

Report No. B1505A.02R

June 1998

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
HOLDITCH COLLIERY, LYMEDALE PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE**

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**GIFFORD**  
AND PARTNERS

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## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following an archaeological evaluation of land at Holditch Colliery which demonstrated the preservation of Roman archaeological remains, Staffordshire County Council required evaluation works to determine the extent and character of the archaeological remains, so as to assist in the determination of the planning application.
- 1.2 A Brief for the archaeological evaluation was provided by the Staffordshire Archaeological Officer, Christopher Welch and the evaluation was undertaken by Gifford and Partners Ltd on behalf of Independent Energy in May 1998. This report sets out the results of the evaluation.
- 1.3 The evaluation included the excavation of three trial trenches which revealed that there are Roman archaeological deposits, features and structures present across the majority of the area of proposed development. The observed features were divided into three phases: the first comprised a series of linear gullies some of which were associated with post-settings and post-holes, thereby suggesting structural origins; the second phase was characterised by the formalisation of the surfaces and structures using sandstone and cobbles to build three walls and a road; the third and final phase is represented by a layer of demolition debris in which the collapsed remains of a wall can be identified and the occasional worked stone.
- 1.4 In the north of the site the Roman archaeological deposits have been well preserved beneath a thick deposit of plough soil and topsoil on to which the later car park surface was directly placed. In the south-east of the site the archaeological deposits are overlain directly by the made ground of the car park, however they are still intact and reasonably well preserved.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Reason for the Project**

- 2.1.1 Independent Energy are considering developing land at Holditch Colliery, Lymedale Park into a gas fired electricity generating facility. The area of development is situated close to the Romano-British settlement at Chesterton, wherein a wide range of archaeological features have been identified through a series of excavations and evaluations (Gifford Report no. 6768.02 (1995) and B0037A.02R (1997) and Charlton 1961 and 1962).
- 2.1.2 The 1997 evaluation, situated in the north of the proposed area of development, was undertaken to assess the potential preservation of archaeological deposits within the site. The results demonstrated that there were Romano-British and post-Medieval features preserved at varying depths below the present ground surface. In addition a series of test pits were excavated along the length of the western boundary of the site. These revealed that the road which originally provided the main access to the colliery and now flanks the west of the proposed site of development, is set in a cutting backfilled with colliery waste.
- 2.1.3 Given the level of preservation of the archaeological deposits and the limited nature of the 1997 evaluation, the Staffordshire Archaeological Officer determined that a second more extensive evaluation was required to assess the full extent and character of the archaeological remains and to facilitate the planning process.

### **2.2 Location, Topography and Geology of the Evaluation Site**

- 2.2.1 The evaluation site is centred on National Grid reference SJ 83788 48211 and comprises a triangular-shaped parcel of land utilised as a car park for Holditch Colliery (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 The site is bounded to the north, east and south by industrial complexes which have developed since the abandonment of the colliery. To the west of the site there is a pronounced drop to the level of the roadway, which originally provided access to the colliery and its car park.
- 2.2.3 The proposed area of development is situated on the crown of a low hill, overlooking a valley in which Ashfield Brook ran prior to recent development. The geology comprises coal measures.

## 2.3 Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The aim of the evaluation, as stated in the Gifford Project Design (Appendix A) was to provide information that would enable an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area affected by the proposed development.

2.3.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation were:-

- To identify archaeological remains associated with those features revealed through the earlier evaluation.
- To locate any archaeological features and deposits likely to be affected by the proposed development and, where possible, to establish their extent and character.
- To assess the survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures identified within the evaluation area.
- To further the understanding of the history and development of this area of Holditch.

## 2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 The evaluation was undertaken by means of the excavation of three trial trenches. The locations of the trial trenches were determined in consultation with the Staffordshire Archaeological Officer in order to target the remainder of the site, as yet not investigated (Figure 2).

2.4.2 A limited amount of research was necessary to support the results of the fieldwork and augment previous archaeological works. Gifford have previously undertaken archaeological evaluations and excavations to the north of the site of proposed development and reference to such previous work was made before and during the evaluation fieldwork (Gifford report references no. 6768.03 and B0037.2R).

## 2.5 Timetable

The evaluation was undertaken between Monday 18 - Friday 22 May 1998.

## 2.6 Archive

2.6.1 A full archive for this evaluation will be produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidance, *The Management of Archaeological Projects, Second Edition* (1991), the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (Archaeology Section) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (1990) and to the requirements of the Staffordshire County Record Office and The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

2.6.2 The archive will comprise:-

- Introduction to the archive.
- Index to the archive.
- Copy of the final evaluation report (Gifford reference no. B1505A.02R).
- Context index.
- Context records (96).
- Site matrix.
- Bulk Finds Record
- Ceramic Record
- Drawing Index.
- Drawing record (6 trench plans on four A2 and 3 A3 drawing sheets and 6 sections on five A3 drawing sheets).
- Photographic index.
- Photographic record (72 monochrome prints, mounted colour transparencies and ?? colour prints).

2.6.3 The items listed in 2.6.2 will be deposited with the Staffordshire Record Office whilst the artefacts (comprising 52 ceramic vessel sherds, 100 fragments of Roman building material and 2 fragments of lead) will be submitted to The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery.

## 2.7 Acknowledgements

2.7.1 Gifford would like to thank the following for their support and assistance during this evaluation project: Mr D Langham of Independent Energy U.K Limited; Mr J Flynn, Mr S Woodcote and Mr G Morris of Staffordshire County Council ; Mr C Welch of Staffordshire County Council Archaeology Service and Mr D Barker of The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Hanley.

2.7.2 The Gifford staff involved in this evaluation project were:-

T J Strickland - Quality Reviewer

A Thompson	-	Project Manager
J Perkins	-	Project Archaeologist
G Plaskitt	-	Site Archaeologist
C Healey	-	Site Archaeologist
G Burns	-	Site Archaeologist
A West	-	Site Archaeologist
G Reaney	-	Report Illustrations
A Sawyer	-	Presentation of report and archive preparation.

## 2.8 Abbreviations

<i>c.</i>	<i>circa</i>
m	metre
mm	millimetre
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
pers. comm.	personal communication

## 3. RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction

The following deposits and features were identified in the evaluation trenches, located as shown on Figure 2. The word *context* refers to physically distinct and homogenous deposits (such as soil layers or the material infill of relict pits or post-holes) or features (such as walls or the original excavation cuts of pits or postholes) identified within the evaluation trenches and recorded on *proforma* context recording sheets.

### 3.2 Summary Description and Interpretation of Trench 1 (Plan - Figure 3 ; Section - Figures 4 & 5 ; Matrix - Figure 6 )

Trench 8 measured 20m x 2m. Archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of 143.27m OD, corresponding with a depth of 1.00m below the present ground surface. In general Trench 8 was the most complex comprising at least three phases of Roman archaeological deposits consisting of a layer of structural collapse, structural slots and post-holes, a sandstone wall foundation and possible drainage gullies, overlain by an early pot-Medieval plough-soil. The maximum depth at which archaeological deposits were revealed was 142.45m OD, 1.72m below the current ground surface. It was not possible to establish the full depth of archaeological deposits due to safety reasons.

### 3.3 Detailed Description and Interpretation of Trench 1

- 3.3.1 The upper surface of the trench was dominated by made-ground relating to the car park, built in the 1940's to serve Holditch Colliery. The surface was based on a 200mm thick layer of red shale which remained constant the length of the trench (context 3). Immediately overlying context 3 was a 150mm thick layer of consolidated limestone aggregate (context 2) and above that a combined 150mm thick layer of hardcore and tarmacadam (context 1).
- 3.3.2 Underlying the surface layers of the car park was a 350mm thick (increasing to 500mm in the east) layer of black-brown organic loam with inclusions of rotting wood, and a visible line of rotting vegetation, interpreted as a turf line (context 5). This layer formed the original land surface of the proposed area of development which suggests that there were no pre-construction works or clearance prior to the installation of the car park in this area. The layer produced a quantity of ceramic evidence dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and has been identified as identical to context 12 in Trench 2.
- 3.3.3 Beneath context 5, extending the length of the trench was a 150-300mm thick layer of a brown sand-silt with few coarse components (context 6). A number of rounded and plough-worn sherds of sixteenth/seventeenth century ceramics and Roman building material were recovered from this layer, thereby suggesting that this was a relict subsoil which had been ploughed, until the seventeenth century to a depth which disturbed the Roman stratigraphy below.
- 3.3.4 Cut from the base of the plough-soil (context 6) were numerous Roman features which in the west of the trench were noticeably plough truncated, whereas in the east had been protected by a substantial layer of collapse and demolition debris. The features identified in the west of the trench were characterised by broad flat-based ditches with short plough-truncated vertical sides and post-holes and slots cutting their bases.
- 3.3.5 Context 101 was the earliest of such features cut into the natural on a north-south alignment, 3m wide. Its eastern edge was gradually sloping and clearly cut context 102, whereas its western edge was near vertical and continued to a depth of 200mm below the base of the plough-soil. Probably contemporary with context 101 were a post-hole and two slots cut into its base at irregular intervals (contexts 67, 69 and 72).
- 3.3.6 Context 67 was set on the edge of context 101 and was packed with a piece of Roman *tegulae* and filled with a mid red-brown silt-sand containing occasional small cobbles and fragments of sandstone (context 68). Context 69 was a flat-based slot with gradually sloping sides, also filled with a red-brown silt-sand

No Rem or 101  
on fig 5 or 5  
No log on fig 3/5

containing small fragments of sandstone, together with an intact Samian base dated to the late-first/early-second century (context 24). Finally context 72 was similar to context 69 with a flat base and gently sloping sides orientated north-south and filled with an identical material (context 64).

3.3.7 Context 102 pre-dated context 101 and represents the earliest phase of human activity in the western end of the trench. The dimensions and characteristics of context 102 were almost identical to those of context 101, thereby suggesting that one may have replaced the other. The flat-bottomed ditch was filled with an even layer of light red-brown silt-sand containing fragments of Roman tile and ceramics with medium-sized sandstone chunks (context 66). Cut into the base of the ditch was a narrow V-shaped gully, 350mm wide, which appeared to terminate in a post-hole beneath the southern baulk of the trench (context 42). The gully was filled with an identical soil to context 66 except for the inclusion of a quantity of Roman ceramics and fragments of animal bone (context 88). Situated c.500mm to the west of the gully was a post-hole (context 41) 200mm in diameter and filled with a red-brown silt-sand.

3.3.8 This collection of features in the west of the trench have been clearly plough-truncated in that only their bases survive intact. Subsequently the true profile and function of these features cannot be categorically confirmed. However given that the gullies and post-holes were cut from the base of the broad ditches the complex is interpreted as structural in origin. It is possible that the gullies demarcated the width of a wall foundation which was additionally supported by an external post, set at an angle to the wall.

3.3.9 Two more north-south aligned shallow linear features were revealed at the centre of the trench cut into the natural (contexts 103 and 104). Context 103 was 500mm wide with gradually sloping sides and a U-shaped base cut to a depth of 100mm below the base of the plough-soil. The gully contained a single fill which comprised a pink-brown sand-silt with rare sub-rounded pebbles and large fragments of Roman brick and ceramics (context 105). Context 104 appeared ovoid in shape and was characterised by a long gently sloping eastern side and a short almost vertical western side. This feature was extremely shallow and contained a pink-brown sand-silt with few coarse inclusions.

103 on sect.  
104 on sect

3.3.10 In the east of the trench the stratigraphy survived to a much greater depth given the protection of a thick layer of wall collapse and demolition debris (context 74). The layer of demolition debris was c.200mm thick in places and lay directly beneath the plough-soil which extended the length of the trench. The deposit, although evident in patches along the full length of the trench noticeably thickened in the east and formed a distinctive stoney baulk across the width of the trench. At the core of the deposit was a tightly packed assembly of

seemingly layered sandstone blocks and sheets which were concentrated in the west of the deposit (context 75). This stone concentration has been interpreted as the collapse material of a stone wall, the foundation of which was found situated to the east of the deposit.

3.3.11 The remainder of the deposit was set in a matrix of pink-brown silt-clay containing occasional charcoal flecks and medium-large sandstone blocks spread unevenly throughout the deposit (context 74). This element of the deposit has been interpreted as the plough-scattered remains of the wall.

3.3.12 Sealed by the demolition deposit were a sequence of Roman stratified deposits which represent the second and third phases identified during the evaluation. Phase two incorporates those features cut from below context 74 and include a sandstone packed foundation trench, a shallow flat-based ditch cut by a deep post-setting and a narrow gully (contexts 27, 45 and 51). The latest feature is the wall foundation (context 27) which is cut from immediately below context 74 and cuts the eastern side of context 51.

Cannot see 45

3.3.13 The wall foundation was not fully excavated given that it was too deep and contravened safety regulations with regard excavation depths. However it was exposed to a depth of 1.75m below the current ground surface which is 650mm below the base of context 74. The cut was near vertically-sided, tapering slightly towards the base of the feature. The upper fill comprised small angular blocks of sandstone set in a matrix of a brown-yellow silt-clay with occasional charcoal flecks and Roman building material (context 77). This fill may have served to cap the masonry below and acted as a bonding agent for the main wall construction above.

