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WAINHOMES (NORTH WEST) LIMITED

LAND NORTH OF PRESTON OLD ROAD, CLIFTON, LANCASHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

August 2017



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DATE ISSUED:August 2017JOB NUMBER:LE13925SITE CODE:PCL-AOASIS REFERENCE:wardella2-294147PLANNING APPLICATION REF:15/0763REPORT VERSION NUMBER:001 Version (0.1)

WAINHOMES (NORTH WEST) LIMITED

Land north of Preston Old Road, Clifton, Lancashire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

PREPARED BY:

Martin Railton

Senior Project Manager

Fiona Wooler

Heritage Support

APPROVED BY:

Frank Giecco

Technical Director

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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 was commissioned by Wainhomes (North West) Limited to undertake an archaeological investigation in the form of a topographical survey and trenching on land to the north of Preston Old Road, Clifton, Lancashire (centred on NGR: SD 4625 3058) in advance of residential development on the site. Planning permission has been granted, with conditions, for residential development of up to 74 dwellings and associated infrastructure (Planning Ref: 15/0763).

The investigation was required as a condition of the planning consent, and was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced following an archaeological desk-based assessment which identified features within the site boundary including medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, part of a former road, and an oval feature of unknown date.

The archaeological work took place over eight days between the 2nd and 8th August 2017 and consisted of a topographical survey and the excavation and recording of 16 trenches targeting the features identified in the earlier desk-based assessment. Each trench differed in size but the combined area excavated was approximately 828m² of trenching in total.

The topographical survey identified prominent ridge and furrow earthworks on the northwest side of the site and the remains of post-medieval field boundaries, depicted on historic Ordnance Survey mapping. Six trenches identified archaeological remains, with two trenches revealing the remains of a former post-medieval road surface, also recorded on historic maps of the site. A former field boundary, and possible track surfaces were revealed in a further three trenches. The earthwork remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were also recorded in section in one of the trenches on the northwest side of the site. No evidence for the oval feature was revealed which may suggest it is geological.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong thanks Wainhomes (North West) Limited for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work.

The topographical survey was undertaken by Martin Railton, and the evaluation was undertaken by Jaime Levell, Jonathan Banasko and Michael Mann. The report was written by Martin Railton and Fiona Wooler, and illustrated by Adrian Bailey. The finds were assessed by Megan Stoakley. The project was managed by Martin Railton.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Project Circumstances and Planning Background**

- 1.1.1 In August 2017, Wardell Armstrong undertook a topographical survey and archaeological investigation by trenching of land to the north of Preston Old Road, Clifton, Lancashire (centred on NGR: SD 4625 3058). The archaeological work was undertaken for Wainhomes (North West) Limited, prior to a new residential development at the site, for which planning permission has been granted by Fylde Council (Planning Ref: 15/0763).
- 1.1.2 A heritage statement was produced to support the outline planning application for the erection of up to 74 dwellings at the site. This identified one designated heritage asset in the vicinity of the proposed development area, namely 'The Windmill Tavern Clifton Lane' (formerly Clifton Windmill), which is a Grade II listed building. It was concluded that the proposed development would have no significant impact on the setting of that heritage asset (Sedgewick Associates 2015). The archaeological potential of the site itself, however, was not considered, and was therefore unknown.
- 1.1.3 Given the uncertain archaeological potential at the site, a condition had been placed upon the planning permission for the proposed development (Condition 9), which stated: 'No development (including any works of site preparation) shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining a programme and timetable of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority'. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012).
- 1.1.4 A desk-based assessment was undertaken by Wardell Armstrong in March 2017 as part of this programme of archaeological investigation. The assessment revealed that the development of the site had the potential to impact on above and below-ground remains of medieval ridge and furrow, an oval feature of unknown date, and part of a former road. Further work was recommended in the form of a topographical survey and trial trench evaluation to examine below-ground remains associated with these, which are regarded as being of historic interest and of local significance (Wardell Armstrong 2017a).



1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

- 1.2.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced, to provide a specific methodology for the archaeological investigation (Wardell Armstrong 2017b). This was submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval, 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 (DCLG 2012).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of postfieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological work.



2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological investigation was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014a), guidance in Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes (English Heritage 2007), and in accordance with the Wardell Armstrong Excavation Manual (2017c).
- 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 archaeological assessment was prepared by Wardell Armstrong in 2017 which set out the archaeological and historical background of the site. The assessment identified that there is currently no archaeological evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British or early medieval activity within the site boundary. An oval feature of unknown date and function, as identified from aerial photography, was noted to the eastern side of the site (Figure 2). There was also some evidence for medieval activity in the form of ridge and furrow earthworks relating to historic ploughing. In the post medieval and modern periods, the site appears to have been agricultural in character, although a road formerly passed through the south-western corner. The assessment concluded that a scheme of archaeological work was required, in order to examine below-ground remains associated with the oval feature, the former road, and ridge and furrow earthworks (Wardell Armstrong 2017a).
- 2.2.2 A brief summary of the archaeological and historical background of the site is included below in order to set the results of the present investigation into context. For more information on the historical development of the site, please refer to the archaeological desk-based assessment (Wardell Armstrong 2017a).

2.3 **Topographical Survey**

2.3.1 Visible earthworks and topographic detail was recorded in plan using a Trimble R10 GPS, which logged point data within the internal memory of the instrument. The data was downloaded in the company offices and processed using Trimble Office software in order to produce outline plans of the surveyed features. AutoCAD software was



used to produce the finished earthwork plan for the report (Figure 3). Written descriptions of the surveyed earthworks are included in this report, with features identified to period (where possible).

- 2.3.2 The topographic survey was conducted in accordance with Historic England guidelines (English Heritage 2007), and corresponded to a Level 3 survey.
- 2.4 **The Field Evaluation**
- 2.4.1 Sixteen trenches were excavated in total, with fourteen measuring 30m in length and between 1.7m and 1.9m in width and two trenches measuring 20m in length and 1.7m in width. The trench investigation comprised up to 828m² of trenching in total, avoiding known services, spoil heaps, and overhead wires (Figure 3).
- 2.4.2 Two trenches (T1 and T2) were positioned within the southern part of the site to sample the narrow ridge and furrow (identified as Asset 31 in Wardell Armstrong 2017a). These two trenches had to be moved from the proposed positions as detailed in the WSI, and reduced in length to 20m, due to the presence of soil heaps and cabins on the south side of the site. Two further trenches (T3 and T4) were positioned to sample the former road (Asset 34). Three trenches (T5 to T7) were positioned in the north-west part of the site to sample broad ridge and furrow (Asset 30), and former field boundary (Asset 32). Three trenches (T8-T10) targeted the possible enclosure (Asset 35) and an array of five trenches (T11-T15 sampled the interior of the oval enclosure for any possible evidence of archaeological features. The final trench (T16) was positioned to sample a former field boundary (Asset 33).
- 2.4.3 The main objectives of the evaluation were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.4.4 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by an 180° wheeled 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 Wardell Armstrong standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Wardell Armstrong 2017c).

- 2.4.5 Any 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 Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site. All finds recovered were modern, apart from two sherds of post-medieval pottery, and were discarded.
- 2.4.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the written scheme of investigation (Wardell Armstrong 2017b), and Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The project archive will be deposited with Museumn of Lancashire, with a copy of the report deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **WA17**, **LE13925**, **PCL-A**.
- 2.4.7 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 this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-294147.



3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Site Location, Geology and Ground Conditions

- 3.1.1 The village of Clifton is located approximately 8km to the east of Preston, on Preston Old Road, north of Blackpool Road (A583). The development area is situated within a single field on the north-west side of Clifton (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 Modern housing forms the eastern boundary of the site; a watercourse forms the western boundary, and Preston Old Road forms the south-western boundary. Overhead wires follow the northern site boundary, and two service pipes with manholes are known to cross the southern part of the site.
- 3.1.3 The solid geology of the site comprises a sedimentary bedrock, known as Sherwood Sandstone Group, formed approximately 229 to 271 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods. The drift geology comprises Devensian Till deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017).

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 An archaeological assessment was produced in 2017 to assess the historical and archaeological background of the site, and a study area of 1km radius centred on the site (Wardell Armstrong 2017a). The assessment was informed by information largely collated from the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Lancashire Archives at Preston. 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 *Place Name Evidence:* the place name 'Clifton' is believed to derive from the Old English language and means 'the tūn on or by the cliff' (Sephton 1913, 166; Wyld and Oakes 1911, 95), i.e. 'the settlement on or by the cliff'.
- 3.2.3 **Prehistoric (up to c.AD70)**: although there is no evidence from within the site boundary, there is some evidence for prehistoric activity within the 1km study area around the site. The HER contains an entry which records *'some tumuli on the line of the Roman road from Kirkham to Preston'*, located to the north, close to St John the Evangelist Church at Lund (HER Ref. PRN68).
- 3.2.4 **Romano-British (c.AD70 to c.400AD):** there is no evidence for Romano-British activity within the site boundary, however within the study area there are three HER entries for Roman roads. The first is recorded to the north of the site, referred to as 'Lund Church to New Hay Lane' (HER Ref. PRN12905). The other two roads relate to the route



from Ribchester to Poulton-le-Fylde (HER Ref's PRN15526 and PRN26142). A Roman altar is recorded as being used as a font at St Johns Church, Lund since 1688. The original provenance of the alter, however, is not recorded (HER Ref. PRN357).

