

# Latimer's Rest, Hipsley Lane Baxterley Warwickshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT**

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1716

**MARCH 2017**



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

<b>Project:</b>	Latimer's Rest, Baxterley
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	Gerald Leedham
<b>Project Report No.</b>	1716
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<b>Planning Authority:</b>	North Warwickshire
<b>Planning Archaeologist:</b>	John Robinson, Warwickshire
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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation, consisting of two trial trenches, was undertaken on behalf of Gerald Leedham prior to the erection of a new eco-dwelling in an area adjacent to a medieval moated site. No archaeological finds or features were present in the trenches suggesting that the site had most likely been in agricultural use from at least the medieval period.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by North Warwickshire Borough Council for the erection of a new zero energy dwelling 'Moat House' at Latimer's Rest, Hipsley Lane, Baxterley, Warwickshire, CV9 2HS.
- 1.2 A planning condition attached to the consent requires that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority.
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation which was carried out on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017. This report presents the results of that work. This work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for field evaluation (2014).

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The site is centred on national grid reference SP 2576 9704 in the parish of Baxterley, where Hipsley Lane meets the Main Road east out of Baxteley. It is located to the west of a Moated site and Church. The current land use of the site is a paddock.
- 2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is Whitacre Member mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (British Geological Survey 2017).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Parish Church of Baxterley dates from at least c.1200 and unusually it has no dedication (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no. MWA133). It is likely to have served a settlement which has since become deserted (MWA135). The presence of a Moated site to the east of the Church could suggest the settlement also had a Manor House.
- 3.2 The Moat at Baxterley is depicted on the Tithe Map of 1842 at which time it was a double moat or moat around two differing sized square islands (National Heritage List for England no 1014683). The north-western platform was smaller than that to the south-east. It is also shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Fig 2) by which time the arm of the moat which separated the two platforms had been infilled. In 1945 the moat had become overgrown (google earth).
- 3.3 Small scale excavations took place in 1977 to investigate the Moated site (Fretwell 1977). Broken tile was found to suggest that there had been a building on the larger of the two platforms. Excavations revealed that the islands within the moat comprised at least 3m of build-up material. The accompanying survey of the site showed that there were three areas where similar deposits had created bridges between the islands.
- 3.4 A small rectory is shown to the north of the church on both the tithe and First edition maps. There is no other development in the vicinity until 1905 when a dwelling is located to the north of the Moat.
- 3.5 The location of any potential associated medieval settlement is not known. The fields to the north of the site contained ridge and furrow earthworks in 2006 (google earth). The straight alignment and regular spacing suggests that they could date from the post-medieval period and may therefore mask any earlier settlement activity.
- 3.6 A Mill house is mentioned in the Tithe Award of 1842 (MWA202). It appears to have been a steam driven mill of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 3.7 A Pump House is marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Fig 2) to the north of the development site.

- 3.8 Archaeological evaluation of land at 1-3 Latimer's Rest in 1998 did not uncover any remains predating the 20<sup>th</sup> century (EWA 3252). Work within the churchyard disturbed former graves but no structural remains were found (EWA7221). A project to establish the potential for certain sites to benefit from increased public access and interpretation was carried out in 1987, although no specific information for the Moat at Baxterley is recorded on the HER (EWA6783).



## **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 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.
- 4.4 The two 30m trenches were opened up by a 360 excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and other plough soils were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist until either the top of archaeological remains or geological natural was reached.

## **5 RESULTS**

- 5.1 Trenches 1 and 2 were 30m long and 1.60m wide. Trench 2 was moved 4m east of the proposed location to avoid a tree.

### **Geological Natural**

- 5.2 The natural consisted of brownish orange silty sandy clay and was encountered in all the trenches, at a depth of between c. 0.40m.

