

Heritage Statement

Land off York Close, Market Bosworth

On behalf of Gladman

Date: 28th June 2024 | Pegasus Ref: P21-2986



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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Built Heritage Statement has been prepared on behalf of Gladman in regard to an outline application for residential development at Land off York Close, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire.
- 1.2. Permission is sought for the residential development of the site and associated works for up to 100 houses.
- 1.3. This Assessment provides information with regards to the significance of the built historic environment to fulfil the requirement given in paragraph 200 of the Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (the *NPPF*) which requires:

"...an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting".⁴

- 1.4. In order to inform an assessment of the acceptability of the scheme in relation to impacts on the historic environment, following paragraphs 205 to 209 of the *NPPF*, any harm to the historic environment resulting from the proposed development is also described, including impacts on significance through changes to setting.
- 1.5. As required by paragraph 200 of the *NPPF*, the detail and assessment in this Report is considered to be "*proportionate to the assets' importance*".⁵

The Site

- 1.6. The site comprises two pasture fields to the southwest of Market Bosworth, and the plot of a residence on York Close. The enclosures are largely bound by hedgerows. The residential property is a 20th-century dwelling of no heritage interest.

Project Background

- 1.7. An application was previously made for the residential development of land North of Shenton Lane, Market Bosworth in February 2022 (LPA reference 22/00167/OUT). This was notably different in that built form was proposed in the smaller south-eastern field of the site, and that off-site highway works were proposed on Shenton Lane, from which access was proposed.

⁴ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)* (London, December 2023), para. 200.

⁵ DLUHC, *NPPF*, para. 200.



Plate 1 Development framework for Application 22/00167/OUT

- 1.8. This application was refused for two reasons, relating to the impact of the proposed development on the Conservation Area through physical changes to Shenton Lane, and to the impact of the proposed development on ridge and furrow earthworks within the site.
- 1.9. The refusal of the application was appealed, and the appeal dismissed in 2023, for reasons including the impact of the proposed development on the Conservation Area.
- 1.10. Since the refusal of the appeal, further land has been acquired, enabling the proposed access to come from York Close, rather than via Shenton Lane. As such, no physical works are now proposed to Shenton Lane. Furthermore, the proposals have also been altered to pull development back from the within the field adjacent to Shenton Lane.
- 1.11. In light of the matters previously explored through the appeal process, this Heritage Statement will consider potential impacts on the Conservation Area, the ridge and furrow earthworks and below ground archaeology.
- 1.12. This Statement will reference the Inspector's Decision for the previous application, where appropriate.

Legislation and Planning Policy

- 1.13. Details of the heritage legislation and planning policies which are considered relevant to this Appeal are provided at **Appendix 1**.

Methodology

- 1.14. The full methodology utilised in the preparation of the assessment is provided at **Appendix 2**.
- 1.15. The key documents that have been used in the preparation of this Assessment comprise:
- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment (henceforth referred to as 'GPA 2');
 - Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (Second Edition)¹¹, the key guidance of assessing setting (henceforth referred to as 'GPA 3');
 - Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12; and
 - Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (henceforth referred to as 'Conservation Principles').

2. Market Bosworth Conservation Area

- 2.1. Market Bosworth Conservation Area was designated in 1974, and a Conservation Area Appraisal was adopted for the area in 2014. The Conservation Area is a designated heritage asset in the terms of the NPPF.
- 2.2. The appraisal sets out the historic development of the area, including its origins as a ridgetop settlement, and its influence by Bosworth Park. Both elements have clearly shaped the development of the settlement. The part played by the settlement in the hosiery and stocking-weaving industry is noted as influencing its later development.

Significance including any contribution from setting

- 2.3. The Appraisal is somewhat unusual in that it does not provide a summary of the Special Interest of the area, but it is clear that this includes:
 - The convergence of routes on the Market Place at the centre of the Conservation Area.
 - The historical relationships between the town, the church, the hall and the park and the agricultural landscape.
 - A conformity of scale of development and historic building lines within the Conservation Area, despite a mix of building styles and periods.
 - Traditional shopfronts and signage within the core area.
 - Some more diminutive properties away from the core area, with more vernacular building styles, sometimes retaining a sense of enclosure in places due to the placement of the properties on the street frontage, but with greater setbacks of houses elsewhere.
 - Larger properties beyond the core, including the Dower House, Old Rectory, as well as the Church of St Peter and the Bosworth Park (Listed as Bosworth Park Infirmary, but now Bosworth Hall Hotel).
 - Bosworth Park and its walls, water tower, and triumphal arch, and avenue and mature trees which lie within the Conservation Area.
 - The important greenspace of the Churchyard, which contains mature trees.
 - Other green spaces, including smaller privately owned spaces such as front and rear gardens, and wide grass verges, some with mature trees and hedges.
- 2.4. As a heritage asset, its significance is considered to be primarily embodied within the buildings and spaces within it, but it is clear from the appraisal and observations from site visits that setting also contributes to the significance of the asset, albeit to a lesser degree than the buildings and spaces within its bounds.
- 2.5. With regards to setting, the Conservation Area Appraisal notes:

Market Bosworth is a ridge top settlement approached through woodland pasture and traditional parkland. Development is screened by substantial groups of mature native trees with only the church spire visible above the tree line. The domination of the extensive parkland and woods, together with a large area of glebe land, has preserved the character of Market Bosworth from the C17 onwards.

2.6. However, this relates to the setting of the historic core, rather than the setting of the asset itself, as part of the parkland lies within the bounds of the Conservation Area. As such, it is clear that when the asset was designated, it included the key element of the setting of the historic core (part of the parkland) within the asset itself, further focussing the significance of the asset within its boundaries.

2.7. The Appraisal goes on to discuss 'Gateways', stating:

"The countryside around the settlement and its relationship to the entrance roads is a major factor in the appreciation of the character of the village and its Conservation Area."

2.8. The section on gateways first notes the approach from the east, along The Park, with the entrance to the village alongside the Listed Gate House and Gate Piers, with the parkland within the Conservation Area beyond, and flanked by open countryside. Clearly, this is the approach to Market Bosworth that contributes the most to its heritage significance through setting (Plate 2).



Plate 2 Looking west along The Park/Bosworth Road

2.9. The appraisal next notes the approach from Cadeby, which intersects with The Park, being flanked by an avenue of trees within the Conservation Area and high hedgerows beyond it.

2.10. With regards to approaches from the south, the appraisal states:

"From the south, both Sutton Lane and Shenton Lane also approach the designated area through pleasant countryside which is interrupted only by clumps of trees and shrubs. Sutton Lane is a narrow track which, as it moves towards the village, passes the listed Hercules monument which stands high up on an overlooking hillside. It also uniquely enters the Conservation Area through a five bar gate which adds to the rural setting. A key feature on Shenton Lane is the abrupt dip in the road as it passes beneath a former brick railway bridge on the former Ashby and Nuneaton Joint Railway. Beyond this feature, the road is similar to the eastern entrance, being edged on its northern side by a short length of residential development before entering the settlement proper adjacent to the new cemetery. These properties are also well set back behind mature trees in large front gardens."

2.11. With regards to Sutton Lane, the approach is highly rural in character, with the lane approaching through a field with the routeway unenclosed, hence the need for the gate at the southern edge of the Conservation Area (Plates 3-5).



Plate 3 Looking south down Sutton Lane



Plate 4 Looking north-east to the Hercules Monument from Sutton Lane



Plate 5 The highly rural character of Sutton Lane, passing through a field, south of the Conservation Area

- 2.12. With regards to Shenton Lane, this is predominantly rural in character south of the Conservation Area, although with some settlement south of the boundary of the area, west of the lane (Plate 6). It should also be noted that the dip under the railway mentioned in the appraisal lies over 2km south-west of the Conservation Area (Plate 7).



Plate 6 Looking north along Shenton Lane



Plate 7 The 'dip' of Shenton Lane beneath the Railway Bridge, over 2km south-west of the Conservation Area

- 2.13. Shenton Lane is also mentioned in the description of Oxford Road.

"This follows the same distinctive form of both Shenton Lane and The Park where development is restricted to one side of the road and open countryside or parkland is on the other. This is a very memorable characteristic of the settlement which should be protected."

- 2.14. Station Road is noted as entering the area through modern development.

- 2.15. Barton Road is noted as being a straight approach, flanked by development until it reaches the Dower House and Home Farm Mews.

- 2.16. Gateways and views are noted in the CAA, including those out from the CA:

Shenton Lane to the west leads out into open farmland with views southeast towards Bosworth Battlefield. Sutton Lane is narrow and gated again presenting an important vista into the countryside beyond. [Plate 8, below]

The view along Rectory Lane towards The Park presents a wooded appearance achieved by a combination of hedges and mature trees.

There are also fine views from Back Lane [Plate 9, below] and down Barton Road [Plate 10, below] northwards across woodland and open countryside.



Plate 8 Looking south from Shenton Lane (flags at Battlefield Centre arrowed)



Plate 9 Looking north-west from Back Lane



Plate 10 View looking north-east from Barton Lane

- 2.17. The Conservation Area Appraisal is accompanied by a map, which marks 'Views and Vistas to be Protected' out along Sutton Lane, along Cedar Drive, and from Barton Road (the latter looking north-east rather than along the road).
- 2.18. The Market Bosworth Neighbourhood Plan marks views and vistas out from all road approaches at the edge of the settlement boundary.
- 2.19. In addition to characterising areas within the boundaries and views out from the area, the Conservation Area map also identified some areas beyond the bound of the Conservation Area as 'Key Spaces'. These include areas of land adjacent to Warwick Lane, Cedar Drive and Station Road, although the rationale for their inclusion is not identified in the Appraisal.
- 2.20. Taking the above into account, the elements of the setting of the asset which principally contribute to its significance through setting are considered to comprise:
 - Parkland beyond the Conservation Area.
 - Agricultural land specifically:
 - That contiguous with the historic core and parkland of the Conservation Area which gives legibility to the agricultural elements of the development of the settlement, and provide context to the impressive eastern gateway to the parkland.

- Open countryside clearly visible from the approaches, close to the Conservation Area.
- The approaches to the Conservation Area such as along Sutton Lane, The Park, Cadeby Lane and Shenton Lane.
- Some areas of greenspace adjacent to the Conservation Area, which illustrate areas of semi-rural fringe or specimen planting.
- Views out along Sutton Lane and from Barton Road.

The site

- 2.21. The larger field of the site is set some distance away from the historic core of the settlement and the Conservation Area and is separated from it by modern built form. It is not readily experienced in views from key approaches to the settlement. There are glimpsed views of it from footpaths to the west, but in the context of modern development.



Plate 11 Looking west towards Market Bosworth (site arrowed red)

- 2.22. This field is not considered to contribute to the Conservation Area through setting.
- 2.23. The smaller area of the site which lies adjacent to Shenton Lane has limited visibility from Shenton Lane, including from the field gateway (Plate 12).



Plate 12 Looking west into the site from Shenton Lane

- 2.24. Whilst not contiguous with the Conservation Area, the undeveloped nature of the site as appreciable from Shenton Lane makes a very small contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area through setting, through illustrating the rural surrounds.
- 2.25. No views which take in the site are identified as a 'View to be Protected' in the Conservation Area Appraisal.

