

WAR MEMORIAL PARK,  
COVENTRY

**DESK BASED  
ASSESSMENT**

**Project No. 1793**

September 2008

**WAR MEMORIAL PARK,  
COVENTRY**

**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**

**FINAL REPORT**

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for

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### Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, September 2008

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## **WAR MEMORIAL PARK, COVENTRY**

### **Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, September 2008**

#### **SUMMARY**

*Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned in April 2008 by Plincke Landscape Ltd of Leamington Spa to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of the War Memorial Park in Coventry as part of a Stage II Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid in respect of the restoration and renewal of the Park.*

*The assessment has established that the study area has, for the most part of its history, constituted undeveloped agricultural land related to the settlement of Stivichall to the south-east of the study area. From the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century on, the lands remained in the hands of the Gregory family and post enclosure field divisions survived down to the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the estate was finally broken up. The study area was purchased by the City of Coventry in 1919 for the establishment of a permanent memorial park, fitting to the remembrance of the servicemen of the city who had fallen during the First World War.*

*The park was commandeered by the military during the Second World War for the siting of anti-aircraft artillery and it is possible that sub-surface remains related to this phase of use survive within the south-western part of the study area.*

*The overall archaeological potential of the study area is assessed to be fairly low, and while a number of areas of ridge and furrow earthworks associated with the early agricultural use of the land survive within the park, none of these is directly affected by proposed restoration and renewal works. However, the potential survival of remains dating to the Second World War is assessed to be significant and will need to be established at an early stage. Should such remains survive, they may be seen to constitute a valuable cultural asset, their significance being heightened by their location within a memorial park.*

*A proposed programme of archaeological work is summarized, including advanced recording of historic park structures, geophysical survey and an archaeological watching brief on areas of particular potential.*

## **WAR MEMORIAL PARK, COVENTRY**

### **Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, September 2008**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background to the Project**

1.1.1 In April 2008 Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned by Plincke Landscape Ltd of Leamington Spa, working on behalf of Coventry City Council, to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) in relation to the War Memorial Park, c.1.5 km south of the modern city centre of Coventry, Warwickshire (NGR: SP 3200 7700; see Figure 1).

1.1.2 The DBA was required to support a Stage II HLF application in respect of the restoration and renewal of the Park. This report outlines the results of the assessment, which has been prepared in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IFA 2001a).

### **1.2 Aims and Objectives**

1.2.1 The principal aims of the project, as outlined in the commissioning letter were as follows:

- To make an assessment of the likely presence of any archaeological resource
- To assess the potential impact of the design proposals upon that resource
- To suggest mitigation measures for minimising the impact on the archaeological resource
- To make proposals for archaeological works to be undertaken prior to construction
- To make proposals for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during works
- To supply a methodology for the recording, protecting and storing of archaeological finds

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Documentary Research**

2.1.1 A search was made of the Coventry City Historic Environment Record (HER), the primary source of archaeological information for the City, extending to known Scheduled Ancient Monuments, archaeological sites, previous archaeological events, Listed and Locally Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Archaeological Constraints Areas. A review of historical Ordnance Survey mapping was also undertaken.

2.1.2 The Coventry Archives and Local History Libraries were unfortunately closed for relocation between April and August 2008 and it was not possible to access these resources during the course of the current project. However, a recent *Historical Appraisal* (Hodgetts 2008), commissioned by Coventry City Council, covers the historical development of the Memorial Park in detail and has been extensively referred to in the preparation of the present report.

## 2.2 Site Assessment

- 2.2.1 Subsequent to the completion of initial documentary research as outlined above, a walkover assessment of the Memorial Park was undertaken on 12.05.08 in order to assess the topography and survival of any above-ground archaeology, including any standing buildings.

## 3 LOCATION AND DESIGNATIONS

### 3.1 Site Location

- 3.1.1 The War Memorial Park (hereafter 'the Study Area') is located in the ancient parish of Stivichall approximately 1.5km south of the modern city centre of Coventry (Figure 1), occupying an area of approximately 48.5 ha. It is bounded to the north-west by the Kenilworth Road, to the east by the Leamington Road, to the south-east by the mainline Coventry and Leamington railway (built 1842, formerly LNWR) and to south and south-west by the Coat of Arms Bridge Road and a remnant of Stivichall Common respectively (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Stivichall Common and the Memorial Park sit on the northern part of a ridge of high ground between the valleys of the rivers Sherbourne and the Sowe, the Memorial Park occupying the higher ground with the Memorial itself located at the summit.

### 3.2 Designations

- 3.2.1 A search of the Coventry City Council HER revealed that the Study Area lies, in its entirety, within the limits of the Kenilworth Road Conservation Area. It includes no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) or Listed Buildings (LBs) though it does contain one Locally Listed Building (LLB), namely the War Memorial (HER ref. DCT811), a concrete edifice faced in Portland stone forming an original planned feature of the Memorial Park, built in 1927 to designs by the architect Thomas Francis Tickner.
- 3.2.2 Immediately south of the Study Area, at Stivichall Croft in the vicinity of the Grade II listed, 19<sup>th</sup>-century Coat of Arms Railway Bridge (HER ref. DCT291) is a concentration of 17<sup>th</sup>-century buildings, namely Smithy Cottage (HER ref. DCT94) and adjacent Smithy (HER ref. DCT171), Bridge Cottage (HER ref. DCT95) and The Cottage (HER ref. DCT248). The nearby Animal Pound (HER ref. DCT 233) is 19<sup>th</sup> century though with 17<sup>th</sup>-century origins. Full list entries are given below in Appendix B.
- 3.2.3 The Study Area contains four Archaeological Constraint Areas as defined by Coventry City Council<sup>1</sup>, specifically HER refs. DCT1114, DCT1115, DCT1116 and DCT1117. The first three of these constraint areas relate to identified areas of ridge and furrow, the fourth refers to an 18<sup>th</sup>-century building and enclosure, evident from historic mapping though not surviving above ground.
- 3.2.4 The Study Area includes one medieval site (HER ref. MCT68) which comprises an area of ridge and furrow (corresponding to Archaeological Constraint Area DCT1114). To the east of the Study Area, the line of a former ditch (HER ref. MCT2037) formerly

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<sup>1</sup> Archaeological Constraint Areas are a non-statutory designation initiated by Coventry City Council HER to highlight areas of archaeological potential not previously included on the City SMR (Sites and Monuments Record); they do not as such denote any level of statutory protection (A Wilson, Coventry HER, *pers. comm.*).



represented the western boundary of The Earls Park/Cheylesmore (HER ref. MCT2038), a medieval deerpark known from documentary sources.

## **4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

### **4.1 The Study Area**

4.1.1 The only previous archaeological work relating to the study area recorded in the Coventry City Council HER is the *Historical Appraisal* referred to above (Hodgetts 2008; HER ref. ECT348).

### **4.2 Beyond the Study Area**

4.2.1 The HER contains two references (ECT6, ECT316) to archaeological investigations of former air-raid shelters at No.12 Broadwater, off Earlsdon Avenue South, to the north of the study area, although it is not clear whether these represent duplicate references to the same event.

## **5 GENERAL HISTORICAL CONTEXT<sup>2</sup>**

### **5.1 Early History**

5.1.1 Onomastic evidence suggests that the city of Coventry originated as a settlement in the Anglo-Saxon period, the name Coventry almost certainly being of Anglo-Saxon or Old English origin, meaning "tree of a man called Cofa" (Mills 2003, 135), Cofa itself being an Old English personal name. Further indications of its Anglo-Saxon origins are the prevalence of the endings 'ley', or 'leah': a wood or clearing, in the names of its hamlets and nearby parishes such as Pinley, Shortley, or Canley (VCH 1969, 1-23). Despite the high incidence of 'ley' suffixes, it is no longer believed that the Coventry area was once impenetrable forest, which was later gradually cleared by the Anglo-Saxon settlers. It is thought that the relatively low population density recorded in the Domesday Book may be due to the difficulty of ploughing the underlying geology of heavy clays, which ensured that Coventry may only have been a large scatter of hamlets or farmsteads across an extensive manor (Demidowicz 2003, 10).

5.1.2 Stivichall itself is not mentioned in Domesday Book, though it may have been included in the entry for Coventry and, as a settlement it is believed to pre-date the Norman Conquest (Hodgetts 2008, 6). The name is a compound of Old English 'styfic' (stump) and healh, referring to a corner of land overgrown with stumps and stubs (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1936, 179). It is first mentioned as one of a number of chapelries 'restored' to Coventry Priory by Ranulf de Gernon, Earl of Chester, in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. (VCH 1969, 90). Shortly after Ranulf's death in 1153, his son Hugh de Kevelioc, granted the estate to Walter Durdent, Bishop of Coventry (at the time styled Bishop of Chester). The Bishops remained lord of the manor until the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century when the estate was sold to Thomas Fisher of Warwick in 1547 (Hodgetts 2008, 6). In 1160, it consisted of settled land with a manor house occupied by a local lord, a

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<sup>2</sup> The following historical background is based for the most part upon the published account in the *Victoria County History of Warwickshire, Vol. VIII* and the previously issued '*Historical Appraisal*' of the Memorial Park (Hodgetts, 2008). Given the detailed nature of that document and its recent compilation, it has not been attempted within the framework of the current project to undertake significant new documentary or archival research; this would in any event not have proved possible given the temporary closure of both the City Archives and Local Studies Library at the present time. A summary of the previous report is presented here, readers are directed to the Historical Appraisal document for a more detailed overview.

mixture of villein and free tenants and a well-developed system of open fields (*ibid.*, 7). By the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Parish appears to be a well established community and is unique in the settlements around Coventry at this date in that it demonstrated near complete utilisation of its lands, with little waste or woodland surviving (VCH, 1969).

