

# Land off St Peter's Road, Kineton, Warwickshire

## Archaeological Watching Brief



*understanding heritage matters*

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*Working for  
Warwickshire*

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INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



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## Summary

An archaeological watching brief during the construction of two new areas of housing and associated access including car parking and services exposed some medieval layers associated with the small town of Kineton. The western half of the site appears to have been within the small medieval borough of Kineton, which was attached to the village in the early 1200s. A layer of crushed limestone may have been a medieval yard surface and a single east-west ditch was probably one of the original burgage plot boundaries of the borough. Pottery found at the bottom of the ditch dated from the 13th to the early 14th century. A considerable amount of medieval pottery was also found in the layer above the yard surface. Over 220 sherds of pottery were recovered with most dating from the *circa* 1200 to 1325 and suggesting a peak in the occupation on this site during that period. This might suggest that the borough of Kineton was prospering in the first 125 to 150 years after its creation but that its fortunes began to decline after the mid 14th. Fortunately this also appears to match with some of the known historical evidence for the small borough.

In the eastern part of the site the soil stripping uncovered far less evidence of medieval activity, particularly in the area of the former farmhouse, the foundations of which had caused considerable disturbance. However, 15 sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 13th century and a single sherd from the late 12th or 13th century were recovered. It is perhaps significant that this part of the site, with a far lower number of finds, was within the area of medieval Kineton but outside the area that had Borough status.

A further north-south ditch was observed in a new service trench and, despite the upper fill only containing 19th and 20th century debris, it is plausible that it is was on the line of a boundary ditch marking the eastern edge of the small borough.

A small stone structure was also uncovered during soil stripping. It could not be determined what it had been used for but it clearly dated to the 18th or 19th century and must have been associated with the farm, perhaps for some agricultural purpose.

# 1 Introduction

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council for a residential development including 5 dwellings with access and car parking on land off St Peter's Road, Kineton (Planning Ref. 07/01022/FUL). There was potential for this work to disturb archaeological remains as the site is within the medieval settlement of Kineton and to the rear of several Grade II Listed Building (LBS Numbers 482280 and 482281). It was therefore a condition of planning permission that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in conjunction with the development.

1.2 A programme of fieldwork, consisting of the archaeological observation soil stripping, foundation trenches and service trenches in accordance with a Brief prepared by the County Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority, was commissioned from Archaeology Warwickshire and carried out between May and December 2011. This report presents the results of that work and the project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under the site code KF11.

## 2. Location

2.1 The site is located on the western side of St Peter's Road, Kineton and to the rear of buildings fronting onto Southam Street, at National Grid reference SP 3372 5120, in the parish of Kineton. The development site was previously a farmhouse and gardens to the rear of the houses fronting Southam Street.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Blue Lias (British Geological Survey 1963).

## 3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 There is no known prehistoric or Romano-British activity within Kineton itself, but the site of a Roman villa lies 1.5km to the west at Brookhampton (MWA 4530) and a further small Roman settlement (MWA 4759) is located approximately 1.5km to the east.

3.2 The first mention of Kineton is in an Anglo-Saxon charter of 969. It was held by King Edgar, which gave rise to its name *Cynton*: 'cyn' meaning king and 'ton' meaning manor (Kineton and District Local History Group 1999, 1). In Domesday (1086), Kineton is listed as *Quintone* belonging to King William and was then in Flexhole Hundred (VCH 1904, 301). The estimated population at this time was sizeable, at around 500 (Kineton and District Local History Group 1999, 2). In 1160, King Henry II formed the Kington Hundred centred on Kineton from four of the former Domesday Hundreds. This meant that the town was significant in the administration of South Warwickshire, a position it only really began to lose in the 19th and 20th centuries. The importance of Kineton in the medieval period continued even after the manor was given by the crown to Stephen de Segrave in 1216. It is possible

that King John's Castle, a motte and bailey castle, was constructed at this time although it is much more likely that it is 12th century in origin (Warwickshire HER No. WA 1183, Scheduled Ancient Monument 21638). The castle is situated on the south-western fringe of the village (Fig. 1). In 1220 Stephen de Segrave had been granted the right to hold a market in Kineton and the large triangular market place with an attached Market Square on its western side can still be seen (Fig. 1), even though some of it has been infilled by later buildings.

3.3 The parish church of St Peter (WA 1182) is at the centre of the likely extent of Kineton in the medieval period (WA 9016). The church was significantly remodelled and extended in the 18th and 19th centuries, most notably by Sanderson Miller of Radway in 1755. The west tower survives from the medieval period with the lowest part dating from the early 14th century (VCH 1949, 106).

3.4 The post-medieval history of Kineton is noted for the battle of Edgehill (October 1642, WA 1198), the first major battle of the English Civil War, which took place a short distance to the south-east of the town between Little Kineton and Radway. In the market square, to the west of the site, is a range of 17th-century cottages, which are believed to have been Almshouses (WA 10189). A post mill is documented as existing by 1565 further to the west and close to St Peter's church (WA 3870).

3.5 The Manor House, 250m south-west of the site, is an 18th-century building with some 19th-century alterations (WA 10203). The land to the south-west of the settlement was depicted as park land (WA 8708) on Greenwood's map of 1822. On this map Kineton is shown in capital letters denoting that at this time it was still considered a market town. However the market had died out by 1840 when the market house was demolished and replaced by a school. A corn mill (WA 7615) was recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.

