



**ARCHAEOLOGY
WARWICKSHIRE**

12 The Butts Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Archaeology Warwickshire
Report No 2247
Date: June 2022



**Warwickshire
County Council**

*Working for
Warwickshire*

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

Commissioned by:	David Byrne
Site Code:	WB20
Planning Reference:	W/19/1790
Planning Authority:	Warwick District Council
National Grid Reference:	SP 28283 65056
Project Manager:	Caroline Rann MCIfA
Author:	Bethany Morgan MSc
Illustrations:	Candy Stevens
Checked by:	Caroline Rann
Approved by:	Stuart Palmer MCIfA
Date:	June 2022
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**Archaeology Warwickshire****Hawkes Point****Hawkes Drive****Warwick****CV34 6LX****01926 412278****fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk****www.archaeologywarwickshire.co.uk****[tw.@archaeologyW](https://twitter.com/archaeologyW)**

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

CONTENTS

	Summary	1
1	Introduction	2
2	Site location	3
3	Baseline archaeological data	4
4	Aims and methods	6
5	Results	7
6	Conclusions	9
	Acknowledgements	10
	References	11

APPENDICES

A	List of Contexts	12
B	List of Finds	14
C	Oasis Form	15

PHOTOGRAPHS

1	Cross-section of former garden path (deposits 1, 2, 4 and 6) looking SW	16
2	Trench for retaining wall, looking SE	16
3	Deposits 3 and 5, looking SW	17
4	Trench for retaining wall, looking NW	17
5	Pre-excavation shot at rear of garden, looking SW	18
6	Deposits 8, 9 and 10, looking NE	18
7	Oblique shot of excavated area, looking W	19
8	General shot of site post-excavation, looking N	19
9	General shot of site post-excavation, looking N	20
10	General shot of site post-excavation, looking S	20

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

FIGURES

- 1 Location of application area and Historic Environment information
- 2 Detail from Board of Health map of 1851
- 3 Detail from Warwick Town Map of 1887
- 4 Location of groundworks observed

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

SUMMARY

A watching brief was carried out during groundworks and the erection of a replacement wall and new brick shed and parking to the rear of 12, The Butts, on behalf of David Byrne.

Ground reductions did not reach the geological strata but revealed multiple modern deposits indicative of the continued development at this site. A modern former garden path was also observed. The finds recovered were mostly contemporary or later than the construction of The Butts terrace in the early 19th century, although a Midlands Purple sherd suggests some activity preceded the development.

The proposed extension to the rear of the property is not going ahead.

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Warwick District Council for the erection of a single storey rear extension, replacement of existing roof lantern over existing rear extension and the erection of a replacement wall and shed to rear of 12 The Butts, Warwick. The extension is no longer proposed.
- 2.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to carry out a watching brief during the groundworks phase of the development, which took place between January and February 2022. This report presents the results of that work.
- 2.3 The project archive comprises documentary and physical archive which will be deposited at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code WB20 and the digital records will be deposited with ADS. As the artefacts are all post-medieval or later they won't be collected by the Museum and will be discarded or returned to the owner.

	Number	Type
Physical records	1	Section drawing sheets
	10	Context sheets
Digital records	30	Photographs
	2	Location plan
Artefacts	52	Pottery, cbm and animal bone frags

- 2.4 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance (2020).

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference SP 28283 65056 in the town of Warwick, in the parish of the same name. The site is on the southern side of The Butts in a terrace of town houses first clearly mapped on the Board of Health Map of 1851 (Fig 2).
- 2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Helsby Sandstone Formation (British Geological Survey 2020).

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

3 BASELINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

3.1 The baseline archaeological data was detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Hillman 2020) and only the salient aspects are reiterated below.

