

Archaeological Investigation Report

CHESTER RACECOURSE

For Ramboll UK Ltd.

Matthew Jones and Matthew Williams

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Investigation Report

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Abstract

This report concerns the results of archaeological works carried out at Chester Racecourse, Chester. The works were conducted in preparation for a new restaurant with associated car park and children's play area which are to be built on the site. These works consisted of a watching brief on the footings/services for the restaurant and a strip, map and sample conducted following the results of the evaluation trenching.

The works were conducted between October 2012 and January 2013 and were conducted by L-P: Archaeology and their staff.

Archaeological investigation revealed a complex series of in excess of 150 postholes, along with a number of linear features and pits. All features were of Post-medieval date with a date range from the early Eighteenth – late Twentieth century. The majority of these features are believed to be associated with the use of the site for a large variety of events including County Fairs, Military Tattoos and Scout Jamborees.

Two distinct phases separated by a thick layer of silt material deposited during the periodic flooding of the site were identified. The underlying natural geology was not reached during excavation and the material at the base of the excavated area was flood deposited silt.

1. Introduction

1.1. This document has been prepared by Matthew Jones and Matthew Williams for Ramboll UK Ltd on behalf of Chester Racecourse Company Ltd. and contains the results of the archaeological trial trenching, watching brief and strip, map and sample. The fieldwork was carried out by Blair Poole, Cat Rees and Matt Jones of L – P : Archaeology during October 2012 and February 2013. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Jacek Gruszczynski of Ramboll UK Ltd (RAMBOLL 2012) and agreed with the client and Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC). The planning application reference is 12/03663/FUL.

1.2. Chester racecourse is located outside the City Walls at the south west corner of the City (FIGURE 1). The site is a turfed area within the racecourse grounds, to the north west of the parade ring. The height of the site is c. 5.40m OD and slopes gently down to 5.10m OD in the north west.

1.3. The bedrock of the site is Kinnerton Sandstone Formation overlain by Quaternary alluvial deposits (RAMBOLL 2012). The evaluation confirmed alluvial deposits to a depth of 0.7m.

2. Archaeology and History

2.1.HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1. The racecourse is situated on an area of flat land in a loop of the River Dee known as the 'Roodee', which is thought to derive from the Saxon 'Rood' (cross) and the Norse 'eye' meaning 'The island of the cross'. During the Roman and Saxon periods the Roodee was submerged under a tidal pool on the west side of the River Dee, with the exception of a small island located in the present racecourse.

MEDIEVAL PERIOD

2.1.2. Since the Middle Ages this area of the Roodee was used for grazing and pasture by the residents of Chester. This is first referenced by a monk named Lucian in a document compiled in 1195 and in his work he comments that the land is often wet and dry. A Charter was issued in 1300 by Edward I which granted the land to the citizens of Chester for a 'free farm' rent of £100 a year. Records in 1463 show that the land remained free of a tithes to the Rector of Holy Trinity as it was land reclaimed from the sea. This 'free farm' rent was then reconfirmed by Henry VII in 1506 (GRISENTHWAITE 1983: 37).

2.1.3. The earliest mention of a horse race being held on the Roodee is written in the Chester Assembly records which state that a race was run here in 1539 in place of the usual football match which had become too violent for the city authorities to control (GRISENTHWAITE 1983: 37).

2.1.4. The Chester Assembly treasury accounts of 1554-55 show that the Roodee was not exclusively used for racing and was still an active source of income for the city as the area netted £10 12s 3d for use as grazing (GRISENTHWAITE 1983: 38).

2.1.5. The Braun and Hog Map of 1581 does not show any formalised race track. The only marked structure on this document is a cross within a small enclosure and an image of a cow which has presumably been to indicate that the land was in use as pasture.

POST MEDIEVAL PERIOD

- 2.1.6. In his *Tours of Wales* books (completed in 1778) Pennant describes the first formalised race at the Roodee as having been held on St Georges day, 1609 where the prize was recorded as being a 'bell and a bowl' (PENNANT 1883:244).
- 2.1.7. Speed's 1610 Map of Chester names the Roodee as 'The Roode Eye'. There is a depiction of a man on a horse and two figures, one of which is carrying a pole. This would seem to indicate that the land still had a mixed use but that the use of the area as a racetrack was well established by this date. The cross shown on the aforementioned Braun and Hogg Map is still shown in position on a plinth.
- 2.1.8. During the civil war before the siege of Chester in 1643 the Roodee was used as a mustering ground for locals (GRISENTHWAITE 1983:3).
- 2.1.9. Hemingways Map of 1645 shows nothing within the study area but names the land as the 'Rood eye'. Hollar's map of 1653 shows two streams along the south-west axis of the site which both run into the River Dee.
- 2.1.10. A petition to build a bowling alley on the Roodee was granted in 1663 (GRISENTHWAITE 1983:39) although no physical or cartographic evidence has been found relating to this site. An anonymous map of Chester compiled in 1690 shows no structures on the site apart from the aforementioned cross on a two tiered stand.
- 2.1.11. Grisenthwaite (1983:39) comments that in 1709 the land of Roodee was enlarged, but it may be the case that this actually happened a little later following the inundation of the area in 1720 (ANON 1914). Two anonymous maps dated 1745 (Figures X and X) show a series of possible banks and ditches which could indicate this period of expansion although there was a second inundation recorded in 1750 which caused much damage to the cop (ANON 1914).
- 2.1.12. A copy of a lithography from 1753 published by Carter shows a formalised circular track with racing post, starting gates and a race in action. Inside the track is shown a cop and a mix of adult and children spectators.
- 2.1.13. Cowdroy's *Directory of Cheshire* in 1789 (COWDROY 1789:28) records that

horse races are run annually in the first week of May. He states that 'not a single yard of the view being lost by the eye of the spectator in any situation'.

2.1.14. Stockdale's Map of 1796 clearly shows the racecourse setting with two starting chairs - one marked for aged horse and four year old colts, and one marked as a Distance Chair. The course is shown to be marked out by posts.

2.1.15. Cole's Map of 1805 and Neele's Map of 1809 show no changes from the Stockdale Map but by the time of Neele's 1817 map the horse starting chairs are no longer marked.

2.1.16. Grisenthwaite (1983:39) records that the first grandstand on the site was built in 1817 and a new building appears on Batenham's Map of 1821. It is located opposite the starting chairs and this structure is marked as a grandstand on Cole's maps of 1836, 1843 and 1851.

2.1.17. Pullan's pictorial plan of Chester 1851 shows the race track marked out by a double set of posts along with the Distance Chair, Winning Posts, Grosvenor Course Post, Cup Course Post and the One and Two Mile Posts. There is a depiction of the 'Dee' race stand and an area for tents is marked within the race track.

2.1.18. Thomas' 1853 plan of Chester and Gresty's 1870 Map of the town both show the Grandstand and stadium and name 'The Cop', the Roodee's defences against the Dee. The 1875 Ordnance Survey Map shows few changes to the site although there does appear to have been a few smaller buildings added to the stadium complex.

2.1.19. Throughout the 1800's the area of the racecourse was used by numerous groups for public and private celebrations. In 1823 the Viscount Belgrave held a party to celebrate the birth of his son to which he invited the whole city (GRISENTHWAITE 1983:40).

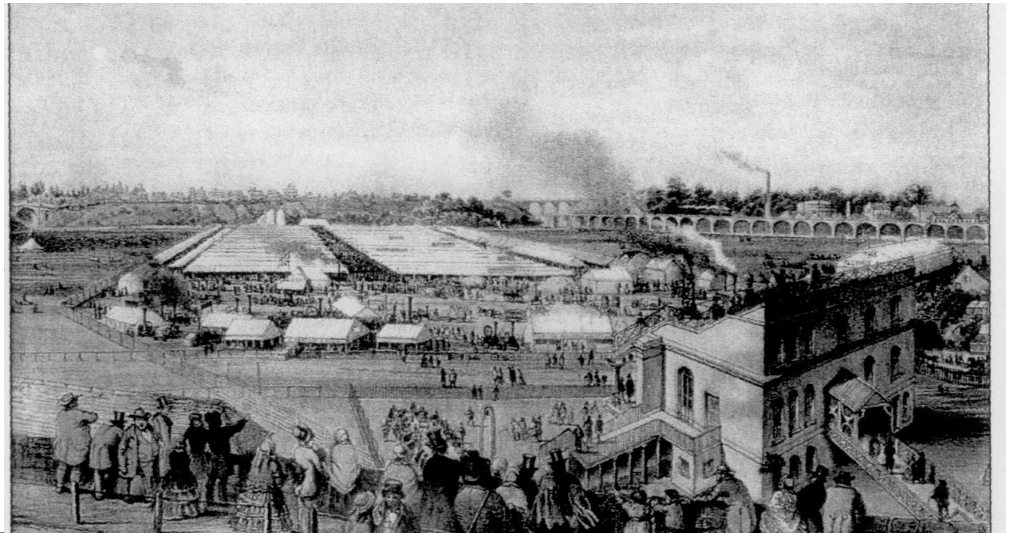


Plate 1 - Agricultural Show 1853 (courtesy of Grosvenor Museum)

2.1.20. The Royal Agricultural Show is listed as being held on the site most years between 1843 and 1893 although there were a few exceptions when there were disagreements with the Racecourse Committee (FREUM 1893:498-547). In 1866 the Welsh National Eisteddfod was held at the racecourse and this event would have necessitated the erection of great number of tents and marquees (MACKAY 1866).

2.1.21. Various activities took place on the ground throughout the 20th century including Scout Jamborees and the Chester Festival in 1951.



Plate 2 - Photograph of the Chester Festival 1951 (Taplen and Paddock Ltd)

2.2.PREVIOUS WORK

- 2.2.1. There have been two significant previous interventions in the Racecourse. A watching brief at the Owners and Trainers pavilion (GIFFORD 2008) revealed a brick cambered road below the topsoil at 0.20m BGL. Below the sand bedding of the road was a sand silt (17) which contained late 17th to early 18th century pottery. This overlay grey brown sand silt (18) at 0.60m BGL. To the west of the road, adjacent to the current evaluation site, various layers of rubble were recorded immediately below the topsoil. These sealed a yellow grey silt (21) which was cut by two ditches and numerous post holes. The post holes were 0.25-0.40m across, with vertical sides and flat bases. One contained 18th century pottery and another contained Roman ceramic building material.
- 2.2.2. Watching brief during alterations to the parade ring (GIFFORD 2009) to the south of the current evaluation also revealed alluvial sand silt (4) below 0.40m of topsoil. Similar post holes to those recorded during the 2008 watching brief, as well as pits, ditches and gullies were recorded cut into (4). Finds from these features included 19th century pottery, charcoal and roof slate fragments. The features were interpreted in the assessment reports as fences and temporary structures associated with stalls and fairs held on the Roodee (GIFFORD 2008 AND 2009).

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. The general aim of the evaluation as stated in the WSI was to assess the nature, character, extent and significance of archaeological deposits within the site. Specific aims of the investigations were:

- ◆ to examine the post Roman depositional sequences;
- ◆ to investigate Post Medieval uses for the site; and
- ◆ to investigate earlier race course layouts.

4. Methodology

4.1. EVALUATION

4.1.1. The excavations at Chester Racecourse were conducted as three separate phases of work. The initial phase of works was undertaken in October 2012 and involved the machine excavation of four evaluation trenches in the proposed car park and play area. Three of the trenches measured 15m x 2m and a fourth trench measured 10m x 2m. The maximum machine excavated depth was 0.68m. These works were intended to establish the the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within this development area and to compare it with the results of earlier excavations conducted in the vicinity by Giffords in 2008 and 2009 (Report Numbers 14427/96 R03 and 12626-CH001).

4.2. STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE

4.2.1. The strip, map and sample was carried out in the car park area. Due to the concentration of features identified only a limited percentage (approximately 15%) of features were excavated in order to confirm dating evidence and clarify feature types.

4.2.2. As part of the strip and map a single trench was opened in the play area which confirmed that the development formation level would not impact the archaeological horizon.

4.3. WATCHING BRIEF

4.3.1. The watching brief was carried out on the footings/service trenches for the

'White Horse' restaurant. The excavation of the larger pumping station was also carried out as part of this stage of works. All ground works within this area were conducted under archaeological supervision. All features which were encountered within the footprints were hand excavated and evaluated in order to determine their form, function and date. Machine excavation was ceased when features were identified and time allowed for excavation. The machine excavation was then continued until the next archaeological horizon/required depth was reached. Works were conducted during inclement weather during November and December 2012 and there was an issue with trench subsidence, particularly when the area which was to house the pump was excavated.

