

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
St. Mary's Marina,  
Rufford,  
Lancashire.  
Final Report  
NGR SD 464153**

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*Produced for Mr & Mrs V. Fitzell*

August 2009

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

This report describes the results of a program of archaeological evaluation at St. Mary's Marina, Rufford, Lancashire. The project was undertaken in advance of a planning application for a new marina.

A total of five trial trenches were excavated, each measuring 2 x 20 m. Little evidence was found for *in situ* archaeological deposits, most features being 19th and 20th century land drains. Two north-south aligned ditches were probably 19th century field boundaries, though these could not be related to features shown on 19th century maps. Most finds were relatively modern, though a fragment of medieval pottery and a fragment of Early Post-Medieval Coarseware were present. However, these were both found in later deposits and are unlikely to relate directly to settlement.

# **An Archaeological Evaluation at Rufford Marina, Rufford, Lancashire. Interim Report NGR SD 464153**

## **1. Introduction**

This is the final report on the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) at St. Mary's Marina Rufford, Lancashire and updates the conclusions presented in the interim report (Adams 2009). It has been produced for the client (Mr & Mrs V. Fitzell) by National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit (NMLFAU). The project was undertaken in advance of the excavation of a new marina basin, to the south of basins constructed in 2004/5. A watching brief constructed during the construction of the site to the north (Baldwin 2008) had found evidence of prehistoric settlement and the present site was therefore identified as having potential for the presence of similar features.

Fieldwork was undertaken between Monday 3rd August and Tuesday 11th August 2009. All excavation was undertaken as specified in the project design, the only variation being a change in the orientation of Trench III from east-west to north-south (Fig.1). This variation was made because of the presence of a substantial mound of spoil at the proposed location of the trench.

This report provides a summary description and interpretation of the results. The principal changes from the interim are the inclusion of detail plans of contexts described in the text, site photographs, a catalogue of the finds and full archive listing

## **2. Results of the Excavation**

Five trenches were opened across the site, numbered I to V (Fig. 1). Trench I measured 20x4 m the remaining four measured c. 20x2 m and were excavated to the upper surface of geological deposits using a 360 degree mechanical excavator operated under archaeological supervision.

### **2.1 Trench I**

This was situated at the north-western corner of the new marina and was aligned east-west. In contrast with the other trenches it was not sealed by a layer of modern clay make-up and was therefore relatively shallow at c. 0.4-0.5 m deep.

Top soil (context 1) and sub-soil (context 2) were excavated by mechanical plan to the top of naturally deposited sands (context 3). The sands were soft, white-greyish brown with occasional brown mottling. There were few inclusions apart from occasional small (<30 mm) pebbles and gravel. The percentage of gravel increased slightly towards the east of the trench.

The only deposits identified were clustered at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 2). Context 5 was the fill of a field drain aligned east-north-east to west-south-west which

had an earthenware drain at its base (Plate 1). The cut for this feature, context 4, cut across a poorly defined north-south aligned deposit, context 7 (Plate 7). Context 7 was c. 0.7-0.2 m wide and 0.1-0.3 m deep and was a slightly humic silty clayey sand which was dark mottled brown in colour with c. 20% lenses of black, slightly more humic material. Although excavated as filling a cut, context 6, the interface with natural sands was very poorly defined with context 7 grading into context 3. Consequently this feature was identified as being of natural origin, probably the result of animal or plant action on the sands.

The only other deposit identified in Trench I was context 9 which although relatively well defined was found to be an area of iron panning, probably related to context 7.

## *2.2 Trench II*

This trench was situated in the centre of the new marina and was aligned east-west. It was sealed by a 1-1.5 m deep deposit of Boulder Clay, context 10, derived from the excavation of the marina to the north. This sealed context 11, the former topsoil, which was 0.20-0.30 m deep. The sub-soil, context 12, was 0.15-0.20 m deep and identical to that in Trench I.

Geological deposits in this trench, context 13, were sands similar in character to those in Trench I. At the western end of the trench they were apparently cut by a feature containing context 14, a soft mid-orange/brown sand containing occasional small (<10 mm) rounded pebbles and fragments of concreted iron (Fig. 3). Excavation of this feature found that it had very poorly defined edges and it was concluded that it was probably of natural origin, perhaps the result of root or animal action upon the naturally deposited sands.

Context 16 at the eastern end of the trench (Fig. 3) was an east-north-east to west-south-west aligned land drain c. 0.25 m wide. This had been cut through context 18, a north-south aligned band of firm dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional lenses of slightly paler material. This was c. 0.28 m deep and sealed context 19, a soft dark brownish grey sandy silt containing occasional lenses of mid-orange to yellow clay which was almost certainly derived from the Boulder Clay. These deposits filled context 17, a cut with an asymmetric, V-shaped profile with a flattened base (Fig. 7, Plate 3). The cut was 1.15 m wide and 0.35 m deep. At the base of the cut, against its western edge was a substantial waterlogged timber c. 0.2m across. This appeared to have been treated with creosote or a similar material. Finds of darkware and tobacco pipe stem found securely stratified within contexts 18 and 19 date this feature to the 19th century or later.

## *2.3 Trench III*

This trench was situated in the south-western corner of the site and was aligned north-south. The trench was sealed by 0.4-0.7m of redeposited Boulder Clay (context 23) derived from the excavation of the marina to the north. This sealed the original top soil (context 24) which was 0.26-0.23m thick and in turn sealed sub-soil (context 25) which was 0.3-0.35m thick.

Context 27 was a poorly defined spread of dark brown sand contrasting with the adjacent pale brown sands and covering an area of c. 3.3 x 2.5 m at the southern end of the trench (Fig. 4). This feature was probably of natural origin.

A few smaller discrete features were identified, these were contexts 28, 32 and 33, though these were similar in character to context 27 and probably the result of animal or root action on the naturally deposited sands as they had no defined edges or form.

Two linear features (filled by contexts 34 and 29) crossed the trench on a broadly east-west alignment. Both were identified as 19th or 20th century land drains.

