

Land at Lichfield Road, Kings Bromley, Staffordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1558

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation on behalf of Cameron Homes consisting of a geophysical survey followed by the excavation of 10 trial trenches revealed evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation aligned N-S across the site but no other significant archaeological deposits or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Lichfield District Council for the construction of 16 new dwellings at Land at Lichfield Road, Kings Bromley. The site lies in an area of archaeological potential near to the River Trent and there is a possibility that archaeological deposits could be disturbed or exposed by the development.

1.2 It is a condition of planning permission that, before the development commences, the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority. This report presents the results of that work. The archaeological archive will be deposited at the Potteries Museum under Site Code SKB15.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The development site is located on the southern edge of King's Bromley. It is adjacent to the Conservation Area but not within it (Fig 1). The 0.71ha site is currently grassland.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Mercia Mudstone with sand and gravel deposits associated with the River Trent overlying it (BGS 2015).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The development site lies to the south of the River Trent. Cropmark evidence for prehistoric settlement along the Trent has been identified using aerial photography. There is an extensive multi-phase site 250m to the south of the development area (MST 1489). A prehistoric pit- alignment to the east of King's Bromley has now been built over (MST20857), (Not on Fig 1).

3.2 A Romano-British site was excavated to the west of King's Bromley in 1969 (EST1339/MST2648).

3.2 King's Bromley or *Bromelei* was held by King Harold prior to Domesday (1086) after which it was held by King William. At Domesday the settlement comprised around 15 households (opendomesday.org). According to the First Edition Ordnance survey map of 1884 (Landmark 2003) the historic core of the settlement of Kings Bromley lies mainly along the west/east road of Manor Road or Alrewas Road. This is now a conservation area. There is cropmark evidence for field boundaries to the north of the road (MST20574) and the Church of All Saints dates to the 11th century (MST936).

3.3 The development site lies to the south of the historic core and is adjacent to the conservation area. Map evidence does suggest that the development site lie within the open fields in the medieval period and was in agricultural use until the present day. The remains of the deserted medieval settlement known of Crawley can be found 250m to the south of the site (MST3127). The regular field pattern suggests planned enclosure in the 18th/19th century. The geophysical survey was able to identify ploughed out ridge and furrow across the site which also suggests the site was agricultural fields between two settlements from the medieval period onwards (Figs 1, 2). The geophysical survey did not identify any potentially earlier features.

3.4 The original part of the adjacent school was built as a house in the late 18th century (MST 10094). To the west of the development site lies the post-medieval landscaped park associated with the Manor House at Kings Bromley (MST 6225).

3.5 Other Monuments within the search area include:-

- MST20859 Trackway at Crawley
- MST3128 Trackway or pre-inclosure road
- MST20861 Post-medieval field boundary
- MST16397 Find Spot of copper object
- MST16211 Find Spot of pendant

3.6 There are a number of Listed and Locally Listed buildings within King's Bromley. The earliest of these date to the 16th and 17th centuries and are timber framed in the vernacular style.

3.7 Other than the excavation of the Roman settlement there has been very little archaeological work in the area; A study of the timber framing of no 1 Lichfield Road was carried out in 1991 (EST1584) and the earthworks at Crawley were inspected in 1983 (EST2434).

3.8 A geophysical survey was completed across the development area in June 2015. The results indicate the site once was covered by ridge and furrow (Slater 2015) and has been used to influence the positioning of the proposed trench array.

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.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The remains of furrows were removed and no significant archaeological features were noted in the trenches. Typically the deposition sequence across the site was 0.2m of light brown silty sand ploughsoil overlain by 0.15-0.18m of topsoil. Two 20th century pits were noted but were not excavated.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evaluation has established that other than the N-S aligned ridge and furrow and 20th century pits, there was no evidence for human activity across the development site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Landmark 2003a First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884, 1:2500, digital version.

Landmark 2003b Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1902, 1:2500, digital version.

