

# Bridge House, Badby, Northamptonshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 14102  
NOVEMBER 2014



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Archaeological observation, investigation and recording

**Commissioned by:** Mrs Kate Brookes

**Project Report No.** 14102

**Site Code:** NBB14

**Planning Reference:** DA/2013/0473

**National Grid Reference:** SP 455920 259404

**Team:**

**Project Manager:** Pete Thompson

**Fieldwork:** Rob Jones

**Author:** Catherine Coutts

**Illustrations:** Candy Stevens

**Report checked by:** Stuart Palmer MfA

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Archaeology Warwickshire

Unit 9

Montague Road

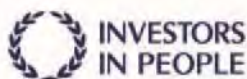
Warwick

CV34 5LW

01926 412278

[fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:fieldarchaeology@warwickshire.gov.uk)

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology)



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## SUMMARY

*Archaeological observation at Bridge House, Badby, during groundworks for a new garage, revealed only 19th and early 20th century finds. Some fragments of cattle scapula with cut edges are likely to be the residue from bone-working activity; a small, bone spatula was recovered. No evidence was found to corroborate the view that the development site lies within the medieval village.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Daventry District Council for the construction of a new garage at Bridge House, Badby. The development site lies within the northern part of the village, within the probable extent of medieval settlement. A condition of planning permission required the applicant to secure a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Brief issued by Northamptonshire Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Liz Mordue.

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire was commissioned to undertake a programme of observation, investigation and recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority. This report presents the results of that work which was carried out in November 2014. The project archive will be stored by Archaeology Warwickshire until a suitable Northamptonshire repository is available.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is located on the east side of the Daventry Road on the south bank of the River Nene and is centred on national grid reference SP 455920 259404.

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Charmouth Mudstone Formation overlain locally by alluvial deposits (British Geological Survey 2014).

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Badby is located at a crossing point of the River Nene (MNN4714) and is situated largely to the south of the river on a small hill.

### **Prehistoric** (Table A)

3.2 The earliest evidence of human activity in the area is in the form of a palaeolithic hand axe which was recorded from the Badby area (MNN 20531). Other prehistoric finds

include an unstratified pebble hammer (MNN32105). The Jurassic Way (MNN160137) is a trackway of prehistoric date. These finds are unlikely to have any bearing on the development site.

### **Roman (Table B)**

3.3 A significant quantity of evidence for Romano-British settlement (MNN3506) has been recorded to the north of the site, with associated finds of pottery and building material. Fieldwalking in the 1970s (ENN3975) recorded further Romano-British finds. These finds are significantly north of the development site and do not imply that the site was developed in the Roman period.

### **Saxon and Medieval (Table C)**

3.4 The site lies at the northern edge of the likely extent of the medieval village (MNN338) and at the road crossing over the River Nene. In the fields to the west of the site and the Daventry Road evidence for medieval ridge and furrow cultivation suggests the maximum extent of the settlement.

3.5 To the south of the site is intensive evidence associated with the medieval settlement, which extended further to the south and survives as earthworks identified on aerial photographs. The remains of hollow ways and land divisions have been recorded (MNN 126064, 126065) on the western and south-eastern sides of the village.

3.6 The remains of a medieval moated site, a scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 1009844) lies to the east of the village. The moated site was in use in the 13th century as a monastic retreat and administrative centre (MNN14829). The site remained in use as a house, Court House, and the manorial court until the early 17th century. It became an inn before falling out of use during the 18th century. The site contains building remains from the occupation of the site from the medieval to later post-medieval period. The location of Badby reflects the topography of the area and its proximity to a north-south route in use as a trackway at least from the medieval period and a turnpike road (MNN135336).

