

**Leaton Quarry
Telford
Shropshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
Breedon Aggregates


CA Project: 3552
CA Report: 11295

November 2011

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Telford
Shropshire

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CA Project: 3552
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date	14 November 2011
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signed	
date	18 November 2011
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Leaton Quarry
Location:	Telford, Shropshire
NGR:	SJ 6200 1116
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	28 September – 7 October 2011
Planning Reference:	TWC/2010/0085
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with Shropshire County Museum
Site Code:	LQT11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of mineral extraction works at Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire.

A shallow, undated sub-oval pit containing burnt sand, clay and sandstone pebbles was observed within the development area.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September and October 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Breedon Aggregates at Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire (centred on NGR: SJ 6200 1116; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent granted by Telford and Wrekin Council (TWC) for the extension of the quarry and associated development works (Planning ref: TWC/2010/0085). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.
- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd (2011) that was approved by TWC acting on the advice of the Historic Environment Officer at Shropshire Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006) and *Planning for Mineral Extraction and Archaeology* (Minerals and Historic Environment Forum 2007).

The site

- 1.3 Leaton Quarry lies immediately to the east of the hamlet of Leaton and approximately 0.5km to the south-west of the village of Wrockwardine. The development area comprised an arable field bounded to the north-west and south-west by current quarry workings, to the south-east by a minor road and to the north-east by fields. The site covers 7.6ha and lies at approximately 120m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Uriconian Group Balsatic Rock (BGS 2011). Natural substrate was observed intermittently across the development area and comprised brownish red and greyish pink sand and sandy clay with abundant sandstone pebbles.



Archaeological background

- 1.5 The first detailed mapping for the site comes from the tithe map of 1837-9 and the subsequent 1st edition Ordnance Survey. These consistently show the ground to be enclosed agricultural fields with no significant changes from the early 19th century to the modern day bar the steady expansion of field sizes (RA 2011).
- 1.6 The deserted medieval village (DMV) of Burton (MSA496) is located abutting the south-east boundary of the site. It is thought the DMV was focused around the current Burcot Manor but its maximum extent is not known. A walkover survey of the development area undertaken during the preparation of the WSI identified concentrations of brick, tile, ceramics and animal bone in the part of the site closest to Burcot Manor. In addition, a series of rectilinear soil marks were noted on vertical aerial photographs from the late 1940s. While these were too indistinct to map, and do not appear on later images, they appear to concentrate in the same area as the surface finds (RA 2011).
- 1.7 A series of cropmarks noted to the north-west of the previously noted soil marks, may be associated with an earlier quarry site (RA 2011).

Methodology

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (RA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks, comprising the stripping of topsoil and partial removal of subsoil for the construction of an extension to the existing perimeter screenmound in an area to the north-east of the current quarry workings (see Fig. 2 for location and extent).
- 1.9 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive from the watching brief is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. It will be deposited with Shropshire County Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 102, comprising compact brownish red and greyish pink sand and sandy clay with abundant sandstone pebbles was revealed intermittently across the development area at an average depth of 0.38m below present ground level.
- 2.2 Shallow, undated sub-oval pit 103 was observed cut into the natural substrate in the southern corner of the site (Fig. 2). It was filled by mixed deposit 104 comprising burnt orange red sand and sandy clay, as well as grey brown silty sand and burnt sandstone pebbles (Fig. 4). The natural substrate around and beneath the feature did not appear to have been burnt. It was overlain by subsoil 101 and topsoil 100.
- 2.3 No artefactual material was recovered from pit 103, or the topsoil or subsoil layers.
- 2.4 An environmental sample of pit fill 104 was taken and is held by CA at their offices in Kemble.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The watching brief identified only a single archaeological feature within the area of observed groundworks; pit 103. The pit was filled by a dump of burnt sand, clay and sandstone pebbles which contained no dating evidence. The function of this feature is uncertain.
- 3.2 The absence of further archaeological deposits may indicate that structural remains associated with the deserted medieval village of Burton either do not extend as far as or were not exposed by the development, although the results might equally reflect the limited extent of the groundworks.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Haines. The report was written by Charlotte Haines. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been

compiled by Charlotte Haines, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html Viewed 14 October 2011

RA (Rathmell Archaeology) 2011 *Leaton Quarry Telford: Archaeological Mitigation. Written Scheme of Investigation.*



