



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Wolston & Brandon Allotments,
10 Stretton Road, Wolston, Warwickshire**

NGR: SP 40952 75174

Nathan Flavell



ULAS Report No: 2020-096

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Site Name: Wolston & Brandon Allotments, 10 Stretton Road, Wolston, Warwickshire

Grid Ref: SP 40952 75174

Author: Nathan Flavell

Client: Orion Heritage Ltd, Rosconn Strategic Land Ltd

Planning Ref. R19/1411

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OASIS RECORD

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	Start/end dates	22/06/2020 – 25/06/2020		
	Previous/Future Work	None		
	Project Type	Evaluation		
	Site Status	None		
	Current Land Use	Allotments		
	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
Planning Ref.	R19/1411			
PROJECT LOCATION	County	Warwickshire		
	Site Address/Postcode	Wolston Allotments, 10 Stretton Road, Wolston, Warwickshire, CV8 3FR		
	Study Area	2.2 ha		
	Site Coordinates	SP 40952 75174		
	Height OD	79m aOD		
PROJECT CREATORS	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Local Planning Authority		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Gavin Speed		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Nathan Flavell		
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Nathan Flavell

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services at the Wolston & Brandon Allotments, 10 Stretton Road, Wolston, Warwickshire (SP 40952 75174), to provide preliminary indication of any heritage assets.

The twenty trenches did not reveal any archaeological evidence, with the exception of two furrows in one trench.

The archive for the work will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum with accession number T1841.

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 12 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) at the Wolston & Brandon Allotments, 10 Stretton Road, Wolston, Warwickshire CV8 3FR (NGR: SP 40952 75174) (Fig. 1).

The site is located on the southern edge of the village, to the south of Warwick Road. Wolston is a large village in the Rugby borough of Warwickshire. The village is 8km east of Coventry, and 9km west of Rugby.

Planning application (ref: R19/1411) is for development of up to 48 dwellings with associated open space, landscaping, access, and infrastructure. The outline contains a request of the Planning Archaeologist at WCC (28/11/19) to carry out a programme of archaeological work. This WSI sets out the proposed methods employed for an archaeological evaluation, the trenching is intended to provide preliminary indications of the character and extent of any heritage assets in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

Site Location, Geology and Topography

The assessment area comprises a rectangular plot of c.2.2 hectares, it is currently in use as allotment gardens. It is bounded by Warwick Road to the north, Stretton Road to the east, housing to the west, and further allotments to the south (Fig. 2). The topography of the study site is relatively level, the highest point in the SW corner of 79.8m, the site falls slightly 1.3m to the NE boundary to 78.5m above Ordnance Datum (above OD).

The solid geology of the study site comprises mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, overlain by sand and gravel river terrace deposits (BGS online geology viewer 2019).

