

TAYLOR WIMPEY

COMMON ROAD
NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS
MERSEYSIDE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

January 2017



Wardell Armstrong

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TAYLOR WIMPEY

Common Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



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SUMMARY

In 2016 Wardell Armstrong (WA) was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Common Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, WA12 9HA (NGR: SJ 56429 95529). The archaeological work was required to help inform a planning application for a residential development at the site. The trial trench evaluation followed a geophysical survey of the site, and was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in consultation with Doug Moir, Planning Archaeologist for Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS).

The archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken over four days between the 5th and 8th of December 2016, and comprised the excavation of three 30 x 1.8m trenches, totalling 162m² across targeted features within the proposed development site. The trenches were positioned over potential post-medieval activity relating to the former Newton-le-Willows racecourse, and geophysical anomalies.

Archaeological remains were identified in Trenches 1 and 2. These trenches contained the foundation wall remains and possible surfaces of the former grandstand of Newton Common Racecourse, which was demolished in the late 19th or early 20th century.



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Wardell Armstrong (WA) thanks Taylor Wimpey for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. WA also thank Doug Moir, Planning Archaeologist for Merseyside Environmental Advisory Services, for his assistance.

WA also thanks Jim and Pat Collier who provided the painting of the 1831 Lord of the Manor's Gold Cup race, and to Pickerings Plant Ltd., for their help during this project.

The evaluation was supervised by Kevin Horsley, who also wrote the report, assisted by Mark Lawson. The figures were produced by Adrian Bailey. Finds assessment was by Megan Stoakley. The project was managed by Martin Railton, who also edited the report.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 In December 2016 Wardell Armstrong (WA) undertook an archaeological evaluation at Common Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, WA12 9EZ (centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SJ 56429 95529). The work was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey, hereafter referred to as the Client, who seek to develop the land for housing for which planning consent has been applied for (Planning Application Ref: P/2016/0742/FUL).
- 1.1.2 An historic environment assessment was prepared by Wardell Armstrong in 2016 (WA 2016a). The assessment identified that the site may contain the below ground remains of two non-designated heritage assets, comprising Newton Common Racecourse (HER reference 5696-021) and its associated grandstand (HER reference 5695-014), the heritage significance of which may be affected by the application.

1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to advice provided by Doug Moir, Planning Archaeologist for Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS). The first stage of investigation comprised a geophysical survey of the proposed development area (WA 2016b). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was subsequently produced to provide a methodology for a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation (WA 2016c). This was approved by the planning archaeologist 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 scheme of archaeological evaluation.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2015a), and in accordance with the Wardell Armstrong excavation manual (WA 2016b).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field 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 An historic environment assessment was prepared by Wardell Armstrong in 2016 (WA 2016a). This report sets out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets up to 1km from the area of investigation.

2.3 The Field Evaluation

- 2.3.1 In 2016 a preliminary geophysical survey of the proposed development area was undertaken by Wardell Armstrong as part of the field evaluation (WA 2016b). No definitive evidence for the route of the racecourse was observed, although a number of linear anomalies were detected and interpreted as soil-filled features or land drains (Figure 2). Strong dipolar magnetic anomalies were also encountered to the north of the site which were believed to relate to significant deposits of fired/ferrous material in the topsoil.
- 2.3.2 The geophysical survey was followed by an evaluation which comprised the excavation of three trenches measuring 3m long and 1.8m wide across the proposed development area, that measured *c*.4.8ha. The trenches were placed to target the geophysical anomalies recorded (WA 2016b). This comprised two trenches positioned to the north-east of the site to target the location of a former grandstand, and a third trench to the south to investigate a series of linear anomalies. 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 establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to assess the impact of the application on the archaeological site;
- 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.

2.3.2 And specifically to:

- provide the LPA with appropriate information so that an informed decision can be made on the requirement for further mitigation.
- investigate and record potential buried archaeological remains of the grandstand in the northeast of the site
- investigate and record buried archaeological remains of the racecourse across the proposed development area
- 2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected and selected deposits were excavated by hand to retrieve artefactual material and environmental samples. Once completed all features were recorded according to the WA standard procedure as set out in the Wardell Armstrong Excavation Manual (WA 2017).
- 2.3.4 All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle 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 WA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site.
- 2.3.5 On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (*Ibid*). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - unstratified material;
 - modern pottery;



- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.
- 2.3.6 On completion the evaluation trenches were reinstated by replacing the excavated material in the reverse sequence of which it was excavated, with subsoil first followed by topsoil and compacted down. The excavated archaeological remains in Trench 1 and Trench 2 were protected with a layer of plastic sheeting.
- 2.3.7 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 Liverpool, with digital copies of the report sent to the Merseyside Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NLW-A, ST14727.
- 2.3.8 Wardell Armstrong 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 WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-272674.



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site is situated to the immediate west of Newton-le-Willows, bounded by Swan Road to the north and to the east by the rear of properties on Common Road. An area of allotments and woodland is present to the southeast, with further agricultural land to the west. The area is currently used as pasture for horses. The site is located at Ordnance Survey grid reference SJ 56429 95529. The area of investigation lies at a height of *c*.39m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) with the ground sloping down gently to the south-east.
- 3.1.2 The proposed development area is approximately 4.8 hectares in size and comprises a single large area of grassland, formerly enclosed by fences and hedgerows. These have since been removed or fallen into disrepair and the land is currently enclosed in part by temporary electric fences and used for grazing horses.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as sandstone of the Chester Pebble Beds Formation deposited during the Triassic Period approximately 246 to 251 million years ago. This is overlain by superficial Diamicton till deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017). The natural substrate observed during the current phase of works comprised clay and bands of sand which is consistent with the mapped geologies above.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 An historic environment assessment was produced by Wardell Armstrong which included a summary of the historical and archaeological background of the site (WA 2016a). It is not intended to repeat that information here, and what follows is a brief overview, for further details please refer to the original document.
- 3.2.2 This report identified that there were no designated heritage assets within the site boundary, however there are a two Grade I Listed Buildings and five Grade II Listed Buildings within the wider search area of 1km.
- 3.2.3 Two non-designated heritage assets are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site. Newton Common Racecourse (HER reference 5695-021) and its associated grandstand (HER reference 5695-014) are situated within the proposed development area and it was determined that the below ground remains of these would be impacted by the proposed scheme.



