Henderson Green, Edge Hill, Liverpool,
Merseyside

Archaeological Evaluation

Oxford Archaeology North

July 2008

Birse Civils Limited

Issue No: 2008-09/843
OA North Job No: L10030
NGR: SJ 3644 9048

Document Title: HENDERSON GREEN, EDGE HILL, LIVERPOOL, MERSEYSIDE

Document Type: Archaeological Evaluation

Client Name: Birse Civils Limited

Issue Number: 2008-09/843
OA Job Number: L10030
Site Code: HL08

National Grid Reference: SJ 3644 9048

Prepared by:	Alexander Beben	
Position:	Supervisor	
Date:	July 2008	
Checked by:	Emily Mercer	Signed.....
Position:	Project Manager	
Date:	July 2008	
Approved by:	Alan Lupton	Signed.....
Position:	Project Manager	
Date:	July 2008	

Oxford Archaeology North
Mill 3
Moor Lane Mill
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1GF
t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd (2008)
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Disclaimer:
This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

CONTENTS

 © OA North: July 2008

SUMMARY

Merseyside Archaeology Service (MAS) have requested that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken over a section of a proposed road widening scheme at Henderson Green, Edge Hill, Liverpool (centred at NGR SJ 3644 9048). The site of the proposed development is potentially within the broader area of the Williamson Tunnels, around Edge Hill and at the northern end of Mason Street. There was a possibility that there are, as yet unconfirmed, tunnels within the extent of the proposed development. Consequently, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Birse Civils Limited to carry out the work, which was undertaken in June 2008.

Two trenches, each measuring 10m long by 2m wide, were excavated in order to understand the nature and development of the site and investigate its archaeological potential. No identifiable remains of the Williamson Tunnels were encountered during any part of the investigation, although a layer of made ground consisting of rubble and concrete suggests some post-medieval activity may be present on site. The absence of any significant archaeological features on the site indicates that the proposed work would have a negligible archaeological impact, and it is not envisaged that any further investigation will be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like the thank Steve Clark of Birse Civils Limited for commissioning and supporting the project.

The evaluation was directed by Alexander Beben, who also compiled the report. He was assisted in the field by Mark Oldham. Marie Rowland produced the drawings. The report was edited by Emily Mercer, who was also responsible for the project management.

 © OA North: July 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Birse Civils Limited, on behalf of their client, requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertake a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a verbal brief provided by Merseyside Archaeological Service (MAS). The work involved evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed road widening scheme at Henderson Green, Edge Hill, Liverpool (centred at NGR SJ 3644 9048), in order to establish the potential for buried archaeological remains present on site, and assess any impact that the development would have upon it. The site of the proposed development is potentially within the broader area of the Williamson Tunnels around Edge Hill and at the northern end of Mason Street. There was a possibility that there are, as yet unconfirmed, tunnels within the extent of the proposed development. The work was carried out in June 2008. The following report details the results of the evaluation trenching.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The site consists of a triangular piece of recreational land, bordered by North View Road to the south, Mount Vernon Green to the west, and Hall Lane to the north-east (Fig 1). It is well tendered with cut grass, mature ornamental trees, and various species of bushes. Therefore, no clearing was required prior to excavation.

1.2.2 Merseyside is situated on the low-lying Lancashire plain, which stretches between the Pennines to the east and Wales to the west (Cowell and Innes 1994, 2). This is cut by the Mersey estuary, which forms a wide channel through the plain, the land on either side of which is typically between 15m and 30m OD, although the study area is at the higher end of this range (Ordnance Survey 1978). The solid geology underlying the area is principally made up of Triassic and Carboniferous sandstone, which forms low ridges and hills in places (Cowell and Innes 1994, 2). This in turn was influenced by glacial activity, which not only created the wide river valleys and estuary, but also covered the area in a thick layer of boulder clay (*ibid*).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 ***Introduction:*** the following background for the site is provided in order to place the investigation of the site into context.

1.3.2 ***Joseph Williamson***: born in Warrington on 10th March 1769, Joseph Williamson came to Liverpool in 1780 to work for Richard Tate, a tobacco manufacturer (Hand 1928, 106; Whittington-Egan 1952, 110). In 1802 he was married to Elizabeth Tate, the daughter of his employer Richard Tate, at the family church St Thomas's on Park Lane (283 THO/2230). The succeeding

 © OA North: July 2008

employer, Thomas Moss Tate, died in 1803, leaving Williamson the business (Hand 1917, 2; Whittington-Egan 1952, 110).

1.3.3 By 1806 he had begun to lease the land around Mason Street (Head 1995, 4). In some sources it states that Williamson bought the land (Hand 1917, 2; Whittington-Egan 1952, 109-10); however, it is recorded that the leases ran out in 1858 when the land reverted to the West Derby Commission (Head 1995, 4; Stonehouse 1863, 185; Stonehouse 1879, 131), and therefore he could not have owned it. Williamson retired from business in 1818 (Hand 1917, 2) and concentrated on the construction of the complex of buildings and tunnels adjacent to the study area.

