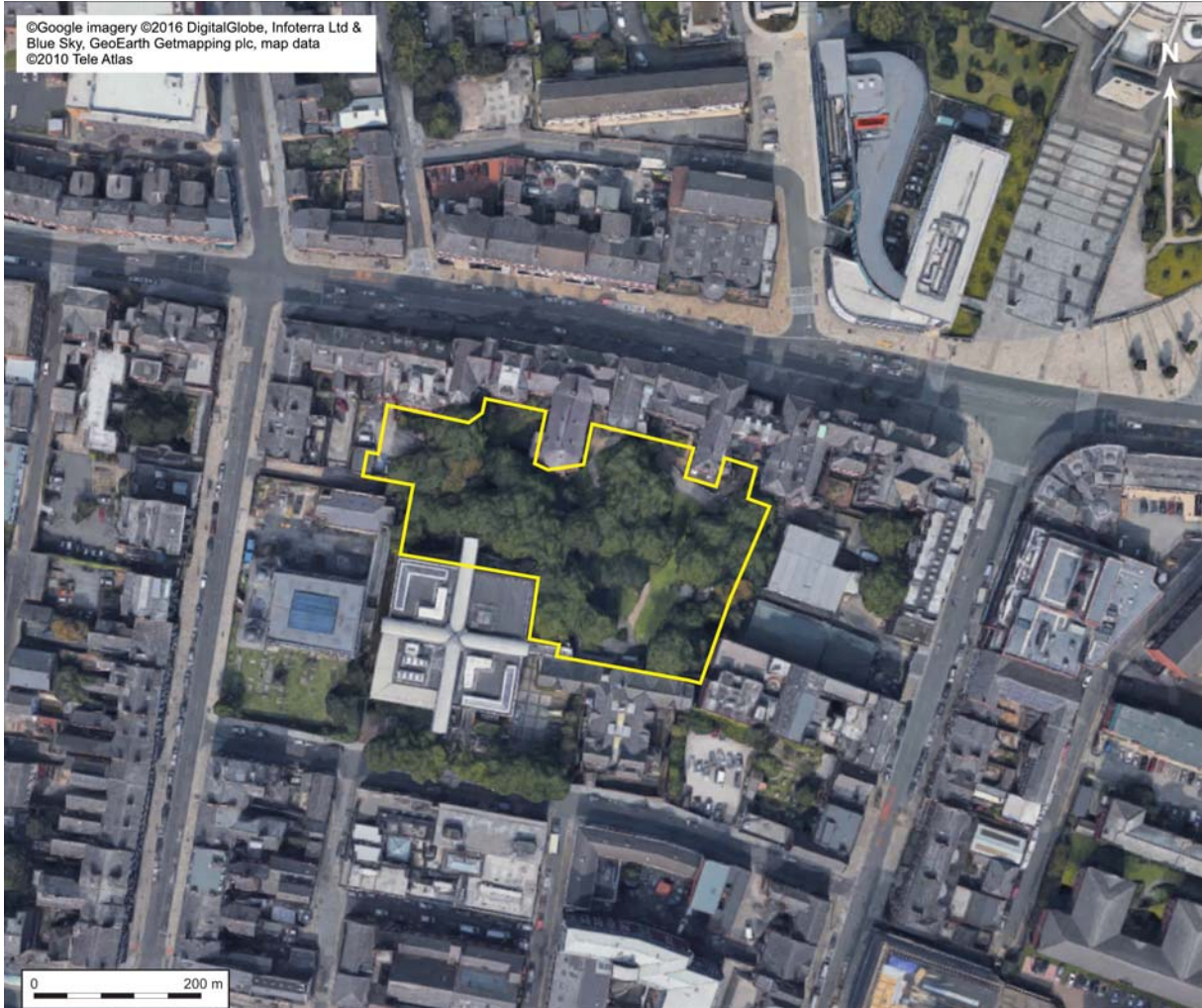


# Land at Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (18F/1671)

## Archaeological Evaluation



*Document Number: 3425\_02.R02a*

*July 2019*

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## Nexus Heritage Controlled Document

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Prepared by:	Anthony Martin and Elizabeth Gardner	Date: 15/02/2019
Revision a	Trench grid references added to Fig.4, dates of work added, photograph captions updated, better quality images included, context numbers added and typos amended	Date: 01/07/2019

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## INTRODUCTION

Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) has secured planning permission (**ref. 18F/1671**) for development of land at the Aldham Robarts Learning Resource Centre, Maryland Street, Liverpool L1 9DE (hereafter the Site). The development comprises the construction of a two storey extension with ground floor link to existing library with associated landscaping and tree replacement, following felling of existing trees.

The Site includes the locations of a number of now demolished post-medieval structures including a garden wall and garden landscape features such as paths and planting/ornamental beds.

