

Moat House Park

Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Survey

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Jacobs
1 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9DX



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	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
ORIGINAL	NAME Paul Bennett	NAME Pete Fasham	NAME
DATE	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE 	SIGNATURE  6/3/08
REVISION	NAME	NAME	NAME
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1 Introduction

1.1 New Deal for Communities (NDC) Environmental Improvements Strategic Project

The Project will provide a phased programme of Environmental Improvements for the NDC Area of Coventry, with the specific purpose of improving the environment for residents.

The over-arching aim for developing the Moat House Park open space is to create an area that can stand as a 'flagship' park for the Wood End, Henley Green, Manor Farm and Deedmore (WEHM) area.

The park has several key elements, which include;

- *Ecological value, including existing habitats and associated species; the role the site plays within the broader context of green space in the WEHM area (e.g. as part of a wildlife corridor etc);*
- *Historical features (both natural (e.g. the mature exotic trees) and physical (e.g. the moat / pond);*
- *Recreational use; and,*
- *Existing buildings – including the forthcoming Leisure & Neighbourhood Centre and the Watcombe Day Centre.*

1.2 Cultural Heritage Desk Based Survey

Jacobs UK were commissioned by Coventry City Council to undertake a cultural heritage desk-based survey of Moat House Park, Potters Green, Coventry (NGR SP3698182055). The purpose of this survey was to inform the Coventry New Deal for Communities (NDC) as to the heritage potential of the park and to inform possible constraints to design proposals.

Moat House Park is an approximately triangular 6.8 hectare urban green space at the border between the parishes of Walsgrave-on-Sowe and Foleshill, adjacent to Moat House Primary School. Presently used for passive and active recreation, the park is crossed by several concrete aggregate paths with areas of open grassland, stands of trees and patches of dense undergrowth. A leisure facility (the Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre) is in construction immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the park at the time of writing.

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2 Policy Context

2.1 National Policy

Some archaeological sites enjoy statutory protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM), and are by definition of National importance. Not all nationally important archaeological remains are designated as SAMs, but National Planning Policy Guidance I (NPPG1) sets out a presumption that such remains should be preserved in their existing location and condition.

Buildings of special architectural or historic interest may also enjoy statutory protection as Listed Buildings (Graded I, II* or II), while some buildings of lesser interest may be protected under Development Plan policies. The historic character and appearance of some built-up areas are protected by their designation as Conservation Areas. Other non-statutory designations relevant to the Cultural Heritage assessment include English Heritage's Registers of Battlefields and of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Government policy on the treatment of the built heritage and archaeology in the planning process is expressed in Planning Policy Guidance Notes (PPG) 15 and 16.

2.2 Regional Policy

Guidance given in PPG15 and PPG16 is expanded in the Coventry Development Plan (Adopted 2001), Policy BE1 and policies BE8 to BE15. Policy BE15 states:

“There will be a presumption in favour of the preservation of archaeological remains of national importance (whether or not scheduled ancient monuments and whether visible or concealed) and of their setting.

Such remains should be accessible for public enjoyment and expert study wherever this is feasible without being significantly detrimental to their preservation. Development adversely affecting known or suspected archaeological remains of less than national importance, or their setting or accessibility, will be permitted only if the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the likely harm. Preservation of remains where they are found, if feasible, is preferred. In any case, all practicable measures must be taken for their assessment, recording and protection. Where the existence or importance of remains is uncertain, suitable assessment may be required prior to the determination of a development proposal.”

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3 Methodology

3.1 Sources of Information

A study area was defined as a 500m buffer around the current boundary of Moat House Park (hereafter referred to as "The Park"). Data for this area was gathered from the following sources:

- *English Heritage National Monuments Record maintained by English Heritage;*
- *English Heritage Aerial Photography section;*
- *Coventry Historic Environment Record (HER) for heritage site information, digital data; maps, plans and aerial photographs; published and unpublished archaeological reports;*
- *Coventry Archives;*
- *Warwickshire Record Office;*
- *Coventry Local Studies Library;*
- *Relevant plans and policies;*
- *Readily available online sources; and,*
- *A site inspection carried out 07/02/2008.*

Data was also gathered from a wider area to put sites identified from the above sources in their local, regional and national context.

3.2 Assessment of Importance

A provisional assessment of the sensitivity of each site within the study area was made on a five-point scale of Very High, High, Medium, Low or Negligible sensitivity.

Limited information was available for most sites in the study area, with none having been archaeologically tested or subject to detailed survey or recording. This initial assessment was therefore based partly on professional experience. However, it also took into account the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for the designation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments. These criteria are period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, diversity and potential.

Buildings of cultural heritage significance were assessed against criteria used for considering designation of Listed Buildings, outlined in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15). The criteria used are Architectural Interest and Historic Interest.

Existing statutory designations were taken into account in the grading process. All Scheduled Ancient Monuments are assumed to be of National importance. Although Listed Buildings are also technically all of National importance, however, they are divided into three grades (I, II* and II), which in itself recognizes that the buildings do vary significantly in importance. Around 94% of Listed Buildings are Grade II, the lowest grade, and it is acknowledged that there is significant variation of importance within this category. For the purposes of this Environmental Impact Assessment, therefore, all Grade I and II* buildings have been assumed to be of High sensitivity, while Grade II buildings may be graded as either High, Medium, or Low sensitivity, based on a site-by-site assessment that uses criteria set out in PPG15.

Where buildings have been identified as entirely modern or demolished by the walkover survey, their sensitivity has been graded as "None". Likewise, any sites noted as destroyed have had their sensitivity graded as "None".

Table 3.1 - Criteria to Assess Sensitivity

Sensitivity	Criteria
Very High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Heritage Sites or other sites of acknowledged international importance.
High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM), Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefield or Listed Buildings; Site is proposed for Scheduling or Listing; and Site is not Scheduled or Listed, but meets the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for scheduling or criteria set out in PPG15. In general, these sites will be rare and in outstanding condition.
Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site is a Grade II Listed Building (see above); Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens; Site is a non-statutory archaeological site or standing structure that contributes significantly to the Cultural Heritage resource of the local area or, to a lesser extent, the county as a whole; and, Site is of low sensitivity, but has wider value as part of a group of sites.
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site is a Grade II Listed Building (see above); and, Site is a non-statutory archaeological site or standing structure that contributes to the Cultural Heritage of the parish/local area.
Negligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site is a non-statutory archaeological site with no surviving remains.
Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sensitivity of the site cannot be ascertained.

The Institute of Field Archaeologist's "*Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*" (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001) was taken into account in the preparation of this report.

4 History and Archaeology of the Surrounding Area

4.1 Geology

Bedrock of Permian and Triassic sandstones traverse the study area as a thin band, orientated north-south. This is overlain by glacial till (British Geological Survey <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/magazine/geology/>? Data Accessed 18/02/2008).

4.2 Prehistory (to AD 43)

Evidence of the earliest occupation of the area, around 500,000 years ago, has been uncovered in the form of Homo Erectus remains near Bubbenhall, approximately 9km to the south (McGrory 2003b 1).

The low-lying, well watered topography of the region was attractive to early populations. Mesolithic (10,000 – 4000BC) hunter-gatherer occupation has been identified at Burrow Hill Camp near Corley, 7km to the west and Gibbet hill, a raised area near two small watercourses south of Coventry, was found to be occupied on a more permanent basis in the Neolithic period (4000 – 2200BC). This topographic situation is matched in the study area, which indicates potential for similar prehistoric activity.

