

Chadshunt Farm, Chadshunt, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING



understanding heritage matters

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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National Grid Reference: SP 3468 5290
Team:
Project Manager: Dr Cathy Coutts
Fieldwork: Rob Jones, Kevin Wright, Cathy Coutts
Author: Cathy Coutts
Illustrations: Candy Stevens
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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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SUMMARY

Archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the conversion of 19th-century agricultural buildings at Chadshunt Farm did not reveal any evidence for medieval settlement activity. No significant archaeological remains were revealed. Prior to works being carried out the buildings were photographically recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford upon Avon District Council for the conversion of redundant farm buildings into five residential units at Chadshunt Farm, Chadshunt, CV35 0EQ (Planning Ref. S12/01225/FUL). WCC Planning Archaeologist Anna Stocks, in her capacity as advisor to the Planning Authority determined that the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the probable extent of the medieval settlement of Chadshunt.

1.2 It was therefore a condition of the planning permission that, before the development commenced, the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which had been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological watching brief and photographic recording of the site and to carry out that work in accordance with that condition.

1.4 This report presents the results of the fieldwork which was undertaken in October and November 2013. It was thought that further groundwork was to be undertaken in 2014 but this did not occur. The photographic archive will be deposited with the County Record Office while the project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under the site code CF13 (Temporary Accession number T/1279).

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is located on the western outskirts of Chadshunt village, in the parish of the same name, at National Grid Reference SP 3468 5290 (Fig 1). The development site covers an area of c.0.65 hectares.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton, overlying Rugby Limestone Member Mudstone and Limestone (British Geological Survey Viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/> accessed November 2014), formerly recorded as Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey 1963).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The name Chadshunt derives from the Old English *Ceadeles funtan*; the second element of the name may be borrowed from the Latin for ‘well’ or ‘spring’ (Gelling 1992, 59). Gelling suggests that Roman stonework may have been visible when the Anglo-Saxons first arrived here and it was because of this that the Latin-derived word was used. The suggestion that Chadshunt may have been the site of a Romano-British settlement has slight support in the find of a fragment of Roman pottery during survey (Dyer 1989, 35).

3.2 At the time of Domesday (1086) the village of Chadshunt, then *Cedeleshunt*, had c.36 households, suggesting a population in the region of 180 people. At that time the manor of Chadshunt was the property of the monk’s of St Mary’s at Coventry, having been gifted to them by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, in 1043.

3.3 The site of the development lies within the limits of the deserted medieval settlement of Chadshunt (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record No. MWA 4987), as defined by a complex of earthworks surviving around the site. This was surveyed in 1986 and it was suggested that the original settlement extended further east than the area of the still-visible earthworks but that earthworks in the eastern part of the settlement have been destroyed by ploughing (Dyer 1989, 34). The settlement numbered 22 or 23 households in the late 13th century but had declined considerably by the late 14th century. Aerial photographs show that ridge and furrow covers many of the fields around the farm site.

3.4 The site of the present development also lies close to the parish church of All Saints Church, formerly St Chad’s Church, (MWA 750), which was founded in the 12th century and may have acted as a focus for early settlement. The church was extended in the 14th century and a new roof and clerestory added in the 15th century. The tower was rebuilt or added to in the 17th century and alterations and restorations have continued into the 20th century. A weathered medieval cross stands immediately south of the church, in the churchyard (MWA 751). Archaeological recording took place at the church in 1997 when repairs were being carried out on the chancel and the remains of an earlier, wider, chancel wall was recorded, pre-dating the existing one which was built in c.1730 (Palmer 1997;

EWA10198). Associated with the church is the site of a medieval oratory (MWA 754), 100m south-west of the church, at which medieval pilgrims would have deposited offerings (Dugdale 1730, 352; VCH 1949, 34). St Chad's well (MWA 753) lies to the north-east, where it is said that pilgrims were bathed and cured of their diseases (Ribton-Turner, 298). The pool was still visible in 1893.

3.5 Chadshunt Farm is not shown on the 1st edition 1 inch to one mile Ordnance Survey map of 1834, nor is it shown on the 1839 tithe map (WRO CR 569/60/1; Fig 2). Map evidence from the later 19th and early 20th centuries shows that there has been very little change in the last two centuries in the morphology of the village of Chadshunt. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map shows that Chadshunt Farm farmhouse and main barns were all in existence in their present form by 1885; a further building is shown against the field boundary to the north-west and another in the eastern part of the courtyard that were no longer in existence when the area was re-surveyed in 1905 (Figs 3 and 4).

