

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological strip, map and record excavation and Watching Brief (WSI)

Contractor: Contour Archaeology Ltd.

Application: 24/00403/FUL

Site: Market Bosworth School, Station Road, Back Lane, CV13 0JT

NGR: TF 22231 01021

Type: Archaeological Strip, Map & Record Excavation and Watching Brief

Site Code: SWPE24

Client: Market Bosworth School

Date: January 2025

Accession no: **X.A123.2024**

V4

S Non-Technical Summery

- S1 *This document comprises a specification or a written scheme of investigation for a post-planning determination archaeological strip, map and record excavation and Watching Brief on Market Bosworth School, Station Road, Back Lane, CV13 0JT.*
- S3 *On the completion of the site archaeological strip, map and record excavation, a report will be produced detailing the results of the archaeological investigations. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*
- S4 *The project archive will be deposited after consultation with the Leicestershire Museums Service in Leicestershire and the final project report will be submitted to the Leicestershire Museums Service.*

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Contour Archaeology Ltd have been commissioned by Market Bosworth School to undertake an archaeological strip, map and record excavation and Watching Brief at Market Bosworth School, Station Road, Back Lane, CV13 0JT. This document comprises a specification or a written scheme of investigation for this archaeological strip, map and record excavation and Watching Brief. The investigation site is located at National Grid Reference TF 22231 01021.

2. Site location (Figures 1-2)

- 2.1 Market Bosworth is located 10km north of Hinkley and 18km west of Leicester. The site itself is located on the north side of station road in the centre of Market Bosworth.

3. Planning Background

- 2.1 An application for planning permission for the construction of a new multi-use sports area, extension of car park, upgrade to grass pitch and associated works will be submitted to and granted consent by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (the Local Planning Authority) [Figure 2].

“No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority in writing. No development shall

take place unless in complete accordance with the approved scheme. The approved scheme shall be implemented in full including any post development requirements e.g. archiving and submission of final reports”.

- 2.2 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological Strip, Map and Record ONLY; this document alone will NOT result in the discharge of the aforementioned archaeological condition.
- 2.3 This proposed development site is considered to be situated within an area of archaeological potential. In the light of this, this proposed development site has already been the subject of one previous phases of archaeological assessment.
- 3.3 Based on the results of these previous stages of archaeological site field assessment, a requirement was made by the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for a second staged archaeological strip, map and record excavation and Watching Brief to take place prior to any development on the site.
- 3.4 This requirement was secured by the granting of planning consent for this development, subject to planning conditions. As noted earlier, this document comprises the written scheme of archaeological investigation (WSI) for this archaeological strip, map and record excavation and Watching Brief and will be submitted for approval to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and to the Local Planning Authority as required by planning consent 24/00403/FUL.

4. Soils and Topography

- 4.1 The bedrock geology across the site is mapped as Gunthorpe Member – Mudstone. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247.1 and 237 million years ago during the Triassic period. The superficial geology across the site is mapped as Glaciofluvial Deposits – Sand and Gravel. These superficial deposits formed between 860 and 116 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS).

5. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Historic Environment Data (0.5km search)

The Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER) lists several Bronze Age finds within the modern town area, including the undated mound just west of the site. Additionally, there is a cremation urn from The Rectory, south of Rectory Lane (HER No. MLE6354) and a palstave (axe) from Bosworth Hall (HER No. MLE6355), and to the southeast of the town a possible Bronze Age ring-ditch cropmark (HER No. MLE2920) in Bosworth Park. The Bosworth Links Project (Morris 2017) revealed small quantities of flint debitage in 21 of the 25 test-pits, potentially identified an extensive early Bronze Age landscape beneath the town.

Iron Age and Roman activity is also recorded across the town, with the most notable being the aforementioned Scheduled Monument of the Roman Villa. This comprises a large ditch and at least three structures, and limited excavation has revealed part of a mosaic pavement, as well as late Iron Age and Roman pottery, quern fragments, and several coins and building materials. Several other Roman finds have also been found across the town suggesting Roman occupation of the area.

There is little to denote the Saxon period in the town, although pottery fragments were found during excavations in 2017. The name Bosworth comes from 'Bosworde' as it is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, thought to come from the name 'Bosa' and the word Old English word 'word', meaning enclosure (Market Bosworth Society; Morris 2017). Evidence suggests that the town did not begin to develop in its present location until the 10th century. This early activity appears to concentrate along Park Street, south of St Peter's parish church, and north of the marketplace.

