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Land at Blackham Reclamation, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ.
April 2018
V 1.0

Archaeological Evaluation
Project Code: A0160.1
Report no. 0164

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Report no. 0164

Archaeological Evaluation

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Client: The Blackham LLP
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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by The Blackham LLP to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation as part of a development proposal on land located to the south of, and including Blackham Reclamation yard, Tattenhall Road, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire.

Fifteen trenches were excavated as part of the evaluation. These showed that the centre of the enclosed field to the south of the reclamation yard had been previously disturbed through the excavation of a large pit, possibly for clay extraction, which had then been infilled with post-medieval / modern building materials.

The remaining trenches showed that the rest of the enclosed field had not been disturbed previously, and the relatively shallow topsoil and subsoil depths indicated that it had not been extensively cultivated either although plough-scars were observed within some of the trenches during excavation.

In addition, a series of gullies were identified within trenches 7-9, 13 and 14 which likely represent former field boundaries or drainage gullies. None of these gullies are shown on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that they are either of an earlier date or were simply too ephemeral to depict.

Very little dating evidence was recovered from the gully features with the exception of within trench 7 where a gulley was cut through by a ceramic field-drain of probable 19th Century date; and within trenches 9 and 13 where both gullies produced fragments of red-brick. On the balance of evidence this would suggest that the features represent former post-medieval drainage gullies, although other interpretations are possible such as the boundaries of former medieval / post-medieval strip-fields or indeed surviving furrows from medieval / post-medieval ridge and furrow farming.

The evaluation trenches within the existing reclamation yard showed that the area had previously been stripped on to the natural glacial substrata in the post-medieval / modern period and as such had removed any potential for the preservation of any earlier remains, although structural remains associated with the post-medieval railway yard cannot be discounted.

The only targeted trench (trench 1) failed to find any evidence of the field boundaries depicted on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 and it may be that these existed as hedgerows rather than banks or ditches. Another possible explanation is that the trench was positioned in the wrong place due to inaccuracies within the tithe map itself, although if this was the case it is likely that trenches 2, 5 or 6 would have intercepted the field boundary remains if they existed.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by The Blackham LLP, hereafter the Client, to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation as part of a development proposal for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of up to 25 dwellings, up to 700 sqm of business floorspace (B1), access works, car parking and open space on land located to the south of, and including Blackham Reclamation yard, Tattenhall Road, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ (centred on **NGR: SJ 49466 60286**) (figures 01 and 02).

The development site is for the most part within an enclosed grazing field but also includes the reclamation yard to the north, which has three buildings and areas of hardstanding.

The Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (Total Environment) Cheshire Shared Services, hereafter CAPAS, (Mr Mark Leah) did not produce a formal brief for the archaeological evaluation but the following was made a condition of outline planning permission (**ref: 13/02120/OUT**):

Condition 23

No development shall take place within the area indicated on the Site Drawing sheet 4 (5521/09)until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been secured by the applicant, or their agents or successors in title and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason: The site is in an area of archaeological significance or an area of archaeological potential, in accordance with the provisions of Policy ENV32 of the Chester District Local Plan.

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).

The former Senior Archaeologist at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (Julie Edwards) made the following comments regarding the proposed development in 2013 (email from Edwards, J. to Howard, N. dated 20th June 2013):

> The application site, 0.83 hectares, consists of a triangular area of land partly composed of a reclamation yard and an area of undeveloped green field. The site lies in the documented medieval hamlet of Newton-by-Tattenhall to the north of the historic settlement of Tattenhall.
>
> Archaeological fieldwork in Tattenhall has produced evidence of significant Roman and medieval activity. Roman, medieval and early post-medieval artefacts have been found by metal detecting at locations within the village and in the surrounding fields. The two settlements are situated in a landscape where evidence of pre-historic activity has been found.
>
> No archaeological finds have been recorded from the development area and no significant archaeology was discovered during the development of Tattenhall Marina. However Station Cottage opposite the site on Tattenhall Road is a 17th century timber framed building where artefacts of 16th /17th century date have been discovered by the property owner.

The historic mapping and aerial photographs held by the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) indicate that the open field area of the development site has survived as undeveloped land throughout the later post-medieval period. There is therefore potential for undisturbed archaeological evidence, relating to the early settlement of the area, to survive on the site as below ground remains and deposits which will be disturbed and destroyed by the proposed development.

The 1st Edition OS map shows the development site lying within a large field the boundaries of which are the same as the modern field boundary. The c.1838 Tithe Map however shows that the development area covers the 'T'-junction of two field boundaries separating three fields named as Crow Nest Field, Little Ellnore Ridding and Big Ellnore Ridding. Crow Nest Field is the largest of the three and covered an area that now includes the railway line and Tattenhall Marina. These boundaries are potentially medieval or early post-medieval in origin.

In the 1940s aerial photographs the location of the c.1838 boundaries are visible as crop marks or potential shallow earthworks. A large rectangular depression can also be seen in the west corner of the T-junction. Traces of these features are visible in later photographs e.g. early 1990s.

The reclamation yard borders the Chester to Crewe railway line opened in 1840 and the area of the yard appears on the 1st Edition OS map as an area connected to the railway containing a weighing machine and a building. One of the present buildings on the site appears to be in the same location as that on the historic map.

Whilst no archaeological remains have been found on the site the CHER, archaeological work in the area and the undeveloped nature of the site indicate that there is some potential for multi-period archaeological remains to exist in the development area as well as evidence relating to the development of the 19th century railway and associated work areas.

It is therefore possible that the development works may reveal evidence relating to both the early settlement of Newton by Tattenhall and its industrial heritage; any such remains may be destroyed or damaged by the development.

In view of the uncertainty about the quality and extent of any archaeological deposits, it would not be reasonable to object to the development on archaeological grounds however if permission is granted it is advised that all ground disturbance associated with the development (e.g. the ground clearance, construction of access routes, excavation of wall footings, sewage and drainage works, service trenches and works) should be subject to a developer-funded watching brief in order to record any archaeological deposits that may be present.

In addition, prior to any intrusive groundworks, provision should be made for the specific investigation of the potentially early field boundaries and the associated rectangular feature within the development area to establish their date and character, this should include palaeoenvironmental sampling of any suitable deposits. Backfilling to enable preservation in situ should be done with a suitably graded material.

Recent discussions with the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at CAPAS have established that the archaeological interest at the Site would be best investigated through a phase of archaeological evaluation consisting of a 5% sample of the development area, which would help inform the requirement for any further archaeological mitigatory response. If the absence of archaeological remains is confirmed by the evaluation then it is understood that no further archaeological work would be required in order to satisfy the archaeological condition.

Contrary to the above comments from the former Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS the site measures 1.33 hectares (13,300 sqm). Therefore a 5% sample rate of the development area using 20.0m by 2.0m trenches would require the excavation of 17 trenches. As the reclamation yard has three upstanding buildings the required number of trenches was reduced to 15 no.

This document reports on the details of a programme of archaeological evaluation work for the Site carried out between 16th and 23rd April 2018 in response to the spirit and intent of Condition No. 23.

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was undertaken by Aeon Archaeology in April 2018 (appendix I) which outlined the principle aims of the evaluation and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken in accordance with this document. The assessment of the site through fifteen (20.0m x 2.0m) archaeological evaluation trenches was deemed adequate for the purposes intended as represented in the trench array reproduced in figure 3. Upon attendance at the Site a number of constraints were identified restricting the siting of trenches 4, 6 and 13 and as such they were reduced in length to 10.0m for trenches 4 and 13, and 15.0m for trench 6.

The aim of this programme of archaeological evaluation was to establish the archaeological significance of the site, to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains, and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and further potential mitigation strategies. This report includes an assessment of the potential for further investigative work if required, and where relevant give recommendations for an appropriate mitigation strategy.

This report is offered for consideration to the Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS (Mr. M. Leah) for verification with reference to the Condition applied to the planning permission and the relevant provisions in NPPF.