3.3.14 The main bulk of the foundation consisted of tightly packed small to large angular, sub-angular and sub-rounded red and grey sandstone (context 25) set randomly within the foundation cut (context 27). The stones were extremely well compacted and although there were no identified courses within the stonework it was apparent that thin flat stones lined the cut and that occasionally stones were placed vertically to fill in gaps in the construction. Towards the base of the foundation it was apparent that the stones became larger and more rounded. The stone foundation was set in a matrix of light grey-pink silt-clay which occasionally contained building material flecks (context 26).

3.3.15 Given that this wall foundation was cut from beneath a layer of demolition debris dated to the Roman period through ceramic evidence, it has been interpreted as a wall foundation to a substantial Roman building/structure. The width of the foundation and its depth, together with the quantity of stone above and surrounding it may suggest that the structure was of stone, rather than timber-

framed with dwarf walls.

3.3.16 The foundation (context 27) cut an earlier structural feature to its west which consisted of a straight gradually sloping edge which terminated in a broad flat base *c.* 1m wide situated on a north-south alignment (context 51). Cut into its base was a 300mm diameter post-hole cut to a depth of 350mm from the base of context 51 with vertical sides and a flat base (context 49). The post-hole was filled with a single silted deposit of a light pink-grey silt-clay with moderate small angular and sub-angular grey and red sandstone fragments (context 48). This fill also formed the lower fill within context 51 which was capped with a deposit of orange-grey silt-clay containing small-medium sized sandstone fragments (context 50). The nature of this feature is apparently similar to those identified in the west of the trench (contexts 101 and 102), thereby suggesting that such features extended the length of the site and that there is a distinct phase of construction techniques which probably pre-date the formalisation of the structures in stone.

3.3.17 The remaining feature cut from beneath the demolition deposit (context 74) was a narrow north-south aligned U-shaped gully cut to a depth of 200mm from the base of context 74 (context 45). The small gully contained a single silted fill which comprised a grey-brown silt-clay with inclusions of small to medium angular and sub-angular grey and red sandstone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks. The shallow depth of the feature and its narrow width suggest that it is not a structural feature and therefore may have served a drainage function, either within or outside the structure (represented by context 27).

3.3.18 Probably the earliest feature located within the evaluation trench was a 200mm wide north-south aligned gully which possibly contained two post-settings (context 54). The gully was cut from beneath a layer of grey-white silt clay containing frequent angular and sub-angular sandstone pebbles (context 52). This layer survived as an island between context 51 which cut it to the east and context 56 which cut it to the west, and formed the upper fill of context 54. The base of the context 54 was filled with a grey-blue-white silt-clay with occasional building material and charcoal flecks which is believed to have been accumulated in standing water. The narrow gully (context 54) and its possible post-settings have been interpreted as structural in nature, probably forming a fenced enclosure or boundary to one side of a property.

3.3.19 Situated to the west of those layers sealed by the demolition deposit were three features cut by an east-west aligned linear ditch, only one side of which was revealed during the evaluation. The ditch's side was very gradually sloping and extended the width of the trench, terminating at the southern baulk and therefore not visible in the section (context 90). The feature was at its deepest against the

northern bank of the trench at 250mm and contained a pink-brown silt-sand with frequent fragments of medium to large sandstone chunks (context 89) . The relationship between the demolition deposit and context 90 was not established during the evaluation, although on the basis of the features fill it is likely that it dates to the abandonment of the site sometime in the third and fourth centuries AD.

3.3.20 The latest feature cut by context 90 was a north-south aligned ditch with concave sloping sides and an irregular base (context 56). Context 56 cut context 52 to the east and a second shallow depression (context 60) to the west. Cut into its base is a 350mm diameter post-setting with near vertical sides and a flat base (context 58). The post-hole was filled with a silted light grey-blue silt-clay which contains occasional building materials and charcoal flecks (context 57). Again the combination of a ditch and post-settings has been interpreted as structural in nature, possibly forming a linear fenced boundary or enclosure.

3.3.21 Cut from immediately below context 90, situated in the centre of the trench was a 300mm diameter post-hole which survived to a depth of 250mm below the base of context 90 (context 94). The base of the post-hole was filled with a pale blue-grey clay which contained no coarse components and has been interpreted as a silted redeposited natural (context 93). The upper fill of context 94 was a dark pink-brown-blue sand-silt which contained occasional charcoal flecks (context 91). This post-hole appeared to lie within a feature, the full extent of which was not determined during the evaluation. However it is possible that it formed a shallow flat-based ditch similar to those identified in the east and west of the trench (context 60).

#### 3.4 Summary Description and Interpretation of Trench 2 (Plan - Figure 7; Sections - Figure 8 & 9)

Trench <sup>2</sup>9 measured 20m x 2m. Archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of 143.28m OD, corresponding to a depth of 1.05m below the present ground surface. In general Trench 2 comprised at least two shallow linear gullies (one being Roman, the other post-Medieval) which traversed the length of the trench from east to west, two truncated post holes in the west of the trench and certainly one and possibly two Roman stone wall foundations. The maximum depth at which archaeological deposits were revealed was 142.38m OD, 1.75m below the present ground surface.

#### 3.5 Detailed Description and Interpretation of Trench 2

3.5.1 This trench was covered by a 500mm thick deposit of made-ground, which formed the surface of the Holditch Colliery car park which previously occupied the site. This surface comprised a 40mm layer of tarmacadam (context 1), a

c.250.-300mm thick deposit of limestone aggregate (context 2) and a 50-150mm spread of red shale (context 3). Given the regularity of the thicknesses it was apparent that little had been required to level the area prior to its conversion into a car park.

3.5.2 Immediately underlying the road make-up, at a depth of 143.57m OD (0.6m below the present ground surface) was a narrow band of a grey-brown silt-clay (context 11) which is interpreted as a layer of trample originating from the works to the area prior to the development of the site as a car park. Beneath this layer of trample was a 500m thick deposit of a black organic loam which contained a quantity of fibrous material interpreted as the rotting remains of a turfline (context 12). This layer produced a variety of post-Medieval ceramics dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

3.5.3 Cut from the base of this deposit (context 12) to a depth of 143.07m OD (1.24m below the current ground surface and 0.36m below the base of context 12) was a c. 1m wide east-west aligned linear ditch which appears to have extended the length of the trench (context 19). The feature had an identical fill to context 12 (context 16) and again produced a quantity of eighteenth and nineteenth century ceramic material. The ditches function did not become clear upon excavation, however given that it follows the line of an earlier linear feature, it probably served as a land division boundary.

Poss 14 ?  
3.5.4 Underlying context 12 was a second substantial layer of dark brown sand-silt which started in the east of the trench at a thickness of 50mm and increased in thickness c. 250mm to the west. Ceramic material was also retrieved from throughout this layer and included plough-worn fragments of Roman building material together with sherds dating to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

3.5.5 Prior to the present car park the proposed area of development was occupied by Holditch farm. The evidence suggests that the site formed part of the farms agricultural landscape, frequently being ploughed to a depth at which, certainly in the west of the trench, the Roman stratigraphy below was being disturbed and truncated. Context 12 is interpreted as the old plough soil for this agricultural period, which given the ceramic evidence ceased being ploughed during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and was probably turned over to cattle pasture, such as dominates the surrounding landscape today

3.5.6 The relict plough-soil (context 12) overlies a complex sequence of Roman layers which are dated through ceramic evidence and structural debris and composition. The latest phase of Roman activity is represented by an east-west aligned linear feature (context 20) situated at the centre of the trench, two plough truncated post-holes (contexts 30 and 29) and various deposits which have been identified

as potentially Roman in origin on the basis of their fill (contexts 28, 31, 32 and 34).

- 3.5.7 Context 20, although partially obscured and truncated by context 19, was clearly distinguished by its pink-brown sand-silt contents which were bristling with sandstone fragments of all sizes, from 150mm x 100mm to 20mm x 20mm (context 15). It was remarked that the sandstone lay predominantly in the upper surface of the feature, which suggests that its upper fill was associated with the abandonment of the site, the masonry elements of which have been spread through subsequent plough action. From the features' lower fill, which was only identified through its reduced stone content, a single body sherd of a second century ceramic vessel was recovered, thereby suggesting that the ditch was beginning to silt up during the Roman occupation of the site.
- 3.5.8 The shallow flat-based gully (context 20) extended from a point 4m from the west end of the trench and terminated 4.5m later. It is probable that the feature did originally extend further west given that the underlying archaeology slopes eastwards and is therefore more vulnerable to plough-disturbance in the west. Context 20 has been interpreted as a boundary line on the basis of the later re-use of its alignment.
- 3.5.9 Two possible post-holes, measuring 100mm and 200mm in diameter were situated to the west of context 20 on a rise in the natural ground level (contexts 30 and 29). The two post holes were only 10-20mm in depth which implied that they had been extensively plough-truncated and suggested archaeological features situated further uphill could be poorly preserved. The isolated and distorted nature of these two post-holes ensured that their function could not be determined during the evaluation, although on the basis of their fills it was determined that they may be Roman in origin.
- 3.5.10 Further isolated deposits and spreads believed to be Roman in origin on the basis of their fills, were identified immediately to the east of contexts 29 and 30 (contexts 31 and 32) and 9m from the eastern end of the trench (context 34). None of the features appeared to be deeper than 50mm.
- 3.5.11 Situated at the centre of the trench was a 850mm wide roughly-hewn sandstone wall foundation, orientated north-south at a depth of 143.09m OD, 1.15m below the current ground surface (context 99). The sandstone fragments were closely packed and appeared similar in nature to the wall foundation revealed in Trench 1. Although there was no artefactual evidence retrieved from the foundation its similar composition, alignment and general dimensions with the wall foundation located in Trench 8 suggest that it dates to the Roman period.

3.5.12 Once cleaned it was evident that the small sandstone chunks in the south of the foundation infill had been disturbed and scraped along the line of context 20. Given that context 20 terminated at approximately this point in the trench the evidence seems to suggest that context 20 cut the top of the foundation and therefore pre-dates it. The foundation trench and construction therefore belong to an earlier phase of Roman occupation.

? post-dates

3.5.13 In the east of the trench context 36 (which is the same as context 16) was seen to widen and extend across the full width of the trench, except for a narrow band along the northern edge of the trench which is interpreted as a remnant of the base of the plough-soil (context 84). The plough-soil was retained in a shallow hollow created by an earlier feature below (context 82). Context 82 was only half exposed during the evaluation but appeared to comprise a shallow flat-based gully c.250mm deep containing a series of dumped fills consisting of a black-brown sand-silt (context 83) and a pink-brown sand-silt (context 81), neither of which contained coarse components.

84 not seen on plan or section

3.5.14 In plan the shallow gully (context 82) appeared to turn at a right angle and continue into the northern baulk of the trench. The evaluation revealed that this area was complicated by the survival of several linear features containing dumped fills but it is possible that context 82 continued perpendicular to the baulk as well as in parallel. Contexts 83 and 81 were both cut by context 19 which was dated to the eighteenth and nineteenth century. No diagnostic artefacts were retrieved from either of the earlier contexts and therefore they remain undated.

82 not seen in main plan or section

3.5.15 Immediately underlying and cut by context 82 was a 400mm thick deposit of large roughly hewn sandstone blocks set in a matrix of pale grey and vivid brown mottled silt-clay (context 80). Context 80 was contained in an east-west aligned cut which was probably linear, with a flat base and steeply sloping sides, which given the lack of stone content in the west-facing section, terminated at this point (context 86).

3.5.16 Contexts 80 and 86 have, on the basis of the nature of the fill and the vertically pitched (and therefore dumped not constructed) sandstone blocks, been interpreted as a robber trench, cut to extract the Roman building material retained within a wall foundation and backfilled with a mixed natural and unwanted rubble. Although the alignment of the robber trench suggests that the robbed wall continued east-west, partially obscured by the northern baulk of the trench, it is possible that the robbed wall was in fact orientated north-south, or that there was a T-junction between two walls at this point.

3.5.17 The initial machine excavation of the trench revealed two small semi-circular

patches of compacted sandstone, both identical in size and shape situated in the southern baulk of the trench. The evaluation demonstrated that at least one of the features was the end of a stone wall foundation, continuing beneath the baulk (context 99), thereby suggesting that the second is also the revealed top of a sandstone wall foundation. The second semi-circular patch of stone is situated immediately due south of the robber trench (context 86) identified in the northern baulk of the trench.

### 3.6 Summary Description and Interpretation of Trench 3 (Plan - Figure 10 ; Sections - Figure 11 & 12 )

3 Trench 10 measured 20 x 2m. Archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of 143.23m OD, corresponding to 0.8m below the current ground surface at its western end and 142.46m OD, corresponding with 0.95m below the current ground surface at its eastern end. In general in the east of Trench 3 archaeological features comprised a series of cobbled and compacted sandstone surfaces stratified above a shallow gully cut into the natural. In the west of the trench there was a depth of demolition debris which remained unexcavated, but which appeared to mask a structural feature situated 3.5m east of the western trench terminal. The maximum depth at which archaeological deposits were revealed was 142.09m OD, 1.09m below the current ground surface in the east of the trench.

### 3.7 Detailed Description and Interpretation of Deposits in Trench 3

3.7.1 As with Trenches 1 and 2 the upper layers of Trench 10 were associated with the car park surface which currently occupies the site. The layers comprise a 500mm thick pink/red shale (context 3) which tapers to a thickness of 350mm at its western end, a 150mm thick layer of limestone aggregate (context 2) and a 40mm thick layer of tarmacadam (context 1).

