

46 Barton Road Market Bosworth Leicestershire

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



EXPERTISE WHERE YOU NEED IT

Archaeology Warwickshire Report No 2172
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*Working for
Warwickshire*

Project: 46 Barton Road Watching Brief
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Planning Reference: 19/01313/FUL
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Project Manager: Nigel Page MCIfA
Fieldwork: Dr Alexander Portch ACIfA
Author: Dr Alexander Portch ACIfA
Illustrations: Candy Stevens
Checked by: Nigel Page MCIfA
Approved by: Stuart Palmer MCIfA
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Please address enquiries to: Stuart C Palmer MCIfA



Chief Archaeologist & Delivery Lead

Archaeology Warwickshire

Hawkes Point

Hawkes Drive

Warwick

CV34 6LX

01926 412278

stuartpalmer@warwickshire.gov.uk

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/archaeology

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Clibow Ltd during ground reductions for a replacement dwelling at 46 Barton Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. The site is adjacent to a scheduled Roman villa, part of which has recently been excavated to the north and north-east.

The work established that the site was heavily truncated by quarrying in the late 19th/early 20th centuries and had subsequently been used as a rubbish dump during the first half of the 20th century.

Geological natural was only revealed in a machine-dug sondage excavated in the site's north-west corner where features provisionally identified as ditches are more likely to represent tree rooting and, potentially, earlier quarrying of unknown, but possibly Roman, date. No evidence for the villa was recorded.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council for the demolition of a bungalow and the erection of a replacement dwelling at 46 Barton Road, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, CV13 0LQ. The site is bounded to the east by the Scheduled remains of a Roman villa (*Roman foundations E of Barton Road*, National Heritage List for England No. 1005476), and recent archaeological investigations have revealed further evidence for the building and associated features to the north and north-east (Portch and Gethin 2021).
- 1.2 A condition of the planning permission required the applicant to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. Archaeology Warwickshire were commissioned to undertake a Watching Brief during the groundworks phase in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Planning Authority (Bradbury 2020). This report presents the results of that work.
- 1.3 The project archive will be stored at Leicester Museum under the accession number X.A44.2020. The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2020).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is centred on National Grid Reference SK 40561 03525, north of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire, in the parish of the same name. It is bounded by Barton Road to the west while to the east are the Scheduled remains of a Roman villa, further traces of which have also recently been found to the north and north-east. To the north and south are residential properties.
- 2.2 The site is underlain by mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member with superficial deposits comprising mid-Pleistocene glaciofluvial sand and gravel (BGS 2021).
- 2.3 At the commencement of archaeological monitoring the pre-existing bungalow had been demolished and the ground fronting Barton Road cleared to accommodate site welfare and vehicles (Photo 1). The site sloped steeply upwards from Barton Road to the boundary of the scheduled monument, which comprised a fence. Approximately 1.5m from the fence, within the former rear garden to No. 46, the ground dropped vertically by approximately 0.5m where a low wall had been constructed (Photo 2). This suggests at least part of the garden had previously been terraced into the hillside.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sources consulted

- 3.1 The baseline archaeological data for the area was presented in a Desk-Based Assessment by Archaeology Warwickshire (Rann 2014), and the salient aspects are summarised below, supplemented by more recently acquired data from several recent investigations in the area to the north of the site (Charles 2016; Gethin 2016; Palmer and Gethin 2017; Portch 2019; Gethin 2020; Portch and Gethin 2021).

Prehistoric

- 3.2 The earliest evidence for activity within the study area comprises a Bronze Age palstave (MLE 6355) identified at Bosworth Hall c.300m to the south-east of the site. A possible Iron Age spearhead (MLE 7943) was also found in a similar position. An Iron Age settlement site was excavated on the former cattle market in the centre of the village c.450m to the south of the site (MLE 8334). Several sherds of Iron Age pottery were also found during the excavation of the Roman villa, directly to the east of the site, suggesting the possibility of earlier occupation in this area.

Roman

- 3.3 As discussed above, in an area directly to the east of the site a Roman building (MLE 2924) thought to have been part of a villa complex, or other high status structure, was partly excavated in 1967 but the results were not published. The following year a group of amateur archaeologists excavated a test pit and found more Roman remains and recorded details of the previous year's excavations. One sketch plan indicates the area in which walls, a tessellated pavement and hypocaust system were revealed in 1967, in the garden to the north-east of the existing house. The extent of the Roman remains is not fully known but the site, and an area around it, is designated as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1006476).
- 3.4 Several archaeological investigations have taken place in the wider area in order to further investigate the Roman occupation. Clay objects which could be associated with the Scheduled Monument were recovered in Harcourt Spinney, c.60m to the north-west of the site in the 1970s (ELE 8596), and a watching brief in 2013 (ELE 8767) in a similar area found a Roman tegula (MLE 21016).

