

**Charity Farm, Bushby
Leicestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

for

Nexus Heritage

on behalf of

Bloor Homes Ltd (Midlands Division)

CA Project: 660144

CA Report: 13587

Accession no: X.A100.2013

October 2013

Charity Farm, Bushby Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 660144
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prepared by	Dan Stone, Project Supervisor
date	7 October 2013
checked by	Nicola Powell, Post Excavation Manager
date	11 October 2013
approved by	Simon Carlyle, Principal Fieldwork Manager
signed	
date	14 October 2013
issue	01

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Cirencester

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Kemble, Cirencester
Gloucestershire, GL7 6BQ
t. 01285 771022
f. 01285 771033

Milton Keynes

Unit 4
Cromwell Business Centre
Howard Way, Newport Pagnell
MK16 9QS
t. 01908 218320

Andover

Office 49
Basepoint Business Centre
Caxton Close, Andover
Hampshire, SP10 3FG
t. 01264 326549

e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Charity Farm, Bushby
Location:	Bushby, Leicestershire
NGR:	SK 6565 0446
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	12-14 August; 18-20 September 2013
Location of Archive:	Leicestershire Museum Services
Accession Number:	X.A100.2013
Site Code:	CFB 13

In August and September 2013, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of twenty trial trenches, on land at Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire. The evaluation was commissioned by Nexus Heritage, acting on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd (Midlands Division), and was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for the residential development of the site.

Other than a shallow, undated ditch and ridge and furrow earthworks in the southern part of the site, no significant archaeological remains were identified and it was demonstrated that geophysical anomalies shown on survey plots were caused by variations in the geological substrate, remnant ridge and furrow or modern drains and disturbance. The latter is probably associated with the construction of the Great Northern and London and North Western Joint Railway line.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August and September 2013, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of twenty trial trenches, at Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire (centred on NGR: SK 6565 0446; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Nexus Heritage, acting on behalf of Bloor Homes Ltd (Midlands Division), and was undertaken prior to the submission of a planning application for the residential development of the site. The development will comprise the demolition of existing farm buildings and the construction of c. 275 houses, with associated landscaping, open space and infrastructure.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a tender brief for archaeological evaluation that was prepared by Nexus Heritage (NH 2013), following consultation with Teresa Hawtin, Leicestershire County Council's Senior Planning Archaeologist (LCCSPA). The requirements of the tender brief were incorporated into the detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) issued by CA (2013) and approved by LCCSPA. The work also complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Teresa Hawtin, with a site visit being made on 14 August 2013.

The site

- 1.3 The site, which covers an area of c. 12.5ha, is located on the eastern edge of Bushby, to the north and adjacent to Uppingham Road (A47T), approximately 6.5km to the east of Leicester city centre. It comprises an arable field and parts of two fields to the south-east, which were under grass at the time of the evaluation. The farm buildings forming Charity Farm are located in the south-eastern corner of the site, adjacent to Uppingham Road. The site is bounded by a small stream and farmland to the north, farmland to the east and residential areas on the fringes of Bushby to the south and west. The site lies at approximately 131m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) near Uppingham Road, with the ground descending into a small tributary valley to the north-west, at c. 90m aOD in the extreme north-west corner of the site.

- 1.4 The geology comprises Jurassic mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation, with outcrops of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation in the southern part of the site (BGS 2013). The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of mid Pleistocene glaciofluvial sand and gravel in the central part of the site and diamicton (glacial deposit) of the Oadby Member at the southern fringes. The soils belong to the Denchworth Soil Association, which are clayey soils with similar fine loamy over clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

Archaeological background

- 1.5 An archaeological desk-based assessment for the site has been produced by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS 2010), from which the following summary has been taken.

Prehistoric

- 1.6 There are no known prehistoric remains within the site or in its immediate vicinity, although flint artefacts of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age date have been found c. 600m to the south of Uppingham Road (MLE16940) and an axe hammer has been found in Thurnby, approximately 900m to the west (MLE6338), indicating prehistoric activity in the general area.

Roman

- 1.7 In 1957, a small Roman cemetery was discovered at St Luke's Close, Thurnby (MLE2538) and Roman pottery, including an assemblage of high quality Samian ware, has been recovered from three sites in the surrounding area (MLE9136, 2537 and 9506).

