

Land south of Lloyd Close Hampton Magna, Budbrooke Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1928
MARCH 2019



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Land at Hampton Magna: Mitigation
Commissioned by: CgMs Heritage
Site Code: HM19
Planning Reference: W/18/1811
Planning Authority: Warwick District Council
National Grid Reference: SP 25910 64631
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SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological mitigation (excavation) was undertaken on behalf of CgMs Heritage at land south of Lloyd Close, Hampton Magna, Warwickshire, following an earlier evaluation that had identified a possible Roman ditch.

Excavation of an open area revealed the remains of a probable medieval clay pit. From the pottery assemblage the pit was in use during the 15th century but was probably mostly infilled before the end of the 19th century.

No further archaeological features were revealed and no evidence of Roman activity was present.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Warwick District Council have granted outline planning permission for a residential development south of Lloyd Close, Hampton Magna, Budbrooke (Planning reference W/18/1811).
- 1.2 A condition attached to the permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority. A geophysical survey in 2017 was followed in 2018 by an archaeological evaluation which established the presence of a single significant feature.
- 1.3 In 2019, Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological mitigation (CgMs 2019) approved by the planning authority.
- 1.4 This report presents the results of the mitigation work. The project archive will be deposited with the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code HM19 along with the archive from the previous phases.
- 1.5 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidelines (2014).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located on the edge of the village of Hampton Magna in the parish of Budbrooke to the north of Hampton Road and south of Lloyd Close. The application are covers 6.9ha of arable farmland centred on National Grid Reference SP2586 6464 (Fig 1). The area of excavation was located on the eastern side of the development site approximately 200m east of Mayne Close.
- 2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Mercia Mudstone (British Geological Survey 1984). The mitigation area was located in a field sloping gently from west to east from 75m OD to approximately 66m OD. The localised topography of the area included a shallow depression and raised ground on the western side.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has previously been discussed in a desk based assessment (CgMs 2017) and in the evaluation report (Oxford Archaeology 2018). No archaeological remains were recorded on the site and the historic mapping indicated that the site formed part of agricultural fields around Hampton Magna and Hampton-on-the-Hill for most of its history.
- 3.2 The evaluation provided evidence of furrows and modern ploughing throughout most of the trenches along with a possible ditch containing a sherd of Roman pottery and a possible undated pit (Oxford Archaeology 2018).

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to examine an area focussed on the possible Roman ditch and to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed, to collate the fieldwork records into an archaeological archive and present the results of the fieldwork in this report for dissemination.
- 4.2 This report will describe and discuss the extent, character and dates of all archaeological remains exposed and place the results in their local and regional contexts.
- 4.3 The mitigation agreed with the planning authority was for a 20m x 20m area stripped by machine to the top of the geological natural or any surviving archaeological remains. A provision was allowed for the extension of the area in the event of significant remains or features being revealed however this was not utilised.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The excavation revealed a simple sequence of stratigraphy which correlated with that described in the evaluation: Reddish brown clay geological natural was overlain with plough derived subsoil and topsoil.
- 5.2 As no additional archaeological features or remains were revealed it was agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that the original mitigation area did not require any further extension.

Geological Natural

- 5.3 A layer of reddish brown silty clay was encountered across most of the excavation area, although on the eastern side it was intermixed with equal quantities of yellowish grey clay (102).

Quarry Pit

- 5.4 The western side of the area was characterised by the presence of a large amorphous pit 103, approximately 15m across and a minimum of 7.5m wide. The eastern side reduced in diameter to effect a narrow 'neck', approximately 3.5m wide. The evaluation trench (T20) was clearly visible and this crossed the 'neck' of the pit. As the evaluation trench coincided with the narrower and elongated element of the pit this was originally identified and interpreted as a ditch; however the mitigation confirmed the feature to be part of the quarry pit.
- 5.5 A hand dug slot on the north-eastern edge of the pit established that 0.6m to 0.7m of redeposited clay (104) filled the upper part of the feature.
- 5.6 A methodology for the machine excavation of the pit was agreed with the Planning Archaeologist. A 1.6m wide slot was excavated to a depth of 2.2m below ground surface when excavation ceased due to water ingress and health and safety considerations.
- 5.7 The lowest fill encountered was reddish brown and greyish clay with occasional stone fragments (107). This was overlain by a thin layer of grey brown silty clay (106) and a 0.2m thick deposit of grey brown sandy gravel (105); no dateable material was recovered from these fills. Overlying this, a substantial deposit of mixed greyish blue

and reddish brown clay, some 0.6m to 0.7m thick yielded a large chunk of a 15th century Borstall Brill jug from the base of the deposit.

