

Heath Cottage, Dunnington Salford Priors Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report no 1842

June 2018



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Heath Cottage, Dunnington, Salford Priors,
Warwickshire

Commissioned by: Jeremy Gascoigne

Site Code: SP17

Planning Reference: 15/03699/OUT

Planning Authority: Stratford-on-Avon District Council

National Grid Reference: SP 0688 5380

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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation comprising four trial trenches of varying length (2x 15m, 1x 20m, 1x 25m) was carried out on behalf of Jeremy Gascoigne within the grounds of Heath Cottage, Dunnington, in the parish of Salford Priors, Warwickshire. The work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition in advance of the erection of 5 new dwellings on land currently occupied by a mid-20th century terraced garden. No archaeological remains or finds of significance were recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Outline planning permission has been granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the construction of 5 new dwellings in the grounds of Heath Cottage, Dunnington, Salford Priors. The land is presently used as a terraced garden, originally constructed in the mid-20th century.
- 1.2 Due to the presence nearby of significant archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic to the post-medieval period permission has been granted on condition that a programme of archaeological investigation is carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) approved by the Planning Authority.
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to conduct an archaeological evaluation to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any buried archaeological features. Fieldwork was undertaken on 24th May 2018, the results of which are discussed in this report. The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for field evaluation (2014) and the approved WSI.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The application area is centred on SP 0688 5380 on the northern side of the village of Dunnington, in the parish of Salford Priors, Stratford-on-Avon District, Warwickshire (Fig 1). The proposed development site currently comprises a terraced garden to the rear of Heath Cottage on the eastern side of the B4088. The garden is characterised by numerous trees of various species, in addition to hedges, many exhibiting a semi-circular arrangement. A tennis court, now disused, is located towards the garden's northwestern side. The site is bounded to the north and east by fields, currently under pasture, while to the south are the gardens of residential properties, and to the northwest the property is fronted by the road

- 2.2 The site itself is underlain by mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group. No superficial deposits are recorded in the application area, but to the south and southeast are sands and gravels of the Pershore Sand and Gravel Member (BGS 2018).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Neolithic to Anglo-Saxon period remains are recorded approximately 1.4km to the east of the site. Archaeological survey combined with a series of excavations in the Arrow Valley, in advance of a new bypass between Evesham and Alcester, along with salvage recording uncovered signs of Neolithic activity including pits, cremation pits, worked flint and polished stone axes (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no EWA 9009/ MWA 7454), as well as Bronze Age pits, pottery and a small ring ditch containing a funeral pyre with bronze cauldrons (MWA 7229), with domestic activity from the Saxon period also present (MWA 7230).
- 3.2 A number of cropmarks showing on aerial photographs across the wider area, share morphological characteristics with other, known dated examples and attest to more widespread activity during the later prehistoric period. These include further small enclosures, linear features and pits to the south east (MWA 12234, not on Fig 1) and an enclosure located 550m to the north-west of the site (MWA 4921).
- 3.3 Approximately 1.4 kilometres to the south-east of the site, extensive Iron Age/Romano-British settlement remains (MWA 5081, 5057, 10308, 1499, 5757) were excavated in the vicinity of Marsh Farm in advance of road development and gravel extraction (EWA 10021).
- 3.4 Although no Anglo Saxon remains have been uncovered in the immediate vicinity, Wixford, Salford Priors, Abbots Salford, Bidford and Broom all have topographical names and are considered as the earlier type of Anglo-Saxon place-name.
- 3.5 Dunnington is absent from the Domesday records and in the medieval period the area lay within Dunnington Heath. Nearby settlements at Domesday include Bevington, Weethley, Broom and Salford Priors (<http://opendomesday.org>).
- 3.6 Medieval open fields associated with these settlements would have existed within those areas beyond the heath. Ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks or later date exist within the search area within a field 700 metres to the north of the site (MWA 12366) and furrows were found by geophysical survey to the south-east (EWA 9232).

