

# Walton House, Bridge Street, Kineton, Warwickshire

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



*understanding heritage matters*

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1474

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*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Walton House, Kineton, Warwicks CV35 0DF  
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## SUMMARY

*Archaeological observation at Walton House, Kineton revealed an extensive quarry pit, the excavation of which seemed to have predated the construction of the south-west wing of the house. Pottery evidence suggests it may have been 18th century in date and therefore contemporary with the main house. The foundations of an ancillary structure attached to the south-west wing were also uncovered. Medieval pottery sherds recovered from within the quarry pit were residual. There was also evidence that the lawn had been levelled.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council for the demolition of a modern garage extension and replacement with a single storey kitchen/family room extension at Walton House, Bridge Street, Kineton. The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential and it was therefore a condition of planning permission that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to conduct an archaeological Watching Brief during the groundworks phase in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the County Planning Archaeologist in her capacity as archaeological advisor to the Planning Authority.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The site is centred on National Grid reference SP 3348 5088, in the parish of Kineton. It is currently a private house and garden. The House is a Grade II Listed property of 18<sup>th</sup> century date (National Heritage List for England No 1381899).

2.2 The underlying geology of the area is Blue Lias (British Geological Survey 1963).

## 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### **Prehistoric and Roman**

3.1 There is no known prehistoric or Roman activity within Kineton itself, but the site of a Roman villa lies 1.5km to the west at Brookhampton (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record No MWA 4530) and a further small Roman settlement (MWA 4759) is located approximately 1.5km to the east.



## Medieval

3.2 The first mention of Kineton is in an Anglo-Saxon charter of 969. It was held by King Edgar, which gave rise to its name Cynton: 'cyn' meaning king and 'ton' meaning manor (Kineton and District Local History Group 1999, 1). In Domesday (1086), Kineton is listed as Quintone belonging to King William and was then in Flexhole Hundred (VCH 1904, 301). The estimated population at this time was sizeable, at around 500 (Kineton and District Local History Group 1999, 2). In 1160, King Henry II formed the Kington Hundred centred on Kineton from four of the former Domesday Hundreds. This meant that the town was significant in the administration of South Warwickshire, a position it only really began to lose in the 19th and 20th centuries. The importance of Kineton in the medieval period continued even after the manor was given by the crown to Stephen de Segrave in 1216. It is possible that King John's Castle, a motte and bailey castle, was constructed at this time although it is much more likely that it is 12th century in origin (MWA 1183, Scheduled Ancient Monument 21638). The castle is situated on the south-western fringe of the village (Fig 1). In 1220 Stephen de Segrave had been granted the right to hold a market in Kineton and the large triangular market place with an attached Market Square on its western side can still be seen even though some of it has been infilled by later buildings.

3.3 The parish church of St Peter (MWA 1182) is at the centre of the likely extent of Kineton in the medieval period (MWA 9016). The church was significantly remodelled and extended in the 18th and 19th centuries, most notably by Sanderson Miller of Radway in 1755. The west tower survives from the medieval period with the lowest part dating from the early 14th century (VCH 1949, 106).

## Post-medieval

3.4 The post-medieval history of Kineton is noted for the battle of Edgehill (October 1642, MWA 1198), the first major battle of the English Civil War, which took place a short distance to the south-east of the town between Little Kineton and Radway. In the market square is a range of 17th-century cottages, which are believed to have been Almshouses (MWA 10189). A post mill is documented as existing by 1565 further to the west and close to St Peter's church (WA 3870).

3.5 The Manor House is an 18th-century building with some 19th-century alterations (MWA 10203). The land to the south-west of the settlement was depicted as park land (MWA 8708) on Greenwood's map of 1822. On this map Kineton is shown in capital letters denoting that at this time it was still considered a market town. However, the market had

died out by 1840 when the market house was demolished and replaced by a school. A corn mill (MWA 7615) was recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.

3.6 The main road from Warwick to Banbury was turnpiked in the 18th century (MWA 4814), which forms the main road through the village. The East and West Junction Railway from Stratford to Fenny Compton (WA 7835) also served the town and ran along its northern edge. Two limekilns are shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1885. One was situated on the main road to the south of the site (MWA 7614) and the other alongside the railway line on the western edge of the town (MWA 7618). Kineton had a gasworks in the 19th and early 20th centuries (MWA 7617), first shown on the 1885 map.

