

# 48 Barton Road, Market Bosworth Leicestershire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1680

SEPTEMBER 2016



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

<b>Project:</b>	Barton Road Excavations
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	Steven Wong
<b>Project Report No.</b>	1680
<b>Site Code:</b>	LMB16
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	16/00281/FUL
<b>Planning Authority:</b>	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
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<b>National Grid Reference:</b>	SK 4059 0356
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<b>Date:</b>	September 2016
<b>Report reference:</b>	Charles, E, 2016 <i>48 Barton Road, Market Bosworth: Archaeological Investigation</i> , Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1680

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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken on behalf of Mr Steven Wong on a plot previously evaluated as part of planning permission for a new dwelling. The investigation was able to confirm the results of the evaluation as it revealed the area had been subject to quarrying in the Roman period and was heavily disturbed by tree roots.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission is being sought from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for the construction of a new dwelling to the front of 48 Barton Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. The development site lies close to a high status Roman building and near the edge of the medieval settlement.
- 1.2 A field evaluation carried out by Archaeology Warwickshire (Gethin 2016) following a desk-based assessment (Rann 2014), recorded some undated pits sealed under a layer which contained residual Roman pottery and building material. The pits were interpreted as tree holes and a possible sand quarry.
- 1.3 Leicestershire County Council Planning Archaeologist Sophie Clarke, in her capacity as archaeological advisor to the planning authority, recommended that planning permission should be accompanied by a condition for mitigation works comprising a Strip, Map and Sample Excavation of the area of new development (Fig 2).

## 2 LOCATION

- 2.1 No 48 Barton Road is on the northern edge of the village of Market Bosworth. The east-west plot contains a large detached property and garage set back from the road. The village is on a slight hill with the application site situated on the north-western edge of it. The site slopes naturally down to the north, and west towards Barton Road. The Historic Environment Record has a reference that the area was known as St Anne's Hill.
- 2.2 The underlying geology is Gunthorpe member Mudstone overlain by glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2014).

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological and historical background has recently been compiled (Rann 2014) and can broadly be summarised:

*A Roman building which could be part of a Roman villa complex or other high status structure was uncovered in the rear garden of no. 48 in 1967 (MLE 2924). The building was partly excavated by the local school master and children and the results were not published. The following year a group of amateur archaeologists dug a test pit in what was still a field to the south and found more Roman remains. They also recorded details of the previous year's excavations and these notes are held in the HER. One sketch plan indicates the area in which walls, a tessellated pavement and hypocaust system were revealed in 1967. The extent of the Roman remains is not fully known but the site, and an area around it, is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHLE 1005476). In addition to the Roman material uncovered during the excavations, several sherds of earlier Iron Age pottery were found. This could suggest that there was an earlier settlement on the site.*

- 3.2 The archaeological evaluation undertaken in February 2016, revealed three features in the 15m long trial trench. Two of these may have been tree bowls due to their irregular, undercutting shape. A fragment of Roman tile was recovered from pit/tree bowl 103. This feature was sealed by a layer of greyish brown silty sand up to 0.75m deep containing Roman finds including roof tile fragments. The layer may have been a former ploughsoil pre-dating the 20th century as it was not present in the eastern end of the trench where pit or ditch 107 appeared to correspond to quarrying activity shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1903 (Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1903).
- 3.3 No finds were recovered from the further pit/tree bowl 105 or the possible quarry feature at the eastern end of the trench

### 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains that could be disturbed by the development, to collate the records in an archaeological archive and present the significant aspects of the archive in a report for dissemination.

- 4.2 A further aim was to form an understanding of the remains recorded in terms of their character and date, and to place the evidence in its local and regional context.
- 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 A specific objective was to investigate evaluation layer (101) in order to determine if it was a Roman occupation layer and if that layer had later features cut into it.

