

The New House, Church Road Baginton, Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1924

February 2019



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Watching brief
Commissioned by: Matt Wright
Site Code: BN19
Planning Reference: W/17/0888
Planning Authority: Warwick District Council
National Grid Reference: SP 3436 7470
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SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a foundation trench for the construction of a single storey side / front extension to The New House on behalf of Mr Matt Wright.

The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the medieval settlement of Baginton and close to areas where Roman and Saxon settlement evidence has been found. The natural geology was revealed only at the eastern part of the foundation trench. It was overlain by a deep layer of late 19th – early 20th century date which may represent a rubbish dump and/or deliberate ground raising activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Warwick District Council for the erection of a single storey side / front extension, with a balcony and an external spiral staircase along with the erection of a boundary fence, gate pillars & gate and the realignment of existing driveway (Ref. W/17/0888). The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the medieval settlement of Baginton and close to areas where Roman and Saxon settlement evidence has been found.
- 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 (AW hereafter) were commissioned to produce the Written Scheme of Investigation (January 2019) for an archaeological watching brief, that was carried out by AW in conjunction with the groundworks phase of the development in January 2019.
- 1.3 This report presents the results of the watching brief. The report has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014). The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code BN19.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The application area is centred on National Grid Reference SP 3436 7470 on the south side of Church Road in the village of Baginton, in the parish of the same name. The house and the area of the watching brief sits within a private garden, which is hedged along its northern boundary fronting onto Church Road.

- 2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is Sandstone of the Helsby Formation overlain by sand and gravel of the Baginton Formation (British Geological Survey 2019).

- 2.3 The area of the proposed single storey side / front garage extension is located to the west of the existing building and comprised a grassed garden and tarmac driveway sloping slightly to the south.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 This section is based on data from a search of the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record, which returned information on 75 known sites and monuments of archaeological interest and 34 records of past archaeological works within the 500m of The New House. These will be discussed below, where relevant, in period order and their locations shown on Figure 1 (see Table 1 for all HER records).

Prehistoric

3.2 Baginton village lies on sandy soil above the River Sowe. It is therefore unsurprising that evidence for early Prehistoric activity has been found in and around the village and flints of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date have been collected (MWA 2757, 2893, 2963, 4588) as well as a Neolithic polished stone axe (MWA 2684). The findspots for the flints are recorded to the southwest, north and east of the site, with the ones to the north coming from a former quarry to the north of the church. Material from the former quarry was within 150m of the house, which along with the distribution of the findspots, was close enough to raise the potential for similar material to be present within the watching brief area.

3.3 Other prehistoric finds from the area include a Beaker vessel, bucket urn and flint arrowhead all of Bronze Age date, which were found separately to the east of the site (MWA 2681, 2682, 2678). Recent excavations to the northeast of the survey area have uncovered a probable Bronze Age barrow (Nigel Page Pers. Comm.). To date, no evidence for later prehistoric activity has been recorded close to the site.

Roman

3.4 Baginton village lies to the south of the Lunt Roman Fort (National Heritage List for England no. 1017245, MWA 5297, 5298, 5299) and Roman remains have been found throughout the village and surrounding area. It is possible that the village overlies a *vicus* or civilian settlement associated with the fort although the evidence for this is still limited. Rubbish pits and wells of Roman date were found in the former quarry to the north of the Church (MWA 2683), which is thought to have been the focus for the settlement. In the 1960s several excavations were carried out behind the Old School House, c.80m east of the site, which revealed stone walls, postholes and pits along with abundant Roman pottery (MWA 2691). However, it is not certain how many of the pits and postholes were of Roman date. Possible Roman buildings and a well

were recorded c.155m to the southeast of the site at Oak Farm (MWA 2680). The finds from site suggested that Roman occupation in this part of Baginton could have lasted from the 1st to the 4th centuries AD.

- 3.5 A Roman storage jar was found at the neighbouring Rectory to the east (MWA 2962) and sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the former quarry to the north of the church (MWA 5302) and a figurine (MWA 5628) was recovered from close to the castle to the west of the site. Roman occupation to the north and southeast of the site and the recovery of the storage jar from the next-door plot does suggest that evidence for the Roman settlement could be present in the development site.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