1.3.4 Williamson's building works continued for many years. He employed large numbers of the poor at a time when the Napoleonic Wars had left many of the returning soldiers without work. His workforce built houses along Mason Street, one of which, Number 44, he took for his own home (Hand 1928, 88). In addition to houses, he built an incredible complex of tunnels and caverns that extended right across his land and beneath Mason Street. Many of the houses were built on arches over the tunnels, and underground passageways linked the buildings. Williamson himself was said to live in a cellar beneath his house. The tunnels were multi-layered in places, lying one over another. Work began in 1832 on George Stephenson's railway tunnel, which was to connect Edge Hill station with Lime Street. Williamson's workmen broke through into the tunnel from beneath. Stephenson was given a conducted tour around Williamson's tunnels, with which he was very impressed (Hand 1917, 15).

1.3.5 Williamson died on the 1st May 1840 aged 71 years, and was buried with his wife and her family in the Tate family vault located within the graveyard of St Thomas' Church on Park Lane (CH/TCBP). He died having produced no heir to the Williamson fortune. By 1840 he had amassed lands and businesses to the value of £40,000. There are four codicils attached to his will suggesting that he outlived all but one of the executors (OA North 2005). With the death of Williamson work on the tunnels ceased immediately and the lease on the land expired in 1858 (Hand 1917, 23). Many of the tunnels had begun to be filled in with rubbish, even by 1845. The Liverpool Corporation then took over the land and a deliberate policy was adopted of using the tunnels to dump rubbish (Head 1995, 4; The Porcupine 1867, August 31st and November 23rd).

 © OA North: July 2008

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The scope of the archaeological work required by MAS was specified in a project design prepared by OA North (*Appendix 1*). The work complied with the project design and with current legislation and accepted best practice, including the code of conduct and relevant professional standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

2.2 EVALUATION TRENCHES

2.2.1 Two trenches, each measuring 10m long and 2m wide, were excavated within the area of the proposed road improvement (Fig. 2). The trenches were excavated by machine using a toothless ditching bucket, followed by hand cleaning and recording, to determine depth and character of features and deposits.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 The results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines 1991 and the UKIC guidelines (1990). The complete original archive will be deposited with the Liverpool Museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork.

2.3.2 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

 © OA North: July 2008

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Two evaluation trenches were excavated within the area of proposed road widening (Fig 2), positioned to ascertain the presence or absence of any remains of Williamson's tunnels. These trenches would also serve to establish the formation and development of the stratigraphy across the site in order the further understand the archaeological potential of the area.

3.2 TRENCH 1

3.2.1 The trench was aligned east/west and excavated to the surface of the natural geology ***103***, which was exposed at a maximum depth of 1.13m at the eastern part of the trench. No significant archaeological remains were encountered, although a modern reinforced concrete base, ***104***, was present at the western end of the trench. In total, it measured 3m wide, and was situated 0.65m from the sandstone horizon (Fig 3; Plate 1).

Plate 1: View of the base of Trench 1, looking west

3.2.2 The natural geology, ***103***, comprised a mid red sandstone bedrock with areas of white sandstone at the centre of the trench. The sandstone appeared as a natural horizon, sloping by 0.5m from east to west. This was overlain by a 0.35m thick layer of soft mid brown-yellow sandy-silt, ***102***, with a large

 © OA North: July 2008

amount of stone, brick, and concrete inclusions, measuring from 0.05m to 0.25m in size throughout the deposit. The bricks appeared to be nineteenth century and handmade. This was sealed by 0.5m layer of mid brown sandy-silt topsoil with some 0.05m-0.1m brick and stone inclusions, ***101***. No finds, other than the bricks, were recovered from any of these deposits.

3.2.3 The deposits within the trench appear to indicate that area has been stripped down to bedrock and the rubble deposits then used to raise the ground level. The rubble in this layer would seem to be from surrounding construction or demolition of possible nineteenth century and later buildings. The concrete base, ***104***, at the western end of the trench would appear to be twentieth century, given its construction and alignment with lamp posts still standing in the neighbouring streets of North View and Mount Pleasant Green.

3.3 TRENCH 2

3.3.1 The trench was aligned east/west within the site of the proposed road scheme (Fig 4; Plate 2). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m at its eastern extent, in an attempt to test the depth of the natural geology. The trench contained no archaeological features, although a large amount of rubble was encountered, including two large concrete slabs, ***204*** (Plate 3). There was also a disused concrete-lined modern service at the western end (Fig 4).

Plate 2: View of trench 2, looking west

 © OA North: July 2008

3.3.2 The natural geology comprised a mid yellow/brown sandy deposit, ***203***, exposed at a depth of 0.9m at the eastern end of the trench. This could represent a layer of degraded sandstone above the bedrock. This was sealed by a layer of dark brown-grey soft sandy-rubble that included a large amount of 0.05m - 0.2m inclusions evenly spread amongst the deposit. This would appear to be a made layer, dating to either the nineteenth or twentieth centuries, similar to ***102*** in Trench 1. At the centre of the trench the two concrete slabs, measuring 1.75m x 0.24m in total, were surrounded by rubble deposit, ***202***. These deposits were overlain by a mid grey/brown soft sandy-silt topsoil, with a moderate amount of construction building material inclusions of 0.05m - 0.2m in size. There were no finds from any of the deposits within Trench 2.

Plate 3: View of concrete slabs, 204, looking north

 © OA North: July 2008

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation did not produce any evidence for the Williamson tunnels or any other significant activity, with the exception of modern intervention through the formation of a rubble layer. This would appear to cover the majority of the evaluation area.

