

Northamptonshire Archaeology

Archaeological evaluation and watching brief
at
Stoke Park School and Community College
Dane Road, Coventry
Warwickshire
May – June 2007



Anne Foard-Colby
and
Danny McAree

December 2007

Report 07/173

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

DECEMBER 2007

NGR SP 35719 79561

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND WATCHING BRIEF
AT
STOKE PARK SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DANE ROAD, COVENTRY**

MAY - JUNE 2007

07/173

STAFF

Project manager	Iain Soden BA MIFA
Fieldwork	Anne Foard-Colby Cert Ed Danny McAree MA MBA PGDip PIFA Adrian Adams
Text	Anne Foard-Colby Danny McAree
Medieval & post medieval pottery	Iain Soden BA MIFA
Ceramic & stone building materials	Pat Chapman BA CMS PIFA
Illustrations	Jacqueline Harding HND BA

QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
Checked by	P Chapman		
Verified by	I Soden		
Approved by	A Chapman		

OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	Archaeological evaluation and watching brief at Stoke Park School and Community College, Coventry	
Short description (250 words maximum)	Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological evaluation and a watching brief on land measuring 0.2ha, proposed for a two storey, Sixth Form Centre at Stoke Park School and Community College, Dane Road, Coventry. The remains of stone walls and robbed out foundation trenches, together with rubbish pits were revealed. Finds from the walls and pits include medieval and post-medieval pottery, red and green sandstone building stone, including two large squared blocks, together with fragments of roof tile, brick and roofing slate.	
Project type (e.g. DBA, evaluation etc)	Field Evaluation and watching brief	
Site status (none, NT, SAM etc)	None	
Previous work (SMR numbers etc)	None	
Current land use	Hard standing for temporary buildings	
Future work (yes, no, unknown)	None	
Monument type/period		
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Remains of post-medieval stone walls and post-medieval pits	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Warwickshire	
Site address (including postcode)	Stoke Park School & Community College, Dane Road, Coventry	
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.2ha	
OS Easting & Northing (use grid square letter code)	SP 35719 79561	
Height OD	89.8m	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project brief originator	Coventry City Council	
Project Design originator	Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Anne Foard-Colby	
Project Manager	Iain Soden	
Sponsor or funding body	Coventry City Council	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	31 May 2007	
End date	14 June 2007	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		
Paper		
Digital		
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title		
Serial title & volume	07/173	
Author(s)	Anne Foard-Colby and Danny McAree	
Page numbers		
Date		

Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
3.1 Historic documents	2
3.2 The Historic Environment Record	3
3.3 Historic Maps	3
4 OBJECTIVES	4
5 TRIAL TRENCH	5
5.1 Methodology	5
5.2 Results	6
6 WATCHING BRIEF	7
6.1 Methodology	7
6.2 Results	7
7 FINDS	9
7.1 The medieval and post medieval	9
7.2 The roofing material	9
8 DISCUSSION	12
BIBLIOGRAPHY	14

Tables

Table 1: Pottery types by context

Table 2: Quantification of ceramic roof tile

Figures

Fig 1: Site location, 1:10,000

Fig 2: Historic Environment Record plots, 1:10,000

Fig 3: Ordnance Survey Maps, a) 1st Edition 1887 and b) 1906

Fig 4: Ordnance Survey Maps, a) 1925 and b) 1937-8

Fig 5: Trench and watching brief location plan, 1:250

Fig 6: Trench 1 and watching brief area plans, 1:100

Fig 7: Sections of Trench 1, Sections 1 – 2, 1:25

Fig 8: Sections of watching brief area, Sections 3 - 8, 1:25

Plates

Report cover: Pre-excavation surface removal, looking west

Plate 1: General view of Trench 1, looking west

Plate 2: Trench 1, Section 1, ditch [116], foundation cut [109], pit [107], looking north

Plate 3: Trench 1, Section 2, ditch [116], pit [105], looking south

Plate 4: Red sandstone block from Trench 1

Plate 5: General view of watching brief area, note the square concrete base for temporary buildings
centre right of photo, looking south-west

Plate 6: Watching brief, Section 3, wall (205), looking east

Plate 7: Watching brief, Section 5, pit [209], looking north

Plate 8: Watching brief, Section 6, wall (214), looking north

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND WATCHING BRIEF
AT
STOKE PARK SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DANE ROAD, COVENTRY
MAY - JUNE 2007**

ABSTRACT

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological evaluation and a watching brief on land measuring 0.2ha, proposed for a two storey, Sixth Form Centre at Stoke Park School and Community College, Dane Road, Coventry. The remains of robbed out stone walls and foundation trenches, together with rubbish pits were revealed. Finds from the walls and pits include medieval and post-medieval pottery, red and green sandstone building stone, including two large squared blocks, together with fragments of roof tile, brick and roofing slate.

1 INTRODUCTION

Northamptonshire Archaeology carried out archaeological evaluation and a watching brief during May - June 2006 on land at Stoke Park School and Community College, Dane Road, Coventry, (NGR: SP 3555 7916; Fig 1). The work was undertaken in order to inform a planning application for the construction of a Sixth Form Centre (planning application: 21352/Z) and was commissioned by Coventry City Council.

The fieldwork met the requirements of an agreed specification written by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA 2007) following the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief, and subsequent programme of post-excavation works, issued by Coventry City Council's Planning Archaeologist (May 2007).

2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The development site is located to the east of Coventry, on the south side of Dane Road, Stoke (Fig 1). It measures 0.2 hectares and is bounded by residential housing to the west, St. Michael's Parish Church churchyard to the south and an access road and school buildings to the east. The ground generally slopes down from the north, to the south and

east towards the Walsgrave Road. The site itself is flat, at a height of c89.8mOD, having been terraced for use, firstly as tennis courts and latterly temporary classrooms.

The underlying geology consists of Keuper Marl, a stiff red clay of the Triassic Enville Beds. This overlies distinctive coarse-grained red sandstone, which in turn seals Carboniferous coal seams.

The site is thought to be close to the location of the medieval Stoke Manor.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historic documents

Published and unpublished documents were consulted for information regarding the ownership of, or topographical information on the manor of Stoke. The following are extracts from documents consulted (Coventry Archives (CA), Borough Archives (BA), National Archives (NA)):

NA: E164/21 59b.4, 76b.1, 76b.2

Stoke Manor was held c1230 – 1232 by Philip Barbe d'Averil a knight of the Earl of Chester from St. Sauveur le Vicomte, Normandy who held it by service to the Earl for a pair of silver spurs. His descendants married into, or took the name of the 'de Stoke' family (Reference to translation by Joan Lancaster, prepared for publication by Peter and Angels Cross).

BA/G/6/28/35

Demise, release and quitclaim (1299) by Joan Corbin of Stoke, widow to Robert of Stoke and his wife Joan a marlpit below Conbreyan (rabbit warren) there next to the holdehallewey (old-hall-way).

BA/G/6/28/7

Demise (1349) by John, son of Robert de Stoke to his mother Joan, of Stoke Manor etc – excepting both a chamber built over the gate and another called le Knytteschambr, also a garden between a pond and Stoke chapel cemetery which he has given to his son Robert and daughter in law Margaret.

BA/G/6/39/1

Grant (1349) by John de Stoke to his son Robert and wife Margaret, land in Stoke between a marl pit and the road called le Wodegrene (? Walsgrave Rd) held by St. John Baptist.....two chambers and a garden in Stoke Manor with free access, one chamber called le Knyghte chambre, the other is built over the entrance-gate, whilst the garden lies between the pond and Stoke Chapel's graveyard.

3.2 The Historic Environment Record

The Coventry Historic Environment Record was consulted for information regarding previous land use of the site and its environs. The following is a description of the results.

There are no existing records of archaeological remains from within the application site itself. The Historic Environment Record (HER) shows two monument spots close to the development site (Fig 2). MCT623 is recorded as the possible site of the deserted medieval settlement of Stoke. MCT2386 shows an area to the south-west of the development site which has been identified as an area of tile production.

There are two listed buildings in the vicinity of the application site (Fig 2). Directly to the south, DCT61 is St. Michael's Parish Church. The nave and south aisle are of 14th century date with later additions, including 19th century restoration. Further to the east, DCT231 is a mid to late 16th century stable building with later alterations.

It should be noted that although the Church of St. Chad is mentioned on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, it was in fact the Church of St. Michael. There is documentary evidence for a Chapel of St. Chad but its whereabouts is unclear.

3.3 Historic Maps

Stoke Tithe Map 1842

The 1842 Tithe map for Stoke gives the names of some of the fields surrounding the church of St. Michael. To the west are Bakers Meadow and Hill Field. To the north are Quarry Close, with Pingle and Pingle Lane. To the east of the Church is Church End Ground. There is no name to the field directly to the north of the churchyard.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1st Edition 1887

Prominent on the map is the church identified as St. Chad's (which is now known as St. Michael's Parish Church) surrounded by its churchyard, and to the south, a small plot of

land with a row of small houses (Fig 3a). It lies to the north of the Walsgrave Road, which bends around the grounds in which the former Wyken House lay. To the north of the churchyard is an irregular-shaped pond, on the boundary of two fields. To the north and situated on a field boundary is a second pond. Close by, and to the north-east of this lies the earthworks of an old quarry. The parish boundary is marked, skirting and respecting the estate of Wyken House to the east.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1906

The map shows that the north boundary of the churchyard has been extended and now lies close to the irregular shaped pond. The pond has the marsh symbol within it and may indicate that there is no water. The small pond to the north is shown with a small earthwork on its northern boundary. The quarry to the north-east is still shown on the map (Fig 3b).

