

**A Metal Detector Survey at Land West
of Winwick Road, Newton-Le-Willows,
St Helens, Merseyside**

Final Report

NGR SJ 593 943

Prepared for St. Helens Council

By M. Adams

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National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit,
Dock Traffic Office,
Albert Dock
Liverpool
L3 4AX.

Tel: 0151 478 4337/4260

Fax: 0151 478 4040

Email: mark.adams@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

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1. Introduction and Non-Technical Summary

National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit (NMLFAU) was commissioned by St. Helens Council to carry out a metal detector survey of land west of Winwick Road, Newton-Le-Willows, St Helens, Merseyside, Merseyside. The investigation was undertaken in accordance with an archaeological condition on outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the site (Appendix A).

The study found that the site lies in a landscape containing remains dating to the Prehistoric period onwards. The principal monument is the site of the Civil War Battle of Redbank, fought in 1648 between a Parliamentary army and a Royalist army retreating to Warrington.

A metal detector survey found no remains relating to the battle.

2. The Development Area

The site covers approximately 0.70 hectares and is centred on NGR SJ 593 943 (Fig. 1). It lies c. 1 km to the south-east of Newton -le-Willows, east of the West Coast Main railway line and to the west of Winwick Road and Coronation Drive and adjacent to the existing Red Bank Community Home. The site is currently grassland but has been a playing field /track.

3. Aims and Objectives

The objective of the survey was, where possible, to reinvestigate and recover information associated with the Battle of Red Bank, 1648, with the aim of allowing more detailed proposals for mitigation to be made as required.

3. Methodology

All work was carried out in accordance with the brief by the MAS (Appendix A) and Project Design submitted by NMLFAU (Appendix B).

The first phase of the project was a rapid desk-based assessment aimed at providing a more detailed context for the report. The metal detector survey was undertaken by Russ Neale, an experienced local amateur metal detector user operating a Minelab Quattro MP detector under the direct supervision of the archaeological contractor.

All finds were individually bagged and located using a Total Station EDM linked to a datalogger running Penmap software. The survey was accurately tied in to an OS base-map.

4. Geology

The British Geological Survey (BGS) on their maps for the area, Wigan Sheet 84, show the site to be underlain by Bunter Sandstone (Unit f 1-3) – Triassic. No drift deposits have been mapped at the site.

A programme of bore-holes and test-pits (Merseyside Engineers Laboratory Services, Red Bank Community Home, Newton Le Willows. Exploratory Investigation Interpretative Report. Report No. 726b February 2008) conducted for the client found made ground consisting of clayey sand and gravel with cobbles and boulders in places (brick, concrete, ash) locally up to 2 m thick. This overlay c. 2-3 m of Boulder Clay over sands and gravels c. 1 m thick. Dense to very dense reddish brown weathered sandstone occurred at a depth of c. 4-4.5 m.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

No archaeological investigation has taken place on the site and no monuments are documented within or immediately adjacent to the site. However, it lies within a landscape known to contain sites relating to the Prehistoric onwards.

Because of the nature of the project, periods up to the early Post-Medieval are considered in outline only. Site numbers refer to Fig. 1 and the Gazetteer.

The earliest evidence for human activity in the area dates to the early Mesolithic and Neolithic periods and was found during excavations at Southworth Hall Farm, Winwick c. 1.5 km east of the site. Although the precise nature of this activity remains uncertain, it is likely to relate to some form of settlement (Cowell, in prep). There is extensive evidence for Bronze Age activity in the wider area in the form of barrows or burial mounds, also at Southworth Hall, two of which were excavated in 1980 (Freke and Holgate, 1990). Although both had been badly damaged by ploughing, one contained a total of twelve cremation burials, some in urns. Another barrow site may be located at Lady Hill, c. 2 km to the north (S. Dowd, pers. comm.).

There is little evidence for Iron Age settlement in the area, though this is generally sparse in the North-West as a whole and is more likely to be a consequence of the difficulty of identifying sites of this date in the region rather than their absence.

There is some evidence for Roman activity in the area, the Roman road from Wilderspool, Warrington to Wigan runs 0.5 km to the west (Philpott 2000) and there is an enclosure likely to date to this period at Southworth Hall (Philpott et al 1993) which is also associated with field systems which may also be Roman (Philpott 1986, 66). A group of fields to the south of Newton High Street named 'Chestersides' may relate to the site of a Roman fort, though there is no other evidence for this (Philpott 1987, 19).

Evidence for post-Roman settlement in the region is generally limited to documentary and placename evidence and the archaeology of the period remains poorly understood. However, a cemetery centred round the Bronze Age barrow at Winwick was dated to the Anglo-Saxon and may relate to a minster, though the evidence for its date was largely circumstantial (Freke and Holgate, 1990). St. Oswald's Well, c. 1 km to the east of the site, is reputed to be the site where Oswald fell in the battle of Maserfelth and was buried in 642 AD, though Oswestry in Shropshire may have a better claim (Bu'Lock 1972, cited in Philpott 1987, 14).

Newton-le-Willows has an extensive and well documented medieval history which is discussed in Philpott (1987) and outlined below.

Until the 19th century the township was known as Newton-in-Makerfield, a reflection of its position as the head of the ancient fee of Makerfield. The township appears in the Domesday Survey of 1086 when it formed part of the royal estates in the area, though the placename may indicate a relatively recently established settlement, perhaps the creation of a new royal manor for the administration of Makerfield distinct from the ecclesiastical centre at Winwick.

Settlement was centred round the present High Street, though may have shifted to that location from the Castle Hill area in the 13th century, possibly when the township was granted borough status. The latter site is a mound known as 'Castle Hill' in the north-east of the township. This is likely to be the site of a motte and bailey castle and was probably the manorial seat, though it is first mentioned in the 15th century and this identification has yet to be confirmed.

The manor house appears to have been moved closer to the centre of Newton by at least the mid-14th century, probably close to the site of Newton Hall, though recent excavation (Adams in prep) found no evidence for the earlier site which may be buried below the present railway embankment. Another late medieval building, Crow Hall, situated at the west of the township has also been recently excavated (Adams in prep), though little direct evidence for medieval structures was found. The church appears to have been on its present site since at least the 13th century, and the earlier 'Rokeden Chapel' was probably on the same site.

Medieval land holdings in Newton are relatively well understood from documentary sources which provide details of demesne lands belonging to the manor, the Serjant's, Heald's and Hey estate in the west of the township. The Legh family were also major landowners and their survey of 1465 provides important details of the layout of medieval Newton.

Newton Park (Site 10) lies immediately east of the site (the park's western boundary was defined by the Newton-Winwick Road (Site 4)) and was established as a hunting park by at least 1322, being mentioned again in 1412 (Philpott 1987, 38). Medieval parks were generally established in well wooded country and were intended to supply hunting grounds for the aristocracy. They were kept well stocked with game and controlled by strict laws regulating not just the hunting and poaching of game but also the use of woodland and grazing. The park boundary usually consisted of a steep bank topped by a hedge or wooden fence (the pale) and there was often an internal bank. Inside there was a mix of woodland and open grazing. Parks also served as grazing for pigs and as sources of timber.

Most landowners seem to have found the upkeep of parks a burden and most were converted to agricultural use by mid-17th century, the date at which Newton was de-parked is uncertain and the process may have been gradual, though by 1653 corn was being grown within the park boundaries, suggesting it had been abandoned by that date. The boundaries survived in places until at least 1681 when a ditch and hedge are mentioned. However, there are few surface signs today, though short sections of bank may survive and cropmarks within the park boundaries (Sites 5 and 13) may relate to internal features.

Newton Park Farm (Site 1) is an 18th century house set close to the centre of the park. Associated with the farm is a timber framed barn (Site 2), although some elements of the construction may be earlier, the overall form is 16th or 17th century (Philpott 1987, 39) and there is documentary evidence for a barn on the site in 1655.

Gallowshill (Site 9) is locally associated with the battle of Redbank, though the placename is first mentioned in the early 15th century as Gawlehill. It is possible that it relates to the erection of gallows, though it may also relate to a Prehistoric burial mound similar to those at Winwick. The Bloody Stone (Site 16) is now a boulder set into the kerbside on the A49. It is traditionally associated with the murder of a Welsh knight.

The township contained some substantial post-medieval timber framed buildings. Newton Hall c. 0.8 km to the north (Adams in prep) was constructed 1634 and was a timber framed, H-shaped building demolished c. 1965. The later phases of Crow Hall at the western end of the township were similar in style (Adams in prep).

Several mills stood in the township, Newton Mill was sited close to Newton Hall and is first mentioned in 1655, a windmill was probably set on a prominent mound at Primrose Farm to the west, though the mound has also been identified as a prehistoric burial mound. Dean Mill on the northern edge of the township is mentioned in 1681, whilst the Legh Estate survey of 1465 mentions a mill on the Sankey, possibly close to the site of the later Bradley Mill c. 3 km to the west.

Red Bank Mill (Site 7) lies on the southern site boundary and is shown on the 1745 Legh Estate Map. The mill is mentioned in several 18th century deeds (MSMR). It is first mentioned in 1716 when it was leased by John Dumbell from the Legh estate. In 1749 it was known as Dumbell Mill and in 1779 and was in the ownership of William Dumbell who mortgaged it to George Parker. Parker sold the mill to James Cartwright and Peter Eden in 1786. The mill building still survives but was converted to a house in 1957-9.