4.2 PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

4.2.1 The earliest phase of activity on the site was represented by the formation of the rubble layer (***102***=***202***). The building material present indicates that this layer could have been perhaps initially deposited sometime after the nineteenth century, formed due to the demolition or construction of neighbouring structures.

4.2.2 If not at the same time, then subsequent to the deposition of rubble, the site has incurred further disturbance during the twentieth century due to the installation of lamp posts and power supply, which have then become disused and were only recorded through their concrete bases and disused services.

4.3 IMPACT

4.3.1 The archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that there is little potential for significant archaeological remains to survive on the site. It is therefore considered unlikely that any future redevelopment of the site will have a negative archaeological impact. It is not envisaged that the site will require further archaeological investigation.

 © OA North: July 2008

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

283 THO/2230 Parish records for the Parish of St Thomas, Liverpool

Cowell, RW and Innes, JB, 1994 *The Wetlands of Merseyside*, North West Wetlands Survey **1**, Lancaster Imprints **2**, Lancaster

CH/TCBP Burial Plan of St Thomas Church, uncatalogued and latterly held by Church House, Liverpool

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd Edn, London

Friends of Williamson's Tunnels website (www.williamsontunnels.com)

Hand, CR, 1917 Joseph Williamson: 'The king of Edge Hill', *Trans Hist Soc Lancs Chesh*, **68**, 1-23

Hand, CR, 1928 Joseph Williamson, 'The king of Edge Hill', *Trans Hist Soc Lancs Chesh*, **79**, 86-111

Head, DJ, 1995 *Smithdown Lane Stables and Joseph Williamson Tunnels: A Brief Description and History*, unpubl rep

OA North, 2005 *Archaeological Investigations into Williamson's Grave, St Thomas's Church, Liverpool*, unpubl rep

Ordnance Survey, 1978 *Liverpool*, Sheet **108**, 1: 50000, 2nd Series

The Porcupine, Aug 31, 1867 *A Gigantic Nuisance*

The Porcupine, Nov 23, 1867 *The Edge-Hill Caverns*

Stonehouse, J, 1863 *Recollections of Old Liverpool by a Nonagenarian*, Liverpool

Stonehouse, J, 1879 *The Streets of Liverpool*, Liverpool

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of archives for long-term storage*, London

Whittington-Egan, R, 1952 Joseph Williamson - maker of catacombs, *Chamber's Journal*

6. ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

 © OA North: July 2008

Figure 1: Site location

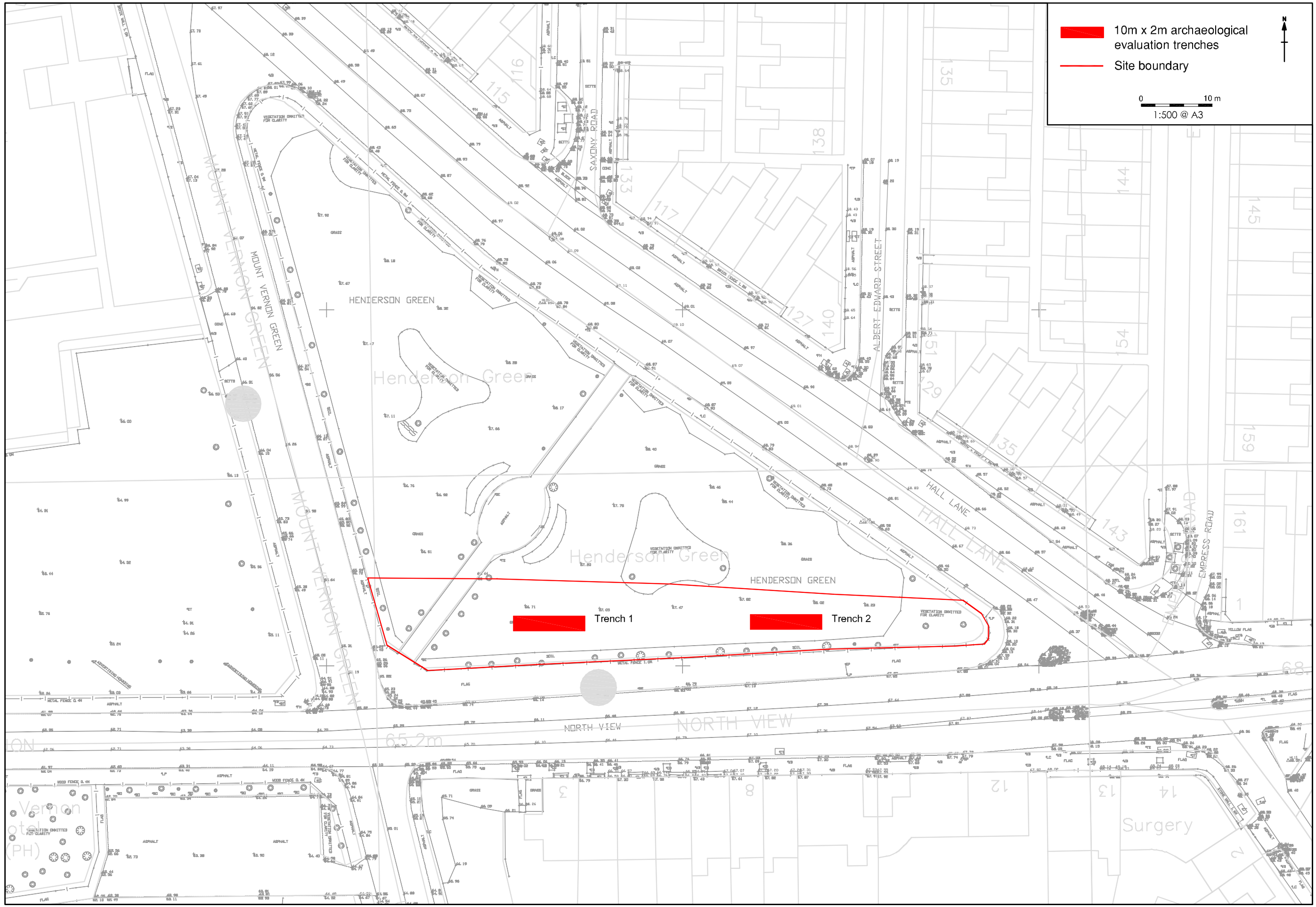

Figure 2: Location of trenches

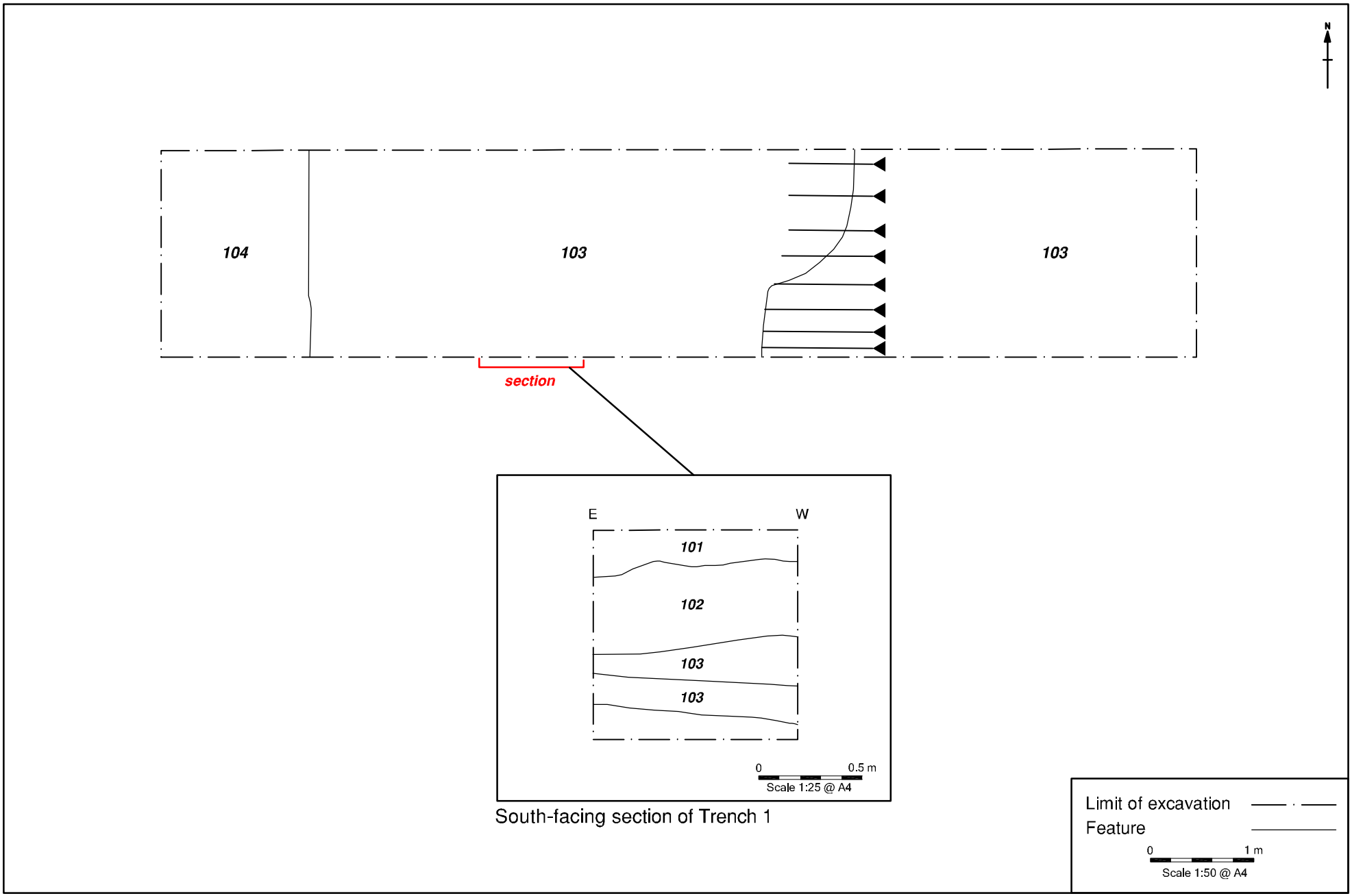

Figure 3: Plan and section of Trench 1

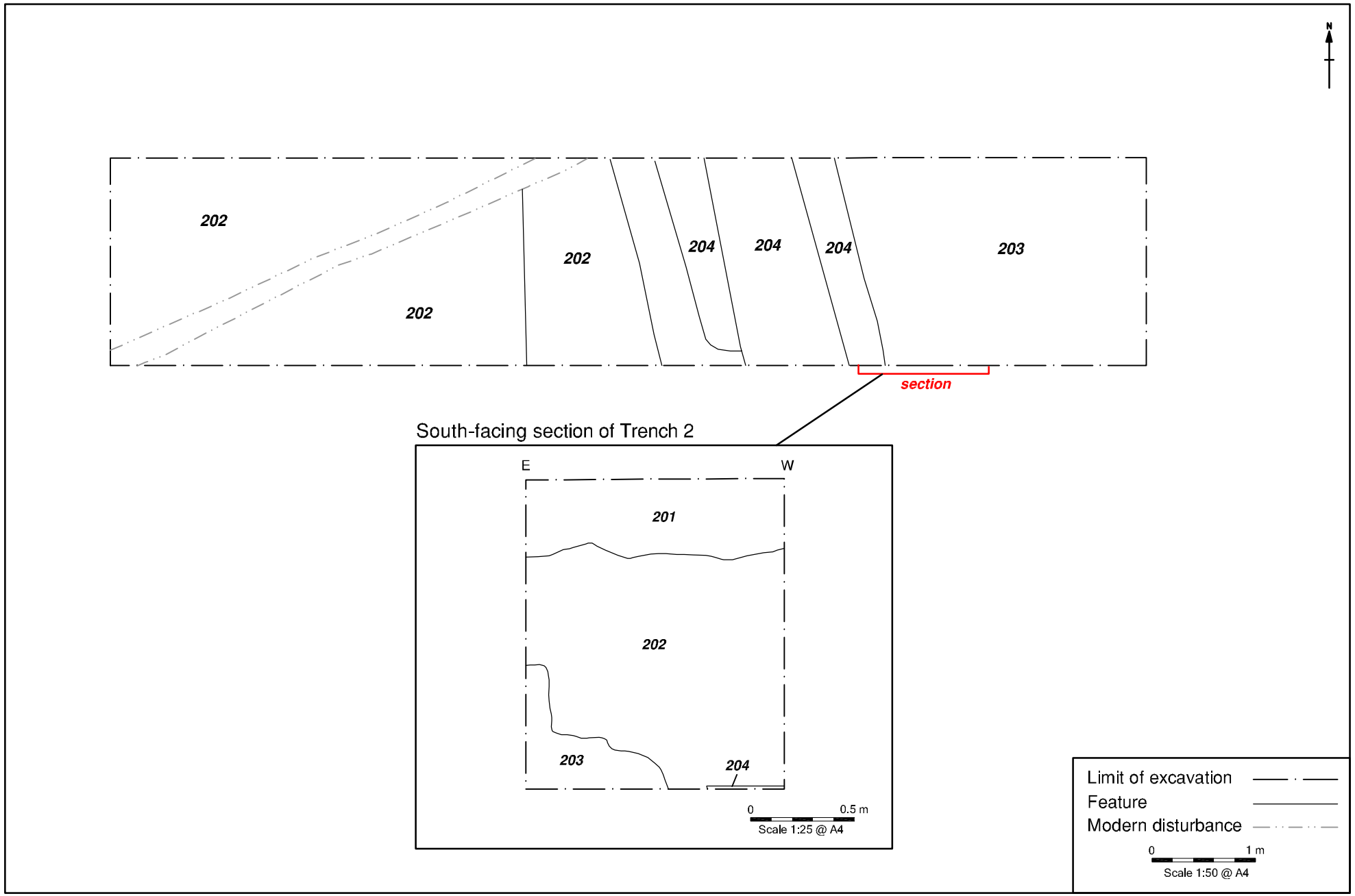

Figure 4: Plan and section of Trench 2

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 This project design defines the overall strategy and methodology for an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed road scheme at Henderson Green, Edge Hill, Liverpool (centred at NGR SJ 3644 9048). The project design has been formulated to meet the requirements of the Merseyside Archaeologist.

1.1.2 The location of the site is potentially within the broader area of the Williamson Tunnels around Edge Hill, and at the northern end of Mason Street. There is a possibility that there are, as yet unconfirmed, tunnels within the extent of the proposed development and therefore there is a requirement by the Merseyside Archaeologist to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of any ground works.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND - JOSEPH WILLIAMSON

1.2.1 Joseph Williamson was born in Warrington on the 10th March 1769, and came to Liverpool in 1780 to work for Richard Tate, a tobacco manufacturer (Hand 1928, 106; Whittington-Egan 1952, 110). In 1802 he was married to Elizabeth Tate, the daughter of his employer Richard Tate, at the family church St Thomas's on Park Lane. The succeeding employer, Thomas Moss Tate, died in 1803, leaving him the business (Hand 1917, 2; Whittington-Egan 1952, 110).

1.2.2 By 1806 he had begun to lease the land around Mason Street (Head 1995, 4). In some sources it states that Williamson bought the land (Hand 1917, 2; Whittington-Egan 1952, 109-10); however, it is recorded that the leases ran out in 1858 when the land reverted to the West Derby Commission (Head 1995, 4; Stonehouse 1863, 185; Stonehouse 1879, 131), therefore he could not have owned it. Williamson retired from business in 1818 (Hand 1917, 2) and concentrated on the construction of the complex of buildings and tunnels within and adjacent to the study area.