3.6 The main road from Warwick to Banbury was turnpiked in the 18th century (WA 4814), which forms the main road through the village. The East and West Junction Railway from Stratford to Fenny Compton (WA 7835) also served the town and ran along its northern edge. Two limekilns are shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1885. One was situated on the main road to the south of the site (MWA 7614) and the other along side the railway line on the western edge of the town (WA 7618). Kineton had a gasworks in the 19th and early 20th centuries (WA 7617), first shown on the 1885 map (Fig. 2).

3.7 A small amount of archaeological work has been carried out in Kineton. In 2005 evidence for late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval occupation was found to the south of the site during excavations at Rose Cottage, Mill Lane. The remains of a medieval stone building (WA 10172) and metalled surfaces (WA 10173) were discovered, probably occupied from the 12th to the 16 century (Cook 2005). In 2007 archaeological observation at Old Post Office House, Bridge Street, Kineton, revealed a pit, a stone-lined well and the foundations of an outbuilding all dating to the late 19th century. Two 20th-century brick-lined pits were also recorded. No archaeological finds or features relating to medieval Kineton were discovered (Rann and Thompson, 2007).

3.8 In 2008 small scale observation of enabling works and geotechnical pits was carried out on the current development site. No evidence of medieval activity was revealed but a yard surface and possible foundation, probably associated with the 19th-century farmhouse, were recorded (Thompson 2008).

## **4. Observation**

### **Area 1**

4.1 This area was stripped of soil using a large tracked machine. The amount of soil removed was limited to establishing the formation level required for construction rather than a specific archaeological layer. However, across some of the area a layer of limestone rubble consisting of small to medium sized angular fragments set in a brownish yellow clay loam soil matrix (3) was exposed. Foundation trenches which were excavated after the initial stripping showed that this layer existed across the whole of Area 1 and was substantial in nature, varying from about 0.4m thick at the north end of the site to 0.16m thick at south end. At the southern end of the area the east-west foundation trench cut through a large ditch (4).

4.2 This ditch also ran in an east-west direction but its full width was not seen as its southern edge was beyond the limits of the development site. It was over 1.12m wide and a maximum depth of 0.72m. Although its full width was not visible it seems likely that it was at least 2m wide. The ditch was filled by a dark greyish brown clay loam with very few inclusions (5). Fortunately several sherds of medieval pottery (see Appendix C) were recovered from this fill including some from the very bottom of the ditch. The ditch was cut through the limestone surface (3). The limestone surface was overlaid by a layer of greyish brown clay loam (2) which varied in thickness from 0.3m at the northern end of the site to 16m at the southern end. A considerable amount of medieval pottery, over 220 sherds, was recovered from this layer.

### **Area 2**

4.2 Foundation trenches for the new buildings were observed across much of the site. The previous farm buildings and farmyard had caused considerable disturbance to the area and no medieval deposits were observed. Trenches were 0.6m wide and typically 0.8m deep and were cut into geological natural clay (9). This was overlain by between 0.3 and 0.5m of a layer of mixed debris (12) caused by the construction and then demolition of the former farmhouse.

4.3 Soil stripping on the north side of the new buildings exposed a small stone structure (8) 2m long by 0.75m wide. It was not possible to determine what this small flat structure had been built for but it clearly dated to the 18th or 19th century and must have been associated with the farm.

4.4 On the west side of area 2 soil stripping for new car parking was also observed. It consisted of an area 8.5m wide by 23m long and was stripped straight down onto geological natural yellowish brown clay (6). No features were seen cutting the natural clay. On top of this was 0.4m of dark grey clay loam (7) from which sixteen medieval pottery sherds dating mostly from the 13th century were recovered. On top of layer 7 was 0.2m of topsoil (1).

4.5 Service trenches along the east side of area 2 were also observed. These passed through an area that had remained relatively undisturbed by the former farm buildings. The trench was approximately 1.75m deep and cut 1.18m into the geological natural clay (9). This was overlain by 0.18m of grey limestone fragments (13), which was covered by 0.2m of fragmented brownish yellow limestone (14). These layers of stone had possibly formed one or more yard surfaces, perhaps associated with the post-medieval farm, but no dating evidence was found in them and so a medieval date is not impossible. Above layer 13 was 0.18m of brown clay loam topsoil (1).

4.6 A further service trench was excavated after the construction of the new houses in area 2. It was 19m long and 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m. The trench was excavated 0.35m into geological natural clay (6). This was overlaid by 0.05m of small to medium limestone fragments (13). Above this was 0.3m of dark grey clay loam (7) which was covered by 0.2m of modern hardcore (15). No finds or features of archaeological significance were found in this trench.

4.7 A further length of service trench was observed in December 2011. It ran from Area 1 to Area 2. The trench was 1.6m wide and was cut down into the geological natural. A ditch (10), 1.1m wide, was partly exposed running in a north-south direction. It was filled by a mixed greyish brown clay loam (11) which contained numerous fragments of 19th and 20th century pottery and glass along with two fragments of pottery dating from the 17th to the 18th century. The base of the ditch was not observed as it had already been obscured by a layer of modern soil before it was seen.

4.8 A well was also exposed in Area B. It had been capped with a concrete slab but had probably been used into the 20th century and still held water. It was only partly visible but had an internal diameter of 0.7m and was 6m deep. The well was lined with limestone blocks which appeared to be un-mortared.