### **Post-medieval (Tables D and E)**

3.7 The village of Badby includes various designated Grade II Listed Buildings (see Table E) including the 17th-century Manor House (MNN109546), Jasmine Cottage (MNN109561), The Cottage (MNN109570), The Hollies outbuilding and cottage (MNN109554) and Appletrees and Outlook Cottage (MNN109563). Bridge House itself is a former White Lion

public house dating to the late 18th century (MNN 109585; DNN 1586). The Listed Building citation is recorded as follows:

**Name:** *Bridge House and attached outhouse to rear*

**Grid Reference:** *Centroid SP 5592 5940*

**Area (Ha):** *0.01*

**Type:** *Listed Building* **Status:** *Active*

**Grade:** *II* **Date Assigned:** *29/04/1987*

*House, formerly public house. Late C18 with early C19 additions. Coursed ironstone rubble and brick, tile roof, brick ridge and end stacks. 2-unit through passage plan with one-unit additions either end. 2 storeys. 3-window range. Central 4-panel part-glazed door with moulded wood surround and straight hood on brackets. 3-light casement windows either side to ground and first floors with timber lintels. Left end bay is of brick and has single storey canted bay window with 9-pane sashes to each side. To far right a 2-light casement window to groundfloor, a 3-light casement above, both with timber lintels. Brick eaves. Single-storey outhouse to rear has corrugated iron roof replacing thatch and collar truss roof. Interior has chamfered spine beams, fitted settles in bay window and collar truss roof. Formerly the White Lion public house and also formerly thatched*

3.8 A further seventeen Listed Buildings are present in the northern part of the village (Table E). The monument number for each building is shown on Fig 1; the associated designation numbers (DNN) and event numbers (ENN) are cross-referenced in Table E.

3.9 The earliest detailed map of the area is the 1841 Enclosure map, which shows the site with a L-shaped property along the north-west and north-east boundaries (Fig 2). The site is shown as plot 101, proprietor Ann Smith, and described as 'An House and Yard' (NCRO 5677 A and B). The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 maps of 1885 and 1900 shows the site with The White Lion marked and trees in the rear garden (Fig 3). The 1925 mapping shows that there have been extensions to the property. The 1981 map shows what appears to be a small, two-celled structure in the western part of the garden (mapping viewed on old-maps.co.uk).

## 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 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 OBSERVATION

### Foundation trenches

5.1 Foundation trenches were excavated 1m below the former ground level by a mini-excavator equipped with a toothless bucket 0.6m wide.

### Ground reduction

5.2 Ground reduction was carried out within the footprint of the proposed building and to its north, using a mini-excavator equipped with a 1.20m wide ditching bucket.

### Deposit sequence

5.3 Geological natural yellowish brown clay (3) was observed at a depth of 0.47m. This was overlain by a layer of very dark brown clay loam, 0.32m deep (2). Finds of 19th/20th-century pottery, clay pipe stems, glass and worked bone were noted, along with a copper-alloy button and a screw-threaded finial or handle. Most of the bone fragments were from a single bovine scapula. The fragments had cut edges consistent with having been sawn and also had visible chop marks. A single carved fragment of bone was also found, possibly a small spatula, with highly polished surfaces (Fig 8).

5.4 Two lines of unmortared, single-depth, brick edging were noted, at right-angles to each other (4 and 5). These, and layer 2, were overlain by 0.15m of dark greyish brown topsoil. No finds, other than modern wire and plastic were noted in the topsoil (1).

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The archaeological work undertaken was able to identify and record evidence of 19th and 20th century activity, but no remains relating to the medieval village or the 18th-century phase of the building were recorded. It seems likely that the area developed would have been in agricultural use until it was developed into a garden for the existing house.

6.2 The evidence for bone-working comes from the same layer as finds of 19th and 20th-century date. It is difficult to say what the bone was worked for, but it appears that flat parts of the scapula were sawn off, perhaps in preparation for making into objects such as bone buttons or pins.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mrs Kate Brookes of Bridge House for commissioning the work and for being a pleasure to work for.

## REFERENCES

British Geological Survey

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html?src=topNav>

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NCRO 5677 A and B      *Enclosure map of Badby, 1841, Northamptonshire County Record Office.*

Ordnance Survey 1888      *First Edition 1:2500 map, Northamptonshire Sheet 43.9.*

Ordnance Survey 1900      *Second Edition 1:2500 map, Northamptonshire Sheet 43.9.*

Ordnance Survey 1925      *Revised Edition 1:2500 map, Northamptonshire Sheet 43.9.*