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Slater J 2015 Geophysical Survey Report, Kings Bromley, Staffordshire, J8541



1. Trench 9



2. Trenches

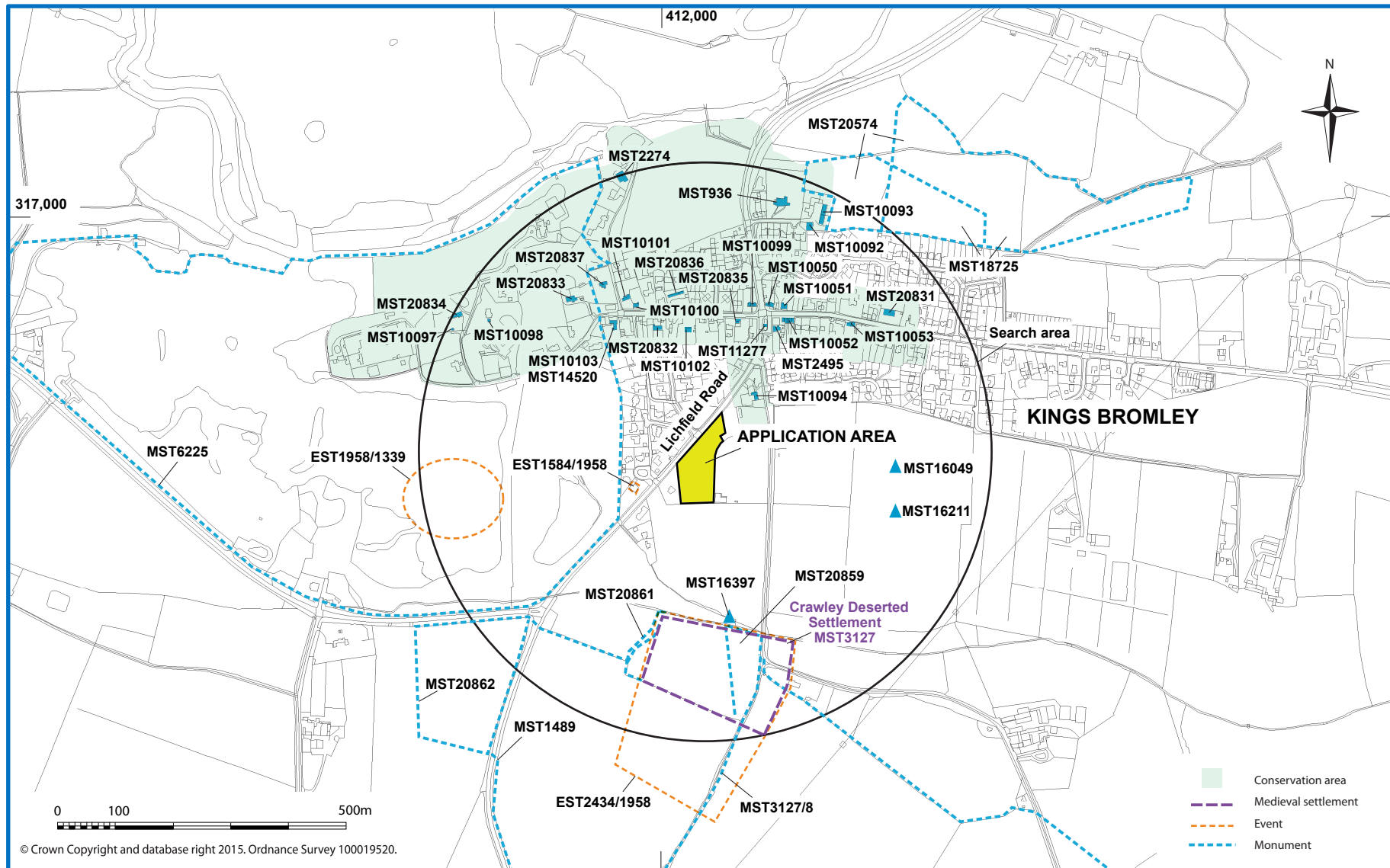
APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Depth m or AOD</i>
1	100	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.18
1	101	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.2
1	102	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	
1	103	Sub-rectangular pit, Unexcavated	Pit, 20 th century	
1	104	Greyish brown sandy loam, flower pot, bottle glass, brick	Fill of 103 with 20 th century material in	
2	200	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.15
2	201	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.2
2	202	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	
3	300	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.18
3	301	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.18
3	302	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	
4	400	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.17
4	401	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.2
4	402	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	

5	500	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.18
5	501	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.2
5	502	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	
6	600	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.15
6	601	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.2
6	602	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	
7	700	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	
7	701	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.18
7	702	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	0.2
8	800	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.18
8	801	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.18
8	802	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	
8	803	Sub round pit, not excavated	Pit 20 th century	
8	804	Greyish brown silty sand, 20 th century bricks	Fill of 804 with 20 th century bricks	
9	900	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.15
9	901	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.18
9	902	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	

