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TAYLOR WIMPEY

LAND ON OAKMERE ROAD, WINSFORD, CHESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

NOVEMBER 2014

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY.....	1
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	3
2 METHODOLOGY.....	4
2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation.....	4
2.2 The Field Evaluation.....	4
2.3 Metal detecting survey.....	5
2.4 The Archive.....	5
3 BACKGROUND.....	6
3.1 Location and Geological Context.....	6
3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background.....	6
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS.....	8
4.1 Introduction.....	8
4.2 Results.....	8
5 FINDS.....	12
5.1 Finds Assessment: Archaeological Evaluation.....	12
5.2 Post-medieval ceramics.....	12
5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe.....	12
5.4 Statement of Potential.....	13
6 METAL DETECTING SURVEY.....	14
6.1 Metal Detecting Survey.....	14
6.2 Finds Assessment: Metal-Detector Survey.....	14
6.3 Potential of the Finds Assemblage.....	20
6.4 Discussion.....	20
7 CONCLUSIONS.....	21
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	22
8.1 Secondary Sources.....	22

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Context Table

Appendix 2 Trench Descriptions

Appendix 3 Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches

Figure 3: Trench 1; Plan and Section

Figure 4: Trench 2; Plan and Section

Figure 5: Results of the metal detecting survey

SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey, to undertake an archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey at land on Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire (Centred on SJ 6280 6670). This work was required to provide information in support of a planning application for a proposed residential development at the site.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over 3 days between the 7th and 10th of October 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of 3 trenches, totalling 96m². Archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 1 and 2, in the form of a single ditch that appeared to have been part of an old boundary and was visible in the two trenches. Trench 3 was devoid of any archaeological features.

The metal detecting survey was undertaken over 5 days between the 13th and 17th of October 2014. The survey took place across 3 fields that measured in total c.6ha in size.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Taylor Wimpey for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Thanks also to Mark Leah, Development Control Archaeologist, Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service, for all his assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Peter Wilkinson for their help during this project.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken by PJO Archaeology (2012).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Mike McElligott, assisted by Richard Buckle and Eleonora Montanari. The report was written by Mike McElligott and Richard Buckle and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer.

The metal detecting was undertaken by Colin Sharratt, Trevor Brown, Mike Trow, Harry Mitchell, Goga Mitchell and Robert Steele of the Historical Search Society and supervised by Richard Buckle.

The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for WAA. The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post excavation Manager for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 In October 2014, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Taylor Wimpey to undertake an archaeological evaluation and metal detecting survey on land on Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire (Centred on SJ 6280 6670; Figure 1), prior to the development of residential buildings. As a result, Mark Leah, Development Control Archaeologist, Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008), and was consistent with the specification provided by Frank Giocco (2014).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

2.1.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was submitted by Wessex Archaeology in response to a request by Taylor Wimpey, for an archaeological evaluation and metal detector survey of the study area. Following acceptance of the WSI by Mark Leah, Development Control Archaeologist, Cheshire County Council, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (2008).

2.2 The Field Evaluation

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 3 trenches covering 96m² of the proposed c.6ha development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity.

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 Turf and topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2013).

2.2.4 All finds encountered were retained and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer.

2.2.5 The 3 evaluation trenches were backfilled following excavation and recording.

2.2.6 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.3 Metal detecting survey

2.3.1 The principal aim was to undertake a metal detecting survey of the study site, there was no discrimination in the type of metals sought. All identified finds and artefacts were retained, except where they can be clearly identified as being of recent date and with no archaeological interest.

2.3.2 In summary, the main objectives were:

- to ensure the recording of archaeological finds discovered during the survey;
- to place this record in its context; and
- to make this record available.

2.4 The Archive

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled following the specifications according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Chester, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14 ORW-A, CP 11126/14.

2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Cheshire County Council, support the **Online Access** to the **Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project. The unique OASIS identification number for this project comprises **wardella2-194324**.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The study area lies on the northern side of Over, which is to the southwest of Chester Road, which runs from Over towards Salterswall. The study area is currently in use as agricultural land and is within the unitary authority area of Cheshire west and Cheshire.

3.1.2 The Winsford fault runs through the town just West of the river Weaver. To the West of the fault are middle keuper beds, and to the East are lower keuper saliferous beds from which brine springs emerge. The drift geology of Over comprises a band of glacial sand and gravel and the surrounding area has a drift geology of boulder clay (British Geological Survey, 1965)

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 **Introduction:** this background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and the records consulted during the desk-based assessment (PJO 2012). It is intended only as a summary of historical developments around the study area, in order to assess the archaeological potential.

3.2.2 **Prehistoric (up to c.AD 72):** Very little evidence for the prehistoric period in the Winsford area survive and no finds are recorded in the HER within the immediate vicinity. It would appear to be the case that the principal areas of settlement within Cheshire for much of prehistory were several kilometers east of the study area.

3.2.3 **Roman (c.AD 72 – c.410):** There are a number of major Roman settlements within Cheshire due to the importance of salt production and also its strategic location on the border of Wales. The nearest Roman roads to the study area ran between Chester and Northwich and between Widarspool and Middlewich. Although several towns in the area around the study location represent major Roman settlements there is little evidence to suggest Roman settlement in the vicinity of Over itself.

3.2.4 **Early Medieval (c.AD410 – 1066):** Little is known about the immediate post Roman period in Cheshire apart from that much of Cheshire was part of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia and was then ruled by the kings of Wessex. It is possible that the study location may lie within an Anglo Saxon settlement associated with the church of St Chad which lies approximately 2.5km from the site. It is highly possible that St. Chads has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period as it has Anglo Saxon carved interlace stonework.

