

# Ilmington Community Shop, Grump Street, Ilmington Warwickshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1520

MARCH 2015



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation undertaken in advance of the redevelopment of a former school and presbytery found evidence for at least three buildings fronting Grump Street. Two of these dated to before 1781 and the third, a narrow building, was dated between 1781 and 1885. A single sherd of residual medieval pottery was recovered. A trench next to Foxcote Hill contained deposits thought likely to be associated with landscaping.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the erection of a one and half storey extension to existing building and change of use of part of the site for use as a cafe with creation of terrace to front elevation to provide outdoor seating, with removal of trees and formation of new hard standing and car parking area at St Phillips Presbytery, Grump Street, Ilmington, Shipston-on-Stour, CV36 4LE.

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority in order to inform the 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 a temporary accession number. The Site Code was IC15.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The presbytery is located between Foxcote Hill and Grump Street, (Fig 1). The land falls sharply north and east from Foxcote Hill, the presbytery being terraced mid slope with a sharp fall to Grump Street. Ilmington parish is within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Charmouth Mudstone and Dyrham formation of mudstone or siltstone (BGS 2015).

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Ilmington was included in the Historic Environment Assessment of Local Service Villages in Stratford-on-Avon District (AOC archaeology 2012). In this assessment the

majority of the village was considered to be of 'high sensitivity' due to the medieval origins of the settlement.

3.2 The development site is within the core of the medieval settlement (Historic Environment Record MWA 8943). Until the 1930s a timber framed building occupied part of the site. It appears on the Ilmington Inclosure map of c.1781 (CRO Z242(u)) and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (1:2500 Fig. 2). Photographs show timber framing and a thatched roof, which was already in a poor state by 1910 (Windows on Warwickshire).

3.3 The Presbytery Church (MWA 2713) was originally built in the Victorian period as a school before its conversion to a Catholic School. A rectangular building, perhaps a dwelling, stood on the site at the time of the Inclosure map.

3.4 Other HER records for Ilmington:-

MWA19710	Surviving ridge and furrow on the SW edge of Ilmington
MWA2700	Church of St Mary, Ilmington
MWA2701	Cross in Ilmington Churchyard
MWA2702	Crab Mill House, Ilmington
MWA2703	Ilmington Manor House
MWA2705	Fishpond to W of Manor Farm
MWA2712	Wesleyan Chapel, Middle Street, Ilmington
MWA5305	Moat to W of Manor House
MWA5306	Findspot - Roman pottery
MWA6068	Findspot - Neolithic arrowhead
MWA6335	Findspot - Roman pottery sherds
MWA6336	Findspot - Early Medieval pottery sherds
MWA6337	Findspot - Medieval pottery sherds
MWA6446	Ridge and Furrow Cultivation in Ilmington
MWA8367	WB at Meadow View, Back St, Ilmington
MWA8565	Ilmington Manor grounds
MWA8687	Turnpike road from Cross Hands
EWA6641	Site visit to Ilmington Manor by J Lovie c1996
EWA9404	Archaeological Watching Brief at Meadow View, Back
EWA9369	Archaeological watching brief at Park Farm House
EWA10023	Clifford Orchard, Frog Lane, Ilmington, Warwickshire
EWA9099	Archaeological Observation at Cuckoo Cottage

## 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 JCB with a ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. The trenches were positioned to avoid the root protection areas of existing trees within the Conservation Area.

### **Trench 1**

5.2 Trench 1 was 8m long and located in the raised lawn area next to Foxcote Hill (Figs 3, 4 and Photograph 1). Geological natural yellowish brown clay with some fragments of mudstone (107) was revealed at a depth of 0.68m below the current ground level. It was overlain by a layer of dark yellowish brown clay loam (101) which was up to 0.4m deep. Post-medieval pottery and clay pipe were recovered from this layer. It also contained a line of irregular shaped stones (104). The stones were laid at a 45 degree angle rather than flat, suggesting that they were part of a revetment or bank (Photograph 2). Cutting layer 101 was a shallow ditch (102) filled with grey clay (103, Photograph 3). The feature was 0.08m deep and it may have been either a garden feature – as it followed the same alignment as revetment 104 or a trench intended for a service. The trench was covered with 0.3m of very dark greyish brown, sandy clay loam topsoil (100). A single small rectangular post-hole cut the topsoil (105) and was filled with very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam (106).