- 4.3.2. Archaeological deposits were hand cleaned and recorded in plan and section. A full description of the methodology employed is given in the WSI.

5. Results

5.1.EVALUATION

5.1.1. The location of the trenches is shown in Figure 2.

TRENCH 1 (FIGURE 3)

5.1.2. (Dimensions - 15m x 2m, Maximum Depth 0.65m. Orientation SE - NW).

Deposit (E101) was a turf/top soil layer consisting of a black silty clay covered with a thin turf layer. This deposit extended beyond the trench area and had an average thickness of 0.40m. Underlying this context was deposit (E102), a light yellow silty sand. This deposit was machined to a depth 0.25m although it did continue below this level. Eleven cut features were record within this trench and all were seen to cut deposit (E102).

5.1.3. Context (E103) was assigned to group of four modern, rectangular post holes. These post holes were all roughly the same size and the average dimensions were – length in plan 0.41m, width in plan 0.22m and depth of feature 0.60m. This group also exhibited identical profiles and had an steep break of slope at the top of the feature, straight vertical sides and a flat base. All contained a single mid brown silty-sand fill with no inclusions. Late Nineteenth Century pottery and glass was recovered from a number of these post holes.

5.1.4. Context (E104) was assigned to group of three small rectangular features which were arranged in a roughly diagonal line. These features measured 0.11m (length in plan) x 0.09m (width in plan) and survived to a depth of 0.06m. As with features in Group (E103) all features contained a single mid brown silty-sand fill with no inclusions.

5.1.5. Context (E105) was a feature number assigned to a sub-rectangular post hole with associated post pipe and fill. The fill was made up degraded wood and was clearly of modern origin. The cut of the feature measured 0.17m x 0.21 and had a depth of 0.20m.

5.1.6. Contexts (E106) and (E107) were feature numbers assigned to two roughly square post holes of equal size. Each measured 0.30m x 0.21m and had a depth of 0.11m. Each feature contained a single mid brown silty-sand fill with no

inclusions.

- 5.1.7. Feature (E108) was an oval post hole measuring 0.36mx 0.23m and surviving to a depth of 0.21m. It contained a mid brown silty-sand fill. A single fragment of a orange-red ceramic building material was recovered from this fill.

TRENCH 2 (FIGURE 4)

- 5.1.8. (Dimensions - 15m x 2m, Maximum Depth 0.60m. Orientation SE – NW). Three main contexts were identified within this trench - (E201) a black silty clay turf/top soil layer (depth 0.10m), (E202) a mid brown-grey sandy clay subsoil layer (depth 0.25m), and (E203) a light yellow silty sand (depth 0.25m). Eighteen features were recorded within this trench and all the features recorded were cut from the sub-soil level. Unless otherwise stated features cut layer (E202).
- 5.1.9. Context (E204) was a group number assigned to four sub-square post holes measuring approximately 0.30m x 0.30m. These features survived to depths of between 0.18m and 0.25m and all features had steep vertical sides and flat bases. All contained a single mid to light brown silty sand fill. A single piece of early 1900's ceramic was recovered from the fill of one of these post holes.
- 5.1.10. Context (E205) was a group number assigned to three modern post holes/pits. These features were recorded within the section edge and the feature depths ranged from 0.42m to 0.61m. All features were filled with a single mottled yellow grey fill. It was clear from examination of the sections that these pits are cut through from below the top soil level.
- 5.1.11. Context (E206) was a group number assigned to four circular post holes. The diameters of these postholes ranged from 0.09m to 0.12m and the depths ranged from 0.24m to 0.51m. The high water table in this area of the trench did not allow for full excavation of all features. All four post holes had vertical sides and were filled with a single brown-grey fill with a similar composition to the sub soil. These features were also cut through from below the topsoil level and part of this group of post holes cut features within group (E205). It can therefore be shown that group (E206) is later than group (E205) although

both groups are believed to be modern.

5.1.12.Context (E207) was a group number assigned to two rectangular post holes. These measured 0.16m x 0.09m and 0.12m x 0.08m. Both were very shallow with both only surviving to a maximum depth of 0.03m. Both features had a steeped sided profile with a flat base. Each contained a single mottled grey yellow silt-sand fill.

5.1.13.Context (E208) was a group number assigned to four square post holes similar to group (E204). Each measured 0.30m x 0.30m in plan and survived to a depth of between 0.20m and 0.32m. Each feature contained a single mid-brown grey silty sand fill.

5.1.14.A single stake hole was identified and assigned context numbers [E209] and (E210). The stake had been pushed into the ground and this action left a hole which was circular in plan (diameter 0.07m) and had a steep sided profile with a concave base. It survived to a depth of 0.15m. Following the removal of the stake the void had been filled naturally with a dark brown grey silt.

5.1.15.Contexts [E211] and (E212) were context numbers assigned to the cut and fill of a square post hole. This feature was almost identical to those included in groups (E204) and (E208) and measured 0.30m by 0.30m. The post hole survived to a depth of 0.28m and contained a single mid-brown grey silty sand fill.

TRENCH 3 (FIGURE 5)

5.1.16.(Dimensions - 15m x 2m, Maximum Depth 0.68m. Orientation SW – NE). Four main contexts were identified within this trench - (E301) a black silty clay turf/top soil layer (depth 0.14m), (E302) a mid brown-grey sandy clay subsoil layer (depth of 0.26m), (E303) a was a light yellow silty sand deposit (depth 0.22m). A second sandy layer (E304) was identified below this layer and was excavated to a depth of 0.06m. It was only possible to distinguish between contexts (E303) and (E304) as they were separated by layer (E308).

5.1.17.Two cut features were identified within this trench along with two spreads of post medieval material associated with the demolition of earlier buildings on the site.

5.1.18.Context (E305) was a demolition layer identified in the the north-eastern end of the trench and was deposited between contexts (E302) and (E306). This deposit is associated with the demolition of the earlier stable blocks.

5.1.19.Contexts [E307] and (E306) were the cut and fill of shallow linear feature orientated along an east-west line. The feature survived outside the trench limits and within the trench ran for a length of 2.30m. It had a width of 0.60m and a maximum depth of 0.15m. The linear had a rounded concave profile and contained a single mid brown silty fill. This feature has been interpreted by the excavator as the remains of an old hedge line.

5.1.20.Context (E308) was a shallow dark grey firm silty trample layer containing charcoal and mortar fragments. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.03m. This spread divided flood silts (E303) and (E304) and covered part of the south western end of the trench. This material also fills feature [E310] which is an irregular shaped indentation with no known function.

5.1.21.Context (E308) clearly demonstrates that although the pale sandy silt layers identified in all four trenches appears to be homogeneous it is the result of numerous separate phases of inundation. These phases can only be divided when there is a layer of debris/darker occupation material between the episodes.

TRENCH 4 (FIGURE 6)

5.1.22.(Dimensions - 10m x 2m, Maximum Depth 0.68m. Orientation SW – NE). Five main contexts where identified within this trench, (E401) a black silty clay turf/top soil layer (maximum depth 0.30m), (E402) a mid brown-grey sandy clay subsoil layer (maximum depth 0.30m), (E403) a was a light yellow silty sand deposit (depth 0.25m), (E404) a mixed silty sand interface layer beneath (E403). The north-eastern end of the trench had been heavily disturbed and was backfilled with modern building hard core (E411). This material was not removed.

5.1.23.All the features detailed below ere recorded as having been cut from lower sand (E404) level. Three cut features were recorded in this trench.

5.1.24.Contexts [E406] and (E405) were the cut and fill of a sub-triangular post

/stake hole with a straight sided profile and a rounded base. The feature measured 0.38m in length and had a width measurement of 0.28m. The feature survived to a depth of 0.12m and contained a grey yellow silt sand fill.

5.1.25.Contexts [E408] and (E407) were the cut and fill of a circular post hole. The feature had a diameter of 0.6m, had straight sides and a concave base and survived to a depth of 0.6m. The fill was a very firm dark grey silt.

5.1.26.Contexts [E411], (E409) and (E410) were the cut and fills of a modern post hole. The feature was sub-rectangular in plan and had sharp, straight sides and a flat base. The dimensions were length 0.38m, width 0.30m with a depth 0.17m. The primary fill (E410) was a firm grey yellow sand with occasional brick fragments. This context surrounded a decayed rectangular wooden post which measured 0.15m x 0.8m and had a depth 0.10m.

5.2.STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE CAR PARK AREA (FIGURE 7)

5.2.1. This stage involved the monitored stripping of the car park area by mechanical excavator. A total of a hundred and thirty one features were identified within the stripped area. All features were recorded in plan and a sample of the features were excavated. Recognisable feature types were identified through this process. All features cut the upper silty sand flood deposit layer and were sealed by the subsoil layer.

5.2.2. The most common feature recognised during this phase of works was a sub-rectangular post hole and a hundred and two examples of this type were recorded within the car park area. Although there was some variation in size this was relatively limited and very few of the features were at the smaller end of the size range. The length and width ranges were between 0.18m -0.40m and the examples excavated had a depth range of 0.16m – 0.30m.

5.2.3. A sample of three of the sub- rectangular post holes were excavated (Features 1, 53 and 114). All three were found to have straight sides with sharp edges and break of slope at the top and bottom of the features. Feature 1 measured 0.18m x 0.16m and had a depth of 0.16m. Features 53 and 114 both fell between 0.30m and 0.40m and both had depths of between 0.20m and 0.30m.

- 5.2.4. Four linear features were identified all of which contained post medieval material (ceramic material and glass bottles). Two of these features (Features 49 and 52) were excavated. Feature 49 was located in the south-western area of the site and extends beyond the southern trench limits. Within the trench the feature measured approximately 3.20m in length. The excavated section was 0.60m in width and 0.26m in depth. The cut had straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. The feature contained a single dark silty clay fill with a high percentage of near complete or near complete glass bottles and broken ceramics. The bottles were all of an early 20th century type and produced by Laycocks of Chester. Ten bottles were recovered from the excavated area.
- 5.2.5. Linear feature 52 was located towards the mid-western area of the site. It was orientated on an east-west axis and ran for a distance of 4m. The feature width was 0.32m and the depth 0.18m and the cut had straight sides with a sharp break of slope leading to a flat base. The feature contained a single dark silty clay fill similar to the fill of feature 49. This fill contained broken ceramics and a single near complete 'Dee water company' Codd bottle of late 19th to early 20th century date.
- 5.2.6. A large ditch (feature 94) was identified running in an approximate north-west - south-east orientation across the site. The length of the feature was approximately 20m where seen and was approximately 1.40m wide. The feature survived to a depth of 0.28m and contained a single clay silt fill. Feature 94 is cut by feature 125 which runs along a similar axis and contained a slightly darker fill. Feature 125 is interpreted as a small drainage ditch.
- 5.2.7. Feature 128 was a shallow spread of dark brown soil measuring 2m in length with a width of 1.86m and a depth of 0.11m. The fill contained burnt material including ceramic building material and a pipe bowl and pottery dating from the 1600's although the layer does not necessarily date from this period.
- 5.2.8. Twenty-four circular post holes were recorded and a sample of three of these circular post holes (features 8, 45 and 115) were excavated. Feature 8 was a shallow circular posthole with a diameter of 0.20m and a depth of 0.03m. It

contained a single brown sandy fill with no inclusions noted. Feature 45 was a shallow circular pit with a diameter of 0.21m and a depth of 0.04m. It contained a single brown sandy fill with no inclusions noted. Feature 115 was a shallow circular pit with a diameter of 0.42m and a depth of 0.10m. It contained single dark brown sand silt fill with no inclusions noted. Unlike the sub-rectangular features discussed above none of the circular features showed any uniformity in size.

