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**SOUTH LIVERPOOL HOMES**

**30-34 HALE ROAD**

**SPEKE**

**MERSEYSIDE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE REPORT**

**MARCH 2020**

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## South Liverpool Homes

30-34 Hale Road, Speke, Merseyside

## Strip Map and Sample Report

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## **SUMMARY**

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by the client, South Liverpool Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and strip, map and sample excavation at 30-34 Hale Road, Speke, Liverpool (NGR: SJ 42973 83309). The evaluation and strip, map and sample excavation were required as a condition of planning consent, and each was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced in response to advice from Ben Croxford acting as the Historic Environment Officer on behalf of Merseyside Environment Advisory Service (MEAS)

The archaeological work was undertaken over 10 days between the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and comprised the excavation of a strip, map and sample area measuring 375m<sup>2</sup> and two evaluation trial trenches. The investigation revealed large clay extraction pits across the strip, map and sample excavation site and traversing one of the trenches. Furthermore, a boundary ditch traversed the strip, map and sample excavation, cutting the backfilled extraction pits. The pits are thought to be early to middle 19<sup>th</sup> century in date and were perhaps marl pits, associated with the extraction of clay for the purposes of marling.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) thanks the client, South Liverpool Homes for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WA thank Ben Croxford, Historic Environment Officer of Merseyside Environmental Advisory Services (MEAS) for their assistance.

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

The excavation was supervised by Mike Birtles who also wrote the report. Kevin Horsley, Michael Mann, David Laverty and Michael Castle assisted during the archaeological investigation. The figures were produced by Helen Philips. The finds assessment was undertaken by Megan Stokeley and palaeoenvironmental assessment by Freddie Sisson. The project was managed by Damion Churchill who also edited the report.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

1.1.1 Between 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook an archaeological excavation and evaluation at 30-34 Hale Road, Speke, Merseyside (NGR: SJ 42973 83309) It was commissioned by South Liverpool Homes, hereafter referred to as the client, who intends to redevelop the site providing 17 bungalows and the renovation of the existing cottages for which a planning consent has been applied for by the client to Liverpool City Council (planning reference: 19F/2336) on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

1.1.2 The grant of planning permission by Liverpool City Council, stated that

1. *No development shall take place until the applicant has submitted a written scheme of investigation for archaeological work for approval in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*
2. *No development shall take place until the applicant has submitted a written programme of archaeological building recording for approval in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved programme'.*

1.1.3 The boundary of the proposed development is thought to contain potential structural remains of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century 'Norrises House' (HER reference: MME18985) which was associated with Speke Hall. The site is currently occupied by 30-34 Hale Road, with associated gardens.

### 1.2 Project Documentation

1.2.1 The project conforms to advice prepared in consultation with Ben Croxford, Historic Environment Officer with MEAS. A WSI (WA 2019a) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the brief for a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation and strip, map and sample excavation. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (MHCLG 2019).

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* (2014a), and in accordance with the WA fieldwork manual (2017).

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 heritage impact assessment was undertaken by the Halsall Lloyd Partnership during 2019. This detailed the likely impact of the development of the site upon the Grade II listed cottages forming 30-34 Hale Road, but did not identify the potential for any potential below ground archaeological remains. Upon consulting the Merseyside Historic Environment Record, an undesignated heritage asset was identified within the site boundary. This asset (HER reference: MME18985) comprises the potential below ground remains of 'Norrises House', a building which existed on the site prior to the current extant cottages.

### 2.3 The Archaeological Field Investigation

2.3.1 The archaeological investigation comprised the excavation of two trenches measuring 22m and 15m in length by 1.9m in width across the western extent of the proposed development area and a strip, map and sample excavation encompassing an area measuring 23.5m by 23m in the eastern portion of the site. The evaluation trenches were placed to determine the existence of potential structural remains. 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 Deposits considered not to be archaeologically significant were removed by a 360° tracked mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. The excavated areas 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 Excavation Manual (WA 2017).
- 2.3.3 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. 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.
- 2.3.4 On completion the evaluation trenches and strip map and sample areas were backfilled by replacing the excavated material.
- 2.3.5 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 Liverpool Museum, with copies of the report sent to the Merseyside HER, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier HRS-A.
- 2.3.6 Wardell Armstrong LLP 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: wardella2-376779.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Location and Geological Context**

- 3.1.1 The Site (centred on NGR SJ 42964 83300) is located approximately c.11.5km to the south east of Liverpool city centre, north of the John Lennon Liverpool Airport within an urban landscape immediately adjacent to Speke Hall Industrial Estate (Figure 1). The proposed development area comprises c.0.5 ha of land immediately south of All Saints Church and situated between Hale Road to the north of the site and Speke Hall Avenue to the south. The development site is centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SJ 42964 83300.
- 3.1.2 Number 30-34 Hale Road are located to the north of the site and comprise a terrace of three redbrick cottages located to the south side of Hale Road within the Speke area of Liverpool. They are set within a large site which borders Hale Road to the north and north east, Speke Church Road to the north and west and Speke Hall Avenue to the south west and south
- 3.1.3 The cottages front Hale Road and overlook All Saint's Church (NHLE ref: 1075203) and its churchyard to the north and along with the church and the nearby village hall (NHLE Ref: 1292225) form a cluster of designated assets representative of the original settlement of Speke.
- 3.1.4 Towards the north and east of the site, the solid geology of the site is known as Chester Formation - sandstone, pebbly (gravelly). sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Superficial deposits comprise the Shirdley Hill Sand Formation formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. (BGS 2019).
- 3.1.5 The same Chester formation bedrock geology is present towards the south and west of the site. The drift geology differs however and comprises glacial Diamicton; formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. (BGS 2019).

#### **3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.2.1 For a comprehensive synthesis of the historical background, refer to the archaeological heritage impact assessment by Halsall Lloyd Partnership during 2019, the following is a brief discussion of the Post Medieval background extracted from the Archaeological Building Recording Report from the same site (WA 2019a).

- 3.2.2 Speke Hall, a grade I listed building (NHLE Ref: 1359837) is located to the south west of the cottages. The Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) identifies the cottages (HER Reference MME5276) as falling within the Speke Hall Estate, being recorded on an estate plan dated 1781.
- 3.2.3 The 1781 estate plan, (The National Trust, 2009), is noted as depicting a house and outbuilding (HER Reference MME18985) in a location which appears to be to the immediate south of the extant cottages. The building shown is recorded on the estate plan as 'Norrises House', outbuilding and garden'.
- 3.2.4 The name 'Norrises House' infers an association with Speke Hall with the extant hall constructed in the later 16<sup>th</sup> Century for the Norris family (Pevsner, 2002), a family recorded as having been present within the parish since the 14<sup>th</sup> Century (National Trust, 2009).
- 3.2.5 Whilst the 1781 structure was shown on a different alignment to the extant cottage terrace it is possible that the cottages represent the re-configured remains of this building, it being possible that the cottages are of mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century origin with later adaptation.
- 3.2.6 Notably, an archaeological excavation comprising a strip map and record of the area to the south east of the extant cottages, in the likely location of the formerly recorded 'Norrises House' has not revealed any archaeological deposits to suggest the presence of an earlier building or structure within this location. This supports the possibility that the extant building represents an altered version of 'Norrises House'.
- 3.2.7 Speke Hall remained in Norris family ownership until the 18<sup>th</sup> Century when it passed to the Beauclerk family through the marriage of the Norris heiress to Lord Sidney Beauclerk, son of the Duke of St Albans.
- 3.2.8 The estate was purchased by Richard Watt I in 1795 from the Beauclerks who had let the hall fall into disrepair. It is recorded by the National Trust that Speke Estate offered rich cultivation land and the establishment of houses and cottages to support the exploitation and the working of the land was substantial with the sales particulars for the estate drawn up in 1795 detailing the estate to comprises 2,400 acres with a large Home Farm and 27 tenanted small holdings of varying sizes (National Trust, 2009).
- 3.2.9 Richard Watt had made his money from the exploitation of the slave trade in the West Indies where he owned a Plantation and also from the shipping trade, particularly the movement of goods including slaves by which time Liverpool was becoming a

significant a port for. Richard Watt died in 1797, only two years after he purchased Speke Hall and it is unlikely that any investment in wider estate buildings was undertaken during two year period; this may explain why the 1800 estate plan shows the same arrangement on the Site as the earlier 1781 plan.

