

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

HALLOWS DRIVE KELSALL

For Bloor Homes

Matthew Williams MCIfA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

HALLOWS DRIVE KELSALL

Client: Bloor Homes

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester

NGR: 389345, 390180

Planning App: 12/03551/FUL

Author(s): M. Williams

Doc Ref: 1516C-WBR-v1.1

Date: January 15

Site Code: KEL/HAD13

L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

A trading name of L - P : Heritage LLP

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during groundworks at Hallows Drive, Kelsall. The Watching Brief was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. This report has been prepared by Matthew Williams of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of Bloor Homes.

The site is on the south west edge of the village of Kelsall. There is some evidence for Prehistoric and later activity in the vicinity but not within the site area. The village of Kelsall is thought to have been settled in the early Post Medieval period.

An undated clay or sand extraction pit was recorded in the east of the site where a pond is shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps, and modern plough marks were seen in the centre of the site. Abraded pottery within the subsoil suggests that the site has been ploughed from the early Post Medieval period onwards.

The site has been used for dumping refuse associated with the surrounding late 20th century developments. An historic pond, visible on early Ordnance survey maps, is sealed below a large mound in the east of the site.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief carried out at Hallows Drive, Kelsall for Bloor Homes.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Dan Garner, Chris Matthews, Rachel Nicholson and Kate Pack between December 2013 and July 2014. This report was written by Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology.
- 1.3. The site is located in at Hallows Drive, Kelsall CW6 0QG within Tarporly (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 389345, 390180.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by Chester Archaeology is KEL/HAD13.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by L – P : Archaeology (WILLIAMS 2013B)

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. Planning consent has been granted for Construction of 33 new homes, associated access and landscaping, and the demolition of two existing dwellings. The reference is 12/0355I/FUL.
- 2.1.2. The Local Planning Authority is Cheshire West and Cheshire (CWAC) who take archaeological planning advice from the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service.
- 2.1.3. Bloor Homes and CWAC agreed the methodology for these works in the Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief ref LP1516C-WSI-v2.0.

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The drift geology is Devensian glacial till, the solid geology is Helsby sandstone formation (British Geological Survey 2014).
- 2.2.2. Observations during the watching brief confirmed that the natural drift geology is pink red gravel and sand overlying red clay.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site consists of two fields separated by a hedge. It is bounded to the north by housing fronting Chester Road, the east by housing fronting Church Street, the south by housing fronting Hallows Drive and the west by open fields (FIGURE 1).

2.4.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.4.1. There are no heritage assets recorded within the site area, however a Bronze Age cremation was discovered 300m east of the site (HER1872). Various Roman artefacts have been found in the vicinity including three coins and a lead weight (HER 1861, 1863, 2868) and the Roman road from Chester to Manchester (Margary 1973, road 7a) runs 500m north of the site.
- 2.4.2. There is no evidence that Kelsall was settled during the Medieval period. The earliest buildings in the village date to the early 17th century although The

Heritage Assessment (OWEN 2012, a states that the village was settled prior to this but gives no supporting evidence. The earliest map to depict the village is Blaeu's map of the county of Cheshire of 1645.

2.4.3. Examination from the Tithe map (1838) and historic Ordnance Survey maps shows the site as open fields from 1874 (1st ed.) to 1970, when the two dwellings in the south of the site have been constructed. A pond is shown in the south east of the site on the 1874 and 1910 OS maps. No other changes are recorded in the historic mapping (COOPERS 2012), (OWEN 2012).

2.4.4. Thirty nine artefacts were recovered during the metal detecting survey. The most significant of these were a Roman coin, two Medieval spindle whorls and two Medieval buckles. The low density of the artefacts does not indicate any specific features but, along with HER data, does suggest some activity in the area (WILLIAMS 2013A).

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. The general aim of the watching brief was to record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site, specifically ephemeral prehistoric features that may not have been detected by the geophysical survey.

4. Methodology

4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to the WSI (Williams 2013b).

