

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

ARROWE BROOK ROAD, WIRRAL

For Bellway Homes Limited (North West)

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Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

ARROWE BROOK ROAD, WIRRAL

Client: Bellway Homes Limited (North West)

Local Authority: Wirral Borough Council

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures

Table of Plates

Table of Tables

Table of Appendices

Abstract

1. Introduction
2. Planning Background
3. Methodology
4. Aims of the Assessment
5. Geology & Topography
6. Archaeological and Historical Background
7. Proposed Development
8. Conclusions

Sources Consulted

Figures

Appendix

TABLE OF FIGURES

Figure 1 - Site Location General

Figure 2 - Site Location Detail

Figure 3 - HER Data

Figure 4 - 1777 Burdett's Map of Cheshire

Figure 5 - 1819 Greenwoods Map of Cheshire

Figure 6 - 1831 Bryants Map of Cheshire

Figure 7 - 1846 Tithe Map

Figure 8 - 1874 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 9 - 1882 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 10 - 1946 Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 11 - 2000 Aerial Photograph

TABLE OF PLATES

Plate 1 - Wirral Business Park.

Plate 2 - Wirral Business Park.

Plate 3 - Grassed area to the west, potentially the only area of surviving archaeology.

Plate 4 - Geotechnical pits in the western area of the site.

TABLE OF TABLES

Table 1 - Significance criteria used in this report

Table 2 - Timescales used in this report

TABLE OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - HER Data

Abstract

This report has been produced to assess land off Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral, and contains the results of cartographic, archaeological and documentary research into the site, undertaken by Dan Garner and Rachael Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (North West).

The site lies to the immediate north of the 19th century Arrowe Park. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Listed buildings, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens within the site.

The wider study area shows evidence of multiple Monuments predominantly in the form of 18th and 19th century domestic buildings; with findspots spanning from the Prehistoric to Post Medieval periods.

Research has shown Wirral was an active area from the Prehistoric period; the port at Moels is thought to have been an important trade post during the Roman period, probably linked to the

fortress at Chester. The parish of Woodchurch which includes Arrowe is documented from the Early Medieval period, with Arrowe itself noted from AD 1240, remaining an agricultural landscape till the late 20th century. The site remained open fields until the development of Wirral Business Park in the 1970s.

The site has been heavily developed, however, further development, specifically to the west of the site, could impact any below ground remains, which potentially range from Prehistoric to Post Medieval in date.

There is some potential for geo-archaeological deposits associated with the course of the Arrowe Brook to be present along the western edge of the site. These deposits of alluvium may provide palaeoenvironmental data if they were to be disturbed during any future development of the site.

1. Introduction

1.1.This Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) considers land off Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral. It has been researched and prepared by Rachael Matthews and Dan Garner of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Bellway Homes Limited (North West).

1.2.The site is an irregular polygon plot and covers an area of approximately 4.843 ha, on land to the north of Arrowe Brooke Road. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 360820,387815 (FIGURE 1).

1.3.The local planning authority is the Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (WMBC).

1.4.The following terms are used in this report:

- ◆ “the study area” - a 1km radius from the centre point of the site.
- ◆ “the site” - The area defined by the perimeter of the site itself (FIGURE 2).

1.5.The assessment seeks to address the following issues:

- ◆ To assess the potential for archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the significance of potential archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the condition of potential archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeology.

1.6.The assessment is based on the results of documentary and cartographic research as well as published and unpublished literature.

1.7.The report will conform to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for historic environment Desk-Based Assessments (CIFA 2017).

2. Planning Background

2.1. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). Section 12 of the NPPF document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.

2.2. In addition, the following legislation is considered by this assessment:

- ◆ Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- ◆ Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2.3. When considering planning applications WMBC is also bound by policies within the borough's Local Plan (adopted 2006). The relevant policies regarding heritage assets contained within the Local Plan are as follows:

HO1 THE PROTECTION OF HERITAGE STRATEGIC POLICY

In considering all development proposals the local planning authority will pay particular attention to the protection of:

- (i) buildings, structures and other features of recognised architectural or historic importance;
- (ii) historic areas of distinctive quality and character; and
- (iii) important archaeological sites and monuments.

Proposals which would significantly prejudice these objectives will not be permitted. Reasoned justification :

11.1 The need for new development must be seen alongside the high priority to be given to conserving Wirral's built and archaeological heritage and the need to protect areas of special environmental quality. Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other archaeological sites all represent important landmarks throughout the Borough which directly contribute to the wider character of the area. They are worthy of special protection in their own right.

11.2 Such heritage is vulnerable to change. Once lost or altered it cannot be adequately replaced and it is important that the most valuable sites and structures are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. Policy CHO1, therefore, specifically provides for the best examples of Wirral's cultural heritage to be preserved and seeks to ensure that the case for preservation is fully considered when assessing all proposals for new development

2.4. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment WMBC take impartial advice from the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS).

2.5. The site does not fall within any Areas of Archaeological Importance, Conservation Areas, there are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Historic Parks and Gardens or World Heritage Sites within the site.

2.6. No previous archaeological works have been undertaken on the site.

2.7. Within a 1km radius of the sites, there are 18 designated monuments including 17 buildings, 8 findspots, and one site; one event has taken place.

2.8. In accordance with government guidelines and best practice, this report has been completed at the early stages of the process as supporting documentation to inform all parties of any archaeological concerns affecting the site.

3. Methodology

3.1. This report has been researched and written according to L - P : Archaeology's in house standards for Desk Based Assessments and Cheshire County Council General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (APRIL 2003). In accordance with the guidance set out below, the report analyses the sources listed below to create a model of the archaeological and heritage significance of the study site.

3.2. GUIDANCE

3.2.1. The following guidance was consulted:

- ◆ Standards and guidance for historic environment desk based assessments (CIFA 2017).
- ◆ Historic Environment Good Practice advice in Planning Note 1 (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2015A).
- ◆ Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2015B).
- ◆ Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2015C).
- ◆ Conservation Principles: Policy and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2008).
- ◆ Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2015D).

3.3. SOURCES

3.3.1. The heritage assets were identified from the following sources:

- ◆ A search of the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) based on a 1km radius around the centre point of the site (FIGURE 3).
- ◆ Birkenhead Library and Archives.
- ◆ Data from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (BRITISH MUSEUM 2017).

- ◆ Examination of historic maps.
- ◆ Examination of aerial photographs.
- ◆ Data on scheduled monuments and listed buildings held by Historic England (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2017).

3.3.2. A site visit was carried out on the 28th February 2018 by Dan Garner.

3.4.SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

3.4.1. A heritage asset is defined in the NPPF as:

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

3.4.2. The significance of the heritage assets is determined using the following criteria:

Value	Description
Very High	World Heritage Sites; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of international importance
High	Scheduled monuments; Grade I and II* Listed Buildings; Conservation Areas or Parks and Gardens containing very important monuments or buildings; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of national importance
Medium	Grade II Listed Buildings; Conservation Areas or Parks and Gardens containing monuments or buildings that contribute to their historic character; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of regional importance
Low	Locally Listed monuments and buildings; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of local importance
Negligible	Sites, buildings or landscapes with little or no significant historical interest
Unknown	Archaeological sites where the importance has not yet been ascertained; buildings with hidden potential for historic significance

Table 1 - Significance criteria used in this report

3.5.LIMITATIONS OF THE METHODOLOGY

3.5.1. The assessment relies on the accuracy of the data provided by the sources described above. There is always some degree of uncertainty in relation to these sources which include:

- ◆ The data from the MHER can be limited because it is not based on a systematic search of the county but rather, the records are reliant upon

chance finds, opportunities for research and public contribution.

- ◆ Documentary sources may be biased, inaccurate or difficult to interpret.
- ◆ The presence of buried archaeology is not always obvious during walk over surveys.
- ◆ Grid coordinates for heritage assets may be rounded to such an extent that the actual location of the asset can be difficult to locate.
- ◆ The radial boundaries used in this report have been established in order to maintain the focus and manageability of the data but still be large enough to rigorously consider context and character. It is important to note that any set boundaries on the report should be considered as permeable. Areas do not develop in isolation, and thought must always be given to significant relationships with places and events outside the area selected or defined.

