

Hampton Leys, Alveston Stratford-upon-Avon Warwickshire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 1773

SEPTEMBER 2017



*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project:	Hampton Leys
Commissioned by:	Mike Surrey
Project Report No.	1773
Site Code:	SA17
Planning Reference:	17/01341/FUL
Planning Authority:	Stratford upon Avon
Planning Archaeologist:	NA
National Grid Reference:	SP 2327 5645
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SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation, which consisted of one trial trench, was undertaken on behalf of Mike Surrey, prior to redevelopment in an area of potential medieval settlement. No archaeological features or finds were present in the trench.

No further mitigation is necessary.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Stratford-upon-Avon District Council for the demolition of an existing building and the erection of two new dwellings at Hampton Leys, Kissing Tree Way, Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7QT.
- 1.2 A planning condition attached to the consent requires that the applicant secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the planning authority.
- 1.3 Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation which was carried out on 19th September 2017. This report presents the results of that work. 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 site is centred on national grid reference SP 2327 5645 in the parish of Alveston, which lies to the west of the present house to be demolished.

- 2.2 The underlying geology of the site is Mercia Mudstone with superficial sand and gravels from the Avon terrace (BGS 2017).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Prehistoric activity has been identified to the south-west of the site – south of the Church of St James. A geophysical survey and trial trenching revealed the remains of a possible Iron Age farmstead (Jones 2013) and it is possible that activity associated with this site extends east into the current proposed development area.
- 3.2 The proposed development site lies on the southern edge of the probable extent of the medieval settlement of Alveston (Historic Environment Record MWA 9136). The settlement may have been located near to a possible ford on the River Avon recorded as Dodda's Ford (MWA 8636). A church in Alveston was recorded in 1240 as a chapelry of Hampton Lucy (MWA 1036). A platform next to this church may represent a part of the medieval settlement (MWA 9164). The present church was rebuilt in 1837 (MWA 1037).
- 3.3 The area to the south of the village is characterised by late 18th century villas with large pleasure grounds (MWA 8506, EWA 6602): At this time Alveston was reputed for its pure air and scenery. Kissing Tree House was one such villa and was formerly known as Avonmore (MWA 8510). It was visited by Jonathon Lovie in 1996 (EWA 6602) as part of a county wide Parks and Gardens register review. He recommended that the site be included on a local List.
- 3.4 Parnham Lodge to the north-west also had associated gardens (MWA 8586). Other villas and gardens are Alveston House (MWA 8527, MWA 8511, EWA 6603), Hemingford (MWA 8507), Baraset House (MWA 8509) and Alveston Lodge (MWA 8508). A post-medieval fishpond is marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map north of Alveston House (WMA 1062).
- 3.5 Archaeological work carried out in this part of Alveston has been negative for medieval settlement evidence (EWA 10396, EWA 9951, EWA 7716).
- 3.6 In 1942 a Wellington aircraft crashed to the south-west of Kissing Tree Lane. The crash site is protected under the Protection of Military Remains Act of 1986 (MWA 20395). A system of ground lighting was installed in 1942 to assist approaching aircraft to land at night or in bad weather (MWA 20579). Kissing Tree Lane joins the former toll road from Wellesbourne to Stratford (MWA 4815) further to the south-west.

Two possible square features were identified on LiDAR to the south of the village; these may be modern features relating to recent farming (WMA 19232).

- 3.7 In 2015 an archaeological evaluation was carried out to the east of Hampton Leys. Two trial trenches were excavated but no archaeological deposits or finds were encountered (Gethin 2015).
- 3.8 Ordnance Survey mapping of the late 19th and 20th century suggest that the proposal site was part of a field, with some tree cover, until the present house was constructed in the 1970s.

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 include 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 single 20m trench was opened up by a small tracked excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and other sub 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 Trench 1 was 20m long and 1.60m wide. No archaeological feature or finds were present.

Geological Natural

- 5.2 The natural consisted of reddish brown clay/sand and a large band of small gravel in silty sand matrix. The natural was at a depth of c. 0.75m.

Deposit Sequence

- 5.3 A layer of greyish brown silty sand sat at a depth between 0.65m and 0.75m. This was overlain by dark greyish brown sandy loam topsoil, which contained tree roots and its depth was 0.15m.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has established that no archaeological deposits will be disturbed by the proposed development.