Red Bank Farm (Site 6) lies adjacent to the mill and probably dates to the later 18th century. New Hey Farm (Site 8) may be slightly earlier, though the placename suggests a post-medieval origin.

The road from Winwick to Newton (Site 4) was realigned in the first decade of the 19th century, the original line is shown on the Yoxall Estate map of 1745 (Fig. 3) and survives on mid-19th century mapping (Fig. 6) as a set of curving field boundaries. A short section of hollow way adjacent to Red Bank may be a remnant of part of the road (Philpott 1987, 38).

Map evidence shows that the site of the development appears to have been pasture/cultivation for a long period prior to the opening of the present institution. The pattern of linear east-west orientated fields just north of the site shown on the Tithe Map (Fig. 6) may relate to enclosure of part of the medieval field system, though those immediately around the site are squarer, possibly the result of the enclosure of former waste.

Red Bank Community Home opened in July 1868 as Liverpool Farm School and belonged to the Liverpool Juvenile Reformatory Association (Lane 1914, 44). It was originally based in Newton Park where it began with one boy in 1859 (ibid). Red Bank Farm and Mill were added to the site shortly before 1914 when it contained 150 boys. Vardy (1942) provides a fascinating insight into the mid-20th century operation of the

school and contemporary attitudes to offenders and includes detailed plans of the layout and functions of the buildings. The book also contains a detailed description of the construction of the running track which now occupies the site. This was built between March and August 1939 and is described in some detail, i.e.

'The first two months were occupied by clearing the land, transplanting trees and hedges, and then excavating to a depth of 18ins, the full circuit of the track and straight. This involved the digging out and disposal of hundreds of tons of earth, and was a far harder and longer job than we had bargained for. The earth thus obtained was used to get a rough level on the main field.

Eventually the foundation was carefully levelled and ready for the actual laying of the track. The formula being most suitable for local conditions was worked out as follows:

9in. broken bricks (1/4 brick maximum size).

6in. rough cinders.

3in. fine cinders— 1/4in. screened.

As the track began to take shape, the slightly dulled interest, after two months of solid digging, was replaced by genuine enthusiasm. Summer was now beginning, and as weather permitted shirts were peeled off in the sun and bronzed backs were soon the rule among the boys.

Lorries arrived bringing cinders in 4 and 8 ton loads. As soon as these were tipped they were attacked by hoys working in pairs (one with a shovel and his partner with a sieve) and in very quick time the load was divided into two piles, one of fine cinders and a slightly larger one of rough. 'The bricks were brought by farm carts and also by lorries. The system of laying was as follows: —

- 1. The bricks were laid out and then broken by sledge-hammers. They were then spread to a depth of 9ins. and rolled to an approximate level.*
- 2. Rough cinders were brought by barrows from the cinder dump (we called it "the factory") and laid to a depth of 6ins, on top of the bricks. The heavy roller 'then came into use and a careful level was obtained.*
- 3. The fine cinders were then spread out and carefully raked to an accurate level, after which the light, and finally the heavy, rollers were used.'*

(Vardy 1942, 79-80)

The railway line to the west of the site (Site 3) was opened in 1867 (Lane 1914, 45).

5.1 The Battle of Redbank

In the present context the most significant site is that of the Civil War battle of Redbank or Winwick Pass (Site 14), which took place on Saturday 19 August 1648 (The date of 23 August cited in OAN (2006) is incorrect, Cromwell's letter recording the victory is dated the 20th, the letter was read to Parliament on the 23rd) and was fought between a Parliamentary army commanded by Oliver Cromwell and a Royalist army composed principally of Scots foot soldiers commanded by Major-General William Baillie. Baillie's command was in fact part of an army led by the Duke of

Hamilton and retreating to Warrington from the Battle of Preston, the rump of a force originally 21-24000 strong.

The battle at Preston was fought on the 17th, the defeated Scots retreating in some disarray to Wigan which was looted despite its Royalist sympathies. The Scots continued their retreat towards Warrington the next day, but were caught up by Cromwell at Winwick. This was one of the final engagements of the English Civil War and is traditionally located as having being fought in the fields surrounding the site.

The full extent of the battlefield site is presently unknown, though it is likely that the present site lies at its core. Most authors site the battlefield in the wooded valley running east-west across the Newton to Winwick road, just south of Newton Park. Bailey (n.d.) describes it as follows:

'The northern side of the valley, known locally as Red Bank, formed the boundary of Newton Park, and was marked by a high man-made bank with a hedge running along it. On the opposite side of the valley, which was about 100 yards wide, was a steep-sided sandstone bank, between twenty and thirty feet high, probably topped by a hedge. The valley itself was marshy, probably with a rough track running along it, and containing a stream and possibly a willow bed. On the southern side of the valley was a large open field, traditionally said to have been under wheat at the time of the battle, which ran south-wards to the hamlet of Winwick, just under a mile away.'

The stream crossed the main road, and joined Newton Brook on its western side, where there was further high ground, with an isolated sandstone bluff formed by the winding course of Newton Brook. This formidable position offered the Scots a last opportunity to halt their pursuers short of Warrington.

The descriptions in Lane (1914) and Beamont (1878) are very similar and Bailey appears to have derived his description from those sources, which in turn seem to be based upon local tradition. However, other than the general location little seems to be known of the actual deployment of troops.

The most commonly cited contemporary account of the engagement is Oliver Cromwell's letter to Parliament of 20 August 1648. In this he refers to the Scots making 'a stand at a pass near Winwick' and to killing 1000 and taking 2000 prisoners (e.g. Baines 1870, 230) but gives few other useful details. It is clear from Cromwell's account that this was a protracted engagement as he refers to having 'held them in some dispute until our Army was come up, ours and theirs coming to push of pike and very close charges and forced us to give ground' implying that Cromwell arrived first with an advance guard and that the initial engagement went in the Scots favour. The Scots maintained 'the Pass with great resolution for many hours' which suggests an intensive engagement.

Lane (1914, 34-40) cites a description in 'Heath's Chronicle' which is quoted from the 19th century historian Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881). The Heath account supplies slightly more detail than Cromwell's letter and is cited in full below.

'At a place called Redbank, near Winwick Church, two miles from Warrington, the Scots made a stand with a body of pikes, and lined the hedges with muskets: who so rudely entertained the pursuing enemy, that they were compelled to stop until the coming up of Colonel Pride's regiment of foot, who after a sharp dispute put those same brave fellows on the run. They were commanded by a little spark in a blue

bonnet, who performed the part of an excellent commander and was killed on the spot.'

Carlyle does not identify the 'little spark', though Beamont (1878) identifies him as Major John Cholmley who was buried in the chancel of Winwick Church on 3 September 1648. Beamont also describes a spur, cannon ball and some coins held by Warrington Museum as having being found at the site, whilst some 'camp kettles' were apparently preserved at Winwick.

The engagement seems to have been closely fought and Cromwell's victory far from certain, initially the conflict seems to have gone the Scot's way. Sir Walter Scott's *Memoirs of the Civil War* (1806) (cited in a letter from Thomas Carlyle to Frederick W. Fairholt, 14 August, 1844¹) refer to 'Hodgson a Yorkshire captain, who was in the Fight'. Hodgson wrote,

'We pursued them to Winwick, where we found the horse was fled towards Warrington Bridge, and the foot drawn up in a most advantageous place, and snaffled our forlorn and put them to a retreat. (Barratt n.d.)'

Hodgson's version confirms Cromwell's account of an initial reverse followed by victory and Farrer & Brownbill (1911, 140) cite a contemporary account which implies that much of the latter was due to information from locals who showed a way of outflanking the Scots on the eastern side of the battlefield enabling Parliamentary cavalry to obtain a position to the rear of the Scots.

A further contemporary account is given in Beamont (1864, 66)

'The greatest stand they made was between Newton and Winwick, in a short passage in that Lane that they made very stronge (sic) and forcible, soe (sic) that Cromwell's men could not fight them. But by the information of the people thereabouts and by their direction they were so guided into the fieldes (sic) that they came about so that they drove them up to that little greene piece of ground short of Winwick church and there they made a great slaughter of them and then pursued them to Warrington, there taking the most, if not all their foot.'

Barratt (n.d.) gives further details of the battle but is not specific about some of his sources (the section from Beamont above is quoted but not attributed) and the description appears to contain some elements of speculation. Ballie's headquarters were traditionally set-up at Cop Holt Farm and the foot soldiers were 'Presumably ... organised into three or four ad hoc brigades.... with the pikes, perhaps 1,000 men....in the centre, holding the Wigan-Warrington road itself, and probably positioned on the crest of the slope by which it ascended the side of the valley. The Scots apparently had time to throw up some hasty earthworks or barricades. The hedges on either flank, along the southern side of Red Bank valley and the bluff on the western edge of the road, were lined with musketeers, and, judging by a cannon shot later found on the site, the Scots probably still had a few of their excellent frame guns with them'.

Much of the rest of Barratt's account follows that given elsewhere, though he makes reference to the reappearance part way through of a detachment of Scots horse from

¹ <http://carlyleletters.dukejournals.org/cgi/content/full/18/1/lt-18440814-TC-FWF-01#FN1>

'the direction of Warrington' who 'began forming up on the open field to the south east of Winwick Pass, but on sighting Cromwell's cavalry approaching, they made off without resistance'. Following the outflanking manoeuvre detailed by Farrer and Brownbill (ibid) the Scots fell back along the road and across 'the large field in the direction of the village of Winwick', and Barratt believes 'kept some sort of order in what became a running fight, and suffered a number of casualties'.