Following the Conquest, the land was held by the Earl of Mellent and Hugh de Grantmesnil, and the settlement was served by a priest and deacon. During the 12th century the two demesnes were amalgamated and the Harcourts became Lords of the manor until the early 16th century. By the 12th century the town appears to have become well established, and a market was established by 1292. A watermill is mentioned in 1294 (HER No. MLE2918) and a bake house in 1328 (Morris 2017). The Parish church of St Peter was construed in the 14th century and possible property boundary ditches have been found from this period within the town, and 13th-14th century domestic refuse has also been found on Church Street.

From the 16th century onwards, the town began to fully develop with properties clustered around the marketplace and the roads leading out. Several of the buildings in the area still retain some of the 16th century elements within their structure. Toby Mathews surveyed the town in 1592 and described it as "well and roundly compact together having many streets and lanes in it" (Morris 2017). In the late 16th / early 17th century the Gramer School was re-founded by the Dixies. Speed's map of Leicestershire from 1610 shows "Bosworth" as a prominent town with a church, but little further detail is given. Towards the end of the 17th century Bosworth Hall was

constructed. A newspaper report from 1731 records "A neat apothecary's shop" was for sale following the death of the owner, Thomas Campion (Stamford Mercury 29/07/1731). The grammar school was closed for repairs towards the end of the century, and reopened in 1789, with Rev. W Wood as the headmaster (Aris's Brimingham Gazette 29/06/1789).

The 19th century saw the canal and railways coming to the town, which further aided the development and expansion. The grammar school was rebuilt in the early part of the century and the Union Workhouse built in 1836. This was designed to care for 200 paupers and cost around £3000 to build. The 1886 OS map shows the site at this time as a series of empty fields. The

fields may have been formed from the medieval strip fields, facing onto Station Road. The 1903 OS map shows a similar situation, and a grammar school was constructed to the east of the site. Market Bosworth Secondary Modern School has been constructed prior to 1947 (Leicester Daily Mercury 27/08/1947) and the 1958 OS mapping shows the school as well as the playing fields to the west.

The Market Bosworth School was established as a comprehensive school in 1969 and a new building constructed in 1989, with the old canteen demolished. The rubble from this was deposited on the proposed site location. From 2003 the eastern end of the site was rough ground until c. 2011 when it was levelled and reseeded. Trial pitting on the site was undertaken in March 2024.

6. Aims and objectives of the project

6.1 The objectives of the archaeological investigations will be to:

- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of the development site.
- To determine the type, extent, condition, nature, character, quality, function, and date, of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.
- To gain information about heritage assets identified within the area of the proposed development site.
- To mitigate potential threats.
- To inform proposals for further archaeological investigations, if necessary.
- To interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national context.

7. Methodology

- 7.1 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the proposed archaeological excavation and has been based on the guidelines set out in NPPF, 2021.
- 7.2 The project will be broadly carried out in a manner consistent with English Heritage's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, 2006 (MoRPHE), reissued Historic England 2015.
- 7.3 The excavation will be carried out in accordance with current best practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines, including:

- Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, D. 2003, EAA Occasional Paper 14).
 - English Heritage 2011, Environmental Archaeology, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth.
 - Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974.
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (2019)
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologist Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations(2020).
 - Management of Archaeological Research Projects (MoRPHE), (English Heritage, reissued 2015).
 - National Policy Framework, 2023 (NPPF).
 - Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011)
 - The Treasure Act 1996, Code of Practice (2nd Revision) England & Wales.
 - Understanding The Archaeology of Landscapes, A guide to good recording practice Historic England (2017)
 - Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
- 7.4 The mechanical ground reduction of the archaeological excavation area will be carried out under the continual supervision of a suitably qualified professional archaeologist.
- 7.5 The Senior Planning Archaeologist will be given not less than 10 working days notice of the start of the archaeological excavation, so that arrangements can be made for a site monitoring visit prior to the commencement of the archaeological works on site.
- 7.6 William Kelly shall be kept regularly informed about developments both during the site works and during the subsequent post-excavation work.
- 7.7 The developer shall allow for pre-commencement archaeological excavation prior to any development of the site area.
- 7.8 The site archaeologist shall inform William Kelly verbally or in writing of the completion of the archaeological excavation within three calendar days of such completion.

7.9 Prior to the start of any fieldwork an OASIS V (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) online record will be initiated.

7.10 Contour Archaeology Ltd. staff that will be on site running the project are:

Neil Jefferson BSc, Senior Archaeologist: quality control and overall Management.