- 6.2 The surrounding land has been used gardens for the current house, which has a landscaped garden and a previous land use of possible extent of the medieval village was not present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Mike Surrey for commissioning the work.

REFERENCES

BGS British Geological Survey 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?> Accessed January 2017

Landmark 2003 Ordnance Survey First Edition 1887 (1:2500) digital version



1: Trench 1 looking SE

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	100	Dark grey brown sandy loam	0.15	Topsoil
1	101	Greyish brown silty sand	0.65-0.75	Subsoil
1	102	Reddish brown clay/sand and a large band of small gravel in silty sand matrix		Geological natural

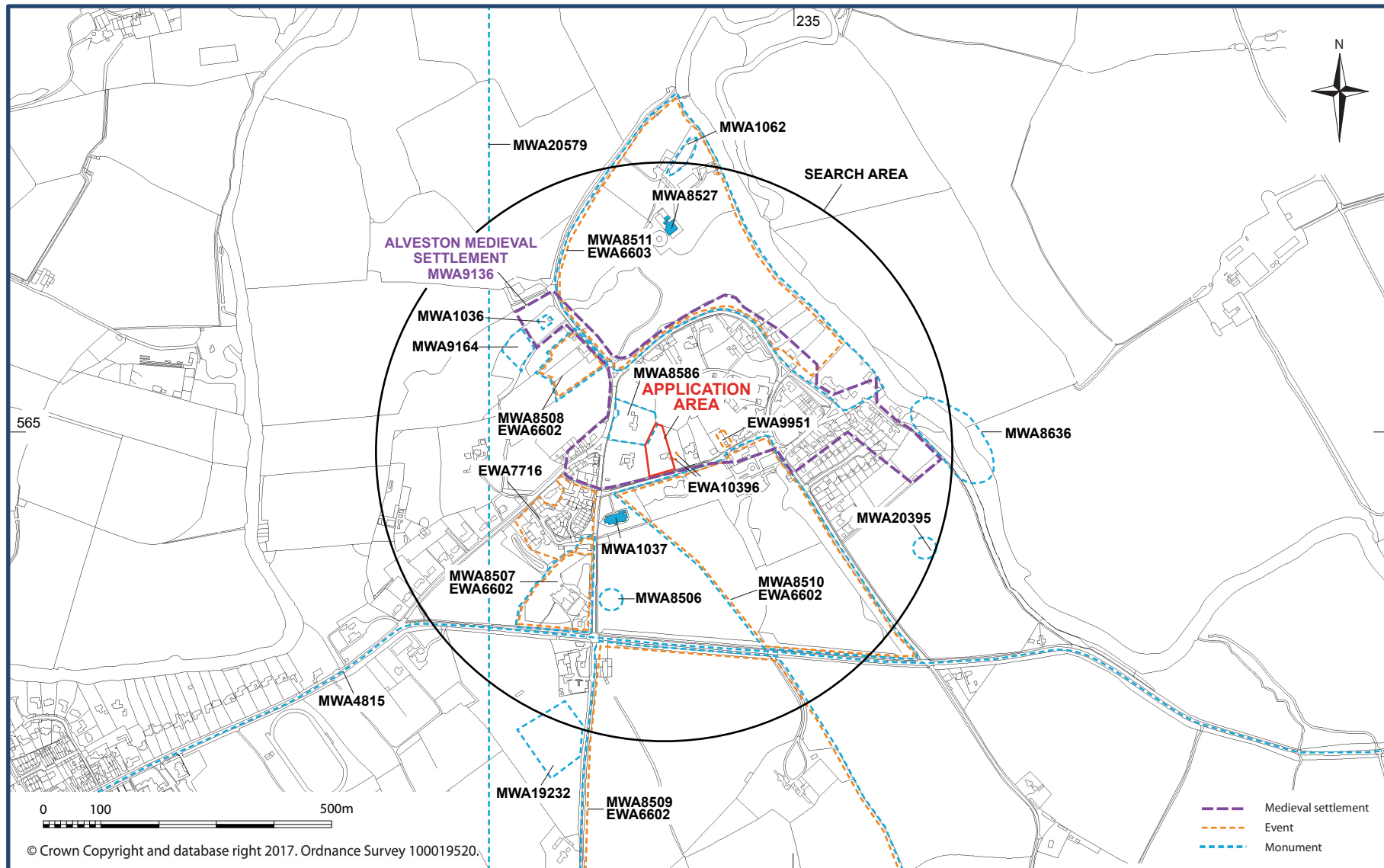
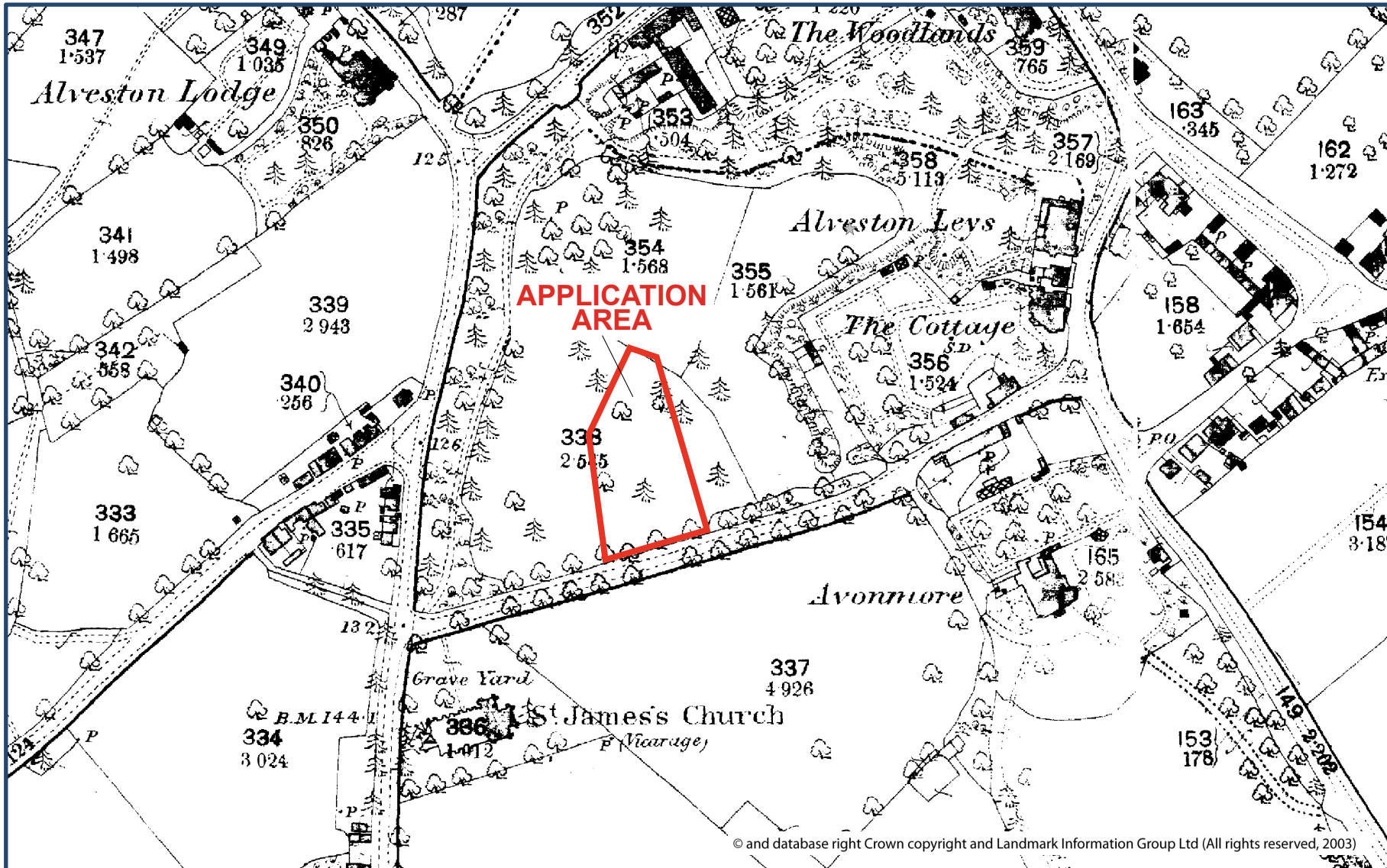