- 5.1.3 The medieval village of Stivichall developed along what is now the Leamington Road, though all trace of the original settlement has since been lost, first to farm engrossment in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, later to the construction of the railway in 1842 and to 20<sup>th</sup>-century suburbanisation; only the Parish Church of St James (HER ref. DCT199) survives, itself an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century rebuild of a medieval predecessor, demolished in 1810 though buildings of 17<sup>th</sup>-century date survive to the west at Stivichall Croft, near Coat of Arms Bridge.
- 5.1.4 Stivichall was always an agrarian community, indeed remaining so down to the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, even when surrounding parishes succumbed to suburban development. Over 600 acres out of a total of 800 remained as arable land until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century; in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries there was systematic three-course rotation in the three fields; Park Field to the north-east, Church Field around the village itself and Neither or Mill Field in the south and east. Until enclosure in 1740, the village remained remarkably stable. The Gregory family appear to have acquired ownership of all the land in the Parish after enclosure, building Stivichall Hall (later demolished) to the south of St. James's Church, between 1750 and 1760, and remained sole owners throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.1.5 When the last of the Gregory line, Major F.H. Gregory, died without issue in 1909, the estate passed to his cousin, the Hon. Alexander Hood, who assumed the name Gregory and sold 121 acres in the north of the Parish to the Coventry City Corporation as the site for the Memorial Park. The remainder of the estate, comprising Stivichall Croft in the west of the Parish, was given to the Corporation in 1932 by his son, Hugh Gregory-Hood, in memory of the Hood family. Today, with the exception of the study area, the former parish is occupied predominantly by suburban housing, the development of which from the 1930s onwards can be traced by a review of historic Ordnance Survey mapping (Figures 6-11).

## 5.2 The Development of the Park

- 5.2.1 In 1919, an appeal was made to raise funds for a memorial fitting to the remembrance of the servicemen of Coventry, fallen during the First World War. The 120 acre site at Stivichall Common was acquired by the City and opened to the public on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1921, though little work had been achieved by this time beyond the removal of hedge boundaries and the infilling of ditches (see OS edition of 1923, Figure 9).<sup>3</sup> From the start it was envisaged not simply as a memorial garden, but as a multi-use open space with areas for events and shows and with sporting facilities (Hodgetts 2008, 37-8). Initial plans for an ornamental lake were abandoned due to expense and difficulties of water supply (*ibid.*, 40). The first instalment of planting went ahead in 1925, while construction of the main gates and memorial continued through to the later years of the 1920s. The pavilions, shelters and other facilities were first opened and used for the carnival of 1935.

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<sup>3</sup> The OS 1:10,560 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision map was published in 1938, though it is believed to be based upon survey data dating from 1923 (Hodgetts 2008, fig.30); it does not show the Memorial Monument which is known to have been complete by 1927.

- 5.2.2 During the Second World War, the park served as a base for anti-aircraft (AA) guns, which necessitated the removal of many trees to provide clear sight lines and the construction of additional access roads. The impact of these arrangements is shown in a series of aerial photographs dating to soon after the war (*ibid.*, fig. 33/37). where a grid pattern of foundations for anti-aircraft gun batteries can be discerned in the south-western part of the park (*ibid.*, fig.36) together with a metallated access road, the latter of which remains visible on the Ordnance Survey edition of 1947/8 (Figure 11). Hodgetts (*ibid.*, 50) suggests that the make-up for the access road is probably still *in-situ* having simply been grassed over in the post-war restoration of the park and this raises the possibility that further foundations related to the AA batteries may also remain in place. More tangible evidence of military activity survives above ground in the form of a disused air raid shelter (Plate 35/6) and a series of concrete blocks previously used for the securing of barrage balloons (Plate 34). Areas of the park were also used for food production during the war years.
- 5.2.3 Post war development has seen piecemeal and fairly minor changes to the facilities at the park, with increased all-weather tennis court provision and the removal of a number of grass courts. A children's play area was introduced in 1951, followed by a paddling pool. Aviaries formerly located on the site of the Leamington Road car park, were rebuilt in the 1970s and again in 1990 when the current red-brick building was erected on the site of the former grass courts. The 'street sport' area adjacent to the west pavilion represents a recent addition. Some schemes, for example a boating lake and a cafe and swimming pool, never came to fruition (*ibid.*, 73).

### 5.3 Map Regression

- 5.3.1 The earliest map of Stivichall is the '*Plan and Survey of the Estates at Stivichal in the County of Warwick*' of 1775 (Figure 4), perhaps copied from an earlier, lost enclosure map (*ibid.*, 8). The survey clearly shows the three former open fields (Church Field, Park Field and Neither Field) to the south and east of the village which clearly shows the area of the future Memorial Park. The map is discussed at some length in Hodgetts' *Historical Appraisal* (2008, 8-14) and will not be re-examined in detail here. It is of particular interest, however, that the map would appear to show two road/trackways traversing the area of the future Memorial Park, one running in a WNW direction from the western side of the village and a second aligned approximately SE-NW, slightly to the north-west. Both are included on the Coventry City HER (refs. MCT 8880 and MCT8878 respectively), remain traceable on later Ordnance Survey coverage and are related to extant features within the study area, the second (MCT8878) possibly representing the historic '*Allesley Way*' frequently mentioned in medieval documents (*ibid.*, 19).
- 5.3.2 A further estate plan of 1787 (Figure 5) illustrates an essentially similar field boundary system though by this time, the northern of the two roads would appear to have fallen out of use, remaining only as a field boundary.
- 5.3.3 The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 map of 1887/9 (Figure 6) retains a number of the older field boundaries, while several fields have by this date been combined to form larger plots. The major difference evident in the map is the introduction of the LNWR Coventry and Leamington branch line, constructed in 1842, which cuts across the area in a SW-NE direction to the north-west of the settlement, defining the later south-eastern extent of the Memorial Park. The line is within a cutting to the north-east while, to the south it is embanked, passing over the Coat of Arms Bridge at Stivichall Croft at the southern corner of the study area. Neither of the

earlier roads described above survived within the study area by this date, though the southern extent of the southern road survived on the far side of the rail line as a spur off the Leamington Road, while a bridge over the railway is indicated respecting the line of the former northern route. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision maps of 1906/9 and 1913/25 (Figures 7 and 8 respectively) show an identical arrangement to the earlier map, though lacking the trees of the earlier depiction (reflecting a change in mapping practice as opposed to widespread clearance).

- 5.3.4 The Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 edition of 1923 (Figure 9) shows the park soon after opening with little work having yet been accomplished as regards detailed layout. The formal gardens are yet to be established as is the memorial monument. Hedges of the former field boundaries have been removed though their lines remain clearly traceable in the surviving mature trees. A temporary bandstand is in place to the western side of the later formal garden, while a track representing a southern continuation of Earlsdon Avenue is traceable to the north. A building is shown on the site of the later central pavilion in the centre of the sports fields area.
- 5.3.5 The Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1:2500 map of 1937/8 (Figure 10) shows the extent of the War Memorial Park, 16 years after its inauguration. Many of the surviving features are shown, including the basic division of formal garden and sports field area, the division being formed by extensive planting along the line of the former 'Allesley Way' described above. Most of the park buildings were in place (the monument was completed in 1929; the pavilions and shelters in 1935), and extensive tree planting had occurred in the north-east, formal part of the park. The bandstand evident in the earlier edition had been removed and the bowling greens and tennis courts laid out. The southern extension of Earlsdon Avenue, suggested on the earlier edition has been extended as far as the new central pavilion and lined with an avenue of trees.
- 5.3.6 The Ordnance Survey National Grid Series 1:2500 map of 1947/8 (Figure 11) shows the study area in the years following the Second World War. The main differences are evident within the sports fields area, which had been used for military activity during the war years (§.5.2.2). A series of structures are shown concentrated around the central pavilion, while an access road is shown leading in a loop from Kenilworth Road and approaching the central pavilion from the west; a second road is shown leading south from this route. Both are assumed to be related to the military usage of the park, the former, loop road survives today and encloses the Kenilworth Road Park and Ride car park at the north-west corner of the study area.

## **6 SITE ASSESSMENT**

### **6.1 Site Description**

*The Study Area can be divided into two broad areas, namely the formal Memorial Garden which occupies the north-eastern part of the park and the sports and playing fields to the south-west. The two main areas are divided by a hedge line with several mature trees which partly follows historic field boundaries traceable on historic Ordnance Survey mapping, possibly reflecting an early road route (see §.5.3.1).*

#### The Memorial Garden

- 6.1.1 The formal Memorial Garden, located to the north-east part of the park, comprises a central Memorial Monument surrounded by landscaped gardens, laid principally to

grass, with extensive planting and several small, discrete 'themed' gardens. To the west of the Memorial Monument, a series of sports and play areas (tennis courts, bowling greens, children's play area) are arranged to the south of the café pavilion and display signs of fairly extensive landscaping. The formal garden is separated from the remainder of the park by a hedge line including a number of mature trees reflecting, in part, former field boundaries traceable on historic Ordnance Survey mapping. The gardens are served by a network of tarmaced roads and gravelled pathways. The formal layout of the gardens and landscaping associated with the establishment of the sports facilities within this area means that little of visible archaeological interest survives above ground.

- 6.1.2 The principal entrance to the park is located at the north-east corner of the park at the junction of the Leamington and Kenilworth Roads (formerly 'Stivichall Grove'), access being via a set of double wrought-iron gates (Plate 1), the piers reportedly incorporating reclaimed stone from the former city walls (Hodgetts 2008, 65). The gates have subsequently lost the lanterns and elaborate overthrow indicated on historic photographs (Hodgetts 2008, Fig. 46), though they retain the roundels displaying the city coat of arms and motto '*Camera Principis*' (Prince's Chamber). To the south of the main gates is a small car parking area (Plate 2) which occupies the site of a former series of aviaries (see Figures 10 and 11) and, adjacent to it, an entrance pavilion/shelter (north-east pavilion, Plate 3), one of a pair of similar, classically inspired design within the formal garden, dating to 1935. The Memorial Garden is laid predominantly to grass with extensive planting, each tree having an individual memorial plaque to a named individual. A number of themed gardens include the Rockery (Plate 4), the Rose Garden, the German and Japanese Gardens. Of these, the Rockery and Japanese Garden incorporate pre-park ponds, visible on historic mapping, within their structures, that of the Rockery having subsequently been infilled.
- 6.1.3 Central to the memorial garden is the memorial monument itself, a cenotaph of concrete construction, faced in Portland stone and standing on a raised platform of eight steps, completed in 1927 to designs by the Coventry architect Thomas Francis Tickner (Plates 5-7).
- 6.1.4 West of the Memorial Monument, the park is laid out to sports facilities including both flat and crowned bowling greens (Plate 8), tennis courts (Plate 9), skateboard area and children's playground. All are served by the café pavilion (Plate 10) which is contemporary with and uses the same architectural vocabulary as the pavilion/shelters, though in a more elaborate design. A modern, red-brick aviary of unsympathetic design (Plate 11) occupies a platform formerly occupied by tennis courts. It is readily apparent that this area of the park has undergone extensive landscaping in the past (Plates 12 and 13).
- 6.1.5 At the western side of the formal garden, a pathway, lined with three stone pillars and including a crotched finial of unknown provenance (Plate 14), leads to a break in the boundary hedge, providing through access to the western playing field area. The second (north-west) pavilion/shelter (Plate 15) is located slightly to the north of this path. A number of architectural fragments (Plate 16), again of unknown provenance, are currently stored immediately south of the north-west pavilion. As noted above, the boundary between the two elements of the park is formed of a hedge line with a parallel alignment of mature trees (Plate 17), reflecting the line of a former field boundary and, before that, an ancient roadway ('*Allesley Way*': HER ref. MCT8878).

