

Chester Business Park

MBNA Lakeside, Chester

Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief:

Areas A1-7, B1-7,

E1-5, R1-13 & R15

Prepared by

NETWORK ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

On behalf of

RSK ENSR ENVIRONMENT Ltd

Report No. 304

January 2004

Network Archaeology Ltd
 22 High Street
 Buckingham
 MK18 1NU
 Tel: 01280 816174
 fax: 01280 816175
 email: bucks@netarch.co.uk
 www.netarch.co.uk

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Client 1	RSK ENSR Environment Ltd						
Project	Chester Business Park Areas A1-7, E1-5, R1-13 & 15						
Document title	Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation						
Document ref.	CBP03/eval/wb/3.0						
Document comprises	DCS	TOC	LIT	LIF	LIA	Text	APPS
	1	2	1	1	1	22	12

Version	Status	Authors	Reviewer	Approver	Issue date
1.0	Draft	Mark Ward & Martin Lightfoot			31/10/03
2.0	Draft	Mark Ward & Martin Lightfoot	Chris Taylor	David Bonner	15/12/03
3.0	Draft	Mark Ward & Martin Lightfoot		David Bonner	06/12/04

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	i
LIST OF FIGURES.....	i
LIST OF TABLES	ii
LIST OF APPENDICES	iii
SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
2 PROJECT BACKGROUND.....	3
2.1 Proposed scheme.....	3
2.2 Site description.....	3
2.3 Previous archaeological work.....	3
3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
3.1 Mesolithic (c. 8,300 – 5,000 BC).....	5
3.2 Neolithic (c. 5,000 – 2,500 BC).....	5
3.3 Bronze Age (c. 2,500 – 700 BC)	5
3.4 Iron Age (c. 700 BC – AD 43).....	5
3.5 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410).....	5
3.6 Early medieval (AD 410 - 1066).....	5
3.7 Medieval (1066 -1485)	6
3.8 Post-medieval (1485-1850).....	6
3.9 Modern (1850 – present).....	6
4 OBJECTIVES.....	7
5 PROCEDURES	8
5.1 Evaluation trenches.....	8
5.2 Archaeological watching brief	8
5.3 Hand excavation and recording.....	8
5.4 Written records.....	9
5.5 Drawn records.....	9
5.6 Photographic record	9
5.7 Artefact policies	9
5.8 Post-excavation finds assessment.....	9
5.9 Reporting policies	10
5.10 Archiving policies	10
5.11 Standards	10
6 RESULTS	11
6.1 Evaluation trenches.....	11
6.2 Stratigraphy and phasing.....	11
6.3 Area A1-7 trenches	11
6.4 Area E1-3 trenches	14
6.5 Watching brief results.....	15
7 DISCUSSION	18
7.1 Area A1-7 trenches	18
7.2 Area E1-3 trenches	18
7.3 Area A1-7 watching brief	18
7.4 Area B1-7: watching brief	18
7.5 Area R1-13 & 15: watching brief.....	18

8	CONCLUSION	19
9	ARCHIVE.....	20
10	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	21
11	BIBLIOGRAPHY	22
12	STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY	23

LIST OF FIGURES

- 1 Location of evaluation at Chester Business Park (*Scale 1:50,000*)
- 2 Chester Business Park Development Area and location of evaluation trenches and watching brief areas (*Scale 1:2000*)
- 3 Location of trenches and archaeological remains Area A1-7 (*Scale 1:500*)
- 4 Location of trench and archaeological remains Area R15 (*Scale 1:500*)
- 5 Location of archaeological remains in Areas A1-7 and E1-3 (*Scale 1:500*)
- 6 Evaluation sections Area A1-7 (*Scale 1:50*)
- 7 Watching brief sections Area R15 (*Scale 1:20*)

LIST OF TABLES

- 2.1 Area designations
- 5.1 List of finds specialists
- 7.1 Summary of results by trench
- C1 Ceramics catalogue
- C2 Quantification of Roman pottery
- D1 Context descriptions
- D2 Description and interpretation of faunal remains by context

LIST OF APPENDICES

- A Figures 1 – 7
- B Summary table of contexts
- C Artefact reports
- D Faunal reports

SUMMARY

From May to August 2003 a programme of archaeological works was implemented in areas of Chester Business Park. This consisted of trial trenching and the monitoring by an archaeologist of topsoil and overburden stripping, and the excavation of test pits and pipe trenches. Relatively low levels of archaeological deposits were encountered, except for Romano-British remains including a road, associated ditches and pottery recorded in the northern section of the development area. Built up ground, recorded previously by a borehole survey of the site, was encountered in all of the evaluation trenches and was observed to varying degrees during the watching brief phases.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of trial trenching and watching brief undertaken at Chester Business Park, Chester, Cheshire (NGR 339300 362860, Figure 1).

This programme represented the second, third, and fourth of five stages of archaeological works within the proposed development area (PDA). These archaeological works were undertaken between May and September 2003 by *Network Archaeology Ltd*, for *RSK ENSR Environment Ltd*.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

2.1 Proposed scheme

Archaeological investigation of the site is being undertaken as part of a condition on planning permission to build offices and associated infrastructure at MBNA Lakeside, Chester Business Park, Chester.

The programme of archaeological works is considered necessary because the PDA lies within an area of potential Roman and medieval archaeological remains, and is thought likely to be crossed by the course of a Roman road (RSK 2002).

Since the initial archaeological works, the area designations for the project have changed, (see table 2.1 below). This report follows the current area designations.

Table 2.1: Area designations

Current area designation	Former area designations	Original area designations	Type of work	Number of trenches	Trench numbers	Context allocation
A1-7	2	E	Evaluation	6	8-13	100-699
	2	E	Evaluation of historic boundary	1	14	700-799
	3a	F/G	Evaluation	2	15-16	800-899
	3a	F/G	Watching brief	-	-	-
B1-7	3a	G	Watching brief	-	-	1400-1407
E1-3	4b	G	Evaluation	5	19-23	1200-1299
E4	5a	G	Watching brief	6	41-46	-
E5	3a	G	Watching brief	-	-	-
R1-13 R15	3b	F	Watching brief	2 drainage trenches	17-18	1000-1199

2.2 Site description

The site is located on the south side of Chester Business Park, Cheshire (NGR 339300 362860, Figure 1). The business park is situated on the lowlands of the Cheshire Plain which are covered with a thick mantle of boulder clay. Locally the soils are 'reddish, fine loams over clayey, slowly permeable sub-soils, and are prone to seasonal water logging' (SSEW 1983, 711m).

The area is on the whole on level ground at around 15m AOD. Most of the site is known to be covered with artificially made ground up to 2m deep (RSK 2002, Appendix B). This material is thought to have been dumped on the PDA during construction work on adjacent land during the 1990s (*ibid*).

2.3 Previous archaeological work

Prior to the present archaeological investigations, a desk based assessment was produced by RSK Environment Ltd (2002). The assessment showed a number of Roman and medieval sites in the environs of the PDA, along with 'stray finds' such as Roman coins. The assessment also indicated that a Roman road might bisect the western part of the site and highlighted the possibility of medieval remains in the vicinity. In general, the assessment concluded that there was a high potential for encountering archaeological remains of Roman or medieval date within the PDA. As a result of this assessment and in discussion with Mike Morris, the Chester City Archaeological Officer, the programme, of which the current work is a part, was initiated.

During January 2003 Network Archaeology undertook an evaluation in the area now designated A1-7, but at the time designated Area C (NAL 2003a). The seven trial trenches excavated in total revealed no significant archaeological remains. Some abraded sherds of Buckley Ware

dating to the 19th century were recorded within re-deposited layers in all seven trenches, which, it was concluded, were probably the result of post-medieval manuring.

3 HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

This section makes use of the archaeological desk based assessment of the PDA undertaken by *RSK Environment Ltd* (2002).

3.1 Mesolithic (c. 8,300 – 5,000 BC)

Hunter-gatherer groups were active in Cheshire during this period; flint artefacts have been recovered from upland areas such as Alderley Edge, river valleys such as Tatton Mere and former wetlands such as Oakmere in the Delamere Forest, and in the north Wirral moss area.

3.2 Neolithic (c. 5,000 – 2,500 BC)

Cereals were being grown during this period in areas of Cheshire such as Hatchmere in the Delamere forest, and there is an early Neolithic chambered tomb at Congleton. Stone axes from the Lake District, North Wales and Cornwall have been found in Cheshire and continental jadeite axes have been found in Lyme Handley and Chester.

3.3 Bronze Age (c. 2,500 – 700 BC)

Land clearance and cultivation increased during this period in Cheshire, as did social and economic complexity. Evidence for Bronze Age activity in Cheshire includes numerous barrows and stone cairns and the exploitation of mineral resources of Beeston and Alderley Edge.

3.4 Iron Age (c. 700 BC – AD 43)

There are a number of hillforts in Cheshire; significant ones include those at Maiden Castle, Beeston, Eddisbury, Kelsborough and Frodsham. These forts represent the defensive importance of the area for the tribal group known as the *Cornovii*. Coins dating from c. 500 BC to the mid 1st century AD have been found on the Wirral, from places as diverse as Carthage and Brittany. Field systems dating to this period have been found at Kelsall and at Chester. It is thought that the Roman fortress at Chester was located on the ploughed fields of an earlier farming settlement.

3.5 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

A small fort was built at Chester around AD 70. This later developed into a full scale military base. By AD 100 the fort covered 56 acres and was built of stone. Some parts of this wall still stand, incorporated into medieval walls. During this period, Chester (*Deva*) had all the facilities associated with a sophisticated Roman town: amphitheatre, bathhouses, workshops and granaries. No less than seven Roman roads served the town. Middlewich and Northwich were other significant settlements in the area during this period. The Wrexham road running south out of Chester (currently the A483), is thought to be Roman on account of its straightness and in linking Chester to southern Snowdonia.

3.6 Early medieval (AD 410 - 1066)

The economic and social decline associated with this period affected Cheshire as much as other parts of Britain, though Chester was still important as a trading centre. Politically the region was unstable, being at the interface between Wales and Anglo-Saxon Mercia. Scandinavian raids in the latter part of this period also took their toll on the economic and political stability of the area.

3.7 Medieval (1066 -1485)

A motte and bailey castle was built at Chester, and the city walls reconstructed as part of the Norman political consolidation of the area. Chester has had a Cathedral since 1075 which indicates its importance, and might officially be considered a city from 1354 when the boundaries were set (VCH 2003). Important castles were built in Cheshire at Beeston, Stockport and Macclesfield. Near the PDA are two important medieval moated sites, one at Mill House Farm and another west of Fir Farm. There is also a possible deserted medieval village at Claverton.

3.8 Post-medieval (1485-1850)

Chester underwent a period of decline during this period. The River Dee, a major contributor to Chester's trade, began to silt up. Subsequent attempts to re-establish Chester as a port failed and trading declined to the extent that Royal taxation of the city was reduced gradually from £100 to £20.

Henry VII's 'Great Charter' of 1506 acknowledged the moves towards local government and granted that the city of Chester be recognised as a county capital.

Chester played a role in the Civil War and is sometimes referred to as *Loyal Chester* because of its backing of the monarchy at this time. Charles I was present here at the defeat of his troops by Parliamentarians at the Battle of Rowton Moor in 1645, fleeing the scene by boat on the River Dee. Chester was placed under siege and eventually surrendered in 1646 to the forces of Oliver Cromwell.

3.9 Modern (1850 – present)

From the industrial revolution onwards Chester again declined in importance, losing out economically to the growing trading and industrial centres of Manchester and Liverpool. Today Chester is a thriving city and tourist centre.