- 3.2.5 **Medieval (c.AD1066 – 1540):** Over appears in the Domesday Book under the holdings of Earl Hugh of Chester and indicates that the land was in use as arable land. The name Over was first recorded in the Domesday Book and means “the hill” After the Norman conquest the township of Over was within the Earl of Chesters Forest of Delamere which was primarily used for hunting by the aristocracy and was subject to a distinct law code. Although termed a forest the area within the study area was not necessarily densely wooded. The earl of Chester held the land until 1270 where it was bestowed by the future Edward I on the Abbey of Darnhall.
- 3.2.6 **Post-Medieval to Modern (c.1540 – present):** Throughout the post-medieval period Oakmere Road study area would have remained agricultural land. In 1656, Daniel King noted of Over: ‘Beside the heaths, mosses, woods and commons, the rest is enclosed ground both for pasture and tillage’ (PJO 2012).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase that started on the 7th October to the 10th of October 2014 and consisted of 3 trenches (Figure 2). The topsoil and subsoil was stripped by a JCB 3CX with a toothless bucket to the level of the natural substrate. The areas under investigation were subsequently cleaned by hand and investigated and recorded fully. All three trenches measured broadly 20m in length by 1.6m wide. The evaluation extended over a single field.

4.2 Results

4.2.1 Trench 1: Trench 1 located in the northern end of field 1, near its centre and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figures 2 & 3). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m revealing loose mid reddish yellow grey sand (102) below c.0.25m of friable mid reddish grey brown clayey sand subsoil (101) and c.0.36m of friable dark brown clayey sand topsoil (100) (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Trench 1 with ditch [103] in the foreground, looking southeast

4.2.2 A ditch [103] was visible in the northwest corner [103] (Figure 3) (Plate 2). It was aligned northeast-southwest that measured 3.05m wide by 0.56m deep with moderately steep sloping sides, rounded base and a U-shaped profile. The fill (104) was a loose mid grey brown clayey sand that contained occasional small stone. A single piece of clay pipe was recovered. It was heavily disturbed by root action and appeared that this ditch had given way to a hedgerow planted on the same orientation. The ditch appeared to be post-medieval in date and was part of the Marton township boundary. It was visible in trench 2, as ditch [203] that was located to the southwest.



Plate 2: Ditch [103], looking southwest

4.2.3 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located in the centre of field 1 between trenches 1 and 3, to the northeast and southwest respectively and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figures 2 & 4). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m revealing firm light reddish brown clay (202) below c.0.25m of firm mid brown silty clay subsoil (201) and c.0.10m of friable dark brown sandy silt topsoil (200) (Plate 3).

4.2.4 A ditch [203] was located in the northwest corner of the trench (Figure 4) (Plate 4). It was aligned northeast-southwest and had a moderately sloping southeast side with a rounded base. The northwest side was not visible as that side was cut by a modern ceramic land drain so the profile of this feature could only be recorded on one side. It measured 1.3m wide by 0.2m deep. The fill (204) was a firm mid reddish brown silty clay that contained several sherds of post-medieval pottery and was heavily

disturbed by root action. This feature is a part of the same as ditch [103] that runs through trench 1 and was part of the Marton township boundary.



Plate 3: Trench 2 with ditch [203] in the foreground, looking southeast



Plate 4: Ditch [203], looking southwest

4.2.5 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 located in the southwest end of field 1, to the southwest of trench 2 (Figure 2) (Plate 5) and was aligned northwest-southeast. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m revealing loose mid reddish brown silty sand (**302**) below c.0.1m of firm mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil (**301**) and c.0.35m of firm dark brown sandy silt topsoil (**300**). The trench was devoid of any archaeological or modern features.



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking southeast

5 FINDS

5.1 Finds Assessment: Archaeological Evaluation

- 5.1.1 A total of nine artefacts, weighing 21g, were recovered from two contexts during an archaeological evaluation on land at Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2013b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011).
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley.
- 5.1.5 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Cxt	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
104	Clay Pipe	1	3	PM	Stem fragment
202	Pottery	8	18	PM	CRE; 7 x china
TOTAL		9	21		

5.2 Post-medieval ceramics

- 5.2.1 Eight fragments of post-medieval pottery, weighing 21g, were recovered from fill (202) (Table 1). The pottery is in good condition and the sherds display little evidence of abrasion.
- 5.2.2 One fragment comprises a body sherd of a fine, Buckley-type coarse red earthenware vessel. Seven fragments comprise body sherds of a China mug / cup.
- 5.2.3 A broad date of late 19th to 20th century has been attributed to these fragments.
- 5.2.4 No further analysis is necessary on the post-medieval pottery.

5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

5.3.1 A single undecorated stem fragment of a clay tobacco pipe, weighing 3g, was recovered from deposit (104) (Table 1).

5.3.2 The internal stem diameter of the fragment measures roughly 2.5mm, giving a rough date of late 17th to early 18th century (1680-1720) (Kipfer 2008, 8).

5.3.3 No further analysis is necessary on these fragments.

5.4 **Statement of Potential**

5.4.1 These artefacts are of little archaeological significance and do not have the potential to enhance our understanding of the site. It is recommended that the finds are not retained with the archive.

6 METAL DETECTING SURVEY

6.1 Metal Detecting Survey

6.1.1 In order to allow a thorough and methodical coverage of the study area, a grid made up of 20 metre squares was created and laid out using easily visible markers. Once a find was located by one of the metal detectorists, the find was bagged and its exact location was recorded by using a GPS device.