### **Trench 2**

5.3 Trench 2 was 3.25m long and aligned north/south. Geological natural yellowish brown clay with mudstone fragments (208) was reached at a depth of 0.58m below the current ground surface (Photograph 4). Sitting directly on the natural was a 0.78m wide Oolitic limestone wall (205) aligned SW-NE. Just a single course of the wall survived

(Photograph 5) and there was no evidence for bonding material. This wall belongs to the partly timber framed dwelling depicted on the 1781 map, which was demolished in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At the northern end of the trench was a limestone surface constructed from large irregular slabs (203). It was likely to have been the yard for the house. It had been disturbed either during the demolition of the house or by the adjacent trench for the water main. Overlying wall 205 in the south-eastern corner of the trench was a layer of dark yellowish brown clay 0.07m deep (206). A c.0.48 deep demolition layer of stone rubble in a clay matrix covered the rest of the trench (204, 207). Slabs (201) or topsoil and grass (202) overlay the trench.

### Trench 3

5.4 Trench 3 was c.10m long and 'L' shaped (Figs 3, 4, Photographs 6, 7). Geological natural yellowish brown clay (317) was reached at a depth of 0.92m below the current ground level. Sitting on the natural was a NW-SE aligned Oolitic limestone wall 312 (Photograph 8). It was 0.5m wide and survived to 3 courses bonded with clay. This wall belongs to the building predating the School and the Presbytery depicted on the 1781 Inclosure map. A probable internal floor surface comprised of flat cobbles (318) survived on the west side of the wall. On the outside a spread of limestone rubble may have represented an external yard surface (313; Photograph 9).

5.9 Limestone wall 311 was aligned WSW-ESE (Photograph 10). No bonding material was apparent. The wall corresponds with a boundary shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 (Fig 4). It was cut by truncated by services (Fig 3).

5.10 A further series of Oolitic limestone walls (303, 304, 305, 307, 308, 309 and 310) were present in the southern part of the trench (Photographs 6, 7). These walls correspond to a building shown on the First Edition Ordnance map but not the inclosure map. The building shown is long and narrow which may indicate that it was for housing animals or was an outbuilding for the school. Between the walls was loose rubble associated with a drain (306) from which early 20<sup>th</sup> century finds were recovered.

5.11 Rubble around the structure (319, 316) seems likely to have been from the demolition period and it was overlaid in the southern corner of the trench by a layer of clay (315). A former topsoil layer of dark yellowish brown clay loam overlay the rest of the trench to a depth of up to 0.62m. A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a sondage into this layer, but most of the finds from it were later post-medieval date.

5.12 Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam topsoil (300) to a depth of c.0.3m covered the trench and incorporated some demolition material and coal at the southern edge of the trench (301).

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Elements of buildings that can be identified on early maps were present in Trenches 2 and 3 (walls 205 and 312). These buildings predate the presbytery and were built before 1781 although no direct evidence for their construction and use dates was recovered.

6.2 The narrow building apparent in Trench 3 is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885 and must therefore date between 1781 and 1885 and may therefore have been associated with the School.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## REFERENCES

AOC archaeology 2015 Local Service Villages Assessment 2012,  
<https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning/historic-environment-assessment.cfm>

BGS 2014 British Geological Survey Viewer  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed December 2014.

Landmark 2003 Ordnance Survey 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map,  
digital version