According to Barratt, some of the 'Scots foot ... made a final stand on Winwick Green ... just to the north of the church. Here the Parliamentarians "made a great slaughter of them..." Many of the Scots threw down their arms, though others resisted for a short time longer in the church and some of the village houses, before surrendering and being imprisoned temporarily in the church. Parliamentarian horse maintained the pursuit of Baillie's foot almost as far as Warrington where Baillie eventually surrendered.

Various figures are given for the size of both armies and their respective casualties most estimate Cromwell's army as consisting of c. 3000 foot and 2500 'horse and dragoons' and the Scots army at 7-8000. Barratt (n.d.) estimates Cromwell's army at c. 2500 horse and 3500 foot, with the Scot's force at about 4000 foot including c. 1000 pikes and probably light artillery, the horse under Hamilton having moved on to arrange the defence of Warrington.

Baines (1870, 230) is not specific about the size of the forces engaged at Winwick, but gives Cromwell's losses as 'scarcely fifty men' which given the apparent intensity of the conflict and the initial reverses suffered by Cromwell would seem to be a low estimate.

Some elements of the landscape have altered since the mid-17th century. The road from Newton to Winwick was realigned c. 1803-1809, the Yoxall Estate map of 1745 (Fig. 3) shows the earlier alignment.

Dumball's Field (Site 11) shown on the Tithe Map is commonly cited as indicating the site of the battle, the name being related to finds of cannon balls. However, the name is more likely to relate to Redbank Mill which was known as Dumball's Mill in the mid-18th century and took this name from the then leasee, John Dumbell. The origin of the name is unclear but seems never to have related to ammunition, a dumbell being traditionally a weight swung for exercise first mentioned in 1711 (Oxford English Dictionary).

6. Previous Fieldwork

No formal archaeological investigation has taken place on the site or in the immediate area, though the earliest antiquarian account of the site is Dr. Kuerden's description of the location of c. 1695 (cited in Cole 1912), though unfortunately this does little beyond place it in the vicinity of Redbank.

There are accounts of musket balls found in the 1980s 'in the field marked by the Ordnance Survey as the battle ground' (MSMR) though no record of exact findspots survives and these appear to have since been lost. More recently a local detectorist (Russ Neale, who assisted with this survey) found a possible musket ball and a buckle on land adjacent to the site.

These were examined as part of this project. The buckle was identified (Frances McIntosh) as late 17th or 18th century in date and there is therefore a possibility that it relates to the battle, though it cannot be identified as a specifically military item. The possible musket ball is in copper alloy and c. 20 mm in diameter. At this size it is too large for most conventional muskets which fired slightly smaller shot. Although Barratt (n.d.) speculates that the Scots may have been equipped with frame guns, there appears to be no evidence for this in the available contemporary accounts of the battle and frame guns generally used much larger ammunition being more akin to a modern howitzer. The size is more consistent with a serpentine or robinette, though the vast majority of 17th century ammunition of this type is in lead with cast iron was in use for larger guns. This absence, together with the lack of any other military equipment from the area, suggests that it is a modern item, perhaps a ball bearing.

7. Results of the Metal Detector Survey

No finds of archaeological significance were retrieved, there being evidence of extensive ground disturbance across the whole of the survey area.

8. Conclusions

The study area contained no evidence of remains relating to the battle of Redbank. This is likely to be due to landscaping of the site during construction of the athletics track in 1939.

The landscape of the battlefield site has altered since 1648, the principal changes being the erosion of the bank which once formed the boundary to Newton Park and the realignment of the Newton-Winwick road (A49). It also cannot be assumed that the layout of fields shown on the available historic mapping is the same as that of 1648 and any interpretation of contemporary accounts of the battle should take account of this.

The recent metal detector finds are apparently from 'adjacent fields' though no more accurate location was obtained. However, the possible musket ball is probably a modern item and the buckle need not relate to the battle. Whilst superficially disappointing, this information is of value in that it suggests that the detected areas did not lie within the core of the battlefield as this would be likely to contain significant quantities of shot and other items lost during the battle (Glen Foard, Leeds University). This would seem to suggest that the greatest intensity of activity lay elsewhere, perhaps slightly further to the south along the former line of Winwick Road.

9. Acknowledgements

Steven Dowd kindly supplied a copy of Vardy's very rare book on Redbank School.

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11. Figures

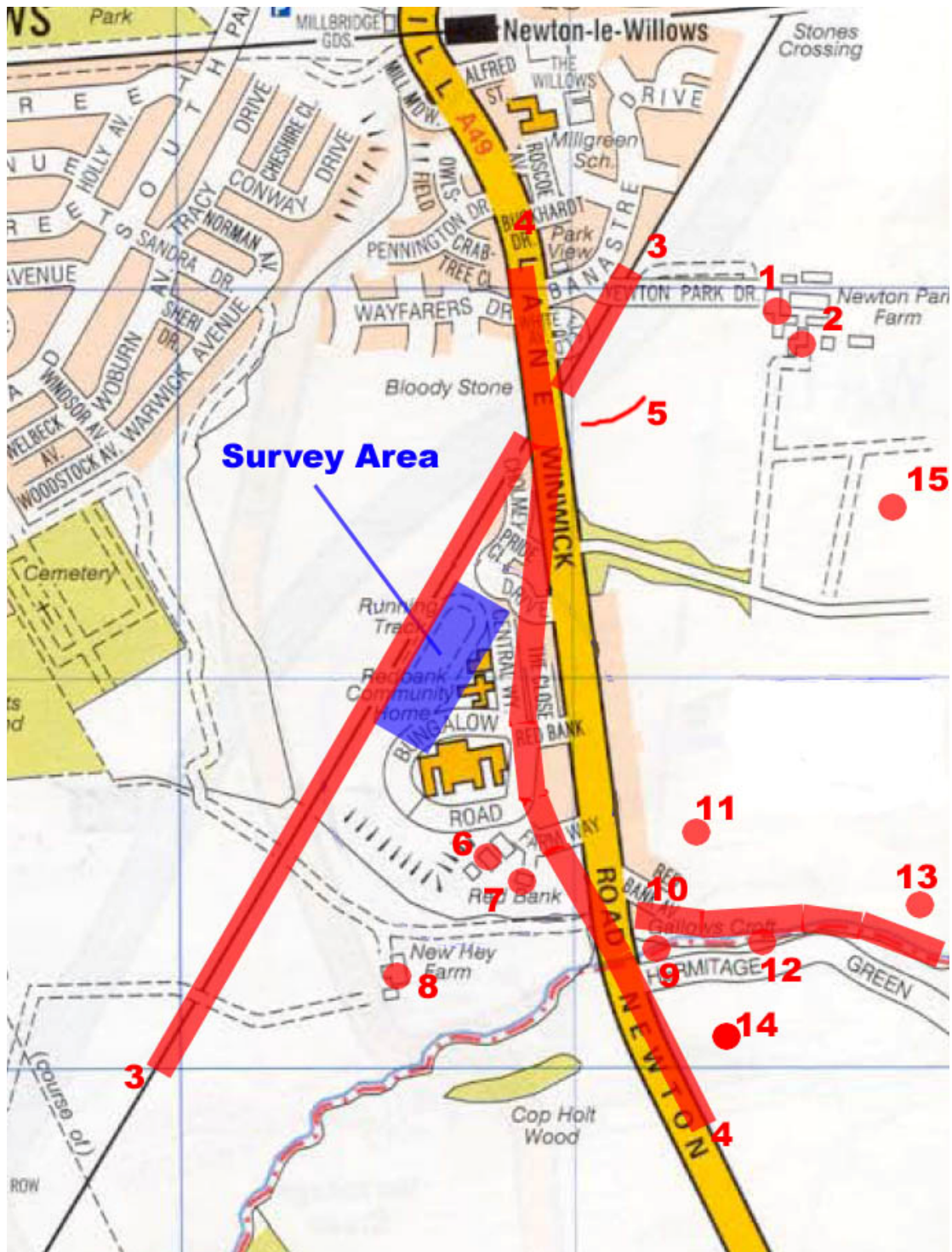


Fig. 1. Site location (Blue) and location of sites discussed in the text. Site numbers refer to the Gazetteer. Not to scale.

