

**27 Main Street  
Newton  
Warwickshire**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT**

**Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 2048**

**APRIL 2020**



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Rear of Stag & Pheasant, 27 Main Street, Newton  
**Commissioned by:** C. R. Homes Limited  
**Site Code:** NM20  
**Planning Reference:** R18/1365  
**Planning Authority:** Rugby Borough Council  
**National Grid Reference:** SP 53053 78157  
**Project Manager:** Caroline Rann BA MCIfA  
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**Date:** March 2020  
**Report reference:** Duffy, J, 2020 *27 Main Street, Newton, Newton and Biggin, Warwickshire: Archaeological Evaluation*, Archaeology Warwickshire Report 2048

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## SUMMARY

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out on behalf of C R Homes Limited, in advance of the construction of two detached dwellings in an area of potential medieval settlement.*

*Two trenches were dug to the natural substrate but no evidence for medieval settlement was recorded. The absence of any medieval finds suggests that this site is some distance from a medieval settlement foci.*

*Several undated features were recorded, although none related to anything depicted on 19<sup>th</sup> century or later mapping. Two apparently linear features were unlikely to be boundaries and a cobbled filled pit may have been a sump or soakaway associated with the adjacent Stag & Pheasant pub.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of two detached, two-storey dwellings, with ancillary car parking, on land to the rear of the Stag & Pheasant, 27 Main Street, Newton, Rugby, CV23 0DY (R18/1365). 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.
- 1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a WSI (Bradbury 2020) approved by John Robinson on behalf of the planning authority.
- 1.3 The fieldwork took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020. This report presents the results of that work. The archive will be stored at Rugby Museum and Art Gallery under the site code NM20.
- 1.4 This work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for field evaluation (2014).

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The application area is centred on National Grid Reference SP 53053 78157 in the village of Newton in the parish of Newton and Biggin, c. 340m to the east of a tributary of the River Avon. The site comprises the western part of the garden of the Stag & Pheasant public house on the northern side of The Paddock. It is bounded to the north, west and south by residential properties (Fig 1).
  
- 2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site is Charmouth Mudstone Formation. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Oadby Member – Diamicton Till (BGS 2020).

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### Sources consulted

- 3.1 This archaeological background has reviewed material from several sources including the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER), mapping of the site from the mid-19th century as well as published and unpublished books and reports. The HER search was based on a 1km radius from the centre of the site and it returned 30 records, the majority of which relate to medieval or post-medieval earthwork and cropmark features in the area surrounding the village of Newton.
- 3.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the application site although the Stag & Pheasant, c. 15m to the east, is a Grade II Listed Building (National Heritage List for England no. 1276563).

#### Previous archaeological investigations

- 3.3 No archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken within the site. However, within the wider study area there have been a number of investigations. Most notably, a building survey of the Stag and Pheasant in 1988, identified that the floors of the building may have been inserted in the 17th century (Alcock & Miles 2014).

#### Prehistoric background

- 3.4 No evidence for prehistoric activity has been identified within the village of Newton but finds and isolated features have been recorded in the wider study area. This includes an isolated pit (MWA 13417, EWA 10020) c. 840m to the west, a flint flake (MWA 8845, EWA 6867) 510m to the south and a Mesolithic stone axe (MWA 4174) 480m to the north of the site. A possible Bronze Age round barrow has been identified (MWA 4181) c. 800m to the north-east and a stone spread c. 650m to the west (EWA 10966) has been posited as the remains of a mound/cairn although this remains conjecture.

#### Roman period background

- 3.5 A major Roman road, Watling Street, passes 1km to the east of the site. In 1848 a potential Roman burial (MWA 4170) was identified c. 750m to the north of the site and a bronze pan (MWA 5333) was found c. 490m to the north-east of the site.

### **Early medieval and medieval**

- 3.6 There are no records of early medieval activity within the site or the study area. Newton is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 with three estates held by Turchil of Warwick (Open Domesday 2020) with the largest being held by Wulfstan prior to the conquest which suggests an established population in the area. The site is located with the extent of the medieval village, as identified by the Warwickshire HER (MWA 9546) which has been deduced from the roads and boundaries depicted on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2; Landmark 2003a). A chapel recorded at Domesday (MWA 4167) has been posited c. 23m to the south-east of the site when ashlar sandstone was recorded during the demolition of a cottage.
- 3.7 Ridge and furrow earthworks are visible across much of the study area confirming that the village was surrounded by open fields. The deserted medieval village of Biggin (MWA 4171) lies c. 130m to the south of the site, just to the south of the current built extent of the village of Newton. The remains of the settlement are visible as earthworks abutted by ridge and furrow to the north-west and south-east.