6.2 Finds Assessment: Metal-Detector Survey

6.2.1 A total of 71 artefacts, weighing 673g, were recovered from three fields during a metal-detector survey on land at Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire (Table 2).

6.2.2 Figure 5 shows the location of the finds in Fields 1, 2 and 3.

Field No	Grid Ref	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
1	SJ 62938 66757	Copper Alloy	1	6	Mod	1926 half penny - George V
1	SJ 62889 66741	Copper Alloy	1	5	Mod	1906 half penny Edward VII
1	SJ 62959 66710	Copper Alloy	1	1	PM	Finger ring - undecorated
1	SJ 62952 66761	Copper Alloy	1	5	PM	Mount?
1	SJ 62930 66772	Copper Alloy	1	6	PM	Fitting - sewing machine??
1	SJ 63009 66714	Copper Alloy	2	4	PM	Clock fitting
1	SJ 62957 66662	Copper Alloy	1	18	PM	Mount with circular adjoined shank
1	SJ 62886 66718	Copper Alloy	1	8	PM	Large button (women's) - coat? Flower / rosette on exterior surface
1	SJ 62932 66751	Copper Alloy	1	10	PM	Button - plain; shank broken off
1	SJ 63010 66718	Copper Alloy	1	5	PM	Clock fitting?
1	SJ 62981 66683	Copper Alloy	1	7	PM	Button
1	SJ 62934 66652	Copper Alloy	1	3	PM	Button

Table 2: Quantification of metal finds by field number

Field No	Grid Ref	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
1	SJ 62996 66733	Copper Alloy	1	7	PM	Button
1	SJ 63006 66710	Copper Alloy	1	7	PM	William & Mary 1693 half penny - Irish harp on reverse
1	SJ 63015 66721	Copper Alloy	1	5	PM	Flat fitting
1	SJ 62941 66645	Copper Alloy	1	13	PM	Shoe or belt buckle
1	SJ 62939 66640	Copper Alloy	1	7	PM	Loop - buckle?
1	SJ 62922 66714	Copper Alloy	1	6	PM	Indeterminate miscellaneous flat fragment
1	SJ 63010 66711	Copper Alloy	1	3	PM	Circular loop - possibly part of a button
1	SJ 62853 66734	Copper Alloy	1	6	PM	Button - shank is broken off
1	SJ 62990 66694	Lead	1	19	Med	Spindle whorl - stars
1	SJ 63000 66711	Lead	1	21	Med	Spindle whorl - stars
1	SJ 62927 66651	Lead	1	30	Med	Spindle whorl - spots
1	SJ 62959 66674	Lead	1	19	Med	Incomplete decorated (stars) spindle whorl
1	SJ 62997 66716	Lead	1	13	Med?	Weight? Conical-shaped
1	SJ 62929 66764	Lead	1	33	Med?	Plain spindle whorl
1	SJ 63008 66715	Lead	1	12	Med?	Weight? Conical-shaped
1	SJ 62958 66731	Lead	1	8	PM	Musket ball / pistol shot
1	SJ 62970 66704	Lead	1	25	PM	Plaque or mount
1	SJ 62968 66744	Lead	1	15	PM	Seal with inscription: "...WEBB & Sons...Queen's Seedsmen...Wordsley's..."
1	SJ 62961 66692	Lead	1	13	PM	Flattened musket ball?
1	SJ 62895 66664	Silver	1	4	PM	Queen Victoria sixpence - 1867

Table 2: Quantification of metal finds by field number

Field No	Grid Ref	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
2	SJ 62686 66862	Brass	1	7	PM	"EXTIA BEST QUALITY FINE"; heraldic motif; gilt enamel 19th century machine-made
2	SJ 62757 66760	Brass	1	12	PM	Machine-made button
2	SJ 62759 66769	Brass	1	13	PM	Machine-made button
2	SJ 62768 66723	Brass	1	27	PM	Token
2	SJ 62744 66732	Copper Alloy	1	17	Mod	Handle
2	SJ 62707 66706	Copper Alloy	1	6	PM	Button - inscription too poor to read
2	SJ 62761 66704	Copper Alloy	1	3	PM	Button
2	SJ 62802 66777	Copper Alloy	1	4	PM	Farthing; George ?; Britannia on reverse
2	SJ 62749 66805	Copper Alloy	1	3	PM	Button
2	SJ 62629 66826	Copper Alloy	1	5	PM	Indeterminate coin
2	SJ 62701 66836	Copper Alloy	1	7	PM	Coin
2	SJ 62684 66753	Copper Alloy	1	8	PM	Token
2	SJ 62748 66786	Copper Alloy	1	6	PM	Coin; Queen Victoria
2	SJ 62680 66722	Copper Alloy	1	4	PM	1875; Queen Victoria; farthing?
2	SJ 62700 66758	Copper Alloy	1	18	PM	Musket ball / pistol shot
2	SJ 62792 66744	Copper Alloy	1	6	PM	Button
2	SJ 62686 66741	Copper Alloy	1	6	PM	Large button
2	SJ 62740 66751	Copper Alloy	1	5	PM	Button
2	SJ 62728 66850	Copper Alloy	1	4	PM	Button
2	SJ 62701	Copper	1	5	PM	Machine-made button

