



EVERTON ACADEMY TRAINING GROUND, FINCH FARM, FINCH LANE, HALEWOOD, MERSEYSIDE

Archaeological Post-Excavation Assessment



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	4
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	6
1 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	7
2 BACKGROUND	9
2.1 Physical Background.....	9
2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background	9
2.3 Historic Buildings Investigation	12
2.4 Archaeological Evaluation	13
3 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS	17
3.1 Academic Aims	17
3.2 Objectives.....	17
4 METHODOLOGY.....	19
4.1 Project Design	19
4.2 Trench Configuration	19
4.3 Excavation.....	20
4.4 Assessment of Botanical Remains	20
4.5 Assessment of Faunal Remains.....	21
4.6 Archive	21
5 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION.....	22
5.1 Introduction	22
5.2 Trench 7	22
5.3 Trench 24	30
5.4 Trench 25	32
5.5 Trench 26	37
6 ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS.....	40
6.1 Assessment Aims and Objectives	40
6.2 Material Assessed	40
6.3 Procedures for Assessment	40

6.4	Stratigraphic Data	41
6.5	Introduction to the Artefacts	42
6.6	Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery	43
6.7	Other Ceramics.....	46
6.8	Metal	47
6.9	Glass	48
6.10	Other Finds.....	49
6.11	Faunal Remains.....	50
6.12	Assessment of Waterlogged and Charred Plant Remains	51
7	CURATION AND CONSERVATION	53
7.1	Recipient Museum	53
7.2	Conservation	53
7.3	Storage	53
7.4	Packaging	54
8	STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL	55
8.1	Archaeological Context.....	55
8.2	Research Priorities (National/Regional/Local)	58
8.3	Primary Potential.....	59
9	UPDATED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	61
9.1	Original Research Aims and Objectives	61
9.2	Updated Research Aims of the Programme of Analysis.....	61
9.3	Updated Specific Objectives	61
10	METHOD STATEMENT	63
10.1	Introduction	63
10.2	Programme Structure	63
10.3	Information and Review.....	63
10.4	Phasing, Stratigraphy and Site Descriptions	63
10.5	Documentary Research	64
10.6	Artefacts	64
10.7	Ecofacts	65
10.8	Illustration	65
10.9	Presentation of Results.....	66

11	PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS	67
11.1	Introduction	67
11.2	Structure of the Report	67
11.3	Outline Synopsis	67
12.1	Named Project Team.....	69
12.2	Management Structure	69
12.3	Health and Safety	70
12.4	List of Tasks.....	70
12.5	Financial Breakdown	70
13	BIBLIOGRAPHY	71
13.1	Cartographic Sources	71
13.2	Secondary Sources	71
	APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN.....	74
	APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST.....	82
	APPENDIX 3: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.....	92
	APPENDIX 4: TASK LIST.....	96
	APPENDIX 5: FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN	97
	ILLUSTRATIONS	98

SUMMARY

Everton Football Club has submitted proposals (planning application 02/00823/FUL) to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the development of an Academy and Training Facility at the site of Finch Farm, 3 Finch Lane, Halewood, Knowsley, Merseyside (NGR SJ 459 849; Fig 1). The development area comprises an enclosed c 24ha trapezoid area of agricultural land, centred on the buildings of Finch Farm (Buildings 1-6, demolished July/October 2005). On behalf of Everton Football Club, RPS Planning, Transport and Environment (RPS) commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site in June and July 2005 (OA North 2006a). The evaluation comprised the excavation of 24 trenches the dimensions of which varied, placed to investigate both areas of potential identified from historic cartographic sources and within the then-existing Finch Farm complex. The most significant results were located within the area of the farm complex, including a possible midden deposit containing seventeenth/eighteenth-century pottery, and on either side of the western site entrance, where the remains of post-medieval structures were identified. In parallel with the evaluation, an investigation of the historic buildings within the Finch Farm complex was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2005). This indicated that three of the buildings had been constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century around an older, possibly later eighteenth century, structure.

Following the results of the evaluation, RPS requested that OA North submit a project design for a scheme of archaeological excavation to be undertaken on the site, targeting both the post-medieval buildings on either side of the western site entrance with two trenches and the, by then, demolished Finch Farm complex with a further two trenches. Following approval of the project design by the Merseyside Archaeologist, RPS commissioned OA North to conduct the excavation, which was undertaken between July and November 2005. The present document outlines the results of the excavation and selected appropriate results of the evaluation, together with an assessment of their potential for further analysis.

During the excavation, the area immediately east of the access gate on Finch Lane was examined by extending Evaluation Trenches 7 and 24 in order to investigate fully the character and extent of the identified structural remains and any associated features. Trench 7 revealed a number of stakeholes and a spread of cobbles representing the earliest phase of activity within this trench, most probably post-medieval. The earliest structural remains (Building A) are thought to be those of Finch House, first shown (but not named) on the 1803 Enclosure Map, but likely, according to the excavated pottery assemblage, to originate in the seventeenth or early eighteenth century. This building saw a number of modifications, many of which could be traced on cartographic sources. To the east of this building, a further structure was identified (Building B), thought to be an outbuilding rather than a dwelling and to be contemporary with later extensions to the main building. As well as the structural remains, several ancillary features were also identified, including a network of stone drains feeding into a boundary ditch, a pond, and an excellently preserved well.

Trench 24, placed to the north of the access track, opposite Trench 7, revealed structural remains thought to relate to a possible barn-type feature (Building C) identified on early maps with an adjoining orchard, but which had been demolished by 1893. Two small structures were investigated within this area and could possibly represent a single building with different construction phases, although the high level of truncation across this area makes any interpretation difficult. The finds' assemblage from this trench was much smaller than that from Trench 7, although seventeenth- to eighteenth-century pottery was also present.

Excavation Trenches 25 and 26 were positioned to investigate the area beneath the demolished Finch Farm complex. The position of a standpipe and water-filled pit meant that Trench 25, placed to investigate beneath the previously standing Buildings 3 and 5, had to be excavated in three separate sections (Areas 1-3). Area 1, the most easterly section, revealed a pond, a small brick outbuilding and several associated cobbled and block surfaces. Along the edge of the pond, a stone-capped brick culvert was investigated, along with the partially demolished remains of Building 3. Within Area 2, which was offset just to the south, the fragmentary remains of a wall were located, together with a surface of red sandstone setts that continued into Area 1. Area 3, the most westerly section, exhibited an east/west aligned ditch, three postholes and a post pad, along with the north wall and an internal north/south wall of Building 3.

Trench 26 was positioned to investigate the area beneath a modern barn, Building 2, where an earlier structure, that of Platt's House identified on the 1850 Ordnance Survey (OS) map is thought to have been situated. However, the discovery of a large amount of buried asbestos during the monitoring of the removal of the concrete pad for Building 2 greatly reduced the area available for investigation. The excavation of Trench 26 revealed a pond, drains, ditches, pits, a posthole and also a structure interpreted as a pig sty likely to relate to the later nineteenth-century development of Finch Farm. No direct trace of Platt's House was found.

The assessment of the results of the fieldwork has shown that the excavated data have good potential for further analysis, firstly in terms of accurately dating and phasing the historic development of the identified settlement foci and, secondly, in providing a basis for the comparison of the two settlements onsite and between these and contemporary farmsteads within the wider region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Mark Turner of RPS Planning, Transport and Environment for commissioning the project on behalf of Everton Football Club, and for his continued assistance and liaison. OA North is also grateful to Ray Thomas of RMT, John Mallinson, John Lamoury and Steve Southworth of J Mallinson Ltd, for their assistance on site, regarding machinery and the way they allowed OA North to dovetail with their groundworks. The support and information provided by Sarah-Jane Farr, the Merseyside Archaeological Officer, throughout the work was gratefully received, as was that supplied by Ron Cowell of National Museums Liverpool, Mark Hart of Merseyside Archaeological Service and Nick Herepath, Portable Antiquities Officer for Cheshire and Merseyside. Farmer Ted Glen provided valuable information and assistance during the project.

The excavation was undertaken by Emily Betts, Jason Clarke, Caroline Raynor, Alastair Vannan, Caroline Bulcock, Mark Chesterman and Pascal Eloy under the direction of Jeremy Bradley and Andy Lane. The report was compiled by Jeremy Bradley, Andy Lane and Stephen Rowland; the finds were assessed by Jo Dawson whilst the animal bones were identified and assessed by Andy Bates. The palaeoenvironmental evidence was assessed by Elizabeth Huckerby and Sandra Bonsall. The illustrations were produced by Christina Clarke, Anne Dunkley and Pip Haworth. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report, together with Rachel Newman.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Everton Football Club has submitted proposals (planning application 02/00823/FUL) to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the development of an academy and training facility at the site of Finch Farm, 3 Finch Lane, Halewood, Knowsley (SJ 459 849; Fig 1). This development, within a quadrilateral area roughly 650m by 400m, is to comprise a main Academy building, a Groundsman's store and enclosure, a security lodge, ten full-sized grass football pitches, two half-sized pitches, two goal-keeping practice areas, a synthetic floodlit pitch and carparking areas. The then-existing buildings of Finch Farm, which comprised a complex of three historic brick-built barns and a farmhouse, together with two more modern barns, were demolished between July and October 2005 in advance of groundworks on the site.
- 1.1.2 A desk-based assessment, undertaken by RPS Planning, Transport and Environment (RPS 2004), indicated that there was moderate potential for archaeological remains within the development area and RPS duly compiled a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken on the site. Following submission of a project design to meet the WSI, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by RPS, on behalf of Everton Football Club, to undertake an evaluation of the site. Simultaneously, Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by RPS to make a record of the brick-built structures of Finch Farm, prior to their demolition.
- 1.1.3 The evaluation, undertaken in June and July 2005, comprised the excavation of 24 trenches, the dimensions of which varied, placed mainly on instruction from RPS, but occasionally by OA North, to investigate areas of potential identified from historic cartographic sources and within the then-existing Finch Farm complex (Fig 2). The most significant archaeological remains were located within the area of the farm complex, including a possible midden deposit containing seventeenth/eighteenth-century pottery, and on either side of the western site entrance along Finch Lane, where the remains of post-medieval structures were identified. The recording of the historic buildings within the Finch Farm complex, undertaken in June 2005 (OA 2005), indicated that three of the buildings had been constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century around an older, possibly later eighteenth century, structure (Fig 3). Following on from the results of the evaluation (OA North 2006a) and the historic building recording (OA 2005) (see *Section 2* for a summary of the pertinent results), the County Archaeologist for Merseyside, in conjunction with RPS, recommended that a programme of further excavation be undertaken, as preservation of the remains *in situ* was not possible. OA North compiled a project design for the excavation of four areas defined by RPS (*Appendix 1*) and, subsequent to approval by RPS and Merseyside Archaeological Service (MAS), OA North was commissioned by RPS, on

behalf of Everton Football Club, and the excavation was undertaken between July and November 2005.

- 1.1.4 The excavation required the extension of two evaluation trenches, Trench 7, in the southern corner of the Finch Farm access track and Finch Lane (Fig 4) and Trench 24, within the northern corner of that same junction. Two new areas, Trenches 25 and 26, were to be excavated within the confines of the by then demolished Finch Farm complex (*Section 4*).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 At the time of the excavation, the development area was agricultural land covered by long, tussocky grass. An east/west access track joined Finch Lane with the only buildings on the site, the Finch Farm complex, which was located at the centre of the development area. This complex was demolished in July/October 2005.
- 2.1.2 The site lies on an area of well-drained higher topography between the valleys of the Ditton and Rams Brooks, approximately 2.5km to the north of the Dungeon Banks section of the River Mersey. The geology consists of Carboniferous and Triassic layers covered by post-glacial drift (Environment Agency 2006, 17). The solid strata were laid down as part of the Upper Westphalian series during the later Carboniferous Period (290-365 million years ago) as Coal Measures containing outcrops and ridges of various sandstones (*ibid*). This solid geology is overlain by glacial boulder clays which support non-calcareous loam, although in places there is no intervening subsoil (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1987).

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.2.1 ***Prehistoric and Roman period:*** the distribution of many of the known archaeological features in the area is partly a reflection of work undertaken on the route of the nearby A5300 during the early 1990s (Cowell and Philpott 2000). The earliest archaeological evidence in the area dates to the Mesolithic and, to a lesser extent, the Neolithic periods. It comprises a number of flint scatters in the area of the Ditton Brook, c 1.5km to the east of Finch Farm, including a collection of about 250 flints from a possible tree-throw feature (RPS 2004). Evidence for activity of Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age date was found at Brook House Farm, c 1km to the east of Finch Farm, and comprised post-built structures, enclosure ditches and pottery. The site also produced the remains of a rectilinear building and pottery dated to the Roman period (Cowell and Philpott 2000). A metal-detector survey to the south of Finch Farm has recovered a coin of Vespasian (AD 69-79) and an undated, but presumed Roman, coin was found at Halewood Lane Ends (RPS 2004).
- 2.2.2 ***Medieval period:*** place-name evidence on Merseyside and in the Mersey valley tentatively indicate Old English rather than those of Old Norse or British origins (Ekwall 1922). The concentration of *-tun* place-names around modern Liverpool, for example at Ditton, Woolton and Halton, might potentially be indicative of a pre-Conquest economic centre (*ibid*), and recent archaeological work at Dutton's Farm, Lathom, Merseyside, approximately 3km north of the site at Finch Farm, has produced evidence, albeit tentative, for agricultural and settlement activity during the period (Cowell 2002 and 2003). Closer to the development site, at Court Farm,

Halewood, a significant Romano-British settlement was superseded by a possible enclosure, itself cut by a series of pits; a wooden stake from one such pit produced a radiocarbon date of AD 680-980 (1210 ±60BP; Beta-108098; Adams and Philpott forthcoming; Newman 2004,7). Halewood is not mentioned in the Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002), the village of Halewood first being mentioned in the thirteenth century (Mills 1998). During the High Middle Ages, the area of the site seems likely to have been agricultural, with Finch Lane, to the west of the development area, dating to this period (RPS 2004). Lovel's Hall, the fifteenth-century moated Manor for Halebank, lies nearly 2km to the east. Two silver pennies of Edward I (1272-1307), along with an undated lead figurine, have been recovered during metal detecting activity within the site boundary (*ibid*).

2.2.3 **Post-Medieval period:** cartographic evidence is particularly valuable in tracing the post-medieval history of the development area, although until the advent of the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) 6" to one mile map for the area (1850), the possible omission of those features that were not pertinent to the original aims of the Halewood Estate (1785), Enclosure (1803) and Tithe (1843) Maps causes problems. These early maps suggest that the development area comprised a patchwork of rectilinear fields aligned to the road network, comprising Lower Lane to the north, Woodside Lane to the south and Finch Lane (recorded as Butcher's Lane in 1843) to the west. Although none of the fields within the development area display aratral curvature, indicative of medieval ox-ploughing, there are possible examples closer to Halewood village. The road network also displays none of the angularity expected of a layout resulting from parliamentary enclosure, and may conceivably be medieval in origin. Indeed, the effect of parliamentary enclosure on the land surrounding the development area seems to have been very limited, with the mid-nineteenth-century building of the Manchester, Warrington and Garston railway line, to the south of the development site, being far more influential on the surrounding field system (RPS 2004).

2.2.4 The old maps also indicate the presence of structures within the development area. The earliest known source, the Lord Derby Estate Map, published in 1785, clearly shows the Finch Farm access track, with its distinctive northward curvature. Close to the eastern end of the track, what are presumed to be two buildings are shown, occupying a similar position to the Finch Farm complex. Unfortunately, the junction of the access track and what is now Finch Lane is obscured, so it is not possible to assess the nature of land use in this area at this date. The 1803 Halewood Enclosure map is a typical example of a source that shows only the information most relevant to its purpose: the apparent re-division, sale and enclosure of an area of land to the west of Halewood village. Although fields (known from the 1785 map to exist) outside of this area are not illustrated, numbered and shaded areas flanking the roads probably indicate individual landholdings. Somewhat frustratingly, Finch Lane is not treated in this manner and, whilst the location of the Finch Farm access track is indicated, those buildings shown on the 1785 map are not. Rather interestingly, however, structures are shown at the Finch Lane junction, comprising a longer building with an

associated track or hard standing to the north of the track, and a square building to the south. Both of these structures are shown on the 1843 Tithe Map, as are the two buildings at the eastern end of the Finch Farm access track. One of the latter is shown as distinctly 'L'-shaped in plan, while the other may possibly be shown as having an ancillary structure at its southern end.

- 2.2.5 Prior to the publication of the 1850 First Edition OS map it is not possible to identify the buildings shown on the older cartographic sources, but on this the building on the south side of the junction of Finch Lane is labelled Finch House and that at the eastern end of the access track as Platt's House. It is likely that the buildings associated with these structures are barns, with that associated with Platt's House being in a slightly different position to that shown on the Tithe Map. This may in part be a reflection of the differing degree of accuracy of the earlier map, but it is interesting to note that the ancillary structure associated with Platt's House is shown as markedly smaller and squarer than that on the 1843 map and it also appears to lie further to the south; considering the evidence of the historic building investigation (*Section 2.3.*), it is possible that the OS data were at least seven years old by the time the map was published. By the time the 1893 OS 25" to 1 mile was surveyed, there had been a great deal of change in the development area, with the area of Platt's House particularly affected, not least with the demolition of that building and the construction of Finch Farm. It seems likely that the possible 'L'-shaped barn shown on the 1843 map remained extant (Fig 3 - Building 3), to which two barns, a set of pigsties and a farmhouse were added, all of which formed elements of the recently-demolished Finch Farm complex (Buildings 4-6). A squarish area, likely to represent an enclosure with two very small adjoining structures, appears in the area formerly occupied by Platt's House.
- 2.2.6 Finch House, no longer labelled as such, together with its associated ancillary structures, would appear also to have undergone some significant changes between 1850 and 1893. The barn-like structure on the northern side of the access track, together with its associated hard standing and possible orchard area, no longer appears on the later map, while a small structure appears in the south-eastern corner of the house's plot on the south side of the access track. Of particular significance is the removal of the majority of field boundaries within the development area, which is reflected throughout the wider landscape and is likely to relate to agricultural intensification and the introduction of machinery.
- 2.2.7 The twentieth-century maps indicate less speedy change in the landscape; by 1908, a structure in the position of modern barn, Building 1, had been added to the Finch Farm complex, whilst a pair of semi-detached houses had been built to the south of the building formerly known as Finch House. The 1927 map would suggest that this structure was divided into two, but whether this reflects a recent division of ownership is uncertain, although it certainly suggests that the house was viewed as two separate structures, much like the semi-detached houses to the south. The only change within the Finch Farm complex is the addition of a small structure within the

enclosure occupying the site of Platt's House. The next phase of significant change is likely to have occurred in 1971, when Finch House was demolished (RPS 2004), and it is about this time that a modern barn (Building 2) was added to the Finch Farm complex, close to the area formerly occupied by Platt's House.

2.3 HISTORIC BUILDINGS' INVESTIGATION

- 2.3.1 **Introduction:** as part of the first phase of archaeological fieldwork undertaken on the site, an historic buildings' investigation was undertaken by OA of the then-extant structures of the Finch Farm complex (OA 2005). Of the six buildings within the complex, Buildings 1 and 2 were modern and were, therefore, not recorded in detail. The investigation recorded many of the key features of the brick-built structures on site, offering an interpretation of the date and function of these buildings. Building 3 (Fig 3) appeared to be the oldest edifice, and was identified with a structure shown on the 1843 Tithe Map with an identical 'L'-shaped plan and also, but less definitely, given the quality of the representation, as a structure shown on the 1785 Lord Derby Estate Map. Building 3 therefore seems to have been built in the second half of the eighteenth century and to have undergone various modifications, so its representation on the 1785 map (and its rather stubby appearance on the 1850 OS map) is not inconceivable. The roof, supported by a softwood machine-cut king post arrangement, is thought to be a mid-nineteenth-century modification relating to the raising of this feature. The building, built using a 5:1 'English Garden Wall' bond, would appear to have functioned as a threshing barn, flanked to the east and west by animal shelters and with a first floor granary and hayloft.
- 2.3.2 Building 4, a single-storey structure in Flemish bond adjoining Building 3, was identified as a former stable, with a washroom and associated fireplace and coalshed. A row of four brick pigsties, contemporary with the rest of Building 4, stood at the southern end of the building.
- 2.3.3 Building 5, a two-storey brick structure in English Bond at the lower levels and 3:1 English Garden Bond higher up, was divided into three sections. The southernmost section was interpreted as a byre, with a characteristic floor channel and four stone stalls providing room for eight cattle; there was a hayloft above. This section was divided from the gable-ended northern section, with its north-facing double doors, by a central room fitted with wagon doors onto the farm courtyard. A rather weathered date plaque at the north gable end indicated that the building had been constructed in the 1870s.
- 2.3.4 Building 6, the farmhouse, would appear to be later nineteenth century in date and, even within the primary structure, to be built of at least two different types of brick in Flemish bond. Many of the rooms had been greatly modified over the course of the twentieth century, and few original features remained.

2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- 2.4.1 **Introduction:** the second element of fieldwork on the site comprised an archaeological evaluation undertaken in two phases between June and July 2005. The first phase involved the excavation of 18 trenches, each covering 60m², divided equally among three locations selected by RPS. Following consultation with Merseyside Archaeological Services, trenches were repositioned in several instances by OA North. Area A (Trenches 1-6) was placed by RPS in the north-west part of the development (Fig 2) whilst the Area B trenches (Trenches 7-12) were placed by OA North and RPS to investigate available areas of the Finch Farm complex and to evaluate an area of potential identified from old maps on either side of the junction of the access track with Finch Lane. Area C (Trenches 13-18) was placed by RPS at the southern end of the development area, but following a request from MAS, Trenches 13 and 17 were moved northwards. The results of the evaluation are summarised below, with only those of significance to the ensuing excavation related in any detail; the full results and an in-depth discussion are presented in the report on the evaluation (OA North 2006a).
- 2.4.2 **Area A - summary results:** Trenches 1-6 were placed within an area roughly 75m (north/south) by 150m (east/west) within the north-western corner of the development area (Fig 2), with Trench 1 the most westerly and Trench 6 the most easterly. Each of the six trenches measured 30m by 2m and, with the exceptions of Trenches 2 and 5 (which were aligned north-east/south-west), were aligned north-west/south-east. Trench 1 was archaeologically sterile, with the topsoil underlain by a layer of subsoil before the sandy-clay natural geology was encountered at c 0.65m depth. This general pattern was observed in each of the other trenches, with occasional patches of variation within the natural geology. Stone-built field drains (locally known as 'stone soughs' - J Mallinson *pers comm*) were encountered within Trenches 2, 3 and 4, while other field drains revealed within Trenches 3, 5 and 6 were of more modern appearance. A north/south aligned ditch, **137**, located in Trench 3, had been cut by one such modern field drain, but yielded no finds. A small possible pit, **134**, was found within Trench 4, but again, contained no dating evidence.
- 2.4.3 **Area B - summary results:** with the exception of Trenches 11 (6m by 11.6m) and 12 (3m by 20m), each trench measured 2m by 30m. Trenches 7 and 8 were positioned on either side of, and parallel to, the east/west aligned access track running from Finch Lane to Finch Farm, in order to identify any remains associated with Finch House (Fig 2). Masonry foundations, highly likely to represent the remains of Finch House, were located within Trench 7. Within Trench 8, along with a pit, a large irregular ditch or possibly a channel, **158**, was aligned north-west/south-east and was approximately 3.5m wide by 0.74m deep. Although no dating evidence was recovered from this feature, its size and orientation were unlike any other boundary encountered on site, many of which could otherwise be related to those shown on the pre-1893 maps. This, together with the fact that the backfilling of ditch **158** pre-dated the distribution of post-medieval artefacts onsite through manuring, suggested an early date for this feature.

- 2.4.4 Trenches 10-12 were placed around the extant Finch Farm buildings (Fig 3). Trench 10 revealed a layer, potentially of demolition rubble, overlying a dark grey ashy layer within which a quantity of pottery of seventeenth-century date, and later, was recovered. Trench 11 was positioned to the east of brick-built barn Building 5 and very close to Trench 10. In total, ten features and a modern drain were encountered, including a cow burial, four postholes, a ditch and the remains of two hedgerows. These features contained predominantly post-medieval pottery, but a late medieval sherd was also identified. Trench 12, positioned in the yard between brick-built Buildings 3 and 4, revealed an extensive brick surface.
- 2.4.5 *Trench 7 - detailed results:* Trench 7 was aligned north-west/south-east and measured 30m by 2m. It was placed to the south-west of, and parallel to, the Finch Farm access track. The trench revealed two stone-capped culverts along with footings for a building, identified as Finch House, and a possible associated out-building to the east. A concentration of unstratified finds was recovered during the removal of the topsoil and subsoil, suggesting occupation of nineteenth- and twentieth-century date. The clear presence of archaeological remains meant that any concerted investigation within this trench was halted in favour of more thorough examination at a later stage, when the trench could be extended to uncover the full plan of the extant structural remains.
- 2.4.6 *Trench 10 - detailed results:* Trench 10, measuring 30m by 2m and excavated to a depth of 1.1m, was aligned east/west alongside the southern edge of modern barn Building 2. The trench revealed a tarmac surface overlying a bedding material of gravel and clinker, **106** (see also *Section 2.4.7*), which in turn overlay two make-up or dumping layers. These comprised an upper pinkish-brown sand layer, **107**, containing sandstone and brick fragments, and a lower dark grey-black compact ashy clay layer, **108**. The presence within layer **108** of large amounts of charcoal and unabraded pottery dated to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and possibly as early as the sixteenth century (Sarah-Jane Farr *pers comm*), would suggest that this layer was composed of redeposited midden material. Layer **108**, in turn, overlay a shallow gully, **105**, which was 2m in length, 1.02m wide and 0.07m deep. Gully **105** contained two fills, **104**, a dark grey/black loose silty sand, and **111**, a dark grey mottled white clay mixed with building debris and degraded chalky plaster. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 2.4.7 *Trench 11- detailed results:* this trench was aligned east/west, measuring 11.6m by 6m, and was excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which depth the natural geology was encountered. The trench was placed *c* 5m to the east of Building 5 within the farm complex and *c* 10m to the south of Trench 10. A layer of concrete overlay a 0.4m thick layer of topsoil, **117**, which in turn overlay a levelling layer of crushed brick 0.05m thick, **118**, itself overlying black stony clinker **119**, 0.08m thick, which sealed the features detailed below (*Section 2.4.6*). The known later history of this area indicated that this sequence represented a period of demolition followed by the deposition

of organic material to form a garden/planting area, itself succeeded by an area of hard standing for modern agricultural needs (Ted Glen *pers comm*).

- 2.4.8 Four postholes were identified within the trench. Postholes **110** (sub-square, 0.04m deep) and **113** (sub-circular and 0.2m deep) were found towards the east end of the trench and postholes **126** (sub-rectangular and 0.08m deep) and **128** (square and quite substantial at c 0.32m square by 0.3m deep) were recorded at the western end. The size, shape and configuration of these postholes would suggest that they do not form a coherent pattern. One fragment of clay tobacco pipe (eighteenth- to early twentieth-century) and a fragment of early nineteenth-century pearlware teapot were recovered from fill **125** of posthole **126**, whilst two sherds of late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century pottery were found in fill **127** of posthole **128**. A ditch, **137**, was aligned approximately east/west with steep concave sides, c 0.5m wide. It was 0.26m deep and filled with mid-grey silt **136**. Following the deposition of silt **136**, hedgerow **130** was planted on the same alignment. The evidence for hedgerow **130** comprised a deposit of dark grey/brown moderately loose clay-silt, **129**, 6.34m long, 1.9m wide and 0.47m deep. Finds of a domestic nature and dating from the late seventeenth to early twentieth centuries were recovered from fill **129**. In turn, hedge **130** was truncated by another hedgerow, **121**, which was 6m long, 1m wide, 0.3m deep and aligned north/south. Hedgeline **121** was filled with blackish-grey sandy-clay **120**, from which a few sherds of domestic pottery dating from the late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-centuries were recovered.
- 2.4.9 An articulated cow burial, **220**, was located at the north-west corner of Trench 11, which had been deposited within a vertically-sided sub-rectangular pit, **124**, 1.55m long, 0.8m wide and 0.18m deep. Part of the skull was truncated, probably due to previous levelling activity on the site, but the state of epiphyseal fusion would suggest a sub-adult beast. The backfill, **123**, surrounding the skeleton was a mixed mid-grey-brown and pinkish-brown silty clay within which charcoal was present. Immediately to the north of cow burial **124**, small oval pit **135** was found, measuring 0.59m long, 0.44m wide and 0.24m deep, with steep to gradually-sloping concave sides. The dark grey-brown clayey-silt fill, **132**, of the pit contained sherds of a stoneware teapot and a white earthenware saucer, dating to the late eighteenth to nineteenth centuries and the nineteenth to twentieth centuries respectively.
- 2.4.10 **Trench 12 - detailed results:** Trench 12 was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 20m by 3m, and was placed between Buildings 3 and 4. The trench revealed a concrete surface, **100**, overlying a very dark-coloured bedding layer of gravel, broken concrete and cinder, **101**. This in turn overlay a red brick surface, **102**, covering the entirety of the trench. The bricks appeared to be handmade, measured approximately 250mm by 110mm by 70mm, and were laid directly onto natural geology. Beneath this surface were two modern ceramic land drains and one modern service aligned north-west/south-east. No further archaeological remains were revealed cutting into the exposed natural geology.