### **Post-medieval and modern**

- 3.8 The site lies c. 15m to the west of the Stag & Pheasant Public House, a three-bay cruck building which is Grade II Listed (NHLE: 1276563).
- 3.9 Newton was enclosed under an Act of Parliament in 1756 however no enclosure map or plan is available at the Warwickshire Record Office and the site is not depicted on the Tithe map of the Parish of Clifton-on-Dunsmore dated 1847 (CR0569/72). The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Fig 2; Landmark 2003a) depicts the site within a large parcel of land in the western part of the village. There are four buildings forming an L-shape depicted on the map in the north-east of part of the parcel. The building fronting the street comprises the Stag & Pheasant Public House although it is not identified on the map. A fifth building, an outbuilding constructed in either wood or iron is depicted directly to its west. A number of trees are depicted within the site potentially suggesting it forms a small orchard associated with the Stag & Pheasant. By 1900 (Fig 3; Landmark 2003b) there was no change within the site other than the loss of the trees. The Ordnance Survey map of 1960 (Fig 4; Landmark 2003c) depicts little change within the site although the car park has been laid to the west of the Stag & Pheasant.



## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine if there are any significant archaeological remains in the area to be developed; to form an understanding of their value and their potential to shed light on the subsequent development of the area.
- 4.2 Secondary aims included placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.
- 4.3 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.
- 4.4 The area was evaluated by means of 25m of 1.6m wide trial trenching, 1x10m and 1x15m.
- 4.5 Topsoil, former ploughsoils and demonstrably modern overburden were removed by an appropriate machine using a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Ground reduction was carried out in shallow spits until the uppermost archaeological horizon, or the geological natural was reached (whichever the higher).

## 5 RESULTS

### Geological Natural

- 5.1 The geological natural across the whole site was dark yellowish grey clay (102, 202) which was exposed at a depth of 0.43-0.48m below the current ground surface.

### Potentially significant features

- 5.2 In Trench 2, NE-SW aligned gully 206 had steep sides 0.39m wide, a flat base 0.15m deep and was filled with greyish brown silty loam (207; Photo 6; Fig 6, Section D). This feature remains undated.
- 5.3 In Trench 2, a large pit 203 was partially examined but was not fully characterised because of water ingress at 0.32m (Photo 4). The lowest recordable fill was cobbles in a matrix of grey silty clay (204). This was overlain by greyish brown silty clay (205), 0.05m deep (Photo 5; Fig 6, Section C).

### Other undated features

- 5.4 In Trench 1, a pit small enough to have been a posthole 0.28m deep, 105 contained ceramic building material (Photo 3; Fig 6, Section B).

### Modern ditch

- 5.5 In Trench 1, a U-shaped N-S aligned ditch 103, contained a sherd of 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century Modern glazed transfer ware (Photo 2; Fig 6, Section A).

### Overburden

- 5.6 All of the archaeological features were overlain by a sequence of subsoil (101, 201) and topsoil (100, 200). No finds were recovered from either layer.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No evidence for medieval settlement was recorded in the evaluation. The absence of any medieval finds suggests that this site is some distance from a medieval settlement foci.
- 6.2 None of the recorded features relate to anything depicted on early maps (Figs 2-5). Neither of the two linear features extends into the other trench so it is unlikely that they represent boundaries.
- 6.3 The cobbled filled pit may have been a sump or soakaway, conceivably associated with the adjacent Stag & Pheasant pub.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank C.R Homes limited for commissioning the work and John Robinson at Warwickshire County Council for representing the planning authority.

## REFERENCES

Alcock, N, and Miles, D, ed 2014 *Report for The Stag and Pheasant, Newton-and-Biggin, Warwickshire Site Code: NEB-A, from The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England.* Oxford: Oxbow Books

Bradbury, F, 2020 *Written Scheme of Investigation: Evaluation, Rear of the Stag & Pheasant, 27 Main street, Newton, Warwickshire,* Archaeology Warwickshire.

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer, April 2020*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Landmark 2003a *First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1885, 1:2500, digitised version*

Landmark 2003b *Second Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1900, 1:2500, digitised version*

Landmark 2003c *Ordnance Survey map, 1960, 1:2500, digitised version*

Landmark 2003d *Ordnance Survey map, 1973, 1:2500, digitised version*

VCH, 1951 '*Parishes: Clifton-on-Dunsmore*', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6, Knightlow Hundred*, ed. L. F. Salzman, pp. 65-72.



