



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation
Adjacent to Knights Close, Welford
Road, Husbands Bosworth,
Leicestershire.**

NGR: SP 640 839
By Tim Higgins



ULAS Report No 2018-154

© ULAS 2018

An Archaeological Evaluation
Land adjacent to Knights Close, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth,
Leicestershire

NGR: SP 640 839

Tim Higgins

For: Bowbridge Homes (Husbands Bosworth) Limited

2018-154 Draft	Vicki Score	13/09/2018
-----------------------	--------------------	-------------------

University of Leicester
Archaeological Services
University Rd., Leicester, LE1 7RH
Tel: (0116) 2522848 Fax: (0116) 2522614

ULAS Report Number 2018-154
©2018
X.A89.2018

CONTENTS

Summary	1
1. Introduction.....	1
2. Site Description, Topography and Geology.....	2
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	3
4. Aims and Objectives	3
4.1 Research Aims	4
5. Methodology.....	5
6. Results.....	7
7. Discussion.....	8
8. Conclusion	8
9. Archive.....	8
10. Publication	9
11. Bibliography	9
12. Acknowledgements.....	10
Oasis Data Entry	11
Appendix 1: Trench Photos	12
Appendix 2: Trench Measurements	16

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location plan of the proposed site.....	2
Figure 2 Development area and proposed trench locations (provided by client)	4
Figure 3 Trench Location Plan	6
Plate 1 Trench 1	12
Plate 2 Trench 2	12
Plate 3 Trench 3	13
Plate 4 Trench 4	13
Plate 5 Trench 5	14
Plate 6 Trench 6	14
Plate 7 Trench 7	15
Plate 8 Trench 8	15

TABLES

Table 1 Trench Summaries	7
--------------------------------	---

An Archaeological Evaluation Land Adjacent to Knights Close, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.

Tim Higgins

Summary

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Knights Close, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth Leicestershire, (SP 640 839) from the 21 to 22 August 2018. Trenches were excavated to evaluate an area for a proposed construction of 32 new dwellings in a former pasture field. The trenches contained the remnants medieval ridge and furrow features and modern field drains. The site archive will be held by Leicestershire County Council under accession number X.A89.2018.

1. Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent, to Knights Close, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire LE17 6JX (SP 640 839) by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). This was undertaken in order to ensure that any archaeological items are investigated and recorded.

This archaeological evaluation was part of a condition within the planning permission that had been granted for residential development of up to 30 dwellings at Knights Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, subject to planning conditions (see Figures 1 and 2). Planning condition 12 requires a programme of archaeological work (18/01320/FUL). This evaluation follows the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) document for an initial phase of trial trenching which was submitted to for approval by the Local Planning Authority. Subject to the results there may be a need for further work to ensure satisfactory archaeological investigation and recording of any possible remains.

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation, with an assessment of the potential impact on buried archaeological remains from groundworks associated with future development.

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching, which took place between the 21 and 22 August 2018. It follows a strategy for the work devised by ULAS, which was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation, Knights Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (SP 640 839) (ULAS 2018). The trial trenching was undertaken to provide a c. 4% sample of the 1 ha area.

