

JOHN MOORE HERITAGE SERVICES

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION**

**AT 28 CROCKWELL STREET,**

**LONG COMPTON**

**WARWICKSHIRE**

**NGR SP 2871 3321**

*On behalf of*

*Mark Gascoyne*

**JULY 2010**

**REPORT FOR** Mr Mark Gascoyne  
28 Crockwell St  
Long Compton  
Warwickshire  
CV36 5JN

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## **Summary**

*John Moore Heritage Services carried out a watching brief and evaluation at 28 Crockwell St, Long Compton. The remains of a former side-building were observed. No other archaeology was present, although 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from build-up outside the house.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site location (Figure 1)**

The site is located on the south side of Crockwell Street at NGR SP 2871 3321 in the parish of Long Compton.

### **1.2 Planning Background**

Planning permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon Borough Council for the erection of a single storey extension to the south elevation, two storey side extension at 28/29 Crockwell Street, Long Compton (07/03183/FUL). The proposed development lies within an area of significant archaeological potential. A condition of the planning permission required, before the development commenced, that the applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which had been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. This is in line with PPG 16. Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist prepared a Brief for the work. A *Written Scheme of Investigation* proposing the methodology by which the archaeological evaluation was to be carried out by John Moore Heritage Services to satisfy the requirements of the Brief was agreed with Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist and the client.

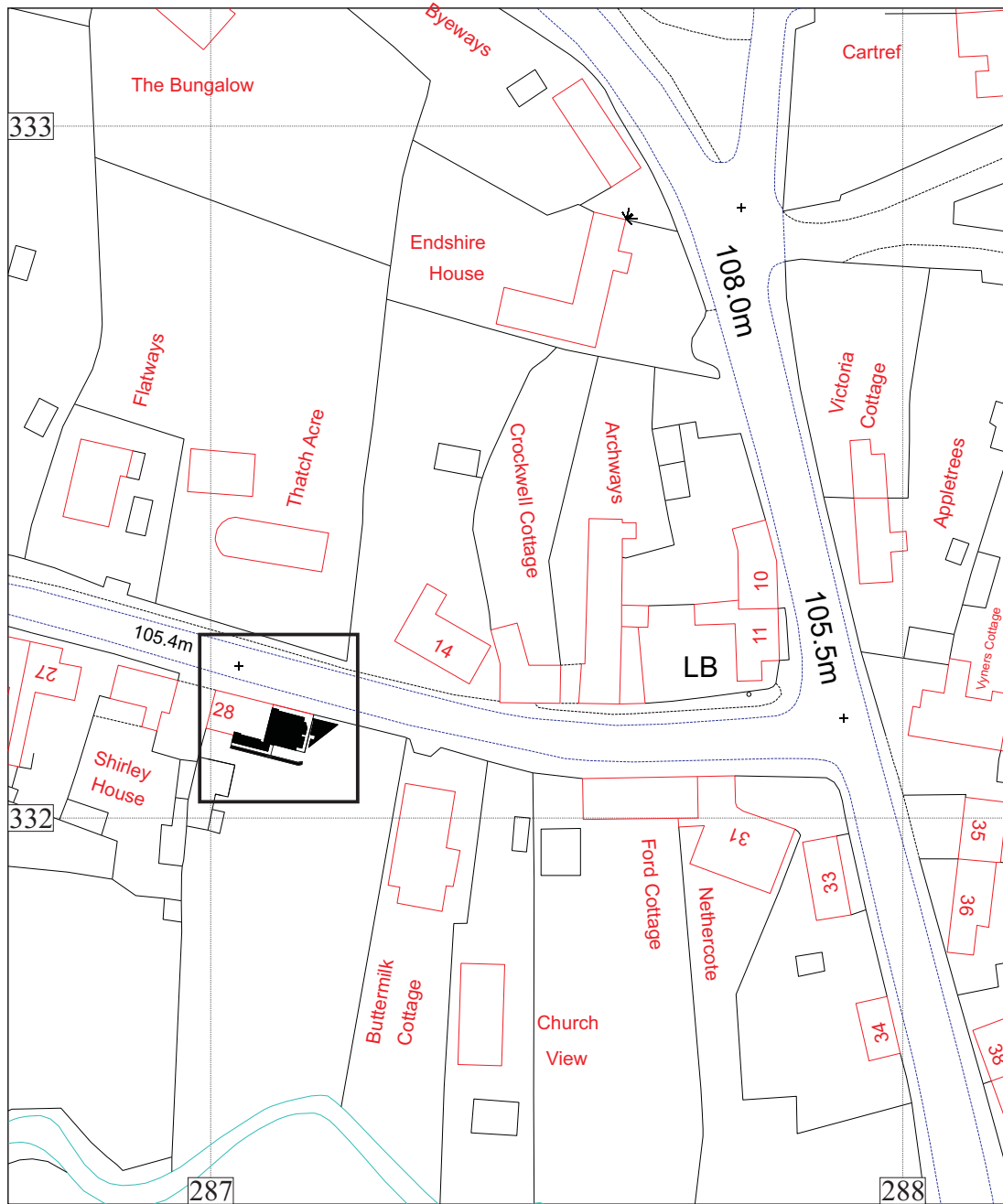
### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