Prehistoric (pre-AD43)

3.2 The hilltop at Warwick has been a focus of activity since at least 4000 BC (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 6061; MWA 4269; EWA 10784, Fig 1). There has been much speculation as to the possibility of the hill being fortified in the Iron Age, although the purported ramparts in Priory Park (MWA 1841) are more likely to be post-medieval garden features.

Roman period (AD43-410)

3.3 Roman period cremations were recorded in a quarry at Rock House in the late 19th century (MWA 1999) although there is little other evidence for activity of this date on the hill.

Medieval period (1066-1485)

3.4 The development site lies within the medieval walled town, close to St Mary's parish church first mentioned in 1086 but rebuilt in 1123 and heavily damaged by the Great Fire of Warwick in 1694. Collegiate buildings attached to the Norman church formed a quadrangle immediately south of no 12 (Fig 1). They were two-storied in timber framing. In 1699 the town corporation bought them to use as a grammar school (the forerunner of the current Warwick School) until 1879 when the school moved to its current location. The old college buildings were demolished soon after. The site of the former vicarage buildings associated with the college are Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (NHLE: 1002991).

3.5 A watching brief at 16 The Butts in 2017 found no significant archaeological remains (EWA 10859) and further negative observations

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

have been conducted at 7 and 14 The Butts (EWA 7570, Gethin 2017), although extensive quarrying for sandstone may have removed medieval remains.

Post-medieval and Industrial periods (1485-1750, 1750-1945)

- 3.6 Number 12, forming part of a group consisting of 2-14 The Butts, is Listed Grade II (NHLE: 1364792) and dates from the early 19th century.
- 3.7 A watching brief at the application address (EWA 9055; Coutts 2008), was carried out during groundworks for a new rear extension and a single sherd of later medieval pottery was recovered along with others dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries. In 2002 finds of 16th- to 18th-century date, along with a number of human skull fragments had been found by the owner when the cellar level was lowered.

Cartographic sources

- 3.8 Early maps of 1711, 1788 and 1806 show buildings on the site of number 12, although the first map that may depict the existing buildings ought to be that of 1806. They are clearly depicted on the Board of Health map of 1851 (Fig 2) which also shows some of the planting scheme in the rear gardens.

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed by the development, to collate the fieldwork records into an archaeological archive and present the results of the fieldwork for dissemination.
- 4.2 An experienced archaeologist was present for each period of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with the WSI. Where potential archaeological deposits were encountered, the supervising archaeologist assessed and recorded them before they were disturbed.
- 4.3 The specific work observed was the hand-digging of an underpinning trench for the retaining wall, and the ground reduction to the rear of the property for the installation of a paved surface.
- 4.4 The underpinning trench for the retaining wall measured 8.00m x 0.40m and was hand-excavated to a varied depth between 0.17m to 0.29m.
- 4.5 The ground reduction to the rear of the property covered an area of approximately 5.08m x 7.60m. This area was excavated to a depth of up to 0.20m, although some of the area was not excavated fully to this depth.

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 As the ground reduction for these works did not exceed a depth of around 0.29m, the geological natural was not observed.
- 5.2 In the section of the trench for the retaining wall, the remains of a former garden path were observed which cut the garden soil (5) at the SE end of the trench. This consisted of a gravel base (6), mortar bedding (4), a loose cement/gravel surface (2) and a layer of trampled mud (1). A layer of disturbed garden soil (3) also overlaid the garden soil for the remainder of the trench.
- 5.3 Three layers were observed during the ground reduction to the rear of the property (Fig 4). The lowest deposit observed in this area was a disturbed garden soil (10), which had a similar appearance to layer 3. Directly overlying this was a gravel deposit (9), and then a layer of modern hardcore (8). A concrete channel (7) was also uncovered along the rear perimeter of the property, which was directly underneath a line of paving stones along the property border.
- 5.4 Post-medieval pottery, glass and tile was recovered from the disturbed garden soil (3) excavated in the trench. Post-medieval pottery and CBM were recovered from the garden soil itself (5), along with the fragments of a clay tobacco pipe dating from c.1800-1840. Modern pottery was also recovered from the gravel base of the former garden path.
- 5.5 Post-medieval pottery, glass and metal was recovered from the deposits to the rear of the property. Animal bone and oyster shell was also recovered from the disturbed garden soil (10) in this area. A fragment of Midlands Purple ware was recovered from the surface layer of hardcore (8). Although pottery of this type dates from the 15th-17th century, the deposit from which it was recovered and the deposit directly below it (9) are both clearly modern layers. Therefore, it is likely that these layers contain re-