- 3.2.5 **Post Roman and Early Medieval (c.400 to 1050AD):** there are currently no entries relating to this period within the HER for the site, or the 1km study area. The place name, however, derives from the Old English language, as noted above, suggesting that there was a settlement of some form at Clifton prior to its inclusion in Domesday Survey of 1086AD.
- 3.2.6 *Medieval (c.1050 to 1550AD):* as noted above, a settlement at Clifton is recorded in Domesday Survey of 1086AD, when it was assessed as two plough lands, and Salwick as one plough land (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 161).
- 3.2.7 Up until at least the middle of the 19th century, Clifton appears to have been a compact linear village along the turnpike between Kirkham and Preston, with 'back lanes' both north and south of the main street. Both the Tithe Map of 1840 and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1848 gives the impression of a well-ordered medieval village with 'croft and toft' plots running between the main street and back lanes. The whole of the manor was the property of a single family (the Clifton's) (HER Ref. PRN6631); the site of Clifton Hall may have been the location of the medieval manor house, possibly with a moat and pele tower, although the present property dates to the early 19th century (HER Ref. PRN1395).
- 3.2.8 Earthwork remains of possible medieval ridge and furrow (indicative of historical ploughing) have been identified, and subsequently recorded, in the HER to the northwest and north-east of the site (HER Ref. PRN30491 and PRN31389), and broad ridge and furrow has been identified within the site from aerial photography (Figure 2).
- 3.2.9 **Post Medieval (c.1550 to 1900AD):** late 18th and early 19th century county mapping (for example Yates 1786 and Greenwood 1818, not reproduced here) shows Clifton as a linear settlement, possibly retaining its medieval form with back lanes to the north and south.
- 3.2.10 The Tithe Map of 1840 was the earliest consulted source for the desk-based assessment which showed the site and the surrounding landscape in detail. At this date, Clifton continued to be shown as a linear settlement. The site itself was on the periphery of the village, and consisted of several fields. Of interest, is the presence of



a road which existed the village heading in a north-westerly direction' part of this road appears to have crossed the southern part of the site.

- 3.2.11 *Industrial and Modern (1900-present):* by the early 20th century, the course of the road heading west out of the village of Clifton had been altered by straightening the route, compared to the 'dog-leg' course it previously took; part of this earlier route was located within the southern part of the site. The Ordnance Survey map of 1911 shows the site as fields, with a water course forming its western boundary; some earlier field boundaries shown on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map had been removed by this date.
- 3.2.12 The site was still agricultural in character by 1932; by this date the Clifton By Pass had been constructed (the modern Blackpool Road). The expansion of Clifton began with British Nuclear Fuels building homes for its employees in the 1940s and the Council building two housing estates. Three small developments of private housing and a 100house estate have taken place since the 1970s (LFWI 1990).

3.3 **Previous Archaeological Work**

3.3.1 No previous intrusive archaeological work has been undertaken within the site boundary.



4. TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The topographic survey was undertaken on 2nd August 2017 in order to record any visible earthworks and/or structures present within the proposed development area (Figure 3). The proposed development area comprised a single field of pasture at the time of the survey, which had previously been subdivided into up to five fields according to the evidence of historic mapping (Wardell Armstrong 2017a).
- 4.1.2 The survey area was bound by mature hedgerows with some post and wire fences present. Modern housing formed the eastern boundary of the site and a watercourse formed the western boundary, with the ground falling sharply towards the watercourse along the site boundary. Preston Old Road formed the southwest boundary subdivided by a further hedgerow. The northern boundary of the site was defined by overhead electricity lines, with a further set of overhead wires crossing the northwest side of the site, aligned northwest to southeast. Buried waste water pipes, with associated manholes were evident within the southern part of the site (Plate 1).
- 4.1.3 The site was generally flat, with a slight increase in ground level from south to north rising from around 12m above Ordnance Datum to approximately 15.5m above Ordnance Datum.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 The southern part of the proposed development area was devoid of earthworks or other visible historic features (Plate 1), there being no visible evidence for the narrow ridge and furrow (Asset 31) which has been identified in this area on air photographs of the site (Figure 3). Similarly there was no visible evidence for the former road which had crossed the southern portion of the proposed development area (Asset 34).
- 4.2.2 A series of linear earthworks were identified crossing the northwest portion of the site, which were typical of ridge and furrow cultivation of probable medieval date (Plate 2). A series of five ridges, with corresponding furrows, were identified which measured between 9m and 11m across and approximately 0.3m high, aligned north to south. In plan, the ridges and furrows exhibited a slight curvature, which is typical of medieval ploughing, continuing outside of the survey area into the field to the north. These earthworks were identified on air photographs as part of the desk-based assessment as Asset 30 (Wardell Armstrong 2017a).



- 4.2.3 The ridge and furrow earthworks appeared to be defined to the east by a former north-south field boundary, as depicted on historic maps of the site (Asset 32), with the easternmost furrow aligning with the location of the former field boundary. No further features were visible to the east of this boundary (Plate 3).
- 4.2.4 Another former field boundary has been identified crossing the southeast corner of the site, aligned east to west (Asset 33). This boundary was still extant in the 1960s as it is visible on an aerial photograph from that period, and a section of the boundary was present on the southeast side of the site at the time of the survey. This comprised a 40m-long section of former hedgerow, which had been partially removed (Plate 4).
- 4.2.5 Two free-standing stone gate posts were identified on the west side of the proposed development area, which are believed to be associated with an entrance through the former field boundary (Asset 33). These were spaced 2.4m apart and stood 1.1m high, comprised of roughly hewn sandstone. The easternmost post exhibited grooves on the north and south sides to house fencing (Plate 5).
- 4.2.6 The presence of an oval feature of unknown date and function, crossing the centre of the proposed development area, has also been identified in the desk-based assessment, identified from aerial photography (Asset 35). However, no earthworks were identified associated with this feature.



5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trial trench evaluation was undertaken over seven days between the 3rd and 11th August 2017, with 16 trenches excavated across the development site. The trenches were placed to sample features identified in the previous desk-based assessment and topographic survey (Assets 30-35) as well as sampling the wider development area (Figure 3).

5.2 Results

- 5.2.1 The natural geology was identified in each of the trenches, and comprised compact red-brown silty clay, revealed at depths of between 0.55m and 0.9m across the site. This was overlain by a former plough soil measuring on average between 0.2m-0.5m deep and 0.25m-0.35m of topsoil across the proposed development area.
- 5.2.2 Archaeological remains were identified in six of the trenches excavated, comprising the remains of a former road surface in Trenches 3 and 4, a former field boundary in Trench 7, and possible track surface in Trenches 8 and 9. The earthwork remains of ridge and furrow cultivation were also visible in section in Trench 5. The remaining ten trenches were devoid of archaeological features (Trenches 1, 2, 6 and 10-16). Apart from the ridge and furrow cultivation, which may be medieval in date, all of the archaeological features investigated were likely to be post-medieval or modern.
- 5.2.3 In the following text the context numbers for cut features are shown in square brackets [] and the context numbers for deposits/fills in circular brackets (). Trench descriptions are also provided in Appendix 1.
- 5.2.4 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 measured 20m long and 1.7m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 0.7m. This trench was positioned in the southern part of the site to sample an area of ridge and furrow cultivation, as interpreted from air photographs of the site (Asset 31). The trench was moved northwards from the original planned location, due to the presence of a spoil heap, and was aligned northwest to southeast (Figure 3).
- 5.2.5 The natural geology **(101)** was identified at a depth of 0.55m in Trench 1 which was cut by two modern land drains aligned north to south (Plate 6). This was overlain by a 0.25m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil **(102)** and 0.3m of topsoil **(100)**.
- 5.2.6 No archaeological features were identified in this trench and no evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation was present.



