

Desk Based Assessment & Trial Trenching at

# MOUNT VIEW FARM MALPAS

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For Land Planning

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Blair Poole MSc MifA

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Desk Based Assessment & Trial Trenching at

# MOUNT VIEW FARM MALPAS

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Client: Land Planning

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Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

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NGR: 348384,346980

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Planning App: 13/03806/OUT

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## L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

*Table of Figures*

*Table of Tables*

*Table of Plates*

*Table of Appendices*

*Abstract*

1. Introduction
2. Planning Background
3. Aims & Methodology
4. Geology & Topography
5. Archaeological and Historical Background
6. Site Conditions
7. Results of Trial Trenching
8. Finds
9. Summary & Conclusions

# TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail

Figure 3 - Historic Environment Record Data

Figure 4 - Tithe Map and Apportionment

Figure 5 - 1875 and 1881 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 6 - 1898 and 1911 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 7 - 1954 and 1973 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 8 - Site Walkover Gazetteer

Figure 9 - Trench Locations

Figure 10 - Trenches 1 & 2 sections

Figure 11 - Trenches 3 & 4 sections

Figure 12 - Trenches 5 sections

# TABLE OF TABLES

Table 1 - Timescales used in this report

Table 2 – Table of Finds

## TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1 - Outbuilding to northeast of site

Plate 2 - South field, looking south

Plate 3 - Western area of main field, looking northwest

Plate 4 - Removed boundary in main field, looking north

Plate 5 - Pond to south of site area, looking south

Plate 6 - Pond at southwest corner of large field, looking south

Plate 7 - Main field, looking west

Plate 8 - Entrance to main field off Wrexham Road, looking north

Plate 9 - Trench 1, southwest facing section, 1 m scale

Plate 10 - Southwest facing section of Trench 2, 1 m scale

Plate 11 - Western end of Trench 3, looking north, 1 m scale

Plate 12 - Trench 4, looking north, 1 m scale

Plate 13 - Northern end of Trench 5, looking east, 1 m scale

Plate 14 - West facing section of Trench 5, mid section, 1 m scale

## TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Written Scheme of Investigation

Appendix 2 – OASIS Form

# Abstract

A site to the southwest of Malpas has been identified as having potential for development. This archaeological desk based assessment has been commissioned by Land Planning. The site lies on the outskirts of the village in an area of open agricultural fields, to the west of the Malpas Conservation Area, and within the Malpas Area of Archaeological Potential. The assessment shows that the site lies within an area of possible Prehistoric, Roman, and Medieval activity.

The site area retains much of its Medieval field layout in its current hedgerows and boundaries. Ridge and Furrow has also been noted in a field to the south of the house. The results of the trial trenching revealed mainly negative results, with four of the five trenches containing no archaeological features.

Trench 3 contained a small area of burnt material, which contained a sherd of Roman ceramic. It is thought that this is a dump of Roman material from a potential fire.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This archaeological desk based assessment and trial trenching report has been researched and prepared by Blair Poole of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Land Planning.
- 1.2. The report considers land to the southwest of the village of Malpas, Cheshire. It is centred on National Grid Reference 348384,346980 (FIGURE 1). The site lies on the outskirts of the village in an area of open agricultural fields, with residential properties to the east, west, and north.
- 1.3. An application has been submitted for outline planning permission (13/03806/OUT) encompassing the erection of 19 dwellings, including six affordable units, and associated infrastructure works
- 1.4. The area currently houses a single dwelling, with associated outbuildings and two open fields. The total site area is 1.3 hectares.
- 1.5. The local authority is Cheshire West and Chester Council who take archaeological advice from Mike Morris, Cheshire Historic Environment Team.
- 1.6. The assessment is based on the results of documentary and cartographic research as well as consultation of aerial photography, and available published and unpublished literature. In accordance with current legislation, under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) this document draws on available archaeological, historic, landscape and topographic information in order to determine the significance of, and impact of development on, the heritage resources.

## 2. Planning Background

2.1. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.

2.2. Paragraph 128 of the NPPF indicates planning decisions should be made based on the significance of Heritage Assets. These are defined as buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.

2.3. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority is the Cheshire West and Chester Council. However, this authority has only recently been formed and it does not yet have an agreed planning framework. As such Cheshire West and Chester revert to earlier plans, in this case the Chester Local Plan.

2.4. The relevant policies within the Local Plan are as follows;

### **Policy ENV 31**

Development proposals which would adversely affect the site or setting of an existing or proposed Scheduled Ancient Monument or other nationally important sites and monuments will be refused.

#### Reason/Explanation

Archaeological sites are an important part of the cultural heritage of the nation and the local area; those considered most important are legally protected by inclusion in the Secretary of State's Schedule of Ancient Monuments, but there are others of sufficient importance to merit protection and a review of the Schedule is currently being undertaken. An up-to-date list of Scheduled Ancient Monuments is held by the City Council, the County Council and English Heritage. Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning recognises that not all nationally important archaeological remains will be scheduled. Non-scheduled but nationally-important sites are recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record and in the District Archaeological Statement.

Aldford, Farndon, and Malpas may contain archaeological sites of national importance that are not scheduled. For guidelines on specific sites, the Extensive Urban Survey and its supporting strategy reports should be consulted.



**Policy ENV 32**

Where development proposals affect sites of known or potential archaeological interest, the City Council will require an archaeological assessment/evaluation to be submitted as part of the planning application. Planning permission will not be granted without the adequate assessment of the nature, extent and significance of the remains and the degree to which the proposed development is likely to affect them.

## Reason/Explanation

Archaeological sites are an important part of the heritage of the nation and the local area. Adequate assessment is required prior to determination in the above circumstances to ensure that appropriate decisions can be taken relating to known or potential archaeological sites affected. Decisions will depend on the importance of the site and will be in accordance with policies ENV 31 to 34.

**Policy ENV33**

Development proposals affecting the site or setting of a site of regional or county importance will only be permitted if the integrity of the archaeological remains has been secured.

## Reason/Explanation

The County Sites and Monuments Record is maintained by Cheshire County Council and a District Archaeological Statement is being prepared by Chester City Council and Cheshire County Council. For Aldford, Farndon, and Malpas, the Extensive Urban Survey and its supporting Strategy Reports should be consulted. For Chester city centre, the Urban Archaeology Database and the Archaeological Implications Map should be consulted. These sources provide information about the existence of archaeological remains which do not qualify for scheduling or ranking as of National Importance but are of sufficient regional or county importance (by virtue of their rarity or the contribution they make to the integrity of the historic environment) to merit protection.

**Policy ENV 34**

Development proposals affecting the site or setting of a site of District or local importance will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the particular site or monument can be preserved in situ or, where this is not feasible, by record.

## Reason/Explanation

The County Sites and Monuments Record is maintained by Cheshire County Council and a District Archaeological Statement is being prepared by Chester City Council and Cheshire County Council. For Aldford, Farndon and Malpas, the Extensive Urban Survey and its supporting strategy reports should be consulted. For Chester city centre, the Urban Archaeology Database, when completed, and the Archaeological Implications Map should be consulted. These sources provide information about the existence of archaeological remains which do not qualify for scheduling or ranking as of Regional/County importance but are of sufficient local

importance (by virtue of their local rarity or the contribution they make to the integrity of the historic environment) to merit protection.

**Policy ENV 37**

Development in conservation areas or affecting the setting of such an area will only be permitted where it will preserve or enhance its character or appearance.

Reason/Explanation

Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires that special attention shall be paid in the exercise of planning functions to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area.

**Policy ENV 38**

Planning permission will not be granted for new development that will obstruct important views within, or views in or out of conservation areas.

Reason/Explanation

New development, including demolition, can have a dramatic effect on views, both locally and strategically by obstructing or breaking the rhythm of views or through inappropriate design which would impact upon the character or appearance of the conservation area or its setting.

- 2.5. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Cheshire West and Chester take advice from Mike Morris, Cheshire Historic Environment Team.
- 2.6. In accordance with government guidelines and best practice, this report has been completed prior to the planning process to accompany a future planning application and to inform all parties of any archaeological concerns affecting the development site.
- 2.7. The study site lies to the immediate southwest of the Malpas Conservation Area. The large field forming the northeastern extent of the site fall within the Malpas Areas of Archaeological Potential.
- 2.8. There is a scheduled monument, Castle Hill Motte (13420), 130m to the north of the site. There is a grade II Listed Building, Cobblestones (55596), 85m to the immediate northeast of the site.
- 2.9. There are no scheduled monuments located within the site area. There are no Listed Buildings within the site area. The landscape the site lies within has been characterised as ancient field systems by the historic landscape characterisation survey.

## 3. Aims & Methodology

### AIMS

3.1. It is not the aim of this assessment to present a complete history of Malpas, nor is it the intention of this report to examine every artefact found in the local area. Rather, the aim of this assessment is to review the available data and use it to construct a model of the potential archaeology within the study site.

3.2. The assessment seeks to address the following issues:

- ◆ To assess the potential for archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the significance of potential archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeology.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required, and to inform any decision of the outline planning application.

3.3. The general aims of the trial trenching are:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.

### METHODOLOGY

3.3.1. A detailed methodology for the trial trenching was submitted to, and agreed by, Mike Morris in advance of works (POOLE 2013). A copy of the method statement is included as APPENDIX 1.

3.4. This report has been researched and written to conform to L – P : Archaeology's Standards and Guidance for Desk Based Assessment. These standards in turn comply with the Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide (DCLG, EH, DCMS 2010) and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS 2011).

3.5. A site visit and trial trenching was undertaken between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

3.6. The following sources were consulted:

- ◆ Cheshire Record Office.
- ◆ Chester Archives and Local Studies Library.
- ◆ 500m radius search of the Cheshire Historic Environment Records (HER).
- ◆ Aerial Photographs held at the Cheshire HER.
- ◆ L – P : Archaeology's in house library.
- ◆ Internet sources and databases.

## 4. Geology & Topography

### 4.1. GEOLOGY

- 4.1.1. The site lies along the Mid Cheshire Ridge, a formation of Triassic sandstone bedrock with undifferentiated mudstones and siltstones (BGS SHEET 109).
- 4.1.2. The area is known for its glacial geology with glacial meltwaters responsible for the formation of much of the current landscape (LEAH ET AL 1997). The underlying drift geology is a combination of glacial clay and glacial sand and gravel, which overlies the natural bedrock of Malpas Sandstone (BUREK 2005).

### 4.2. TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.2.1. The area is situated on a high ridge overlooking the Cheshire plain, Shropshire and North Wales, 24km to the south of Chester. The site lies to the southwest of the main village in an area of open agricultural fields, bounding the residential elements of the village to the east and west, with further residential and recreation area to the north (FIGURE 2).
- 4.2.2. The site area, measuring approximately 1.3 hectares, slopes from a high area close to the village at the northeastern extent of the site, lying at approximately 108mOD, to a low lying area by the house, occupying the western edge of the site, at approximately 103mOD.
- 4.2.3. The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HLC) has identified the area as comprising ancient field systems. The surrounding area has been classified as Post Medieval settlement.
- 4.2.4. There are no known natural springs or wells within the site area. However, there are several ponds lying at the south and western extent of the site.

## 5. Archaeological and Historical Background

### TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT:

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC
IRON AGE	600	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	1900
MODERN	1901	PRESENT

Table 1 - Timescales used in this report

5.1. Information from the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER) is referenced with the Monument ID in brackets e.g. (CHER908). Due to the size of the site area the following analysis is from a 500m radius search of the HER, based on the centre point of the site (FIGURE 3).

### 5.2. PREHISTORIC

5.2.1. There is limited evidence for Prehistoric activity around the Malpas area, with a prehistoric spindle whorl (CHER 2045) found on the site, in the northeastern corner. Approximately 180m to the south of the site a late Bronze Age dagger (CHER 7227) was found by metal detector in 1998. Further afield, a fragment of Bronze axe (CHER 2044) was recovered from a field 800m to the northeast of the site.

5.2.2. The closest known Prehistoric settlement is at Maiden Castle, 6km to the north, in Bickerton.

5.2.3. It is clear that there was some form of prehistoric activity in the area dating

from at least the Bronze Age. Due to the dispersed nature of finds, and the poor survival rate of archaeology from this period, it is suggested that there is a moderate potential for archaeology dating to this period to be found on the study site. Finds dating to this period would be of national significance.

### **5.3.ROMAN**

- 5.3.1. A major Road, Watling Street (CHER 989), linked Chester and Wroxeter during this period (MARGARY 1957). This road lies along an approximate north south alignment 400m to the east of the study site.
- 5.3.2. A collection of Roman finds were recovered from the Castle Motte, 300m to the northeast of the site. These are recorded as coins, lamps, brooches and tiles (CHER 1688). However, the identification of these as being Roman in date has been in doubt for a number of years and it is currently thought that these finds are actually Medieval.
- 5.3.3. Although there is a major Roman road located to the east of the site, there are no known Roman features known of within the study site. However, as a small fragment of Roman ceramic was identified during the trial trenching phase of this project, there is a moderate potential for the presence of Roman activity on the site is high. Finds of this date will have regional significance.

### **5.4.EARLY MEDIEVAL AND MEDIEVAL**

- 5.4.1. The site area lies to the immediate southwest of the proposed extent of the Medieval settlement of Malpas. Although it is known that there was settlement in Malpas prior to the Norman invasion in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the earliest evidence from around the site area is from the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.4.2. The town is mentioned in the Domesday book as *Depenbech* and had been held by Earl Edwin before the conquest (MORRIS 1978). Prior to 1066 the town had been one of the more prosperous settlements, worth £11 4s. The land was taken by Robert, son of the Earl of Chester, Hugh Lupus.
- 5.4.3. The settlement had been recorded as being two leagues long by one wide and having;

Eight hides paying tax. Land for fourteen ploughs. Three of which in Lordship. One smallholder

Half an acre of Meadow

Five men-at-arms, holding five and a half hides of land from Robert with three ploughs.

Seven villagers with two and a half ploughs.

Two acres of meadow

Value before 1066, £11 4s; later on it was waste. Total value now 52s.

- 5.4.4. It is clear that the area retained its importance from the Early Medieval period into the Medieval period. The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HLC) has identified that the area has a strong potential for surviving *in situ* ancient fieldscapes. The area containing the site has been identified as containing townfields, open plan Medieval fields systems that would have served the local population. These field systems are relatively rare.
- 5.4.5. It is likely that the current name, Malpas, dates from the Medieval period, coming from the French for 'bad passage' (DODGSON 1971). This is understood to relate to the landscape, where the important main route passed through a difficult or unsafe terrain.
- 5.4.6. During the 12<sup>th</sup> century a Motte and Bailey castle, which is now a scheduled monument (SAM 13420), was constructed 300m to the northeast of the site. This is a significant monument in the landscape and a major indicator of the importance of the settlement in the Medieval period. The castle overlooks the main route running north south through the settlement, along the line of the earlier Roman road.
- 5.4.7. A 12<sup>th</sup> century short cross half penny (CHER 7245) of Richard 1<sup>st</sup> was found 125m to the east of the site. On the site, to the southeast of the main house, a 14<sup>th</sup> century brooch (CHER 7237) was found by metal detector in 2007.
- 5.4.8. Approximately 145m to the south of the site a 16<sup>th</sup> century hammered silver penny of Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> (CHER 7243) was found by metal detector in 2009. Around 180m to the south of the site a round lead seal matrix (CHER 7228), with central eight pointed star design, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century was



found in 2009 by metal detector. Interestingly the HER record indicates that this seal matrix was found at the same time as Roman material. No details of the Roman finds are given in the database.

