



Northamptonshire  
County Council

# Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological Investigation of

Priory Farm, Bell Lane

Husbands Bosworth

Leicestershire

July 2007

**X.A97.2007**



Paul Kajewski

November 2007

Report 07/147

Application No. FUL/2007/00233

## Northamptonshire Archaeology

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**QUALITY CONTROL**

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Checked by	Pat Chapman		
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**OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project title	Archaeological Investigation of Priory Farm, Bell Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire.	
Short description	An archaeological investigation (strip, map and sample) was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundwork associated with a residential development on land at Priory Farm, Bell Lane, Husbands Bosworth. Examination revealed a heavily disturbed stratigraphy across the northern end of the development, due to the removal of an existing house. One pit was revealed dating to the 18th/19th centuries in the undisturbed southern area of the site.	
Project type	Investigation (strip, map and sample)	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
Current landuse	Disused building	
Monument type and period		
Significant finds	One pit dating to the 18th/19th centuries.	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
County	Leicestershire	
Site address	Priory Farm, Bell Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire	
Easting	NGR SP 64093, 84333	
Area	140sq metres	
Height OD	59.95m	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Leicestershire County Council/CgMs	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Paul Kajewski	
Project Manager	Joe Prentice	
Sponsor or funding body	P&J Property Ltd	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
Start date	July 2007	
End date	July 2007	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	<b>Location (Accession no.)</b>	<b>Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)</b>
Physical	X.A97.2007	1 clay pipe bowl, 2 CBM pieces, 1 piece of post-medieval millstone (left on site), 1 post-medieval pottery shard
Paper	X.A97.2007	Project Monitoring Forms (1), Colour slides (12), black and white contact prints (12), 36 Digital images
Digital	X.A97.2007	PDF of report and illustrations.
Serial	07/147	

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF PRIORY FARM  
HUSBANDS BOSWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE**

**July 2007**

***Abstract***

*An archaeological investigation (strip map and sample) was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology during groundwork associated with a residential development on land at Priory Farm, Bell Lane, Husbands Bosworth. Investigation revealed a heavily disturbed stratigraphy across the northern end of the development, due to the removal of an existing house. One pit was revealed dating to the 18th/19th centuries in the undisturbed southern area of the site.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological investigation was undertaken by Northamptonshire Archaeology in association with CgMs in July 2007 during groundworks (Application No. FUL/2007/00233) associated with the construction of houses at Priory Farm, Bell Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (NGR SP 64093, 84333 Fig 1). The work was carried out following a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by Leicestershire County Council on behalf of Harborough District Council (Dawson 2007). The purpose of the investigation was to determine whether there was any archaeology present on this site and to characterise and understand any deposits identified.

**2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

The development site covers 140sq metres and is bounded by Bell Lane to the east, open fields to the west and houses to the north and south. The northern end of the development site was the location of Priory Farm and the southern end contained a large overgrown garden. The development site is situated on a flat plateau at a height of around 59.95mOD, within the valley of the River Welland in an area of predominantly boulder clays.

**3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The development site is located within the conservation area close to the historic medieval core of the village of Husbands Bosworth. The town has a long history highlighted by its mention in the Domesday Book. All Saints Church in the village is believed to stand on the site of an earlier Saxon church. The earliest parts of the present church buildings may date from before the current 14<sup>th</sup> century tower (Lee and McKinley). Within the village timber

framed buildings dating from the 15th century are present alongside modern buildings intermixed with homes from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries (Lee and McKinley).

#### 4 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- ◆ Observe the ground works inside the development area connected with the excavation of housing foundations and service trenches and to record any archaeological deposits uncovered
- ◆ To determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts.

The fieldwork comprised observation by an archaeologist during groundworks connected with the stripping of topsoil in preparation for the excavation of the housing foundations and service trenches.

A photographic record in black and white negative, colour slide and digital format was kept and the written record used Northamptonshire Archaeology pro-forma sheets.

Groundworks were undertaken with a 360° tracked excavator. The topsoil was stripped (down to natural) in approximately two thirds of the site (Fig 2), this area covered both house footprints and the majority of the service trenches. The investigation was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 1994 revised 2001).

#### 5 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

The following is a summary of the archaeological findings. A detailed inventory of archaeological contexts is presented in Appendix 1.

