

HEBO22



HEADLAND HEADBOLT LANE, KIRKBY, KNOWSLEY

Archaeological Trial Trenching and Level 1 Building Recording

PLANNING REF. 21/00563/FUL

Headland Archaeology North West
RSK Group Ltd | Fourways House | 57 Hilton Street | Manchester M1 2EJ

for Railtrack

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PROJECT SUMMARY

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trenching and level 1 building recording carried out at Headbolt Lane, Kirkby, Merseyside, nearest post code L33 1UJ, NGR 341290 399790. The work was undertaken by Headland Archaeology on behalf of Railtrack between the 31st January and the 3rd February 2022.

The trial trenching was targeted at the site of Tanpit House which is shown on mapping from the mid-18th century to the mid-21st century. A plot of land adjacent to the house was labelled as a Tan Yard on early mapping and the placenames indicate that the site was used in the production of leather during the 18th century. However, the first edition OS map indicated that the tan yard was destroyed by quarrying in the first half of the 19th century.

Six trenches were excavated and showed that the tan yard site had been destroyed by quarrying and the area used for landfill, the latest phase of which occurred during the mid-20th century. Two cut features, a pit and a ditch were excavated in the former field to the north of the quarry, both were probably late 19th or 20th century in date. It is likely that any evidence relating to the tan yard has been destroyed.

Trenches excavated on the site of Tanpit House showed that most of the foundations of the buildings shown on 19th century maps appear to have been removed during demolition in the 1960s-70s, though short sections of wall, tentatively dated to the period 1800-1850, survive below the present ground surface. Two trenches contained the remains of cobbled surfaces likely to relate to external yards.

Finds evidence was limited but consisted of pottery, mostly dated to the late 17th to 19th centuries, most of which were earthenwares of types commonly found on post-medieval rural settlements in South Lancashire and Merseyside.

Although significantly disturbed during the mid-19th and 20th centuries the site of the former farmyard and its immediate periphery retains some potential for evidence relating to economic activity in the 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries.

The building recording successfully produced a photographic record of two 19th century railway bridges.

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Headbolt Lane, Kirkby



Illus 1. Site location

Headbolt Lane, Kirkby

Archaeological Trial Trenching and Level 1 Building Recording

INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by the Buckingham Group (hereafter referred to as the Lead Contractor) acting on behalf of Network Rail (hereafter referred to as the Client) to undertake a programme of archaeological works at the site of proposed station and car park at Headbolt Lane, Kirkby, Knowsley, Merseyside (NGR 341290 399790), approximately 900 m to the north-east of the centre of Kirkby.

The programme of archaeological work was informed by the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Arup 2021) and comprised:

- Level 1 Historic Building Recording (as defined by Historic England 2016) of two railway bridges
- A programme of archaeological trial trenching which focused on the site of Tanpit House to determine the presence/absence, extent, phasing and function of the building in addition to investigating an associated yard for any evidence for relating to tanning and processing areas. The former location of a quarry was also evaluated to verify evidence from historic mapping.

The works were undertaken in response to a condition placed on Planning Permission (Planning Reference 21/00563/FUL) for the development as set by Knowsley Borough Council.

Condition 7 attached to the planning permission granted on 22nd December 2021 states:

No development or demolition shall take place on any phase until a written scheme of investigation for historic building investigation works and archaeological works on that phase has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The WSI shall include the following :

- *A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
- *A programme for post-investigation reporting to include production of a final report of the significance of the significant of the historic building/ belowground archaeological interest;*
- *Provision for appropriate publication and dissemination of the archaeology and history of the site/historic building.*
- *Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation; and*
- *Nomination of a competent person or persons / organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.*

Reason: in the interests of archaeological investigation or recording and to comply with Policy CS20 of the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy adopted January 2016 and the National Planning Policy Framework. 'The development shall be carried out in accordance with Planning Statement Appendix G: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy, Andrew Josephs Associates dated September 2015.

Reason: In the interests of archaeology and conservation.'

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Headland 2022) prepared on behalf of the Client set out the strategy for archaeological trial trenching and historic building recording.

This report details the results of the work Headland Archaeology undertaken between on the 31st January and 3rd February 2022.

1.1. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The station and car park site is located in an area of green space to the south of Headbolt Lane, Kirkby, Knowsley, Merseyside (NGR 341290 399790) approximately 900 m to the north-east of the centre of Kirkby. The site is bounded to the north and east by Headbolt Lane, to the south by the railway line and to the west by the A506 Bank Lane. The site measures approximately 5.9 ha in area.

The site lies within a shallow valley followed by the course of the Kirkby Brook, which flows in a south-westerly direction to a confluence with Simonswood Brook within Millbrook Park Millennium Green, to the south-west.

The stream falls from around 25m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the east to 20m AOD near Simonswood Brook. The rolling valley sides rise to a high point of 30m AOD near Headbolt Lane and are steepest at the eastern end of the site.

The bedrock beneath the site is the Wilmslow Sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group (<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> consulted 10/01/22). Immediately to the west of Kirkby Station is a north west-south east trending fault with the Chester Formation sandstone which outcrops approximately 400m to the south of the site.

Historic mapping indicates that there was a sandstone quarry located within the site in the mid-19th century, indicating the importance of the bedrock geology to the historic use of the land

within the site. The site does not lie within a Coal Authority Coal Mining Reporting Area.

1.2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The historical background to the site is given in a desk-based assessment (ARUP 2021) from which the summary below is drawn.

Prior to the late 1970s there was little direct evidence for Prehistoric settlement on Merseyside other than occasional finds of stone tools and a small group of standing monuments such as the Calderstones chambered tomb, barrows at Winwick, Wavertree and other sites in the rural fringes of Merseyside (Cowell 2010, 40-41). Since the 1980s significant progress has been made as a result of field survey, palaeo-environmental studies, trial trenching and excavation and there is now a better understanding of general settlement distributions and their chronologies (Innes J.B. & Tomlinson P.R. 1991, Cowell 1991, Cowell & Philpott 2000, Cowell 2010).

Middle or Late Bronze Age activity in the area immediately round St Chad's was suggested by a spearhead found in the 1850s during reorganisation of the graveyard (Anon 1876) and that is now supported by excavated evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement (Adams in press) whilst pollen evidence suggests increased clearance episodes suggestive of mixed farming in Knowsley during the Early Bronze Age, reflecting a wider trend of an expansion of land-use and/or intensification of agriculture (Cowell 1991, 53).

The location of the present site on a south east facing slope, just off the crest of a sandstone ridge, overlying a water course (Rigby's Brook) might suggest it as a favourable location for activity during the Prehistoric period because similar locations elsewhere on Merseyside are known to have been used for a range of activities. However, any such evidence is likely to have been disturbed by later activity (See below).

There remains little direct evidence for Iron Age settlement from Merseyside and the wider lowland North-West, though pollen evidence suggests a

further intensification of land-use from the Bronze Age (Cowell & Philpott 2000, 172). The reason for the lack of evidence for settlement is unclear but it is likely to be, at least in part, because the area seems to have been aceramic for most or all of the Iron Age, a factor which makes site location and identification difficult. Although Cheshire Very Coarse Pottery (VCP) associated with the salt trade is found in small quantities on some sites, most of the present evidence for Iron Age settlement has been identified by radiocarbon dating (*ibid*, 172-174).

Direct evidence for Romano-British settlement is similarly sparse in the area, though more recent work in the south of Merseyside has revealed that area to have been much more densely settled than was previously suspected (e.g. Cowell and Philpott 2000, Philpott & Adams 2010). Environmental evidence suggests a decrease in activity in this area during the Romano-British period, though there are chance finds of coins from Kirkby, in particular an antoninianus of Valerian I (253-60 AD), a metal detector find from an area to the north-west of St. Chad's Church. This suggests that there may have been Roman activity of an unknown nature in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Documentary evidence suggests that the area between the Mersey and the Ribble was gradually colonised from the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria by the mid-8th century, and in the early 10th century coastal areas of North Western England was settled by Norse invaders from Ireland. However, there is only limited excavated evidence for settlement and that which exists tends to be found close to early church sites such as St. Chads (e.g. Adams et al in press).

Kirkby and Huyton represent the only known probable pre-Conquest settlement sites in Knowsley (Cowell 1982), though the dedication of St Chad's to a 7th century saint and Bishop of Lichfield suggests an early settlement, possibly with Mercian rather than Northumbrian allegiance, which by the 10th century had become a village with the Norse name Kirkby or 'Church Village' (Cowell 1982, 12). A pre-Conquest origin for St

Chad's is also suggested by early maps of the area which show a circular churchyard, a form which is often thought of as typically pre-Conquest.

After 1252 the Medieval township of Kirkby was divided into two manors, Kirkby Beetham and Kirkby Gerrard. The linear form of the Kirkby settlement, as shown on the 1769 Molyneux Estate map, with small roads leading into common fields implies an early nucleated settlement (Cowell 1982, 20.) The situation of St Chad's at the extreme eastern end of the settlement indicates that settlement may have originally concentrated in this area. The presence of an earlier font (probably 12th century, though occasionally described as Saxon (Roberts 1853) in close association with the chapel, which was constructed in 1766, supports the view that the earlier church was located close to the site of the modern church.

The post-medieval history of the site is better documented and is supplemented by map evidence. The earliest map available is the 1769 Molyneux estate survey (Figure 2 in Headland 2022). This shows a small cluster of three buildings fronting on to Headbolt Lane with a yard to their rear (south) and a yard to the east. A rectangular plot to the south-east is marked as a 'Tan Yard'.

The Tithe Map for Kirkby is dated 1839 and shows an identical layout (Figure 3 in Headland 2022). The apportionment lists plot 446 as a 'House, Outbuildings & Yard' occupied by Ann Brownbill and owned by the Earl of Sefton. Plot 450 is listed as 'Old Tan Yard', owned and occupied by the Earl of Sefton. This evidence suggests that the site had seen little change since 1769 but that the tan yard may no longer have been in use.

The next available map is the 1st Edition 6-inch survey, published in 1850 (Figure 4 in Headland 2022). This shows some significant changes. The present railway is shown south of the site; and is the Liverpool and Bury Railway which was formed in 1845 and opened on 28 November 1848. The buildings shown on the Molyneux and Tithe Maps have been demolished and replaced by a single structure, probably a house, fronting onto Headbolt Lane which is named 'Tanpit House' and

the former location of the tan yard is shown as the site of a small sandstone quarry, 'Mercers Delf'.