## 5. Conclusions

5.1 Some significant archaeological remains were noted during the course of the watching brief. The stone surface (3) visible within Area 1 must be medieval in date and was most likely laid down as a hard standing due to the easily churned up nature of the underlying natural clay. This might have been a yard associated with buildings along the former market place, now Southam Street, to the west. The east-west ditch (4) was being gradually filled in during the 13th century (a date proven by pottery found at the very base of the feature) but was still at least partly open in the first quarter of the 14th century. It seems most likely that this ditch actually formed a burgage plot boundary and that it was laid out at some point at the beginning of the 13th century when Stephen de Segrave was setting up his market town. This ditch was a very obvious feature and its fill was very different to the stone surface and the other clay layers seen in Area 1. However, the 1885 Ordnance Survey map shows another boundary to the north of this that, until recently, ran across the site. This also appears to have had medieval origins and might be interpreted as a burgage plot boundary. However, no ditch existed in this area and this might suggest that the original burgage plots laid out 13th century were larger than suggested by the 1885 map, with the next boundary to the north perhaps underlying the hedge that forms the northern edge of the current development site (Fig. 3). It may be that such a burgage plot was later subdivided into narrower strips and that these did



not have large boundary ditches between them. A further ditch (10) appears to be in the position of a boundary shown on the 1885 map. Although no medieval pottery was recovered from it, the base of the ditch was not seen, and it remains possible that it follows the line of the eastern boundary of the medieval borough.

5.2 Significantly, after the current work had begun, it was discovered that an article had been recently published on medieval Kinton in the journal 'Past and Present' (Goddard 2011). This contained much interesting information on the medieval borough of Kinton. One of the most important facts was that when it was founded, in the early 1200s, it was simply attached to the existing village. The rights associated with renting a burgage plot, such as exemption from agricultural service to the lord of the manor, were only extended to those living within the small borough. Evidence suggests this only ever consisted of ten and a half burgages. The theoretical role for the borough was that it would encourage craftsmen and artisans to live within Kinton and provide a ready source of goods for the locals and a market to trade them in. The borough appears to have done tolerably well from its foundation until the early 15th century but by the end of the 15th century no craftsmen are listed as living in the borough and people had reverted to agricultural trades.

5.3 The historical research has a bearing on the archaeological deposits that were recorded during the current work. A rental book of 1313 shows the ten and a half burgages (Goddard 2011, 13) but also records 27 people holding them, some holding half burgages and quarter burgages. This shows that the plots had been subdivided, which appears to match with the archaeological evidence, only a single burgage plot ditch (an unmissable archaeological feature) being exposed where two might be expected. This might give a theoretical size of an original plot as 30m wide by 90m long, or to use the common medieval measurement 6 perches by 18 perches. This perhaps seems too wide for a typical medieval burgage plot but other boroughs in the Midlands are known to have had reasonably wide original plots with Bromsgrove having widths of 4 perches, or around 20m, so it is not impossible (thanks to Chris Dyer for his comments on this aspect). However, it should be noted that if some of the burgage boundaries were originally marked by a fence line then such a feature was less likely to survive and unlikely to be seen during this work. It must also be noted that fitting the original ten and a half burgage plots into the possible extent of the medieval borough, even the large plots suggested, is a very difficult task.

5.4 It can also be seen that whilst Area 1 was almost certainly within the medieval borough, Area 2 lay outside, in the remainder of the village. This might help to explain the large amount of medieval pottery from the first area (227 sherds) when compared to the second (16 sherds), with that lying in Area 1 having a more town-like economy. The pottery also appears to concur with the rise and fall in the fortunes of Kinton, with the majority of the pottery dating from the 13th and earlier 14th century with very little from the later 14th and 15th century.

5.5 The site has produced by far the largest assemblage of medieval pottery found within Kinton and this provides a small window into the trade networks in this part of the county. The pottery from known sources comes from somewhat remarkable number of different places including Alcester, Banbury, Brill/Boarstall (in Buckinghamshire), Chilvers Coton (near Nuneaton), Coventry, Deritend (in Birmingham), Potterspury (in Northamptonshire), Warwick and the Malvern area. Rátkai suggests that the diversity of pottery is due to Kinton's location on a cross roads of four routes to different parts of the surrounding Midlands counties, coupled with saltways and cattle drove roads (Appendix C).

5.6 It is easy to look at medieval Kineton as some sort of urban failure but the trade links show that it may actually have been a sensible idea to set up a market here, even if it was mostly to service Kineton and its immediate surroundings. If the 13th century borough was originally only the market and the ten and a half burgage plots mentioned above then it was a very small foundation indeed and seems a little unlikely that it was ever envisaged that it would grow into a rival to places such as Warwick or Banbury.

5.7 It can be seen that despite the nature of the archaeological work that some significant information can be recovered from a site such as this if the history of the surroundings are kept in mind by the archaeologists carrying out the field work. The chance to match the results of this work with a recent historical study of medieval Kineton was fortunate and, in the author's experience, it is highly unusual for such small scale archaeological work to support historical records in such a way.

