

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
BRIEF AT STATION HOUSE,
WESTERN WAY, DYMOCK,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Simon Sworn

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

22nd March 2004

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Project 2503
Report 1242

Archaeological watching brief at Station House, Western Way, Dymock, Gloucestershire

Simon Sworn

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Allen Moore
<i>Site address</i>	Station House, Western Way, Dymock Gloucestershire SO 69885 31135
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	SO 69885 31135
<i>Planning authority</i>	Gloucestershire County Council
<i>Brief</i>	GCC 2004a
<i>Project design</i>	GCC 2004b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999

Previous archaeological work on the site

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

The village of Dymock straddles the B4215, which follows the course of the Roman road from Gloucester to Stretton Grandison. The natural geology consists of well drained reddish fine silty soils over shale and siltstone (Mackney *et al* 1983).

Station House lies only approximately 100m from the centre of the village. Various archaeological finds are on record relating to a Romano-British settlement at Dymock (SMR 5351). Over the years numerous finds of Roman material have been found including a human burial, discovered in c.1900, that was found with a denarius of Caransins near the skull. Furthermore, Roman-British pottery has also been found in the churchyard and under the main street (SMR 14047). Excavations by the Malvern Research Group have revealed floors and foundations of both stone and timber buildings from the Roman period along with material finds that range in date from the Claudian (mid 1st century AD) period through to the 3rd century (McWhirr, 1986, 69).

Close to Station House, near to the location of the existing railway bridge under the Kempley road a cobbled surface with associated Roman buff pottery and iron slag was discovered when the original road line was re-established after the closure of the railway line (SMR 14404). Also to the north of Station House five bronze coins, identified as Roman were discovered in 1932 in the bank of the old canal (SMR 14044), unfortunately these are now lost. At Bayfield, c. 150m to the north-west, a complete Roman funerary pot along with many varied fragments of pottery was found in 1938 (SMR 14045)

The site lies 200 meters south-west from St Mary's church (SMR 5360), which contains what may be the remnants of an earlier Anglo-Saxon church.

To the immediate south of the site is the course of the former Ledbury to Gloucester railway line (SMR 5893), which ran along the route of the existing Hereford to Gloucester Canal. The line opened in 1885 and closed to passenger traffic in 1959 and to goods traffic in 1964. Little now remains of Dymock Station (SMR 5893/6), the site now being occupied by a new housing estate, but the bridge under the Kempley road (SMR 5894) and the converted engine shed (SMR 5863/7) survive.

Aims

The aim of the watching brief was to observe and record archaeological deposits and to determine their extent, state of preservation, date and type.

Methods

General specification for watching brief	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	SMR 1 st Edition OS Map (1880)
Date(s) of fieldwork	22 nd March 2004
Area of deposits observed	c 12m ² . Indicated on Fig 3
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Foundations length 17m width 0.80-0.85m depth 0.9m

Statement of confidence

Observation of the footing trenches was undertaken during and after machine excavation. Excavation was undertaken using a 360 degree tracked mini-digger using 800mm toothed bucket. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well differentiated archaeological deposits. Access to the trenches was possible and selected areas were cleaned to confirm the depth and nature of the deposits present. Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Type Colour Texture	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth (OD or below ground level)
001	Friable dark brown silty sand	A relatively thin topsoil layer		Topsoil	0-0.1m
002	Friable mid-light brown silty clay	Occasional sand		Subsoil	0-0.9m
003	Well compacted light reddish beige silty sand	Very few small sub-angular pebble inclusions		Natural	0.9m+
004	Loose mid-dark brown silty clay	Small stone and sand inclusions, also charcoal/clinker and modern artefacts	Modern	Fill of Pit/Garden Feature containing 19 th – 20 th flower pot fragments and modern glass	0.1-0.45m
005	Steep concave-sided and flat bottomed feature, filled by 004	Partially exposed, visible in south-east corner of trench	Modern	Pit/Garden Feature Cut	0.1-0.45m

Discussion

Following a thorough inspection of the groundworks made during the course of the project, the only real archaeological feature was probably a garden feature dating from the modern period. The development seems to have had no impact on any existing archaeology. Extensive Roman pottery scatters and crop marks have been observed close to the site, but there appears to be no settlement of any description at this location.

