



University of Leicester

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Strip,
Plan and Sample excavation
at 5 Coventry Rd, Brinklow,
Warwickshire
NGR: SP 4342 7925**

Jon Coward



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Plan and Sample excavation
at 5 Coventry Rd,
Brinklow, Warwickshire**

NGR: SP 4342 7925

Jon Coward

For: Mr Neil Gatty

Checked by

Signed:



Date: 29th August 2012

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T/1182

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Jon Coward

Summary

An archaeological strip, plan and sample excavation was undertaken by University of Leicester Archaeological Services in August 2012 at 5 Coventry Road, Brinklow, Warwickshire SP 4342 792. The work was carried out in advance of an extension to the dwelling dwelling. No archaeological activity or artefacts were revealed during the course of the work. The archive will be deposited with Warwickshire Museums under code T/1182 in due course.

1. Introduction

This document constitutes the report for a historical background search and archaeological evaluation carried out at 5 Coventry Road, Brinklow, Warwickshire (SP 4342 792; Figs 1-2). The work was carried out by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the 20th August 2012.

The work was requested by the Warwickshire Planning Archaeologist in their capacity as archaeological advisor to Rugby Borough Council, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. An archaeological ‘strip, plan and sample’ excavation was undertaken as part of the planning conditions (R11/0451, Two-storey extension, single storey attached garage and porch).

The archaeological work followed the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) as laid out in the *Design Specification for Archaeological Work* (Score 2012).

2. Geology and Topography

The residential site at 5, Coventry Road lies on roughly level land at a height of approximately 89.8m OD. The underlying geology was indicated to be Wolston Clay and Silt overlying Mercia Mudstone, though in the event the only natural strata seen were clean sands.



Figure 1: Brinklow, Warwickshire. Area of site circled.
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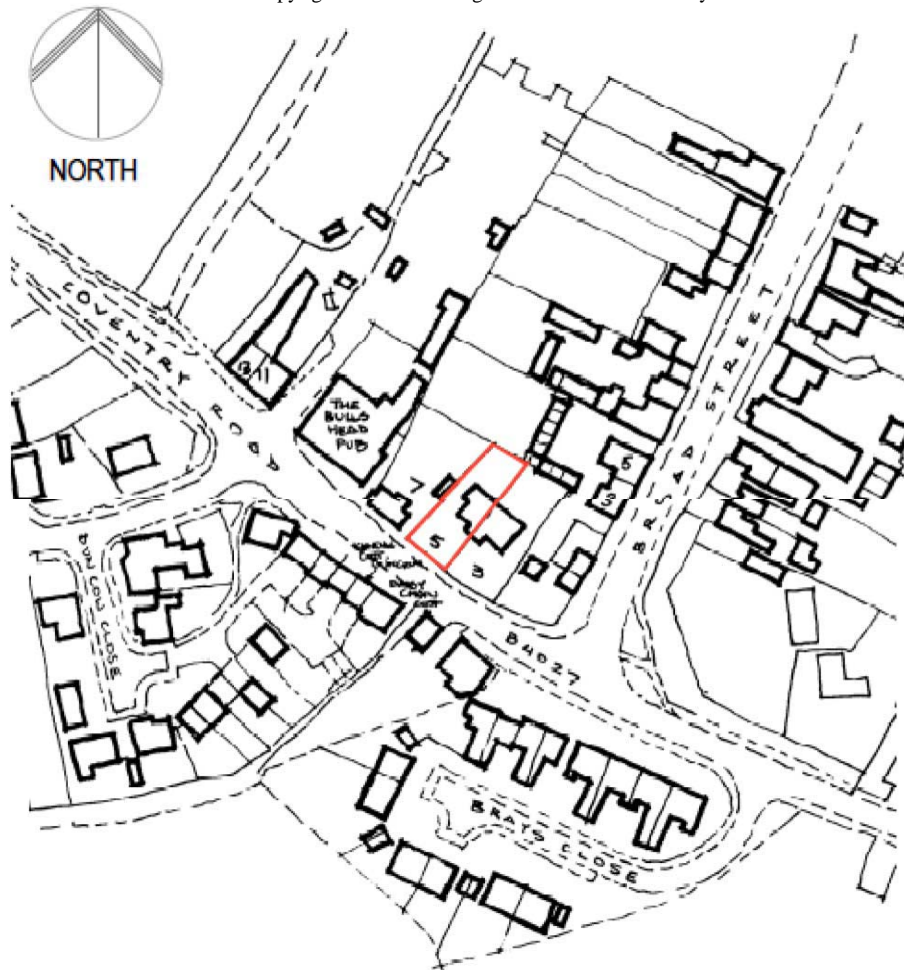