- 2.4.11 **Area C - summary results:** each of the trenches measured 2m by 30m and they were located within the southern part of the development area, with Trenches 13 and 17 situated *c* 50m to the south of the farm complex and Trenches 14-16 and 18 placed *c* 50m to the north of the southern site boundary (Fig 2). Overall, the amount of archaeological remains discovered in this area was small and, in most cases, bands of subsoil of variable character were encountered. Ditches, likely to relate to boundary features shown on the pre-1893 maps, were revealed in Trenches 15, 16 and 17, while a possible hedgeline was observed in Trench 14. No archaeological remains were revealed during the evaluation of Trenches 13 and 18.
- 2.4.12 **Phase 2 evaluation:** following the first phase of evaluation, it was hoped that a metal detector survey would be of value in helping to establish the positions of a second phase of evaluation trenches. However, the long grass on the site meant that it was not possible to undertake this work effectively, and the trench locations for Area D (Trenches 19-24; Fig 2) were instead established on the basis of the old maps, all laying within the northern half of the development area.
- 2.4.13 **Phase 2 - summary results:** Trenches 19 and 20, each 2m by 30m and aligned roughly north-west/south-east, were placed at the north-east end of the development area; both revealed ditches. These, and all of the other ditches revealed in these two evaluation trenches, could be equated with field boundaries shown on the pre-1893 maps. Trenches 21 and 22 were placed just north of the farm complex. Trench 21 measured 15m by 7.5m and contained a 'T'-shaped complex of stone-capped drains. Excavation of Trench 22, measuring 2m by 30m, revealed a boundary ditch and a shallow linear feature. Trench 23, to the north of the access track, revealed a ditch and a stone-built field drain. Trench 24, measuring 10m by 6m, was positioned immediately to the north of the access track and adjacent to the western boundary of the development area in order to investigate a possible structure tentatively identified on old maps of the area. The evaluation revealed a number of features likely to be associated with this structure, including brick and stone walls, areas of cobbling or hard standing, and demolition deposits. Also exposed were a large ditch, a pit and a tree bole. Upon the exposure of the structures by machine, the work proceeded to excavation recording, the results of which are detailed in *Section 5*.

3 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS

3.1 ACADEMIC AIMS

- 3.1.1 One of the main research aims of the excavation, given the commercial nature of the development, was to characterise and preserve by record the significant archaeological remains identified by the evaluation, which would be impacted upon by the development. The data generated could be used to reconstruct a chronological narrative of the site and its use, in addition to that identified from desk-based research (RPS 2004), evaluation (OA North 2006a), historical buildings' investigation (OA 2005) and in association with further detailed map regression and documentary research.
- 3.1.2 Of particular interest was the historical development of the site: the excavation sought to identify the presence and conformation of any precursors to the then-extant buildings of Finch Farm, but also any changes in use to the identified structures. Of especial importance within the Finch Farm area was the identification and excavation of the extent of Platt's House. This would help to date the structure, to determine whether Platt's House represented the earliest phase of habitation on the immediate site, and also to ascertain the development from what would appear to be a single structure in the late eighteenth century to a complex of farm buildings by the mid- to later nineteenth century. Similarly, the dating and understanding of the development and decline of Finch House was seen as being of primary importance.
- 3.1.3 Also of interest was the recovery of any evidence that would allow a determination of any direct or indirect relationships between Finch House and Platt's House/Finch Farm: for example, whether it would be possible to establish which was built first, and whether each building followed an independent trajectory, mirroring periods of economic growth or decline in their compositional development, or whether their phases of development reflected any shifting of importance between two related sites.
- 3.1.4 It was hoped that the information could be used to inform wider research frameworks involving an expanding corpus of excavated post-medieval farmsteads in the North West (Newman and McNeil 2005). Comparison of the Finch Farm data with such sites would help to place the identified remains within a regional framework and would highlight those features that are specific to the present study.

3.2 OBJECTIVES

- 3.2.1 In order to meet the aims stated above, the following objectives were devised:
- to expand and excavate open areas surrounding Trenches 7 and 24, on either side of the Finch Lane/access track junction (provisionally *c* 30m x

30m and c 20m x 20m, respectively), to establish the limit of identifiable structural and ancillary features

- to excavate two new trenches measuring approximately 300m² within the footprints of the recently-demolished northernmost structures of the Finch Farm complex (Buildings 2, 3 and 5)
- to characterise and provide as full a record as possible of all archaeological features on site, identifying any phasing
- to establish the plan and developmental sequence of the structures on site
- to assess the recovered dataset in terms of potential for further analysis regarding the above stated academic aims.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 PROJECT DESIGN

4.1.1 The MAS- and RPS-approved project design compiled by OA North for the archaeological excavation to be undertaken at Finch Farm (*Appendix 1*) was followed in full throughout the fieldwork; all work conducted was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

4.2 TRENCH CONFIGURATION

4.2.1 **Trench 7:** during the evaluation, Trench 7 had encountered structural remains that were identified as the vestiges of a building, Finch House, shown (although not named) on the 1803 Halewood Enclosure Map and possibly also on the 1785 Lord Derby Estate Map of Halewood, remaining, with a number of modifications, until its demolition in 1971. The original 2m by 30m, roughly east/west aligned evaluation trench (Fig 2) was expanded until it was 'L'-shaped in plan, the long axis measuring 34m by 15.5m east/west and the shorter north/south axis, on the east side, was 14m by 14m (Fig 4). The northern and western limits of the trench were defined by the known locations of services running parallel to the Finch Farm access track and Finch Lane, respectively, while excavation to the south and east continued to the limit of identified archaeological remains. The excavation took place over a period of four weeks in August 2005.

4.2.2 **Trench 24:** during the evaluation of Trench 24, structural remains, provisionally identified as those depicted on the 1803 Halewood Enclosure Map, were encountered and the 6m by 10m north/south aligned evaluation trench was immediately expanded to cover an area 21.5m north/south by 17.2m east/west (Fig 4). The trench was excavated over a period of two weeks between July and August 2005.

4.2.3 **Trench 25:** although evaluation within the area of the Finch Farm complex had identified the presence of deposits associated with occupation, there was no evidence for substantial *in situ* structural remains, despite the fact that several buildings within the area could be recognised from cartographic depictions. The demolition of the farm complex made it possible to investigate the area for any structural precursors. Trench 25 was originally to have measured 10m north/south by 35m east/west, allowing it to straddle Buildings 3 and 5. However, the presence of a standpipe and a large water-filled hole towards the centre of the proposed position of the trench, left by the recent demolition, meant that the trench was divided into three separate areas (Areas 1-3; Fig 4). Area 1, the most easterly part, measured 14m east/west by 10m. Area 2 was offset by 10m to the south to avoid the water-filled hole and measured 10m by 7.75m east/west. Area 3 was placed to the west of Area 2 and offset to the north by approximately 10m. It was aligned

east/west and measured 12.75m by 10m. The excavation of Trench 25 was carried out in very poor weather for three weeks in September 2005.

- 4.2.4 **Trench 26:** the results of Evaluation Trench 10 (*Section 2*) in particular, combined with the cartographic evidence, indicated that there was good potential for structural remains within the area of Building 2. The demolition of this modern structure made it possible to investigate this area in the form of Trench 26, which was intended to measure 30m east/west by 10m north/south. However, during monitoring of the removal of the foundation slab for Building 3, a large amount of buried asbestos was found all around the building. Since this material could not be disturbed and, in any case, its burial appeared likely to have truncated any archaeological remains around the building, it was decided to excavate a reduced trench in an uncontaminated area within the confines of the former building. Trench 26, therefore, measured 25.5m east/west by 5.5m, and was excavated in November 2005 for two weeks.

4.3 EXCAVATION

- 4.3.1 Each of the four trenches was excavated in a similar manner: the uppermost levels of material were removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the top of the first significant archaeological level or to the top of the natural drift geology and subsequently inspected for archaeological features. Where appropriate, machine excavation was then used to define carefully the extent of any surviving foundations and other archaeological features or deposits within each of the trenches. The revealed structural remains, archaeological features and deposits were then cleaned by hand using, where appropriate, hoes, shovel scraping, and trowels. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by the Merseyside Archaeologist.
- 4.3.2 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs with visible graduated metric scales, the latter in 35mm and digital format) to identify and illustrate individual features.

4.4 ASSESSMENT OF BOTANICAL REMAINS

- 4.4.1 Nine 10-litre bulk samples from secure contexts were desegregated and hand-floated; the light fractions (flots) were collected on 250 micron mesh and air-dried. The dry flots were scanned with a Leica MZ6 stereo microscope and charred and waterlogged plant material was provisionally identified and recorded in terms of abundance (where + is present and ++ is frequent). The components of the matrix were also noted. Botanical nomenclature follows Stace (1991).

4.5 ASSESSMENT OF FAUNAL REMAINS

- 4.5.1 The assessment of the animal bone recorded the number of fragments per species, condition of the bone, and the number of bones from which tooth wear, fusion, metrical and butchery data could be obtained. Tooth wear and fusion information is used to achieve age estimates of the animals, and metrical data to assess their size.

4.6 ARCHIVE

- 4.6.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Merseyside Record Office on completion of the project. A copy of the report, along with all of the finds, will be deposited with the Liverpool Museum and a copy of the report, together with an index to the archive, will be deposited with the Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record.

5 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 In total, an area equivalent to approximately 1578 square metres was exposed and recorded within the four excavation areas (Fig 4). Summary results of the excavation are presented below and, where appropriate, have been combined with those of the evaluation to form a single narrative. In each instance, the description of the results is broken down into more manageable units by phase; this phasing, as appropriate for an assessment, is provisional and may be refined in the light of evidence produced from detailed analysis of the dataset. For the sake of brevity and clarity, individual context descriptions are summarised within *Appendix 3*.

5.2 TRENCH 7

5.2.1 Trench 7 (Fig 5; Plate 1) covered an area of roughly 706m². The present ground level around the trench dropped from 17.09m OD on the southern edge to 16.56m OD towards the north-eastern edge. The base of the trench lay between 16.62m and 16.71m OD in the south, dropping to between 16.54m and 16.28m OD in the north. Natural clay was encountered 0.28m below the present ground level and the first significant archaeological deposits lay 0.07m below the present ground level (16.81m OD).

5.2.2 Four broad provisional phases of activity have been ascribed to the deposits and structures encountered during the investigation of Trench 7, and the results are presented below in chronological order:

Phase 1 Pre-building phase

Phase 2 Construction of Finch House

Phase 3 Construction of stone drains and ditch

Phase 4 Extensive rebuilding and remodelling of Finch House in brick (post-1843).

5.2.3 **Phase 1:** the earliest recognised activity on the site was an undated 0.57m long series of five stakeholes and a cobbled surface, both located toward the north-west corner of the trench, beneath what would later become Building A. The stakeholes, **7087A-E**, aligned roughly north/south, were found cut into the natural clay within the south-eastern corner of what would become Room 2 (Fig 5; *Section 5.2.10*). The cobbled surface, **7136**, survived within the north-east part of what was to become Room 1 (Fig 5; *Section 5.2.7*), 0.72m (16.11m OD) below the present ground surface.

5.2.4 **Phase 2:** the major phase of activity on the site comprised the construction of the structure recognised from the 1850 OS First Edition as Finch House. This structure (Building A; Fig 6; Plate 2) survived as a suite of red sandstone walls, clearly distinct from the later brick structures (*Section 5.2.25*). The

Phase 2 remains comprised an inverted 'L'-shaped structure on a north/south axis, defining a courtyard area to the south-east, a shape that is clearly recognisable on the 1843 Halewood Enclosure map. The building as excavated was mainly, but not fully, recovered, as the northernmost part of the structure lay under the baulk separating the trench from the Finch Farm access road. The extents of the structure as found measured 6.5m by 6.7m. The walls, composed of irregularly-sized roughly-squared sandstone blocks, had generally been laid directly on the natural substrate or on bedding layers, but rarely with the aid of foundation trenches. In some cases, **7073** for example, walls were bonded with red clay.

- 5.2.5 In several instances, for example deposits **7019**, **7116** and **7206** (the latter located at the eastern end of Building A), attempts would appear to have been made to level areas of the undulating natural clay to provide a firm footing for the structure. Of these, deposit **7019**, located within the western part of what was to become Room 1 (Figs 6 and 7), produced 33 sherds of seventeenth- to eighteenth-century pottery, as well as window glass and clay tobacco pipe. Layer **7116** (Figs 6 and 8), located within the western part of the courtyard, contained earthenwares, tin-glazed earthenwares and cream-and pearlwares individually broadly dated from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries.
- 5.2.6 The north/south axis was likely to be aligned along a precursor to extant Phase 4 wall **7010** to the west (*Section 5.2.25*; Fig 6), and wall **7009** to the east, which continued beyond the northern limit of the trench. At the southern end of wall **7009** was a partial westward return, a 1.5m to the north of which was a cross wall, **7132**, indicating internal subdivision of the structure. Further north still had been another east/west cross wall, **7025** (Fig 6), its position marked by robbing cut **7066**. The eastward extent of wall **7025** continued as wall **7005**, forming the south wall of the east/west wing. The east wall of that wing was formed by **7073** but the north wall lay beneath the northern baulk. Building A contained four small, but clearly-defined rooms.
- 5.2.7 *Room 1*: located at the north-eastern end of the building, and aligned roughly east/west, measuring 3.5m by 1.5m, Room 1 (Plate 3) was bounded by wall **7005** to the south and walls **7073** (built on levelling layer **7206**; Plate 4) and **7004** to the east and west respectively (Fig 6). Wall **7004** appeared to be a slightly later partial rebuild of wall **7009**, and had been built on top of levelling deposit **7019**. The room was divided on a north/south alignment by a later drain, **7068**, and it is noticeable that the deposits on either side of this were different in character, possibly indicating that the drain may have replaced, or followed, an earlier partition wall. Thus, on the east side of the room, the floors (overlying Phase 1 cobble layer **7136**) were characterised by thicker bands of reddish-brown silty clay, **7090**, **7022-23** and **7030/7091**, sandwiching a narrower band of dark cindery material, **7089/7076** (Fig 7). The pottery recovered from these surfaces was not closely datable, being identified as late seventeenth- to early twentieth century in date.
- 5.2.8 A north/south aligned cut, **7094**, through layers **7023**, **7089** and **7090**, was noted close to wall **7073** (Fig 7; Plate 4). This cut was not noted along the

length of wall **7073** and so may indicate some minor repair to the wall. The repair was then sealed below layer **7022**.

- 5.2.9 A similar series of layered deposits, **7156-59**, was identified on the east side of wall **7073**. This might suggest that the Phase 2 building had extended further east, although no related walls were located. Alternatively, these layers could be ground-raising deposits correlating closely to the floors in Room 1. The pottery recovered from these deposits to the east of wall **7073** was composed predominantly of finewares, the majority of which dated from the eighteenth to nineteenth centuries (see *Section 6.6*).
- 5.2.10 **Room 2**: this lay in the north-west corner of Building A, and was bounded to the south by the remains of wall **7025** and to east by wall **7009** (Plate 5). This part of the building lay between 16.62m OD and 16.54m OD, somewhat higher than Room 1, but to the west of wall **7009** most contemporary features had been removed by later activity, while the northern extent of the room was beyond the limit of excavation, close to the Finch Farm access track. Only the compacted original levelling layer, **7088**, survived, sealing the undulating area in which stakeholes **7087** were located. Layer **7088** contained pottery dating from the late seventeenth century onwards, but had undergone some degree of disturbance.
- 5.2.11 **Room 3**: this was adjacent to the south of Room 2 and measured 2.5m north/south by 1.6m, although it was thought that the extant west wall, **7010**, did not necessarily share the position of its Phase 2 equivalent. Thus the room was bounded by walls **7009** and **7132**, to the east and south respectively. Wall **7009** was unusual in that, on its east side, it was constructed in a very shallow cut into levelling layer **7116** (*Section 5.2.15*; Fig 8).
- 5.2.12 The lowest archaeological horizon within Room 3 comprised **7012**, a thick levelling layer for a 50mm thick clay floor, **7011**. Layer **7012** continued southward into Room 4 (*Section 5.2.13*) and produced 125 artefacts, including 88 sherds of pottery, together with window and bottle glass. The pottery fabrics (mainly coarsewares, particularly brown-glazed earthenwares) individually had a broad date range of between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries, so close dating of layer **7012** is not yet possible.
- 5.2.13 **Room 4**: the most southerly room within the east wing, Room 4, was quite small, measuring 1.5m by 1.6m, and was defined by wall **7009** to the south and east and by internal wall **7132** to the north (Fig 6). This latter wall was possibly a short-lived addition to the east range as it was seated, without a construction cut, partially on top of levelling layer **7012**. Wall **7132** was itself partially overlain by a probable ground-raising deposit, **7134**, which extended across both Rooms 3 and 4.
- 5.2.14 **Exterior and east of Building A**: the area immediately to the east of Rooms 3 and 4 had been subject to episodes of levelling and ground-raising throughout the lifetime of Building A (Fig 8). Several deposits, such as **7168** and **7169**, were similar to those observed within the building and had built-up over the pre-building levelling deposits (exemplified by deposit **7116**) and against wall

7009. Located towards the northern end of the courtyard, to the east of Room 1, cobbled surface **7033** was bedded on a preparatory layer of silty clay, **7121**, itself deposited on the natural clay.

- 5.2.15 *The well*: some 4m south-east of Building A was a well in an excellent state of preservation (Fig 6). Although circular in plan, the 7.4m deep (9.1m OD) well had been sunk within a square construction cut, before being lined with large red sandstone blocks (**7200**), to produce a diameter of 1.23m. The construction cut had then been backfilled with pinkish-grey silt, **7035**, and various repairs and alterations had been effected with the aid of handmade bricks. The water within the well, although health and safety precautions prevented close inspection, was reported to be clear and clean and it would seem likely that the well served the buildings revealed in Trench 7 throughout Phases 2-4. A group of large but shallow postholes, **7050-52**, were identified close to the eastern side of the well and may have formed part of an associated structure.
- 5.2.16 A group of postholes, including **7115**, **7209**, **7210** and **7055** (Fig 5), the latter possibly a much truncated pit, lay to the east of the well and formed a roughly north-north-east/south-south-west alignment. A 0.5m wide putative pit of uncertain function, **7125**, was identified at the northern end of the trench (Figs 5, 8 and 9; Plate 6) and may represent the northern extension of this alignment. This group could have formed a property boundary, coinciding with a feature shown on the 1843 map, but may merely have been a fence dividing Building A from a pond (Section 5.2.17).
- 5.2.17 *The pond*: this feature, **7144**, lay 18m to the south-east of Building A and was revealed through a series of excavated sondages to be 6m across by 0.5m deep (16.17m OD at the base; Fig 5). From its extant remains it can be suggested that pond **7144** was probably originally square in plan with rounded corners. The fill contained a number of rounded stones, which might indicate that there were once cobbles on its northern edge, perhaps as an area of hard standing to allow cattle to water. The early date of this feature was confirmed by the presence within basal fill **7145** of brown-glazed red earthenware and, in particular, a typical seventeenth-century cup with applied strip decoration. During Phase 2, the pond had been backfilled with **7164**, which contained earthenwares broadly dated to the late seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries. The upper deposit within the pond, **7081**, was likely to have been utilised as garden soil throughout the remaining use of the area, as indicated by the more varied dates of the pottery recovered.
- 5.2.18 *Phase 3*: the recognised activity within Phase 3 was largely associated with drainage. It comprised the excavation of two ditches in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the trench and the implementation of a stone drainage regime, the insertion of which had led to the deposition of further floor and ground-raising layers within Room 1 and the adjacent south-east courtyard. Ditch **7193/7006** (Fig 5) curved from the eastern edge of the trench to the south, cutting across pond **7144** as it did so. At its north-east end, ditch **7193** was 2.6m wide and 1.05m deep (15.29m OD) and the primary fill, **7196**, contained a single shard of nineteenth-century bottle glass. The southern extent of the

ditch, **7006**, was 2.4m wide and 1.3m deep (15.28m OD), showing that the base of the ditch was remarkably level along its course.

- 5.2.19 Ditch **7128**, of comparable size, was aligned west-north-west/east-south-east and was likely to have joined ditch **7006/7193** (Fig 5) just beyond the north-east corner of the trench. Ditch **7128**, of which only the southern edge was revealed because of its position on the northern edge of the trench, is identified with a boundary on the 1843 Tithe Map and the 1850 OS map forming the division between Finch House and the Finch Farm access track. As such, this boundary may have replaced posthole alignment **7209-7211**, **7115**, **7125** (Section 5.2.16).
- 5.2.20 Coinciding with the excavation of ditches **7006/7193** and **7128** was the construction of a system of stone-lined and -capped drains, one of which, **7153**, was likely to have been used to carry waste water away from Building A and into ditch **7006/7193** (Fig 5). The main bodies of drain **7153** and of a contiguous northward fork, **7037**, were constructed within a fairly tight-fitting cut, **7036**, dug into the natural drift geology, **7133**. Drain **7153** was traced for 15.5m to the south-east, with a fall of *c* 0.3m across that distance, while section **7037** survived for 2m from their junction before being truncated by later services.
- 5.2.21 The north-west extent of drain **7153** was not evident within the interior of Building A, due to the high degree of truncation by later services, but two sections of a similarly constructed, roughly north/south aligned drain were examined within Room 1 and in the adjacent courtyard area to the south (Figs 6 and 7). This drain, **7068**, however, would appear not to have linked-up with **7153**, and instead flowed to the north. Within Room 1, drain **7068** had breached wall **7005**, and was built within a wide construction cut, **7072**, seen to cut layers **7019**, **7023**, **7089** and **7090** and floor deposits **7022** and **7030/7092** (Fig 7). In the east courtyard the drain cut deposits **7116** and **7169** (Fig 8). Continuity of the use of Room 1 was demonstrated by the fact that the drain was sealed below further floor deposits, the earliest of which, layer **7018**, contained coarsewares dating to the late seventeenth or eighteenth century; this may suggest that the insertion of the stone drain was within a century of the construction of Building A. Continued occupation of Room 1 within Phase 3 was further demonstrated by the deposition of bedding layer **7017** and compact sandy mortar surface **7003**, the former of which sealed layer **7018**. Layers **7003** and **7017** contained finds of a similar date to **7018**, including red slip-coated cream-coloured earthenware.
- 5.2.22 In the courtyard, the ground surface had been built-up around drain **7068**; firstly **7139**, a north/south aligned broken brick and stone rubble spread 2.5m long and 0.7m wide, had been placed on top of layer **7116** and had in turn been sealed by cinder and ash deposit **7085**, which abutted the drain (Fig 8). Finally, both deposit **7085** and the drain had been sealed by rubbly soil layer **7084**, partially sealed, at its western end, by deposit **7083**, which was seen to extend north to abut walls **7005** and **7009** (Fig 8). These deposits contained a large assemblage of pottery and some glass (both vessel and window) with a broad post-medieval date range beginning in the seventeenth century.

- 5.2.23 The Phase 3 stone drains may have coincided with a rather novel arrangement of semi-elliptical ceramic drains, **7080**, inserted into cut **7079** within Room 4 (Fig 6). These drains cut the earlier floor and make-up layers and would have appeared to have carried waste water away from Room 4 in a southerly direction through the western return of wall **7009**, although the exact relationship with the wall was destroyed by later truncation.
- 5.2.24 **Phase 4**: this phase was characterised by a major programme of rebuilding and expansion of Building A and the construction of Building B.
- 5.2.25 **Building A**: the rebuilding of Building A involved the demolition of several Phase 2 walls, including **7005** (the southern external wall of Room 1) and internal wall **7025** (dividing Rooms 2 and 3), together with the extension of the house to the west, east and south. Many of these later deposits had suffered truncation, most likely from modern plough damage (Ted Glen, pers comm), and the best-preserved parts of the Phase 4 renovation could be seen to the west and south. The extension to the west was entirely in brick and, like its Phase 2 predecessor, was largely built straight onto the natural clays without foundation trenches. The west wall of the Phase 2 house was likely to have been demolished and moved eastwards. Evidence for this comes from a cut through the Phase 2 and 3 deposits within Rooms 3 and 4, into which a north/south aligned wall of reused sandstone, **7010**, was inserted (Fig 6). Bonded to the west side of this wall and built directly onto the natural clay was a parallel brick wall **7014**, which extended 7m from the original line of the Phase 2 south wall. The south wall of the Phase 4 brick extension was no longer extant, but its position was marked by **7038**, a distinct, although shallow, step in the natural clay, a little to the south of the Phase 2 equivalent.
- 5.2.26 It is likely that wall **7014**, together with newly-constructed parallel walls **7016** (to the south) and **7135** (to the north), formed a cross passage dividing the Phase 2 structure to the east from the new Phase 4 elements to the west. This passage was partially surfaced with a layer of mortar and plaster, **7208**. It should be noted that, from 1893, the OS maps depict Building A as being divided into two. A further north/south wall, **7112**, was located 1.5m to the west of wall **7016**, which may represent the western external wall of the Phase 4 extension.
- 5.2.27 The excavated brick-built extension to the west of the cross passage was divided into three rooms. The most northerly, Room 5, extended beyond the limit of excavation, but was defined to the east and south by walls **7135** and **7044** respectively. The identifiable remains within Room 5 comprised a rectangular depression cut into the natural clay which had been filled with rubbly deposit **7043**, the surface of which bore the faint traces of two very decayed north/south aligned floor joists (Fig 6). The central room, Room 6, was divided from Room 7, to the south, by a brick-built hollow rectangular structure, **7102**, approximately 0.86m square and likely to be the base of a chimney. This feature would appear to have been filled at the base with redeposited material, as the lowest fill, **7104**, contained clinker and natural clay, together with pearlware attributable to the mid-eighteenth-to early

nineteenth-centuries. Butting chimney base **7102** within Room 7 was a floor surface of greyish-yellow sandy mortar and plaster, **7111**.

- 5.2.28 The Phase 4 rebuilding also extended to the east of the original footprint of Building A, where it filled-in the former courtyard defined by the east/west and north/south wings of the Phase 2 building (Fig 6). Thus, extending eastward from the southern end of wall **7009**, was a short brick wall, **7057**, itself bonded with a 1m wide square brick alcove comprising walls **7047** and **7189-90**. Adjacent and east of the alcove was a 1m wide threshold, **7048**, formed from two squared red sandstone blocks. The east side of the threshold was bounded by a north/south orientated brick wall, **7046**, which survived to a length of 1.7m, but could once have extended northwards as far as the position of wall **7005**. A possible floor, composed of crushed ceramic building material and mortar, **7059**, overlay the levelled remains of Phase 2 wall **7005** and extended beyond the former limits of Room 1, into the area enclosed by the Phase 4 eastern brick walls. Further Phase 4 surfaces were identified within Rooms 2 (cobbles **7024**) and 3 (cobbles **7065**) and may support the use of these areas for purposes other than the domestic.
- 5.2.29 There was some evidence to suggest that the Phase 4 rebuild extended even further east. The positioning of several bricks at the south end of wall **7046** might suggest that the wall had continued to the east, while an isolated section of east/west wall, **7054**, located 1.7m east of wall **7046** and slightly to the north of it, could also indicate the eastward extent of Building A (Fig 6). If this was the case, however, then these extensions must post-date 1927, as they do not correlate with the latest cartographic evidence for the building. Also possibly post-dating 1927 was the construction onto a concrete foundation of a short stretch of brick wall, **7040**, which was bonded with Phase 2 wall **7073**, which had formerly marked the eastern extent of Room 1.
- 5.2.30 Phase 4 also saw further changes to the on-site water management system. It is likely at this point that water was pumped from well **7200** via a lead pipe, allowing the well to be capped by a large (1.5m by 1.2m), flat, sub-rectangular slab of red sandstone, **7034** (Plate 7). The slab had apertures on the east edge, one of which was circular, while the other was oval in shape and chamfered, leading down to a circular opening. It is possible that the arrangement relates to the fact that slab **7034** was re-used from another source, but might equally pertain to a pump. Slab **7034** was surrounded on all sides by further blocks of sandstone, two of which were likely to have once formed part of a re-used threshold, with indicative signs of heavy abrasion.
- 5.2.31 Ditches **7128** and **7006/7193** (Fig 5) were likely to have been backfilled at this point; ditch **7006/7193**, tentatively identified as that depicted to the east of Finch House on the 1843 Tithe Map and 1850 OS map, is absent from the 1893 OS map, resulting in the once almost triangular Finch House enclosure becoming much more compact and rectangular. The upper fill in both sections of ditch **7006/7193** contained a pottery assemblage with a

broad seventeenth- to twentieth-century date range, together with redeposited natural clay, suggesting that the ditch was deliberately backfilled using material from a variety of sources. Seventeenth-century pottery within the upper strata of ditch **7128** also suggested the use of redeposited material for backfilling. The old stone drains exemplified by **7153** and **7037** (Fig 5) were also superseded (and occasionally cut) by more modern ceramic stoneware drains, **7056**, **7062** and **7063** (Fig 9), and which, in the instance of **7192** (Fig 5), cut through ditch **7193**. A lead pipe, laid within cut **7060**, was likely to have supplied water to the area formerly occupied by Room 1, while a north-east/south-west ceramic drain, **7061** (Fig 6), presumably supplied water from the well to Building B (*Section 5.2.32*).