The 1893 OS survey shows the site in more detail (Figure 5 in in Headland 2022), though there appear to have been no significant changes. Early 20th century mapping shows the site unchanged apart from the construction of two outhouses to the east of Tanpit House and the infilling of Mercers Delf in 1966. The house appears to have stood until at least 1968 but was presumably demolished in the 1970s as Kirkby expanded.

1.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary aim of the programme of archaeological work was to ensure that any impact from the development is appropriately mitigated in a manner that is proportionate to the significance of the known and potential remains at the site.

This was achieved through the implementation of two stages of work within the site boundary as follows:

- An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to investigate and record any archaeological remains present in order to assess any requirements for further mitigation which may be required.
- Historic building recording of Underbridges 55 and 56, to provide a record of the heritage assets to be lost.

The specific objectives of the of the trial trenching and recording works were therefore to:

- Ensure compliance with the relevant planning conditions for the proposed development;
- Make a competent record of the location and character of any archaeological remains encountered in the trial trenches as illustrated in Figure 7 of the WSI;
- Recover any archaeologically significant artefacts disturbed during the works for specialist examination and reporting;

- Recover samples of any material which has potential for the survival of paleoenvironmental or dating evidence from secure archaeological contexts;
- Prepare a report on the findings of the archaeological trial trenching, any material recovered, and their significance;
- Make a permanent record of all structures within the site that are to be demolished or altered;
- Prepare a report on the historic building record; and
- Deposit the archive with an appropriate repository and submit the completed report to the online OASIS archaeological report library.

2. METHODOLOGY

The location of the trial trenches is shown on Illus 2.

A detailed methodology is supplied in the WSI, summarised below:

2.1. SITE WORKS

All topsoil and 20th century deposits in the evaluation trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Suspected archaeological deposits were then excavated using hand tools, though in Trenches 1 and 2 further machine excavation of compacted rubble deposits was required.

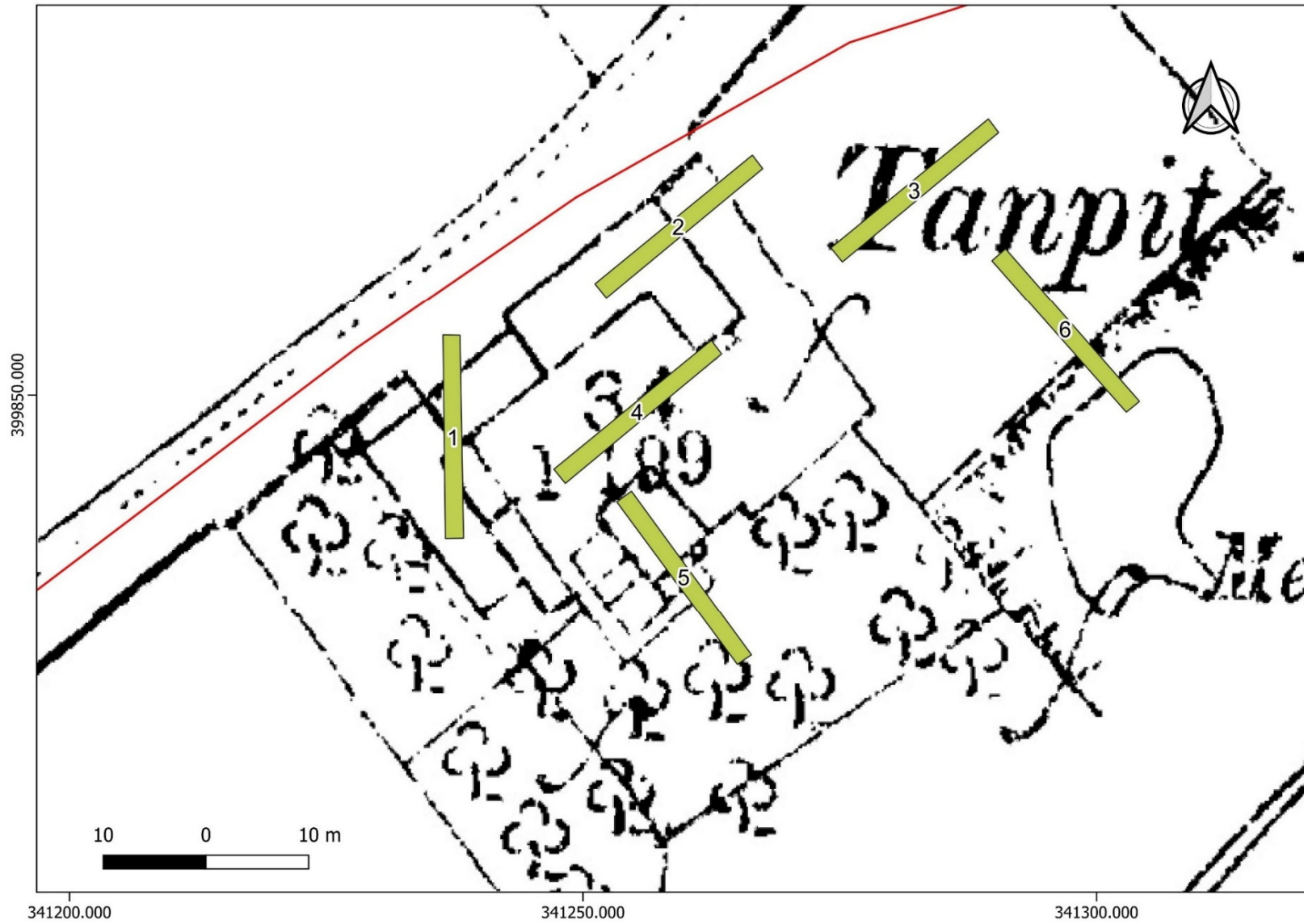
2.2. RECORDING

All contexts were recorded on proforma sheets. Sample sections were cleaned by hand, drawn and photographed.

All recording followed ClfA Standards and Guidance for conducting archaeological evaluations (2020). All contexts were given unique numbers and recorded on pro forma record cards. Digital photographs with a graduated metric scale clearly visible were taken.

2.3. BUILDING RECORDING

The railway bridges were recorded photographically and with sketch elevations and plans to Level 1 as described in the WSI.



Illus 2. Trench locations superimposed onto the 1893 OS map.

3. RESULTS

3.1. TRIAL TRENCHING

Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned to evaluate the site of two structures depicted on the 1893 OS survey which were tentatively identified as a barn and/or outbuildings attached to Tanpit House.

Geological deposits consisted of red sands derived from the underlying red sandstone.

At the southern end of the trench was a north-west to south-east aligned double skin brick wall (505) constructed in unfrosted, locally made, red brick and off-white lime mortar (*Illus 3*). Its location and orientation was consistent with it being the east wall of a building depicted on the 1893 OS map.

At the northern end of the trench was a cobbled surface (504) constructed using large (up to 200 mm across) igneous cobbles (*Illus 3* and *Illus 4*). This was bounded along its southern edge by a red sandstone wall (503) which was 0.4 m wide and is probably the northern wall of the building depicted on the 1893 OS map.

Walls 503 and 505 were sealed by (501) a deposit of crushed red brick rubble and lime mortar c. 0.6-7 m deep. This was sealed by (500), a layer of dark reddish brown topsoil 0.35 m thick.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was positioned to evaluate the site of a large L shaped structure fronting on to Headbolt Lane tentatively identified as a house depicted on the 1893 OS map. It was also intended to investigate the boundary to the enclosure around the site.

Geological deposits consisted of reddish yellow sands (402) derived from the weathering of the underlying sandstone.

At the eastern end of the trench geological deposits were cut by a 0.8-1 m wide and 0.24 m deep flat-bottomed cut for a north-south aligned ditch (404) (*Illus 5* and *Illus 6*). It was filled by (403),

a loose, grey coarse sandy clay with occasional flecks of charcoal. No finds were recovered from the excavated section.

These deposits were sealed by (401), a mixed layer of crushed brick, very frequent firebrick, lime mortar and topsoil up to 0.9 m thick (*Illus 7*). Whilst at least some of this material may derive from the demolition of Tanpit House, the firebrick is likely to have been imported to site from elsewhere, perhaps to form a stable surface following its demolition in the mid-20th century.

Context (401) was sealed by a brown humic sandy clay (400) representing imported topsoil.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was positioned to evaluate evidence related to the Tan Yard in an enclosure fronting on to Headbolt Lane.

Geological deposits in the eastern half of the trench consisted of compact reddish yellow sands representing the weathered top of sandstone (202). Weathered sandstone (204) was present in the western half.

In the approximate centre of the trench these were cut by a north-south aligned cut for a ditch (206) (*Illus 8*, *Illus 9* and *Illus 10*). Its width is uncertain because its eastern edge was truncated by (208), but was probably c. 2 m. Its maximum excavated depth was c. 0.25 m.

It was filled by a single deposit (205), a firm dark brownish grey humic sandy clay with occasional inclusions of charcoal and wood. Small fragments of ceramics, glass and plastic were also present in this deposit, though the plastic may be intrusive. The ceramics dated to the 18th-19th century.

The eastern edge of (205) was cut by (208), a 0.3 m deep cut for a fired clay land-drain dating to the 19th to mid-20th century.

These deposits were sealed by (201) a 0.7-1.5 m thick deposit of dark grey brown sandy clay with patches of reddish sand which contained occasional fragments of red sandstone and 19th and 20th century brick.

This in turn was sealed by (200), a 0.30 m thick deposit of brown sandy clay which contained fragments of modern plastic.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was positioned to evaluate evidence for structures within the farmyard depicted on the 1893 OS map.

Geological deposits mostly consisted of firm yellowish red sands (302), though a small area of red sandstone was present at the western end of the trench.

The only archaeological deposits consisted of a cobbled surface (304) at the western end of the trench constructed using large (c. 0.25 m across) sub-rectangular cobbles broadly similar to those used to form (504) in Trench 1 (Illus 11 and Illus 12). This surface extended beyond the western limit of excavation and was bounded on its eastern side by a poorly defined flat-bottomed cut (303) which was c. 0.25 m wide and 0.05 m deep. Its function was unclear, but it was likely to be either a continuation of the pipe excavated in Trench 5 to the south or for a truncated wall.

These deposits were sealed by up to 0.60 m of topsoil mixed with brick rubble (301) which itself was sealed by a dark brown sandy clay 0.3 m thick (300). Both of these deposits contained mid-20th century materials.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was positioned to evaluate structures shown on the 1893 OS map on the southern side of the site and the enclosure boundary.