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment information



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Fig 2: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1886-7

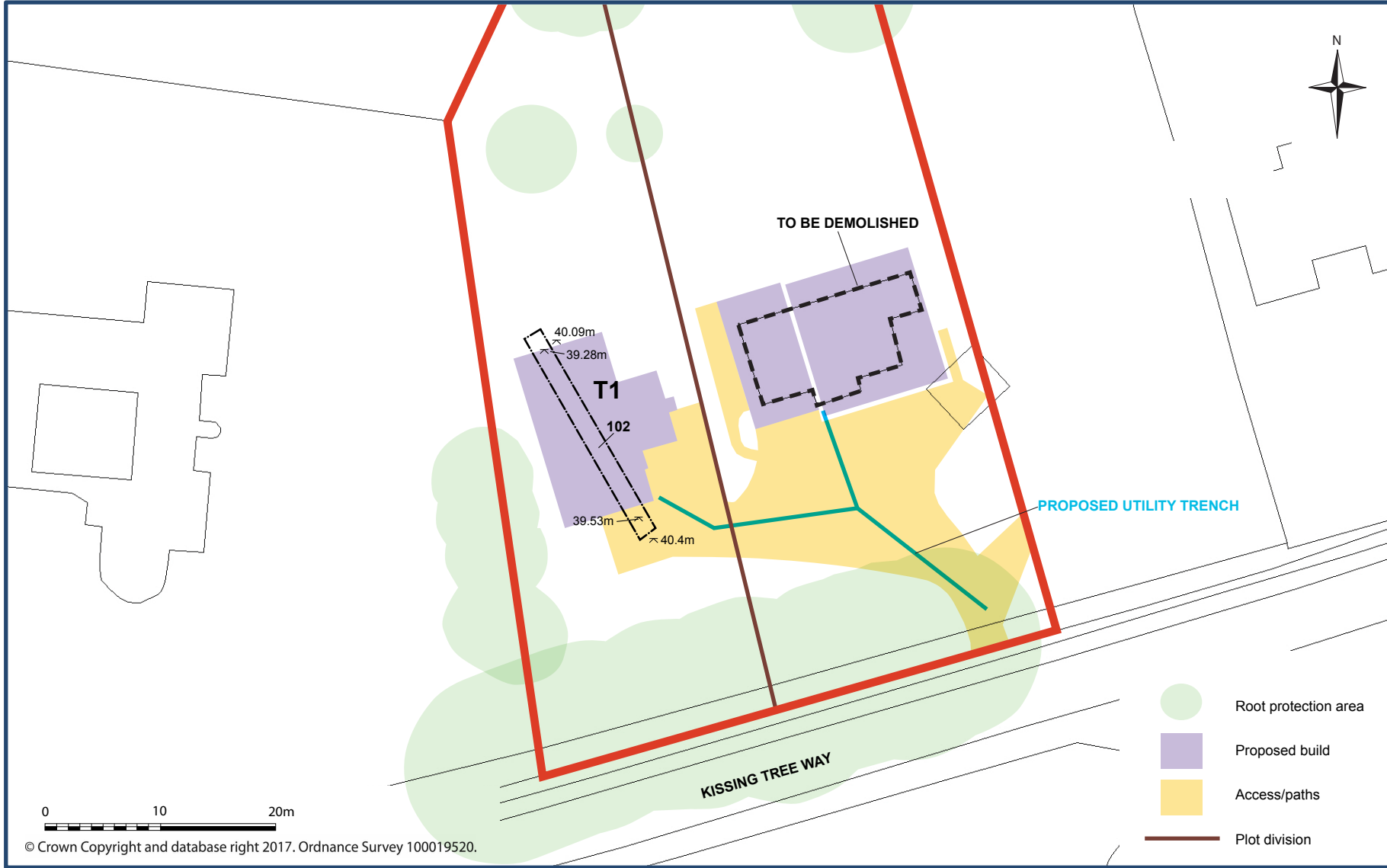


Fig 3: Location of excavated trench