Andy Pascoe BA, Project Officer: day-to-day site management.

8.0 Excavation and Recording Techniques

8.1 Field excavation strategy will be in full accordance with regional and national guidelines.

8.2 The archaeological excavation site area shall be mechanically excavated with a machine of sufficient power, fitted with a toothless bucket. The site will be excavated down to 0.3m below the development depth. If the archaeological horizon or natural is reached before this depth, then excavation work will stop at this layer. Once the archaeology has been removed from this layer and with approval from the county archaeologist, the excavation to development layer can continue. This process will be repeated if additional layers are identified.

8.3 The mechanical ground reduction of the archaeological excavation area will be carried out under the continual supervision of a suitably qualified professional archaeologist. Based on depth of the development the area in red in figure 2 will be the only area where the natural will be impacted.

8.4 All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using Contour Archaeology Ltd's pro-forma context recording sheets, using the MoLAS single context recording system.

8.5 After the initial mechanical ground excavation/reduction, all identified and exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned by hand, using trowels, hoes and spades.

8.6 All topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposits shall be kept separate.

8.7 Topsoils and subsoils removed from the site excavation area shall be subjected to visual scanning for further residual artefactual material.

8.8 Sufficient hand excavation will be undertaken to establish clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposits or features, and of any colluvial deposits across the site.

8.9 Metal detector searches will be undertaken over the excavation area before soils are removed and thence over the spoil heaps and features after removal. This will be done by an experienced metal detector user; detectors will not be set to discriminate iron.

- 8.10 All finds will be collected and processed using Standard and guidance for collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014).
- 8.11 If very deep deposits are recorded a hand held auger will be used to gain additional information.
- 8.12 Significant archaeological features, for example: solid or bonded structural remains and building slots will be preserved intact even if their fills are sampled.
- 8.13 All archaeological features will be investigated and recorded. Linear features exposed shall be subjected to 1m sample slots across their widths, discrete features shall be half sectioned or excavated in quadrants.
- 8.14 All archaeological features/deposits identified will be planned at and to scales of 1:20 or 1:50, sections drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20 and will be related to a scale plan of the site that will be tied into the National Grid. These shall be accurately reproduced as illustrations/figures in the final excavation report.
- 8.15 All finds apart from modern will be collected and processed. Finds of a post medieval and modern date will be recorded on site with a random sample of three finds from each feature sent for analysis. Small finds will be photographed in situ, located by GPS and packaged and boxed in accordance with small finds procedures (ClfA, 2019).
- 8.16 All sections shall be measured in from a section datum line, which will be 'levelled' in relation to Ordnance Datum and will be accurately reproduced within the finished excavation report.
- 8.17 All site plans will show the relevant Ordnance Datum site levels information and be clearly marked to show the position of true north. These will be accurately reproduced in the final excavation report.
- 8.18 All site levels will be related to Ordnance Datum and will be recorded on all plans and section drawings.
- 8.19 A full photographic record will be made of the archaeological excavation, consisting of high-resolution digital images, minimum of 12 megapixels using a DSLR camera with an APS-C or larger sensor. Graduated metric scales of appropriate lengths will be used, ensuring the use of vertical scales used against deep sections in combination with horizontal scales, an information board and a directional north arrow shall be included in every photograph taken.
- 8.20 Any finds which are considered to come under the auspices of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to the coroner according to the procedures related to in the Act. Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect finds from

theft. No title will be assumed by the finder of any item of value.

