

# Meadow View, Bourton Road Frankton Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 19131  
NOVEMBER 2019



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Watching Brief at Meadow View  
**Commissioned by:** Mr Sam Neal  
**Site Code:** FM16  
**Planning Reference:** R13/0710  
**Planning Authority:** Rugby Borough Council  
**National Grid Reference:** SP 4275 7040  
**Project Manager:** Caroline Rann MCI fA  
**Fieldwork:** Pete Thompson BA  
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## SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches and ground reduction for the construction of a new extension to the existing dwelling on behalf of Mr Sam Neal. The site is located within the likely extent of the medieval settlement of Frankton.*

*No significant archaeological remains were revealed during the observed works.*

*Several undated pits of uncertain function were recorded during the watching brief. These may well be garden or horticultural features relating to post-medieval activity on the site. or just possibly earlier prehistoric remains.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Rugby Borough Council (Ref. 13/0710) for the erection of a two-storey side and rear extension, a single storey front extension and a detached double garage at Meadow View, Bourton Road, Frankton, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 9NX. The proposed development site lies within an area of archaeological potential and within the likely extent of the medieval settlement of Frankton.
- 1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority for an appropriate level of mitigation, namely observation and recording or watching brief to be carried out in conjunction with the groundworks phase of the approved scheme or development.
- 1.3 The watching brief was initially undertaken in February 2016 in response to notification of groundworks by the client. This report presents the results of the watching brief and the project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code FM16. The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidelines (2014).

## 2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site lies at the north-eastern limit of the village of Frankton and on the south side of Bourton Road. The site is centred on national grid reference SP 4275 0406, within the parish of Frankton. The proposed development area covers an area of approximately 150m<sup>2</sup>.
- 2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Rugby Limestone member with overlying deposits of Dunsmore sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2016).
- 2.3 The site was general level and occupied by the current dwelling with associated outbuildings and gardens

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The area including Frankton parish contains surprisingly little evidence for past human interaction compared to the neighbouring parishes on Dunsmore. However, this may be a reflection of the low levels of modern development and therefore opportunity to reveal archaeological sites and finds. Evidence for considerable later prehistoric and Roman period settlement survives across much of Dunsmore (Palmer 2002, 2007a, 2007b).

#### **Prehistoric and Roman**

3.2 A cropmark enclosure is recorded on the Warwickshire HER to the north-east of Frankton village. MWA 3174 is a small, three sided enclosure with a spur to the south-east which backs onto a recently removed field boundary. Ostensibly this appears to be morphologically prehistoric although it remains possible that is a modern feature associated with 'inclosure' of the area in the 17th century. A further cropmark site MWA 3175, to the east of the site, is more enigmatic and there is reason to suppose that it is a geological phenomenon.

#### **Medieval**

3.3 The earliest historical reference to Frankton comes from the foundation charter of Coventry Priory in which Frankton is granted by Earl Leofric along with other lands in 1043. These lands were probably seized by Early Roger of Shrewsbury after the Norman conquest although they were returned later, certainly by 1267, when Leofric's charter was confirmed. Frankton was stated to be in the barony of the Prior of Coventry in 1316 (VCH 51, 92-4). The proposed development at the northern limit but within the probable extent of the medieval settlement of Frankton (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no MWA 9515).

3.4 The church of St Nicholas dates from at least the early 13th century as represented by the lower stage of the tower. The rest of the church was rebuilt in the 14th century, and in the 15th century the upper part of the tower was rebuilt. The Manor House (MWA 3170, MWA 12646) and the church (MWA 3169) lie at the south-western end of the village. Areas of shrunken medieval settlement can be found around them (MWA 8311, MWA 8312).

- 3.5 Frankton parish was inclosed in 1656 and in 1678 two thirds of the former common fields were said to be very large pastures exhibiting ridge and furrow (VCH 1951, 92-4). The village smithy was located to the south of Main Street (MWA 3184).
- 3.6 Archaeological work that has taken place in Frankton includes an evaluation at the church which revealed post-medieval burials (EWA 10252), a negative watching brief at Oakhurst (EWA 9830) and a site visit to the Manor House grounds by Jonathan Lovie (EWA 9628). The north-eastern end of village was part of the National Mapping Project, which mapped features from aerial photographs (EWA 9109).

