

Archaeological Evaluation Report for land at

EDGAR'S FIELD CHESTER

For Cheshire West & Chester Council

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L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Evaluation Report for land at

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Client: Cheshire West & Chester Council

Local Authority: Cheshire West & Chester Council

NGR: 3410717,365632

Planning App: N/A

Author(s): B Poole & K Pack

Doc Ref: LP0929C-AER-v1.2

Site Code: CHE/EF 09

Date: February 10

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Edgar's Field, Chester. The evaluation was implemented because of the potential for archaeological remains on the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Blair Poole and Kate Pack of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Cheshire West & Chester Council.

The site is located within an area of Roman, medieval and post medieval activity. During the Roman period it was used as a quarry, with a Shrine to Minerva still standing on the site. As the quarry went out of use during the Roman period it was backfilled and used for cultivation through to the post medieval period. During the medieval period it is reputedly the site at which King Edgar was crowned. During the 19th century the land was turned into a public park.

The archaeological evaluation identified buried Roman cultivation soils which would have been formed by using areas of the early quarry that had been backfilled. A single feature was recorded, comprising a sandstone path. No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit, and its full extents were not uncovered.

It is recommended that during the groundworks a phase of archaeological monitoring is undertaken, with a more intensive phase of monitoring on the area around the sandstone feature to determine its extent and date.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the site of Edgar's Field prior to the redevelopment of a local children's playground. A new scheme is proposed for the conservation of the existing playground into an interpretive play area by Cheshire West & Chester Council.
- 1.2. This evaluation report has been prepared by Blair Poole of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Cheshire West & Chester Council. Additional research and the historic background was prepared by Kate Pack. Digitisation of site drawings was carried out by Francis Morris.
- 1.3. The fieldwork was carried out by Blair Poole, Claire Statter and Matthew Williams of L - P : Archaeology between the 8th and 10th of December 2009.
- 1.4. The site is located at Edgar's Field, off Handbridge, Chester (FIGURE 1). The National Grid Reference is 341707,365632.
- 1.5. The site code allocated by Chester Archaeology is CHE/EF 09.
- 1.6. The work was carried out in accordance with the local standards as agreed by L - P : Archaeology and the City Archaeologist.

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. The archaeological work was carried out in order to determine any requirement for archaeological mitigation prior to any groundworks on the site.
- 2.1.2. The site lies within the Handbridge Conservation Area and Chester's Area of Archaeological Importance, rated at the highest level of potential. This is due to the site containing Edgar's Cave and the shrine to Minerva, a Scheduled Monument (SM 69101).
- 2.1.3. The Local Planning Authority is Cheshire West & Chester Council who take advice from Mike Morris, City Archaeologist.
- 2.1.4. The methodology for the project had been agreed with Cheshire West & Chester Council and the archaeological advisor in advance of fieldwork.

2.2. GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. Recent archaeological work in the surrounding area identified the natural drift deposits to be deep stratified fine laminated alluvial silts associated with the river Dee (POOLE 2008). The underlying solid geology has been recorded around the site area as pebble beds and Lower Mottled Sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY SHEET 106).
- 2.2.2. As the site was used as a quarry during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD much of the sandstone and alluvial deposits have been removed in antiquity. Previous archaeological work revealed an 18th to 19th century upper deposit sealing a loamy deposit dating to the 2nd century. The lowest deposit was a layer of sandstone fragments and degraded sandstone dating to the late 1st century extending approximately 3.5m below ground level.
- 2.2.3. The results of this evaluation revealed 18th to 19th century activity to a depth of 0.4m below ground level sealing a thin, potential medieval, lens of soft loam, which in turn overlay the soft loam thought to date to the Roman period at 0.45m below ground level, noted above.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site lies approximately 600m to the south of Chester city centre in the suburb of Handbridge (FIGURE 1).
- 2.3.2. The site is bounded by Handbridge, one of the main southern routes into Chester via the Old Dee bridge, to the east and south (FIGURE 2). The western boundary of the site is marked by Edgar's Place, a cluster of residential properties overlooking the site. The northern boundary of the site is a sandstone river wall along the banks of the river Dee.
- 2.3.3. The site slopes from a high point at the south, recorded at approximately 12mOD, toward the river to the north. The lowest point of the site was recorded at 7.3mOD.

2.4.SITE CONDITIONS

- 2.4.1. At present the site is used as a park and children's playground. The only buildings occupying the site area are at the northeast corner bounding Handbridge. These include two residential properties and The Ship public house.

2.5.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

- 2.5.1. This section will outline the histrionic background to the site. It is not intended as a definitive history of Handbridge, however it shall place the development of the site in a local context.

PREHISTORIC

- 2.5.2. There is very little evidence to suggest that there was any significant settlement activity from any of the Prehistoric periods within the Chester area, although as more work is undertaken this picture is changing. Finds from the mesolithic, neolithic and Iron Age have been found within Chester. A mesolithic Horsham point, an asymmetric flint tool, was recovered from Chester Amphitheatre approximately 500m to the northeast of the site (GARNER 2007). A jadeite neolithic axe is recorded as being found in Chester, although no accurate location has been given for this (CROSBY 1996, 18).

2.5.3. Evidence of Iron Age activity comes from plough marks identified during excavations at Abbey Green in the 1970s and settlement evidence from Chester amphitheatre (MCPEAKE ET AL 1980, 15 & GARNER 2007). It has also been claimed that Iron Age ceramic sherds of Cheshire VCP were found at Handbridge, south of the Dee, approximately 100m from the site (MORGAN & MORGAN 2004, 140).

ROMAN

2.5.4. The site lies 500m to the south of the Roman fort of Deva, occupied by Legion XX Valeria Victrix. The fort occupied the northwest section of the modern city and is thought to have had an extensive *Canabae*, or surrounding civilian settlement (CARRINGTON 1994, 24). The site lies on the river Dee, the main southern route out of the city, with a Roman quay located 400m to the west of the site (CARRINGTON 1994, 37).