- 3.6 It is likely that the Roman settlement in and around Baginton continued into the Anglo-Saxon period. A Sunken Featured Building (SFB) with pottery dating from around 500 AD (MWA 5303) was recorded in the section of the former quarry to the north of the church, c.175m to the northwest of The New House. A large Anglo-Saxon cremation cemetery was recorded during quarrying to the east of Coventry Road in the 1930s (MWA2679). The presence of the SFB (MWA 5303) to the northwest suggested there may have been evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period within the site.
- 3.7 The remains of the medieval castle (Bagot's Castle) lie to the west of the site (MWA 2676, NHLE 1011193). It is believed to have been established in the 12th century. Although still habitable in the early 1400s it had largely been demolished when Sir William Dugdale published his 'Antiquities of Warwickshire' in 1656 (VCH, 1951, 22-26). Ruins of the tower keep are still visible (MWA 5296).
- 3.8 The New House lies within the probable extent of the medieval village of Baginton (MWA 9492) as it is immediately opposite the medieval parish church of St John the Baptist (MWA 2675). The church dates from the early 13th century with later 13th and 14th century additions and some small extensions and consists of a chancel, nave, double north aisle and bell-turret.

- 3.9 It is possible that Church Road itself represents one of the main streets of the medieval settlement. In addition to Roman settlement remains at The Old School House evidence for medieval buildings and pottery (MWA 5301) was also recovered.
- 3.10 Excavated archaeological evidence and surviving earthworks of house platforms suggest that the medieval settlement was once more extensive to the north-west of the development (MWA 2694). Ridge and furrow earthworks recorded to on the west side of Coventry Road (MWA 2956), 250m to the east of the site and on the north side of Rowley Road (MWA 2955) could indicate either the edges of the medieval settlement or settlement shrinkage following de-population.

Post-medieval and modern

- 3.11 There are a large number of post-medieval and modern records from within the survey area, but none are close enough to the site to be affected by the works and so are not discussed here (see Table 1 for descriptions and Figure 1 for locations).

MONUMENT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
MWA12348	WW2 Battle Headquarters, Baginton	Modern
MWA12726	Baginton Hall park/garden, Baginton	Post-medieval to Modern
MWA2673	The Lunt Roman Fort: Period 1	Romano-British
MWA2675	Church of St John the Baptist, Baginton	Medieval to Imperial
MWA2676	Baginton Castle	Medieval
MWA2677	Site of C17 Baginton Hall 100m N of Church	Post-medieval
MWA2678	Early Bronze Age Beaker near Coventry Road, Baginton	Early Bronze Age
MWA2679	Site of Migration Cemetery 500m E of Baginton Church	Anglo-Saxon
MWA2680	Site of Roman Settlement to E of Oak Farm	Romano-British
MWA2681	Findspot - Bronze Age bucket urn	Middle Bronze Age
MWA2682	Findspot - Bronze Age flint arrowhead	Early Bronze Age
MWA2683	Excavation of Roman Settlement to N of Home Farm	Romano-British
MWA2684	Findspot - Neolithic stone axe	Early Neolithic to Late Neolithic
MWA2688	Ruined Dovecote on site of Castle	Post-medieval to Imperial
MWA2689	Rectory, Church Road, Baginton	Post-medieval to Modern

MWA2691	Roman settlement	Romano-British
MWA2694	Site of Shrunken Medieval Settlement	Medieval
MWA2695	Site of Roman Settlement 400m SE of Church	Romano-British
MWA2697	Pound 200m SE of Oak Farm	Imperial
MWA2698	Smithy 100m E of Oak Farm, Baginton	Imperial
MWA2757	Findspot - Palaeolithic flint flake	Early Lower Palaeolithic to Late Middle Palaeolithic
MWA2893	Findspot - Neolithic to Bronze Age flint	Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age
MWA2951	Site of Roman Settlement at Baginton	Romano-British
MWA2953	Roman pit	Romano-British
MWA2955	Ridge and Furrow E of The Lunt Cottages, Baginton	Medieval to Post-medieval
MWA2956	Ridge and Furrow adjacent to Home Farm, Baginton	Medieval to Post-medieval
MWA2957	Excavation of Roman Settlement at Home Farm	Romano-British
MWA2958	Imperial Horse Engine	Imperial
MWA2959	Fishponds 300m SE of Baginton Castle	Imperial
MWA2960	Site of Footbridge 100m SW of Castle	Imperial
MWA2961	The Lunt Cottages, Coventry Road, Baginton	Medieval to Modern
MWA2962	Findspot - Roman storage jar	Romano-British
MWA2963	Findspot - Flint Scatter	Early Lower Palaeolithic to Late Iron Age
MWA2966	Assorted Finds found in sand & gravel pits, Baginton	Romano-British to Imperial
MWA4588	Mesolithic flint finds	Mesolithic
MWA5296	Tower Keep Castle at Baginton	Medieval
MWA5297	The Lunt Roman Fort: Period 2	Romano-British
MWA5298	The Lunt Roman Fort: Period 3	Romano-British
MWA5299	The Lunt Roman Fort: Period 4	Romano-British
MWA5300	Site of Medieval Iron Works at the Lunt	Medieval
MWA5301	Site of Poss Shrunken Med Sett'mt	Medieval
MWA5302	Findspot - Roman sherds	Romano-British
MWA5303	Site of Saxon Settlement to W of Baginton Church	Migration
MWA5354	Site of 18th century Baginton Hall 137m North of the Church of St John	Post-medieval to Modern
MWA5628	Roman Stone Figurine found near Baginton Church	Romano-British
MWA7055	Modern Features found adjacent to Baginton Castle	Modern

