

Eureka, Chapel Green, Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1551

September 2015



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Eureka, New Office Evaluation

Commissioned by: William Line

Project Report No. 1551

Site Code: NC15

Planning Reference: 14/01865/FUL

Planning Authority: Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

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National Grid Reference: SP 4614 6028

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Date: September 2015

Report reference: Gethin, B, 2015 '*Eureka*', *Chapel Green, Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1551

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation consisting of a single trial trench was undertaken in advance of the construction of a proposed new office building on behalf of Mr William Line. The trench exposed geological natural clay throughout its length, but no early features or finds associated with the medieval settlement were found. A single layer associated with late 19th century and earlier 20th century dumping was uncovered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council for the construction of a new office building adjacent to the existing property at Eureka, Chapel Green, Napton-on-the-Hill. The site lies in an area considered as having archaeological potential, lying within the possible extent of the medieval settlement.

1.2 It is a condition of the planning permission that the applicant secures 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 order to provide the planning authority with further information. This report presents the results of that work. The archaeological archive will be deposited at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code NC15.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The development site is located on the southern side Chapel Green in the parish of Napton-on-the-Hill (SP 4614 6028) and is currently part of hard standing adjacent to the existing property.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Lower Lias (British Geological Survey 1984). The site is relatively level but is surrounded by fields containing earthworks likely to belong to the shrunken medieval settlement of Chapel Green.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Between 1973 and 1977 the Southam District Local History Society carried out an excavation to the north-west of the development site (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 6215). During this work some Iron Age pottery (MWA 6161) and Roman

pottery was recovered along with large quantities of medieval and some post-medieval pottery (MWA 6216). The Iron Age and Roman finds are the earliest evidence of human occupation of the area in the immediate vicinity of the site.

3.2 The fields around Chapel Green contain earthworks representative of deserted parts of the medieval settlement. These extend all the way to the edge of Napton showing that the two were formerly connected. The possible extent of Napton and Chapel Green settlements is recorded on the HER as MWA 9060 with that of Chapel Green only as MWA 9481 (Fig 1).

3.3 A complex of earthworks including a holloway and croft boundaries has also been recorded in the field (MWA 6212). Three skeletons possibly related to the chapel found in the 1720s may have been in this field. Another possible location for the skeletons (MWA 6213) and the chapel might be further to the north.

Table A Historic Environment Data

Warwickshire HER Record No	Description	
740	Site of medieval chapel	The possible site of a chapel. The exact location is unknown possibly to the north of Chapel Green.
744	Settlement	The site of medieval deserted settlement at Chapel Green. The remains are visible as earthworks between Chapel Green and Napton on the Hill.
6212	Settlement	The shrunken village of Chapel Green is visible as earthworks including enclosures and hollow way located between Chapel Hill and Napton.
6213	Human burials	Three burials, were found during 18th century, possibly associated with the chapel or ?plague burials.
6214	Settlement	The possible site of shrunken settlement including A hollow way is visible as an earthwork. The site lies to the west of Chapel Green.
6215	Building remains	Evidence of a building found during the excavation of a multi-period site situated at Chapel Green.
9060	Settlement	The possible extent of the medieval settlement of Napton on the Hill, including Chapel Green, based on documentary evidence.
9481	Chapel Green, Napton on the Hill, Settlement	The possible extent of the medieval settlement at Chapel Green based on documentary evidence.
19252	Area of settlement,	Earthworks visible on LiDAR imagery related to the

19253	Chapel Green Area of settlement, Chapel Green	former extent of medieval settlement at Chapel Green. Earthworks visible on LiDAR imagery related to the former extent of medieval settlement at Chapel Green.
19254	Ridge and furrow headland	A rectangular feature noted on satellite imagery; its location, between two areas of ridge and furrow suggests this represents a headland.

3.4 Previous archaeological work conducted on the site includes an evaluation ahead of an extension and subsequent watching brief in 2009 (EWA 9375) which revealed possible medieval deposits as well as a wall foundation and yard surface associated with a possible medieval or post-medieval building (Warwickshire Museum 2009).

3.5 Eureka consists of a much altered house, a separate modern office, which partly retains elements of the old cowshed that it replaced, and small outbuildings, including a stable. The core of the main building is formed of three original stone-built cottages. An original steeply-pitched gable can be seen within the southern wall of the house and set into this is a date stone of 1612 with the initials R H. This matches the probable date of the two stone mullioned windows in the west wall of the house. The walls were later built up when a slate roof was added and the brick chimney has the date 1914 scratched into it. There are several other similar houses within Chapel Green, most showing signs of earlier steep gables and some containing date stones.