## **2.4 Trench IV**

Trench IV was located in the south-eastern corner of the site and was aligned east-west. The trench was sealed by c. 1.9 m of redeposited Boulder Clay (context 37) derived from the excavation of the marina to the north. This sealed the original top soil (context 38) which was 0.2 m thick and in turn sealed sub-soil (context 39) which was 0.3 m thick.

Two linear features ran north-south across the trench and were filled by contexts 42 and 46 (Figs 5 and 7). Context 42 was identified as a modern land drain, though context 46 filled a shallow cut (context 45) with a dish-shaped profile c. 1 m wide and 0.12 m deep which was probably a field boundary similar to that excavated in Trench II.

Context 44 was the fill of a land drain aligned east-north-east to west-south-west which cut across the features described above and was therefore later.

## **2.5 Trench V**

Trench V was located in the north-eastern corner of the site and was aligned east-west. The trench was sealed by c. 1.3 m of redeposited Boulder Clay (context 47) derived from the excavation of the marina to the north. This sealed the original top soil (context 48) which was 0.05 m thick and in turn sealed sub-soil (context 49) which was 0.3 m thick.

The only feature in this trench was a land drain aligned east-north-east to west-south-west (context 52). Two darker areas of sand (contexts 54 and 53) in the centre of the trench were probably of natural origin (Fig. 6).

## **3. Finds**

The vast majority of the finds were 19th century or later in date, principally small fragments of pottery. A small group of industrial waste (slag) found in the fill of the land drain in Trench I (context 5) is probably of modern origin. A small body sherd from a medieval vessel (SF 9) in a coarse sandy fabric was found in the sub-soil (context 12) in Trench II and a body sherd from a Late medieval Coarseware vessel (SF12) was found in the fill of a modern land drain (context 35). Both were found in association with modern material and were therefore not in their original contexts and are likely to represent evidence of occupation on the site.

## **4. Conclusions**

No archaeologically significant deposits were present in any of the excavated areas, all of the excavated features being either of natural origin or dating to the mid-19th century or later. The majority of the latter were land drains inserted for agricultural improvements in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The precise origin of contexts 17, 18, 19 and 22 in Trench II and contexts 45 and 46 in Trench IV is uncertain. The finds within the fills date the disuse of these features to the 19th or early 20th century. They may be field boundaries, though none appears at these locations on the 1st edition OS 6 inch to 1 mile map of the area which was published in 1847 (Fig. 9) or on the 25 inch to 1 mile edition published in 1894. It is therefore likely they were relatively short lived components of the landscape. The interim report suggested that one of them may relate to the township boundary shown on Figs 8 and 9 as a dashed line aligned north-south across the site. However, only context 46 lies close to this boundary and the form on the map suggests that it probably originally followed a stream rather than a ditch, a small kink to the south of the site probably preserves the form of a small meander in the stream.

## 5. Figures

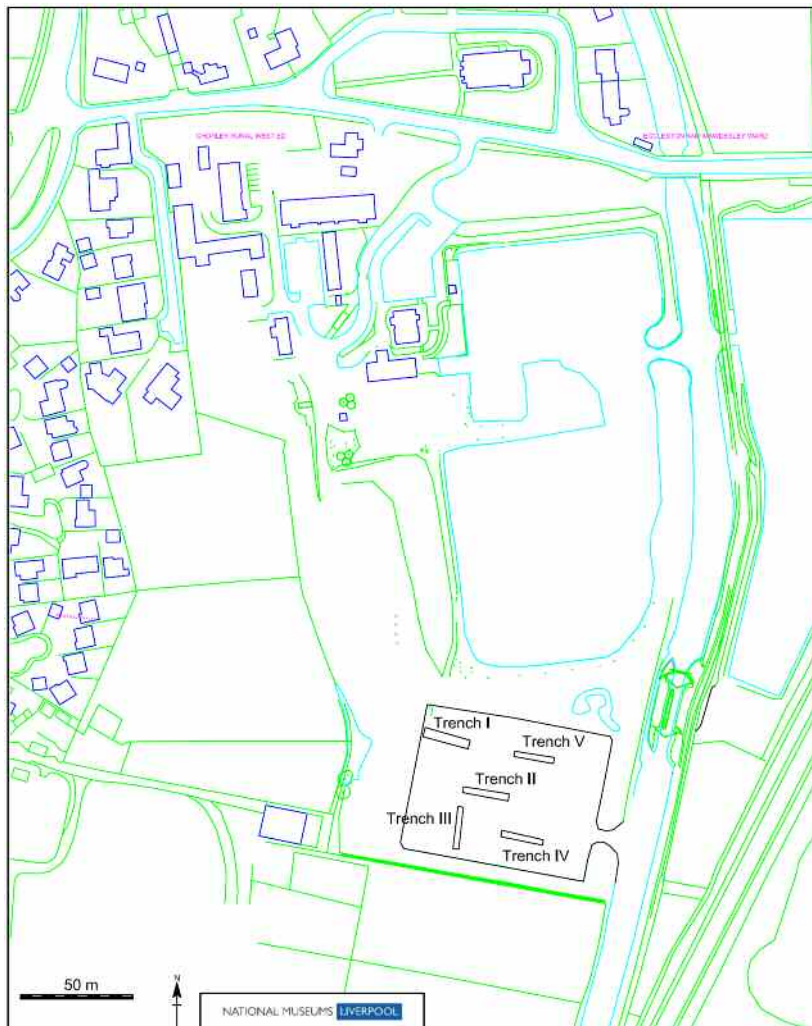


Fig. 1. Location of trenches in relation to the previous development and the proposed new marina.