Geological deposits consisted of red sandstone (605) at the northern end of the trench and red sands (602) to the south (Illus 11). The sandstone was sealed at the northern end of the trench by a compacted layer of compacted dark greyish brown clayey sand with frequent mortar (601) which contained a mixed assemblage of late 17th, 18th and 19th century ceramics.

Layer (601) sealed the fill (605) of a north-south aligned cut into (604) was for a cast-iron pipe,

possibly water, probably dated to the early 20th century (Illus 13).

A deep (greater than 1 m) vertical cut at the southern end of the trench (612) was evidence of quarrying in the 20th century (Illus 14).

These deposits were all sealed by (600), a dark grey brown sandy clay with frequent angular stone, brick, concrete and modern plastic which was 0.35-1.6 m deep.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was positioned to evaluate evidence for the quarry depicted on the 1848 and 1893 OS maps.

Geological deposits consisted of weathered red sandstone (105), reddish brown sands (102) and dark grey brown sandy clays (101), the latter perhaps the base of glacial till.

Sands 102 were cut by (104), a sub-rectangular pit 0.59 m across and c. 0.2 m deep (Illus 15). Its full length could not be determined because it extended into the northern end of the trench, but it was at least 0.73 m long.

The fill (103) was a loosely compacted, friable humic dark brownish grey sandy clay with approximately 2% angular red sandstone pebbles. Within the fill was a partially articulated animal skeleton (Illus 16 and Illus 17) consisting of the spine and ribs, other fragments of bone in the fill were probably from the same animal.

These contexts were sealed by (101), a humic dark brownish grey sandy clay very similar in character to (103). This deposit was 0.80-0.5 m in depth and contained occasional fragments of brick, concrete and late 19th and 20th century ceramics. This was in turn sealed by the latest deposit in Trench 6, context (100), a compacted deposit of brick rubble, concrete, topsoil and yellow clay which contained late 20th century material including. This deposit was 1.3-0.6 m deep.

No clear evidence was found for the edge of the quarry depicted on historic mapping, though the height of geological deposits and the depth of the trench (1.4-1.8 m) suggests that the quarry may

have been extended northwards at some point but the extension did not appear on historic mapping.

3.2. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL

All retained finds, other than metal, were washed in water and air-dried prior to assessment. Ceramic typologies are those described in Speakman & Towle 2012.

Finds photographs are in Appendix 1.

The animal bone found in pit fill (103) is tentatively identified as a pig, though specialist analysis would be required to confirm this. Its date is uncertain, no ceramics or other finds evidence was recovered

in association with it, however, the bone is in good to excellent condition. This suggests that it is of relatively late date, probably 19th or early 20th century, because bone preservation in the region's sandy soils is generally very poor unless deposits are waterlogged. Assemblages in contexts pre-dating c. 1600 AD tend to be very small and badly eroded, often consisting only of calcined fragments (e.g. Irby (Philpott & Adams 2010)), or confined to waterlogged contexts (e.g. Big Lea Green Farm, Sutton (Towle & Speakman 2012)).

Context	Trench	Feature Type	Identification	Count	Weight (g)	Approx Date
205	3	Ditch fill	Bottle Glass	1	5	1900-1980
205	3	Ditch fill	Plastic	2	1	1970-Present
205	3	Ditch fill	Late Coarse Darkware; body sherd, marbled red and cream fabric	1	14	1700-1900
601	5	Layer	Late Coarse Darkware; rim sherds, marbled red and cream fabric	2	80	1700-1900
601	5	Layer	Late Coarse Darkware; body sherds, marbled red and cream fabric	9	198	1700-1900
601	5	Layer	Combed Slipware; body sherd	1	2	1690-1800
601	5	Layer	Stoneware; body sherds	2	9	1850-1950
601	5	Layer	Stoneware; base	1	2	1850-1950
601	5	Layer	Tin-Glazed Earthenware	1	0.5	1710-1760?
601	5	Layer	Window Glass, c. 1 mm thick, green tinged	2	0.5	1700-1900?
601	5	Layer	Ceramic wall tile	1	1	1950-Present
601	5	Layer	Iron fixtures; ring and hook	2	58	1800-1950
601	5	Layer	Yellow Ware; plate rim	1	26	1650-1800?
601	5	Layer	Mottled Ware; rims, same vessel	2	21	1700-1800
601	5	Layer	Mottled Ware; cup handle	1	11	1700-1800
601	5	Layer	Mottled Ware; body sherds	7	39	1700-1800
601	5	Layer	Mottled Ware; bases	2	13	1700-1800
601	5	Layer	Tobacco pipe stem	1	2	1750-1900
603	5	Fill of service trench	Tobacco pipe stem	1	2	1750-1900
603	5	Fill of service trench	Stoneware; drainpipe	1	62	1850-2000
603	5	Fill of service trench	Stoneware; Marmalade Jar; body sherds	4	34	1850-1950

603	5	Fill of service trench	Late Coarse Darkware; body sherds, marbled red and cream fabric	4	31	1700-1900
603	5	Fill of service trench	Glazed Earthenware	1	2	1850-1950

Table 1. Finds summary and quantification.

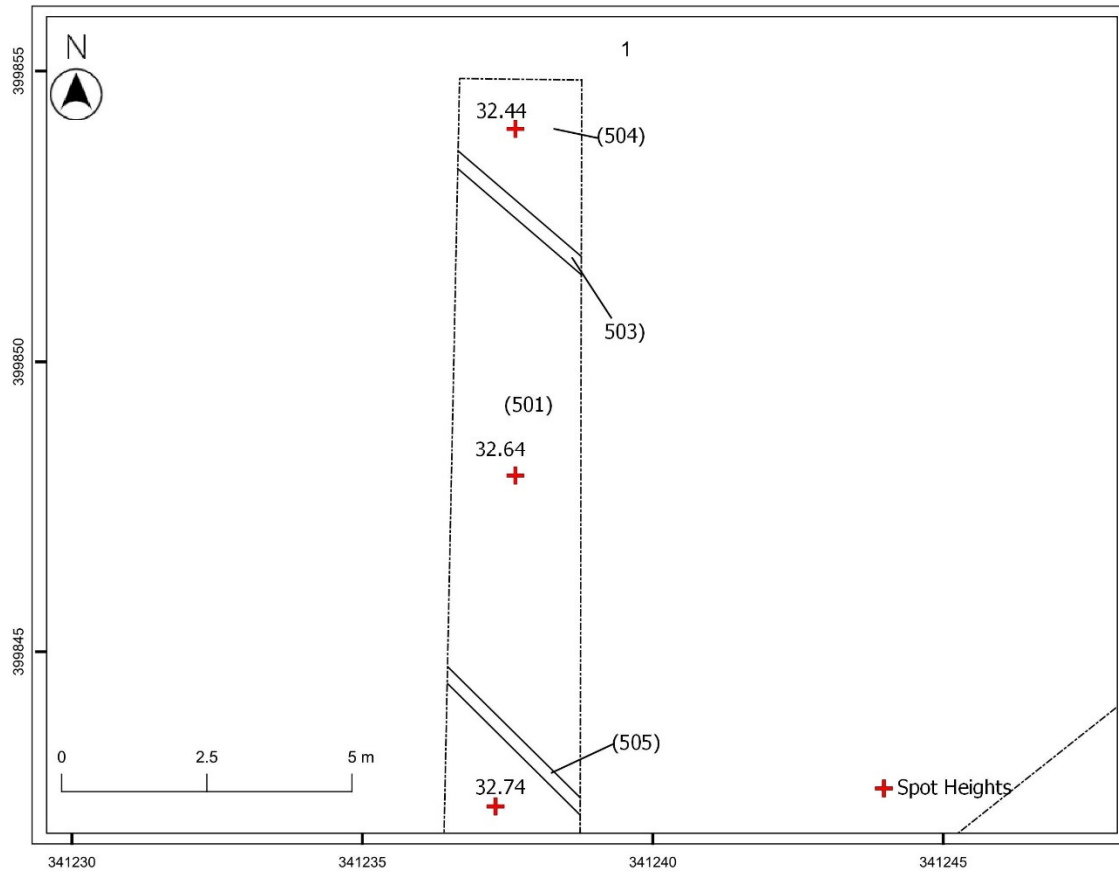
Otherwise the retained finds assemblage (Table 1) consists largely of 17th-20th century ceramics (41 sherds weighing 485.g in total) recovered from Trenches 3 and 5. Two small fragments of window glass found in Context 601 Trench 5 have a green tinge and are c. 1 mm thick which indicates an 18th century date, though a 19th century date is also possible.

The pottery assemblage is typical in its range and composition of rural farmsteads such as Tanpit House in South Lancashire and Merseyside. The majority (16 sherds weighing 323 g) are fragments of 18th and 19th century Coarse Darkware vessels, all of them body sherds or rims from vessels such as storage jars, jugs and bowls.

Finer wares are represented by finds such as a small fragment of tin-glazed earthenware found in context 601, trench 5 and fragments of mottled wares found in the same context which include the wall of a small globular cup which was probably similar to one excavated at Big Lea Green (Towle & Speakman 2012, Fig 4.15, 174). The rim of a Yellow Ware plate, also found in context 5 is late 17th to 18th century in date and similar to another vessel from Big Lea Green (ibid, Fig 152, 64).

The date range of the assemblage is consistent with the evidence from historic mapping which shows that the site was occupied from at least 1769 and it is conceivable that the site was occupied from the late 17th century.