Stray artefacts from this period and later have been identified throughout the local area, a large proportion of which have come from as far afield as South Wales, Cumbria and the south coast of England. A fragment of a Neolithic/early Bronze Age battle axe, a perforated axe-head and two axe/hammers (NMR 869548, 336032, 869550 and 869551) have all been found within 2km of the park. The distribution of finds, along with their varied origins, has led to the suggestion that there may have been a prehistoric north-south trade route in this area (McGrory 2003b 3).

As described above, several finds have been dated to the Bronze Age (2200-800BC). A possible Bronze Age round barrow lies approximately 6km to the southeast, in the grounds of Combe Abbey (NMR 337576)

In the Iron Age (800BC – AD 43), this area was located on the boundary between the lands of the Coritani in the northeast, the Cornovii in the west and the Dobuni to the south. Iron Age settlement in the region typically takes the form of small farmsteads, enclosed within a rectilinear ditch. Several hillforts have been identified throughout the region, but none locally (Palmer 2003 3). Although very few occupation sites in the area can be dated to this period, many Roman period sites (AD 43 – AD 410) may have been occupied earlier.

4.3 Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

A possible early Roman marching camp has been identified at Barrs Hill, to the north of Coventry city centre, and the Lunt and Mancetter forts were both in use by the mid 60s AD. Two Roman roads pass close by this area, the Fosse Way between Cirencester and Leicester, and Watling Street between High Cross and Mancetter. No direct evidence for civilian settlement has been identified in the immediate area, however the remains of two tile kilns and a pottery kiln have been identified near Griff Hill, 5km to the north-west and several sherds of Samian pottery were found at Combe Abbey (Warwickshire SMR WA3716). Several Roman coins have been uncovered as stray finds within 2km of the park, and an early – mid 4th century hoard of over 1,800 copper coins was found buried in a field to the east of Foleshill (NMR 336035). This suggests that, although there may have been a wealthy Romano-British population here, providing a market for tile (usually only found on better

quality structures) and pottery, the region was not necessarily continuously stable during this period.

4.4 Post-Roman (AD 410 – 1066)

The first definite evidence of the existence of a settlement at Coventry dates to AD 1016, with the recording of the destruction of a convent by Canute here (Fox 1957 3). The cartulary of Coventry Priory states that the parish of Walsgrave-on-Sowe was held by the church since at least AD 959 (McGrory 2003a 139).

Place name evidence indicates that this area lay within the forest of Arden prior to the medieval period (Gelling 1992 13). However, this was not covered by forest law, and the tree cover was gradually encroached upon by agriculture throughout the post-Roman period. Although there is no stratified settlement evidence (Ibid 158), the presence of Domesday references suggests that the area was settled prior to the medieval period.

4.5 Medieval (AD 1066 – 1540)

Coventry was established as a town from the 12th century initially to serve the subsistence and commercial needs of Coventry priory. The town prospered, becoming a wealthy settlement through the wool trade (Fox 1957 11). In 1415, Coventry was granted county status to reflect its economic strength. However, the wool industry suffered decline in the early 16th century, which led to the adoption of alternative industries in the post-medieval period.

Foleshill and Walsgrave-on-Sow remained a “solitary and watery tract throughout the middle ages” (Cowley 2000 2). Domesday lists Walsgrave-on-Sow (“Sowa”) as containing up to 1200 hectares of woodland along with a mill and several farms (Williams and Martin 2002 653, 671). The NMR notes three deserted medieval villages within 4km of the park; Clifford, Henley and Caludon (NMR 336038, 336038, 336038), none of which survive. Traces of ridge and furrow earthworks, a medieval farming practice, are common throughout the region. Several moated sites are noted by the NMR in this region. Associated with manorial holdings, such as a manor houses, farms or granges, moated sites are usually square or rectangular in shape defined by a ditch, which was often filled with water. The flat, wet nature of the area probably added to the utility of such a moat, providing drainage for the buildings on the central platform and for the surrounding fields.

4.6 Post-Medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

With the adoption of laws designed to protect timber supplies, coal became an important commodity throughout Britain. The easily exploitable Warwickshire coal seam attracted many entrepreneurs to the area, and with them increased populations. As early as the 17th century, Coventry was an important buyer of coal, and many collieries opened on the seam between the north of the city and Nuneaton as transportation costs rose (White 1970 4). By 1710, there was probably a mine at Hawksbury (Cowley 2000 3), to the northwest.

The parish of Walsgrave-on-Sowe was enclosed in 1756 (Warwickshire Record Office Ref DR104/1) and when the wool industry declined, as noted by Defoe, Coventry turned to weaving of worsted cloth, silk and ribbons (Fox 1957 19). The parish began to attract weavers, who were not generally welcome elsewhere, being seen as generally poor and disreputable. By the middle of the 19th century, weaving had helped make the area wealthy, leading to a taxation dispute which left the parishes of Foleshill, Wyken, Exhall, Sow and Ansty independent from the county of Coventry (Cowley 2000 12, 13). The Oxford Canal was brought to the north of Walsgrave-on-Sow and Foleshill in the late 18th century, and by 1848, national rail connections at Foleshill were providing a real boost

to the mining industry (Ibid 13). This was not without drawbacks, as novelist George Eliot noted in "Scenes of a clerical life" 1858:

"A flat, ugly district this is, depressing enough to look at even on the brightest of days. The roads are black with coal dust, the brick houses are dingy with smoke: and at that time – the time of hand-loom weavers – every other cottage had a loom in its window."

4.7 Modern (AD 1900 to present)

As the weaving and ribbon making industries declined due to centralisation of manufacture and, eventually, cheap imports, a gradual move towards manufacturing and engineering took place from 1919 onwards (Cowley 2000 28). The urban and sub-urban sprawl of Coventry did not affect the area until the 1920s, when large numbers of cheap houses were built in the northwest (Fox 1957 44). In 1928 the "Standard Swallows" car works, later known as Jaguar, was moved to the former ammunition factory in the Whitmore Park Industrial Estate. This site continued to be a significant employer when it was sold to Dunlop in the 1950s (NMR 1075143). The greatest change in the area came after the Second World War, when large areas of land were put over to low-cost housing.

The area finally rejoined the city and county of Coventry in 1999 (Cowley 2000 28).

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5 History and Archaeology of the Study Area

5.1 Introduction

A total of 10 sites of cultural heritage interest have been identified within the study area, none of which enjoy statutory designation (see Figure 1). Coventry Historic Environment Record is organised on an area basis rather than specific sites. A selection process, based on professional judgement, has been applied to identify individual sites relevant to The Park and/or any future development proposals. These sites are listed in table 5.1 below with an assessment of their sensitivity.

Table 5.1 Sites of Cultural Heritage Interest

Site No.	Site Name	Period	Sensitivity
1	Moat House	Post-Medieval	Low
2	Homestead Moat	medieval	Low
3	Moat House Garden	Post-Medieval	Low
4	Wyken Colliery Farm	Post-Medieval	Low
5	Alexandra Colliery	Post-Medieval	Low
6	Ridge and Furrow	medieval	Low
7	Arrowhead	Prehistoric	Low
8	Possible Pottery Production Site	medieval	Low
9	Potters Green Settlement	Post-Medieval	Low
10	Craven Colliery Tramway	Post-Medieval	Low

5.2 Prehistory (to AD 43)

A Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead was recovered from 38 Lynmouth Road Henley Green (Site 7). No other prehistoric remains have been identified within the study area.

