

**Leaton Quarry  
Telford  
Shropshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*for*  
**Breedon Aggregates**


CA Project: 3943  
CA Report: 12246

September 2012

Leaton Quarry  
Telford  
Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

CA Project: 3943  
CA Report: 12246

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date	14 September 2012
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signed	
date	2 October 2012
issue	01

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## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing area of observed groundworks (1:4000)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Leaton Quarry  
**Location:** Telford, Shropshire  
**NGR:** SJ 6200 1116  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 4 September – 12 September 2012  
**Planning Reference:** TWC/2010/0085  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Shropshire County Museum  
**Site Code:** LYQ12

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

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2012 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 (RA 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). The natural substrate was observed 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).
- 1.8 An archaeological watching brief undertaken by CA in 2011 immediately to the west of the current groundworks (Fig. 2) revealed a shallow, undated sub-oval pit containing burnt sand, clay and sandstone pebbles. The function of this pit remains uncertain (CA 2011).

### **Methodology**

- 1.9 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).
- 1.10 Written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).

- 1.11 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 (FIG. 2)**

- 2.1 The natural geological substrate 102, comprising compact brownish red and greyish pink sand and sandy clay with abundant sandstone pebbles was revealed across the development area at an average depth of 0.4m below present ground level. This was overlain by subsoil 101 and topsoil 100.
- 2.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material was recovered.

## **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The absence of archaeological deposits would indicate that structural remains associated with the deserted medieval village of Burton do not extend as far west as the area of groundworks.

## **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Young and Tom Weavill. The report was written by Tom Weavill. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Tom Weavill, 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](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html) Viewed 14 October  
2011

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological  
Watching Brief*. CA typescript report **11295**

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

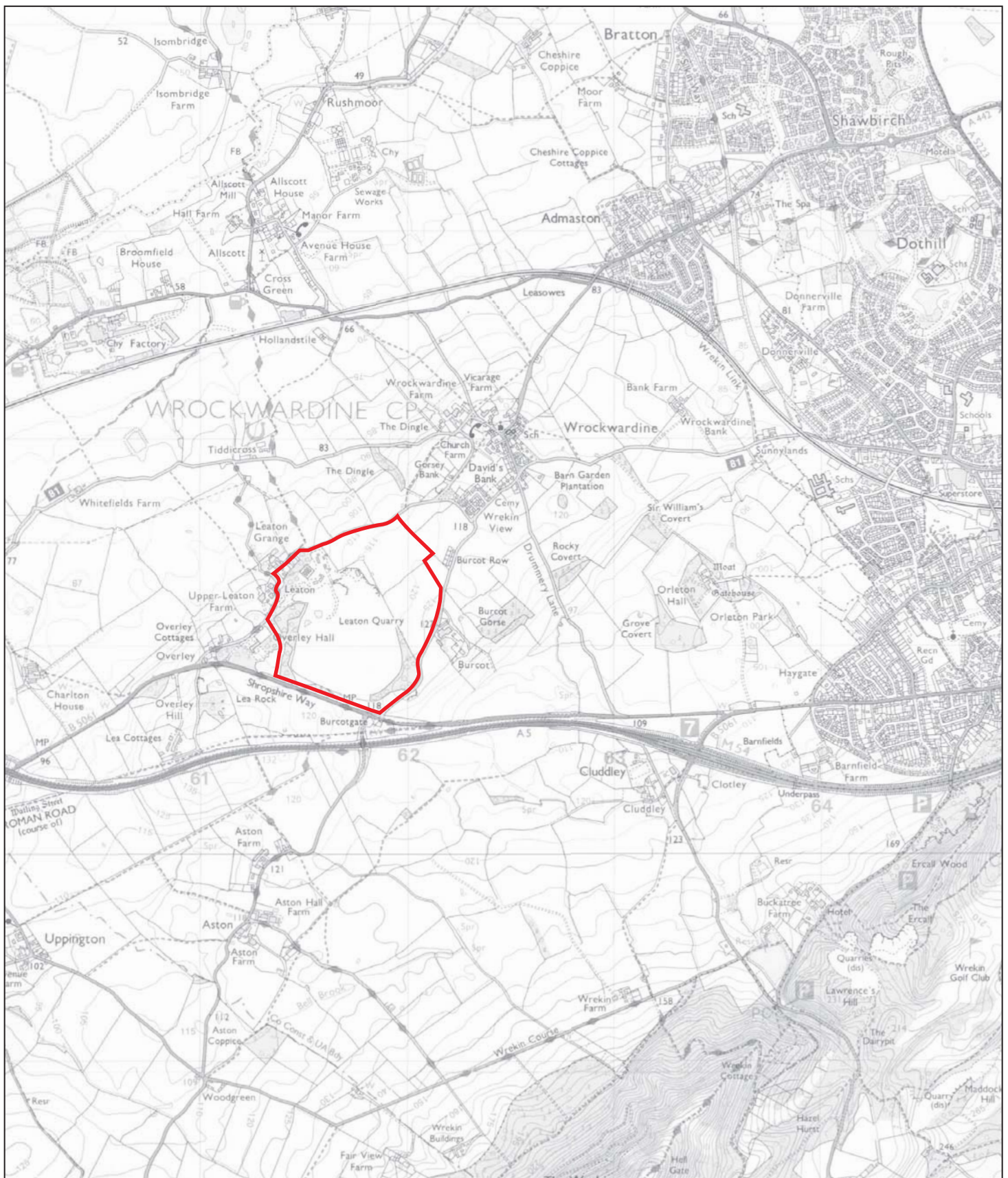


**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS**

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark grey, sandy silt.			0.30	
101	Layer	Subsoil: Dark brownish grey silty sand.			0.13	
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				