Conclusions

There appears to be no significant archaeology on this site, which might be true of this section of the village, further work in this area may confirm this. Although Dymock has yielded a variety of features and artefacts of archaeological interest, they appear to be located towards the centre of the village, to the north and east.

Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service 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.

A watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Allen Moore at Station House, Western Way, Dymock, Gloucestershire (NGR 69885 31135). The watching brief was conducted within the garden to the south of Station House. The area had moderate potential for the existence of important archaeology, being situated within Dymock's Roman settlement area. The groundworks for the proposed development were observed and revealed and that no significant archaeology was present. The single feature identified was a possible garden feature of modern date.

Archive

Context records AS1	3
Fieldwork progress records AS2	1
Photographic records AS3	1
Digital photographs	17
Drawings	4
Boxes of finds	Discarded

The project archive is intended to be placed at:

Worcestershire County Museum
Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury
Near Kidderminster
Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
01299 250416

telephone

Acknowledgements

The Service would like to thank the following for their kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, Allen Moore, Angela Wadley and Charles Parry.

Bibliography

CAS 1995 (as amended) *Manual of Service practice: fieldwork recording manual*, County Archaeological Service, Hereford and Worcester County Council, report, **399**

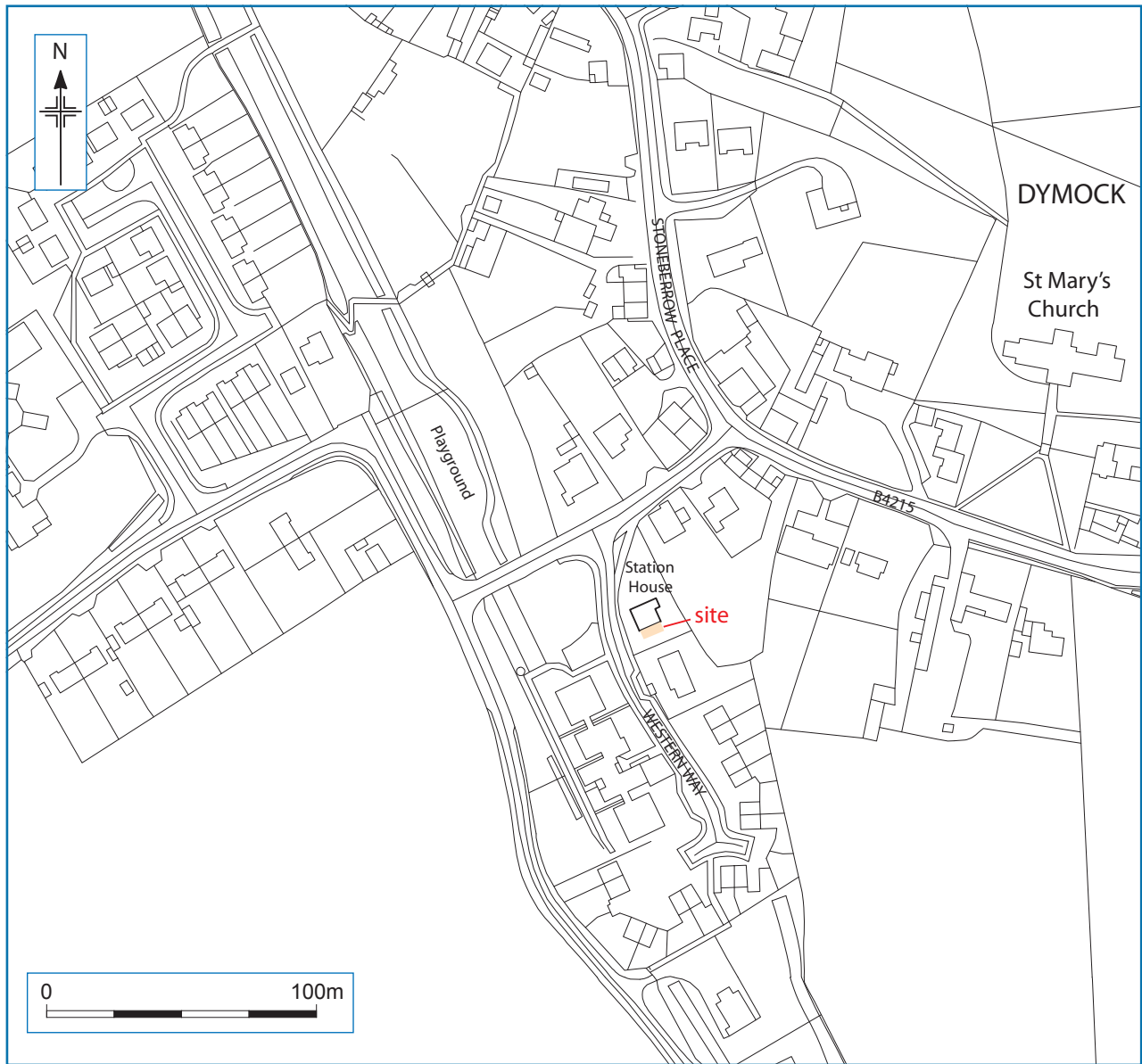
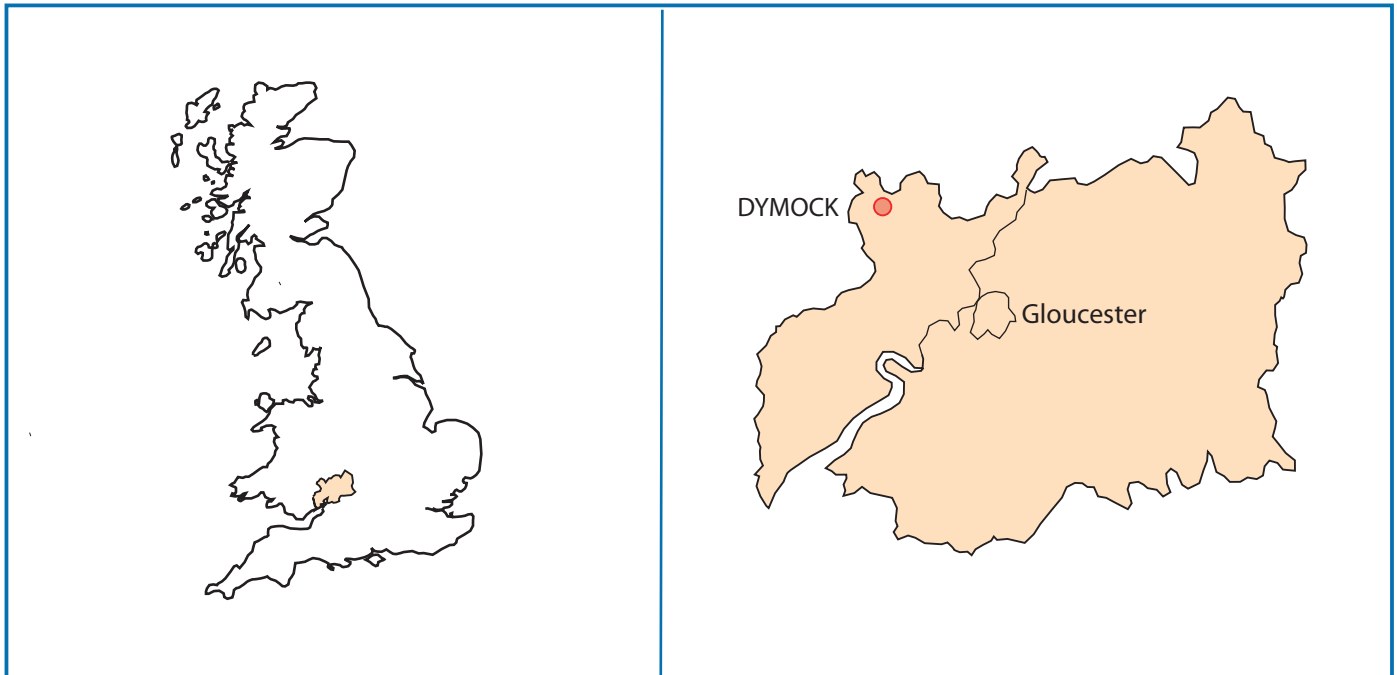
GCC 2004a *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at Station House, Western Way, Dymock, Gloucestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 12th January 2004, **P2503**

