

The Stables, 92 Bridge End Warwick Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



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*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Watching Brief at the Stables, Bridge End
Commissioned by: J Baldwin, MRT Architects
Site Code: WB18
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SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches and ground reduction for alterations and extensions at The Stables, 92 Bridge End, Warwick. The house is located on the edge of the extra-mural medieval suburb of Bridge End. The area is depicted on 1889 mapping to be within a 'verge plantation'.

The archaeological observations recorded medieval activity within the area. A layer to the rear of the building produced a large quantity of 12th/13th- to 15th-century pottery and a pit at the front of the building contained pottery dating from the 13th/14th century.

Other features were recorded that are likely to be associated with the existing 20th-century house. The work also demonstrated that much of the site had been disturbed by features associated with the construction of the modern house and garage.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Warwick District Council for a replacement double garage with addition of rooms over, new partially glazed link from proposed garage to dwelling, replacement of front single storey wing, extension of existing single storey rear flat roof extension and interior alterations, replacement windows to rear dormers, rear patio, bat loft and other external alterations and internal reconfiguration at The Stables, 92 Bridge End, Warwick (Planning ref W/17/1437). The site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the medieval extra-mural suburb of Bridge End (Fig 1).

- 1.2 A condition of the 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. Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a programme of observation and recording to be undertaken in conjunction with the groundworks phase of the development in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority. The application area covers c.1500 square metres.

- 1.4 The fieldwork was carried out in October 2018. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code WB18. The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidelines for an archaeological watching brief (2014).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located on 92 Bridge End and centred on National Grid Reference SP 2871 6443, in the parish of Warwick. The application area lies within the Conservation Area, adjacent to a group of Grade II Listed cottages (National Heritage List for England no 1300281).
- 2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Tarporley Siltstone Formation with overlying River Terrace Deposits (British Geological Survey 2018).
- 2.3 Topographically the immediate surrounding area is landscaped garden to the rear and a road to the front of the property.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the application area has been detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation of the project (Steele and Kleisoura 2018) and extracts are included below:
- 3.2 A few chance finds of Romano-British material including a 3rd-century coin (MWA 4063) and a possible decorative fitting (MWA 4064) represent the earliest evidence of human activity in the Bridge End area.
- 3.3 Recent large scale archaeological work 190m to the east of the site at Warwick School has uncovered the remains of a Roman building (unpublished AW report). These include the wall foundations of a large aisled structure (28m long x 14.5m wide) constructed of local sandstone, along with corn drying ovens both inside and outside the building. The building probably forms part of a villa estate which must have been connected to the Roman road network.
- 3.4 The medieval town of Warwick dates from at least AD 914 when Aethelflaeda, eldest daughter of King Alfred, established a burh (fortified town) here; one of ten to defend Mercia against the Danes. However, Anglo-Saxon cemeteries recorded either side of the town on the north bank of the Avon suggest that settlement may have begun as early as the 6th century. The exact extent of the original Saxon defences is unknown but it is likely that they enclosed much the same area as the later medieval ditch and wall (VCH 1969, 418).
- 3.5 The site of the development lies just outside the recorded extent of the extra-mural medieval suburb of Bridge End in Warwick (MWA 8316). The suburb developed at the southern end of the medieval Old Castle Bridge (MWA 1963, NHLE 1005772/1035499 Grade II* Listed) around the junction where roads from Myton (Southam Street) and Bishop's Itchington (Gallows Street) met the London Road (MWA 4615).
- 3.6 Archaeological investigations at Park House in 1983-4 (MWA 3797, EWA 2981) uncovered the remains of a sandstone causeway of late 12th-century date leading to the bridge, and a series of timber-framed houses with stone foundations along the adjacent eastern street frontage (known as Little Street) dating from the 13th to late 18th century.