The proposed development is located in an area of archaeological potential, within the probable extent of the medieval settlement at Long Compton (MWA 8968). Number 28&29 Crockwell Street is a grade II listed building (DWA 3394) dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This area contains several other listed properties of a similar date including a further two on Crockwell Street (DWA 1989 & 2984) as well as a drinking fountain (MWA 3803).

Roman pottery and a coin (MWA 5271) were found roughly 200m to the south of the site. Further 4<sup>th</sup> century coins were found 200m to the south of the site (MWA 2383) and 150m to southwest (MWA 2382).

Harrow Hill lies approximately 500m to the north of the site and is recorded as the possible site for an Anglo-Saxon temple or shrine (MWA 2380).

In 1086 Geoffrey de Mandeville held Long Compton. It was an important manor, being rated at 30 hides, and had been held in the Confessor's reign by Asgar the Staller. Hubert de Burgh in 1231 obtained a grant of a market on Monday and a fair



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0 50 m

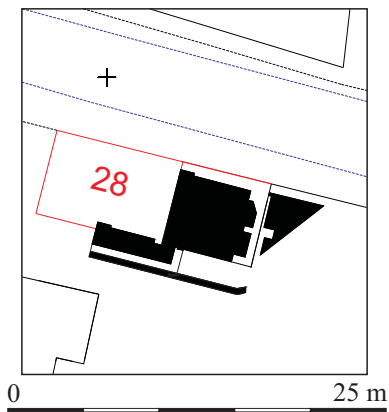


Figure 1. Site location

on the eve, day, and morrow of Saints Peter and Paul. A watermill is mentioned in 1272 (VCH 1949).

By 1285 the manor was split into two moieties both being treated as independent manors. It was not until about 1600 that the Earl of Northampton acquired the two moieties which continued in the same hands, though distinguished separately, until about 1820 (VCH 1949).

The Parish Church of Saints Peter and Paul (MWA 2367) is located approximately 200m to the south of the site. It incorporates elements of 12<sup>th</sup> century date, but with considerable alterations over the centuries and is grade I listed. Approximately 100m to the west of the church is the site of the medieval moated manor house (MWA 2370 & 5269), and its' associated fishpond (MWA 5270). The site was the subject of a geophysical survey in 2005 (EWA 9346).

Coins and a seal matrix (MWA 5980) dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century were found 400m to the northwest of the site and finds of medieval pottery 350m to the south (MWA 2375).

Evidence for ridge and furrow agricultural practices are noted in the majority of the fields surrounding Long Compton. The common lands of the parish, to the extent of 2,300 acres, were inclosed by an Act of 1811 (VCH 1949).