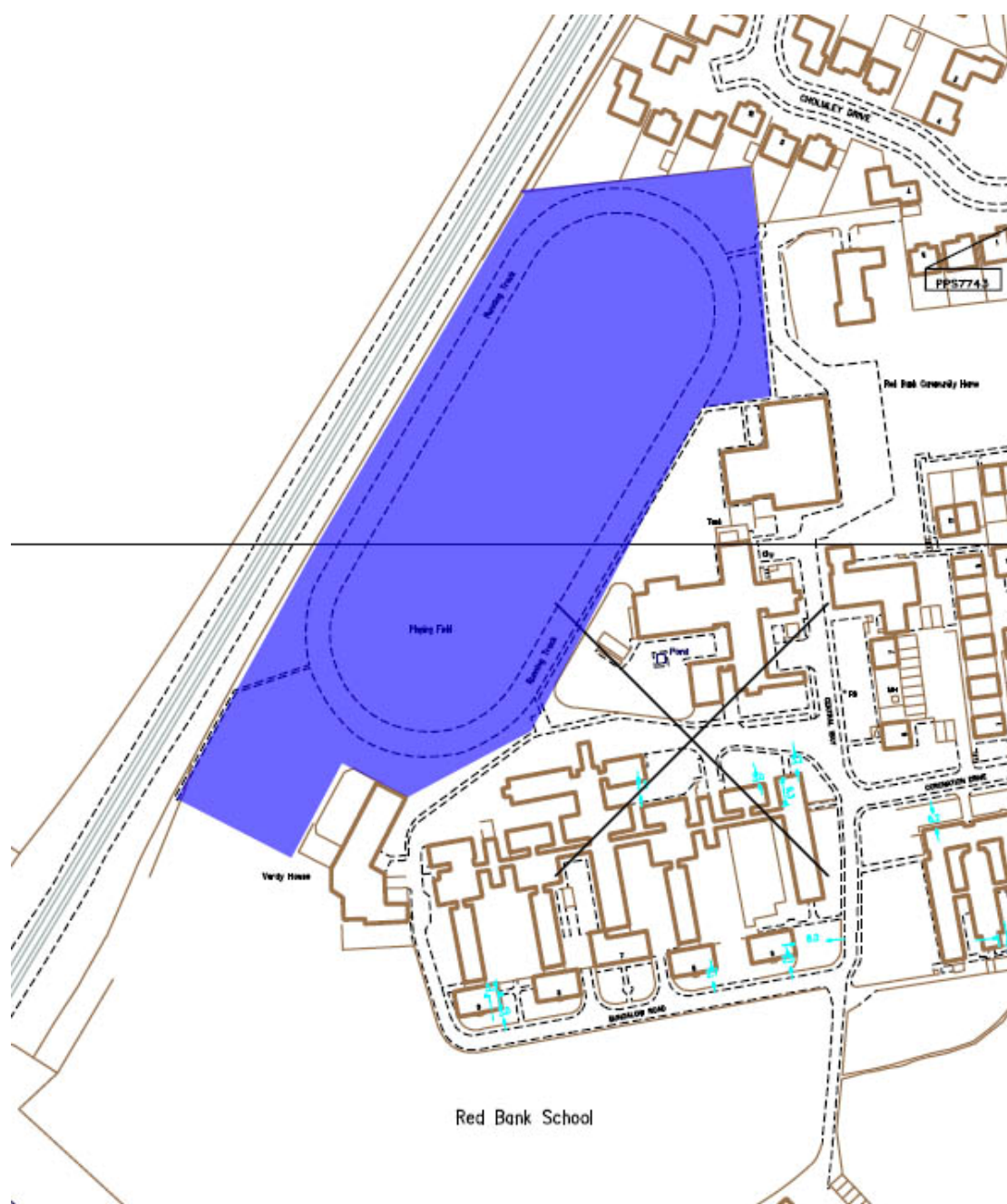


Fig. 2. Extents of the survey. Not to scale.



Fig. 3. Part of Benjamin Yoxall's Estate Map of Newton-in-Makerfield of 1745. Tracing in MSMR. The approximate location and extent of the study area is highlighted in red. Not to scale.



Fig. 4. Part of Yates' Map of Lancashire. Published 1786.



Fig. 5. Part of an Estate Map of Newton-in-Makerfield of 1827. Tracing in MSMR. The approximate location and extent of the study area is highlighted in red. Not to scale.



Fig. 6. Part of the Newton-in-Makerfield Tithe Map of 1839 (Lancashire Record Office DRL 1/56). The approximate location and extent of the study area is highlighted in red. Not to scale.

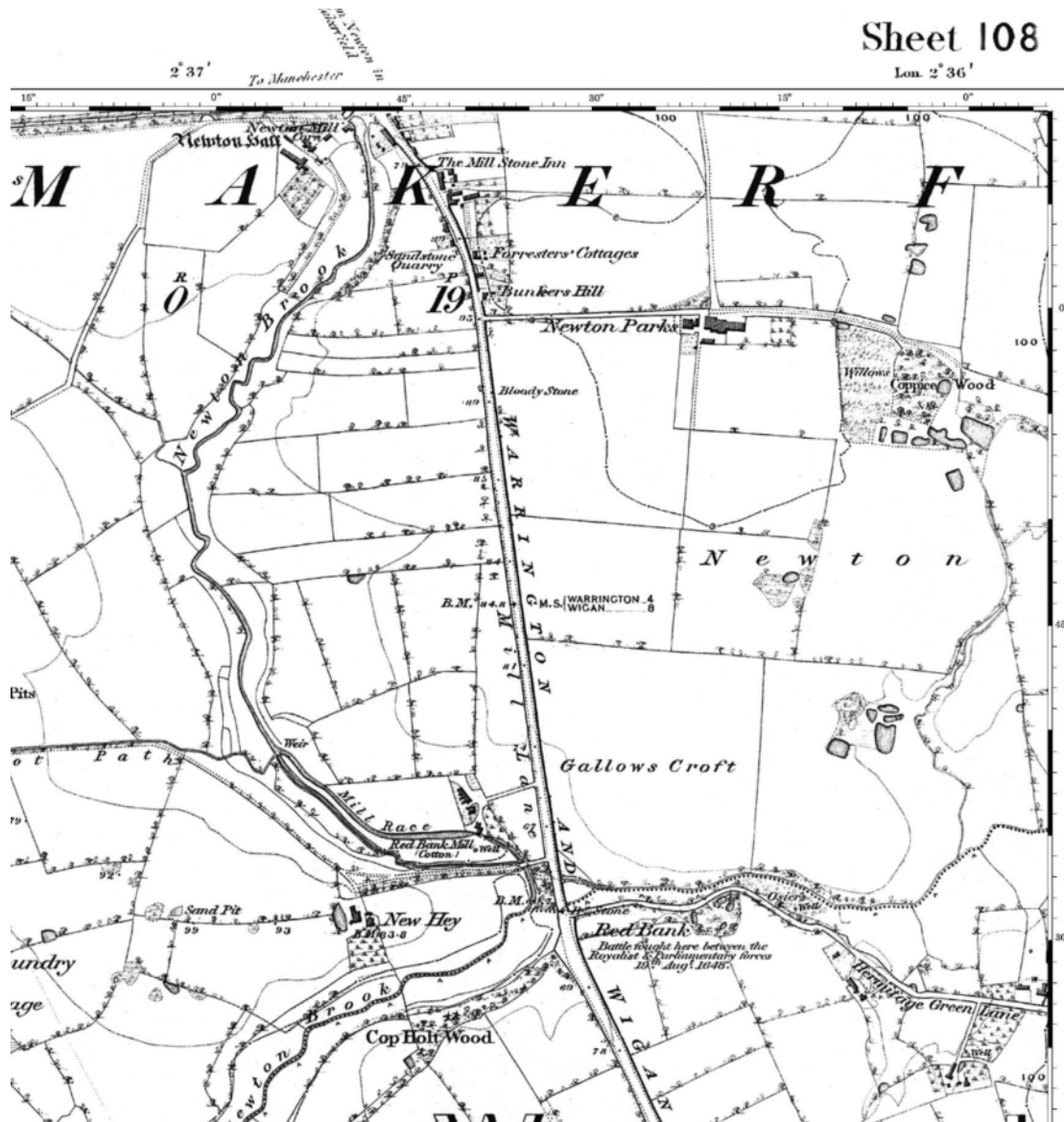


Fig. 7. Part of the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 Mile Survey Sheet 108. Surveyed 1845-7. Published 1849. Not to scale.



Fig. 8. Part of the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 Mile Survey Sheet 108.4. Surveyed 1891. Published 1893. Not to scale.

