



# **EAGLES MEADOW, WREXHAM**

## **Archaeological Evaluation**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

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**John Samuels Archaeological  
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## CONTENTS

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<b>SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Circumstances of the Project .....	5
1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology .....	5
1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background .....	5
<b>2. METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Written Specification .....	8
2.2 Evaluation Trenching .....	8
2.3 Archive.....	9
<b>3. RESULTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 Introduction.....	10
3.2 Trench 1 .....	10
3.3 Trench 2 .....	10
3.4 Trench 3 .....	11
3.5 Trench 4 .....	11
3.6 Trench 5 .....	12
3.7 Finds.....	14
<b>4. DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>15</b>
4.1 Evaluation Trenches.....	15
<b>5. IMPACT .....</b>	<b>17</b>
5.1 Impact .....	17
<b>6. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>18</b>
6.1 Cartographic Sources .....	18
6.2 Secondary Sources .....	18

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<b>7. ILLUSTRATIONS .....</b>	<b>20</b>
List of Figures .....	20
List of Plates .....	20
<b>APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST.....</b>	<b>30</b>

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## SUMMARY

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Wilson Bowden Developments (WBD) Ltd propose to undertake a major development of the 4.53 hectare site at Eagles Meadow, south-east of Wrexham city centre, NGR SJ 33810 50410. Due to the proximity of the site to the medieval core of the city, Wrexham Borough Council requested that a programme of archaeological investigation be undertaken to inform the planning process. A desk-based assessment undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) identified moderate potential for archaeological remains within the development area and, accordingly, Wrexham Archaeological Service (WAS, part of Wrexham Borough Council) issued a brief for an archaeological evaluation. JSAC compiled a specification to meet the WAS brief and commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), on behalf of WBD, to undertake the evaluation.

The evaluation was undertaken in September 2005 and comprised the investigation, to a maximum depth of 2m, of five trial trenches positioned and excavated in accordance with the JSAC specification. Four trenches were located along the western edge of the development area, closest to the medieval city centre. The fifth trench was placed towards the centre of the site.

Each of the trenches revealed extensive evidence of ground-raising activity, which, in Trenches 1-3, lay immediately above a dark layer of organic material. This layer was identified in all five trenches and is thought to relate to the damp conditions that existed on the site prior to twentieth century consolidation. The late nineteenth - early twentieth century date of ceramics from those deposits above the organic layer seen within Trenches 1, 2 and 4 and also within Trench 5, might indicate earlier attempts at consolidation or of rubbish dumping in areas closest to urban activity. Trenches 4 and 5, positioned in the south-west part of the development area, contained post-medieval structural remains. Those in Trench 4 consisted of a surface and potentially associated demolition debris likely to relate to a structure built within the area of Trench 4 in the final quarter of the nineteenth century. Structural remains in Trench 5 comprised a series of walls belonging to at least two phases of activity, along with several other features, including a stone trough. The remains within Trench 5 are thought to relate to a building associated with a bowling green shown on an 1872 map of Wrexham and which continued in use when, by the end of the nineteenth century, the area was used as a horse repository (a gathering area for horses prior to their sale). Other structural remains within Trench 5 may relate to another building associated with the horse repository and shown on the 1899 Ordnance Survey map.

Except in the south-western area of the development site, any groundworks that do not exceed 2m are unlikely to have any impact on the archaeological resource. Although archaeological investigation did not exceed this depth, the history of the site would indicate that deeper groundworks are unlikely to affect substantial archaeological remains. Where archaeological remains survive at around 0.75m below the modern ground surface of the south-west end of the site and are thus more likely to be affected by development, it is probable that these remains are of later nineteenth century date. Across the site, below a depth of about 1.5m there is also the possibility that groundworks would impact upon the natural peat deposits, which are likely to contain stratified palaeoecological information relating to the historical development of Wrexham and its immediate surroundings.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The evaluation was undertaken by Jeremy Bradley, Emily Betts and Caroline Bulcock. The report was written by Jeremy Bradley and Stephen Rowland, with the finds assessed by Jo Dawson. The drawings were created by Mark Tidmarsh, Marie Rowland and Adam Parsons. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who edited the report, along with Alan Lupton.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Prior to a proposed development by Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd on a c4.53 hectare site at Eagles Meadow, south-east of Wrexham City centre, NGR SJ 33810 50410, the Archaeological Officer for Wrexham Borough Council advised the planning department of the potential for important archaeological remains within the development area. Subsequently, a desk-based assessment of the area was undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC) (JSAC 2004), the results of which suggested that the site had a medium potential for the survival of remains of archaeological interest. Therefore, the Archaeological Officer for Wrexham Borough Council issued a brief for an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken prior to the granting of planning permission. JSAC compiled a specification (*Appendix 1*) for a programme of archaeological investigation to meet the requirements of the brief, which was submitted to, and approved by, Wrexham Archaeological Service. Following submission of costs to undertake the archaeological evaluation in accordance with the JSAC specification, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned by JSAC, on behalf of Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd, to carry out the work between 19th and 23rd September 2005.

### 1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The site is located within the urban area of Wrexham, just to the south-east of the city centre. The A525 flyover both bisects and traverses the site. Further, the site is surrounded by mainly residential and commercial properties, while the medieval parish church of St Giles is located adjacent to the western edge of the site. The site currently comprises a tarmac hard standing carpark located within a natural depression, sloping in a northerly direction and lying at 73.5m OD, approximately 7m below the level of the nearby city centre. The south-western area of the development site is occupied by the concrete base for a supermarket which formerly occupied the site.

1.2.2 The underlying drift geology comprises Carboniferous Coal Measures, which include cyclic bands of sea earth, coal, mudstone, siltstone and sand stone. The drift geology on the site is alluvium together with sand and gravel over glacial till (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological map, sheet 121. Recent geotechnical survey has indicated that these geological layers are then sealed by deposits of made ground of variable nature and depth (JSAC 2004).

### 1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 *Prehistoric and Roman:* there is only limited evidence for human activity within and immediately around the development area prior to the medieval period. Although prehistoric activity is known from the wider area, including a Beaker Period burial from Brymbo, c8km to the north-west of Wrexham (Wrexham Council nd) and two tumuli marked on the Ordnance Survey map

and lying c1km to the south-west of Eagles Meadow (Ordnance Survey 2005), there is no evidence for such activity any closer to the development area. During the Roman period, Chester, less than 15km to the north-east and Britain's largest legionary fort, is likely to have exerted a considerable influence on the local area. A Roman rural settlement with corn-drying kilns and dating evidence from the mid-second to mid-fourth century is known at Plas Coch, about 1.5km to the north-west of Eagles Meadow (Gammond nd) while, further afield, the well-known ceramic workshop at Holt lies less than 10km to the east (*ibid*).

- 1.3.2 **Medieval:** following the withdrawal of the Roman administration in the early fifth century it is thought that the local area devolved into a series of petty tribal kingdoms which gradually crystallised into larger states. Although no activity of this period is known to be directly associated with the development area, Offa's Dyke, eponymously attributed to the eighth century ruler of the English kingdom of Mercia, lies to the west of Wrexham and bespeaks the nature of activity in this border region (Stenton 1947). The earlier Wat's Dyke runs through the centre of the city (Jones nd). The earliest reference to the town dates to 1161, when the pipe rolls refer to a castle at Wristesham, just one of several names attributed to the settlement in various sources dated from the thirteenth to fifteenth century (Palmer 1997; Williams 2002 in JSAC 2004). The castle in question is likely to be the motte and bailey located on a promontory overlooking the River Clywedog c2km to the south-west of Eagles Meadow.
- 1.3.3 Until Edward I's conquest of Wales between 1277 and 1282 brought stability to the region, the area is likely to have been somewhat restless, with the petty Welsh Kingdoms fighting among themselves and with the neighbouring Anglo-Norman Marcher Lords. Through the fourteenth century, fuelled by economic incentives and immigration, Wrexham, by then an important market centre, prospered and expanded (Gammond nd:2). The development area lies close to the medieval core of the city, within one of the two original townships, that of Wrexham Regis. Four unidentified buried features, provisionally dated to the medieval period, are recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record as lying either within or just to the north and west of Eagles Meadow (SMR 29485, 29487, 29495 and 29500) (JSAC 2004). A deed dated to 1463/4 mentions the presence of a bird market standing just to the north of the boundary of the development area (Williams 2002 in JSAC 2004).
- 1.3.4 **Post-medieval:** it is known from Norden's survey of 1620 that a beast market lay immediately to the north of Eagles Meadow and may have partially encroached on the development area itself (Williams 2002 in JSAC 2004). The SMR indicates the presence of a number of early post-medieval structures on the streets around the northern and western edges of the development area, demonstrating the (perhaps continued) usage of The Beast Market, Charles Street, York Street, Tuttle Street and Mount Street. Development of the surrounding area continued throughout the post-medieval period and it is possible that the development area took its name from a nearby inn on York Street. The lack of development of the meadow is likely to relate to regular flooding from the River Gwenfro, its limited recorded usage restricted to a bowling green and a horse market during the nineteenth century (JSAC 2004).

During the first half of the twentieth century, the central area of the meadow was used as a horse repository (a place where horses were gathered prior to being sold), with associated buildings in the south-western part of the site (*ibid*). During World War II these pleasant environs formed the backdrop to a US nissan hut encampment and, during the 1960s and '70s, subsequent to removal of the then-existing features, much of the area was consolidated with large dumps of building debris or used for the construction, on the site of the former horse repository, of the now demolished supermarket (*ibid*).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 WRITTEN SPECIFICATION

2.1.1 With two exceptions, the approved Specification compiled by JSAC (*Appendix 1*) was adhered to throughout the evaluation, and all work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice. The only variation from the Specification was, firstly, that it was not always possible to enter trenches and manually investigate archaeological deposits and features due to water logging within each of the trenches and, secondly, that the full internal length of 20m within each trench was not always achieved due to the presence of reinforced concrete and other obstructions. JSAC and the Wrexham Borough Council Archaeologist were made aware of these variations and, following their visit to the site, approved the manner in which OA North addressed these issues.

### 2.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

2.2.1 The Specification required the excavation of five trial trenches, each 4m wide by 22m in length (Fig 2). These trenches were excavated to a depth of 1.2m, before being stepped-in 1m on all sides and excavated to a total depth of 2m within the central portion of the trench. The positions of the trenches were specified by JSAC, and four of the five trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 4, and 5) were placed accordingly around the western boundary of the site, closest to the medieval core of Wrexham. The fifth trench, Trench 5, located in the centre of the site, had to be moved a short distance to the north of its original proposed location due to the presence of parked vehicles (Fig 2).

2.2.2 Excavation of the uppermost levels of modern overburden/demolition material was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological level. The work was supervised by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Spoil from the excavation was stored adjacent to the trenches, which were backfilled upon completion of the archaeological works.

2.2.3 Where possible, archaeological deposits and structural remains were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where discernable, date. The positions of trenches and of archaeological features were established by hand survey techniques and height data was established using an optical level calibrated to Ordnance Datum.

2.2.4 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Service. Results of the evaluation were recorded on *pro-forma* trench and context sheets, and were accompanied by sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour

photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records were available for inspection at all times.