- 3.5 Since 2016, Archaeology Warwickshire has carried out evaluation and excavation work in the plot directly to the north of the site. Within the west of the plot an evaluation on the former tennis court found no Roman features and determined that the area had been truncated for construction of the tennis court (Gethin 2016).
- 3.6 In the east of the plot, in closer proximity to the Scheduled Monument, a further evaluation was undertaken in 2017. Although one trench revealed part of a quarry pit (MLE 24216) which had been partially backfilled with rubbish in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, in the north-east corner of the plot a series of Roman features including a spread of rubble, a pit and a gully (later found to be a robber trench), were identified. The area was subsequently excavated by Archaeology Warwickshire (Portch and Gethin 2021). Several rooms of a substantial Roman building were revealed, including one containing a hypocaust (MLE 22897) and another with *in situ* remains of a tessellated pavement. This structure would appear to be the north-west corner of the villa complex first located in 1967 with walls clearly continuing to the south. A series of Roman ditches were also exposed to the north and west of the structure.
- 3.7 An evaluation (Portch 2019) followed by an excavation (Gethin 2020) was also undertaken in an area to the south of no.48 Barton Road, and directly to the north-east of the site. A single large posthole containing several packing stones and a few Roman finds was excavated at the eastern end of the area. A small amount of the upper fill of a linear feature exposed in the previous evaluation was also examined, although this lay immediately outside of the area stripped. In addition to stone fragments, Roman pottery, tile, wall plaster and a single mosaic tessera were recovered from the feature. This suggests that it may have been a robber trench marking the line of a former Roman wall. This work exposed a few remains associated with the Roman villa to the north, partially excavated in 2017. The probable robber trench either belongs to the known villa building, hinting at its size, or indicates that there was more than one building forming the villa complex. It also implies that further Roman remains may extend beneath the existing house, within the Scheduled area to the east and within the current site to the south.

Early medieval and medieval

- 3.8 The site is located c. 50m to the north of the medieval core of Market Bosworth (MLE 2935), as identified by the Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record through historic mapping. As the name Market Bosworth suggests there was a

medieval market in the town and this was probably on the site of the current Market Place (MLE 2934).

- 3.9 An early 19th century source (Nichols 1811) suggested that a medieval chapel (MLE 2933) was located in an area c.10m to the north of the site due to visible foundations. These remains have not however been identified during the series of archaeological investigations in the plot to the north of the site and most probably relate to the foundations of the Roman villa rather than a medieval chapel.
- 3.10 The pale (MLE 2922) of a former medieval deer park, known as Old Park, lies c.100m to the north of the site. In the medieval period the site was most probably open fields situated in an area between Market Bosworth and the deer park, potentially in use for agricultural purposes.

Post-medieval and modern

- 3.11 An Act of Parliament in 1759-60 made Barton Road the toll road (MLE 20918) between Market Bosworth and Measham. The 1849 tithe map of Market Bosworth (Leicestershire Record Office Ti/214/1; Fig 2) depicts the western extent of the site as part of Barton Road. The central extent of the site is a plot numbered as 158 which appears to be wooded and the western part of the site forms part of a large un-numbered open area. The site likely was land associated with Bosworth Hall (MLE 12225; NHLE 1251547) which lies c. 250m to the south-east of the site. The hall dates to 1682 but was much altered between 1837 and 1850 and the 1880s.
- 3.12 Barton Road ceased to be a toll road in 1872. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig 3) depicts the site to the east of Barton Road. This area of the road appears to have been straightened and reduced in width by this date, with the site's western half persisting as part of an area of woodland and the eastern side being open ground.
- 3.13 By the date of the 1903 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 4) a gravel pit (MLE 24643) is depicted within the site. The site most probably remained in ownership of Bosworth Hall due to the open nature of the land to its east which was interspersed with trees.
- 3.14 By the date of the 1958 Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced) the extant building within the site had been constructed. Although land to the east of the Barton Road had begun to be divided into parcels the site was still at this date part of a much larger

parcel of land. The current site boundaries are depicted on the 1976 Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced) and the site appears to have altered little since this date.

4 AIMS AND METHODS

- 4.1 The main aim of the work was to record any significant archaeological deposits revealed by the development, to collate the fieldwork records into an archaeological archive and present the results of the fieldwork for dissemination.
- 4.2 An experienced archaeologist was present for each period of ground disturbance when notified by the client in accordance with the WSI. Where potential archaeological deposits were encountered, the supervising archaeologist assessed and recorded them before they were disturbed.
- 4.3 The observed work involved ground reduction across the footprint of the new building, which mostly reused the footprint of the demolished bungalow, in addition to a machine-dug sondage excavated by the contractor towards the site's north-west corner to test the depth and character of the geological natural. This sondage was located within the footprint of a proposed new garage.