1: Trench 1, looking west



2: Ditch 103, looking North



3: Feature 105, looking west



4: Trench 2 looking SE



5: Feature 203, looking NNE



6: Gully 206, looking SSW



## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth m) or height AOD</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	100	Dark grey brown silty loam	0.23	Topsoil
1	101	Grey brown clayey gravel	0.20	Sub soil
1	102	Yellowish red grey clay		Natural geology
1	103	U shaped cut, with a NS orientation	0.32	Ditch cut
1	104	Brown silty clay gravel, pottery	0.32	Fill of ditch 103 – MGW transfer–19 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> Century
1	105	Round with sloping base, near vertical sides,	0.20	Post hole cut
1	106	Brown silty clay, CBM	0.20	Fill of post hole 105 – CBM - undated
2	200	Dark brown silty loam		Topsoil
2	201	Brown silty clay		Subsoil
2	202	Yellowish red grey clay		Natural geology
2	203	Large uneven feature, irregular gradual slope, not fully excavated do to ground water.	0.32	Pond cut
2	204	Dark grey silty clay	0.28	Primary fill of 203
2	205	Grey brown silty clay	0.05	Secondary fill of 203
2	206	Linear, flat base, steep sided, NW orientation,	0.15	Gully cut
2	207	Grey brown silty clay	0.15	Fill of 206

**B List of finds (not retained)**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>104</b>	Pottery	1	MGW transfer, 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>106</b>	CBM	1	

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**OASIS ID: archaeol27-392346**

### Project details

Project name	Rear of Stag and Pheasant, 27 Main Street, Newton, Warwickshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out on behalf of C R Homes Limited, in advance of the construction of two detached dwellings in an area of potential medieval settlement. Two trenches were dug to the natural substrate but no evidence for medieval settlement was recorded. The absence of any medieval finds suggests that this site is some distance from a medieval settlement foci. Several undated features were recorded, although none related to anything depicted on 19th century or later mapping. Two apparently linear features were unlikely to be boundaries and a cobbled filled pit may have been a sump or soakaway associated with the adjacent Stag and Pheasant pub.
Project dates	Start: 25-03-2020 End: 25-03-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	NM20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	SOAKAWAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WARWICKSHIRE RUGBY NEWTON AND BIGGIN Rear of Stag and Pheasant, 27 Main Street, Newton, Warwickshire
Postcode	CV23 0DY

Study area 0 Square metres  
 Site coordinates SP 53053 78157 52.398475001965 -1.220178636981 52 23 54 N 001 13 12 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology Warwickshire  
 Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)  
 Project design originator Caroline Rann  
 Project director/manager Caroline Rann  
 Project supervisor Adam Tuffey  
 Project supervisor Jodie Duffy

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Rugby Museum  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Rugby Museum  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Rear of Stag and Pheasant, 27 Main Street, Newton, Warwickshire  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Duffy, J  
 Date 2020  
 Issuer or publisher Archaeology Warwickshire  
 Place of issue or publication Archaeology Warwickshire  
 Description A4 colour bound copy  
 Entered by Caroline Rann (carolinerann@warwickshire.gov.uk)  
 Entered on 21 April 2020

