

PERSIMMON HOMES LANCASHIRE

LAND AT CONNEMARA, LIGHTFOOT GREEN LANE, FULWOOD, PRESTON LANCASHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE REPORT

July 2016



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PERSIMMON HOMES LANCASHIRE

Land at Connemara, Lightfoot Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire

Archaeological Strip, map and sample

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Lancashire, to undertake an archaeological strip, map and sample at Connemara, Lightfoot Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire, PR4 OAP (NGR: SD 51975 33672). The strip, map and sample was required as a condition of planning consent and was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by Douglas Moir formerly Planning Officer (Archaeology), Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Preston Local Council.

The proposed development site lies within former enclosed farmland associated with at least three farm complexes in the 19th century. This consisted of a number of houses referred to as 'Lightfoot Houses' and some farm buildings, located to the north, west and south of the current building known as Connemara. There was the potential for as-yet unidentified archaeological remains associated with these farms to survive at the site. The strip, map and sample investigation involved the opening of four areas targeting the possible remains of these buildings. The areas were opened in two phases with the first phase taking place prior to the demolition of the current house (Areas 1 and 2) and the second taking place after it has been demolished (Areas 3 and 4).

The first phase was undertaken in March 2016 over a period of four days with the opening of Areas 1 and 2. Area 1 was to the north of the current house and targeted the footprint of two structures. There was no archaeological evidence for either of these two structures. A large pit containing burnt material and three boundary ditches were observed along with the remains of a modern brick footing. Area 2 was opened to the southwest of the current house and targeted a single structure. There was no archaeological evidence for this structure but three ditches and two gullies were observed along with a modern demolition layer along the southeast half of the area. These ditches may have been part of field systems associated with the 19th farm complexes.

The second phase was undertaken in June 2016 over a period of four days with the opening of Areas 3 and 4. Area 3 consisted of two trenches to the south west of the now demolished Connemara house with the larger trench sited on the footprint of the building. No archaeological evidence for earlier buildings were noted in either of the trenches comprising Area 3, however one modern linear feature was excavated and recorded. Area 4 was opened to the south of the former Connemara house on land which formed the access road for the building. No archaeological remains were noted within the area opened.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Chris Gowlett, Persimmon Homes Lancashire for commissioning the project, and for all his assistance throughout the work. WAA also thanks Douglas Moir, formerly Planning Officer (Archaeology), at Lancashire Council Archaeological Service for his assistance.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Ruttle Plant Hire, for their help during this project.

The strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken by Mike McElligott, Ed Johnson and Mark Lawson. The report was written by Mike McElligott and Ed Johnson. The drawings were produced by Helen Phillips. Finds assessment was by Sue Thompson and Megan Stoakley, WAA Finds Officer and palaeoenvironmental assessment by Don O'Meara, WAA Environmental Specialist. The project was managed by Martin Railton, WAA Senior Project Manager and the report edited by Martin Railton.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 In March 2016, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) undertook an archaeological strip map and sample excavation at Connemara, Lightfoot Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire (NGR: SD 51975 33672) It was commissioned by the Persimmon Homes Lancashire who intend to construct 125 residential buildings with associated access on the site for which a planning consent has been granted by Preston Local Council (planning reference: 06/2012/0094 and APP/N2345/A/13/192099).
- 1.1.2 The planning application (06/2012/0094) was originally turned down in December 2012, but was later granted on Appeal (APP/N2345/A/13/2192099) in August 2013 by Preston Local Council. Condition no. 5 of the Appeal decision stated that:
 - "No works shall take place until the appellant, or their agent or successors in title, has/have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority."
- 1.1.3 This planning condition was in line with advice provided to Preston Local Council by Douglas Moir in a brief dated July 2014.
- 1.1.4 The proposed development site was considered to contain remains of a number of houses referred to as 'Lightfoot Houses' and some farm buildings, located to the north and south of the current building known as Connemara. It is possible that the buildings shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map date to the late 18th century or earlier, and for potential below-ground archaeological deposits to be encountered. Such remains would be considered to be of local or regional significance only.

1.2 **Project Documentation**

1.2.1 The project conforms to a brief prepared by Douglas Moir, formerly Planning Officer (Archaeology), Lancashire Council Archaeology Service, dated July 2014. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology to provide a specific methodology based for a programme of archaeological mitigation implemented via a strip, map and sample excavation (WAA 2015). This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).



1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this work.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (2014a), and in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2013).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation (CIfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.2 **Documentary Research**

2.2.1 A rapid archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared, in order to provide the archaeological and historical background of the site. This involved consultation of the Lancashire Archives in Preston, in order to study documentary sources and historic maps and plans of the site. A search was also made of readily available online information and records held in the Historic Environment Record.

2.3 The Strip, Map and Sample Investigation

- 2.3.1 The strip, map and sample excavation was undertaken to cover the footprints of six buildings depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map to the north and south of Connemara. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1849 shows two small clusters of buildings within the site, most likely farm buildings. Most notable is a cluster of four buildings, labelled 'Lightfood Houses', to the south of Connemara. To the north are two further buildings surrounded by an orchard. Documents held in the Lancashire Record Office (Ref. R 127/22) record Peter Walton, a yeoman, as the owner of the site, in a will dated 16th May 1801. All had apparently been demolished by the time of Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (Figure 3), but it was recognised that deposits associated with these buildings may survive sub-surface.
- 2.3.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken within four defined areas (Areas 1-4) to cover the footprints of these buildings and adjacent areas where there was the potential for associated archaeological deposits (e.g. cess pits), as required in the Specification.
- 2.3.3 This involved archaeological monitoring of soil stripping, followed by the mapping, sample excavation, and recording of any archaeological deposits identified within



these areas (Figure 2). It was recognised, given the inaccuracies of early historic mapping, these areas may need to be adjusted on site, depending on the results of the project.

2.3.4 The general aims of these investigations were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to investigate and record any evidence for deposits or structures present;
- 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.
- 2.3.5 The modern overburden was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trench was subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (WAA 2013).
- 2.3.6 The treatment of the finds followed the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b). All finds encountered on site were retained and returned to the office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A terminus post quem was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the date phases for the site. On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged.
- 2.3.7 All environmental samples recovered were returned to the Carlisle office where they were treated in accordance with the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines "Environmental Archaeology A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation" (2011). Samples from dry deposits were processed by flotation following the fieldwork and the flots and residues were sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds, technological residues and any charred materials.

2.4 The Archive

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown



- 2011). The archive will be deposited with the Museum of Lancashire, Preston, with copies of the report sent to the Lancashire HER, available upon request. The project archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA16 FUL-A CP11240/16.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports 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 WAA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardela2-246649.



3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site was located at (SD 51975 33672) and comprised pasture land, with a large house (Connemara) and stables. The site was bound by Lightfoot Green Lane to the west, Lightfoot Lane to the south, a railway in the east and the M55 to the north. A rugby pitch was situated in the north-west corner. To the west the site partially enclosed the property of Sandland.
- 3.1.2 The study area lay on the outskirts of Preston, *c*.5km north of Preston city centre. The area of investigation lies at a height of *c*.42m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The site is approximately 4.50 hectares in size and is of a slightly trapeze shape.
- 3.1.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the area consists of Sherwood Sandstone Group sandstone deposited during the Triassic and Permian Periods (229 to 271 million years ago). These rocks were formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium, and some bogs depositing peat. It includes estuarine and coastal plain deposits mapped as alluvium. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Diamicton of the Devensian Till deposited during the Quaternary Period (up to 2 million years ago). These rocks were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters (BGS 2016).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 A rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken to assess the known historical and archaeological background of the site.
- 3.2.2 The wider area of the site was once part of the township of Broughton, north of Preston, which was recorded in Domesday Book. It was later subdivided into Broughton Church, Ingolhead, Lightfoot Houses, Dorton and Sharoe Green (Fishwick 1900, 91).
- 3.2.3 The Lancashire Archives documents a Guild Hall entry (Ref.: CNP/2/1/13) of Thomas Whalley, son of William Whalley of Lightfoot Houses, for the 3rd September 1722. It furthermore holds a document (Ref.: PR 1917) dating from the 5th of September 1738 and refers to a bond of £40 between Thomas Whalley of Lightforth House in



Broughton and John Southworth, a yeomen, of Broughton to Edward Sargeant, of Preston. It can be assumed that 'Lightforth House' and 'Lightfoot House' are used for the site, as the 1786 map from Yates records 'Lightforth Houses' (Figure 3) in the position of the current site. The title is still in use on Greenwood's Map of Lancashire dating from 1818 (Figure 4). By 1829, this has been permanently changed to the now mainly used title of 'Lightfoot House' (Figure 5).