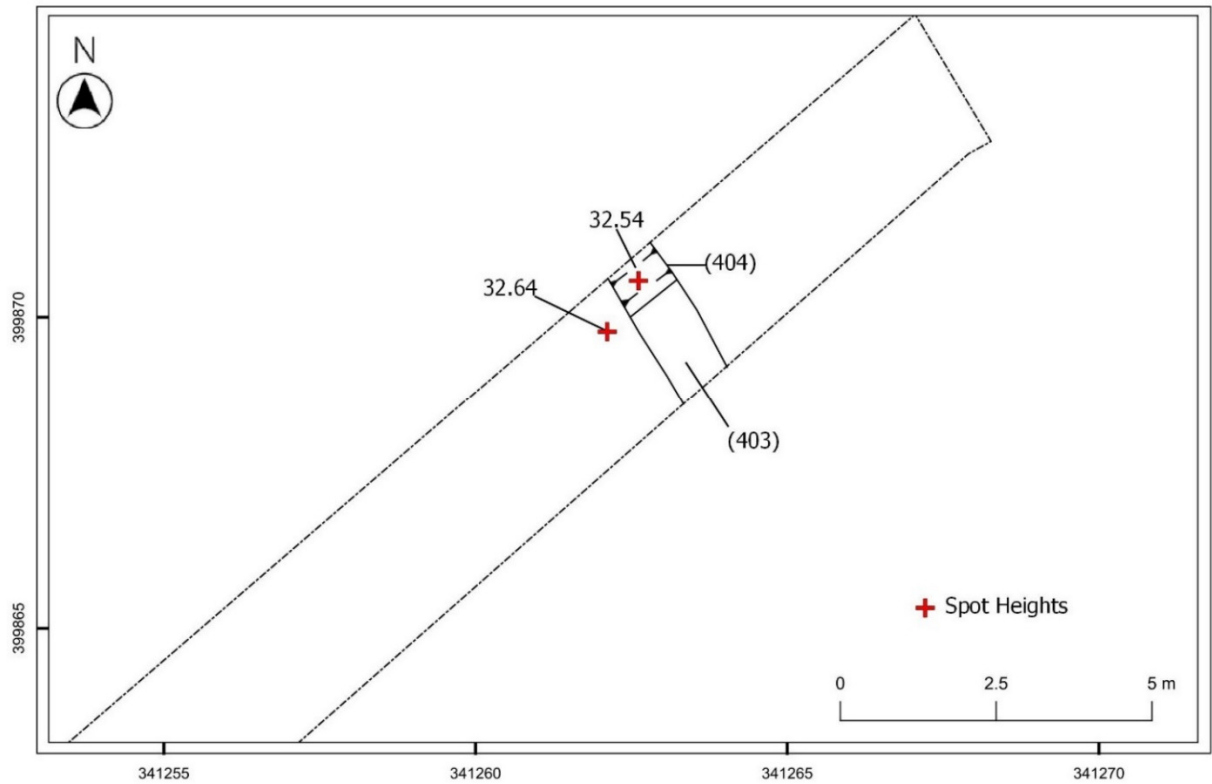
No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were present.



Illus 3. Plan of northern end of Trench 1



Illus 4. Cobbles (504) in Trench 1. View looking south. 1m scales.



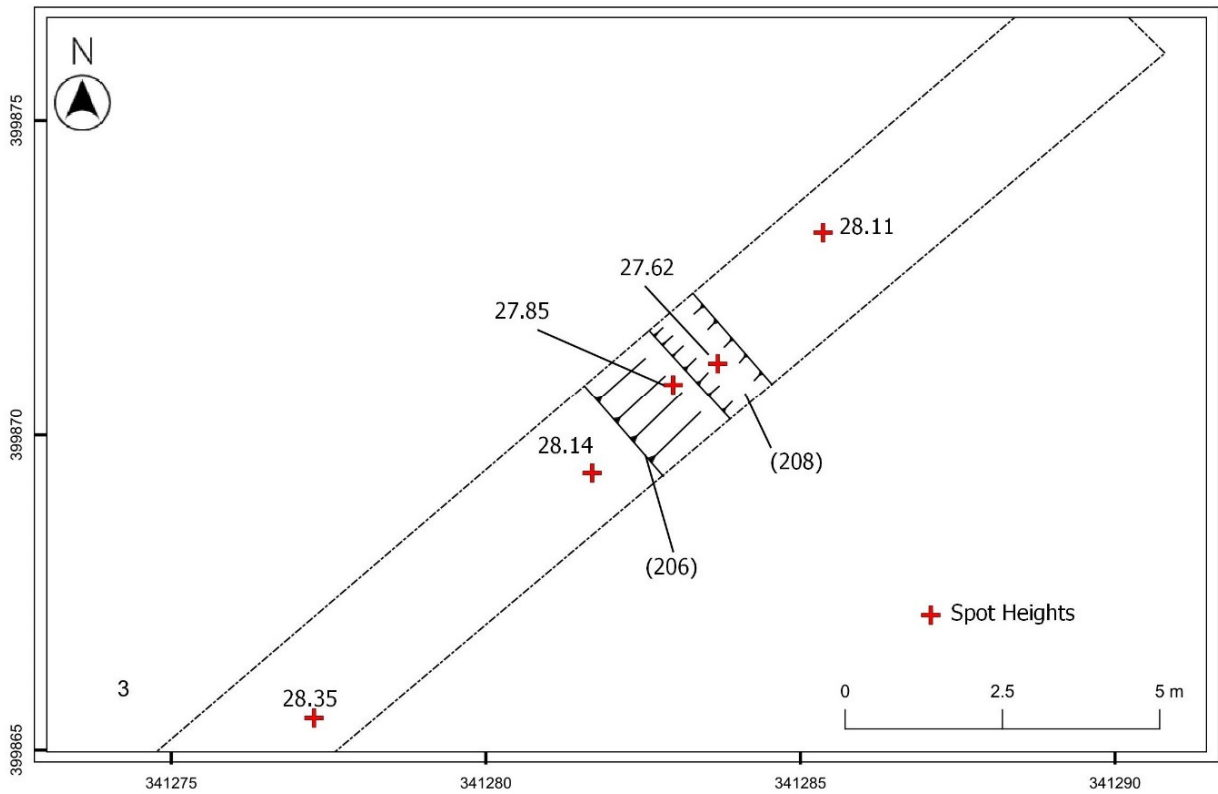
Illus 5. Plan of the north-eastern end of Trench 2.



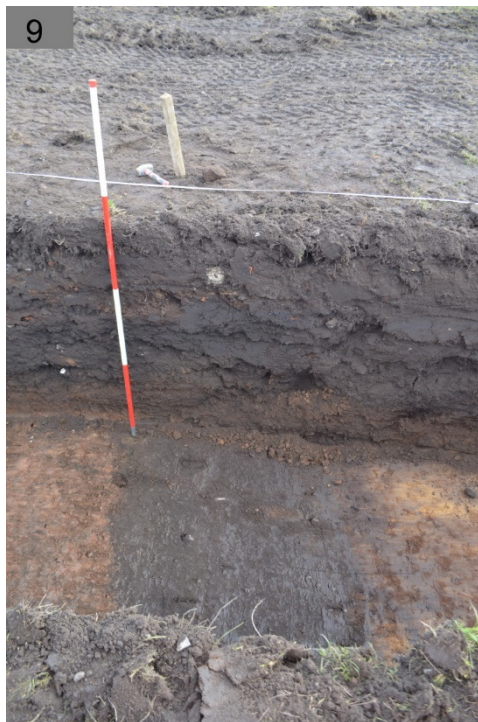
Illus 6. North facing section across contexts 403/4 Trench 2. View looking south. Scale 1 m.



Illus 7. Rubble 401 in Trench 2. View looking east. Scales 1 m.



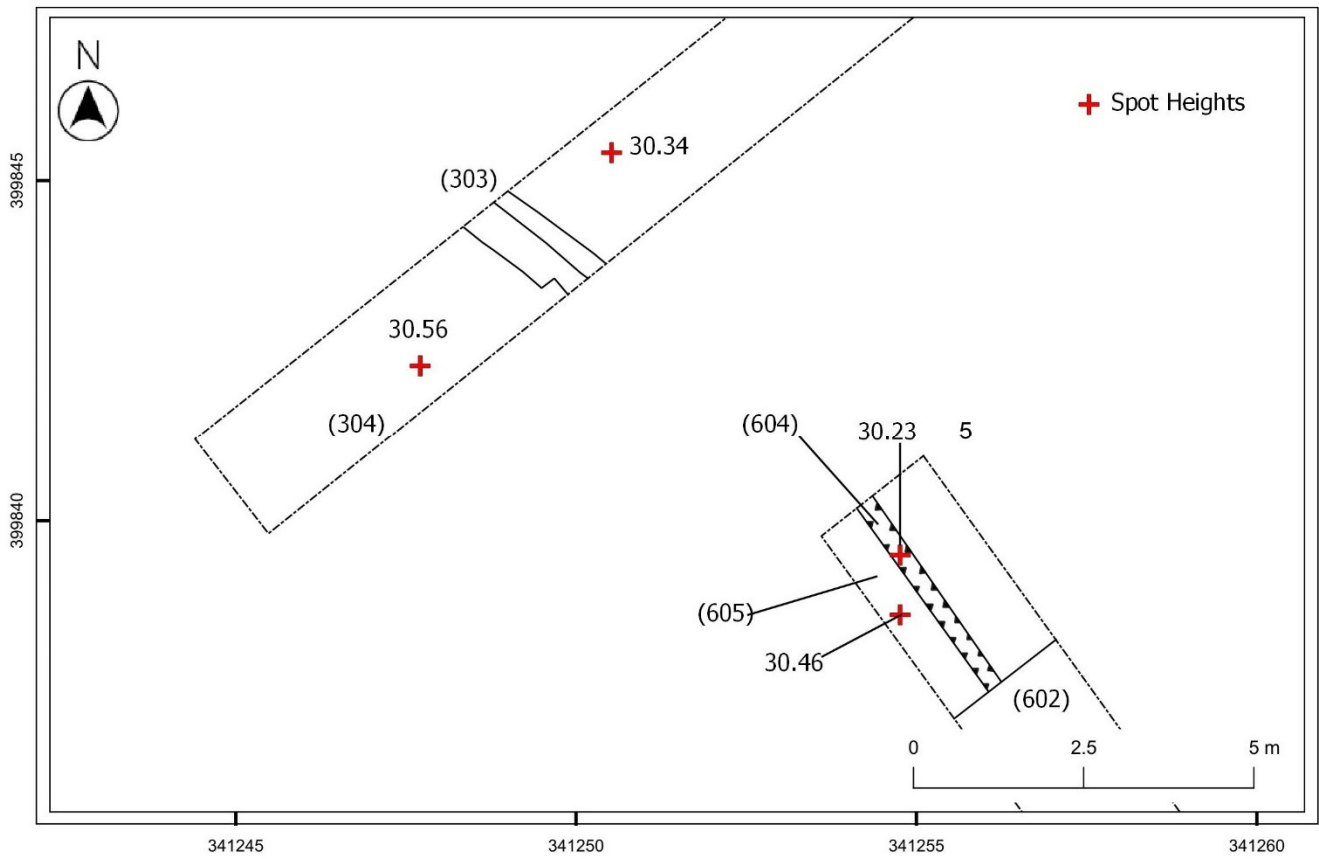
Illus 8. Plan of north-eastern end of Trench 3.



Illus 9. Pre-excavation view of cut 206 in Trench 3. View looking south. Scale 2 m.