## 2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 the results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*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.
- 2.3.2 The archive for the archaeological work undertaken at the site will be deposited with Wrexham museum, which meets Museums' and Galleries' Commission criteria for the long term storage of archaeological material (MGC 1992). This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files (as appropriate). The archive will be deposited with the nominated museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. Except for items subject to the Treasure Act, all artefacts found during the course of the project will be donated to the receiving museum.
- 2.3.3 A synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and a copy of the publication report) will be deposited with the Clwyd and Powys Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the index to the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Archaeological Record in London.

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## 3. RESULTS

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, lying on the western edge of the development area and closest to the city centre, were positioned to test for the presence of archaeological deposits relating to the urban development of Wrexham, particularly of the medieval town, the core of which is known to lie close-by. Trench 3, positioned to the centre of the development area, was a control to examine whether any archaeological deposits survived away from the town centre.

### 3.2 TRENCH 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was located on the northern boundary of the site on an east/west alignment. It was 22m long and 4m wide. The present ground level lay between 72.02m OD in the east rising to 72.25m OD in the west. Organic silt or peat was encountered 2.04m below present ground level at a depth of 70.21m OD within a machine-cut sondage at the west end of the trench. The first significant archaeological deposits lay at a depth of 0.65m below present ground level (70.21m OD).

3.2.2 The earliest deposit encountered was composed of dark organic silt, **1007**, which lay at a depth of 70.21m OD. The deposit, which was presumed to be analogous to similar deposits found in Trenches 2 – 4, was not bottomed due to the ingress of perched water from within the overlying deposit.

3.2.3 Sealing organic silt **1007** was a substantial layer of dark brown to black, loose ash, cinder/clinker, sand and gravel, **1006**. This deposit was 1.60m thick with distinct tip lines sloping down from west to east. A quantity of fairly modern ceramic material was recovered from this deposit and included beer bottles from Bent's Brewery, Liverpool and two almost complete stoneware flagons belonging to Davies and Moulding, Herbal Brewery, Chester. One such flagon was dated 1914 suggesting a probable early twentieth century date for the deposition of this material.

3.2.4 Layer **1006** was then sealed by **1005**, a bedding layer for compacted clinker surface, **1004**. A further layer of clinker and other debris, **1003**, was then deposited, before the modern carpark surface **1001** was laid, including brick rubble bedding layer **1002**.

### 3.3 TRENCH 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was located to the south-west of Trench 1. It was 18.50m long and 4m wide. The present ground level lay at around 72.24m OD, dropping slightly to the south-west by 0.10m. Dark organic silt, **2007**, probably equivalent to **1007** and to the peat found elsewhere on the site, was encountered approximately 2.40m below present ground level at a depth of 69.94m OD in the south-west end of the trench. The first significant

archaeological deposits lay at a depth of 0.80m below present ground level (71.75m OD).

- 3.3.2 Essentially, the deposits exposed within Trench 2 were very similar to those found within Trench 1. The earliest deposit within the trench was composed of dark organic silt, **2007**. This deposit was only seen in a machine-excavated sondage that very quickly succumbed to the ingress of perched water from the material above. Overlying **2007** was **2006**, a deposit of dark, almost black, loose, mixed ash, silt and gravel with clear tip lines, representing the south-western extent of **1006**, found within Trench 1; it was 1.10m thick, with its upper surface lying at 71.70m OD.
- 3.3.3 The sequence above **2006** was essentially the same as that exposed within Trench 1. Immediately overlying **2006** was **2005**, a c0.15m thick band of crushed brick and rubble hardcore bedding for surface **2004** which was composed of compacted ash and clinker and was 0.06m thick, sloping down gently towards the east. Overlying **2004** was another ashy/clinker layer, **2003**, that was 0.25m thick. The upper two layers were tarmac carpark surface, **2001**, and its foundation layer, **2002**.

#### 3.4 TRENCH 3

- 3.4.1 Trench 3 was located east of Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, approximately in the centre of the development site. It was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 20m by 4m. The present ground level lay at 71.59m OD. The first significant archaeology, comprising dark organic silt **3004**, was encountered 1.92m below present ground level at a depth of 69.67m OD and is presumed to be equivalent to similar deposits found elsewhere on the site. This material was only briefly seen since the base of the trench was quickly flooded by perched water from the overlying deposits to a depth of 0.40m. Overlying **3004** was a 0.80m thick layer of black granular material, **3003**, containing abundant modern rubbish, including plastic bottles. It was from this layer that the perched water derived.
- 3.4.2 Sealing layer **3003** was a layer of dark grey sandy silt, **3002**, containing large rounded pebbles, fragments of ceramic building material and chunks of tarmac and was likely to be a levelling layer for the carpark. The foundation layer for the carpark, **3001**, was composed of reddish-pink crushed ceramic building material and burnt shale and was overlain by the carpark surface, **3000**.

#### 3.5 TRENCH 4

- 3.5.1 This trench, aligned north-east/south-west, lay to the south-west of Trench 2 and measured 20m by 1.8m, divided into north-eastern and south-western halves by a roughly central baulk. The present ground surface lies at 72.17m OD and the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.62m (69.55m OD). Natural gravel, within a clay matrix, was encountered 1.90m (70.21m OD) below the present ground level. The first significant archaeological deposit lay at a depth of 1.50m below present ground level (70.21m OD) (Figs 5 and 6).

- 3.5.2 The natural substrate found in the base of the trench changed dramatically from north-east to south-west, and sloped down toward the south-west. In the north-east end of the trench the natural subsoil was composed of brownish-yellow gravel within a sandy silt clay matrix, **4009**. In the south-west end of the trench the natural substrate was composed of light green sandy-silty-clay, **4016**.
- 3.5.3 The earliest layer encountered within Trench 4 comprised a very dark brown organic silt/peat, numbered **4008** in the north-east half of the trench and **4015** in the south-west, where it was much thicker (0.86m).
- 3.5.4 Generally the layers in the two halves of the trench were different in character, if not use, and can be sensibly discussed separately. Thus, in the north-eastern half of the trench the deposit overlying peat **4008** was a 0.54m thick layer of brownish-orange silty sand, **4007**, and was probably a levelling layer. Overlying this was a layer of dark brown sandy-silt, **4006**, sealed by a thin layer of clean orange sand, **4005**. This sand layer may have been a surface associated with a possible building that could have stood on the site, the destruction of which might have produced 0.46m thick demolition layer **4004**, which immediately overlay sand layer **4005**. Above demolition layer **4004** was a black ashy/cinder layer, **4003**, sealed by a modern dark grey silty-gravel make-up layer, **4002**, presumably used as a foundation layer for **4001**, the modern tarmac and concrete surfaces above.
- 3.5.5 In the south-western half of the trench the stratigraphy indicated bands of material representing levelling or make-up layers, **4011-14** and, like the deposits elsewhere in the trench, were all likely to be of nineteenth century date or later, given the nature of the pottery and glass bottles recovered. The upper 0.85m of this part of the trench was taken up with the remains of the reinforced concrete ring beam and slab, **4001**, associated with the former ASDA store.

### 3.6 TRENCH 5

- 3.6.1 Trench 5, aligned north-east/south-west, was located to the south-west of Trench 4; it measured 22m by 4m, and was excavated to a depth of 2.2m (70.31m OD). The present ground level lay between 72.17 and 72.16m OD. Natural gravel lay at 70.71m OD, 1.54m below the present ground surface. The first archaeological features lay 0.35m below the present ground surface at 71.95m OD (Figs 3 and 4).
- 3.6.2 The natural yellow to mid-grey gravelly-clay, **5029**, was seen in two isolated areas in the north-east and south-west of the trench. Overlying the natural substrate and again, in isolated areas of the trench, were two similar deposits; at the north-east end of the trench was **5028**, composed of dark brown to black clay silt, while to the south-west deposit **5037** comprised dark grey clay silt. Both deposits were between 0.60m and 0.70m thick and contained brick and stone fragments, although deposit **5037** was more humic toward the base. Overlying **5028** was a dark yellow sandy aggregate, **5026**. A similar deposit, **5038**, was seen in the south-west half of the trench overlying **5037**. Deposits **5026** and **5038** are likely to represent ground-raising deposits.

- 3.6.3 Overlying **5026** was a dark brown rubble layer, **5030**, containing redeposited natural gravelly-clay. Cut into this deposit were the remains of a stone wall, **5011**, which was partially removed to allow investigation of the underlying deposits. Wall **5011**, forming the western wall of Cellar 1, was north/south aligned and composed of sandstone blocks measuring up to 330mm by 250mm and bonded by buff-coloured mortar. Cellar 1 was delimited to the east by sandstone wall **5018**, which was situated 4m from, and shared the same alignment as, wall **5011** and was similarly constructed. Wall **5018** survived to a height of 0.90m and was 0.60m wide. Within Cellar 1, against the east face of wall **5011**, a deposit of yellow-brown silty pea gravel, **5023**, had been deposited, into which a sandstone trough, **5024**, had been inserted within a bedding layer of dark ash and cinder, **5025**. A broken pipe stem and several sherds of pottery dated from the late-nineteenth to the twentieth centuries were recovered from bedding layer **5025**. Trough **5024** had been carved from a solid block of sandstone and had a smooth base 0.6m wide and 0.38m deep, with a shallow circular recess in the northern corner. Bonded to the east face of wall **5018** was another substantial sandstone wall, **5019**, which was roughly aligned east/west. This wall was 0.90m wide, over 5m long and stood to a height of 0.70m. It was composed of regularly coursed large ashlar blocks (430mm by 180mm). Occasional hand-made bricks had been incorporated into the fabric of wall **5019**, towards the south-west end. Walls **5018** and **5019** enclosed the remains of a cellar (Cellar 2) that had been backfilled with **5021**, which predominantly comprised bricks with a smaller amount of Welsh slate.
- 3.6.4 Cellar 1, formed by walls **5011** and **5018**, was at some point modified; brick walls, **5017** and **5012**, each one brick thick, were constructed on the inner faces of **5018** and **5011** respectively, along with English-bonded machine-made brick wall **5020**, which survived to seven courses. Trough **5024** was sealed below a bed of cindery material, **5022**, onto which brick floor **5013**, composed of machine-made bricks, had been laid. The cellar was also subdivided by the insertion of an east/west aligned brick wall, **5016**, again composed of machine-made bricks. Brick wall **5014** formed a north/south return of wall **5016**. Both of these sub-divisions were backfilled by brick rubble, **5015** and **5034**.
- 3.6.5 Built-up against the south-west (external) side of wall **5011** were a series of five deposits given one group number, **5006**. In total, these layers were 0.36m thick. The earliest layer was formed from pebbly, black, sandy-silt, followed by a thin layer of mortar. This was then sealed by a layer of sandy-silt and clinker, which was overlain by a layer of buff-coloured compact sand which was then itself sealed by a layer of black sandy-silt and clinker.
- 3.6.6 At the south-west end of the trench, a thin (0.10m thick) undulating layer of black clinker, **5036**, was deposited over make-up deposit **5038** and sloped downwards to the north-east. Clinker layer **5036** was then sealed by a rubble levelling layer **5035**. These deposits and those comprising **5006** were truncated by a brick casing, formed by walls **5010** and **5008**, around an east/west aligned iron tank, **5007**. This cylindrical tank measured 4.30m long with a diameter of 1.50m.

