

# The Old Vicarage Snitterfield Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1817  
MARCH 2018



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Watching Brief  
**Commissioned by:** Alf Rajkowski  
**Project Report No:** 1817  
**Site Code:** SV17  
**Planning Reference:** 17/00343/FUL  
**Planning Authority:** Stratford-on-Avon District Council  
**Planning Archaeologist:** NA  
**National Grid Reference:** SP 2183 6015  
**Project Manager:** Caroline Rann MCIfA  
**Fieldwork:** Jodie Duffy BA  
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## OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		<b>OASIS No</b>	<b>311361</b>
<b>Project name</b>	The Old Vicarage, Snitterfield		
<b>Short description (250 words max)</b>	Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for extensions to The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Snitterfield on behalf of Alf Rajkowski. No evidence for significant archaeological remains associated with medieval settlement or earlier activity was observed.		
<b>Project type (Eg DBA, Eval etc)</b>	Watching Brief		
<b>Site status (None, NT, SAM etc)</b>	An area of high sensitivity in HEA		
<b>Previous work (HER nos etc)</b>	MWA 13069		
<b>Current land use</b>	Garden		
<b>Future work (yes, no, unknown)</b>	No		
<b>Monument type / period</b>	N/A		
<b>Significant finds (artefact, type, period)</b>	N/A		
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>			
<b>County</b>	Warwickshire		
<b>Site address (inc postcode)</b>	The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Snitterfield, CV37 0LN		
<b>Study area (sq.m or ha)</b>			
<b>OS E &amp; N (inc grid sq code)</b>	SP 2183 6015		
<b>Height OD</b>			
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>			
<b>Organisation</b>	Archaeology Warwickshire		
<b>Project brief originator</b>	Local Planning authority		
<b>Project design originator</b>	Caroline Rann		
<b>Director/supervisor</b>	Caroline Rann		
<b>Manager</b>	Caroline Rann		
<b>Sponsor or funding body</b>	Developer		
<b>PROJECT DATE</b>			
<b>Start date /end date</b>	04-10-2017 to 04-10-2017		
<b>ARCHIVES</b>	Location (Accession no)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
<b>Physical</b>	Yes	N/A	
<b>Paper</b>	Yes	N/A	
<b>Digital</b>	Yes	N/A	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>			
<b>Title</b>	The Old Vicarage, Snitterfield		
<b>Serial title, volume,</b>	Report 1817		
<b>Author(s)</b>	Duffy, J		
<b>Page nos</b>	17		
<b>Date</b>	March 2018		

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## SUMMARY

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation of foundation trenches for extensions to The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Snitterfield on behalf of Alf Rajkowski.*

*No evidence for significant archaeological remains associated with medieval settlement or earlier activity was observed. The development area was predominantly modern made ground to a depth of 1.30m directly above geological natural.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission had been granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for 2-storey extensions to the north east and south west, an orangery to the rear and a single storey to the front entrance of The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Snitterfield, CV37 0LN.
- 1.2 The development site lies within the medieval settlement which was defined as an area of High Sensitivity in the Historic Environment Assessment of Local Service Villages, Stratford-on-Avon District, County of Warwickshire (2012).
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire assessed the impact of the development on potential archaeological remains and concluded that the development could be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief in order to record any archaeological remains that might be disturbed by the development (Archaeology Warwickshire 2017).
- 1.4 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake the watching brief in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority.
- 1.5 A condition of the planning permission required that the applicant make provision for the watching brief in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority. The fieldwork was carried out in October 2017. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code SV17.
- 1.6 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidelines (2014).

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The site is located on the northern side of Church Lane in Snitterfield and is centred around National Grid Reference SP 2183 6015 (Fig 1). The new extensions are shown on Fig 3.
  
- 2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Mercia Mudstone Group Mudstone (British Geological Survey 2017).