4.2. The soil strip and foundation trenches for buildings were observed. Service trenches in areas that had already been stripped were not observed.

4.3. The road strip and 25 of the 33 plots (76%) were observed (FIGURE 2). Results were negative and it was agreed with CAPAS by email on 18th July 2014 that the watching brief could cease.

5. Results

- 5.1. The road was stripped to a depth of c.0.35m (PLATE 1). This revealed 0.15m of dark brown loam topsoil (101) overlying 0.20m mid orange brown subsoil (102) with loose mid red brown sand and gravel natural deposits (103). This was the typical sequence across the site where there had been no disturbance (PLATE 2).
- 5.2. Several east – west aligned plough marks [105] were noted just cutting (103) in the centre of the road strip (PLATE 3). They were about 0.40m apart and the regular parallel alignment suggests they are modern. 19th/20th century pottery was found within the fill (104).
- 5.3. A stone hole (107), where a larger stone was removed to avoid damage to the plough, was recorded near to the plough marks. It measured 0.41m in length and 0.20m deep. It was filled with a soft brown silt (106) and occasional rounded pebbles. Several similar depressions were noted across the site.
- 5.4. Prior to the development there was a 1970s detached dwelling and garden fronting Hallows Drive in the southeast corner of the site. This was demolished and the construction levelling layer of clinker (108) and brick foundations (112) were still visible during the monitoring.
- 5.5. A large rubbish pit [113] was recorded in the south of the site (FIGURE 3). It measured 2.80m across and 1.20m deep in section although it was visible across much of the house plot excavation. It contained modern waste including glass and plastic which were not collected. It probably relates to the construction of the previous dwelling in the southeast of the site.
- 5.6. A deep, steep sided cut [117] was recorded in the east of the site (FIGURE 3). It was filled with soft mid brown silt and no finds were noted within the fill. It is in the location of the pond shown on historic maps and may be a sand or gravel extraction pit that has silted up. There was no dating evidence associated with this feature although the soft compaction of the fill suggests it is Post Medieval.

6. Finds and environmental samples

Context	Material	Decoration	Number of sherds	Description	Prov date	Notes
Unstrat	Mid orange brown coarseware	Interior and exterior dark brown glaze	2 x base, 1 x body	Storage jars	19th/20th	mod abraded
	mid orange coarseware	very glassy exterior dark brown and orange glaze	2 x base (fit together)	Serving dish	18th/19th	mod abraded
	Stoneware	orange brown glaze interior and exterior. Rilled line exterior	1	jar	18th/19th	mod abraded
	Pipe clay	none	1	Pipe stem	18th	off centre 2mm bore. v abraded
102	dark brown coarseware	Interior and exterior dark brown glaze	1 x rim, 1 x base	Storage jars	19th/20th	mod abraded
	Pale pink orang coarseware	internal pale brown and yellow glaze	3 x body	Dish	17th/18th	Staffordshire ware
	Pink orange coarseware	Brown green exterior glaze	1 x body	jar	15th/16th	
	Pale pink yellow coarseware	NA	1 x base	1 x base	Med	v abraded
104	Mid orange brown coarseware	Interior and exterior dark brown glaze	1 x body	Storage jar	19th/20th	mod abraded

Table 1- Finds

6.1.1. The majority of the artefacts noted on site were 20th century and related to the surrounding developments. These were present in the topsoil (101) and were not collected. The finds from the topsoil (101) and subsoil (102) suggest some rubbish deposition within the field from the Medieval period onwards. The abraded Medieval base sherd and early Post Medieval sherd suggest that there may have been manuring on the fields during these periods.