- 3.7 A cross stood at the end of the road junction at the end of the bridge in the early 17th century and is likely to have been of medieval origin (MWA 1968).
- 3.8 Other medieval features in the suburb included a chapel dedicated to St Helena depicted on Speed's plan of 1610 (MWA 7858). The location is uncertain but this site is believed to be the more likely on a site approximately 400m to the west of the application area (MWA 1954).
- 3.9 A preceptory of the Knights Templar dating from the late 12th century is thought to be represented by a possible moat (MWA 1960) and other enclosures (MWA 5521), which show as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The site is located along the line of the old London road to the south. Any upstanding remains of the preceptor, which later became Temple Farm, had disappeared by 1786 (Victoria County History 1969, 466). A 13th-century coin has been recovered from near this site (MWA 4067).
- 3.10 A watching brief at 7 Brooke Close, in 2000, identified the remains of a possible outbuilding (MWA 8902; EWA 6962) which may have been to the rear of a property fronting on London Road. A number of features dated to the medieval period including a stone-lined pit and a wall dated to the medieval period were recorded.
- 3.11 An archaeological watching brief immediately to the west of the site revealed a pit and a property boundary ditch (EWA 9238). Less than 50m to the north, a possible medieval well, dating to the 13th-14th century, was recorded during a watching brief in 2002 (MWA 12474; EWA 7184). The well was built of sandstone blocks and bonded with red clay.
- 3.12 Archaeological observation of foundation trenches for an extension to the rear of 83 Bridge End was carried out in 1998. The remains of rough stone wall foundations not aligned with structures visible on 18th- and 19th-century maps were found although no dating evidence was discovered (MWA 8315, EWA3365).
- 3.13 A ditch containing medieval pottery was uncovered during archaeological work on Banbury Road in 1966 (MWA 2150). A few fragments of residual medieval pottery were recovered during a watching brief which mainly revealed undated gullies and 18th- and 19th-century features (EWA 10262). A number of other chance finds of medieval artefacts have been found within the search area (MWA 4065, 9838, 9904).

- 3.14 The character of Bridge End as a bustling suburb on the main London road was drastically altered in the mid-later 18th century by the expansion of Warwick Castle Park. From around 1744 houses on the western side of the suburb started being demolished as property was absorbed into the Park (VCH 1969, 471-2). In 1793 the suburb was effectively bypassed when the old bridge and London Road were replaced by the modern Banbury Road and New Castle Bridge (MWA 1962) to allow the further extension of the park.
- 3.15 Post-medieval features and pottery were found during archaeological works about 50m to the NW of the development (MWA 8753, EWA 6754, EWA 7032, EWA 9449).
- 3.16 The late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps of Bridge End show that the development site was within an area of 'verge plantation', a situation which continued into the early 20th century (Fig 2). By 1925 'The Templars' had been constructed to the north-west of the present site. Number 92 Bridge End and the two properties to the south-east are shown on mapping of 1966-70, but not that of 1955.

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 formation levels and foundation trenches for the extensions and alterations of the dwelling were excavated by a 360° excavator. The foundation trenches were 0.60m wide and excavated to a depth between 0.90 and 1.65m (Fig 3). An area to the rear of the building was reduced by 0.18m and 0.80m. An area of in the front of the building was reduced by 0.15m. Geological natural was reddish brown sand and gravel (101).

Rear of the house

5.2 To the rear of the house the natural geology (101) was overlaid by a layer of light brown sandy loam (111) over 0.21m deep, containing an assemblage of medieval pottery dating to the 12/13th to 15th century. The layer was cut by a modern charcoal-filled feature (114), a further modern pit (116) and two square soakaways (102 and 123). Above these was a layer of compacted ground (110) 0.23m in depth, containing modern rubble including two sandstone ashlar blocks, probably associated with the construction of the existing house. The rubble layer was overlain by 0.06m of topsoil and turf (108/109; Photo 1).

5.3 The foundation trenches to the rear were excavated to between 0.90m and 1.65m deep. In Trench 1 a modern soakaway (102; Photo 2) was uncovered which was overlaid by a layer of dark grey brown sandy loam (100).

