

Chesterton Fields Farm Chesterton Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1583

NOVEMBER 2015



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project:	Chesterton Fields Farm Evaluation
Commissioned by:	Robert Hadley @ Hadley Farms Ltd
Project Report No.	1583
Site Code:	CF15
Planning Reference:	14/00719/OUT
Planning Authority:	Stratford upon Avon District Council
Planning Archaeologist:	John Robinson
National Grid Reference:	SP 3348 5974
Team:	
Project Manager:	Stuart Palmer MCIfA
Fieldwork:	Caroline Rann BA, Jan Janulewicz BA
Author:	Caroline Rann BA, Jan Janulewicz BA
Illustrations:	Candy Stevens
Report checked by:	Stuart Palmer MCIfA
Date:	November 2015
Report reference:	Rann, C, and Janulewicz, J, 2015 <i>Chesterton Fields Farm, Chesterton, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> , Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1583.

Archaeology Warwickshire

Unit 9

Montague Road

Warwick

CV34 5LW

01926 412278

fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology

CONTENTS	1
Summary	2
1 Introduction	2
2 Site Location	2
3 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
4 Aims and Methods	3
5 Results	3
6 Conclusions	4
Acknowledgements	4
References	4
PHOTOGRAPHS	
1 Trench 1	5
2 Ditch 103	5
3 Posthole 105	6
4 Trench 2	6
APPENDICES	
A List of Contexts	7
FIGURES	
1 Location of site and Historic Environment information	
2 Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887	
3 Location of excavated features	

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Hadley Farms Limited in advance of a new farm dwelling on land between the Roman town at Chesterton-on-Fosse and an extramural area to the west. An undated ditch terminus and posthole were recorded but no finds were recovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-upon Avon District Council for the erection of a rural occupational workers dwelling with a garage, treatment plant, and an access track, at Chesterton Fields Farm, Fosse way, Chesterton, Warwickshire.

1.2 A planning condition attached to the consent requires that the applicant secures the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to accompany the development.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority in November 2015. This report presents the results of that work. The archive will be stored at Warwickshire Museum under the Site Code CF15.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 Chesterton Fields Farm lies to the south of the Tach Brook, on a high point overlooking the Fosse way (Fig 1). It is centred on NGR SP 3348 5957 in the parish of Chesterton and Kingston.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Mercia Mudstone (BGS 2015).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The development site lies within an area of known Roman activity associated with the Fosse Way; the Roman road from Cirencester to Leicester (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no MWA 4759). There is some evidence for nearby activity pre-dating the Roman period as traces of Iron Age occupation were found during excavations at Chesterton 'camp' in the 1960s (MWA 5706, EWA 3136). Surface survey in the area has revealed prehistoric flint artefacts although these have yet to be dated (MWA 8926, MWA

8225, EWA 7001). A possible burnt mound which is likely to date to the Bronze Age has also been recorded (MWA 8936, EWA 6999).

3.2 Medieval coins and a stud have been found to the south of the site (MWA 9601). Aerial photographs (Google) show that there was once ridge and furrow across the area. Some of this is recorded on the Historic Environment Record (MWA 19508).

3.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows that the development site was within the fields surrounding Fields Farm with its courtyard layout (Fig 2).

4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The primary aim of the evaluation was to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains in the area of proposed development; to understand their value, significance and form a better understanding of the study 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 trenches were machine excavated by a 5-tonne 360° excavator using a 1.2m wide, toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. The trenches were 12m long and 1.6m wide. Topsoil and other plough soils were removed in shallow until either the top of archaeological horizon or geological natural was revealed.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Archaeological deposits were discovered in Trench 1. No archaeology was found in Trench 2.

Trench 1

5.2 This trench was aligned approximately NW/SE and geological natural (102) was exposed along its length at 74.48m above Ordinance Datum. The natural was dark brownish red clay and it was cut by two archaeological features. In the centre of the trench a possible ditch terminus 103, aligned N/S was 0.84m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides breaking

sharply to a flat base and filled with mid-reddish brown silty clay (104). Nearby pit 105 was 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill of mid brown, firm clayey silt (106) and may have contained a post.