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

deposited material from earlier deposits, although the precise location of these earlier deposits remains unknown.

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The only feature observed during this watching brief was the former garden path. The finds indicate that this path is modern.
- 6.2 The clay tobacco pipe found in the garden soil dates from the early 19th century, contemporary with the construction of The Butts terrace.
- 6.3 The multiple deposits observed represent the continued development of the garden of 12 The Butts from the original occupation of the house to the modern day. This includes the addition of a garden path, and the resurfacing of the rear of the garden, possibly as a driveway.
- 6.4 The discovery of Midlands Purple pottery within a modern deposit suggests there was activity in the area during the early post-medieval period.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mr David Byrne for commissioning the work and John Robinson for representing the planning authority.

The project was coordinated and managed for Archaeology Warwickshire by Caroline Rann MCI*f*A and the fieldwork was undertaken by Bethany Morgan MSc and Dr Alexander Portch ACI*f*A.

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

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12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thickness (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	Dark reddish-brown sandy silt. Moderate CBM/brick fragments, small stones and gravel. Soft compaction, clear horizons.	≥0.95	0.05	Trampled mud covering former garden path. There are also possibly steps near the gate which have been lost beneath this mud layer.
2	Light reddish-grey sand and fine gravel. Moderate small stones and gravel. Loose, clear horizons.	≥0.90	0.10	Gravel deposit above former garden path.
3	Very dark greyish-brown slightly sandy silt. Occasional CBM/brick fragments, small rounded stone and roots. Soft compaction, diffuse horizons (more CBM and roots than 5).		≤0.20	Disturbed topsoil/garden soil. Overlies 5. Possibly the same as 1.
4	Light yellowish-brown silty sand. Frequent very small rounded stones and gravel embedded in surface. Very firm, but silty sand mortar can be loosened. Clear horizons. ≥0.72m in length.	≥0.35	0.02	Possible mortar bedding for a former garden path. Possibly lime mortar. Gravel may represent path surface.

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

5	Very dark greyish-brown slightly sandy loam. Moderate rooting, occasional small rounded stones. Soft and loose. Diffuse.		≥ 0.1	Probable former topsoil/garden soil. Hidden beneath recently laid sand/gravel (NE of trench) and deposit 3 (SW of trench). Possibly 19 th or 20 th century based on finds evidence.
6	Red, grey and yellow loose, coarse rounded and sub-rounded gravel/pebbles. Loose, clear horizons.	≥ 1	≤ 0.1	Gravel beneath former garden path, incorporates some soil.
7	Grey concrete layer. $\geq 5.08\text{m}$ in length.	≥ 0.26	≥ 0.15	Concrete channel along SW perimeter of garden under paving stones. Modern.
8	Grey-brown hardcore with frequent gravel and CBM. Loose and brittle. Clear horizons.		0.07	Modern deposit.
9	Brown, yellow and grey gravel (small sub-rounded pebbles). Clear horizons.		0.08	Modern gravel deposit.
10	Very dark brown sandy silt with occasional small pebbles and CBM fragments. Loose and friable. Clear horizons.		≥ 0.05	Possible disturbed topsoil/garden soil. May be the same as 3.