5 RESULTS Fig 5

- 5.1 Geological natural was only revealed in the site's north-western corner within a machine-dug sondage. There it comprised at least eight layers of sand or silty sand (22, 23, 24, 26, 26, 27, 28, 29), corresponding with the glaciofluvial superficial deposits recorded by the BGS (2021).
- 5.2 Within the sondage features provisionally recorded as possible ditches (5, 6, 11), and associated fills and deposits (7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30) are more likely to represent a combination of tree rooting and ground make-up following quarrying (Photos 3, 4 and 5), as well as possible burrowing (9, 15). The deposits (31) exposed in the north-facing section, in particular, bear some resemblance to those revealed in a quarry pit excavated at No 48 Barton Road, to the north, which, on the basis of pottery and tegula, was dated to the Roman period (Charles 2016). In the absence of finds, though, no date can be assigned to the deposits in the sondage.
- 5.3 Across most of the site geological natural was not attained with ground reduction (Photo 6) revealing a sequence of early-mid 20th century dumping layers that had likely been deposited within a quarry which, on the basis of cartographic evidence (Figs 3 & 4), must have been created sometime between 1886 and 1903 (Photos 7 and 8). These included a light yellowish grey brown sandy silt (2) and dark greyish brown/black sandy silt (4), at least 0.3m thick, the latter sealing light yellowish grey brown sandy silt (3). All three deposits produced substantial quantities of early 20th century ceramic, glass and metal items, but due to ground contamination only a representative selection of these items were retained (Photo 9).
- 5.4 The quarry back-fill deposits were sealed beneath 0.4 – 0.5m of dark greyish brown, nearly black, sandy silty loam topsoil (1).

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological work at 46 Barton Road has demonstrated that the site has previously been extensively quarried and subsequently used as a repository for waste material and items. Consequently, any earlier archaeological features, should they have existed, must have been completely destroyed by such activity.
- 6.2 Ordnance Survey mapping suggests the quarry must have been created at some point between the publication of the 1st Edition map in 1886 and the 2nd Edition in 1903, with rubbish dumping probably commencing during the early-mid 20th century and ceasing prior to the construction of the original dwelling, since demolished, in the 1950s. The 1903 OS map shows the quarry extending northwards into the grounds of what is now 48 Barton Road, something confirmed by trial trenching in 2017 (Palmer and Gethin 2017).
- 6.3 A sondage excavated by machine in the site's north-western corner to test the depth and character of the geological natural revealed features initially recorded as possible ditches but which are more likely to represent rooting (this part of the site is mapped as wooded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries) and potentially quarrying. Some of the deposits were similar to those of a possible Roman quarry at No. 48 to the north (Charles 2016) but contained no finds. Such material could, therefore, equally be the product of ground make-up to form a level area for the driveway associated with the previous dwelling.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology Warwickshire would like to thank Clibow Limited for commissioning the work and Jon Emmerson for co-ordinating the archaeological works.

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1: View south-west across site at start of works



2: View east towards Scheduled Monument at eastern edge of site showing terracing



3: South-facing section of machine-dug sondage showing geological natural layers and probable rooting, including [5]



4: North-facing section of machine dug-sondage showing deposits probably associated with rooting and/or quarrying



5: View east across site following excavation of sondage



6: Machine excavation into quarry backfill deposits, looking SSW



7: West-facing section of excavated area



8: The site following ground reduction showing quarry backfill deposits



9: Early – mid 20th century dumped material within quarry backfill

APPENDICES

A List of contexts

Context	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Interpretation
1	Dark greyish brown/nearly black sandy silty loam with frequent roots. Soft with clear horizons.	>5	>5	0.4 – 0.5	Topsoil
2	Light yellowish grey brown sandy silt interspersed with more yellowish and blacker material. Incorporated frequent CBM, stone, glass, glass bottles etc. Soft with clear horizons.	>5	>5	>0.3	Modern quarry backfill/dump
3	Light orangey brown silty sand. Soft/loose with clear horizons. Incorporated moderate brick/CBM, frequent small stones and post-medieval pots, jars etc.	>5	>5	>0.3	Modern quarry backfill/dump
4	Dark greyish brown/black sandy silt with moderate roots, moderate CBM post-medieval rubbish etc. Soft with diffuse horizons.	>5	>5	>0.3	Modern quarry backfill/dump
5	Uncertain planform. Irregular profile with a steep E side and gentler W side. Filled with 7. Possibly same as 6.	-	≥0.3 6	≥0.1	Cut of possible ditch, quarry pit or tree bole/root
6	Uncertain plan form. Steep sides. Possibly same as 5.	-	≥2	Approx . 1	Cut of possible ditch/probable tree bole/root
7	Orangey brown silty sand with frequent very small stones/pea grit. Soft/loose with moderate horizons.	-	0.36	0.1	Fill of 5
8	Mostly dark reddish grey brown sandy silt with reddish brown mottles/patches. Incorporated occasional small stones and occasional possible charcoal or humic patches. Soft/loose with clear horizons.	-	0.93	0.31	Probable rooting
9	Reddish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Soft/loose with clear	-	0.33	0.12	Possible burrow