5.3 Roman (AD 43 – AD 410)

No remains of this period have been identified within the study area.

5.4 Post-Roman (AD 410 – 1066)

No remains of this period have been identified within the study area.

5.5 Medieval (AD 1066 – 1540)

As stated above, the entire area was owned by Coventry priory from at least the early 12th century. The priory evidently did not engage in agriculture themselves and instead leased out the land. Large parts of the study area were “waste” during the medieval period, that is – common land not given over to any individual. The study area was probably common to all

the surrounding villages until at least 1337, when the Priory won a legal battle to consolidate the waste into the Parish of Sowe (Victoria County History 1969). It is around this time (1350) when the first reference is made to "Woodway Lane" as a main routeway leading north from Walsgrave (Gover 1970 189).

The Moat House estate is known by several names throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods;

- *Attoxhale;*
- *Attoxhall;*
- *Erney's Place;*
- *Dean's Place; and,*
- *Moat House Farm.*

The estate of "Attoxhale" was an important freehold from the late 13th century, when Simon Erneys is noted to have held the estate (Berkley Castle Muniments BCM/D). This may have led to the alternate name of "Erney's Place" by which it is referred to. Simon Shipley is noted as paying rent on the estate in the 15th century to the sum of four marks. By the dissolution in 1540, this sum had increased to £3. Although there is no direct dating evidence for the moated site associated with this estate (Site 2), references to it as "the chief messuage with the moat" in 1542 (Victoria County History 1969) indicate the existence of a moat here in the medieval period. Aerial photographs also show a possible drove-way or head-dyke, running southwest from the southwest corner of the moat. This appears as a raised bank with flanking ditches and is respected by the areas of ridge and furrow adjacent to the north and south (aerial photo ref RAF/3G/TUD/UK/65 frame 5136 flown 1946).

Potters Green was first mentioned in the cartulary of Coventry priory in 1411, as "Le Pottergreene" (Gover 1970 189). Other general references to brick and/or tile production in the 14th through 16th centuries (McCarthy 1988 361, 365, 475) suggest that there may have been a medieval pottery kiln site here (Site 8), although there is no direct evidence for this.

An area of ridge and furrow (Site 6), the earthwork remains of medieval arable farming, are visible on aerial photographs of the area to the west of Moat House Park (aerial photo ref RAF/3G/TUD/UK/42 frame 3681NE flown 1946). These remains are no longer extant due to recent building works.

5.6 Post-Medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)

The composition of the manor had changed very little by 1539–40, by which date, following the Dissolution, it had passed to the Crown and then in rapid succession to the Coventry corporation and then in 1551 to Sir Thomas White's Charity and later became the site of mining operations (Victoria County History 1969).

The Earl of Dover became involved in coal mining in the area sometime around 1633 – 1635. The earl was elected free man of the city in 1635 and began operations in the same year, the largest of which was at "Deans Place" (Attoxhale, although this could also refer to the estate at Hawksbury) with smaller holdings elsewhere. The operation however, was not a success and the Earl handed back his leases on the land in 1639 (White 1970 22-24). It is not clear whether these workings were located at, what later became, Alexandra Colliery (Site 5).

Attoxhale became Moat House Farm (Site 4) and Wood End hamlet, where there was a green called Erneys Green in the 15th century, may have become Potters Green in 1662. (Victoria County History 1969)

Moat House Farm, was leased to Thomas Dean, the priory bailiff, at the Dissolution, to William Dean later in the 16th century, and to Francis Cater in 1709. In the 19th century Hawkesbury and Moat House farms were both leased, for a term expiring in 1853, to members of the Inge and Stanton families, lessees of the collieries since 1789, to facilitate the working of the mines. (Ibid)

The moat (Site 2) is shown in 1779 (see figure 2), enclosing a square central platform, with a break at the northwest corner, and an eastward extension to the southeast corner. A small, rectangular structure is shown at the western edge of the platform, adjacent to the moat. Another small, square structure is shown slightly north of the centre of the platform (accurate measurements not possible), labelled "Moathouse". No buildings are shown in the area of Wyken Colliery Farm (Site 4) (PA1402/11/1 – Survey of Sir Thomas White's Charity Estate).

From the early 19th century onwards works on White's Charity estates were called Wyken Colliery. Between 1887 and 1903, Moat House Farm (originally Attoxhale) became Wyken Colliery Farm. Another new shaft, called the Alexandra Colliery (Site 5), was opened at the end of the 19th century near Moat House Farm. (Victoria County History 1969)

The post-medieval Moat House, built circa 1870 (Site 2), seems to have been occupied by local magnates throughout its history. The records provide good leads into the type of person who dwelt here:

In 1896, the house was mentioned in a disclaimer of will of James Sibley Witthem (died 1882, archive reference PA56/10/104/5). James was a colliery proprietor and one-time Lord Mayor of Coventry (1843), who was mentioned in a letter from Charles Dickens to Joseph Paxton in 1858. The tone of the letter was not complimentary (Dickens, House and Storey 2002).

5.7 Modern

In 1914, the house was occupied by Charles Grey-Hill a "company director" (archive ref PA578/41/2) and builder of Coundon Court and the Singer Factory in Canterbury Street.

Cyril Davenport-Siddeley (1894-1971) rented the property in 1931. Cyril was Lord of the Manor of Sow, a local Territorial Army commanding officer and 2nd Baron Kenilworth. He may have undertaken alterations to the building in 1932 (Archive ref CCD/3/BYE/15633).

The primary sources of information for the evolution of the park area are the ordnance survey maps. The 1887 map (see figure 3) shows "Moat House" labelled, with the moat bearing water in the south and west. At this time, the western side of the moat is shown as two ponds, with a small ditch connecting them. A bank is shown to northwest, and paths are shown which may form a formal garden (Site 3) for the main house. There are two distinct areas of pathways. A rectilinear group is shown in the north of the garden, passing over a bank in the northeast corner. This group of paths is accessed by a path to the north, leading past Wyken Colliery Farm (Site 4) and via the southern pathways. To the south, surrounding the house (Site 2), is a curvilinear set of paths which is accessed via a long path running westwards toward Deemore Road. A mix of deciduous and evergreen planting is shown, with deciduous dominating the north east, and evergreen to the south west. Deciduous plants are shown lining a field boundary to the north and east and in copse at junction of pathways leading to Deedmore Road from both the house and the farm.

"Wyken Colliery Farm" (Site 4) first appears on the 1887 Ordnance Survey mapping. One east-west range is shown, with two north-south ranges on the south side, forming an "F-shaped" complex. A single path runs east-west past the north side of the farm from Potters

Green to Deedmore Road, with smaller paths linking to Moat House garden (Site 3). The farm is labelled as "Wyken Colliery Farm"

Alexandra Colliery (Site 5) is shown to the northeast of Wyken Colliery Farm. At this time, it did not extend south into the park.

Potters Green (Site 9) is shown as approximately a dozen properties set around a single cul-de-sac road, leading off Woodway Lane (Ordnance Survey 25 inch Mapsheet Warwickshire 22NW 1887)

By 1903, the moat (Site 1) is shown bearing water to south and west, but the south-western corner is shown as a single line, possibly a ditch or boundary. The eastern and northern arms of the moat are no longer extant.