- 3.2.10 In consideration of the differences in alignment and location of the building shown on the earlier estate map, this may be due to their being less requirement to accurately record wider estate buildings; a later estate plan dated 1800 is noted by the HER as showing the same arrangement as that presented on the 1781 estate plan.
- 3.2.11 The extant cottage arrangement is, according the HER, first shown in 1825. This estate plan, produced for Richard Watt III, shows a smaller building with no outbuildings depicted.
- 3.2.12 The principal frontage of the cottages presents a classic symmetry typical of the Georgian era which extended into the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The listing description also refers to this elevation being tuck pointed. Whilst this pointing has been renewed more recently with modern cementitious pointing, tuck pointing first became fashionable in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and its recorded use on the main frontage supports a date of late 18<sup>th</sup> Century origin.
- 3.2.13 The earliest mapping viewed as part of this building recording was the 1844 Tithe Survey. As mentioned above this map shows the cottages in their extant arrangement of three separate properties with separate garden areas. The accompanying Tithe apportionment details that the cottages are owned by Richard Watt and tenanted by Thomas Wyke (number 30), Thomas Rigby (number 32) and Margaret Grice (number 34) which each described as 'Cottage and Garden'. No outbuilding is depicted on the Tithe map and no mention to an outbuilding is described within the apportionment.
- 3.2.14 Analysis of census returns from 1841 confirms the cottages were in the same occupancy three years prior to the Tithe with the occupation of Thomas Wyke and Margaret Grice given as farmers whilst Thomas Rigby is described as being a bread baker. Thomas Rigby and Margaret Grice are also recorded as residing at the cottages at the time of the 1851 census.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation and strip map and sample investigations were undertaken between the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The two trenches and strip, map and sample area were excavated across the proposed development site (Figure 2). The excavations were placed to investigate possible structural remains associated with buildings predating or associated with the cottages located at 30-34 Hale Road, Speke.

4.1.2 Conditions were very wet during the excavations resulting in suboptimal recording conditions.

### 4.2 Results

#### 4.3 Strip Map and Sample.

4.3.1 The strip map and sample excavation area was located to the southeast of the cottages, adjacent to Hale Road and encompassed an area between a pond and the cottages, the area immediately abutting the cottages were omitted from the investigation due to the suspected presence drainage associated with the outbuildings. The natural geological substrate **(1001)** consisted of an orange yellow sandy clay and was overlain by an uneven 0.5–0.7m deep layer of topsoil **(1000)**.

4.3.2 The earliest phases of archaeological activity was represented by a series of five irregular pits on a north west to south east alignment. Pit **[1008]** located closest to the cottages was up to 5.6m in diameter and 1.5m deep (Plate 1). The pit was filled by a primary fill of soft light brown red silty sand **(1058)** overlain by a friable dark brown sandy silt containing lenses of clay **(1009)** (Figure 5, Section 20).

4.3.3 Immediately to the southwest of pit **[1008]**, pit **[1032]**, was observed to be filled by moderately compact dark grey brown silty clay containing occasional lenses of mottled sandy clay **(1033)** and cut by a 0.82m deep pit **[1034]**. The earliest fill within Pit **[1034]** comprised a fairly compacted pinkish brown clay **(1006)** primary deposit only observed in Section 1 (Figure 4). This was overlain by a deposit up to 0.17m thick of moderately compact dark brown grey silty sandy clay with peaty and sandy lenses **(1035)**. The pit **[1034]** was sealed by thick soft dark brown grey silty clay **(1036)** which measured up to 0.45m thick (Plate 2; Figure 4, Sections 1, 6, 9 and 10).

- 4.3.4 To the southwest of **[1034]** was another 3.8m wide by 4.3m long, 1.28m deep pit **[1042]**. The primary deposit within pit **[1042]** was a 0.4m thick mixed dark grey brown peaty sand (**1043**), this was overlain by a 0.38m thick soft moderately compact mixed mottled dark brown grey silty sand with clay lenses (**1044**). A single sherd of glass was recovered from fill (**1044**). The uppermost deposit within **[1042]** was a 0.4m thick soft moderately compact dark brown grey silty clay (**1045**) (Plate 3; Figure 5, Section 16).
- 4.3.5 Located immediately southwest of pit **[1042]** was another 3.3m wide pit **[1014]**, this pit was primarily filled by a 0.5m thick mixed dark grey brown sandy silt (**1015**) overlain by a 0.2m thick soft dark grey sandy silt (**1016**) (Plate 4: Figure 4, Section 8) which contained a single fragment of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.
- 4.3.6 Adjacent to and on a parallel alignment to the pits on the southwestern edge was an 8.5m long, 0.4m wide by 0.2m deep drainage ditch **[1051]** containing a dark grey brown silty loam containing flecks of charcoal (**1052**). The termini of this feature were not definable due to the waterlogged conditions and uneven natural substrate horizon (Plate 5; Figure 3).
- 4.3.7 The next phase of archaeological activity is represented by a 1m wide by 0.12m deep flat-bottomed ditch **[1063]** on a north west to south east alignment. This ditch is on the same alignment as ditch **[1051]**, however it has a much wider and flatter profile than **[1051]** suggesting both cut features may be disassociated (Plate 6; Figure 5, Sections 13 and 20). Ditch **[1030]** was filled by a single firm dark grey brown silty loam deposit (**1031**) with a water-bourne appearance suggesting a drainage purpose. Fragments of animal bone, glass and a sherd of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from fill (**1031**). Ditch **[1063]** cut the secondary fill of pit **[1008]** (Plate 7, Figure 5: Section 20), and in turn was truncated by ditch **[1062]**.
- 4.3.8 A further ditch **[1010]** was observed to be truncated by ditch **[1062]** and was located to the north west of the site. This ditch, approximately 1m wide and up to 0.4m deep. Ditch **[1010]** appears to have been recut by **[1062]** along its south western edge (Plate 8; Figure 4, Section 4) and the earlier ditch is fully truncated approximately 2.8m to the north east of Section 4 (Figure 3).
- 4.3.9 Ditch **[1062]** was recorded traversing the site from the southwestern limit of excavation aligned southwest-northeast before turning 90° right towards the south east. Ditch **[1062]** cut each pit, as well as truncating ditches **[1010]** and **[1063]** (Figure 3). Of the seven interventions placed to investigate the ditch and its relationship



regarding other features, a primary fill was observed within three of them comprising a firm light grey mixed loam with clay lenses c.0.12m thick **(1017)**. This fill was observed to contain a high quantity of small pebbles in cut **[1022]** of ditch **[1062]** (Plate 10: Figure 4, Section 6). Furthermore, Clay tobacco pipe and four sherds of 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from this fill. The primary deposit was overlain by a moderately compact mixed mottled dark grey brown silty clay with silty clay lenses, measured at up to 0.90m thick **(1013)** which contained 3 fragments of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

4.3.10 The most recent archaeological feature was a small 1.47m long by 0.47m wide pit **[1053]** located within the south eastern half of the excavation area (Figure 3). This pit was 0.38m deep and filled with modern debris within a loose dark grey silty clay **(1054)** (Plate 11; Figure 5, Section 21). Mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and eight sherds of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century glass was recovered from this fill.

#### 4.4 Evaluation Trenches

4.4.1 **Trench 1** (Plate 12; Figure 6) was situated in the western portion of the proposed development area on an area of grass between Speke Hall Avenue and Speke Church Road and orientated north west to south east (Figure 2). The trench measured 22m in length and 1.9m in width. It had a minimum depth of 0.65m and maximum depth of 1.44m. The natural substrate **(101)** consisted of yellow brown sandy clay and was overlain by a 0.6m thick deposit of grey brown loam topsoil **(100)**.

4.4.2 The archaeology identified within Trench 1, comprised a 5m wide, 1.44m deep pit **[102]** filled with a mixed grey brown loam backfill **(103)** (Plate 13; Figure 6, Section 2) located at the north western end of the trench. Initially thought to be a large ditch, evidence regarding the pits located within the strip, map and sample area may suggest this feature could be another similar pit.

4.4.3 **Trench 2** (Plate 14; Figure 2) was located perpendicular to the north western end of Trench 1, and aligned south west to north east. The trench was 15m long and 1.9m wide.

4.4.4 Trench 2 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The natural geology **(201)** of Trench 2 was observed to comprise yellow brown sandy clay, this was overlain by a 0.7m thick deposit of grey brown loam topsoil **(200)**. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

## 5 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 32 artefacts and ecofacts, weighing 4,079g, were recovered during an archaeological investigation on land at Hale Road, Speke.
- 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). The archive has the unique project identifier WA 20 / ST17786 / HRS-A.
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and, where necessary, further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 5.1.4 Quantification of artefacts and ecofacts by material and context is given in Table 5.1. Finds from environmental samples are recorded in Table 5.2. These tables are located in Section 5.8 of this report.