- 3.7 There was an earlier deer park in the parish: documentary accounts report that Robert Burdet was licensed to impark land in the parish of Arrow in 1333 but the location was probably outside the park at Ragley (MWA 1521).
- 3.8 Wood Bevington, Cock Bevington and Dunnington were in the possession of Kenilworth Priory as hamlets of Salford Priors. The two latter remained under Salford after the Reformation. In 1532 the Abbot of Kenilworth granted a 70 years lease of the township of Wood Bevington with free warren and common pasture in Dunnington Heath to William Grey. (VCH 1945).
- 3.9 Documentary evidence indicates that the road from Park Hall to Dunnington, across what was once Dunnington Heath used to be known as Gallows Lane, from the Gallows (MWA 1492) that stood on the heath in the 18th century (VCH 1945).
- 3.10 Dunnington Heath was enclosed by an Act of Parliament of 1783 and The Victoria County History comments that there were no “ancient” buildings along the main road from Dunnington to Evesham, many of the cottages in that area seemingly having been built during the 1780s to replace those pulled down on the inclosure of the heath (VCh 1945).
- 3.11 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition mapping of 1887 (Landmark 2003) depicts the post-medieval settlement of Dunnington (MWA 9039) as ribbon development, with the crossroads as its focus, including a smithy (forge) (MWA 1533), school and Baptist Chapel. The HER also reports that considerable roadside settlement can be seen on Dugdale’s map of the County of 1787.
- 3.12 The Warwickshire HER records only one archaeological intervention within the village itself. A watching brief at Forest Thatch, 37 Broom Lane, Dunnington in 2009 recorded negative results (EWA 9366). The location is 160m to the SE of the development site.
- 3.13 Routes through Dunnington were turnpiked during the 18th century, with the Evesham to Alcester (MWA 8681) and Evesham to Crabbs Cross (MWA 4776) roads which converge at Dunnington turnpiked between 1750–1775. The abbreviation “T.P.” for Turnpike shows west of the Dunnington Crossroads (MWA 30100).

- 3.14 The present-day boundary of the registered parkland of Ragley Hall exists just over 500m to the north of the site. The park is today designated within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest (National Heritage List for England no. 1001196; Grade II*) and was visited by Jonathan Lovie on behalf of English Heritage in 1996 in order to record features still retained (EWA 6662).
- 3.15 Approximately 200 metres to the west of the site is Hilliers Garden, Dunnington Heath Farm (MWA8580), which was recommended for inclusion within a local list by Jonathan Lovie during a review of The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in 1997. It is recorded as a garden, designed to display unusual herbaceous perennials, old fashioned and English roses.
- 3.16 A magnetometer survey was carried out on land north of Broom Lane, Dunnington in 2008, just to the north of the cropmark complexes (EWA 10021). Some small magnetic disturbances were noted (EWA 9689).

Listed Buildings

- 3.17 Listed Buildings within the search area:-

NHLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1200618	1872	Ragley Park, Evesham Lodge, Grade II
1024686	Late C16/C17 with C19 and late C20 alterations and additions.	Bevington Lodge, Grade II
1183753	C17 with C18 on right.	Old Mudwalls Cottage, Grade II
1024685	C17/ early C18	Forest Thatch, Grade II
1300443	C17 with late C18/ early 19 th and C20th alterations and additions.	Dunnington Farmhouse, Grade II

Map Regression

- 3.18 The site is within the grounds of Heath Cottage, Dunnington. A building is shown in the same location as the present-day dwelling known as Heath Cottage on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Fig 2, Landmark 2003a) with associated

outbuildings in an L-plan to the north and east of the dwelling, and an area of orchard to the south, within an enclosure parallel to and extending 25m back from the road.

- 3.19 The 1955 Ordnance Survey 1:10000 (Landmark 2003b) shows a similar arrangement although with some alterations to the layout of the outbuildings and small enclosures extending beyond the pre-existing garden curtilage. A tennis court is present by the time of the Ordnance Survey 1973 (Landmark 2003c) and shown lying centrally within an enclosure consistent with the garden enclosure of today.
- 3.20 According to the owner the house is a former workers cottage of the Ragley Estate but was purchased by a private occupier after the War after when the gardens were laid out and the house re-modelled using architectural features salvaged from great houses. The garden incorporates a number of different “garden rooms”, today fringed by mature plantings within terraced lawns and beds between the plantings and a tennis court located centrally within the grounds.