- 5.2.7 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 measured 20m long and 1.7m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 0.9m. This trench was also positioned in the southern part of the site, to the south of Trench 1, to sample an area of ridge and furrow cultivation, as interpreted from air photographs of the site (Asset 31).
- 5.2.8 The natural geology (201) was identified at a depth of between 0.55m and 0.9m which was also cut by three modern land drains aligned north to south (Plate 7). This was overlain by a 0.7m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (202) and 0.2m of topsoil (200). No archaeological features were identified in this trench and there was no evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation.
- 5.2.9 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 measured 30m long and 1.7m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 1.2m. This trench was aligned northeast to southwest on the southeast side of the proposed development area, in order to sample the location of a former road as identified on 19th century maps of the site (Asset 34).
- 5.2.10 The natural geology **(301)** was identified at a depth of 0.56m which was also cut by a modern land drain aligned north to south (Plate 8). This was overlain by a 0.3m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil **(302)** and 0.25m of topsoil **(100)** in the southwest end of the trench.
- 5.2.11 Overlying the natural geology and crossing the northeast end of the trench was a crude cobbled surface (307), which measured 1.6m wide and approximately 0.1m deep (Plate 9). This deposit comprised a spread of small cobbles up to 0.1m in diameter, set within a grey/white sand bedding layer (308), interpreted as the remains of a former road surface (Figure 4). Above the cobbled surface was a compact 0.1m-deep layer of orange brown silty clay (309) containing a large proportion of crushed brick and stone. This was interpreted as the levelling layer for a former Tarmac road surface (310). Traces of this surface were visible in the trench section, but this appeared to have largely been removed. Above this were a former plough soil (302) and topsoil (300).
- 5.2.12 The northeast side of the road surface (**307**) had been disturbed by a cut [**306**] which appeared to have removed earlier deposits from the northeast end of the trench form a distance of 8m. This cut [**306**] was filled by a deposit of red/brown silty clay (**305**) measuring 0.6m deep and containing frequent brick fragments. Above this was a 0.18m deep layer of grey/white sand (**304**) and orange/brown silty clay (**303**), which contained frequent gravels and chalk fragments, above which was topsoil (**300**).



- 5.2.13 It is possible that the northeast end of the trench was excavated during the installation of a modern sewer to the immediate north, as all of these later deposits were modern.
- 5.2.14 **Trench 4:** Trench 4 measured 30m long and 1.7m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 1.1m (Plate 10). This trench was also aligned northeast to southwest to the west of Trench 3, in order to sample the location of a former road as identified on 19th century maps of the site (Asset 34).
- 5.2.15 The natural geology **(401)** was identified at a depth of 0.63m. At the southwest end of the trench a 0.5m-deep layer of grey/brown sandy clay was also identified at a depth of 0.6m, which may be redeposited natural **(410)** but this was uncertain (Figure 5).
- 5.2.16 Overlying this deposit (410) were the remains of a crude cobbled surface (409) measuring approximately 2.15m wide and 0.2m deep, which was revealed in section crossing the centre of Trench 4. This was interpreted as being part of the same road surface (307) identified in Trench 3. This deposit comprised a spread of small cobbles up to 0.1m in diameter, set within a 0.1m-deep grey/white sand bedding layer (411). A sherd of cream glazed pottery of likely 18th century date, and small fragments of bone were recovered from the road edge. Above the cobbles was a 0.1m-deep layer of Tarmac (408), being similar to the tarmac surface identified in Trench 3 (310).
- 5.2.17 The northeast side of the road surface **(409)** had been truncated by a wide linear cut **[407]** which appeared similar to the cut **[306]** seen in Trench 3. This cut **[407]** had removed some of the natural geology in the northeast end of the trench. The cut was filled by a deposit of grey/brown silty clay **(406)** measuring 0.25m deep and 5.2m wide containing angular pebbles, and a further 0.28m-deep 1.54m-wide layer of grey/brown silty clay to the northeast **(405)**. This was overlain by a 3.8m wide, 0.24m deep layer of light grey silty sand **(404)** and a 2.55m wide 0.32m deep layer of dark grey silty sand with pebbles **(403)**. These deposits were interpreted as modern and possibly associated with the installation of the modern sewer as in Trench 3.
- 5.2.18 Overlying the former road surfaces at the northeast end of the trench were a series of silty clay deposits (412), (413) and (414) which also appeared to be modern containing fragments of brick/ceramic and gravels. These were overlain by a 0.3m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (402) and 0.2m of topsoil (400).
- 5.2.19 **Trench 5:** Trench 5 measured 30m long and 1.7m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 0.8m. This trench was aligned east to west in order to sample the ridge and furrow earthworks present in the northwest portion of the site (Asset 30).



- 5.2.20 The natural geology **(501)** was identified at a depth of 0.63m overlain by a 0.2m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil **(502)**, above which was topsoil **(500)** which varied in depth between 0.14m and 0.35m (Plate 11).
- 5.2.21 No archaeological features were identified in the bottom of this trench, but the trench section provided a profile across the ridge and furrow earthworks (Figure 6). The ridges were noted to be approximately 10m wide and 0.3m high. No dating evidence was recovered from the trench to assist with dating the earthworks.
- 5.2.22 **Trench 6:** Trench 6 measured 30m long and 1.8m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 0.92m. This trench was aligned north to south on the northwest side of the proposed development area, to the north of Trench 5.
- 5.2.23 The natural geology **(601)** was identified at a depth of 0.8m overlain by a 0.4m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil **(602)**, above which was 0.4m of topsoil **(600)** being located within the area of ridge and furrow earthworks (Plate 12).
- 5.2.24 This trench was located between two furrows, having the same alignment, but was otherwise devoid of any archaeological features.
- 5.2.25 **Trench 7:** Trench 7 measured 30m long and 1.8m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 1.4m. This trench was aligned northwest to southeast on the northwest side of the proposed development area within the area of ridge and furrow earthworks, to sample the location of a field boundary depicted on historic mapping (Asset 32).
- 5.2.26 The natural geology **(701)** was identified at a depth of 1m overlain by a 0.4m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil **(702)**, above which was between 0.2m and 0.6m of topsoil **(700)**, which varied across the trench due to the presence of ridge and furrow.
- 5.2.27 A ditch **[703]** was revealed cutting the natural geology **(701)**, subsoil **(702)**, and topsoil **(700)** at the southeast end of the trench in the location of the former field boundary (Plate 13). This ditch measured 4m wide at the ground surface and 1.34m deep, with a concave profile and base (Figure 7). The ditch **[703]** was filled with a 1.14m deep layer of grey/brown silty clay **(704)** and a 1.2m-deep layer of red/brown silty slay **(705)**.
- 5.2.28 No finds were recovered with which to date the ditch, which is believed to be postmedieval in date based on the evidence of historic mapping. This was evidently backfilled in the mid-20th century according to the historic map evidence.
- 5.2.29 **Trench 8:** Trench 8 measured 30m long and 1.9m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 0.92m. This trench was aligned east to west on the north side of the proposed



development area, to sample the location of a curvilinear feature identified on air photographs of the site, interpreted as a possible enclosure in the desk-based assessment (Asset 35).

- 5.2.30 The natural geology (801) was identified at a depth of 0.8m overlain by a 0.4m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (802), above which was between 0.4m of topsoil (800). Two modern land drains were seen to cut the natural geology at the west end of the trench, aligned north to south (Plate 14, Figure 8).
- 5.2.31 Cutting the natural geology at the east end of the trench was a linear feature [803] which measured 2.15m wide and 0.36m deep with concave sides and a flat base (Plate 15). This was filled with red/brown silty clay (804) containing small angular stones. No finds were recovered with which to date the feature, but it may represent a former field boundary, having a similar north-south alignment to other boundaries on site. This was overlain by orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (802) and topsoil (800).
- 5.2.32 At the west end of the trench the subsoil **(802)** was overlain by a 5m-wide 0.32m-deep deposit of red crushed brick and tarmac **(805)**. The purpose of this deposit was uncertain, but this was also present in Trench 9 to the south, and may have been used as a temporary track surface (Figure 8).
- 5.2.33 **Trench 9:** Trench 9 measured 30m long and 1.8m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 1.28m. The trench was aligned northwest to southeast, located to the south of Trench 8, and was also positioned to sample the location of a curvilinear feature shown on air photographs of the site, interpreted as a possible enclosure (Asset 35).
- 5.2.34 The natural geology (901) was identified at a depth of 1m, being cut by two land drains.This was overlain by a 0.4m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (902), above which was between 0.6m of topsoil (900) for the majority of the trench (Plate 16).
- 5.2.35 Towards the west end of the trench the subsoil **(902)** was overlain by a 8.7m-wide 0.34m-deep deposit of red crushed brick and tarmac **(903)**, which was similar to that identified in Trench 8 (Plate 17, Figure 9). This was interpreted as a possible modern track surface **(805)**.
- 5.2.36 **Trench 10:** Trench 10 measured 30m long and 1.8m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 1.15m. The trench was aligned northwest to southeast, located to the south of Trench 9, and was also positioned to sample the location of a curvilinear feature shown on air photographs of the site (Asset 35).



