

Land off Coton Lane and Main Street Rosliston Derbyshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1777

SEPTEMBER 2017



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project:	Coton Lane, Rosliston
Commissioned by:	Nasrin Hussain @ RJK projects Lts
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Planning Authority:	South Derbyshire
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National Grid Reference:	SK 2471 1629
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1	Location of application area
2	Trial trenches

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation, consisting of two trial trenches, was undertaken on behalf of RTK Projects Ltd and Maplevale Developments Ltd prior to a housing development at land off Coton Lane and Main Street, Rosliston, Derbyshire. The site lies to the south of the medieval village in an area where potential earthworks were identified on aerial photographs.

No archaeological remains were found in either of the trenches suggesting that the features shown on aerial photographs were superficial and not archaeologically significant.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Outline planning permission has been granted by South Derbyshire District Council for the residential development of up to 24 dwellings on land at Coton Lane, Rosliston, Swadlincote, Derbyshire.
- 1.2 A planning condition attached to the consent requires that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority.
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation which was carried out on the 13th September 2017. This report presents the results of that work. This work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for field evaluation (2014).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The application area is centred on National Grid Reference SK 2471 1629 on the southern edge of the village of Rosliston in Derbyshire. The development site is 0.98ha of grassland. There are two overhead powerlines crossing the field which connect to the electricity substation on the eastern edge of the site.

- 2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is Mercia mudstone with overlying superficial deposits of glacial sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2017).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A detailed background to the site was provided in the archaeological desk-based assessment (Sidebottom 2015) which was submitted with the application. The assessment noted that Prehistoric flint scatters have been found to the south of the development site, around the village of Coton in the Elms.

- 3.2 The site lies to the south of the medieval village of Rosliston and probably lay within the open fields surrounding the settlement. Map regression from the desk-based assessment showed that the site was undeveloped from at least the 18th century and there is evidence for medieval and later ridge and furrow ploughing in the surrounding fields.

- 3.3 Across the site, linear features are apparent on an aerial photograph from 2007 (Google Earth). The features are not shown on any existing maps. They could relate to agricultural closes or similar activity but they remain undated.

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 The two 30m trenches were opened up by a 360 excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide 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 Trenches 1 and 2 were 30m long and 1.60m wide. Trench 1 was orientated NE-SW and Trench 2 was NNE-SSW (Fig 2).

Geological Natural

- 5.2 The natural consisted of yellowish brown sand and gravel and was encountered in all the trenches, at a depth of between c. 0.40m and 0.48m

Deposit Sequence

- 5.3 A layer of greyish brown silty sand overlay the natural in both trenches and was 0.2m - 0.3m deep. It was overlain by dark greyish brown sandy loam topsoil which was 0.18 - 0.2m deep. These layers are likely to represent agricultural soils.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has established that no archaeological deposits will be disturbed by the proposed development.

- 6.2 It is possible that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period; a conclusion which is based on a lack of evidence for settlement rather than empirical evidence in the form of historic plough furrows.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Nasrin Hussain for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

BGS British Geological Survey 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> Accessed June 2017

Sidebotton, P, 2015 An Archaeological desktop Assessment of land off Coton Lane and Main Street, Rosliston, Derbyshire.



1: Trench 1 looking SW



2: Trench 2 Looking NNE

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	100	Dark greyish brown sandy loam	0.18-0.20	Topsoil
1	101	Greyish brown silty sand	0.25-0.3	Subsoil
1	102	Yellowish brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
2	200	Dark greyish brown sandy loam	0.2	Topsoil
2	201	Greyish brown silty sand	0.25	Subsoil
2	202	Yellowish brown sand and gravel		Geological natural