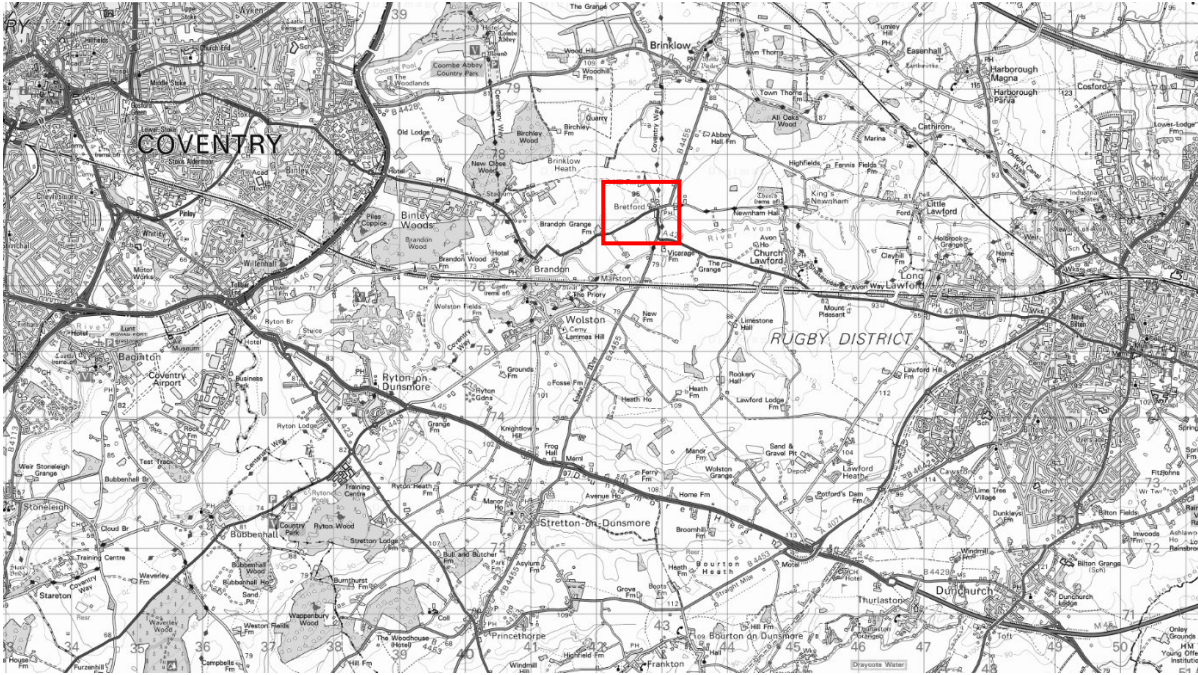


Figure 1: Site location
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Figure 2: Site location
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Historical and Archaeological Background

A desk-based assessment has been carried out (Bedford 2019). It concluded: “the study site has a moderate potential to contain buried archaeological remains of interest from the prehistoric period, in particular given the proximity of the Bronze Age remains found during sand extraction works 85m to the south of the study site. The available evidence suggests that the study site has a low potential to contain remains of interest from other periods”.

The DBA noted that the HER contains no records of any archaeological investigation within the study site, however a number of investigations are recorded in the wider area. Of particular relevance are: An archaeological trial trenched evaluation at Wolston Fields, 320m to the northwest of the study site, undertaken in 1990, which found evidence of Iron Age settlement and associated features (**EWA9164**). A programme of field-walking at Wolston Fields which recovered prehistoric flints and medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds (**EWA10335**). An archaeological trial trench evaluation in the grounds of Wolston High School, 90m to the north of the study site, which found a pit dating to either the Bronze or Iron Age, as well as the remnants of a medieval to post-medieval field system (**EWA949**). Archaeological observation of sand extraction pit in 1943-44 found several cremations as well as a stone circle (**EWA1011**).

The DBA detailed the known historical and archaeological background, it is duplicated here for contextual reference, plans are shown in the appendix.

Prehistoric

The HER contains no records of prehistoric evidence within the study site, however it contains a number of records for the wider area. Archaeological work undertaken to the north of the study site at Wolston fields and Wolston High school have revealed evidence of Iron Age occupation 500m to the west of the study site (HER **MWA4002** and **MWA19888**) as well as some evidence of Bronze activity in the form of a pit found in Wolston High School (HER **MWA7479**). Further evidence of Iron Age settlement is recorded closer to the junction of the Warwick Road with the A45, 0.8km to the west of the study site (HER **MWA19888**). A Bronze Age cremation cemetery and associated urn, cup and potential hearth were recorded in a sand extraction pit in the 1940s approximately 85m to the south of the study site (HER **MWA3407/EWA1011**). More widely the surrounding landscape has considerable evidence of prehistoric activity including chance finds, barrows and undated features which are likely to be associated with the known prehistoric settlement activity noted above. The study site is relatively close to known prehistoric activity, in particular to the Bronze Age cemetery to the south, but also to some evidence of Iron Age and /or Bronze activity to the north. Given the scale of some of the settlement evidence recorded further to the west it would seem likely that the study site would have formed part of the rural landscape surrounding that settlement during this period.

Roman

The HER contains no records of evidence from the Roman period within the study site, there is limited evidence from the surrounding area. The Fosse Way, a Roman road, runs roughly north-south approximately 0.95km to the east of the study site at the nearest point (HER **MWA4759**). Roman finds recorded by the HER are limited to a coin found 0.97km south of the study site (HER **MWA3144**) and a thin scatter of Roman pottery found during evaluation works at Wolston High School, 150m to the northwest of the study site (HER **MWA7479**).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

Evidence from the Anglo-Saxon to early medieval period for the study area is limited and the only record in the HER comprises a cruciform brooch dating to the 6th century AD, which was recovered as a chance find in land east of Brandon Grange, 1km to the northeast of the study site (HER **MWA10065**). There is no other evidence from the Saxon or early medieval period in the HER. The settlement of Wolston is recorded as having been held by Almund in AD 1066 in the Domesday Survey, suggesting some form of settlement there in the early medieval period. Settlement activity expanded in Wolston in the medieval period with the construction of Brandon Castle, the Wolston Priory and the Church of St Margaret, all of which have origins in the 11th and 12th centuries AD. These earlier elements are focused on the banks of the River Avon, 600m to the north of the study site for the castle and church, and 625m to the northeast for the priory. The medieval town of Wolston developed along Main Street, to the east of the study site (HER **MWA9541**). Evidence from outside of the medieval settlement core of Wolston comprises the remnants of ridge and furrow and other agricultural practices (HER **MWA30267**). The study site is situated outside of the area of settlement at this time.