	horizons.				
10	Mottled dark reddish grey brown and reddish brown sandy silt including moderate small stones. Loose, but slightly compact, with diffuse horizons.	-	0.59	0.13	Probable rooting
11	Uncertain plan or profile. Irregular base. Possibly part of/same as 5.	-	≥0.8 1	Approx . 0.32	Cut of quarry pit, ditch or rooting
12	Mostly dark reddish grey brown sandy silt with reddish brown mottling. Incorporated occasional small stones and occasional possible charcoal or humic patches. Soft with moderate horizons. Similar to 21.	-	≥0.8 1	Approx . 0.32	Fill of 11
13	Yellowish brown silty sand with occasional stone. Loose with clear horizons. Probably same as 14.	-	0.14	0.34	Probable natural lens
14	Yellowish brown silty sand with occasional stone. Loose with clear horizons. Probably same as 13.	-	0.28	0.22	Probable natural lens
15	Soft light reddish brown silt.	-	0.04	0.25	Possible modern stakehole or burrow
16	Dark reddish grey brown sandy silt with orangey brown mottling. Incorporated occasional stones and humic patches. Quite solid with moderate/diffuse horizons.	-	1.01	0.12	Probable rooting
17	Light orangey brown silty sand with occasional stones. Loose with clear horizons.	-	0.35	0.14	Probable re-deposited natural lens
18	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with orangey brown mottles. Includes occasional very small stones and one humic patch. Moderate/compact.	-	0.7	0.13	Probable rooting
19	Yellowish brown soft/loose sandy lens.	-	0.42	0.04	Probable rooting
20	Reddish brown/red sandy clayey silt with greyish brown mottles and moderate small stones. Moderately compact. Similar to 29.	-	≥1	0.16	Probable re-deposited natural
21	Mottled dark reddish grey brown and light	-	≥1.3	Approx	Probable rooting

	yellowish grey brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Quite compact with diffuse horizons.		1	. 0.35	or quarry backfill
22	Fine light reddish brown silty sand. Overlies a patch of pink clay and occasional humic smears probably associated with rooting.	-	≥1.5 4	≥0.42	Geological Natural
23	Light yellowish brown sand.	-	0.4	0.13	Geological Natural
24	Coarse yellowish sand.	-	≥0.5	0.04	Geological Natural
25	Coarse yellowish sand with patches of red silty sand.	-	≥0.4 6	0.11	Geological Natural
26	Red sand with grey/humic mottling and coarse sand.	-	≥0.4 8	0.13	Geological Natural
27	Fine yellow and red sand.	-	≥0.6 2	0.14	Geological Natural
28	Coarse yellow sand.	-	≥0.7 5	0.07	Geological Natural
29	Fine red sand.	-	≥0.5 8	Approx . 0.09	Geological Natural
30	Mottled light reddish brown and greyish brown sandy silt. Soft.	-	0.44	0.18	Probable rooting or burrowing
31	Mostly dark greyish brown sandy silt with light reddish brown silty patches. Incorporated roots and humic patches/smears. Soft/loose.	-	≥2	Approx . 1	Fill of 6

B List of Finds

Context	Material	Quantity	Date/Comments
2	Glass	2	Early 20 th century mould-blown glass bottles with screw-top metal lids
2	Pottery	7	x1 probably post-1930 Meakin plate fragment; x1 early 20 th Century ceramic jam jar manufactured by the Co-Operative Wholesale Society Ltd, Middleton Junction; x1 pre-1936 stoneware ink bottle; x2 C20th whiteware sherds; x1 C20th mixing bowl fragment; x1 C20th blue transfer-printed sherd
3	Pottery	1	Early C20th utilitarian stoneware jar