MWA8027	Baginton Airfield	Modern
MWA8798	Roman pottery, 19 Coventry Rd, Baginton	Romano-British
MWA8912	Wall, Village Store, 1 & 2 Market Corner, Coventry Road	Post-medieval
MWA9185	Roman Ditches, 7 Coventry Road, Baginton	Romano-British
MWA9492	Baginton Medieval Settlement	Medieval
MWA9724	Two undated pits at the Rear of 2 Lunt Cottages, Coventry Road, Baginton.	Unknown
MWA9776	Roman pottery sherds at the Lunt Roman Fort Car Park, south of Lunt Fort Cottages, Baginton.	Romano-British
MWA9778	Medieval pottery sherds at the Lunt Roman Fort Car Park, south of Lunt Fort Cottages, Baginton.	Medieval
MWA 5299	Period of occupation at The Lunt Roman Fort	Roman

3.12 There have been a number of previous episodes of archaeological works within and around the village, which range from rapid recording during the earlier quarrying to the north and east of the village, excavations of Baginton Castle and The Lunt Roman Fort as well as smaller pieces of work associated with individual properties. Many of these have recorded evidence for the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlements.

3.13 Most significant for this project are the recording (EWA 3081) of the former quarry to the north of the church that recorded the Anglo-Saxon SFB (MWA 5303) and a watching brief carried out at the neighbouring Rectory in 1999 that recorded no archaeological features or finds (EWA 10765).

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
EWA11122	Geophysical Survey at Bagot's Castle, Baginton
EWA1584	Site visit to a pound, Coventry Road, Baginton
EWA1585	Site visit to Smithy, Kimberley Road, Baginton
EWA1630	Site visit to the footbridge 100m southwest of Baginton Castle
EWA3179	Excavation at Lunt Cottages
EWA6731	Observations at Rose Cottage, Coventry Road, Baginton
EWA6818	Observations at 19 Coventry Rd, Baginton
EWA6975	The Village Store, 1 & 2 Market Corner, Coventry Rd
EWA6977	WB at The Lunt Car Park, Baginton

EWA7019	Arch Trial Excav on Land off Coventry Rd, Baginton
EWA7112	Observations at 7 Coventry Road, Baginton
EWA7360	Archaeological Evaluation at Rear of 2 Lunt Cottages, Coventry Road, Baginton
EWA7366	Lunt Roman Fort Car Park, Archaeological Excavation 2001
EWA7416	Rose Cottage, Baginton
EWA7683	Survey of the Lunt Roman Fort area behind Granary prior to use as a Replica Roman Garden.
EWA9207	Watching Brief at 11 Kimberley Road, Baginton
EWA9447	Evaluation at 1 Lunt Cottages, Baginton
EWA9451	Watching Brief at No 34 Oak Close, Baginton
EWA9716	Site visit to Baginton Hall park/garden by J Lovie c1996
EWA9937	Archaeological recording of consolidation work, Bagot's Castle, Baginton

