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# Land at Wrexham Road Chester, Cheshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 111290.01  
December 2015



**Land at Wrexham Road  
Chester, Cheshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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# Land at Wrexham Road Chester, Cheshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# Land at Wrexham Road Chester, Cheshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### Summary

Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Wrexham Road, Chester, Cheshire. The work comprised the excavation of 24 x 50 m trenches in advance of a planning application for residential development.

The Site had been subject to a Desk-Based Assessment and a scheduled medieval moated site lies immediately to the east of the proposed trenches. In addition, the eastern half of the application site has been subject to a geophysical survey.

The archaeological evaluation failed to identify any significant archaeology within the Site boundary. Remains associated with ridge and furrow cultivation were identified along with two tree bowls and a spread of burnt material associated with a modern bonfire.

The identified furrows respect the extant field boundaries, which have remained largely fixed since the earliest detailed map of the Site (the 1845 Tithe map of Marlston cum Lache).

No remains associated with the probable medieval manor house at Marlston, defined by the moated enclosure to the south of Field 6, were identified. This is perhaps unsurprising as aerial photography of the Site (RCHME) has failed to identify any associated cropmarks or earthworks. The aerial photography has identified ridge and furrow extending across the moated enclosure, indicating that the ridge and furrow identified may post date the manor house and its moated enclosure.

No remains associated with the Roman field system, water holes and road, recorded during recent excavations at Chester Business Park, were identified. The Chester Business Park excavation was situated 400 m to the east of Field 5 and it had been anticipated that some continuation of this field system might be identified within the current evaluation.

The lack of any associated Romano-British activity within the development boundary may be attributable to the height difference between the two areas, with the Chester Business Park situated c. 5 m higher than the current development area. It may be that the poorly draining clays of the region made the lower lying development area unsuitable for agriculture during the Roman period.

The project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with the Grosvenor Museum, Chester. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project under an accession number to be determined. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner. Until the time of deposition the project archive will be stored at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield Office under project number 111290.



# **Land at Wrexham Road Chester, Cheshire**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Acknowledgements**

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. The assistance of Paul Chadwick is gratefully acknowledged in this regard.

Thanks are extended to Mark Leah, Planning Archaeologist for Cheshire West and Chester Council, who provided curatorial support and guidance.

The trenching was carried out by Martina Tenzer and Adam Green between the 9th and 20th of November 2015. The report was written by Chris Swales, with illustrations by Alix Sperr. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mepham. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.



# Land at Wrexham Road Chester, Cheshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology were commissioned by CgMs Consulting (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Wrexham Road, Chester, Cheshire, NGR 339250 363750 (hereafter 'the Site'). The work comprised the excavation of 24 x 50 m trenches in advance of a residential development (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site had been subject to a Desk-based Assessment (DBA, CgMs 2013) and a scheduled medieval moated site (HER 1973) lies immediately to the east of the proposed trenches. In addition, the eastern half of the application site has been subject to a geophysical survey (GSB 2015), which did not identify any features of archaeological interest.
- 1.1.3 As a result of the potential for significant archaeological remains, and following discussions between Mark Leah Planning Archaeologist for Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWC) and CgMs Consulting, an archaeological evaluation was proposed in order to determine the need for further mitigation ahead of development.
- 1.1.4 Wessex Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Wessex Archaeology 2015) outlining how the requirements of the work would be met. The format and content of the WSI was based on current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England guidance (CIfA 2014a-d, Historic England 2015) and was approved by the Planning Archaeologist for Cheshire West and Chester Council prior to work commencing.

#### 1.2 Site location and topography

- 1.2.1 The Site lies immediately to the south of Lache, c. 3 km to the south of Chester, and is bounded to the east by Wrexham Road (A483), to the south by fields with Moat farm beyond, and to the west and north by a housing estate. The Site occupies an area of c. 45 ha of agricultural land and rises from c. 9 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south to 21 m aOD in the north.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology comprises Devensian Till (Diamicton) over Kinnerton Sandstone (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following is summarised from the DBA (CgMs 2013).





## **2.2 Prehistoric**

- 2.2.1 There are no recorded prehistoric archaeological assets within the Site, although Mesolithic artefacts have been found at Poulton c. 5 km south of the Site and in Chester city centre.

## **2.3 Roman**

- 2.3.1 There is no recorded archaeological evidence of Roman date within the Site. A Roman road lies c. 1.5 km to the east of the Site linking the Legionary Fortress at Chester with a settlement at Heronbridge and going on to link with the garrison (and later civilian settlement) at Whitchurch, and beyond to the Midlands and London.
- 2.3.2 The precise alignment of this road and other roads accessing North Wales after leaving the Legionary Fortress and crossing the Dee is uncertain; one suggestion is that it followed a course close to the Dee Estuary and passed through Lache, to the north-west of the Site, although it is unclear whether the current Lache Lane represents the road alignment. However, a lead weight and a coin are recorded along Lache Lane.
- 2.3.3 Away from the alignment of the possible Roman roads, further Roman spot finds (the majority of which are coins) are located within the surroundings of the Site. In addition, recent archaeological investigations at Chester Business Park to the south of the Site have discovered the remnants of structures, including: a road, three large pits (likely to be the remains of a well or water-holes) and a field system. The most notable artefacts recovered from the site were a number of timbers from the well, quern stones, a glass bead, a slate with an inscription and pottery.

