

**Oak Lodge,
22 Dovehouse Lane, Harbury,
Warwickshire**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1535
JUNE 2015



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Oak Lodge, Harbury
Commissioned by: Sarah Collicott
Project Report No. 1535
Site Code: HD15
Planning Reference: S14/03244/FUL
National Grid Reference: SP 37626 60070
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1	Location of Application Area and Historic Environment Information
2	Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887
3	Location of area observed

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief on behalf of Sarah Collicott during the excavation of a concrete slab for a new garage, within an area of potential medieval activity revealed no archaeological remains. The groundworks undertaken did not penetrate below the modern aggregate surface laid over the topsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the erection of a garage at Oak Lodge, 22 Dovehouse Lane, Harbury, CV33 9HD (ref 14/03244/FUL). The proposed development site lies within an area of archaeological potential.

1.2 A programme of fieldwork, consisting of the archaeological observation of ground reduction 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 on 11th April 2015. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum; temporary accession number T/1420.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is centred on national grid reference SP 37626 60070 in the parish of Harbury. The proposed development area is located on Dovehouse Lane and lies 170m north-east of the Church.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Rugby Limestone Member (British Geological Survey 2015).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies within the probable extent of the medieval settlement of Harbury (Historic Environment Record MWA 9055, Fig 1). On the First Edition map of 1887 (Landmark 2003) the site is on the western edge of the grounds of Harbury House (Fig 2). Evidence for occupation of this area in the 11th and 12th centuries was found by Archaeology Warwickshire during archaeological work at the adjacent property, Field House, in 2012 (EWA 10304).

4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains 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.

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 objective of the work was a programme of controlled excavation to development formation levels, or the geological natural, whichever the higher.

4.4 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

5.1 The area was reduced across the footprint of the new garage to form a flat base for a concrete slab. As the area was made level, excavations on the south side of the sloped area of hardstanding were 0.2m deep (Photograph 1, Fig 3). The aggregates were then moved to the north to create the required level surface. A small amount of topsoil was visible on the northern edge indicating that the area may not have been reduced in order to create the current driveway.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No finds or features were noted in the shallow excavations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Sarah Collicott for commissioning the project and the Planning Archaeologist for preparing the brief.

REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 2015 Geological Survey of Great Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed March 2015

Landmark 2003 Ordnance Survey 1887 *First Edition 1:2500 map, Warwickshire*

Landmark 2003 Ordnance Survey 1905 *Second Edition 1:2500 map, Warwickshire*

APPENDIX

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment/details</i>
1	Layer	Modern aggregates
2	Layer	Topsoil