5.3.WATCHING BRIEF RESTAURANT AREA (FIGURE 8)

- 5.3.1. The watching brief was conducted on twenty-nine foundation pads and the beam excavations linking these pads. The foundation pads varied in size and six measured 1.75m x 1.75m with an excavated depth of 1m whilst the remaining twenty-three measured 1.50m x 1.50m with an excavated depth of 1m. All pads were connected by a strip footing which measured 0.60m wide and were generally 0.30m deep. The excavation of the area of the pumping station is discussed at the end of this section.
- 5.3.2. For ease of recording and the identification of feature locations all foundation pads were individually numbered on a site master plan. The strip footings are identified through their relation to these pads (i.e. between pads 1 and 2).
- 5.3.3. The development area was covered by a layer of modern hard standing (WB1) which was made up of three layers of medium sized gravels and stone. Below this layer was a fine grained, black organic silt sand layer (WB2) with occasional stone which also covered the whole development area. Both these layers are modern deposits which cover the lower layers of sandy silt flood deposits (WB3) and (WB4). Earlier activity was identified within these silts.
- 5.3.4. A demolition deposit (015) was identified within the area of Footing 12 and was located between contexts (WB2) and (WB3). It was the only context recorded as separating these deposits. This deposit was probably the result of the same actions identified in Trench 3 (305) during the evaluation phase.
- 5.3.5. Deposit (WB3) was a pale yellow silty sand deposit and the majority of features were recorded as being cut from this level. It is likely that some of these features were cut from a higher level which was just too disturbed by later

activity to be recorded. Features were recorded in pads 3, 8, 12, 15, 18, 21, and 24 and from the areas between pads 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 7, 7 and 8, 8 and 20, 20 and 21, and between pads 21 and 23.

5.3.6. Context (WB9) was a group number assigned to two modern post holes located between pads 1 and 2. These features were one sub-square post hole measuring 0.32m x 0.25 which survived to a depth of 0.30m and one small sub-rectangular post hole measuring 0.11m x 0.04m which survived to a depth of 0.12m.

5.3.7. A large irregular feature was located in the base of pad 3. It was assigned cut number [WB5] and contained fill (WB6). It extended beyond the trench limits and the maximum dimensions of the feature within the excavated area were 1.10m x 1.80m and the maximum depth was 0.23m. The cut was undulating and may have been more of a depression than a defined cut. It contained a single fill (WB6) which has been described as a fill or levelling layer. It was a mixed mid to light orange sand silt and lay at the water table level. It contained a mix of material including ceramic building material, coal and charcoal and a number of finds of late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth century date. These finds included pottery, bone, broken sandstone, coal and slate. This layer is believed to be the same as deposit (WB12) which was observed in pad 12.

5.3.8. Feature (WB7) was a Victorian cast iron pipe which was located in the strip footing between pads 3 and 4. The pipe ran approximately East-West and had a broken concrete slab covering and a mixed silt fill. The cut was 0.88m wide and ran across the full width of the footing. This pipe continued across the site and was also recorded between pads 8 and 20.

5.3.9. Five postholes (WB28-33) were recorded in pad 8. The post holes measured 0.32m x 0.25m and survived to a depth of 0.30m and were very similar to those recorded during the evaluation trenching phase. All features contained a single fill which was a dirty, mixed version of context (WB3) and were cut through from context (WB2).

5.3.10. Group (WB20) was a group of 5 features associated with group (WB8). All features were located within the footprint of pad 8. Within the group were

three feature types – sub-square post holes, circular post holes and a larger possible pit. There were two sub-square post holes measuring 0.35m x 0.40m and 0.24m x 0.22. Both survived to a depth of approximately 0.50m. There were also two circular post holes, one with a diameter of 0.28m (depth 0.50m) and one with a diameter of 0.22m (depth 0.30m). One of these post holes was cut by a square post hole and must belong to an earlier phase. The larger possible pit feature was not fully exposed in plan and the dimensions within the trench were 0.60m x 0.37m (depth 0.50m). It was also cut by one of the square post holes. All features were cut through layer (WB2) and contained a single dark brown-grey/ yellow mottled sandy silt fill.

5.3.11. A large pit or ditch terminal [WB10] was recorded within pad 12. The feature extended beyond the excavated area but the maximum recorded length was 2.20m and the depth was 0.54m. The pit contained a single black silty sand fill (WB11). This fill contained occasional broken sandstone fragments and artefacts recovered dated from the Roman era through to the late 19th century. Cattle bone was also recovered which showed signs of butchery. This feature cuts the upper sandy silt flood deposit (WB3) and is sealed by layer (WB15), a mixed demolition layer.

5.3.12. A further layer (WB12), believed to be a continuation of deposit (WB6) was located beneath flood deposit (WB3). This layer contained Post Medieval pottery and demolition material. This layer was within cut but unfortunately this could not be fully excavated as it was located at the water table level. It was therefore decided that as much artefactual material as possible would be gathered but the deposit could not be fully excavated nor could the cut be defined. This feature cut a second silty-sand flood deposit (WB14).

5.3.13. Pad 15 contained a north-east – south-west orientated ditch [WB16]. The ditch extended beyond the trench limits and a length of 1.65m was recorded. The ditch had a width of 1.30m and survived to a depth 0.40m. It had a bowl shaped, concave profile and contained a single fill (WB17). The fill was a mixed deposit of dark brown-black and yellow silty sand which contained no finds or inclusions. It was sealed by deposit (WB2).

- 5.3.14. A single rectangular post hole was recorded in pad 18. This feature was clearly very modern and was cut through deposit (WB2). It measured 0.30m x 0.25m and survived to a depth of 0.60m. The profile was straight sided and the feature had a flat base. It was not assigned a number but was recorded on a trench sheet.
- 5.3.15. There were a number of features located within the vicinity of pad 21. Two square post holes were located between pads 20 and 21 and a further square post hole was located between pads 21 and 23. Each feature measured c.0.30m x 0.30m and survived to a depth of around 0.50m. Each had a steep sided, flat based profile and contained a single mixed dark brown/yellow silty sand fill. This group was assigned the number (WB21) and all features were cut through layer (WB2).
- 5.3.16. A shallow ditch was running through the footprint of pad 21 (the feature was not assigned a number but is recorded on a trench sheet). This ditch ran the width of the pad and had a width of 0.53m. It survived to a depth of 0.34m and had a bowl shaped, concave profile and contained a single fill. The fill was a mixed deposit of dark brown-black and yellow silty sand which contained no finds or inclusions. It was sealed by deposit (WB2). It is likely that this feature was a continuation of ditch [WB16] identified in pad 15.
- 5.3.17. The final pad to contain features was pad 24. This pad contained a final modern rectangular post hole cut through deposit (WB2).
- 5.3.18. A larger area measuring approximately 2.5m x 9.0m was machine excavated to install a foul pumping station. This area is approximate only as when excavation was commenced the ground conditions were poor and waterlogged following heavy rain and snow melt. The sides collapsed on a number of occasions and it was unsafe to enter the trench. After a time it was clear that the trench sides would have to be shored for safety and this was carried out.
- 5.3.19. It is possible that features higher up may have been missed when the sides collapsed as large areas slumped in all at once. A thin layer (0.05m to 0.10m) of organic and demolition material was noted at a depth of between 1m and 1.5m but this could not be accurately measured as it was unsafe to approach

the trench. No finds could be seen within this layer but this depth is similar to that of layers (WB6) and (WB12) once more this material allowed the identification of different flooding incidents.

5.4.PLAY AREA

5.4.1. An 18m x 0.60m trench was excavated in the playground area (FIGURE 2) to the formation level of 0.25m below ground level. The excavation did not impact below the topsoil and further monitoring was not considered necessary in this area

5.5.PUMP EXCAVATION

5.5.1. The original scheme of works was to monitor the machine excavation of an area of c2.5m x 5m to a depth of approximately 2.5m. It was proposed that column samples be taken from the trench section. Due to the wet conditions no samples were taken. The location of the excavation is shown in Figure 2.

5.5.2. The excavation was initially commenced without shuttering as it was hoped that stepping the sides would suffice to prevent collapse. On excavation it was evident that this would not allow safe entry into the trench as the sides began to collapse when a depth of approximately 1.3m was reached. It was then attempted to batter the sides back and dig the trench sides at a angle of 45°. This was initially successful until a depth of approximately 2.0m was reached. At this depth the water-table was reached and the silts were in semi-solution. This had the effect of destabilising the base of the trench sides and caused large scale collapse and undercutting of the trench edges. At this stage it was no longer safe to continue.

5.5.3. The 18th Century black layer (WB35) was observed in one corner of the trench although it was unsafe to take an exact depth measurement this was at a depth of approximately 1.3m. The layer was not continuous and in this trench was only a number of small patches with no visible finds.

5.5.4. No further horizons or organic materials were identified and at a depth of approximately 1.9 - 2.0m the silts at the base of the trench were grey blue indicative of long term water-logging.

5.5.5. Half the area of the pit was excavated (2.5m x 2.5m). No postholes were noted cut into the sand below the topsoil.



Plate 3 - Pump excavation. (WB35) circled in right of picture.

6. Finds

- 6.1.1. A table of all the recovered artefacts with comments is given in The overall artefact assemblage is typical of discarded refuse from events on the racecourse and includes drinks bottles, drinking vessels, clay tobacco pipe and food remains. Some artefacts, such as the abraded pottery sherd from feature (128) and the sherd of Samian ware from (11) were washed into the site within river/flood silt.
- 6.1.2. The assemblage can be used to date the deposits recorded, although the frequent flooding and resulting movement of the silt deposits may make this unreliable. The assemblage is not considered significant and further work is not considered appropriate.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1. Three broad phases of stratigraphy were identified. The earliest is represented by the dark grey charcoal silt containing 16th and 17th century pottery recorded as E308 and E309, WB12 and WB35. The depth of this horizon slopes gently down towards the River Dee from 9.40m OD in evaluation trench 3 to c.9.0m OD in the pump excavation. This horizon undoubtedly spread across the site but was only encountered in the evaluation and occasionally in the watching brief. Several small post holes and amorphous features were recorded within this phase which may relate to early race functions or Civil war activity, but the small area of this phase exposed means that meaningful interpretation of these could not be made.
- 7.1.2. This was overlain by a deposit of clean homogeneous yellow sand between 0.40m and 1m thick. This may have been deposited by the 'inundation' of 1720.
- 7.1.3. The majority of features were cut into this deposit. The main types of features recognised were sub-rectangular postholes, circular and sub-circular post holes, rectangular post holes and stake holes. These equate approximately to the square, circular and stake holes recorded during previous Gifford watching brief, although detailed correlation is not possible to individual interpretations during recording. Five lines of post holes can be seen within the combined results which run in straight lines for up to 60m southwest - northeast (FIGURE 9) approximately parallel to the edge of the racecourse. These may have been post lines for viewing stands or large tents such as those shown in Mcgahey's painting of the Royal Agricultural Show 1858 and the photograph in the Chester Festival Guide 1958.
- 7.1.4. Four ditches were also identified which were cut from the same horizon as the postholes, and one was a clear continuation of ditch [34] recorded by Gifford in 2008. No stratigraphical relationship was seen during the latest watching brief and strip and map but the 2008 Gifford watching brief results show ditch [34] truncating a posthole line. The ditches are interpreted as temporary drainage features.

7.1.5. Artefacts associated with this phase were generally refuse such as pottery and bottle glass centuries which were probably discarded during race events and fairs. The likely flooding and clearing of the site means that artefacts probably moved and may not be directly associated with the features in which they were found, however the assemblage can date the phase to the 19th and early 20th centuries.

8. Archive

8.1.The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 5 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 15 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 45 Context sheets

8.2.The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

8.3.The archive is to be deposited at the Grosvenor Museum.

