

64 Banbury Road Ettington Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING



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Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1911
JANUARY 2019



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: 64 Banbury Road, Ettington, CV37 7SU
Commissioned by: Andy and Helen Roach
Site Code: EB17
Planning Reference: 17/01443/FUL
Planning Authority: Stratford-on-Avon District Council
National Grid Reference: SP 27293 48566
Project Manager: Caroline Rann MCI fA
Fieldwork: Edwin Pearson BSc
Author: Edwin Pearson BSc
Illustrations: Candy Stevens
Checked by: Stuart Palmer MCI fA
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Please address enquiries to: **Stuart C Palmer MCI fA**

Principal Archaeologist & Business Manager

Archaeology Warwickshire

UNIT 9

Montague Road

Warwick

CV34 5LW

01926 412278

stuartpalmer@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology



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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission was granted by Stratford-on-Avon District Council for a two storey rear extension at 64 Banbury Road Warwickshire, (Planning Ref. 17/01443/FUL).
- 1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire had previously been commissioned to undertake an archaeological assessment of the site in July 2017. The assessment reported that *the development site lies within an area of High Sensitivity defined in the Historic Environment Assessment of Local Service Villages, Stratford-on-Avon District, County of Warwickshire (AOC 2012) and Stratford-on-Avon District Council have therefore requested a site specific archaeological assessment be submitted with the application. Archaeology Warwickshire have assessed the impact on the development on the potential archaeological remains and have concluded that an archaeological watching brief carried out during the groundworks, secured by condition, would be a proportionate approach to mitigate the disturbance (Kleisoura 2017).*
- 1.3 In the event, Stratford-on-Avon District Council granted planning permission without a condition relating to the archaeological impact of the development. Nevertheless the applicants requested that Archaeology Warwickshire undertake a watching brief during the groundworks.
- 1.4 This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be stored at the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code EB17.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located at the south-western edge of the village of Ettington, in the Stratford-on-Avon district and is centred at National Grid Reference SP 27293 48566 (Fig 1). The proposed new two storey extension will occupy part of the rear patio of the property.

- 2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Charmouth Mudstone Formation (British Geological Survey 2017).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 There has been no previous intrusive archaeological investigation of the site itself. This section brings together information from a 500m radius search of entries from Warwickshire Historic Environment Record, historic and modern aerial photographs, as well as archaeological, historical and cartographic records.

Prehistoric and Roman

- 3.2 The earliest evidence for human activity in the area is a chance find of a possibly prehistoric flint scatter (MWA 5665) which was found at Ettington Telephone Exchange. A geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation 100m west to the application area identified a group of ditches and pits containing Iron Age pottery and animal bone, as well as other undated features and finds (Sausins 2013).
- 3.3 There is evidence for Roman activity within the 500m search area. A single fragment of Roman pottery (MWA 2195) was found approximately 350m to the southeast. Two Roman Roads are recorded in the vicinity; the Fosse Way (MWA 4759) to the east of Ettington, dates from the mid-1st century AD. The Saltway Road (MWA 4757) is another major trading route which passes through the parish and leads to the salt-producing town of Droitwich. Exposed sections outside the search area suggest that it was constructed with pebbles and gravel, reaching 4.5m width. Part of the road was reused in the medieval times and renamed 'Mycelan Straet' (MWA 8639).

Medieval

- 3.4 The application area appears to lie within the boundaries of the medieval settlement of Ettington. The manor of Ettington is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey (<http://opendomesday.org/place/SP2648/ettington/> Accessed July 2017).
- 3.5 Evidence from the early medieval settlement has been found approximately 350m to the southwest of the application area (MW7431/EWA7601/EWA7602/EWA931). A group of ditches and pits that might date from the 10th century, as well as the remains of a possible medieval building have been revealed close to Hockley Lane. The complete plan of an agricultural building, possibly a barn, has been investigated along with a medieval yard surface and a group of gullies and postholes. Other features such as rubbish pits and a stone-lined drain suggest extensive medieval activity in this area.