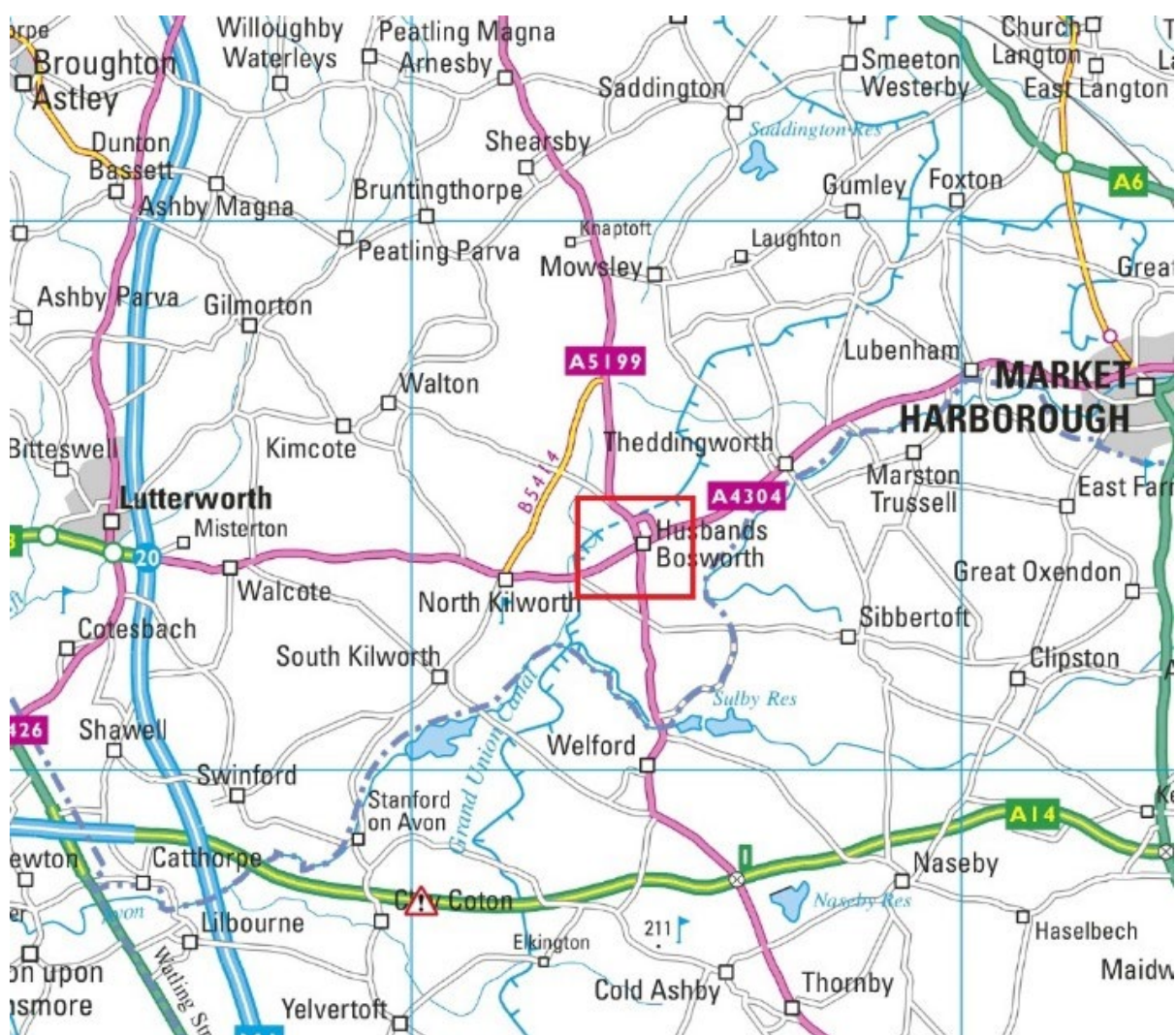


Figure 1: Site location plan of the proposed site

Reproduced from Explorer® 1:100 000 scale by permission of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100029495

2. Site Description, Topography and Geology

The sites lies to the south of the village on pasture land, fronting onto A5199 Welford Road. Adjacent to the site, and directly to the south is the village cemetery. The north of the site is bounded by residential properties and farm land. To the east and west, more farmland. Husbands Bosworth is approximately 10km south west of Market Harborough and 10km east of Lutterworth. The land slopes slightly from 159m OD at the north-west corner, to 157m OD in the south-east.

The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as bands of mudstone, Siltstone and Mudstone.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

The site lies outside of the historic settlement core of Husbands Bosworth (MLE9467). Directly to the east of the proposed area for development lies an Iron Age site which was excavated in 2015 (MLE21686). In the same area, trial trenching revealed a possible Saxon field system. (MLE23210), also Saxon metal artefacts were discovered at the site post excavation (MLE23209). The public cemetery which lies to the south of the site was established in 1858 (MLE21685). A Bronze Age metalwork hoard (MLE6320) was found at Gravel pit close (MLE6320). A flint scatter (MLE1728) consisting of blade core, flake, scraper and knife, ranging from Mesolithic to Bronze Age in date, were discovered during fieldwalking north of Wheeler lodge in 1991.

The village contains a number of historic buildings such as ‘Hunters Lodge’ on Berridges Lane (MLE12902), a mid 18th century brick house. Foxbury House (MLE12910) located at 27 High Street which is an early 19th century listed brick built house with a welsh slate roof. Honeypot Farmhouse on Church Street (MLE12906) is a listed late 18th century brick house with a welsh slate roof.

A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2016 over approximately 1ha. . This found evidence for a former field boundary and ridge and furrow but no obvious archaeological features (Figs 3-4; Sumo 2016).

No archaeological investigations have been carried out on the site, however an area immediately to the east has been subject to geophysical survey and trial trenching. The evaluations recorded an Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure and a field system of uncertain date (MLE21686). Given that the field system aligns with agricultural furrows, it is suggested that it is medieval in origin.