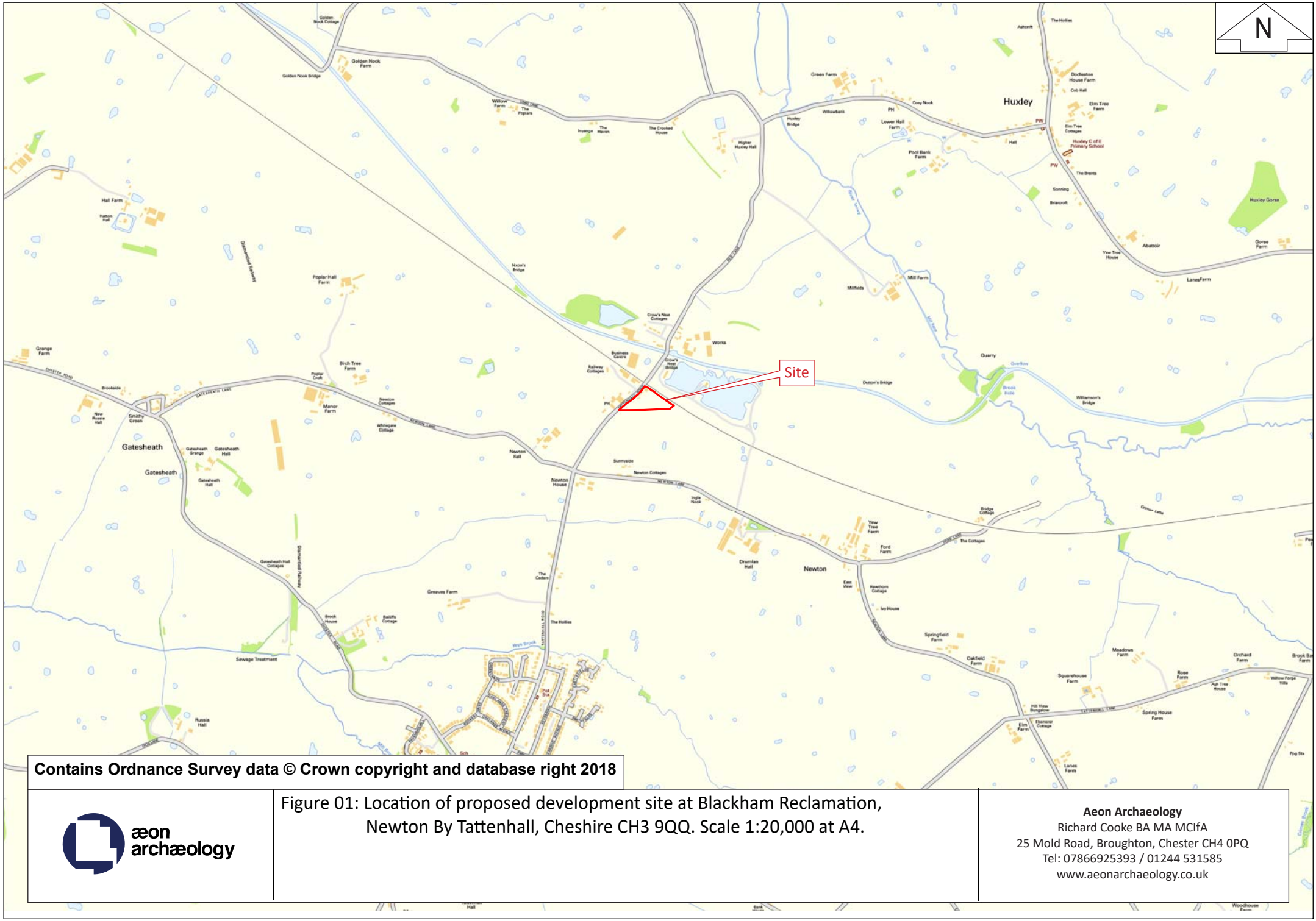

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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at Blackham Reclamation, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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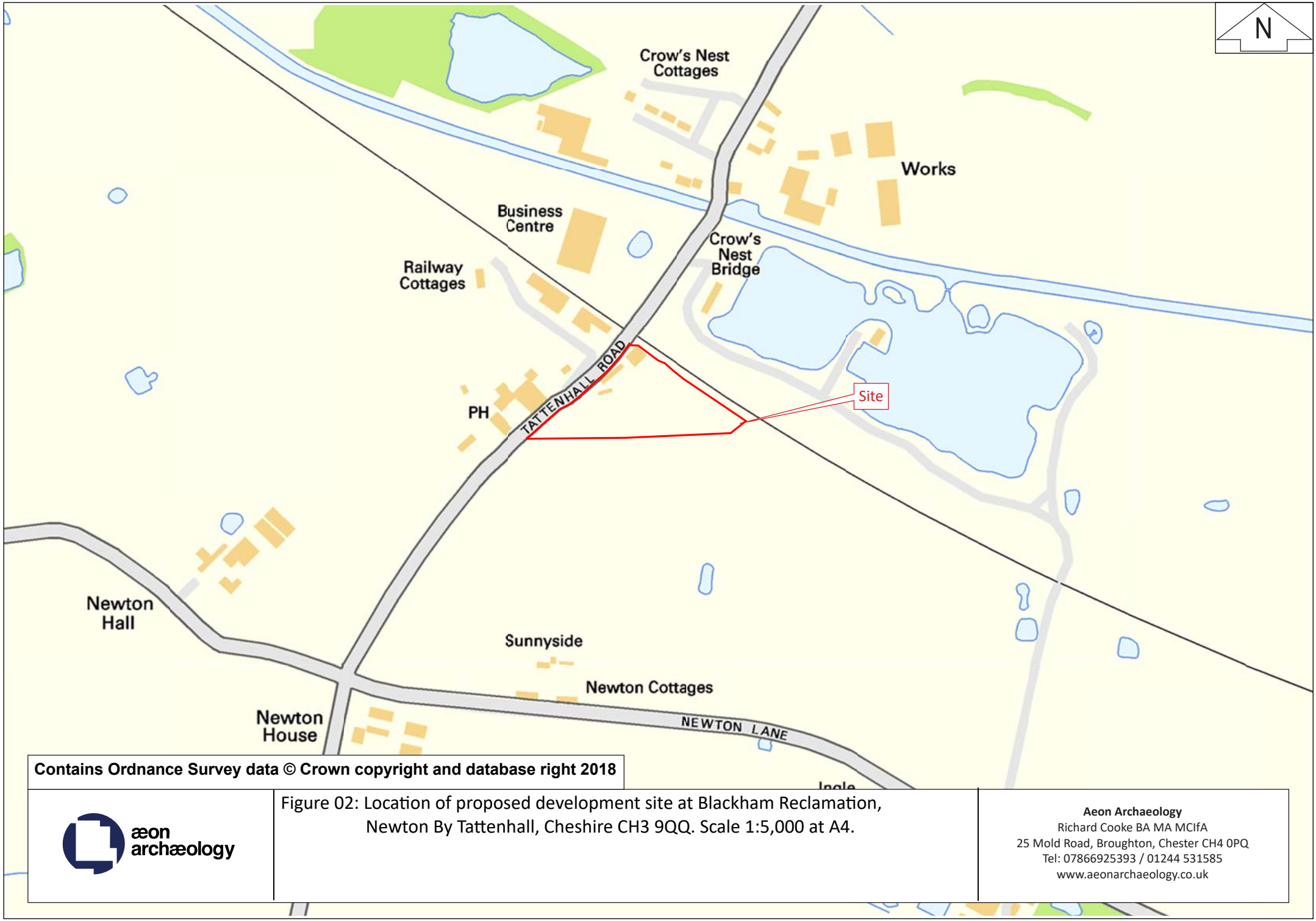

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Figure 02: Location of proposed development site at Blackham Reclamation, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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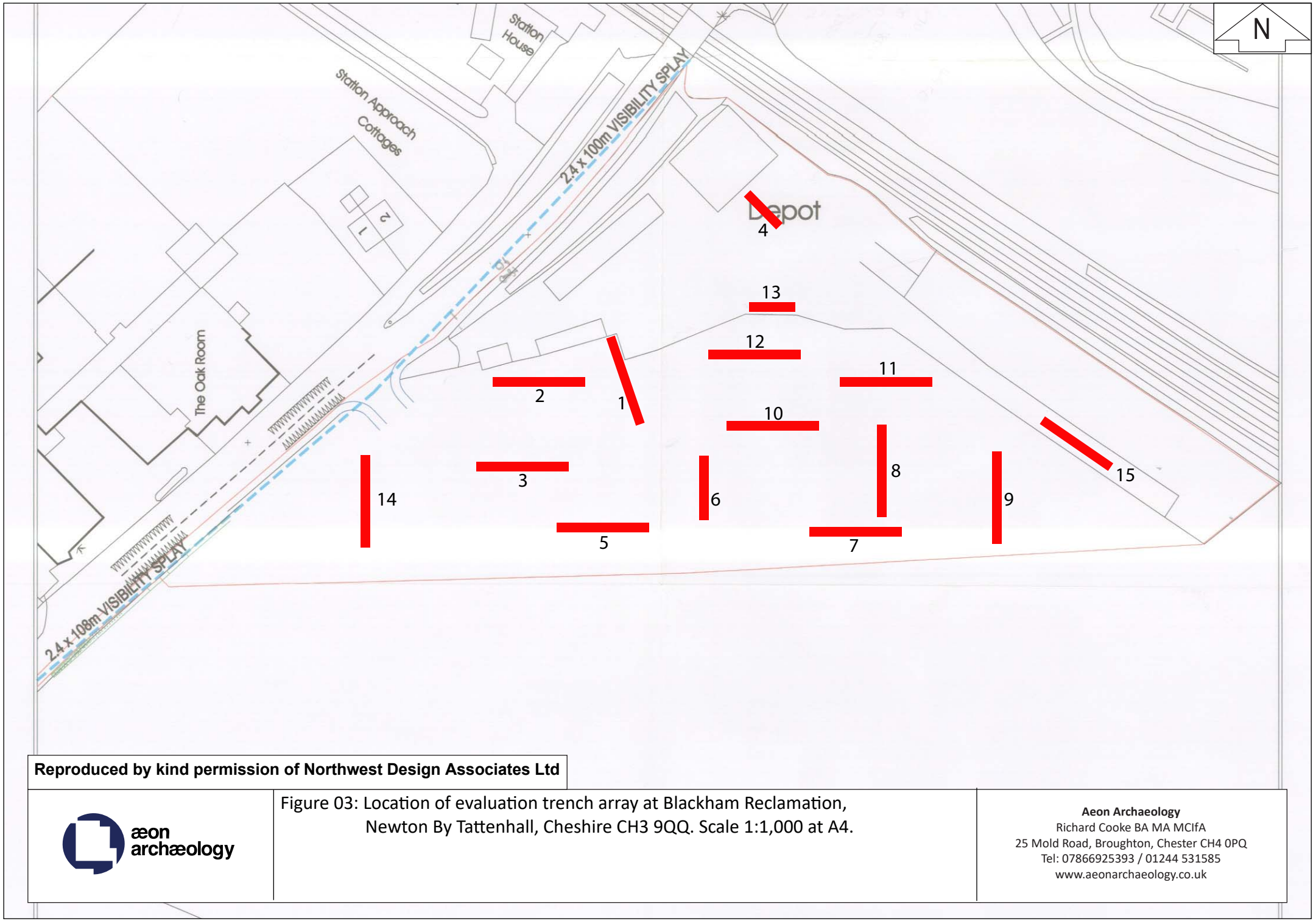

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Figure 03: Location of evaluation trench array at Blackham Reclamation, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the evaluation work was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation of the archaeological evaluation trenches.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.

- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.

- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.

- To allow the Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.

- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Cheshire.

The broad characteristics of the number, size, orientation and distribution of the trenches were considered to be appropriate and were agreed with the Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS. The trench array was proposed as part of the WSI prepared by Aeon Archaeology and was designed to evaluate the potential of the Site for preserved buried remains, with a contingent trenching facility designed for site characterisation, the characteristics of which were insufficiently resolved within the core trenching provision. Contingent trenching was optional, upon the discovery of archaeological artefacts, deposits, features or structures the characteristics of which could only be sufficiently determined upon further spatial investigation.

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; 2015), and in the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (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

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. 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 artefacts, which therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

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 Cheshire Historic Environment Record and lodged with the Oasis online database so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the documentary records from the project.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Before the evaluation trenching commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client, and the Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS.

The archaeological evaluation trenches consisted of the following:

Trench 1 – 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the northern end of the site to investigate the junction of the former field boundaries depicted on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 2 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the north-western end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 3 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the western end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 4 - 10.0m x 2.0m: Located at the northern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 5 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the southern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 6 - 15.0m x 2.0m: Located at the southern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 7 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the south-eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 8 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 9 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 10 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located towards the centre of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 11 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located towards the centre of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 12 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located towards the centre of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 13 - 10.0m x 2.0m: Located at the northern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 14 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the western end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 15 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

4.1 Evaluation trenches

The evaluation trenching array was designed to investigate areas that may contain archaeological features. There was latitude on the location of each trench and slight repositioning to take account of buried services and other constraints was acknowledged as a possibility within the WSI.

A 9-ton tracked excavator with 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket equipped was used to open the trenches under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and overburden were to be removed by machine in spits down to archaeological deposits or natural sub-soils, whichever were encountered first. All uncovered archaeological features were to be excavated by hand.

A written record of the deposits and all identified features in each evaluation trench was to be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas. All subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations. The photographic record was completed using a digital SLR camera (Canon Eos 600D) set to maximum resolution.

Contingency provision was made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.

- Expansion of trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches and any archaeological features within them were to be accurately located on a site plan prepared at the most appropriate and largest scale.

All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure the site was left in a safe and tidy condition.

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 cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that they can be archived with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

4.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Finds numbers would be attributed and 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 evaluation trenching. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client, Aeon Archaeology and the Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS. 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 and written material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced.

Upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Client, the Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS, and the Oasis online database.

5.0 SITE LOCATION

The Site extends to over c. 1.33ha and is located on land to the south of, and including Blackham Reclamation yard, Tattenhall Road, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ, centred on NGR: SJ 49466 60286.

The development site is for the most part within a single enclosed grazing field but also includes the reclamation yard to the north, which has three buildings and areas of hardstanding. It is bounded to the west by a hedgerow and on all other sides by wooden post fencing. The land gradually slopes from approximately 41.0m OD in the west to 38.0m OD in the east.

To the north of the reclamation yard lies the Crewe to Chester railway line, beyond which is the Tattenhall Marina and Shropshire Union Canal (main line).

The bedrock geology is of the Chester Formation, a pebbly-sandstone sedimentary bedrock that formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was dominated by rivers. The superficial geology is of Devensian – Diamicton till that formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by Ice Age conditions (www.bgs.ac.uk).

6.0 HISTORY OF THE SITE

Newton by Tattenhall is a small hamlet in the parish of Tattenhall situated north of Tattenhall and 5 miles from Tarporley. It is intersected by the Shropshire Union Canal and the Crewe and Chester railway.

By the time of the Domesday Survey (1088) the settlement of 'Tatenale' was recorded. The first part of the township's name, Newton, is derived from the old English 'niwe' and 'tun'. Both of these names pre-date the Norman Conquest.

During the 15th and 16th Centuries the parish of Tattenhall was quiet and self-sustained, growing its own food and weaving its own cloth. Social life was centred on the church, which was the source of official information. The only holidays celebrated were church festivals.

The building of the Chester Canal (now the Shropshire Union canal) during the 1770's affected the lives of the people in the parish. The poverty of many prior to this development was alleviated to some extent, firstly by providing work in canal construction and then, secondly, by providing an improved form of transport for cheese and other dairy products from South Cheshire to all parts of the country. With the canal development the area was no longer isolated and as a result small industries started to locate there. These developments were to result in the doubling of the population by the middle of the 19th Century.

During this time the parish sustained its prosperity, developing its economy and infrastructure, thus achieving a degree of affluence and respectability. Agricultural holdings had become larger and the first commuters journeyed to Chester and beyond via the London and North Western railway LNWR which had reached the parish by the middle of the century. The railway, like the canal before it, opened up new and more distant markets for the farming community and attracted light industries to the village and other parts of the parish. The railway line between Chester and Crewe was opened in 1840 and Newton-by Tattenhall's station became one of local importance with transport from the neighbouring village of Tattenhall sent to meet each train.

The area became an attractive place in which to both live and work, evidenced today by the number of substantial Victorian buildings both in the neighbouring villages and on the surrounding farmsteads.

It was during this period of social change that the hamlet of Newton-by-Tattenhall began to develop with the construction of the canal and railway station. Prior to their construction the area was sparsely populated and was characterised by rural cottages typified by the extant thatched cottage adjacent to the development site.