### 3.7 FINDS

3.7.1 The finds retrieved from the deposits have been catalogued in *Appendix 2*, along with footnotes, based on recent research, explaining all of the more precise dates listed. The majority of finds date from about the second half of the nineteenth century to the first half of the twentieth. The primary aim in retrieving these finds was to determine the dates of the archaeological contexts from which these finds were recovered, the results of which are shown below:

- **1006 (= 2006)**, make-up layers in Trenches 1 and 2, have been dated to the early twentieth century, probably c1914,
- **4004** has been dated to the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, probably the latter part of the period 1875-1913
- **5025**, the bedding layer for trough **5024**, has been dated to the late nineteenth to early twentieth century

3.7.2 Finds of particular local interest were those relating to Bents Brewery. These comprised five green glass bottles, all of which were marked Liverpool, where the main Bents brewery was based, and a very interesting collection of 61 unused ceramic bottle tops. These tops, marked 'Made in Bohemia' (part of the modern-day Czech Republic), relate to an unusual type of closure, apparently working as a flip-top, but with similarities to a lightning-type closure; no record of this type of closure could be found (Bureau of Land Management 2005). The bottle caps also bear a Bents Wrexham mark, meaning that they probably date to the period when Bents had a brewery, and possibly a related bottling company, within Wrexham (see *Appendix 2*). An examination of the available trade directories from 1903, 1912 and 1918 indicates that in 1912 and 1918 the Bents brewery in Wrexham was based at Wynn-stay Yard on York Street. It may not be coincidental that the western area of the development site is bounded by York Street, although Wynn-stay Yard would appear no longer to exist. Bents at one time owned pubs in the town, including the Union Tavern on Mount Street, the road which marks the southern boundary of the site (Brewery History Society 2005).

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## 4. DISCUSSION

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### 4.1 EVALUATION TRENCHES

- 4.1.1 Much of the stratigraphy identified within each of the trenches can be seen to relate to the known history of Eagles Meadow. In the majority of trenches, the presence of deep deposits of made ground is highly likely to relate to efforts to consolidate and raise the ground level of the site in the 1960s and '70s prior to the construction of the supermarket and its associated carpark. Several of the finds from Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 would indicate that some of the rubbish within this made ground was late nineteenth to early twentieth century in date. While it is possible that old rubbish and landfill material was used in the 1960s and '70s, some of the deposits in the western area could reflect earlier attempts at consolidation. The similarity of the dating, the absence of material from the mid-twentieth century, or later, and the presence of discrete deposits, the bottle tops in Trench 1 for example, would suggest late nineteenth century or, perhaps more likely, early twentieth century dumping within the western area of the development site. In addition, deposits such as **1006** and **2006**, seen in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively, would appear to be formed from individual tips, rather different from the more homogenous nature of the make-up deposits in Trench 3, towards the centre of the meadow. Whether this waste disposal relates to attempts to raise the ground level is uncertain but, considering that there is documented activity in this western area much earlier than is the case for the centre of the site, deliberate consolidation remains a distinct possibility. Up until the ground level was raised through consolidation, the site is likely to have been rather wet due to periodic flooding from the River Gwenfro, which would help to explain the absence of archaeological remains within the majority of trenches and also the presence of the dark organic silt and peat layers observed as the basal layers within Trenches 1-4.
- 4.1.2 Despite the presence of unidentified buried features recorded on the SMR and tentatively dated to the medieval period, no such remains were encountered during the course of the evaluation. Only SMR 29485, an unidentified site of probable post-medieval date, lies within the development area itself, but in this particular instance, none of the evaluation trenches were positioned close enough to establish the presence of, or identity of this feature. As such, it is possible, as was the case in many contemporary settlements, that from medieval times the meadow represented an area of communal grazing land for the burghers of Wrexham, although admittedly the JSAC desk-based assessment did not identify any documents to support such a hypothesis. It is, however, known that in the post-medieval period the site was used for trading of animals, particularly horses.
- 4.1.3 Although posited in the desk-based assessment, there was little evidence to suggest that medieval or early post-medieval rubbish dumping had taken place on the site prior to those events of the later nineteenth and twentieth century. An absence of such material might again suggest that the site had been used for periodic public functions and grazing rather than had been a wasteland.

- 4.1.4 The restriction of archaeological remains to Trenches 4 and 5, located in the south-western part of the development area, coincides with the only historical structures definitely known to have occupied the site. These comprise the horse repository, which is shown as a series of buildings on maps dating from between 1899 and 1960, and structures potentially associated with a bowling green, which, on the basis of cartographic sources, stood on the site between 1872 and *c*1899 (Williams 1998). The presence of the trough in Trench 5 may relate to the horse repository, but it is also possible that this feature was reused from the earlier usage of the area for common grazing. The walls in Trench 5 appear to be on roughly the same alignment as the cartographic representations of the buildings of both the bowling green and the horse repository, and it is of interest that the configuration of the bowling green structure continues when further structures are added for the horse repository. When the trench locations are superimposed onto the old maps (Figs 7 and 8), it is apparent that the building associated with the bowling green coincides with the location of Trench 5. By 1899 when the horse repository had been built, the same structure is still in use and a second structure to the south-west, also within the area investigated by Trench 5, has been added. It is tempting to attribute the cellars identified during the evaluation to the bowling green building and the iron tank to the latter structure, built when the horse repository replaced the bowling green. It is probable that the different identified phases of construction within Trench 5, first in stone and hand-made brick and then latterly in machine-made brick, relate to the transition from bowling green to horse repository. The incorporation of hand-made bricks within what would otherwise have been a handsome stone structure probably relates to the fact that these, potentially reused, bricks were located within the cellar and would not have been publicly visible.
- 4.1.5 The demolition debris encountered within Trench 4 is highly likely to relate to a structure seen on the 1899 map but which had not been built when the 1872 map had been surveyed. Figure 8 shows this structure to have stood within the north-eastern part of Trench 4, which corresponds with the demolition debris recorded in that half of the trench. Although the building was likely to have been built at a similar time to the horse repository, it is possible that it relates to a tannery, which is marked as lying outside the north-west boundary of the development area in 1872, but potentially within the development area by 1899.

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## 5. IMPACT

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### 5.1 IMPACT

- 5.1.1 In broad terms, it would seem likely that any redevelopment of the area would have a low negative impact on the sub-surface archaeological resource. It is only in the south-western area of the site that there would appear to be archaeological remains lying at a depth that would be impacted upon by further development, with those in Trench 5 lying c0.75m below the current ground surface and those in Trench 4 lying at c1.5m. Although it is possible that groundworks exceeding 2m in depth from the current ground surface could impact upon as-yet unknown archaeological remains, the low-lying and damp character of the area prior to twentieth century consolidation is likely to have precluded much in the way of traceable human activity. Furthermore, the significance of the archaeological remains encountered during the evaluation would not appear to be particularly high, as all apparently relate to the later nineteenth century structures known to have existed on the site.
- 5.1.2 Deep groundworks are also likely to impact upon the peat deposits identified within Trenches 1-4. Although no archaeological remains were observed in these deposits during the course of the evaluation, they have good potential for the preservation of palaeoecological information relating to the historical development of Wrexham and its surroundings.

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## 7. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

Figure 2: Trench location plan

Figure 3: Plan of Trench 5

Figure 4: South-east-facing section of Trench 5

Figure 5: North-west-facing sections through Trench 4, south-west end of trench

Figure 6: North-west-facing sections through Trench 4, north-east end of trench

Figure 7: Trench location plan superimposed onto the 1872 Street Atlas of Wrexham

Figure 8: Trench Location plan superimposed onto the 1899 First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map of Wrexham

### LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1 showing typical late nineteenth or twentieth century redeposited refuse

Plate 2: The unusual type of bottle top closure *in situ*, Trench 1

Plate 3: General view of Trench 3, showing overburden and flooding, facing south-west (1m scale)

Plate 4: The north-west-facing section within Trench 4 showing the peat layer in the base of the trench (1m scales)

Plate 5: General view of Trench 5 from the north-east, showing the substantial stone foundations, with the top of the large metal tank in the background

Plate 6: Trench 5 showing the stone trough in the south-east-facing section (1m scale)



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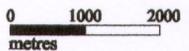
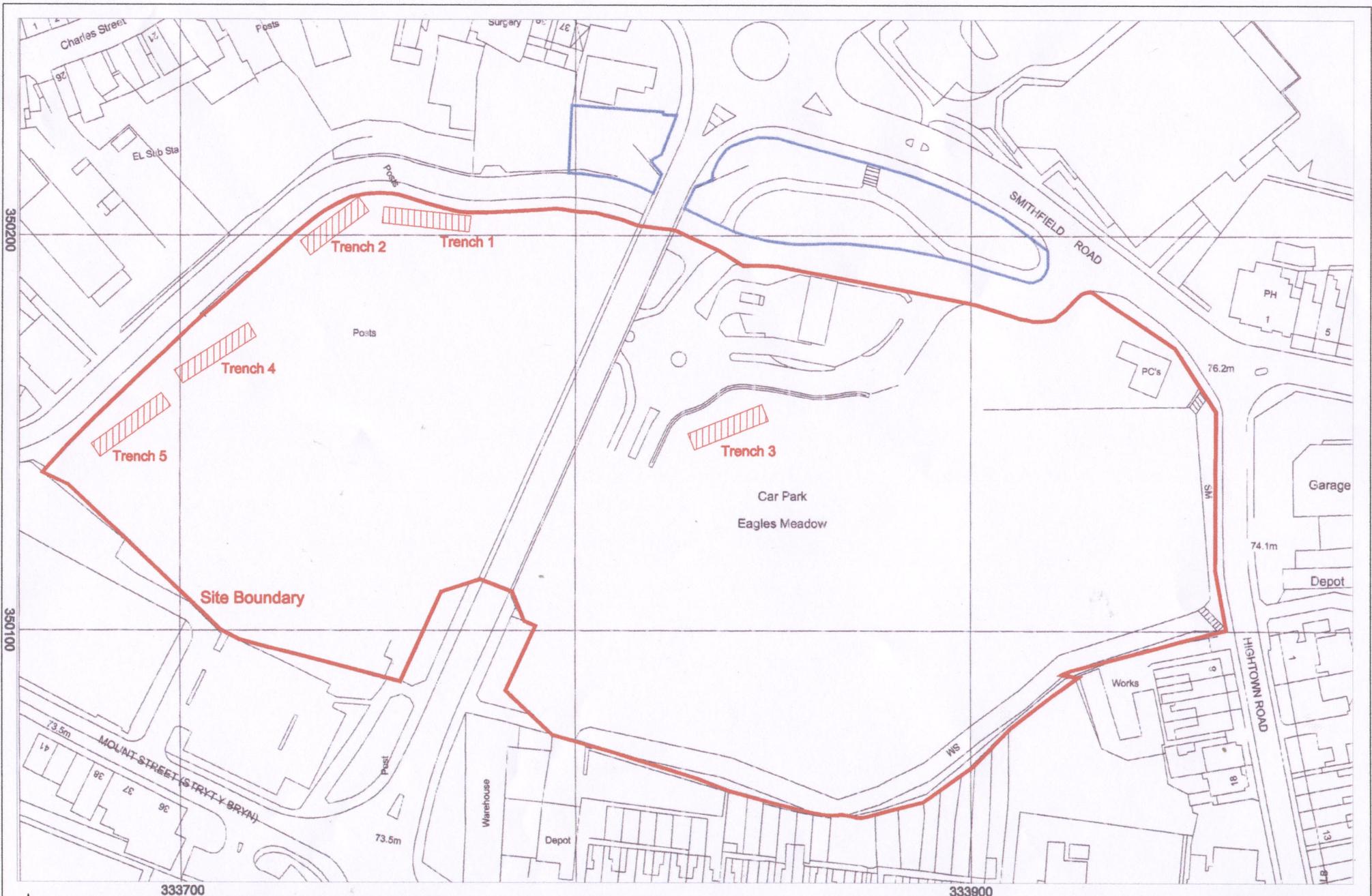