### **Deposit Sequence**

- 5.3 A layer of light brown silty clay sand overlay the natural in both trenches and was 0.12m deep. It was overlain by dark brown silty sandy clay topsoil which was 0.18m – 0.28m deep. These layers are likely to represent an agricultural or horticultural soil.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The evaluation has established that no archaeological deposits will be disturbed by the proposed development.
- 6.2 It is possible that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period; a conclusion which is based on a lack of evidence for settlement rather than empirical evidence in the form of historic plough furrows.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## REFERENCES

BGS British Geological Survey 2017 *Geology of Britain*  
Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> Accessed March 2017

Fretwell, L, 1977 Baxterley Moat in *West Midlands Archaeological News Sheet*, No 20, CBA  
Group 8

Landmark 2003 Ordnance Survey First Edition 1887 (1:2500) digital version





1: Trench 1 looking SE





2: Trench 2 Looking west

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<i><b>Trench</b></i>	<i><b>Context</b></i>	<i><b>Description</b></i>	<i><b>Depth (m)</b></i>	<i><b>Comment</b></i>
1	100	Dark brown silty sandy clay	0.18-0.28	Topsoil
1	101	Light Brown silty clay sand	0.1-0.12	Subsoil
1	102	Brownish orange		Geological natural
2	200	Dark brown silty sandy clay	0.18-0.28	Topsoil
2	201	Light Brown silty clay sand	0.1-0.12	Subsoil
2	202	Brownish orange		Geological natural