Figure 2: Position of site (map supplied by client), NTS

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

Brinklow village lies between Coventry and Rugby on the line of the Roman Fosse Way (although the actual route of the road through the village is uncertain). The origins of the village remain unknown although there is a motte and bailey castle (**HER ref. MWA3656**) still visible as a substantial earthwork which suggests it dates back to at least Norman times if not earlier. The village name probably stems from the personal name *Brynca* and the Old English *hlaw* meaning hill (often used to describe a burial mound) (Mills 2003).

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site lies in an area of archaeological interest, the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Brinklow (**MWA9496**). Most of the HER entries relate to buildings and sites associated with the medieval and post-medieval industries of the village. To the west is the Old Rectory, (**MWA3659**) and there are numerous listed and historic buildings along Broad Street to the east.

The site lies on Coventry Road, which was a Turnpike road running from Market Harborough to Coventry (**MWA4788**) although the land on which the building stands appears to have been undeveloped until the 1970s. The 1st edition OS map (1887) shows the space as probably grassland with occasional trees (Fig. 3), and the area remains open until the 1978 OS map.



Figure 3: The first edition OS map (1887) showing the area of the development.

A list of monuments, listed-buildings, fieldwork and historic landscape characterisation within a 1km radius of the development area is provided in Appendix 1.

4. Aims and Objectives

The principal objectives of the archaeological work were:

- To identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date of any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To excavate and record any archaeological deposits to be effected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce a report and archive of any results.

5. Methodology

All work followed the *Design Specification for archaeological work: Strip, Plan & Sample* issued by ULAS on 27th March 2012. All work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and adhering to their *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

The archaeological investigation was undertaken on the 20th August 2012. The work consisted of the stripping of the turfed area within the footprint of the proposed garage followed by the digging of the footings for the extension. A concrete slab apron around the side and front of the present building was to be left *in-situ*, with the effect that aside from the footings themselves, there was to be very little ground disturbance. The concrete apron was cut and removed along the line of the footings (Figs 4 and 6) and then the footings were dug with an excavator equipped with a toothless 0.5m ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Most of the footings were c. 0.90-1.00m in depth, apart from one stretch which was between 1.2 to 1.4m deep. Where the proposed garage extended beyond the concrete apron at the front of the property, turf was removed in preparation (Fig. 4) for fresh hardcore and concrete to be added.

6. Results

Topsoil was unusually deep across the area, being c. 0.70m to 0.80m in depth. It was a dark grey sandy loam with common charcoal flecks. Subsoil was a mid yellowish grey silt sand, also with common charcoal flecks. Where seen, the natural was a clean orange/yellow mottled sand. No archaeological features of any antiquity were encountered during the excavation, and no archaeological artefacts were seen: the occasional fragment of modern china (not retained) was 20th century in date. Given that the building, although itself modern, sits in an area of older buildings, the lack of any earlier material is unusual. The abnormally deep topsoil and the comparative dearth of 18th and 19th century rubbish may suggest that the land has remained undeveloped until fairly recently as suggested by the early OS maps, or it might indicate that there was a lot of landscaping and re-instatement during construction of the extant building.



Figure 4: The proposed garage area in front of the property. Looking south.

