

Relocation of Mansell Farm, Newbold-on-Stour, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PHASE 2



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1547

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation comprising five trial trenches was undertaken on the proposed site for the relocation of Mansell Farm, Newbold-on-Stour, Warwickshire on behalf of Richborough Estates Ltd. No significant archaeological features were recorded and no finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Outline planning permission has been granted by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council for the relocation of Mansell Farm, Armscote Road, Newbold on Stour, Warwickshire.

1.2 It is a condition of the planning permission that the applicant secures the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been approved by the planning authority.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority in July 2015.

1.4 This report presents the results of that work which was undertaken in July 2015. The archaeological archive will be deposited at the Warwickshire Museum under the temporary accession no T/1450.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site lies west of Newbold on Stour on the south bank of a Stour tributary.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Triassic limestone of the Langport Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk), formerly known as White Lias.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background has already been carried out for the area (Walker 2014) and a geophysical survey highlighted several anomalies of possible prehistoric in origin including one annular ditch, two possible partial ring-ditches and several possible pits (Sabin and Donaldson 2015).

3.2 Archaeological trial trenching in April 2015 determined that some of the geophysical anomalies related to sub surface features including the annular ditch and a possible partial ring-ditch. Several other small pits and gullies were also exposed, some of which had not been highlighted by the geophysical survey. No finds were recovered from any of the features examined which therefore seem likely to be characteristically sepulchro-ritual rather than settlement related (Gethin 2015).

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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 included 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 trial trenches were excavated by a 180° wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. All the trenches were entirely devoid of archaeological deposits with the exception of Trench 1.

Trench 1

5.2 A shallow, possible linear, feature was identified in Trench 1. 104 was only 0.08m deep and had a flattish base. No finds were recovered from the brown clay fill (105).

5.3 Deposits across the evaluation area which overlay the geological natural consisted of 0.15m of brown clay plough soil overlain by c. 0.15m of dark brown clay topsoil.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evaluation has established that no significant archaeological deposits are likely to be disturbed on the farm relocation site. The shallow depth of soil across the area is likely to be because of the compaction of the underlying limestone bedrock which restricted plough truncation.

6.2 Feature 104 remains enigmatic. It may have been a linear feature associated with ploughing but equally could represent an isolated pit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank John and Richard Spencer.

REFERENCES

BGS 2015 British Geological Survey Viewer

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed April 2015

Gethin, B, 2015 *Land at Mansell Farm, Newbold-on-Stour, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1522

Sabin, D, and Donaldson, K, 2015 *Mansell Farm, Newbold-on-Stour, Magnetometer Survey Report*, Archaeological Surveys Ltd

Walker, C 2014 *Land at Mansell Farm, Newbold-on-Stour, Warwickshire, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, Iain Soden Heritage Services Ltd

APPENDIX

Context	Description	Comments	Depth m
100	Dark Brown clay loam	Topsoil	0.16
101	Brown clay loam	Ploughsoil	0.15
102	Light yellow limestone	Natural	
104	Ditch cut	Shallow linear feature	0.08
105	Brown clay	Fill of 104	0.08
200	Dark Brown clay loam	Topsoil	0.16
201	Brown clay loam	Ploughsoil	0.15
202	Light yellow limestone	Natural	
300	Dark Brown clay loam	Topsoil	0.14
301	Brown clay loam	Ploughsoil	0.13
302	Light yellow limestone	Natural	
400	Dark Brown clay loam	Topsoil	0.15
401	Brown clay loam	Ploughsoil	0.12
402	Light yellow limestone	Natural	
500	Dark Brown clay loam	Topsoil	0.16
501	Brown clay loam	Ploughsoil	0.12
502	Light yellow limestone	Natural	