3.7 A small amount of archaeological work has been carried out in Kineton. In 2005 evidence for late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval occupation was found in Mill Lane during excavations at Rose Cottage. The remains of a medieval stone building (MWA 10172) and metal surfaces (MWA 10173) were discovered, probably occupied from the 12th to the 16th century (Cook 2005). In 2007 archaeological observation at the Old Post Office House, Bridge Street, Kineton, revealed a pit, a stone-lined well and the foundations of an outbuilding all dating to the late 19th century. Two 20th-century brick-lined pits were also recorded but no archaeological finds or features relating to medieval Kineton were discovered (Rann and Thompson, 2007).

3.8 In 2008 small-scale observation of enabling works and geotechnical pits was carried out on St Peters Road. No evidence of medieval activity was revealed but a yard surface and possible foundation, probably associated with the 19th-century farmhouse, were recorded (Thompson 2008). This was followed in 2011 by a watching brief during the construction of two new areas of housing which exposed some medieval layers. The western half of the site appears to have been within the small medieval borough of Kineton, which was attached to the village in the early 1200s. A layer of crushed limestone may have been a medieval yard surface and a single east-west ditch was probably one of the original burgage plot boundaries of the borough. Pottery found at the bottom of the ditch dated from the 13th to the early 14th century. A considerable amount of medieval pottery was also found in the layer above the yard surface. A small stone structure was also uncovered during soil stripping. It could not be determined what it had been used for but it clearly dated to the 18th or 19th century and must have been associated with the farm, perhaps for some agricultural purpose (Gethin 2012).

3.9 The First Edition Ordnance survey map of 1885-6 (1:2500) shows a small extension to the south wing on the western gable end (Fig 2). By 1974 (Ordnance Survey) it had been replaced by a larger extension, most likely to have been the prefabricated garage that was recently demolished.

## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains 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 The secondary aim was to form an understanding of the remains recorded in terms of their character and date, and to place the evidence in its local and regional context.

4.3 The objective of the work was a programme of controlled excavation to development formation levels, or the geological natural, whichever was higher.

4.4 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.

4.5 An experienced archaeologist was made available for each day of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with the WSI.

## 5 WATCHING BRIEF

### Foundation trenches

5.1 Foundation trenches for the two storey extension were excavated to a depth of 1.5m below the existing ground level using a toothless bucket and were 0.6m wide (Fig 4). Trenches for the retaining wall to the south were 0.4m deep and 0.6m wide (Fig 3). Further excavations included a manhole and a small soakway. The manhole was 0.9m x 0.8m (Fig 5) and the soakaway was c.1m<sup>2</sup> and 0.9m deep (Fig 6).

### Deposit sequence

5.2 Geological natural green clay with limestone (6) was observed at a depth of between 0.5m and 1.2m.

5.3 A large, irregular shaped feature 9 cut the natural. One edge was running north-east to south-west but the full extent was outside of the trenches (Figs 3, 7). The depth of the feature also varied and in places the foundation trenches were deeper than the base of it. It was filled with dark greyish green clay loam (5). A feature of this extent is most likely to have been a quarry pit used for the extraction of limestone. Datable pottery sherds recovered from the fill suggest an 18<sup>th</sup> century date. There were also residual sherds of medieval pottery within the pit.

5.4 The southern wing of Walton House (8) appeared to overlie the quarry pit. Limestone foundations for an ancillary structure abutting the western end of the southern wing were uncovered (7). Local greyish green clay bonding was noted. The northern edge of the structure had dressed stone facess, however the southern and western edges had been disturbed by modern services (Fig 8). It corresponds to a structure shown on Ordnance Survey maps from 1885 until the 1970s (Fig 2).

5.5 Overlying the Limestone foundations was a 0.2m deep layer of hardcore and rubble containing 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (2). It is likely to have post-dated the ancillary structure and was therefore 20<sup>th</sup> century.

5.6 The earliest deposit encountered in the trenches for the retaining wall was a 0.4m deep layer of re-deposited natural (4). Given the garden is on a slope this could have been a levelling layer.

5.7 Very dark grey clay loam topsoil (3) had formed to a depth of between 0.3m and 0.36m across the site. Where the garage stood, concrete (1) overlay the deposits below.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Any potential evidence for medieval occupation in the area of the new extension had been removed by the excavation of a large quarry pit. The pottery recovered from the pit suggests it was contemporary with the main house construction in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

6.2 Partially disturbed foundations for the ancillary building depicted on Ordnance Survey maps from 1885 to 1974 were recorded. No additional information that could suggest a use for the structure was found.