Field No	Grid Ref	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
	66909	Alloy				
2	SJ 62723 66801	Copper Alloy	1	8	PM	Fitting
2	SJ 62719 66862	Copper Alloy	1	7	PM	Fitting
2	SJ 62771 66720	Copper Alloy	1	4	PM	Loop - likely part of a button
2	SJ 62731 66744	Lead	1	6	PM	Miscellaneous fragment
2	SJ 62668 66773	Lead	1	17	PM	Circular fitting
2	SJ 62762 66719	Lead	1	15	PM	Miscellaneous fitting fragment
3	SJ 62858 66791	Brass	1	7	PM	Machine-made button - evidence of gold gilt enamel on underside
3	SJ 62789 66814	Brass	1	11	PM	Button
3	SJ 62843 66819	Brass	1	3	PM	Button
3	SJ 62812 66775	Brass	1	3	PM	Button: writing on underside; "BLU..."
3	SJ 62811 66860	Copper Alloy	1	4	PM	Button - in poor condition
3	SJ 62821 66848	Copper Alloy	1	12	PM	Unidentifiable coin
3	SJ 62768 66855	Copper Alloy	1	7	PM	Queen Victoria?
3	SJ 62763 66855	Copper Alloy	1	10	PM	Later post-medieval coin - unidentifiable
3	SJ 62832 66830	Copper Alloy	1	11	PM	Unidentifiable coin - has sub-oval perforation just off the centre
3	SJ 62828 66849	Copper Alloy	1	10	PM	Unidentifiable coin
3	SJ 62805 66858	Lead	1	12	PM	Miscellaneous circular fragment
3	SJ 62822 66794	Lead	1	16	PM	A kind of seal - very similar to Queen's Seedsman's token found in field 1
TOTAL			71	673		

- 6.2.3 **Medieval Artefacts.** A total of seven medieval lead artefacts, weighing 147g, were recovered from Field 1 (Table 2, Figure 5). The vast majority of the artefacts were recovered close to the southern boundary of the field; one artefact was recovered to the northeast of Field 1, just north of Trench 1.
- 6.2.4 The artefacts comprise five spindle whorls and two conical-shaped weights. Four of the spindle whorls are decorated, four artefacts have star designs and one artefact has dots on one surface. Medieval lead spindle whorls with similar designs have been recovered in North Yorkshire (NCL-782ABA, PAS online 2014), Leicestershire ([LEIC-F98A34](#), *ibid*), Lancashire ([LANCUM-A19170](#), [LANCUM-A18B75](#), [LANCUM-A133EC](#) & [LANCUM-A16376](#), *ibid*) and Cheshire East ([LVPL-ABF9BE](#), [LVPL-ABFOEC](#), [LVPL-ABD502](#) & [LVPL-87005B](#), *ibid*).
- 6.2.5 The medieval artefacts have been recovered along the southern boundary of Field 1, which could be of significance. The finds lie within a northwest-southeast aligned parcel of land, therefore the recovery of these spindle whorls provides evidence of domestic activity on and in the vicinity of the site (Figure 5).
- 6.2.6 **Post-medieval Artefacts.** Post-medieval artefacts comprise the largest group of objects recovered, with a total of 61 recovered artefacts weighing 498g (Table 2). The main finds categories comprise coinage, personal adornment, fittings and military finds. Post-medieval artefacts were recovered from all three fields (Figure 5).
- 6.2.7 **Coinage.** The earliest post-medieval artefact comprises a coin minted during the reigns of William and Mary, dated to 1693. The artefact is in good condition; an Irish harp is visible on the reverse of the coin.
- 6.2.8 Other coins comprise coins minted during the reign of Queen Victoria and include an 1867 sixpence and an 1875 farthing (?). Many of the coins were unidentifiable due to their poor preservation.
- 6.2.9 **Personal Adornment.** Twenty-three century machine-made cast copper alloy and brass buttons were recovered from all three fields. Roughly a quarter of the buttons had either some form of motif on the button itself while five buttons had writing engraved on the underside of the button. The preservation of the buttons ranged from poor to moderate and it was only possible to distinguish some of the inscriptions.
- 6.2.10 Other artefacts of personal adornment recovered from the survey comprised a plain, cast copper alloy finger ring and four shoe / belt buckles.

- 6.2.11 *Fittings*. A number of 19th century fittings were recovered from all three fields, including possible clock and sewing machine fittings and parts from agricultural machinery.
- 6.2.12 *Military Finds*. Three 18th to 19th century lead musket or pistol balls were recovered; two from field one and one from Field 2 (Figure 5). One musket ball recovered in Field 1 was flattened, indicating that it was fired.
- 6.2.13 *Tokens & Seals*. A cast copper alloy token and two lead seals were recovered from Fields 1, 2 and 3 (Table 2, Figure 5).
- 6.2.14 Two seals comprised small lead circular objects with the diameter ranging from 13mm to 16.5mm. The inscription from one token, recovered from Field 1, reads: “*WEBB & Sons...Queen’s Seedsmen...Wordsley’s...*”. The seals would have comprised bag seals which would have contained seeds. Twine or some sort of ligature material would have been threaded through holes in the bag seals (evident in both artefacts recovered) to secure the contents of the bag. Webb and Sons were English seed merchants from c.1850 onwards when Edward Webb first founded the company near Wordsley, in Stourbridge. By the 1890s, the company had become widely known and Webb & Sons were appointed seedsmen to Queen Victoria (PAS online 2014).
- 6.2.15 Other later post-medieval seedsmen seals have been recovered from Yorkshire ([YORYM-189A34](#), [YORYM-DD0343](#) & [YORYM-8567C3](#), PAS online 2014) and Lancashire ([LANCUM-2AAAC5](#), *ibid*).
- 6.2.16 There does not appear to be any distinct spatial pattern with the location of the post-medieval artefacts; they appear to be randomly spread over the three fields. This is likely to have been caused by agricultural activity on the site.
- 6.2.17 **Modern**. Three modern artefacts, weighing 38g, were recovered from Field 1 (Figure 5). All three artefacts are in moderate to good condition.
- 6.2.18 The artefacts comprise two coins and a fitting; the former comprising halfpennies from the reigns of Edward VII (1906) and George V (1926) (Table 2). The latter comprises a small cast copper alloy handle, likely a domestic or agricultural fitting.
- 6.2.19 The spatial distribution of the early modern artefacts appears to be random; no distinct pattern can be recognized. No further analysis is deemed necessary with these finds.

