

13 North Street, Marton, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1441
May 2014



*Working for
Warwickshire*

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Commissioned by: Faye Chambers
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National Grid Reference: SP 40811,68845
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Archaeology Warwickshire

Unit 9

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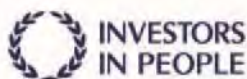
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SUMMARY

Archaeological observation at 13 North Street, Marton revealed deposits associated with use of the site as a garden in the 19th and 20th centuries. No earlier deposits or finds were encountered and the geological natural was not reached.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Rugby Borough Council for the erection of a detached garage and home office to the rear of 13 North Street, Marton, CV23 9RJ. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential and it was therefore possible that archaeological remains might be disturbed during the development. A condition of planning permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in conjunction with the development.

1.2 A programme of fieldwork, consisting of the archaeological observation of soil stripping and foundation trenches in accordance with a brief prepared by the County Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority (February 2014), was commissioned from Archaeology Warwickshire and carried out in April 2014. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under a temporary accession number (tba).

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The development site is located within the Parish and village of Marton at grid reference SP 4082 6884 (Fig 1). The site was formerly occupied by a garage 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).

3.9 The 1st and 2nd Editions of the Ordnance Survey (Landmark SP 4068, Fig 2) depict a developed North Street although there are no buildings shown to the rear of No 13.

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 the WSI.

5 WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Foundation trenches were excavated following the demolition of a garage which formerly occupied the site (Fig 3). This was undertaken using a 360° mini excavator under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Geological natural was not reached in the trenches which were up to 0.7m deep and 0.8m wide. The lowest deposit reached was a former garden soil layer of greyish brown silty clay loam (2). This layer contained occasional charcoal fragments and pottery and was a minimum of 0.2m thick (Fig 4). Pottery noted included blue and white transfer decorated wares and coarsewares (not retained). This is a standard assemblage for a 19th/20th century-garden soil.

5.3 Two pits were noted cutting into this layer. Both pits (6 and 8) were on the edge of the excavations and contained modern material such as bricks in their grey silty loam fills (5 and 7). They were probably rubbish pits.

5.4 Overlying layer 2 were deposits associated with the construction of a path and fence. Layer 4 contained brick, tile and cement in a orange brown sandy clay matrix (4) it was 0.2m thick and was overlain by re-deposited topsoil with brick and tile fragments (3). A 0.3m deep layer of very dark grey silty clay loam topsoil (1) covered the site.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No medieval finds or features were encountered in the trenches although geological natural was not reached. No significant pottery was found to indicate whether earlier archaeological remains are present on the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Faye Chambers for commissioning the work and the Planning Archaeologist for preparing the Brief.

REFERENCES

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VCH 1951 L.Salzman (eds) 'Parishes: Marton', A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6: Knightlow hundred (1951), pp. 170-173. [URL:http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=57121](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=57121) Date accessed 14 may 2014

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	Very dark grey silty clay loam	Topsoil
2	Greyish brown silty clay loam	Former garden soil
3	Dark grey silty clay	Redeposited topsoil
4	Orange brown sandy clay with brick and tile	Layer
5	Brick, tile, glass, pebbles	Fill of pit 6
6	Pit	Modern
7	Brick, tile in grey brown silty clay matrix	Fill of pit 8
8	Pit	Modern