4. Aims of the Assessment

4.1. It is not the aim of this assessment to present a complete history of the area, 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.

4.2. The assessment seeks to address the following issues:

- ◆ To assess the potential for archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the significance of potential archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the condition of potential archaeology
- ◆ To assess the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeology.

5. Geology & Topography

5.1.GEOLOGY

5.1.1. The underlying bedrock geology is Tarporley Siltstone Formation, consisting of siltstone, mudstone and sandstone. The superficial deposits are Devensian till, of clay, sands, gravels and cobbles (British Geological Survey).

5.1.2. The data provided by GeoIndex is low resolution data and should only be considered as a rough guide to the geology of the site.

5.2.TOPOGRAPHY

5.2.1. The site lies to the north of Arrowe Brook Road, within a modern business park, to the west of the main Arrowe Park Road. The township covers a north to south aligned valley, rising up to both the east and west to a height of 55m.

5.2.2. The Wirral Historic Settlement Study (2011) identifies Arrowe as a rural fringe, with no historic core; seen as a linear cluster of houses along Arrowe Park Road. Its name refers to the whole of Arrowe Park, with Arrowehouse Farm as the only notable building (MHCP 2011).

5.3.SITE CONDITIONS

5.3.1. A site visit was undertaken by Dan Garner on the 28th February 2018. Conditions were dull and overcast with intermittent light rain. The site has previously been developed and is still in use as the Wirral Business Centre with active businesses including 'Wired' and 'Inclusive Access' still occupying the site. Virtually the entire site is presently occupied by modern standing buildings and hardstanding in the form of service roads, car parks and loading bay areas (PLATE 1, PLATE 2).



Plate 1 - Wirral Business Park.



Plate 2 - Wirral Business Park.

5.3.2. The site appears to naturally slope downwards from south to north. The boundaries are a mix of modern concrete and wire fencing and hedgerows. To the north and west of the site are areas of trees and scrub, with Arrowe Brook orientated north to south next to the western border. Beyond this is a large housing estate and with further trees and a further small business park. To the east Arrowe Commercial Park continues stretching to Arrowe Park Road.

5.3.3. To the south is a small plantation of woodland, running parallel to the site and Arrow Brooke Road. This is seen on the Tithe map of 1846; during the site visit a significant drop was identified along this boundary, between the established woodland and the site service road. This would suggest that the site was terraced at the southern end during the construction of the existing development. Similar evidence is present along the eastern boundary with the neighbouring Arrowe Commercial Park at a much higher level towards the north-eastern corner; again suggesting terracing along the eastern side of the site.

5.3.4. A grassed area covering the western side of the site and bordering the course of the Arrowe Brook appears to be at a slightly higher level than the adjacent service road and car parking area (PLATE 3). This would suggest that this part of the site was unaffected during the construction of the present development. This grassed area may represent the only surviving part of the former agricultural landscape within the development site.



Plate 3 - Grassed area to the west, potentially the only area of surviving archaeology.

5.3.1. A number of recently backfilled test-pits (PLATE 4) were noted along this area and any geotechnical data from the results of these investigations would be potentially useful in establishing whether this area is undisturbed or not.



Plate 4 - Geotechnical pits in the western area of the site.

6. Archaeological and Historical Background

6.1. Archaeological and built heritage assets described in the following sections are referenced in brackets using the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) number.

6.2. The sites do not fall within an Area of Archaeological Importance, Conservation Area, or any Historic Parks or Gardens. There are no Scheduled Monuments.

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	2,400 BC
BRONZE AGE	2,400	800 BC
IRON AGE	800	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	PRESENT

Table 2 - Timescales used in this report

6.3. Information from the MHER is referenced with the preferred reference ID in brackets e.g. (438/2/0) or (631). The following analysis is from a 1km radius search of the MHER around the study site (FIGURE 11 & FIGURE 3).

PREHISTORIC

6.4. The MHER records multiple finds of worked flint (MME494, 495) to the southwest of the site, however, they remain undated and the Portable Antiquity Scheme (PAS) records a late neolithic barbed and tanged arrowhead, located in the Greasby area.

6.5. No Prehistoric activity has been recorded on the site, however, within the wider area, Early Mesolithic activity has been recorded at Irby (3.5km southwest of site) and Greasby Copse (1km west of site), in the form of lithic material - with an expected approximate date for the latter of c.8000 BC or earlier. The total flint

assemblage from the Greasby site consists of c.13,000 pieces including a wide range of tools and large amounts of waste debris associated with pits, a hearth and a pebbled surface. The form of the microliths found at Irby, along with a greater use of flint as a raw material, suggests a later Mesolithic date.

6.6.The presence of North Welsh chert in the Wirral assemblages suggests regular movement across the Dee valley; seen as part of the seasonal or annual cycle of mobile groups of hunter-gatherers, at a time when the coast lay well to the west of the present north Wirral and Lancashire lowlands (COWELL 2010B).

6.7.At Irby evidence of a Middle Bronze Age settlement (c. 1500-1100 BC) has been identified through excavation of structural remains of a possible round house, with associated pottery, oven fragments, bronze working, weaving and the farming of cereals (COWELL 2010A).

6.8.The Iron Age is again represented at Irby, seen as a settlement/farmstead at Mill Hill Road, which has been scientifically dated to c. 410-200 cal BC. The site included evidence for two possible round house buildings, associated with Cheshire Stony VCP salt containers, a steatite decorated spindle whorl dating to the 3rd century BC and a La Tene II/III brooch. Palaeoenvironmental work identified cereals indicating arable cultivation and domestic consumption (PHILPOTT 2010A).

6.9.There is also the long established port site at Meols on the north Wirral coast which has origins in the mid-late Iron Age (IBID).

6.10.The potential for Prehistoric archaeological remains is low within the site boundary and should any be identified it would be of a medium significance dependent on its nature and extent.

ROMAN

6.11.There is no Roman activity noted on the site, however, the MHER records several Roman coins (MME492, 651, 652) and sherds of abraded orange coarse ware (MME497) to the west of site. The PAS records several Roman coins from the surrounding area, a single copper alloy Roman coin from Greasby, two from Upton dating to Gallienus AD253-268 and Carausius AD286-93. A ceramic Roman vessel of imitation Samian ware from a Dragendorff 38 flanged bowl has been recorded in the Irby area, dating to the 2nd century AD.

- 6.12. At the time of the Roman invasion of AD 43, Wirral is thought to have formed the northern extent of a territory belonging to the late Iron Age tribe of the Cornovii. In AD 60 the Roman army, under Suetonius Paullinus, moved against Anglesey probably from a pre-fortress military base at Chester but perhaps also using the harbour at Meols (PHILPOTT 2010B, 186-7).
- 6.13. The permanent Roman legionary fortress at Chester (*Deva*) was established by c.AD 74. A Roman road (MARGARY 1973) running north from Chester can be traced up the centre of Wirral as far as Willaston/Raby, although the port at Meols was probably its true destination. The port at Meols appears to have stayed in use throughout the Roman period probably acting as a trans-shipment port for Chester and as a local market for the rural settlements of northern Wirral (PHILPOTT 2010B).
- 6.14. At Greasby, 1.5km to the west of the site, a length of Roman road was excavated at SJ 256 865 and an *As* of Domitian was found in 1973 at SJ 257 862 (HARRIS & THACKER 1987). A spearhead 'thought to be Roman' and a miniature bronze cauldron were found at Woodchurch 500m to the east in 1923 (HARRIS & THACKER 1987).
- 6.15. The location of a probable Romano-British rural settlement/farmstead has been excavated at Mill Hill Road in Irby. It consisted of a palisaded enclosure with two phases, subsequently replaced by a ditched enclosure which was then enlarged; however, the full extent of the settlement was not fully established in any direction. Roman occupation was demonstrated by the presence of pottery and coins from the late 1st/early 2nd century until at least the mid 4th century. Structural evidence included circular buildings, and a sub-rectangular building. Activities included evidence for metalworking (bronze and iron), textile production (spindle whorls) and arable cultivation of cereals (PHILPOTT 2010B).
- 6.16. Further evidence of Romano-British sites are seen at Greasby, where a cropmark site has been interpreted as a sub-rectangular enclosure, sub-divided by a cross ditch and a faint curvilinear enclosure recorded at Landican 2.2 km to the southeast; both of which have produced Roman pottery during fieldwalking in 1990 (PHILPOTT 2010B).
- 6.17. The site has low potential for Roman archaeology and if any were exposed it would be of a medium significance dependent on its nature and extent.