## **2.4 Saxon/Early medieval**

- 2.4.1 Although there is no recorded archaeological evidence of Saxon/Early medieval date within the Site, recent work has suggested that the Site lay within a sub-Roman estate or early bishopric centred on Chester. The extent of this estate, based on archaeological, architectural and place-name evidence, incorporated an area within a 10 km radius of Chester may have provided an impetus to the growth of village settlement.

## **2.5 Medieval**

- 2.5.1 The Site lies within the parish of Marlston cum Lache, with the parish boundary and boundary stones in the north-east of the Site separating the majority of the Site from a small portion which falls within St Mary on the Hill in Chester Parish.
- 2.5.2 At Domesday, Marlston cum Lache comprised two distinct manors, Leche and Merlstone, both had land for half a plough, suggesting that, as in the prehistoric period, arable agriculture was not extensive on the heavy Boulder Claylands. The manor house of Lache is thought to have occupied the site of the 19th century Lache Hall, but this has now been cleared and the area developed. However, the manor house of Marlston may be represented by the moated enclosure in the centre of the Site.
- 2.5.3 The moated manor house, protected as a Scheduled Monument, comprises an earthwork platform 63 m by 47 m, defined within a dry moat 15 m wide and up to 1.5 m deep, with a possible entrance causeway across the south-east arm. Other earthworks survive within the moated platform. In particular, air photographs taken in 1947 indicate that ridge and furrow cultivation crosses the moat from the adjacent field and occupies the moated platform. As a result, it has been suggested that the manor house was abandoned and demolished in the medieval period and the Site ploughed in the early Post-Medieval period.



## 2.6 Post-medieval/modern

- 2.6.1 The RCHM(E) survey of the moated site and its immediate surroundings concludes that the moat and the area around was in arable agriculture throughout much of the earlier part of the Post-Medieval period, initially perhaps in open fields, and later within enclosed, hedged and ditched fields.
- 2.6.2 In 1755, the Chester to Wrexham and Oswestry Turnpike Trust constructed the Wrexham Road on its present alignment. One Mile House (denoted as Marlston Heyes Farm on the map evidence) and Two Mile House (now Moat Farm) probably date from this period.
- 2.6.3 The earliest available map which denotes the Site in detail is the 1845 Tithe map of Marlston cum Lache. The Site comprises fifteen fields and a house and garden (named Marlston Hayes Farm on later maps). A number of ponds probably representing former marl pits are located with the Site.
- 2.6.4 The Ordnance Survey 1975 edition shows a track running north-south near the centre-north of the Site. A field boundary immediately to the south of the track has been removed in order to create a larger field.
- 2.6.5 The earthwork ridge and furrow, evident on the 1947 aerial photo of the Site, has been removed by modern ploughing for arable agriculture.

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The aim of the evaluation was to characterise (nature, date, complexity and extent) any archaeological features and deposits identified by trenching.
- 3.1.2 The general objectives of the project were:
- *To record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;*
  - *To provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for additional archaeological mitigation; and*
  - *To make available the results of the work.*
- 3.1.3 The general products and tasks to be completed/undertaken included:
- *Providing further information on the archaeological potential of the Site to enable the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;*
  - *Inform the formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains; and*
  - *Produce a Site archive.*



## 4 METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological works involved the excavation of 24 trenches measuring 50m by a minimum of 1.8m (**Figure 1**).
- 4.1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with the approved WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and industry standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a-d).

### 4.2 Machine excavation

- 4.2.1 The location of all trenches were scanned using a CAT to check for uncharted services.
- 4.2.2 Topsoil and overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil and subsoil were stockpiled at a safe distance from the trench edge (at least 1 m). Overburden was removed in spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology whichever was reached first.
- 4.2.3 All spoil wand trenches were scanned for artefacts using a metal detector.

### 4.3 Hand excavation

- 4.3.1 Archaeological features were cleaned as necessary to allow inspection and to define the extent of any archaeological features and deposits. Archaeological features were hand excavated, with care taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits, which may have been deemed suitable for preservation by record or preservation *in situ*. However, excavation was sufficient to understand and record the full stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits.

### 4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.
- 4.4.2 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or - 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 4.4.3 A digital photographic record was maintained.

### 4.5 Specialist strategies

#### *Artefact*

- 4.5.1 All finds were treated in accordance with relevant industry guidance (UKIC 2001; English Heritage 2005, 2006), and the requirements of the Council's archaeological advisor.

#### *Environmental samples*

- 4.5.2 No environmental samples were taken due to the lack of archaeological features identified during the evaluation.

### 4.6 Monitoring

- 4.6.1 Mark Leah, the Planning Archaeologist for Cheshire West and Chester Council made a monitoring visit of the archaeological works on the 17th November 2015, once all of the



trenches were opened and had been allowed to weather. The trenches were also inspected by Paul Chadwick of CgMs Consulting on behalf of the landowner and developer.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions within the excavation area contained in **Appendix 1**. For ease of interpretation the Site was divided into twelve separate fields. These field divisions will be used in the description of the archaeological results.

