

Grove House, The Rookery Alveston Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1961
JUNE 2019



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Grove House, The Rookery, Alveston
Commissioned by: Trish Lee
Site Code: SA18
Planning Reference: 17/02870/FUL
Planning Authority: Stratford-on-Avon District Council
National Grid Reference: SP 23518 56642
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SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches and a service trench and the reduction of internal areas for a new dwelling located close to the River Avon in Alveston.

No features of archaeological significance were discovered. Finds from the topsoil dated from 18th to 20th centuries.

The work suggests that this part of Alveston was not occupied prior to the post-medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for the demolition of an existing dwelling and the erection of two new dwellings together with construction of one new vehicular access at Grove House, The Rookery, Alveston (Planning Ref. No. 17/02870/FUL).
- 1.2 A condition of planning permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority. The application area has been divided into two plots and that to the south, has subsequently been sold and work will not be going forward under the approved consent.
- 1.3 This report presents the results of the work on the northern plot, which was carried out in November 2018 and February 2019. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code SA18.
- 1.4 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidelines (2014).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The application site is centred on National Grid Reference SP 23512 56642 in the village of Alveston. The site is located on the northern side of The Rookery within an area of high archaeological sensitivity.

- 2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is Mercia Mudstone (British Geological Survey 2017). The land slopes gently down to the River Avon at the north-east end of the site.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN

- 3.1 The earliest evidence for human activity in the area in question is an Iron Age enclosure and other features evident in trial trenches carried out by Archaeology Warwickshire (Jones 2013). The enclosure indicates the presence of a farmstead comprising at least one roundhouse, pits and an associated trackway (MWA 30331, EWA 10770).
- 3.2 There is no evidence for Roman period activity within the search area despite the presence of a large agricultural village south of Tiddington. Undated earthworks approximately 700m to the north-east of Alveston village near Old Pastures Farm have been postulated as a Roman settlement and Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (MWA 6266, NHLE 1005714).

MEDIEVAL

- 3.3 The development site lies within the possible extent of the medieval settlement of Alveston (MWA 9136). Alveston is considered to be early medieval in origin and is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a pre-Conquest manor (AOC Archaeology 2012).
- 3.4 There is considerable evidence for ridge and furrow around the village of Alveston (MWA 30076), which relate to the ploughing regime in open fields from at least the medieval period.
- 3.5 The possible site of a ford is recorded approximately 250m to the southeast of the application area (MWA 8636) as Dodda's Ford in a charter of AD985. Alveston Mill (MWA 1038) is mentioned in early medieval documents but its latest iteration was demolished in 1940s. Only a weir survives today.
- 3.6 The remains of Alveston Old Church (MWA 1036) lie approximately 300m to the west of the site. The church was replaced in 1839 on a different site by the Church of St James (MWA 1037, NHLE1204420), which is Grade II Listed. A platform next to the Church may relate to the medieval settlement (MWA 9164).

POST-MEDIEVAL

- 3.7 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886-7 (1:2500, Landmark 2003) depicts a dwelling occupying the front of the present plot, amongst several late 18th- to early 19th-century villas with large pleasure grounds in Alveston (MWA 8506, EWA 6602; MWA 8507). Alveston was, at that time, reputed for its pure air and scenery. Kissing Tree House was one such villa: formerly known as Avonmore (MWA 8510, NHLE1187757) its garden was visited by Jonathon Lovie in 1996 (EWA 8510) with a view to assessing its importance.
- 3.8 Parnham Lodge to the south-west also had associated gardens (MWA 8586). Other villas and gardens are Hemingford (MWA 8507), Baraset House (MWA 8509) and Alveston Lodge (MWA 8508, EWA6602).
- 3.9 Alveston House (MWA 8511, EWA 6603), is Grade II* Listed and was built in 1689 (MWA 8527, NHLE1187754). The surrounding pleasure grounds were restored in the 19th century to include walks, shrubberies, a boathouse and a grotto, which had disappeared in the 1960s. An ornamental pond is marked on the OS map of 1886 (MWA 1062).