Ordnance Survey Map, 1925

The churchyard has again been extended northwards, but respects the position of the pond, which suggests that it was still prominent at this point, whether as an earthwork, marsh or water filled. The pond to the north is also present, but the quarry is no longer marked and may well have been ploughed out or backfilled. The land to the north in Upper Stoke and south in Church Stoke has been divided into allotment plots (Fig 4a).

Ordnance Survey Map, 1937-8

The church, churchyard and ponds have not changed, but development has continued to take place to the north, south and west. Some allotment plots have been used for houses and further to the west are factories (Fig 4b).

Ordnance Survey Maps, 1955-82

Three maps show the fields surrounding the church, now completely built up with houses, and new schools have been built, including Stoke Park School to the north of the church. The north-eastern boundary to the graveyard has an interesting bend, which respects the remnants of the pond shown on the previous maps. Shakespeare Street has been inserted to the west of the school.

4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation and watching brief were to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the remains on the site addressing the following general objectives:

- To prepare a detailed assessment of the site's or area's history and archaeological potential
- To identify any evidence for the survival of buried archaeological remains on the site which may be threatened by development of the site and area
- To determine the depth of burial, character, date, extent and state of preservation of any such remains

and specifically:

- To recover evidence of the historic core of the medieval settlement of Stoke

The watching brief enabled the work of the evaluation to be consolidated during the development by recording features exposed by earthmoving.

5 TRIAL TRENCH

5.1 Methodology

One 23.5m long trial trench was excavated using a mechanical digger fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision (Figs 5 and 6, Plate 1). Mechanical excavation proceeded as far as the surface of the natural geology, hereabouts a pale sand and pink/brown clay.

The trench was related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid, with contexts recorded on pro-forma sheets with a unique context number being allocated to each distinct deposit and feature. A full photographic record comprising both 35mm monochrome negatives, with associated prints, and colour transparencies was maintained, with additional digital photographs. All records were compiled during fieldwork into a comprehensive and fully cross-referenced site archive. The site code is SPS07.

All works were carried out according to the IFA Code of Conduct and *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Evaluation* (IFA 1995), and all procedures complied with the Northamptonshire County Council Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at work Guidelines.

5.2 Results

Natural sand and pink/brown clay (113) was encountered at a depth of 0.40m below the ground surface. It was overlain by natural, light yellow/brown sandy clay (112) with patches of grey and red/brown, with infrequent inclusions of gravel and was 0.10m thick. This was sealed by a layer of light-medium yellow/brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions (111), which was probably subsoil, between 0.50m – 0.60m in thickness and which contained sherds of 18th century pottery. A buried turf layer (103), probably representing an earlier ground level was present on the east side of the trench, and 0.10m thick, having been cut away on the west side during terracing for the construction of the tennis court. At the east end, and overlying the buried turf layer, was a thin levelling layer of red clay (117). Overlying the turf was the foundation layer (102) and surface layer (101) of the tarmac tennis courts. A grid of concrete blocks measuring approximately 0.60m square had been inserted through the tarmac surface to provide a substantial foundation for the erection of temporary buildings on the site (Plate 5). They had subsequently been removed during the stripping of the tarmac surface prior to trial trenching.

Cut into the natural red clay was a possible ditch [116], aligned north-south, with a wide, 'U' shaped profile and a narrow and shallow gully at the base (Figs 6 – 7, Section 1, Plate 2). It measured 3.10m wide to the limit of the trench and 0.90m deep and was filled with soft, light grey/reddish brown, silty clay (110), with inclusions of sandstone fragments.

A possible foundation trench [109] cut into the ditch fill (110). It was aligned north-south, with a wide 'U'-shaped profile and a stepped cut left over from a robbed out wall (Figs 6-7, Section 1, Plate 2). It measured 3.20m wide and 1.32m deep. Its fill (108) consisted of light red/brown sandy clay and contained 17th-century pottery, frequent tile fragments, fragments of green sandstone and Swithland roofing slate. Larger pieces of green sandstone fragments were present in the top 0.20m of the fill and a large squared block of red sandstone measuring 0.35m by 0.35m square by 0.20m deep may be the remains from the robbed out wall (Plate 4).

On the south side of the trench at the east end, a pit [115], measuring greater than 2.30m wide and more than 0.81m deep, cut the buried topsoil and subsoil (Figs 6-7, Section 2). Its fill (114) was mid grey/brown sandy clay with occasional gravel and small fragments of green sandstone and small ceramic tile fragments. Its full extent lay beyond the trench edges.

A large pit [105], cut the robber trench. It was situated on the south-east corner of the trench and was sub-circular in plan (Figs 6-7, Section 2, Plate 3). It measured more than 3.40m wide and 1.21m deep with steep sides and a flat base. Its fill (104) was mid brown/grey sandy clay which contained 19th-century pottery, fragments of red and green sandstone and a considerable amount of broken ceramic roof tile.

A third pit [107] was situated on the north-east corner of the trench and cut the robber trench (Figs 6-7, Section 1, Plate 2). It measured at least 1.60m wide and 1.12m deep, and had a 'U'-shaped profile. Its fill (106) was red/brown sandy clay which contained residual 13th-century pottery and fragments of green sandstone and ceramic roof tile.

6 WATCHING BRIEF

6.1 Methodology

As part of the construction process, the entire site was partially stripped of modern surfaces and the remaining topsoil compacted below a layer of tarmac planings, clinker and ash.

Construction trenches up to 0.50m deep were excavated for the laying of steel-reinforced concrete strip footings 0.50m wide. These were aligned between stanchion supports, steel-reinforced concrete footings up to 1.60m square and up to 1.70m deep.

Excavation for concrete strip footings and eight stanchion bases at the east of the site was the subject of the watching brief. All features and layers were recorded using the same methods as that for the evaluation. To avoid confusion with context and finds from the evaluation of the site, a single continuous sequence of numbers commencing at 201 was used for the watching brief recording.

6.2 Results

The sequence seen in the evaluation was noted here to be more widespread (Fig 8). All features and layers were sealed below a layer of modern topsoil (202) and the tarmac clinker and ash top dressing of the site (201).

The stanchion base at the extreme north east of the site (Figs 6, 7 and 8, Section 4) revealed a levelling layer of red clay as observed in Trench 1 which lay directly on the upper surface of natural green/grey sandstone (208). The clay formed a base and bonding for a cobbled surface (207).

About 2.10m south, a construction trench [203] cut into the green/grey sandstone natural (208) and aligned roughly east-west (Figs 6, 7 and 8, Section 3, Plate 6). The trench had vertical sides but was not bottomed. It was 1.20m wide and was filled with dark brown, sandy clay-loam (204) containing a sandstone wall (205). The wall was 1.00m wide and built of roughly coursed irregular sandstone blocks up to 0.30m long, 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep and bonded with stiff red clay. Pottery from the construction trench fill was dated to the 15th –16th centuries.

About 1.00m further south, the cut for the next stanchion base revealed circular pit [209] which was 1.00m in diameter and 0.60m deep (Figs 6, 7 and 8, Section 5, Plate 7). The pit was filled with dark brown sandy clay loam containing small fragments of red and green sandstone and broken roof tiles (210).

The two closely-spaced stanchion bases at the south-west corner of the watching brief area revealed a construction trench [213] aligned roughly east -west, with vertical sides and a flat base, cutting the natural green sandstone (Figs 6, 7 and 8, Section 6, Plate 8). It was 0.60m deep and 1.00m wide, and contained a sandstone wall (214) built of irregular and roughly coursed sandstone blocks up to 0.30m long, 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep which were bonded with stiff red clay. Overlying the wall was a mixed debris layer of broken red sandstone, red clay (215) and fragments of red roof tile. It was up to 0.30m deep and extended 0.50m to the north of wall (214). It appears to be a dump of broken stone, roof tile and clay bonding from the demolition and robbing of the upper part of the sandstone wall. The wall was truncated by the cut of a robber trench [211] at least 3.00m wide (probably 4.50m) with shallow sloping sides and a slightly dished base.

Covering the demolition debris was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam (221) 0.40m deep which contained red sandstone, gravel and charcoal flecks, the backfill of the robber trench. It was capped by a buried turf layer (212). Sealing this was a layer of dark brown sandy clay loam (216) which contained red clay and a few fragments of red and green sandstone. This varied between 0.25m to 0.40m deep at the south of the exposed section and which was cut by a modern service trench [217] containing a salt glaze drainpipe.

The strip foundation to the north of this trench did not extend deeper than the modern topsoil. In the first stanchion pit, a large trench or pit [219] had removed the original topsoil down to the level of the green sandstone natural (208) (Figs 6, 7 and 8, Section 7). This was then covered with a 0.20m deep layer of dark sandy clay loam mottled with red clay (220) which contained red sandstone fragments and broken roof tile. It was sealed below a layer of brown sandy clay loam (221) 0.30m deep and capped with a buried turf horizon (212).

The final stanchion pit excavated also showed evidence of a large trench or pit [223] that had removed the original soil to the top of the underlying green sandstone (208) (Figs 6, 7 and 8, Section 8). Its fill was brown sandy clay loam (222) 0.25m deep containing large pieces of red sandstone, including a single block of roughly squared red sandstone 0.80m by 0.50m by 0.25m and broken roof tile.