Post-medieval to Modern

Settlement in Wolston during these periods expanded somewhat around the historic core to the north of the Site. The HER records no evidence of post-medieval buried remains within the study site itself. HER evidence from the surrounding area largely relates to continuing development in the settlement core of Wolston, or remnants of agricultural practices outside of Wolston. This is corroborated by the available historic mapping for the study site and surrounding area. The earliest map to show the study site in any detail is the 1834 OS map, which shows the area of the study site as being just outside of the settlement area of Wolston. The 1851 Tithe Map and 1886 OS map show the study site in the same situation, albeit in more detail. The study site and surrounding area change little until the second half of the 20th century, when residential development is built to the north of the Warwick Road, and the study site is recorded as allotments for the first time in the 1965 OS map. Throughout the remainder of the 20th century the area to the north and west of the study site is developed, but the study site itself remains as allotments.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the evaluation have been defined as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to assess the impact of the proposed development on cultural heritage and to help formulate a mitigation strategy
- To record any archaeological deposits and produce an archive and report of any results.

Research Objectives

The desk-based assessment (Bedford 2019) identified some local regional research agendas that the site had the potential to contribute towards, following the Archaeology of the West Midland research framework (Watt et al 2011). Notably these include research agenda items 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, relating to potential Iron Age settlement evidence (Watt et al 2011).

Methodology

The work followed the methodological statement set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the project (Speed 2020).

All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2020) and adheres to their Code of Conduct (2020). The Site Accession Number (T1841) will be used to identify all records and artefacts.

The original plan was for the excavation of 27 trenches (1x 20m, 1x 5m and 25x 10m). These had to be shortened or moved due to site constraints of in use allotment plots.