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if any significant archaeological remains were present 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 Four trenches were opened up by a 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. The number and locations of trenches differed slightly to those specified in the WSI (Fig 3). This follows finalisation of the location of the new dwellings and their localised impact.
- 4.5 Trenches 1 (Photograph 1) and 4 (Photograph 4) were 15m in length, while trench 2 (Photograph 2) was 20m in length and trench 3 (Photograph 3) 25m. Trenches 3 and 4 were found to overlie the edges of garden terraces and walls. Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were excavated into a mown turf lawn, Trench 4 in contrast mostly cut through a disused tennis court.
- 4.6 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 Geological natural comprised a red or reddish brown clay or silty clay (102, 202, 302, 402) across all four trenches. This was revealed at a depth of 0.28 – 0.41m below present ground surface.
- 5.2 No remains of archaeological significance were found cutting the natural in any of the trenches. In trench 2 a number of parallel linear drainage channels were noted running approximately NE-SW. Shallow and filled by large quantities of pebbles, these were most likely designed to maintain drainage within the garden and were probably created in the 1950s (Jeremy Gascoigne pers. Comm.).
- 5.3 In trench 1 a linear bank was seen running across the trench's northwestern end. At that point the depth of topsoil (100) and subsoil (101) was notably greater, with the subsoil exhibiting a higher proportion of silt and sand. The feature contained no finds, however, and was most likely associated with a former hedge (Jeremy Gascoigne pers comm).
- 5.4 The natural clay was overlain by subsoil in each of the trenches. In trench 1 this comprised a light reddish brown silty clay (101), in trenches 2 and 3 a reddish brown clay loam (201 and 301), and in trench 4 a reddish brown clay (401). Topsoil overlay the subsoil and was recorded as a greyish brown clayey silt (100) in trench 1 and in trenches 2 and 3 as a greyish brown clay loam (200 and 300). Below the tennis court a layer of black ash/clinker 0.25m deep (400) overlay the subsoil.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Despite the potential for buried archaeological remains to be present within the footprint of the proposed new dwellings to the rear of Heath Cottage, Dunnington, no significant features were identified during the course of the evaluation. This may be a consequence of ground make-up and reduction associated with the construction of garden terracing in the mid- 20th century. The influence of garden landscaping works was most conspicuous in trench 2 where parallel drainage channels were noted running laterally across the trench.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Jeremy Gascoigne for commissioning the work.

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PHOTOGRAPHS



1: Trench 1, looking northwest



2: Trench 2, looking east



3: Trench 3, looking southeast



4: Trench 4, looking west

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Trench	Context	Description	Depth (m)	Comment
1	100	Greyish brown clayey silt	0.08	Topsoil/Turf
1	101	Light reddish brown (slightly yellowish in places) silty clay; occasional small rounded and sub-rounded stones	0.2 – 0.28	Subsoil
1	102	Reddish brown clay		Geological Natural
2	200	Greyish brown clay loam	0.13	Topsoil
2	201	Reddish brown clay loam	0.28	Subsoil
2	202	Red clay		Geological Natural
3	300	Greyish brown clay loam	0.2	Topsoil
3	301	Reddish brown clay loam	0.19	Subsoil
3	302	Red clay		Geological Natural
4	400	Black ash/clinker	0.25	Make-up layer for tennis court
4	401	Reddish brown clay	0.12	Subsoil
4	402	Reddish brown silty clay		Geological Natural

B Oasis form

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS No	archaeol27-319734
Project name	Heath Cottage, Dunnington, Salford Priors, Warwickshire		
Short description (250 words max)	An archaeological evaluation comprising four trial trenches of varying length (2x 15m, 1x 20m, 1x 25m) was carried out on behalf of Jeremy Gascoigne within the grounds of Heath Cottage, Dunnington, in the parish of Salford Priors, Warwickshire. The work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition in advance of the erection of 5 new dwellings on land currently occupied by a mid-20th century terraced garden. No archaeological remains or finds of significance were recorded.		
Project type (Eg DBA, Eval etc)	Evaluation		
Site status (None, NT, SAM etc)	None		
Previous work	No		
Current land use	Other 5 - Garden		
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	Not known		
Monument type / period	None		
Significant finds (artefact, type, period)	None		
Methods & techniques	Targeted Trenches		
Development Type	Rural residential		
Prompt	NPPF		
Position in planning process	After outline determination (e.g. As a reserved matter)		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Warwickshire		
Site address (inc postcode)	Heath Cottage, Dunnington, Salford Priors, Warwickshire, B49 5NW		
Study area (sq.m or ha)	120 sq.m		
OS Easting & Northing (use grid sq letter code)	SP 0688 5380		
Height OD	68.77 – 72.09m		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	Archaeology Warwickshire		
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)		
Project design originator	None		
Director/supervisor	Rob Jones		
Manager	Caroline Rann		
Sponsor or funding body			
PROJECT DATE			
Start date /end date	24-05-18		
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no)	Content (eg pottery, animal bone etc)	
Physical	none		
Paper	Warwickshire Museum		