5.4.9. Malpas has produced a good selection of metal detecting finds, which have been recorded in the portable antiquities scheme (PAS). These included a series of finds from fields to the north of the site comprising a 13<sup>th</sup> century finger ring (CHER15531), a 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century ampule (CHER15532), a 14<sup>th</sup> century metal buckle (CHER15712), and a 12<sup>th</sup> century silver coin (CHER155714).

5.4.10. This range of physical evidence clearly shows the importance and settled nature of Malpas through the Medieval period. This is supported by historic documents, which show that by 1281 Philip Burnel of Malpas, including his wife and heirs, had been awarded weekly Monday markets and a yearly fair, on the feast of Oswald the King, in the town. These markets continued into the 16<sup>th</sup> century although it is recorded that in 1536 the market had moved to Sundays (ORMEROD 1882). It is interesting to note that although Malpas was granted at least two burgages, a reference is made to these in 1288, the town was not granted a borough charter (ORMEROD 1882). It has been suggested that one of the burgages extended onto the site area, although no physical evidence has been produced as yet to support this.

5.4.11. There is a moderate potential for surviving *in situ* evidence relating to the Medieval period. However, this is thought to be restricted to field boundaries or field systems. Finds of this date would have regional significance.

## 5.5. POST MEDIEVAL

5.5.1. The settlement continued to grow in size into the Post Medieval period. It is from the 16<sup>th</sup> century that cartographic evidence becomes available for the site. The earliest available map showing the site is Saxton's county map of 1577. The settlement also appears on Speed's map of 1610 and Burdett's map of 1777. Unfortunately these map, although depicting the important routes through the county, only show Malpas in a representational manner. It is clearly an established and regionally significant location, however it did not warrant detailed mapping.

- 5.5.2. The HER records a copper alloy jetton (CHER 7229) 180m to the south of the site. These were also known as reckoning counters and were coin like tokens used in the calculation of accounts. Most commonly made of copper or brass, although some 17<sup>th</sup> century silver jettons are known.
- 5.5.3. The only other findspot from the Post Medieval period in a 500m radius of the site is a small lead plaque (CHER 2564) from the field 60m to the west of the site area. This is an undated lead plaque with a rosette motif surrounding a depiction of St George and the dragon.
- 5.5.4. It is thought that Malpas suffered badly from the Plague during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This may be due to its location along a major route way.
- 5.5.5. The built heritage is represented by the Grade II Listed Building 85m to the east of the site. Cobblestone (55596) is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century stable block that has been converted into a dwelling. Its location beyond a complex of later buildings obscures it from the site.
- 5.5.6. Along the northeastern boundary of the site is a small outbuilding, which is of half ashlar sandstone, with a brick upper. It is thought that the sandstone base relates to an earlier, possibly 19<sup>th</sup> century, outbuilding (PLATE 1).



*Plate 1 - Outbuilding to northeast of site*

- 5.5.7. Approximately 160m to the west of the site lies the old primitive Methodist chapel (CHER 7154). This is not a statutory Listed Building, but has been recorded on the HER due to its local interest. It opened in 1850, however was

converted to a domestic dwelling in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- 5.5.8. The earliest accurate map of the area is the 1836-41 Tithe Map (FIGURE 4). This map and its apportionment outline a great deal of information about each plot of land within a parish. The large field (255) taking up the eastern extent of the site is owned by Henry Wooluch and used as meadow pasture by James Peach. The remainder of the plots occupying the site area (258 AND 259) are owned and occupied by the Marquess of Cholmondeley and Ralph Stevenson. The plots are named as Clay Hole and Garden respectively. It is likely that the name clay hole relates to clay extraction on the site, which may account for the presence of ponds at the southern extent.
- 5.5.9. The gardens are associated with plots 260 and 261, which are the house and gardens occupied by the Marquess. During this time frame there was a jump in title of the Marquess of Cholmondeley (Ormerod 1882). The title went from William Henry Hugh Cholmondeley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess of Cholmondeley, to his grandson George Henry Hugh Cholmondeley, 4<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Cholmondeley. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Marquess' son, Charles George Cholmondeley, was known as the Viscount Malpas suggesting the Malpas estate was in his hands at this time.
- 5.5.10. Although the standing building known as Mount View Farm is not present on the Tithe Map, three cottages can be seen along Wrexham Road at the entrance to the site (plots 256 AND 257). These are owned by Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake, an important landowner and MP, and occupied by John Davies, Thomas Harding, and Samuel Neild. The layout of the modern fields closely follows that of the Tithe Map.
- 5.5.11. The first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of the area dated 1875 (FIGURE 5) Retains the same site layout as seen on the 1836-41 Tithe map. However, Mount View Farm had been erected by this time. This layout continues on the 1881, 1889, and 1911 OS maps (FIGURE 6). The 1954 OS map also shows the same layout, with the first major change appearing on the 1973 OS map (FIGURE 7), where the cottages present at the entrance to the site had been demolished.
- 5.5.12. It is clear that the site has undergone minimal development throughout the

Post Medieval period. The field boundaries have stayed mainly intact, preserving the ancient fieldscape. The only change has been the removal of the field boundary between the main field, plot 255 on the Tithe Map, and the smaller field to the south of the house, plot 258 on the Tithe Map. Plot 258 had already been subdivided to allow the construction of Mount View Farm in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, at some point between 1841 and 1875.

5.5.13. There is a low potential for Post Medieval development on the site. Any finds of this date will have local significance.

## 5.6. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

5.6.1. The aerial photographic database held by the Cheshire Historic Environment Record was examined. These included the following references;

- ◇ 1945-48 RAF national survey
- ◇ 1971-73 County survey
- ◇ 1970-75 Engineering survey
- ◇ 1983-85 County survey
- ◇ 1991 Geonex/NRSC Mersey Barrage Feasibility survey
- ◇ 1992-93 County survey
- ◇ 1999-2000 Millennium National survey
- ◇ 2005-06 County Survey
- ◇ 2010 – Ordnance Survey aerial photography

5.6.2. The 1947 RAF 25m aerial photography revealed the presence of ridge and furrow on both fields, plots 255 and 258 on the Tithe Map. The ridge and furrow could be seen to follow the field boundaries along a northeast southwest alignment.

5.6.3. Subsequent aerial photography showed the presence of ridge and furrow as a constant feature in the small field (plot 258). However, from the 1970-71 survey no ridge and furrow could be seen in the main field (plot 255).

## 6. Site Conditions

### 6.1. SITE CONDITIONS

6.1.1. The site is currently used as open fields and pasture. The ground is sloping and undulating, surrounded by mixed hedgerows, and ponds to the south.

### 6.2. SITE WALKOVER

6.2.1. This section will discuss the results of a site walkover undertaken on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013 by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology (FIGURE 8).

6.2.2. The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HLC) for this area indicates that the fields under study fall within an area of Ancient field systems. These have been classified in the HLC as Medieval open arable fields, which would have served the local village or town population (CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL & ENGLISH HERITAGE 2008). These can contain evidence of ridge and furrow, farm buildings, historic field or township boundaries and earthworks.

6.2.3. The site can be divided into two fields. A small rectangular parcel of land to the south of the main building, and a large irregular shaped field to the east of the main building.



Plate 2 - South field, looking south

6.2.4. The small field to the south (PLATE 2) was relatively flat, used as pasture, and free from any visible features. The surrounding hedgerow was of mixed deciduous and evergreen elements, with hawthorn, elder, brambles and ivy. It

appeared to be an established boundary and its presence on the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century maps suggest this is an historic field boundary.

6.2.5. The large field can be divided into two main sections: the western section formed by a rectangular parcel of land to the south of the site entrance, and the eastern section, formed by a larger rectangular parcel of land leading to the village.

6.2.6. The western section was a flat, low lying, area used as pasture. The southern and western field boundaries could be seen to be historic boundary alignments. However, the western boundary had been modified, and is now marked by a modern fence line.



*Plate 3 - Western area of main field, looking northwest*

6.2.7. The northern boundary was established in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the house was built, and is marked by a modern fence line. Present within the field were clear ridge and furrow earthworks (PLATE 3), seen to be running northeast southwest.

6.2.8. The eastern boundary had been removed, leaving a distinct depression in the ground (PLATE 4). This would have marked the division between plots 255 and 258 on the Tithe Map, and appears to have been removed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> or early 21<sup>st</sup> century.



*Plate 4 - Removed boundary in main field, looking north*

6.2.9. To the south of this area of the field is a large pond (PLATE 5). This falls outside of the site area. However, it appears to link to a smaller pond that falls to the east of the removed boundary (PLATE 6). These ponds are historic features and it is likely that access to them would have been via Wrexham Road. The depression formed by the removal of the historic boundary also suggests that this was a traditional access route to the water features.



*Plate 5 - Pond to south of site area, looking south*



Plate 6 - Pond at southwest corner of large field, looking south

6.2.10. The main field forming the western extent of the site had a noticeable slope, from east to west, dropping approximately 5m over 100m (PLATE 7). There were no visible earthworks within the field, excluding the removed field boundary noted above (6.2.8.). The field is currently used as pasture.



Plate 7 - Main field, looking west

6.2.11. The southern, eastern, and northern field boundaries all appear to be historic and are mainly formed by mixed hedgerow. However, in the southeastern corner, the hedgerow is in the process of being replaced.

6.2.12. Approximately half way along the northern boundary of the main field is a small gated entrance. The depression at this point suggests that this has been an access point to the field for some time, although it is not shown on any of the



historic maps (PLATE 8).



Plate 8 - Entrance to main field off Wrexham Road, looking north

6.2.13. It is clear that the historic boundaries are still visible in the current site layout, with evidence of a removed historic boundary as a north south earthwork in the main field. The only visible historic features present on the site were ridge and furrow earthworks to the southeast of the house.

#### **Surrounding landscape**

6.2.14. The area to the south of the site can be clearly defined as open agricultural land. To the east and west of the site are residential properties. To the north of the site are residential properties and a recreation ground.

### **6.3. HISTORIC LANDSCAPE**

6.3.1. The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (2008) presents information regarding Managing Ancient Landscapes. The document divides these landscapes into three types

- ◆ Ancient Field Systems.
- ◆ Medieval Townfields.
- ◆ Ancient Enclosed Parkland.

6.3.2. This report focuses on ancient field systems, a type of field system that may

contain archaeological and historic landscape features: such as farm buildings, earthworks associated with field boundaries, former township boundaries, historic field boundaries (drystone walls, hedgerows and ditches), ridge & furrow, species rich habitats, historic ecofacts and a wide range of archaeological sites.

6.3.3. Several recommendations have been put forward concerning these, which include:

- ◆ The retention of field boundaries and features associated with this type.
- ◆ The retention of the remains of former cultivation systems (ridge and furrow) and any associated relict field boundaries.
- ◆ To encourage the planting of hedgerow trees.
- ◆ To undertake assessments of field systems and their immediate surroundings where they are threatened by development or changes in land use.

6.3.4. This document has undertaken an assessment of the field systems and has identified that several ancient boundaries remain *in situ* and that in general, even where modern replanting or re-fencing has been undertaken, the early field layout can be identified.

## 7. Results of Trial Trenching

7.1. This section will discuss the results of the trial trenches excavated on the site. A total of five trenches were excavated (FIGURE 9) and will be discussed individually below. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses). All measurements are given below ground level (BGL) unless otherwise stated.

### 7.2. TRENCH 1

7.2.1. Trench 1 measured 20m north south by 1.8m east west and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m below ground level (FIGURE 10). The upper deposit was a 0.2m thick layer of dark humic topsoil (100). A total of three finds were recovered from context (100). These included a single 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century blue and white glazed ceramic sherd and two small sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century black glazed ceramic.

7.2.2. Sealed by (100) was a 0.5m thick deposit of mid brown, friable, silt (101). This appears to be a form of colluvium (PLATE 9). No finds were recovered from this deposit.



Plate 9 - Trench 1, southwest facing section, 1m scale

7.2.3. Below (101) was the natural boulder clay (102), which extended beyond the base of the trench.

### 7.3. TRENCH 2

7.3.1. Trench 2 was a T-shaped trench measuring 20m by 20m in plan, each section

at 1.8m wide, and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m below ground level (FIGURE 10). The trench was located on a slope, which dropped from west to east.

7.3.2. The upper deposit was a loose humic topsoil (200), 0.3m thick. All finds from trench 2 came from the topsoil (200), these included a single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century black glazed ceramic, a sherd of 16<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian ware, and a body sherd of poorly fired Medieval ceramic.

7.3.3. Below the topsoil was a friable mid brown silt (201) 0.4m thick. This matched the colluvium (101) seen in Trench 1 and is thought to be the same hillwash deposit (PLATE 10).



Plate 10 - Southwest facing section of Trench 2, 1m scale

7.3.4. Below (201) was a fragmented sandstone deposit, with a sandy matrix (202). This is thought to be the natural glacial sand and gravel, and extended beyond the base of the trench.

#### 7.4. TRENCH 3

7.4.1. Trench 3 measured 20m east west by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m below ground level (FIGURE 11). The uppermost deposit was the site topsoil (300), which measured 0.3m thick. Deposit (300) contained a single sherd of 19<sup>th</sup> century china, with a single blue printed band at the rim, as well as a single sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century black glazed ceramic.

7.4.2. Sealed by (300) was the colluvium (301), measuring 0.3m thick. This colluvium matched deposits (101) and (201), seen in both trenches 1 and 2.

7.4.3. Below (301) was the natural glacial sand and gravels (303), which extended beyond the base of the trench (PLATE 11). At the transition between (301) and (303), at the western end of the trench, a spread of burnt material was identified. This measured 2m east west by 0.3m north south, and contained charcoal fragments in a silt matrix (302). A single find was recovered from this deposit, a small sherd of Roman ceramic.



Plate 11 - Western end of Trench 3, looking north, 1m scale

#### 7.5. TRENCH 4

7.5.1. Trench 4 measured 20m north south by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m below ground level (FIGURE 11). The uppermost deposit was the local topsoil (400), which measured 0.3m thick (PLATE 12). Deposit (400) produced a fragmented late Post medieval brick and a section of clay tobacco pipe stem.



Plate 12 - Trench 4, looking north, 1m scale

7.5.2. Below the topsoil was a 0.4m thick deposit of mid brown silt (401). This could be seen to match the colluvium seen in the previous trenches, (101), (201), and (301).

7.5.3. Sealed by (401) was the natural glacial sand and gravel (402), which extended beyond the base of the trench.

## 7.6. TRENCH 5

7.6.1. Trench 5 measured 40m northwest southeast by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m below ground level. The trench was located at the top of the site on undulating land.