Photograph 1: Site looking east

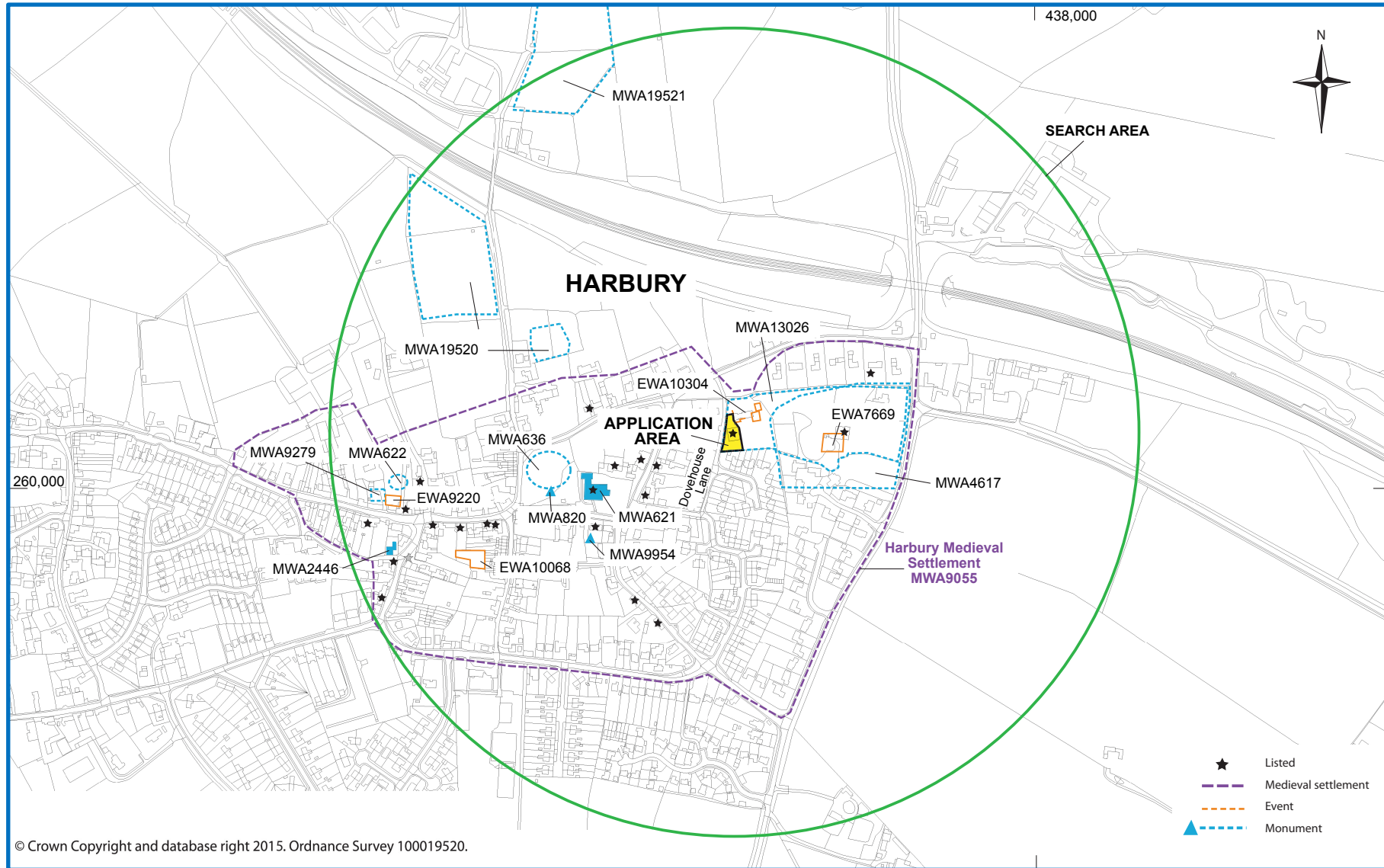


Fig 1: Location of Application Area and Historic Environment Information