- 3.2.4 A site walkover was undertaken as part of the historic environment assessment. Earthworks potentially relating to the former racecourse were identified, as well as ridge and furrow elsewhere on the site. The historic environment assessment concluded that there was a reasonable likelihood that archaeological remains of postmedieval date may be present within the proposed development area.
- 3.2.5 **Prehistoric (up to c.AD 43)**: There were no prehistoric assets recorded within the proposed development site. However, three assets dating to the prehistoric period were identified within the wider search area. They included the possible remains of a chambered tumulus excavated in the late 19th century (HER reference 5595-012), a find spot relating to a stone artefact (HER reference 5696-011) and undated cropmarks potentially belonging to the Neolithic period (HER reference 5595-014).
- 3.2.6 Roman to Early Medieval (c.AD 43-c.AD 1066): No assets dating to the Roman or the early medieval period were identified, although there was undoubtedly settlement in the wider area with projected Roman roads only 2km east of the town. The traditional name of the town, 'Newton-in-Makerfield', possibly derives in part from the Cymric word 'maker' or 'magwyr', which means 'wall' or 'ruin'.
- 3.2.7 *Medieval (c.AD 1066-c.1485):* Ten heritage assets were identified in the search area as relating to the agricultural development of the land in the medieval period, including field systems (HER references 5596-015, 5796-012), farmhouses (HER references 5695-003), bridges and other transport links (HER references 5694-009, 5694-011, 5694-010, 5695-017, 5795-028) and the former Bruche Hall (HER reference 5696-001) demolished in 1896.
- 3.2.8 The settlement of Newton-le-Willows was initially developed to serve the agricultural community in the surrounding area and an area of common land was demarcated on the western fringe of the town for the populace to have the right to graze their livestock (HER reference 5595-014). The earliest reference for this is in 1292, when William del Hey was recorded as defending the common pasture (Philpott 1988, 10).
- 3.2.9 **Post-Medieval to Modern (c.AD 1485-present):** There were a large number of heritage assets identified dating from this period, demonstrating the growth in importance of the area. However, of the 78 recorded heritage assets, a large proportion of these are buildings that have since been demolished.
- 3.2.10 In the 18th century, the piecemeal enclosure of Newton Common occurred including the construction of a croft, a school and eventually the racecourse.



- 3.2.11 The racecourse had been established by 1680 although this earlier course fell into disuse between 1816 and 1825. Racing then resumed upon a revived racecourse with the construction of a grandstand (Plate 1). This was described as "handsome and convenient" (Slater 1851, 395) with a railway to the east to convey racegoers. Races continued here at Newton Common until the early 20th century before being transferred to Haydock Park.
- 3.2.12 Map regression of the site indicates that by the time of the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907, the racecourse was disused and the grandstand was no longer visible. Later mapping indicates the subsequent enclosure of this part of the Common.

3.3 **Previous Archaeological Work**

3.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken approximately 420m to the southeast of the present site in 2011, but no archaeological deposits were observed (North Pennines Archaeology 2011).



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The trial trench evaluation was undertaken between the 5th and 8th of December 2016, with three trenches excavated across the proposed development area (Figure 2). The trenches were placed to target geophysical anomalies recorded during the geophysical survey (WA 2016b) and to target the possible remains of the former grandstand.
- 4.1.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned to the north and northeast of the site, where the former grandstand of the racecourse stood. Trench 3 was located *c*.120m to the south to investigate a series of linear features detected in the geophysical survey. A small loosely constructed brick structure with associated ceramic drains were identified in Trench 1. In Trench 2, a series of walls and possible surfaces were identified. Trench 3 contained a number of land drains.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 A layer of *c*.0.23m-deep loose dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil, overlay a further *c*.0.24m of soft mid brownish grey sandy clay subsoil, which was removed from each trench in order to reveal archaeological horizons and the natural substrate. The natural geology (101), (201) and (301), was found to be similar across the site and was a firm yellowish red clay with occasional bands of sand and frequent small pebbles. The maximum height of the geology ranged from 38.23m aOD in the northeast end of Trench 2, to 32.34m aOD in the west-southwest end of Trench 3, sloping gently from the north to the southwest.
- 4.2.2 Trench 1 was situated to the north of the site, located approximately 85m west of the northeast corner of the proposed development area, immediately south of Swan Road (Figure 3, Plate 2). It was positioned to the west of an area of significant magnetic 'noise' identified in the geophysical survey (WA 2016d, 8) where the western end of the former grandstand was thought to be situated. The trench was aligned northeast to southwest and was 30m long and 1.8m wide.
- 4.2.3 The trench revealed a small brick structure **{103}** and two lines of possibly associated ceramic drains, set into and surrounded by a redeposited clay **(104)**. The brick structure (Plate 3) comprised two courses of handmade bricks in a random brick bond, a brick and half wide, very loosely consolidated with a lime mortar and sand mix. First observed at a height of 36.55m aOD, it extended out of the north-west facing section of the trench in an east to west orientation for 1m, being 0.44m wide. The bricks



measured an average of 240x110x70mm in size. Two large ceramic drains, orientated north to south, were immediately north of **{103}**. They were in very poor condition and set into the redeposited clay **(104)** layer. One drain appeared to butt the north face of the brick feature, though the function of this could not be determined.