## Acknowledgements

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## Appendix A: List of Contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Topsoil
2	Layer
3	Layer (yard surface)
4	Ditch
5	Ditch fill
6	Geological natural
7	Dark grey clay loam layer
8	Stone structure, 18th /19th century
9	Geological natural, green clay
10	Ditch
11	Ditch fill
12	Disturbed layer
13	grey limestone fragment layer
14	crushed yellowish brown limestone layer
15	Modern hardcore layer

## Appendix B: List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Date</i>
2	Pottery	med	227	
2	Cu Alloy	Object	1	
3	Cu Alloy	Object	1	
5	Pottery	med	19	
7	Pottery	med	16	
11	Pottery		36	
		Brown teapot ware	3	19-20th
		Pearlware	8	1780-1840
		Stoneware	5	19-20th
		Modern glazed ware	11	19-20th
		Midlands black ware MB01	1	1540-1700
		Midlands black ware MB02	1	1600-1800
		Coarse ware	4	18th-19th
		White ware egg cup	1	20th
		Brown stone ware bottles	2	19-20th
11	Ceramic	Door knob	1	19-20th
11	Ceramic	Flower pot	1	20th
11	Brick	Air	1	20th
11	Tile	Floor, Windmill stamp	1	20th
11	Slate	Roof	1	20th
11	Clay pipe	Stem	2	19-20th
11	Carbon	Rod	1	20th
11	Fe iron	Round file	1	20th
11	Brass	Buckle	1	20th
11	Object	Opal glass	1	20th
11	Bottle	Glass Eiffel Tower Lemonade		
		Foster Clarke & Co. Maidstone	1	1909
11	Jar	Brylcream (glass)	1	20th
11	Bottle necks	Glass	7	19-20th
11	Bottle base's	Glass	2	19-20th
11	Vase base	Glass, 8 sided	1	20th
11	Vase base	Glass, 12 sided (fluted)	1	20th
11	Bottles	Glass: The Leamington Spa Aerated Waters Comp LD	2	c.1910

## Appendix C: Medieval Pottery Report by Stephanie Rátkai

The assemblage of pottery, some 262 sherds, weighing 273g came from three contexts. Most came from a deposit above a limestone surface, context (2), with small amounts from (5), a ditch, possibly a burgage plot boundary, and from (7) a soil layer.

The methodology adopted for the assemblage was dictated by its size and by the absence of any deep stratigraphy or relationship to any structures, other than the ditch. In addition most sherds were small and there was little diagnostic material. However, the assemblage was worth examining in some detail for two reasons. Firstly Kinton is a slightly unusual settlement being partly a 'normal' agricultural village and partly a small borough in as much as part of the settlement was divided into burgage plots. The exact nature of this settlement and whether it can be construed as an urban 'failure' is the subject of a paper by Richard Goddard (Goddard 2011). Secondly, Kinton lies at the junction of four routeways giving access north-westwards to Stratford, Alcester and beyond, north-eastwards to Southam and thence to Coventry or further east to Northamptonshire, south-eastwards to Banbury and south-westwards to Halford, the Fosse Way and the Cotswolds. As such Kinton is a nexus of several important medieval routes such as saltways from Droitwich and droveways from Herefordshire to points east and south-east, and commercial routes associated with wool and cloth, bearing principally for Coventry to the north.

What was of greatest interest in this assemblage was to what extent it reflected Kinton's geographical position, with its good communications access, and was it possible to determine how the borough might have been linked in to the commercial network. This report therefore concentrates on the sources of the pottery found on the site and compares the results with other sites in the area. The comparanda are by no means exhaustive, since there were insufficient resources in the project to allow an in depth analysis. The methodology adapted therefore, although using the County Type Series (Soden and Rátkai 1998), is more generalist in the exact fabric classification, especially since the Type Series is now in need of emendation and up-dating.

The pottery has been tabulated showing the range and quantity by weight of the fabrics present in each context (**Table 1**) and to show the likely origin of the fabrics and their equivalents in the County Type Series (**Table 2**).

### *Chronology*

The ditch (5) contained material which could date from the later 12th century but was also in use in the early to mid-13th century. Sherds of Chilvers Coton C and Brill-Boarstall are the latest material and date to post 1300 and post 1250 respectively. They indicate that the feature is unlikely to have gone out of use before c. 1300 but the absence of anything which would comfortably sit later than c. 1400 suggests that the pottery represents occupation from the 13th and 14th centuries, with the ditch going out of use in the 14th century.

The main group of pottery (2) seemed mainly to be confined to the same date range as that from (5) with one or two exceptions. The exceptions consisted of a very small, possibly prehistoric sherd and three post-medieval sherds; a rim from a Martincamp flask, a Rhenish stoneware sherd and a yellow ware bowl sherd. The main fabric type was an oxidised shelly ware. A large strap handle with a deep 'u' shaped section in this ware could be paralleled by a sherd from Burton Dassett in Fabric 17 (WCTS Fabric CL01). However, the fabric description does not match the Kinton sherds exactly and the sherds have therefore been

designated CS in the Table 2. This fabric could have been made locally, since the Jurassic rocks of the Cotswolds and Edgehill are close, although they probably do not contain sufficient quantities of fossil shell to be the source of the Kineton fabric and a source further east is perhaps more likely. However, the fabric does form the single largest group in the assemblage.

The latest pottery from (2) consists of Chilvers Coton C sherds, and Chilvers Coton proto-Midlands Purple ware sherds (Chilvers Coton D) with an iron poor fabric, and Malvernian ware. The Chilvers Coton D sherds could date to the very end of the 14th century or the 15th century but the absence of any other 15th century material makes the former more likely. The Malvernian sherds appear to date to the second half of the 14th century.

The pottery from soil (7) could be dated predominantly to the 13th century although fabrics such as Coventry A ware and some of the shelly ware could date to the later 12th century. The latest fabric was again Chilvers Coton C.