## APPENDICES

### A List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date/comments</i>
2	Pottery	12	1 pearlware (CTS 418), 9 brown-glazed pancheon fragments, 1 e.20thC stoneware, 1 caneware ?flowerpot, black-glaze interior
2	Clay pipe	7	stems
2	Oyster shell	1	
2	W. Glass	1	modern colourless, diamond-shaped
2	B. Glass	1	very dark green, heavy, bottle base
2	Cu alloy	2	e. 20thC 4-hole button (SF1), screw-threaded finial/handle, Diam 22mm (SF2)
2	Animal bone	4	1 chicken leg bone, 3 cattle scapula fragments, all cut
2	Animal bone	1	shaped spatula-like object (from a rib) with parallel sides, slightly tapering, and a rounded terminal, surface very smooth (SF3) L: 92mm, W: 9mm, D: 2mm

**Table A: Historic Environment Records of prehistoric remains in the area**

<b>MNN</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Archaeological remains</b>
20531	56 59	Palaeolithic hand axe
32105	559 598	Unstratified pebble hammer (Mesolithic to Bronze Age)
160137	89 93	The Jurassic Way, prehistoric trackway

**Table B: Historic Environment Records of Romano-British remains in the area**

<b>MNN</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Archaeological remains</b>
3506	55 90	Romano-British settlement
18591	559 598	Possible Romano-British building
33082	559 598	Unstratified Romano-British finds

**Table C Historic Environment Records of Saxon and Medieval remains in the area**

<b>MNN</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Archaeological remains</b>
338	561 590	Badby village, late Saxon onwards
14829	5627 5915	Medieval Retreat of the Abbots of Evesham
18489	560 589	Medieval stone floor and pottery
18495	563 591	Medieval/post-medieval paddock
26411	5627 5915	Main buildings of Medieval Retreat
126046	5629 5907	Possible medieval trackway identified from AP
126047	5629 5910	Medieval building identified from AP
126048	5630 5909	Medieval building identified from AP
126049	5626 5909	Medieval building identified from AP
126054	5636 5926	Medieval building identified from aerial photograph
126055	5630 5925	Possible medieval building identified for AP
126056	5619 5926	Earthwork bank identified from AP
126057	5626 5920	Medieval building identified from AP
126059	5629 5918	Possible medieval enclosure identified from AP
126060	5626 5916	Possible medieval enclosure
126063	5619 5903	Medieval building platform identified from AP
126064	5606 5891	Medieval/post-med hollow way
126065	5572 5924	Possible medieval hollow way
126066	5574 5899	Medieval ditch identified from AP

132382	5597 5991	Area of ridge and furrow survival
132395	5570 5917	Area of ridge and furrow survival
132396	5559 5945	Areas of ridge and furrow survival
133398	5546 5901	Area of ridge and furrow survival
168485	5596 5899	Village green
168486	5604 5911	Village green
168487	559 591	Late Saxon and 12th-century pottery finds
168491	5627 5915	Moat
168492	5627 5915	15th/16th-century courtyard house

**Table D: Historic Environment Records of post-medieval and undated archaeology**

MNN	NGR	Archaeological remains
18491	5592 5892	Undated cross base
26410	558 594	Uncertain, undated feature recorded on AP
126044	563 5973	Undated trackway
135174	56 59	Badby open field system
135336	5264 5501	Banbury to Lutterworth Turnpike road

**Table E: Historic Environment Records of Listed Buildings**

MNN	DNN	ENN	Building	Date
109546	1715	102440	The Manor House	l.17thC
109547	1928	102459	The Old School House	1812
109548	1931	102459	Greystones	1706
109549	1943	102440	Park House	m.18thC
109550	1537	102440	Casa Nene (6 cottages)	17th & 18thC
109551	1716	102438	Park View	1674
109552	1561	102459	The Hollies	l.17thC
109553	1565	102481	Pump south of The Hollies	
109554	1561	102481	The Hollies outbuilding and Cottage	17thC
109561	1878	102459	Jasmine Cottage	1697
109562	3312	102439	Wayside	e.18thC
109563	1491	102472	Appletrees and Outlook Cottage	1663
109564	1502	102440	Home Farmhouse	17thC
109565	3315	102438	Marriotts House	18thC

109566	3318	102440	Ronkswood	e.18thC
109570	2004	102459	The Cottage, Chapel Lane	1696
109585	1586	102440	Bridge House	I.18thC
144254	17435		K6 Telephone kiosk	1935