- 3.2.4 The first edition ordnance survey map from 1849 (Figure 6) shows several small clusters of buildings within the site, most likely farm buildings. Most prominent is here a cluster of five buildings, labelled 'Lightfood Houses', at the southern end of the site. Documents held in the Lancashire Record Office (Ref.: R 127/22) record Peter Walton, a yeoman, as the owner of the site, in a will dated 16th May 1801 (Lancashire County Archaeological Service 2014, 1). Adjoining this property to the north are two further buildings surrounded by an orchard. Following Lightfoot Green Lane northwards, at the position of the building now referred to as 'Sandlands' is a larger building with enclosed garden. Another farm with associated orchard is in the north-west corner, just outside the site. The documentary evidence indicates that the structure of 'Lightfoot Houses' most likely originates from the 1722 mentioned Lightfoot House. It is possible that these structures could be of even earlier origin, but at least date to the early 18th century.
- 3.2.5 By 1893 (Figure 7) the buildings associated with Lightfoot Houses and the two farm buildings disappeared. The Lightfoot Houses are replaced by a single building, two east to west aligned roads still indicate to the two farm buildings. By the publication of the later OS map from 1895 (Figure 8), all traces of the two further northwards situated farms and their associated orchards and boundaries have disappeared. A smaller structure is at the position of the Sandlands building. By 1913 (Figure 9), this building has been extended to a T-shaped plan with a smaller outbuilding.
- 3.2.6 On the 1933 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 10), the site of the before mentioned Lightfoot Houses is referred to as 'Waddington's Farm'. An outbuilding has been added to the building. The denotation 'Rose Cottage' has been subjoined to the current Sandlands property.
- 3.2.7 An unfenced road traverses rectilinear on site off Lightfoot Green Lane by 1938 (Figure 11), largely enclosing Rose Cottage. While on the 1947 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 12) this road is still in existence, the two buildings of Rose Cottage has not been included on the map, but are shown again in the same position on the 1969 OS map



- (Figure 13). By this time, all paths or roads on site have been removed, with the exception of the road leading to the buildings previous referred to as 'Waddington Farm'.
- 3.2.8 Within the wider area surrounding the site, are several notations of Medieval and post-Medieval structures and isolated Roman and pre-historic finds
- 3.2.9 No known previous archaeological works have been undertaken within the development area.



4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The strip, map and sample was undertaken in two phases between the 8th of March and 1st of July 2016. Four open areas were excavated to the north and west of the current building known as Connemara (Area 1-4). Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets, relating also to a summary table provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 Within the first phase the excavations largely consisted of the removal of topsoil (100) and subsoil layer (127) (in Area 2 only) to a depth of up to 0.3m, exposing the natural substrata. The second phase differed from this due to construction work having started across the site during the intervening period. All topsoil was removed prior to work starting on the site with excavations consisting of the removal of made ground (300).
- 4.1.3 Archaeological remains were encountered in Areas 1, 2 and 3. The remains consisted of ditches and a pit, along with a modern brick footing in Area 1, ditches and gullies in Area 2 and a ditch in Area 3. It is uncertain whether the archaeological remains encountered were associated with 19th century structures that were visible on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1849).

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 Area 1 was located to the north of the existing house, Connemara and measured 314m² (Figure 14, Plates 1 & 2). The area was located to target the possible footprints of two structures shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. There was no archaeological evidence observed for either structure.
- 4.2.2 A modern brick footing {104} was observed in the southeast part of the area and consisted of a single course of bricks (Plate 13). The bricks in most cases were broken in half and randomly laid, four across and there was no evidence of any bonding material. The bricks were in a shallow cut [105] that measured 4.05m by 0.52m by 0.08m. It had vertical sides and a flat base. The bricks were sealed by layer (106) which consisted of loose dark brown silty clay that contained frequent piece of modern pottery, CBM, glass and plastic. It was cut by a service trench. It may have been a footing for a path.
- 4.2.3 Three ditches and a pit were observed. A ditch [110] was located near the centre of the area and was only partially visible. It was L-shaped with its eastern side aligned



southeast-northwest that that turned to a southwest-northeast alignment on its west side (Figures 14 & 15, Plates 3 & 4). It had moderately sharp gradual sloping sides with a rounded base at the terminus with sharp, steep sloping sides and a rounded base at its southwest end. It got wider and deeper moving away from the terminus. The fill (111)/ (114) was a friable mid grey brown silty clay that contained occasional stones. No finds were recovered. This feature is likely to be a boundary ditch is visible on both the First and Second Edition Ordnance survey maps (figures 6 and 7). It was cut by ditch [107] along its northwest side.

- 4.2.3 Another ditch [102] was located in the southern end of the area and was aligned northeast-southwest (Figures 14 & 15 and Plate 5). It was straight with sharp steep sloping northwest side and gradual, moderately steep sloping southeast side that had flat base and a U-shaped profile. It measured 10m long by 0.82m wide by 0.3m deep. The fill (103) was a moderately compact mid greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional stone and charcoal flecks. Four sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. The ditch appeared to be a field boundary that had been appeared that cut a tree bole along its southeast side at its northeast end and faded out at its southwest end. This ditch and association with a possible tree bole could be linked to boundaries seen on figure 7. It ran parallel to ditch [107], 6.8m to the northwest. The ditch was cut by two modern service trenches.
- 4.2.4 A pit [112] was located in the northeast corner of the area (Figures 14 & 15 and Plate 6). It was sub-circular in plan with moderately sharp steep sloping sides with a flattish, slightly undulating base. It measured 2.94m long by 2.9m wide by 0.47m deep. The lower fill (128) was a loose light grey silty clay that measured 0.94m wide by 0.08m thick. This was visible in section on the northwest side only and appeared to have been a slump layer. The upper layer (113) was throughout the rest of the pit and consisted of a loose black/dark grey silty clay that contained frequent charcoal flecks and occasional stone. Several pieces of CBM and possible sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. The pit appeared to have been used as a dump for burnt material. The surrounding natural clay showed no signs of being heat affected. It was cut along its southeast side by ditch [107].
- 4.2.5 Another ditch [107] was located near the centre of the area and was aligned northeast-southwest (Figures 14 & 15 and Plates 4 & 6). It was roughly straight with sharp steep sloping sides, flat base and a V-shaped profile. The ditch was at its widest and deepest at its southwest end and was narrower and shallower at its northeast end. It measured 12.8m long by 0.54m 0.9m wide by 0.14m 0.47m deep. The fill



- (108)/(109) was a friable darkish mid greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional stone. Several sherds of pottery were recovered of medieval and post-medieval date. It appeared to be a boundary ditch that ran parallel to another ditch, [102] 6.8m to the southeast. It cut L-shaped ditch [110] at its southwest end and cut the southeast side of pit [112] near its northeast end. It was also cut by a modern land drain and by a modern posthole near its northeast end. Ditch [107] is likely to represent a modern field boundary seen on figure 10, if this is the case the medieval pottery from this feature would have to be residual material.
- 4.2.6 Area 2 was located to the northeast of the entrance to Connemara house (Figure 16, Plates 7 & 8). It was a sub-rectangular area and measured 119m² targeting the possible footprint of a structure. No archaeological evidence for the structure was observed.
- 4.2.7 Three ditches and two gullies were excavated in this area. At the southeast side of the area under subsoil layer (126), there was a demolition layer (129) consisting of loose dark brown silty clay that contained frequent CBM, stone block fragments and modern pottery. The full extent was unclear as it could not be fully excavated due to flooding but was approximately 4.6m wide by 0.4m deep.
- 4.2.7 A ditch [115] was located in the western side of the area (Figures 16 & 17 and Plate 9) and was aligned northwest-southeast. It was straight with gradual sloping sides and a flattish base. It measured 10.76m long by 0.86m wide by 0.15m deep. It continued beyond the limit of excavation at both ends. The fill (116)/(117) was a friable dark grey brown silty clay that contained small stones. Several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. It appeared to be an old boundary ditch that appeared on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. It was cut by another boundary ditch [118] through its centre and by a modern land drain along its northeast side. Its southeast end was sealed by demolition layer (129).
- 4.2.8 Ditch [118] was located on the western side of the area (Figures 16 & 17 and Plate 10). It was aligned roughly east-west in the east for 3m then turned at a right angle to the south and continued for 7m, the edge of excavation. It was roughly L-shaped that had sharp steep sloping sides, a flat base and a V-shaped profile. The ditch was narrowest at the terminus then became wider to the southwest where it continued beyond the limit of excavation. It measured 10m long by 0.85m 2.2m wide by 0.29m 0.39m deep. It contained two fills. The lower fill (119) was a friable dark greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional stone and several sherds of pottery were recovered of medieval and post-medieval date. It measured 0.85m 2.2m wide by 0.26m deep. The