Illus 10. Section across cuts 206 (right) and 208 (left) in Trench 3. View looking south. Scale 1 m.



Illus 11. Plan of Trenches 4 and 5.



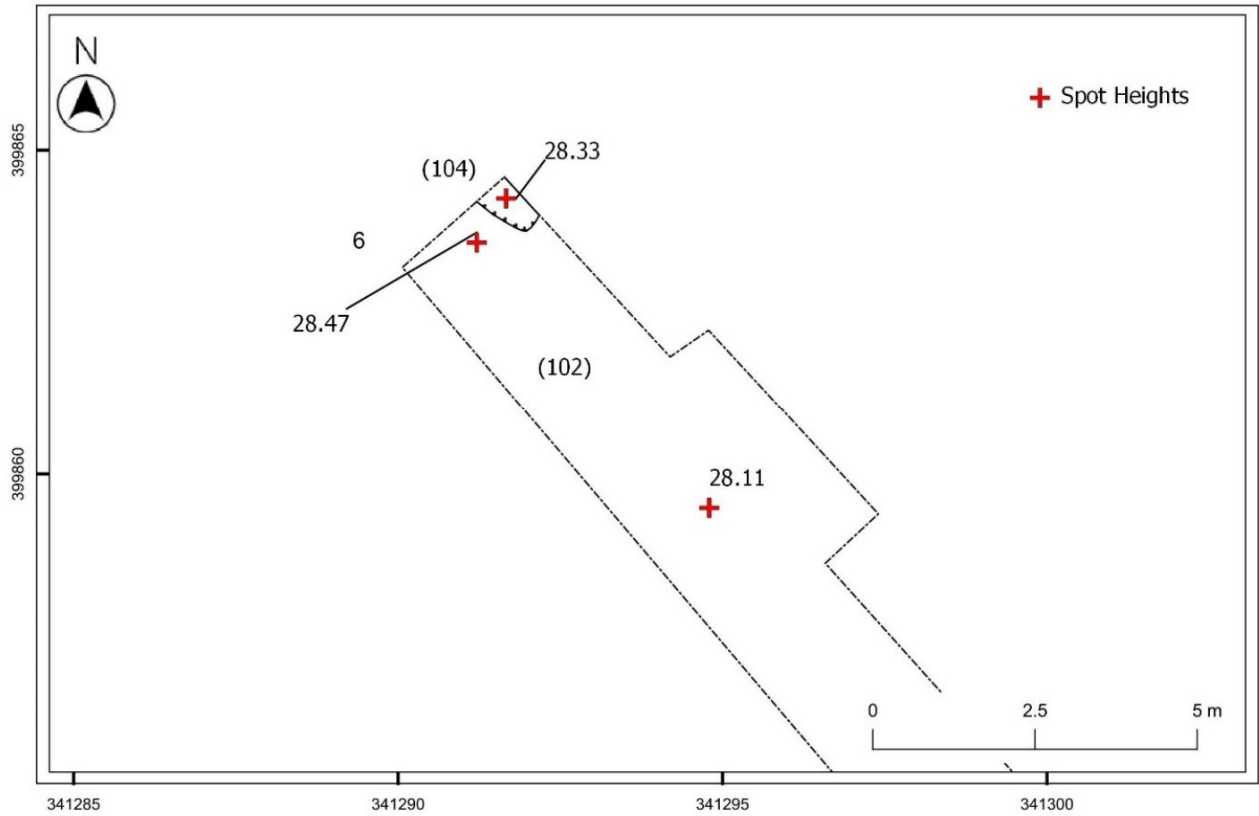
Illus 12. Cobbles (304) in Trench 4. Cut 303 is just visible on the left. View looking south.



Illus 13. Sandstone 605 at north end of Trench 5 with pipe cut 604. View looking north-west. Scale 1 m..



Illus 14. Quarry face (612) at southern end of Trench 5. View looking north-east. Scale 2 m.



Illus 15. Plan of north end of Trench 6.



Illus 16. Articulated animal bone on cut (104) Trench 1. View looking north. Scale 0.5 m.



Illus 17. Cut (104) Trench 1. View looking north. Scale 0.5 m.

4. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

This section describes the results of the historic building recording to Level 1 as specified in the WSI.

It describes two railway bridges for the Kirkby to Wigan railway noted in the desk-based assessment (ARUP 2021), Underbridge 55 and Underbridge 56.

4.1. LOCATIONS

Underbridge 55 is located immediately adjacent to the western site boundary at NGR 341160, 399660 and carries the embanked railway over County Road.

Underbridge 56 is located c. 290 m to the south-west of Underbridge 55 at NGR 340885, 399535 and carries the embanked railway over a north-south flowing stream, the Bank Brook.

4.2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Summary below is derived from ARUP 2021 supplemented with additional data where appropriate.

The Liverpool and Bury Railway company was incorporated under act of 31st July 1845, but was taken over by the Manchester and Leeds Railway Manchester and Leeds Railway Company on 27th July 1846, before the line was opened on 28 November 1848 (National Museums Liverpool, 2011b and <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C12556>). This places its construction centrally within what has been described by Historic England as 'the heroic age of railway building and the period of 'railway mania' (Historic England, 2017). This period was between 1841-1850 and followed from the early pioneering phase of railway development which began in 1825 with the opening of the Stockton to Darlington railway.

The railway line is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey County Series map (6 inch to the mile) of 1850. The railway was constructed as a two-track railway and was an important link

connecting the port of Liverpool with industrial Lancashire.

Both bridges described in this report were constructed when the original railway line was established.

Record drawings cited in ARUP 2021 (No source or reference is given) indicate that the western span of Underbridge 55 (over County Road), was constructed in 1847, though the original superstructure was replaced with the existing deck in 1930. In 1970 the remaining two spans of Underbridge 55 (over the A506), an intermediate pier and eastern abutment were built as part of works associated with the construction of the present day A506.

As an active railway it is likely that, while large structures including bridges and embankments are likely original, much of the infrastructure is modern and replaced regularly so the record is confined to views from adjacent spaces; the trackbed was not inspected or recorded.

Neither of the structures lies within the site, is listed or otherwise statutorily protected.

4.3. DESCRIPTION OF THE STRUCTURES

Underbridge 55

The bridge consists of three phases (See Illus 18 to Illus 25).

The earliest phase lies to the west of the modern line of County Road and was constructed in 1847. This element consists of two piers spaced c. 7.5 m apart and c. 4 m in height, constructed in rusticated red sandstone masonry, the tops are capped by a single course of red sandstone ashlar which carries the trackbed. The sandstone is likely to have been quarried locally.

The embankment to either side of the western pier is held in place by two sandstone retaining walls in similar materials to the piers, but using slightly smaller blocks. These are capped using red sandstone slabs.

The roadside end of each pier is capped by a square red sandstone ashlar pillar with coping.

The eastern pier was extensively modified in 1970 and the eastern half is in concrete, the inclined line of concrete on the northern and southern sides probably traces the line of the former retaining wall for the embankment. The remainder of the bridge is entirely in concrete and steel, dates to 1970, and is not described here.

Underbridge 56

Underbridge 56 is composed of two arched spans c. 4.75 m across and 7 m long with retaining walls to either side for the embankment (Illus 26 to Illus 30). The supporting piers for the arches are in rusticated red sandstone masonry and carry two semi-circular arches in red sandstone ashlar supported on a plinth course of red sandstone ashlar.

Infilling above the arches is in rusticated red sandstone and supports a red sandstone ashlar parapet.

The embankment retaining walls are in rusticated red sandstone masonry using smaller blocks than are found in the piers and infilling. They are capped using red sandstone slab copings.

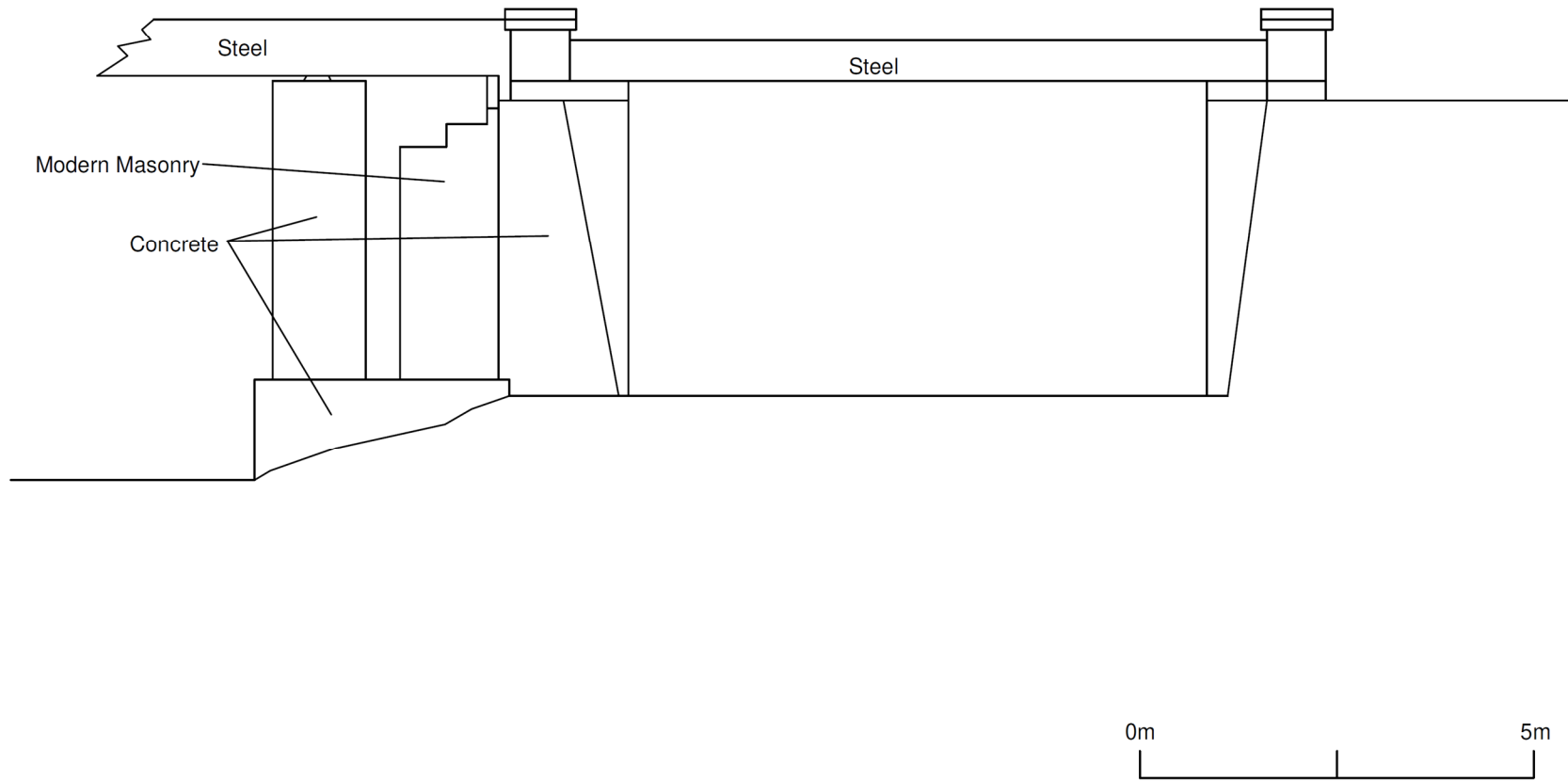
About 10 m to the north of Underbridge 56 is a red sandstone road bridge across the brook. Constructed in red sandstone ashlar with a semi-circular arch, there is an inscribed stone on the roadside of the southern parapet which reads 'Mill Bridge CC'.