2.5.5. To the immediate north of the site was the *mansio*. This was the official guest house which travellers were expected to stay in and was located outside the defensive walls along the main southern route out of the fort (CARRINGTON 1994, 37).

2.5.6. A Roman cremation burial was discovered in Handbridge at Greenway Street, 90m to the southwest of the site. Roman cemeteries are known to line the road south through Handbridge and at Eaton Road.

2.5.7. Much of the sandstone for the Roman building work was quarried from the immediate surrounds of the fortress. Remains of a large quarry for building stone for the fortress and other major civilian buildings are situated at the site. Archaeological evidence has shown that the quarry became disused by the end of the 4th century (CARRINGTON 1994, 36)

2.5.8. In 1927 sewage pipe laying crossed Edgar's Field from the road bordering the river Dee (north-west) to the south-east corner. These excavations uncovered evidence of Roman quarrying of the late 1st century. Thick deposits overlying this date to the 2nd 3rd and 4th centuries and is thought to represent cultivation soils (NEWSTEAD, 1928). Welsh Water re-opened this trench during the 1990's to reveal a similar archaeological picture.

2.5.9. On the eastern face of a quarry outcrop is a surviving Roman relief of the goddess Minerva and her owl, Scheduled Monument number 69101. She faces the Dee Bridge and the road south. This is the only representation of a classical goddess still in its original position in Western Europe (CARRINGTON 1994, 36).

2.5.10. In 1923 an excavation was undertaken at Edgar's Field, with a six-foot wide trench immediately in front of the statue of Minerva. A post-medieval sandstone pavement was revealed in front of the cave, below which was a thick clayey layer containing Roman ceramics from the 2nd century. This was above a Roman deposit rich in fragments of sandstone thought to represent quarrying activities and a roughly made hearth (NEWSTEAD, 1928).

EARLY MEDIEVAL

2.5.11. During the mid 7th century Chester fell under control of the Saxon king Penda (CARRINGTON 1994, 52). During this period the Saxons extended and strengthened the walls of Chester to protect the city against the Danes, who occupied it for a short time until Alfred seized it and laid waste to the surrounding land to drive them out (HARDING 2002, 21).

2.5.12. Ethelfleda of Mercia built the new Saxon *burh* around this time along the line of what is now Lower Bridge Street, approximately 200m north of the site (MONTGOMERY 1918, 118). This *burh* would have been accessed from the south through Handbridge.

2.5.13. The name of Edgar's Field comes from a tradition, recorded in The Anglo Saxon Chronicles, that in AD973 King Edgar was rowed along the river Dee and at the site six kings came to him to make submission.

MEDIEVAL

2.5.14. The Domesday book (MORRIS 1979, 262C) refers to Chester as:

Paid tax on 50 hides before 1066. 31/2 hides which are outside the City, that is 1 ½ hides beyond the bridge and 2 hides in Newton and Redcliff and the Bishop's Borough, these paid tax with the City.

2.5.15. Before 1066 there were 431 houses in the City paying tax, and besides these the Bishop had 56 houses paying tax. This City then paid 10 ½ silver marks;

two parts were the Kings, the third the Earl's. Following the Norman invasion, William's forces headed north, taking control of the country (CROSBY 1996, 33). When the Norman forces reached Chester they are recorded as thoroughly destroying the settlement (CROSBY 1996, 34). Prior to the Domesday survey of 1086 Chester was recorded as having 431 houses paying tax, with only 282 houses surviving by the Domesday survey (CROSBY 1996, 34).

2.5.16. In 1071 Hugh Lupus, nephew to King William, received the title of Earl of Chester (CROSBY 1996, 34). It was around this time, 1070, that William had a motte and bailey castle constructed. The castle lies around 200m to the north-west of the site on a promontory overlooking the river Dee and was reconstructed using stone in the 12th century, with further alteration made in the 13th century (CROSBY 1996, 35).

2.5.17. Around 1093 Hugh Lupus ordered the construction of the great weir at the Dee Bridge to power a mill situated to the northwest of the bridge, to the east of the site area (BOUGHTON 1997, 118). The City Walls underwent extensive rebuilding and extension work, and the southern line of the City Walls dating to the early 12th century (CARRINGTON 1994, 68).

2.5.18. During this period the Old Dee Bridge was the main entrance to Chester from Wales and the south. The bridge is a Scheduled Monument (SM69114) and comprises seven unequal arches. It was constructed in 1387 on the site of a succession of earlier wooden bridges (MORGAN, 2004) that have been recorded as being washed away by flood tides in 1227, 1280, 1297 and 1353 (MORGAN, 2004). This indicates that the site area would have bounded a busy route into the city throughout this period.

POST MEDIEVAL

2.5.19. The development of the area is well-documented through the sequence of maps of the city dating from 1580 into the 20th century. Braun and Hogenberg's map of Chester dated 1581 clearly shows the Dee Bridge at Bridgegate as well as the medieval gatehouse to the immediate south of the bridge. Two large buildings are immediately adjacent to the Gatehouse on the

southwestern side, next to the study site. Mills are seen to the northwest of the Dee Bridge and to the southeast, with indication of the weir. A substantial suburb can be seen at Handbridge, with buildings lining the road leading south out of Chester. The site under study is to the rear of these buildings and their gardens depicted as rough ground with a Latin annotation '*Ruinosa dontus. comi tis Cestrie nsis*' roughly translated as 'Ruined Deity of Chester'.

2.5.20. Speed's map of 1610 also shows the Dee Bridge, medieval gatehouse to the southern side of the bridge, and Dee Mills at the northwest corner of Dee Bridge. The weir is evident to the east of the bridge with associated mills on the south bank. Handbridge is again documented as a substantial suburb, with a large building to the east. The study site is shown as rough ground with vegetation, although this area is smudged.

2.5.21. Hughes concentrates on the area of Chester within the walls and shows the main buildings within the city. His 1643 plan records the Dee Bridge with arched detail and the medieval gatehouse on the immediate southern side. The weir is indicated but Handbridge is not detailed.