6.3 Potential of the Finds Assemblage

- 6.3.1 The recovery of medieval archaeological remains on the site is significant; their recovery provides evidence of domestic activities on the site and in the vicinity of the site.
- 6.3.2 The recovery of later post-medieval and modern archaeological remains is of low archaeological significance. The location of these finds is likely caused by agricultural activities; no significant spatial distribution has been ascertained for these artefacts.

6.4 Discussion

- 6.4.1 Whilst the majority of the finds recovered during the metal detector survey relate to post medieval agricultural activity as could be expected of a location that has long been described as farmland, the Medieval finds are of particular interest. There is little written evidence of any significant settlement or activity within the study location during the Medieval period. The spindle whorls and other Medieval finds were located in one distinct strip within field 1 (*fig5*) although no other evidence of Medieval activity in the study location exists.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at land on Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire, 3 trenches were excavated and a metal detector survey was carried out. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate. The metal detector survey was carried out with the intention of locating and recording any metal finds that may be present. This information could then be used to ascertain the potential for any further work within the study area.
- 7.1.2 Trench 3 was devoid of any archaeological features or deposits. Archaeological evidence was observed in Trenches 1 and 2. A ditch dated to the post-medieval times was observed in both trenches and appeared to be part of the Marton township boundary ditch. A hedgerow was later planted on the same northeast-southwest alignment and was parallel to the existing hedgerow to the northwest and fence line to the southeast.
- 7.1.3 The metal detecting survey has been useful in highlighting the potential for finding Medieval archaeology during any subsequent development within the vicinity of the study location.
- 7.1.4 The results obtained during the present evaluation suggest that most of the study area has not been intensively used in the past other than for agricultural purposes. However the metal detector survey indicates that there is significant potential for Medieval archaeology towards the South East boundary of the study area.

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APPENDIX 1
CONTEXT TABLE

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

List of Contexts issued during Evaluation			
Context Number	Context Type	Description	Trench
(100)	Deposit	Topsoil	1
(101)	Deposit	Subsoil	1
(102)	Deposit	Sand Natural	1
[103]	Cut	Ditch = [203]	1
(104)	Deposit	Fill of [103] = (202)	1
(105)	Deposit	Clay Natural	1
(200)	Deposit	Topsoil	2
(201)	Deposit	Subsoil	2
(202)	Deposit	Fill of [203] = (104)	2
[203]	Cut	Ditch = [103]	2
(204)	Deposit	Natural	2
(300)	Deposit	Topsoil	3
(301)	Deposit	Subsoil	3
(302)	Deposit	Natural	3

APPENDIX 2
TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX 2: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Width: 1.60m

Length: 20m

Maximum Depth: 0.8m

Minimum

Depth: 0.6m

OS Co-ordinates:

362933 366759

(Easting, Northing)

362947 366744

TOPSOIL: DARK BROWN FRIABLE CLAYEY SAND **Depth:** 0.36m

SUBSOIL: MID REDDISH GREY BROWN FRIABLECLAYEY SAND **Depth:** 0.25m

NATURAL: MID REDDISH/YELLOW/GREY LOOSE SAND **Depth:** N/A

Description of any features

A ditch [103]/(104) was observed in the northwest end of the trench.

Trench 2

Width: 1.60m

Length: 20m

Maximum Depth: 0.5m

Minimum

Depth: 0.4m

OS Co-ordinates:

362896 366729

(Easting, Northing)

362913 366718

TOPSOIL: DARK BROWN FRIABLE SANDY SILT **Depth:** 0.10m

SUBSOIL: MID BROWN FIRM SILTY CLAY **Depth:** 0.30m

NATURAL: LIGHT REDDISH BROWN FIRM CLAY **Depth:** N/A

Description of any features

A ditch [203]/(204) was observed in the north-western end of the trench.

Trench 3

Width: 1.60m

Length: 20m

Maximum Depth: 0.5m

Minimum

Depth: 0.45m

OS Co-ordinates:

362870 366709

(Easting, Northing)

