



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

## Archaeological Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology North

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## SUMMARY

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Everton Football Club have 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 trapezoid area of agricultural land of roughly 24 ha, centred on the buildings of Finch Farm. Following preparation of a project design and costs to meet a written scheme of investigation compiled by RPS Planning and Environment Ltd, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the site. Oxford Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological buildings survey on the nineteenth century brick-built structures at Finch Farm, prior to their demolition ahead of redevelopment. The evaluation was undertaken over a period of three weeks between June and July 2005 and involved the excavation and recording of 24 trial trenches in two phases (Fig 2). The archaeological buildings survey was conducted over the course of a week within the same period, the results of which are detailed in a separate Oxford Archaeology report.

During Phase 1, six trenches were examined in each of three distinct areas A, B and C, to establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits. In the second phase, a further six trenches were excavated which, initially, were to be located on the results of a metal detector survey; however, due to problems with long grass, it was decided to target features from historical mapping.

The evaluation of area A (Trenches 1-6), at the north end of the site, revealed three stone-built field drains (locally known as 'stone soughs') in Trenches 2 and 3, a large boundary ditch in Trench 3 and a sub-oval pit in Trench 4. In total, four modern ceramic field drains were located in Trenches 3, 5 and 6, with that in Trench 3 in the base of the boundary ditch. Trench 1 was archaeologically sterile.

The six Area B trial trenches (Trenches 7-12) were positioned within the confines of the extant farm buildings, and north of the access road. Evaluation revealed footings for a building in Trench 7 (identified from cartographic sources as Finch House), a large boundary ditch and oval pit in Trench 8 and, in Trench 9, modern field drains. Trenches 10-12 were placed within the then-extant Finch Farm complex. Trench 10 uncovered a demolition layer overlying an ashy midden layer, containing unabraded pottery dating to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which, in turn, overlaid a shallow gully, two land drains and a modern service. Four postholes, among which no pattern could be discerned, a ditch, several hedgerows, a cow burial, one small pit, two modern land drains and other modern services were located within Trench 11. A small number of pottery fragments, including one abraded medieval sherd, were recovered from a number of features within Trench 11. Trench 12 revealed a red brick surface overlain by a bedding layer of gravel and clinker preparation for a modern concrete surface.

Area C (Trenches 13-18), at the south end of the site, exposed two large boundary ditches aligned north-east/south-west in Trenches 15 and 17, with another boundary ditch aligned south-east/north-west in Trench 16. A possible hedgeline was located in Trench 14. No archaeological deposits or features were observed within Trenches 13 and 18.

The six Phase 2 evaluation trenches were located to the north-east of the farm complex and to the north of the access road. Trenches 19 and 20 displayed two large boundary ditches aligned north-east/south-west and two further such boundary ditches, aligned north/south, were located in Trenches 22 and 23, along with a shallow north-east/south-west aligned linear feature in Trench 22. Within Trench 21 a ‘T’-shaped complex of stone-built drains and a shallow pit were uncovered. Trench 24, immediately north of the access track and immediately adjacent to the western boundary of the site, exhibited eleven features, including the remains of one brick-built and one sandstone structure, two large boundary ditches, a ditch re-cut, a pit and two cobbled surfaces. A number of demolition layers and levelling layers were encountered, along with a series of modern land drains and a tree bole.

The evaluation recovered a moderate amount of post-medieval pottery and building materials, along with a small amount of earlier pottery found within Trenches 11 and 24. Metal-detection of the spoil heaps and of accessible areas around the farm complex recovered a number of post-medieval coins and artefacts, dating from 1724 to the present.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The evaluation was undertaken by Emily Betts, Jason Clarke, Caroline Raynor and Pascal Eloy under the direction of Andy Lane. The report was compiled by Andy Lane and Stephen Rowland, the finds assessed by Jo Dawson with additional finds identification by Andy Bates, Ian Miller and Rachel Newman. The illustrations were produced by Vix Hughes, Emma Carter and Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Everton Football Club have 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). 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. On behalf of Everton FC, RPS Planning, Transport and Environment (hereafter the 'client') requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological evaluation to comply with a written scheme of investigation. A desk-based assessment undertaken by the client indicated the potential for the presence of archaeological remains, from the Mesolithic through to later periods, although no other comprehensive archaeological investigation of the site has as-yet been undertaken. A project design was submitted by OA North in response to a Written Scheme of Investigation issued by the client (*Appendix 1*). Following consultation with Merseyside Archaeological Service (MAS), the client requested that OA North produce a revised project design (*Appendix 2*) to include the original 18 trenches, referred to as Phase 1, but also to include a metal detector survey, the results of which would help to determine the location of six additional evaluation trenches, referred to as Phase 2.

### 1.2 EVALUATION

1.2.1 The evaluation aimed to assess a sample of the deposits within the area of the proposed development in order to determine the presence, extent, nature, date and significance of any archaeological features and deposits. The results provided information as to the requirement for, and nature of, mitigation works to be undertaken prior to, or during, the course of the proposed development. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in two consecutive phases over three weeks in June and July 2005. Eighteen trenches divided evenly between three areas were evaluated in Phase 1, and six more in Phase 2. This report sets out the results of the evaluation in the form of a short document, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area.

## 2. BACKGROUND

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### 2.1 PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 At the time of the evaluation, the development area was agricultural land covered by long, tussocky grass. An east/west access track joins Finch Lane with the only buildings on the site, the Finch Farm complex, which is located to the centre of the development area. This complex comprises a Farmhouse (designated Building 6), a barn (Building 5) and an 'L'-shaped outbuilding complex (Buildings 3 and 4), all of which are brick-built, and also two modern barns (Building 1 to the west and Building 2 to the east) constructed of corrugated iron on concrete pad foundations. These buildings will be demolished following the archaeological evaluation and ahead of the development.
- 2.1.2 The site lies on an area of well-drained higher topography between the valleys of the Ditton and Rams Brooks. The geology of the site consists of boulder clay with intermittent bands of sand and exposed outcrops of Carboniferous Ardwick marl on the valley slopes (Countryside Commission 1998).

### 2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.2.1 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 (Philpott and Cowell 2000). The earliest archaeological evidence in the area dates to the Mesolithic and, to a lesser extent, the Neolithic. It comprises a number of flint scatters in the area of the Ditton Brook, c1.5km 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, c1km 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. 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 (*ibid*).
- 2.2.2 Although the local place names are of Old English origin, there is little archaeological evidence dating to the Early Medieval period in the area. 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*). Cartographic evidence would suggest that the land on which the Finch Farm complex stood at the time of the evaluation was formerly occupied by Platt's House. This structure is named on the 1850 First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map and apparently shown, but not named, on the 1843 Halewood Tithe map. The same is possibly true of the

1785 Derby Estate Map, but the poor quality of this source makes it very hard to be certain. Ponds identified on the 1843 Tithe map have been correlated with cropmarks identified on aerial photographs at the southern end of the site. Another post-medieval building, Finch House, is documented from 1803 within the area of the proposed security lodge, but was demolished shortly before 1971 (RPS 2004).

### 3. METHODOLOGY

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#### 3.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 3.1.1 Where possible, the revised project design (*Appendix 2*), prepared in accordance with the RPS Written Scheme of Investigation and with the requests of MAS, was adhered to in full throughout the project. The only exception to this was that due to factors outlined below, it was not possible to undertake the metal detector survey. All work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

#### 3.2 EVALUATION

- 3.2.1 **Trench configuration:** Phase one of the evaluation required the examination of six trial trenches within each of the three specific areas within the development area (Fig 2): Area A, to the north of the Finch Farm complex, Area B, around the farm itself and Area C, to the south of the farm. The exact positions of the trenches in Areas A and C were defined by RPS, those in Area B by RPS and OA North, with all final locations meeting the approval of MAS. The majority of the 18 trenches measured 1.8m in width (the approximate width of a typical excavator bucket) and 30m in length, with a maximum depth of 1.2m. Trenches 11 and 12, located within the farm complex, measured 6m by 11.6m and 3m by 20m respectively, partly reflecting the presence of physical constraints but also the need to more-fully evaluate the deposits around what is likely to have been the historical focus of activity in the immediate area.
- 3.2.2 **Methodology:** under archaeological supervision, the topsoil and subsoil within each trench was removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, either to the upper-most surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or, to the top of the natural drift geology. This deposit was cleaned by hand, using, where appropriate, hoes, shovel scraping, and trowels and subsequently inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by the Merseyside Archaeological Officer.
- 3.2.3 All trenches were excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand and were located by use of GPS equipment, which is accurate to +/- 0.25m. Altitude information was established with respect to Ordnance Datum (OD), using an optical level. All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically on *pro-forma* recording sheets, using a system adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections, colour slides and monochrome contacts) to identify and illustrate individual features. Finds were exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.

### 3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

- 3.3.1 **Introduction:** environmental bulk samples were taken from undisturbed stratified deposits from selected negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). The samples were processed and assessed for charred and waterlogged plant remains in order to establish the potential for further biological analysis with a view to providing information on the economy of the site and the character of the local environment.
- 3.3.2 **Quantification and methodology:** in total, five samples were taken from fill **123** of cow burial pit **124** (Trench 11) and from four ditches (**145**, Trench 20; **148**, Trench 19; **150** Trench 22 and **154**, Trench 23). The samples were hand floated, the flots (light fraction) collected on a 250 micron mesh and air-dried. The flots were scanned with a binocular microscope and all plant material was recorded and provisionally identified. The data are shown in *Appendix 5*. Botanical nomenclature follows Stace (1991). Plant remains were recorded on a scale of abundance of 1-4, where 1 is rare (less than 5 items) and 4 is abundant (more than 100 items). The components of the matrix were also noted.

### 3.4 ARCHIVE

- 3.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), 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 also be deposited with the National Museums of Liverpool

## 4. RESULTS

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 During Phase 1, all 18 trenches were placed in their planned locations, in accordance with the project design and in agreement with MAS. Because of the presence of long grass across the entirety of the site, it was not possible to undertake a metal detector survey ahead of Phase 2. The locations of the six Phase 2 trenches were, therefore, established through the analysis of cartographic data and, in agreement with MAS, sought to target specific field boundaries and possible structural features.

### 4.2 EVALUATION PHASE 1 – AREA A

- 4.2.1 **Area A - Summary:** 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. All six trenches measured 30m by 2m and, with the exceptions of Trenches 2 and 5 (which were aligned north-west/south-east), were aligned north-east/south-west. 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 contained no dating evidence.
- 4.2.2 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was aligned approximately north-west/south-east and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m within a sondage at the north-west end of the trench, dug to verify the identification of the natural drift geology. The trench revealed no archaeological deposits or features. The mid-grey/brown silty-sand topsoil was 0.3m thick and overlay a 0.35m thick layer of mid-orange brown subsoil containing charcoal flecks. A change in the natural drift geology, from light yellow-brown clayey-sand diffusing to a mid-orange brown sandy-clay, was observed at a depth of 0.95m. Metal detection of the machined spoil produced no finds other than a modern small stainless steel washer.
- 4.2.3 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was aligned approximately north-east/south-west, with a maximum depth of 0.5m. It was located c 30m to the north-east of Trench 1. The trench revealed a north/south aligned field drain/culvert, **216**, measuring 16.5m long, 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep and composed of stone slabs laid as edging topped with flat capstones (Plate 1). These capstones measured, on average, 270mm by 280mm by 100mm. A grey silt fill, **217**, was found under the capstones. Metal detection of the spoil yielded two lead objects, comprising a fragment of thin lead foil/sheet and a curious fitting (*Section 4.6*).

- 4.2.4 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was aligned approximately north-west/south-east, positioned c 30m to the south-east of Trench 2 and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.93m. The natural drift geology was revealed at a depth of 0.67m, beneath a 0.34m-thick layer of topsoil and a layer of subsoil 0.33m thick. A north-east/south-west aligned linear feature, **139** (Plate 2), possibly a boundary ditch, was located 24.3m from the south-eastern baulk. Feature **139** was 2m long (0.6m excavated), 1.2m wide, 0.26m deep with moderately steep 40° sides, rounded break of slope and a slightly undulating base. A ceramic field drain, for which there was no obvious cut when observed in section, ran within the base of ditch **139** and, therefore, appeared to be sealed by the single ditch fill of dark grey-brown silty-clay, **138**.
- 4.2.5 A drain, **218**, aligned north-west/south-east, 2m long, 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep, was located 4.4m from the south-eastern baulk of the trench. This drain was constructed of large stone blocks approximately 335mm by 290mm by 60mm with a mid-grey-brown plastic silty-clay fill, **223**. Another, similar, field drain, **219**, running parallel, was located 11.6m from the south-eastern baulk. The exposed portion was 2m long, 0.32m wide and 0.11m deep, consisting of flat stones measuring approximately 290mm by 170mm by 60mm, with small stone infill, although no dating evidence was recovered. Metal detection of the spoil produced two copper alloy (brass) objects: an ornate perpendicular clothes hook, possibly of nineteenth-century date, or later, and a stamped decorative Tudor rose 50mm across, likely to be of similar date.
- 4.2.6 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 was aligned north-west/south-east and was excavated to a depth of 0.53m. It was located c 50m immediately to the east of Trench 1 (Fig 2). The trench revealed two modern field drains, aligned north-east/south-west and a small sub-oval pit, **134**. Pit **134** was 1.02m long, 0.62m wide and 0.27m deep, with 45° to 75° concave sides and a rounded base filled with a uniform light grey-brown sandy-clay **133**. No finds were recovered from this feature. Metal detection of the spoil recovered a broken and unidentified iron object, and a copper alloy military button likely to date to the later nineteenth century (Section 4.6).
- 4.2.7 **Trench 5:** Trench 5 was aligned north-east/south-west and was excavated to a depth of 0.53m. It was located c30m to the north-east of Trench 4. This trench revealed a modern field drain aligned north/south at the north-eastern end of the trench. No archaeological deposits or features were identified. Eight artefacts were found during metal detection of the machined spoil from this trench, including: a fragment of a lead toy animal; an iron fitting, possibly for a door or machine; a piece of irregularly-shaped iron with traces of a screw thread and very much like shrapnel in appearance; in copper alloy, a revolving door latch, two military buttons, possibly of late nineteenth or early twentieth century date, a heavy and decorated key-like object, and a squashed ring with rouletted decoration (Section 4.6).
- 4.2.8 **Trench 6:** Trench 6 was aligned north-west/south-east and was excavated to a depth of 0.46m. It was located c 30m to the east of Trench 5. Two modern field drains were revealed in the eastern half of this trench, both aligned north-east/south-west. No archaeological deposits or features were found. Four artefacts from metal detection of the spoil included an eighteenth to nineteenth

century flat brass button and a heavy brass ring likely to be an item of horse harness.

### 4.3 EVALUATION PHASE 1 – AREA B

- 4.3.1 **Area B - Summary:** with the exception of Trenches 11 (6m by 11.6m) and 12 (3m by 20m), all trenches 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, known from old maps to have stood in that area during the earlier part of the nineteenth century until its demolition in the mid-twentieth century (Fig3). Masonry foundations, highly likely to represent the remains of Finch House, were located within Trench 7. Within Trench 8, a large irregular ditch, or possibly a channel, was defined, along with a pit.
- 4.3.2 Trenches 10-12 were placed around the extant Finch Farm buildings. 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 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.
- 4.3.3 **Trench 7:** Trench 7 was aligned north-west/south-east and measured 30m by 2m. It was located 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 (known to have stood on the site since at least 1843) (Plate 3) and a possible associated out-building. A concentration of unstratified finds were 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. Metal detection of the soil recovered a rather battered Second World War War Medal.
- 4.3.4 **Trench 8:** Trench 8 was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m (Plate 4). It was located to the north of, and roughly parallel with, the Finch Farm access track. This trench revealed a large boundary ditch, **158**, aligned north-west/south-east, 19.25m long, approximately 3.5m wide and 0.74m deep (Fig 4). The sides were linear, although fairly irregular, with variable concave sides (Fig 5; Sections 24-26). Three fills were identified, comprising silty-sand at the base, **157**, with a secondary fill of clay, **156**, and an upper fill of clayey-silt, **155**, indicating a gradual filling of ditch **158** over an extended period of time. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 4.3.5 An oval pit, **160**, 1.8m+ in length, 0.5m+ in width and 0.5m deep was also identified but not fully exposed due to its location at the edge of the trench

(Fig 4), (Fig 5; Sections 27 and 28). It was located 13.5m from the south-eastern baulk of the trench and contained a mid-grey moderately loose sandy-silt, **159**. No finds were recovered from this feature. Metal detection of the spoil from this trench produced a heavy brass ring, probably from a horse harness.