This corresponds with a site listed in the DBA gazetteer in ARUP 2021, MME4993 'The route of Mill Lane and Boyes Brow is shown on mapping as early as Molyneux's Estate map of 1769, but it is not labelled. It is labelled 'Mill Bridge' on the 1st edition 6" OS map of 1850. It is not known how much of the bridge's original fabric survives'.

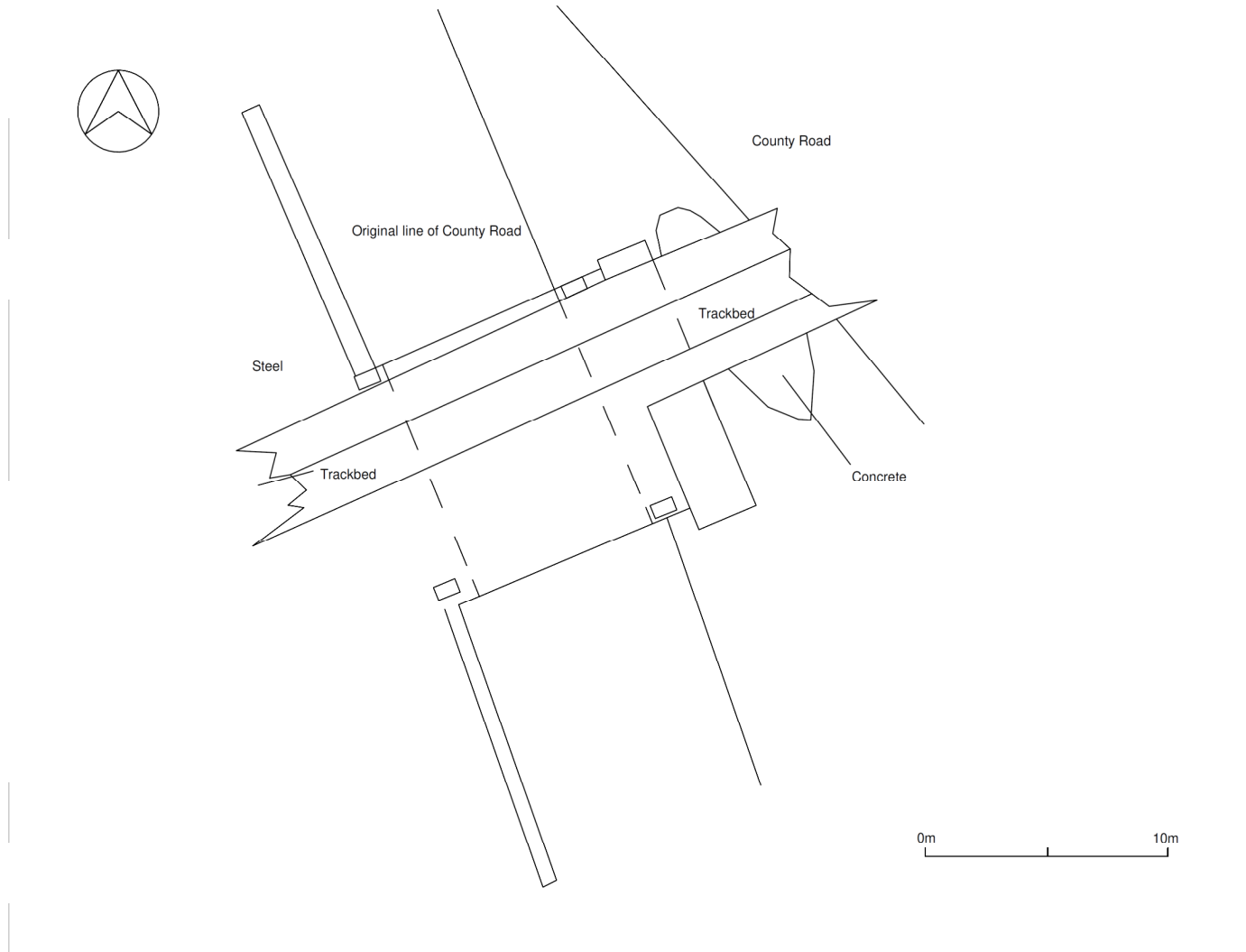
Unfortunately the inscribed stone has no date, though the style of the lettering suggests that it is 19th century.

East

West



Illus 18. Underbridge 55. Sketch of north facing elevation. Unlabelled elements are original masonry.



Illus 19. Sketch plan of Underbridge 55. Dashed lines are sections obscured by the trackbed. 20th century elements are not depicted in full.



Illus 20. View of Underbridge 55 from the south. The original line of County Road is on the west (left).



Illus 21. Detail of the southern side of Underbridge 55 showing Phase 1 piers and retaining wall and Phase 2 trackbed.



Illus 22. Detail of western Phase 1 pier.



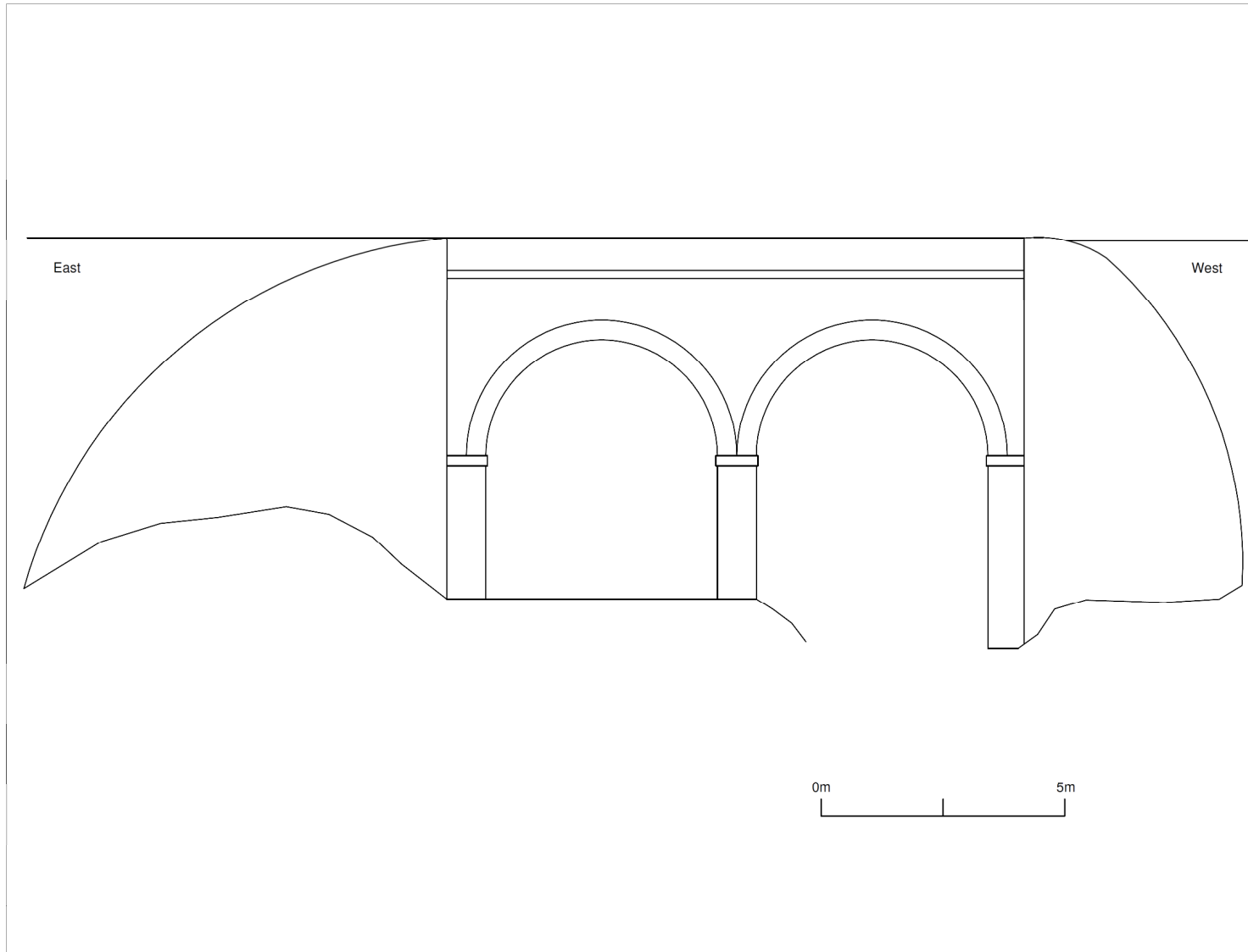
Illus 23. Detail of the northern side of Underbridge 55 showing Phase 1 piers and retaining wall and Phase 2 trackbed. The former line of the eastern embankment retaining wall is defined by the white painted concrete.