362881 366694

TOPSOIL: DARK BROWN FIRM SANDY SILT **Depth:** 0.35m

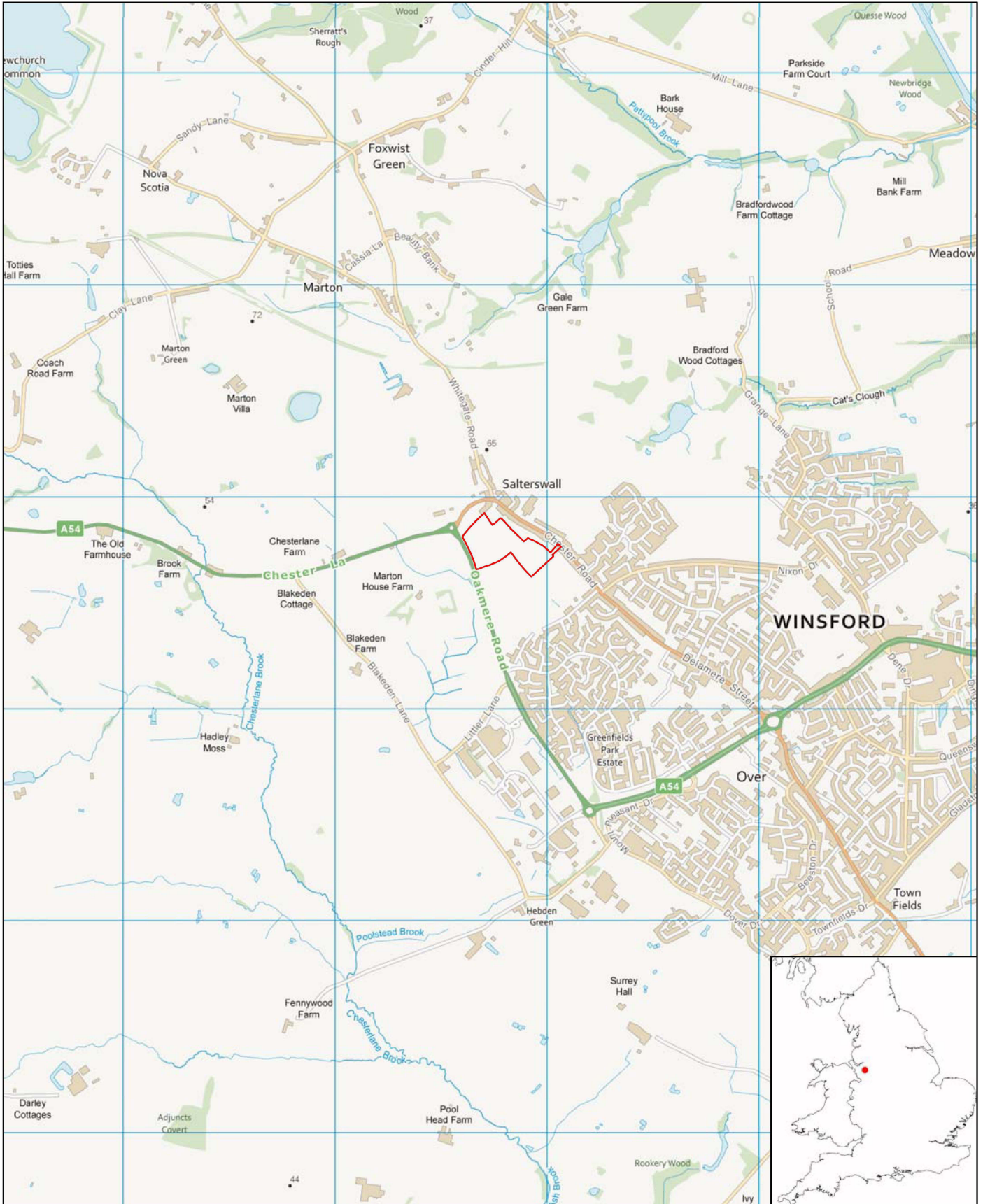
SUBSOIL: MID REDDISH BROWN FIRM SILTY CLAY **Depth:** 0.10m

NATURAL: MID REDDISH BROWN LOOSE SILTY SAND **Depth:** N/A

Description of any features

No Archaeological features present.

APPENDIX 3
FIGURES






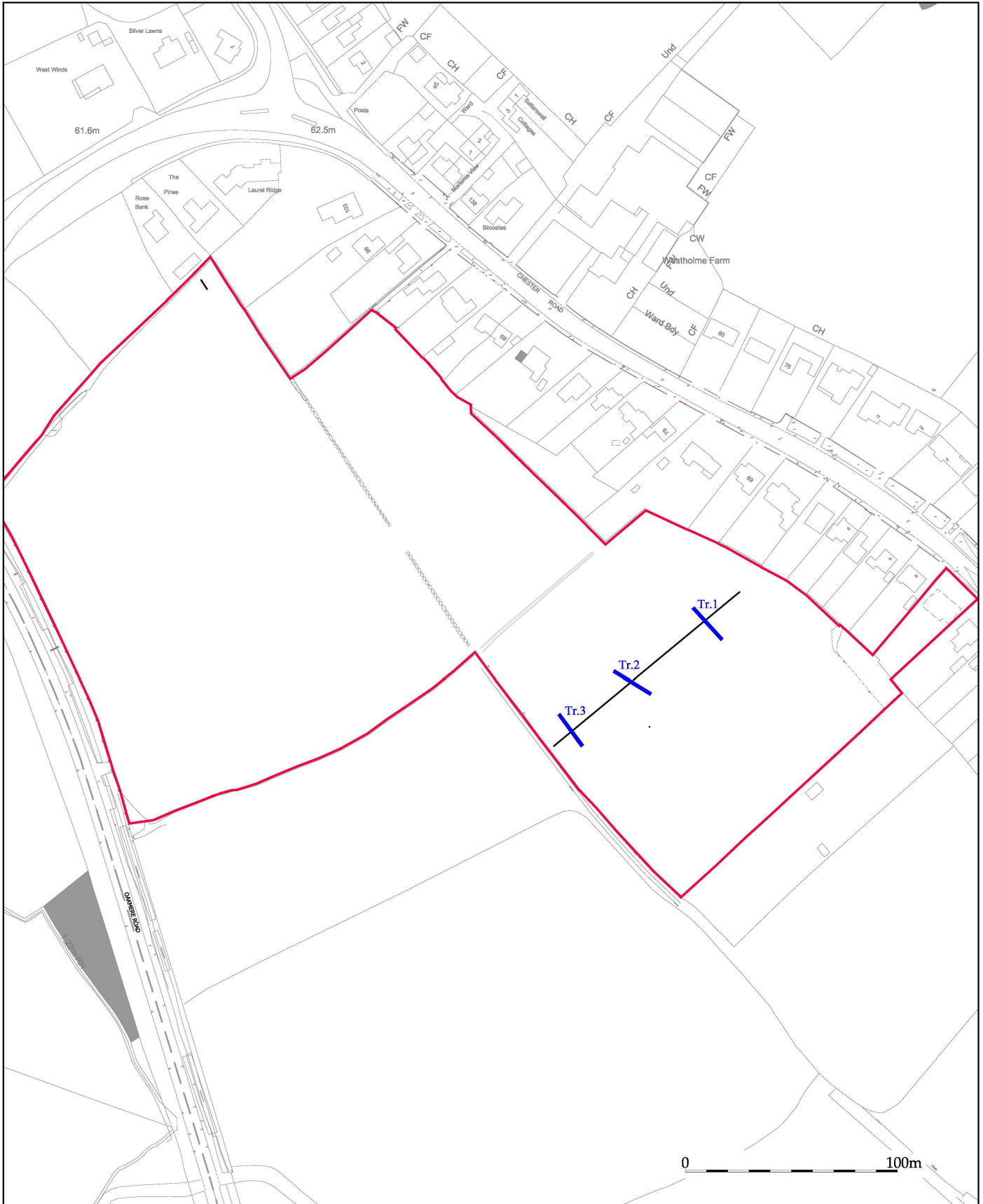
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land on Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11126</p> <p>CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: October 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  Site location	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.