An archaeological watching roughly 100m to the east at 40 Main Street (EWA 6794) did not locate any archaeological features. Another 400m to the south recorded three post-medieval pits (MWA 7269).

The earliest map accessed at the Warwickshire Record Office was an estate map of 1812. The Lord Northampton Estate map was a photographic reproduction of the original. The scale was not recorded, but was not quite 6" to the mile. Additionally, the quality of the reproduction – and perhaps indeed the original map – meant that it was not possible to ascertain precisely the extent of what fronted onto Crockle Street (now Crockwell Street). The field where the current properties are located is clearly shown, but the extent of any buildings was unclear; this map shows the field where the current properties are located as extending from Crockwell Street to Nethercote Brook, crossed by Craw Bridge to east.

There was no map available for consultation for the Inclosure Award.

The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1884 6" to 1 mile and the OS 1885 25" to 1 mile both show the proposed development area as it is today, located within the northern half of the field, fronting onto Crockwell Street. This was also shown unchanged on the OS 1921 6" to 1 mile map. Although the area behind the property bordering with Nethercote Brook was divided in to two roughly equal areas on the OS 1<sup>st</sup> Ed 1884, this is not depicted on modern maps, but is visible on satellite images.

## **2 AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION**

The aims of the investigation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation were as follows:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site.
- To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the impact of the proposed development on any remains present.

### **3 STRATEGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

In response to a Brief issued by Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist JMHS carried out the work, which comprised the monitoring of the excavation of footings and reduction of ground-level within 28 Crockwell St, and the excavation of a single evaluation trench at the east gable end of 28 Crockwell St (Fig. 1).

Site procedures for the investigation and recording of potential archaeological deposits and features were defined in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* agreed with Warwickshire Museum's Planning Archaeologist. The work was carried out in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

#### **3.2 Methodology**

The investigation involved the mechanical excavation of footing trenches and a single evaluation trench by a 3-tonne excavator equipped with a ditching bucket, supplemented by hand investigation of the revealed deposits. Limited ground-reduction was carried out within 28 Crockwell St was carried out by hand under archaeological supervision.

Site procedures carried out followed the requirements of the Warwickshire Museum's Brief and was in accordance with standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008, 2008a) and the principles of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991).

### **4 RESULTS**

#### **4.1 Field Results**

All deposits and features were assigned individual context numbers. Context numbers without brackets indicate features i.e. pit cuts; while numbers in ( ) show feature fills or deposits of material. All contexts numbers are preceded by trench number and /.

#### **Watching Brief (Fig. 2 & 3)**

Excavation within the building came down onto red brown gravelly sand and grey brown clay (002), which represented the natural. Externally this was more yellow in colour. This deposit was seen from the south face of the front wall of the building

into the yard to the rear. Internally this deposit was overlain by dark grey brown compacted silty clay with comminuted CBM and charcoal flecking throughout (001). The base of this deposit was slightly undulating (S.4).

Externally, to the rear of the building, the natural (002) was overlain by grey brown silty sand with coal fragments and charcoal flecking, slate and unidentifiable CBM fragments (005) (S. 1, S.2 & S.3). Pottery was recovered from this layer of domestic indicating a date after the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A more recent service trench (003)/004 cut the deposit (005) (S.1). These were sealed by compacted light grey brown silt and gravel (006), located immediately to the south of the building.

### **Evaluation Trench (Figs. 2 & 3)**

The evaluation trench, which due to site constraints was triangular, was located east of the east gable end of 28 Crockwell St and measured 4.2m by 3.4m, yielding a square meterage of c. 7.1m<sup>2</sup>.

The trench was machined to yellow sandy clay and gravel (101), which was the natural. A small, squared, posthole 106 cut the natural (101) and was filled with soft, dark grey brown silty clay loam (105) (S.5). Set onto the natural (101) was an irregularly set group of mortared stones 103, which probably represents a lintel. To the south, stone 102 representing the south wall of a building was just barely revealed. This wall was butted by a metalled surface of small stone (104) tamped into the top of (101), which showed traces of scorching, as well as coal in the centre of the trench; repair of (104) was evidenced by tarmac patching (108). Two, unrelated, dumps of mortar (107) and (109), the former grey with much small irregular stone, the latter a soft yellow white mortar, overlay (104). The mortar dump (109) overlay the patching (108). All deposits were sealed by topsoil (100.)