- 5.2.32 **Building B**: some 8.5m east of Building A, Building B (Fig 5), presumed to be an outbuilding rather than a dwelling because of its peripheral position, was first recorded on the 1893 OS map and was likely to have gone through some modification prior to its demolition in 1971 (Plate 8). Building B appears to have been divided into two bays with an overall quadrilateral plan measuring 6.5m by 4.3m. The northern bay, which measured approximately 4m by 2.5m at its widest point, was bounded by wall **7162** to the north-east, to the south-east by a putative wall, presumably completely removed during demolition, and to the south-west by stone wall **7106** (Fig 9). The absence of any evidence for a north-western wall may relate to the possibility that the northern bay was open in that direction, its roof supported on posts, or that this wall had been built without foundations and was completely removed during demolition. The alternative premise, that the northern bay had no roof, is not supported by the cartographic evidence. Wall **7162** had been deeply founded within backfilled ditch **7128** (Plate 6). Constructed predominantly from pink sandstone blocks with occasional bricks, wall **7162** lay on a slightly different orientation from the general alignment of the rest of Building B and continued north-west beyond the limits of excavation. The floor within the north bay had been laid directly onto the natural clay and extended 1m beyond the limit of the structural remains (Plate 9); it was composed of medium to large red sandstone flags, **7108**, the largest of which was 1m long.
- 5.2.33 Wall **7106** had a single large sandstone slab (1.58m by 0.6m), complete with two rectangular apertures at either side to hold a door-frame, forming a threshold into the southern bay. The southern bay measured 4.3m long by 2.5m wide and was bounded by wall **7106** to the north, walls **7109** and **7107** to the east and west respectively, and wall **7105** to the south. All the walls were composed of brick and, where visible, were constructed within foundation trenches. The floor of the bay comprised red sandstone flags, **7101**, which decreased in size from west to east. In the western part there was a distinct runnel draining down to the south, while to the east the flags had been covered by a skim of cement, **7100**.
- 5.2.34 At some point, Building B had been extended to the south-west, with the addition of a rectangular brick structure 4.4m long by 1.5m wide and separated into three small rectangular cells of differing sizes. Walls **7181**,

7178, **7186** and **7185** formed the east, south, south-west and west walls, while the internal partitions were formed from wall **7179**, with wall **7187** butting wall **7180**. The westernmost cell was probably a later addition, although, according to the map evidence, this part of the structure was quite ephemeral and changed often (OS 1893; 1908; 1927). Each of the cells was filled with demolition rubble, **7182-4**.

- 5.2.35 *External features:* at the south-west end of the trench, and bordering Building A, was a 2.5m wide area of dark grey silt and sporadic patches of gravel, **7039**, which presumably formed a pathway to the rear of the house (Fig 5). A strip of dark silt, **7049**, measuring 3.5m across and extending as far as the well, presumably formed the limits of the property to the rear of Buildings A and B. Beyond this material was very clean natural clay, **7133**, transected only by the occasional recent/modern service trenches. The area between Buildings A and B had been built-up with successive layers, **7122** and **7132**, sealing the Phase 4 ceramic drains, Phase 2 cobbled surface **7033** and ditch **7128**, culminating in the laying of 4m square cobbled surface **7031** (Fig 9; Plate 10). The bedding layer for the cobbles, **7032**, contained mostly eighteenth- and nineteenth-century coarsewares. A shallow rectangular feature between Buildings A and B and filled with dark almost black cinder, **7041**, may have been the foundation layer for a patio (Fig 9). Deposits **7041** contained pottery with a date range from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, including bone china.

5.3 TRENCH 24

- 5.3.1 This trench was aligned north/south within the northern angle of the Finch Farm access track and the western site boundary hedge (Fig 4). Initially measuring 10m by 6m during the evaluation, it was expanded to 21.5m by 17.2m and excavated to a depth of 0.8m (15.4m OD) (Plate 11). A considerable degree of truncation had occurred within this trench, but three broad phases have been provisionally ascribed to the deposits and structures encountered during the investigation, with the results presented below in chronological order:

Phase 1 Pre-building phase

Phase 2 Construction of barns/outbuildings

Phase 3 Demolition of barns/outbuildings, levelling of area and construction of stone and ceramic field drains, c 1850-1893.

- 5.3.2 *Phase 1:* the earliest identified remains within Trench 24 comprised a series of largely undated negative features. East/west aligned ditch **192** (Fig 10; Plate 12) was seen within the north-eastern part of the trench and is likely to be the continuation of early ditch **158**, seen in Evaluation Trench 8 (OA North 2006a); it contained no finds. Fill **193** had been partially truncated by a shallow re-cut, **194**, which again yielded no finds, but could pertain to a later boundary ditch shown on the pre-1893 maps. Ditch **192** had then been

truncated to the west by undated pit **197**, which had itself been truncated to the north by disturbance.

- 5.3.3 Another large ditch, **209**, aligned north/south, was located running across the western third of the trench; the primary fill, **208**, contained no finds. An irregular tree bole, **181**, over 2m square, was located towards the centre of the trench and contained a number of finds, with dates ranging from the late seventeenth to twentieth centuries. Of these, seven sherds of slip-coated fineware and two sherds of slip-coated coarseware (late seventeenth to eighteenth centuries) were the most tightly dated. Historical maps detail an orchard-like holding in this area and also a tree-lined hedgerow.
- 5.3.4 **Phase 2:** it is likely that ditch **209** was backfilled at the beginning of this phase, as later fills **206** and **207** yielded late seventeenth- to twentieth-century coarsewares. Among the early structural remains was a pink sandstone wall, **178**, which ran north/south within the south-western part of the trench. The foundation trench for wall **178** (**177**) was cut into natural geology and contained a number of finds, including several sherds of late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century slip-coated coarseware and two sherds of late eighteenth-century creamware. Other material from this feature, including black-glazed red earthenware and white earthenware, could only be more loosely dated to the seventeenth to early twentieth centuries. These structural elements are likely to be the remains of the building first identified on the 1803 Enclosure Map, henceforth, 'Building C'. Immediately to the east of wall **178** lay cobbled surface **176**. This had been built on top of backfilled Phase 1 ditch **209** and was 3.75m long (north/south), 2.05m wide and made up of small rounded cobbles and crushed red brick (Plate 13). The exact relationship between surface **176** and wall **178** had been destroyed by a modern service cutting between the two features, but the pre-1893 cartographic sources would suggest that these features were contemporary.
- 5.3.5 A possible north/south aligned, roughly laid, pink sandstone wall, **180**, built within shallow foundation cut **179**, was identified in the north-west part of the trench. The rather generic finds within the fabric of the wall indicated a range of date from the late seventeenth-to-twentieth century. This feature, although poorly-preserved, did lie on a similar alignment to wall **178**, while also sharing a close spatial relationship with perpendicular wall **173** (Section 5.3.6). Considering the length of the structure seen on the pre-1893 maps, it certainly seems likely that walls **178** and **180** formed part of the same building.
- 5.3.6 The third surviving element of Building C, located in the north-western part of the trench, comprised an unmortared red brick wall, **173** (Plate 14). A sondage excavated to the east of wall **173** located a continuing foundation cut, **172**, containing red brick rubble **187**, suggesting a continuation of the structure to the north. It is probable that walls **173** and **187** represent a slightly later internal division within Building C.

- 5.3.7 Several other surfaces, likely to be areas of hard standing contemporary with Building C and surviving within localised areas, were identified within the northern part of the trench. The earliest comprised sandstone and cobble surface **167**, brick alignment **168** and stone and brick cluster **169**. The latter was superseded by crushed red brick and cobble surface **166**. To the east of these compacted layers was deposit **183**, containing charcoal and clinker-type material spread across the natural geology within the north-east corner of the trench. The pottery assemblage from this deposit was dominated by white earthenware and suggested a nineteenth- to early twentieth-century date.
- 5.3.8 A shallow linear feature, **171**, probably a drainage ditch or boundary feature, was cut into the natural geology, aligned north-west/south-east, and extended for 14m from the south, before appearing to terminate close to the stone spreads (Fig 10). A large amount of pottery was recovered from fill **170**, the majority of late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century date.
- 5.3.9 **Phase 3**: several demolition deposits were attributed to this phase, and are likely to pertain to a single overall event relating to the removal of Building C between 1850 and 1893. Stratigraphically, the earliest of these comprised deposit **191**, which lay very close to its northern limit and appeared to have been deposited directly over the irregularly-surfaced natural geology. The finds indicated a probable nineteenth- to early twentieth-century date for deposition, but of particular interest was a single sherd of fifteenth- to sixteenth-century grey gritty ware. Following its demolition, brick wall **187** was overlain by a series of dumped deposits containing various amounts of demolition debris, firstly **186/185**, then successively layers **184**, **174** (containing two sherds of black-glazed earthenware, dating to the seventeenth to twentieth centuries) and **175**. Drain **170**, likely to have been slowly filling-in during Phase 2, would appear to have been fully backfilled in Phase 3, as the northern end contained a large proportion of demolition debris, **198**.
- 5.3.10 Ceramic land drains were observed cutting all earlier features. The main drain ran approximately north-east/south-west and three feeder land drains returned to the south-east. Another land drain, truncated by later activity, transected the trench on a north/south alignment.

5.4 TRENCH 25

- 5.4.1 Trench 25 was placed in the area of two former barns (Buildings 3 and 5) within the Finch Farm complex and, due to difficult ground conditions, was divided into three separate areas, numbered 1-3 (Fig 4). The recent demolition and levelling within this area had caused a number of areas of disturbance. Broad provisional phasing has been ascribed to the deposits and structures encountered during the investigation, and the results, by area, are presented in chronological order:

Phase 1 Pre-building phase

Phase 2 Construction of outbuildings and associated surfaces (contemporary with Platt's House)

Phase 3 Construction of the Finch Farm complex

Phase 4 Fairly modern drainage, services and disturbance.

- 5.4.2 **Area 1:** Area 1 was the most easterly of the Trench 25 subdivisions (Fig 4). It was aligned east/west and measured 14m by 10m, with the present ground level lying between 15.74m OD and 15.67m OD; the natural geology, **8002**, lay 1.42m (at 14.31m OD) below the present ground level. Archaeological structures were encountered 0.5-6m (15.17m OD) below the present ground level and deposits continued down to 13.73m OD.
- 5.4.3 **Phase 1:** the earliest archaeological feature within this area was a pond, **8063/8046/8013**, cut into the natural glacial till (Fig 11; Plate 15). The pond appeared to be roughly circular, with an irregular southern edge, but was only partly revealed due to the presence of overlying later features. Despite this, most of its south, west and east edges were revealed to some extent during the course of the excavation, and the feature would originally have measured over 10.5m long north/south and 6m wide east/west. Forming part of the southern edge was an area of pink sandstone cobbles, **8066**. These cobbles, thought to have been reused from elsewhere, were irregularly placed down the sloping edge of the pond and may have acted as an area of hard standing allowing livestock access. A sondage (25a; Fig 11) excavated in the north-eastern quarter of the trench, revealed that pond **8063** had fairly gently-sloping sides, and was found to be over 0.62m deep. The basal fill in this area was mainly composed of decayed wood, **8062** (see Section 6), which was sealed by a deposit of silty sand, **8061**, also containing decayed wood (Fig 12).
- 5.4.4 A second sondage (25b; Figs 11 and 12) was cut within the body of the pond where the profile was rather more steeply-sloping and there, the pond, **8013**, was found to be over 1.3m deep (to 14.67m OD). As recorded in Sondage 25a, decayed wood was found on the edge of the pond which was then sealed by a substantial deposit of mid- to dark grey clay silt, **8012**. The upper levels were filled by further, thinner deposits of silty clays: **8011**, **8010** and **8009**. A further sondage (25c), cut in the west of the trench (Fig 12), revealed the base of the pond to be gently sloping down toward the north and filled at the lowest excavated level by light grey sandy silt clay, **8048/8015**, which was sealed by layer **8047/8014/8058**. Very few finds were recovered from the pond fills and, of those, only a sherd of red slip-coated cream-coloured earthenware (late seventeenth to eighteenth century) could be closely dated.
- 5.4.5 **Phase 2:** during this phase, the pond, together with surface **8066**, had been sealed by **8031** and **8067**. This latter deposit, similar to **8047/8014/8058**, but mixed with redeposited natural clay, would suggest that the pond had been deliberately backfilled. Black-glazed earthenware, clay tobacco pipe and window glass were all recovered from this deposit, but as such, were

not closely datable. The backfilling of the pond heralded the construction of an out-building and yard. Thus, immediately south of the backfilled pond was a rectangular structure, **8024**, built of handmade bricks (Fig 11; Plates 16 and 17). The majority of these bricks had been laid directly onto the natural clay, but at the eastern end of the structure, in the region of soft backfill **8031**, the bricks had been laid onto sandstone blocks to provide a firmer footing. This measure was not entirely successful, for the eastern part of the structure had partially subsided.

- 5.4.6 The building, which was aligned just east of north/south, was 4.1m long by 1.67m wide and was divided into two rooms by east/west aligned wall **8100**. The larger southern room had internal dimensions of 2.1m by 1.3m while the northern room was 1.3m square. Dividing wall **8100** survived for a distance of 1.44m beyond the western extent of structure **8024**, and would have continued westwards for an additional 1.4m had it not been robbed-out. The northern room had been surfaced with a grey sandstone flag floor, **8027**, which survived only in the north-east and north-west corners (Fig 11).
- 5.4.8 Following the same alignment as structure **8024**, and located just to the south-east, was a semi-elliptical field drain, **8101**. The shared alignment may suggest that the building and drain were either contemporary or that they were both following an existing alignment based on the then-prevailing site orientation.
- 5.4.9 Mortared to the south end of structure **8024** was an irregularly-laid area of large red sandstone blocks and occasional bricks, **8097**, measuring 2.9m north/south by 2.2m east/west (Fig 11; Plate 18). To the east of surface **8097** and structure **8024** was a possible brick surface, **8028**. The bricks, seemingly laid on their edges, although mostly incomplete, were likely to have formed another surface contemporary with the structure.
- 5.4.10 To the north-west of building **8024**, a series of levelling layers, **8093**, **8091** and **8092**, had been deposited, onto which a much larger area of hard standing had been laid, butting the south side of wall **8100** (Fig 11). This surface, comprising tightly-packed irregular broken red sandstone blocks, **8001/8042**, may have originally been circular or semi-circular in form, although a degree of truncation made this interpretation difficult to assess. Building **8024**, wall **8100** and surface **8001/8042** were thought to represent the remains of an out-building and walled yard. Unfortunately, the structures and their immediately associated deposits did not produce any dating evidence.
- 5.4.11 Running north/south alongside the eastern edge of the backfilled pond was a stone-capped brick-walled culvert, **8060** (Fig 11). All traces of the south end of the culvert had been removed by later activity (*Section 5.4.15*). The presence of the culvert so near to the pond might suggest that the two were not contemporary, as it might otherwise be expected that a clear relationship would be apparent.

- 5.4.12 **Phase 3:** the structures and surfaces associated with building **8024** were subsequently levelled and partially robbed-out (wall **8100** by cut **8035**, for example) in preparation for the construction of Building 5, a combined barn and byre (OA 2005). The area over former building **8024** was sealed below a 0.1m deep layer of crushed red sandstone and sand, **8030**, while to the north, the area above the backfilled pond was levelled with redeposited natural clay, **8023**, and then by subsequent layers of clinker, **8022**, yellow sand, **8021**, and finally by a further layer of clinker, **8020** (Plate 19). The southern part of the pond, including the northern end of building **8024**, was sealed by levelling layer **8065**, which contained earthenware, broadly datable to the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, and nineteenth-century bone china.
- 5.4.13 Only in the area of the former pond was there any evidence of foundation trenches for the walls of Building 5, **8000**. This comprised a vertical-sided construction cut, **8053**, for the west wall, only seen in section due to truncation by services. By the same token, a cut possibly existed through the layers over building **8024** (**8020** etc), but could not be discerned. Where the ground rose toward the north, away from the pond, the barn/byre walls were generally either built directly on top of the levelling layers or onto the natural clay. Because of the uneven nature of the local ground conditions, the most southerly of the east/west walls within the trench was carried on a foundation plinth, **8026** (Fig 11), composed of bricks at right-angles to the succeeding wall.
- 5.4.14 The extant remains of Building 5 measured 10m north/south by 5.4m wide and were constructed at this level from lime-mortared handmade bricks in English bond (for a detailed discussion of the standing building see OA 2005, 8-12). The three rooms identified by the building investigation could be clearly discerned. Only in the central room was there any evidence of flooring, which survived alongside the northernmost dividing wall and was formed from irregularly-shaped red sandstone slabs, **8029**, which had been placed on levelling layer **8065** (Section 5.4.12).
- 5.4.15 **Phase 4:** post-dating the construction of Building 5, and located to its west, were two inter-connecting ceramic drains within cuts **8057** and **8033** (Fig 11). Also post-dating the construction of the barn was an accumulation of topsoil, **8059**, overlying culvert **8060** (Fig 11). Various features within Area 1, such as cut **8008** and robbing cut **8056**, appear to represent episodes of ground disturbance in the recent past, and the demolition of Building 5.
- 5.4.16 **Area 2:** this was aligned north/south and measured 10m by 7.75m (Plate 20), between Areas 1 and 3, but set back to the south by approximately 10m (Fig 4). The present ground surface lay between 16.1m OD and 15.9m OD and the natural clay lay between 15.6m OD and 15.8m OD, 0.3m below the present ground surface. Archaeological features were encountered 0.25m below the present ground level (c15.65m OD), but the area had been subject to a considerable degree of recent disturbance. There were no features that could be ascribed to Phase 1.

- 5.4.17 *Phase 2*: very little in the way of archaeological features were attributable to this phase. In the north-east corner of the trench were the remains of a surface composed of red sandstone setts, **8042**, which had been placed upon a bedding layer of mid-grey loose sand, **8043** (Fig 13) and which continued into Area 1 (Fig 11).
- 5.4.18 *Phase 3*: toward the south-west corner of the trench, construction cut **8017** was identified, within which a 0.5m wide approximately east/west aligned wall, **8018**, had been built of handmade bricks. At the west end of the brick wall was a contiguous concrete slab. Wall **8018** was likely to be the remains of an east/west aligned internal division of Building 4 (OA 2005). The position of the eastern wall of the building was likely to be represented by a modern mechanically excavated trench, while the western wall was likely to have shared a similar fate outside the western limit of the trench.
- 5.4.19 *Phase 4*: two relatively recent service trenches, **8041** and **8044**, bisected the remains of cobbled surface **8042**, while a further service trench, **8045**, was situated to the west of the cobbles. Both these services and surface **8042** had been truncated by several north/south aligned areas of modern disturbance, including **8038**, likely to relate to the grubbing-out of Phase 3 features during the recent demolition.
- 5.4.20 *Area 3*: this was placed to the west of Area 2 and offset to the north by approximately 10m, so that it lay roughly parallel with Area 1 (Fig 4; Plate 21). Area 3 was aligned east/west and measured 12.75m by 10m. The present ground surface lay between 15.8m OD and 15.6m OD and the natural clay was found between 0.25m and 0.18m below the present ground surface (15.42m OD and 15.53m OD). Archaeological features were located at or about the present ground level and continued down to 14.53m OD (Fig 14; Plate 21).
- 5.4.21 *Phase 1*: the earliest feature within Area 3 was a substantial east/west aligned ditch, **8089**. Only its southern edge was seen within the trench, as it bordered the Finch Farm access track (Plate 22), but this did reveal a steep-sided cut with a flat base, which was over 1m deep and likely to have been over 2.3m wide (Figs 14 and 15). Examination of the ditch in two locations revealed similar stratigraphy (Fig 15), with the lower fills, **8099** and **8088**, exhibiting similar grey/brown silty clay compositions.
- 5.4.22 *Phase 2*: three postholes and a post pad were located within the south-east corner of the trench (Fig 14; Plate 23), one of which, **8077**, contained a wooden stake within the fill, **8076**. Nearby were two square postholes, **8075** and **8073**, while between these was a post-pad, composed of gritty clinker, **8078**, set within a square cut, **8079**. This group of features may have formed part of a square structure pre-dating the Phase 3 barn.
- 5.4.23 *Phase 3*: ditch **8089** was likely to have been backfilled at the beginning of this phase; unlike the more homogeneous lower ditch fills (*Section 5.4.21*), the upper deposits were more varied, perhaps reflecting the wholesale backfilling of this feature using material from various sources. Pearlware and red slip-

coated cream-coloured earthenware pottery were recovered from ditch fill **8058**, the combination of which may suggest an eighteenth-century date for backfilling; however, considering the redeposited nature of this material, it is very possible that the pottery could be residual and the event, therefore, later. Cut into backfilled ditch **8089** was a 1m deep foundation cut, **8098**, into which the northern wall of Building 3, **8082**, had been constructed of handmade brick (Plate 22). The remaining walls were built straight onto the natural clay, **8080**, sealing posthole **8077**. Within Area 3, structure **8082** measured over 12m long and 10m wide, encompassing much of Area 3. In places on the north side of this wall, a layer of sand, **8086**, had been deposited, onto which cobbled surface **8085** had been laid (Figs 14 and 15). Internally, a layer of sand, **8084**, had been laid as a bedding for the (no longer extant) floor.

5.5 TRENCH 26

5.5.1 Trench 26 was placed 4.3m north of evaluation Trench 10 and was positioned to examine the buildings associated with Platt's House. As detailed in *Section 4.2*, the excavated dimensions of this east/west aligned trench were reduced to 25.5m by 5.5m (Plate 24). The present ground level lay between 15.52m OD and 15.88m OD, whilst natural clay, **9017**, lay 1.06m below the present ground level (14.8m OD). The first significant archaeological structures and deposits were encountered 0.45m below the present ground level (15.42m OD), with deposits continuing down to 13.79m OD. The provisional phasing ascribed to this trench broadly coincides with that of Trench 25, and the results are presented below in chronological order.

5.5.2 *Phase 1*: the earliest features comprised a pond, a ditch and two pits, of which only the former produced any finds. Towards the east end of the trench was the remains of a 2m wide truncated pit, **9039** (Fig 16), of which only the curving eastern edge survived. Situated just east of the centre of the trench and occupying its full width was a probable pond, **9040**. Although the pit and pond were adjoining, the similar nature of their fills made it impossible to determine their exact relationship. The west side of the pond was gently sloping while the east side had been truncated by later activity, the extant remains measuring approximately 6.1m wide by 0.56m deep (14.25m OD). The silty fill, **9014**, produced a very small assemblage of earthenware, broadly dated to between the late seventeenth and early twentieth centuries, and Pearlware, dating to the mid-eighteenth to the early nineteenth centuries, which possibly indicates the date of backfilling for the feature.

5.5.3 Pond **9040** had then been cut by two later features. The earliest of these was a north/south aligned ditch, **9037**, which had also cut pit **9039** (Fig 16), and which could not be correlated with any boundaries shown on the cartographic sources. Ditch **9037** had in turn been cut by a second pit, **9035**, containing the articulated remains of a horse, **9033**, of which only elements of the hind limbs could be recovered due its position at the northern edge of

excavation. Immediately adjacent (west) to the pond was a very shallow undated posthole, **9022**.

- 5.5.4 **Phase 3:** Several drains had been laid across this area, one of which, **9011** (Fig 16), was aligned north-north-east/south-south-west and was filled with black cindery material from which a large quantity of vessel glass and earthenware was recovered; however, the presence of plastic within the assemblage would suggest that it was either intrusive or that the fill was of no great antiquity. The remains of **9023**, a west-north-west/east-south-east aligned brick drain with Welsh slate capping, was situated 3.5m to the east, but only seen in section. A further drain, **9013**, aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, was seen to cut drain **9023**. At the west end of the trench, a north/south aligned slot, **9026**, of uncertain function and cut into the natural clay, was seen only in section.
- 5.5.5 Structural evidence for a pigsty or similar structure was found at the western end of the trench. The ground had been prepared by placing onto the natural clay a 0.28m thick deposit of demolition debris, **9009**, which contained pearlware and earthenware. Deposit **9009** would appear to have been contemporary with, and analogous to, clay silt deposit **9028**, which lay to the south and which had been covered by a second levelling layer, **9030**.
- 5.5.6 The structure had been built within a fairly broad construction cut, **9029/9018**, into deposit **9028**, into which stone uprights **9004** had been set on a north/south alignment and packed around with redeposited natural clay, **9006** (Fig 16; Plate 25). Evidence of four slabs was found, each measuring up to 1.2m long by 0.12m thick. A clay floor, **9008**, extended to the west of the slabs as far as the limits of the excavation. A north/south aligned service trench and cylindrical ceramic drain, **9025**, was then placed to the east of wall **9004**, further to the east of which was a square posthole, **9032**. The area immediately to the east of the upright slabs was covered by a layer of black cinder and clinker, **9007**, which sloped down toward the area of the former pond, possibly indicating that the excavated slab wall formed the eastern edge of the structure. Ditch **9024**, which traced a rather sinuous north-east/south-west course at the east end of the trench (Fig 16), could not be correlated with any of the boundaries depicted on the early cartographic sources, but was remarkably similar to a feature shown on the 1927 OS map. Ditch **9024** had been deliberately backfilled, as testified by the presence of redeposited natural clay and the hint of tip lines within fill **9016**.
- 5.5.7 Extending east from, and stratigraphically later than, layer **9007** was a 0.25m thick layer of black silt, **9010**, that covered the rest of the trench at this level (15.06m OD), sealing ditch **9024**, drain **9025** and posthole **9032**. Layer **9010** had been truncated within the central part of the trench by the excavation of a square pit, **9012**, into which an animal burial had been placed. Excavation of this burial ceased when it became apparent that it was quite recent in date, with hair still evident among the bones and the collected remains were discarded as a health hazard. Cutting into this burial was the remains of west-north-west/east-south-east aligned brick

drain, **9020**. A further drain, **9015**, aligned north/south, was noted at the east end of the trench, cutting through layer **9010**.

- 5.5.8 **Phase 4:** this phase saw some re-organisation of the northern part of the farmyard and slab-walled structure **9004** was demolished, with the slabs being pushed over or snapped-off at ground level to lie where they had fallen, as **9005**. An area extending 9.3m east from the slab wall was then sealed by a layer of yellow sand, **9003**, up to 0.15m thick. The entire trench was then sealed below a layer of crushed red sandstone and sand, **9002**, which was 0.4m thick at its maximum extent and was likely to have formed the footing for the concrete pad of modern barn, Building 2 (Plate 26). The uppermost layer within the trench was composed of grey/brown sandy silty clay, **9001**. This material, which was up to 0.72m thick, was the result of the recent demolition of Building 2.

6 ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS

6.1 ASSESSMENT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

6.1.1 The aim of this assessment was to evaluate all classes of data from the four excavation trenches (Trenches 7, 24, 25 and 26) and any appropriate data from Evaluation Trenches 10, 11 and 12, in order to determine the potential of the dataset for further analysis. A statement of the significance of the results from each element of the archive is given below. These statements are based on the assessment work undertaken, related to the original academic themes expressed in *Section 3*; a method statement, formulated on the basis of the assessed potential of the dataset, is included as *Section 10*.

6.1.2 The objectives of this assessment correspond to, and are prescribed by, *Appendix 4 of Management of Archaeological Projects Second Edition* (English Heritage 1991). They are to:

- assess the quantity, provenance and condition of all classes of material: stratigraphical, artefactual and environmental;
- comment on the range and variety of that material;
- assess the potential of the material to address questions raised in the course of this project design;
- formulate any further questions arising from the assessment of this material.

6.1.3 This assessment will present:

- a factual summary, characterising the quantity and perceived quality of the data contained within the site archive;
- a statement of the academic potential of the data;
- recommendations on the storage and curation of the data (*Section 7*).

6.2 MATERIAL ASSESSED

6.2.1 The entire paper, digital and material archive deriving from the evaluation of Trenches 10, 11 and 12 and the excavation of Trenches 7, 24, 25 and 26 was examined for the purposes of this assessment. Quantifications are incorporated within the individual assessments.

6.3 PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSMENT

6.3.1 The method of assessment used varied with the class of information examined, although in each case it was undertaken in accordance with guidance provided

by English Heritage in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). All classes of finds were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the finds’ records generated during the course of the fieldwork; full details of all the recovered finds reside within the project archive.

6.4 STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

6.4.1 **Quantification:** the fieldwork has allowed a full characterisation and three-dimensional spatial record of those features within the investigated areas, which date from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. The amount of documentation pertaining to the excavation and those evaluation trenches to be assessed is summarised in Table 1. Where possible, contexts have been allocated to a preliminary scheme of phasing on the basis of stratigraphic and, structural relationships, together with initial interpretations of the dated finds’ assemblage (*Section 5*).

Trench Number	Context, drawing and photographic indices	Contexts sheets	Drawings		Photographs	
			Plans	Sections	Colour slide	Black and white
7	21	214	21	33	131	120
24	9	36	3	9	65	71
25	8	100	4	16	125	113
26	5	40	2	6	29	30
Totals	43	390	30	64	350	334
10-12	18	36	3	5	72	72
Totals	61	426	33	69	422	406

Table 1: Stratigraphic archive from the excavation and selected evaluation trenches

6.4.2 **Assessment of potential:** the stratigraphic data and archive of primary field records has excellent potential for a variety of further analyses in terms of understanding the chronological development of the sites and as a basis of comparison, not just between the two farmsteads on the site but also with similar sites within the region. There is a very detailed dataset for Trench 7 with which it should be possible to integrate many of the other forms of data, including the finds and cartographic material, to identify positively and date the archaeological remains and to produce an accurately dated and detailed narrative of the development and usage of the site. Similarly, considering the more simplistic nature of activity identified within Trench 24, the stratigraphic information recovered from this trench has good

potential for further analysis when integrated with other forms of data. Considering their proximity, the greatest potential for further analysis of the data from Trenches 7 and 24 would be achieved by their examination as components of a greater whole.