Table B Listed Building Data

LBS ref	Grade	Date	Description
305633	ii	17th/18th century	Barn, cart arch and stable Lower Farm House
305632	ii	17th century	Lower Farmhouse
305634	ii	17th/18th century	Chapel Green Farmhouse
305661	ii	18th century	The Weir, formerly three cottages
305665	ii	18th century	Holroyd Farmhouse and attached wall

3.6 The site is just visible on the 1834 Ordnance Survey one inch map and is clearly shown on the First Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey of 1887 (Ordnance Survey 1887). The

site sits on the southern edge of a triangular arrangement of lanes and trackways which appear to represent the fossilised outline of the village (Chapel Green) green. This seems to be confirmed by an early deed of the house which states that the northern boundary of the property is formed by the green (William Line, pers. comm.) In 1884 this triangular plot of land was empty, but by 1905 a row of cottages had been built on it.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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 A single evaluation trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. The completed trench was machine excavated 11m long and 1.6m wide by a JCB type machine with a toothless ditching bucket.

5.2 The trench was between 0.78m and 0.98m deep, being deeper on the western side where the ground proved to be more built up. Geological natural greenish grey clay with occasional yellowish brown mottling and occasional small fragments of limestone (4) was observed throughout the trench. No features were visible cutting the geological natural.

5.3 Natural deposits were overlaid by up to 0.55m of dark grey clay with occasional dark greenish mottling (3). This layer contained a moderate amount of 19th and 20th century pottery and occasional brick fragments. Overlying this was 0.28m of 20th century mixed hardcore (2) which was covered by the current ground surface consisting of bricks bedded in sand (1), 0.12m thick.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The evaluation has established that significant archaeological deposits are unlikely to be disturbed by the construction of the new office building. Although the development site lies within the bounds of the medieval settlement, as confirmed by the presence of possible medieval building remains found during previous archaeological work at 'Eureka', these did not extend as far as the evaluation trench. The layer containing 19th and 20th century pottery may be associated with dumping from the nearby farm as its associated muck heap was known to be in this area in the mid-20th century (William Line, pers. comm.) and may have reflected a long term use of that part of the farmyard site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mr William Line for commissioning the work and for providing and driving the machine.

REFERENCES

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Photograph 1: A view of the trench looking east



Photograph 2: Part of the north facing section of the trench showing typical soil profile

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	Modern brick surface
2	Modern make-up layers
3	Late 19th to earlier 20th century dumping layer
4	Geological natural clay