- 5.2.37 The natural geology (1001) was identified at a depth of 1m overlain by a 0.8m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (1002), above which was between 0.2m of topsoil (1000). No Archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench (Plate 18).
- 5.2.38 **Trenches 11-15:** Trenches 11-15 measured 30m long and 1.8m wide with a maximum excavated depth of between 0.17m and 1.15m. These trenches were positioned to sample the northeast side of the proposed development area, within the boundary of the curvilinear feature shown on air photographs of the site (Asset 35).
- 5.2.39 The natural geology (11001-15001) was identified at a depth of between 0.6m and 1m overlain by an average 0.6m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (11002-15002), above which was between 0.2m and 0.3m of topsoil (11000-15000). No archaeological features or deposits were identified in these trenches (Plates 19-23).
- 5.2.40 **Trench 16:** Trenches 16 measured 30m long and 2.0m wide with a maximum excavated depth of 1m. This trench was positioned at the southwest corner of the site to sample an east-west field boundary (Asset 16), part of which survived as a hedgerow to the west of the trench.
- 5.2.41 The natural geology (16001) was identified at a depth of between 1m overlain by a 0.7m-depth of orange/brown sandy clay subsoil (16002), above which was between 0.2m and 0.3m of topsoil (16000). Three land drains were seen to cut the natural geology with an east-west alignment.
- 5.2.42 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the trench (Plate 24). The remains of the field boundary were not evident in the trench, suggesting this had comprised a hedgerow with no associated ditch.

5.3 **Finds and Environmental Samples**

- 5.3.1 There was a paucity of archaeological finds recovered from the site, the only items recovered being two sherds of pottery and some bone fragments from the road surface **(409)** in Trench 4. The sherds originated from the same vessel and were in moderate condition, displaying evidence of post-depositional damage.
- 5.3.2 The sherds comprised late 18th century creamware (1770s+) and the vessel likely comprises a square/rectangular platter or plate. A major production centre for creamware was the Leeds Pottery, which produced high-quality creamware from the 1770s onwards (Hildyard 1999, 87).
- 5.3.2 No environmental samples were obtained from the trenches.



6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Interpretation

- 6.1.1 The majority of the archaeological remains recorded relate to the agricultural use of the site. Ridge and furrow earthworks of possible medieval date (Asset 30) were surveyed during the topographic survey and were recorded in profile in Trench 5. These earthworks are believed to have formed part of an open field system associated with Clifton village, which continued outside the site to the north.
- 6.1.2 No evidence for narrow ridge and furrow cultivation was identified in the southern portion of the site, as interpreted from air photographs (Asset 31), suggesting that this has been ploughed out in modern times.
- 6.1.3 Post-medieval field boundaries were recorded in Trench 7 and Trench 8. The ditch recorded in Trench 7 post-dated the ridge and furrow earthworks and is depicted on 19th and 20th century maps of the site (Asset 32). This was evidently backfilled when the field boundary went out of use in the 20th century. A possible post-medieval field boundary was also recorded in Trench 8, which may have been marked by a hedgerow. No archaeological evidence was revealed for the recorded east-west field boundary (Asset 33), part of which survived as a hedgerow at the time of the survey. Two associated free-standing gate posts were also recorded during the topographic survey.
- 6.1.4 The remains of a former road surface were revealed in Trench 3 and Trench 4, which confirmed the presence of the road as depicted on historic maps of the site (Asset 34). This appears to have originated as a crude cobbled surface, later surfaced with Tarmac. Historic maps indicate that the road was in use from at least the mid-19th century until the early 20th century when it was superseded by Preston Old Road. Limited finds from the road surface indicate a possible late 18th century date.
- 6.1.5 No evidence was recorded for the possible enclosure identified on air photographs of the site (Asset 35), indicating this may be a geological feature. Deposits of crushed brick and Tarmac were identified in a similar location in Trench 8 and Trench 9, which were interpreted as a modern temporary track surface. It is also possible that this material was partly responsible for the recorded cropmark.
- 6.1.6 No other significant finds or samples were recovered during the trial trench evaluation. The evidence suggests that the past use of the site has been predominantly agricultural.



6.1 **Preservation**

- 6.1.1 The preservation of sub-surface archaeological features at the site was generally poor. The road surface in Trench 3 and Trench 4 had largely been removed, presumably when the land was returned to agricultural use. This had also been truncated by modern activity at the site, possibly associated with adjacent sewage works.
- 6.1.2 The ridge and furrow earthworks on the northwest side of the site were wellpreserved, and continued outside of the proposed development area to the north. Since these have been recorded by the project within the site boundary, no further work is deemed necessary.



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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Length: 20m Width: 1.7m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast

Minimum Depth: 0.55m Maximum Depth: 0.7m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 100 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.3m | Topsoil across the field |
| 101 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 102 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.25m | Former plough soil |

Trench 2

| Length: 20m | Width:1.7m | Orientation: Northwest-Southeast |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Minimum Depth: 0.55m | Maximum Dept | h: 0.9m |

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 200 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.2m | Topsoil across the field |
| 201 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 202 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.7m | Former plough soil |

Trench 3

| Length: 30m | Width: 1.7m | Orientation: Northeast-Southwest |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Minimum Depth: 0.55m | Maximum Dept | :h: 1.2m |

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|-------|--|
| 300 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.25m | Topsoil across the field |
| 301 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 302 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.3m | Former plough soil |
| 303 | Fill | Moderately compact orange/brown silty clay | 0.22m | Upper fill of cut [306]. Probable levelling deposit |
| 304 | Fill | Grey/white sand | 0.18m | Fill of [306] |
| 305 | Fill | Moderately compact red/brown silty clay | 0.6m | Lower fill of cut [306] |
| 306 | Cut | Linear cut crossing trench northwest- southeast | 1.15m | Truncation of former road surface following dis-use |
| 307 | Deposit | Compact cobble surface associated with former road | 0.1m | Former road surface |



| 200 | Donosit | Grey/white sand bedding | 0.1m | Bedding layer for former |
|-----|---------|-------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 308 | Deposit | layer | | road surface (307) |
| 309 | Donosit | Orange/brown silty clay | N/A | Road levelling layer for |
| 309 | Deposit | with brick/stone rubble | | (310) |
| 310 | Deposit | Tarmac surface | 0.1m | Former road surface |

Length: 30mWidth: 1.7mOrientation: Northeast-SouthwestMinimum Depth: 0.63mMaximum Depth: 1.10m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Height/Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|--------------|---|
| 400 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.20m | Topsoil across the field |
| 401 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 402 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.1m | Former plough soil |
| 403 | Fill | Moderately compacted grey/brown silty sand | 0.32m | Upper fill of cut [407] |
| 404 | Fill | Grey silty sand | 0.24m | Fill of cut [407] |
| 405 | Fill | Grey/brown silty clay with pebbles | 0.28m | Fill of cut [407] |
| 406 | Fill | Moderately compacted grey/brown sandy clay | 0.25m | Lower fill of cut [407] |
| 407 | Cut | Linear cut crossing northeast end of trench | 0.42m | Modern truncation of former road surface |
| 408 | Deposit | Tarmac surface | 0.1m | Former road surface |
| 409 | Deposit | Compact cobble surface associated with former road | 0.2m | Former road surface |
| 410 | Deposit | Mixed grey/brown sandy clay | 0.5m | Mixed clay deposit in southwest end of trench |
| 411 | Deposit | Moderately compacted brown/grey silty sand | 0.2m | Levelling layer for road surface (409) |
| 412 | Deposit | Moderately compacted brown/grey silty clay | 0.4m | Deposit associated with modern truncation |
| 413 | Deposit | Moderately compacted orange/brown silty clay | 0.5m | Deposit associated with modern truncation |
| 414 | Deposit | Moderately compacted orange/brown silty clay | 0.6m | Deposit associated with modern truncation |

Trench 5

Length: 30m

Width:1.7m

Orientation: East-West

Minimum Depth: 0.63m

....

Onentation. East

oth: 0.63m Maximum Depth: 0.8m

Context Context Discussion Depth Description Number Туре 500 Deposit Grey/brown topsoil 0.14-0.34m Topsoil across the field 501 Compact red-brown silty clay Natural geology Natural N/A



| 502 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.2m | Former plough soil |
|-----|---------|------------------------------------|------|--------------------|
|-----|---------|------------------------------------|------|--------------------|

Length: 30m

Width:1.8m

Minimum Depth: 0.6m

Maximum Depth: 0.92m

Orientation: North-South

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 600 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.4m | Topsoil across the field |
| 601 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 602 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.4m | Former plough soil |

Trench 7

Length: 30m Width:1.8m **Orientation: Northwest-Southeast** Minimum Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 1.4m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 700 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.2-0.46m | Topsoil across the field |
| 701 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 702 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.4m | Former plough soil |
| 703 | Cut | Concave cut of linear feature aligned north-south | 1.34m | Cut of former field boundary ditch |
| 704 | Fill | Moderately compacted grey/brown silty clay | 1.14m | Lower fill of dich [703] |
| 705 | Fill | Moderately compacted red/brown silty clay | 1m | Upper fill of ditch [703] |

Trench 8

Length: 30m

Width:1.9m

Orientation: East-West

Min

Maximum Depth: 0.92m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|-----------|--|
| 800 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.3-0.46m | Topsoil across the field |
| 801 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 802 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.2m | Former plough soil |
| 803 | Cut | Concave cut of linear feature aligned north-south | 0.36m | Cut of possible former field boundary |
| 804 | Fill | Moderately compacted red/brown silty clay | 0.36m | Fill of dich [803] |



| 805 Deposit Crushed brick and tarmac | 0.32m | Possible former track surface |
|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
|--------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|

Length: 30m Width:1.8m Orientation: Northwest-Southeast Minimum Depth: 0.81m Maximum Depth: 1.28

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| 900 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.3-0.6m | Topsoil across the field |
| 901 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 902 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.15m | Former plough soil |
| 903 | Deposit | Crushed brick | 0.34m | Possible former track surface |

Trench 10

Length: 30m Width:1.8m **Orientation: Northwest-Southeast** Minimum Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 1.15

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1000 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.2m | Topsoil across the field |
| 1001 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1002 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.65m | Former plough soil |

Trench 11

Length: 30m Width:1.8m **Orientation: North-South** Minimum Depth: 0.6m Maximum Depth: 1.15m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1100 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.35m | Topsoil across the field |
| 1101 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1102 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.3m | Former plough soil |

Trench 12 Length: 30m

Width:1.8m

Minimum Depth: 0.6m

Orientation: East-West

Maximum Depth: 0.75m

| Context | Context | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|---------|---------|-------------|-------|------------|
| Number | Туре | Description | | |



| 1200 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.3m | Topsoil across the field |
|------|---------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1201 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1202 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.45m | Former plough soil |

Length: 30mWidth:1.8mOrientation: East-WestMinimum Depth: 0.7mMaximum Depth: 0.82m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1200 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.2m | Topsoil across the field |
| 1201 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1202 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.2m | Former plough soil |

Trench 13

| Length: 30m | Width:1.9m | Orientation: Northwest-Southwest |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Minimum Depth: 0.7m | Maximum Dept | h: 0.82m |

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1300 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.2m | Topsoil across the field |
| 1301 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1302 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.2m | Former plough soil |

Trench 14

| Length: 30m | Width:1.8m | Orientation: North-South |
|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| | | |

Minimum Depth: 0.65m

Maximum Depth: 0.9m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1400 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.35m | Topsoil across the field |
| 1401 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1402 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.48m | Former plough soil |

Trench 15

| Length: 30m | Width:1.8m | Orientation: East-West |
|----------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Minimum Depth: 0.68n | n Maximum Dep | th: 0.85m |



| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1500 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.26m | Topsoil across the field |
| 1501 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1502 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.36m | Former plough soil |

Length: 30m

Width:1.8m

Orientation: North-South

Minimum Depth: 0.88m

Maximum Depth: 1.0m

| Context Number | Context Type | Description | Depth | Discussion |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 1600 | Deposit | Grey/brown topsoil | 0.2m | Topsoil across the field |
| 1601 | Natural | Compact red-brown silty clay | N/A | Natural geology |
| 1602 | Deposit | Orange/brown sandy clay subsoil | 0.7m | Former plough soil |



APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1: South side of the proposed development area, looking northeast



Plate 2: Northwest side of the proposed development area showing ridge and furrow earthworks, looking north





Plate 3: Northeast side of the proposed development area, looking northeast



Plate 4: Southeast side of the proposed development area showing relict field boundary, looking northwest





Plate 5: Gate posts associated with relict field boundary, looking north



Plate 6: Trench 1, looking northwest





Plate 7: Trench 2 showing land drains, looking southeast



Plate 8: Trench 3, looking northeast





Plate 9: Possible road surface (307) in Trench 3, looking east



Plate 10: Trench 4, looking south





Plate 11: Trench 5 showing ridge and furrow earthworks, looking northeast



Plate 12: Trench 6, looking northwest





Plate 13: Trench 7 showing former field boundary [703] crossing the trench, looking northwest



Plate 14: Trench 8, looking northwest





Plate 15: Section through field boundary (803) in Trench 8, looking south



Plate 16: Trench 9, looking southeast





Plate 17: Trench 9 section showing crushed brick deposit (903), looking south



Plate 18: Trench 10, looking northwest





Plate 19: Trench 11, looking north



Plate 20: Trench 12, looking southeast





Plate 21: Trench 13, looking south



Plate 22: Trench 14, looking north





Plate 23: Trench 15, looking east



Plate 24: Trench 16, looking south



APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

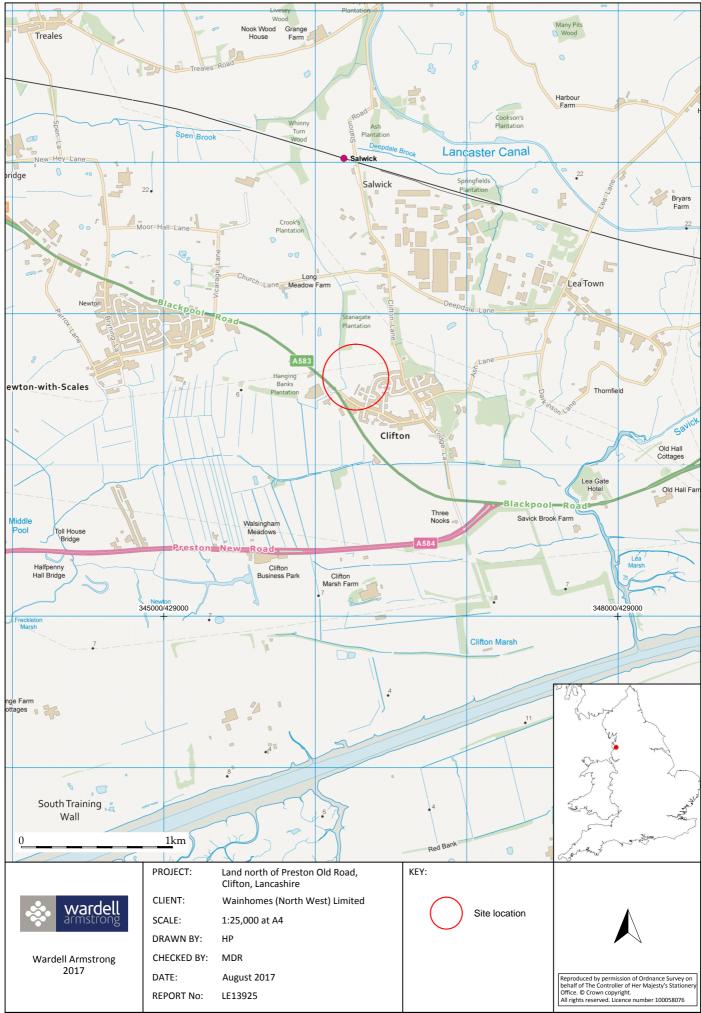


Figure 1: Site location.

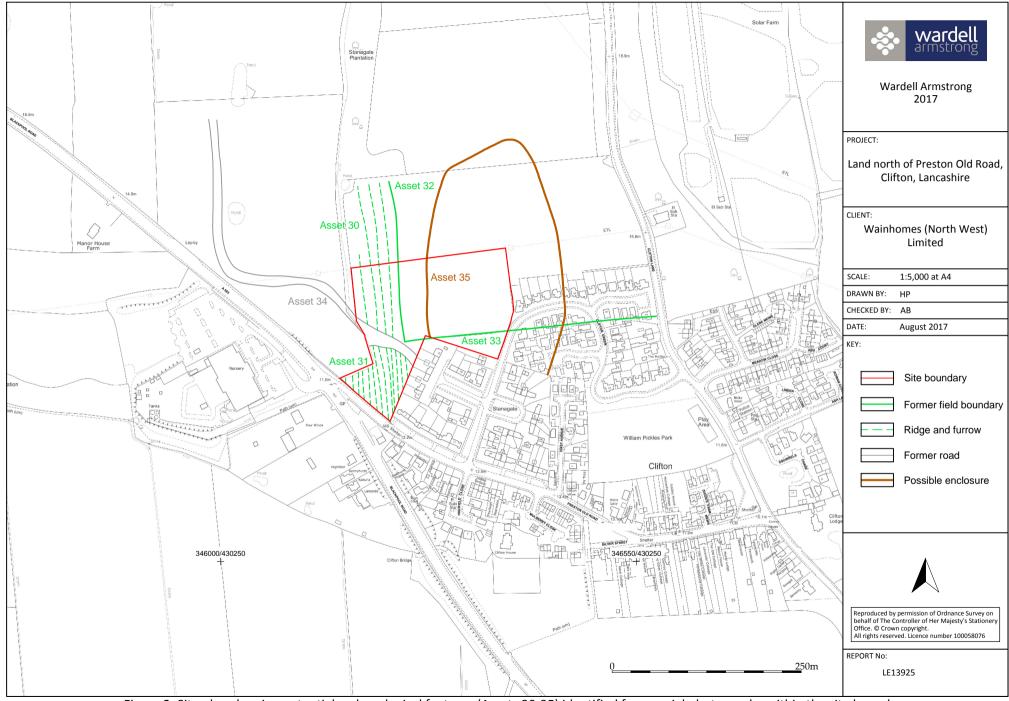


Figure 2: Site plan showing potential archaeological features (Assets 30-35) identified from aerial photography within the site boundary.

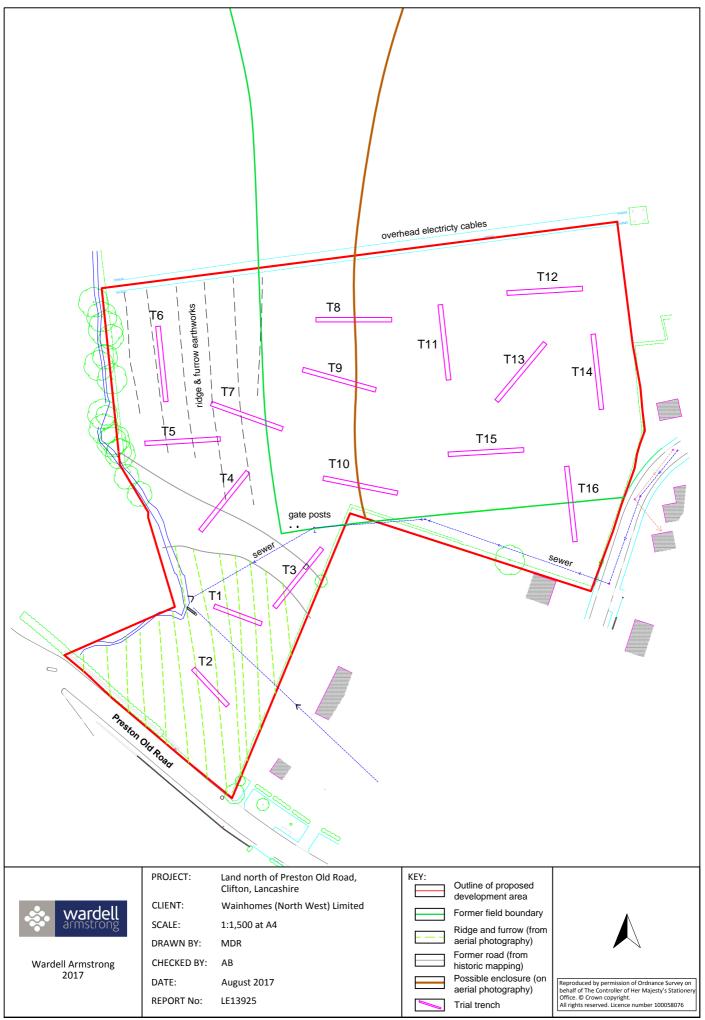
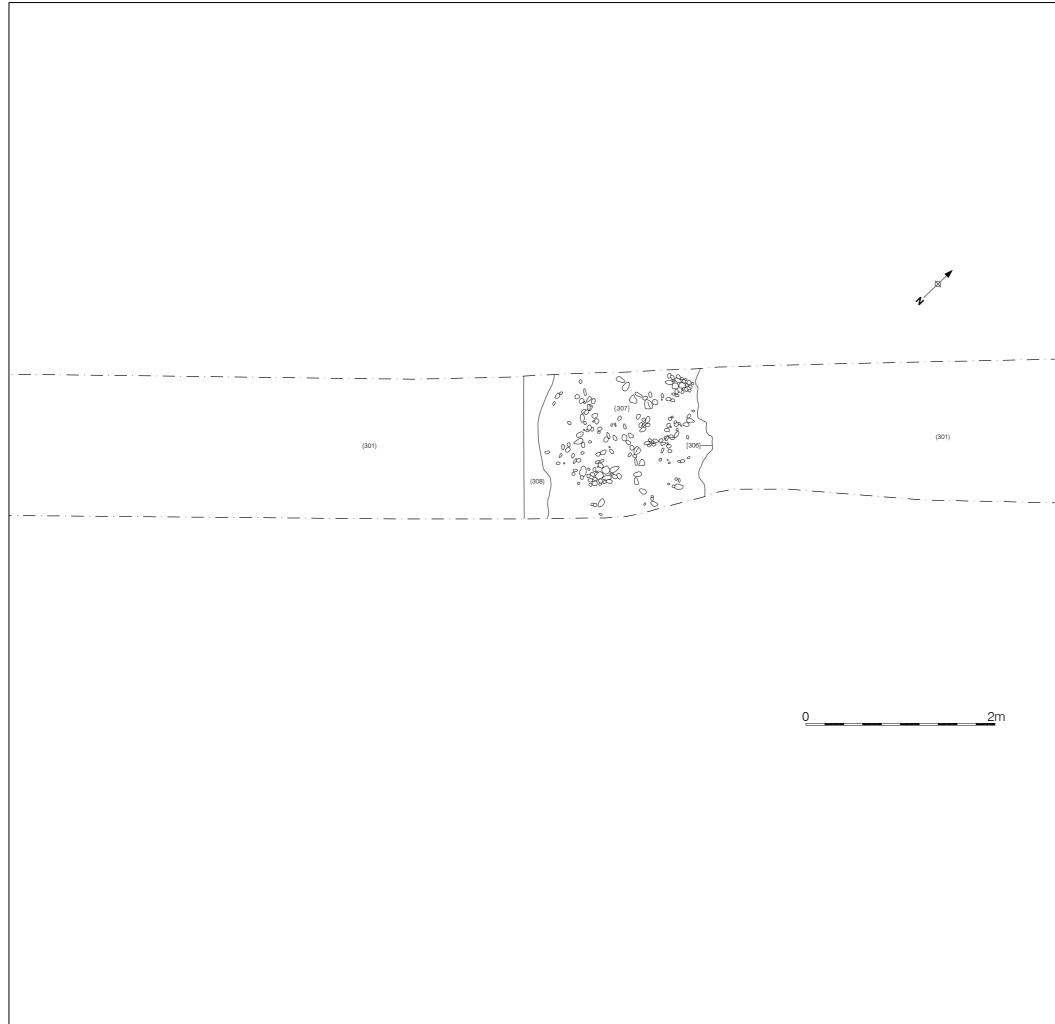
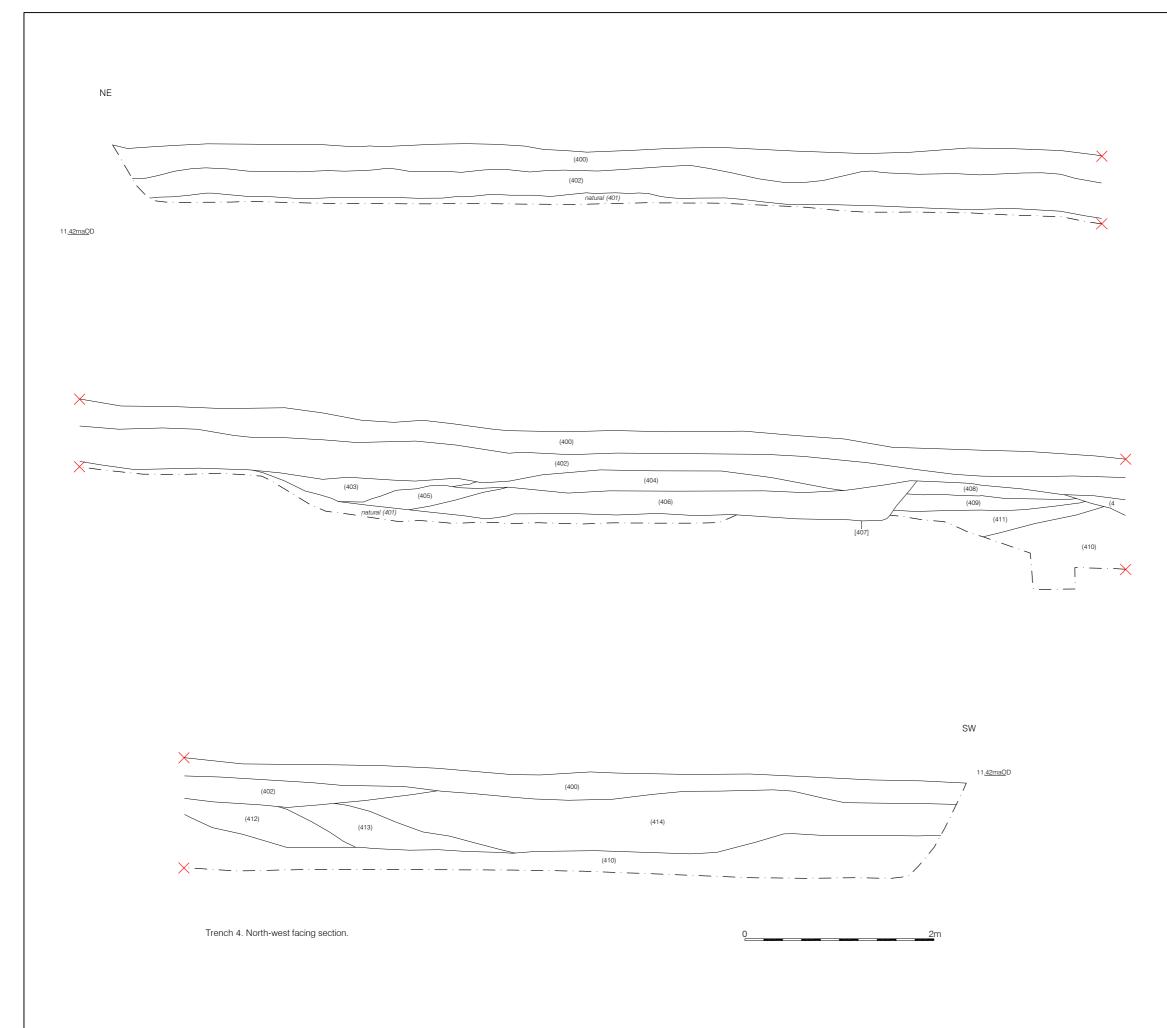


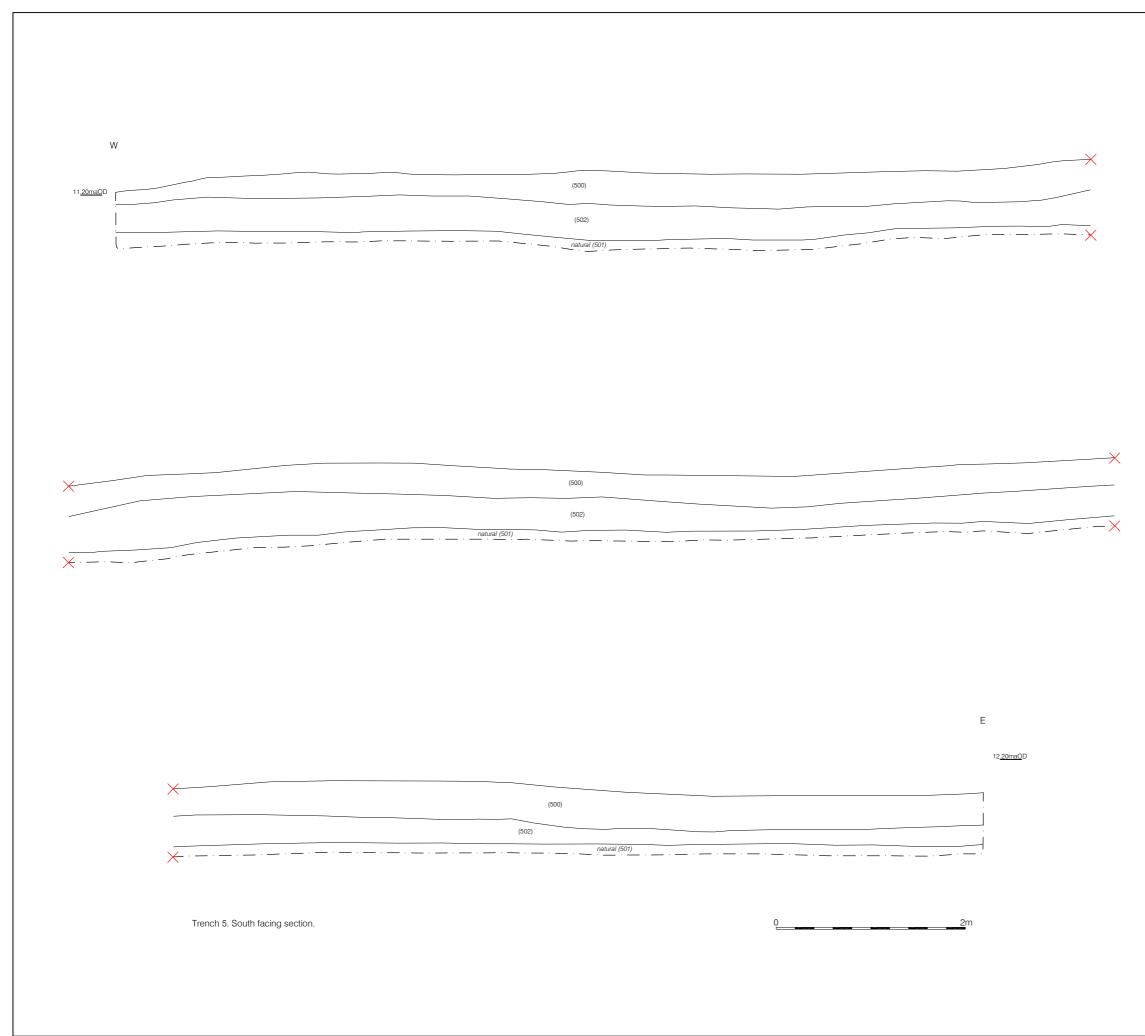
Figure 3: Topographic survey showing location of trial trenches (T1-T16).



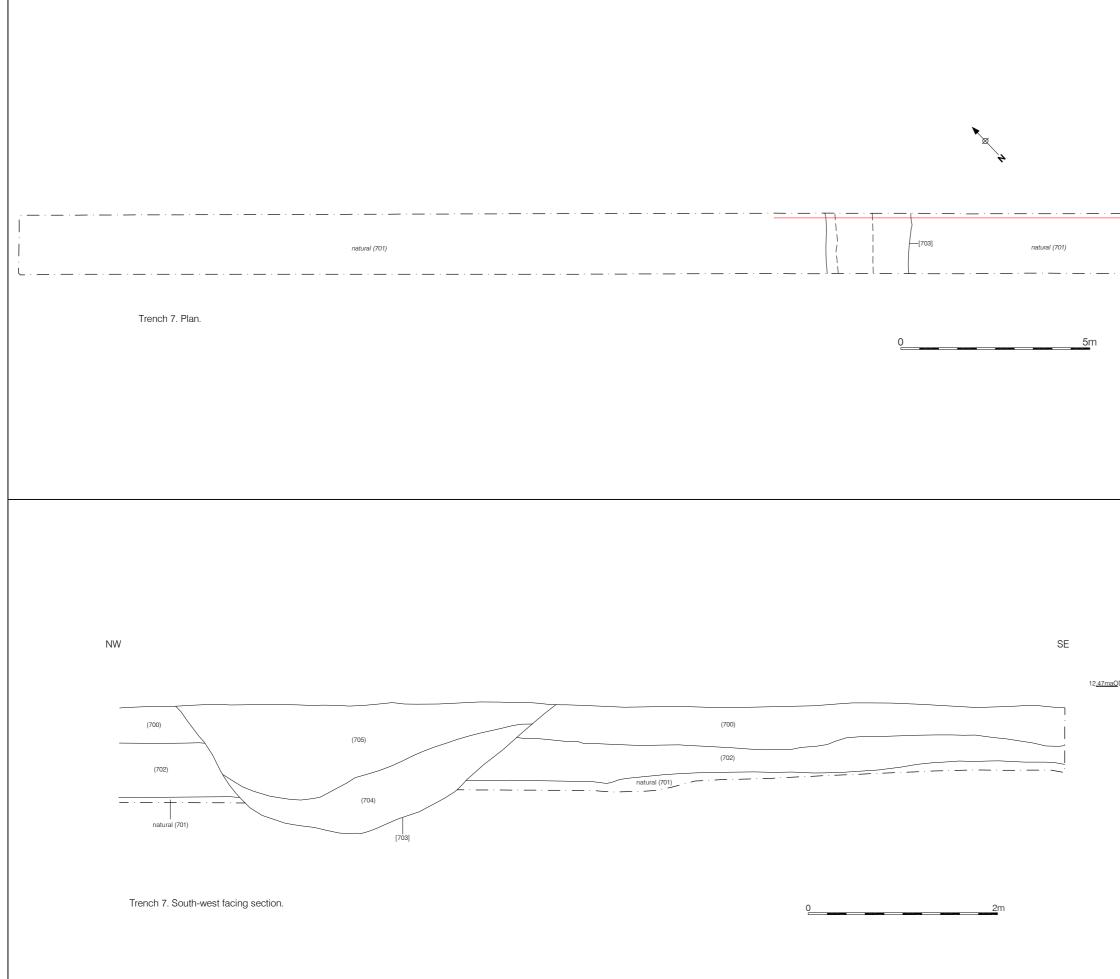
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|--|
| Land north of Preston Old Road, Clifton, Lancashire CLIENT: Wainhomes (North West) Limited SCALE: 1:40 at A3 DRAWN BY: AB CHECKED BY: AB DATE: August 2017 KEY: |
| CLIENT: Wainhomes (North West) Limited SCALE: 1:40 at A3 DRAWN BY: AB CHECKED BY: AB DATE: August 2017 KEY: |
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| (101) Context numbers |