- 4.3.6 **Trench 9:** Trench 9, measuring 30m by 2m with a maximum depth of 0.5m, was aligned north-east/south-west and was located to the south-east of the farm complex, positioned to avoid the proposed location of the synthetic pitch. Two modern field drains, running east/west and no more than 0.1m in depth were observed, along with three shallow plough marks 1.8m in length. No archaeological deposits or features were found.
- 4.3.7 **Trench 10:** Trench 10 (Plate 5), 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 of the farm complex. The trench revealed a tarmac surface overlying a bedding material of gravel and clinker, **106**, 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** (Plate 6). 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*; Section 4.6), 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. Two land drains, one of which extends into Trench 11 (Section 4.3.8), and a modern service were also located below layer **108**.
- 4.3.8 **Trench 11:** this trench was aligned east/west, measuring 11.6m by 6m and excavated to a depth of 0.6m, at which depth the natural geology was encountered (Fig 6; Plate 7). The trench was located c 5m to the east of Building 5 within the farm complex, c 10m to the south of Trench 10 and was bounded to the north by the tarmac track and to the east by the sheep dip. 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. 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*).
- 4.3.9 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, (Fig 7; Section 9) 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 sherd of partially reduced gritty hollow-ware, (thirteenth to fifteenth century), a 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**. 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, 0.5m+ wide (Fig 7; Section 11). 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. A number of 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 (Fig 7; Section 8). Hedge **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 century were recovered.

- 4.3.10 An articulated cow burial, **220**, was located to the north-west corner of Trench 11, and had been deposited within a vertically-sided sub-rectangular pit, **124**, 1.55m long, 0.8m wide and 0.18m deep (Fig 7; Section 7; Plate 8). 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 (Fig 7; Section 6). 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.
- 4.3.11 **Trench 12:** Trench 12 was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 20m by 3m, and was located between Buildings 3 and 4 of the farm complex (Fig 3). 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 (Plate 9). The bricks appear to be hand-made, measure 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 (Plate 10). No further archaeological remains were revealed within the exposed natural geology.

#### 4.4 EVALUATION PHASE 1 - AREA C

- 4.4.1 **Area C - Summary:** all trenches measured 2m by 30m and were located within the southern part of the development area, with Trenches 13 and 17 located 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 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.

- 4.4.2 **Trench 13:** Trench 13 was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.52m. It was located c60m to the south-west of Trench 12 and the farm complex. No archaeological deposits or features were identified. Metal detection of the spoil revealed a thin, badly-oxidised copper alloy coin, a copper alloy ring and a lead pistol ball (probably not fired) dating from the seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth century.
- 4.4.3 **Trench 14:** Trench 14 was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 30m by 2m, and was excavated to a depth of 0.4m (Plate 11). It was located c60m to the east of the western site boundary and about the same distance to the north of the southern site boundary (Fig 2). This trench revealed a possible shallow north-east/south-west orientated hedgeline, 215, visible for a length of 2m. It was 1.66m wide, 0.14m deep and filled with 214, a mixed mid-brown and grey moderately compact silty-clay. Three modern land drains were located running in the same direction as hedgeline 215 and two tree boles (221 and 222) were also present. No finds were recovered from this trench, although metal detection of the spoil recovered a copper alloy inkwell lid, a lead sub-circular object with inscriptions in relief round the edges on both sides and a copper alloy square, slightly convex buckle, probably from a shoe and dating from the eighteenth century.
- 4.4.4 **Trench 15:** Trench 15 was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.55m. It was located c 40m to the north-east of Trench 14. This trench revealed a substantial ditch, 201, possibly a boundary feature, aligned north-east/south-west and visible for a length of 2m. Ditch 201 measured 2.1m in width and 1.07m deep, with steep sides, a shallow break of slope at the top and sharp break of slope coming onto a slightly concave base. Two ditch fills were identified: 202, a mid-brown sandy-clay and 203, a light orange-brown clay at the base. A ceramic field drain was discovered at the base of this ditch, but no obvious cut for this feature was detected. No finds were recovered from Trench 15, with the exception of a small lead tube found during metal detection of the spoil heaps.
- 4.4.5 **Trench 16:** Trench 16 was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 30m by 2m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.52m (Plate 12). It was located c 30m to the east of Trench 14. This trench revealed a large boundary ditch, 213, aligned north-west/south-east with steep sides and a flat base. It bisected the trench and was 3.48m wide and 0.56m deep. The ditch was filled by an upper layer of sandy-clay, 210, which overlay sandy-silt 211 and a primary fill of silty-clay, 212. A possible hedgeline which, in section, showed no indication of a cut within ditch 213 and which was filled with the same primary material as the ditch (fill 211), lies immediately to the south-west of, and runs parallel with, ditch 213. Two tree boles and two modern land drains were also present. Metal detection of the spoil from this trench produced a worn Victorian silver six-pence and a lead pistol ball. There were also two copper alloy medallions, one with a motif of a crown within a floral wreath and a motto in French, the other with an indecipherable inscription on both sides and possible Britannia motif.
- 4.4.6 **Trench 17:** Trench 17 was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.56m. It was located c 46m to the south-east of Trench 13. This trench (Plate 13) revealed a large ditch, 161, running

north-east/south-west across the trench and was 3.4m wide and 1.54m deep. Ditch **161** was steep-sided, with gradual breaks of slope at the top and at the slightly concave base. The ditch contained three fills, **163-165**. A ceramic land drain was found at the base at 0.87m depth, but no apparent cut for this service was evident in section. Pottery and clay pipe stems dating from the eighteenth to the twentieth century were found in the upper fill, **163**, of ditch **161**.

- 4.4.7 **Trench 18:** Trench 18 was aligned north-east/south-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.33m. It was located c 26m to the south-east of Trench 15. No archaeological deposits or features were present.

#### 4.5 EVALUATION PHASE 2

- 4.5.1 **Phase 2 - Summary:** six trial trenches were located to investigate features identified on old maps of the development area. 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. 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, located 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 hardstanding, and demolition deposits. Also exposed, were a large ditch, a pit and a tree bole.
- 4.5.2 **Trench 19:** Trench 19 was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.47m. It was positioned to investigate a possible field boundary seen on the historic maps and was the most north-easterly of the evaluation trenches, located close to the northern site boundary (Fig 2). Trench 19 revealed a large north-east/south-west aligned ditch/field boundary, **148** (Plate 14). Running across the trench, ditch **148** was approximately 5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.55m, although the actual base was not reached due to health and safety constraints. The ditch contained at least two fills; the uppermost, **146**, comprised a mid-brownish-grey clayey-silt and the lower fill, **147**, consisted of a mid-grey plastic clay. Fill **146** produced a number of pottery sherds, including stoneware, earthenware and hollow-ware, ranging in date from the seventeenth to the twentieth century. Ditch **148** was truncated by a north/south aligned ceramic land drain, which lay 0.98m below the modern ground surface, although no cut for this land drain was visible in the section of ditch **148**.
- 4.5.3 **Trench 20:** Trench 20 was aligned north-west/south-east and measured 30m by 2m, with a maximum depth of 0.36m. The trench was positioned to locate a possible field boundary seen on historic maps and was c 30m, to the south-west of Trench 19. Towards the south-east end of Trench 20, a large north-east/south-west aligned ditch/field boundary, **145**, was revealed (Plate 15). Ditch **145** was 2.4m wide by 0.8m deep and had steep but irregular sides with a concave base. The ditch contained one fill, **144**, a mixed mid-grey-brown

and dark grey clayey-silt. Fragments of creamware ceramic, dating from the late eighteenth to the early nineteenth century, and sherds of pearlware plate, dating possibly from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century, were found within fill **144**. A ceramic land drain was located running in the same direction and towards the bottom of the ditch, although no cut for the land drain could be discerned in section.

- 4.5.4 **Trench 21:** Trench 21 was aligned north-west/south-east, measured 15m by 7.5m and was excavated to a depth of 0.53m. The trench was located outside the farm complex, c 50m to the north-east of Building 2 and placed to investigate features identified on historical maps. Trench 21 revealed a ‘T’-shaped complex of stone-built drains, **141**, the stone caps of which rested directly on the edges of the drain cut into the natural geology. Within the fill of this feature, **140**, a mid-brown sandy-silt, three sherds of red earthenware brick, dating from the nineteenth to the early twentieth century were found. A shallow pit-like feature, **143**, measuring 1.8m by 1.9m, contained frequent charcoal flecks within its fill, **142**, a light grey-brown compact sand, but no finds. Both drain **141** and pit **143** were cut by two modern land drains (Plate 16).
- 4.5.5 **Trench 22:** Trench 22 was aligned east/west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.36m (Plate 17). It was located c 60m to the west of Trench 21 and was positioned to investigate field boundaries identified on historical maps. Towards the east of Trench 22, a large north/south aligned ditch/field boundary, **150**, was revealed, measuring 1.75m wide and 0.57m deep. It had gradual break of slope at the top and base, concave western sides, convex eastern sides and a flat base. The single fill of mixed mid-brown and mid-grey lenses of clayey-silt, **149**, contained pottery, including a sherd of black-glazed red earthenware crock, dating from the late seventeenth to the early twentieth century. A land drain was located at the base of ditch **150** and appeared to be aligned in the same direction, but with no obvious cut into the ditch fill when the feature was examined in section.
- 4.5.6 A shallow linear feature, **152**, aligned north-east/south-west was also found at the east end of Trench 22. Feature **152** was visible for a length of 3.5m across the trench, was 0.7m wide, 0.12m deep and was filled with a mid- to dark grey-brown clayey-silt, **151**. A modern ceramic land drain was located to the west of feature **152** and lay on the same alignment.
- 4.5.7 **Trench 23:** Trench 23 was aligned east/west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.38m (Plate 18). It was located c54m to the north-east of Trench 8, about 50m to the west of Trench 22 and was positioned to investigate field boundaries identified on historic maps. Trench 23 revealed a large, flat-bottomed ditch, **154**. The ditch was aligned north-west/south-east across the trench, measured 2.95m wide by 0.82m deep and was filled with **153**, a mid-orange-brown silty-sand flecked with charcoal. Fill **153** contained sherds of brown-glazed red earthenware hollow-ware dating to the late seventeenth to the early twentieth century, stoneware jam/marmalade jar of the nineteenth to early twentieth century and white earthenware plate fragments of the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. A field drain, with sides and capping of stone construction, was found towards the eastern end of the trench.

- 4.5.8 **Trench 24:** Trench 24 was aligned north/south and was placed a short distance to the west of Trench 8 within the angle of the Finch Farm access track and the western boundary hedge. Trench 24 was placed in order to investigate a series of possible buildings indicated on old maps of the development area and initially measured 10m by 6m. Following the discovery of archaeological features, including structural remains (Fig 8), the trench was expanded to cover a rectangular area 21.5m by 17.2m and was excavated to a depth of 0.8m (Plate 19).
- 4.5.9 Among the structural remains discovered in Trench 24 was pink sandstone wall, **178**, which ran north/south within the south-western area of the trench for a distance of 4m, survived to a height of two courses (0.3m) and was 0.5m wide. It was 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. Context **177**, the foundation trench for wall **178**, was cut into natural geology and contained a number of sherds of pottery, including several sherds of late seventeenth to early eighteenth century slip-coated coarseware and two sherds of late eighteenth century creamware. Other material from the context, including black-glazed red earthenware and white earthenware, could only be more loosely dated to the seventeenth to early twentieth centuries. Immediately to the east of wall **178** lay cobbled surface **176**, which was 3.75m long (north/south), 2.05m wide and made up of small rounded cobbles and crushed red brick (Plate 20). The relationship between surface **176** and wall **178** was destroyed by a north-north-west/south-south-east aligned modern service, which cut into the natural geology between the two features. Beneath cobbled surface **176**, a large north/south aligned ditch, **209**, was located (Fig 9; Section 40) but was only seen for a short length due to being obscured by later levelling and demolition layers within the northern part of Trench 24.
- 4.5.10 Shallow linear feature **171**, probably a drainage ditch or boundary feature, was cut into the natural geology, was aligned north-west/south-east and extended for 14m from the southern end of the trench, appearing to terminate in the north-eastern part of Trench 24, in the region of crushed red brick spread **166**. Feature **171** was 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep, containing small pebbles, cobbles, crushed red brick and slate (fill **170** = **198**), with much of the demolition debris concentrated towards the north-western end of the feature. A large amount of pottery was recovered from fill **170**, the majority of late eighteenth to early nineteenth century date, although the assemblage as a whole could have spanned the seventeenth to twentieth centuries. Feature **171** had been truncated by two modern land drains which ran perpendicular to one-another.
- 4.5.11 In the north-eastern part of Trench 24, a small red brick feature, **168**, was revealed and comprised 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. This possible structure, orientated north/south, was not substantial, being only four bricks long and one brick wide. The average dimensions of the bricks were 240mm by 110mm by 80mm. This feature sat within an uneven cobbled surface, **167**. This surface, 4m by 1.7m, made up of irregular sandstones c180mm by 150mm and cobbles interspersed with crushed red brick with no obvious bonding material, lay almost directly

- opposite a structure **173/187** (*Section 4.5.16*) and may have been a related area of hard standing.
- 4.5.12 A large, east/west aligned boundary ditch, **192**, was seen within the north-eastern part of the trench (Plate 21; Fig 9; Section 34) and is likely to be the continuation of ditch **158**, seen in Trench 8 (*Section 4.3.4*). Within Trench 24, ditch **192** was seen for a distance of 10m and measured c5m wide by 0.75m deep. It was filled with **193**, a dark grey smooth silty-clay with charcoal and small pebble inclusions. A shallow re-cut, **194**, measuring 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep, had been cut into **192** and was filled with **195**, an orange-brown smooth silty-clay. Ditch **192** had then been truncated to the west by Pit **197** and a series of dumped deposits and demolition layers. Pit **197** was sub-circular in plan with shallow concave sides but had been truncated to the north by a machined sondage. The remains of pit **197** measured 2m long, at least 0.86m wide and 0.16m deep. The single pit fill, **196**, comprised a reddish-brown silty-sand with occasional charcoal flecks but no finds.
- 4.5.13 Also within the north-east area of the trench was a crushed red brick surface, **166**, measuring 5m in length, 2.12m wide and 0.24m deep. Interspersed with large grey stone cobbles were occasional half/whole red bricks which were mostly concentrated at the east end of the spread. Beneath surface **166** was a stone and brick cluster, **169**, apparently associated with cobbled surface **167**, described above (*Section 4.5.11*). Feature **169** measured 0.8m long, 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep with approximately eleven cobbles with average dimensions of 125mm by 100mm. To the east of these compacted layers was deposit **183**, a dark brown silty-sand with frequent charcoal, small stones and clinker-type material spread across the natural geology within the north-east corner of the trench. The pottery assemblage from this context was dominated by white earthenware and suggested a nineteenth to early twentieth century date for this deposit.
- 4.5.14 Several demolition/dumping and levelling layers were revealed at the north end of the trench. Context **191**, a deposit of grey/brown silty clay sand 1m across and 0.13m thick, lay very close to the northern limit of Trench 24 and appeared to have been deposited directly over the irregularly-surfaced natural geology. The finds from this context indicated a probable nineteenth to early twentieth century date of deposition for this material, but of particular interest was a single sherd of fifteenth to sixteenth century grey gritty ware, the oldest material encountered during the evaluation of the western area of the site.
- 4.5.15 In the north-west part of the trench was a compact stone cluster, **175**, roughly orientated north/south, 4m long, 1.25m wide and 0.08m deep from which a piece of clay pipe was recovered. This overlay a shallow spread of dumped material, **174**, which comprised dark grey-brown sandy-silt with occasional sandstone and charcoal inclusions and measured 5.9m long, 2.18m wide and 0.11m deep. Two sherds of black-glazed earthenware, dating to the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, were found within this deposit. In turn, this overlay an extensive dumping layer of mid-brown silty-sand, **186**, which sealed brick rubble wall **187**. A grading layer, **184**, of light brown silty-sand containing brick fragments and small pebbles, 2.7m wide, 0.26m deep was also observed overlying dumped layer **186**. Layer **186** was 3.1m wide, 0.58m deep and was probably contiguous with dumping layer **185**, although this

relationship was unclear due to a truncation by a modern service. Layer 185 comprised a 7m long, 0.4m wide and 0.26m deep layer of dark brown clayey-sand with frequent white mortar inclusions. Below 185, another dumping layer, 188, was located, consisting of a 0.5m long, 0.36m wide and 0.13m deep light yellowish-brown clayey-sand. Layer 188 had been deposited on layer 189, a dark orange-brown clay, representing an interface with the natural geology. Of significance is the fact that none of these dumped layers contained domestic refuse.

