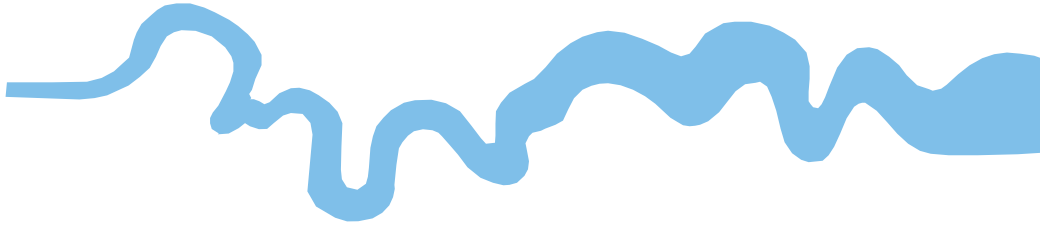


T V A S



NORTH MIDLANDS

**Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire – Phase 2**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Helen Daniel

Site Code: NLH20/67

(SJ 8745 4180)

Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent Staffordshire, Phase 2

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Oak-NGate (Stoke) Limited

by Helen Daniel

TVAS North Midlands

Site Code NLS 20/67

December 2022

Summary

Site name: Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire – Phase 2

Grid reference: SJ 8755 4180

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 17th to 21st October 2022

Project coordinator: Helen Daniel

Site supervisor: Helen Daniel

Site code: NLH20/67

Area of site: c. 3 hectares

Summary of results: Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present, there was no evidence of any human activity on the site prior to the post-medieval period. The only features observed related to agricultural activity or were found to be modern in origin. Four trenches yielded unstratified pottery dating from the mid-18th to early 20th centuries, which although limited in both number and range is typical of north Staffordshire sites of this date. On the basis of these results, the Phase 2 site is considered to have minimal archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent with accession number STKMG:2020.LH.25.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 20.12.22 Steve Preston✓ 20.12.22

Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire An Archaeological Evaluation (phase 2)

by Helen Daniel

Report 20/67b

Introduction

This report documents the results of Phase 2 of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land off New Inn Lane, Hanford, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire (NGR: SJ 8755 4180) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steve Black, Design Manager of Oak-Ngate (Stoke) Ltd, New Inn Lane Stoke On Trent ST4 8HA.

A hybrid planning application (62889/HYB) was made to Stoke-on-Trent City Council. This comprised an outline application for residential development of up to 471 dwellings, primary school, a health centre and associated infrastructure and a full application for the erection of 29 dwellings including landscaping, open space and access (including alterations) from New Inn Lane. Part of the former is dealt with in this report and is referred to as Phase 2. The consent is subject to conditions (15 and 16), requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, to comprise evaluation by trial trenching. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the City Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority as advised by Mr Jonathan Goodwin, Senior Planning Archaeologist for Stoke-on-Trent City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Helen Daniel and Megan Wiggin between 17th and 21st October 2022 and the site code is NLH20/67. The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent with accession number STKMG:2020.LH.25.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-eastern side of New Inn Lane, c.850m south of the village of Hanford, on the south-west margins of the city of Stoke-on-Trent (Fig. 1). The River Trent lies around 750m to the west of the site. The overall site is currently scrubland and the Phase 2 area (Fig. 2) has a gentle slope from an elevation of 111m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north down to 105m aOD in the southern corner. On the western half of the site, the geology is mapped as alternating east-west bands of Halesowen Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstones; to the east of the site the mapping superficial deposits of Devensian till, diamicton (BGS 1974). The geology observed in the trenches was mostly clay.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (STAS 2016) and Environmental Statement (GDAL 2019). In summary, the assessment highlighted that the site contains the remnants of a medieval open-field system, fossilized by later enclosure. The site does not contain any designated heritage assets, although the Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area is located within close proximity to the east. The Historic Landscape Characterisation for the area shows the site to be dominated by piecemeal enclosure; formerly open arable fields, identifiable on map evidence by reverse 'S' and dog-leg field boundaries, which were enclosed incrementally by informal agreement between the early 16th and 18th centuries (SCC 2011).

Further interest in the site is informed by archaeological discoveries ranging from the Bronze Age to the post-medieval period beyond the boundaries of the site.

Trial trenching at Wilson Road (South Hanford Farm) revealed some evidence for a medieval and post-medieval field system. Several archaeological investigations have been undertaken at Sideway Farm, the site of an 18th-century farmstead, revealing evidence of the farmhouse and remains of ridge and furrow. Evaluation trenching at the site of the Bull's Head, a 1930s roadhouse-type pub which replaced an 18th-century coaching inn found no evidence of activity prior to the construction of the 1930s building (STAS 2016, 8).