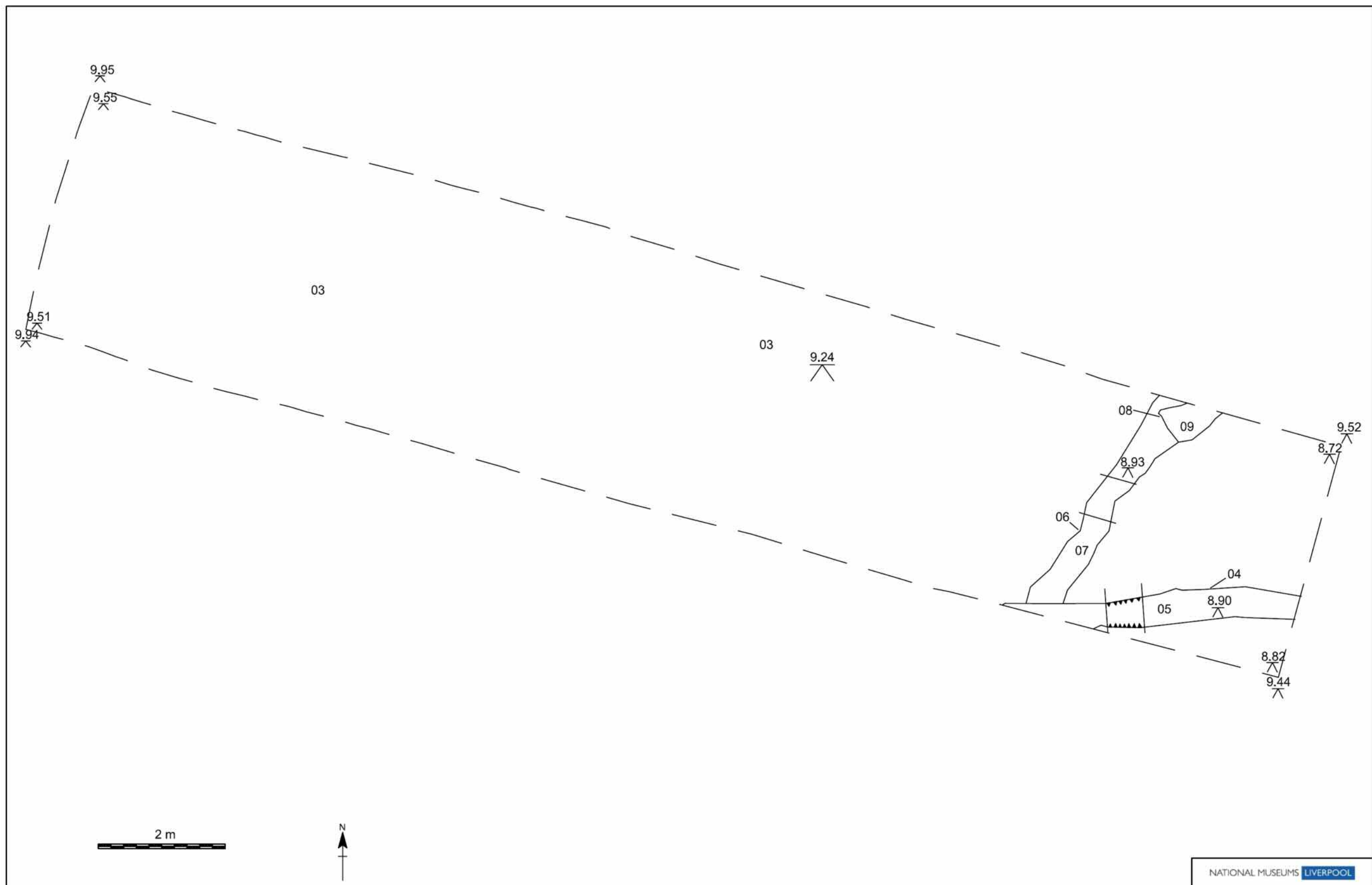


Fig. 2. Detail of Trench I.

