

# Townsend Lane, Long Lawford, Warwickshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1653

JUNE 2016



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

<b>Project:</b>	Co-op Late Shop, Townsend Lane, Long Lawford, Warwickshire
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	Mark Jones @ Mdg Ltd
<b>Project Report No.</b>	1653
<b>Site Code:</b>	LL16
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	R15/2452
<b>Planning Authority:</b>	Rugby, Warwickshire
<b>Planning Archaeologist:</b>	John Robinson, Warwickshire
<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	SP 47364 76017
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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation consisting of a single trial trench was undertaken on behalf of John Bridges at Heart of England Cooperative Society on the edge of the suspected extent of the medieval settlement, in advance of redevelopment. Two successive linear features of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date aligned parallel to Townsend Lane were recorded. These are likely to have been drainage features which ran close by an area of activity further evidenced by a shallow feature which cut the medieval and post-medieval plough soils. The redevelopment of the Co-op is unlikely to impact on any significant archaeological deposits.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Rugby Borough Council for the construction of a new local convenience store, ancillary customer parking with associated external works, together with the demolition of the existing store and adjacent dwelling at the Co-op Late Shop, Townsend Lane, Long Lawford, Rugby, Warwickshire (R15/2452).

1.2 A planning condition attached to the consent requires that the applicant secures the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire have been commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is located to on the corner of Townsend Lane and School Street, Long Lawford, Rugby, Warwickshire and is centred on National Grid Reference SP 47364 76017. The present character of the site is a local Co-op shop with parking and a triangular patch of grassed land in the northeast section.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Rugby mudstone and limestone bedrock (BGS 2016) with superficial deposits of Wolston Sands and Gravel.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Roman period ditches and other features (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record No. MWA 10276) were discovered to the west of the development site (Fig 1) during work at land to the west of the Caldecott Arms (EWA 7407/7674). At this time there was an indication that settlement may have continued into the Anglo-Saxon period as two sherds of pottery of this date were also found (MWA 10277). Further features may have been medieval, but secure dating was absent (MWA 9847).

3.2 The development site is to the east of the probable extent of the medieval settlement of Long Lawford (MWA 9526). Archaeological work within the settlement has uncovered medieval and post – medieval remains: A medieval gully was found at Land to the north of Bailey's lane in 2015 (Gethin 2015). Extensive post-medieval features were found on land adjacent to 6 Chapel Street (MWA 12844/EWA 9734) to the west of the development site and quarry pit activity was noted at no 28 Chapel Street (EWA 9161).

3.3 At the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887-1889 the development site was part of a field (Fig 2). The presence of ridge and furrow earthworks to the south (MWA 13057) could indicate that the site had been in agricultural use from at least the medieval period.

3.4 Other monuments recorded on the HER include:-

MWA 12651	Holbrook Grange Garden
MWA 12675	Undated ditch at Back Lane
MWA 20043	Clayhill Lane Ford Bridge
MWA 3480	Church of St John
MWA 3486	Primitive Methodist Chapel
MWA 3487	Site of Smithy
MWA 3488	Methodist Chapel
MWA 9847	Undated features at Caldecott Arms
MWA 7563	London to Birmingham Railway

3.5 A number of other archaeological investigations have taken place within the 500m search area:-

EWA 10041	Turning the plough update
EWA 9347	Watching brief at Country Inn

EWA 9632	Visit to Holbrook Grange
EWA 9658	Trial trenching north of Back Lane
EWA 9979	Negative Watching brief STW scheme
EWA 10137	Negative watching brief at Sunrise, School Street

3.6 There are a number of Listed Buildings within the village:-

**NHLE List Entry No Name**

1365094	Avon Lodge
1034909	The Den
1299647	Church of St John

## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains in the area to be developed; to form an understanding of their value and their potential to shed light on the subsequent development of the area.

4.2 Secondary aims include placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.

4.3 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.

4.4 A single trench 19m long & 1.80m wide was excavated using a JCB excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and other plough soils were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist until either the top of archaeological remains or geological natural was reached.

## 5 RESULTS

5.1 The geological natural consisting of light brown orange gravels and sand (102) was first encountered at 88.031m aOD. Overlying the natural was a 0.62m thick sandy silt layer of former plough soil (101) which probably developed in the medieval and post-medieval periods.

5.2 An east-west aligned ditch 105, with moderate to steep sides and rounded base, 0.77m wide and 0.31m deep (Fig 3, Photos 1 & 2) cut through 101 and was filled with dark grey brown sandy clay silt (106) with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small rounded pebbles.

5.3 Ditch 105 was cut by east-west aligned gully 103, which had steep sides and slightly rounded base, 0.70m wide and 0.16m deep. This was filled by grey-brown sandy clay silt with occasional pebbles (104).

