

Land south of Station Road, Market Bosworth
Summary of Results of Archaeological Evaluation



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KEY DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Project name: Land south of Station Road, Market Bosworth

Type of project: Evaluation

YA archaeological code | financial code: 10009 | 10009

National Grid Reference: SK 39677 02838

Planning Reference: 24/00560/HYB

Client: RPS on behalf of Miller Homes

Report version no. and status: Interim Statement

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Report edited and issued by | date: Philippa Puzey-Broomhead | 20/12/24

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Market Bosworth Evaluation Summary

Archaeological evaluation works undertaken at land south of Station Road, Market Bosworth consisted of the excavation of 38 1.8x30m trial trenches across two fields. This document briefly summarises the results of this evaluation. A full report on the works is in production and will be issued in early 2025.

All features identified related to recent agricultural activities; no other features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.

Following usage established by the geophysical survey report (Magnitude Surveys, 2024) the western of the two fields investigated is hereafter referred to as Area 1 and the eastern as Area 2.

Area 1

24 trenches were excavated. Trenches were excavated to a firm sandy clay, varying in colour from yellow-brown to orange across the area, representing the natural geology of the site. This was encountered between 0.35 and 0.82m below ground level.

Trenches 8-13 and trenches 19-20, 22 and 24 were placed to investigate weak geophysical anomalies likely to relate to former ploughing regimes. Furrows were identified in trenches 8, 9, and 22, and a recent land-drainage feature was noted in trench 20. An apparent linear feature was identified in trench 19, which on investigation was considered to be geological. No features relating to the weak geophysical anomalies were identified in trenches 10, 11, 12, 13 and 24.

Trenches 11 and 12, along with trenches 15 and 23, were placed to investigate a strong geophysical anomaly probably relating to a former field boundary. Features corresponding to this anomaly were observed in all four trenches: a linear feature containing ceramic building material and early-nineteenth-century transfer ware was identified in trench 11; a continuation of this feature was seen in trenches 15 and 23. A feature in trench 12, containing modern ferrous material and interpreted as a pit, is likely to also relate to this anomaly, as are post-holes excavated in trench 15. The pre-evaluation interpretation of this anomaly as a former field boundary is corroborated by these results.

Trenches 9 and 18 were placed to investigate an area of weakly enhanced discrete geophysical anomalies interpreted as a spread of colluvium. A furrow and an area of probable tree-disturbance were noted in trench 9; no features or deposits were identified in trench 18.

Features of recent agricultural origin comprising furrows and field drains were present in trenches 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12, 14, and 17. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

The results for each trench are summarised in Table 1 below.

Area 2

14 trenches were excavated; trenches 33, 34 and 35 were moved approximately 5m to the east to avoid an area of standing water. Trenches were excavated to a firm mid-brownish yellow silty clay, which was encountered between 0.3 and 0.59m below ground level.

Trench 26 was placed to investigate two weak geophysical anomalies of undetermined origin. Nothing relating to these was observed in this trench.

Trenches 25, 27, 29 and 31 were placed to investigate a strong geophysical anomaly of undetermined origin. This was visible in all four trenches as a distinct large, dark linear feature cutting the topsoil. Where investigated this proved to contain modern tarmac aggregate; it is likely to be of very recent origin.

Trench 32 was placed to investigate weak geophysical anomalies considered likely to relate to former ploughing regimes. Nothing relating to these was observed in this trench.

Trenches 35 to 37 were placed to investigate a strong geophysical anomaly probably relating to a former field boundary. Linear features corresponding to this anomaly were observed in all four trenches. Pottery recovered from this feature in trench 35 is of early-mid C19th date. The pre-evaluation interpretation of this anomaly as a former field boundary is corroborated by these results.

Field drains were noted in trenches 25 and 28. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

The results for each trench are summarised in Table 2 below.

Material Recovered

Material recovered consisted of iron fragments of agricultural origin, including a horse shoe; ceramic building material of probable C19th or C20th origin; fragments of fine earthenware of probable early C19th origin; and vessel glass of probable C19th or C20th origin. Fragments of stone slabs were noted in trenches 4 and 37 but were not recovered. Processing and assessment of recovered material is anticipated to take place in early 2025 and the results of this will be incorporated into the full report.

