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**Land to the rear of 113 Church Road,  
Formby, Merseyside, Liverpool  
September 2016 : V 1.0**



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief  
Project Code: A0093.1  
Report no. 0106

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# Land to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby, Merseyside, Liverpool

Report no. 0106 v1.0

Archaeological Watching brief

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Project Code: A0093.1

Date: 17/10/2016

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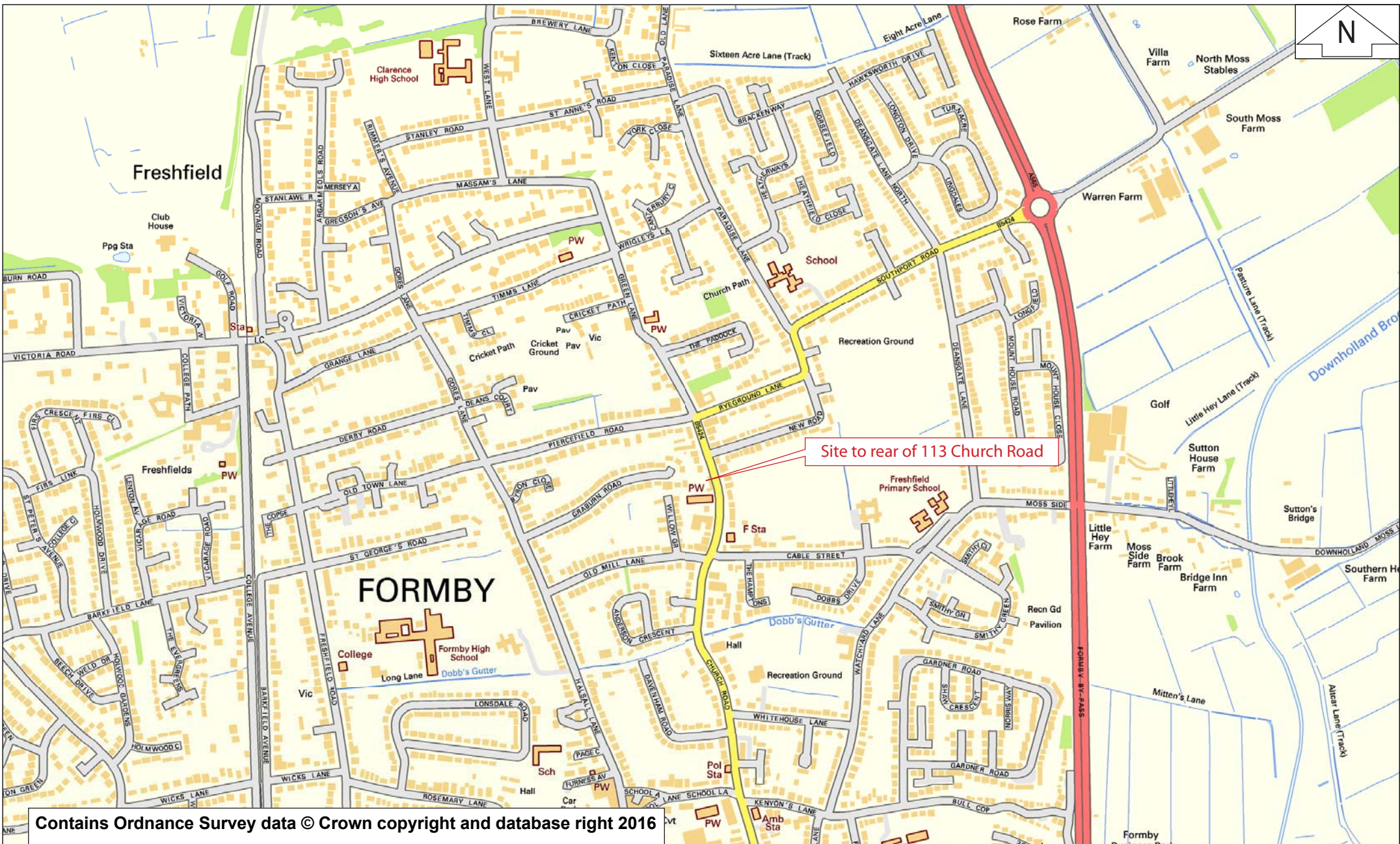
## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a watching brief on land to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 3ND (**NGR SD 30037 07938**), on behalf of TFA Architects during the excavation of foundation trenches for a detached two storey dwelling house with detached garage as a condition of full planning permission (Planning Permission: **DC/2016/01134**).

The results of the archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby are considered to have satisfied the condition of the planning permission. The results of the watching brief indicate that the location of the dwelling had previously been stripped of topsoil and subsoil probably for the implementation of a garden. The dwelling foundation trench uncovered a single Edwardian/Inter-war period refuse pit replete with broken pottery and glass.

The watching brief can be seen as having fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition and it is recommended that the condition now be discharged.