Photograph 1: Trench 1



Photograph 2: Feature 104



Photograph 3: Feature 102



Photograph 4: Trench 2



Photograph 5: Wall 205



Photograph 6: Trench 3



Photograph 7: Trench 3



Photograph 8: Wall 312



Photograph 9: Wall 312 and surface 313



Photograph 10: Wall 311

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
100	<i>Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
101	<i>Dark yellowish brown clay loam</i>	<i>Subsoil</i>
102	<i>Linear feature</i>	<i>Service trench?</i>
103	<i>Mixed grey and yellowish brown clay</i>	<i>Imported fill of 102</i>
104	<i>Deposit of local stone</i>	<i>revetment?</i>
105	<i>Rectangular posthole</i>	<i>Modern</i>
106	<i>Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam</i>	<i>Fill of 105</i>
107	<i>Yellowish brown clay</i>	<i>Geological natural</i>
200	<i>Very dark grey sandy clay loam</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
201	<i>Concrete slabs</i>	<i>Path</i>
202	<i>Topsoil and grass</i>	<i>Presbytery lawn</i>
203	<i>Local stone irregular shaped slabs</i>	<i>Former yard surface</i>
204	<i>Dark yellowish-brown clay frq. Stone rubble</i>	<i>Demolition layer</i>
205	<i>Wall foundation, Cotswold Stone</i>	<i>Wall of house</i>
206	<i>Dark yellowish brown clay</i>	<i>Layer</i>
207	<i>Dark yellowish-brown clay frq. Stone rubble</i>	<i>Demolition layer</i>
208	<i>Yellowish brown clay</i>	<i>Geological natural</i>
300	<i>Very dark greyish brown sandy clay loam</i>	<i>Topsoil</i>
301	<i>Loose rubble; stone and brick</i>	<i>Demolition material</i>
302	<i>Dark yellowish brown clay loam</i>	<i>Subsoil</i>
303	<i>Stone blocks, yellow mortar, N-S</i>	<i>Wall foundation?</i>
304	<i>Stone blocks, yellow mortar, E-W</i>	<i>Wall foundation?</i>
305	<i>Stone blocks, yellow mortar, N-S</i>	<i>Wall foundation?</i>
306	<i>Coarse stone rubble</i>	<i>Fill of pipe trench?</i>
307	<i>Stone blocks, yellow mortar, E-W</i>	<i>Wall foundation?</i>
308	<i>Stone blocks, yellow mortar, E-W</i>	<i>Wall foundation?</i>
309	<i>Stone blocks, yellow mortar, E-W</i>	<i>Wall foundation?</i>
310	<i>Stone blocks, yellow mortar, N-S</i>	<i>Wall foundation?</i>
311	<i>Stone blocks, NE-SW</i>	<i>Boundary Wall</i>
312	<i>Stone blocks, clay bonded, NNE-SSW</i>	<i>Wall foundation</i>

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313	<i>Stone rubble in dark yellowish brown clay matrix</i>	<i>Possible surface</i>
314	<i>Local stone</i>	<i>Uncertain</i>
315	<i>Blue/grey clay I</i>	<i>Layer</i>
316	<i>Loose stone rubble</i>	<i>Demolition</i>
317	<i>Yellowish-brown clay</i>	<i>Geological natural</i>
318	<i>Stone cobbles with clay bonding</i>	<i>Internal floor</i>
319	<i>Loose stone rubble</i>	<i>Demolition</i>

## B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
101	Shell	1	Water mussel
101	Clay Pipe	1	Bowl
101	Clay pipe	1	Stem
101	Glass	1	Window, pale green
101	Pottery	1	SLP01 slipware 1680-1730
101	Pottery	1	Black glazed coarseware 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> C
101	Pottery	1	MB01 Midlands black
101	Pottery	1	Black glazed rim sherd 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> C
101	A. Bone	3	Non-diagnostic fragments
300	Pottery	2	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century stoneware
300	Pottery	1	STE03 1720-1780
300	Pottery	2	Sauceboat transfer decorated 19 <sup>th</sup> C
300	Pottery	9	Modern whiteware
300	A. Bone	1	Large animal bone fragment (calf or foal)
301	Pottery	1	Modern Glazed ware bowl 20 <sup>th</sup> century
301	A. Bone	1	Scapula (sheep)
302	Clay pipe	4	Bowl 19 <sup>th</sup> C
302	Clay pipe	3	Stems
302	Pottery	1	Westerwald Stoneware 17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup>
302	Pottery	1	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century stoneware
302	Pottery	2	Mang Mott. 1680- 1740
302	Pottery	1	SLP01 slipware 1680-1730
302	Pottery	2	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> coarseware
302	Pottery	1	Dark on light slipware 1670-1740
306	Pottery	1	Partial childs cup 20 <sup>th</sup> century
306	Pottery	1	Partial mocha mug ½ pint
306	Pottery	1	Pearlware
306	Pottery	1	SLP01 1680-1730
306	Stone	1	Hone



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306	Ceramic	1	Flat bottomed drain
306	Pottery	1	SG20 Brill ware (medieval)
313	Pottery	1	Black basalt ware
313	Clay pipe	1	Stem