4 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological, ecofactual, environmental and organic remains
- locate, recover, identify, and conserve (as appropriate) any artefacts
- locate, sample, interpret and record archaeological sites/remains
- assess the value/importance of any archaeological sites/remains
- provide a preliminary assessment of the significance of any such remains
- assess the potential impact of the proposed development upon any such remains
- determine any need for further evaluation and mitigation prior to construction
- produce and submit a suitable archive
- produce a report that addresses the above

The objectives of the watching brief were to:

- provide a permanent-presence watching brief during specified ground-disturbing activities
- gather sufficient information to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological, ecofactual, environmental and organic remains
- locate, recover, identify, and conserve (as appropriate) any artefacts
- locate, sample, interpret and record archaeological sites/remains
- assess the value/importance of any archaeological sites/remains
- produce and submit a suitable archive
- produce a report that addresses the above

5 PROCEDURES

All procedures for both the evaluation and watching brief are described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (NAL 2003) and are summarised below.

5.1 Survey

The evaluation trenches were located to millimetre accuracy using global positioning satellite technology.

5.2 Trench locations

The trenches were positioned to provide a representative cover of the areas to be evaluated (Figure 2). They were oriented approximately E-W, N-S, NE-SW and NW-SE, so that they were not parallel to, or at right angles to, the Roman road and pre-Roman field system which are thought to cross the site elsewhere. The evaluation trenches provided an approximate 3% cover of the former area 2, currently part of area A1-7.

5.1 Evaluation trenches

Eight 30m long evaluation trenches were dug in Area A-1-7 and five in Area E1-3 using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching blade. An additional trench (14) across what was supposed a pre-Roman boundary was intended to be 30m long but access difficulties only allowed approximately half this length.

The mechanical excavator removed topsoil (and then any subsoil layers), in spits, down to the surface of the first significant archaeological material, or to drift basal deposits, whichever was reached first.

Upon completion of the evaluation trenches at each site, the excavated subsoil and then topsoil was reinstated within each trench.

5.2 Archaeological watching brief

Archaeological monitoring took place on agreed ground-working activity.

Where no archaeological remains were encountered, groundwork was permitted to continue.

The monitoring archaeologist ensured that a full and appropriate record was made in accordance with the objectives outlined in section 4.

5.3 Hand excavation and recording

The spoil was visually searched and was scanned by a metal detector for archaeological finds. Any suspected archaeological deposits were sample excavated, and a written, drawn and photographic record made.

Significant archaeological deposits found by evaluation or monitoring were hand-excavated, in a controlled and stratigraphic manner. Sufficient quantities of archaeological deposits were excavated to meet the project objectives.

5.4 Written records

The Project Code CBP appears on all records.

Each evaluation or watching brief area was allotted a unique block of context numbers for recording purposes (see table 2.1).

Multi-context recording was used to record archaeological remains.

A system of pro-forma record sheets with appropriate fields was used for on-site recording. The system has been developed by Network Archaeology Ltd and is in a format which conforms to IFA standards (IFA 1999, 2001).

5.5 Drawn records

A full drawn record was made of all archaeological remains; these include:

- Ordnance Survey base plans, at 1:2500 or 1:1250 scale
- trench plans, at 1:50, 1:100 or 1:200 scale
- detailed archaeological plans, at 1:10 or 1:20 scale
- section drawings, at 1:10 or 1:20 scale

5.6 Photographic record

A full photographic record in 35mm monochrome and colour slide was taken of all evaluation trenches and all archaeological remains encountered. These included overall site shots, shots of work in progress, and overall and detailed shots of archaeological remains. A suitable scale, context number and north arrow (if appropriate) appeared in each photograph.

5.7 Artefact policies

All machine and hand excavated spoil was visually searched for archaeological finds. Finds were retained, washed and then examined by appropriate specialists.

Certain categories of artefact (*e.g.* modern and post-medieval pottery, undiagnostic tile/brick, glass, and animal bone, *etc.*) were quantified and discarded.

All retained artefacts were be cleaned, marked, (conserved, if appropriate) and packaged in accordance with the guidelines of Chester Council (Chester Archaeology 2002).

5.8 Post-excavation finds assessment

Once the finds had been processed, they were sent to appropriate specialists (table 5.1) for assessment (see appendix C).

Table 5.1: List of finds specialists

Material	Specialist
Faunal remains	Mark Ward
CBM	Alan Vince
post medieval pottery	Alan Vince
Roman pottery and materials	Gill Dunn

5.9 Reporting policies

Context data are summarised in the table which forms Appendix B of this report; the table is structured by context number, area designation and trench. The trench specifications and archaeological remains are summarised in table 6.1 of the results section, locations are given to twelve figure national grid references.

Seven sets of figures are presented. These include: one overall site location plan showing the PDA in its geographical context (Figure 1), one sheet showing the trench location and the watching brief areas (Figure 2), three sheets show the location of archaeological remains (Figures 3, 4 & 5), and two sheets show section drawings from the evaluation trenches and the watching brief areas (Figures 6 & 7).

A draft copy of this report was submitted to RSK ENSR for comment. The final report incorporates any comments made by RSK ENSR and Chester Archaeology.

Hard and electronic copies of this report will be supplied to RSK ENSR. The number of final reports required for submission will be agreed with RSK ENSR, but will not exceed ten copies.

5.10 Archiving policies

See section 9: Archive

5.11 Standards

All work has been undertaken in accordance with current health and safety legislation and in line with English Heritage guidance (EH 1991), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' guidance documents (IFA 1999-2001).

Network Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

6 RESULTS

6.1 Evaluation trenches

The results from trial trenching are summarised below in table 6.1. (See Appendix B: Context Summaries for context data). All trial trenches were 30m long and 2m wide, except for trench 14 which was approximately 15m long.

Table 6.1: Summary of results

	Trench No	Length	Width	Depth	Archaeological remains	Artefacts
Area A1-7	8	30m	2m	1.50m	None	No
	9	30m	2m	1.90m	Gulley and furrow	Yes
	10	30m	2m	1.60m	None	No
	11	30m	2m	2.20m	Gulley	Yes
	12	30m	2m	2.00m	Two gulleys	Yes
	13	30m	2m	1.40m	None	Yes
	15	30m	2m	0.70m	None	No
Historic boundary	14	15m	2m	1.70m	None	Yes
Area E 1-3	19	30m	2m	1.90m	None	No
	20	30m	2m	2.60m	None	No
	21	30m	2m	2.00m	None	No
	22	30m	2m	1.20m	None	No
	23	30m	2m	1.00m	None	No

6.2 Stratigraphy and phasing

The main stratigraphy recorded within the trenches was a series of modern deposits overlying a buried turf horizon and associated subsoil on to the natural boulder clay drift (Appendix B). All of the archaeological features, with the exception of some in Trench 14, were beneath the buried turf horizons. The topsoil, subsoil and re-deposited layers from each trench are summarised in tables in the result sections for each trench and are presented in stratigraphic order.

6.3 Area A1-7 trenches

Layers observed in the trenches are described in the tables below, while archaeological remains are described in the text.

Trench 8

This revealed no archaeological features and no artefacts. The buried turf layer (105) and associated sub-soil (103) were buried beneath recently re-deposited material (101 & 102). This sequence is characteristic throughout the site.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
100	layer		
101	layer	300mm	Re-deposited subsoil?
102	layer	400mm	Re-deposited boulder clay
103	layer	300mm	Former subsoil
105	layer	300mm	Former turf layer

Trench 9

This trench exhibited a series of modern dump layers (201, 202 & 205) covering the buried turf (203) and subsoil (204) horizons. Sealed by the latter two layers was a gully (207), round bottomed and with sides at approximately 45°, measuring 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep, and a shallow gradually sloping furrow (209) measuring 1.6m wide and 0.15m deep. Both these were filled by a similar mid to dark grey silty clay (208 & 210). None of these contained any

dateable artefacts although one (208) contained a highly fragmented and poorly preserved cow molar (see Appendix D).

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
200	layer	100mm	Topsoil
201	layer	400mm	Re-deposited subsoil
202	layer	700mm	Re-deposited subsoil
203	layer	200mm	Former turf layer
204	layer	200mm	Former subsoil
205	layer	700mm	Re-deposit

Trench 10

This trench produced no archaeological remains and no artefacts. A modern dump (300) covered the buried turf layer (301) and subsoil (302).

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
300	Layer	1300mm	Re-deposited boulder clay
301	Layer	300mm	Former turf layer
302	Layer	300mm	Former sub-soil

Trench 11

This contained modern re-deposited material (400 & 401) above the buried turf (402) and subsoil horizons (403). The buried turf layer produced three sherds of pottery dated as Early Modern. Beneath the subsoil was a gully (407, Figure 6a) with sides cut at approximately 45° and a flat base measuring 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. This was filled by a plastic to firm mid grey silty clay, similar to other fills on the site. No finds were recovered from this gully.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
400	Layer	1200mm	Re-deposited boulder clay
401	Layer	600mm	Re-deposited silty clay
402	Layer	340mm	Former turf layer
403	Layer	400mm	subsoil

Trench 12

The upper deposits of Trench 12 were dominated by re-deposited clay (500) overlying the former turf (501) and subsoil (502) layers. The turf layer contained glass and pottery from mostly the Early Modern period, though a single 18th century sherd was also recovered. Revealed beneath the buried soils were two features described as gullies positioned 4m apart: one (504, Figure 6b) was steep sided and flat bottomed and measured 0.8m wide by 0.4m deep, the other (506, Figure 6b) was also steep sided and flat bottomed and measured 1m wide by 0.4m deep. Both were orientated northwest to southeast and were each filled by a mid grey compact to plastic silty clay. No archaeological artefacts were recovered.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
500	Layer	110mm	Re-deposited boulder clay
501	layer	400mmm	Former turf layer
502	Layer	300mm	Former subsoil

Trench 13

Trench 13 contained no archaeological remains, though there were two former turf layers (602 & 606) and a former subsoil (603) layer. These were beneath the modern re-deposited clay layer (601). Post medieval and Early Modern glass and pottery was recovered from (602) and Early Modern pottery from (606). Both these contexts may be one and the same; however, there was a difference in texture great enough to justify allocating separate numbers.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
600	Layer	100mm	Topsoil
601	Layer	750mm	Re-deposited boulder clay
602	Layer	100mm	Former turf and topsoil layer
603	Layer	300mm	Former subsoil
606	Layer	200mm	Former turf layer

Trench 14

This trench was excavated through an existing hedgerow and ditch that is supposed to follow the line of a prehistoric field boundary (Figure 2). Due to access difficulties it was only 15.5m in length but took into account the existing ditch and attempted to account for any possible features either side.