- 4.5.16 Red brick wall 173, measuring 3m east/west and returning north for 0.7m was located in the north-western part of the trench (Plate 22). The wall was 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). Wall 173 was later truncated by modern services. A sondage was excavated to the north of wall 173 and the continuing foundation cut, 172, was identified as containing red brick rubble 187, suggesting a continuation of the structure to the north. It is possible that walls 173 and 187 represent the latest phase of a barn complex.
- 4.5.17 A possible north/south aligned wall, 180, was identified within the north-west area of the trench. It measured 3m in length, 0.7m wide and 0.08m high and lay within shallow foundation cut 179. Wall 180 was built of pink sandstone roughly laid with smaller stone packing. The rather generic finds within the fabric of the wall indicated a range of date from the late seventeenth to twentieth century. This feature was found in a poor condition and, therefore, its interpretation is not conclusive, but it does lie on a similar alignment to walls 178 and 187, while also sharing a close spatial relationship with perpendicular wall 173.
- 4.5.18 A tree bole was located towards the centre of the trench and contained a dark grey-brown sandy-silt with occasional angular stones and charcoal 181. This feature measured 2.1m long, 2.4m wide and 0.08m deep and was typically irregular in shape. A number of finds, ranging in date from the late seventeenth to the twentieth century were recovered from context 181, of which seven sherds of slip-coated fineware (late seventeenth to early eighteenth century) and two sherds of slip-coated coarseware (late seventeenth to eighteenth century) were the most tightly dated. Historical maps detail an orchard-like holding in this area and also a tree-lined hedgerow.
- 4.5.19 A series of 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.

## 4.6 FINDS

- 4.6.1 **Introduction:** in total, 195 finds were recovered during the evaluation (excluding the metal detector survey finds, which were unstratified, and the unstratified animal bone, which would together bring the total of finds to 237). They have been summarised in Appendix 3, and are assessed briefly below.
- 4.6.2 **Medieval pottery:** two fragments of medieval pottery were recovered, dated to the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries (posthole fill 125, Trench 11), and the

fifteenth to sixteenth century (deposit 191, Trench 24). They were small and abraded and were residual within their contexts.

- 4.6.3 **Post-medieval pottery:** 158 fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered, all of which were domestic in nature. Many of the sherds, for example the ubiquitous black-glazed and brown-glazed red earthenwares, could not be dated more closely than within a period of about three centuries. The majority of sherds to which tighter chronologies could be applied were dated to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, although smaller quantities were dated to the late seventeenth to early nineteenth century and, to the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century. Of particular interest were two fragments of a waster dated to the seventeenth to eighteenth century, retrieved from layer 108 (Trench 10). The presence of such material may be possibly related to pottery production during this period in the area. Many of the tablewares, which were mainly creamware and pearlware, were decorated, and there is the potential to identify the patterns involved. This would allow more precise dating of the contexts, and may also suggest possible production sites. It is to be anticipated that a portion of the tablewares would have been produced in Liverpool, and this theory could be briefly explored during further analysis. It is recommended that the assemblage is considered together with the material from the excavation during post-excavation analysis.
- 4.6.4 **Glass bottles:** three glass bottle fragments were recovered. They have limited potential for further analysis.
- 4.6.5 **Clay tobacco pipe:** twelve fragments were recovered. They have limited potential for further analysis.
- 4.6.6 **Ceramic building material:** seven fragments were recovered, including a brick and several ridge tile fragments. They have limited potential for further analysis.
- 4.6.7 **Iron building material and objects:** six nails and possible nails were recovered, all in a very corroded state. They have limited potential for further analysis.
- 4.6.8 **Glass building material:** one fragment of glass window pane was recovered. It has limited potential for further analysis. The presence of this material within an area of buildings (Trench 24) is perhaps not unexpected, but may suggest that some of these structures were used for human activity rather than merely being used for storage or for animals.
- 4.6.9 **Animal bone:** three stratified fragments were recovered, in addition to a small quantity of unstratified material.
- 4.6.10 **Stone:** two stone fragments were recovered, one of which has been identified as naturally occurring flint, and should be discarded. The other is either naturally occurring, or a whetstone.
- 4.6.11 **Metal detected finds:** although such finds are unstratified, knowledge of their rough locations may be of some use in establishing patterns and concentrations of activity. It is likely that some of the iron objects represent items that have been lost from farm machinery in more recent times, and the majority of such fragments are neither identifiable nor datable. A number of the recovered copper alloy artefacts, for example heavy rings and a brass rosette, are likely

to have come from horse harnesses and to relate to the pre-mechanised cultivation of the development area. The northern area of the site, notably the spoil from Trenches 4 and 5, yielded a number of copper alloy artefacts of military origin. A fixed-shank, bun-shaped button, 13mm across and on which traces of gilding survived, was recovered from Trench 5. Within a military context, such distinctive buttons are found on only one item of dress: the dolmen, a close-fitting short jacket of Hungarian inspiration, fitted with five rows of bun-shaped buttons (the central row being larger than the lateral ones) and with profuse braid. In the British army, the dolmen was adopted by light cavalry regiments (including volunteers and Yeomanry) and by the Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) towards the end of the eighteenth century, being retained in use on dress uniforms into the twentieth century (The King's Troop, RHA being the most obvious example). The latter is particularly significant as, the identically-shaped but slightly larger (17mm across) and ungilded button from Trench 4 bore a design comprising a crown over a fieldgun and ramrod, a button motif adopted by the Royal Artillery in 1873 (Wilkinson-Latham 2002). It would not be surprising if both buttons shared a common origin.

- 4.6.12 Another button from Trench 5 is harder to provenience, but is very different in shape from the other two, being a single convex piece of brass 25mm across with a fixed shank and bearing an italic "D" within a garter (without the motto). During the American Civil War, buttons with very similar style lettering were supplied by Britain to both protagonists (apparently marked "I", "A" or "C", depending on the arm of service) (Jeremy Bradley *pers comm*). The pair of medallions from Trench 16 are of uncertain significance, as their state of preservation is too poor for immediate recognition, but their size and shape does not relate to any official military medal.
- 4.6.13 Single examples of lead shot were recovered from Trenches 13 and 16. Both were of very similar size and weight (14g) and appeared either not to have been fired, or to be spent. Their weight, at 32/lb, would be consistent with pistol balls rather than with larger musket balls (10-16/lb). Such ammunition was used from the seventeenth century until the mid-nineteenth century.

## 4.7 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

- 4.7.1 **Assessment Results:** the full results of the assessment are tabulated in Appendix 5. Very few charred plant remains were recorded in the samples, although single grains of oat (*Avena*), rye (*Secale*) and barley (*Hordeum*) were identified from fill 123 of cow burial pit 124 in Trench 11, and are likely to relate to the fact that this feature was located much closer to the historic centre of occupation, where grain processing is likely to have taken place. Varying amounts of charcoal was present in all the samples along with coal and clinker. Some modern contamination was recorded in all the samples assessed. This was mainly in the form of modern roots. Fill 123 also contained a small amount of industrial waste.
- 4.7.2 Waterlogged plant remains were more abundant in the five samples and demonstrated the presence of a range of ecological situations within the local area. These included grassland, indicated by seeds of common and sheep's bit sorrel (*Rumex acetosa* and *Rumex acetosella*); waste and cultivated ground,

indicated by stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and *Chenopodium* sp, for example; and areas of wet ground implied by rushes (*Juncus*), sedges (*Carex*) and spiked rush (*Eleocharis*). Blackberry (*Rubus* sp) and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) pips were also recorded.

- 4.7.3 **Discussion:** this small dataset has shown that there is some potential for the preservation of both charred and waterlogged plant remains on the site. The plant remains from the four ditches (**145**, Trench 20; **148**, Trench 19; **150** Trench 22 and **154**, Trench 23) suggest that the ditches themselves and the ground around were probably damp when the fills were accumulating, indicating that they functioned as both drainage and boundary features. The high numbers of blackberry pips in ditch **148**, together with stinging nettle seeds suggest that they may have been growing on waste ground near to the ditch in the later post-medieval period. However, the presence of blackberry, at least, may relate to the presence of brambles within the nearby northern site boundary.

## 5. DISCUSSION

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The 18 Phase 1 evaluation trenches within Areas A, B and C, along with the six further Phase 2 trenches are discussed below, highlighting the significant archaeological deposits and features found.

### 5.2 DISCUSSION

- 5.2.1 **The field system:** the most common features identified during the course of the evaluation were boundary ditches (located within Trenches 3, 8, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23), which, in the majority of instances, could be related to those marked on the 1785 Derby Estate Map, the 1843 Tithe map and the 1850 First Edition OS map. While the early cartographic representations of these features are somewhat sinuous, none can be described as distinctively aratal and, therefore, indicative of boundary features demarcating areas of medieval open fields. The 1850 OS map would suggest that these field boundaries were tree-lined, but the depiction may be more of a convention than a reflection of reality. The fields within the study area depicted on the pre-1893 cartographic sources fit in with the local pattern of similarly-sized roughly rectilinear ‘patchwork’ fields that clearly conform to the local road network, which, in the case of the study area, comprises Finch Lane (Butchers Lane in 1843) to the west, Woodside Lane to the south and Lower Lane to the north. The influence of the latter route is particularly noticeable when the 1850 OS map is consulted. As such, the division of land seems fairly typical of later post-medieval enclosure. Furthermore, the finds from these boundary features could rarely be closely dated, with much of the pottery assigned a broad date bracket from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries. Despite this, an eighteenth century date for many of the field boundaries within the study area seems probable; for example ditch **145** in Trench 20, where the small but more closely-dated pottery assemblage was probably of late eighteenth to mid- to late nineteenth century date. However, since no finds were recovered from primary ditch-fills, it is possible that a lot of the finds entered the ditches at a later date than when the features were initially cut.
- 5.2.2 The cartographic sources provide the best clues to the date of removal for many of the field boundaries. According to the pre-1893 maps, there are 12 separate fields within the development area (with a further seven fields between the northern edge of the development area and Lower Lane, an area which the 1893 map would suggest was part of Finch Farm’s holding). By 1893 the number of fields within the development area had been reduced to seven through the removal of eight boundaries (including those represented by ditches **139**, **150**, **154**, **201** and **213** in Trenches 3, 22, 23, 15 and 16 respectively), the rationalisation of the surviving north/south aligned boundaries into a single major feature (represented by ditches **145**, **148** and **161**) and, through the addition of two short lengths of boundary. This pattern was still in existence when the 1938 OS map was surveyed.

- 5.2.3 Looking at the field boundaries around the development area, it is clear that the increase in field size at Finch Farm is merely part of a general trend, and likely to relate to agricultural intensification and mechanisation. The date of this reorganisation within the development area is likely to coincide with the construction, in 1877, of the Finch Farm brick-built barns on the site of the earlier structures of Platt's House. The rationalisation of the main north/south boundaries within the eastern half of the site is unlikely to have occurred before 1877, as such activity would have bisected the yard associated with Platt's House. Indeed, when comparing the 1850 and 1893 maps of Halewood, it would appear that nearly all of the surrounding farms were remodeled, with the removal and addition of structures between these dates. This is true of Lodge Farm (Cross Farm in 1850) c 300m to the south-west of Finch Farm, Highfield Farm, c 1km to the north-west (seemingly present but not named in 1850) and Ireland's Farm, c 750m to the north (again, structures are shown in the relevant location but are not named on the 1850 map).
- 5.2.4 At Finch Farm, the latest configuration of a single large field partially bifurcated by the access track was created through the removal of the remaining five field boundaries on the site, represented by ditches **145**, **148** and **161**, all of which lie on the major north/south field boundary. Such changes are likely to relate to increased mechanisation after 1945.
- 5.2.5 The only ditch that cannot be equated with any of the boundaries seen on the early cartographic sources is ditch **158** (Trench 8) and its possible continuation within Trench 24, ditch **192**. Although this feature lies close to both the access track to the south and the northern boundary of what would appear to be the Finch House orchard, the alignment and dimensions of ditch **158** are different, both to the aforementioned boundaries, but also to any other boundary on the site. No dating evidence was recovered at all from ditch **158**, which, considering the proximity of Finch House, a likely source of domestic debris from night soil, seems incongruous. It is possible, therefore, that ditch **158** was backfilled before the main phase of occupation at Finch House, and is potentially the earliest feature on site. Recut **194** is so much smaller than ditch **192** that it seems unlikely to be associated. Instead, the dimensions and positioning of ditch **194** could quite easily equate to the northern boundary of the Finch House orchard.
- 5.2.6 **Drainage:** the environmental results indicated that, perhaps unsurprisingly, damp conditions existed in or around the ditches, suggesting that these features were important for draining the site as well as for demarcating boundaries. On the early cartographic sources many of these ditches are shown feeding into ponds (about half of which appear on the 1893 map compared to 1850), or, in the northern part of the site, into an east/west aligned brook, which is still in existence and marks the northern boundary of the development site. It is possible that the numerous boundary ditches may have been insufficient for draining the site, particularly in the lower-lying northern area. This may have led to the construction of the stone-built land drains identified in Trenches 2, 3 and 21 within the northern half of the site, although no dating evidence was associated with these features and similarly constructed stone soughs are known to have been built until quite recent times (J Mallinson *pers comm*). A relationship between stone soughs and early water management may be inferred by the alignment of the stone-built drains in Trenches 2 and 3

which would feed into the boundary brook and also, by the proximity of the 'T'-shaped drain alignment in Trench 21 to a large square pond shown on the 1850 map. In the latter case, however, the relationship is not definitive and the pond in question had been removed by 1893.