3.7.2 Immediately underlying context 3 was a narrow band of dark brown-grey loam which produced no archaeological artefacts. The organic smell of the layer, evidence of organic inclusions in the soil matrix and its similarity to contexts 5 and 11 suggest that it formed the original land surface prior to the construction of the car park and dates to the eighteenth/nineteenth centuries (context 97).

3.7.3 Extending the length of the trench and directly underlying context 97 was a layer of demolition debris comprising medium to large blocks of pink sandstone set in a matrix of a red/brown sand/silt situated at a depth of 142.46m OD, 0.8m below the current ground surface. The layer varies in thickness along the length of the trench, starting in the west at a thickness of 50mm increasing to 500mm at its central point and then apparently (the layer was not fully penetrated at the west end of the trench) decreasing again to c.300mm.

- 3.7.4 There were no archaeological artefacts found in association with this layer, however layers in Trenches 1 and 2 (contexts 75 and 7) have been identified as identical in composition and are dated through the association of ceramic material to the Roman period. It is apparent that the high stone content of the deposit and its uneven distribution suggest that context 43 represents the demolition and abandonment of the settlement, probably in the Third/Fourth Centuries.
- 3.7.5 Immediately underlying context 43, at a depth of 142.49m OD (0.92m below the current ground surface) and partially exposed by the machine at the eastern end of the trench was a layer of compacted angular medium sized sandstone blocks and chips up to 250mm wide set in a matrix of red/brown silt/sand (context 23). It was apparent from the quantity of rubble in the north-east of the trench that the surface had originally extended the full width, however the machining had disrupted one side so that only a section in the south-east of the trench survived.
- 3.7.6 A second similar deposit of roughly hewn sandstone blocks and chips was revealed four metres further west at a depth of 142.55m OD (0.9m below the present ground surface) and are believed to have formed part of the same surface as context 23 (context 76). The sandstone blocks were clearly not a random deposit of rubble and were apparently laid with a degree of care, however there was no form of paved surfacing other than the occasional squared off block.
- 3.7.7 These two metalled surfaces have, on the basis of archaeological evidence revealed by Charlton in the 1970's, been interpreted as the intact remains of a Roman road leading from Holditch to Wroxeter. The location of the surface is on the exact alignment of the projected road located by Charlton's earlier works and the composition of the upper surface is identical to that described in recent excavations of King Street in Cheshire (Gifford Report reference no. 7377.2R).
- 3.7.8 In the north of the trench the sandstone metalling (context 23) was demonstrated to overlie a 150mm thick layer of small, water worn, rounded pebbles (on average 40mm in diameter, but with occasional larger cobbles up to 100mm in diameter) in a matrix of pink-brown silt-sand (context 37). The cobbles extended the full width of the trench and were seen to slope gradually from both sides of the trench into the centre at which point there was a noticeable intrusion of sandstone blocks which formed a linear arrangement east-west along the surface. A second area of sandstone was also identified in the south-east of this section of the trench and appeared to be associated with a small area of fire-reddened soil (context 38).
- 3.7.9 This layer is interpreted as either an earlier layer of metalling which was subsequently replaced by contexts 23 and 76, or a layer of hardcore laid to level

the area and enhance the camber prior to the construction of the road surface proper.

3.7.10 Situated directly beneath and at the centre of the pebble layer was a shallow flat-based gully with short vertical sides orientated east-west situated at a depth of 142.09m OD (1.22m below the current ground surface) (context 39). It was evident upon excavation that the east-west aligned sandstone blocks in the pebble layer above (context 37) were part of the packing fill of the gully (context 40) deposited in order to level the area for the later deposition of the road surface (context 23). The function of the gully, which was cut into the natural subsoil, is uncertain, but the east-west slope of the land surface it follows suggests that it served as a land drain.

3.7.11 Proceeding further west along Trench 3 it was evident that the stone scatter representing the abandonment of the Romano-British complex, detected at a depth of 142.77m O.D (0.85m below the current ground surface) was petering out until at 7.5m from the eastern end of the trench the stone ceased. At this point a sondage was sunk through the deposit to reveal the natural yellow sand/silt subsoil at a depth of 142.55m O.D or 1.05m below the current ground surface. In the section of the sondage there was no evidence of the sandstone surface or cobbled hardcore, thereby suggesting that the road surface terminated short of 7.5m from the east end of the trench. This assumption is further enforced by the earlier archaeological works which suggest that Trench 3 should only clip one side of the projected line of the road.

3.7.12 In the west of the trench the sandstone inclusion of the demolition deposit (context 43) began to increase again and appeared to peak at a point marked by a collection of five large sandstone blocks, c.200mm X 150mm square (context 22). The blocks were situated on the edge of a north-south aligned linear feature c. 900mm wide filled with a light grey clay/silt which contained fragments of charcoal. Although the fill differs in colour from those thus far associated with the Romano-British features on this site it is likely that there were remnants of the grey layer above the feature (context 97) mixed into the upper surface of the features fill. Unfortunately this feature was not able to be excavated, although on the basis of its width, alignment and stone content context 22 is interpreted as a Roman stone wall foundation, situated at a depth of 143.14m OD, which corresponds with 0.75m below the present ground surface.

0.75m  
below  
Surface

## 4. ARTEFACT ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Introduction

The artefacts recovered from the evaluation at Lymedale Park have been examined by Gifford. All of the artefacts retrieved from the evaluation were collected for assessment, in particular to obtain a date for the deposit from which they were recovered. Evidence for activity/function within the context and the site was also sought from the artefact assessment.

### 4.2 Treatment

All of the artefacts have been cleaned and bagged by material category and context.

### 4.3 Recording

4.3.1 The Bulk Finds Record (Appendix B) summarises the categories of artefact material found within each context, together with the site category and a provisional date for the formation of the context. The Ceramic Record (Appendix C) provides a detailed breakdown of the pottery recovered during the evaluation defining its fabric, date and any notable decoration.

4.3.2 The finds are discussed by material category, with an assessment of the level of preservation and dating potential of each category. Any conservation and retention implications arising are also noted.

### 4.4 Ceramic

#### Roman

4.4.1 Roman pottery was recovered from contexts 10, 13, 15, 23, 24, 28, 29, 50, 59, 66 and 88. The sherd from context 10 was a badly abraded sherd of mortarium rim of early to mid-second century date, made in an orange fabric of fairly local origin. Context 10 has been interpreted as a plough soil which would help to explain the poor quality of preservation.

4.4.2 Samian pottery was present in contexts 15, 23, 24, 66 and 88 and represented 17.9% of Roman ceramics recovered from the site. The condition of the material was moderate to poor and all contexts represent either feature fills or *in situ* deposits. The material was derived from the south and central Gaulish industries and suggests a date range of late-first to e second century for the majority of the activity on the site. Forms represented by the sherds are Dragendorf 18 plates and a Dragendorf 27 cup.

- 4.4.3 Coarseware from contexts 13, 28, 29, 50, 55, 59, 66 and 88, forming 76.9% of the Roman ceramic assemblage, were again in a moderate to poor condition and were derived from *in situ* deposits and feature fills. The fabrics recovered were predominantly grey and orange wares of local origin. Two sherds of white ware (from contexts 28 and 55) may be of local origin, though an alternative source could be the Oxfordshire pottery industry.
- 4.4.4 Imported coarsewares included black burnished ware from contexts 13 and 66, and six sherds derived from a single vessel in Severn Valley ware from context 50. Identifiable coarseware forms included jars and a ring necked flagon, both of which would suggest a domestic environment. All of the coarseware sherds can be broadly ascribed a second century date.

#### Building Material

- 4.4.5 Roman building material was identified in contexts 7, 10, 15, 24, 26, 50, 52, 54, 55, 63, 66, 68, 77 and 88. Much of the material constitutes small abraded fragments of indistinguishable function. However, 'tegula' were represented in contexts 66 and 68 which are usually associated with a roofing function. Contexts 7, 54, 66 and 77 had fairly large fragments of brick ranging in thickness from between 35mm and 40mm. The dimensions would suggest that they are fragments of *bessales*, the main function of which was to create *pilae* (pillars or piers) to support the *suspensura* (floor) above a hypocaust.
- 4.4.6 Post-Medieval building material was present in contexts 14, 16 and 35. The three fragments are from roofing tiles and are in a good state of preservation.

#### Post-Medieval

- 4.4.7 The post-Medieval pottery recovered represented 42.6% of the pottery from the site.
- 4.4.8 The fabrics present include black and brown glazed earthenware, porcellaneous bodied ware, slipware, creamware, Midland yellow and Cistercian ware. The material was recovered from contexts 6, 7, 12, 14, 16 and 35 which have been interpreted as plough-soils. The identifiable forms are plates, dishes, bowls, pancheons and cups representing a range of domestic vessels.
- 4.4.9 The assemblage suggests two distinct date ranges, the more recent eighteenth/nineteenth century (contexts 6, 12, 16 and 35) being an upper plough soil. The lower plough-soil horizon (contexts 7 and 14) indicating a sixteenth/seventeenth century date.

#### 4.5 Animal Bone

One fragment of burnt animal bone was recovered from context 66 - the fill of a shallow flat-based ditch. Such a small assemblage of animal bone can import no information beyond the fact that occupation and activity occurred in the vicinity of the evaluation.

#### 4.6 Discussion

4.6.1 All of the recovered artefacts were recovered stratigraphically from defined contexts and support the stated interpretation of the evaluation trenches.

4.6.2 The artefacts are consistent with the contexts from which they were recovered and are typical of a semi-rural site of this period, although they do lack in quantity.

4.6.3 There are no conservation implications arising, provided that the artefacts are stored in a stable temperature and humidity controlled environment.

4.6.4 This assessment suggests that there is no potential for further study or retention of the artefacts. All the necessary information from the artefacts is present in this report and the artefacts could be discarded prior to archive deposition.

### 5. DISCUSSION

5.1 The majority of the features on the site appear to be aligned with the projected orientation of the road based on the information recovered during the archaeological works in the 1970's. Only two of the features were demonstrated to have an east-west alignment, perpendicular to the road, and have been interpreted as ditched property boundaries or drains as they follow the natural slope of the land.

5.2 The features can be largely divided into three phases of Romano-British activity: the earliest characterised by a series of north-south aligned linear gullies containing post-settings and post-holes, each differentiated from the later phase by the blue tinge to their fills; the second identified by its pink-brown silt-sand soil matrix and the introduction of stone wall foundations and a compact sandstone road surface; and the final phase as the collapse and gradual decay of the site probably during the third and fourth centuries BC.

An Iron Age site?

5.3 The first phase comprises essentially the structural remains of timber-framed properties and post-constructed boundaries which, given their orientation, formed the street frontage of the Romano-British settlement complex, continuing on from London Road. This early phase in the settlement does not appear to be represented in the make-up of the road, given that the only associated soil matrix is the later pink-brown silt-sand.

However it is possible that an earlier road surface was cleared prior to the construction of the present surface or that the smaller pebbles beneath the sandstone surface are representative of an earlier phase in the development of the street. This second suggestion may be held out by the early pebbled track surface found during the excavations at Spencroft Road (Gifford report no. 6768.03).

- 5.4 This early phase of occupation has close parallels with the structural evidence uncovered during the excavation at Spencroft Road. The timber-framed buildings lining a narrow cobbled trackway were also associated with numerous pits and enclosures similar to those identified in the area of proposed development. The range of the artefactual assemblage compares well with that of the Spencroft site, although there is an obvious discrepancy in the quantity of ceramics recovered during the evaluation. The ceramics at Spencroft Road clearly established two phases of activity dating to the late-first century /early-second century and an agrarian phase in the mid-second century. Again the ceramics recovered from the evaluation broadly date to the same period, although distinct datable phases were not able to be defined on the basis of the ceramic evidence.
- 5.5 The second phase of Roman activity on the site is characterised by a formalisation of structures and the street frontage as a whole through the introduction of stone. Two wall foundations (which are probably the same wall) and a possible foundation were revealed during the evaluation, on the same north-south alignment as the majority of features in the earlier phase, thereby also relating to the street frontage. The foundation trenches were densely packed with a rubble infill and cut to a reasonable depth, thereby suggesting that they supported a sizeable wall above ground.
- 5.6 The collapsed remains of one of the walls were apparently preserved as a concentrated spread of medium-sized sandstone blocks in a layer of demolition immediately overlying its foundation. The quantity of stone spread across the whole of the site and concentrated in the area of collapse may suggest that this structure was in fact built of stone. However the rarity of stone structures in Romano-British Britain suggests that they may in fact be substantial dwarf walls capped with a timber super-structure.
- 5.7 The sandstone surface of the Roman road in the south-east of the site probably dates to this formalisation of the settlement and clearly has similar constructional traits to those identified in the foundation trenches, given that the sandstone fragments are of a similar size and shape and the haphazard construction method. The composition of the road is typical of the period and parallels can be drawn with construction methods identified in Warrington, along the line of King Street.
- 5.8 This phase of development does not appear to be reflected in the results of the excavation at Spencroft Road, given that structural rebuilding of the properties were completed in timber and were devoid of stone foundations. This suggests that the street

frontage lining the Wroxeter road was more formal and of a higher status than those properties situated to the rear of the frontage and on subsidiary side streets.