- 6.4.3 Although when compared to the volume of information recovered from the western trenches that from Trenches 25 and 26 seems quite small, it is plain that Trench 25, in particular, yielded significant results and that the dataset from each trench in this eastern area is complementary. Furthermore, the volume of data is not inconsiderable in light of the reduced areas of these trenches and the degree of truncation in Trench 26 in particular. The primary archive alone, therefore, has good potential for further analysis, but, by combining the information from each trench with that derived from the historic buildings' investigation and any cartographic research, as well as with the results of Evaluation Trenches 10, 11 and 12, this potential can be seen to be excellent.
- 6.4.4 The spatial nature of the site, its location, the variety of feature-types and the relatively narrow timeframe for the rural changes mean that the site forms an important aspect of, not only Merseyside's development, but of the general reorganisation and change of British farmsteads associated with the 'Agricultural Revolution' from the late seventeenth century.

6.5 INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTEFACTS

Find type	Trench 7	Trenches 10 and 11	Trench 24	Trench 25	Trench 26	Total
Bone object	2					2
Marine shell	3				1	4
Pottery	1678	24	86	127	113	2028
Clay tobacco pipe	94	2	8	6		110
Ceramic building material	111			2	1	114
Ceramic figurine	1					1
Coins	3		3			6
Copper alloy	17					17
Iron	24		6	7	8	45
Lead	3					3
Other metal	1				2	3
Bottle glass	90		2	9	18	119
Glass tableware	1				3	4
Window glass	39	1	1	4	2	47
Other glass	10			1	2	13
Stone	1	1	1	1		4
Wood	4			6	1	11
Leather				1		1
Slag	8	2	2	4	13	29
Coal	2					2
Composite objects	3					3
Plastic	2				1	3
Total	2097	30	109	168	165	2569

Table 2: Summary of find-type by trench

6.5.1 **Quantification and provenance:** in total, 2569 artefacts and ecofacts (excluding animal bone) were recovered from Trenches 7, 10, 11 and 24-6 during the evaluation and excavation (no finds were recovered during the evaluation of Trench 12). Of these, 78% were pottery, and 5% were bottle glass, while the other categories of finds made up smaller percentages. It appears that 21% of the finds were from unstratified deposits, which includes 22% of the pottery fragments. The numbers of each type of find are shown in Table 2, above. It can be seen that Trench 7 produced almost 82% of all the finds recovered.

6.6 MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

6.6.1 **Fineware:** the earliest material was a single, residual sherd of medieval coarse sandy ware pottery recovered from the fill of ditch **7193** in Trench 7 and a sherd of grey gritty ware from a dumping/demolition layer, **191**, in Trench 25. In common with many other sites in the North West, the quantities of yellow-ware, tin-glazed earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware, and porcelain were relatively low, with the other fineware categories being more numerous. The types of wares represented were mainly tablewares, but also included children’s toys such as dolls’ tea sets and dolls. The fineware fabric-types present are shown in Table 3, below.

Fabric-type	Decoration types present (other than plain)	Date range
Coarse sandy reduced ware	Olive green glaze	Fourteenth century
Grey gritty ware		Fifteenth – sixteenth century
Purpleware	Incised decoration	Seventeenth – early eighteenth century?
Blackware		Seventeenth – early eighteenth century?
Mottled-glazed red earthenware		Seventeenth – early eighteenth century?
High-fired brown-glazed, black-glazed, and purple-glazed red and brown earthenwares		Seventeenth – eighteenth century?
Yellow-ware	Red slip-trailed, press-moulded	Late seventeenth – early eighteenth century
Slipware	Trailed and combed, trailed, press-moulded, jewelled and thick-trailed slip, red slip-coated	Late seventeenth – early eighteenth century
Self-glazed light orange earthenware		Late seventeenth – early eighteenth century?
Mottledware	Turned	Late seventeenth – mid-eighteenth century
Brown salt-glazed stoneware		Mid-seventeenth – eighteenth century
Brown-glazed beige earthenware		Late seventeenth – early eighteenth century?
White slip-coated salt-glazed stoneware	Iron-splashed/dipped (brown areas)	Late seventeenth – eighteenth century
Black-glazed red earthenware	Incised decoration	Late seventeenth – eighteenth century?

Fabric-type	Decoration types present (other than plain)	Date range
Brown-glazed red earthenware		Late seventeenth – early twentieth century
Tin-glazed earthenware	Painted (blue, sometimes also dabbed, and purple and blue)	Eighteenth century
White salt-glazed stoneware	Relief-moulded (silver-shape rim, mosaic or basketweave border)	Eighteenth century
Porcelain	Painted (blue, orange enamel, gilded)	Mid-eighteenth – early nineteenth century
Creamware	Relief-moulded (feather edge, silver-shape edge, basket, beaded edge), factory-produced slipware (banded, inlaid), painted (green with relief-moulded shell edge), bat-printed (black pattern with text, brown pattern)	Mid-eighteenth – early nineteenth century
Dark brown stoneware	Slip-banded	Mid-eighteenth – nineteenth century?
Agate ware	Slip banding	Mid-eighteenth – early twentieth century
Self-glazed beige earthenware	Factory-produced slipware (banding)	Mid-eighteenth – twentieth century
Self-glazed red earthenware	Factory-produced slipware (banding, mocha, slip-coated), copper lustre and painted, sponge-printed	Mid-eighteenth – twentieth century
Pearlware	Painted (blue, blue with relief-moulded shell edge, green with relief-moulded shell edge, blue with relief-moulded feather and fish scales edge, blue with relief-moulded leaf edge, earth colours, earth colours with relief-moulding, earth colours with dabbing), transfer-printed ('Willow', 'Broseley', many other unidentified patterns), factory-produced slipware (mocha, banded, inlaid)	Late eighteenth – early nineteenth century
White earthenware	Transfer-printed ('Willow', 'Broseley', 'Asiatic Pheasants', 'Albion', 'Fibre', 'Mayfield'(?), 'Colonna' (Thomas Goodfellow), 'Seasons' (William Adams and Sons), 'Sphinx', many other unidentified patterns), sponge-printed, painted (blue with relief-moulded shell edge, earth colours), factory-produced slipware (cable, banded), relief-moulded, coloured glazes	Late eighteenth – twentieth century
Bone china	Transfer-printed ('Broseley', other unidentified patterns), painted (gilded), applied sprigs (lilac-coloured grape vines), relief-moulded	Late eighteenth – twentieth century
Self-glazed brown earthenware	Slip-banded	Late eighteenth – twentieth century
Rockingham ware	Relief-moulded	Late eighteenth – twentieth century
Unglazed blue stoneware	Relief-moulded	Nineteenth – early twentieth century
Parian?	Relief-moulded and blue-coated	Nineteenth – early twentieth century
Ironstone	Applied sprigs (blue grape vines), relief-moulded, transfer-printed	Late nineteenth – twentieth century

Table 3: Fineware fabric-types present

6.6.2 **Post-medieval coarseware:** the vast majority of the coarseware was black-glazed and brown-glazed red earthenware, but reasonable quantities of stoneware were also present. The main vessel-types present were kitchen-wares such as crocks and pancheons.

Fabric type	Decoration types present (other than plain)	Date range
High-fired brown-glazed, black-glazed, and purple-glazed red, brown, and purple earthenwares		Seventeenth – eighteenth century?
Purple/red-glazed red slip-coated brownish orange high-fired earthenware		Seventeenth – eighteenth century?
Brown and grey stonewares	Rouletted	Seventeenth – twentieth century
Red slip-coated beige or pinkish earthenware		Late seventeenth – early eighteenth century?
Mottled ware		Late seventeenth – early eighteenth century?
Yellow-ware		Late seventeenth – early eighteenth century
Brown-glazed, orange-glazed, green-glazed, and red-glazed brown, orange, and red earthenwares, some patchy-glazed		Late seventeenth – eighteenth century?
Black-glazed beige earthenware		Late seventeenth – eighteenth century?
Black-glazed and brown-glazed red earthenwares		Late seventeenth – early twentieth century
Self-glazed beige earthenware		Late seventeenth – early twentieth century
Red earthenware		Eighteenth - twentieth century
Beige stoneware	Yellow-glazed, slip-banding, brown slip-coated top	Mid-eighteenth – twentieth century
Light-brown-glazed buff earthenware		Mid-eighteenth – twentieth century
White earthenware		Late eighteenth – early twentieth century

Table 4: Coarseware fabric-types present

6.6.3 **Assessment of potential:** the ceramic assemblage recovered from the site, particularly from Trench 7, is fairly large and has potential for a number of types of further analysis. Although many fabric-types cover a broad post-medieval date range, there are plenty of more closely-datable wares which, when stratified, have great potential for enhancing the stratigraphic data and establishing phases of construction, renovation and activity. There is also the potential, through form, decoration and fabric analysis, to establish a series for not only the closely-dated sherds, but through association, those sherds covering a broader date range. Although a fairly large proportion of

material within the assemblage is unstratified, this is not necessarily a problem when it comes to comparing general characteristics between Finch House and Platt's House/Finch Farm in terms of temporal changes in status and function. Such data could also be used comparatively with excavated farmstead assemblages within the wider region. Very little of the stratified pottery, however, derives from primary refuse deposits, such as pit fills and middens; the assemblage is, therefore, unsuitable for large-scale intra-site spatial analysis for the interpretation of activity areas. However, both surfaces and occupation horizons were identified within Trench 7, which are likely to contain a proportion of primary refuse; such deposits do have potential for limited spatial analysis.

6.6.4 Similarly, because the pottery derives from redeposited refuse, it is not necessarily appropriate for accurately tracing the intensity of activity over a period of time at any one site, since any fluctuation other than a complete hiatus is likely to reflect changing waste-disposal practices and continued occupation within the existing structures.

6.7 OTHER CERAMICS

6.7.1 ***Ceramic building material:*** the 114 fragments of ceramic building material included drain pipes, bricks, ridge tiles, and wall, floor, or fireplace tiles. As well as modern fragments, these tiles comprised a green-glazed late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century example and, most interestingly, four fragments of thin pink-glazed wall or fireplace tiles. Three derived from robber trench fill **7027**, and one from surface **7138** (both these contexts have been assigned to Phase 4, with **7138** also including pottery dated to the late seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries, and **7027** including pottery dating from the same period, but also bottle glass dated to the early twentieth century). It is not clear without further research what period these pink tiles originate from.

6.7.2 ***Assessment of potential:*** there is little potential for further analysis of the ceramic building material, although it is important to establish the date of the pink-glazed tiles. The potential for the remainder of the assemblage lies with the dating and identification of the more complete structural elements as a means of helping to interpret building techniques and materials during the various construction phases recognised on site.

6.7.3 ***Clay tobacco pipe:*** of 110 fragments of clay pipe, the majority were plain stems. There were, however, three marked fragments, one apparently being a 'B[urns Cut]ty', the second marked (very unclearly) '...organ...Liverpool[l]', and the third also badly stamped '...ppc...'(?). Only eight stratified contexts produced bowl fragments, but some of these were complete and included rilled bulbous examples dating from the mid-seventeenth century onwards. One bowl had a flat base bearing an illegible stamp, another had an embossed 'I' near the spur, and a third was unusual in that it was ridged.

6.7.4 **Assessment of potential:** if any of the stratified stamped or decorated bowl fragments can be dated accurately through comparison with local reference collections, these artefacts have good potential for aiding the establishment of a firm site chronology. Although bore-width is a less detailed means of producing chronologies, where other evidence is absent, such information could also be useful in dating deposits.

6.8 METAL

6.8.1 **Coins:** the condition of the six coins recovered was very varied, ranging from battered and corroded, to fairly crisp and legible. Amongst those (partially) identified were a George III 1791(?) halfpenny and 1806(?) penny, a Victorian penny, a George V 1928 penny and 1931 halfpenny, a George VI 1942 halfpenny and 1945 shilling, and an Elizabeth II 1970 ten pence and 1991 five pence piece.

6.8.2 **Copper alloy:** the 17 copper alloy objects recovered were generally in good condition, although some were fragile, and many require extra cleaning. All identifications remain provisional and will need to be confirmed with further research, but the objects appear to include the top of some type of tap, a ring, a lace tag, buckle fragments, a valve cap, a plug, parts of lamps, a spigot, and a military button with the Royal crest. Several objects also include text, and these comprise a mended ID tag 'B. P...ery / Finch Lane / Hale Wood', a button 'Hen...sberg & Ellis / Bpool', and a cocoa rooms' token '[Birkenhead] Cocoa [Rooms] / British / Workma[n] / Public house / Company / Limited / Liverpool'.

6.8.3 **Iron:** many of the 45 iron objects were highly corroded and fragmentary, and their form and function could not be discerned. However, a possible horseshoe, nails, bolts, washers, scissors, brackets, handles, a sickle, a small tin, a basin edge, and part of a handled vessel were identified.

6.8.4 **Lead:** several scraps of lead were retrieved, most of which were fragments of sheet. In addition, two pieces of twisted window kame, a possible curtain weight in the form of a large two-holed button, and other possible weights were recovered.

6.8.5 **Other metal:** this category includes toy cars or tanks, a Coca Cola can, and a World War II medal from 1945.

6.8.6 **Assessment of potential:** the principal value of the coins lies with refining the dating of the stratigraphic sequence; however, since all but two were unstratified, the assemblage as a whole is not particularly useful. Despite this, even unstratified, the coins provide some clues to the date of activity on site. Many of the other metal artefacts would appear to relate to domestic and agricultural activity on site and, as such, have the potential to be informative about the finer details of the lives and practices of the previous inhabitants. Although few such objects are intrinsically datable (and those that are tend to be later in date), they also have potential for

further analysis as the basis of comparison between the Finch House and Platt’s House/Finch Farm sites.

6.9 GLASS

6.9.1 **Glass bottles:** the majority of the 183 glass fragments were from bottles, a few of which were marked, as shown in Table 5. They included drinks’ containers such as Codd bottles, wine bottles, bottles with internal threaded closures, bottles with lightning closures, sauce bottles with external threaded closures, jars with external threaded closures (external screw top), meat extract jars with vacuum-type closures, and chemists’ bottles and vials.

Contents manufacturer/retailer details	Bottle manufacturer details
‘2oz / Bovril / Limited / Rd 100846’ ‘2oz’	
‘2oz / Bovril / Rd 100847’ ‘2oz / Bovril / Limited’	Illegible punt mark
	‘[Canningt]on Shaw & Co / Makers / [St H]elens’
	‘F / 2’
‘Fletchers / Sauces / Selby’	‘6’
‘J. Grossmith / & Son / London’	
	‘A&P / 38’
‘...e Mo... / Trade Mark EM / Garston’	‘1569 / C.S&CoLd’
‘Tablespoons’ ‘Taylor / Liverpool’	

Table 5: Marked bottles

6.9.2 **Glass tableware:** small quantities of glass tableware vessels were recovered, including a wine glass base, a tumbler base, and a possible centrepiece fragment. One very small fragment of relief-moulded or applied decorated vessel was recovered from floor **7018**, and was dated to the seventeenth to eighteenth century.

6.9.3 **Window glass:** window glass fragments were recovered mainly from contexts in Trench 7 (see Table 2), and included fine fragments in poor condition, possibly dating to the eighteenth century, and thick fragments in good condition.

6.9.4 **Other glass:** fragments of opaque white glass, possibly from lamp shades, and colourless glass possibly from lamp tubes, were recovered. In addition, two opaque beads, from backfill **7082** and deposit **7012**, were recovered. Deposit **7012** contained numerous artefacts dating from the late seventeenth century to the nineteenth century, and the bead cannot, therefore, be dated closely by association. Backfill **7082** contained far fewer artefacts, including one fragment probably from the nineteenth century. The poor condition of the beads suggests that they date to the seventeenth or eighteenth century. An incomplete hemispherical glass object, possibly a plain paperweight that also acted as a magnifier, was recovered unstratified from Trench 7.

6.9.5 **Assessment of potential:** like the claypipe bowls, with further research and comparison with reference material, the stratified stamped bottles have the potential to refine further the site chronology, whilst the broader dating achievable on the basis of the container profiles and means of closure would be useful in those circumstances where no other means of dating was available. The same is true for the beads and the glass tableware, which may also provide clues to status. The stamped bottles have some potential for the understanding of trade and distribution networks, and as a basis of comparison between the Finch House and Platt's House/Finch Farm sites, but in this particular case, the assemblage is not large enough for any intra-site analysis. Window glass is very hard to date and, unless from well-dated contexts with low residuality, the potential for further analysis of this material is fairly limited. However, there is some potential for tracing the spatial distribution of this material within any floor or demolition deposits, or those created by decay, that might aid the interpretation of the appearance of structures, but also in the division of structures into those for habitation and those for animals/other uses buildings. Although it would be possible to conduct some analysis of the glass-making cullet, little weight could be attributed to the results, given the redeposited nature of this material.

6.10 OTHER FINDS

- 6.10.1 **Organic artefacts:** the organic artefacts include two fragments from a double-sided bone nit or dress comb, part of a leather shoe sole, and a waterlogged wooden brush fragment.
- 6.10.2 **Stone:** two stone artefacts were recovered, comprising a possible sandstone whetstone and a slate pencil. In addition, a burnt stone, apparently natural, was recovered.
- 6.10.3 **Plastic:** a greyish-brown Bakelite (?) or other plastic comb, marked 'Eclipse' (from drain **9011**), and a tooth from a similar comb (from deposit **7012**), were the only plastic artefacts recovered. The comb was dated to the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century.
- 6.10.4 **Other:** lumps of coal and slag, including glassy slag typical of blast furnace waste, battery rods, and a large iron concretion incorporating fragments of white earthenware, were also recovered.
- 6.10.5 **Assessment of potential:** within each of the above categories, the number of finds is very small and few are closely datable. One or two, such as the slate pencil, the whetstones and the combs, provide interesting personal information, but are common within a variety of domestic and agricultural contexts and, therefore, not informative of any specific situation. The presence of coal can hardly be unexpected, but the fragments of slag do have some potential for analysis in terms of the processes from which they derived.

6.11 FAUNAL REMAINS

6.11.1 **Molluscs:** four marine shells were recovered from the site, comprising two oyster valves, a single cockle valve, and a complete gastropod similar to a whelk. The oysters and cockles are probably food remains, but the gastropod may not be an edible species.

6.11.2 **Animal bone - quantification and condition:** in total, 260 bone fragments, together weighing 10kg, were recovered from 31 contexts. Of these, 117 fragments originated from a partial cow skeleton, **123** (Trench 11), and 41 fragments from a partial horse skeleton, **9033** (Trench 26), and were thus each counted as single elements. The former comprised fore and rear limbs, with a few vertebra and rib fragments and no skull, whilst bones from the latter were predominantly restricted to the hind limbs. Topsoil and unstratified fragments were excluded from the assessment. Some 59% of the material was in a moderate condition, with less than half of the original bone element present but with little surface erosion. A further 33% was in a good state of preservation, with more than half of the original element present.

Taxon	Trench					Total
	7	11	24	25	26	
Horse	3				1	4
Cattle	8	1	1	1	1	12
Pig	6			1	1	8
Sheep/goat	12			1		13
Cattle/red deer	7			1		8
Domestic fowl	9					9
Medium mammal	6					6
Large mammal	28		4	1	1	34
Unidentified mammal	2					2
Unidentified bird	8					8
Total	89	1	5	5	4	104

Table 6: Number of Individual Specimens (NISP) by phase

6.11.3 **Evaluation:** age estimates can be achieved for the partial horse skeleton, **9033**, excavated from pond deposits in Trench 26, and cattle skeleton **123** from pit **124** in Trench 11. The shape of pit **124** is highly suggestive of a modern machine cut, questioning the value of any further analysis of this skeleton. Butchery marks were present on 13 fragments, predominantly saw marks, and metrical data could be collected from 18 fragments. Tooth wear and fusion data are too scarce to be used in the interpretation of herd management strategies, based on suggested mortality profiles of domestic species.

6.11.4 **Overall potential:** the assemblage has little potential for further analysis, beyond adding descriptive text to the site narrative. The potential for the molluscs is also limited as, again, the assemblage is small and may relate as much to decorations as to diet.

6.12 ASSESSMENT OF WATERLOGGED AND CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

- 6.12.1 **Quantification:** nine bulk samples were processed for the assessment of waterlogged and charred plant remains: ten litres from ditch fills **208**, **7196** and **8088**, from pond fill **8062** and from layers **7012** and **7032**; and nine litres from each of layers **7018**, **7116** and **7165**. The results are summarised in *Appendix 3*.
- 6.12.2 **Results:** three samples from ditch fills **7196**, **208** and **8088** (from Trenches 7, 24 and 25, respectively), and one from primary pond fill **8062**, contained frequent and varied quantities of waterlogged plant material, which included arable weeds such as *Chrysanthemum segetum* (corn marigold) and *Stellaria media* (common chickweed). Grassland species were also frequent in the ditch and pond deposits, including *Cirsium* (thistles), *Stellaria gramineae* (lesser stitchwort), *Lamiaceae* (dead nettle), *Leontodon autumnalis* (hawkbits), *Ranunculus sardous* (hairy buttercup), *Rumex acetosella* (sheep sorrel), *Rumex obtusifolius* (broad-leaved dock) and *Prunella vulgaris* (selfheal). Ruderals included *Urtica dioica* (stinging nettles), *Taraxacum* (dandelions) and *Chenopodiaceae* (goosefoot/orache). Plants which thrive in wet places were also frequent, including *Carex lenticular* (sedges), *Juncus* (rushes), *Eleocharis* (spike rushes) and *Conium maculatum* (hemlock). Plant remains from broad ecological groupings included *Galium* (bedstraw), *Capsella* (shepherd's purse), *Galeopsis* (hemp nettles), *Polygonum* (knotgrasses), *Potentilla erecta* (cinquefoils), *Raphanus* pods (radishes), *Ranunculus repens* (creeping buttercup), and *Sonchus asper* (prickly sow thistle).
- 6.12.3 Food and economic taxa were also present, including cereal culm nodes and bran, *Cannabis sativa* (hemp), *Corylus avellana* (hazelnuts), *Linum usitatissimum* seeds and pods (flax) and *Prunus* (plums). *Rubus fruticosus* (blackberry) and *Sambucus nigra* (elder) pips were also found, which could have been used as a food source but could also have been growing naturally around the ditches and pond. There were no charred plant remains in the ditch and pond fills and only ditch fill **8088** contained any charcoal.
- 6.12.4 Samples from layers **7018**, **7012**, **7032**, **7165** and **7116** (all from Trench 7) all included abundant quantities of coal and clinker, together, in the latter two instances, with metallic pieces. Charcoal was not common, however, small fragments being recorded as present within layer **7018** and abundant only in layer **7165**. Layers **7018**, **7012** and **7032** also contained an undetermined burnt material. Plant remains of limited diversity were present in small quantities, including single charred cereal grains from each of layers **7018** and **7165**.
- 6.12.5 **Discussion and Potential:** samples from the ditch and pond deposits contained a diverse range of well-preserved plant remains and suggest a number of different plant communities, including those of arable cultivation, wet ground, grassland and ruderals or cleared ground. Although no cereals were identified in the ditch and pond fills, the weeds of cultivation show arable activity may have been taking place close to the

site; however, such material might also have been incorporated during nearby crop processing. The presence of *Linum usitatissimum* seeds and capsules (ditch fill **8088**) indicates that flax cultivation may have been taking place nearby, in which case it is possible that several of the ponds identified on cartographic sources in the wider area may have been used for retting. It is recommended that further analysis should take place on the samples from ditch and pond fills **7196**, **208**, **8062** and **8088**, from Trenches 7, 24 and 25, respectively) which would give additional information on the ecology and economy of the site.

- 6.12.6 The samples from layers **7018**, **7012**, **7032**, **7165** and **7116** contained few plant remains, although a few charred cereal grains were recorded. There is no potential for further palaeoenvironmental analysis of these samples, but it is possible that the metallic material and clinker from samples **7165** and **7116** does have potential for small-scale metallurgical analysis.

7 CURATION AND CONSERVATION

7.1 RECIPIENT MUSEUM

- 7.1.1 The Liverpool Museum will be the ultimate place of deposition for the paper and material archive from the 2005 investigations, as this is the nearest museum which meets the Museums' and Galleries' Commission criteria for the long-term storage of archaeological material (MGC 1992):-

Address: Liverpool Museum
William Brown Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 8EN

Contact details: 0151 478 4311

7.2 CONSERVATION

- 7.2.1 Most of the finds are in a stable condition, and require no specialist conservation work. It is recommended, however, that the ironwork (45 objects) be X-rayed to aid identification, since it is in a highly corroded state. In addition, it is recommended that some of the coins and some of the copper-alloy artefacts be considered for cleaning, although since they are from unstratified deposits this would be a low priority. If the cocoa rooms' token, from deposit **7170**, could be cleaned to allow all its text to be read, this would be an advantage in confirming its identification and date. Finally, both glass beads should be conserved to stabilise their condition, as their surfaces are deteriorating.

7.3 STORAGE

- 7.3.1 The complete project archive, which will include records, plans, both black and white print and colour slide photographs, artefacts, and digital data, will be prepared following the guidelines set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC 1990, Conservation Guidelines 3) and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archive for long-term storage* (Walker 1990).
- 7.3.2 All finds will be packaged according to the museum's specifications, in either acid-free cardboard boxes, or in airtight plastic boxes for unstable material. Metalwork constitutes the only category which is potentially unstable and, although the items will be packaged in airtight plastic boxes, they will need to be stored in controlled conditions. Dependent upon Liverpool Museum's policy for finds' retention, it is likely that all unstratified nineteenth- and twentieth-century pottery, glass, ceramic building material and undiagnostic metal work will be discarded following

cataloguing and the completion of the project for publication. The same is likely to be true of the animal bone assemblage and of the wood.

7.4 PACKAGING

7.4.1 The assemblage is currently well-packed and will require no further packaging. Box lists are prepared and will be updated from the database when the identification of objects is complete.

8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

8.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 8.1.1 Although residual medieval ceramics were found during the course of the fieldwork (coarse sandy ware from the fill of ditch **7193** (Trench 7) and grey gritty ware from dumping/demolition layer, **191** (Trench 25)), they are few in number and no contemporary structures or features could be identified. It is probable that activity from this period was limited to the manuring of agricultural land associated with the nearby village of Halewood, rather than actual settlement. It seems likely, on the basis of the pottery assessment, that the earliest settlement in the development area occurred during the seventeenth century, with the present evidence suggesting that activity at each of the Finch House and Platt's House/Finch Farm sites occurred more or less simultaneously.
- 8.1.2 The stratigraphically earliest (undated, but probably post-medieval, given the limited medieval finds' assemblage) activity in the area of Finch House is hard to interpret within the context of the wider area, as no specific buildings can be tied to this phase. It is possible that the line of stakeholes, **7087A-E**, running roughly parallel to Finch Lane and perpendicular to the access track, relate to an early land division, which, by the time of Finch House's construction, had become redundant. It is tempting to see the early cobbled surface, **7136**, as part of either a yard associated with earlier activity on the site, or as part of the trackway between elements of Building A (Rooms 2-4) and its opposite barn, to the north, before Room 1 was constructed, perhaps as a slightly later addition. It may, therefore, be no coincidence that the 1803 Enclosure Map shows a square structure on the site of Finch House (possibly indicative of Rooms 2-4). Whilst this map can hardly be considered definitive proof, attempts were clearly made to represent a range of building sizes and plans elsewhere on the document.
- 8.1.3 The excavated evidence would suggest that the early building on the Finch House site was a small (although larger than the excavated evidence immediately suggests, due later building activity and the confines of the trench), simple structure, built in the later seventeenth century. The excavated 'L'-shaped configuration is clearly represented on the 1843 Tithe Map, and possibly, but less clearly, on the 1850 OS map. The pottery within this early phase of building activity is dominated by late seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century coarsewares, within which broad definition fall particular types such as high-fired brown-glazed, black-glazed, and purple-glazed red and brown earthenwares. However, there were also several sherds belonging to cup-forms with applied strip decoration, which are more typical of the seventeenth century than later. Although not directly related to the building itself, these were found within the primary fill of the pond, **7144**, thus suggesting that early activity on site can be linked specifically to the seventeenth century.