7.6.2. The topsoil (500) measured 0.2m thick over the majority of the trench (FIGURE 12). However, the northern 15m, the deposit expanded to 0.5m thick (PLATE 13). It is thought that this is due to the landscape, where the field drops down to meet Wrexham Road. Ploughing on the site likely led to a build up of material in this area. Finds from (500) included a section of 19<sup>th</sup> century salt glazed sewer pipe, glazed 20<sup>th</sup> century floor tile, and a single sherd of Medieval ceramic, of late 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date.



Plate 13 - Northern end of Trench 5, looking east, 1m scale

7.6.3. Below (500) was a layer of natural boulder clay (501), measuring 0.2m thick (PLATE 14). This clay deposit was not present across the entire trench length. The northern 15m, where the field dropped down to Wrexham Road, did not contain any boulder clay. In this area the topsoil directly overlay the natural sand and gravels (502).



Plate 14 - West facing section of Trench 5, mid section, 1m scale

7.6.4. Underlying the boulder clay (501), was the natural sand and gravels (502). These extended beyond the base of the trench. (FIGURE 12)

## 7.7.METAL DETECTING

7.7.1. A phase of metal detecting was undertaken on the site during the trial

trenching. A collection of modern metal items, including bottle caps, screws and fragments of machinery were encountered. None of these items were retained.

7.7.2. No historic artefacts were identified during the metal detecting survey. After consultation with the HER, and discussion with the landowner, it is apparent that the site has been detected for many years and it likely that the majority of any finds present have already been collected.



## 8. Finds

8.1. The following table gives a breakdown of the finds recovered from site, by context.

Context	Material	Description	Date
100	Ceramic	Black glaze body sherd	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> C
100	Ceramic	Black glaze body sherd	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> C
100	Ceramic	Blue and white printed body sherd	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> C
200	Ceramic	Black glaze body sherd	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> C
200	Ceramic	Cistercian ware, body sherd	15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> century
200	Ceramic	Ewloe ware?	14 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> century
300	Ceramic	Black glaze body sherd	18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> C
300	Ceramic	China, blue band decoration	19 <sup>th</sup> C
302	Ceramic	Orange, holt?, fabric	1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> C
400	Clay tobacco pipe	Short stem sherd	Post Medieval
400	CBM	Brick fabric	Post Medieval
500	Ceramic	Salt glazed sewer drain	Post Medieval
500	Ceramic	Hard fired, glazed floor tile	20 <sup>th</sup> C
500	Ceramic	Ewloe? Ware, body sherd	14 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> C

*Table 2 - Table of Finds*

8.2. The finds assemblage represents a mix of domestic ceramic material spanning the Roman, Medieval, and Post Medieval periods. This assemblage adequately demonstrates the suggested periods of activity in the area. As the majority of finds were recovered from the topsoil, it can be suggested that these come from ploughing activity on a site that has been in use since the Medieval period. The sites proximity to a known Medieval settlement makes this a likely scenario.

8.3. A single sherd of Roman ceramics came from an in situ deposit, (302). This is thought to be a dump of material from a Roman fire, which would have been in the vicinity.

## 9. Summary & Conclusions

- 9.1. A site to the north of Malpas has been identified as having potential for development. This archaeological desk based assessment and trial trench report has been researched and prepared by Blair Poole of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Land Planning.
- 9.2. The report considers land to the southwest of the village of Malpas, Cheshire. It is centred on National Grid Reference 348384,346980. The site lies on the outskirts of the village in an area of open agricultural fields.
- 9.3. The assessment indicates that the site lies within an area which has previously yielded Prehistoric and Medieval finds. A note on the HER database also suggests that Roman finds have also been recovered from the area.
- 9.4. The site area appears to retain its Medieval field layout in its current boundary hedgerows, as well as in an earthwork relating to a removed boundary line. The presence of Ridge and Furrow has also been noted to the south of the house.
- 9.5. As the site lies to the immediate west of a Conservation area, the impact of any development on the setting of these must be addressed at design stage.
- 9.6. The results of the trial trenching revealed mainly negative results, with four of the five trenches containing no archaeological features. Within Trench 3 a small area of burnt material was encountered, sealed by a colluvium deposit. This burnt material contained a sherd of Roman ceramic. The location of the deposit in the stratigraphic sequence suggests that this is an *in situ* Roman feature. However, as the natural deposits underlying it did not show any evidence of burning, it is thought that this is a dump of material, and not the location of a fire.

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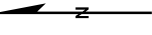
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# FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



Scale 1:50,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View Farm, Malpas

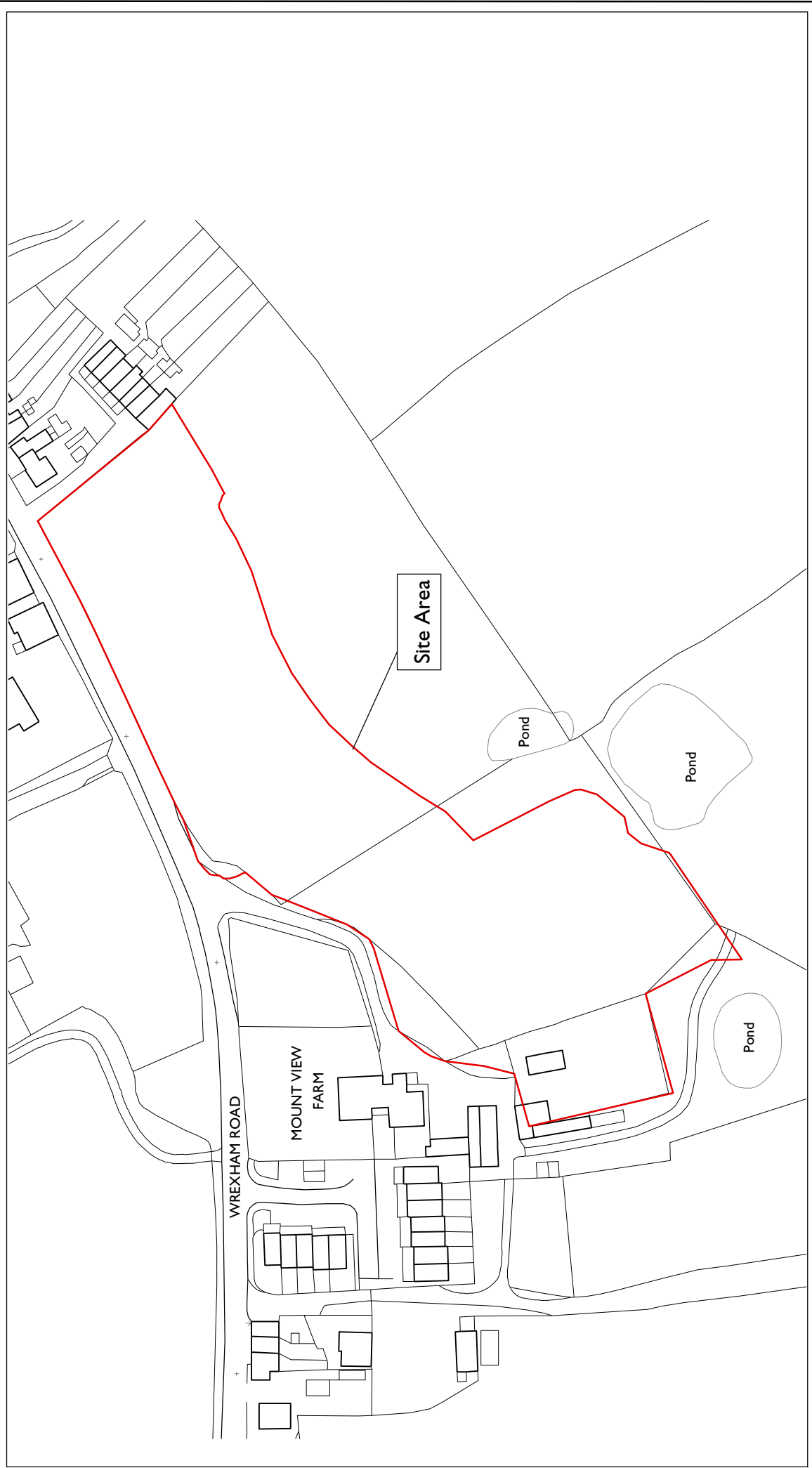
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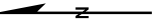
L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:1,500 @ A4

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PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View Farm, Malpas

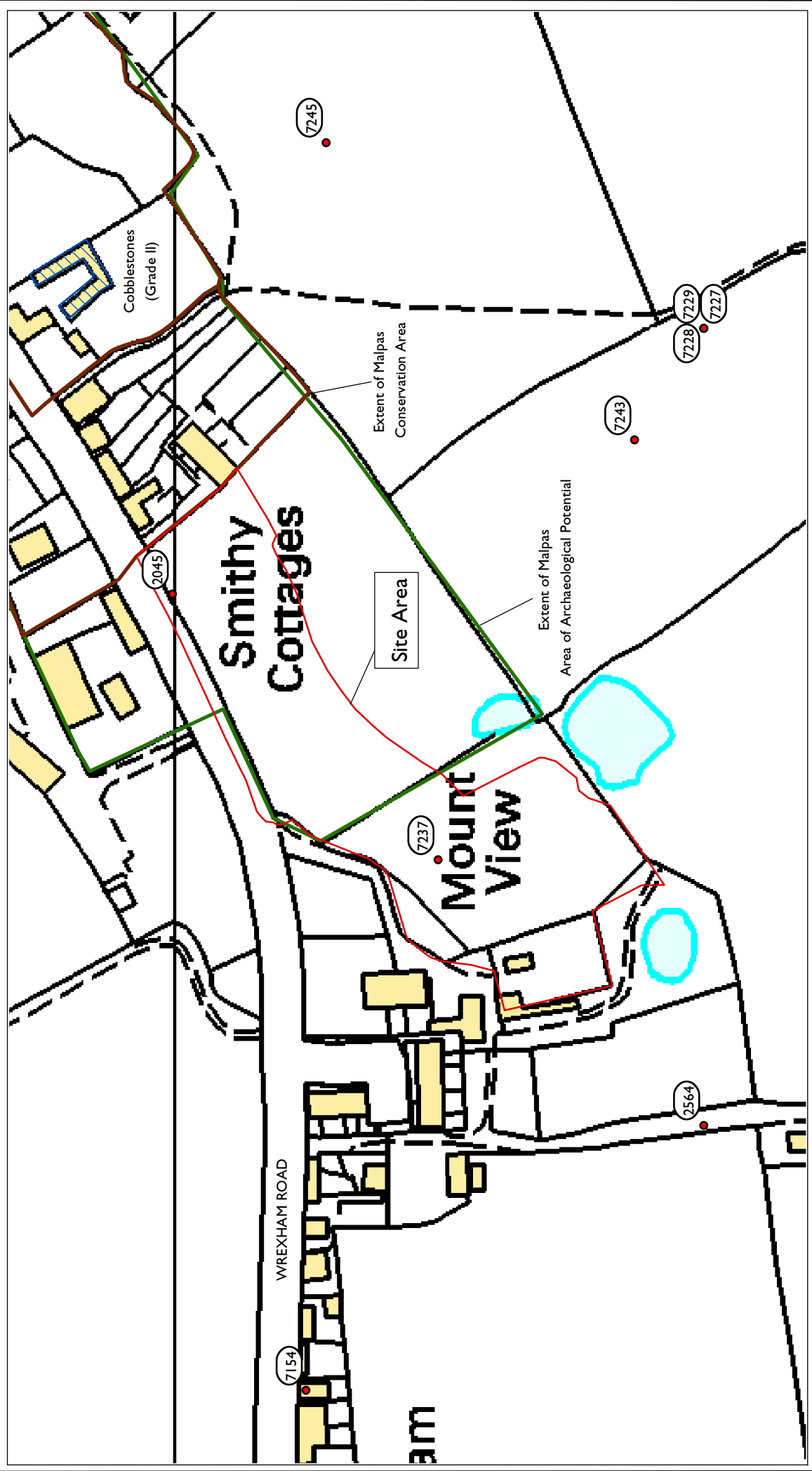
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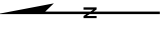
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FIGURE 3 // Historic Environment Record Data



Scale 1:2,000 @ A4



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DESCRIPTION // Historic Environment Record Data

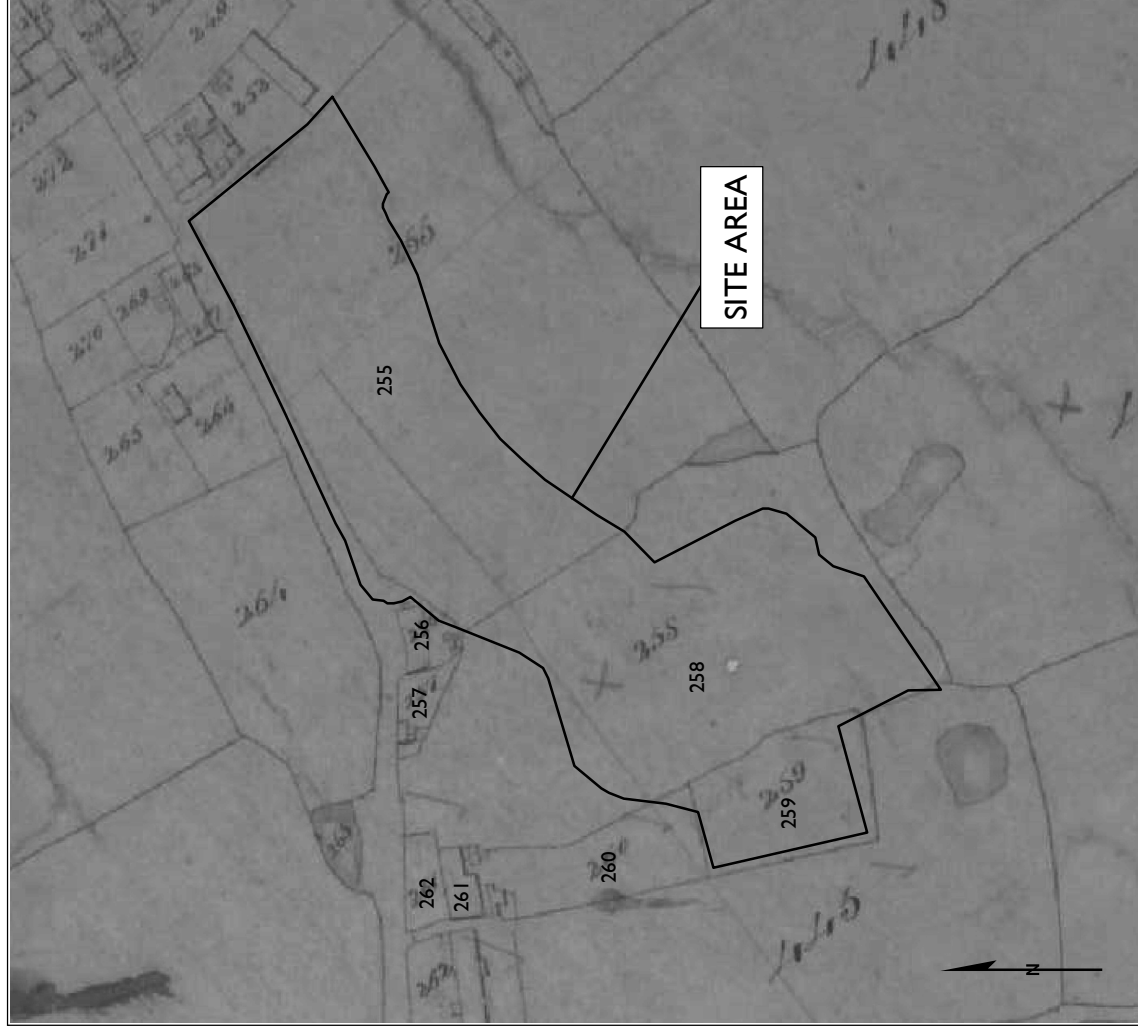
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FIGURE 4 // Tithe Map & Apportionment