- 8.21 All archaeological features will be investigated and recorded. Linear features not directly associated with settlement will be sampled by hand at 10% by length to allow an informed interpretation of their date and function. Excavation slots will be at least 1m in width.
- 8.22 Linear features associated with settlement will be subjected to a 20% by length sample hand excavation. Excavation slots will be at least 1m in width.
- 8.23 Structural remains, for example, drip gullies, beam slots and postholes, which are demonstrated to be part of a building's construction, will be subjected to 100% hand excavation/sampling. Discrete features relating to ritual or domestic activity (e.g. dwellings, barrows, etc.) will be excavated fully (100%). Excavation will include 100% of special features/deposits including burials, structural remains, kilns, etc., unless otherwise agreed with the Planning Archaeologist
- 8.24 Discrete archaeological features shall be half sectioned or excavated in quadrants, where they are found to be large or deep.
- 8.25 Industrial features including 'domestic' ovens and hearths will be assessed by our archaeometallurgist for sampling and dating potential. These features/deposits will be subjected to 100% hand excavation/sampling.
- 8.26 Should human remains be discovered on site during the excavation, the Environmental Health Officer, Coroner, client, William Kelly and our human remains specialist will be informed immediately. All statutory provisions will be followed. Exhumation methodology will be formulated by our human remains specialist, then removal will take place in consultation with the above-mentioned parties and an exhumation licence will be obtained prior to the excavation of the human remains from the Ministry of Justice, but will only be implemented following approval by William Kelly.
- 8.27 As well as a background sampling strategy comprising of 40 litre samples; a more targeted sampling strategy shall also be carried out across the site area should suitable deposits be encountered. Deposits for this targeted approach would consist of deposits rich in plant remains, charcoal, dumped domestic deposits or waterlogged deposits. This approach will ensure that the full potential for the environmental evidence across the site is achieved. Pollen samples will also be taken should suitable samples present themselves, whilst any organic/waterlogged remains encountered would be dealt with immediately to safeguard against their exposure to aerobic conditions.
- 8.28 A full specialist report detailing any paleoenvironmental investigation and/or industrial residue analysis will be compiled and will be sent to the Historic England Advisor Regional Science Officer
- 8.29 Middens and artefact scatters (e.g. flint, metal-working debris will be excavated fully (100%).

- 8.30 If needed, the coring method and type of equipment will be discussed with the appointed specialist and written into the WSI for agreement with the Regional Science Advisor at Historic England and PCCAS.
- 8.31 If the development plans change and a greater depth required that has the potential to disturb any buried remains, the area will be stripped down to the archaeological horizon.
- 8.32 Plan of the area expected to affect the archaeological layer can be seen in figure 2.
- 8.33 The level of monitoring on the site may change if the plans were to change and a greater depth required that has the potential to disturb any archaeological remains present.
- 8.34 On reaching the development depth and the natural is not recorded, small sondage will be completed to check the layer above the natural is more than 0.3m. If it is not, the overburden will be removed to check for archaeology.
- 8.34 All groundworks will be completed under the Strip map and sample excavation or watching brief.
- 8.35 All ground reduction in the archaeological strip, map and record excavation will be under the control of the archaeologist. The ground reduction in the Watching Brief will be under the control of the developer unless the archaeological horizon is reached then it will switch over to a archaeological strip, map and record excavation will be under the control of the archaeologist

9.0 Processing and identification of material recovered from excavation.

- 9.1 All pottery, bone, worked flint, burnt flint and ceramic and other building material recovered from the archaeological excavation will be washed and marked with the approved site code and event number to identify the site and context. Finds will be bagged in polythene bags according to type and context.
- 9.2 All artefacts will be treated in accordance with Leicestershire Museums Service. All finds in an unstable condition will be stabilised using passive conservation techniques where appropriate, before being deposited with the receiving museum.
- 9.3 Specialist reports will be prepared on artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to correlating the pottery recovered with existing local or regional fabric type sequences for Leicestershire.
- 9.4 Specialist analysis and reporting will be carried out by the following specialists/consultants upon acceptance by William Kelly:-

All but Julie Walker (animal bones) are external specialists. They will all be notified of the project prior to its commencement.

Val Fryer	Registered finds.
Val Fryer	Environmental sample processing & analysis.
Paul Blinkhorn	Saxon/Medieval/Post-Medieval pottery.
Julie Walker	Animal bone.
Julie Walker	Human remains.
Ian Rowlandson	Iron Age/Roman pottery
Ann Clarke	Lithics.
Maisie Taylor	Analysis of wooden artefacts and advice on the conservation of unstable wood.
Museum of London (MOLA) Conservation Services preserved wood or leather.	To advise on and implement artefact conservation of unstable artefacts (e.g. metal, worked bone, preserved wood or leather.

10.0 Report and Dissemination

10.1 A report on the results of the archaeological fieldwork should be available within four weeks following completion of the site fieldwork. An .pdf copy marked DRAFT will be in the first instance, be submitted to William Kelly with in six months of completion of the site works. On approval of the final report, one .pdf copy shall be submitted to William Kelly. The approved report will be uploaded to the (OASIS V) project database within two weeks of approval. Contour Archaeology Ltd. is registered on OASIS.

10.2 The report format will comprise:

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions
- Archive location
- Illustrations
- References and bibliography
- Completed Oasis Form

10.3 A site plan showing any previous archaeological investigations/ground disturbances, related to Ordnance Survey data, to include NGR reference

points and OD heights will be included in the final excavation report as a figure/illustration.

