

Chadshunt House Stables Access Road, Chadshunt, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1637
MAY 2016



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project:	Chadshunt House Stables Access Road
Commissioned by:	Liza Randall on behalf of Chadshunt Estate
Project Report No.	1637
Site Code:	CH15
Planning Reference:	15/02280/FUL
National Grid Reference:	SP 3471 5297
Team:	
Project Manager:	Dr Cathy Coutts
Fieldwork:	David Brookes, Hayley Goacher
Author:	Dr Cathy Coutts
Illustrations:	Candy Stevens
Report checked by:	Stuart Palmer MCIfA
Date:	May 2016
Report reference:	Coutts, C. M. 2016 <i>Chadshunt House Stables Access Road, Chadshunt, Warwickshire: Archaeological Observation and Recording, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1637.</i>

Archaeology Warwickshire

Unit 9

Montague Road

Warwick

CV34 5LW

01926 412278

fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology

CONTENTS		Page
	Summary	2
1	Introduction	2
2	Site Location	2
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	3
4	Aims and Methods	4
5	Results	5
6	Conclusions	5
	Acknowledgements	6
	References	7

APPENDIX

A	List of Contexts	8
---	------------------	---

PHOTOS

1	New road stripped	9
2	Pit 5	9
3	Stone spread 3	10
4	Grubbed out old road	

FIGURES

1	Location of application area and Historic Environment information
2	Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885
3	Areas observed

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the stripping of soil for a new access Road at Chadshunt House Stables and the grubbing out of the previous road. No finds were recovered but an undated pit and an undated stone spread were recorded during the stripping of the new road.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford District Council for the alteration of the rear access drive near the stables at Chadshunt House, Chadshunt CV35 0EQ (Ref. 15/02280/FUL). This work is being carried out in conjunction with the conversion of the former riding school into residential dwellings (Planning ref. 14/01717/FUL). The proposed development site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the supposed limits of the medieval settlement of Chadshunt. 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 have been commissioned to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation for an appropriate level of mitigation, namely an archaeological Watching Brief, to be carried out in conjunction with the groundworks phase of the approved scheme or development.

1.3 A programme of fieldwork, consisting of the archaeological observation of soil stripping for the new road and grubbing out of the old road, was commissioned from Archaeology Warwickshire and carried out in October 2015 and May 2016. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code CH15.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is centred on national grid reference SP 3471 5297, south-west of Chadshunt House, in the parish of Chadshunt. The proposed development area covers an area of 0.19 hectares.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton, overlying Rugby Limestone Member Mudstone and Limestone (British Geological Survey Viewer

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/> accessed September 2015), formerly recorded as Boulder Clay (British Geological Survey 1963).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The name Chadshunt derives from the Old English *Ceadeles funtan*; the second element of the name may be borrowed from the Latin for 'well' or 'spring' (Gelling 1992, 59). Gelling suggests that Roman stonework may have been visible when the Anglo-Saxons first arrived here and it was because of this that the Latin-derived word was used. The suggestion that Chadshunt may have been the site of a Romano-British settlement has slight support in the find of a fragment of Roman pottery during survey (Dyer 1989, 35). Undated linear features and other features have been identified on aerial photographs to the east (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record MWA 4729).

3.2 At the time of Domesday (1086) the village of Chadshunt, then *Cedeleshunt*, had c.36 households, suggesting a population in the region of 180 people. At that time the manor of Chadshunt was the property of the monk's of St Mary's at Coventry, having been gifted to them by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, in 1043.

3.3 The site of the development lies within the limits of the deserted medieval settlement of Chadshunt (MWA 4987), as defined by a complex of earthworks surviving around the site. This was surveyed in 1986 and it was suggested that the original settlement extended further east than the area of the still-visible earthworks but that earthworks in the eastern part of the settlement have been destroyed by ploughing (Dyer 1989, 34). The settlement numbered 22 or 23 households in the late 13th century but had declined considerably by the late 14th century. Aerial photographs show that ridge and furrow covers many of the fields around the site.