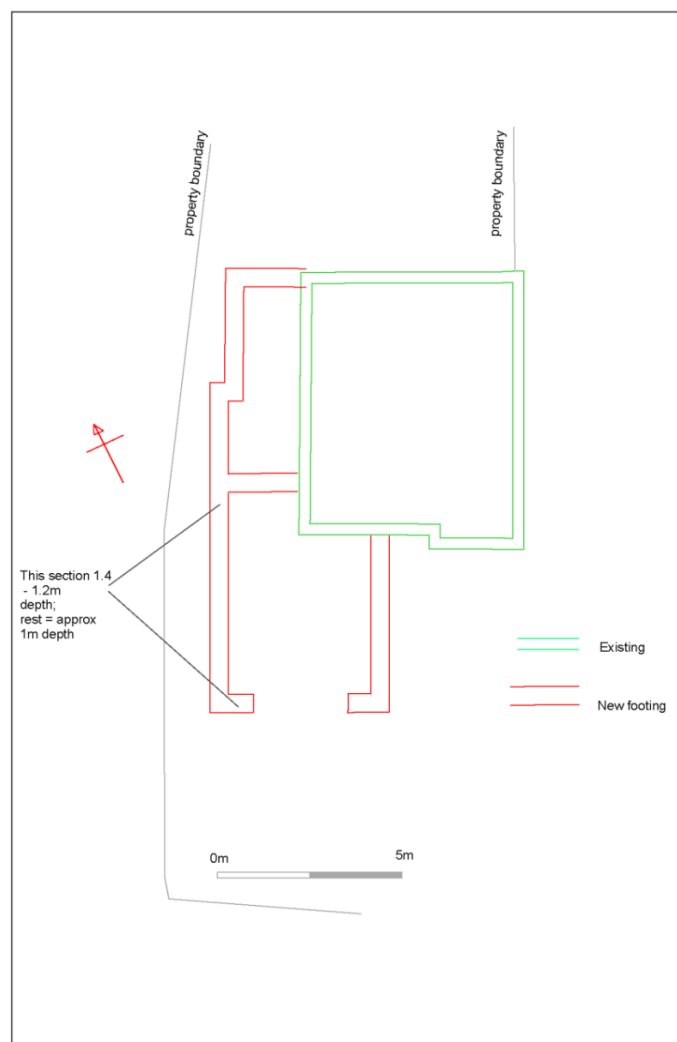


Figure 5: The position of new footings in relation to extant structure



Figure 6: Footing dug through concrete apron. Looking SSW.

7. Archive

The site archive consisting of digital images and a *pro-forma* watching brief form will be deposited with Warwickshire County Council under code T/1182.

Since 2004 ULAS has reported the results of all archaeological work through the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) database held by the Archaeological Data Service at the University of York.

A summary of the work will also be submitted for publication in a suitable regional archaeological journal in due course.

INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR OASIS	
Project Name	5 Coventry Rd Brinklow
Project Type	Watching Brief
Project Manager	Vicki Score
Project Supervisor	Jon Coward
Previous/Future work	N/A
Current Land Use	Residential
Development Type	Extension
Reason for Investigation	PPN5
Position in the Planning Process	As a condition
Site Co ordinates	SP 4342 7925
Start/end dates of field work	20 08 2012
Archive Recipient	Warwickshire Museums
Study Area *	c. 50 sq m

8. Acknowledgements

Jon Coward of ULAS undertook the watching brief on behalf of Mr Neil Gatty. The project was managed by Vicki Score of ULAS. ULAS would like to thanks Carl Matthews and his team for assistance.