The area was initially covered by a topsoil layer (700) overlying a layer of over-burden (701). A ditch (707) and bank (704) were recorded in this trench following the line of the hedgerow. It was thought that trench 14 may reveal an earlier ditch but only the fill of the modern ditch was revealed. The latter was dated by a fragment of Early Modern glass. Northeast of the ditch was its bank (704). This covered a former subsoil (703) and was partially covered by a former topsoil (702). Southwest of the ditch only a former topsoil (703) remained, containing a number of Early Modern pottery sherds and brick fragments. At the southern end of the ditch was a small irregular deposit of firm sandy, silty clay (708) with gravel inclusions lying on and within the natural boulder clay (705) and probably the result of periglacial activity.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
700	Layer	200mm	Topsoil
701	Layer	800mm	Re-deposited boulder clay
702	Layer	200mm	Former turf layer
703	Layer	300mm	Former subsoil

Trench 15

Post medieval and modern pottery was recovered from the topsoil. There were also clear disturbances within the topsoil and subsoil layers, relating to faunal or floral activity.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
800	Layer	undetermined	Topsoil
801	Layer	500mm	Subsoil

Trench 16

Post medieval and modern pottery was recovered from the topsoil. There were also clear disturbances within the topsoil and subsoil layers, relating to faunal or floral activity and a possible, though undated ditch (807, Figure 6c) 1.20m wide and 0.30m deep, filled with grey silty clay.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
803	Layer	500mm	Topsoil
804	Layer	500mm	Subsoil

Artefacts

Material remains from the Area A1-7 were predominately ceramic, apart from a poorly preserved cow molar (208) from Trench 9 (Appendix D).

Modern finds such as plastics, recovered from the uppermost deposits, were not retained. Ceramic building material, glass and pottery were recovered from the buried turf and soil horizons and were retained for analysis (Appendix D). These are mainly described as being of 18th and 19th century date and from principally the Buckley potteries near Flint and the Staffordshire potteries. There is no particular reason to explain their presence on site other than as a result of either on-site activity or re-deposition at a later date.

6.4 Area E1-3 trenches

Five trenches were excavated in this area (19-23). Other than modern land drains, no archaeological remains were encountered and no finds were recovered. Layers observed are described in the tables below.

Trench 19

Three probably 19th century land drains running east to west were observed in this trench. No finds and no other archaeological remains were encountered.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
1200	Layer	200mm	Topsoil
1201	Layer	1250mm	Re-deposited subsoil
1202	Layer	150mm	Buried turf
1203	Layer	200mm	Subsoil

Trench 20

Four probably 19th century land drains running northeast to southwest were observed in this trench. No finds and no other archaeological remains were encountered.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
1207	Layer	2.05m thick	Re-deposited subsoil
1210	Layer	0.10m thick	Buried soil
1211	Layer	0.20m thick	Subsoil

Trench 21

One probably 19th century land drain running roughly northeast to southwest was observed in this trench. No finds and no other archaeological remains were encountered.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
1217	Layer	0.30m thick	Subsoil
1218	Layer	0.10m thick	Ploughsoil
1219	Layer	1.45m thick	Re-deposited subsoil

Trench 22

Two probably 19th century land drains running southeast to northwest were observed in this trench. No finds and no other archaeological remains were encountered.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
1212	Layer	0.35m thick	Topsoil
1213	Layer	0.20m thick	Subsoil

Trench 23

Five probably 19th century land drains running roughly east to west were observed in this trench. No finds and no other archaeological remains were encountered.

Context	Context type	Max thickness	Interpretation
1214	Layer	0.30m thick	Topsoil
1215	Layer	0.15m thick	Subsoil

6.5 Watching brief results

Area A1-7

Former area 3a, currently part of area A1-7, was monitored during topsoil stripping. A north to south running ditch (approximately 2.0m wide), and a bank (approximately 3.5m wide), probably together representing a modern field boundary, were recorded. In addition, two spreads of stones, possibly entrances to adjoining fields, were exposed (Figure 5). All these remains were determined to be modern due to the presence of materials such as fragments of plastic, china, broken glass, bailing twine and concrete, and the stratigraphic position of the spreads being immediately below the topsoil.

Area B1-7

An area of cobbles (1400) covering approximately 4m x 4m was encountered in this area, as was a northwest to southeast running ditch (1406). No finds were recorded from this area, although both the cobbles and the ditch were truncated by a Victorian land drain. The ditch, which was 1.25m wide and 0.80m deep, pre-dates the cobbled area.

Area E4

Six test-pits (designated 41-46; Figure 2) were excavated in this area, which covered 0.79 ha. No significant archaeological remains were encountered. Layers observed in the test pits are described in the tables below, while archaeological remains are described in the text.

Test-pit 41

No archaeological remains were encountered.

Pit dimensions		Length 3.2m	Width 2.0m	Depth 4.4m
Layer	Description			Thickness
Topsoil	Brown silty clay			300mm
Subsoil	Re-deposited mixed clay			750mm
Drift geology	Light grey sand			300mm
Solid geology	Reddish orange clay			-

Test-pit 42

Possible furrow, gully or lens recorded in section filled with yellowish grey silty clay 1.0m wide and 0.3m deep. This was not further investigated due to health and safety considerations.

Pit dimensions		Length 3.2m	Width 1.9m	Depth 4.4m
Layer	Description			Thickness
Topsoil	Brown silty clay			270mm
Subsoil	Re-deposited mixed clay			930mm
Buried layer	Grey humic silty clay			250mm
Drift geology	Yellowish grey silty clay			250mm
Solid geology	Reddish clay			-

Test-pit 43

Hand-installed land drain seen in section.

Pit dimensions		Length 3.1m	Width 2.0m	Depth 3.1m
----------------	--	-------------	------------	------------

Layer	Description	Thickness
Topsoil	Brown silty clay	300mm
Subsoil	Re-deposited mixed clay	1200mm
Buried layer	Blue grey humic clay	100mm
Drift geology	Light grey and yellow silty sand and clay	300mm
Solid geology	Reddish clay	-

Test-pit 44

No archaeological remains were encountered

Pit dimensions		Length 3.2m	Width 1.9m	Depth 4.4m
Layer	Description			Thickness
Topsoil	Brown silty clay			300mm
Subsoil	Re-deposited mixed clay			950mm
Buried layer	Blue grey humic clay			50mm
Drift geology	Light grey silty clay			50mm
Solid geology	Reddish clay			-

Test-pit 45

Possible pit or tree-bole seen in the corner of the section cut through the buried layer, over a metre below the ground surface; width indeterminate but the fill, which was light grey silty clay, was at least 0.4m thick.

Pit dimensions		Length 3.1m	Width 2.0m	Depth 3.1m
Layer	Description			Thickness
Topsoil	Brown silty clay			300mm
Subsoil	Re-deposited mixed clay			950mm
Drift geology	Yellow sand			400mm
Solid geology	Reddish orange clay			-

Test-pit 46

No archaeological remains were encountered

Pit dimensions		Length 3.2m	Width 2.0m	Depth 4.4m
Layer	Description			Thickness
Topsoil	Brown silty clay			270mm
Subsoil	Re-deposited mixed clay			1150mm
Buried layer	Blue grey humic clay			250mm
Drift geology	Light grey and yellow silty sand and clay			500mm
Solid geology	Reddish clay			-

Area E5

During August 2003 an area covering 0.43 ha was stripped by a bulldozer. This revealed no archaeological remains other than northeast to southwest running 19th century land drains. The topsoil in this area was brown silty clay, present to a depth of 300mm and overlying a re-deposited subsoil layer 700mm thick, which itself lay above a 300mm thick, light grey and yellow silty sand and clay drift geological layer.

Area R1-13 & R15

A Roman road (1031), and associated ditches, were observed during the monitoring of the drainage trenches (numbered 17 & 18) (Figures 4 & 7). The road and ditches were oriented roughly northeast to southwest. Fragments of bone were recovered from the road and associated ditch fills (1024 & 1033).

Three parallel ditches (1009, 1010 & 1014, Figure 7), all roughly similar in character and size (between 1.50m and 1.80m wide and 0.60m – 0.70m deep) and running roughly east and west of the road, were recorded and were also believed to be Romano-British. It was not possible to determine the relationship if any, of these ditches with the Roman road (1031, Figure 7b).

Two pits were also recorded during the watching brief in this area: one (1019, Figure 7d), a 'bowl' shaped flat bottomed feature 1.66m wide and 0.50m deep, and the other an irregular pit 1.9m wide and 0.70m deep (1022). Both were identified from pottery as being Romano-British.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Area A1-7 trenches

The upper deposits throughout Area A1-7 contained plastics and other modern material and were almost certainly the result of the recent earth moving in the vicinity indicated by the desk based assessment (RSK 2002). The turf and subsoil horizons were preserved in all nine trenches with the subsoil layer sealing archaeological deposits in Trenches 9, 11 and 12. These deposits are undated but it is likely, considering their stratigraphic position and their character, that they are post-medieval.

Post-medieval and early modern ceramics occur in large quantities within fields in the region as a result of manuring activities during these periods. Buckley and Staffordshire wares are particularly common pottery types associated with this activity. This suggests that the buried soil horizons lying beneath the re-deposited materials are quite likely to be associated with post medieval agricultural practices.

In Trench 14, the prehistoric field boundary suspected of mirroring the existing hedgerow was not revealed. A bank and ditch were exposed but dated by artefactual remains to the Early Modern period; this was confirmed during monitoring of topsoil stripping (Area A1-7 watching brief, Figure 5).

7.2 Area E1-3 trenches

As no archaeological remains were encountered in this area it is most likely that significant remains from any period are not present. There were a high number of land drains crossing in this area, indicating the agricultural usage of the area and the poor drainage of the clay subsoils.

7.3 Area A1-7 watching brief

Monitoring here confirmed the very low level of archaeology in this area indicated by the evaluation trenches. The ditch and bank, and the cobbled causeway, indicate a field boundary here, with the roughly cobbled area reflecting access between fields. These remains were not excavated, though modern artefacts recorded from the surface of the ditch (the same feature as that investigated by a trial trench in Area A1-7, Figure 3), indicate a modern date for them.

7.4 Area B1-7: watching brief

Although there was no dating evidence recovered from the ditch (1406) and the cobbled surface (1400), it seems likely that these remains are modern, with the ditch cut to aid local drainage and to act as a field boundary, and the cobbled surface laid down to assist local access, as with the ditch and cobbled surface encountered in the watching brief in Area A1-7 (see above).

7.5 Area R1-13 & 15: watching brief

Monitoring of the drainage trenches (designated 17 & 18) assisted the general assessment of the density of archaeological remains. The southeast and centre of the development were shown to be devoid of archaeological remains, but the northwest area adjoining area F1-10 showed a high concentration of Romano-British remains including a road (1031, Figure 7b) and possible associated ditches (1024 & 1033). The presence of the Roman road was predicted by the desk based assessment (RSK 2002). The discovery of the road and other remains informed the strategy adopted in the adjacent areas (F1-10 & R14).

8 CONCLUSION

The archaeological remains sporadically encountered throughout the eastern part of the site (Area A1-7) were entirely due to post medieval and modern agricultural activity. The southern areas (A1-7, B1-7 & E1-5) were almost entirely devoid of archaeological remains except for post medieval or modern field boundaries and land drains. It is therefore considered that no further archaeological work is necessary in these areas.

The only area where significant archaeological remains were encountered was the northern section of R1-13. Here a significant density of Romano-British activity including a road was recorded. These archaeological remains were observed adjacent to Area F1-10 and were assumed to continue into it. As a result of the archaeological monitoring of this area, a strategy for the assessment and excavation of Area F1-10 was formulated in agreement with the Chester City Archaeological Officer. At the time of writing the excavation has taken place and substantial archaeological remains dating to the Romano-British period have been recorded. The results of that excavation will appear in a forthcoming report.

9 ARCHIVE

The archive is currently held at the Buckinghamshire office of Network Archaeology Ltd. Network Archaeology will be responsible for the transfer of title of artefacts to Grosvenor Museum which will receive the finds archive. Chester Archaeology will receive the document archive. This archive will include CD copies of any electromagnetically stored or processed data.

The archive will be prepared in accordance with Chester City Council Guidelines (Chester Archaeology 2002).