Trench Number	Findings
1	Furrows
2	Possible furrows
3	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
4	Drainage feature

5	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
6	Drainage feature
7	Drainage feature
8	Furrows
9	Furrow and tree disturbance
10	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
11	Field boundary
12	Field boundary and drainage feature
13	Possible drainage feature
14	Furrows
15	Field boundary
16	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
17	Drainage feature
18	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
19	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
20	Drainage feature
21	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
22	Furrows
23	Field boundary
24	No archaeological features or deposits identified.

Table 1: trenches in Area 1

Trench Number	Findings
25	Very recent linear feature and drainage feature
26	No archaeological features or deposits identified.

27	Very recent linear feature
28	Drainage feature
29	Very recent linear feature
30	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
31	Very recent linear feature
32	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
33	No archaeological features or deposits identified.
34	Field boundary
35	Field boundary
36	Field boundary
37	Field boundary
38	No archaeological features or deposits identified.

Table 2: trenches in Area 2

References:

Magnitude Surveys. 2024. *Geophysical Survey Report of Station Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire*. Magnitude Surveys Unpublished Report. Magnitude Surveys Reference: MSSK1662

Plates:

Trench 1:



Trench 2:



Trench 3:



Trench 4:



Trench 5:



Trench 6:





Trench 7:



Trench 8:



Trench 9:





Trench 10:



Trench 11:



Trench 12:





Trench 13:



Trench 14:



Trench 15:



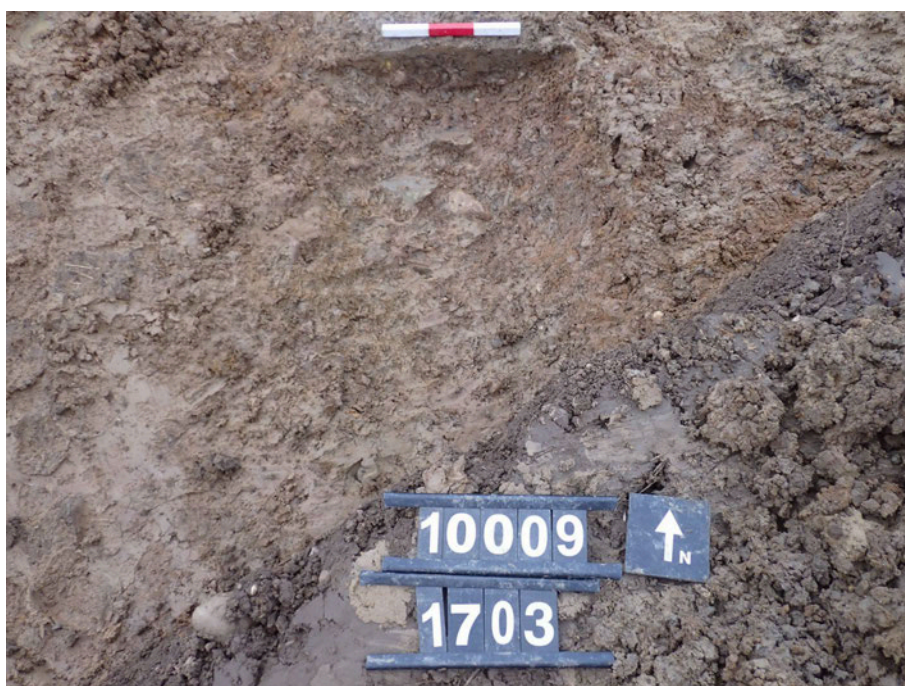




Trench 16:



Trench 17:



Trench 18:



Trench 19:





Trench 20:





Trench 21:



Trench 22:



Trench 23:



Trench 24:



Trench 25:



Trench 26:



Trench 27:



Trench 28:



Trench 29:



Trench 30:



Trench 31:





Trench 32:



Trench 33:



Trench 34:





Trench 35:





Trench 36:



Trench 37:



Trench 38:



Figure:

Please note: apparent features in archaeologically blank features represent soil characteristics noted on initial excavation which proved not to be archaeological in nature upon further investigation.