Medieval

- 1.8 The origins of Bushby probably date to the period of Danish migration in the 9th and 10th centuries as the name is of Danish origin. Bushby has ancient associations with Thurnby and in the medieval period was a hamlet in the parish of Thurnby, which also included the Chapelry of Stoughton. Following the Norman Conquest, the village formed part of the lands of Hugh de Grandmesnil, who fought alongside William of Normandy (subsequently William I) at the Battle of Hastings and was rewarded with extensive tracts of land in Leicestershire and other parts of the Midlands. In the 12th century the estate passed to the Earls of Leicester and in 1204 Bushby and part of Thurnby were inherited by the Earl of Winchester. Throughout most of the medieval period, the estate was tenanted by the Dubois and Seagrave

families. The site lies outside of the historic core of the medieval hamlet of Bushby and lay within open fields to the east of the hamlet. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks are still evident in the south-eastern part of the site.

Post-medieval and modern

- 1.9 The lands around Bushby and Thurnby were largely enclosed in the early 17th century. A disused railway line, formerly part of the Great Northern and London and North Western Joint Railway network, passes through the centre of the site (MLE13606). This was opened in 1883 and connected to a station at Leicester Belgrave Road.

Previous archaeological investigation

- 1.10 Two phases of geophysical survey have been conducted on the site by Stratascan (2010 and 2013) and the interpretative results are shown in Figure 2. A number of anomalies were recorded that were interpreted as being of possible archaeological origin, along with anomalies relating to ridge and furrow cultivation remains. Other anomalies were of geological or modern anthropogenic origin.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.11 The objectives of the evaluation, as set out in the WSI (CA 2013), were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. This information will enable LCCSPA to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Methodology

- 1.12 The fieldwork comprised the excavation and investigation of twenty trenches (a total of 1100 linear metres; Fig. 2). The trenches measured 50m long by 2m wide, with the exception of Trenches 10 and 11, which were 100m long. The trenches were positioned to investigate the nature of a series of anomalies recorded by geophysical survey. To enable crops to be harvested, the work was carried out in two phases, with Trenches 12-20 (Area 2) being investigated in August 2013 and Trenches 1-11 (Area 1) the following month.

- 1.13 The trenches were excavated using a 360-degree tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the geological substrate, whichever was encountered first.
- 1.14 Following machining, features and deposits were cleaned, hand-excavated, planned and recorded in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Plans and sections were hand-drawn at an appropriate scale and a photographic record of the project was maintained using 35mm black & white negative film and digital images. Trenches were surveyed using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS, in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2009).
- 1.15 There were no finds and there were no features suitable for environmental sampling. All archaeological features and the spoil heaps were scanned with a metal detector, but this only resulted in the recovery of modern refuse.
- 1.16 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner, the site archive will eventually be deposited with Leicestershire County Museum Services. A summary of information from this project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The site was divided into two areas (Fig. 2): the arable field to the west (Area 1, Trenches 1-11) and the grass/pasture fields to the east (Area 2, Trenches 12-20). Descriptions of the features and deposits encountered in the trenches are presented in detail in Appendix A.



Area 1 (Trenches 1-11)

- 2.2 The geological substrate consisted of mid bluish-grey silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded pebbles (Fig. 3). With the exception of Trenches 2 and 5, the geology was overlain by one or two layers of colluvium, derived from mass-wasting processes from higher up the slope. The combined thickness of the colluvium varied between 0.30m and 0.65m, the variation reflecting undulations in the topography of the slope as well as differential accumulation. The subsoil was mid greyish-brown silty clay, varying between 0.15m and 0.31m thick, and the topsoil was dark brownish-grey silty clay, approximately 0.3m thick.
- 2.3 No archaeological features were encountered in any of the trenches and most of the geophysical anomalies were shown to relate to variations in the geological substrate. The field appears to have been predominately used for pasture before its conversion to arable use, although weak linear striations shown on the geophysical survey (but not confirmed by excavation) suggest that the field had been part of an open field prior to enclosure.