6.3 The garden, which would have been on a slope, had been partly levelled.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	Concrete	Modern
2	Hardcore	19 <sup>th</sup> century
3	Very dark grey clay loam	Topsoil
4	Olive green clay	Re-deposited natural
5	Dark greyish green clay loam	Fill of 9
6	Green clay/limestone	Geological natural
7	Limestone blocks/grey clay bonding	Structure/base of structure
8	Gable end	West facing end of property
9	Cut filled by 5	Quarry pit

### B List of finds

<i>Context</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
5	Pottery	4	Slipware SLPW02	18 <sup>th</sup> century
5	Pottery	1	Blackware MB02	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup> century
5	Pottery	1	Blackware MB01	16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> century
5	Pottery	1	Brill ware SG20	13 <sup>th</sup> century onwards
6	Pottery	1	Malvernian SLM	14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> century



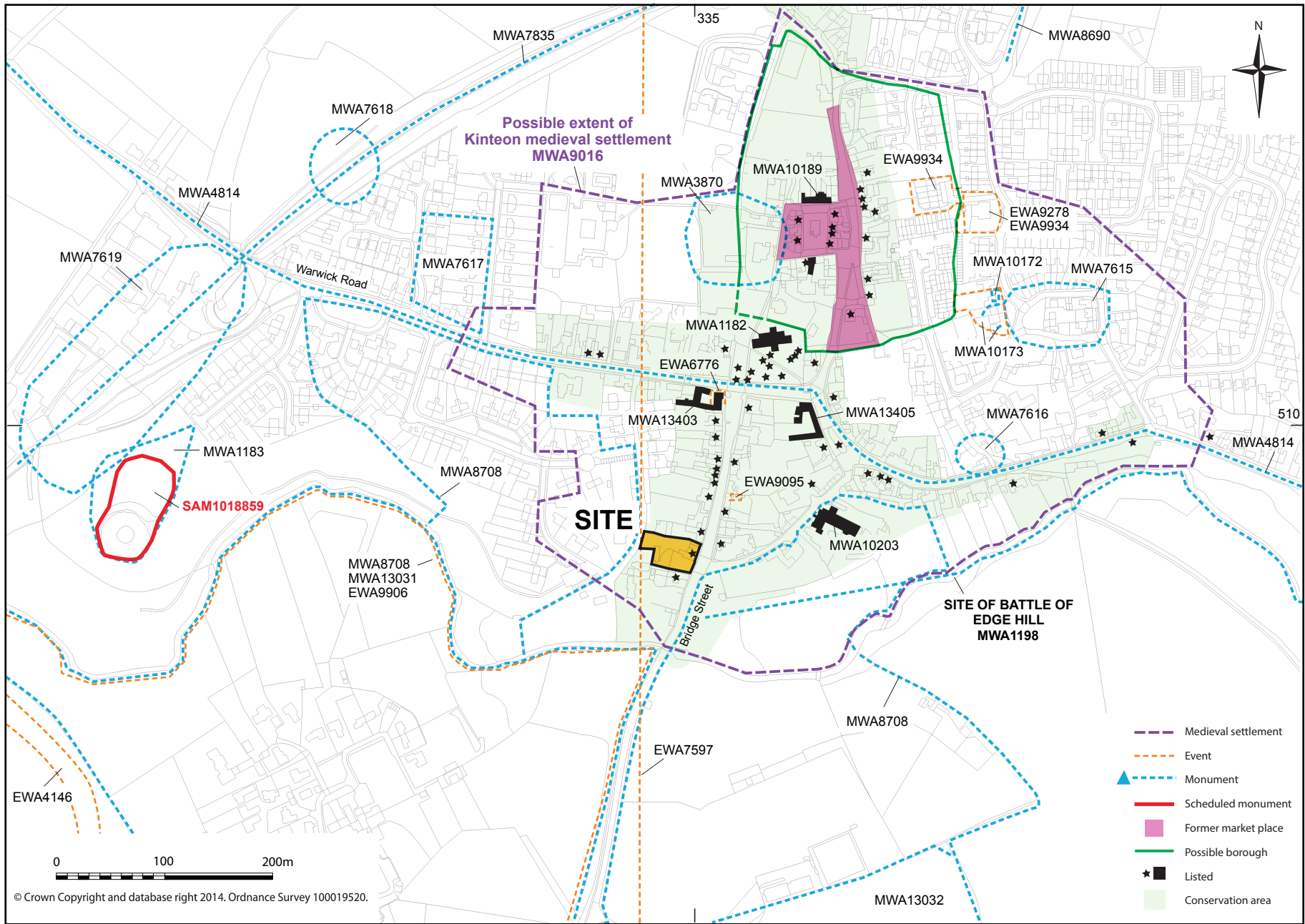


Fig 1: Site location





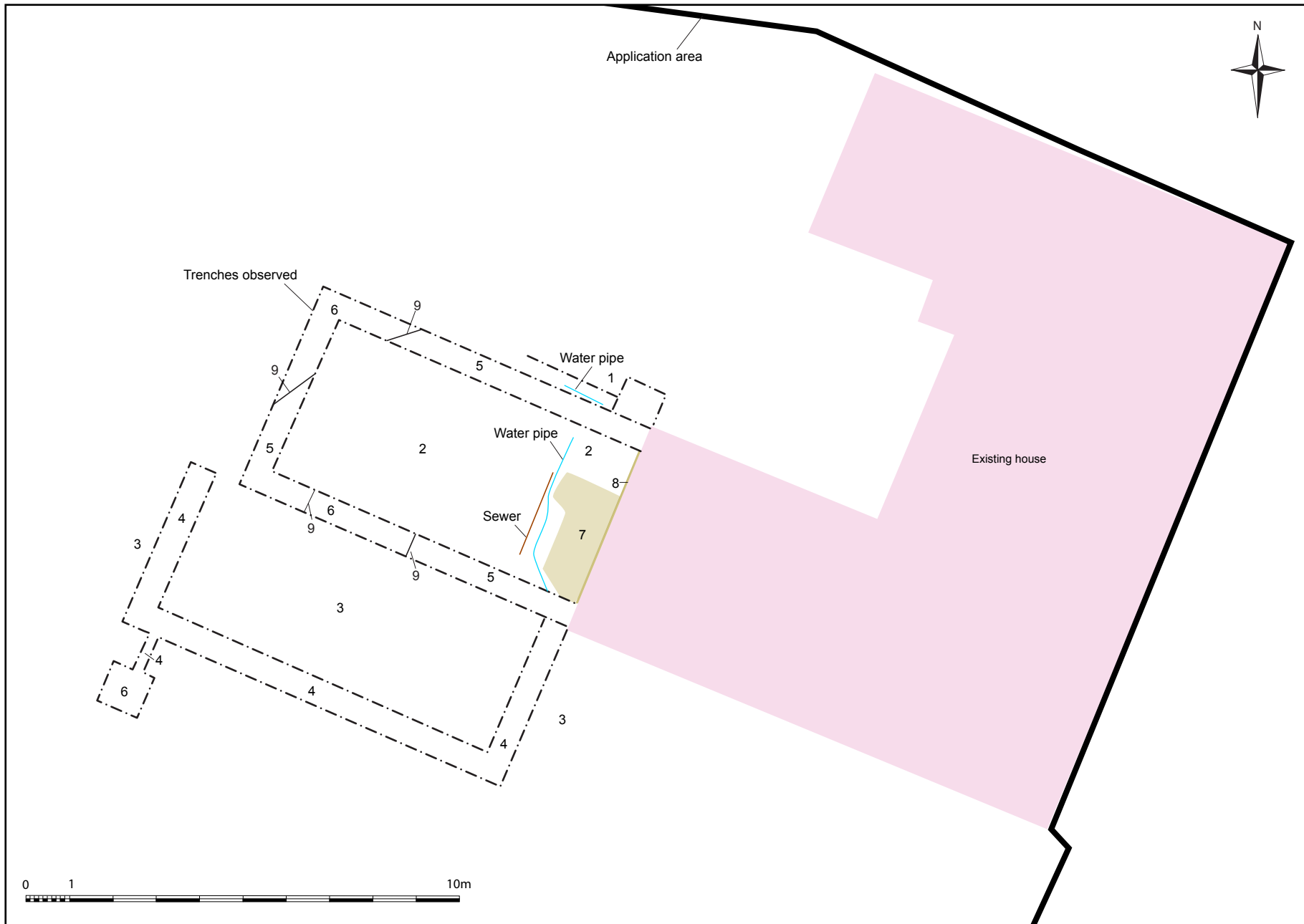


Fig 3: Trenches observed



Fig 4: Foundation trenches, looking east



Fig 5: Manhole excavations





Fig 6: Soakaway, looking west



Fig 7: Edge of quarry pit, looking west





Fig 8: Structural remains (7), looking east