### 5.2 Late Post-medieval pottery

- 5.2.1 A total of 16 sherds of mid to late 19th century pottery, weighing 1,397g, were recovered during the archaeological investigation (Table 5.1). The sherds are in moderate to good condition with edges and surfaces displaying some minimal evidence of post-depositional damage. Per context, a minimum of 14 vessels is present in the assemblage.
- 5.2.2 The pottery was examined and recorded according to published national guidelines (PCRG, SGRP & MPRG 2016). Where possible, the pottery was assigned mnemonic codes a Fabric types include black-glazed Buckley-type coarse red earthenware (BUCK, CRE), refined white earthenware (REFW), slip-trailed earthenware (SLTR), English stoneware (ENGS) and buff earthenware (BEARTH).s detailed in MOLA (2015).
- 5.2.3 Vessel types include pancheons, small to large-sized storage jars, saucers and medium-sized jugs.
- 5.2.4 No further analysis is recommended.

### 5.3 Clay Tobacco Pipe

5.3.1 A single plain partial clay tobacco pipe bowl, weighing 6g, was recovered from context **(1027)** (Table 5.1). The artefact is in good condition.

5.3.2 The partial bowl is of probable 19th century date.

5.3.3 No further analysis is recommended.

### 5.4 Glass

5.4.1 A total of eight late post-medieval (c.1850s?) to early modern (c.1900s) glass bottles, weighing 2,639g, were recovered from two contexts during the archaeological investigation (Table 5.1). The bottles are in fairly good condition.

5.4.2 The bottles comprise almost-complete and complete medicinal / pharmaceutical bottles as well as an ink jar and beer / lemonade bottles.

5.4.3 The bottles are locally-made with companies including John Lyon & Co Ltd and Edmondson & Co Ltd.

5.4.4 No further analysis is recommended.

### 5.5 Ecofactual Remains and Animal Bone

5.5.1 Six fragments of animal bone, weighing 42g, were recovered from context **(1055)** (Table 5.1). The animal bone is in very poor condition with flaking and fragile cortical bone surfaces and little trabecular bone surviving.

5.5.2 Guidelines adhered to for zooarchaeological analysis include 'Animal Bones & Archaeology: recovery to archive (Baker & Worley 2019) plus reference material from Schmid (1972).

5.5.3 The fragments comprise miscellaneous limb bone fragments from a probable large-sized ungulate. The bones could be domestic food waste or may have originated on the site through natural wastage. No butchery marks, gnaw-marks or pathologies were evident on the fragments.

5.5.4 The bones, while not datable to a chronological period via visual examination, are likely contemporary with the late post-medieval to early modern finds.

5.5.5 No further analysis is recommended.

## 5.6 **Finds and Ecofacts from Environmental Samples**

5.6.1 A very small quantity of finds and ecofacts, weighing <19g, were recovered from a single environmental sample <4> (1031) (Table 5.2). The fragments are generally small in size, abraded and quite fragmentary.

5.6.2 The finds and ecofacts include a single shard of abraded glass of probable 19th century date as well as ovine and bovine teeth.

5.6.3 Little interpretative analysis can be drawn from the finds and ecofacts recovered from the environmental samples; the animal teeth likely represent casual loss and the glass shard may have originated from a small vessel or jar.

5.6.4 Further analysis is not recommended.

## 5.7 **Statement of Potential**

5.7.1 The finds assemblage recovered from Hale Road, Speke, is of little archaeological significance.

5.7.2 The finds will not be retained with the archive.

## 5.8 Tables

### 5.8.1 Table 5.1: Quantification of Artefacts & Ecofacts by Material and Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Wgt (g)	MNV	Fabric Code	Date	Comments
1055	Animal Bone	6	42	-	-	??	Limb bone fragments from a probable large-sized ungulate, very poor condition
1027	Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	1	6	-	PM, 19th C	Top of bowl, probably plain
1044	Glass	1	340	1	-	Mid-late 19th C	Broken wine / beer bottle, dark green
1054	Glass	8	2299	8	-	Late 19th C - 1900s	Small green ink bottle, Boots the Chemists pharmaceutical bottle (clear), clear medicine bottle ('Tablespoons'), blue medicine bottle, clear jar (no lid), Edmondson & Co Ltd 'In Full Swing' Liverpool & Birkenhead beer/ale bottle, John Lyon & Co Ltd beer/lemonade bottle, MWA Manchester clear bottle
1000	Pottery	5	424	3	TRB, BUCK, CRE, ENGS	Mid-late 19th C	Storage jars/pancheons, plates,
1013	Pottery	3	196	3	BUCK, CRE, BEARTH	Mid-late 19th C	Storage jars / pancheons, small buff earthenware body sherd
1016	Pottery	1	147	1	BUCK / CRE	Mid-late 19th C	Storage jar sherd
1023	Pottery	3	379	3	BUCK, CRE, BEARTH	Mid-late 19th C	Base and rim of storage jars
1027	Pottery	1	25	1	BUCK / CRE	Mid-late 19th C	Jug handle
1054	Pottery	2	217	2	REFW, BEARTH	Mid-late 19th C	Base sherd of large jar, saucer (REFW)
1055	Pottery	1	9	1	SLTR	Mid-late 19th C	Slip-trailed body sherd from small jar
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>32</b>	<b>4079</b>	<b>29</b>			

### 5.8.2 Finds from Environmental Samples

Context	<E>	Material	Wgt (g)	Notes
1031	4	Animal Bone	18	Ovine and bovine teeth
1031	4	Glass	<1	Very thin shard, probably from small vessel / jar, 19 <sup>th</sup> C?

## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Four bulk environmental samples were taken during the evaluation and strip, map and sample at Hale Road, Speke. The samples had a combined weight of 151kg (84l).
- 6.1.2 This report presents the results of the assessment of the environmental samples, palaeobotanical and charcoal remains in accordance with Campbell *et al.* (2011) and English Heritage (2008).

### 6.2 Methodology

- 6.2.1 The bulk environmental samples were processed at Wardell Armstrong LLP. The colour, lithology, weight and volume of each sample was recorded using standard Wardell Armstrong pro forma recording sheets. cf. Table 6.1 The samples were processed with 500 micron retention and flotation meshes using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973). Once dried, the residues from the retention mesh were sieved to 4mm and the artefacts and ecofacts removed from the larger fraction and forwarded to the finds department. The smaller fraction was scanned with a magnet for microslags such as hammerscales. This fraction was then examined for smaller artefacts such as beads.
- 6.2.2 The flot (Flot 1), plant macrofossils and charcoal were retained and scanned using a stereo microscope (up to x45 magnification). Any non-palaeobotanical finds were noted on the flot pro forma.
- 6.2.3 The plant remains and charcoal were identified to species as far as possible, using Hather (2000), and the author's reference collection. Nomenclature for plant taxa followed Stace (2010).

### 6.3 Results (Table 6.2)

- 6.3.1 Sample <1> from the fill (1011) of ditch [1010] yielded 3g of magnetised material identified as small naturally occurring stone. The sample also presented 1g of charcoal identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.).
- 6.3.2 Sample <2> from the fill (1015) of pit [1014] yielded <1g of magnetised material, which was identified as small, naturally occurring stone. Charcoal (2g) was also recovered from the sample which was identified as oak.

6.3.3 Sample <3> from the fill (1052) of ditch [1051] presented 5g of magnetised material, which contained two pieces of plate hammerscale, 7g of oak charcoal, 6g of clinker and 11g of coal.

6.3.4 Sample <4> from the fill (1031) of cut [1030] of ditch [1063] this sample yielded 1g of magnetised material which contained 5 examples of plate hammerscale, 2g of oak charcoal, 22g of coal and 12g of clinker.

## 6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 The dearth of ecofactual material recovered as well as the small amounts of industrial material give no useful indication of human agency. From the 151kg of sediment processed, only 12g of charcoal, 23g of clinker and 33g of coal was recovered.

6.4.2 The ditches from which samples <3> and <4> were recovered are noted as being silting fills therefore the clinker and coal were most likely present through water lain action or aquaturbation. This reason could also be applied to the presence of the material in sample <1>.

## 6.5 Statement of potential and recommendations

6.5.1 The ecofactual and industrial material offers no further potential for analysis due to the amount of material found. This would not enhance any extant data.

6.5.2 Should a radiocarbon date be required the charcoal is in a suitable condition. It should be noted that due to the charcoal all being identified as oak it will give a wide date range due to being a long-lived species and these dates may not give an accurate date for the site.