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Maps

1581 The Braun and Hog Map of Chester
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1645 Hemingway's Map of Chester
1653 Hollar's Map of Chester
1745 2 x Anonymous Maps of Chester
1753 Copy of Lithography Produced by Carter
1796 Stockdale's Map of Chester
1805 Cole's Map Chester
1809 Neele's Map of Chester
1817 Neele's Map of Chester
1821 Batenham's Map of Chester
1836 Cole's Map of Chester
1843 Cole's Map of Chester
1851 Cole's Map of Chester
1851 Pullan's Pictorial Plan of Chester
1853 Thomas' Plan of Chester
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1900 Ordnance Survey Map

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The Advertiser. Adelaide. Monday August 23rd 1911. Railway strike settled
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Cheshire Life. 1951. A Large Entry and Warm Sunshine at the Great Cheshire Show, the Roodee,

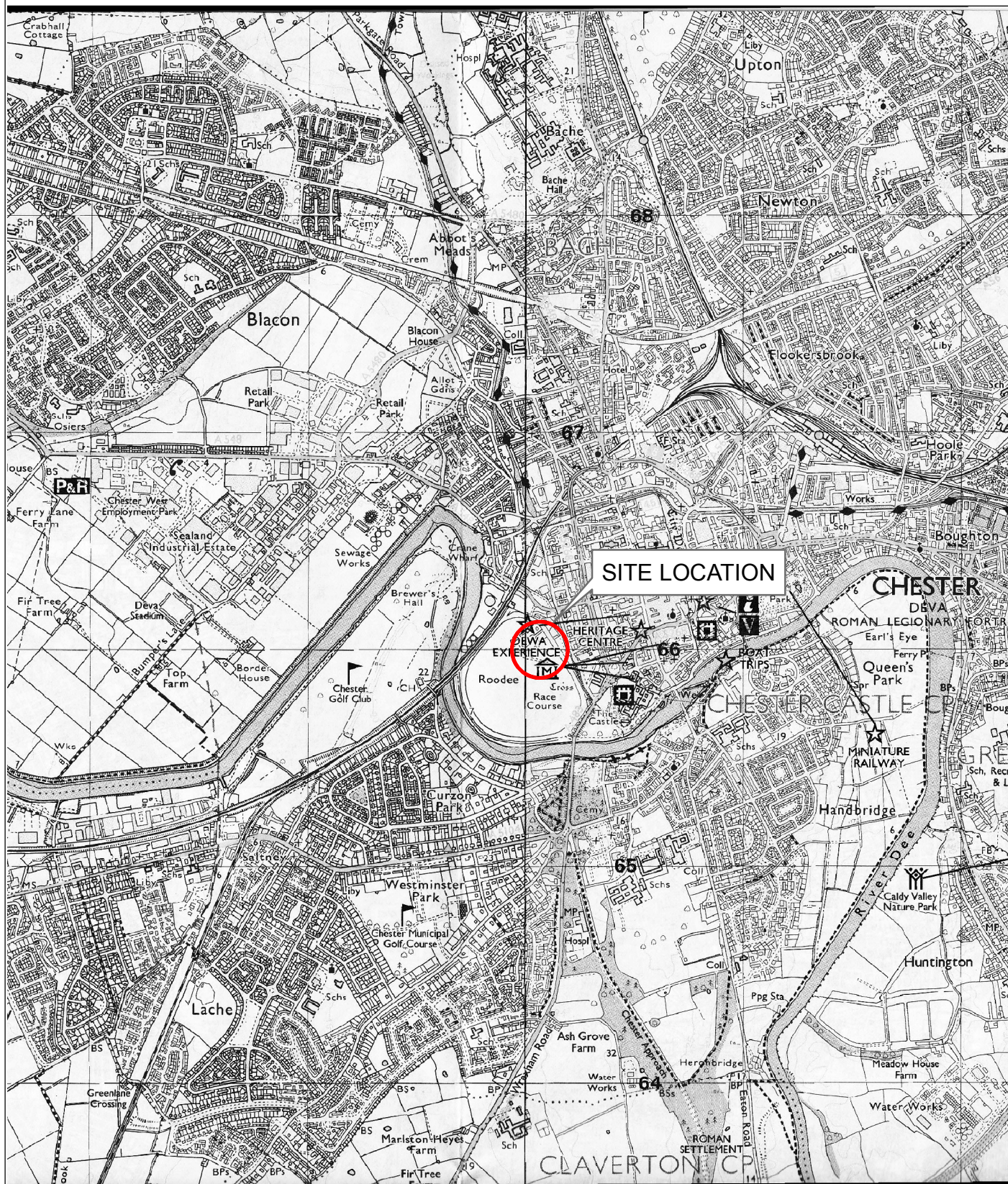
Cheshire Life. 1955. Cheshire Scouts Rally: The Roodee

Cheshire Life. 1956. Record Crowd and Record Entries at the County Show

Cheshire Life. 1991. The 450th Anniversary of the Chester Diocese

FIGURES

FIGURE 1



1:25,000@A4



PROJECT // 1419m - Chester racecourse

DESCRIPTION // Site location

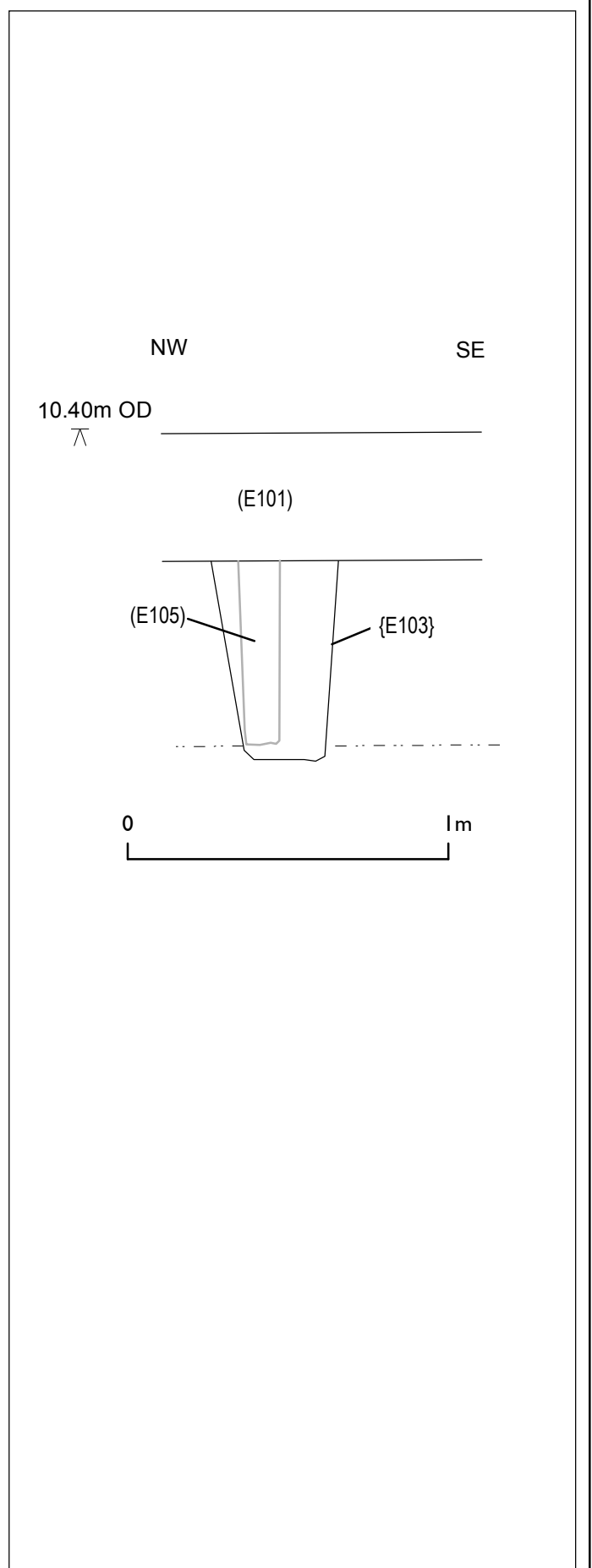
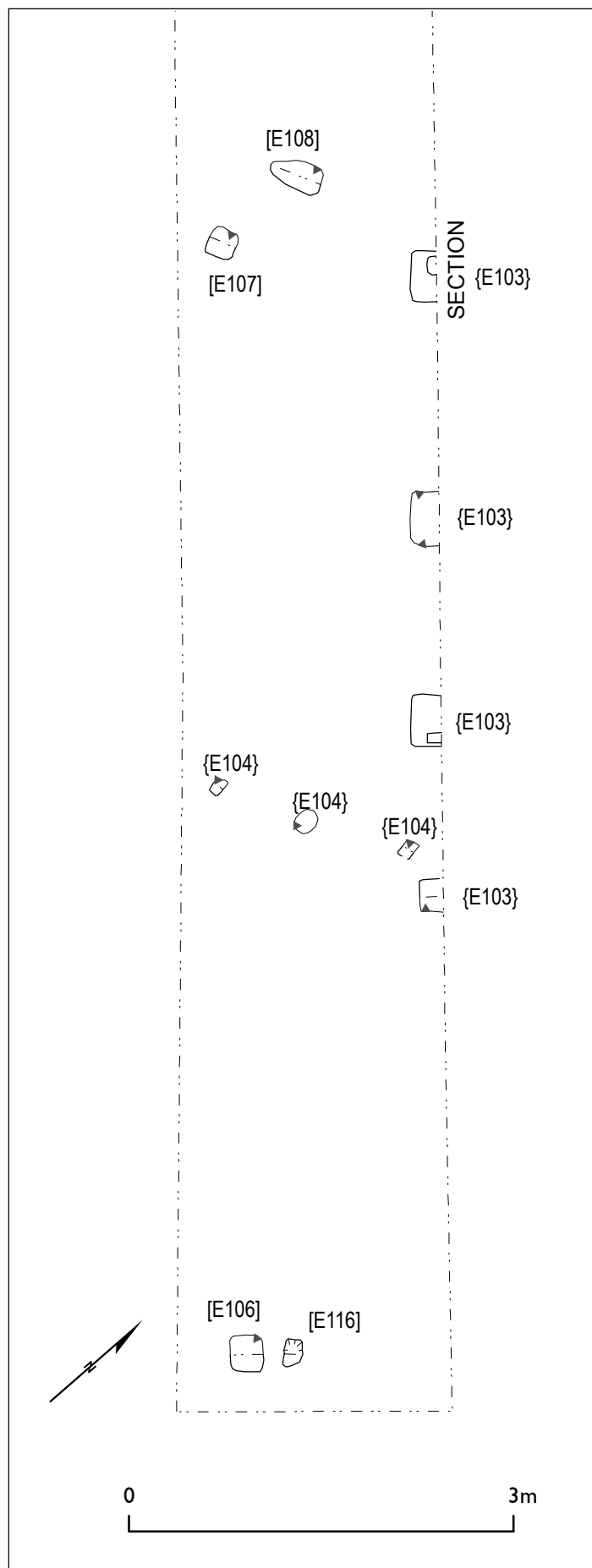
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DOC REF: LPI419M-WBR-v1 L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

The map displays the layout of two archaeological sites, Gifford 2008 and Gifford 2009. Gifford 2008 is the larger site, outlined in black, and contains four numbered evaluation trenches (1, 2, 3, 4) shown as hatched rectangles. A red line delineates the site boundary. Specific areas are labeled: 'STRIP AND MAP AREA' at the top left, 'PLAY AREA TEST TRENCH' on the left, 'PUMP EXCAVATION' with a small square symbol, and 'WATCHING BRIEF AREA' at the bottom left. Gifford 2009 is a smaller site to the southeast, also outlined in black and containing one hatched evaluation trench. The map includes coordinate markers: '+ 339900E 366165N' at the top and '+ 339950E 365950N' at the bottom. A legend at the bottom left identifies the hatched pattern as 'Evaluation trenches' and the red line as 'Site boundary'.