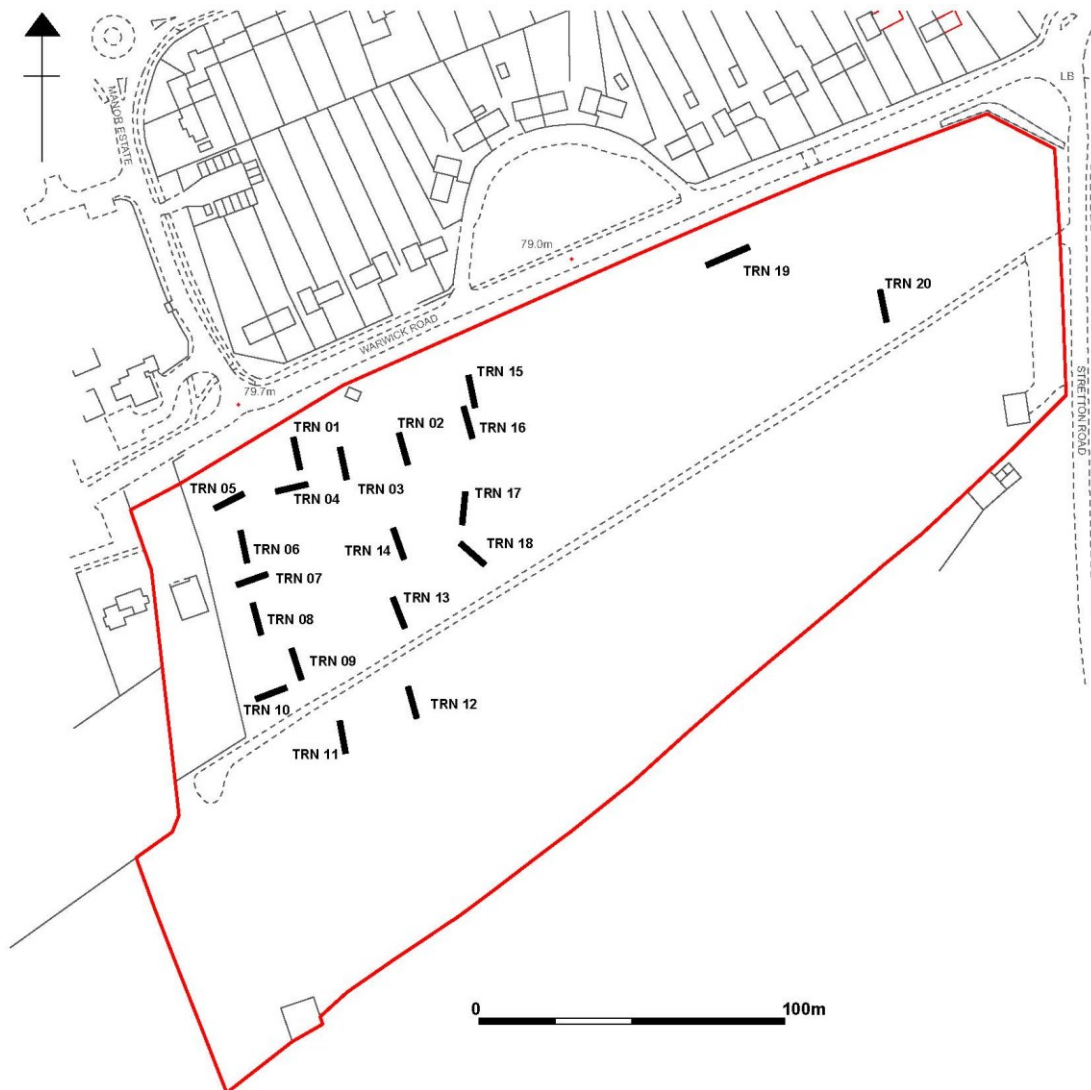


Figure 3: Site plan

Results

Generally, the natural substratum across the site was mixed yellow-orange sand with pebble inclusions, to patches of mixed pink clay. The subsoil was orange-yellow-brown silty sand with occasional pebble and charcoal inclusions. The topsoil was brown-grey sandy clay loam with a browner topsoil loam that is regularly turned over within the allotment plots. Traces of two medieval / post-medieval plough furrows were located in one trench (T9), aligned northeast-southwest.

Trench 1

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 10.3m x 1.6m (Fig. 4).



Figure 4: Trench 1 looking southeast

OD Height: 78.55m	(NW) 0m	5m	10.3m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.33	0.27
Subsoil depth	0.08	0.07	0.13
Depth of natural	0.38	0.4	0.4
Base of trench	0.43	0.5	0.43

Trench 2

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9.5m x 1.6m (Fig. 5).



Figure 5: Trench 2 looking northwest

OD Height: 78.39m	(SE) 0m	5m	9.5m (NW)
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.29	0.36
Subsoil depth	0.07	0.07	0.07
Depth of natural	0.37	0.36	0.43
Base of trench	0.42	0.37	0.46

Trench 3

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9.5m x 1.6m (Fig. 6).



Figure 6: Trench 3 looking northwest

OD Height: 78.50m	(SE) 0m	5m	9.5m (NW)
Topsoil depth	0.35	0.3	0.3
Subsoil depth	0.05	0.08	0.13
Depth of natural	0.4	0.38	0.43
Base of trench	0.4	0.41	0.48

Trench 4

The excavated trench was aligned north-east – south-west, measuring 10m x 1.6m (Fig. 7).



Figure 7: Trench 4 looking southwest

OD Height: 78.57m	(NE) 0m	5m	10m (SW)
Topsoil depth	0.29	0.3	0.44
Subsoil depth	0.1	0.09	-
Depth of natural	0.39	0.39	0.44
Base of trench	0.4	0.42	0.46

Trench 5

The excavated trench was aligned north-east – south-west, measuring 9m x 1.6m (Fig. 8).



Figure 8: Trench 5 looking southwest

OD Height: 78.51m	(NE) 0m	5m	9m (SW)
Topsoil depth	0.4	0.42	0.4
Subsoil depth	0.07	0.07	0.07
Depth of natural	0.47	0.49	0.47
Base of trench	0.49	0.54	0.5

Trench 6

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9.6m x 1.6m (Fig. 9).



Figure 9: Trench 6 looking southeast

OD Height: 78.54m	(NW) 0m	5m	9.6m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.36	0.35	0.3
Subsoil depth	0.07	0.05	-
Depth of natural	0.43	0.4	0.3
Base of trench	0.47	0.43	0.36

Trench 7

The excavated trench was aligned north-east – south-west, measuring 9.5m x 1.6m (Fig. 10).