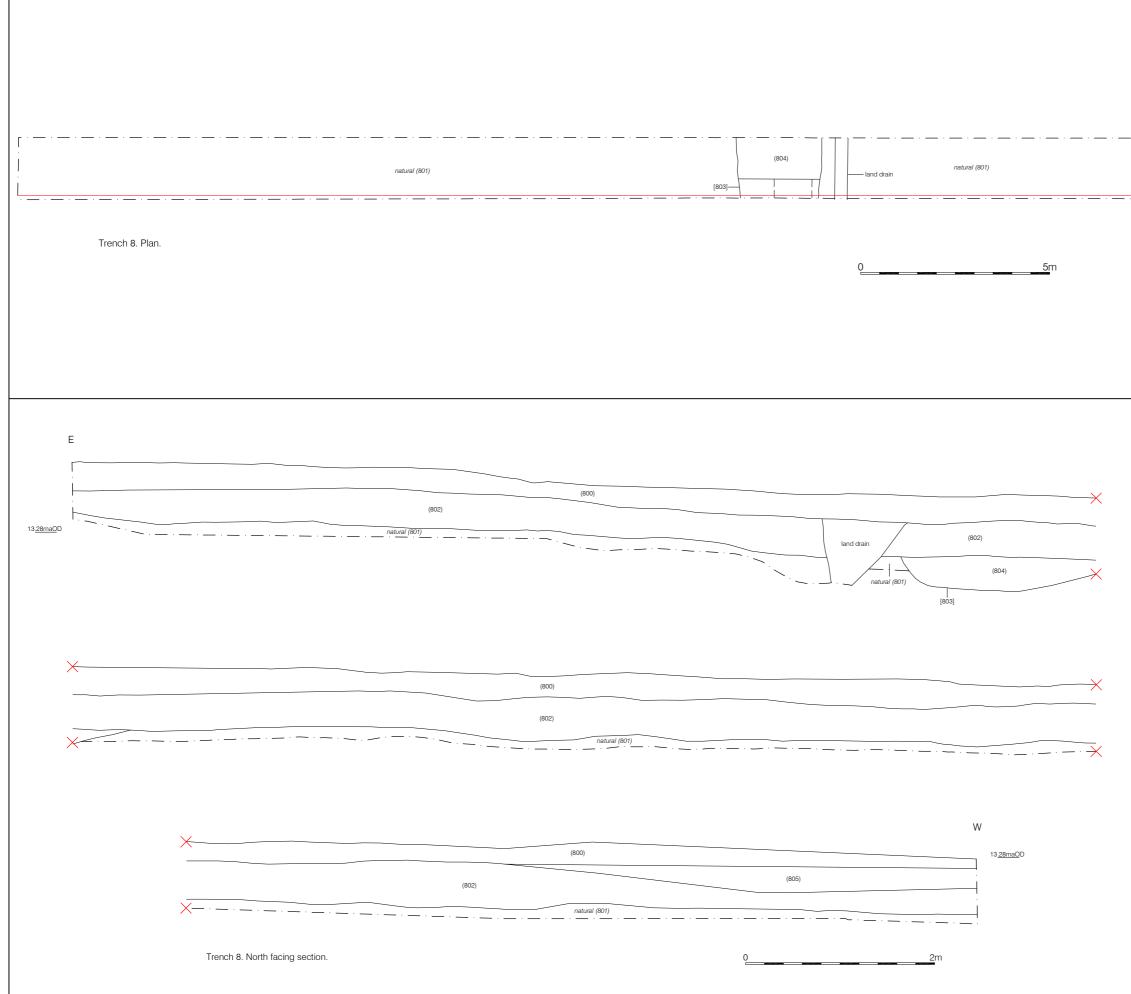
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| | Wardell Armstrong 2017 |
| PROJECT: | |
| Land n | orth of Preston Old Road, Clifton, Lancashire |
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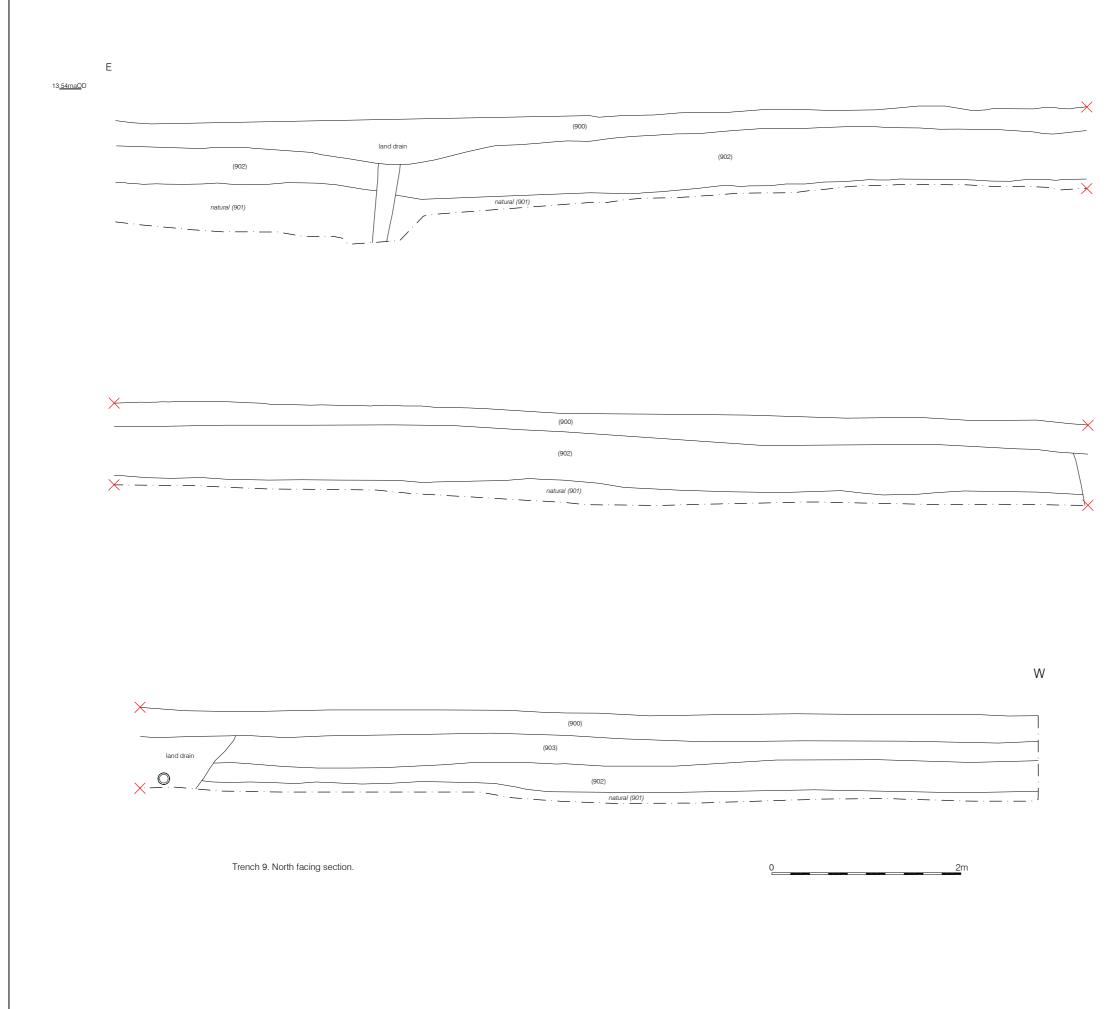
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| | Wardell Armstrong 2017 |
| | PROJECT: |
| · | Land north of Preston Old Road, Clifton, Lancashire |
| | CLIENT: |
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| | SCALE: Plan 1:100/Section 1:40 at A3 DRAWN BY: AB |
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| REPORT No: LE13925 |

wardell-armstrong.com

STOKE-ON-TRENT Sir Henry Doulton House Forge Lane Etruria Stoke-on-Trent ST1 SBD Tel: +44 (0)178 227 6700

BIRMINGHAM Two Devon Way Longbridge Technology Park Longbridge Birmingham B31 2TS Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

CARDIFF 22 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3BY Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CROYDON Suite 8 Suffolk House College Road Croydon Surrey CRO 1PE Tel: +44 (0)208 680 7600 EDINBURGH Suite 3/1 Great Michael House 14 Links Place Edinburgh EH6 7EZ Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GREATER MANCHESTER 2 The Avenue Leigh Greater Manchester WN7 1ES Tel: +44 (0)194 226 0101

LONDON Third Floor 46 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1JE Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE City Quadrant 11 Waterloo Square Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4DP Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943 SHEFFIELD Unit 5 Newton Business Centre Newton Chambers Road Thorncliffe Park Chapeltown Sheffield S35 2PH Tel: +44 (0)114 245 6244

TAUNTON Suite E1 Victoria House Victoria Street Taunton Somerset TA1 3JA Tel: +44 (0)182 370 3100

TRURO Baldhu House Wheal Jane Earth Science Park Baldhu Truro TR3 6EH Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International offices:

ALMATY 29/6 Satpaev Avenue Hyatt Regency Hotel Office Tower, 7th Floor Almaty Kazakhstan 050040 Tel : +7(727) 334 1310

MOSCOW Office 4014 Entrance 2 21/5 Kuznetskiy Most St. Moscow Russia Tel: (495)626-07-67

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology:

CUMBRIA Cocklakes Yard Carlisle Cumbria CA4 0BQ Tel: +44 (0)122 856 4820



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