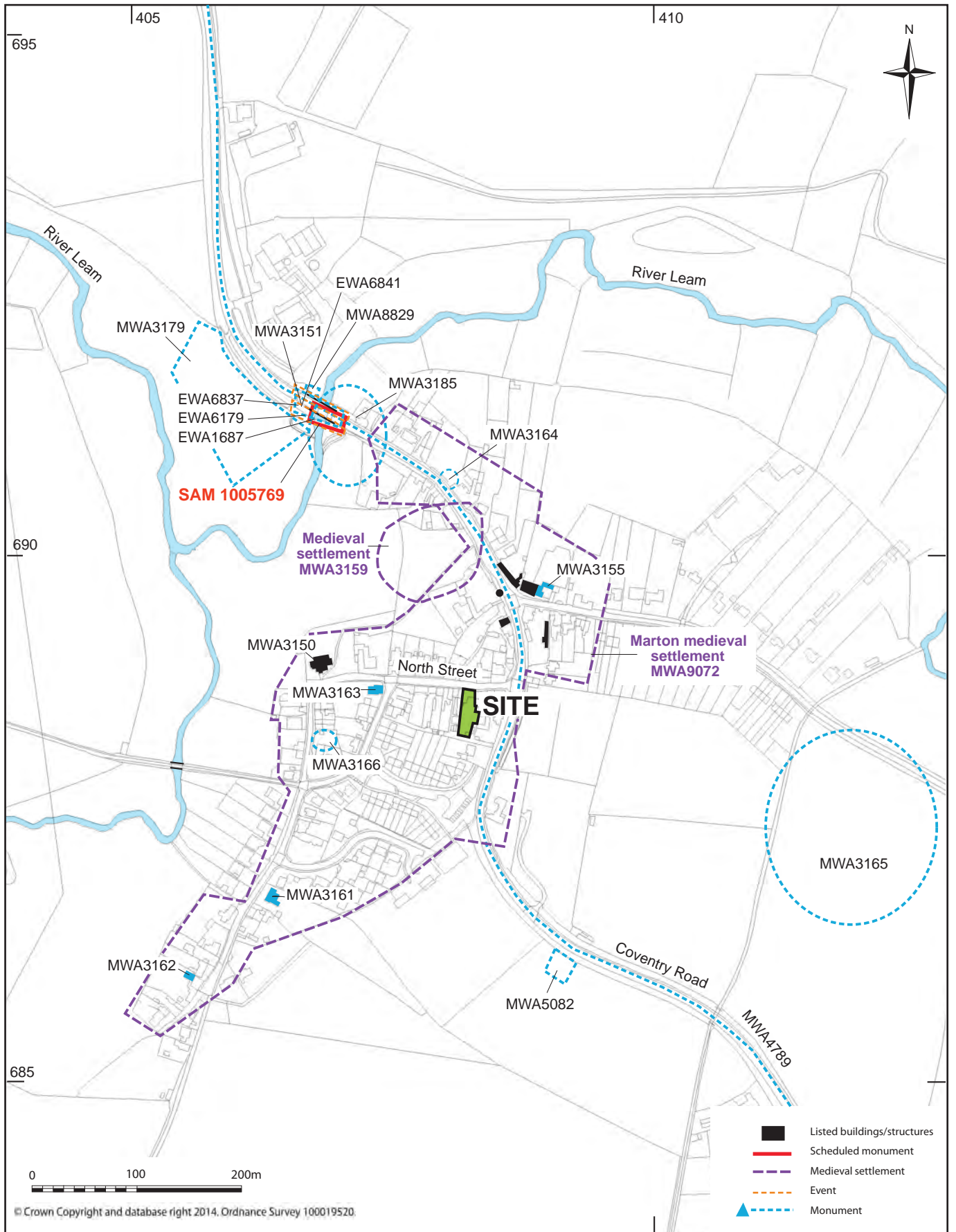


Fig 1: Site location

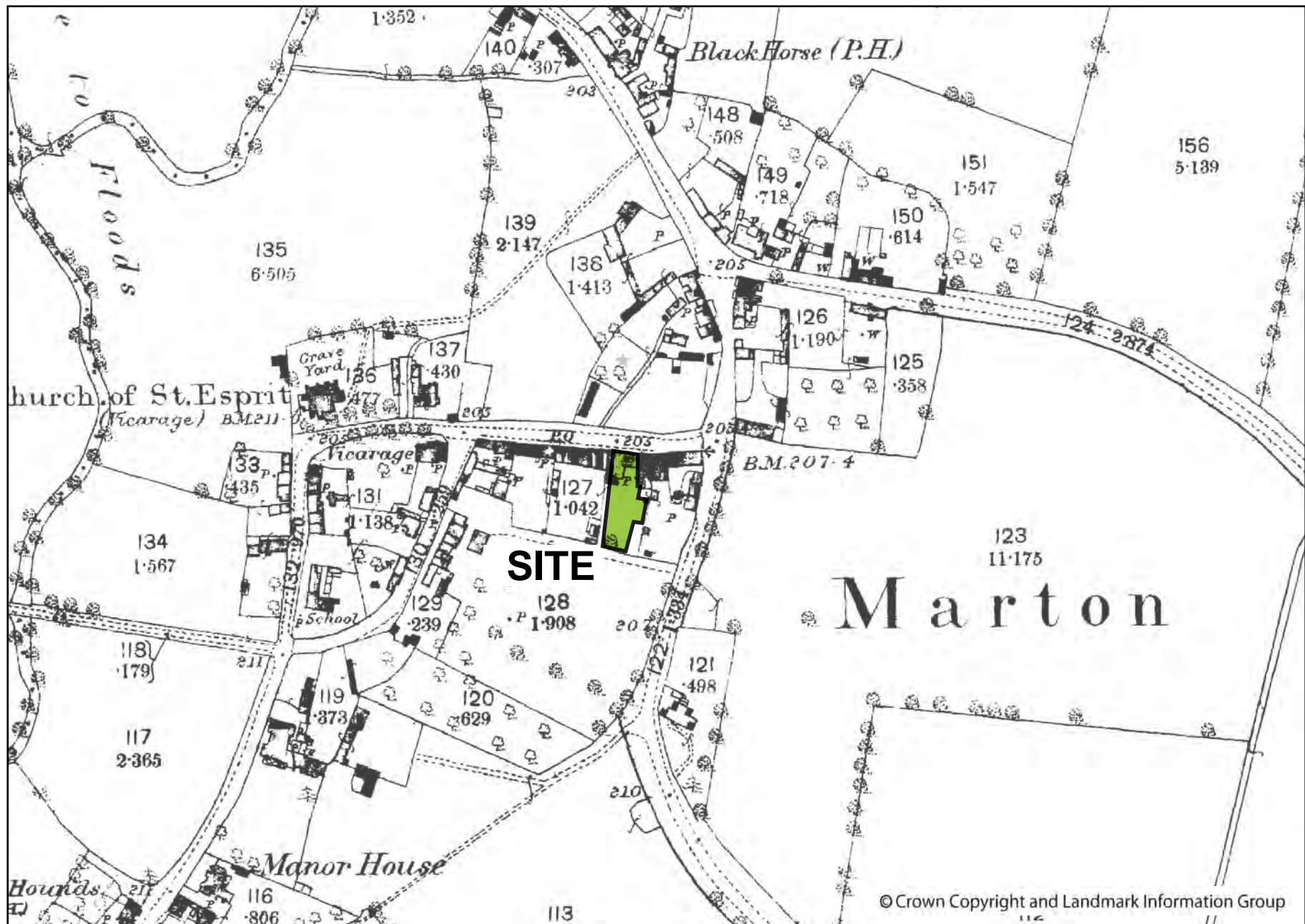


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