 13 <sup>th</sup> C.
15	CS	2	9	Misc. body

**Discussion**



Most medieval pottery was traded within a fairly local area. Potters Marston originates from a production centre based on the now deserted medieval village of that name, approximately 14km to the south-east; similarly the sources of the Coarse Shelly wares, which represent a manufacturing tradition widespread throughout the south-east midlands, are based on the Jurassic system which also lies to the south east of the county.

The only identifiable vessels were bowls, and whilst only three such vessels were found here it is interesting to note that these have been linked to domestic activity, notably the processing of grain; perhaps for the proving of dough or as a measuring device, as was suggested for a sizeable assemblage of bowls with a similar range of diameters at West Coton, Raunds in Northamptonshire (Blinkhorn 2001).

### **Conclusion**

The pottery provides evidence of medieval and later activity within the village core. The comparatively large average sherd weight of 24.3grams; the relative lack of abrasion and the number of joining fragments for the medieval material also suggest that the site probably relates to the occupation of a building fronting on to Church Lane during the 13th or 14th centuries.

### **The Animal Bone      Rachel Small**

*Table 2: The animal bone number and weight (grams) by context.*

BONE				
15	Animal bone	1	6	Sheep/goat metatarsal
15	Animal bone	1	3	Large mammal fragment

### **Discussion**

While there was not a high density of archaeological features, the deposits uncovered does show domestic occupation from at least the 13th-14th century. The pit [16] was probably a clay extraction pit, backfilled with some domestic waste as shown from the pottery, and may have been from dwellings where the present houses now stand fronting on to Church Street. Post-medieval activity into the 18th and 19th centuries as evidenced by the existing house (circa early 19th century), and post-holes [07] and [09]. The first edition OS map shows Area 2 within a separate plot of land to the house.

Gully [05] while undated, could be the remnants of a burgage plot boundary, as the current boundaries appear to be the result of two of these combined. There is further evidence from the 1880's OS map that there have been two more buildings on site, which explains some of the small amount of bricks found within the subsoil in area 1.

The small area examined does provide additional information on the medieval and post-medieval development of Market Bosworth in a primary location close to the Church of St Peter.

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## Archive

The site archive consists of: 16 fragments of medieval/post-medieval pottery; 2 fragment of nail bone; 2 A4 trial trench sheets, 1 A4 watching brief sheet, 1 A4 context index sheet, 1 A4 drawing index, 1 A4 drawing record sheet, 1 A4 photo index sheet, 12 A5 context sheets, 2 A2 permatrace sheets, 1 A3 permatrace sheet and 31 digital photographs.

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council Museum Services under the accession number X.A26.2016.

## Publication

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York. A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

OASIS no.	universi1-243922
Project Name	Holy Bones, 10 Church Street, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire
Project Type	Excavation
Project Manager	Patrick Clay
Project Supervisor	Nathan Flavell
Previous/Future work	Desk-based Assessment 2014-148
Current Land Use	Garden
Development Type	Residential
Reason for Investigation	NPPF
Position in the Planning Process	Condition
Site Co ordinates	SK 40691 03221
Start/end dates of field work	16/02/16-18/02/16
Archive recipient	Leicestershire
Study Area	88.65 square metres

## Acknowledgements

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