**Table 1: Field divisions**

Field number	Trench number
1	Trenches 1-3
2	Trenches 4-6
3	Trench 7
4	Trench 8
5	Trenches 9-10
6	Trenches 11-12
7	Trenches 13-14
8	Trenches 15, 16, 17 and 19
9	Trench 18
10	Trenches 20-21
11	Trenches 22-23
12	Trench 24

### 5.2 Typical soil profiles

5.2.1 The underlying geology across the Site consists of a mid-red brown clay with occasional yellow clay mottling (**Plates 1 and 3**). Bands of pale yellow brown clay were also recorded across the Site (**Plate 2**). The natural geology was typically reached at between 0.40 m and 0.50 m below ground level (bgl). Geotechnical pits were being opened at the same time as the evaluation trenches, which allowed for the confirmation of the depth and morphology of the natural geology without resorting to additional sondages within the trenches.

5.2.2 Subsoil consisted of a dark red brown clay with occasional inclusions of small pebbles. The subsoil was on average 0.1 m thick.

5.2.3 The topsoil consisted of dark-grey brown clay with a thickness of between 0.20 m and 0.30 m. The only finds recovered from Site were from the topsoil.

### 5.3 Trenches with Ridge and Furrow

5.3.1 Furrows were identified within Trenches 2, 7-10, 15-17 and 19-24 of Fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, and 12. No furrows were identified within Fields 6, 7 and 9. The furrows were typically 3 to 4 m in width and visible as pale yellow brown bands across the natural

geology (**Plates 3 and 4**). The furrows were spaced c. 10 m apart (**Figure 4**). Arable cultivation of the Site has removed any earthwork evidence for the associated ridges.

5.3.2 The identified furrows respect the extant field boundaries, which have remained largely fixed since the earliest detailed map of the Site (the 1845 Tithe map of Marston cum Lache). Between 1845 and the present day only minor changes are recorded, with the loss of some minor field divisions within Field 1, Field 5 and Field 11 (**Figures 2 and 3**). Trenches 2, 3, 9 and 23 are within the vicinity of these backfilled field boundaries but it would appear that the trenches did not intersect with the positions of these boundary ditches as marked on the 1845 Tithe map.

5.3.3 The identified furrows were northeast to southwest aligned within Fields 1, 2 and 3 (Trenches 2, 5 and 7) and east to west aligned within Field 4 (Trench 8). Within the southern part of Field 5 the furrows were northeast to southwest aligned (Trench 9), whilst east to west aligned within the northern part of Field 5 (Trench 10). Within Field 8 the furrows respect the northeast to southwest alignment of the northern boundary (Trenches 15, 16 and 19), with the southern part of the field containing furrows that are east to west aligned (Trench 17). Within Fields 10 and 12 the furrows were east to west aligned (Trenches 20, 21 and 24). Within Field 11 the furrows were north to south aligned.

#### **5.4 Natural features**

5.4.1 The remains of tree bowls were identified with Trenches 20 and 21 along with areas of mottled geology with evidence of rooting.

#### **5.5 Modern features**

5.5.1 The remains of a modern bonfire were recorded at the western limit of Trench 22 (**Plate 6**).

#### **5.6 Trenches with no features**

5.6.1 Trenches 1, 3-6, 11-14 and 18 were sterile with the exception of land drains. The land drains were clearly visible cut into the natural geology (**Plate 5**).

### **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 Finds were recovered from all 24 of the trenches excavated during the evaluation, deriving almost exclusively from topsoil contexts, with a few finds recovered from subsoil.

6.1.2 Finds have been quantified by material type within each context; the results are presented in **Table 2**. The assemblage is entirely of post-medieval/modern date.

#### **6.2 Pottery**

6.2.1 Pottery was the most commonly occurring material type, and provides the primary dating evidence for the Site. The assemblage has been quantified (number and weight) by ware type within each context, and **Table 2** presents this information.

6.2.2 A restricted range of ware types is represented here, with an emphasis on industrial wares of the mid/late 18th century or later (creamware, pearlware, refined whiteware, yellow ware). These clearly supplied primarily tablewares and tea wares, some transfer printed and some with banded decoration, although there are also a few containers for foodstuffs



(preserve jars). The single sherd of yellow ware, probably from a kitchen bowl, has mocha decoration. There are also a small number of stonewares of a similar date range, including feldspathic-glazed examples, which mainly supplied containers of various sizes.

6.2.3 Alongside these industrial wares is smaller but still significant proportion of coarsewares, in the form of glazed redwares, mainly black-glazed. These are likely to have been supplied by the Buckley production centre. While these are not particularly chronologically distinctive, and potentially have a wide date range within the post-medieval/modern period (the Buckley kilns were operating from the 17th to the mid-20th century), there is no reason here to suppose that they necessarily pre-date the industrial wares, and a date range in the 18th or 19th century seems most likely. An 18th century date range can also be suggested for the Staffordshire-type slipwares (platters, one press-moulded) and mottled wares (tankards).

