

Great Western Public House, Coventry Road, Warwick

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



understanding heritage matters

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1679

SEPTEMBER 2016



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project:	Great Western Public House
Commissioned by:	Pandy Nijjar
Project Report No.	1679
Site Code:	WG16
Planning Reference:	W/16/1034
Planning Authority:	Warwick
Planning Archaeologist:	John Robinson, Warwickshire
National Grid Reference:	SP 4846 7386
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SUMMARY

An archaeological trial trench was undertaken in advance of new development on behalf of Pandy Nijjar, to the north-west of the Great Western public House, within the supposed extent of the medieval settlement of Warwick. No medieval remains were found. The buildings shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map were not evident in the trench although the culverted watercourse, evident from c.1850, which underlay the buildings, was recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Warwick District Council for the construction of four town houses and the conversion of the former public house to flats at Coventry Road, Warwick. Warwickshire County Council Planning Archaeologist John Robinson advised that an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken before the development commenced in order to allow for the mitigation of any archaeological remains that might survive in the area to be developed. This was secured by a planning condition.

- 1.2 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority. This report presents the results of that work. The project archive will be deposited with the Warwickshire Museum under Site Code WG16.

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located on the western side of Coventry Road centred around National Grid Reference SP 2871 6535 (Fig 1). The area of new development is within the grounds of the Great Western Public House.

- 2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Ashow Formation Mudstone with superficial deposits of River Terrace Gravels (British Geological Survey 2016). The development site lies at a level with Coventry Road but lower than Station Road which has artificially been raised to allow access to Warwick Station and the railway line.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The former Great Western public house (Warwickshire Historic Environment Record no MWA13360) lies to the north of the eastern suburb of medieval Warwick (Historic Environment Record no. MWA7050). Map evidence suggests that the pub was built between 1850 and 1887. Archaeological evidence for this part of the medieval settlement was found during work at Nos 6-14 Coventry Road (MWA8849 / EWA6689).
- 3.2 To the west of the development site are the earthwork remains of the Priory of St Sepulchre. There has been speculation that some of the earthworks may date from the Iron Age but empirical evidence has not been forthcoming (MWA1841). The extent of the outer court of the Priory is not known as the boundaries have been lost through later development in the town (MWA10180). It is possible that they followed what is now Coventry Road.
- 3.3 The site is located to the south of an area called *Packmores* which was traditionally a marshy area of Warwick. The Board of Health map of 1851 shows the open drainage system of this area which was linked to a mill and pools to the north-west of the site. One of the drainage channels is shown running NW-SE through the site (Fig 2).
- 3.4 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows that the site had been developed, with the Great Western Hotel along the street frontage and several buildings to the rear that appear to be for industrial use (Fig 3).
- 3.5 Other monument records on the HER include:-

HER No	Date	Description
MWA12513	Medieval	A number of cut features and a wall, indicating Medieval plot boundaries, together with evidence of back-plot activity, were recorded during evaluation at 22 Coton End.
MWA2170	Medieval	glass vase
MWA5065	Medieval	Site of Medieval Cemetery at St John's
MWA12982	Post-medieval to Modern	Warwick Priory gardens, parkland, drive, ponds, pleasure grounds around house with walks, aviary, quarry garden. House sold and moved to America 1925. Recommended for inclusion on Local List by Lovie.
MWA1878	Industrial	Glovers Foundary, a small country foundry.
MWA9070	Industrial	Tramlines found at Jury Street, at the junction of Coventry Road, St Johns and Coten

		End and at the western end of St Johns during water mains renewal works.
MWA9711	Imperial	The remains of 19th and 20th century buildings were recorded during evaluation trenching.
MWA12936	Modern	Priory Nursery now developed with flats/sheltered accommodation.
MWA12956	Modern	The Cliff garden Pleasure grounds with lawns and walks. Some of garden now developed. Recommended for inclusion on Local List by Lovie.
MWA19278	Modern	St. Nicholas Sunday School, from the late 19th century, was formerly a tithe barn.
MWA13318	Undated	Oak inn, Coton End
MWA13320	Undated	Site of Old Nag's Head public house
MWA13322	Undated	Site of White Horse inn situated at the junction of Coventry road and Guy street. By 1874 it had become the Railway inn.
MWA7515	Modern	Site of the New Cinema built in the late 1930s. The cinema was demolished in 1988.
MWA13321	Undated	Site of Crown Commercial inn and Bowling Green, now the Crown and Castle inn, situated on the junction of Coton End with Coventry road.

