

# Land North of Butt Lane Woodville Leicestershire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT**

**Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1877 v.2**

**September 2018**



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Butt Lane, Woodville, Leicestershire  
**Commissioned by:** Orbit Homes  
**Site Code:** LWB18  
**Accession number:** X.A137.2018  
**Planning Reference:** 15/01078/OUTM  
**Planning Authority:** North West Leicestershire  
**National Grid Reference:** SK 3226 1867  
**Planning Archaeologist:** Richard Clark @ Leicestershire County Council  
**Project Manager:** Nigel Page MCI fA  
**Fieldwork:** Laurence Jones MCI fA, Bob Burrows BA  
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**Fieldwork Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
**Report reference:** Page N, 2018 *Land north of Butt Lane, Woodville, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1877 v.2

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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation, comprising nineteen 50m x 1.8m trial trenches, was carried out on behalf of Orbit Homes on a large plot of land north of Butt Lane, Woodville, Leicestershire. Geological natural sand, gravel and clay was exposed in all trenches but no archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Outline planning permission has been granted by North West Leicestershire District Council for the development of a plot of land for residential development north of Butt Lane, Woodville, Leicestershire, DE11 7BY (Planning Ref. 15/01078/OUTM). It was a requirement of planning permission that a programme of trial trenching be carried prior to the development, in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation which had been approved by the Planning Authority.
- 1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with the approved WSI, which took place in September 2018. This report presents the results of that work.
- 1.3 The project 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 3226 1867 in the south-east part of the village of Woodville (the majority of which is in Derbyshire), within the parish of Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire. The site is located on the northern side of Butt Lane, on the eastern side of Hepworth Road and is bounded on its north side by the backs of the houses along Ashby Road. There is open farmland on its east side.
  
- 2.2 The site slopes considerably from north to south with a drop of over 14m from the north-west corner to the south-east corner and there are a number of large hollows across the site (Photos 1 and 2).
  
- 2.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is described in a Geotechnical Study of the site (BSP Consulting) as mudstone of the 'Sneinton Formation' from the Triassic Mercia Mudstone Group with a geological fault, the Blackfordby Fault, extending across the central area of the site. The south-western part of the site is underlain by the Carboniferous Lower Coal Measures. Mine entrances are known from just outside the south-east corner of the site.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The site sits within an area of known archaeological potential, although, there are no known heritage assets within the proposed development site. A search of the Leicestershire (LHER) and Derbyshire (DHER) Historic Environment Records returned a total of 54 known heritage sites and four Listed Buildings within 1km of the site (Fig 1). The searches also returned 16 records of previous archaeological works within the 1km search area. Only those sites or previous works that are relevant to this evaluation and that may have impacted on or influenced the former use of the site are mentioned below.
- 3.2 There are no known prehistoric or Roman sites within the search area and the only medieval sites recorded are associated with the village of Blackfordby c.800m to the south-east of the site.
- 3.3 The site is bounded on its southern side by the former Blackfordby Mine (LHER MLE22386) that was shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey maps as extracting coal and clay. The mine was abandoned by 1925 and the area is now grassed over and partially developed. No features associated with the mine were recorded within the site itself, but an engine house was shown to the north of the site fronting onto the road on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map. This was recorded on the 2nd Edition map as a Pumping Station belonging to Swadlincote District Council, which was probably associated with a former reservoir that stood alongside the road to the northeast of the site. By 1925 the Pumping Station had gone and some of the current housing that forms the northern boundary of the site had been built.
- 3.4 Archaeological works associated with the large scale development of the former Woodville Woodland site on the west side of Hepworth Road included a desk-based assessment (LHER ELE4974: DHER EDR2542) that concluded that the area had been extensively worked for clay and included the Albion works (which made salt-glazed pipes) and the Boothorpe brickworks. Archaeological evaluation of the Woodville Woodlands site (LHER ELE3583 and ELE5392: DHER EDR3771) revealed no features of archaeological interest.
- 3.5 The site slopes steeply from north to south, which meant it was not readily suitable for occupation or many other activities other than agriculture or possibly mining.

## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The 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. The information gathered will be used to assess the potential impacts of the development on any surviving archaeological remains and to determine the requirement for further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development.
- 4.2 Nineteen trenches were opened up by a 360° excavator fitted with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket to provide a 5% sample area of the site.
- 4.3 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

### Geological Natural

- 5.1 The geological natural across the site was dark yellow brown sand and gravel, which in some areas was mixed with red clay (Photo 3). It was exposed at a varying depth of between 0.3m along the northern half of the site and 0.9m in the lower southern half of the site. Trenches 13, 17 and 18 contained hollows in the natural, with those recorded in Trenches 17 and 18 being parts of the same large hollow (Photo 4). The hollows had filled with silty clay, presumably through natural silting and erosion, although the hollow in Trenches 17 and 18 also contained 19th-century pottery suggesting there had been some attempt at filling and raising the ground level.

### Deposit Sequence

- 5.2 Where not disturbed by anthropogenic activity, the gravel substrate was directly overlain by a simple sequence of subsoil brown sandy silt subsoil overlaid by topsoil.

### Archaeological Features

- 5.3 No archaeological features were recorded in any of the trenches, although it is possible the hollows in Trenches 13, 17 and 18 were small exploration pits associated with the Blackfordby Mine just to the south of the site.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded on the site, but it is possible that three hollows recorded in the south-east part of the site may have been small pits associated with the former Blackfordby Mine that was active during the 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 6.2 It is probable that the site, which sloped steeply from north to south, was never suitable for occupation, or activity beyond agriculture and possibly small-scale excavation of clay.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Harry Tarrant of Orbit Homes for commissioning the work and Richard Clark at Leicestershire County Council for representing the planning authority.

## REFERENCES

BGS British Geological Survey *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed July 2018.

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	100	Dark grey brown sandy silt	0.3-0.35	Topsoil
1	101	Yellow brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
2	200	Dark brown slightly clay sandy silt	0.35	Topsoil
2	201	Yellow brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
3	300	Dark brown slightly clay sandy silt	0.30	Topsoil
3	301	Yellow brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
4	400	Dark brown slightly clay sandy silt	0.35	Topsoil
4	401	Yellow brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
5	500	Dark brown slightly clay sandy silt	0.33	Topsoil
5	501	Yellow brown sand		Geological natural
6	600	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.35	Topsoil
6	601	Light brown silty sand	0.25	Subsoil
6	602	Yellow brown sand		Geological natural
7	700	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
7	701	Light brown silty sand	0.20	Subsoil
7	702	Yellow brown sand		Geological natural
8	800	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.32	Topsoil
8	801	Yellow brown silty sand		Geological natural
9	900	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.35	Topsoil
9	901	Yellow brown silty sand		Geological natural

		and stiff red clay		
10	1000	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
10	1001	Light brown silty sand	0.40	Subsoil
10	1002	Yellow brown sand		Geological natural
11	1100	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
11	1101	Light brown silty sand	0.40	Subsoil
11	1102	Yellow brown sand and bands of red brown clay		Geological natural
12	1200	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
12	1201	Light brown silty sand	0.50	Subsoil
12	1202	Yellow brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
13	1300	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
13	1301	Light brown silty sand	0.50	Subsoil
13	1302	Yellow brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
13	1303	Dark grey silty clay	0.30	Upper fill of hollow
13	13-4	Light grey clay silt	0.30	Lower fill of hollow
13	1305	26.5m wide x 1.15m deep		Hollow in geological natural
14	1400	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.20-0.30	Topsoil
14	1401	Light brown silty sand	0.20-0.40	Subsoil
14	1402	Yellow brown sand and gravel		Geological natural
15	1500	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
15	1501	Light brown silty sand	0.20	Subsoil
15	1502	Yellow brown sand		Geological natural
16	1600	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
16	1601	Light brown silty sand	0.10	Subsoil, only at north end