- 3.10 Other entries in the search area include:

MONUMENT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
MWA30025	Alveston Ferry	Imperial
MWA4815	Turnpike Rd from Wellsbourne	Imperial
MWA20579	Drem Mark II Aviation Ground Lighting	1942
MWA20395	Crash site of Wellington	1942

- 3.11 Archaeological interventions recorded in the area:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
EWA 9951	Archaeological evaluation on Lawnside, Kissing Tree Lane which suggests that the side was not occupied in the medieval period
EWA 10605	Evaluation on land at Cedar Lawns. No archaeological features were recorded

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 aims are 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 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.
- 4.5 The first phase of work was carried out in November 2018 when the footings for a new garage were excavated.
- 4.6 The second phase followed the demolition of Grove House when the foundation trenches for the new dwelling were excavated in February 2019.

5 RESULTS

November 2018

- 5.1 Observation was carried out after the footings had been excavated, but during the excavation of a service trench running towards the site frontage. The new footings were 0.50m wide and 0.60m deep. The area surrounding the foundation trenches had also been reduced by 0.15-0.20m of topsoil (Photo 1). A 0.35m wide service trench was excavated to a depth of 0.70m in order to accommodate a new water pipe. In the area to the west of the still extant Grove House, the topsoil was up to 0.50m deep.
- 5.2 The observed deposit sequence was that the geological natural red clay (3) was overlain by 0.30m of brown clay loam (2) and 0.30m of dark grey brown sandy loam topsoil (1). Root disturbance was noted on the north-west side. No archaeological features were recorded.
- 5.3 Spoil from a line of 28 new fence posts erected to divide the plots included large amounts of ceramic building material, probably from debris for the house that preceded Grove House; this property is shown on Ordnance Survey mapping of 1886, 1905 and 1914, and up to at least 1967 as a roughly square building on the frontage of the site. Grove House (demolished early 2019) was of later 20th-century date.

February 2019

- 5.4 The foundation trenches for the new house were 0.70m wide and 1.00m deep.
- 5.5 Geological natural reddish brown clay was consistent across the area and observed at a depth of 0.50-0.60m below the current ground level. Overlying the natural was 0.30m of brown clay loam (2). The topsoil was dark grey brown sandy loam, 0.30m thick, and produced a number of finds dating from 18th to 20th centuries. No archaeological features were apparent.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The watching brief established that no significant archaeological deposits were disturbed by the development of the northern plot. The only finds recovered dated from the 18th to 20th centuries.

- 6.2 Archaeology Warwickshire conclude that this part of Alveston was not occupied before the post-medieval period and that medieval occupation is likely to have been closer to the medieval church.

- 6.3 The results adequately demonstrate that the future development of the southern plot is unlikely to impact on any significant archaeological deposits.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Trish Lee for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

BGS British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed June 2019.

Ordnance Survey 1813 *Two inch to one mile survey drawings*.

Ordnance Survey 1834 One inch to one mile, <http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/>, accessed December 2016.

Ordnance Survey 1887-1889 *First Edition 1:2500 map, Warwickshire Sheet 35.6*.



1: Outbuilding foundations



2: House foundations

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Width (m)</i>	<i>Thickness (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	Dark grey brown sandy loam		0.30-0.70	Topsoil
2	Brown clay loam		0.20 - 0.30	Subsoil
3	Reddish brown clay			Natural geology

B List of Finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date/Comments</i>
1	Glass	1	Glass Bottle – Gartons HP Sauce
1	Animal Bone	4	
1	Clay pipe	7	6x stem, 1x bowl
1	Oyster Shell	1	
1	Pottery	16	7x PLW Pearlware 1x Nottingham Stoneware STE01 2x MB Midlands Blackware 1600-1900 2x SLPW01 , Featured Slipware Rim 1680-1730 2x SLPW03 , Marbled Slipware, rim x 1 1640-1700 2x Industrial Slipware, Mocha type. (MO)