## 5 DETAILED METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 All work was undertaken in accordance with Archaeology Warwickshire's Procedures Manual, and the Codes, Standards and Guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 5.2 The area investigated 15m x 13m was located across a landscaped (terraced) slope and was crossed by live services, necessitating the splitting of the area into two. Topsoil and former ploughsoil were removed by an 8 tonne 360° tracked excavator using a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Ground reduction was in shallow spits until the layer (101) was reached. Once this was investigated mechanical ground reduction continued until the geological natural was reached.
- 5.3 Archaeological contexts encountered were cleaned, photographed and planned to an appropriate scale (1:20 or 1:50).
- 5.4 All plans are related to the Ordnance Survey and all levels will be measured above Ordnance Datum. Cross sections were drawn at 1:20.
- 5.5 All archaeological contexts were recorded using the standard Archaeology Warwickshire recording system using *pro forma* context sheets with standardised descriptions based on Soil Survey soil texture terminology and Munsell colour descriptions. All finds recovered were assigned to a context.
- 5.6 A photographic record of the excavation was produced. It contained monochrome prints, and colour digital images of the area and features.

## 6 RESULTS

### Geological Natural

- 6.1 The natural consisted of light red sand (1002) and was heavily disturbed by trees (1111) and animal activity.

### Roman

- 6.2 Quarry pit 1114 was larger than the area excavated but the very bottom edge of the pit was partially revealed within the excavation area (Fig 1). The quarry pit contained several layers including some re-deposited natural, apparently tipping from west to east.
- 6.3 The lowest visible fill of the quarry pit (1009) contained a single sherd of very coarse-tempered pottery of uncertain date (possibly residual Iron Age) and a fragment of Roman tegula. Roman pottery was recovered from quarry fill 1003 at the base of the slope within the quarry pit (this is the same layer as 101 in the evaluation). Although initially it was thought that features cut this layer, a test slot was able to determine that the edges were formed by re-deposited natural.

### Medieval

- 6.4 6.5 Two adjoining sherds of medieval pottery (Chilvers Coton A, 1250-1300) were recovered from layer 1005, the uppermost layer of the quarry pit.

### Undated Features

- 6.5 A multiple horse burial (1112) was revealed in the base of the quarry pit although it was not established from which level it was cut.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The excavation revealed that layer 1003 (equivalent to evaluation layer 101), was one of several fills of a large quarry pit. The Roman finds of pottery and tile, including a fragment of flue tile, from the quarry strongly suggest that it was a Roman quarry, linked to the Roman villa Scheduled Ancient Monument complex located to the east of the current site.

- 7.2 It is not certain when and how the quarry was backfilled but it is likely to have been deliberate, perhaps to fill an unsightly hole or to enable agriculture. The absence of obvious turf growth suggests that it was relatively soon after the quarrying took place.
- 7.3 The horse burials could have occurred in the Roman or post-Roman periods. Two adjoining sherds of 13th-century pottery from the upper fill of the quarry pit may have been intrusive, but attest to medieval activity in the area.
- 7.4 The occurrence of substantial root disturbance within the quarry fill suggests that the site was formerly overgrown with trees.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Steven Wong for commissioning the work, his help and assistance, and especially for supplying the coffee.

## REFERENCES

Gethin, B, 2016 *48 Barton Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1616.

Ordnance Survey 1903 *Second Edition 1:2500 XXIX.15*, Leics County Record Office.

Rann, C, 2014 *48 Barton Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 14108.