##### **Southern area of the site encompassing House Plot 1**

The area of the house footprint was excavated to the required level. This was parallel to Bell Lane in the southern area of the development area (Fig 2). The natural substrata comprised orange/brown clay with flint nodules, sealed by a layer of mid brown silt topsoil, 0.30m – 0.40m thick. A pit [003] was uncovered within this house footprint (Fig 2, Plate 4). It measured 0.64m wide by 0.57m deep and had a steep side with a flat base

(Fig 3, section 1). A clay pipe bowl dated to the early/middle 18th century was found in the pit's lowest fill (004). Immediately to the south of the house footprint approximately one third of a post-medieval millstone was found within the topsoil (Fig 2, Plate 1). It remained on site as part of the property of the owner.

### Northern area of the site encompassing House Plot 2

The foundations for House Plot 2 were excavated to the required level in the northern area of the site (Fig 2). The natural substrata comprised orange/brown clay with flint nodules, this was sealed by a layer of mid brown silt topsoil, 0.30m – 0.40m thick. The house footprint area was disturbed by the foundations of the previous house situated in this area (Fig 2, Plates 2, 3). The area to the north of House Plot 2 was covered in reinforced concrete. No archaeology was present in the northern area of the site.

## 6 FINDS

*Table 1: Quantification of the Finds*

Context No.	Description
Context 001	Post-medieval millstone
Context 004	Clay pipe bowl dated to the early/middle 18th century
Context 005	1 sherd of post-medieval black glazed earthenware pancheon.
Context 005	1 piece of brick dated to the 18/19th centuries
Context 005	One fragment of animal bone from long bone (skull)
Context 006	1 piece of brick dated to the 18/19th century

## 7 THE ARCHIVE

The site archive comprises:

Record	Number
Project Monitoring Forms	1
Colour slides	16
Black and white contacts and negatives	16
Digital Images	29
Finds	1 clay pipe bowl 2 CBM pieces 1 animal bone fragment 1 piece of post-medieval millstone 1 post-medieval pottery shard

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

The only feature found was one pit dating to the 18th and 19th centuries. A disturbed stratigraphy was revealed in the northern area of the site, which had been caused by the demolition of the old farmhouse. The post-medieval millstone found in the topsoil in the southern end of the site may have been used as an ornament in the farmhouse garden.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dawson, M, 2007 *Project Design for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample on of land at Priory Farm, Bell Lane, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire*, Harborough District Council.

