
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT COTEHILL FARM, STATION ROAD,
HUSBANDS BOSWORTH,
LEICESTERSHIRE
(HBSR 07)
Planning Application No: 07/00437/FUL

**Work Undertaken For
Mr DN Cook**

September 2007

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: SP 6362 8268
Museum Accession No: X.A83.2007
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-27542

APS Report No. 63/08

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	DEFINITION OF A WATCHING BRIEF.....	1
2.2	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.3	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION	2
7.	CONCLUSION	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS	3

Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. The Finds *by Gary Taylor*
3. Glossary
4. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan showing location of new building and recorded stanchion pits
- Figure 4 Stanchion pit sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Representative section; stanchion pit G
- Plate 2 Representative section; stanchion pit H
- Plate 3 Representative section; stanchion pit I
- Plate 4 Representative section; stanchion pit J

1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Cotehill Farm, Station Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of stanchion pits for a new agricultural building.

The site lies close to a Neolithic (4000-2200 BC) causewayed enclosure and in an area where Bronze Age (2200-800 BC) barrows have been identified. Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) remains are also known in the vicinity.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Undated features comprise a narrow drain which is likely to be associated with Cotehill Farm. Only finds of post-medieval and modern date were noted.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mr DN Cook to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new agricultural building at Cotehill Farm, Station Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application 07/00437/FUL. The watching brief was

carried out on the 20th August 2007.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Husbands Bosworth is located 9km southwest of Market Harborough and 20km southeast of Leicester in Harborough District, Leicestershire (Fig. 1).

Cotehill Farm is located 1.8km southwest of the centre of Husbands Bosworth as defined by the parish church of All Saints at National Grid Reference SP 6362 8268 (Fig. 2). The site is located at a height of c. 147m OD on land that slopes down to the south and west.

Local soils are of the Denchworth Association, typically pelo-stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155). These soils are developed on a drift deposit of glacial till which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Middle Lias clays.

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Husbands Bosworth is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the present day. Some 500m to the southeast is a Neolithic causewayed enclosure revealed in advance of quarrying. Work undertaken in this vicinity has also identified possible Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age pits (Butler and Thomas 2000, 247; Butler and Coward 2001, 145).

In addition to the above sites are a number of cropmark enclosures which may also be prehistoric or Romano-British in origin.

Husbands Bosworth is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Baresworde* the name is derived from the Old English and means either ‘the fence, enclosure (*worþ*) of the boars’ or ‘an enclosure belonging to *Bār*’ (Ekwall 1989, 54). The prefix derives from husbandmen and dates from the 17th century.

At the time of Domesday the land was held by Robert of Vessey, Robert of Bucy, Guy of Raimbeaucourt (though Guy had sold the land to Abbot Benedict of Selby Abbey) and Gilbert of Ghent and contained a mill and 80 acres of meadow (Morgan 1979).

The only extant remains of the medieval period are the 14th century church of All Saints, a 15th century timber framed core to Bosworth Hall and early 16th century elements within the Wheatsheaf Inn (Pevsner 1992, 183).

A watching brief undertaken to the northwest of the site only revealed natural and subsoil deposits (Cope-Faulkner 2007, 2).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Eighteen stanchion pits (A to R) were excavated by machine to a depth of *c.* 0.7m. Following excavation the sides of the stanchion pits were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the stanchion pits was a natural layer of yellowish brown clayey silt (011). This measured in excess of 0.6m thick.

Cutting natural in pits F and O was a northwest-southeast aligned feature (015) and (017), possibly a narrow drain. This was between 0.22m and 0.39m wide and up to 0.46m deep (Fig. 4, Sections 15 and 24). Fills comprised greyish brown silty clay (014) and grey silty clay (016).

Sealing all deposits was a topsoil comprising grey silty clay (013) that measured up to 0.24m thick.

Overlying the topsoil in pits J, L, M, N and O was a hardstanding deposit of grey silt and hardcore rubble with gravel (010). In pit K this had been replaced by a dumped deposit of brick rubble (012).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise silty clay of the underlying drift geology of glacial till.

A drain remains undated due to a lack of artefactual material. However, it shares alignments with building at Cotehill Farm and is, therefore, likely to be recent.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprise a single sherd of glazed

earthenware of 17th-18th century date and a piece of modern roof tile (Appendix 3).

7. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was undertaken at Cotehill Farm, Husbands Bosworth, as the site lay in an area of known prehistoric monuments.