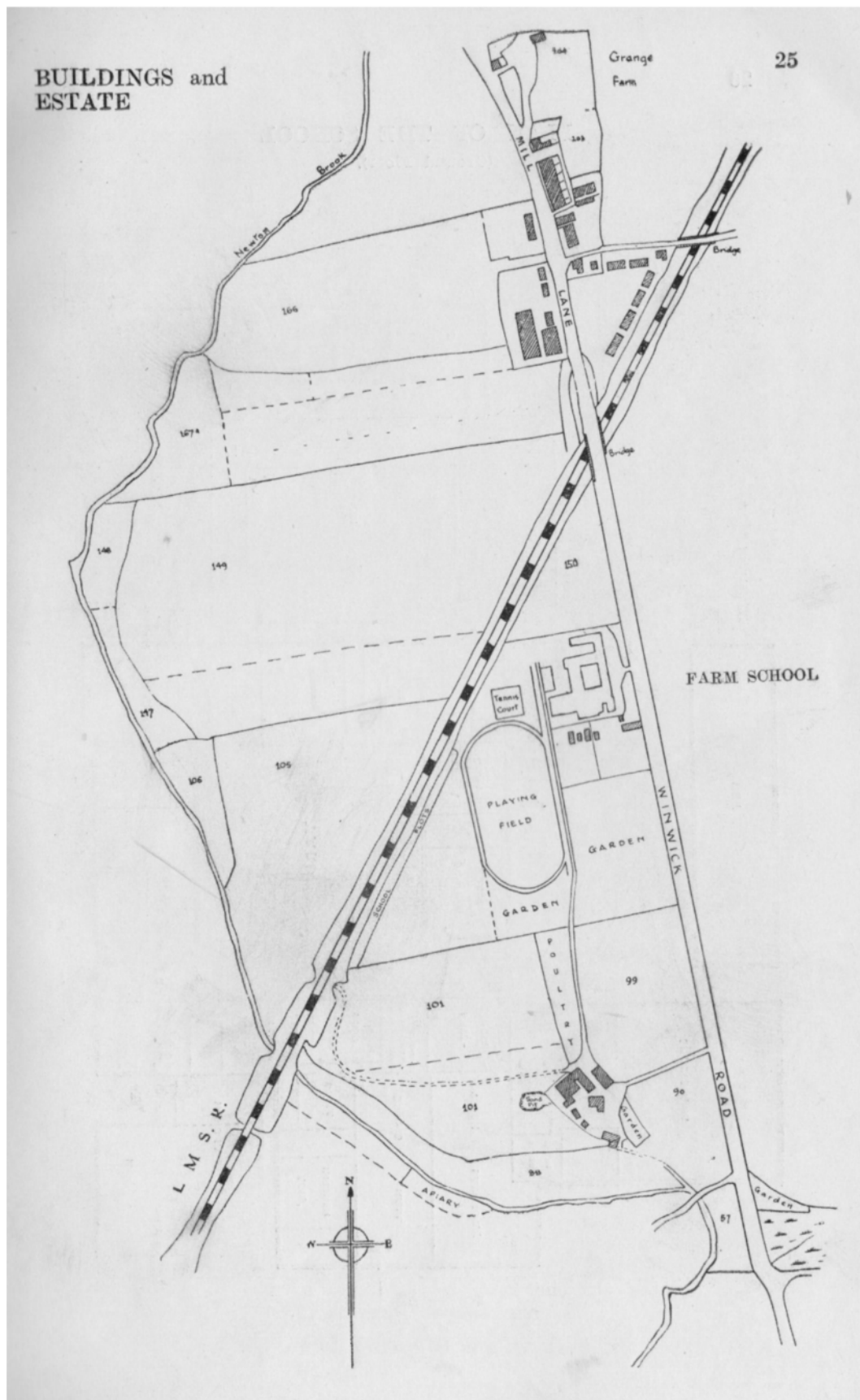


Fig. 9. Plan of Redbank Farm School in 1942 (Vardy 1942).

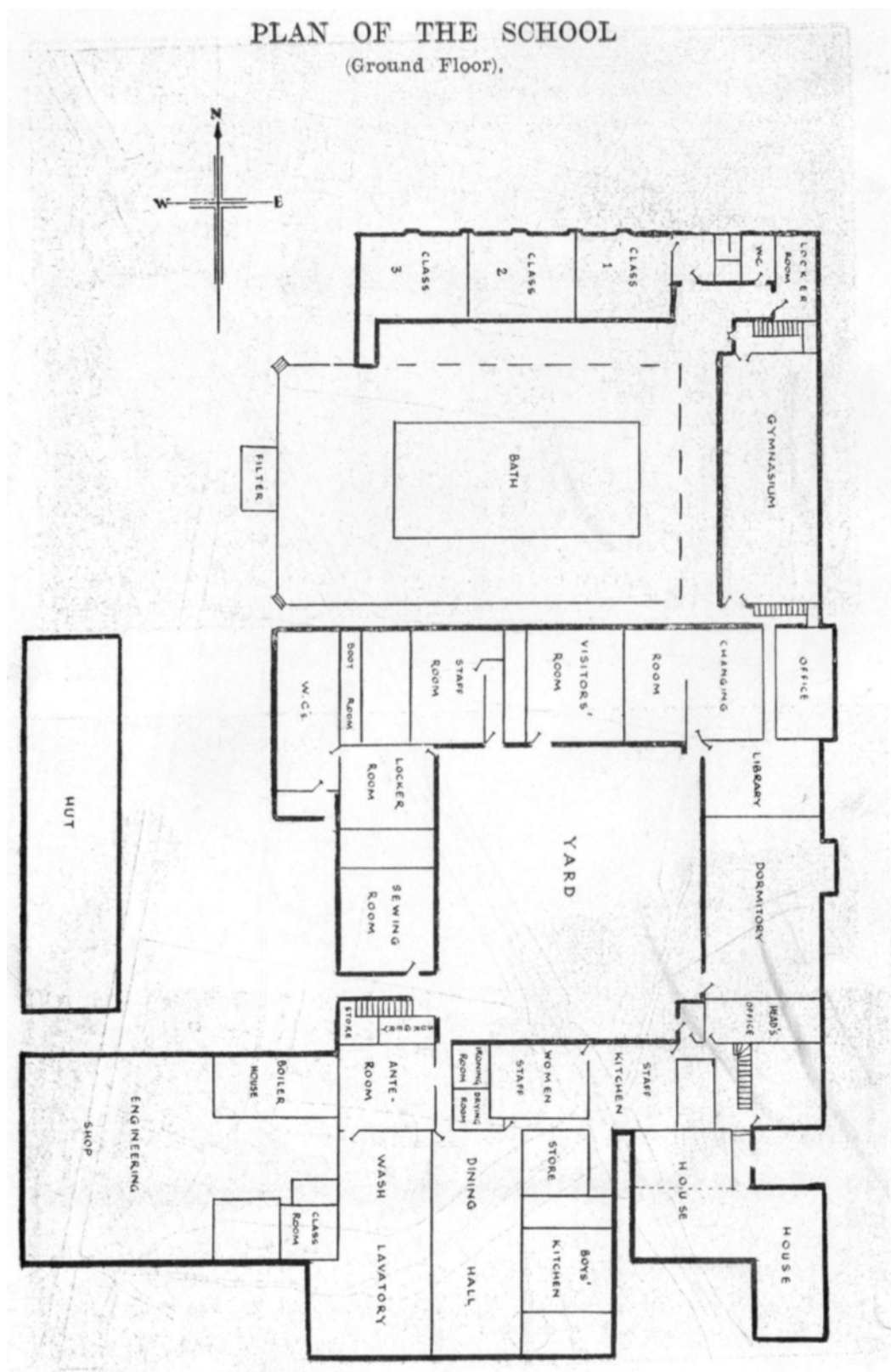


Fig. 10. Plan of Redbank Farm School in 1942 (Vardy 1942).

12. Gazetteer of Sites

Site Number 1	Site Type: Barn	Period/Date: Post-Medieval
Site Name: Newton Park Farm	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5980 9498
History/Description: Barn attached to Newton Park Farm		
Designations:		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/1		

Site Number 2	Site Type: House	Period/Date: Post-Medieval
Site Name: Newton Park Farm	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5975 9498
History/Description: Farm established within the bounds of Newton Park		
Designations:		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/2		

Site Number 3	Site Type: Railway	Period/Date: Industrial Revolution
Site Name: None	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5948 9484
History/Description: Late 19th century railway built to connect the Liverpool-Manchester line with the Warrington-Preston route. Still in operation.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources:		

MSMR Ref 5994/16

Site Number 4	Site Type: Road	Period/Date: Post-Medieval
Site Name: Winwick Road	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 594 950- 595 940
History/Description: The present Newton-Winwick road (A49) is first shown on the Tithe Map of 1839 and the Newton Estate map of 1827. The original route ran c. 100 m to the west and is shown on the Yoxall map of 1745. It was straightened in 1803-1809. The original route survives as a hollow way north-east of Redbank Farm		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/8 MSMR Ref 5994/9		

Site Number 5	Site Type: Aerial Photographic Site	Period/Date: Unknown
Site Name: None	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5954 9459-5963 9469
History/Description: Curvi-linear cropmark seen on aerial photograph dated 1979 and probably a ditch of uncertain date or function. The feature does not appear on any mapping from 1745 onwards.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/15		

Site Number 6	Site Type: Farm	Period/Date: Post-Medieval
Site Name: Red Bank Farm	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5943 9427
History/Description: Farm first shown on an Estate Map of Newton-le-Willows of 1827. It is not shown on the Yoxall map of 1745 or the Yates map of 1786. The present house is probably late 18th century.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/6		

Site Number 7	Site Type: Mill	Period/Date: Post-Medieval
Site Name: Red Bank Mill	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5943 9424
History/Description: Water powered corn mill first mentioned in a lease of 1716 when it was owned by John Dumbell. The earliest map is the Yoxall estate map of 1745. In 1779 William Dumbell mortgaged the mill to George Parker who in 1786 leased it to James Cartwright and Peter Eden. The mill continued in operation into the 20th century, but was converted into a house in 1957-9. The mill building was originally three storeys with a two storey section housing the waterwheel and sluices.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/5		

Site Number 8	Site Type: Farm	Period/Date: Post-Medieval
Site Name: New Hey	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5928 9418
History/Description: New Hey is shown on the 1745 Yoxall Estate Map of Newton-le-Willows as two small rectangular buildings. The Yates' Map of Lancashire dated 1786 shows a single square structure, though this is probably a simplification as the 1839 Tithe Map shows a similar layout to the Yoxall map. The site is still in use as a farm.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/4		

Site Number 9	Site Type: Placename	Period/Date: Medieval
Site Name: Gallowshill/Gawlehill	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 596 941
History/Description: First mentioned in the Legh Survey of 1465-6 as Gawlehille, the gawle element probably being a reference to a gibbet or gallows, though there is also a possibility that it is a reference to a barrow similar to those at Winwick to the east. The field 1374, just east of the Newton-Winwick Road on the Tithe Map was known as 'Lower Gallows Croft', though the 1st Edition 6 inch to 1 mile sheet shows 'Gallows Croft' slightly north. However, this field is recorded as Dumball's Field on the Tithe Apportionment and it is possible that the name refers to the wider area rather than a specific location. Lane (1919) speculated that the name related to the hanging of Scots soldiers by Cromwell's troops after the battle of Redbank. The documented medieval origin of the name disproves this.		