Scale 1:2,000 @ A4

0 100m

TITHE APPORTIONMENT INFORMATION

Township: Malpas  
 Parish : Malpas

Plot : 255  
 Owner : Henry Wooluch  
 Occupier : James Peach  
 Plot Name: Meadow  
 Land Use : Pasture

Plot : 256 & 257  
 Owner : Thomas Tyrwhitt Drake  
 Occupier : John Davies, Thomas Harding, Samuel Nield  
 Plot Name: Three Dwellings And Yards  
 Land Use: Building

Plot : 258  
 Owner : Marquess Of Cholmondeley  
 Occupier : Ralph Stephenson  
 Plot Name: Clay Hole  
 Land Use: Pasture

Plot : 259  
 Owner : Marquess Of Cholmondeley, Ralph Stephenson  
 Occupier : Marquess Of Cholmondeley  
 Plot Name: Garden  
 Land Use: Garden

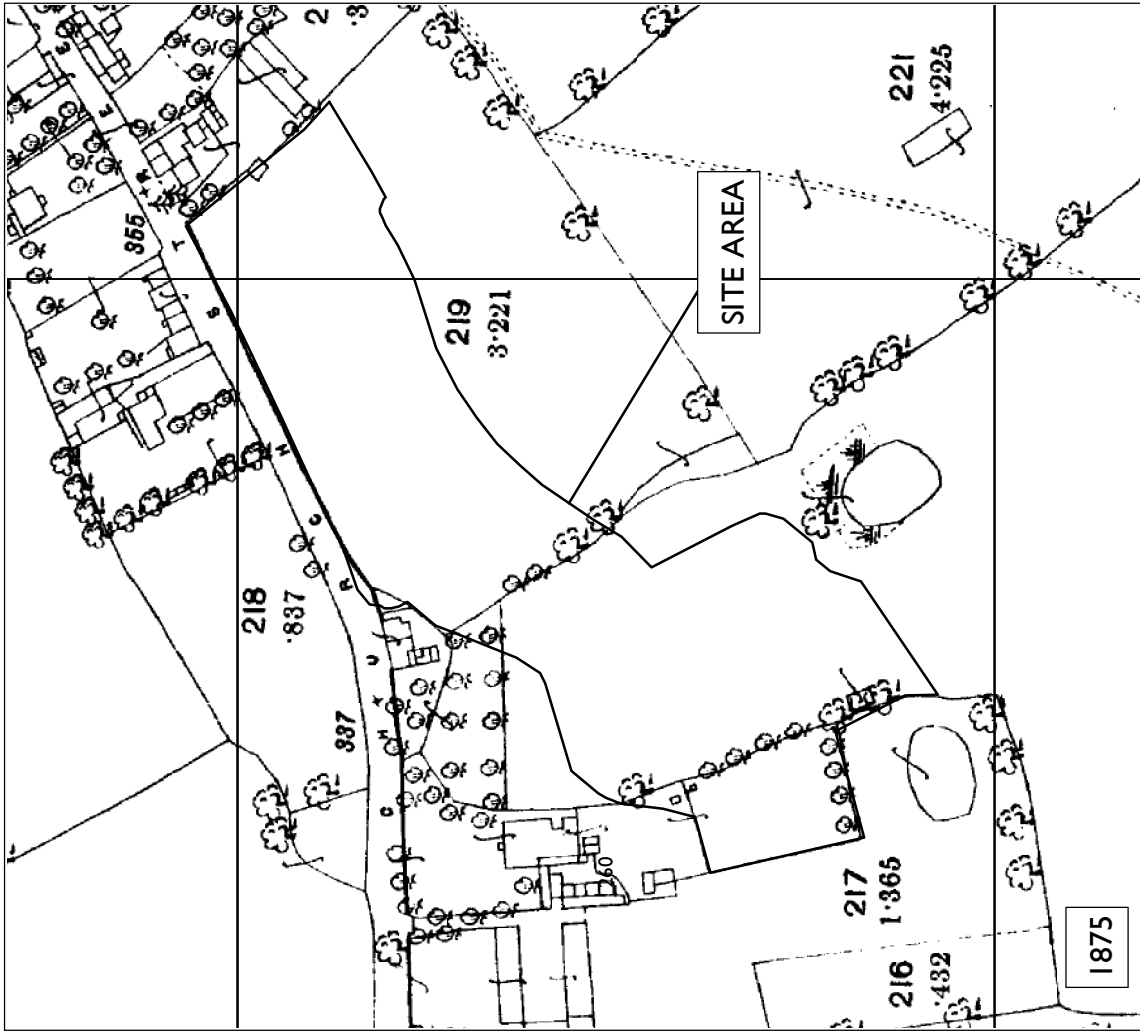
Plot : 260 & 261  
 Owner : Marquess Of Cholmondeley, Ralph Stephenson  
 Occupier : Marquess Of Cholmondeley  
 Plot Name: House Buildings And Garden  
 Land Use: Building and Garden

PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View farm, Malpas

DESCRIPTION // Tithe Map and Apportionment

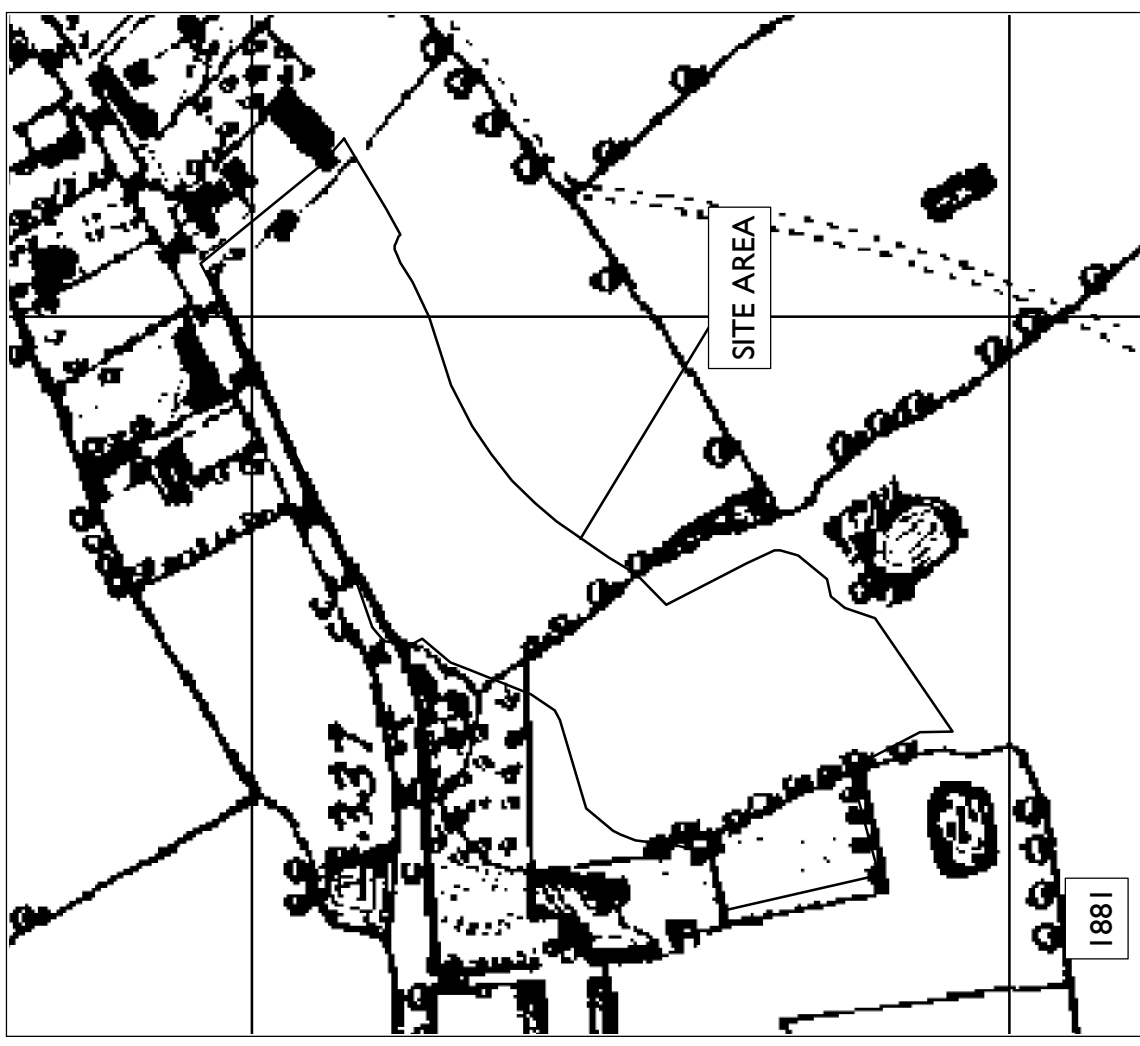
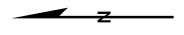
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FIGURE 5 // 1875 & 1881 OS Maps



Scale 1:2,000 @ A4

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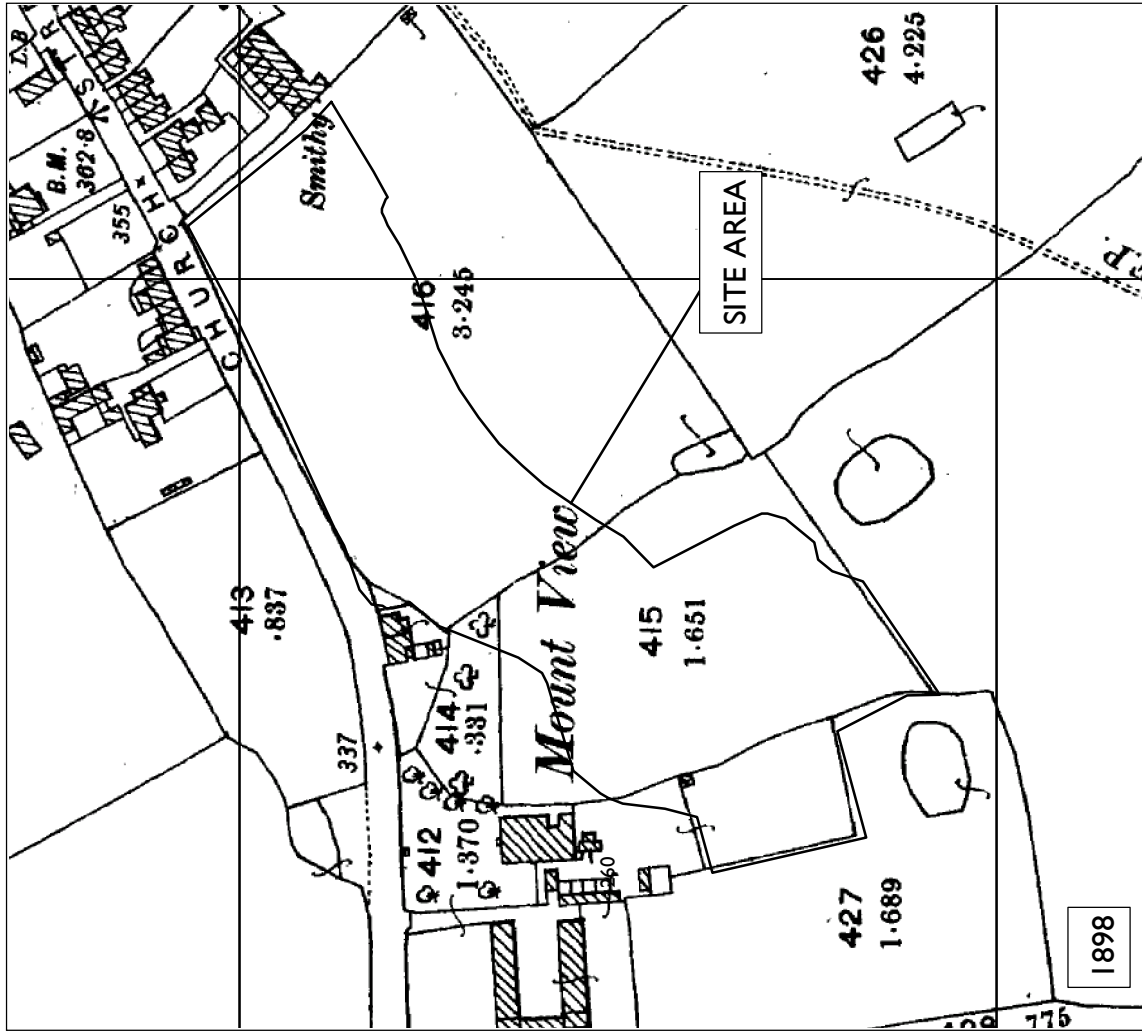
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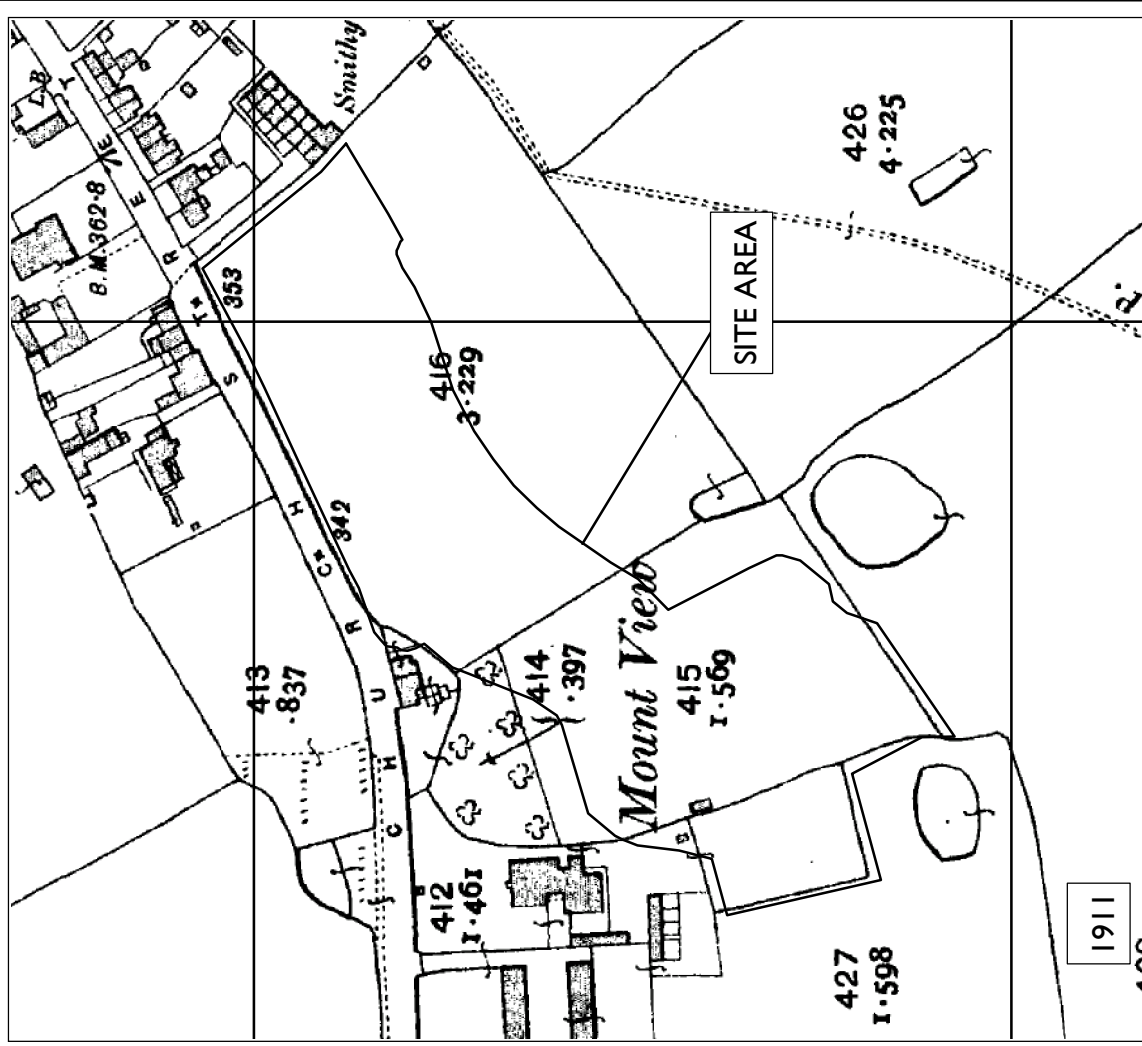
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FIGURE 6 // 1898 & 1911 OS Maps