### 6.3 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

6.3.1 The CBM consists entirely of brick fragments (or small undiagnostic fragments probably from bricks), some in noticeably coarse fabrics. Most pieces are abraded, and many have no original surfaces. These fragments are not closely datable, but a date range similar to that of the pottery, i.e. 18th to 20th century, seems likely.

### 6.4 Clay Tobacco Pipes

6.4.1 Of the 21 fragments of clay pipe recovered, 20 are from stems, with one bowl. Sixteen of the stem fragments are plain. One includes the end of a decorated bowl of 19<sup>th</sup> century type, and two include spurs, each with a decorative roundel motif in relief on each side of the spur. The remaining stem (Trench 3) carries roller-stamped decoration, possibly incorporating an armorial design or alehouse sign, but the pipe is too abraded to determine. Stamped pipe stems in Chester have a date range of c. 1690 to the 1750s (Oswald 1975, 97).

6.4.2 The pipe bowl, from Trench 17, is incomplete (missing the base), but is probably of 18th century date.

### 6.5 Glass

6.5.1 Apart from one small fragment of modern window glass (Trench 18), all of the glass is vessel glass, and is largely, if not totally from bottles of various types. Most commonly represented here are fragments of green bottles. The earliest of these is a fragment from a bottle neck with string rim (Trench 17), of late 17th or early 18th century type. Four other fragments (Trenches 9, 11 and 18) are dated broadly as 18th century or later, with the remainder of 19th or 20th century date. Other fragments, from clear bottles, are also of 19th or 20th century date.

### 6.6 Other Finds

6.6.1 Other finds comprise two iron objects (holdfast, bar of unknown function); and a small fragment of roofing slate. None of these finds are closely datable.

**Table 2: All finds by trench (number / weight in grammes)**

Context	CBM	Clay Pipe	Glass	Pottery	Other Finds
101	1/9	2/3	1/29	8/90	
201	2/252			7/80	
301	1/13	3/9		14/120	



401	1/25	1 /2		4/54	
501				9/70	
601				3/31	
701	2/63	2/4	1/9	1/ 2	
801				6/58	
901			1 /2	2/32	
1001	1/127	1 /2		1/15	
1101	1/11		3/80	8/116	1 iron
1201	4/25		2/32	16/404	
1301	2/38	1/5	3/64	10/63	
1401			2/12	13/99	1 iron
1402				3/115	
1501	1/3			5/71	
1601			1 /4	1/1	
1701	2/54	1/10	1/17	7/122	
1801	2/108	3/9	7/50	29/339	1 slate
1901	1/54		1 /2	2/26	
2001		1/1		5/18	
2101		2/6		11/82	
2102				2/12	
2201	3/240	3/8		9/99	
2202	2/36			1/15	
2301	3/329	1/6		5/42	
2401	3/119			3/21	
<b>Total</b>	<b>32/1506</b>	<b>21/65</b>	<b>23/301</b>	<b>185/2197</b>	

**Table 3: Pottery by context**

Context	Ware	Date	No.	Wt. (g)	Additional Comments
0101	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	4	46	
0101	Pearlware	1770-1840	1	4	
0101	Refined whiteware	1800+	1	1	
0101	Staffs-type manganese mottled ware	C18	1	20	
0101	Staffs-type slipware	1680-1800	1	19	platter, marbled slipware
0201	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	2	62	
0201	Creamware	1740-1880	4	17	
0201	Refined whiteware	1800+	1	1	
0301	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	5	39	
0301	English stoneware	C18+	1	28	
0301	Pearlware	1770-1840	1	11	
0301	Refined whiteware	1800+	5	33	straight-sided preserve jar; banded





					dec
0301	Staffs-type manganese mottled ware	C18	1	2	
0301	White salt glaze	1720-80	1	7	
0401	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	3	52	bowls
0401	Staffs-type manganese mottled ware	C18	1	2	
0501	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	3	
0501	English stoneware	C18+	1	34	cylindrical jar/bottle neck
0501	Pearlware	1770-1840	3	10	
0501	Refined whiteware	1800+	4	23	transfer printed
0601	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	11	
0601	English stoneware	C18+	1	6	
0601	Refined whiteware	1800+	1	14	transfer printed
0701	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	2	
0801	Feldspathic glazed stoneware	1830+	1	2	
0801	Refined whiteware	1800+	5	56	squat preserve jar
0901	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	24	
0901	Refined whiteware	1800+	1	8	
1001	White salt glaze	1720-80	1	15	
1101	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	4	78	
1101	English stoneware	C18+	1	6	
1101	Pearlware	1770-1840	3	32	
1201	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	4	310	3 thick-walled bowls (1 flanged rim)
1201	Redware	post-med	1	13	
1201	Refined whiteware	1800+	11	81	transfer printed & banded dec
1301	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	20	
1301	Bone china	1794+	2	16	
1301	Refined whiteware	1800+	7	27	transfer printed
1401	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	2	15	
1401	Bone china	1794+	2	12	
1401	Pearlware	1770-1840	2	10	
1401	Redware	post-med	1	13	glazed over red slip
1401	Refined whiteware	1800+	6	49	transfer printed
1402	Refined whiteware	1800+	3	115	jug base
1501	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	2	15	bowl; dish
1501	English stoneware	C18+	1	34	tankard base