3.4 The site of the present development also lies close to the parish church of All Saints Church, formerly St Chad's Church, (MWA 750), which was founded in the 12th century and may have acted as a focus for early settlement. The church was extended in the 14th century and a new roof and clerestory added in the 15th century. The tower was rebuilt or added to in the 17th century and alterations and restorations have continued into the 20th century. A weathered medieval cross stands immediately south of the church, in the churchyard (MWA 751). Archaeological recording took place at the church in 1997 when repairs were being carried out on the chancel and the remains of an earlier, wider, chancel wall was recorded, pre-dating the existing one which was built in c.1730 (Palmer 1997;

EWA10198). Associated with the church is the site of a medieval oratory (MWA 754), 100m north-west of the church, at which medieval pilgrims would have deposited offerings (Dugdale 1730, 352; VCH 1949, 34). St Chad's well (MWA 753) lies to the north-east, where it is said that pilgrims were bathed and cured of their diseases (Ribton-Turner, 298). The pool was still visible in 1893.

3.5 The present stables and access road are not shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885, indeed are not mapped until much later in the 20th century, but are shown on an RAF photograph of 1945, telling us they were built in the first half of the 20th century. Map evidence from the later 19th and early 20th centuries shows that there has been very little change in the last two centuries in the morphology of the village of Chadshunt.

3.6 Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Corner Farm in 1996 but no finds or features were recorded (Warwickshire Museum 1996; EWA 10197). A watching brief was carried out at Chadshunt Farm in 1996, prior to the erection of a steel-framed barn, but no archaeological remains were disturbed. Further recording took place at Chadshunt Farm in 2013, prior to and during conversion of farm buildings (Coutts 2015). The site lies within the historic park associated with Chadshunt House, created around 1714 (MWA 8540). The surviving features include a patte d'ole, a formal canal surrounded by trees, a raised summerhouse and avenues converging on the house. A site visit was made to the park by Lovie in 1996, when he recommended that the park be included in the local List (EWA 6621).

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 RESULTS

New access road stripping

5.1 The new access road was stripped using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, to a depth of c.0.40m. The new road was stripped to between 3.5m and 4m wide. An area of limestone rubble was recorded on the northern side of the stripped drive (3). This area of stones may be the remnant of demolition rubble from a wall footing, or the result of stone clearance from the field. However, no finds were recorded associated with the stones. A small pit was also recorded (5). The pit fill was a reddish brown gritty silty sand (4) which did not produce any finds.

5.2 Geological natural was not reached during the road strip. The lowest level reached was a subsoil or ploughsoil layer of dark brown silty clay (2), of which 0.27-0.30m was removed. This was overlaid by a dark brown topsoil layer, 0.09-0.13m deep (1). No finds were recovered during the stripping.

Old road grubbing out

5.3 The former road was grubbed out using a tracked excavator to a maximum depth of 0.50m. The underlying soil (9) was reached; this was a layer of light grey brown sandy silt mixed with hardcore. Layer 9 was overlain by two layers of hardcore (0.20m of large sized gravel – 8, overlain by 0.10m of medium gravel – 7) and 0.10m of tarmac (6). No finds were recorded and no archaeological features exposed. The full length of the road was not grubbed out as the middle area was being used as hardstanding for the existing compound. The access spur between the new road and the old road area was being used as hardstanding and was covered with gravelly tarmac. No stripping was observed in this area, however, we were informed that only topsoil was removed prior to the surface material being laid.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The groundworks for the new road and the grubbing out of parts of the old road did not disturb any significant archaeology and no finds were recovered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Liza Randall for commissioning the report on behalf of the Chadshunt Estate.

REFERENCES

British Geological Survey 1963 *Geological Survey of Great Britain, (England and Wales) Solid and Drift Geology, Banbury Sheet 201.*

Coutts, C. M. 2015 *Chadshunt Farm, Chadshunt, Warwickshire, Archaeological Recording.* Archaeology Warwickshire Report 1504.

Dugdale, W. 1730 *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, London.

Dyer, C. 1987 *Warwickshire, Medieval Settlement Research Group 1*, 27.

Dyer, C. 1989 *Warwickshire, Medieval Settlement Research Group 4*, 34-5.

Gelling, M. 1992 *The West Midlands in the Early Middle Ages*, Leicester.

Ordnance Survey 1834 *First Edition One inch to One Mile map, Daventry, Sheet 53.*

Ordnance Survey 1885 *First Edition 1:2500 map, Warwickshire Sheet 45.12.*

Ordnance Survey 1886 *First Edition 1:10560 map, Warwickshire Sheet 45SE.*

Ordnance Survey 1905 *Second Edition 1:2500 map, Warwickshire Sheet 45.12.*

Ordnance Survey 1906 *Second Edition 1:10560 map, Warwickshire Sheet 45SE.*

Ordnance Survey 1973 *SP 3452 1:2500 map.*

Ribton-Turner, C. J. 1893 *Shakespeare's Land, being a Description of Central and Southern Warwickshire*, Leamington.

