

Maryvale, East Street, Long Compton, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1524

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*Working for
Warwickshire*

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National Grid Reference:	SP 2895 3265
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SUMMARY

Three archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated on the East Street frontage at Long Compton. One ditch, together with another ditch or pit, was revealed in Trench 2 and another ditch was recorded in Trench 1 and all were of probable 12th- to 13th-century date. These features may represent a former burgage plot boundary or subdivisions within a plot and associated activities. The northernmost ditch recorded in Trench 1 and a stone wall in Trench 2 appear to coincide with boundaries shown on maps from 1885-1922 but are otherwise undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by the Stratford District Council for the demolition of the existing dwelling and garage and erection of a new dwelling and garage, including alterations to boundary at Maryvale, East Street, Long Compton. Warwickshire Planning Archaeologist Anna Stocks, in her capacity as archaeological advisor to the District Council, has advised that there is a potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed or exposed by the development.

1.2 A condition of planning permission requires the applicant to secure a programme of archaeological work. Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority, in order to inform the planning authority of the potential impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

1.3 This report presents the results of that work. The archaeological archive will be deposited at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code LE15.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The development site is located on the north side of East Street in the centre of the village at national grid reference SP 2895 3265.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is recorded as Second Terrace River Gravels (British Geological Survey 1968).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Medieval Long Compton can be traced as far back as Domesday (1086) when the manor was held by Geoffrey de Mandeville for the King (VCH 1949, 52-58). Before the conquest it was held by Asgar the Staller and legend has St Augustine performing a miracle in the church. As St Augustine came to Britain in the late 590s and early 600s AD, a time when it is very unlikely there was a church here, the legend probably implies the existence of a later Saxon church on the site. In 1086 Long Compton was a large settlement and very valuable, with 30 hides and land for 20 ploughs, the lord being responsible for 25 slaves, 45 villagers with a priest, 13 smallholders and 2 men-at-arms with 10 ploughs. A licence to hold a market on Mondays was granted on the 15th of May 1231. This shows Long Compton to have been a more important village and could have been an attempt at turning it into a small town. It is possible to recreate the likely outline of medieval Long Compton (MWA 8968) by studying early maps and aerial photographs. These depict the village as over a mile in length with the parish church (MWA 2367) and the site of the manor house (MWA 2370) both being at the northern end of the village.

3.2 The earliest map of the area, of Lord Northampton's Estate, dates to 1812 (Insall 1838). This shows the current application area containing at least one building on the boundary of a defined property although its accuracy precludes absolute plotting. A map book of 1832 (Insall 1832) suggests that the building may lie on the western side of the current area which is otherwise divided as part of a large 'close' and two small yards at the then end of what became East Street.

3.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, however, clearly depicts a small yard with agricultural buildings, within the site. East Street by this date extended to the back of the village. The 1885 map appears to show a small building on the frontage in the south-east part of the site and a number of field boundaries within the site (Fig 2). A building is shown lying immediately west of the western property boundary, presumably the same stone-built house standing today; a parallel line is indicated within the site, possibly showing a field boundary, or the edge of another building. The Second Edition map of 1905 clearly shows a building in the western part of the site, infilling the area between the property to the west and boundary shown on the previous map. These buildings were still in existence when the area was re-surveyed in 1922. Maryvale is shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1974, by which date the building to the west had been demolished.