## OASIS:



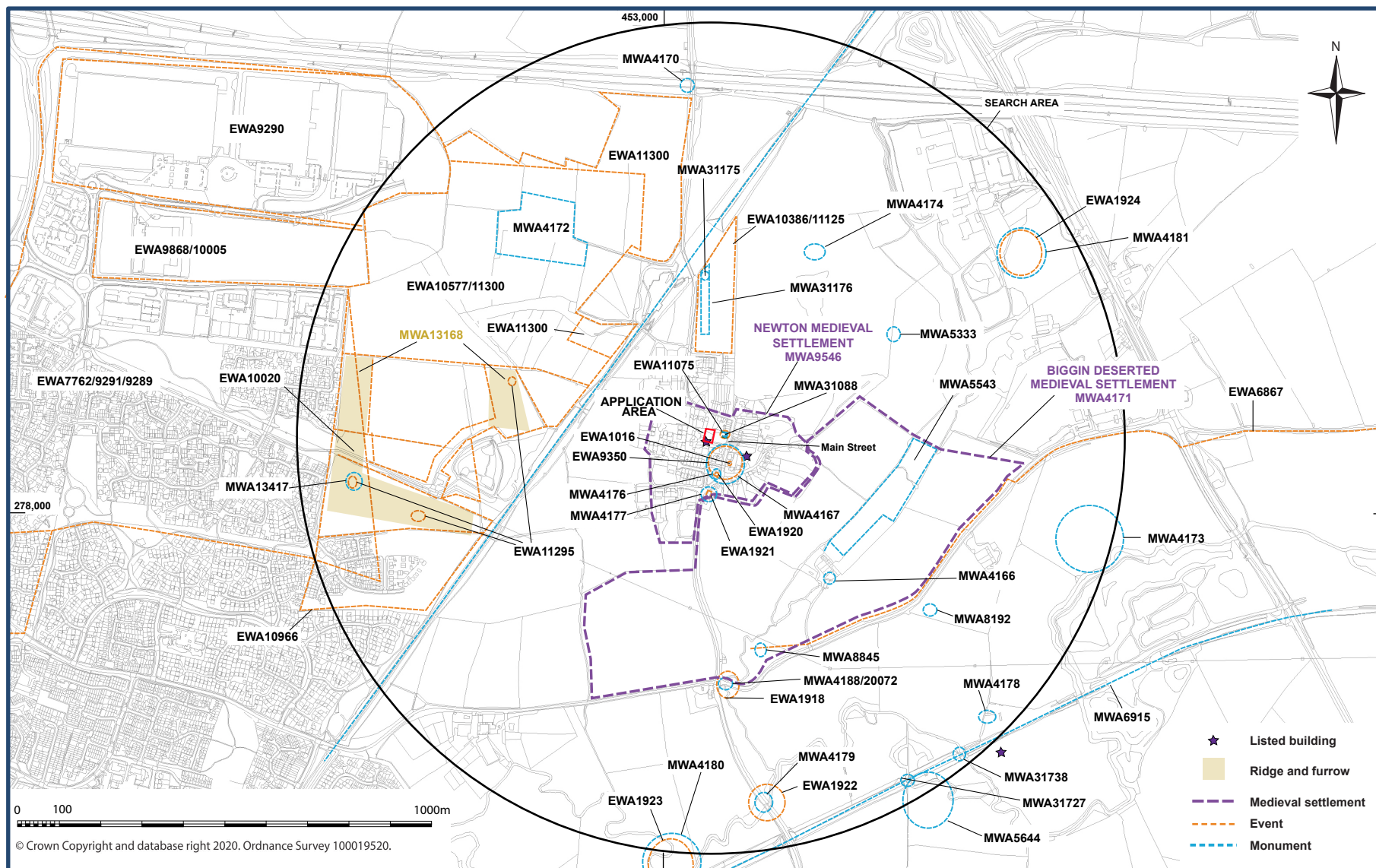


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