5.4 The modern feature 116 contained a fill of mostly charcoal, brick and tile (117). To the centre of the most southern edge of the excavated area, a new 1.20m x 1.20m soakaway was excavated to a depth of 4.5m cutting a modern soakaway (114) with no other archaeological features present. Both features were part of a drainage system.

5.6 Foundation trenches 2 and 3 contained no features of archaeological significance. Drainage trenches 5 and 6 both cut through layer 111, but no further features were uncovered (Photos 3 and 4).

Front of the dwelling

- 5.7 The footprint to the front of the site was reduced by 0.15m, revealing a dark brown sandy loam subsoil (100) measuring between 0.30m and 0.50m in depth and cut in places by the concrete footings of the former garage and ancillary rooms (Fig 3).
- 5.8 Trench 4 contained two possible pits. Possible pit 121 was to the south end of the trench, the fill (122) contained 13th/14th-century pottery (Photo 5). To the northern end of Trench 4 was an undated pit (112), which contained a brown sandy fill (113; Photo 6 and 7) and was probably modern in date.
- 5.9 No other features were uncovered in the foundation trenches to the front of the building.

6 THE POTTERY AND CBM *Paul Blinkhorn*

6.1 The pottery assemblage analysed comprised 60 sherds with a total weight of 508g. An additional three sherds of later post-medieval pottery came from pit fill 117. It was all medieval or later, and was recorded using the codes and chronology of the Warwickshire Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery Type-Series (Ratkai and Soden, in archive), as follows:

CS05:	Northants Shelly Ware , 1100-1400. 6 sherds, 43g.
MB02:	Late Midland Blackware , 1600-1900. 1 sherd, 163g.
MP:	Midland Purple Ware , 15th–mid 17th century. 1 sherd, 6g.
RS01:	Warwickshire Black Ware , late 12th–14th century. 11 sherds, 31g
RS02:	Warwickshire Grey Ware , 13th–14th century. 5 sherds, 45g,.
Sg20:	Brill/Boarstall Ware , 1200–1600. 1 sherd, 5g.
SLM01:	Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware , 14th–17th century. 2 sherds, 5g,
Sq02:	Warwick Sandy Ware , 12th–13th century. 11 sherds, 41g
Sq21:	Coventry 'D' Ware , 1150–1250. 1 sherd, 1g.
Sq30:	Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware , 1300-1500. 9 sherds, 69g.
StR20:	Chilvers Coton 'B' Ware , 1250-1300. 12 sherds, 99g.

6.2 The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each spot-date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*. The range of pottery is fairly typical of sites in the region.

6.3 The bulk of the medieval material came from unglazed jars and bowls, with many of the sherds small and somewhat worn, suggesting that they are largely the product of secondary deposition, and quite probably residual, given that the largest group of material, from context 111, is of 15th century or later date. Most of the glazed wares are probably from jugs, although only plain bodysherds were noted. The large fragment of MB02 is from a bowl, a typical product of the tradition. None of the material is worthy of further analysis.

6.4 Context 111 also produced a small (weight = 7g) and somewhat abraded fragment of tile. It is of Chilvers Coton type, in a fabric very similar to the 'C' ware pottery (fabric Sq30), and most likely of late medieval date. It is unglazed and has a maximum thickness of 13mm, although one surface has not survived, and it would originally have been thicker.

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	Sq02		CS05		Sq21		RS01		RS02		Sg20		Str20		Sq30		SLM01		MP		MB02		Date
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
100			1	24																	1	163	18thC
111	11	41	5	19	1	1	10	27	5	45	1	5	12	99	7	44	2	5	1	6			15thC
122							1	4							2	25							14thC
Total	11	41	6	43	1	1	11	31	5	45	1	5	12	99	9	69	2	5	1	6	1	163	

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The site produced archaeological evidence of medieval activity within the area. To the rear of the house a large assemblage of 12th/13th- to 15th-century pottery was recovered; the fragmented and abraded nature of the sherds would suggest they derived from an old ploughsoil. A pit to the front of the property also produced a few sherds of pottery dating to the 13th/14th century suggesting occupation in the vicinity.