- 5.9 The third phase is represented by a patchy layer of demolition debris which extends across most of the site, although apparently diminished in the west and increasing in depth towards the east. The upper surface of the deposit is strewn with sandstone fragments of varying sizes distributed through plough-action. This layer represents the abandonment of the settlement site and suggests a post-second century date for this process. In addition the layer seals most of the Roman archaeology across the site, presenting an horizon of intact archaeology.
- 5.10 The variety and quantity of artefacts retrieved from the site are limited considering the Roman-British setting in which they were found is almost urban in its apparent complexity and extent. This discrepancy in structural and material culture could be due to the carefulness of the properties occupants and the reuse of materials, however given the quality of the material, which comprises mainly coarsewares, it is more likely that the settlement bears more of a resemblance with a rural ribbon development and that this area of the proposed development defines almost the south-western extent of the Roman settlement site.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological deposits, features and structures dating from the post-Medieval period to the Roman period are present within the area of the proposed development. The state of preservation of the archaeological features was poor in the west of Trenches 1 and 2, as demonstrated by the shallow depth to which the features survived. However in the east of the trenches, especially Trench 1, the archaeological features are well preserved beneath a sealing layer of demolition debris.
- 6.2 The features as a group were of good to very good quality, partly as a consequence of their good state of preservation, but primarily due to the fact that they were diagnostic and clearly structural in nature forming a clear association with the established archaeological landscape.
- 6.3 The area of proposed development preserves the remains of the Roman Street frontage situated along the Holditch - Wroxeter road. Although the structures were founded on stone, the ceramic assemblage suggests that they were of middling status and therefore are thought not to have formed part of the bath house complex situated on the opposite side of the road. However given their location they were substantially more significant than those properties lining the back streets of the settlement (within the Spencroft Road area) which were entirely timber-framed and served as brothels and leisure centres.

6.4 The results of the evaluation have established a greater understanding of the Romano-British settlement site at Holditch and have demonstrated the quality and quantity of preservation across the majority of the site. Moreover it is suggested that the 'vicus' at Holditch was far larger and more extensive than previously thought and that the quality of structures evidenced in the initial and subsequent investigations of the site continue to flank the full length of the Roman road as far as it is currently known to extend.

## 7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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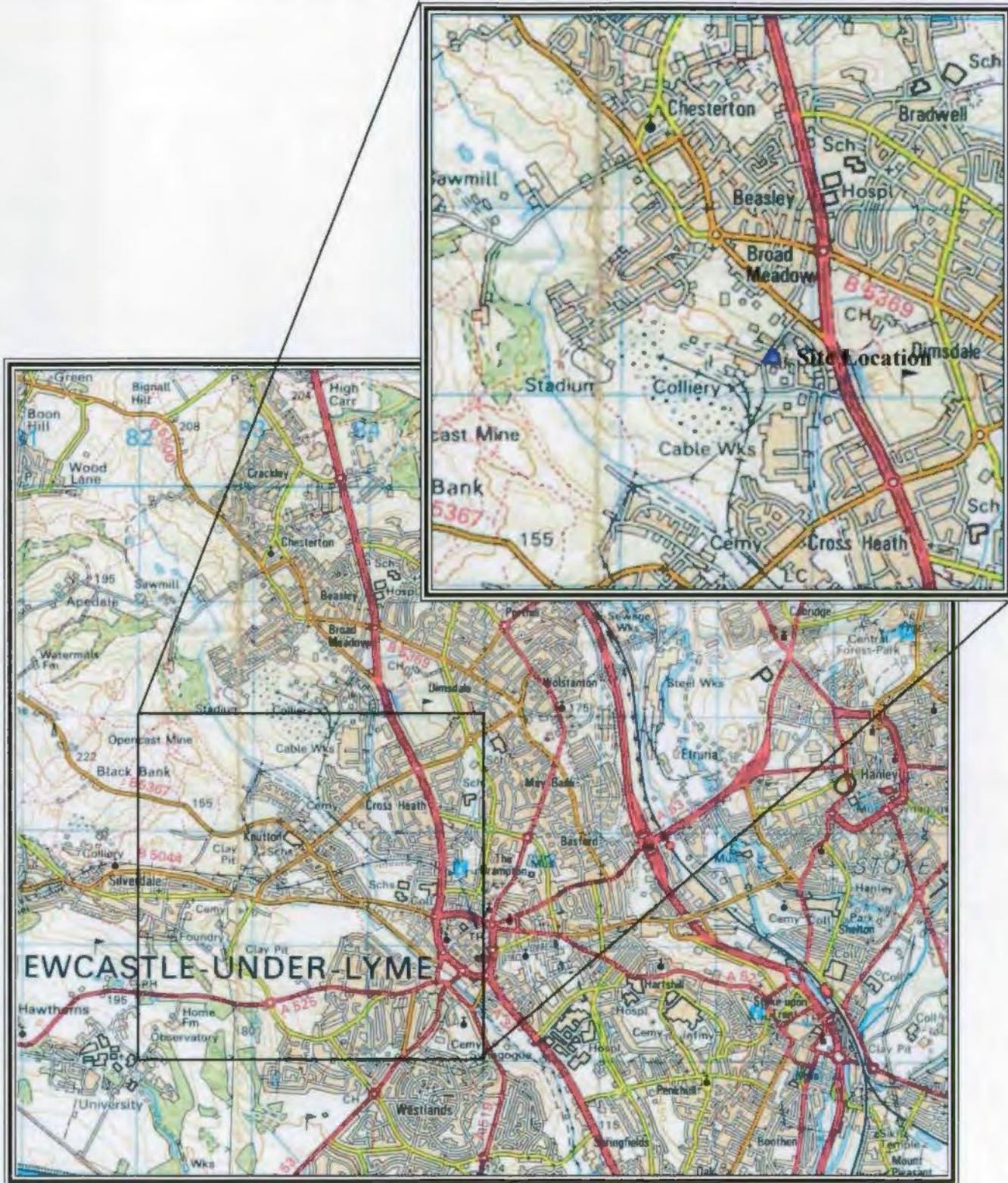
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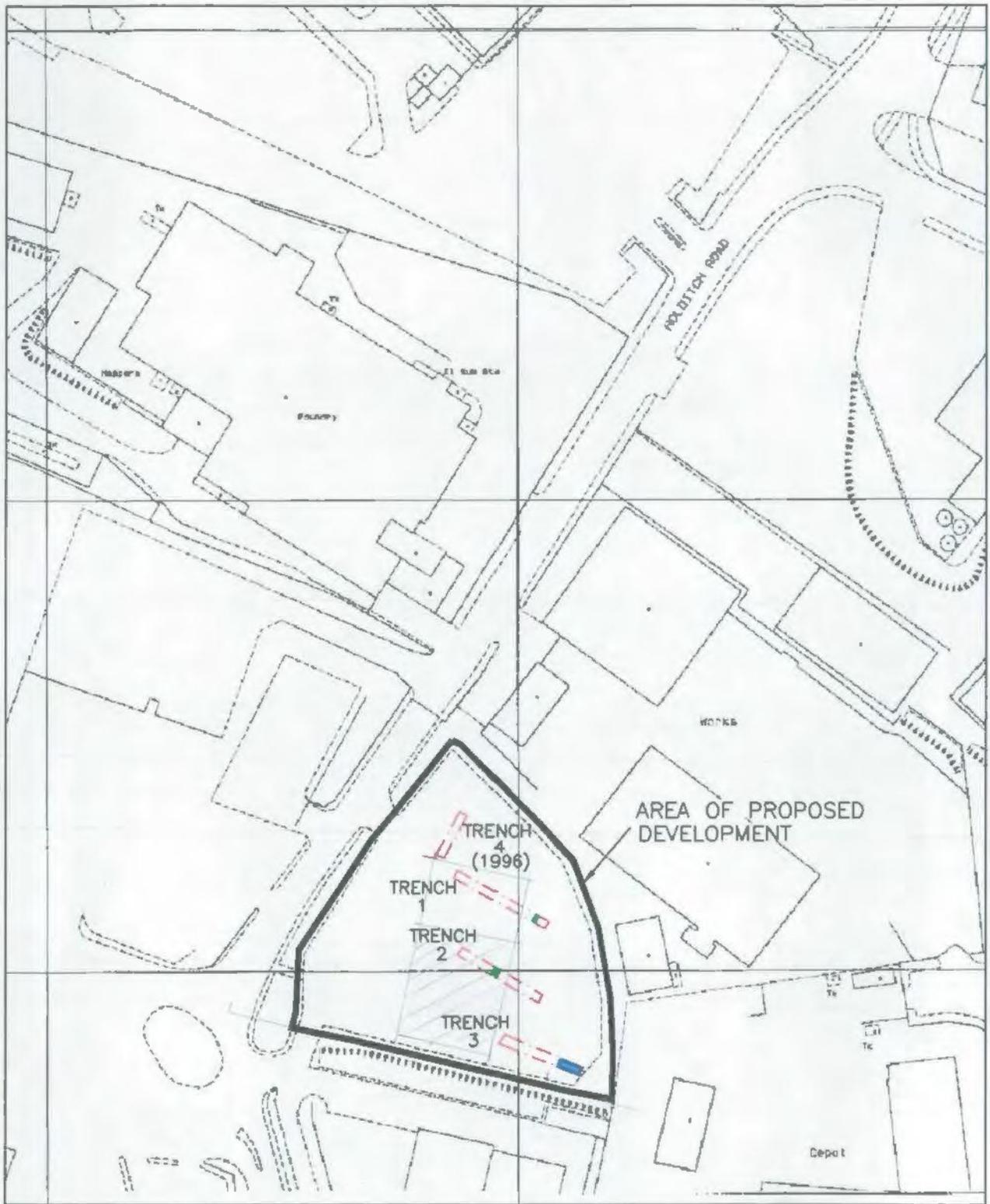
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<b>Project</b> B1505A Holditch Colliery, Lymedale Park	<b>Drawn</b> AS	<b>Checked</b> JP	<b>Approved</b> AT	
	<b>Date</b> 28 May 1998			
<b>Title</b> Figure 1 Site Location	<b>Scale</b> 1:50,000		<b>Rev.</b>	
	<b>Drawing No</b> B1505A.27D			



**KEY**

- - - Edge of Excavation
- Roman wall
- Road surface

Project B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDALE PARK	Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.	<b>GIFFORD AND PARTNERS</b>  Archaeology
	Date 3.6..98			
Title FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION PLAN	Scale 1:1250		Rev.	
	Drawing no. B1505A : 26D			

## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A

### The Brief

**BRIEF WITH SPECIFICATION  
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
AT HOLDITCH COLLIERY, HOLDITCH ROAD  
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME  
STAFFORDSHIRE**

APRIL 1998



**Staffordshire**  
County Council

*Development Services*

## SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.2 The objective of this Specification is to establish a framework which is acceptable to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), acting on the advice of the County Archaeological Officer, within which the evaluation may be carried out.
- 1.3 The process of evaluation will be conducted in accordance with a project design to be agreed between the Developer and the Local Planning Authority, and in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (1994).
- 1.4 Any variation in this Specification will be agreed in advance by the developer and the LPA.

### 2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (fig.1)

- 2.1 The area of the proposed development was a vehicle park associated with the former Holditch Colliery and is currently covered in hard surface material. The site covers 0.38ha and is centred on N. G. R. SJ8378848211.

### 3.0 KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeology of the immediate area is described in the report on the fieldwork carried out in November 1996 by Giffard and Partners (Giffard and Partners, report no. B0037.2R, *Report on an Archaeological Evaluation at Holditch Colliery, Staffordshire*, November 1996). In summary, a number of pits were discovered, apparently filled with demolition rubble associated with Romano-British ceramic sherds.

In January 1997 a number of test pits were excavated under archaeological supervision either side of Holditch Road, a few metres west of the evaluation trench dug by Giffards. The test pit which was closest to the Giffard trench was TP7 (see figure 1), and revealed 1.0m of what appeared to be colliery waste lying over natural subsoil. In TP5 and 6 there appeared to be a 3.0m deposit of waste, again lying over natural. Although these observations were obtained from deep and narrow test pits there seems a possibility that the archaeologically significant area may be confined to the eastern part of the site.

The proposal area lies within what was formerly Holditch Farm, which was demolished before 1948. At that date the area appears undisturbed, but the section of Holditch Road continuing south-west past the evaluation area, presumably created when Holditch Colliery was sunk, appears from aerial photographs to be in some form of cutting, and

ii) Supply to the AFC sufficient funds with which to carry out the said excavations.

- 5.2 Within the area indicated on figure 1, an area of **120 square metres** shall be excavated. The precise locations of the above areas of excavation are to be determined in the project design and are subject to the agreement of the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.3 Rubble and topsoil layers may be removed mechanically down to the first significant archaeological horizon, but the mechanical excavator must be employed under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist. The top of this horizon shall be cleaned by hand and examined for features. Sufficient of the features thus identified shall be sectioned by hand to enable their date, nature and degree of survival to be recorded and described. Any identified features will be recorded in plan, and a sample of negative features sectioned by hand to determine date and nature.
- 5.4 Any human remains which are encountered must initially be left in situ. If removal is necessary this must comply with relevant Home Office regulations.

*Method of recording*

- 5.5 A general site plan will indicate the position and size of all evaluation trenches and this will be included in the evaluation report. All plans, sections, etc., created during the evaluation will be related to Ordnance Survey datum levels and their relation to the National Grid referencing system shall be made clear.