### The Sport / Playing Fields Area

- 6.1.6 The sport /playing fields area of the study area is laid predominantly to grass (Plates 19/20), the major exception being the tarmaced Kenilworth Road Park and Ride car parking area at the north-west corner of the site (Plate 21). The area has been less affected by the landscaping evident within the formal garden and thus retains a number of early features, related to its former agricultural use. These comprise a number of discrete areas of ridge and furrow earthworks (Figure 2), the most prominent being those concentrated around the golf course (HER ref. DCT1114; Plates 26/7). Also associated with this series of earthworks is a former road/trackway signified by a distinct hollow (a northern extension of HER ref. MCT8880; Plate 28). These features have perhaps been protected from erosion by the early establishment of the golf course in c.1930, not having been subject to programmes of levelling evidenced elsewhere. The golf course also retains a former well (Plate 29) first evident on Ordnance Survey coverage post dating the establishment of the park (Figure 9).
- 6.1.7 To the west of the golf course, along the southern boundary of the study area against Coat of Arms Bridge Road, are two features dating to the Second World War use of the park. Firstly, three large concrete blocks with embedded iron rings (Plate 34) represent former secure bases for barrage balloons. Slightly to the east of these blocks, within a small copse, are the remains of a former air raid shelter or ammunition store (Plate 35) infilled in the 1960s.
- 6.1.8 A major drainage ditch runs approximately north-south across the western part of the area (Plates 32/3) forming the eastern boundary of the park and ride car park to the north and the western boundary of the golf course to the south.
- 6.1.9 The central pavilion (Plate 22) is contemporary with the formal garden shelters, though built to a more vernacular style. Immediately south of the pavilion is a pronounced hollow (Plate 23) of unknown provenance; not indicated on any of the historic mapping, the possibility exists that this feature may be related to WWII bombing, though it has not been possible to check this during the timescale of the current project. An area of ridge and furrow earthworks survives to the north-west of the pavilion (Plate 30), though not as pronounced as that around the golf course previously described. A further area of ridge and furrow earthworks was identified to the south of the Kenilworth Road Park and Ride car park (Figure 2; Plate 31), these possibly being related to the continuation of the track MCT8880.
- 6.1.10 Along the northern boundary of the study area, against Kenilworth Road are located two structures; the north pavilion (Plate 24) and a modern tool store (Plate 25).

## **6.2 Listed Buildings**

- 6.2.1 There are no listed buildings within the study area. A concentration of buildings at Stivichall Croft, immediately west of the study area, includes four Grade II Listed structures dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century; Smithy Cottage (Plate 39), Bridge Cottage (Plate 38), The Cottage (Plate 41) and the Animal Pound (Plate 40), all adjacent to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed Coat of Arms Bridge (Plate 37). Full list descriptions are given in Appendix B below.

### **6.3 Locally Listed Buildings**

- 6.3.1 The park contains a single Locally Listed Building, namely the War Memorial itself (HER DCT811; Plates 5-7), a concrete edifice faced in Portland stone forming an original planned feature of the Memorial Park, built in 1927 to designs by the architect Thomas Francis Tickner. The monument was originally floodlit from a series of four stone pedestals which survive, though in poor condition. One of the pedestals is accompanied by a cast iron junction box.<sup>4</sup>

### **6.4 Unlisted Buildings**

- 6.4.1 The study area retains a number of unlisted buildings, several of which constitute original planned elements of the park. These include the north-east and north-west pavilions (Plates 3 and 15) and the café pavilion (Plate 10) all of which share a common classical inspiration based upon the Tuscan order. The central pavilion (Plate 22) and north pavilion (Plate 24) are more rustic in design but represent contemporary features. More recent additions include a visually intrusive tool store of breeze block and galvanised steel construction (Plate 25) and a red-brick aviary (Plates 11/12) within the formal garden area which is of no architectural merit.

## **7 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

### **7.1 Early Development**

- 7.1.1 A review of the documentary sources has established that the Study Area has, for the most part of its history, constituted undeveloped agricultural land. There is no recorded evidence for prehistoric, Roman or early medieval activity within the study area and, while the possibility of chance finds should not be discounted out of hand, the potential for the presence of significant archaeological deposits and/or remains is low.

### **7.2 Medieval / Post-medieval**

- 7.2.1 The principal archaeological features identified during the current study relate to the medieval and post-medieval agricultural exploitation of the area. Four discrete areas of ridge and furrow have been identified during the site assessment, the best preserved and most clearly defined being that within the area of the golf course to the south of the park (HER ref. DCT1114).<sup>5</sup> The area of ridge and furrow to the north-west of the central pavilion (HER ref. DCT1115) is less clearly defined on the ground, though it would appear to extend beyond the area as defined by the Archaeological Constraint Areas plan, extending eastwards as far as the tree lined roadway serving the central pavilion.<sup>6</sup> Area DCT1116, immediately west of the north-west pavilion, is particularly poorly defined.
- 7.2.2 Two road/trackways evident on early maps probably represent relic medieval features. The southern of these two routes (HER ref. MCT8880) survives within the area of the golf course as a distinct hollow; its western continuation is evident on aerial photographs (Hodgetts 2008, fig.3) and is possibly represented by the earthworks

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<sup>4</sup> A further junction box of identical design was noted against the northern park boundary east of the modern tool store building. This box bore the makers mark of Hardy and Padmore Ltd of Worcester.

<sup>5</sup> Clearly visible on Lidar coverage supplied to Coventry CC by the Environment agency and seen during preparation of the present report.

<sup>6</sup> Again clearly apparent on Lidar coverage.

identified to the south side of the Kenilworth Road park and ride car park. The northern route (HER ref. MCT8878) is reflected in the boundary that separates the formal garden and the sports field / playing field area.

### **7.3 20<sup>th</sup> century**

7.3.1 Only around a dozen parks have been identified that themselves constitute war memorials (as opposed to a park containing a memorial monument), of which Coventry is the largest and probably the earliest (Hodgetts 2008, 3; fn.3). As such, original planned elements of the park such as the pavilions and memorial monument though (with the exception of the monument) not being statutorily or locally listed, are of intrinsic historic interest.

7.3.2 The military use of the park during the Second World War is of interest, with the siting of anti-aircraft batteries and associated features within the south-west area of the site being of particular relevance. Over the past decade, recent military heritage has gained not only in academic credibility but in prominence within the educational curricula and has a growing influence upon cultural tourism (Schofield 2004, 2). Interest in visiting this period of monument is burgeoning, and the possible survival of the site within the Memorial Park could potentially be developed as another visitor attraction to the city. Properly interpreted to the public, the site could add a new aspect to remembrance and understanding in the city, and provide an important link with the past on the ground.

## **8 POTENTIAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED WORKS**

### **8.1 Identification of Proposed Works**

8.1.1 The following works have been identified as having potential impacts on below ground archaeological deposits:

- Excavation of foundations for new features including play equipment
- Work to enhance entrances and formation of new car parks
- Construction of new pavilions and renovation of existing buildings
- Tree planting
- Refurbishment of existing garden features and footings for the entrance interpretation features
- Regrading of the stream banks and formation of new pool

### **8.2 Physical Impacts**

8.2.1 The proposed improvements will principally involve fairly localised ground disturbance to depths of between 0.3 m and 1.1m as follows:

*Excavation of foundations for new features including play equipment*

8.2.2 Groundworks for the erection of new children's play equipment will be confined to the formal garden area, north of the present 'street sport' area. Footings may vary in depth dependent upon the nature of the equipment concerned, though a maximum, localised depth of c.1.1m for foundation pads is envisaged for equipment of the 'adventure play ground' type.



*Work to enhance entrances and formation of new car parks*

- 8.2.3 It is proposed that the current Leamington Road car park be moved southwards so as to free up the area around the enhanced pedestrian entrance via the north-east pavilion. Groundworks and surfacing related to the establishment of the new car parking area will be to vehicle grade and will be excavated to a maximum depth of c.0.55m over the full area of the proposed car park.

*Construction of new pavilions and renovation of existing buildings*

- 8.2.4 Current proposals include the refurbishment and alteration of the north and north-eastern pavilions, the dismantling and re-erection of the north-west pavilion on a new site slightly to the south, and the refurbishment and extension of the central pavilion within the sports field area. In addition, it is proposed to remove the tool store structure on the Kenilworth Road boundary.
- 8.2.5 Refurbishment of both the north and north-eastern pavilions includes the removal of the present spine walls of the structures. No works involving ground disturbance are included within the proposed refurbishment.
- 8.2.6 The dismantling and re-erection of the north-west pavilion will require the excavation of foundations for the re-sited structure. Three options are currently under consideration; a shallow raft foundation requiring excavation to c.0.3-4m over the full area of the new site, needle point piling, or a strip foundation to c.1.2m depth along one side of the structure combined with a cantilevered raft.
- 8.2.7 Groundworks associated with the south-western extension of the central pavilion will be in the form of a raft foundation over the full area of the proposed new buildings to a maximum depth of c.0.9 – 1.0m.

*Tree planting*

- 8.2.8 Proposed tree planting is intended to maintain historical continuity, with new trees being planted only in areas where planting has historically been known. As such, new planting is to be concentrated mainly within the formal garden part of the study area, the exception being the intended ecological enhancement areas along the western boundary with Stivichall Common. In general, ground disturbance associated with tree planting will be localised and to a maximum depth of c.0.5-0.6m; in the case of more mature trees (estimated 10% of proposed planting), excavation to a depth of c.1.1m will be necessary. Where new areas of planting are to be established along the western boundary of the study area, it is understood that the ground level will be made up by c.0.5m prior to planting, thus minimising the possibility of disturbance to below ground deposits.

*Refurbishment of existing garden features and footings for the entrance interpretation features*

- 8.2.9 Ground disturbance for these works will be localised, and to a maximum depth of c.0.9m.

*Regrading of the stream banks and formation of new pool*

- 8.2.10 Groundworks related to the regarding of the stream has minimal archaeological implications.