Impact Assessment

- 2.26. As discussed above, the proposed scheme has been revised so that access is now from York Close, removing the access and associated highway works on Shenton Lane. Furthermore, built form is no longer proposed in the south-eastern field of the site, which will instead be meadow with structural planting.
- 2.27. Overall, due to the very modest change of the view from Shenton Lane, the proposed development is anticipated to cause less than substantial harm at the very lowermost end of the spectrum for the Market Bosworth Conservation Area.
- 2.28. This is considered to be in line with the Inspector's Decision for the previous scheme, where he was explicit that development in the larger field would not be harmful (paragraph 36), and that the then proposed residences within the smaller field adjacent to Shenton Lane would '*have a slight effect on the significance of the CA as they would dilute the rural/countryside approach to it as outlined in the CAA*' (paragraph 39). The change from agricultural land within this area of the site to public open space with meadow/structural planting proposed in the current scheme, and the loss of the view from the gateway, would

result in a far lesser degree of harm. This would comprise the lowermost level of less than substantial harm.

- 2.29. Under paragraph 208 of the NPPF, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposed scheme.

3. Ridge and Furrow Earthworks

- 3.1. Ridge and furrow earthworks are present within the site, which have been subject to an earthwork survey, completed by PCA in 2022. This included topographic survey and photographic survey, the results of the former were presented in plan form (Plate 13) and as profiles.



Plate 13 Results of the earthwork survey

- 3.2. Legible earthworks are observable across the majority of the western field running on a broadly north-west to south-east alignment and measuring c.5.3m across (from mid-furrow to mid-furrow; Plate 14). The earthworks have an extremely slight reverse-S shape in plan.



Plate 14 Photograph from within western field, facing eastwards, showing legible ridge and furrow earthworks

- 3.3. No earthworks were observable in the northern part of the field, or at a high point of land in the north-eastern area of the field, adjacent to the built form within Market Bosworth. A review of satellite imagery suggests likely that some degree of truncation has occurred in these areas. It is possible that this disturbance is associated with the adjacent development or, in the case of the northern extent of the site, at least some of this may be associated with the drainage feature represented on the OS maps dating from the mid-20th. It should be noted that no furrows were identified in these areas during the trial trenching survey.
- 3.4. The earthworks within the south-eastern area of the site run on a roughly east to west alignment and measure c.7m across (from mid-furrow to mid-furrow; Plate 13). These are noted as being slightly degraded.
- 3.5. Ridge and furrow on the same alignment is observable on satellite imagery to the east of Shenton Lane. As the ridges and furrows appear to align with the ridge and furrow within the site, it is considered possible that the lane has bisected a larger block of ridge and furrow earthworks which includes extant earthworks in a field to the south of the site, or alternatively this may be a coincidence of alignment.
- 3.6. No ridge and furrow earthworks were observed in the northern part of the south-eastern area, where trial trenching recorded dumped material, but no furrows.



Plate 15 Photograph taken from within south-eastern field, facing north-north-east, showing legible ridge and furrow earthworks

- 3.7. Historic satellite imagery indicates some ridge and furrow was previously present in this area, running on a broadly north-south alignment. Again, this would have formed part of a larger block of ridge and furrow which continued northwards.
- 3.8. There are only limited, publicly accessible views of the ridge and furrow within the site. Occasional glimpsed views of the ridge and furrow within the east of the site are possible from Shenton Lane, and occasional distant, glimpsed views are possible from York Close, and Stanley Road (Plate 16) to the north of the site, between some of the residential properties which abut the site's northern edge.



Plate 16 Looking south to the site from Stanley Road

- 3.9. Ridge and furrow within the south-east of the site is recorded by the Leicestershire Historic Environment Record (HER ref. MLE25061), forming part of a larger area which extends to the south of the site.
- 3.10. The three fields of ridge and furrow west of Shenton Lane are noted as a non-designated heritage asset of local value in the '*Review of Designated Heritage Assets in the Parish of Bosworth*', dated 2023, completed by The Market Bosworth Society, the Market Bosworth Parish Council and the Bosworth Vision planning Group (Plate 17).

Ridge and furrow (three fields), Shenton Lane

There are some of the finest examples of medieval curved Ridge and Furrow around Market Bosworth. These three fields are considered to offer the finest examples. Bordered by Stanley Road to the north, Priory Lane to the west, Shenton Lane and Northumberland Avenue to the south and east.



Plate 17 Extract from the Review of Designated Heritage Assets in the Parish of Bosworth

- 3.11. Interestingly, other areas of ridge and furrow within the parish have not been included in this list. This includes the earthworks within fields to the south of the Old Rectory (Plate 18).

These earthworks lie within a corridor of open land directly to south of the historic settlement core and give a far better appreciation of past land use, providing a more legible link between the historic settlement and its agricultural hinterland.



Plate 18 Ridge and furrow south of The Old Rectory

- 3.12. Ridge and furrow earthworks also lie to the north-west of the settlement, where they are crossed and flanked by public rights of way (Plates 19 and 20), again providing public legibility on the egress from the settlement.



Plate 19 Ridge and furrow north-west of Market Bosworth



Plate 20 Looking north across the field of ridge and furrow earthworks crossed by a public footpath north-west of Market Bosworth

- 3.13. In addition to these areas, a review of LiDAR imagery for the parish has identified additional areas of ridge and furrow earthworks (Plate 21).

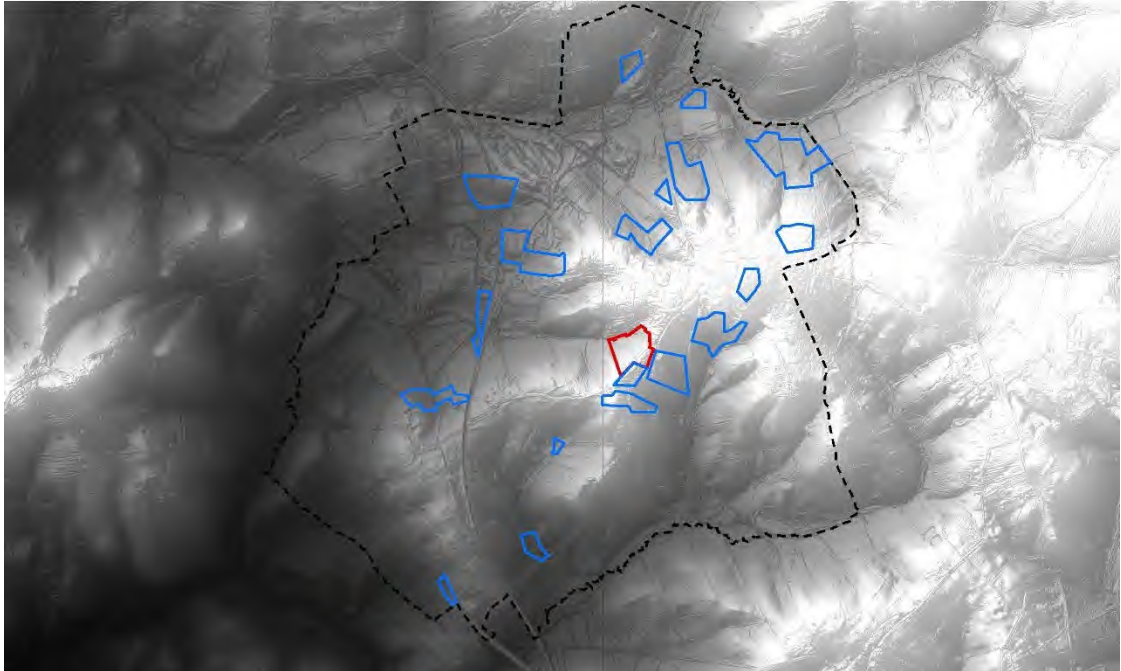


Plate 21 Plan showing approximate areas of Ridge and Furrow within the Parish, taken from LiDAR data

- 3.14. Considering the relative importance of ridge and furrow earthworks, within England some areas of ridge and furrow earthworks have been Scheduled, but only where they lie in conjunction with other significant remains, such as mottes and fishponds, or are exaggerated through lynchetting (the formation of earth terraces on hill slopes through ploughing). Clearly, the ridge and furrow within the site does not have such associations or enhancements, and is not Scheduled.
- 3.15. With regards to non-Scheduled remains, a large study of the earthworks of the East Midlands has identified the most important examples. It should be noted that this study, *Turning the Plough*⁶, is clear that the scale at which such remains should be considered is entire parishes or Townships. This study included the area of the site in its study area, and did not identify the area as falling within a 'Priority Township' (areas of the most important non-scheduled remains in the East Midlands).
- 3.16. As such, clearly the remains within the site are not of high value as non-designated heritage assets.
- 3.17. The earthworks gain their significance primarily through their historic and archaeological interest, illustrating historic land use. The extant ridge and furrow earthworks within the site should be considered to form part of a heritage asset comprising the surviving ridge and furrow across the parish of Market Bosworth, as they are part of one former open field

⁶ Core Document 7.05.

system. Collectively, these are considered to be of a significance commensurate to a non-designated heritage asset of lower significance.

- 3.18. As noted above and demonstrated by Plate 21, other areas of ridge and furrow survives on land around Market Bosworth, including extant earthworks on publicly accessible land to the north-west of the historic settlement core, and on land immediately to the south of the historic settlement core. Although the earthworks within site are reasonably well preserved, there is evidence of at least some truncation/disturbance of the earthworks. The earthworks within the south-east of the site in particular have seen degradation and have been separated from larger blocks of associated ridge and furrow by more recent features (field boundaries and possibly a lane). The ridge and furrow within the site is also remote from the historic settlement core, and separated from it by intervening, modern development.
- 3.19. The loss of the extant ridge and furrow within the site would represent the removal of a small part of the overall non-designated heritage asset of lower significance. As a result, the proposals are only anticipated to result in a minor level of harm to the significance of this non-designated heritage asset of lower significance.
- 3.20. This assessment of a minor impact is in line with the Inspector's conclusions for the 2023 Appeal (paragraph 51), where he concluded that the earthworks should be considered '*as part of the other ridge and furrow present around the town*'
- 3.21. As requested by the LPA, recording works have already taken place to partially mitigate this loss. A minor residual impact will remain.
- 3.22. Under the NPPF (paragraph 209), remains of this type do not preclude development, but harm to these assets should be considered as part of a balanced judgement, taking into account the importance of the asset and the scale of the harm.

4. Below Ground Archaeology

- 4.1. With regards to below ground archaeology, this has previously been evaluated within the site through archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trenching. The trial trenching (Appendix 4, PCA 2023) uncovered no significant archaeological remains.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. With regards to Market Bosworth Conservation Area, following the revision of the proposed scheme to remove the access from Shenton Lane, to remove highway works from Shenton Lane, and to pull back development from within the smaller field adjacent to Shenton Lane, only less than substantial harm at the very lowermost end of the spectrum is anticipated.
- 5.2. Under paragraph 208 of the NPPF, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposed scheme.
- 5.3. The loss of the extant ridge and furrow within the site would represent the removal of a small part of the overall non-designated heritage asset of lower significance. As a result, the proposals are only anticipated to a minor level of harm to the significance of this non-designated heritage asset of lower significance. Mitigation recording works requested by the LPA have already taken place.
- 5.4. Under paragraph 209 of the NPPF, remains of this type do not preclude development, but harm to these assets should be considered as part of a balanced judgement, taking into account the importance of the asset and the scale of the harm.
- 5.5. No significant below ground archaeology was recorded during trial trenching of the site.