The archive comprises:

- A copy of this report and all reports held by Network Archaeology and relating to the project
- All 35mm colour slide and black and white print photographs
- All digital photographs on CD
- All original site drawings and plans of the site
- All finds which, with prior agreement, are to be deposited with Grosvenor Museum
- All original written site records
- Original notes relating to the finds or post excavation
- Original relevant and non confidential correspondence relating to the site

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following:

RSK ENSR Environment Ltd

- Helena Kelly
- Sarah Revans

Chester Archaeology

- Mike Morris

Grosvenor Museum

- Peter Carrington
- Gill Dunn

Network Archaeology Staff

- Tim Allen
- David Bonner
- Adam Holman
- Marin Lightfoot
- Gerry Martin
- Mark Ward

Outside Specialists

- Alan Vince
- Gill Dunn

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chester Archaeology 2002 Guidelines for the preparation and presentation of archaeological archives, Chester City Council

Cheshire Ecological Services 2002 Chester Business Park: Ponds and Amphibians: Method Statement - Lakeside (as revised - July 2002)

EH 1991 (2nd edition) Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage

IFA 1999c Standard and Guidance for Finds and Ecofact Studies and Curation Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA 2000 Code of Conduct Institute of Field Archaeologists

IFA 2001 Standard & Guidance documents (Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Finds). Institute of Field Archaeologists'

NAL 2003 MBNA, Lakeside Development: Written Scheme of Investigation, for Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief, Network Archaeology Ltd, Buckingham

NAL 2003a Chester Business Park Archaeological Evaluation: Area C, Report 295, February 2003, Network Archaeology Ltd, Buckingham

RSK 2002 MBNA Lakeside Development: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

SSEW 1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales: Sheet 3, Midlands and North West England (Scale 1:250,000), Harpenden, Hertfordshire

VCH 2003 C. P. Lewis & A. T. Thacker (Eds) *A History of the County of Chester Vol I The City of Chester: General History and Topography*. Victorian County History

12 STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report in order to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. Network Archaeology Ltd cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this report and any supplementary papers, howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as a result of unknown and undiscovered sites of artefacts.

© Network Archaeology Ltd, December 2003

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise - unless the permission of the publisher has been given beforehand.

APPENDIX A:

FIGURES 1-7



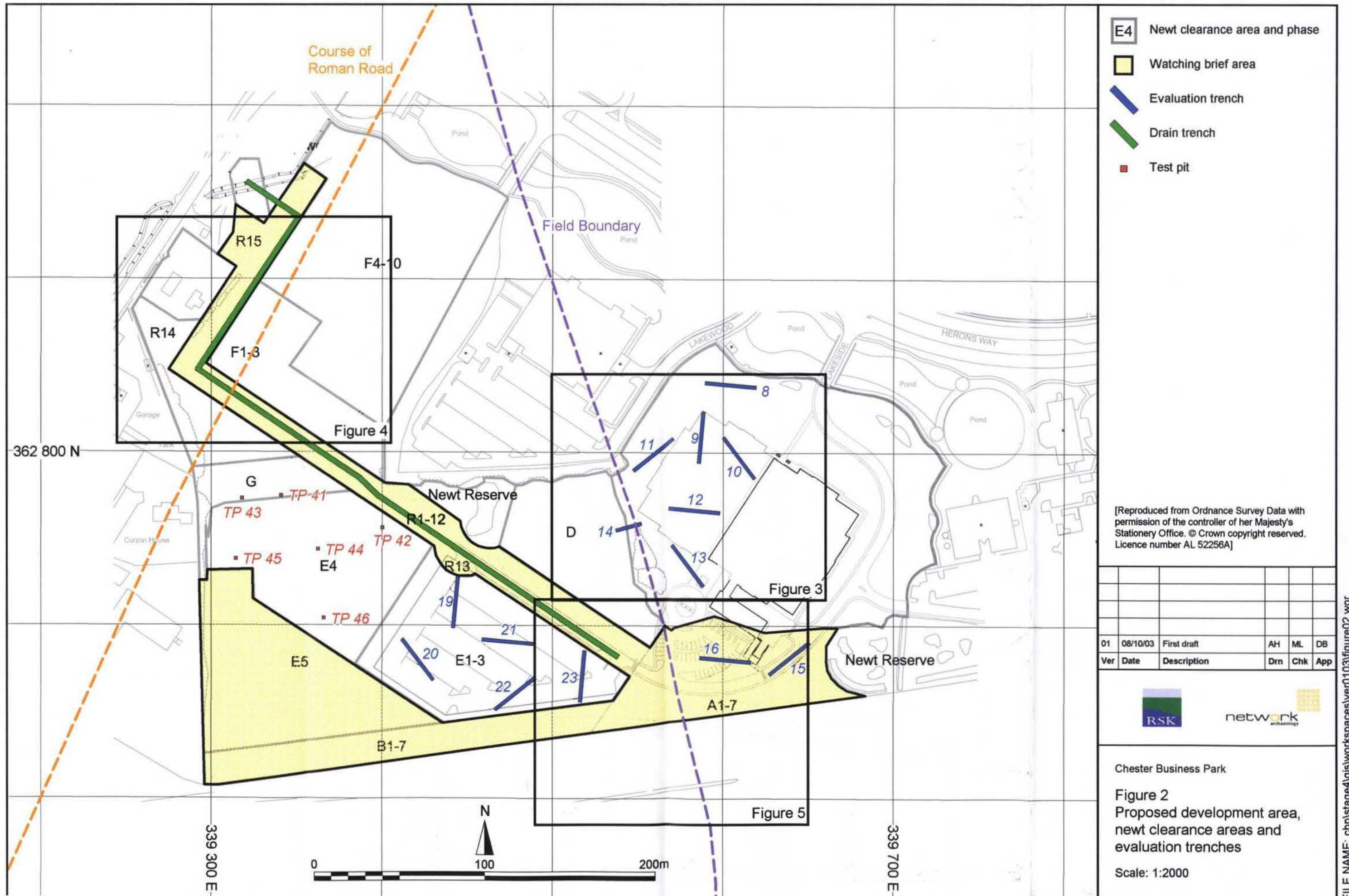
[Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Data with permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright reserved. Licence number AL 52256A]



Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	08/10/03	First draft	AH	ML	DB



Chester Business Park
 Figure 1
 Location of proposed development area
 Scale: 1:50 000



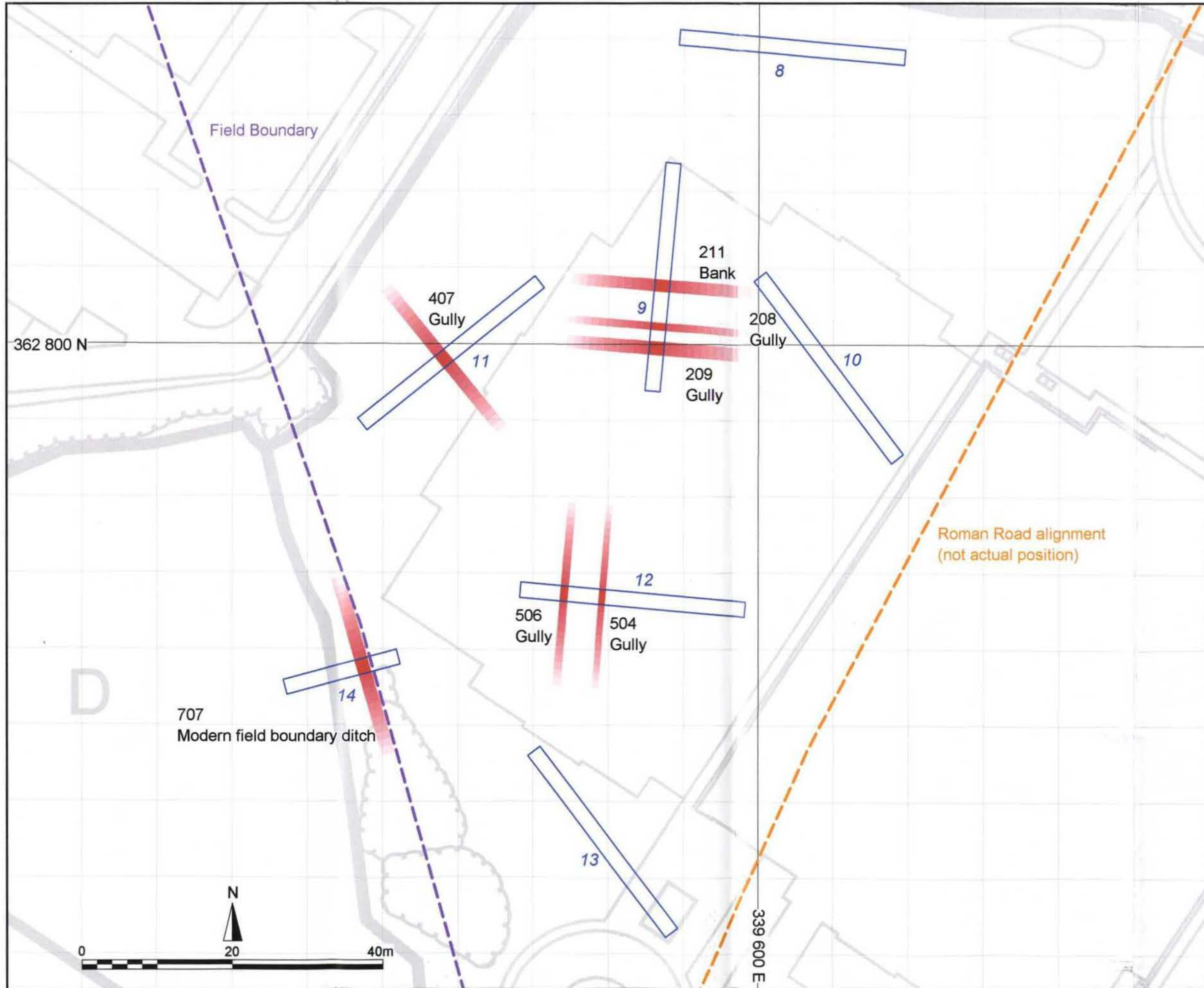
- E4 Newt clearance area and phase
- Watching brief area
- Evaluation trench
- Drain trench
- Test pit



[Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Data with permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright reserved. Licence number AL 52256A]

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	08/10/03	First draft	AH	ML	DB



Chester Business Park
Figure 2
 Proposed development area,
 newt clearance areas and
 evaluation trenches
 Scale: 1:2000



