

**B4451/B4100 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY,
GAYDON, WARWICKSHIRE (M40:J12)**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TREE PLANTING



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1499
November 2014



*Working for
Warwickshire*

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CONTENTS

- Summary
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Aims and Objectives
- 3 Results
- 4 Conclusion
- Acknowledgements

FIGURES

- 1 Site location
- 2 Tree planting trench 1
- 3 Tree planting trenches 2 and 3
- 4 Tree Planting Trench 1, looking NW
- 5 Tree planting Trench 2, looking SE
- 6 Tree planting Trench 3, looking NE

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation of a tree planting scheme associated with the planned M40 Junction 12 improvements revealed no evidence associated with the archaeological features evaluated to the west earlier in the year.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted for an area of tree planting, in addition to the approved scheme to improve traffic management at Junction 12, M40, Gaydon, Warwickshire. The tree planting activity could have potentially impacted on archaeological remains and it was recommended that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in order to determine how best to mitigate against the impact of the scheme.

1.2 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 November 2014.

1.3 This report presents the interim results of the fieldwork which was undertaken in November 2014. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under the temporary accession number T/1317.

1.4 The site is located immediately to the north and north-west of the village of Gaydon, in Warwickshire (NGR SP 3651 5415). Junction 12 of the M40, is located approximately 0.5km north-east of the village of Gaydon.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there were any significant archaeological remains in the area of development, to form an understanding of their value and their potential to shed light on the subsequent development of the Dorsington area.

2.2 Secondary aims included placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.

2.3 The objective was to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.

2.4 A total of three trenches were opened up by a JCB using a 1.6m wide toothless bucket. Topsoil and other plough soils were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist until the top of the geological natural was reached.

3 RESULTS

3.1 No archaeological features were evident in the trenches.

Tree planting Trench 1

3.2 The evaluation trench was aligned NW/SE and was 40m long. It was located further up-slope and to the west of the deposit of burnt stones (Area C).

3.3 The geological natural of yellowish-brown gravelly clay and grey clay with limestone fragments (3) was noted at a depth of 0.6m – 0.8m below the current ground surface. Grey clay was found in the northern part of the trench. The overlying plough soil also varied in colour along the trench. The dark yellowish brown clay loam (2) was darker in the southern part of the trench. The depth of the plough soil varied from 0.5m in the north to 0.33m in the south. A single fragment of roof tile was recovered from this layer.

3.4 Very dark greyish brown clay loam topsoil (1) had formed to a depth of 0.3m across the area. Occasional bits of plastic were noted (not retained) in this layer.

Tree planting Trench 2

3.5 Trench 2 was aligned NW/SE, was 40m long and located south of Area A.

3.6 Found at a depth of 0.8m – 0.91m below the current ground surface the geological natural was dark grey clay with strong brown sandy patches (6). It was overlain by dark yellowish brown clay loam with very occasional pebbles (5). This plough soil layer was between 0.5m and 0.62m deep. No archaeological finds were recovered from it.

3.7 Topsoil overlay the ploughsoil and was a c.0.3m deep layer of very dark yellowish brown clay loam (4). A fragment of roof tile and a small abraded sherd of Chilvers Coton medieval pottery (c.1300-1500) were recorded within the topsoil.

Tree planting Trench 3

3.8 Trench 3 was aligned NE/SW, was 40m long and located to the south of Area A.

3.9 The geological natural of grey clay with yellow patches and occasional limestone fragments (9) was reached at a depth of 0.6m – 0.7m below the current ground level. It was overlain by 0.36m-0.44m of yellowish brown clay loam (8) from which 3 small abraded brick or tile fragments were recovered. The overlying topsoil was 0.24m – 0.36m in depth and was a dark yellowish brown clay loam (7).

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 The evaluation was able to determine that nothing of archaeological significance will be disturbed by the tree planting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Danny Green for commissioning the work.