Appendix 1: Legislation and Planning Policy

Legislation

Legislation relating to the built historic environment is primarily set out within the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*,⁷ which provides statutory protection for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

Section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that:

“In considering whether to grant planning permission [or permission in principle] for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State, shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”⁸

In the 2014 Court of Appeal judgement in relation to the Barnwell Manor case, Sullivan LJ held that:

“Parliament in enacting section 66(1) did intend that the desirability of preserving the settings of listed buildings should not simply be given careful consideration by the decision-maker for the purpose of deciding whether there would be some harm, but should be given “considerable importance and weight” when the decision-maker carries out the balancing exercise.”⁹

A judgement in the Court of Appeal (‘Mordue’) has clarified that, with regards to the setting of Listed Buildings, where the principles of the NPPF are applied (in particular paragraph 134 of the 2012 draft of the NPPF, the requirements of which are now given in paragraph 196 of the revised NPPF, see below), this is in keeping with the requirements of the 1990 Act.¹⁰

With regards to development within Conservation Areas, **Section 72(1)** of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states:

“In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.”

Unlike Section 66(1), Section 72(1) of the Act does not make reference to the setting of a Conservation Area. This makes it plain that it is the character and appearance of the designated Conservation Area that is the focus of special attention.

⁷ UK Public General Acts, *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*

⁸ *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, Section 66(1)

⁹ *Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v (1) East Northamptonshire DC & Others* [2014] EWCA Civ 137. para. 24

¹⁰ *Jones v Mordue* [2015] EWCA Civ 1243

National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023)

National policy and guidance is set out in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in December 2023. The NPPF needs to be read as a whole and is intended to promote the concept of delivering sustainable development.

The NPPF sets out the Government's economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The NPPF continues to recognise that the planning system is plan-led and that therefore Local Plans, incorporating Neighbourhood Plans, where relevant, are the starting point for the determination of any planning application, including those which relate to the historic environment.

Heritage Assets are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as:

"A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including Local Listing)."¹¹

As set out above, significance is also defined as:

"The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance."¹²

Section 16 of the NPPF relates to 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.

Paragraph 201 states that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

Paragraph 203 states that, in determining planning applications, local authorities should take account of the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets by putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; and the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

¹¹ DLUHC, NPPF, p. 70.

¹² DLUHC, NPPF, pp. 75.

Paragraph 208 states that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

Paragraph 209 confirms that the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account, with a balanced judgement undertaken which has regard to the scale of harm or loss and the overall significance of the asset.

National Planning Practice Guidance

The then Department for Communities and Local Government (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) launched the planning practice guidance web-based resource in March 2014, accompanied by a ministerial statement which confirmed that a number of previous planning practice guidance documents were cancelled.

This also introduced the national Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which comprised a full and consolidated review of planning practice guidance documents to be read alongside the NPPF.

The PPG has a discrete section on the subject of the Historic Environment,¹³ which confirms that the consideration of 'significance' in decision taking is important and states:

"Heritage assets may be affected by direct physical change or by change in their setting. Being able to properly assess the nature, extent and importance of the significance of a heritage asset, and the contribution of its setting, is very important to understanding the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals."¹⁴

In terms of assessment of substantial harm, the PPG confirms that whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgement for the individual decision taker having regard to the individual circumstances and the policy set out within the NPPF. It goes on to state:

"In general terms, substantial harm is a high test, so it may not arise in many cases. For example, in determining whether works to a listed building constitute substantial harm, an important consideration would be whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or historic interest. It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed. The harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting.

While the impact of total destruction is obvious, partial destruction is likely to have a considerable impact but, depending on the circumstances, it may still be less than substantial harm or conceivably

¹³ DLUHC, *Planning Practice Guidance: Historic Environment (PPG)* (revised edition, 23rd July 2019), <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conserving-and-enhancing-the-historic-environment>,

¹⁴ DLUHC, PPG, paragraph 007, reference ID: 18a-007-20190723

not harmful at all, for example, when removing later inappropriate additions to historic buildings which harm their significance. Similarly, works that are moderate or minor in scale are likely to cause less than substantial harm or no harm at all. However, even minor works have the potential to cause substantial harm.”¹⁵ (my emphasis)

Local Planning Policy

Planning applications within Market Bosworth are currently considered against Policies DM11 to 13 of the Site Allocations and Development Management DPD (July 2016).

¹⁵ DLUHC PPG, paragraph 018, reference ID: 18a-018-20190723

Appendix 2: Methodology

Key Documents

The key documents that have been used in the preparation of this Heritage Statement of Case comprise:

- *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment*¹⁶ (henceforth referred to as 'GPA 2');
- *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets (Second Edition)*¹⁷, the key guidance of assessing setting (henceforth referred to as 'GPA 3');
- *Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12*¹⁸;
- *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*¹⁹ (henceforth referred to as 'Conservation Principles'); and

Assessment of Significance

In the NPPF, heritage significance is defined as:

"The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance."²⁰

GPA 2 gives advice on the assessment of significance as part of the application process. It advises understanding the nature, extent, and level of significance of a heritage asset.

¹⁶ Historic England, *Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2* (2nd edition, Swindon, July 2015) – Core Document 7.02

¹⁷ Historic England, *The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3* (2nd edition, Swindon, December 2017) – Core Document 7.03

¹⁸ Historic England, *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England Advice Note 12* (Swindon, October 2019) – Core Document 7.04

¹⁹ English Heritage, *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (London, April 2008) – Core Document 7.01

²⁰ DLUHC, *NPPF*, p. 75.

In order to do this, GPA 2 also advocates considering the four types of heritage value an asset may hold, as identified in *Conservation Principles*.²¹ These essentially cover the heritage ‘interests’ given in the glossary of the NPPF²² and the PPG which are **archaeological, architectural and artistic** and **historic**.

The PPG provides further information on the interests it identifies:

- **Archaeological interest:** *“As defined in the Glossary to the National Planning Policy Framework, there will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.”*
- **Architectural and artistic interest:** *“These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture.”*
- **Historic interest:** *“An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation’s history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.”²³*

Significance results from a combination of any, some or all of the interests described above.

The most-recently issued guidance on assessing heritage significance, Historic England’s *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets*, Historic England Advice Note 12,²⁴ advises using the terminology of the NPPF and PPG, and thus it is that terminology which is used in this Proof of Evidence.

²¹ English Heritage, *Conservation Principles*. These heritage values are identified as being ‘aesthetic’, ‘communal’, ‘historical’ and ‘evidential’, see *idem* pp. 28–32.

²² DLUHC, *NPPF*, p. 75.

²³ DLUHC, *PPG*, paragraph 006, reference ID: 18a-006-20190723.

²⁴ Historic England, *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets*, Historic England Advice Note 12 (Swindon, October 2019)

Setting and Significance

As defined in the NPPF:

“Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also from its setting.”²⁵

Setting is defined as:

“The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.”²⁶

Therefore, setting can contribute to, affect an appreciation of significance, or be neutral with regards to heritage values.

Assessing Change Through Alteration to Setting

How setting might contribute to these values has been assessed within this Statement of Case with reference to *GPA 3* particularly the checklist given on page 11. This advocates the clear articulation of *“what matters and why”*.²⁷

In *GPA 3*, a stepped approach is recommended, of which Step 1 is to identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected. Step 2 is to assess whether, how and to what degree settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated. The guidance includes a (non-exhaustive) checklist of elements of the physical surroundings of an asset that might be considered when undertaking the assessment including, among other things: topography, other heritage assets, green space, functional relationships and degree of change over time. It also lists aspects associated with the experience of the asset which might be considered, including: views, intentional intervisibility, tranquillity, sense of enclosure, accessibility, rarity and land use.

Step 3 is to assess the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the asset(s). Step 4 is to explore ways to maximise enhancement and minimise harm. Step 5 is to make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

A Court of Appeal judgement has confirmed that whilst issues of visibility are important when assessing setting, visibility does not necessarily confer a contribution to significance and also that factors other than visibility should also be considered, with Lindblom LJ stating at paragraphs 25 and 26 of the judgement (referring to an earlier Court of Appeal judgement)²⁸:

²⁵ DLUHC, *NPPF*, p. 72.

²⁶ DLUHC, *NPPF*, p. 71.

²⁷ Historic England, *GPA 3* p. 8

²⁸ *Catesby Estates Ltd. V. Steer* [2018] EWCA Civ 1697, para. 25 and 26

Paragraph 25 – “But – again in the particular context of visual effects – I said that if “a proposed development is to affect the setting of a listed building there must be a distinct visual relationship of some kind between the two – a visual relationship which is more than remote or ephemeral, and which in some way bears on one’s experience of the listed building in its surrounding landscape or townscape” (paragraph 56)”.

Paragraph 26 – “This does not mean, however, that factors other than the visual and physical must be ignored when a decision-maker is considering the extent of a listed building’s setting. Generally, of course, the decision-maker will be concentrating on visual and physical considerations, as in Williams (see also, for example, the first instance judgment in R. (on the application of Miller) v North Yorkshire County Council [2009] EWHC 2172 (Admin), at paragraph 89). But it is clear from the relevant national policy and guidance to which I have referred, in particular the guidance in paragraph 18a-013-20140306 of the PPG, that the Government recognizes the potential relevance of other considerations – economic, social and historical. These other considerations may include, for example, “the historic relationship between places”. Historic England’s advice in GPA3 was broadly to the same effect.”

Levels of Significance

Descriptions of significance will naturally anticipate the ways in which impacts will be considered. Hence descriptions of the significance of Conservation Areas will make reference to their special interest and character and appearance, and the significance of Listed Buildings will be discussed with reference to the building, its setting and any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

In accordance with the levels of significance articulated in the NPPF and the PPG, three levels of significance are identified:

- **Designated heritage assets of the highest significance**, as identified in paragraph 200 of the NPPF, comprising Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, World Heritage Sites and Registered Battlefields (and also including some Conservation Areas) and non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest which are demonstrably of equivalent significance to Scheduled Monuments, as identified in footnote 68 of the NPPF;
- **Designated heritage assets of less than the highest significance**, as identified in paragraph 200 of the NPPF, comprising Grade II Listed Buildings and Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens (and also some Conservation Areas); and
- **Non-designated heritage assets.** Non-designated heritage assets are defined within the PPG as “buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-

*making bodies as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets”.*²⁹

Additionally, it is of course possible that sites, buildings or areas have **no heritage significance**.

Assessment of Harm

Assessment of any harm will be articulated in terms of the policy and law that the proposed development will be assessed against, such as whether a proposed development preserves or enhances the character or appearance of a Conservation Area, and articulating the scale of any harm in order to inform a balanced judgement/weighting exercise as required by the NPPF.