5.3 A 0.1m deep layer of mid brown silty clay ploughsoil (101) was sealed under dark brown silty clay topsoil (100).

Trench 2

5.4 This trench was aligned NE/SW and geological natural dark brownish red clay with moderate rounded stone inclusions (202) was observed along its entire length some 0.45m below ground level, 74.62m AOD. The natural was overlain by mid-brown, firm, silty clay ploughsoil (201) some 0.14m thick and topsoil (200) which was a 0.31m thick.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Two undated features were recorded in Trench 1 but no finds were recovered. The features could relate to any period of activity but the absence of any Roman finds in the features and in the surrounding soils strongly suggests that they are not Roman in origin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Robert Hadley for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

BGS 2015 British Geological Survey Viewer

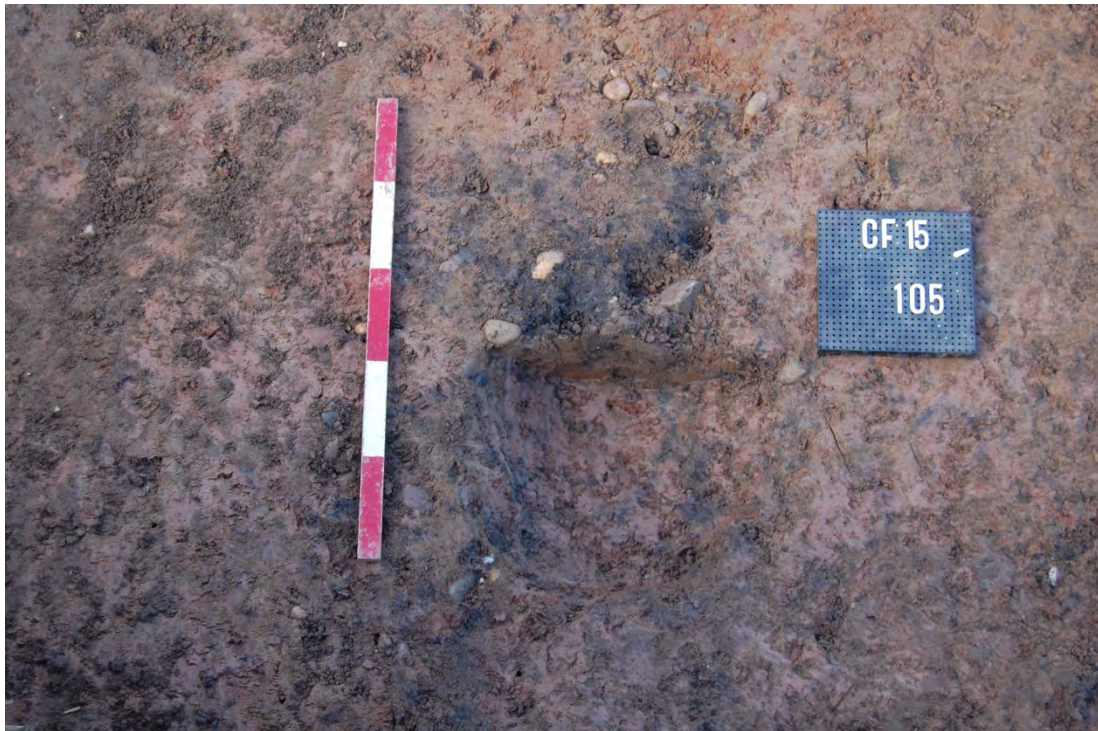
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed November 2015.