9. Bibliography

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21/8/2012

APPENDIX 1: Warwickshire HER data within a 1km radius

MONUID	NAME	PERIOD	SUMMARY
MWA6009	Site of Possible Round Barrow at Brinklow	Bronze Age	The possible site of a round barrow, a mound of earth built to conceal a burial, which probably dates from the Bronze Age. The site lies in the area of Brinklow Castle.
MWA3663	Undated cropmark enclosure	Undated	The site of an enclosure of unknown date. It is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. The enclosure is situated east of Lutterworth Road, Brinklow.
MWA3656	Brinklow Castle	Medieval	Brinklow Castle, a motte and bailey castle of Medieval date. The castle is still visible as a substantial earthwork. It is located at Brinklow.
MWA4852	Undated linear cropmark	Undated	Several linear features of unknown date are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. They are situated 200m south west of Brinklow Arches.
MWA3673	Site of Gravel Pit 700m S of Smeaton Lane, N of Brinklow	Imperial	
MWA3466	Quarry near Goodes Farm, S of Brinklow	Imperial	The site of a quarry dating to the Imperial period. It is marked as a sand pit on the Ordnance Survey map of 1905. The quarry is visible as a water-filled hollow which is situated 600m south east of Brinklow.
MWA3666	Possible Dovecote near Dove House Farm, Brinklow	Imperial	There is place name evidence to suggest that this may be the site of a dovecote, a building used for the breeding and housing of doves and pigeons, which dated to the Imperial period. It was situated 300m northeast of the church at Brinklow.
MWA3667	Smithy, Brinklow	Imperial	The site of a forge, where wrought iron was made during the Imperial period. It is marked on a map of Brinklow dating to 1838. The forge was located at the southern end of Brinklow.
MWA3655	Church of John the Baptist, The Crescent, Brinklow	Medieval to Modern	The Church of John the Baptist, Brinklow. The church was originally built during the Medieval period and may have originated as a castle chapel. It is situated north east of the Recreation Ground, Brinklow.
MWA3658	Dunsmore House, Broad Street, Brinklow	Imperial	Dunsmore House, a house with stables that was built during the Imperial period. It was at one point used as a girls' school. The house is situated in Brinklow.

MWA3659	The Old Rectory, Coventry Road, Brinklow	Imperial	The Old Rectory, a vicarage which was built during the Imperial period. It is situated in Brinklow.
MWA3662	Congregational Chapel, Brinklow	Imperial	A Congregational Chapel that was built during the Imperial period. It is situated on Broad Street at Brinklow.
MWA3668	Smithy on Broad Street, Brinklow	Imperial	The site of a forge, where wrought iron was made during the Imperial period. It is marked on a map of Brinklow dating to 1838. The forge building is still standing and is in use as a garage. It is situated on Broad Street, Brinklow.
MWA6861	Site of Smithy at Brinklow	Imperial	The site of a blacksmiths workshop where iron was worked during the Imperial period. It is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886. The workshop was situated on Broad Street, Brinklow.
MWA3661	Disused Canal, Brinklow	Imperial	The site of a disused canal, a waterway used for transporting goods. It dated to the Imperial period, and is shown on Greenwood's map of 1822. It was located 250m south of Brinklow Castle and is visible as an earthwork.
MWA3664	Site of Toll House to S of Chapel	Imperial	The site of a toll house, where travellers paid a toll to use a toll road. The toll house was in use during the Imperial period. It was situated at the southern end of Brinklow.
MWA8792	Wheelwrights, 28- 30 Broad Street, Brinklow	Imperial	Archaeological work revealed evidence of waterlogged deposits. They suggested that the site was used as a wheelwrights workshop during the Imperial period. It was situated in Broad Street, Brinklow.
MWA8966	Boundary wall, land adjacent 14 Broad Street, Brinklow	Medieval to Post-medieval	The remains of a brick wall were uncovered during archaeological work in Broad Street, Brinklow. The wall was of Medieval or Post Medieval date.
MWA9496	Brinklow Medieval Settlement	Medieval	The probable extent of the medieval settlement at Brinklow based on the first edition Ordnance Survey 6" map.
MWA7172	Ridge and Furrow associated with Brinklow Castle	Medieval	An area of ridge and furrow cultivation that is associated with Brinklow Castle. It is probably of Medieval date and is visible as an earthwork. The ridge and furrow survives to the south, south east and east of the castle.
MWA8743	Medieval pottery sherds	Medieval	Findspot - during archaeological work in the southern area of Brandon, 40 sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered.