In order to relate to key policy, the following levels of harm may potentially be identified for designated heritage assets:

- **Substantial harm or total loss.** It has been clarified in a High Court Judgement of 2013 that this would be harm that would “have such a serious impact on the significance of the asset that its significance was either vitiated altogether or very much reduced”;³⁰ and
- **Less than substantial harm.** Harm of a lesser level than that defined above.

With regards to these two categories, the PPG states:

“Within each category of harm (which category applies should be explicitly identified), the extent of the harm may vary and should be clearly articulated.”³¹

Hence, for example, harm that is less than substantial would be further described with reference to where it lies on that spectrum or scale of harm, for example low end, middle of the spectrum and upper end of the less than substantial harm scale.

With regards to non-designated heritage assets, there is no basis in policy for describing harm to them as substantial or less than substantial, rather the NPPF requires that the scale of any harm or loss is articulated. As such, harm to such assets is articulated as a level of harm to their overall significance, with levels such as negligible, minor, moderate and major harm identified.

It is also possible that development proposals will cause **no harm or preserve** the significance of heritage assets. A High Court Judgement of 2014 is relevant to this. This concluded that with regard to preserving the setting of a Listed building or preserving the character and appearance of a Conservation Area, ‘preserving’ means doing ‘no harm’.³²

Preservation does not mean no change; it specifically means no harm.

²⁹ DLUHC, PPG, paragraph 039, reference ID: 18a-039-20190723.

³⁰ EWHC 2847, R DCLG and Nuon UK Ltd v. Bedford Borough Council, para. 25

³¹ DLUHC, PPG, paragraph 018, reference ID: 18a-018-20190723

³² R (Forge Field Society) v Sevenoaks District Council [2014] EWHC 1895 (Admin)

GPA 2 which states that “*Change to heritage assets is inevitable but it is only harmful when significance is damaged*”.³³ Thus, change is accepted in Historic England’s guidance as part of the evolution of the landscape and environment. It is whether such change is neutral, harmful or beneficial to the significance of an asset that matters.

As part of this, setting may be a key consideration. For an evaluation of any harm to significance through changes to setting, this assessment follows the methodology given in GPA 3, described above. Again, fundamental to the methodology set out in this document is stating “*what matters and why*”. Of particular relevance is the checklist given on page 13 of GPA 3.

It should be noted that this key document also states that:

“Setting is not itself a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation...”³⁴

Hence any impacts are described in terms of how they affect the significance of a heritage asset, and heritage values that contribute to this significance, through changes to setting.

With regards to changes in setting, GPA 3 states that:

“Conserving or enhancing heritage assets by taking their settings into account need not prevent change”.³⁵ (my emphasis)

Additionally, it is also important to note that, as clarified in the Court of Appeal, whilst the statutory duty requires that special regard should be paid to the desirability of not harming the setting of a Listed Building, that cannot mean that any harm, however minor, would necessarily require Planning Permission to be refused.³⁶

Benefits

Proposed development may also result in benefits to heritage assets, and these are articulated in terms of how they enhance the heritage values and hence the significance of the assets concerned.

The NPPF (at Paragraphs 201 and 202) requires harm to a designated heritage asset to be weighed against the public benefits of the development proposals.

High Court judgements³⁷ have confirmed that enhancement to the historic environment should be considered as a public benefit under the provisions of Paragraphs 202.

The PPG provides further clarity on what is meant by the term ‘public benefit’, including how these may be derived from **enhancement** to the historic environment (‘heritage benefits’), as follows:

³³ Historic England, GPA 2, p. 9.

³⁴ Historic England, GPA 3, p. 4

³⁵ Historic England, GPA 3, p. 8

³⁶ *Palmer v Herefordshire Council & Anor* [2016] EWCA Civ 1061

³⁷ *Kay, R (on the application of) v Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government & Anor* [2020] EWHC 2292 (Admin); *City & Country Bramshill Ltd v Secretary of State for Housing, Communities* [2019] EWHC 3437 (Admin).

“Public benefits may follow from many developments and could be anything that delivers economic, social or environmental objectives as described in the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 8). Public benefits should flow from the proposed development. They should be of a nature or scale to be of benefit to the public at large and not just be a private benefit. However, benefits do not always have to be visible or accessible to the public in order to be genuine public benefits, for example, works to a listed private dwelling which secure its future as a designated heritage asset could be a public benefit.

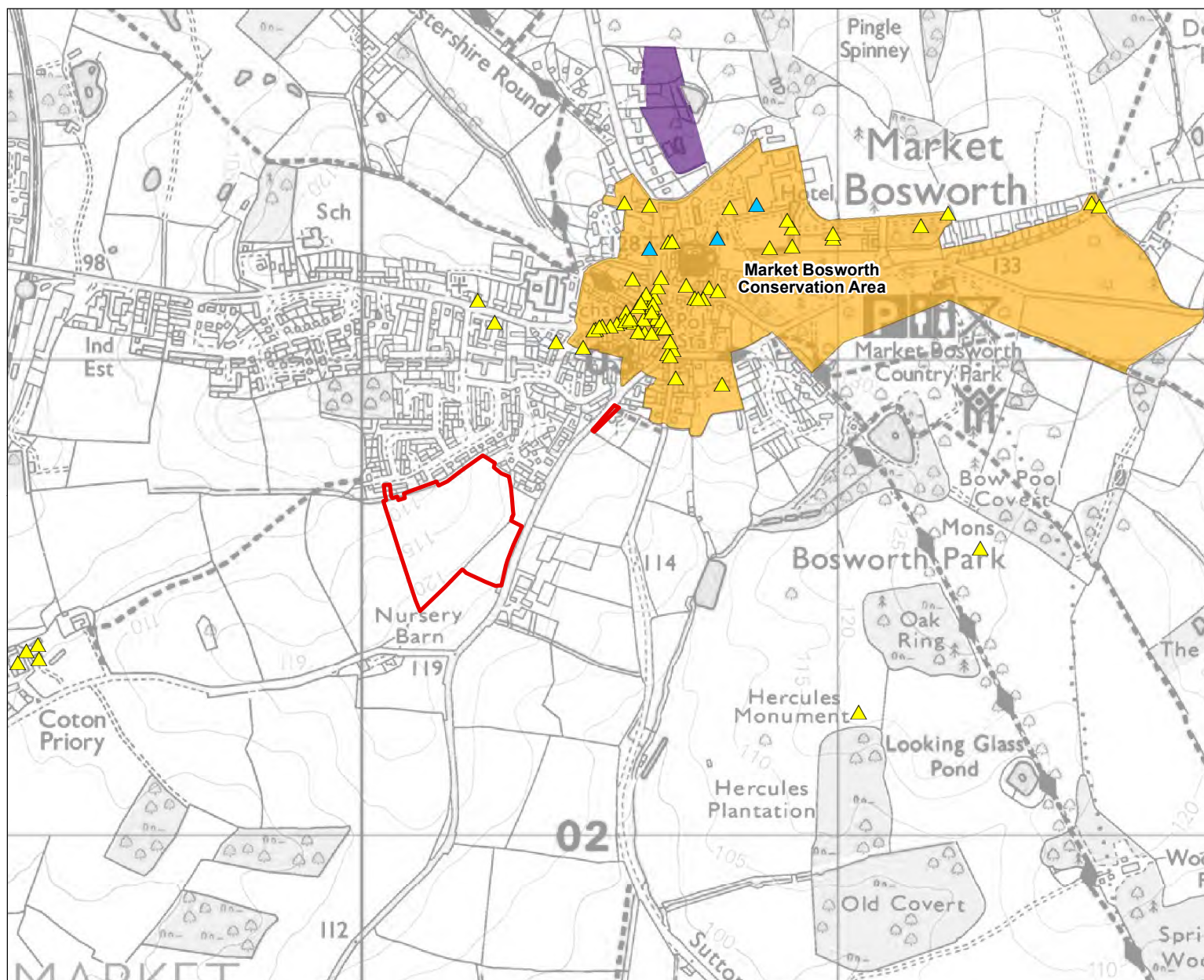
Examples of heritage benefits may include:

- *sustaining or enhancing the significance of a heritage asset and the contribution of its setting*
- *reducing or removing risks to a heritage asset*
- *securing the optimum viable use of a heritage asset in support of its long term conservation.”³⁸*

³⁸ DLUHC, PPG, paragraph 020, reference ID: 18a-020-20190723. CD-NPP13



Appendix 3: Figure



KEY

- Site
- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument

Listed Buildings

- ▲ Grade I
- ▲ Grade II*
- ▲ Grade II

**Figure 1:
Map of Designated
Heritage Assets**

Land off York Close,
Market Bosworth

Client: Gladman Developments Ltd
 DRWG No: P21-2986_1 Sheet No: - REV: -
 Drawn by: JT Approved by: GS
 Date: 28/06/2024
 Scale: 1:12,500 @ A4

PEGASUS
GROUP



Appendix 4: Trial Trenching Report (PCA 2023)

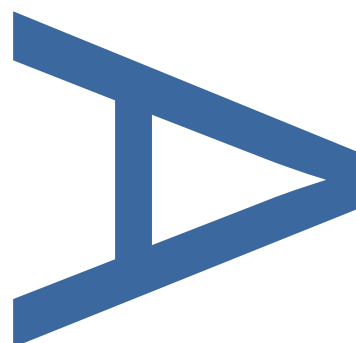
**SHENTON LANE, MARKET
BOSWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE**



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**SITE CODE: LSMD22
REPORT NO: R.15363
MAY 2023**



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

SHENTON LANE, MARKET BOSWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE

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An Archaeological Evaluation on Land West of Shenton Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire

Local Planning Authority: Leicestershire County Council

Central National Grid Reference: SK 40227 02653

Site Code/Event Number: LSMD22

Report No. R.15363

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May 2023**

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ABSTRACT

Pre-Construct Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'the client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Shenton Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (site centred NGR: SK 40227 02653). The investigations were required to investigate the potential for archaeological remains ahead of proposed development of the site.

Twenty evaluation trenches were excavated across the two fields which comprise the site, with no significant archaeology being recorded. Natural clay was recorded across the northwest and southeast of the area, sealed by clean silty clay, postulated to represent a possible colluvial deposit, through the central and western part of the site. A southwest-northeast running ridge and furrow system was recorded, previously surveyed at ground level during the preceding earthwork survey. Of the furrows identified within the trenches, five were excavated, however no finds were recovered to further establish dating. A single posthole was also identified, but again no finds were recovered from the fill.

A variation in the underlying deposits, identified within Trenches 8 and 14, was interpreted as representing a possible seasonal channel/flood event. Both trenches displayed evidence for possible marling in the basal deposits. Potential floodwater management, or more likely natural seasonal flooding, along with possible land management through stubble or thatch burning, was also suggested by the charcoal inclusions with this depositional sequence.