1501	Refined whiteware	1800+	2	12	transfer printed
1601	Refined whiteware	1800+	1	1	
1701	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	5	111	
1701	Redware	C17/C18	1	10	slipware (trailed)
1701	Refined whiteware	1800+	1	1	
1801	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	62	bowl
1801	Bone china	1794+	1	9	
1801	English stoneware	C18+	2	71	
1801	Feldspathic glazed stoneware	1830+	1	41	cylindrical jar
1801	Pearlware	1770-1840	3	9	
1801	Porcelain	C18+	1	4	saucer
1801	Refined whiteware	1800+	19	138	transfer printed & banded dec; plate
1801	Yellow wares	1800+	1	5	mocha ware
1901	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	12	flanged dish; trailed slip dec on flange
1901	Staffs-type manganese mottled ware	C18	1	13	
2001	Pearlware	1770-1840	2	1	
2001	Refined whiteware	1800+	3	17	
2101	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	7	64	
2101	Redware	C17/C18	1	4	slipware
2101	Refined whiteware	1800+	3	14	
2102	Creamware	1740-1880	1	7	
2102	Refined whiteware	1800+	1	5	
2201	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	17	
2201	Redware	post-med	1	9	
2201	Refined whiteware	1800+	7	73	transfer printed & banded dec
2202	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	15	
2301	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	3	
2301	Refined whiteware	1800+	3	27	transfer printed
2301	Staffs-type slipware	1650-1750	1	12	press moulded platter, polychrome slip dec
2401	Black-glazed redware	C17-mid C20	1	9	
2401	Creamware	1740-1880	1	3	
2401	Staffs-type manganese mottled ware	C18	1	9	



## 7 DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation failed to identify any significant archaeology within the Site boundary. Remains associated with ridge and furrow cultivation were identified along with two tree bowls and a spread of burnt material associated with a modern bonfire.
- 7.1.2 The identified furrows respect the extant field boundaries, which have remained largely fixed since the earliest detailed map of the Site (the 1845 Tithe map of Marston cum Lache).
- 7.1.3 No remains associated with the probable medieval manor house at Marlston, defined by the moated enclosure to the south of Field 6 (**Figure 1**), were identified. This is perhaps unsurprising as aerial photography of the Site (RCHM(E) has failed to identify any associated cropmarks or earthworks (CgMs 2013). The aerial photography has identified ridge and furrow extending across the moated enclosure, indicating that the ridge and furrow identified post dates the manor house and its moated enclosure.
- 7.1.4 No remains associated with the Roman field system, water holes and road, recorded during excavations at Chester Business Park, were identified. The Chester Business Park excavation was situated 400 m to the east of Field 5 (**Figure 1**) and it had been anticipated that some continuation of this field system would be identified within the current evaluation.
- 7.1.5 The lack of any associated Romano-British activity within the development boundary may be attributable to the height difference between the two excavation areas, with the Chester Business Park situated c. 5 m higher than the current development area. It may be that the poorly draining clays of the region made the lower lying development area unsuitable for agriculture during the Roman period.

### 7.2 Conclusions

- 7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in assessing the potential for archaeological remains across the western half of the development area. No significant remains were identified from within the evaluation trenches or from the topsoil across the Site. No material earlier than the 17th century was identified. It is considered that there is a low potential for unidentified archaeological remains surviving within the remaining development area.

## 8 STORAGE AND CURATION

### 8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 The project archive resulting from the excavation will be deposited with the Grosvenor Museum, Chester. The Museum will accept the project archive on completion of the project under an accession number to be determined. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

### 8.2 Preparation of archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the Grosvenor Museum and in



general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013, UKIC 2001).

8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **site/accession code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

8.2.3 01 files/document cases of paper records and A3/A4 graphics

### **8.3 Discard policy**

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis.

8.3.2 In this instance, given the quantity of material recovered, its nature and date range (commonly occurring types of relatively recent date), and its provenance (all from topsoil and subsoil contexts, i.e. essentially unstratified), retention for long-term curation might not be justified. A selective retention strategy could be adopted, but this should be discussed with the recipient Museum. Any discard of artefacts will be fully recorded in the project archive.

### **8.4 Security copy**

8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



## 9 REFERENCES

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#### **On line resources**

British Geological Survey, 2015. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)



## 10 APPENDICES

### 10.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

<b>Trench No. 1</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
101	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
102	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
103	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 2</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
201	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
202	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
203	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 3</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
301	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
302	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
303	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 4</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
401	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
402	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
403	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 5</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
501	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
502	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
503	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 6</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
601	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
602	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
603	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 7</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
701	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
702	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
703	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 8</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
801	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
802	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
803	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+



<b>Trench No. 9</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
901	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
902	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
903	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 10</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1001	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1002	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1003	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 11</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1101	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1102	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1103	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 12</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1201	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1202	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1203	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 13</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1301	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1302	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1303	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 14</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1401	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1402	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1403	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 15</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1501	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1502	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1503	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 16</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1601	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1602	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1603	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 17</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1701	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1702	Subsoil: Dark red brow clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m