2.5.22. The Civil War around Chester began in 1643. Although Handbridge had been destroyed by fire many times by the Welsh, there was one occasion where the people of Chester destroyed it themselves. During the Civil War, and by 1645, Sir Abraham Shipman, Governor of Chester, ordered that the people set fire to Handbridge to stop the parliamentary forces from taking it (MORRILL, 1975).

2.5.23. Hollar's plan of 1653 clearly shows the arched Dee Bridge, medieval gatehouse, weir and associated mills. Handbridge is shown being a similar layout to Speed's 1610 map. Large sailing vessels are shown navigating the river by the Roodee and Old Port area on this map, indicating that the river Dee was still navigable at this time.

2.5.24. By 1658 many Clay-pits had to be established in and around Chester to further the post civil war redevelopment. Many new buildings were constructed in Handbridge to re-develop it after its destruction (LEWIS & THACKER, 2004).

2.5.25. By the late 17th century Chester's trade and industry was recovering from the Civil War and plagues, with the markets and fairs regaining their regional

importance. On the southern side of the weir at Handbridge there were extensive fulling mills (CARRINGTON 1994, 91). An anonymous plan dated 1690 shows Handbridge has recovered and occupies much of the same outline that it had pre Civil War.

2.5.26. Levaux's map of 1745 records the study site as garden land. The medieval gatehouse is recorded extending onto the bridge itself, appearing more open and less defensive. The weir, marked water causeway, and mills are seen.

2.5.27. Stockdale's map of Chester dated 1796 follows the earlier plans of the area. The site is grassland behind the buildings and gardens that run in linear developments alongside the roads of Handbridge.

2.5.28. The layout seen on Stockdale's 1796 is followed by Cole's map of Chester 1805, Neele's plan of 1809, Neele's map of 1817 and Batenham's map of 1821. The lane to the southwest of the study site running to the river is seen to have a small hut in the middle of it in 1796 and is marked Stye Lane by Neele, 1817.

2.5.29. It is with Cole's map of 1836 where dramatic changes can be seen in the layout of the area. By the mid 19th century the Dee Bridge was becoming congested and inefficient and it was decided that an alternative route was needed (LEWIS & THACKER 2005, 216). Grosvenor Bridge was the answer to this problem, dating to 1834 and constructed by James Trubshaw of Staffordshire to a design by the architect Thomas Harrison (PEVSNER 1971, 160).

2.5.30. The Tithe map of 1842 records Edgar's Field as Kettles Croft, owned by William Topham and used as pasture.

2.5.31. Thomas's map of Chester, 1853, and Gresty's map of 1870 show a similar layout. Edgar's Field is marked in Handbridge on the west bank from the bridge. Stye Lane is now marked Stile Lane.

2.5.32. Edgar's Field was laid out as public park by the Duke of Westminster in 1892. Over two acres of land was presented to the city with an endowment of £1,000 for its upkeep. The Duke of Westminster was a well-known supporter of Miss Octavia Hill who pioneered the movement for provision of open

spaces in urban areas.

2.5.33.The 1874 Ordnance Survey map gives the first detailed depiction of the site area. Edgar's Field has grown to incorporate the adjacent field to the south. Several terraced buildings occupy the site area fronting onto Handbridge, extending from Dee Bridge towards the junction with Queens Park Road. The Dee Mills (flour) are recorded. This layout is repeated on both the 1899 and 1910 Ordnance Survey maps, with the exception of the terraced buildings. By 1899 the southernmost buildings had been demolished, leaving only the three standing buildings seen today.

2.5.34.The 1938 Ordnance Survey edition and 1960 edition Ordnance Survey map record little change to the immediate site area. This layout has continued through to the present day.

3. Aims

- 3.1. The general aims of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site.
- 3.2. The objective of this report is to provide enough information for a suitable mitigation strategy to be devised.

4. Methodology

- 4.1. In agreement with the archaeological advisor, following de-turfing, the upper homogenous overburden was removed by machine. The machine used was a 1.5 tonne tracked excavator with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.2. Once the overburden was removed all excavation was carried out by hand by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists.
- 4.3. A full drawn and photographic record was completed on site, including a record of all trenches in both section and plan. Context sheets were completed for all deposits and features.
- 4.4. A series of three trenches were excavated on the site at locations marked out by Edd Snell of Cheshire West & Chester Council.
- 4.5. As the site was still operated as a park and playground during excavations the paths were left in tact. Therefore trenches 2 and 3 straddled the path with a short gap dividing the trenches in two.

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trench by trench. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are represented in the archive. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Levels are given as mOD unless otherwise stated.

5.2. TRENCH 1

5.2.1. Trench 1 was located 45m to the south of the Ship Inn public house and formed a cross shape (FIGURE 3). The north south axis of the trench measured 7m by 1.2m, with the east west axis measuring 6.7m by 1.2m in plan. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 9.335mOD, 1.23m below ground level.

5.2.2. The upper deposit was a loose dark brown silt loam topsoil (101) that measured approximately 0.25m thick and contained modern ceramic and metal inclusions (FIGURE 4).

5.2.3. Underlying the topsoil was a soft grey brown clay silt layer of subsoil (102). This measured 0.2m thick and is thought to be a post medieval garden or cultivation soil. A firm dark grey silt (103) measuring 0.08m thick was a thin lens underlying the subsoil (102). This contained charcoal and sandstone fragments as well as a mixed assemblage of ceramics. A total of four ceramic sherds were recovered including 18th century black glazed ware, 13th to 14th century green glazed ware and two sherds of 1st to 2nd century Roman ceramics of Holt fabric. It is likely that this is a post medieval layer.

5.2.4. Sealed by (103) was a soft mid brown sandy clay deposit (104) 0.4m thick. This deposit contained a single fragment of CBM, nine non conjoining fragments of Holt fabric ceramic sherds, a single sherd of Samian ware and a single sherd of Grey ware. The ceramic assemblage is thought to date to the 1st to 2nd century. This deposit is considered to be the upper remains of buried Roman soil.