.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Shenton Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (site centered NGR: SK 40227 02653; Figure 1) between 9th and 27th January 2023. The work was commissioned by Pegasus Group on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'the client'), to inform upon the potential archaeological resource and impact upon it from potential development.
- 1.2 The site had previously been the subject of an Archaeology and Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Pegasus 2022), which was followed by geophysical survey of the area (Pre-Construct Geophysics, 2022). Whilst the survey recorded a number of modern responses including buried services, a largely extant ridge and furrow system was also recorded, as well possible traces of burnt material. This work was followed by an earthwork survey (PCA, 2023) to record the ridge and furrow earthworks across the site.
- 1.3 This report details the results of a targeted programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, undertaken to further investigate and characterise potential archaeological features identified across the area of the site, and to allow consideration of the impact of proposed development upon archaeological heritage assets and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposal.
- 1.4 The definition of an archaeological field evaluation is 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and / or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quantity and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national and international context as appropriate' (CIFA 2014a).
- 1.5 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared following consultation between Pegasus Group

and William Kelly, Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage), Historic & Natural Environmental Team, Leicestershire County Council.

1.6 The general aims of these investigations were:

- Determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site;
- Determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits revealed, including the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, as well as their potential significance;
- Determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from previous development activities;
- Determine the likely impact on any archaeological deposits present from the proposed development;
- Set the archaeological results in relation to the wider landscape and where appropriate the *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework* (2020).
- Disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting

1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation. The site archive will be deposited Leicestershire County Council Museum Collections.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The underlying geology of the site comprises mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member, sedimentary bedrock formed between 247.1 and 237 million years ago during the Triassic period. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Quaternary sand and gravel formed between 860 and 116 thousand years ago (BGS 2022).

2.2 Topography

- 2.3 The site is located on the southern side of Market Bosworth. It is occupied by two fields of pasture and is bounded by housing to the north, Shenton Lane to the east, Tinsel Lane to the south and arable fields to the west. The site is on a northwest facing slope, and falls from c.120m AOD to c. 110m AOD in the northwest corner. The ridge and furrow that runs SE-NW across both fields is clear from the surface.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background is drawn from the Archaeology and Heritage Desk Based Assessment (Pegasus 2022).
- 3.1.2 There are only a limited number of archaeological sites and finds dating to the earlier prehistoric periods that have been identified in the vicinity of the site.
- 3.1.3 Similarly, only a relatively small amount of archaeology from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods is recorded in the vicinity of the site, which is largely focused to the north-east, around a probable villa site.
- 3.1.4 The proposed development site is likely to have formed agricultural hinterland associated with Market Bosworth from at least the medieval period. This is supported by the presence of ridge and furrow across the majority of the site.

3.2 Geophysical Survey of the Site

- 3.2.1 A fluxgate gradiometer survey was undertaken across the site (Pre-Construct Geophysics 2022). This recorded modern responses including strong variation associated with a buried service, manholes, current boundaries and probable deposits of miscellaneous ferrous-rich materials.
- 3.2.2 An array of anomalies and an isolated example in the eastern part of the site exhibited some potential as indicators of possible buried remains. Whilst ridge and furrow cultivation has the potential to mask or disturb underlying remains, the geophysical survey concluded that the results appeared to support an Archaeology and Built Heritage Desk-Based Assessment and suggested limited archaeological potential for the site.

3.3 Earthwork Survey

- 3.3.1 An earthwork survey was undertaken in October 2022 by PCA. Both fields recorded ridge and furrow cultivation in a gentle curve or a reverse 'S' when viewed in conjunction, this curving shape generally being associated with earlier (medieval) earthworks. It is possible that later cultivation of the area, maintenance of hedgerows and ditches and other vehicular movement around

the field margins, together with modern intrusions such as sewer drains, had removed traces of headland features and truncated the full length of the lands.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 20 trenches measuring 30m in length by 1.8m in width across the proposed development area (see Figure 2). The trenches were placed using a random grid array, although avoiding several services that run across site.
- 4.1.2 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all possible features were inspected for their potential, selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and palaeoenvironmental samples. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping. Spoil heaps created were scanned by metal-detector.
- 4.1.4 Archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to characterise, date them and determine their significance.
- 4.1.5 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I; Taylor & Brown 2018) and PCA Fieldwork Operations Manual Regional Variation Addendum; Warwick (Webster 2018).

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit (or equivalent) with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Each point was recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model and coded to an internal PCA database to provide a dataset which records feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other information that may be relevant.

- 4.2.2 This survey provides a three-dimensional geo-referenced visual representation of the archaeology present. Where features were determined to require more detailed illustration, these were undertaken by hand and drawn in relation to a feature specific geo-referenced baseline and drawn at an appropriate scale on polyester based drafting film and labelled in relation to a site specific drawing register.
- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2018; Webster 2018). Context sheets were primarily filled in by the archaeologist who excavated the feature/deposit. All deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2.
- 4.2.4 All deposits were recorded with sufficient data to allow for a full characterisation of the context and its relationships to be made and allow for future studies to query and compare the dataset with confidence.
- 4.2.5 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process using a Canon EOS 1300D digital SLR camera with a 18.0-megapixel resolution. Add any specific county requirements on photography here, taken from the project specific WSI. Digital Photographs were taken of all deposits and all images will be labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to a site specific photography register and regarded as part of the primary archive.
- 4.2.6 Following the completion of all recording, the trenches were carefully backfilled sequentially with the deposits excavated. Particular care was taken to restore the form of the ridge and furrow field system in the area of the trenches.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Across Fields A and B a total of twenty trenches were opened, with trenches 1-16 in Field A and Trenches 17-20 in Field B, all measuring 1.8m by 30m.
- 5.1.2 Field B was at the top of a hill at a height of 120.337m AOD, and in Field A this then sloped down to the west, with Trenches 1 and 2 at the lowest height of 110.981m AOD. The topography of the site resulted in colluvial layers being observed in a number of the trenches, particularly on the northwest slope of site.
- 5.1.3 No significant archaeological features were recorded across the site, other than the southeast-northwest aligned ridge and furrow that was clear from the surface, and a single posthole [604] recorded in Trench 6. A possible channel / flooding event was also uncovered in Trenches 8 and 14, [809] and [1407], however it contained no archaeological finds. Finds retrieval from the site as a whole was very limited, and consisted of an animal tooth, a horseshoe and an indeterminate iron object, all unstratified.
- 5.1.4 The furrows, previously identified as being likely medieval in origin, and the posthole, were cut into the colluvial horizon where this was present. No features were identified cut into the underlying natural clay substrate where this was observed.
- 5.1.5 An area of modern disturbance was recorded in the northeastern-most part of the site within Trench 7. Here, deposits including modern brick and concrete fragments, pottery, glass and concrete fragments were recorded across the trench to a depth in excess of 1.50m below ground level. This corresponds with an area identified by the geophysical survey of the site as being most likely to relate to modern disturbance, and is probably related to the adjacent modern development.

5.2 Natural Clay

- 5.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered was a mid blueish grey very firm slightly silty clay with blue streaks. This was recorded at the base of the slope in Trenches

1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and at the top of the slope in Trenches 11 and 15 to 20.

5.3 Colluvial Deposits

5.3.1 Sealing the clay substrate across the central section of the site in trenches positioned on the northwest slope was a light yellowish grey firm silty clay, with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. This was interpreted as colluvial sedimentation, which may have formed over an extended period of time. This generally ranged in thickness between 0.12m (Trench 16) and 0.75m (Trench 3), and could be further subdivided into two slightly differing contexts in Trenches 3, 12 and 15.

5.4 Cut Features

5.4.1 A single probable posthole [604] was recorded cutting the colluvium within Trench 6. This was a well-defined feature with a diameter of 0.25m, tapering to a base at a depth of 0.16m and was filled by (605), a mid yellowish grey firm but friable silty clay with moderate amounts of small sub angular stones. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.4.2 Elsewhere across the site furrows were recorded running southeast-northwest across both fields A and B, recorded in almost all the trenches. These furrows corresponded with the ridges visible at ground level and previously recorded during the earwork survey. Furrows were investigated fully in six trenches; Trench 4 [404], Trench 5 [504], Trench 6 [606], Trench 9 [904] and Trench 13 [1304], including in section only in Trench 17 [1704]. Archaeological finds from within these furrow slots were limited to small undiagnostic ceramic building material (CBM) fragments from (905), (405), (1705), and an animal tooth (905).

5.4.3 The furrows varied in width from 1.63m in [1304] to 2.80m in [1704] when excavated to their full extent. They were all very shallow at the base, from between 0.22m [904] and 0.26m [1704]. Often the full width or depth was obscured by land drains which ran through nearly all the furrows excavated other than [904] and [1704]. The fill was generally consistent across site and formed of a mid-brownish grey friable clayey silt, although furrows [1304] and [1704] both contained an upper fill (1306) and (1705) that was a darker blueish

grey friable clayey silt with more frequent charcoal flecking. In trenches in the southwest of Field A the furrows were cut into the colluvial horizon rather than true natural clay substrate.

- 5.4.4 Whilst no dating evidence was recovered from the furrows, other than occasional indeterminate very small fragments of CBM, the shape of the ridge and furrow is of a gentle curve or reverse 'S' shape, this curving shape generally being associated with earlier earthworks (PCA 2023). The origins of ridge and furrow cultivation can be traced to the 10th century or before, and it is considered most likely that the ridge and furrow across the site has medieval origins.

5.5 Possible Channel / Flooding Event (see Appendix 1)

- 5.5.1 Within Trenches 8 & 14 a differing depositional sequence was recorded that was not observed elsewhere on site. Here a possible channel or seasonal flooding event was recorded [809] and [1407]. The deposits recorded were most probably formed through a phase of natural flood with some velocity into the field, running downslope and possibly forming a seasonal channel. The deposits appeared to be alluvially redeposited or disturbed sediment, formed of clayey sand with a charcoal fleck-rich component, potentially indicative of stubble burning in the past, as well as possible marling suggested by the chalk flecking.

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation confirmed the findings of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey of the site, with very limited archaeological activity being recorded on site. It may be that the well-established ridge and furrow across site destroyed any earlier archaeology, or that this area never maintained substantial human activity beyond agriculture. The topography of the site, being positioned predominantly on a southeast to northwest slope, would suggest the latter explanation is more likely, especially given the absence of finds from the area.
- 6.2 The ridge and furrow itself was excavated and characterised, although due to an absence of finds the date can still only be suggested by its shape and structure. Areas where the preceding earthwork survey had suggested an absence of the ridge and furrow system were confirmed during the trial trenching, notably within Trenches 2, 7 and 20, where modern truncation and disturbance was considered most likely to have affected survival. Elsewhere on the site the earthwork survey and evaluation results corresponded entirely.
- 6.3 The singular discrete archaeological feature recorded on site, a posthole, also does little to shed light on the history of this site other than its use as agricultural land.
- 6.4 A variation in the underlying deposits identified within Trenches 8 and 14 has been interpreted as representing a possible seasonal channel/flood event. Again, agricultural activity on the site was reflected within the depositional sequence, with both of these trenches displaying evidence for possible marling in the basal deposits along with probable land management through stubble or thatch burning. However, no evidence for more established occupation of the site was recorded.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Pegasus Group and Gladman Developments Ltd for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to William Kelly, Senior Planning Archaeologist (Heritage), Historic & Natural Environmental Team, Leicestershire County Council for monitoring the work. The author would also like to thank the project team: Emma Cowdell, Harry Minoque, Nathaniel Bidgood-Shelly, Sean Rice and Gareth Morgan. Illustrations were produced by Diana Valk and the depositional assessment was undertaken by Jane Wheeler. The project was managed by Tim Bradley.