1.2.3 Williamson's building works continued for many years. He employed large numbers of the poor at a time when the Napoleonic Wars had left many of the returning soldiers without work. His workforce built houses along Mason Street one of which, Number 44, he took for his own home (Hand 1928, 88). Presumably, the houses built by Williamson filled in gaps between the detached houses constructed a few years earlier along Mason Street, since maps from 1817 onwards show a continuous row of houses along the west side of the street (LRO Hf 912 1817/53; Figs 2 and 3). A drawing by Stonehouse of 1846 (LRO 942 570 1/3) shows that the layout of gardens were in existence at this time, and that the rear boundary of the gardens is the same as those shown on later maps. Therefore the land may have already been terraced by this date.

1.2.4 In addition to houses, he built an incredible complex of tunnels and caverns which extended right across his land and beneath Mason Street. Many of the houses were built on arches over the tunnels, and underground passageways linked the buildings. Williamson himself was said to live in a cellar beneath his house. The tunnels were multi-layered in places, lying one over another.

1.2.5 Work began in 1832 on George Stephenson's railway tunnel, which was to connect Edge Hill station with Lime Street. Williamson's workmen broke through into the tunnel from beneath. Stephenson was given a conducted tour around Williamson's tunnels, with which he was very impressed (Hand 1917, 15). The railway tunnel, now a cutting, forms the northern boundary to the study area, although Williamson's tunnels extend beyond it to the north and east.

1.2.6 Williamson died on the 1st of May 1840 aged 71 years and was buried with his wife and her family in the Tate family vault located within the graveyard of St Thomas church on Park Lane. Williamson died having produced no heir to the Williamson fortune. By 1840 he had amassed lands and businesses to the value of £40,000. There are four codicils attached to his will suggesting that he outlived all but one of the executors.

1.2.7 With the death of Williamson work on the tunnels ceased immediately and the lease on the land expired in 1858 (Hand 1917, 23). Many of the tunnels had begun to be filled in with rubbish, even by 1845. The Liverpool Corporation then took over the land and a deliberate policy was adopted of using the tunnels to dump rubbish (Head 1995, 4; The Porcupine 1867, August 31st and November 23rd).

1.3 **OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH**

1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North has over 30 years of experience in professional archaeology, and can provide a professional and cost-effective service. We are the largest employer of archaeologists in the country (we currently have more than 200 members of staff) and can thus deploy considerable resources with extensive experience to deal with any archaeological obligations you or your clients may have. We have offices in Lancaster and Oxford, trading as Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), and Oxford Archaeology (OA) respectively, enabling us to provide a truly nationwide service. OA is an Institute of Field Archaeologists Registered Organisation (No 17), and is thus bound by the IFA's Code of Conduct and required to apply the IFA's quality standards.

1.3.2 Given the geographical location of Liverpool, it is intended to co-ordinate the project from our northern office in Lancaster, though the project team will use the most appropriate resources from both offices. Between our two offices our company has unrivalled experience of working on post-medieval sites, and is recognised as one of the leading archaeological units in the country with regard to dealing with large-scale archaeological projects. OA North has considerable experience of the assessment, evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, and has particular experience of archaeology in the North West having undertaken in recent years excavation, survey, building recording and post-excavation projects in both urban and rural environments. Watching briefs, evaluations and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.3.3 In particular OA North has undertaken evaluations and watching briefs of the Mason Street tunnels (LUAU 1999), and has recently exposed the grave of Joseph Williamson, at St Thomas's Church, Liverpool, as part of the Paradise Street development (OA North 2005).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide an evaluation of the area of Henderson Green, and has the following aims.

- to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the identified area.
- to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present
- to establish any ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features.
- to make an assessment of the impact of the scheme on any significant remains or deposits encountered.

2.2 The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows

- ***Evaluation Trenching:*** to undertake the excavation of 2 trenches on the site of Henderson Green so as to explore the presence of any archaeological remains within the area of proposed road improvements.
- ***Report:*** a written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and would make recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 ***Fieldwork Methodology:*** It is proposed to excavate two trenches across the line of the proposed road improvement widening, each trench will be 2m in width and 10m in length. The single trenches will target areas of impact by the proposed road improvements, but will not extend through the foot path at the southern end of the site, as it is anticipated that this will have a high density of services. The trenching will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits.

3.1.2 Prior to any ground disturbance the extent of the trenches will be appropriately fenced to allow safe working. Once the trench locations have been established the topsoil/surfaces and any obvious overburden deposits will be removed mechanically. Machine stripping of trenches will be undertaken using a 360^{o} mechanical excavator fitted with an appropriately sized toothless ditching bucket. The work will be constantly supervised by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Machine excavation will then be used to define carefully the extent of any surviving walls and other remains. Thereafter, structural remains will be cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. Spoil will be retained on site and stockpiled beside the evaluation trenches.

