

# Bridge House Badby Northamptonshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT**

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1847

June 2018



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Bridge House, Badby  
**Commissioned by:** Kate Brookes  
**Site Code:** NBB18  
**Planning Reference:** DA/2017/0161  
**Planning Authority:** Daventry District Council  
**National Grid Reference:** SP 55920 59404  
**Project Manager:** Nigel Page MCI fA  
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**Approved by:** Stuart Palmer MCI fA  
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## SUMMARY

*The two 1m<sup>2</sup> test pits excavated in the concrete floor of the stone barn at Bridge House in Badby, Northamptonshire revealed a clay floor surface with partition cuts and a drainage channel. No dating evidence was apparent, but it likely to date from the later 19<sup>th</sup> century when the barn was constructed.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission and Listed Building consent has been granted by Daventry District Council for the conversion of a stone barn into an extension to Bridge House, Daventry Road, Badby, Northamptonshire, NN11 3AB (Planning ref: DA/2017/0161; DA/2017/0162). Bridge House is Listed Grade II. The proposal involves constructing a single storey infill between the barn and Bridge House, re-roofing the barn and the insertion of roof lights. Other construction work on the site has previously been the subject of an archaeological watching brief, carried out by Archaeology Warwickshire (Coutts 2014).
- 1.2 The local authority Conservation Officer has requested that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in the form of archaeological test pitting to assess whether the modern slab inside the barn sits on top of an earlier floor structure or surface of historic merit.
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in order to inform the Planning Authority of the potential impact of the removal of the floor on any archaeological remains. This report presents the results of that work.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 Bridge House is centred on NGR SP 55920 59404 towards the northern end of the village of Badby, in the parish of the same name, Northamptonshire. It fronts onto the eastern side of Daventry Road (A3561), is bounded to the south by the houses and gardens of neighbouring residential properties, and to the east by a small field. The River Nene flows NW to SE past the property's northern boundary with further houses and gardens beyond. The site is approximately 140m northwest of the Badby Conservation Area (DNN12239) (Fig 1).
  
- 2.2 The site's underlying bedrock geology is mudstone of the Charmouth Mudstone Formation, with superficial deposits of alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel associated with the floodplain of the River Nene (BGS, 2018).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Badby is a nucleated village just over 2km southwest of Daventry, Northamptonshire. The village plan retains much of its medieval layout, characterised by looped roads at the southern end and a church on the high ground. Such a planform is thought to reflect the settlement's origins in a relatively wooded setting (MNN338). The village is situated south of the east-west flowing River Nene, a navigable waterway that functioned as an important trade route until its decline following the opening of the Northampton and Peterborough Railway in 1845 (MNN4714).

#### **Prehistoric**

- 3.2 A human presence in the area during the Pleistocene is evidenced by the discovery of an unstratified Palaeolithic handaxe 411m SSE of the site (MNN20531). A brown quartzite pebble hammer of possible Mesolithic to Bronze Age date was also found just over 350m to the north in 1968 (MNN32105; ENN3974). Prehistoric activity is, however, primarily represented by The Jurassic Way, a long distance routeway which follows a NE-SW course 140m to the west of Bridge House. This communication route may have been in existence from at least the Bronze Age, and possibly the Neolithic, becoming increasingly important in the early Iron Age (MNN160137).

#### **Roman**

- 3.3 Evidence for Roman activity is concentrated 350 – 400m north of the application area. Various finds, including hundreds of pottery sherds (mostly greyware), coins, a quernstone and building rubble have been taken to indicate a Roman settlement (MNN33082; MNN3506), with significant quantities of pottery and stone blocks recovered by a farmer, in addition to a stone scatter identified during fieldwalking in the late 1970s, suggesting a Romano-British building (MNN18591; ENN3975).

#### **Anglo-Saxon and early medieval**

- 3.4 The post-Roman/early medieval period is poorly represented in the vicinity, although an assemblage of unstratified late Saxon and 12<sup>th</sup> century pottery (MNN168487) derives from gardens on the west side of one of the village greens (MNN168486; another green (MNN168485) to the north, lies closer to the development site.