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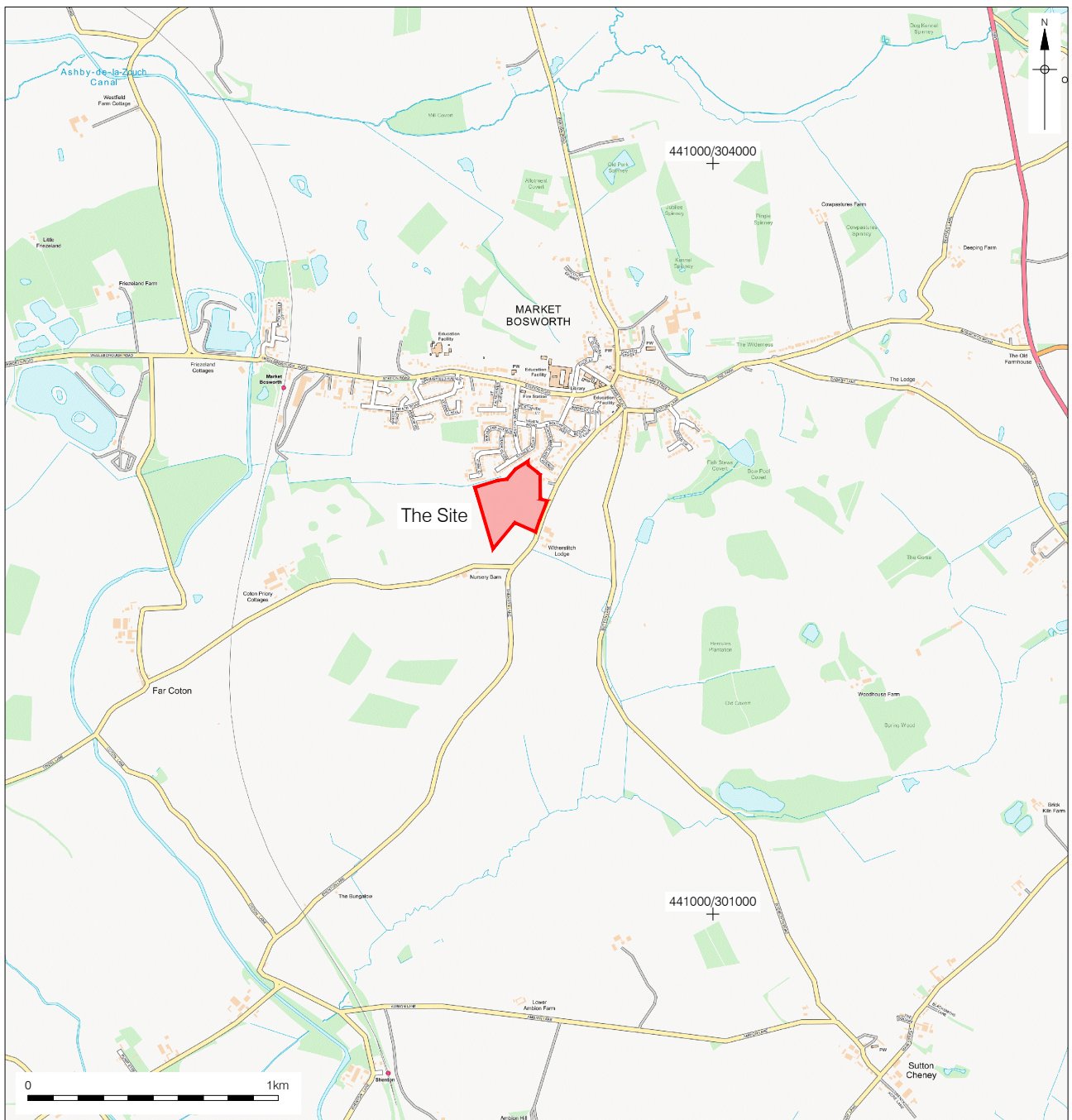
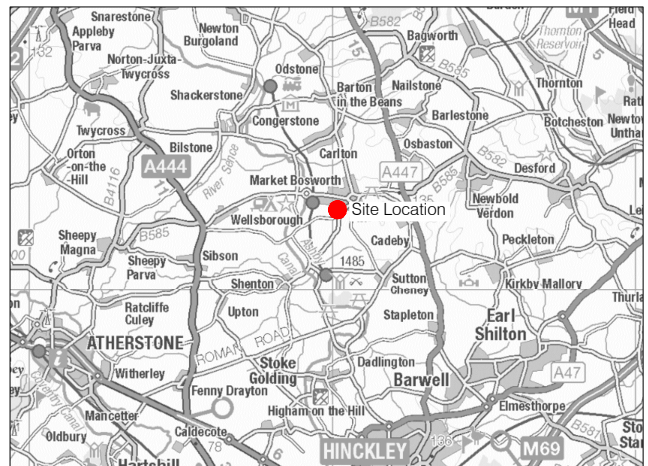
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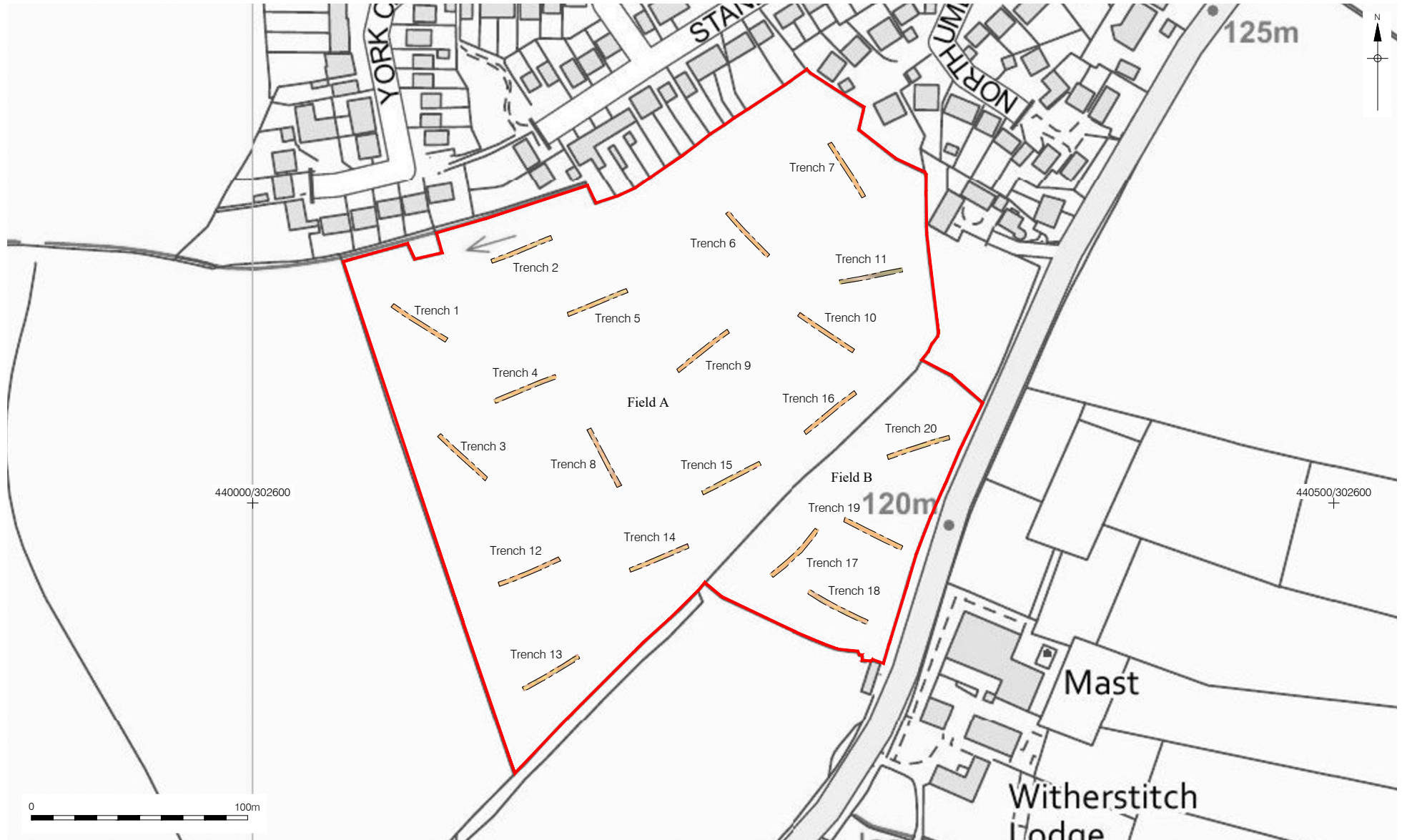
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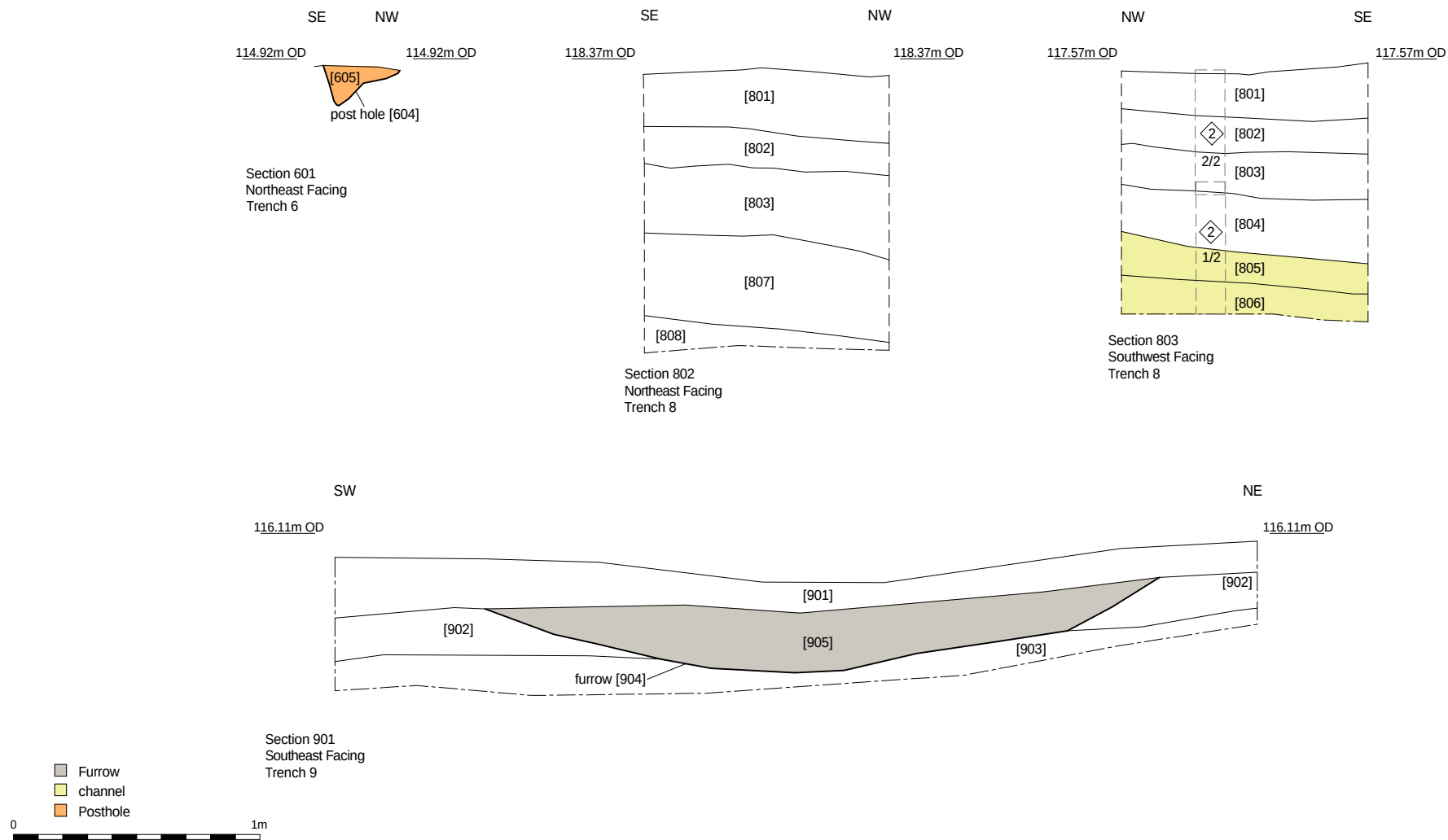
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9 APPENDIX 1: ASSESSMENT OF DEPOSITS WITHIN TRENCH 8 & 14