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Trench I



PLAN 1:50@A4

SECTION 1:20@A4

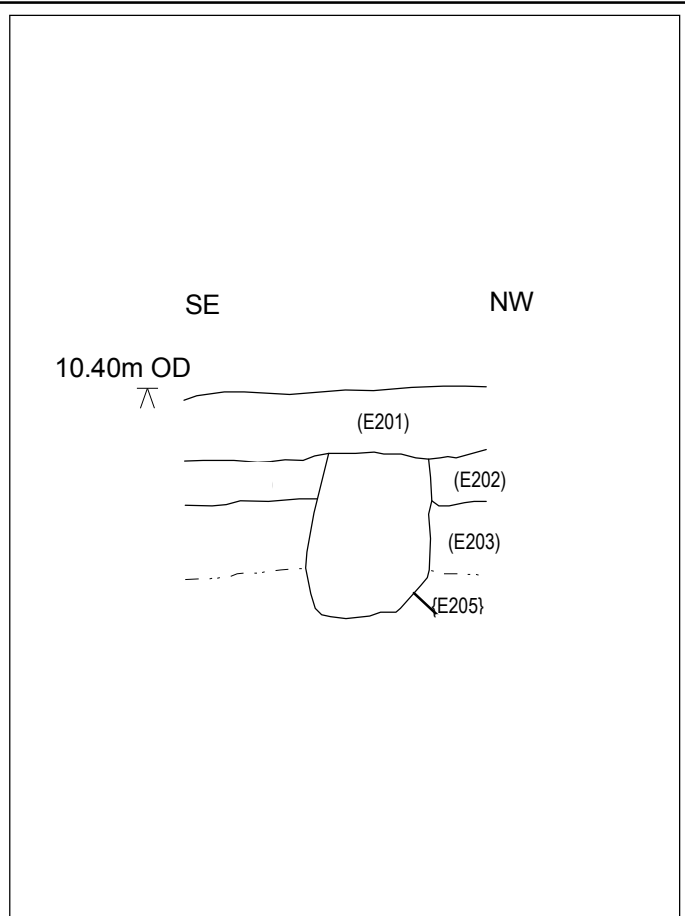
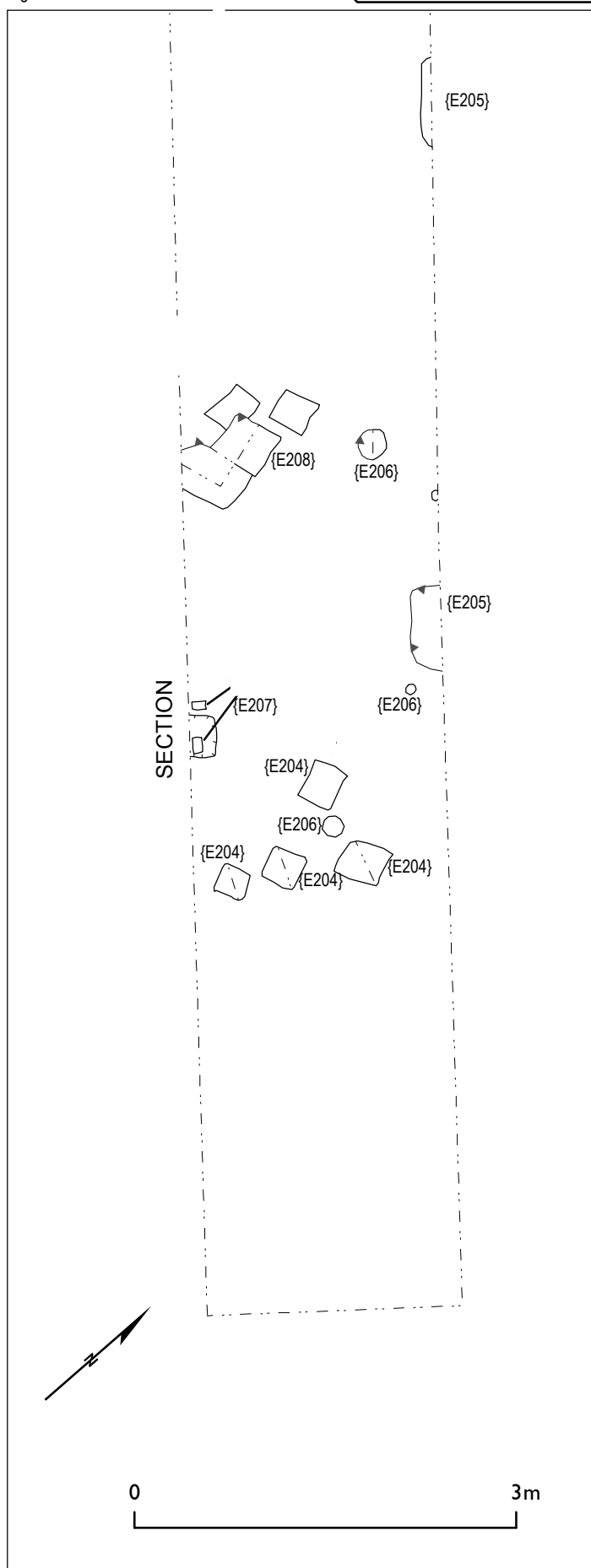
PROJECT // 1419m - Chester racecourse

DESCRIPTION // Trench I plan and section

DOC REF: LPI419M-AER-v1

L~P:ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 4 // Trench 2



0 3m

PLAN 1:50@A4

SECTION 1:20@A4

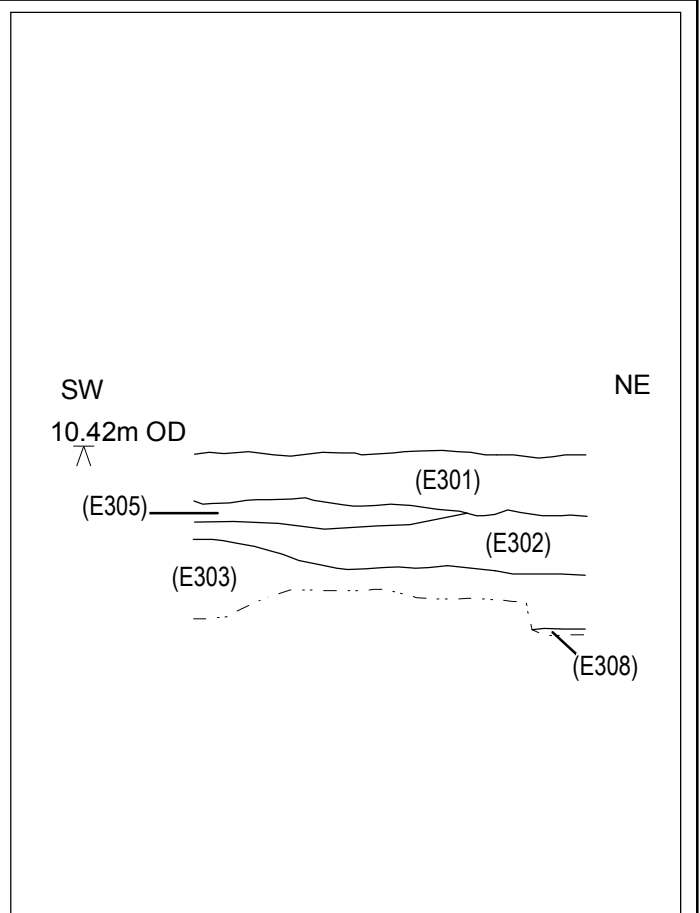
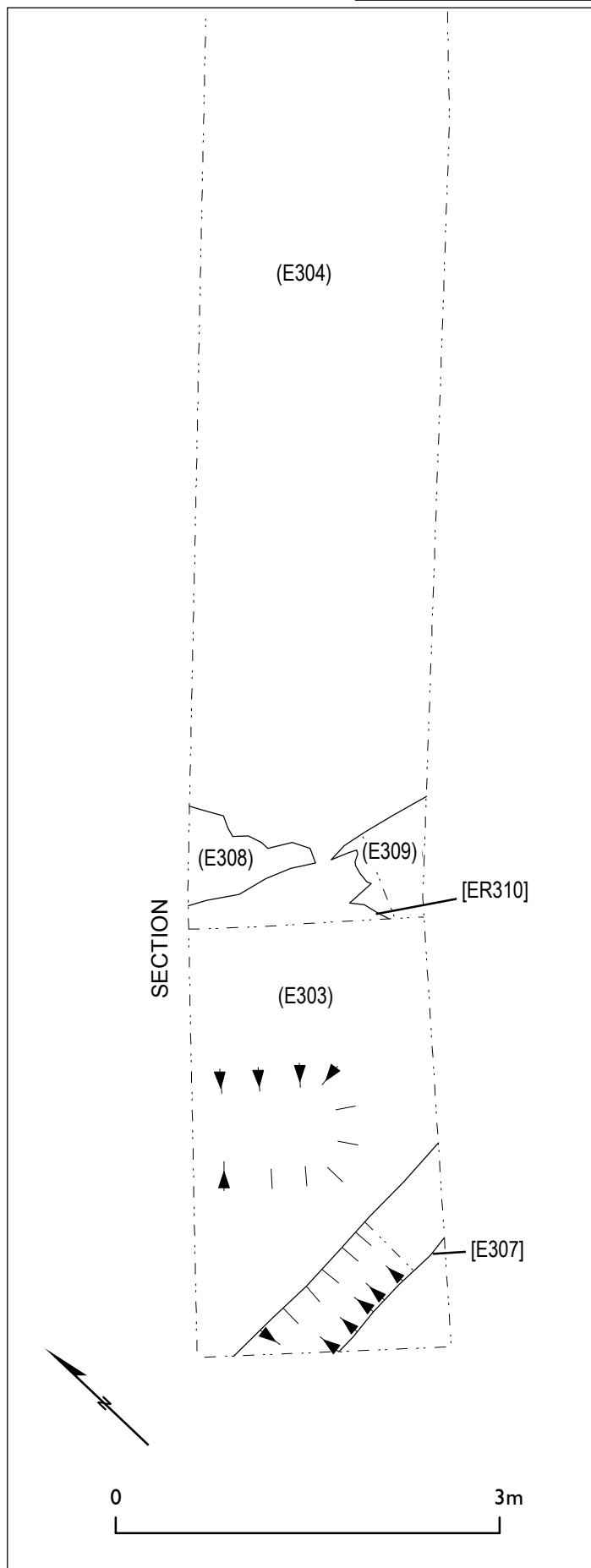
PROJECT // 1419M - Chester Racecourse

DESCRIPTION // Trench 2 plan and section

DOC REF: LPI419M-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Figure 5 // Trench 3



PLAN 1:50@A4

SECTION 1:50@A4

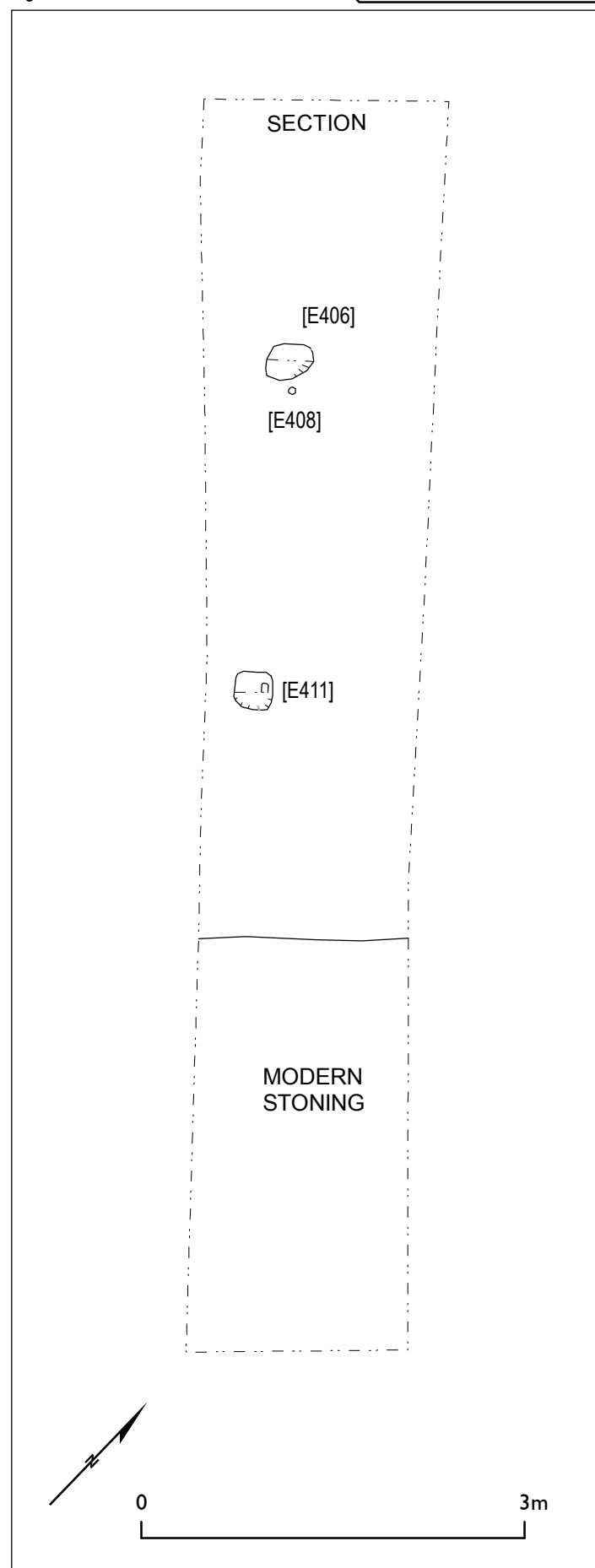
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DESCRIPTION // Trench 3 plan and section