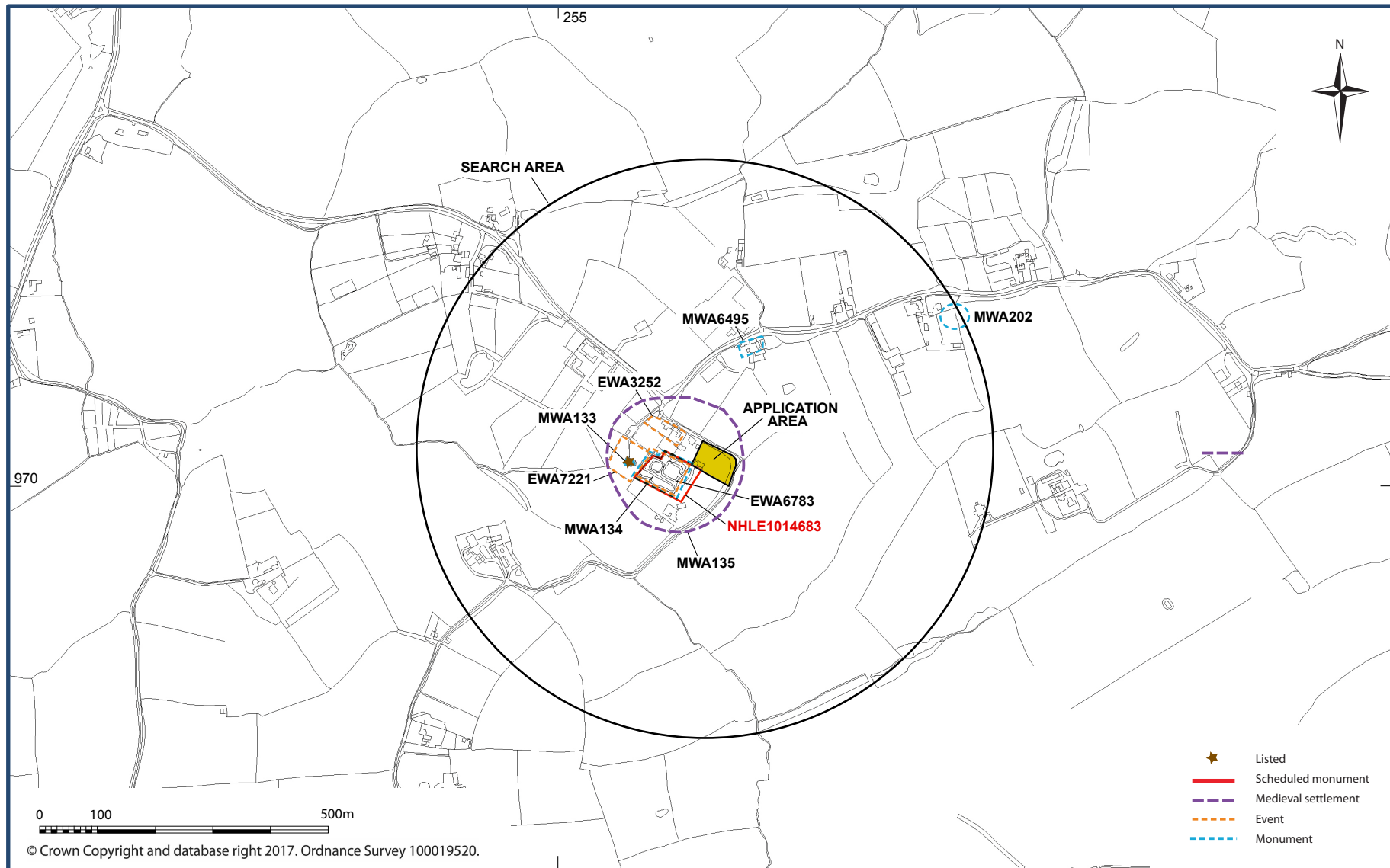


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information



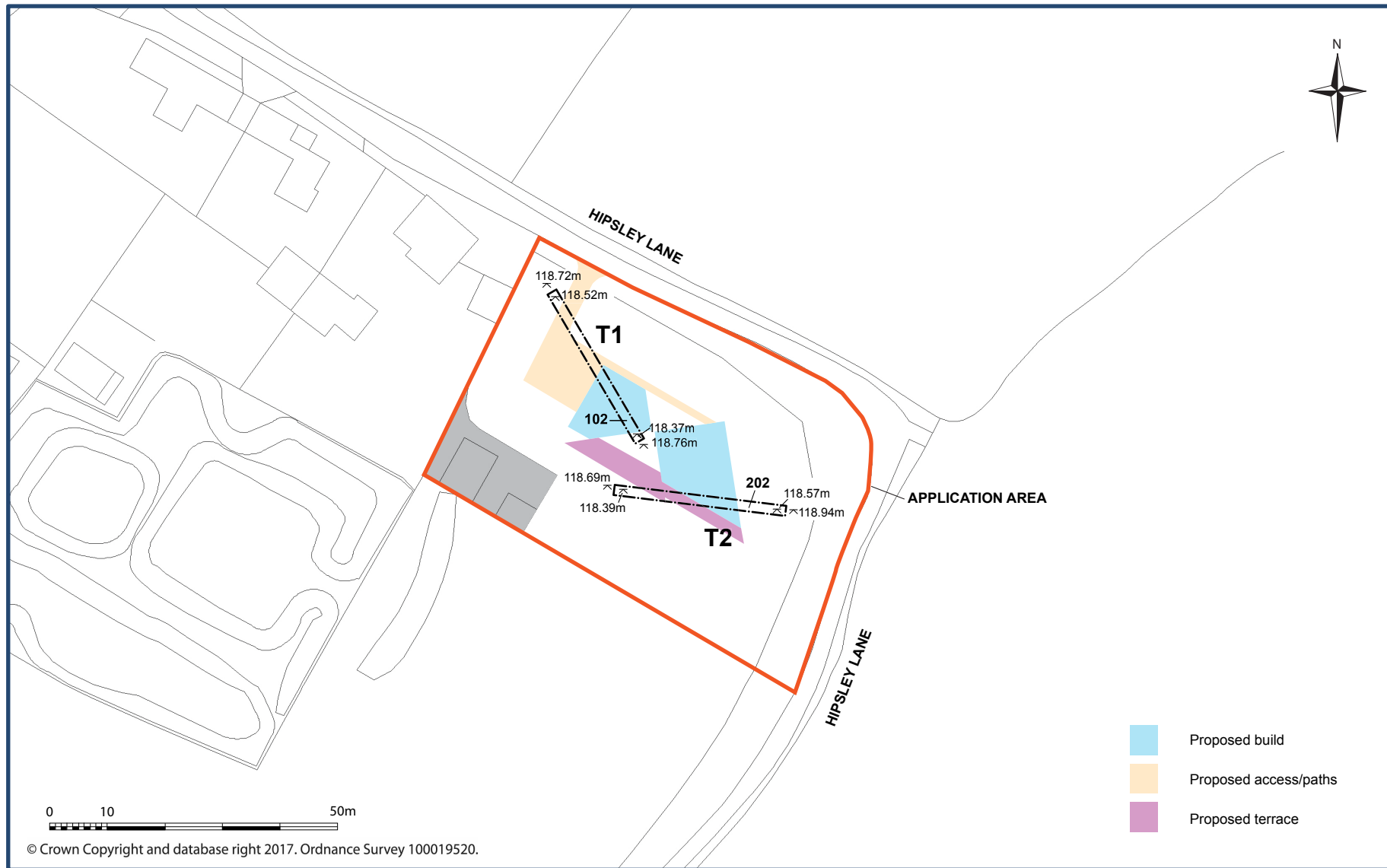


Fig 3: Location of excavated trenches