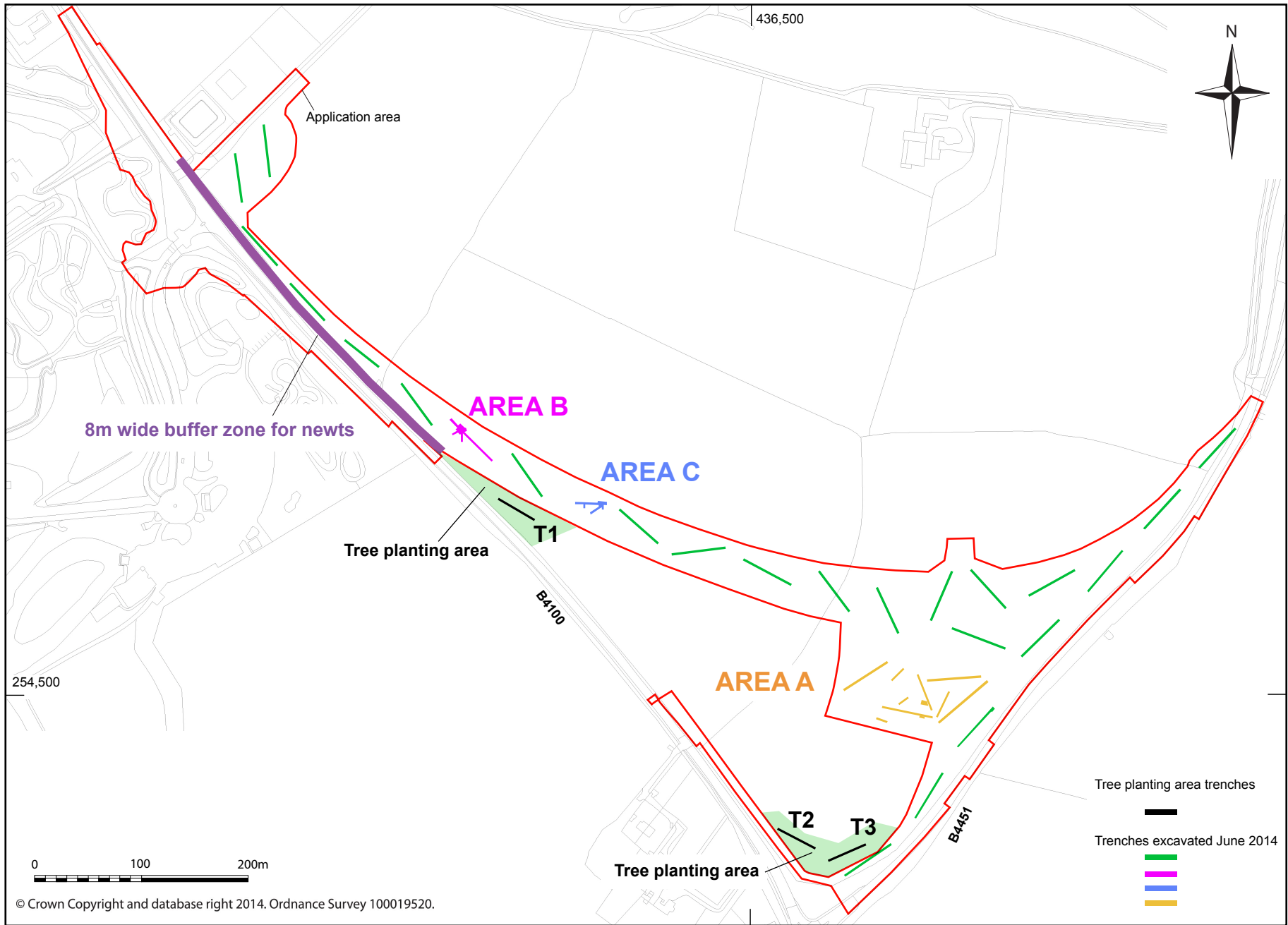


Fig 1: Location of Tree planting area trenches

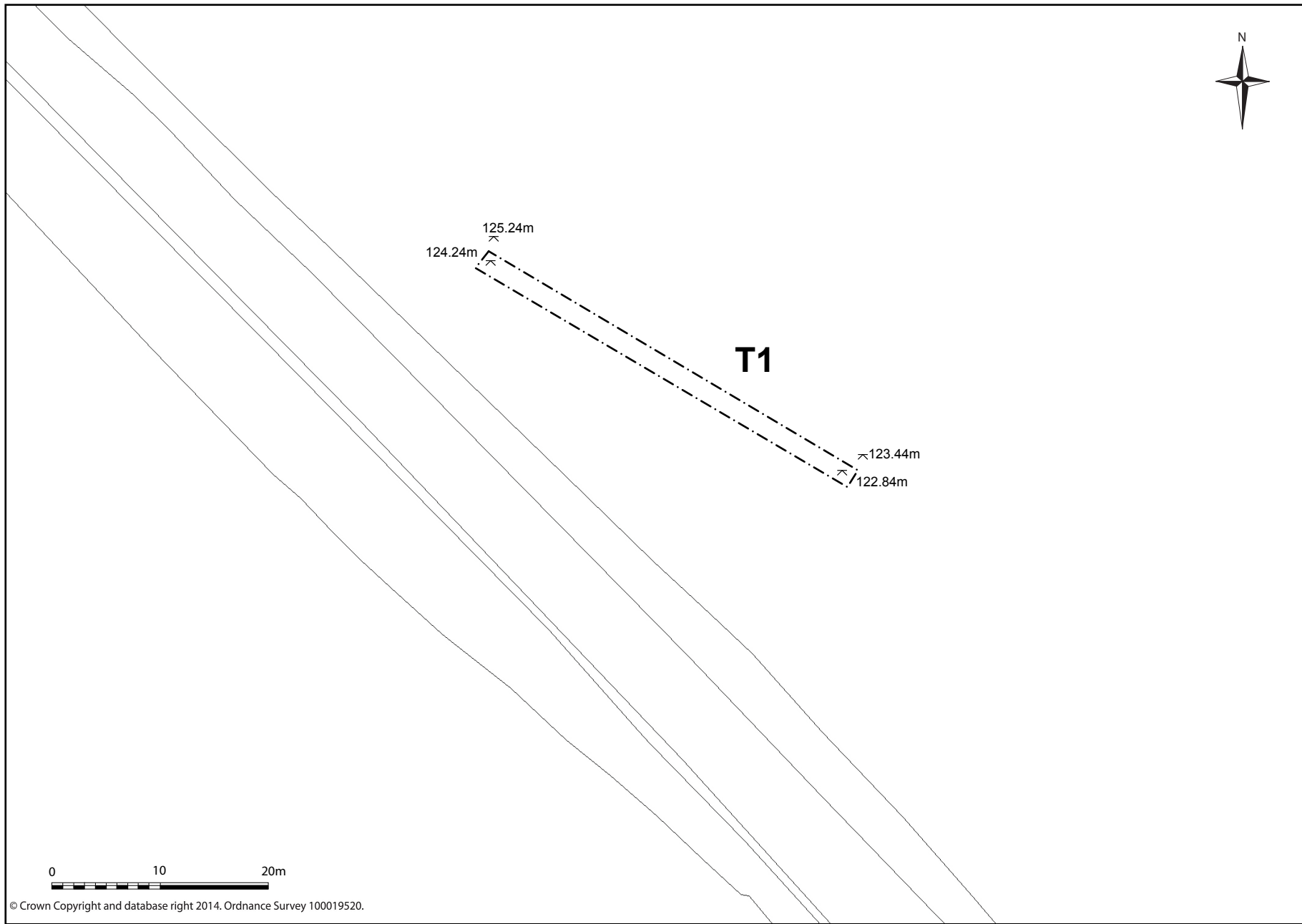