5.2.5. Underlying (104) was firm orange brown sandy clay (105), similar in form to (104). This deposit measured 0.3m thick and is thought to be a buried Roman

cultivated soil layer. The ceramic assemblage dates to the 1st to 2nd century and contains CBM, Holt fabric and a fragment of Roman roof tile, or *imbrex*.



Plate 1 - West facing section of Trench 1, 1m scale

5.2.6. Underlying (105) was a soft brown sandy silt (106) that extended beyond the base of the trench at 9.335mOD, 1.23m below the current ground level. Only two finds were recovered from (106), a fragment of CBM and a small sherd of Holt fabric. Both of these dated to the 1st to 2nd century and it is thought that this deposit is a lower buried Roman soil.

5.2.7. As the quarry is thought to have moved along the sandstone face by the 3rd century it is likely that the buried soils encountered during the evaluation are later backfill, cultivated between the 3rd and 4th centuries.

5.3. TRENCH 2

5.3.1. Trench 2 was located at the northeastern limit of the investigation area, close to the junction of several paths through Edgar's Field (FIGURE 2 & FIGURE 5). The trench lay along a northwest southeast axis and measured 10m by 1.2m in plan. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 7.45mOD, 1m below the current ground level. The upper deposit (200) was a loose dark brown humic topsoil, identified as being the same deposit as (101).

5.3.2. Underlying the topsoil to the northern end of the trench was a compact layer of pea gravel (201) which formed the base of the 20th century path running east west through the park.

- 5.3.3. To the south of the trench, underlying (200) was a 0.2m thick layer of firm dark brown silt (205). This deposit contained post medieval inclusions such as green bottle glass, a blue and white printed ceramic sherd and two sherds of 18th to 19th century black glaze.
- 5.3.4. Sealed by (205) was a pit [207]. This pit measured 0.2m deep with vertical sides and a flat base and extended beyond the extents of the trench (FIGURE 6). The pit was filled with a friable brown silt (208) which contained two sherds of 18th to 19th century blue and white ware as well as a sherd of 18th to 19th century black glazed ware. It is thought that this cut relates to post medieval landscaping of the parkland and (208) is a make up deposit raising the level of the ground.
- 5.3.5. To the northern end of the trench, sealed by (201) was a compact orange red sandstone spread (202). This spread of sandstone measured 1.4m wide by 0.2m thick and ran across the trench in a north south orientation. It is likely that this sandstone spread represents a defunct pathway leading parallel to Handbridge.



Plate 2 - Plan of Trench 2, looking southeast, 1m scale. Sandstone spread (202) seen in the centre

5.3.6. No dating evidence was recovered from (202), however it seals (203) a Roman cultivation soil which could indicate a Roman date for the sandstone.



Plate 3 - Southern end of the east facing section of Trench 2, 1m scale

5.3.7. Deposit (203) measured 0.25m thick and comprised a firm mid brown clay silt and has been interpreted as a Roman cultivation layer, similar in form to (104). Underlying (203) was a soft mid brown clay silt (204). This deposit extended beyond the agreed depth of excavation and appeared similar in form to (105) and contained 8 fragments of Roman ceramic, all of Holt fabric dating to the 1st to 2nd century.

5.4. TRENCH 3

5.4.1. Trench 3 was located to the southwest of trench 2 and was also excavated along a northwest southeast axis. The trench measured 5m by 1.2m in plan (FIGURE 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 8mOD, 0.98m below current ground level (FIGURE 7).

5.4.2. The upper deposit (301) comprised friable dark brown silty loam topsoil. This contained modern inclusions and can be seen to form the topsoil deposit covering the site area, same as (101) and (200). The topsoil extended 0.5m below ground level and sealed a 0.2m thick layer of compact gravel (302). This gravel was identified as being the same deposit as (201) forming a base for the path crossing the park.

5.4.3. Sealed by (302) was a 0.3m thick firm red brown clay deposit (303). This deposit is thought to be the same as (203) and produced 7 fragments of Roman ceramic. This included three fragments of *tegula*, Roman roof tile, and four sherds of Roman ceramics in the local Holt fabric. These all dated to the 1st to 2nd century AD.



Plate 4 - East facing section of Trench 3, 1m scale

5.4.4. Underlying (303) was a soft brown silt deposit (304). This has been recorded as being the same deposit as (204). The deposit extended beyond the base of the trench at 8mOD and contained two fragments of 1st to 2nd century Holt fabric Roman ceramic.

5.4.5. Both (303) and (304) are thought to be Roman cultivation soils that were utilised after the quarry went out of use.

6. Finds

6.1. This section will outline the finds recovered from the site by context. As all but one item were ceramic in nature all of the finds have been grouped together.

Context 104.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
CBM	Brick/tile fragment	50x30x40		1 st to 4 th C
Holt fabric	Vessel sherds	<30 x 20 x 10	9 fragments	1 st to 2 nd C
Samian	Rim sherd	30 x 20 x 5		1 st to 2 nd C
Grey Ware	Body sherd	50 x 40 x 5		1 st to 3 rd C

Context 105.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
CBM	Brick/tile fragment	50x30x40		1 st to 4 th C
Holt fabric	Vessel sherds	<30 x 20 x 10	2 fragments	1 st to 2 nd C
Imbrex	Roof ridge tile	100 x 20 x 6		1 st to 2 nd C

Context 106.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
CBM	Brick/tile fragment	50x30x40		1 st to 4 th C
Holt fabric	Vessel sherds	20 x 20 x 8		1 st to 2 nd C

Context 204.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Holt fabric	Vessel sherds	<30 x 20 x 10	10 fragments	1 st to 2 nd C

Context 205.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Green Glass	Body shard	50x30x40		18 th to 19 th C
Blue & White	Rim sherd	30 x 20 x 6		18 th to 19 th C
Black Glaze	Rim sherds	70 x 20 x 15		18 th to 19 th C

Context 208.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Black Glaze	Body sherd	60 x 80 x 8		18 th to 19 th C
Blue & White	Body sherd	10 x 20 x 5		18 th to 19 th C

Context 303.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Tegula	Roof tile	80 x 50 x 10	3 fragments	1 st to 2 nd C
Holt fabric	Body sherd	25 x 20 x 8	4 fragments	1 st to 2 nd C

Context 304.