## Medieval

- 3.5 Along with Newnham to the northeast, Badby was in the ownership of Evesham Abbey in the medieval period. The village expanded to the northeast in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (MNN338), and possibly along the line of School Lane/Pound Lane where tenements were laid out (MNN33791), but the existence of cropmarks and earthworks associated with parts of the settlement that have since fallen out of use highlight the degree to which Badby has since retracted (e.g. MNN126063; MNN126064).
- 3.6 Of particular significance is the site of a moated enclosure, with associated structures and other features, to the NE of the village and around 350–400m SE of the application area. The moated site itself is a Scheduled Ancient Monument comprising a retreat house constructed by Abbot Roger Norreys of Evesham Abbey in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century (NHLE No. 1009844; DNN3214; MNN168491). The structure also functioned as an administrative centre for the manor and remained a possession of the Abbey until its dissolution in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. Thereafter it was granted to Sir Edmund Knightly and continued in use as a house and manorial court for a further century, during which time it was known as Court House. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century it functioned as an Inn but subsequently fell out use and was no longer extant by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The site was partly excavated in the late 1960s (ENN4068; Wilson and Hurst, 1970, pp. 191 – 3; MNN26411), revealing an east-west oriented stone hall, but the majority of features have been identified as cropmarks and earthworks (e.g. MNN126054; MNN126057; MNN126060). These include possible buildings (MNN126055, MNN126049; MNN126047; MNN126048; MNN126050), a trackway (MNN126046), and an enclosure (MNN126059).
- 3.7 An embanked medieval or post-medieval paddock has also been recorded 480m southeast of the development area, but has since been destroyed by ploughing (MNN18495). Additionally, a medieval bank is situated southeast of the site and northwest of the moated enclosure (MNN126056). The extent of medieval activity around the northern part of Badby, close to the development site, is also demonstrated by the proliferation of ridge and furrow earthworks associated with arable agriculture (MNN132395, MNN132396, MNN132382).



- 3.8 Southwest of the site and west of the northern part of the village a possible medieval Holloway (MNN126065), south of which are the earthworks of a medieval ditch (MNN126066).
- 3.9 On the village's eastern side, almost 500m southeast of Bridge House, a medieval stone floor was revealed in trenches during construction of a housing estate alongside quantities of medieval pottery, including red shelly Pottersbury type and pinkish white Coventry types. The pottery dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century, similarly to that found at the moated site (MNN18489).
- 3.10 A cross base of unknown date is also recorded in the village (MNN18491).
- 3.11 Badby was formerly situated on the Banbury to Lutterworth turnpike road, which now corresponds approximately to that part of the A361 that runs to the west of the application area (MNN135336).

### Listed Buildings

- 3.12 The village is also characterised by a number of listed buildings constructed since the 17<sup>th</sup> century (all Grade II). Many of these structures were listed following surveys in 1985 and 2011 (ENN102459; ENN102438; ENN102439; ENN105426; ENN102440; ENN102472; 102481). Within 500m of the development site, these comprise: -
- 3.13 The Manor House (MNN109546; DNN1715; NHLE No. 1075235); Jasmine Cottage, built in 1697 (MNN168490, MNN109561; DNN1878; NHLE No. 1075235 – the garden of which also features a well (MNN168489)); The Old School House, presently a house, but formerly the village school, built c.1812 (MNN109547; DNN1928; NHLE No. 1075239); Casa Nene, a 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century house which originally comprised 6 cottages (MNN109550; DNN1537; NHLE No. 1075240); Park View, built in 1674 (MNN109551; DNN1716; NHLE1372025); Greystones, built in 1706 (MNN109548; DNN1931; NHLE No. 1343572), The Hollies (MNN109552, MNN168488; DNN1561; NHLE No. 1343573); an outbuilding and former cottage at the Hollies (DNN1569; NHLE No. 1075241); a pump 3m south of The Hollies, dating to the 19th century (MNN109553; DNN1565; NHLE No. 1040048); Appletrees and Outlook Cottage, a pair of cottages dating to 1631 (MNN109653; DNN1491; NHLE No. 1075236); Home Farmhouse (MNN109564; DNN1502; NHLE No. 1343607); mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Park