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

B List of Finds (not retained or returned to client)

Context	Material	Quantity	Date/Comments
3	Pottery	6	2 x WW whiteware rim sherds with blue transfer (MGW) 4 x flowerpot fragments
3	Glass	3	1 x colourless vessel 1 x green bottle 1 x frosted window
3	Tile	2	1 x handmade roof tile 1 x fragment with reduced centre, possibly medieval
3	CBM	4	1 x brick fragment 3 x unidentifiable fragments
5	Pottery	8	2 x WW whiteware rim sherds of plates with blue transfer (MGW) 3 x Creamware, inc. 1 x cup, 1 x plate body sherds, 1 x possible bowl rim sherd (CRW) 2 x post-medieval coarse ware with iron-rich slip (PMCW) 1 x flowerpot rim sherd
5	CBM	7	1 x mortar fragment 1 x cement fragment 1 x moulded wall tile 1 x moulded floor tile 1 x handmade roof tile 2 x brick
5	Clay pipe	2	1 x spurred bowl (3 pieces) with elaborate foliage interwoven with quatrefoil flanking mould mark (c. 1800-1840) 1 x stem
5	Plastic	1	1 x plastic chip
6	Pottery	2	1 x MGW modern glazed ware mixing bowl body sherd 1 x flowerpot sherd
8	Pottery	2	1 x white glazed tile 1 x Midlands Purple? (MP) 15 th – 17 th century
9	Glass	1	1 x base of green wine bottle
10	Pottery	9	2 x white ware with blue transfer 1 x white ware with green transfer 1 x white ware with grey transfer (4 fragments) all MGW 2 x flowerpot
10	Glass	2	2 x green bottle glass

12 The Butts, Warwick

Archaeological watching brief

Date: June 2022

10	Shell	1	1 x oyster shell fragment
10	Animal bone	1	1 x butchered cattle rib shaft
10	Metal	1	1 x metal fitting for a light or oil lamp, 19 th century

Warwickshire medieval and post-medieval pottery type series codes in bold

PHOTOGRAPHS



1: Former garden path (deposits 1, 2, 4 and 6) looking SW



2: Trench for retaining wall, looking SE



3: Deposits 3 and 5, looking SW



4: Trench for retaining wall, looking NW



5: Pre-excitation shot at rear of garden, looking SW



6: Deposits 8, 9 and 10, looking NE



7: Oblique shot of excavated area, looking west



8: General shot of site post-excavation, looking north

12 The Butts, Warwick
Archaeological watching brief
Date: June 2022



9: General shot of site post-excavation, looking north



10: General shot of site post-excavation, looking south

Summary for archaeol27-507262

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol27-507262
Project Name	Watching Brief at 12 The Butts Warwick
Sitename	
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	WB20
Planning Id	W/19/1790
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeology Warwickshire
Project Dates	05-Jan-2022 - 24-Feb-2022
Location	12 The Butts Warwick NGR : SP 28283 65056 LL : 52.282923440605, -1.58682851887013 12 Fig : 428283,265056
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Warwickshire District : Warwick Parish : Warwick
Project Methodology	The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance (2020). The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed by the development, to collate the fieldwork records into an archaeological archive and present the results of the fieldwork for dissemination.
Project Results	The only feature observed during this watching brief was the former garden path. The finds indicated that this path is modern. A clay tobacco pipe found in the garden soil dates from the early 19th century, contemporary with the construction of The Butts terrace. The multiple deposits observed represent the continued development of the garden of 12 The Butts from the original occupation of the house to the modern day. This includes the addition of a garden path, and the resurfacing of the rear of the garden, possibly as a driveway.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Warwickshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Bethany, Morgan, Alexander, Portch
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Warwickshire Museum;