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (mm) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Holt fabric	Body sherd	12 x 20 x 4	2 fragments	1 st to 2 nd C

6.1.1. The assemblage clearly shows a marked division between the upper deposits (104), (205) and (208), which are post medieval in date.

6.1.2. The lower deposits (105), (106), (204), (303) and (304) all date to the Roman period. The finds are generally restricted to the 1st to 2nd centuries, however as this area of the quarry is not thought to have gone out of use until the 3rd century it is likely that this is a more appropriate date for these deposits.

7. Summary and Conclusions

- 7.1. A site at Edgar's Field, Chester, is proposed for redevelopment. The proposed redevelopment involves the redesigning of parkland and a small playground into an interpretative children's area.
- 7.2. Examination of the available data indicates that the site lies within an area of Roman, medieval and post medieval activity. The site contains the Scheduled Ancient Monuments of Edgar's cave with its shrine to Minerva.
- 7.3. The site was used as a quarry during the Roman period and subsequently used for cultivation before becoming a public park in the 19th century.
- 7.4. The evaluation uncovered buried Roman soils at a depth of between 0.4m and 0.5m below ground level. These soils are cultivation deposits which would have been formed by utilising areas of the early quarry that had been subsequently backfilled around the 3rd century.
- 7.5. A single feature was identified on site of further interest. A sandstone surface 1.4m wide, running in a north south alignment, was uncovered in Trench 2. No dating evidence was recovered from this deposit, and its full extents were not uncovered.
- 7.6. It is suggested that during the groundworks a phase of archaeological monitoring is undertaken on areas extending to, or below, 0.4m. A more intensive phase of monitoring, including stripping and mapping, is suggested on the area around the sandstone feature to determine its extent and date, if possible.

8. Sources Consulted

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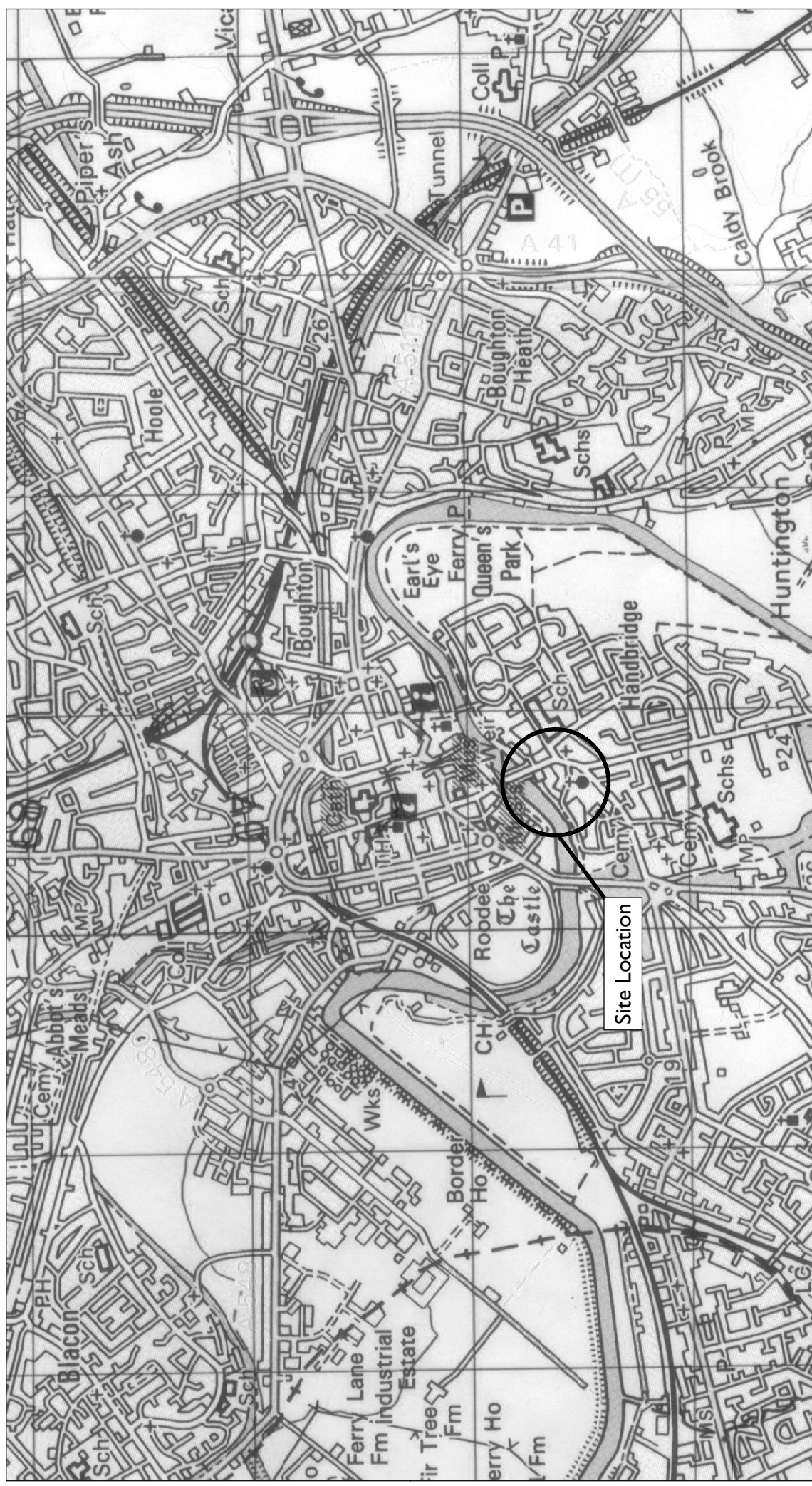
CARTOGRAPHIC