3.6 Archaeological work in the vicinity is also recorded on the HER:-

Event No	Description
EWA6869	Arch T/trenches & Obs, 6-14 Coventry Rd
EWA6944	Watching brief at St. John's House, Warwick
EWA7007	Further Arch Obs of Warwick Town Centre STW Water
EWA7342	Land at 50 Coventry Road, Warwick. Archaeological Assessment.
EWA7349	Archaeological Observation at the Former Spirit Volkswagon Garage, 1 Coventry Road
EWA7550	Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of St John's House
EWA7587	Further Work at 11 The Paddocks
EWA7614	Observation of Gas Pipeline, Priory Park
EWA7720	Removal of garden soil at no 11 The Paddocks
EWA9104	Further archaeological observation at Warwick Nursery School, Coventry Road
EWA9129	Archaeological observation of a cable trench at St John's House
EWA9199	Land at 22 Coton End, Warwick: an archaeological watching brief
EWA9243	Archaeological Observation at Warwick Nursery School, Coventry Road
EWA9496	Archaeological recording of repairs to County Record Office drain, Priory Park
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EWA9496	Archaeological recording of repairs to County Record Office drain, Priory Park
EWA9818	Priory Park Culvert
EWA9822	Site visit to Priory Nursery, Warwick by J Lovie c1996
EWA9847	Site visit to The Cliff garden, Coventry Road, Warwick by J Lovie c1996
EWA9871	Site visit to Warwick Priory gardens by J Lovie c1996

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. Secondary aims include placing the results in their wider local and regional contexts as appropriate.
- 4.2 The objectives were to locate, record and analyse archaeological materials and deposits and to disseminate the results in an appropriate format.
- 4.3 The trench was opened up by a JCB fitted with a 1.60m wide, toothless ditching bucket. The trench was split to include a section of the bank on the Railway approach edge of the site. Topsoil and other soils were removed under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist until either the top of archaeological remains or geological natural was reached.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 Geological natural pale yellowish brown sandy clay (103) was reached at a depth of 1.3m in the trench along the bank (Fig 4, Photograph 1) and at 0.6m in the remainder of the trench (Photographs 1 and 2). A deposit of c.0.5m dark grey sandy loam was found in the western trench (101) which relates to the artificial creation of the bank during the construction of the railway. A dark yellowish brown layer was found overlying the natural in the eastern trench to a depth of 0.3m (102).
- 5.2 A large proportion of the trench had been disturbed by a NW-SE cut for a brick drain or culvert (108, photograph 3). The bricks were handmade, imperial-sized bricks suggesting that it was late 19th century/early 20th century in date. Pottery recovered from the backfilled construction trench included modern glazed wares and stoneware (not retained) and were typically late 19th century/early 20th century in date.
- 5.3 The brick drain culvert was 0.5m deep and 0.64m wide with an arched top. Hard mortar had been used to create a sturdy, well-sealed structure. It was clear of debris and the base was damp.

- 5.4 Two modern postholes were found in the eastern trench (104 and 106, Photograph 4). The area of the trench was covered in topsoil to a depth of 0.3m (100).

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has successfully established that no significant archaeological deposits will be affected by the development. There was no evidence for medieval activity and no evidence relating to the buildings depicted on the 1887 map. This might suggest that the area had been subject to previous ground reduction or scouring but this is not certain. The absence of evidence for the buildings depicted on the 19th-century mapping may be attributable to the buildings being wooden sheds rather than brick-walled structures.
- 6.2 The brick drain culvert was originally part of the drainage system of the marshy area which linked to the water mill in Priory Park. It was culverted at some time before 1887 when the buildings or sheds were constructed. It existed as an open channel by at least 1851 as depicted on the 1851 Board of Health Map.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Pandy Nijjar for commissioning the work and B-line Plant for providing the machine on site.