16	1602	Yellow brown sand and areas of red brown clay		Geological natural
17	1700	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
17	1701	Light brown silty sand	0.50	Subsoil
17	1702	Yellow brown sand and areas of red brown clay		Geological natural
17	1703	Light grey silty clay	Not fully excavated	Lower fill of hollow
17	1704	Dark grey silty clay	Not fully excavated	Fill of hollow (contained 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery)
17	1705	21m wide x 0.7m+ deep		Hollow in geological natural. Same as 1804
17	1706	Red brown sandy silt	0.30	Upper fill of hollow
18	1800	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
18	1801	Dark grey silty sand with patches of red brown clay	Not fully excavated	Upper fill of hollow
18	1802	Light brown silty sand	0.50	Subsoil
18	1803	Yellow brown sand and areas of red brown clay		Geological natural
18	1804	21m wide by 0.5m+ deep		Hollow in geological natural Same as 1705
19	1900	Dark brown slightly clay silty sand	0.30	Topsoil
19	1901	Light brown silty sand	0.25- 0.40	Subsoil
19	1902	Yellow brown sand and bands of red brown clay		Geological natural

## B Leicestershire and Derbyshire Historic Environment records

### *Leicestershire HER*

HER number	Description
MLE4318	Medieval village earthworks, Blackfordby
MLE4319	St. Margaret's chapel
MLE15125	15 Main Street (east side) Blackfordby
MLE15126	The Black Lion public house, Main Street (east side), Blackfordby
MLE15127	Street boundary wall to south of former Blackfordby Hall & opposite churchyard and extension, Main Street (east side)
MLE15128	Well Cottage, Well Lane, Blackfordby
MLE15129	St. Margaret's C. of E. Primary School & schoolhouse attached to St. Margarets' Church of England Primary School, Main Street (west side), Blackfordby
MLE15130	Parish church of St. Margaret of Antioch, Main Street (west side), Blackfordby
MLE15131	The Old House, Main Street (west side), Blackfordby
MLE15132	Street boundary wall at the Old House (inc. wall of northern outbuilding), Main Street (west side), Blackfordby
MLE15133	Butt cottage, 42 Butt Lane (east side), Blackfordby
MLE15756	Blackfordby historic settlement core
MLE16627	Midland Railway, Burton and Ashby Light Railway
MLE16806	The Albion Clay Company Ltd
MLE16807	Boothorpe Brick Works
MLE17020	Old Boothorpe
MLE20654	Turnpike Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch to Burton on Trent
MLE21279	Turnpike Road, Woodville to Donisthorpe and Overseal
MLE22992	Boothorpe Works
MLE23386	Blackfordby Mine
MLE23387	Blackfordby House Farm, Butt Lane, Blackfordby

### *Derbyshire HER*

HER number	Description
MDR2611	The Burton and Ashby Light Railway Bretby, Woodville and Swadlincote
MDR7856	St Stephen's Church, Moira Road, Woodville
MDR7857	site of the Rawdon Pottery, Moira Road, Woodville
MDR7858	site of the Pottery works, High Street, Woodville
MDR7956	Woodville Branch Railway, Swadlincote



<b>MDR7961</b>	site of Coal and clay mine, Woodville
<b>MDR7963</b>	site of Clay Mine, Woodville
<b>MDR7964</b>	site of Ropewalk, Woodville
<b>MDR7965</b>	Former Escolme Pottery Works, High Street, Woodville
<b>MDR7966</b>	site of Butt Windmill, Woodville
<b>MDR7967</b>	site of Clay Mine, Woodville
<b>MDR7968</b>	site of Hartshorn Potteries, Woodville
<b>MDR7969</b>	site of Clay shafts, Woodville
<b>MDR7970</b>	remains of Brunt and Bucknall Brewery, High Street, Woodville
<b>MDR7971</b>	Pottery Works, Woodville
<b>MDR7972</b>	Boothorpe Works, Woodville
<b>MDR7973</b>	site of Pottery, Chapel Street, Woodville
<b>MDR7974</b>	site of Victoria Pottery, Chapel Street, Woodville
<b>MDR7977</b>	site of Mine shaft and pumping house, Woodville
<b>MDR7978</b>	site of Earthenware works / pottery works, Woodville
<b>MDR7981</b>	site of Sanitary pipe works with associated clay pits, Hepworth Road, Woodville
<b>MDR7983</b>	Clay mine and associated tramway. Woodville
<b>MDR7984</b>	site of Pottery works, High Street, Woodville
<b>MDR8016</b>	Coal workings, Woodville Road, Hartshorne
<b>MDR8018</b>	Ridge and furrow, north of High Street, Woodville
<b>MDR8024</b>	Drain north of Ashby Road, Woodville
<b>MDR10612</b>	War Memorial, Woodville
<b>MDR10870</b>	Butt House, 192 High Street, Woodville
<b>MDR12797</b>	Woodville Infant and Junior School, High Street, Woodville
<b>MDR12854</b>	Milepost, Ashby Road, Woodville
<b>MDR13049</b>	site of Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, High Street, Woodville
<b>MDR13052</b>	site of Primitive Methodist Chapel, Chapel Street, Woodville