## 6.6 Tables

### 6.6.1 Table 6.1 Sample Information

C	<>	TQ	Cut	Desc	PW	PV	SW	SV
1011	1	4	1010	Fill of drainage ditch	61	30	6743	4600
1015	2	4	1014	primary ditch fill	50	30	7526	7400
1052	3	2	1051	silting ditch fill	22	13	2362	1550
1031	4	2	1030	silting ditch fill	18	11	2270	1700

Key: C=context; <>=sample number; TQ=tub quantity processed; Cut=cut number of feature; Desc=description of context; PW=processed weight(kg); PV=processed volume(l); SW=sorted weight(g); SV=sorted volume (ml)

6.6.2 Table 6.2 Flot and Finds Information

C	<>	Flot			Retent					
		WF	VF	Ch	Ch	Cl	Co	Gl	Bo	MM
1011	1	3.9	55		1					3
1015	2	4.9	35		2					0
1052	3	0.6	15	<0.01	7	6	11			5
1031	4	0.7	12		2	12	22	1	18	1

Key: C=context; <>=sample number; WF=weight of flot(g); VF=volume of flot(ml);  
 Ch=charcoal(g); Cl=clinker(g); Co=coal(g); Gl=count of glass sherds; Bo=bone(g);  
 MM=magnetised material(g)



## 7 CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Interpretation

- 7.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at Hale Road, Speke, one strip, map and sample excavation and two trenches were excavated over two areas, covering approximately 445m<sup>2</sup> of the proposed development area. The purpose of the archaeological work was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains.
- 7.1.2 All areas of investigation were excavated down to the top of the natural geological substrate.
- 7.1.3 Archaeological remains were found in one evaluation trench and across the strip, map and sample excavation. The data recovered indicated past activity on the site dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This activity was represented by a series of pits, the function of which remains unclear. Given the lack of finds recovered from the fills of the pits, it is likely these were opened and closed relatively quickly, and therefore precludes the likelihood of them being used as rubbish pits.
- 7.1.4 The six inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map published in 1849 illustrates the numerous clay and extraction pits that peppered the landscape in the area, and it is entirely possible these pits represent the remains of marl pits in Speke. Notably, several of the pits illustrated on the 1849 OS map are not shown on the six inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map published in 1896 suggesting that these pits were being infilled. As indicated on the 1800 Estate Map, "Norrises House" was shown to be on the same alignment as indicated on the map of 1781. The extant cottages were constructed by the time the 1825 Estate map was produced, indicating the cottages were constructed between 1800 and 1825 This development of the cottages would have necessitated the infilling of the pits and indeed, the OS map published in 1849 shows orchards in the area the pits identified during the strip, map and sample excavation are located. This map also shows a right-angled boundary south east of the cottage and north of the orchard on the same orientation as the ditch recorded during the excavation. As such, it is possible the orchard was located immediately south of the strip, map and sample excavation area.
- 7.1.5 The finds recovered from the pits however are largely datable to the middle to late 19<sup>th</sup> century indicating the pits may have been open when the cottages were constructed during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is entirely possible therefore, rather than

being marl pits open prior to the development of the cottages, and backfilled to facilitate the construction of the cottages, the pits may relate to the extraction of clay for the use of manufacturing ceramic building material for use in constructing the cottages. The sequence of the mapping data and the archaeology would suggest the pits were backfilled during the middle rather than the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- 7.1.6 The survival of the archaeological features was good. Survival had been influenced by past landscaping, however the depth of the features ensured survival, furthermore any ephemeral features may have been removed during recent landscaping. No archaeology predating the 19<sup>th</sup> century was observed during both the trial trench evaluation and the strip, map and sample excavation.
- 7.1.7 Trench two of the trial evaluation trenches located to the west of the site was devoid of archaeological features and deposits.

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## APPENDIX 1: STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1000	Topsoil	Loose dark grey brown sandy silt, rare rounded pebbles	0.5m	Very uneven layer of topsoil
1001	Natural Substrate	Firm orange yellow sandy clay	-	Uneven horizon
1002	VOID	-	-	-
1003	VOID	-	-	-
1004	Cut of pit	Same as [1034]	0.48m	
1005	Fill of pit [1004]	Same as (1035)	0.15m	
1006	Fill of pit [1004]	Fairly compacted pinkish brown clay	0.1m	Slump of natural substrate
1007	Fill of pit [1004]	Same as (1036)	0.34m	
1008	Cut of pit	Sub circular pit approximately 5m wide only partially observed within boundary of excavation	1.5m	
1009	Fill of pit [1008]	Loose friable dark brown sandy silt with occasional lenses of clay	1.5m	
1010	Cut of ditch	0.85m wide linear ditch excavated against the southwest baulk	0.18m	-
1011	Fill of ditch [1010]	Moderately compact dark grey brown silty clay	0.18m	-
1012	Cut of ditch	Linear ditch excavated against the southwest baulk. 1.7m wide	0.62	Part of group [1062]
1013	Fill of ditch [1012]	Moderately compact dark grey brown silty clay, occasional clay lenses	0.62m	Secondary fill of ditch
1014	Cut of pit	3.3m wide pit recorded in south east baulk cut by ditch [1060]	-	-
1015	Fill of pit [1014]	Moderately compact mixed dark grey brown loam with clay lenses	0.5m	Primary silting of pit [1014] Same as (1043)
1016	Fill of pit [1014]	Soft dark grey sandy silt	0.37m	Secondary fill of pit [1043] same as (1044)
1017	Fill of ditch [1060]	Firm light grey mixed loam with clay lenses	0.12m	Primary fill of ditch
1018	Fill of ditch [1060]	Same as (1013)	0.15m	
1019	Cut of pit	Same as [1034]	1.1m	
1020	Fill of pit [1019]	Same as (1035)	0.28m	

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1021	Fill of pit [1019]	Same as (1036)	0.45m	
1022	Cut of ditch	Steeply sided ditch on a southwest to northeast alignment	0.4m	Part of group [1062]
1023	Fill of ditch [1022]	Same as (1017)	0.4m	
1024	Cut of ditch	Shallow flat based ditch with near vertical sides	0.1m	Part pf group [1063]
1025	Fill of ditch [1024]	Same as (1031)	0.1m	
1026	Cut of ditch	Steeply sided ditch on a southwest to northeast alignment	0.3m	Part of group [1062]
1027	Fill of ditch [1026]	Same as (1017)	0.3m	
1028	VOID	-	-	-
1029	VOID	-	-	-
1030	Cut of ditch	1m wide shallow, almost vertical sides, flat base	0.12m	Part of group [1063]
1031	Fill of ditch [1030]	Firm dark grey brown silty loam	0.12m	Natural silting
1032	Cut of pit	2m wide sub circular pit with sharp sloping sides and rounded base	0.38m visible	Truncated by pit [1034]
1033	Fill of pit [1032]	Moderately compact dark grey brown with mottled orange, silty clay with lenses of sandy clay	0.38m	Probably back fill or slump within pit [1032]
1034	Cut of pit	5m wide sub circular pit with sharply steeping sides and rounded base	0.82m	
1035	Fill of pit [1034]	Moderately compact dark brown grey loam with lenses of peat and clay	0.18m	
1036	Fill of pit [1034]	Soft mottled grey silty clay containing rare pebbles	0.17m	
1037	Cut of ditch	Rounded steep sided, rounded base	0.48m	Part of group [1062]
1038	Fill of ditch [1037]	Same as (1017)	0.1m	
1039	Fill of ditch [1037]	Same as (1017)	0.37m	
1040	Fill of [1041]	Same as (1033)	0.23m	
1041	Cut of pit	Same as [1032]	0.23m	
1042	Cut of pit	5m wide sub circular pit with sharp sloping sides and imperceptible base.	1.28m	Clay extraction pit or pond

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1043	Fill of pit [1042]	Soft mixed dark grey brown peaty sand with dark grey sandy lenses	0.4m	Primary fill, peaty nature of the fill suggests the pit was open long enough for vegetation to grow and decompose.
1044	Fill of pit [1042]	Soft moderately compact dark brown grey loam, rare cobbles	0.38m	-
1045	Fill of pit [1042]	Soft moderately compact dark brown grey silty clay with occasional pebbles	0.12m	Upper pit backfill.
1046	Cut of ditch	1.8m wide Shallow sloping sides leading to a rounded base	0.4m	Part of group [1062]
1047	Fill of ditch [1046]	Same as (1017)	0.12m	
1048	Fill of ditch [1046]	Same as (1017)	0.3m	
1049	Cut of ditch	1.52m wide ditch with concave sides and a rounded base	0.3m	Part of Group [1062]
1050	Fill of ditch [1049]	Same as (1017)	0.3m	
1051	Cut of ditch	0.42m wide ditch with rounded sides and base	0.2m	Probable drainage ditch
1052	Fill of [1051]	Charcoal rich friable dark grey brown silty loam	0.2m	Secondary fill of ditch [1051] probably naturally occurring over a long period.
1053	Cut of pit	0.4m wide oval shaped pit with sharp break of slope leading to concave sides and a rounded base	0.38m	Modern rubbish pit
1054	Fill of pit [1053]	Loose dark grey silty clay containing modern debris	0.38	Modern fill of pit [1053]
1055	Fill of ditch [1056]	Same as (1031)	0.18m	
1056	Cut of ditch	1.48m wide moderate sloping sides leading to a slightly rounded base	0.18m	Part of group [1063]
1057	Fill of pit [1059]	Same as (1009)	0.3m	
1058	Fill of pit [1059]	Soft light brown red silty sand	0.1m	Primary fill Only visible within Section 20.
1059	Cut of pit	Same as [1008]		
1060	Cut of ditch	2.95m wide gentle sloping sides leading to rounded base	0.2m	Part of group [1062]
1061	Fill of ditch [1022]	Same as (1017)	0.1m	