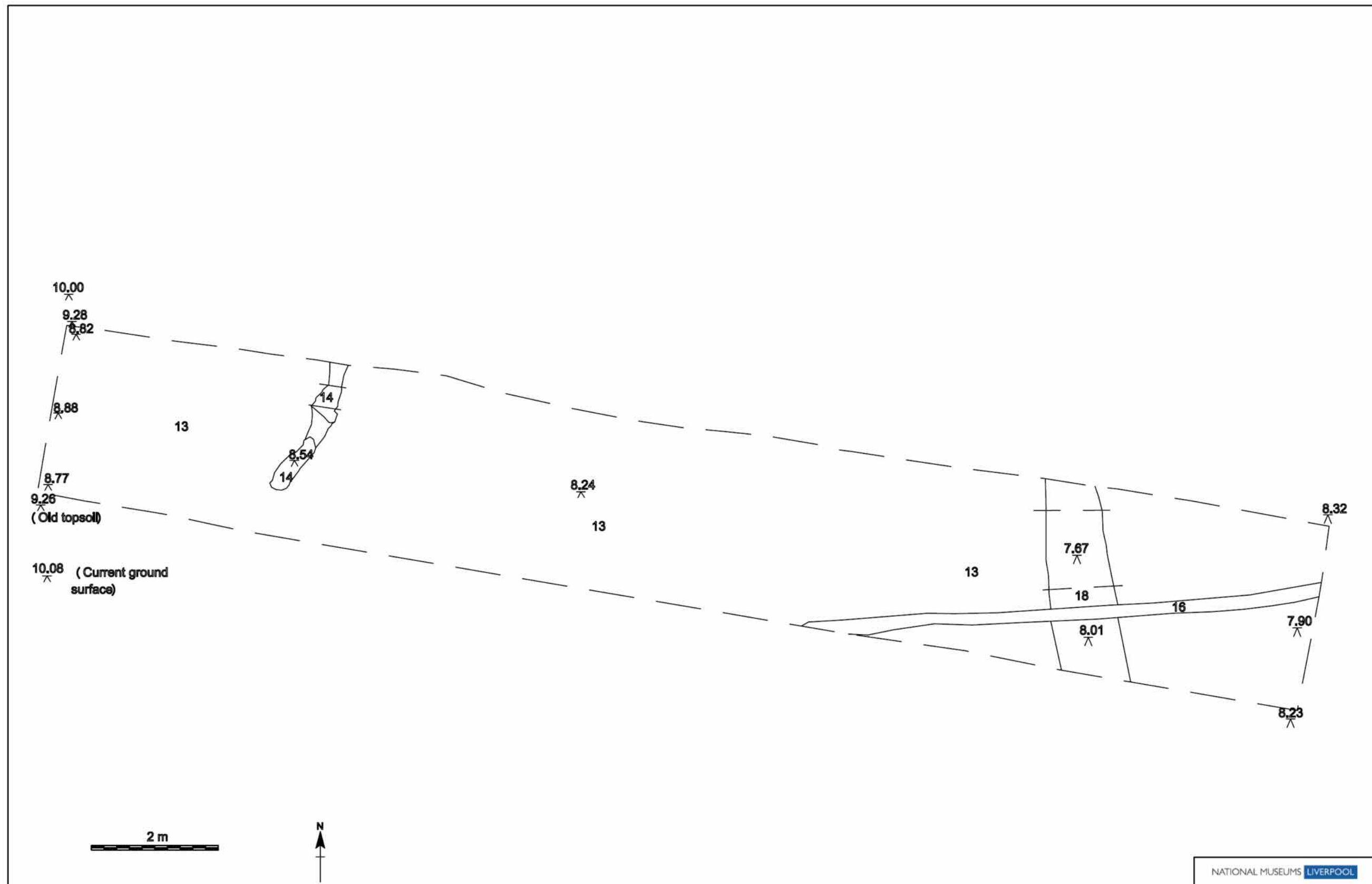


Fig. 3. Detail Trench II

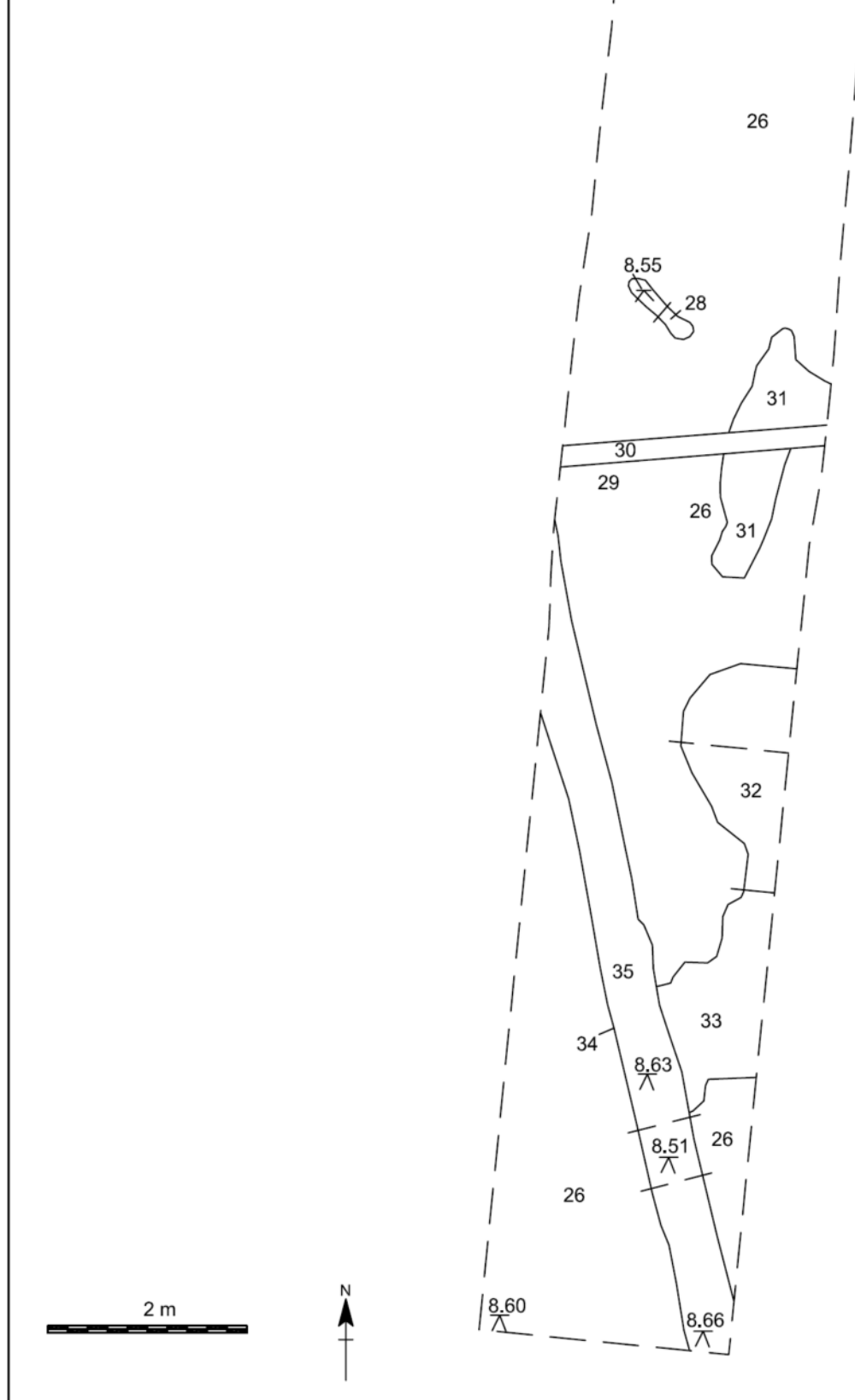