MWA8796	Pond, 47 & 49 The Crescent, Brinklow	Medieval	A back-filled pond found during archaeological work. It was probably open in the Medieval period. The site is at The Crescent, Brinklow.
MWA12695	Town Thorns garden, Easenhall, Rugby	Imperial to Modern	Pleasure grounds, pond, formal terraces near house, kitchen garden.
MWA4759	The Fosse Way	Romano-British	
MWA4788	Turnpike road from Market Harborough to Coventry	Imperial	
MWA4348	The Oxford Canal	Imperial	
MWA3657	Undated trackway called Tutbury Lane	Undated	Tutbury Lane, a trackway of unknown date. The trackway is mentioned in documentary sources and is visible as an earthwork. It runs from north from Bretford, towards Brinklow.
MWA3660	Findspot - Roman horseshoes	Romano-British	
MWA3665	Findspot - Medieval decorated floor tile	Medieval	Findspot - a Medieval decorated floor tile from Brinklow Church.
MWA4262	Findspot - Medieval silver brooch	Medieval	
MWA4419	Findspot - Mesolithic to Bronze Age flint	Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age	
MWA5030	Findspot - Roman coin	Romano-British	
MWA5480	Findspot - Medieval pottery	Medieval	Findspot - fragments of Medieval pottery were found near the church in Brinklow.
MWA5630	Findspot - Medieval silvered bronze triangular pendant	Medieval	
MWA6010	Findspot - Roman coins	Romano-British	Findspot - Roman coins were found in the area of Brinklow Castle.
MWA3669	Brewery/Malthouse, Broad Street, Brinklow	Imperial	The site of a brewery or malt house which was in use during the Imperial period. It is marked on a map of Brinklow dating to 1838. The buildings are still standing. They are situated on Broad Street, Brinklow.
MWA3670	Brewery/Malthouse, Broad Street, Brinklow	Imperial	The site of a brewery or malt house which was in use during the Imperial period. It is marked on a map of Brinklow dating to 1838. The buildings are still standing. They are situated in Broad Street, Brinklow.
MWA9863	Romano-British pottery recovered from the churchyard of St. John the	Romano-British	A single sherd of Romano-British pottery recovered during the observation of groundworks across the churchyard of St. John the Baptist Church, Brinklow.

	Baptist Church, Brinklow.		
EWA7430			Archaeological Observation at St John's Church, Brinklow, Warwickshire
EWA6807			Arch SV of Land between 28-30 Broad St, Brinklow
EWA7347			Archaeological Observation at The Dun Cow, Coventry Road / Heath Lane, Brinklow, Warwickshire
EWA7034			Land adjacent 14 Broad Street, Brinklow
EWA6738			Arch Obs at Hill Farm, 29 The Crescent, Brinklow
EWA9453			Watching brief at the Church Hall, 43 Broad Street, Brinklow
EWA7650			Archaeological Observation at 44 - 46 The Crescent, Brinklow
EWA6814			Arch SV Rec of Land 47 & 49 The Crescent, Brinklow
EWA9694			Site visit to Town Thorns garden, Easenhall, Rugby by J Lovie c1996
EWA9859			Archaeological observation at The Brae, Ell Lane, Brinklow, Warwickshire

LISTED BUILDINGS

DESIGUID	PREFREF	NAME	GRADE
DWA1005	308627		II
DWA1006	308629		II
DWA1007	308631		II
DWA1008	308633	THE RECTORY	II
DWA1009	308635	THE LODGE	II
DWA1010	308638	CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	II*
DWA1011	308640	HEADSTONE APPROXIMATELY 17 METRES SOUTH OF CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	II
DWA1161	308628		II
DWA1162	308634		II
DWA1163	308636		II
DWA1172	408933		II
DWA1173	408934	THATCHED COTTAGE	II
DWA1174	408936		II
DWA1213	409205	K6 TELEPHONE BOX	II
DWA1223	409222	LODGE AT SOUTH WEST ENTRANCE (CANAL COTTAGE) OF TOWN THORNS	II
DWA1274	408935		II
DWA1281	308639	CHEST TOMB APPROXIMATELY 7 METRES NORTH OF TOWER OF CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	II
DWA1282	308641	HEADSTONE APPROXIMATELY 18 METRES SOUTH OF CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST	II
DWA1283	308626		II
DWA1284	308630		II
DWA1285	308632	DUNSMORE HOUSE	II
DWA1377	308637		II
DWA1273	408932		II