REFERENCES

- BGS 2016 British Geological Survey Viewer
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed August 2016.
- Landmark 2003 Ordnance Survey town plan of Warwick 1:500, 1887.
- Board of Health 1851 Map of Warwick.



1. Trench 1 looking SE



2. Trench 1 looking NW



3. Culvert when found



4. Modern posthole

APPENDIX

A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	100	Very dark grey sandy loam	Topsoil
1	101	Dark grey sandy loam	Layer – bank makeup
1	102	Dark yellowish brown	Layer
1	103	Pale yellowish brown sandy clay	Geological natural
1	104	Sub-round posthole	Modern garden feature
1	105	Dark grey sandy loam with bricks	Fill of 104
1	106	Sub-round posthole	Modern garden feature
1	107	Dark grey sandy loam with bricks	Fill of 106
1	108	NE/SW cut	Culvert/drain cut
1	109	Greyish brown sandy loam with MGW and stoneware	Fill of 108
1	110	Brick built structure with rounded food	Late 19th-century culvert

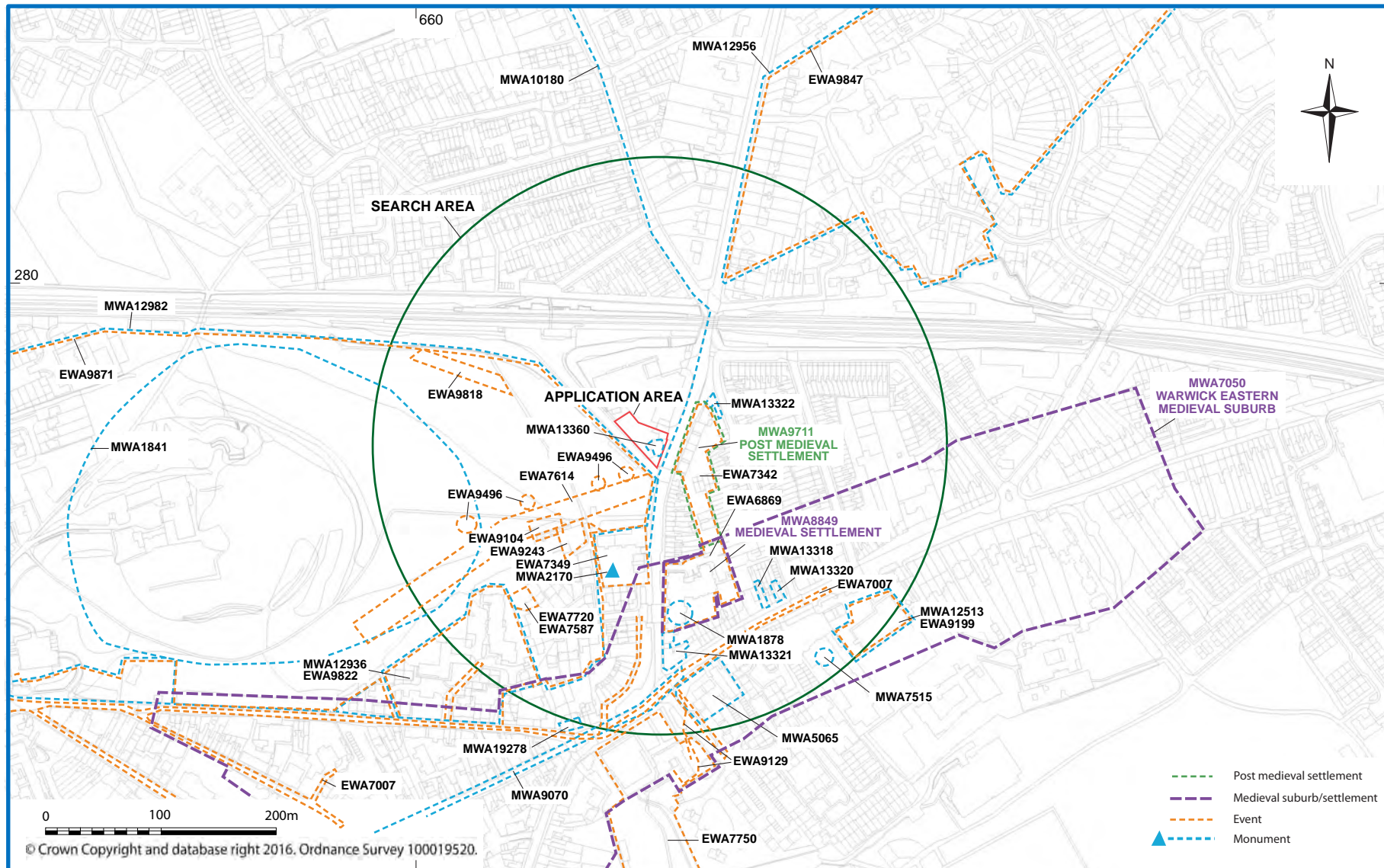