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains that may have been 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 An experienced archaeologist was present on site each day of groundworks to supervise ground reductions to formation levels, or the geological natural, whichever the higher. This involved the reduction in ground level for a raft type concrete foundation.
- 4.3 The trench for the raft foundation of new building (Fig 3) was excavated by a mini-digger using a toothless bucket. The trench was 11.50m x 6.50m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The Geological natural was reddish brown sand (103) which had been disturbed by tree roots and was only visible at the east of the trench (Fig 3).
- 5.2 The Geological natural was sealed by a dark brown sandy silt (102) containing brick and tile fragments, roof slate fragments, sherds of late 19th- early 20th century pottery and bottle glass fragments. It was extensively disturbed by tree roots and stumps. Layer 102 was 0.40m deep at the east side of the trench and became deeper to the west, where it was at least 0.60m deep, although the base of the layer was not reached at the west part of the trench.
- 5.3 Layer 102 was cut by a pit containing a dump of a large quantity of large sherds of late 19th-early 20th century pottery (not retained) at the north end of the trench.
- 5.4 Layer 102 was sealed by a brown loamy sandy silt (101) containing sherds of late 19th and 20th century pottery, 0.20-0.30m deep, and a crushed brick and tarmac drive surface (100), 0.20m deep.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No evidence for any activity predating the late 19th– 20th century date dumping of rubbish was apparent on the site. The natural geology was only visible in the eastern part of the trench. The ground surface appears to have been deliberately built-up, probably during the early 20th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mr Matt Wright for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

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VCH 1951 *A History of the County of Warwickshire: Volume 6*, ed. L. F. Salzman (London, 1951), pp. 81-89. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol8/pp81-89> [accessed 23 January 2019].

APPENDIX

A List of contexts

Context	Description	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Comment
100	Crushed brick and tarmac		0.20	Drive surface
101	Brown loamy sandy silt containing sherds of late 19 th and early 20 th century pottery (not retained)		0.20-0.30	Topsoil
102	Dark brown sandy silt containing brick and tile fragments, roof slate fragments, sherds of late 19 th and early 20 th century pottery and bottle glass fragments (not retained)		0.40- 0.60	Subsoil
103	Reddish brown sand			Geological natural