**Table F: Historic Environment Records of Events in the area**

ENN	NGR	Description
3968	5592 5892	Main Street survey of cross base
3972	558 592	Aerial survey of earthworks
3973	558 594	Aerial survey of earthworks
3974	5592 5977	Finds 1968
3975	559 598	Fieldwalking 1976-8
4066	5602 5896	Earthwork survey
4068	5627 5915	Badby Grange 1967-9
4068	5627 5915	Badby Grange documentary
4070	563 591	Aerial Survey
4073	56 59	Finds, pre-1963
20220	560 590	Badby village, documentary
101744	560 590	Badby village, 2002
102438	558 589	Listed Buildings survey, 1985
102440	559 587	Listed Buildings survey 1985
102459	561 610	Listed Buildings survey, 1985
102472	558 590	Listed Buildings survey 1985
102481	559 590	Listed Buildings survey 1985
103916	5578 5890	Badby village earthworks survey pre-2000
105426	559 590	Listed Building survey 2011
106655	5600 5922	The Manor House, archaeological observation
107067	5604 5922	Jasmine Cottage, survey
107637	559 591	Finds, pre-1981

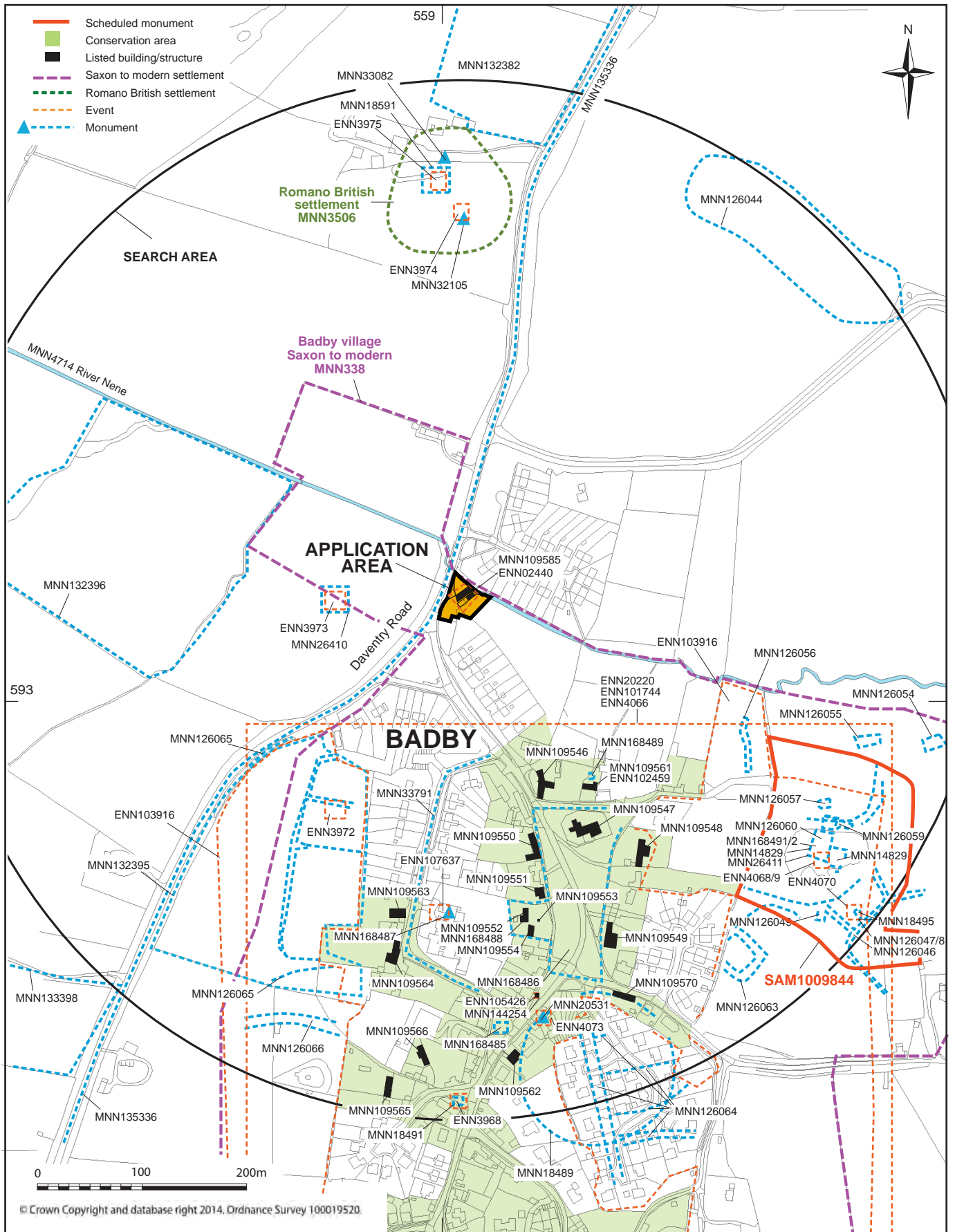


Fig 1: Site location

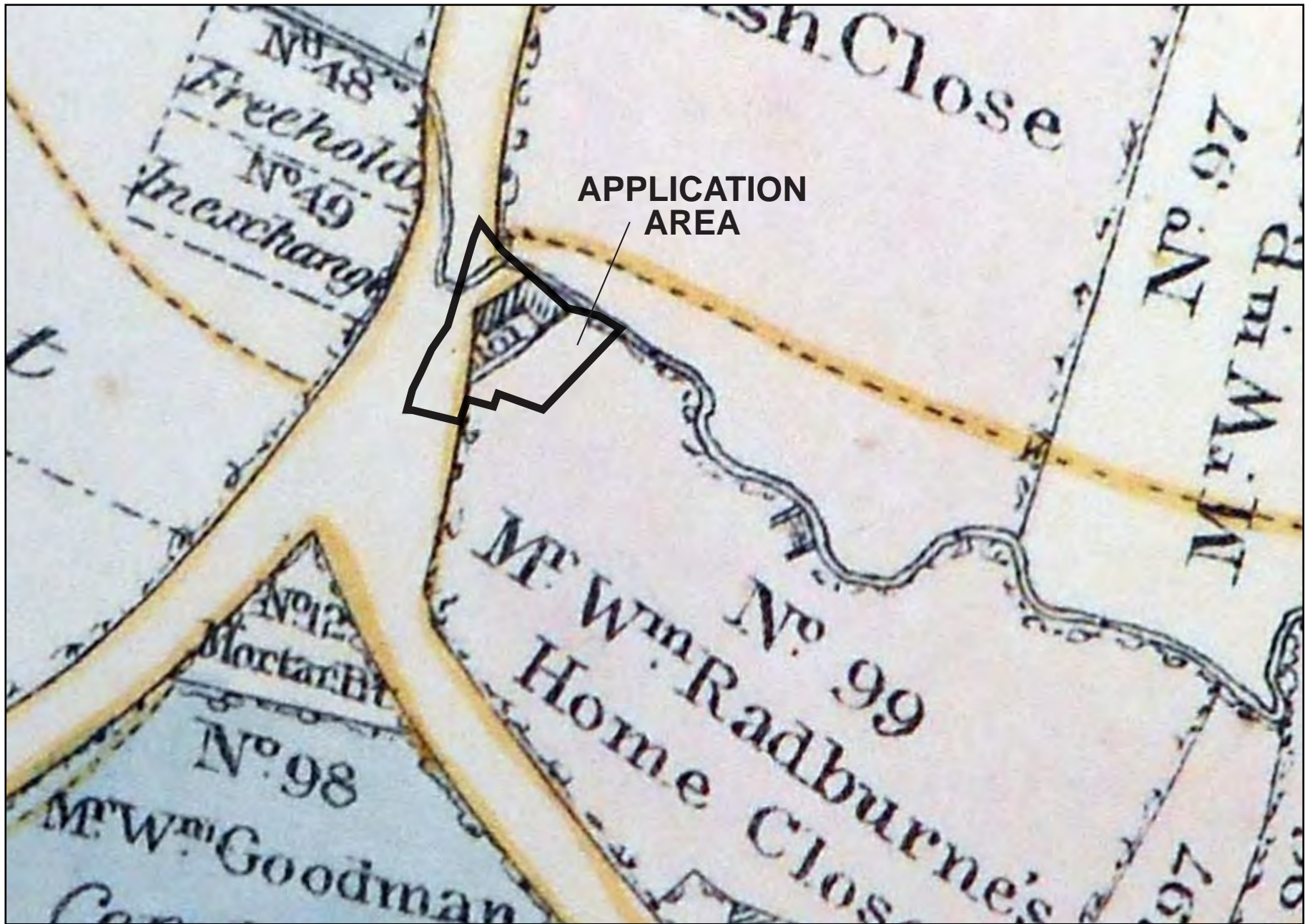