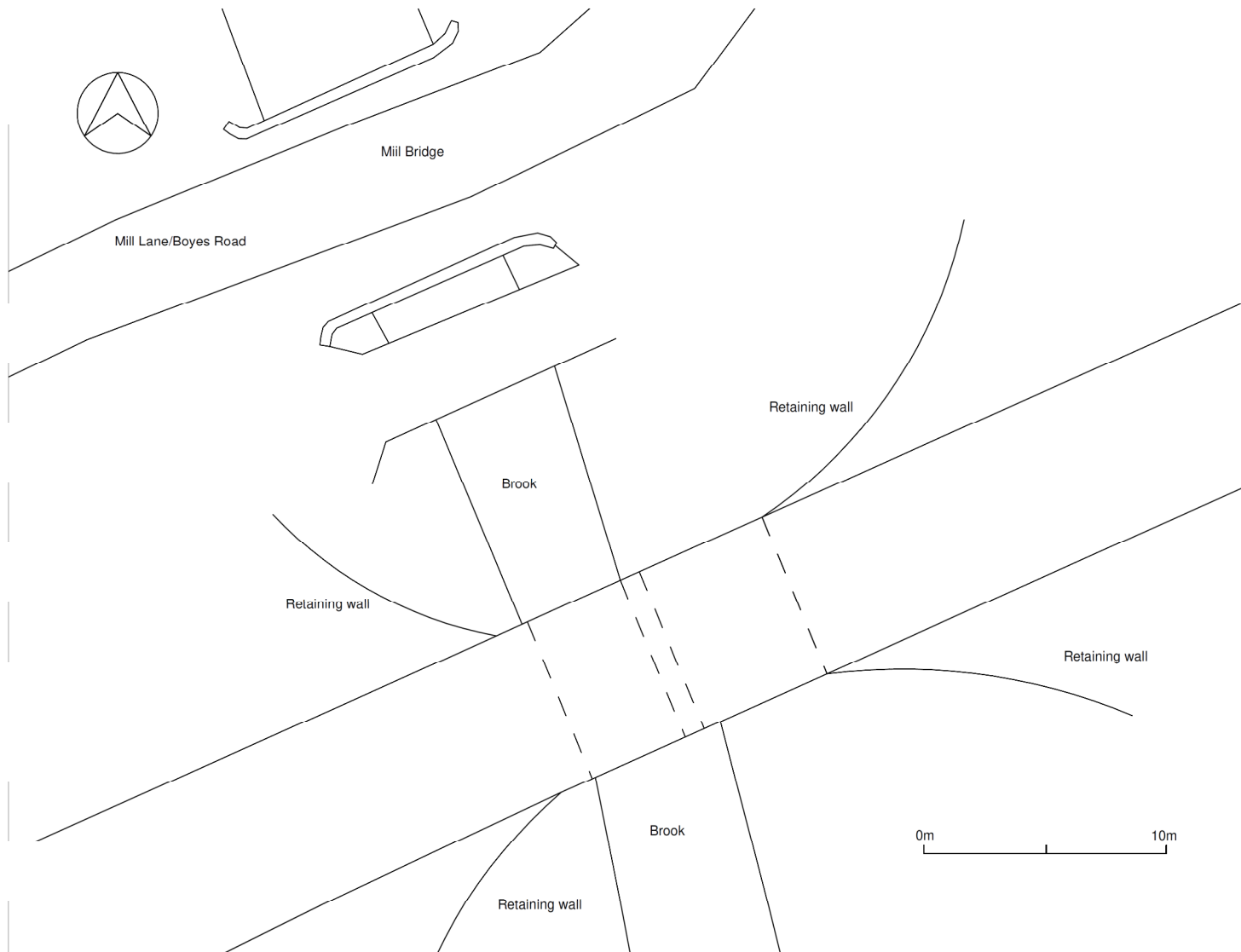
Illus 24. Detail of Illus 23 showing the former line of the embankment retaining wall.



Illus 25. Underbridge 55, detail of north-western retaining wall.



Illus 26. Underbridge 56. Sketch of north facing elevation.



Illus 27. Sketch plan of Underbridge 55. Dashed lines are sections obscured by the trackbed.



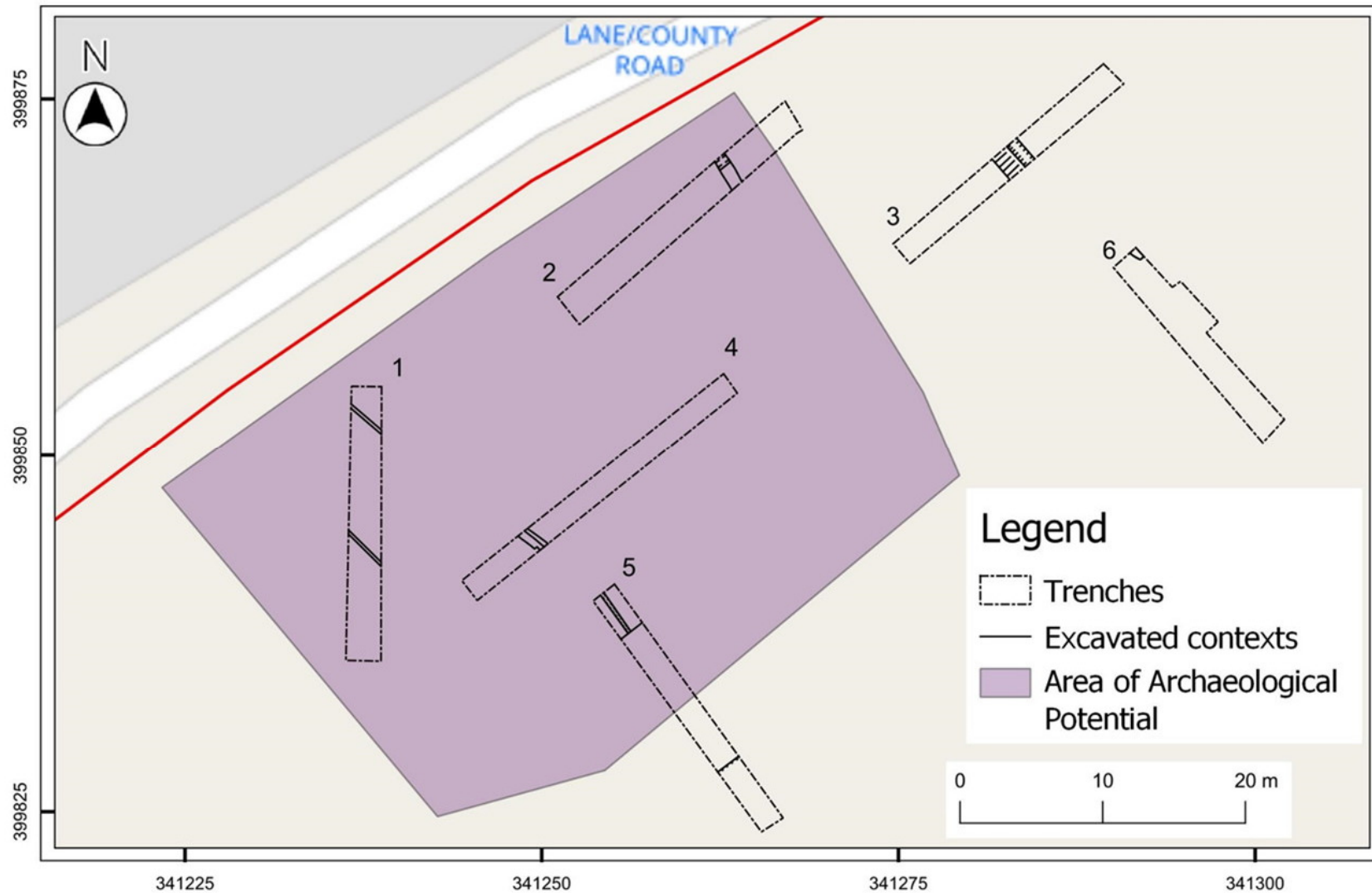
Illus 28. Underbridge 56, north facing elevation. Mill Bridge is in the foreground.



Illus 29. Underbridge 56, north facing elevation.



Illus 30. Underbridge 56, detail of eastern pier.



Illus 31. Plan of all trenches and area of archaeological potential.

1. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The trial trenches found that much of the area around Tanpit House has been disturbed as a result of 19th and early 20th century quarrying and subsequent landfilling, though there is evidence for the survival of 18th and 19th century deposits and there is finds evidence which may indicate that the site was established in the 17th century,

The archaeological evidence can be divided into four broad phases.

Phase 1 is represented by finds evidence only and consists of fragments of pottery dating to the late 17th to 18th century. However, it is possible that deposits of this date survive elsewhere on the site and beneath the Phase 2 structures.

Phase 2 consists of the brick wall and cobbled surface in Trench 1 and cobbled surface in Trench 4. These probably relate to structures shown on the 1893 OS map. No dating evidence was recovered for these structures, but their form and construction is consistent with a late 18th to 19th century date. Ditch (404) in Trench 2 is likely to belong to this phase, and to represent the eastern boundary of the enclosure around Tanpit House, though it contained no dating evidence.

Phase 3 comprised quarrying for sandstone during the late 19th and 20th centuries. Evidence from Trenches 3, 5 and 6 suggests that this was more extensive than is depicted on historic mapping.

Phase 4 consists of late 19th to mid-20th century in filling of the former quarry workings.

Phases 3 and 4 are of no further archaeological significance.

Based on the results of the trial trenching works the archaeological potential of the area assessed can be considered as moderate to low. The eastern side, around Trenches 3 and 6, shows evidence of extensive disturbance by quarrying and 20th century land filling operations. Although cut features were found this area they date to the late 19th or 20th century and are of no archaeological significance.

Limited evidence was found for the survival of structures associated with Tanpit House. Those which do survive appear to date to the late 18th or 19th century, however, finds evidence suggests that deposits broadly contemporary with the buildings depicted on the 1769 Molyneux Estate map survive, either below surfaces such as the cobbled yards, or beyond the limits of the excavated trenches, though it is considered that these are unlikely to be extensive.

Preliminary discussion with the Planning Archaeologist for Knowsley (MEAS) has indicated that a Strip, Map and Record exercise would be appropriate and should cover broadly the area defined on Illus 31. However, the methodology would need to be defined in an updated WSI agreed in advance with MEAS.

2. STORAGE AND CURATION

The archive is currently held by Headland Archaeology, North-West.

A copy of this report will be submitted to OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations <https://oasis.ac.uk/>).

3. PROPOSAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Further analysis or publication may be required as part of any further works

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5. APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 FINDS PHOTOGRAPHS



Illus 32. Finds from Context 205. 1=Late Coarse Darkware; body sherd, 2= Plastic, 3= Bottle Glass. Scale = 10 cm.



