

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

GROSVENOR PARK CHESTER

For URS Scott Wilson

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L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

GROSVENOR PARK CHESTER

Client: URS Scott Wilson

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of geo-technical pits at Grosvenor Park, Chester. The Watching Brief was implemented because of the known archaeological sensitivity of the site. The work was carried out by L - P : Archaeology. This report has been prepared by Claire Statter of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of URS Scott Wilson.

The site appears to have been first used in the Roman period and contains Roman ditches, roads and burials. It is thought that the earliest Roman fortress occupied part of the current parkland. During the Medieval period the park is thought to have been used for agriculture until around the 16th century. Remains of 16th century buildings have been identified on the site and evidence of their usage through to the 18th century. The site became a park in 1867.

The objectives of the Watching Brief were to avoid truncation of significant archaeological deposits and to provide further information on the presence, absence, depth, stratigraphy and nature of potential archaeological deposits within the park.

Eighteen geo-technical holes/trial pits were excavated on site by a combination of hand and machine excavation. These revealed modern deposits relating to the development of the park. In areas these sealed in situ Roman deposits at between 0.31m and 0.47m below ground level.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Grosvenor Park for URS Scott Wilson. The local authority is Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Claire Statter and Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology on 5th and 6th April 2011. This report was written by Claire Statter of L - P : Archaeology.
- 1.3. The site is located at Grosvenor Park, Chester (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 341150,366250.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by the Chester Historic Environment Team is CHE/GRP 11.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by URS Scott Wilson (URS SCOTT WILSON 2011). L – P : Archaeology carried out the work in full accordance with IfA, English Heritage guidelines and Cheshire County Council guidelines.

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

- 2.1.1. This project has yet to enter the planning system. This project forms part of a Heritage Lottery Fund Round 2 application.
- 2.1.2. Previous archaeological works have been carried out on the site in 2007 as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund Round 1 application.
- 2.1.3. Grosvenor Park is a Grade II Registered Park. The site is located within Chester's Area of Archaeological Importance.
- 2.1.4. The Cheshire West and Chester Council archaeological advisor is Mike Morris, Historic Environment Team Leader.
- 2.1.5. URS Scott Wilson and Cheshire West and Chester Council have agreed the methodology for these works in a specification (URS SCOTT WILSON 2011).
- 2.1.6. This document seeks to satisfy the requirements of the specification by describing the results of the watching brief and clarifying the status and location of the project archive.

2.2.GEOLOGY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records solid deposits as pebble beds and Lower Mottled Sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group. This data is at relatively low resolution and does not give site specific data ([HTTP://WWW.BGS.AC.UK/GEOINDEX](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex)).
- 2.2.2. During this project the underlying superficial deposits were seen to be a boulder clay as high as 0.17m below ground level in areas.

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.3.1. The site is located 500m to the south east of Chester city centre above the northern bank of the River Dee (FIGURE 1).
- 2.3.2. The site is bound to the north by Vicars Lane and Union Street, to the east by Grosvenor Park Road, to the south by The Groves and to the west by St Johns

Church and the Amphitheatre (FIGURE 2).

2.3.3. The site is landscaped, however it slopes down towards the River Dee at the south and to the east.

2.4. ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

2.4.1. Grosvenor Park was opened in 1867 (GARNER 2007) following significant investment by the Grosvenor family. It is known that the site has seen much activity from, at least, the Roman period onwards.

2.4.2. Several archaeological investigations have taken place in the park in the late 20th and early 21st century in order to establish the extent of activity in the area and the nature of it. The locations of previous investigation can be seen on FIGURE 3.

2.4.3. An archaeological evaluation took place in the eastern area of the site in 1991/1992, by Chester City Council, in the area now housing an electricity substation. The evaluation revealed a sandstone cobbled surface which had been disturbed by later activity. It was suggested that this surface may have been Roman in date, however it is possible that the surface may be later in date (MATTHEWS 1992).

2.4.4. Following the above evaluation a watching brief was carried out during the construction of the substation. This watching brief revealed 18th to 19th century brick walls which may have been utilised as part of the gardens when the park was initially built. A World War II air raid shelter was also recorded in this area of the park (COULING 2002).

2.4.5. Finds dating to the Roman period were also recovered from this investigation. It has been suggested that the finds may relate to a high status building in the area due to the quantity of imported fine wares recovered (IBID).