- 7.2 The rest of the features which were found, such as the soakaways, are all related to the construction of the original house and are of mid-20th-century date.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Context	Description	Thickness (m)	Comment
100	Dark grey brown sandy loam subsoil	0.30-0.80	Subsoil – rear of building (already stripped of topsoil/former patio)
101	Reddish brown sand and gravel	N/A	Geological natural
102	Square soakaway cut	Not excavated	1m square soakaway
103	Gravel and brick fragments	Not excavated	Soakaway fill
104	Red brick wall	0.80	Wall foundation of present building
105	Steep sides, flat base	0.80	Cut for wall foundation 104
106	Red brick wall	unknown	Wall foundation of present building
107	Steep sides, flat base	unknown	Cut for wall 106
108	Turf	0.01	Turf – in some areas only turf was stripped
109	Dark grey brown sandy loam	0.04	Topsoil
110	Grey brown sandy loam with occasional stones, tile, brick, sandstone stones	0.23	Possibly associated with original house construction
111	Light brown sandy loam	0.50	Layer with large amount of medieval pottery – 15th century
112	Vertical sided pit cut	0.45	Pit cut at front of property - undated
113	Brown sandy loam fill of pit 112	0.45	No finds
114	Sloping sides, flat base	0.28	Modern cut
115	Charcoal fill containing brick, tile and glass	0.28	Fill of 114 - modern
116	Irregular shaped pit cut	Not excavated	Modern pit cut
117	Grey silt, bricks	Not excavated	fill of pit 116
118	Tiles and concrete floor	0.23	Modern floor at front of house
119	Sand sub-floor layer	0.06	Builders sand
120	Dark grey brown sandy loam	0.44	Made-up ground to front of house
121	Pit or ditch cut	0.50	Pit/ditch cut
122	Very dark grey sandy silt fill	0.50	Fill of 121 with 14th-century pottery
123	Soakaway cut	Not excavated	Square, 1.6m x 1.7m

B List of Finds

Context	Material	Quantity	Date/Comments
100	Pottery	2	1 x CS05, Northants shelly ware 1100-1400 1 x MB02, Late Midland Blackware 1600-1900
111	Pottery	55	11 x Sq02, Warwick Sandy Ware 12th – 13th century 5 x CS05, Northants Shelly Ware 1100-1400 1 x Sq21, Coventry 'D' Ware 1150 – 1250 10 x RS01, Warwickshire Black Ware late 12th –14th century 5 x RS02, Warwickshire Grey Ware 13th – 14th century 1 x Sg20, Brill/Boarstall Ware 1200 – 1600 12 x Str20, Chilvers Coton 'B' Ware 1250 – 1300 7 x Sq30, Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware 1300 – 1500 2 x SLM01, Late Oxidized Malvernian Ware 14th–17th century 1 x MP, Midlands Purple Ware 15th – mid 17th century
111	Tile	1	A fabric very similar to Sq30, Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware
111	Heat-cracked pebble	1	Not retained
117	Pottery	3	Post-medieval
117	A. Bone	2	Small fragments
117	Glass	1	Green bottle fragment
122	Pottery	3	1 x RS01, Warwickshire Black Ware late 12th – 14th century 2 x Sq30, Chilvers Coton 'C' Ware 1300 – 1500