The stratigraphy of all trenches shall be recorded even where no archaeological deposits are identified. Plans and sections of all features shall be recorded. The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent.

The record of the extent and vulnerability of features will be sufficiently detailed to facilitate discussions regarding the need for preservation beneath any future potential development, or any other mitigation measures including further excavation or recording.

An appropriate finds recording system shall be employed, and finds recording and conservation shall be carried out by an appropriately qualified person.

*Deposition of archive and finds*

- 5.6 The post excavation work shall be carried out immediately on completion of site investigations. The site archive shall be prepared in accordance with established professional guidelines.

The written and illustrated report of evaluation shall be copied to:

- i) the client
- ii) the County Council (two copies)

**APPENDIX B**

**Project Design**

## **PART B: PROJECT DESIGN**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This Project Design is based on a Brief prepared by the County Archaeological Officer, Staffordshire County Council (hereafter the Planning Archaeologist). The Brief, is reproduced in Appendix A.
- 1.2 The Project Design is formatted according to the recommended model detailed in the English Heritage document *The Management of Archaeological Projects, Second Edition* (1991).

### **2. SITE LOCATION**

The site of the proposed development is located as shown on figure 1 (Appendix A), centred on National Grid Reference SJ 8378848211. The site comprises a vehicle park associated with the former Holditch Colliery and is currently covered in hard surface material.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The proposed development site lies in an area which contains Romano-British remains. The Brief provides a summary of the findings to date, including the results of Giffords evaluation work in 1996 adjacent to the proposed development site (Appendix A).

### **4. REASON FOR THE PROJECT**

Development is being considered on part of the Lymedale Employment Park at Holditch. Given the potential for uncovering remains relating to the Roman settlement at Holditch the Local Planning Authority has requested an archaeological evaluation to define the character and extent of any remaining archaeological deposits within the proposed development site.

### **5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 To identify the nature of any human activity within the proposed development site and the relationship of that activity with the immediate environs in order to further the understanding of the history and development of the Romano-British settlement at

Holditch.

- 5.2 To determine past human activity, evidence of which may be found within the evaluation area, or the presence of which may affect archaeological survival.
- 5.3 To identify not only the nature, but also the date, quality, condition and potential of any archaeological deposits uncovered during the investigation.
- 5.4 To recover enough information to enable the Client and the Planning Archaeologist to properly assess the archaeological implications of the proposed development.
- 5.5 To prepare a report on the results of the archaeological investigation which will include a detailed summary of the methodology, site history, features/artefacts uncovered and an interpretation and assessment of the results.

## 6. METHODOLOGY

### 6.1 Evaluation Trenching

- 6.1.1 As marked on figure 1 in Appendix A an area of 120 square metres (three 20 x 2m trenches) will be excavated. Mechanical assistance will be used to remove surface levels and clearly disturbed or recent deposits. Remaining deposits will be excavated stratigraphically by hand. The mechanical excavator will be used under constant archaeological supervision. A cat-scan will be used to check for services on the site and plans of services from various utilities water, gas, electricity and telephone will be checked prior to commencing site work.
- 6.1.2 Excavation will be kept to the absolute minimum necessary to determine the nature, depth, survival and extent of any archaeological features identified.
- 6.1.3 Artefacts/ecofacts will be collected and recorded stratigraphically, with typographically distinct or closely dateable items will be recorded three dimensionally. All artefacts will be labelled, packed and stored in appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that no deterioration occurs. All artefact/ecofact processing/storage will be carried out in accordance with UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation) guidelines and will accord with relevant Institute of Field Archaeologists *Guidelines on Finds Work*.
- 6.1.4 Palaeoenvironmental samples will be collected from all deposits considered suitable and as agreed with the Planning Archaeologist. Samples will be collected in 10 litre airtight buckets.
- 6.1.5 Any human remains encountered will be left *in situ*. Home Office regulations will be complied with if removal of such remains is necessary.
- 6.1.6 Archaeological deposits will be recorded using the Gifford system based on that developed by English Heritage, Central Archaeology Service. *Proformae* examples of context, finds, and sample recording forms are given in Appendix B.
- 6.1.7 A survey related to the Ordnance Survey and Ordnance Datum will be completed covering the sample excavation works using a total station survey instrument.
- 6.1.8 The photographic record will comprise 35mm format colour slides and monochrome prints with a supporting index (Appendix B).
- 6.1.9 The drawn record will comprise plans of the site at a suitable scale, trench plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10. A profile of the deposits in each trench will be recorded, even where no archaeology is present.

6.1.10 All excavations will be backfilled with the material excavated.

## **6.2 Assessment**

6.2.1 Immediately upon completion of the site work an assessment of the site archive will be undertaken to include all written, drawn, and photographic records, artefacts and ecofacts/samples.

6.2.2 Artefacts will be assessed to provide dating, social, economic, and technological information. Special or unusual features will be highlighted and reference made to other material recovered from the immediate environs of the evaluation site.

6.2.3 The suitability of deposits recovered during the evaluation trenching for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be assessed.

6.2.4 The requirements for artefact conservation will be assessed and discussed with a specialist conservator (Bradford University).

6.2.5 A site matrix will be prepared to include all contexts identified during the sample excavation.

## **6.3 Analysis and Report**

6.3.1 Within a month of the completion of fieldwork two copies of a fully illustrated report will be submitted to the Client with two copies forwarded to the Planning Archaeologist/County Council. One copy will also form part of the project archive and a further copy will be lodged with the National Monuments Record (Swindon).

6.3.2 The report will contain the following elements:-

- a non-technical summary.
- a table of contents.
- an introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- a statement of the project aims.
- an account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same.

- the archaeological/historical background of the site, indicating past and present land use, accompanied by relevant maps, plans and photographs.
- a plan and gazetteer of areas/sites of known or potential archaeological significance within the proposed development area.
- a summary description of the investigation results including any archaeologically significant features/deposits or potential features/deposits identified within the proposed development site. The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded, even where no archaeological deposits are identified.
- a discussion of the location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological deposits/features uncovered, together with a discussion of their relationship with known archaeology in the vicinity.
- a general site plan indicating the position and size of the evaluation trenches.
- trench plans at appropriate scales. Each trench will be presented in the report with at least one plan (plan 1:20) and section (scale 1:10) as well as a photograph. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- other maps, plans, drawings and photographs as appropriate, including a plan showing areas of greater and lesser archaeological sensitivity.
- a description of the finds collected including an exposition of the methodologies employed, a statement on the presence or absence of material and an assessment of preservation. A summary interpretation of the finds including reference to any unusual or important features of the assemblage will also be included. Specialist reports will be included of all important groups of finds, materials and samples.
- A description and statement of the potential of the palaeoenvironmental remains including an exposition of the methodologies employed, a statement on the presence or absence of material and an assessment of preservation. A summary interpretation of the palaeoenvironmental assemblages will include references to any unusual or important elements.

- an interpretation of the results with a statement of the significance of any identified archaeological features of the site in its regional context.
  - an identification of any research implications arising from the work.
  - a bibliography of sources consulted and a supplementary bibliography of any sources identified but not available for consultation.
  - an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- 6.3.3 Appendices to the report will include copies of the Brief and agreed Project Design and transcripts of appropriate major sources of evidence, where appropriate.
- 6.3.4 A draft version of the report will be made available to the Client and the Planning Archaeologist for comment before the final version is issued.
- 6.3.5 Any recommendations for mitigating measures for archaeology within the development will be provided if requested by the Client under separate cover.
- 6.3.6 A summary report on the evaluation will be submitted to the journal *West Midlands Archaeology*. A record note will also be presented to the appropriate national period journal(s).

#### 6.4 Archive

- 6.4.1 The project archive will consist of all original records, artefacts, ecofacts/samples and all documentation that relates to the evaluation. Copies of the Project Design and any relevant correspondence will be included.
- 6.4.2 The archive will be prepared according to the *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage, Second Edition, (1991) so the records will be fully ordered and indexed.
- 6.4.3 The archive will comply with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (Archaeology Section) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage* (1990) the Society of Museum Archaeologists *Towards An Accessible Archive* (1995) and to the requirements of the agreed repository. The City Museum and Art Gallery at Hanley, Stoke on Trent will be approached on award of contract to receive the archive.

- 6.4.4 On award of the contract Gifford will attempt to ensure that arrangements for the deposition of the archive are finalised.
- 6.4.5 The archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of the evaluation, with the agreement of the Client.
- 6.4.6 Gifford and Partners will ensure that written consent from the landowner(s) is obtained before archive deposition.
- 6.4.7 A synopsis of the archive will be lodged with the Staffordshire Sites and Monuments Record.
- 6.4.8 Reproducible elements of the archive will be security-copied on microfiche and submitted to the National Monuments Record (Swindon).

## **7. CONFIDENTIALITY, PUBLICITY, SECURITY AND ACCESS**

- 7.1 Gifford and Partners Ltd will treat as confidential all information obtained directly/indirectly from the Client in connection with the project. Gifford will not, without the prior written consent of the Client, disclose any information relating to the project or publicise the project in any way.
- 7.2 Gifford will be responsible for the security of excavated material and records relating to the evaluation prior to submission of the archive to the final repository.
- 7.3 Gifford will conform to the Client's arrangements for notification of entering and leaving the site.

## **8. COPYRIGHT**

Gifford and Partners Ltd will retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that Gifford and Partners Limited hereby provide an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of such documents by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this Project Design.

## **9. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 9.1 Gifford and Partners Ltd have a fully developed Health and Safety policy along with written procedures as part of our Quality Management System.

9.2 Gifford and Partners Ltd operate in accordance with the health and safety procedures as set out in:-

- the *Health and Safety Work Act* (1974) and related legislation.
- the Standing Conference of Archaeology Unit Managers *Health and Safety Manual* (1991).
- the Council for British Archaeology Handbook no. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).
- the *Gifford Health and Safety Handbook*.

9.3 In accordance with the CDM Regulations Gifford will prepare a Risk Assessment prior to the commencement of the evaluation.

9.4 All necessary protective clothing and equipment will be used. The archaeologists on site will wear safety helmets at all times when working below overhead hazards or with machinery. High visibility jackets/vests will be worn at all times. Ear defenders and eye goggles will be used as required when machinery is in operation. All staff will be issued with Weils Disease cards and instructed to carry them at all times.

9.5 Gifford will provide adequate personal hygiene facilities for site staff.

9.6 All trenches will be fenced off and appropriate warning signs erected.

9.7 A First-Aid kit and Accident Book will be kept on site at all times, with the Gifford Health and Safety file.

## 10. PROJECT MONITORING

10.1 Gifford understand that the project will be monitored by the Client and the Planning Archaeologist. Gifford will give the monitors as much notice of the commencement of the works as possible and note that the Planning Archaeologist requires 10 days written notice.

10.2 Gifford propose:

- a preliminary consultation (by telephone)\* between Gifford and the Client to agree conditions of contract and other preliminaries.

- a progress meeting on site as appropriate, and as agreed with the Planning Archaeologist once the project timetable is known.
- a consultation (by telephone) to discuss the draft report and archive before submission of the final report.

10.3 Gifford will minute/distribute all monitoring consultations.

10.4 Gifford will provide the Client with progress reports as required during the evaluation.

10.5 Gifford understand that report and archive preparation may also be subject to monitoring and will ensure all records are available upon request as far as is reasonably practicable.

## 11. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Gifford and Partners Ltd will manage the project in accordance with the Gifford quality management system which is third party accredited by Lloyds Quality Assurance to BS 5750, Part 1, ISO 9001.