5.4 In the northwest end of the trench a shallow cut 108 containing dark grey brown sandy silt with rounded pebbles and brick inclusions (107) did not penetrate the natural geology.

5.5 The trench was sealed with sandy clay silt topsoil (100).

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The deposit sequence across the trench is broadly that of a ploughed field cut by a sequence of linear features containing 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds. The tithe map of 1846 depicts such a field, albeit without any internal boundary features. Such maps seldom show drainage features and thus it seems most likely that the ditch and gully recorded were drainage features. The shallow cut 108 in the north-west part of the trench might be taken to imply that some localised activity was undertaken in this vicinity.

6.2 The archaeological evaluation has successfully established that no significant archaeological deposits are likely to be disturbed by the re-development of the Co-op.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mark Jones for facilitating the project. Thanks also due to Wayne from B-Line for his assistance.

## REFERENCES

BGS British Geological Survey 2016 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>? Accessed May 2016

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Gethin, B 2015      *Land to the North of Bailey's Lane, Long Lawford, Warwickshire, Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1562

Landmark 2003      First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887-9 1:2500, digital edition





1. Gully 103 and ditch 105



2. Gully 103 and ditch 105

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	100	Dark black sand clay silt	Topsoil
1	101	Mid grey brown sandy silt	Subsoil Layer
1	102	Light brown orange gravels & sand	Geological Natural
1	103	Linear cut	Gully 18 <sup>th</sup> Century
1	104	Mid grey brown sandy clay silt with occasional small stones	Fill of 103
1	105	Linear cut	Ditch 18 <sup>th</sup> Century
1	106	Dark grey brown sandy clay silt with frequent charcoal & occasional stones	Fill of ditch 105
1	107	Dark grey brown sandy silt with rounded stones & brick inclusions	Fill of 108
1	108	Cut within 101	

### B List of finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
104	Pottery	3	19 <sup>th</sup> Century
104	Bone	1	Animal Bone
104	Glass	1	19 <sup>th</sup> Century?
106	Pottery	4	18 <sup>th</sup> Century
106	Pottery	1	19 <sup>th</sup> Century
106	Bone	3	Animal Bone