Most recently, in 2012, a geophysical survey undertaken on land to the south of Wilson Road recorded several anomalies representing possible ditches and areas of burning and/or fired material. These were adjacent to the find spot of a broken piece of Late Bronze Age Ewart Park-type sword found by metal-detectorist in 1995, which notably was found to join with another fragment of sword, found in 1982 at Trentham Park, Swynnerton c.2.5km to the south-west. Both sword fragments were found on inter-visible hill-top locations, leading to the suggestion that the sword had been deliberately broken and ritually deposited. Within the wider area there is a Bronze Age round barrow at Northwood Farm, Trentham to the south-west. A burial mound on the west side of Trentham park was apparently destroyed in the early 19th century (Tringham 2013a). Place name evidence may also suggest the former presence of a barrow on a hill known as Cop Low, now partly quarried away, to the north-east. Scattered finds dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age include a stone macehead of Neolithic to early Bronze Age date that was found to the west (STAS 2016, 9).

There is some evidence to suggest the presence of a Roman road in Hanchurch west of Hanford, which may have been part of a road extending between Stafford and Chester (Tringham 2013a). Otherwise evidence for

Roman activity in the area is limited to a possible Roman bracelet found in the north west of the study area, and a Roman coin found close to New Inn Lane (STAS 2016, 9).

The evidence for Saxon/early medieval occupation in the study area may derive from the place name Hanford. Recorded in Domesday as *Heneford* and subsequently as *Honeford* or *Honford*, the name is thought to derive from the Anglo Saxon *Heānford*, meaning “a high ford”, and possibly refers to the hilltop location of the settlement, at the foot of which is a crossing of the River Trent (Duignan 1902).

Hanford is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and evidence for medieval activity within the study area is supplied by ridge and furrow earthworks identified on a 2007 aerial photograph in the east of the area, alongside the Trent and Mersey canal. Traces of ridge and furrow were also identified further north in the course of evaluation trenching at Sideway Farm.

The predominately agrarian character of the area persisted into the post-medieval period. A watermill, New Inn Mill, seemingly utilised as a corn mill, was present towards the south side of the study area from at least the late 18th century. A brick and tile making industry in the area was begun in the early 18th century, with expansion in the late 18th century and on the east side of the site, a brick works east of Wilson Road (later Hanford Tileries), was established by 1818 and continued in operation until just before the First World War (Tringham 2013b).

In August 2021, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on Phase 1 of the development. A total of twenty-two trenches were excavated and whilst they all yielded unstratified pottery of mid-19th century date, the only features recorded related to former field boundaries which can be traced on historic mapping, or modern service and drainage works (Daniel 2021).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of this project are;

to determine if there are later prehistoric or Roman deposits present on the site.

to determine if there are Medieval deposits present on the site.

It was proposed to excavate fifteen trenches, each 25m long and between 1.6–2m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological

features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in Historic England's *Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the *West Midlands Research Framework* (Watt 2016).

Results

A total of fifteen trenches were excavated, the majority were dug as intended (Fig. 3). The trenches ranged in length from 23m to 27.5m and in depth from 0.3m to 0.48m. Following consultation with the monitor, the position of one trench (6) and the alignments of four trenches (7, 9, 10 and 12) were altered due to their proximity to protected habitats. The same issue also required the lengths of three of the trenches to be shortened (11, 14 and 15); trenches 9 and 13 were lengthened to compensate.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned E-W and was 24.7m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of dark brown silty loam topsoil, above 0.15m of brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, overlying red-orange and purple-red clay natural geology with patches of buff sand containing occasional medium rounded sandstones. A stone and tile land-drain was observed at the western end of the trench. Four unstratified ceramic sherds were recovered, dating from the mid-18th century to the mid-19th century.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned close to N – S and was 24.6m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m dark brown silty loam topsoil, over 0.10m of brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, overlying red-orange and yellow-orange clay natural geology. A clay land-drain pipe was observed towards the northern end of the trench. Twelve unstratified ceramic sherds were recovered, dating from the early 18th century to the mid-19th century, as well as a clay tobacco pipe stem and a fragment of roof tile.