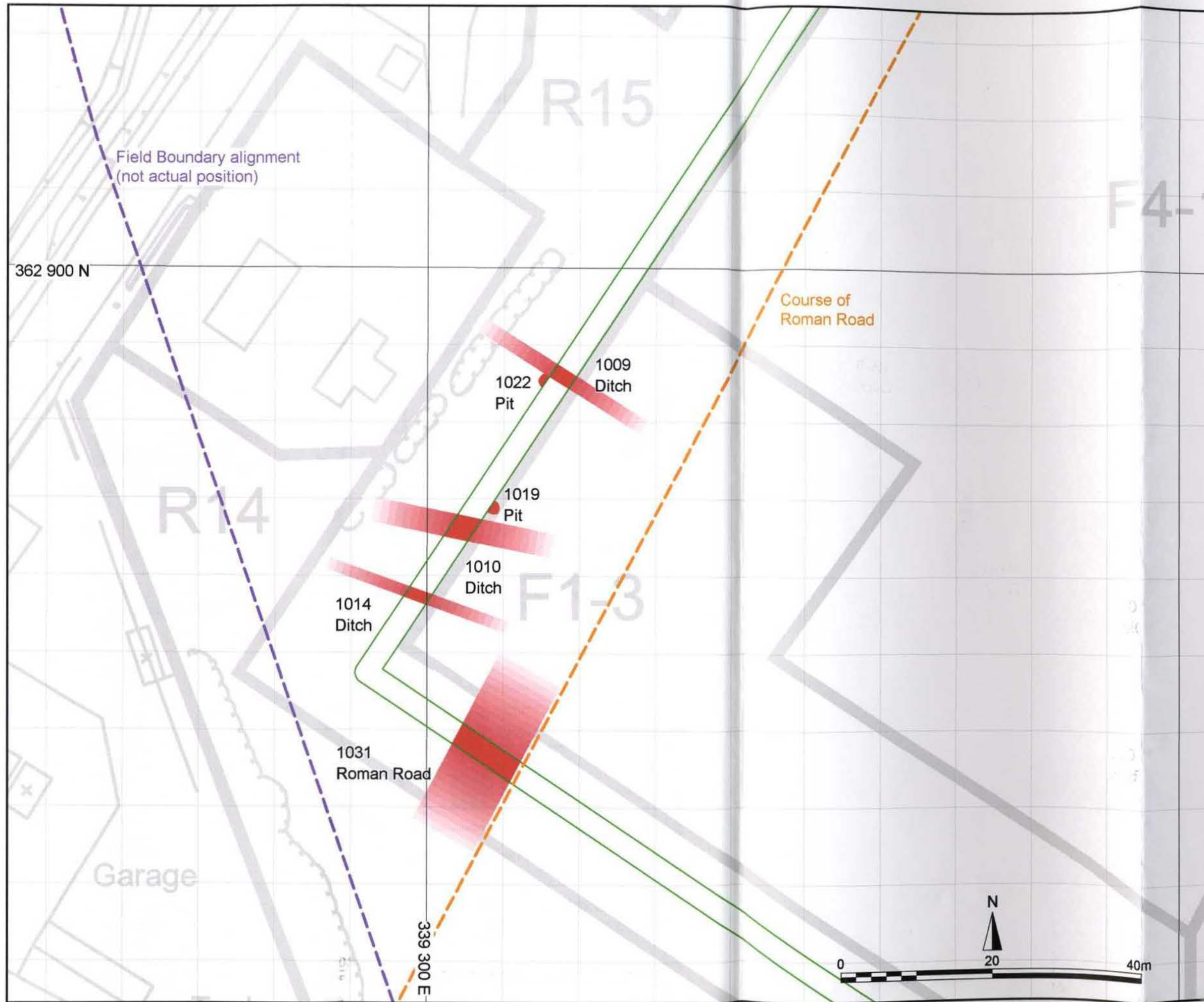
-  Evaluation trench
-  Archaeological remains
-  Projected course of archaeological remains




[Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Data with permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright reserved. Licence number AL 52256A]

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	08/10/03	First draft	AH	ML	DB



Chester Business Park
Figure 3
 Location of trenches and archaeological remains in Area A1-7
 Scale: 1:500



-  Drain trench
-  Archaeological remains
-  Projected course of archaeological remains

[Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Data with permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright reserved. Licence number AL 52256A]

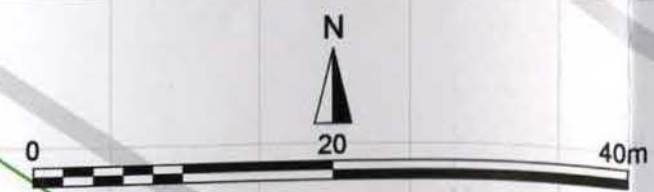
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	08/10/03	First draft	AH	ML	DB



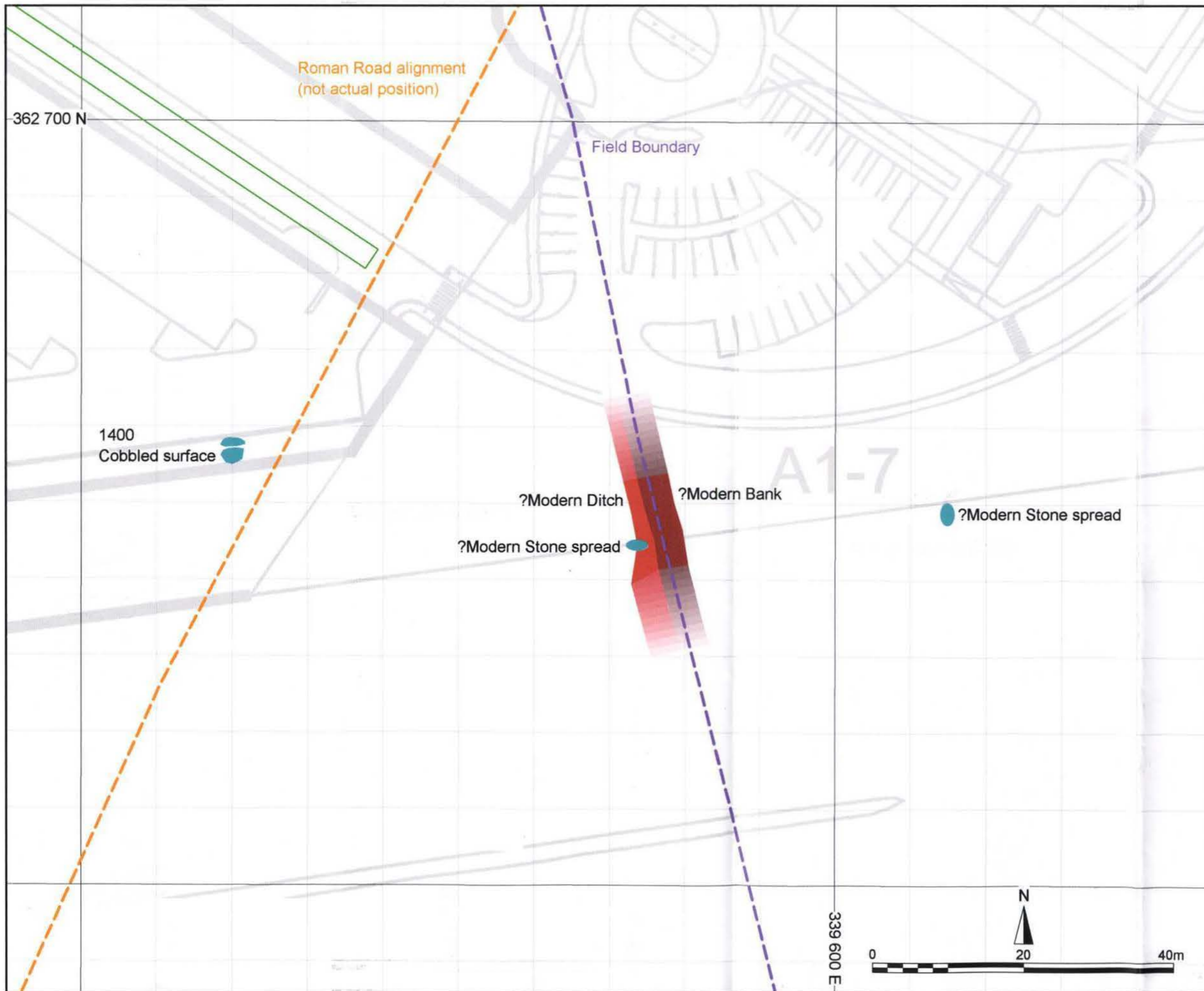
Chester Business Park



Figure 4
Location of drain trench and archaeological remains in Area R15

Scale: 1:500



FILE NAME: cbplstage4\gis\workspaces\ver0103\figure04.wor



-  Archaeological remains
-  Projected course of archaeological remains

[Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Data with permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright reserved. Licence number AL 52256A]

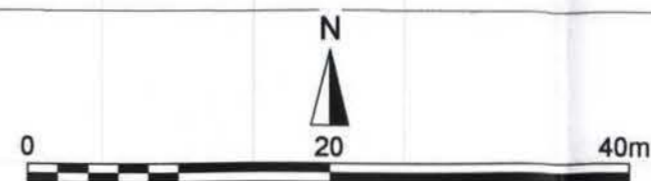
Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	08/10/03	First draft	AH	ML	DB