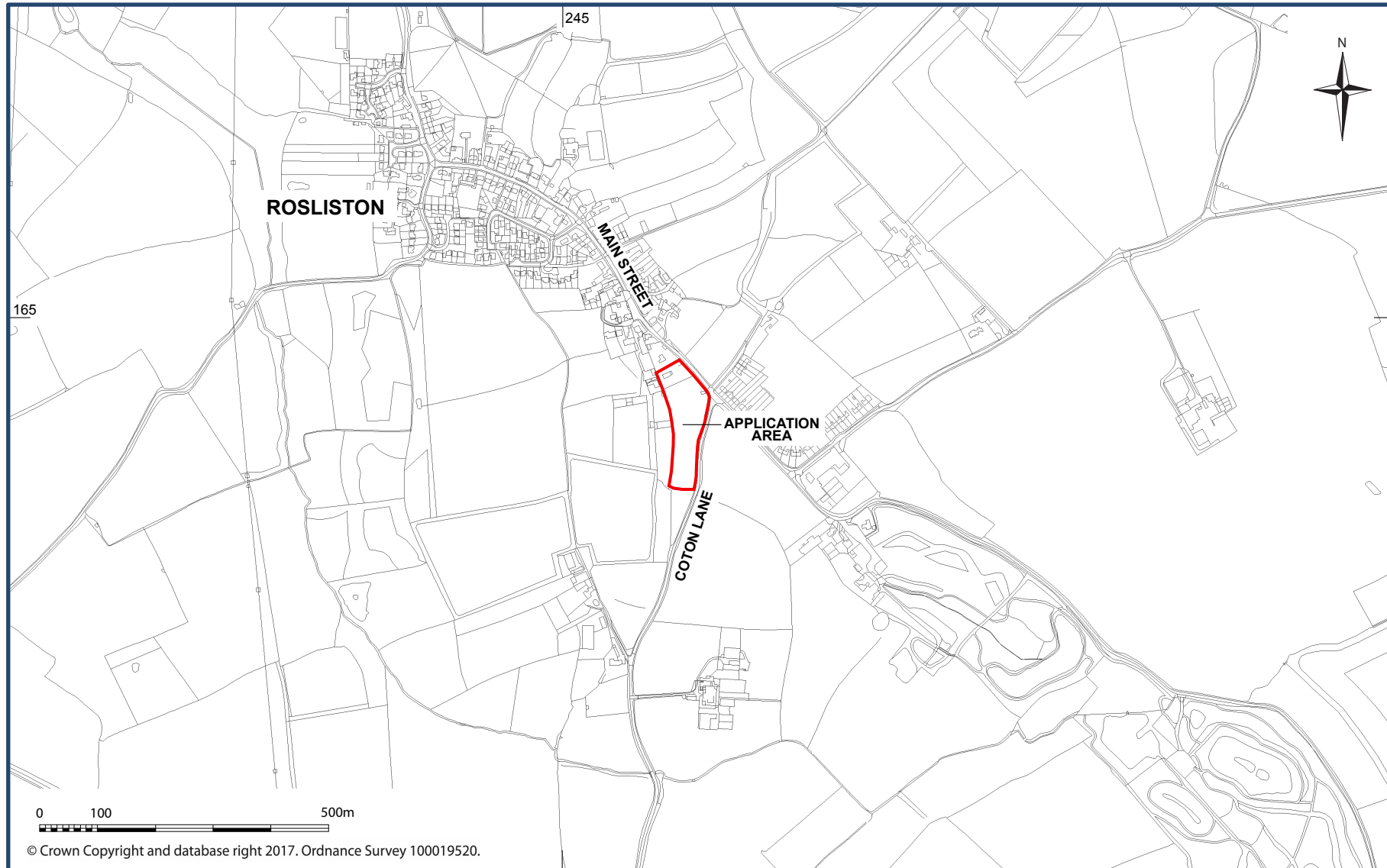


Fig 1: Location of application area

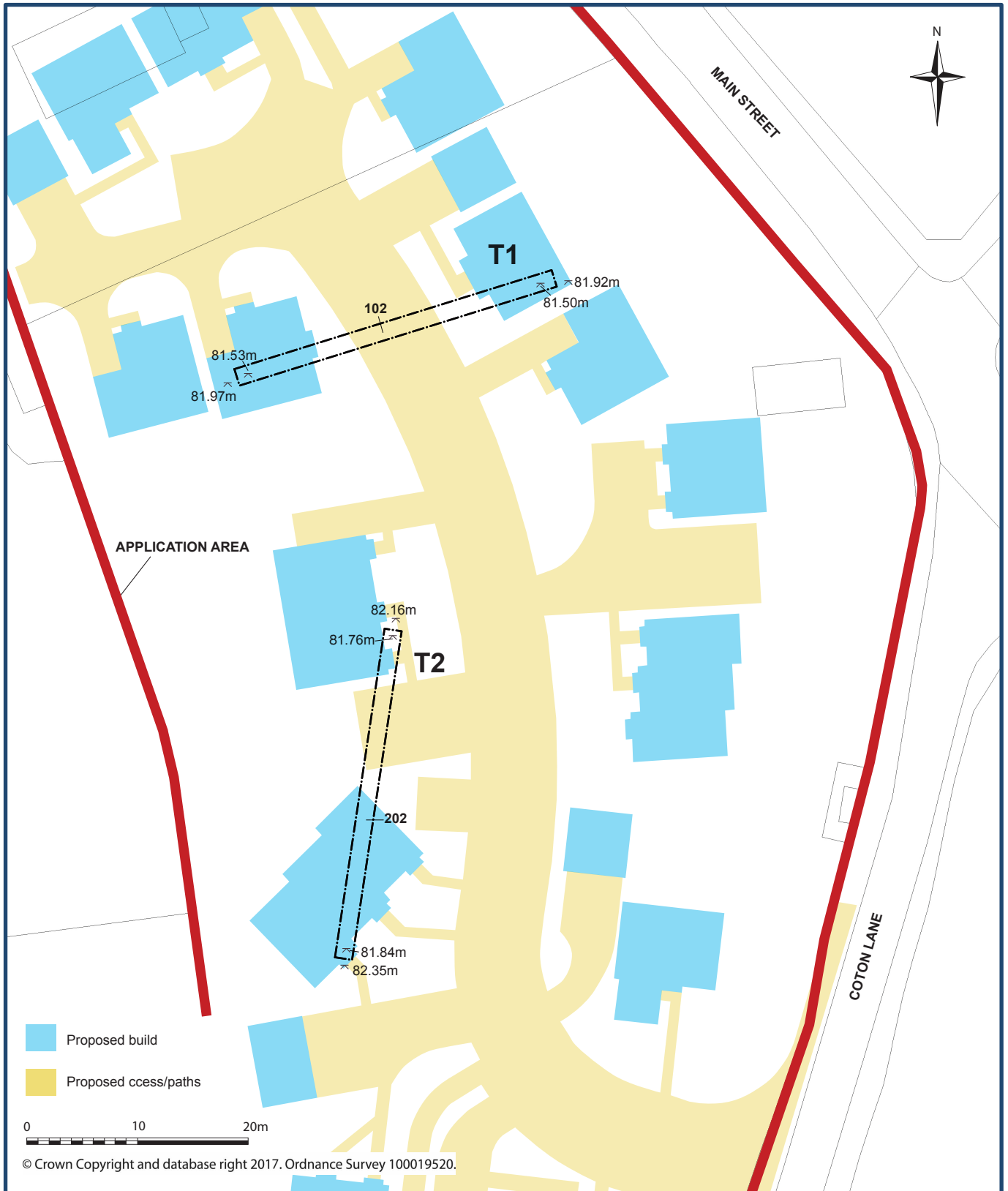


Fig 2: Location of excavated trenches