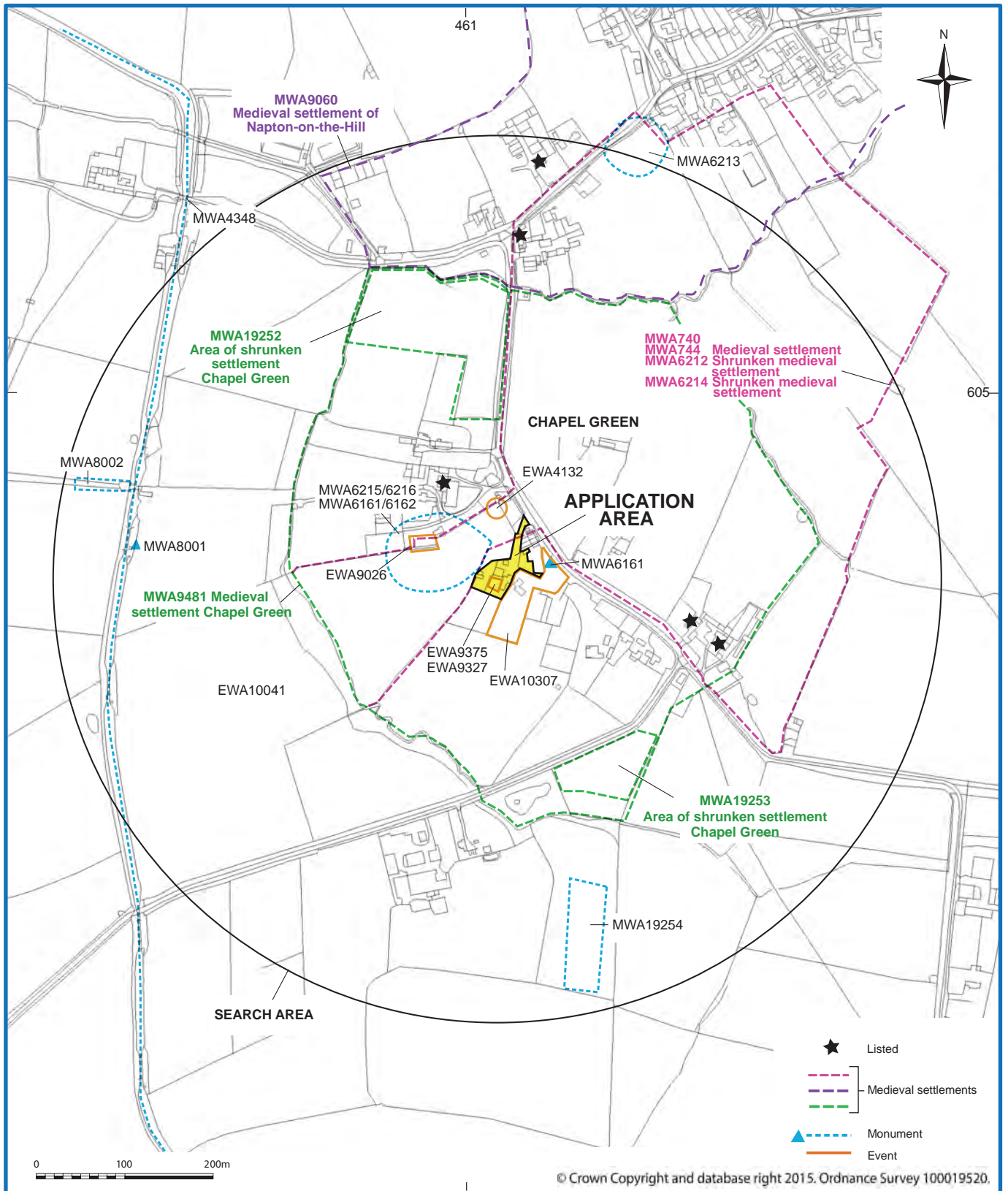


Fig 1: Location of Application Area and Historic Environment Information

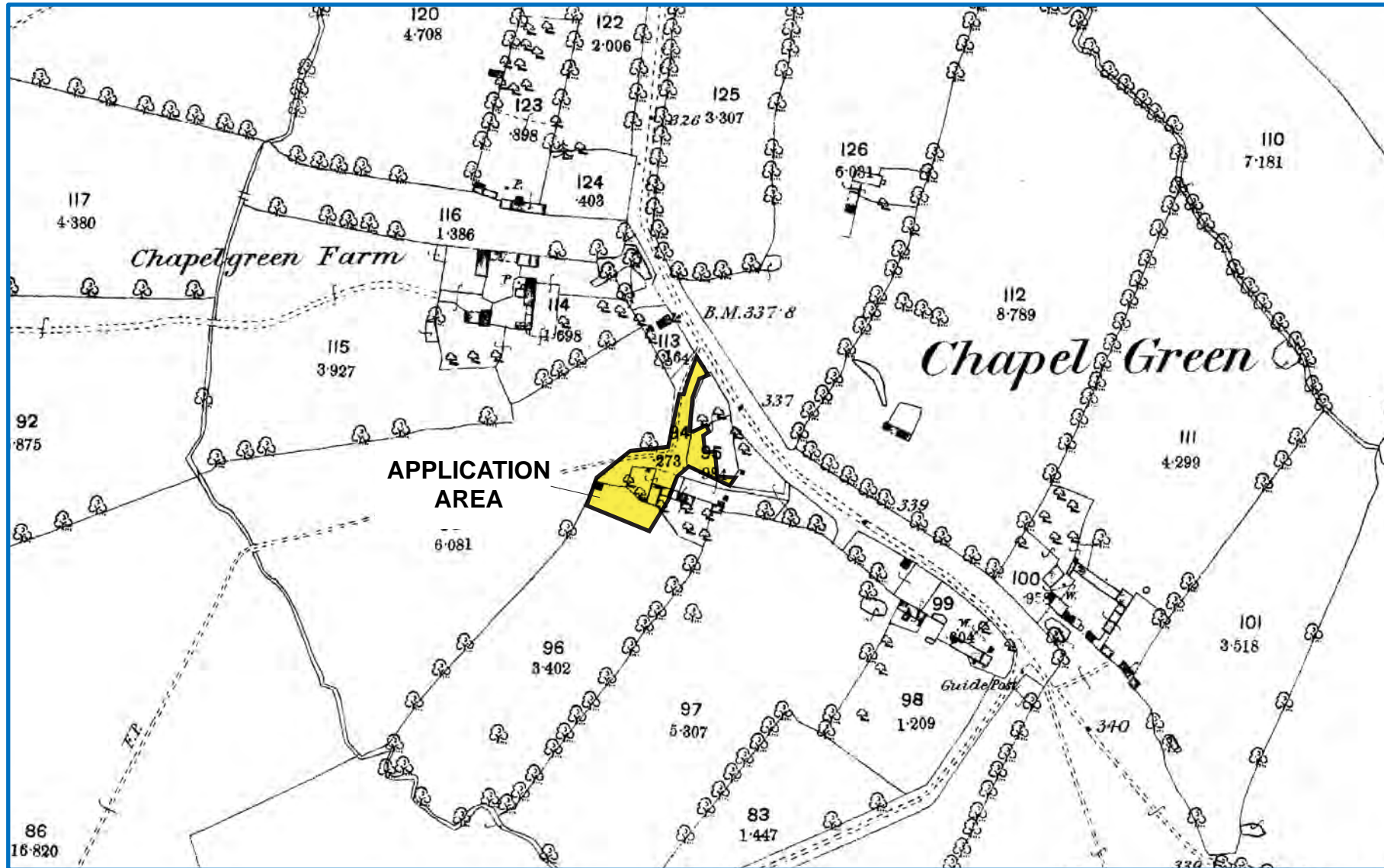


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885-7



Fig 3: Location of excavated trench