Trench 3 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Pls 3, 9 and 10)

Trench 3 was aligned NE – SW and was 25.5m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of dark brown silty loam topsoil, over 0.20m of brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, overlying yellow-orange clay

natural geology. Three unstratified ceramic sherds were recovered, dating from the late 18th century to the early 20th century, as well as fragments of brick and floor tile.

A number of linear features were observed in this trench and investigated but only two were of significant depth, those at 20m and 13m from the south-western end of the trench. Gully 1 was aligned NNW–SSE, 1.9m long by 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with a grey-brown silty clay (52) (Pl. 9). Gully 2 was aligned NW–SE, perpendicular to the trench and was 1.6m long by 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep and filled with an orange-brown silty clay (53) (Pl. 10). Neither feature produced any finds. From their shallow depth, similar fills and straight form they have been interpreted as steam-plough scars of post-medieval date, but likely to be from separate episodes due to their different alignment.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 7 was aligned NE – SW and was 24.7m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of dark brown silty loam topsoil, over 0.12m of brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, overlying red-orange clay natural geology. Three stone and tile land-drains were observed at 2.4m, 13.3m and 19.4m from the south-western end of the trench. Five unstratified ceramic sherds were recovered, dating from the mid-18th century to the early 20th century as well as a fragment of roof tile.

Trenches 4-6 and 8-15 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pls 5 – 8)

The remaining trenches measured between 23m and 27.5m long and between 0.3m and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of a maximum 0.3m of dark brown silty loam topsoil, above a maximum 0.21m of brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, overlying red-orange clay natural geology. Stone and tile land-drains were observed in six of these trenches (6, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15) and a clay land-drain pipe in another (8). Also in trench 13 were patches of dirty clay with gritty asphalt-like inclusions. This deposit was in two small but distinct areas at the southern end of the trench but neither had any obvious form when cleaned back. The deposit was very shallow but compact and seemed to represent a backfill event comprising bitumen, gravel and some redeposited brown-grey clay. No finds were recovered from any of these trenches.

Finds

Pottery by David Barker

Only four of the fifteen trenches yielded pottery, totalling 24 sherds along with one clay tobacco pipe stem, one floor tile, one roof tile, a fragment of brick and one uncertain ceramic piece. Only Trench 2 yielded more than a handful of sherds, and even that totalled only twelve sherds. A full overview of the ceramic finds by trench is given in Appendix 3.

A limited range of ware types and vessel forms is present. Refined earthenwares predominate with sherds creamware, pearlware and whiteware forming the majority of the types; some of the white-bodied earthenware types cannot easily be distinguished from the others. There are also two sherds of bone china.

None of the vessels is particularly diagnostic and all are typical finds of the late 18th to early 20th centuries, present in quantity both production and domestic groups in the Potteries. A limited amount of blue printed decoration is present and sherds of 'willow' pattern can be identified.

No kiln furniture is present and there are just four biscuit sherds present, suggesting that a lower proportion of pottery production waste is present than might be expected in town centre locations in the area. The presence of a brown stoneware kitchenware vessel which is not a local product indicates that a proportion of the ceramics could be domestic waste, perhaps brought onto the site with night soil collected from nearby houses.

The absence of diagnostic vessel forms, ware types or decoration, is unhelpful in terms of dating, but broadly the material dates to the late 18th to early 20th centuries. The twelve sherds from Trench 2 appear to have an early to mid 19th century date range.

In conclusion the ceramics have some resemblance to the general range of background material found throughout the Potteries, but the limited quantity of ceramics which are obviously production waste may suggest a domestic origin for many of the pieces. The finds do not merit retention.