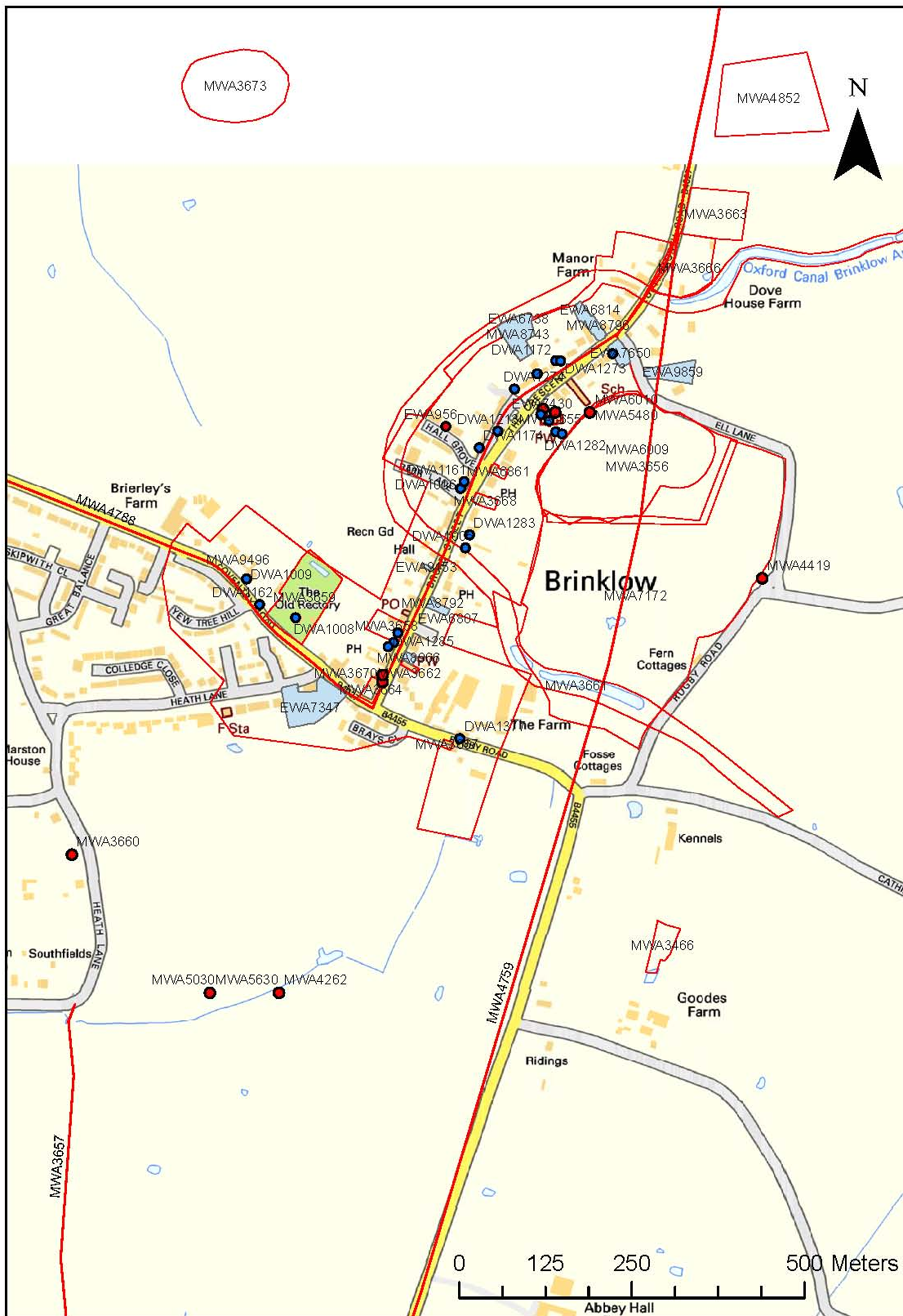


Figure 7: HER data provided by Warwickshire County Council. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2010.

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