1: Layer 111, looking east



2: Foundation trench 1, looking north-west



3: Drainage trench 5, looking north-east



4. Draining trench 6, looking north-west



5. Pit 121, looking south-east



6. Pit 112, looking south-east



7. Foundation trench 4, containing pits 121 and 112, looking north-north-east

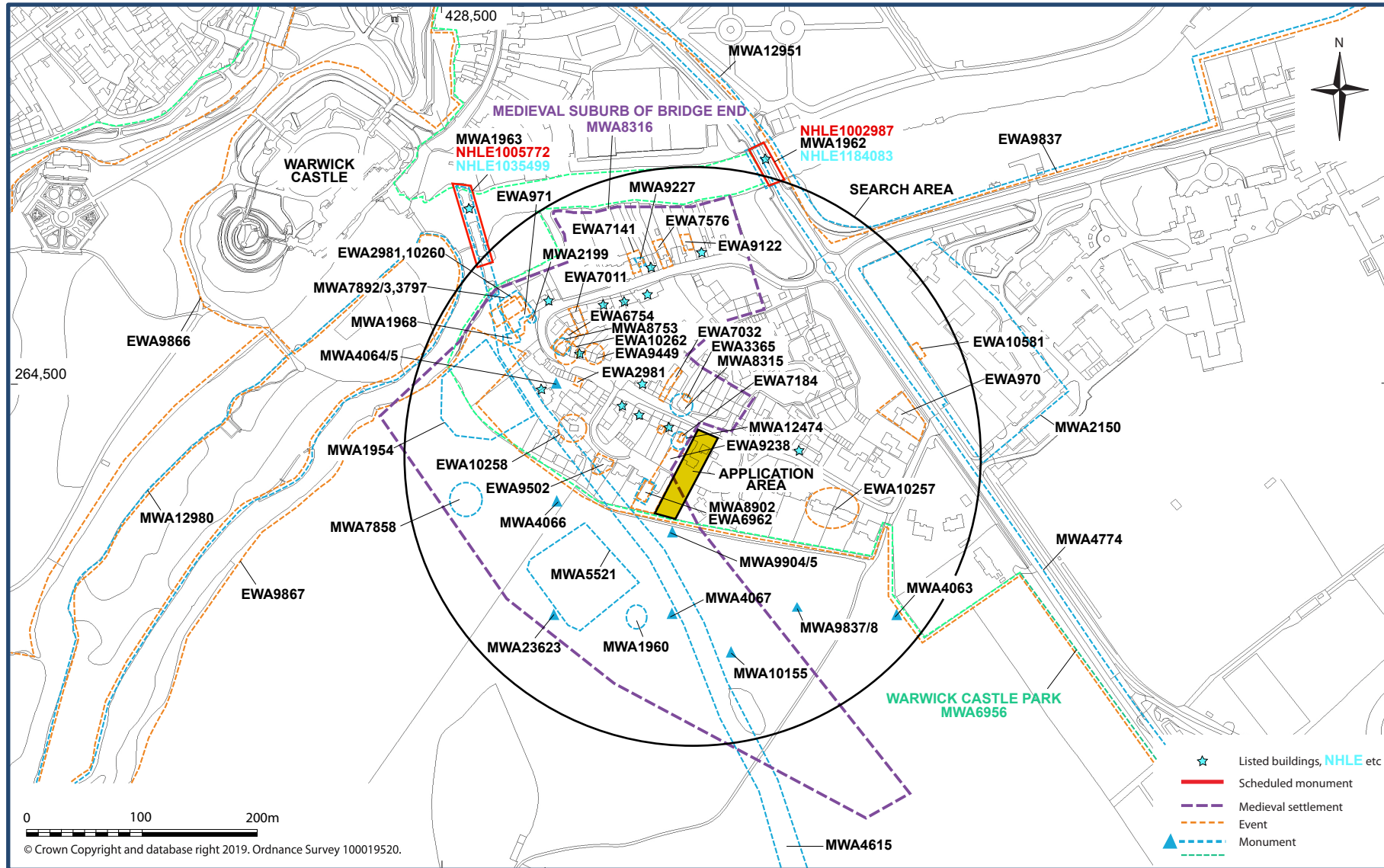


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