On balance it seems most likely that the pottery represents occupation in the 13th and 14th centuries, with the greater part of the pottery dating from c. 1200-1325. The absence of oolitic gravel-tempered wares (Meller 1994, Oxford fabric OXAC) is of interest since these are relatively commonplace in southern and central Warwickshire, the northern limit seemingly being Warwick, and north Oxfordshire (Rátkai forthcoming). This may be a further pointer to the chronology of the Kineton site since there is reason to believe that the market for OXAC diminished in the 12th century in the face of competition from other producers, even though OXAC was still produced in the 13th century.

### ***Sources of the pottery***

As can be seen from Figure 2, Kineton obtained its pottery from a wide variety of sources but the dynamics of pottery distribution are not always clear. There were certainly local potters supplying the basics – the sandy cooking pots at Kineton, for example – and these could have been taken to the local market or visits made to the potter to purchase the requisite pots. Documentary evidence for these potters and this ‘low level’ trade is uncommon and often the existence of potters is only brought to our attention because of their committing an offence (see, for example, Gooder 1984) not through any intrinsic interest in potters and pots. Pottery could also be obtained by longer journeys to larger markets and fairs, although trips to these were more likely to be for other purchases and any pottery purchased incidental to the main business of the day. Pottery with a western source may, therefore have been obtained in Stratford.

The Reduced Deritend ware cooking pots (Rátkai 2009) are very distinctive, were made in Birmingham and, surprisingly for a cooking pot, were widely distributed in Warwickshire and Staffordshire, but are also found in Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The chief point of interest in the presence of these at Kineton is that they demonstrate quite long distance economic contacts. This may indicate that Birmingham, always overshadowed in every respect by the ‘metropolis’ of Coventry, was a rather more important market in the medieval period than conventional history allows. Recent work suggests that Birmingham was an important centre for leather and leather goods and probably blades and ironwork also. The present author has suggested that the distribution of reduced Deritend ware indicates travel by outsiders into Birmingham to buy goods but there is one other facet to this distribution which may suggest that the pots were bought because of their contents – the rim forms of the cooking pots are ideally suited to taking a tied cloth (or other material) cover.

Contact to the north, with probably Coventry and possibly Warwick, is shown by the presence of various Coventry and Warwick wares and by the Chilvers Coton vessels. This contact is probably associated with the cloth and wool trades but Coventry was such a large and important city anyway there would have been ample reasons to go there from time to time.

Finally, the pottery from the east and south-east Midlands may be evidence of Banbury as another important commercial contact.

All the above must be set against the background of general trends in commercial contacts, which encompass trade in commodities over much greater distances. As mentioned above there were various saltways running south-east from Droitwich to Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. In the case of the latter two, routes to the south-east ran through the Avon Dassett Gap and the Fenny Compton Gap, both within five miles to the east of Kington. Traffic carrying the salt was heavy and we should visualise a regular procession of pack animals and carts journeying backwards and forwards. At any point these travellers could have picked up additional articles which could be sold on as the journey continued for a small profit. So, in effect it was also possible to own a pot from Buckinghamshire, for example, without ever having left one's native parish and without the need to venture to markets further afield. The same effects would pertain to trade in wool and cloth. Thus the pottery may indicate direct contact between Kington and a number of other places but it certainly indicates general economic and commercial patterns affecting southern Warwickshire.

### ***Kington in context***

As we can see from Table 2, pottery came from a variety of sources. However, southern and south-eastern Warwickshire seem to have been particularly well-served with different suppliers of pottery. This is also true to a certain extent of Warwick but is much less evident in Coventry and Birmingham, where local or relatively local manufacture appears to have supplied the bulk of the pottery required. It may be that the land of the Feldon was simply too valuable or insufficiently wooded to support large scale pottery industries. Pottery production in Birmingham and Chilvers Coton, Nuneaton is, for example, associated with relatively poor agricultural land and easy access to fuel (both wood and coal). In addition both areas had good-sized ready markets for their wares (Birmingham, Coventry and Leicester for Chilvers Coton).

A similar range of sources for pottery can be seen in assemblages from Fenny Compton, Pillerton Priors, Compton Verney (personal inspection by author) and Goldicote (Rátkai forthcoming). By far the biggest assemblage (over 37,000 sherds) came from Burton Dassett. Unfortunately this site is still unpublished and may never be so. In some respects Burton Dassett is a larger version of Kington, being somewhere between a large village and a small town. It was for a time known (along with Knightcote) known as Cheaping Dassett, which shows its commercial aspirations, but it was to end as a deserted settlement in the early years of the 16th century. There is however, one important difference between Burton Dassett and Kington. At the former, from c. 1250 onwards the assemblage was dominated by Chilvers Coton wares. Clearly, there are other forces at work here and it is suggested that close tenurial links between Burton Dassett and religious establishments, e.g. Arbury Priory in the Nuneaton area, necessitated the transport of grain from the south-east of the county back to the north. No doubt the carts and wagons, once emptied of grain, were filled with items,