Conclusion

The evaluation was carried out as intended apart from slight alterations to the position or length of eight of the trenches, for reasons of tree/habitat protection. Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present, there was no evidence of any human activity on the site prior to the late post-medieval period. The only features observed related to agricultural activity or were found to be geological in origin. There was unstratified pottery found in four of the trenches. The pottery assemblage whilst limited ranged from the late 18th to early 20th centuries. It is typical of north Staffordshire sites of this date and is comparable to that recovered from Phase 1. On the basis of these results, the Phase 2 site is considered to have minimal archaeological potential.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at W or S end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.7	1.8	0.48	0–0.28m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.28–0.43m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.43–0.48m red-orange and purple-red clay natural geology with patches of buff sand containing occasional medium rounded sandstone. [Pl. 1]
2	24.6	1.8	0.37	0–0.26m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.26–0.36m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.36–0.37m red-orange and yellow-orange clay natural geology. [Pl. 2]
3	25.5	1.8	0.45	0–0.25m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.25–0.45m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.45m+ yellow-orange clay natural geology. Plough scars 1 and 2 [Pls 3, 9 and 10]
4	25.5	1.8	0.43	0–0.30m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.30–0.42m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.42–0.43m red-orange clay natural geology.
5	26.2	1.8	0.35	0–0.23m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.23–0.33m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.33–0.35m red-orange clay natural geology.
6	24.3	1.8	0.45	0–0.21m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.21–0.42m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.42–0.45m red-orange clay natural geology.
7	24.7	1.8	0.35	0–0.22m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.22–0.34m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.34–0.35m red-orange clay natural geology. [Pl. 4]
8	26	1.8	0.45	0–0.25m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.25–0.40m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.40–0.45m red-orange clay natural geology.
9	26.9	1.8	0.37	0–0.24m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.24–0.35m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.35–0.37m red-orange clay natural geology. [Pl. 5]
10	25	1.8	0.35	0–0.23m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.23–0.33m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.33–0.35m red-orange clay natural geology.
11	23.5	1.8	0.4	0–0.20m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.20–0.36m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.36–0.4m red-orange clay natural geology. [Pl. 6]
12	24.9	1.8	0.35	0–0.20m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.20–0.33m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.33–0.35m red-orange clay natural geology.
13	27.5	1.8	0.37	0–0.26m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.26–0.36m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.36–0.37m red-orange clay natural geology. [Pl. 7]
14	23	1.8	0.35	0–0.16m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.16–0.31m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.31–0.35m red-orange clay natural geology. [Pl. 8]
15	24	1.8	0.3	0–0.16m dark brown silty loam topsoil, 0.16–0.31m brownish-orange silty clay subsoil, 0.31–0.3m red-orange clay natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
3	1	52	Plough Scar	Post-medieval	Form
3	2	53	Plough Scar	Post-medieval	Form

APPENDIX 3: Overview of finds by Trench

Trench 1: Ceramics: 4 sherds: 1 sherd of a pearlware plate rim printed with blue 'willow pattern'; 1 minute sherd of creamware/ pearlware mug or cup; 1 sherd of a whiteware plate rim printed with blue 'willow pattern' and a body sherd of a mug in creamware/ pearlware/whiteware.

Date range: mid C18 – mid C19

Trench 2: Ceramics: 12 sherds; CBM: 1 clay tobacco pipe stem; 1 roof tile. The ceramics comprise 1 sherd of a pearlware saucer with blue printed pattern; 4 sherds of pearlware/whiteware (including 2 plate rims and a bowl base with blue printed and 'willow pattern' and a round bodied vessel); 4 sherds of whiteware (including a jug body sherd and 2 plate/saucer rims and a basin body with blue printed); 1 sherd of a small thin-walled redware vessel; 1 sherd of a coarse earthenware dish; 1 sherd of a bone china cup with moulded ribs.