However, an undated, probably modern, drain was recorded along with natural, topsoil and deposits of hardstanding. Only finds of post-medieval and modern date were noted.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr DN Cook for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisor: Michael Wood
 Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Butler, A and Thomas, J, 2000 'Husbands Bosworth, Wheler Lodge Farm' *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, Vol. **74**

Butler, A and Coward, J, 2001 'Husbands Bosworth, Quarry Extension' *Transactions*

of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, Vol. **75**

Cope-Faulkner, P, 2007 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Cotehill Farm, Station Road, Husbands Bosworth, Leicestershire (HSBR 07)*, unpublished APS report **76/07**

Ekwall, E, 1989 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names* (4th edition)

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, r and Seale RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Morgan, P, 1979 *Domesday Book: Leicestershire* **22**

Pevsner, N, 1992 *Leicestershire and Rutland, The Buildings of England* (2nd edition revised E Williamson)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

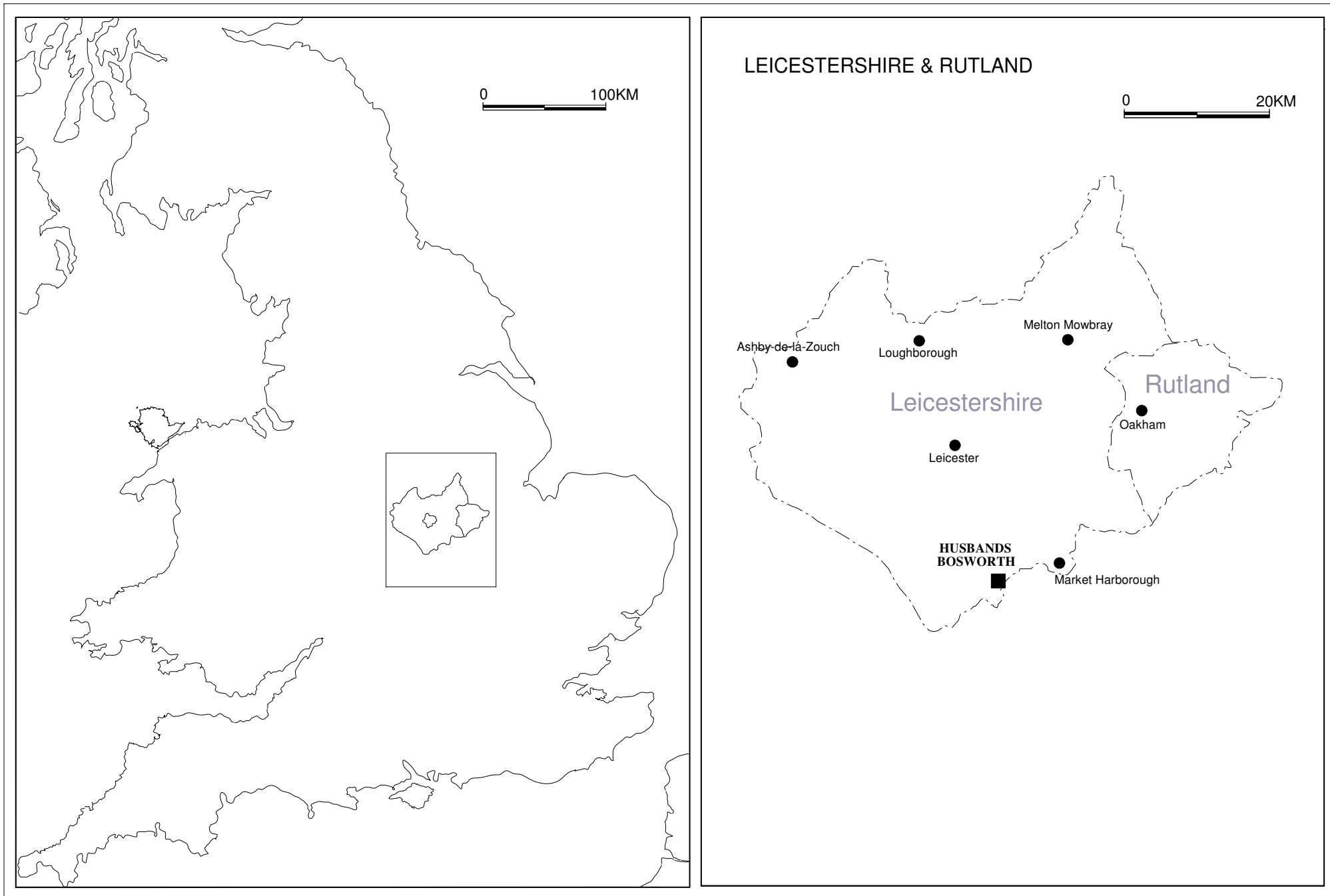
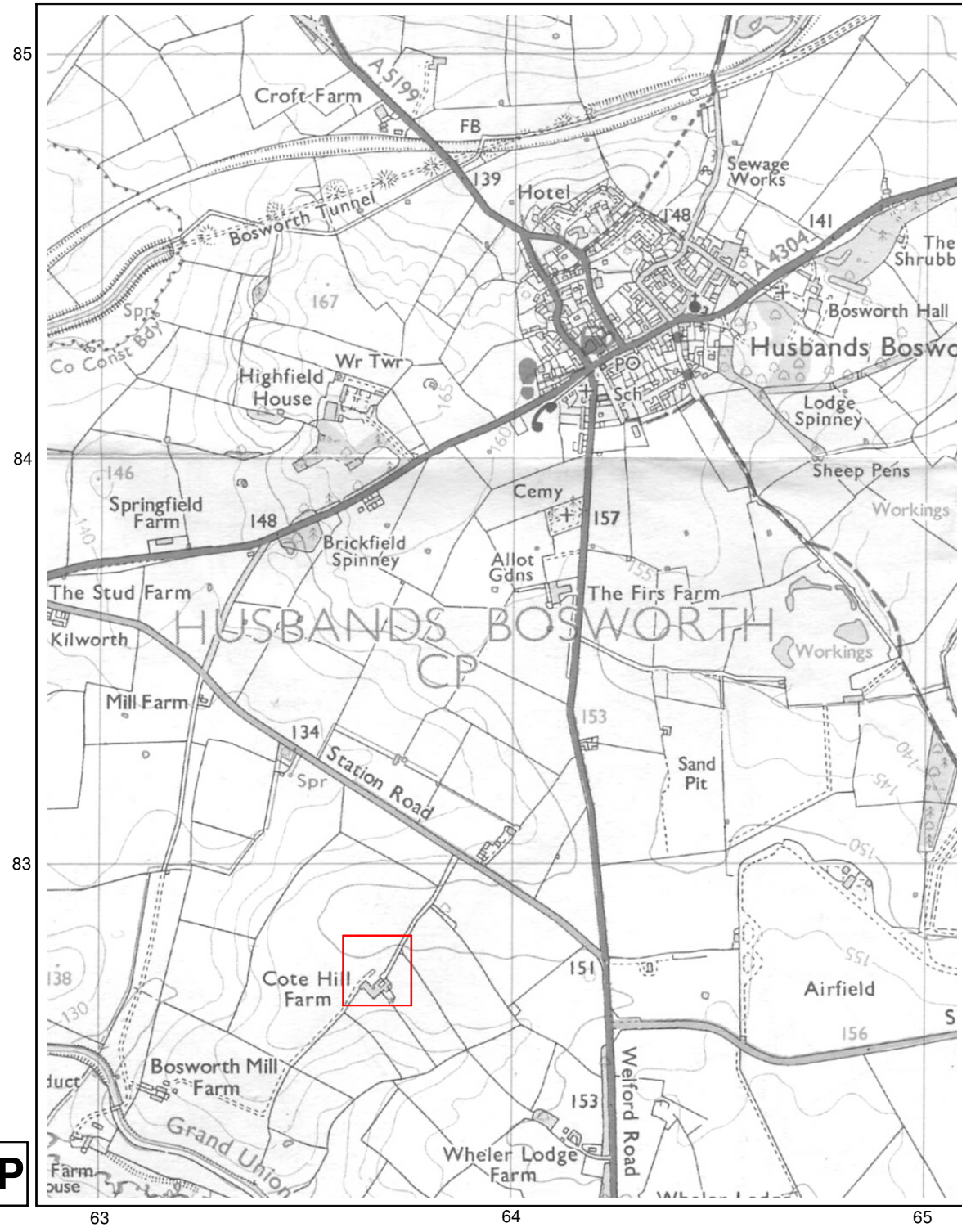