DOC REF: LPI419M.WBR.v1

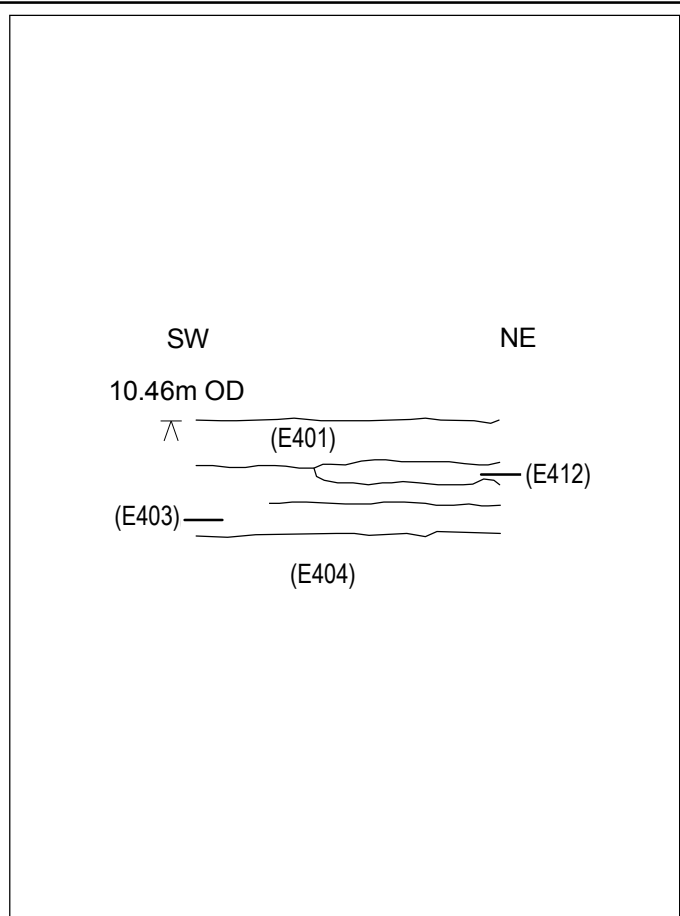
L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 6 // Trench 4



PLAN 1:50@A4

SECTION 1:50@A4



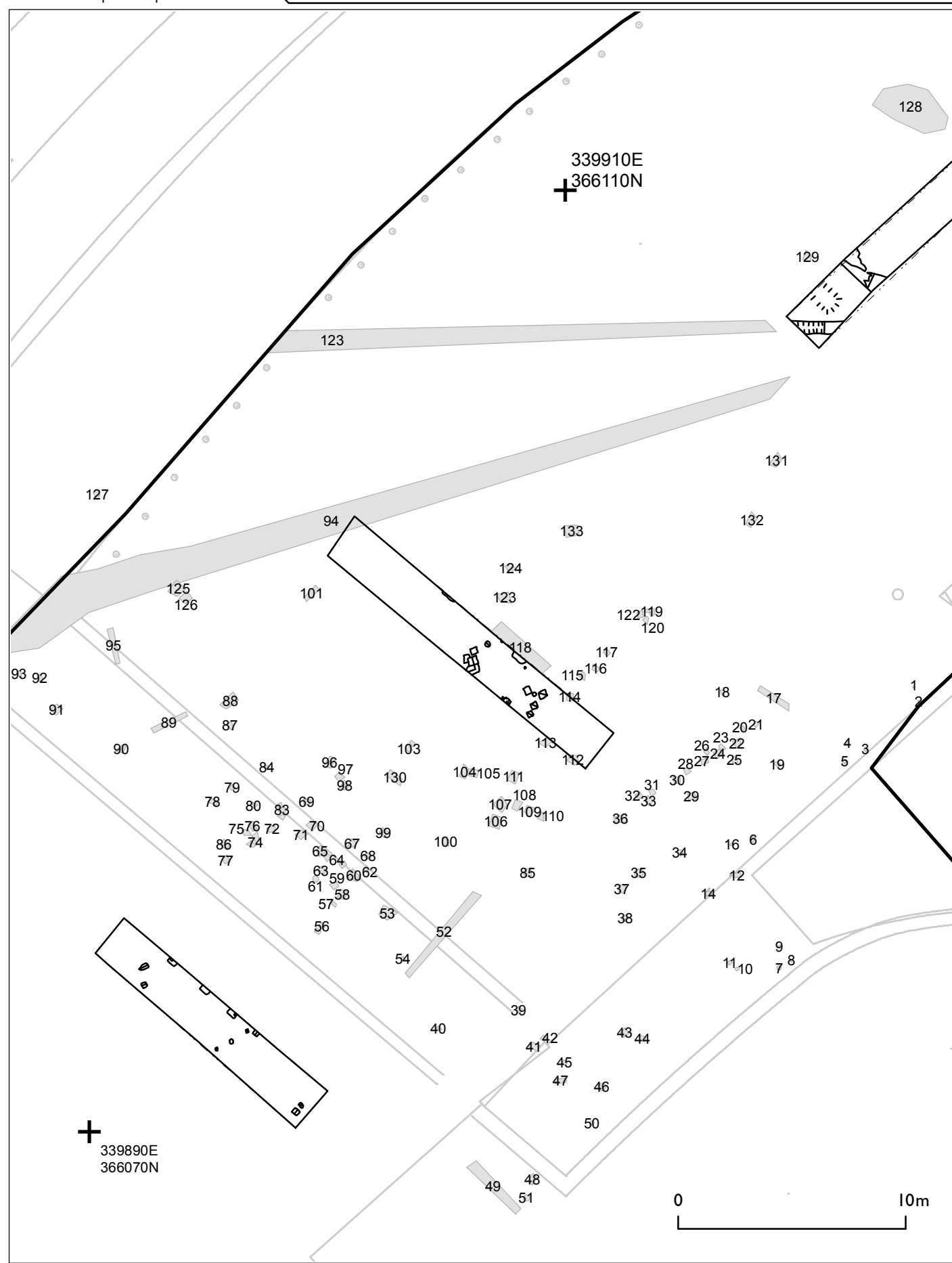
PROJECT // 1419m - Chester racecourse

DESCRIPTION // Trench 4 plan and section

DOC REF: LPI419M-AER-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 7 // Strip and map area



PLAN 1:225@A4

Evaluation trenches are indicated as dotted lines



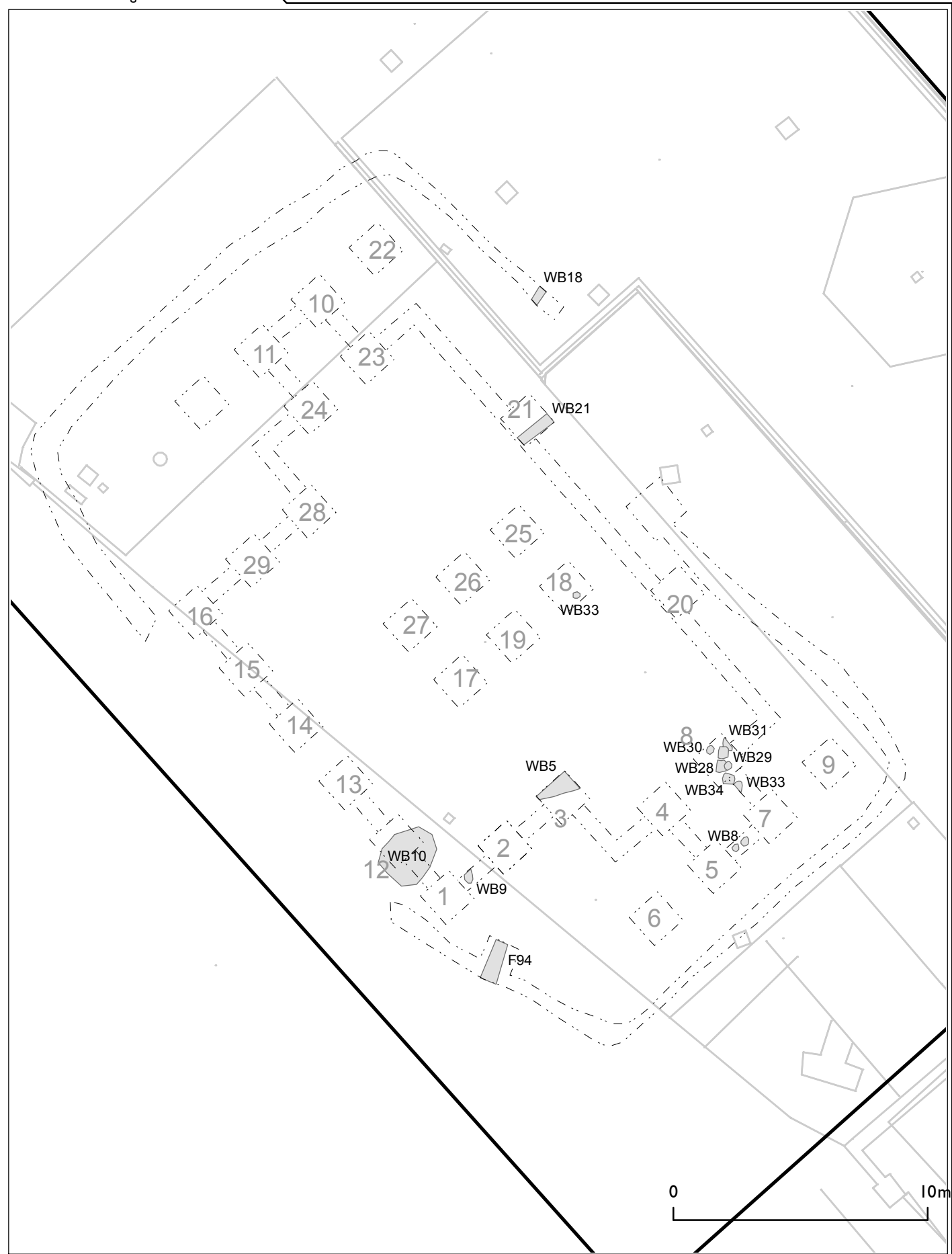
PROJECT // I419m - Chester racecourse

DESCRIPTION // Strip and map car park area results

DOC REF: LPI419M-WBR-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 8 // Watching brief resaurant area



PLAN 1:200@A4

Foundatio excavations are indicated as dotted lines

Pad numbers are shown in grey

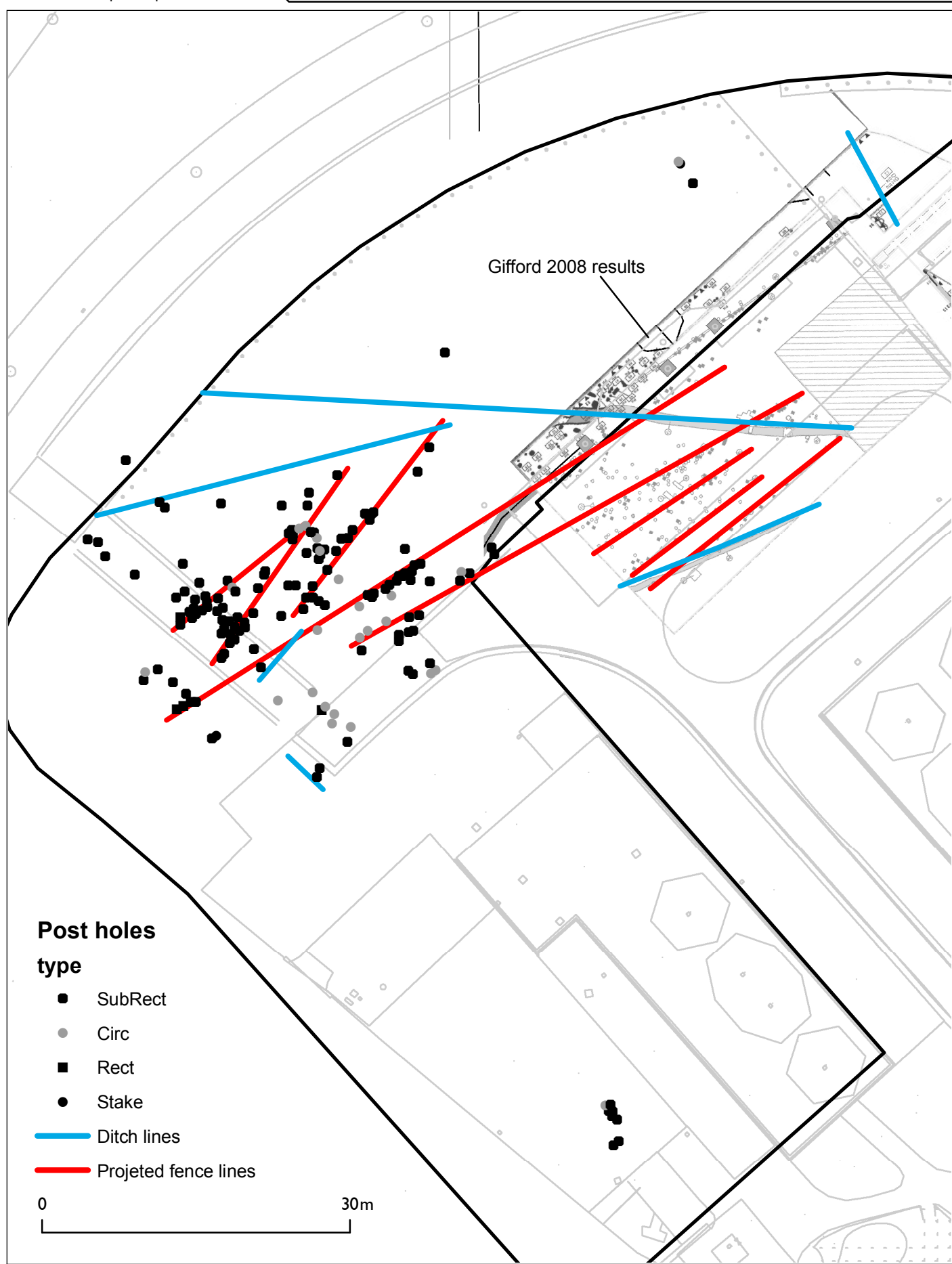
PROJECT // 1419m - Chester racecourse

DESCRIPTION // Watching brief resaurant area

DOC REF: LPI419M-WBR-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 9 // Interpretive plan