The station was constructed in 1840 on the LNWR Grand Junction Railway that linked Chester with Crewe. Prior to opening the station was known as 'Crows Nest'. It was named 'Tattenhall Road' in 1872. The station had two platforms with a substantial brick building on the Chester direction side. The Crewe to Chester line became a busy route linking Crewe and Holyhead. However Tattenhall Road was served mainly by local services. The Station name was shortened to Tattenhall in 1957 and was closed in 1966 (Design and Access Statement. 2012).

7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

7.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation trenching:

Trench sheets	15
Digital photographs	118

7.2 Environmental Samples

No bulk samples were taken during the archaeological evaluation as no suitable deposits or fills were encountered.

7.3 Artefacts

Summary

This report summarises the pottery and ceramic building materials recovered from an archaeological evaluation undertaken at The Blackham Reclamation Yard, Tattenhall, Cheshire. The finds were recovered across a number of trenches in the subsoil (plough soil).

The pottery is quantified by sherd count, and according to ware names commonly in use by archaeological ceramic specialists across the North West and West Midlands regions.

Post-Medieval Pottery

The watching brief produced only 2 sherds of post-medieval pottery. The pottery spans the period from the mid to late 18th century through to the mid to late 19th century. The pottery was in a degraded and chipped condition overall, fragmented with the sherds representing a single vessel.

Wares and Forms

Bone China

A sherd from the body of a bone china dish or small side plate was recovered from context (0102). The vessel probably dates to the second half of the 19th century (Lloyd and Laing).

Hand Painted Pearlware

A single sherd of a large, blue hand-painted pearlware plate or dish was also recovered from context (0102). A floral hand painted underglaze design was present on the sherd, a common theme which was being produced between 1720-1840 and was popular in English tableware (Coysh & Henrywood 1982).

Ceramic Building Materials

Two fragments of ceramic building materials (CBM) were recovered from the subsoil (0102). These fragments were comprised of small fragments of brick. Both are in red fabrics and both are of post-medieval date.

Conclusions

The finds assemblage from the evaluation reflects activity within the vicinity of the site during the post-medieval period. The pottery is weighted to the mid-18th to mid-19th century comprised of table wares. The assemblage overall is predominantly domestic in character however its context suggests that it was associated with an agricultural purpose probably manuring.

The finds assemblage from Blackham Reclamation Yard, Tattenhall, requires no further study. Retention of the finds is not recommended but disposal should not be carried out without due consultation of the legal owner/s of the finds.

8.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHES

The evaluation trenches were designed to evaluate and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains. Each trench is described and discussed separately. The location of the trenches can be found on figure 3. The location and orientation of photographs is shown on figure 22.

Trench 01 (Plates 1-2, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 1 measured 20.0m in length northwest to southeast by 2.0m in width and was located at the northern part of the site targeting the junction of two former field boundaries depicted on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838.

The trench was excavated through a 0.08m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.18m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Approximately 7.5m from the south-western limit of excavation and area of modern cut and fill extended throughout the southern part of the trench. The base of the trench and the natural glacial clay horizon (0101) sloped downward to the south and had been infilled with a firm 0.28m deep mid grey-brown silt-clay, above which lay a soft 0.24m deep dark grey-black clay-silt with frequent small sub-rounded pebble inclusions and occasional red-brick fragments, and above which lay a soft 0.21m deep light grey-brown granular clay-silt with very frequent mortar and red-brick fragments inclusions. These three fill layers were overlaid by subsoil horizon (0102).

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

It is not clear whether the large cut identified at the southern limit of the trench was a natural pond / depression or a deliberate excavation of a pit. The feature was however infilled with deposits that produced post-medieval / modern building material and as such give a *terminus post quem* for the feature. There are no ponds shown on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that this was a deliberately excavated pit as part of the burial of modern waste material at the site.

The former field boundaries for which the trench was targeting were not encountered within the trench limits. This may be due to a lack of survival of associated remains, the removal of the feature by the later cut and fill episode, or an error in trench positioning due to the inaccuracies of the tithe map itself.

Plate 01: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 1, from the southeast. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 02: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 1 northeast facing section, from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.

Trench 02 (Plates 3-5, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 2 measured 20.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the north-western part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.08m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.22m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Approximately 3.0m from the western limit of excavation and area of modern cut and fill extended throughout the eastern part of the trench. The base of the trench and the natural glacial clay horizon (0101) sloped downward to the east and had been infilled with a 0.75m deep soft mid black-grey silt-clay with occasional red-brick fragments, clinker, plastic and bone inclusions. This fill layer was overlaid by subsoil horizon (0102).

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

It is not clear whether the large cut identified at the eastern limit of the trench was a natural pond / depression or a deliberate excavation of a pit. The feature was however infilled with a deposit that produced post-medieval / modern building material and as such gives a *terminus post quem* for the feature. There are no ponds shown on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that this was a deliberately excavated pit as part of the burial of modern waste material at the site.

Plate 03: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 2, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 04: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 2, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 05: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 2 north facing section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 03 (Plates 6-8, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 3 measured 20.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the western part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.08m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.15m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Approximately 7.0m from the western limit of excavation and area of modern cut and fill extended throughout the eastern part of the trench. The base of the trench and the natural glacial clay horizon (0101) sloped downward to the east and had been infilled with a 0.78m deep friable dark black-grey silt-clay with occasional red-brick fragments, iron, and plastic inclusions. This fill layer was overlaid by subsoil horizon (0102).

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

It is not clear whether the large cut identified at the eastern limit of the trench was a natural pond / depression or a deliberate excavation of a pit. The feature was however infilled with a deposit that produced post-medieval / modern building material and as such gives a *terminus post quem* for the feature. There are no ponds shown on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that this was a deliberately excavated pit as part of the burial of modern waste material at the site.

Plate 06: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 3, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 07: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 3, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 08: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 3 north facing section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 04 (Plates 9-11, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 4 measured 10.0m in length northwest to southeast by 2.0m in width and was located at the northern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.22m deep modern concrete surface layer which overlied a 0.2m deep deposit of crushed black stone, clinker and brick hardcore substrate. Within the initial 2.5m of the north-western part of the trench the black hardcore deposit overlaid a 0.11m deep crushed red-brick hardcore / surface layer, beneath which was a 0.08m deep deposit of bedding sand which laid directly upon the natural clay substrata (0101) and extended throughout the length of the trench.

No archaeological remains were identified however fragments of post-medieval ceramic drain were found within the crushed red-brick hardcore / surface deposit. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The trench stratigraphy shows that the area of the current reclamation yard had previously been stripped down on to the natural glacial substrata and a layer of bedding sand deposited across it, prior to the laying down of a crushed red-brick hardcore or surface layer. This surface layer was only visible within the initial 2.5m of the north-western part of the trench however the continuation of the bedding sand layer throughout the length of the stratigraphy suggests that it originally extended further and had been truncated on its south-eastern end. The red-brick layer produced fragments of ceramic pipe dating it to the 19th-20th Century and it is probable that it was a pre-cursor to the existing yard, most likely associated with the railway.

The post-medieval / modern activity within this part of the Site has removed any potential for preserved buried remains pre-dating the post-medieval period.

Plate 09: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 4, from the northwest. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 10: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 4, from the southeast. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 11: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 4 southwest facing section, from the southwest. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 05 (Plates 12-14, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 5 measured 20.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the southern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.08m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.14m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Upon excavation plough-scars orientated northwest to southeast were observed situated between the subsoil (0102) and the natural glacial clay (0101) horizon.

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The trench stratigraphy does not show any indication that the location of the trench has been previously disturbed aside from localised ploughing. The lack of any artefacts within the topsoil and subsoil horizons does however suggest that the Site has not been used for anything other than agriculture.

Plate 12: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 5, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 13: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 5, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 14: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 5 north facing section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 06 (Plates 15-17, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 6 measured 15.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the southern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.08m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.14m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Upon excavation plough-scars orientated northwest to southeast were observed situated between the subsoil (0102) and the natural glacial clay (0101) horizon.

The trench length was reduced from 20.0m to 15.0m due to the presence of a mature tree at the southern part of the Site.

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The trench stratigraphy does not show any indication that the location of the trench has been previously disturbed aside from localised ploughing. The lack of any artefacts within the topsoil and subsoil horizons does however suggest that the Site has not been used for anything other than agriculture.

Plate 15: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 6, from the south. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 16: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 6, from the north. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 17: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 6 west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 07 (Plates 18-24, figures 1-7, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 7 measured 20.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the south-eastern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.1m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.19m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Located 9.5m west of the eastern limit of excavation a linear gulley [0701] measuring >2.0m in length by 0.6m in width by 0.1m in depth was located running from north to south across the trench. The gulley had gradually sloping, slightly concaved sides, a flat base with localised undulation, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a firm mid purple-grey clay (0702) with occasional charcoal flecks that had been cut through on its western side by a post-medieval ceramic field drain.

Located 4.5m to the east and 3.6m west of the eastern limit of excavation, a second gulley [0703] was located measuring >2.0m in length by 0.59m in width by 0.17m in depth was located running from north to south across the trench. The gulley had gradually sloping, slightly concaved sides, a flat base with localised undulation, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a firm mid purple-grey clay (0704) with occasional charcoal flecks.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The parallel gullies [0701] and [0703] did not produce any dating evidence however localised undulation within both their bases would suggest that they had originally contained hedgerows or areas of vegetation. The fills of both features were very similar and the same orientation would suggest a contemporary date. Moreover, the westernmost gulley [0701] was cut by a ceramic field-drain of probable 19th Century date giving a *terminus post quem* for this feature. At 4.5m distance the gullies are quite close together and have therefore been interpreted as former field boundary gullies, probably marking the limits of a medieval or post-medieval strip-field. Another interpretation could be that these features represent an area of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow farming, where the furrows have been excavated to a slightly deeper depth and have thus been preserved, or drainage gullies.

Plate 18: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 7, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 19: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 7, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 20: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 7 south facing section, from the south. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 21: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 7 gulley [0701], from the south. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 22: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 7 gulley [0701] north facing section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 23: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 7 gulley [0703], from the south. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 24: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 7 gulley [0703] north facing section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Figure 04: Plan of trench 7, scale 1:100 at A4 (located on figure 03).

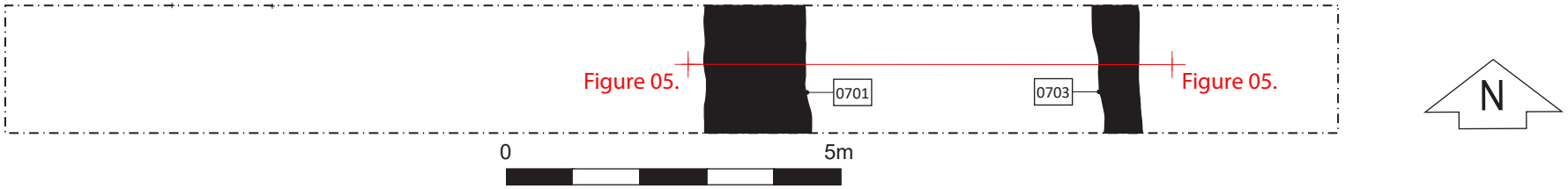
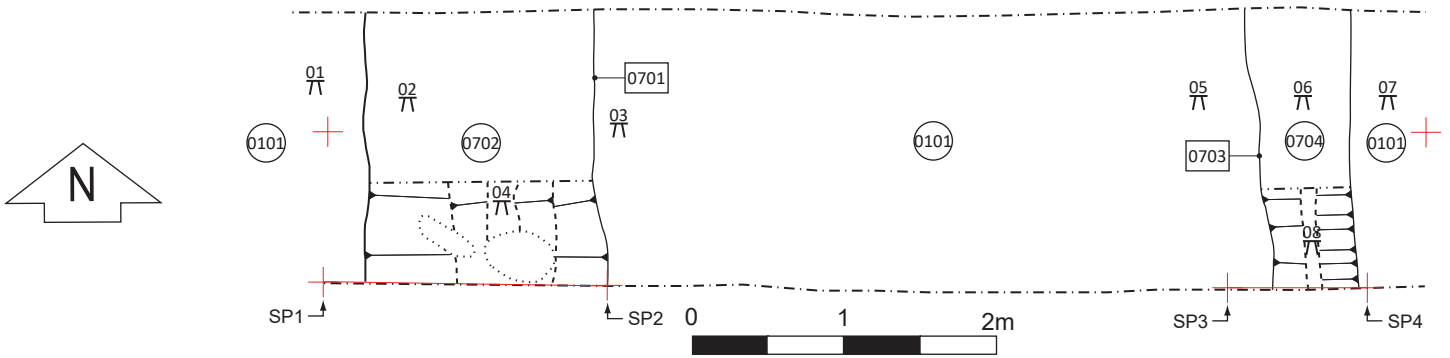
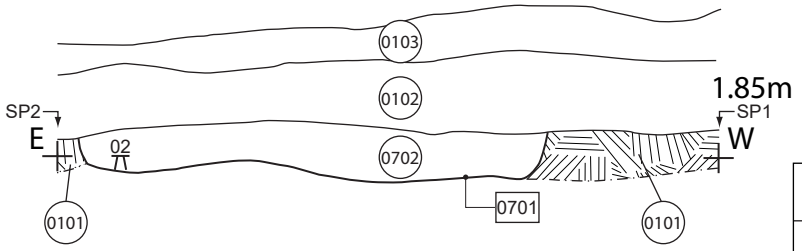


Figure 05: Detailed plan of trench 7, scale 1:50 at A4 (located on figure 04).