Figure 1: Location Map



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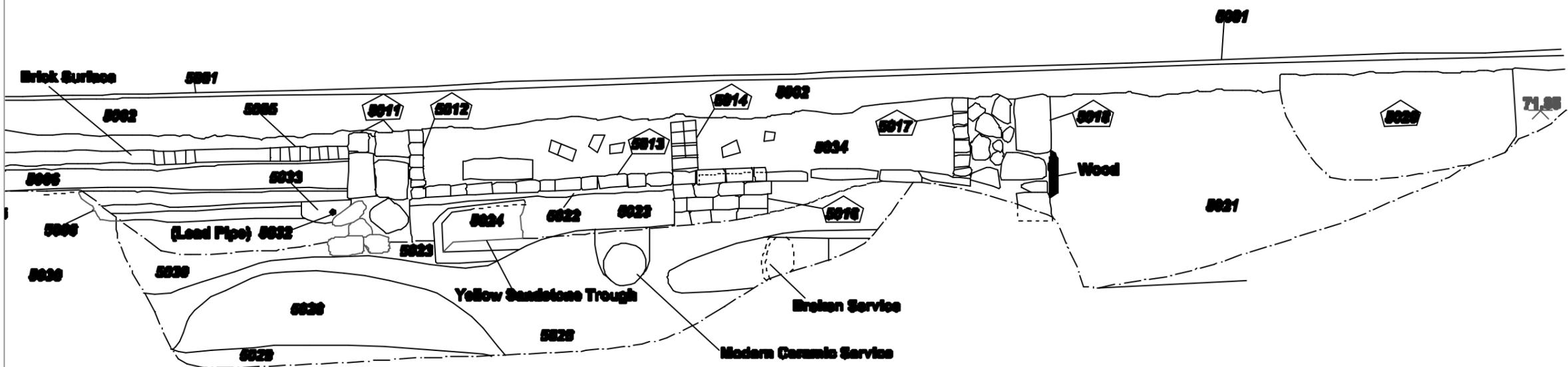
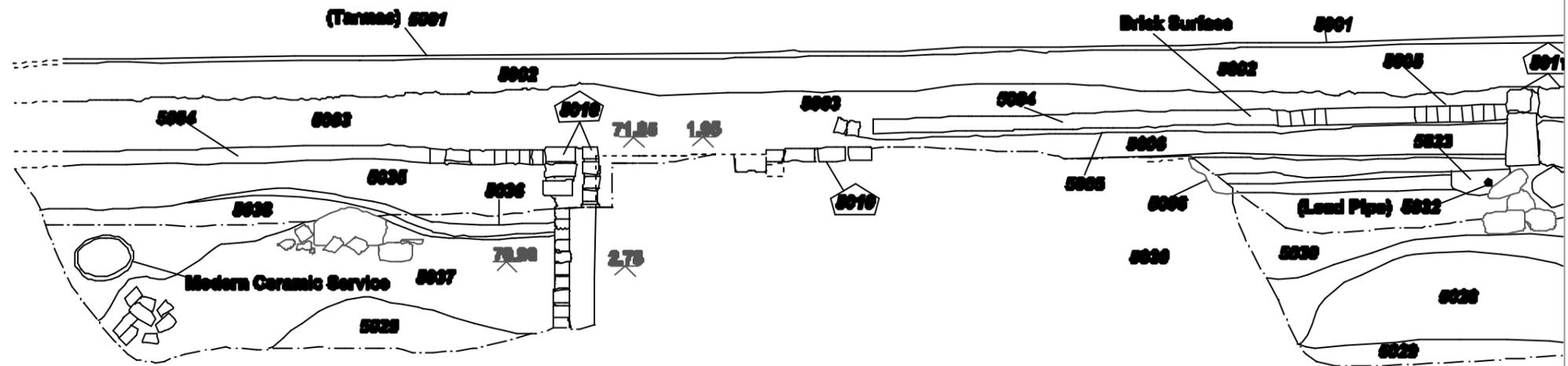
0 50m



Figure 2: Trench location plan



Key	
	truncated
	edge of excavation
	edge of contact
	uncertain edge
	contact number
	stone



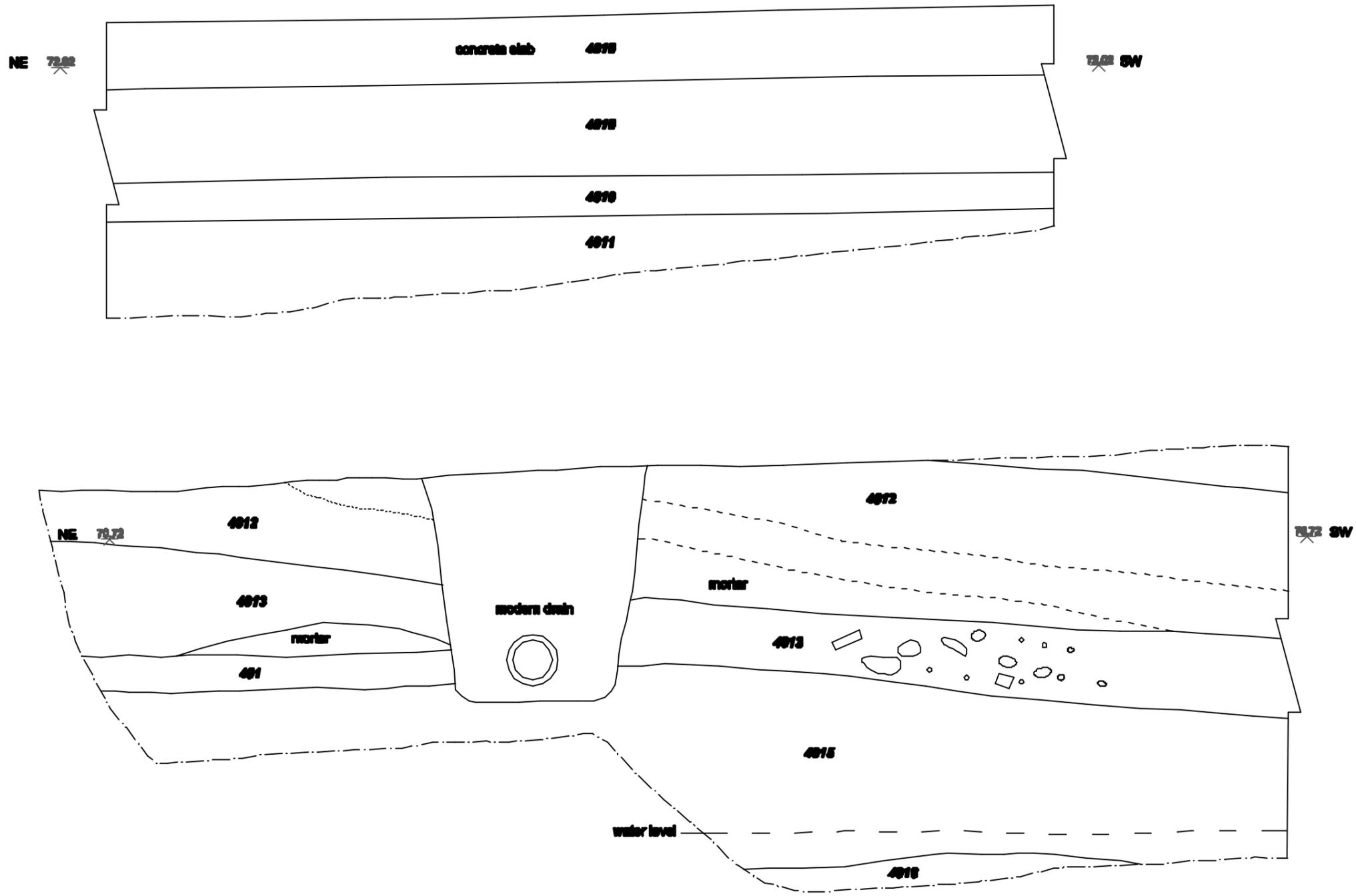
Scale 1:40 at A3



Figure 4: East-facing Section of Trench 5

**Key**

-  truncated
-  edge of excavation
-  edge of contact
-  uncertain edge
-  contour number
-  stone



Scale 1:20 @ A3



Figure 5: North-west-facing sections through Trench 4, south-west end of trench

**Key**

-  truncated
-  edge of excavation
-  edge of contact
-  uncertain edge
-  contact number
-  slope