In response to the suspected archaeological interest at the Site Faithful + Gould, acting on behalf of LJMU commissioned an archaeological assessment of the Site, prepared by LP- Archaeology (LP-Archaeology 2018).

The Council, as advised by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), and in the light of the archaeological assessment considers the Site is of potential archaeological interest and in order to secure satisfactory treatment of potential archaeological remains, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework (hereafter NPPF) attached a condition to the planning permission (no. 21) stating that:

*No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing.*

**REASON:** *In order to ensure that archaeological information revealed by the development of the site is properly recorded in accordance with Policy HD17 of the Liverpool Unitary Development Plan.*

In response to the spirit and intent of the condition a programme of archaeological work (the excavation of a number of evaluation trenches) has been undertaken in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Nexus Heritage and approved in writing by the Council.

Nexus Heritage is appointed as the Archaeological Consultant for this project and has prepared this document, which contains the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by Aeon Archaeology.

A draft version of this document is offered for consideration to the Council's archaeological advisor (Mr. D. Moir of MEAS) for verification with reference to planning permission 18F/1671, best practice and the relevant provisions in NPPF.

## LOCATION AND SITE INFORMATION

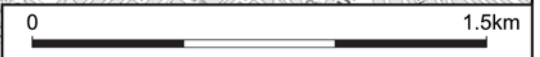
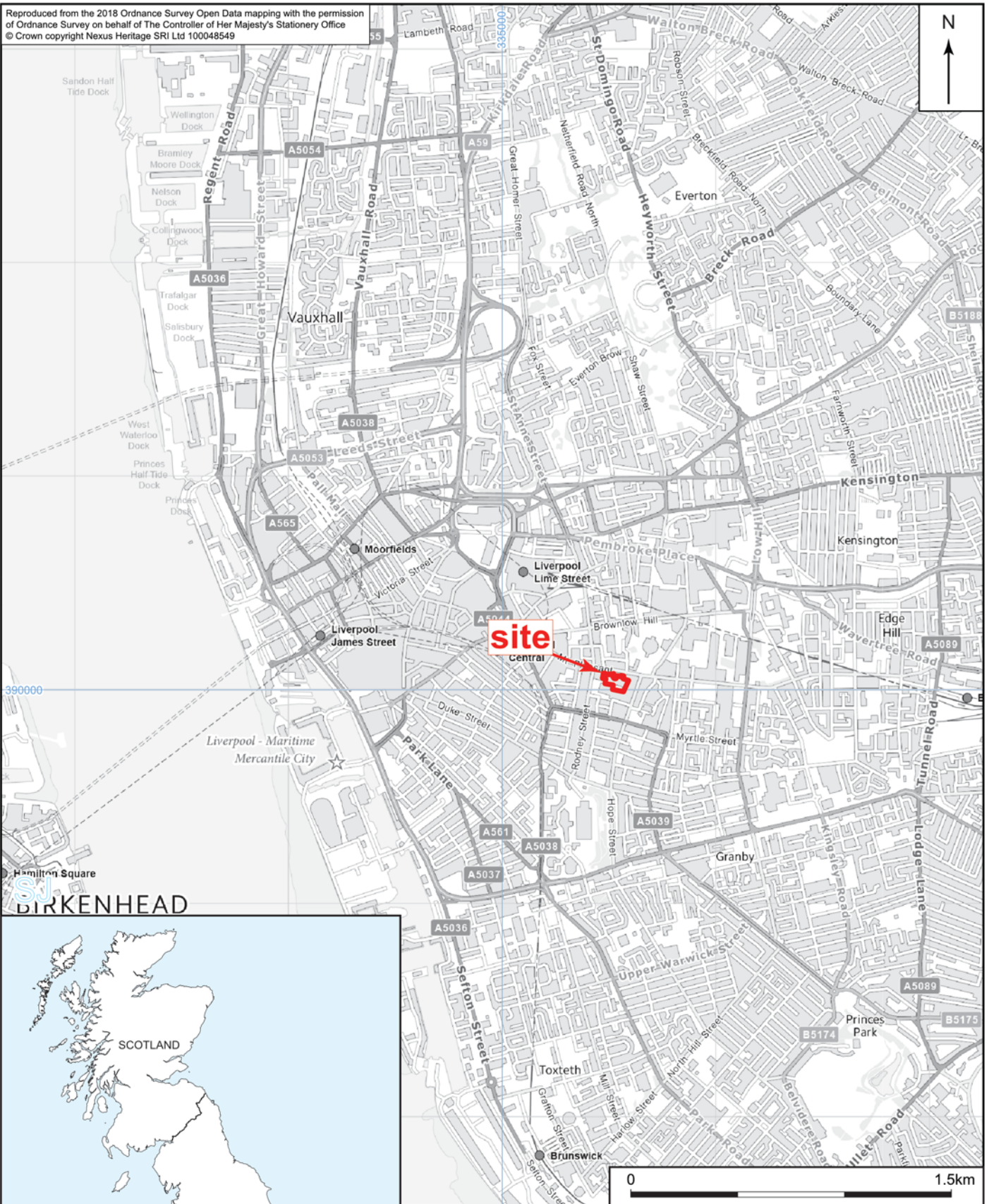
The Site is located at the LJMU Mount Pleasant campus (Fig. 1) and is an irregular shaped parcel of land that is occupied by the Adlham Robarts Library building and associated public open space with mature trees (Figs. 2 and 3). The Site extends to c. 0.6ha and is centred at national grid reference SJ 35514 90035.