- House (MNN109549; DNN1943; NHLE No. 1372021); The Cottage, dated 1696 (MNN109570; DNN2004; NHLE No. 1075273); early 18<sup>th</sup> century Wayside (MNN109562; DNN3312; NHLE 1343606); Ronkswood (MNN109566; DNN3318; NHLE No. 1343571); and Marriots House, a former farmhouse of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century (MNN109565; DNN3315; NHLE No. 1075237).
- 3.14 Bridge House is Grade II listed. Constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was formerly The White Lion public house and was originally thatched (MNN109585; DNN1586; NHLE No. 1075270).
- 3.15 A K6 telephone kiosk, designed by Charles Gilbert Scott in 1935, is located close to the village green (MNN144254; DNN17453; NHLE No. 1403387).
- 3.16 A number of undated features are recorded by the Historic Environment Record in the vicinity of the development site. These include an undated cropmark visible on an aerial photograph 127m west of the site (MNN26410), a trackway 460m to the northwest of Bridge House (MNN126044) and a communications site 400m northeast of the site (MNN135171).
- 3.17 The earliest detailed map of the area is the 1841 Enclosure map, which shows the site with an L-shaped property along the north-west and north-east boundaries, but does not show the barn. The site is shown as plot 101, proprietor Ann Smith, and described as '*An House and Yard*' (NCRO 5677 A and B). The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps of 1885 and 1900 show the site as The White Lion and both show the barn building. The 1925 mapping shows that there have been extensions to the property. The 1981 map shows what appears to be a small, two-celled structure in the western part of the garden (mapping viewed on [old-maps.co.uk](http://old-maps.co.uk) – accessed May 2018).
- 3.18 In addition to those cited above, various investigations have taken place in proximity to Bridge House, including archaeological monitoring of the excavations of the foundations of the new garage at Bridge House, which revealed no archaeological features.

### Previous archaeological work (events) in Badby recorded within the HER

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
ENN3973	Aerial Survey, Undated
ENN108636	Manor House Barn, 2017 (Building recording)
ENN3972	Aerial Survey, Undated
ENN107637	Finds, pre 1981
ENN20220	Badby Village, Documentary
ENN3968	Main Street, Undated
ENN4070	Aerial Survey, Undated
ENN108029	Bridge House, Badby, 2015 (Watching brief)
ENN103916	Badby Village Earthworks, Pre 2000
ENN4066	ENN4066
ENN106655	The Manor House, undated
ENN107067	Jasmine Cottage, 2013
ENN4065	Building Development, 1973
ENN4073	Finds, Pre 1963
ENN101744	Badby Village, 2002
ENN4069	Badby Grange, documentary
ENN108757	Goat Cottage, Badby, 2016

## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there is a significant floor layer below the concrete in the barn in order to inform planning decisions relating to the redevelopment of the barn.
- 4.2 The results from the test pitting were to be presented in a report.
- 4.3 Two 1m<sup>2</sup> test pits were cut through the concrete floor using a hand held pneumatic chisel in the locations agreed with the planning authority. Excavation then proceeded by hand.
- 4.4 Both test pits were located over a preformed concrete drainage channel and and the concrete floor (Photo 1).

## 5 RESULTS

### Test Pit 1

- 5.1 Removal of the modern concrete (up to 0.14m thick, 100/102) revealed a brown, yellow clay floor (101). This was cut by a NW-SE 0.30m wide slot (103) filled with red, brown sandy loam (104), which was probably for an internal partition for animal stalls within the barn (Fig 2; Photograph 2).