- 8.1.4 The presence of glass within the Room 1 floors, together with greater concentrations of refuse in general compared to Trench 24, certainly suggests that Building A was intended for human habitation. Any associated agricultural activity would appear to be concentrated in Building C, investigated by Trench 24, which is known to have been demolished by 1893. The archaeological evidence would suggest that Building C comprised a long narrow structure divided internally by brick partitions, together with a hardcore trackway or yard, which fits rather well with the evidence of the pre-1893 cartographic sources. However, because of the degree of truncation in the area (well below the floor levels of the structures) it is possible that several small buildings or several construction phases are represented.
- 8.1.5 Together with the construction of Building B, likely to be an outhouse possibly shown on the 1850 OS map and more clearly depicted on the 1893 OS map, Phase 4 saw the extension of Building A. The brick extensions adjoining the west side of Building A were divided from the rooms of the original building by the construction of a north/south passage, which had narrowed Rooms 2, 3 and 4. This, together with the probable eastward extension, also in brick, makes it likely that many of the Phase 2 walls were levelled to make way for the new design of the structure. It is uncertain as yet whether the structural expansion relates to an increase in status or merely the provision of more space for more tenants, but it seems likely that the demolition of Building C, construction of Building B and extension of Building A all pertain to the re-organisation of the development area during the construction of Finch Farm in the 1870s.
- 8.1.6 No direct evidence for the building identified as Platt's House on the 1850 OS map, the position of which coincides with modern Building B, was found during the fieldwork on the site. This is due, probably, to later truncation associated with the later nineteenth century re-organisation of this area during the construction of Finch Farm, and partly because the asbestos contamination of this area limited the lateral extent of Trench 26. It is also of importance to note that, had the construction techniques for Platt's House followed those of Finch House, without any earthfast foundations, the robbing-out of the walls would have left little to no trace of a structure in this area. Similarly, had Platt's House, or indeed, a precursor to Finch House, been of timber and clay construction, then it is possible that, as with a known example at Newton Arlosh demolished in 1976, no readily identifiable archaeological trace might survive (Newman and McNeil 2005).
- 8.1.7 Despite this, several features could potentially relate to earlier activity associated with Platt's House. These include the ponds in Trench 25 (**8063/8046/8013**) and Trench 26 (**9040**), both of which had been backfilled during, if not before, the nineteenth century and are not depicted on any cartographic sources (unlike similar features elsewhere within the development area, which are shown on both the 1843 Tithe Map and the OS maps). Several other features can be related to cartographic sources: although shallow, gully **105** (Trench 10) lies on the same alignment and in a

very similar position to the southern boundary of the land immediately around Platt's House; and boundary features **137** and **130** (also within Trench 10) are aligned east/west and would appear to equate with a boundary shown on the pre-1893 cartographic sources lying just to the south of and parallel with the Platt's House enclosure. From the 1850 OS map it would appear that this area was separated from the access track, and could represent a yard. Within Trench 10, the (possibly redeposited) midden layer, **108**, with well-preserved seventeenth-eighteenth-century pottery, is likely to relate to the nearby contemporary occupation of Platt's House. The similarity between those deposits within Trench 10 and the later sequence within Trench 26, particularly of layer **9007**, would suggest that this midden material had been displaced at a late date, shortly before the construction of modern Building 2. The premise within the evaluation report (OA North 2006a) that the sandstone rubble surmounting the midden material derived from the demolition of Platt's House in the second half of the nineteenth century, seems less likely, as this material would have had to have been stockpiled for the best part of a century prior to its redeposition as a distinct layer.

- 8.1.8 The earliest previously unidentified structure directly investigated during the excavation of the Platt's House/Finch Farm area, that of Building **8024** in Trench 25, Area 1, is highly likely to be the remains of a small ancillary structure. The significance of Building **8024** is not only its position beneath later barn **8000** (Building 5), but that its alignment - north-east/south-west - is contrary to the later nineteenth-century buildings of the Finch Farm complex. The main problem is that the cartographic sources are neither sufficiently clear nor accurate to identify this little building. It appears not to relate to either of the structures on the 1785 Estate Map and, whilst the location is similar to a building shown on the 1843 Tithe Map, both the size and orientation are wrong, particularly as the latter is interpreted as Platt's House. The 1850 OS map is not particularly clear, but does appear to show a small building in this area, alongside a westward extension of the access track and separate from Platt's House.
- 8.1.9 As such, it would seem that the earliest identified structure within the Platt's House/Finch Farm area is that of Building 3, built towards the end of the eighteenth century and associated with the small (and possibly short-lived) Building **8024**, together with an intervening surface, **8001/8042**. The focus of these buildings, as indicated by the positioning of their main entrances, was very much towards the east/west trackway along their northern edges, on the other side of which, to the north-east, would have stood Platt's House.
- 8.1.10 The construction of Finch Farm, probably in the 1870s, was associated with significant changes in the local landscape. The evaluation report (OA North 2006a) has suggested that the major changes to the division of the land, and the insertion of field drains to replace infilled ditches and ponds, occurred at this time, possibly as a result of mechanisation and the introduction of 'High Farming' (Collins 1995). Such changes may also have been a result of a restructuring of the landscape during the agricultural depression of

1873 to 1896 (*ibid*), possibly even by the fact that a wealthy entrepreneur had ‘bought-out’ the original holdings of Finch House and Platt’s House with the intention of consolidating and intensifying agricultural output. It is certainly true that the northern focus of Platt’s House shifted southwards to Finch Farm, with the construction of Buildings 4-6 and an associated brick yard, **102** (Trench 12), to the extent that Platt’s House was replaced with a small enclosure and associated animal shelters.

8.2 RESEARCH PRIORITIES (NATIONAL/REGIONAL/LOCAL)

8.2.1 Until recently, ‘*post-medieval rural landscape of fields and farms...[was] frequently ignored by those tackling the big archaeological themes of the period*’ (Newman 2005, 205), although English Heritage’s draft *Research Agenda*, which was circulated to the archaeological profession in 1997, outlined a series of broad academic objectives. These included a recognition that post-medieval rural landscapes urgently required archaeological research: ‘*The components of rural settlement, and how these vary or change, need to be examined: economic and functional specialisation, the extent to which artefact assemblages vary or change, and their interaction with settlement hierarchies require much more work*’ (English Heritage 1997, 52).

8.2.2 Similarly, in 1988, the *Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology* (SPMA) devised a research agenda, which has recently been revised (Newman 2005). Amongst the themes that were identified as requiring urgent attention within a national context were:

- the investigation of settlements other than villages;
- a need to examine courtyard farms, as well as buildings at the lower end of the social scale through excavation as well as survey;
- an extension of our understanding of difference at a regional level.

8.2.3 In addition to having some potential to address these national research priorities, the dataset generated from the archaeological investigations at Finch Farm has a good potential to address several academic themes in regional and local contexts. These are summarised in the research priorities devised as part of the *North West Region Archaeological Research Framework* and stated in the *Research Agenda for the Post-Medieval Period* (Newman and McNeil 2005). Those research initiatives that are relevant to the present study area include:

- the available dataset needs to be greatly enlarged. Stratified artefact sequences from both small towns and rural settlements need to be collected, in order to establish the character of ceramic use throughout the region and to create the basis for socio-economic interpretation (*op cit*, 3);
- unpublished ceramic groups, especially those from areas with no previous evidence, should be published as a priority. The relevant ‘grey literature’ should be made generally available (*ibid*);

- a common terminology for regional ceramic ware types needs to be devised so that ceramic types can be objectively compared both within the region and beyond. The Medieval Pottery Research Group regional type series should be extended to include all ceramic types from this period (*ibid*);
- the regional knowledge of ceramic vessel form and fabric type chronologies needs to be improved (*op cit*, 14);
- major unpublished assemblages of post-medieval artefacts need to be analysed and published (*ibid*);
- the motivations behind the desire to invest in ‘rebuilding’ in the region need to be understood (*ibid*), for example, the enlargement of Finch House and the movement and reorganisation of the Platt’s House settlement focus to Finch Farm;
- sites of well-preserved house remains and their environs should be targeted for excavation (*ibid*);
- excavations of abandoned farms and cottages should be a high priority, especially where the ownership or tenancy is documented, in order to study the material culture of individual households (*op cit*, 6);
- a high priority must be given to the excavation of well-documented house sites and their environs, with artefact recovery and plotting a priority within the excavation design. Subsequently, an intra-regional study of selected households should be undertaken based on documentary and excavated evidence (*ibid*);

8.2.4 In relation to these regional research priorities, inter-regional comparisons and other national studies are also important, but these cannot be made until regional research is in place. The present site forms an important part of an expanding body of data.

8.3 PRIMARY POTENTIAL

8.3.1 In order to attain optimum potential for further analysis, the excavated data from each of the trenches should be integrated to produce a fully-dated stratigraphic sequence, providing the framework within which other analyses will take place and allowing each of the above research initiatives to be addressed within a temporal context. In particular, this may inform an understanding of the agricultural and domestic development of the site, and the spatial and temporal relationships of these activities within and between the main foci of Finch House and Platt’s House/Finch Farm.

8.3.2 ***Finds data:*** as well as providing the close dating for the stratigraphic sequence, the stratified finds assemblage, particularly the pottery, has excellent potential for fabric and form seriation. Such analysis is likely to improve further an understanding of the chronology of the stratigraphic sequence. Both the stratified and unstratified material have good potential for comparison, in terms of ware-, fabric- and vessel-types, between not just the two settlement foci within the present development area, but also with

similar settlements within the region, such as those recently excavated at Kingsway, Rochdale (OA North 2006b). Analysis of the finds' assemblage would also allow an interpretation of the social and domestic lives of the former inhabitants of the development area beyond the economic sphere.

8.4 SECONDARY POTENTIAL

- 8.4.1 **Documentary study:** the significance of the excavation results will be increased by any supporting primary documentary evidence available within the various County Record Offices and archives. An appraisal of these sources was likely to have been undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment (RPS 2004), but further detailed examination of the primary documentary evidence in the light of the excavation findings could provide significant additional information.
- 8.4.2 **Environmental data:** although only a small proportion of samples produced material with good palaeobotanical assemblages, four samples have potential for further analysis in terms of improving an understanding of the local environment, diet and economic practices of the previous inhabitants of the development area.
- 8.4.3 **Industrial data:** there was very limited evidence for industrial activity on the site, with that from iron smelting, in particular, likely to have been secondarily redeposited. However, several of the environmental samples produced metallic fragments, whilst small amounts of slags were recovered; these may be indicative of small-scale metal-working, and as such, there is potential for the analysis of the related finds and residues further to inform the nature, scale and date of such activity.

9 UPDATED RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

9.1 ORIGINAL RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

9.1.1 The original academic aims and objectives were specified in *Section 2* of the project design and reiterated in *Section 3* of the present document.

9.2 UPDATED RESEARCH AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME OF ANALYSIS

9.2.1 The following general aims can be identified as achievable by the analysis of the excavated data from the Everton Academy development site, as assessed in the present document. The overall aims are:

- to elucidate the development and chronological history of the settlement foci within the development area
- to further an understanding of the social, economic and domestic practices undertaken at the identified foci
- to further an understanding of the relationship between the identified foci within the wider landscape of their hinterland
- to understand the motivation for the shifting of settlement focus within the Platt's House/Finch Farm area
- to place the analysed and interpreted results of the excavation within a regional context to enhance an understanding of the archaeological data and to contribute to a synthesis of contemporary dispersed rural settlement in the North West.

9.3 UPDATED SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

9.3.1 The following specific objectives which the excavated data can address have been devised to meet the above revised research aims:

- to seriate and analyse the stratified ceramic and, where appropriate, glass assemblages in terms of fabric, form and decoration, to provide the most accurate possible chronological framework when integrated with the stratigraphic data
- to characterise and date the sequence of archaeological structures and deposits revealed during the course of the fieldwork and to arrange them into a coherent scheme of phasing
- to determine the function and usage of excavated structures and features through analysis of their form and of any stratified artefacts within primary deposits; to understand the relationships of these structures and features within each of the foci

- to understand the status of the inhabitants and the nature of social and economic practices through the study of the artefacts and building plans
- to develop a model establishing the motivation for, and impact of, structural expansion and rebuilding as a reflection of change within the immediate rural hinterland
- to conduct detailed documentary research of primary sources that would allow an historical and social contextualisation of the excavated evidence
- to conduct documentary research of secondary sources and synthesised primary sources to gain an understanding of the prevailing regional socio-economic context through time
- to present an integrated narrative of the development of a rural area on the expanding fringe of Liverpool between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries, based on the integration of the information provided by each of the above objectives
- to place the material in the public domain, by means of the deposition of a well-ordered archive and the publication of an appropriate account.

10 METHOD STATEMENT

10.1 INTRODUCTION

10.1.1 The following tasks relate to a programme of analysis required to fulfill the revised objectives outlined in *Section 9.3*. The programme of works is tailored to address the specific objectives, which, when achieved, will secure the general objectives outlined in *Section 9.2* and will be followed by preparation of an appropriate text for publication.

10.2 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

10.2.1 The post-excavation programme will be divided into the following stages:

- further research
- analysis
- synthesis
- preparation of draft text and illustrative material
- publication
- archive deposition.

10.3 INFORMATION AND REVIEW

10.3.1 It is proposed that all parties will be briefed at the start of the project concerning the aims and objectives for the programme and that regular review meetings should be held to monitor the progress of the analysis and to keep all parties informed.

10.4 PHASING, STRATIGRAPHY AND SITE DESCRIPTIONS

10.4.1 Although a preliminary outline has been produced for the site stratigraphy, it is likely that further analysis of the artefact assemblage will provide the opportunity to date the stratigraphic sequence more accurately, allowing a full and meaningful analysis of the stratigraphic relationships. It will then be possible to undertake chronologically-based integrated site-wide phasing of the historical development of the settlement foci, providing a clear basis for comparison between them. The interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence would be aided by the establishment of a fully-integrated computerised site database, allowing the stratigraphic data to be linked with that for the other data sources.

10.5 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

10.5.1 Further documentary research will be undertaken to enhance the fieldwork results. This will include more detailed map regression and examination of primary documents pertaining to those sites identified within the development area. Research will also be undertaken to identify comparable sites elsewhere, from either historical or archaeological sources.

10.6 ARTEFACTS

10.6.1 **Medieval pottery:** as the assemblage of recovered material is very small, no further analysis of the medieval pottery will be undertaken. The sherds will be digitally catalogued for archiving purposes and a pertinent brief statement will appear within the publication text.

10.6.2 **Post-medieval pottery:** several types of analysis are required for a full understanding of the pottery assemblage. These include the production of a ceramic series and typology for the stratified pottery by fabric-, vessel- and form-type, if possible in conjunction with the study of local reference collections and further research. Where previously unknown or particularly important vessels are identified, these should be illustrated, as appropriate. Attempts should be made to identify the presently unidentified transfer-printed patterns, including associated date ranges and, where appropriate, manufacturers. All pottery, whether stratified or not, should be identified and fully catalogued in order to provide more data for the comparison of the two settlement foci in terms of date, status and function.

10.6.3 **Ceramic Building Material:** with the exception of the undated pink-glazed tiles, there is no potential for the further analysis of this material. It will be digitally catalogued for interrogation and archiving purposes and a pertinent brief statement will appear within the publication text. Reference material will be used to help date the aforementioned tiles.

10.6.4 **Clay Pipes:** any bowls and stamp-marked fragments should be identified with the use of suitable reference material and documentary resources in order to provide closer dates and places of manufacture. All material should be digitally catalogued for archiving purposes, from which it should be possible to include the stratified material within comparative analyses.

10.6.5 **Metalwork:** where not immediately identifiable, all stratified corroded ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts, including coins, together with any possibly significant unstratified examples, should be x-rayed to aid identification. Metal artefacts should be cleaned, stabilised and packaged, where and as appropriate. Significant objects should be illustrated and would benefit from documentary research and comparison with reference material. As with the other artefact-types, the metalwork should be fully-catalogued digitally for the purposes of archiving and comparative analysis.

10.6.6 **Glass:** the utilisation of reference material will help to date more accurately the beads, hemispherical object, tableware and both marked and unmarked

bottles. Stratified examples of marked bottles and decorated tableware would benefit from documentary research in terms of close dating and places of manufacture. The relief-moulded or applied decorated tableware vessel fragment should be illustrated. All fragments of glass should be digitally catalogued for archiving purposes, from which it should be possible to ascertain whether there is any pattern to the distribution of window glass, so providing clues to the appearance and function of structures. The database will also form the basis of comparison for inter- and intrasite analysis.

- 10.6.7 ***Other artefacts:*** further study of the bone comb and whetstone using local reference material may provide more accurate dating, and it is possible that these items could be illustrated were they found to be of an unusual type. The slags were secondarily deposited and too limited in number to warrant further analysis and, therefore, should be digitally catalogued for the purposes of archiving and manipulative interrogation.

10.7 ECOFACTS

- 10.7.1 ***Animal bone:*** the animal bone assemblage is unsuitable for further analysis in terms of the detailed reconstruction of economic, husbandry, procurement and butchery practices. Instead, a catalogue of the stratified assemblage should be digitally archived, recording, where appropriate, taxon, element, fragmentation, tooth wear, fusion, butchery and metrical data. A brief report should be compiled.
- 10.7.2 ***Palaeoenvironmental samples:*** the processed flots from ditch and pond fills **208, 7196, 8062** and **8088** should be fully analysed for charred and uncharred plant remains, with a full quantification by taxon. The associated report would contain an interpretive discussion to be integrated with the overall fieldwork results, and the raw data from the analysis will be digitally databased for archiving purposes.
- 10.7.3 The residues from palaeoenvironmental samples **7165** and **7116** should be magnetically and visually searched for metal fragments, slag and hammerscale. This retrieved material, together with the other stratified slags, should be visually examined to establish the nature of the industrial process from which they originated.

10.8 ILLUSTRATION

- 10.8.1 Selected scaled site drawings will be digitised in detail and, where appropriate, will be presented by analytical phase to illustrate the historical development of each of the settlement foci and to provide a visual supplement to the site narrative. Similarly, suitable artefacts will be illustrated at an appropriate scale. All drawings will be produced by experienced illustrators using standard conventions.

10.9 PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

10.9.1 In accordance with the guideline outlined in the English Heritage document *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), it is proposed that the results of the analysis of the stratigraphic and artefactual project should be presented in the following stages:

- 1 **Publication text:** a text detailing the results of the excavation and analysis will be prepared suitable for publication as a journal article in the *Merseyside Archaeological Journal*. This will be in the format described in *Section 11* and will incorporate, as necessary, any information from comparable excavations. The text will be submitted to internal revision and will then be copy edited ready for publication.
- 2 **Project archive:** the completion of the project will result in an integrated archive, which will be deposited with The Liverpool Museum.

11 PUBLICATION SYNOPSIS

11.1 INTRODUCTION

11.1.1 A text will be prepared suitable for publication as a journal article in the *Merseyside Archaeological Journal*. The article should not exceed 10,000 words in length, and will be accompanied by suitable illustrations.

11.2 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

11.2.1 The following section represents a likely breakdown of the proposed publication. It should be noted, however, that this synopsis can only be regarded as provisional, based on the current understanding of the archive.

11.2.2 The text will be supported by a number of illustrations, comprising drawings and photographs, tables to summarise data and, where appropriate, interpretative phase drawings. The finds will be studied within the context of the other recovered data to produce a fully-integrated report focusing on comparative inter- and intrasite temporal and spatial analyses of the two settlement foci. The finished article will aim to present a high degree of integration between the structural/stratigraphical history of the site, the documentary evidence, and the finds' categories.

11.3 OUTLINE SYNOPSIS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site location

1.2 Circumstances of project

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Geographical and brief historical background

2.2 Summary history of the development of dispersed settlement in Merseyside

2.3 Documentary evidence for Finch House, Platt's House and Finch Farm

3. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

3.1 Phased description of the structures and features encountered during the archaeological investigation

4. FINDS' OVERVIEW

- 4.1 Results of the seriation and typological analysis of the ceramics together with the comparative analysis of the finds assemblage from each site by phase

5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Chronological, economic and social discussion
- 5.2 Thematic context and wider examples

Bibliography

Acknowledgements.

12 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

12.1 NAMED PROJECT TEAM

12.1.1 The team consists of internal OA North staff. The project will be managed by Stephen Rowland and quality assurance will be maintained by OA North Director, Rachel Newman.

12.1.2 The following OA North staff will work on the project:

Andrew Bates	Zooarchaeologist	AOB
Sandra Bonsall	Palaeoenvironmentalist	SB
Jeremy Bradley	Project Officer	JB
Christine Howard-Davis	Finds Manager	CHD
Elizabeth Huckerby	Senior Environmentalist	EH
Joanne Levey	Archivist	JL
Ian Miller	Project Manager - Industrial Residues	IM
Rachel Newman	Director OA North	RMN
Adam Parsons	Illustrator	AP
Marie Rowland	Illustrator	MER
Stephen Rowland	Project Manager	SPR
Chris Wild	Historic Buildings Project Officer	CW
	Project Assistant	pa

12.2 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

12.2.1 OA North operates a project management system. The team is headed by a Project Manager, who assumes ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Design and for the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or timetabling. The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. The Project Manager will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

12.2.2 Communication between all concerned in the post-excavation programme is of paramount importance, and it is essential that all working on different aspects of the project liaise closely in order that comparable data are obtained. To this

end, regular meetings and reviews are envisaged between all project staff and between particular groups of specialists.

12.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

12.3.1 All Oxford Archaeology North post-excavation work will be carried out under relevant Health and Safety Legislation, including the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974). A copy of the Oxford Archaeology Health and Safety Policy can be supplied on request. The nature of the work means that the requirements of the following legislation are particularly relevant:

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1992) – offices and finds processing areas;

Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992) – transport of bulk finds and samples;

Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992) – use of computers for word-processing and database work;

COSSH (1998) - finds conservation and environmental processing/analysis.

12.4 LIST OF TASKS

12.4.1 The project has been broken down into a series of summary tasks, which are set out in *Appendix 4*. In addition to the tasks outlined, there is some time allocated to general project monitoring and management. As these tasks are on-going and are not allocated to any specific days, they do not appear on the task sheet.

12.5 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

12.5.1 The total costs (exclusive of VAT) for the analysis stage are set out in the Financial Breakdown Section in *Appendix 5*.

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

EVERTON ACADEMY, FINCH FARM, FINCH LANE, HALEWOOD, Merseyside

**Archaeological Excavation of the
Finch House and Finch House Barn
Areas**

Project Design



Oxford Archaeology North

July 2005

**RPS Planning, Transport and
Environment Ltd**

OA North Ref No.: L9552

Planning Application Ref: 02/00823/FUL

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 RPS Planning, Transport and Environment Ltd (hereafter the 'Client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological excavation of three areas at Finch Farm, Finch Lane, Halewood, Merseyside in advance of the development of Everton FC's training facilities on the site (Planning Application 02/00823/FUL). This is in response to the results of an evaluation undertaken by OA North on the site, during June and July 2005, the results of which will be outlined in a forthcoming interim report. The evaluation identified three areas of archaeological potential that would merit further investigation through open area excavation in order to mitigate the effects of the development by preserving the archaeological remains by record. These three areas comprise the site of Finch Farm, currently under demolition before redevelopment of the area into the proposed synthetic pitch, and the sites of Finch House and an associated barn, which would otherwise be destroyed by the proposed programme of topsoil stripping and landscaping to produce level pitch surfaces.
- 1.1.2 The Archaeology identified within the Finch House Area (Evaluation Trench 7) comprises a series of wall foundations, incorporating a square feature approximately 2m square. That in the Barn Area (Evaluation Trench 24) consists of an L-shaped section of irregular sandstone wall foundation blocks and an associated cobbled surface. The three evaluation trenches (Trenches 10, 11 and 12) within the area of Finch Farm itself, recorded not only the presence of features associated with the current suite of buildings (the oldest of which are likely to date to the mid- to later nineteenth century), but also the presence of eighteenth century pottery from redeposited midden material, likely to indicate the presence of earlier occupation on the site. This occupation is likely to be associated with Platt's House, which is recorded by name on the 1850 First edition OS Map, and although not named, likely to appear on the 1785 Estate Map and the 1843 Halewood Tithe Map.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH (OA NORTH)

- 1.2.1 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the excavation to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

1.3 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

- 1.3.1 The results of the excavation 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.
- 1.3.2 The paper archive for the archaeological work undertaken at the site should be deposited with the County Record Office and the finds with an appropriate museum.
- 1.3.3 A synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and a copy of the publication report) will be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record, and a copy will also be offered to the NMR.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 ACADEMIC AIMS

- 2.1.1 One of the main research aim of the excavation, given the commercial nature of the development, will be to characterise and preserve by record the archaeological remains on the site to be impacted upon by the development. The data generated can be used to inform wider research frameworks involving an expanding corpus of excavated post-medieval farmsteads in Cheshire and Lancashire. Comparison of the Finch Farm data with such sites will help to place the identified remains within a regional framework and, will highlight those features that are specific to the Finch Farm sites. These differences can then be used as a basis for the exploration of the circumstances prevailing upon the historical development of the site.
- 2.1.2 The information will be used to reconstruct a history of the site and its use, in addition to that identified from desk-based research (RPS 2005). It can also contribute to an understanding of post-medieval farming activities, of associated rural industries and the dating of the identified features on the site. Of particular interest is the historical development of the site: the excavation will seek to identify the presence an conformation of any previous precursors to the extant buildings, but also any changes in use to which any such precursors and the extant structures have undergone. Full excavation of the footprints of the structures may allow a determination of the chronological relationships between the extant and preceding structures on the site, and help to define different phases of use and function.
- 2.1.3 Of especial importance within the Finch Farm area is the identification and excavation of the extents of Platt's House. This will help to date the structure and also to ascertain the development of what would appear to be a single structure in the late eighteenth century to a complex of farm buildings by the mid-nineteenth century. Area excavation will also help to determine whether Platt's House represents the earliest phase of habitation on the immediate site, or whether there were any precursors. Excavation will help to determine the relationship between Platt's House and any other structures identified on the site, which will be of great value in tracing the physical and temporal growth of the site.
- 2.1.4 Also of interest is the recovery of any evidence that would allow a determination of any direct or indirect relationships between Finch House and Platt's House/Finch Farm. For example, is it possible to establish which was built first, and whether each building follows an independent trajectory, mirroring periods of economic growth or decline in their compositional development or, whether their phases of development reflect any shifting of importance between two related sites?

2.2 OBJECTIVE

- 2.2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide for accurate recording of any archaeological deposits that may be encountered in the Finch Farm, Finch House and the Barn areas.
- 2.2.2 **Open Area Excavation:** an excavation of an area c20m x 20m will be undertaken in the Barn Area and an area of c30m x 30m in the Finch House Area in order to investigate the building remains located there and reveal the extent of the known archaeological remains identified during the evaluation. Three excavation trenches within Finch Farm are proposed, individually covering c300m², the majority of which will investigate areas within the footprints of the demolished farm buildings.
- 2.2.3 **Post-Excavation (MAP2) Assessment:** the site records, finds and any samples from the excavation programme outlined below will form a checked and ordered site archive as outlined in the English Heritage guideline document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd edition, 1991b) (hereafter MAP 2). Following compilation of the project archive a report will be produced assessing the potential of the archive (including the paper

archive, the finds archive and any palaeoenvironmental samples that are taken) for further analysis as defined in MAP 2 Appendix 4. This post-excavation assessment report will make recommendations for further analysis and publication of the results, as appropriate.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the aims and objectives summarised above.

3.2 OPEN AREA EXCAVATION

3.2.1 Three excavation trenches, each of around 300m² will be excavated within the area currently occupied by the Finch Farm building complex. The final location of these trenches is subject to agreement with RPS. An area measuring 20m x 20m centred on Evaluation Trench 24 (the Barn Area) and another measuring c30m x 30m including, and extending southwards from, Evaluation Trench 7, has been outlined by RPS for open area excavation. These correspond with areas of archaeological potential identified during the desk-based assessment (RPS 2004) and the evaluation (OA North forthcoming) which will be directly impacted upon by the development.

3.2.2 However, any discrete features uncovered during the excavation that extend outside of the area outlined may be recommended for further investigation by RPS during monitoring of the fieldwork. Should this be necessary, a variation cost will be agreed with RPS. Cut features identified against the edges of the excavation will not be excavated below the safe working limit of 1.2m unless it is confirmed by RPS in consultation, where necessary, that they are of exceptional importance. In such cases, if shoring is required then this will be provided by the Client.

3.2.3 Excavation of the topsoil and uppermost levels of any modern (twentieth century) overburden will be undertaken in successive, level spits, to the top of the uppermost archaeological deposits, where present, or, to the natural subsoil, by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching under the supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist.

3.2.4 In each of the excavation areas, the whole trench will then be hand cleaned to define the archaeological features and a base plan produced. Any features identified will then be manually excavated through to natural deposits.

3.2.5 Pits and postholes will initially be subject to a 50% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, with the remainder of the feature to be removed in entirety if further information can be gained. The sampling percentage will not be limited to resource availability.

3.2.6 Linear cut features, such as ditches and gullies, will initially be subject to a 20% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, with the excavation concentrating on any terminals and intersections with other features which would provide important stratigraphic information. As with pits and postholes, should it prove necessary to remove the remainder of the feature to expose underlying features and/or deposits, it will be excavated rapidly keeping only that dating evidence which is securely derived from the feature in question.

3.2.7 If features/deposits are revealed which need to be removed and which are suitable for machine excavation, such as large scale dump deposits or substantial linear cut features, then they would be sample excavated to confirm their homogeneity before being removed by machine.

3.2.8 Structural remains will be excavated manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. Any hearths and/or internal features will be 100% sample excavated to

provide information on their date and function, and the extent of any associated floor surfaces will be determined.

- 3.2.9 Should any particularly deep-cut feature, such as a well pit, be revealed, this will be manually excavated to 1.2m. Thereafter, if RPS wishes to see the further excavation of any such feature, this could be achieved by reducing the general area of the feature (ie. a 1m 'cordon' around the feature) using a machine to allow further safe manual excavation. It should be noted, however, that recourse to such a methodology would incur additional costs which would be derived from the contingency sum outlined at the end of this document.
- 3.2.10 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage and in accordance with IFA guidelines. From this a complete stratigraphic sequence can be compiled.
- 3.2.11 A complete pictorial record, including plans and sections (at an appropriate scale of 1:20 and 1:10), and both monochrome contacts and colour slides, will be maintained to identify and illustrate individual features. The results will be recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.2.12 All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and, following on-site processing, will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 3.2.13 The position of the excavation will be recorded using a Total Station or GPS. The information will be tied in to OD.
- 3.2.14 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 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). Where such deposits are encountered, an appropriate sampling strategy in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2002) will be agreed with RPS and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor. It may also be necessary for the OA North palaeoenvironmentalist to attend site to advise on appropriate sampling of specific features. This will be costed as a contingency.
- 3.2.15 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeoecology specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.2.16 **Human remains:** the results of the recent evaluation did not locate any evidence of human remains on the site. However, should evidence of burials be identified, the 1857 Burial Act would apply and a Home Office Licence would be sought. This would involve all work ceasing until the proper authorities were satisfied before the burials are able to be removed. 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. The grave cut and/or coffin and contents will be recorded in plan at 1:20. Significant details of any grave goods, should they be discovered, will be planned at 1:10. Photography will be used to provide a further detailed record of the skeleton. The removal of such remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity.