- 5.2.7 Expanding the fields by removing the ditches and the ponds would have meant that an alternative solution to the issue of drainage was required. An attempt to improve drainage would appear to be the insertion of large numbers of ceramic field drains, examples of which were found in most trenches. Although none are closely datable, it is possible that several phases of such activity are indicated. The drains predominantly lie on the same north-north-east/south-south-west axis as the field boundaries that are aligned perpendicular to Lower Lane and Woodside Lane. The shift from ditch drainage to land drains can be most clearly seen in those ceramic drains which were inserted into ditches, most probably immediately before the ditches were backfilled as, in no cases, could a clear cut for the inserted ceramic drain be defined. It is likely, therefore, that the ceramic drains laid within ditches **139** (Trench 3), **150** (Trench 22) and **201** (Trench 15), were laid during the initial phase of reorganisation c 1877, while those drains in ditches **145**, **148**, and **161** (in Trenches 20, 19 and 17, respectively) were likely to have been much later in date, probably installed post-1938 when the remainder of the internal field boundaries were removed. Within Trench 21 the stone-built land drains, **141**, were truncated by a ceramic drain, but, given that several phases of ceramic land drain installation are likely to have taken place, this cannot be considered definitive evidence that all of the stone soughs pre-date the first installation of ceramic drains c 1877.
- 5.2.8 **Structural remains:** although it is known that there were structures within the area of the extant Finch Farm buildings from at least 1785, it is difficult to definitively relate any of the remains within Trenches 10-12 to such a structure. Many of the features, for example brick surface **102** within Trench 12, are more likely to relate to original features associated with the brick-built barns. The results do, however, suggest that the historical focus of the activity within Finch Farm was likely to be located within the north-eastern area of the extant buildings, as Trench 12, located within the south-eastern area, encountered natural geology at a very shallow depth. Dating isolated features is also difficult, as much of the most common pottery is not closely datable and the assemblage as a whole ranges from late medieval to twentieth century, with much of the earlier material likely to be residual. Furthermore, there would appear to be no primary deposits of early date: from the pottery, it can only be ascertained that the majority of features had been backfilled at some point during the nineteenth century.
- 5.2.9 Despite this, several features, particularly in Trenches 10 and 11, could potentially relate to earlier activity associated with Platt's House. The most significant of these are perhaps gully **105** and boundary features **137** and **130**. Although shallow, gully **105** lies on the same alignment and in a very similar location to the southern boundary of the land immediately around Platt's House. It is, therefore, very tempting to see deposit **108** as redeposited midden material originating from within such an area and demolition debris **107** as representing the destruction of the house itself. The presence of unabraded seventeenth century pottery from deposit **108** would suggest that this area had

been the focus of settlement long before the earliest maps of the area would indicate. Boundary features **137** and **130** are aligned east/west and would appear to equate to a boundary shown on the pre-1893 cartographic sources lying just to the south of parallel with the Platt's House enclosure. From the 1850 map it would appear that this area is separated from the access track, and could represent a yard area. Hedge **121**, which runs roughly perpendicular to **130** and **137**, is more problematical as it conforms less clearly to the cartographic evidence. If hedge **121** was inserted after **137**, as the stratigraphic relationship suggests, then it must have been removed before 1785. All that can be certain, on the basis of the pottery from the features, is that these hedges were grubbed up and backfilled at some point after the late eighteenth century.

- 5.2.10 As such, it is tempting to see the backfilling of posthole **128** as having taken place at a similar point but, since no coherent pattern can be attributed to the excavated postholes, it is difficult to draw any conclusions. The 1850 OS map indicates the presence of two small structures in this area, while the 1843 Halewood Tithe map would suggest the presence of a single larger structure; it is possible that the postholes relate to one or more of these buildings, or to a precursor.
- 5.2.11 The structural remains within Trench 24 are thought to relate to a possible barn-type feature seen on the early maps to adjoin the Finch House orchard but which had been demolished by 1893. The structure appears to have been separated from the orchard by ditch **209**, which, between 1843 and 1850 was backfilled and overlain by hard standing **176**, which, along with surfaces **166**, **167** and **175** are likely to relate to the offshoot of the access track seen on the 1850 OS map. It is not possible from the mapping to determine whether two smaller structures occupied the area or if a single long north/south aligned building was present. The archaeological evidence would suggest two smaller buildings, **178** in stone and **173** in brick, but because of the degree of truncation in the area it is possible that a single building with several construction phases is represented. Although wall **178** is substantially built, the rather limited amount of domestic refuse from the immediate area would suggest an agricultural function for these structures.
- 5.2.12 The majority of deposits within Trench 24 seem to relate to demolition of the structures rather than to any primary or activity-related deposits. This limited sediment accumulation might again suggest that the buildings were more agricultural than domestic in nature but again, could also relate to truncation and redeposition. The degree of truncation, well below the original floor levels of the structures, seems quite severe, with many of the extant wall foundations reduced to a single course. This was presumably deemed necessary preparation for the incorporation of the area into the more extensive *c* 1877 field system.

## 6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 IMPACT

- 6.1.1 **Area A:** the proposed nature of the groundworks in the northern half of the site, comprising a topsoil strip and deposition of levelling material, is likely to have only a limited impact upon archaeological remains. Outside of the area occupied by Trench 24, only a relatively small amount of archaeological remains were encountered, mostly negative features, many of which can be related to cartographic sources. Although such remains, of which the stone-built drains are the most delicate, could be damaged by the forthcoming development, the majority would remain relatively unscathed. Any installation of drainage within the natural geology is likely to cause some localised damage to negative features.
- 6.1.2 **Area B:** within the area of the extant Finch Farm buildings, map regression analysis and the results of the evaluation would indicate that the main focus of earlier activity is likely to lie under the existing buildings. The process of demolition, the grubbing out of foundations and salvage of salable materials would have a serious impact on any underlying archaeology. Reduction of the ground level within the area to the level of the natural geology would potentially obliterate many archaeological remains associated with Platt's House and its ancillary buildings along with any precursors. The insertion of drainage for the proposed synthetic pitch is likely to cause damage to any remaining archaeology surviving below the surface of the natural geology, for example postholes, ditches, pits and wall foundations.
- 6.1.3 The area of Trench 7, near the site entrance, will be the location of the academy security lodge. Groundworks are likely to involve topsoil stripping to the upper surface of the natural geology and either the excavation of strip foundations or in the insertion of a concrete raft. Any groundworks in the area, other than shallow topsoil stripping, are likely to have a severe negative effect upon the surviving archaeological features interpreted as belonging to the post-medieval structure of Finch House, many of which are located at a shallow depth almost immediately below the topsoil.
- 6.1.4 **Area C:** the groundworks ahead of the development in this area involve removal of both the topsoil, subsoil and a substantial depth of natural geology. Although the limited number of archaeological features encountered in this area would be completely removed by the groundworks, the features themselves are not particularly significant in terms of period, or type. The evaluation has been sufficient in relating these field boundaries to those displayed on maps.
- 6.1.5 **Phase 2:** the majority of Phase 2 trenches (Trenches 19-23) lie within the northern half of the site, to the south and west of the Area A trenches; the impact of the development upon these Phase 2 archaeological features is likely to be the same as that upon those in Area A. The impact of the development upon those features identified within Trench 24, by the site entrance, would be more severe, with the truncation of structural features and deposits down to the

level of the upper surface of the natural geology. As with features in Area A, however, it is not thought that groundworks in this area will involve removal of natural geology and thus the truncation of any negative archaeological features.

## 6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 The evaluation has determined three areas of archaeological potential of particular significance, coinciding with known areas of post-medieval occupation identified on cartographic sources. These areas comprise the remains of Finch House, located at the western edge of the development site (Trench 7), the close-by remains of an agricultural structure likely to be associated with Finch House (Trench 24) and a number of remains likely to be associated with Platt's House in the area of the extant Finch Farm complex (Trenches 10 and 11). It is recommended that Trench 24 be enlarged to identify and record any evidence of the barn structure and any other associated archaeologically significant features. Trench 7 should be extended to ascertain the extents of Finch House and of any associated buildings. Following the demolition of the buildings within the Finch Farm complex, it is recommended that a programme of targeted archaeological excavation be undertaken to investigate those structures of, and related to, Platt's House. Each of these excavations should seek to identify the full extent of any archaeological remains, along with the presence, number and date of activity phases at each location. The excavations should seek to sufficiently examine all archaeological features encountered within each area in order to determine their function and relationships, both physical and chronological. All finds should be collected, in order to adequately date contexts and also to provide an indication to the nature and status of settlement and, where appropriate, environmental samples should be taken.
- 6.2.2 It is also recommended that if health and safety conditions allow and, if groundworks are to be enacted with a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket (to maximise visibility of archaeological features - rather than by a bulldozer, for instance), then some form of watching brief should be maintained on topsoil stripping. Particular attention should be paid to those areas around the Finch Farm complex and in those areas around Trench 7 (Finch House) and Trench 24 in order to establish the full extent of these features and to test for the presence of any other associated features. Any groundworks within unexplored parts of areas of recognised archaeological potential should be the subject of a watching brief in order to record the presence, location, extent, identity and date of any as yet unexplored archaeological features.
- 6.2.3 ***Environmental potential and recommendations:*** only one sample, from the fill of ditch 148, has any potential for further palaeoecological analysis. The analysis of the plant remains from this sample may provide additional information about the ecology of the site. However, because this assessment has demonstrated that plant remains have been preserved on the site, it is recommended that an environmental sampling strategy should be included in the subsequent programme of excavation.

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## APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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## APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

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# EVERTON ACADEMY TRAINING GROUND, HALEWOOD, MERSEYSIDE

Archaeological  
Evaluation Project  
Design



**Oxford Archaeology North**

June 2005

**RPS Planning, Transport and  
Environment**

OA North Tender No: t2463

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Everton Football Club have 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. 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. On behalf of Everton FC, RPS Planning, Transport and Environment (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological evaluation to comply with a written scheme of investigation compiled by client. A desk-based assessment has been undertaken previously by the client and has shown there to be potential for the presence of archaeological remains, from the Mesolithic through to later periods, although no other comprehensive archaeological investigation of the site has as-yet been undertaken.
- 1.1.2 The site is currently agricultural land, mostly pasture; the only buildings on the site, Finch Farm and its associated ancillary structures, will be demolished ahead of the development. The site lies on an area of well-drained higher topography between the valleys of the Ditton and Rams Brooks. The geology of the site consists of boulder clay with intermittent bands of sand and exposed outcrops of Carboniferous Ardwick marl on the valley slopes.

### 1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The distribution of many of the archaeological features in the area is partly a reflection of work undertaken on the route of the nearby A5300 during the early 1990s. The earliest archaeological evidence in the area dates to the Mesolithic and, to a lesser extent, the Neolithic. It comprises a number of flint scatters in the area of the Ditton Brook, c1.5km to the east of Finch Farm, including a collection of about 250 flints from a possible tree-throw feature. Evidence for Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age activity was found at Brook House Farm, c1km 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. 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.
- 1.2.2 Although the local place names are of Old English origin, there is little archaeological evidence dating to the Early Medieval period in the area. 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. 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 surveys within the site boundary. Finch Farm (formerly Platts Farm) appears to have been built some time between the production of the 1803 Halewood Enclosure map and the 1843 Tithe map. Ponds identified on the latter map have been correlated with aerially photographed cropmarks at the east of the site. Another post-medieval building, Finch House, is documented from 1803 within the area of the proposed security lodge, but was demolished shortly before 1971.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The evaluation aims to assess a sample of the deposits within the area of the proposed development in order to determine the presence, extent, nature, date and significance of any archaeological features and deposits. To this end, the following evaluation programme has been designed. The results will provide information as to whether further mitigation works are required prior to, or during, the course of the proposed development. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

- 2.2 **Metal-Detector Survey:** to conduct a rigorous programme of metal-detecting covering roughly 30% of the site in order to identify any concentrations of find-spots and so inform the positioning of further evaluation trenches, in Area D.
- 2.3 **Archaeological Evaluation:** to implement a programme of trial trenching within three areas (A, B and C) defined by the client, totalling 18 trial trenches. The location of six further trenches, nominally Area D, will be determined by the results of the metal-detector survey.
- 2.4 **Report and Archive:** a written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the results of the evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and any recommendations for further work.

## 3 METHOD STATEMENT

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the objectives summarised above.
- 3.1.2 Prior to the fieldwork commencing OA North will contact the client to obtain any information relating to access to the site, site security and the presence of any live services.

### 3.2 METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY

- 3.2.1 A metal-detector survey will be undertaken by two members of a metal-detecting organisation approved by MAS and the English Heritage Portable Antiquities Scheme, and will be supervised by OA North archaeologists. An area equivalent to 30% of the site, concentrated around the northern end and the present farmyard, will be systematically targeted through regularly-spaced transects. Where possible, and depending on the sensitivity of the equipment, finds will either be left *in situ* and marked with a specifically coloured marker flag (for example, red for iron, blue for copper alloy, etc) or, will be excavated, bagged and left *in situ* with a marker flag. At regular intervals, the location of finds will be recorded three-dimensionally in either a cross-referable log or directly onto the finds bag.

### 3.3 EVALUATION

- 3.3.1 The programme of trial trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation. In this way, it will adequately sample the threatened available area.
- 3.3.2 **Trench configuration:** the evaluation is required to examine six trial trenches in each of three specific areas (A, B and C) within the development area. This entails a total of 18 trenches measuring 2m in width (the approximate width of a typical excavator bucket) and 30m in length. The location of these trenches has been determined by the client. It is possible that further trenches may be required and, as requested by the client, these have been costed for as a contingency. In addition, the location of a further six evaluation trenches in Area D (bringing the total to 24 trenches) will be determined by the results of the metal-detector survey, and will be targeted towards particular 'hot spots'.
- 3.3.3 **Methodology:** the topsoil will be removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. This deposit will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by the Merseyside Archaeological Officer. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.20m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.

- 3.3.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be located by use of GPS equipment, which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, or Total Station. Altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 3.3.5 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. Selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 3.3.6 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections, colour slides and monochrome contacts) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.7 Results of all field investigations will be recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 3.3.8 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken with the client, and it is understood that there will be access for both pedestrian and plant traffic to the site. Vehicle movement on site will be restricted to gaining access to and between the trenches.
- 3.3.9 **Reinstatement:** it is understood that there will be a basic requirement for reinstatement of the ground in the order that it was excavated. The ground will be backfilled so that the subsoil is replaced and the topsoil laid on the top, and the ground will be roughly graded with the machine.
- 3.3.10 **Fencing/hoarding requirements:** it is understood that heras fencing or similar will be required to protect all open trenches from public access. It is not proposed to fence backfilled trenches. The provision of fencing has been included as a contingency item on a trench by trench basis and will be invoiced at cost. Although the hire of heras fencing is not exorbitant, it is time-consuming for site-staff to erect. Accordingly, a further contingency cost has been outlined for time spent moving, constructing and dismantling fencing.
- 3.3.11 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis.
- 3.3.12 The assessment would include soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, the samples would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.
- 3.3.13 The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of the Merseyside Archaeological Officer and the client.
- 3.3.14 **Faunal remains:** if there is found to be the potential for discovery of bones of fish and small mammals a sieving programme will be carried out. These will be assessed as appropriate by OA North's specialist in faunal remains, and subject to the results, there may be a

requirement for more detailed analysis. A contingency has been included for the assessment of such faunal remains for analysis.

- 3.3.15 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. The Merseyside Archaeological Officer and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. The cost of removal or treatment will be agreed with the client and costed as a variation.
- 3.3.16 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.3.17 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.3.18 **Treasure:** 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. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.3.19 **Metal Detecting:** the area of each proposed trench and the spoil removed from it, will be scanned with a metal detector. Should finds be made before the machining process, they should be located three dimensionally before their removal. Finds from the spoil will be located as accurately as possible in terms of rough distance along the trench.
- 3.3.20 **Contingency plan:** a contingency costing may also be employed for unseen delays caused by prolonged periods of bad weather, vandalism, discovery of unforeseen complex deposits and/or artefacts which require specialist removal, use of shoring to excavate important features close to the excavation sections etc. This has been included in the Costings document (*Section 10*) and would be charged in agreement with the client.
- 3.3.21 The evaluation will provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. In this way, an impact assessment will also be provided.

#### 3.4 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 3.4.1 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of the final report will be submitted to the client, and three bound copies will be submitted to Merseyside Archaeological Service within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. If an arrangement is made prior to the commencement of the fieldwork, an interim report can be produced within three weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The report will include;
- a site location plan related to the national grid
  - a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
  - the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
  - a concise, non-technical summary of the results
  - an explanation to any agreed variations to the brief, including any justification for any analyses not undertaken
  - a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained

- plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located
  - a list of and dates for any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified
  - a description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained
  - recommendations concerning any subsequent mitigation strategies and/or further archaeological work following the results of the field evaluation, unless otherwise requested
  - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
  - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.
- 3.4.2 This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD, if required.
- 3.4.3 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.
- 3.4.4 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context.
- 3.4.5 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Merseyside SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office.
- 3.4.6 All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists. The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate recipient museum. Merseyside Archaeological Service will be notified of the arrangements made.

