

2 Main Street Long Lawford Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1976
SEPTEMBER 2019



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: Watching brief, 2 Main Street, Long Lawford,
Rugby
Commissioned by: Jim Morris
Site Code: LM18
Planning Reference: R18/1145
Planning Authority: Rugby Borough Council
National Grid Reference: SP 4721 7595
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CONTENTS

	Summary	2
1	Introduction	3
2	Site Location	4
3	Archaeological and Historical Background	5
4	Aims and Methods	8
5	Results	9
6	Conclusions	10
	Acknowledgements	11
	References	12

PHOTOGRAPHS

1	Well 103 in south west corner	13
2	Cess Pit 109	13

APPENDICES

A	List of Contexts	14
B	List of Finds	15

FIGURES

1	Location of application area and Historic Environment information
2	Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889
3	Location of excavated area with 1889 mapping

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Jim Morris during the groundworks for a swimming pool within the extent of the medieval village of Long Lawford.

No medieval or post-medieval finds or deposits were encountered.

A stone lined well, depicted on the 19th Century mapping as 'pump' was backfilled in the 20th Century. A 20th Century cess pit yielded leather shoes, an iron pick and yellow glazed pancheon sherds.

A possible pit cut by the existing house foundations remains undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission was granted by Rugby Borough Council for the erection of a single story rear extension (Ref. R18/1145) at 2 Main Street, Long Lawford, Warwickshire, CV23 9AY. The site is located within an area of archaeological potential within the extent of the medieval settlement of Long Lawford. A planning condition attached to the consent required that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire (AW hereon) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority. The fieldwork was carried out in March 2019 and this report presents the results of that work.
- 1.3 The project archive will be deposited with the Rugby Museum and Art Gallery under Site Code LM18.
- 1.4 The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidelines (2014).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located on the eastern side of Main Street and is centred on National Grid Reference SP 47217 75958 (Fig 1) in the village of Long Lawford, in the parish of the same name.

- 2.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site has been identified as interbedded limestone and mudstone of the Rugby Limestone Member (British Geological Survey 2019).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 3.1 A Neolithic oblong enclosure and pit group have been recorded on the south bank of the River Avon in Church Lawford, approximately 1km from the site (Palmer 2002) but there is yet no evidence for earlier prehistoric activity in the area of the current development.

Roman

- 3.2 The earliest evidence for occupation in the area comprises a Late Iron Age or Roman period complex of possible stock enclosures identified during archaeological investigations in 2014 at Back Lane, approximately 300m to the south-east of the site (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no. MWA 30285; EWA 10735). A group of possible boundaries have been uncovered to the west of Chapel Street (MWA 9846/ 10276; EWA 7407/ 7674), tentatively interpreted as elements of a settlement enclosure, but only a small quantity of Roman finds were recovered.

Medieval and Post medieval

- 3.3 Long Lawford is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as a small village of five *hides*. An excavation at Chapel Street recorded a number of potentially Saxon narrow curvilinear ditches which post-dated the Roman boundaries and pre-dated the medieval burgage plots (MWA 10277).
- 3.4 The possible extent of the medieval settlement at Long Lawford is based on the roads and boundaries depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (MWA 9526).
- 3.5 A gully containing 12th-13th century pottery was excavated during investigations in 2015 on land north of Bailey's Lane, some 30m to the north of the site (MWA 30276; EWA 10723). An 18th century floor surface (MWA 30277) and pit were also recorded.
- 3.6 Residual 13th and 15th century pottery was found within the backfill of 16th or 17th century quarry pits (MWA 20569; EWA 9161) approximately 100m north-west of the site, along with a possible yard surface and remains of a 19th century building (MWA 20570).
- 3.7 A group of 17th-19th century ditches were identified 100m to the west of the site

(MWA 12844).

3.8 Aerial photographs and LiDAR images show ridge and furrow to the south and south-west of the village and suggest the presence of open field systems in the area from at least the medieval period (MWA 13057; EWA 10041).