IFA 1994 (revised 2001) *Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

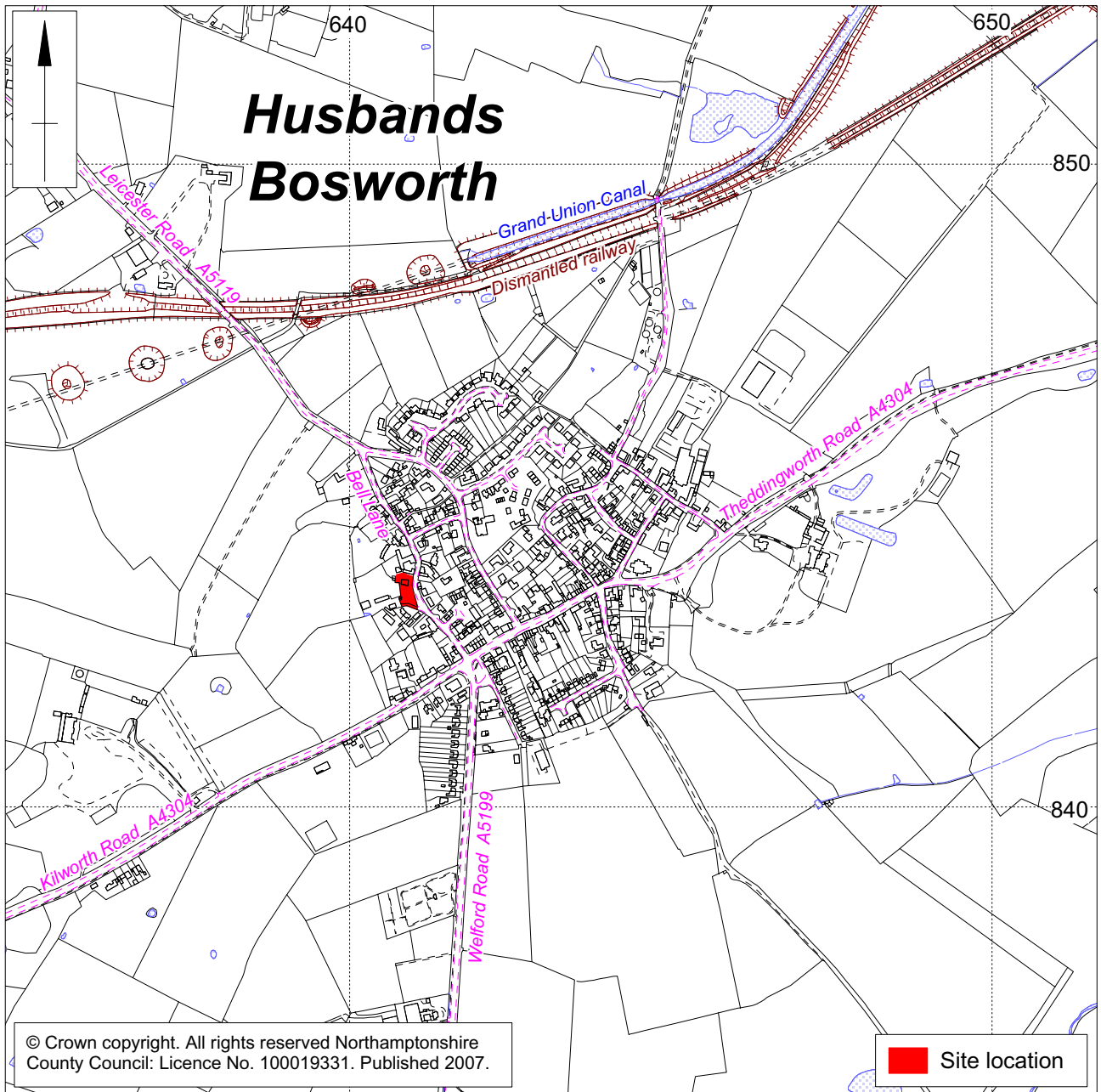
Lee, J.M., R.A. McKinley, 1964 *'Husbands Bosworth' A History of the County of Leicestershire: Volume 5 Gartree Hundred* pp. 28-38. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22039&strquery=husbands bosworth>. Date accessed: 20 June 2008,

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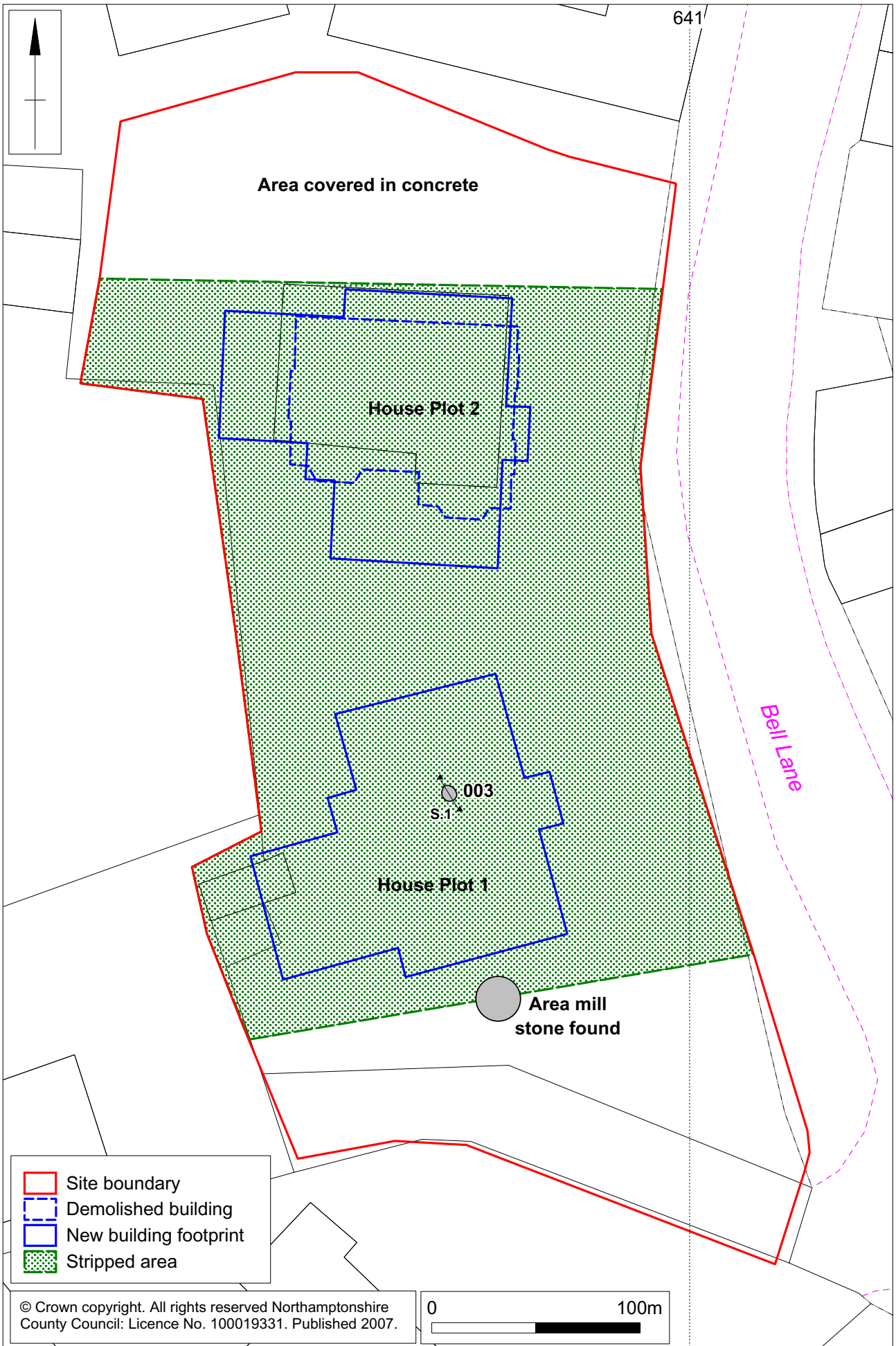
**A1: SITE DATA**

