



Big Dig 2022

For a couple of days last month Bosworth Links became Carlton Links, and boy what a great time we had.

We wanted to carry on the fun and time traveling discovery after Bosworth Links in 2017 to 2019. Market Bosworth is a market town and the hub for a number of local villages. Not so obvious now but when I was a boy we had a hospital, Bosworth Park Infirmary. Our own Council, Market Bosworth Urban District Council now of course part of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. We had our own Fire Station, Doctor's Surgery (still do thankfully) and a Police Station. We even had our own Magistrates Court, Petrol Station, and a Co-operative store, which at the time was probably near to being a supermarket as we know them

today. There were also a variety of shops from butchers (three at one time) a bakery, greengrocer's and a variety of other independent shops and services, such as hairdressers and barbers, the list goes on.

We started Bosworth Links to discover what the history of our settlement was between the end of Roman rule in Britain and the completion of the Domesday Book in 1086. We actually managed to fill in the gaps for 5,000 years and know exactly how Bosworth and later Market Bosworth developed. The question then was, "How did the local villages develop?" Well, the only way to find out was to start digging and search out the answers. The National Lottery Heritage Fund who had supported Bosworth Links came through again and agreed to fund us for another three years of digs.

We could have carried on anywhere but chose Carlton and we could not have chosen better. The residents supported the project in so many ways. Homeowners offered us their lawns and gardens for test pits, Carlton Parish Council offered us their greens, St. Andrews Church was made available to us for meetings and finds washing, a resident offered off road parking for

volunteers and the BBQ was held on another resident's paddock. It was great to see our friends from previous digs mingling and working with new friends from Carlton. Every single volunteer who registered to take part turned up, surely a record! We all had a brilliant two days. Over the page are some photographs of the dig. I cannot fit them all in so have loaded them onto the Society website.

We found, or at least our wonderful volunteers found all manner of interesting and useful finds. There were examples of worked flint, at the moment our earliest finds, and then a range of pottery. Some Roman and some early and late medieval all of which have gone off to the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) for further examination and more accurate identification.

We did not expect to find the number of items we turned up in Market Bosworth, but we were surprised by the number and variety of finds. The full story will be revealed by Mathew our lead Archaeologist in a feedback session scheduled for February next year. I cannot wait to hear the story of Carlton and to see how and where it compares and contrasts with that of Market

Bosworth. Bill Newsinger was also with us and has the makings of another brilliant video. Watch out for news on both here in the coming months. Our next dig will be in April, so hurry and get on-board!





Source: The Graphic, Market Bosworth & District, October 2022, p.23-25.