PLAN 1:500@A4



PROJECT // I419m - Chester racecourse

DESCRIPTION // Interpretive plan including Gifford 2008 results

Base data provided by Ramboll Ltd

DOC REF: LPI419M-WBR-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: lparchae1-152824

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | Chester Racecourse |
| Short description of the project | Archaeological investigation revealed a complex series of in excess of 150 postholes, along with a number of linear features and pits. All features were of Post-medieval date with a date range from the early Eighteenth - late Twentieth century. The majority of these features are believed to be associated with the use of the site for a large variety of events including County Fairs, Military Tattoos and Scout Jamborees. Two distinct phases separated by a thick layer of silt material deposited during the periodic flooding of the site were identified. The underlying natural geology was not reached during excavation and the material at the base of the excavated area was flood deposited silt. |
| Project dates | Start: 01-03-2013 End: 31-03-2013 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | CHE/ROO12 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | lparchae1-139187 - OASIS form ID |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI) |
| Current Land use | Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings |
| Monument type | POSTHOLES Post Medieval |
| Monument type | POSTHOLES Modern |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Investigation type | "Open-area excavation","Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS |

Project location

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | CESHIRE CHESTER CHESTER Racecourse |
| Postcode | CH4 8AR |
| Study area | 5360.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | SJ 399 665 53 -2 53 11 30 N 002 53 58 W Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 10.00m Max: 10.00m |

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Name of Organisation | L - P : Archaeology |
| Project brief originator | Self (i.e. landowner, developer, etc.) |
| Project design originator | Ramboll UK Ltd |
| Project director/manager | Matthew Williams |
| Project supervisor | Matt Jones |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Chester Racecourse |

Project archives

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Grosvenor Museum |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics" |
| Digital Archive Exists? | No |
| Paper Archive recipient | Grosvenor Museum |
| Paper Contents | "Survey" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey " |
| Entered by | Matthew Williams (m.williams@lparchaeology.com) |
| Entered on | 14 June 2013 |

OASIS:

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CONTEXT LIST

APPENDIX 2

| CONTEXT NUMBER | TYPE | Length | Width | Depth | Comments | Provisional date from finds |
|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|--|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| E101 | layer | | | | Topsoil | |
| E102 | layer | | | | Mid brown silt subsoil | |
| E103 | group | | | | 4 sub rectangular post holes | 19th c. |
| E104 | group | | | | 3 small rectangular stakeholes | |
| E105 | cut | | | | Post pipe within {103} northern post hole | |
| E106 | Sub-rectangular Post Hole | | | | f.b (E117) | |
| E107 | Sub-rectangular Post Hole | | | | | |
| E108 | Sub circular Post Hole | | | | f.b. (E109) | |
| E109 | fill | | | | | |
| E110 | Cut | 0.4 | 0.22 | 0.6 | Cut description for {E103} | |
| E111 | Fill | | | | Fill description for {E103} | |
| E112 | Cut | 0.11 | 0.09 | 0.06 | Cut description for {E104} | |
| E113 | Fill | | | | Fill description for {E104} | |
| E114 | Void | | | | | |
| E115 | Fill of (E107) | | | | Soft mid grey silt clay | |
| E116 | Stakehole | 0.17 | 0.21 | 0.2 | | |
| E117 | Fill of [E116] | | | | Soft mid grey silt clay | |
| E118 | Fill of [E106] | | | | Soft mid grey silt clay | |
| | | | | | | |
| E201 | layer | | | | Topsoil | |
| E202 | layer | | | | Mid brown silt subsoil | 20th c. |
| E203 | layer | | | | Pale yellow silt sand | |
| E204 | group | | | | 4 sub rectangular post holes aligned N-S | |
| E205 | group | | | | 2 sub rectangular post holes aligned NW-SE | |
| E206 | group | | | | 4 circular post holes | |
| E207 | group | | | | 2 rectangular stake holes | |
| E208 | group | | | | 4 sub rectangular post holes | Post Med. |
| E209 | cut | 0.07 diam | | 0.15 | Stakehole | |
| E210 | fill | | | | f.o.[209] | |
| E211 | cut | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.25 | cut description for group {E204} | |
| E212 | fill | | | | fill description for group {E204} | |
| E213 | cut | 0.6 | >0.2 | | cut description for group {E205} | |
| E214 | fill | | | | fill description for group {E205} | |
| E215 | cut | 0.16 diam | | >0.24 | cut description for group {E206} | |
| E216 | fill | | | | fill description for group {E206} | |

| | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|--------------|
| E217 | cut | 0.16 | 0.9 | 0.03 | cut description for group {E207} | |
| E218 | fill | | | | fill description for group {E207} | |
| E219 | cut | 0.33 | 0.38 | 0.24 | cut description for group {E208} | |
| E220 | fill | | | | fill description for group {E208} | |
| E221 | layer | | | | Pale yellow silt sand at base of trench | |
| | | | | | | |
| E301 | layer | | | | topsoil | |
| E302 | layer | | | | subsoil | |
| E303 | layer | | | | pale yellow silt sand | |
| E304 | layer | | | | pale yellow silt sand | |
| E305 | layer | | | | mortar/SST frags/brick rubble | |
| E306 | fill | | | | dark brown silt, f.o. [E307] | |
| E307 | cut | | | | E-W ditch cuts (E303) | |
| E308 | layer | | | | dark grey charcoal silt, mortar incl., trample layer between (E303) and (E304) | Post Med. |
| E309 | fill | | | | f.o. (E310) | |
| E310 | cut | | | | irregular feature cutting (E304) | 16th/17th c. |
| | | | | | | |
| E401 | layer | | | | topsoil | |
| E402 | layer | | | | subsoil | |
| E403 | layer | | | | pale yellow silt sand | |
| E404 | layer | | | | pale yellow silt sand | |
| E405 | fill | | | | dark grey silt/yellow sand f.o. [E406] | |
| E406 | cut | | | | post hole. cuts (E403) | |
| E407 | fill | | | | dark grey silt f.o. [408] | |
| E408 | cut | | | | stakehole, cuts (E403) | |
| E409 | fill | | | | post pipe within (E410) | |
| E410 | fill | | | | dark grey silt f.o. [E411] | |
| E411 | cut | | | | posthole | |
| | | | | | | |
| 1 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.18m | 0.16m | 0.16m | Dark Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 2 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.34m | 0.34m | | Black sandy silt fill | |
| 3 | Sub rectangular Post pad | 0.34m | 0.28m | | Filled with concrete | |
| 4 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.30m | 0.26m | | Black sandy silt fill | |
| 5 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.34m | 0.34m | | Dark Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 6 | Sub rectangular Post pad | 0.40m | 0.30m | | Filled with concrete | |
| 7 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.35m | 0.37m | | Dark Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 8 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.20m | 0.18m | 0.03m | Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 9 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.27m | 0.14m | | Orangey Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 10 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.40m | | Grey Brown sandy silt fill | |

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| 11 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.33m | 0.30m | | Blackish Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 12 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.60m | 0.30m | | Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 13 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.26m | 0.18m | | Orangey Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 14 | Sub rectangular Post pad | 0.50m | 0.40m | | Filled with concrete | |
| 15 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.24m | 0.20m | | Orangey Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 16 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.34m | 0.24m | | Grey Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 17 | Linear | 1.63m | 0.37m | | Dark Brown sand silt fill with oyster shell | |
| 18 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.28m | 0.22 | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 19 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.28m | 0.19m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 20 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.25m | 0.22m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 21 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.25m | 0.22m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 22 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.27m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 23 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 24 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.36m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 25 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.27m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 26 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.27m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 27 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.32 | | Mid Brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 28 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.27m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 29 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.52m | 0.50m | | Dark grey sand silt fill | |
| 30 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.32m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 31 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.30m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 32 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.38m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill | |
| 33 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.29m | 0.44m | | Mid Brown sand silt fill CBM seen in fill | |
| 34 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.40m | 0.44m | | Mixed yellowy sand silt fill | |
| 35 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.42m | 0.37m | | Mixed yellowy sand silt fill | |
| 36 | Oval Post Hole/Pit | 0.80m | 0.32m | | Mixed yellowy sand silt fill CBM seen in fill | |
| 37 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.35m | 0.35m | | Mixed grey sand silt fill CBM seen in fill | |
| 38 | Sub Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.25m | 0.22m | | Grey Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 39 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.34m | 0.30m | | Dark Black sand silt fill | |
| 40 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.17m | 0.16m | | Dark Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 41 | Square post pad | 0.45m | 0.45m | | Concrete filled with a small rectangular post pipe | |
| 42 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.24m | 0.24m | | Dark Brown sandy silt fill | |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|-------------------|
| 43 | Square Post Hole | 0.35m | 0.35m | | Mixed grey sand silt fill CBM seen in fill | |
| 44 | Square Post Hole | 0.35m | 0.30m | | Mixed grey sand silt fill CBM seen in fill | |
| 45 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.04m | Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 46 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.46 | 0.47 | | Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 47 | Elongated Oval Pit | 0.72m | 0.37m | | Dark brown black fill Post medieval ceramic recorded in fill | |
| 48 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.36m | 0.30m | | Light brown sandy silt fill | |
| 49 | Linear feature with rounded edges | 3.20m | 0.60m | 0.26m | Dark black fill large amount of late 19th early 20th century artefacts. (see results) | |
| 50 | Sub Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.32m | 0.28m | | Light brown sandy silt fill | |
| 51 | Sub Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.30m | 0.24m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill | |
| 52 | Linear feature with rounded edges | 4.0m | 0.32m | 0.18m | Dark black fill large amount of late 19th early 20th century glass bottles recovered from fill | L 19th/E. 20th c. |
| 53 | Sub square Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | 0.30m | Blackish Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 54 | Sub Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.35m | 0.26m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill | |
| 55 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.35m | 0.27m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 56 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.25m | 0.21m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 57 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.25m | 0.21m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 58 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.44m | 0.42m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, | |
| 59 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.31m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, | |
| 60 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.50m | 0.46m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, | |
| 61 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, | |
| 62 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.25m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, | |
| 63 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, | |
| 64 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.35m | 0.33m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 65 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.36m | 0.36m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 66 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.36m | 0.36m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 67 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.52m | 0.45m | | Brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 68 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.31m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 69 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.31m | 0.30m | | Mid brown sand silt fill, | |
| 70 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.45m | 0.40m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, cut slate seen in fill | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
| 71 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.50m | 0.40m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, cut CBM seen in fill | |
| 72 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.31 | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 73 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.31 | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 74 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.31 | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 75 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.31 | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 76 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.31 | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 77 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 78 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.50m | 0.40m | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 79 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.25m | 0.22m | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 80 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.26m | 0.22m | | Brown sand silt fill, | |
| 81 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, cut CBM seen in fill | |
| 82 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.35m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, CBM seen in fill | |
| 83 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.33m | 0.22m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, cut CBM seen in fill,Cut by F82 | |
| 84 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.12m | 0.18m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, cut CBM seen in fill | |
| 85 | Circular Post Hole/Pit | 0.42m | 0.37m | | Light grey sand silt fill with CBM /brick fill | |
| 86 | Rectangular feature | 0.57m | 0.32m | | Possibly two Sub rectangular Post Holes over cut each other, Dark Brown sand silt fill | |
| 87 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.33m | 0.30m | | Brown sandy silt fill | |
| 88 | Rectangular feature | 0.80m | 0.66m | | Dark brown sand silt fill, | |
| 89 | Linear feature | 1.84m | 0.52m | | Early 20th century ceramics seen in fill, Back brown sandy silt fill | |
| 90 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.47m | 0.40m | | Dark Brown silt sand fill | |
| 91 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.43m | 0.36m | | Dark Brown silt sand fill | |
| 92 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark Brown silt sand fill | |
| 93 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.44m | 0.34m | | Mid Brown silt sand fill | |
| 94 | Large Ditch | 20m | 1.40m | 0.28m | Brown Clay silt fill | |
| 95 | Linear | 1.40m | 0.35m | 0.35m | Early 20th century ceramics seen in fill, Back brown sandy silt fill | |
| 96 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.55m | 0.40m | | Mid brown sand silt fill CBM seen in fill | |
| 97 | Circular Post hole/Pit | | | | Flooded out | |
| 98 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 99 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 100 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 101 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |

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|-----|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--|---------|
| 102 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.22m | 0.20m | | Mid brown sand silt fill | |
| 103 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.22m | 0.20m | | Mid brown sand silt fill | |
| 104 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 105 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 106 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 107 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 108 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 109 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 110 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 111 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 112 | Circular Post hole/ pit | 0.42m | 0.38m | 0.10m | Dark brown sand silt fill | |
| 113 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.34m | 0.26m | | Dark brown sand silt fill | |
| 114 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.32m | 0.20m | Dark brown sand silt fill CBM seen in fill | |
| 115 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sand silt fill | |
| 116 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sand silt fill | |
| 117 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.22m | | Dark brown sand silt fill | |
| 118 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.34m | | Dark brown sand silt fill | |
| 119 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 120 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 121 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 122 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | | | | Flooded out | |
| 123 | Linear | 25m | 0.30m | 0.19m | Dark brown clay silt fill, cuts Feature 94 | |
| 124 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.34m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, | |
| 125 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, | |
| 126 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.40m | 0.32m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, Brick/ CBM seen in fill | |
| 127 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.29m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, | |
| 128 | Post Medieval spread | 2m | 1.86m | 0.11m | Mixed spread containing burnt material and an early pipe bowl 1600's | 17th c. |
| 129 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.32m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, | |
| 130 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.36m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, | |
| 131 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, | |
| 132 | Sub rectangular Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.30m | | Dark brown sandy silt fill, | |
| 133 | Post Hole | 0.30m | 0.20m | 0.60m | Rectangular post hole. | |

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|------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----------------|
| | | | | | | |
| WB1 | Layer | | | | Gravel/hardstanding | |
| WB2 | Layer | | | | Dark grey/black organic soil | |
| WB3 | Layer | | | | Silt sand | L. 19th c. |
| WB4 | Layer | | | | Lower silt sand | |
| WB5 | Cut | | | | Cut for Post Med deposit | 19th c. |
| WB6 | Fill | | | | f.o. [WB5] | |
| WB7 | Feature | | | | Victorian pipe | |
| WB8 | Cut | | | | Ditch | |
| WB9 | Group | | | | 2sub rectangular post holes | |
| WB10 | Cut | | | | Large pit | L. 19th/20th c. |
| WB11 | Fill | | | | f.o. [WB10] | |
| WB12 | Layer | | | | sand charcoal deposit in base of foundation pad 12 | |
| WB13 | Layer | | | | silt sand deposit in foundation pad 12 | |
| WB14 | Layer | | | | | |
| WB15 | Layer | | | | demolition layer foundation pad 12 | |
| WB16 | Cut | | | | Pit in foundation pad 15 | |
| WB17 | Fill | | | | f.o. [WB16] | |
| WB18 | Cut | | | | Drainage ditch | |
| WB19 | Fill | | | | f.o. [WB18] | |
| WB20 | Cut | | | | Ditch | |
| WB21 | Fill | | | | f.o. [WB20] | E. 20th c. |
| WB22 | Fill | | | | Silt fill of [WB23] | |
| WB23 | Cut | | | | Drainage ditch | |
| WB24 | Cut | | | | Post hole = (112) | |
| WB25 | Fill | | | | f.o. (WB24) | |
| WB26 | Cut | | | | Modern square post hole = (53) | |
| WB27 | Fill | | | | f.o. (WB26) | |
| WB28 | Sub rectangular post hole | | | | Sub rectangular post hole in foundation pad 8 | |
| WB29 | Sub rectangular post hole | | | | Sub rectangular post hole in foundation pad 8 | |
| WB30 | Circular post hole | | | | Circular post hole in foundation pad 8 | |
| WB31 | Sub rectangular post hole | | | | Sub rectangular post hole in foundation pad 8 | |
| WB32 | Cut | | | | Pit | |
| WB33 | Sub rectangular post hole | | | | Between foundation pads 7 and 8 | |
| WB34 | Sub rectangular post hole | | | | Between foundation pads 7 and 8 | |
| WB35 | Layer | | | | Dark charcoal silt in pump excaavtion | |

FINDS TABLE

APPENDIX 3

| Context | Type | Length | Width | Thickness | No. of Pieces | Notes |
|---------|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|---------------|---|
| 3 | 3 x Clay pipe stems | | | | 3 Individual | Three individual clay pipe stems, 18 th to 19 th century. |
| 3 | Glass beer bottle | | | | 1 | A late 19 th century to early 20 th century green glass beer bottle, "J.T.Milner & Son, Tarvin Bridge Chester. |
| 3 | Orange ceramic sherd with lug handle | 7.5cm | 6.5cm | 1.0cm | 1 | Lug dimensions, 5cm by 3cm Height 1.6 cm. Possible Roman or Medieval. |
| 3 | Oyster shells | | | | 5 | More pieces were observed within the spoil. |
| 3 | Animal bone | 11cm | | 3.2cm | 1 | Mammal radius with cut marks. |
| 6 | Ceramic building Material, Brick | 6.2cm | 5.1cm | 3.2cm | 1 | Incomplete brick fragment. |
| 6 | Ceramic building Material, Brick/Tile | 8.4cm | 8.1cm | 1.6cm | 1 | Incomplete brick/tile fragment. |
| 6 | Ceramic building Material, Pipe/Tile | 7.4cm | 7.7cm | 2.0cm | 1 | Slightly curved tile or pipe fragment, exterior is smooth and shows some evidence of being pressed into a mould, the interior is rough and uneven large grit fragment inclusions. |
| 6 | Slate | 15.1cm | 10.3cm | 1.0cm | 1 | Rough slate roof tile with part peg hole. |
| 6 | Glazed Ceramic | 2.1cm | 1.3cm | 0.01cm | 1 | Dark black metallic glazed shard with a grey body, 18 th -19 th Century. |
| 6 | Glazed Ceramic | 6.4cm | 3.2cm | 0.05cm | 1 | Dark brown glaze with an orange body with some grits within the matrix, 18 th to |

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | | | 19 th Century. |
| 6 | Glazed Ceramic | 3.0cm | 2.8cm | 0.04cm | 1 | Dark brown glaze with an orange body with some grits within the matrix, 18 th to 19 th Century. |
| 6 | Dark brown/black glazed ceramic base | | | Base 0.5cm Body 0.3cm | 2 | Base and body of jug or cup with evidence of a broken handle mark. 18 th century. |
| 6 | Tooth | | | | 2 | Small cattle/canid tooth in two fragments. |
| 6 | Phalanges | | | | 1 | Small cattle/canid foot bone. |
| 6 | Unidentified bone fragments | | | | 3 | Includes one rib fragment. |
| 8 | 4 x Iron Objects | 7.5cm | 0.04cm | | 4 | Heavily corroded Iron pins with turning handles, Late 19 th to 20 th century. |
| 11 | 2 x Clay pipe stems | | | | 2 | Two individual clay pipe stems, 18 th to 19 th century. |
| 11 | Glazed ceramic sherd | 3.2 cm | 1.8cm | 1.5cm | 1 | Tile or pipe fragment, Late 19 th to 20 th century. |
| 11 | Glazed ceramic sherd | 1.8 cm | 1.1 cm | 0.04cm | 1 | Earthen ware vessel ?Late 19 th to 20 th century. |
| 11 | Glazed ceramic sherd | 3.2cm | 1.6 cm | 0.02cm | 1 | Sandy yellow colour glaze with similarly coloured body with with impressed line design. 19 th century. |
| 11 | Ceramic sherd | 2.7cm | 1.5cm | 0.01cm | 1 | Samian ware fragment 2 nd -3 rd Century. |
| 11 | Animal Bone | 12.8 cm | 4.6 cm | 1.8cm | 1 | Cattle bone fragment, broken for marrow. |
| 11 | Animal Bone | 18 cm | 1.5 cm | 1.2 cm | 1 | Small cattle or canid rib, evidence of being gnawed. |

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|----|-------------|---------|-----------------|--------|---|---|
| 11 | Animal Bone | 12.6 cm | 3.7cm | 0.06cm | 1 | Fragment of cattle rib with butchery marks. |
| 11 | Animal Bone | 11.9 cm | 7.5 cm / 3.6 cm | 1.3 cm | 1 | Cattle metacarpal. |

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------|---|
| 21 | Beer or mineral water bottle | | | | 5 -with fragments | A 'Laycocks' of Chester Early 20 th century |
| 21 | Beer or mineral water bottle | | | | 1 | A 'Dootson' of Leigh Early 20 th century |
| 21 | Tea pot Fragment, spout and body | | | | 1 | Early 20 th century ceramic tea pot with a brown glaze and body. |
| 21 | Jar base | | | | 1 | Base and body of a 'Copeland' (Late Spode) of York Jar. |
| 21 | Small Plate body sherd | | | | 1 | No makers mark |
| 21 | Fragment of decorated cup | | | | 1 | Makers mark or monogram from Grinstead. |
| 21 | Fragment of decorated plate | | | | 1 | Makers mark from Grinstead |

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|------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| Feature 52 | Glass bottle with damaged neck | | | | 1 | A Dee Mineral Water Co Ltd, Chester, Codd aqua Bottle. The Codd top design lasted between 1875 and 1930 when it was replaced by the stronger Crown cap design |
|------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---|---|

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|--------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|--|--------------|---|
| Feature number 128 | Clay pipe bowl | 2.8cm | 1.5cm | | 1 | 0.07 internal bowl diameter, Early 17 th century. |
| Feature number 128 | 3 x Clay pipe stems | | | | 3 Individual | Three individual clay pipe stems, undated although likely to be the same as the bowl. |

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|---------------------------------------|---|-------|--------|--------|---|---|
| Feature number 128 | Ceramic sherd | 3.4cm | 2.5cm | 1.8cm | 1 | Abraded orangey pink ceramic shard, coarsely made with grit and crushed shell inclusions. |
| Feature number 128 | Animal Bone | 5.5cm | 2.5cm | 3.0cm | | |
| Redeposited in modern drain back fill | Complete glass bottle | | | | 1 | Laycocks Aerated Water Company with bottleinternal stopper. Design appears to be based on Vallet's patent. |
| Unstratified | Ceramic with flanged lip and slight evidence of turn for base | 5.2cm | 6.8cm | 0.5cm | 1 | Roman Gray ware bowl fragment, with flat flanged lip 2cm wide. |
| Unstratified | Green glazed ceramic fragment | 2.1cm | 1.8cm | 0.3cm | 1 | Small fragment of green glazed ceramic with a grey body and an orangey oxidised internal colouring. Late Medieval date. |
| Unstratified | Brown rough glazed internal and externally | 2.8cm | 1.6cm | 0.04cm | 1 | Fragment of Cistercain ware. |
| Unstratified | Large Iron nail | 10.4 | 0.06cm | | 1 | Large Iron nail. 19 th to 20 th century. |
| Unstratified | Iron nail, peg | 4.6cm | 0.05cm | | 1 | Iron peg, 19 th to 20 th century |
| Unstratified | Pig tooth | | | | 1 | |
| Unstratified | Cattle tooth | | | | 1 | |