 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land on Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11126</p> <p>CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: October 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p> <p> Evaluation trenches</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 2: Evaluation trench location plan.

PROJECT:

Land on Oakmere Road,
Winsford, Cheshire

CLIENT:




Taylor Wimpey

SCALE: Plan 1:75/Section 1:25 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

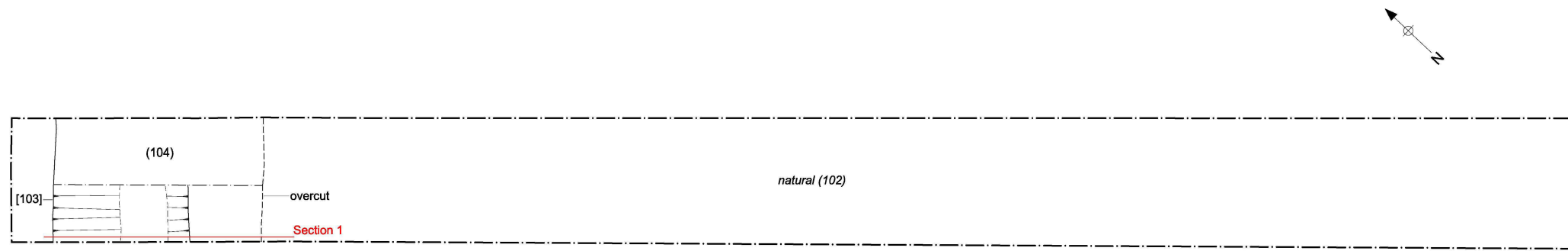
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-  Height mAOD
-  Section location
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

CP11126

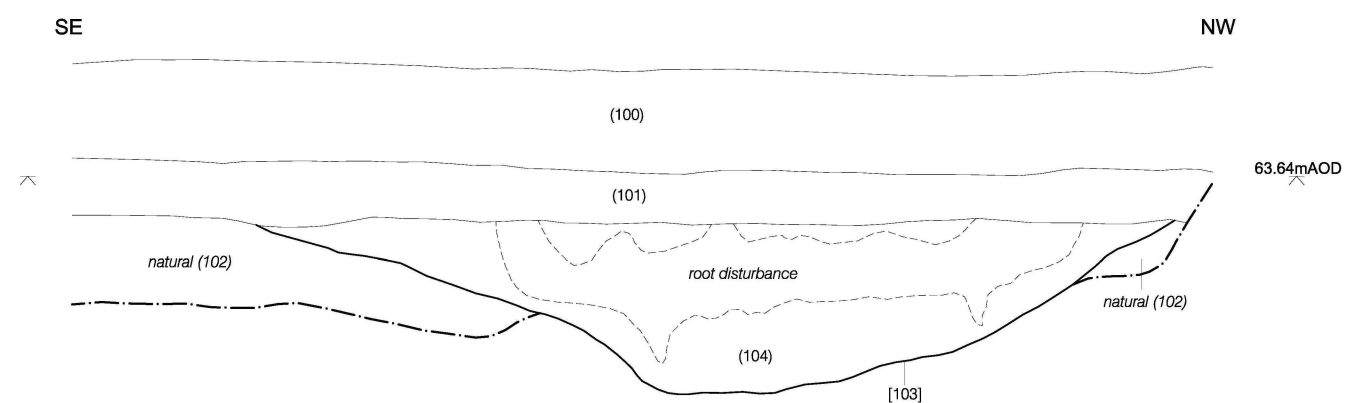
FIGURE:

3



Trench 1. Plan.

0 4m



Section 1. North-east facing section across ditch [103].