- 3.6 Remains of the medieval village surviving as earthworks (MWA6457) have been recorded from aerial photographs 400m west to the application site. An archaeological evaluation at Ettington Manor revealed a low level of medieval activity at some distance from the houses on the street frontage (EWA7242). A subsequent watching brief found an undated ditch (EWA7321). Ridge and furrow has been recorded in the surrounding fields (MWA19676, 19678).
- 3.7 The traces of a medieval chantry chapel (MWA1287) survive 100m west to the application area on land north of Banbury Road. It was converted into three almshouses after the Dissolution and was known as the 'Rose Cottage'. A single fragment of medieval glazed tile (MWA5664) was found further west at the Ettington Telephone Exchange.

Post-medieval and later

- 3.8 In the medieval period, the village was divided into Lower and Upper Ettington. By the 18th century the hamlet of Lower Ettington had been abandoned and today it is almost covered by a deer park (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol5/pp77-84>, accessed July 2017).
- 3.9 There are four Grade II Listed Buildings within the search area. A pair of cottages on Banbury Road (No. 1382583) was most likely built in the 18th century, followed by 19th century alterations. Further west, there is an entry for a dairy farmhouse with attached buildings (NHLE no. 1382577) that dates to the 17th and 18th centuries. An 18th century brick house (NHLE No. 1382575) which is now divided into three residencies is located west to the farmhouse. A listed timber-frame barn (NHLE No. 1382583) that possibly dates to the 18th century lies approximately 300m to the southwest of the application area. A Granary, Malthouse and Manor court comprise the Manor house (NHLE No. 1382582) which is located immediately to the west. It was originally built in the 17th century with alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries and has been now divided into three different residencies.
- 3.10 The gardens around Ettington Hall (MWA8775) are located at the southern side of the village and date to the 18th century. The remains of another garden at Foss Hill (MWA13017, EWA9899) lie to the southeast of the application area.

- 3.11 The First edition Ordnance survey map of 1887 shows that the site contained a range of buildings in a U shape, which have since been demolished (Landmark 2003, Figs 2,3).

Undated

- 3.12 An undated enclosure has been recorded from aerial photographs approximately 400m southeast of the application area (MWA 6355).

Other records on the HER

MONUMENT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
MWA4820	Turnpike road from Warwick to Paddle Brook	Imperial
MWA4775	Turnpike Road from Edge Hill to Birmingham via Stratford	Post-medieval
MWA29805	Outbuildings north of Foss Hill.	Industrial
MWA2443	Friends Meeting House	Industrial

Further Archaeological work in Ettington

- 3.13 Two small scale watching briefs have taken place in Ettington (EWA 6897; 57 Banbury Road and EWA7192, land adj to the Square), in both instances no archaeological remains were found to have been disturbed by the groundworks. A building recording of the Friends Meeting house was carried out in 2016 (EWA 10548). Geophysical survey took place in 2015 at land to the NE of Banbury Road (EWA10389). No potential archaeological remains were identified. An archaeological evaluation took place in 2002 prior to the construction of a new community centre (EWA7115) and plough marks of possible post-medieval date were recorded (MWA9187).

4 RESULTS

Deposit sequence

- 4.1 A very simple sequence of deposits was recorded during the observations. Geological natural (102) was revealed throughout the foundation trenches.
- 4.2 The natural was overlain by a soil horizon likely derived from demolition and levelling activity (103). This was in turn overlain by a garden floor surface comprised of concrete slabs, tarmac and brick.
- 4.3 Ground reduction (photos 1 & 2) revealed the remains of a U shaped pit (103) (photo 3), c. 1m in diameter and 0.65m deep, in the south east corner of the foundation trenches. It contained a single fill of light grey sandy clay rich silt, appearing relatively 'bleached', typical of older features. A crumb of possible pottery or burnt clay was present in its base, however, it was too small to identify more specifically.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The programme of observation recorded what appeared to be the full section of a pit which seemed likely to be derived early in antiquity. Although not precisely datable, the nature of its fill suggested that it could be prehistoric. Prehistoric pits are known in the region (Sausins 2013). To provide the earliest example in the wider vicinity, a small group of probable Early Neolithic features incorporating pits containing small crumbs of pottery and similar fills to this was recorded by the author on the west side of Pillerton Priors (Pearson 2018), approximately 1.8km southwest of the application area. Consequently, it is within reason to consider the possibility of the pit in association with some form of prehistoric activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1: Northwest facing view of foundation trenches