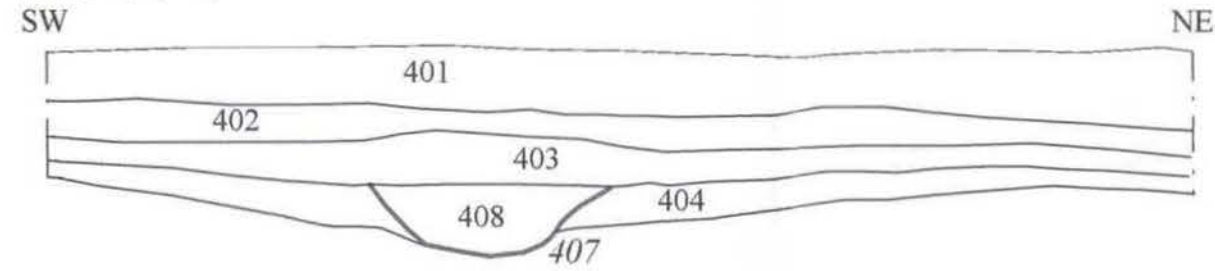
Chester Business Park

Figure 5
Location of archaeological remains in Areas A1-7 and E1-3

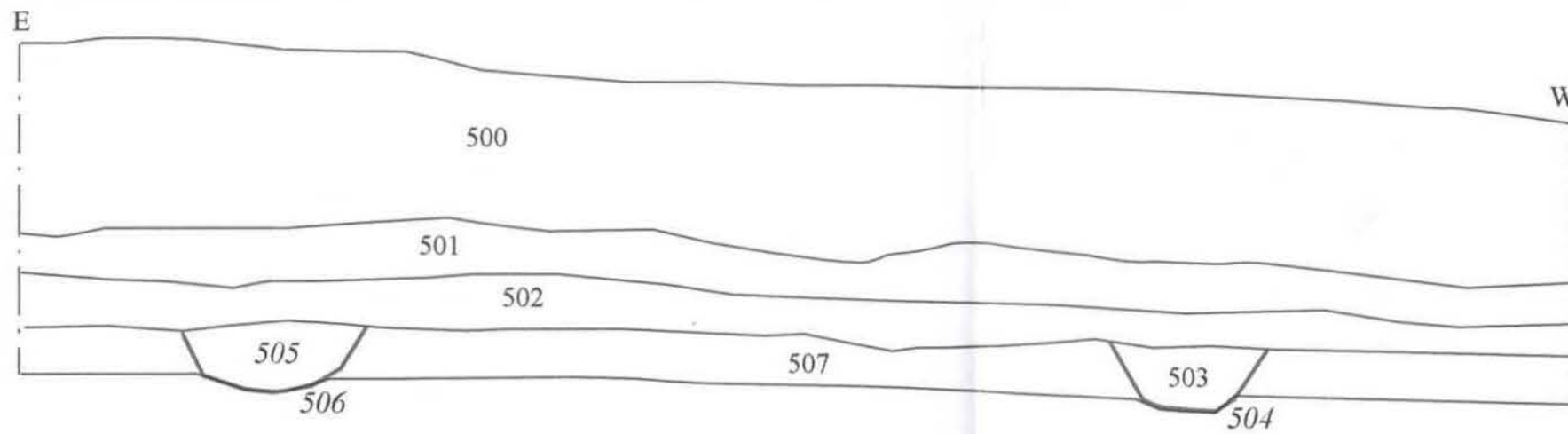
Scale: 1:500



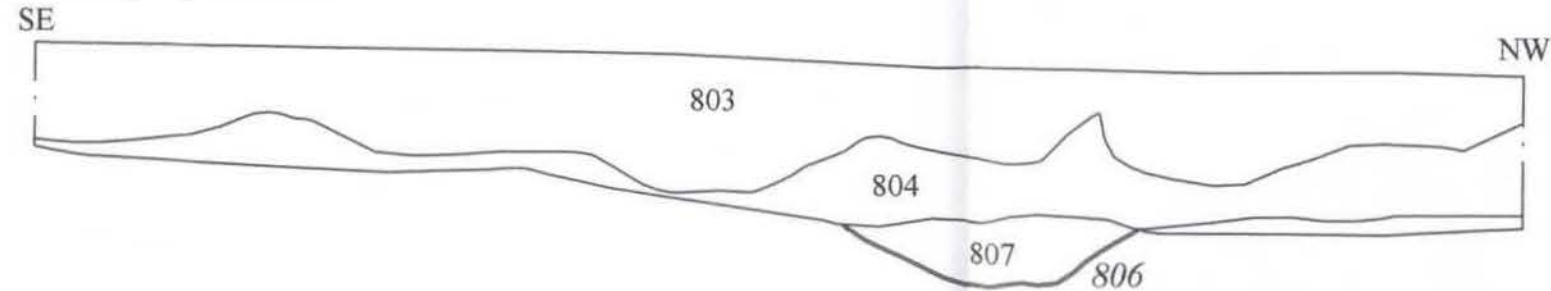
a) Undated gully (407) Trench 11







b) Undated gully (504)/(506) Trench 12



c) Undated ditch (806) Trench 16



-  Limit of deposit
-  Cut
-  Charcoal
-  Stones/gravel



Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	08/10/03	First draft	AH	ML	DB

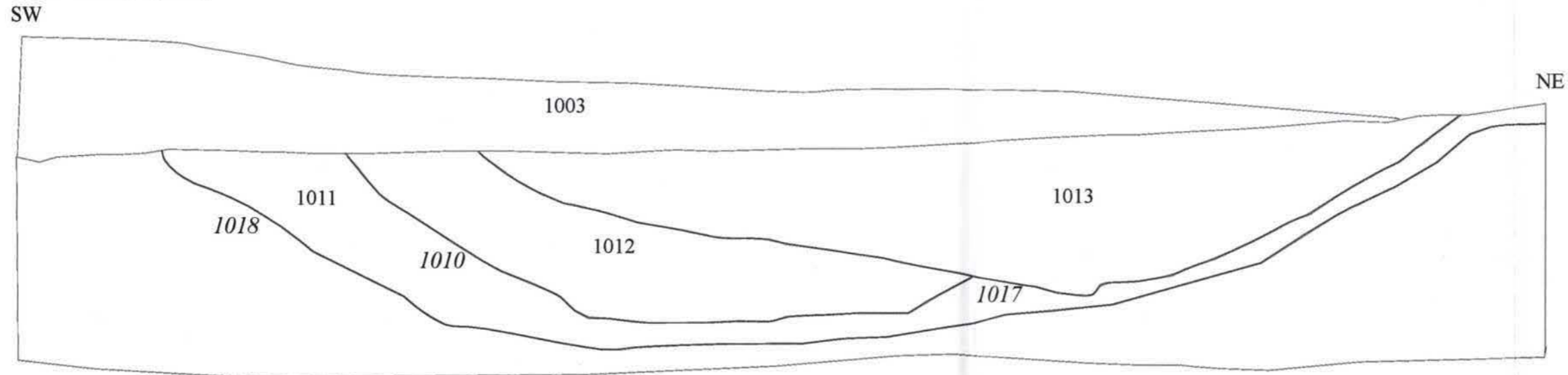


Chester Business Park

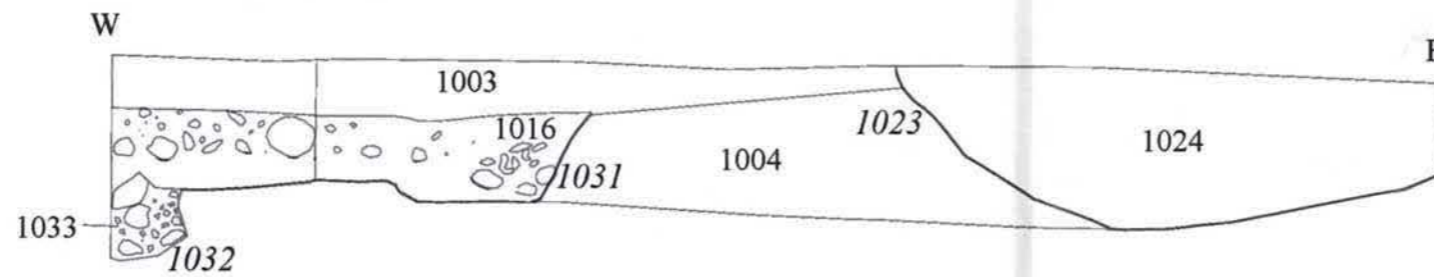
Figure 6
Evaluation trench sections in
Area A1-7

Scale: 1:50

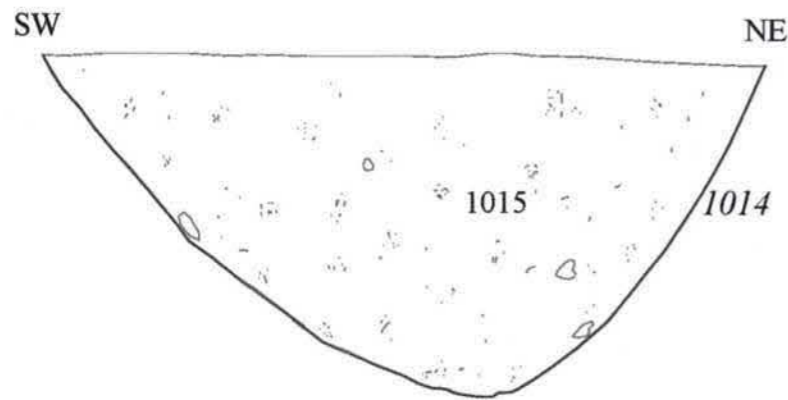
a) Roman ditch (1010)
 Modern ditch? (1017)
 Undated pit (1018)



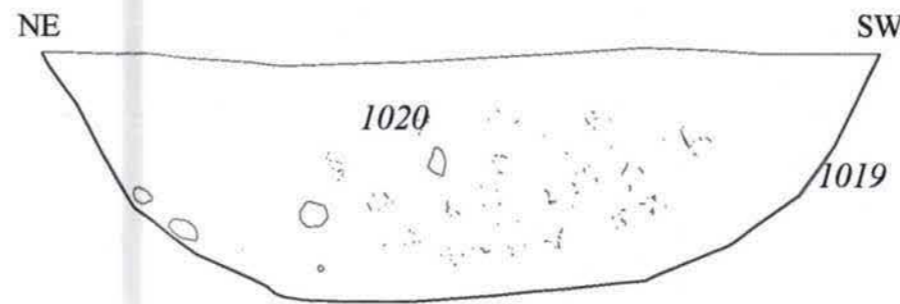
b) Roadside ditch (1010)
 Road (1031)
 Road repair (1018)



c) Ditch (1014)



d) Pit (1019)



- Limit of deposit
- Cut
- Charcoal
- Stones/gravel

Ver	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	08/10/03	First draft	AH	ML	DB



Chester Business Park
 Figure 7
 Watching brief sections in
 Area R15

Scale: 1:20

APPENDIX B:
CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

APPENDIX B
Context Summary Table

Context	Context type	Area / Trench	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation	Recommended date
100	Layer	A1-7 / 8	Very dark-brown silt-clay with grass cover	0.1m deep	Top soil	Modern
101	Layer	A1-7 / 8	Dark red-brown. Slightly silty clay with modern inclusions	0.3m deep	re-deposit	Modern
102	Layer	A1-7 / 8	Reddish brown firm to plastic clay. Fairly clean but with modern inclusions	0.4m deep	Re-deposited boulder clay	Modern
103	Layer	A1-7 / 8	Loose yellowish brown sandy clay	0.3m deep	Former sub-soil	-
104	Layer	A1-7 / 8	Firm to plastic reddish brown clay	Indeterminate	Natural boulder clay	Quaternary
105	Layer	A1-7 / 8	Very dark brown to black organic layer	0.3m deep	Former turf layer	????
200	Layer	A1-7 / 9	Very dark-brown silt-clay with grass cover	0.1m deep	Top soil	Modern
201	Layer	A1-7 / 9	Reddish brown firm to plastic clay with modern inclusions	0.4m deep	Re-deposit	Modern
202	Layer	A1-7 / 9	Soft to tenacious silty clay with modern inclusions	0.7m deep	Re-deposit	Modern
203	Layer	A1-7 / 9	Very dark brown to black soft humic layer	0.2m deep	Former turf layer	-
204	Layer	A1-7 / 9	Loose yellowish brown sandy clay	0.2m deep	Former sub-soil	-
205	Layer	A1-7 / 9	Very loose rubble deposit containing modern material	0.7m deep	Re-deposit	Modern
206	Layer	A1-7 / 9	Firm to plastic reddish brown clay	Indeterminate	Natural boulder clay	Quaternary
207	Cut	A1-7 / 9	Acutely dug gully with rounded base oriented east-west	1.20m wide x 0.3m deep	Cut of gully	-
208	Fill	A1-7 / 9	Hard to tenacious mid to dark grey, silty clay single fill of [207]	1.20m wide x 0.3m deep	Fill of gully	-
209	Cut	A1-7 / 9	East-west, gradually sloping, shallow and flat based linear feature	1.6m wide x 0.15m deep	Cut of possible furrow	-
210	Fill	A1-7 / 9	Hard to tenacious to dark grey silty clay fill of [209]	1.6m wide x 0.15m deep	Fill of possible furrow	-
211	Bank	A1-7 / 9	Bank within former turf layer (203)	1.75m wide x 0.4 m high	Bank	-
300	Layer	A1-7 / 10	Reddish brown firm to plastic clay. Fairly clean but with modern inclusions	1.3m deep	Re-deposited boulder clay	Modern
301	Layer	A1-7 / 10	Very dark brown to black soft humic layer	0.3m deep	Former turf layer	-
302	Layer	A1-7 / 10	Loose yellowish brown sandy clay	0.3m deep	Former sub-soil	-
303	Layer	A1-7 / 10	Firm to plastic reddish brown clay	Indeterminate	Natural boulder clay	Quaternary
400	Layer	A1-7 / 11	Hard reddish brown clay with odd silt deposit and modern inclusions	1.2m deep	Re-deposited boulder clay	Modern
401	Layer	A1-7 / 11	Dark brown-red friable silty clay	0.6m deep	Re-deposited silty clay	Modern
402	Layer	A1-7 / 11	Very dark brown to black soft humic layer	0.34m deep	Former turf layer	Early modern
403	Layer	A1-7 / 11	Soft to friable mid to light brown-grey silty sand.	0.4m deep	Former sub-soil	-
404	Layer	A1-7 / 11	Firm to plastic reddish brown clay	Indeterminate	Natural boulder clay	Quaternary
405	Deposit	A1-7 / 11	Friable mid orange to yellow sandy clay	3.5m wide x 0.25m deep	Lens	Modern
406	Layer	A1-7 / 11	Very dark brown silty clay with grass cover	0.1m deep	Topsoil	Modern
407	Cut	A1-7 / 11	North-west by south-east ditch cut acutely to a flat base. Truncated by either (403) or (402)	1.4m wide x 0.4m deep	Cut of gully / ditch	-
408	Fill	A1-7 / 11	Fill of [407]. Plastic to firm mid grey silty clay. Contains flecks of natural clay, occasional charcoal and manganese	1.4m wide x 0.4m deep	Fill of gully / ditch	-