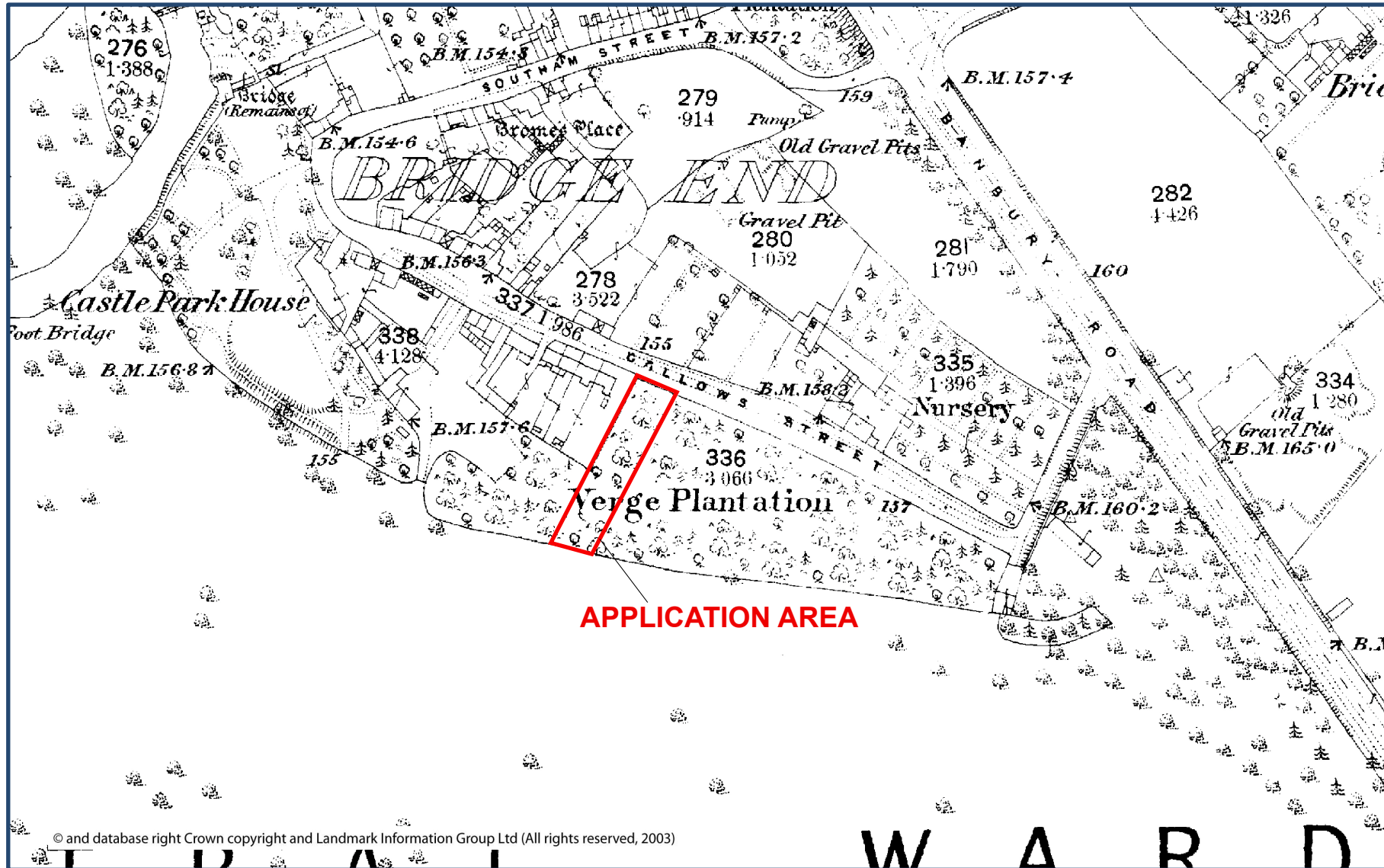


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889

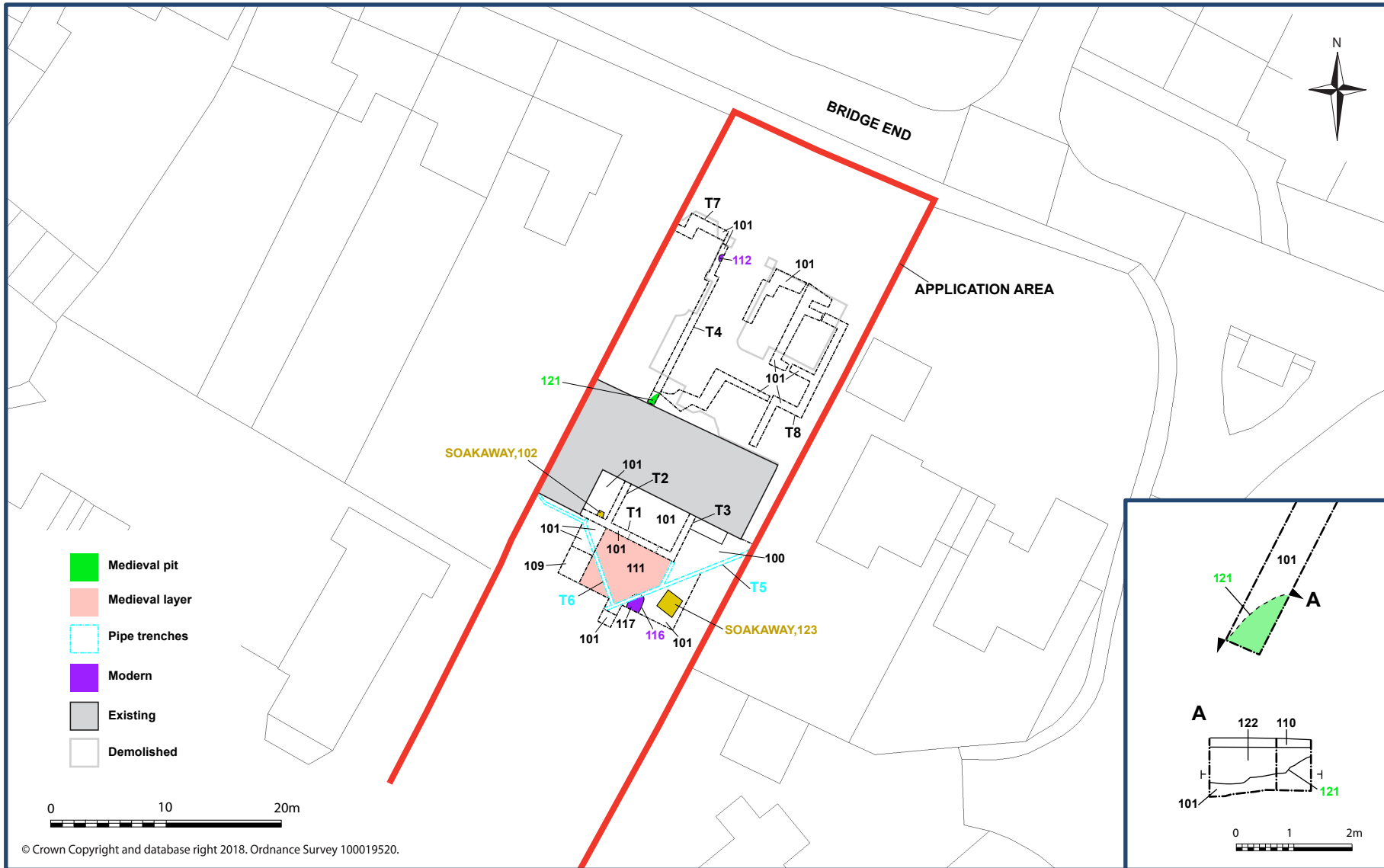


Fig 3: Location of areas observed and section A