including locally produced pottery, for sale at the end of the return journey. The pottery from Kinton shows just how skewed the assemblage at Burton Dassett became as a result.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that some areas of England have a much more limited range of pottery available. Along the Fen edge in Cambridgeshire (Rátakai) there was little variety and glazed wares were poorly represented. Likewise in Worcestershire (Worcester is somewhat different being a medieval port) most of the pottery in typical rural assemblages is made up of Worcester-type cooking pot and glazed wares and Malvernian products. We cannot deduce from this that settlements in either place were necessarily poorer, only that they had less choice. Thus the absence of any large scale local pottery production and the criss-crossing of various trade routes across the Feldon provided ideal circumstances for the inhabitants of Kinton to have access to varied and often highly decorated types of pottery.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total %</b>
'Clay Pellet' ware	3	10		13	0.75%
Alcester cooking pot ware		15		15	0.87%
Banbury ware	12			12	0.69%
Brackley/early Potterspury ware	12		7	19	1.10%
Brill-Boarstall ware	87	3		90	5.19%
Chilvers Coton A	123			123	7.10%
Chilvers Coton B	25			25	1.44%
Chilvers Coton C	101	39	14	154	8.89%
Chilvers Coton D	33			33	1.90%
Coventry A ware	11		2	13	0.75%
Coventry A ware?	15			15	0.87%
Coventry-type ware	28			28	1.62%
Deritend cooking pot?	5			5	0.29%
Early Oxford ware	3			3	0.17%
Early Oxford-type ware	36			36	2.08%
Early Potterspury ware?	6		18	24	1.38%
Limestone-tempered ware	7			7	0.40%
Martincamp III	4			4	0.23%
Potterspury ware?	2			2	0.12%
Prehistoric?	1			1	0.06%
Reduced sandy ware	1		19	20	1.15%
Reduced Deritend ware	97		2	99	5.71%
Rhenish stoneware	26			26	1.50%
Sand and calcareous temper	47	51		98	5.65%
Sandy cooking pot	152	17	2	171	9.87%
Shelly Ware	532	43	53	628	36.24%
Siltstone tempered ware	4			4	0.23%
Siltstone-tempered ware	5			5	0.29%
Warwick cooking pot	17			17	0.98%
Warwick/Coventry cooking pot	13			13	0.75%
Wheel-thrown Malvernian ware	13			13	0.75%
Yellow ware	17			17	0.98%
<b>Total weight</b>	<b>1438</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>1733</b>	
<b>Total sherd count</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>262</b>	

**Table 1:** Fabric quantification by sherd weight



<b>Fabric</b>	<b>WCTS</b>	<b>Source</b>
Sandy cooking pot	Sq05 group	Local/SE Warwickshire
Alcester cooking pot ware	Sq25	West Warwickshire
'Clay Pellet' ware	Sq25.1/Sq26	West Warwickshire?
Wheel-thrown Malvernian ware	SLM01	West Midlands (Malvern Chase)
Deritend cooking pot?	No code	NW Warwickshire (Birmingham)
Reduced Deritend ware	RS01	NW Warwickshire (Birmingham)
Warwick cooking pot	Sq20	Central Warwickshire
Warwick/Coventry cooking pot	Sq20.1	Central Warwickshire
Coventry A ware?	Sq20.2	Central Warwickshire
Coventry-type ware	Sq20.2-3	Central Warwickshire
Chilvers Coton A	WW01	North Warwickshire (Nuneaton area)
Chilvers Coton B	StR20	North Warwickshire (Nuneaton area)
Chilvers Coton C	Sq30	North Warwickshire (Nuneaton area)
Chilvers Coton D	Sq30	North Warwickshire (Nuneaton area)
Siltstone-tempered ware	StR14?/StR20 variants	North Warwickshire (Nuneaton area)
Siltstone tempered ware	StR21.1?	North Warwickshire (Nuneaton area)
Sand and calcareous temper	SC01?	East Midlands (Northamptonshire)
Sand and calcareous temper	SC02	East Midlands (Northamptonshire)
Sand and calcareous temper	SC10	East Midlands (Northamptonshire)
Sand and calcareous temper	SC20?	East Midlands (Northamptonshire)
Early Potterspury ware?	SV02	East Midlands (Northamptonshire)
Brackley/early Potterspury ware	WW10	East Midlands (Northamptonshire)
Potterspury ware?	Sq50	East Midlands (Northamptonshire)
Banbury ware	SV01/Sq24.1-3	SE Midlands (Oxfordshire/?Northamptonshire)
Limestone-tempered ware	CL	E/SE Midlands
Shelly Ware	CS	E/SE Midlands
Reduced sandy ware	RS20-29 group?	E/SE Midlands
Early Oxford ware	Sg03	SE Midlands (Oxfordshire)
Early Oxford-type ware	Sg03.1	SE Midlands (Oxfordshire)
Brill-Boarstall ware	Sg20.1	SE Midlands (Buckinghamshire)
Rhenish stoneware	STG03	Continental import
Martincamp III	IMP10.3	Continental import
Yellow ware (post-medieval)	MYW	East Midlands?

