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Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip, Map and  
Sample excavation on land at  
Daybell's Barns, Deven Farm,  
Grantham Road,  
Bottesford  
(SK 807 389)**

Leon Hunt



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Sample excavation on land at  
Daybell's Barns, Deven Farm,  
Grantham Road,  
Bottesford  
(SK 807 389)**

*for*

Mr Herbert Daybell

**Planning application No. 115/00915/FUL**

**Checked by Project Manager**

**Signed:** 

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**Date: 04/03/2016**

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## **CONTENTS**

Site Location, Geology and Topography.....	2
Archaeological Objectives.....	3
Historical & Archaeological Background.....	4
Methodology.....	5
Results.....	5
Conclusion.....	9
References.....	9
Acknowledgements.....	10
Publication.....	10
Appendix 1: OASIS data entry.....	11

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site Location.....	2
Figure 2: Location of development area. Provided by developer. Scale 1: 1250 .....	3
Figure 3: Plan of proposed development. Provided by developer .....	4
Figure 4: Plan of trench locations .....	6
Figure 5: Section and plan of Feature [1] .....	9

## **PLATES**

Plate 1: The site prior to commencement of works, looking north.....	7
Plate 2: Work in progress on Trench 1, looking south-west.....	7
Plate 3: Trench 1 being excavated looking west with the water pipe trench in the foreground.....	8
Plate 4: Trench 2, post excavation, looking west. Pit [1] in foreground.....	9
Plate 5: Pit [1], west facing section, looking east .....	10
Plate 6: Post excavation shot of Trench 3, looking north .....	10

## **An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation on land at Daybell's Barns, Deven Farm, Grantham Road, Bottesford (SK 807 389)**

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### **Summary**

*An archaeological inspection was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) during ground-works at Daybell's Barns, Deven Farm, Grantham Road, Bottesford (SK 807 389).*

*The work was commissioned by Herbert Daybell and was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by Melton Borough Council for a new dwelling and separate garage at the site, which was formerly unused.*

*The site lay adjacent to where medieval and post-medieval remains were revealed during construction of a new housing estate in 2008.*

*The stripping of upper soils over the footprints of the new dwelling and garage were monitored by an archaeologist. Due to site constraints this consisted of three trenches excavated over the site. Two trenches were placed over the house footprint (Trenches 1 & 2) and one over the garage footprint (Trench 3).*

*The topsoil across the site was very deep and in Trench 3 had been disturbed. Trench 1 contained a water pipe trench and Trench 3 was negative for features.*

*Trench 2 contained a lozenge shaped pit, which contained two fills containing a cattle bone as well as a sherd of Roman pottery and a sherd of medieval pottery dating from around the 13th to 15th centuries.*

*The Roman pottery is likely to be residual, giving a probable medieval date for the pit. This mirrored the finding of the neighbouring evaluation where medieval and post-medieval features were discovered, also containing a number of residual Roman artefacts.*

*The work at Daybell's Barns confirms that the medieval activity continues into the development area.*

*The archive for the site will be deposited with Leicestershire museums with accession number X.A38.2016.*

### **Introduction**

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) were commissioned by Mr. Herbert Daybell to carry out an archaeological inspection (strip, map and sample excavation) during ground-works at Daybell's Barns, Deven Farm, Grantham Road, Bottesford (NGR SK 807 389).

This archaeological work is in accordance with NPPF Section 12: Enhancing and Conserving the Historic Environment.

The work was required as a condition of the planning consent, issued by Melton Borough Council for a new dwelling and separate garage at the site, which was formerly unused.

## Site Location, Geology and Topography

Bottesford is situated in the northern part of the Vale of Belvoir close to the borders of both Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. The village lies adjacent to the A52 trunk road, approximately 16 miles east of Nottingham and 7 miles north-west of Grantham (Figures 1-2). Melton Mowbray is 14 miles to the south.

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain, indicates that the underlying geology is likely to be Granby Member Mudstone and Limestone, overlain by River Terrace sand and gravel.

The site is flat and covers approximately 613 square metres. The site is located at a height of approximately 33m aOD.