3.6 Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Corner Farm in 1996 but no finds or features were recorded (Warwickshire Museum 1996; EWA 10197). A watching brief was carried out at Chadshunt Farm in 1996, prior to the erection of a steel-framed barn, but no archaeological remains were disturbed.

4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the work was to record the buildings ahead of any conversion works and a to record any archaeological remains disturbed by the development by means of a controlled excavation to development formation levels or the geological natural, whichever the higher, to collate the records int an archaeological archive and present the significant aspects of the archive in a report for dissemination.

4.2 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.

4.3 The work undertaken involved the examination of early map evidence as well as records of archaeological remains in the area and local historical journals and other publications.

4.5 An experienced archaeologist was made available for each day of ground disturbance when notified by the client, in accordance with WSI/Brief planning condition.

5 RESULTS

Photographic recording

5.1 An English Heritage Level 1 (basic) photographic survey of the farm buildings was carried out before works began on their conversion. This comprised black and white photographs of the exterior and interior of the buildings, along with a plan showing the direction of the photographs and the position from which each was taken (Fig 5). This photographic record will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record for future deposition with the County Record Office. Digital photos of the buildings were also taken, using a DSLR camera. The buildings of Chadshunt Farm were constructed as a courtyard farm in 1841, according to the date stone shown of the tall threshing barn (N/O/P) that forms the centre of the north-western range (Figs 6-10). This building has open-fronted feed-shelters along its south-east side (M and Q; Fig 21) and a later granary floor inserted in the south-west side (P). The north-eastern range is made up of stables, tack room and stores (Figs 11-13; A-H), and a coach house (Figs 14-16; I), while the south-western range was probably a byre, latterly used as a milking shed (Fig 17-19; T and U). The two most westerly rooms were probably for storage (R and S); Room S has a cart-size doorway, now blocked, on its NW wall. Room L appears to have been another shelter shed (Fig 22).

Watching Brief

5.2 The concrete yard surfaces were broken up and removed before any ground reduction took place that merited archaeological observation. Internal breeze block subdivisions within the south-western range were similarly demolished. The first groundworks observed was the excavation of a trench around the rear of the buildings. This trench was 0.30m wide and 0.60-0.70m deep and was excavated for new electric cable ducting. Natural olive clay (102) was reached at a depth of 0.60m. In the southern part of the site, the natural clay was overlaid by 0.30m of a mix of pale blue redeposited clay (101), itself overlain by 0.30m of topsoil (100). Along the south-west side of the building the natural clay was overlaid by 0.30m of clinker, ash and brick (103), the make-up of the former concrete road (104) that ran alongside the building. On the north and east sides of the buildings the natural clay was overlain by 0.30m of subsoil (107), itself overlain by 0.15m of topsoil. No finds were recorded from this service trench.

5.3 Ground reduction was observed within the western building range to a depth of 0.25m. A mini-excavator was used, with a small, toothless ditching bucket. Here the lowest

level reach was blue-grey natural clay (108), overlain by 0.15m of natural olive clay, which was itself overlain by a 0.10m thick layer of yellowish bedding sand (106) for the brick flooring (105) of the building range. The floor was made up of yellow brick pavers measuring 220mm x 100mm x 68mm, likely to be the original floor of the building. No finds were recovered from this area.

5.4 The flooring in part of the north-eastern range had been removed ahead of the watching brief, no archaeological features were visible below the flooring and no ground reduction was recorded here. The flooring either side of the threshing floor in the barn was also lifted, but similarly, no ground reduction was recorded. The archaeologist on site was informed that the ground level was not going to be further reduced in these areas.

5.5 During the course of the watching brief the remaining floors within the buildings were photographed, with the various rooms differentiated by letters (Appendix B). The archaeologist on site was told that these floors were not being lifted and no further ground reduction was taking place within the buildings or elsewhere on site.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The photographic recording that took place ahead of conversion works has provided an archive of the empty mid 19th-century buildings. No significant archaeological remains were recorded during the watching brief

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mr Martin Johnson for commissioning the work.