EARLY MEDIEVAL

- 6.18. There is no Early Medieval activity recorded on the site, although the PAS records an Early Medieval stirrup, of cast copper alloy (a Williams class A mount type), which dates between 1050-1150 AD.
- 6.19. Wirral and the lower Dee were linked with the kingdom of Powys by the 7th century. The Britons of Powys were defeated by the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria at the Battle of Chester in AD 616, but Northumbrian domination of Wirral was brief, as they were ousted by Penda of Mercia in AD 633 (PHILPOTT 2010A).
- 6.20. Place-names evidence suggests that during this period Wirral retained a Christian British population, with nearby Landican originally being the ecclesiastical centre for an area which later became the extensive parish of Woodchurch (PHILPOTT 2010A). Its name derives from Old Welsh 'lann' meaning enclosure or churchyard and 'Tegan', a church was recorded in Landican in 1086 (HARRIS & THACKER 1987).
- 6.21. The first recorded Viking involvement in Cheshire occurred in AD 893 when a Danish army overwintered in Chester before returning south-east. Wirral was part of an important strategic route linking the Viking kingdoms of Dublin and York. In AD 902 Vikings under the leadership of a Hiberno-Norse man 'Hingamund', who had been thrown out of Dublin by the Irish, were granted land to settle by Aethelflaed Lady of the Mercians. Place-name evidence on Wirral suggests this settlement was on the northern part of Wirral. The place-name Thingwall (ON pingvollr) meaning 'meeting place of the assembly' indicated a measure of self-government for the Norse community. Hiberno-Norse settlement near the site is indicated by the place-name Arrowe (PHILPOTT 2010A).
- 6.22. The period is dominated in artefactual terms by the site at Meols on the north Wirral coast where a pilgrim flask from the shrine at St Menas in Egypt has been recovered, along with early sceattas, penannular brooches and buckle plates dating to the 7th century; there are also two Byzantine coins from Leasowe also on the north coast (PHILPOTT 2010A). The church of the Holy Cross located in Woodchurch (SJ 275 868) has a curvilinear church yard and a plain 10th/11th century circle-head cross (HARRIS & THACKER 1987).

6.23. Structural evidence from Irby has been interpreted as representing 3 bow-sided structures of post-Roman date, possibly dating to the Anglo-Scandinavian period - no later than the 10th century. Artefacts were limited to a spike lamp of 10th to 12th century date and a fragment of amber bead (PHILPOTT 2010A).

MEDIEVAL

6.24. Two silver pennies of John (1199-1216) and Edward I (1272-1307) (MME643) are recorded from the Upton area, as well as a metal spindle whorl (MME650) thought to date c.1300-1400. A further silver halfgroat dating to Henry VI (1422-1461) has been recorded in Thingwall.

6.25. The location of a possible Medieval watermill (MME646) is noted 900m south of the site along the Arrowe Brook, however its exact location is unknown. There is no Medieval activity located on the site.

6.26. During the Medieval period the Wirral peninsular was one of four large forests within Cheshire, in 1066 the area is described as containing little woodland but with a high population (GREEN 1979). It was created as a forest around 1129 during the reign of Earl Ranulph I, the earliest reference to the forest is a Charter dated between 1194-1208, and is believed to have covered the whole of the Wirral Peninsular; disafforestation occurred in 1376 by a Charter of Edward III (GREEN 1979).

6.27. The ancient Parish of Woodchurch contained the townships of Arrowe, Barnston, Irby, Landican, Noctorum, Oxton, Pensby, Prenton, Thingwall and Woodchurch. Landican is recorded in the Domesday Book as Landechene meaning 'Tegan's Church', Woodchurch to the north is first recorded in 1093 as a separate township, and that the advowson of Woodchurch was vested in the manor of Landican. This suggests that Woodchurch is the later name for Tegan's church at Landican (MCN.DODGSON 1972).

6.28. Greasby is recorded in Domesday as Gravesberie, which means 'Stronghold at a wood', which comes from the Old English 'graefe burh' (MCN.DODGSON 1972, 291).

6.29. In 1093 part of the manor of Wude Church was given to the abbot and Convent of Chester, it was held by them till the dissolution in the 16th century. Part of the original grant was given to the Barons of Monalt, held by Roger De Soterleigh. In 1325 it was divided, passing in part to Stoke in the 17th century and to John Ralph

Shaw in the 19th century (DAWSON 1994).

6.30.Arrowe is not recorded until 1240-9, when it became a separate manor, it has been written many ways (DAWSON 1994); Arrowe is derived from either Old Norse ‘erg’ or Middle Irish ‘airge’ meaning ‘at the shieling’. A church is noted in Arrowe in the 15th century, believed to be a chapel of ease to Woodchurch, however, the exact location of the site is unknown (MCN.DODGSON 1972). Arrowe was enclosed around 1574, Arrowe Brook (The Birket) which runs to the west of the site is first named on Bryant’s map of 1831 (MCN.DODGSON 1972).

6.31.There is medium potential for archaeological features attesting to the Medieval period within the site. Should any archaeological features be exposed they would be of low significance.

POST MEDIEVAL

6.32.Arrowe was part of the parish of Woodchurch during the Post Medieval period, it has been described as containing fields, parks and woodland, with a scatter of houses and shops centred around Arrow Hill (BURNLEY 1987). the 1668 Hearth Tax lists 5 houses, however it is thought there were other dwellings which were probably hovels (DAWSON 1994). During the 19th century the area became fashionable for fox hunting, with scatter copses. The killing of this mammal was encouraged and even financially rewarded. In 1874 Arrowe consisted of a total 758.1 acres, of this 290.3 was noted as arable; 437.4 as wood; 10.2 as houses and gardens; 18.3 as rads and 1.9 as water and fishponds (HEWITT 1922).

6.33.In 1933 the borough of Birkenhead enlarged its boundaries and Arrowe became joined to it (BROCKLEBANK 2003).

6.34.Extremely wealthy shipping magnates made a huge impact upon Wirral’s landscape and society; with Liverpool ship-owner and major John Shaw (whose vessels were used in the slave trade), specifically affecting Arrowe. In 1807 he bought Arrowe House Farm and much of the surrounding land. He died in 1829 and was succeeded by his nephew John Ralph Nicolson Shaw, who built Arrowe Hall in 1835 (ROBERTS 2002). Surrounding fields were turned into a country estate; trees were planted and Arrowe Brook was diverted and dammed to form a boating lake (MME632).

6.35.The hall was extended in 1840, 1870 and 1880 and attendant workers’ lodges and

cottages were built around the estate. Shaw had got his money from trade and used it to buy himself the lifestyle of a minor country aristocrat (ROBERTS 2002). During the first world war the hall was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers and veterans (BROCKLEBANK 2003).

6.36. Birkenhead Borough Council bought the estate in 1927, creating Arrowe Park (MME855) (ROBERTS 2002). The Park also contains a fishpond (MME633), two second World War heavy anti-aircraft batteries (MME858, 10764) and undated earthworks in the form of ridge and furrow (MME642).

6.37. To the immediate southwest of the site is a former 18th century house (MME15166), the 19th century Arrowe Brook Farm (MME639) and Arrowe Brook Lodge (MME638), Spring Bank Farm (MNE11333) and two late 19th to early 20th century finger posts (MME16199, 16263). To the east is the former site of Arrowehouse Farm (MME859) now under the current Wirral Business Park.