3.9 Other monuments recorded in the HER:

MONUMENT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
MWA 3487	Site of Smithy at Long Lawford	Imperial
MWA7563	London-Birmingham Railway	Imperial
MWA9847	Undated features to the west of Caldecott Arms	Undated
MWA12675	Undated ditch north of Back Lane	Undated
MWA20041	Long Lawford Bridge	Imperial to Modern
MWA20043	Clayhill Lane Ford Bridge	Modern

3.10 Several archaeological interventions are recorded in the area:

EVENT	DESCRIPTION
EWA9347	Observation at Country Inn, Main Street, Long Lawford
EWA9658	Evaluation on Land North of Back Lane, Long Lawford
EWA9979	Watching Brief on the Long Lawford to Rugby Transfer
EWA10137	Evaluation at Sunrise, School Street, Long Lawford
EWA10611	Evaluation at Townsend Lane, Long Lawford
EWA10883	Watching Brief at No 6 Chapel Street, Long Lawford

Cartographic Regression

3.11 The earliest detailed accurate map of the application site: the 1:2500 Ordnance Survey mapping of 1889 (Landmark 2003 a) depicts a T-plan building on the same footprint as 2 Main Street, but with additional front and rear lateral outshuts at the northern end (now gone). Boundary lines suggest that the property was probably split into two dwellings at that time. The site of the new extension takes in the extent of the rear outshut as well as the site of a “*pump*” which is also identified on this map edition.

3.12 This arrangement is essentially unchanged until the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping of 1962 (Landmark 2003 b) when the dividing boundary has gone and the

dwelling is shown with its current footprint for the first time: the lateral outshuts are gone and the east-west aligned rear wing also shown as being reduced in length.

- 3.13 Vertical aerial photographs available on Google Earth from 1999 onwards, (earth.google.com) record areas of hard standing to the rear of the property and over the proposal site but no other disturbance is shown.

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed or disturbed by 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 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The foundation trenches for the new building were excavated by a machine using a toothless bucket. The trenches were 0.60m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.80m-2.00m deep.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 Geological natural was red clay with occasional pebbles (101).
- 5.2 Stone-lined well 103, c.0.9m dia, in the south-east corner of the site (cut 102) corresponds to a pump depicted on the First Edition Ordnance survey map of 1889 (Fig 3). The greyish brown sandy clay backfill (104) contained 19th to 20th century modern glazed ware (MGW), post medieval slip ware (PMCW) and rubble.
- 5.3 Cess pit 109 (3m x 1.50m) contained a 'black' organic fill (110) which yielded 19th - 20th century finds. It was overlain by black layer (106).
- 5.4 Undated pit 107 (1.70m x 0.80m) was too deep and unsafe to excavate and characterise further.
- 5.5 A dark grey clay layer (100) lay across the area examined.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The new extension did not impact on any significant archaeological deposits, although an undated pit could not be fully characterised.
- 6.2 A cess pit and well, the latter recorded on 19th century mapping were part of the 19th and 20th century occupation of the site.
- 6.3 The absence of any medieval pottery from the site suggests that the area was not developed in the medieval period and may have been agricultural land.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Jim Morris for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

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Ordnance Survey 1905 *Second Edition 1:2500 map, Warwickshire Sheet 35.6*.



1: Well 103



2: Cess Pit 109

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Context	Description	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Comment
100	Dark grey clay			Layer
101	Red clay			Geological Natural
102	Cut for well			Construction cut for Well
103	Well Wall	0.25		Sandstone Well wall [102]
104	Well Fill	0.80m	1.50m +	
105	Mixed layer of modern materials at south end of long trench.			Modern disturbance
106	Black layer			Modern contaminated layer
107	Deep sloping sides, curved base.	1.70m +		Possible Ditch
108	Yellow, sandy gravel, stoney.	1.70m +		Possible Ditch Fill
109		1.50m+		Cut for Cess pit
110	Black, stone inclusions, waterlogged fill		0.30m	Fill of Cess pit [109]

