

55 Terry Road, Coventry,

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1556
SEPTEMBER 2015



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: 55 Terry Road, Coventry
Commissioned by: Mic Sanghera
Project Report No. 1556
Site Code: CTR14
Planning Reference: FUL/2014/2855
National Grid Reference: SP 3455 7839
Team:
Project Manager: Stuart Palmer MCIfA
Fieldwork: Mark Charles BA, MA
Author: Caroline Rann BA
Illustrations: Candy Stevens
Report checked by: Stuart Palmer MCIfA
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Archaeology Warwickshire

Unit 9

Montague Road

Warwick

CV34 5LW

01926 412278

fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology

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FIGURES

1	Site location showing Historic Environment Information for prehistoric up to medieval
2	Site location showing Historic Environment Information for 16 th century up to present
3	Area observed

SUMMARY

Archaeological observation of ground reductions carried out subsequent to the demolition of the original property revealed no evidence of the Shortley manor house and no archaeological finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Coventry City Council for the redevelopment of 55 Terry Road for student accommodation with parking (Ref. FUL/2014/2855). A desk based assessment established that the site lies within an area which could have contained Shortley manor house. The medieval manor was ruinous by 1489 but the field name 'Hall Close' is considered a reasonably reliable indicator of its former location.

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a programme of strip, map and sampling in advance of the development in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority. The work was carried out in July 2015.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site measures approximately 23m x 25m and prior to the present work was occupied by a derelict house and workshops. It is situated on the eastern side of the London Road (the A4114), centred on National Grid Reference SP 3455 7839.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Keresley member sandstone which is a type of Coventry sandstone (British Geological Survey 2014).

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 The main aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains that would be disturbed by the development, to collate the records in an archaeological archive and present the significant aspects of the archive in a report for dissemination.

3.2 The secondary aim was to form an understanding of the remains recorded in terms of their character and date, and to place the evidence in its local and regional context.

3.3 The objective of the work was a programme of controlled excavation to the geological natural. Ground investigations by Geoprobe Environmental Ltd demonstrate that between 0.2

and 0.35m of modern material (topsoil and made ground) overlies 0.75m – 1.2m of clayey sand with sandstone, geological natural.

3.4 The stripping was undertaken by the demolition contractor supervised by an experienced archaeologist once the extant buildings had been removed.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The restricted nature of the site meant that the site was divided into quadrants and the overburden removed in quadrant sequence with spoil being banded and double handled until all the site was stripped – all in a single day.

4.2 The demolition process and the breaking of the slab effectively contaminated the topsoil with the result that a single mixed layer, between 0.2 and 0.5m deep, comprising 'overburden, rubble, garden waste and general rubbish' was scraped from the geological natural.

4.3 No features were observed cutting the natural and no finds were recovered.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The work successfully established that there is no evidence for the Shortley manor house at 55 Terry Road. The absence of any medieval or post-medieval finds or building material on the site suggests that the focus of the manor lies some distance from the present site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mic Sanghera for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2014, BGS Viewer

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, accessed October 2014.

Rann, C, 2014 *Land at 55 Terry Road, Coventry, Desk-based Assessment*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1491.