VCH 1949 *The Victoria County History of Warwickshire, Vol. V, Kington Hundred*, London.

Warwickshire Museum 1996 *Archaeological Recording at Corner Farm, Chadshunt, Warwickshire*. Warwickshire Museum Report.

WRO CR 569/60/1 *Plan of the Parish of Chadshunt in the County of Warwick belonging to Robert Knight Esq.* (Tithe Apportionment Map c.1839). Warwickshire County Record Office.

APPENDIX

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment/details</i>
1	Topsoil	Brown clay loam
2	Layer	Subsoil/ploughsoil
3	Area of stones	
4	Small pit fill	
5	Pit cut	
6	Layer of tarmac	Former road surface
7	Layer of hardcore	Road make-up layer
8	Layer of hardcore	Road make-up layer
9	Layer of sandy silt mixed with hardcore	



1 New road stripped



2 Pit 5



3 Stone spread 3



4 Grubbed out old road

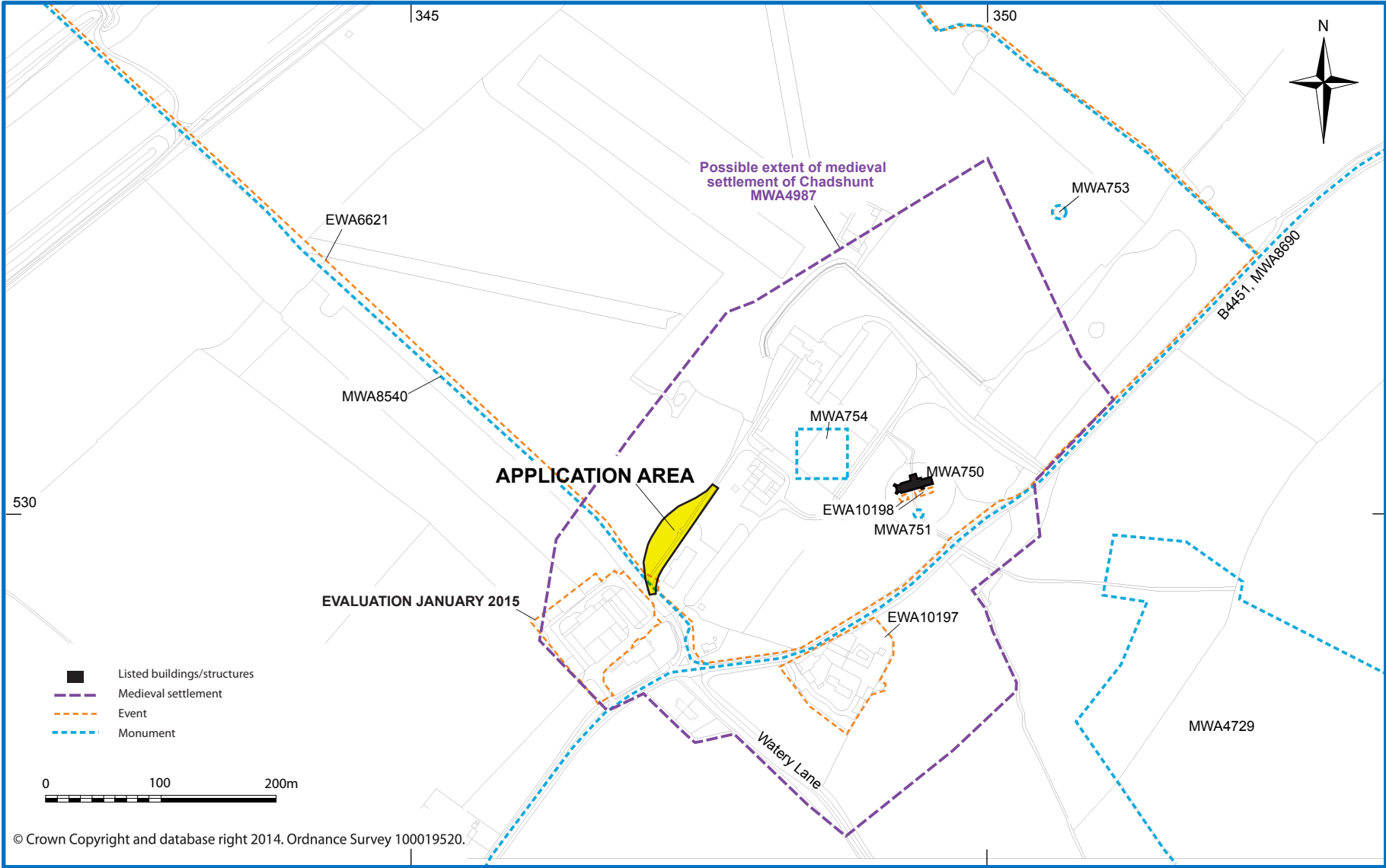


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

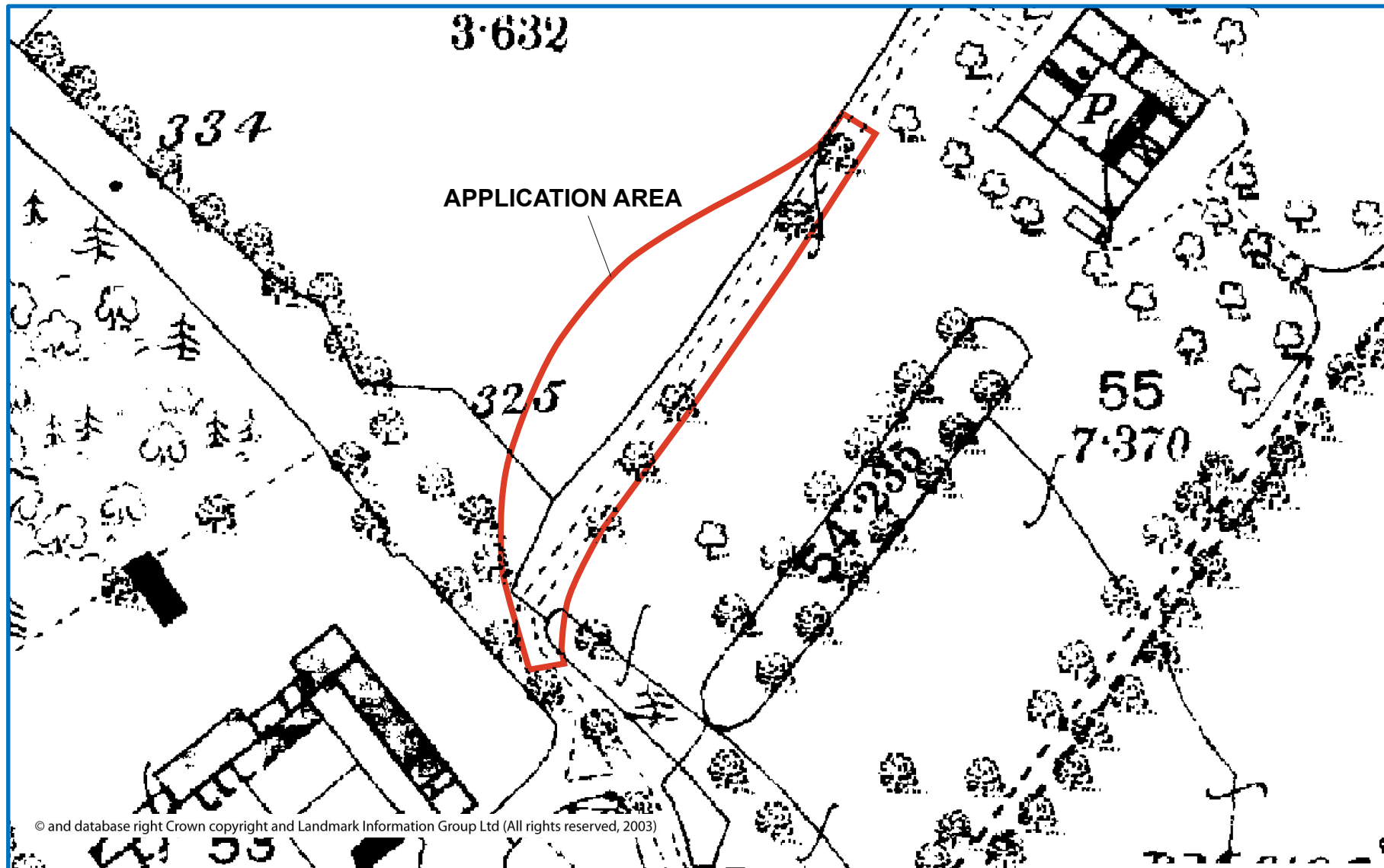
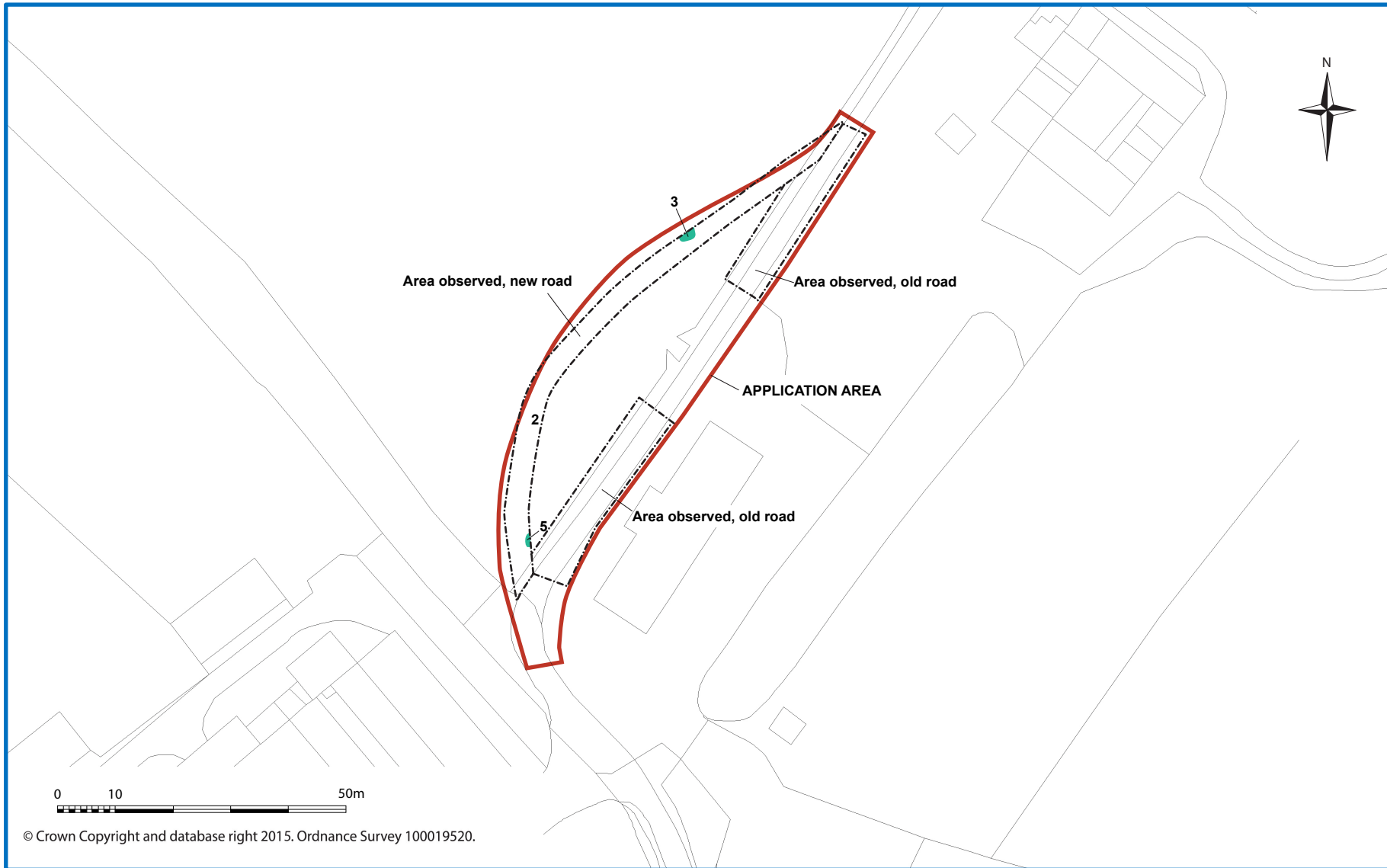


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885



© Crown Copyright and database right 2015. Ordnance Survey 100019520.

Fig 3: Areas observed