The current ground surface on the Site varies from 38.87m AOD to 42.80m AOD, with the downward slope trending from the north to the south.





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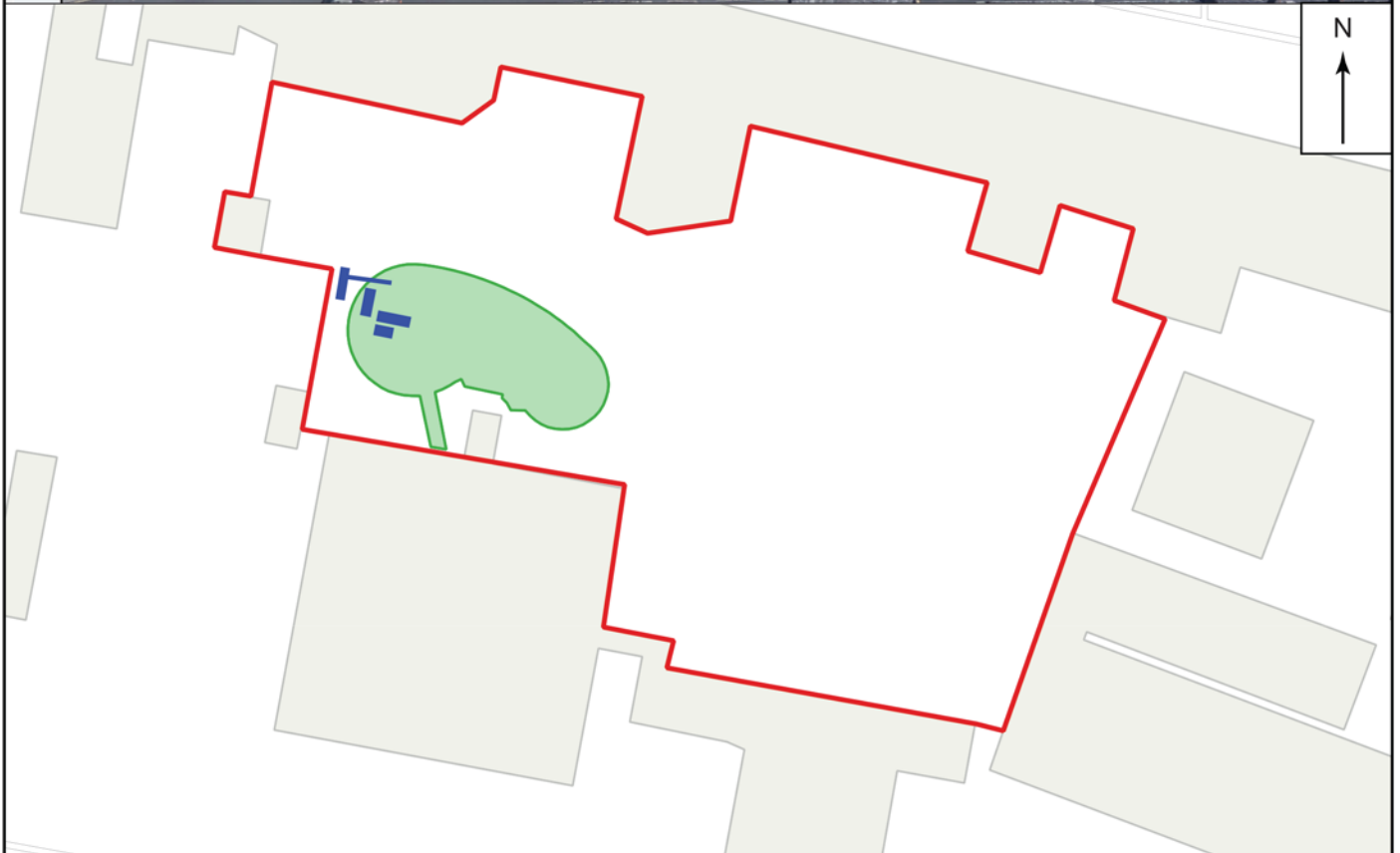
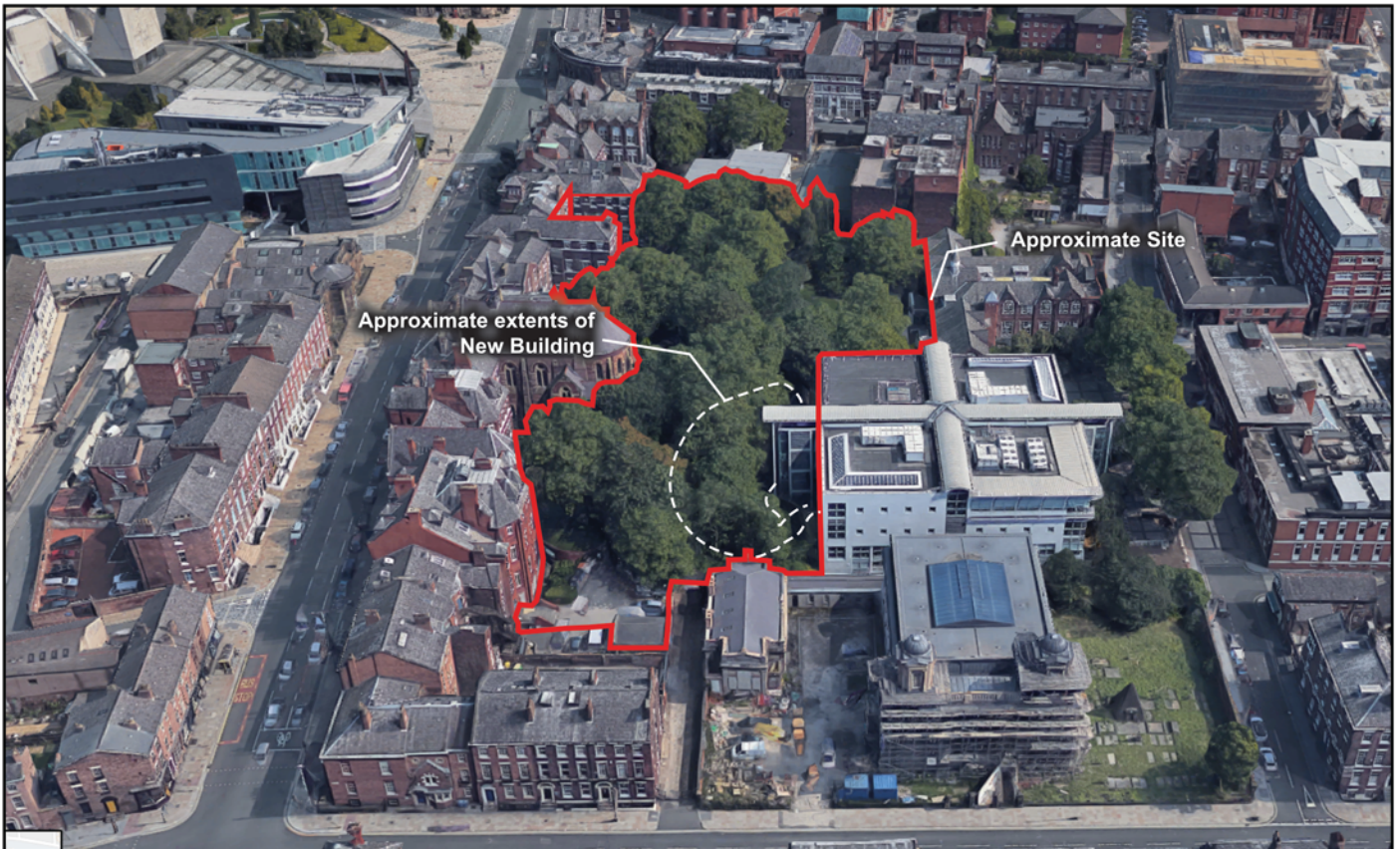


**NEXUS** HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE:  
**Land at John Foster Campus  
 Liverpool**  
 DRAWING TITLE:  
**Site Location**

DATE: 14/02/19	DRAWN BY: ECMG	FIGURE: <b>1</b>
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 Site Boundary