Spot Heights - OD (m)	
1 = 36.55 m	5 = 36.52 m
2 = 36.59 m	6 = 36.54 m
3 = 36.53 m	7 = 36.50 m
4 = 36.50 m	8 = 36.41 m

Figure 06: South facing section of gulley [0701], scale 1:10 at A4 (located on figure 05)



Spot Heights - OD (m)
1 = 36.54 m
2 = 36.57 m

Figure 07: South facing section of gulley [0703], scale 1:10 at A4 (located on figure 05)

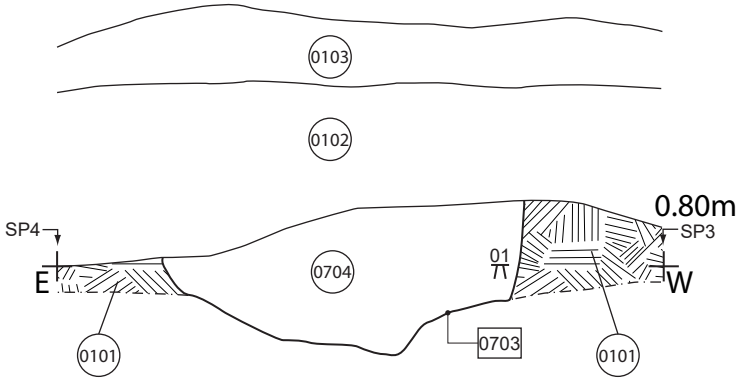


Figure 04, 05, 06, and 07.

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Trench 08 (Plates 25-31, figures 1-3, 8-11, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 8 measured 20.0m in length north to south by 2.0m in width and was located at the south-eastern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.1m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.16m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Located 11.9m north of the southern limit of excavation a linear gulley [0801] measuring >2.0m in length by 0.4m in width by 0.12m in depth was located running from east to west across the trench. The gulley had gradually sloping, slightly concaved sides, a flat base, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a firm mid purple-grey clay (0802) with occasional charcoal flecks with very infrequent small sub-rounded pebble inclusions.

Located 3.5m to the north of gulley [0801] and 4.1m south of the northern limit of excavation, a second gulley [0805] was located measuring >2.0m in length by 0.3m in width by 0.15m in depth was located running from east to west across the trench. The gulley had steeply sloping, slightly concaved sides, a flat base, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a firm mid purple-grey clay with yellow mottling (0806) with occasional charcoal flecks.

Located 0.4m to the south of gulley [0806] a probable post-hole [0803] was located measuring 0.28m in length by 0.26m in width by 0.11m in depth, and orientated east to west. The feature had steep concaved sides, a tapering base, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a firm dark grey-brown sand-silt-clay (0804) with very occasional small sub-rounded and sub-angular pebble inclusions.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The parallel gullies [0801] and [0805] did not produce any dating evidence however the fills of both features were very similar and the same orientation would suggest a contemporary date. At 3.5m distance the gullies are quite close together and have therefore been interpreted as former field boundary gullies, probably marking the limits of a medieval or post-medieval strip-field or as drainage gullies. Another interpretation could be that these features represent an area of medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow farming, where the furrows have been excavated to a slightly deeper depth and have thus been preserved.

It is not clear whether these features are related to the north-south gullies identified in trench 7 but they could represent a right-angle turn, possibly enclosing a rectangular area.

Plate 25: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 8, from the north. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 26: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 8, from the south. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 27: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 8 west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 28: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 8 gulley [0801], from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 29: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 8 gulley [0801] west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 30: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 8 post-hole [0803] gulley [0805], from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 31: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 8 post-hole [0803] and gulley [0805] east facing section, from the east. Scale 0.5m.

Figure 08: Plan of trench 8, scale 1:100 at A4 (located on figure 03).

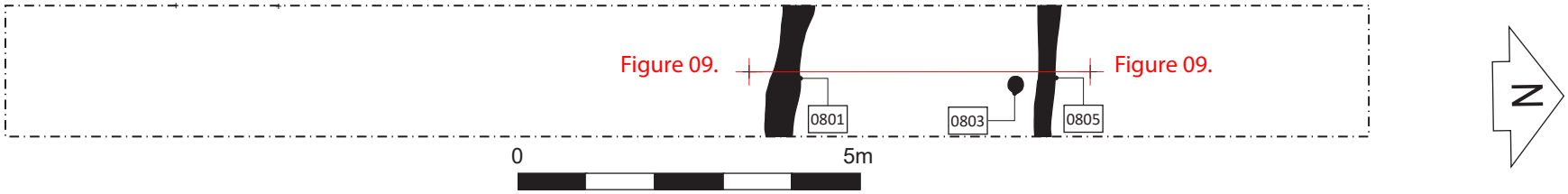
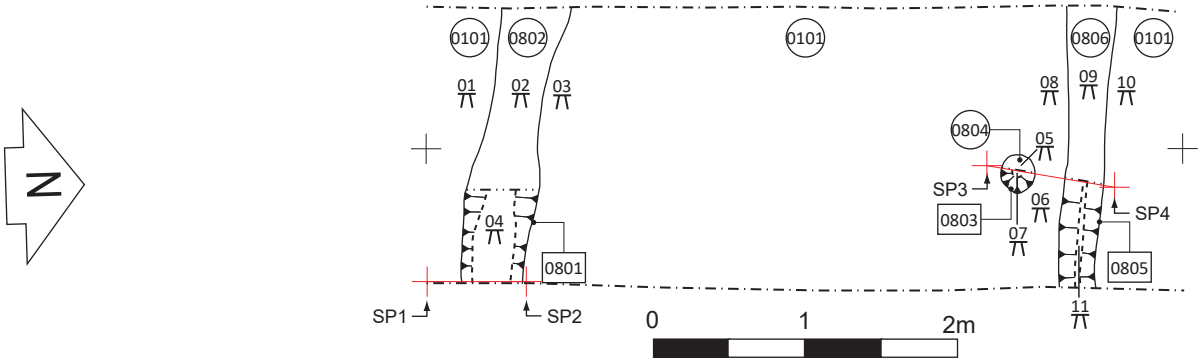


Figure 09: Detailed plan of trench 8, scale 1:50 at A4 (located on figure 08).



Spot Heights - OD (m)	
1 = 36.75 m	7 = 36.65 m
2 = 36.76 m	8 = 36.77 m
3 = 36.75 m	9 = 36.79 m
4 = 36.66 m	10 = 36.79 m
5 = 36.75 m	11 = 36.63 m
6 = 36.77 m	

Figure 10: West facing section of gulley [0801], scale 1:10 at A4 (located on figure 09)

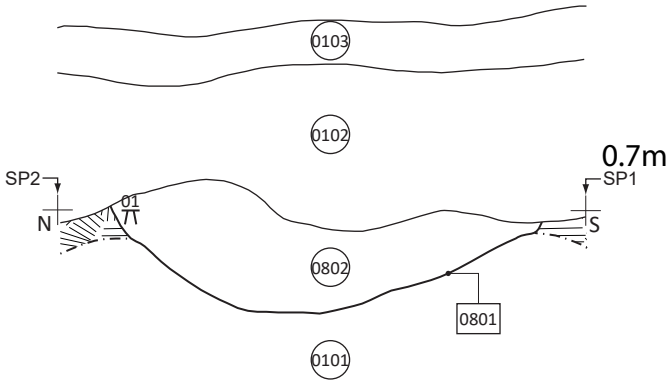
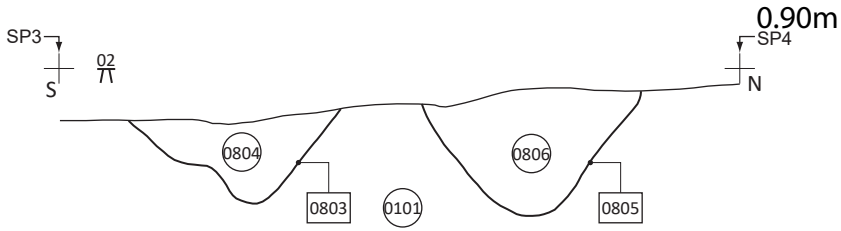


Figure 11: East facing section of post-hole [0803] and gulley [0805], scale 1:10 at A4 (located on figure 09)



Spot Heights - OD (m)
1 = 36.83 m
2 = 36.84 m

0 1m

Figure 08, 09, 10, and 11.

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Trench 09 (Plates 32-34, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 9 measured 20.0m in length north to south by 2.0m in width and was located at the eastern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.1m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.15m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Located 6.6m south of the northern limit of excavation a linear gulley [0901] measuring >2.0m in length by 0.93m in width by 0.12m in depth was located running from east to west across the trench. The gulley had gradually sloping, slightly concaved sides, a flat / slightly concaved base, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a firm mid purple-grey clay (0902) with infrequent red-brick and coal fragment inclusions.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

Gulley [0901] produced red-brick fragments from within its fill suggesting that it was backfilled within the post-medieval period. It is therefore likely that this feature represents a former field boundary or drainage gulley. It is aligned with gulley [0801] within trench 8 approximately 23.0m to the west and is most likely the same feature continuing across the field.

Plate 32: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 9, from the north. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 33: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 9, from the south. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

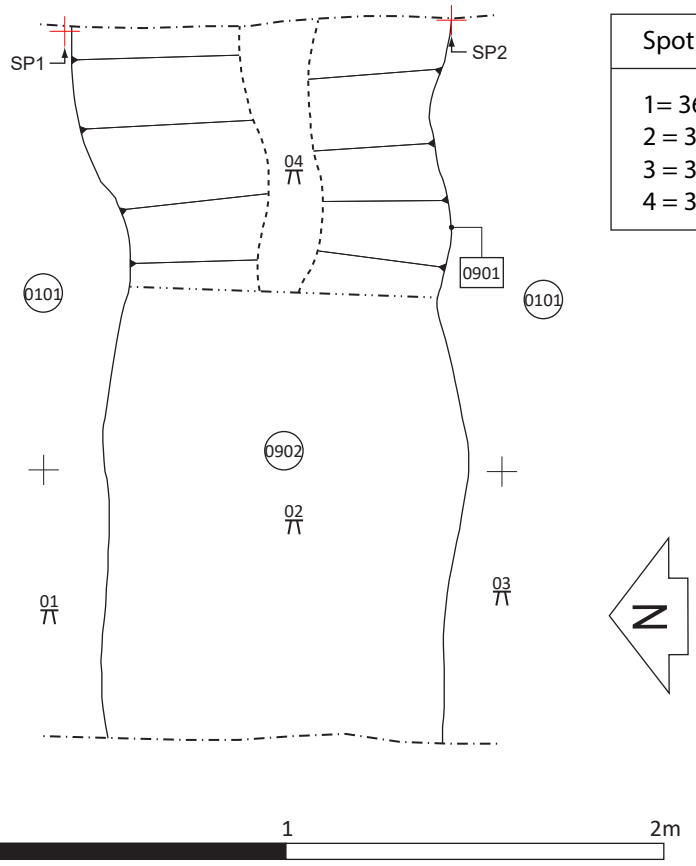
Plate 34: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 9 west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 35: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 9 gulley [0901], from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 36: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 9 gulley [0901] west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Figure 12: Plan of trench 9, scale 1:100 at A4 (located on figure 04).

Figure 13: Detailed plan of trench 9 gulley [0901], scale 1:20 at A4 (located on figure 12).