Dr Jane Wheeler

Background

Towards the end of excavations (trial trenching) at the Land West of Shenton Lane site in mid-January 2023 a 'potential' palaeochannel was recorded in Trench 8 (on an approximate north-south alignment) and Trench 14 (approximate northwest-southeast alignment). This depositional analysis has been undertaken to assess what the deposits represent in respect of their alluvial and/or colluvial components and to offer a hypothesis to explain their sequence of deposition.

Materials and Methods

Earlier geophysical and earthworks reports were referred to (Bunn 2022, Rice 2022, Sutherland 2022), as well as historic and Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, along with the LIDAR image (subsuming F1 and F2) were all back referenced. Google Earth Pro (image date 16/06/202) was also consulted along with LIDAR Finder imagery (consulted 08.03.2023).

Aerial images (including LIDAR) for the site did not suggest any below surface anomalies due to the widespread and largely extant ridge and furrow across the surface area of F1 and also (the smaller and abutting) Field 2 (F2) (Bunn 2022, Rice 2022, Sutherland 2022). The ridge and furrow is undated and may be medieval in date. Site records comprising trench sheets, section drawings, photographs, and the completion of bulk environmental sample sheets and sediment sequences in the two trenches, were also reviewed. The scaled (1:10) section drawing of monolith column collected from the south-west facing section (8.03) of Trench 8 was correlated with the trench sheet context data. A comparable monolith sequence could not be taken from Trench 14 due to the collapse of the trench sides in the inclement weather. Bulk environmental samples from concentrated deposits of charcoal flecks (noted in the basal deposits in both trenches) were taken. This fieldwork was undertaken immediately prior to site closure.

Results

No obvious below surface features were present within F1 and F2. Of note was the spread of ridge and furrow in fields off-site to the immediate east and an anomaly running approximately east-west on higher ground (120-110 mOD) in the field to the immediate west of F1. This anomaly runs approximately east-west and downhill away from the boundary with F1. The high-water table of approximately 1m below ground level (bgl) impacted on the depth achieved, particularly during the excavation of Trenches 8 and 14. Ponds and pools, along with modern drainage lines, marked on the OS maps as a result of historic sand and clay extraction, and the contour-hugging route of the Ashby de la Zouch Canal (along the 95-90mOD contour) and the nearby River Sence in the flat valley bottom (below the 80mOD

contour), demonstrate the width of the floodplain and the declination of the land towards the valley bottom in a easterly direction away from the Shenton Lane site.

Trench 8

The sandy silt with mudstone inclusions (context (806)) is representative of the local geology, and most probably a phase of natural flood with some velocity into the field – possibly forming a seasonal channel. Deposit (810) (which was recorded as being the same as (805)) appears to be redeposited clayey sand with a charcoal fleck-rich component, formed by subsequent alluvial in-wash of blue-grey clay with the charcoal organic element indicative of burning.

The overlying grey clay (same as (807)) indicates a phase of deposition either alluvial or colluvial in origin. However, the inclusions of chalk, which is not naturally representative of the underlying geology at the site, suggests inwash from a source where chalk is the bedrock geology, or the clay has been subject to marling, with chalk or lime, in the past – or is wash-in or slope-wash from that source.

The upper (803), a band of brown silty clay, is likely to be representative of colluvial deposition from the inclined land to the south-east of the. The two upper units in Trench 8 comprise subsoil (802), topsoil (801).

Trench 14

The basal (1406) of silty sand contained 'chalk' inclusions. As was noted in this deposit, and chalk is not a geological unit underlying the site (it is Gunthorpe Member – Mudstone), this base deposit appears to be alluvially redeposited or disturbed sediment that may have been subjected to marling in the past. The overlying (1405) grey silty sand, with concentrated charcoal flecks, may be alluvial in-wash (similar to (810)/(805) in Trench 8) that has become mixed with charcoal detritus and ash from stubble or thatch burning as a past phase of controlled burning for land management. In turn, the two overlying contexts ((1404) and (1403)), as a result of their clay components mixed with the silt, are probably also representative of alluvial deposition from low-velocity overbank flooding.

It is feasible that this may have been a deliberate practice to fertilise the land with the silt catchment utilising overbank flooding in the winter months, e.g., riverside meadow management. This theory does fit with the presence of ridge and furrow – which may have contributed to this form of irrigation (Williamson, 2007a) as opposed to 'floating' (Williamson, 2007b). The uppermost deposits ((1402) and 1401) comprise the sub- and topsoil.

Conclusion

The sedimentary sequences subsumed within Trenches 8 and 14 have been postulated as being historic in formation. In the absence of relative or radiometric dating (due to the dearth of archaeological and organic material across the site) the sedimentary profile is indicative of seasonal flooding/channel activity, containing possible evidence of agricultural activity. There appears to be some disturbance and redistribution in Trench 8 which is not obvious in the

profile from Trench 14. However, both trenches display evidence for possible marling in the basal deposits. Potential floodwater management or more likely natural seasonal flooding (more evident in the lower-lying mid-F1 Trench 8), along with possible land management through stubble or thatch burning, as suggested by the charcoal inclusions, is postulated.

Recommendations for Further Work

No recommendations are made for further work as a dated chronology for the sedimentary deposits from Trenches 8 and 14 cannot be presented as no charcoal is suitable for AMS ¹⁴C dating (i.e., small degraded flecks that are 'smeared' into the minerogenic deposits).

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10 APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Trench 14, Sondage 1 into possible palaeochannel [1407], direction of view southeast, 2m and 1m scales.



Plate 2; Trench 8, possible palaeochannel [809] covered by two colluvial layers (803) and (804), NW sec of sondage 1, direction of view northeast, 2m and 1m scales.



Plate 3; Trench 8, charcoal rich bands within layer (810)/ (805) in possible palaeochannel [809]. Direction of view south, 2m scale.



Plate 4; Trench 8, Rep sec in SE of trench shows two colluvial layers (803) and (807)/(804) that lie above natural. Direction of view southwest, 1m scale.



Plate 5; Trench 9, Furrow [904], direction of view northwest, 2m scale.



Plate 6; Trench 5, Furrow [504] with land drain running through it, direction of view west, 2m scale.



Plate 7; Trench 6, posthole [604], direction southwest, 0.20m scale.

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE
 Average Depth: 0.61m Maximum Depth: 1.14m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
101	Layer	Mid greyish brown firm clayey silt.	0.31m	Topsoil
102	Layer	Mid blueish grey with orange streaks, friable clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Likely silting layer as sits at the base of the hill.	0.41m	Colluvium
103	Layer	Mid yellowish grey firm silty clay with rare sub angular stones and flecks of chalk.	0.27m	Natural

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: SW-NE
 Average Depth: 0.41m Maximum Depth: 1.17m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
201	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.15m	Topsoil
202	Layer	Mid brownish grey, firm but friable clayey silt.	0.42m	Subsoil
203	Layer	Mid yellowish brown firm silty clay.	0.12m	Natural

Trench 3

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE
 Average Depth: 0.27m Maximum Depth: 1.24m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
301	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.22m	Topsoil
302	Layer	Mid yellowish grey friable silty clay.	0.12m	Subsoil
303	Layer	Light yellowish grey firm silty clay, occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Furrows are cut into this layer.	0.33m	Colluvium treated as 'natural'
304	Layer	Dark blueish grey very firm silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks, apparently not natural despite compaction and depth.	0.42m	Colluvium

Trench 4

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW
 Average Depth: 0.56m Maximum Depth: 1.21m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
401	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.25m	Topsoil
402	Layer	Mid yellowish grey friable silty clay.	0.52m	Subsoil
403	Layer	Dark blueish grey with light blue mottling firm silty clay.	0.44m+	Natural
404	Cut	Furrow with shallow to steep sides and an	0.26m	Furrow

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		undulating base, aligned NW-SE. Contained one fill (405).		
405	Fill	Dark brownish grey firm silty clay with moderate charcoal and infrequent CBM inclusions. Fill of furrow [404].	0.26m	Fill of furrow 404

Trench 5

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.27m Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
501	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.27m	Topsoil
502	Layer	Mid brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.21m	Subsoil
503	Layer	Dark greyish orange friable silty sand.	0.02m+	Natural
504	Cut	furrow with moderate sloping concave sides and sloping base cut by land drain, aligned NW-SE. Contained one fill (505).	0.32m	Furrow
505	Fill	Mid blueish grey with orange streaks, friable sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking. Fill of furrow [504].	0.32m	Fill of furrow

Trench 6

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Average Depth: 0.39m Maximum Depth: 1.16m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
601	Layer	Dark greyish brown firm but friable silty clay.	0.18m	Topsoil
602	Layer	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with occasional small sub angular stones.	0.46m	Subsoil
603	Layer	Mid yellowish grey firm silty clay with yellowish orange sandy patches throughout. Lies above true natural and is cut by furrows.	0.68m	Colluvium treated as 'natural'
604	Cut	Posthole with irregular concave sides and a v shaped base. Contains one fill (605).	0.16m	Cut of posthole
605	Fill	Mid yellowish grey firm but friable silty clay with moderate amounts of small sub angular stones. Fill of posthole [604].	0.16m	Fill of posthole
606	Cut	Furrow with shallow concave sides with a slightly undulating but somewhat flat base, aligned SW-NW. Contains one fill (607).	0.16m	Cut of furrow
607	Fill	Mid brownish grey firm but friable clayey silt with moderate	0.10m	Fill of furrow