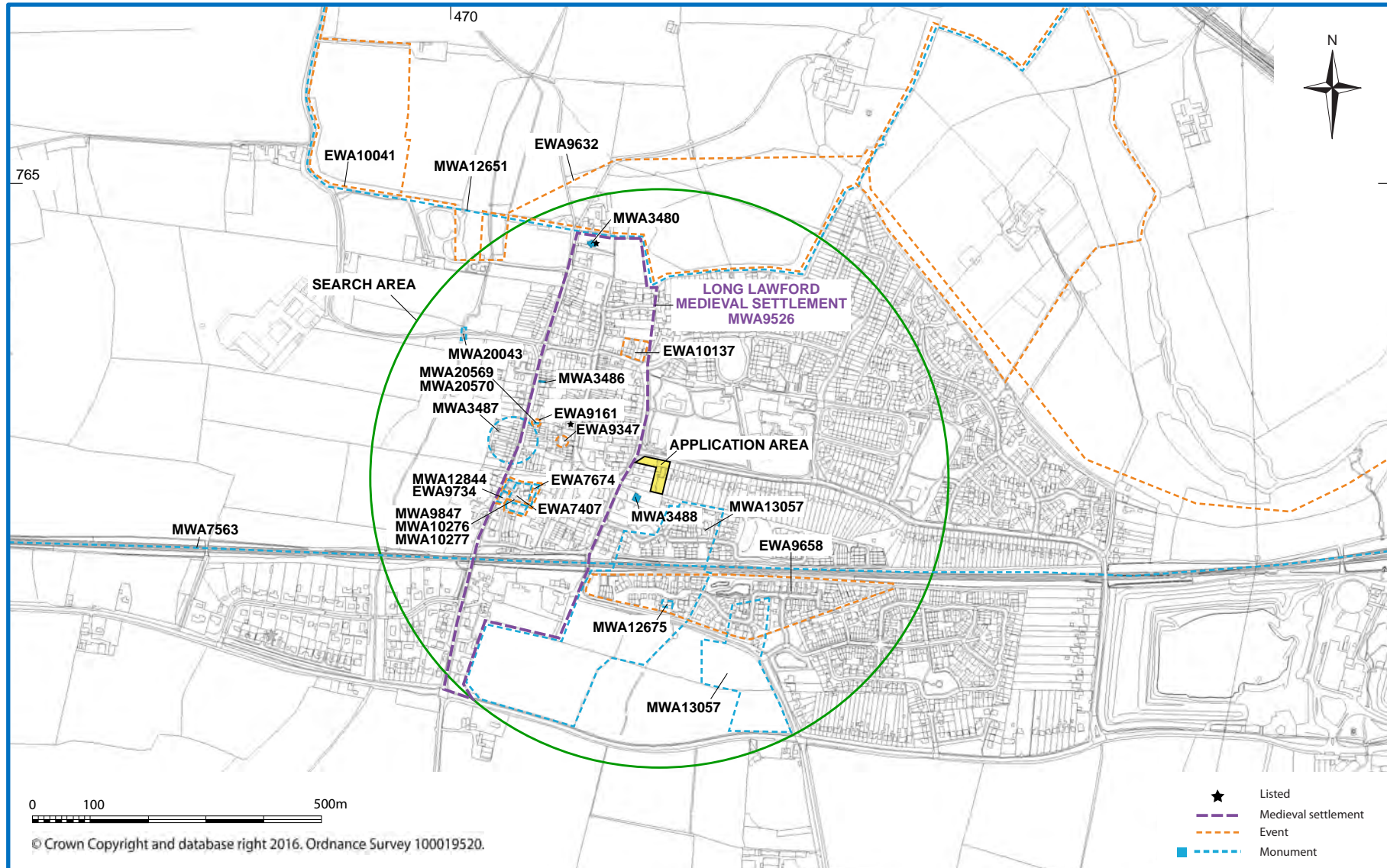


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

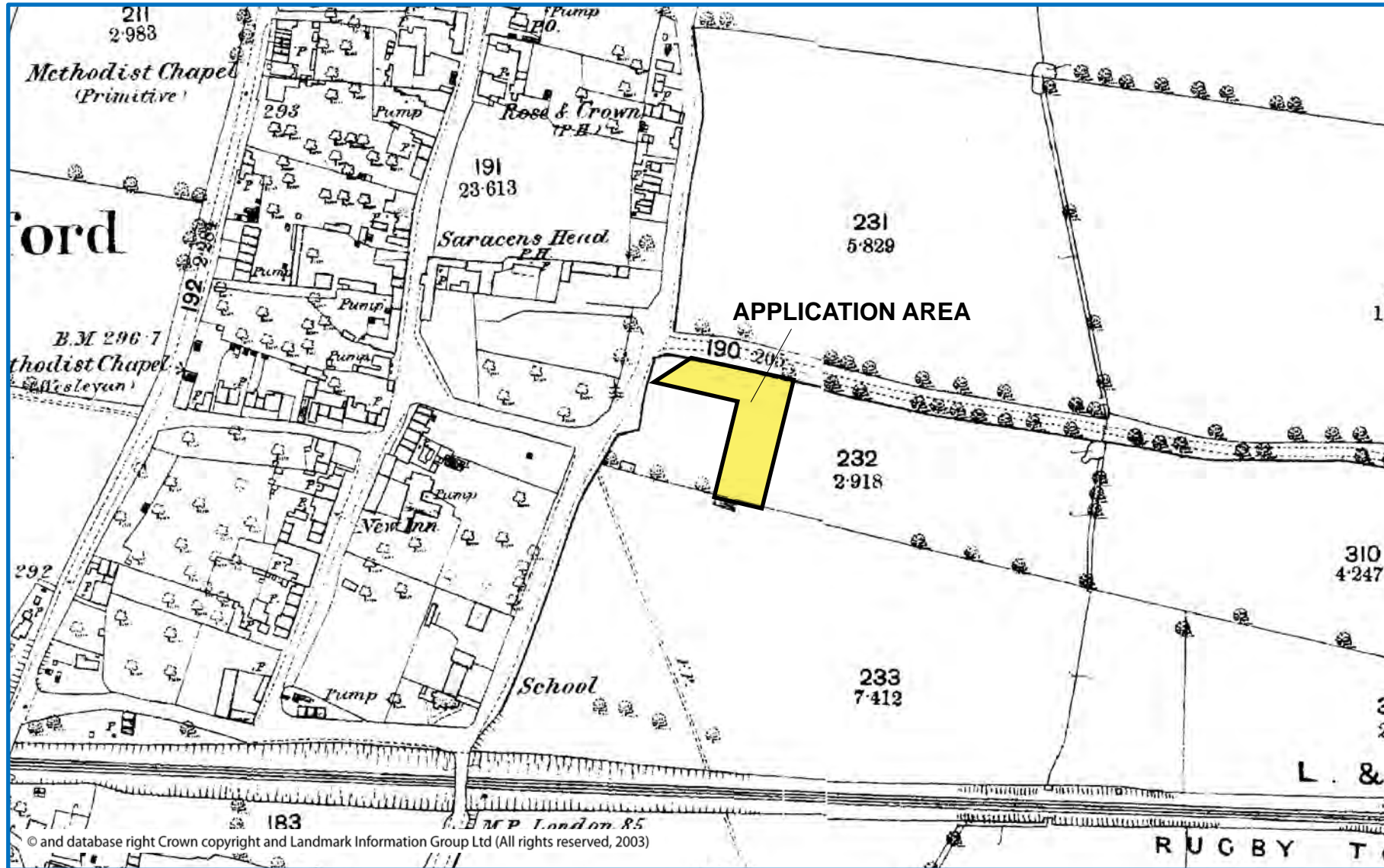