**Table 2:** Sources of fabrics present at Kineton

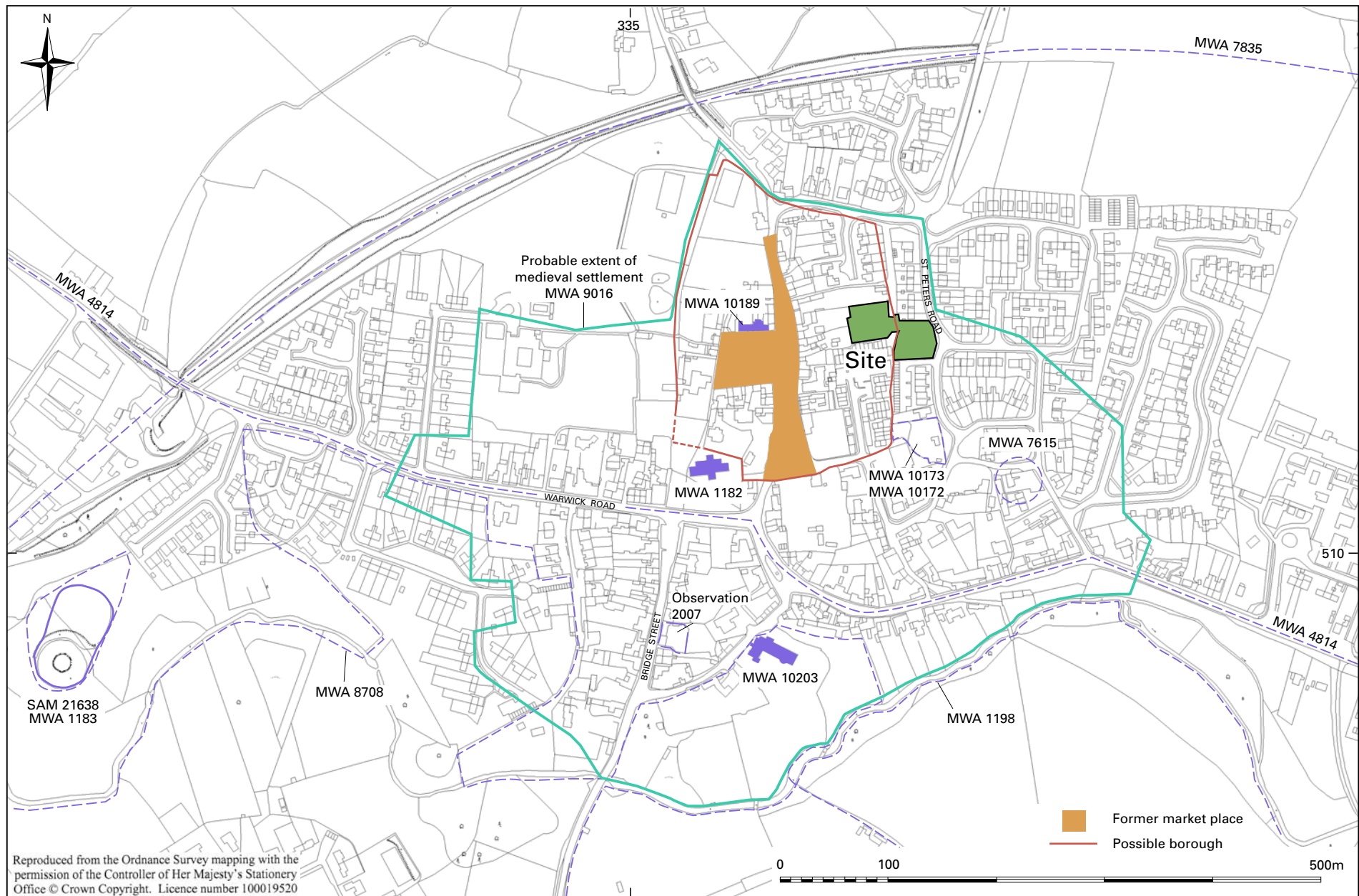


Fig 1: Site location

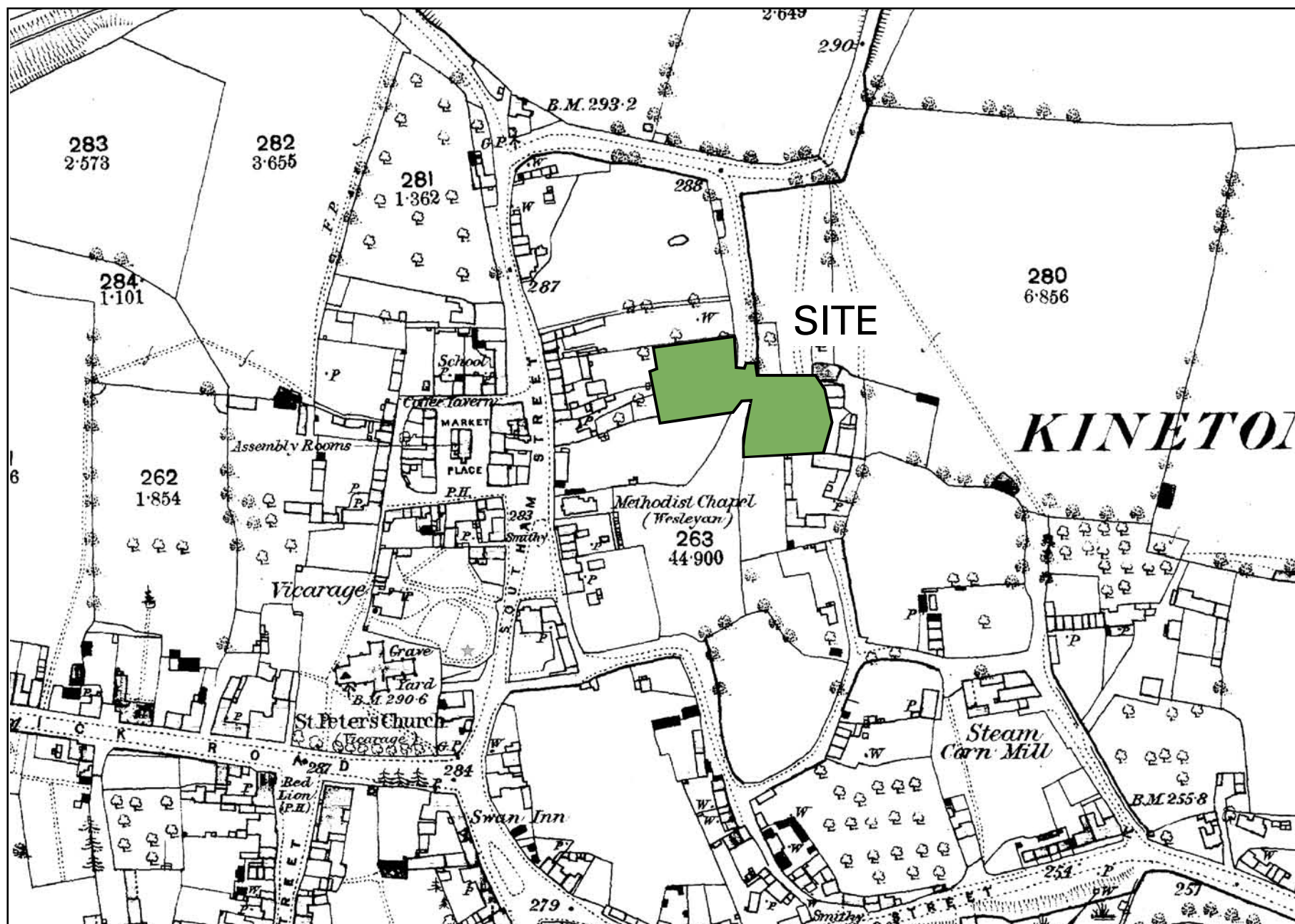


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1885



Fig 3: Areas and trenches observed



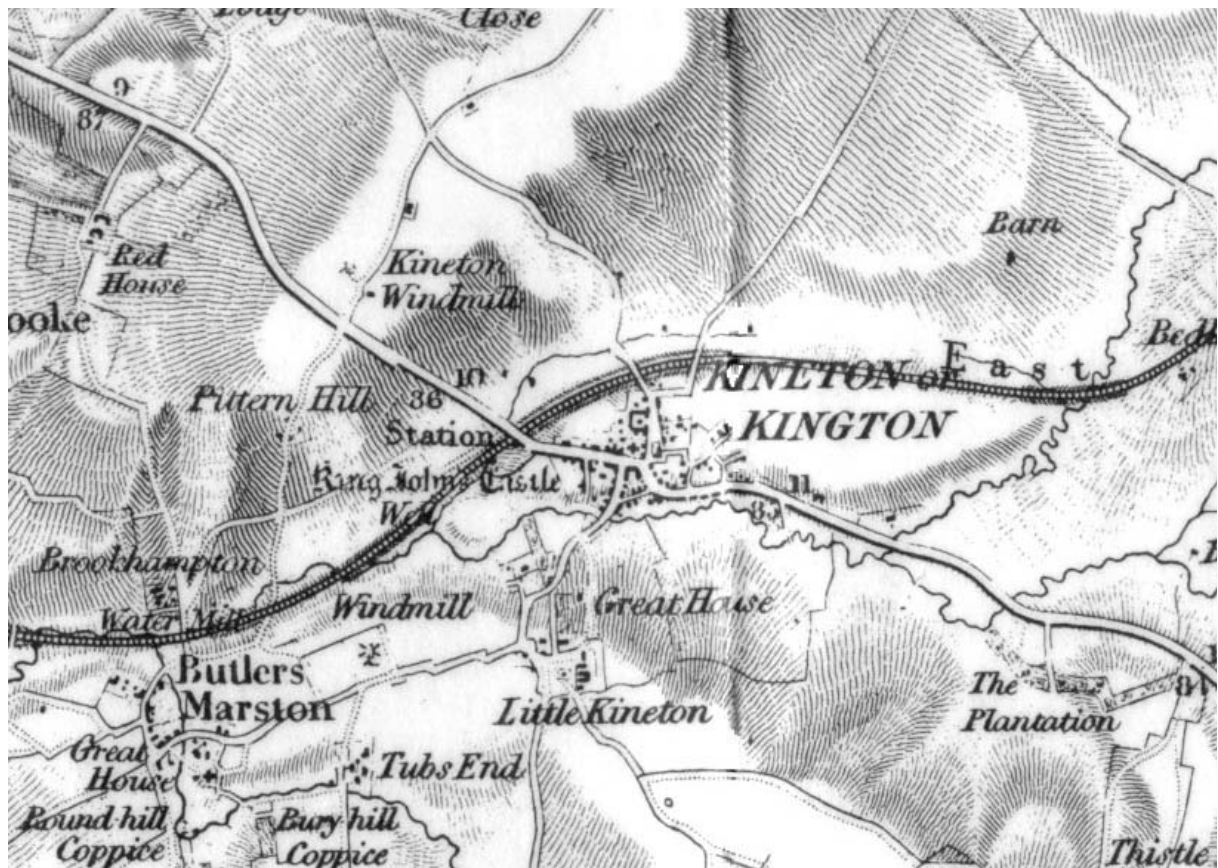


Fig.4: Kington as shown on the 1834 one inch to one mile Ordnance Survey map (detail)



Fig. 5: Area 1, general view of stripped area and foundation trenches





Fig.6: Area 1, typical section of foundation trenches showing depth of stone layer (3)



Fig.7: Area 1, section through 'burgage plot' ditch (4), looking west (Section A)





Fig.8: Area 1, looking east along 'burgage plot' ditch (4) with its sloping side visible in section in the foreground and at the far (east) end





Fig.9: Area 2, area of new car parking being stripped



Fig.10: Area 2, view of foundation trenches and stanchion pits