## Previous archaeological work

### *Leicestershire HER*

HER number	Description
<b>ELE 5409</b>	An archaeological desk study and survey of the Albion, Donington and Moira Sites, Ashby Woulds, Leicestershire
<b>ELE 5407</b>	An archaeological desk study and survey of the Albion site, Ashby Woulds, Leicestershire
<b>ELE 4974</b>	Woodville Woodlands, East Midlands, Archaeological desk-top study
<b>ELE 5392</b>	An archaeological Field Evaluation of land at Woodville Woodlands
<b>ELE 3853</b>	Woodville Woodlands Archaeological Field Evaluation
<b>ELE 7240</b>	Archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Blackfordby Primary School, Main Street, Blackfordby
<b>ELE 7651</b>	Archaeological trial trenching evaluation at St Margaret's Primary School, Blackfordby
<b>ELE 10168</b>	2017 desk-based assessment, land off Hepworth Road, Woodville, Swadlincote
<b>ELE 10381</b>	2017 geophysical survey, Forest Works Factory, Boothorpe
<b>ELE 10496</b>	2018 trial trenching, Forest Works Factory, Boothorpe, Leicestershire

### *Derbyshire HER*

HER number	Description
<b>EDR2542</b>	Desk-based assessment, Woodville Woodlands, by Archaeological Investigations Ltd, in 2000
<b>EDR2545</b>	Survey of "Humps and Hollows", South Street, Woodville by Archaeological Investigations Ltd, in 2006
<b>EDR2845</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment, Woodville Woodlands, by Archaeological Investigations Ltd, in 2000
<b>EDR2996</b>	Building assessment, Former Clock Garage, Woodville, by English Heritage, in 2011
<b>EDR3771</b>	Evaluation and geophysical survey, at Woodville Woodlands, by Archaeological Investigations Ltd, in 2002
<b>EDR2215</b>	Building Survey of Butt House, 192 High Street, Woodville, in 1999 (DBR 232)

C Oasis Form

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No</b> archaeol27-329067
<b>Project name</b>	Land north of Butt Lane, Woodville, Leicestershire	
<b>Short description (250 words max)</b>	An archaeological evaluation, comprising nineteen 50m x 1.8m trial trenches, was carried out on behalf of Orbit Homes on a large plot of land north of Butt Lane, Woodville, Leicestershire. Geological natural sand, gravel and clay was exposed in all trenches but no archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded.	
<b>Project type (Eg DBA, Eval etc)</b>	Evaluation	
<b>Site status (None, NT, SAM etc)</b>	None	
<b>Previous work</b>	No	
<b>Current land use</b>	Grassland 4	
<b>Future work (yes, no, unknown)</b>	No	
<b>Monument type / period</b>	None	
<b>Significant finds (artefact, type, period)</b>	None	
<b>Methods &amp; techniques</b>	Sample trenches	
<b>Development Type</b>	Housing Estate	
<b>Prompt</b>	NPPF	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
<b>County</b>	Leicestershire	
<b>Site address (inc postcode)</b>	Land north of Butt Lane, Woodville, Leicestershire, DE11 7BY	
<b>Study area (sq.m or ha)</b>		
<b>OS Easting &amp; Northing</b>	SK 3226 1867	
<b>Height OD</b>		
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
<b>Organisation</b>	Archaeology Warwickshire	
<b>Project brief originator</b>	Richard Clark	
<b>Project design originator</b>	Nigel Page	
<b>Director/supervisor</b>	Nigel Page	
<b>Manager</b>		
<b>Sponsor or funding body</b>	Landowner	
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>		
<b>Start date /end date</b>	10th to 12th September 2018	
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Location (Accession no)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
<b>Physical</b>	none	
<b>Paper</b>	Leicestershire Museums	
<b>Digital</b>	Leicestershire Museums	





1: General view south-east showing the steep slope across the site.