4. Aims and Objectives

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site as indicated by the geophysical survey
- To establish the nature and extent of any existing disturbance and intrusion to subsurface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance
- To enable the clients to establish a schedule for archaeological risks

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.

- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Leicestershire.



Figure 2 Development area and proposed trench locations (provided by client)

4.1 Research Aims

While the nature, extent and quality of archaeological remains within the areas of investigation for the project remain unknown until archaeological work was undertaken, it was possible to determine some initial objectives derived from *East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands* (Knight et al. 2012) and *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda* (Cooper 2006).

The archaeological evaluation was identified had the potential to contribute to the following research aims.

Prehistoric – Iron Age

Characterise the prehistoric settlement resource and investigate intra-regional variability (4C).
Investigate intra-regional variations in development of fields and linear boundaries (4F)

Early Medieval – High Medieval

Investigate the morphology of rural settlements (7E)
Investigate development of the open field system and woodland management (7I)

Research aims will be reviewed and updated as the work progresses and new information comes to light.

5. Methodology

Prior to any machining of trial trenches, general photographs of the site areas were taken.

The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and overlying layers were removed under full archaeological supervision until either the top of archaeological deposits or the natural undisturbed substratum was reached. Trenches were examined for archaeological deposits or finds by hand cleaning. The trenches were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and then were backfilled and leveled at the end of the evaluation.

The work followed the approved design specification (ULAS 2016) and adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhered to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2014).