## **9 PROPOSED MITIGATION STRATEGY**

### **9.1 Relevant Planning Policy and Guidance**

- 9.1.1 The following policies of the *City of Coventry Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011*, (adopted 09.12.2001) can be seen to be pertinent to the proposed works:

*With respect to archaeological remains:*

#### **9.1.2 Policy BE 15: Archaeological Sites**

There will be a presumption in favour of the preservation of archaeological remains of national importance (whether or not scheduled ancient monuments and whether visible or concealed) and of their setting. Such remains should be accessible for public enjoyment and expert study wherever this is feasible without being significantly detrimental to their preservation. Development adversely affecting known or suspected archaeological remains of less than national importance, or their setting or accessibility, will be permitted only if the benefits of the development clearly outweigh the likely harm. Preservation of remains where they are found, if feasible, is preferred. In any case, all practicable measures must be taken for their assessment, recording and protection.

Where the existence or importance of remains is uncertain, suitable assessment may be required prior to the determination of a development proposal.

*With respect to new buildings or alterations to existing buildings:*

#### **9.1.3 Policy BE9: Development in Conservation Areas**

Development within, or affecting the setting of, a Conservation Area will only be permitted if it would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Area. Having regard to the special architectural or historic interest of the Area, the acceptability of development will be determined on the basis of:

- the scale, massing, siting, design and materials of any new building or structure;
- the effect of any associated loss, alteration or creation of buildings and other townscape and landscape features;
- the nature of its use and resulting levels of traffic, parking, disturbance and other activities.

#### **9.1.4 Policy BE10: The Retention of Buildings in Conservation Areas**

There is a presumption that buildings which make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of a Conservation Area will be retained. Planning applications involving the demolition of buildings in Conservation Areas will be determined having regard to the following considerations:

- the part played by the building in the architectural or historic interest of the area;
- the condition of the building and the viability of its retention and continued occupation;
- the wider effects of demolition on the surroundings and on the Conservation Area as a whole;
- whether the replacement scheme will make a more positive contribution to the appearance or character of the area or bring other substantial benefits to the community that outweigh the harm caused by the loss of the buildings..

## 9.2 Archaeological works to be undertaken prior to construction<sup>7</sup>

### *Below Ground Archaeology*

- 9.2.1 It is not envisaged that any programme of advanced assessment work shall be required in respect of below ground archaeology.

### *Geophysical Survey*

- 9.2.2 There is a potential for significant remains related to the siting of anti-aircraft guns in the south-west area of the study area during the Second World War. Should such remains survive, they would potentially have implications for the location and extent of planting for the proposed ecological enhancement areas along the western boundary of the park. For this reason, it is suggested that a programme of geophysical survey be undertaken at an early stage so as to establish the presence/absence and extent of survival of such remains.

### *Standing Buildings*

- 9.2.3 With the exception of the Memorial Monument itself, none of the buildings or structures within the study area are listed or locally listed and, as such, are not subject to the level of Statutory Protection extended to such buildings. However, their status as buildings within the Memorial Park and the Kenilworth Road Conservation Area should be a material consideration. With regard to the renovation and refurbishment of existing Memorial Park structures, it may be required that an Historic Building Record be made in advance of works. Given the nature of the structures involved, such a record need not be exhaustive and a basic visual record equivalent to a 'Level 1' survey as defined by English Heritage (2006) would probably represent an acceptable response (see §.9.4 below). This should apply in the case of:

- The north and north-east Pavilions (Plates 24 and 3; both to be refurbished)
- The north-west pavilion (Plate 15; to be relocated)
- The central pavilion (Plate 22; to be refurbished/extended)

- 9.2.4 The modern aviary/weather station (Plates 11/12) and tool store structure (Plate 25) that are earmarked for removal are of no architectural merit or historic interest and require no recording work.

## 9.3 Archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during works

- 9.3.1 An archaeological watching brief should be maintained upon the following works:

- Excavation of footings for the re-sited north-west pavilion, which may potentially expose remains related to the alignment and formation of the former 'Allesley Way', a trackway of medieval origin. The scale of the archaeological potential is dependent upon the chosen manner of foundation (see §.8.2.6).
- The excavation of foundations for the extension of the central pavilion, which may expose remains related to earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century park arrangements, particularly in respect of WWII occupation, and of pre-park use.

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<sup>7</sup> Any detailed programme of archaeological works will need to be developed in consultation with the City Planning Archaeologist.

- 9.3.2 It is unlikely that groundworks related to tree planting and regarding of the stream/ditch banks have the potential to expose meaningful and significant archaeological remains.

#### **9.4 Methodology for recording, protecting and storing of archaeological finds**

##### *Building Recording*

- 9.4.1 In general, work should be carried out with due regard to the advice offered by the Institute of Archaeologists (IFA, 2001c), and English Heritage (2006).
- 9.4.2 A Level 1 survey as defined by English Heritage (2006, 14) comprises a 'basic visual record' of a building or structure, to include a written summary of the building's type or purpose (historically and present), materials and date of construction so far as these are apparent from a superficial inspection. A drawn record should extend to a sketch plan and elevation as appropriate, while the photographic record should include general views of the building in context and the building's external appearance via a series of oblique views, plus face-on exterior elevations if appropriate. All photographs should include graded photographic scales and should be recorded on *pro forma* record sheets detailing subject, direction, photographer and date.
- 9.4.3 Summary written records should be compiled in the field, noting details of building type, date(s), materials, plan, and elevations.

##### *Geophysical Survey*

- 9.4.4 A geophysical assessment of the south-western area of the park should be undertaken by means of magnetometer survey, which represents the fastest and most cost-effective method of establishing the presence of below ground remains to a depth of c.1m. Any programme of geophysical survey should be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out by English Heritage in *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (EH, 1995).

##### *Archaeological Watching Brief*

- 9.4.5 Any archaeological watching brief should be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for and Archaeological Watching Brief* (IFA, 2001b). An experienced archaeologist should attend site to monitor construction groundworks, as required in the Brief. If any stripping of larger areas of topsoil is carried out during the groundworks this will also need to be monitored. The attending archaeologist will have the authority to halt machine excavation at the level at which the first archaeological deposits or features are visible. Following the stripping of topsoil/recent overburden the machined surface will be inspected, and sufficient hand-cleaning will be undertaken to facilitate the definition of archaeological, or possible archaeological features and deposits. Spot levels will be taken where appropriate and all levels will be recorded relative to an Ordnance Survey datum level.
- 9.4.6 There may be circumstances, where more detailed recording or limited excavation may be necessary. A contingency allowance for a team of archaeologists for the recording of important or unexpected discoveries should be allowed for, similarly for conservation and/or specialist analysis of unexpected finds.

- 9.4.7 A suitable time allowance for hand-cleaning, excavation and recording of archaeological features and deposits by one or two archaeologists should be made. The archaeologist undertaking the investigation should maintain regular liaison with the site manager/foreman to keep disruption of the construction programme to a minimum.
- 9.4.8 All stratigraphic sequences will be recorded, even where no archaeology is present. Features will be planned at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections will be drawn of all cut features and significant vertical stratigraphy at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. A comprehensive written record will be maintained using a continuous numbered context system on *pro-forma* context and feature cards. Written records and scale plans will be supplemented by photographs using monochrome negative and colour slide photography and/or high resolution digital photography.

#### *Finds*

- 9.4.9 All stratified finds will be collected by context and, where appropriate, individually recorded in 3 dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. On-site conservation advice will be provided by the appropriate specialist in the event of artefacts requiring conservation and 'lifting'. Finds of treasure will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures. Recovered finds will be cleaned, marked and remedial conservation work will be undertaken as necessary. Treatment of all finds will conform to guidance published by English Heritage (2003).

#### *Archive*

- 9.4.10 The full site archive should include all artefactual and/or ecofactual remains recovered from the site. The site archive should be prepared according to guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the *Management of Archaeology Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (Walker 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). Finds and the paper archive shall be deposited with an appropriate local repository, subject to permission from the landowner. The county SMR will be notified of the arrangements for deposition of the archive.

## **10 CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The current Desk-Based Assessment has established that the study area has, for the most part of its history, constituted undeveloped agricultural land. Post enclosure field division survived down to the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the land was sold and transformed into a memorial park. As such the overall archaeological potential of the study area is low, and while a number of areas of ridge and furrow earthworks survive within the park, none of these is directly affected by proposed restoration and renewal works.
- 10.2 The commandeering of the park by the military during the Second World War for the siting of anti-aircraft artillery is of particular interest, and the possible survival of below ground deposits related to this phase of use will need to be established at an early stage. Should such remains survive, they may be seen to constitute a valuable cultural asset, their significance being heightened by their location within a memorial park; their possible incorporation into a renewed park scheme, properly interpreted to

the public and related to contemporary remains already within the study area, could add a new aspect to remembrance and understanding in the city, providing an important link with the past.

## **11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 11.1 The project was commissioned by Plincke Landscape Ltd. of Leamington Spa, working on behalf of Coventry City Council. Thanks are due to Mr. Colin Burden of Plincke for his assistance and advice, to Mr Chris Patrick, Coventry City Panning Archaeologist and to Anna Wilson (Coventry City Council Historic Environment Record) for their help throughout the project. Thanks are also due to Ms Kirsty Nichol of Birmingham Archaeology for advice on aspects of 20<sup>th</sup>-century military heritage.
- 11.2 The historical research and site assessment were undertaken by Ric Tyler of Birmingham Archaeology who also produced and illustrated the current report. The report was edited, and the project managed, by Dr Malcolm Hislop of Birmingham Archaeology.

## 12 SOURCES

### *Cartographic Sources* (in chronological order)

- Map of Stivichall, 1775. Copy supplied by Coventry County Council.
- Estate map of 1787. BL Add. Mss. 41477, copy at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.
- Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition County Series 1:2500 map of 1887/9.
- Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Revision County Series 1:2500 map of 1906/9.
- Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Revision County Series 1:2500 map of 1913/25.
- Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision County Series 1:10,560 map of 1923.
- Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Revision County Series 1:2500 map of 1937/8.
- Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition National Grid Series 1:2500 map of 1947/8.