Figure 1 - General location map



SP

 Area detailed in Figure 3

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001




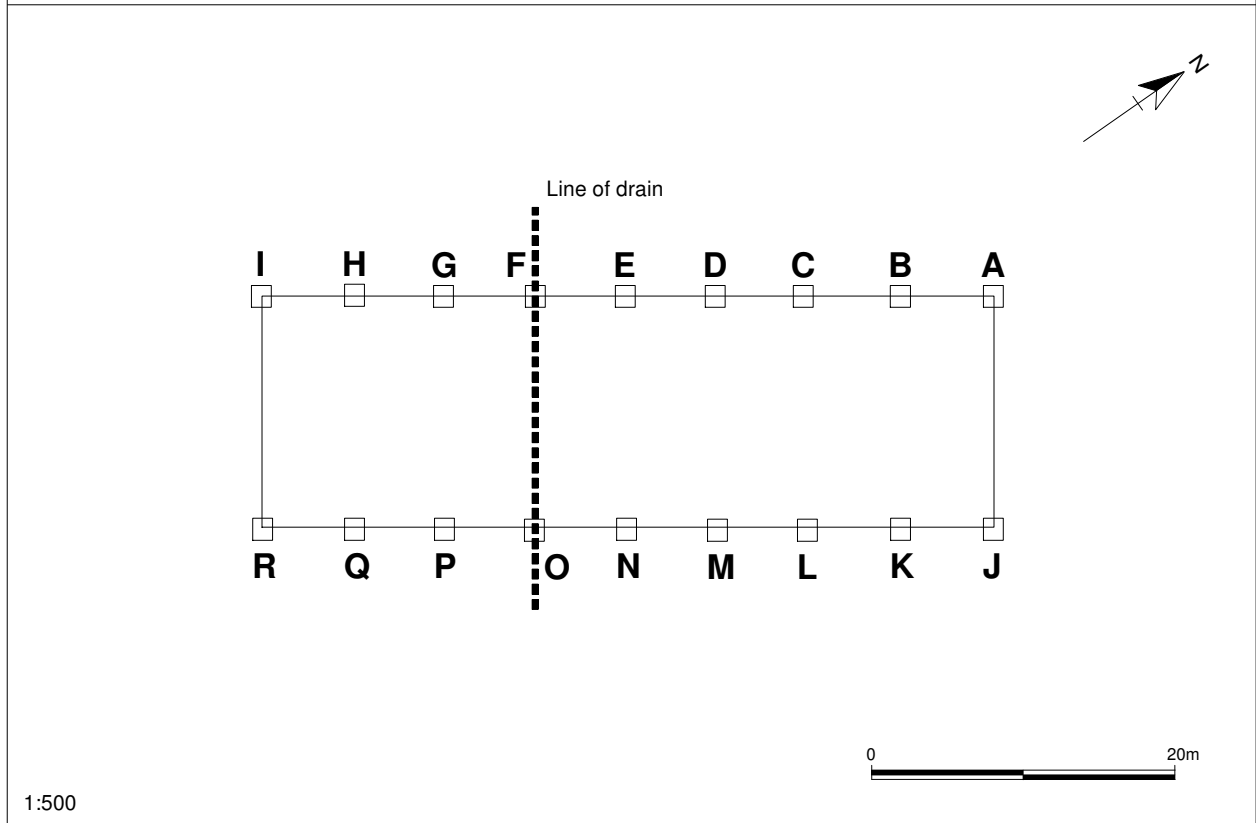