3.1.4 The advance archaeological recording works will be undertaken to sufficient depth in order to establish the character and where possible preserve by record the archaeological remains. If a depth of greater than 1.2m is required then it is proposed to step in the trenches to reduce the risk of trench collapse. If this is not possible then it is proposed to shore the trenches. The shoring may comprise acroprops supporting small metal trench sheets or box shoring. Once in place, the acroprops / box shoring will limit any mechanical excavation and will constrain manual excavation. The costs for any shoring are not included within the present project design and any recourse to shoring will entail a variation to the costs.

3.1.5 Work may involve cleaning features by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions and the extent of features. Following this, the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation will take place. Recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential.

3.1.6 Any significant features will be sample excavated (ie selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal). The aim of any manual excavation will be to determine the date, condition, form and function of the archaeological remains, sufficiently to allow a confident interpretation and a realistic record to be produced of any elements to be damaged during the works.

3.1.7 ***Written Record:*** archaeological stratigraphy will be recorded using *pro-forma* context sheets which are in accordance with those used by English Heritage. These provide an objective and systematic description of archaeological remains. Similar object record and photographic record *pro-formas* will be used. All written records of survey data, contexts, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from *pro-forma* record sheets using sequential numbering. The contextual details will be incorporated into a Harris matrix essentially hand-drawn on site for checking purposes but which is normally generated during the post-excavation phase of the project using specially designed Arched version 2 matrix generation software.

3.1.8 ***Drawn Record:*** any deposits or features will be accurately located, either independently or on drawings provided by the client. The archaeological remains will, where necessary, be planned and vertical sections or elevations produced. This will be done either manually or digitally, depending on circumstances. For example any intricate features will require manually planning but larger, more simplistic areas may be more effectively and rapidly recorded using survey equipment. Any features that require planning will be done so accurately, at appropriate scales (ranging from 1:10 to 1:50) and annotated.

3.1.9 ***Photographic Record:*** a full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard view-points of the overall site at all

stages of the evaluation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken using 35mm cameras on achievable black and white print film. Extensive use of digital photography will also be undertaken throughout the course of the fieldwork for presentation purposes. Photographic records will be maintained on special photographic *pro-forma* sheets.

3.1.10 ***Finds Record:*** finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with current best practice (following IFA and other specialist guidelines). All finds will be treated in accordance with OA North standard practice, which is cognisant of IFA and UKIC Guidelines. In general this will mean that (where appropriate or safe to do so) finds are washed, dried, marked, bagged and packed in stable conditions; no attempt at conservation will be made unless special circumstances require prompt action. In such a case guidance and/or expertise will be sought from a suitably qualified conservator.

3.1.11 Neither artefacts nor ecofacts will be collected systematically during the mechanical excavation of overburden unless significant deposits, for example pottery or clay tobacco pipe waster dumps, are encountered. Other finds recovered during the removal of overburden will be retained only if of significance to the dating and/or interpretation of the site or specific features.

3.1.12 Subsequent to the removal of overburden artefacts and ecofacts will be collected and handled as per best practice. Material will aim to be collected and identified by stratigraphic unit. Hand collection by stratigraphic unit will be the principal method of collection. The material which is envisaged to be collected will include; ceramic objects, animal bone, glass, metal – both as objects and potentially slag.

3.1.13 Any waterlogged finds will be treated as necessary to ensure their continued survival. In the case of large deposits of waterlogged environmental material (eg unmodified wood) discussion will be sought with the client and archaeological curator with regard to an appropriate sampling strategy.

3.1.14 Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996.

3.1.15 The recovery of human remains is not anticipated, but if encountered they will, if possible, be left *in situ* covered and protected. If removal is necessary, then the relevant Home Office permission will be sought, and the removal of such remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity as required by the *Burials Act 1857*.

3.1.16 Environmental samples (bulk samples of 30-40 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from suitable deposits (i.e. the deposits are reasonably well dated and are from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence). Samples will be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate.

3.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY

3.2.1 ***Risk Assessment:*** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

3.2.2 ***Services and other constraints:*** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc.) during the evaluation as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. A service drawing has been received from the client, which will be used in conjunction with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) and Genny prior to any excavation to test for services.

3.2.3 ***Contamination:*** any known contamination issues or any specific health and safety requirements on site should be made known to OA North by the client to ensure all procedures can be met, and that the risk is dealt with appropriately. Should any presently unknown contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Should it be necessary to supply additional PPE or other contamination avoidance equipment this will be costed as a variation.

3.2.4 ***Staff issues:*** all project staff will be CSCS qualified, proof of which can be provided in the form of CSCS cards.

3.2.5 A portable toilet with hand washing facilities is required and can be provided and located on or adjacent to the site, unless the client would prefer to arrange alternative facilities. Therefore, the cost has been provided as a contingency item.

3.2.6 ***Fencing requirements:*** the excavation area will be protected with Heras-type security fencing. This will be used to define a secure enclosed area for the archaeological work to take place within.

3.3 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

3.3.1 ***Archive:*** the results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

3.3.2 The paper and finds archive for the archaeological work undertaken at the site will be deposited with the Liverpool Museum, in accordance with their guidelines, as this is the nearest museum which meets Museums' and Galleries' Commission criteria for the long term storage of archaeological material (MGC 1992). This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as hard and digital copy. The archive will be deposited with the Liverpool Museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork.

3.3.3 Except for items subject to the Treasure Act, all artefacts found during the course of the project will be donated to the receiving museum with the permission of the relevant landowners.