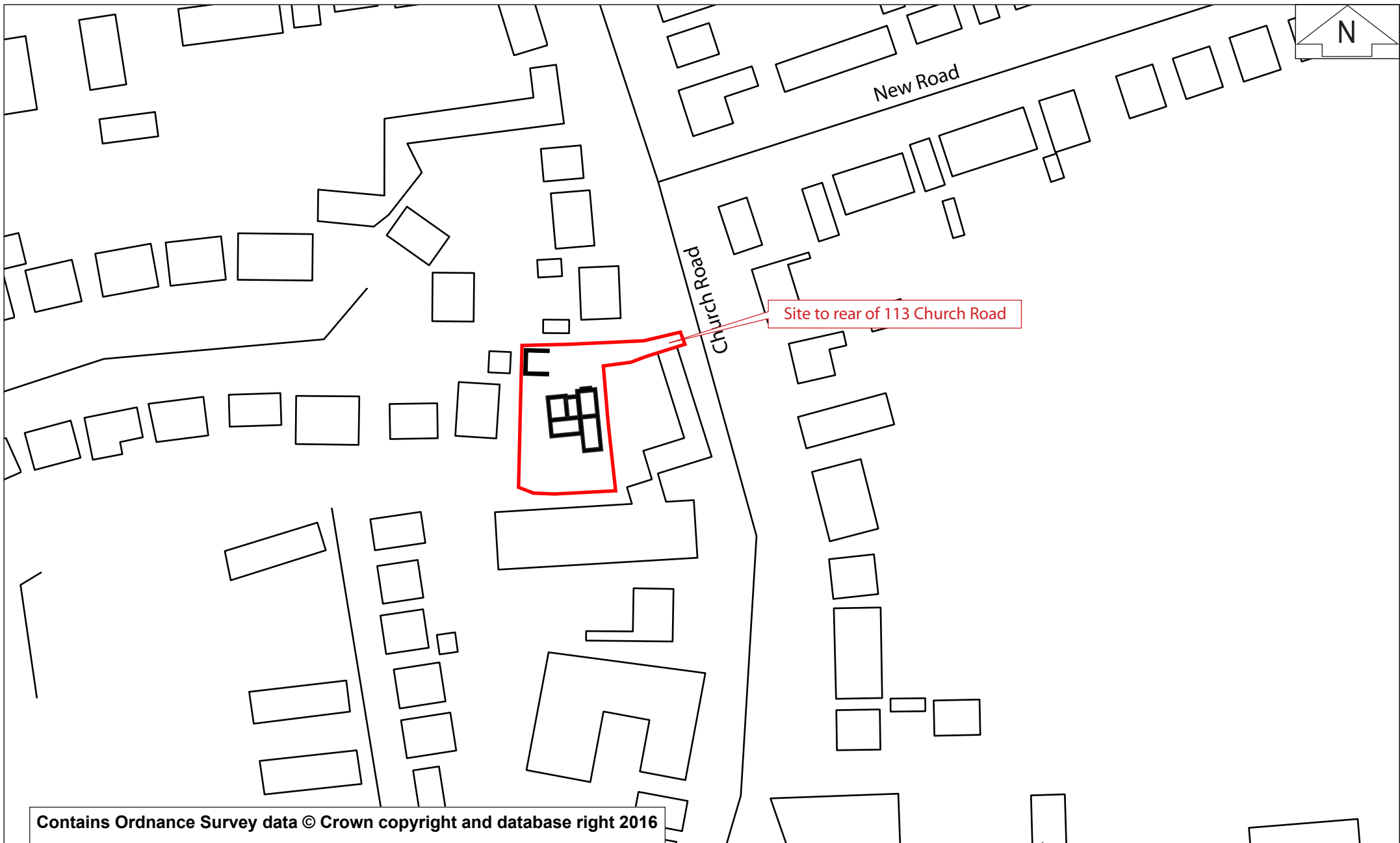


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Figure 01: Location of site to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby. Scale 1:10,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of site to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby. Scale 1:1,250 at A4.

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## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by TFA Architects (developer) to carry out an archaeological watching brief on land to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 3ND as a condition of full planning permission (**DC/2016/01134**).

The archaeological work was undertaken as part of mitigatory works during the groundwork associated with the construction of a new dwelling and detached garage on the western side of Church Road, Formby (**centred on NGR SD 30037 07938**) (figure 01 & 02).

A mitigation brief was prepared for this work by Aeon Archaeology (under job code **A0093.1**), the written scheme of investigation addressed the following:

### Condition 8

*(a) No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work and a written scheme of investigation and a programme of implementation has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*(b) The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

### Reason

*To protect Heritage Assets and comply with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.*

In this case; Ambrose Cottage, which occupies the street frontage of the historic plot, is a non-designated heritage asset recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record, MME1390, and is thought to date to the early 19th century. The 1845 Tithe map for Formby records the site as comprising of house, outbuildings and fold.

There was a potential that the below ground remains of earlier structures that might have occupied the site, as well as cut features, such as rubbish pits, might be encountered by the proposed development; 18th century pottery and other domestic items were recovered from a site in Green Lane in 1991 (MME 11799).

The use of such a condition is in line with the guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015).