Figure 10: Trench 7 looking northeast

OD Height: 78.6m	(SW) 0m	5m	9.5m (NE)
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.3	0.4
Subsoil depth	-	0.04	0.1
Depth of natural	0.3	0.34	0.5
Base of trench	0.36	0.42	0.5

Trench 8

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9m x 1.6m (Fig. 11).



Figure 11: Trench 8 looking southeast

OD Height: 78.47m	(NW) 0m	5m	9m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.37	0.5	0.45
Subsoil depth	0.15	0.1	0.12
Depth of natural	0.52	0.6	0.57
Base of trench	0.56	0.68	0.7

Trench 9

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9.7m x 1.6m (Fig. 12). Two furrows were observed in this trench aligned northeast-southwest with a subsoil type fill.



Figure 12: Trench 9 looking southeast

OD Height: 78.56m	(NW) 0m	5m	9.7m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.31	0.4	0.4
Subsoil depth	0.06	-	0.06
Depth of natural	0.36	0.4	0.46
Base of trench	0.4	0.48	0.46

Trench 10

The excavated trench was aligned north-east – south-west, measuring 10m x 1.6m (Fig. 13).



Figure 13: Trench 10 looking northeast

OD Height: 78.47m	(SW) 0m	5m	10m (NE)
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.3	0.35
Subsoil depth	0.04	0.05	-
Depth of natural	0.34	0.35	0.35
Base of trench	0.37	0.37	0.4

Trench 11

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9.8m x 1.6m (Fig. 14).



Figure 14: Trench 11 looking

OD Height: 80.01m	(SE) 0m	5m	9.8m (NW)
Topsoil depth	0.36	0.5	0.42
Subsoil depth	0.04	-	0.04
Depth of natural	0.4	0.5	0.46
Base of trench	0.42	0.5	0.5

Trench 12

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9m x 1.6m (Fig. 15).



Figure 15: Trench 12 looking northwest

OD Height: 79.94m	(SE) 0m	5m	9m (NW)
Topsoil depth	0.27	0.23	0.3
Subsoil depth	0.09	0.07	0.05
Depth of natural	0.36	0.3	0.35
Base of trench	0.4	0.33	0.39

Trench 13

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 8m x 1.6m (Fig. 16).



Figure 16: Trench 13 looking southeast

OD Height: 79.59m	(NW) 0m	5m	8m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.27	0.37	0.42
Subsoil depth	0.12	0.03	-
Depth of natural	0.39	0.4	0.42
Base of trench	0.4	0.4	0.42

Trench 14

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 10m x 1.6m (Fig. 17).



Figure 17: Trench 14 looking southeast

OD Height: 78.5m	(NW) 0m	5m	10m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.37	0.28	0.32
Subsoil depth	0.06	0.09	0.08
Depth of natural	0.43	0.37	0.4
Base of trench	0.47	0.4	0.44

Trench 15

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9m x 1.6m (Fig. 18).



Figure 18: Trench 15 looking southeast

OD Height: 78.92m	(NW) 0m	5m	9m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.34	0.27	0.23
Subsoil depth	0.1	0.05	0.05
Depth of natural	0.44	0.32	0.28
Base of trench	0.5	0.36	0.3

Trench 16

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 9.3m x 1.6m (Fig. 19).



Figure 19: Trench 16 looking southeast

OD Height: 79.09m	(NW) 0m	5m	9.3m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.26	0.28	0.3
Subsoil depth	0.05	0.04	0.07
Depth of natural	0.31	0.32	0.37
Base of trench	0.35	0.34	0.39

Trench 17

The excavated trench was aligned north – south, measuring 9.2m x 1.6m (Fig. 20).



Figure 20: Trench 17 looking south

OD Height: 79.38m	(N) 0m	5m	9.2m (S)
Topsoil depth	0.33	0.25	0.3
Subsoil depth	0.05	0.08	0.05
Depth of natural	0.58	0.33	0.35
Base of trench	0.4	0.34	0.38

Trench 18

The excavated trench was aligned north-west – south-east, measuring 10m x 1.6m (Fig. 21).



Figure 21: Trench 18 looking southeast

OD Height: 79.43m	(NW) 0m	5m	10m (SE)
Topsoil depth	0.3	0.3	0.35
Subsoil depth	0.14	0.15	0.07
Depth of natural	0.44	0.45	0.42
Base of trench	0.49	0.52	0.44

Trench 19

The excavated trench was aligned north-east – south-west, measuring 13m x 1.6m (Fig. 22).