Plough Soil

- 5.8 The excavation area included reddish brown silty clay subsoil associated with medieval ploughing (101) overlaid by dark greyish brown silty clay topsoil (100), which contained several post-medieval or modern finds which were not retained.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation has provided further detail on the previously recorded feature and has demonstrated that no further significant archaeological features were present.
- 6.2 The feature identified in the evaluation and mitigation is best characterised as a clay quarry. The pit is evident on LIDAR and is apparent in the topography of the area but it is not recorded on any historic mapping. The mitigation area incorporated a significant part of the pit which is approximately 15m wide and 15m to 20m long. The eastern and down slope side included a narrower and elongated part and this was likely to have been used for access and loading. It is this element of the pit which was revealed in the evaluation trench and interpreted as a ditch (although it may not have been bottomed in the evaluation).
- 6.3 The single late Roman sherd of greyware from the 'neck' of the feature weighed only 12g and may best be considered residual having derived from a local Roman settlement, deposited in the fields as a consequence of manuring. The large, unabraded sherd of 15th century jug seems much more likely to have been deposited in-situ during activity on the site.
- 6.4 Clay extraction is likely to have generated considerable waste as seams of clay were mined and inferior deposits abandoned around the edge of the pit and it is this material that has infilled the excavation. Given that clay pits are often recorded on historic maps (often erroneously as marl pits), it is likely that the pit was all but backfilled before the end of the 19th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Alexandra Thornton at CgMs Heritage for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

BGS Geology of Britain Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> British Geological Survey Accessed February 2019

CgMs 2019 Archaeological Written scheme Of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation: land South of Lloyd Close, Hampton Magna, Budbrooke, Warwickshire.

Magnitude Surveys 2017 *Geophysical Survey Report of Land at Hampton Magna, Budbrooke Warwickshire.*

Oxford Archaeology South 2018 *Hampton Magna, Budbrooke, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation Report.*



1: Machine reduction of area showing pit 103 in foreground



2: View southwards showing location of excavated slot in pit 103



3: Pit 103 looking northwards

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Context	Description	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Comment
100	Dark grey brown silty clay		0.28-35	Ploughsoil
101	Reddish brown silty clay		0.2 to 0.38	Subsoil
102	Reddish brown clay		-	Geological natural
103	Quarry pit	c. 15m		Amorphous
104	Mixed greyish blue and reddish brown clay		0.6 to 0.7	15 th century pottery
105	Grey brown sandy gravel		0.2	Fill of pit 103
106	Grey brown silty clay		0.2	Fill of pit 103
107	Reddish brown clay with grey silty clay		Min 0.25	Fill of pit 103

B List of Finds

Context	Material	Quantity	Date/Comments
100	Pottery	1	19th/20th century modern glazed ware MGW
104	Pottery	7 joining	Fragments of Late Brill ware jug Late Brill Ware SLM40 - 15th century

