

# Tays Gateway Deddington Oxfordshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION AND RECORDING



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1747  
JUNE 2017



*Working for  
Warwickshire*

**Project:** Deddington WB  
**Commissioned by:** Stephen Plummer  
**Project Report No.** 1747  
**Site Code:** OD16  
**Planning Reference:** 16/00295  
**Planning Authority:** Cherwell District Council  
**National Grid Reference:** SP 4674 3180  
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## Archaeology Warwickshire

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## SUMMARY

*Archaeological observation during the excavation of foundation trenches and the reduction of internal areas for a new dwelling located in the core of medieval Deddington was undertaken on behalf of Mr Stephen Plummer.*

*No evidence for significant archaeological remains associated with medieval settlement or earlier activity was observed.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Cherwell District Council for a new dwelling in the former garden of No 4 Victoria Terrace, Deddington, Oxfordshire, OX15 4AA (Ref. 16/00295/FUL). The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential and in the northern part of the Deddington Conservation Area. The site lies within the historic core associated with medieval settlement and it was therefore possible that archaeological remains might be disturbed during the development. A condition of planning permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out in conjunction with the development.
- 1.2 A design brief had been prepared by the Planning Archaeologist on behalf of the Planning Authority (April 2016). Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a programme of observation and recording to be undertaken in conjunction with the groundworks phase of the development in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was carried out in September 2016. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be temporarily stored at the Archaeology Warwickshire premises under Site Code OD16, prior to deposition with Oxfordshire Museums.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located on the east side of Tays Gateway to the rear of properties on Victoria Terrace. The site lies approximately 90m north of the Church of St Peter and St Paul and is centred on national grid reference SP 4674 3180, in the parish of Deddington. The proposed development area covers an area of approximately 160m<sup>2</sup>.
  
- 2.2 The site is on generally level ground and the underlying geology of the area is Marlstone Rock with clays and siltstone (British Geological Survey 1968).

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record contains no records indicating pre-Roman activity in the vicinity, though this is likely to be a reflection of the absence of survey rather than absence of evidence.
- 3.2 The site is located within an area of archaeological potential on the northern limit of the likely extent of medieval settlement; although there has been little previous formal archaeological work in the vicinity of the site.
- 3.3 The settlement of Deddington is likely Saxon in origin, the place name is recorded in 950 AD and by the 11th century at the time of Domesday Deddington was a substantial settlement in the county (VCH 1983).
- 3.4 The site lies in the northern half of the settlement and to the west of Deddington Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 21807). The monument includes an 11th century motte and bailey castle and subsequent 12th-century enclosure castle (HER PRN2543). Visible earthworks survive, which are associated with mound, baileys and the later curtain wall. The castle may have been associated with Odo of Bayeaux and later part of the lands of William de Chesney. A series of excavations were undertaken by E M Jope in the 1940s and 1950s (Jope 1947), which revealed evidence of the bailey wall and Anglo-Saxon activity.

## 4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any archaeological remains revealed or 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. 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. The objective of the work was a programme of observation and recording during ground reduction to development formation levels.
- 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 made available for each day of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with WSI. Where potential archaeological deposits were encountered, the supervising archaeologist assessed or recorded these before they were disturbed by the machine..



## 5 RESULTS

5.1 The ground disturbance associated with the development was undertaken in three stages due to the constraints of the site: Initial topsoil stripping from the majority of the site; the excavation of the basement area; and the excavation of foundation trenches. The internal footprint of the building was reduced by 0.25m.

### Deposit sequence

5.2 A very simple sequence of deposits was recorded during the observations. Geological natural (5, 6) was revealed in the basement area and at the base of the foundation trenches.

5.3 The natural was overlain by a subsoil horizon which contained marlstone fragments (4). This was overlaid by a layer likely to have derived over derived from horticultural activity (2) and a layer of topsoil (1).

5.4 The stripping of topsoil (1) across the site revealed the remains of wall foundation (3), which was comprised of a single course of ironstone or marlstone blocks, approximately 0.2m to 0.3m wide, which extended for almost 4m west to east. It survived intermittently with no evidence of a trench cut or bonding.

### Summary

Deposit description	Site reduction	Basement reduction	Foundation trenches	Interpretation
Grey brownish silty loam	1	1	1	Topsoil/garden soil
Light grey brown silt clay	2	2	2	Horticultural soil
Light grey silty clay with marlstone fragments	-	4	4	Subsoil layer
Fragmented marlstone	-	5	5	Geological natural
Marlstone	-	6	-	Geological natural

5.5 Boundary stone walls (7, 8) formed the western and eastern limits of the site. These standing walls formed property boundaries and have similar characteristics to wall 3, as these also appear to be constructed on a layer of soil (4).

## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The programme of observation recorded the base of a narrow wall which seemed likely to have been a garden feature. Although not precisely datable this is likely to have been post-medieval or later given its position in the site stratigraphy.
  
- 6.2 No evidence relating to the medieval settlement at Deddington was recorded and no significant finds were recovered.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mr Stephen Plummer for commissioning the work and to Andrew Waite RIBA, Architect for initiating the work.

## REFERENCES

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Victoria County History 1969 *A History of the County of Oxford: Volume IX 9, Bloxham Hundred*, London

Ordnance Survey 1887-1888 *First Edition 1:2500 map*, Oxfordshire sheet

## APPENDICES

### A List of contexts

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1	Dark grey brown silty loam		0.3m to 0.4m	Topsoil
2	Light grey brown silty clay		0.2m to 0.3m	
3	Wall foundation	0.2-0.3		Post-medieval boundary or garden wall
4	Grey silty clay with marlstone frags		0.1m	Subsoil
5	Fragmented marlstone with clay		0.3m	Geological natural
6	Marlstone			Geological natural
7	Wall			Boundary wall
8	Wall			Boundary wall



1. Garden wall 3



2. Deposit sequence and wall 8



3. Foundation trench



4. Basement excavation

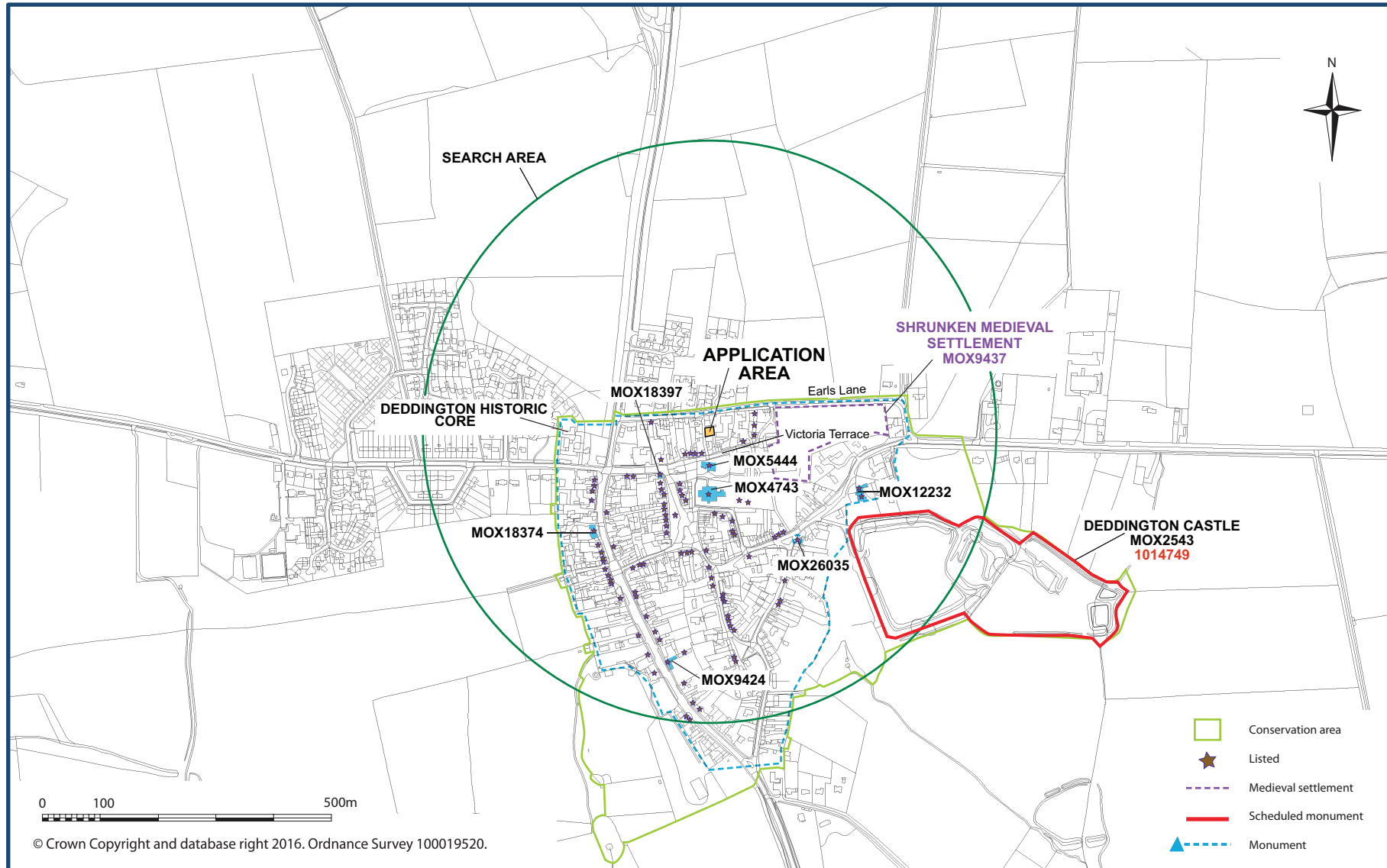


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information



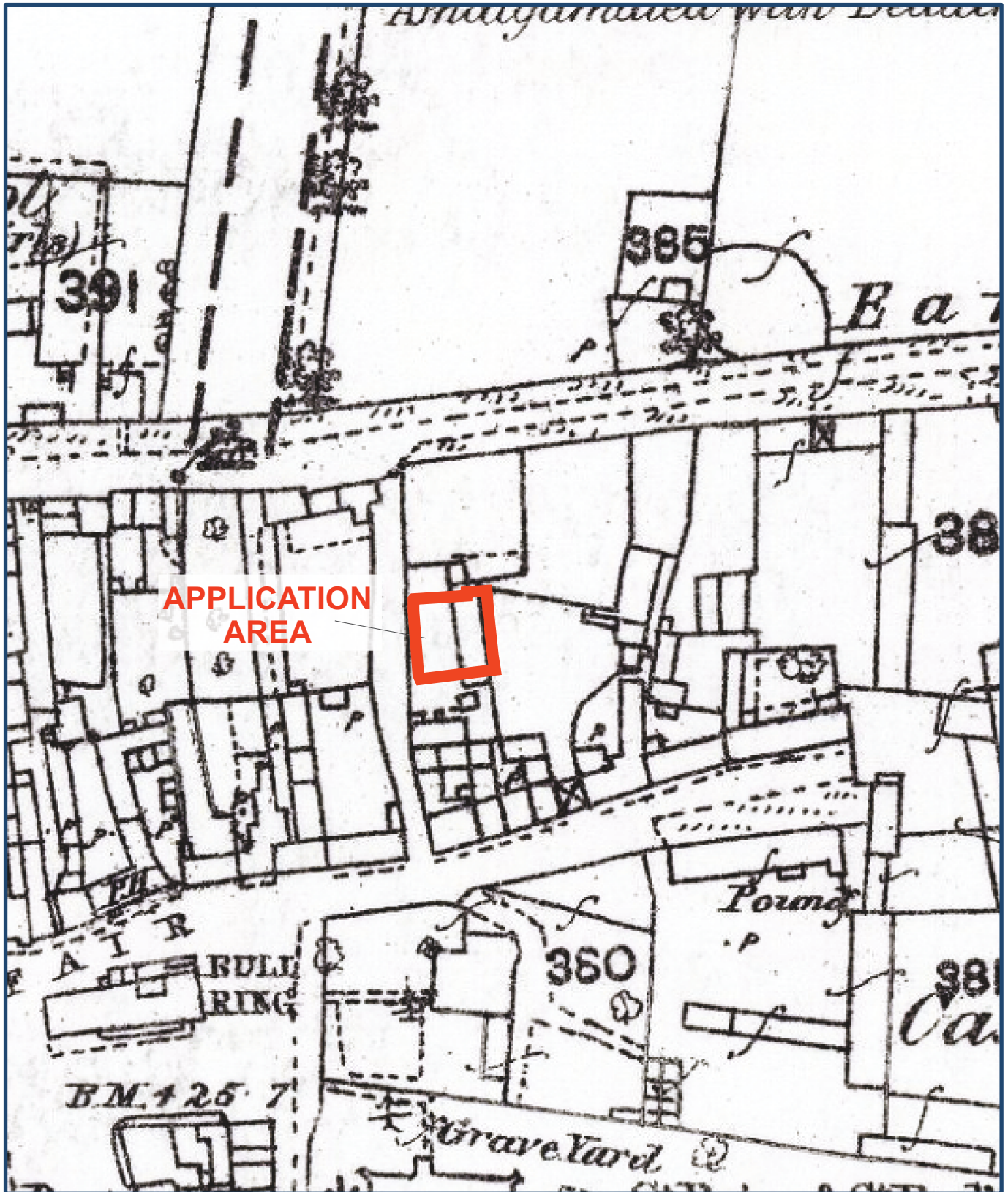


Fig 2: Detail from 25 inch Ordnance survey map of 1881

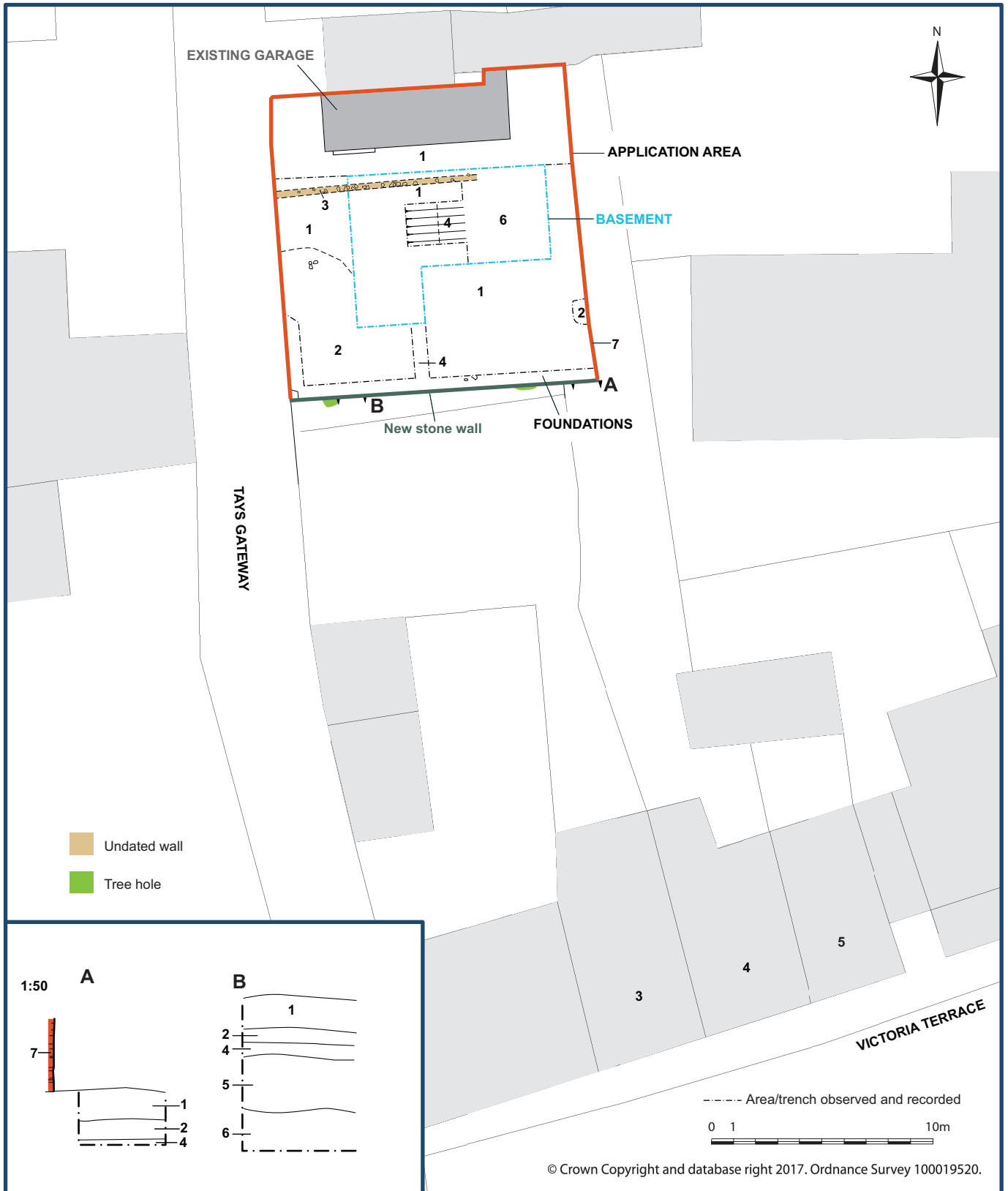


Fig 3: Location of areas observed and recorded with sections A and B