GCC 2004 *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at Station House, Western Way, Dymock, Gloucestershire*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 26th January 2004, **P2503**

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Mackney, D, Hodgson, J M, Hollis, J M, and Staines, S J, 1983. *Soils of England and Wales*, Soil Survey of England and Wales, 3

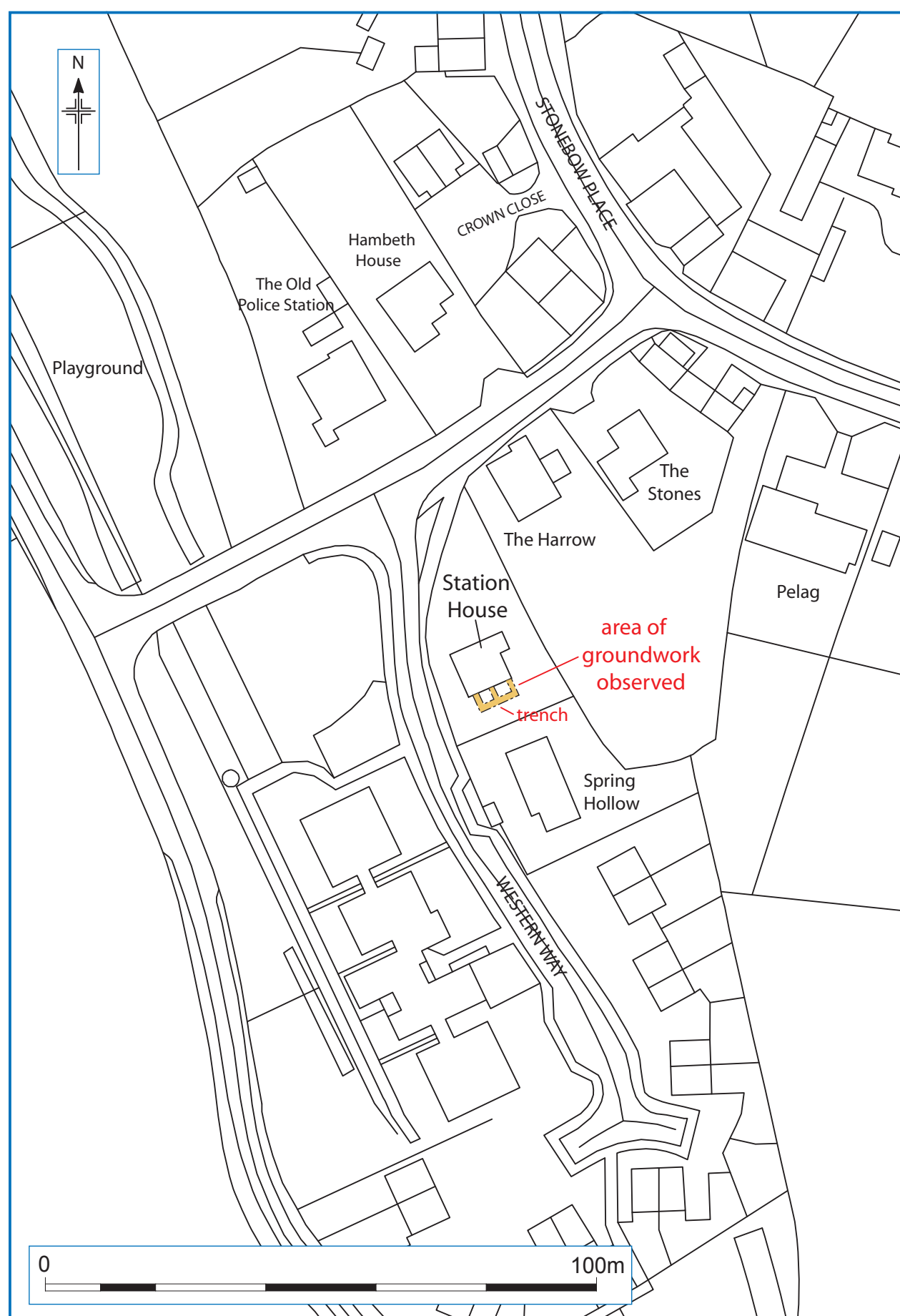
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Location of the site.