## 4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1 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 (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 4.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the fieldwork as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. **Information regarding services within the study area have been received and will be used during the course of the evaluation.**

## 5. PROJECT MONITORING

- 5.1 Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the Merseyside Archaeological Officer will be kept fully informed of the work and its results, and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with Merseyside Archaeological Service in consultation with the client.

## 6. WORK TIMETABLE

### 6.1 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 6.1.1 Approximately two weeks will be required to complete this element. OA North can execute projects at very short notice once an official order/confirmation has been received from the client, and a team could mobilise with one to two weeks notice (to allow the necessary arrangements to be made to commence the task).

### 6.2 REPORT

- 6.2.1 The final report will be produced within eight weeks of the completion of all the fieldwork. As indicated, given suitable notice, an interim report can be produced within three weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

### 6.3 ARCHIVE

- 6.3.1 The archive will be deposited within six months following submission of the report, unless otherwise instructed.

## 7 STAFFING

- 7.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. The finds will be processed, studied and reported upon, either by, or under the guidance, of **Chris Howard-Davies** (OA North Finds Manager) who has extensive experience of finds from all periods, but particularly prehistoric and Roman material. All environmental sampling and assessment will be undertaken under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby** (OA North Environmental Manager) who has unparalleled experience of palaeoenvironmental work in the North West and who heads an excellent team of environmental archaeologists. Any faunal remains will be studied by **Andrew Bates** (OA North Project Officer), who has a large amount of experience in undertaking the assessment and analysis of faunal assemblages of all sizes from a wide range of periods and locations. Any human remains are likely to be examined by **Angela Boyle** (OA South Project Officer). Current time-tabling precludes the allocation of specific members of staff at this juncture, but OA North can guarantee that the evaluation will be undertaken by a suitably-sized team of experienced archaeologists led by an OA North Project Officer or Supervisor. All OA North Project Officers and Supervisors are experienced archaeologists capable of undertaking small-, medium- and large-scale projects in a range of urban and rural situations.

## 8. INSURANCE

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

## 9. REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, second edition, London

SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1997 *Health and Safety Manual*, Poole

UKIC, 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*, London

UKIC, 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, London

### APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT INDEX

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<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Thickness (max)</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	Concrete	0.10m
<b>101</b>	<b>12</b>	Brownish-black loose stone - bedding layer	0.10m
<b>102</b>	<b>12</b>	Red brick surface	0.07m
<b>103</b>	<b>12</b>	Mid-reddish-brown compact sandy-clay - natural	-
<b>104</b>	<b>10</b>	Dark grey/black loose silty-sand - fills gully <b>105</b>	0.07m
<b>105</b>	<b>10</b>	Cut of shallow linear	0.07m
<b>106</b>	<b>10</b>	Dark grey-brown, dark buff compact concrete - bedding layer	0.09
<b>107</b>	<b>10</b>	Pinkish-brown moderately loose sand - layer	0.28m
<b>108</b>	<b>10</b>	Dark grey-black compact ashy-clay - layer	0.78m
<b>109</b>	<b>11</b>	Mid-blackish-brown friable sandy-clay - fill of posthole <b>110</b>	0.04m
<b>110</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of shallow irregular posthole	0.04m
<b>111</b>	<b>10</b>	Dark grey mottled white moderately compact clay mixed with building debris and 40% degraded chalky plaster - fill of shallow gully <b>105</b>	0.04m
<b>112</b>	<b>11</b>	Mid-greyish-brown friable sandy-clay - fill of posthole <b>113</b>	0.20m
<b>113</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of posthole	0.20m
<b>114</b>	<b>11</b>	Dark greyish-brown friable sandy-clay - fill of field drain <b>116</b>	0.10m
<b>115</b>	<b>11</b>	Light brownish-grey soft sand - fill of field drain <b>116</b>	0.36m
<b>116</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of field drain	0.45m
<b>117</b>	<b>11</b>	Dark greyish-black friable sandy-loam - topsoil	0.40m
<b>118</b>	<b>11</b>	Reddish-brown crushed brick - layer	0.05m
<b>119</b>	<b>11</b>	Black loose stone 20%, clinker 80% - levelling layer	0.08m
<b>120</b>	<b>11</b>	Dark blackish-grey friable sandy-clay - fill of hedgeline <b>121</b>	0.18m
<b>121</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of hedgeline	0.30m
<b>122</b>	<b>11</b>	Mixed pinkish-brown, dark brown compact clay - root disturbance	0.10m
<b>123</b>	<b>11</b>	Mixed mid-grey/brown and pinkish-brown moderately loose silty-clay - backfill of cow burial <b>124</b>	0.18m
<b>124</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of cow burial	0.18m
<b>125</b>	<b>11</b>	Mid-brownish-grey moderately compact clayish-sand - fill of posthole <b>126</b>	0.08m
<b>126</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of posthole	0.08m
<b>127</b>	<b>11</b>	Mid to dark brownish-grey moderately compact sandy-clay - fill of posthole <b>128</b>	0.30m
<b>128</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of posthole	0.30m
<b>129</b>	<b>11</b>	Dark brown-grey moderately loose clayey-silt - fill of hedgerow <b>130</b>	0.47m
<b>130</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of hedgerow	0.47m

<b>131</b>	<b>11</b>	Pinkish-brown mixed dark brown/grey compact clay - root disturbance	0.17m
<b>132</b>	<b>11</b>	Dark grey-brown moderately compact clayey-silt - fill of pit/posthole <b>135</b>	0.24m
<b>133</b>	<b>4</b>	Light grey-brown fairly soft sandy-clay - fill of pit <b>134</b>	0.27m
<b>134</b>	<b>4</b>	Cut of pit	0.27m
<b>135</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of pit/posthole	0.24m
<b>136</b>	<b>11</b>	Mid-grey loose silt - fill of ditch <b>137</b>	0.26m
<b>137</b>	<b>11</b>	Cut of ditch	0.26m
<b>138</b>	<b>3</b>	Dark grey brown moderately soft silty-clay with sand inclusions - fill of ditch <b>139</b>	0.26m
<b>139</b>	<b>3</b>	Cut of ditch	0.26m
<b>140</b>	<b>21</b>	Mid-brown moderately soft sandy-silt with large flat stone inclusions - fill of stone-lined drain <b>141</b>	0.13m
<b>141</b>	<b>21</b>	Cut of stone-lined drain	0.13m
<b>142</b>	<b>21</b>	Light grey-brown compact sand with frequent charcoal flecks - fill of pit <b>143</b>	0.09m
<b>143</b>	<b>21</b>	Cut of shallow pit	0.09m
<b>144</b>	<b>20</b>	Mixed mid-grey-brown and dark grey moderately compact clayey-silt - fill of boundary ditch <b>145</b>	0.08m
<b>145</b>	<b>20</b>	Cut of boundary ditch	0.08m
<b>146</b>	<b>19</b>	Mid-brownish grey moderately loose clayey-silt - fill of boundary ditch <b>148</b>	0.98m
<b>147</b>	<b>19</b>	Mid-grey compact/plastic clay - fill of boundary ditch <b>148</b>	0.16m
<b>148</b>	<b>19</b>	Cut of boundary ditch	1.05m+
<b>149</b>	<b>22</b>	Mixed mid-brown with mid-grey lenses moderately compact clayey-silt - fill of boundary ditch <b>150</b>	0.57m
<b>150</b>	<b>22</b>	Cut of boundary ditch	0.57m
<b>151</b>	<b>22</b>	Mid-dark greyish-brown moderately compact clayey-silt - fill of shallow linear <b>152</b>	0.12m
<b>152</b>	<b>22</b>	Cut of shallow linear	0.12m
<b>153</b>	<b>23</b>	Mid-dark orange-brown moderately loose silty-sand - fill of boundary ditch <b>154</b>	0.82m
<b>154</b>	<b>23</b>	Cut of boundary ditch	0.82m
<b>155</b>	<b>8</b>	Mid-greyish-brown moderately loose clayey-silt - fill of ditch <b>158</b>	0.24m
<b>156</b>	<b>8</b>	Dark pinkish-brown compact clay - fill of ditch <b>158</b>	0.22m
<b>157</b>	<b>8</b>	Mid-grey mixed with yellow sands and clay moderately loose silty-sand - fill of ditch <b>158</b>	0.09m
<b>158</b>	<b>8</b>	Cut of ditch	0.74m
<b>159</b>	<b>8</b>	Mid-grey moderately loose sandy-silt with 20% redeposited natural - fill of pit <b>160</b>	0.50m
<b>160</b>	<b>8</b>	Cut of pit	0.50m
<b>161</b>	<b>17</b>	Cut of boundary ditch	1.50m+
<b>162</b>	<b>17</b>	Dark brown organic-rich silt - topsoil	0.32m
<b>163</b>	<b>17</b>	Grey-brown moderately compact silty-clay - upper fill of boundary ditch <b>161</b>	0.32m
<b>164</b>	<b>17</b>	Orange-brown moderately compact silty-clay - secondary	0.30m

		fill of boundary ditch <b>161</b>	
<b>165</b>	<b>17</b>	Dark brown moderately compact silty-clay - primary fill of ditch <b>161</b>	0.40m
<b>166</b>	<b>24</b>	Crushed red brick surface/layer	0.25m
<b>167</b>	<b>24</b>	Cobbled surface with crushed red brick	0.30m
<b>168</b>	<b>24</b>	Small red brick feature - possible structure	0.12m
<b>169</b>	<b>24</b>	Concentration of red brick and stone	0.17m
<b>170</b>	<b>24</b>	Large sandstone, small stone cobbles and crushed red brick within a loose-moderately compact silty-clay - fill of drain <b>171</b>	0.10m
<b>171</b>	<b>24</b>	Cut of stone-filled drain	0.08m+
<b>172</b>	<b>24</b>	Foundation cut for red brick wall <b>173</b>	0.12m
<b>173</b>	<b>24</b>	Red brick wall - structure	0.12m
<b>174</b>	<b>24</b>	Dark grey-brown soft sandy-silt - layer	0.11m
<b>175</b>	<b>24</b>	Compact stone cluster - possible surface	-
<b>176</b>	<b>24</b>	Compact small cobbled surface mixed with red crushed brick	-
<b>177</b>	<b>24</b>	Foundation cut for north/south pink sandstone wall <b>178</b>	0.30m
<b>178</b>	<b>24</b>	Pink sandstone wall - structure	0.30m
<b>179</b>	<b>24</b>	Foundation cut for sandstone wall <b>180</b>	0.10m
<b>180</b>	<b>24</b>	Pink sandstone wall - structure	0.08m
<b>181</b>	<b>24</b>	Dark grey/brown soft sandy-silt - fill of tree hole	0.08m
<b>183</b>	<b>24</b>	Dark brown moderately soft silty-sand - demolition layer	-
<b>184</b>	<b>24</b>	Light brown moderately compact silty-sand - levelling layer	0.26m
<b>185</b>	<b>24</b>	Dark brown moderately firm clayey sand with white flecks of mortar - dumping/levelling layer	0.26m
<b>186</b>	<b>24</b>	Mid-brown moderately soft silty-sand - dumping layer	0.58m
<b>187</b>	<b>24</b>	Red brick wall - stucture	0.07m
<b>188</b>	<b>24</b>	Light yellowy-brown moderately firm clayey-sand - dumping layer	0.13m
<b>189</b>	<b>24</b>	Dark orange-brown clay - interface between natural and dumping layers	0.05m
<b>191</b>	<b>24</b>	Grey-brown smooth silty-clay with sand - layer	0.13m
<b>192</b>	<b>24</b>	Cut of large boundary ditch	0.75m
<b>193</b>	<b>24</b>	Dark grey smooth silty-clay with charcoal flecks - fill of ditch <b>192</b>	0.75m
<b>194</b>	<b>24</b>	Cut of shallow ditch	0.30m
<b>195</b>	<b>24</b>	orange-brown smooth-sticky silty-clay - fill of ditch <b>194</b>	0.30m
<b>196</b>	<b>24</b>	Mid-reddish-brown moderately soft silty-sand with charcoal flecks - fill of pit <b>197</b>	0.16m
<b>197</b>	<b>24</b>	Cut of pit	0.16m
<b>198</b>	<b>24</b>	Dark brown moderately soft silty-sand with brick rubble, crushed sandstone and occasional slate - fill of linear drain <b>171</b>	0.08m
<b>199</b>	<b>24</b>	Orange-pink clay with sandy deposits - natural	-
<b>200</b>	<b>24</b>	Grey/brown-orange soft silty-clay - fill of ditch <b>192</b>	0.10m

<b>201</b>	<b>15</b>	Cut of north/south ditch	1.07m
<b>202</b>	<b>15</b>	Mid-brown moderately compact sandy-clay - bottom fill of ditch <b>201</b>	0.31m
<b>203</b>	<b>15</b>	Light orange-brown moderately compact clay - fill of ditch <b>201</b>	0.27m
<b>204</b>	<b>15</b>	Light greyish-brown silty-clay - subsoil	0.32m
<b>205</b>	<b>15</b>	Dark brown silty-clay - topsoil	0.23m
<b>206</b>	<b>24</b>	Mid-brownish-grey moderately loose silty-sand - fill of ditch <b>209</b>	0.18m
<b>207</b>	<b>24</b>	Mottled mid-brownish-grey and orange-yellow moderately firm sandy-clay - fill of ditch <b>209</b>	0.15m
<b>208</b>	<b>24</b>	Mid-grey moderately compact sandy-silt - primary fill of ditch <b>209</b>	0.04m
<b>209</b>	<b>24</b>	Cut of boundary ditch	0.76m
<b>210</b>	<b>16</b>	Mottled yellowish-brown sandy-clay - fill of ditch <b>213</b>	0.32m
<b>211</b>	<b>16</b>	Mid-brown moderately compact sandy-silt - fill of ditch <b>213</b>	0.22m
<b>212</b>	<b>16</b>	Mid-dark grey moderately loose silty-clay - fill of ditch <b>213</b>	0.13m
<b>213</b>	<b>16</b>	Cut of boundary ditch, north-west/south-east	0.56m
<b>214</b>	<b>14</b>	Mixed mid-brown and grey moderately compact silty-clay - fill of hedge line <b>215</b>	0.14m
<b>215</b>	<b>14</b>	Cut of hedge line	0.14m
<b>216</b>	<b>2</b>	North/south aligned stone capped field drain	0.4m
<b>217</b>	<b>2</b>	Grey silt of field drain <b>215</b>	0.45m
<b>218</b>	<b>3</b>	Stone-built field drain	0.2m
<b>219</b>	<b>3</b>	Stone-built field drain	0.2m
<b>220</b>	<b>11</b>	Cow skeleton within cut <b>124</b>	0.2m
<b>221</b>	<b>14</b>	Tree Bole	0.14m
<b>222</b>	<b>14</b>	Tree Bole	0.14m
<b>223</b>	<b>3</b>	Fill of field drain <b>218</b>	0.25m
<b>224</b>	<b>16</b>	Tree Bole	0.52m
<b>225</b>	<b>16</b>	Tree Bole	0.52m