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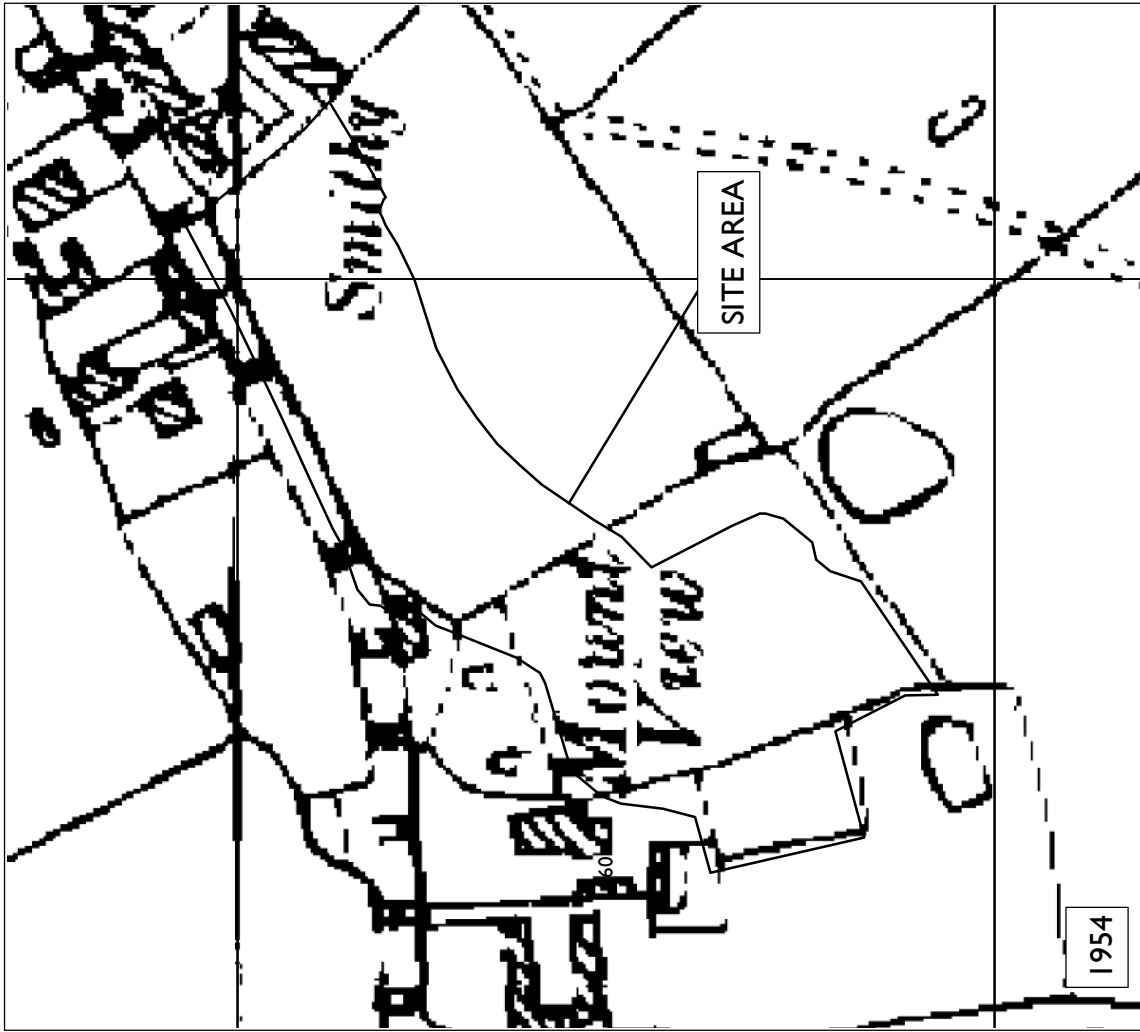
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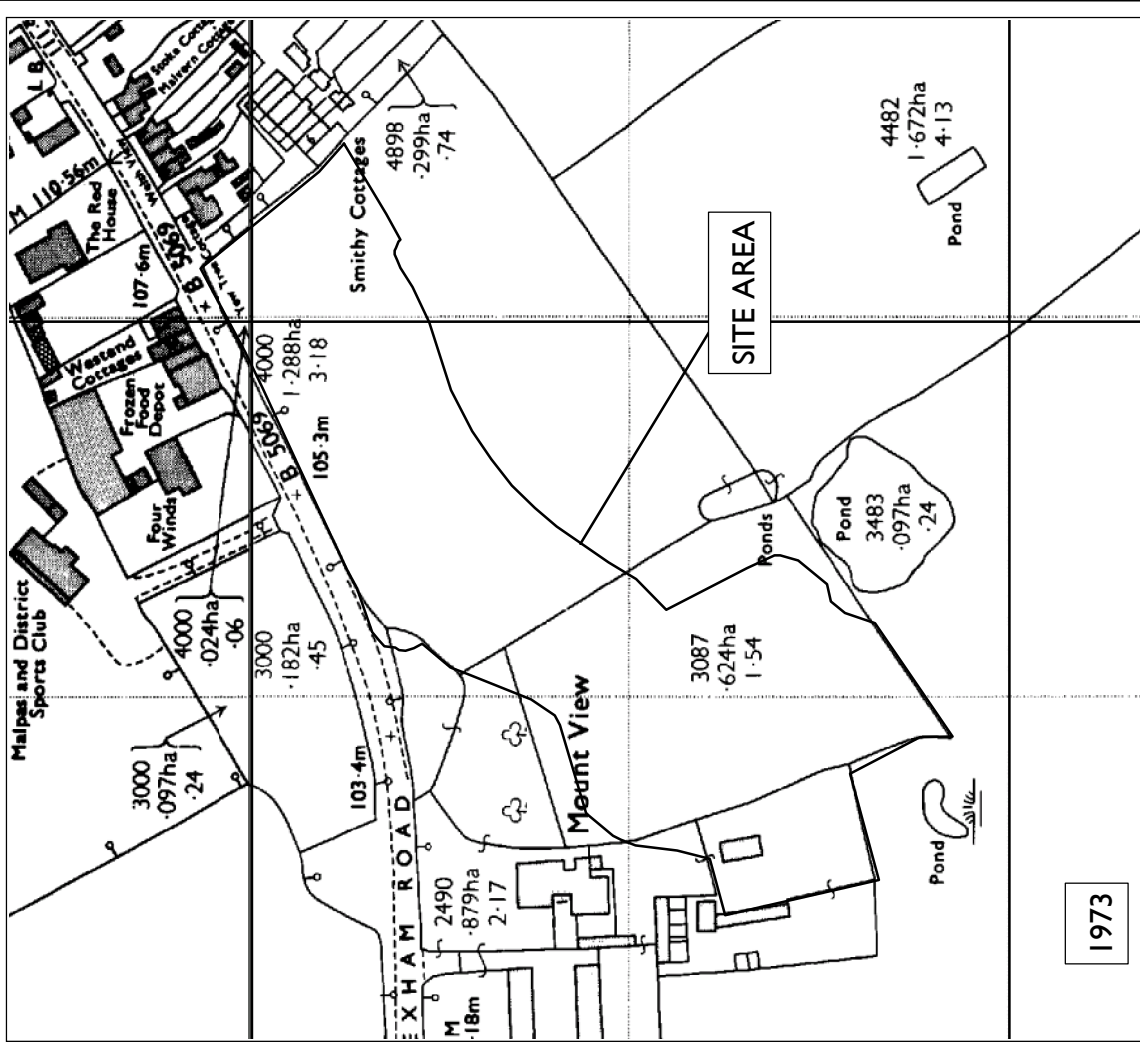
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FIGURE 7 // 1954 & 1973 OS Maps



Scale 1:2,000 @ A4

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PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View farm, Malpas

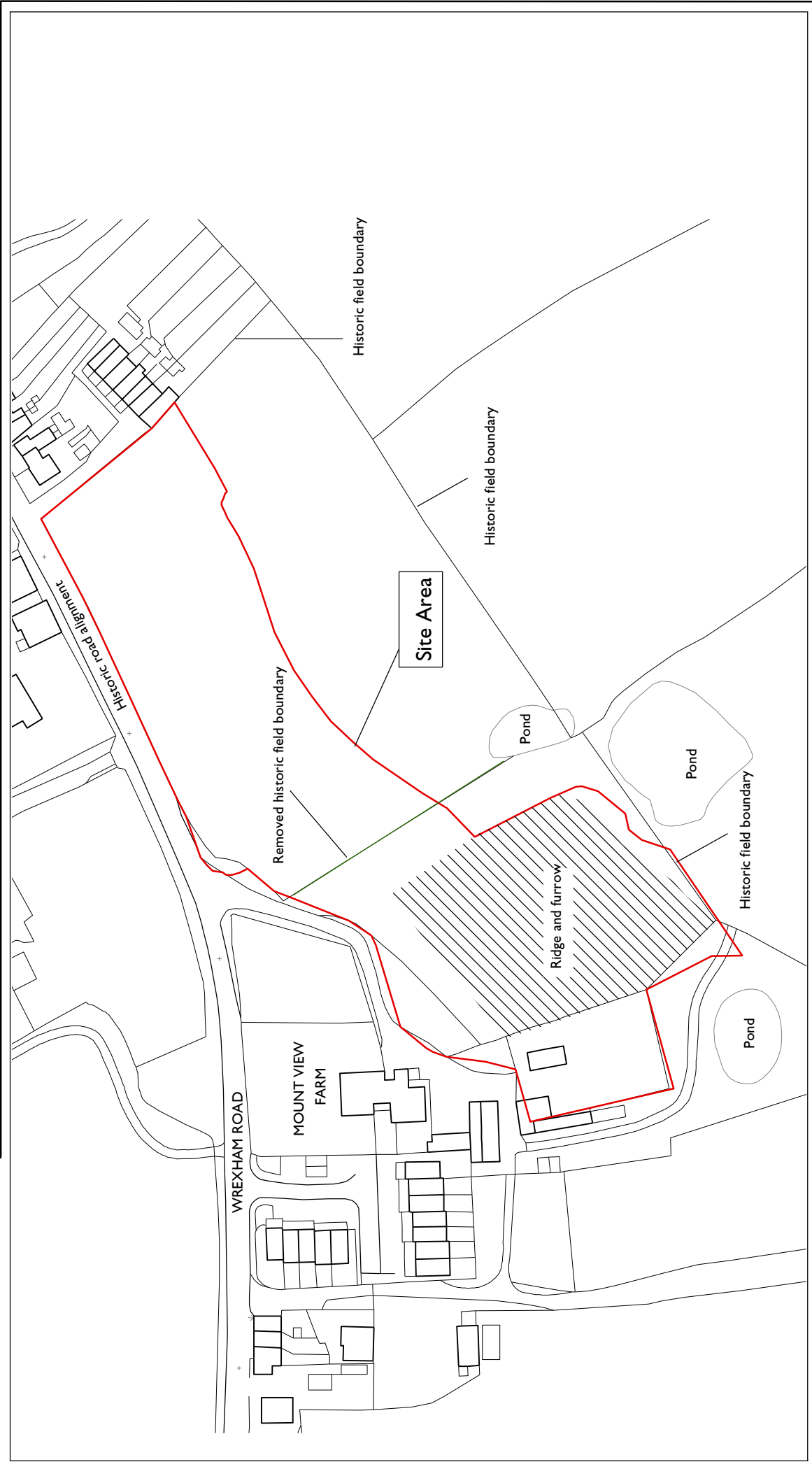
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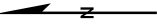
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FIGURE 8 // Site Walkover Gazetteer