6.38. Within the 1km search area are multiple domestic buildings which include 18th and 19th century Farmhouses, cottages and out buildings (MME648, 861, 10707, 11342, 11343, 16221), Arrowebrook Farmhouse (MME636) with out buildings (MME10757, 10758) and shippon (MME10756), which was previously a Grade II listed building, with nearby undated cropmarks (MME640) and earthworks (MME641, 647). Also present are a former coach house (MME10708), 17th century pigeon house (MME854), the site of Upton pinfold (MME862), a former 19th century tile and brickworks (MME502), a milepost (MME16174) and two 19th century Wells (MME504, 849).

6.39. A collection of Post Medieval ceramics, clay tobacco pipes and metal finds (MME11340) were discovered to the southwest of the site, near Greasby Copse. PAS also records a metal weight and corroded file from the Upton area and cast copper alloy bell from Thingwall.

6.40. MAP REGRESSION

6.40.1. The township of Arrowe is not seen on the 1577 Saxton Map or 1610 Speed Map of the area.

6.40.2. The 1777 Burdett Map (FIGURE 4) depicts Arrowe house to the east of the site

and the Arrowe Brook, which runs along the western boundary of the site. In this map it appears to run through the site, this could suggest a change in the course of the brook, but is most likely due to inaccuracies on the map.

6.40.3.The 1819 Greenwood map (FIGURE 5), illustrates slightly more detail: Arrowe House is listed, with the parish boundary now drawn to the north of the site. A small plantation has now appeared lining Arrowe Brook Road, to the south of the site; this area of tree coverage survives to modern day.

6.40.4.The 1831 Byrant Map (FIGURE 6) shows little change to the site, the plantation has extended westwards and now falls within the site, and the parish boundary to the north has moved further south and is more in line with the northern boundary of the site.

6.40.5.The 1846 Tithe map (FIGURE 7) shows no change from the 1831 map. The site is shown over three plots of land, 71, 72 and 73. the parish boundary runs along the western boundary of the site and 60m to the north of the site heading east. All plots are owned by John Ralph Shaw Esq., they are occupied by Anthony Averill and are listed as Race Meadow, pasture; Race field, arable; brook meadow, meadow.

6.40.6.The 1874 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (FIGURE 8) shows the site has become one large open plot, the ponds have disappeared and a strip of plantation has been established between the southern boundary of the site and Arrowe Brook Road.

6.40.7.No change is noted to the site on the 1882 OS (FIGURE 9) to 1937 OS.

6.40.8.There is still no change to the 1946 OS (FIGURE 10), however, the surrounding area has begun to be developed with housing appearing to the immediate west of the site.

6.40.9.The 1971-76 1:10,000 OS map shows the first signs of development within the site, the structure is listed as Works, with a sewage works noted in the northwest corner and factories to the immediate east. No change is seen on the 1984-9 1:10,000 OS mapping.

6.41.AERIAL DATA

6.41.1.1m DSM LiDAR Data was examined (ENVIRONMENT AGENCY 2015), the LiDAR Data (FIGURE 11), although being of low resolution it highlights the extant structures of the modern Wirral Business Park. No earlier features were discernible from the data.

6.41.2.A search of aerial photographs, as available from Merseyside BioBank, GoogleEarth and BritainFromAbove (1947-present) show no signs of features of archaeological potential within the site.

6.41.3.Aerial photography from 2000 (FIGURE 11) shows the site as Wirral Business Park, no further development has taken place and the buildings remain unchanged.

7. Proposed Development

7.1.PREVIOUS IMPACTS

- 7.1.1. The movement of field boundaries can be identified between the 1846 tithe map and first 1874 Ordnance Survey. The site remains unchanged till the 1960s.
- 7.1.2. The site was developed in the early 1970s when Wirral Business Park was constructed, containing multiple buildings, with associated roadways and amenities; originally noted as a works and sewage works.
- 7.1.3. The site walkover identified recent geotechnical investigations to the west of the site.

7.2.PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT

- 7.2.1. In accordance with government guidelines and best practice, this report has been completed at the early stages of the process as supporting documentation to inform all parties of any archaeological concerns affecting the site.
- 7.2.2. There are at present no specific details regarding the planned layout of the proposed development on the site.

8. Conclusions

8.1. This report has been produced to assess land off Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral. It has been researched and prepared by Dan Garner and Rachael Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Bellway Homes.

8.2. POTENTIALLY IMPACTED ASSETS.

8.2.1. Prehistoric activity is seen in the wider area at Irby and Greasby, identified through both structural remains and small finds of worked flint and ceramics. The potential for significant Prehistoric remains to be found within the site boundary is low.

8.2.2. Roman activity is seen in the wider area at Irby, Greasby and Woodchurch, identified through both structural remains and several small finds of coins and ceramics. The potential for Roman archaeological remains to be found within the site boundary is low.

8.2.3. Landican and the Parish of Woodchurch has been recorded from the Early Medieval and Medieval period, with Arrowe itself dating to at least the 13th century. The potential for Medieval archaeology is low/medium and the likely significance of anything found would be low.

8.2.4. The site has undergone little change throughout the Post Medieval period until the development of the business park in the early 1970s. Agricultural activity was also taking place on the site during the Post Medieval period. The potential for any archaeology associated with this phase is high, whilst the significance is low.

8.2.5. The development of the business park has most likely disturbed any below ground archaeological remains within the site; the west of the site has remained fairly untouched and may represent the only part of the site in which there may be surviving below ground remains.

8.2.6. There is some potential for geo-archaeological deposits associated with the course of the Arrowe Brook to be present along the western edge of the site. These deposits of alluvium may provide palaeoenvironmental data if they were to be disturbed during any future development of the site.

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Maps Consulted:

1577 Christophorus Saxton's Map of Cheshire

1610 John Speede's Map of the County Palatine of Chester

1777 P. P. Burdett's Survey of the County Palatine of Chester

1819 C. Greenwood's Map of the County Palatine of Chester

1831 A. Bryant's Map of the County Palatine of Chester

Greasby Tithe map 1844

Arrowe Tithe map 1846

1876 OS 25 inch Cheshire XIII.5

1882 OS six-inch Cheshire XIII

1899 OS six-inch Cheshire XIII.NW

1899 OS 25 inch Cheshire XIII.5

1913 OS six-inch Cheshire XIII.NW

1912 OS 25 inch Cheshire XIII.5

1926 OS 25 inch Cheshire XIII.5

1927 OS six-inch Cheshire XIII.NW

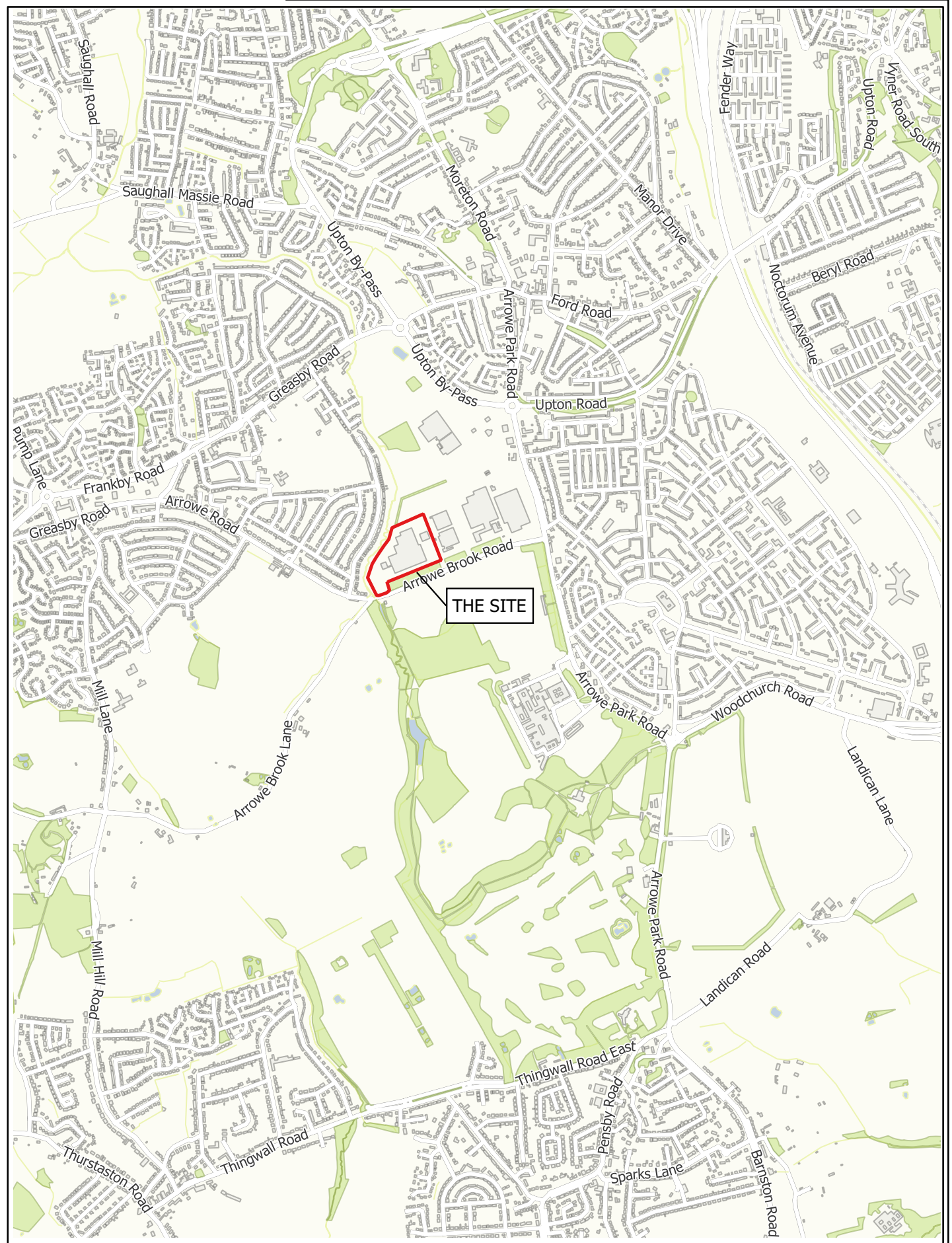
1937 OS 25 inch Cheshire XIII.5

1939 OS six-inch Cheshire XIII.NW

1946 OS six-inch Cheshire XIII.NW

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location - General



PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location - Detail



0 100 m



PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

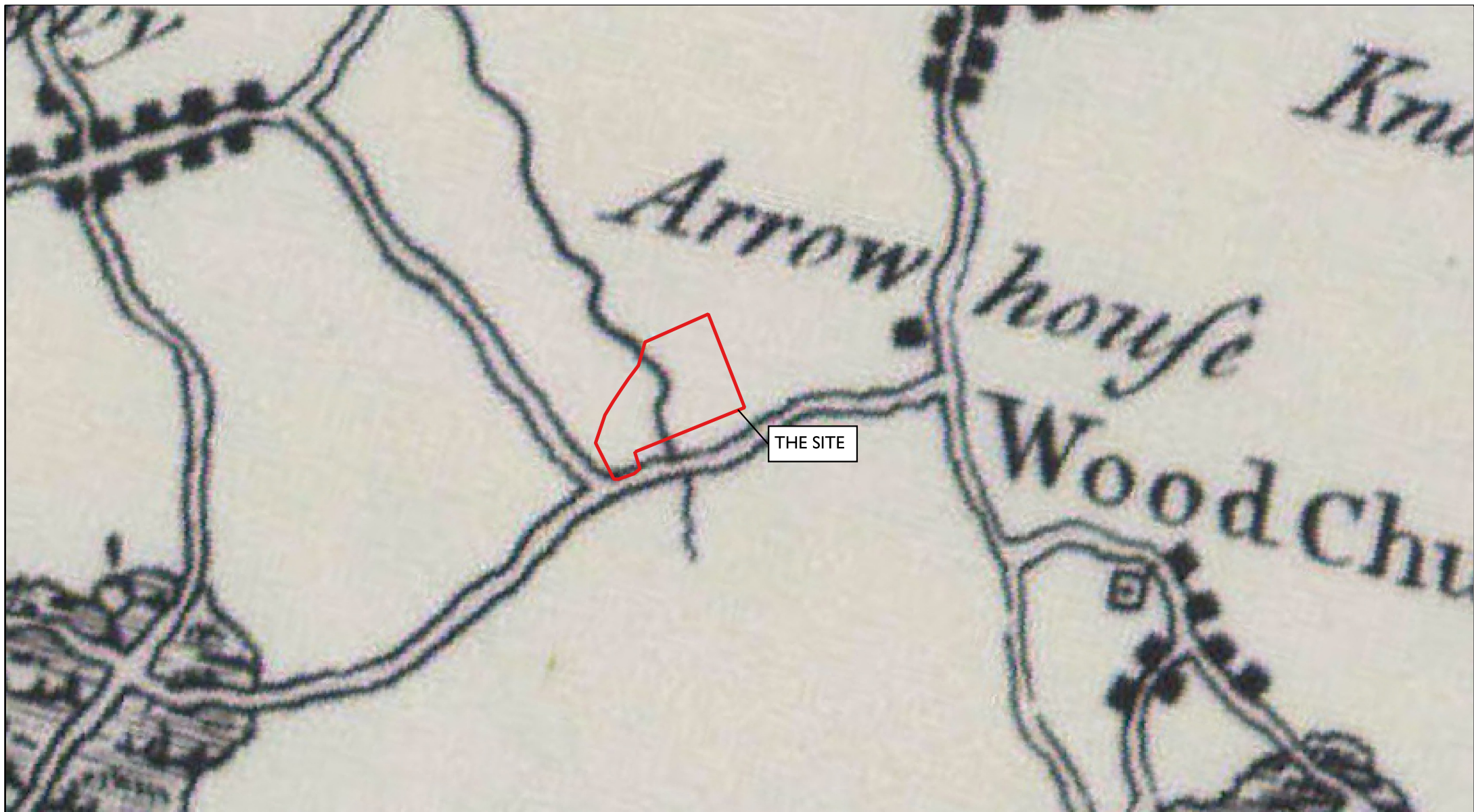
HER Data

- Events (purple dot)
- Monuments (blue dot)
- Monuments Landscape (yellow area)

Map Labels:

- HER Data Points:** MME651, MME16174, MME650, MME10707, MME862, MME16221, MME861, MME652, MME11343, MME648, MME639, MME16199, MME647, MME492, MME495, MME11340, EME1332, MME10757, MME10756, MME10758, MME640, MME641, MME642, MME858, MME10764, MME632, MME643, MME646, MME849, MME861, MME859.
- Landmarks:** Greasby Copse, Arrowe Brook Farm, Greasby, Arrowe Hill, Woodchurch, Irby Hill, Neilson's Plantations, Limbo Lane Plantation, Arrowe Park, Gorse Covert.
- Roads:** Greasby Road, Arrowe Road, Arrowe Brook Lane, Arrowe Brook Road, Arrowe Park Road, Upton By-Pass, Old Greasby Road, Moreton Road, Ford Road, Upton Road, Manor Drive, Frankby Road, Greasby Road, Mill Lane, Mill Hill Road, Landican Road, Thingwall Road, Pensby Road, Barnston Road, Woodchurch Road.
- Other:** THE SITE (red rectangle), Arrowe Park, Arrowe Brook Lane.