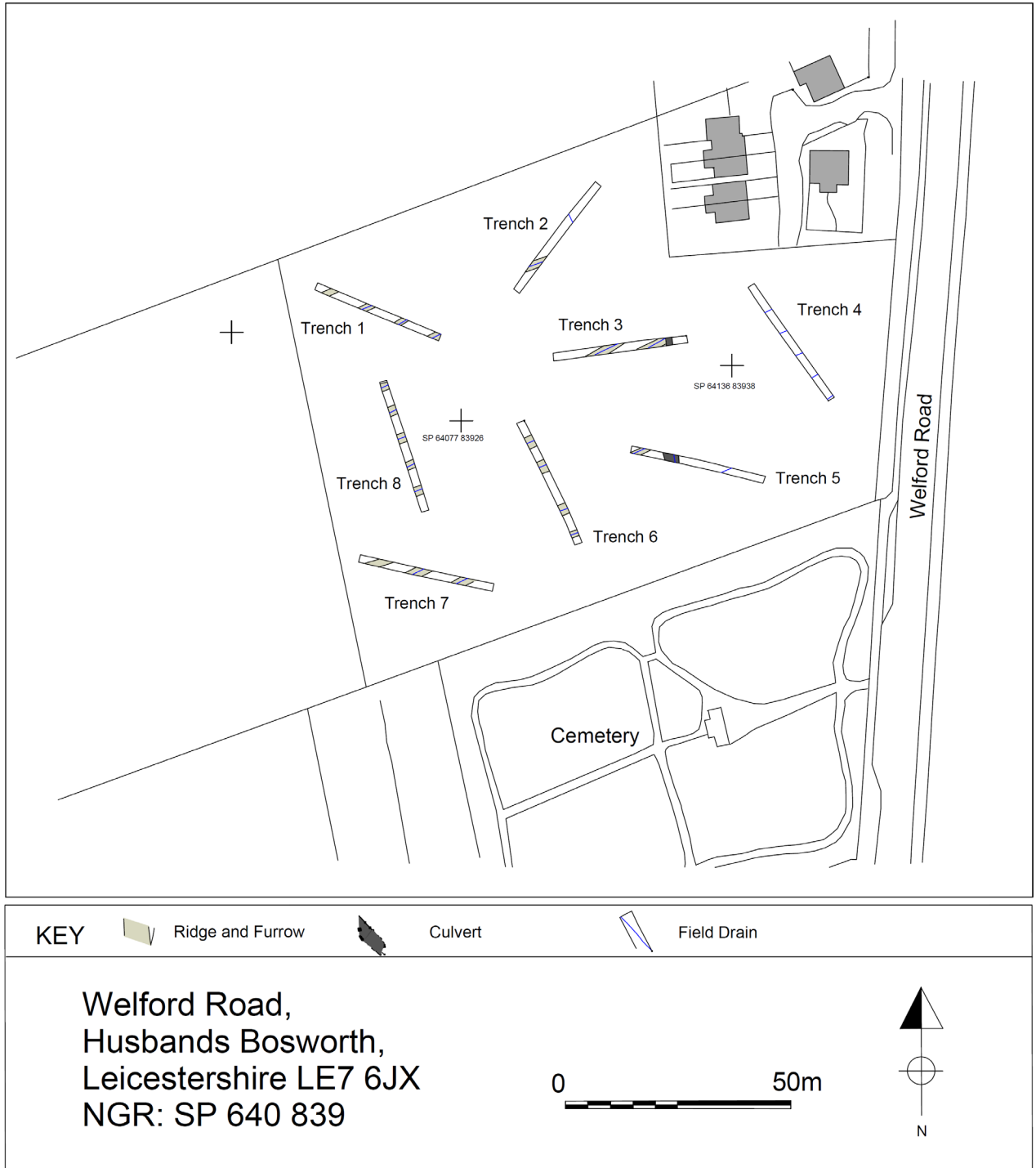


Figure 3 Trench Location Plan

6. Results

The results of all excavated trenches are presented below in Table 1. For easier cross-referencing the results of the trenches will be presented below according to each specific area of the site that was evaluated. The size and position of the excavated trenches varied from their positions indicated on the provisional trench plan due to unforeseen site constraints.

Table 1 Trench Summaries

Trench	Length (m)	Height of Trench base (m OD)	Natural Substratum	Notes	Min. depth to archaeology/natural (m)
1	c.29	156.88	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	Shallow topsoil and subsoil. Four land drains visible and ridge and furrow	0.30
2	c.30	156.73	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	Three modern land drains. Shallow topsoil subsoil. Ridge and furrow	0.30
3	c.30	156.51	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	A large culvert feature back filled with modern rubble ceramic land drains. Ridge and furrow.	0.40
4	c.30	156.70	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	Five modern ceramic land drains visible. The subsoil has been removed and replaced with compacted layer modern rubble 0.20m deep. Sealed under topsoil	0.40
5	c.29.80	156.38	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	A large culvert feature back filled with modern rubble and ceramic land drains visible. Shallow topsoil and subsoil.	0.30
6	c.29	156.39	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	Five modern land drains. Ridge and furrow Shallow topsoil subsoil	0.30
7	c.29.50	156.26	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	Two modern land drains visible. Ridge and furrow. Shallow topsoil subsoil	0.30
8	c.29.70	156.52	Yellowish grey silt clay mixed with patches of yellowish brown silty clay and with rounded gravel	Five modern land drains. Ridge and furrow Shallow topsoil subsoil	0.30

Trenches

A total of 8 trenches was excavated within the development area.

No archaeological finds or deposits were located within any of the trenches. The natural substratum was generally reached after around 0.30m-0.40m of topsoil and subsoil had been removed. The only significant features revealed were medieval ridge furrow and modern field drains.

Evidence of a medieval ridge and furrow field system was discovered in Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8. These features corresponded with the ridge and furrow found during the geophysical survey.

The modern field drains were observed within all eight trenches and were typically orientated east to west and comprised of ceramic pipes or bricks and concrete rubble. A large modern culvert or drain was found within Trenches 3 and 5 running north to south and coincided with the large north to south anomaly interpreted as a potential field boundary on the geophysical survey.

Generally no modern material was found within most of the trenches and the top soil was generally clean which suggests that topsoil has had very little modern disturbance apart from agricultural activity. However Trench 4 had shallow depths of topsoil no subsoil which had been replaced with a compacted layer of crushed brick and concrete rubble. This trench was located towards the north east corner of the field, and could possibly indicate that extensive deep modern activity has taken place within this part of the field.

7. Discussion

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching revealed no evidence for archaeological features or finds within any of the trenches. Trench 4 displayed a shallow depth of topsoil and no subsoil which had been replaced with a compacted layer of rubble. This could possibly indicate that extensive deep modern topsoil and subsoil stripping has taken place within this part of the field.

8. Conclusion

The trial trenching at on land at Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth indicates that there are unlikely to be any archaeological deposits present within the proposed development area for the 32 dwellings and new access roads.

9. Archive

The site archive will be held by Leicestershire Museums Service, under accession no. X.A89.2018.

The site archive consists of:

- 1 Unbound A4 copy of this report
- 8 Trench recording sheets
- 1 A4 Photo record sheet
- A4 Colour digital contact print 1 CD of digital photos

10. 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 (Appendix 1). 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

11. Bibliography

Brown, D. 2008. *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2008. *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Cooper, N.J. 2006. *The Archaeology of the East Midlands*. Leicester Archaeology Monograph **13**.

English Heritage 1997. *Draft Research Agenda*.

English Heritage 2010. *English Heritage Thematic Research Strategies. Research Strategy for Prehistory*.

Consultation Draft June 2010.