1: Contexts 102 and 103 (disturbed by tree roots), looking south



2: Contexts 102 and 103 (tree roots removed), looking south



3: Contexts 102 and 103, looking north

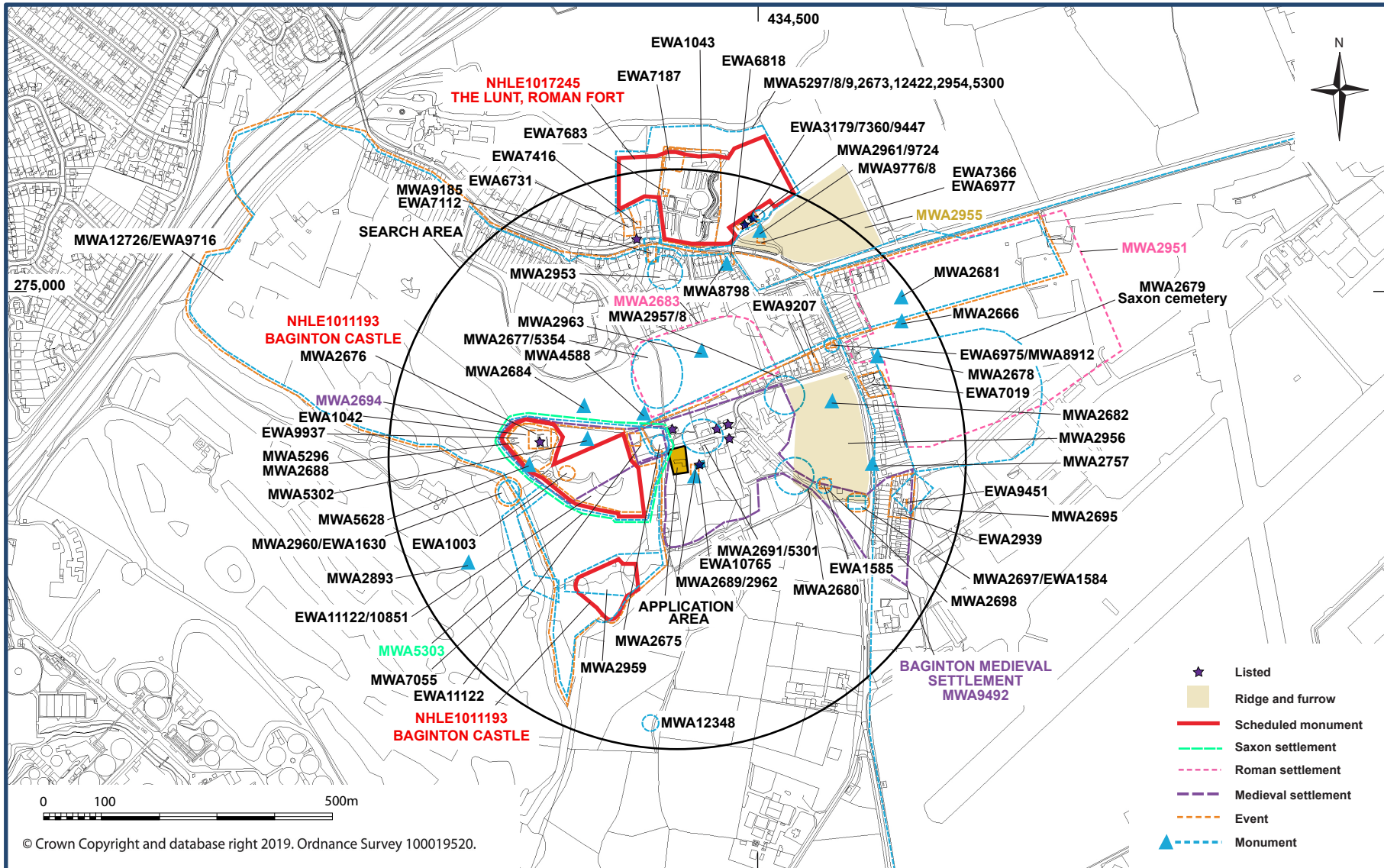
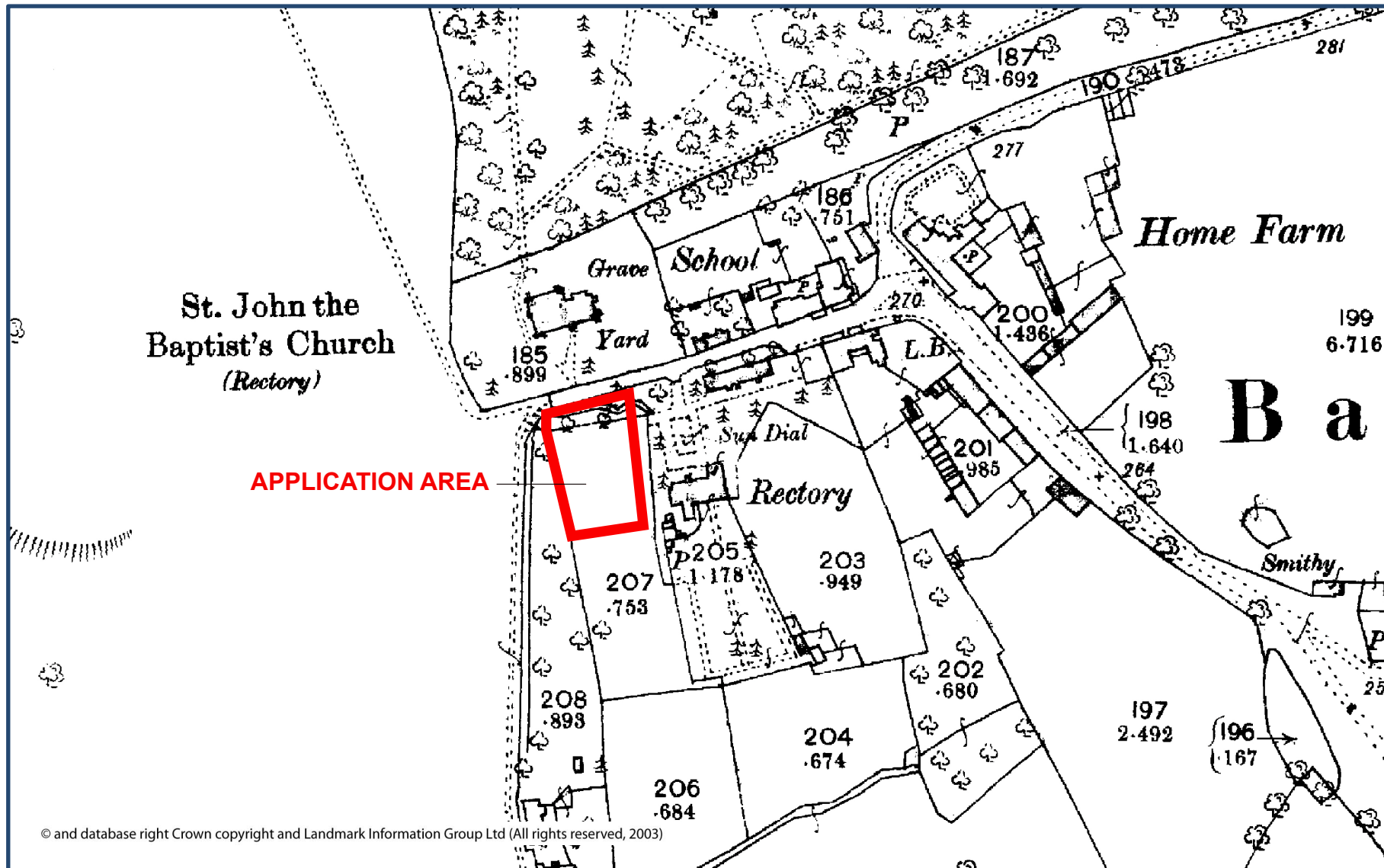