FIGURES

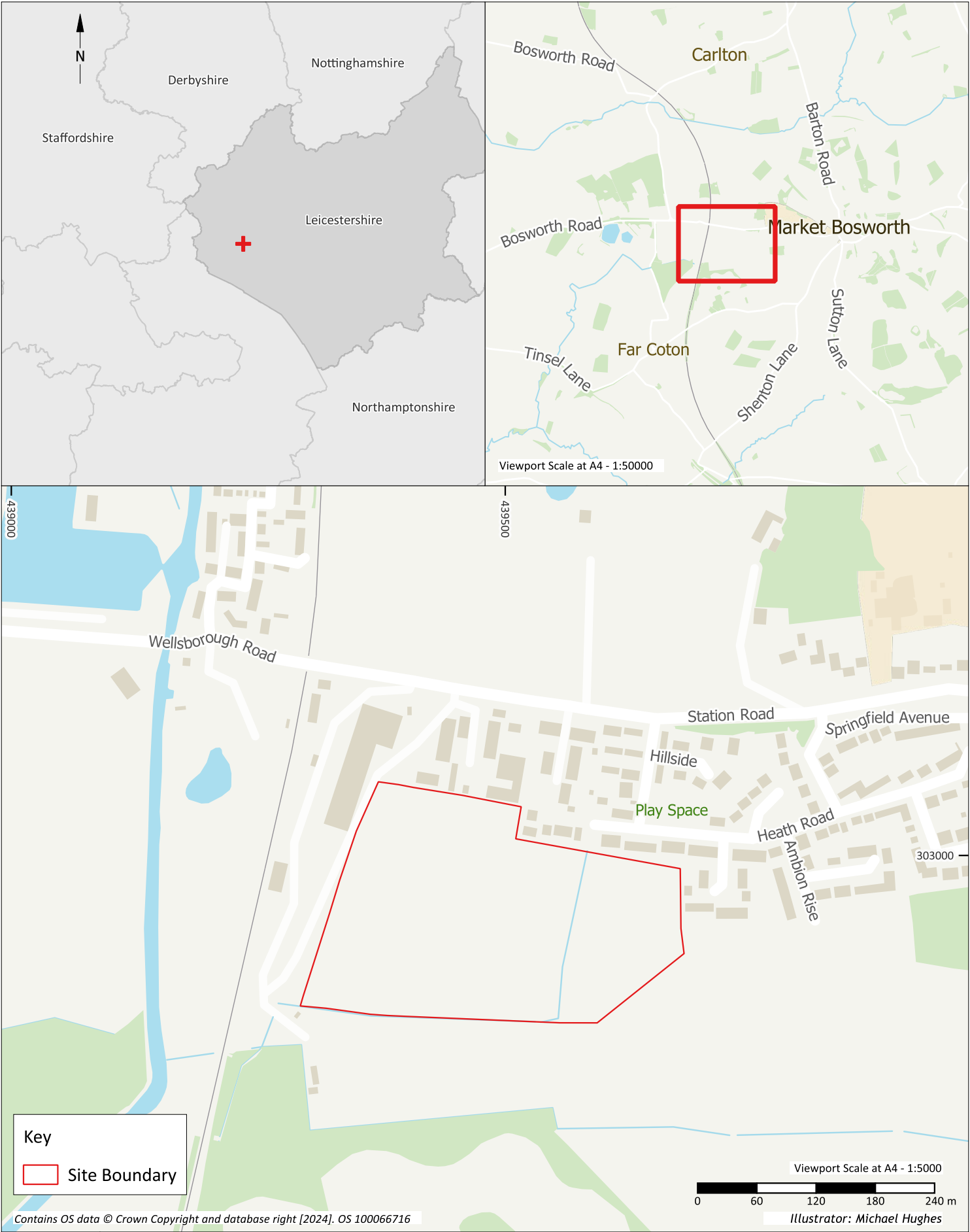
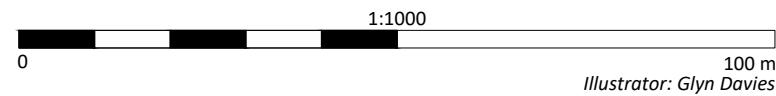


Figure 01 - Location Map
10009 - Market Bosworth Evaluation



KEY

- Site Boundary
- Arch. Trench
- Blank Trench
- Modern
- Phase 00: Post-med/Furrows
- Phase 00: Undated



Illustrator: Glyn Davies



Figure 02 - Site Plan
10009 - Market Bosworth Evaluation