1. Excavation area, (1001) and (1003)



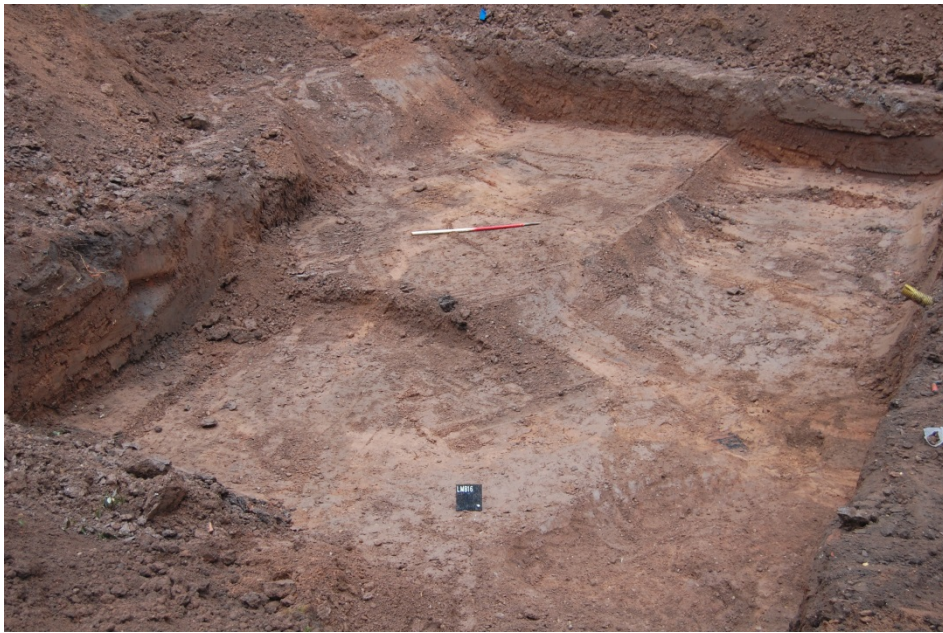
2. Context (1003), test slot



3. Base of quarry 1114



4. South facing section of quarry 1114



5. Tree disturbance

## APPENDICES

### A Table of Contexts

Context	Type	Description	Width m	Depth m	Length m
1000	Layer	Dark grey brown sandy silt, topsoil layer		0.10- 0.20	
1001	Fill	Light grey brown silty sand, upper fill of quarry (1114)		0.46	
1002	Natural	Light red sand			
1003	Fill	Mixed red brown sandy silt with re-deposited natural within. Located at base of slope within quarry pit, primary fill within the east section of (1114)		0.84	
1004	Fill	Brown orange gravel and sand with charcoal flecks and re-deposited natural	1.00	0.10	
1005	Fill	Brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal and degraded bone		0.35	
1006	Deposit	Brown red-orange re-deposited natural sand within (1005)		0.09	
1007	Fill	Mixed orange brown sandy silt with frequent small pebbles and occasional charcoal, fill of quarry (1114)		0.39	
1008	Fill	Mid brown silty sand with less than 1% small pebbles, fill of (1114)		0.36	
1009	Fill	Mixed brown with patches of orange and occasional small pebbles, fill of (1114)		0.18- 0.43	
1010	Deposit	Re-deposited patch of natural sand within (1009) with a vein of dark black charcoal like material running through, likely from roots		0.30	1.55

<b>1111</b>	Cut	Natural feature – tree bole that was cut by pit (1112)	2.04	Not excavated fully	
<b>1112</b>	Cut	Irregular shaped cut for horse burial that cuts tree bole (1111)	1.40	0.20	1.77
<b>1113</b>	Fill	Light brown sandy silt, fill of horse burial (1112)	1.40	0.20	1.77
<b>1114</b>	Cut	Large quarry pit that the edge of which is only partially picked up on in the area		1.70	

## B Table of Finds

CONTEXT	TYPE	QUANTITY	COMMENT
1000	Tile	6	1 flue tile with combed decoration, 1 imbrex fragment, 4 probable tile frags
1000	Pottery	1	Post-medieval coarseware
1000	CBM	3	
1003	Pottery	4	1 x Roman greyware, 2 x adjoining mortaria rim, 1 fine reddish brown rim sherd
1003	A.Bone	1	
1005	Pottery	2	2 adjoining fragments Chilvers Coton A (CC1)
1005	A.Bone	1	
1005	CBM	3	
1008	CBM	1	
1009	Pottery	1	Very coarse-tempered @1.6m
1009	Tile	1	Tegula fragment
1009	A.Bone	2	@1.25m
1113	A.Bone	352	Remains of sub-adult horse (unfused radius)
1113	CBM	1	
1113	Lead	1	Small lump of lead