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
1062	group	Group for ditch	-	Comprises: [1012] [1022] [1026] [1037] [1046] [1049] [1060]
1063	group	Group number for ditch		Comprises: [1024,] [1030] and [1056]



## APPENDIX 2: EVALUATION TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

### Trench 1

Length: 22m                      Width: 1.9m                      Orientation: northwest - southeast  
 Maximum Depth: 1.44m                      Minimum Depth: 0.65m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
100	Topsoil	Grey brown silty loam	0.65m	Topsoil
101	Natural Substrate	Yellow brown firm sandy clay.	-	-
102	Cut of ditch or pit	1.9m wide with steep sides leading to a u-shaped rounded base	1.44m	Possible ditch however following on from the results of the adjacent excavation this might be a clay extraction pit
103	Fill of [102]	Mid grey brown silty loam	1.44m	Secondary backfill of [102]

### Trench 2

Length: 15m                      Width: 1.9m                      Orientation: northeast - southwest  
 Maximum Depth: 0.7mm                      Minimum Depth: 0.65m

Context Number	Context Type	Description	Height/Depth	Discussion
200	Topsoil	Grey brown silty loam	0.7m	topsoil
201	Natural substrate	Yellow brown firm sandy clay.	-	-

### APPENDIX 3: PLATES



Plate 1; Pit [1008], south east facing section, 2m and 1m scale.



Plate 2; Pits [1032] and [1034] and cut [1037] of ditch [1062], facing south east, two 1m scales.



Plate 3; Pit **[1042]** cut by cut **[1046]** of ditch **[1062]**, oblique view facing south, two 1m scales



Plate 4; Pit **[1014]** cut by cut **[1060]** of ditch **[1062]**, view looking south east with 1m scale.



Plate 5; Ditch **[1051]**, view looking south east with 1m and 0.2m scale.



Plate 6; Cut **[1030]** of ditch **[1063]** view looking south east, 1m scale.



Plate 7; Showing the relationship between cut [1059] of ditch [1063] and pit [1008], view looking north west, 1m scale.



Plate 8; Showing ditch [1010] recut by cut [1012] of ditch [1062], view looking south west, 1m scale.



Plate 9; Showing relationship between cut [1024] of ditch [1063] and cut [1026] of ditch [1062], view looking south west with 0.5m scale.



Plate 10; Showing relationship between cut [1022] of ditch [1062] and pit [1032], oblique view looking north east, 1m scale.



Plate 11; Modern pit [1053], view looking north west, 1m scale.



Plate 12; Trench 1 looking south east, 1m and 2m scale



Plate 13; Pit [102] traversing Trench 1 at the north western end. Oblique view looking west with 1m and 2m scale.

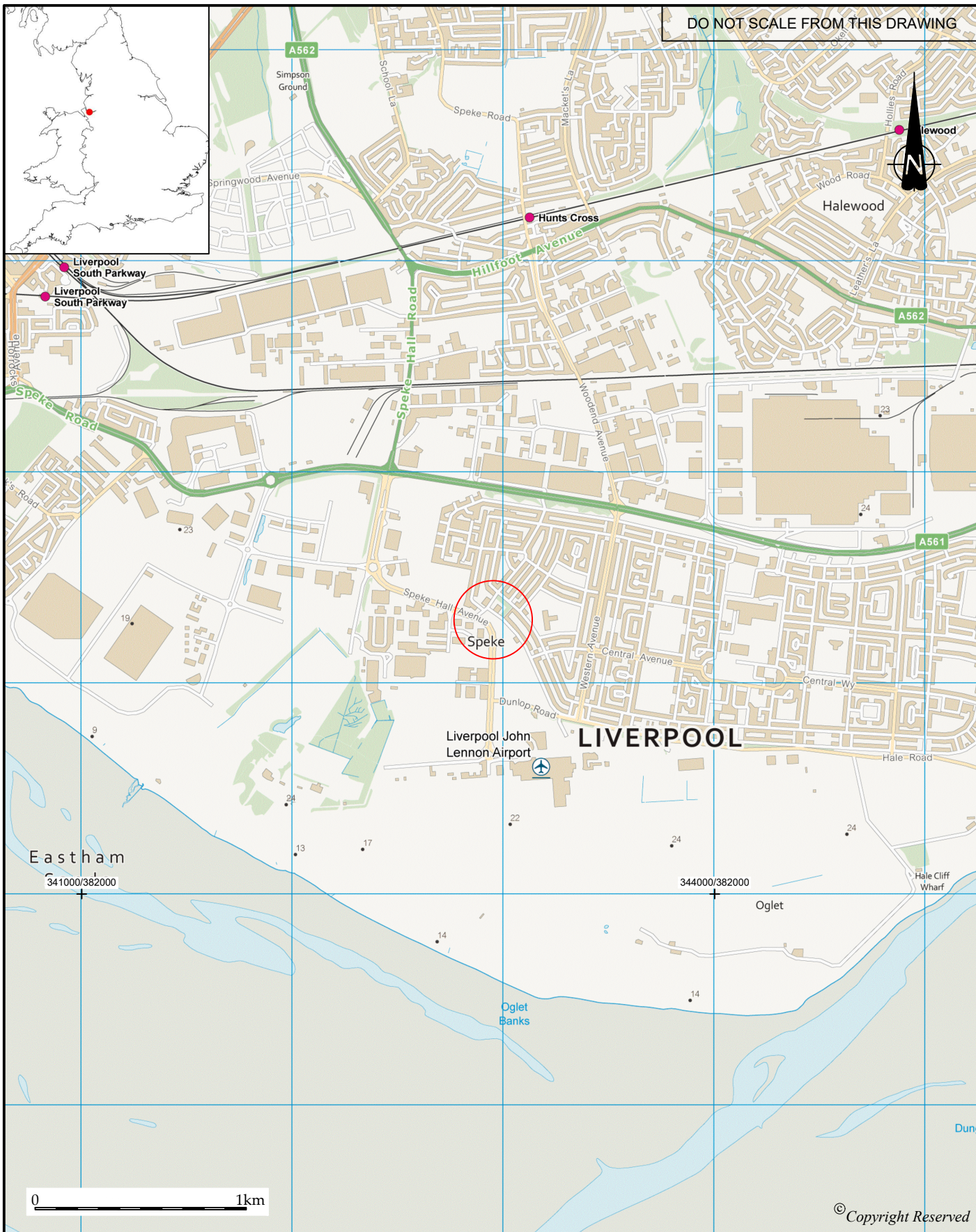


Plate 14; Trench 2, view looking north east, 1m and 2m scale.

