

**Victoria House,
14 Church Street, Marton,
Warwickshire**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1465
SEPTEMBER 2014



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: 14 Church Street, Marton, Warwickshire,
CV23 9RL

Commissioned by: Mark and Sally Duncan

Project Report No. 1465

Site Code: MV14

Planning Reference: R13/1921

National Grid Reference: SP 4065 6880

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a new extension at Victoria House, revealed nothing relating to the medieval village of Marton. The deposit sequence was suggestive of the site having been scoured to natural during the construction of the existing house.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by the Rugby Borough Council for the erection of a two storey side extension and the demolition of the existing detached garage at Victoria House, 14 Church Street, Marton. The site lies within the supposed extent of the medieval village and it was therefore possible that archaeological remains might be disturbed during the development. A condition of planning permission therefore required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in conjunction with the development.

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to conduct an archaeological Watching Brief, to be carried out in conjunction with the groundworks phase of the permitted development, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the County Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority. The fieldwork was carried out in August 2014. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is centred on national grid reference SP 4065 6880, in the parish of Marton. The development site is a private house and garden.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Triassic Rocks (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) overlain by superficial deposits of river terrace sand and gravel (British Geological Survey Viewer <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/> accessed May 2014).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record contains no records of definite prehistoric activity in the area but there are several as yet undated cropmarks which could be of this period.

3.2 Romano-British activity in the area is indicated by fragments of pottery and tile which were found to the south-east of Marton (MWA 5082, Fig 3). They could represent a settlement or farmstead.

3.3 Marton was once the centre of a Hundred. This is recorded at Domesday in 1086 until the end of the 12th century when it became part of the Hundred of Knightlow (VCH 1951). The church of St Esprit (MWA 3150) was granted to the priory of Nuneaton in 1160. The medieval church was substantially rebuilt in the Victorian period.

3.4 The extent of the medieval settlement has been estimated based on boundaries shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (MWA 9072). Earthworks of former house platforms in the north of the village represent shrinkage of the medieval settlement (MWA 3159). Marton Bridge has medieval origins which were identified during fieldwork (MWA 3151/EWA 6837). The current 18th-century structure is Scheduled (English Heritage National List for England no 1296611). A cobbled roadway of medieval date was revealed during archaeological works to the north of Marton (MWA 8829).

3.5 Marton Manor House, was originally built during the post-medieval period but now incorporates later alterations (MWA 3161). A Dovecote to the rear of Dove Cottage was also built at this time (MWA 3166).

3.6 The HER records several buildings from the Imperial period (1751 – 1913); Marton House (MWA 3155), a congregational chapel on High Street (MWA 3162), Marton Vicarage (MWA 3163) and a smithy on Coventry Road (MWA 3164). The turnpike road from Ryton Bridge to Banbury was created at this time (MWA 4789).

3.7 Around Marton, archaeological features are visible as cropmarks (MWA 3165, MWA 3179). They cannot be dated on morphological grounds alone. There are also some earthworks around Elms Farm of uncertain origin (MWA 3185).

3.8 Archaeological fieldwork in Marton to date has been limited to pipeline trenches around Marton Bridge which did not reveal any archaeological features (EWA 6179 and EWA 1687) and a recent Watching Brief in North Street which identified modern garden soils but for which the development did not penetrate potential archaeological levels.

3.9 The 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey (Landmark SP 4068, Fig 2) depicts a small paddock adjacent to a larger field with a boundary hedge within the development site.

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 WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 The existing garage was demolished and the foundation trenches were excavated using a 3-tonne, 360-degree, mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.60m wide, toothless ditching bucket.

5.2 The trenches were excavated to 1.05m below the existing ground level.

Deposit sequence

5.3 Geological natural red clay (3) was achieved at 0.25m.

5.4 Overlying the natural was a 0.10m deep layer of brown clay loam (2). This contained demolition rubble (brick and tile fragments) and modern glass finds and is reminiscent of a hard-standing.