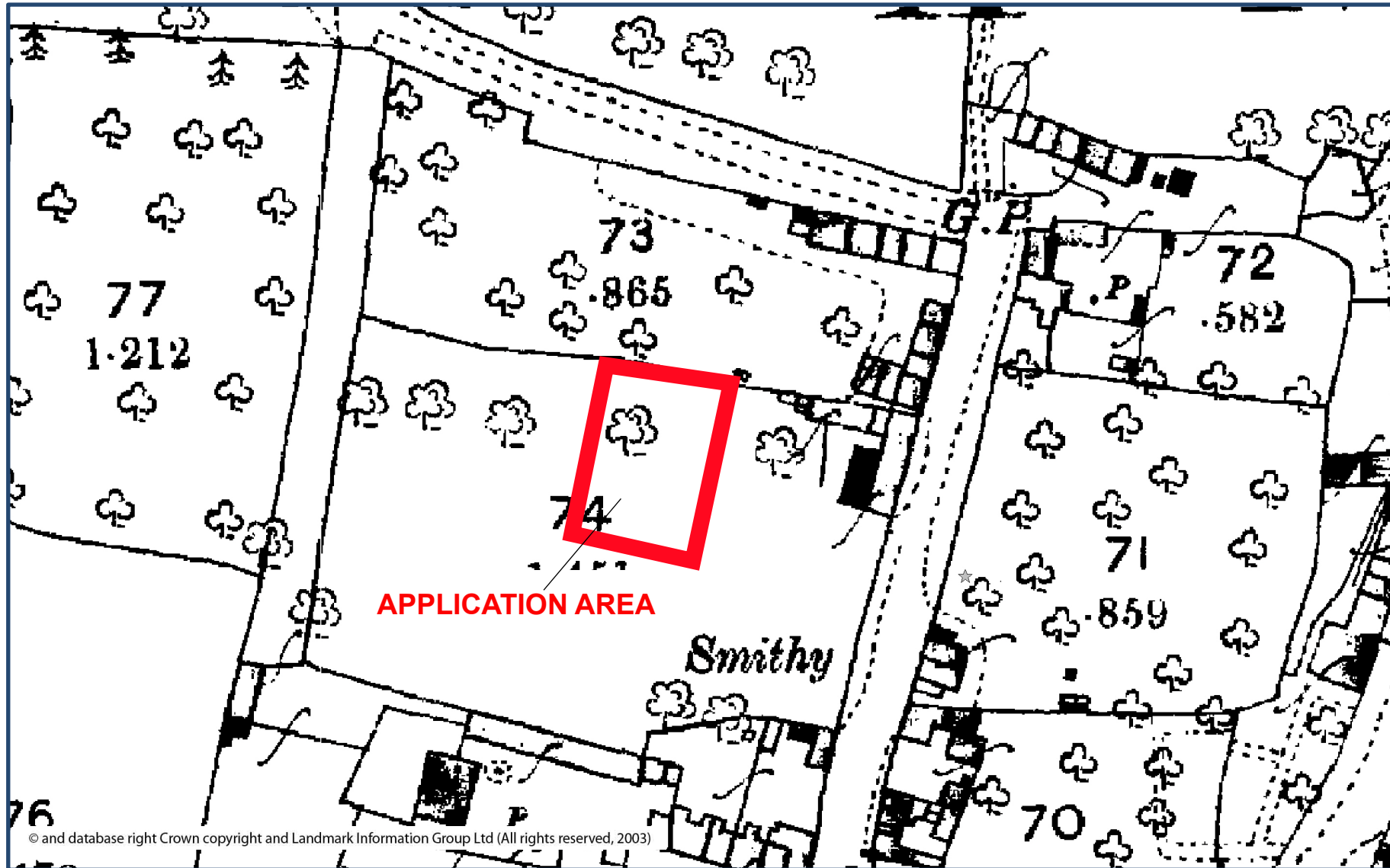


Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1887

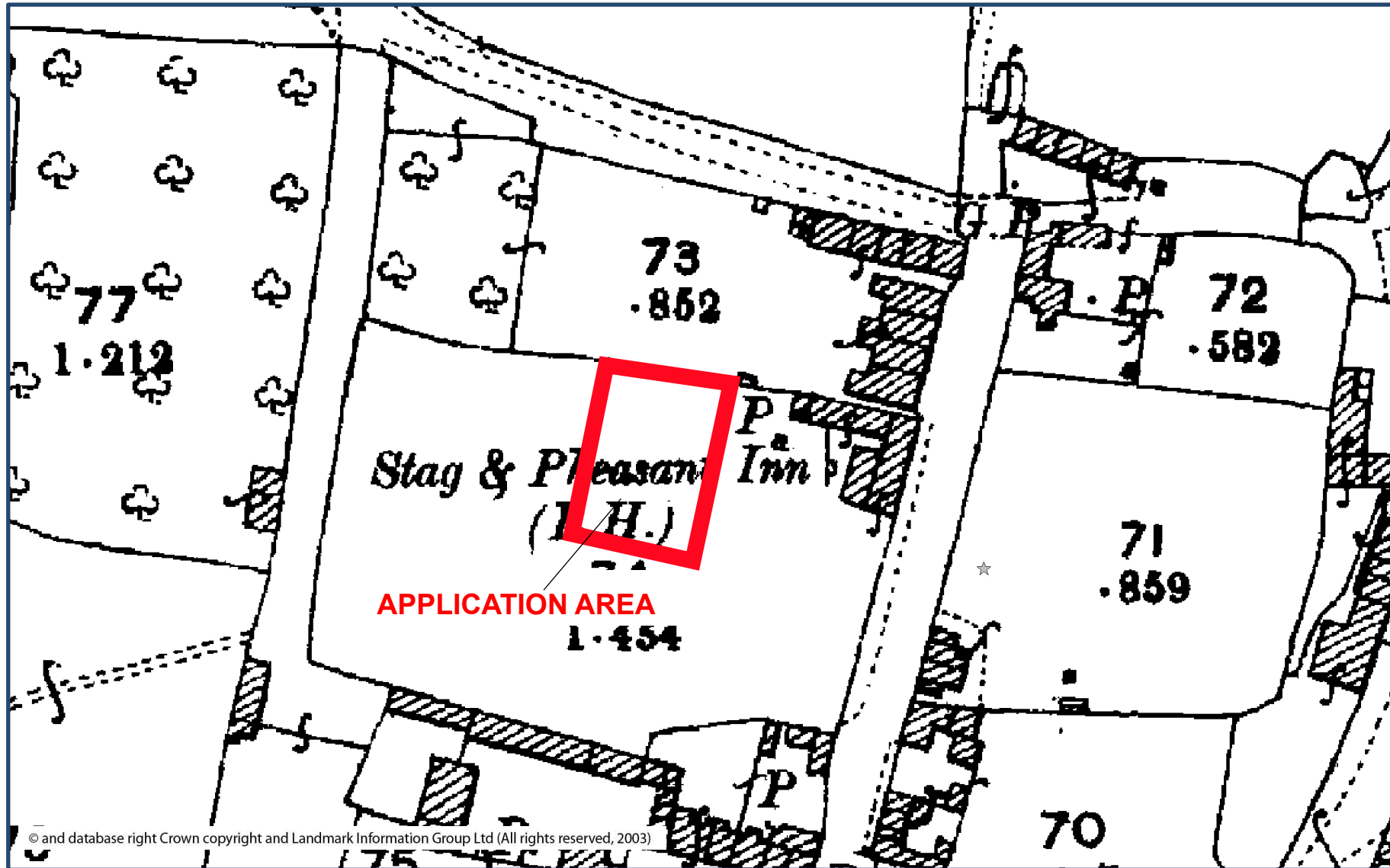