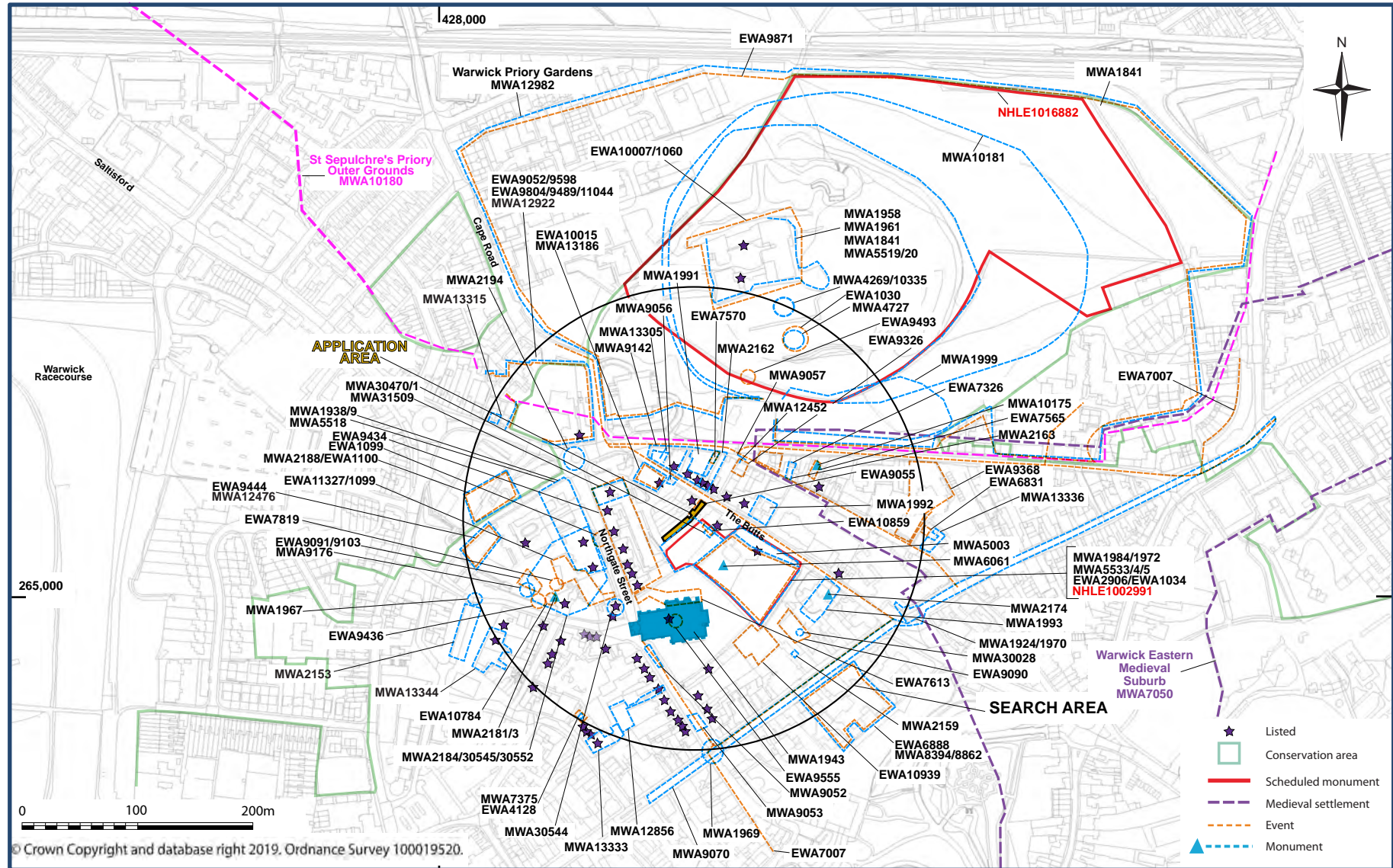


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

