

The Old Rectory, Cherington, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1501

JANUARY 2015



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Evaluation
Commissioned by: Anthony Paine
Project Report No. 1501
Site Code: CO14
Planning Reference: 14/01684/FUL
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Date: January 2015
Report reference: Rann, C, 2015 *The Old Rectory, Cherington, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1501

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation undertaken in advance of the construction of a new garden outbuilding within the historic core of the medieval settlement was able to determine that the proposed new structure is unlikely to disturb any significant archaeological deposits. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford upon Avon District Council for the construction of a new single storey garden outbuilding at The Old Rectory, Cherington, Warwickshire. The Old Rectory lies in an area of considerable archaeological potential and there was therefore a possibility that archaeological deposits could be disturbed or exposed by the development.

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

1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority. This report presents the results of that work. The archaeological archive will be deposited at the Warwickshire Museum.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The evaluation site is to the rear of the Old Rectory, Cherington centred on NGR SP 2920 3658, within the parish of the same name. The Old Rectory is to the south of the Church of Saint John the Baptist. The area of the proposed building was formerly occupied by box hedging and trees to the north and lawn to the south.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Charmouth Mudstone Formation – mudstone (BGS 2014).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Church and the Old Rectory lie to the north-east of the medieval settlement core of Cherington (MWA 8941). The nave of the Church dates to the early 13th-century and

contains elements dating to most of the proceeding centuries (MWA 2349). The village is not mentioned in Domesday nor is the nearby settlement of Stourton (MWA 9580). However, in 1200 Henry le Falconer recovered the advowson of the church of Cherington and in 1316 Cherington was recorded as a hamlet of Brailes (VCH 1949) which when taken with the likely Anglo-Saxon (ington) place-name suggests that the village existed prior to the conquest. An elegant summary of documentary sources was published by Margaret Dickens in 1934.

3.2 A documentary source attests that by 1332 there was a mill along the banks of the River Stour to the north of the village (MWA 1891). The villages are surrounded by the remains ridge and furrow which were identified by the National Mapping Programme (EWA 9023, MWA 12201, 12203, 12204, 12206, 12207, 12210 and 12214).

3.3 The Manor House in Cherington dates from the late 17th/early 18th century and is over 350m south-west of the Church (MWA 2350). It once had extensive pleasure grounds (MWA13013/EWA 9896), but these have been partly built on. The Manor House in Stourton dates from the early 17th century (MWA 2352).

3.4 Both villages have a number of Listed Buildings. The majority of these are late 17th century to the early 18th century in date and are constructed of local limestone. A drinking fountain in the centre of the village is similar to that in Upper Brailes which dates to 1877 (MWA 2351).

3.5 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 shows that the Old Rectory had a small outbuilding and an attached building to the north. The eastern boundary of the Old Rectory was closer to the building and curved to meet the graveyard boundary to the north (Fig 2). This boundary had another outbuilding along it by the time of the Second Edition map of 1905 (Fig 3).

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.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The evaluation trench was excavated by a mini-excavator using a 1.2m ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. The trench was 10m long and 2m wide, aligned NW/SE.

5.2 Geological natural yellow clay was achieved between 0.27m and 0.50m below the modern ground surface. A sub-square posthole 4, cut the natural. It had vertical sides and a flattish base and was backfilled with brownish yellow clay loam which contained residual wood and fragments of post-medieval or later tile (5). A modern plastic water pipe was also revealed (6).

5.3 The geological natural was overlain by 0.14-22m of yellowish brown clay loam soil, probably an older cultivated soil which contained very occasional limestone fragments (2). This was in turn sealed under 0.13-30m of yellowish brown topsoil, which also contained limestone fragments (1).

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evaluation trench has established that there are significant archaeological deposits in the area of the permitted development. The single sherd of medieval pottery recovered is far less than one might expect from a trench in such a location but serves to show that the trench is unlikely to be close to a medieval activity foci.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Anthony Paine for commissioning the work, the architect Alan Calder for facilitating the project and Anna Stocks for approving the scheme.