### **4.3 Reliability of Techniques and Results**

The reliability of results is considered to be good. The archaeological evaluation took place in clement conditions.

## **5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS**

### **5.1 Pottery by Jenny Winnett**

Two sherds of pottery were recovered from context (005), weighing 7g in total. This assemblage consists of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century domestic ceramic food related types. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a *terminus post quem*.

A single piece of blue transfer printed whiteware weighing 3g was identified as being from a flatware vessel, such as a plate or saucer. The transfer print pattern was unidentifiable. This sherd can be attributed to type MGW of the Warwickshire medieval and post-medieval type series (Ratkai and Soden in archive), refined white earthenwares.

Context (005) also contained a single rim/body sherd of English hard paste porcelain weighing 4g. The sherd was probably from a small hollow vessel, such as a tea



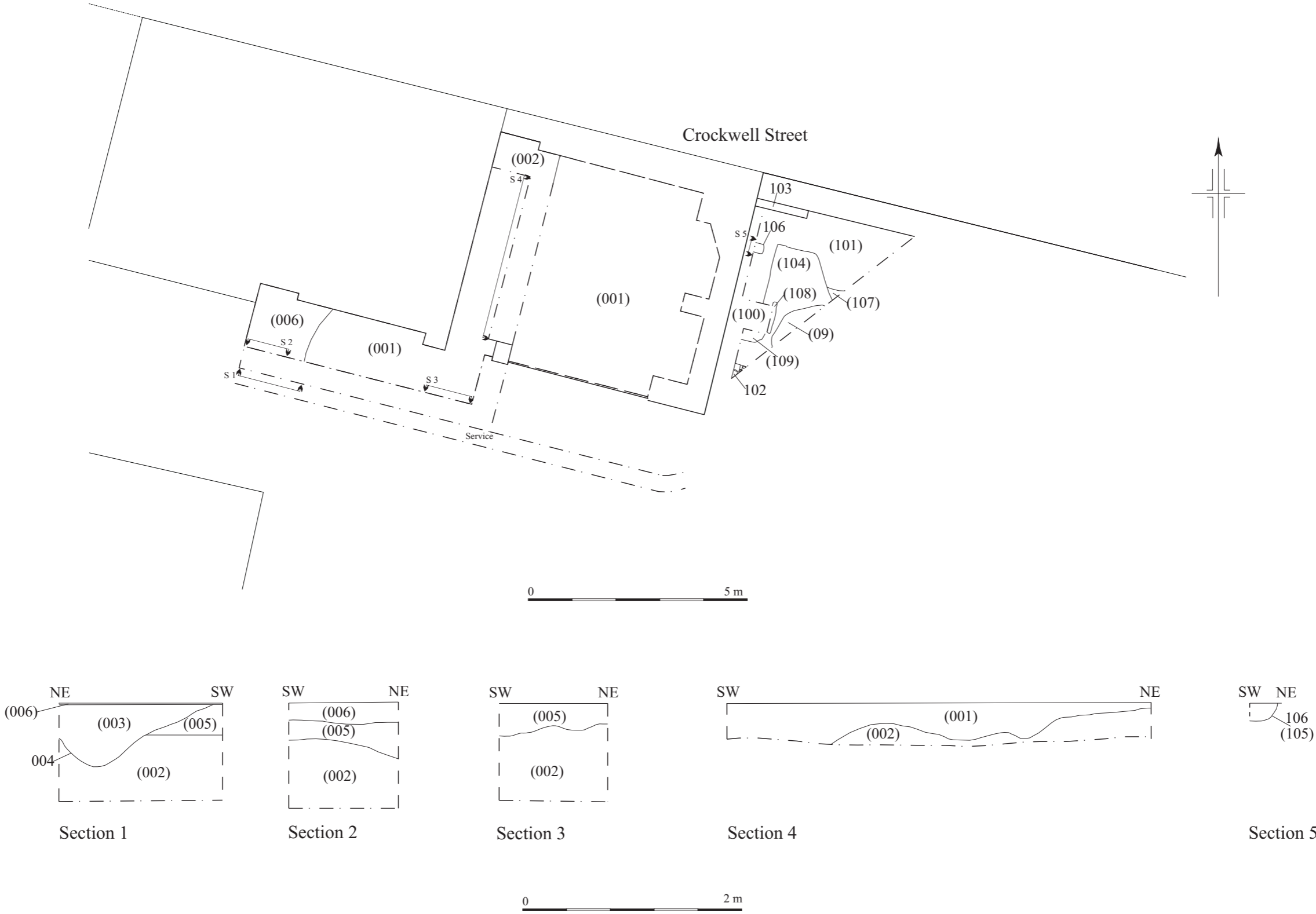


Figure 2. Plan and sections of Watching Brief and Evaluation Trench



Figure 3. Evaluation trench looking north



Figure 4. Evaluation trench looking south



Figure 5. Historic photograph of 28 Crockwell St showing side-building and access on left hand side

cup, and was largely undecorated excepting a thin overglaze painted red band around the interior rim.

Cntxt	No	Wt	Warwickshire medieval and post- medieval type series number	Date
(005)	1	3	MGW	c. 1800 +
(005)	1	4		C. 1820 +
Total	2	7		

*Table 1: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type*

## 5.2 Environmental Remains

No environmental samples were taken as the potential of the deposits was not felt to be sufficient to warrant sampling.

## 6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

The watching brief revealed a limited amount of build-up internally and externally to the rear of 28 Crockwell St. No archaeological features were observed, and no finds were recovered from the exposed surface. This may well indicate that the ground-floor was boarded; however, as it had been used as a garage for a number of years previously it is possible that the laying of the garage floor removed any *in situ* deposits.