Fig 2: Detail of First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887-9

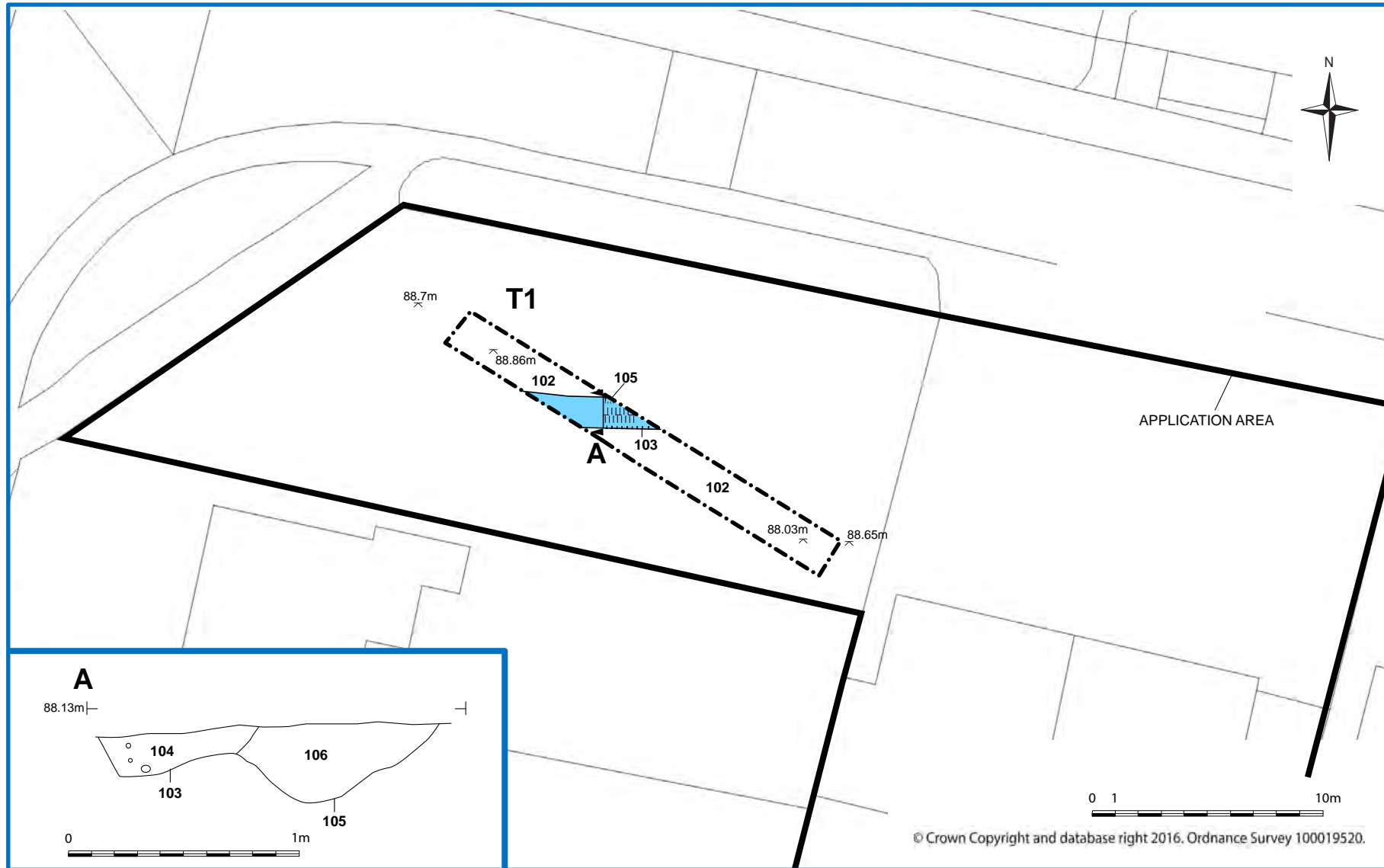


Fig 3: Detail of trench and section A