Area 2 (Trenches 12-20)

- 2.4 This area comprised parts of two fields that were under grass at the time of the evaluation. The substantial remains of ridge and furrow earthworks were noted in the southern field, adjacent to Uppingham Road and the farm buildings. The geological substrate was variable in this area, ranging from light greyish-brown coarse sands and gravels in a light grey clay matrix, to bluish-grey clay. The subsoil and topsoil were the same as those recorded in Area 1, although the thickness of the subsoil was variable, due to the presence of the earthworks.
- 2.5 In Trench 17 there was a shallow, undated ditch, 1702, that ran parallel to the existing hedgerow to the south-west. It was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 1.0m wide by 0.19m deep. The upper fill, 1704, was flecked with charcoal.
- 2.6 Trenches 15 and 16 were heavily disturbed by modern disturbance that is probably associated with the construction of the Great Northern and London and North Western Joint Railway line, the remains of which pass immediately to the north of the trenches.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No significant archaeological remains were identified by the evaluation and it was demonstrated that the geophysical anomalies shown on survey plots (Stratascan 2010 and 2013) were caused by variations in the geological substrate, remnant ridge and furrow or modern drains and disturbance. In Area 1, in the north-western part of the site, the ground sloped steeply from south to north and layers of colluvium were recorded in section. Elsewhere, the general soil profile of topsoil over subsoil predominated.
- 3.2 In Area 2, in the field surrounding the farm buildings, substantial ridge and furrow earthworks were recorded, on a north to south alignment. Their survival suggests that this area has not been ploughed in modern times and has been used as pasture since enclosure in the early 17th century. Other features included an undated ditch, probably a former post-medieval field boundary, and areas of disturbance associated with the construction of the Great Northern and London and North Western Joint Railway line, which was opened in 1883.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was directed by Dan Stone, assisted by Peter James and a team of CA archaeologists. The report was written by Dan Stone, with illustrations prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Dan Stone and prepared for deposition by Derek Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.



5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer* http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html Accessed 9 October 2013

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 *Land at Charity Farm, Bushby: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

NH (Nexus Heritage) 2103 *Land at Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire: Tender Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*

SSEW (Soil Survey of England & Wales) 1983 *West Midlands Sheet 3, 1:625,000*

Stratascan 2010 *Geophysical Survey Report: Charity Farm, Bushby Leicestershire*, report **2811**

Stratascan 2013 *Geophysical Survey Report: Land at Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire*, report **3300**

ULAS (University of Leicester Archaeological Services) 2010 *An archaeological desk-based assessment for land at Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire*, report **2010-207**



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot date
1	100	topsoil	dark brownish grey, moderately compacted silty clay	-	-	0.24	
	101	subsoil	mid greyish brown, moderately compacted silty clay	-	-	0.15	
	102	colluvium	mid greyish brown with orange mottling, compact silty clay with manganese flecks	-	-	0.30	
	103	colluvium	mid greyish brown with blue hue, compact silty clay and occ sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.26	
	104	geology	dark black grey moderate compact silty clay with occ sub rounded stones	-	-	-	
2	201	topsoil	mid black grey with blue hue compact silty clay with occasional sub-rounded stones chalk and manganese flecks	-	-	0.13	
	202	subsoil	mid black grey with blue patches compact silty clay	-	-	0.15	
	203	geology	mid grey brown with blue mottling compact silty clay	-	-	-	
3	300	topsoil	dark brown grey silty clay	-	-	0.24	
	301	subsoil	mid greenish brown silty clay	-	-	0.22	
	302	colluvium	mid greyish brown with red hue silty clay	-	-	0.19	
	303	colluvium	mid bluish grey with brown hue silty clay	-	-	0.27	
	304	geology	mid bluish grey silty clay with moderate manganese, occ small to medium sub rounded stones	-	-	-	
4	401	topsoil	dark blackish brown moderate compact silty clay	-	-	0.23	
	402	subsoil	mid grey brown moderate to firm compact silty clay with occasional sub rounded stone	-	-	0.31	
	403	colluvium	mid grey brown compact silty clay with occ manganese and chalk flecks	-	-	0.33	
	404	colluvium	mid orangey grey brown compact sandy silty clay with freq manganese flecks	-	-	0.27	
	405	colluvium	mid orangey brown compact silty clay	-	-	0.14	
	406	geology	mid orangey brown moderate compact sandy clay mottled with compact blue grey with freq manganese flecks and occ subangular stones	-	-	-	
5	501	topsoil	dark blackish brown, mod compact silty clay	-	-	0.33	
	502	subsoil	mid orangey blue brown compact silty clay	-	-	0.3	
	503	geology	mid orangey blue brown silty clay with frequent manganese flecks, occ patches of grey brown sandy clay and small sub rounded stones	-	-	-	