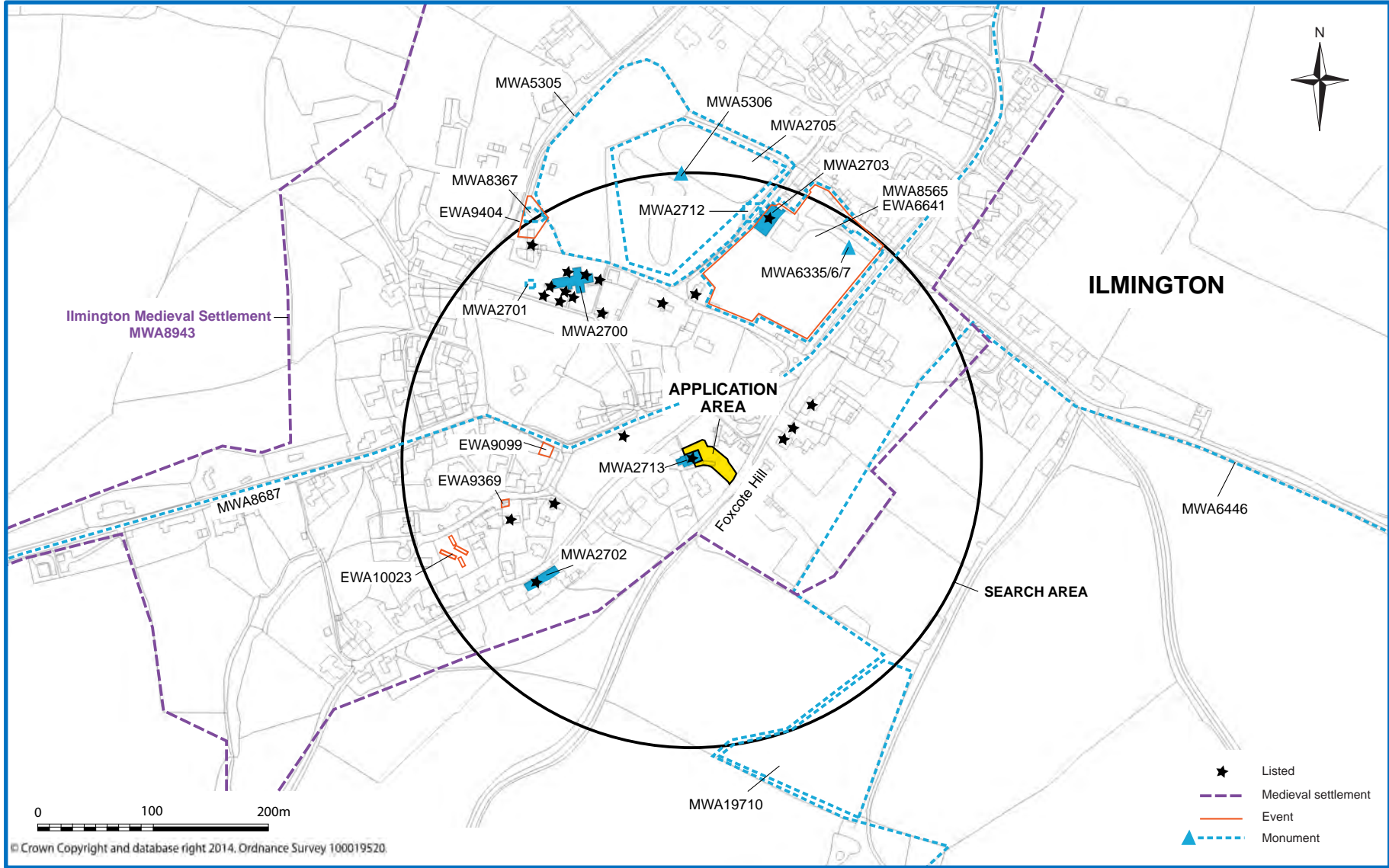


Fig 1: Location of site and Historic Environment Record