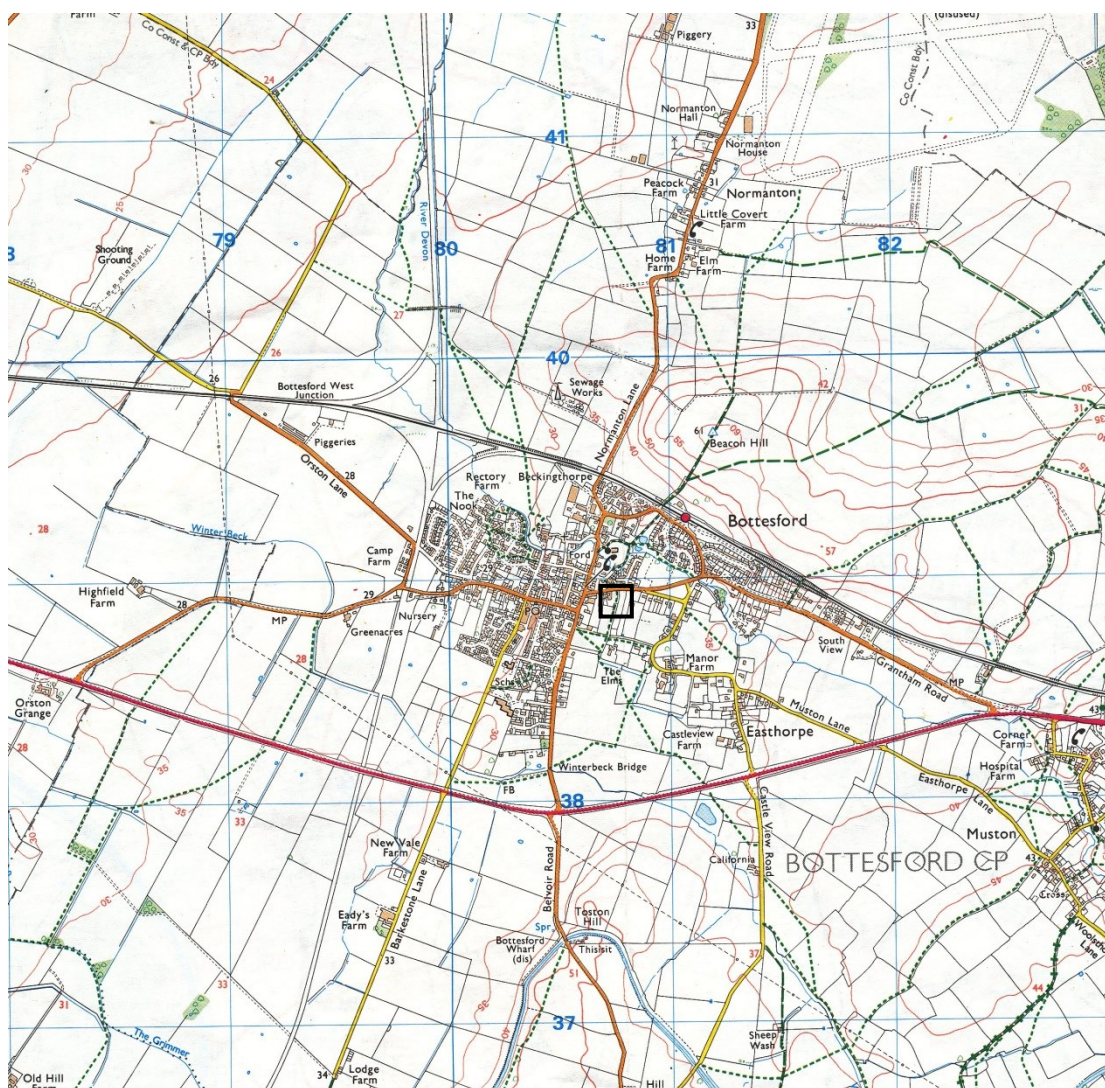


Figure 1: Site Location

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## Archaeological Objectives

The main objective of the archaeological excavation is to determine and understand the nature, function and character of any significant archaeology on the site in its cultural and environmental setting.

