

**1, Church Hill,
Stretton-on-Dunsmore,
Warwickshire**
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1568

OCTOBER 2015



*Working for
Warwickshire*

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation consisting of three trial trenches was undertaken on behalf of Jeremy Cox after an existing dwelling had been demolished, within the supposed extent of the medieval settlement at Stretton-on-Dunsmore. No archaeological deposits or finds were revealed in the trenches which seems to suggest that the site was not in the inhabited part of the settlement in the medieval or post-medieval periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Rugby Borough Council for the Demolition of an existing bungalow and garage and erection of replacement split-level dwelling and bike store/shed to front at 1 Church Hill, Stretton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 9NA.

1.2 A planning condition attached to the consent requires that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work approved by the Planning Authority.

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (September 2015) approved by the planning authority. The approved schemes included the provision of multiple trial trenches. This report presents the results of the work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under site code SC15.

2 LOCATION

2.1 No 1 Church Hill is set back from the road to the rear of the village Hall in Stretton-on-Dunsmore, within the parish of the same name. The site is within the core of the Conservation Area.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Penarth Group Limestone but there may also be superficial alluvium deposits over part of the site (BGS 2015).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The development site is situated between All Saint's Church (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no MWA 3112) and the Manor House (MWA 3133) within the core of the medieval settlement of Stretton-on-Dunsmore (MWA 9532). The site of the medieval church is visible as earthworks within the graveyard of the current church (MWA 3111). A

moat to the SW of the site, which was filled in after WWII, is probably medieval in origin (MWA 3135). Platforms found at no 5 Church Hill may represent medieval dwellings (MWA 8340/EWA 3378).

3.2 Some of the buildings within the core of the settlement date back to the 16th-17th century, such as Moor Farmhouse (MWA 3114, National Heritage List for England no.1034877), the current Manor House (MWA 3134/NHLE 1365115), Dunsmore House (NHLE 1365117) and Church Farmhouse (NHLE 1034878). There are also examples of Listed Buildings dating to the 18th and 19th Centuries; Stretton House (NHLE 1299585).

3.3 Cropmarks to the SW of the village appear on aerial photographs but and have yet to be investigated (MWA 3128).

3.4 Other records on the HER within the vicinity include:-

- MWA 3131 Smithy at Stretton-on-Dunsmore Imperial date

3.5 A negative watching brief was carried out in 2006 at Brookhouse to the east of the site (EWA 7610). 18th and 19th century finds were noted during work at School Lane, also in 2006 (EWA 7707).

3.6 Map evidence shows that there was a small building on the site in 1960 (Landmark 2003c). Prior to this there were trees, possibly an orchard, as depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Landmark 2003a).

4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains in the area to be developed; to form an understanding of their value and their potential to shed light on the subsequent development of the area.

4.2 Secondary aims include placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.

4.3 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.

4.4 The three trenches were opened up by a 5-tonne, 360° excavator using a 1.60m wide, toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and overburden were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist until either the geological natural was reached.

5 RESULTS

5.1 No archaeological finds or features were revealed in the trenches.

Deposit Sequence

5.2 Geological natural strong brown sand and gravel and brown or reddish-brown clay was visible in all three trenches. It was overlaid by 0.2m of mid-brown sandy clay and up to 0.7m of very dark greyish brown sandy clay topsoil. Concrete foundations from the demolished building were left in-situ in trench 3.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No evidence for medieval occupation of the site was recovered during the evaluation. The absence of any finds in the trenches strongly suggests that it lay outside the inhabited medieval and post-medieval settlement and was therefore in horticultural or agricultural use.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Jeremy Cox for commissioning the work and Scott for driving the machine.

REFERENCES

BGS 2015 British Geological Survey Viewer

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed September 2015.

Landmark 2003a First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887, 1:2500, digital version.

Landmark 2003b Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905, 1:2500, digital version.

Landmark 2003c Ordnance Survey map of 1960, 1:2500, digital version.