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information

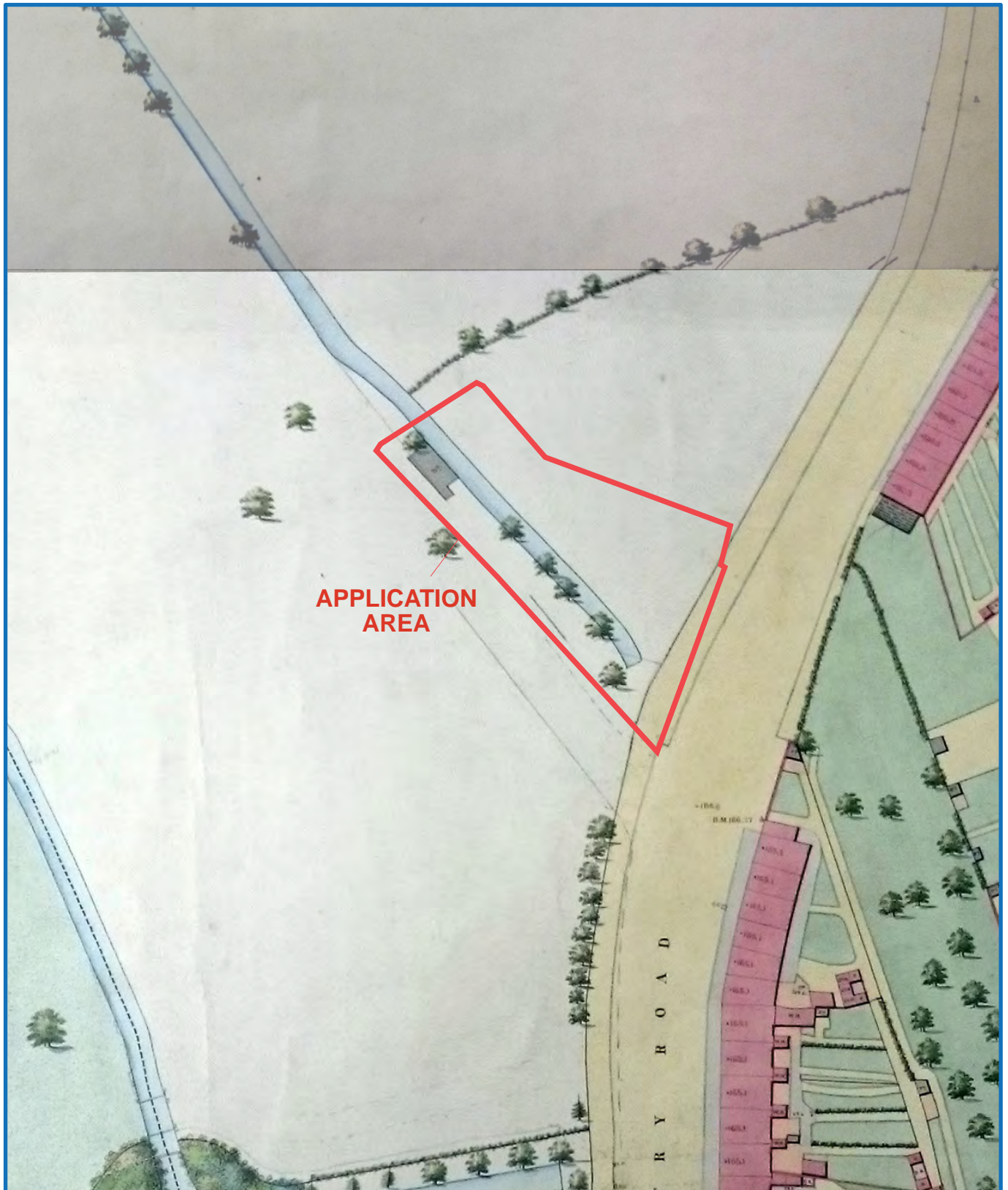


Fig 2: Detail from Board of Health map of 1851

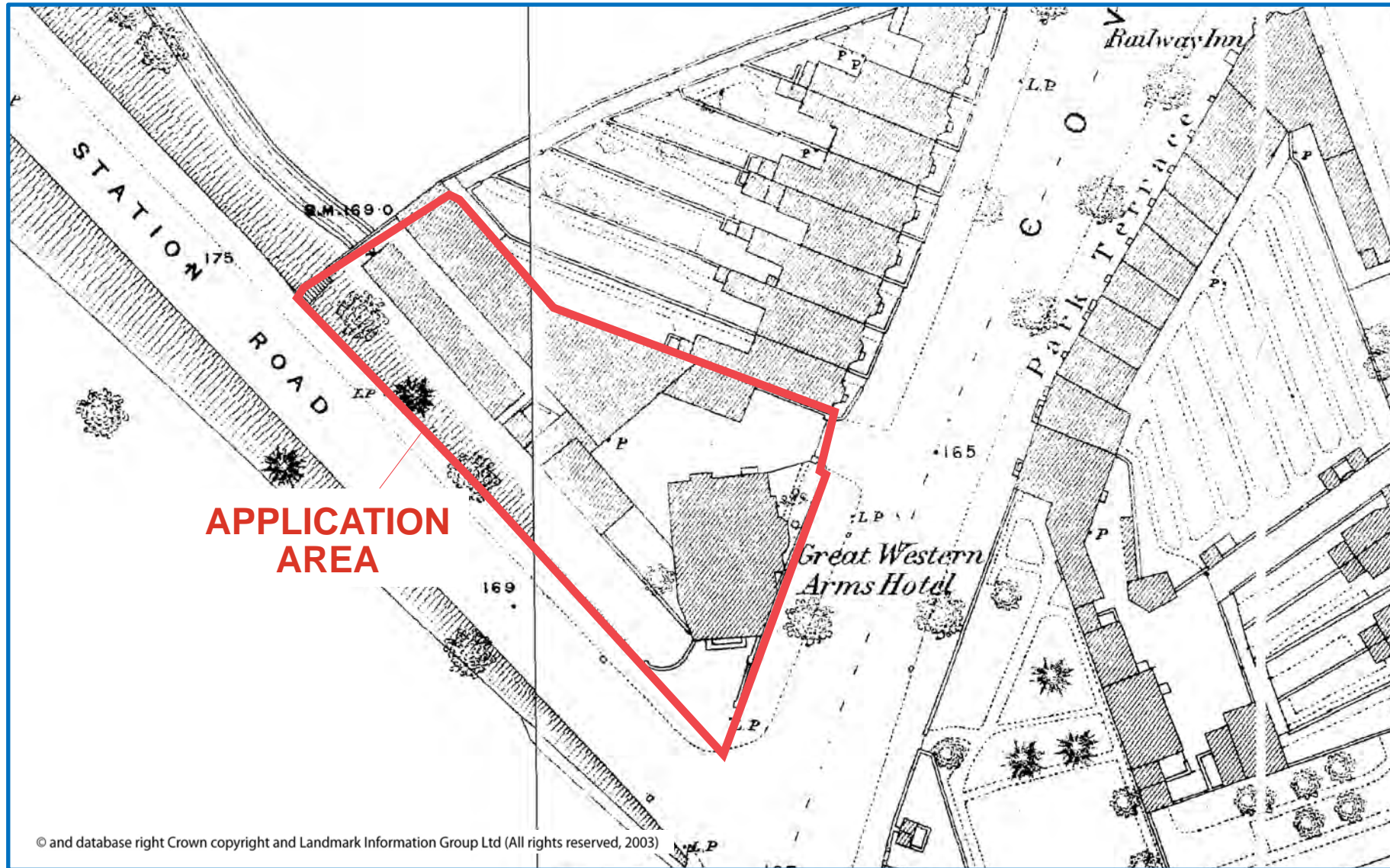


Fig 3: Detail from town plan map 1:500 Warwick 1887

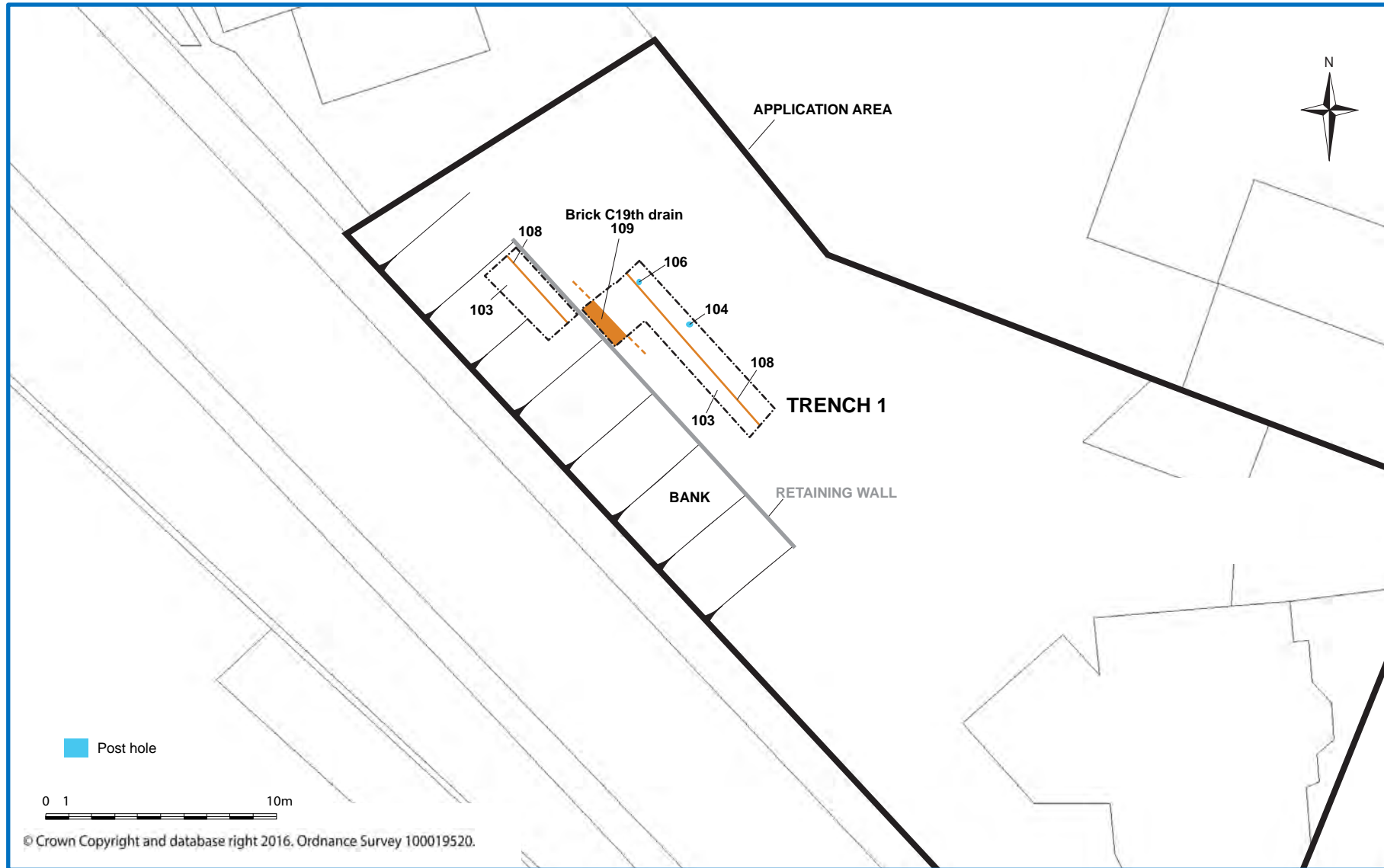


Fig 4: Location of excavated trench