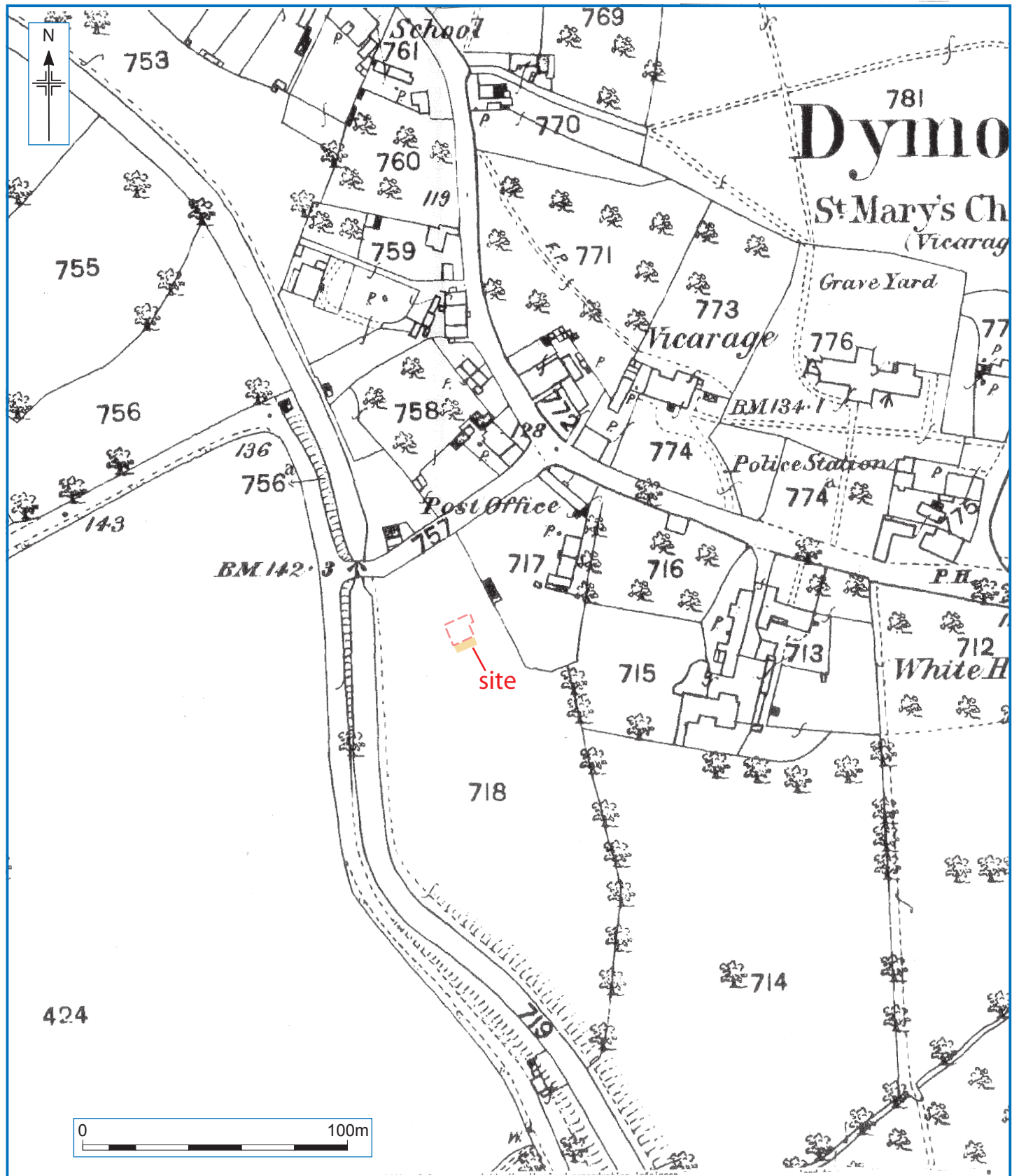
Figure 1



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Location of groundworks observed.

Figure 2



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Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey (1880).

Figure 4



Plate 1: Commencing groundworks



Plate 2: Feature 005 in section, facing south



Plate 3: General view of groundworks, facing south-west