1703	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+
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<b>Trench No. 18</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1801	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1802	Subsoil: Dark red brown clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1803	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 19</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
1901	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
1902	Subsoil: Dark red brown clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
1903	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 20</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
2001	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.30m
2002	Subsoil: Dark red brown clay and gravel	0.30 – 0.40 m
2003	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.40 m+

<b>Trench No. 21</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.40 m bgl</b>
2101	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.40m
2102	Subsoil: Dark red brown clay and gravel	0.40 – 0.50 m
2103	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.50 m+

<b>Trench No. 22</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.50 m bgl</b>
2201	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.40m
2202	Subsoil: Dark red brown clay and gravel	0.40 – 0.50 m
2203	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.50 m+

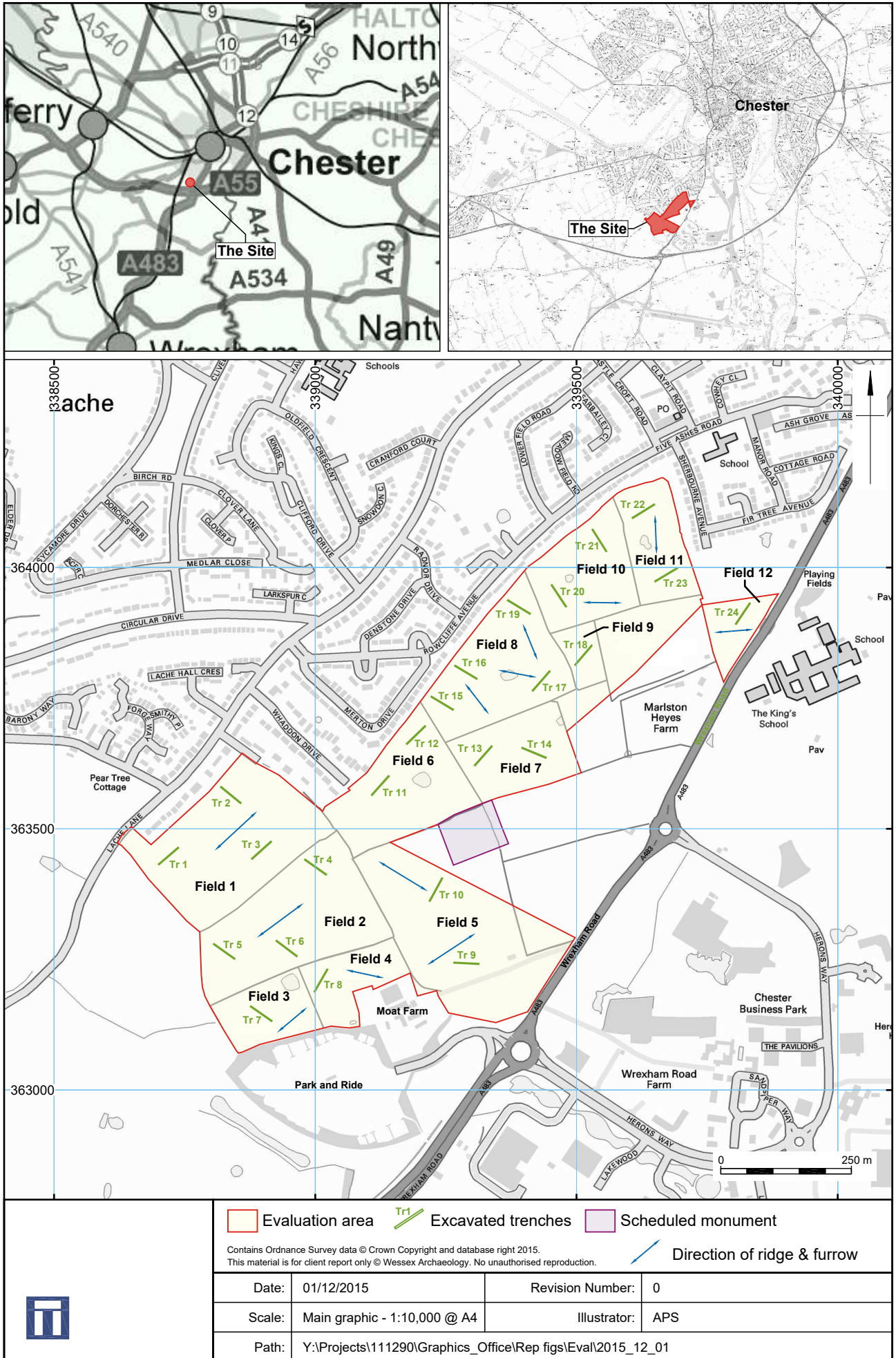
<b>Trench No. 23</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.50 m bgl</b>
2301	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.40m
2302	Subsoil: Dark red brown clay and gravel	0.40 – 0.50 m
2303	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.50 m+

<b>Trench No. 24</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Dimensions: 50 x 1.8 m</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>Depth: 0.50 m bgl</b>
2401	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay with small stone inclusions	0 – 0.40m
2402	Subsoil: Dark red brown clay and gravel	0.40 – 0.50 m
2403	Natural: Mid red brown clay with mottled yellow patches	0.50 m+