0 50 m

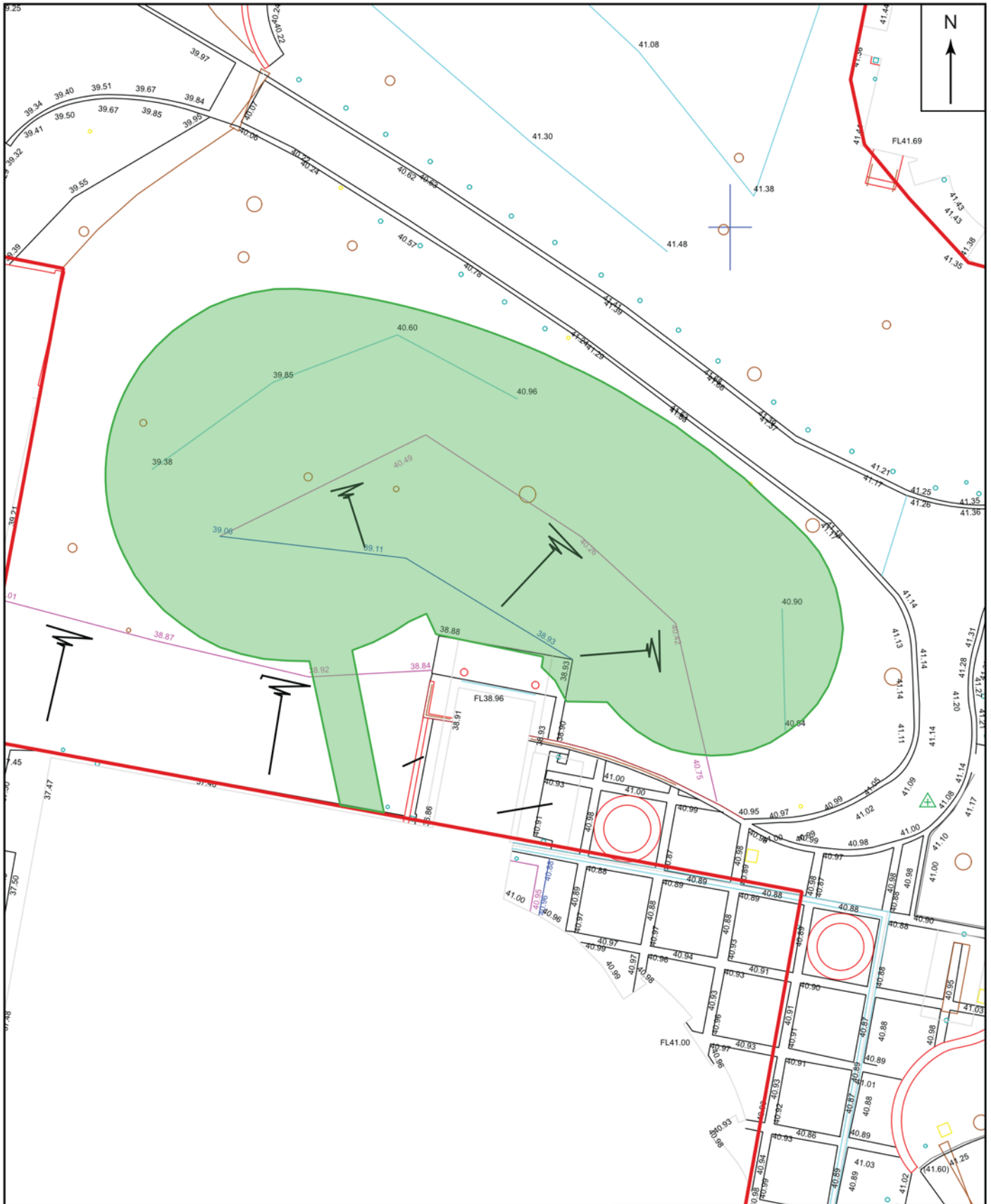
 **NEXUS** HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE:  
**Land at John Foster Campus  
 Liverpool**

DRAWING TITLE:  
*Oblique Google Aerial Image and  
 Site Plan*

DATE: 14/02/19	DRAWN BY: ECMG	FIGURE: <b>2</b>
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- Site Boundary
- Footprint of Pavillion

0  25 m



PROJECT TITLE:  
**Land at John Foster Campus  
 Liverpool**

DRAWING TITLE:  
*Topographic Survey and Footprint of  
 New Building*

DATE: 14/02/19	DRAWN BY: ECMG	FIGURE: <b>3</b>
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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

An Archaeological Assessment was prepared by LP-Archaeology to inform the planning application for the permitted development in May 2018 (LP-Archaeology 2018) and the details of the assessment need not be rehearsed here. However, the following summary provides a concise outline of the broad archaeological and historic context.