FIGURE 4 // 1777 Burdett



0 500 m



PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

DESCRIPTION // 1777 Burdett's Map of Cheshire

DOC REF: LP2754C-DBA-v1

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FIGURE 5 // 1819 Greenwood



0 500 m



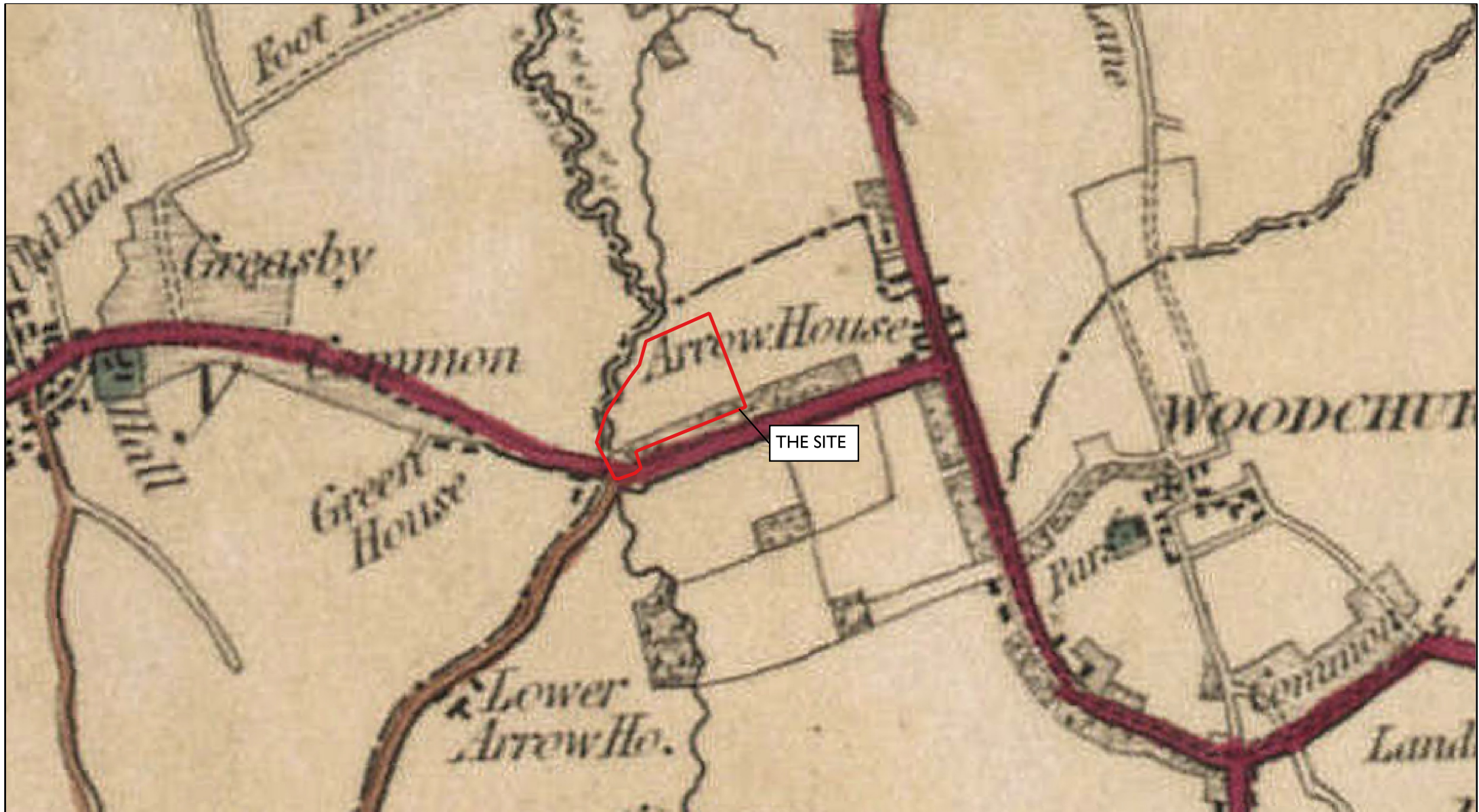
PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

DESCRIPTION // 1819 Greenwood's Map of Cheshire

DOC REF: LP2754C-DBA-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 6 // 1831 Bryant



0 500 m



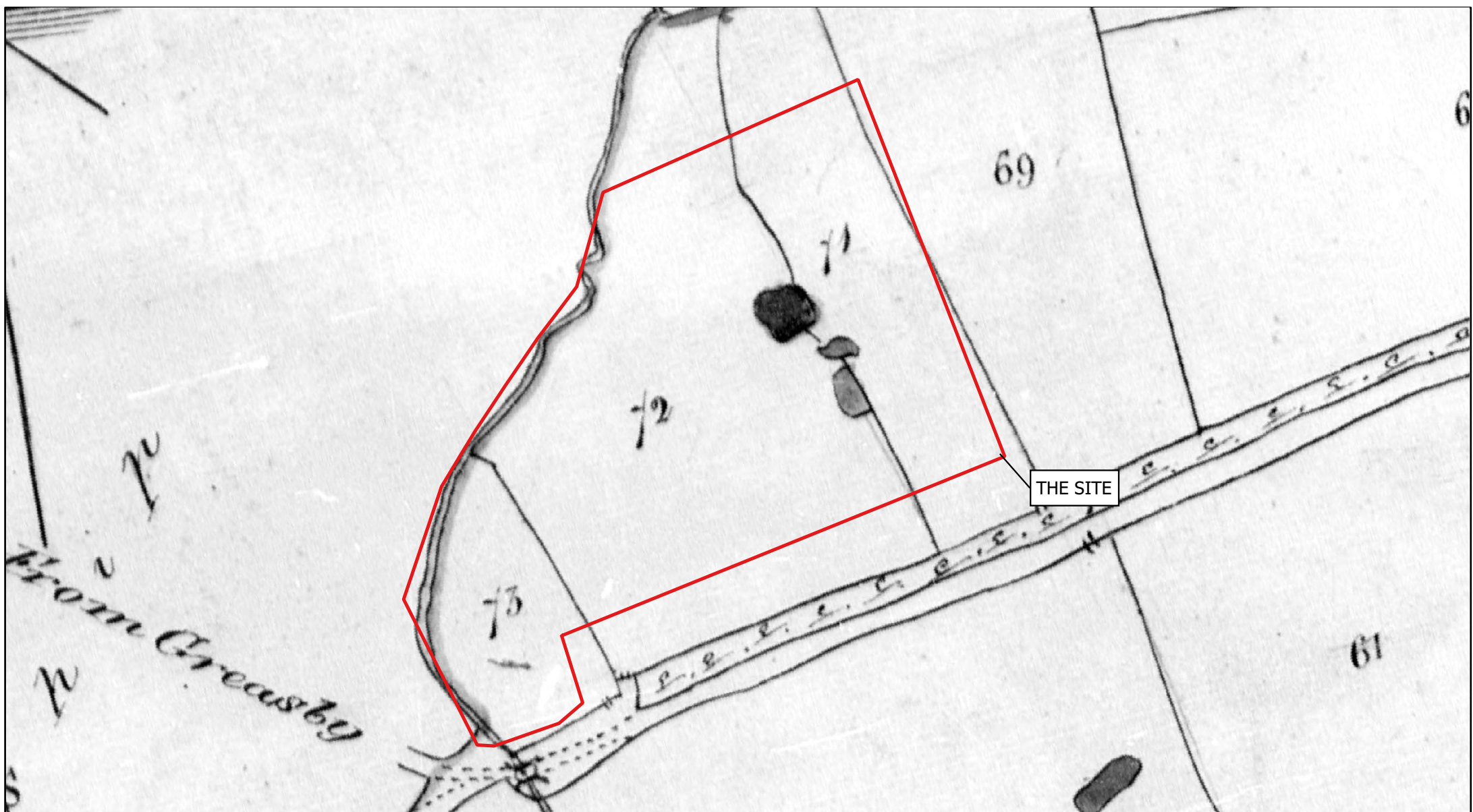
PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

DESCRIPTION // 1831 Bryant's Map of Cheshire

DOC REF: LP2754C-DBA-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 7 // 1846 Tithe