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APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
100	Mid brown clay loam topsoil	
101	Mixed clay layer	
102	Natural olive clay	
103	Layer of road make-up	modern
104	Concrete road surface	modern
105	Brick floor	19thC
106	Bedding sand for 105	19thC
107	Subsoil layer	
108	Blue-grey natural clay	

B Flooring of Buildings

<i>Room</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>Floor</i>
A	Store	Red bricks laid on edge, aligned NW-SE, extending into Room C
B	Stable	Blue brick, square pavers, measuring 4-inches/0.10cm square
C	Lobby	Blue brick, square pavers, measuring 4-inches/0.10cm square
D	Tack room	Red bricks laid on edge, aligned NW-SE
E	Stable	Blue brick, square pavers, measuring 4-inch/0.10cm square
F	Stable	Red bricks, removed prior to archaeological observation
G	Lobby	Red bricks, removed prior to archaeological observation
H	Stable	Red bricks, removed after building recording but prior to archaeological observation
I	Cart house	Beaten earth and pebble surface, obscured by straw
J	Passage	Red bricks laid on edge, aligned NE-SW
K	Small room	Red bricks laid on edge, aligned SE-NW
L	Temporary byre	Could not be seen, presumed to be bricks but covered with straw
M	Shelter shed	Concrete screed overlying red bricks
N	Barn	Red bricks, removed after building recording but prior to archaeological observation
O	Threshing floor	Red brick pavers, 310mm x 155mm, aligned NE-SW
P	Barn with granary above	Red bricks, removed after building recording but prior to archaeological observation
Q	Shelter shed	Concrete screed overlying red bricks
R	Store?	Red bricks laid on edge, aligned NE-SW
S	Store?	Yellow bricks covered by a thin concrete screed, removed by machine
T	Byre	Yellow bricks covered by a thin concrete screed, removed by machine
U	Byre	Yellow bricks covered by a thin concrete screed, removed by machine