Scale 1:1,500 @ A4



PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View Farm, Malpas

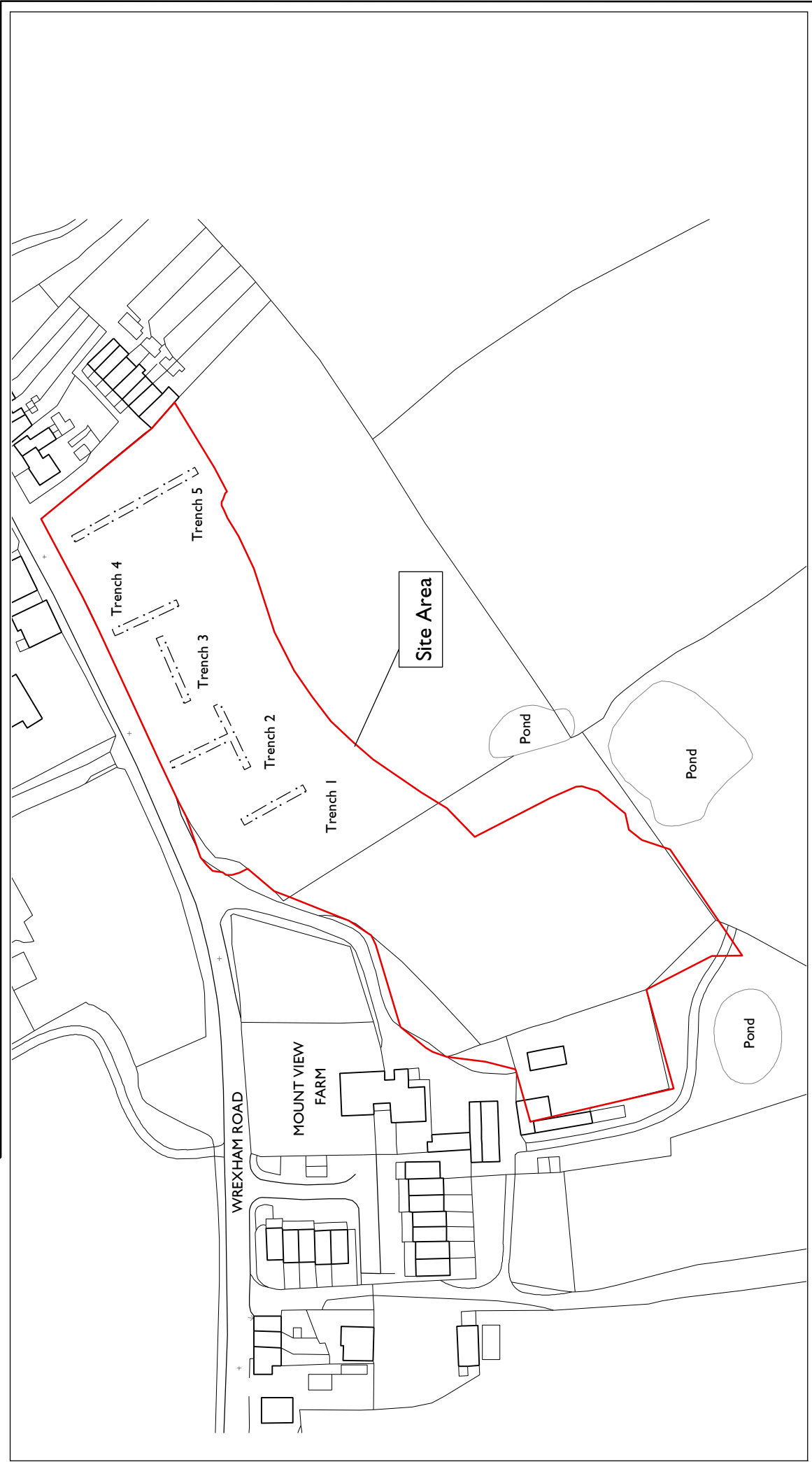
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FIGURE 9 // Trench Locations



Scale 1:1,500 @ A4

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PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View Farm, Malpas

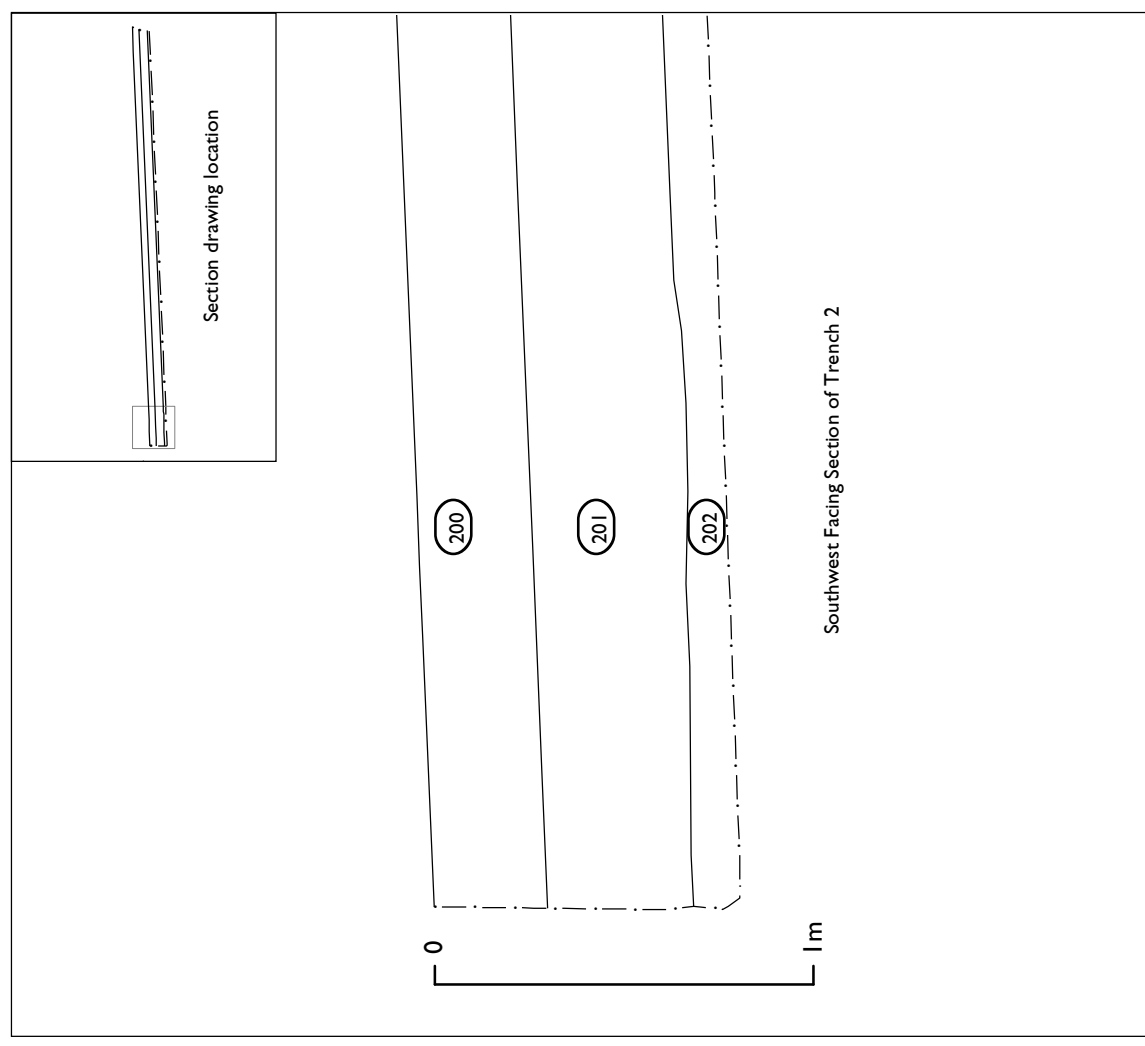
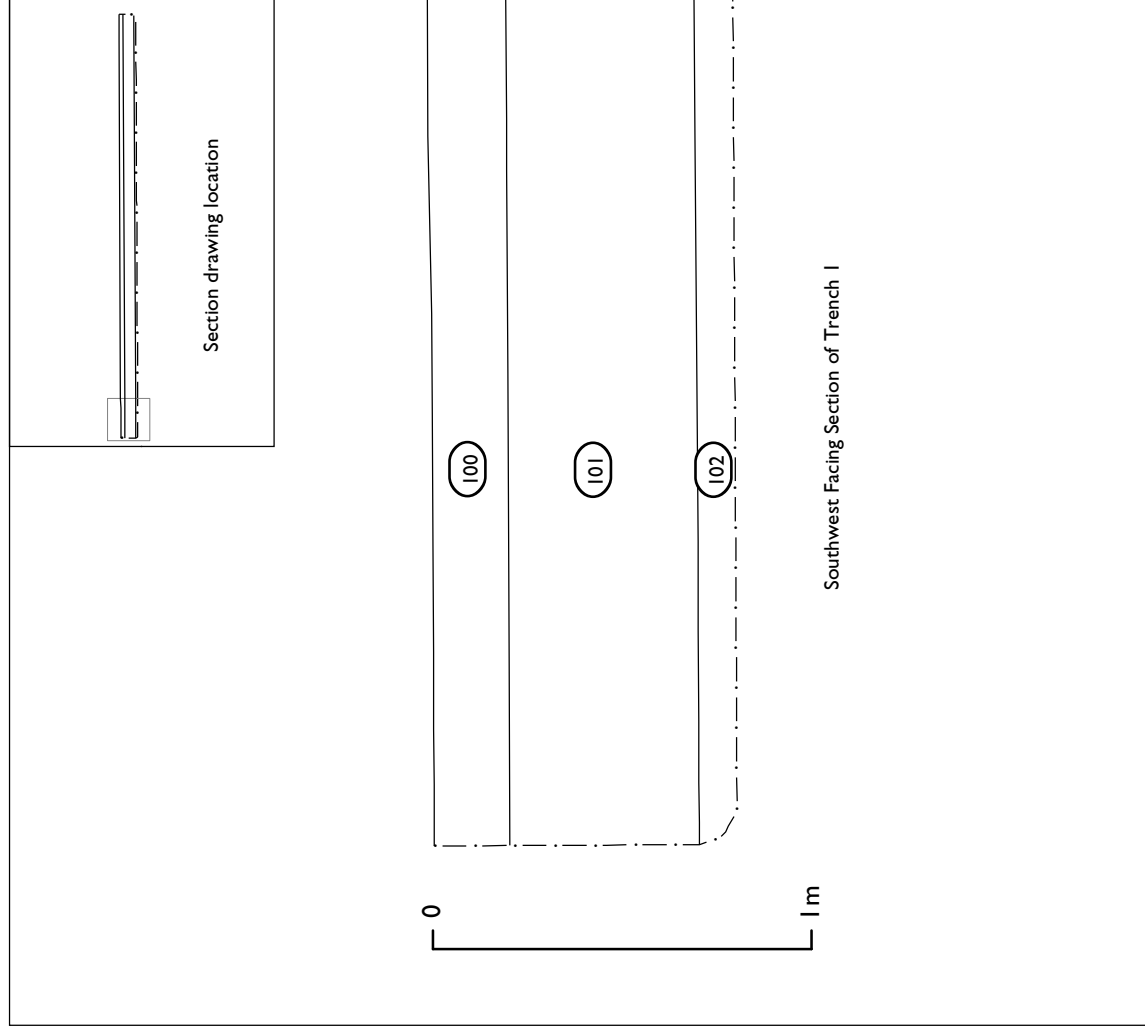
DESCRIPTION // Trench Locations

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FIGURE 10 // Trenches 1 & 2 Sections



Scale 1:20 @ A4

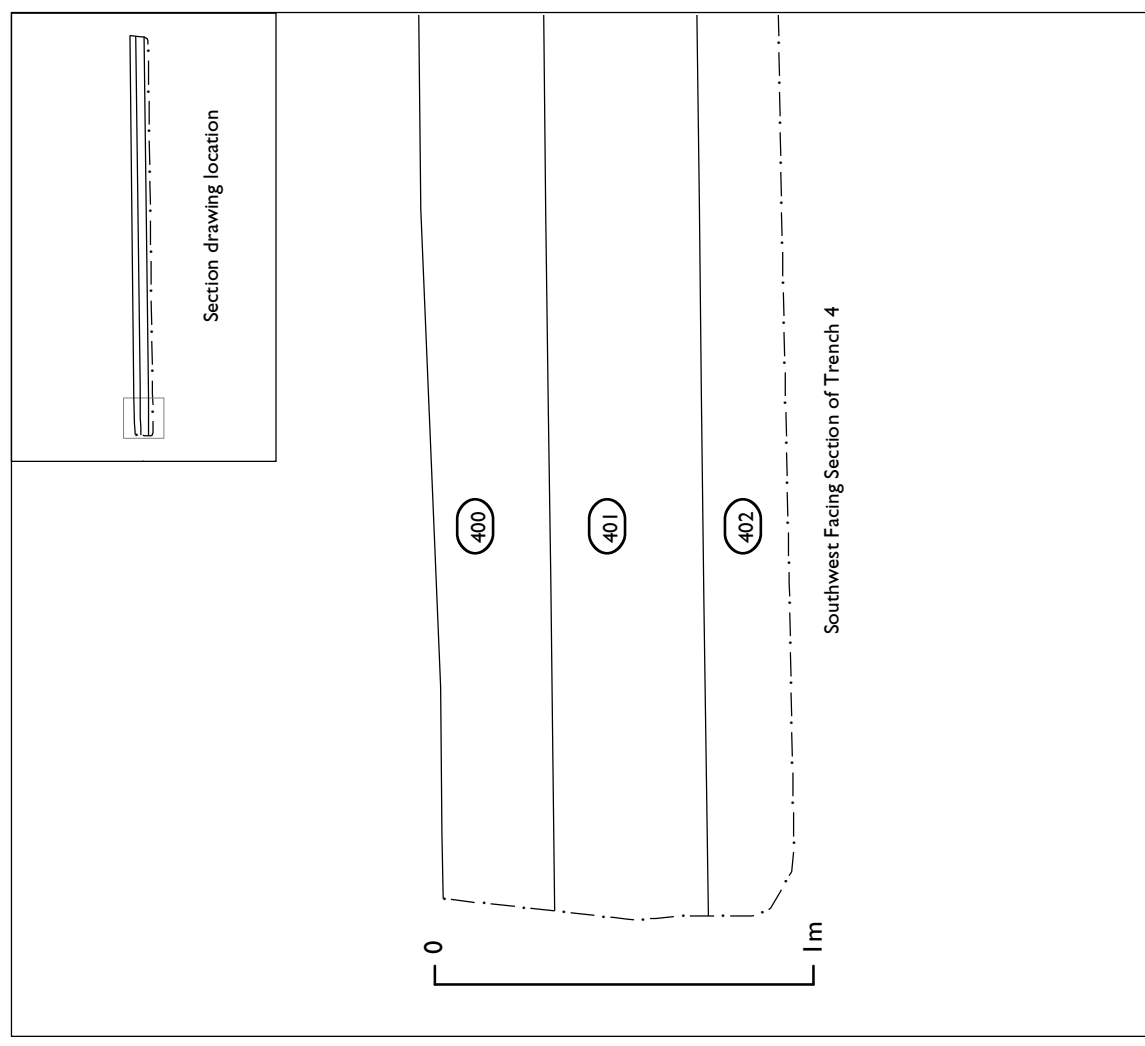
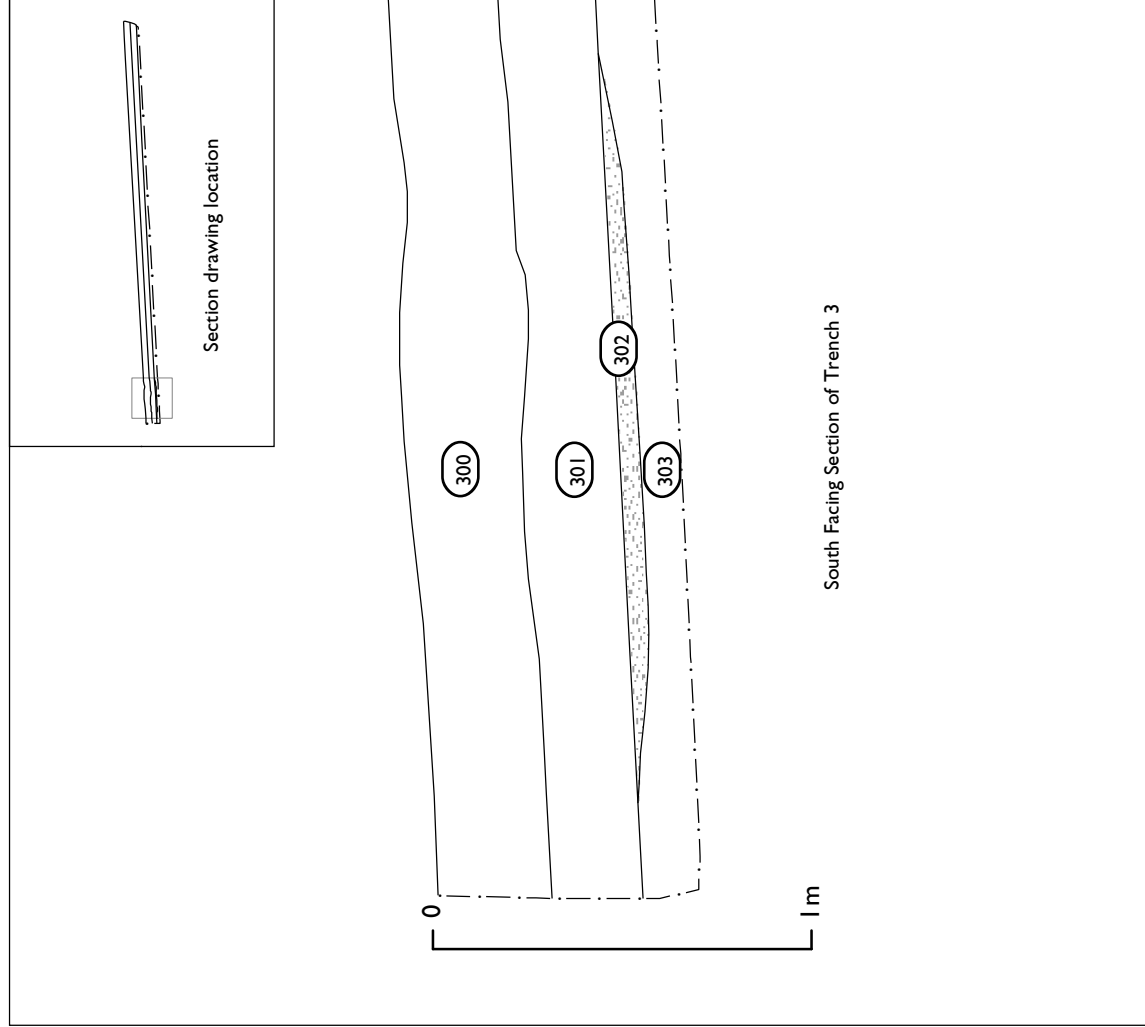
PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View farm, Malpas