2: North facing view of foundation trenches



3: West facing section of pit 103

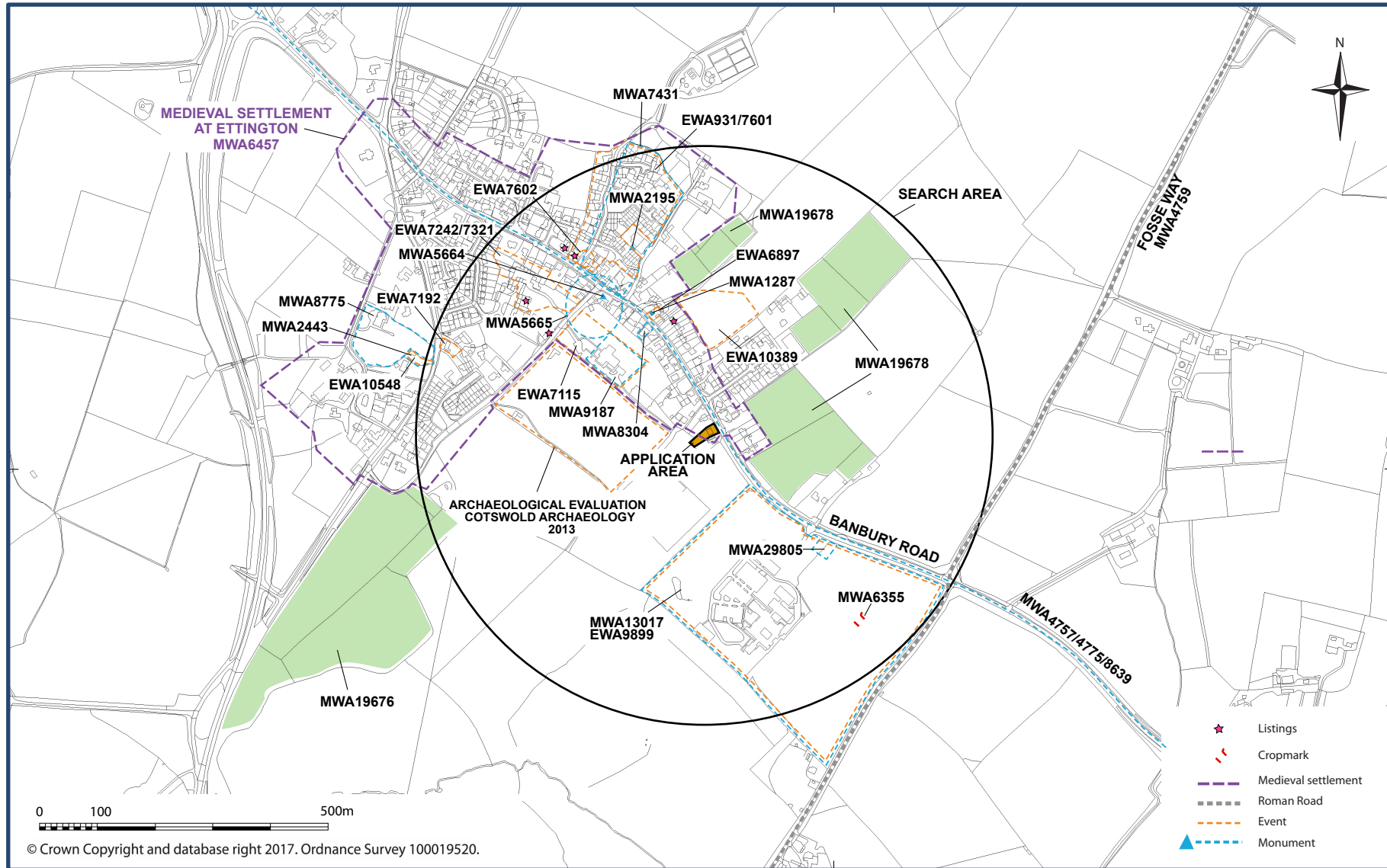