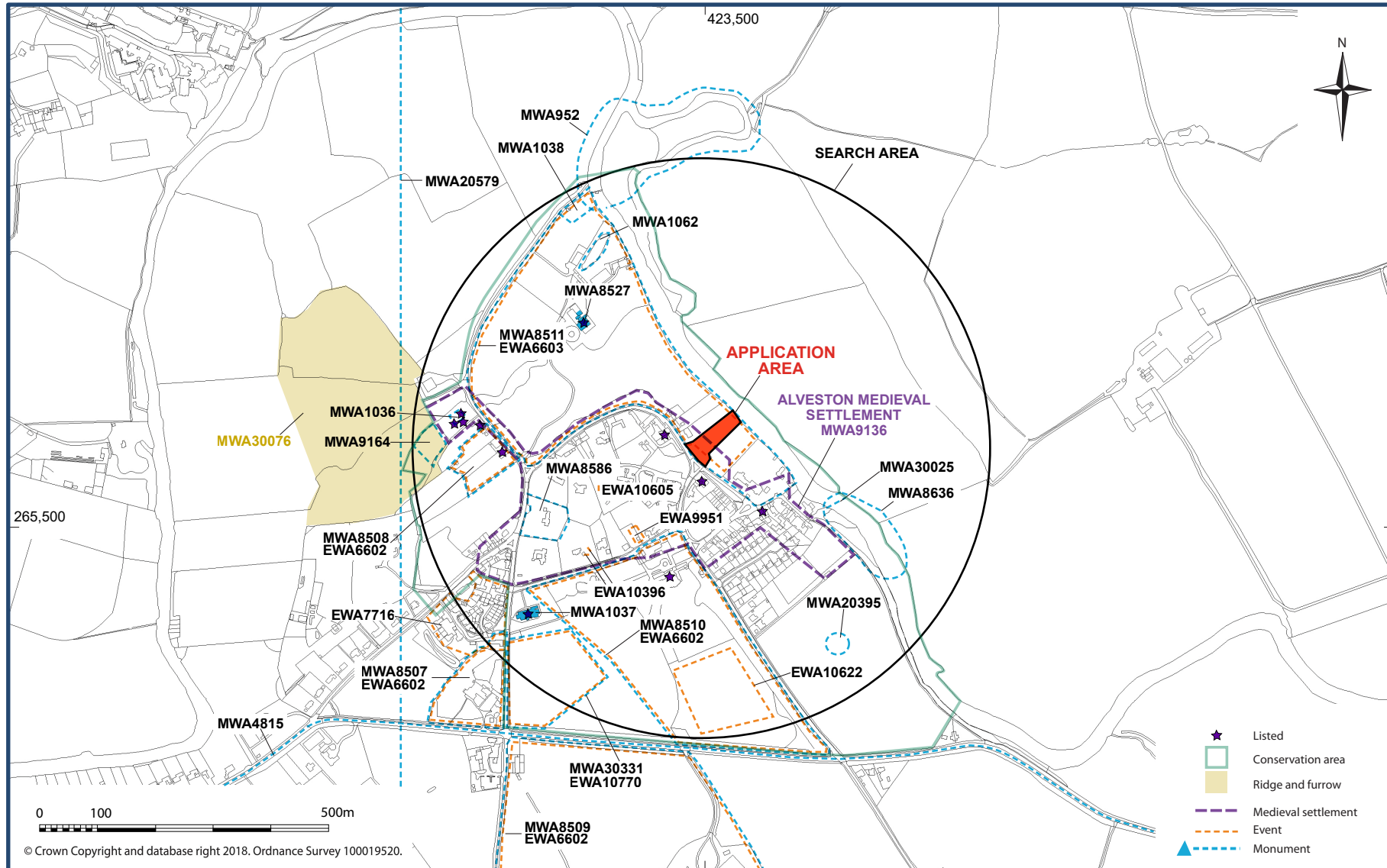


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