0 1m

Figure 3: Trench 1; plan and section.

PROJECT:

Land on Oakmere Road,
Winsford, Cheshire

CLIENT:




Taylor Wimpey

SCALE: Plan 1:75/Section 1:25 at A3

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: October 2014

KEY:

- (101) Context number
-  Height mAOD
-  Section location
-  Limit of excavation

REPORT No:

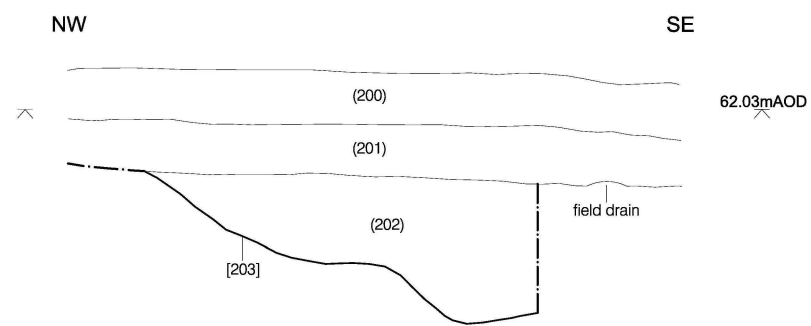
CP11126

FIGURE:

4

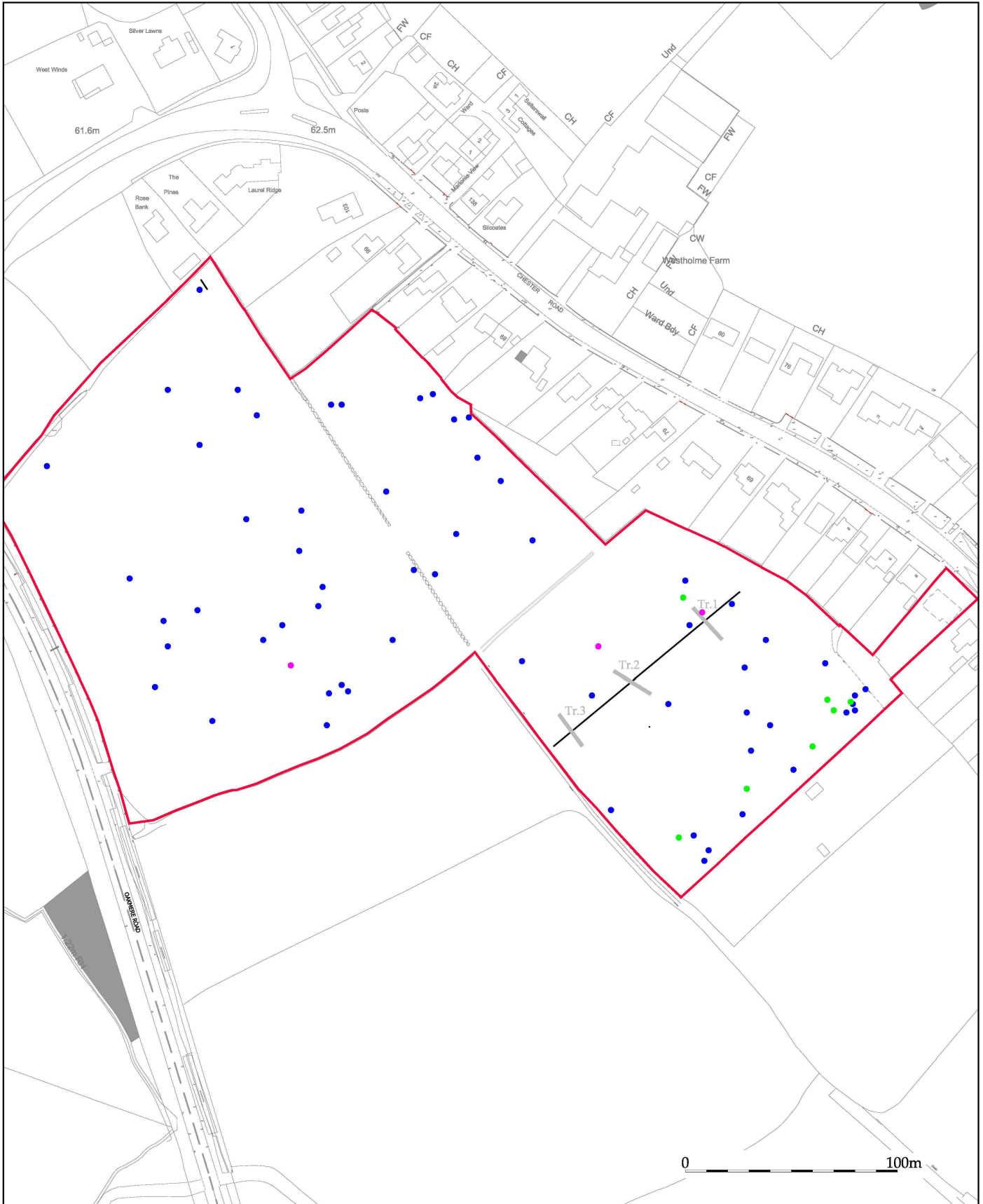


0 4m



0 1m

Figure 4: Trench 2; plan and section.










 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land on Oakmere Road, Winsford, Cheshire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP11126</p> <p>CLIENT: Taylor Wimpey</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: October 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 5</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Site location  Evaluation trenches Find spots:  Medieval  Post-medieval  Modern 	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 5: Results of metal detecting survey.

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