6.1.2. No environmental samples were taken.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1. Three features corresponding to three phases of activity were recorded on site during the watching brief.
- 7.2. Plough marks were noted in the centre of the site. The regular alignment of the marks and the 19th century pottery within the fills suggest that these are no more than 200 years old. However the presence of abraded pottery in the subsoil suggests that the fields were ploughed and manured during the Medieval and Post Medieval periods. No evidence for ridge and furrow ploughing was noted, but this is not surprising as the modern ploughing would have removed it.
- 7.3. In the southeast of the site was a steep sided cut that had silted up. This could not be dated but probably relates to sand or gravel extraction during the Post Medieval period. It is shown as a pond on historic maps.
- 7.4. In the south of the site was a pit containing late 20th century refuse. It is clear from the general observations across the site that the fields have been used for dumping refuse and soil relating to the surrounding developments. The pond marked on historic maps remains below a mound of soil in the east of the site
- 7.5. It is likely that the site was fields from the late Medieval or Early Post Medieval period onwards although here is no evidence that Kelsall village was occupied during this period (OWEN 2012). The fields may have been associated with Oscroft, 1.7km to the southwest of the site, which originated as a Medieval manor (ORMEROD 1882).

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 4 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 40 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 18 x 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 with the Cheshire Museum Service.

SOURCES CONSULTED

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MARGARY, I.D., 1973. *Roman Roads in Britain*. London: John Baker.

ORMEROD, G., 1882. *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester*. London: George Routledge and Sons.

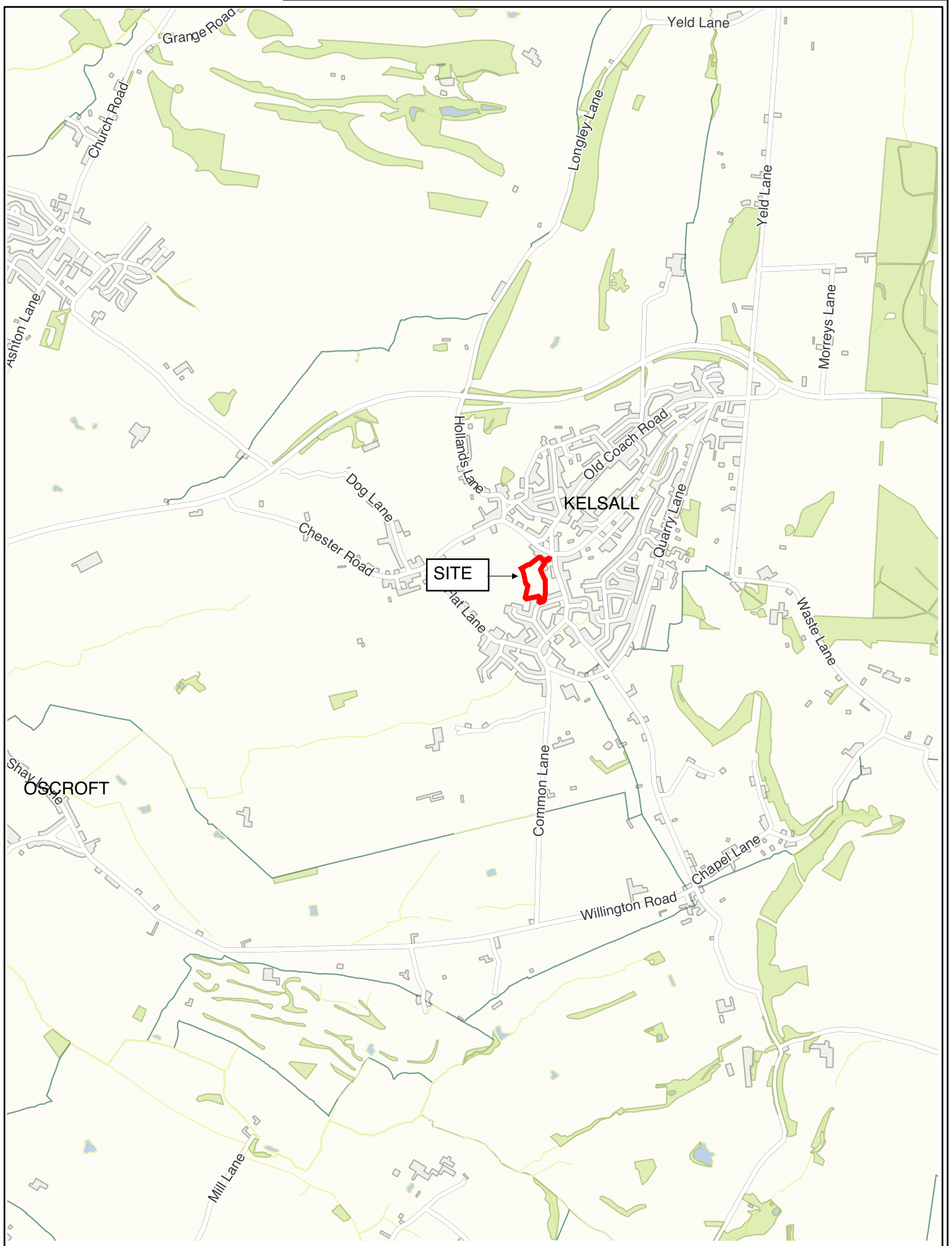
OWEN, P., 2012. *Hallows Drive, Kelsall. Historic Environment Assessment*. MetroMOLA.