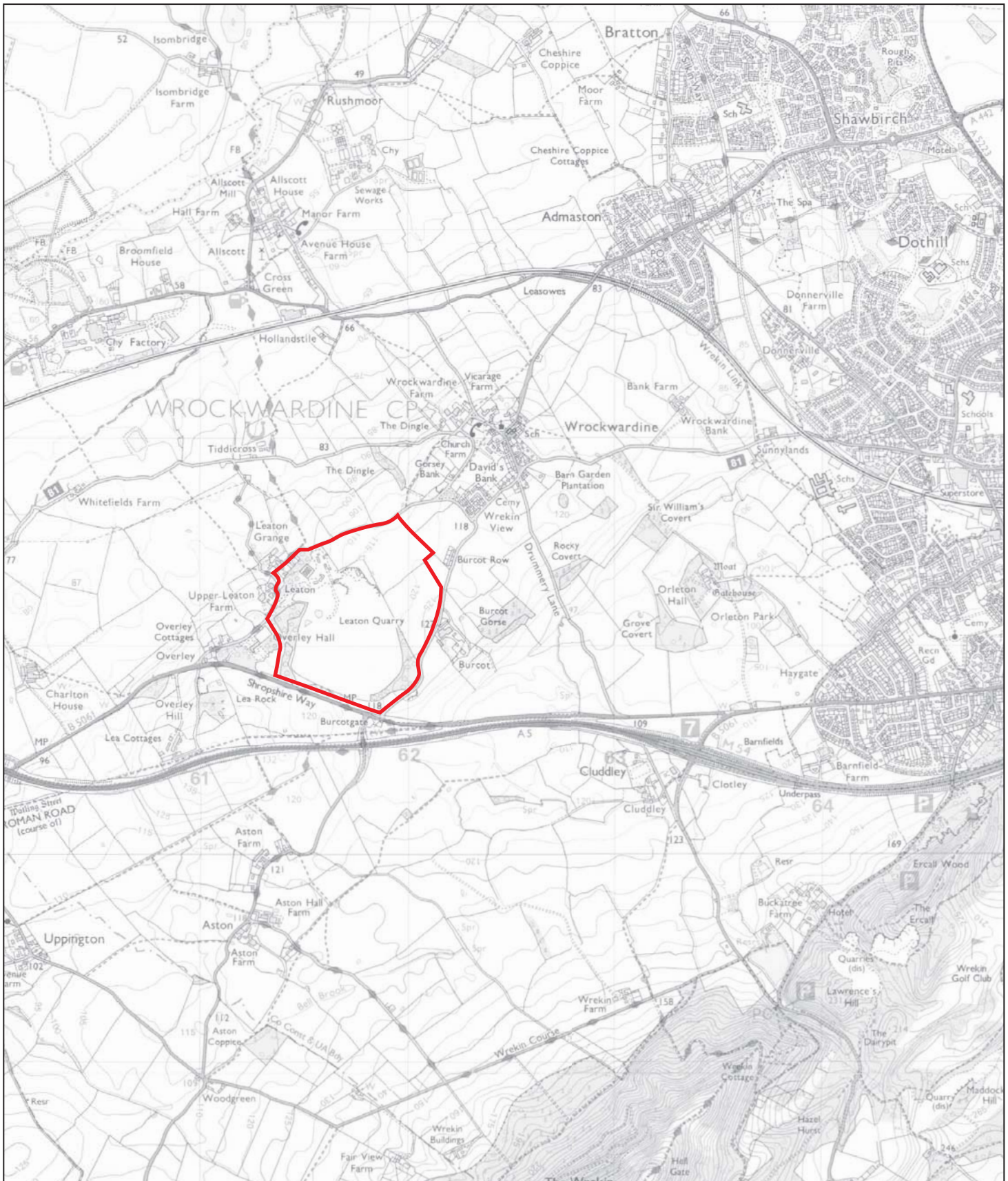
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil, loose, light pinkish grey, sandy silt with occasional small and medium sized rounded sandstone pebbles			0.18	Modern
101	Layer	Subsoil, very compact, light brownish grey silty sand with occasional small, medium and large rounded sandstone pebbles			0.20	
102	Layer	Natural substrate, very compact mid brownish red, white orange and greyish pink clay sand and silty sand, with frequent small medium and large sandstone pebbles				
103	Cut	Shallow, sub-oval pit	2.77	0.85	0.33	
104	Fill	Fill of 103, mixed orange red, burnt sand and clay and grey brown silty sand and burnt sandstone pebbles	2.77	0.85	0.33	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the extension of mineral extraction works at Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire. A shallow undated pit containing burnt sand and clay was observed within the development area.	
Project dates	September – October 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	7.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SJ 6204 1116	
1116PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Shropshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Rathmell Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Charlotte Haines	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Shropshire County Museum	Trench sheet, Photo Register
Digital	Shropshire County Museum	Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief. CA typescript report 11295		



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PROJECT TITLE
 Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire




FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

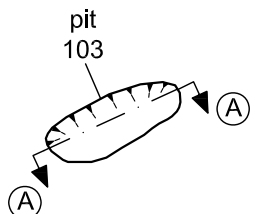
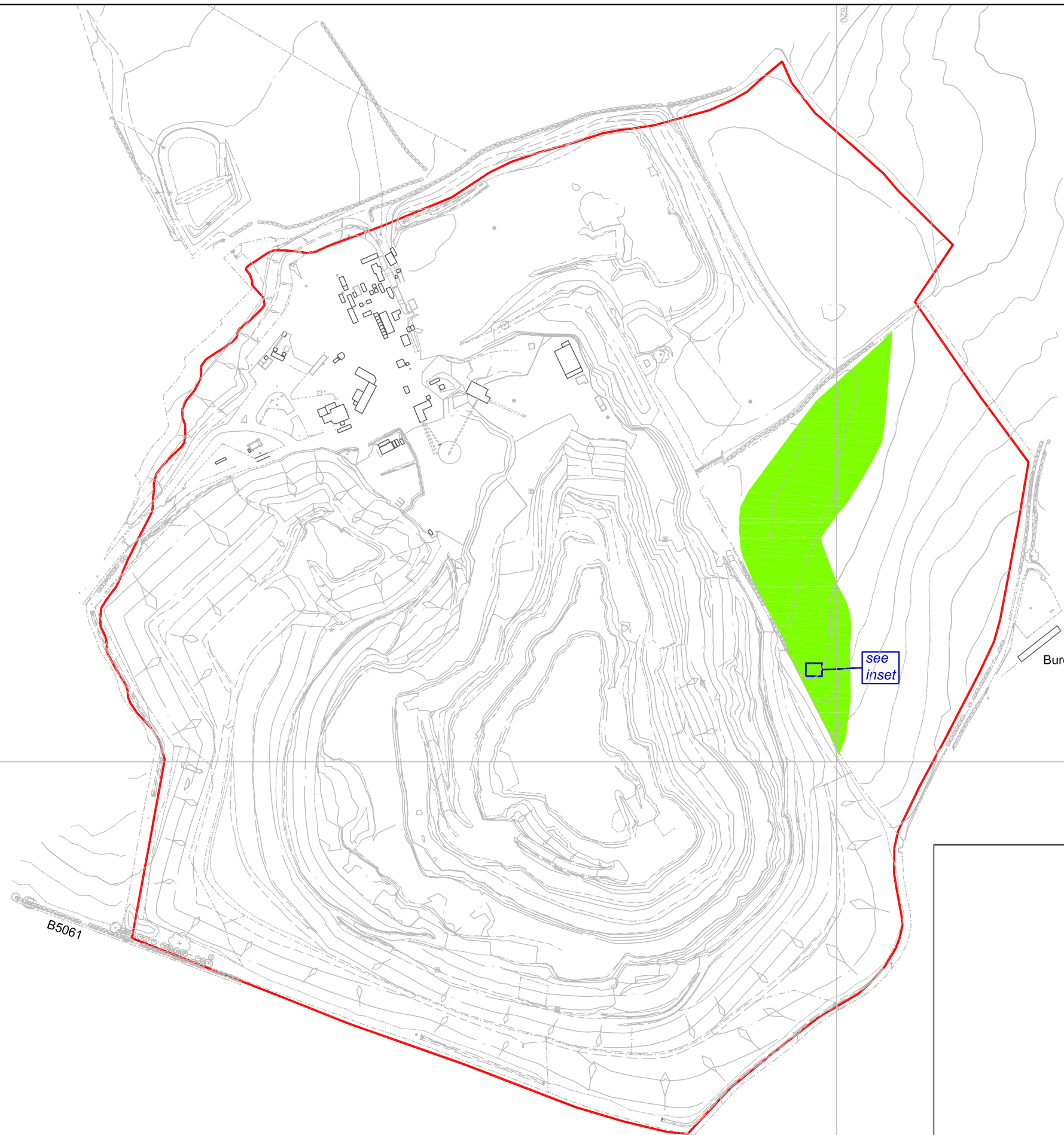
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PROJECT NO. 3552 DATE 21-10-2011
 DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
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FIGURE NO.
1



-  site
-  area of groundworks
-  archaeological feature



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PROJECT TITLE
 Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing area of observed groundworks and archeological feature

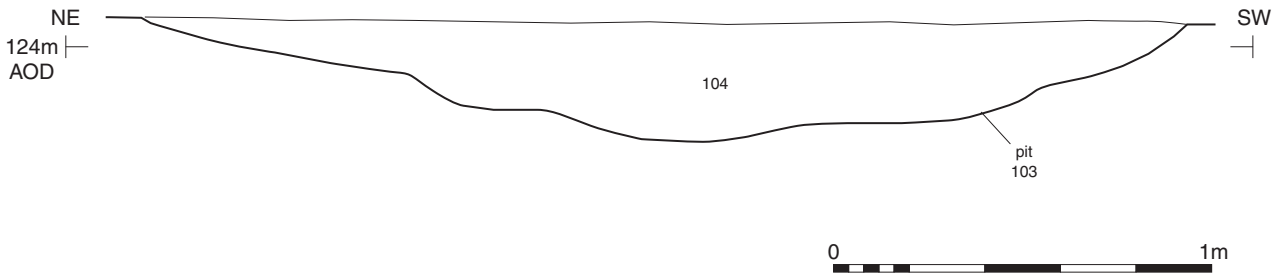
PROJECT NO.	3552	DATE	21-10-2011	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:4000	

P:\3552 leaton quarry telford vbi\illustration\Drawings\3552 Leaton Quarry - Telford, Shropshire Fig 2.dwg

SJ

3

Section AA



4



3 Section AA

4 Pit 103, looking east (scale 1m)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Pit 103, section and photograph

PROJECT NO. 3552 DATE 21-10-2011
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FIGURE NO.

3 & 4