- 3.2.17 **Treasure Act:** 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.

3.3 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

- 3.3.1.1 Following completion of the fieldwork, the results will be collated and the site archive completed in accordance with English Heritage MAP2, Appendix 3. A post-excavation assessment of the archive and the resource implications of the potential further analysis will be undertaken. The stratigraphic data and the finds assemblage will be quantified and assessed, and the environmental samples processed and a brief assessment of their potential for further analysis made.
- 3.3.1.2 The assessment results will be presented within a post-excavation assessment report which will make recommendations for a schedule, timescale and programme of analysis in accordance with MAP2 Appendix 4.

3.4 ANALYSIS

- 3.4.1 A provisional programme of post-excavation analysis is anticipated. The extent of the programme, however, can only be reliably established on completion of the post-excavation-assessment report (see *Section 3.3* above). The costings document, below, does **not** cover the cost of any analysis, the cost of which will be based upon the results of the MAP2 assessment and will be outlined in further correspondence. The proposed programme anticipates both analysis of the site stratigraphy and the artefactual/ecofactual evidence leading to the production of a final report. This will be completed within two years of the fieldwork.

3.5 PUBLICATION

- 3.5.1 It is anticipated that the results of the excavation will be worthy of publication. If possible, the publication text will be prepared in a suitable form for inclusion either as a journal article or as part of a larger monograph.

3.6 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.6.1 **Access:** access to the site will be arranged through Mallinsons Ltd, the site contractor.
- 3.6.2 The excavation area must be protected from public access by hoarding/fencing, which has been costed for.
- 3.6.3 **Reinstatement:** the areas excavated will be backfilled, for health and safety reasons, with any removed subsoil, but for practical reasons, not the topsoil, as arranged with Mallinsons Ltd. There is no requirement for further reinstatement of the area. Removal of the topsoil from the site on completion of the excavation will be the responsibility of Mallinsons Ltd.
- 3.6.4 On-site accommodation, in the form of an office space/messing facility and a tool store can be provided, located adjacent to the excavation, and have been included as a contingency. As agreed, OA North staff will be able to use toilet and hand washing facilities provided by Mallinsons.

3.7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 3.7.1 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 (1991). A risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works.

- 3.7.2 Prior to the fieldwork commencing the Client is asked to provide plans or information relating to the position of live underground utilities or cables on the site. OA North will also use a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in advance of any machine excavation. It is assumed that the client will also supply any information regarding areas of contamination or other health and safety issues prior to commencement of the site work.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 RPS will monitor the project, in conjunction with Merseyside Archaeological Service, where appropriate, on behalf of the local planning authority.
- 4.2 OA North will ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of RPS as soon as is practically possible.

5 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

5.1 STAFF PROPOSALS

- 5.1.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 5.1.2 The excavation of the Barn Area will be directed by **Andrew Lane** (OA North Project Supervisor) and that of the Finch House Area will be directed by **Jeremy Bradley** (OA North Project Officer). Both are experienced field archaeologists who have undertaken supervision of numerous small- and large-scale evaluation and excavation projects. They will be assisted by a team of two archaeological assistants.
- 5.1.3 The processing and analysis of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be carried out under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby BA, MSc** (OA North Environmental Manager), who has extensive experience of the palaeoecology of the North West, having been one of the principal palaeoenvironmentalists in the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.
- 5.1.4 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Chris Howard-Davis** (OA North Finds Manager). Chris 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.

5.2 PROGRAMMING

- 5.2.1 **Excavation:** initially, a two week period is required to carry out the excavation of the Barn Area, which will be followed by a three week period for the excavation of the Finch House Area. However, any discrete features extending beyond the area agreed for excavation may require investigation, which may extend the duration required for the fieldwork. This will occur in consultation with RPS, and will be costed as a variation.
- 5.2.2 **Interim report document:** an interim report on the findings from the excavation can be made available to RPS in order to ensure that the required fieldwork is fulfilled and being completed in accordance with the planning conditions. This can be forwarded to RPS within three working weeks of the completion of fieldwork. Should information be required sooner, an official letter summarising the results can be produced. The production of an interim report is costed separately, the exact price of which is dependent upon whether a finds report will be included.
- 5.2.3 **Post-Excavation Assessment:** a post-excavation assessment will be undertaken within six months of completion of the fieldwork. Estimates for the cost of this element are included

within the costing section, divided by excavation area, but the exact costs will be dependent upon the amount of data recovered from the site. The assessment report will present an overview of the results of the excavation and the scope of the post-excavation analysis required, a timetable for that analysis and the cost of further analysis.

- 5.2.4 **Post-Excavation Analysis:** a revised project design will also be submitted for the post-excavation detailed analysis which will be implemented through to archive report and publication within two years of the completion of the fieldwork.

6 INSURANCE

- 6.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

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APPENDIX 2: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

Trench 7	Description	Preliminary Phase
7001	Compacted clay levelling layer	4
7002	Crushed ceramic building material layer	4
7003	Compacted mortar layer	3
7004	North/south aligned red sandstone wall; Building A	2
7005	East/west aligned red sandstone wall; Building A	2
7006	Cut of ditch	3
7007	Primary fill of ditch 7006; dark grey, almost black, organic silty clay, contained twigs in the base	3
7008	Secondary fill of ditch 7006; composed of grey/brownish-orange silty clay	3
7009	North/south aligned red sandstone wall; survived to a height of 0.47m, up to 0.5m thick; Building A	2
7010	North/south aligned red sandstone wall; Building A	4
7011	Floor deposit - 50mm thick layer of orange clay	4
7012	Deposit - levelling layer 0.3m thick layer of dark grey/brown clay silt sand with abundant charcoal and coal inclusions	2
7013	Thin deposit of clay	2
7014	North/south brick wall; Building A	4
7015	Clay, sand deposit	2
7016	North/south brick wall - 3.88m in length, 0.24m in width and survived to a height of a single course of orange bricks (0.08m); Building A	4
7017	Bedding layer	3
7018	Floor; dark greyish-brown sandy silt	3
7019	Layer; dark, greyish-brown sandy-silt	2
7020	Deposit	3
7021	Hollow within surface 7017 and 7077	3
7022	Floor	2
7023	Floor	2
7024	Cobbled surface	1
7025	East/west aligned red sandstone wall; Building A	2
7026	Deposit	4
7027	Fill of robbing cut 7066	4
7028	Deposit below wall 7025	2
7029	Deposit associated with cobbled surface 7024	1
7030	Floor, same as 7091	2
7031	Cobbled surface	4
7032	Deposit, possible bedding layer	4
7033	Cobbled surface	2
7034	Stone well cover	4
7035	Well construction cut backfill	2
7036	Cut of drain	3
7037	Land drain: constructed from red sandstone blocks in two parallel rows of unbonded single-course stretchers, placed 150mm apart and directly onto the base of the cut. The blocks were squared or rectangular and measured on average 250mm by 140mm by 130mm. These were then capped by stone blocks laid lengthways and measuring between 360mm by 200mm by 150mm and 730mm by 340mm x 110mm	3
7038	Linear alignment of silt and clinker	4
7039	Path	4
7040	Brick and concrete wall; Building A	4
7041	Deposit	4

7042	Rubble deposit - same as 7083	3
7043	Grey/brown deposit of silty clay brick rubble	4
7044	East/west aligned brick wall; Building A	4
7045	Deposit	?
7046	Brick wall; Building A	4
7047	East/west brick wall; Building A	4
7048	Flagstone threshold; Building A	4
7049	Dark silt forming border to rear of Building A	4
7050	Cut of posthole	2
7051	Cut of posthole	2
7052	Cut of rectangular posthole	2
7053	Not used	-
7054	Brick wall; Building A	4
7055	Cut of posthole	2
7056	Ceramic drain	4
7057	Brick wall; 1m long and survived to a height of two courses; Building A	4
7058	Deposit	4
7059	Mortar floor, overlies 7005	4
7060	Service trench	4
7061	Service trench	4
7062	Service trench	4
7063	Service trench	4
7064	Fill of 7079	3
7065	Cobbled surface	1
7066	Cut of beam slot	4
7067	Deposit	1
7068	Drain constructed with brick walls and capped with stone	3
7069	Not used	-
7070	Fill of construction cut for drain 7068	3
7071	Not used	-
7072	Construction cut for drain 7068	3
7073	North/south aligned wall; Building A	2
7074	Not used	-
7075	Not used	-
7076	Floor, same as 7089	2
7077	Rubble layer	4
7078	Construction cut for wall 7010 ; Building A	2
7079	Construction cut for drain 7080	3
7080	Land drain, running north/south	3
7081	Deposit	2/4
7082	Rubble/demolition debris within cross passage	4
7083	Deposit composed of orange-brownish-grey silt with broken brick and mortar inclusions	3
7084	Soil layer, 0.2m thick layer of brown, gritty, clay silt, containing rubble	3
7085	Layer of homogeneous cinder and ash, 0.2m thick	3
7086	Topsoil	4+
7087	Group of five stakeholes; virtually all 80mm in diameter and ranging from 50mm to 100mm deep; spaced between 0.11m and 0.2m apart, totalling 0.57m from the first to the last	1
7088	Deposit, bedding layer	1
7089	Charcoal layer; same as 7076	2
7090	Compact redeposited natural clay	2
7091	Clay layer; same as 7030	2
7092	Deposit	2
7093	Fill of construction cut 7094	2

7094	Construction cut	2
7095	Levelling deposit for wall 7004 ; Building A	2
7096	Not used	-
7097	Possible brick wall; Building A	2 or 3?
7098	Fill of posthole 7050	2
7099	Fill of postholes 7051 and 7052	2
7100	Cement surface	4
7101	Red sandstone flagged floor	4
7102	Square brick structure; survived to a height of two courses, with a width of two courses on the north side	4
7103	Upper fill of 7102 ; mid-brown silty clay	4
7104	lower fill of 7102 ; mid-brown to black clinker and redeposited natural clay	4
7105	Brick wall; Building B	4
7106	Brick wall; Building B	4
7107	North/south brick wall; Building B	4
7108	Red sandstone flagged floor; Building B	4
7109	North-north-east/south-south-west aligned wall; Building B	4
7110	Deposit: sandy mortar	4
7111	Deposit: mortar and sandy plaster	2
7112	North/south aligned brick wall; Building A	4
7113	Fill of posthole 7055	2
7114	Fill of posthole 7115	?
7115	Cut of posthole, filled by 7114	?
7116	Courtyard deposit; pinkish-brown/orange clay with abundant charcoal and some brick fragments	2
7117	Deposit	4?
7118	Deposit, crushed mortar	4?
7119	Cut for land drain, same as 7061	4
7120	Primary fill of land drain 7119=7061	4
7121	Deposit	
7122	Deposit	2
7123	Fill of pit 7125	?
7124	Fill of pit 7125	?
7125	Cut of pit	?
7126	Fill of linear feature 7128	4
7127	Primary fill of linear feature 7128	4
7128	Linear feature aligned west-north-west/east-south-east; steep sides and a flat base, which descended toward the east; over 2m wide	3/4
7129	Natural clay	-
7130	Mortar and rubble layer	4
7131	Fill of 7119	4
7132	Internal sandstone wall, 0.36m wide and survived to a height of two courses; Building A	2
7133	Natural clay	-
7134	Ground raising deposit - a pinkish-brown silty clay	2
7135	North/south aligned brick wall - measured 2m in length, 0.11m in width and one course (0.1m) in height, constructed from unfrosted red bricks; Building A	4
7136	Cobbled surface	1
7137	Silty clay surface	3
7138	Possible external surface	4
7139	Possible wall; Building A	3
7140	Not used	-
7141	Deposit, butts 7047 , 7189 and 7190	4
7142	Deposit, make-up layer	3/4?
7143	Structure	3/4?

7144	Cut for pond	2
7145	Fill of 7144	2
7146	Cut for pond and same as 7144	2
7147	Fill of 7146 , same as 7145	3?
7148	Fill of ditch 7006	4
7149	Deposit: fill of ditch 7006	4
7150	Deposit: fill of ditch 7006	4
7151	Deposit: fill of ditch 7152	4
7152	Ditch cut	4
7153	Stone-built drain: description as 7037	4
7154	Deposit	3
7155	Deposit: fill of drain 7036 ; orange-grey silty clay	3
7156	Deposit	2
7157	Floor	2
7158	Deposit	2
7159	Deposit: levelling layer	2
7160	Construction cut for wall 7040 ; Building A	4
7161	Red sandstone surface	4
7162	East/west aligned wall survived to a height of six courses. constructed predominantly from pink sandstone blocks with occasional bricks; was 0.46m wide, 6.5m long and 0.85m high, continuing to the north-west beyond the limits of excavation; Building B	4
7163	Deposit	2
7164	Backfill of 7144 ; 0.27m thick layer of yellowish- to pinkish-orange clay	2
7165	Primary fill of 7144 ; mottled grey sandy silt, with an ashy texture containing approximately 20% charcoal	2
7166	Not used	-
7167	Not used	-
7168	External levelling deposit, a grey/brown silty clay containing charcoal	2
7169	Deposit	2
7170	Deposit	4
7171	Deposit	4
7172	Deposit	4
7173	Deposit	4
7174	Brick plinth	3?
7175	Construction cut for 7174	3?
7176	Deposit	4
7177	Cut for service trench breaching wall 7073	4
7178	West by north-west/east by south-east aligned brick wall; Building B	4
7179	North by north-east/south by south-west aligned brick wall; Building B	4
7180	North by north-east/south by south-west aligned brick wall; Building B	4
7181	North by north-east/south by south-west aligned brick wall; Building B	4
7182	Deposit, part of group with 7183 and 7184	4
7183	Deposit, part of group with 7182 and 7184	4
7184	Deposit, part of group with 7182 and 7183	4
7185	Brick wall; Building B	4
7186	Brick wall; Building B	4
7187	Brick wall; Building B	4
7188	Construction cut for wall 7106 ; Building A	4
7189	Brick wall; Building B	4
7190	Brick wall; Building A	4

7191	Construction cut for wall 7178	4
7192	Ceramic field drain	3
7193	Cut of ditch	3
7194	Fill of ditch 7193 ; orange-grey, sandy clay silt	3
7195	Fill of ditch 7193 same as 7008 , 7148 and 7150 ; mottled orange-brown sandy silty clay	3
7196	Primary fill of ditch 7193 , composed of dark grey sandy silt	3
7197	Same as 7195	3
7198	Clinker layer, same as 7170	4
7199	Not used	-
7200	Stone well	2
7201	Deposit	?
7202	Cut of pit	?
7203	Deposit	4
7204	Cut of pit, filled by 7170=7198 , 7171 , 7172 and 7173	4
7205	Cut for sandstone wall 7203	4
7206	Bedding layer for wall 7073	2
7207	Construction cut for drain 7068 , south	3
7208	Mortar and plaster surface	4
7209	Depression/posthole	2
7210	Depression/posthole	2
7211	Depression/posthole	2
7212	Depression/posthole	2
7213	Depression/posthole	2
7214	Depression/posthole	2

Trench 24	Description	Phase
166	Crushed red brick surface/layer; measured 5m in length, 2.12m wide and 0.24m deep. Interspersed within the matrix were large grey stone cobbles and occasional half/whole red bricks which were mostly concentrated at the east end of the spread	2
167	Cobbled surface with crushed red brick; 4m by 1.7m, made up of irregular sandstones c180mm by 150mm and cobbles interspersed with crushed red brick with no obvious bonding material	2
168	Red brick feature; two single-coursed, roughly square, red brick clusters 0.7m long, 0.47m wide and 0.12m deep, with the appearance of being intentionally laid; orientated north/south, only four bricks long and one brick wide. The average dimensions of the bricks were 240mm by 110mm by 80mm	2
169	Concentration of red brick and stone, apparently associated with cobbled surface 167 ; measured 0.8m long, 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep with approximately 11 cobbles with average dimensions of 125mm by 100mm	2
170	Fill of drain 171 ; small pebbles, cobbles, crushed red brick and slate	3
171	Cut of stone-filled drain, 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep	2
172	Foundation cut for red brick wall 173	2
173	Red brick wall; measured 3m east/west, returning north for 0.7m; constructed with no obvious mortar and only one course of bricks survived (0.12m high), mainly of header bonding with some stretchers (0.25m thick)	2
174	Shallow spread of dumped material; comprised dark grey/brown sandy silt with occasional sandstone and charcoal inclusions; measured 5.9m long, 2.18m wide and 0.11m deep	3
175	Compact stone cluster roughly orientated north/south; 4m long, 1.25m wide and 0.08m deep	3
176	Cobbled surface with crushed red brick	2

177	Foundation cut for north-south pink sandstone wall 178	2
178	North/south aligned pink sandstone wall 4m long, survived to a height of two courses (0.3m) and was 0.5m wide; constructed of a double thickness of large, roughly rectangular-cut stones (with a maximum size of 1.1m by 0.24m by 0.22m) and smaller stone infill	2
179	Foundation cut for wall 180	2
180	Wall - roughly laid pink sandstone with smaller stone packing; measured 3m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.08m high	2
181	Fill of tree bole; dark grey/brown sandy silt with occasional angular stones and charcoal; measured 2.1m long, 2.4m wide and 0.08m deep; typically irregular in shape	1
183	Demolition layer - a dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal, small stones and clinker-type material	3
184	Levelling layer; light brown silty sand containing brick fragments and small pebbles, 2.7m wide, 0.26m deep	3
185	Dumping/levelling layer; 7m long, 0.4m wide and 0.26m deep; dark brown clayey sand with frequent white mortar inclusions	3
186	Extensive dumping layer of mid-brown silty sand; 3.1m wide, 0.58m deep	3
187	Red brick wall	2
188	Dumping layer; 0.5m long, 0.36m wide and 0.13m deep; light yellowish-brown clayey sand	3
189	Deposit; dark orange-brown clay, representing an interface with the natural geology	3
190	Not used	-
191	Deposit of grey/brown silty clay sand 1m across and 0.13m thick	3
192	Cut of large boundary ditch; seen for a distance of 10m, measured c5m wide by 0.75m deep	1
193	Fill of ditch 192 ; dark grey smooth silty clay with charcoal and small pebble inclusions	1
194	Cut of shallow ditch, 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep, had been cut into 192	1
195	Fill of ditch 194	1
196	Fill of pit 197 ; reddish-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks	1
197	Cut of pit truncating ditch 192 ; sub-circular in plan with shallow concave sides, itself truncated to the north by disturbance. Measured 2m long, at least 0.86m wide and 0.16m deep	1
200	Fill of ditch 192	1
206	Fill of ditch 209	1
207	Fill of ditch 209	1
208	Primary fill of ditch 209	1
209	Cut of boundary ditch	1

Trench 25	Description	Phase
8000	Walls of Building 5; composed of handmade bricks measuring 235mm by 115mm by 70mm and utilised a lime-based, brownish-yellow mortar; predominantly constructed in English bond	3
8001	Red sandstone surface	2
8002	Natural geology	
8003	Upper fill of 8008	4
8004	Quaternary fill of 8008	4
8005	Tertiary fill of 8008	4
8006	Secondary fill of 8008	4
8007	Primary fill of 8008	4
8008	Modern ditch or disturbance	4
8009	Upper fill of 8013 ; mid-reddish-brown silty clay	1
8010	Fill of 8013 ; orange-brown clay sand	1

8011	Fill of 8013 ; dark grey/brown silty clay	1
8012	Primary fill of 8013	1
8013	Pond (same as 8046 and 8063)	1
8014	Fill of 8013 ; mid-grey/brown sandy silt clay	1
8015	Fill of 8016	4
8016	Cut for 4" drain	4
8017	Construction cut for brick wall 8018	3
8018	Wall; composed of handmade bricks, measuring 240mm by 110mm by 70mm bonded with hard, creamy white, sandy mortar, with the bricks in English bond. The wall was 2m long and 0.5m wide and survived to a height of two courses (0.18m)	3
8019	Natural geology	-
8020	Black clinker levelling layer	3
8021	Demolition layer	3
8022	Demolition/levelling layer	3
8023	Redeposited natural clay	3
8024	Rectangular brick building - composed from handmade bricks 230mm by 110mm by 66mm surviving to a height of five courses (0.4m), with the top course lying at 15.09m OD; no regular coursing and no bonding material could be discerned	2
8025	Void	
8026	Brick foundation for wall 8000 ; Building 5	3
8027	Stone flag floor within structure 8024	2
8028	Brick surface	2
8029	Remains of red sandstone floor	4
8030	Demolition layer	3
8031	Bedding layer for Building 5 floor	3
8032	Fill of 8033	4
8033	Drain	4
8034	Cut for drain 8034	4
8035	Robbing cut for wall 8100	2/3
8036	Not used	-
8037	Backfill of 8035	3
8038	Fill of 8039	4
8039	Machine-excavated demolition/robber trench	4
8040	Fill of service trench 8041	4
8041	Service trench	4
8042	Red sandstone surface (same as 8001)	2
8043	Bedding layer for 8042	2
8044	Modern service trench	3
8045	Modern service trench	3
8046	Pond (same as 8013 and 8063)	1
8047	Upper fill of 8046 ; mid-grey/brown sandy silt clay	1
8048	Fill of 8046	1
8049	Fill of 8052	4
8050	Fill of 8052	4
8051	Bedding layer for drain	4
8052	Service trench	4
8053	Construction cut for west wall of barn, 8000 , Building 5	3
8054	Fill of 8053	3
8055	Consolidation layer for wall 8000 , Building 5	3
8056	Demolition cut for wall 8000 , Building 5	3
8057	Fill of 8056	3
8058	Fill of 8047	1?
8059	Topsoil	4
8060	Sandstone-capped brick culvert; capping comprised slabs 580mm by 460mm by 180mm supported on two parallel brick walls three	2/3?

	courses high. The feature was 0.58m wide and could be traced for 4.92m	
8061	Fill of 8063 ; light to mid-grey/brown silty sand	1
8062	Primary fill of 8063	1
8063	Pond (same as 8013 and 8046)	1
8064	Lower fill of 8056	3
8065	Levelling layer for surface in barn 8000 , Building 5	3
8066	Rough red sandstone surface	2
8067	Silt layer sealing 8066	3
8068	Redeposited natural clay	3
8069	Machine-excavated demolition/robber trench	4
8070	Dump of demolition material	4
8071	Packing around drain	4
8072	Fill of 8073	2
8073	Square posthole	2
8074	Fill of 8075	2
8075	Square posthole	2
8076	Fill of 8077	2
8077	Square posthole	2
8078	Fill of 8079	2
8079	Square post pad	2
8080	Natural geology	-
8081	Bedding layer for floor surface in 8082 , Building 5	3
8082	Same as 8000 - Building 5	3
8083	Construction cut for wall 8082	3
8084	Fill of 8083	3
8085	Cobbled surface butting 8082	3
8086	Bedding layer for cobbles 8085	3
8087	Capping layer above ditch 8089	1
8088	Fill of 8089	1
8089	East/west aligned ditch	1
8090	Demolition rubble	4
8091	Sand bedding layer for stone surface 8042	2
8092	Bedding layer for stone surface 8042	2
8093	Levelling layer for stone surface 8042	2
8094	Fill of 8089	1
8095	Fill of 8089	1
8096	Fill of 8089	1
8097	Stone surface	2/3
8098	Construction cut for 8082	3
8099	Basal fill of 8089	1
8100	Brick wall extending from structure 8024	2
8101	Semi-elliptical ceramic land drain	4

Trench 26	Description	Phase
9000	Unstratified material	-
9001	Modern overburden	4
9002	Crushed sandstone and sand bedding/levelling layer	4
9003	Bedding layer for 9002	4
9004	Vertically set slab wall - pigsty	3
9005	Collapsed slabs from wall 9004 - pigsty	3
9006	Clay packing around wall 9004 - pigsty	3
9007	Redeposited midden material	3
9008	Clay surface	3
9009	Ground-raising deposit - demolition debris grey/brown sandy silt with abundant fragments of mortar and other fragments of building material such as Welsh slate and brick	3

9010	Levelling layer above pond	3
9011	Drain	3
9012	Modern animal burial	4
9013	Drain	3
9014	Fill of pond 9040	1
9015	Rubble-filled drain	4
9016	Fill of ditch 9024	1
9017	Natural geology	-
9018	Construction cut for wall 9004 (same as 9029)	3
9019	Compact rubble levelling layer	3
9020	Brick drain	4
9021	Fill of 9022	1
9022	Shallow posthole	1
9023	Brick drain	4
9024	Ditch - with near-vertical sides and a flat base, and was 1.3m wide and 0.82m deep	1
9025	Ceramic drain	3
9026	Linear slot; 0.17m wide, 0.16m deep and over 0.5m long	3
9027	Fill of slot 9026 ; dark brown silty sand	3
9028	Mortar-rich levelling layer	3
9029	Construction cut for wall 9004	3
9030	Levelling layer	3
9031	Fill of 9032	3
9032	Posthole	3
9033	Cow burial within 9035	1
9034	Fill of 9035	1
9035	Animal burial pit	1
9036	Fill of 9037	1
9037	North/south aligned ditch	1
9038	Fill of 9039 ; composed of dark grey sandy silt	1
9039	Pit; orientated north/south and over 2m long, 0.4m wide and 0.44m deep	1
9040	Pond	1

Evaluation Trenches			
Context	Trench	Description	Thickness (max)
100	12	Concrete	0.10m
101	12	Brownish-black loose stone - bedding layer	0.10m
102	12	Red brick surface	0.07m
103	12	Mid-reddish-brown compact sandy-clay - natural geology	-
104	10	Dark grey/black loose silty sand - filled gully 105	0.07m
105	10	Cut of shallow linear	0.07m
106	10	Dark grey-brown, dark buff compact concrete - bedding layer	0.09
107	10	Pinkish-brown moderately loose sand - layer	0.28m
108	10	Dark grey-black compact ashy-clay - layer	0.78m
109	11	Mid-blackish-brown friable sandy-clay - fill of posthole 110	0.04m
110	11	Cut of shallow irregular posthole	0.04m
111	10	Dark grey mottled white moderately compact clay mixed with building debris and 40% degraded chalky plaster - fill of shallow gully 105	0.04m

112	11	Mid-greyish-brown friable sandy-clay - fill of posthole 113	0.20m
113	11	Cut of posthole	0.20m
114	11	Dark greyish-brown friable sandy-clay - fill of field drain 116	0.10m
115	11	Light brownish-grey soft sand - fill of field drain 116	0.36m
116	11	Cut of field drain	0.45m
117	11	Dark greyish-black friable sandy-loam - topsoil	0.40m
118	11	Reddish-brown crushed brick - layer	0.05m
119	11	Black loose stone 20%, clinker 80% - levelling layer	0.08m
120	11	Dark blackish-grey friable sandy-clay - fill of hedgeline 121	0.18m
121	11	Cut for hedgeline	0.30m
122	11	Mixed pinkish-brown, dark brown compact clay - root disturbance	0.10m
123	11	Mixed mid-grey/brown and pinkish-brown moderately loose silty clay - backfill of cow burial 124	0.18m
124	11	Cut for cow burial	0.18m
125	11	Mid-brownish-grey moderately compact clayish-sand - fill of posthole 126	0.08m
126	11	Cut of posthole	0.08m
127	11	Mid to dark brownish-grey moderately compact sandy-clay - fill of posthole 128	0.30m
128	11	Cut of posthole	0.30m
129	11	Dark brown-grey moderately loose clayey-silt - fill of hedgerow 130	0.47m
130	11	Cut for hedgerow	0.47m
131	11	Pinkish-brown mixed dark brown/grey compact clay - root disturbance	0.17m
132	11	Dark grey-brown moderately compact clayey-silt - fill of pit/posthole 135	0.24m
135	11	Cut of pit/posthole	0.24m
136	11	Mid-grey loose silt - fill of ditch 137	0.26m
137	11	Cut of ditch	0.26m
220	11	Cow skeleton within cut 124	0.2m

APPENDIX 3: PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<i>Context number</i>		<i>8088</i>	<i>7165</i>	<i>7018</i>	<i>7012</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>8062</i>	<i>7196</i>	<i>7116</i>	<i>7032</i>
Sample number		14	11	10	7	6	13	12	9	8
Trench		25	7	7	7	24	25	7	7	7
Feature-type		Primary fill of ditch 8089	Grey layer in baulk	Floor layer Underlying 7071	Dark soil deposit between walls 7009 and 7010	Primary fill of ditch 209	Possible primary fill of pond	Primary fill of ditch 7193	Soil layer under wall 7139	Bedding layer for cobbles 7131
Sample size (l)		10	9	9	10	10	10	10	9	10
Volume processed (l)		10	9	9	10	10	10	10	9	10
Flot size (ml)		85	484	1600	1710	455	2235	175	1400	1110
Amorphous charred plant remains		++				++	++	++		
Earthworm egg cases					+					
Wood		++				++	++	++		
Charcoal		+	++	+						
Burnt material				++	++					++
Metallic pieces			++						+	
Bryophyte fragments		+		+			++			
Fungal sclerota		++								
Mammal bone			+		+					+
Insect remains		++				++		+		++
Clinker			++	++	++				++	++
Coal			++	++	++	++			++	++
Sand		+	++	++	++	++	++	++	++	++

<i>Context number</i>		8088	7165	7018	7012	208	8062	7196	7116	7032
Sample number		14	11	10	7	6	13	12	9	8
Thorns		+								
Modern roots			++	++	+					
Buds		+				++	++	+		
Vivianite present		++		+				+		
Arable weeds										
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i>	Corn marigold	++					++			
<i>Stellaria media</i> -common chickweed	Common chickweed			+			++			
Grassland										
<i>Cirsium</i>	Thistles	+				++	++			
<i>Labiatae</i>	Dead nettle		+			+				
<i>Leontodon autumnalis</i>	Hawkbits						++			
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>	Hairy buttercup	++					++			
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep sorrel	++				++		+		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel				+					
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad leaved dock	++								
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal						++			
<i>Stellaria gramineae</i>	Lesser stitchwort	++								
Ruderals										
<i>Bromus</i> sp-bromes	Grasses			+	+		+			
Chenopodiaceae undiff-goosefoot/ orache	Goosefoot	+			+	++	++	+		+
<i>Euphorbia</i>	Sun spurge					+	++			
<i>Taraxacum</i>	Dandelion		++					+		

<i>Context number</i>		8088	7165	7018	7012	208	8062	7196	7116	7032
Sample number		14	11	10	7	6	13	12	9	8
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	++				++	++	+		++
Wet ground										
<i>Carex lenticular</i>	Sedges	+				+				
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock						+			
<i>Eleocharis</i>	Spike rushes						+			
<i>Hyoscyamus</i>	Henbane					+				
<i>Juncus</i>	Rushes	++		++		++			++	
<i>Potamogeton</i>	Opposite leaved pondweed							+		
<i>Ranunculus batrachium-type</i>	Crowfoot						++	+		
<i>Ranunculus scleratus</i>	Celery leaved buttercup							+		
Broad Habitats										
<i>Capsella</i>	Shepherds purse	+								
<i>Galeopsis</i>	Hemp nettle						++			
<i>Galium</i>	Bedstraw					++				
<i>Polygonum sp</i>	Knotgrass	++					++	+		
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	++								
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	++				++				
<i>Raphanus</i>	Radishes					+				
<i>Ranunculus repens-type</i>	Buttercup	++				++				
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow thistles	+					++			
Food and economic taxa										

<i>Context number</i>		8088	7165	7018	7012	208	8062	7196	7116	7032
Sample number		14	11	10	7	6	13	12	9	8
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Hemp						+			
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	+	+	+						
<i>Culm nodes</i>							++	+		
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> seed	Flax	+								
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> capsule	Flax	+								
Prunus sp	Blackthorn/Cherry	+					++	+		
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Blackberry	++				++	++	++		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		+		+		++			
Charred Plant Remains										
<i>Avena</i>	Oat			+						
<i>Cerealia</i> indeterminate			+	+						

Key: + is present, ++ is abundant.