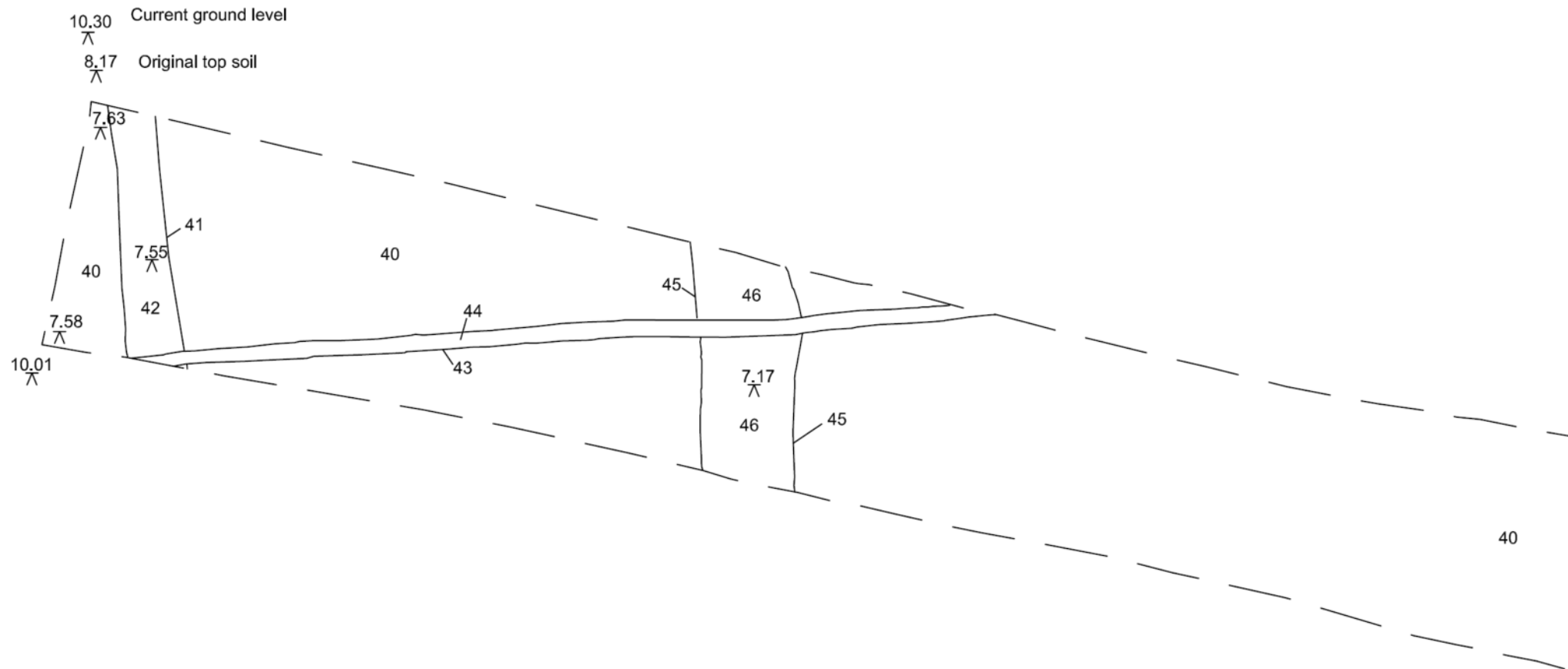
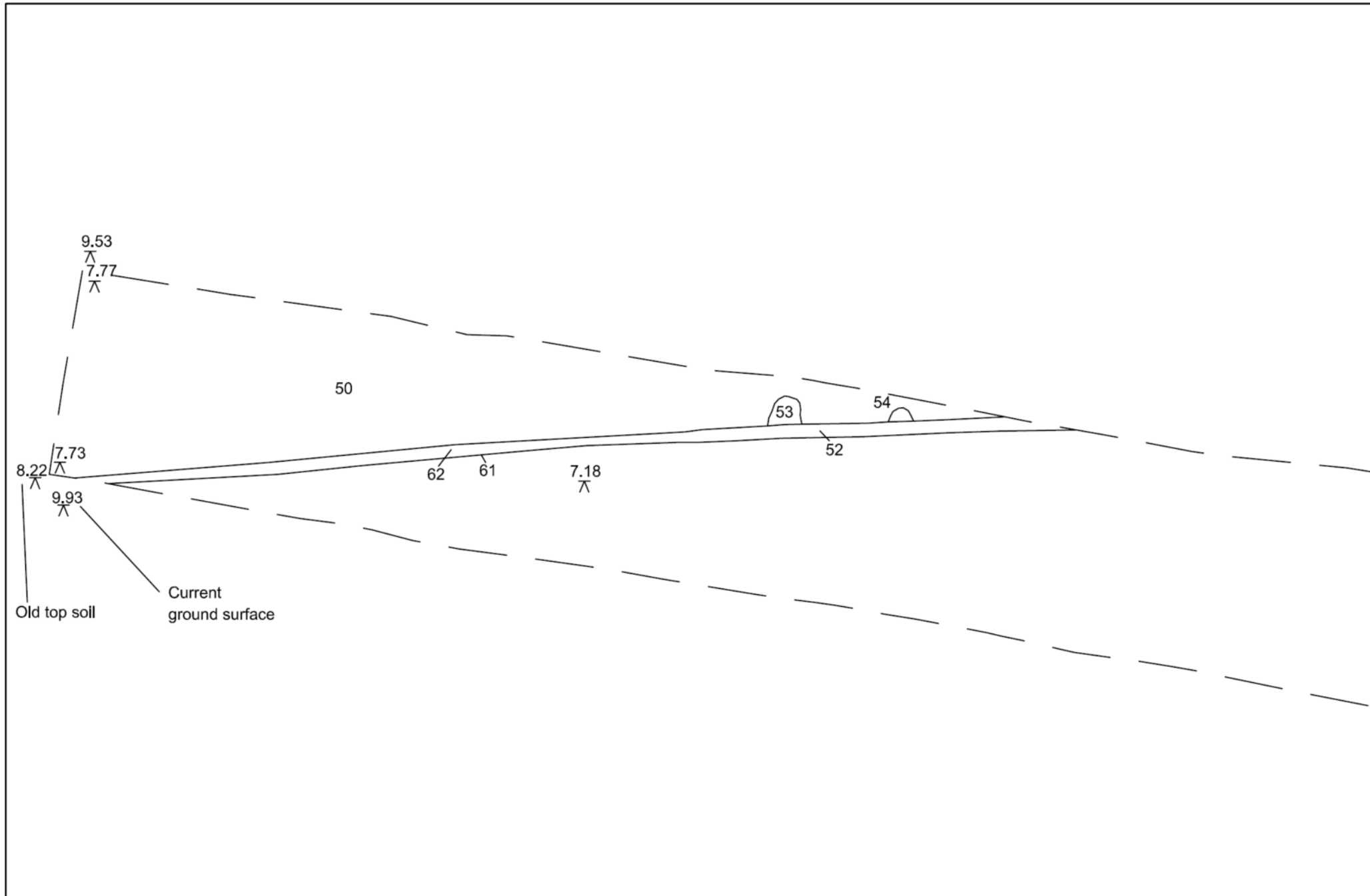


Fig. 4. Detail plan of Trench III.