## 12. RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

### 12.1 Staff

- Project Director: T J Strickland MA FSA MIFA  
(Quality reviewer)
- Associate: A Thompson BA Diploma in Post Excavation Studies  
(Project management; artefact assessment; editing of report).
- Archaeologist: A L Martin MA PIFA or J Perkins BA PIFA  
(Supervision of evaluation trenching; preparation of report text)
- Site Assistant: Four (to be appointed)  
(Evaluation trenching)
- Archaeology Technician: G Reaney  
(Preparation of report illustrations)
- Archaeology Assistant: A Sawyer  
(Presentation of report and preparation of archive)
- Specialist Sub-Contractor: Hereford and Worcester Archaeology Unit  
(Palaeoenvironmental assessment)
- Specialist Sub-Contractor: Bradford University  
(Artefact Conservation)

### 12.2 Summary of Timetable

STAGE	DAYS
Project Set-up	1 day
Trenching	5 days
Analysis and Report	3 days
Archive	1 day
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10 days</b>

**APPENDIX C**

**Bulk Finds and Ceramic Record**





# GIFFORD

## Ceramic Record

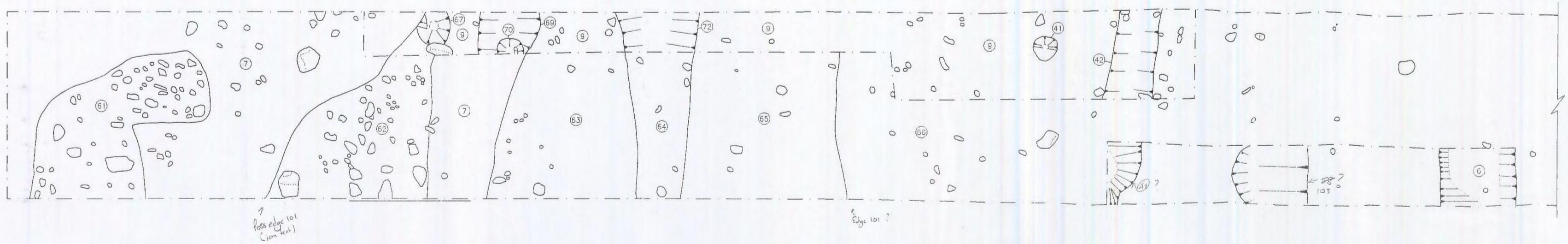
PROJECT CODE:

B1505A

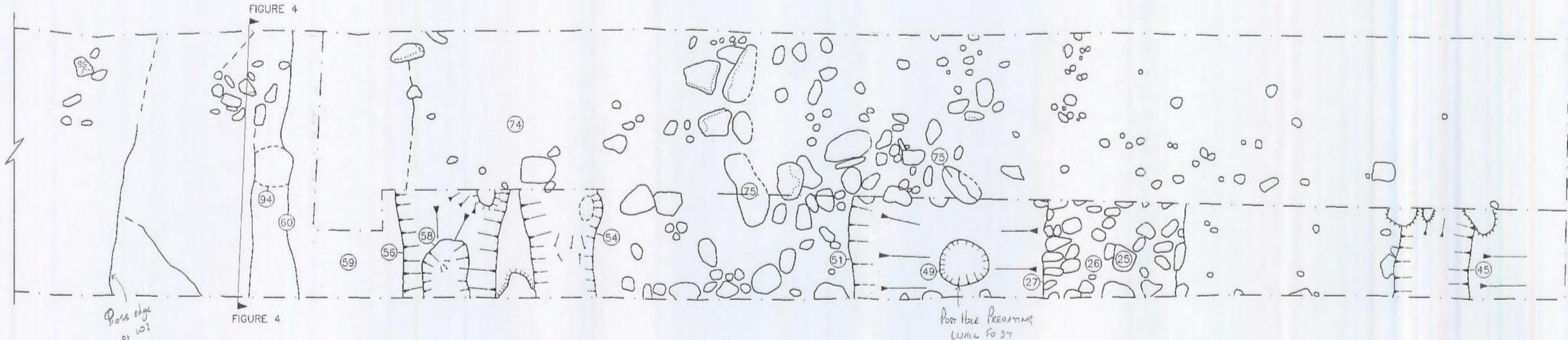
Context	Date	Sherd No	Fabric No	Form No	Glaze Interior	Glaze Exterior	Rim	Base	Handle	Spout	Body	Joins	Rim Diam	% Rim	No of Sherds	No of Vessels	Weight	Drg No	Comment
6	19 <sup>th</sup> century	1-16	PB	Plate	Clear	Clear	8	1			7				16	1	85g	31	
6	18 <sup>th</sup> century	17	SW	Dish	Clear		1								1	1	25g	22	Press moulded dish with featured slip
7	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> cent	18-23	BBG	Pantheon	Purple		2				4	6			6	1	320g		SF's 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 & 13
12	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> cent	24-25	CW	Bowl	Cream	Cream		1			1				2	1	40g		SF 32
13	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	47-48	BBW									2	1		2	1	5g		
14	16 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> cent	26	Cist W	Cup	Brown	Brown					1				1	1	10g		
16	18 <sup>th</sup> cent	27	MY		Clear						1				1	1	20g		
16	19 <sup>th</sup> century	28	PB	Dish	Blue	Blue	1								1	1	1g		
28	2 <sup>nd</sup> cent	29	WW	RNF			1								1	1	5g		Local fabric
29	Roman	30	OW								1				1	1	5g		Local fabric
35	19 <sup>th</sup> cent	31	PB	Dish	Clear	Clear	1								1	1	25g		
50	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	63-68	SVW								6	6			6	1	25g		
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	58-59	GW								2				2	1	5g		Local fabric
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	60	WW								1				1	1	5g		Local fabric
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	61	GW								1				1	1	5g		Local fabric
55	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	62	GW								1				1	1	50g		Local fabric
59	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	49-57	GW	Jar				3			6	8			9	1	55g		Local fabric
66	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	32-33	BBW					2					1		2	1	5g		
66	2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> cent	34-37	GW	Jar				1				3	4		4	1	135g		Local fabric

### Key:

BBG		OW	Orange Ware
BBW	Black burnished ware	PB	Porcellaneous Bodied
CW	Cream-ware	SW	Slipware
Cist W	Cistercian Ware	SVW	Severn Valley Ware
GW	Grey ware	WW	White-ware
MY	Midland Yellow		



Continued Below



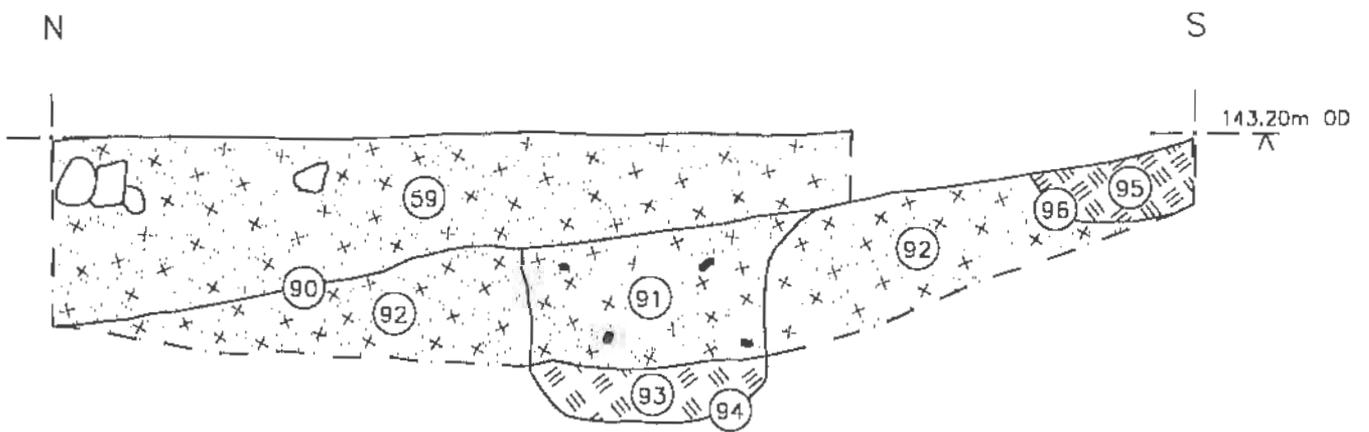
Continued Above



KEY  
 - - - - - Limit of Excavation

Project B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDALE PARK		
Title FIGURE 3 PLAN OF TRENCH 1		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.
Date 28.5.98		
Scale 1:20		
Drawing no. B1505A : 19D	Rev.	

**GIFFORD  
AND PARTNERS**  
Archaeology

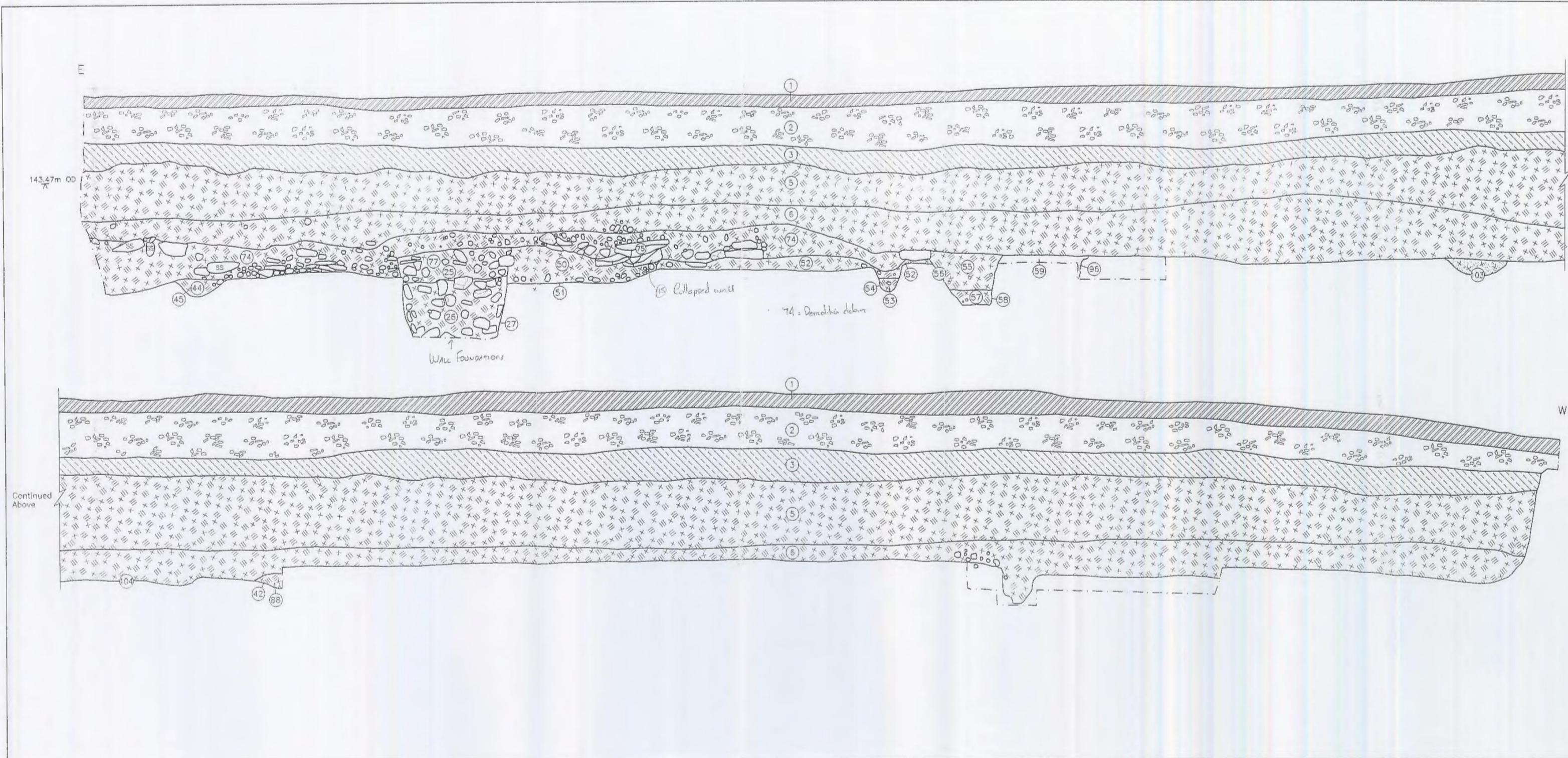


**KEY**

- - - - - Edge of excavation
-  Clay
-  Sand
-  Silt

Project B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDALE PARK	Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.
	Date 28.5.98		
Title FIGURE 4 SECTION THROUGH CONTEXT 94	Scale 1:10		Rev.
	Drawing no. B15054 : 200		