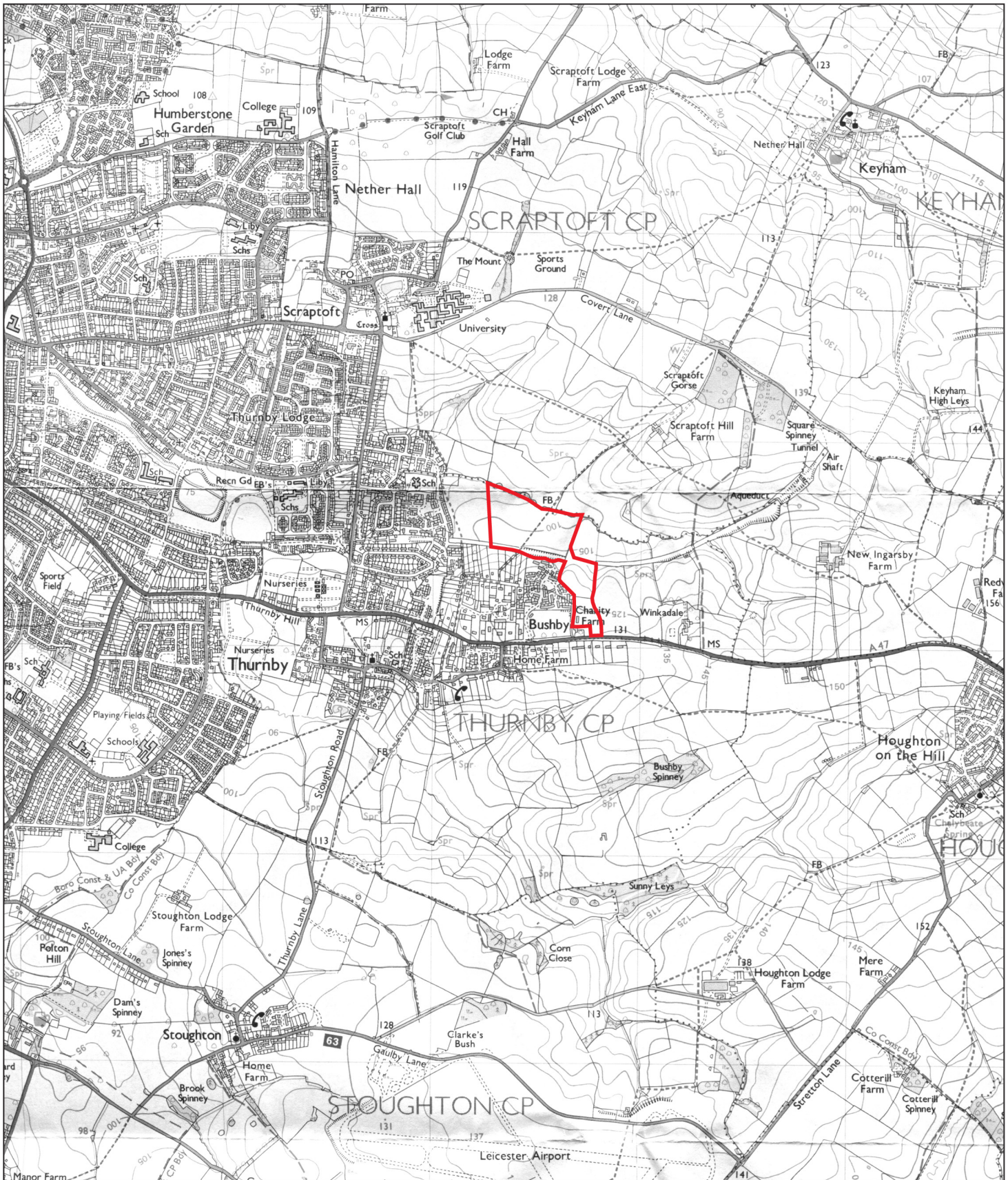
6	600	topsoil	dark brownish grey silty clay	-	-	0.28	
	601	subsoil	mid greyish brown sandy clay	-	-	0.2	
	602	colluvium	mid greyish brown sandy clay with moderate manganese and chalk flecks	-	-	0.4	
	603	colluvium	mid greyish brown sandy clay with rare gravel and manganese flecks	-	-	0.25	
	604	geology	mid bluish grey with patches of greyish brown silty clay	-	-	-	
7	701	topsoil	dark brownish brown moderate compact silty clay with occasional subangular stones	-	-	0.26	
	702	subsoil	mid grey brown moder to firm compact silty clay	-	-	0.18	
	703	colluvium	mid grey brown compact silty clay with manganese flecks	-	-	0.3	
	704	geology	mid orangey brown compact silty clay with patches of blue grey clay and gravel	-	-	-	
8	801	topsoil	dark blackish grey moderately compact silty clay with occ small subrounded stones	-	-	0.26	
	802	subsoil	mid greyish brown mod compact silty clay	-	-	0.12	
	803	colluvium	mid greyish brown compact silty clay with frequent chalk flecks, frequent manganese flacks	-	-	0.35	
	804	colluvium	mid greying brown compact silty clay with frequent manganese flacks and rare small pebbles	-	-	0.24	