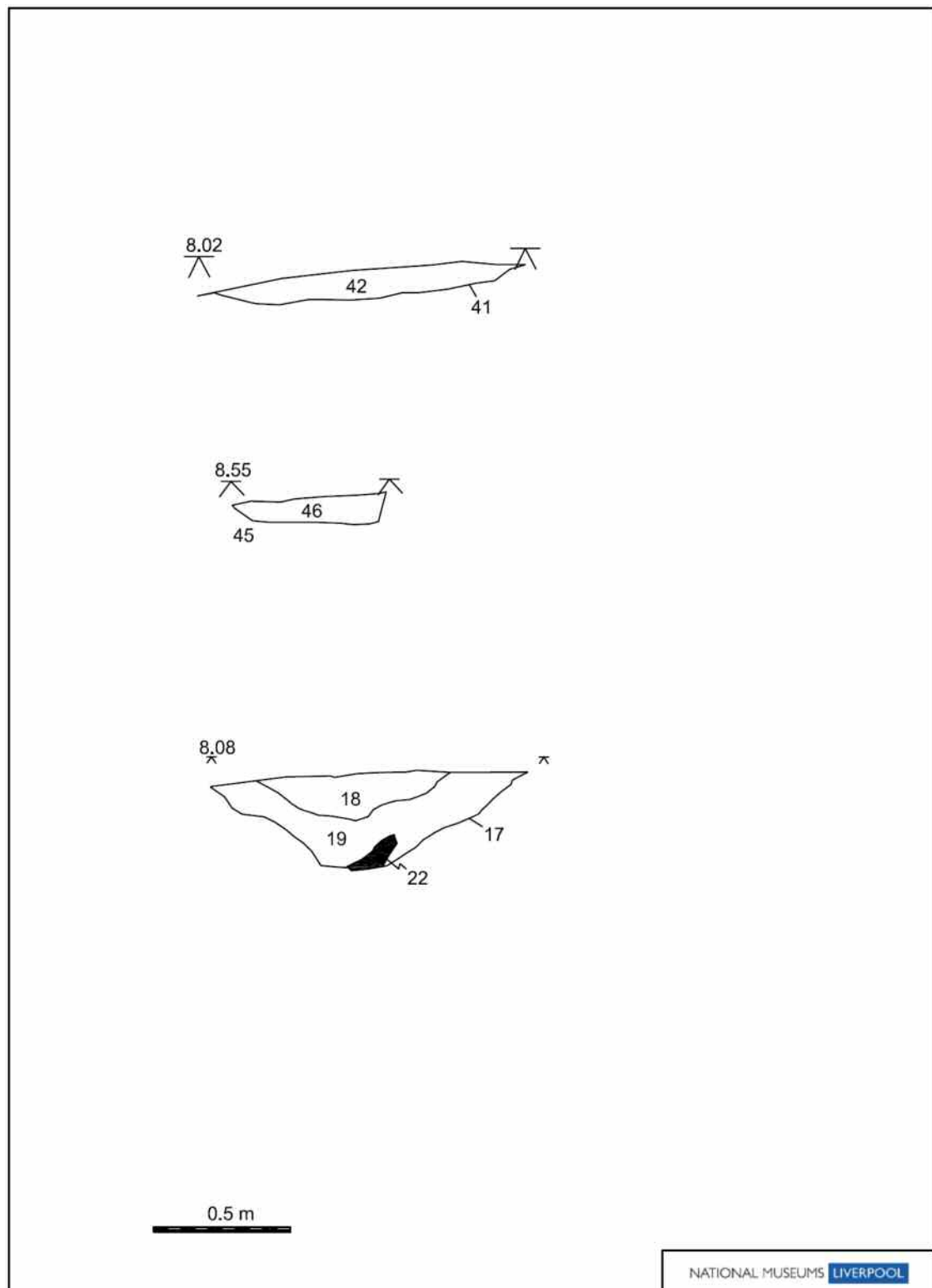


Fig. 7. Section drawings



Fig. 8. Evaluation trenches superimposed on to part of the OS 1st Edition 6 inch to the mile survey sheet 76, published 1847.