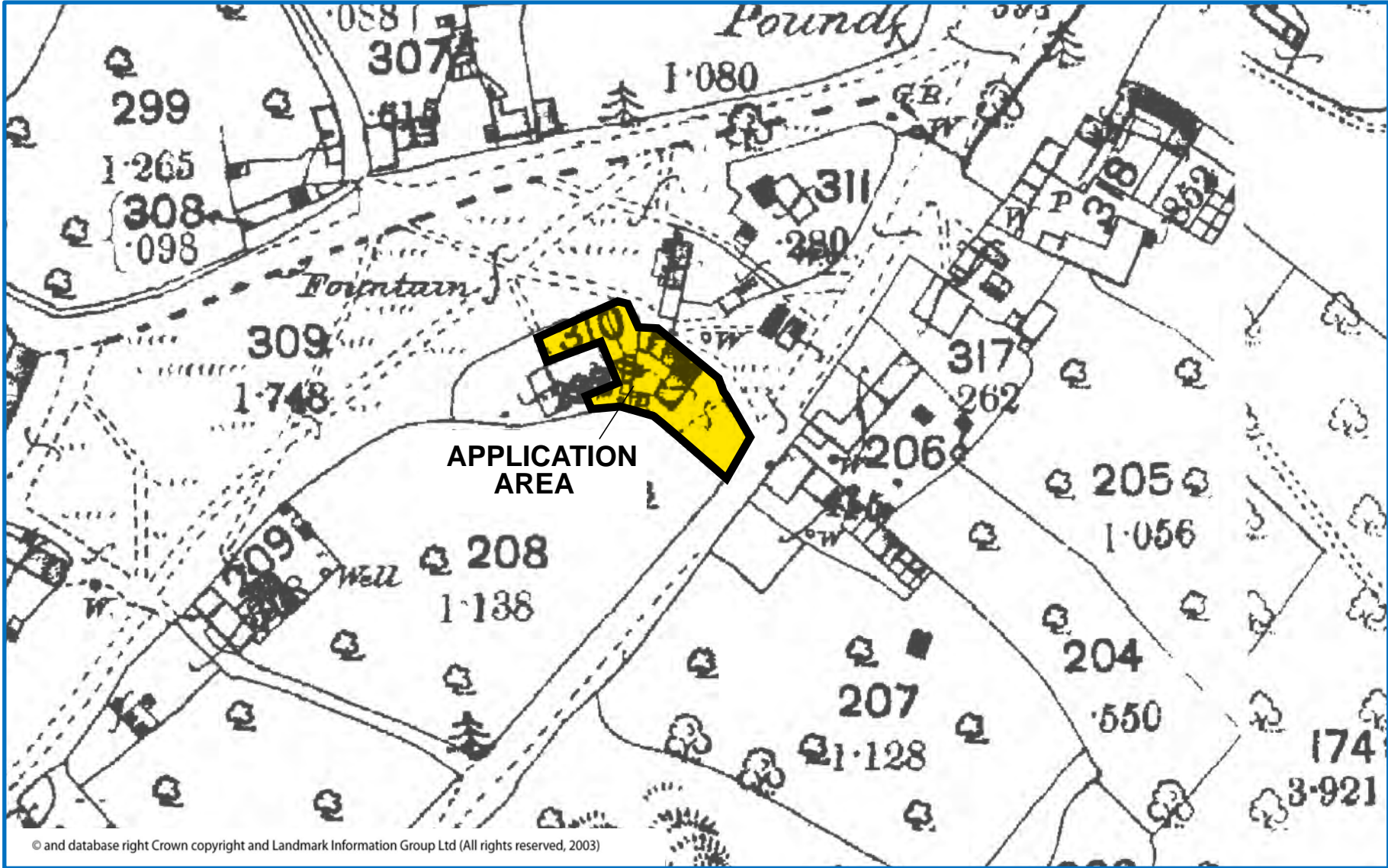


Fig 2:Detail from First Edition Ordnance survey map of 1885