- upper fill (120) was firm light orange grey silty clay that contained occasional small stones. It was visible through the centre of the ditch up to 1.9m from the east terminus. It cut ditch [115] at its southern end. It appeared to be part of a field system and was probably the corner of a field enclosure. Two gullies, to the east of its terminus, [123] and [125] appeared to be associated with it and may have formed an entrance. It was cut by a modern land drain across its southern end.
- 4.2.9 Gully [123] was located in the northeast corner of the area and was aligned east-west (Figures 16 & 17 and Plate 11). It was straight with sharp steep sloping upper sides with vertical lower sides and a flattish base. It measured 3.7m long by 0.37m wide by 0.09m deep. The fill (124) was a loose dark brown silty clay that contained occasional small stone. A sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered.
- 4.2.10 Gully [125] was located in the northeast corner of the area and was aligned east-west (Figures 5 & 6 and Plate 11). It was straight and had sharp steep sloping sides with a rounded base. It measured 4m long by 0.36m wide by 0.1m deep. The fill (126) was a loose dark greyish brown silty clay that contained occasional stone. It was parallel to gully [123], 0.35m to the north and its west end continued beyond the limit of excavation and its west end terminated next to the east terminus of L-shaped ditch [118]. The gully along with gully [123] and ditch [118] appeared to be all associated with the gullies possibly forming an entrance to an enclosure.
- 4.2.11 A ditch [121] was identified in the northwest corner of the area and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figures 16 & 17 and Plate 12). It was straight It had gradual sloping sides with a flat base that measured 1.25m long by 0.9m wide by 0.14m deep. The fill (122) was a friable mid brownish grey silty clay that contained occasional small stone and root activity. It may have been a boundary ditch and appeared to run parallel to ditch [115], 7m to the southwest.
- 4.2.12 Area 3 consisted of two trenches to the south west of the former Connemara house, and were positioned to target the former 19th century farm buildings (Figure 2).
- 4.2.13 The smaller trench within Area 3 (Area 3.1) measured 42.2m² and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. A modern linear feature running across the trench was noted in the south western corner running north-west to south-east. It was straight with sharp steep sloping sides and a V-shaped profile with a depth of 0.84m. No other archaeological features were noted within the trench.
- 4.2.14 The larger trench within Area 3 (Area 3.2) measured 94.2m² and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The trench was excavated through a layer of made ground



(3000) formed from the now demolished Connemara house and within the trench the former foundations of the building were visible. An existing reinforced concrete raft foundation {3004} was also visible within the trench measuring 1.9m by 0.75m. The base of a modern brick foundation was visible on top of the concrete raft formed with a single course of bricks (3002). They were laid lengthways and showed some signs of modern mortared bonding however few remained in situ after demolition. This was within a shallow cut measuring 7m by 0.5m with modern rubbish visible in the neighbouring fill around the foundation (3005).

4.2.15 Area 4 was positioned south-west of the former Connemara house and on the access road for the former dwelling. The trench was excavated through this road layer and a layer of made ground forming a hard-core for the road. Several modern services were visible within the trench including two drains one of which was part of the access road, and an electrical cable possibly associated with electrical gates.



5. FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 80 artefacts, weighing 1839g, were recovered during archaeological works at Connemara, Preston, Lancashire (Table 1).
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b). All artefacts have been assessed 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 for its potential to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

Site							
Code	Area	Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
						PM-	
FUL-A		127	CBM	1	133	Mod	Land-drain fragment
FUL-A		103	Ceramic	5	61	Med	Body sherds
							CRE, Transfer Print, salt-glazed
FUL-A		106	Ceramic	30	620	PM	stoneware, refined red & white earthenware
FUL-A		108	Ceramic	3	90	PM	Red earthenware
FUL-A		109	Ceramic	1	11	Med	Rim sherd
FUL-A		113	Ceramic	2	35	Med	Body sherds
FUL-A		116	Ceramic	1	11	Med	Base sherd
FUL-A		119	Ceramic	3	34	Med	2 body sherds, 1 base sherd
FUL-A		119	Ceramic	1	27	PM	Buckley-type CRE
FUL-A		124	Ceramic	1	14	PM	Buckley-type CRE
FUL-A		127	Ceramic	1	71	PM	Buckley-type CRE, rim sherd
FUL-A		108	Daub	1	10	PM	Miscellaneous fragment
FUL-A		109	Daub	1	22	Med	Miscellaneous fragment
FUL-A		113	Daub	16	544	Med	Miscellaneous fragments
FUL-A		124	Daub	2	3	Med?	2 tiny fragments of poss. Med? Daub
F A		100	Cl		27	PM-	NA:
FUL-A		106	Glass	3	27	Mod	Miscellaneous fragments
FUL-B	Area 3.1	U/S	CBM	1	33	Mod	Land-drain fragment
FUL-B	Area 3.2	U/S	СВМ	7	93	Mod	Decorated colour tile fragments (kitchen/bathroom)
TOTAL	AICa J.Z	0/3	CDIVI	80	1839	iviou	(Kitchen) Datin Com)

Table 1: Quantification of finds



5.2 Medieval Ceramics (Sue Thompson)

- 5.2.1 A total of 12 sherds of medieval pottery, weighing 152g were recovered from five deposits (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition, with little depositional wear, and have clean, sharp breaks.
- 5.2.2 Fabrics are generally oxidised to a light orange or buff, frequently with a mid-grey reduced core, and include both coarse gritty wares and finer sandy wares. Three sherds from (103) retain a thin olive green glaze, while another from (113) has traces of a splashy glaze. All other sherds are unglazed. All sherds appear to be wheel thrown.
- 5.2.3 It is possible that two base sherds from (116) and (119) belong to the same flat bottomed vessel, a sandy buff fabric with a dark grey core, although the sherds are not conjoining. The single rim sherd recovered is quite distinctive (109), with thumb prints forming a wavy edge.
- 5.2.4 A likely date range is 12th 14th century for the medieval pottery assemblage (McCarthy and Brooks 1988).
- 5.2.5 Further analysis may identify manufacturing centres and therefore a tighter date range.

5.3 Post-medieval Ceramics

- 5.3.1 A total of 36 sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 822g, were recovered from five deposits in the first phase of the archaeological works (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition and display little evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.3.2 Fabric types include possibly Midlands Purple, Buckley-type coarse red earthenware, both red and white refined earthenware, Transfer Print, brown salt-glazed stoneware and a sherd of possibly tin-glazed cream earthenware (Poole 1995: 46, 50, 92). Vessel types in the assemblage include stoneware bottles and jars, scalloped plates, large storage jars and bowls.
- 5.3.3 A date of 17th to 20th century is suitable for this assemblage.
- 5.3.4 No further analysis is warranted on this material.

5.4 Ceramic Building Material & Daub

5.4.1 A total of 20 fragments of daub or fired clay, weighing 579g, were recovered from four deposits (Table 1). The fragments are in poor to moderate condition and display evidence of post-depositional damage.



- 5.4.2 The daub recovered from deposits (109) (113) and (124) comprise miscellaneous fragments in a soft, light orange fabric tempered with poorly sorted inclusions of flint and quartz. The inclusions are frequently distributed throughout the fragments and are both rounded and angular, ranging in size from 2mm to 12mm. The daub from these deposits are of medieval date; a large quantity of medieval daub of similar temper was recovered from a kiln during archaeological works at Low Crosby, near Carlisle, Cumbria (Jackson *et al* 2015, 38).
- 5.4.3 Fragments of post-medieval to modern land-drain were recovered from deposit (127) and from an unstratified deposit in Area 3.1 during the second phase of the archaeological works.
- 5.4.4 Seven fragments of modern, decorated kitchen / bathroom tile were recovered from an unstratified deposit in Area 3.2 during the second phase of the archaeological works.
- 5.4.5 No further analysis is warranted on the assemblage.

5.5 Glass

- 5.5.1 Three shards of post-medieval to modern bottle glass, weighing 27g, were recovered from context (106) (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition.
- 5.5.2 No further analysis is warranted on this material.

5.6 Statement of Potential

- 5.6.1 The medieval pottery and daub assemblages are of archaeological potential on a local level, providing evidence of domestic activity either on the site or in its environs.
- 5.6.2 The post-medieval to modern artefacts, while providing dating evidence for deposits, are of low potential and do not contribute to the archaeological significance of the site.
- 5.6.3 The medieval artefacts were retained with the archive.



6. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation eleven samples were taken for the purposes of archaeobotanical assessment. In total this represents c.160 litres of archaeological sediment. This was undertaken as per Historic England recommendations on the treatment of Environmental Archaeology (English Heritage 2011), as well as Archaeometallurgy (Historic England 2015)

6.2 Archaeobotancial Assessment

- 6.2.1 The sediment was processed in a Sīrāf style flotation tank, with the heavy residue collected in a 0.5mm nylon mesh, and the washover/flot collected in a 0.3mm geological sieve. The heavy residue was air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit; in this instance pottery fragments, ash, coal and fired clay were all recovered. The residue samples were also scanned with a hand magnet to retrieve forms of magnetic material. This was done to retrieve residues of metallurgical activity, in particular hammer scale, spheroid hammer scale, fuel-ash slag and vitrified material which might be indicative of other high temperature non-metallurgical processes. Processing procedures and nomenclature follows the conventions set out by the Historic England (2015); this demonstrated that in most samples low amounts of anthropogenic magnetic material was present.
- 6.2.2 The organic plant material was examined at x40-60 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers et al. 2010; Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010), except in the case of the cereal remains where Zohary et al. was used (Zohary et al. 2013, Table 3).
- 6.2.3 Table 2 contains the details of the assessment on a sample by sample basis. The flot matrix is presented on a scale from 1-3; 1-present in small volumes, 2-present but not dominant, 3-dominates the flot. All plant remains are presented as total counts of individual remains, with an asterisk '*' donating that the material was charred.
- 6.2.4 For the purposes of clarity the references to 'seeds' identified here refer to the seed or fruit structures unless otherwise stated; that is to say the propagule or disseminule structures. Cereal grain was recovered in a charred condition and where mentioned refers to the charred caryopsis.



6.3 Discussion of the Remains

- 6.3.1 The remains from this site were generally sparse, though with low levels of charred plant remains present in most samples. This may be the result of manuring activity from a nearby farmyard, or perhaps due to the spread of material around the area of [112] where a particularly large concentration of remains were recovered. A similar route for dispersal may explain the low instances of anthropogenic hammer scale which was present in most of the samples.
- 6.3.2 Or particular note was the common occurrence of oat remains, and the presence of the common medieval field weed stinking chamomile (Anthemis cotula). This may suggest that what is being picked up in these samples is the waste material from crop processing. One sample which was particularly rich in charred remains was the material from a pit [112], from which sample <5> (113) derived. This sample produced a flot over 2kgs in weight which contained a frequent occurrence of fired clay. The charred cereal remains from the primary washover consisted of 19 oat grains, 8 wheat type grains and charred *Anthemis cotula*. This flot was relatively small, with most of the charred remains remaining in the flot tank, not being buoyant enough to float. An assessment of the much larger amount of charred remains in the heavy residue showed it to be c.40% charcoal fragments over 6mm, and the rest being material smaller than 6mm. A rapid scan of the material smaller than 6mm showed oat remains in low quantities within this material, though due to time constraints this material was not examined fully.

6.4 Conclusions

6.4.1 It is suggested here that the pit **[112]** may contain material cleaned out from either the flue of a corn-dryer, or possibly the waste materials from an area where cereal processing was taking place. This might explain the oat grains (as a crop contaminant, rather than the main crop), as well as the presence of charred *Anthemis cotula*. The presence of the burnt daub, and its possible association with a corn-dryer structure, as suggested in the finds report (5.4.2 above) add weight to the suggested that these remains are re-deposited from a corn-dryer structure.



C1-	1	2.	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1
Sample	103	108	111	119	113	126	124	122	116	120	303
Context											
Cut	102	107	110	118	112	125	123	121	115	118	302
Feature	Dch	Dch	Dch	Dch	Pit	Glly	Glly	Dch	Dch	Dch	Dch
Volume processed (litres)	10	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	10	10	20
Weight of flot (grams)	>10	>10	>10	>10	2000+	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10	>10
Heavy residue weight (kgs)	1.3	2.2	2.2	1.7	2.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	1.2
<u>Heavy residue (relative abundance)</u>	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	
Burnt clay					1						
Charcoal	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Coal							1		1	1	
Magnetic residue		1	1	1	1	2	1				
Pottery/ceramic (Fragments)	1										1
Flot matrix (relative abundance)											
Charcoal	2	3	3	3	3	3		3	3	3	1
Sclerotia	1			2	1	1					
Coal/Ash				1						1	
Herbaceous modern roots	3	2	2			1			2		3
Charred plant remains (total counts)											
Avena species (Oat)	4	4			19		1			1	1
Triticum species indeterminate (Wheat)					8						
Indeterminate charred grain											
Other plant remains (relative abundan	ce)				I.						
Anthemis cotula (Stinking chamomile)		1*			2*						
Brassica species (Mustard family)		1*									
Chenopodiaceae species (goosefoots)	1	1	1								
Poa species (grasses)	1*				1						
Raphanus raphanistrum (Wild-radish)											
Rubus cf. fructicosus (Bramble berry											
family)											
Sambucus nigra (Elder)		4	3	2							
Taraxacum officinale (Common		_		_		_	1				
dandelion)											

Table 2: Archaeobotancial assessment

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7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Interpretation

- 7.1.1 Archaeological remains were found in Areas 1, 2 and 3. The remains were concentrated in the east and southeast sections of Area 1, the northwest half of Area 2 and the southwestern corner of Area 3. The data recovered indicated past activity on the site dating from the medieval period. This activity was represented by probable field boundary ditches and a possible enclosure with two gullies that may have represented an entrance. A series of field boundaries can be seen on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (figure 7) however by its reprint in 1895 (figure 8) these have been removed. Previous mapping (figure 6) shows other field boundaries possibly highlighting a relic field system carried forward to the late 19th century. Other activity on the site can be seen from the content of a pit, which may have been associated with a corn-dryer, identified by a prevalence of burnt clay and charred plant remains.
- 7.1.2 It is likely that the recorded data for the post-medieval period relates to the various farm complexes that were observed on several old maps including the 1849 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map and the Yates' map of Lancashire, 1786 and were no longer visible on later edition Ordnance Survey maps (1895).
- 7.1.3 The four open areas were targeting the possible remains of structures associated with post-medieval farm complexes but there was no archaeological evidence for these structures observed. The survival of the archaeological features was good. Survival had been influenced by the fact it was pasture land. Later phases of development that included service trenches, land drains and the modern Connemara House cut several of the features in Areas 1 and 2. Some features in Area 1 had also been disturbed by root activity. No features were noted in Area 3.2 and Area 4 due to the construction and subsequent demolition of the former Connemara house. contributing to this.



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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Area	Description
(100)	Deposit	1 & 2	Topsoil
(101)	Deposit	1 & 2	Natural
[102]	Cut	1	Cut of NE-SW ditch
(103)	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch [102]
{104}	Structure	1	Modern brick footing
[105]	Cut	1	Cut of brick footing {104}
(106)	Deposit	1	Fill of [105] and covering {104}
[107]	Cut	1	Cut of NE-SW ditch
(108)	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch [107] = (109)
(109)	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch [107] = (108)
[110]	Cut	1	Cut of L-shaped ditch
(111)	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch [110] = (114)
[112]	Cut	1	Cut of a large pit
(113)	Deposit	1	Fill of pit [112]
(114)	Deposit	1	Fill of ditch [110] = (111)
[115]	Cut	2	Cut of NW-SE aligned ditch
(116)	Deposit	2	Fill of ditch [115] = (117)
(117)	Deposit	2	Fill of ditch [115] = (116)
[118]	Cut	2	Curvilinear ditch
(119)	Deposit	2	Fill of ditch [118] =(120)
(120)	Deposit	2	Fill of ditch [118] = (119)
[121]	Cut	2	Cut of short NW-SE ditch
(122)	Deposit	2	Fill of ditch [121]
[123]	Cut	2	Cut of narrow gully
(124)	Deposit	2	Fill of gully [123]
[125]	Cut	2	Cut of narrow gully
(126)	Deposit	2	Fill of gully [125]
(127)	Deposit	2	Subsoil/demo layer
(128)	Deposit	1	Slump layer on NW side of pit [112]
(300)	Deposit	3	Made ground
(301)	Deposit	3	Natural
[302]	Cut	3	Linear Ditch
(303)	Deposit	3	Fill of ditch [302]
(3000)	Deposit	3	Same as (300)
(3001)	Deposit	3	Same as (301)
{3002}	Structure	3	Brick wall foundation
{3003}	Structure	3	Timber plank
{3004}	Structure	3	Reinforced concrete foundation
(3005)	Cut	3	Cut for [3002]
(400)	Deposit	4	Road layer
(401)	Deposit	4	Road hard core
(402)	Deposit	4	Same as (301)
(403)	Deposit	4	Made ground
{404}	Structure	4	Drain
(405)	Cut	4	Cut for {404}



APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1; Area 1, looking north



Plate 2; Area 1, looking southeast





Plate 3; Ditch [110] – Area 1, looking northwest



Plate 4; Ditches [110] & [107] – Area 1, looking southwest





Plate 5; Ditch [102] – Area 1, looking northeast



Plate 6; Ditch [107] & Pit [112] – Area 1, looking southwest





Plate 7; Area 2, looking northeast



Plate 8; Area 2, looking southwest





Plate 9; Ditch [115] – Area 2, looking northwest



Plate 10; Ditch [118] – Area 2, looking west





Plate 11; Gullies [123] & [125] – Area 2, looking east



Plate 12; Ditch [121] – Area 2, looking northwest





Plate 13; Brick footing {104} – Area 1, looking southeast



APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



Figure 1: Site location.