2.4.6. Further extensive research excavation was carried out on the site in 2007 to support a Conservation Management Plan. Three trenches were excavated in the western section of the park for this investigation. Trench 1 was the western most trench and recovered evidence for Cholmondeley's Town House (GARNER 2007:13). When St Johns College was dissolved in the 16th century many of its

buildings became private dwellings, including Cholmondeley's Town House.

2.4.7. Trench 2 was located to the east of Trench 1 and recovered evidence of a Roman cobbled street aligned east-west probably leading to the eastern entrance of the amphitheatre. Trench 3 was located to the east of Trench 2 and recovered evidence of two Roman defensive ditches aligned north-south (GARNER 2007:3).

2.4.8. It is clear that multi period activity has taken place on the site. Roman activity on the site is evidenced by two ditches which are thought to be defensive in nature, and a cobbled surface thought to represent a street, both in the west of the site and in the east (GARNER 2007:4). Following the Roman period the park is thought to have been used as agricultural land until Grosvenor Park was constructed in the mid 19th century.

2.5.SITE CONDITIONS

2.5.1. The site is currently a public park with associated rangers Lodge and temporary commercial buildings.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. The general aims of the archaeological watching brief were to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.

3.2. The specific aims of the archaeological watching brief, as defined by URS Scott Wilson were:

- ◆ To avoid truncation of significant archaeological deposits
- ◆ To provide further information on the presence/absence, depth, stratigraphy and nature of potential archaeological deposits within the park

4. Methodology

- 4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to section 4 of the specification (URS SCOTT WILSON 2011).
- 4.2. A total of 19 geo-technical trial holes were to be excavated, 16 of which were to be hand dug with three being excavated by machine.
- 4.3. On site however this methodology had to be amended due to the terrain of the park and time constraints. All amendments to the methodology were agreed by URS Scott Wilson and by Mike Morris of Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 4.4. As such, six holes were excavated by machine, five of which were intended to be hand excavated. Two of the intended machine excavated holes were hand dug due to the terrain of the park and lack of access for a machine. T12 was not excavated due to its inaccessible location. The locations of each of these holes can be seen in **FIGURE 4**.

5. Results

5.1. Results are given below trial hole by trial hole. Trial hole is abbreviated below to T. Trial Pits were also excavated on the site and are abbreviated to TP. Not all context numbers referred to in the text are illustrated, but all are in the archive. Deposit numbers are given in (parentheses) and cut numbers are given in [square brackets]. Levels on this site are given as BGL (Below Ground Level) and mOD (meters Ordnance Datum where appropriate).

5.2. TRIAL HOLE 1 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.2.1. T1 was the westernmost trial hole to be excavated and was located at the western side of the western footpath running north-south, and measured 0.4m by 0.4m. The uppermost deposit was a firm humic topsoil (100) 0.07m thick (FIGURE 5). Below (100) was a dark brown silty loam (101) measuring 0.17m thick.

5.2.2. Directly below (101) was (102) a light brown soft silty clay measuring 0.2m thick. This deposit contained eight fragments of Roman ceramic and as such is thought to represent the top of the Roman horizon in this area of the park. Below (102) was (103) a similar deposit to (102) however it contained occasional sandstone fragments. This deposit also contained Roman ceramics and a single piece of bone along with a thin lens of charcoal. This is thought to be a charcoal dump within this deposit. (103) extended below the base of the trench at 0.6m BGL (18.11mOD).



Plate 1 - T1 facing west. Scale 1m.

5.3. TRIAL HOLE 2 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.3.1. T2 was located within the central footpath of the park at its northern side and measured 0.3m by 0.35m. The uppermost deposit within this trench was (200) a 0.05m thick layer of tarmac making up the path surface. Below (200) lay two sub base deposits for the tarmac, (201) and (202) respectively. (201) was a beige gravel measuring 0.02m thick and (202) was a 0.02m thick mid brown clay deposit.

5.3.2. Below (202) was a black silty ash deposit (203) measuring 0.04m thick. Sealed by (203) was (204) a compacted red sandstone rubble. This rubble deposit was 0.35m thick and is thought to be a make up or stabilising deposit underlying the pathway. It is possible this rubble was laid during the initial construction of the park.