Spot Heights - OD (m)
1= 36.47
2 = 36.49
3 = 36.46
4 = 36.34

Figure 14: West facing section of gulley [0901], scale 1:10 at A4 (located on figure 13)

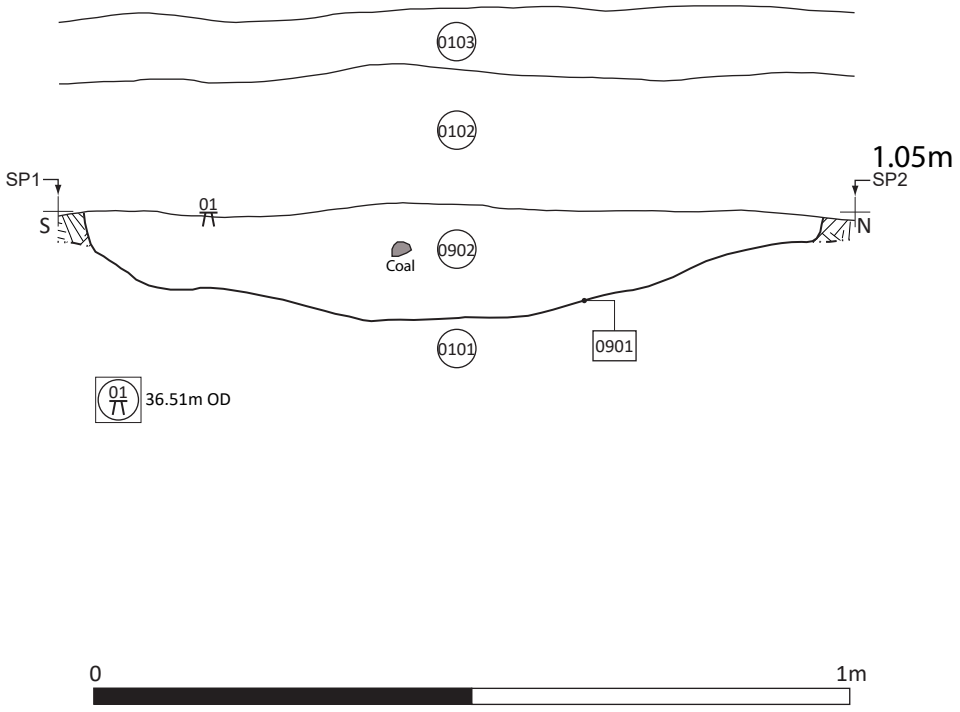


Figure 12, 13 and 14.

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Trench 10 (Plates 37-39, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 10 measured 20.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the central part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.1m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.45m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Approximately 4.0m from the western limit of excavation and area of modern cut and fill extended throughout the western part of the trench. The base of the trench and the natural glacial clay horizon (0101) sloped downward to the west and had been infilled with a 0.5m deep friable dark black-grey silt-clay with occasional red-brick fragments, iron, and plastic inclusions. This fill layer was overlaid by subsoil horizon (0102).

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

It is not clear whether the large cut identified at the eastern limit of the trench was a natural pond / depression or a deliberate excavation of a pit. The feature was however infilled with a deposit that produced post-medieval / modern building material and as such gives a *terminus post quem* for the feature. There are no ponds shown on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that this was a deliberately excavated pit as part of the burial of modern waste material at the site.

Plate 37: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 10, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 38: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 10, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 39: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 10 south facing section, from the south. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 11 (Plates 40-42, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 11 measured 20.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the north-eastern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.1m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.15m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Upon excavation post-medieval field drains were observed orientated northwest to southeast cut into the natural glacial clay (0101) horizon.

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The trench stratigraphy does not show any indication that the location of the trench has been previously disturbed aside from localised excavation for post-medieval field drains. The lack of any artefacts within the topsoil and subsoil horizons does however suggest that the Site has not been used for anything other than agriculture.

Plate 40: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 11, from the east. Scale 1 x 2.0m.

Plate 41: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 11, from the west. Scale 1 x 2.0m.

Plate 42: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 11 north facing section, from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 12 (Plates 43-45, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 12 measured 20.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the northern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.06m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.14m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Upon excavation a post-medieval field drain was observed orientated north to south and cut into the natural glacial clay (0101) horizon at the eastern end of the trench. In addition plough scars were observed during the machining of the trench orientated northeast to southwest between the subsoil (0102) and natural glacial substrata (0101) horizons.

No archaeological remains or artefacts were recovered. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The trench stratigraphy does not show any indication that the location of the trench has been previously disturbed aside from localised excavation for post-medieval field drains and ploughing. The lack of any artefacts within the topsoil and subsoil horizons does however suggest that the Site has not been used for anything other than agriculture.

Plate 43: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 12, from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 44: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 12, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 45: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 12 north facing section,from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Trench 13 (Plates 46-50, figures 1-3, 15-17, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 13 measured 10.0m in length east to west by 2.0m in width and was located at the northern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains. The trench was shortened in length from 20.0m due to the presence of utilities within the reclamation yard.

The trench was excavated through a 0.1m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.15m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

Located 1.5m west of the eastern limit of excavation a linear gulley [1301] measuring >2.0m in length by 0.95m in width by 0.2m in depth was located running from north to south across the trench. The gulley had gradually sloping, slightly concaved sides, a slightly concaved base, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a moderately firm mid red-brown slightly silty-clay (1302) with infrequent red-brick fragments and occasional charcoal fleck and root inclusions.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

Gulley [1301] produced red-brick fragments from within its fill suggesting that it was backfilled within the post-medieval period. It is therefore likely that this feature represents a former field boundary or drainage gulley.

Plate 46: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 13, from the east. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 47: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 13,from the west. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 48: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 13 south facing section,from the south. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 49: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 13 gulley [1301], from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 50: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 13 gulley [1301] north facing section,from the north. Scale 0.5m.

Figure 15: Plan of trench 13, scale 1:100 at A4 (located on figure 04).

Figure 16: Detailed plan of trench 13 gulley [1301], scale 1:20 at A4 (located on figure 15).

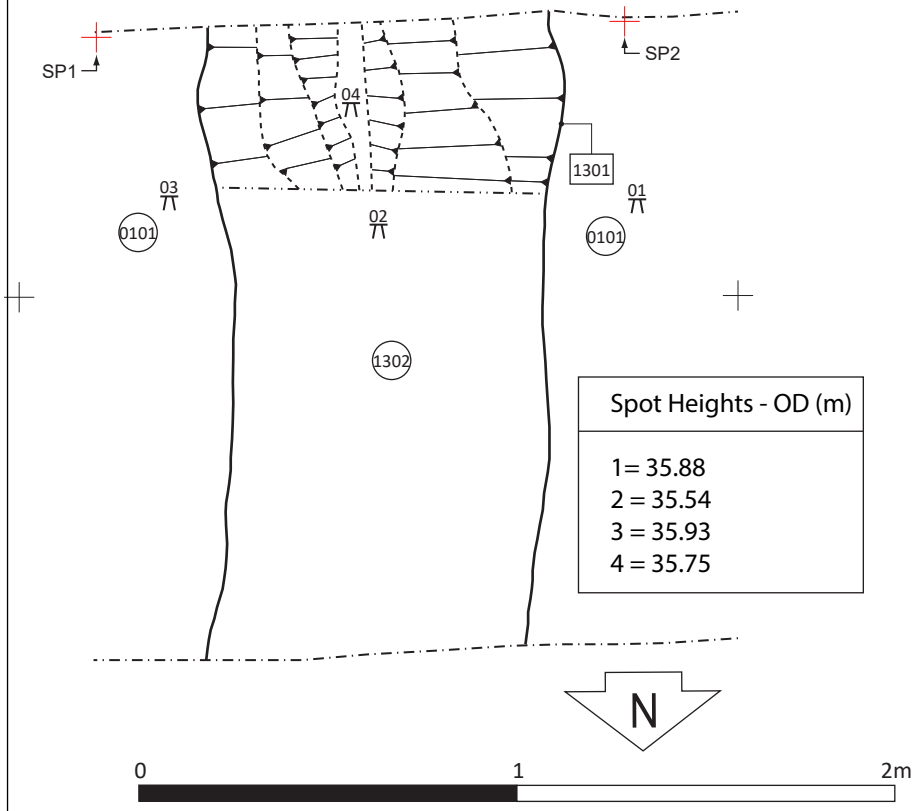

Figure 17: North facing section of gulley [1301], scale 1:10 at A4 (located on figure 16)

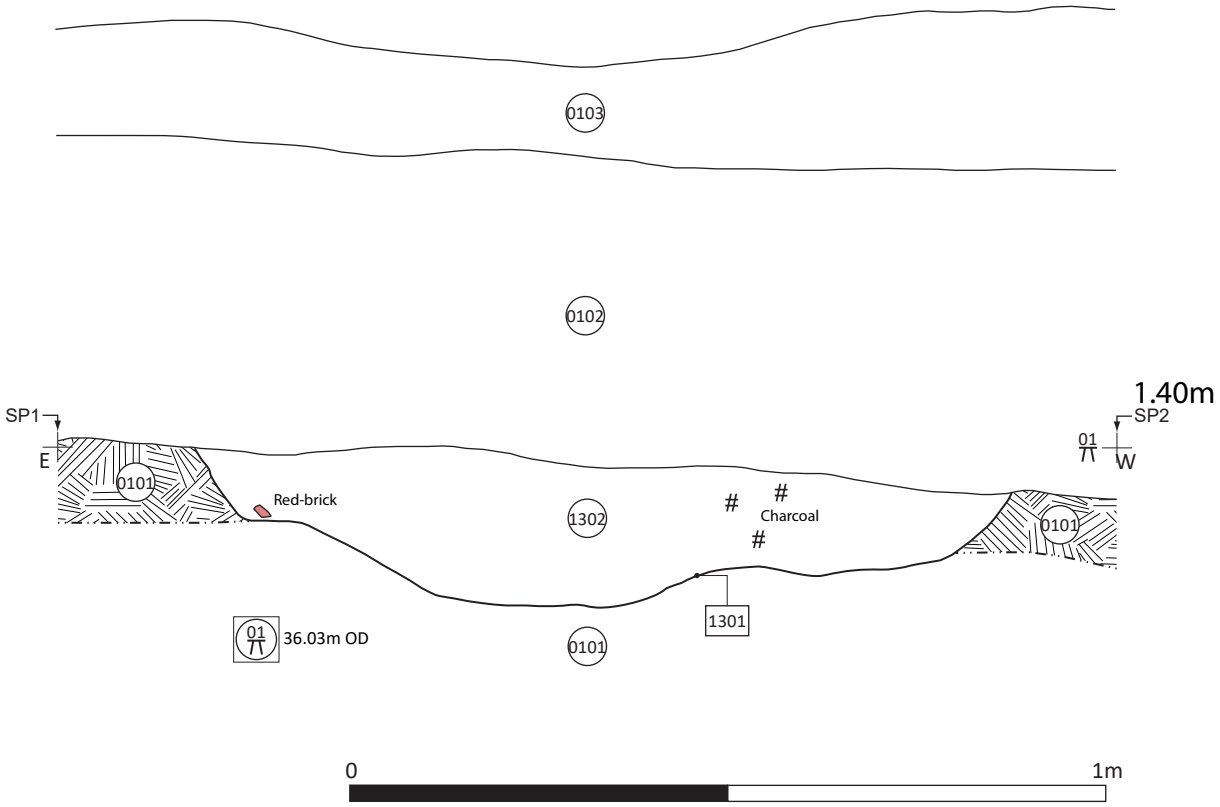

Figure 15, 16 and 17.

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Trench 14 (Plates 51-55, figures 1-3, 18-20, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 14 measured 20.0m in length north to south by 2.0m in width and was located at the western part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.13m deep soft dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil deposit (0103) and a 0.1m deep soft mid grey-brown clay-silt subsoil (0102) on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

During the excavation of the trench plough-scars orientated northwest to southeast were observed between the subsoil (0102) and natural glacial clay horizons (0101).

Located 6.3m south of the northern limit of excavation a linear gulley [1401] measuring >2.0m in length by 0.76m in width by 0.21m in depth was located running from east to west across the trench. The gulley had very gradually sloping, slightly concaved sides, a slightly concaved base, and was cut directly into the natural glacial substrata (0101). It was filled with a firm light grey-brown silt-clay (1402) with occasional small sub-rounded pebble inclusions.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

There was no dating evidence recovered from gulley [1401] and its age and function is unattested. It is however suspected, by its shallow depth and linear form, to be a field drainage gulley. This may have demarcated a former field boundary that has since gone out of use. There is however no such boundary indicated on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that it is of earlier date or was simply a drainage gulley rather than a field boundary. Another possible interpretation is that the gulley formed part of a former medieval / post-medieval field-system or indeed as part of ridge and furrow farming.