Designations: None
Significance: Local
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/7

Site Number 10	Site Type: Park Boundary	Period/Date: Medieval
Site Name: Newton Park Pale	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5956 9419-5966 9417
History/Description: Short sections of the boundary to Newton Park survive to either side of the study area as a slight bank 1.5 m wide and 1 m high. To the east of the A49 it follows the south-western edge of Gallows Croft. There is also a short section north-east of Redbank Farm.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/14		

Site Number 11	Site Type: Field Name	Period/Date: Post-medieval
Site Name: Dumballs Field	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5970 9420
History/Description: Fieldname traditionally associated with the battle of Redbank, but more likely to relate to the nearby mill. See main text for details.		
Designations: None		

Significance: Local
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/13

Site Number 12	Site Type: Quarry	Period/Date: Unknown
Site Name: None	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5973 9418
History/Description: Small sandstone quarry of uncertain date recorded during assessment of Parkside Colliery Site.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/12		

Site Number 13	Site Type: Aerial Photographic Site	Period/Date: Unknown
Site Name: None	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5993 9423
History/Description: Sub-rectangular cropmark measuring c. 50x50 m seen on aerial photographs dated 1979, 1984 and 1988, probably a ditch of uncertain date or function. The feature does not appear on any mapping from 1745 onwards.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/10		

Site Number 14	Site Type: Battlefield	Period/Date: Post-Medieval
Site Name: Red Bank	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5975 9404
History/Description:		

Battle fought 23 August 1648 between Parliamentary forces and a Royalist army retreating from the Battle of Preston to Warrington.

See main text for full description and history.

In the 1980s Mr. Drinkall of New Hey Farm said that musket balls had been found 'in the field marked by the OS as the battlefield site' though no other details are recorded.

Designations:

Local/Regional

Significance: Local

Sources:

MSMR Ref 5994/3

Site Number 15	Site Type: Railway	Period/Date: Modern
Site Name: Parkside Colliert Sidings	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 5995 9474
History/Description: Sidings opened 1964 to give direct railway access to the Manchester Liverpool line. Closed 1991 and removed.		
Designations: None		
Significance: Local		
Sources: MSMR Ref 5994/11		

Site Number 16	Site Type: Stone	Period/Date: Medieval
Site Name: The Bloody Stone	Civil Parish: Newton-le-Willows	NGR: SJ 594 948

History/Description: Stone set into kerb side on the A49 Winwick to Newton Road. It is locally associated with story of Mabs Cross in which Sir William de Bradshaigh and his wife, Dame Mabel, were separated for a long period. Sir Williams death was presumed by his wife and asserted in a court of law, but after about seven years absence he returned home in 1322. The legend asserts that the cause of Sir Williams absence was the Crusades. During Sir Williams absence, Dame Mabel married a second time and on his return Sir William fought with his rival and slew him near Newton Park. The identity of the rival is uncertain, but is reputed to be Sir Henry Teuther or a Welsh knight. Afterwards Dame Mabel did penance for this by walking barefoot at stated intervals to Mabs Cross.

The story has acquired a considerable local mythology (Summarised on http://www.n-le-w.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=93&Itemid=27), though there is a possibility it is based upon actual events.

Designations:

None

Significance: Local**Sources:**

MSMR Ref 5994/11

Appendix A

**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION
LAND WEST OF WINWICK ROAD,
NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS,
ST HELENS, MERSEYSIDE
SJ 593 943**

Prepared by Merseyside Archaeological Service
on behalf of St Helens Council

Enquiries to be addressed to:

Merseyside Archaeological Officer

Merseyside Archaeological Service

DTO, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AX

Tel: 0151 478 4258

14 November 2008

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Appendices – See Section 3

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Information in the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) has identified that proposals to develop the Site have the potential to produce archaeological evidence relating to the Civil War Battle of Red Bank, 1648.
- 1.2 At the time of writing this Brief: Planning permission has been obtained and an archaeological condition attached (No. 7) requiring evaluation – initially metal detector survey with further evaluation (if required, on basis of results).
- 1.3 This brief has been prepared by the Merseyside Archaeological Officer and is for **initial metal detector survey evaluation**.
- 1.4 This survey evaluation will assist informing any additional requirements for further archaeological work such as trial trenching evaluation and/or watching brief during construction works.
- 1.5 This brief is not intended to serve as a full specification of works, which must be provided in a Project Design to be submitted to, and subject to the approval of the Merseyside Archaeological Officer (hereafter AO & on behalf of St Helens Council).

2. General Aim of the Work

- 2.1 The proposals affect an area that has been subject to modern re-development but whose level of disturbance to any surviving archaeological remains has not been assessed now subject to development proposals.
- 2.2 The requirement for archaeological field evaluation is in order to assess the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of any archaeological deposits that may exist at the development site. This is in accordance with PPG 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (paragraphs 21-30). The purpose of the work is to:
 - Gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the areas of investigation and,
 - To assist the formulation of any strategies for the future treatment of archaeological deposits in relation to development proposals.
- 2.3 An archaeological field evaluation is not intended to reduce the requirement for additional archaeological survey. In this instance it may be seen as a guide to

assist future target trenching of other areas within the site, any contingent survey or, where possible, preservation of deposits and features.

3. Appendices for reference with Brief

Application Details on St Helens web Planning application search page. Application P/2008/0881. Includes plans and documents submitted; some of which ref below as of particular use. Client to supply any digital information, as appropriate.

- I. Drawing No. 100 Rev 1 is application area.
- II. Exploratory Investigative Interpretative Report 726B February 2008 **NB-** Appendices are missing from this web document, some of which show trial exploration locations.
- III. Topo survey/ existing drainage.

4. Site Location & Description

- 4.1 See Appendix II. Some geotechnical investigations have been undertaken by the Client
- 4.2 The Site (Drawing No. 100 Rev 1 & Appendices), is approximately 0.70 hectares, centred on NGR SJ 593 943. It lies in the south of Newton -le-Willows, off Winwick Road/ Coronation road and adjacent to the existing Vardy House and secure units; east of the West Coast Main railway line . The Site is currently grassland but has been a playing field /track.
- 4.3 AO not visited the Site prior to compiling this Brief.

5. Archaeological Planning Background

- 5.1 The Historic Environment Record does not record any archaeological investigation previously taking place at the Site.
- 5.2 See Planning Application details. NB some trial pits were dug to investigate ground conditions (see Exploratory Investigative Interpretative Report 726B February 2008).

6. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 6.1 There are not any archaeological sites recorded on the HER within the bounds of the Site. There has not been any formal archaeological work carried out on or immediately adjacent to the Site.
- 6.2 The surrounding landscape is of known historic interest with sites relating to the Prehistoric onwards i.e. Roman Road to the west, medieval parkland (bounded by Newton Brook, area of former Parkside colliery site), Red Bank Farm & mill to the south of the Site & the Civil War Battle of Red Bank, 1648 fought in the fields

surrounding. There has not been any formal archaeological work associated with this battlefield landscape.

- 6.3 It has been reported to the AO, from colleagues within St Helens Council, that some digging has taken place on adjacent Red Bank farmland area to the south in recent times (personal communication April, 2008) finding some musket balls and possibly a buckle type of object. It can not be substantiated if this was as a result of metal detecting or unrelated digging for the purpose of looking for artefact finds. It did not form part of any formal programme of professional archaeological investigation.
- 6.4 The land appears to have been pasture/cultivation for some time, and interestingly its been a base for a 'reformatory' Farm school established by the 1870's – note the formally laid out agricultural plots (see 1870s map; reform school at north & part of Red Bank Farm at the south).

6.5 Research Potential

- 6.5.1 The North West archaeological community has produced an Archaeological Research Framework for the North West of England contained in two volumes: the first 'Resource Assessment' (ed Brennand, Chitty & Nevell. CBA NW Vol. 8 Issue 18, 2006) outlines our knowledge on the region's archaeological resource, assesses what we need to know and the second volume (CBA NW Vol. 9 Issues 19, 2007) identifies how we could address this. Information in both volumes is arranged in historic period chapters.
- 6.5.2 Battles and Sieges in the post-medieval period – no archaeological investigations undertaken in the North West. Battles need to be placed in their landscape context with consideration of how the area was used. Clearly a range of techniques required to identify and examine the nature of remains associated with battles and sieges (Second Volume, 2007; Chapter 6, pgs131-132).
- 6.5.3 The investigation of land at the Site has the potential to reinvestigate and recover information associated with the Battle of Red Bank, 1648.

7. Scope and Methods

7.1 Metal Detecting

- 7.1.1 A controlled program of metal detector survey is required. This will be supported by limited desk-based research (including consultation of the M'sde HER; supporting cartographic documentation and assessment of available application information) to set the Site in context.

- 7.1.2 Metal detector survey will be carried out by a suitably-experienced person with reliable and well maintained equipment. In the absence of the archaeological Contractor's in-house expertise: all work carried out by other parties will be under the direct supervision of the archaeological Contractor.
- 7.1.3 A signed and written agreement should be in place in order to ensure that it is understood that all finds found by metal detector during the programme of work are handed over to the archaeological Contractor for recording and conservation. Metal detector users on development-led archaeological projects must be members of metal detecting clubs affiliated to the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD North West Region) or registered as an Individual Member of the NCMD.
- 7.1.4 *NB - A productive system for liaison with metal detectors can be found in Merseyside Detecting Guidelines Draft. This has been adapted from guidance formulated with the Portable Antiquities Officer and Detectors for work in Cheshire. Attached to this is a formal agreement, which waives all rights to finds ownership etc.*
- 7.1.5 All material from the top/plough soil to be mapped (GPS is appropriate for significant artefact finds including musket balls), recovered and removed during survey, unless the latter requires more detailed archaeological investigation not covered by this brief (i.e. significant find/ size etc) or raise issues of health and safety.
- 7.1.6 The survey grid: transects should be on 5 metre intervals & generally a 2 metre width strip search along each transect. It is acceptable to use a management collection unit of 20 metres.