APPENDIX 4: TASK LIST

Task No	Task	Days	Resources
Task 1:	Project Set up	1	SR
	Contact / Liaise with Project Team	0.5	SR/ JB
Task 2:	Upgrading of context database	10	pa
Task 3:	Conservation and x-raying	1	
Task 4:	Ceramic Analysis	18	CHD/JB
Task 5:	Other Finds' Analysis	5	CHD
Task 6:	Refine Phasing / Edit Matrix	4	JB
Task 7:	Production of Site Narrative	6	JB
Task 8:	Documentary Research	3	JB
Task 9:	Stratigraphic Illustrations	10	MER
Task 10:	Finds Illustration	4	MER/AP
Task 11:	Palaeoenvironmental Analysis	5	SB/EH
Task 12:	Zooarchaeological database and comment2		AOB
Task 13:	Publication Illustrations	10	AP/MER
Task 14:	Publication Compilation	5	JB / SR
Task 15:	Edit Publication Text	2	SR
Task 16:	Quality Assessment of Publication	1	RMN
Task 17:	Incorporation of Edits	2	SR
Task 18:	Prepare Archive for Deposition	3	pa

APPENDIX 5: FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

EVERTON ACADEMY TRAINING GROUND, FINCH FARM, FINCH LANE, HALEWOOD, MERSEYSIDE: POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS AND REPORTING COSTING

The total cost quoted for the undertaking of a programme of post-excavation analysis and the production of a publication draft is a fixed price which is inclusive of all management, overheads, and other disbursement costs (travel and expenses), to undertake the programme of work as defined in this project assessment. Any other variations from this programme of work at the client's direction will require recosting. All staff costs are inclusive of holiday entitlement, as well as NI and Superannuation.

- Commercial in Confidence
- All costs are exclusive of VAT
- Salaries and wages inclusive of NI, Superannuation and overheads
- Project duration beyond 31-03-2007 will require adjustment for inflation

Total Costs

£18,000

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Evaluation trench plan

Figure 3: Detail of Trenches 10-12 within the former buildings of the Finch Farm complex

Figure 4: Excavation trench location plan superimposed onto an outline plan of the Finch Farm structures

Figure 5: Overall plan of Trench 7, showing all phases of activity

Figure 6: Detailed plan of Building A and associated features, Trench 7

Figure 7: Sections through deposits within Room 1 of Building A, Trench 7

Figure 8: Sections through deposits exterior to Building A, Trench 7

Figure 9: Detailed plan of Building B and associated features, Trench 7

Figure 10: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 24

Figure 11: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 25, Area 1

Figure 12: Sections through pond **8013**, Area 1, and surface **8042**, Area 1

Figure 13: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 25, Area 2

Figure 14: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 25, Area 3

Figure 15: Section through wall **8082** and ditch **8089**, Trench 25, Area 3

Figure 16: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 26

PLATES

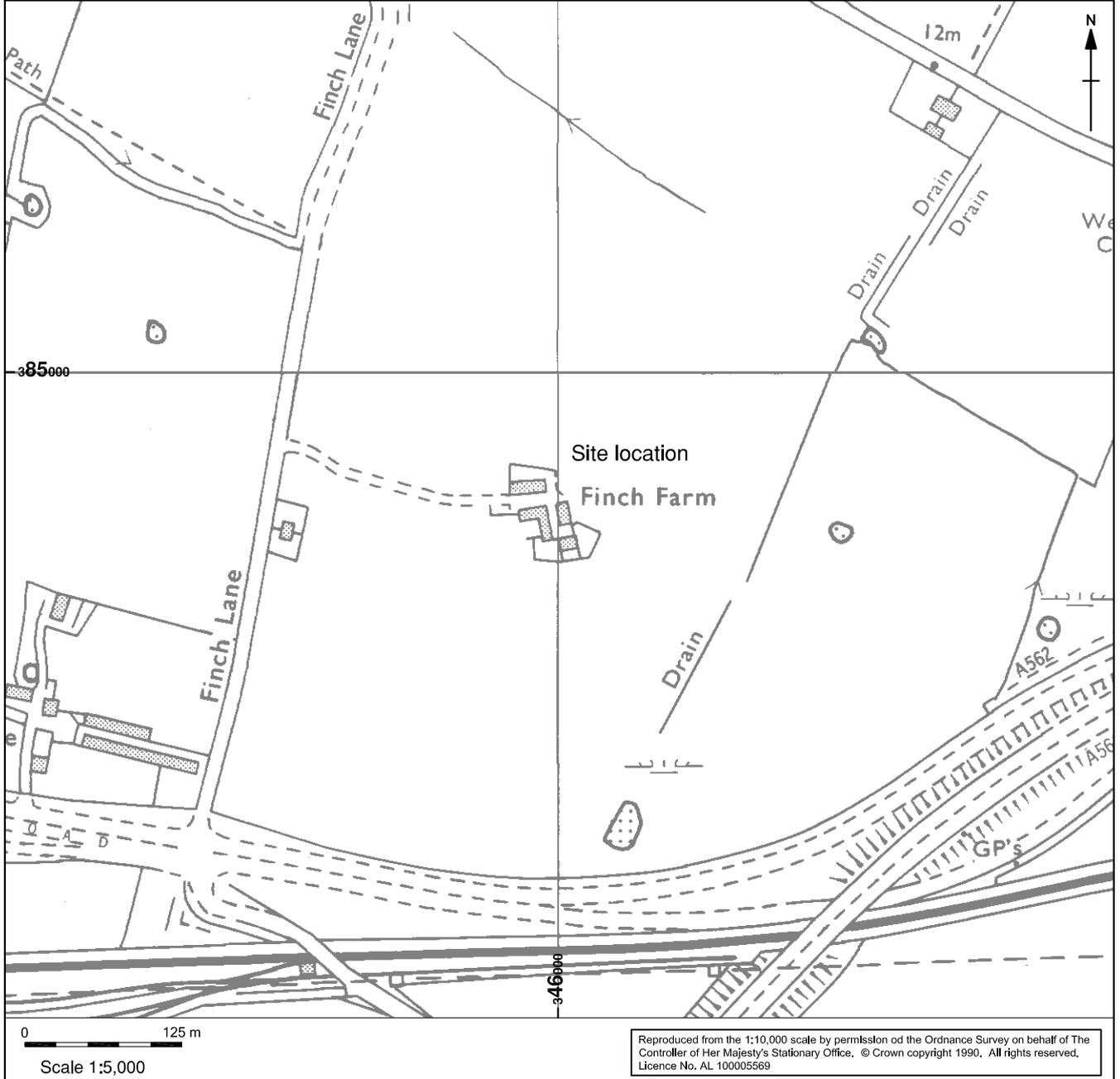
Plate 1: General view of Trench 7, looking west

Plate 2: Plan of Building A, looking east

Plate 3: Room 1: walls **7004** (to the right), **7005** and **7073** (bottom left), looking south-west

Plate 4: Room 1: west-facing section of wall **7073**

- Plate 5: Phase 2 walls **7009** (north/south) and **7025** (east/west), together with cobbles **7024**, looking north
- Plate 6: Trench 7 looking south-east; top left to bottom right: wall **1762**, ditch **7128**, cobbles **7031** and pit **7125**
- Plate 7: Stone capping **7034** of well **7200**, looking south
- Plate 8: Plan of Building B, looking west
- Plate 9: Surface **7108**, looking east, with cobbles **7031** in the background
- Plate 10: Trench 7, looking south-east: cobbled surfaces **7033** (foreground) and **7031** (background)
- Plate 11: General shot of Trench 24 looking south/west
- Plate 12: West-facing section of ditch **192**
- Plate 13: View of sandstone wall **178** and cobbled surface **176**, looking east
- Plate 14: View of red brick wall **173**, looking west
- Plate 15: Outline of pond **8063**, looking north, with wall **8000** of Building 5 to the left and stone-capped culvert, **8060**, to the right
- Plate 16: Structure **8024**, looking south, straddled by later walls **8000** of Building 5
- Plate 17: Close-up of structure **8024**, looking west, with the remains of internal slab floor **8027** in the foreground and surfaces **8042** (left) and **8066** (right) in the background, straddling robbed-out wall **8100**
- Plate 18: Sandstone surface **8097**, looking south, with the remains of building **8024** in the foreground
- Plate 19: South-facing section of levelling layers **8020-8023** (top to bottom)
- Plate 20: General view of Area 2 looking east before excavation and showing wall **8018** (bottom right), surface **8042** (top left) and areas of machine disturbance running across the trench
- Plate 21: General pre-excavation view of Area 3 looking north and showing walls **8082**
- Plate 22: West-facing section of wall **8082** and ditch **8089**
- Plate 23: Group of postholes within Area 3, looking west
- Plate 24: General view of Trench 26, looking east
- Plate 25: Vertical stone slabs **9004**, looking north
- Plate 26: South-facing section of Trench 26



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Figure 1: Site Location

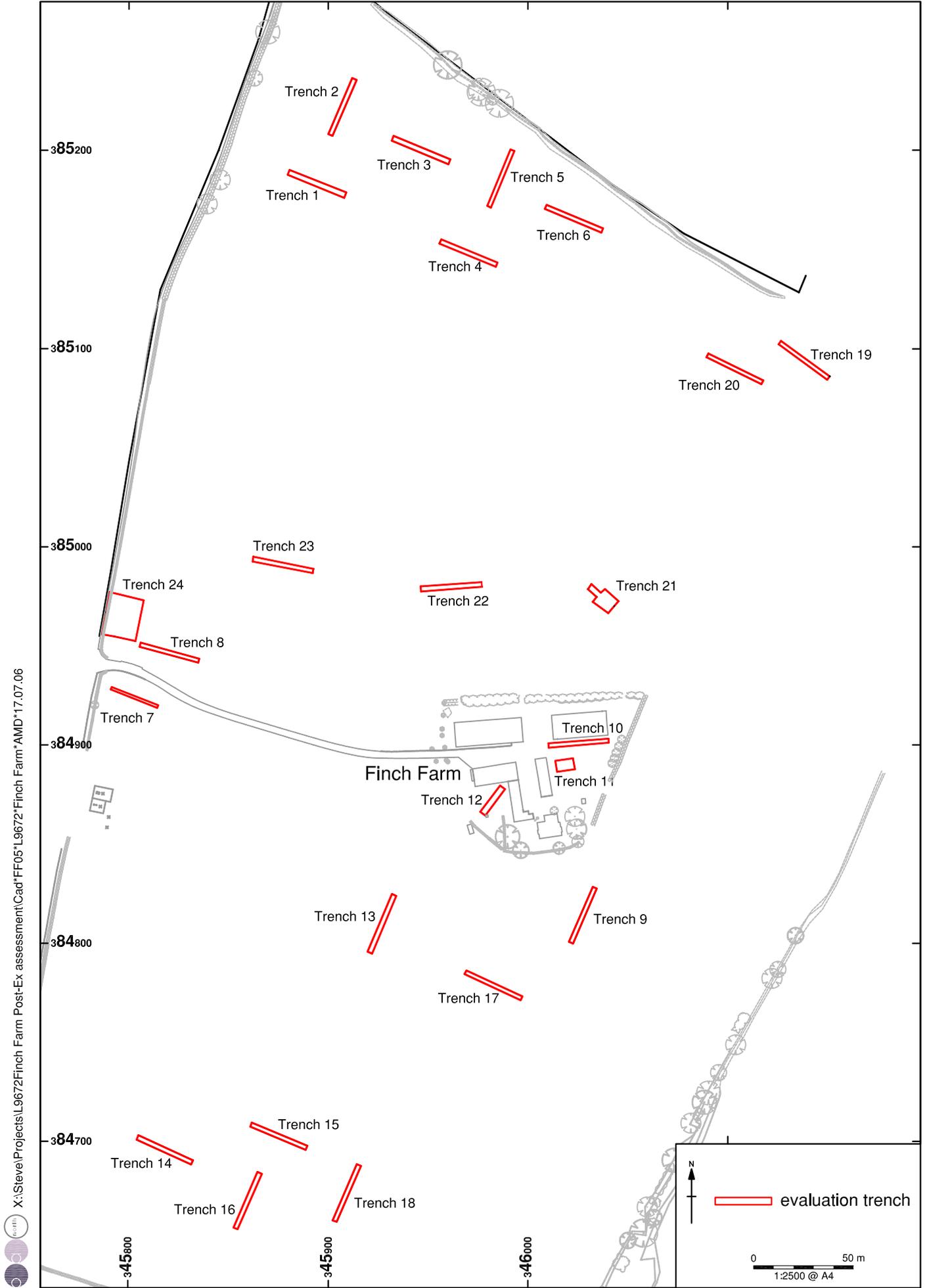


Figure 2: Evaluation trench plan

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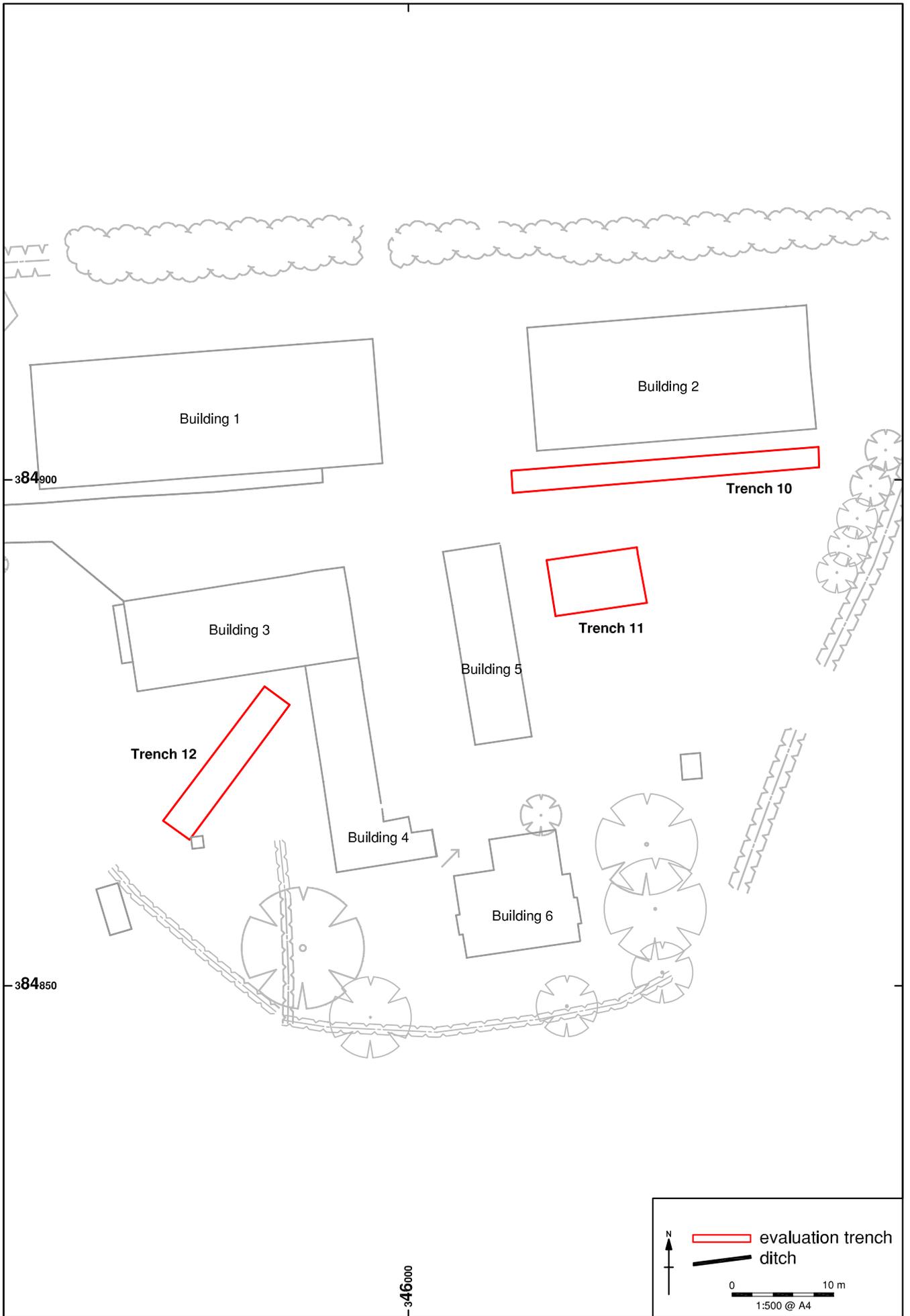


Figure 3: Detail of Trenches 10-12 within the former buildings of the Finch Farm complex

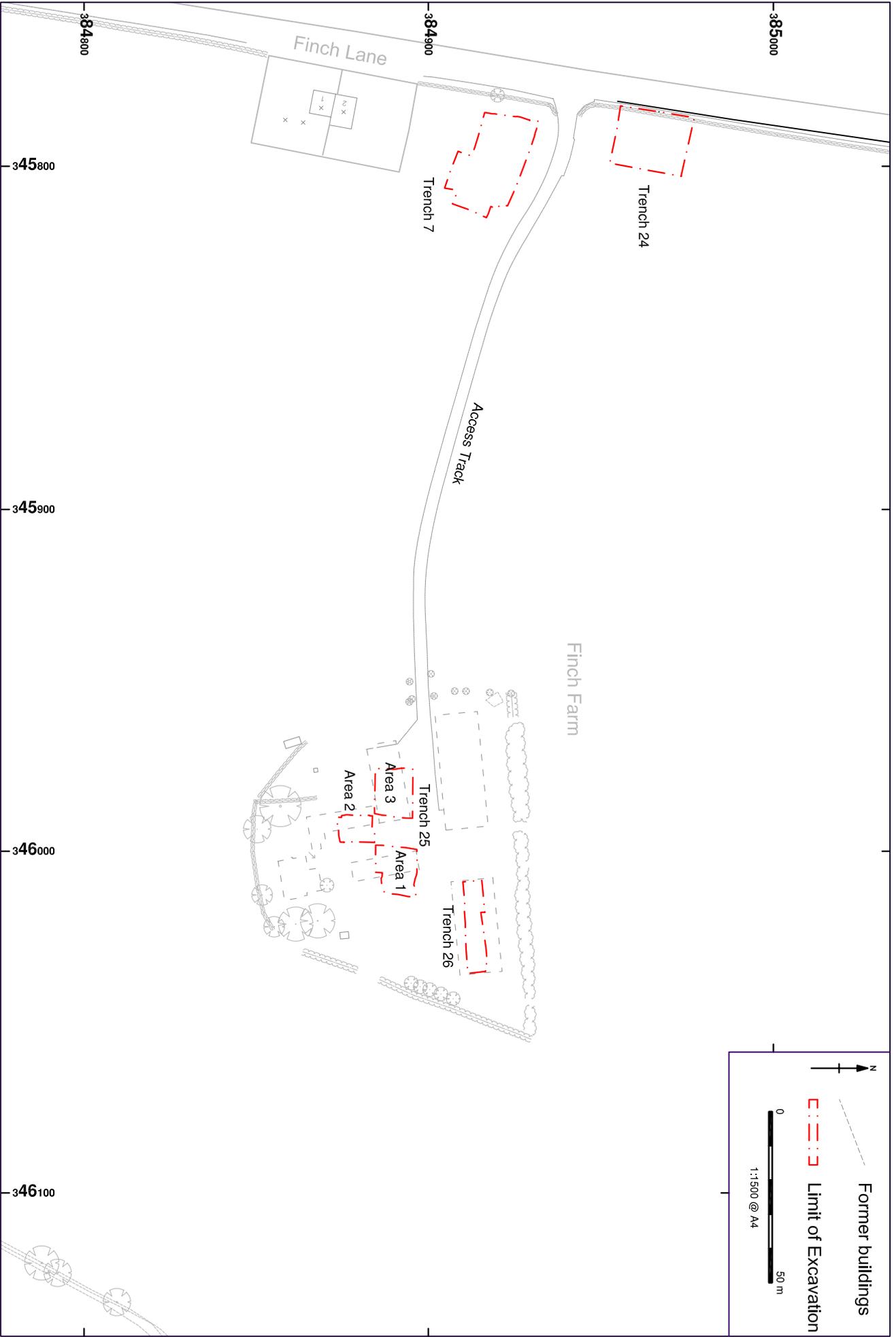


Figure 4: Excavation trench location plan superimposed onto an outline plan of the Finch Farm structures

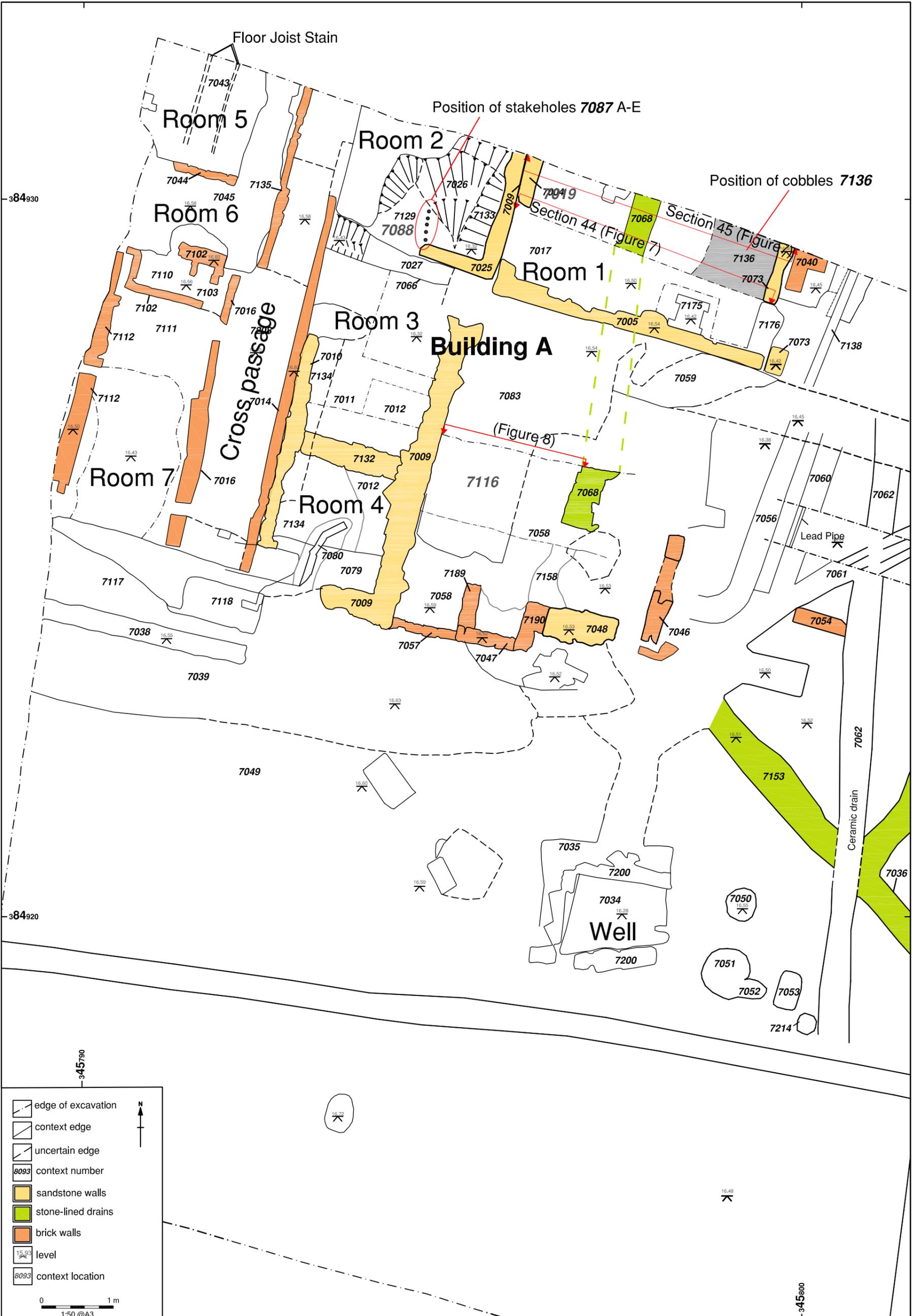
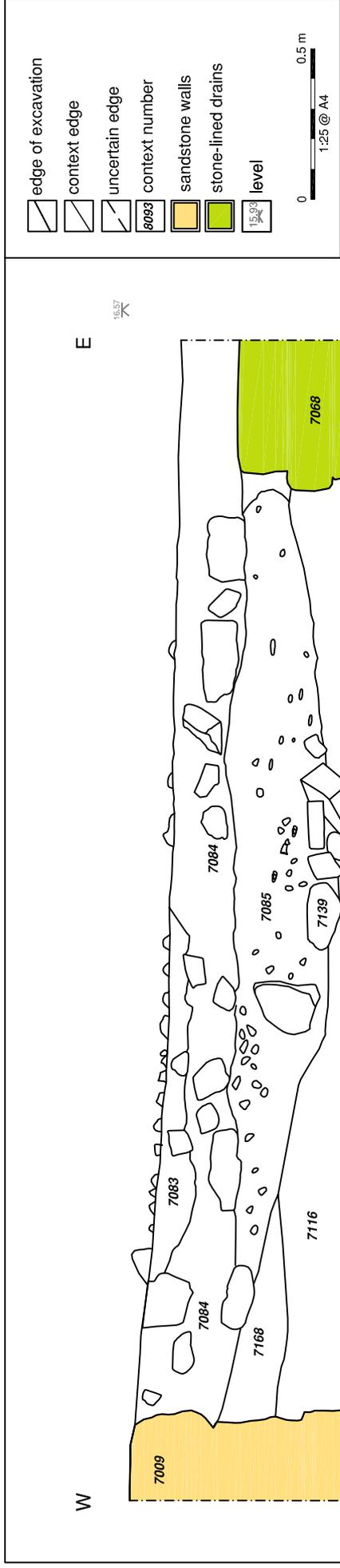
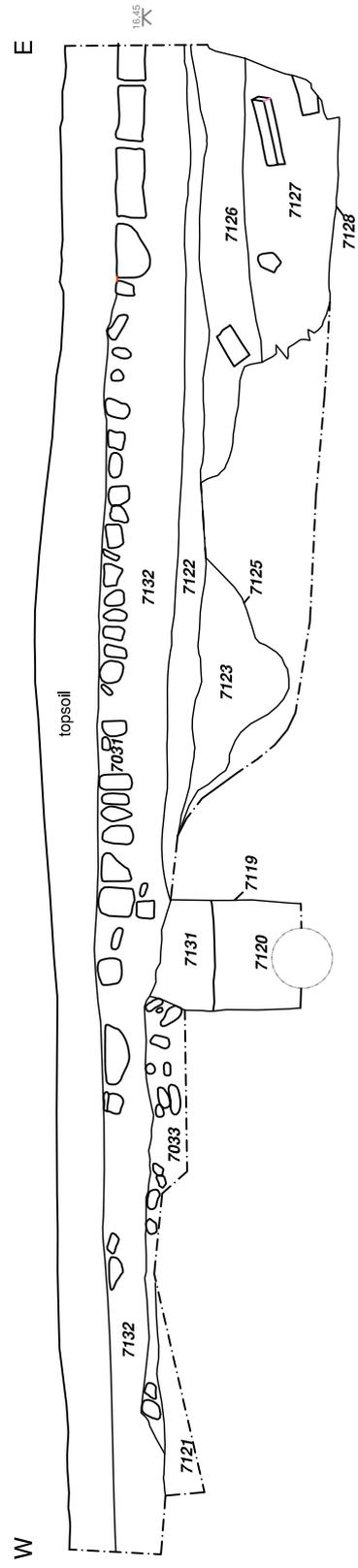