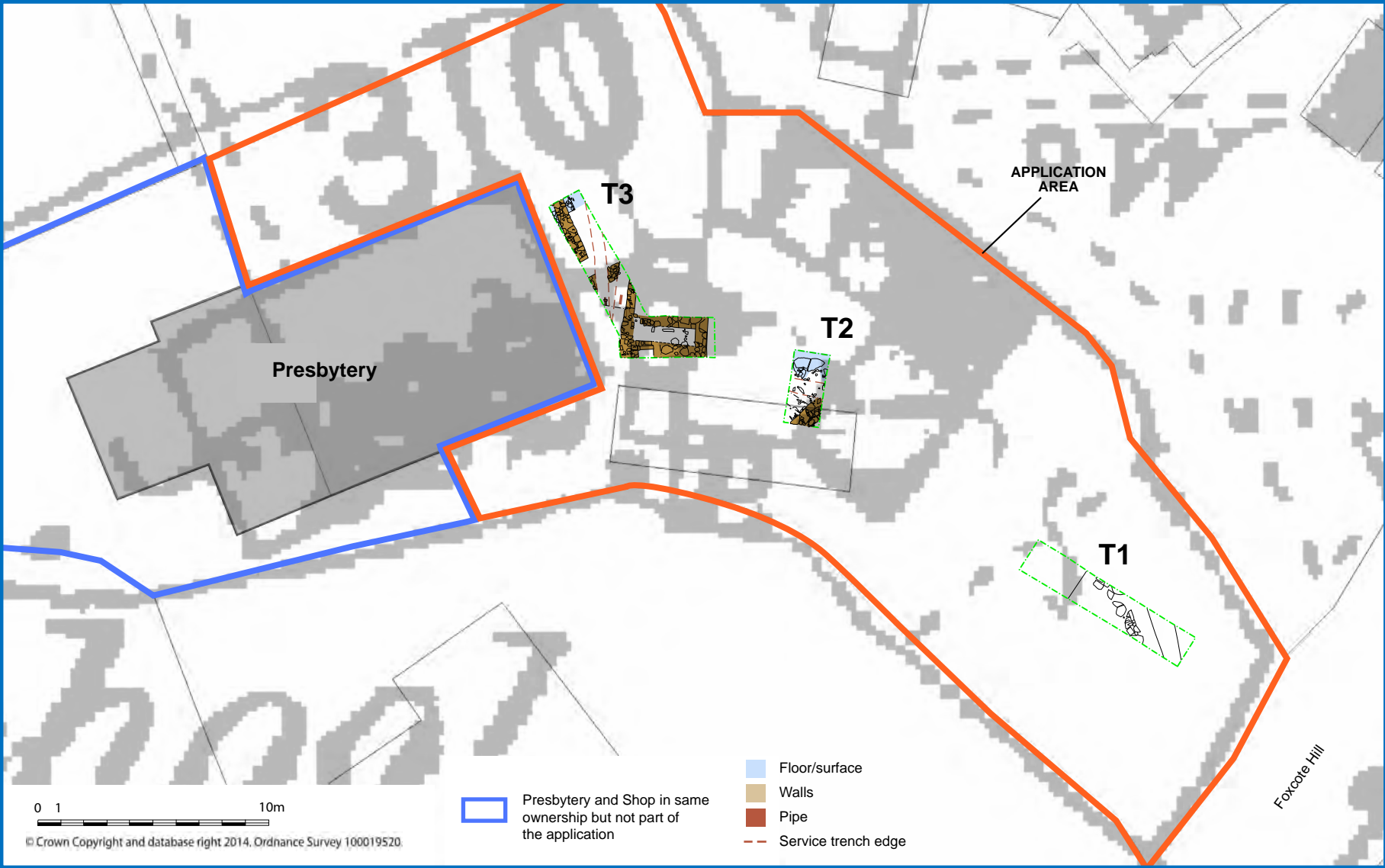
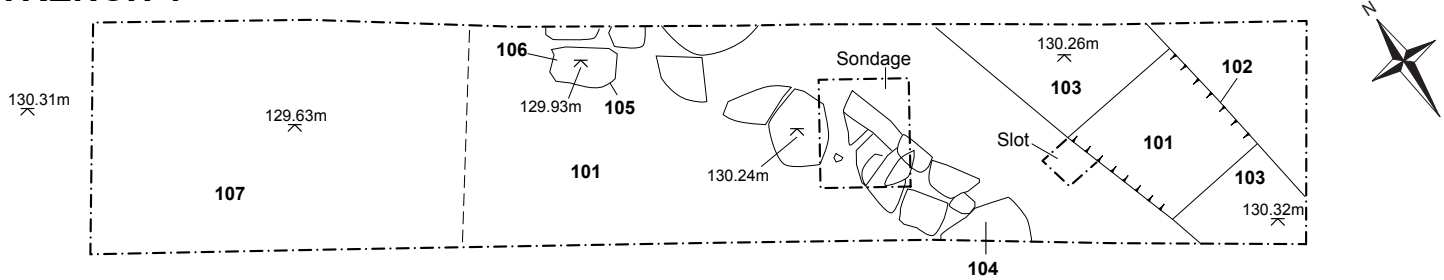
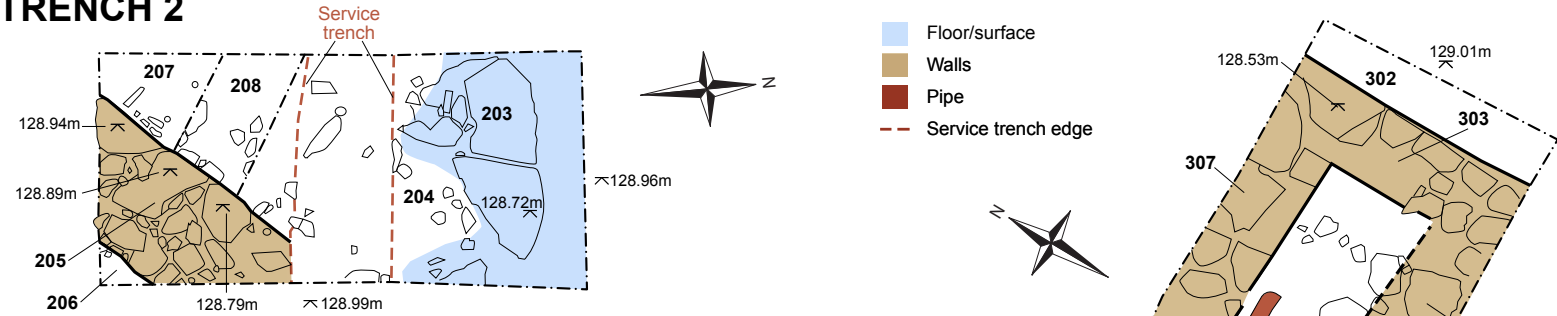