- 4.2.4 A further three linear features were observed to the southwest of the trench and determined to be land drains cut into the natural substrate (101).
- 4.2.5 **Trench 2** was situated in the northeast corner of the proposed development area, running parallel to Trench 1 (Figure 3 and 4). The trench was aligned northeast to southwest and was 30m long and 1.8m wide. In total five walls were observed within the trench, which are divided below in three distinct groups, in order to better describe their stratigraphic relationships.
- 4.2.6 At the north end of the trench, topsoil and subsoil were removed to reveal a thin moderately compacted layer of crushed brick fragments and mortar (206), first observed at a height of 38.55m aOD. This demolition layer sealed packing fill (208), which was a dark grey coarse sandy clay, around wall {209}. The wall had been constructed within a linear cut [207], with vertical sides.
- 4.2.7 The wall **{209}** was aligned northwest to southeast and first observed at 38.45m aOD, standing at a height of 0.30m and with a width of 1.18m (Plate 4). This thick foundation wall had been badly truncated and damaged from later ploughing, however it comprised up to three courses of handmade bricks in a simple stretcher bond, with mid grey coarse sandy lime mortar bonding. The southwest face of this wall had traces of plastering.
- 4.2.8 The cut for this wall [207] truncated several deposits to the north of the wall to reach the underlying geology upon which it was constructed, including a possible surface of compacted dark reddish brown coarse sand (203), which overlay a possible construction layer of crushed brick (204), followed by a redeposited layer of mid grey fine sand (205). To the south of the wall, cut [207] truncated a single sand deposit (210), which is probably the same as (205).
- 4.2.9 The cut **[211]** for a drain ran parallel to the base of wall and it can be presumed that it was constructed soon after the wall (Plate 4). The drain backfill **(212)** contained a single sherd of pottery dating to the late 19th century.



- 4.2.10 Immediately to the south the drain cut a moderately compact, mid yellowish-grey sandy clay (214), and a fine grey sand (213), were probably the same foundations deposits as (205) and (210).
- 4.2.11 Demolition layer (219) was revealed approximately 1.20m to the south of drain [211]/(212) and was first observed at a height of 38.49m aOD, sealing at least three further walls, comprising walls {222} and {223} and the northern end of {229}. The demolition layer continued southwards as (231), overlying walls {229} and {230}.
- 4.2.12 Demolition layer **(219)** was seen to overly another distinct layer **(218)**, which is probably a packing or construction layer within an unseen cut for wall **(222)**. This was overlying a redeposited sandy clay deposit **(217)**, which again may be part of the construction layers relating to wall **(222)**. Wall **(222)** was first observed at a height of 38.37m aOD and was entirely within the northwest facing trench section (Plate 5). It was aligned northeast to southwest and running northeast of wall **(223)** which it joined. It comprised seven courses of handmade bricks (similar in dimension to those found in Trench 1) in a stretcher bond with a light grey lime mortar bonding measuring an observable length of 0.98m and to a depth of 0.54m.
- 4.2.13 Of identical construction, wall **{223}** was aligned northwest to southeast, to a height of three courses and was three bricks thick with a width of 0.90m, first being observed at 38.07m aOD (Plate 5). Wall **{223}** was within cut **[220]**, which had then been packed with a soft, mid reddish brown clay **(221)**. It should also be noted that immediately north of both these walls, and cutting deposit **(217)**, was another cut **[215]**, filled by a compact, dark grey clayey coarse sand **(216)**. This is probably the truncated end of a cut for another unseen wall.
- 4.2.14 A shallow linear feature [225] was observed in the northwest facing section of the trench to the south of these walls, measuring 1.62m wide with a maximum depth of 0.28m and filled by a loose dark greyish gravelly silt (226). Both this feature and wall {223} were cut into redeposited dark grey sandy clay (224). This sandy clay contained a single sherd of pot probably dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 4.2.15 Towards the southwest end of the trench were a further two walls {229} and {230}, and a possible surface (239)/(240) (Plate 6). Also cutting deposit (224), immediately south of shallow linear feature [225] which it is also truncated by, was wall cut [227] containing wall {229} and packing fill (228) which was a loose, light orangey brown sand.



- 4.2.16 Wall **{229}** was first observed at a height of 38.17m aOD, and was aligned northwest to southeast, parallel with wall **{223}** and constructed in an almost identical manner, being up to five courses high and three bricks thick, measuring 0.78m wide. Adjoining this was wall **{230}** running northeast to southwest out of the northwest facing trench section, likewise parallel to wall **{222}**. Wall **{230}** was narrower, being only two bricks thick, though constructed of identical materials as the previous walls.
- 4.2.17 In addition to the demolition material (231) observed sealing wall {230} towards the south end of the trench, were a further two deposits which could be described as relating to the construction of this wall. Deposit (233) was a loose mid reddish yellow fine sand first observed at a height of 38.23m aOD overlying crushed brick and mortar (235). These and wall {230} were within wall cut [234]. This linear wall cut was observed to be cutting several deposits. A loose mid reddish brown sandy deposit (238) was overlying a thin band of silty coarse sand and gravel (237) and a midyellowish brown clay (236).
- 4.2.18 To the south and east of walls **{229}** and **{230}** respectively, were deposits relating to a possible surface. Directly sealed by demolition layer **(231)**, was a thin firm mid yellowish brown clay **(239)** overlying a metalled, heavily compacted dark grey gravel **(240)**, first observed at a maximum height of 37.88m aOD.
- 4.2.19 **Trench 3** was situated approximately 120m south of Trench 1 and was positioned to target linear anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. The trench was aligned east-northeast to west-southwest and was 30m long and 1.8m wide. A significant level of groundwater was present in this trench.
- 4.2.20 Several linear features were identified and determined to be three land drains and the results of roots from a possible former hedgerow. No archaeology was observed in this trench.

4.3 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling

- 4.3.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the contexts in Trenches 1 and 2 and an assessment of these artefacts follows in Section 5 of this report. No finds were recovered from Trench 3.
- 4.3.2 No environmental samples were retained during the evaluation.



5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 29 artefacts, weighing 12406g, were recovered from seven stratified deposits.
- 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 boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011) and EAC (2014).
- 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. Quantification of bulk finds by material and context is visible in Table 1 below.

Tr No	Context	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Comments
1	100	СВМ	1	1321	Mod	Partial brick, frogged, grey-black
1	103	СВМ	1	3600	PM	Complete brick, handmade
2	209	СВМ	1	3419	PM	Almost complete brick, handmade
2	230	СВМ	1	3600	PM	Complete brick, handmade
2	u/s	СВМ	1	35	PM	Land-drain fragment
1	100	Ceramic	5	69	PM	Transfer Print plate (2 vessels) x 5, 1 x CRE
2	212	Ceramic	1	4	PM	Transfer print
2	224	Ceramic	1	4	PM	Refined white earthenware
2	u/s	Ceramic	6	10	PM-Mod	Transfer print, white earthenware, Porcelain
1	100	Clay Pipe	2	5	PM	1.51, 1.86
2	u/s	Clay Pipe	2	2	PM	1.87, 1.69
1	u/s	Clay Pipe	2	7	PM	1.50, 1.94
1	100	Glass	1	321	PM-Mod	1 x complete clear sauce bottle, 1 x partial bottle: 'iam E GoodwinLiverpool' - 19th C
1	103	Glass	3	8	PM	Bottle glass
2	u/s	Glass	1	1	PM	Window glass?
TOTAL			29	12406		

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Material



5.2 Post-medieval to Modern Ceramics

- 5.2.1 A total of 13 sherds of post-medieval to modern ceramics, weighing 87g, were recovered from four deposits (Table 1). The sherds are in good condition and show little evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.2.2 Fabric types comprise Porcelain, refined white earthenware (Transfer Print) and a single sherd of Buckley-type coarse red earthenware. Vessel types include large jars/bowls, a plate and a cup.
- 5.2.3 A date of late 19th to 20th century has been assigned to this assemblage. No further analysis is warranted.

5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 5.3.1 Six fragments of plain clay tobacco pipe stem, weighing 14g, were recovered from two deposits (Table 1). The fragments are in good condition and show little evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.3.2 An approximate date range can be provided by measuring the internal stem diameters of the stem fragments (Table 2). The internal stem diameters range from 1.50mm to 1.94mm, giving a tentative date range of 1720 to 1800.
- 5.3.3 No further analysis is warranted.

Stem-Hole Ø (in/XX)	Conversion (mm) 1 inch = 25.4mm 1/64 (inch) = 0.4mm	Dates
9/64	9 x 0.4mm = 3.6	1590 – 1620
8/64	8 x 0.4mm = 3.2	1620 – 1650
7/64	7 x 0.4mm = 2.8	1650 – 1680
6/64	6 x 0.4mm = 2.4	1680 – 1720
5/64	5 x 0.4mm = 2	1720 – 1750
4/64	4 x 0.4mm = 1.6	1750 - 1800

Table 2: Binford's Pipestem Chronology (Kipfer 2008, 8)

5.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.4.1 The artefacts comprise three almost-complete and complete, hand-made bricks in a coarse, mid-orange fabric. A grey-black, hard-fired, partial brick fragment was recovered from deposit (100) and a land-drain fragment was recovered from an unstratified deposit in Trench 2.



5.4.2 A date of 18th to 20th century has been attributed to these fragments. No further analysis is warranted.

5.5 **Glass**

- 5.5.1 Five fragments of post-medieval to modern bottle and window glass, weighing 330g, were recovered from three deposits (Table 1). The artefacts are in moderate to good condition and show some evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.5.2 The fragments comprise three shards of 19th century bottle glass, a small sliver of window glass and two bottles; one comprises a complete, clear glass sauce bottle and the other comprises a partial sauce/drink bottle with the following mark: '...IAM.E.GOODWIN LIVERPOOL' on the front. The mark is possibly 'William E Goodwin', a bottle manufacturers local to Liverpool.
- 5.5.1 A date of 19th to 20th century is appropriate for this assemblage. No further analysis is warranted.

5.6 **Statement of Potential**

- 5.6.1 While the small finds assemblage provides evidence of post-medieval activity on the site and / or in its environs, the finds assemblage is of low archaeological potential.
- 5.6.2 It is recommended that the finds are not retained with the archive.



6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 **Interpretation**

- 6.1.1 Archaeological remains were found in two of the three trenches, concentrated in the northeast of the site. The data recovered indicated past activity on the site dating from the post-medieval period, represented by the brick wall foundations and possible surfaces supported by artefacts dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries. The remains probably belong to the known former grandstand associated with Newton Common Racecourse.
- 6.1.2 Substantial foundation wall remains, thought to belong to the former grandstand, comprising handmade bricks and lime mortar were observed, particularly in Trench 2. The survival of the walls were fairly good, however, the northernmost wall was observed close to the surface and had suffered visible plough damage. A representative sample of bricks were recovered from the walls encountered from Trenches 1 and 2, and together they indicate that the bricks were all handmade and near identical across the entirety of the structure. This would perhaps indicate all of the walls of the grandstand observed were constructed at the same time.
- 6.1.3 Much of the artefactual data was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. However, occasional finds were recovered from discreet deposits. Two sherds of refined white earthenware were identified, one from the backfill of the drain installed parallel to the northernmost wall, and a second sherd from the redeposited clay into which the southernmost walls had been constructed in Trench 2. A general date of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were determined for both these sherds. It is possible that this indicates these features were slightly later additions or extensions of the grandstand. Supporting the possible differing construction dates is the markedly different packing material around the various walls. The appearance of the northernmost wall at a higher level only represents the construction of the grandstand on a slope, and does not give way to supporting an earlier, or even later, build.
- 6.1.4 Within the southernmost walls a possible surface was also recorded, where a metalled gravel surface had been sealed with a thin clay layer. It is hypothesised that the clay may once have supported a tiled floor removed in demolition of the grandstand. A thin gravel layer recorded in section immediately north of the northernmost wall, was probably an external surface leading up to the rear of the grandstand.
- 6.1.5 Not enough of the brick structure recorded in Trench 1 was seen to fully determine its function. It is probably an end wall to the west end of the grandstand, narrower and



therefore belonging to a smaller and less substantial section of the stands. The loose nature of the bricks indicates that it was damaged in the process of demolition.

6.2 **Statement of Potential**

6.2.1 The below ground remains of the former grandstand were found to be substantial. Combined with the earthwork remains noted elsewhere in the north part of the proposed development site, there is the high potential that these wall foundations survive elsewhere across the northern part of the site.



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Minimum Depth: 0.41m Maximum Depth: 1.0m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(100)	Topsoil	Loose, dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0.23m	Topsoil topped with cropped grass pasture and disturbed by rooting. Brick fragments and modern debris found throughout.
(101)	Natural	Compact, mid yellowish red clay.	-	Occasional bands of clayey sand through clay substrate, and very occasional small pebbles throughout.
(102)	Subsoil	Moderately compact, mid brownish grey sandy clay.	0.29m	Subsoil observed throughout trench.
{103}	Wall	Brick wall foundation comprising two courses of handmade bricks in a random brick bond, loosely bonded with lime mortar and sand, extending 1m in length and 0.44m wide to an unknown maximum depth.	-	Possible foundation wall located towards the northeast end of the trench within a redeposited clay (104) with possible associations with clay drainage pipes.
(104)	Deposit	Firm, mid yellowish brown clay, containing occasional CBM fragments and charcoal flecks throughout.	-	Redeposited clay natural used as probable levelling layer for and around wall foundation {103}.

Trench 2

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: NE-SW

Minimum Depth: 0.40m Maximum Depth: 1.20m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
(200)	Topsoil	Loose, dark greyish brown clayey silt.	0.23m	Topsoil topped with cropped grass pasture and disturbed by rooting. Brick fragments and modern debris found throughout.
(201)	Natural	Compact, mid yellowish red clay with bands of sand throughout	-	Occasional bands of clayey sand through clay substrate, and very



				occasional small pebbles
				throughout.
		Moderately compact, mid	0.29m	Subsoil observed
(202)	Subsoil	brownish grey sandy silty clay.	0.23111	throughout trench.
		ciay.	0.08m	Compacted coarse sand
		Heavily compact, dark	0.00111	layer. Possible surface
(203)	Deposit	reddish brown silty coarse		relating to construction
(200)	Берозіс	sand.		phase of structure. Possibly
				same as (237).
		Moderately compact dark	0.26m	Construction phase layer
		grey and orange, with		comprising rubble and
(204)	Deposit	frequent CBM and brick		waste material found
(204)	Deposit	fragements and post-		north-east of structure
		medieval and modern		
		waste material.		
		Compact, friable mid grey	0.24m	Redeposited sand layer.
(205)	Deposit	fine sand with occasional		Probably the same material
(===)		small CBM fragments and		as (210), (213) and (217).
		charcoal flecks throughout		
		Moderately compact, mid	0.11m	Layer probably associated
(200)	Damasit	yellowish grey and orange		with the demolition phase
(206)	Deposit	sandy mortar and brick		of the structure, found to the north-east of the
		fragments.		structure.
		Linear cut aligned NW-SE,	0.30m	Cut for wall {209} through
		measuring at least 1.8m in	0.30111	deposits (203) and (214)
		length and 1.18m in width		and backfilled with (208).
		to a maximum depth of		and backing with (200).
[207]	Cut	0.30m. A sharp top break		
		of slope into vertical sides,		
		a sharp break of slope		
		onto a roughly flat base.		
		Moderately compact dark	0.30m	Backfill around wall {209}
		grey coarse sandy clay,		within wall cut [207].
(208)	Fill	with frequent brick		
		fragments and charcoal		
		flecks throughout. Handmade brick wall	0.20***	Mallalianad NIM/CE
		aligned NW-SE, comprising	0.30m	Wall aligned NW-SE observed to the north-east
		at least three courses, laid		of the trench and possibly
		stretcher on bed and		represents the
		bonded with mid grey		northernmost limits of the
{209}	Wall	sandy lime mortar, with a		structure.
		total width of 1.18m and		
		an observable length of		
		1.80m, to a maximum		
		depth of 0.30m		
		Compact, friable mid grey	0.18m	Redeposited sand layer
(240)	De ::- : ''	fine sand with occasional		immediately SW of wall
(210)	Deposit	CBM fragments and		{209}. Probably the same
		occasional charcoal flecks.		material as (205), (213) and (217).
		Linear cut aligned NW-SE,	0.42m	Cut for drain running
[211]	Cut	measuring at least 1.8m in	V.→2111	parallel to wall {209} and
	1			, to (200) and



		length and 0.36m in width to a maximum depth of 0.42m. A shapr top break of slope into vertical sides with an unknown base.		immediately south of it, truncating wall cut [207].
(212)	Fill	Moderately compact, dark yellowish grey coarse sand and silt bands, with CBM fragments and charcoal flecks and fragments noted throughout.	0.42m	Fill of drain cut [211], including ceramic drain. Ceramic drain comprises yellowish fabric, glazed in a dark brown slip.
(213)	Deposit	Compact, friable mid grey fine sand with very occasional CBM fragments and charcoal flecks.	0.18m	Redeposited sand layer. Probably the same material as (205), (210) and (217).
(214)	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay with occasional brick and CBM fragments, and charcoal flecks.	0.26m	Redeposited natural layer of sand and clay.
[215]	Cut	Roughly square cut feature of unknown function, measuring 0.88m in width to a maximum depth of 0.74m. Sharp top break of slope into near vertical sides, and then a sharp break of slope into a shallow rounded base.	0.74m	Roughly square feature, possibly relating to an unseen wall, only visible in NW-facing section of trench.
(216)	Fill	Moderately compact, dark grey clayey coarse sand with frequent brick fragments, mortar and charcoal fragments.	0.74m	Fill of cut [215].
(217)	Deposit	Moderately compact, mid yellowish grey fine sandy clay with occasional bricks and charcoal flecks.	0.22m	Redeposited sand layer. Probably the same material as (205), (210) and (213).
(218)	Deposit	Moderately compact, light yellowish grey and mid orange sandy lime mortar and brick fragments.	0.18m	Demolition layer, extending north of wall {222}.
(219)	Deposit	Loose light brownish grey and mid orange lime mortar and brick fragments.	0.30m	Demolition layer, overlying thicker demolition layer (218) and extending across walls {222} and {223}.
[220]	Cut	Linear cut aligned NW-SE, measuring a visible 1.80m in length and 1.14m in width to a maximum depth of 0.10m. Sharp top break of slope into vertical sides and unknown base.	0.10m	Cut for wall {223} and with possible associations with wall {222}.



(221)	Fill	Soft, mid reddish brown clay.	0.10m	Packing clay around wall {223} within cut [220].
{222}	Wall	Handmade brick wall aligned NE-SW comprising at least seven courses of handmade bricks, laid stretcher on bed with a lime mortar bonding, measuring an observable length of 0.98m to a maximum depth of 0.54m.	0.54m	Wall aligned NE-SW, observed entirely within the NW-facing trench section butting wall {223} and running north-west of it.
{223}	Wall	Handmade brick wall aligned NW-SE comprising three courses of bricks, with stretchers laid on bed with lime mortar bonding, measuring an observable length of 1.80m and 0.90m in width with a maximum depth of 0.24m	0.24m	Wall aligned NW-SE, butting wall {222}, within cut [220] and packed with clay (221).
(224)	Deposit	Soft, dark grey sandy clay with frequent small stones and occasional flecks of charcoal.	0.32m	Redeposited sandy clay, truncated by wall cuts [220] and [227].
[225]	Cut	Linear cut aligned NW-SE, measuring 1.62m in width to a maximum depth of 0.24m. Gradual top break of slope into shallow concave sides and imperceptible break of slope to the base.	0.24m	Shallow linear cut, possibly associated with wall {229}.
(226)	Deposit	Loose, dark greyish gravelly silt.	0.24m	Fill of [225].
[227]	Cut	Linear cut aligned NW-SE, measuring an observable length of 1.80m and 0.95m in width to a maximum depth of 0.28m. Sharp top break of slope into vertical sides and an unknown base.	0.28m	Cut for wall {229}.
(228)	Fill	Loose light orangey brown coarse sand with frequent small stones. Handmade brick wall aligned NW-SE comprising	0.28m 0.08m	Packing material around wall {229} within cut [227]. Wall aligned NW-SE, located towards the south-
{229}	Wall	up to five courses in height, laid stretcher on bed and bonded with lime mortar, measuring 1.80m in length, 0.78m in width and a maximum depth of 0.08m.		west end of the trench and butting wall {230}.



{230}	Wall	Handmade brick wall aligned NE-SW comprising three courses, laid stretcher on bed and bonded with lime mortar, measuring an observable 7.60m in length and 0.48m in width to a maximum depth of 0.52m.	0.52m	Wall aligned NE-SW, butting wall {229}.
(231)	Deposit	Loose light orangey grey crushed brick and mortar.	0.32m	Demolition layer. Probably same as (235).
(232)	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
(233)	Deposit	Loose mid reddish yellow fine sand.	0.22m	A lense of sand, possibly related to the construction of wall {230}, within wall cut [234].
[234]	Cut	Linear cut aligned NE-SW, measuring an observable 1.60m in length and a maximum 0.46m in depth. Sharp top break of slope into vertical sides and an unknown base.	0.46m	Cut for wall {230}, only partially visible though presumed to continue in this form for the walls entirety.
(235)	Fill	Loose, light orangey grey crushed brick and mortar with frequent small stones and CBM fragments.	0.40m	Demolition layer. Probably same as (231).
(236)	Deposit	Compact mid yellowish brown clay.	0.16m	Redeposited layer of clay. Probably same as (239).
(237)	Deposit	Compact dark reddish grey silty coarse sand.	0.10m	Mettled surface. Possibly same as (203).
(238)	Deposit	Loose mid reddish yellow fine sand.	0.10m	Sand layer possibly used in construction of structure. Probably same as (233).
(239)	Deposit	Firm, mid yellowish brown clay.	-	Clay overlying mettled surface (240) to the immediate SW and NW of walls {229} and {230} respectively.
(240)	Deposit	Heavily compact, dark grey gravel.	-	Mettled surface underlying (239) to the immediate SW and NW of walls {229} and {230} respectively.

Trench 3

Length: 30m Width: 1.8m Orientation: ENE-WSW

Minimum Depth: 0.20m Maximum Depth: 0.50m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
300	Topsoil	Loose, dark greyish brown	0.24m	Heavily saturated topsoil
	- 1	clayey silt.		topped with grass pasture



				and heavily disturbed by
				rooting.
			-	Occasional bands of clayey
		Compact mid vallowish		sand through clay
301	Natural	Compact, mid yellowish		substrate, and very
		red clay.		occasional small pebbles
				throughout.
202	6 1 11	Soft, light greyish brown	0.13m	Subsoil observed
302	Subsoil	sandy clay.		throughout trench.



APPENDIX 2: PLATES

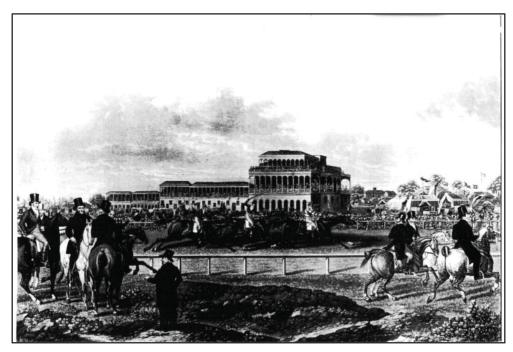


Plate 1; Painting of Newton Common Racecourse in 1831, showing The Lord Of The Manor's Gold Cup run.



Plate 2; Trench 1, looking SW, 2x1m scales.





Plate 3; Brick feature {103} in Trench 1, looking south, 1x0.50m scale.



Plate 4; Wall {209} and drain cut [211] in Trench 2, looking ENE, 1x0.50m scale.





Plate 5; Walls {222} and {223} in Trench 2, looking south, 2x1m scales.



Plate 6; Walls {229} and {230}, also showing deposits (239) and (240) in Trench 2, looking SW, 2x1m scales.



APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

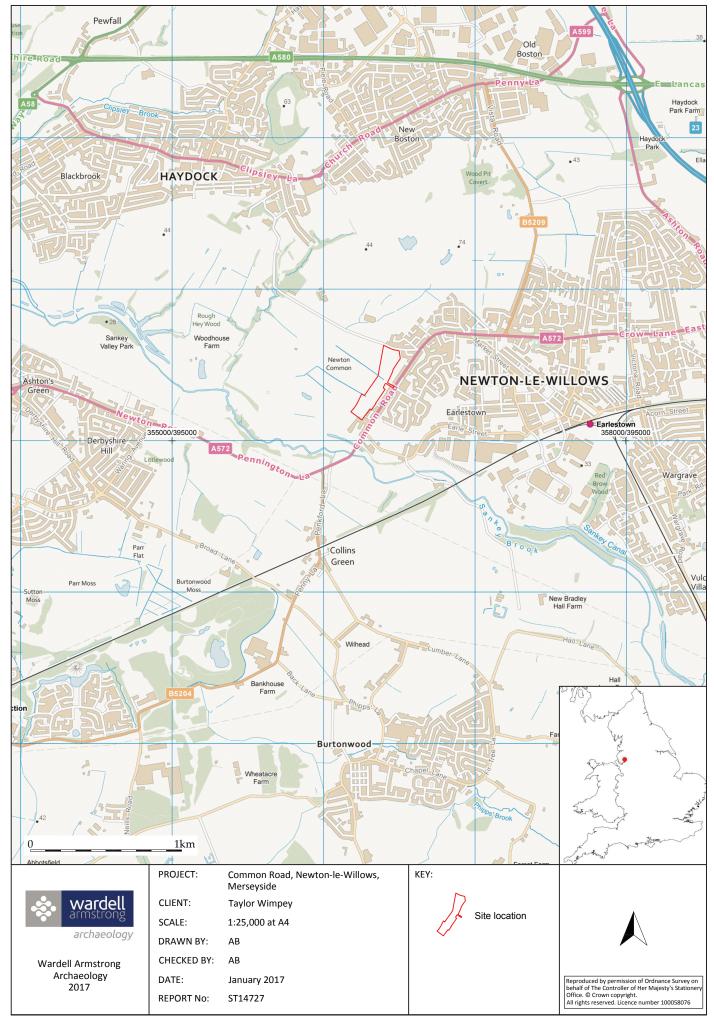


Figure 1: Site location.

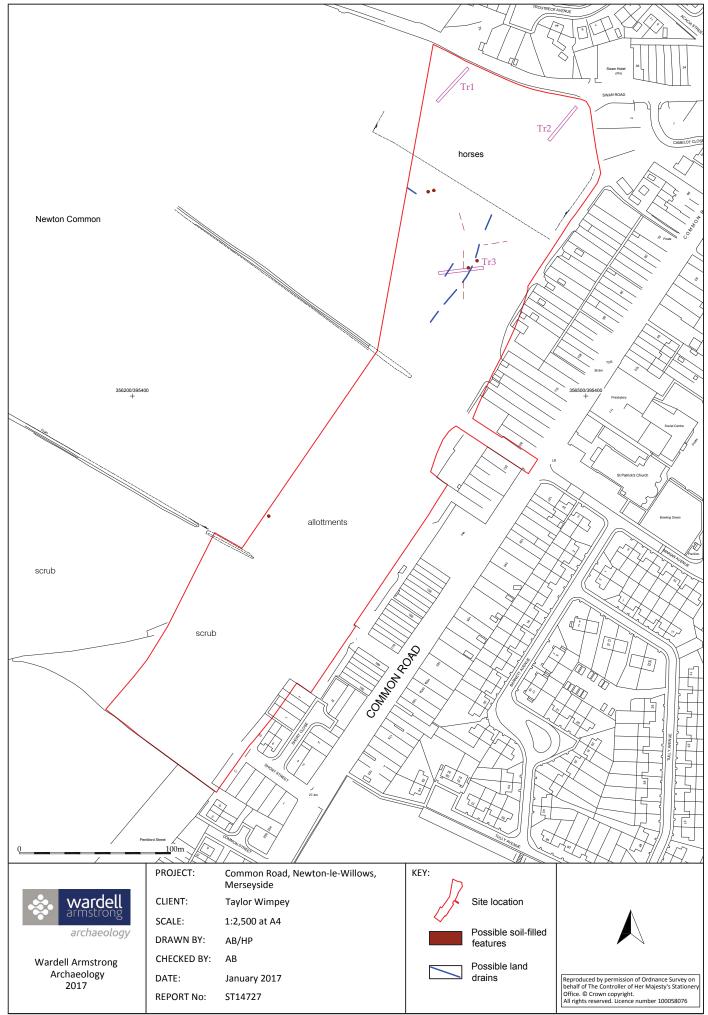
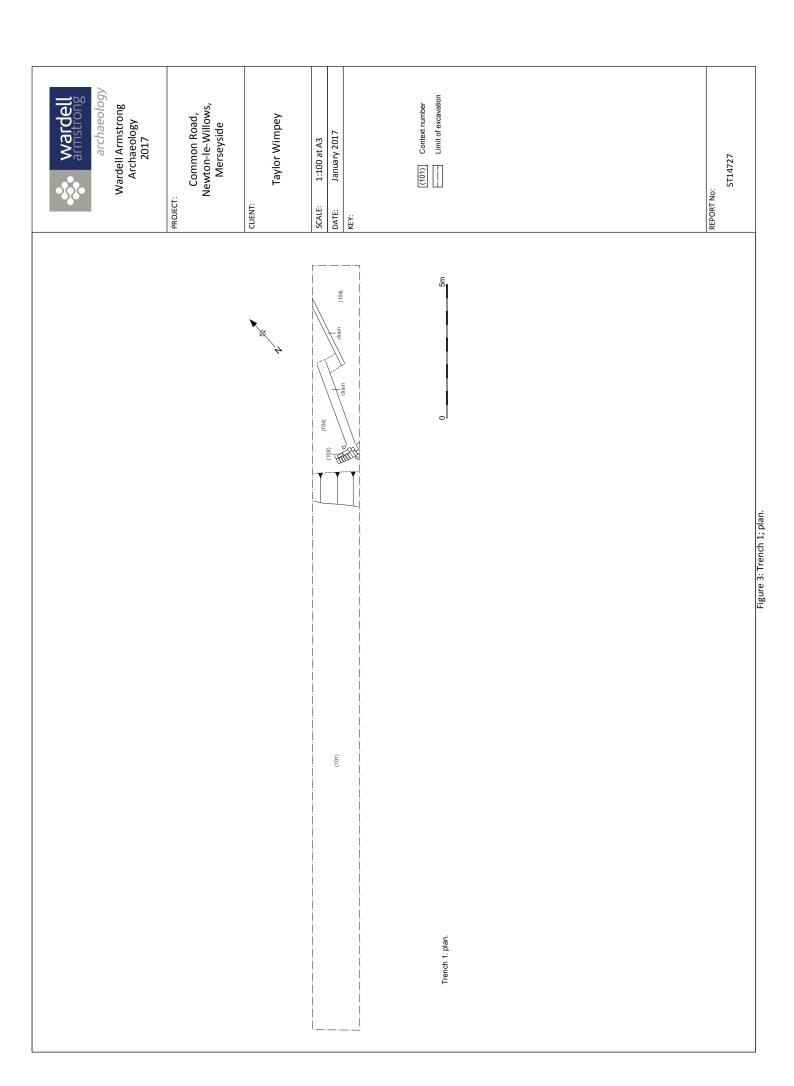
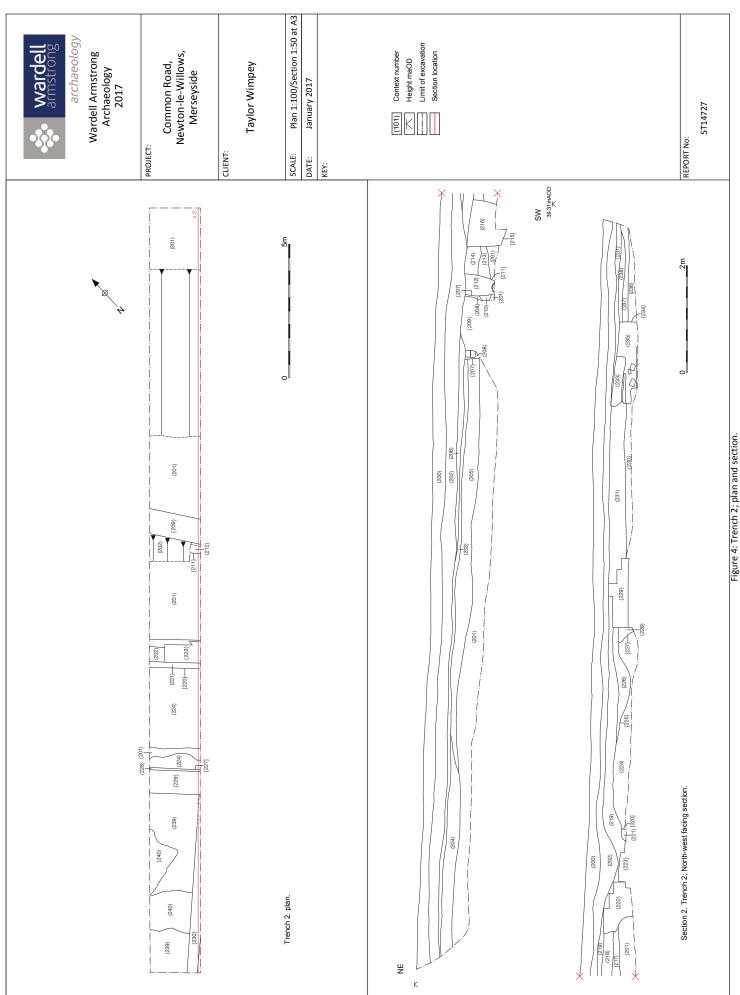


Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches and geophysical anomalies.





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