The Site is located to the south-east of Liverpool's historic core in an area that witnessed domestic, commercial and industrial development from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, the LP-Archaeology assessment determined that the Site remained undeveloped until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Before this the majority of the Site was established as gardens for the buildings fronting Mount Pleasant. These buildings were occupied by the Convent and Training School of the Sisters of Notre Dame in the 1850s. Fig. 4 below shows the Site boundary and the footprint of the Pavilion building overlaid onto the 1850 Ordnance Survey map and highlights that there are no known mid-19<sup>th</sup> century structures mapped within the footprint of the Pavilion building – with the exception of a potential boundary wall apparently dividing the gardens associated with individual dwellings and the boundary wall to the adjoining laneway.

According to map regression evidence the laneway which had a ninety degree bend turning from east-west to north-south became a dead end sometime between 1974 and 1983-87. The Russian produced mapping of 1974 depicts the laneway as still traverseable but it had become a dead end by the production of the Ordnance Survey 1983-87 1:10,000 Map. The bend only became redundant sometime between 1990 and 2000 (bend visible on Ordnance Survey 1990 1:1,250 mapping but had disappeared on Google Earth's aerial imagery for 2000). The footprint of the Pavilion building appears to extend, over the individual gardens which include paths and what are probably planting/flower beds or shrubberies.

The Site therefore, has a potential to contain buried archaeological remains and the archaeological interest at the Site is to be tested against the relevant topics within the applicable regional research agenda.

The regional research framework for archaeology was developed through three stages – a Resource Assessment (stocktaking of current knowledge and the archaeology of the region), a Resource Agenda (identification of the major gaps in knowledge and how best to address those gaps) and a Strategy (series of statements setting out the perceived priorities, detailing proposed projects and methods). The framework was published as two volumes in 2007: *The Archaeology of North West England: An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England Volume 1 Resource Assessment and Research* and *Archaeology in North West England: An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England Volume 2 Research Agenda and Strategy*. The resource assessment recognised the archaeological potential of the urban landscape of industrialized communities and the importance of Liverpool as a regional metropolis which developed during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The research topics for the post-medieval periods in north-west England, as detailed in the regional research strategy (Brennand 2007) does not include any theme or initiative associated with private gardens of the later post-medieval period and so the Site does not offer any opportunity to address specific horticultural initiatives but the potential archaeological remains at the Site may contribute to the history and lifestyles of a historic Liverpool community which built and lived in the expanding Liverpool metropolitan area.







- Site Boundary
- Footprint of Pavillion

0  25 m



PROJECT TITLE: <b>Land at John Foster Campus Liverpool</b>		
DRAWING TITLE: <i>Footprint of New Building overlain onto Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1850</i>		
DATE: 01/07/19	DRAWN BY: ECMG	FIGURE: <b>4</b>

## RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING

The archaeological evaluation was conducted between 9 Nov. 2018 and 14 Dec. 2018 and consisted of the excavation of four trenches in order to assess the potential for preserved buried archaeological remains at the Site

### Trench 1

#### *Stratigraphic Summary:*

Trench 1 cut through 0.10m of a soft dark (black) brown clay-silt topsoil with heavy bioturbation. Beneath this was a 0.30m deep deposit of mid-grey brown imported soil (101). It was a clay-silt with rare modern glass inclusions. Below this was a 0.12m deposit of modern graded stone hardcore. This appeared to be contoured with the natural slope of the ground, falling away to the south (102). Below this there was a 0.60m deep deposit of very compacted demolition material comprising of broken red bricks bonded by mortar and fragments of tarmac and very occasional large sub-round cobble inclusions (103). Below this was a 0.85m deposit of mid-grey brown soft sand silt material with abundant flecks of charcoal, mortar and red brick as well as very occasional fragments of green bottle glass (104). Beneath this was >0.08m of bright yellow sand (natural deposit).

Location data (in OSGB 1936 / British National Grid co-ordinates) for Trench 1 are NE corner 335473,390045; SE corner 335472,390041; SW corner 335471,390042 and NW corner 335471,390045.

#### *Interpretive Summary:*

Trench 1 was located in the former laneway. The results support this. Above natural layers there was a make-up layer and then a demolition layer which included tarmac and cobbles. The demolition layer (103) indicates that there was one event of breaking up the surface in situ. The overlying hardcore (102), contoured to the new ground levels and deposited topsoil with modern inclusions represent modern landscaping (101).

Sub-surface remains of anthropogenic activity were encountered but the earlier soils below the demolition layers were inert.

### Trench 2

#### *Stratigraphic Summary:*

Trench 2 also cut through 0.10m of a soft dark (black) brown clay-silt topsoil with heavy bioturbation (101). Beneath this was a 0.30m deep deposit of mid-grey brown imported soil. It was a clay-silt with rare modern glass inclusions (105). Below this was a 0.12m deposit of modern graded stone hardcore (102).

Below this, a demolition layer in Trench 2 contained a concrete drain/footing to the west and a red brick wall (107) to the east with a concrete footing or drain parallel to it just to the west (106). The wall is four courses wide and six courses high (0.85m below topsoil).