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



### 3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling and detached garage on the western side of Church Road, Formby

The aims of the watching brief were:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief were:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; rev 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

In this instance it was not necessary to prepare a revised project design as alluded to in Phase 3; as there was a paucity of evidence recovered in Phase 2 in terms of archaeological features and the residual ceramic finds only offered minimal potential for analysis and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase is to carry out the analysis identified in phase 3 (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies, if required, with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) so that

it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **4.1 Watching Brief**

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

All soil removal was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0093.1.**

### **4.2 Data Collection from Site Records**

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

### **4.3 Artefact Methodology**

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the Merseyside Archaeological Planning Service. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

### **4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

### **4.5 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared and fully cross-referenced.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER and will be logged with the online OASIS database. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0093.1** with the originals being lodged with the Museum of Liverpool.

## 5.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

### 5.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day sheets	1
Context sheets	0
Digital photographs	48

### 5.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the watching brief as no suitable archaeological deposits were encountered.

### 5.3 Artefacts

#### The Archaeological Artefacts from Church Road, Formby, Liverpool, Merseyside.

##### Introduction

The single pit at Church Road, Formby produced a limited ceramic assemblage comprising of 5 sherds of Edwardian/Inter-war stoneware and 3 complete glass bottles.

The ceramic artefacts, according to their identifying fabric type, quantity and weight are quantified in the table below.

Type	Glaze	Era	Quantity	Weight
White Stoneware jug	salt	Edwardian/Inter war	1	704g
White Stoneware flagon - "Blundell & Sons"	salt	Edwardian/Inter war	2	511g
White Stoneware jug - "C. Perry Ltd. Toxteth Park"	salt	Edwardian/Inter war	1	180g
White Stoneware bottle - rim sherd	salt	Edwardian/Inter war	1	37g

##### The Edwardian / Inter-war Pottery

The refuse pit produced 5 sherds of white stoneware pottery with a salt glaze. The fabric of the vessels appears to be traditional stoneware with a dense and opaque body. Furthermore the fabric appears to have been formed from fine-grained plastic clay and represents a typical and inexpensive ware for the time period (Edwardian/Inter-war). The heaviest sherd is quite large and incorporates the neck, shoulders and body of a jug or flagon. Another sherd appears to be the rim of a simple stoneware bottle perhaps for use in the kitchen or to store glue.

The 3 other sherds from Church Road, Formby are quite interesting as they also appear to be associated with brewers jugs or flagons; with 2 sherds fitting together to read "Blundell...CROSSENS" and another 1 reading "...EXTETH..LIVERPOOL...RETURNED". The 2 fragments that fit together are from a 'Blundell & Sons' stoneware vessel; they appear to have been



purveyors of herbal beverages with dating focusing on the interwar period. The other vessel is associated with 'C. Perry Ltd.' who appears to have been a brewer in the Toxteth area of Liverpool.

The salt glaze was mainly used to impart a glassy coating on the main body of the vessel with the upper portion exhibiting a brown glaze created by the addition of iron oxide during firing. At approximately 1660 °F / 780 °C, the salt, (sodium chloride), vaporizes and bonds with the silica in the ceramic body to create a silicate glass.

Stoneware is a common fabric in general use from 1750 all through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is recognised as a heavy duty utilitarian ware. In the case of these vessels the jug/flagon usage seems to have been for holding beverages. These vessels appear to have been deposited sometime around either the Edwardian period or possibly later up to perhaps the interwar period; this dating is possible due to the known operating dates associated with the businesses printed on the vessels.

### Glassware

The complete glass bottles are quantified below according to their unique identifying shape, dimensions and weight.

Type	Width of base	Diameter of mouth	Height	Cross body shape	Era	Quantity	Weight
Glue bottle? Small - cylindrical	4.60cm	3.30 cm	10.8cm	cylindrical	early 20th	1	180g
Lotion/Cream? Small - Square	5.40cm	1.25cm	13.2cm	square, rounded	early 20th	1	167g
Medicinal/Chemical - Medium - Square	7.20cm	2.20 cm	17.0cm	octagonal	early 20th	1	319g

The glass vessels recovered from the refuse pit at Church Road, Formby are complete and not damaged. However the bottles are not embossed or labelled so there is no direct evidence to illuminate their exact provenience.

Bottle dating is not an exact science and is more useful in terms of understanding anthropogenic processes, furthermore glass bottles probably more than most artefacts lend themselves to reuse and so recovered items may not prove particularly useful in terms of date allocation. Due in part to the manufactured nature of the bottles; a lack of seams suggests at least semi-automated production methods, but also because of the ceramic material that was discovered in tandem with these bottles, it is probably safe to say that they were produced somewhere in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The shape of a historic bottle is usually indicative of what the bottle was most likely used, for example what it contained. Glass containers are engineered along very specific design principles; size, mouth diameter, neck length and other specific characteristics relating to functionality such as frequency of access, amount of contents removed with each access, and the type of content (bulk solid, liquid, semi-liquid)

In this assemblage there are 3 bottles, all of them distinct in form, shape and size from each other. First there is a small cylindrical bottle with a wide mouth (relative to its diameter at the base), it is quite short at 10.8cm – according to its shape and dimensions it was probably used to keep glue or some other viscous chemical. Second there is a small square bottle with a thin neck and small orifice

diameter, its shape on the base is square with rounded edges and is slightly taller than the first bottle at 13.2cm – the shape of the bottle suggests it was medicinal or pharmaceutical in function perhaps initially containing lotion. The third and final bottle is larger than the previous two standing at 17.0cm tall with a square base – this bottle is more difficult to associate with a specific use as its shape is altogether utilitarian, it was probably associated with a chemical or bulk medicine. These bottles probably originate in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century

### **Discussion**

The artefacts collected during the watching brief illustrate the types of items used by people during the Edwardian period and beyond into the interwar years. The context in which these finds were recovered in represents a specific action in time; the excavation of a pit and the single backfilling episode with ceramic and glassware. The ceramics are overwhelmingly associated with brewing, beverages and the perceived pursuit of leisure activities whereas the glassware is more representative of the functional items used during this period, with the storage of medicines and chemicals perhaps utilised in the home.

The artefacts from Church Road, Formby represent an important cultural resource that allows us to more broadly inform upon the local heritage of the Merseyside area. The finds discovered in these pits are reminiscent of the kind of items used by working class people all over Britain at this time, objects that people were using every day. Additionally these types of stonewares are adorned with the names of companies which help to improve our understanding of local pottery typologies.

## **6.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **6.1 New dwelling and detached garage on the western side of Church Road, Formby (figures 1-5; plates 1-19)**

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Josh Dean BA ACIfA, archaeological contractor and Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology. The site was attended on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and the weather conditions were bright and sunny.

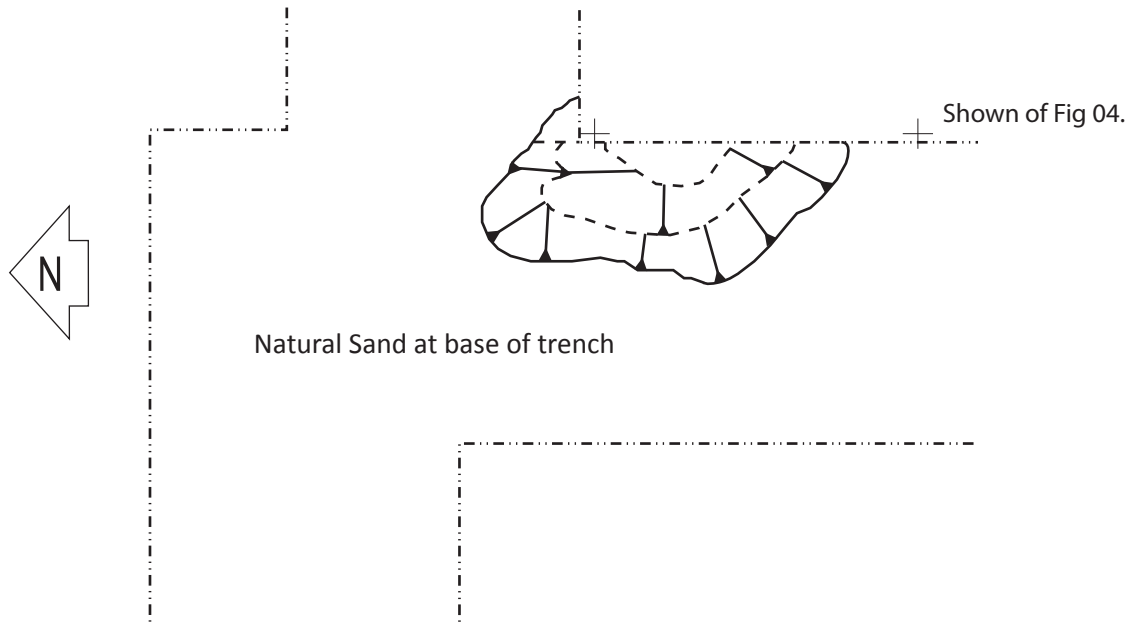
A series of foundation trenches for the footings of the dwelling (plates 4-16) were excavated on land to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby. The trenches measured 0.7m in width and extended over an area 16.4m north to south and 12.85m east to west. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.62m through a 0.35m deep deposit of topsoil which was a dark brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles; laid down as part of the existing garden and lawn. Beneath this the trench cut through a >0.27m deep bright yellow sand mottled with worm casts; this was the natural glacial substrata. The horizon between the topsoil and the bright yellow sand natural was very distinct upon excavation.

At location A (Figure 05) there was a pit which produced a collection of Edwardian/inter-war ceramics and glass bottles. These discarded artefacts were recovered in a broken state with regards to the ceramic sherds but also fully intact in the form of glass bottles. The fill of this pit was composed of a light brown silty sand with heavy inclusions of ceramic and glass vessel sherds located at Location A (plate 3). This was a refuse pit into which these finds were deposited at some point at the beginning of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This feature was however partly truncated by over machining (as shown figures 03 & 04) as a further trench footing was excavated too closely to the pit feature before the archaeologist could begin recording. Furthermore the strong sunlight on the day of excavation made conditions for photography particularly challenging due to the high contrast between light and shadow.

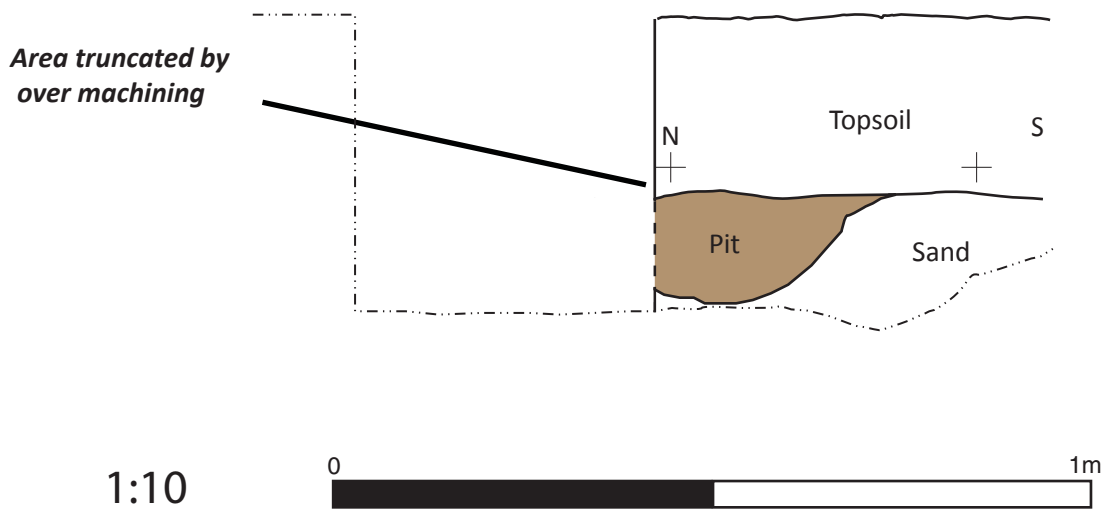
The “C” shaped foundation trenches excavated for the garage (plates 17-19) were excavated to a greater depth (1.20m) in the north-eastern corner in order to compensate for a large root-ball. The topsoil was deeper in this area at a maximum of 0.54m but its composition was exactly the same discovered elsewhere on site.

In summation there was a selection of 5 local white stoneware sherds, probably from flagons or jugs discovered within a single refuse pit, with 3 examples of complete glass bottles also being recovered from the site located on the western side of Church Road, Formby. The artefacts recovered are covered in more detail in section 5.3 of this document.

**Figure 03.** Refuse pit in plan (Location A on Figure 05)



**Figure 04.** West facing section of Pit (Location A on Figure 05)



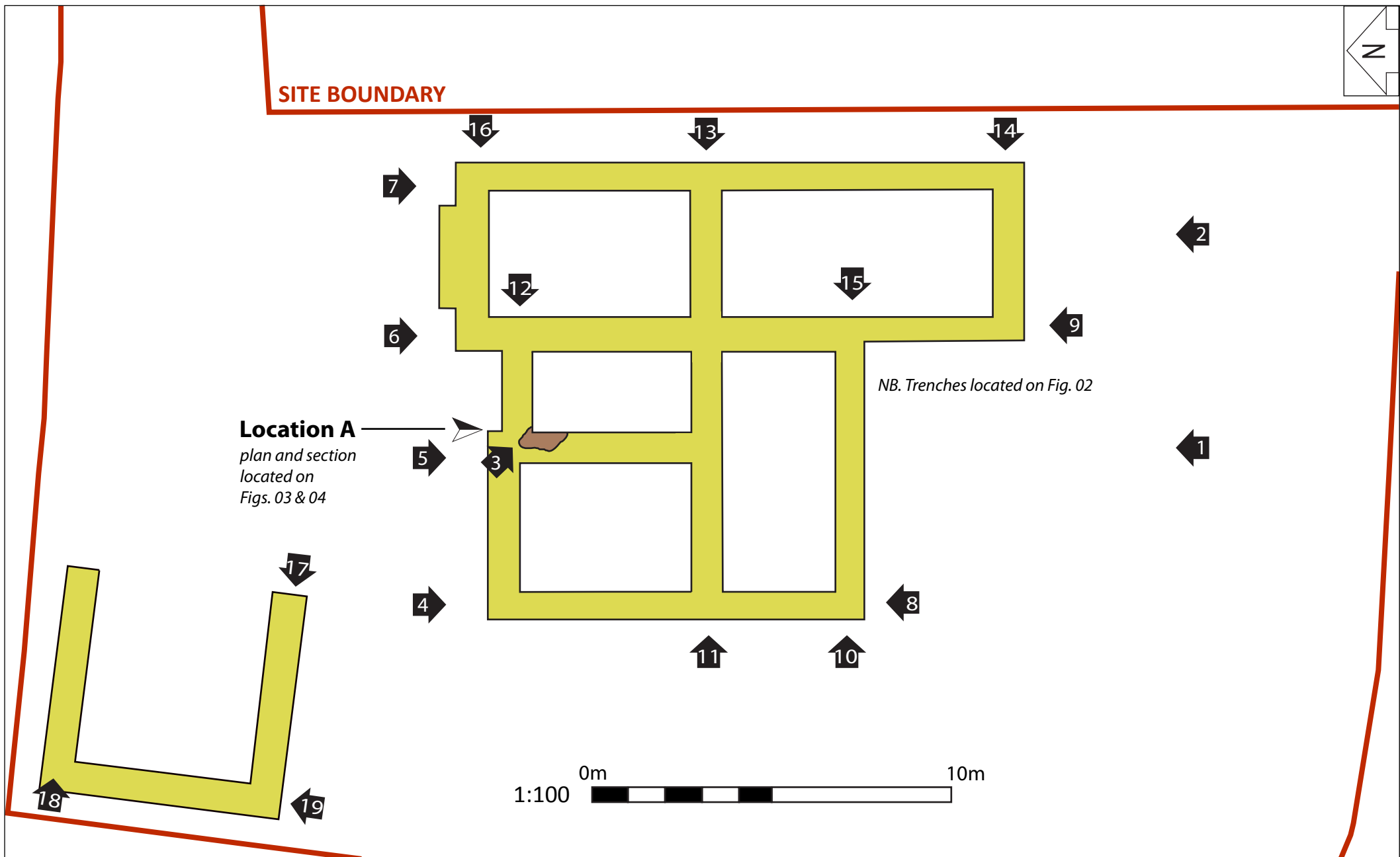


Figure 05: Location of new dwelling and detached garage on the western side of Church Road, Formby , Merseyside, Liverpool. Scale 1:100 at A3.





**Plate 01:** Site Shot - Pre excavation from the South - scale 2m



**Plate 02:** Site Shot - Pre excavation from the South (further to east) - Scale 2m





**Plate 03:** Pit feature (truncated) - from northeast - 0.5m scale



**Plate 04:** Trench Shot - to north of footings; westernmost trench - from North - Scale 1m





**Plate 05:** Trench Shot - to north of footings; west of central trench - from North - Scale 1m





**Plate 06:** Trench Shot - to north of footings; east of central trench - from North - Scale 1m





**Plate 07:** Trench Shot - to north of footings; easternmost trench - from North - Scale 1m



**Plate 08:** Trench Shot - to south of footings; westernmost trench - from South - Scale 1m





**Plate 09:** Trench Shot - to south of footings; central trench - from South - Scale 1m



**Plate 10:** Trench Shot - to west of footings; southernmost trench - from West - Scale 1m





**Plate 11:** Trench Shot - to west of footings; central trench - from West - Scale 1m





**Plate 12:** Trench Shot - to east of footings; east of pit feature - from East - Scale 1m





**Plate 13:** Trench Shot - to east of footings; central trench - From East - Scale 1m





**Plate 14:** Trench Shot - to east of footings; southernmost trench - from East - Scale 1m



**Plate 15:** Trench Shot - trench "stepped in" from southern end of footings - from East - Scale 1m





**Plate 16:** Trench Shot - east of bay window - from East - Scale 1m



**Plate 17:** Trench Shot - Southern arm of garage - from East - Scale 1m





**Plate 18:** Trench shot - Northern arm of garage - from West - Scale 2m



**Plate 19:** Trench shot - Back of garage - from South - Scale 1m



## **7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following the archaeological watching brief at Church Road, Formby the anticipated archaeological potential of the sub-surface deposits and artefactual remains was not realised and the results of the watching brief mean that much of the aims and objectives could not be addressed in full. The results of the watching brief indicated that the topsoil was quite insubstantial on the plot; this may be due to the area having been heavily ploughed in the past as part of cultivation of the land, although there is no evidence of plough marks or pottery finds in line with manuring practices. Another more probable interpretation is that the lack of any developed subsoils suggests that the area was stripped previously; likely as part of the construction of the houses on Church Road, with the topsoil material having been imported to create gardens for the properties.

The single refuse pit discovered upon excavation contained useful artefacts that provided dating evidence for the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and although this period in history has its own worth in terms of social culture and research values; it did not achieve its potential for earlier archaeology in terms of early 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery or the remains of structures. The trench was almost free of modern utilities and the observation of the natural sand substrata immediately beneath the existing garden surface suggests that the area had been possibly stripped previously in order to instate a lawn.

The watching brief can be seen as having fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition and it is recommended that the condition now be discharged.

## 8.0 SOURCES

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**APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**



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**Land to the rear of 113 Church Rd,  
Formby, Liverpool L37 3ND.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for Archaeological Watching Brief**

**aeon archaeology**



Archaeological WSI  
Project Code: A0093.1

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been secured by TFA Architects for the construction of a detached two storey dwelling house with detached garage on land to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 3ND (NGR SD 30037 07938) (Planning Permission: DC/2016/01134).

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) addresses the following:

### Condition 8

- (a) No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work and a written scheme of investigation and a programme of implementation has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
- (b) The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

### Reason

*To protect Heritage Assets and comply with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.*

Ambrose Cottage, which occupies the street frontage of the historic plot, is a non-designated heritage asset recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record, MME1390, and is thought to date to the early 19th century. The 1845 Tithe map for Formby records the site as comprising of house, outbuildings and fold.

There is a potential that the below ground remains of earlier structures that might have occupied the site, as well as cut features, such as rubbish pits, might be encountered by the proposed development; 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and other domestic items were recovered from a site in Green Lane in 1991 (MME 11799).

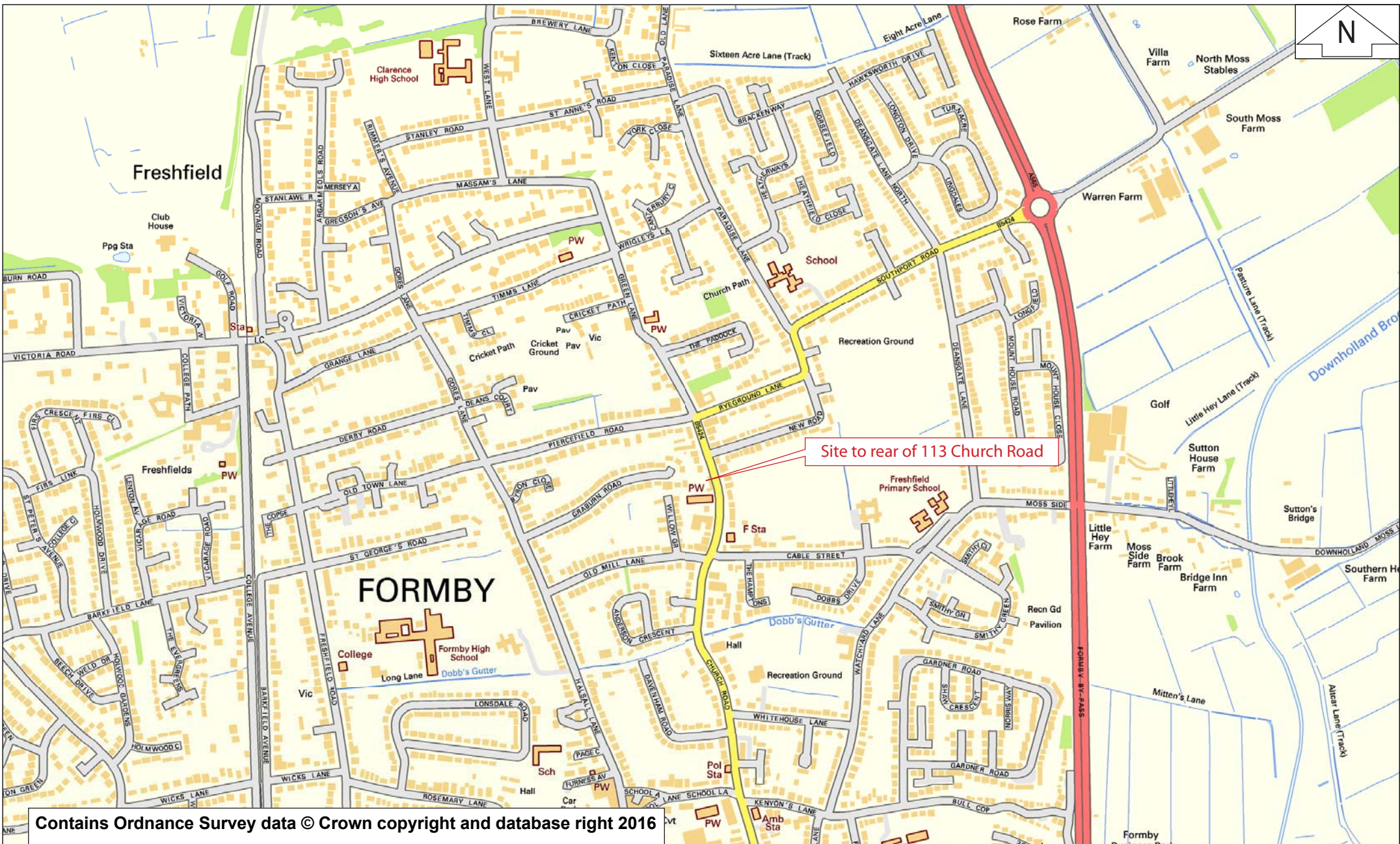
The watching brief will be maintained during intrusive groundworks, as detailed below.

This WSI states the aims, objectives and methodology for implementing the archaeological watching brief so as to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition.

The use of such a condition is in line with the guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015).

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).





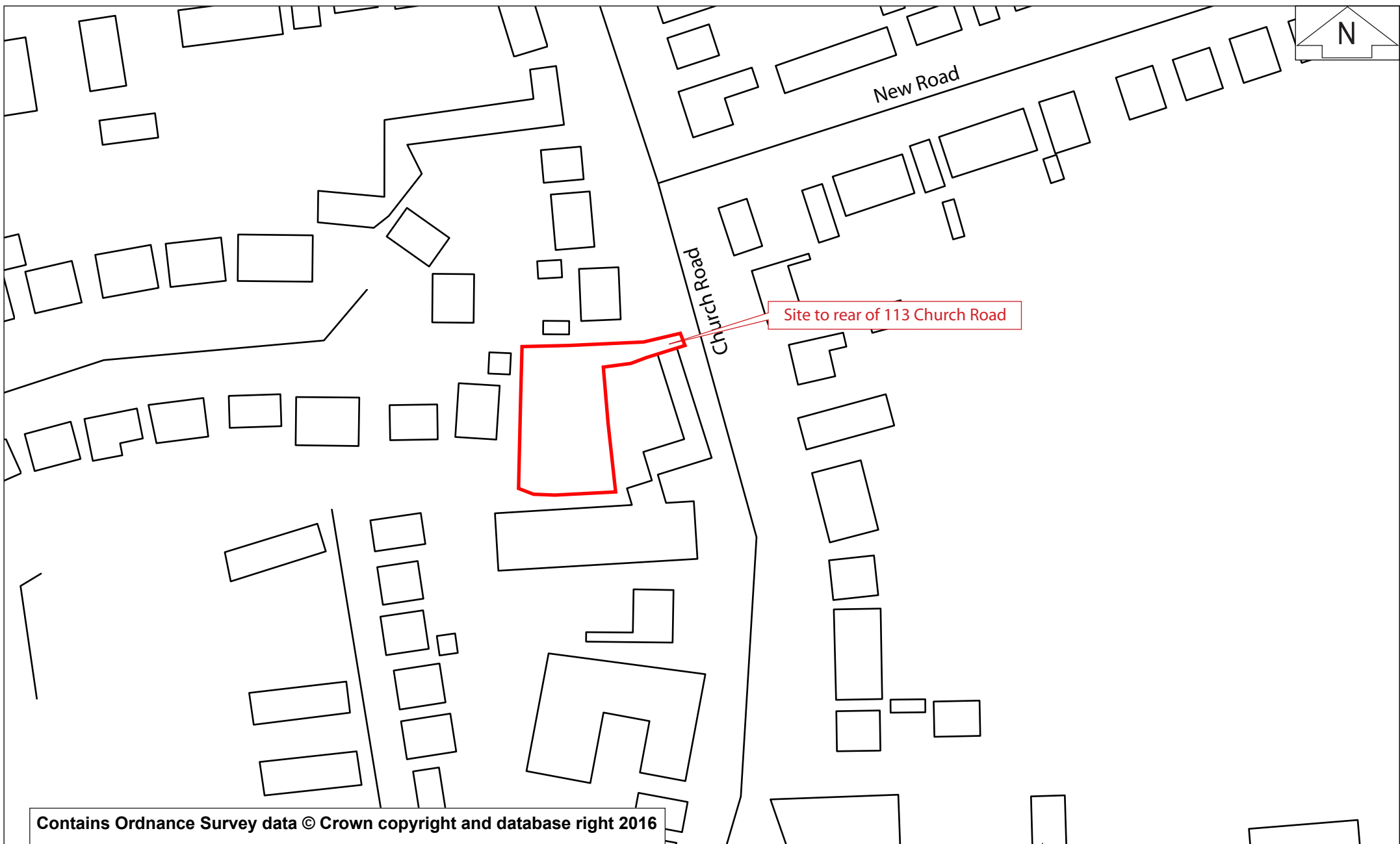
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Figure 01: Location of site to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby. Scale 1:10,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of site to the rear of 113 Church Road, Formby. Scale 1:1,250 at A4.

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## 2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

1. During the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed house extension and services.

The Cifa maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of Cifa.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Cifa as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (Cifa 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The Cifa further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief**

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIFA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of the Council will be carried out by the Merseyside Development Control Archaeologist (Mr Doug Moir). To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of one weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the Development Control Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

A photographic record will be maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

The archive produced will be held by The Museum of Liverpool and an accession number will be obtained prior to deposition with them.

### **3.2 Watching brief report**

#### **3.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment**

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the Development Control Archaeologist, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.



### 3.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
  - A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan measuring 1:10,000 and 1:1250 indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
  - A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
  - A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
  - Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

### 3.3 Archive

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and archived with The Museum of Liverpool. Copies of the report will be lodged with the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) and Oasis online database within six months of the completion of the project.

Digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER and to the Merseyside Development Control archaeologist.

#### **4.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS**

The identification of significant archaeological features during the watching brief stage may necessitate further archaeological works. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the contractor and may be subject to a separate WSI, to be agreed with the Development Control Archaeologist prior to implementation.

This WSI does not include a methodology or cost for examination of, conservation of, or archiving of finds discovered during the watching brief, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples associated with any peat deposits. The need for these will be identified in the post-fieldwork programme (if required), and a new WSI will be issued for approval by the Development Control Archaeologist prior to implementation.

#### **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

If necessary, relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each liner feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

#### **6.0 HUMAN REMAINS**

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Development Control Archaeologist informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

## 7.0 SMALL FINDS

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (i.e. they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is recommended that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be granted to Aeon Archaeology for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Development Control Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds with the exception of unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material, type, form, identification and weight, and discarded.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location will be recorded; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

## 8.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

## **9.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE**

### **9.1 Staff**

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

### **9.2 Timetable**

The evaluation work can currently be undertaken from the end of August 2016, although the client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently high.

## **10.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

## **11.0 INSURANCE**

### *Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002*

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/16

### *Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002*

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/16



## 12.0 GENERAL

All project staff will adhere to the *Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014)* prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork and circulated to all staff concerned.

Please note the following:

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for any delays to the work programme resulting from the discovery of archaeological sites or finds.

The cost quoted does not include examination of, conservation of or archiving of finds discovered during the archaeological programme, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples.

## SPECIALISTS

Specialist advice required will be sought from the following list if required:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: Oxford Archaeology
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Waterlogged environmental: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Environmental samples: Oxford Archaeology
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Pottery (all periods): Oxford Archaeology
- Clay pipe: Oxford Archaeology

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