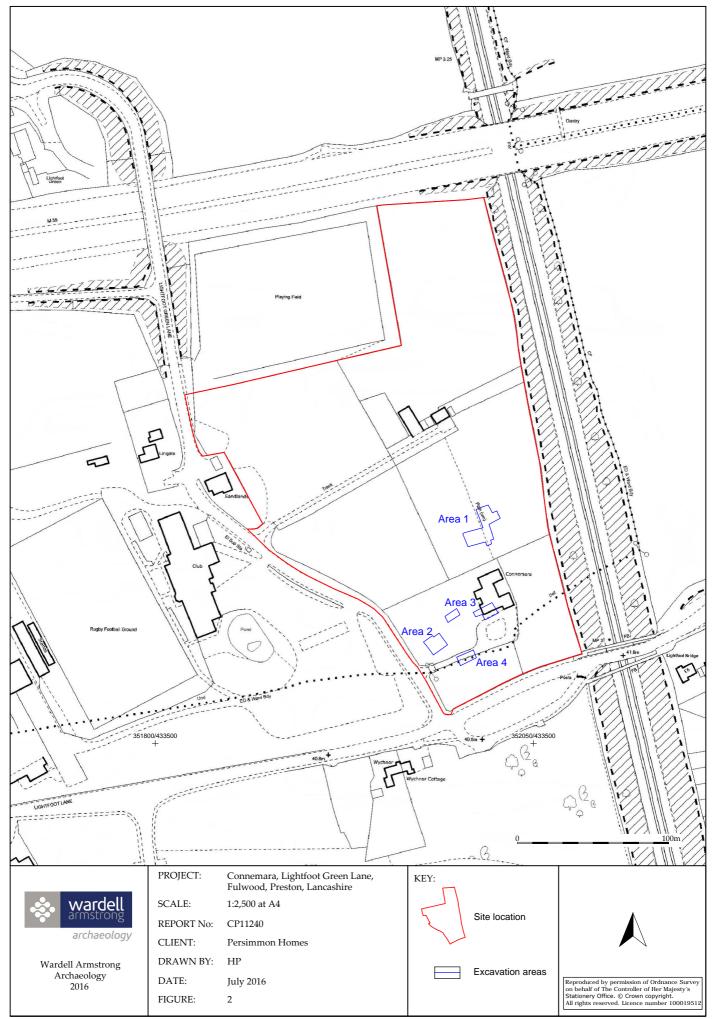


Figure 2: Detailed site location.



Figure 3: Yates' Map of Lancashire, 1786.

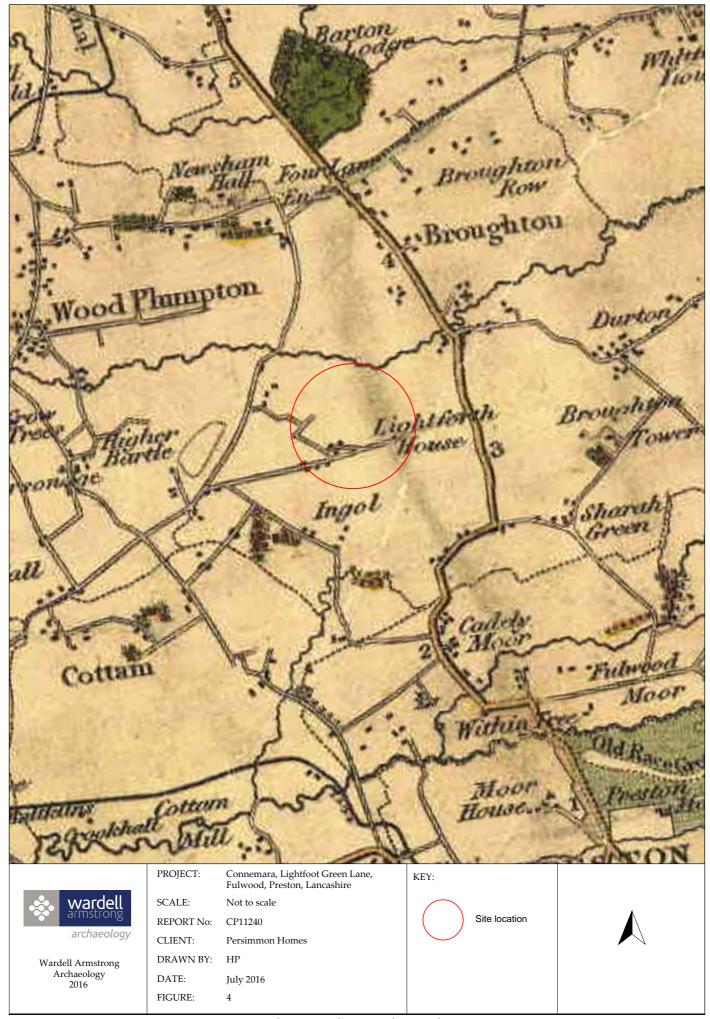


Figure 4: Greenwood's Map of Lancashire, 1818.

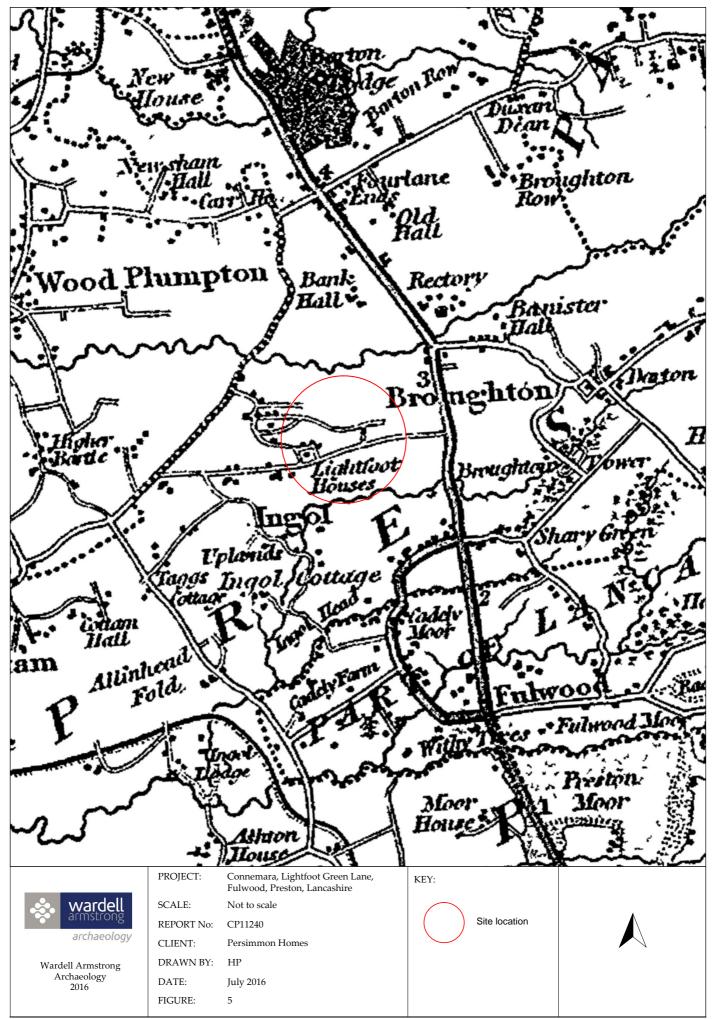


Figure 5: Hennet's Map of Lancashire, 1829.

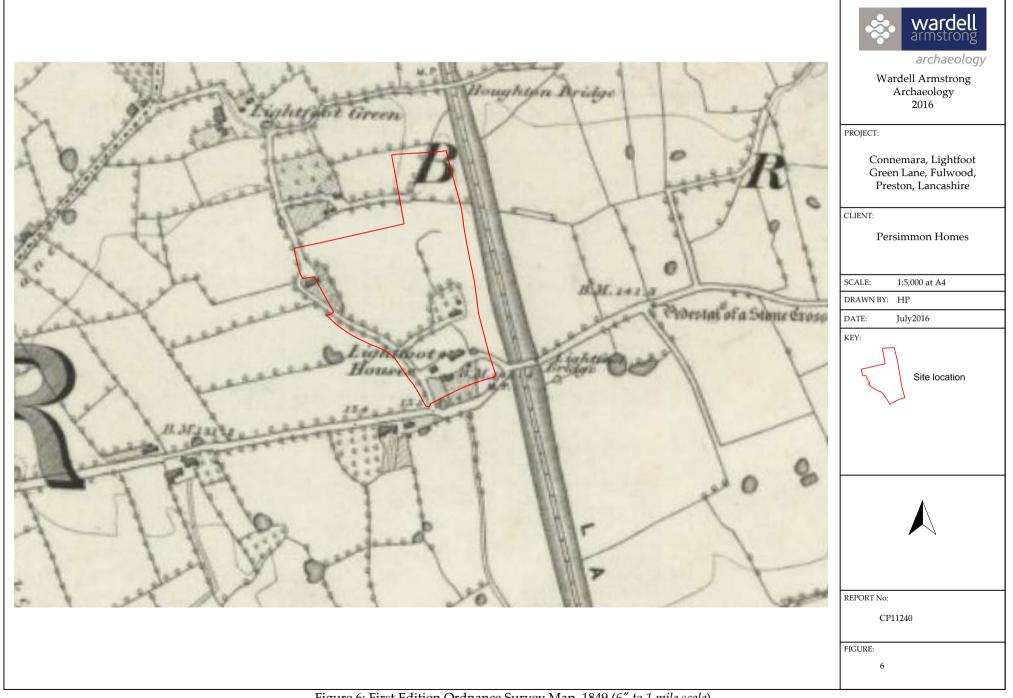


Figure 6: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1849 (6" to 1 mile scale).