5.3.3. Below (204) was (205) a mottled brown clay deposit which extended beyond the base of the trench at 0.72m BGL (16.59mOD). This deposit is also thought to be a make up layer due to its mottled nature.

5.3.4. No finds were recovered from T2.

5.4. TRIAL HOLE 3 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.4.1. T3 was located at the northern edge of the northern path to the south west of

the refreshments building and measured 0.3m by 0.3m. The uppermost deposit within this trench was a thin 0.03m layer of tarmac (300) making up the path surface. Sealed by (300) was (301) a 0.07m thick layer of hard crushed tarmac thought to be an earlier path surface.

5.4.2. Sealed by (301) was (302) a mid brown clay with frequent pebble inclusions measuring 0.08m thick, this deposit is thought to be the sub base for the path. Below (302) is (303) a further sub-base deposit comprising a 0.27m thick black ashy silt with brick fragments. A thin clay lens was also present within this deposit.

5.4.3. Sealed by (303) was a clean mid brown clay thought to be the natural superficial deposit which extended beyond the base of the trench at 0.85m BGL (17.82mOD).

5.4.4. No finds were recovered from T3.

5.5. TRIAL HOLE 4 (MACHINE EXCAVATED)

5.5.1. T4 was located to the north edge of the southern path running through the park and measured 1.2m by 0.35m. The uppermost deposit was a thin 0.07m thick humic topsoil (400). Sealed by (400) was (401) a similar silty loam subsoil with root inclusions 0.17m thick.

5.5.2. Sealed by (401) was (402) a clean reddy brown clay thought to be the natural superficial deposit which extended below the base of the trench at 0.6m BGL (15.35mOD).

5.5.3. No finds were recovered from T4.



Plate 2 - T4 facing north. Scale 1m.

5.6. TRIAL HOLE 5 (MACHINE EXCAVATED)

5.6.1. T5 was located to the south east of the pond along the western edge of the path and measured 1.7m by 0.35m. The initial deposit was a 0.08m thick humic topsoil (500) below which was a 0.16m thick subsoil deposit (501) similar to that seen across the site, for example (401).

5.6.2. Sealed by (501) was a stony ash deposit (502) measuring 0.11m thick, this is thought to be the sub-base deposit making up the path surface which was laid wider than the present path. Within (502) one piece of white glazed ceramic was recovered. It was seen as a similar deposit to (303) described above.

5.6.3. Below (502) were two further make up deposits. The uppermost being (503) a 0.35m thick mottled reddish brown clay. Below which was (504) an ashy silt deposit measuring 0.25m thick with charcoal inclusions. At the base of the trench was a reddy clean clay thought to be the natural superficial geology within the park (505). This extended beyond the base of the trench at 1m BGL (15.2mOD).

5.7. TRIAL HOLE 6 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.7.1. T6 was located in the north eastern corner of the park and measured 0.45m by 0.35m. The uppermost deposit was a dark humic loam topsoil (600) which

contained grass roots and modern debris, measuring 0.2m thick.

5.7.2. Below (600) was a dark brown loose silt (601) which contained gravel, sandstone rubble, brick fragments and 19th to 20th century glass sherds. This deposit extended beyond the base of the pit at 0.5m BGL (15.95mOD) and is thought to be a modern deposit.

5.8. TRIAL HOLE 7 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.8.1. T7 was located to the north of the footpath running behind the miniature train station building and measured 0.4m by 0.5m. The uppermost deposit was a dark humic topsoil (700) measuring 0.2m thick (FIGURE 6). Below (700) was a dark brown black silt (701) with charcoal inclusions measuring 0.15m thick. Three sherds of glazed pottery were recovered from this context. This deposit contained 17th and 18th century ceramic and was seen as a make up deposit.



Plate 3 - T7 facing west. Scale 1m.

5.8.2. Sealed by (701) was (702) a 0.12m thick loose sandstone rubble deposit, this was seen as a make up layer. Below (702) lay a light red brown silty clay deposit (703) which extended below the base of the trench at 0.84m BGL (17.51mOD). (703) contained three pieces of Roman ceramic and therefore this context was seen as the Roman soil horizon in this area of the park.