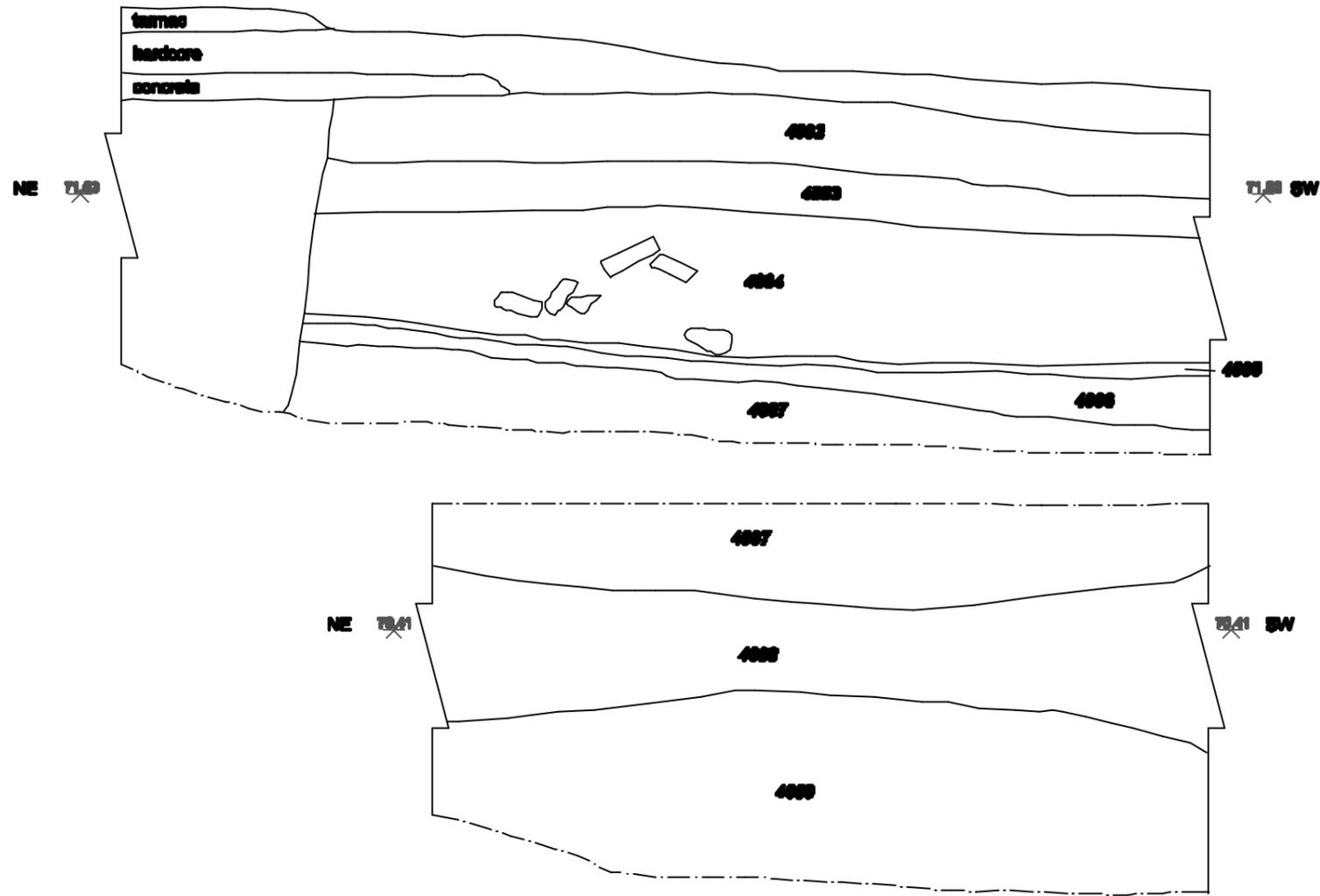
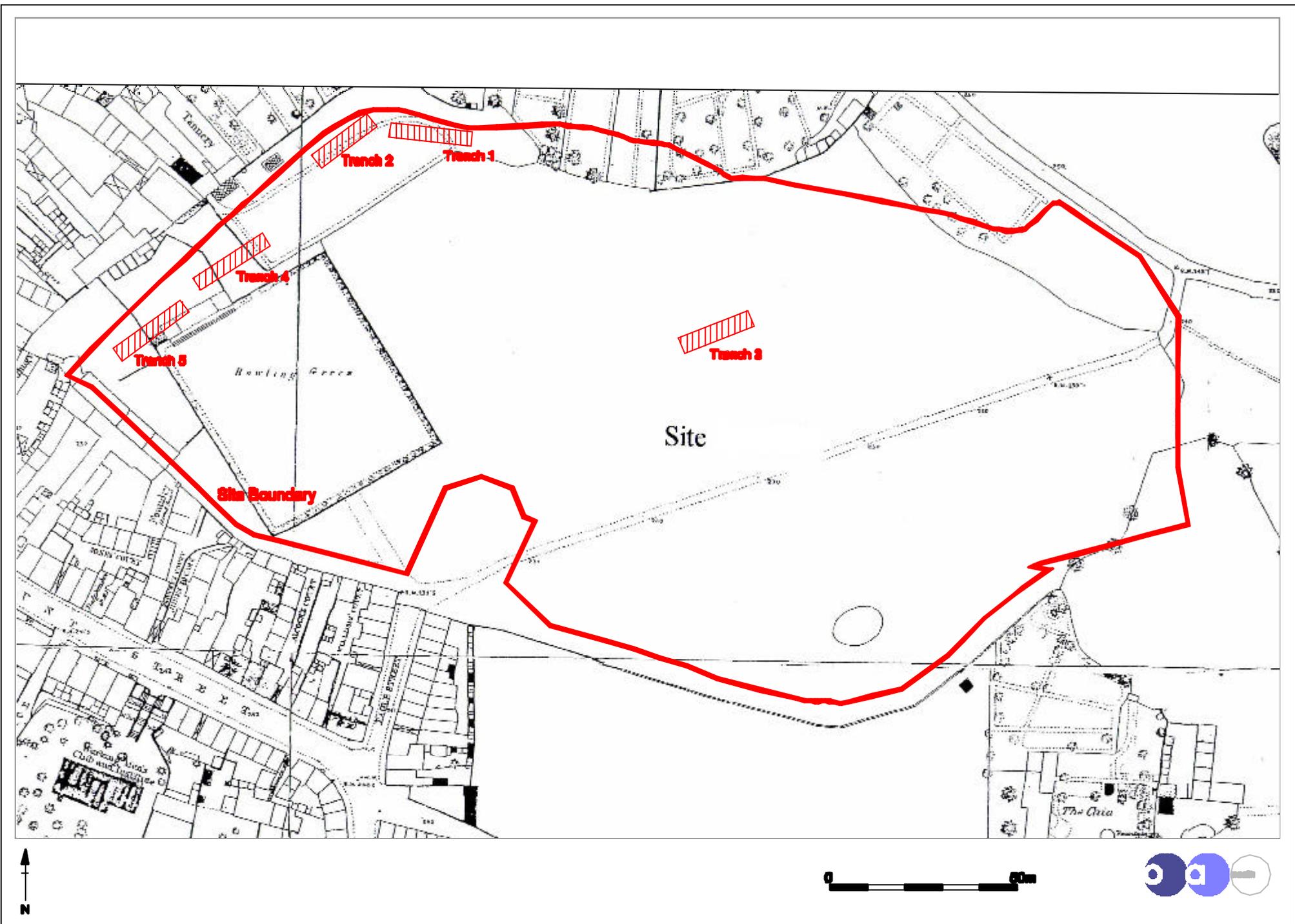


Figure 6: North-west-facing sections through Trench 4, north-east end of trench



**Figure 7: Trench location plan Superimposed onto the 1872 Street Atlas of Wrexham**

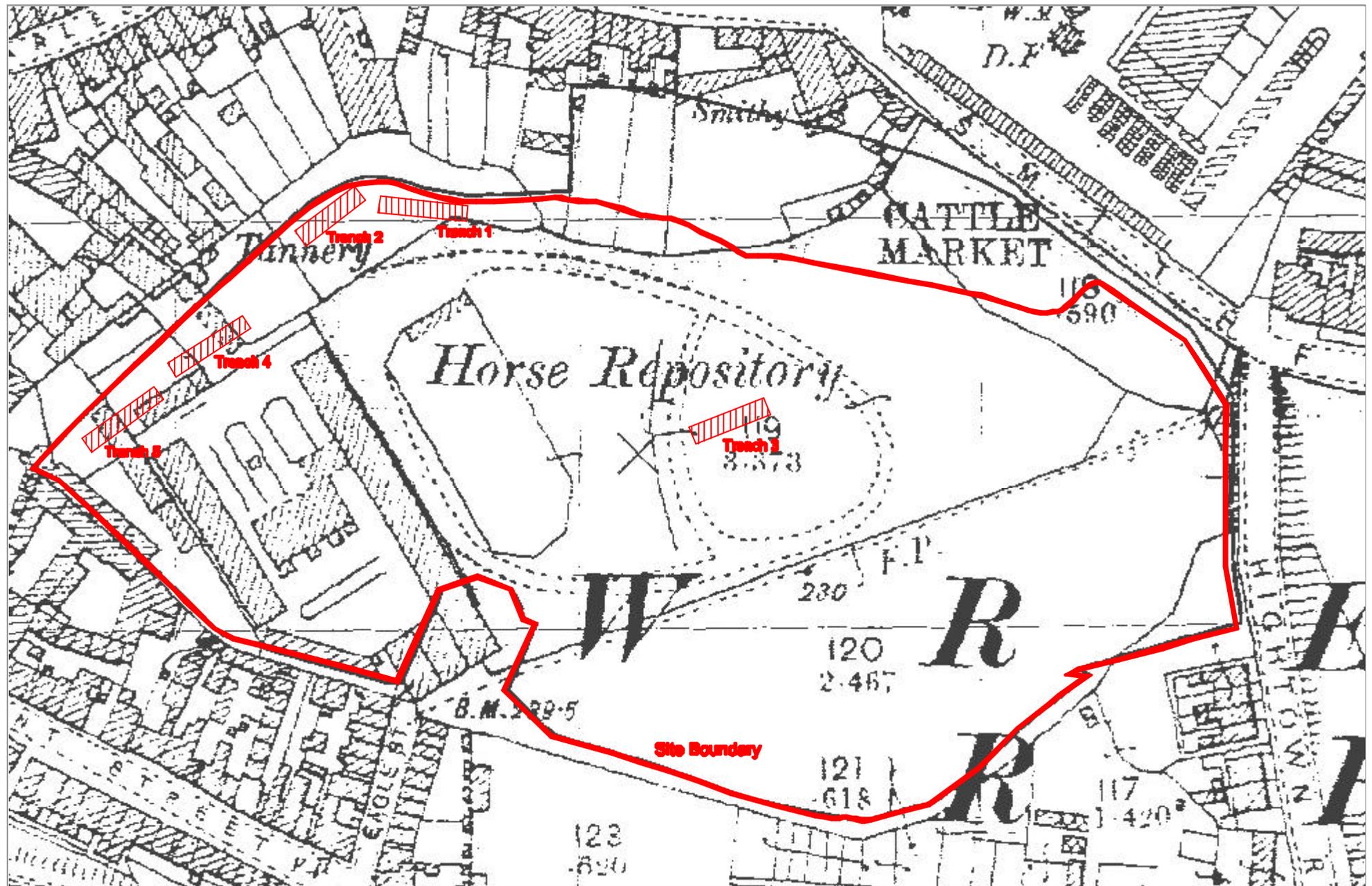


Figure 8: Trench location plan superimposed onto the 1899 First Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map of Wrexham



Plate 1: Trench 1 showing typical late nineteenth or twentieth century redeposited refuse



Plate 2: The unusual type of bottle top closure (in white) *in situ*, Trench 1

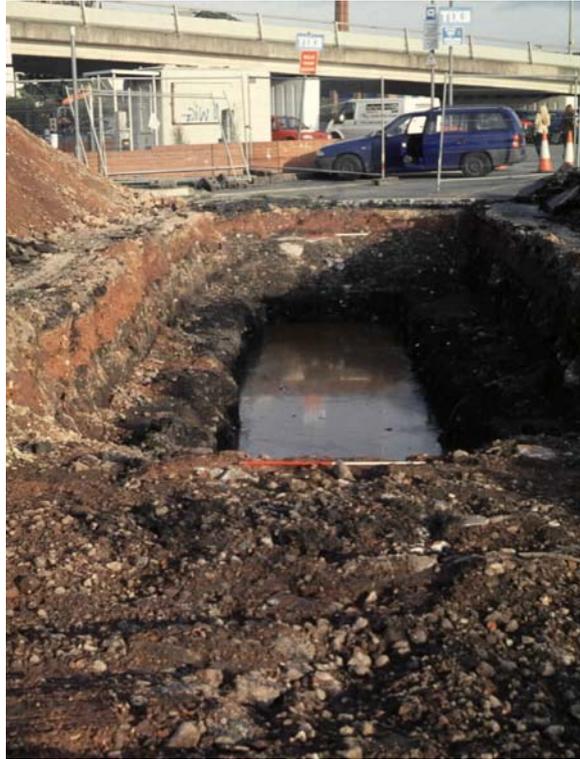


Plate 3: General view of Trench 3, showing overburden and flooding, facing south-west (1m scale)



Plate 4: The north-west-facing section within Trench 4 showing the peat layer in the base of the trench (1m scales)



Plate 5: General view of Trench 5 from the north-east, showing the substantial stone foundations, with the top of the large metal tank in the background