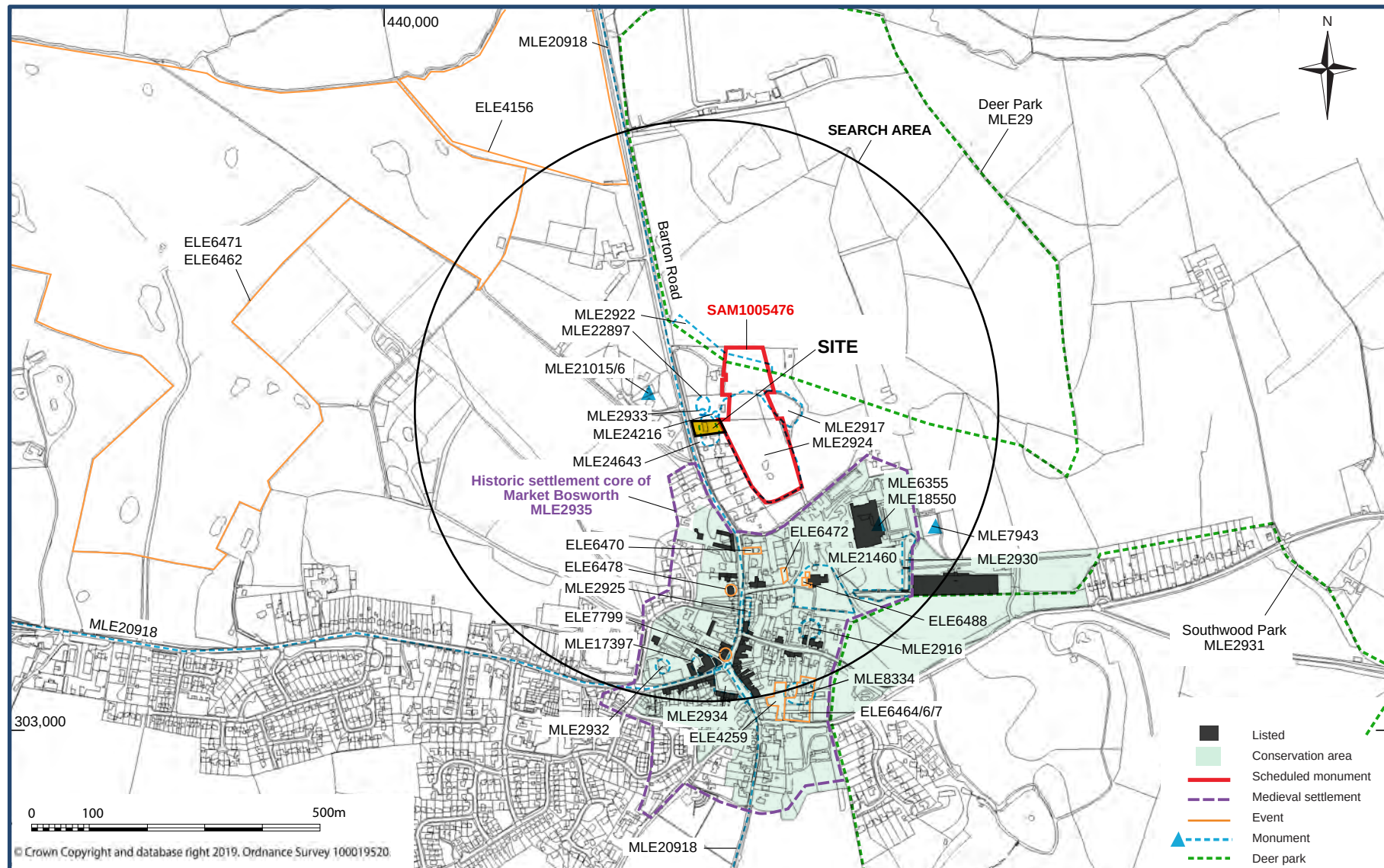


Fig 1: Location of application area and Historic Environment Information