7 FINDS

7.1 The medieval and post medieval pottery by Iain Soden

A total of 28 sherds were recovered, weighing 1.018kg. They comprised thirteen fabrics or types and derived from six contexts. The pottery spans the period from the 13th to the 19th centuries.

The pottery was identified, weighed by type and context and related to the Warwickshire type series wherever possible (Ratkai and Soden 1997). The types present were as follows:

Table 1: Pottery types by context (quantified by sherd count/weight (g))

Type / Context	Type series	Production range	103	104	106	108	111	204
Chilvers Coton A*	WW01	1250-1300		3/130	1/33	3/161		1/14
Chilvers Coton B	Str20	1250-1300		1 /2		1 /2		
Chilvers Coton C	Sq30	1300-1500				2/54		
Midland Purple	MP	1450-1650						6/530
Cistercian ware	CIST	1475-1580		1/1				
Glazed red earthenware	SLM	1550-1650				1/29		
Slipware	SLPW	1680-1740	1/3					
Manganese glazed ware	MANG	1690-1740					1/18	
English stoneware	STE	C18th		2/16				
Midland Blackware	MB	1600-1800				2/8		
Lustreware	MGW	C19th		1/6				
Mocha	MO	1830-50		1/8				
Underglaze transfer- printed	MGW	C19th		2/3				
Context TPQ from ceramics			C17th	C19th	C13th	C17th	C18th	C15th-16
Context TPQ adjusted for stratigraphy			C18th	C19th	C18th	C18th	C18th	C15th-16

*includes fragments of glazed probable roof-tile

It is clear that much of the early pottery is residual in later contexts. All the contexts producing pottery in Trench 1 are of later post-medieval date, although their fills contain material dating from the 13th century onwards. These include a large sherd from a Nuneaton (Chilvers Coton A) bowl with everted rim. This is redolent of complete examples excavated at Ernesford Grange (Soden 1988, 47 no 16) and from Cheylesmore Manor (Soden, in Rylatt, *et al* 1992, 41).

In fill (204) the deposit of (comparatively) large sherds from a single Midland Purple bung-hole cistern, suggests a primary deposit, lying as it does amongst the rubble of a reduced wall foundation. Although bung-hole cisterns, made for liquid storage purposes, have been known in fabrics occurring from the 12th century (such as a huge Coventry D ware example from Ernesford Grange), they are most common in Midland Purple types from the late 15th century onwards. The example here suggests a demolition episode unlikely to be earlier than the later 15th century but before the early 17th century. The type is best seen in excavated examples from around the Dissolution period at Coventry Charterhouse (Soden 1995, 99).

Overall this small group of ceramics suggests occupation nearby from the 13th century, but is not conclusive. More reliable is the dating of a demolition deposit above the stone

wall 205 (204) which was laid down no earlier than the late 15th century, but almost certainly before the early 17th century. None of the pottery indicates how long wall (205) had stood.

7.2 The roofing materials by Pat Chapman

Ceramic roof tile

Ceramic roof tile, weighing 11.3kg was sampled from the site and included near complete tiles to nib tile remnants. Only one has associated pegholes. None of these are glazed. The thickness of the tiles is generally 15mm. The standard dimensions, as laid down by Parliament in 1477, were 10½ x 6½ x ½ inches (*c* 265 x 165 x 15mm), to which these tiles generally adhere.

The fabric is coarse orange red sand with occasional calcareous, sub rounded quartz and black - possible ironstone - inclusions, with some fine crushed calcareous inclusions. The surfaces are either orange or light brown. A few tiles were fired to a hard dark red with a black surface.

Roof tiles were manufactured locally, the production of tiles being an important occupation in Stoke from the 14th to the early 19th centuries. This type of roof tile changed little over the centuries until the advent of machine-made tiles.

Table 2: Quantification of ceramic roof tile

Context	Number	Weight (g)	Dimensions (mm)	Comment
104	1	1421	292 x 165-c180 x 51-20	Nib, bottom corner missing
	5	2152	- - 165 - - 160 x 16	4 nibs
108	1	725	- - 163 x 15	
204	3	1084	- - 167 x 15	2 nibs
215	1	1031	- - 160 x 15	2 nibs
	3	688		
	9	1144		
219	6	904	- - 160 x 13	2 nibs one with pegholes
222	5	2185	- - 148 x 20	3 nibs
			- - 160 x 15	
			- - 163 x 15	
Totals	34	11,334		
204	1	122		Glazed tile

Glazed tile

One fragment of tile has a right-angled flange at one end and is possibly a gutter tile. It is yellow glazed on the top and both sides of the flange.

Slate roof tile

There are 16 fragments of Swithland slate roof tiles, weighing 1316g. They come from pit (104) and foundation trenches (108) and (204). The size of the measurable slates suggests that they came from near the ridge of a roof, as when graded, tiles are smallest at the top and greatest at the eaves.

Brick

There are four partial bricks, from pits (219) and (104) and layer (222). They are all hand-mixed and shaped in a sanded mould, in a coarse sandy red fabric with some quartz inclusions. The surface is a brown to dark grey brown. They measure between 5³/₈ to 7¹/₈ inches (118 to 130mm) wide and 1⁵/₈ to 2³/₈ inches (42 to 60mm) thick.

8 DISCUSSION

During the trial trench evaluation, the earliest stratified feature was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch located at the east end of Trench 1, which cut the natural red clay, but was undated. Scattered sandstone fragments and the presence of a large, isolated, squared block of red sandstone indicate that a robbed-out wall foundation [109] aligned north to south, towards the east end of Trench 1 may relate to walls (205) and (214) found during the watching brief and where other large sandstone blocks were found. Three later pits containing ceramic roof tile, Swithland roof slate and sherds of post-medieval pottery cut the wall foundation and suggest that the plot of land that contained a demolished building was being used for the burial of rubbish.

The watching brief has provided evidence of two east-west walls, apparently parallel and about 3.00m apart. Both walls were built of sandstone and both 1.00m wide and cut into the natural. Both had clearly been robbed and then covered in topsoil, probably long before the modern truncating and levelling of the site for the new school in the 1940s. A partly robbed-out building is present here, from which roof tile, sandstone and a small amount of pottery derives. The small pottery assemblage recovered from the trial trench and watching brief, suggests occupation of the area may date from the 13th century. However, the pottery recovered from a demolition layer above the remains of stone wall

(205) implies a date no earlier than the late 15th century and probably before the early 17th century. The extent of the building remains unknown. Remnants of a cobbled surface were present to the north of the walls.

The single circular pit observed at the east of the site contained broken roof tile but its use is unknown. It post-dates the demolition of the building.

It is clear that extensive modification of the land surface of the site has taken place but also that a discontinuous buried soil and turf horizon extends across part of the site. Except for deep cut features terracing has largely removed evidence for earlier activity.

Despite the evidence of soil modification and modern site levelling, there is good survival of cut archaeological features at less than 1.00m below the modern ground surface, giving cause for optimism for survival over a wider area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFA 1999 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA 1999 Code of Conduct, Standards, Guidelines and Practices of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, Institute of Field Archaeologists

McAree, D, Mason, P, and Soden, I, forthcoming *An archaeological excavation, Belgrade Plaza, Coventry*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report

Mason, P, and Soden I, forthcoming *Archaeological excavation at the former site of Astley's, Far Gosford Street, Coventry*, Northamptonshire Archaeology report

NA, 2007, *Specification for an archaeological evaluation at Stoke Park School and Community college, Dane Road Coventry*, Northamptonshire Archaeology

NCCNH, 2003 *Health and Safety provisions and Northamptonshire Archaeology Health and Safety at Work Guidelines* Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Heritage

Ratkai S, and Soden I, 1997 *Warwickshire Medieval and post-medieval pottery type series* (Unpublished Report)

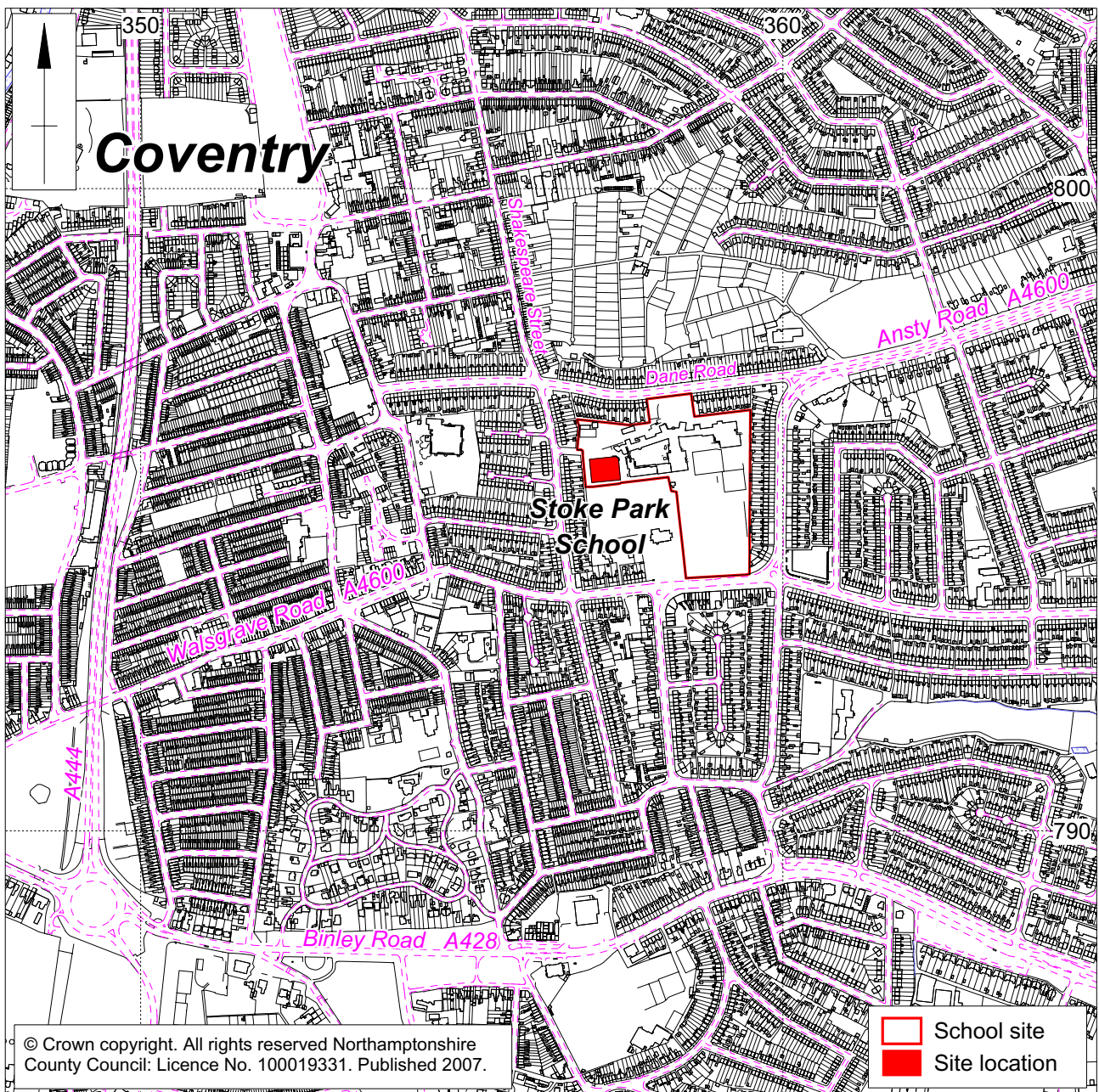
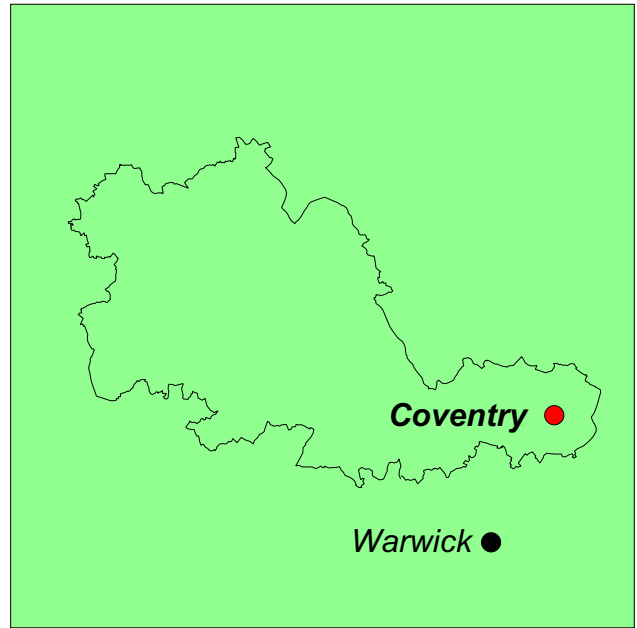
Rylatt M, *et al* 1992 *Excavations on Manor House Drive, Coventry 1992*, Coventry Museums Archive Report

Soden I, 1988 *Coventry: Excavations at Ernesford Grange 1971-73*, Coventry Museums Monograph 4

Soden I, The Pottery, in Rylatt M, *et al*, 1992 *Excavations on Manor House Drive, Coventry 1992*, Coventry Museums Archive Report

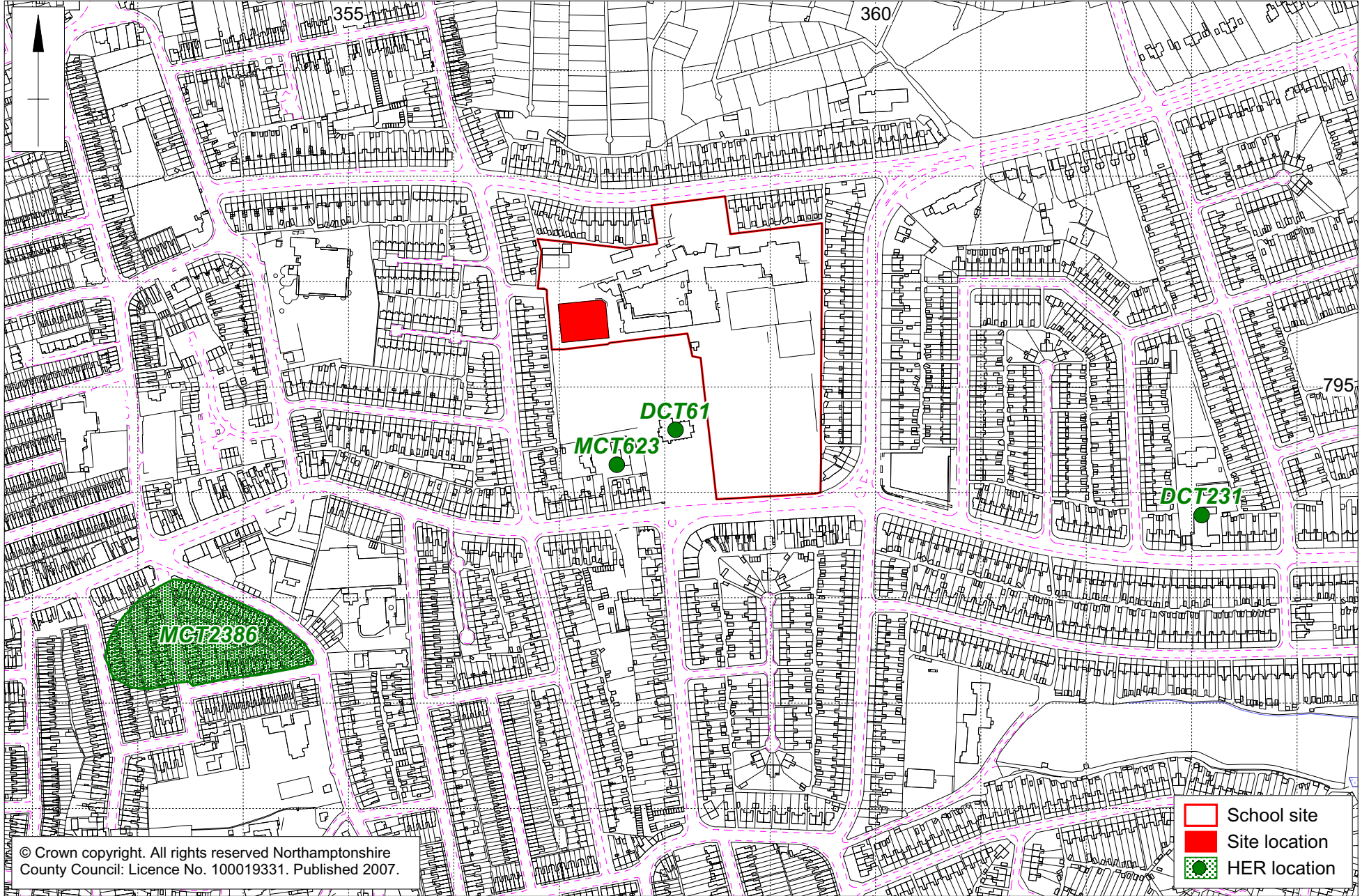
Soden I, *Excavations at St Anne's Charterhouse, Coventry 1968-87*, Coventry Museums Monograph 5

VCH 1969 *The city of Coventry: the outlying part of Coventry: Stoke. A History of the County of Warwick*, **8**, Victoria County History, www.british-history.ac.uk/reports



Scale 1:10,000

Site location Fig 1



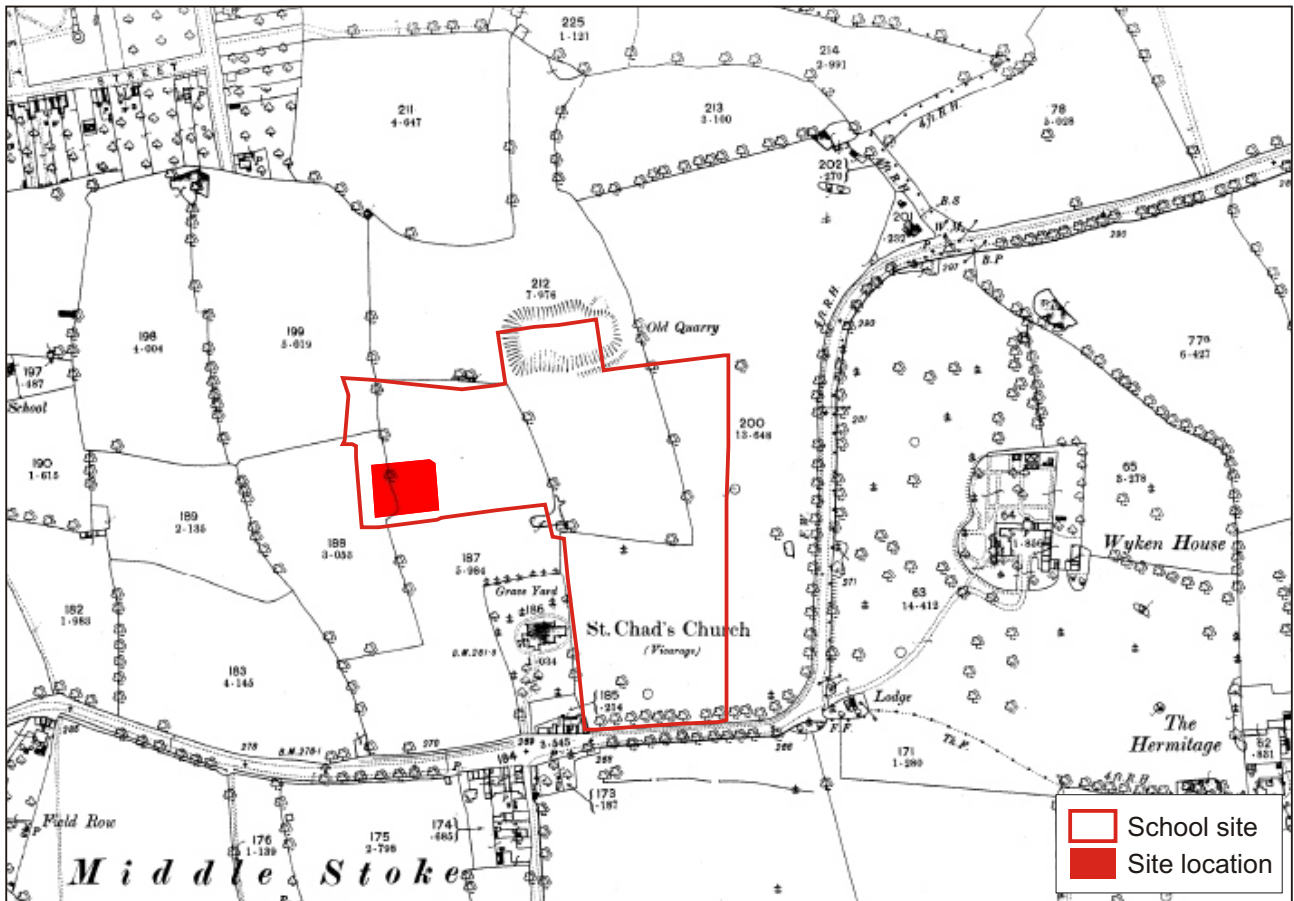
Scale 1:10,000

Historic Environment Record (HER) location

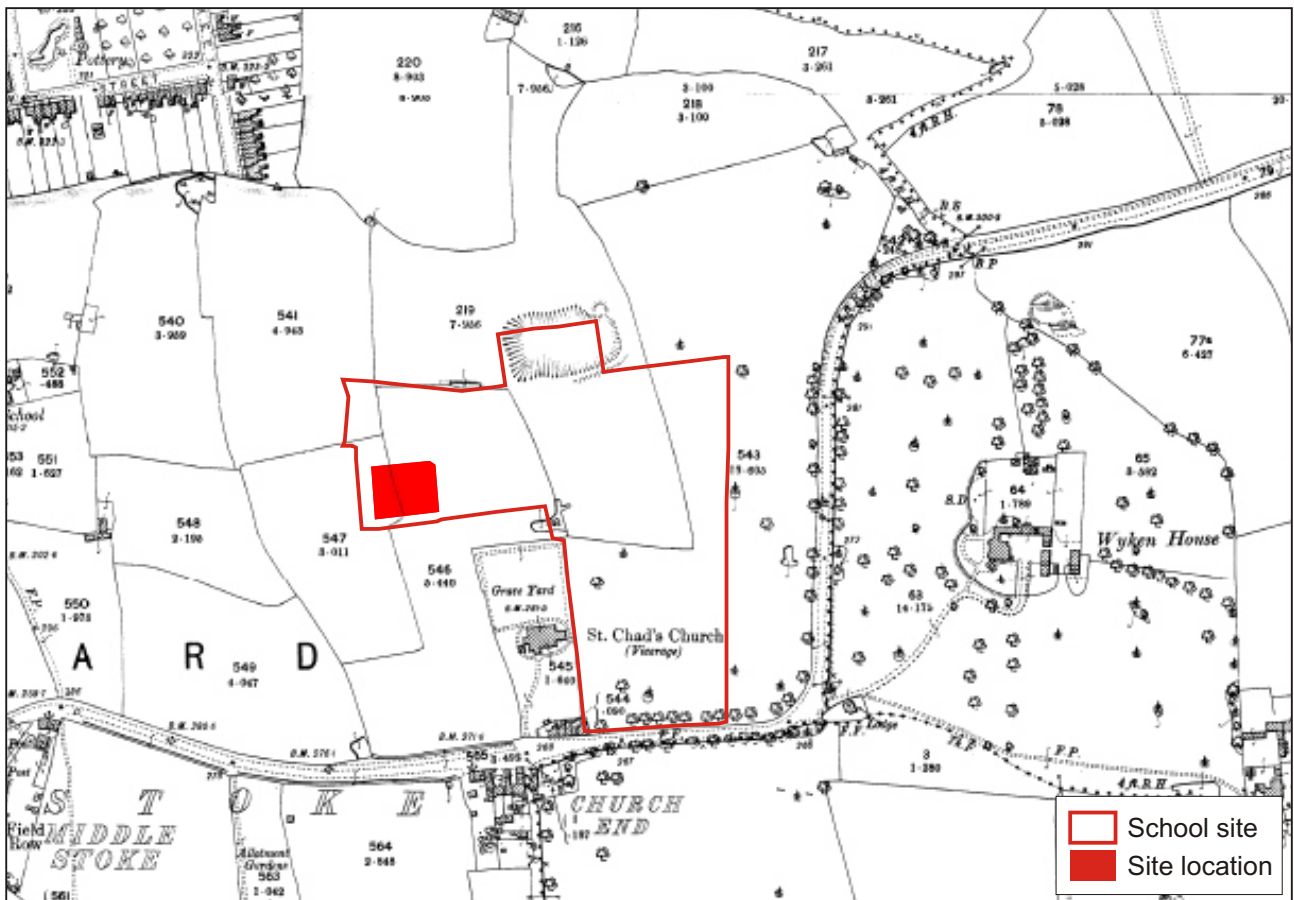
Fig 2

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2007.

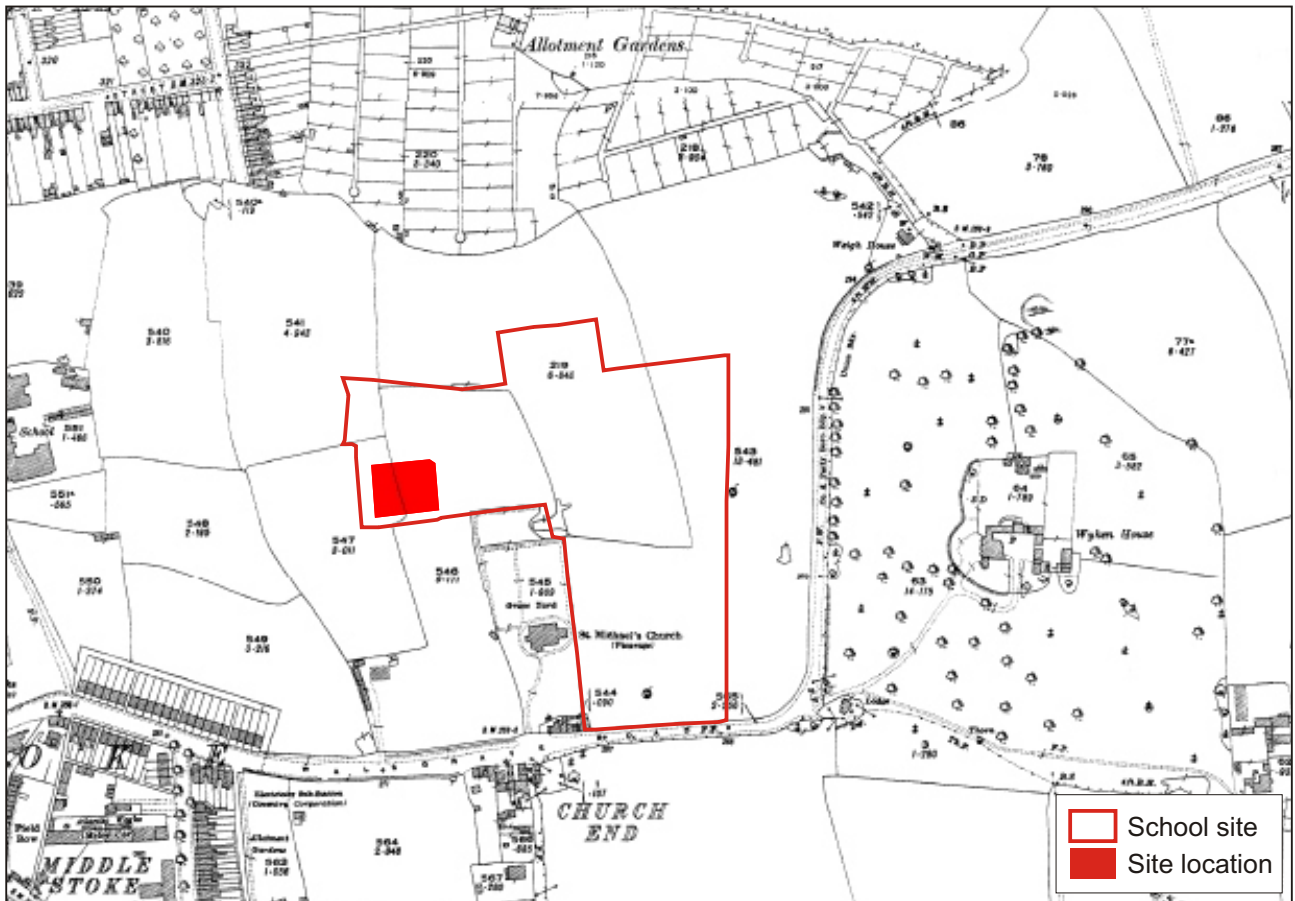
- School site
- Site location
- HER location



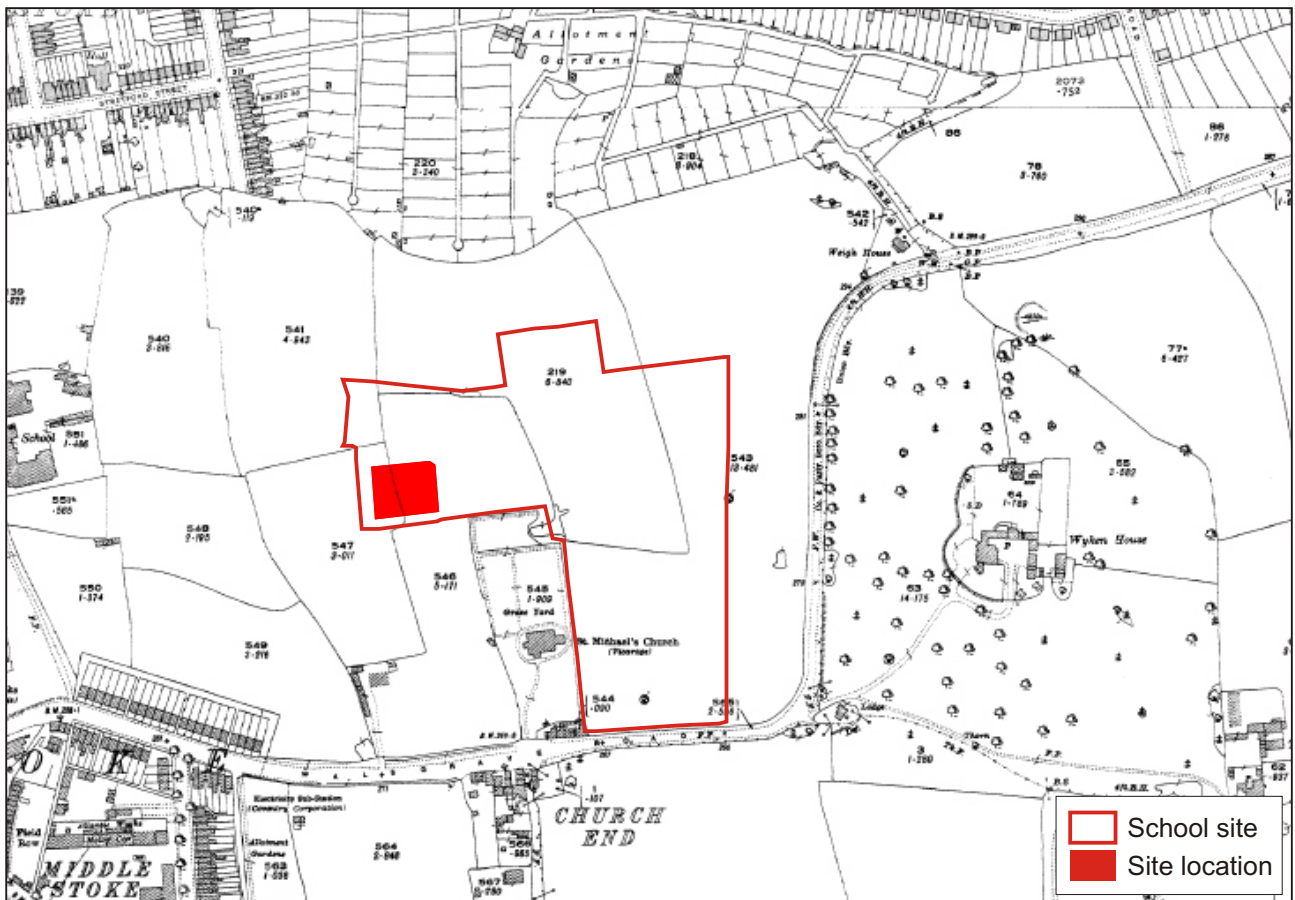
a) First Edition Ordnance Survey 1887 map



b) Ordnance Survey 1906 map



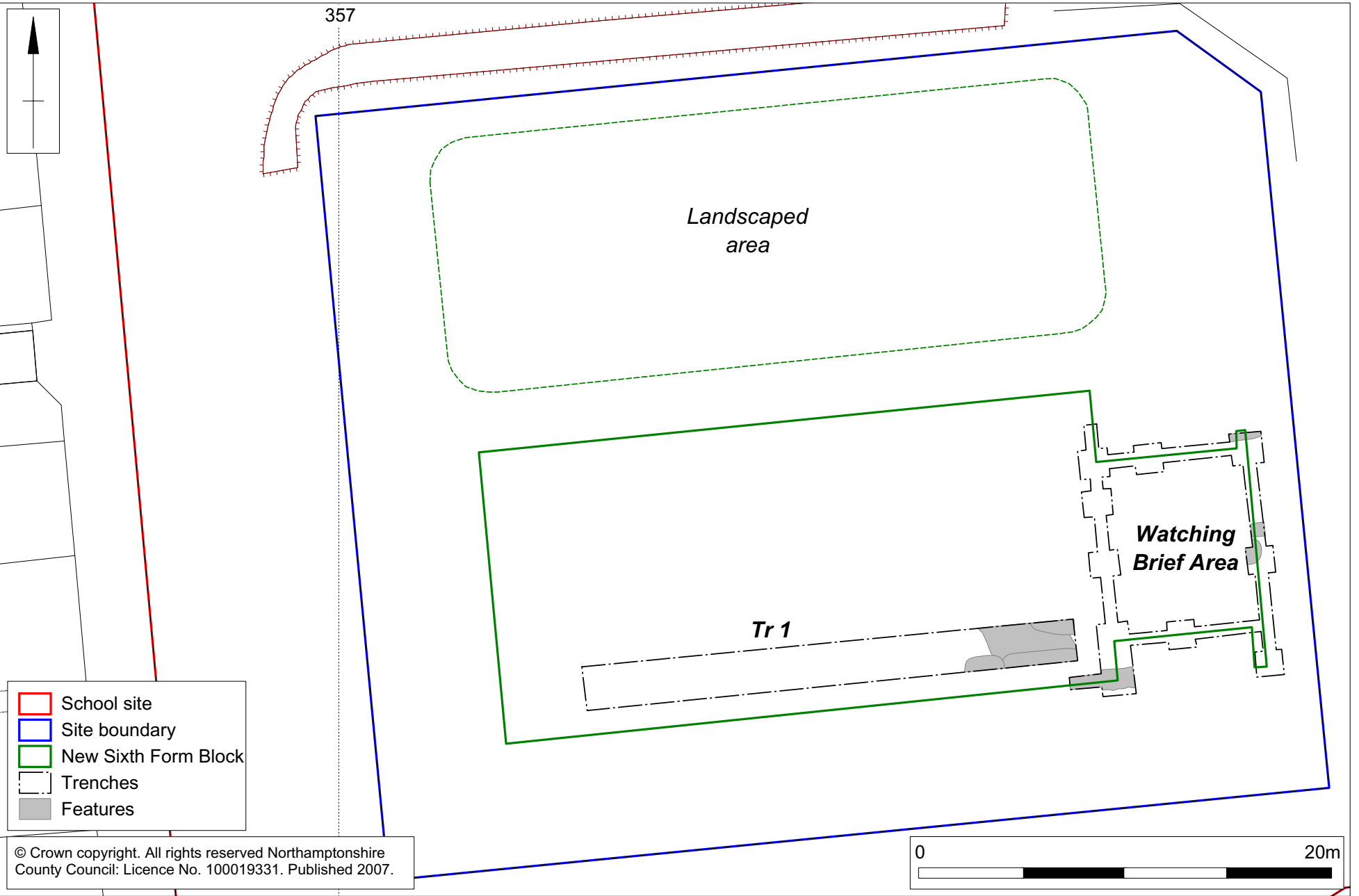
a) Ordnance Survey 1925 map



b) Ordnance Survey 1937-8 map

Scale 1:250

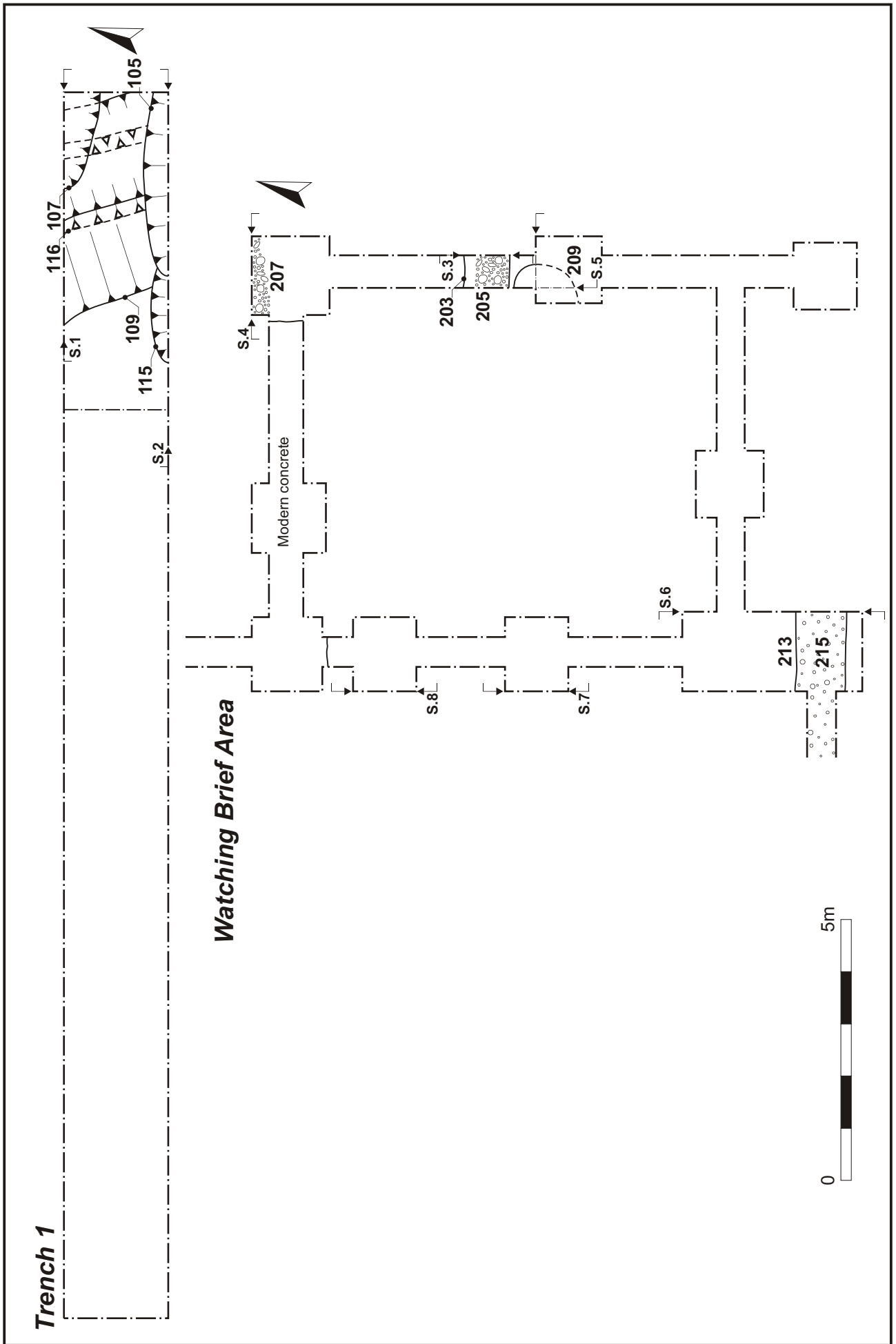
Trench location and watching brief area plan Fig 5



- School site
- Site boundary
- New Sixth Form Block
- Trenches
- Features

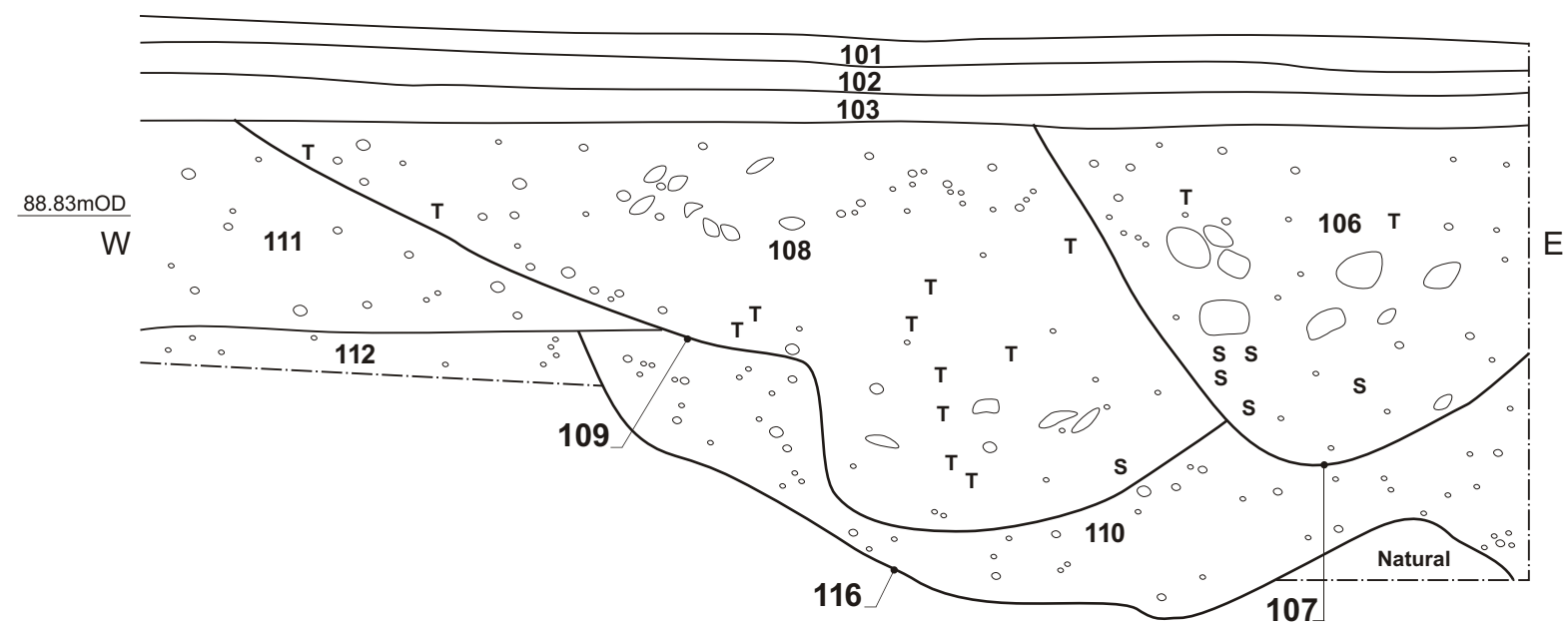
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 2007.

0 20m

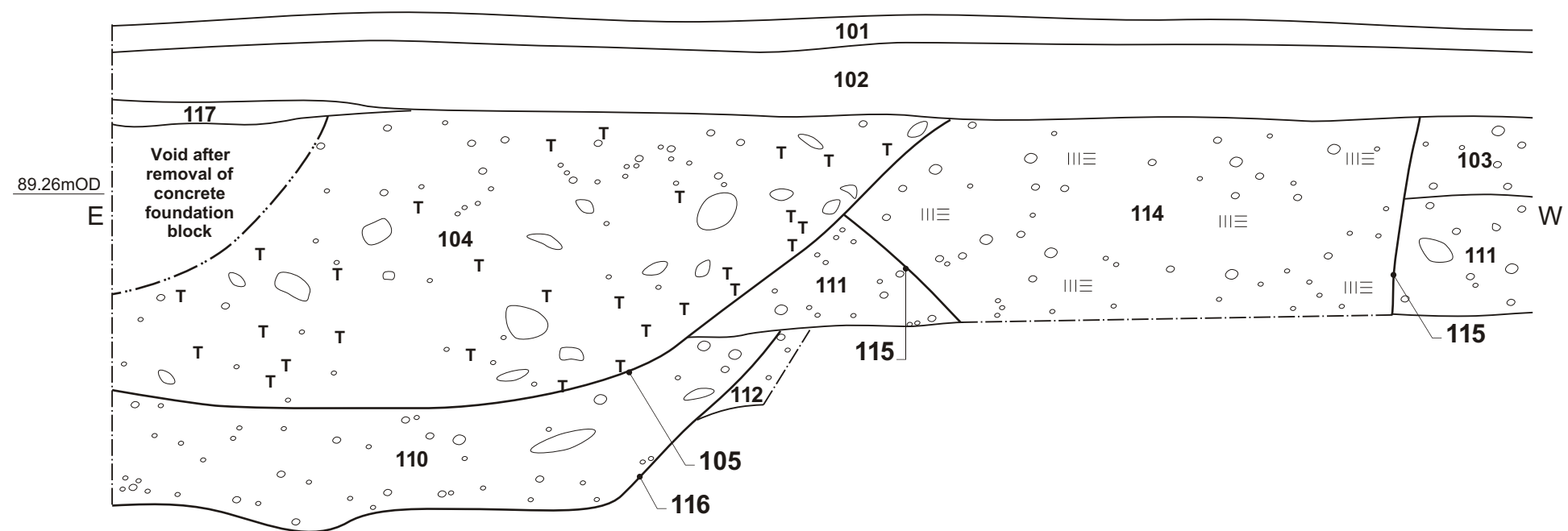


Plans of Trench 1 and Watching Brief Area Fig 6

Section 1 - Trench 1



Section 2 - Trench 1

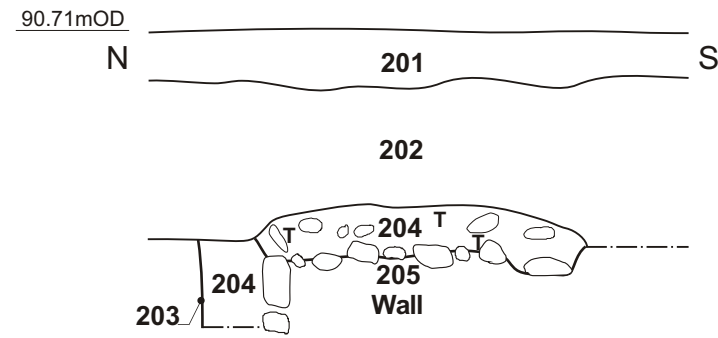


- ☐ Clay
- ☐ T Tile
- ☐ S Slate
- ☐ B Brick

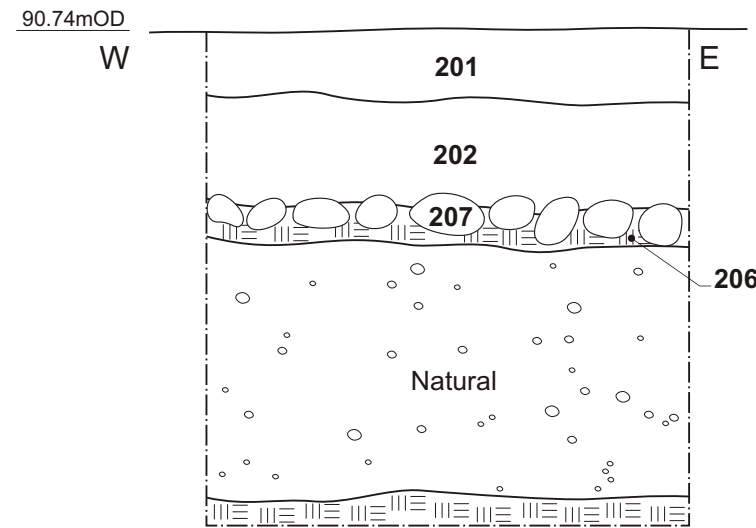


Sections of Trench 1, sections 1-2 Fig 7

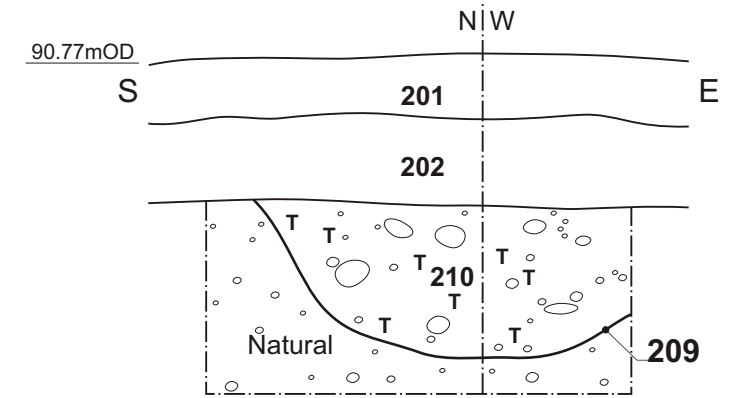
Section 3 - Watching Brief Area



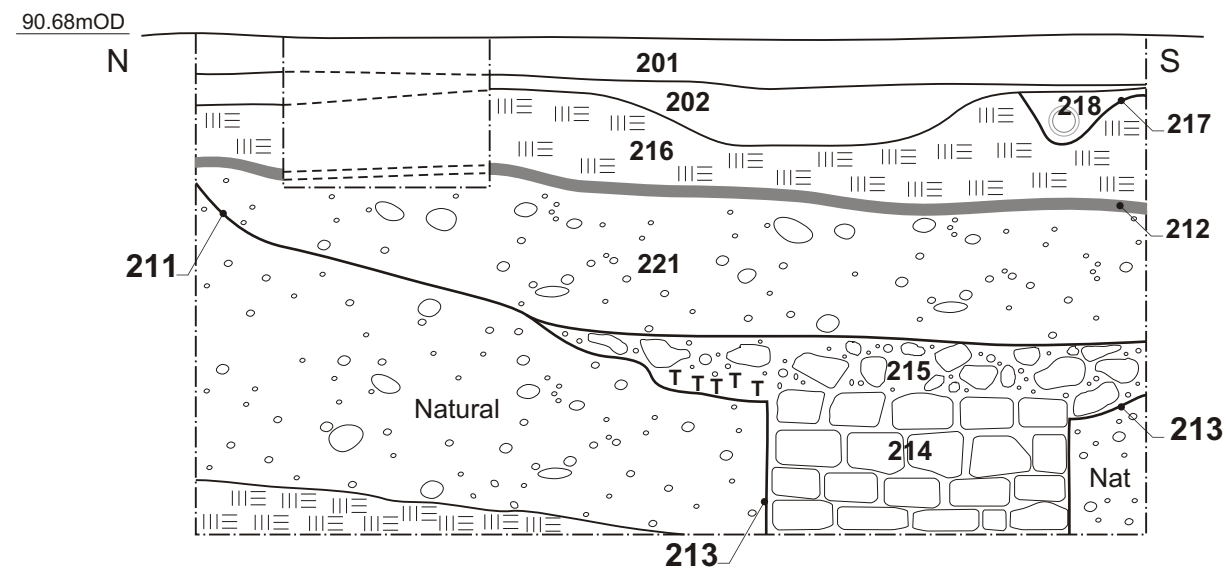
Section 4 - Watching Brief Area



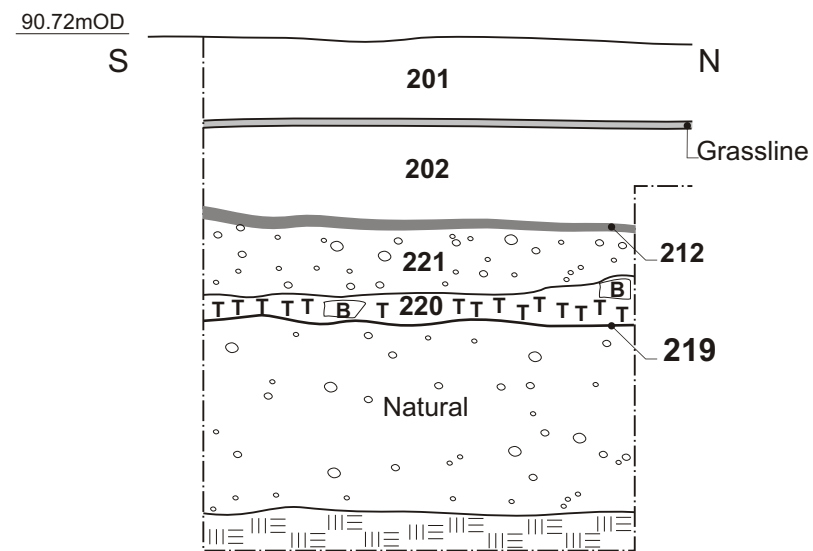
Section 5 - Watching Brief Area



Section 6 - Watching Brief Area



Section 7 - Watching Brief Area



Section 8 - Watching Brief Area

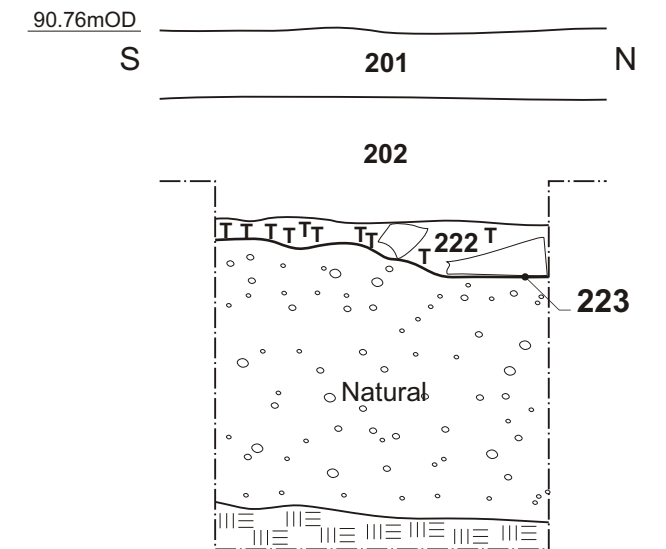




Plate 1: General view of Trench1, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 1, Section 1, ditch [116], foundation cut [109], pit [107], looking north



Plate 3: Trench 1, Section 2, ditch [116], pit [105], looking south



Plate 4: Red sandstone block from Trench 1



Plate 5: General view of watching brief area, note the square concrete base for temporary buildings centre right of photo, looking south-west



Plate 6: Watching brief, Section 3, wall (205), looking east



Plate 7: Watching brief, Section 5, pit [209], looking north



Plate 8: Watching brief, Section 6, wall (214), looking north