MONUMENTS

MWA	Type	Date	Description
2372	Primitive Methodist Chapel	Imperial	Broad Street
2373	Methodist Chapel	Imperial	East Street
2376	Congregational Chapel	Imperial	Butlers Road
2377	Gaol on Broad Street	Post-medieval	A gaol or prison, built of stone in the late 17th century. It is now a private house but retains some of the original features.
8572	Old Vicarage grounds	Post-medieval to Imperial	A garden associated with Old Vicarage. It is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1885.
3802	Site of Possible Pound	Medieval to Post-medieval	Site of a pound which was used for penning livestock.
5446	Site of Milepost	Imperial	by Village Cross
5260	Water pump	Imperial	50m SE post office
2368	Village Cross	Medieval to Imperial	The remains of a Medieval wayside cross preserved within a modern village pump. Its original location may have been on the other side of the road on a small green.
8968	Long Compton Medieval Settlement	Medieval	Probable extent of Medieval settlement in Long Compton as indicated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886.
12185	Ridge and furrow ploughing	Medieval	To the east of Weston Gardens is apparent as earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1996.
12190	Ridge and furrow ploughing	Medieval	
12183	Ridge and furrow ploughing	Medieval	To the west of Long Compton earthworks photographed in 1947 but now levelled.
4829	Turnpike road	Imperial	A toll road running from Stratford to Andoversford. Travellers would have had to pay a toll to use the road during the Imperial period.

EVENTS

EWA	Type	Description
9023	INT	English Heritage National Mapping Project HEEP 5191
9482	WB	Watching Brief at The Old Gaol, Broad Street, Long Compton
6649	FO	Site visit to Long Compton Old Vicarage by J. Lovie c.1996

3.4 Recent archaeological work around Long Compton includes archaeological evaluations undertaken at Ashby Farm in 2010, and South Hill Farm in 2011. None revealed any significant archaeological remains, both apparently lying within medieval agricultural fields (Archaeology Warwickshire 2010, 2011a and 2011b). An archaeological evaluation in 2012 at Wheelwright House at the south end of the village exposed a medieval stone wall and drain along with pottery dating from the 11th to 13th century. A watching brief undertaken during the construction of a new housing development failed to reveal any further evidence of medieval activity. An evaluation at Clarks Lane in 2014 identified substantial and significant archaeological remains associated with the medieval village. Subsequent excavation on the site revealed the foundations of at least nine stone buildings, mostly houses of medieval date, many of which were concentrated along the immediate street frontage of Clarks Lane.

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 included 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.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Three trenches, each 1.6m wide, were excavated by a 360 degree mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Trench 1 was 8m long, Trench 2 was 10m long and Trench 3 was 7m long.

Trench 1

5.2 Geological natural was reached at 0.50m below ground level and was a brownish yellow clay with limestone fragments (103). Two archaeological features cut geological natural 103. At the south-east end of the trench was an east-west aligned linear ditch (104), at least 1.15m wide and 0.23m deep, with a gently sloping east side and a flat base; this appears to coincide with a field boundary shown on Ordnance Survey maps of up to 1922. The west extent of the ditch was not recorded as it was cut by modern service trench. Ditch 104 was filled with greyish brown clay loam (105) containing fragments of animal bone.

5.3 South of ditch 104 another linear ditch (106) aligned east-west, at least 0.93m wide and 0.41m deep, with a steeply sloping west side and a rounded base. The east extent of the ditch was not recorded as it was cut by the modern service trench. It was filled with a dark greyish brown clay loam (107) with burnt clay and charcoal flecks containing sherds of medieval pottery. Geological natural 103 was sealed by a layer of yellow brown clay loam (102), 0.12m deep. Layer 102 was overlain by a dark brown clay loam former topsoil layer (101), 0.12m deep. Layer 101 was sealed by a gravel surface (100), 0.03m deep.

Trench 2

5.4 Geological natural was reached at a depth of 0.43m below present ground level and was a brownish yellow clay with limestone fragments (201). The natural clay 201 was cut by four archaeological features. At the west end of Trench 2 was a NNE-SSW aligned foundation trench (202), 0.60m wide. Foundation trench 202 contained a wall made of limestone blocks (203) with a limestone rubble core containing a ceramic roof tile. Only one course of wall 203 was visible. The location of the wall coincides with the east side of a building shown on Ordnance Survey maps of 1905 and 1922. Overlying wall 203 was a deposit of greyish brown silty loam (204) containing residual pottery of late 18th to early 19th-century date and a fragment of clay pipe. East of wall 203 was a sub-circular posthole (205), 0.36m in diameter and 0.24m deep, with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark greyish brown silty loam (206) containing late 18th to early 19th-century pottery.