Figure 22: Trench 19 looking northeast

OD Height: 78.49m	(SW) 0m	5m	10m	13m (NE)
Topsoil depth	0.4	0.36	0.4	0.4
Subsoil depth	0.06	-	0.05	0.09
Depth of natural	0.46	0.36	0.45	0.49
Base of trench	0.5	0.4	0.45	0.6

Trench 20

The excavated trench was aligned north – south, measuring 10m x 1.6m (Fig. 23).



Figure 23: Trench 20 looking south

OD Height: 79.62m	(N) 0m	5m	10m (S)
Topsoil depth	0.38	0.35	0.25
Subsoil depth	0.1	0.1	0.09
Depth of natural	0.48	0.45	0.34
Base of trench	0.51	0.46	0.4

Conclusion

The trial trenches did not uncover any significant archaeology, only the presence of ridge and furrow ploughing in one trench. This suggests that the site is outside of the historic village core and part of a much larger field system.

Archive and Publication

The archive for the project will be deposited with Warwickshire Museum. An accession number (T1841) will be used to identify the records. The archive consists of the following:

- 1 Unbound copy of this report (2020-096)
- 20 trial trench recording sheets
- 1 Photographic record
- 1 CD of digital photographs
- Digital contact sheet

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

References

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Appendix 1: HER Results

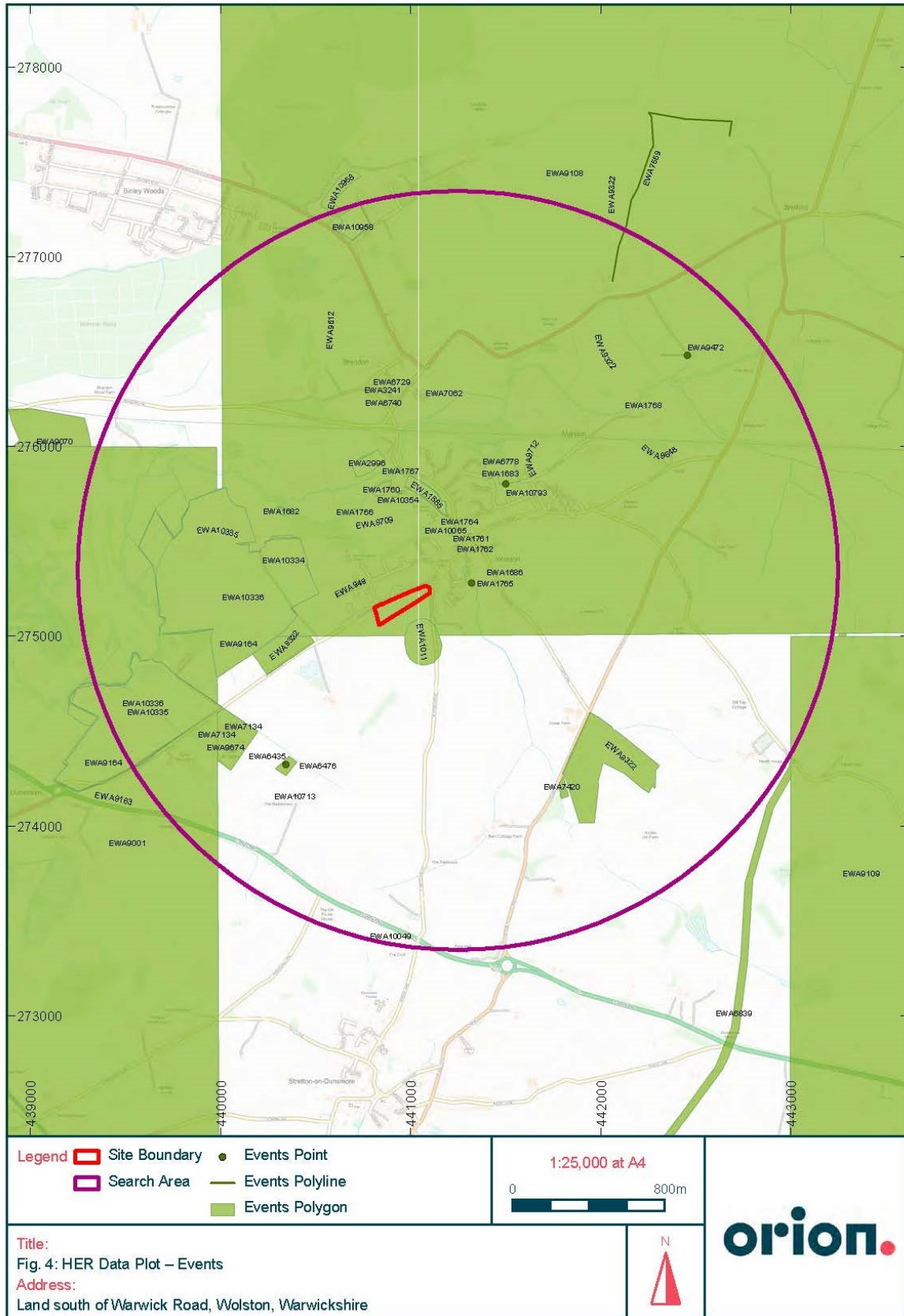


Figure 24: HER archaeological events map (From Bedford 2019, Fig. 4)

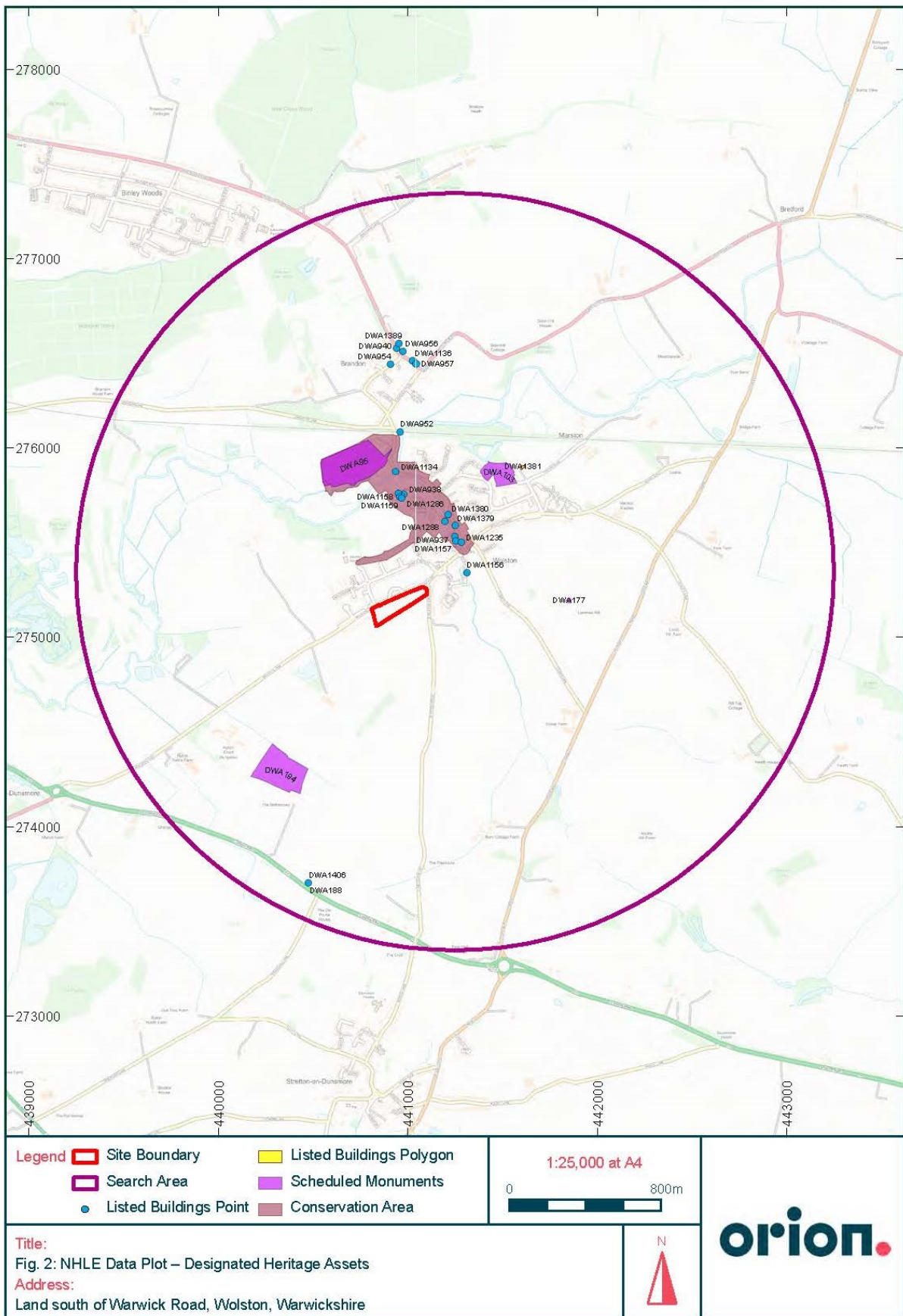


Figure 25: HER Designated heritage assets map (from Bedford 2019 Fig. 2)