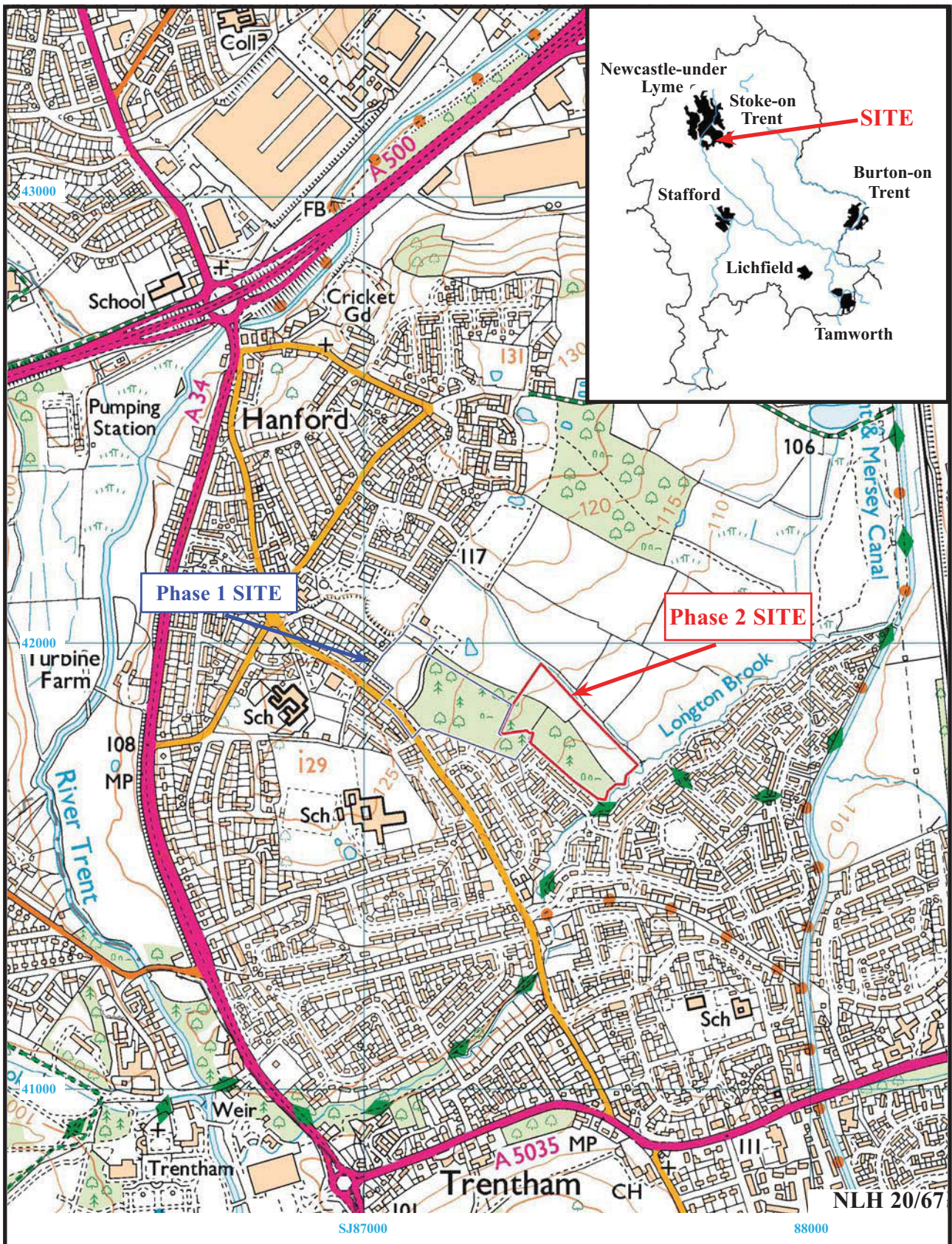
Date range: early C18 – mid C19

Trench 3: Ceramics: 3 sherds; CBM: 1 fragment of brick; 1 floor tile. The ceramics include 1 sherd of 1 sherd of creamware/pearlware; 2 sherds of pearlware (including 1 plate rims with moulded shell edge with blue underglaze and 1 saucer base with printed blue decoration);

Date range: late C18 – early C20

Trench 7: Ceramics: 5 sherds; CBM: 1 roof tile. The ceramics comprise 1 sherd of a pearlware/whiteware dish rim; 1 sherd of creamware/ pearlware; 1 sherd of a whiteware plate rim; 1 sherd of a bone china cup base and 1 sherd of a brown externally salt-glazed stoneware stew or stock pot with external roulette pattern and internal green-brown Bristol glaze.