## APPENDIX 4: FINDS SUMMARY

Context	Trench	ORN	Quantity	Material	Description	Category	Type	Date range
72		231	1	Leather + Cu alloy	Object	Clothing	Shoe	17th - 19th century?
107	10	234	4	Ceramic	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	Vessel	Tankard?	17th - 18th century?
107	10	234	1	Ceramic	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Crock	Late 17th - 18th century?
108	10	232	2	Ceramic	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Pancheon?	Late 17th - 19th century
108	10	232	2	Ceramic	Self-glazed high-fired purple earthenware waster	Vessel	Jar	17th - 18th century?
120	11	240	1	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	Late 17th - early 20th century
120	11	240	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel	Plate	Late 18th - early 19th century
123	11	202	1	Ceramic	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	Late 17th - 19th century
125	11	236	1	Ceramic	Partially reduced gritty ware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	13th - 15th century
125	11	236	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel	Tea pot?	Early 19th century
125	11	220	1	Ceramic	Pipe clay		Clay tobacco pipe	18th - early 20th century
127	11	239	1	Ceramic	Creamware	Vessel	Dish/bowl	Late 18th - early 19th century
127	11	239	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	Late 18th - early 19th century
129	11	233	1	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Crock	Late 17th - 19th century
129	11	233	1	Ceramic	Bone china	Vessel	Saucer	Late 18th - 19th century
129	11	233	1	Ceramic	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	Late 17th - 19th century
129	11	207	1	Ceramic	Pipe clay		Clay tobacco pipe	18th - early 20th century
129	11	201	1	Glass	Very light turquoise	Bottle	Medicine	19th - early 20th century
129	11	233	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel	Plate	19th - early 20th century
132	11	238	1	Ceramic	Black basalt/dry-bodied black stoneware	Vessel	Tea pot?	Late 18th - 19th century
132	11	238	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel	Saucer?	19th - early 20th century
140	21	169	3	Ceramic	Red earthenware	Building material	Brick	17th - 18th century?
144	20	93	1	Ceramic	Creamware	Vessel	Fragment	Late 18th - early 19th century
144	20	93	3	Ceramic	Pearlware (?)	Vessel	Plate	Mid (?) 19th - early 20th century
146	19	237	4	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Crock	Late 17th - early 20th century
146	19	237	1	Ceramic	Creamware (?)	Vessel	Hollow-ware	Late 18th - early 20th century

<b>146</b>	19	174	2	Ceramic	Red earthenware	Building material	Roof tile or drain?	18th - 20th century?
<b>146</b>	19	237	3	Ceramic	Self-glazed beige stoneware	Vessel	Jam/marmalade jar	Mid 19th - early 20th century
<b>146</b>	19	237	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed brown earthenware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	Late 17th - 19th century
<b>146</b>	19	237	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	19th - 20th century
<b>149</b>	22	235	1	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Crock	Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>153</b>	23	192	1	Ceramic	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Vessel	Hollow-ware	Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>153</b>	23	192	1	Ceramic	Stoneware	Vessel	Jam/marmalade jar	19th - early 20th century
<b>153</b>	23	192	3	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel	Plate	Late 18th - early 20th century
<b>153</b>	23	192	2	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel	Fragment	19th - early 20th century
<b>161</b>	17	35	2	Ceramic	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe		18th - early 20th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	6	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	Bone china	Vessel		19th - 20th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	Brown salt-glazed stoneware	Vessel		17th - early 19th century?
<b>170</b>	24	33	1	Iron	Object	Building material		Not closely datable
<b>170</b>	24	18	9	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	5	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		19th - early 20th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	2	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Early 19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	6	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Early - mid 19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	2	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 19th century?
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	2	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Late 18th - 19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Late 18th - 19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	Porcelain?	Vessel		Late 18th - early 19th century?
<b>170</b>	24	26	2	Ceramic	Red earthenware	Building material		18th - 20th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	Self-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 20th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	2	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		Early - mid 19th century
<b>170</b>	24	18	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 20th century

<b>174</b>	24	28	2	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>175</b>	24	14	1	Bone	Animal	Food remains		Not closely datable
<b>175</b>	24	32	1	Ceramic	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe		8th - early 20th century
<b>176</b>	24	56	1	Ceramic	Mottledware (?)	Vessel		Late 17th - 19th century?
<b>176</b>	24	82	1	Ceramic	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe		17th - 19th century
<b>176</b>	24	56	1	Ceramic	Stoneware	Vessel		Mid 19th - early 20th century
<b>177</b>	24	7	9	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>177</b>	24	7	2	Ceramic	Creamware	Vessel		Late 18th century
<b>177</b>	24	24	1	Iron	Object	Building material		Not closely datable
<b>177</b>	24	7	2	Ceramic	Slip-coated coarseware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 18th century?
<b>177</b>	24	7	5	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th - early 20th century
<b>180</b>	24	6	1	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>180</b>	24	4	1	Ceramic	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe		18th - early 20th century
<b>180</b>	24	20	1	Glass	Very light turquoise	Building material		18th - 19th century?
<b>180</b>	24	6	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th - 20th century
<b>181</b>	24	27	1	Bone	Animal	Food remains		Not closely datable
<b>181</b>	24	15	5	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - 19th century
<b>181</b>	24	15	3	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>181</b>	24	15	2	Ceramic	Slip-coated coarseware	Vessel		Late 17th - 18th century
<b>181</b>	24	15	7	Ceramic	Slip-coated fineware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 18th century
<b>183</b>	24	12	4	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>183</b>	24	17	2	Iron	Object	Building material?		Not closely datable
<b>183</b>	24	29	1	Iron	Object	Building material?		Not closely datable
<b>183</b>	24	10	2	Ceramic	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe		17th - 18th century?
<b>183</b>	24	10	2	Ceramic	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe		18th - early 20th century
<b>183</b>	24	22	1	Stone	Sandstone	Object or natural?	pos whetstone	Not closely datable
<b>183</b>	24	11	2	Glass	Very light turquoise	Bottle		19th - early 20th century
<b>183</b>	24	12	7	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th - early 20th century
<b>183</b>	24	12	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		Mid (?) 19th - early 20th century
<b>183</b>	24	12	2	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		Mid 19th - early 20th century
<b>183</b>	24	12	4	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th - early 20th century

<b>183</b>	24	12	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th century?
<b>183</b>	24	12	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th - early 20th century
<b>191</b>	24	34	1	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>191</b>	24	34	1	Ceramic	Grey gritty ware	Vessel		15th - 16th century
<b>191</b>	24	30	1	Iron	Object	?		Not closely datable
<b>191</b>	24	31	1	Ceramic	Pipe clay	Clay tobacco pipe		18th - early 20th century
<b>191</b>	24	34	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th - 20th century
<b>206</b>	24	85	3	Ceramic	Black-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>206</b>	24	85	1	Ceramic	Brown-glazed red earthenware	Vessel		Late 17th - early 20th century
<b>207</b>	24	88	1	Bone	Animal	Food remains		Not closely datable
Fills of <b>161</b>	17	36	1	Ceramic	Brown-glazed beige stoneware	Vessel		19th - 20th century
Fills of <b>161</b>	17	36	2	Ceramic	Creamware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 19th century
Fills of <b>161</b>	17	36	1	Ceramic	Pearlware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 19th century
Fills of <b>161</b>	17	36	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		19th century
Fills of <b>161</b>	17	36	1	Ceramic	White earthenware	Vessel		Late 18th - early 20th century
U/S	1	193	1	Iron	Stainless steel washer	Object		Modern
U/S	2	215	1	Lead	Distorted fragment of lead sheet	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	2	224	1	Stone	Flint	Natural		Natural
U/S	2	190	1	Lead	Trapezoid-shaped object with one long flat edge and three concave shorter edges, possibly to support pipes?	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	3	218	1	Cu alloy	Ornate straight-shanked hook	Hook	Hook	Not closely datable
U/S	3	197	1	Cu alloy	Stamped Tudor rose with broken attachment on reverse	Object		Not closely datable

U/S	4	221	1	Cu alloy	Bun-shaped military button, fixed shank, with crown above a cannon and ramrod - RHA dolman.	Clothing	Button	Late 19th-early 20th century
U/S	4	189	1	Iron	Incomplete object	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	5	206	1	Cu alloy	Bun-shaped military button, fixed shank, probably plain, traces of gilding, dolman.	Clothing	Button	Late 18th-early 20th century
U/S	5	204	1	Cu alloy	Convex military button, no back, fixed shank. Italic "D" within a garter (no motto)	Clothing	Button	Late 18th-early 20th century
U/S	5	217	1	Cu alloy	Distorted ring with rouletted decoration on upper and lower edges	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	5	228	1	Lead	Fragment of moulded lead with traces of pink paint	Toy		19th - mid-20th century
U/S	5	194	1	Cu alloy	Heavy key-like object with some decoration	Unknown		Not closely datable
U/S	5	229	1	Iron	Irregular fragment with tapered edge and thread - possibly shell casing or shrapnel	Object		Mid-19th century - 20th century
U/S	5	212	1	Iron	Oval object, with large recessed central aperture - possibly part of sliding door furniture or mechanical fitting	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	5	227	1	Cu alloy	Revolving door latch	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	6	208	1	Lead	Bent-over piece of lead foil	Sheet		Not closely datable
U/S	6	203	1	Cu alloy	Flat button.	Clothing	Button	18th - 19th century
U/S	6	198	1	Iron	Heavy object, rusty and possibly incomplete.	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	6	225	1	Cu alloy	Heavy ring. Probable piece of horse harness	Object	Harness	Not closely datable
U/S	7	109	1	Nickel	WWII War Medal	Medal		1945

U/S	8	211	1	Cu alloy	Harness ring.	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	8	226	1	Iron	Heavy object, rusty and possibly incomplete.	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	13	219	1	Lead	Pistol ball. Probably not fired, possibly spent	Lead shot		17th-mid-19th century
U/S	13	195	1	Cu alloy	Ring, with raised edges	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	13	183	1	Cu alloy	Thin coin. Badly oxidised	Coin		Not closely datable
U/S	14	191	1	Cu alloy	Hinged inkwell lid. Heavy and well-made	Vessel	Lid	Not closely datable
U/S	14	230	1	Cu alloy	Square, slightly convex buckle	Clothing		18th century
U/S	14	223	1	Lead	Sub-circular lead object with inscriptions in relief round edges on both sides	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	15	216	1	Lead	Rounded tube	Object		Not closely datable
U/S	16	205	1	Cu alloy	Medallion. Indecipherable inscription on both sides and possible Britannia	Medallion		19th century?
U/S	16	196	1	Cu alloy	Medallion/tag. Motif of crown within floral wreath, motto in French	Decoration	Medallion	19th - early 20th century
U/S	16	188	1	Lead	Pistol ball. Probably not fired, possibly spent	Shot		17th-mid-19th century
U/S	16	187	1	Stone	Semi-Spherical object, possibly broken			Not closely datable
U/S	16	214	1	Silver	Small Victorian coin; well-worn 6d?	Coin	Sixpence	mid-19th century

U/S	Finch Farm Garden	5	Cu alloy	half penny dated 1942 pre-decimal penny, probably Elizabeth II poorly preserved, halfpenny-sized with Britannia pre-decimal penny-sized but poorly preserved George I penny dated 1721	Coin		1721 - c1960
U/S	MDC	25	1	Nickel alloy	10p piece	Coin	1970
U/S	MDC	25	1	Nickel alloy	5p piece	Coin	1991
U/S	MDC	25	1	Cu alloy	Penny.	Coin	Victorian

## APPENDIX 5: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

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Site code	Sample	Context	Feature	Sample vol. (litres)	Flot description	Plant remains	Potential
FF05	1	<b>I23</b>	Pit/horse burial	24	1110ml. Charcoal (2), coal (4), clinker (4), sand (4), mammal bone (4), modern roots (3), insect remains (1), wood (1), globular metallic material (1)	CPR cereals (1) WPR (2) including <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Brassicas</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , <i>Rubus fructicosus</i> ,	None
FF05	2	<b>I47</b>	Ditch	32	200ml. Charcoal (3), sand (4), clay (4), modern roots (4), wood (2), insect remains (3)	WPR (4) including <i>Ranunculus</i> -Batrachium-type, <i>Hyoscyamus</i> , <i>Lapsana</i> , <i>Viola</i> , <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Potentilla erecta</i> , <i>Carex lenticularis</i> , <i>Eleocharis</i> , Lamiaceae, <i>Cirsium</i> , <i>Rumex acetosella</i> , <i>Rumex acetosa</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Rubus fructicosus</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Isolepis</i>	Medium -High
FF05	3	<b>I44</b>	Ditch	32	130ml. Charcoal (4), sand (4), clinker (4), coal (4), modern root (4), fungal sclerota (2), insect remains (2), metallic pieces (1).	WPR (3) including <i>Chenopodium</i> , Lamiaceae, <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Urtica dioica</i> , <i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	None
FF05	4	<b>I53</b>	Ditch	34	295ml. Charcoal (4), coal (4), sand (4), insect remains (3), wood (1), modern root (4), fungal sclerota (3), mammal bone (1)	CPR weed (1) <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> , WPR (3) <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> , <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Cirsium</i> , <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Rubus fructicosus</i> , <i>Potentilla erecta</i>	None
FF05	5	<b>I49</b>	Ditch	30	100ml. Charcoal (4), modern root (4), insect remains (2), sand (4), coal (2), fungal sclerota (1)	WPR (2) including <i>Sambucus nigra</i> , <i>Chenopod</i> , <i>Rubus fructicosus</i> , <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> , <i>Juncus</i> , Apiaceae	None

Assessment of plant remains from Finch Farm, Everton Academy, Merseyside. Plant remains scored on a scale of 1-4 where 1 is rare (1-5 items) and 4 is abundant (more than 100 items)

Key CPR = charred plant remains. WPR = waterlogged plant remains.

## ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Fig 3 Close up of Farm Buildings
- Fig 4 Plan of Trench 8
- Fig 5 Sections of features in Trench 8
- Fig 6 Plan of Trench 11
- Fig 7 Sections in Trench 11
- Fig 8 Plan of Trench 24
- Fig 9 Section of features in Trench 24

### PLATES

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- Plate 2 General shot of Trench 3 looking south-east showing boundary ditch **139** and land drains
- Plate 3 General shot of Trench 7 looking south-east showing the footprint of Finch House
- Plate 4 General shot of Trench 8 looking north-west showing ditch **158**
- Plate 5 General shot of Trench 10, looking east
- Plate 6 Sample south-facing section of trench 10
- Plate 7 Overview of Trench 11 looking west
- Plate 8 Plan view of cow burial **124** looking south-west within Trench 11
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- Plate 10 Post-ex view of Trench 12 looking north-east
- Plate 11 General shot of Trench 14 looking north-west
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- Plate 13 General shot of Trench 17 looking north-west showing ditch **161** in the foreground
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- Plate 15 General shot of Trench 20 looking north-west showing ditch **145**
- Plate 16 General shot of Trench 21 looking north-west, showing stone drains **141** and shallow pit **143**
- Plate 17 General shot of Trench 22 looking west
- Plate 18 General shot of Trench 23 looking west