7.2 Preservation in Situ

- 7.2.1 All recovery work must be undertaken with a view to avoid damaging archaeological deposits or features, which appear worthy of preservation in-situ (*where this can be negotiated within proposals*) or more detailed investigation than for the purposes of this survey evaluation.
- 7.2.2 Where structures, features or finds appear to merit preservation in situ, they must be adequately protected from deterioration and the AO and Client informed.

7.3 Treatment of Finds

- 7.3.1 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 (see Sec. 9.3).

- 7.3.2 Any finds of human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected and the appropriate authorities informed. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice requirement and environmental health regulations.
- 7.3.3 All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 7.3.4 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample the recipient museum's archive Curator.

7.9 Re-instatement of the Land

- 7.9.1 Reinstatement of the land is to be the responsibility of the archaeological Contractor, unless the Client has given written instruction to the contrary (see also 10.7.5).

7.10 Post-Excavation Processing

- 7.10.1 According to standard procedure, excavation ought to be followed by a period of post-excavation processing. This should involve the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and with the view to final deposition in the event of no further investigation being required (see sec. 9).

8. Evaluation Report

- 8.1.1 The report ought to:
Include

- (a) digital survey location plans by CAD tied into the Ordnance Survey data,
- (b) a digital location plan of finds (with NGR)
- (c) a summary of artefacts by location together with their interpretation,
- (d) any specialist assessments,

(e) a concise non-technical summary of the project results.

8.1.2 Assess

- (a) the archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during survey and retrieval,
- (b) the evidence in its setting, regional context and also aim to highlight any research priorities where applicable.

8.1.3 Wherever appropriate, outline the options for achieving the preferred option of preservation in- situ of significant archaeological deposits

8.1.4 There must be the provision for circulation of a summary statement and interim report of results. This is in order to facilitate any required early decision on possible further intrusive evaluation investigation or mitigation strategies.

8.1.5 Statements/interim report will be submitted to the AO, and St Helens Council, within an agreed time-scale.

8.1.6 One copy of the final report will be deposited with the Merseyside HER **no later than six months** after completion of the project. This will be a **digital and paper copy** of the report, including its relevant accompanying AutoCAD plans. CAD drawings are to be delivered in DXF; Databases in ASCII delimited text or MS Access; Text in ASCII text.

Contractors are encouraged to consult the **Archaeology Data Service**, 'Guides to Good Practice'.

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/g2gp.html>

In particular *Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork Guide to Good Practice*. Second Edition. Available at

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation>

8.1.7 Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in the appropriate academic journals. Contractors are to provide a summary of findings to the regional Council for British Archaeology group, CBA North West (c/o Dr M Nevell, UMAU, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL who will provide a pro-forma sheet).

9. Archive

- 9.1.1 Archive includes all parts of the archaeological record, including the finds and digital records as well as written, drawn and photographic documentation. All archive must be stable, ordered and accessible that can be assimilated easily into the collections of recognised repository.
- 9.1.2 *Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007) sets out the recommended standards and should be used in conjunction with the appropriate current Standards. Archive will be prepared in line with the general specification MAP2 (Appendix 3).
- 9.1.3 NB Also for reference: The Institute of Field Archaeologists *Draft Standard & Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (adopted 12 month interim basis October 2008).

9.3 Deposition

- 9.3.1 The integrity of the site archive should be maintained. All find and records should be properly curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation.
- 9.3.2 Arrangements for deposition of the full site archive ought to be made with National Museums Liverpool (Museums, Libraries and Archives registered repository).

National Museums Liverpool (NML) 'Guidelines for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to National Museums Liverpool' (revised 2006) will be consulted and followed as part of the archaeological Contractor's Project Design preparation.

(For a copy contact: Archive Curator, Ms C Ahmad Tel: 0151 478 4443.

E-mail: clare.ahmad@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

@ Address: Urban History Division, NML, DTO, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AX.

- 9.3.3 Arrangements for the long-term storage of any artefacts ought to be agreed with the landowner, AO and NML before commencement of works. Where the landowner does not wish to transfer all, or part of the archive to NML, the AO and Archive Curator will advise on an alternative course of action.

- 9.3.4 The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 12 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the AO and Archive Curator.

10. Requirements (including responsibilities of Client & Contractor)

10.1 Appointment of Archaeological Contractors

- 10.1.1 The professional archaeological Contractors invited to tender for the work must be able to demonstrate within a Project Design that they can provide staffing and expertise with the appropriate experience in dealing with archaeology of the type and nature required in this Brief.
- 10.1.2 Contractors will operate in line with professional guidelines and standards as stated in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA):
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (1994, revised Sept 2001& Oct 2008),*
 - *Draft Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (adopted 12 month interim basis Oct 08),*
 - *IFA Code of Conduct (1985, revised edition Oct 2008),*
 - *IFA By-Law Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (1990, revised edition Oct 2008).*

10.2 Pre- tender site visit

- 10.2.1 The Contractor must visit the Site before completing any Project Design as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. This visit must be noted, along with any other relevant site details, within the Project Design.

10.3 Project Design

- 10.3.1 The Project Design will cater for full post-excavation analysis, reporting and deposition of the site findings and:
- a) be supported by a research design, which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works,

- b) include details, including name, qualifications and experience of the Site director and all other key project personnel, including any specialist staff and sub-contractors, will be included in the Project Design. The ratio of on-site voluntary assistance must not exceed a ratio of more than 1:2 employed experienced staff,
- c) detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, and where appropriate, indicate clearly on plan their location and extent,
- d) provide a timetable for proposed works,
- e) include a detailed cost breakdown of the project elements,
- f) include a contingency (Sec 10.4).

10.4 Contingency

- 10.4.1 A contingency will be allowed to cater for unforeseen circumstances, such as bad weather/ discovery of dangerous deposits/ presence of significantly different deposits than expected etc. that may affect the archaeological resource and/or project objectives.
- 10.4.2 Contingency does not cater for provision of staff where this is the result of non-replacement of staff through dismissal or resignation.
- 10.4.3 The contingency must be shown as a day rate.
- 10.4.4 Contingency is evoked with the agreement of the AO and archaeological Consultant.

10.5 Checking of Project Designs

- 10.5.1 **It is particularly important that all Project Designs, or those which the Client wishes to consider, are forwarded to the AO for approval prior to the appointment of a Contractor.**
- 10.5.2 Any changes the AO recommends to a preferred Project Design/s might have financial implications for the costing of the archaeological project. Subsequent to approval by the AO and appointment of an archaeological Contractor, changes to the Project Design will be discussed and agreed in writing by the AO, archaeological Consultant and the archaeological Contractor (See Sec. 12.3).

10.6 Agreement

- 10.6.1 There must a written archaeological agreement that satisfactorily implements the approved format and provides sufficient financial support for all aspects of the work including fieldwork, finds processing, conservation, specialist analysis, archiving, cataloguing, report work and long-term storage and curation.
- 10.6.2 The archaeological Contractor must confirm in writing to the AO that the written agreement (10.6.1) is in place with the Client prior to commencement of work.
- 10.6.3 NB also agreement with any metal detector (para 7.1.3 & 7.1.4)

10.7 Site Access: Health & Safety

- 10.7.1 The archaeological Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that all works are conducted in accordance with a defined Health and Safety Policy. Contractors must observe all current safe working practices, whether required by their own policy or those of the principal development contractor. (See *SCAUM Manual, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology, 1997*).
- 10.7.2 Before commencing work the Contractor **must** carry out a Risk Assessment and liaise with the Site owner, archaeological Consultants and the AO in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised. A copy of this must be given to the AO **before** commencement of site works.
- 10.7.3 The Client must provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination
- 10.7.4 Re-instatement of land resulting from disturbance due to artefact recovery, is to be the responsibility of the archaeological Contractor, unless the Client has given written instruction to the contrary.

11. Monitoring

- 11.1 The work undertaken by the archaeological Contractor, will be monitored under the auspices of the Merseyside AO who is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work in Merseyside on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Monitoring will not incur charges and includes reviewing site work, the progress of excavation reports, archive preparation and final deposition.
- 11.2 Monitoring of the progress of site works will be programmed into strategic stages of the project, at least at the commencement of the project, mid fieldwork, end of fieldwork and post-excavation stage. Visits will also be made

at the discretion of the AO who may also nominate a representative to pay site visits.

- 11.3 Before the commencement of the project the Contractor must inform the AO, in writing, of the time-table of proposed works and ensure that the AO must be kept regularly informed about developments during Site and subsequent post-excavation work.
- 11.4 The AO will be given **at least one week's written** notice of commencement of archaeological fieldwork.