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
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.  No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material was recovered.	
Project dates	September 2012	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Watching Brief: CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>11295</b>	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	7.6ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SJ 6204 1116	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Shropshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Rathmell Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Tom Weavill	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Location	Content
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	Shropshire County Museum	Trench sheet
Digital	N/A	N/A
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA typescript report <b>12246</b>		



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PROJECT TITLE

**Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire**

FIGURE TITLE

**Site location plan**

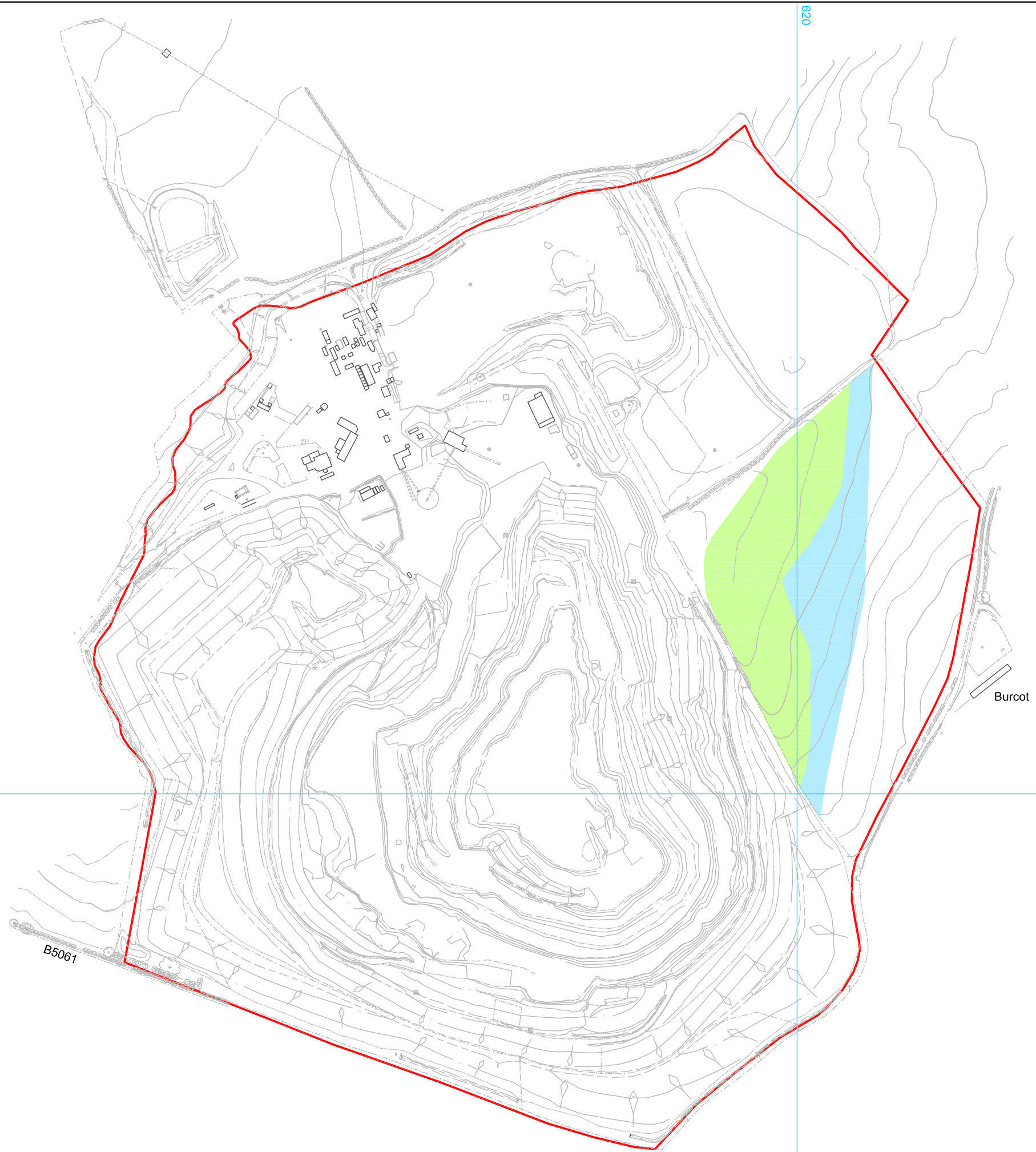
0 1km

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PROJECT NO. 3943 DATE 21-09-2012  
DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00  
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- ▬ site
- ▬ area of groundworks observed in 2011 by CA
- ▬ area of current groundworks



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
**The site, showing area of observed groundworks**

PROJECT NO. 3943	DATE 21-09-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY JB	REVISION 00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY PJM	SCALE@A3 1:4000	

P:\3943 Leaton Quarry Telford Shropshire WE\Illustration\Drafts\3943 Leaton Quarry, Telford, Shropshire Fig 2.dwg

**SJ**