Knight, D., Blaise, V. and Allen C. 2012. *East Midlands Heritage. An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.

LaCombe, P., 2018, *Written scheme of investigation for archaeological Land Adjacent to Knights Close, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire, (NGR: SP 640 839)*
ULAS Specification 18-376

Lewis, C., 2006. 'The Medieval Period'. In N.J. Cooper (Ed) 2006, 185 -21.

LMARS 2014. *The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service*.

Myers, A., 2006. 'The Mesolithic Period'. In N.J. Cooper (Ed) 2006, 185 -21.

Sumo 2016. Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth Geophysical Survey J9688

Taylor, J., 2006. 'The Roman Period'. In N.J. Cooper (Ed) 2006, 185 -21.

12. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out by the author Tim Higgins of ULAS. Vicki Score managed the project. Richard Clarke of LCC HNET monitored the work on behalf of the planning authority.

Author contact details:

Tim Higgins MA
Project Officer
University of Leicester Archaeological Services
University Road
Leicester
LE1 7RH

Th31@[le.ac.uk](mailto:Th31@le.ac.uk)

Tel: 0116 252 2848

Fax: 0116 252 2614

13/09/2018

Oasis Data Entry

PROJECT DETAILS	Oasis No	universi1-377624		
	Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation Land Adjacent to Knights Close, Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.		
	Start/end dates of field work	21-09-2018 - 22-09-2018		
	Previous/Future Work	DBA, Geo- Physical Survey		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Pasture		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Development Type	Residential		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning Condition		
	Planning Ref.	Planning Ref: 16/01471/OUT		
PROJECT LOCATION	Site Address/Postcode	Welford Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire LE17 6JX		
	Study Area	1.ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 640 839		
	Height OD	159 to 157m AOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority (LCC) Leicestershire County Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Tim Higgins		
	Sponsor/Funding Body	Bowbridge Homes (Husband Bosworth) Limited		
PROJECT ARCHIVE		Physical	Digital	Paper
	Recipient	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service	LCC Mus Service
	ID (Acc. No.)	X.A89.2018	X.A89.2018	X.A89.2018
	Contents	None	Photos	Evaluation records Field Notes
PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	Type	Grey Literature (unpublished)		
	Title	An Archaeological Evaluation Land adjacent to Knights Close, Welford Road, Husband Bosworth, Leicestershire.		
	Author	Higgins, T.		
	Other bibliographic details	ULAS Report No 2018-154		
	Date	21/08/2018 to 22/08/2018		
	Publisher/Place	University of Leicester Archaeological Services / University of Leicester		
	Description	Developer Report A4 pdf		

Appendix 1: Trench Photos



Plate 1: Trench 1



Plate 2: Trench 2



Plate 3: Trench 3



Plate 4: Trench 4



Plate 5: Trench 5



Plate 6: Trench 6



Plate 7: Trench 7



Plate 8: Trench 8

Appendix 2: Trench Measurements

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
1	N - S		29.00m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m
Topsoil	0.20m	0.20m	0.30m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.30m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Top Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.30	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.45m	0.50m	0.50m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
2	NE - SW		30m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil	0.20m	0.20m	0.30m	0.20m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m
Base of Trench	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
3	WNW ESE		30m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.20m	0.20m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m
Base of Trench	0.50m	0.45m	0.50m	0.50m	0.40m	0.50m	0.50m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
4	NW-SE		30m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	30m
Topsoil	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.10m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.40m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.45m	0.40m	0.50m	0.60m	0.50m	0.35m	0.40m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
5	NE-SW		29.80m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m
Topsoil	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.40m	0.20m	0.20m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m		0.10m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m		0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.45m	0.45m	0.45m	0.40m	0.60m	0.40m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
6	N-S		29m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m
Topsoil	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Top of Natural		0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m		0.30m
Base of Trench	0.50m	0.50m	0.60m	0.55m	0.50m	0.40m	0.60m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
7	NW-SE		29.50m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m
Topsoil	0.30m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Top of Natural	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.40m	0.55m	0.55m	0.45m	0.45m	0.50m	0.60m

Trench No	Orient		Length		Width		
8	N - S		29.70m		1.60m		
Interval	0m	5m	10m	15m	20m	25m	29m
Topsoil	0.20m	0.25m	0.30m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m	0.20m
Subsoil	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m	0.20m	0.10m	0.10m	0.10m
Top Natural	0.30m	0.35m	-	-	0.30m	0.30m	0.30m
Base of Trench	0.50m	0.55m	0.50m	0.40m	0.50m	0.50m	0.50m

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

w: www.le.ac.uk/ulas



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES
FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
2013