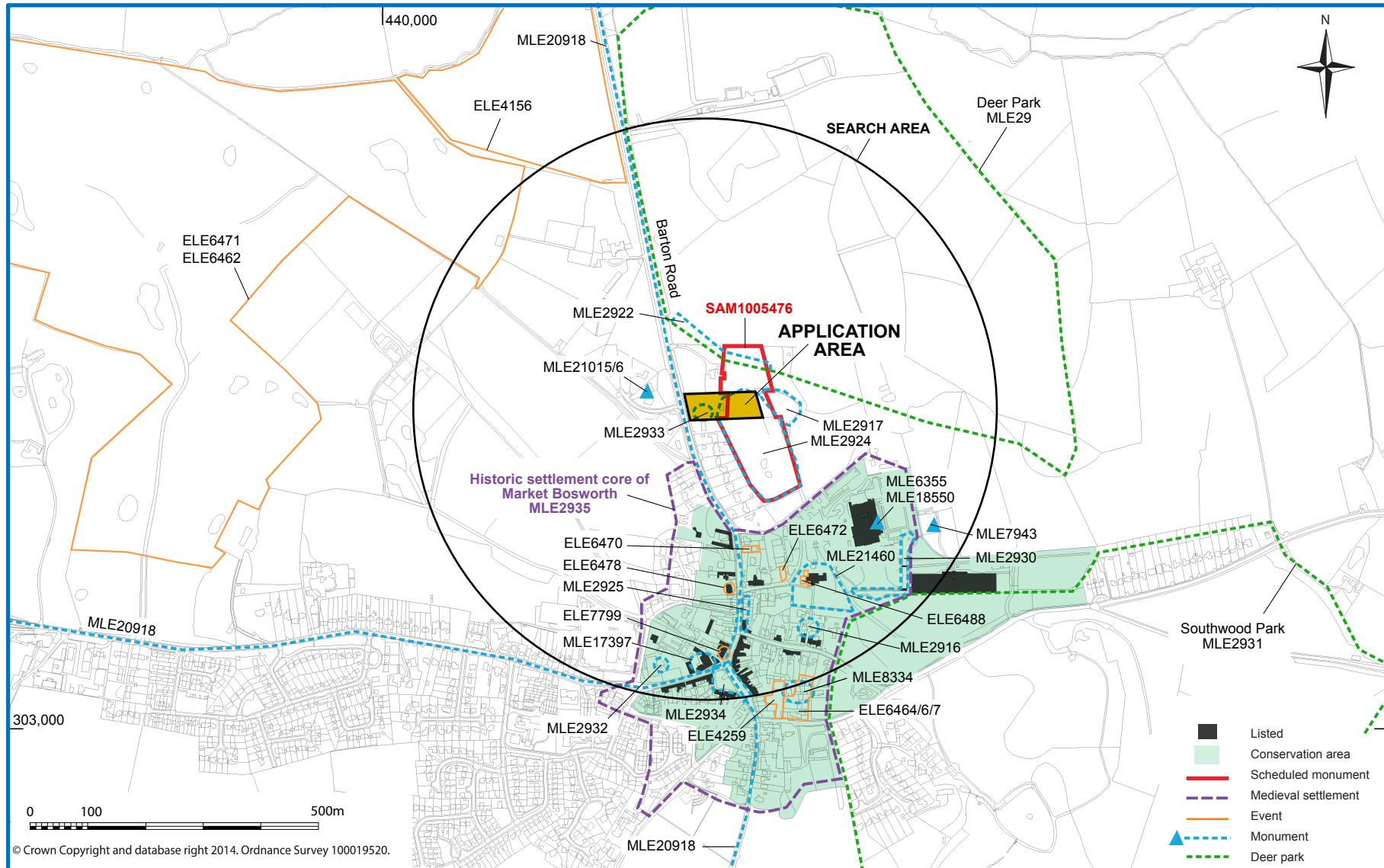


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment Information