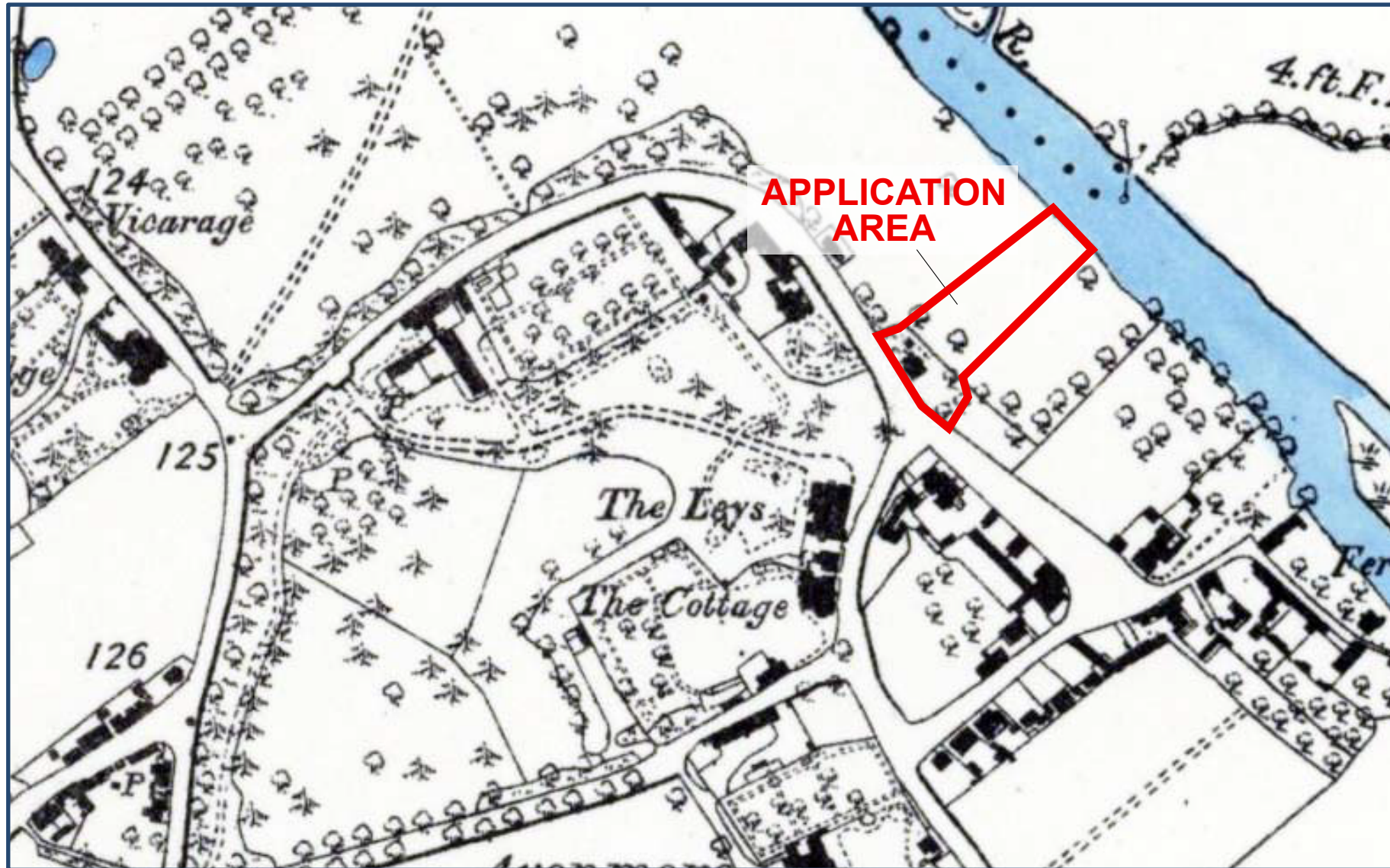


Fig 2: Detail from Ordnance Survey map of 1886