Photograph 1. Trench 1



Photograph 2. Feature 104



Photograph 3. Trench 2



Photograph 4. Trench 3



Photograph 5. Trench 4



Photograph 6. Trench 5

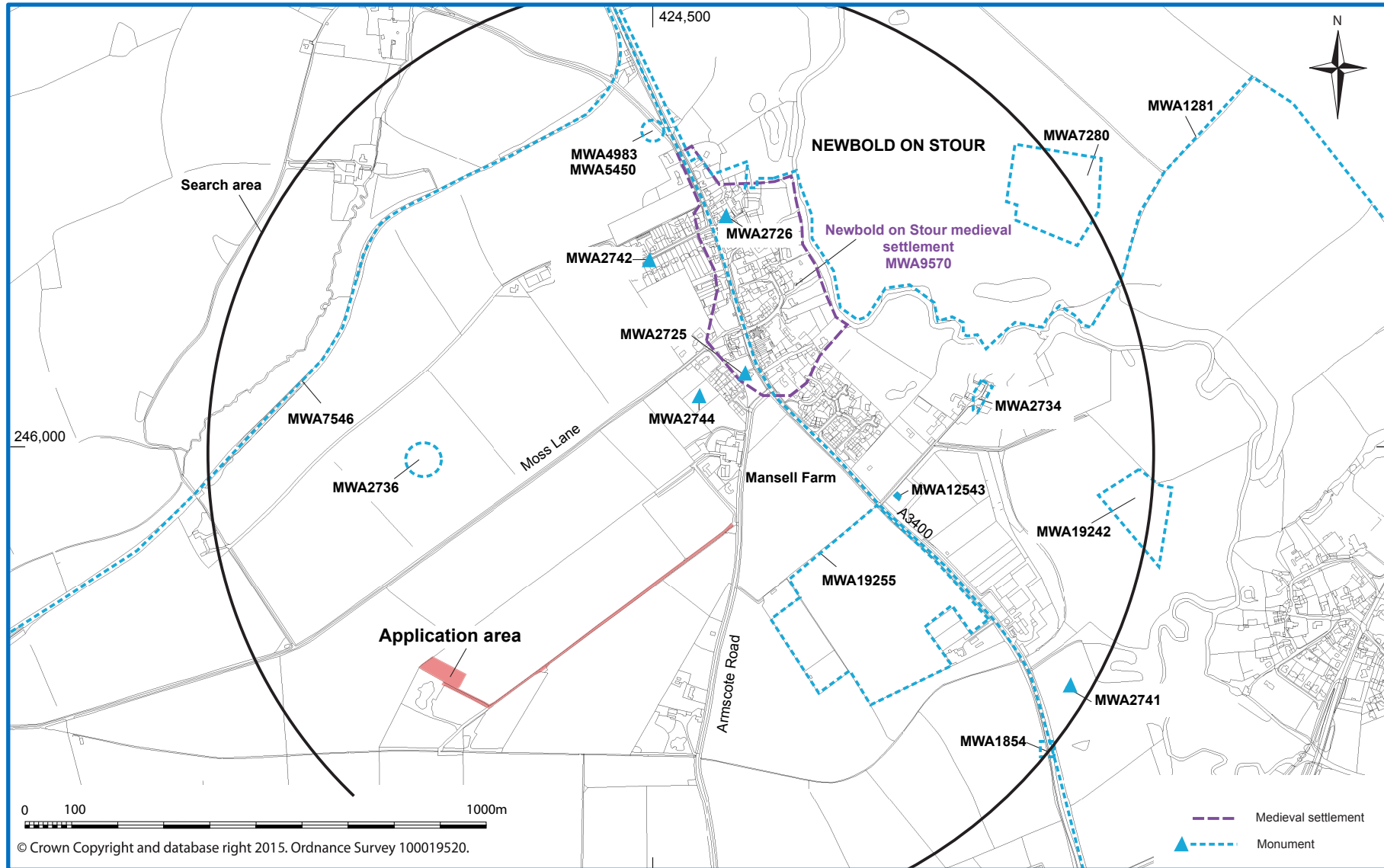


Fig 1: Location of application area

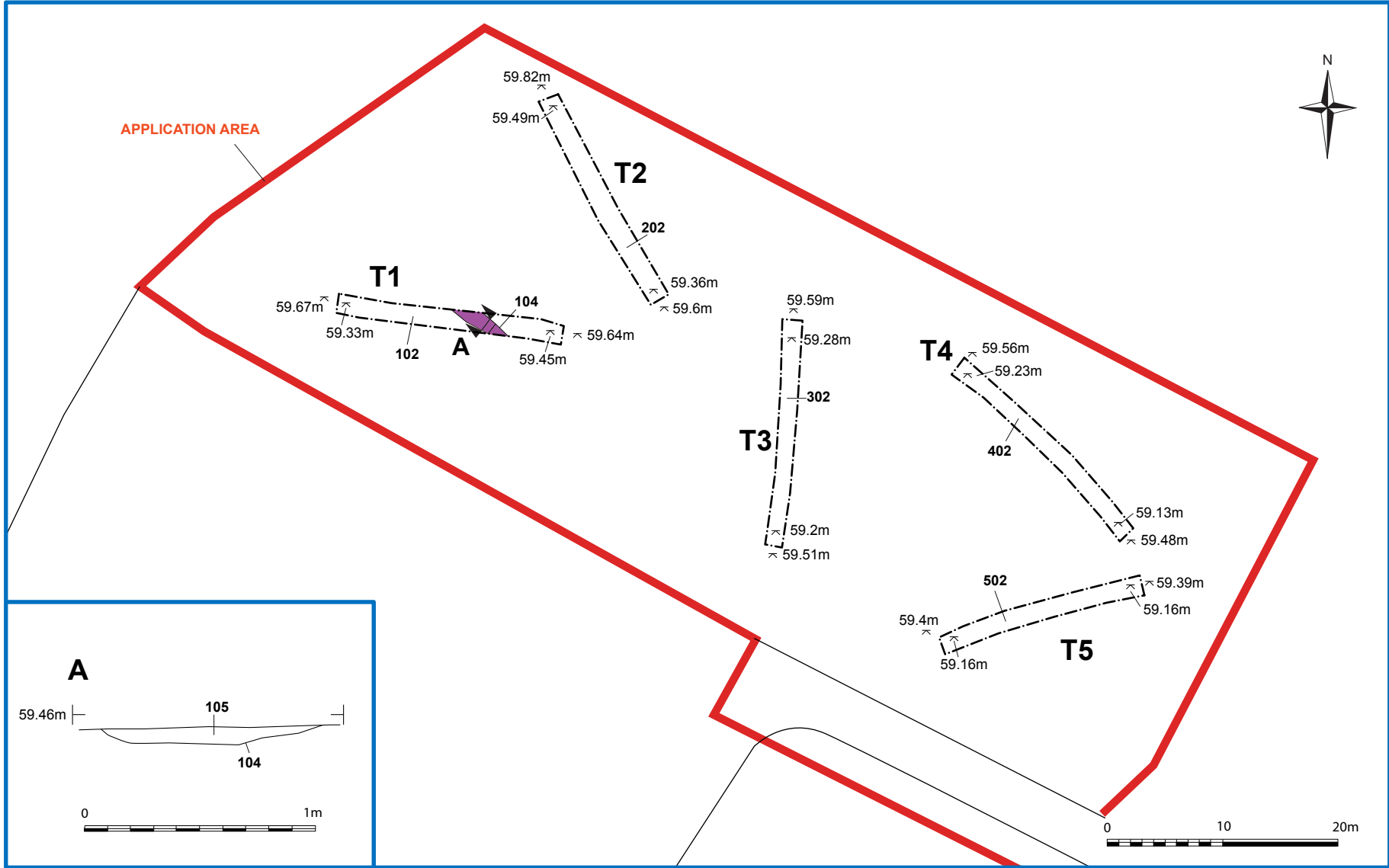


Fig 2: Location of excavated trenches and section A