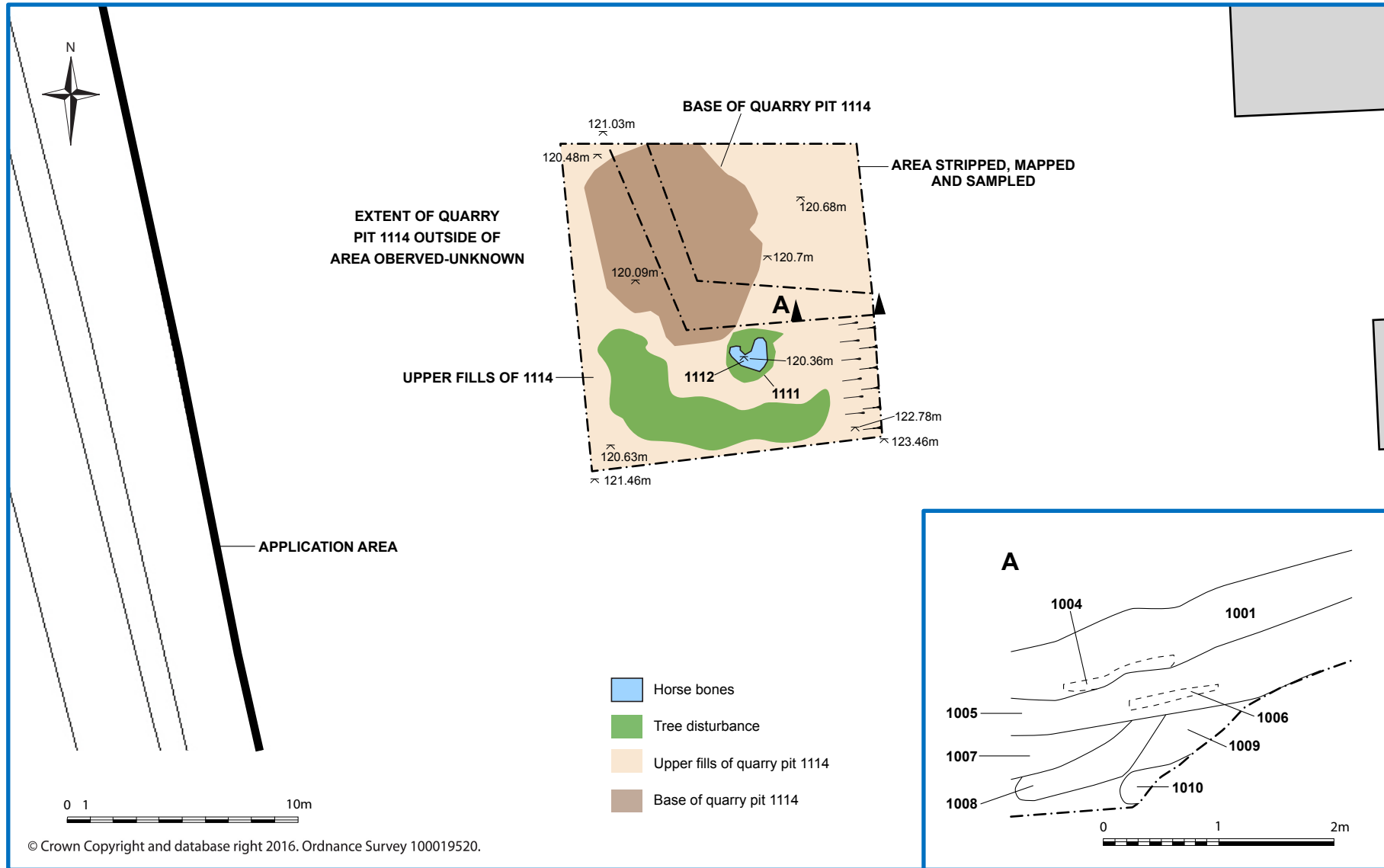


Fig 2: Location of area stripped, mapped and sampled and section A