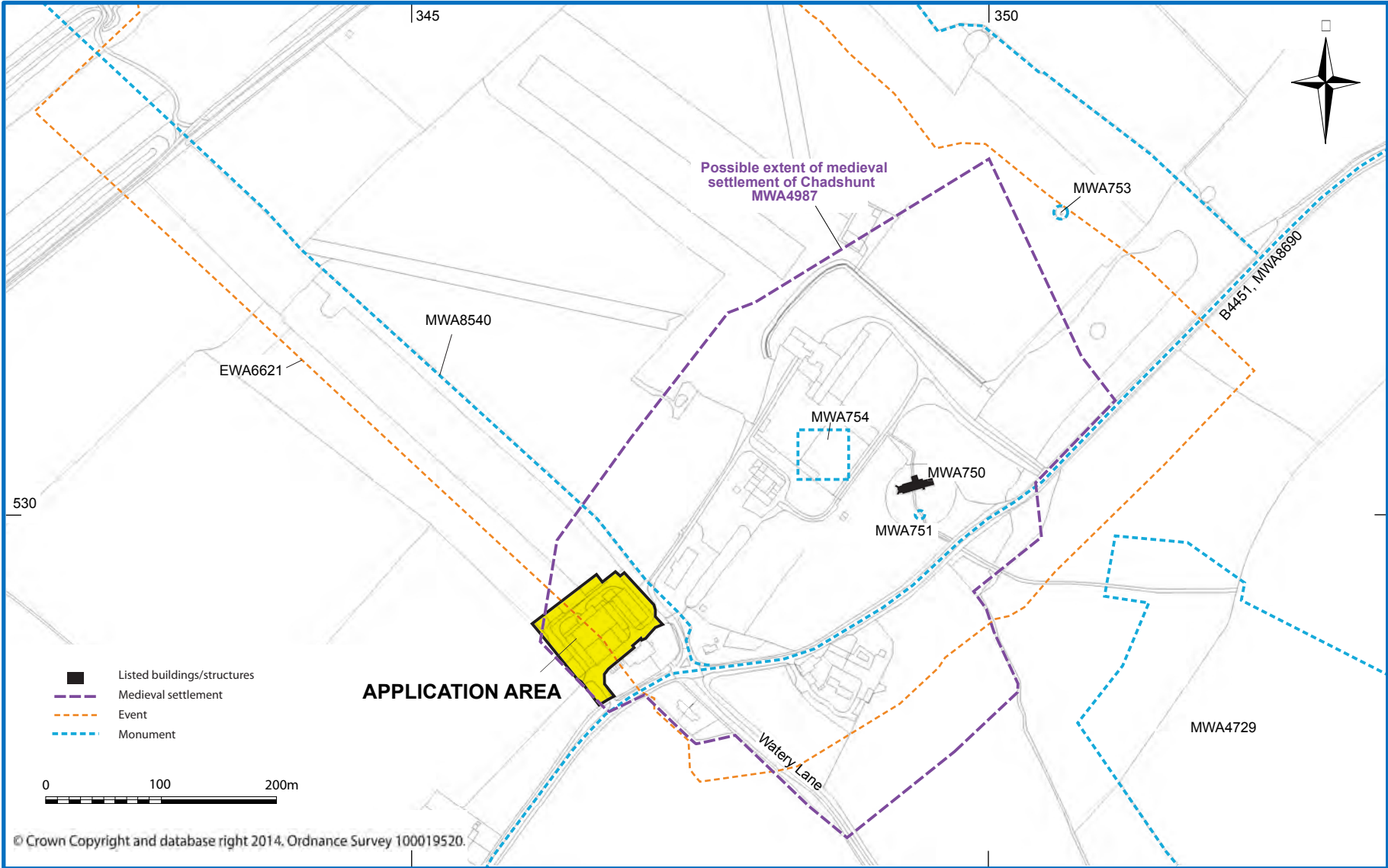


Fig 1: Site location

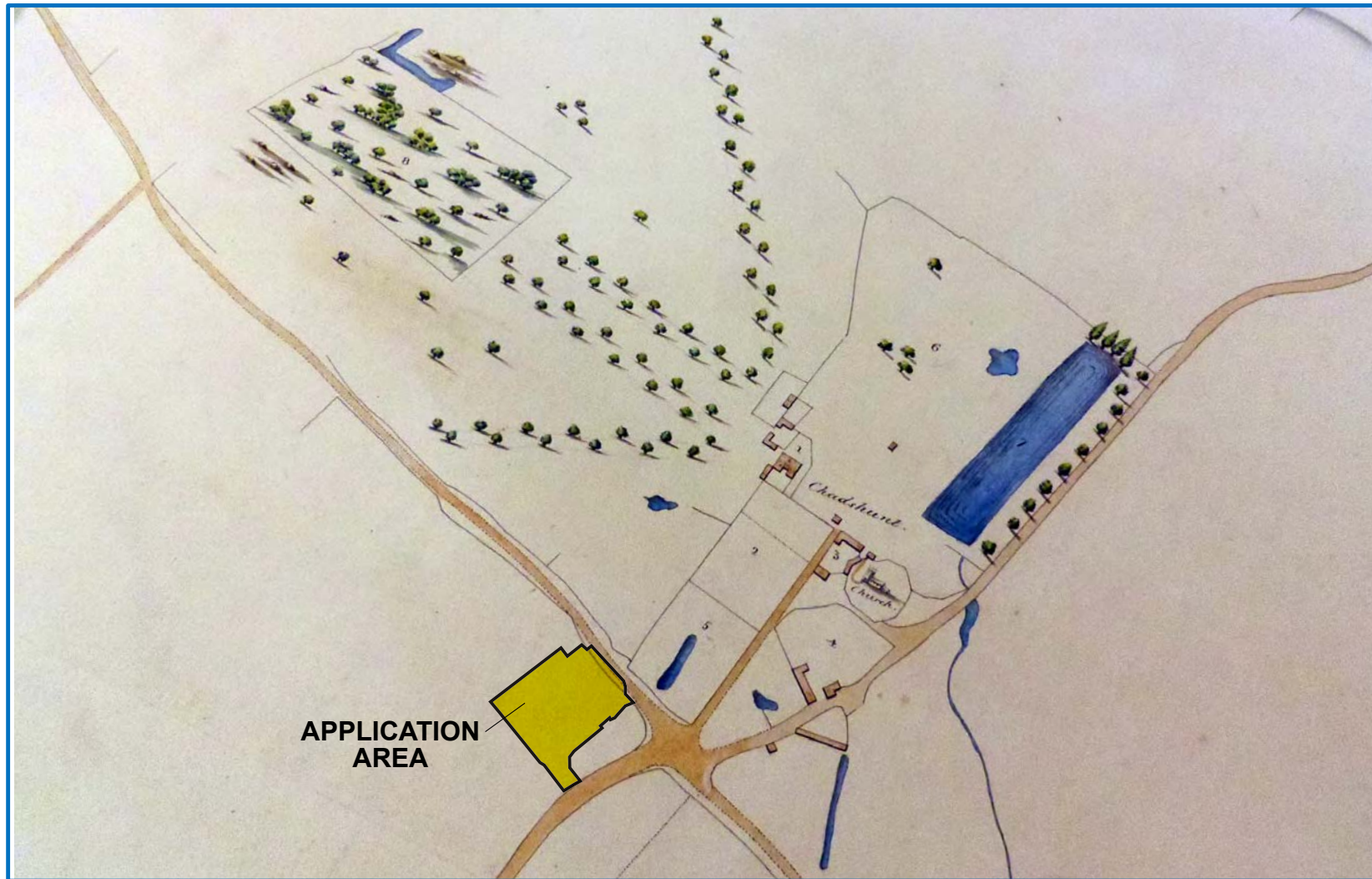


Fig 2: Detail from Tithe map of Chadshunt 1839 (Warwickshire County Records Office Collections: CR 569/60/1)