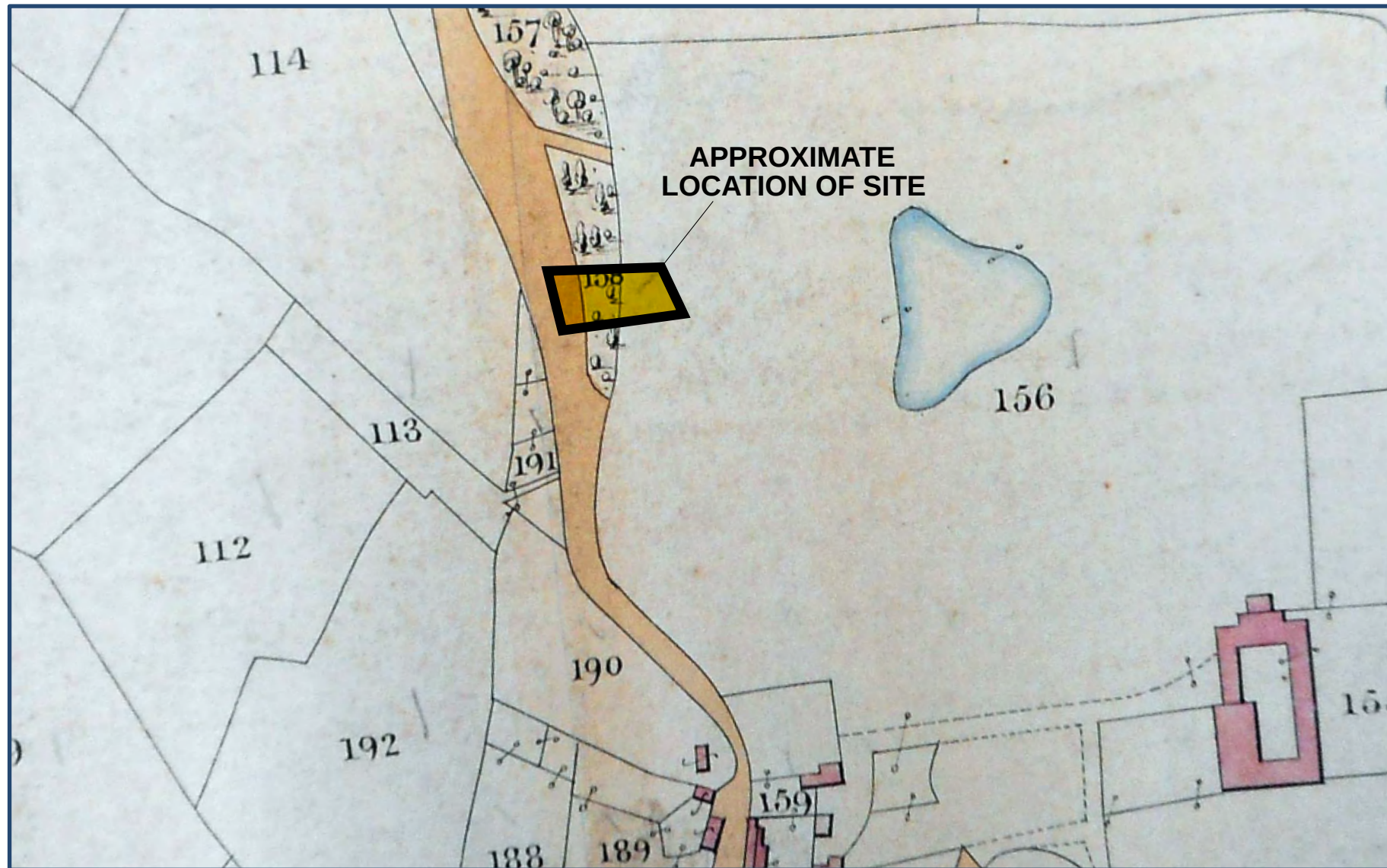


Fig 2: Detail from 1849 Tithe map of Market Bosworth (Leicestershire Record Office Ti/214/1)