866-7

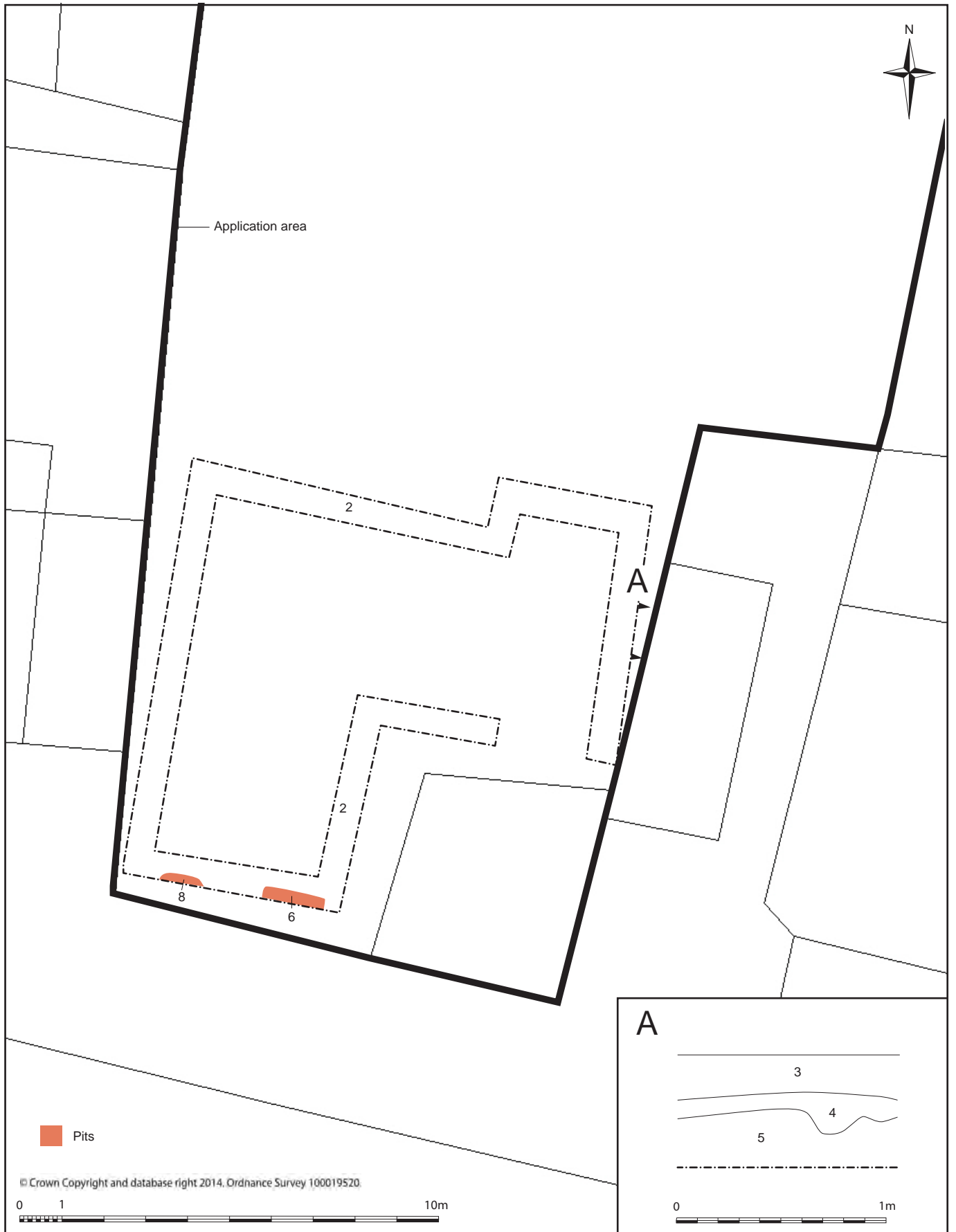


Fig 3: Location of foundation trenches



Fig 4: Typical Section