1. Trench 1



2. Ditch 103



3. Posthole 105



4. Trench 2

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	100	Dark Brown, firm, clayey silt	Topsoil
1	101	Mid brown, firm , clayey silt.	Subsoil
1	102	Dark brownish red, firm clay.	Geological Natural
1	103	Cut of ditch	Contains a single fill (104)
1	104	Mid reddish brown silty clay	Fill of ditch [103]
1	105	Cut of post hole.	Contains a single fill (106)
1	106	Mid brown, firm, clayey silt.	Fill of [105]
2	200	Dark Brown, firm, clayey silt	Topsoil
2	201	Mid brown, firm , clayey silt.	Subsoil
2	202	Dark brownish red, firm clay	Natural

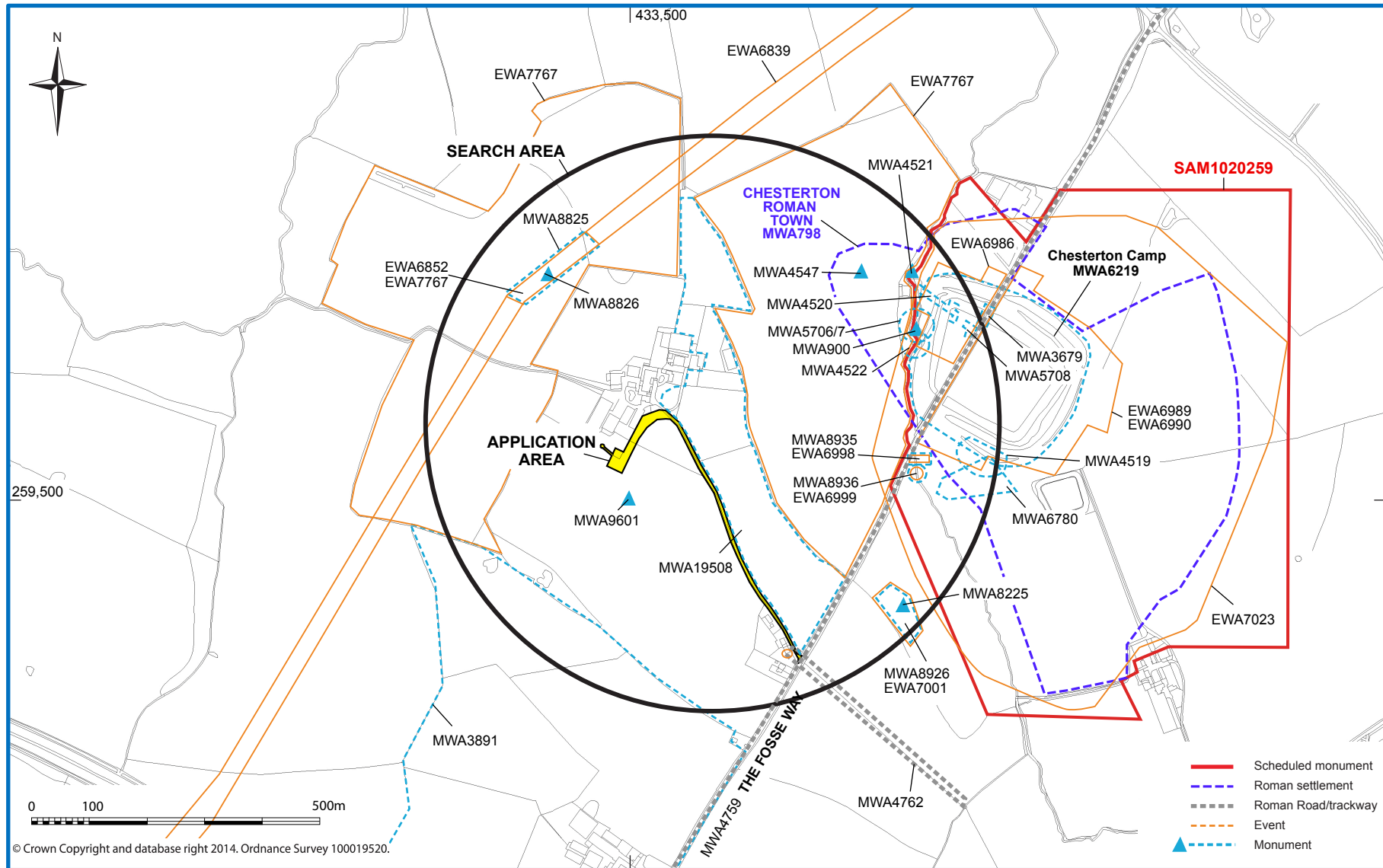


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

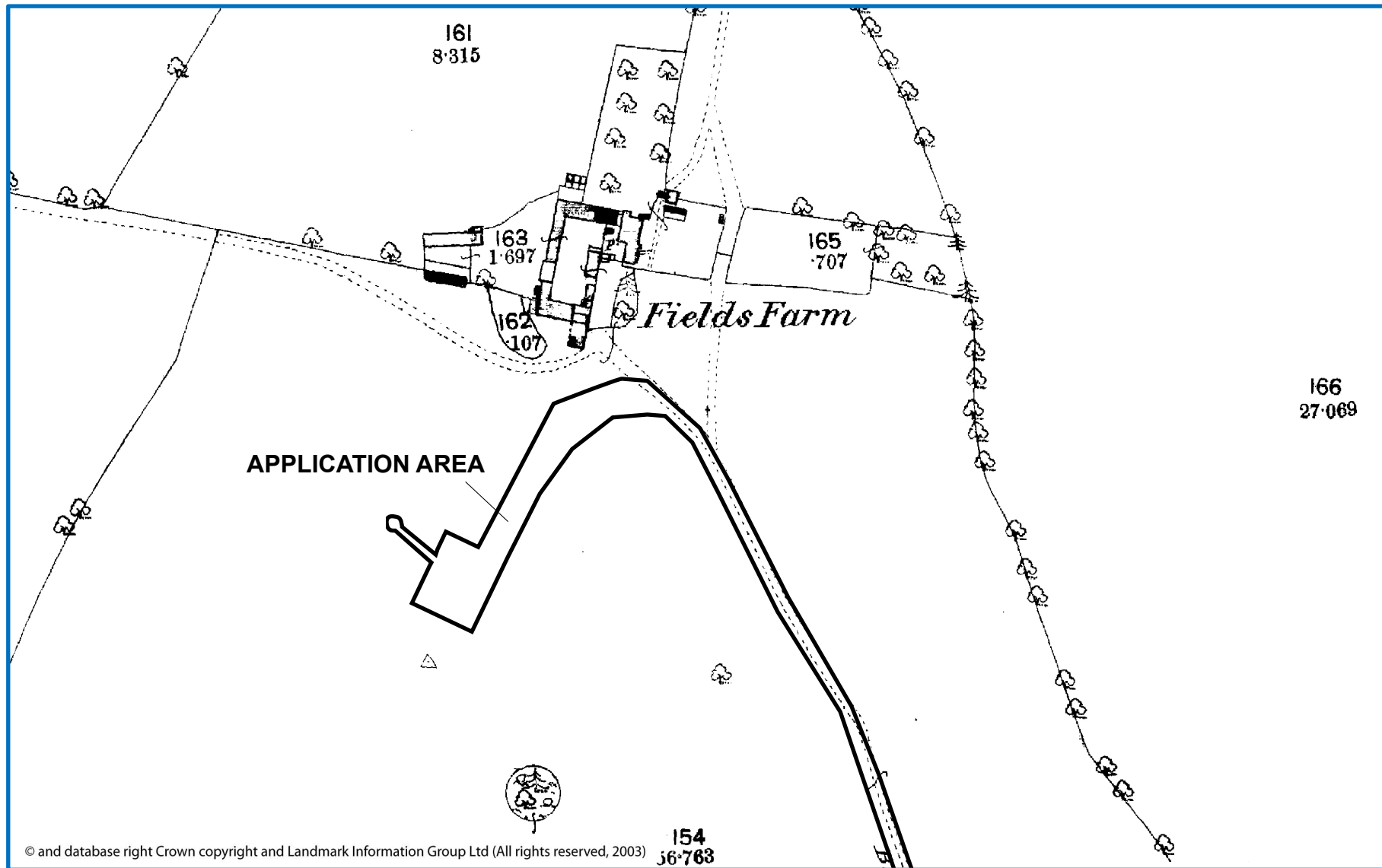


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887

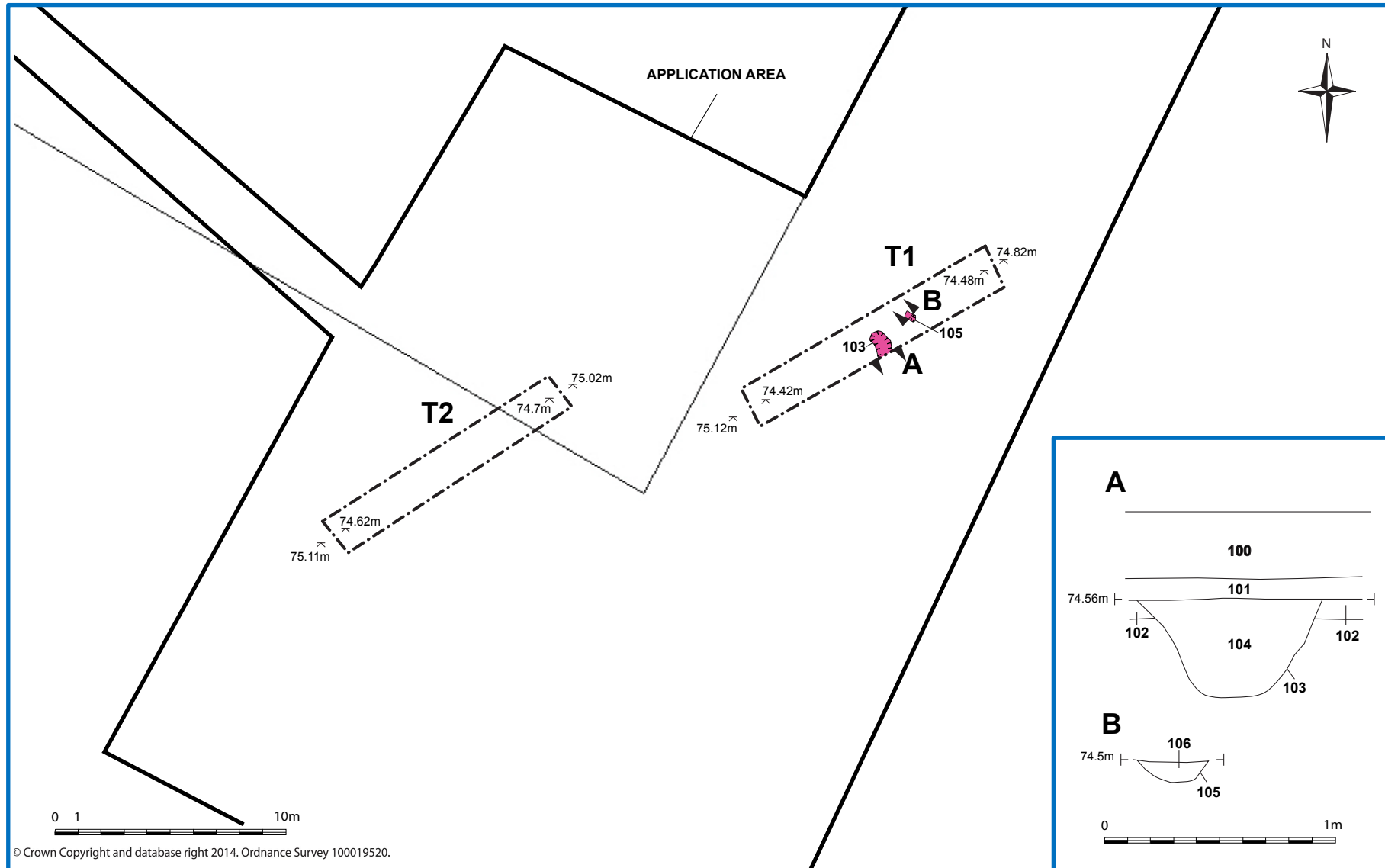


Fig 3: Location of excavated trenches