REFERENCES

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VCH 1949 (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol5/pp38-41>) accessed January 2015

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	Topsoil	Modern
2	Former topsoil	Medieval and later
3	Natural	
4	Posthole	19 th century
5	Fill of posthole 4	
6	Water pipe cut	Modern
7	Fill of 6	

B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	Pottery	1	Medieval

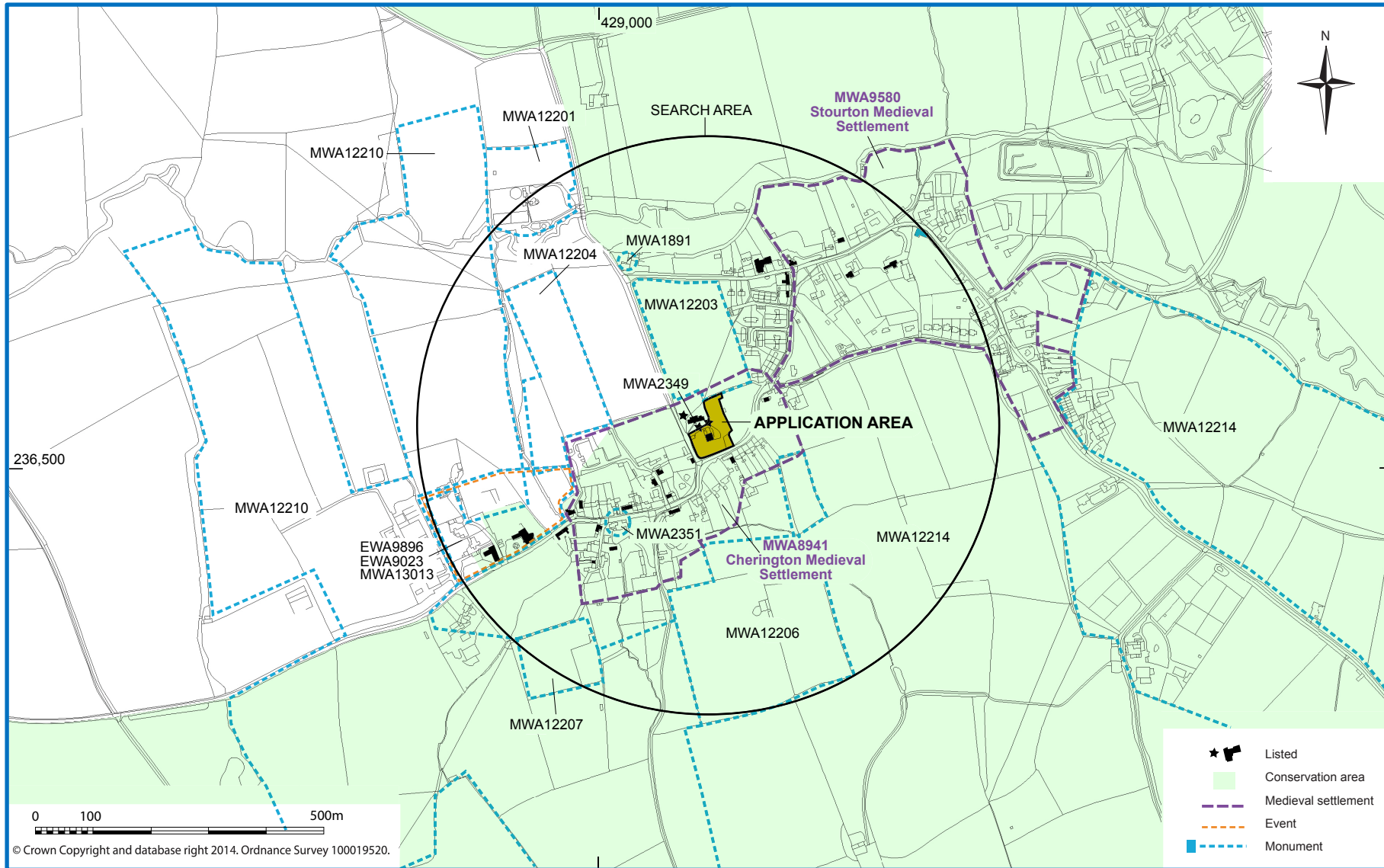