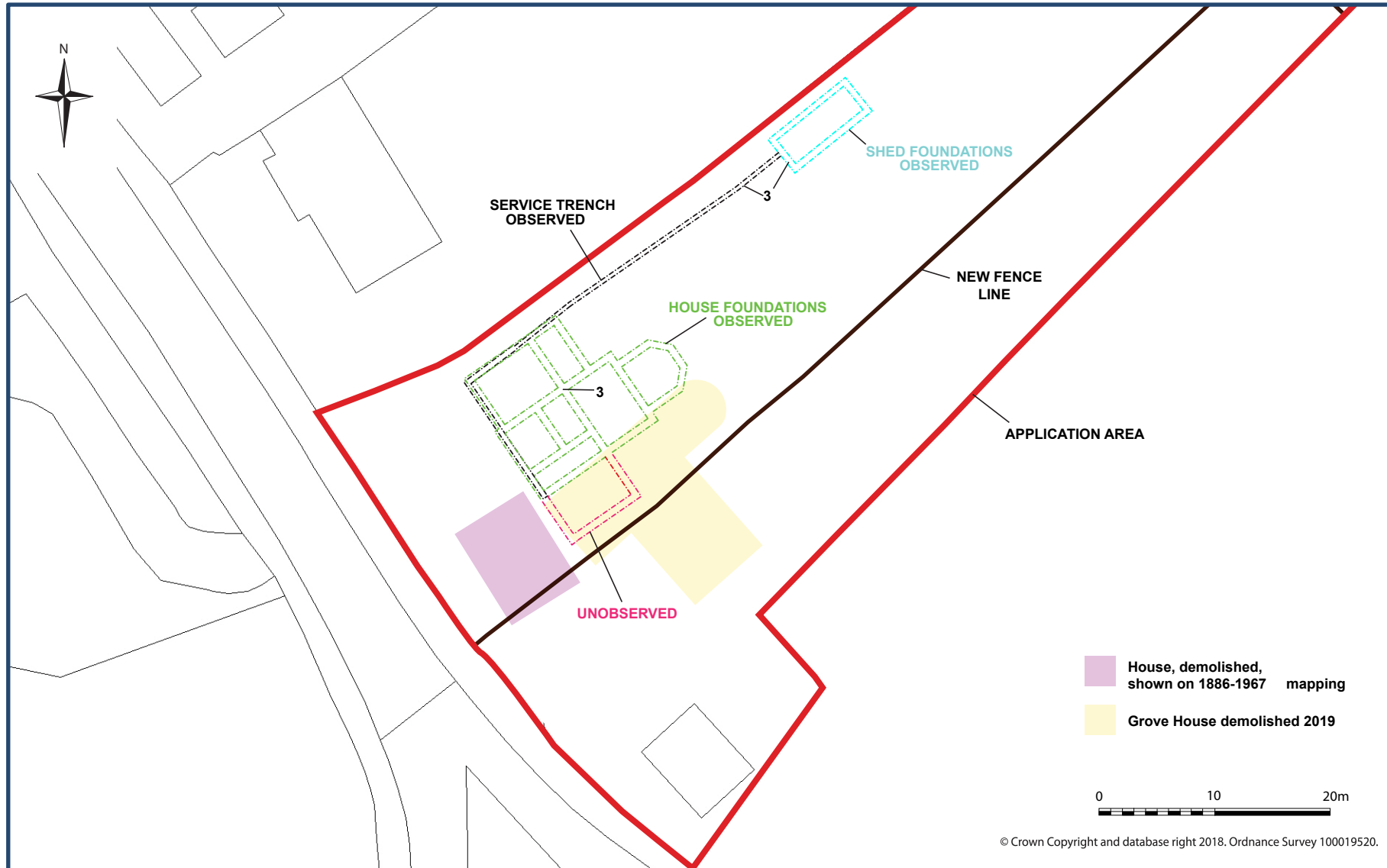


Fig 3: Location of groundworks observed