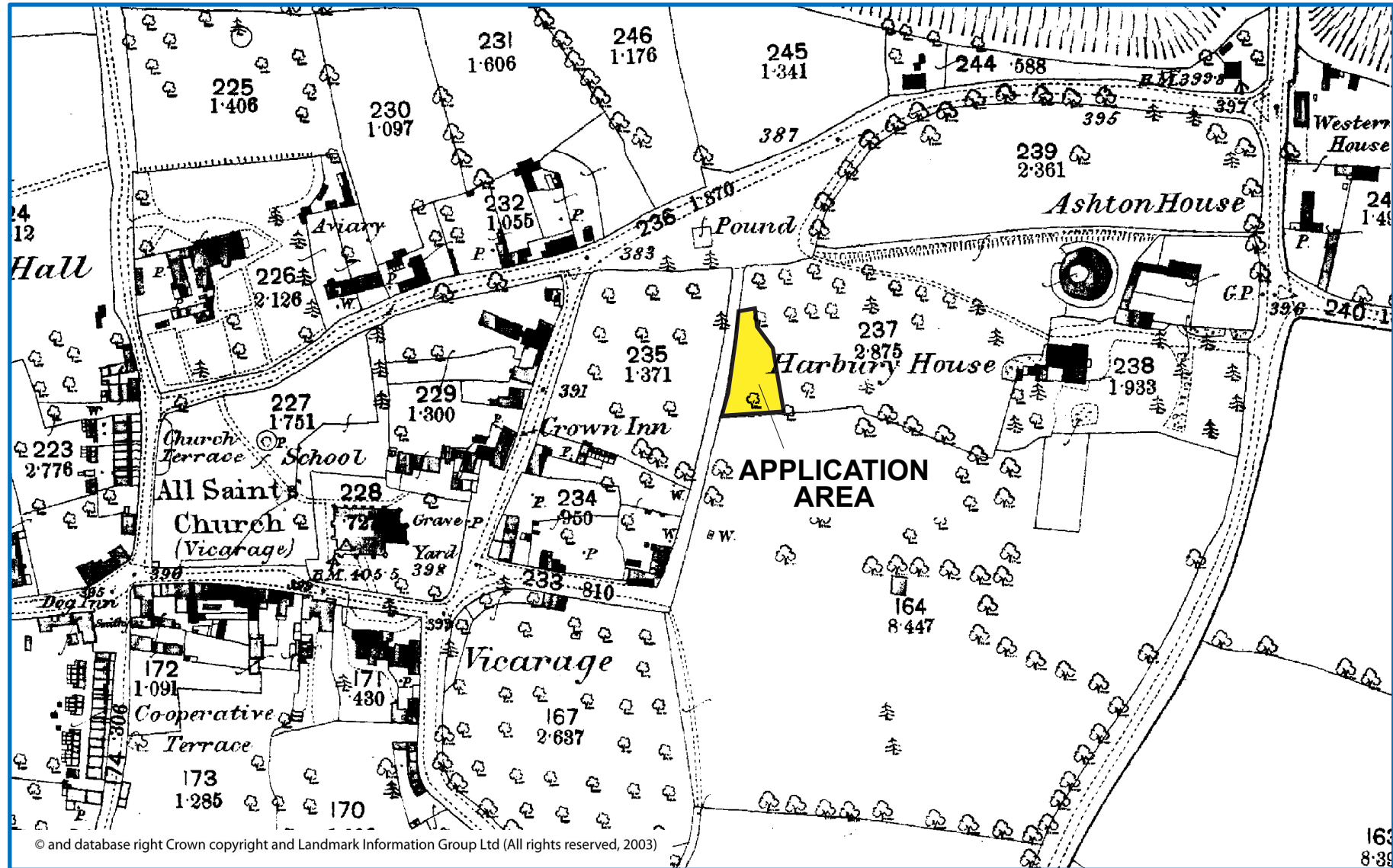


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887

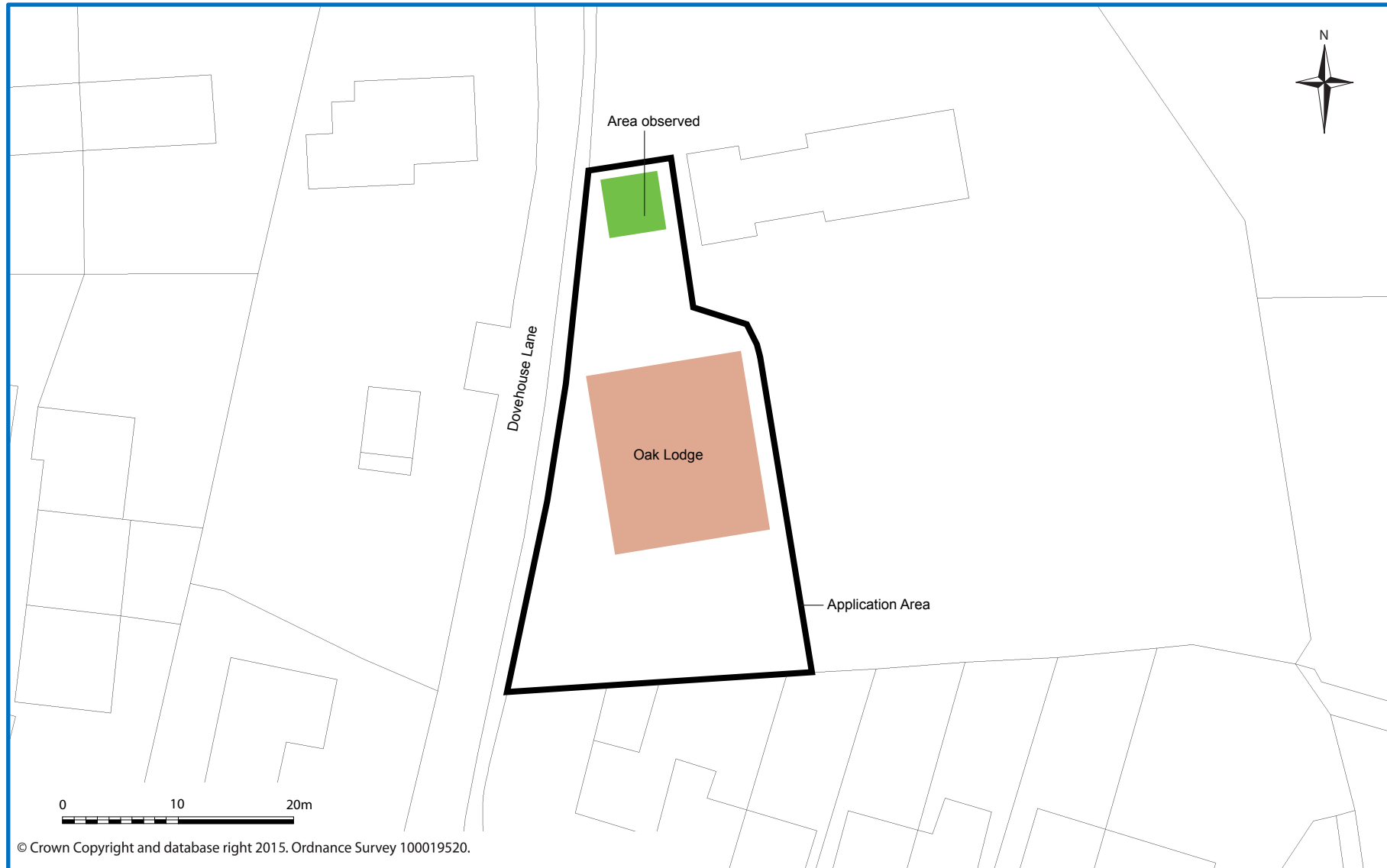


Fig 3: Location of area observed