Fig 1: Site location

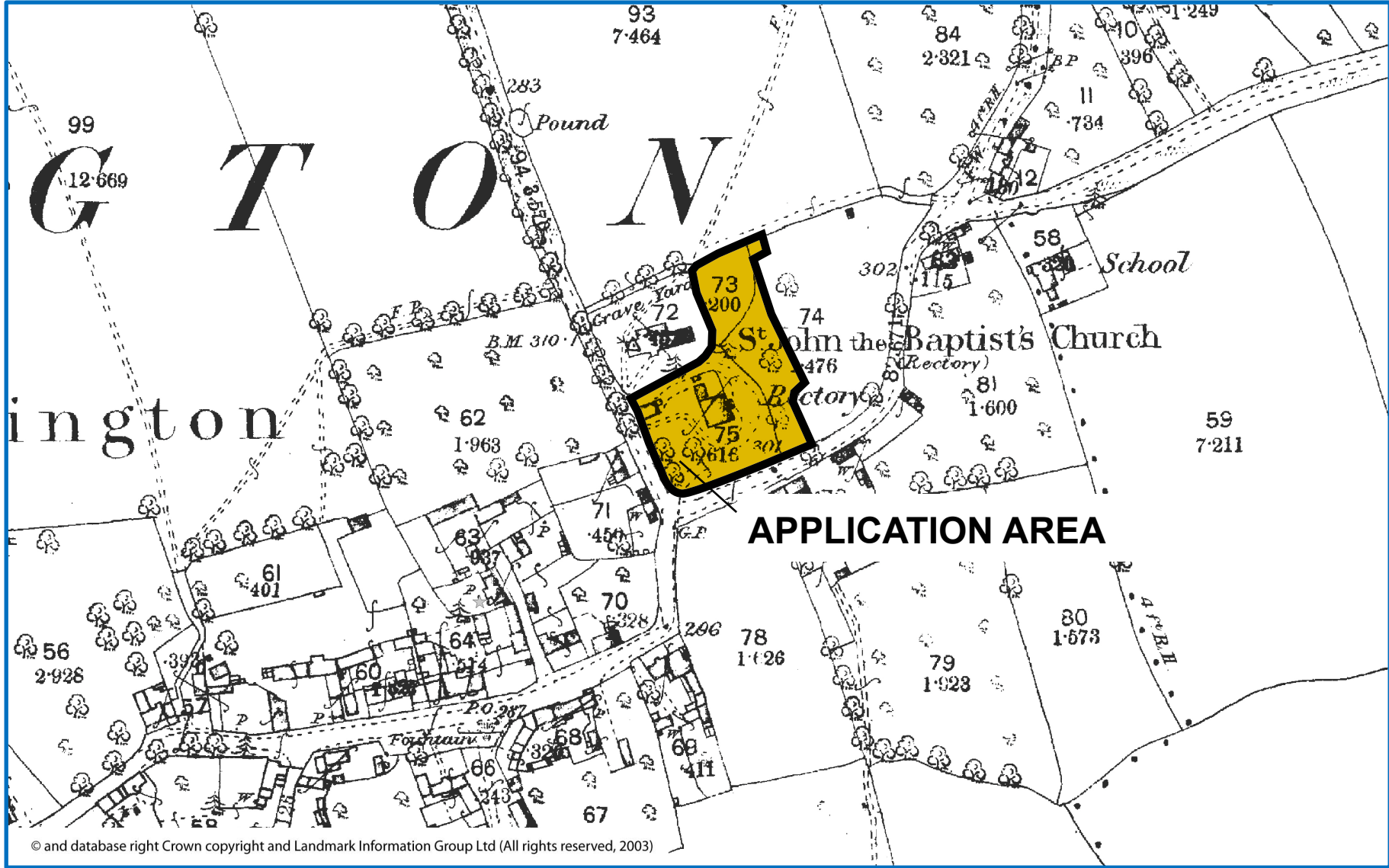


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1:2500 of 1885

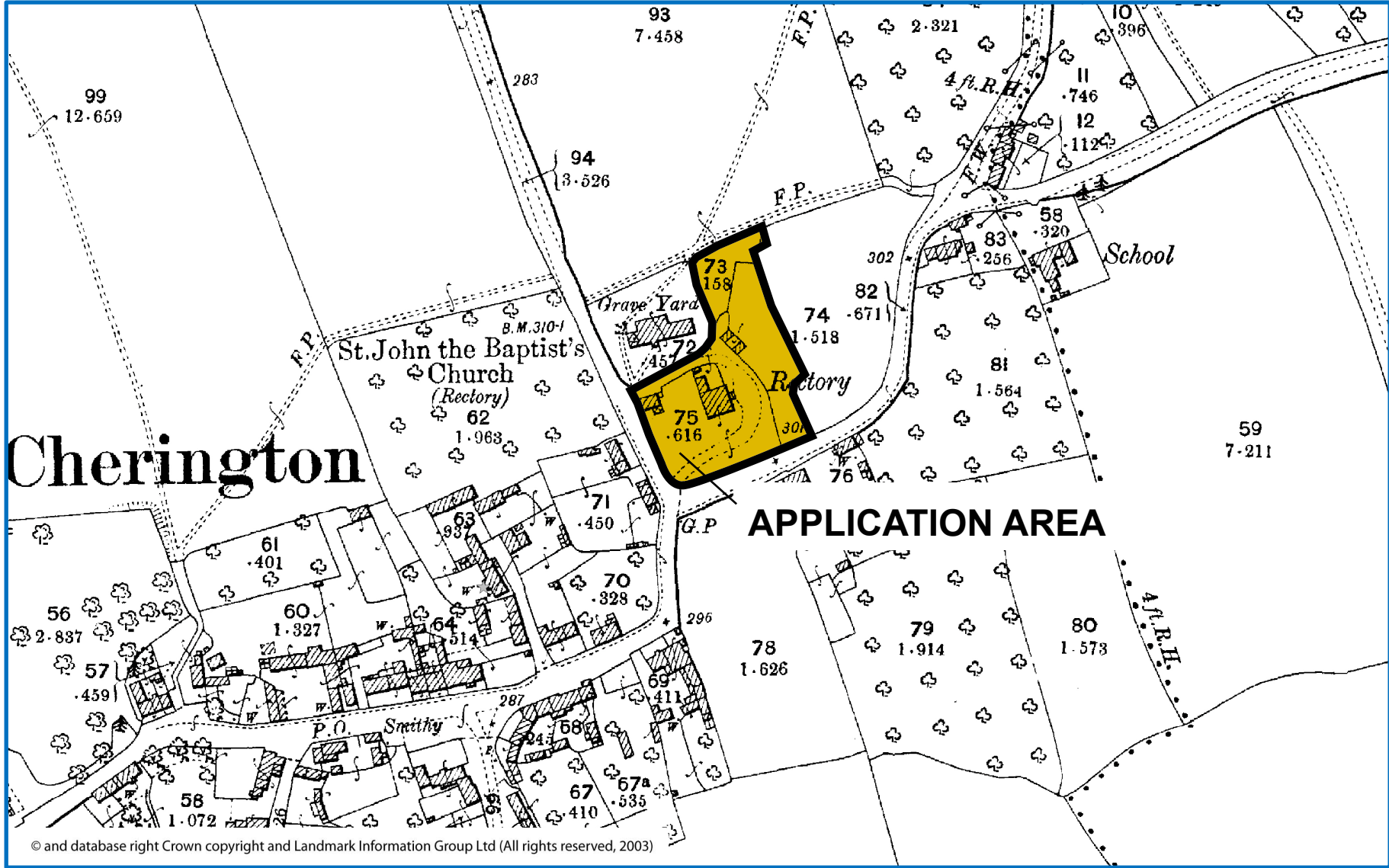


Fig 3: Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1:2500 of 1905