5.9.TRIAL HOLE 8 (MACHINE EXCAVATED)

5.9.1. T8 was located within the western part of the park inside the miniature train track to the north of the pond and measured 1.3m by 0.35m. The uppermost deposit in this trench was also a humic topsoil (800) measuring 0.15m thick. Below (800) was (801) a silty loam subsoil which measures 0.11m thick. Sealed by (801) was (802) a reddy brown clay which extended below the base of the trench at 1m BGL (16.76mOD).

5.9.2. (801) contained one piece of Roman ceramic this find however is thought to be an intrusive sherd rather than in situ.

5.10.TRIAL HOLE 9 (MACHINE EXCAVATED)

5.10.1.T9 was also located within the miniature train track to the south west of T8 and measured 1.6m by 0.35m. As with T8 the upper two deposits were topsoil (900) and subsoil (901) measuring a total depth of 0.29m. Sealed by (901) was a silty mid brown make up deposit (902) containing post medieval ceramic and clay pipe stems.

5.10.2.Below (902) was (903) a reddy brown clay which extended below the base of the trench at 0.93m BGL (16.92mOD). This clay was seen as the natural superficial deposit in the area.

5.11.TRIAL HOLE 10 (MACHINE EXCAVATED)

5.11.1.T10 was also located within the same area as T8 and T9 and measured 1.1m by 0.35m. T10 contained similar deposits as T8, a humic topsoil (1001) measuring 0.08m thick which overlay (1002) a 0.27m thick silty subsoil deposit. This context contained one piece of Roman ceramic which is thought to be intrusive. Sealed by (1002) was a clean reddy brown clay natural (1003) which extended below the base of the trench at 0.85m BGL (16.72mOD).



Plate 4 - T10 facing south. Scale 1m.

5.12. TRIAL PIT 11 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.12.1. T11 was located along the western bank of the pond and measured 0.3m by 0.3m. This trench contained one context (1100) a sticky grey clay with no inclusions which extended beyond the base of the trench at 1.15m BGL (14.11mOD).

5.12.2. No finds were recovered from this trench.

5.13. TRAIL PIT 12 (UNEXCAVATED)

5.13.1. This trial pit was not excavated due to its inaccessibility along the southern bank of the pond.

5.14. TRIAL PIT 13 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.14.1. T13 was located in a small courtyard area to the north of the rangers lodge and measured 0.4m by 0.4m. The uppermost context within this trench was (1300) the 0.06m thick flagstones making up the courtyard.

5.14.2. Sealed by (1300) was (1301) a silty rubble make up deposit containing crushed red sandstone, brick and slate fragments as well as fragments of mortar. This deposit measured 1.09m thick and appeared to be a make up / fill deposit relating to the construction of the rangers lodge. A modern gas pipe

was identified within this context.

5.14.3. Below (1301) was a mottled red clay with brick fragment inclusions, this deposit extended below the base of the trench at 1.2m BGL (17.82mOD).

5.14.4. This trench was located in order to identify the foundations of the rangers lodge. The trial pit revealed red brick foundations of the building down to a depth of 0.8m when a grey bonded aggregate foundation could be seen to step out from the face of the building.

5.14.5. No finds were recovered from this trench.



Plate 5 - T13 facing south. Scale 1m.

5.15. TRIAL PIT 14 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.15.1. T14 was situated to the south of the rangers lodge and was also located to identify the depth of foundations for the lodge. T14 measured 0.45m by 0.45m. The foundations were the same as those seen in T13 with red bricks to a depth of 0.8m followed by a stepped out grey bonded aggregate.

5.15.2. T14 The uppermost deposit in T14 was a 0.03m thick tarmac (1400) making up the surface in this area. Below (1400) was a firm mixed silty make up deposit containing stone and red sandstone fragments with mortar flecks (1401). This deposit is thought to be making up the ground surface and measured 0.52m thick. (1401) contained a single piece of brown slip ware.

5.15.3. Below (1401) was (1402) a mottled red clay containing mortar flecks and small sandstone fragments. This deposit extended below the base of the trench at 1.2m BGL (17.59mOD).

5.16. TRIAL HOLE 15 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.16.1. T15 was located within the ground keepers yard in the north east corner of the park and measured 0.3m by 0.25m. The uppermost deposit was a 0.01m thick layer of pea gravel (1500) which formed the yard surface. Below this was a 0.01m thick layer of loose yellow sand (1501), which formed the base for the surface deposit.