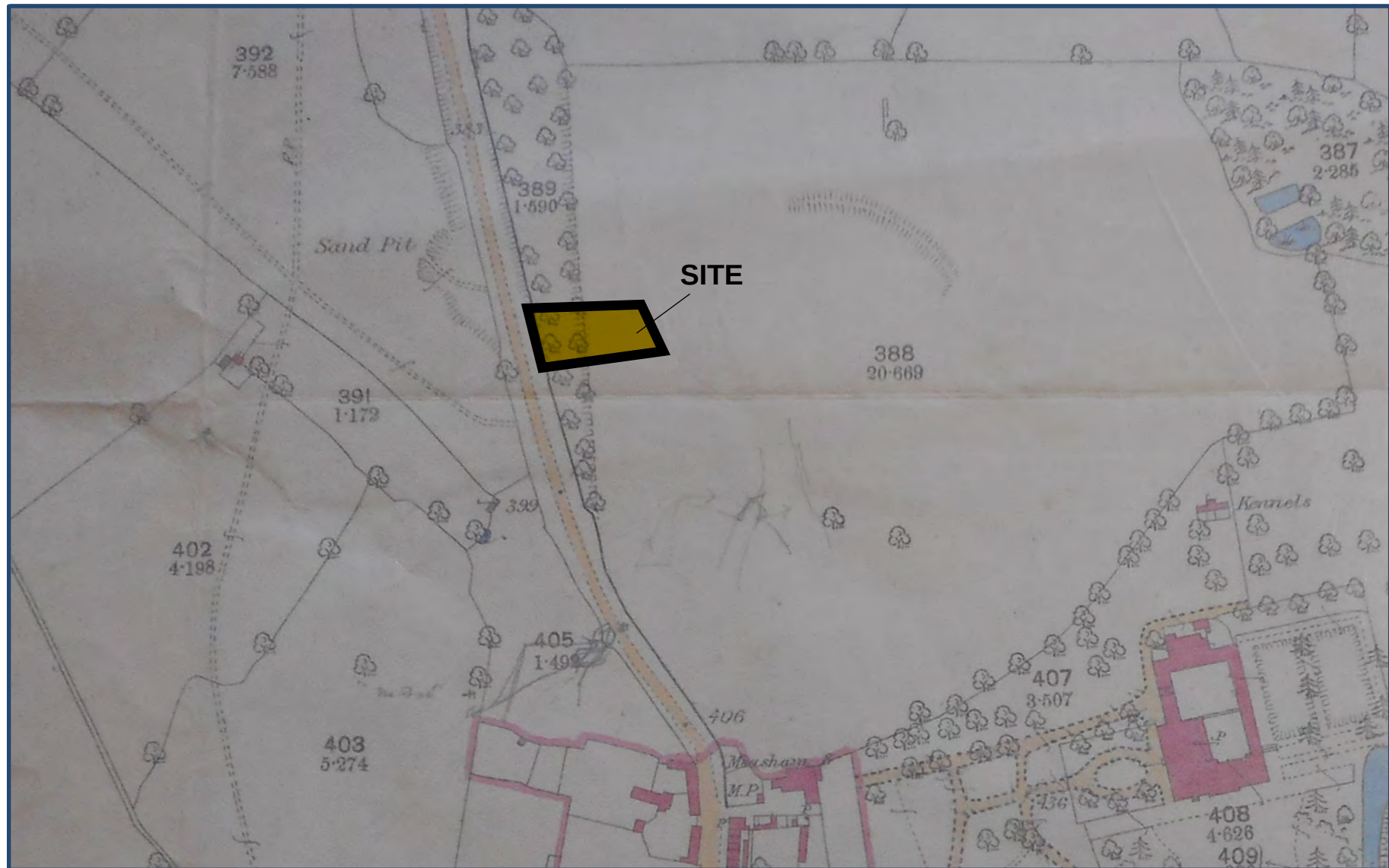


Fig 3: Detail from First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886

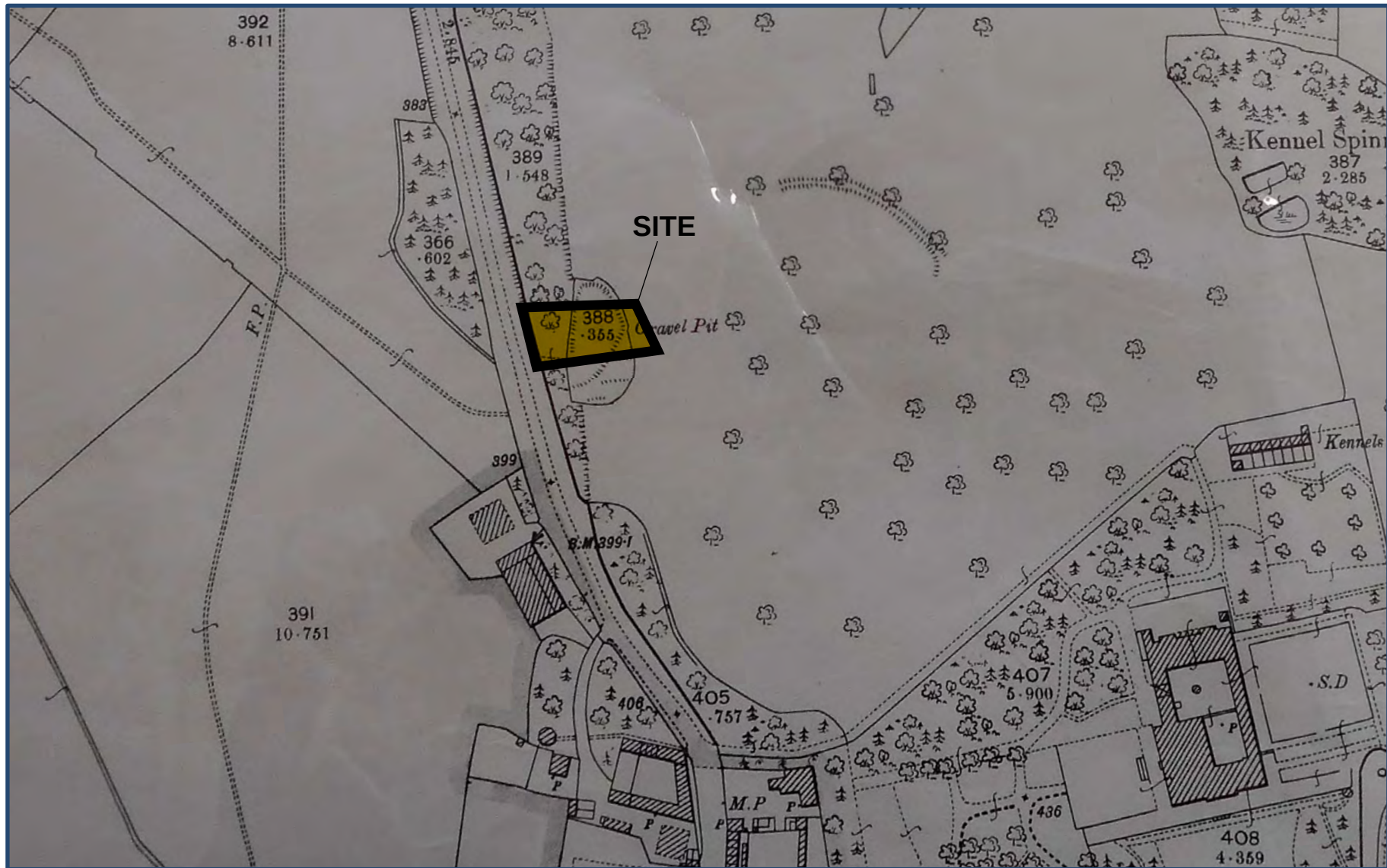