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The settlement of Snitterfield dates from the Saxon period and is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Snitefeld* (VCH 1904, 312) when it had an estimated population of 136. The name is a composite of *snite*, the Old English name for snipe and field (Mills 1998, 317). A priest is also mentioned in the Domesday Book suggesting that a church existed in the settlement at this time (VCH 1945, 171).
- 3.2 A Roman period burial urn (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no. MWA 910) discovered on the southwest side of the village before 1869 represents the earliest evidence for human activity in the vicinity (VCH 1904, 248). The urn, which was discovered in 21 sherds, dates from the 1st-2nd century AD and whilst being indicative of Romano-British activity in the area, there is no other specific evidence for a settlement of this period nearby.
- 3.3 The present church of St James the Great (MWA 913) retains elements of its 13th century structure together with later sections from the 14th and 15th centuries and the Georgian period, but was remodelled considerably in 1840 and again in 1881 (VCH 1945, 169-171). An archaeological evaluation of the churchyard to the south recorded a number of late 19th century inhumations c.1m below the present ground surface. No earlier structural evidence was recorded, although a small quantity of residual medieval pottery was recovered (EWA 6726, EWA 6737).
- 3.4 The extent of the medieval village is difficult to gauge. That shown on the Historic Environment Record is unconvincing and includes a number of shallow plots that look like post-medieval encroachments. It is probable that the original village was multi-focal with one nucleus around the church and another around The Green. The proposed development is north of the church. It is not unknown for burials to extend beyond the boundaries of the churchyard, particularly an early church such as this.
- 3.5 The Garden of the Vicarage was once much larger and is recorded on the Historic Environment Record (MWA 13069).
- 3.6 Other records on the HER include:-
- MWA 8589 Park House Grounds
  - MWA914 Site of Snitterfield Hall
  - MWA9193 Archaeological Features, Treetops, Cedar Drive



MWA7313	Snitterfield Gasworks
MWA20159	Bell Lane Bridge
MWA20162	Pigeon Green Bridge
MWA20412	Beaufighter (X7943) crash site (protected)
MWA30018	Building adjacent to Saddlers
MWA30017	Park View, Church Lane

- 3.7 Archaeological work in this part of Snitterfield has been small scale and has mostly been negative or revealed 19<sup>th</sup> century archaeological remains (EWA 6726, EWA 9354, EWA 9121, EWA 10306, EWA 7121). Medieval pottery and inhumations were found at the Church during an extension (EWA 6737). Jonathan Lovie, Garden Specialist for English Heritage, visited the Old Vicarage Garden but made no recommendations (EWA 9922). It is unlikely that significant garden features survived at that time (1996).
- 3.8 Formal gardens surrounding the Old Vicarage are shown on the First Edition Ordnance map (Fig 2). There were a series of paths around the garden and a less formal paddock area with trees and a pond in the northern part nearest the Brook.

## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed or disturbed by the development, to collate the fieldwork records into an archaeological archive and present the results of the fieldwork in this report for dissemination.
- 4.2 This report will describe and discuss the extent, character and dates of all archaeological remains exposed and place the results in their local and regional contexts.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 An experienced archaeologist was present for each period of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with WSI. Where potential archaeological deposits were encountered, the supervising archaeologist assessed and recorded them before they were disturbed.

## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The footings for the extension were mechanically excavated to the geological natural 1.31m deep and 0.80m wide.
- 5.2 In Trench 1, natural (103) was directly overlain by modern disturbed soil c. 1m deep (101) and a hard core layer (100). At the eastern end it cut through a brick wall 102, in English Bond, that was visible at surface level.
- 5.3 In Trench 2, natural (202) was overlaid by modern overburden (201) to a depth of 0.90m and the layer of hard core. At the eastern end of the trench the extant house foundations (204) were uncovered to a depth of 1.10m.
- 5.4 The watching brief was thereafter discontinued as it was highly unlikely that any archaeology would be present.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The watching brief established that the ground in which the new extensions were being built had been disturbed relatively recently and that no significant archaeology would be disturbed.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mr Alf Rajkowski for commissioning the work and to Richard Walker, Walker Graham Architects for initiating the work.

## REFERENCES

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VCH 1945 'Parishes: Snitterfield', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 3, Barlichway Hundred*, ed. Philip Styles (London, 1945), pp. 167-172. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol3/pp167-172> [accessed 27 February 2017].