- 10.4 A plan of the site archaeological excavation area at 1:1,000 scale, showing a graphical representation of the archaeological potential of the site, modelling the locations and extent of the potential against the impact of the proposed development will be included as a figure/illustration within the final excavation report.
- 10.5 The text will address the aims and objectives of the project, the methodology employed, describe the basic nature and sequence of any archaeological deposits discovered, and report on the artefacts recovered. It will then attempt to place the significance of the findings in their local, regional and national settings and contexts.
- 10.6 The report will include a front sheet providing the following information:
- Site name
 - Grid reference
 - Site activity
 - Date and duration of project
 - Site Code
 - Event number (ECB)
 - OASIS V reference ID
- 10.7 The illustrations will include:
- A site location map at 1:25,000 scale
 - A site location plan 1:12,500 showing the exact location of the site, roads, built up areas and also including relevant OD data and grid references
 - Trench locations
 - Profiles/sections/plans of archaeological features at 1:10 and 1:50 scales
 - Finds illustrations of significant artefacts
 - Earthwork Survey plan will be produced at 1:1,000 or 1:500 scales
- 10.8 If finds of national or regional importance are found, then provision shall be made for publication in an appropriate local and/or national journal. Proposals for digital publication will also be considered. a summary of findings should be submitted to the 'Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society'
- 10.9 Digital files relating to the site will be saved in a pdf/A-1a (archival pdf) format, and submitted in the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER).

11.0 Archive deposition

- 11.1 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with the guidelines in Management of Archaeological Projects (MoRPHE), re-issued 2015 and The Higgins Guidelines. Contour Archaeology Ltd. will also consult with

William Kelly regarding the deposition of the site archive.

- 12.2 If no archaeologically significant finds or features are found then an accession number and archiving will not be required. In such cases, the excavation report will be submitted to Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) (usually a single bound copy with PDF/A on CD) and the OASIS record completed including an upload of the project report and any additional digital images.
- 12.2 An OASIS V form would have been opened prior to the start of fieldwork. Upon completion of the fieldwork an OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed for the project and the projects digital file uploaded for future inclusion into the Archaeology Data Services (ADS). A print-out of the form will be included as an appendix to the final report.
- 12.3 With the agreement of the landowner, the site paper archive and any finds will be deposited with the Leicestershire Museums Service within six months of the completion of the project work. Transfer of title will also be organised prior to the completion of the final report.
- 12.4 The Project Manager will consult with Leicestershire Museums Service regarding the specific requirements for the deposition of the project archive.
- 12.5 The site's digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). Contour Archaeology Ltd. will follow the ADS guidelines for depositors: Preparing Datasets 2020.
- 12.6 The Leicestershire Museums Service will be contacted in order to discuss the allocation of an accession number, timescales for deposition of the physical archive and resources for box storage and other matters relevant to the long-term curation of the project archive.
- 12.7 Contour Archaeology Ltd. will use ClfA 'Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives'. Selection strategies will take into account:
 - The specific aims and objectives of the project
 - The East Midlands Regional Research Framework
 - Relevant thematic or period specific research frameworks
 - Material specific guidance documentation
- 12.8 Requests to discard any archaeological material will be sent to William Kelly, Archaeological Adviser, Archaeologist of Leicestershire Council and the Leicestershire Museums Service for review. Selection proposals must be supported by statements from suitable and relevant material type specialists.
- 12.9 Archaeological material that has been deselected and is not included in the final site archive to be deposited with Leicestershire Museums Service will be considered for other uses, such as other local museums, outreach groups, community, schools and colleges or other heritage organisations.

13.0 Project Management

- 13.1 The project will be project managed by Neil Jefferson and will be first point of contact on 07866262129.

14.0 Health and Safety

- 14.1 Health and Safety must take priority over archaeological requirements. It is essential that all projects shall be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under a defined Health and Safety Policy (BAJR, 2005). A risk assessment for the project will be prepared by Contour Archaeology Ltd. and will be consulted by all staff onsite. All relevant health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

15.0 Insurance

- 15.1 Contour Archaeology Ltd holds the following insurance levels:

Public Liability	£5m
Professional indemnity insurance	£1m

16.0 Assessment and Review

- 16.1 The archaeological excavation may be followed by an assessment of the character and significance of all categories of the recorded evidence. The assessment will be undertaken by suitably qualified specialists in accordance with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015).
- 16.2 A report will be submitted within three months of completion of fieldwork in a separate formal Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design.
- 16.3 The assessment report will contain a thorough appraisal of the recorded evidence within its local, regional and national context.
- 16.4 An assessment review will be held with William Kelly, in order to agree proposals for further analysis and publication.