Fig 4: Detail from Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1903

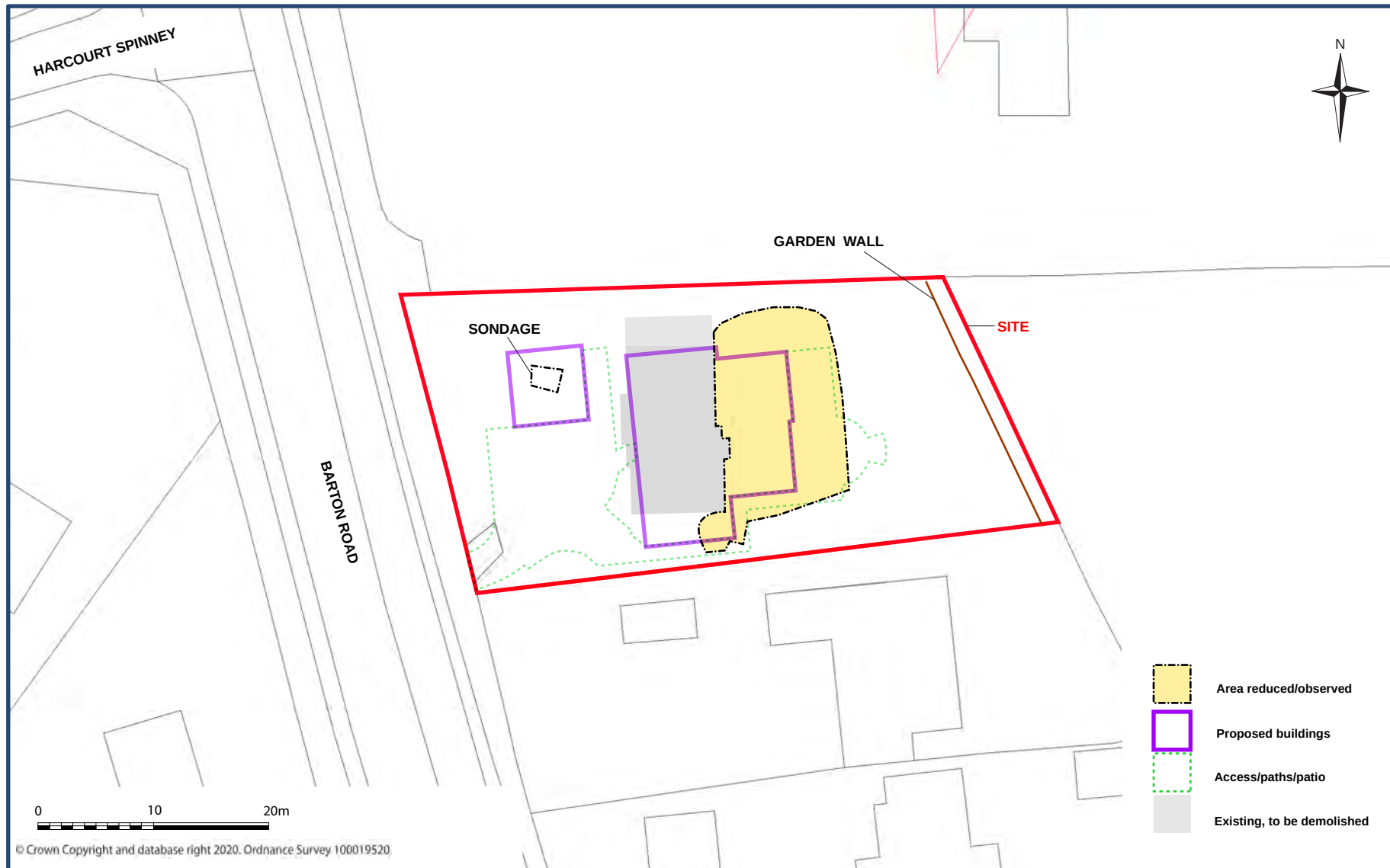


Fig 5: Location of groundworks observed