**10.2 Appendix 2: Oasis Form (wessexar1-231079)**






Site location

Figure 1

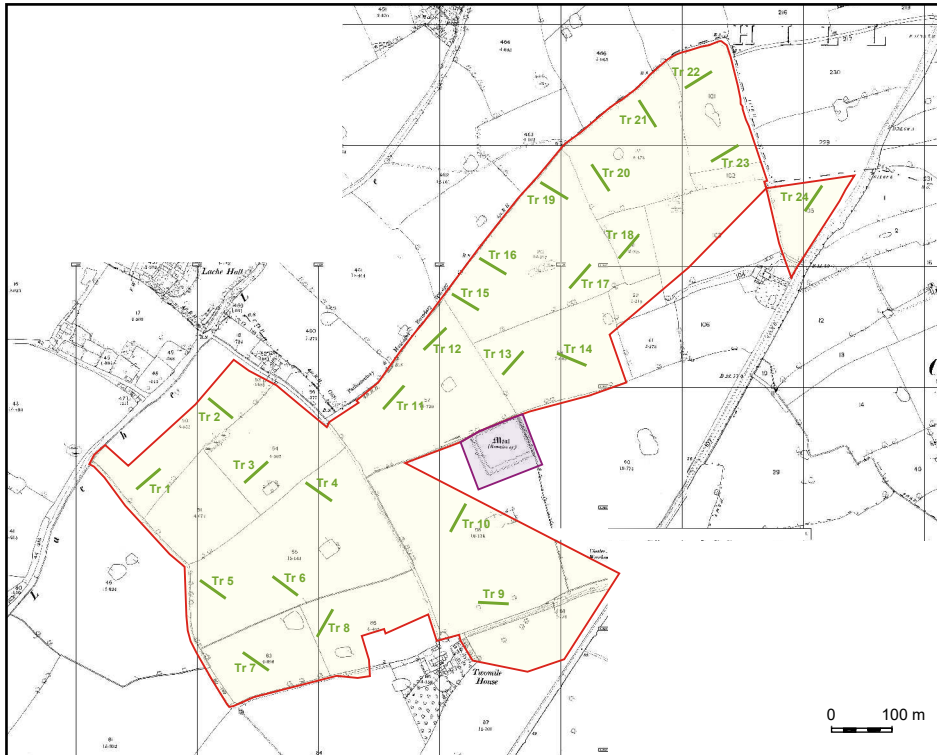


	<p> <span style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Evaluation area         <span style="margin-left: 20px;"> <span style="color: green; border-bottom: 1px dashed green; width: 15px; display: inline-block; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Tr1 Excavated trenches         </span> <span style="margin-left: 20px;"> <span style="border: 1px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Scheduled monument         </span> </p> <p> <small>Reproduced from the Tithe map, Marston-cum-Lache Parish, 1845. Cheshire archives reference number EDT 261            This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.</small> </p>	Date:	01/12/2015	Revision Number:	0
		Scale:	Main graphic - 1:7500 @ A4	Illustrator:	APS
		Path:	Y:\Projects\111290\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2015_12_01		