12. Alterations to Brief

- 12.1 This brief is valid for a month (from the date below. If not tendered within this period the Client will seek confirmation from the AO of its continued validity to the existing Site conditions. In addition the following apply:-
- 12.2 Prior to the formal appointment (aforementioned Sec. 10.6) of an archaeological Contractor, the Archaeological Officer reserves the right to alter this Brief if additional information comes to light that may have a bearing on the scope and methods of work currently required. (e.g. Site construction constraints, foundation details etc.).
- 12.3 After formal appointment, any alterations recommended by the Archaeological Officer which may affect the archaeological Contractor's agreed Project Design (whether this is before commencement, or during the project), will be made in consultation with the archaeological Contractor, Client and submitted to the Local Planning Authority. (This does not relate to the formal recommendations for further investigation (e.g. open area excavation) as a result of the findings of the project, for which the Archaeological Officer is responsible for advising on behalf of the local Planning Authority).

13. Key Definitions

Archaeological Officer - Responsible for providing an archaeological curatorial planning service to Merseyside districts. Advises on the nature of the work required and monitors projects from implementation to completion.

Archive Curator - person within the recipient museum responsible for project archive deposition

Client - person/group/developer commissioning the archaeological work.

Contractor - archaeological Contractor tendering to carry out the archaeological work and as appointed by the Client.

Project Design - written document detailing the proposed work and as provided by a Contractor in line with the Written Brief provided by the Archaeological Officer.

Contact: Tel: 0151 478 4258

e-mail: sarahjane.farr@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Ms S-J Farr, Merseyside Archaeological Officer

Merseyside Archaeological Service

Dock Traffic Office, Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AX

Date: 17.11.08

Appendix B

NATIONAL MUSEUMS **LIVERPOOL**

**Project Design for a Metal Detector
Survey at Land West of Winwick Road,
Newton-Le-Willows,
St Helens, Merseyside**

NGR SJ 593 943

Prepared for St. Helens Council

By M. Adams

December 2008

National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit,
Dock Traffic Office,
Albert Dock
Liverpool
L3 4AX.
Tel: 0151 478 4337/4260
Fax: 0151 478 4040
Email: mark.adams@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
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1. Introduction and Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1 National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit (NMLFAU) have been approached by St. Helens Council to carry out a metal detector survey of land west of Winwick Road, Newton-Le-Willows, St Helens, Merseyside, Merseyside. The investigations are being undertaken in accordance with an archaeological condition on outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the site (Appendix A).
- 1.2 This document defines the areas to be investigated and the methodologies to be used and will be agreed with Sarah Jane Farr, Archaeological Officer (AO), Merseyside Archaeological Service (MAS) before the commencement of on site works.

2. The Development Area

- 2.1 The site covers approximately 0.70 hectares and is centred on NGR SJ 593 943. It lies c. 1 km to the south-east of Newton -le-Willows, east of the West Coast Main railway line and to the west of Winwick Road and Coronation Drive and adjacent to the existing Red Bank Community Home. The Site is currently grassland but has been a playing field /track.

3. Geology

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) on their maps for the area, Wigan Sheet 84, show the site to be underlain by Bunter Sandstone (Unit f 1-3) – Triassic. No drift deposits have been mapped at the site.
- 3.2 A programme of bore-holes and test-pits (Merseyside Engineers Laboratory Services, Red Bank Community Home, Newton Le Willows. Exploratory Investigation Interpretative Report. Report No. 726b February 2008) conducted for the client found made ground consisting of clayey sand and gravel with cobbles and boulders in places (brick, concrete, ash) locally up to 2 m thick. This overlay c. 2-3 m of Boulder Clay over sands and gravels c. 1 m thick. Dense to very dense reddish brown weathered sandstone occurred at a depth of c. 4-4.5 m.

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 No archaeological investigation has taken place within or adjacent to the site. However, the site lies within a landscape known to contain sites relating to the Prehistoric onwards i.e. a Roman Road to the west, medieval parkland (bounded by Newton Brook, area of former Parkside colliery site), Red Bank Farm & Red Bank Mill to the south of the Site.
- 4.2 In the present context the most significant site is the Civil War Battle of Red Bank, 1648 which was fought in the fields surrounding the site between Cromwell's army and a Scots army largely consisting of foot soldiers retreating to Warrington from the Battle of Preston.
- 4.3 Although there has not been any formal archaeological work on this battlefield landscape finds of musket balls and a possible buckle from adjacent land have been reported to the AO.
- 4.4 The land appears to have been pasture/cultivation for some time, and was the base for a 'reformatory' farm school established by the 1870's.

5. Areas of Archaeological Potential

- 5.1 The full extent of the battlefield site is presently unknown, though it is likely that the present site lies at its core.

6. Aims and Objectives

- 6.1 The objective of the survey is, where possible, to reinvestigate and recover information associated with the Battle of Red Bank, 1648, with the aim of allowing more detailed proposals for mitigation to be made as required.

7. Location of Survey Area

- 7.1 The area of the survey is the extent of the proposed development as detailed by the client (Fig. 1).

8. Methodology

- 8.1 All work shall be carried out in accordance with brief by the MAS (Appendix A).
- 8.2 The first phase of the project will be a rapid desk-based assessment aimed at providing a more detailed context for the report. This will principally be a review of historic map evidence, particularly tithe and estate maps, and readily available documentary sources relating to the battle.
- 8.2 The metal detector survey will be undertaken by 1-2 suitably-experienced amateur metal detector users operating reliable and well maintained equipment working under the direct supervision of the archaeological contractor. NMLFAU has extensive contacts with local individuals and clubs.
- 8.3 All finds will be individually bagged and located using a Total Station EDM linked to a datalogger running Penmap software. The survey will be accurately tied in to an OS base-map.
- 8.4 NMLFAU will record the date, time and duration of all site visits.

All other aspects will be as detailed in the brief from the MAS (Appendix A, Section 7).

9. Reporting

- 9.1 Immediately after the completion of fieldwork the finds and samples will be processed (cleaned and marked) as appropriate. Each category of find or environmental material will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist. Any items requiring specialist conservation will be forwarded to the appropriate NML Conservation Department. The integrity of the site archive will be curated and maintained.
- 9.2 An assessment report will be submitted as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork. The report will include the following:
- a non-technical summary
 - site location
 - archaeological and historical background
 - methodology
 - aims and objectives
 - results (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains)
 - an appraisal of the results within their local, regional and national context

- publication proposals if warranted
- archive storage and curation
- general and detailed plans showing the location of the stripped areas accurately positioned on an OS base map (to a known scale)
- detailed plans and sections as appropriate (to a known scale)
- a cross-referenced index of the project archive

9.3 One copy of the complete report will be submitted to the client as a draft.

9.4 Five bound copies, one unbound copy and a digital version of the report and illustrations will be required within one week of the receipt of the client's comments on the draft report. (Digital text to be in Microsoft Word format and illustrations in AutoCAD and/or PDF format).

9.5 NMLFAU will submit a copy of the report to the Archaeological Officer for MAS for deposition in the Merseyside SMR.

10. Publication

10.1 The results will be prepared for publication in an appropriate archaeological journal if of regional or national significance.

10.2 A summary of findings will be submitted to the regional Council for British Archaeology group, CBA North West (c/o Dr. M. Nevell, UMAU, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL who will provide a pro-forma sheet).

11. Archive Preparation and Deposition

11.1 The archive of finds and records generated during the fieldwork will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records and materials produced will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. The archive will be produced to the standards outlined by English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3;

11.2 The archaeological sub-contractor shall, prior to the start of fieldwork, liaise with the appropriate museum, in this instance Liverpool Museum, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, to obtain agreement in principle to accept the archive for long term storage and curation. The sub-contractor shall be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of the museum in respect of the archive (National Museums Liverpool (NML) Guidelines on the Deposition of Archaeological Archives), and for adhering to those requirements.

11.3 The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of the project. The archaeological sub-contractor shall provide copies of the communication with the recipient museum and written confirmation of the deposition of the archive. The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 12 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.

12. Monitoring

12.1 NMLFAU will liaise with the Merseyside Archaeological Service to inform them of the commencement of site works and to offer them the opportunity to visit and monitor the work in progress.

13. Confidentiality and Publicity

- 13.1 The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of the client.

14. Copyright

- 14.1 Copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to reside with National Museums Liverpool who retain the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all archaeological aspects of the project.
- 14.3 The results of the archaeological work will be submitted to the clients and Merseyside Archaeological Service by NMLFAU and will ultimately be made available for public access.

15. Resources and Timetable

- 15.1 All archaeological personnel involved in the project will be suitably qualified and experienced professionals.
- 15.2 The timetable for the work is set out in Table 1 below.

Task	Staffing	Number of days (Contingency in brackets)	
Project Set-Up	Senior Project Officer	0.5	
Rapid Desk-Based Assessment	Senior Project Officer	2	
Fieldwork	Senior Project Officer, Site Assistant	1 (1)	
Finds processing and cataloguing	Site Assistant	3	
Reporting and archive preparation	Senior Project Officer	4	

16. Insurances and Health and Safety

- 16.1 NMLFAU is covered by public and professional indemnity insurance.
- 16.2 NMLFAU has its own Health and Safety policy compiled using national guidelines and which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety policy may be submitted to the client in advance of fieldwork.
- 16.3 NMLFAU will undertake a risk assessment detailing project specific Health and Safety requirements. The risk assessment shall be submitted to the client and MAS in advance of commencement of site work. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological issues.

- 16.4 The archaeological sub-contractor will familiarise themselves with, and comply with, the Health and Safety requirements of the principal contractor on site.

17. References

English Heritage, 1991. *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage, 2002. *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation.* Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*

Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992. *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*

Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1993. *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*

Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1998. *First Aid for Finds.*