Illus 33. Finds from Context 603. Scale = 10 cm. 1-4= Late Coarse Darkware, 5=Glazed Earthenware, 6= Tobacco pipe stem, 7 & 8= Stoneware 'Ginger Beer Bottle', 9= Stoneware; drainpipe, 10-13=Stoneware; Marmalade Jar; body sherds



Illus 34. Finds from Context 601. Scale = 10 cm. 1 & 2 = Late Coarse Darkware; rim sherds, 3-11 = Late Coarse Darkware; body sherds



Illus 35. Finds from Context 601. Scale = 10 cm. 1= Tin-Glazed Earthenware, 2= Combed Slipware, 3 = Mottled Ware; rims, 4= Mottled Ware; cup handle, 5-9, 11 & 13= Mottled Ware; body sherds, 10= Yellow Ware; plate rim, 12= Tobacco Pipe Stem, 14 & 15 = Mottled Ware; bases



Illus 36. Finds from Context 601. Scale = 10 cm. 1 & 2 Stoneware; body sherds, 3= Stoneware; base ,4 & 5 Iron fixture, 7 & 8= Window Glass, 9 = Ceramic wall tile.



Illus 37. Animal bone from Context 103. Scale= 30 cm.

APPENDIX 1 SITE AND CONTEXT REGISTERS

1.1 Context register

Context no	Trench	Description	Thickness/Depth
100	6	Made ground top soil and rubble	0.6-1.3 m
101	6	Buried Soil	0.6-0.8 m
102	6	Reddish Brown Sand (Geology)	NA
103	6	Fill of cut containing animal burial	0.24 m
104	6	Cut containing animal burial	0.24 m
105	6	Sandstone (Geology)	NA
200	3	Modern made-ground	0.3 m
201	3	Modern made-ground	0.7-1.5 m
202	3	Reddish yellow sands (Geology)	NA
203	3	Void	NA
204	3	Sandstone (Geology)	NA
205	3	Fill of ditch 206	0.25 m
206	3	19th / 20th cent ditch cut	0.25 m
207	3	Land-drain	0.3 m
208	3	Land-drain	0.3 m
300	4	Topsoil	0.3 m
301	4	Modern made-ground	0.6 m
302	4	Yellowish red sands (Geology)	NA
303	4	Sandstone (Geology)	NA
304	4	Cobbled Surface	Unknown
400	2	Topsoil	0.30 m
401	2	Modern made-ground	0.90 m
402	2	Reddish yellow sands (Geology)	NA
403	2	Fill of enclosure ditch	0.24 m
404	2	Cut for enclosure ditch	0.24 m
500	1	Topsoil	0.35 m

501	1	Modern made-ground	0.65 m
502	1	Reddish sand (Geology)	NA
503	1	Sandstone (Geology)	NA
504	1	Cobbled Surface	Unknown
505	1	Brickwall	Unknown
600	5	Topsoil	0.35 m
601	5	Made ground top soil and rubble	upto 1.6 m
602	5	Reddish yellow sands (Geology)	NA
603	5	Fill of service trench	0.15 m
604	5	Cut for water pipe	0.15 m
605	5	Sandstone (Geology)	Unknown

1.3 Photographic register

Photo	Context Nos	Trench	Description	Direction
HEBO22_1	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_2	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_3	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_4	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_5	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_6	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_7	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_8	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_9	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_10	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_11	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_12	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W

Photo	Context Nos	Trench	Description	Direction
HEBO22_13	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_14	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_15	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_16	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_17	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_18	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_19	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_20	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_21	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_22	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_23	104	6	Pit in base of trench prior to excavation	E
HEBO22_24	104	6	Pit in base of trench prior to excavation	E
HEBO22_25	104	6	Pit in base of trench prior to excavation	E
HEBO22_26	104	6	Pit in base of trench prior to excavation	E
HEBO22_27	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_28	100, 101	6	East facing section of Trench	W
HEBO22_29		6	Overview of Trench looking south	S
HEBO22_30		6	Overview of Trench looking south	S
HEBO22_31		3	Machine excavation	W
HEBO22_32		3	Machine excavation	W
HEBO22_33		3	Machine excavation	W
HEBO22_34	103	6	Pre-ex of pit fill	N

Photo	Context Nos	Trench	Description	Direction
HEBO22_35	103	6	Pre-ex of pit fill	N
HEBO22_36	103	6	Articulated ribs and spine	N
HEBO22_37	103	6	Articulated ribs and spine	N
HEBO22_38	103	6	Articulated ribs and spine	N
HEBO22_39	104	6	Post-ex of cut	N
HEBO22_40	104	6	Post-ex of cut	N
HEBO22_41	104	6	Post-ex of cut	N
HEBO22_42	104	6	Post-ex of cut	N
HEBO22_43	202, 204	3	Trench after machining	W
HEBO22_44	202, 204	3	Trench after machining	W
HEBO22_45	201, 200	3	North facing section	SW
HEBO22_46	201, 200	3	North facing section	S
HEBO22_47	201, 200	3	North facing section	SW
HEBO22_48	201, 200	3	North facing section	SW
HEBO22_49	201, 200	3	North facing section	SW
HEBO22_50	205, 201, 200	3	North facing section, scale is on ditch fill 205	SW
HEBO22_51	202, 204	3	Trench after machining	W
HEBO22_52	202, 204	3	Trench after machining	W
HEBO22_53	202, 204	3	Trench after machining	E
HEBO22_54	202, 204	3	Trench after machining	SE
HEBO22_55	302	4	Trench after machining	W
HEBO22_56	302	4	Trench after machining	W

Photo	Context Nos	Trench	Description	Direction
HEBO22_57	302	4	Trench after machining	W
HEBO22_58	304	4	Cobbled surface	E
HEBO22_59	304	4	Cobbled surface	E
HEBO22_60	304	4	Cobbled surface	E
HEBO22_61	300, 301	4	North facing section	S
HEBO22_62	300, 301	4	North facing section	S
HEBO22_63	300, 301	4	North facing section	S
HEBO22_64	605	5	Bedrock at north end trench	S
HEBO22_65	605	5	Bedrock at north end trench	S
HEBO22_66	605	5	Bedrock at north end trench	S
HEBO22_67	612, 600	5	Quarrying cut	E
HEBO22_68	612, 600	5	Quarrying cut	E
HEBO22_69	612, 600	5	Quarrying cut	E
HEBO22_70	605, 602	5	Junction between sands and bedrock as first exposed	E
HEBO22_71	605, 602	5	Junction between sands and bedrock as first exposed	E
HEBO22_72	605, 602	5	Junction between sands and bedrock as first exposed	E
HEBO22_73	605, 602	5	Junction between sands and bedrock as first exposed	NE
HEBO22_74	605, 602	5	Junction between sands and bedrock as first exposed	NE
HEBO22_75		5	Working shot	NE
HEBO22_76	612, 600	5	Quarrying cut	E
HEBO22_77	612, 600	5	Quarrying cut	NE
HEBO22_78	612, 600	5	Quarrying cut	NE

Photo	Context Nos	Trench	Description	Direction
HEBO22_79	612, 600	5	Quarrying cut	N
HEBO22_80	602	5	Geological deposits	E
HEBO22_81	602	5	Geological deposits	S
HEBO22_82	602	5	Geological deposits	SE
HEBO22_83	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	E
HEBO22_84	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	E
HEBO22_85	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	W
HEBO22_86	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	W
HEBO22_87	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	S
HEBO22_88	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	S
HEBO22_89	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	S
HEBO22_90	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	S
HEBO22_91	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	W
HEBO22_92	304	4	Cobbled surface at west end of trench	W
HEBO22_93	501	1	Rubble layer as first exposed	S
HEBO22_94	501	1	Rubble layer as first exposed	S
HEBO22_95	501	1	Rubble layer as first exposed	S
HEBO22_96	401	2	Crushed firebrick at west end of trench	E
HEBO22_97	401	2	Crushed firebrick at west end of trench	E
HEBO22_98	605	5	Cut for water pipe	N
HEBO22_99	605	5	Cut for water pipe	N
HEBO22_100	605	5	Cut for water pipe	N

Photo	Context Nos	Trench	Description	Direction
HEBO22_101	605	5	Cut for water pipe	N
HEBO22_102	605	5	Cut for water pipe	W
HEBO22_103	605	5	Cut for water pipe	W
HEBO22_104	605	5	Cut for water pipe	S
HEBO22_105	605	5	Cut for water pipe	S
HEBO22_106	402	2	Trench after removal of 401	E
HEBO22_107	402	2	Trench after removal of 401	W
HEBO22_108	402	2	Trench after removal of 401	W
HEBO22_109	402	2	North facing section	S
HEBO22_110	504, 503	1	Cobbled surface	S
HEBO22_111	504, 503	1	Cobbled surface	S
HEBO22_112	504, 503	1	Cobbled surface	S
HEBO22_113	504, 503	1	Cobbled surface	S
HEBO22_114	505	1	South end of Trench with wall 505 in foreground	S
HEBO22_115	505	1	South end of Trench with wall 505 in foreground	S
HEBO22_116	505	1	South end of Trench with wall 505 in foreground	S
HEBO22_117	501	1	Sondage cut through rubble	E
HEBO22_118	501	1	Sondage cut through rubble	E
HEBO22_119	501	1	Sondage cut through rubble	E
HEBO22_120	403, 404	2	Section across ditch	S
HEBO22_121	403, 404	2	Section across ditch	S

Photo	Context Nos	Trench	Description	Direction
HEBO22_122	403, 404	2	Section across ditch	S
HEBO22_123	403, 404	2	Section across ditch	S
HEBO22_124	501	1	Detail of rubble	E
HEBO22_125	501	1	Detail of rubble	E
HEBO22_126	501	1	Detail of rubble	E
HEBO22_127	501	1	Sondage cut through rubble	E
HEBO22_128	501	1	Sondage cut through rubble	E
HEBO22_129	501	1	Sondage cut through rubble	E

APPENDIX 2 OASIS ENTRY

OASIS ID (UID): headland1-504540

Project Name: Excavation, Trial Trenching at Headbolt Lane, Kirkby

Activity type: Trial Trenching

Project Identifier(s): HEBO22

Planning Id: 21/00563/FUL

Reason for Investigation: Planning: Post determination

Organisation Responsible for work: Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

Project Dates: 31-Jan-2022 - 04-Feb-2022

HER: Merseyside Historic Environment Record

Project Methodology: Trial trenching of the site of Tanpit House and and a former tan yard shown on 18th century mapping. Six trenches were excavated finding limited remains of the house.

Project Results: The watching brief found that the parish boundary had been marked by a shallow ditch, cut no more than 0.2 m into geological deposits. Finds evidence showed that it had been filled in during the 19th century.

Keywords:

Headbolt Lane, Kirkby

Tannery - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types

Farm - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types **Archive:**

Reports in OASIS: