

Archaeological watching brief at 9 Church Farm Court, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire



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Archaeological Watching Brief at 9 Church Farm Court, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire

Graham Arnold

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 9 Church Farm Court, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3406 4450). It was undertaken on behalf of Paula Stevenson (the Client), who intends the demolition of part of an existing bungalow and erection of replacement two and single storey extensions to form a house at 9 Church Farm Court, Tysoe. Planning permission has been granted, subject to conditions including the requirement of a programme of archaeological works. Recent archaeological works in an adjacent plot revealed archaeological remains of Romano-British and post-medieval date.

Footings for the new outline of the building were excavated under archaeological supervision to the south and east of the property. The trenches were between 1.00m and 1.20m in depth. Natural deposits with modern truncations, including services and a concrete pad were observed with no significant archaeology noted.

Report

1 Background

1.1 Reasons for the project

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at 9 Church Farm Court, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire (NGR SP 3406 4450). It was commissioned by Paula Stevenson (the client), who intends to carry out the demolition of part of an existing bungalow and erection of replacement two and single storey extensions to form a house at 9 Church Farm Court, Tysoe, for which planning permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council (reference 14/01273/FUL). Permission was granted subject to conditions including a programme of archaeological works.

No brief was prepared but correspondence with Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Council confirmed the requirement for a watching brief and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2014) was submitted and approved.

The project conforms to the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

The event reference for this project will be provided by the Warwickshire HER on the deposition of this report and site archive. The Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service internal project reference used is P4432.

2 Aims

The aims of this watching brief are:

- to describe and assess the significance of the heritage asset with archaeological interest;
- to establish the nature, importance and extent of the archaeological site;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site.

3 Methods

3.1 Personnel

The project was undertaken by Graham Arnold (BA, MSc); who joined Worcestershire Archaeology in 2009 and has been practicing archaeology since 2002. The project manager responsible for the quality of the project was Tom Rogers (BA, MSc). Illustrations were prepared by Carolyn Hunt (BA, MifA).

3.2 Documentary research

Prior to fieldwork commencing a search was made of the Historic Environment Record (HER). A DBA was carried out as part of a Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement (GPA 2003) on land to the north of the property, with a later geophysical survey (Sabin and Donaldson 2013) on the same site.

3.3 List of sources consulted

Documentary sources

Published and grey literature sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Fieldwork strategy

A detailed specification has been prepared by Worcestershire Archaeology (WA 2014).

Fieldwork was undertaken between 3 December 2014 and 4 December 2014. The site reference number for Worcestershire Archaeology Project code is P4432 and the event reference for this project will be provided by the Warwickshire HER on the deposition of this report and site archive.

Two trenches, amounting to just over 14m² in area were excavated as the groundworks for the site. The location of the trenches is indicated in Figure 2.

Deposits considered not to be significant were removed using a 360° tracked excavator, employing a toothless bucket and under archaeological supervision. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well-differentiated archaeological deposits. Deposits were recorded according to standard Worcestershire Archaeology practice (WA 2012). An area covered by a large modern concrete slab was opened to reveal its extent and left to be broken out with machinery. Natural undisturbed clay was observed either side of the concrete truncations.

3.5 Structural analysis

All fieldwork records were checked and cross-referenced. Analysis was effected through a combination of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence, allied to the information derived from other sources.

3.6 Statement of confidence in the methods and results

The methods adopted allow a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

4 The application site

4.1 Topography, geology and archaeological context

The area of investigation lies within a large flat valley basin with the ground rising imperceptibly towards the hills to the east.

The underlying geology is mapped as the Charmouth Mudstone formation dating to approximately 183 to 197 million years ago in the Jurassic period (BGS 2014) and although no superficial geology is mapped, the overlying soils are noted as the Denchworth association which are pelostagnogleys. These comprise slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged clay soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

An archaeological evaluation of the land to the north of the site was undertaken by Worcestershire Archaeology in 2014 (Webster 2014), following an earlier Historic Environment and Archaeological Statement (GPA 2003). The evaluation targeted anomalies found during a magnetometer survey undertaken by Archaeological Surveys Limited (Sabin and Donaldson 2013). The evaluation recorded evidence of preserved post-medieval ridge and furrow and a rubble wall and surface were uncovered. Romano-British field boundary ditches were also found during these works.

4.2 Current land-use

The site was formerly an overgrown garden with dumps of material and rough ground to the east; and a footpath along the southern frontage of the existing property.

5 Structural analysis

The trenches and features recorded are shown in Figure 2. The results of the structural analysis are presented in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural deposits

The natural substrate was recorded across the entire investigation area and comprised mottled silty clays that are typical of seasonal glacial melt and retreat that are often found in former moraine landscapes (Benn and Evans 2002). A gleyed blue grey clay was beneath this (Plate 2) with the water table at c. 1.10m below ground level. This was overlain by a subsoil and topsoil in the east (Trench 1) and modern deposits on the south side (Trench 2).

5.1.2 Phase 2: modern deposits

The natural deposits were truncated by a modern soak away trench (Plate 3) in the southeast (Trench 1) and a service trench supplying the existing building with electricity and water supplies in the western limit of Trench 2 (Plate 4). A thick concrete pad, up to 0.40m in thickness, with iron

reinforcements was observed over a large area of trench 2. This was presumed to be a 20th Century hard standing related to the previous agricultural use of the area (Plate 4).

6 Synthesis

Only modern intrusions and natural deposits were observed during the groundworks for this site. This demonstrates that the Romano-British and post-medieval activity relating to agriculture found previously to the north of the site do not extend into the area affected in this development.

7 Publication summary

Worcestershire Archaeology has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, Worcestershire Archaeology intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

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8 Acknowledgements

Worcestershire Archaeology would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Donald and Paula Stevenson (the Client), Anna Stocks and John Robinson, Planning Archaeologist and Assistant Planning Archaeologist, Archaeological Information and Advice, for Warwickshire County Council.