DESCRIPTION // Trenches 1 & 2 Sections

DOC REF // LPI1613C-DBA-v1

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FIGURE 11 // Trenches 3 & 4 Sections



Scale 1:20 @ A4

PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View farm, Malpas

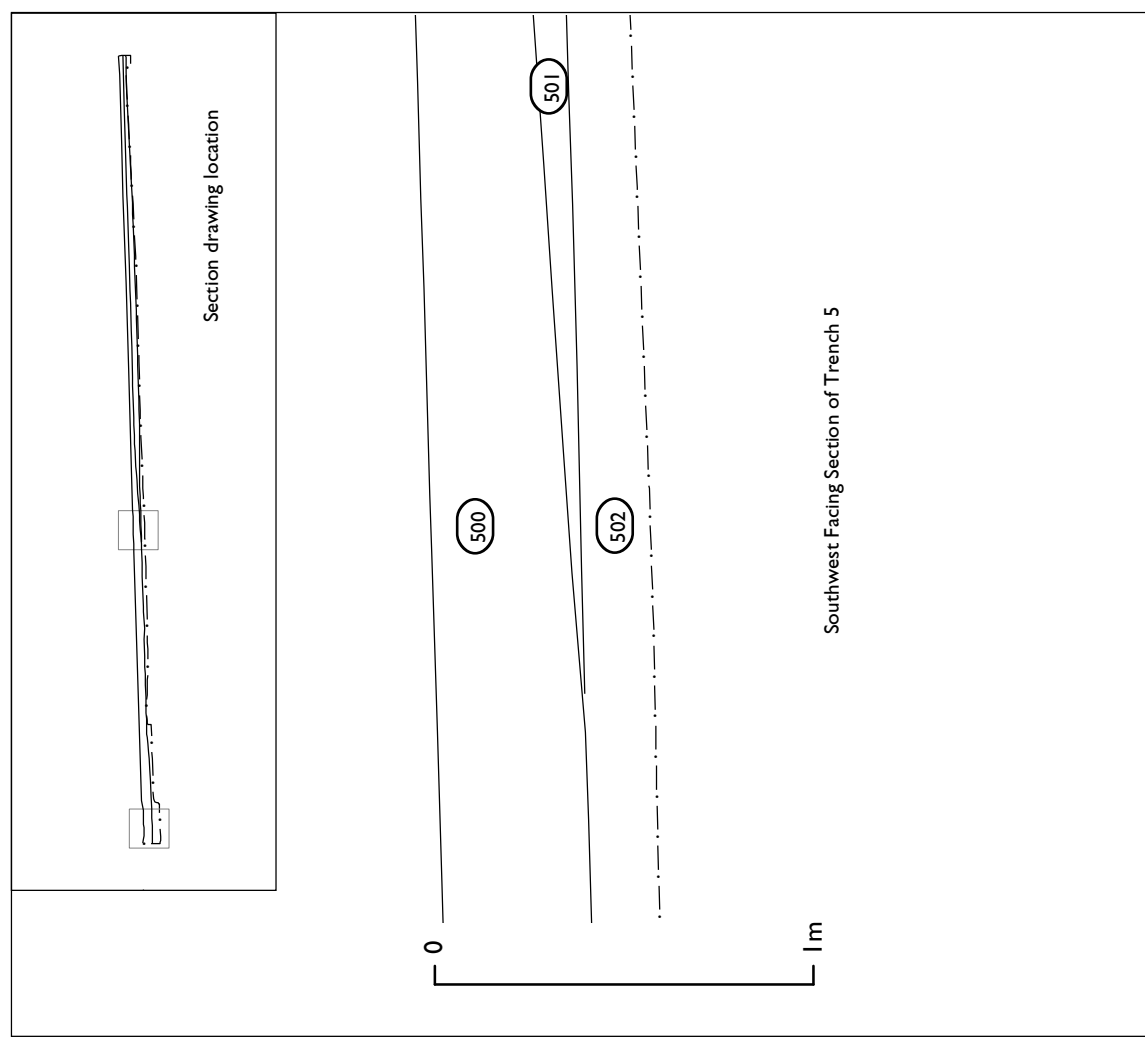
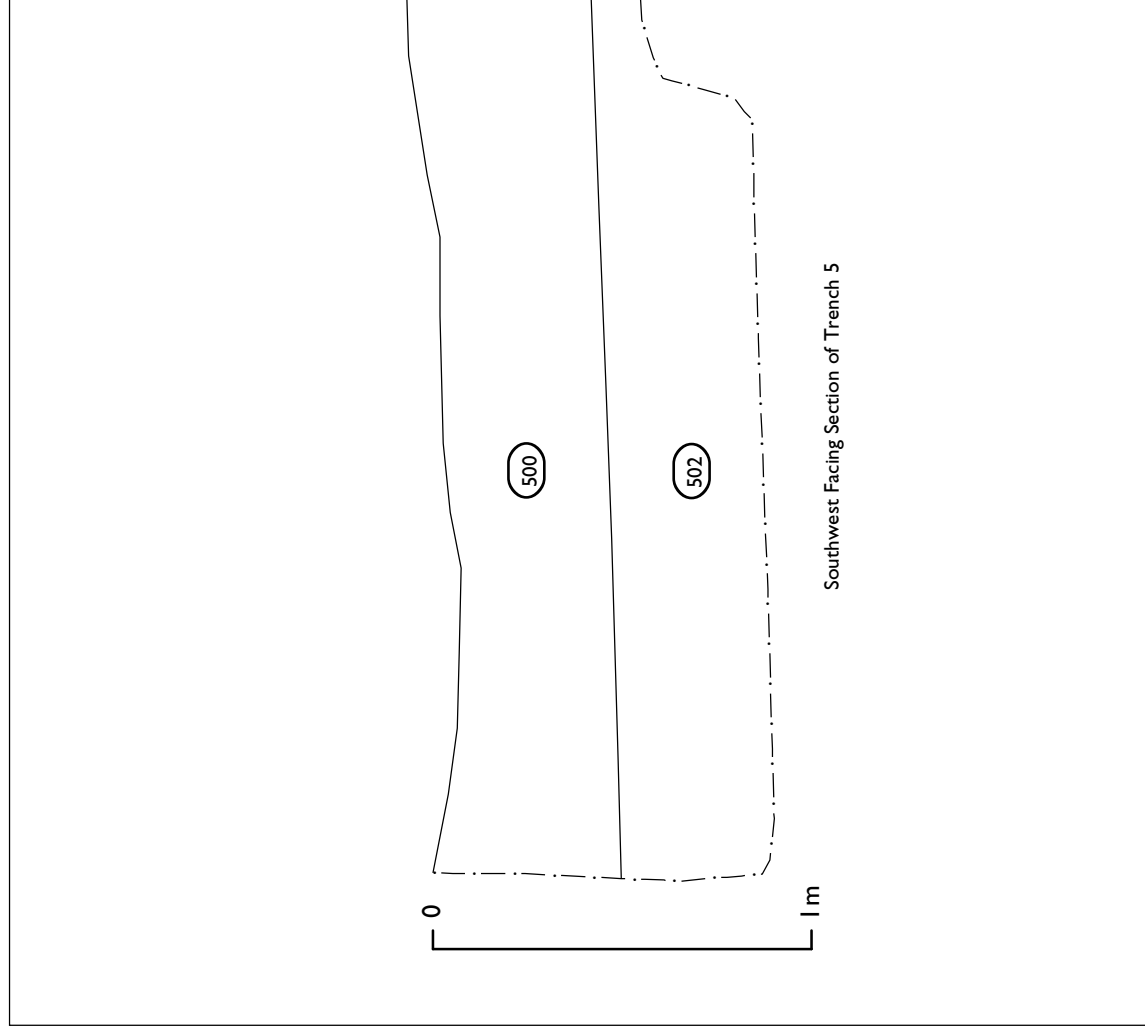
DESCRIPTION // Trenches 3 & 4 Sections

DOC REF // LPI1613C-DBA-v1

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FIGURE 12 // Trench 5 Sections



Scale 1:20 @ A4

PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View farm, Malpas

DESCRIPTION // Trench 5 Sections

DOC REF // LPI1613C-DBA-v1

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# WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

## APPENDIX 1

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

# **MOUNT VIEW FARM MALPAS**

---

For Land Planning

---

B Poole MSc MifA

---

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

# MOUNT VIEW FARM MALPAS

---

Client: Land Planning

---

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

---

NGR: 348375,346978

---

Planning App: Pre-determination for 13/03806/OUT

---

Author(s): B Poole

---

Doc Ref: LPI 613C-WSI-v1.1

---

Site Code: MAL/MVF 13

---

Date: October 13

---

## L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

A trading name of the L – P : Heritage LLP

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[www.lparchaeology.com](http://www.lparchaeology.com)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## *Table of Figures*

1. Introduction
2. Site Background
3. Aims
4. Methodology
5. Report
6. Archive
7. Access and Safety
8. Staffing and Timetable

## *Sources Consulted*

## *Figures*

## *Appendices*

# TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Proposed Trench Locations

Figure 3 - Proposed Site Layout

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document has been prepared by Blair Poole of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Land Planning.
- 1.2. This document has been produced in response to a request from the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority for further information prior to determination of the planning conditions for the site.
- 1.3. The document sets out the methodology for an archaeological evaluation for land at Mount View farm, Wrexham Road, Malpas, SY14 7EJ, NGR 348375,346978 (FIGURE 1). Works will entail the excavation of a series of seven 20m by 2m trenches and metal detecting of the site.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L – P : Archaeology is MAL/MVF 13.
- 1.5. This document sets out the detailed method to be employed for the evaluation fieldwork, post excavation, reporting and archiving at the above site.
- 1.6. The standards and guidance laid out by the Institute for Archaeologists, and all relevant standards set by the local curatorial service and English Heritage, will be adhered to at all times.

## **2. Site Background**

### **2.1.PLANNING**

- 2.1.1. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.
- 2.1.2. Paragraph 128 of the NPPF indicates planning decisions should be made based on the significance of Heritage Assets. These are defined as buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
- 2.1.3. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority is the Cheshire West and Chester Council. At present Cheshire West and Chester refer to the Chester Local Plan. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment the Local Planning Authority take impartial advice from Mike Morris of the Historic Environment Team.
- 2.1.4. In association with this evaluation, a phase of metal detecting and a desk based assessment will also be carried out.

### **2.2.PROPOSALS**

- 2.2.1. Proposed redevelopment of the site is to comprise the erection of 19 new dwellings and associated infrastructure.

### **2.3.GEOLOGY**

- 2.3.1. The site lies along the Mid Cheshire Ridge, a formation of Triassic sandstone bedrock with undifferentiated mudstones and siltstones (BGS SHEET 109).
- 2.3.2. The area is known for its glacial geology with glacial meltwaters responsible for the formation of much of the current landscape. The underlying drift geology is a combination of glacial clay and glacial sand and gravel, which overlies the

natural bedrock of Malpas Sandstone.

## **2.4. TOPOGRAPHY**

2.4.1. The site lies to the southwest of the village of Malpas to the immediate south of Wrexham Road, at approximately 10mOD. To the east and west of the site are residential properties. To the south of the site lies open fields and a series of ponds.

## **2.5. ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

2.5.1. This site lies towards the outskirts of a known Medieval settlement, The western half of the site lies in what may be undeveloped land. However, the eastern section of the site falls within the Medieval core of the settlement, the Malpas Area of Archaeological Potential (CHESHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY, 2003).

2.5.2. It is possible that boundaries of planned Medieval burgage plots may survive along the southern and western areas of the site. As these burgage plots are thought to have gone out of use in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and the land is thought to have been arable since that time, there is a potential for the survival of evidence for the early settlement of the town.

2.5.3. A Medieval silver annular brooch and a stone spindle whorl have been recovered from the site, and a Bronze age dagger and Medieval finds have come from the immediate vicinity.