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- Cole, 1805, Map of Chester
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Ordnance Survey, 1874, 25" Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1899, 25" Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1910, Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1938, 1:10,000 Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 1961, 1:10,000 Scale map of Chester
Ordnance Survey, 2006, 1:5000 Scale map of Chester

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



Scale 1:25,000 @ A4

0

2,500 m

PROJECT // 0929C - Edgar's Field, Chester

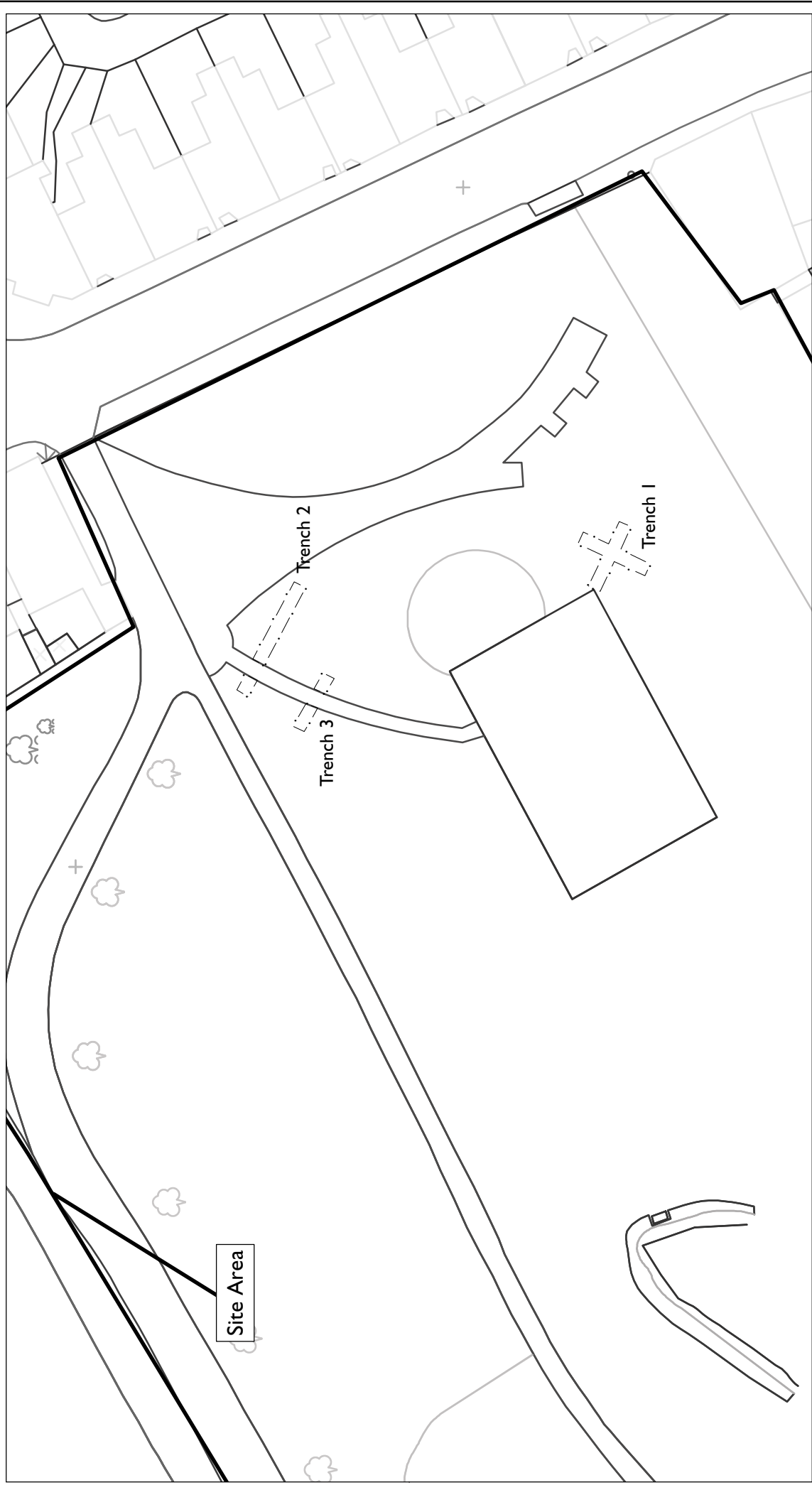
DESCRIPTION // Site location general

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:500 @ A4

0 10m

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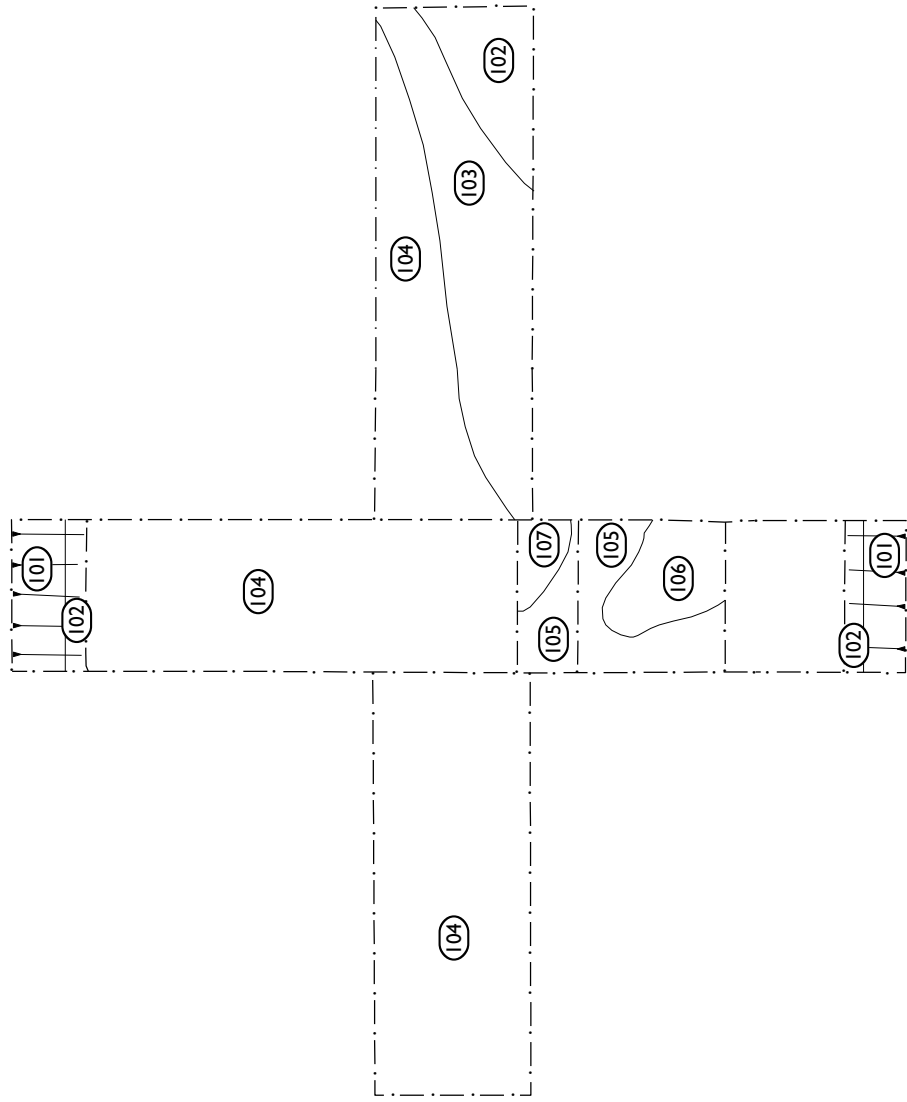
DESCRIPTION // Site location detail

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FIGURE 3 // Plan of Trench I



Scale 1:50 @ A4



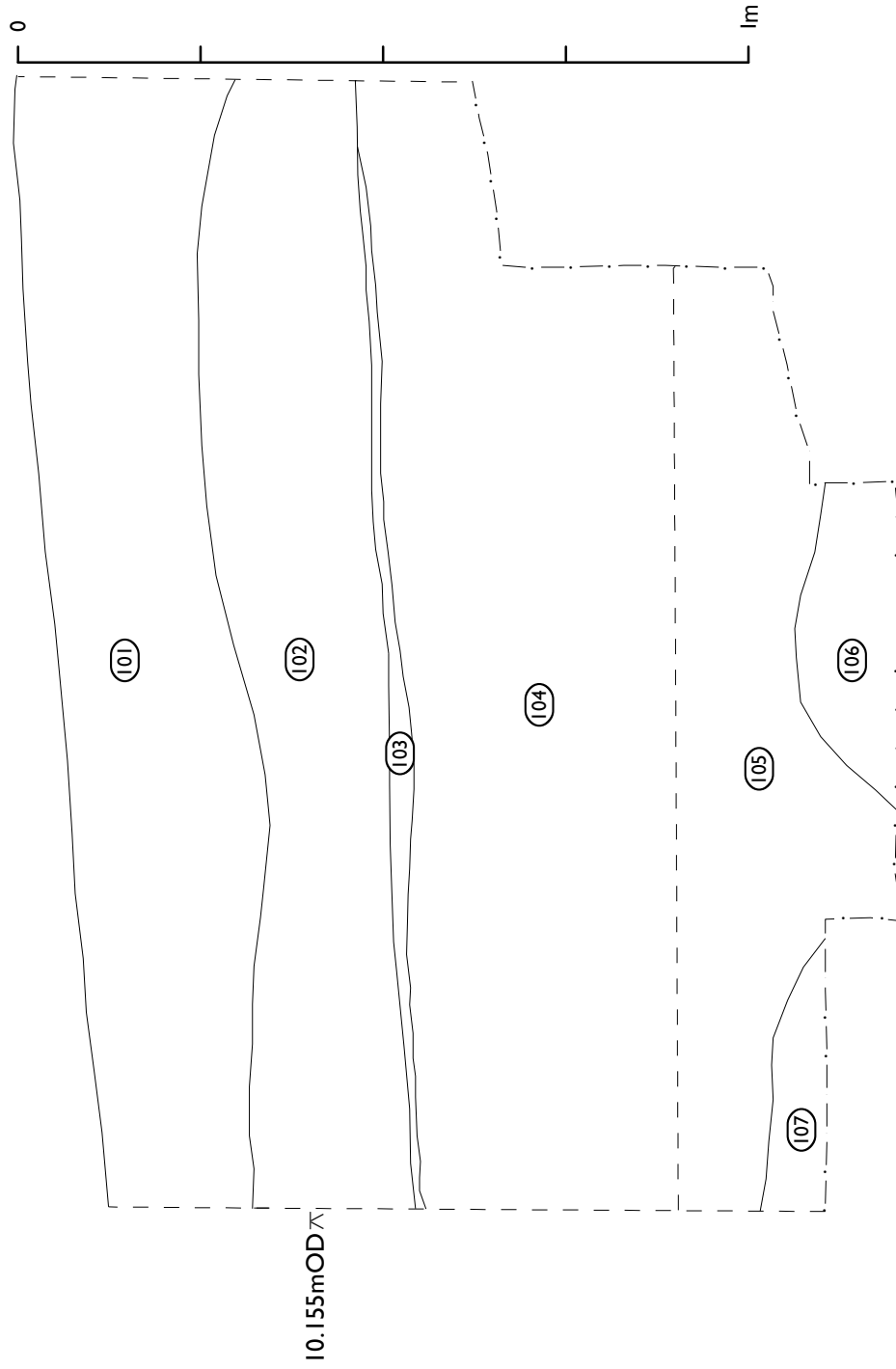
PROJECT // 0929C - Edgar's Field, Chester