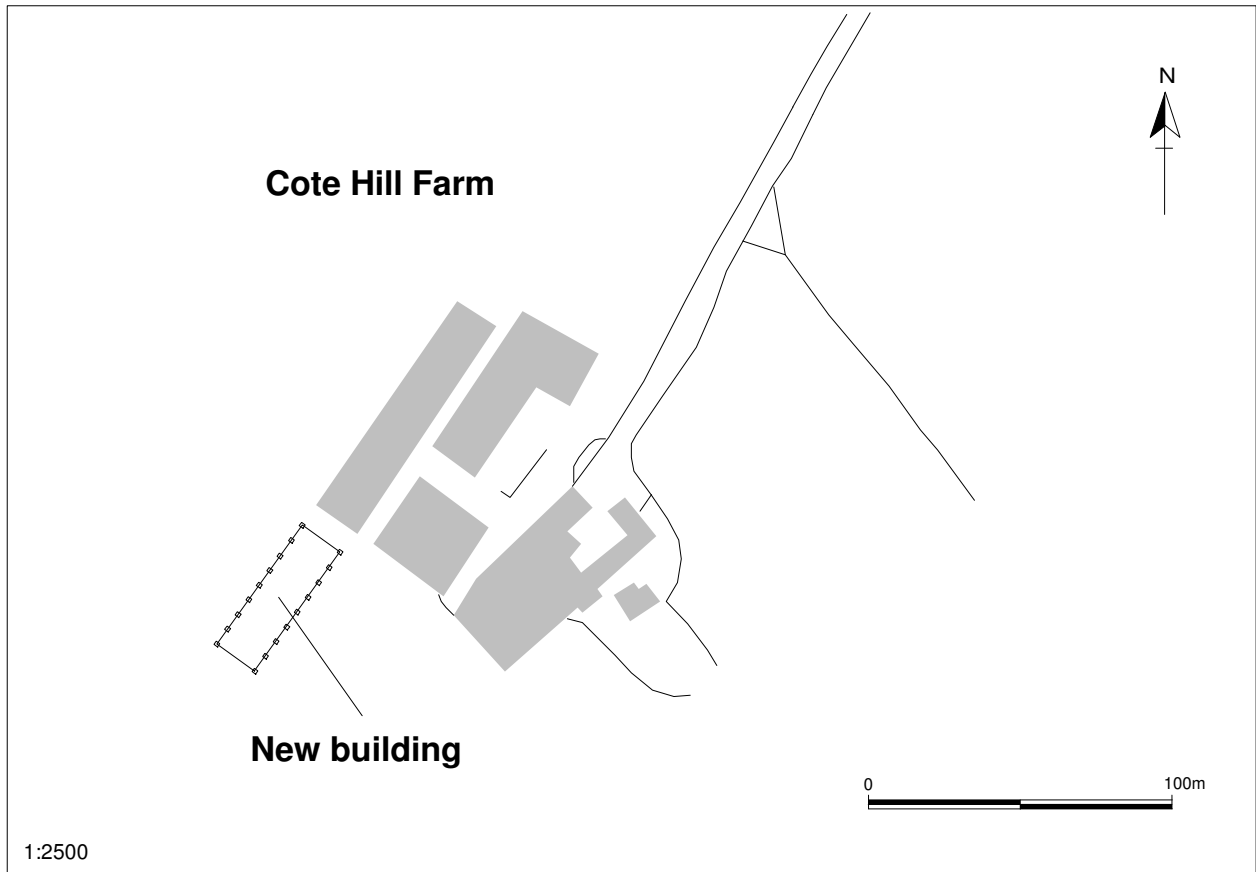
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Station Road, Husbands Bosworth		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 63/08