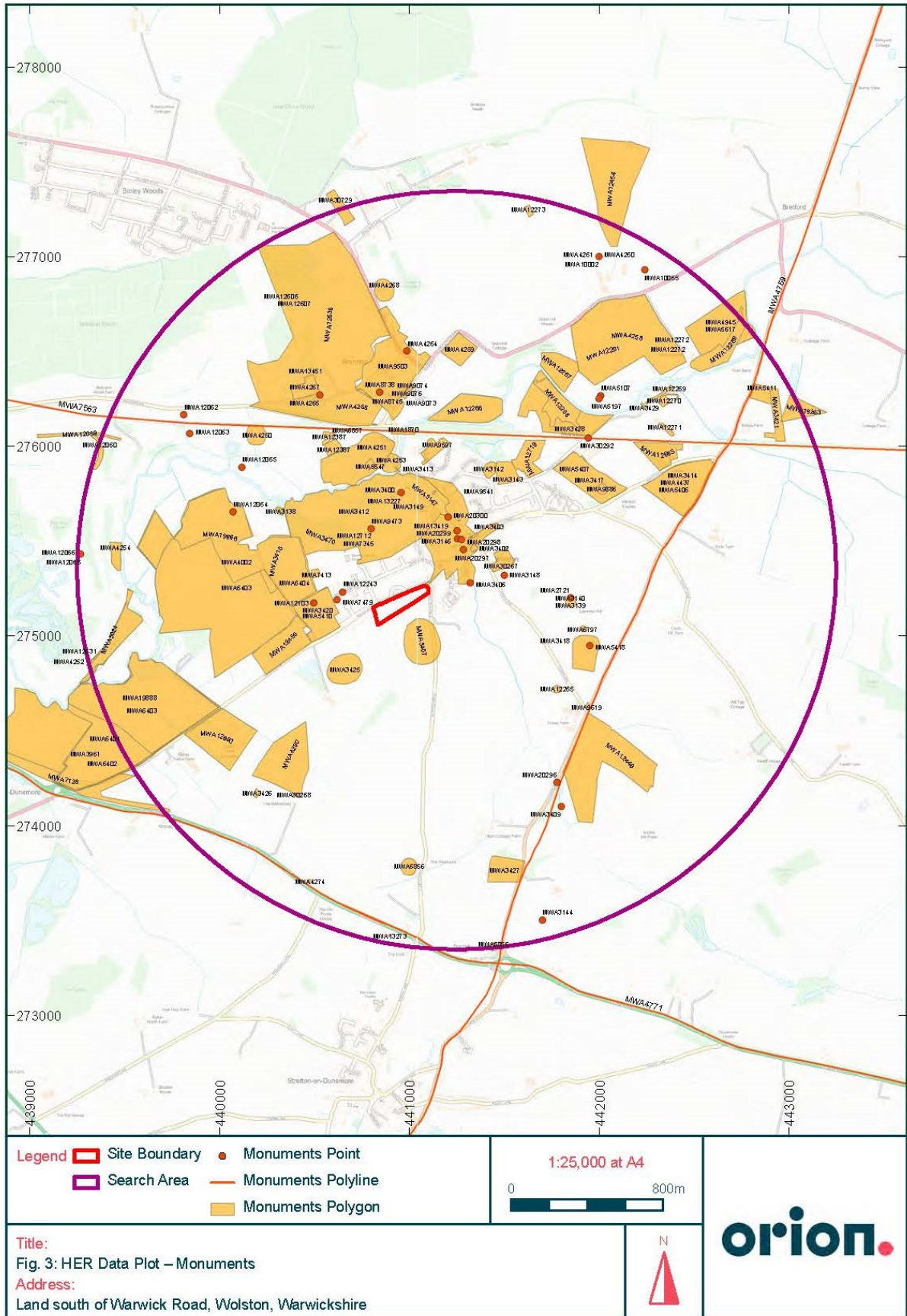


Figure 26: HER archaeological sites & monuments map (From Bedford 2019, Fig. 3)



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