Digital	OASIS	
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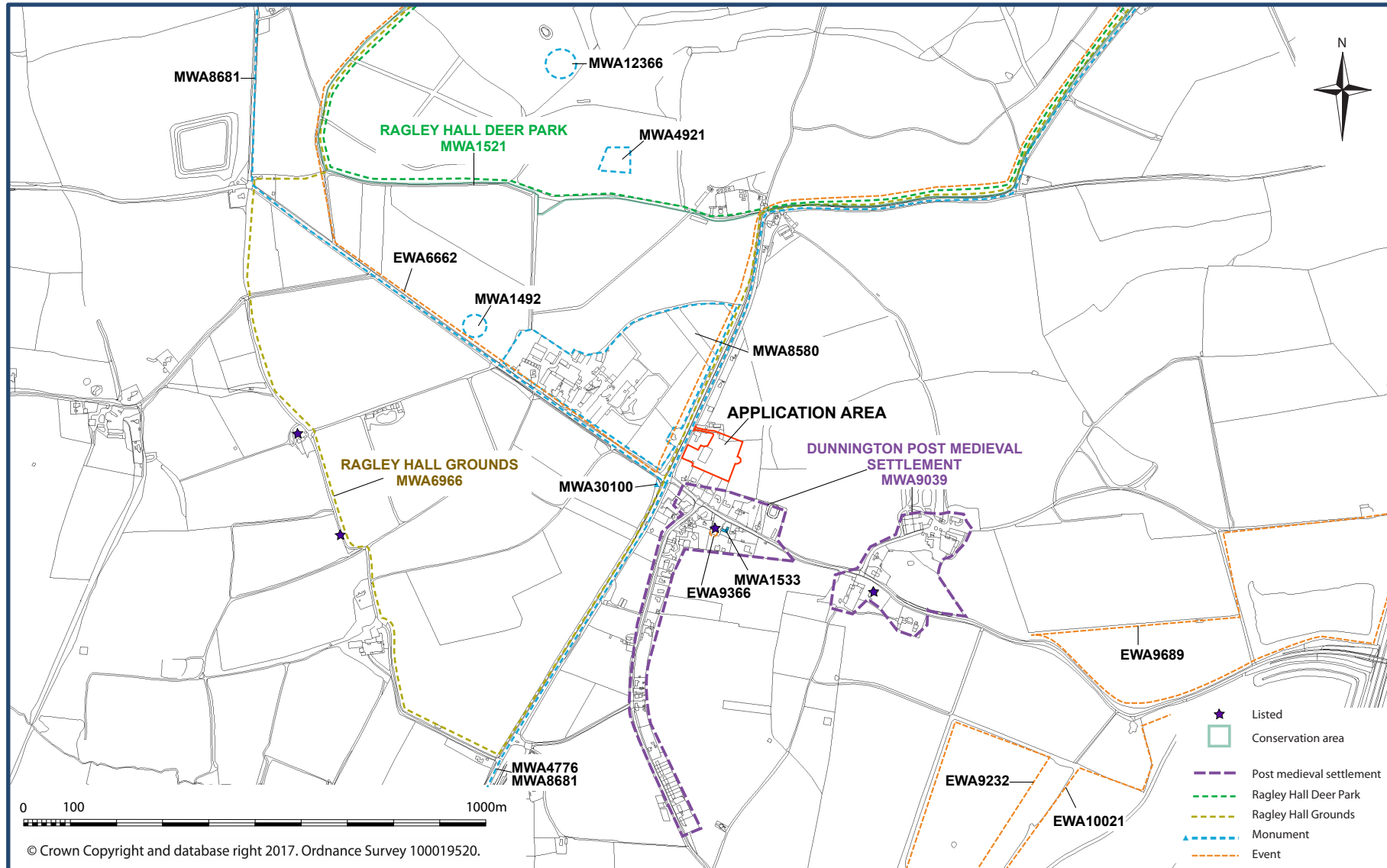