**GIFFORD  
AND PARTNERS**  
Archaeology



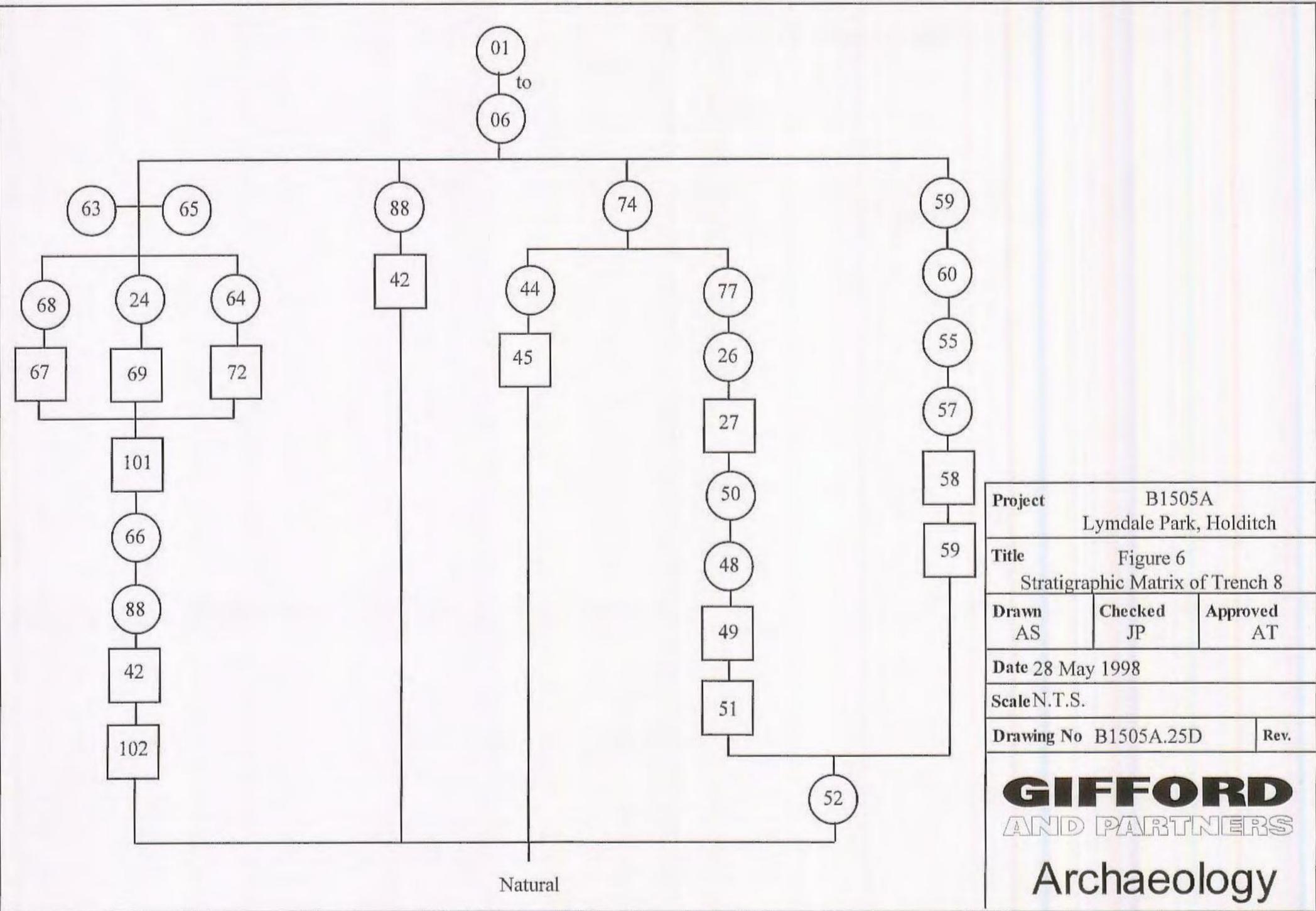
Continued Below

KEY

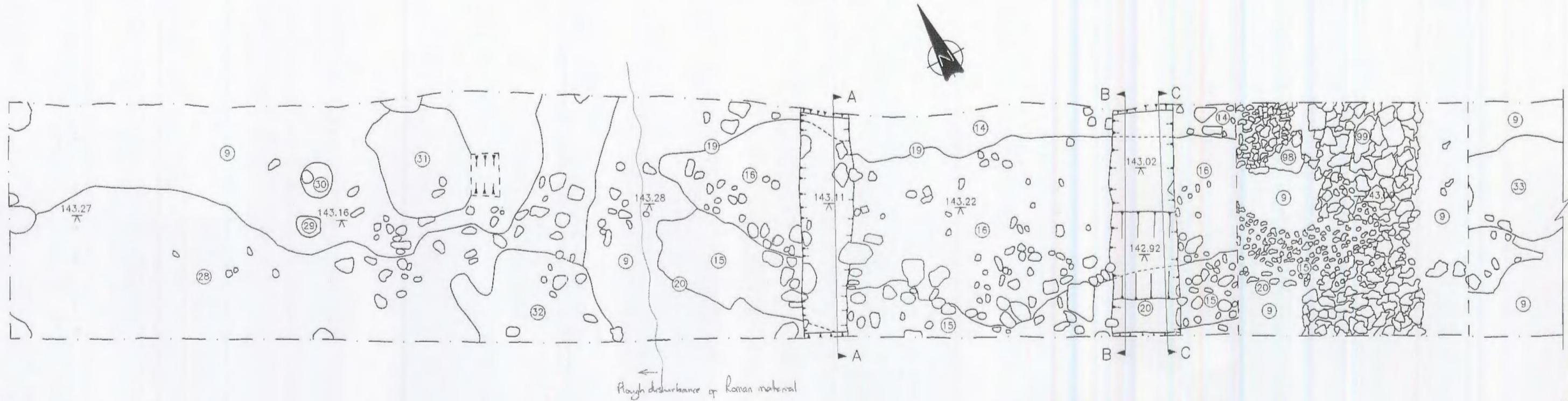
- Limit of Excavation
- [Pattern: Diagonal lines /] Clay
- [Pattern: Irregular shapes] Hardcore
- [Pattern: Diagonal lines \] Red Shale
- [Pattern: Dotted] Sand
- [Pattern: X's] Silt
- [Pattern: Parallel lines] Tarmac

Project B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDEALE PARK		
Title FIGURE 5 TRENCH 1 NORTH FACING SECTION		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.
Date 1.6.98		
Scale 1:20		
Drawing no. B1505A : 21D		Rev.

**GIFFORD AND PARTNERS**  
Archaeology

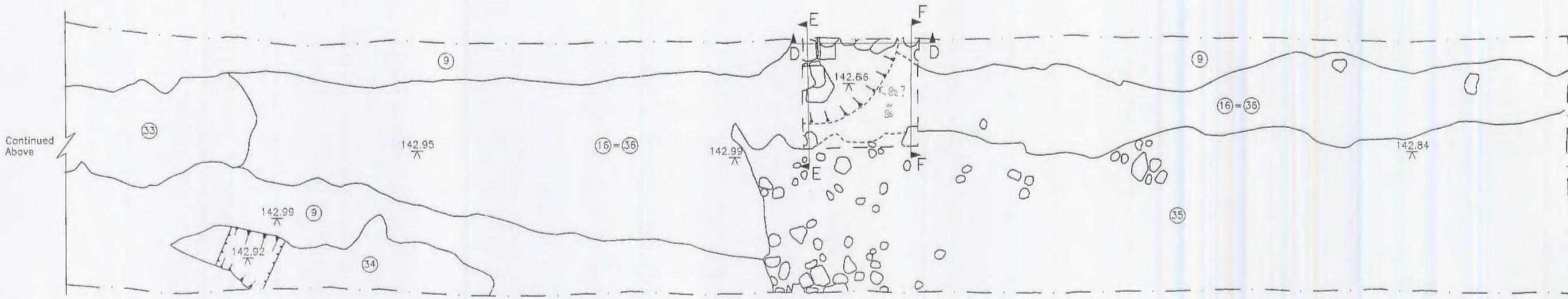


Project			B1505A Lyndale Park, Holditch		
Title			Figure 6 Stratigraphic Matrix of Trench 8		
Drawn	Checked	Approved			
AS	JP	AT			
Date 28 May 1998					
Scale N.T.S.					
Drawing No B1505A.25D					Rev.
<b>GIFFORD</b> AND PARTNERS Archaeology					



Continued Below

← Plough disturbance of Roman material



Continued Above

**KEY**  
 - - - - - Limit of Excavation  
 - - - - - Section line

For section drawings see Figure 8  
 (Drawing no. B1505A:23D)

All levels are in metres above  
 Ordnance Datum

Project B1505A  
 HOLDITCH COLLIERY  
 LYMEDALE PARK

Title FIGURE 7  
 PLAN OF TRENCH 2

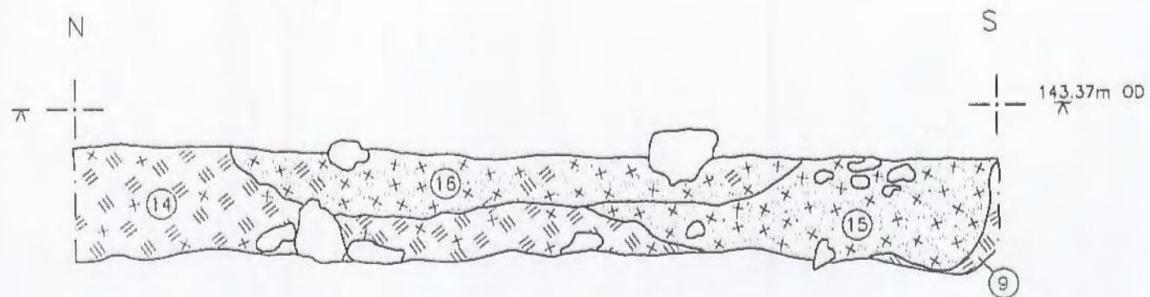
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.
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Date 10.6.98

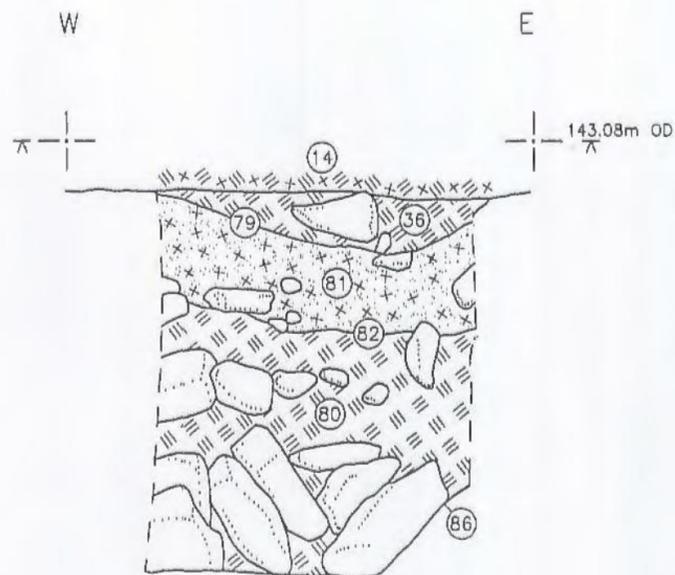
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Drawing no. B1505A : 22D	Rev.
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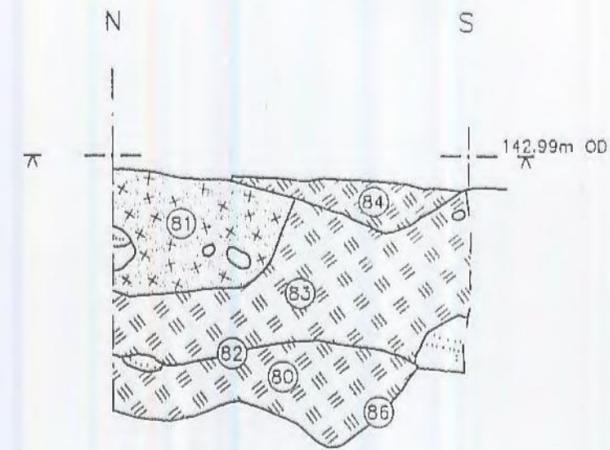
**GIFFORD  
 AND PARTNERS**  
 Archaeology



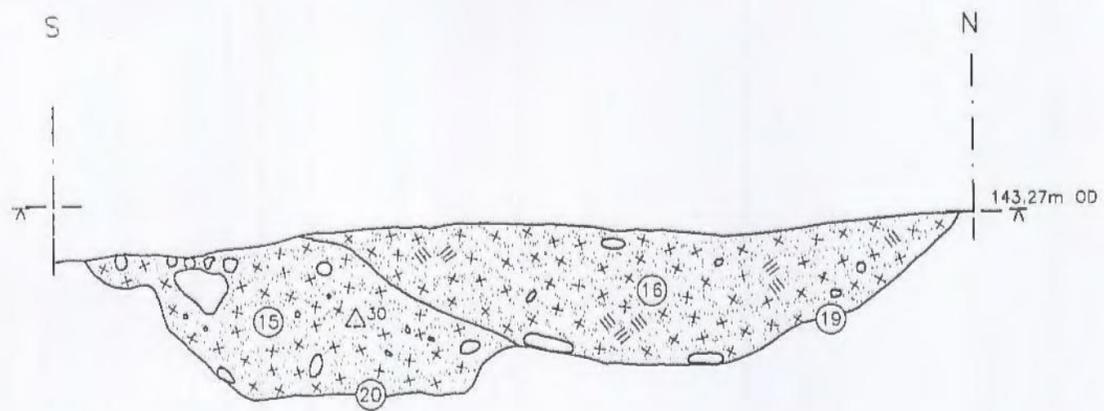
WEST FACING SECTION A-A



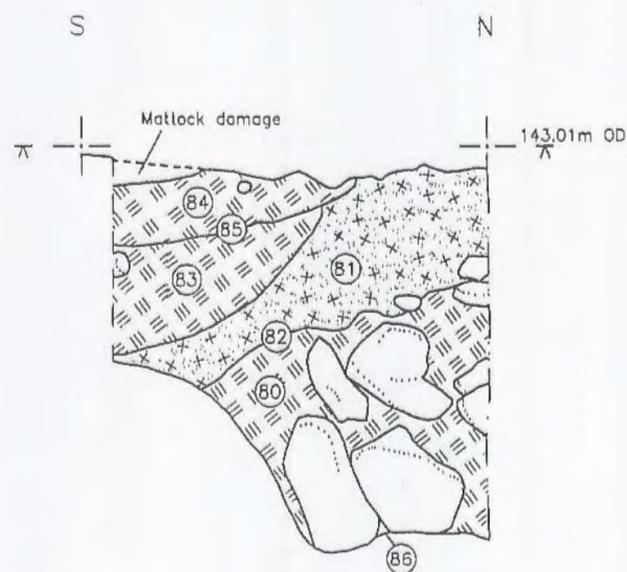
SOUTH FACING SECTION D-D



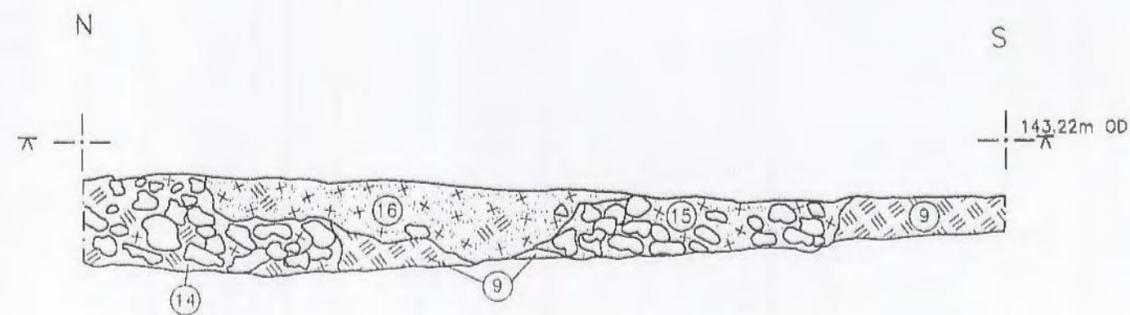
WEST FACING SECTION F-F



EAST FACING SECTION B-B



EAST FACING SECTION E-E



WEST FACING SECTION C-C

KEY

- — — Edge of trench
- - - - Section line
-  Clay
-  Sand
-  Silt
-  Location of find