The 1903 maps show the removal of smaller paths from the northern group of the garden (Site 3), leaving a single rectangular path. The planting is more mixed and dense with evergreens adjacent to the house and lining the boundary between the northern and southern sets of paths. Trees on the north eastern field boundary have been removed, as has the path leading past Wyken Colliery Farm. It is possible that some of these changes served to screen the house from the farm and from the spoil heap of Alexandra Colliery (Site 5).

By this time, a north-south aligned range has been added at the south west end of the main farm building.

Alexandra Colliery is shown much improved and expanded, with three tramways/haulage routes extending in a fan southwards into the park area. (Ordnance Survey 25 inch Mapsheet Warwickshire 22NW 1903)

On the 1925 map (see figure 4), there are no changes to Moat House, however Wyken Colliery Farm is now labelled as "Moat House Farm" and a new building is shown to the north. The building is later shown with a dotted line, which may indicate an open-sided structure such as a hay barn.

The path leading from the farm towards Potters Green is now shown bridging over a tramway extending from the main compound of Alexandra Colliery. This tramway connected to the Craven Colliery Tramway (Site 10) approximately 1km to the south. The tramways/haulage routes protruding south into the park area now number four, with earthworks indicating a spoil heap on all sides.

Potters Green is shown slightly enlarged to around 14 to 16 dwellings. (Ordnance Survey 25 inch Mapsheet Warwickshire 22NW 1925)

The 1936 mapping shows no changes to the moat, house or farm. The colliery is labelled "disused" and all tramways have been removed. The line of the tramway leading to the Craven Colliery line (Site 10) is shown as a path, which is slightly offset from its original line immediately south of the colliery.

Aerial photography shows that Alexandra Colliery had a functioning link to the Oxford Canal in 1946 (RAF/3G/TUD/UK/99 frame 5172 flown 1946)

The Moat House Farm estate was sold by White's charity to the corporation of Coventry City in 1947, for use as an old folks home which was re-named "Woodway Grange". A pensioners committee agenda lists the report of a medical officer on filling in moat in 1949 (Archive ref CCA/1/5/51/22). It is unclear at present whether this actually occurred.

Since the Second World War, three large housing estates have been laid out an estate between Henley Road and Moat House Farm, the Wood End estate east of the Alexandra Colliery, and the Potters Green estate between Alexandra Colliery and Woodway Lane.

By 1949, only the pond at the southeast of the moat is shown holding water. The map now shows the eastern arm of the moat as a ditch, extending northwards from a point immediately west of the pond.

Several paths are shown to have been taken out of the garden. Now only the main rectangular path in the north and major paths leading north east and northwest from the house are shown. The earthwork bank in the northwest of the garden is now labelled "moat". No trees are shown to the northeast and east. (Ordnance Survey 25 inch Mapsheet Warwickshire 22NW 1949)

Aerial photographs show the garden as mostly lawned in 1953, with trees laid out as per the map evidence. However in the northern section two, small rectangular areas appear to be separate from the main lawn. One, at the northern boundary of the garden, is slightly lighter, but otherwise undifferentiated. The other, at the northeast corner, appears to have small ridges – possibly planting beds – oriented east-west (aerial photo ref RAF/SOP/225 frame 0150 flown 1953)

The main rectangular garden path was removed by 1960, and the mapping now shows large areas of housing to the northeast and south. Potters Green has been surrounded, but the main street layout has been preserved, along with a path to the north.

Moat House was labelled "Woodway Grange (Aged Peoples Home) on the 1970 mapping, and a path is shown running southeast, across the moat.

No traces of Wyken Colliery Farm are now visible. Moat House has been demolished, leaving an area of hardstanding surrounded by decorative iron fencing. The moat itself is now visible as a series of shallow depressions, with the south-eastern pond heavily silted up and undergoing excavation at the time of survey. The garden paths have been removed, but the lines of several have been followed by modern paths. Some trees, which can definitely be sourced to the former garden, are still extant. These include several mature sequoias.

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6 Potential for Unknown Archaeology

Very little archaeological investigation or research work has been conducted in this area. What has been done has tended to focus on the medieval period and later. As a result, the data available for the Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman periods is severely lacking.

This area has suffered from extensive development in the period 1946 – 1970, which is likely to have destroyed most of the buried archaeological remains here. Moat House Park therefore represents a potential “oasis” of preserved remains. Some of these remains may have suffered damage due to the exploitation of the coal seam by the Earl of Dover, or by earlier, less organised grubbing up by locals. Aerial photography shows an area of mottling (See figure 1), extending southwards from Potters Green. This may indicate either “grubbing out” of coal, or may be a former watercourse/wetland (RAF/3G/TUD/UK/99 frame 5202 flown March 1946).

The study area lies on a raised area of a relatively flat flood plain, with a reliable watercourse (The Sowe) fairly close by and historically extensive woodlands. These conditions indicate a fair potential for prehistoric activity. The Neolithic settlement at Gibbet Hill (see above) has similar topographical characteristics, and the numerous stray finds of prehistoric artefacts cluster to the north of Coventry.

A Roman coin hoard found between the park and Foleshill indicates that the area has seen use in this period, and that there is a high potential for further unknown Roman remains. The 4th century date of the coins suggests that there may be civilian settlement nearby, as this is well outside the known dates of intensive military action.

The homestead moat appears to have either been filled in or silted up in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. If this is the case, there is a high potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.

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7 Conclusions and Recommendations for Further Work

7.1 Conclusion

Moat House Park potentially represents one of the last opportunities to investigate the archaeological remains of this area. The post-medieval Moat House has good historic links to the surrounding area, with many of the occupants involved in local business. Prior to this, there may have been a medieval manor here, administering an important and valuable holding. The presence of Roman and prehistoric finds in the area are tantalising, although remains from these periods may have been destroyed by later activity.

The present picture of archaeology in the park is promising, but confused, with unclear extents of historic mining and possible grubbing out of coal. To clarify this picture, further archaeological investigations are recommended.

7.2 Further Archaeological Evaluation Works

A geophysical survey is recommended in the first instance, to identify the presence and nature of archaeological remains in the park. This would ideally take the form of a detailed resistivity survey in the area of Moat House Gardens to identify any potential remains of the formal garden layout such as pathways and planting beds. A magnetometry survey is recommended for the remainder of the park to identify the presence and extent of any unknown mining or grubbing out activity and to identify any other unknown archaeological remains.

The data from these surveys would enable informed decisions as to the need for, scope and scale of any intrusive surveys. These could include, but not be limited to:

- *Trial Trenching; and,*
- *Palaeoenvironmental evaluation sampling of the moat and/or pond.*

7.3 Other Potential Works

Due to the local history links, further research into the park area has the potential to involve the local community through outreach programmes or consultation. Many local residents may have had family connections to people housed at the former Woodway Grange old folks home, or even to the employees of Alexandra Colliery, Wyken Colliery Farm and Moat House.