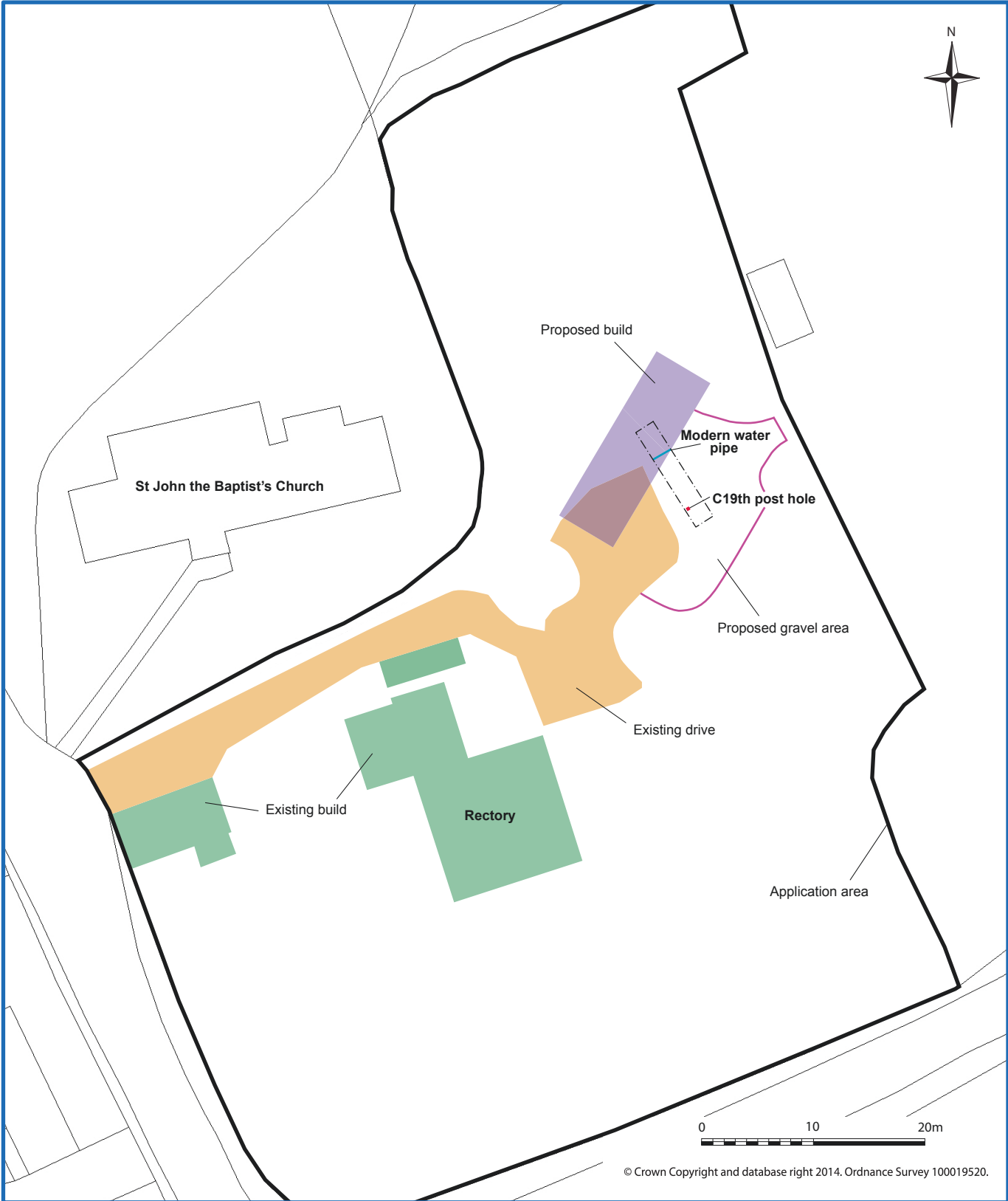


Fig 4: Location of excavated trench



Fig 5. The trench in relation to the church



Fig 6. The trench in relation to The Old Rectory



Fig 7. The excavated trench