Project B1505A  
HOLDITCH COLLIERY  
LYMEDALE PARK

Title FIGURE 8  
TRENCH 2  
SECTION DRAWINGS

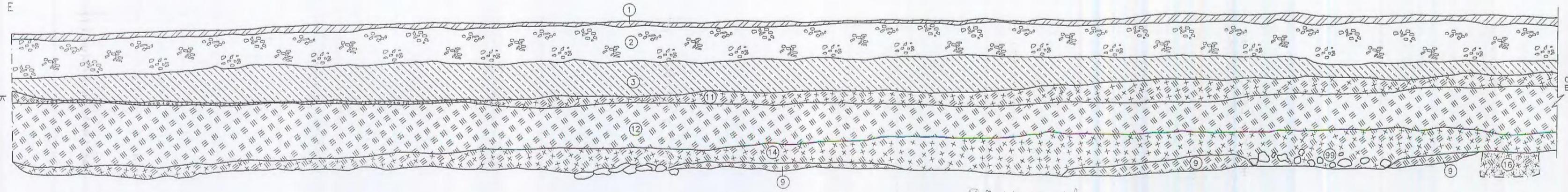
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.
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Date 29.5.98

Scale 1:10

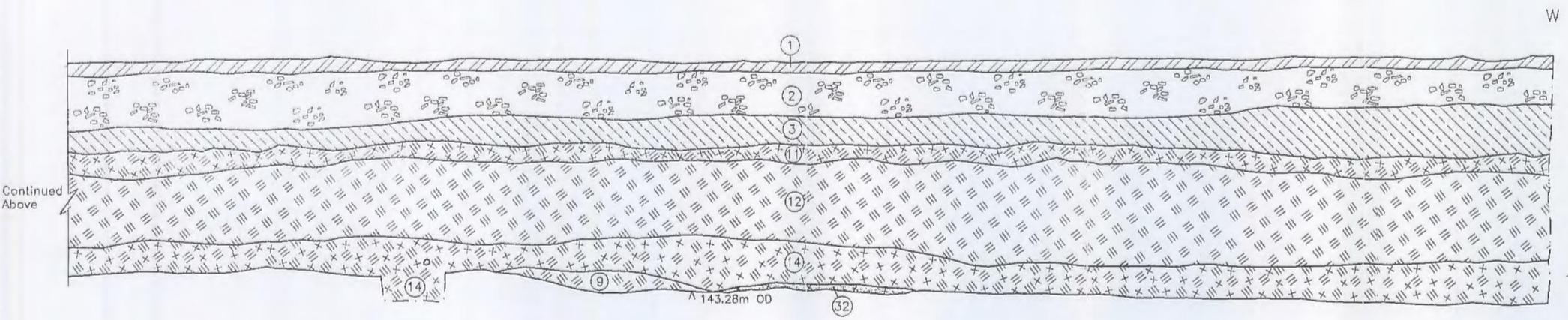
Drawing no. B1505A : 23D	Rev.
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Archaeology



Continued Below

(14) Mixed 16+17c. and Roman



Continued Above

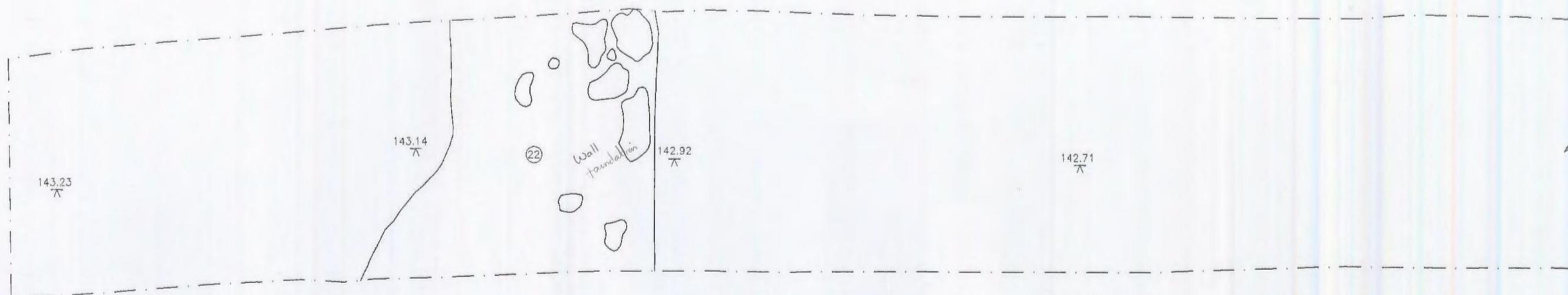
143.57m OD

Absolute arch limit ~ 143.27 in this trench

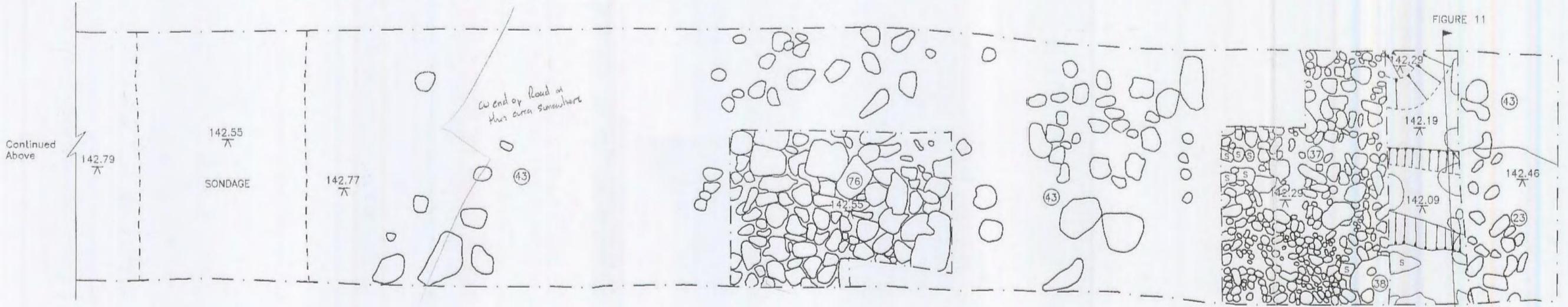
**KEY**

- Limit of Excavation
-  Clay
-  Hardcore
-  Red Shale
-  Sand
-  Silt
-  Tarmac

Project B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDALE PARK		
Title FIGURE 9 TRENCH 2 NORTH FACING SECTION		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.
Date 1.6.98		
Scale 1:20		
Drawing no. B1505A : 24D		Rev.
<b>GIFFORD AND PARTNERS</b> Archaeology		



Continued Below



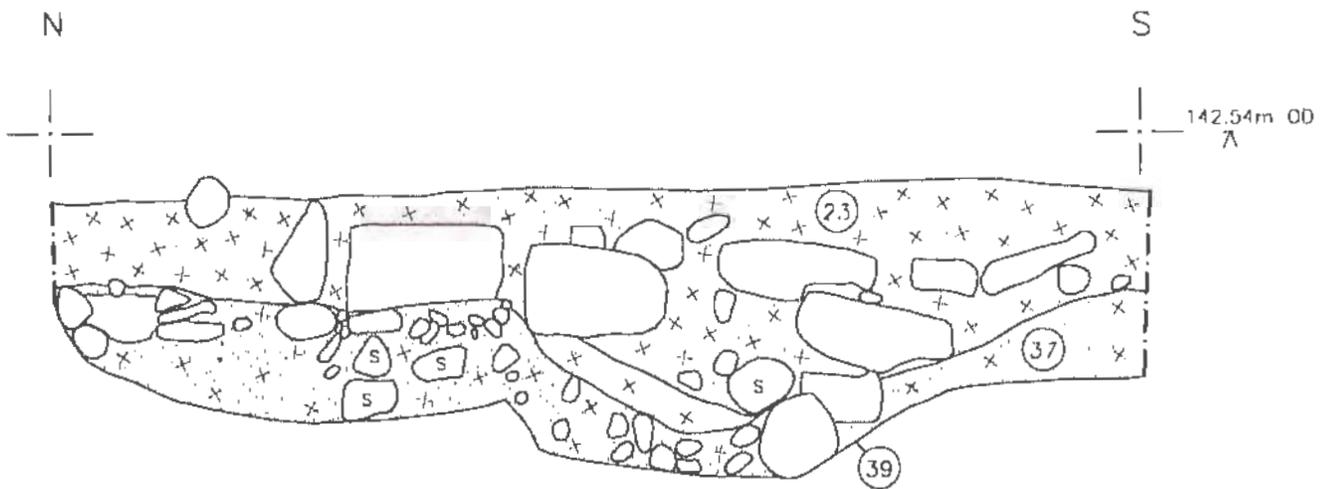
**KEY**

— · — Limit of Excavation

All levels are in metres above Ordnance Datum

Project		
B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDALE PARK		
Title		
FIGURE 10 PLAN OF TRENCH 3		
Drawn	Checked	Approved
G.C.R.	J.P.	A.T.
Date		
8.6.98		
Scale		
1:20		
Drawing no.		Rev.
B1505A : 28D		

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Archaeology



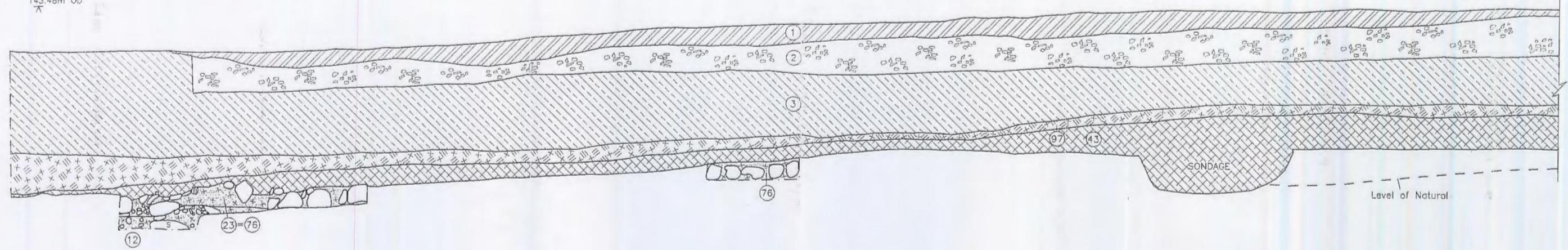
**KEY**

- · — · — · Edge of excavation
- Sand
- ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ ⊗ Silt

Project B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDALE PARK	Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.	<b>GIFFORD AND PARTNERS</b>
	Date 9.6.98			
Title FIGURE 11 SECTION THROUGH CONTEXT 22	Scale 1:10			Archaeology
	Drawing no. B1505A : 29D		Rev.	

E

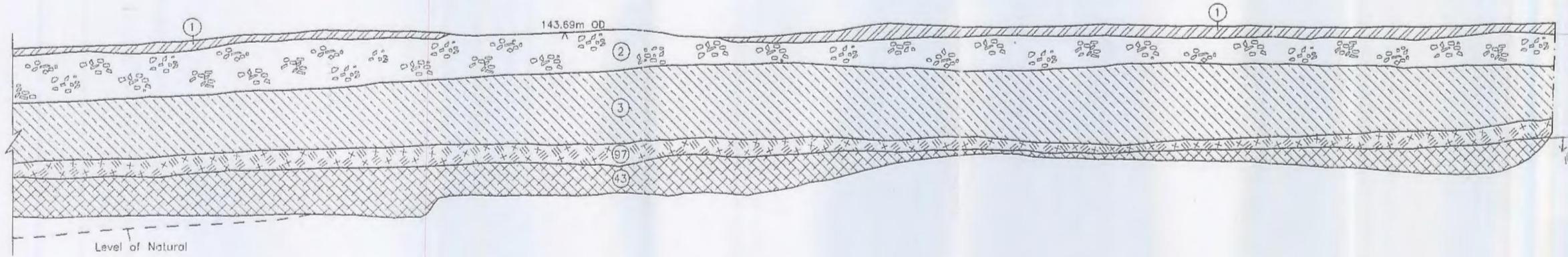
143.48m OD



Continued Below

W

143.69m OD



Continued Above

KEY

- Limit of Excavation
- Clay
- Demolition debris
- Hardcore
- Red Shale
- Sand
- Silt
- Tarmac

Project B1505A HOLDITCH COLLIERY LYMEDALE PARK		
Title FIGURE 12 TRENCH 3 NORTH FACING SECTION		
Drawn G.C.R.	Checked J.P.	Approved A.T.
Date 9.6.98		
Scale 1:20		
Drawing no. B1505A : 30D		Rev.
<b>GIFFORD AND PARTNERS</b> Archaeology		