Date range: mid C18 – early C20

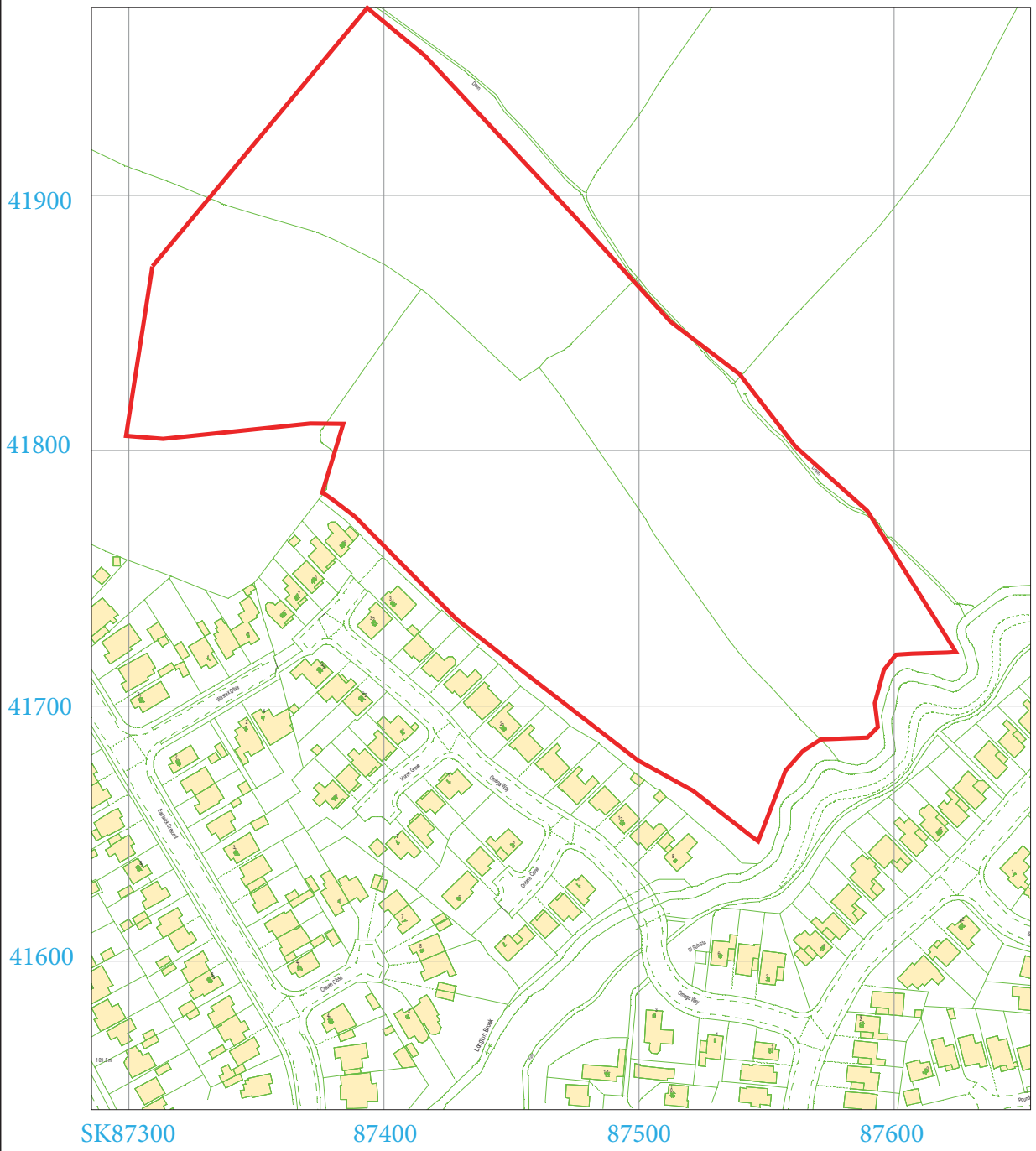


**Phase 2 - Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford,
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Hanford and Staffordshire.