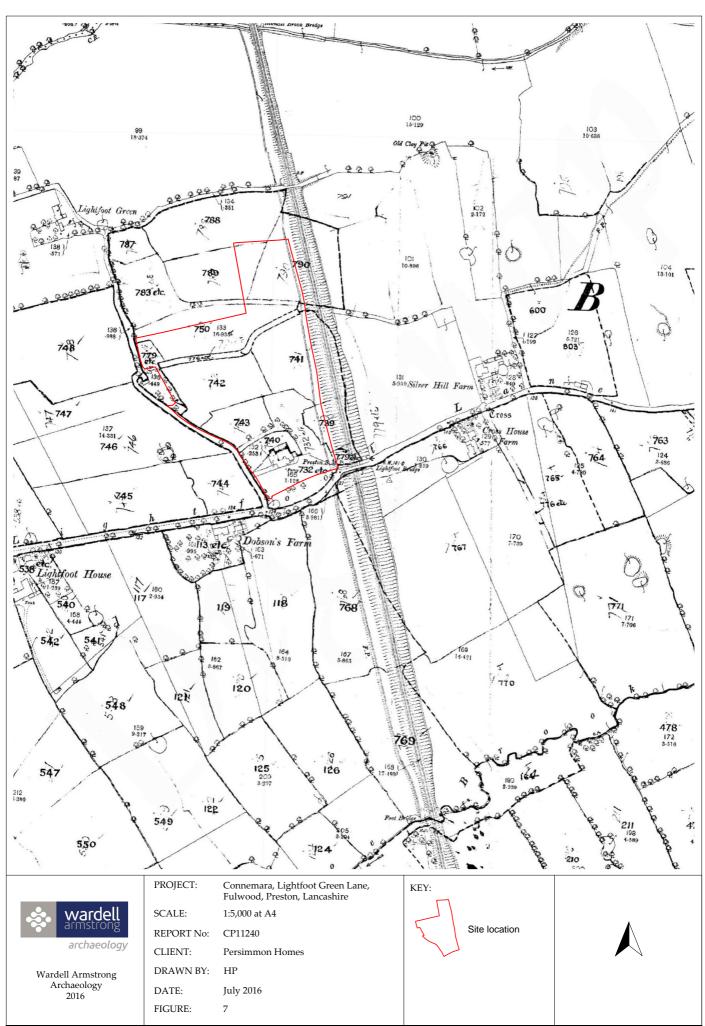


Figure 7: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1893 (25" to 1 mile scale).



Figure 8: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1895 (6" to 1 mile scale).

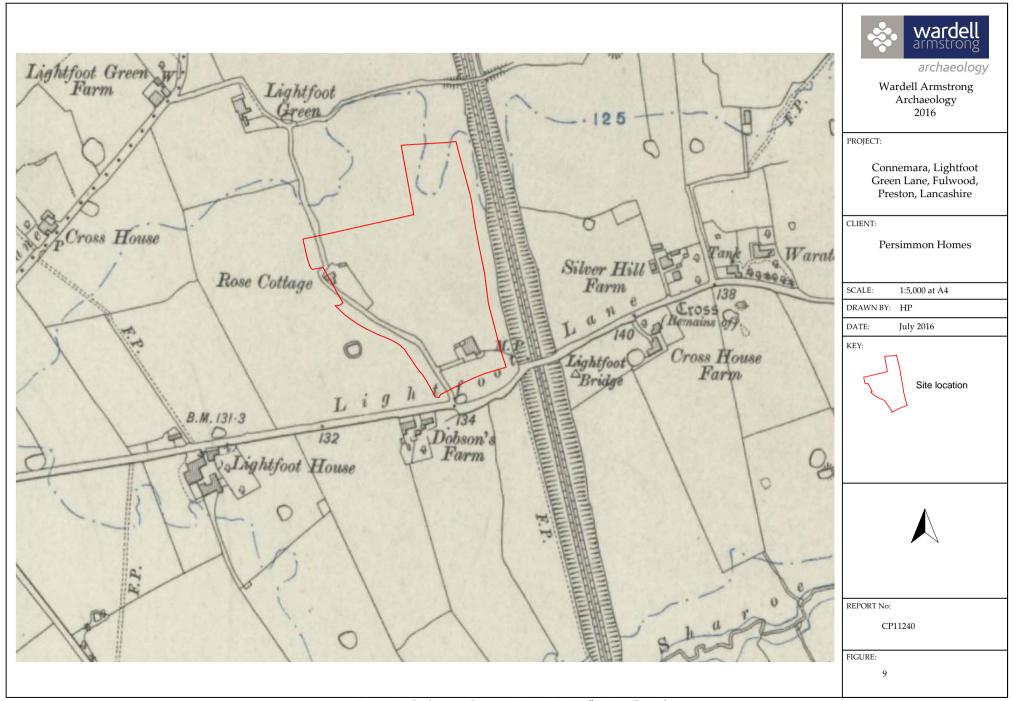


Figure 9: Ordnance Survey Map, 1913 (6" to 1 mile scale).

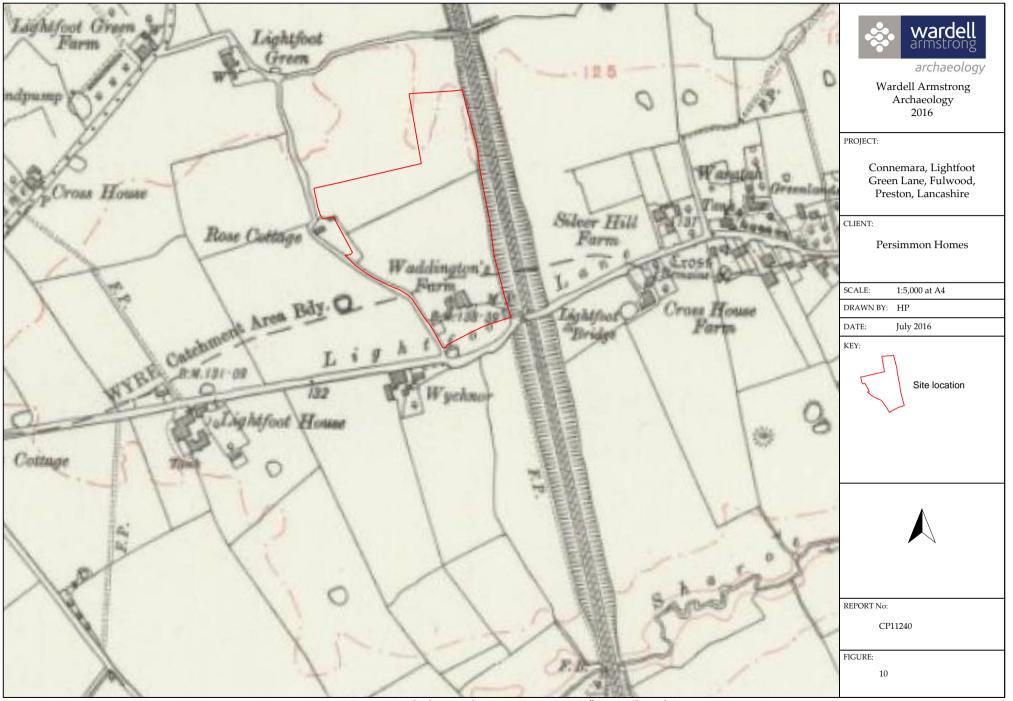


Figure 10: Ordnance Survey Map, 1933 (6" to 1 mile scale).