Fig 3: Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1900



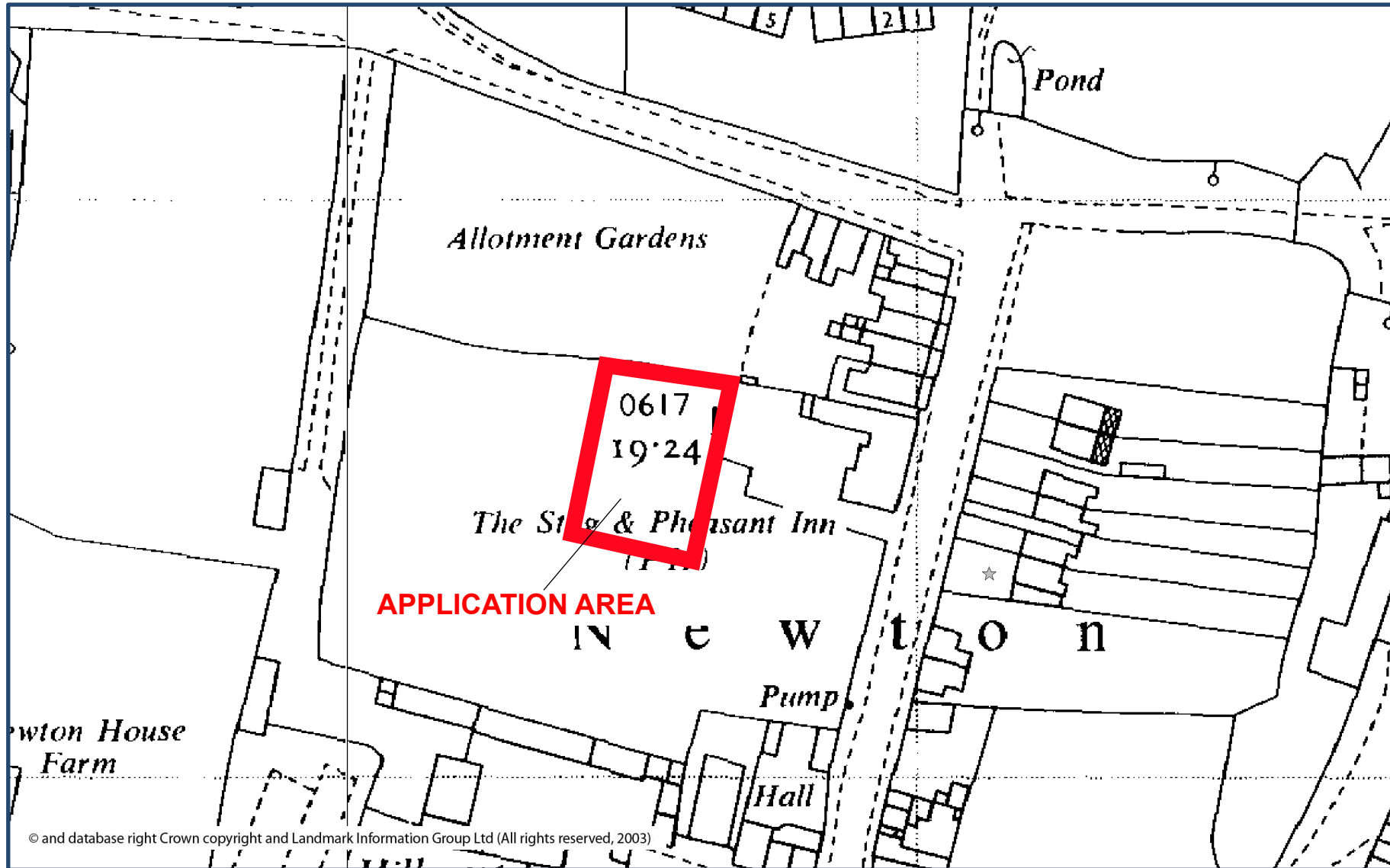


Fig 