The aims of the strip plan and sample excavation are:

- 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 produce an archive and report of any results.

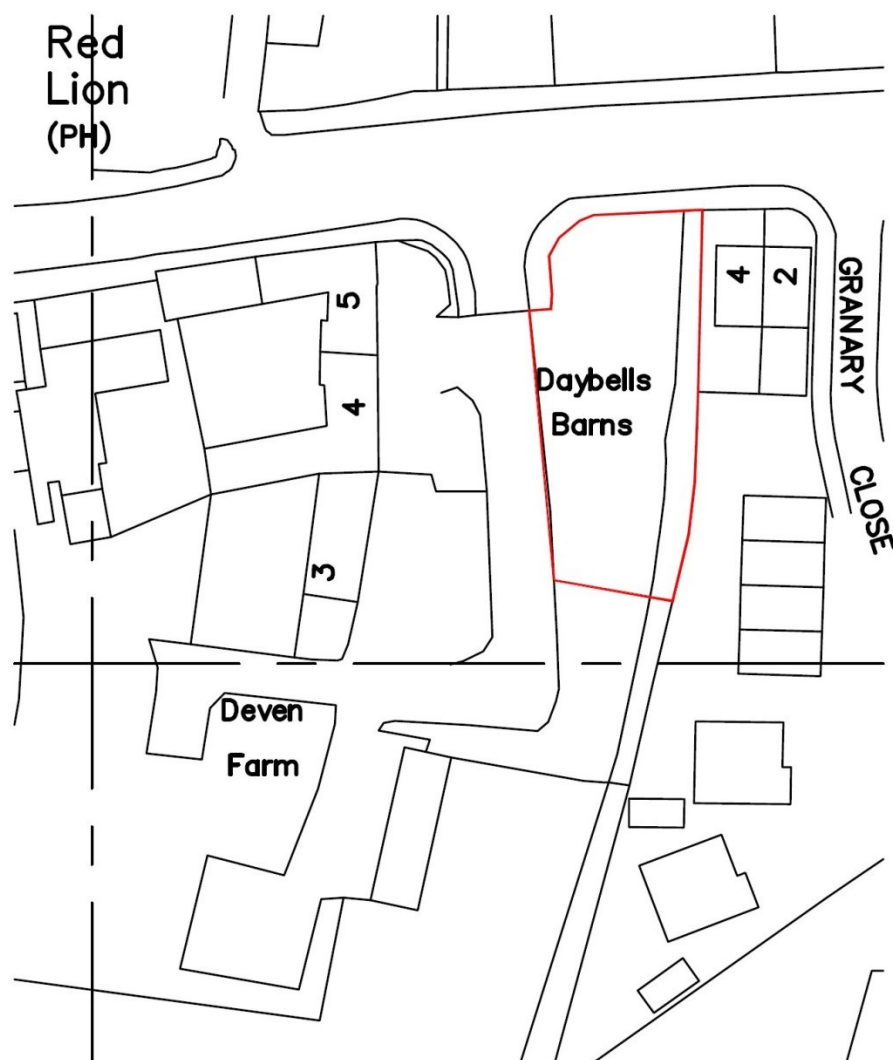


Figure 2: Location of development area. Provided by developer. Scale 1: 1250

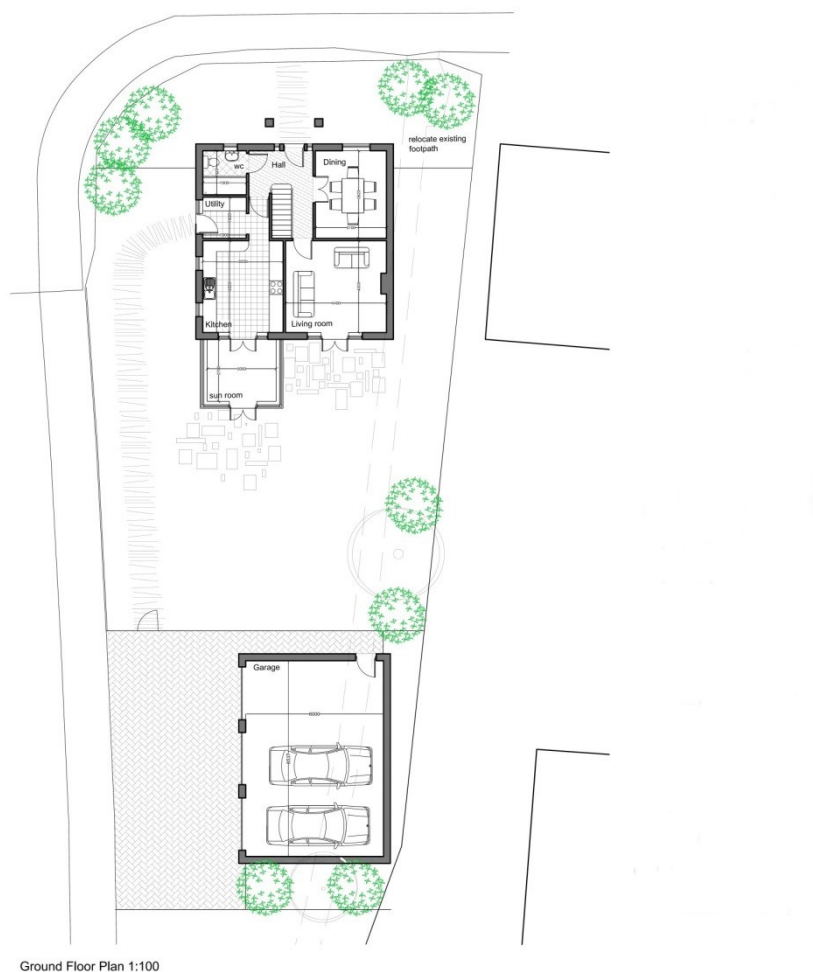


Figure 3: Plan of proposed development. Provided by developer

### Historical & Archaeological Background

Bottesford is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as Botesford, the name derives from the Old English and means ‘the ford belonging to the bōlt or house (Ekwall 1989). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Robert de Tosny and comprised two manors. In the subsequent Leicestershire Survey of 1125, the land was held by William de Albini (Nichols 1815).

The village developed as a fording place on the River Devon and later as a convenient stopping place on route from Grantham to Nottingham.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the application site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is between the historic settlement cores of two villages, Bottesford and Easthorpe, in an area that may have been cultivated in medieval times. Due to its proximity to the two settlements, many medieval and post-medieval remains have been recorded nearby, including Bottesford's medieval church to the north (**MLE3396**) and Easthorpe's medieval

manor house, moated site and various earthworks to the south-east (**MLE3427**, **MLE3429**). In addition to the medieval and post-medieval remains, late Saxon pottery has been found to the west (**MLE9485**), and Iron Age and Roman pottery, a quern and undated burial are recorded to the north (**MLE3398**, **MLE3397**). Consequently, there was a likelihood that buried archaeological remains would be affected by the proposed development.

A watching brief was carried out in Grantham Road by Archaeological Projects Services during the development by Greenwood Properties Ltd close to the watermills in 2004. No archaeological remains were recorded (Bradley-Lovekin 2004).

An evaluation was carried out in 2008 by Archaeological Projects Services on the adjacent site to the east in advance of a new housing development (Granary Close). Medieval and post-medieval features, including, ditches, gullies and post-holes were discovered, along with some residual Roman pottery. Although 13th-14th century features were revealed, most of the activity seemed to be 15th-16th century in date, with some later usage into the 17th-18th century (Snee & Malone 2009).

## **Methodology**

All work followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA) *Code of Conduct* (rev. 2014) and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (rev. 2014).

*A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work* was produced by ULAS prior to the archaeological work being undertaken (ULAS 2016).

The project involved the supervision of overburden removal and other groundworks by an experienced professional archaeologist during the works.

The work was carried out by a JCB 3CX fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket.

## **Results**

The site was visited on 7th March 2016 and the stripping of the proposed development area was undertaken and monitored by an archaeologist (Plates 1 & 2).

Excavation was undertaken starting from the northern end of the site and working southwards, stripping down to archaeological layers or the natural sub-stratum, whichever the higher.