B List of Finds

Context	Material	Quantity	Date/Comments
104	Pottery	4	3 x Modern glazed ware (MGW) 1 x post-medieval coarseware with traces of red slip on exterior - 19 th -20 th Century (PMCW)
106	Plastic Soldier	1	Modern, not retained
110	Pottery	7	2 x internally yellow-glazed pancheon fragments with red fabric -19 th – 20th century (PMCW) 2 x Black-glazed coarse ware 19 th – 20th century (PMCW) 1 x Modern glazed ware (MGW)
	Leather	8	2 shoe soles, one complete 24.5cm long, midsole 5.5cm, heel 6.5 cm wide.
	Iron	3	Nails from shoe 1.5cm long
	Iron	1	An iron pick
	Clay pipe	1	Flattened base of pipe bowl, no stamp - 17 th century

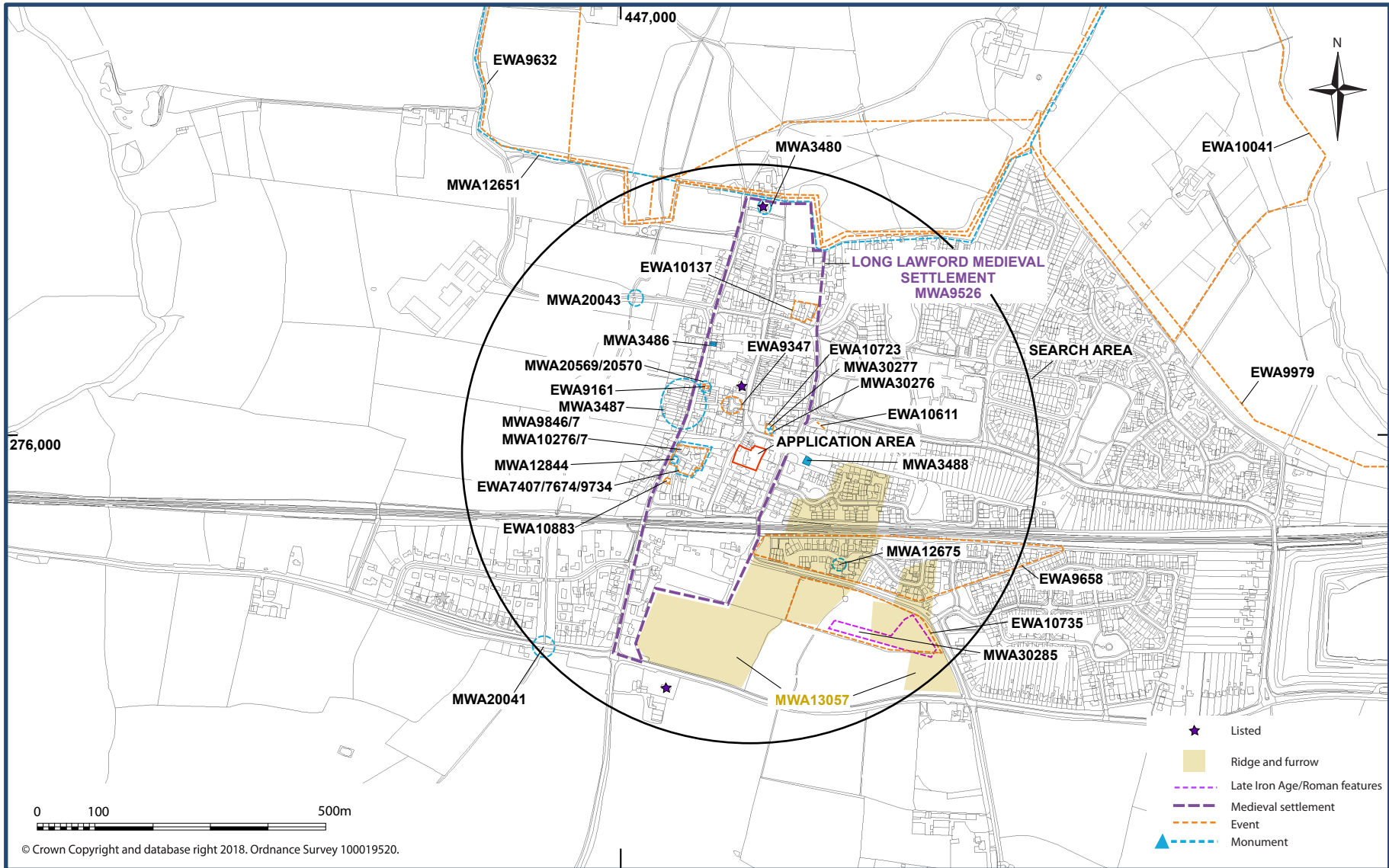
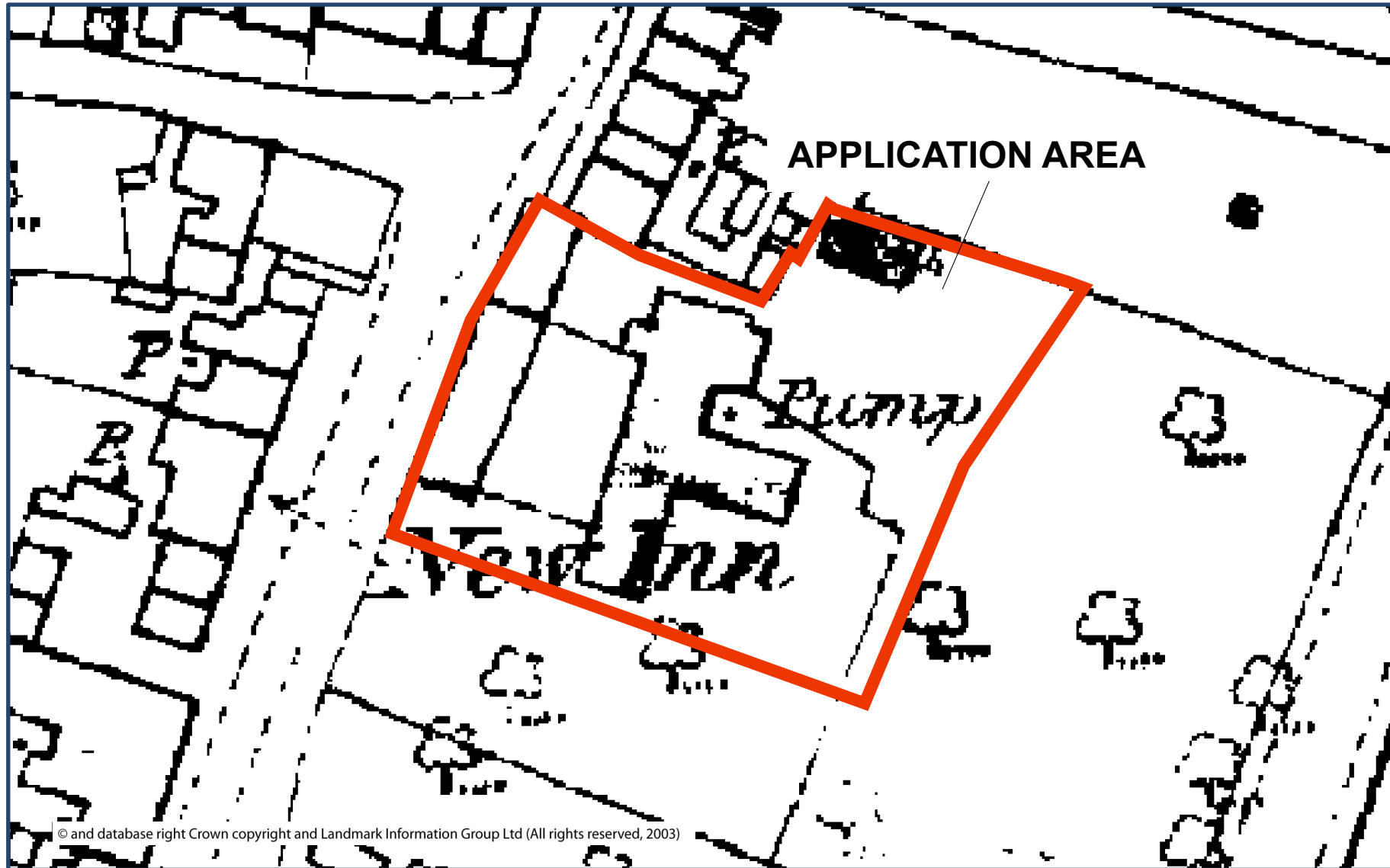