### Test Pit 2

- 5.2 The removal of the concrete (up to 0.13m thick, 200) was a continuation of the brown, yellow clay floor (201) recorded in TP1. It was also cut by a NW-SE slot, 0.20m wide (203), which was filled with mixed brown sandy clay (204) and like slot 103 in TP1 it was likely to have been for an internal partition for an animal stall.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The test pits revealed an earlier clay floor below the existing concrete. Both pits also revealed parts of two slots, which were most likely from partitions for animal stalls within the barn.
  
- 6.2 The clay floor is undated, but it is likely to have been a part of the original building, which was constructed in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Kate Brookes for commissioning the works.

## REFERENCES

BGS 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>  
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Coutts, C M, 2014 *Bridge House, Badby, Northamptonshire: Archaeological Observation:*  
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Wilson, D M, and Hurst, D G, 1970 'Medieval Britain in 1969', *Medieval Archaeology*, 14  
(1970), 155 – 208





1. Trial pit 2 before excavation, showing concrete and concrete drainage channel



2. Trial pit 1, showing the clay floor and partition cut





3. Trial pit 2, showing the clay floor and partition cut

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<i>Test pit</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	100	Pale grey modern concrete.		0.14	Concrete
1	101	Greyish brown, clay/sand/loam, brick and charcoal			Clay floor
1	102	Pale grey modern concrete		0.08	Concrete from drainage channel
1	103	Linear, NW/SE	0.30		Cut of linear partition
1	104	Reddish brown sandy loam. Compact			Fill of [103]
2	200	Layer of modern concrete		0.13	Concrete
2	201	Brownish yellow clay. Firm to hard, clear.			Layer
2	202	Layer pf concrete forming a trough in the middle of the barn		0.07	Concrete from drainage channel
2	203	Linear, NW/SE	0.20		Cut of linear partition
2	204	Mixed browns, sandy clay. Occasional pebbles.			Fill of [203]

**B**      **oasis form**

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No archaeol27-321356
<b>Project name</b>	Bridge House, Badby, Northamptonshire	
<b>Short description (250 words max)</b>	The two 1m <sup>2</sup> test pits excavated in the concrete floor of the stone barn at Bridge House in Badby, Northamptonshire revealed a clay floor surface with partition cuts and a drainage channel. No dating evidence was apparent, but it likely to date from the later 19 <sup>th</sup> century when the barn was constructed.	
<b>Project type (Eg DBA, Eval etc)</b>	Evaluation	
<b>Site status (None, NT, SAM etc)</b>	Grade II listed building	
<b>Previous work</b>	Yes	
<b>Current land use</b>	Building	
<b>Future work (yes, no, unknown)</b>	Unknown	
<b>Monument type / period</b>	Partition cut and drainage channel	
<b>Significant finds (artefact, type, period)</b>	N/A	
<b>Methods &amp; techniques</b>	Hand excavation, breaker	
<b>Development Type</b>	Barn conversion	
<b>Prompt</b>	Planning condition	
<b>Position in planning process</b>		
PROJECT LOCATION		
<b>County</b>	Northamptonshire	
<b>Site address (inc postcode)</b>	Bridge House, Daventry Road, Badby, Northamptonshire, NN11 3AB	
<b>Study area (sq.m or ha)</b>	2 sq.m	
<b>OS Easting &amp; Northing (use grid sq letter code)</b>		
<b>Height OD</b>		
PROJECT CREATORS		
<b>Organisation</b>	Archaeology Warwickshire	
<b>Project brief originator</b>	Rachel Booth	
<b>Project design originator</b>	Nigel Page MCI fA	
<b>Director/supervisor</b>	Nigel Page MCI fA	
<b>Manager</b>	Nigel Page MCI fA	
<b>Sponsor or funding body</b>		
PROJECT DATE		
<b>Start date /end date</b>		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Location (Accession no)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)
<b>Physical</b>		