After the stripping commenced it was clear that the topsoil was very deep and there would be little room to dump the spoil with a JCB. A footpath running along the eastern edge of the site was also still in use throughout the excavation by the public and the full extent of the footprint of the new development could not be excavated to the east. The decision was therefore taken to excavate three large trenches each approximately 3m wide and the length of the proposed development across the site.

Two trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) were excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling and another (Trench 3) was excavated on the footprint of the new garage (Figure 4).



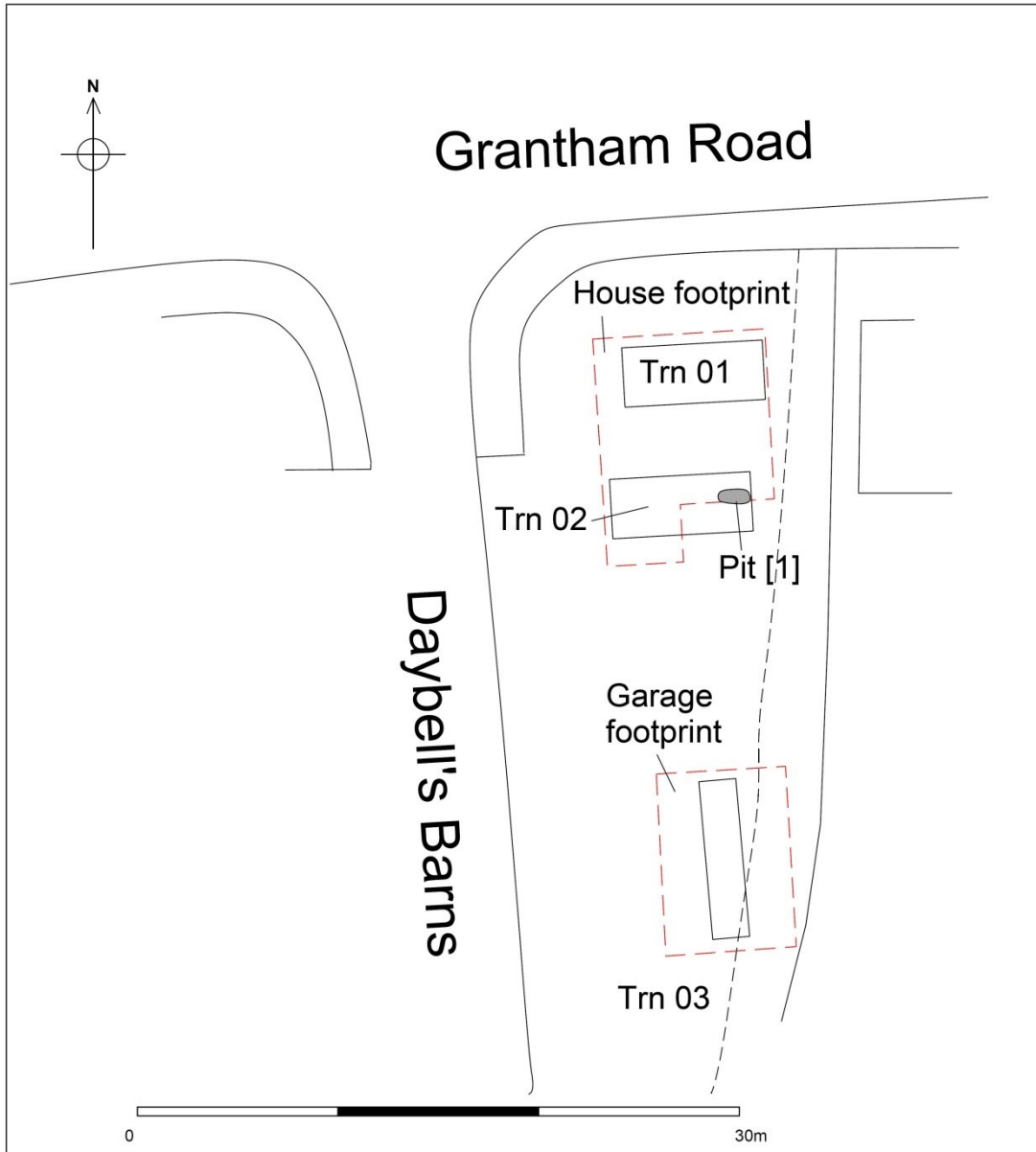


Figure 4: Plan of trench locations



Plate 1: The site prior to commencement of works, looking north



Plate 2: Work in progress on Trench 1, looking south-west



Plate 3: Trench 1 being excavated looking west with the water pipe trench in the foreground