	805	geology	mid bluish grey compact silty clay with patches of orangey brown sandy clay and occ small to medium sub angular stones	-	-	-	
9	901	topsoil	dark blackish brown firm compact silty clay	-	-	0.21	
	902	subsoil	dark greyish brown silty clay	-	-	0.19	
	903	colluvium	dark orangey brown sandy clay	-	-	0.03	
	904	colluvium	dark greyish orangey brown sandy clay, rare sub angular stone	-	-	0.31	
	905	geology	dark orangey brown sandy clay with patches dark bluish grey silty clay	-	-	-	
10	1001	topsoil	dark blackish brown firm compact silty clay	-	-	0.25	
	1002	subsoil	dark greyish brown firm compact silty clay	-	-	0.14	
	1003	colluvium	mid greyish brown firm compact clayey silt rare small sub angular stones	-	-	0.22	
	1004	colluvium	mid greyish brown firm compact silty clay, frequent small magnesium flecks	-	-	0.25	
	1005	geology	dark orangey brown sandy clay, with dark bluish grey silty clay	-	-	-	
11	1101	topsoil	dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay	-	-	0.26	
	1102	subsoil	mid orangey brown moderately compact sandy silt with rare small pebbles	-	-	0.21	
	1103	colluvium	mid orangey brown moderately compact sandy silt with occ charcoal flecks	-	-	0.18	