APPENDIX B

Context Summary Table

Context	Context type	Area / Trench	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation	Recommended date
500	Layer	A1-7 / 12	Mid to dark brownish red with occasional silty patches	1.1m deep	Re-deposited boulder clay	Modern
501	Layer	A1-7 / 12	Very dark brown to black soft humic layer. Occasionally gritty	0.4m deep	Former turf layer	Post Medieval / Early modern
502	Layer	A1-7 / 12	Yellowish brown firm to friable sandy clay. Occasional sandstone fragments and pebbles.	0.3m deep	Former sub-soil	-
503	Fill	A1-7 / 12	Fill of [504]. Mid grey compact to plastic silty clay	0.8m wide x 0.4m deep	Fill of gully	-
504	Cut	A1-7 / 12	Steep sided and flat base NW to SE gully	0.8m wide x 0.4m deep	Cut of gully	-
505	Fill	A1-7 / 12	Fill of [506]. Mid grey compact to plastic silty clay plus occasional charcoal flecks	1m wide x 0.4m deep	Fill of gully	-
506	Cut	A1-7 / 12	Steep sided and flat bottomed NW to SE gully	1m wide x 0.4m deep	Cut of gully	-
507	Layer	A1-7 / 12	Firm to plastic reddish brown clay	Indeterminate	Natural boulder clay	Quaternary
600	Layer	A1-7 / 13	Very dark brown silty clay with grass cover	0.1m deep	Top soil	Modern
601	Layer	A1-7 / 13	Firm to soft mid to dark brownish red with occasional silty patches	0.75m deep	Re-deposited boulder clay	Modern
602	Layer	A1-7 / 13	Very dark brown to black soft humic layer with sand and ash inclusions.	0.1m deep	Former turf layer and top soil	Post Medieval / Early modern
603	Layer	A1-7 / 13	Yellowish brown firm to friable sandy clay.	0.3m deep	Former sub-soil	-
604	Layer	A1-7 / 13	Firm mid grey silty clay	0.5m deep	Natural feature	-
605	Layer	A1-7 / 13	Firm to plastic reddish brown clay	Indeterminate	Natural boulder clay	Quaternary
606	Layer	A1-7 / 13	Very dark brown to black soft humic layer	0.2m deep	Former top soil	Early Modern
700	Layer	A1-7 / 14	Very dark brown silty-clay with grass cover	0.2m deep	Top Soil	Modern
701	Layer	A1-7 / 14	Dark reddish brown clay with silt inclusions	0.8m deep	Re-deposited boulder clay	Modern
702	Layer	A1-7 / 14	Dark brown to black silty-clay	0.2m deep	Former turf layer	-
703	Layer	A1-7 / 14	Loose to tenacious dark yellow brown silty-clay	0.3m deep	Former sub-soil	Early Modern / Post-Medieval
704	Layer	A1-7 / 14	Dark reddish brown silty-clay	2.6m wide x 0.6m high	Bank material	-
705	Layer	A1-7 / 14	Firm to plastic red brown clay with mudstone inclusions	Indeterminate	Natural boulder clay	Quaternary
706	Fill	A1-7 / 14	Vary dark brown to black silty clay with an organic component	0.7m deep	Fill of ditch	Early Modern
707	Cut	A1-7 / 14	Acutely cut sides and rounded base	1.2m deep x 4.2m wide	Cut of ditch	Modern
708	Deposit	A1-7 / 14	Dark yellowish brown sandy-silty-clay with gravel inclusions	1.3m wide x 0.3m deep	Natural palaeo-deposit	Quaternary
800	Layer	A1-7 / 15	Mid to dark brown silty clay		Topsoil	-
801	Layer	A1-7 / 15	Mid to dark yellowish brown sandy, silty clay		Subsoil	-
802	Layer	A1-7 / 15	Reddish brown sticky clay		Natural boulder clay	-
803	Layer	A1-7 / 16	Mid to dark brown silty clay (same as 800)	0.50m deep	Topsoil	-

APPENDIX B
Context Summary Table

Context	Context type	Area / Trench	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation	Recommended date
804	Layer	A1-7 / 16	Mid to dark yellowish brown sandy, silty clay (same as 801)		Subsoil	-
805	Layer	A1-7 / 16	Reddish brown sticky clay (same as 802)		Natural boulder clay	-
806	Cut	A1-7 / 16	NE-SW running ditch	1.20m wide 0.30m deep	Ditch	-
807	Fill	A1-7 / 16	Mid grey silty clay, no finds		Only fill of ditch (806)	-
1000	Layer	R1-13 wb	Dark brown clay-silt	0.20m deep	Topsoil	-
1001	Layer	R1-13 wb	Red clay with limestone fragments	0.40m deep	Redeposited subsoil	-
1002	Layer	R1-13 wb	Dark grey brown silty clay		Redeposited topsoil	-
1003	Layer	R1-13 wb	Dark orange brown silty clay	0.40m deep	Subsoil	-
1004	Layer	R1-13 wb	Red clay with some orange gravel and occasional limestone cobbles		Natural boulder clay	-
1005	fill	R1-13 wb	Dark grey brown silty clay, some land drain fragments		Fill of gully or ditch (1006)	-
1006	Cut	R1-13 wb	West to east oriented gully or ditch	0.30m deep	Cut of gully or ditch	Post-medieval?
1007	Fill	R1-13 wb	Dark brown silty clay with some limestone	1.00m deep	secondary fill of ditch (109)	-
1008	Fill	R1-13 wb	Blue grey silty clay		Primary fill of ditch (109)	-
1009	Cut	R1-13 wb	Straight sided ditch running northwest to southeast (filled by 1007 & 1008)	1.50m wide 0.60m deep	Ditch	-
1010	Cut	R1-13 wb	Ditch running east to west	1.80m wide	Ditch	Romano-British
1011	Fill	R1-13 wb	Brown orange sandy clay with some rounded stones		Primary fill of ditch (1010)	-
1012	Fill	R1-13 wb	Mid to dark grey sandy, silty clay		Fill of ditch (1010)	-
1013	Fill	R1-13 wb	Mid dark brown orange silty clay		Fill of ditch (1017)	-
1014	Cut	R1-13 wb	East to west running 'v' - shaped ditch	1.60m wide 0.70m deep	Ditch	Romano-British
1015	Fill	R1-13 wb	Dark grey black clayey silt, bone and ceramic fragments, some charcoal rounded and angular stone and some burnt stone		Fill of ditch (1014)	-
1016	Layer	R1-13 wb	Compacted stone, possible coprolite		Road surface	Romano-British
1017	Cut	R1-13 wb	East to west running ditch re-cut	2.85m wide 0.45m deep	Ditch re-cut	Modern?
1018	Cut	R1-13 wb	East to west running ditch, possibly associated with other ditch (1010)	3.80m wide 0.45m deep	Ditch or possibly a natural anomaly	
1019	Cut	R1-13 wb	Bowel shaped, flat bottomed pit	1.66m wide 0.50m deep	Pit	
1020	Fill	R1-13 wb	Mid to dark grey silty clay with some pot and charcoal		Fill of pit (1019)	
1021	Fill	R1-13 wb	Mid grey brown clayey silt, some animal teeth (Bovine) and very small pot sherds		Fill of pit (1022)	
1022	Cut	R1-13 wb	Irregular pit with some relationship with a ditch (1009)	1.9m wide 0.70m deep	Pit	
1023	Cut	R1-13 wb	North to south running Roadside ditch east of road (1016)		Roadside ditch	Romano-British

APPENDIX B
Context Summary Table

Context	Context type	Area / Trench	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation	Recommended date
1024	Fill	R1-13 wb	Mid orangey grey-brown silty clay with some pot and charcoal		Fill of ditch (1023)	
1025	Fill	R1-13 wb	Mid grey brown silty clay		Secondary fill of ditch (1023)	
1026	Cut	R1-13 wb	Re-cut of ditch (1023)			
1027	Fill	R1-13 wb	Dark grey silty clay with some charcoal		Primary fill of re-cut ditch (1026)	
1028	Fill	R1-13 wb	Mid orangey grey brown silty sandy clay	0.33m deep	Secondary fill of re-cut ditch (1026)	
1029	Layer	R1-13 wb	Same as subsoil (1003)			
1030	cut	R1-13 wb	Ridge and furrow running north-northeast to south south-west		Ridge and furrow	
1031	Cut	R1-13 wb	North to south running road cut	0.15m deep	Road cut	Romano-British
1032	Cut	R1-13 wb	Cut of road repair	0.15m deep	Road repair	
1033	fill	R1-13 wb	Road surface		Surface fill of road (1031)	
1200	Layer	E1-3 / 19	Grey-brown clayey silt with some stone fragments	0.20m thick	Topsoil	-
1201	Layer	E1-3 / 19	Greyish brown silty clay containing some modern CBM	1.25m thick	Re-deposited subsoil	-
1202	Layer	E1-3 / 19	Grey silty clay	0.15m thick	Buried turf	-
1203	Layer	E1-3 / 19	Yellow brown plastic, slightly silty clay	0.20m thick	Subsoil	-
1204	Layer	E1-3 / 19	Mottled brown clay with grey inclusions		Drift geology	-
1205	Layer	E1-3 / 21	Brown plastic clay with occasional small fragments of stone	0.70m thick	Drift geology	-
1206	Layer	E1-3 / 23	Greyish brown clay with some yellow clay inclusions		Drift geology	-
1207	Layer	E1-3 / 20	Greyish brown slightly silty clay	2.05m thick	Re-deposited subsoil	-
1208	Layer	E1-3 / 20	Mottled brown slightly sandy clay	0.30m thick	Drift geology	-
1209	Layer	E1-3 / 22	Reddish brown, slightly sandy clay	0.80m thick	Drift geology	-
1210	Layer	E1-3 / 20	Grey silty clay	0.10m thick	Buried soil	-
1211	Layer	E1-3 / 20	Yellow brown plastic slightly silty clay	0.20m thick	Subsoil	-
1212	Layer	E1-3 / 22	Brown silty clay, occasional rounded stones	0.35m thick	Topsoil	-
1213	Layer	E1-3 / 22	Yellow brown slightly silty clay	0.20m thick	Subsoil	-
1214	Layer	E1-3 / 23	Brown silty clay with occasional stones	0.30m thick	Topsoil	-
1215	Layer	E1-3 / 23	Yellow brown slightly silty clay	0.15m thick	Subsoil	-
1216	Layer	E1-3 / 23	Reddish brown clayey sand	0.25m thick	Drift geology	-
1217	Layer	E1-3 / 21	Yellow brown silty clay	0.30m thick	Subsoil	-
1218	Layer	E1-3 / 21	Grey silt	0.10m thick	Plough soil	-
1219	Layer	E1-3 / 21	Grey brown silt	1.45m thick	Re-deposited subsoil	-
1400	Layer	B1-7	Irregular Cobbled surface	0.10m thick, 16m ² area	Possible track	Post-medieval
1401	Fill	B1-7	Mixed mid grey clayey silt	1.25m wide, 0.60m thick	Tertiary fill of ditch (1406)	-
1402	Fill	B1-7	Mixed light grey sandy clay with some red sandstone fragments	0.54m wide, 0.25m thick	Secondary fill of ditch (1406)	-

APPENDIX B
Context Summary Table

Context	Context type	Area / Trench	Description	Dimensions	Interpretation	Recommended date
1403	Fill	B1-7	Mid light grey clay	0.40m wide, 0.15m thick	Slumping of ditch sides, fill of (1406)	-
1404	Fill	B1-7	Reddish grey clayey sand	0.20m wide, 0.10m thick	Slumping of ditch sides, fill of (1406)	-
1405	Layer	B1-7	Brown clayey silty clay	0.80m thick	Natural subsoil	-
1406	Cut	B1-7	Southwest – northeast running ditch, with near vertical sides	1.25m wide, 0.80m deep	Ditch	-
1407	Layer	B1-7	Yellowish brown silty clay	0.10m thick	Bonding for cobbles (1400)	Post-medieval

APPENDIX C:
ARTEFACT REPORTS

APPENDIX C

Artefact Report Area A1-7

Alan Vince

Forty-two artefacts from Chester Business Park Area A1-7 were submitted for identification and assessment. They consisted of ceramic building material (CBM), glassware and pottery. The earliest material is probably early 18th century, but the six assemblages submitted for study each contain 19th century material.