Trench 1 was 7m x 5m and the soil sequence comprised 0.5m-0.8m of dark loamy topsoil straight onto orange-brown clayey sand and gravel (Plate 3). The topsoil was deeper at the western end and no subsoil was visible. A linear feature, running north to south was identified at the eastern edge of the trench. This was the cut for a water pipe. No archaeological features were identified within the trench.

Trench 2, oriented east to west was 6.7m x 3m and was 0.65m deep (Plate 4). The stratigraphy comprised 0.6m of topsoil onto orange-brown clayey sand and gravel. At the eastern end of the trench was a lozenge-shaped pit [1], measuring 1.6m long and 0.71m wide (Figure 5: Plate 5). Excavation showed this to be 0.62m deep, with steep sides; the southern side almost vertical. The pit contained two fills. At the base was a 0.1m deep primary fill of orange-brown silty-sand (3), which was overlain by orange-brown sandy-clay, with small gravel inclusions (2). This fill contained two sherds of pottery, a sherd of 'transitional' Sandy Ware dating to the 1st century AD and a sherd of medieval pottery, in an oxidised sandy ware dating from around AD 1200-1400, along with a fragment of cattle bone.

The water table was reached towards the base of the pit and the feature soon flooded with water.



Plate 4: Trench 2, post excavation, looking west. Pit [1] in foreground

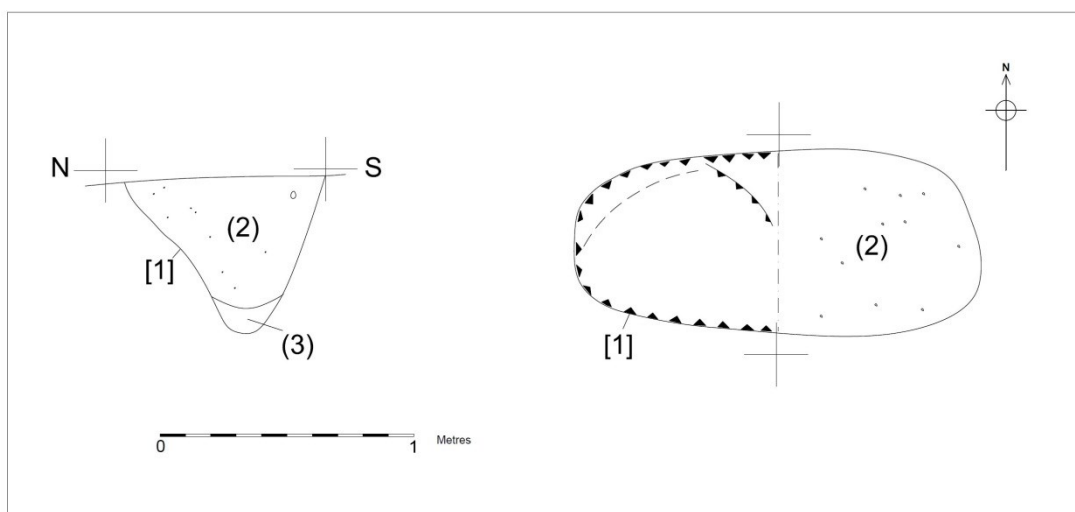


Figure 5: Section and plan of Feature [1]



Plate 5: Pit [1], west facing section, looking east



Plate 6: Post excavation shot of Trench 3, looking north

Trench 3 measured 7.8m x 2m and was 0.55m to 0.8m deep. The upper soils were quite mixed and disturbed, particularly in the western section. The soil and disturbed layers overlay orange-brown sand and gravel, which was disturbed in places and contained modern pottery and plastic pieces.