Figure 2 - Site location plan




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Station Road, Husbands Bosworth		
	Drawn by: SM	Report No: 63/08

Figure 3 Location map showing position of new building and location of recorded stanchion pits

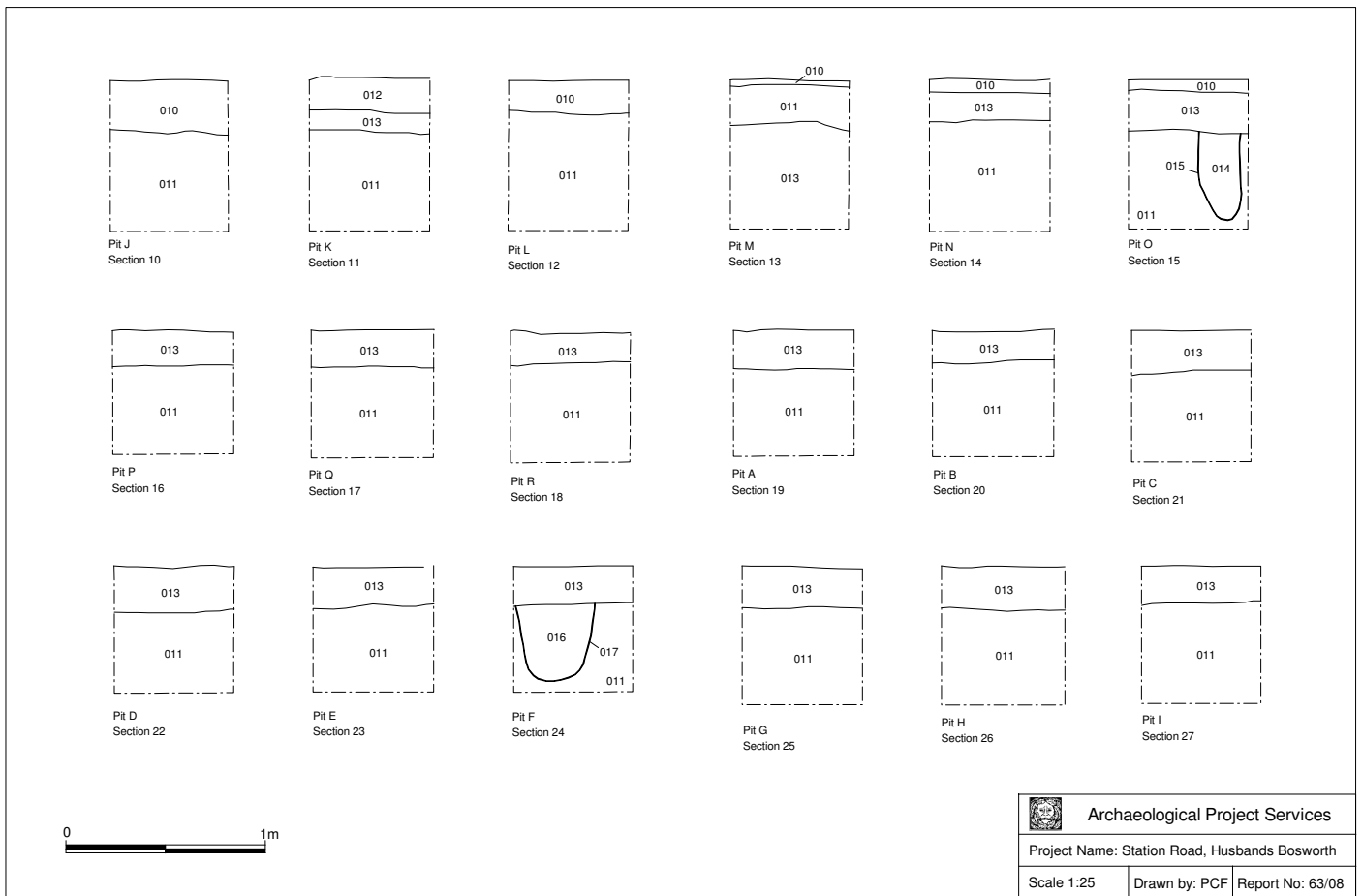


Figure 4 - Stanchion pit sections



Plate 1 Representative section, stanchion pit G



Plate 3 Representative section, stanchion pit I



Plate 2 Representative section, stanchion pit H



Plate 4 Representative section, stanchion pit J

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context numbers 001 to 002 relate to a watching brief undertaken on residential development to the northeast. Numbers 003 to 009 were not used.

No.	Description	Interpretation
010	Loose mid grey silt and hardcore with gravel, 0.22m thick	Hardstanding
011	Firm dark yellowish brown clayey silt, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit
012	Firm mid reddish brown brick fragments, 0.28m thick	Dumped deposit
013	Friable mid grey silty clay, 0.24m thick	Topsoil
014	Friable mid greyish brown silty clay	Fill of (015)
015	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.22m wide by 0.46m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Drain
016	Friable mid grey silty clay	Fill of (017)
017	Linear feature, aligned northwest-southeast, 0.39m wide by 0.4m deep, steep sides and rounded base	Drain

Appendix 3

THE FINDS By Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Leicestershire post-Roman pottery fabric type series (Davies and Sawday 1999). A single piece of pottery weighing 15g was recovered, together with a fragment of roofing material weighing 11g. No faunal remains were recovered.

Provenance

The material was recovered from the topsoil (013).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
013	EA	Glazed earthenware	1	15	17 th -18 th century

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
013	Asbestos concrete	Corrugated roofing sheet	1	11	20 th century

This piece of modern roofing material could be discarded.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation

Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Leicestershire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential

The small collection is entirely of post-medieval to early modern date and is of limited local potential and significance. The material may indicate occupation during the post-medieval period in the vicinity, though could have entered the area in casual discard.

The lack of any material earlier than the post-medieval period is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this time are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

References

Davies, S. and Sawday, D., 1999 'The Post-Roman Pottery and Tile', in A. Connor and R. Buckley, *Roman and Medieval Occupation in Causeway Lane, Leicester*, Leicester Archaeology Monographs 5

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive, including that from a previous investigation, consists of:

10	Context records
2	Photographic record sheet
4	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services
Room 500
County Hall
Leicester Road
Glenfield
Leicester
LE3 8TE

Accession Number: X.A83.2007

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HBSR 07

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.