5.5 East of posthole 205 was a NNE-SSW aligned linear ditch or elongated pit (207), 0.95m wide and 0.57m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Ditch 207 was filled with greyish brown clay loam with lenses of greenish clay and flecks of charcoal (208) containing sherds of medieval pottery, probably of 12th/13th-century date and fragments of animal bone. East of ditch 207 another linear ditch on a similar alignment (209), 1.35m wide and 0.30m deep with a steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a dark greyish

brown clay loam (210) with charcoal flecks containing sherds of medieval pottery, again probably of 12th/13th-century date, an iron object and fragments of animal bone. Geological natural 201 was sealed by a layer of greyish brown sandy loam topsoil (200) with limestone fragments, 0.35-0.40m deep.

Trench 3

5.6 Geological natural was a brownish yellow sandy clay with limestone fragments (302). Geological natural 302 was sealed by a layer of yellow brown silty clay loam (301), 0.20m deep. Layer 301 was overlain by a greyish brown sandy loam (300). No archaeological features were visible in this trench and no finds were recovered.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evaluation has established that some archaeological features of medieval date survive within the development site. One ditch together with another ditch or pit recorded in Trench 2 and a ditch recorded in Trench 1 probably date from the 12th- to 13th-century. Another undated ditch in Trench 2 is also likely to date to a similar period. These features may represent a former property boundaries, or subdivisions within a plot. The northern ditch recorded in Trench 1 appears to coincide with a boundary depicted on the First Edition mapping of 1885 and the stone wall is linked to the adjacent house.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Photograph 1: Trench 1



Photograph 2. Ditch 104



Photograph 3: Ditch 106



Photograph 4: Trench 2



Photograph 5: Wall 203 and foundation trench 202



Photograph 6: Posthole 205



Photograph 7: Ditch or pit 207



Photograph 8: Ditch 209

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Context	Description	Comment
100	Gravel	Modern surface
101	Dark brown clay loam	Former topsoil
102	Yellow brown clay loam	Subsoil
103	Brownish yellow clay with limestone fragments	Geological natural
104	Cut of ditch	Post-medieval ditch
105	Greyish brown clay loam	Fill of 104
106	Cut of ditch	12th/13th-century ditch
107	Dark greyish brown clay loam	Fill of 106
200	Greyish brown sandy loam	Topsoil
201	Brownish yellow clay	Geological natural
202	Cut of trench	Foundation trench for wall
203		
203	Limestone wall	Early 20thC wall
204	Greyish brown silty loam	
205	Cut of posthole	Late 18th /early 19thC
206	Dark greyish brown silty loam	Fill of 205
207	Cut of ditch or elongated pit	12th/13th ditch or pit
208	Greyish brown clay loam	Fill of 207
209	Cut of ditch	12th/13th-century ditch
210	Greyish brown clay loam	Fill of 209
300	Greyish brown sandy loam	Topsoil
301	Yellow brown silty clay loam	Subsoil
302	Brownish yellow sandy clay	Geological natural

B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
105	A. Bone	9	inc. cow teeth
107	Pottery	9	12th/13th-century coarsewares
204	Pottery	5	Late 18th/ early 19th century
204	Clay pipe	1	Late 18th/ early 19th century
206	Pottery	3	Late 18th/ early 20th century
208	Pottery	10	12th/13th-century coarsewares
208	A. Bone	3	non-diagnostic frags.
210	Pottery	7	12th/13th-century coarsewares
210	Metal	1	Corroded Iron ring
210	A. Bone	3	1 x cow's tooth and non-diagnostic frags.