	1104	colluvium	mid orangey brown with a blue hue compact silty clay	-	-	0.29	
	1105	geology	mid to light bluish grey compact silty clay with frequent manganese flecks and stony gravels	-	-	-	
12	1201	topsoil	medium grey brown sandy silty clay with occ sub rounded pebbles	-	-	0.2	
	1202	ridge	medium grey brown sandy silty clay with rare sub rounded gravel	-	-	0.16	
	1203	geology	medium yellow brown sandy silt clay	-	-	-	
13	1301	topsoil	mid greyish brown soft silty sand with occ poorly sored regular small stones and charcoal	-	-	0.23	
	1302	furrow		-	>1.0	0.37	medieval
	1303	fill of furrow	mid greyish brown firm clayey silt	-	-	0.37	
	1304	ridge deposit	mid yellowish brown firm silty fine sand with mod pebbles and occ flecks of charcoal	-	>2.0	0.18	
	1305	geology	mid reddish brown firm clay	-	-	-	
14	1401	topsoil	loose sandy silt greyish brown	-	-	0.22	
	1402	ridge	compact brownish orange sandy clay	-	>3.52	0.38	
	1403	furrow	dark brown silty sand	-	>2.82	-	medieval
	1404	geology	compact mottled bluish orange sandy clay	-	-	-	
15	1501	topsoil	greyish brown sandy silt	-	-	0.29	
	1502	subsoil	mid orange sandy silt moderately compact	-	-	0.28	
	1503	natural	bluish red gravely compact clay	-	-	-	
	1504	Made-ground	bluish yellow sandy clay	-	-	>0.2	modern
	1505	Made-ground	bluish yellow sandy clay	-	-	>0.2	modern
16	1601	topsoil	sandy clay mid grey	-	-	0.25	
	1602	subsoil	mid yellowish orange sandy clay	-	-	0.14	
	1603	geology	mottled bluish brown compact clay	-	-	-	
	1604	redeposited natural	blue grey firm clay	-	-	n.e.	modern
17	1701	topsoil	mid brownish grey soft silty clay with frequent small and medium regular stones	-	-	0.28	
	1702	ditch	linear with concave profile	>16.0	0.99	0.19	undated
	1703	ditch fill	frequent small angular stones and brown silty clay	-	-	0.10	
	1704	ditch fill	mid brown soft clayey silt with occ small stones and pieces of charcoal	-	-	0.09	
	1705	geology	light grey brown coarse sands and gravels with light grey clay	-	>2.0	-	
18	1801	topsoil	dark grey sandy silt	-	-	0.41	
	1802	colluvium	mid brown clayey sand	-	-	0.25	
	1803	subsoil	firm orange sandy clay	-	-	0.27	
	1804	geology	bluish grey yellowish orange silty clay	-	-	-	
19	1901	topsoil	dark grey sandy silt	-	-	0.321	
	1902	colluvium	mid brown clayey sand	-	-	0.34	
	1903	subsoil	firm orange sandy clay	-	-	0.12	
	1904	geology	bluish grey yellowish orange silty clay	-	-	-	
20	2001	topsoil	light brownish grey loose sandy silt	-	-	0.19	
	2002	fill of	mid orangey brown clayey silt	-	-	0.18	