9 Bibliography

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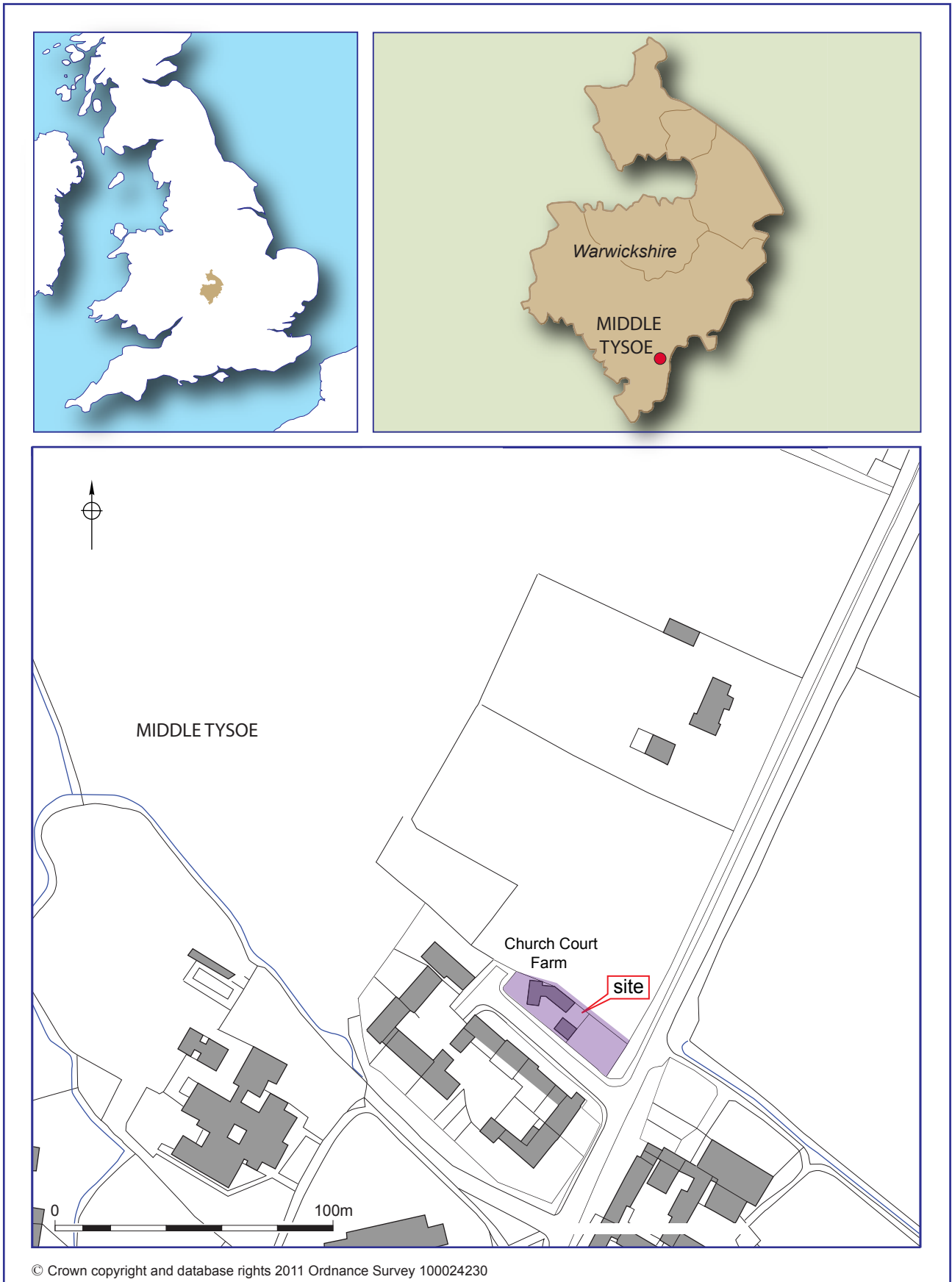