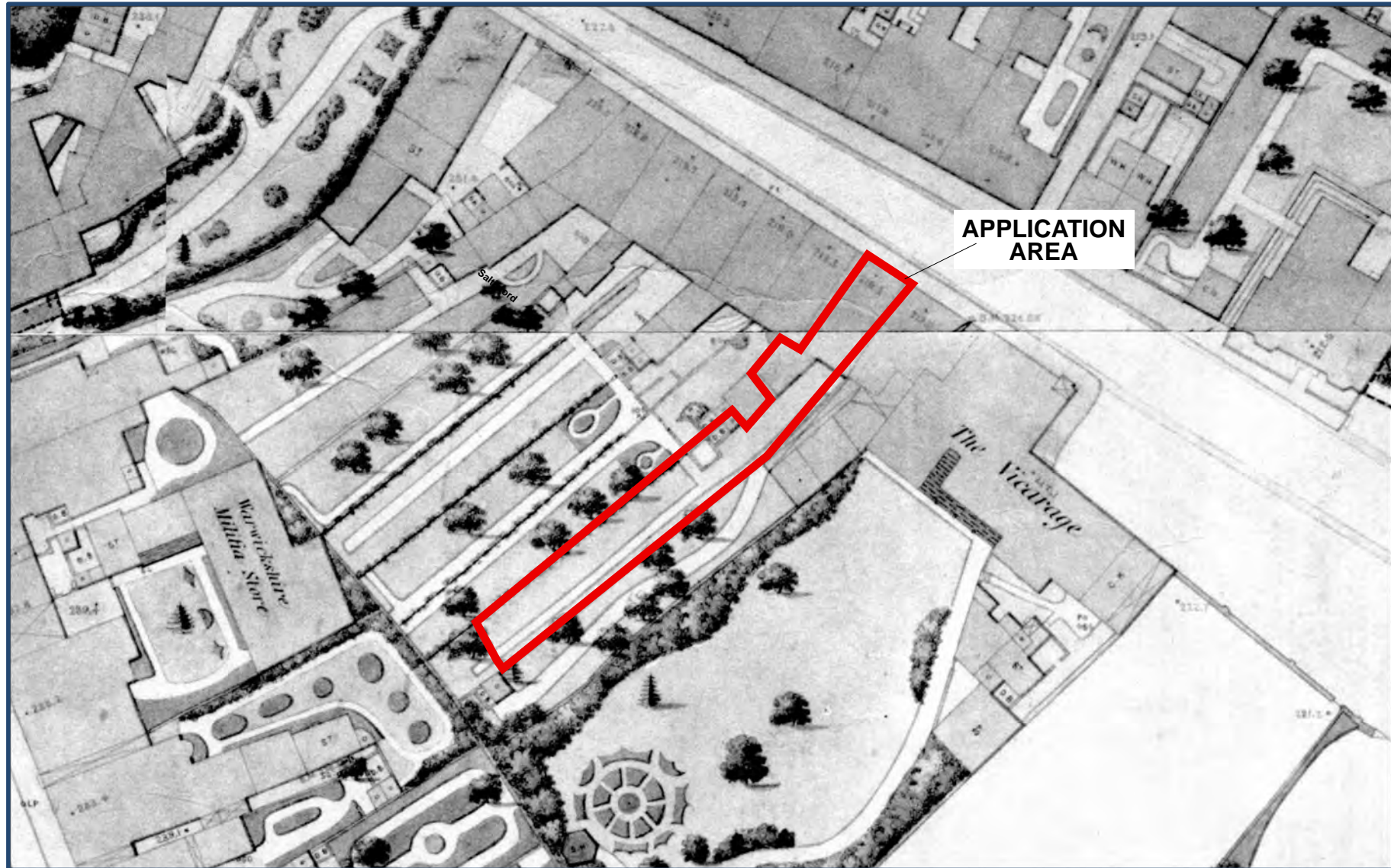


Fig 2: Detail from Board of Health map of 1851