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

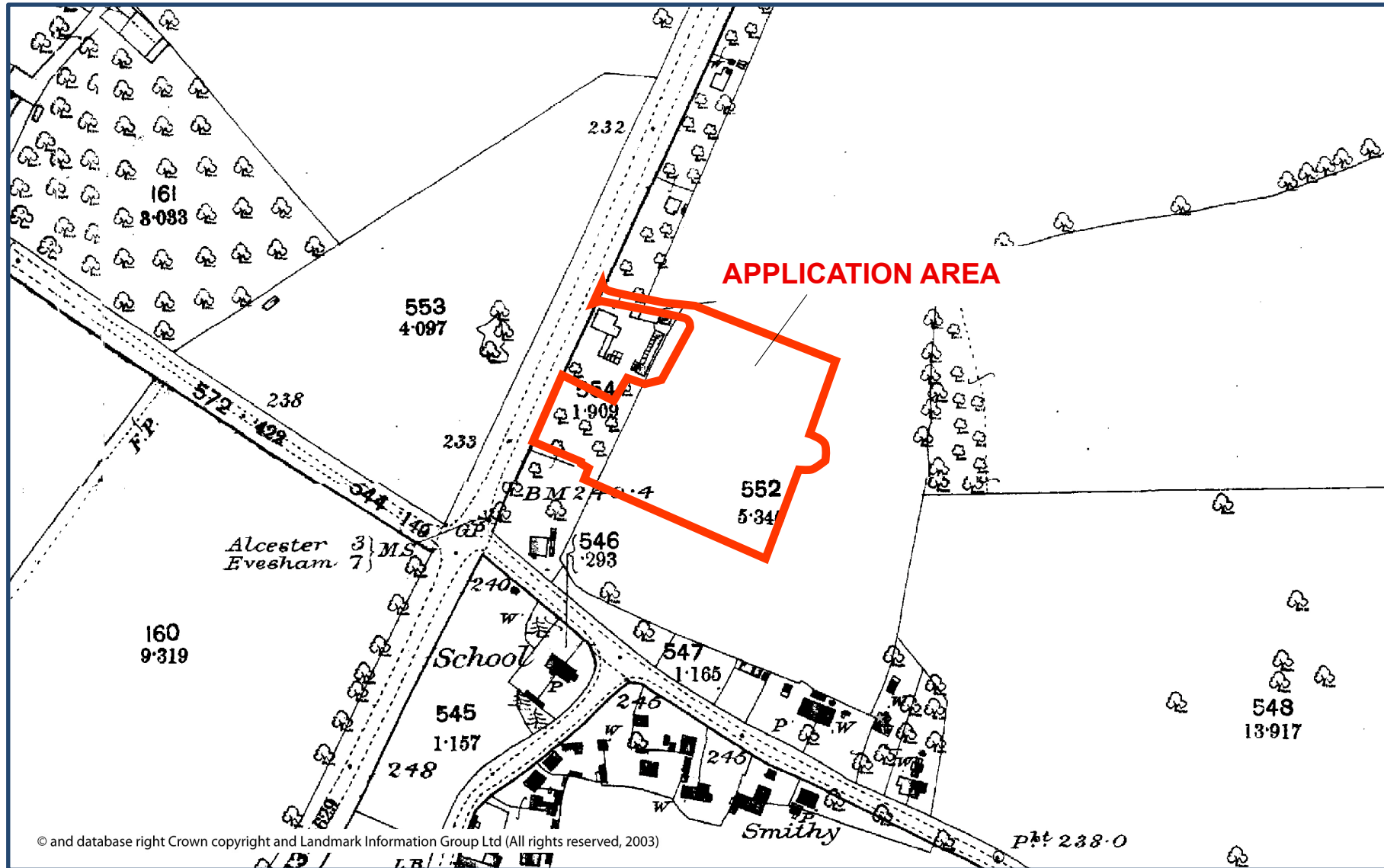