Plate 6: Trench 5 showing the stone trough in the south-east-facing section (1m scale)



**A Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of  
Land at Eagles Meadow, Wrexham**

NGR SJ 33810 50140

produced by

*John Samuels Archaeological Consultants*

for

**Wilson Bowden Developments**

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JSAC 1215/05/01

June 2005



**A Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation of  
Land at Eagles Meadow, Wrexham**

1.0	Introduction.....	2
1.1	<i>Site Location and Description</i> .....	2
1.2	<i>Planning Background</i> .....	2
1.3	<i>Archaeological and Historical Background</i> .....	2
1.4	<i>Aims of the fieldwork</i> .....	4
2.0	Methodology.....	5
2.1	<i>Evaluation</i> .....	5
2.2	<i>Post-excavation</i> .....	7
3.0	Timetable and Personnel.....	8
4.0	Insurance.....	8
5.0	Health and Safety.....	8
6.0	Figures.....	8

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Site Location and Description**

- 1.1.1 Wilson Bowden Developments Ltd. is proposing to develop land at Eagles Meadow, southeast of Wrexham City Centre, Wrexham; centred on NGR SJ 33810 50140, as shown on Figure 1.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development site, which is known locally as Eagles Meadow, occupies an area of approximately 4.53 ha, while the site area in respect of the new buildings and roads is approximately 3.64ha, the whole generally sloping in a northerly direction. It comprises a tarmac hard standing car park located within a land depression, bisected and traversed by the A525 flyover, which lies approximately 5m above the ground, and runs north to south. The concrete base of a former supermarket structure is located in the southwestern section of the site, occupied by a building contractor. Minor additional development areas to the north are occupied by soft landscaped ground rising sharply around the perimeter of the site. Surrounding land uses are mainly residential, and the parish church of St. Giles is located to the western edge of the site.
- 1.1.3 It is reported that made ground of an unknown nature and depth underlies the upper layers of the proposed development site. However, based upon information from the British Geology Survey, the later horizons of the site are said to overlie alluvium together with sand and gravel over till. The underlying solid geology comprises the Carboniferous Coal Measures, which include cyclic bands of sea earth, coal, mudstone, siltstone and sandstone (British Geological Survey 1: 50,000 scale geological map, Sheet 121, Solid & Drift & Waterman Environmental, Table 5, 2004).

### **1.2 Planning Background**

- 1.2.1 Wilson Bowden Developments have proposed a mixed-use redevelopment of the site at Eagles Meadow, Wrexham, comprising retail, leisure, residential apartments and car parking. The Clwyd and Powys Archaeological Trust has advised the planning department that there are reasonable grounds for believing that there may be important archaeological remains within the development area. Following this advice a desk-based assessment of the development area was undertaken by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC 1215/04/02). The results of the desk-based assessment suggest that the site has a medium potential for the survival of remains of archaeological interest. Wrexham Archaeological Service (part of Wrexham County Borough Council) have requested an archaeological evaluation prior to the granting of planning consent and have issued a brief accordingly.

### **1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

- 1.3.1 As mentioned above, an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the site has been undertaken (JSAC/1215/04/02) which presents a full archaeological and historical background of the site. The following is intended only as a brief summary.

- 1.3.2 The prehistoric period is poorly represented in the general environs of the site with the Sites and Monuments Record indicating no entries for this period. It is thought likely that prehistoric populations would have preferred the settlement upon the higher ground with the lower areas being occupied/utilised only during the dryer spells, or for the purposes of utilising the River Gwenfro for fishing or watering livestock.
- 1.3.3 In common with the prehistoric period no sites dating to the Romano-British period are known from the immediate vicinity of the site. Romans are known to have made their mark in the areas around the borough of Wrexham such as the farming community/settlement at Plas Coch on the northwest side of the city centre (approximately 1.5km northwest of the proposed development area).
- 1.3.4 The Sites and Monuments Record contains no information relating to the Anglo Saxon Period, and there is little, or no, historical evidence to suggest any large scale settlement within either the centre of Wrexham, or the proposed development site during this period. Furthermore, Wrexham is not mentioned within the Domesday Book, nor are there any Anglo Saxon charters.
- 1.3.5 The earliest identifiable reference to Wrexham dates from 1161 when 'the castle Wristesham' was mentioned in the Pipe Rolls. Between 1086 and 1277, the area was the Princesdom of Powys Fadog and was ruled by the Lords of Maelor from Dinas Bran. During the Medieval period, the town developed as an important market centre, possibly including markets such as 'The Beast Market'; though the earliest reference to this area of Wrexham, formerly adjacent to the northern boundary of the proposed development site, is in a deed dated 1463/4 AD; when it was referred to in Latin as *Mercatus Averriorum* 'Bird Market' (Williams, 2002, p. 37-38 & <http://www.wrexham.gov.uk/english/welcome/heritage.htm>).
- 1.3.6 Four SMR entries relating to the medieval period are located either within, or immediately adjacent to, the proposed development site. It is considered that the close proximity of these records suggests the potential for buried Medieval remains within the proposed development site, particularly around its periphery, where it is possible that many of the structures occupying elevated positions adjacent, such as those buildings fronting onto The Beast Market, Charles Street, Yorke Street, and Mount Street, could have potentially distributed their Medieval rubbish into the Eagles Meadow area.
- 1.3.7 The location pattern of many Post Medieval Sites and Monuments entries are similar to those of entries relating to the Medieval period, with historical accounts indicating that buildings/features continue to be located upon the areas of higher ground around Wrexham; such as The Beast Market, Charles Street, Yorke Street, and Mount Street. No efforts appear to have been made to develop the large proportion of the proposed development site, referred to as Eagles Meadow.

- 1.3.8 Eagles Meadow is shown in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as containing a bowling green at the western end of the meadow and from 1874, for approximately 100 years, there were regular horse sales held on part of the meadow, behind the premises on Yorke Street. The sales were established by auctioneer Frank Lloyd of Eyton House, who in 1891 constructed stabling for 350 horses, and sale rings that could cater for 2,000 people. Alongside the sales area was a quarter-mile trotting track where horses and ponies could be exhibited. By 1892 Frank Lloyd was able to claim that ‘this sale can eclipse all its rivals by more than three times the number, and without a doubt it is the largest horse sale in the world’.
- 1.3.9 The decline in the demand for horses during the 20th century led to the gradual decline of the horse sales. The area of the bowling green and the horse market was considered in 1965 as the site for a multi-storey car park, but was eventually redeveloped as the Asda supermarket in the 1970’s, which closed in 2000. The remainder of the meadow was private land until the late 20th century.

#### **1.4 Aims of the fieldwork**

- 1.4.1 The aims of this evaluation are:
- to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the development area in order to allow the Wrexham County Borough Council to make an informed decision regarding a suitable mitigation of the impact of development upon any archaeological remains existing on the site.
- 1.4.2 This specification conforms to the requirements of *Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990) (PPG16). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national standards and guidelines including:
- *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991);
  - *Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations* (Association of County Archaeological Officers, 1994);
  - *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000);
  - *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001).

## **2.0 Methodology**

### **2.1 Evaluation**

- 2.1.1 It is proposed that a total of 200m<sup>2</sup> will be excavated, in the form of 5 trenches, 20m in length and 2m in width. Four of these trenches are to be located in the western end of the site closest to the medieval core of Wrexham with the fifth trench located in the centre of the site. Every effort will be made to excavate the trenches to the size and in the location indicated on Figure 2, but the discovery of services and other substantial immovable features may require some flexibility on the ground.
- 2.1.2 A sixth trench, also measuring 2m by 20m, is to be held in reserve as a contingency should deposits of archaeological interest be encountered which require further clarification.
- 2.1.3 Topsoil and overburden will be removed by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Should there be deeply stratified deposits it may be necessary to step the trenches in order to reach the natural geology. The spoil generated during the evaluation will be mounded away from the edges of each trench. Mechanical excavation will cease at either undisturbed natural deposits or when archaeological features are identified. The nature of these deposits will be assessed by hand excavation.
- 2.1.4 Each trench will be cleaned by hand and discrete archaeological features (e.g. pits) that are identified for excavation will be assessed by half- or quarter-sectioning. At least 50% of all discrete features will be excavated. As a minimum (where possible) a 1m wide section of each linear feature will be excavated by hand. Should this initial investigation not answer the aims set out in Section 1.4.1 then consideration will be given to further investigation by hand or by machine, following discussions with Wrexham Archaeology Service.
- 2.1.5 The trenches will be recorded at an appropriate scale by measured drawing and photography and the deposits encountered described fully on pro-forma individual context recording sheets. All sections will be drawn at a minimum 1:10 scale and all plans at a minimum 1:20 scale. The recording system is based on the Museum of London's *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994). Spot heights and those of individual features will be recorded relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 2.1.6 A photographic record will be maintained during the course of the fieldwork in 35mm format and will include:
- the site prior to commencement of fieldwork;
  - the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork;
  - the layout of archaeological features within each trench;
  - individual features and, where appropriate, their sections;
  - groups of features where their relationship is important.

- 2.1.7 All artefacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, *First Aid for Finds* (1998). All finds will be bagged and labelled according to the individual deposit from which they were recovered, ready for later cleaning and analysis. Should closely dateable / typologically distinct items be found then these should be related to their contexts by three-dimensional recording.
- 2.1.8 A suitable specialist will, if necessary, make a site visit to advise on deposits suitable for environmental sampling. In addition any securely dated deposits containing the following will be sampled, at a minimum of 20 litres wherever possible.
- charred plant remains;
  - large quantities of molluscs;
  - large quantities of bone;
  - hearths and other burnt features;
  - other domestic features, e.g. house gullies, potentially containing the above.
- 2.1.9 Charred plant samples will be wet sieved with flotation using a 0.5mm mesh. All residues will be checked.
- 2.1.10 Should waterlogged deposits be encountered, further consultation with a suitable specialist will determine methods for recovery.
- 2.1.11 Any human remains encountered will be cleaned with minimal disturbance, recorded and left *in situ* and only removed if necessary. The contractor will comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains. The archaeological contractor will comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, re-interment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Every effort will be made, at all times, not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 2.1.12 Wrexham Archaeology Service will be given notice of when work is due to commence and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement with the project director. Should any significant remains be found it might be necessary, in liaison with Wrexham Archaeology Service, to formulate a strategy designed to fully establish their character, distribution, extent, condition, dating and further treatment.
- 2.1.13 Archaeological staff and visitors will respect Health and Safety provisions and site-specific safety regulations.
- 2.1.14 The material excavated from the trenches will be used to backfill them following the completion of work. Material will be lightly compacted and no specialist reinstatement will be carried out.