Plate 51: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 14, from the south. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 52: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 14, from the north. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 53: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 14 west facing section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 54: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 14 gulley [1401], from the west. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 55: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 14 gulley [1401] east facing section, from the east. Scale 0.5m.

Figure 18: Plan of trench 14, scale 1:100 at A4 (located on figure 04).

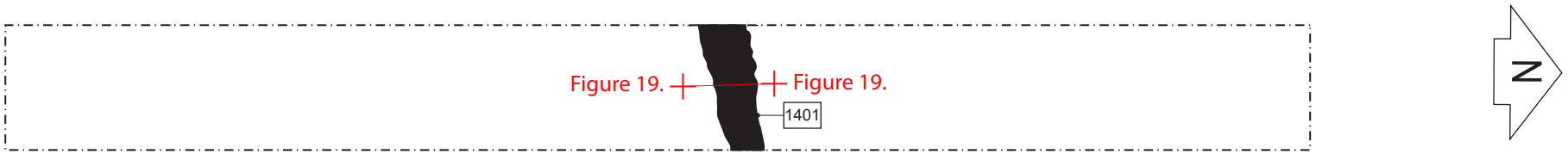

Figure 19: Detailed plan of trench 14 gulley [1401], scale 1:20 at A4 (located on figure 15).

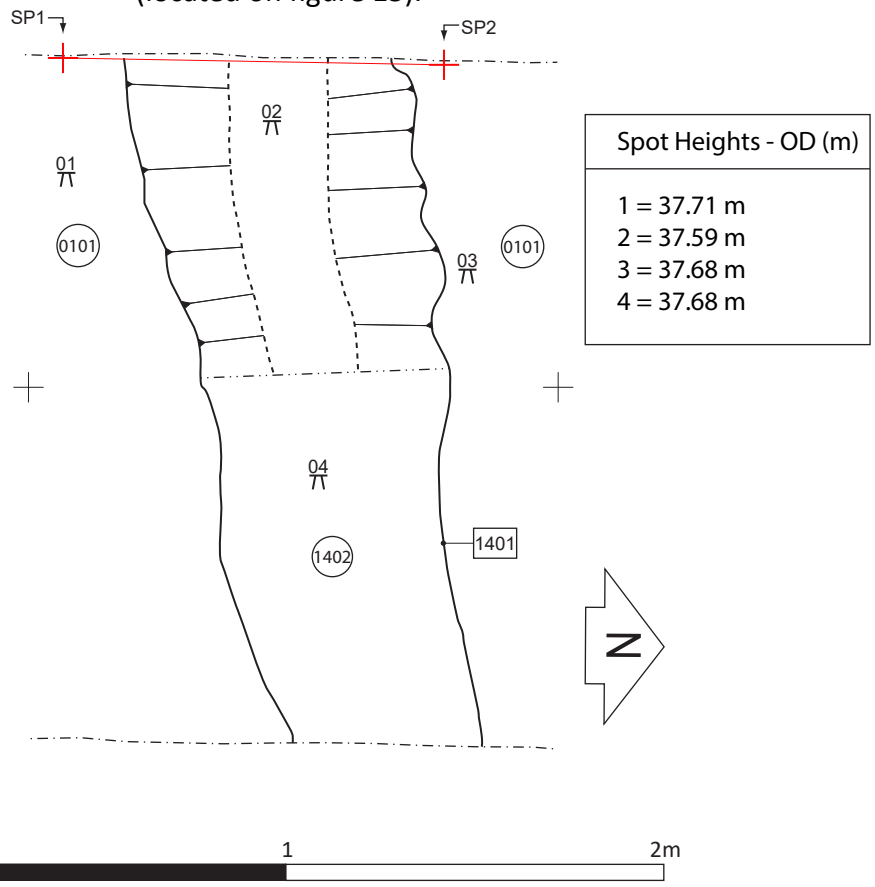

Figure 20: East facing section of gulley [1401], scale 1:10 at A4 (located on figure 19)

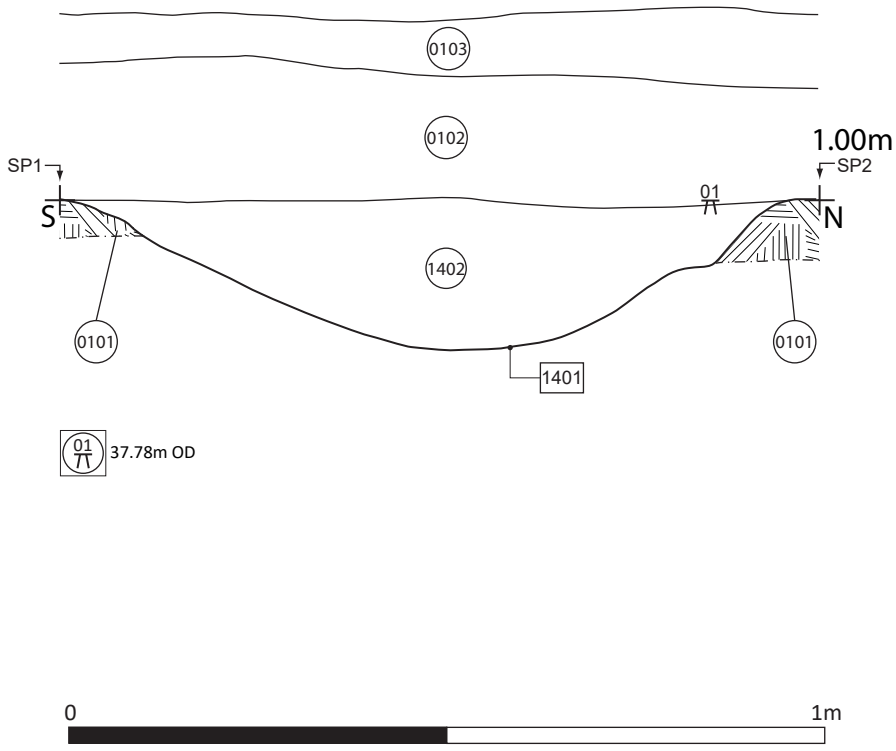

Figure 18, 19 and 20.

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Trench 15 (Plates 56-58, figures 1-3, 21, and 22)

Discussion

Trench 15 measured 20.0m in length northwest to southeast by 2.0m in width and was located at the north-eastern part of the site testing the location for the presence of unknown buried remains.

The trench was excavated through a 0.36m deep deposit of black-silt with very frequent small angular cobble inclusions, reminiscent of railway ballast and containing modern building materials, wood and plastic, directly on to a very firm light yellow-brown clay natural glacial substrata (0101) with frequent small sub-rounded and sub-angular cobble inclusions.

No archaeological remains or artefacts were identified. The trench was recorded using digital photographs and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material upon departure.

Interpretation

The trench stratigraphy shows that the area of the current reclamation yard had previously been stripped down on to the natural glacial substrata prior to the deposition of ballast material in order to create a hardstanding, probably associated with the former railway yard.

The post-medieval / modern activity within this part of the Site has removed any potential for preserved buried remains pre-dating the post-medieval period.

Plate 56: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 15, from the northwest. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 57: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 15, from the southeast. Scale 2 x 1.0m.

Plate 58: Blackham Reclamation - Trench 15 southwest facing section, from the southwest. Scale 0.5m.

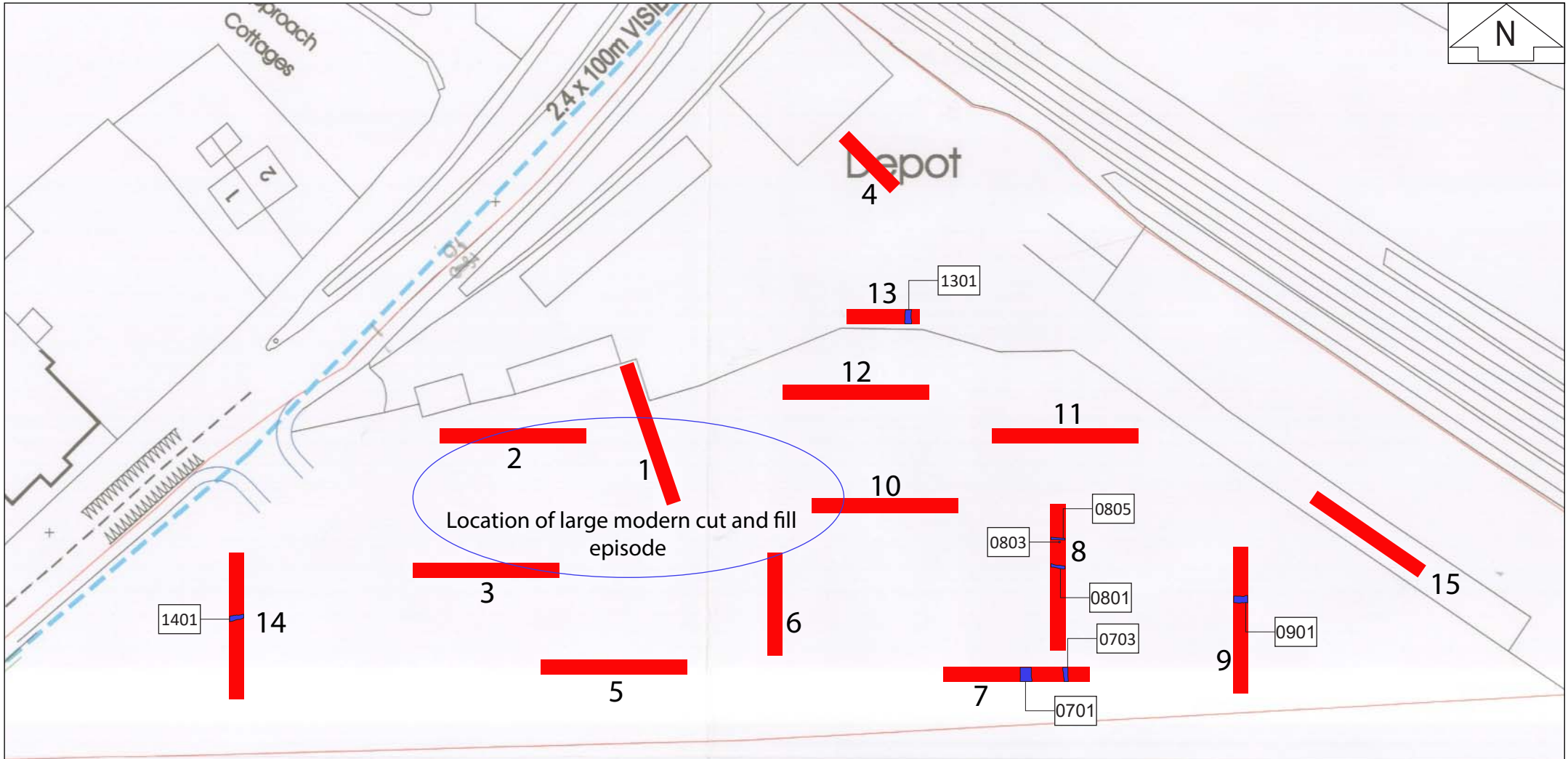

Figure 21: Location of archaeological features at Blackham Reclamation.
Scale 1:750 at A4.