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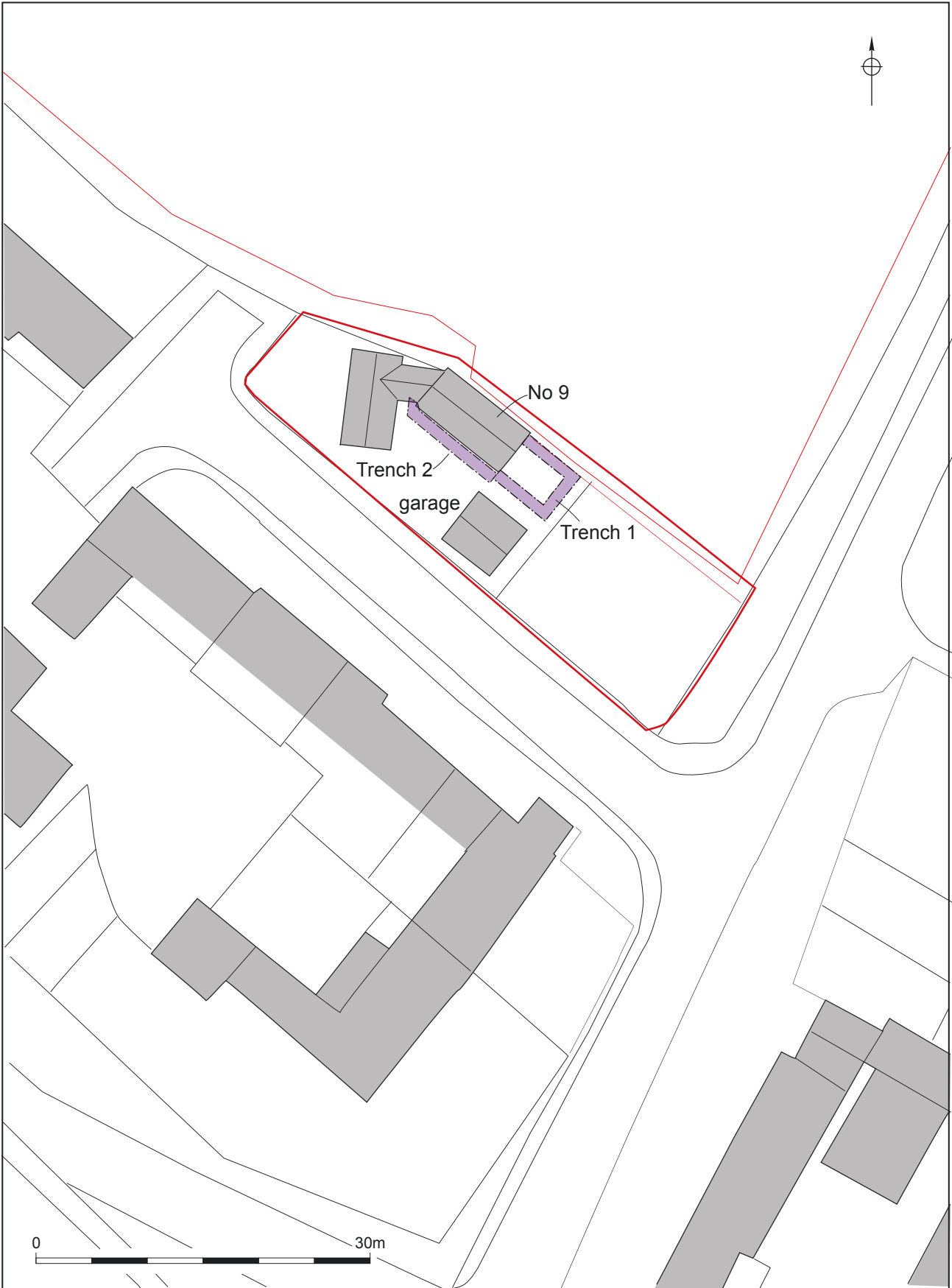
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Figures