3.3.4 A synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and a copy of the publication report) will be deposited with the Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the index to the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Archaeological Record in Swindon/London.

3.3.5 ***Report:*** three copies of a bound and collated final report will be submitted to the client within ten weeks of the completion of all the fieldwork relating to archaeological work for the proposed road scheme. Further copies will be sent to the Merseyside Archaeologist, and Liverpool Museum. The final report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will include an historical and archaeological background to the study area, an outline methodology of the investigation, and present, summarise, assess, and interpret the results of the programme of archaeological works detailed above. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. The report will include a description of the methodology and the results. It will have a list of the finds, and a description of the collective assemblage. Recommendations for any further mitigation works and details of the final deposition of the project archive will also be made.

3.3.6 Illustrative material will include a location map, site map, a trench location map, trench plans, survey maps, and also pertinent photographs. It can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion.

3.3.7 ***Confidentiality:*** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

3.4 OTHER MATTERS

3.4.1 ***Access:*** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through the client and it is assumed that there is access for both pedestrian and plant traffic to the site.

3.4.2 ***Plant Hire and Reinstatement:*** plant hire will be provided by OA North and has been included in the costs. Should any shoring be required, this will be costed as a variation to the contract.

3.4.3 It is understood that there will be no requirement for reinstatement of the ground beyond backfilling, so that the topsoil is laid on the top, and the ground will be roughly graded with the machine.

3.4.4 ***Insurance:*** OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

3.4.5 ***Project Monitoring:*** whilst the work is undertaken for the client, monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the Merseyside Archaeologist, Sarah Jane Farr, in a curatorial role.

3.4.6 Access to the site for monitoring purposes will be afforded to the Merseyside Archaeologist at all times.

3.5 WORK TIMETABLE

3.5.1 ***Archaeological Trenching:*** it is anticipated that this element would require up to 3 days for a team of 2-3 people.

3.5.2 ***Report:*** the final report will be submitted to the client within eight weeks, unless an earlier deadline is agreed beforehand.

3.5.3 ***Archive:*** the archive will be deposited within six months.

4. STAFFING

4.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

4.2 It is anticipated that the project would be led by **Caroline Raynor** who will be directing the evaluation and reporting elements of the project.

4.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA, MIFA** (OA North project officer). Christine acts as OA North's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. However, she has specialist knowledge regarding Roman glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology.

4.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.

5. INSURANCE

5.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to the value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplies as required.

6. MONITORING

6.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the Merseyside Archaeologist, Sarah Jane Farr.

6.2 Access to the site for monitoring purposes will be afforded to the Merseyside Archaeologist at all times. Resources have been allocated for at least one site meeting between all interested parties to review the archaeological work.

 © OA North: July 2008

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY SOURCES

Hf352 CEM 1/17/1-2 Liverpool Municipality, 1885. St Thomas's Churchyard. Liverpool Records office. Inscriptions of grave stones

Hf 912 1817 A Plan of Liverpool with Environs, J Gore (publisher), 1817. Scale 1':200 yards

H 942 570 1/3 A Brief Notice of the Excavations at Edge Hill near Liverpool, James Stonehouse, 1846

283 THO/2230 Parish records for the Parish of St Thomas, Liverpool

CH/TCBP Burial Plan of St Thomas Church, uncatalogued and latterly held by Church House, Liverpool

SECONDARY SOURCES

Anon, 1834 *Picture of Liverpool: Strangers Guide*, Liverpool

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd Edn, London

Friends of Williamsons Tunnels website (www.williamsontunnels.com)

Hand, CR, 1917 Joseph Williamson: 'The king of Edge Hill', *Trans Hist Soc Lancs Chesh*, **68**, 1-23

Hand, CR, 1928 Joseph Williamson, 'The king of Edge Hill', *Trans Hist Soc Lancs Chesh*, **79**, 86-111

Head, DJ, 1995 *Smithdown Lane Stables and Joseph Williamson Tunnels: A Brief Description and History*, unpubl rep

LUAU, 1999 *Mason Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool, Archaeological watching brief, unpubl rep*

OA North, 2005 Archaeological Investigations into Williamson's Grave, St Thomas's Church, Liverpool, *unpubl rep*

The Porcupine, Aug 31, 1867 *A Gigantic Nuisance*

The Porcupine, Nov 23, 1867 *The Edge-Hill Caverns*

Stonehouse, J, 1863 *Recollections of Old Liverpool by a Nonagenarian*, Liverpool

Stonehouse, J, 1879 *The Streets of Liverpool*, Liverpool

Thompson, WD, 1905 *The history of Old Liverpool Church – 1750 1905*, Liverpool

Whittington-Egan, R, 1952 Joseph Williamson - maker of catacombs, *Chamber's Journal*

 © OA North: July 2008

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Trench	Description
101	1	Topsoil, mid grey brown, sandy-silt with CBM inclusions
102	1	Rubble/Subsoil, mid brown, sandy-silt
103	1	Natural mid red with white patches, and brown sandstone bedrock
104	1	Concrete base with iron cables in centre (lamppost)
201	2	Topsoil, mid grey brown sandy-silt with CBM inclusions
202	2	Rubble/sub soil, dark brown, silt-rubble
203	2	Natural, mid yellow-brown sand
204	2	Concrete blocks

© OA North: July 2008