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1914 – PA578/41/2 – Conveyance

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 1913 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
 1925 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
 1938 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
 1950 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
 1961 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
 1968 SP3681 1:2,500 scale
 1968 SP3682 1:2,500 scale
 1968 SP3781 1:2,500 scale
 1968 SP3782 1:2,500 scale
 1970 SP3681 1:2,500 scale
 1970 SP3682 1:2,500 scale
 1970 SP3781 1:2,500 scale
 1970 SP3782 1:2,500 scale

Aerial Photography:

Sortie Number	Start Frame	End Frame	Date	NGR	
				Start	End
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/28	5169	5170	15-Jan-46	SP359820	SP363819
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/99	5170	5174	29-Mar-46	SP376828	SP361827
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/99	5200	5205	29-Mar-46	SP379818	SP361816
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/118	6420	6424	03-Apr-46	SP363825	SP378825
RAF/CPE/UK/2011	5425	5429	16-Apr-47	SP361828	SP375829
RAF/CPE/UK/2247	5021	5021	20-Aug-47	SP357818	SP357818
RAF/CPE/UK/2223	5036	5036	14-Aug-47	SP361816	SP361816
RAF/CPE/UK/2223	5038	5040	14-Aug-47	SP370816	SP379816
RAF/CPE/UK/2546	3284	3285	26-Mar-48	SP374827	SP367828
RAF/CPE/UK/2546	4357	4357	26-Mar-48	SP373814	SP373814
RAF/CPE/UK/2546	4358	4358	26-Mar-48	SP368817	SP368817
RAF/CPE/UK/2546	4359	4359	26-Mar-48	SP361818	SP361818
RAF/58/154	5032	5036	17-Nov-48	SP373823	SP360823
RAF/540/1041	288	290	10-Apr-53	SP372812	SP365812
RAF/540/1041	344	348	10-Apr-53	SP361818	SP376817
RAF/540/1041	377	382	10-Apr-53	SP358823	SP377824
RAF/540/1041	400	401	10-Apr-53	SP371832	SP367831
RAF/543/1698	53	55	15-Mar-62	SP367816	SP367831
RAF/58/2947	339	340	17-Jun-59	SP364826	SP372826
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/10	5042	5046	20-Dec-45	SP362822	SP377824
RAF/541/256	3293	3295	10-May-49	SP361823	SP377822
RAF/541/246	4008	4010	09-Apr-49	SP374826	SP361819
RAF/SOP/225	2714	115	09-Jun-53	SP375813	SP364813
RAF/SOP/225	2714	153	09-Jun-53	SP379821	SP361822
RAF/SOP/468	2715	226	10-Nov-53	SP378825	SP360825
RAF/SOP/468	2715	255	10-Nov-53	SP372831	SP364830
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/16	2856	5015	12-Jan-46	SP372832	SP366832
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/65	2864	5139	09-Feb-46	SP378821	SP359820
MAL/67075	4868	74	05-Aug-67	SP378812	SP378812
MAL/80028	7643	184	02-Oct-80	SP358825	SP358825
MAL/80028	7643	216	02-Oct-80	SP358820	SP358820
RAF/S130	8676	40	21-May-41	SP369815	SP361816
RAF/GHQ/124	8690	95	18-May-41	SP378829	SP369832
OS/93249B	14429	206	27-Jun-93	SP380828	SP380828
MAL/63579	21121	110063	24-Mar-63	SP379824	SP365831
MAL/63573	21128	108806	02-Mar-63	SP374827	SP364832

MAL/63573	21128	108852	02-Mar-63	SP371831	SP371831
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/42	3681NE	3681NE	1946		

Appendix A Gazetteer of Sites Of Cultural Heritage Interest

Site No	1	Site Name	Moat House
NGR	SP3698081940	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	N/A	HER No	MCT2141, MCT2456, MCT3291, MCT10870
Type	House, Domestic	Period	Medieval, Post-Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Poor	Form	Hardstanding and possible sub-surface remains.

Description

[1] Post-medieval building, probably of two storeys. The principal frontage faced west and was formed by the long elevation with an advanced central gabled bay rising through the full height of the building. Substantial stacks were located on both gable ends. To the rear were a pair of slightly lower wings, set perpendicular to the principal frontage and gabled to the east with lateral stacks against the north elevation. A further end stack was placed against the east elevation of the south range. A number of smaller service structures were set to the rear of the house on the opposite side of a small yard.

[2] Probably dates to 1870's.

[3] Moat house mentioned in disclaimer of will of James Sibley Wittem – colliery proprietor (died 1882) in 1896.

[4] House occupied in 1914 by "Charles Grey Hill – company director" – Builder of Coundon Court and the Singer Factory in Canterbury Street, Coventry.

[5] House rented by Cyril Davenport Siddeley (1894-1971) in 1931 - Lord of the manor and 2nd Baron Kenilworth.

[6] Some alterations to the building in 1932.

[7] Sold by the Thomas White Charity to Coventry Corporation for use as an old peoples home in 1945.

[8] The site has been demolished and is now seen only as an area of hardstanding, undergoing some ground clearance work in the east

Sources

[1] Ordnance Survey Aerial Photo 42/3861 NE 1946

[2] Coventry Historic Environment Record

[3] PA56/10/104/5

[4] PA578/41/2

[5] PERSONS/19/535 – Cyril Davenport Siddely

[6] CCD/3/BYE/15633

[7] National Monuments Record

[8] Paul Bennett (Jacobs UK) Site Inspection Feb 2008

Site No	2	Site Name	Homestead Moat
NGR	SP3697081970	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	336017	HER No	MCT2487, MCT2487, MCT2487, MCT2141, MCT10867, MCT10868, MCT10869
Type	Moat, Defensive/Drainage	Period	Medieval, Post-Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Moderate	Form	Earthworks
Description			
<p>[1] Shown as a moat, enclosing a square central platform, with a break at the northwest corner, and a eastward extension to the southeast corner. A small, rectangular structure is shown at the western edge of the platform, adjacent to the moat. Another small, square structure is shown slightly north of the centre of the platform (accurate measurements not possible). Labeled "Moathouse"</p> <p>[2] The moat is shown bearing water to south and west. The western arm of the moat is shown as two ponds connected by a small ditch. The southwestern corner is shown as a single line, possibly a ditch or boundary. The eastern and northern arms of the moat are no longer extant.</p> <p>[3] The Pensioners Committee agenda of 1946 records a medical officer's report on filling in the moat. It is currently unclear whether this in-filling actually occurred.</p> <p>[4] No change in the moat is observed by the Ordnance Survey until 1949, when only the south-eastern extension of the moat is shown holding water. The eastern arm of the moat is shown as an earthwork</p> <p>[5] The moat is currently seen as several shallow depressions in the ground surface, which occasionally hold water. The south-eastern extension of the moat is currently a heavily silted up pond which was undergoing excavation at the time of the site inspection. Fly tipping has occurred recently. Close inspection of this area was not possible due to ongoing site works.</p> <p>[6] Aerial photographs also show a possible drove-way or head-dyke, running southwest from the southwest corner of the moat. This appears as a raised bank with flanking ditches and is respected by the areas of ridge and furrow adjacent to the north and south</p>			
Sources			
<p>[1] PA1402/11/1 – Survey of Sir Thomas White's Charity Estate [2] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1887 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [3] Coventry Archives CCA/1/5/51/22 [4] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1949 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [5] Paul Bennett (Jacobs UK) Site Inspection Feb 2008 [6] RAF/3G/TUD/UK/65 frame 5136 flown 1946</p>			