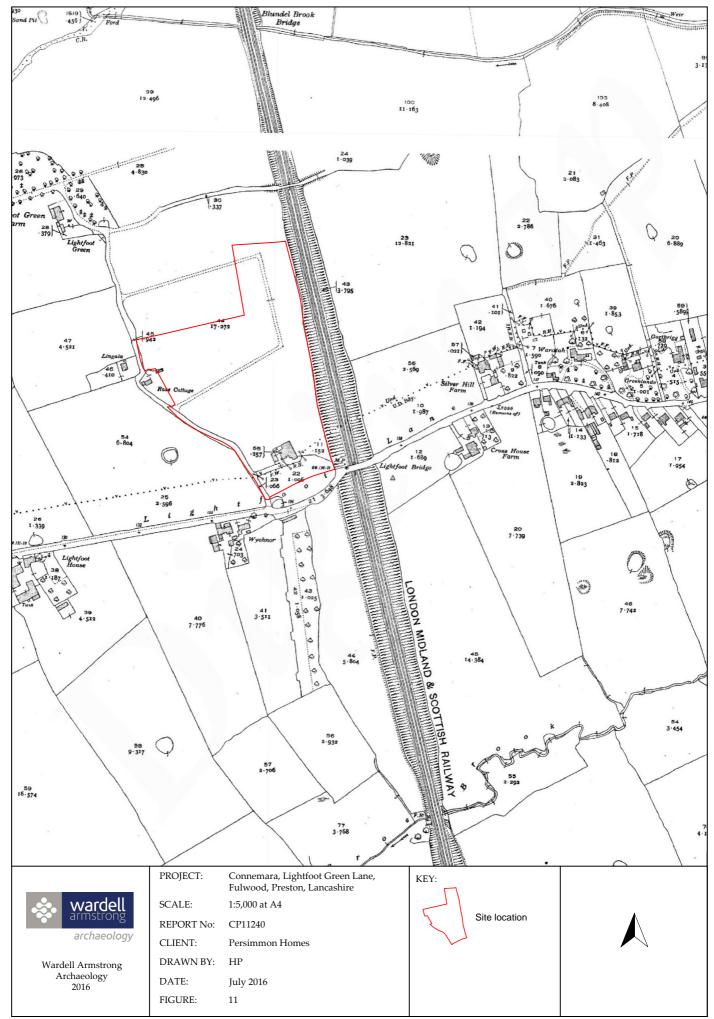


Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Map, 1938 (25" to 1 mile scale).

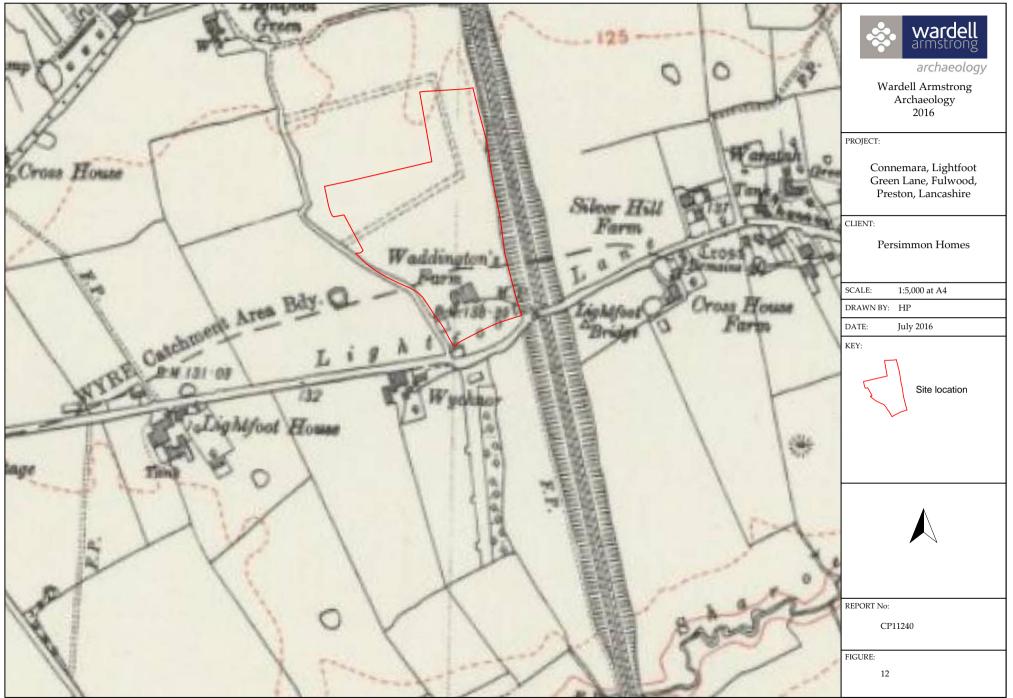


Figure 12: Ordnance Survey Map, 1947 (6" to 1 mile scale).

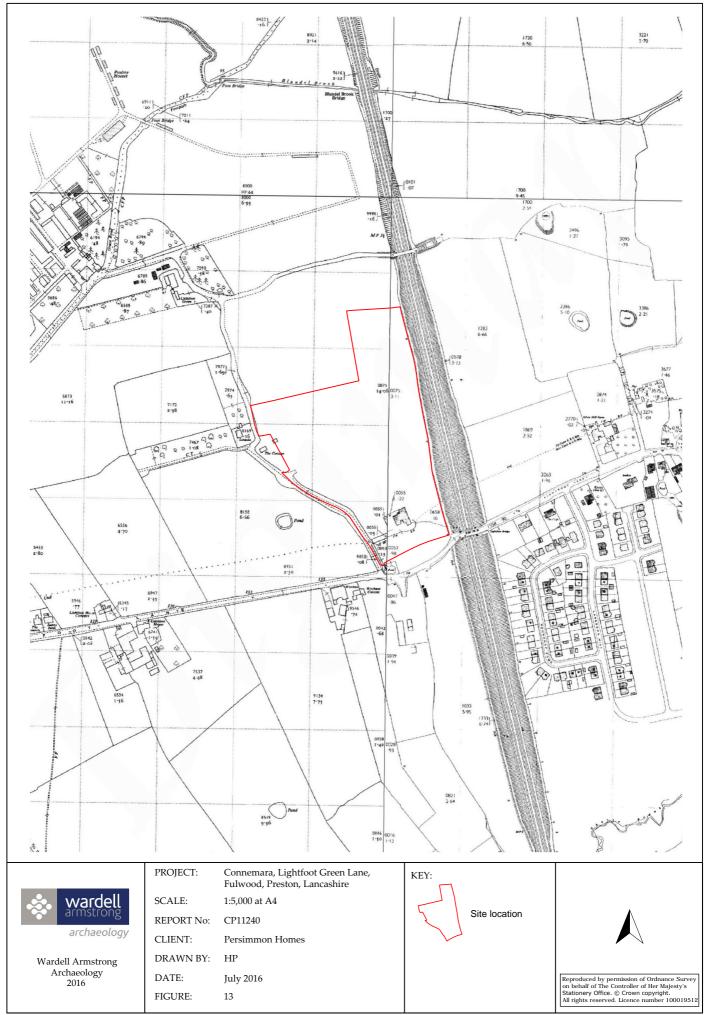


Figure 13: Ordnance Survey Map, 1969 (25" to 1 mile scale).