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information



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

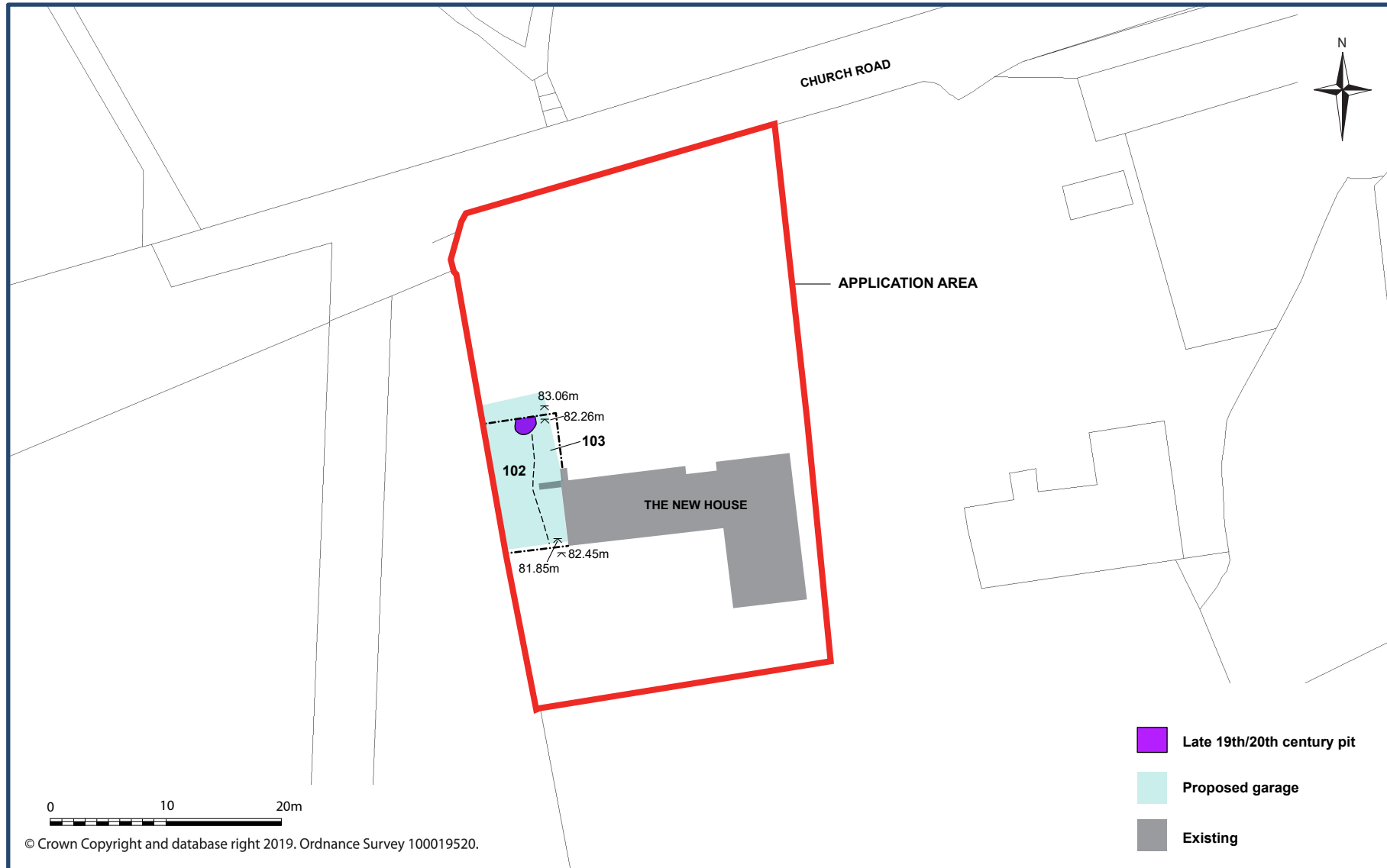


Fig 3: Location of area observed