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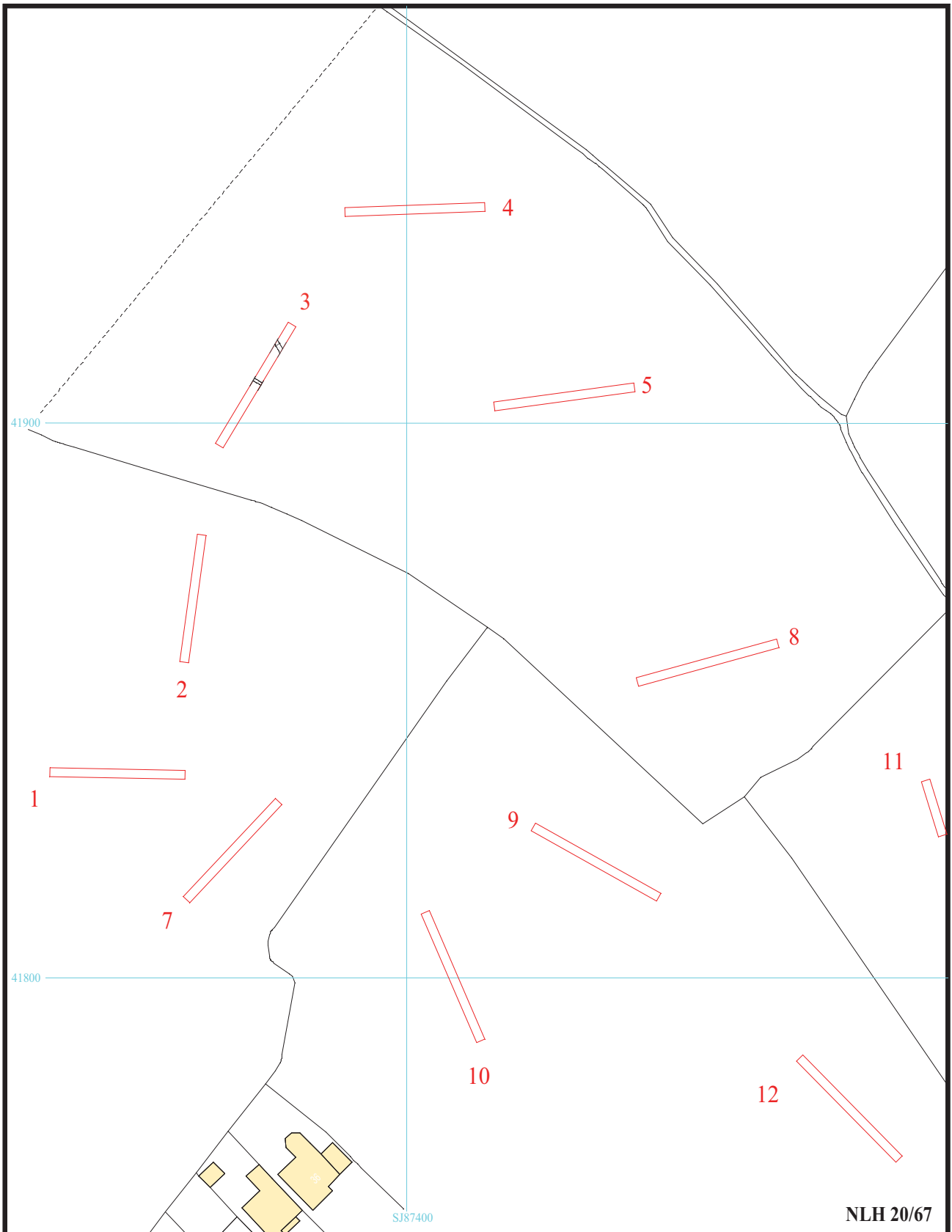
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**Phase 2 - Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire**
Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 2. Detailed location of site