1. General view of stripping in progress



2. General view of stripping in progress



3. General view of stripping in progress



4. General view of stripping in progress

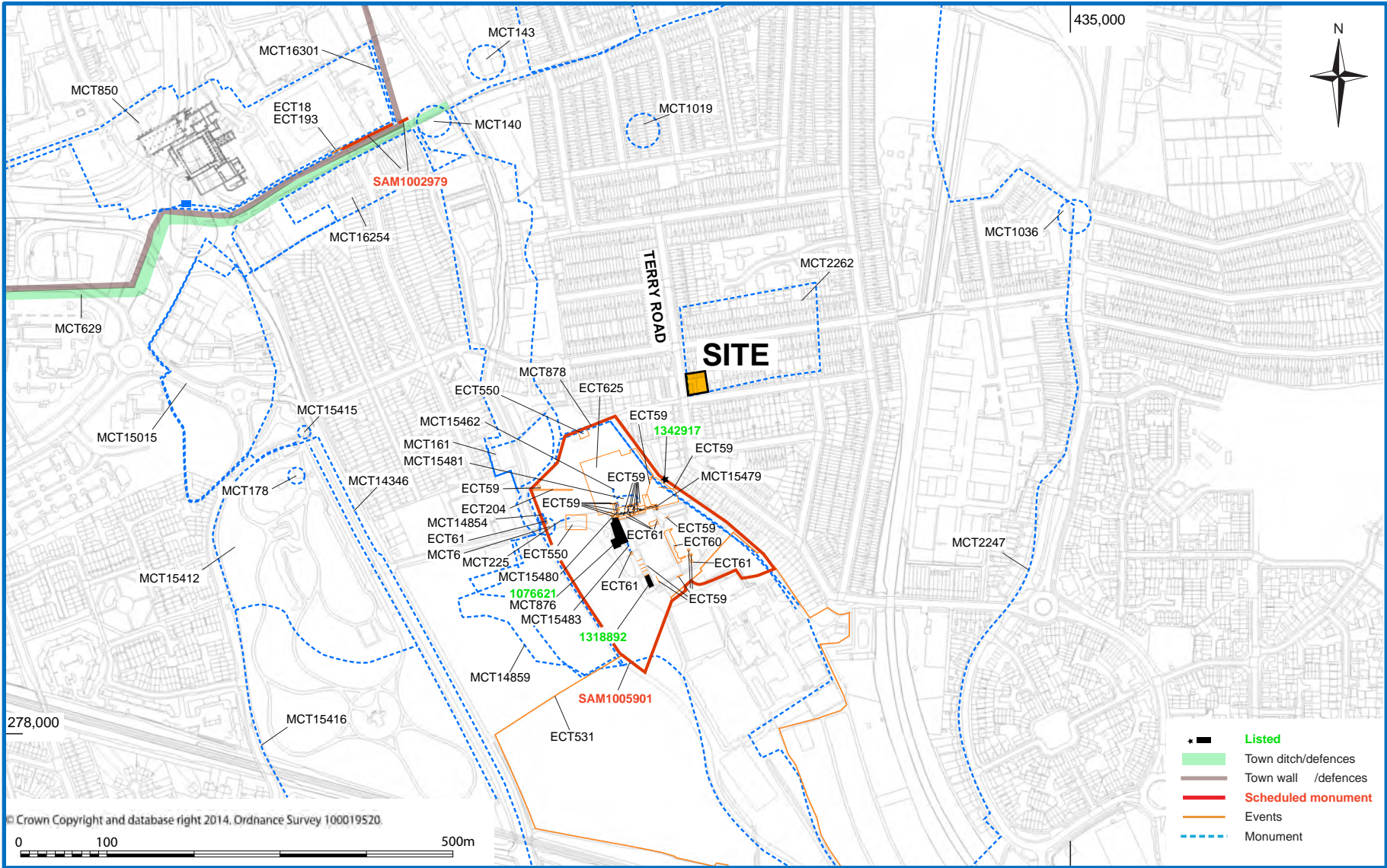


Fig 1: Site location showing Historic Environment Information for prehistoric up to medieval

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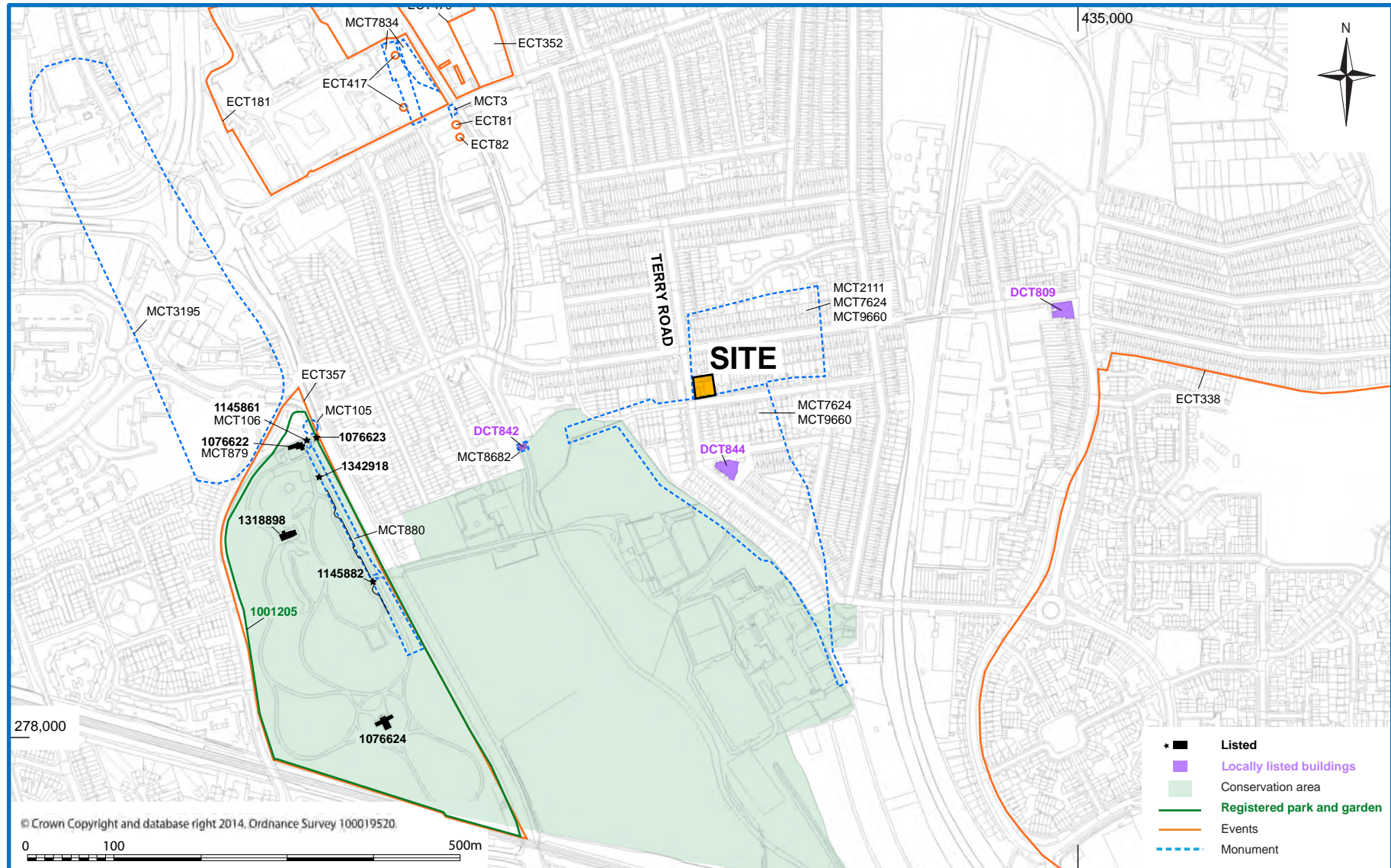


Fig 2: Site location showing Historic Environment Information for 16th century up to present



Fig 3: Area observed