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		small sub angular stone inclusions. Fill of furrow [606].		
608	Fill	Mid orangish brown firm but friable sandy silt with no inclusions. Fill of land drain cut [610].	0.14m	Fill of land drain
609	Layer	Mid blueish grey clay with occasional patches of red and yellowish orange sand.	0.02m+	Natural
610	Cut	Cut for land drain with steep concave sides and v shaped base, aligned SE-NW. Contains one fill (608).	0.14m	Cut of land drain

Trench 7

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: NW-SE

Average Depth: 0.86m

Maximum Depth: 1.04m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
701	Layer	Mid/dark greyish brown firm sandy silt with rare smooth stone inclusions.	0.22m	Topsoil
702	Layer	Mid greyish brown firm sandy silt with rare smooth stone inclusions.	0.43m	Subsoil
703	Layer	Mid reddish-brown firm but friable silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	0.26m	Man-made layer
704	Layer	Brownish red firm but friable silty sand with rare charcoal inclusions.	0.13m+	Man-made layer

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
705	Layer	Brownish grey firm but friable silty sand with moderately frequent patches of brownish orange silty sand and large patches of charcoal, occasional modern pot, glass, CBM. Likely dumping layer associated with houses built nearby.	0.69m	Man-made layer

Trench 8

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: NW-SE

Average Depth: 1.02m

Maximum Depth: 1.32m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
801	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.23m	Topsoil
802	Layer	Mid brownish grey friable silty clay.	0.18m	Subsoil
803	Layer	Light yellowish brown firm silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Furrows cut into this layer so treated as 'natural' in many trenches.	0.28m	Colluvium (treated as natural in other trenches)
804	Layer	Light brownish grey with blue mottling firm slightly silty clay. Likely same as (807).	0.22m	Colluvium
805	Layer	Silting layer, mid brownish red friable clayey sand, occasional charcoal bands. Same as (810).	0.33m	Possible alluvial deposit

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
806	Layer	Silting layer, mid brownish yellow friable sandy silt with frequent mudstone and occasional charcoal.	0.07m+	Possible alluvial deposit
807	Layer	Mid brownish grey firm silty clay with frequent chalk and occasional charcoal flecks. Same as (804).	0.38m	?Colluvium
808	Layer	Mid blueish grey with bright blue streaks, very firm slightly silty clay, occasional chalk inclusions.	0.15m+	Natural
809	Cut	Cut of seasonal channel, only one edge reached in trench and base not reached at 1.5m so full extent and shape of feature unknown. Appears again in Trench 14 [1407].	-	Cut of possible seasonal channel, extent unknown
810	Layer	Silting layer, mid brownish red friable clayey sand, infrequent charcoal inclusions. Same as (805).	-	Possible alluvial deposit

Trench 9

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: SW-NE
Average Depth: 0.26m Maximum Depth: 0.66m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
901	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.24m	Topsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
902	Layer	Mid brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.18m	Subsoil
903	Layer	Light brownish yellow friable firm silty clay at NE end, mid brownish red firm clayey sand to the SW.	0.00m+	Colluvium treated as 'natural'
904	Cut	Furrow with moderately sloping sides and a flat/concave base, aligned NW-SE. Contained one fill (905).	0.22m	Cut of furrow
905	Fill	Mid brownish grey soft clayey silt with rare, rounded stone and charcoal inclusions. Fill of furrow [904].	0.22m	Fill of furrow

Trench 10

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE
 Average Depth: 0.32m Maximum Depth: 0.92m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1001	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.15m	Topsoil
1002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey friable clayey silt.	0.24m	Subsoil
1003	Layer	Light yellowish grey firm silty clay, occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions. Furrows are cut into this layer.	0.52m	Colluvium treated as 'natural'

Trench 11

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.15m Maximum Depth: 0.63m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1100	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1101	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.11m	Topsoil
1102	Layer	Mid yellowish grey firm clayey silt.	0.19m	Subsoil
1103	Layer	Light blueish grey very firm slightly sandy clay.	0.06m+	Natural

Trench 12

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.23m Maximum Depth: 0.48m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1200	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1201	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.15m	Topsoil
1202	Layer	Mid greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.	0.18m	Subsoil
1203	Layer	Mid yellowish brown firm silty clay with rare chalk and charcoal inclusions.	0.26m	Colluvium treated as 'natural'
1204	Layer	Mid yellowish brown firm silty clay with blueish grey bands. Common patches of chalk and red sand, very occasional charcoal.	0.20m+	Colluvium

Trench 13

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.29m

Maximum Depth: 1.21m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1300	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1301	Layer	Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.	0.23m	Topsoil
1302	Layer	Mid greyish brown compact silty clay.	0.25m	Subsoil
1303	Layer	Mid yellowish grey firm silty clay with infrequent small sub angular stone and charcoal inclusions. Treated as 'natural' as furrow cut into this layer.	0.03m+	Colluvium treated as 'natural'
1304	Cut	Furrow with moderately sloping sides and an undulating base, aligned NW-SE. Contained one fill (1305).	0.28m	Cut of furrow
1305	Fill	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay with infrequent small sun angular stones. Lower fill of furrow [1304].	0.28m	Fill of furrow
1306	Fill	Dark greyish brown soft silty clay with frequent degraded wood. Upper fill of furrow [1304].	0.03m	Fill of furrow
1307	Fill	Dark brownish grey friable silty clay . Fill of cut of land drain [1310].	0.29m	Fill of land drain
1308	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1309	Layer	Mid yellowish brown firm silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional charcoal inclusions. Lower colluvium then (1303).	0.54m	Colluvium
1310	Cut	Land drain cut with moderately steep sides and a concave base, aligned NW-SE. Contained one fill (1307).	0.29m	Cut of land drain

Trench 14

Length: 30m

Width: 1.8m

Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.24m

Maximum Depth: 0.49m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1400	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1401	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt.	0.14m	Topsoil
1402	Layer	Mid greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.	0.32m	Subsoil
1403	Layer	Silting layer. Mid brownish red moderately compact silty clay with occasional chalk and charcoal inclusions.	0.44m	Possible alluvial layer
1404	Layer	Silting layer. Mid orangish red soft silty sand with occasional charcoal.	0.28m	Alluvial layer
1405	Layer	Dark blackish grey silty sand layer with charcoal rich bands.	0.10m	Possible alluvial layer
1406	Layer	Silting layer, mid orangish brownish red	0.38m	Possible alluvial layer

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
		soft sandy silt with moderate charcoal inclusions and occasional small chalk stones.		
1407	Cut	Cut of seasonal channel, not visible in sondage but edge can be seen further SW in trench.	1.06m+	Cut of possible channel / area of seasonal flooding

Trench 15

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.35m Maximum Depth: 0.41m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1500	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1501	Layer	Mid/dark greyish brown firm but friable silty clay.	0.22m	Topsoil
1502	Layer	Mid greyish brown firm silty clay.	0.30m	Subsoil
1503	Layer	Mid yellowish grey moderately firm silty clay with large bands of greyish brown silty clay and occasional inclusions of chalk and sub angular stones, and very occasional charcoal.	0.50m	Colluvium treated as 'natural'
1504	Layer	Mid dark brownish grey firm silty clay with infrequent small chalk stone inclusions.	0.30m	Colluvium
1505	Layer	Dark brownish grey firm silty clay with blueish grey streaks, no inclusions.	0.28m	Colluvium

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1506	Layer	Mid blueish grey firm silty clay with frequent chalk and very occasional charcoal inclusions.	0.01m+	Natural

Trench 16

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.23m Maximum Depth: 0.83m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1600	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1601	Layer	Mid/dark brownish grey firm clayey silt.	0.14m	Topsoil
1602	Layer	Mid yellowish-brown firm but friable clayey silt with occasional chalk inclusions.	0.23m	Subsoil
1603	Layer	Mid yellowish-brown firm but friable clayey silt.	0.12m	Colluvium treated as 'natural'
1604	Layer	Mid reddish brown firm silty clay with infrequent sub rounded stones and mid blueish grey streaks and clay. Moderate chalk inclusions.	0.30m+	Natural

Trench 17

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.33m Maximum Depth: 0.71m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1700	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1701	Layer	Mid greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.	0.30m	Topsoil
1702	Layer	Mid greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.	0.23m	Subsoil
1703	Layer	Mid yellowish grey firm silty clay.	0.24m+	Natural
1704	Cut	Furrow with moderately shallow sides and a flat slightly concave base, aligned NW-SE. Filled by (1705) and (1706).	0.25m	Cut of furrow
1705	Fill	Dark blueish grey with orange mottling friable clayey silt with frequent charcoal, moderate CBM inclusions. Fill of furrow [1704].	0.10m	Upper fill of furrow
1706	Fill	Mid blueish grey with orange mottling friable clayey silt with occasional charcoal. Fill of furrow [1704].	0.18m	Lower fill of furrow

Trench 18

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Average Depth: 0.35m Maximum Depth: 0.64m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1800	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1801	Layer	Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.	0.16m	Topsoil
1802	Layer	Mid greyish yellowish brown compact silty clay.	0.27m	Subsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1803	Layer	Mid yellowish grey firm silty clay with infrequent small sub angular stones.	0.19m+	Natural

Trench 19

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NW-SE

Average Depth: 0.52m Maximum Depth: 0.62m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1900	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
1901	Layer	Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty clay.	0.16m	Topsoil
1902	Layer	Mid greyish yellowish brown compact silty clay.	0.27m	Subsoil
1903	Layer	Mid yellowish grey firm silty clay with occasional small sub angular stones.	0.19m+	Natural

Trench 20

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Average Depth: 0.39m Maximum Depth: 0.73m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2000	Unstratified	N/A	N/A	Unstratified finds located around trench area.
2001	Layer	Dark brownish grey friable clayey silt with moderate charcoal and CBM inclusions.	0.26m	Topsoil
2002	Layer	Mid yellowish grey moderately firm silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions.	0.18m	Subsoil

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
2003	Layer	Light brownish grey firm silty clay with infrequent chalk and moderate flint inclusions.	0.03m+	Natural

Summary for preconst1-513839

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-513839
Project Name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land West of Shenton Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire
Sitename	Land West of Shenton Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire
Activity type	Archaeological Intervention
Project Identifier(s)	LSMD22
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	09-Jan-2023 - 27-Jan-2023
Location	Land West of Shenton Lane, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire NGR : SK 40227 02653 LL : 52.6201606933664, -1.4072349323719 12 Fig : 440227,302653
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Leicestershire District : Hinckley and Bosworth Parish : Market Bosworth
Project Methodology	Twenty evaluation trenches were excavated across the two fields which comprise the site.
Project Results	Natural clay was recorded across the northwest and southeast of the area, sealed by clean silty clay, postulated to represent a possible colluvial deposit, through the central and western part of the site. A southwest-northeast running ridge and furrow system was recorded, previously surveyed at ground level during the preceding earthwork survey. No finds were recovered to further establish dating. A single posthole was also identified, but again no finds were recovered from the fill. A possible seasonal channel/flood event was also observed running through two trenches, along with evidence of possible land management through stubble or thatch burning, suggested by the charcoal inclusions with this depositional sequence.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Leicestershire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Martha , Carruthers
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museums;

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