<b>Paper</b>		
<b>Digital</b>		

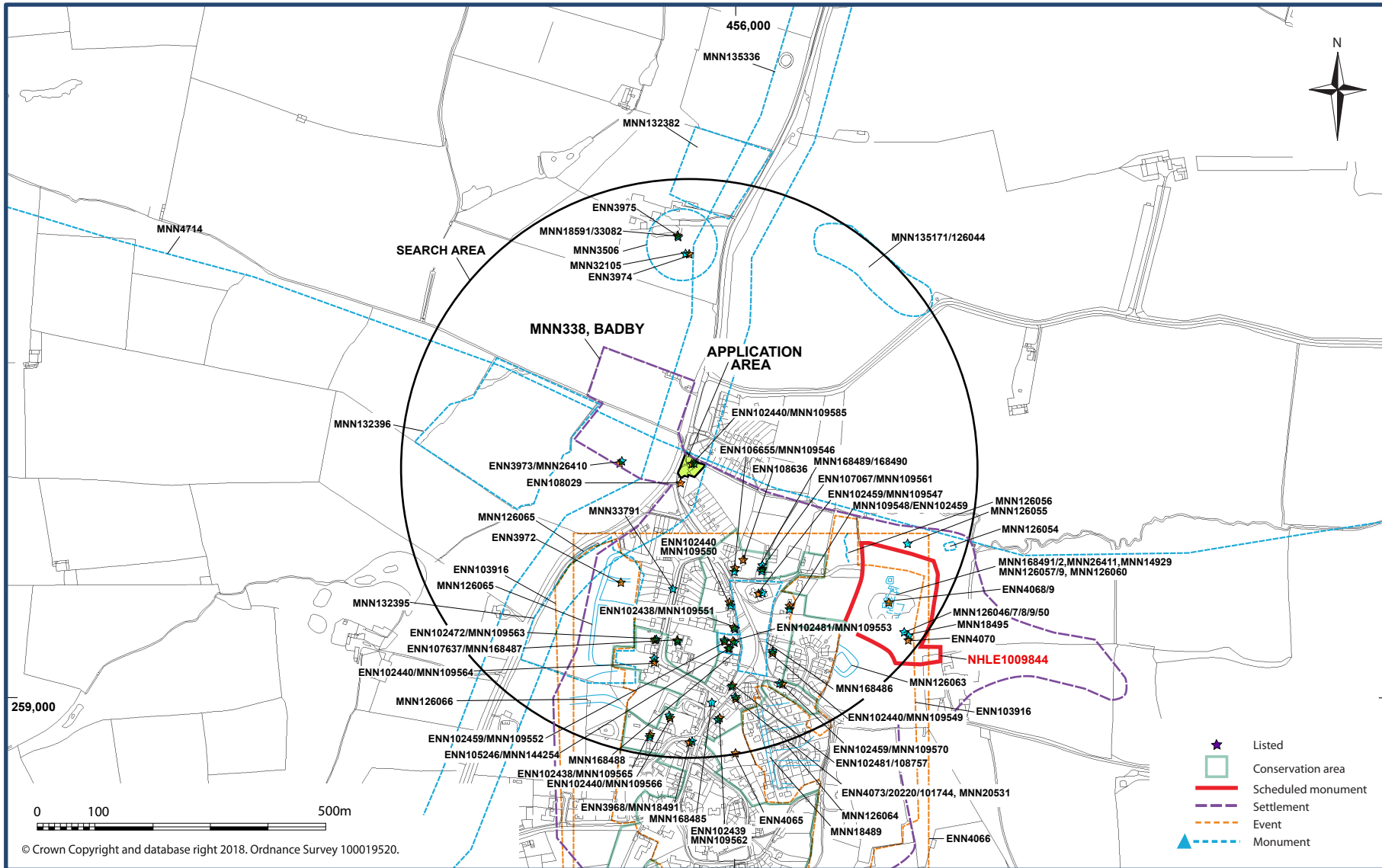


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