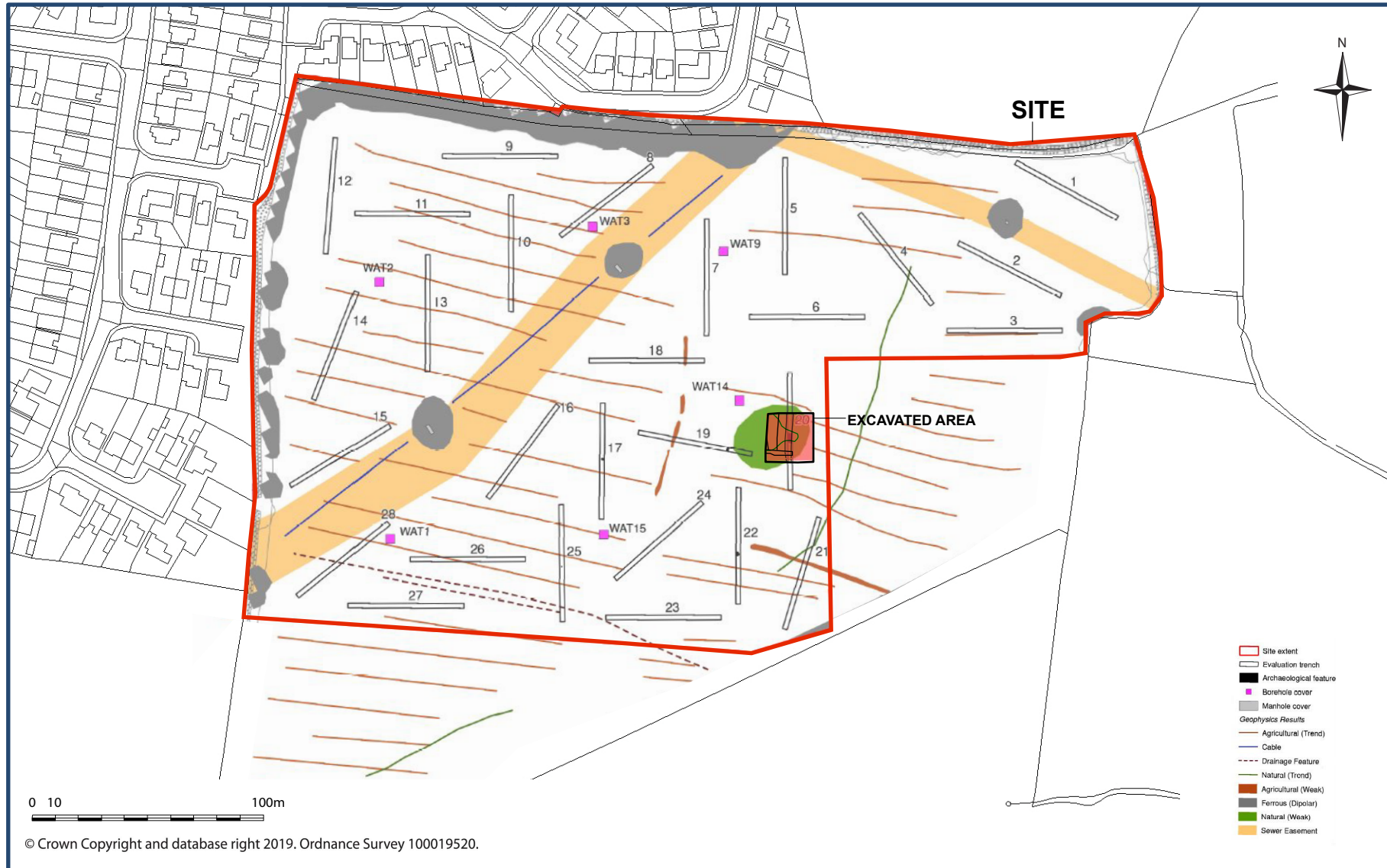


Fig 1: Location of excavated area

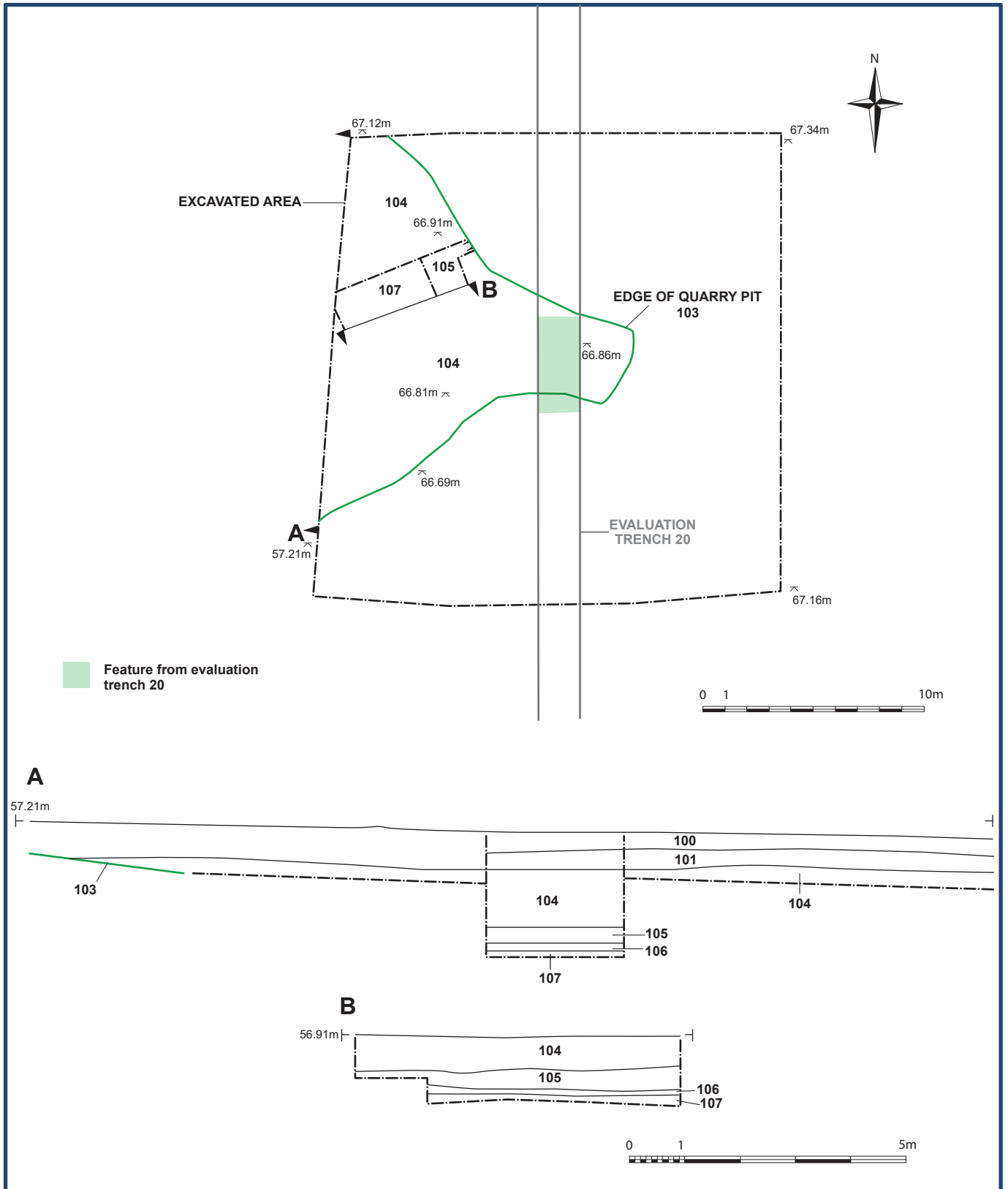


Fig 2: Detail from excavated area with associated sections A and B