Fig 3: Location of excavated trenches with detail of 1885 First Edition Ordnance Survey map

**TRENCH 1**



**TRENCH 2**



**TRENCH 3**

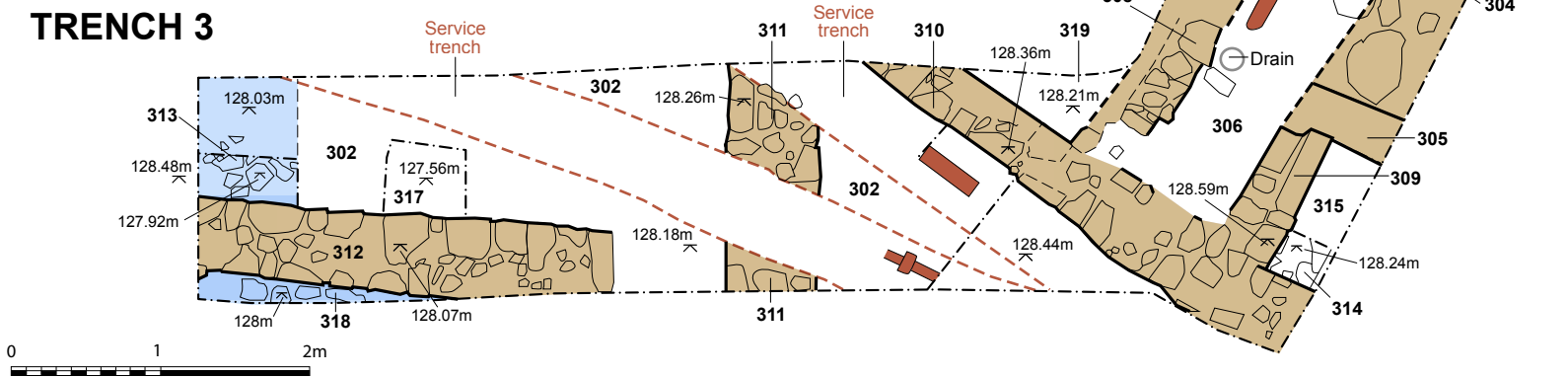


Fig 4: Detail of Trenches 1 to 3