4: Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1960

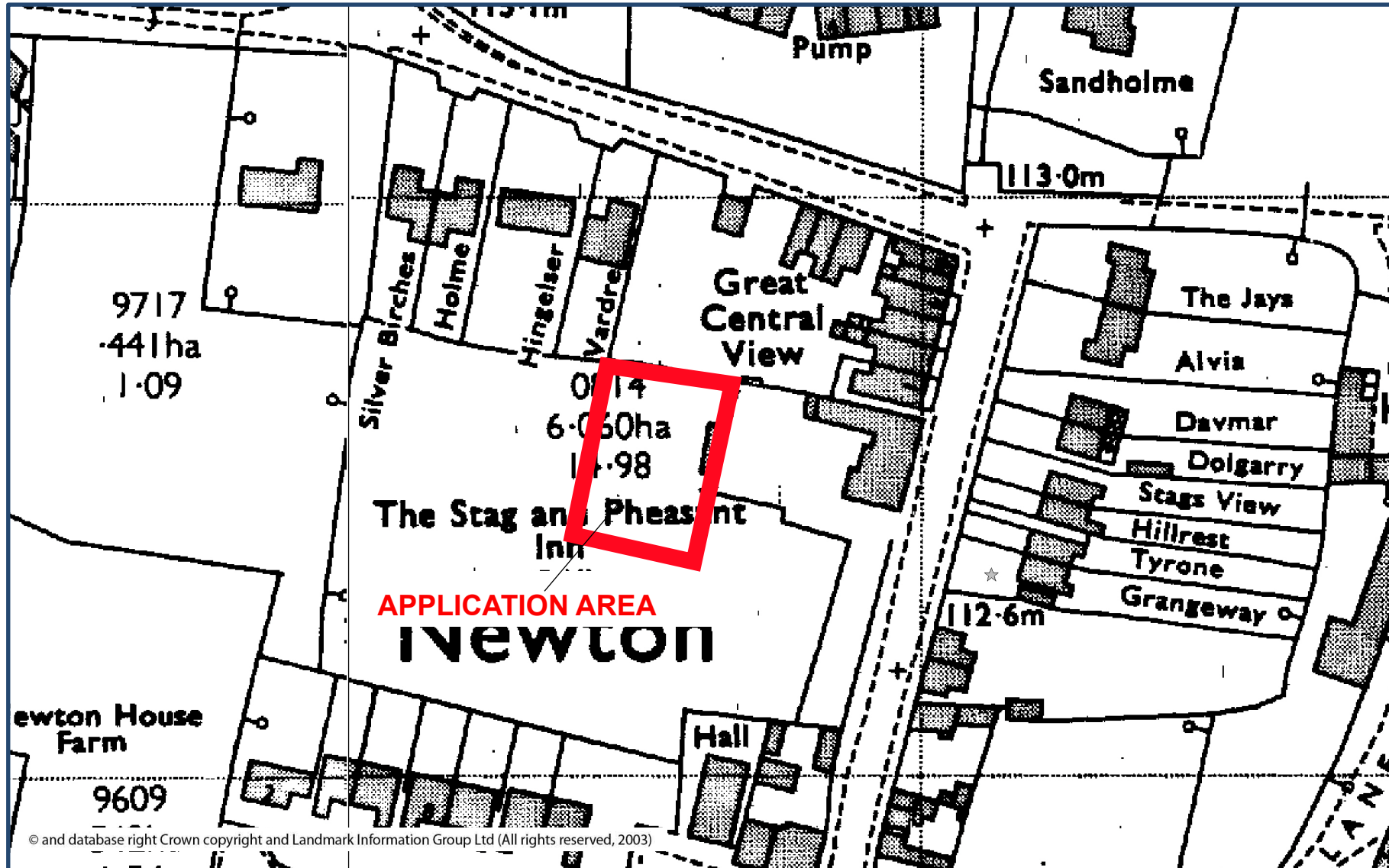


Fig 5: Detail from