Location data (in OSGB 1936 / British National Grid co-ordinates) for Trench 2 are NE corner 335478,390041; SE corner 335478,390040; SW corner 335473,390041 and NW corner 335473,390042.

#### *Interpretive Summary:*

Trench 2, according to its approximate location compared to the 1850 Ordnance Survey map, was located stretching from the former laneway, across the boundary wall into a landscaped garden and across a garden pathway. The results support this hypothesis. The location of the observed concrete footings (106) and the red brick wall (107) are located in the expected positions to correlate with the features on the map.







**Plate 1: Trench 1, west facing section**



**Plate 2: Trench 2, southern end of south facing section and concrete features within trench.**



As with Trench 1, the demolition layer (103) indicates that there was one event of breaking up the surface in situ. The overlying hardcore, (102), contoured to the new ground levels and deposited topsoil with modern inclusions represent modern landscaping.

Nineteenth century and modern archaeological remains were encountered and the earlier soils below the demolition layers were inert.

### **Trench 3**

#### *Stratigraphic Summary:*

Trench 3 also cut through 0.10m of a soft dark (black) brown clay-silt topsoil with heavy bioturbation (101). Beneath this was a 0.30m deep deposit of mid-grey brown imported soil. It was a clay-silt with rare modern glass inclusions (105). Below this was a 0.12m deposit of modern graded stone hardcore (102).

A wall (109) was also encountered in Trench 3 at the same level as the structures in Trench 2 (0.85m below topsoil). The wall was sixteen courses high and eight courses wide.

Location data (in OSGB 1936 / British National Grid co-ordinates) for Trench 3 are NE corner 335475,390040; SE corner 335475,390039; SW corner 335473,390039 and NW corner 335473,390040.

#### *Interpretive Summary:*

Trench 3 which was parallel and to the south of Trench 2, was located stretching from the former laneway, across the boundary wall into a landscaped garden. The results support this as the location of the observed red brick wall (109) and its footings (108) were located in the expected positions to correlate with the features on the 1850 map.

Nineteenth century and modern archaeological remains were encountered and the earlier soils below the demolition layers were inert.

### **Trench 4a and 4b**

#### *Stratigraphic Summary:*

Similar to the above trenches Trenches 4a and 4b cut through 0.35m of soft dark brown clay-silt topsoil with heavy bioturbation (101). Below this was a 0.20m deep deposit of orange sand, on top of 0.45m of modern graded stone hardcore. Below this there was a 0.25m layer of demolition material comprising broken red bricks bonded by mortar and fragments of tarmac and very occasional large sub-round cobble inclusions (110). Unlike the other trenches, this demolition layer overlay a more defined 0.15m layer of tarmac (111) below which there was a layer of 0.10m of stone/debris (114), a further layer of 0.15m of tarmac (113), 0.60m of hardcore/stone/debris(114) and finally a 0.10m layer of buried soil (115). At the base of the trench, following the line of the roadway a ceramic drain is located (see Plate 3).

Trench 4a Location data (in OSGB 1936 / British National Grid co-ordinates) are NE corner 335469,390048; SE corner 335468,390043; SW corner 335468,390044 and NW corner 335468,390048.

Trench 4b Location data (in OSGB 1936 / British National Grid co-ordinates) are E end 335475,390046 and W end 335469,390047.

#### *Interpretive Summary:*

Trench 4 was located in the former laneway. The results support this. Below modern make-up, landscaping and demolition layers there were two distinct layers of tarmac (111) and (113). As this laneway is observable in mapping evidence at this location up until 1990 it is likely that the two lenses of tarmac represent resurfacing works of the former lane.

Nineteenth century and modern archaeological remains were encountered, including a modern ceramic drain at the base of the trench and the earlier soils below the demolition layers were inert.





**Plate 3: Trench 3, view of red brick boundary wall and its footings**



**Plate 3: Trench 4, view of intersection between Trench 4a and Trench 4b and ceramic drain at the base of the trench running east-west**

## Overall Results

An examination of the landscape during the evaluative works provided an appreciation of the implications of historic and recent level changes for archaeological survival in the footprint of the new extension.

There are significant level changes within the footprint of the extension. The land surface has clearly been substantially reduced in elevation in the area to the north of the existing library. Presumably this is a consequence of the building of this structure which has a basement illuminated, in part, by natural light. There is a significant drop in ground level from the footpath, south towards the library across the footprint of the proposed new extension of c.2.30m. At the north-eastern limits of the proposed new building where the drop in ground level is more gradual there is the potential for archaeological survival and why the trenches are targeted in this area.

The archaeological evaluation has fulfilled the expectations of the archaeological work through confirmation of the absence/presence, nature and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the Site.