Location of the site

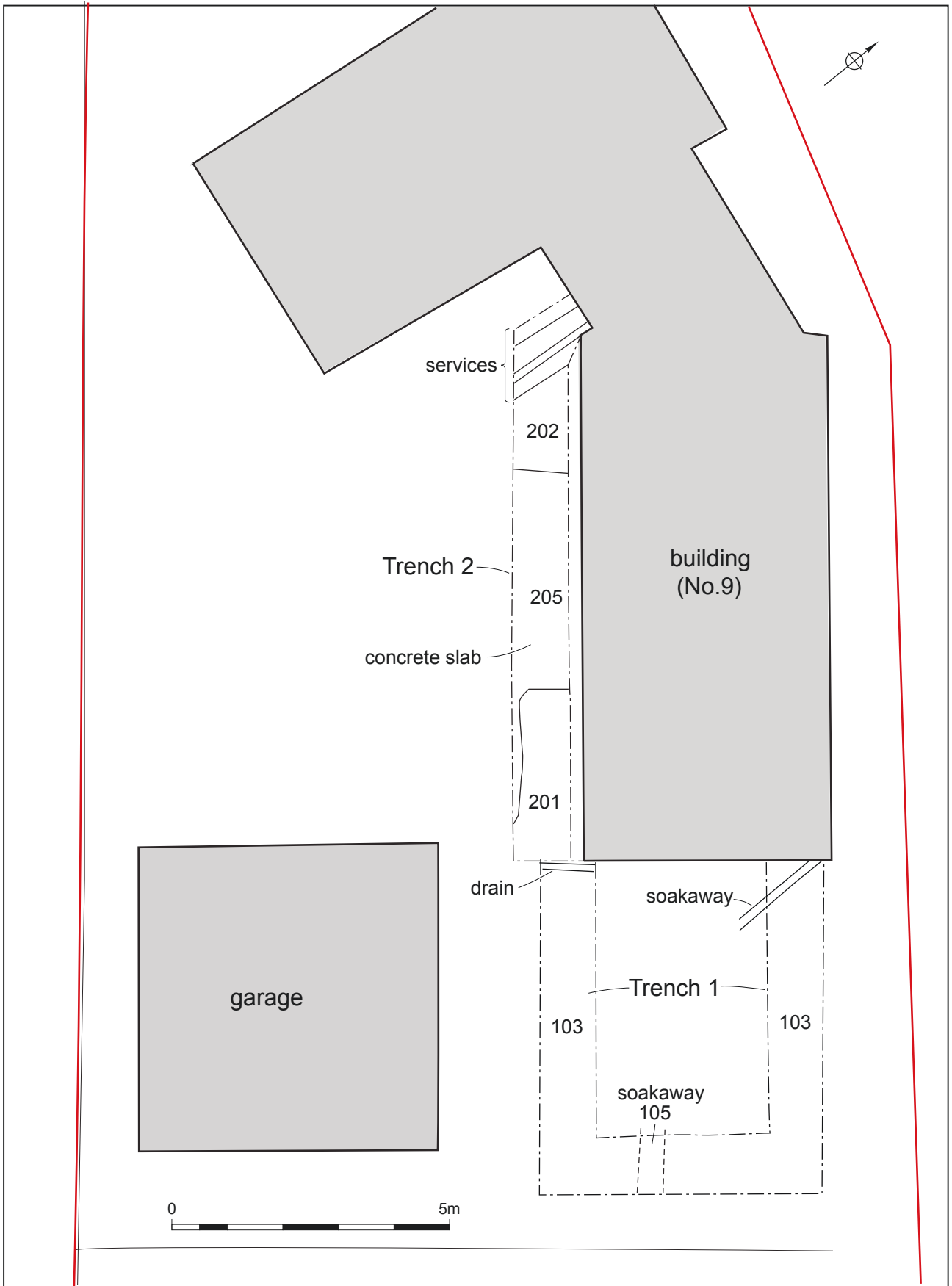
Figure 1



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Trench location plan

Figure 2



Trench plan

Figure 3

Plates



Plate 1: General shot of area looking northwest



Plate 2: Sample of southwest facing section of trench 1 stratigraphic deposits



Plate 3 Modern soak away trench in Trench 1, backfilled with plastic and rubble. View southeast.



Plate 4 Trench 2 view southeast showing concrete hard standing block and service trench for electric, BT and water connections.

Appendix 1 Trench descriptions

Trench 1

Site area: Extension East of property

Maximum dimensions: Length: 6.10m + 5.20m Width: 0.60m Depth: 1.00 – 1.20m

Orientation: U –shaped foundation trench N-S with two E - W spurs

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
100	Topsoil	Humeric friable dark greyish brown silty sand. Highly disturbed by root actions from large frequent roots	+ 0.20 – 0.10m
101	Subsoil	Firm mid orangey brown silty clay with moderate sub-rounded and rounded gravels and occasional roots	0.10 – 0.30m
102	Natural	Firm light greyish yellow clay	0.30 – 1.00m
103	Natural	Firm blueish grey gleyed clay with moderate rounded pebbles and occasional fossils (Belemnites and bivalves)	0.80 – 1.20m +
104	Fill of modern soak away	Modern backfill of soak away pipe trench including plastics and rubble	0 – 0.80m
105	Cut of modern soak away	U-shaped service trench for modern soak away. 0.80m in width.	0 – 0.80m

Trench 2

Site area: Trench along southern side of property

Maximum dimensions: Length: 9.50m Width: 0.60m Depth: 0.90m

Orientation: East - West

Main deposit description

Context	Classification	Description	Depth below ground surface (b.g.s) – top and bottom of deposits
200	Stone chippings and footpath surface	Modern surfacing for property entrance and bedding for stone slab footpath	0 – 0.10m
201	Natural	Firm light greyish yellow clay	0.10m – 0.80m
202	Natural	Firm blueish grey gleyed clay with moderate rounded pebbles	0.80 – 0.90m
203	Fill of modern service trench	Pea grit, sand and rubble backfill of service trench for water and electric cables	0.05 – 0.90m +
204	Cut of service trench	Modern electric cable and water pipe trench	0.05 – 0.90m+
205	Concrete slab	4.00m across trench. Concrete hard standing with reinforced iron overlaying natural clay 201	0.05 – 0.45m

Appendix 2 Technical information

The archive

The archive consists of:

- 1 Field progress reports AS2
- 1 Photographic records AS3
- 36 Digital photographs
- 1 Drawing number catalogues AS4
- 1 Scale drawings
- 2 Trench record sheets AS41
- 1 CD-Rom/DVDs
- 1 Copy of this report (bound hard copy)

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Warwickshire Museum
The Butts
Warwick Warwickshire, CV34 4SS
Tel. Warwick (01926) 412500