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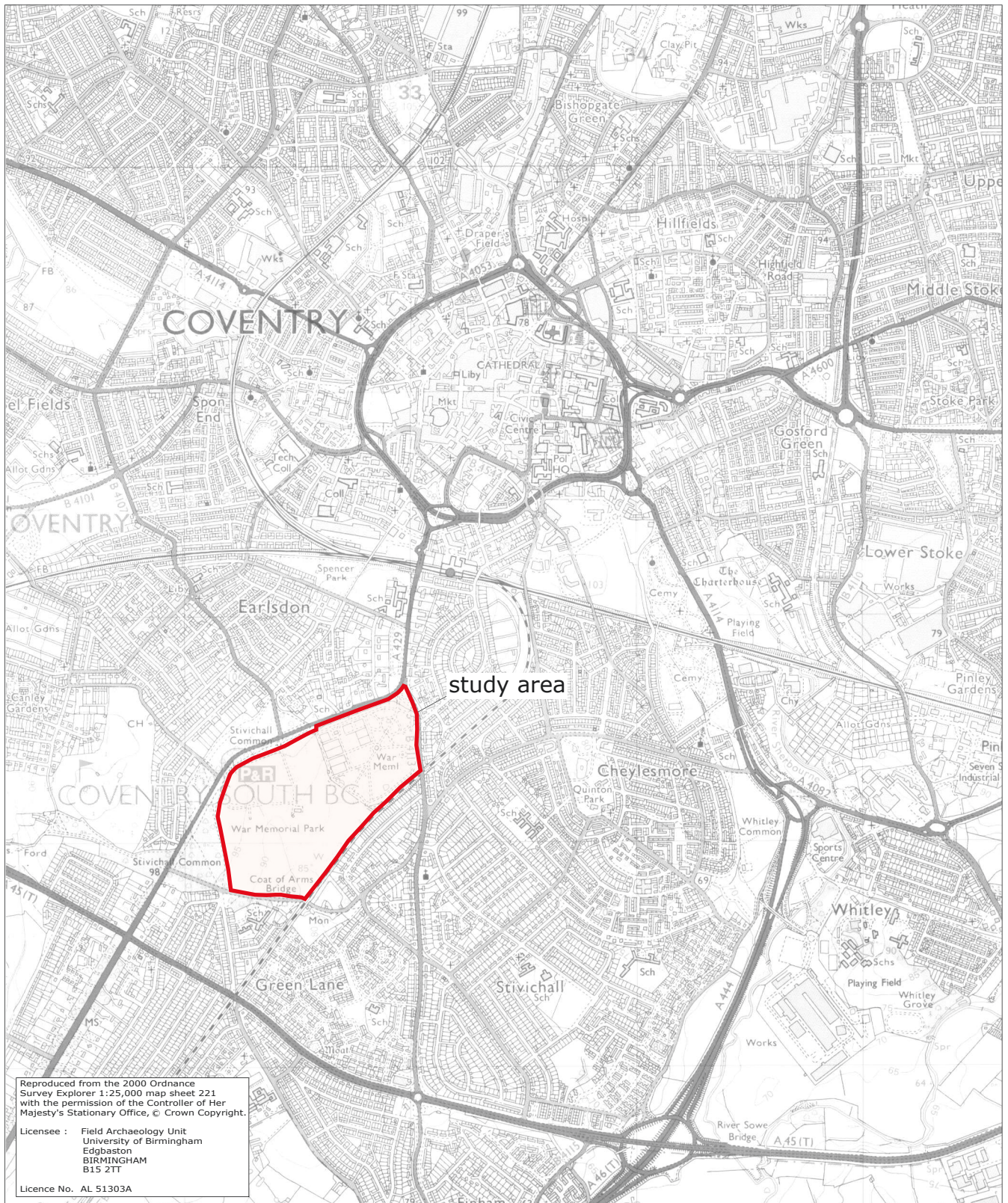
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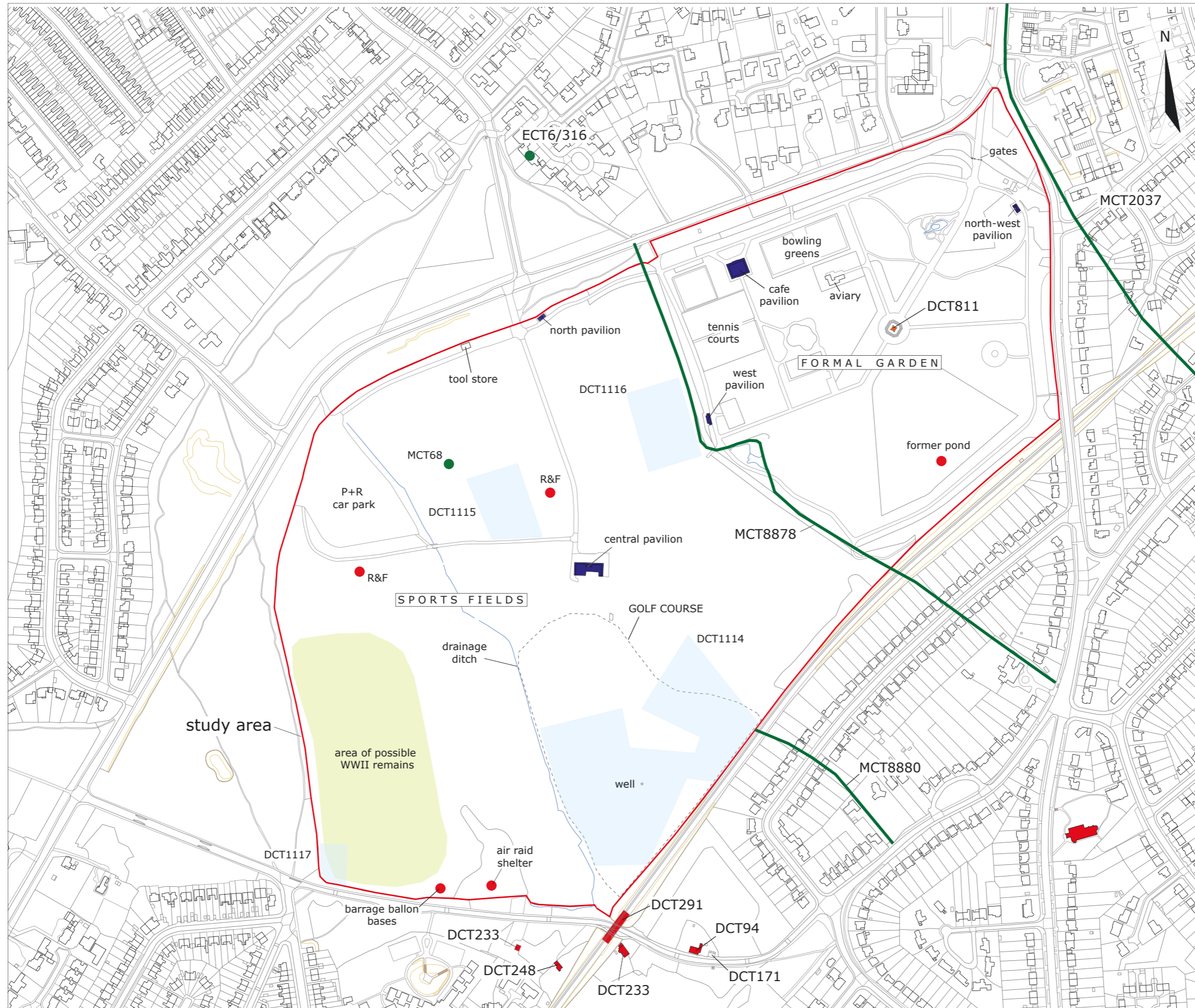
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**KEY**