0 100 m



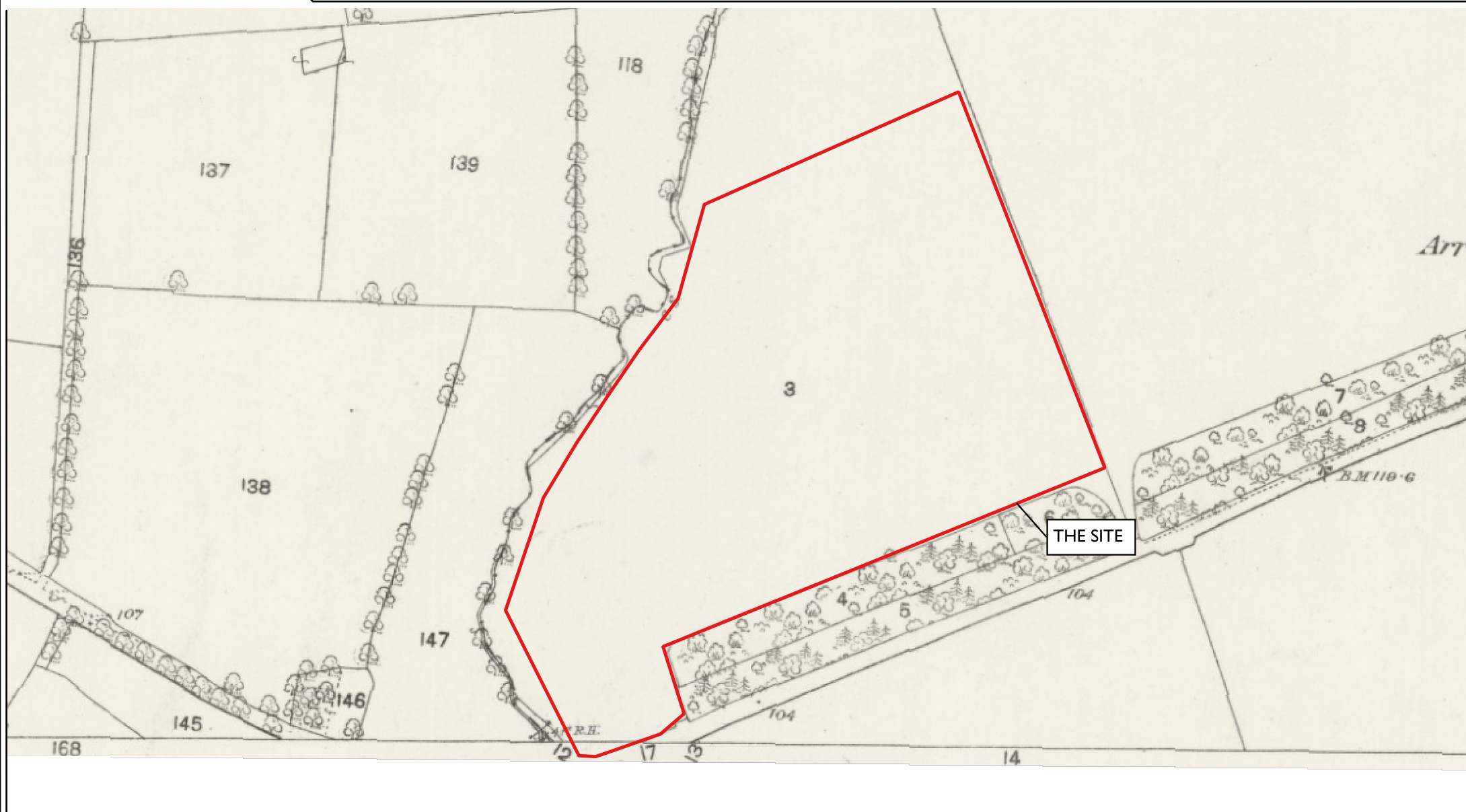
PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

DESCRIPTION // 1846 Tithe

DOC REF: LP2754-DBA-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 8 // 1874 OS



0 100 m



PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

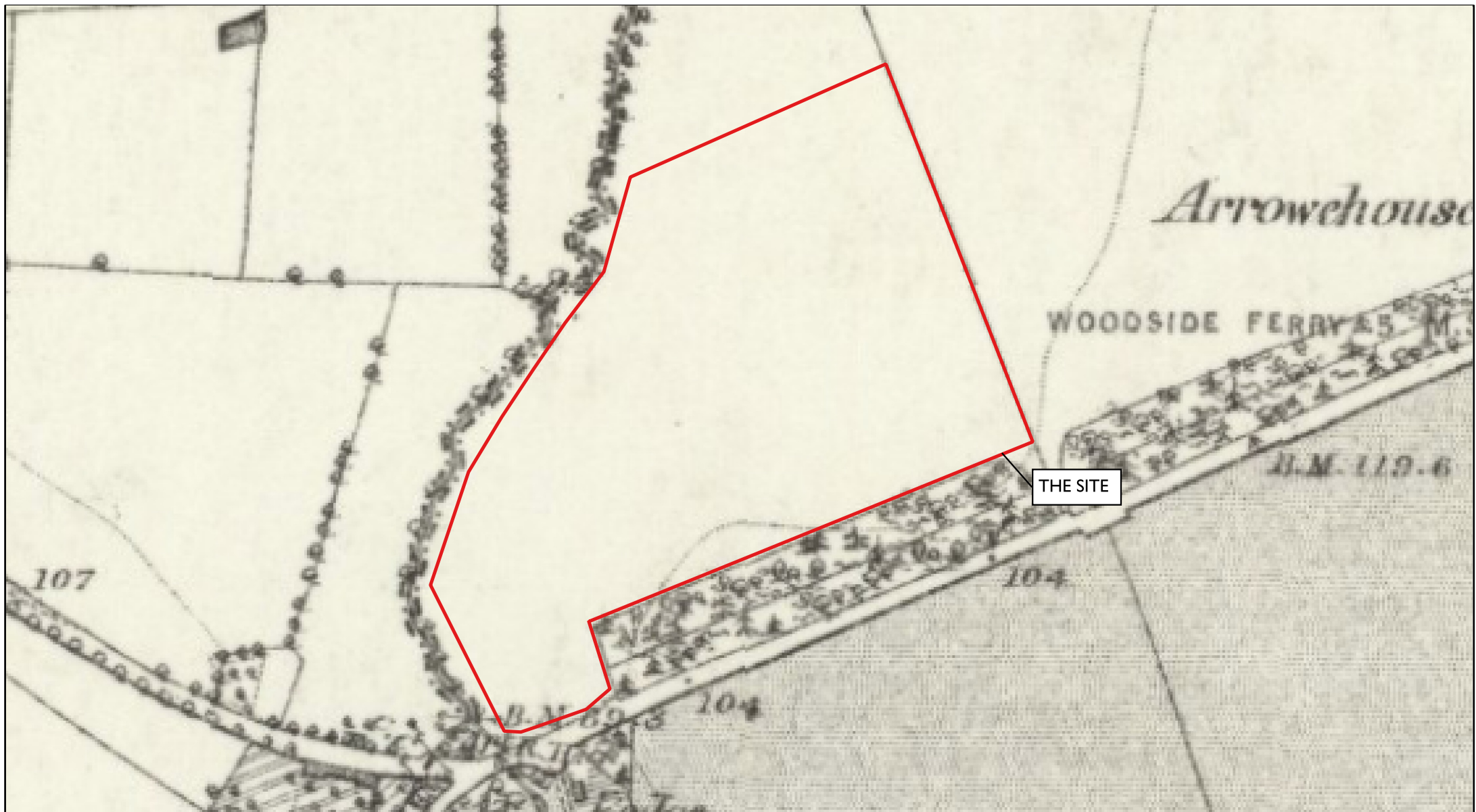
DESCRIPTION // 1874 Ordnance Survey

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DOC REF: LP2754C-DBA-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 9 // 1882 OS