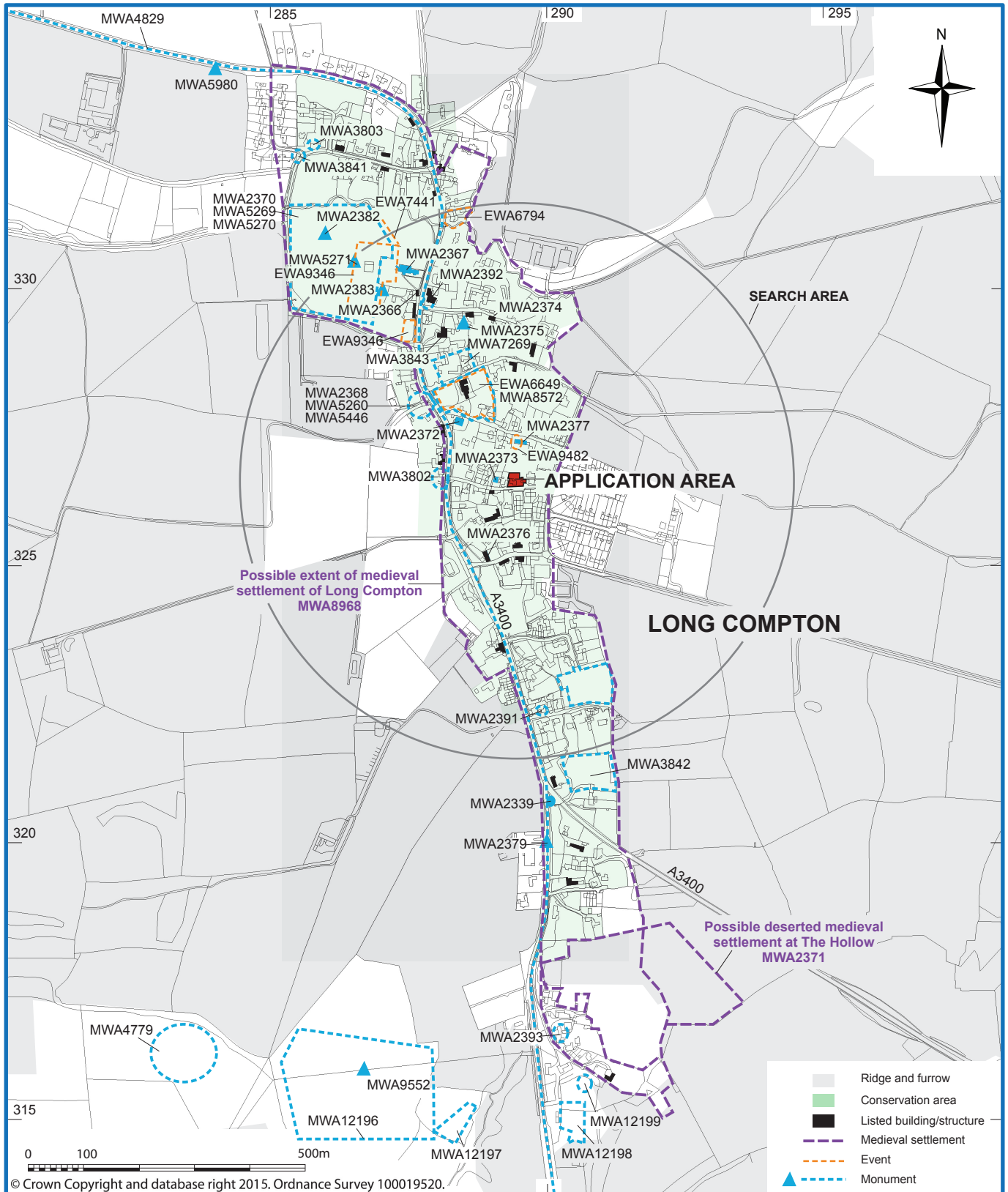


Fig 1: Location of