Fig 2: Tree planting trench 1

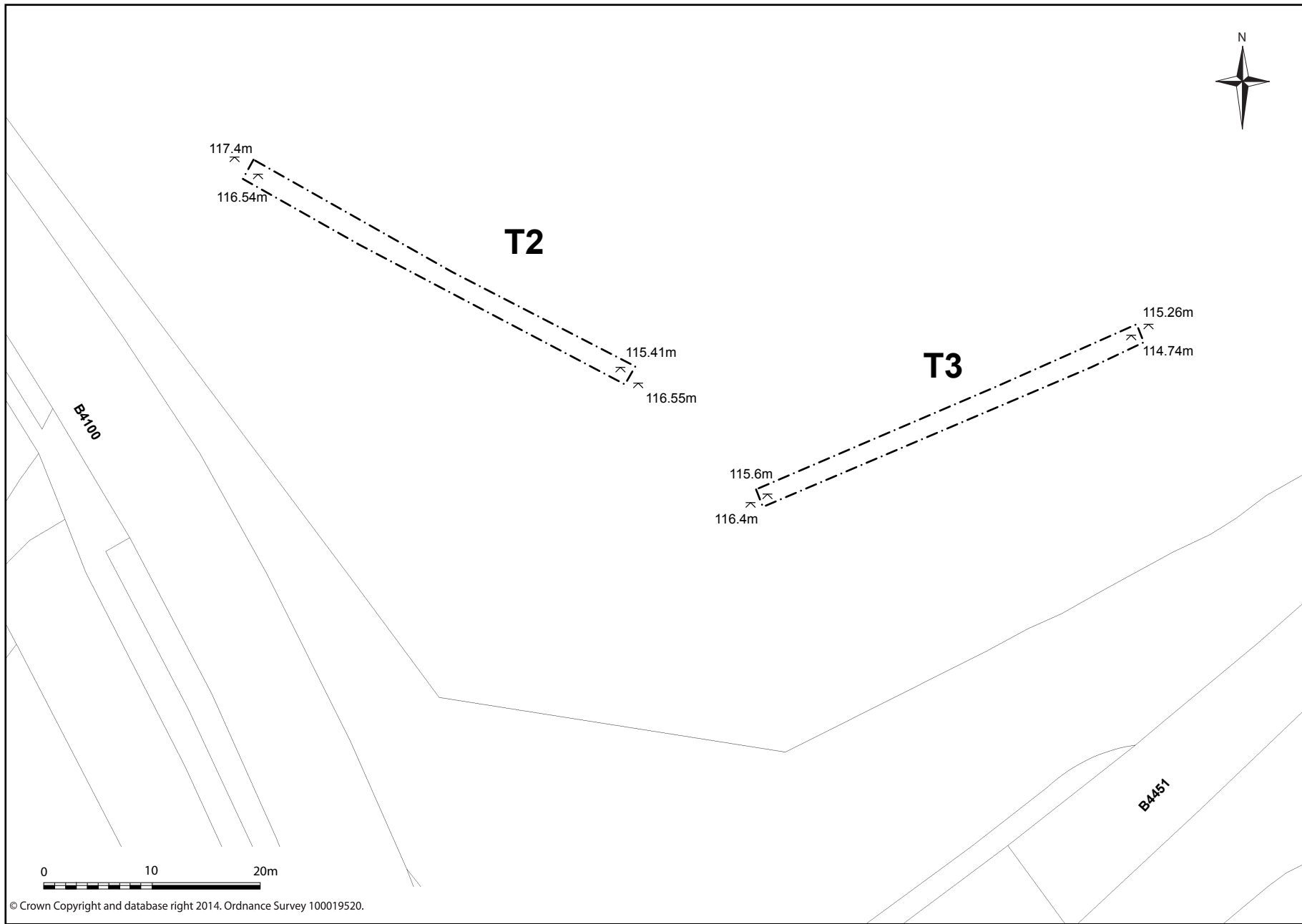


Fig 3: Tree planting trenches 2 and 3



Fig 4: Tree Planting Trench 1, looking NW



Fig 5: Tree planting Trench 2, looking SE



Fig 6: Tree planting Trench 3, looking NE