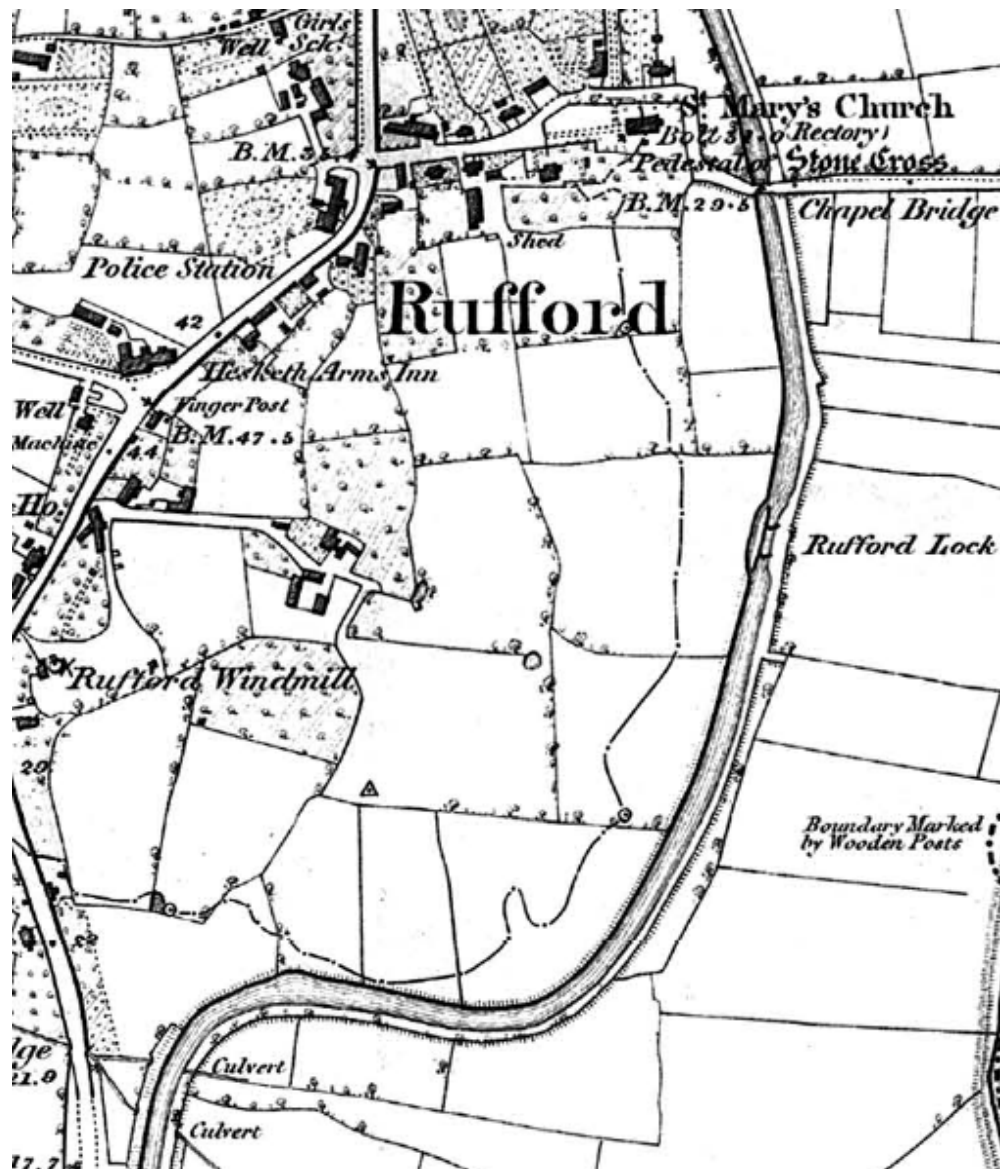


Fig. 9. Part of the OS 1st Edition 6 inch to the mile survey sheet 76, published 1847.



## 6. Plates



Plate 1. Land drain (Context 5) in Trench 1. View looking west



Plate 2. Pre-excavation view of context 7. View looking east.



Plate 3. Context 17 and associated deposits. The timber can be seen as a dark stain at the base of the cut. View looking south.

## 7. Bibliography

Adams M.H. 2009 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Rufford Marina, Rufford, Lancashire. Interim Report NGR SD 464153*. Unpublished NMLFAU Report for client.

Baldwin S.J. 2008 *Manor House Farm, Diamond Jubilee Road, Rufford, Lancashire. NGR SD 46321564. Report On An Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished Report for client.

## 8. Archive Catalogue

### 8.1 Finds

Finds Number	Material	Type	Class	Area	Context	Rim	Base	Body	Handle	Total No Pieces	Weight
1	Pottery	Glazed Earthenware		I	14	0	0	2	0	2	13.70
2	Industrial Waste	Slag		II	14	0	0	0	0	20	1200.00
3	Ceramic	Brick		II	18	0	0	0	0	4	12.30
4	Ceramic	Brick		II	19	0	0	0	0	17	66.80
5	Pottery	Glazed Earthenware		II	12	0	0	2	0	2	10.20
6	Industrial Waste	Slag		III	32	0	0	0	0	10	500.00
7	Ceramic	Brick		IV	42	0	0	0	0	6	12.60
8	Flint	Unworked		IV	42	0	0	0	0	1	1.80
9	Pottery	Medieval		II	12	0	0	1	0	1	5.60
10	Ceramic	Pipe	Stem	II	12	0	0	0	0	1	2.00
11	Industrial Waste	Cinders		II	19	0	0	0	0	4	35.20
12	Pottery	Late Medieval	Courseware	III	35	0	0	1	0	1	14.50

## 8.2 Plans and Section Drawings

PLAN	SECTION	GROUP	SCALE	AREA	DESCRIPTION & MAIN CONTEXTS	DRAWN BY	DATE
1			1:20	I	Plan of east end Trench I	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
2			1:20	I	Plan of centre Trench I	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
3			1:20	I	Plan of end west Trench I	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
4			1:20	II	Plan of east end Trench II	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
5			1:20	II	Plan of centre Trench II	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
6			1:20	II	Plan of west Trench II	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
	7		1:10	II	South-west facing section of ditch 17, 18, 19, 22	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
8			1:20	III	Plan of north end Trench III	Jo Wright	07/08/2009
9			1:20	III	Plan of central section Trench III	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
10			1:20	III	Plan of south end Trench III	Jo Wright	05/08/2009
	11		1:10	III	North west section across land drain 34, 35	Jo Wright	07/08/2009
12			1:20	IV	Plan of west end Trench IV	Jo Wright	08/08/2009
13			1:20	IV	Plan of centre Trench IV	Jo Wright	08/08/2009
14			1:20	IV	Plan of south end Trench IV	Jo Wright	08/08/2009
		15	NA		Plan 6 and Section 7	M. Adams	11/08/2009
		16	NA		Plan 10 and Section 11	M. Adams	11/08/2009
17				V	East end Trench V	S. Price	11/08/2009
		18			Plans 14 & 17	M. Adams	11/08/2009
	19			IV	NNW facing section through 41 & 42	Jo Wright	11/08/2009
20				IV	NNW Section through 46	Jo Wright	11/08/2009
21				V	Plan of west end Trench V	S. Price	11/08/2009



PLAN	SECTION	GROUP	SCALE	AREA	DESCRIPTION & MAIN CONTEXTS	DRAWN BY	DATE
22				I	Plan of centre Trench V	S. Price	11/08/2009