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information



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Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889

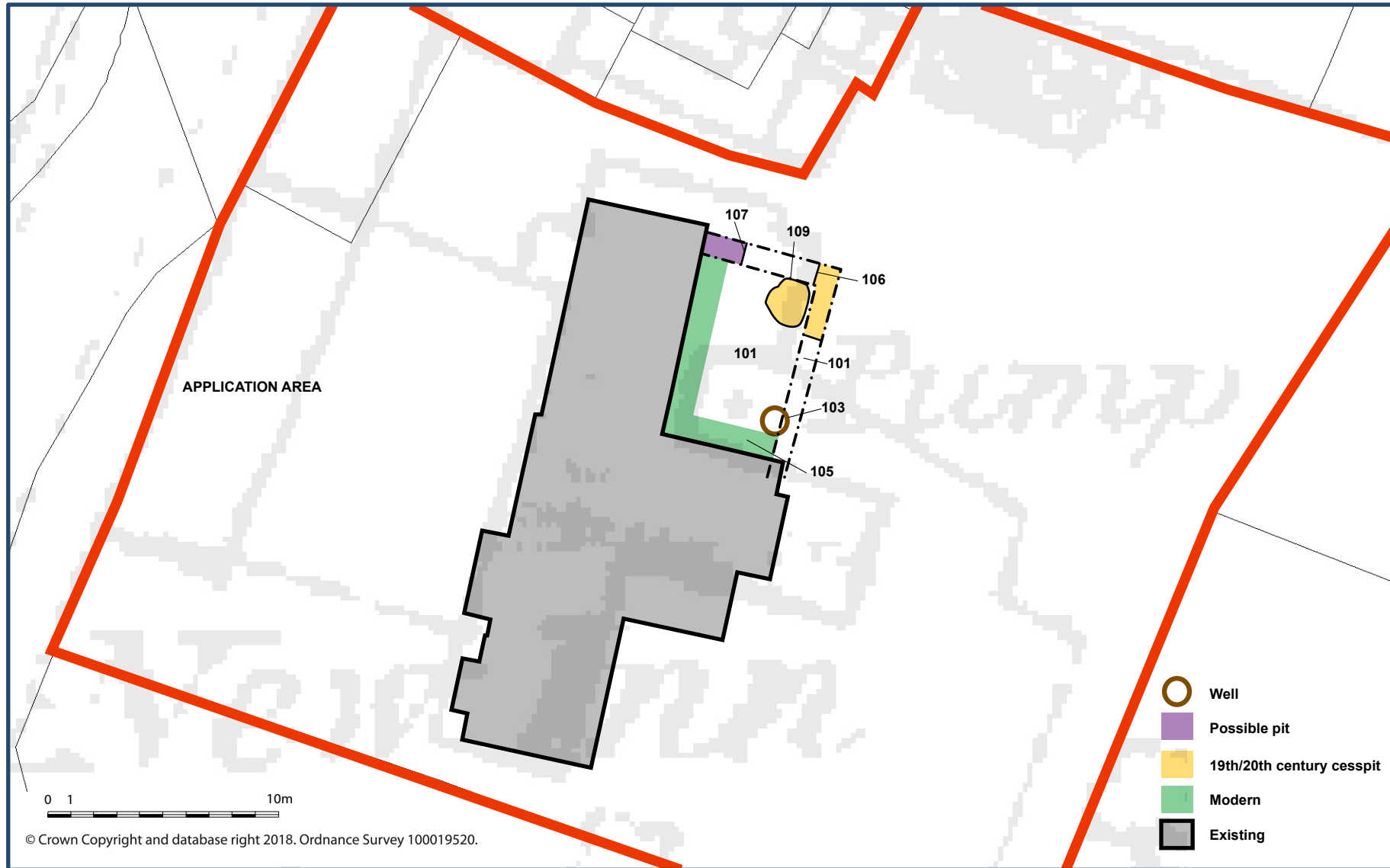


Fig 3: Location of excavated areas with 1889 mapping