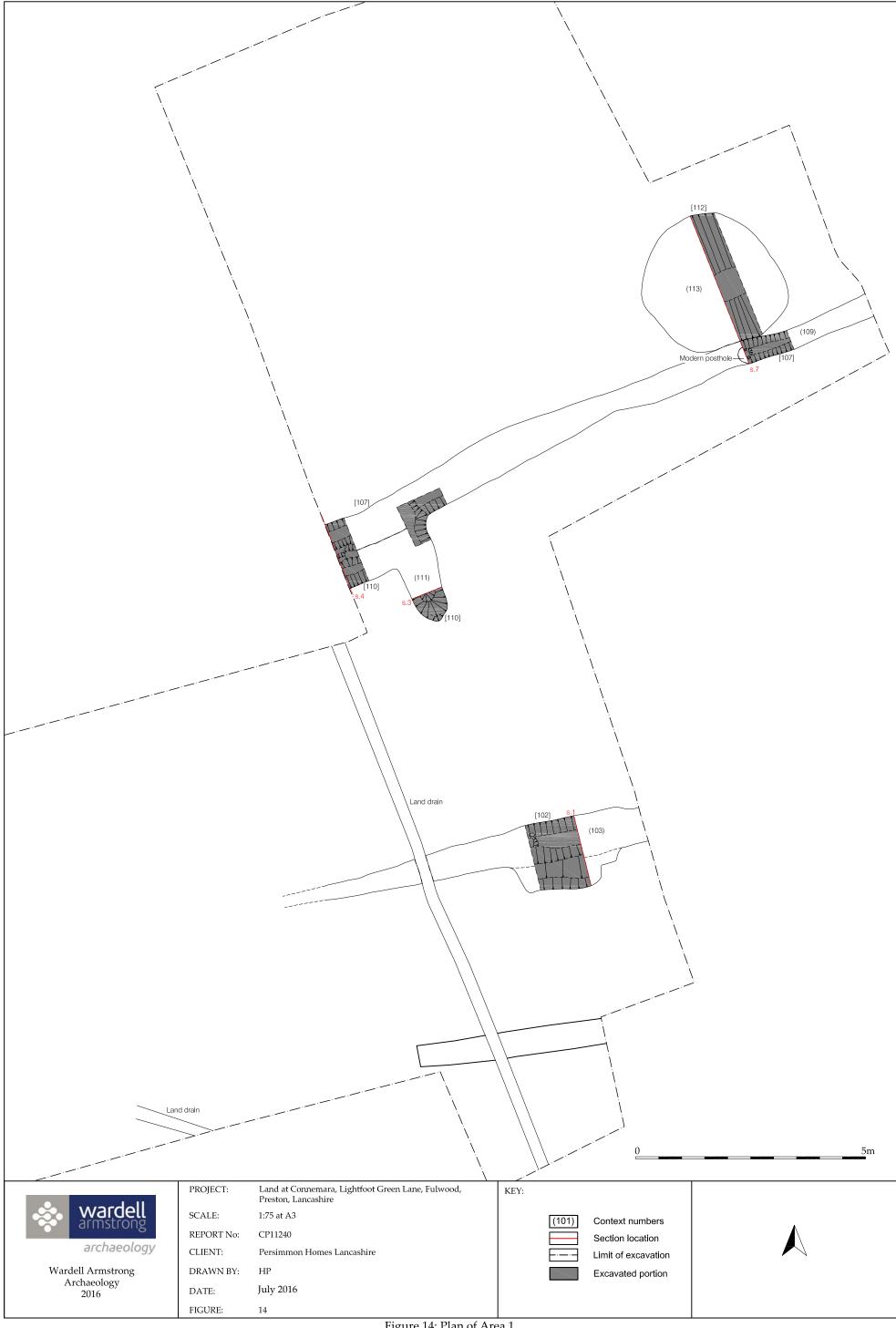


Figure 14: Plan of Area 1.

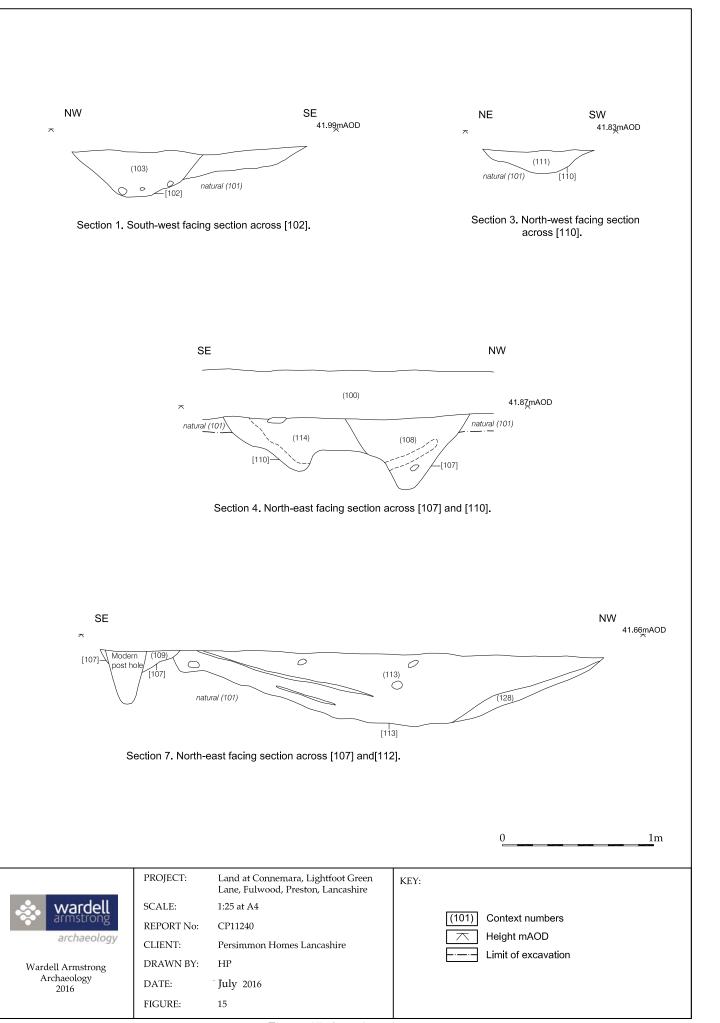


Figure 15: Area 1 sections.

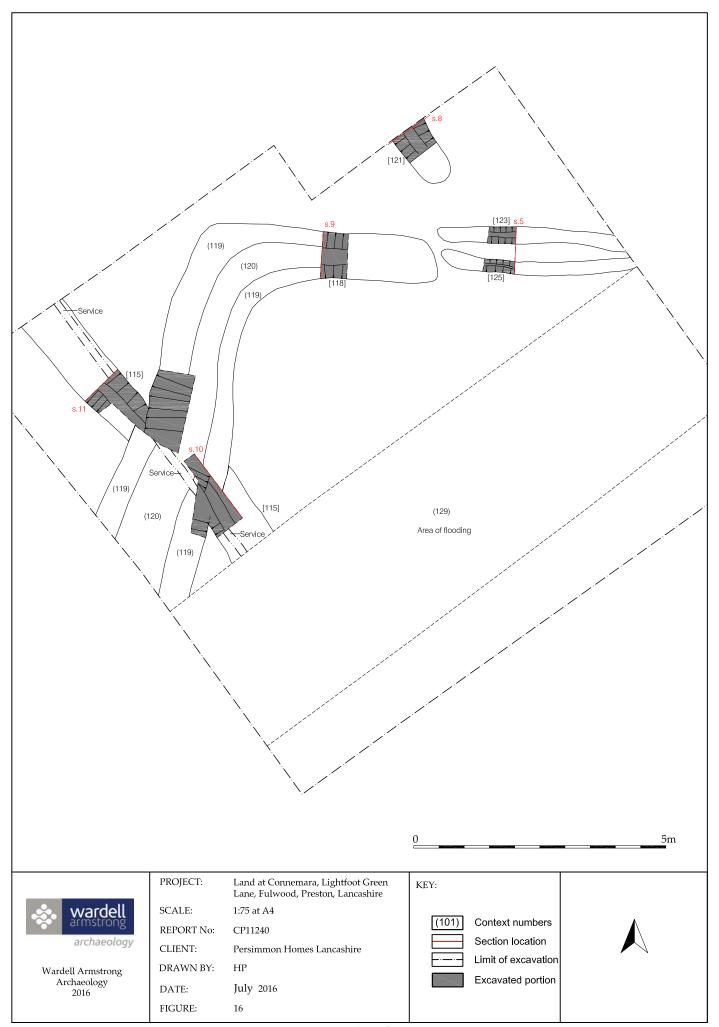
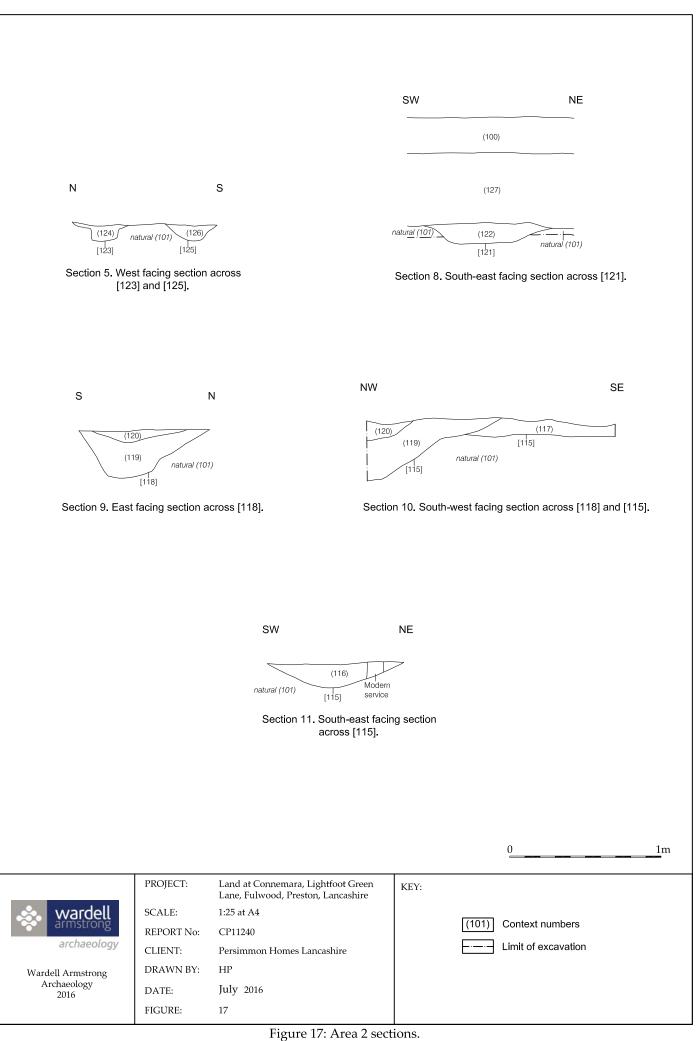


Figure 16: Plan of Area 2.



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