WILLIAMS, M., 2013a. *Archaeological Evaluation Report for land at Hallows Drive, Kelsall*. L - P : Archaeology.

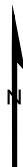
WILLIAMS, M., 2013b. *Specification for Archaeological Survey, Hallows Drive, Kelsall*. L - P : Archaeology.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site location



0 1000 m



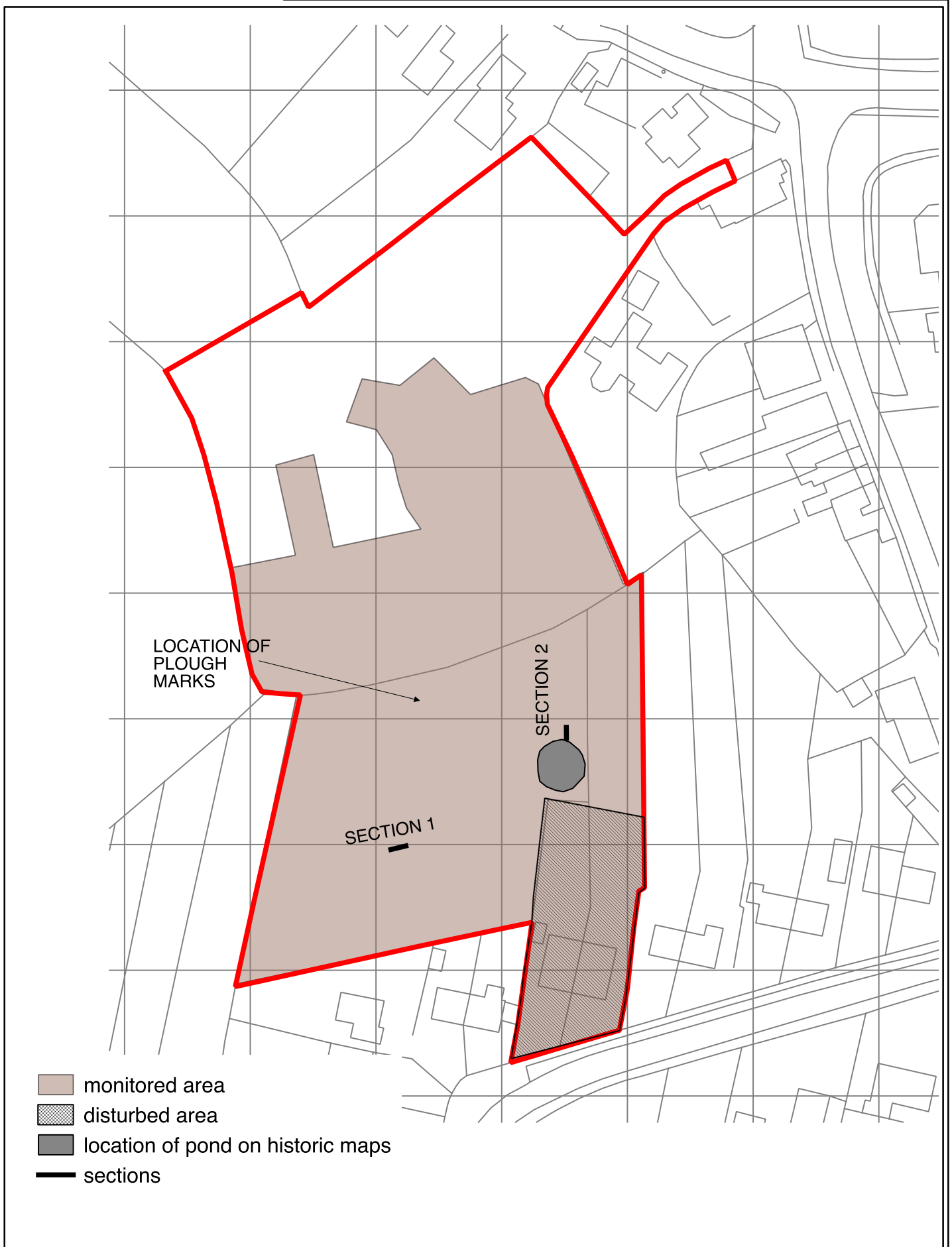
PROJECT // I516C - Hallows Drive, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // Site location