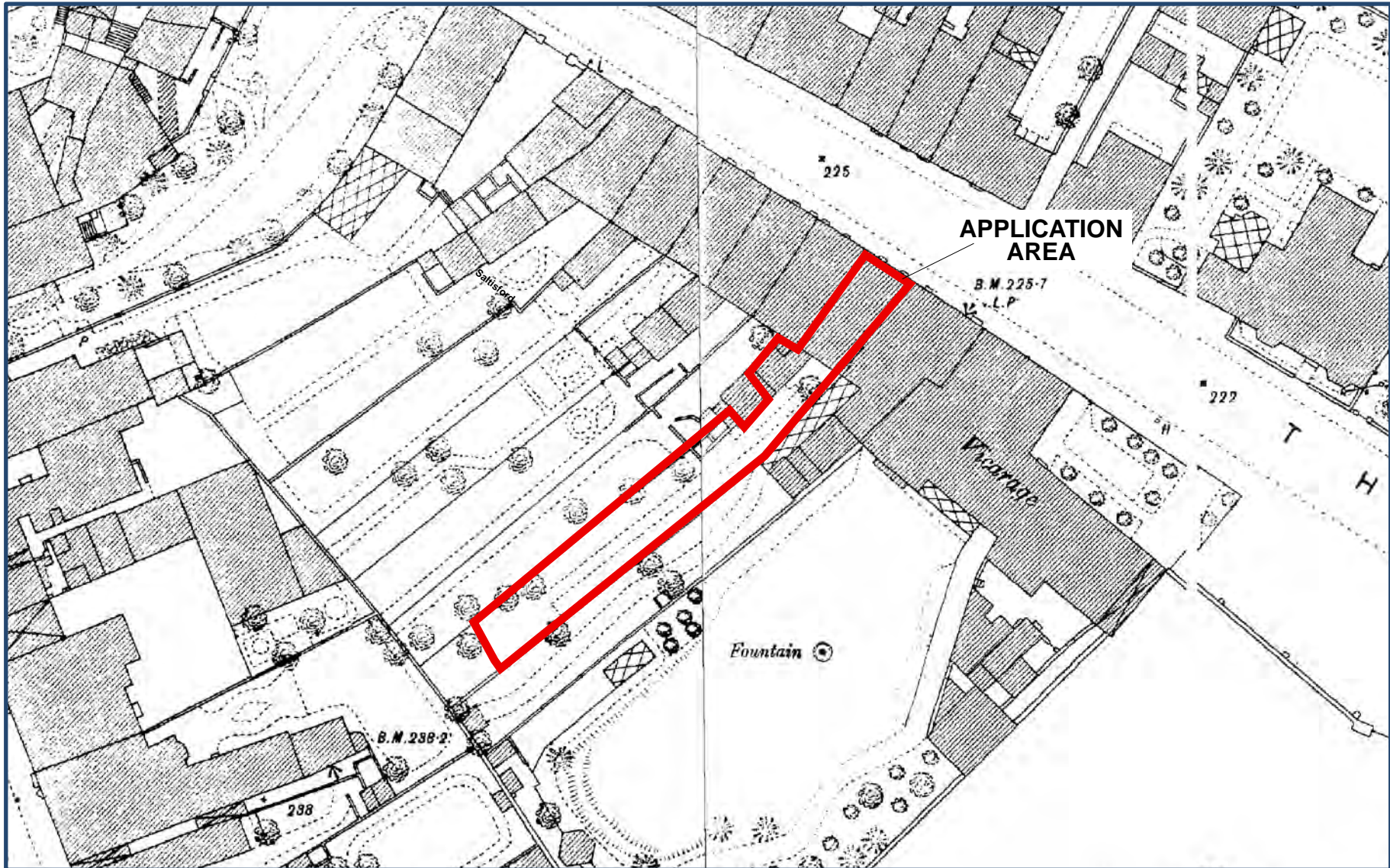


Fig 3: Detail from Warwick Town Map of 1887