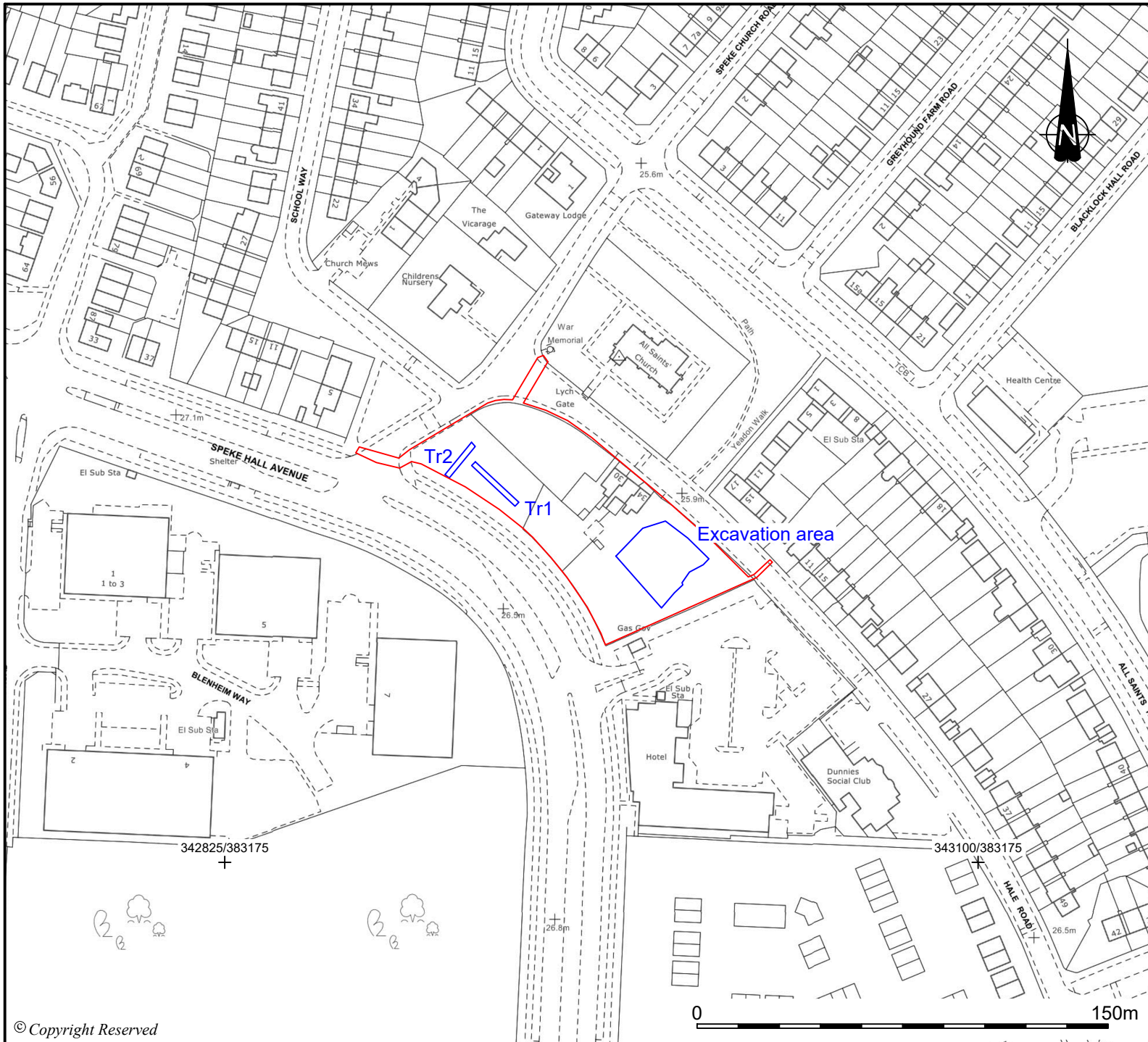


## **APPENDIX 4: FIGURES**

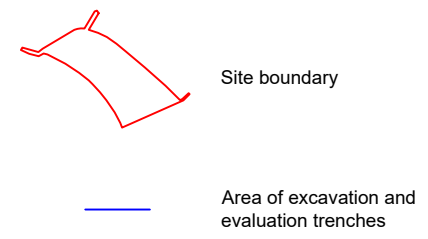
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	PROJECT	30-34 Hale Road, Speke, Merseyside		SIZE	A4	SCALE
DRAWING TITLE		Figure 1: Site location		DRAWN BY	HP	CHECKED BY
					APPROVED BY	
				■ CARLISLE   TEL 01228 550 575 WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM <input type="checkbox"/> BIRMINGHAM <input type="checkbox"/> LEEDS <input type="checkbox"/> BOLTON <input type="checkbox"/> LONDON <input type="checkbox"/> CARDIFF <input type="checkbox"/> MANCHESTER <input type="checkbox"/> EDINBURGH <input type="checkbox"/> NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE <input type="checkbox"/> GLASGOW <input type="checkbox"/> STOKE ON TRENT		



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PROJECT  
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DRAWING TITLE  
Figure 2:  
Detailed location plan showing  
excavation area and evaluation trenches

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DRAWN BY	HP	CHECKED BY	DAC
		APPROVED BY	DAC

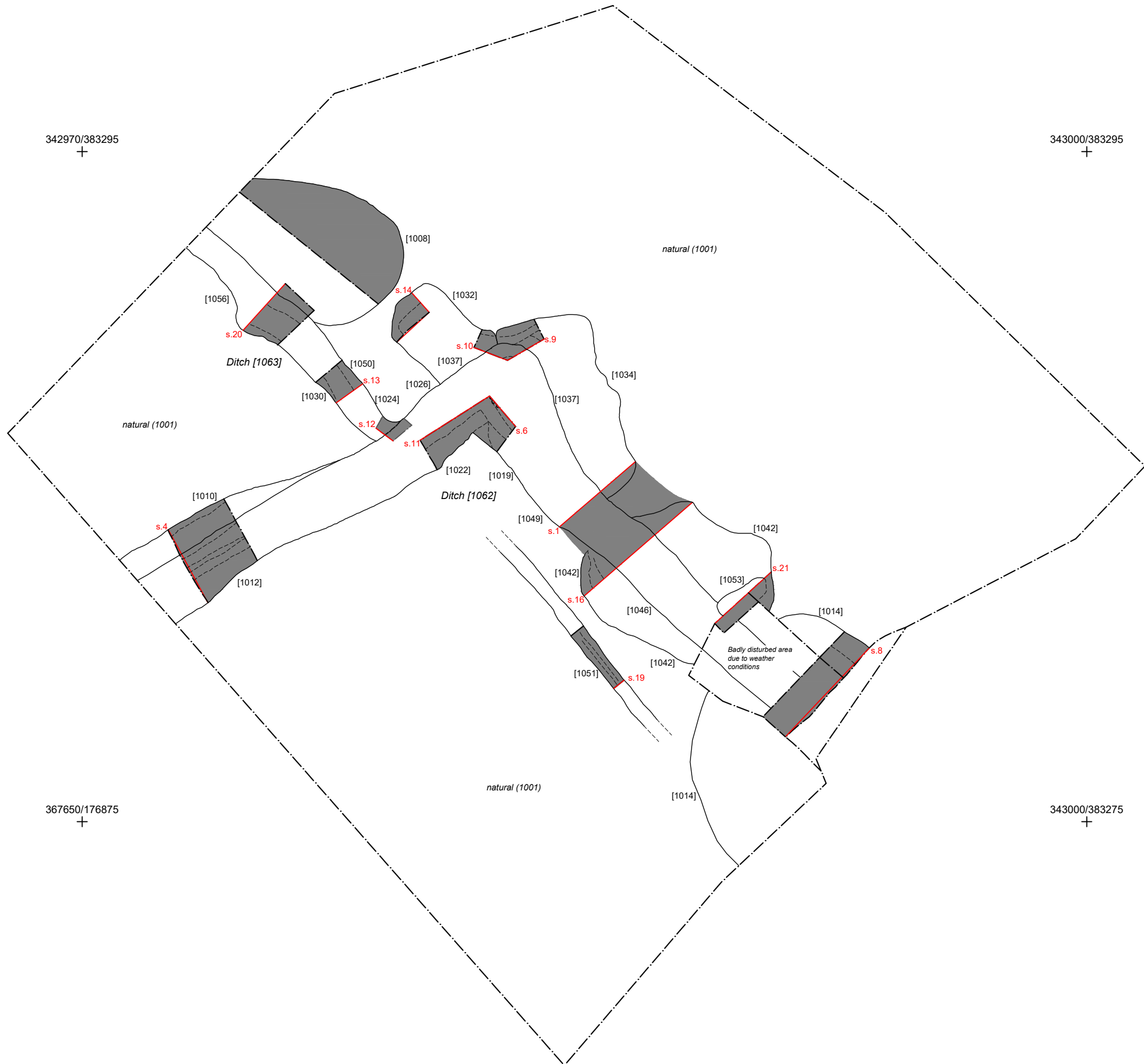
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- (1000) Context numbers
- Limit of excavation
- Section locations
- █ Excavated area



REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRN	CHKD	APPD
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CLIENT  
**South Liverpool Homes**

PROJECT  
**30-34 Hale Road,  
Speke, Merseyside**

DRAWING TITLE  
**Figure 3:  
Plan of excavation area**

DRG No. <b>ST17786-103-A</b>	REV <b>A</b>
DRG SIZE <b>A3</b>	SCALE <b>1:125</b>
DRAWN BY <b>MM/HP</b>	CHECKED BY <b>DAC</b>
	APPROVED BY <b>DAC</b>