Site No	3	Site Name	Moat House Garden
NGR	SP3697082010	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	N/A	HER No	MCT10875
Type	Garden	Period	Post-Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Poor	Form	Trees, re-constituted paths, possible subsurface remains
Description			
<p>[1] The Ordnance survey map of 1887 shows two distinct areas of pathways, a rectilinear group is shown in the north of the garden, passing over a bank in the northeast corner. This group of paths is accessed by a path to the north, leading past Wyken Colliery Farm (Site 4) and via the southern pathways. To the south, surrounding the house (Site 2), is a curvilinear set of paths which is accessed via a long path running westwards toward Deemore Road. A mix of deciduous and evergreen planting is shown, with deciduous dominating the north east, and evergreen to the south west. Deciduous plants are shown lining a field boundary to the north and east and in copse at junction of pathways leading to Deedmore Road from both the house and the farm.</p> <p>[2] In 1903, maps show the removal of smaller paths from the northern group, leaving a single rectangular path. The planting is more mixed and dense with evergreens adjacent to the house and lining the boundary between the northern and southern sets of paths. Trees on the north eastern field boundary have been removed. The path leading past wyken colliery farm has been removed. It is possible that some of these changes served to screen the house from the farm and from the spoil heap of Alexandra Colliery (Site 5).</p> <p>[3] By 1925, the path to the farm had been re-established.</p> <p>[4] By 1949 several paths have been taken out leaving only the rectangular path to north and major paths to northwest and northeast shown. The bank in the northwest of the garden is now labeled "moat". Trees have been removed from the northeast and east.</p> <p>[5] On the 1960 map, the rectangular path has been removed.</p> <p>[6] The garden is now a public park, consisting of concrete/agregate paths through grassland with sparse mature trees and hedgerows. Several mature redwoods (Sequoia) are still extant in the southwest of the park, and may have been imported for the post-medieval garden.</p> <p>[7] Aerial photographs show the garden as mostly lawned, with trees laid out as per the map evidence. However in the northern section two, small rectangular areas appear to be separate from the main lawn. One, at the northern boundary of the garden, is slightly lighter, but otherwise undifferentiated. The other, at the northeast corner, appears to have small ridges – possibly planting beds – oriented east-west.</p>			
Sources			
<p>[1] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1887 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [2] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1903 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [3] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1925 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [4] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1949 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [5] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1960 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [6] Paul Bennett (Jacobs UK) Site Inspection Feb 2008 [7] RAF/SOP/225 frame 0150 flown 1953</p>			

Site No	4	Site Name	Wyken Colliery Farm
NGR	SP3695082031	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	N/A	HER No	N/A
Type	Farmstead	Period	Post-Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Poor	Form	Possible sub-surface remains
Description			
<p>[1] The farm first appears on the 1887 Ordnance survey mapping. One east-west range is shown, with two north-south ranges on the south side, forming an "F-shaped" complex. A single path runs east-west past the north side of the farm from Potters Green to Deedmore Road, with smaller paths linking to Moat House Garden (Site 3). The farm is labelled as "Wyken Colliery Farm"</p> <p>[2] On the 1903 map, a north-south aligned range is shown at the south west end of the main farm building.</p> <p>[3] By 1925, the farm is shown with some small structures added to the main building and is now labelled as "Moat House Farm". A building is shown to the north of farm.</p> <p>[4] In 1970, the building to the north of the farm is shown as dotted line only, perhaps denoting an open-sided shed or hay barn.</p> <p>[5] No visible trace.</p>			
Sources			
<p>[1] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1887 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [2] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1903 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [3] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1925 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale [4] 1970 SP3681, SP3682, SP3781, SP3782 1:2,500 scale [5] Paul Bennett (Jacobs UK) Site Inspection Feb 2008</p>			

Site No	5	Site Name	Alexandra Colliery
NGR	SP3698082140	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	N/A	HER No	MCT512
Type	Mining	Period	Post-Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Poor	Form	Earthworks, possible sub-surface remains

Description

[1] "Alexandra Colliery" is shown to the northeast of Wyken Colliery Farm. At this time, it did not extend south into the park.

[2] Colliery much enlarged and improved with tramways/haulage routes. 3 routes in a fan running south into park

[3] Tramway shown extending from the main compound of Alexandra Colliery. This tramway connected to the Craven Colliery Tramway (Site 10) approximately 1km to the south. The tramways/haulage routes protruding south into the park area now number four, with earthworks indicating a spoilheap on all sides.

[4] The colliery is labelled "disused" and all tramways have been removed. The line of the tramway leading to the Craven Colliery line (Site 10) is shown as a path, which is slightly offset from its original line immediately south of the colliery.

[5] The spoil heap is extant and is grassed over with a concrete/aggregate path running to the north. No traces of the tramways/haulage routes are evident.

[6] Aerial photography shows that Alexandra Colliery had a functioning (water filled) link to the Oxford Canal in 1946

Sources

- [1] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1887 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
- [2] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1903 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
- [3] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1925 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale
- [4] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1970 SP3681, SP3682, SP3781, SP3782 1:2,500 scale
- [5] Paul Bennett (Jacobs UK) Site Inspection Feb 2008
- [6] RAF/3G/TUD/UK/99 frame 5172 flown 1946

Site No	6	Site Name	Ridge and Furrow
NGR	SP3674782000	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	N/A	HER No	MCT739
Type	Agriculture	Period	Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Poor	Form	Possible sub-surface remains

Description

[1] R & F W of Moat House Farm. Field of extensive, strong R & F. Various directions to W of moat - S part now gone. In S part, stops at E boundary (parallel to moat line extended). In N stops further to W.

[2] No longer extant. This area has been built on with housing and leisure facilities.

[3] Aerial photos show large areas of ridge and furrow earthworks throughout the study area.

Sources

- [1] Coventry Historic Environment Record
- [2] Paul Bennett (Jacobs UK) Site Inspection Feb 2008
- [3] RAF/3G/TUD/UK/65 frames 5134, 5136, 5137 flown 1946

Site No	7	Site Name	Arrowhead
NGR	SP3700081700	Parish	Wyken
NMR No	869549	HER No	MCT632
Type	Findspot	Period	Prehistoric
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Destroyed	Form	Removed from site
Description			
[1] A leaf shaped arrowhead was found at 38 Lynmouth Rd, Henley Green & accessioned by Cov Mus.			
Sources			
[1] Coventry Historic Environment Record			