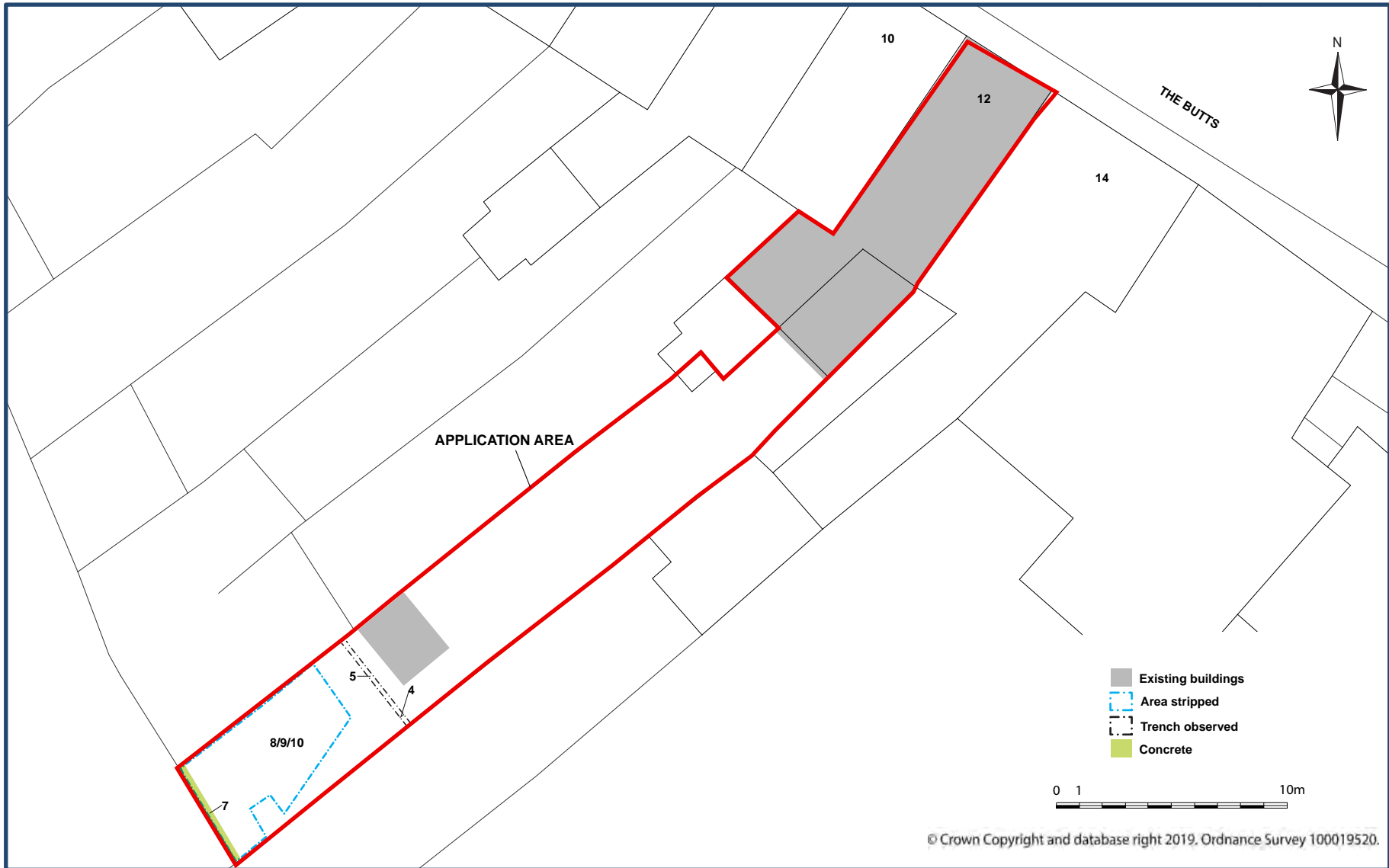


Fig 4: Location of groundworks observed