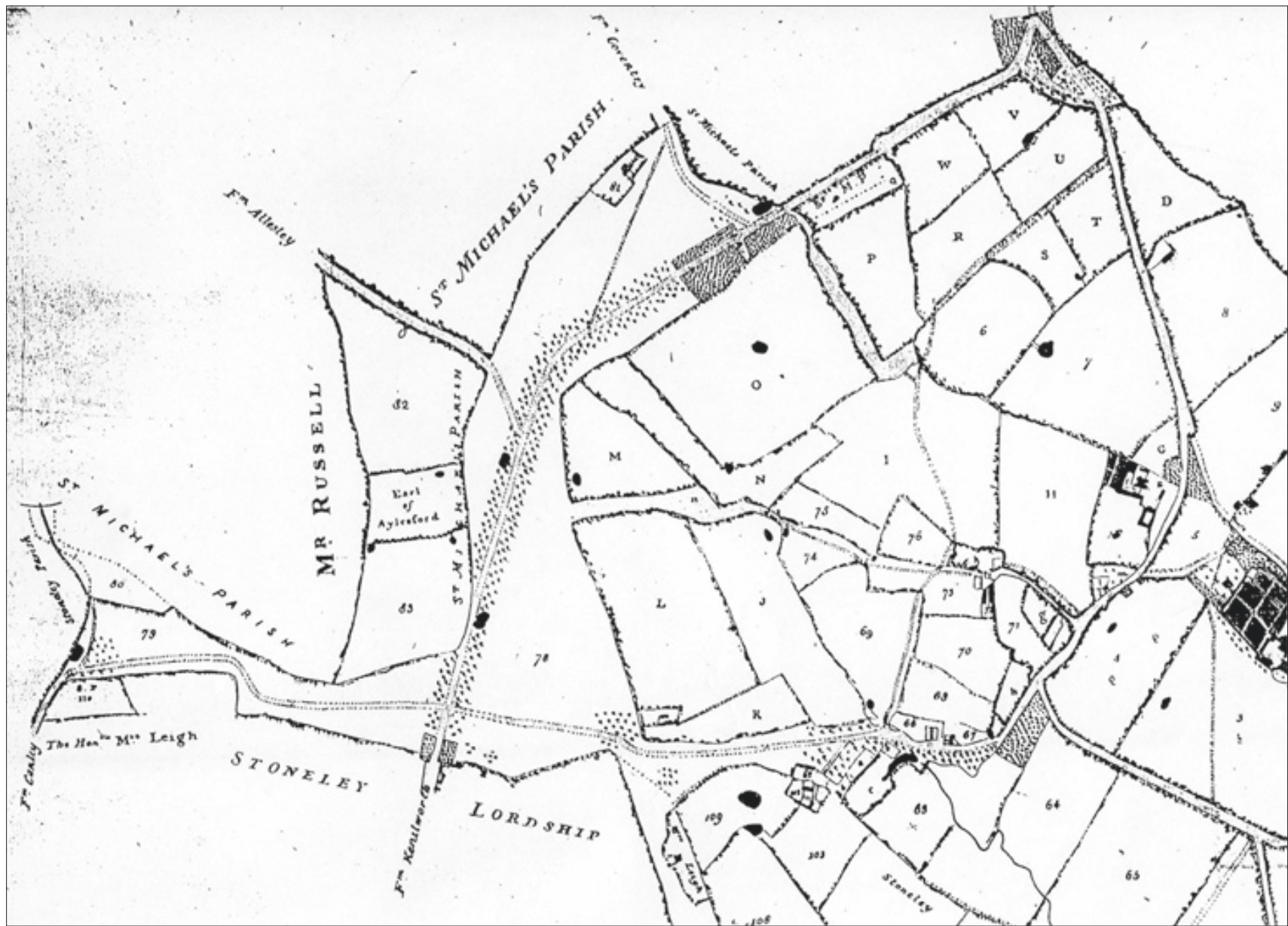
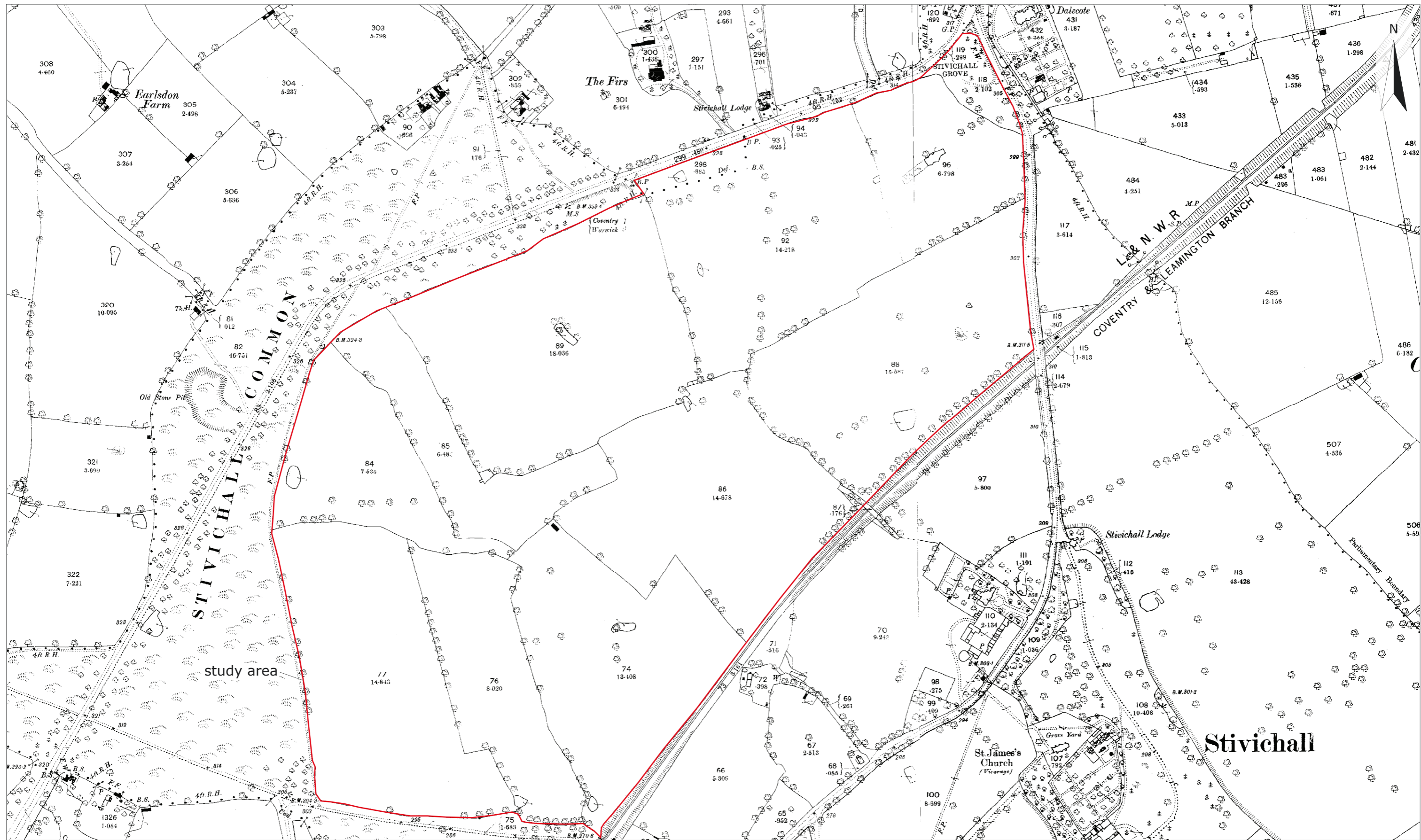
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-  Locally Listed Building
-  Planned Park Structure (unlisted)
-  Archaeological Constraint Area
-  Archaeological site/event recorded on HER (centred/linear)
- 
- DCT811** Coventry HER reference numbers
-  Identified archaeological feature not included on Coventry HER
-  Area of archaeological potential
- R&F** Area of Ridge and Furrow