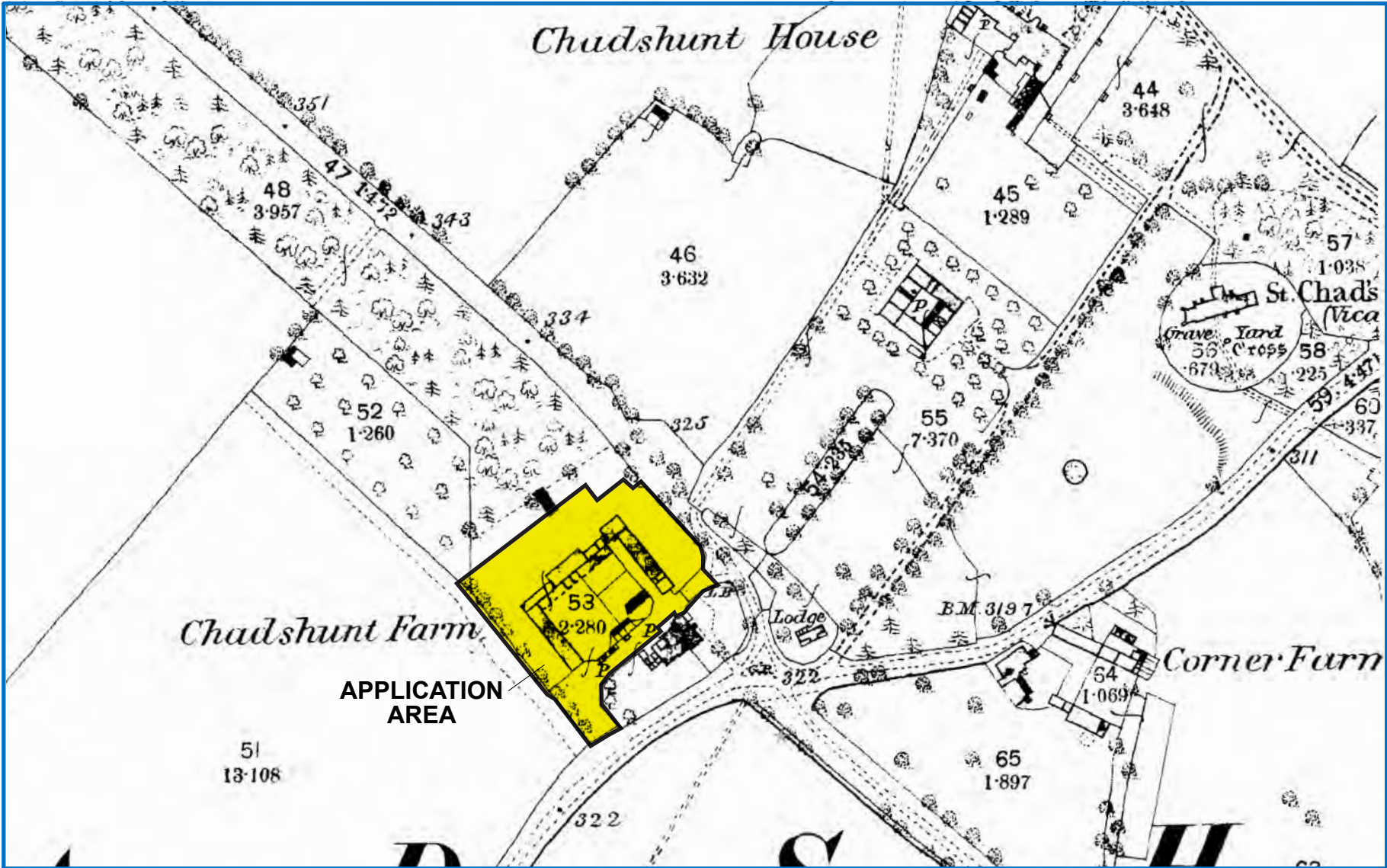


Fig 3: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885

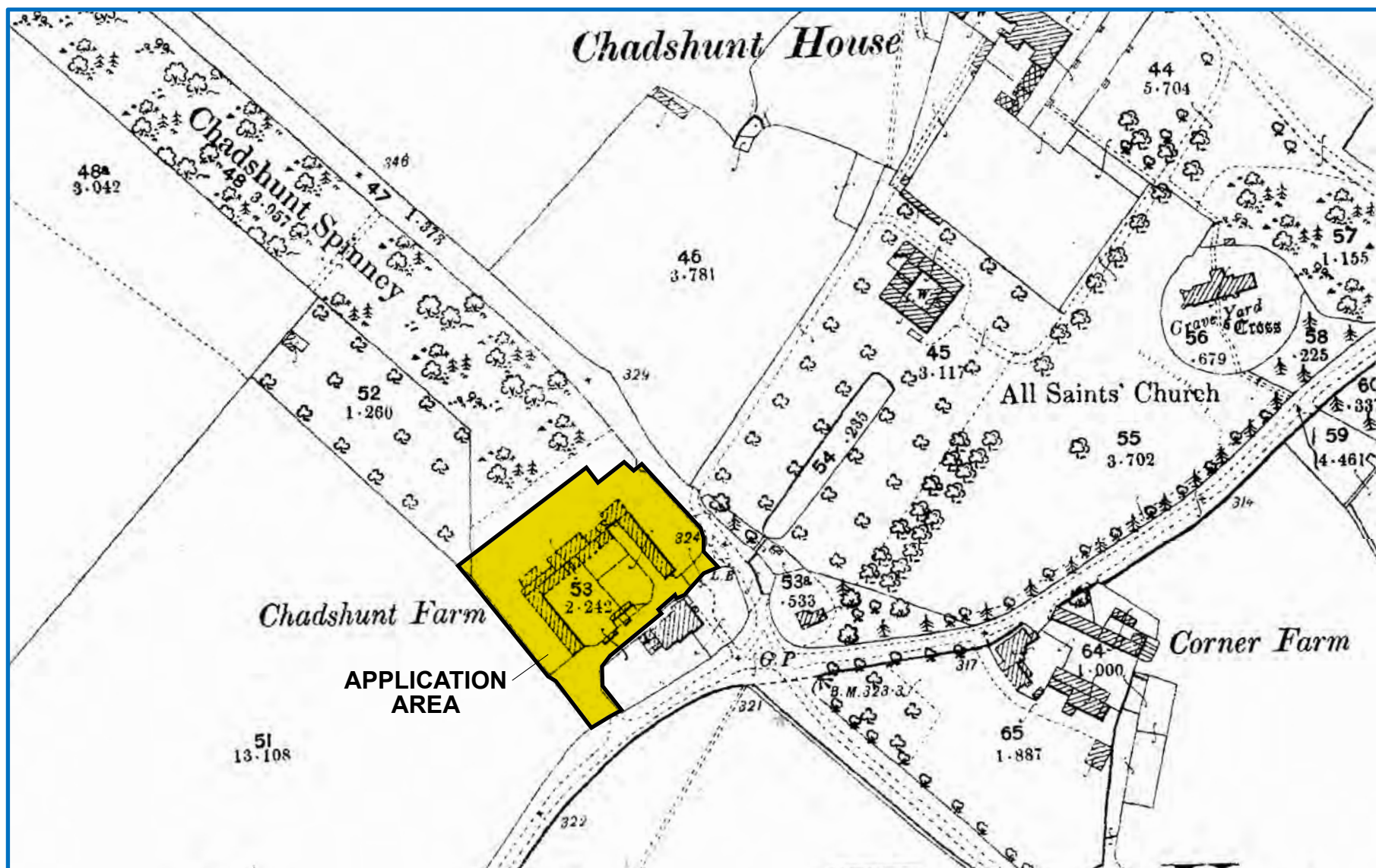


Fig 4: Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905

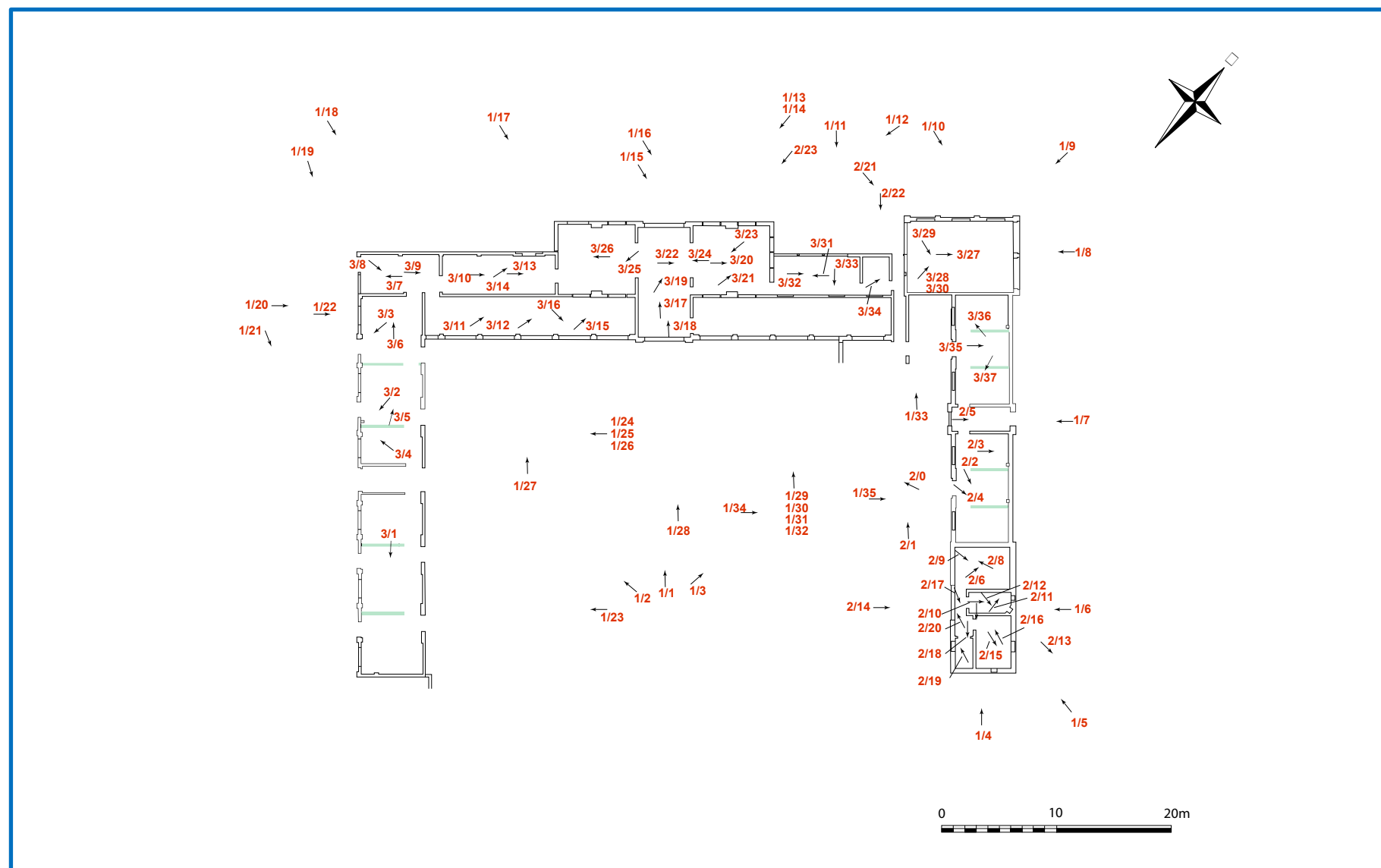


Fig 5: Photographic recording

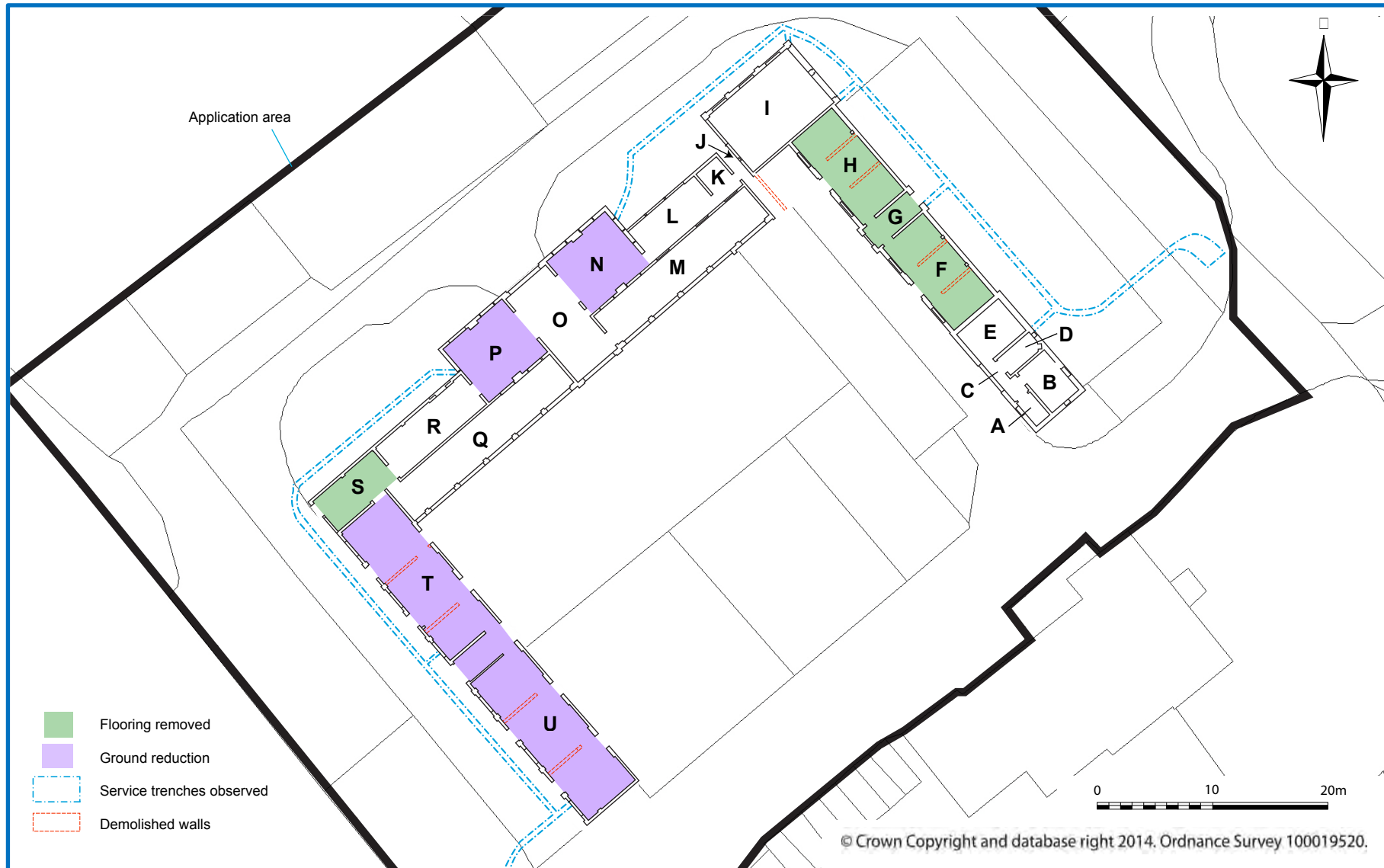


Fig 6: Groundworks observed



Fig 7: North-western range of buildings



Fig 8: Date stone of 1841 on barn porch



Fig 9: Rear of threshing barn



Fig 10: Interior of barn, granary floor



Fig 11: Barn interior



Fig 12: North-eastern stable range (F/G/H)



Fig 13: Stores, stables, and tack room (A-E)



Fig 14: Interior of stables (H)



Fig 15: Coach house



Fig 16: Interior of coach house (I)



Fig 17: Interior of coach house (I)



Fig 18: Former milking parlour (SW range)



Fig 19: Interior of SW range with part demolished internal walls (U)



Fig 20: Roof structure of SW range (T/U)



Fig 21: Gable end of western building



Fig 22: Open-fronted shelter shed (Q)



Fig 23: Shelter shed (L)



Fig 24: Courtyard after demolition of walls and breaking up of concrete



Fig 25: Service trench to rear of coach house



Fig 26: Ground reduction within SW range



Fig 27: Ground reduction in the barn