2: General view north-west across the site showing the slope up towards the north-west corner of the site.





3: View west along Trench 6 showing the clay natural and a land drain



4: View west of Trench 17 showing the hollow that extended into Trench 18.



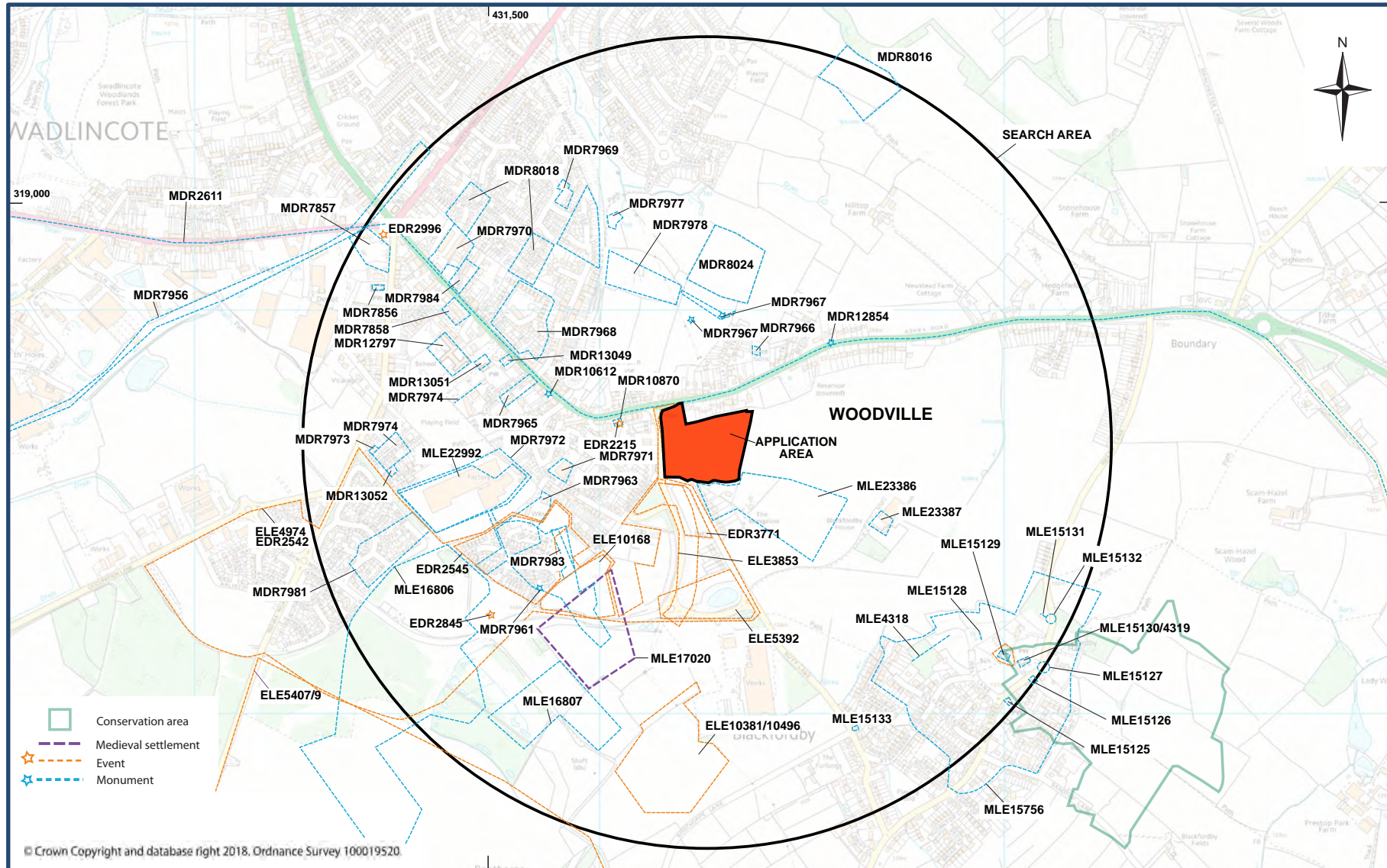


Fig 1: Location of application area

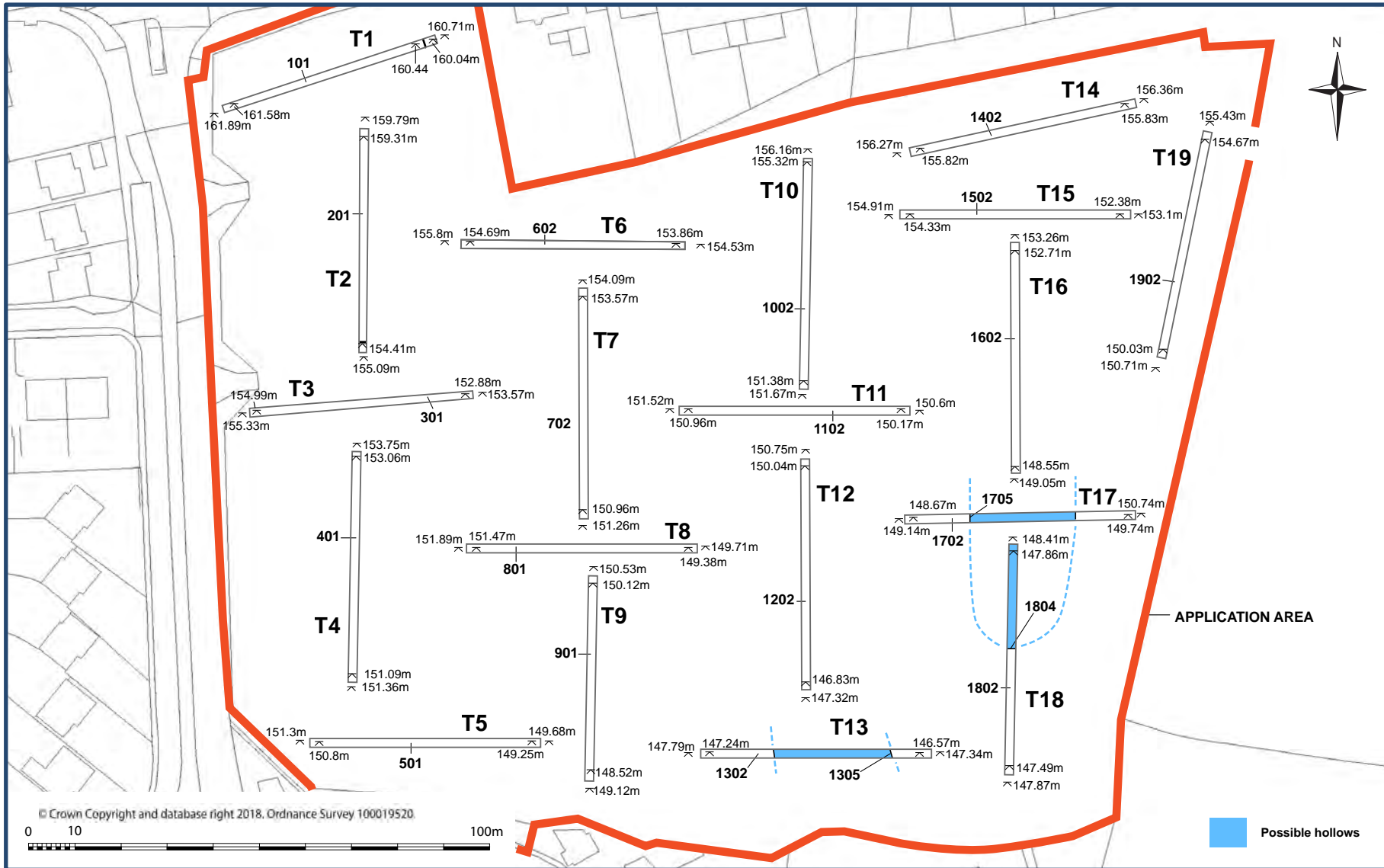


Fig 2: Location of excavated trenches