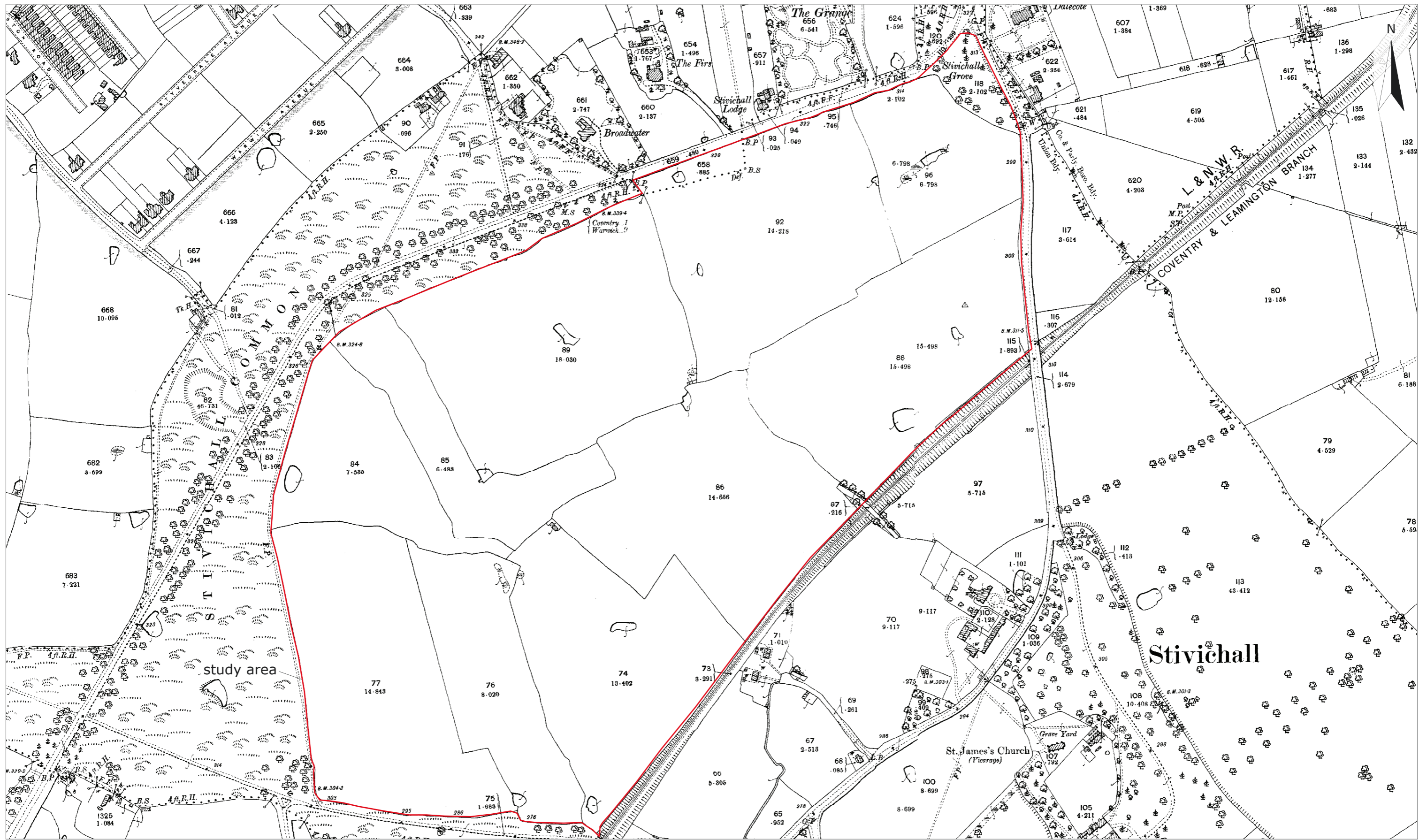


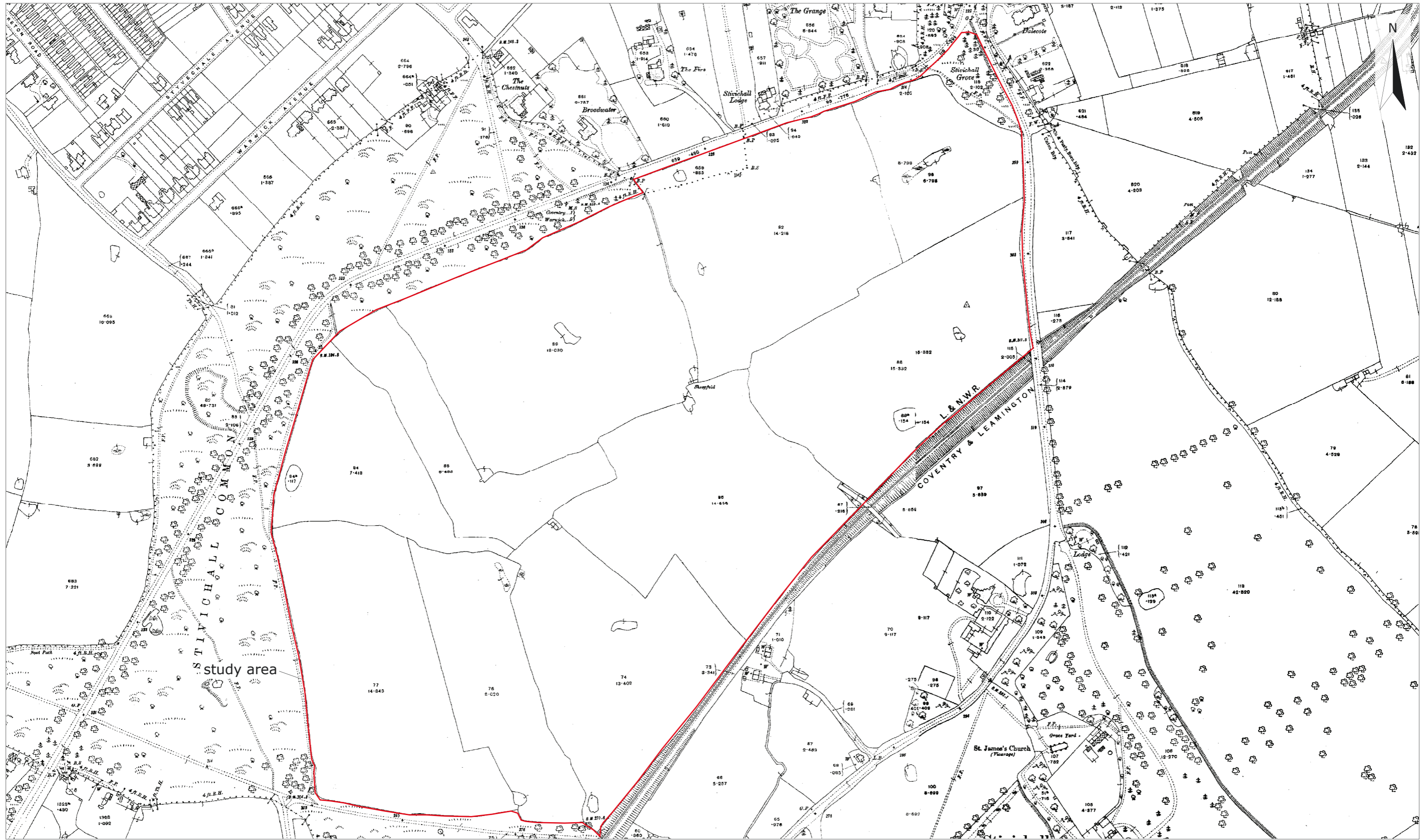
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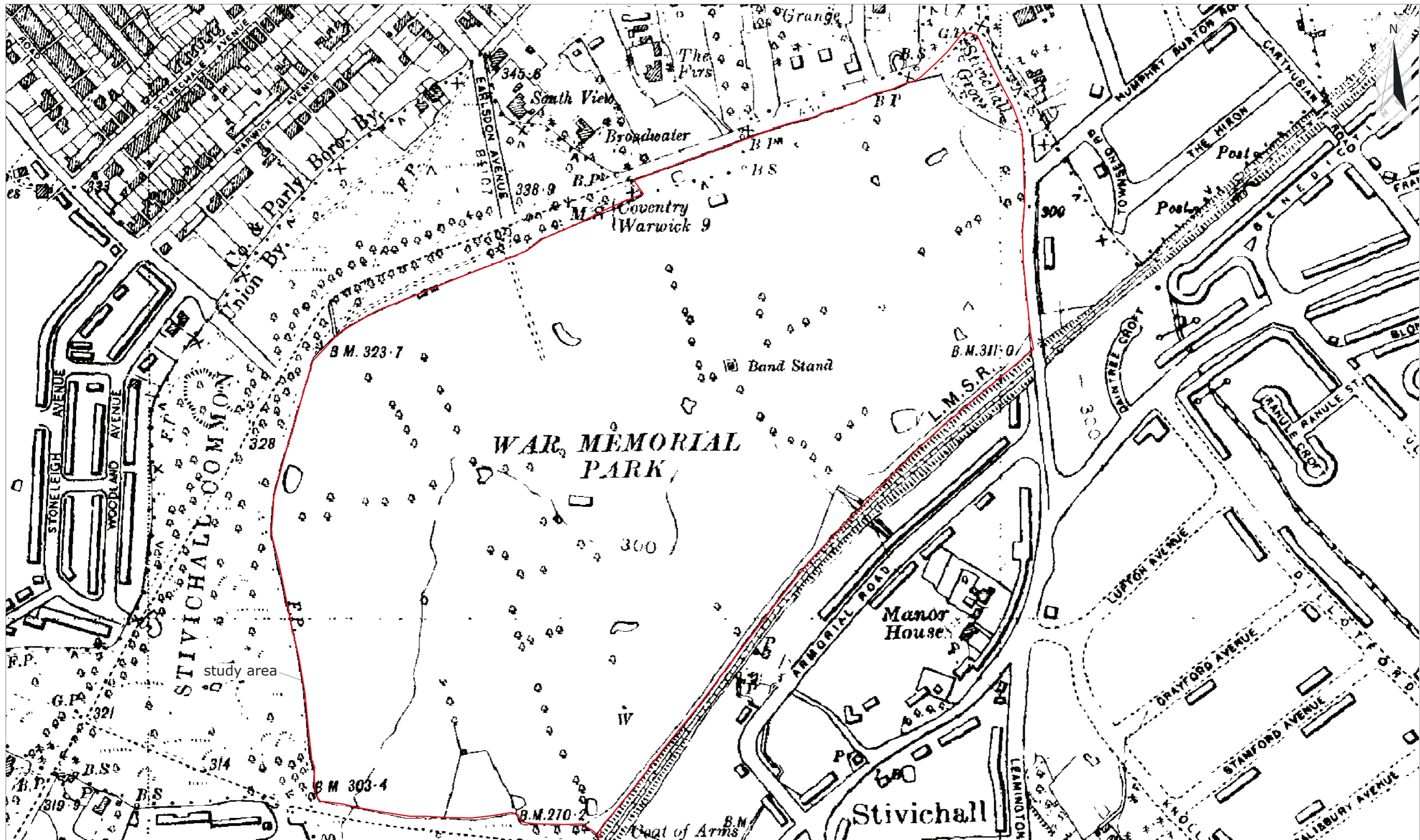