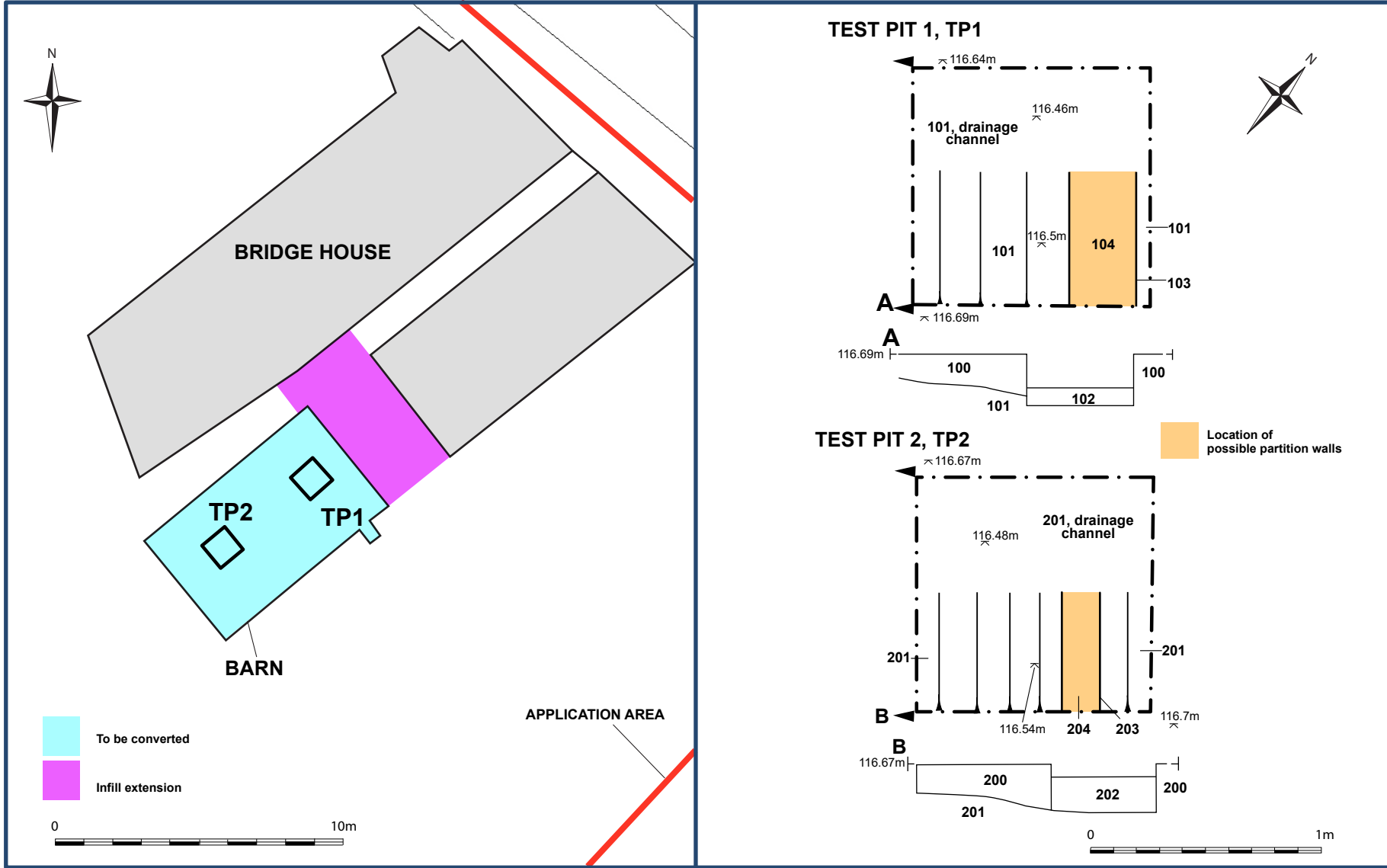


Fig 2: Location, detail and sections of test pits observed