Scale: 1:2500



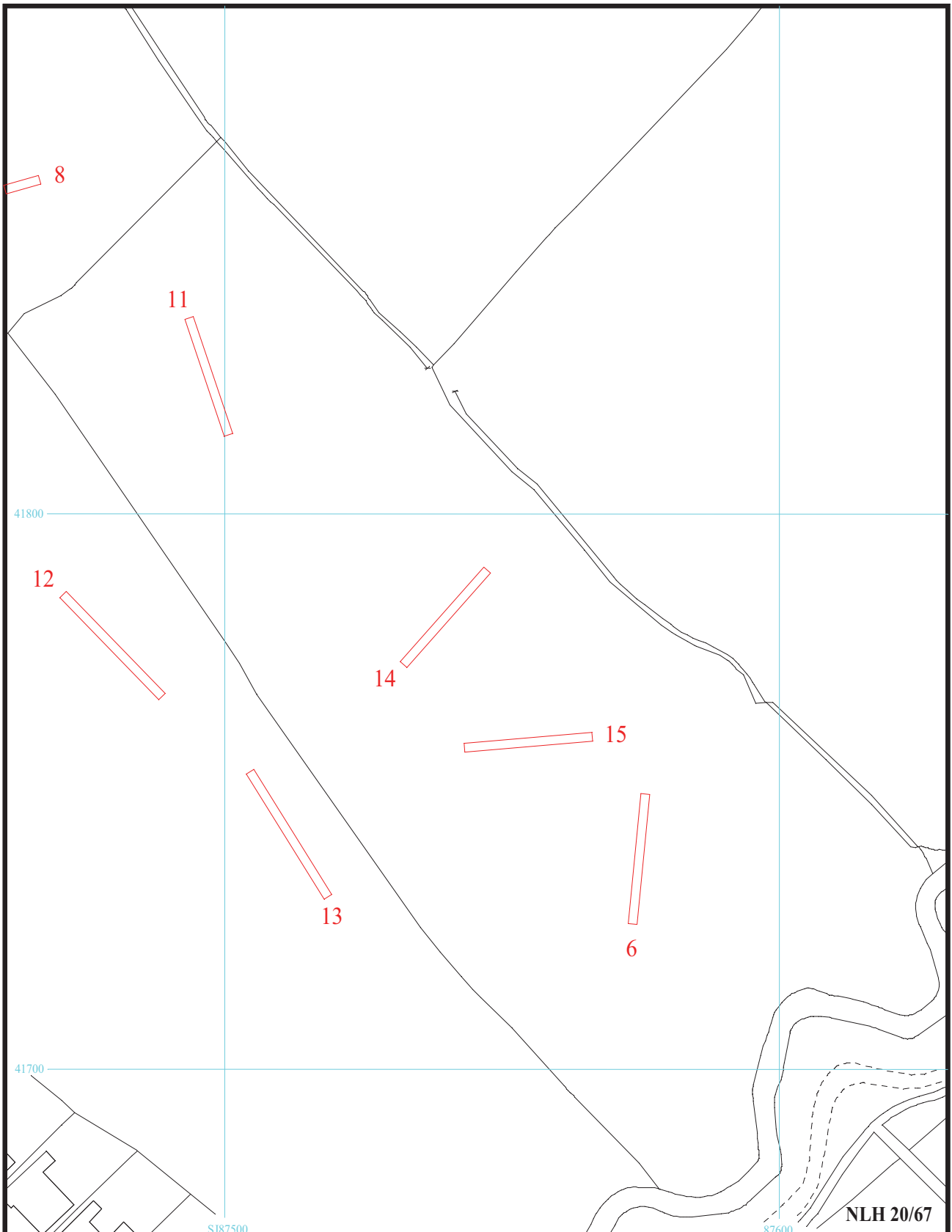


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**Phase 2 - New Inn Lane, Hanford,
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Figure 3. Position of trenches and features recorded in north-west of site.



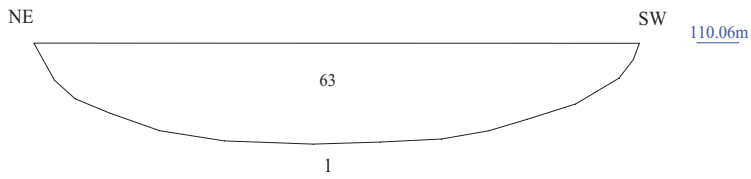
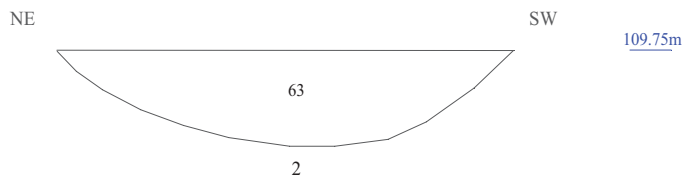
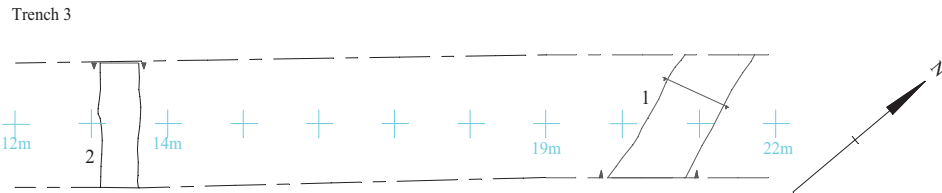


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Figure 4. Position of trenches in south-eastern area.





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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Plan of trench 3 and sections of features.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking North East,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 7, looking North, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**Phase 2 - Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford,
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Plates 1 to 4.**





Plate 5. Trench 9, looking North,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Trench 11, looking North,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 7. Trench 13, looking North,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 8. Trench 14, looking North East,
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**Phase 2 - Land at New Inn Lane, Hanford,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 to 8.**





Plate 9. Trench 3, gully or ?plough scar 1, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 10. Trench 3, gully or ?plough scar 2 looking north, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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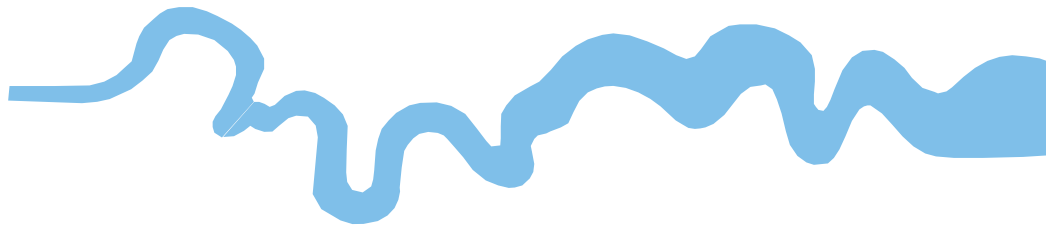
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Plates 9 to 10.

T V A S
NORTH MIDLANDS

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





**TVAS (North Midlands),
2b Stanton Road, Meir,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST3 6DD**

**Tel: 01782 595648
Email: northmidlands@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands**

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