### 8.3 Photographs

Catalogue	View Number	Film Type	Negative	Area	Context	Date	Description	Direction Taken From	Notes	Taken By
1	1	DIG		I	1, 2, 3	03/08/2009	Western end of Trench I after cleaning	E		R. Gurney
2	2	DIG		I	1, 2, 3	03/08/2009	Eastern end of Trench I after cleaning	W		R. Gurney
3	2	DIG		I	1, 2, 3	03/08/2009	Eastern end of Trench I after cleaning	W		R. Gurney
4	3	DIG		I	1, 2, 3	03/08/2009	North facing section edge of Trench I	N	In this and all subsequent shots the board is out of sequence with site notes	R. Gurney
5	4	DIG		I	4, 5	03/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 4 & 5	E	Board incorrectly labelled contexts 4 5 & 6	R. Gurney
6	5	DIG		I	8, 9	03/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 4 & 5	W		R. Gurney
7	6	DIG		I	6, 7	03/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 6 & 7	W		R. Gurney
8	7	DIG		I	6, 7	03/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 6 & 7	W	Out of focus	R. Gurney
9	8	DIG		II		03/08/2009	Eastern end of	E		R. Gurney

Catalogue	View Number	Film Type	Negative	Area	Context	Date	Description	Direction Taken From	Notes	Taken By
							Trench II			
10	9	DIG		II		03/08/2009	Western end of Trench II	W		R. Gurney
11	10	DIG		II	10, 11, 12, 13	03/08/2009	North facing section of Trench II	N	View numbers back in sequence with site notes	R. Gurney
12	11	DIG		II	14	03/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of context 14	N		R. Gurney
13	12	DIG		II	15, 16	03/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 15 & 16	N		R. Gurney
14	0	DIG		II	17, 18	03/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 17 & 18	N	This view does not seem to have been entered to site register, hence there are two view 13's. This one has been entered as a null value to maintain parity with the site register.	R. Gurney
15	13	DIG		II	13, 14	04/08/2009	South facing section contexts 13 & 14	S		S. Price
16	14	DIG		I	4, 5	04/08/2009	East facing section contexts 4 & 5	E		S. Price
17	14	DIG		I	4, 5	04/08/2009	East facing section contexts 4 & 5	E		S. Price
18	15	DIG		I	6, 7	04/08/2009	South facing section contexts 6 & 7	S		S. Price
19	15	DIG		I	6, 7	04/08/2009	South facing section contexts 6 & 7	S		S. Price
20	0	DIG				04/08/2009	View of site from north-west	NW		M. Adams

Catalogue	View Number	Film Type	Negative	Area	Context	Date	Description	Direction Taken From	Notes	Taken By
21	0	DIG				06/08/2009	Cleaning Trench III			M. Adams
22	0	DIG				06/08/2009	Cleaning Trench III			M. Adams
23	0	DIG				06/08/2009	Cleaning Trench III			M. Adams
24	0	DIG				06/08/2009	Cleaning Trench III			M. Adams
25	0	DIG				07/08/2009	Opening Trench IV	W		M. Adams
26	0	DIG				03/08/2009	View of site from north-west before excavation	NW		R. Gurney
27	0	DIG				03/08/2009	View of site from east before excavation	E		R. Gurney
28	0	DIG				03/08/2009	View of site from south before excavation	S		R. Gurney
29	0	DIG				03/08/2009	View of east end of site from south showing drop to canal	S		R. Gurney
30	0	DIG				03/08/2009	View of west end of site from south	S		R. Gurney
31	16	DIG		II	17, 18, 19	05/08/2009	North facing section contexts 17, 18, 19	N		S. Price
32	16	DIG		II	17, 18, 19	05/08/2009	North facing section contexts 17, 18, 19	N		S. Price
33	17	DIG		II	12, 13, 18	05/08/2009	West facing view showing relation of ditch to trench	E		S. Price



Catalogue	View Number	Film Type	Negative	Area	Context	Date	Description	Direction Taken From	Notes	Taken By
34	18	DIG		III		06/08/2009	View looking north along trench after cleaning	S		J. Wood
35	19	DIG		III		06/08/2009	View looking south along trench after cleaning	N		J. Wood
36	20	DIG		III	23, 24, 25, 26	06/08/2009	West facing section of trench	W		J. Wood
37	20	DIG		III	23, 24, 25, 26	06/08/2009	West facing section of trench	W		J. Wood
38	21	DIG		III	28	06/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of context 28	E		J. Wood
39	22	DIG		III	27	06/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of context 27	E		J. Wood
40	23	DIG		III	30, 31	06/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 30 & 31	E		J. Wood
41	24	DIG		III	32	06/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of context 32	E		J. Wood
42	25	DIG		III	33, 34	06/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 33 & 34	N		J. Wood
43	26	DIG		III	28	07/08/2009	North west facing section across context 28	NW		S. Price
44	27	DIG		III	34, 35, 36	07/08/2009	North facing section across contexts 34, 35 & 36	N		J. Wood
45	28	DIG		III	32	07/08/2009	North facing section across	N		J. Wood

Catalogue	View Number	Film Type	Negative	Area	Context	Date	Description	Direction Taken From	Notes	Taken By
							context 32			
46	29	DIG		IV		07/08/2009	Trench IV after cleaning, view looking east	W		J. Wood
47	30	DIG		IV		07/08/2009	Trench IV after cleaning, view looking west	E		J. Wood
48	31	DIG		IV		07/08/2009	Trench IV after cleaning, view looking west	E		R. Gurney
49	32	DIG		IV	45, 46	10/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 45 & 46	N		J. Wood
50	33	DIG		IV	43, 44	10/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 43 & 44			J. Wood
51	34	DIG		V		10/08/2009	Trench V after cleaning, view looking east	W		S. Price
52	35	DIG		V		10/08/2009	Trench V after cleaning, view looking west	E		S. Price
53	36	DIG		V	51, 52	10/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 51 & 52	SE		J. Wood
54	37	DIG		V	53, 54	10/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of contexts 53 & 54	S		J. Wood
55	38	DIG		V	55	11/08/2009	Pre-excavation view of peaty deposit 55	W		R. Gurney

Catalogue	View Number	Film Type	Negative	Area	Context	Date	Description	Direction Taken From	Notes	Taken By
56	39	DIG		IV	41, 42	11/08/2009	North facing section across contexts 41 & 42	N		J. Wood
57	40	DIG		IV	45, 46	11/08/2009	North facing section across contexts 45 & 46	N		J. Wood
58	41	DIG		V	55	11/08/2009	Section through peaty deposit 55	N		R. Gurney
59	42	DIG		V	53, 54	11/08/2009	West facing sections through contexts 53 & 54	W		S. Price