Fig 2: Detail from Enclosure map of 1841

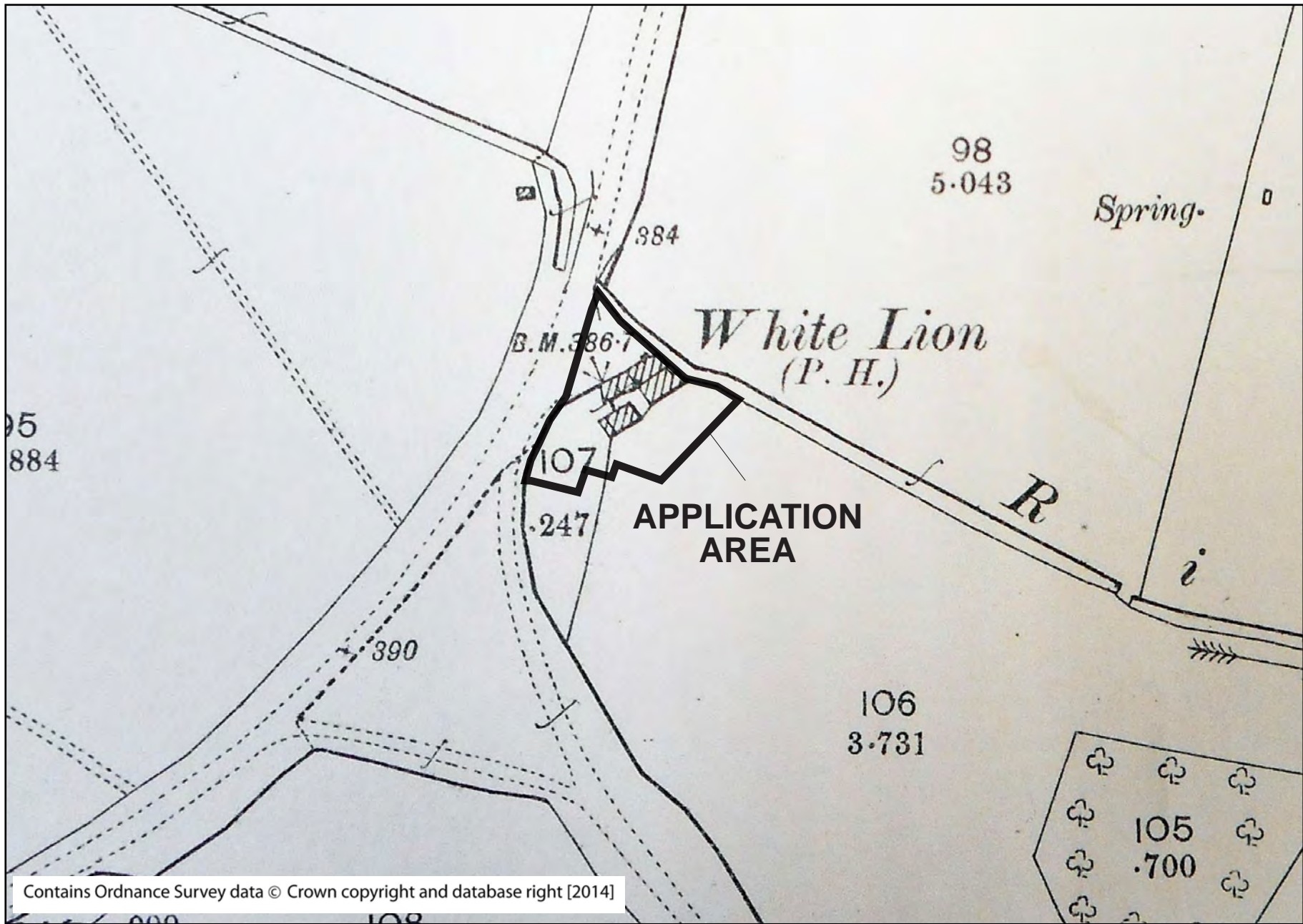


Fig 3: Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900

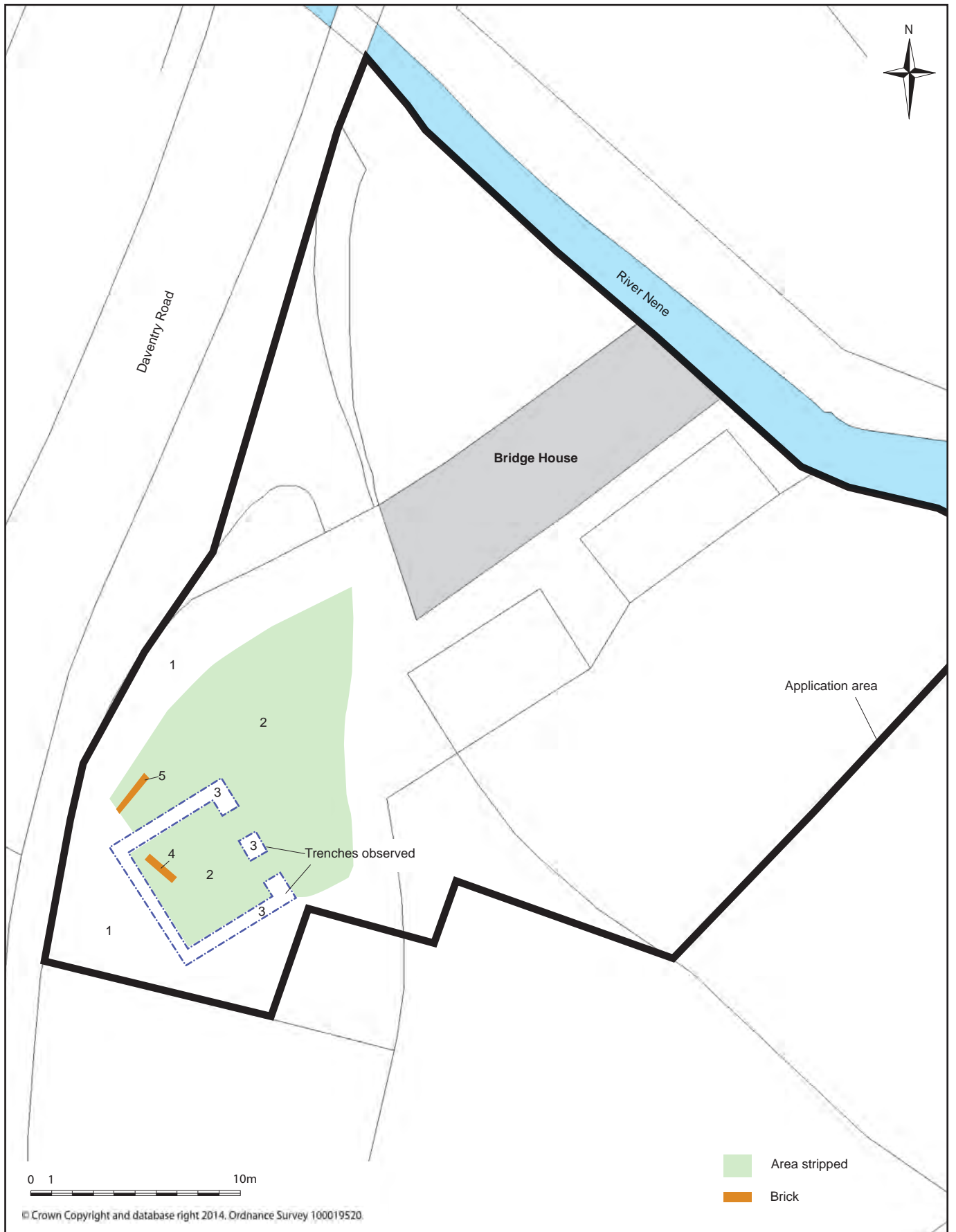


Fig 4: Area stripped and trenches observed





Fig 5:. Foundation trenches



Fig 6:. Ground reductions (internal)



Fig 7: Ground reductions from south-east



Fig 8: Worked bone