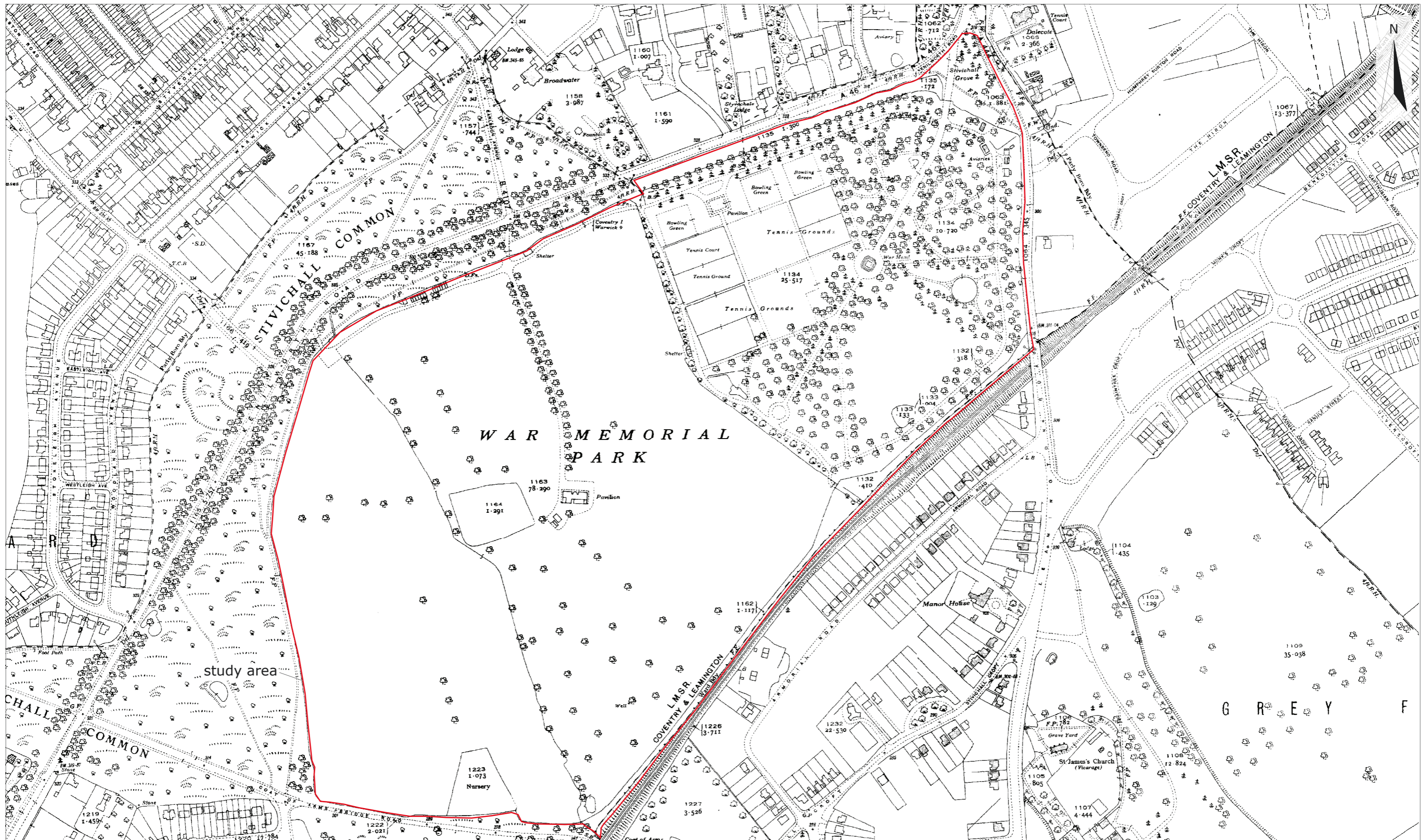


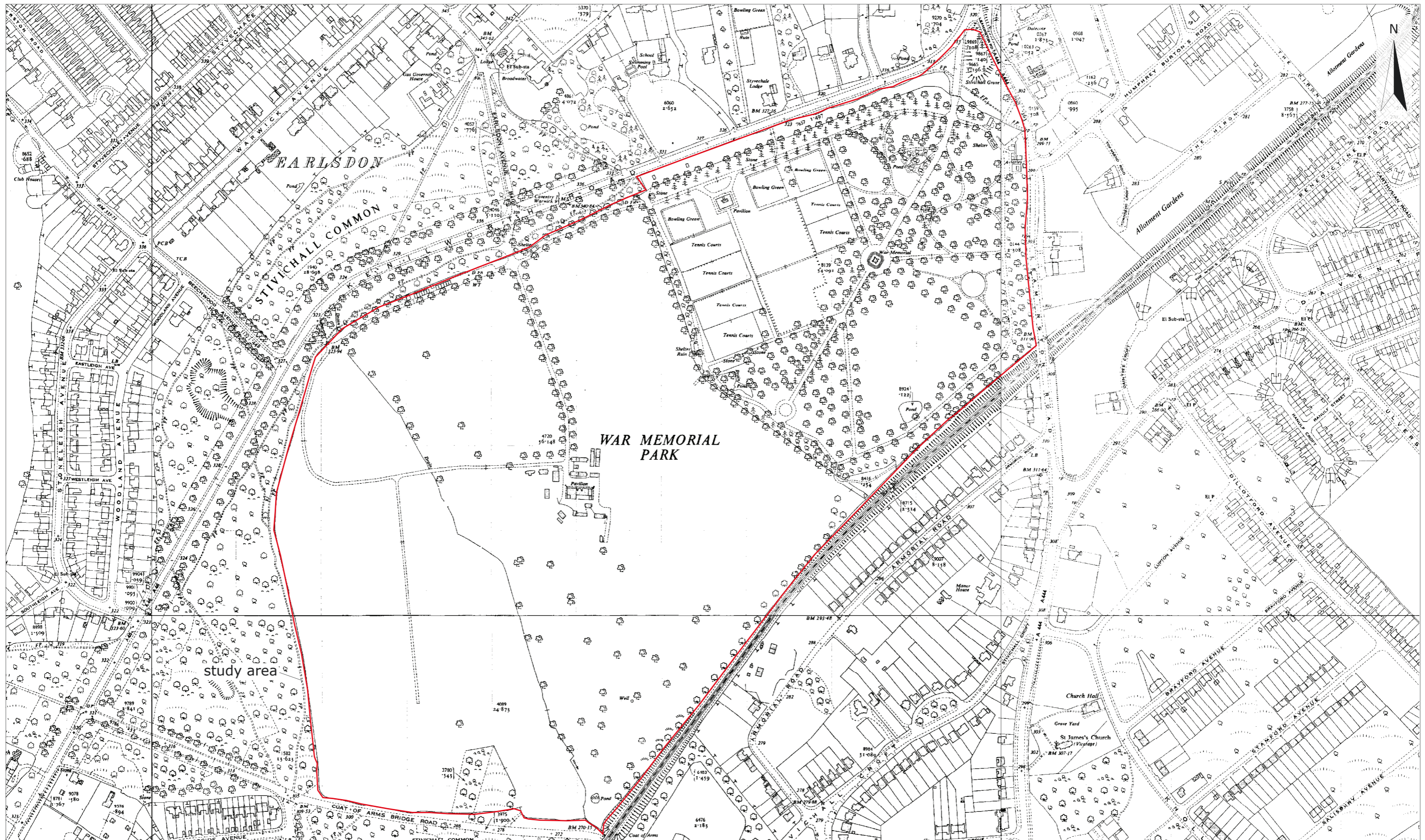














**Plate 1:** Main, north-eastern entrance gates.



**Plate 2:** Leamington Road car park adjacent to entrance.



**Plate 3:** North-East pavilion/shelter.



**Plate 4:** Formal garden; Rockery.



**Plate 5:** Main approach to Memorial Monument from the north-east entrance.



**Plate 6:** Memorial Monument.



**Plate 7:** Detail of Monument.



**Plate 8:** Bowling Greens.



**Plate 9:** Tennis Courts.



**Plate 10:** Café Pavilion looking north



**Plate 11:** Red-brick aviary building looking south-west.



**Plate 12:** Landscaping around aviary building (former tennis courts).



**Plate 13:** Extensive landscaping / levelling apparent in sports facilities area.





**Plate 14:** Stone pillars lining pathway.



**Plate 15:** North-west pavilion.



**Plate 16:** Architectural fragments stored south of north-west pavilion.



**Plate 17:** Hedge boundary and mature trees lining boundary between formal garden and playing field area



**Plate 18:** Infilled pond within formal garden.



**Plate 19:** Sports Fields; general view looking west (Kenilworth Road car park in distance).



**Plate 20:** Sports Fields; general view looking east.



**Plate 21:** Kenilworth Road Park + Ride car park at the north-west of the sports field area.



**Plate 22:** Central Pavilion



**Plate 23:** Hollow to south of Central Pavilion.



**Plate 24:** North pavilion



**Plate 25:** Unsympathetic tool store building against Kenilworth Road boundary.



**Plate 26:** Ridge and furrow in area of golf course (HER ref. DCT 1114).



**Plate 27:** Ridge and furrow in area of golf course (HER ref. DCT 1114).



**Plate 28:** Former roadway in area of golf course (HER ref. DCT 1114).



**Plate 29:** Well in area of golf course.





**Plate 30:** Ridge and furrow north of central pavilion (HER ref.,. DCT 1115).



**Plate 31:** Area of ridge and furrow south of Kenilworth Road Park and Ride car park.



**Plate 32:** Historic drainage ditch dissecting playing field area.



**Plate 33:** Historic drainage ditch dissecting playing field area (golf course to left).



**Plate 34:** Concrete blocks securing WWII barrage balloons.



**Plate 35:** Infilled air raid shelter.



**Plate 36:** Infilled air raid shelter.



**Plate 37:** Coat of Arms Bridge; Grade II Listed, HER ref. DCT291 .



**Plate 38:** Bridge Cottage; Grade II Listed, HER Ref. DCT95.



**Plate 39:** Smithy Cottage; Grade II Listed, HER ref. DCT94.



**Plate 40:** Animal Pound; Grade II Listed HER ref. DCT233.



**Plate 41:** The Cottage; Grade II Listed HER ref. DCT248.

**APPENDIX A: Coventry City Council HER Data (see Figure 2)**

(NB: Field Name data has been omitted)

| <b>HER Ref.</b>                        | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Comments</b>                        |
|--|---|--|
| <i>Archaeological Constraint Areas</i> |   |  |
| DCT1114                                | Area of ridge and furrow  | Underlying golf course                 |
| DCT1115                                | Area of ridge and furrow  | North-west of central pavilion         |
| DCT1116                                | Area of ridge and furrow  | Poorly defined                         |
| DCT1117                                | 18 <sup>th</sup> century building and enclosure                               | Nothing visible on ground              |
| <i>Listed Buildings</i>                |   |  |
| DCT94                                  | LB: Smithy Cottage, Grade II, C17 <sup>th</sup>                               | See Appendix B                         |
| DCT95                                  | LB: Bridge Cottage, Grade II, C17 <sup>th</sup> with C19 <sup>th</sup> wing   | See Appendix B                         |
| DCT171                                 | LB: Smithy, Grade II, C18 <sup>th</sup>                                       | See Appendix B                         |
| DCT233                                 | LB: Animal Pound, Grade II, C19 <sup>th</sup> with C17 <sup>th</sup> -origins | See Appendix B                         |
| DCT248                                 | LB: The Cottage, Grade II, mid C17 <sup>th</sup>                              | See Appendix B                         |
| DCT291                                 | LB: Coat of Arms Bridge, Grade II, mid C19 <sup>th</sup>                      | See Appendix B                         |
| <i>Locally Listed Buildings</i>        |   |  |
| DCT 811                                | War Memorial, 1927, by Thomas Francis Tickner                                 |  |
| <i>Archaeological Sites</i>            |   |  |
| MCT68                                  | Area of ridge and furrow visible under playing fields                         | = DCT 1115                             |
| MCT590                                 | Medieval settlement of Stivichall   | Nothing survives                       |
| MCT2037                                | Deer Park boundary  |  |
| MCT2038                                | Former deer park  |  |
| MCT8809                                | Site of former building   | Cartographic evidence (1773) = DCT1117 |
| MCT8810                                | Site of former enclosed field assoc. MCT8809                                  | Cartographic evidence (1773) = DCT1117 |
| MCT8878                                | Line of former road   |  |
| MCT8880                                | Line of former road   | Probably 'Allesley Way'                |

**APPENDIX B:** Statutory List Entries

(i) HER ref. DCT 94

1. 5105

STIVICHALL CROFT  
(North Side)

**No 56 (Smithy Cottage) and No 58**  
(Formerly listed as Smithy Cottages)

SP 37 NW  
17/149  
5.2.55.

II

2. C17 house now 2 dwellings. Red brick, stone dressings, machine tiled roof with sprocket eaves. 2 storeys, stone plinth, 1st floor level brick band. 3 casement windows in chamfered flush stone surrounds. Flush stone quoins and central door surround. Single storey lean-to on right added late C19. Central chimney stack with 3 joined diagonally set shafts.

(ii) HER ref. DCT 95

1. 5105

STIVICHALL CROFT  
(South Side)

**Bridge Cottage**

(Formerly listed as Cottage between Pond and Railway Bridge Stivichall Hamlet)

SP 37 W  
17/150  
5.2.55.

II

2. C17 with C19 wing on left. Timber frame, colourwashed brick nogging, old tiled roof. 1 storey and attics, 2 casement windows flush set, 2 casement gabled half dormers with glazing bars. 2 storey C19 wing has cut bracketed gabled doorhood, casement window under cambered arch.

(iii) HER ref. DCT 171

1. 5105

STIVICHALL CROFT  
(North Side)

**The Smithy**

SP 37 NW  
17/369

II

2. C18. Red brick, tiled roof. 1 storey, corbelled brick cornice. 2 wide 2 fold doors. Shuttered side window.



(iv) HER ref. DCT 233

COVENTRY

COAT OF ARMS BRIDGE ROAD

**Stivichall Animal Pound**

SP 37 NW  
17/423  
GV

II

Former animal pound. C19 with C17 origins, restored C20. Coursed squared stone and red brick with brick and stone coping. Rectangular enclosure with walling approx 1½m high on 2 sides, the rest only a few courses high. The wall to south is mostly of large stone blocks, probably C17. Inside the floor is of stone flags and there is a gate socket stone at the former entrance. The pound was mentioned in 1663. Included for group value. (V.C.H., Warwickshire: Vol.8, p.94)

(v) HER ref. DCT 248

1. 5105

COAT OF ARMS BRIDGE ROAD

**The Cottage**

SP 37 NW  
17/258

II

2. Formerly known as Coat of Arms Bridge Cottage. C17. Timber frame, whitewashed brick nogging, tiled roof with half hipped gables. 1 storey and attics, 2 flush casement windows with glazing bars, attic window in side gable. Cut bracketed doorhood. Single storey brick addition to side with pentice roof.

(vi) HER ref. DCT 291

1. 5105

COAT OF ARMS BRIDGE ROAD

**Coat of Arms Bridge**  
(Formerly listed under Stivichall)

SP 37 NW  
17/144  
5.2.55.

II

2. Mid C19 stone railway bridge with shield of arms in low relief carving over arch.