Figure 6: Detailed area of Building A and associated features, Trench 7



South-facing section through exterior deposits to the east of Building A



South-facing section of sindage beneath cobbles 7031

Figure 8: Sections through deposits exterior to Building A, Trench 7

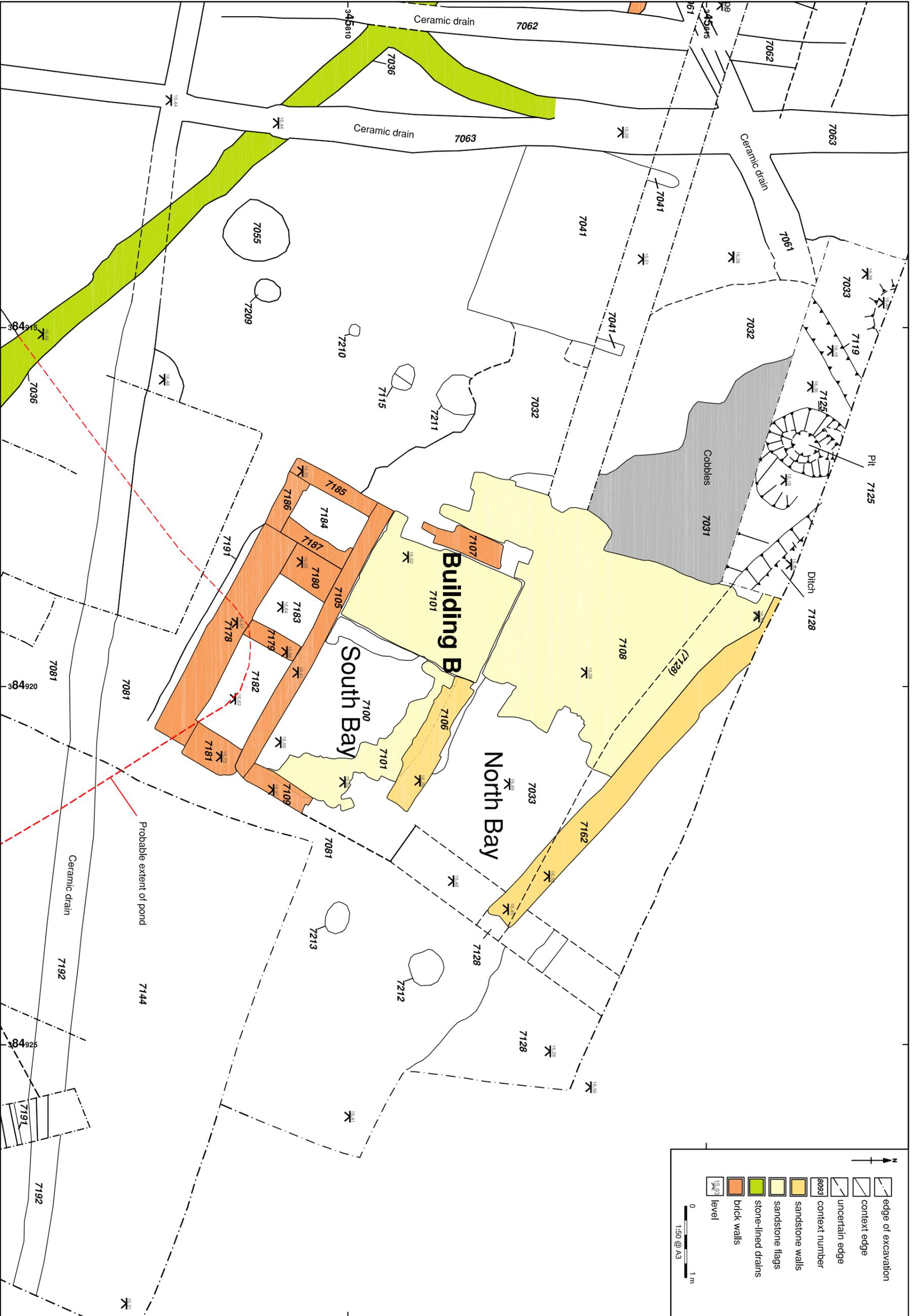


Figure 9: Detailed Plan of Building B and associated features in Trench 7

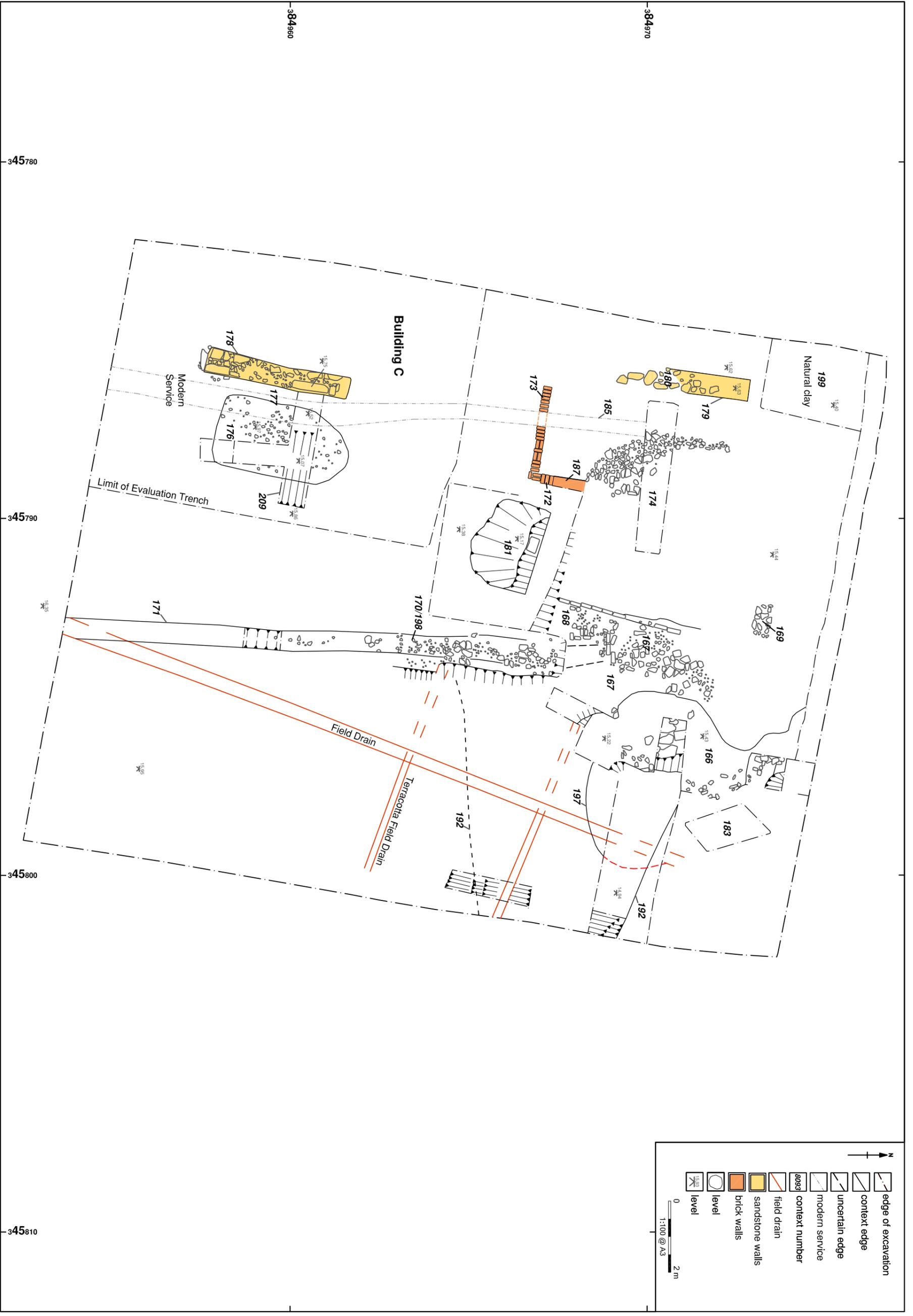
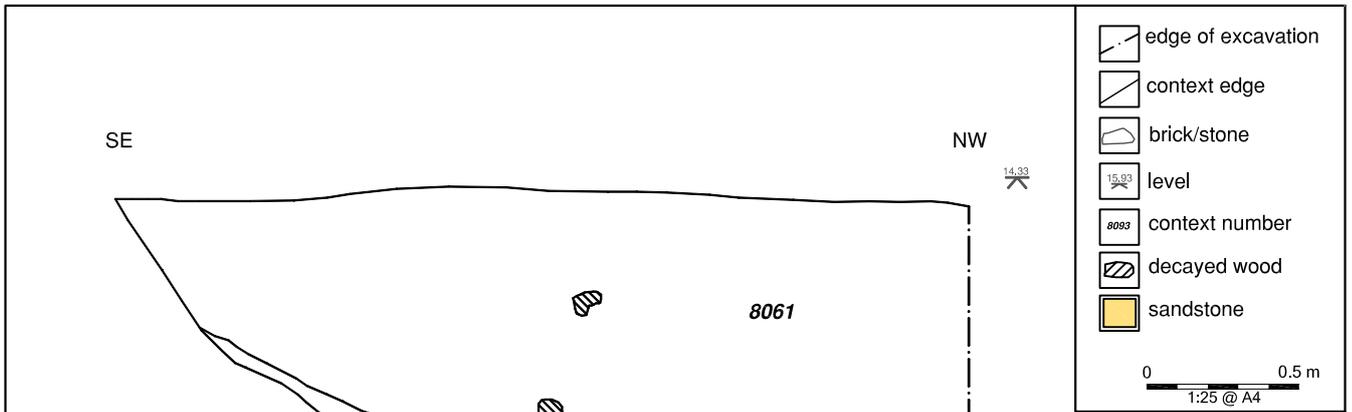
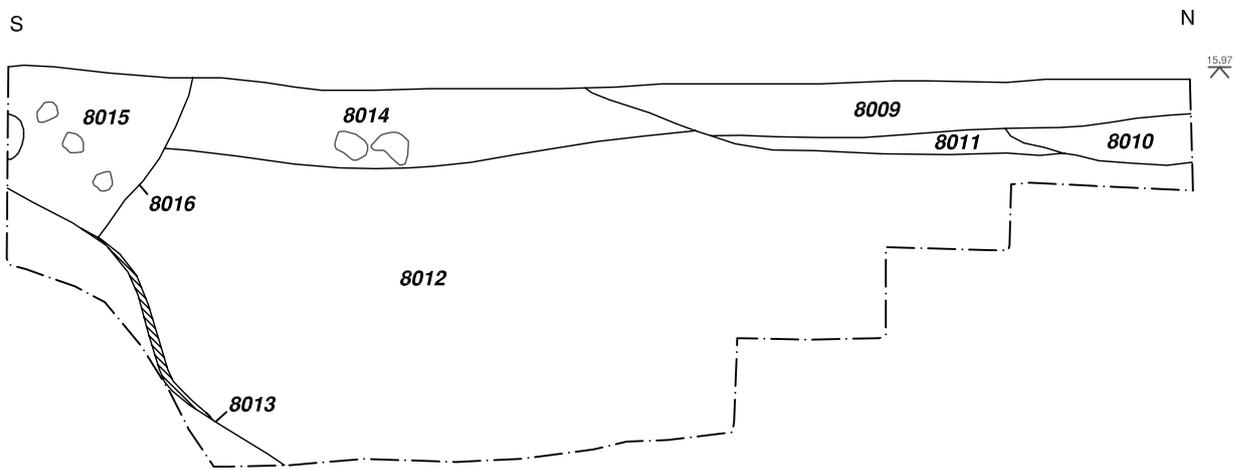


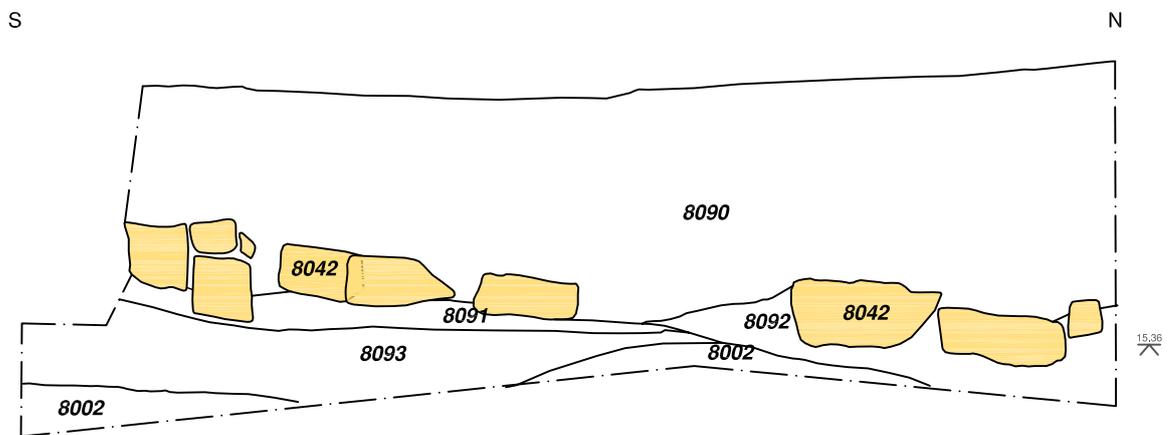
Figure 10: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 24



North-East-facing Section - Sondage 25a



East-facing Section - Sondage 25b



East-facing Section - surface **8042**

Figure 12: Sections through pond **8013**, Area 1, and surface **8042**, Area 1



Figure 13: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 25, Area 2

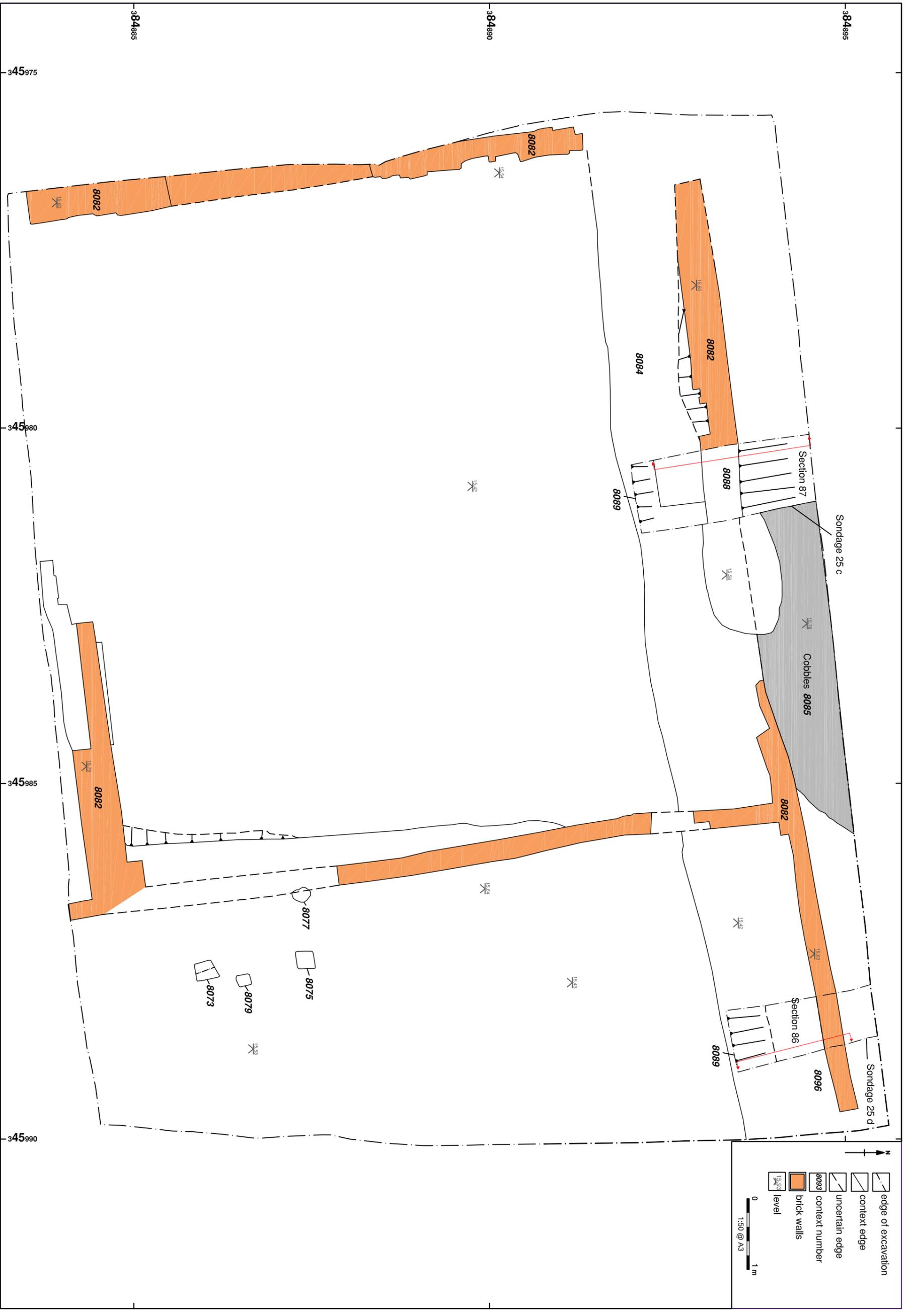
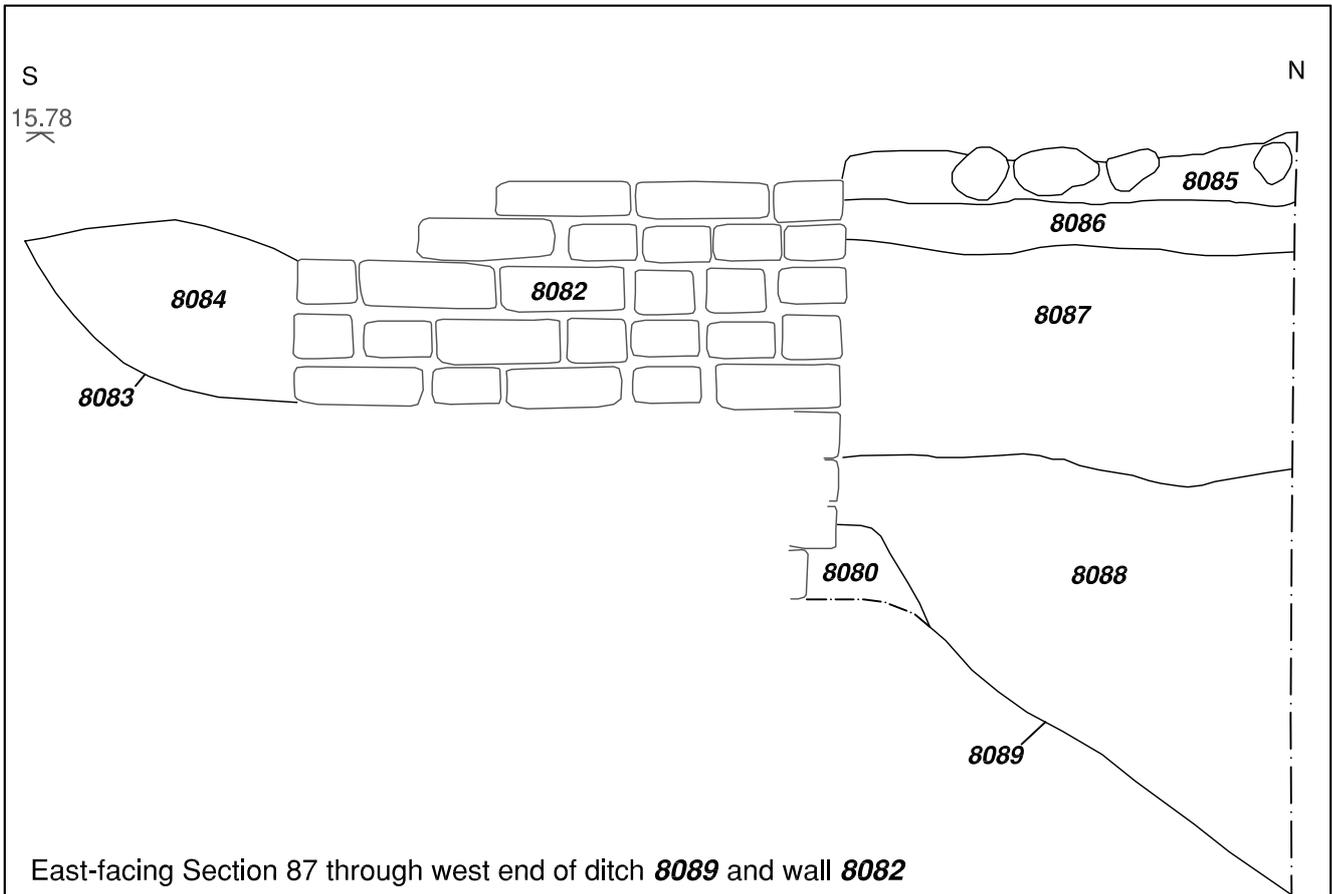
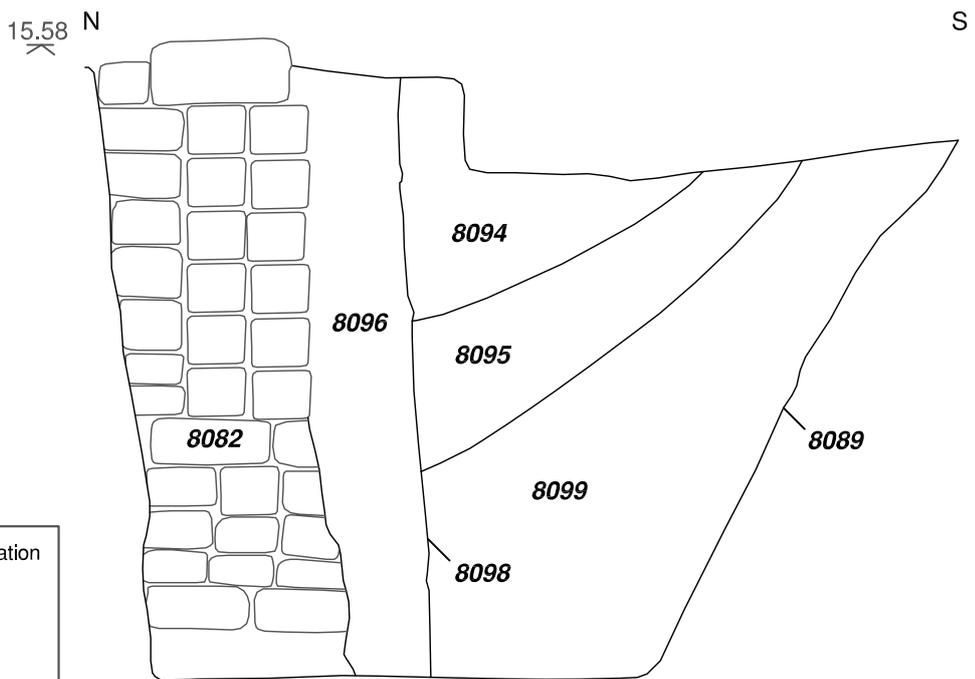


Figure 14: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 25, Area 3



East-facing Section 87 through west end of ditch **8089** and wall **8082**



West-facing Section 86 through east end of ditch **8089** and wall **8082**

	edge of excavation
	context edge
	brick
	level
	context number

0 0.5 m
1:25 @ A4

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Figure 15: Sections through wall **8082** and ditch **8089**, Trench 25, Area 3

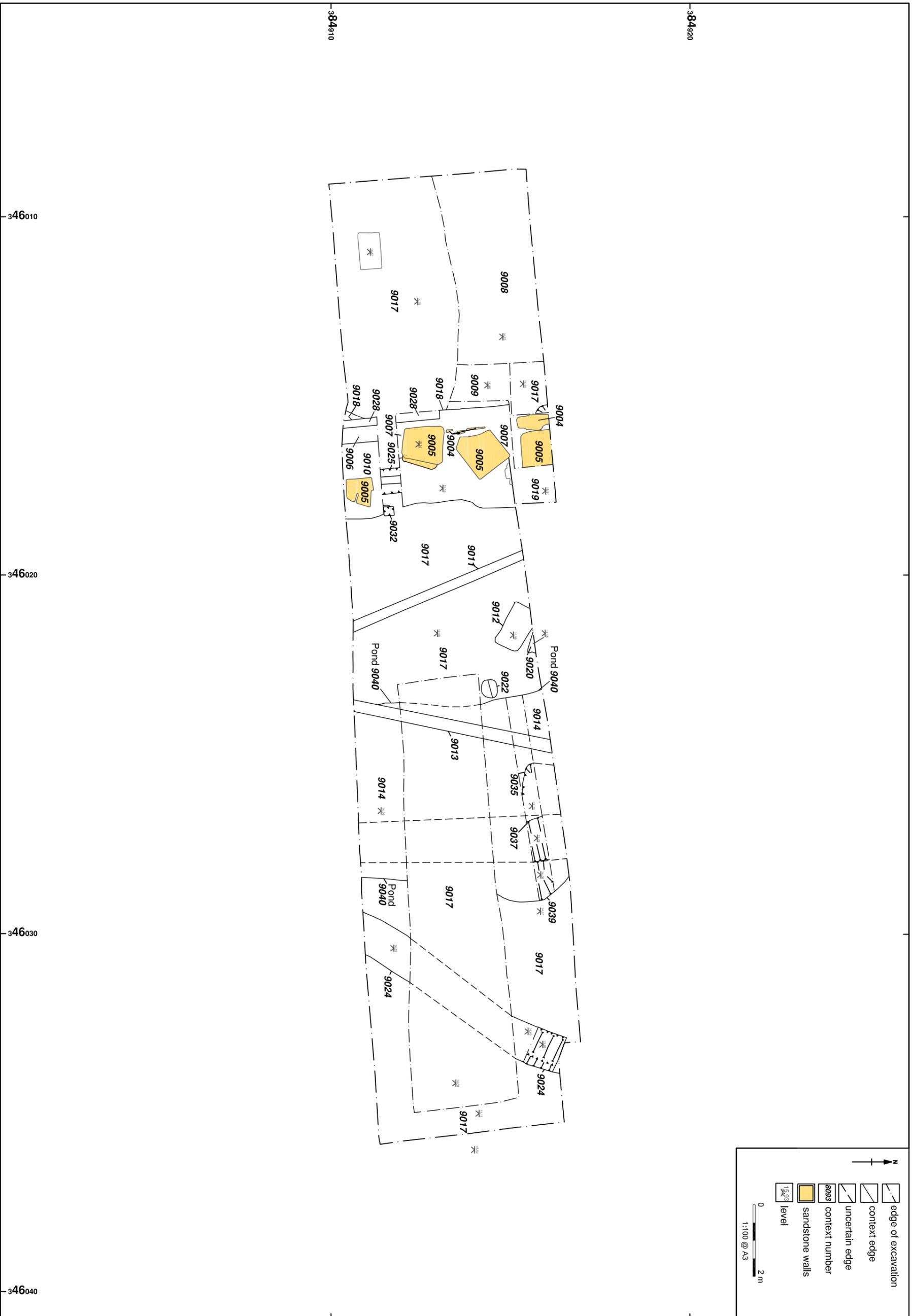


Figure 16: Plan of structures and features identified within Trench 26



Plate 1: General view of Trench 7, looking west



Plate 2: Plan of Building A, looking east



Plate 3: Room 1: walls **7004** (to the right), **7005** and **7073** (bottom left), looking south-west



Plate 4: Room 1: west-facing section of wall **7073**



Plate 5: Phase 2 walls **7009** (north/south) and **7025** (east/west), together with cobbles **7024**, looking north



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Plate 7: Stone capping **7034** of well **7200**, looking south



Plate 8: Plan of Building B, looking west



Plate 9: Surface **7108**, looking east, with cobbles **7031** in the background



Plate 10: Trench 7, looking south-east: cobbled surfaces **7033** (foreground) and **7031** (background)



Plate 11: General shot of Trench 24, looking south-west



Plate 12: West-facing section of ditch *192*



Plate 13: View of sandstone wall *178* and cobbled surface *176*, looking east



Plate 14: View of red brick wall *173*, looking west



Plate 15: Outline of pond **8063**, looking north, with wall **8000** of Building 5 to the left and stone-capped culvert, **8060**, to the right



Plate 16: Structure **8024**, looking south, straddled by later walls **8000** of Building 5



Plate 17: Close-up of structure **8024**, looking west, with the remains of internal slab floor **8027** in the foreground and surfaces **8042** (left) and **8066** (right) in the background, straddling robbed-out wall **8100**



Plate 18: Sandstone surface **8097**, looking south, with the remains of building **8024** in the foreground



Plate 19: South-facing section of levelling layers **8020-8023** (top to bottom)



Plate 20: General view of Area 2 looking east before excavation and showing wall **8018** (bottom right), surface **8042** (top left) and areas of machine disturbance running across the trench



Plate 21: General pre-excavation view of Area 3 looking north and showing walls
8082



Plate 22: West-facing section of wall **8082** and ditch **8089**



Plate 23: Group of postholes within Area 3, looking west



Plate 24: General view of Trench 26, looking east



Plate 25: Vertical stone slabs *9004*, looking north



Plate 26: South-facing section of Trench 26