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

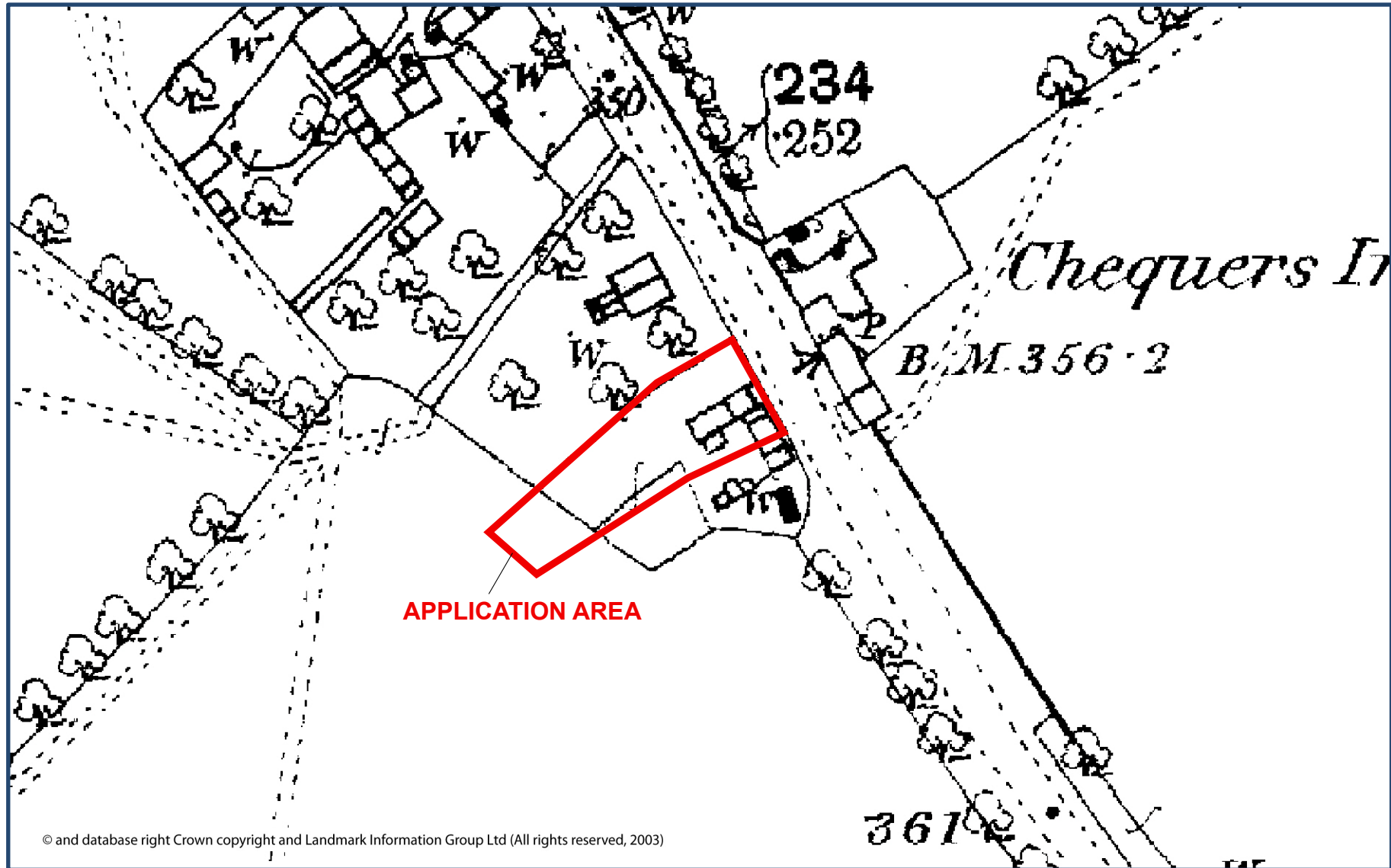