### **Map Regression**

- 3.7 Meadow View is absent from the Ordnance Survey mapping for 1887, but the mapping does show that there were buildings on the southern part of site. Four small plots are shown to the south of the Bourton Road in 1887. These smaller plots are also shown on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905 which shows a building in the position of Meadow View. The National Grid 1:2500 A5 Edition 1970 map shows the house labelled as Meadow View.



## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed or disturbed during the construction phase of 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

### Geological Natural

- 5.1 The geological natural was recorded in the observed trenches as a layer of yellowish brown sandy clay (3). The natural geological deposit was recorded at a depth of 0.5m below the current ground surface. At greater depths the natural layer contained increasing amounts of sand and gravel.

### Deposit Sequence

- 5.2 A simple deposit sequence was recorded during groundworks, this was derived from geological natural sand and gravel and the historic use of the site for domestic and horticultural functions. The natural deposits associated with Dunsmore sand and gravel were overlain by a simple sequence of subsoil (2, 6) overlaid by topsoil or garden soil. Garden soils (1) contained fragments of ceramic building material including brick and tile fragments. A burst water pipe resulted in water ingress into the trenches and obscured parts of the trench (Photo 2).

### Archaeological Features

- 5.3 Only a limited number of archaeological features were encountered during the ground reduction and the remains included several undated pits.

### Undated

- 5.4 The partial remains of two roughly circular pits were revealed in the northern most trench. The southern half of a sub-circular pit (12) was recorded. The pit was approximately 1.1m wide and 0.4m deep; filled by a grey brown silty clay (11) which contained no dateable material and was cut by a modern service trench. A second pit 5 was also only partially revealed and was also truncated by the sinking of an earth rod at this point. Pit 5 was revealed in the north-west corner and was approximately 1m in diameter and 0.35m deep. The pit contained a reddish brown clay fill (4). The fill was mixed and included grey brown silty clay and pebbles, but contained no dateable material.
- 5.5 A further possible pit 8 was revealed to the south of pit 12; however only a partial edge was suggested. This was not clearly discernible and contained no archaeological material and was possibly geological in origin.

### **Modern**

- 5.6 A 0.3m wide linear feature (10) proved on investigation to contain a cable. The service trench was visible for at least 2m extending roughly north to south. Other service trenches including water and waste pipes were apparent during the watching brief. Whilst these had a localised impact on the deposit sequence there was no evidence of any significant impact on potential archaeological remains.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological work was undertaken during the construction phase for the proposed extension, but no significant remains were encountered.
- 6.2 No archaeological features or finds that might be associated with the medieval or post-medieval settlement of Frankton were revealed during the work and no significant archaeological remains were recorded.
- 6.3 Several pits were partially revealed during the watching brief, but these had no dateable material associated with them and no surviving characteristics that might be indicative of their function. These remain undated and maybe related to the use of the site during the post-medieval period, possibly garden or orchard activities. However, it remains a possibility that these maybe earlier features relating to prehistoric activity.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mr Sam Neal for commissioning the work.

## REFERENCES

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1: Excavation of foundation trench



2: Excavation of trenches showing services and deposit sequence





3: View north-west towards existing house showing natural

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	Grey brown silty loam			Topsoil
2	Yellowish grey brown silty clay			Subsoil
3	Yellowish grey brown sandy clay with gravel			Geological natural
4	Fill of pit 5			
5	Pit		0.35	Undated pit
6	Layer			Same as layer 2
7	? Fill of Pit 8			
8	? Pit		c. 0.25	Possible natural feature
9	Fill of 10			Modern
10	Service trench			Modern
11	Fill of pit 12			
12	Pit		0.4	Undated pit

## B List of Finds (Not retained)

<b>Context</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Date/Comments</b>
1	Brick, tile	5	19th/20th century ceramic building material fragments (not retained)