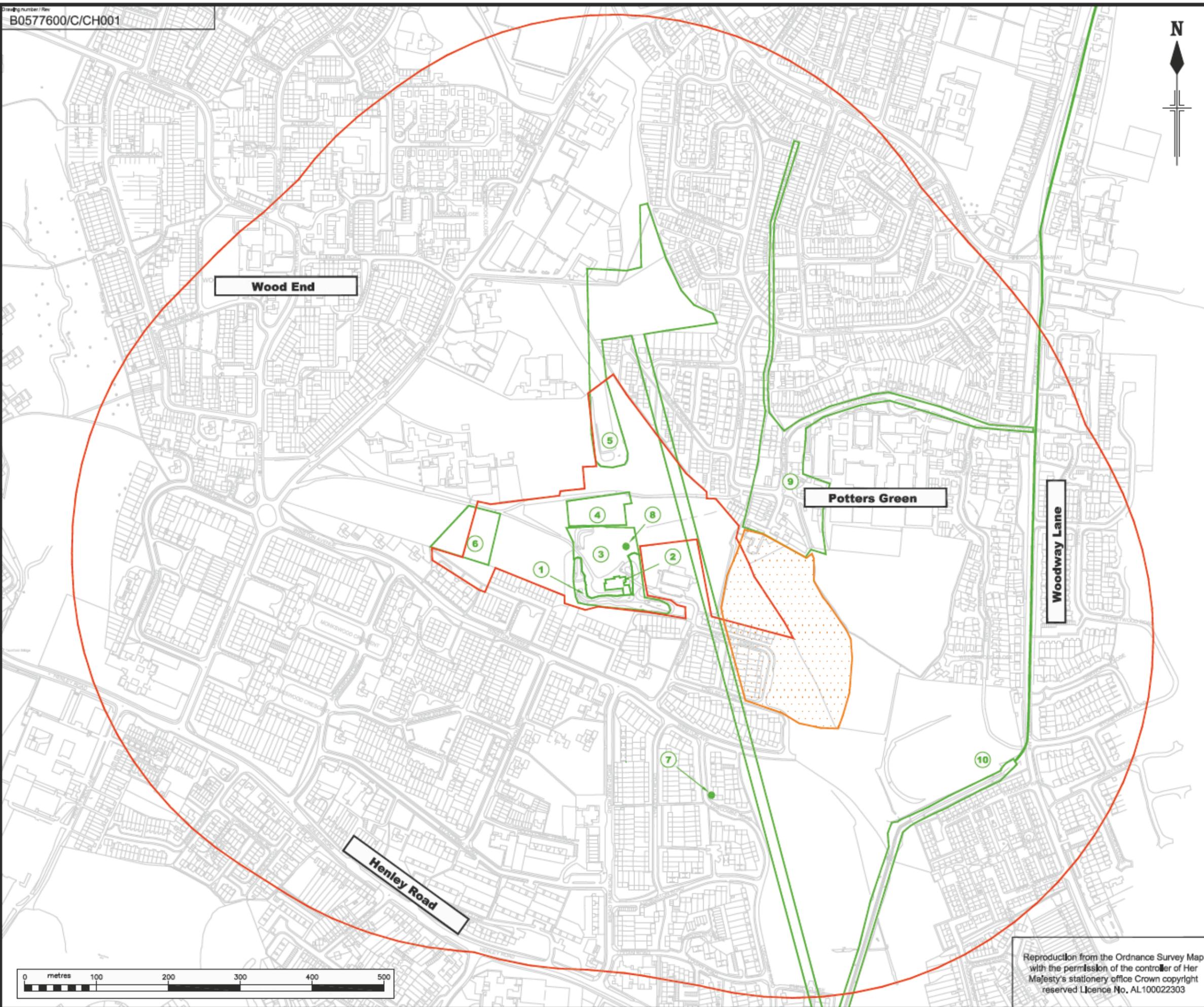
Site No	8	Site Name	Possible Pottery Production Site
NGR	SP3700082000	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	1302729	HER No	N/A
Type	Industrial	Period	Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Unknown	Form	Documentary Evidence
Description			
[1] Possible pottery production site identified from placename evidence of Potters Green. Documentary references date from the 13th and 14th century. There are also references to 14th-16th century tile production.			
Sources			
[1] National Monuments Record			

Site No	9	Site Name	Potters Green Settlement
NGR	SP3721482073	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	N/A	HER No	Various
Type	Settlement	Period	Post-Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Moderate	Form	Street layout, buildings
Description			
<p>[1] Leet jurisdiction of manor of Cheylesmore 1355 over Wood End... estates of Wood End developed on the (outer) waste by Priory in C13 & C14. Hamlet lay on turning later called Potters Lane off Woodway Lane. In C14 & C15 consisted of half a dozen cottages & 2 farmsteads Attoxhale & Bagots Place... Wood End hamlet where there was a green (Erneys Green) in C15 may have become Potters Green. Place called Potters Green first mentioned 1662. No evid of Potters at Potters Green.</p> <p>[2] Wood End hamlet, where there was a green called Erneys Green in the 15th century [this] may have become Potters Green.... 'A place called Potters Green' was first mentioned in 1662</p> <p>[3] Shown as approximately a dozen properties set around a single cul-de-sac road, leading off Woodway Lane</p> <p>[4] The settlement does not grow significantly until 1960</p> <p>[5] The settlement has been modernised heavily. The layout of the roads has been maintained, and two buildings retain a 19th century character, although these have been heavily modernised internally. All other houses are modern.</p>			
Sources			
<p>[1] Coventry Historic Environment Record</p> <p>[2] 'The City of Coventry: The outlying parts of Coventry: Walsgrave-on-Sowe', A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 8: The City of Coventry and Borough of Warwick (1969). URL: <a green"="" henley="" house"="" href="http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16018&strquery=" moat="">http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=16018&strquery="moat house" henley green. Date accessed: 31 January 2008.</p> <p>[3] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1887 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale</p> <p>[4] Ordnance Survey Mapsheet 1925 Warwickshire 22NW 1:2,500 scale</p> <p>[5] Paul Bennett (Jacobs UK) Site Inspection Feb 2008</p>			

Site No	10	Site Name	Craven Colliery Tramway
NGR	SP3745981651	Parish	Walsgrave-on-Sowe
NMR No	N/A	HER No	MCT511, MCT16054
Type	Transport	Period	Post-Medieval
Sensitivity	Low	Legal Status	None
Condition	Poor	Form	Earthworks
Description			
<p>[1] Disused Craven Colliery Tramway at Walsgrave on the 1887 OS map; no Tithe map available. Connected to the former Craven Colliery works to the south</p>			
Sources			
<p>[1] Coventry Historic Environment Record</p>			



- Key:**
- Moat House Park
 - 500m Study Area
 - Sites of Cultural Heritage Interest
 - Sites of possible mining or "grubbing out" Identified from aerial photography



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Project Moat House Park Archaeological Desk Based Survey					
Drawing title Figure 1 Location of Sites of Cultural Heritage Interest					
Drawing status Final					
Scale		1:5000 @ A3	DO NOT SCALE		
Jacob's No.		B0577600			
Drawing number		B0577600/C/CH001	Rev		0
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 Moat House Park
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Project
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Drawing title
 Figure 2
 Extract from
 Thomas White's Charity
 Estate Plan 1779