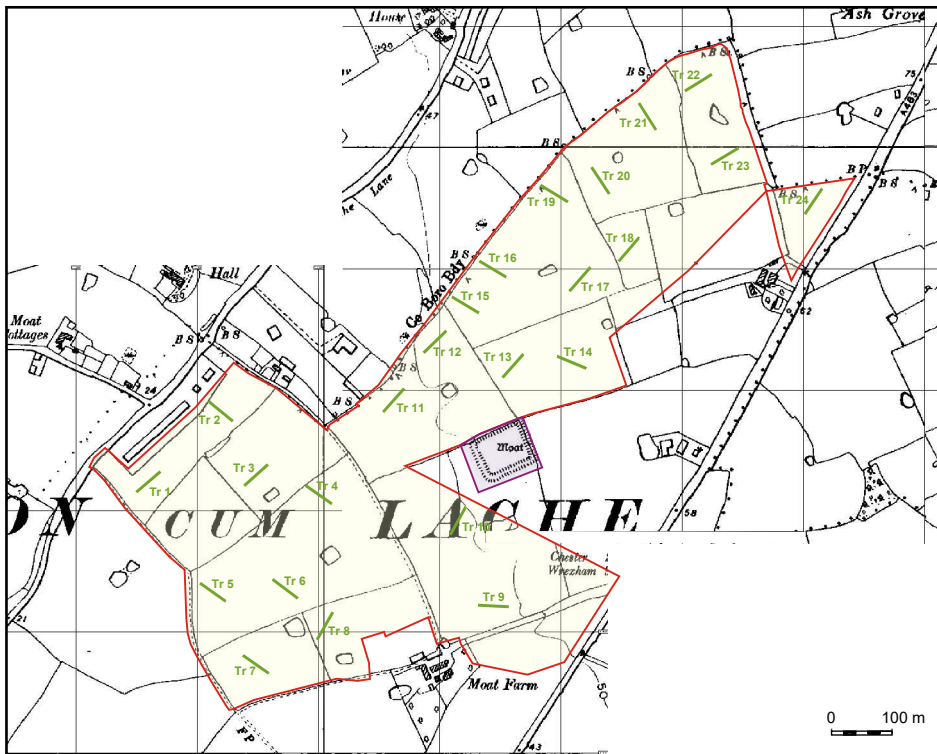
Trench plan overlain on 1845 Tithe map

Figure 2



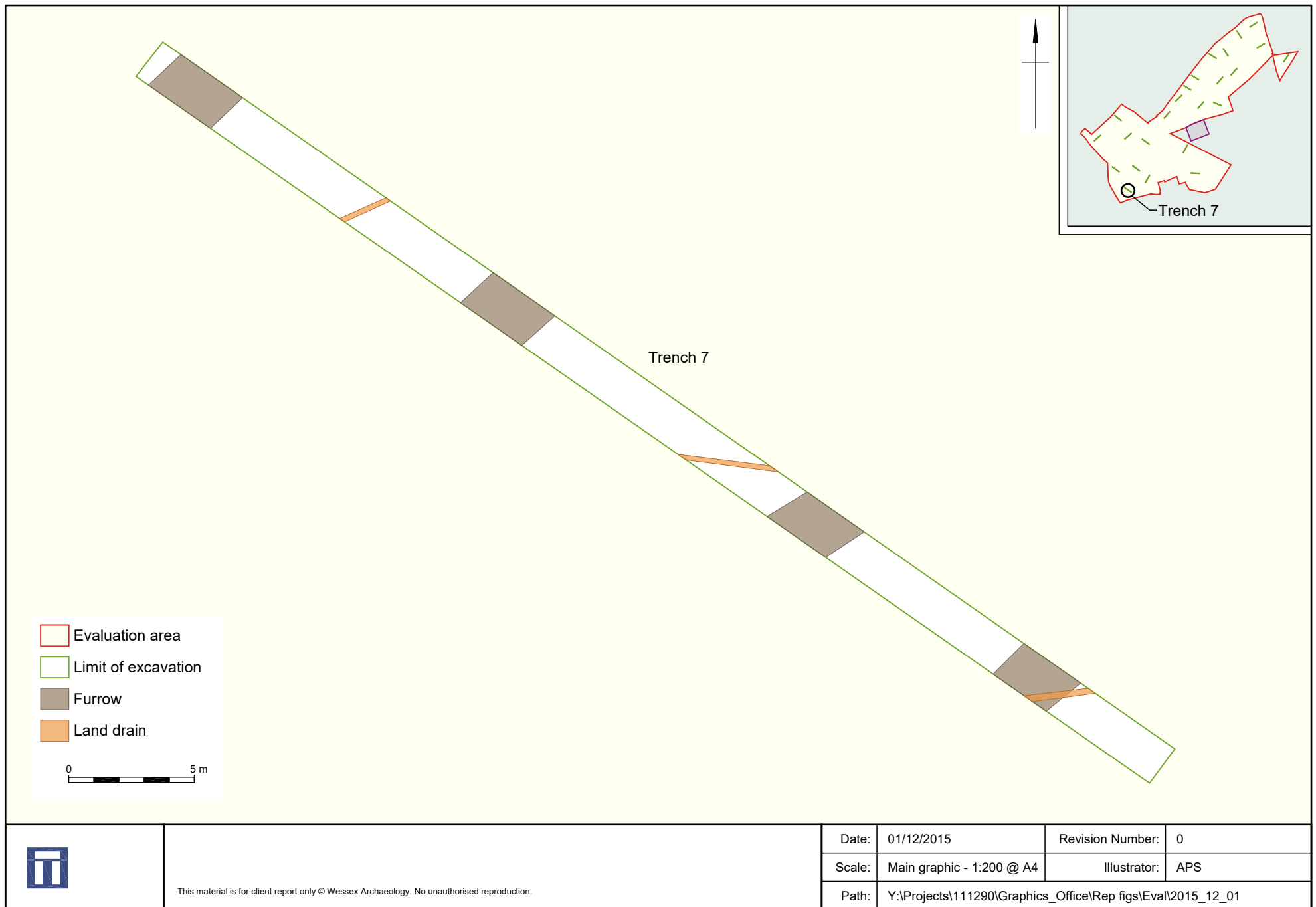


Trench plan overlain on 1876 Ordnance Survey map  
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Trench plan overlain on 1945 Ordnance Survey map  
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	<span style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Evaluation area <span style="border: 1px solid purple; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; margin-left: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></span> Scheduled monument			
	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	01/12/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	Both images - 1:12500 @ A4	Illustrator:	APS
Path:	Y:\Projects\111290\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\Eval\2015_12_01			



Plan of Trench 7, showing typical distribution of furrows

Figure 4



Plate 1: General shot of red clay natural geology



Plate 2: General shot of yellow clay natural geology


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Plate 3: General shot of furrows and typical overburden



Plate 4: Detail shot of furrow in section


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Plate 5: General shot of land drains cut into natural geology



Plate 6: General shot of modern burning within Trench 22

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