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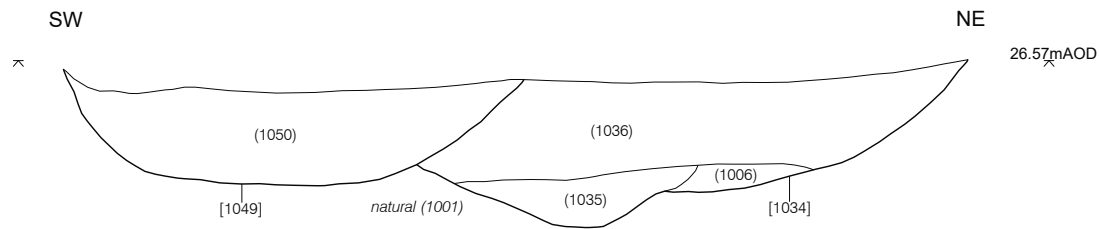
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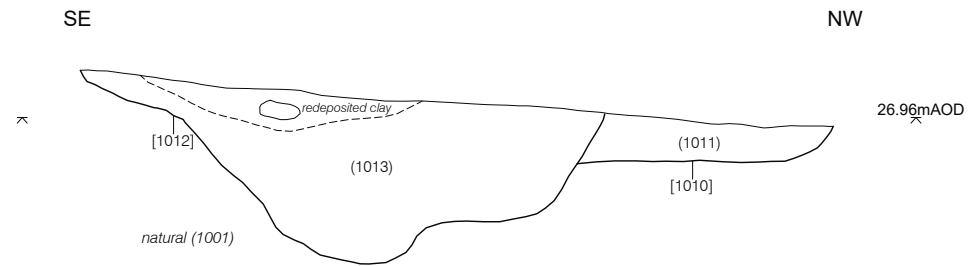
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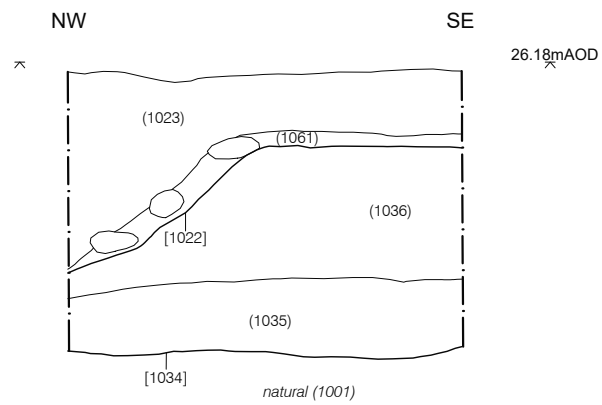
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- Limit of excavation
- ⋈ Height mAOD



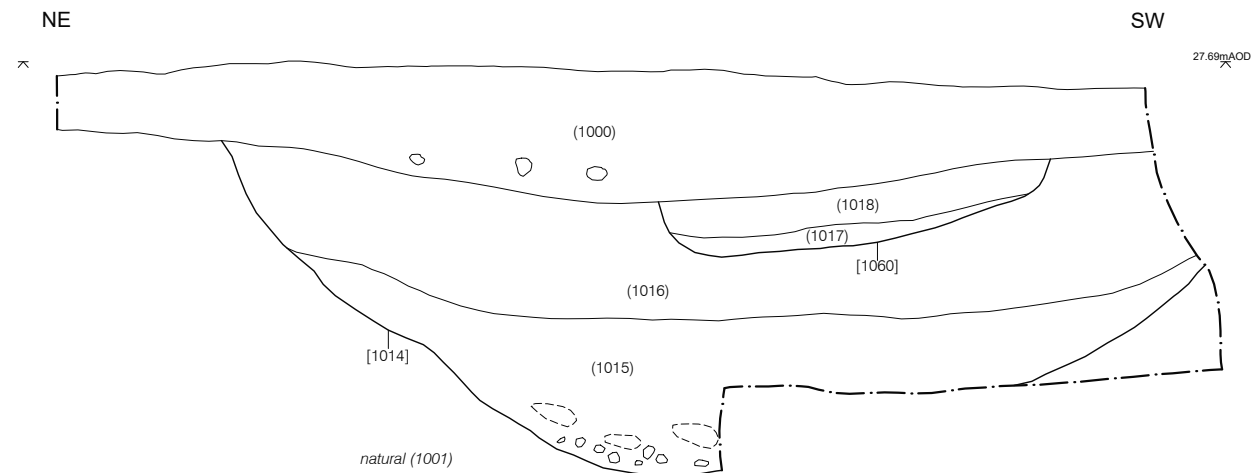
Section 1. South-east facing section of cut [1049] of ditch [1062] and pit [1034].



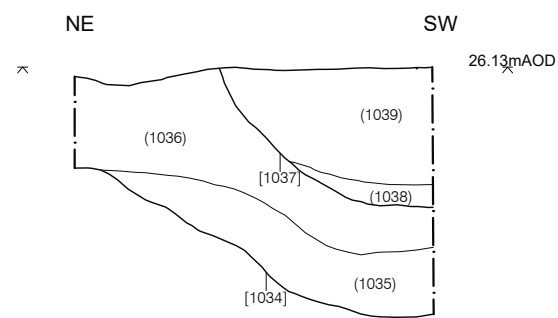
Section 4. North-east facing section of cuts [1010] and [1012] of ditch [1062].



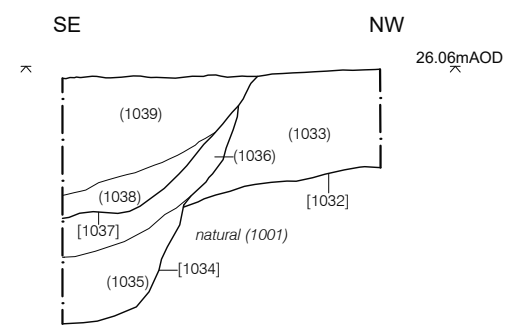
Section 6. South-west facing section of pit [1034] and cut [1022] of ditch [1062].



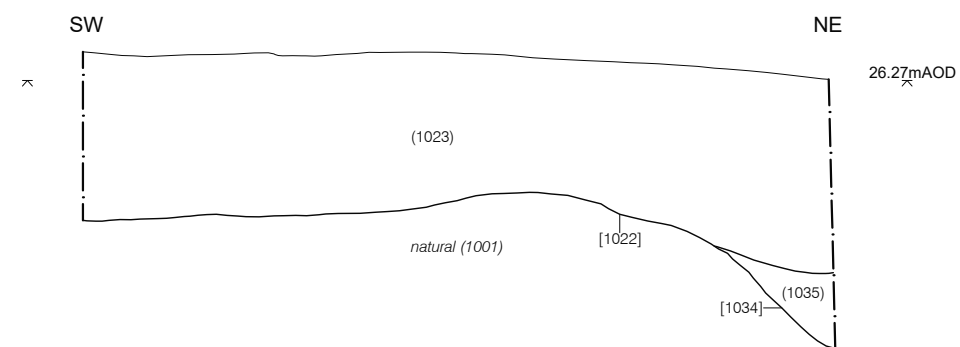
Section 8. North-west facing section of pit [1014] and cut [1060] of ditch [1062].



Section 9. North-west facing section of pit [1034] and cut [1037] of ditch [1062].



Section 10. North-east facing section of pits [1032], [1034] and cut [1037] of ditch [1062].



Section 11. South-east facing section of pit [1034] and cut [1022] of ditch [1062].

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**Figure 4:  
Sections (1)**

DRG No. <b>ST17786-104-A</b>	REV <b>A</b>
DRG SIZE <b>A3</b>	SCALE <b>1:25</b>
DRAWN BY <b>MM/HP</b>	APPROVED BY <b>DAC</b>

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<input type="checkbox"/> EDINBURGH	<input type="checkbox"/> N-J-T
<input type="checkbox"/> GLASGOW	<input type="checkbox"/> STOKE ON TRENT