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1973

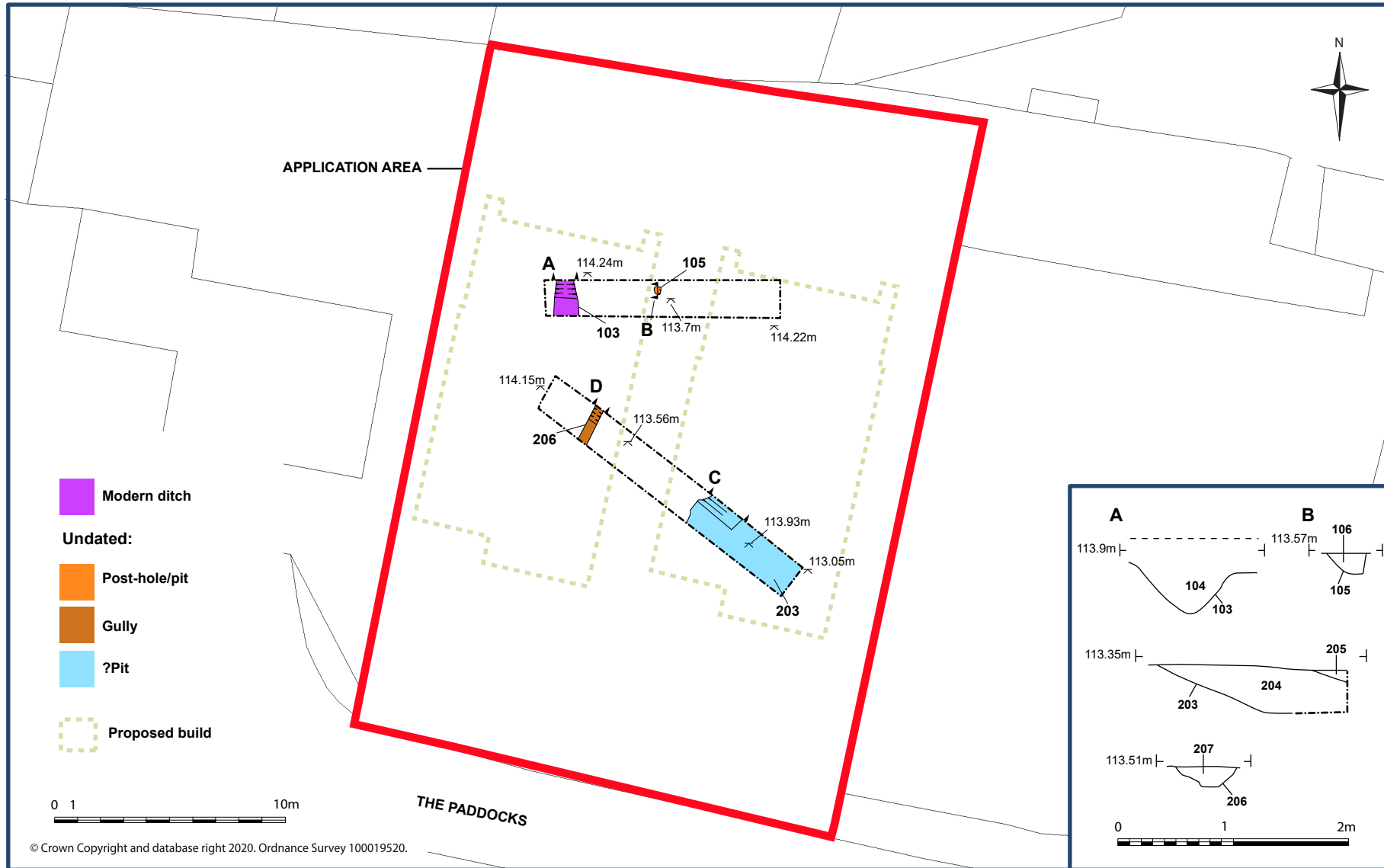


Fig 6: Location of excavated trenches and sections