17.0 References

ALGAO (east), (2002): Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, EAA Occasional Paper 14.

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BAJR, (2005): Basic Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology

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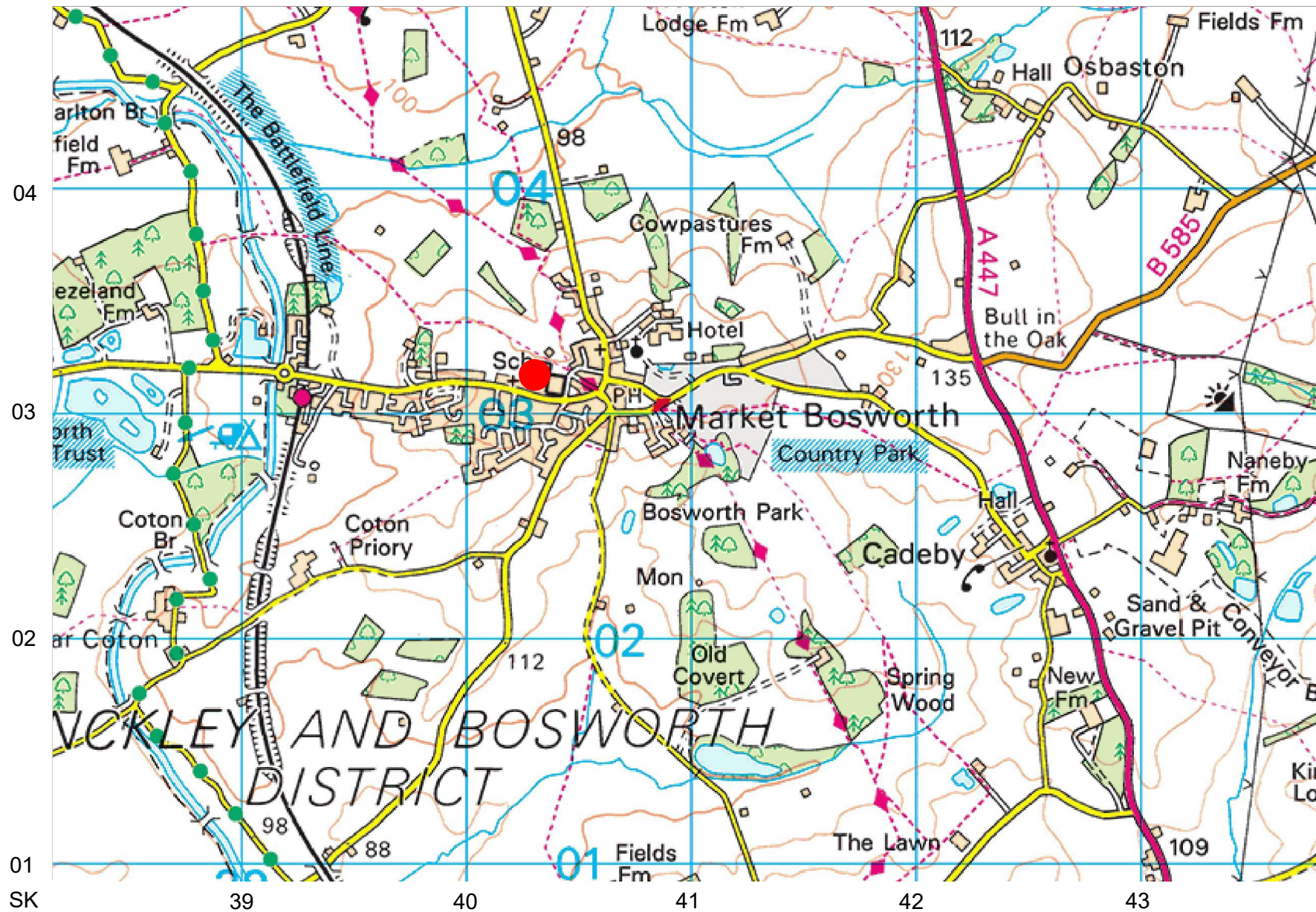
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0 1000m

● Site Location

Figure 1 Site location map

Scale 1:25,000 @A4