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887

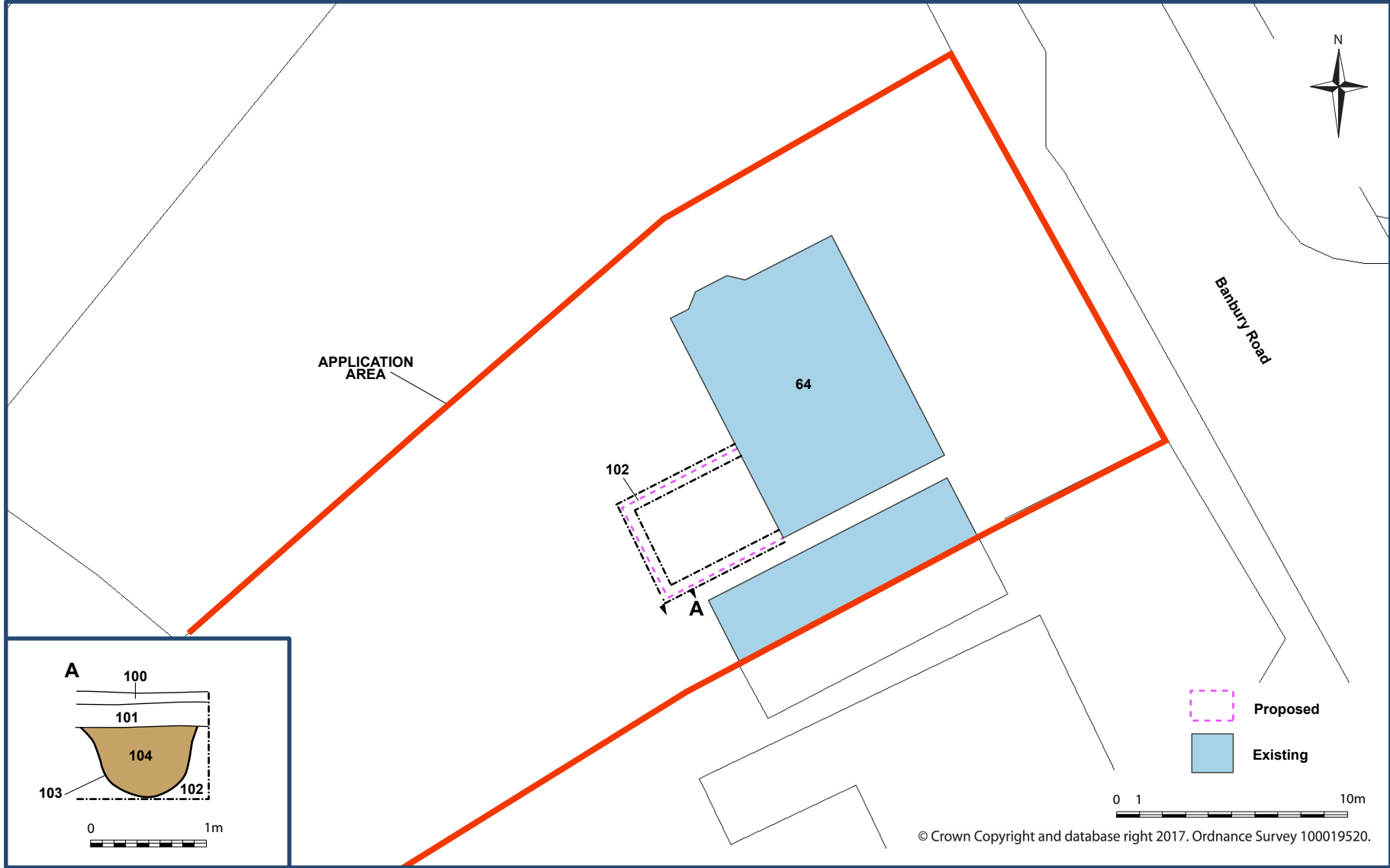


Fig 3: Location of groundworks observed