The evaluation revealed the remains of the building evidenced in the undated photograph (Fig. 5). The supposed lintel observed during the evaluation is more than likely that, as it accords with the location of the door of the former side-building. The wall observed at the south end of the trench is equally more than likely that south wall of the former side-building.

Internally, the floor surface was metallised indicative of a workspace rather than necessarily a living space. The photograph shows a single storey small side-building, which appears in the photograph to have extended only a short distance beyond the limits of the evaluation trench.

The results of the watching brief and evaluation revealed evidence for occupation activity post-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Ratkai S & Soden I, in archive Warwickshire medieval and post-medieval type series

**Appendix 1: Archaeological Context Inventory**

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Finds	Date	Interpretation
(100)	Layer	Loose, dark, grey brown silty sand loam	0.25	3.6	4.1	none		Topsoil
(101)	Layer	Compact, dirty, yellow sandy clay and gravel	Unk.	>3.6	>4.1	none		Natural
102	Wall	Stone wall; too little visible although good south face visible	0.05	>0.32	>0.37	none		South wall of side-building
103	Wall	Stone mortared together	0.05	>0.9	>0.2	none		Door lintel of side-building
(104)	Layer	Compact yellow brown silty clay and stone	0.1	>1.7	>1.7	none		Metalled surface
(105)	Fill	Soft dark grey brown silty clay loam	0.15	0.22	>0.22	none		Posthole fill
106	Cut	Roughly square, sharp BoS @ top, rounded at base, sides @ 90°, flat base	0.15	0.22	>0.22			Posthole
(107)	Layer	Soft, yellow, white mortar	0.04	>0.5	>0.8			Dump of mortar demolition
(108)	Layer	Tarmac	-.05	>0.08	>0.7	none	Modern	Tarmac patching of floor
(109)	Layer	Loose, grey mortar and small stone	0.12	>0.2	>0.5	none	Modern	Demolition dump of mortar