		furrow					
	2003	subsoil	greyish brown clay silt	-	-	0.15	
	2004	geology	mottled bluish brown compact clay	-	-	-	
	2005	furrow		-	-	0.18	Medieval

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Charity Farm, Bushby	
Short description	Other than a shallow, undated ditch and ridge and furrow earthworks in the southern part of the site, no significant archaeological remains were identified and it was demonstrated that geophysical anomalies shown on survey plots were caused by variations in the geological substrate, remnant ridge and furrow or modern drains and disturbance. The latter is probably associated with the construction of the Great Northern and London and North Western Joint Railway line.	
Project dates	12-14 August; 18-20 September 2013	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2011 and 2013)	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	Ridge and furrow	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire	
Study area	c. 12.5ha	
Site co-ordinates	SK 6565 0446	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	Nexus Heritage	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA), Gerry Wait (Nexus Heritage)	
Project Supervisor	Dan Stone (CA)	
PROJECT ARCHIVE		
	Accession no: X.A100.2013	Content
Physical	Leicestershire Museum Services	None
Paper		Site records
Digital	Leicestershire HER	Report, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2013 <i>Charity Farm, Bushby Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 13587		



0 1km

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Cotswold Archaeology

Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 218320
Andover 01264 326549
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk






PROJECT TITLE
Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire

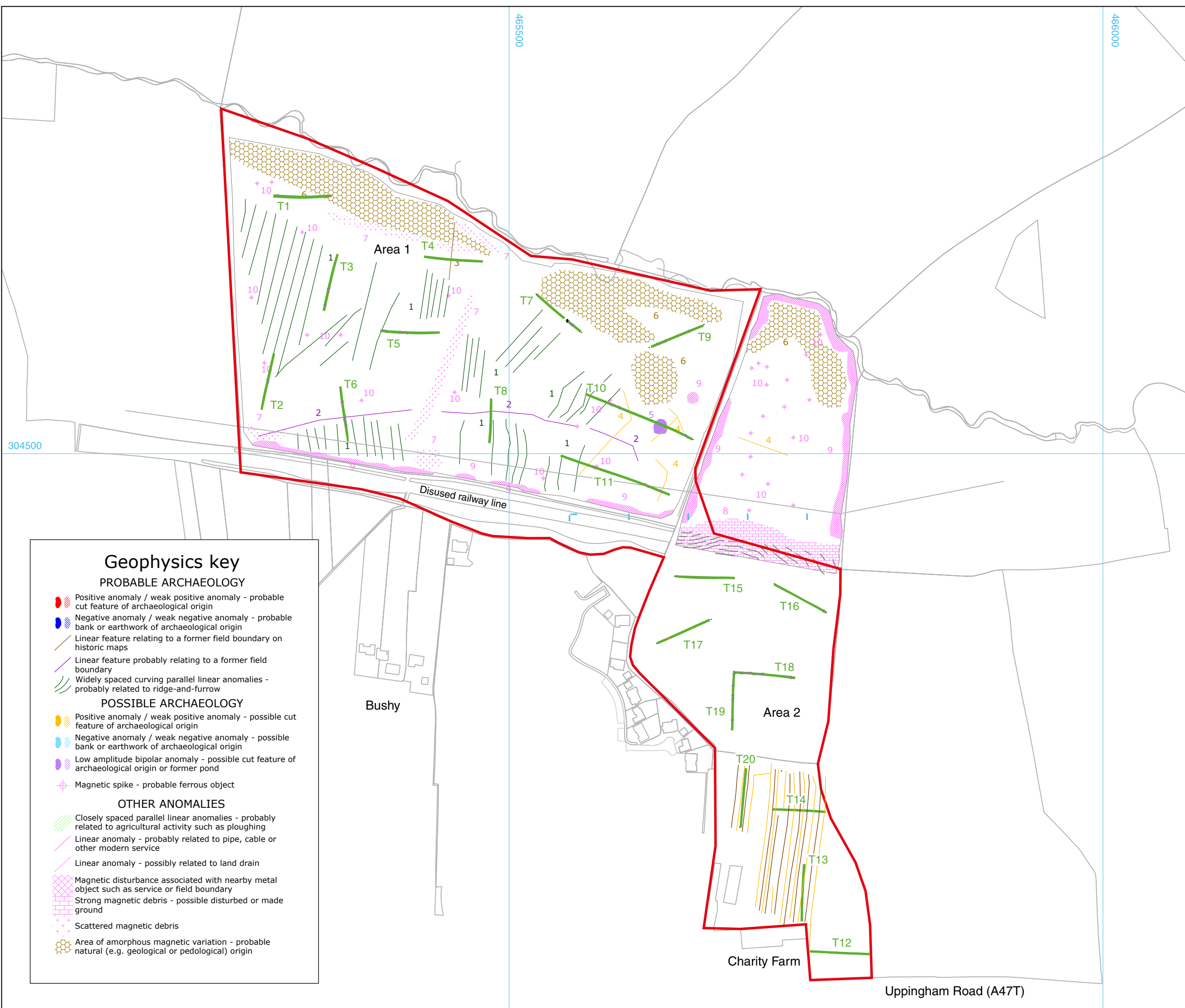
FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

PROJECT NO. 660144 DATE 11-10-2013
DRAWN BY LM REVISION 00
APPROVED BY LG SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.
1



-  site
-  evaluation trench
-  furrow
-  modern
-  treethrow



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PROJECT TITLE
 Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical results





PROJECT NO.	660144	DATE	11-10-2013	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	LM	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LG	SCALE@A3	1:3000	

Geophysics key








PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

-  Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
-  Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
-  Linear feature relating to a former field boundary on historic maps
-  Linear feature probably relating to a former field boundary
-  Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

-  Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
-  Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
-  Low amplitude bipolar anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin or former pond
-  Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

OTHER ANOMALIES

-  Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
-  Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
-  Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
-  Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
-  Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
-  Scattered magnetic debris
-  Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin



3



4

3 View of Trench 8, looking north

4 View of Trench 17, looking west



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 Milton Keynes 01908 218320
 Andover 01264 326549
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PROJECT TITLE

Charity Farm, Bushby, Leicestershire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

PROJECT NO. 660144 DATE 11-10-2013
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FIGURE NO.

3 & 4