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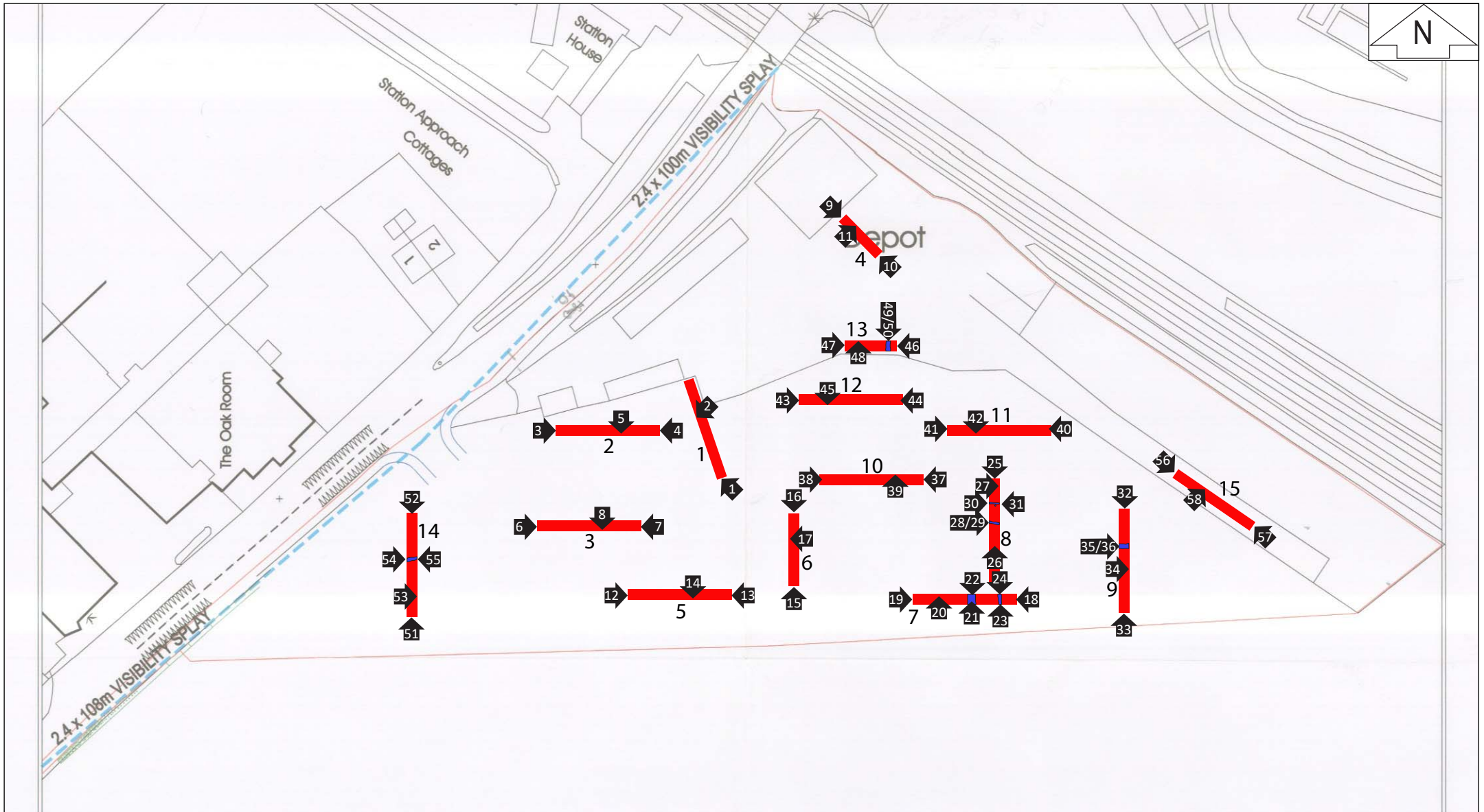

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Figure 22: Location and orientation of photographs at Blackham Reclamation.
Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

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9.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation phase on land to the south of, and including Blackham Reclamation yard, Tattenhall has shown that the enclosed field has seen very little disturbance. The majority of the field retains relatively shallow topsoil and subsoil horizons showing that it has not been intensively cultivated, although plough-scars were identified within some of the trenches during machining. In addition, a series of gullies were identified within trenches 7-9, 13 and 14 which likely represent former field boundaries or drainage gullies. None of these gullies are shown on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that they are either of an earlier date or were simply too ephemeral to depict.

Very little dating evidence was recovered from the gully features with the exception of within trench 7 where gulley [0701] was cut through by a ceramic field-drain of probable 19th Century date; and within trenches 9 and 13 where both gullies [0901] and [1301] produced fragments of red-brick. On the balance of evidence this would suggest that the features represent former post-medieval drainage gullies, although other interpretations are possible such as the boundaries of former medieval / post-medieval strip-fields or indeed surviving furrows from medieval / post-medieval ridge and furrow farming.

The excavation of trenches 1-3, and 10 also showed that a large cut and fill episode had occurred towards the centre of the Site within the post-medieval / modern period. It is not clear whether the cut already existed as a large hollow or pond, however no feature is shown on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 or on any of the following Ordnance Survey maps at this location. This would suggest that this part of the Site had been disturbed via the excavation of a large pit, possibly for clay extraction, that had been used for the deposition of building material including brick, mortar fragments, plastic, wood, and animal bone in the post-medieval / modern period.

The evaluation trenches within the existing reclamation yard showed that the area had previously been stripped on to the natural glacial substrata in the post-medieval / modern period and as such had removed any potential for the preservation of any earlier remains, although structural remains associated with the post-medieval railway yard cannot be discounted.

The only targeted trench (trench 1) failed to find any evidence of the field boundaries depicted on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838 and it may be that these existed as hedgerows rather than banks or ditches. Another possible explanation is that the trench was positioned in the wrong place due to inaccuracies within the tithe map itself, although if this was the case it is likely that trenches 2, 5 or 6 would have intercepted the field boundary remains if they existed.

This evaluation enables an informed, sustainable and responsible approach to the development at land to the south of, and including Blackham Reclamation, Tattenhall. The information provided meets the expectations of legislation in that the applicant has evaluated the presence of archaeological assets that may be affected by proposed development at the Site. It is considered that the level of detail provided is proportionate to the assets' importance and provides sufficient information to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of archaeological remains. Ultimately, therefore, and without prejudice to the findings of any future archaeological, or other investigations at the Site, it is considered that the archaeological potential at the Site is of a low to negligible importance level and that there would not be a requirement for any further assessment or mitigation concerning treatment of the buried archaeological remains at the Site. This recommendation is in line with the relevant provisions in current legislation.

10.0 SOURCES

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APPENDIX I – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation.

April 2018 v1.0

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

Project Code: A0160.1
Planning Ref: 13/02120/OUT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A development proposal has been submitted by The Blackham LLP, hereafter the Client, for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of up to 25 dwellings, up to 700 sqm of business floorspace (B1), access works, car parking and open space on land located to the south and including Blackham Reclamation yard, Tattenhall Road, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ (centred on **NGR: SJ 49466 60286**) (figures 01 and 02).

The development site is for the most part within an enclosed grazing field but also includes the reclamation yard to the north, which has three buildings and areas of hardstanding.

The Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (Total Environment) Cheshire Shared Services, hereafter CAPAS, (Mr Mark Leah) did not produce a formal brief for the archaeological evaluation but the following was made a condition of outline planning permission (**ref: 13/02120/OUT**):

Condition 23

No development shall take place within the area indicated on the Site Drawing sheet 4 (5521/09)until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been secured by the applicant, or their agents or successors in title and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason: The site is in an area of archaeological significance or an area of archaeological potential, in accordance with the provisions of Policy ENV32 of the Chester District Local Plan.

The former Senior Archaeologist at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (Julie Edwards) made the following comments regarding the proposed development in 2013 (email from Edwards, J. to Howard, N. dated 20th June 2013):

> The application site, 0.83 hectares, consists of a triangular area of land partly composed of a reclamation yard and an area of undeveloped green field. The site lies in the documented medieval hamlet of Newton-by-Tattenhall to the north of the historic settlement of Tattenhall.
>
> Archaeological fieldwork in Tattenhall has produced evidence of significant Roman and medieval activity. Roman, medieval and early post-medieval artefacts have been found by metal detecting at locations within the village and in the surrounding fields. The two settlements are situated in a landscape where evidence of pre-historic activity has been found.
>
> No archaeological finds have been recorded from the development area and no significant archaeology was discovered during the development of Tattenhall Marina. However Station Cottage opposite the site on Tattenhall Road is a 17th century timber framed building where artefacts of 16th /17th century date have been discovered by the property owner.
>
> The historic mapping and aerial photographs held by the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) indicate that the open field area of the development site has survived as undeveloped land throughout the later post-medieval period. There is therefore potential for undisturbed archaeological evidence, relating to the early settlement of the area, to survive on the site as below ground remains and deposits which will be disturbed and destroyed by the proposed development.

The 1st Edition OS map shows the development site lying within a large field the boundaries of which are the same as the modern field boundary. The c.1838 Tithe Map however shows that the development area covers the 'T'-junction of two field boundaries separating three fields named as Crow Nest Field, Little Ellnore Ridding and Big Ellnore Ridding. Crow Nest Field is the largest of the three and covered an area that now includes the railway line and Tattenhall Marina. These boundaries are potentially medieval or early post-medieval in origin.

In the 1940s aerial photographs the location of the c.1838 boundaries are visible as crop marks or potential shallow earthworks. A large rectangular depression can also be seen in the west corner of the T-junction. Traces of these features are visible in later photographs e.g. early 1990s.

The reclamation yard borders the Chester to Crewe railway line opened in 1840 and the area of the yard appears on the 1st Edition OS map as an area connected to the railway containing a weighing machine and a building. One of the present buildings on the site appears to be in the same location as that on the historic map.

Whilst no archaeological remains have been found on the site the CHER, archaeological work in the area and the undeveloped nature of the site indicate that there is some potential for multi-period archaeological remains to exist in the development area as well as evidence relating to the development of the 19th century railway and associated work areas.

It is therefore possible that the development works may reveal evidence relating to both the early settlement of Newton by Tattenhall and its industrial heritage; any such remains may be destroyed or damaged by the development.

In view of the uncertainty about the quality and extent of any archaeological deposits, it would not be reasonable to object to the development on archaeological grounds however if permission is granted it is advised that all ground disturbance associated with the development (e.g. the ground clearance, construction of access routes, excavation of wall footings, sewage and drainage works, service trenches and works) should be subject to a developer-funded watching brief in order to record any archaeological deposits that may be present.

In addition, prior to any intrusive groundworks, provision should be made for the specific investigation of the potentially early field boundaries and the associated rectangular feature within the development area to establish their date and character, this should include palaeoenvironmental sampling of any suitable deposits. Backfilling to enable preservation in situ should be done with a suitably graded material.

Recent discussions with the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at CAPAS have established that the archaeological interest at the Site would be best investigated through a phase of archaeological evaluation consisting of a 5% sample of the development area, which would help inform the requirement for any further archaeological mitigatory response. If the absence of archaeological remains is confirmed by the evaluation then it is understood that no further archaeological work would be required in order to satisfy the archaeological condition.

Contrary to the above comments from the former Senior Archaeologist at CAPAS the site measures 1.33 hectares (13,300 sqm). Therefore a 5% sample rate of the development area using 20.0m by 2.0m trenches would require the excavation of 17 trenches. As the reclamation yard has three upstanding buildings the required number of trenches has been reduced to 15 no.

The topsoil and any overburden / hardstanding will be removed by mechanical excavator, and any archaeological features encountered will be sample excavated by hand in order to determine their character and date. The location of the trench array is shown on Figure 03.

This WSI states the aims, objectives and methodology for implementing the archaeological evaluation.

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).