The evaluation demonstrated that the Site had been previously substantially landscaped by the laying of rubble and stonefill aggregate and topping with topsoil.

Features and deposits of anthropogenic origin have been identified but these are of negligible archaeological and historic interest. Any latent archaeological interest at the Site has been extinguished by the results of the evaluation. There is no realistic possibility for any further archaeological enquiry at the Site to yield useful data and, on balance, the evaluation has demonstrated that the potential archaeological interest at the site is non-existent and there would be no benefit in undertaking any further on-Site archaeological works.

The results detailed in this document demonstrate that an adequate programme of archaeological evaluation has been undertaken, sub surface features have been identified of no real archaeological interest. Sub surface features on the site have been adversely compromised by previous groundwork activity.

Faithful + Gould has, via Nexus Heritage, actively liaised with Mr D. Moir of MEAS on archaeological matters and it is the professional opinion of Nexus Heritage that it would be inappropriate for the continuing development at the Site to attract a requirement for further archaeological attendances.

It would be appropriate for Faithful + Gould to submit an application to the Council to discharge the relevant conditions.

The evaluation represents an adequate response to the archaeological and heritage interest at the Site and there are insufficient grounds to require the implementation of any further stages of archaeological work. The Council is invited to contact Mr Moir for verification.





## ARCHIVE

The anticipated recipient organisation for the project archive is the Museum of Liverpool. The contact at the Museum of Liverpool is:

Liz Stewart  
Curator of Archaeology and the Historic Environment  
Museum of Liverpool – Archaeology  
National Museums Liverpool  
Museum of Liverpool  
Pier Head,  
Liverpool Waterfront  
L3 1DG

Tel: 0151 478 4443,

E-mail: [Liz.Stewart@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk](mailto:Liz.Stewart@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk).

The archive has been prepared, compiled and presented by the archaeological contractor for long term storage according to the format requirements of the recipient organisation and as set out relevant standards including

- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014 edition)

The project archive comprises all primary written documents, maps, plans and plots, unprocessed raw data and photographs. This can be quantified as one hard copy and one .pdf copy of this report, five digitised site notes in .jpeg format and 29 digital photographs in .jpeg format.

No artefacts or other items identified were retrieved during the archaeological work.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no incidents, events or accidents to report.

## CONCLUSION

A successful archaeological evaluation has been undertaken in which there were no obstacles that could compromise the ability of the evaluation to address the aims and objectives. The outcome is satisfactory.

The data set has no inherent weaknesses and the methodological approach has been vindicated. The absence of remains associated with previous human activity at the Site, of archaeological interest, has been satisfactorily demonstrated. Sufficient information is herein provided to enable the Council to understand the absence of an archaeological impact arising from the permitted development on the Site.

The Site contains no subsurface features or deposits of archaeological consequence and there is no requirement for further attendances with respect to the spirit and intent of the applicable local and national planning policies



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## APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A**  
**Details of Archaeological Contexts**





## APPENDIX A

### Details of Archaeological Contexts

Context No.	Description
101	Soft, Dark Brown, Clay-silt – (Topsoil)
102	Modern graded Stone – Hardcore
103	Compacted Demolition Material
104	Mid Grey-Brown, Sand-Silt
105	Mid Grey-Brown, Clay-Silt
106	Concrete Drain/ Footing 1
107	Red Brick Wall 1 (Trench 2)
108	Concrete Drain/ Footing 2
109	Red Brick Wall 2 (Trench 3)
110	Demolition Layer
111	Tarmac Layer 1
112	Stony Debris
113	Tarmac Layer 2
114	Hardcore – with stony debris
115	Buried Soil (Same as 105)

**APPENDIX B**  
**Draft OASIS Record Sheet**



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: nexusher1-342793**

### Project details

Project name	Land at Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation consisting of the excavation of four trenches in order to assess the potential for preserved buried archaeological remains at the site.
Project dates	Start: 09-11-2018 End: 14-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	18F/1671 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status (other)	Non-Designated Heritage Asset
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	GARDEN Post Medieval
Significant Finds	WALL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	MERSEYSIDE LIVERPOOL LIVERPOOL Land at Mount Pleasant, Liverpool
Postcode	L3 5UZ
Study area	0.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 35514 90035 53.402930126331 -2.970055695864 53 24 10 N 002 58 12 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38.87m Max: 42.8m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Nexus Heritage
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design	Nexus Heritage



originator  
 Project director/manager Anthony Martin  
 Project supervisor Anthony Martin  
 Type of sponsor/funding body University  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Liverpool John Moores University

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Museum of Liverpool  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Museum of Liverpool  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Land at Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (18F/1671) Archaeological Evaluation  
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