Plate 19 General shot of Trench 24 looking south-west

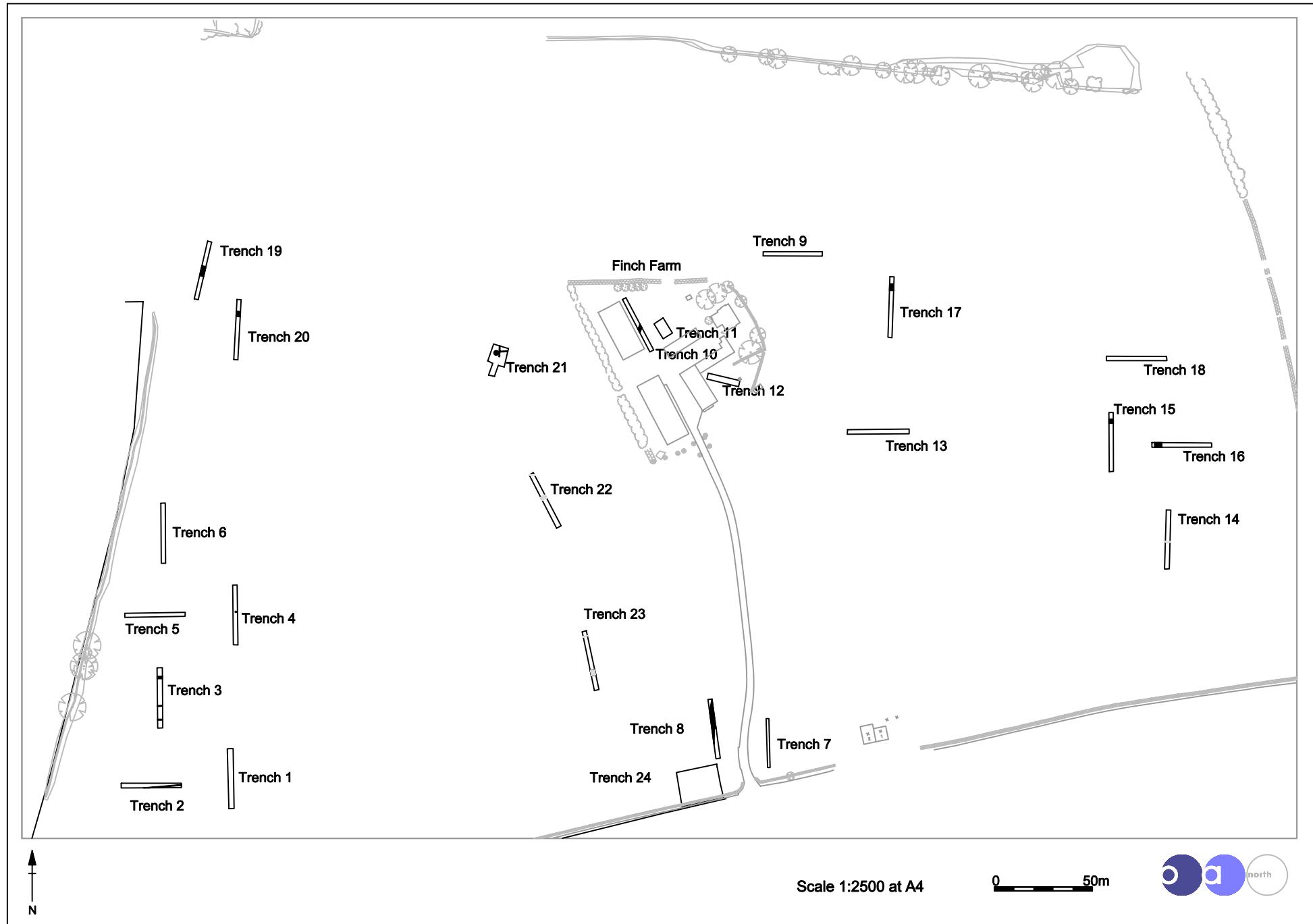
Plate 20 Trench 24, view of sandstone wall **178** and cobbled surface **176**, looking east