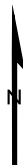
DOC REF: LPI516C-WBR-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Site plan



0 50 m



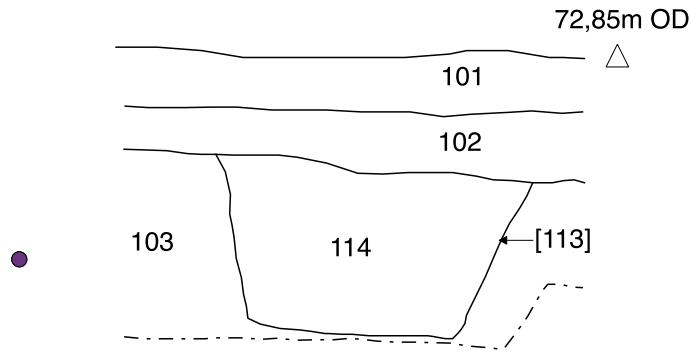
PROJECT // 1516C - Hallows Drive, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // Site plan

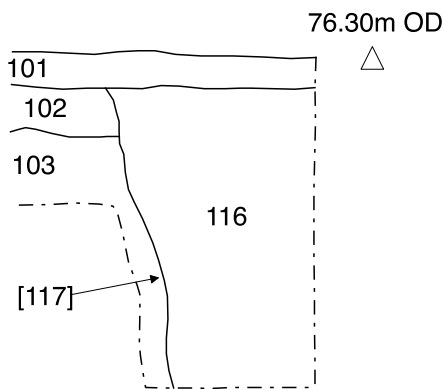
DOC REF: LPI1516C-WBR-v1

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Section 1
North facing section through [113]



Section 2
West facing section through [117]



PROJECT // 1516C - Hallows Drive, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // Section drawings

DOC REF: LPI1516C-WBR-v1

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PLATES



Plate 1 - General view looking north from site entrance during road strip



Plate 2 - West edge of road strip showing typical topsoil/subsoil/gravel sequence across site



Plate 3 - Looking east at ploughmarks in centre of site

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APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-200165

Project details

Project name	Hallows Drive, Kelsall
Short description of the project	Watching brief during housing development
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2012 End: 01-07-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	KEL/HAD13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	POND Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER KELSALL Hallows drive
Postcode	CW6 0QG
Study area	1.10 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 389345 390180 52.9447551278 -2.90886485656 52 56 41 N 002 54 31 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 70.00m Max: 76.00m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Report"

Entered by	Matthew Williams (m.williams@lparcology.com)
Entered on	14 January 2015

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