1. Trench 1



2. Trench 2



3. Trench 3

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>	<i>Depth m</i>
1	100	Very dark greyish brown sandy clay	Topsoil	0.5
1	101	Brown sandy clay	Subsoil	0.2
1	102	Strong brown sand and gravel and reddish brown clay	Geological Natural	
2	200	Very dark greyish brown sandy clay	Topsoil	0.6
2	201	Brown sandy clay	Subsoil	0.2
2	202	Strong brown gravel and brown clay	Geological Natural	
3	300	Very dark greyish brown sandy clay	Topsoil	0.48
3	301	Brown sandy clay	Subsoil	0.2
3	302	Strong brown gravel and brown clay	Geological Natural	
3	303	Concrete	Foundations of former building on site	0.10

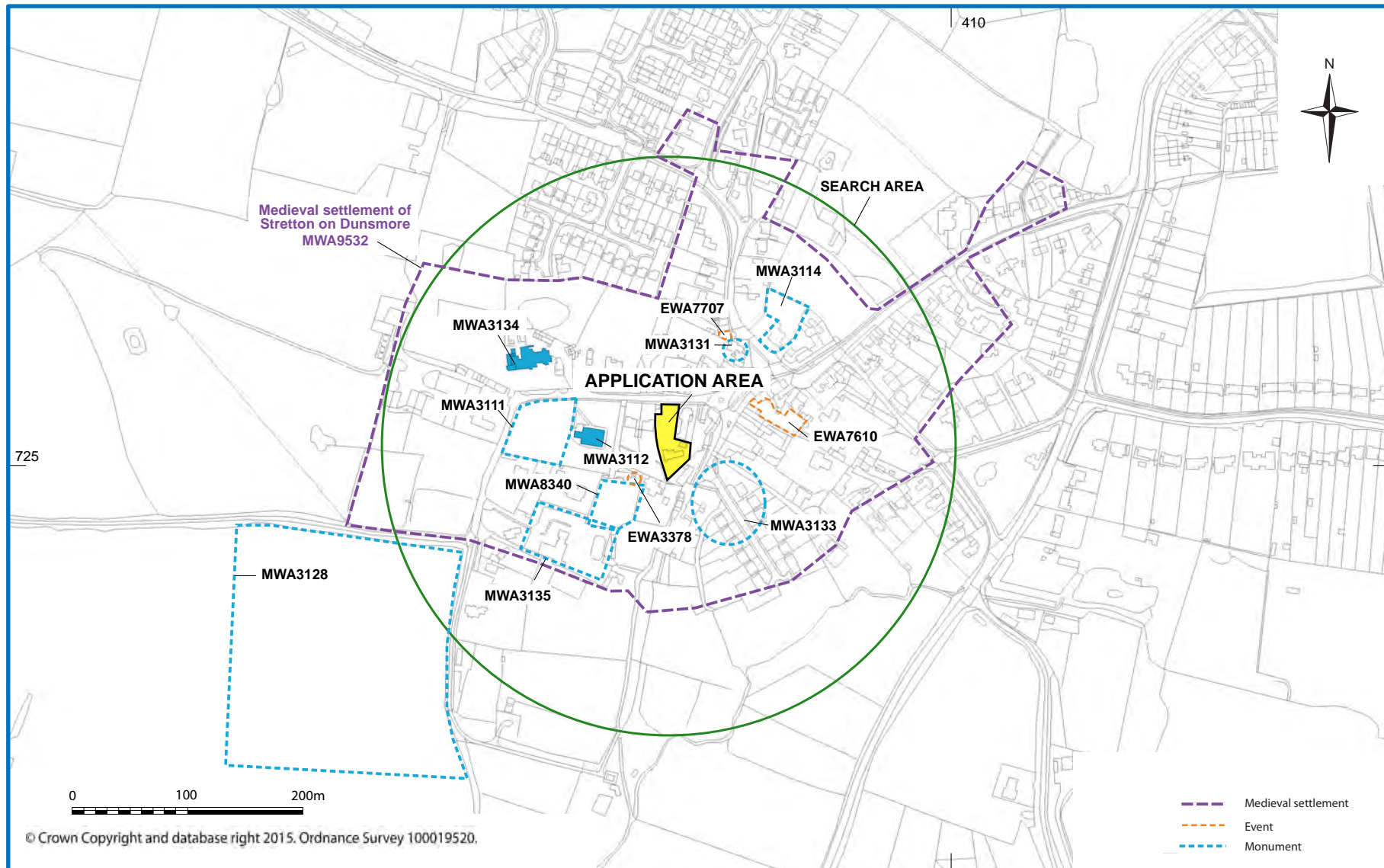


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment Information

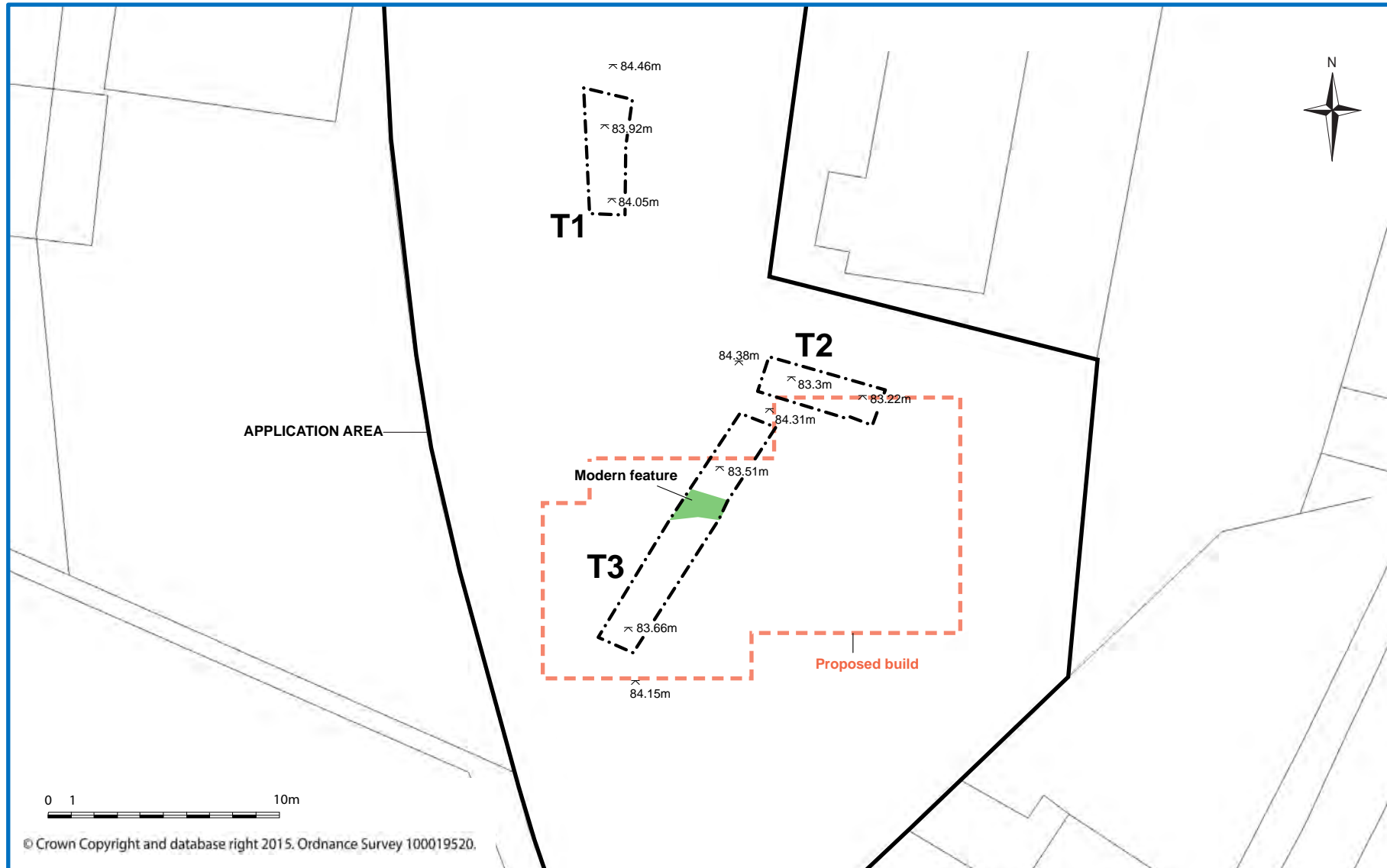


Fig 3: Location of excavated trenches and proposed development