Area of site	Context	Deposit Type	Description	Artefact types
<b>Southern area comprising House Plot 1</b>	001	Layer	Topsoil mid brown silty clay 0.20m – 0.40m thick	1 piece of postmedieval millstone
	002	Layer	Natural orange/brown clay with flint nodules	Nil
	003	Cut	Cut of pit, steep sides approx 75-80 degrees with flat base	Nil
	004	Fill	Fill of [003] grey brown clay with small flint nodules.	1 clay pipe bowl
	005	Fill	Fill of [003] orange silty clay	1 postmedieval pottery shard 1 animal bone fragment 1 CBM piece
	006	Fill	Fill of [003] grey/orange silty clay	1 CBM piece
<b>Northern area comprising House Plot 2</b>	001	Layer	Topsoil mid brown silty clay 0.20m – 0.40m thick	Nil
	002	Layer	Natural orange/brown clay with flint nodules	Nil
	007	Layer	Rubble layer 0 – 0.30m thick	Nil



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:250

Evaluation area locations Fig 2

**Section 1**

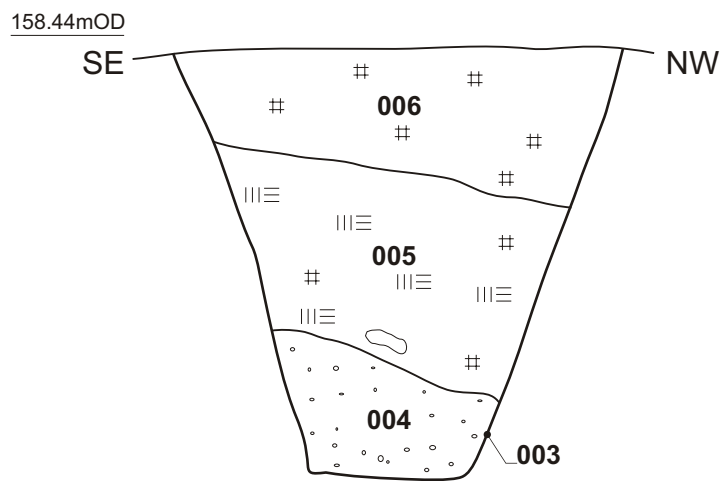




Plate 1: Piece of Millstone found in topsoil at southern end of site (scale 1 metre)



Plate 2: Northern area of site after the demolition of the old farmhouse



Plate 3: Machine excavating the foundations of the old farmhouse



Plate 4: Post-medieval pit [003] found within House Plot 1 (scale 1 metre)