DESCRIPTION // Plan of trench I

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FIGURE 4 // West Facing Section of Trench I



Scale 1:10 @ A4

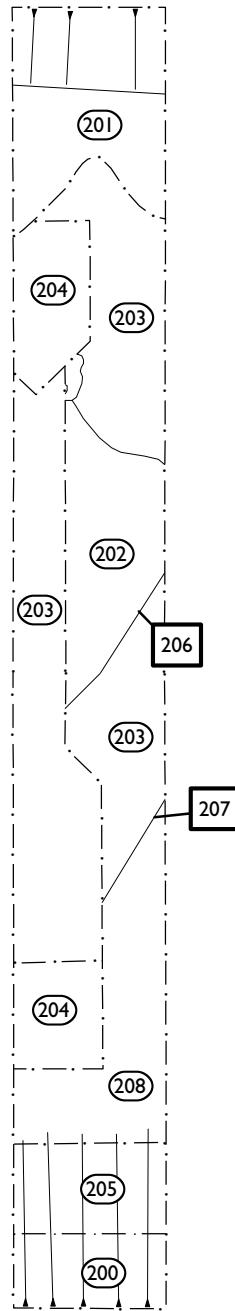
PROJECT // 0929C - Edgar's Field, Chester

DESCRIPTION // West facing section of trench I

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FIGURE 5 // Plan of Trench 2



Scale 1:50 @ A4

0 1m



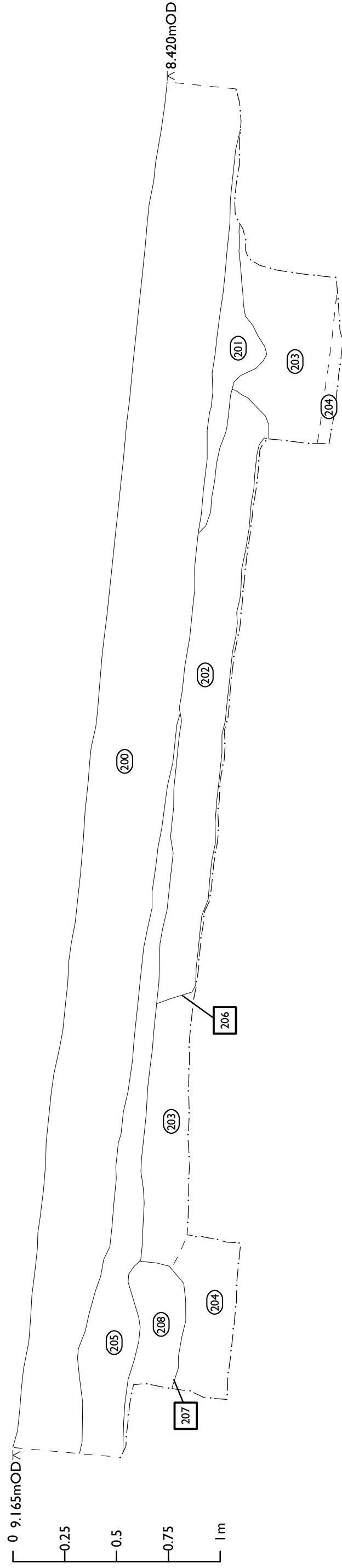
PROJECT // 0929C - Edgar's Field, Chester

DESCRIPTION // Plan of trench 2

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FIGURE 6 // East Facing Section of Trench 2



Scale 1:20 @ A3

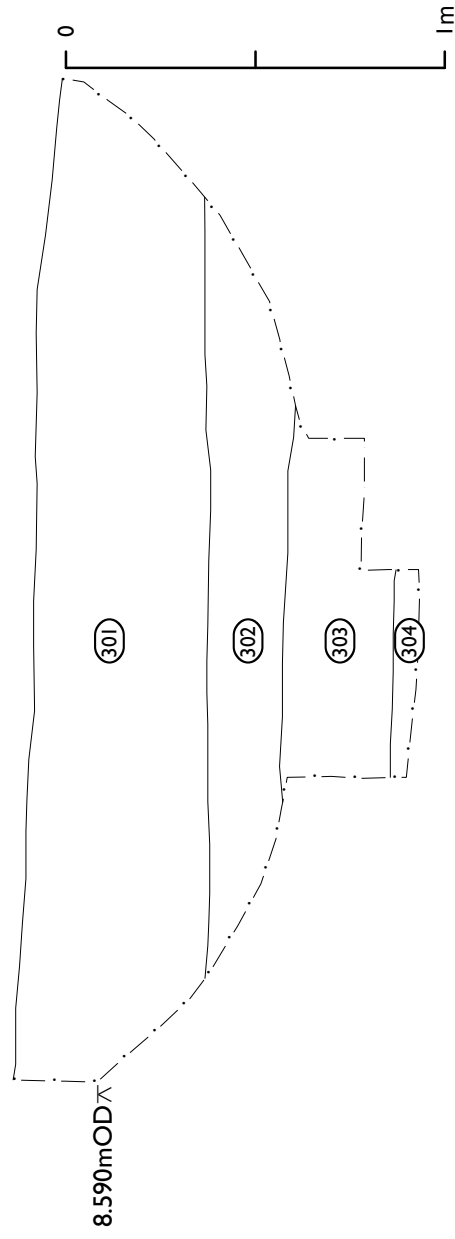
PROJECT // 0929C - Edgar's Field, Chester

DESCRIPTION // East facing section of trench 2

DOC REF: LP0929C-AER-v1

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FIGURE 7 // East Facing Section of Trench 3



Scale 1:20 @ A4

PROJECT // 0929C - Edgar's Field, Chester

DESCRIPTION // East facing section of trench 3

DOC REF: LP929C-AER-v.1

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