Application Area and Historic Environment Information

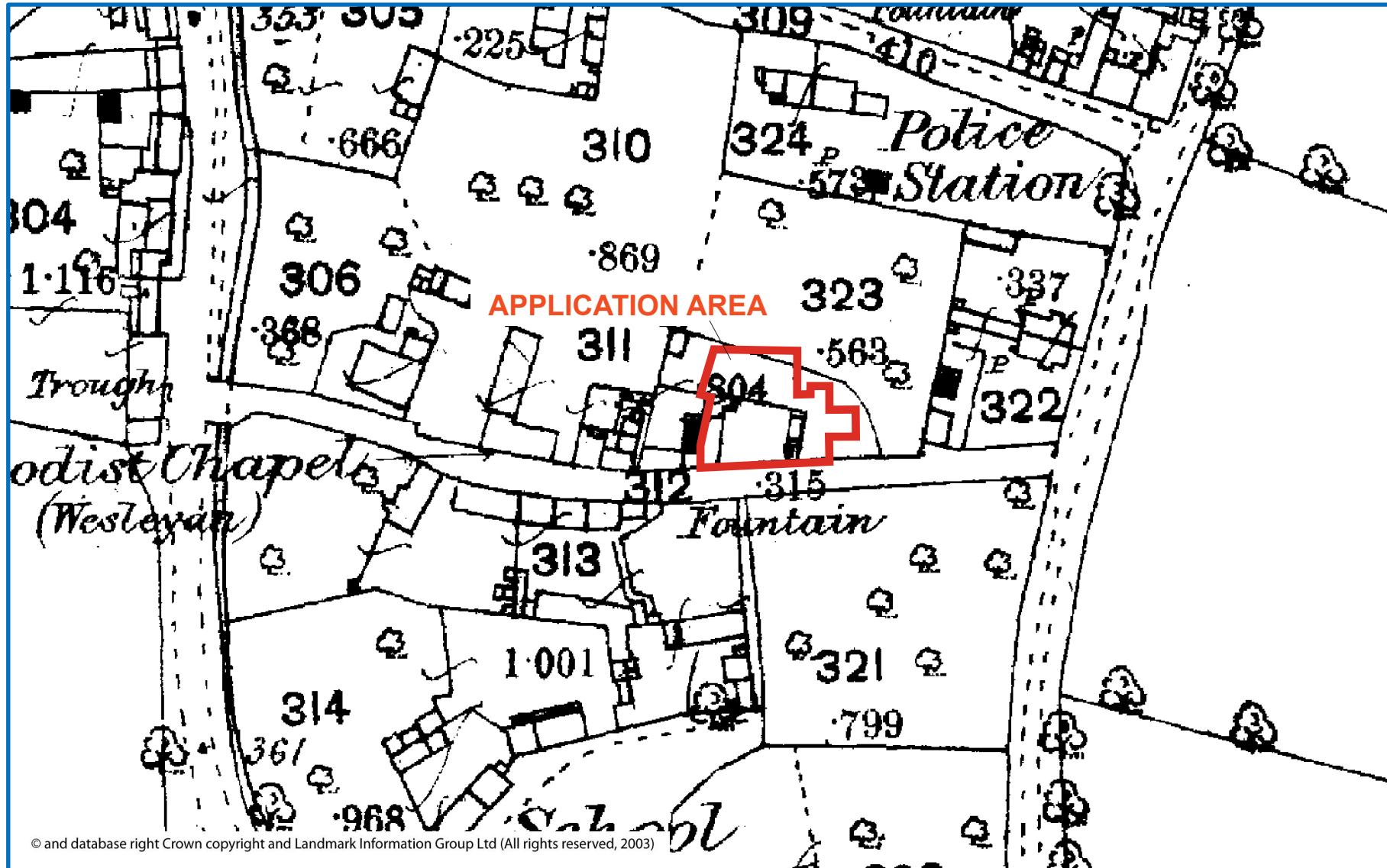
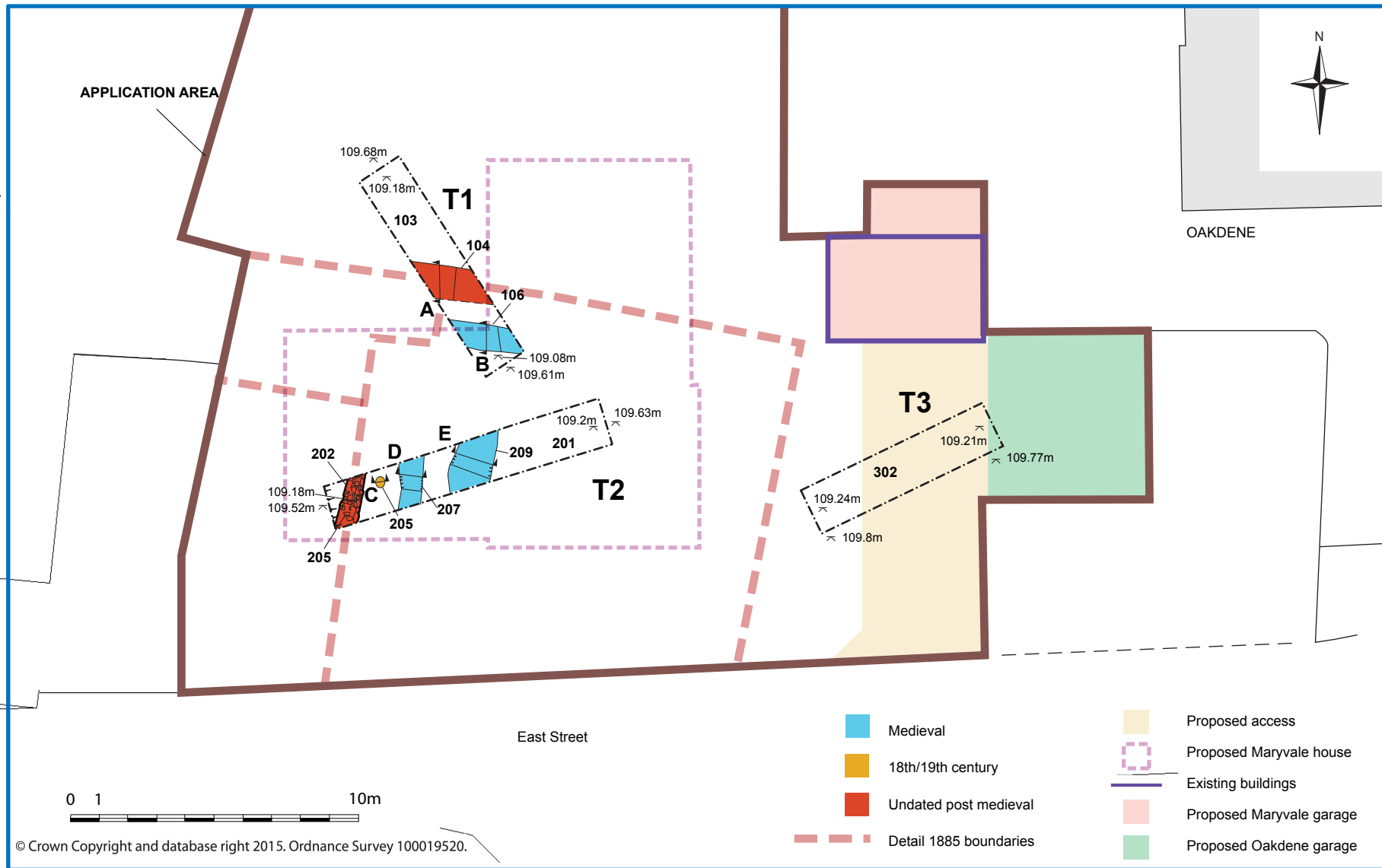