Ceramic building material

Three fragments of ceramic building material were submitted, from two deposits (703 and 706). One is certainly from a brick, probably of 19th century or later date, and the other two are probably from bricks, since they share the same pinkish, sandy, calcareous fabric, containing rounded white clay pellets. The latter suggest that the bricks were made from Coal Measure clays, or more recent clays derived from the Coal Measures.

Glassware

One piece of clear probably modern window glass and two dark green tall bottle fragments were submitted. The bottles are of late 18th century or later date.

Pottery

Thirty six sherds of pottery were submitted. They are of two broad classes: vessels made of Coal Measures white and red-firing clays, probably in the Buckley potteries near Flint, and re-fired wares made in factories throughout England, though principally those in the Staffordshire Potteries. The possible Buckley wares consist of five vessels; a brown stoneware tankard, a mottled glazed bowl, black-glazed coarseware vessels including a jar all from a single deposit (602), a bowl (703) and an unglazed flowerpot (606). Of these, the flowerpot might have been made elsewhere, although it is definitely made using Coal Measure clays. The remaining wares include examples of Derbyshire stoneware made near Chesterfield, Nottingham stoneware, and the standard range of refined earthenwares (*china*). These ceramics include; White Salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG), Creamware (CREA) produced from the late 1760s onwards, porcelains, probably of English origin (ENPO), a brown-glazed buff ware (possibly a teapot, NCBW), Pearlware (PEAR), transfer-printed wares (TPW) and whitewares (WHITE). The range of vessels represented includes finewares and coarsewares, and include vessels used in social drinking, food preparation and dining. This suggests that the pottery comes from typical domestic occupation.

Assessment

The finds indicate either the presence of early and mid 18th century activity on the site, or the re-deposition of material of this date on the site at a later period. Since the assemblages are clearly of mixed character it is not possible to say which interpretation is correct.

APPENDIX C
Artefact Report Area A1-7

Table C1: Ceramics catalogue

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Date	Part	Weight
402	Pottery	CREA		PLATE	1	1	BLUE FEATHERED EDGE	Early modern		4
402	Pottery	ENPO		CUP	1	1	FLUTED BODY WITH OG ENAMEL (PURPLE;DK RED)	Early modern		2
402	Pottery	TPW		BOWL	1	1		Early modern		2
501	Pottery	DERBS		BLACKLEADING BOTTLE	1	1		Early modern	B	30
501	Pottery	ENPO		?	1	1	MOULDED IN HIGH RELIEF;TEAPOT?	Early modern		5
501	Glass	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	1	1	L18TH/19TH C	Early modern		140
501	Pottery	NOTS		JAR	1	1		Early modern		30
501	Pottery	TGW		?	1	1	LOOKS 18TH C	Post-medieval		1
501	Pottery	TPW		PLATE	1	1		Early modern	R	2
602	Pottery	CREA		PLATE	5	1		Early modern	R	15
602	Pottery	STBRS		TANK	1	1	EXT WHITE SLIP	Post-medieval		5
602	Glass	PMGL	DKGR	BOT	1	1	TALL BOTTLE	Early modern		32
602	Pottery	STCOAR		JAR	1	1		Post-medieval		5
602	Pottery	STMO		BOWL	5	1		Post-medieval		30
602	Pottery	SWSG		CHP?	1	1		Post-medieval		3
602	Pottery	TPW		BOWL	2	1		Early modern	R	10
606	Pottery	LPMLOC	FINE PINK WITH HARD KAOLINITE PELLETS	FLP	1	1		Early modern	B	20
606	Pottery	NCBW		TPOT	1	1	BROWN GLAZED INT AND EXT	Early modern		1
606	Pottery	PEAR		DISH	1	1	BLUE PAINTED;L18/19TH C	Early modern	B	5
606	Pottery	TPW		DISH	1	1		Early modern		5
606	Pottery	TPW		BOWL	1	1	MAY BE AN OVAL TUREEN	Early modern		20

APPENDIX C
Artefact Report Area A1-7

Context	class	cname	subfabric	Form	Nosh	NoV	Description	Date	Part	Weight
703	Pottery	CREA		PLATE	1	1	STAMPED IN OVAL 'STON.'	Early modern		1
703	Pottery	PEAR		PLATE	1	1		Early modern	B	2
703	Pottery	PEAR			1	1		Early modern	B	2
703	Pottery	STCOAR		BOWL	1	1		Post- medieval	B	87
703	CBM	PMTIL	SA Q AND CALC INCLUSIONS	BRICK	1	1		Undetermined		9
703	Pottery	WHITE			1	1		Early modern		1
703	Pottery	WHITE		PLATE	1	1	SPRIGGED FLOWER WITH LT BLUE GLAZE OVER	Early modern		1
703	Pottery	WHITE		BOWL	1	1	SPONGED DEC;BURNT	Early modern	R	5
706	CBM	PMTIL	SA Q AND CALC INCLUSIONS	BRICK?	2	1		Undetermined		3
706	Glass	PMGL	CLEAR	WIND	1	1	Vessel frag.	Early modern		2

G. Dunn

Roman Pottery

Fourteen sherds of Roman pottery weighing a total of 90g were submitted for analysis. The majority were small weathered sherds with no diagnostic features.

The collection comprises a mixture of local, traded and imported wares typical of those found on other excavations in Chester. It includes Cheshire Plain oxidised wares; local reduced wares; samian; black-burnished ware from Dorset, and white ware, a product of the Hartshill-Mancetter kilns in Warwickshire (Table C2).

All are body sherds except for the rim of a black-burnished ware jar (1020), and the footring of a samian cup or small bowl (11001=u/s). No other forms can be identified. All date to the 1st or 2nd century, the black-burnished jar being a late 2nd century type (Gillam 1976). A sherd of white ware (1008) may be later in date but shows no diagnostic features. No further work is recommended due to the small size and poor quality of the assemblage.

Table C2: Quantification of the Roman pottery

Context	fabric	no. sherds	weight (g)
1008	orange	1	<1
008	white	1	2
1012	orange	1	5
1015	BB1	3	6
1020	BB1	3	50
1029	grey	2	14
11000	orange	1	3
11001	samian	2	10
Total		14	90

Medieval

One sherd of non-local medieval pottery (1024) weighing 2g was submitted.

Ceramic building material

There were 13 fragments of ceramic building material from six deposits (1012, 1020, 1021, 1024, 1025 and 1033) weighing 36g was submitted. This was presumed to be of Roman date and from tiles and bricks, but fragments are too small to identify any forms.

It is not possible to say whether three fragments from two deposits (1012 and 1025) are pieces of pottery or tile as they are too small. There is one fragment of post-Roman building material from (1016) weighing 6 g.

Daub

There were three pieces of daub from a single deposit (1008) weighing 7g submitted.

Slag

Two small pieces of slag were recovered from (1015) sample [002] and (1020) sample [1].

No further work is recommended on any of these materials.

References

Gillam, J P 1976 Coarse fumed ware in north Britain and beyond *Glasgow Archaeological Journal* 4, 57-80

APPENDIX D:
FAUNAL REPORTS

APPENDIX D
Faunal Report Area A1-7

Mark Ward

Introduction

Five teeth fragments weighing a total of 10g were submitted for identification from Area A1-7 from the fill of a gully (207) cut into the natural boulder clay.

Methodology

Species Identification

No comparative collection was required for the identification of the bone.

Recording

The material was recorded by noting the species, element, and state of preservation.

Age and sex

No ageing criteria were present.

No elements required for determining sex were present.

Results

The teeth fragments are identified as cattle molar, and it is highly likely that all the fragments are from two separate teeth. However, the poor preservation prevents further comment other than the acidity of the boulder clay has contributed greatly to the poor preservation of this material.

Conclusions and recommendations

The material is of little significance and there is no need for it to be retained.

APPENDIX D

Faunal Report Area R1-13

Mark Ward

Introduction

Seven small finds bags of animal bone were submitted for analysis from Areas R1-13. The material came from deposits described in table D1 and identified as Romano-British

Table D1: Context descriptions

Context	Type	Description
1008	Fill	Primary fill of ditch (1009)
1009	Cut	Ditch
1014	Cut	Ditch
1015	Fill	Fill of ditch (1014)
1016	Layer	Road surface
1023	Cut	Roadside ditch
1024	Fill	Fill of ditch (1023)
1025	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch (1023)
1031	Cut	North to south cut for road metalling
1033	fill	Surface fill of road (1031)

Methodology

Species Identification

No comparative collection was required for the identification of the bone.

Recording

The material was recorded by noting the preservation, and species and element where possible.

Ageing

No ageing criteria were present.

Sexing

No elements required for determining sex were present.

Results

Table D2: Description and Interpretation by context

Context	Description and Interpretation
1008	Contained a single tooth fragment of cow size and morphology but was too eroded for further identification.
1015	A single cow distal humerus was identified along with several fragments that may be part of the same bone.
1016	Contained a number of teeth fragments of probable cattle size and morphology. Unfortunately, only one tooth was complete enough to be identified as cow right lower P3.
	One fragmented rib and a metapodial shaft fragment of cattle size was also present.
1024	Contained six fragments of very fragmented bone, probably cranial but of indeterminable size or species.
1025	Numerous fragments of unidentifiable burnt bone.
1033	Most of the bone from this context was very fragmented and was either burnt or in an advanced stage of decay. Notable elements are four pieces of cattle metapodial (metatarsal / metacarpal indet.) and a rib of cat or young lamb size.

APPENDIX D
Faunal Report Area R1-13

Conclusions and recommendations

Little can be inferred from the faunal remains submitted other than that cattle were present on the site. However, as preservational factors often favour larger animals, this does not necessarily mean that cattle were the only animals present. The poor preservation indicates heavy wear before deposition into the archaeological context, and / or extreme erosion due to the burial environment. None of the bones were articulated, and some had been burnt. This suggests secondary deposition. Furthermore, the acidic boulder clays have certainly played a large factor in the poor preservation.

The material should be retained and passed on to supplement any further works at the site.



**22 High Street
Buckingham
MK18 1NU
Tel: 01280 816174
Fax: 01280 816175
Email: Bucks@netarch.co.uk
www.netarch.co.uk**