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>100</b>	Pale yellow gravel hard core		0.28	Bedding layer for modern concrete slabs
<b>101</b>	Very, very dark greyish brown silty loam with modern brick and tile fragments		1.03	Modern layer from previous building work – made up soil from previous wall foundations for slabs.
<b>102</b>	Wall	0.2-0.3	1.31	Retaining wall
<b>103</b>	Grey silty clay with marlstone frags		1.31	Geological natural
<b>200</b>	Light grey gravel hard core		0.27	Bedding layer for modern concrete slabs
<b>201</b>	Dark greyish/brown silty loam, brick, tile, stone and drain pipe. Compact with clear horizons.		0.90	Subsoil – terraced built up ground.
<b>202</b>	Reddish brown clay, clear horizons		1.31	Geological natural
<b>203</b>	Vertical edges, unseen		1.10	Existing house foundation cut
<b>204</b>	Brick foundations		1.10	Existing house foundations



1. Foundation trench 1 facing south-east



2. Foundation trench 2 facing south-west



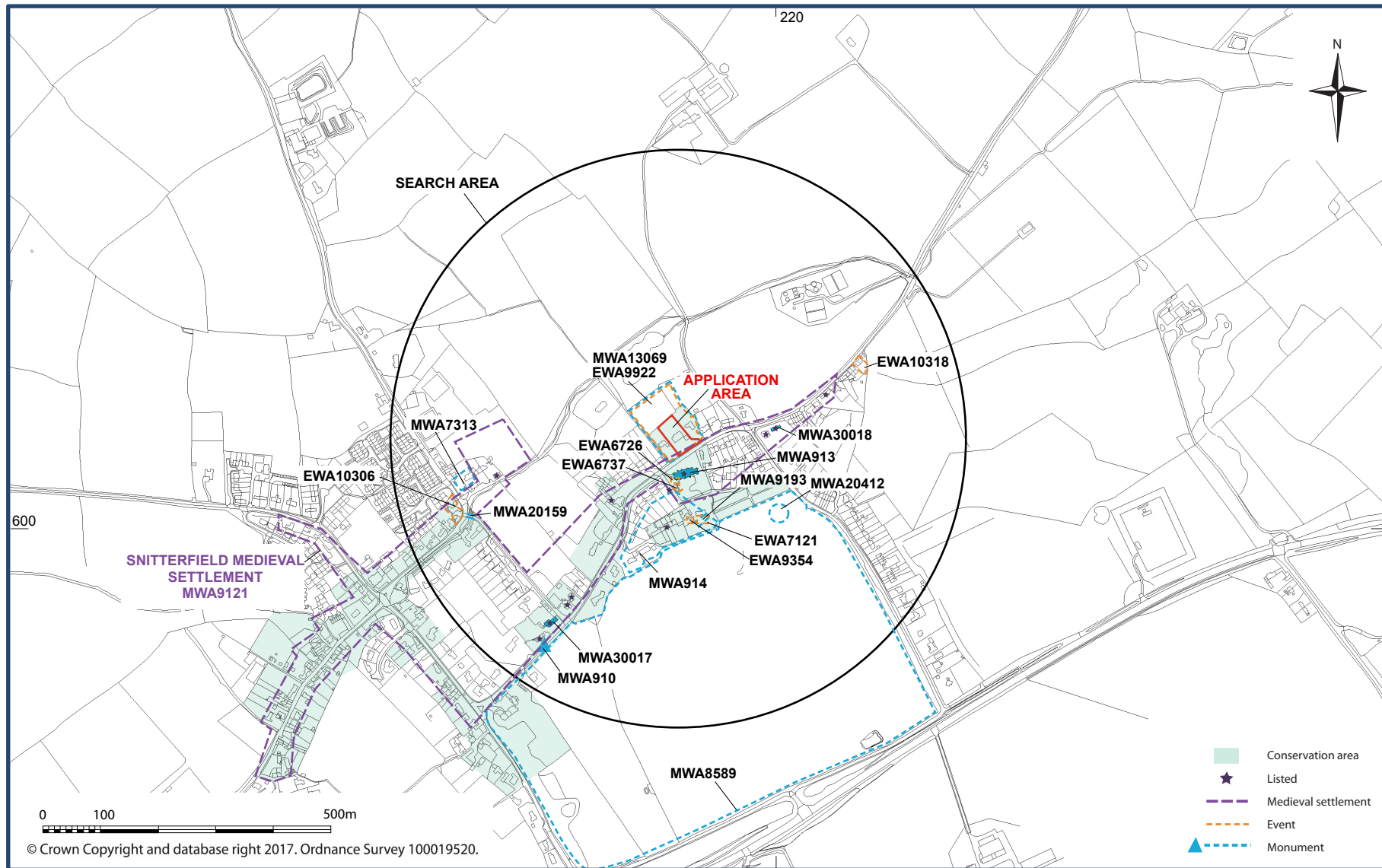


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

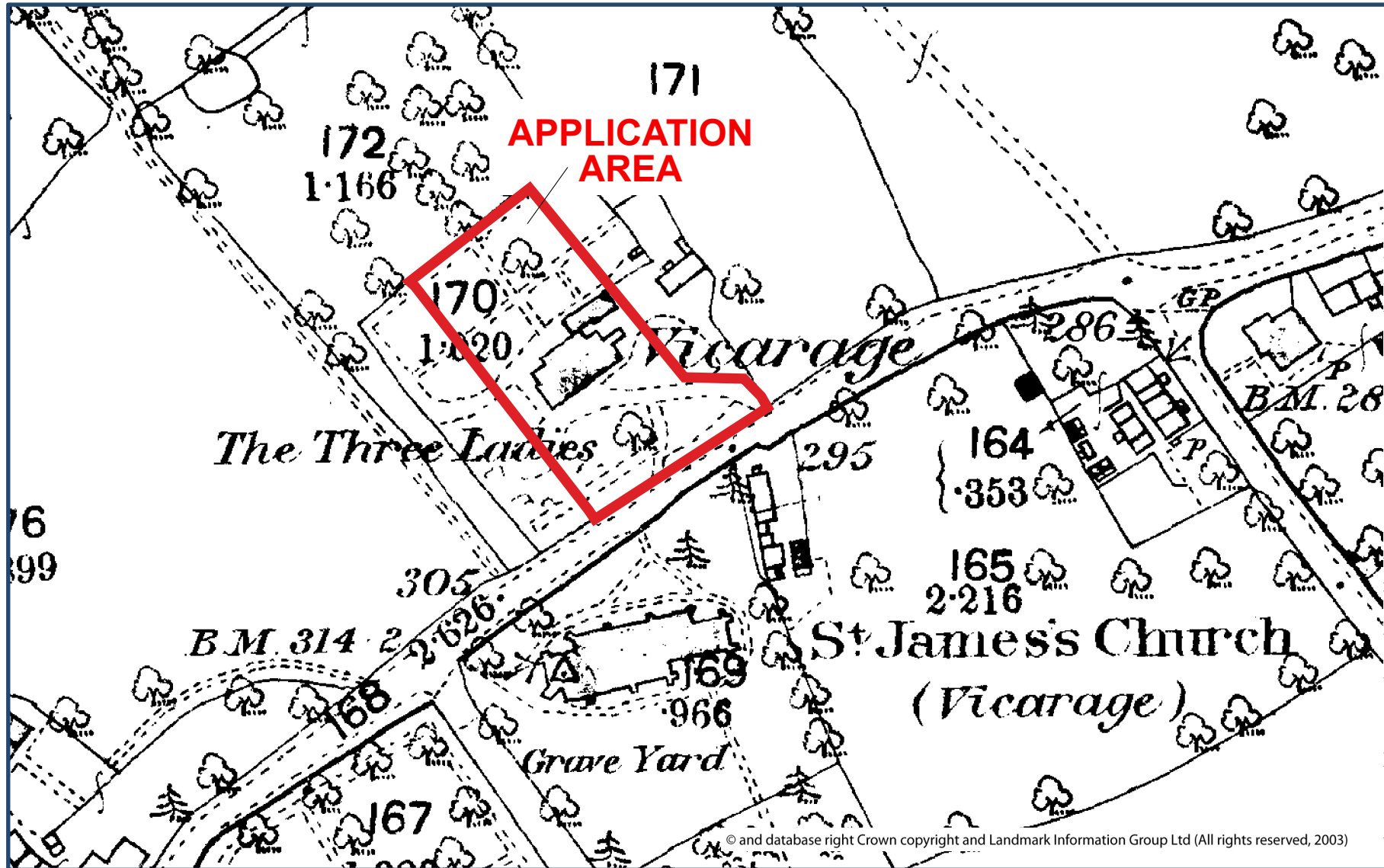


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887

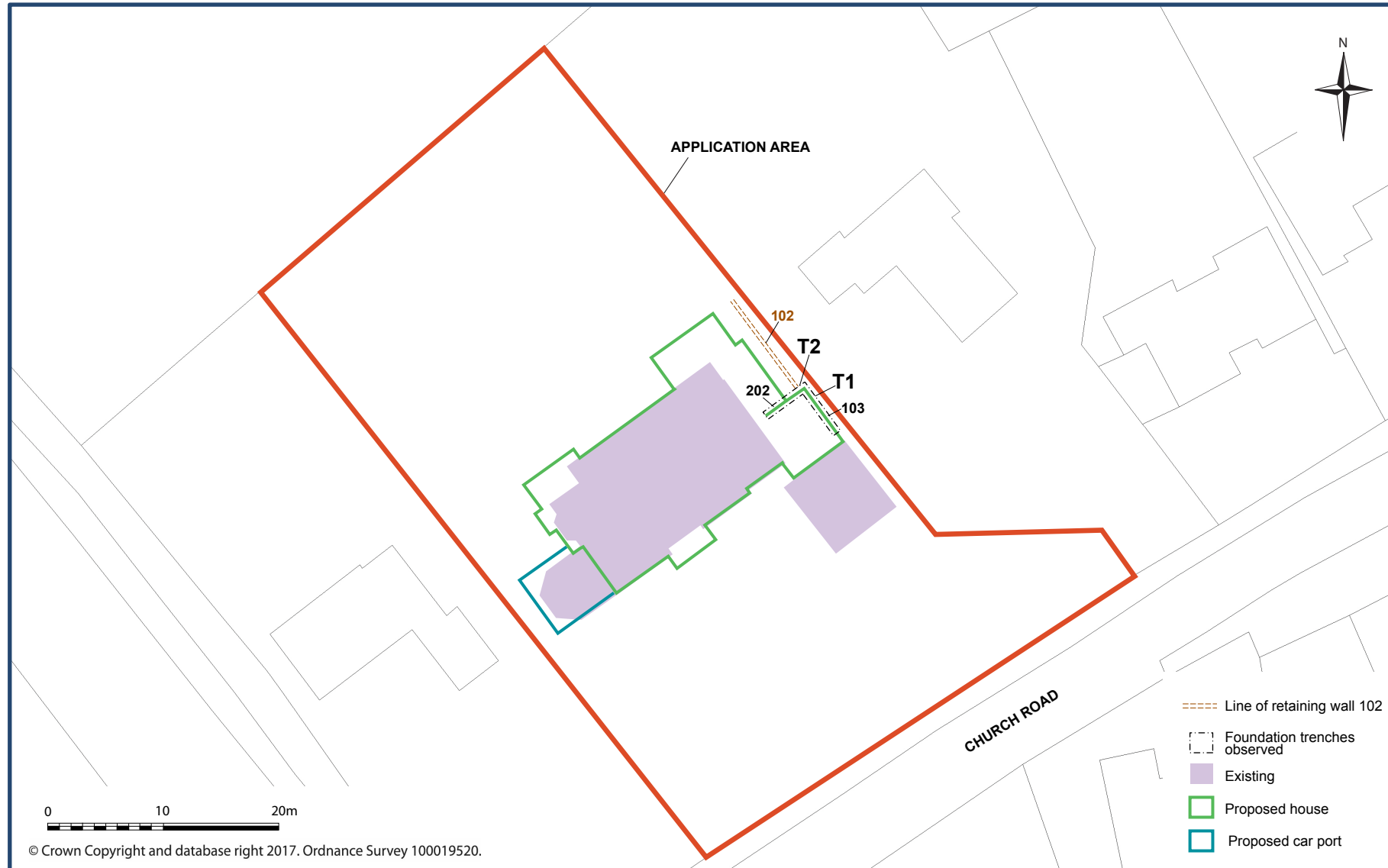


Fig 3: Location of observed foundation trenches