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885



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Fig 3: Location and detail of excavated trenches 1 to 3

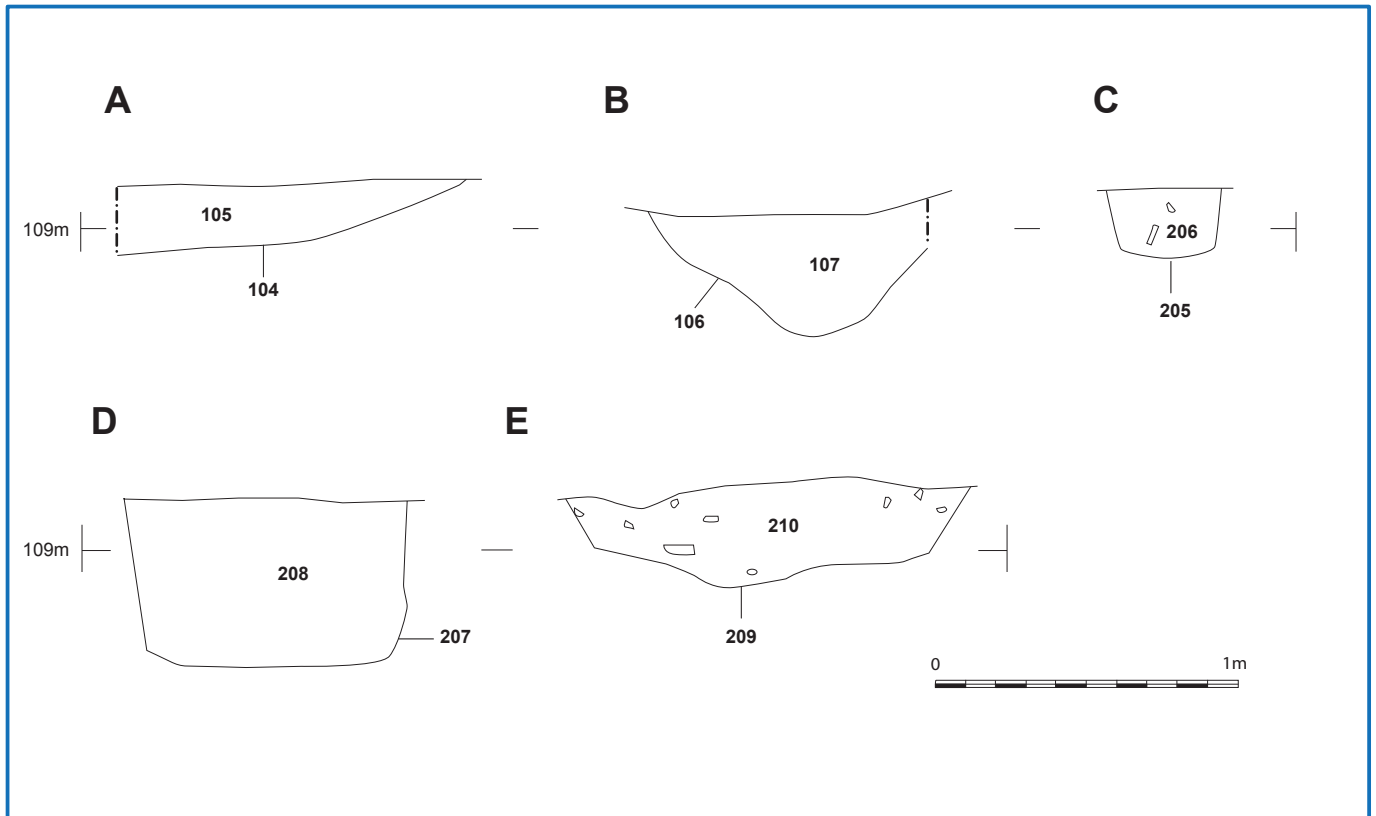


Fig 4: Sections A to E