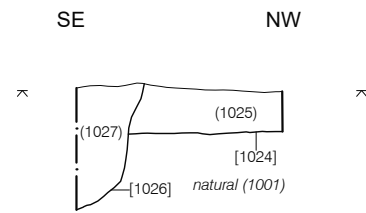


DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

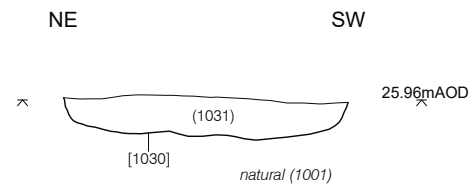
(1000) Context numbers

--- Limit of excavation

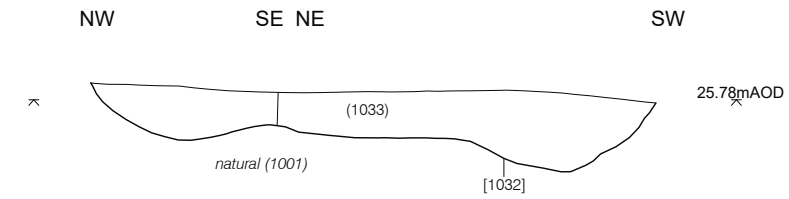
⌵ Height mAOD



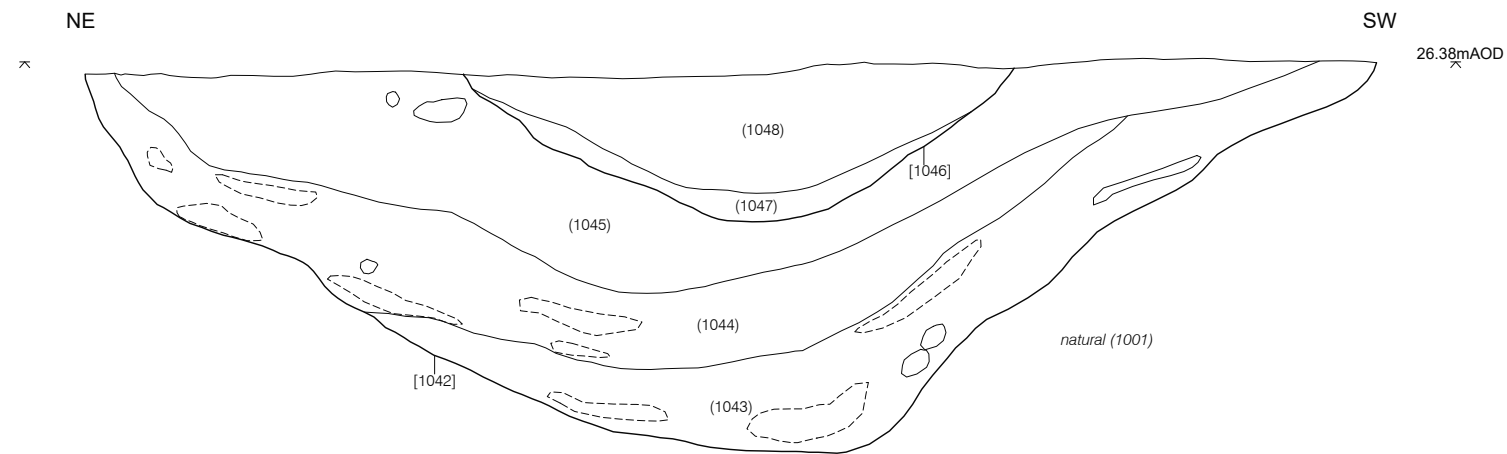
Section 12. North-east facing section of cut [1024] of ditch [1063] and cut [1026] of ditch [1062].



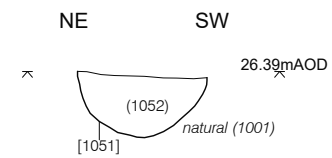
Section 13. North-west facing section of ditch [1030].



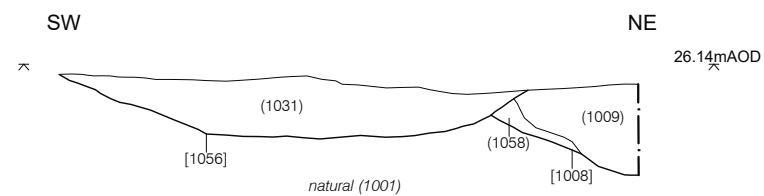
Section 14. SW-NW facing section of pit [1032].



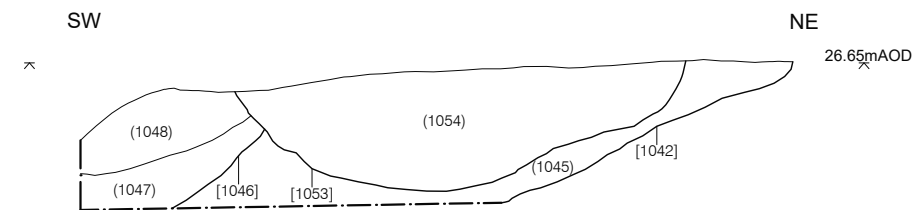
Section 16. West facing section of pit [1042] and cut [1046] of ditch [1062].



Section 19. North-west facing section of ditch [1051].



Section 20. South east facing section of cut [1056] of ditch [1063] and pit [1008].



Section 21. East facing section of pits [1053], [1042] and cut [1046] of ditch [1062].



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Figure 5:  
Sections (2)

DRG No. ST17786-105-A	REV A
DRG SIZE A3	SCALE 1:25
DRAWN BY MM/HP	CHECKED BY DAC
	APPROVED BY DAC

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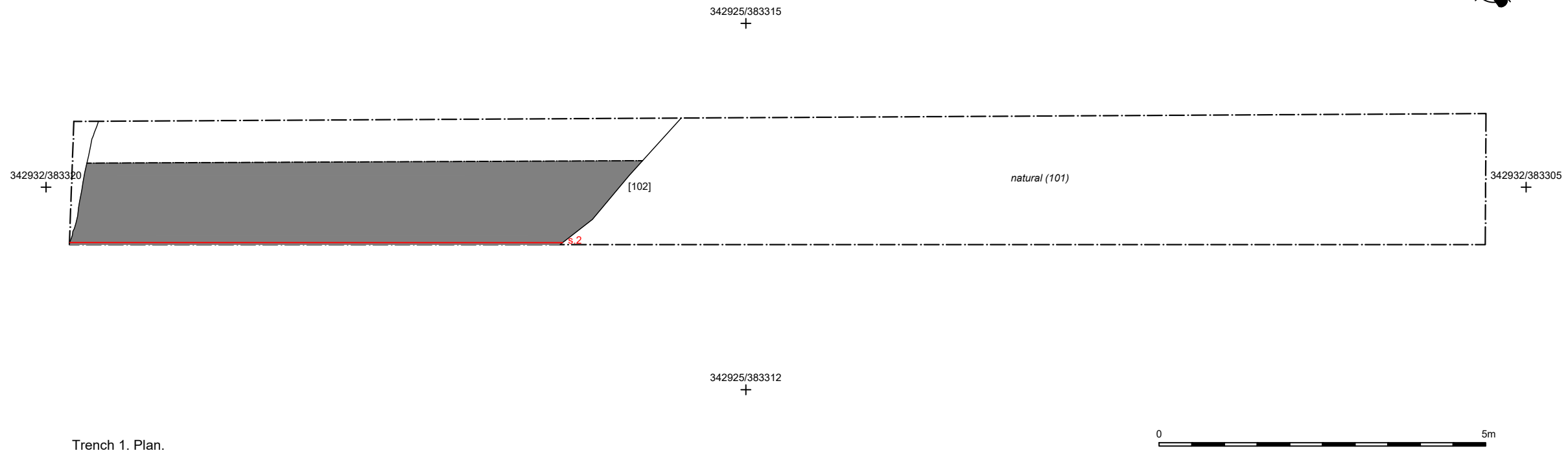
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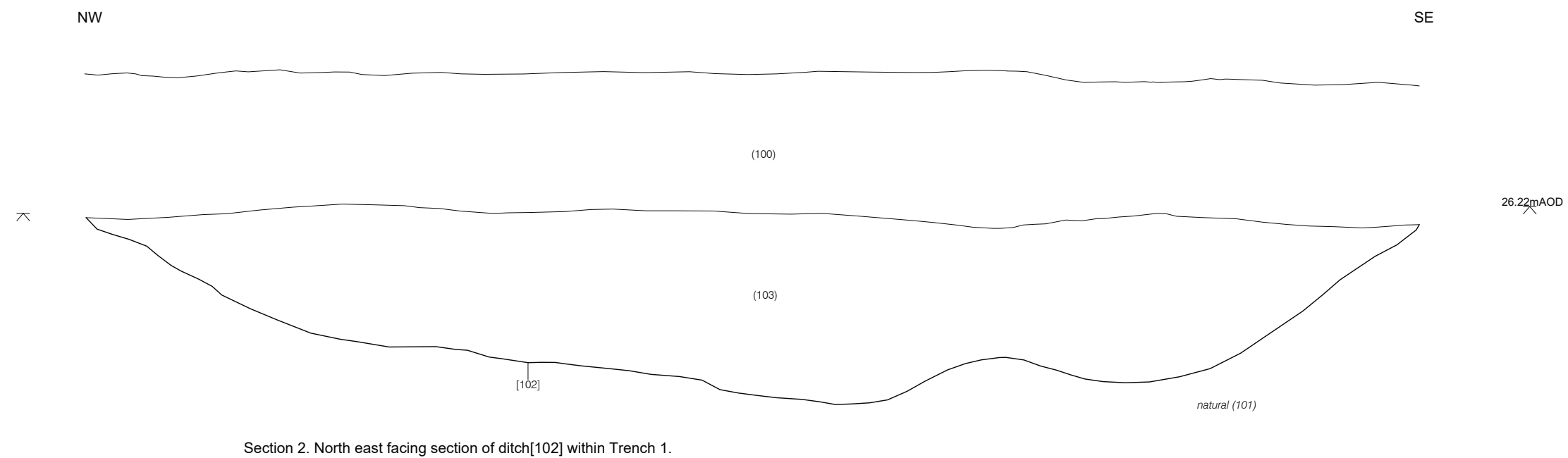
DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING



- (100) Context numbers
- Limit of excavation
- Section locations
- █ Excavated area
- ∧ Height mAOD



Trench 1. Plan.



Section 2. North east facing section of ditch[102] within Trench 1.



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**Figure 6:  
Trench 1; plan and section**

DRG No. <b>ST17786-106-A</b>	REV <b>A</b>
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DRG SIZE <b>A3</b>	SCALE <b>P 1:75/S 1:30</b>	DATE <b>March 2020</b>
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DRAWN BY <b>MM/HP</b>	CHECKED BY <b>DAC</b>	APPROVED BY <b>DAC</b>
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