## **2.2 Post-excavation**

### 2.2.1 Post excavation work will comprise the following:

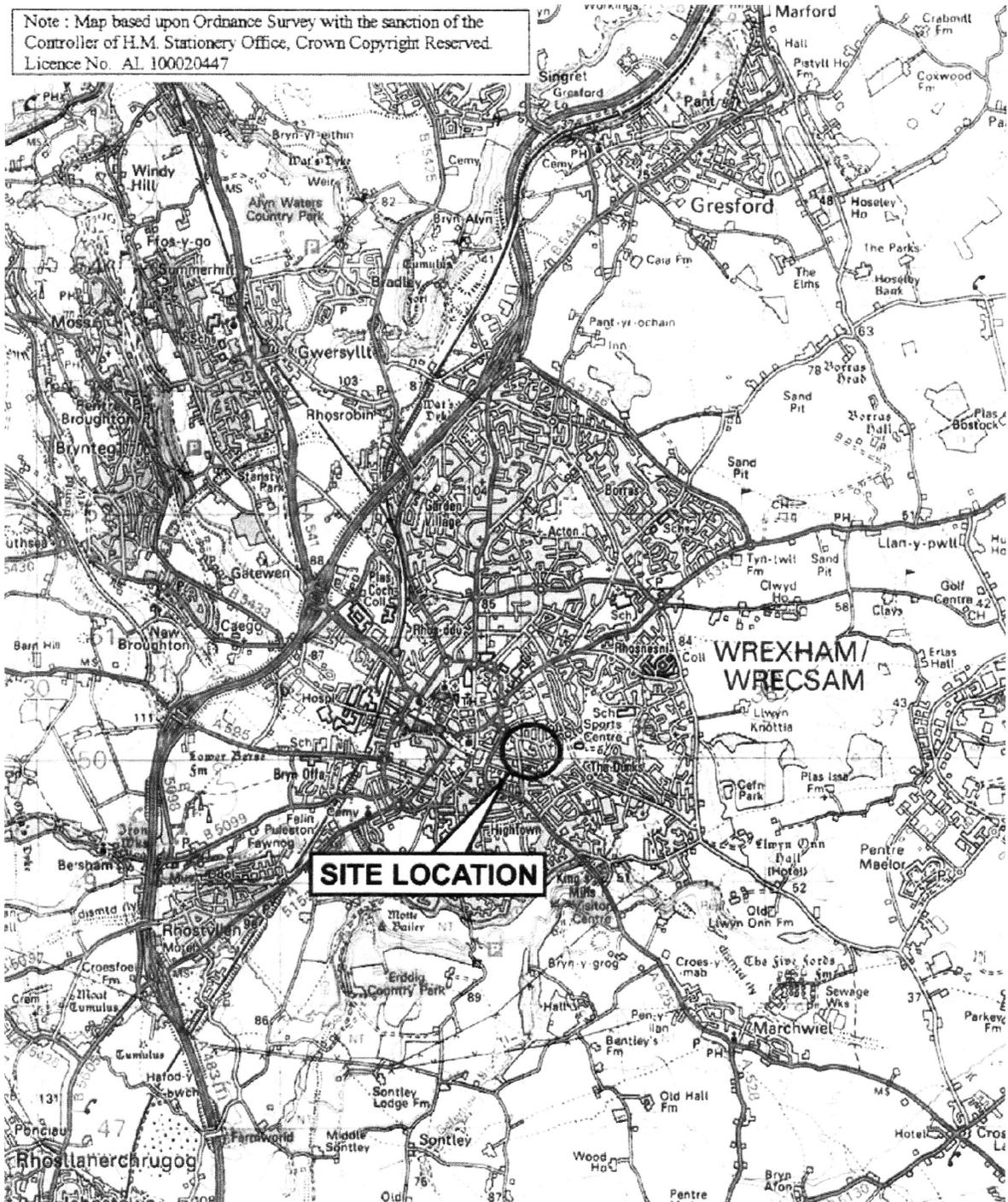
- checking of drawn and written records during and on completion of fieldwork;
- production of a stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site, if appropriate;
- cataloguing of photographic material and labeling of slides that will be mounted on appropriate hangers;
- cleaning, marking, bagging and labelling of finds according to the individual deposits from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent for appropriate treatment. Finds will be identified and dated by appropriate specialists.

### 2.2.2 A report detailing the finds of the evaluation will be prepared within three weeks of the completion of site works and will consist of:

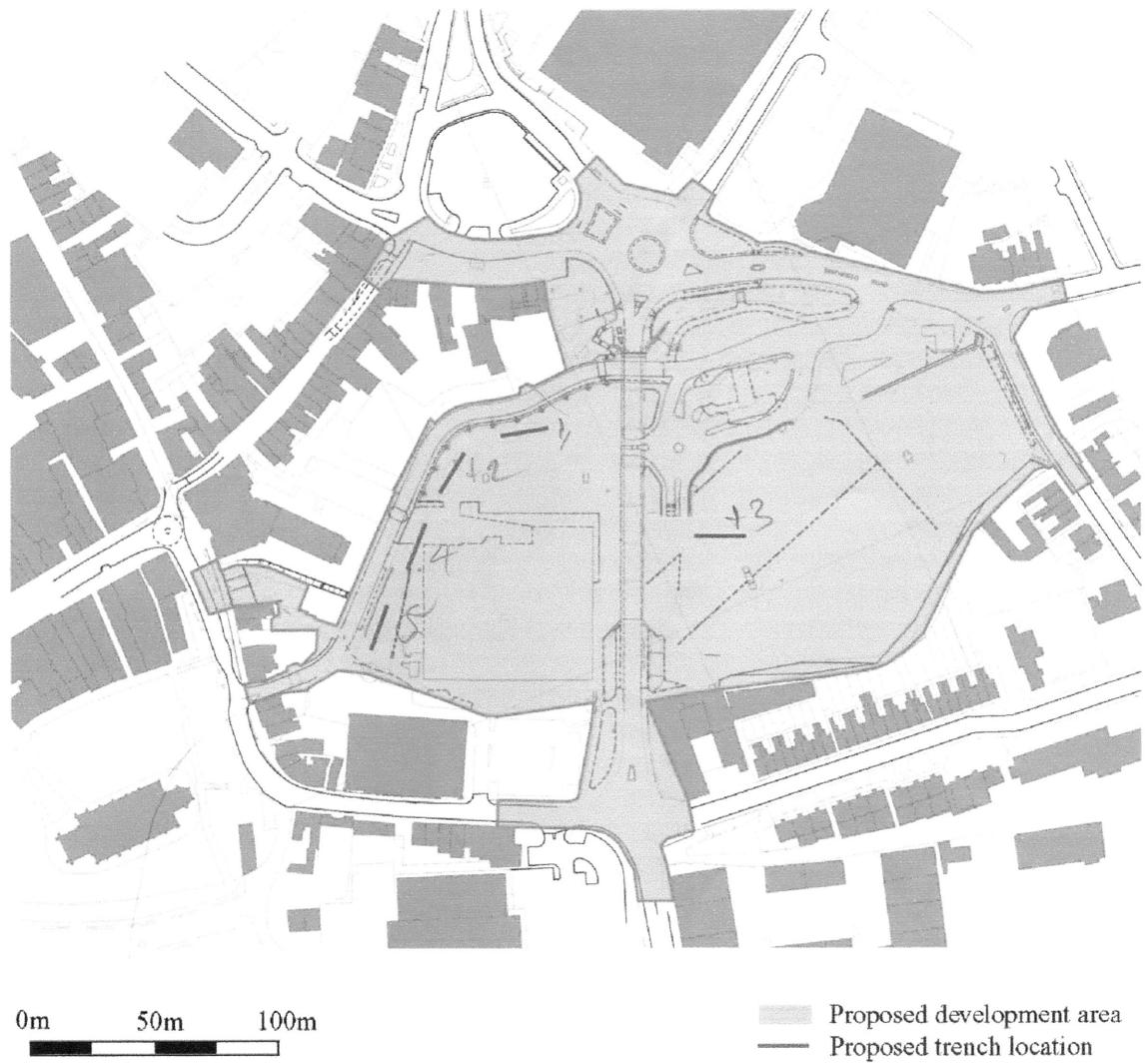
- a title page detailing site address, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address;
- full contents listing;
- a non-technical summary of the findings of the evaluation;
- a description of the topography and geology of the evaluation area;
- a description of the methodologies used during the evaluation;
- a description of the findings of the evaluation;
- site and trench location plans and plans of each of the trenches/areas showing the archaeological features exposed;
- sections of the excavated archaeological features;
- interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape;
- specialist reports on the artefactual / ecofactual remains from the site;
- appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features;
- a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present on the site in local, regional and national terms;
- the identification of potential impacts upon archaeological deposits.

### 2.2.3 Copies of the evaluation report will be sent to the client for approval and then to Wrexham Archaeology Service and to the SMR in both paper and digital form.

### 2.2.4 The project archive will be prepared according to the recommendations in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990), and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992). If finds are made of gold or silver these will if possible be archaeologically excavated and removed to a safe place. Such finds will also be reported immediately to the local Coroner (within 14 days, in accordance with the 1997 Treasure Act). Should it not be possible to remove the finds that day suitable security will be arranged.



**Figure 1: Site location**



*Notes*

**Figure 2: Proposed trench locations**

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## APPENDIX 1: SPECIFICATION

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## APPENDIX 2: FINDS SUMMARY

Context	Qty	Material	Description	Date range
1006	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware herbal beer flagon with brown slip-coated shoulder and transfer-printed black text 'Davies & Moulding, Herbal Brewery, Garden Lane, Chester. To sell, use or fill this bottle is illegal'. Impressed manufacturer's mark 'Price, S, Bristol'	1912 <sup>1</sup> -1918 <sup>2</sup> ?
1006	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware herbal beer flagon with brown slip-coated shoulder and transfer-printed black text 'To buy, to sell or make use of this bottle is illegal, 1914' on shoulder, and 'Davies & Moulding, Herbal Brewers, Garden Lane, Chester' on main body. Impressed manufacturer's mark 'Pearso[n] ..., 1, Whittingt[on]' <sup>3</sup>	1914
1006	1	Ceramic	Fireclay (?) hollow-ware vessel base, self-glazed internally	Nineteenth - early twentieth century
1006	2	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured earthenware pie dish rim to base	Nineteenth - twentieth century
1006	1	Ceramic	Red earthenware large flower pot base	Nineteenth - twentieth century
1006	1	Ceramic	White earthenware hollow-ware vessel jardinière/chamber pot/basin rim, with multi-coloured enamelled transfer-printed pattern and enamelled painted stripe on rim	Very late nineteenth - early twentieth century
1006	1	Ceramic	Complete self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware jam/marmalade jar, ribbed, with groove for tie-on lid, impressed manufacturer's mark on base 'W.P. Hartley, Liverpool & London, [light house symbol], Trade Mark, RFC'	1871 <sup>4</sup> - early twentieth century
1006	1	Ceramic	Badly burnt complete very small white earthenware jar, with groove for tie-on lid	Mid nineteenth - early twentieth century
1006	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware hot water bottle (?) fragment, unglazed on interior, with edge of black transfer-printed text	Late nineteenth - early twentieth century

<sup>1</sup> Davies and Moulding not listed as brewers in Wrexham in 1912 (Trades' Directories, Limited 1912, 101)

<sup>2</sup> Davies and Moulding not listed as brewers in Wrexham in 1918 (Trades' Directories, Limited 1918)

<sup>3</sup> Pearson & Co, Whittington Moor Potteries, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, established c1805; in 1925 the company was renamed 'Pearson & Co (Chesterfield) Ltd' (Kowalsky and Kowalsky 1999, 300)

<sup>4</sup> Hartley's have been manufacturing jam since 1871 (Premier Foods 2003-4)

Context	Qty	Material	Description	Date range
1006	61	Ceramic	Tough white self-glazed porcelain unused identical flip-up lid type bottle tops, printed with black text on top for drinks manufacturer 'Bent's Brewery Co Ltd, Wrexham' and in orange on front for top manufacturer 'Fred. Siemens Ld, Neusattl, Made in Bohemia'	1903 <sup>5</sup> +
1006	2	Glass	Identical complete small green bottles, circular cross-section, moulded blob-top-style lip, embossed text below shoulder 'Bents Brewery Ltd, Liverpool', punt mark 'C369 / S 4 / UGB' on base of one, and 'C 369 / S : 1 / U G.B.' on the other	1913 <sup>6</sup> +
1006	2	Glass	Identical complete green bottles, moulded lip, one with cork still inside, embossed text below shoulder 'Bents Brewery Co Ld, Liverpool', punt mark 'C 29 / S 1 / UGB'	1913 <sup>7</sup> +
1006	1	Glass	Complete green bottle, circular cross-section, waisted neck above shoulder, moulded lip, punt mark on base 'HGB Co Ltd / D I (?) / 87'	Twentieth century
1006	2	Glass	Identical complete green wine bottles, moulded high kick, remains of aluminium foil from mouth down almost to shoulder, moulded lip, remains of printed paper label below aluminium foil	Late nineteenth - twentieth century
1006	1	Glass	Complete large green wine bottle, moulded lip, gold-coloured aluminium foil on neck, moulded high kick	Late nineteenth - twentieth century
2006	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware jam/marmalade jar, ribbed, with groove for tie-on lid, impressed '5' on base	Mid nineteenth - early twentieth century
2006	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware jam/marmalade jar base, ribbed, impressed manufacturer's mark on base 'W.P. Hartley, Liverpool & London, [light house symbol], Trade Mark Reg'	1871 <sup>8</sup> - early twentieth century

<sup>5</sup> Bents Brewery not listed as brewers in Wrexham in 1903 (Trades' Directories, Limited 1903, 75), but listed as brewers in Wrexham in 1912 (Trades' Directories, Limited 1912, 101) and 1918 (Trades' Directories, Limited 1918)

<sup>6</sup> Punt mark for the Sherdley Plant of United Glass Ltd, St Helens, 1913+ (Toulouse 1971, 514)

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> Hartley's have been manufacturing jam since 1871 (Premier Foods 2003-4)

Context	Qty	Material	Description	Date range
2006	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware large jam/marmalade jar rim, ribbed, with groove for tie-on lid	Mid nineteenth - early twentieth century
2006	2	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured stoneware storage jar (?) base fragments	Nineteenth - twentieth century
2006	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed mid-brown earthenware pie dish rim to base, white slip-coated interior, with impressed mark on base 'Lount Ware, England, Leadless Gl[aze]'	1891 <sup>9</sup> - twentieth century
2006	1	Ceramic	Green-glazed white earthenware hollow-ware vessel fragment with relief-moulded decoration	Very late nineteenth - early twentieth century
2006	1	Ceramic	Brown-glazed orangey-brown earthenware tea pot rim, with relief-moulded flower motif	Very late nineteenth - twentieth century
2006	1	Glass	Very light turquoise complete multi-part mould-made medicine bottle, with 'Tablespoons' and corresponding graduations down the front, cork/stopper-type closure	Late nineteenth - early twentieth century
3000	1	Plastic	Orangey-pink mould-made doll's leg, with shoe painted on in brown, and rubber band seal/attachment at joint	1869 <sup>10</sup> - twentieth century
3000	1	Plastic	White washing-up liquid sample bottle 'New Lux Liquid, Free Sample, Extra Efficient - Lux Mild', manufactured by Lever Brothers, Port Sunlight, Limited, container number on base '18 MB M.201/7'	1890 <sup>11</sup> + (probably 1950s?)
3000	1	Plastic	Red double-decker London bus with two black wheels at front on iron axle, rear pair of wheels missing, 'Made in England' in relief-moulded text on body, 'BRI.630' on number plate at front, remains of paper label along side	1928 <sup>12</sup> +
3000	1	Glass	Complete colourless bottle, circular cross-section, external screw-top closure, punt mark 'S' <sup>13</sup>	Twentieth century

<sup>9</sup> 'England' was added to pottery marks after 1891 to comply with the American McKinley Tariff Act (Godden 1991, 11)

<sup>10</sup> Celluloid dolls were first manufactured c1869 (Coleman *et al*1968, 110)

<sup>11</sup> Lever Brothers, Limited began as a private company in 1890 (Competition Commission n.d.)

<sup>12</sup> The first covered London bus was introduced in 1926, and in 1928 the buses were improved through replacing solid wheels with pneumatic tyres (Transport for London 2005)

<sup>13</sup> Punt mark of Standard Bottle Co, New Southgate, London, established 1836, one of the founder members of the Glass Container Association in 1937 (Toulouse 1971, 452)

Context	Qty	Material	Description	Date range
3000	1	Glass	Small, colourless jar, complete, ribbed, unribbed circular area for paper label, punt mark 'Brand's / 8 / England' on base	1891 <sup>14</sup> - twentieth century
3000	1	Glass	Complete colourless bottle, oval cross-section, external screw-top closure, punt mark 'T / PTP / 4'	Twentieth century
4004	1	Glass	Shoulder to base of green circular cross-sectioned bottle, embossed text below shoulder 'Bents Brewery Co Ld, Liverpool', and punt mark on base '5785 / C.S. & Co Ld'	1875 - 1913 <sup>15</sup>
4004	2	Ceramic	Thick ironstone (?) hollow-ware fragments	Late nineteenth - twentieth century
5000	1	Ceramic	Clay tobacco pipe stem fragment, medium bore	Eighteenth - early twentieth century
5000	4	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware crock fragments, two with parts of lug handles	Late seventeenth - early twentieth century
5000	1	Ceramic	Near-complete jam/mustard pot lid with cut-out for spoon, factory-produced banded slipware with green-stained ridging, slightly staining all of glaze	Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century?
5000	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed buff-coloured pie dish (?) base fragment	Nineteenth - twentieth century
5000	2	Ceramic	White earthenware fragments, including plate/ashet base	Late eighteenth - twentieth century
5000	3	Ceramic	White earthenware factory-produced slipware hollow-ware fragments, including rim	Nineteenth - twentieth century
5000	1	Ceramic	Red earthenware factory-produced slipware with white slip-coated interior and blue slip-coated exterior with white sprigs/trailed slip	Late nineteenth - twentieth century
5000	1	Ceramic	Creamware (?) base fragment	Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century?
5000	1	Ceramic	White earthenware carinated bowl fragment with blue transfer-printed landscape pattern and coral-like border	Nineteenth - early twentieth century
5000	1	Ceramic	White earthenware 'Willow' transfer-printed plate fragments, one with double footrim, one from very small vessel	Nineteenth century
5000	1	Ceramic	White earthenware hollow-ware fragment with light blue transfer-printed white-on-blue floral sheet (?) pattern	Nineteenth century

<sup>14</sup> 'England' was added to pottery marks after 1891 to comply with the American McKinley Tariff Act (Godden 1991, 11)

<sup>15</sup> Punt mark of Cannington, Shaw & Co, St Helens, 1875-1913 (Toulouse 1971, 147)

<b>Context</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date range</b>
5000	1	Ceramic	White earthenware hollow-ware fragment with very flown blue transfer-printed pattern	Late eighteenth - nineteenth century
5025	2	Ceramic	Refitting clay tobacco pipe stem fragments, impressed very small text '...HORN / ....LEY 22', medium bore	Late nineteenth - early twentieth century
5025	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed red earthenware base with intermittent white slip-trailed circle	Nineteenth - early twentieth century
5025	1	Ceramic	White earthenware ashet rim with relief-moulded edge and blue transfer-printed floral border	Mid nineteenth - twentieth century
5025	1	Ceramic	White earthenware plate rim, relief-moulded and blue painted shell-type edge	Late nineteenth - twentieth century?

## APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

<b>1001</b>	Tarmac surface
<b>1002</b>	Brick rubble bedding layer
<b>1003</b>	Midden layer
<b>1004</b>	Compacted clinker surface
<b>1005</b>	Hardcore bedding layer for <b>1004</b>
<b>1006</b>	Midden layer
<b>1007</b>	Black organic silt
<b>2001</b>	Tarmac surface
<b>2002</b>	Bedding layer for <b>2001</b>
<b>2003</b>	Black clinker deposit overlying surface <b>2004</b>
<b>2004</b>	Compact black clinker layer
<b>2005</b>	Crushed brick and rubble hardcore
<b>2006</b>	Midden layer
<b>2007</b>	Black organic silt
<b>3000</b>	Unstratified finds from Trench 3
<b>3001</b>	Tarmac surface
<b>3002</b>	Silty gravel layer
<b>3003</b>	Modern landfill
<b>3004</b>	Dark organic silt
<b>4001</b>	Modern make-up layers
<b>4002</b>	Dark grey silty gravel
<b>4003</b>	Black clinker layer
<b>4004</b>	Very dark grey demolition layer
<b>4005</b>	Orange sand
<b>4006</b>	Dark brown sandy layer
<b>4007</b>	Brownish orange silty sand levelling layer
<b>4008</b>	Very dark brown organic silt/peat layer
<b>4009</b>	Natural gravel

<b>4010</b>	Concrete slab
<b>4011</b>	Dark brown silty gravel foundation layer
<b>4012</b>	Levelling layer
<b>4013</b>	Levelling layer
<b>4014</b>	Dark brown gravel
<b>4015</b>	Peat
<b>4016</b>	Natural sandy silty clay
<b>5000</b>	Unstratified finds from Trench 5
<b>5001</b>	Tarmac surface
<b>5002</b>	Reinforced concrete
<b>5003</b>	Grey silty gravel demolition layer
<b>5004</b>	Brick surface
<b>5005</b>	Sand bedding for wall <b>5004</b>
<b>5006</b>	Banded layer of silt clinker and mortar
<b>5007</b>	Fuel tank
<b>5008</b>	Wall encasing tank
<b>5009</b>	Sand infill around tank
<b>5010</b>	Brick surface
<b>5011</b>	Stone and brick wall
<b>5012</b>	Brick wall
<b>5013</b>	Brick floor
<b>5014</b>	Brick wall
<b>5015</b>	Rubble back fill of cellar
<b>5016</b>	Brick wall
<b>5017</b>	Brick wall
<b>5018</b>	Stone wall
<b>5019</b>	Stone wall with chamfered edge
<b>5020</b>	Brick wall
<b>5021</b>	Brick rubble back fill of cellar

<b>5022</b>	Cindery material below <b>5013</b>
<b>5023</b>	Pea gravel
<b>5024</b>	Sandstone trough
<b>5025</b>	Bedding material for <b>5024</b>
<b>5026</b>	Sandstone rubble
<b>5027</b>	Cut
<b>5028</b>	Deposit
<b>5029</b>	Natural
<b>5030</b>	Fine grained rubble
<b>5031</b>	Back fill of <b>5033</b>
<b>5032</b>	Lead pipe
<b>5033</b>	Cut for lead pipe
<b>5034</b>	Brick rubble
<b>5035</b>	Dark brown sandy silt with rubble and mortar
<b>5036</b>	Clinker layer
<b>5037</b>	Dark grey silt with rubble
<b>5038</b>	Sandstone rubble