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887

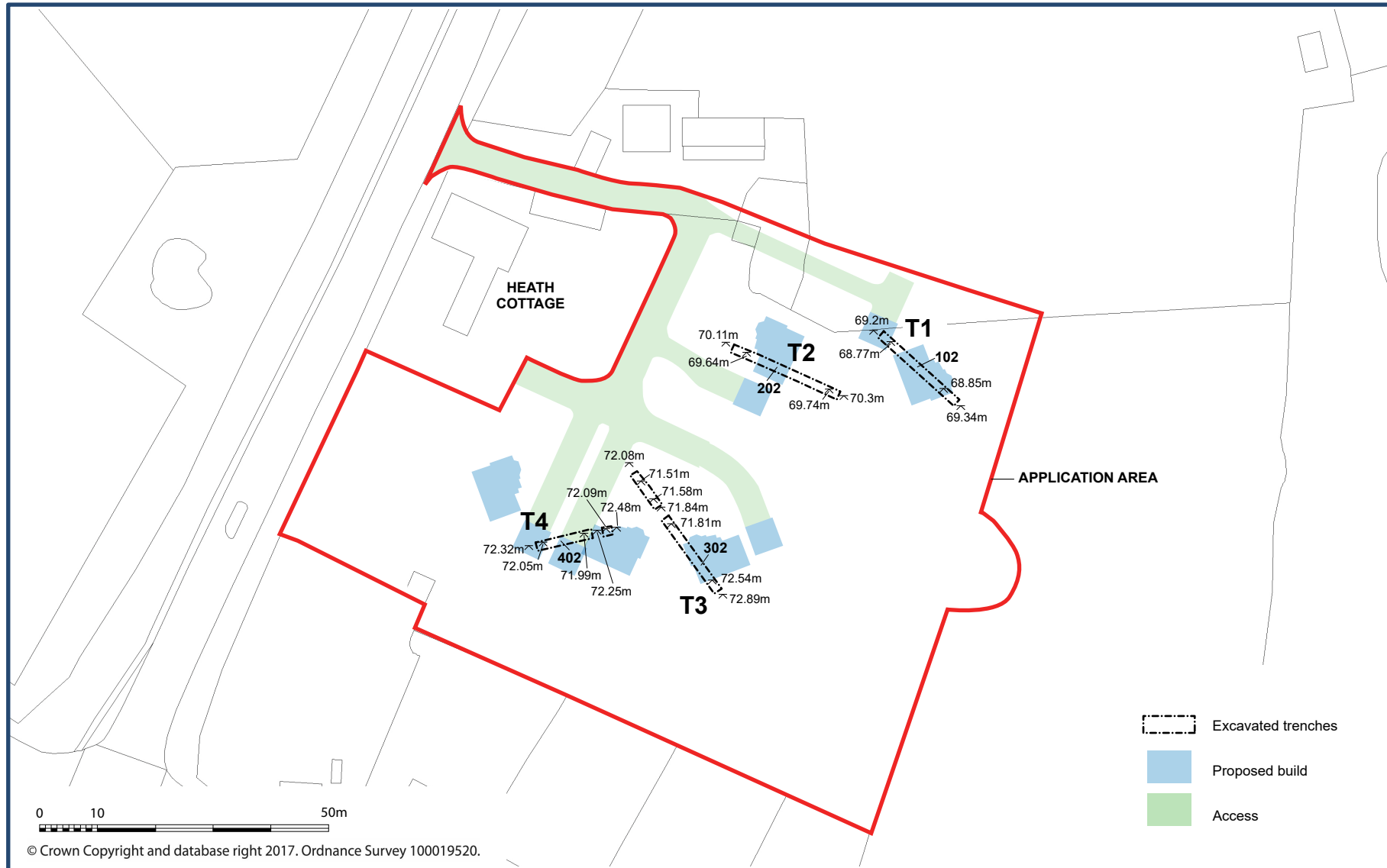


Fig 3: Location of excavated trenches