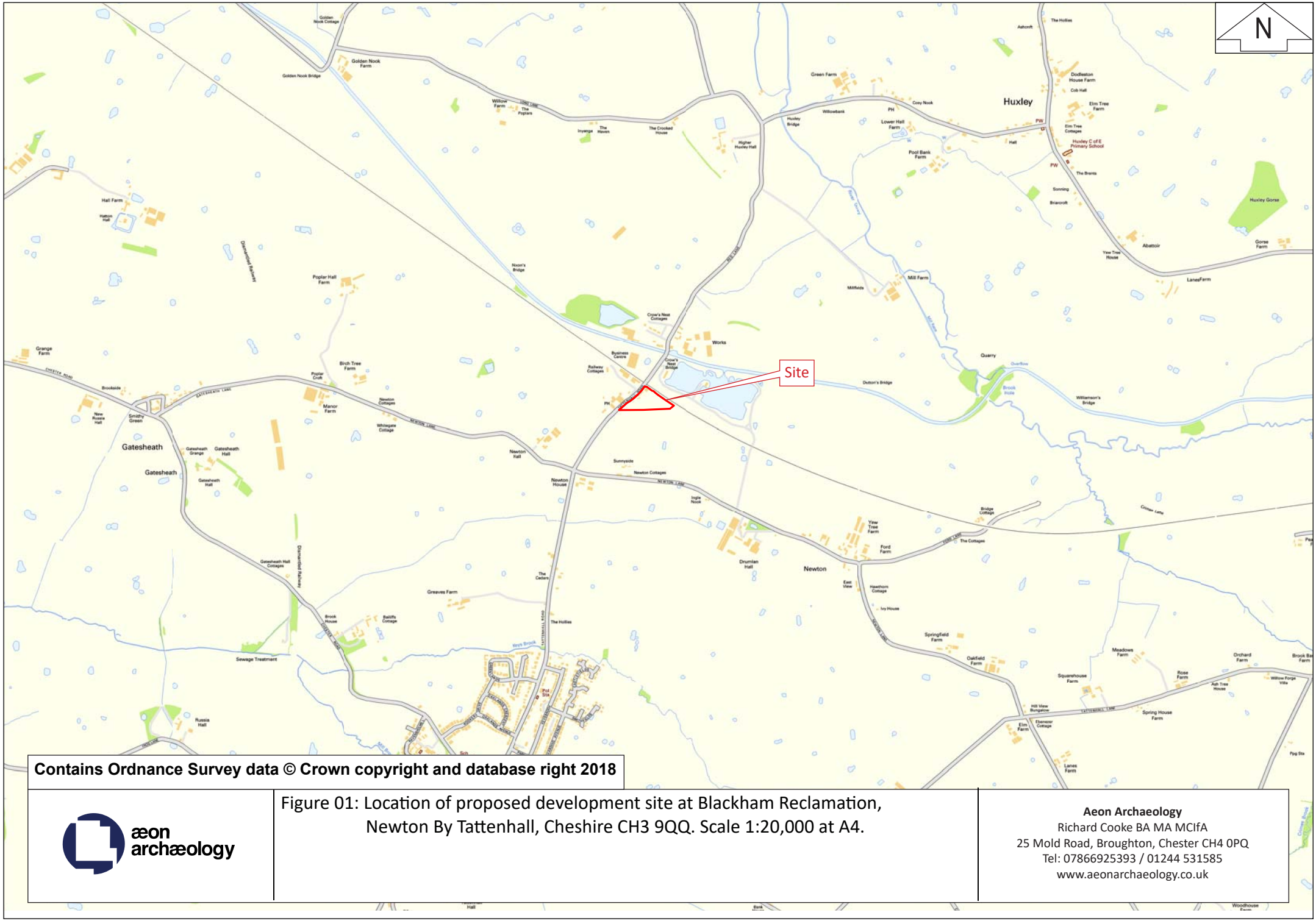

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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at Blackham Reclamation, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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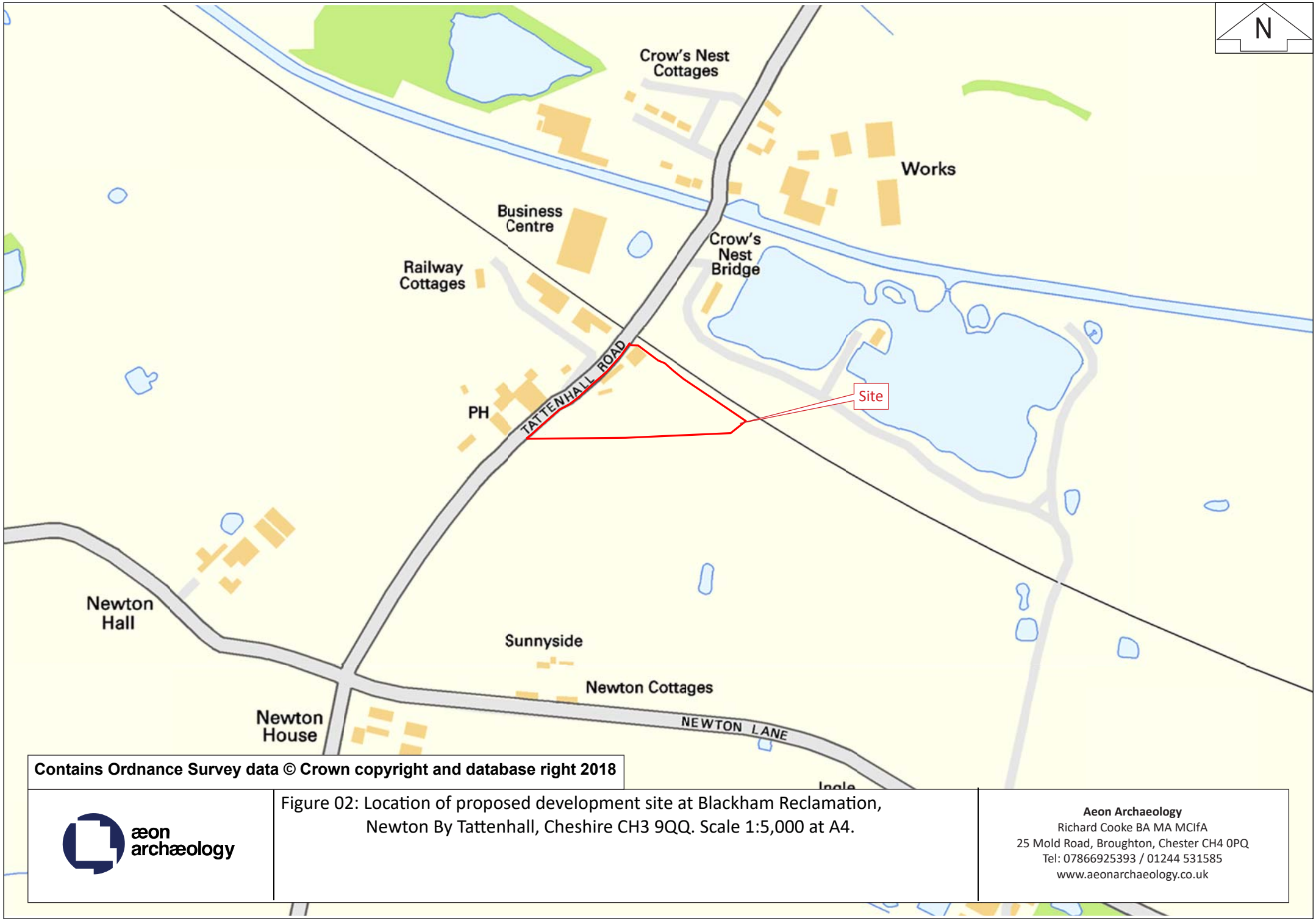

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Figure 02: Location of proposed development site at Blackham Reclamation, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AIMS

Before trial trenching commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Client and the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at CAPAS.

The number, size, orientation and distribution of trenches will be agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain the archaeological features within the development footprint.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation are:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.

- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.

- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.

- To allow the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at CAPAS to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.

- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Cheshire.

The archaeological evaluation trenches will consist of the following:

Trench 1 – 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the northern end of the site to investigate the junction of the former field boundaries depicted on the Tattenhall tithe map of c.1838. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 2 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the north-western end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 3 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the western end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 4 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the western end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 5 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the southern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 6 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the southern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 7 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the south-eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 8 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 9 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 10 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located towards the centre of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

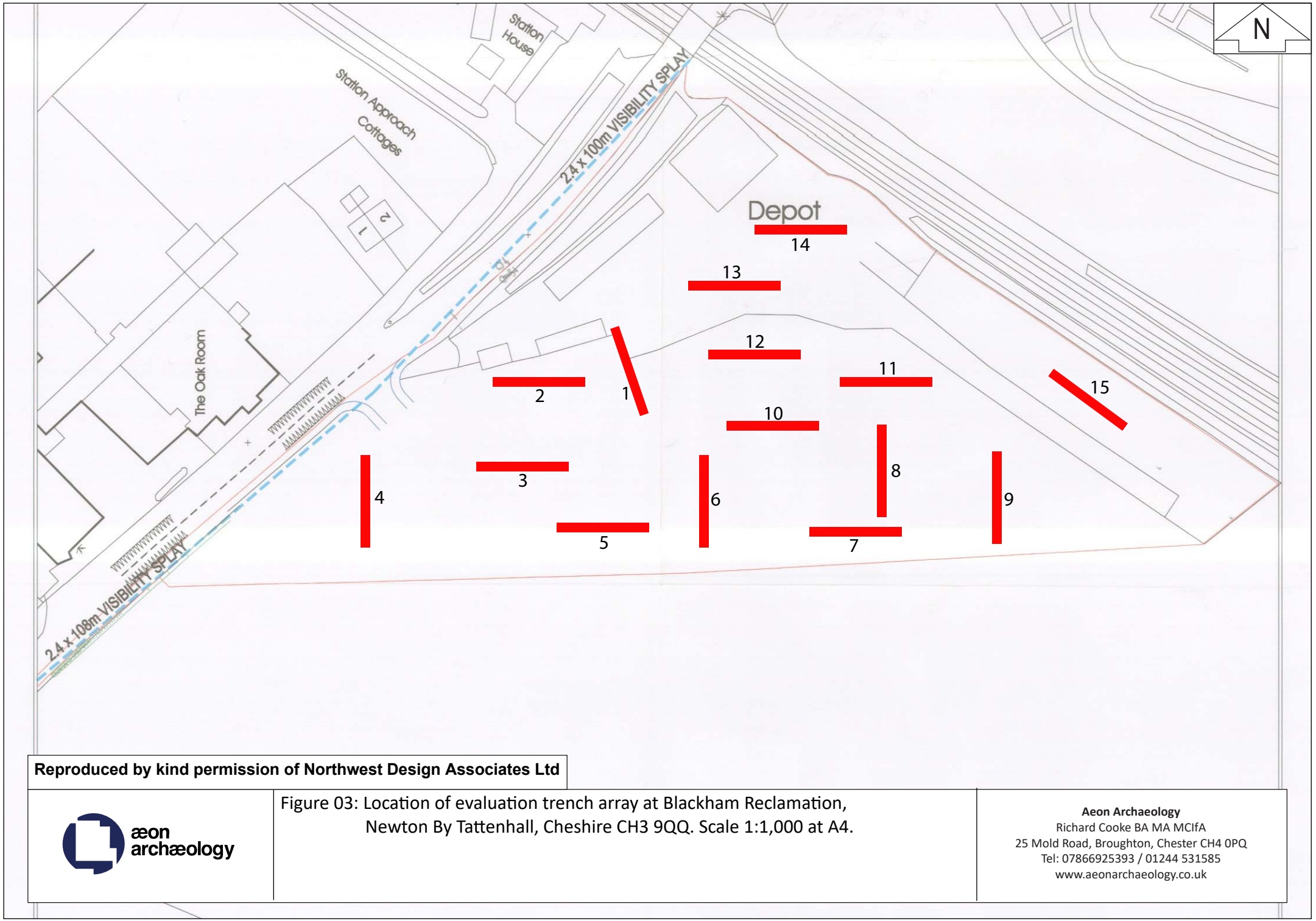
Trench 11 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located towards the centre of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 12 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located towards the centre of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 13 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the northern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 14 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the northern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.

Trench 15 - 20.0m x 2.0m: Located at the eastern end of the site and testing the site for discreet features. This trench will be excavated on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first.



æon archæology

Figure 03: Location of evaluation trench array at Blackham Reclamation, Newton By Tattenhall, Cheshire CH3 9QQ. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
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3.0 METHOD STATEMENT – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

If archaeological deposits are identified they will be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.

- Expansion of evaluation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features will be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. Photographic identification boards will also be used.

All trenches will be opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket in spits of approximately six inches on to the first archaeological horizon or natural glacial substrata, whichever is encountered first. After this all cleaning will be done by hand.

Trenches and spoil heaps will be routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as outlined in section 8.0.

All excavations will be backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology has not been requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface nor reinstate hard standing surfaces as found.

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for delays and subsequent costs incurred through the onset of adverse weather. If such conditions occur additional costs may be incurred.

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0160.1**.

4.0 EVALUATION REPORT

4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment

A report on the results of the archaeological evaluation, 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 evaluation* (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 be subject to a specification for approval by the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at CAPAS, upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

4.2.2 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 indicating the position and size of the evaluation trenches 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.

4.3 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 retained at Aeon Archaeology, Chester. A digital copy of the report including scanned copies of all proformas will be lodged with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Oasis online database.

5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

If archaeological features are encountered that cannot satisfactorily be characterised within the limits of the evaluation then further archaeological works may be required. This may involve the excavation of additional evaluation trenches or the extension of the limits of existing trenches. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the Client and may be subject to a separate WSI, to be agreed with the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at CAPAS prior to implementation.

6.0 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)

7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Natural and Historic Environment Manager 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.

8.0 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 Natural and Historic Environment Manager. 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.

9.0 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.

10.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE

10.1 Staff

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

10.2 Timetable

The archaeological evaluation can currently be undertaken from April 2018, although the client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently high.

11.0 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.

12.0 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 07/09/18

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/18

13.0 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 Evaluation* 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.

14.0 SPECIALISTS

Specilaist 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)