Drawing status
 Final

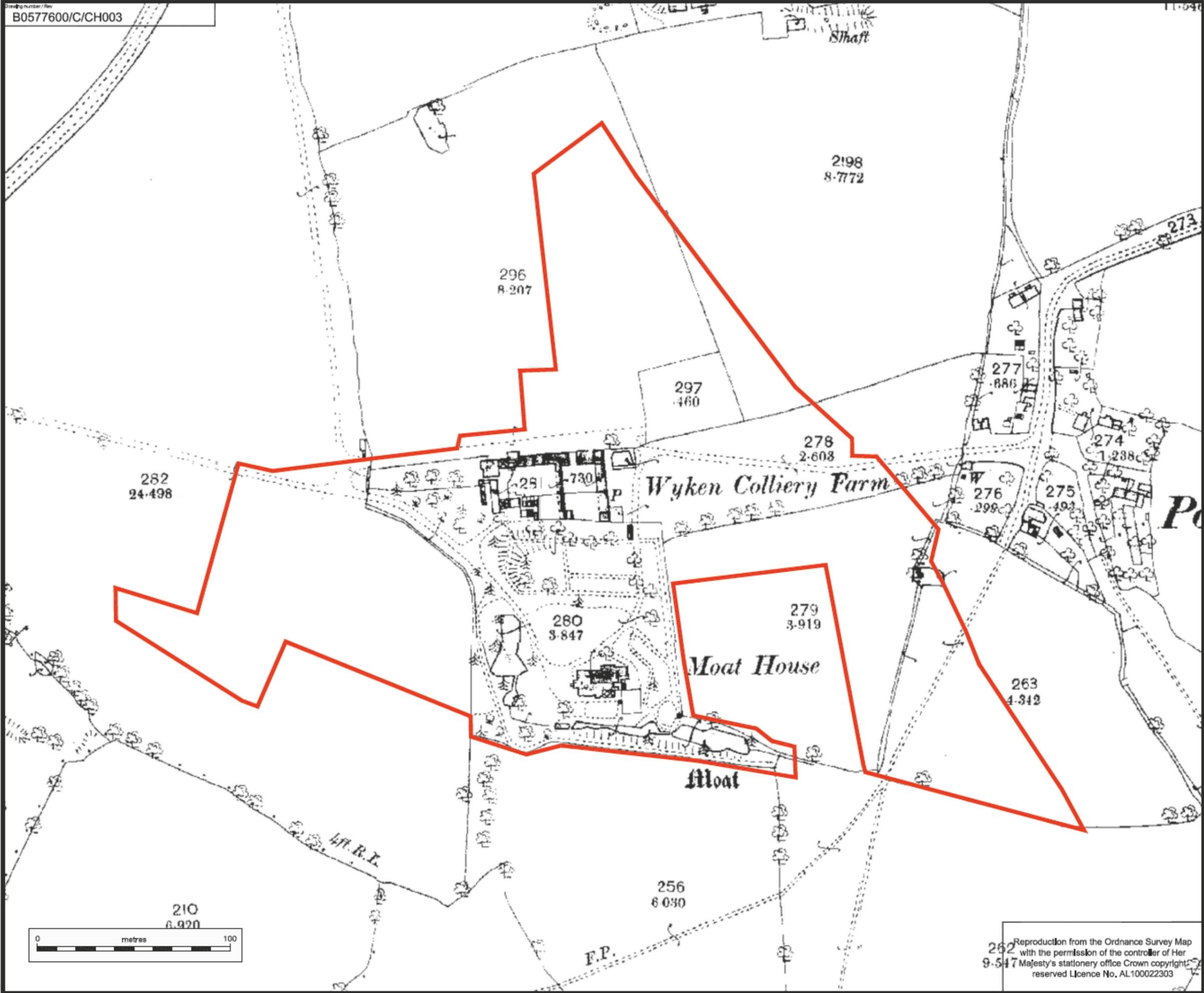
Scale
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Drawing title
Figure 3
Extract from
Ordnance Survey
25" Warwickshire Sheet 22NW of 1888

Drawing status
Final

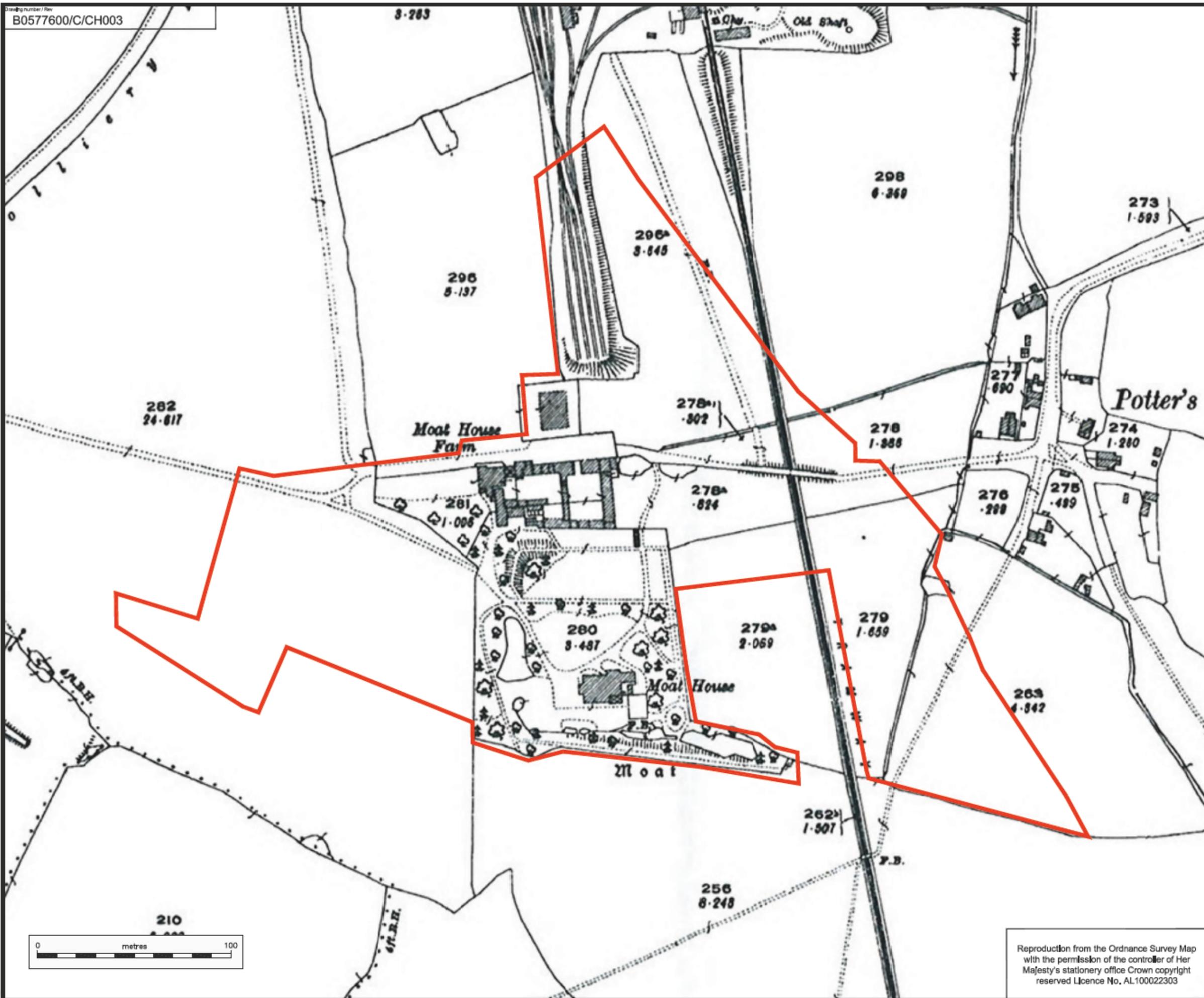
Scale
1:2000 @ A3
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Jacobs No.
B0577600

Drawing number
B0577600/C/CH003

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Project Moat House Park Archaeological Desk Based Survey					
Drawing title Figure 4 Extract from Ordnance Survey 25" Warwickshire Sheet 22NW of 1925					
Drawing status Final					
Scale	1:2000 @ A3	DO NOT SCALE			
Jacobs No.	B0577600				
Drawing number	B0577600/C/CH003				
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