5.5 The topsoil on site was very dark greyish brown loam (1) that was 0.15m deep.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The watching brief was able to determine that no significant archaeological deposits were disturbed by the development. The deposit sequence suggests that the area had been previously stripped to natural, probably during the construction of Victoria House. During this process modern demolition rubble was imported to level the site then topsoil was laid on top.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Duncan Beard at Synergy Architects for the commission.

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APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	Topsoil	Very dark greyish brown loam
2	Layer	Brown clay loam, modern, demolition rubble
3	Natural	Red clay

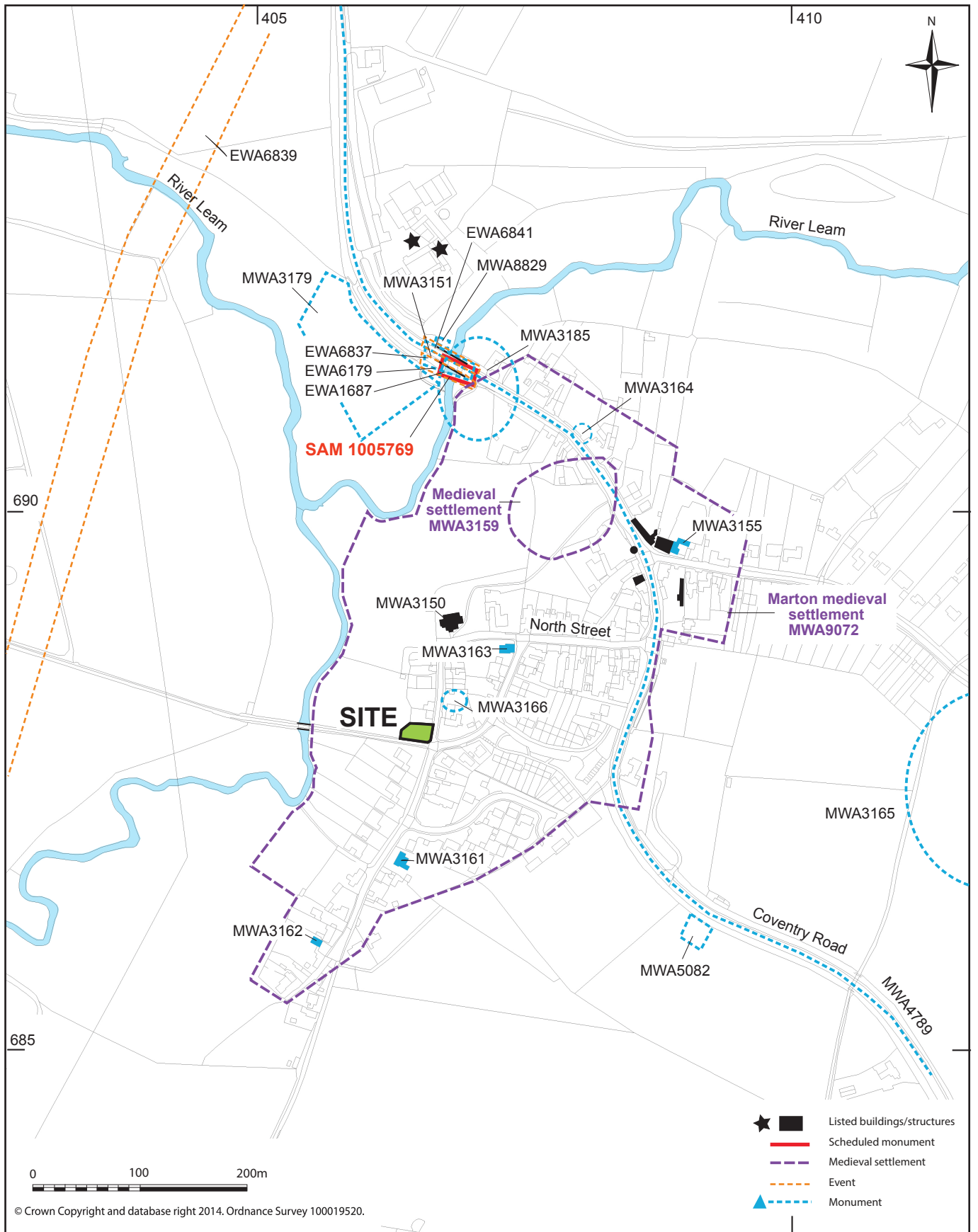


Fig 1: Site location

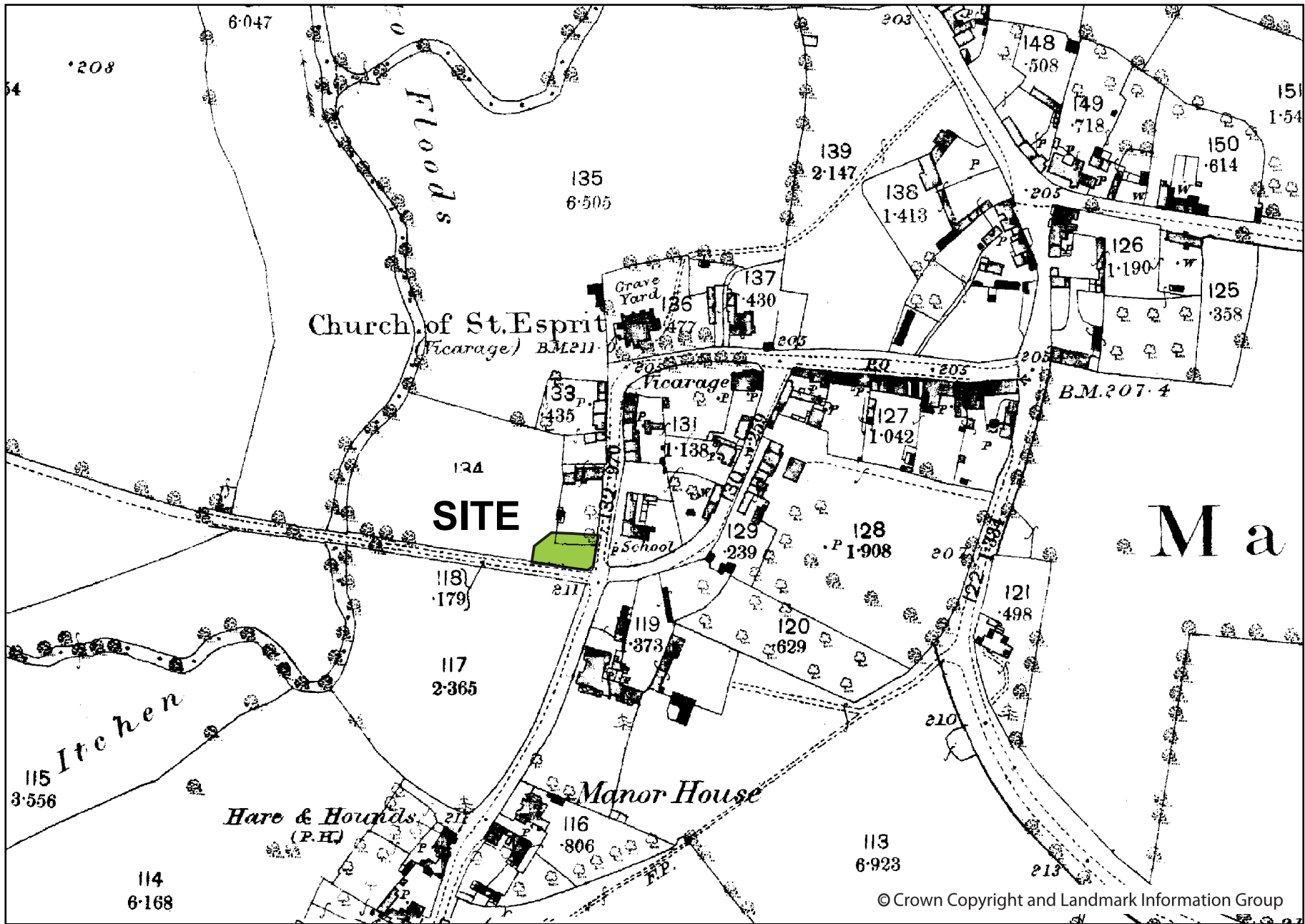


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886-7



Fig 3: Trenches observed



Fig 4: Trench, looking SE