0 100 m



PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

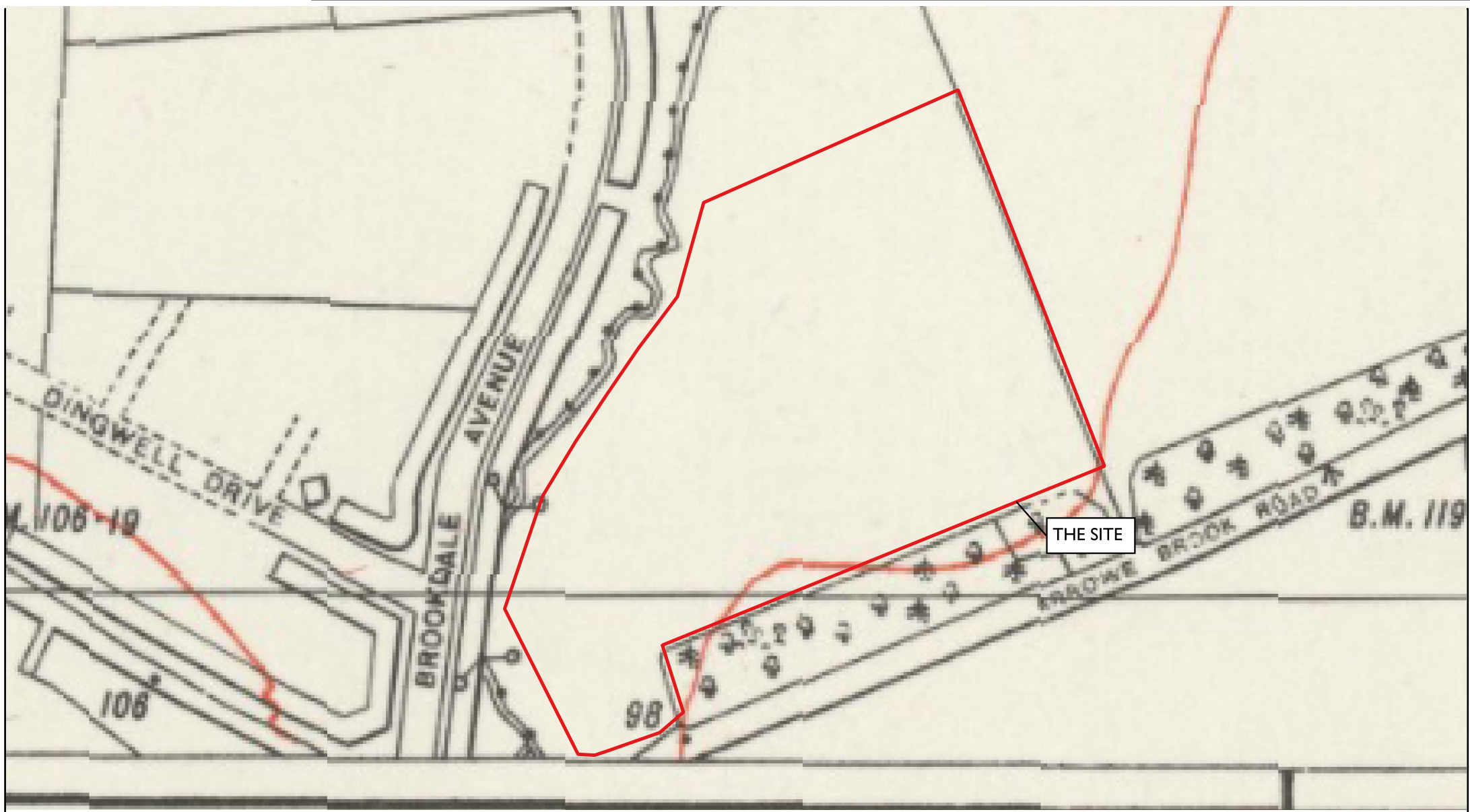
DESCRIPTION // 1882 Ordnance Survey

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FIGURE 10 // 1946 OS



0 100 m



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DESCRIPTION // 1946 Ordnance Survey

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FIGURE 11 // 2000 Aerial Photograph



0 100 m



PROJECT // 2754C - Arrowe Brook Road, Wirral

DESCRIPTION // 2000 Aerial Photograph

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HER RECORDS

APPENDIX III

Merseyside HER Gazetteer

Monument		
MME 502	Brick and Tile works, Greasby Road, Greasby	Former mid-late 19 th century site
MME 504	Well, Arrowe Road	Former site of mid-late 19 th century well
MME 632	Boat House, Arrowe Park	sandstone structure, iron roof. 19 th century
MME 633	Fishpond, Arrowe Park	mid 19 th century fishpond
MME 636	Arrowebrook farmhouse, Arrowe Brooke Lane	mid 18 th century farmhouse, restored in 19 th century
MME 638	Arrowe Brook Lodge, Arrowe Brook Road	mid 19 th century building
MME 639	Arrowe Brook Farm	19 th century
MME 640	Possible cropmark	undated, Arrowebrook Farm
MME 641	Earthworks, white Cottages, Arrowe Brooke Lane	undated, curvilinear hollow/ditch
MME 642	Ridge and furrow	undated, Arrowe Park
MME 646	Possible Medieval Water mill	Arwymulne is thought to have existed on Arrowe Brook
MME 647	Possible enclosure, southwest of Arrowe Brook Farm	unknown date
MME 648	Farmhouse of Greenhouse Farm, Arrowe Road	19 th century building
MME 849	19 th century Well	Woodchurch
MME 854	Location of Pigeon House	17 th century, Woodchurch
MME 855	Arrowe Park	19 th century Park
MME 858	Site of WWII heavy anti-aircraft battery	Arrowe Park
MME 859	Site of Arrowehoue Farm	Former site of farm, 18 th century
MME 861	Site of Oak Cottage	19-20 th century, Arrowe Park Road
MME 862	Site of Upton Pinfold	Former Site, 19 th century
MME 10707	No. 21 Rake Lane, Upton	19 th century House
MME 10708	Former cart lodge or coach house, No. 21a Rake Lane	19 th century
MME 10756	Shippon, Arrowebrook Farm	19 th -21 st century cow house
MME 10757	Site of 18 th and 19 th century outbuildings	Arrowebrook Farm
MME 10758	Barn, Arrowebrook Farm	19 th century barn
MME 10764	Site of WWII heavy anti-aircraft battery camp	Arrowe Park
MME 11333	Spring Bank Farm, Arrowe Brook Lane	19 th century building
MME 11340	Finds recovered from possible mid 19 th century dump	Greasby Copse
MME 11342	Barn and Shippon	19 th century, Greenhouse Farm, Arrowe Road
MME 11343	Pigsty and outbuilding	19 th century, Greenhouse Farm, Arrowe Road
MME 15166	Site of a house, Arrowe Road	18 th - 19 th century
MME 16174	Milepost	Greasby Road, 19 th century

Merseyside HER Gazetteer

MME 16199	Finger Post, Arrowe Brooke Road	19 th century
MME 16221	Ivy Cottage, No.322 Greasby Road	Former Toll House, 19 th century
MME 16263	Finger Post, Arrowe Brooke Lane	20 th century
MME 16264	Finger Post, Arrowe Brooke Lane	20 th century

Findspot	
MME 492	Roman Coin, northeast of Greasby Copse
MME 494	Worked Flint, East of Barker Lane, Greasby
MME 495	Worked and natural Flint, East of Barker Lane, Greasby
MME 497	Abraded sherd of Roman orange coarse ware, Greasby Copse
MME643	Silver penny of Edward I, Arrowe Park
MME 650	Lead Spindle whorl, science Park site, Upton
MME 651	Two Roman coins, Upton Bypass
MME 652	Roman Coin, Caulfield Drive

Event	
EME 1332	Fieldwalking, unspecified

Figure List:

- FIGURE 1 - SITE LOCATION GENERAL
- FIGURE 2 - SITE LOCATION DETAIL
- FIGURE 3 - HER DATA
- FIGURE 4 - 1777 BURDETT'S MAP OF CHESHIRE
- FIGURE 5 - 1819 GREENWOODS MAP OF CHESHIRE
- FIGURE 6 - 1831 BRYANT'S MAP OF CHESHIRE
- FIGURE 7 - 1846 TITHE MAP
- FIGURE 8 - 1874 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP
- FIGURE 9 - 1882 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP
- FIGURE 10 - 1946 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP
- FIGURE 11 - 2000 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

Appendix List:

- APPENDIX 1 - HER DATA