2.5.4. The Historic Landscape Characterisation Survey has identified the site as being part of an Ancient Fieldscape, containing enclosures dating to before the 17<sup>th</sup> century.



## 3. Aims

3.1. The general aims of the evaluation are:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◆ To assess the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To assess the anticipated impact of the development proposals on any surviving archaeological remains.
- ◆ To collect enough information to allow a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised, if required, and to inform any decision of the outline planning application.

## 4. Methodology

### 4.1. SITEWORKS

- 4.1.1. A series of seven trenches are to be excavated across the site at predefined locations (FIGURE 2). These trenches have been located at points of impact associated with the proposed development along the frontage of Wrexham road. Trenches will measure 20m by 2m in plan and will be excavated to the top of the first archaeological horizon or to natural deposits, should no archaeological deposits be encountered.
- 4.1.2. Archaeologically trenches will be excavated using appropriately sized plant. This will normally be a 360 degree tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Where modern hard surfaces and deep rubble fills are encountered a narrow bucket with teeth will be used under close supervision. This bucket will not be used to penetrate any archaeological deposits. A breaker will be required to remove any hardstanding or other obstacles.
- 4.1.3. Trench areas will be systematically metal detected prior to excavation and all upcast material will also undergo metal detecting. The wider site area will have a metal detecting survey carried out across it. All detecting will be carried out by a suitably experienced person.
- 4.1.4. The trench location is subject to reasonable change by the field officer dependent on conditions on site, to avoid services or obstructions. No changes will be made that affect the aims of the project. Should a trench reveal archaeological deposits of significant interest the possibility of extending the trench or moving the position of another trench in relation to the specific site area may be discussed with the adviser to the Local Authority.
- 4.1.5. The trench locations will be accurately surveyed prior to excavation and related to the National Grid.
- 4.1.6. Any modern overburden will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist. Using professional judgement recent make-up deposits and bulk deposits can be removed by machine after identification with hand cleaning.

4.1.7. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section. The objective will be to define remains rather than totally remove them. Features will be investigated, where possible, as follows:

- ◆ 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes).
- ◆ All terminals and intersections of linear features.
- ◆ 50% structural features (beamslots, ring ditches) - actual surviving structural elements (walls, collapse/debris fields) only require exposure, cleaning and preservation for excavation in more appropriate circumstances.
- ◆ 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens) - unless large and structural, in which case see above.

4.1.8. All works will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008). Accordingly the project team will abide by the IFA's code of approved practice and GLAAS guidance papers nos 2, 4 and 5 (1998).

## 4.2. FINDS

4.2.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. All CBM recovered from known Roman deposits will be retained. No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the archaeological advisor to the local authority or their specialist advisor.

4.2.2. All recovered finds will undergo a basic in house assessment for date and to assess the potential requirement for further specialist assessment or analysis. The following specialists will be contacted should this be deemed necessary, following consultation with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.

- ◇ Roman and Post Medieval ceramics – Dan Garner
- ◇ Medieval ceramics – Paul Blinkhorn
- ◇ Lithics – Blair Poole
- ◇ Glass – Hugh Wilmott
- ◇ Faunal remains – Naomi Sykes
- ◇ Clay tobacco pipe – Matthew Jones
- ◇ Illustration – Catherine Rees

- 4.2.3. Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve information to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 4.2.4. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in the Grosvenor museum.
- 4.2.5. Marking of finds will follow the requirements of the Grosvenor museum. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the same details.
- 4.2.6. All finds which constitute Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.2.7. Any human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate government regulations. Furthermore, if removal is essential, such removal will be in accordance with the Excavation and Post Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains (MCKINLEY & ROBERTS 1993) and the Guidelines for the Standards for Recording Human Remains (BRICKLEY & MCKINLEY 2004) as set out by the IfA.
- 4.2.8. Should finds that require immediate conservation be encountered, they will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation “Conservation Guideline No. 2” (UKIC 1983). Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions “Standards in the Museum Care of

Archaeological Collections (MGC 1992)” and the current IFA guidelines (IFA 2001A) will also be followed. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, ‘First Aid for Finds’ (LEIGH ET AL 1993). Any necessary conservation and treatment of metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with specialist conservators.

#### **4.3.ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING**

4.3.1. Environmental sampling during the evaluation will target a representative range of contexts with potential organic survival from each phase and examine the survival of material and key archaeological contexts. Should significant environmental deposits be encountered, they will be taken and processed in line with English Heritage guidelines (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2002) and our internal policy (ALLEN 2008). Provision will be made for the requirement of the following samples:

- ◆ Bulk samples of 30-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for process using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'flot' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues.
- ◆ Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- ◆ Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- ◆ Bulk samples of 100 litres for coarse sieving on site for specific artefacts such as animal bone.
- ◆ Samples of 2 litres for mollusc analysis, with associated continuous column samples.
- ◆ Monolith samples which may be sub-sampled for diatom, spore or pollen analysis.

- ◆ Monolith samples for soil micromorphology.

4.3.2. All environmental samples will be assessed for potential through summary analyses by an environmental specialist.

4.3.3. Bulk samples will be processed as soon as possible or discarded with the agreement of the Local Authority Archaeological Advisor. Residues will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

#### **4.4.SCIENTIFIC DATING**

4.4.1. Where appropriate, samples for scientific dating will be taken. Provision will be made for:

- ◆ Dendrochronological analysis from timbers.
- ◆ C14 dating from organic material, which may be taken as sub-samples from bulk or monolith samples.
- ◆ Archaeomagnetic dating from hearths or other suitable deposits.

#### **4.5.RECORDING SYSTEM**

4.5.1. The site code MAL/MVF 13 has been allocated by L – P : Archaeology. This code will be used to label all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.

4.5.2. The recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (SPENCE 1994). Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the evaluation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide (SPENCE 1994).

4.5.3. A site location plan (at an appropriate scale, usually OS 1:25,000) will be prepared showing investigation area and development site in relation to the surrounding locality.

4.5.4. This will be supplemented by a detailed plan (at an appropriate scale, usually

OS 1:200 or 1:100), which will show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the investigation area.

- 4.5.5. Burials will be drawn at 1:10. Other detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:50 or 1:20.
- 4.5.6. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 4.5.7. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.
- 4.5.8. Upon completion of each significant feature at least one sample section will be drawn, including a profile of the top of natural deposits (extrapolated from cut features etc. if it has not been fully excavated). The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 4.5.9. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains, including photographs of sections. This will include high quality digital images, black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate the general nature of the archaeological works. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.
- 4.5.10. A Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavation.

## 5. Report

5.1. A formal report on the results of the archaeological evaluation will be prepared on completion of the fieldwork. The report will conform to Annex 2 of the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (IFA 2008) and the GLAAS Archaeological Guidance paper: 4 Archaeological Reports (GLAAS 1998) will include:

- ◆ A non-technical summary (abstract)
- ◆ Introductory statements and site background
- ◆ The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- ◆ A description of the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of all archaeological deposits recorded during the works, with specialist opinions and parallels from other sites if required.
- ◆ Illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs as necessary.
- ◆ A catalogue of finds, including any specialist reports.
- ◆ A discussion and summary of the results, including a statement of significance.
- ◆ An index of the contents and location of the archive.
- ◆ Sources consulted.
- ◆ A copy of the OASIS record sheet.

5.2. Following approval, two bound copies of the report will be sent to the client and a bound copy will be submitted to the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the report will be submitted to the appropriate Historic Environment Record within six months of completion of the report.

5.3.L -P : Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document. Any document produced to meet planning



requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority. Any information deposited in the Historic Environment Record can be freely copied without reference to the originator for research or planning purposes.

## 6. Archive

- 6.1. The site code MAL/MVF 13 and an accession number to be generated by the Grosvenor Museum will be used to mark all plans, drawings, context and recording sheets, photographs and other site material during excavation.
- 6.2. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with current requirements of the Grosvenor Museum. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto *pro-forma* recording sheets. Relevant context, sample and photograph registers and environmental sample sheets will also be used.
- 6.3. On completion of finds analysis, the landowner will be asked to sign a Deed of Transfer transferring title of the finds to the Grosvenor Museum.
- 6.4. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated (subject to the Deed of Transfer) by the Grosvenor Museum and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (MGC 1992), and the “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (SMA 1993) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 6.5. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Archaeological Projects” (ENGLISH HERITAGE 1991) para 5.4. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 6.6. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (WALKER 1990) will be followed. With consent of the landowner, arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 6.7. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the appropriate museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork (unless alternative

arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority or English Heritage). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.

6.8. The project will be registered and regularly updated as part of the OASIS project.

6.9. The Grosvenor Museum shall be granted licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, as long as such use is non-profit making and conforms to the Copyright and Related Rights regulation 2003.

## 7. Access and Safety

- 7.1. Reasonable access to the site will be arranged for the Local Planning Authority and their archaeological advisor who may wish to make site inspections to ensure that the archaeological investigations are progressing satisfactorily.
- 7.2. The archaeological advisor should be given notice of at least one working week prior to the commencement date of site works.
- 7.3. Before any site work commences, a full Risk Assessment Document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety.
- 7.4. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Barriers, hoardings and warning notices will be installed as appropriate. Safety helmets and visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 7.5. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. The installation of temporary support work and other attendance will be provided as required.

## **8. Staffing and Timetable**

8.1. The project manager is Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology.

8.2. Blair Poole will be responsible for the overall coherency of the team and for the management of the archaeological evaluation. Additional field officers, when required on site, will be under his direction and will be responsible for particular tasks that he assigns to them.

8.3. It is expected that the site work shall take up to one week to complete.

# SOURCES CONSULTED

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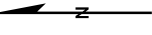
# FIGURES



FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



Scale 1:50,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View Farm, Malpas

DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

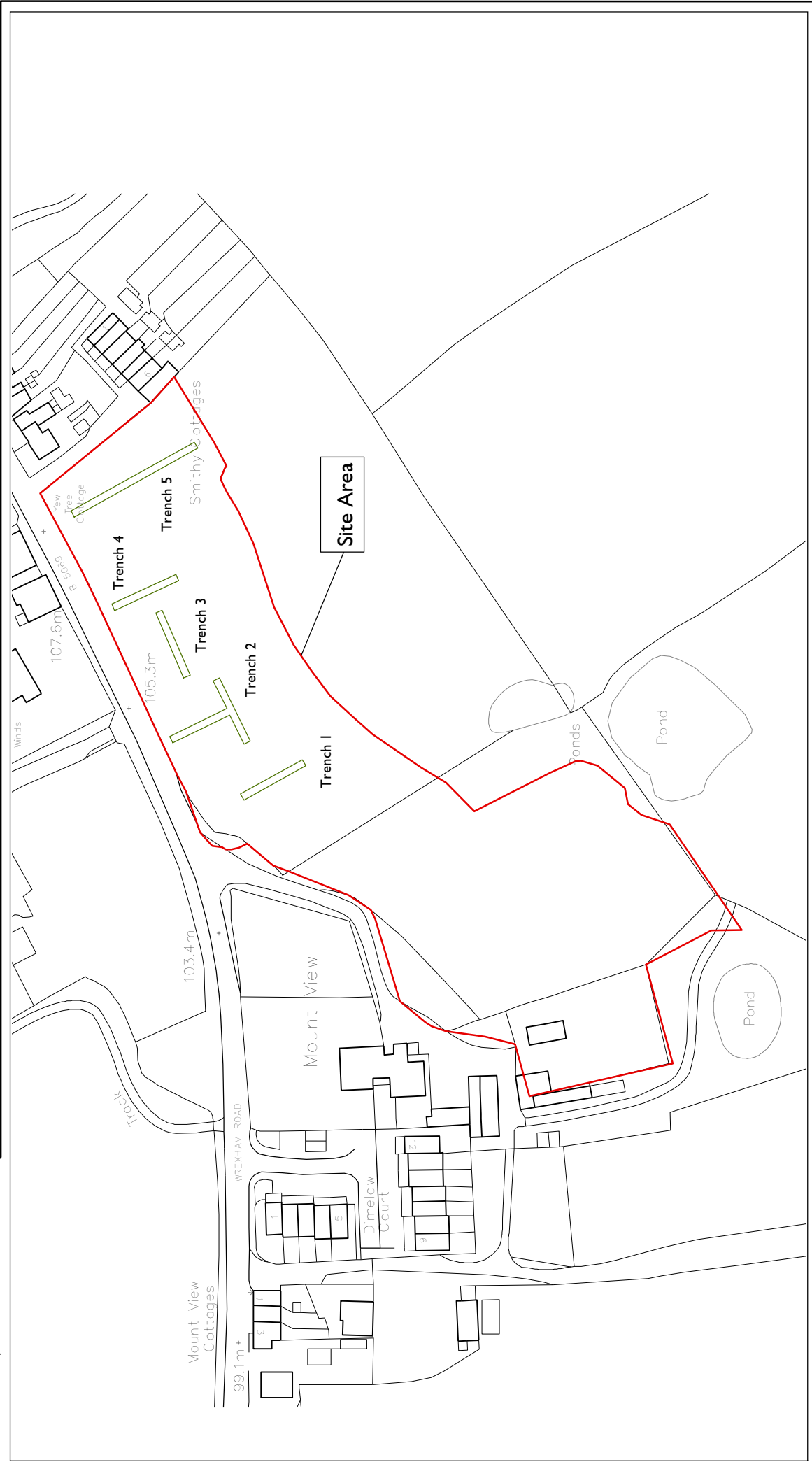
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DOC REF: LP1613C-WSI-v1

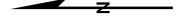
L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Proposed Trench Location



Scale 1:1,500 @ A4

0 100m



PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View Farm, Malpas

DESCRIPTION // Proposed Trench Location

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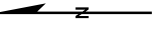
DOC REF: LP1613C-WSI-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Proposed Site Layout



Scale 1:1,500 @ A4



PROJECT // 1613C - Mount View Farm, Malpas  
 DESCRIPTION // Proposed Site Layout

0 100m

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# OASIS FORM

## APPENDIX 2

# 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: Iparchae1-165185**

### Project details

Project name	Mount View Farm, Malpas
Short description of the project	Desk Based Assessment and Trial Trenching at Mount View farm, Malpas
Project dates	Start: 11-11-2013 End: 25-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	MAL/MVF 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Desk based assessment
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CERAMIC VESSELS Roman
Methods & techniques	"Aerial Photography - interpretation", "Documentary Search", "Visual Inspection"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER MALPAS Mount View farm
Postcode	SY14 7EJ
Study area	1.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 348384 346980 52 -2 52 54 19 N 002 58 08 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 103.00m Max: 109.00m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District

	Archaeologist)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	George Lacey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Land Planning

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Physical Archive ID	MAL.MVF 13
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	MAL/MVF 13
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Paper Archive ID	MAL/MVF 13
Paper Contents	"Ceramics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Desk Based assessment and Trial Trenching at Mount View Farm, Malpas
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Poole, B.
Other bibliographic details	LP1613C-DBA-v1.2
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Results of the desk based research and trial trenching at Mount View farm, Malpas.
Entered by	B. Poole (chester@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	25 November 2013

# OASIS:

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