Plate 21 View of west-facing section of ditch **192**

Plate 22 View of red brick wall **173** looking west



**Figure 1: Location Map**



**Figure 2: Trench Location Plan**

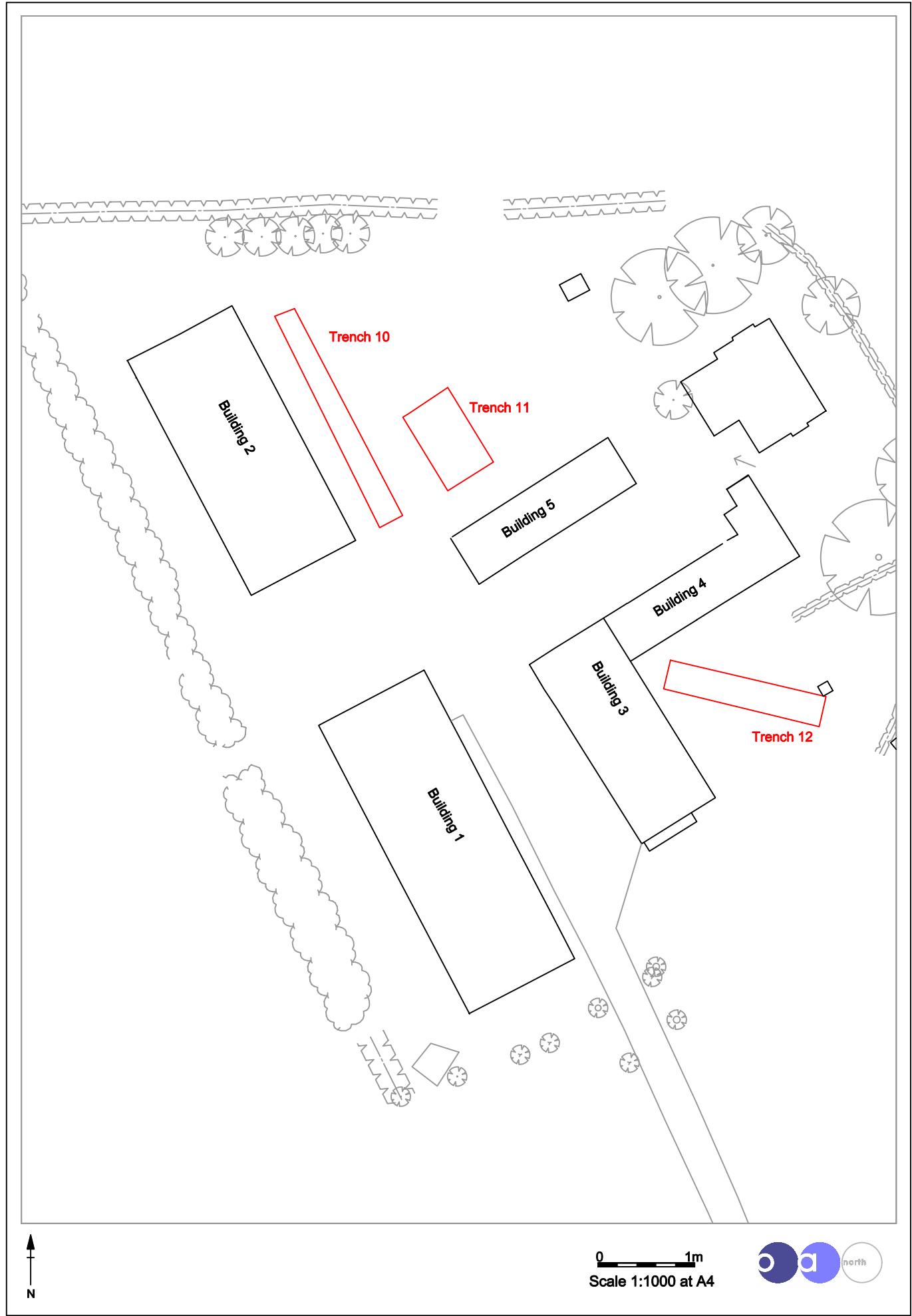


Figure 3: Close up of farm buildings

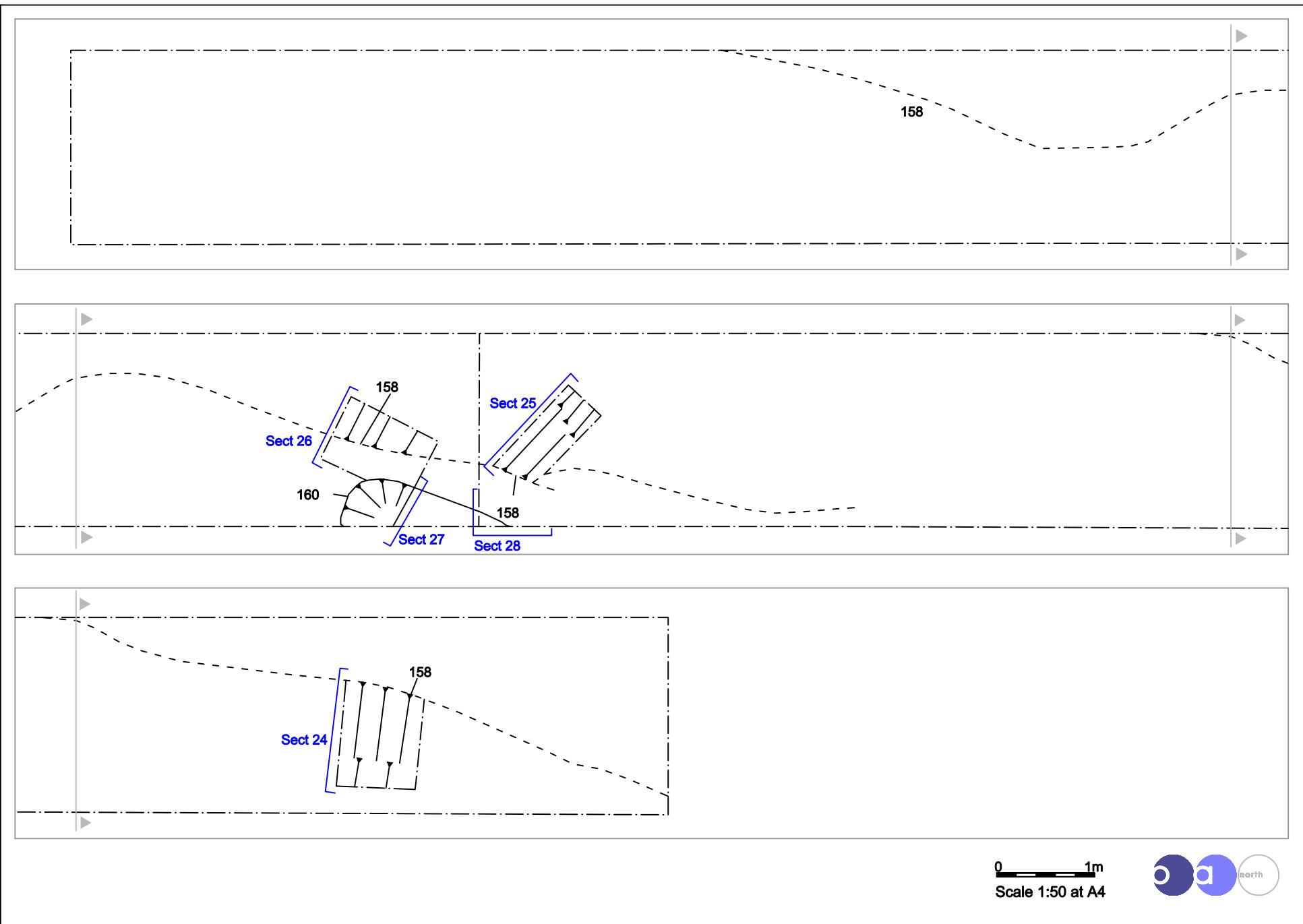


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 8

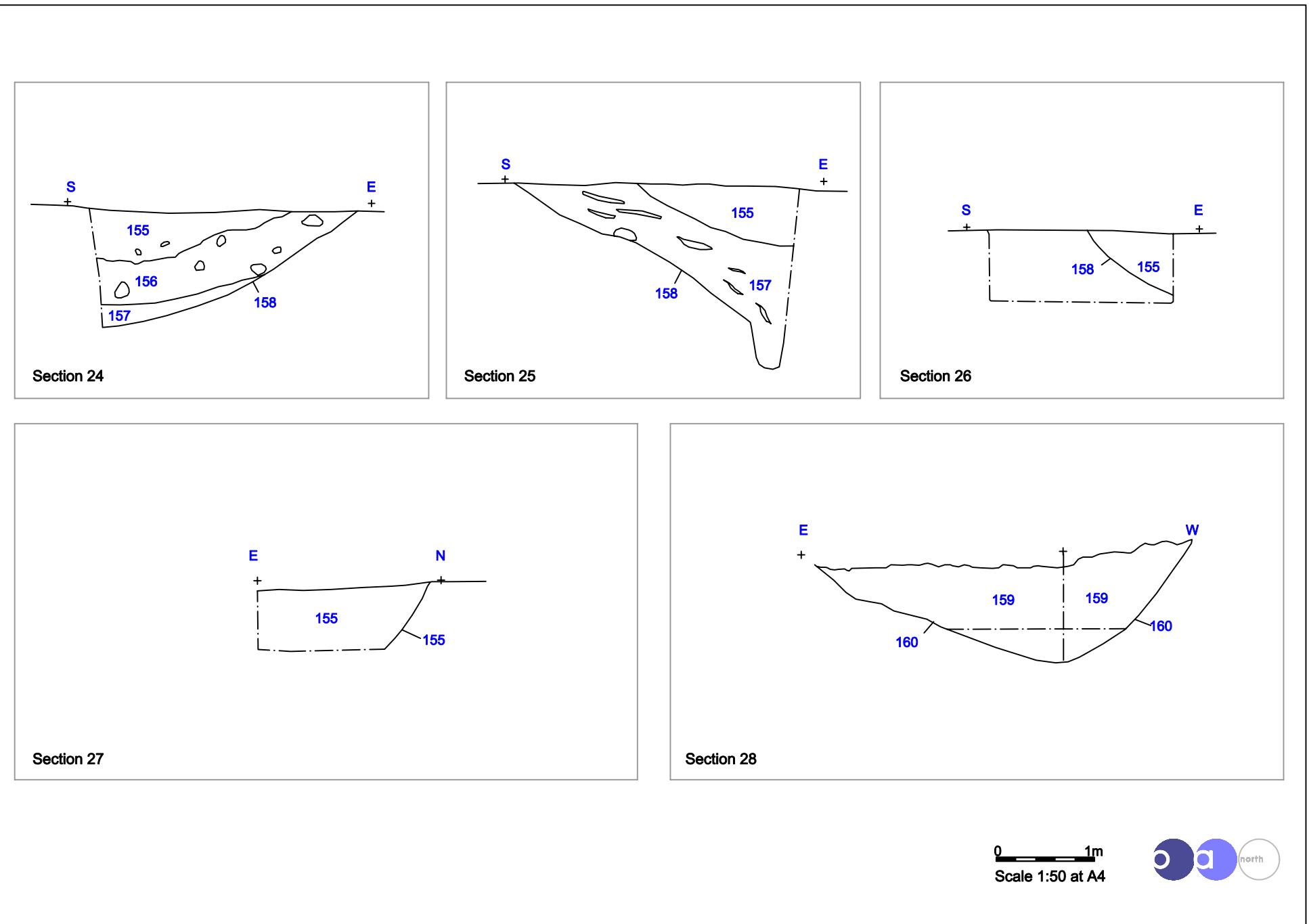


Figure 5: Sections of features in Trench 8

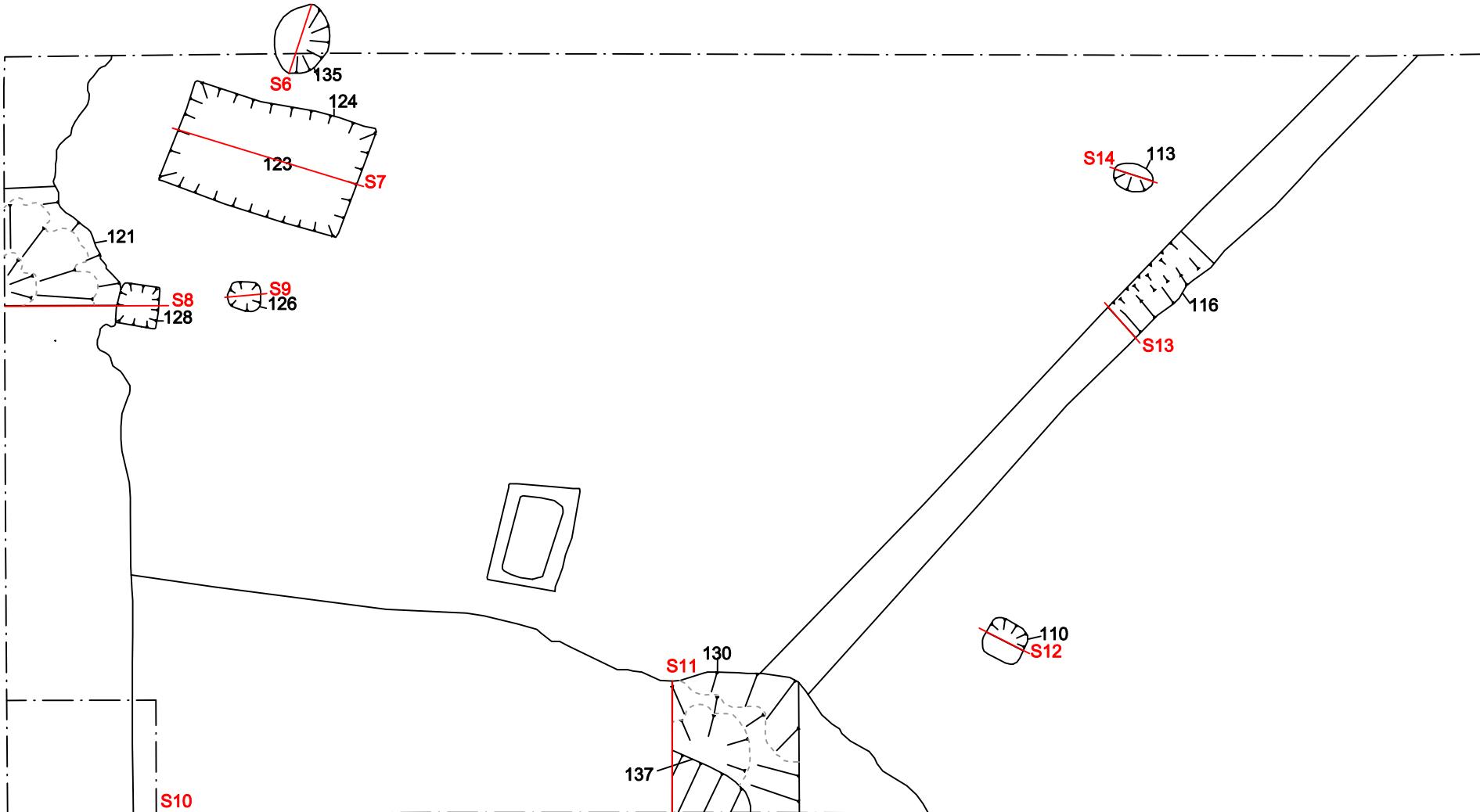
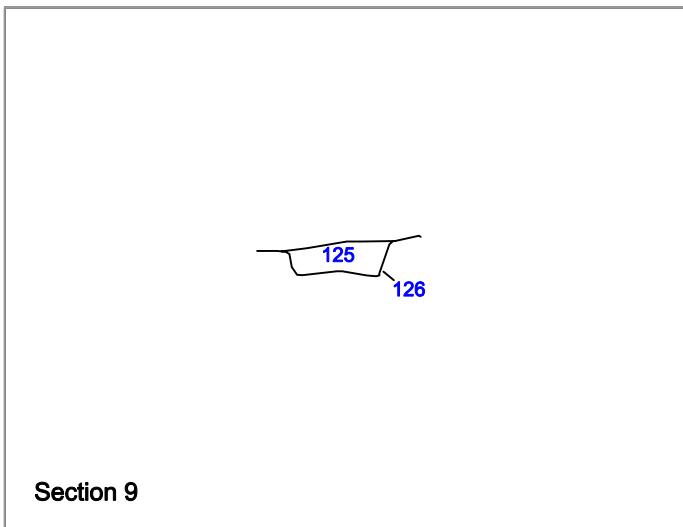


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 11

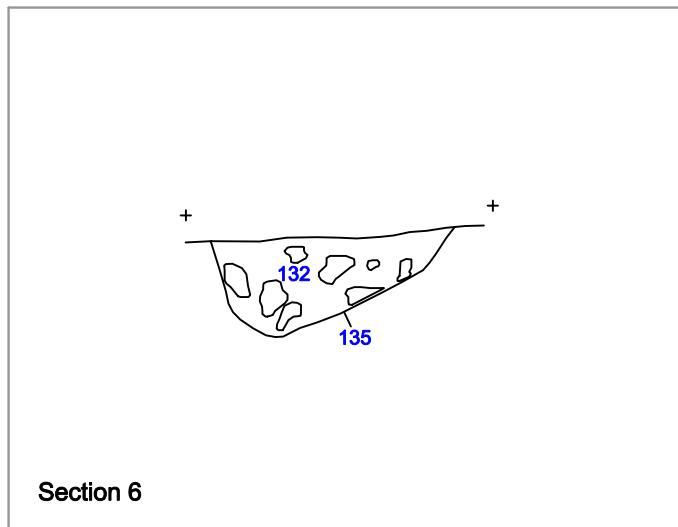
Scale 1:50 at A4

0 1m

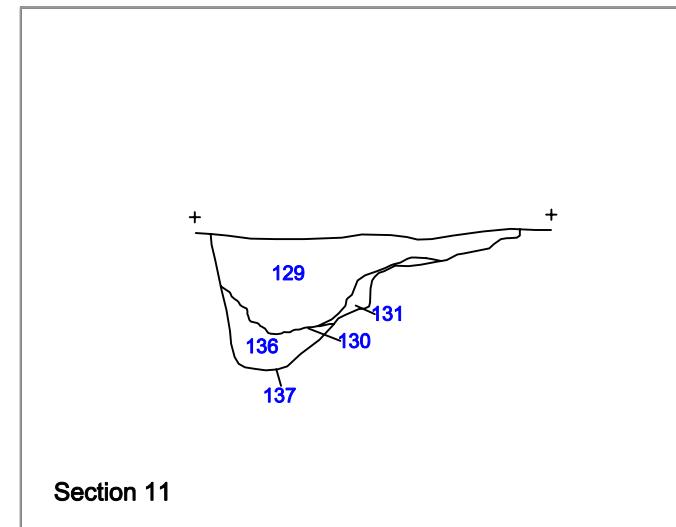




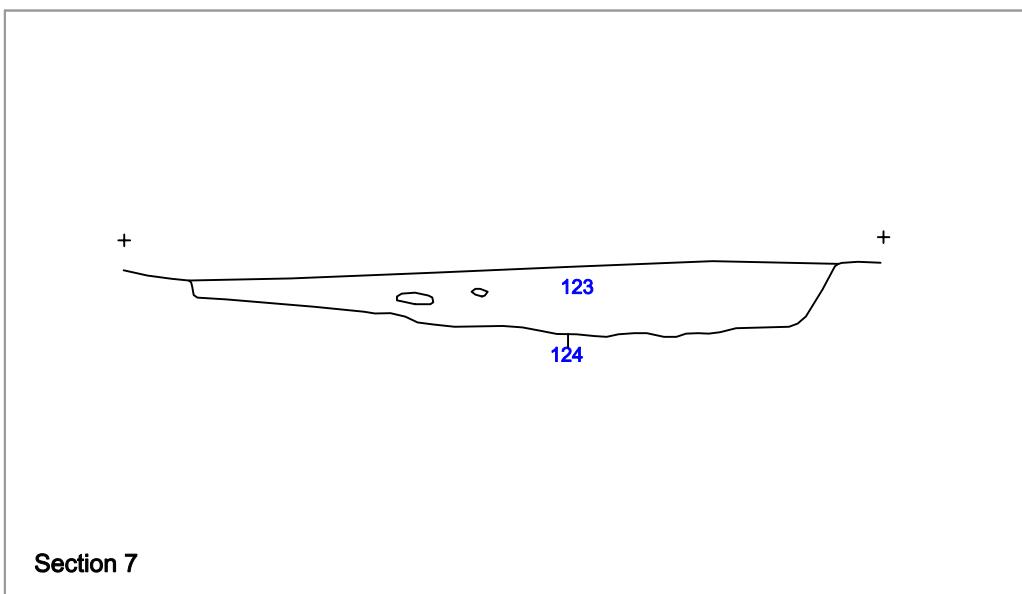
Section 9



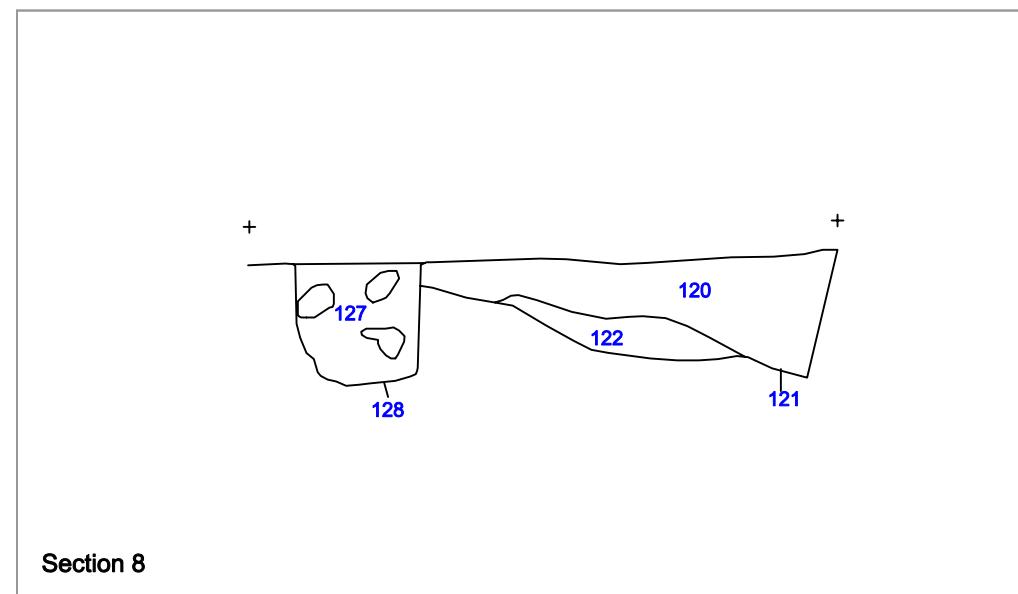
Section 6



Section 11



Section 7

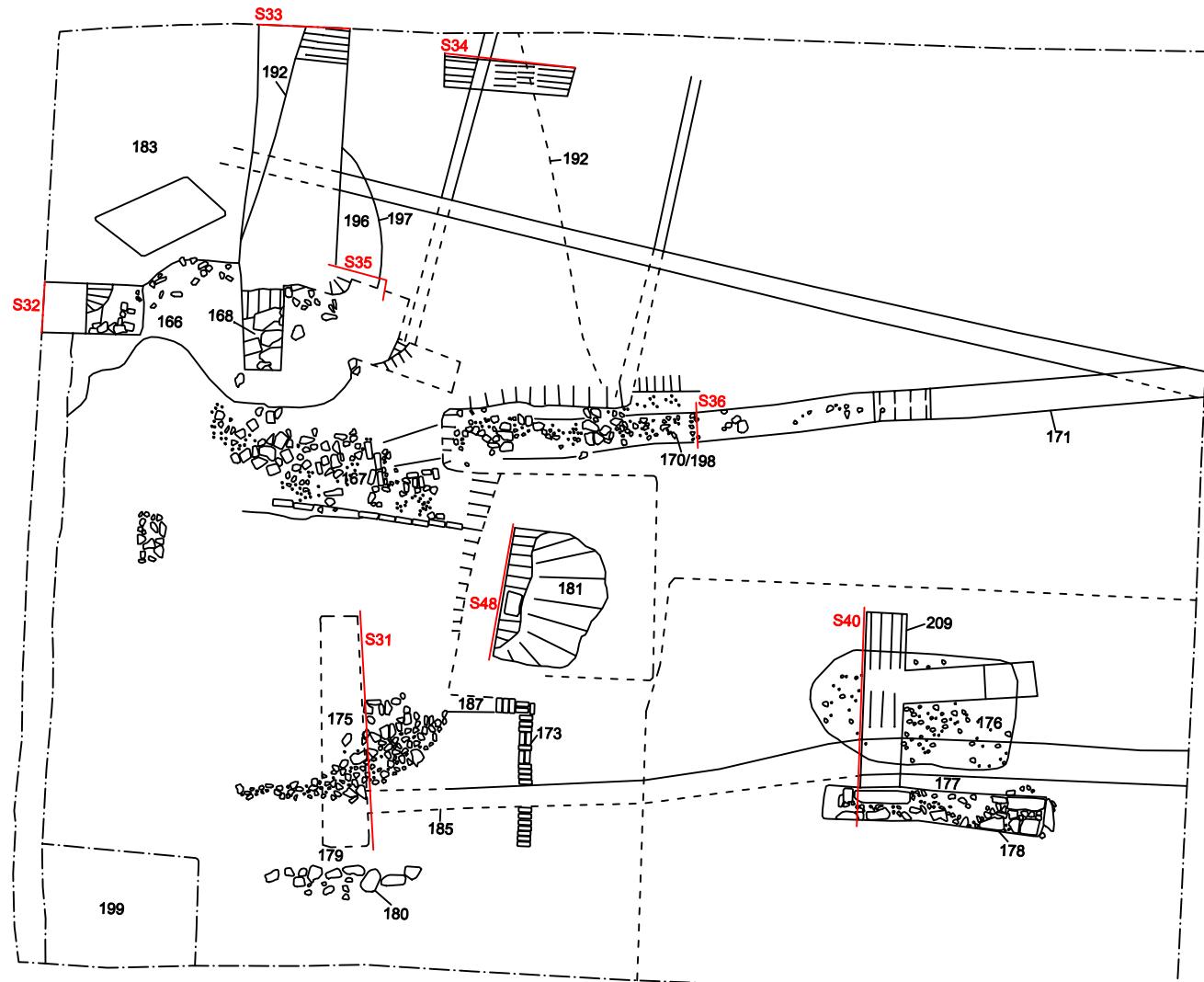


Section 8

0 0.5m  
Scale 1:20 at A4



Figure 7: Sections of features in Trench 11



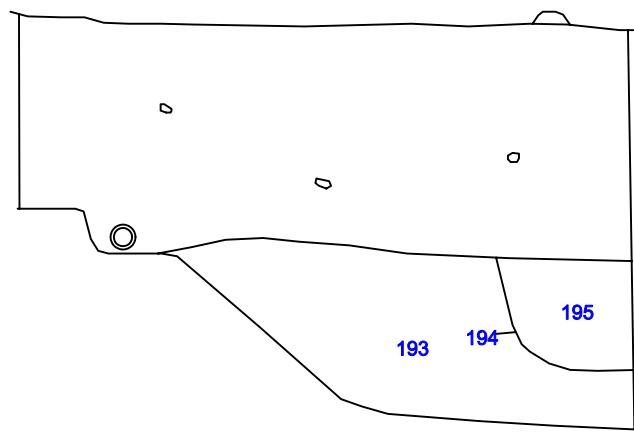
→ z

Scale 1:100 at A3

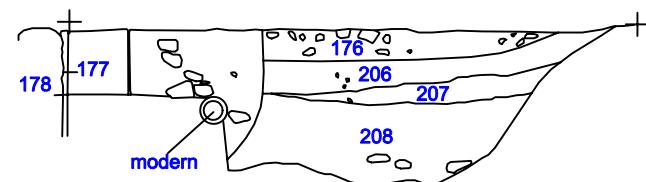
0 2.5m



Figure 8: Plan of Trench 24



Section 34



Section 40

0 0.5m  
Scale 1:20 at A4



Figure 9: Sections of features in Trench 24



Plate 1: General shot of Trench 2 looking north-east showing stone-built drain



Plate 2: General shot of Trench 3 looking south-east showing boundary ditch 139 and land drains



Plate 3: General shot of Trench 7 looking south-east showing the footprint of Finch House



Plate 4: General shot of Trench 8 looking north-west showing ditch 158



Plate 5: General shot of Trench 10, looking east



Plate 6: Sample south-facing section of Trench 10



Plate 7: Overview of Trench 11 looking west



Plate 8: Plan view of cow burial 124 looking south-west within Trench 11



Plate 9: Plan view of brick surface **102** within Trench 12 looking north-east



Plate 10: Post-excavation view of Trench 12 looking north-east



Plate 11: General view of Trench 14 looking north-east



Plate 12: General view of Trench 16 looking south-east



Plate 13: General shot of Trench 17 looking north-west showing ditch **161** in the foreground



Plate 14: General shot of Trench 19 looking south-east showing ditch **148**



Plate 15: General shot of Trench 20 looking north-west showing ditch **145**



Plate 16: General shot of Trench 21 looking north-west, showing stone drains **141** and shallow pit **143**



Plate 17: General shot of Trench 22 looking west



Plate 18: General shot of Trench 23 looking west



Plate 19: General shot of Trench 24 looking south-west



Plate 20 Trench 24, view of sandstone wall 178 and cobbled surface 176, looking east



Plate 21: View of west-facing section of ditch **192**



Plate 22: View of red brick wall **173** looking west