## C Oasis Form

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

**OASIS ID: archaeol27-370176**

### Project details

Project name	Meadow View Frankton
Short description of the project	Watching brief conducted during the construction phase of a new extension to existing dwelling
Project dates	Start: 12-02-2016 End: 31-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE RUGBY FRANKTON Meadow View
Postcode	CV23 9NX
Study area	150 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 4275 0406 51.733163193466 -1.380892589932 51 43 59 N 001 22 51 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology Warwickshire
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Pete Thompson
Project director/manager	Caroline Rann
Project supervisor	Pete Thompson
Type of sponsor/funding body	developer

Entered by	peter thompson (petethompson@warwickshire.gov.uk)
Entered on	11 October 2019



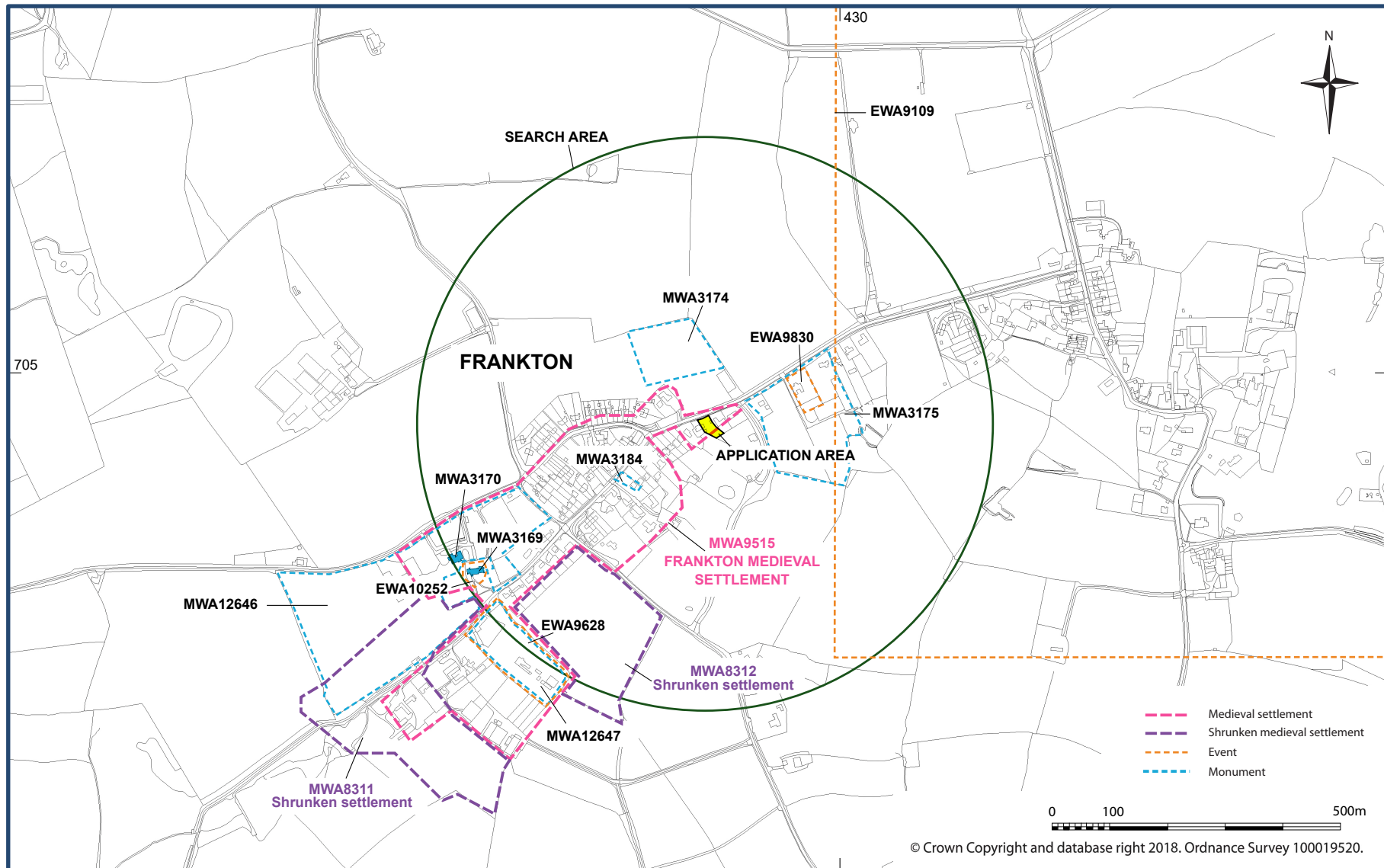


Fig 1: Location of Application area and Historic Environment information

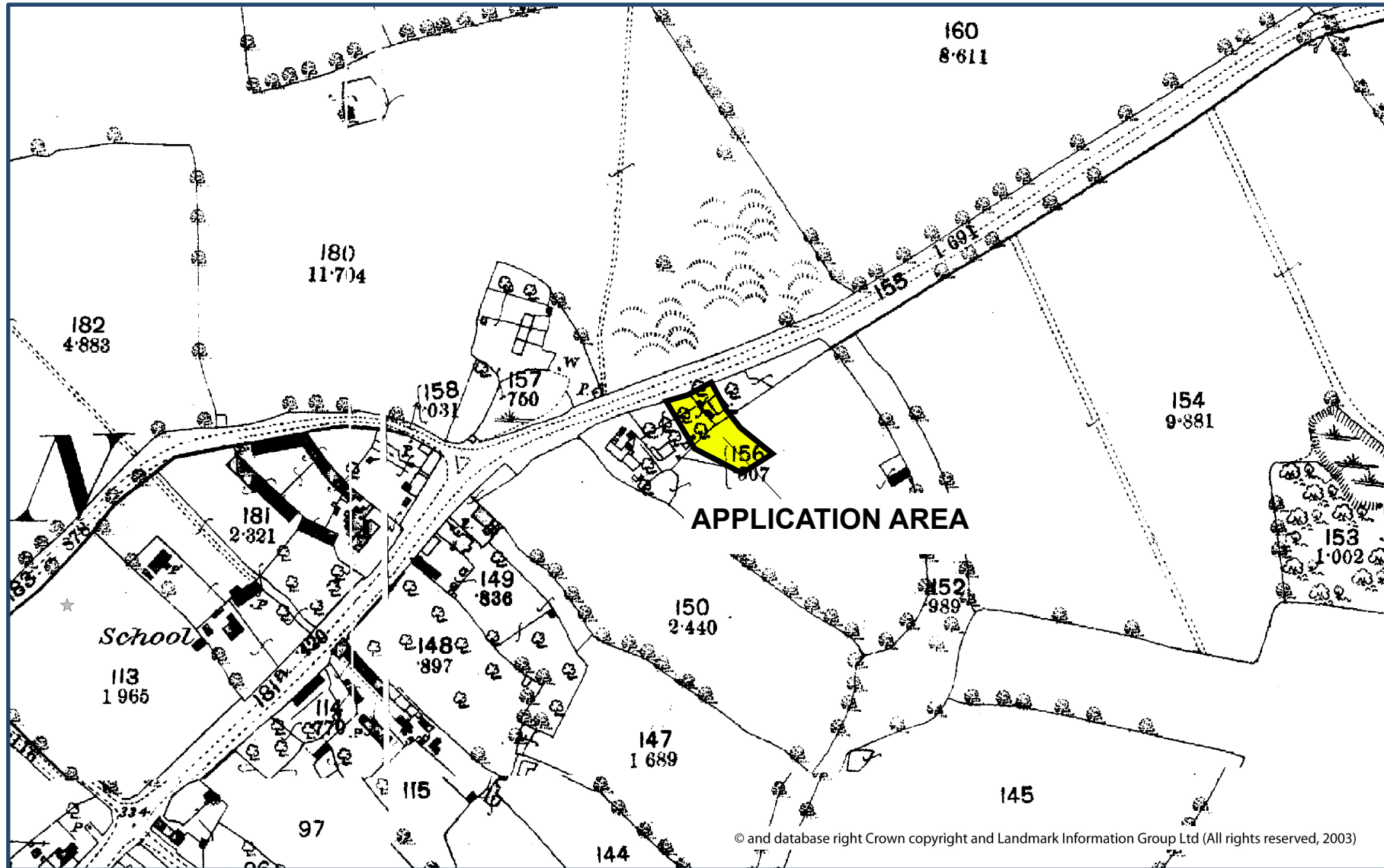


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887

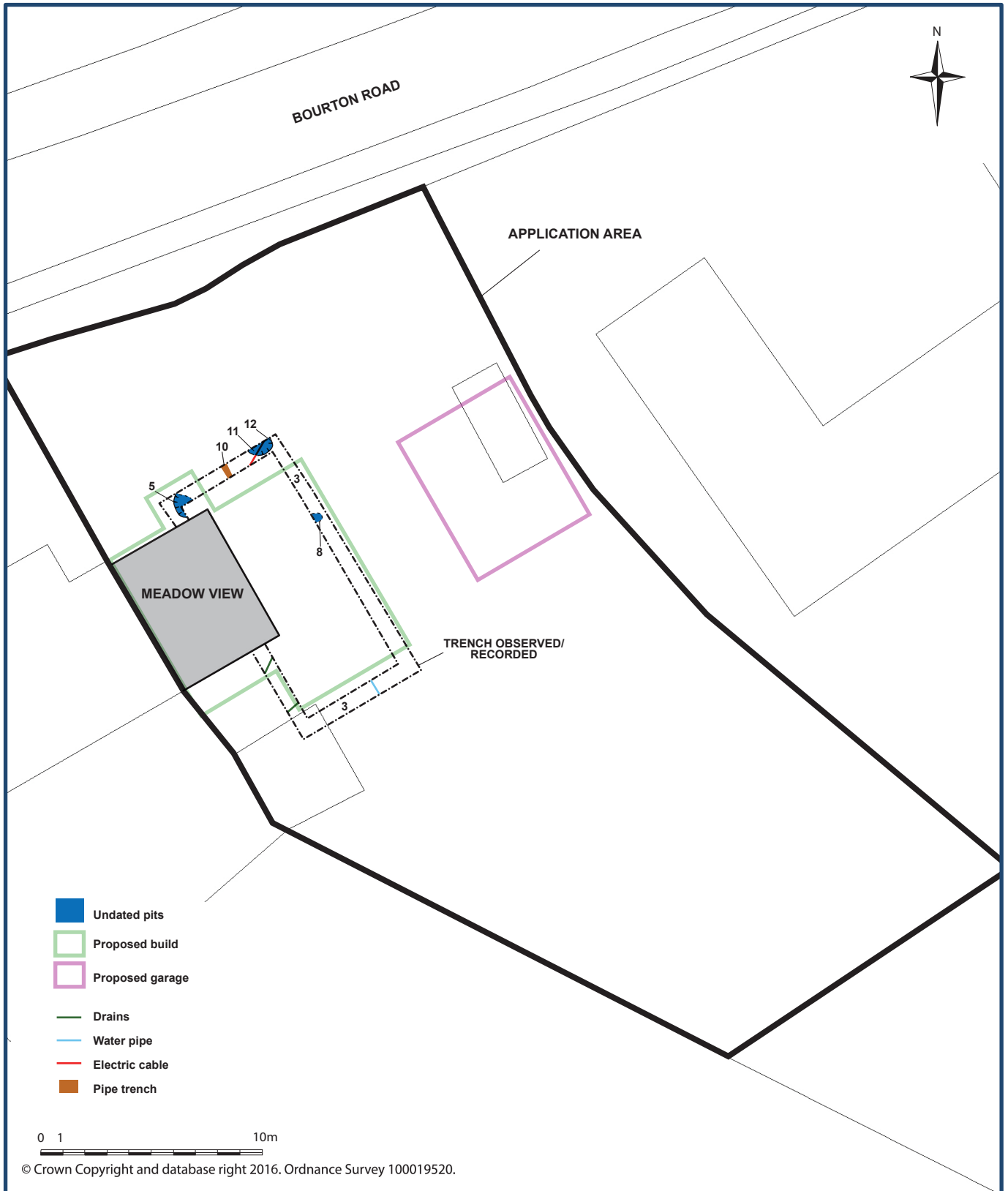


Fig 3: Location of works observed