10	1000	Mid greyish brown silty sand	Topsoil	0.15
10	1001	Light brown silty sand	Ploughsoil	0.2
10	1002	Yellowish brown sand and gravel	Geological Natural	



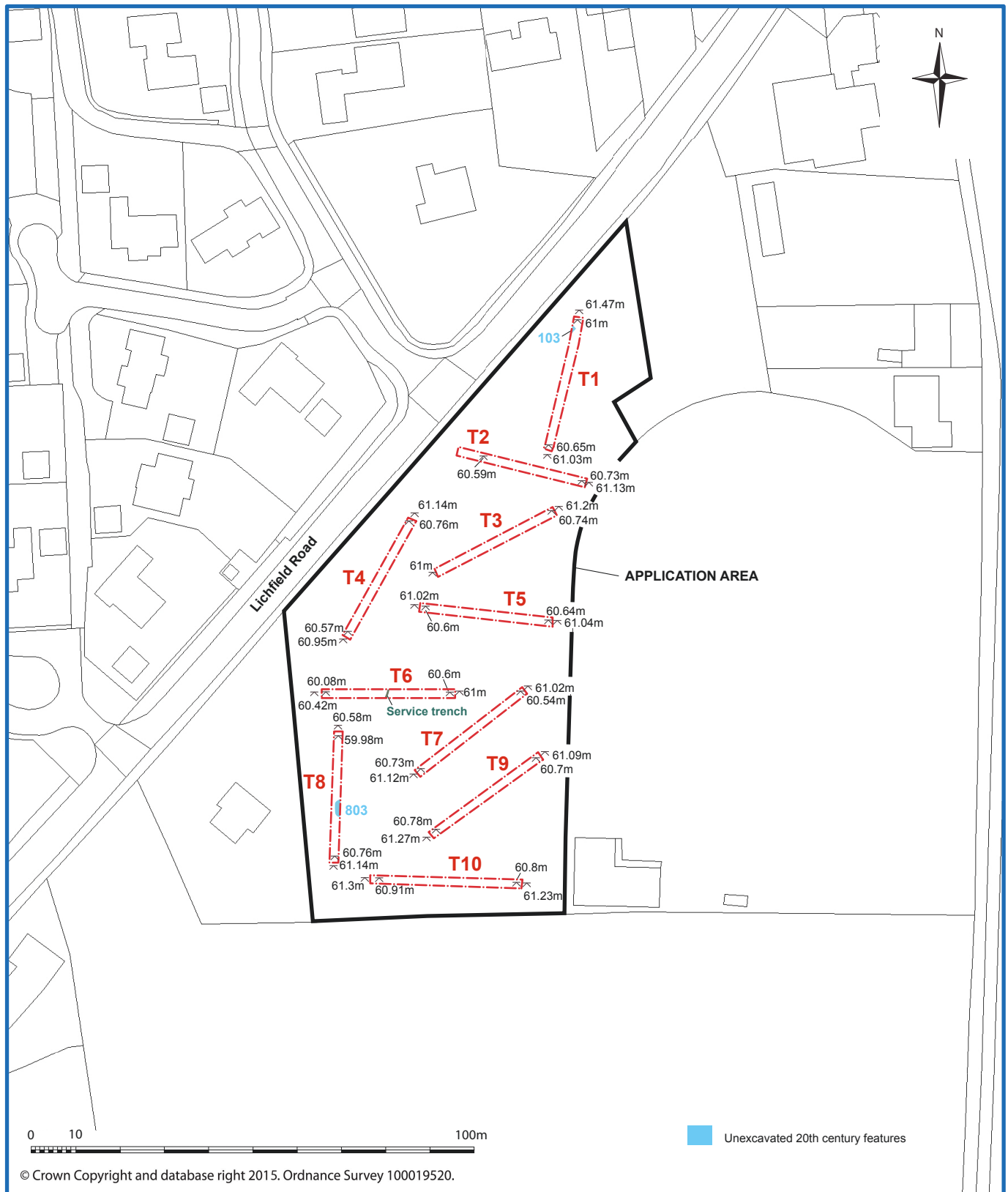


Fig 2: Location of excavated trenches