## **Conclusion**

The site at Daybell's Barns had some potential for the discovery of archaeological features due to the proximity of known archaeological remains dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, found within trenches directly east of the site (Snee & Malone 2009).

It was not possible, due to the footpath and to the depth of spoil, to strip the whole of the site under supervision. However, three wide trial trenches were excavated and revealed some disturbance to upper soils and deep topsoil in places.

The trench for a water pipe was revealed in Trench 1, most likely is associated with the school buildings that once lay on the adjacent field to the south (H. Daybell pers. comm.). This was not picked up in the other trenches and may have continued under the footpath.

Trench 2 contained a large pit [1] containing Roman and medieval pottery. The Roman pottery is likely to be residual, but the medieval sherd may give a tentative date for the pit of around AD 1200-1400. The presence of the pit indicates that the medieval and post-medieval features discovered on the site to the east at Granary Close appear to continue into the present development area.

## **References**

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (Rev.) *Code of Conduct*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (Rev.) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Ekwall, E., 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Fourth Edition. Oxford.

Nichols, J., 1815 *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* (8 volumes)

Snee, J., & Malone, S. J 2009 *Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Grantham Road, Bottesford, Leicestershire* (APS Report 144/08)

ULAS 2016, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work at Deybell's Barn. Grantham Road, Bottesford, Leicestershire*.

## **Acknowledgements**

ULAS would like to thank Herbert Daybell for the work and Simon Fisher for driving the machine. Leon Hunt would like to thank Rachel Small for the bone identification and Nick Cooper for the pottery identification. The archaeological work was carried out by the author and the project was managed by Vicki Score.

## **Archive**

The archive for this project will be deposited with Leicestershire Museums with accession number X.A38.2016 and consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound Copy of this report (ULAS Report No. 2016-052)
- 1 Watching Brief Recording Sheet
- 1 Contact Sheet of digital photographs
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- 1 Sheet of A3 permatrace with primary drawings
- 3 Context Sheets

## **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.

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08-04-2016

## Appendix 1: OASIS data entry

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	<b>Oasis No</b>	universi1- 247083		
	<b>Project Name</b>	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation on land at Daybell's Barns, Deven Farm, Grantham Road, Bottesford		
	<b>Start/end dates of field work</b>	07-03-2016 to 07-03-2016		
	<b>Previous/Future Work</b>	Not known		
	<b>Project Type</b>	Strip, Map and Sample excavation		
	<b>Site Status</b>	None		
	<b>Current Land Use</b>	Unused ground		
	<b>Monument Type/Period</b>	Pit – Roman / medieval		
	<b>Significant Finds/Period</b>	Pottery / Roman Pottery / Medieval Cattle bone – unknown date		
	<b>Development Type</b>	Residential		
	<b>Reason for Investigation</b>	NPPF		
	<b>Position in the Planning Process</b>	Planning condition		
	<b>Planning Ref.</b>	115/00915/FUL		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	<b>Site Address/Postcode</b>	Bottesford NG13 0DD		
	<b>Study Area</b>	613 m2		
	<b>Site Coordinates</b>	SK 807 389		
	<b>Height OD</b>	33m OD		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Brief Originator</b>	Local Planning Authority (LCC)		
	<b>Project Design Originator</b>	ULAS		
	<b>Project Manager</b>	Vicki Score		
	<b>Project Director/Supervisor</b>	Leon Hunt		
	<b>Sponsor/Funding Body</b>	Developer / Mr Herbert Daybell		
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		<b>Physical</b>	<b>Digital</b>	<b>Paper</b>
	<b>Recipient</b>	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service	LCC Museum service
	<b>ID (Acc. No.)</b>	X.A38.2016.	X.A38.2016.	X.A38.2016.
<b>Contents</b>	Pottery, animal bone	Photos Survey data	Watching brief records Field Notes	
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>Type</b>	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	<b>Title</b>	An Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample excavation on land at Daybell's Barns, Deven Farm, Grantham Road, Bottesford		
	<b>Author</b>	Hunt, L		
	<b>Other bibliographic details</b>	ULAS Report No 2016-052		
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