5.16.2. Sealed by the sand was a 0.1m thick layer of loose mid brown silt (1502). This contained sherds of 19th and 20th century ceramic and metal and is modern fill.

5.16.3. Below (1502) was a dark brown to black loose silt and rubble fill (1503). This extended beyond the base at 0.62m BGL (18.06mOD) of the pit where a plastic water pipe was identified. It is clear that both (1502) and (1503) are backfills within this service trench.

5.16.4. No finds were recovered from this trench.

5.17. TRIAL HOLE 16 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.17.1. T16 was located to the east of the refreshments building within a planted area and measured 0.35m by 0.3m. T16 contained two contexts, the initial one being a humic loam (1600) with no inclusions, it is possible that this material is a build up of organic material surrounding the plants and trees as well as imported topsoil material. This deposit measured 0.83m thick. Three pieces of glazed ceramic were recovered from (1600).

5.17.2. Sealed by (1600) was (1601) a clean red brown clay which extended beyond the base of the trench at 1m BGL (17.94mOD). This context was seen as the natural deposit in the park.

5.18.TRIAL PIT 1 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.18.1.TP 1 was located on the eastern boundary of the park along the boundary wall and measured 0.3m by 0.25m. TP1 contained only one context, a dark humic silty loam, extending beyond the base of the trench at 0.9m BGL (9.75mOD).

5.18.2.No finds were recovered from this trench.



Plate 6 - TP1 facing east. Scale 1m.

5.19.TRIAL PIT 2 (MACHINE EXCAVATED)

5.19.1.TP2 was located to the west of the pond and measured 2.3m by 0.35m. The uppermost context within this area was a 0.1m thick deposit of humic topsoil (TP200). Sealed by (TP200) was (TP201) a silty loam subsoil seen across the park in this area. This deposit measured 0.3m thick.

5.19.2.Below (TP201) was (TP202) a clean reddy brown clay which extended beyond the base of the trench at 2.7m BGL (13.04mOD). The clay was identified as the natural superficial deposit within the park.

5.19.3.No finds were recovered from this trench.

5.20.TRIAL PIT 3 (HAND EXCAVATED)

5.20.1.TP3 was located at the southern boundary of the park along the boundary wall and measured 0.3m by 0.3m. TP3 was located within a wooded area of the

park which had been covered with a layer of woodchips. As such the first context encountered was (TP300) a 0.06m thick deposit of woodchips.

5.20.2. Sealed by (TP300) was (TP301) a dark silty humic loam measuring 0.24m thick. Below this was (TP302) a similar deposit to (TP301), however it contained frequent mortar flecks and sandstone fragments and a single piece of glazed ceramic was recovered. This deposit extended beyond the base at 0.9m BGL (9.26mOD).

6. Finds

6.1. The following section forms a brief summary of the finds recovered from the site during the watching brief. Finds were sorted and bagged on site before being washed by hand and identified during post excavation assessment.

6.2. Finds have been grouped by context:

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Pipe stem	21.35 by 6.21 diameter	None	Post Med
Ceramic	Pipe stem	19.93 by 6.72 diameter	Two parallel inscribed lines around stem	Post Med
Ceramic	Pipe stem	22.39 by 6.11 diameter	Squashed cross section	Post Med
Ceramic	Jar neck	26.42 x 39.37 x 6.46	Possible ink well	Post Med

Table 1- Finds from context (101)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Building material	43.37 x 42.34 x 19.91	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	21.81 x 11.55 x 8.98	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	29.14 x 24.41 x 14.44	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	25.75 x 19.77 x 13.09	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	30.37 x 22.70 x 16.45	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	34.79 x 17.58 x 11.84	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Undiagnostic	22.03 x 23.88 x 13.07	Vessel sherd	Roman
Ceramic	Undiagnostic	24.66 x 20.64 x 8.99	Vessel sherd	Roman

Table 2- Finds from context (102)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Building material	53.93 x 27.13 x 35.35	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	38.31 x 31.44 x 14.78	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	27.36 x 17.47 x 9.01	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	38.43 x 39.98 x 24.27	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	48.71 x 46.01 x 24.53	CBM	Roman
Ceramic	Building material	22.10 x 14.00 x 8.76	CBM	Roman
Bone	Tibia	26.66 x 40.79 x 25.62	Fragment of proximal area of <i>Suidae</i> tibia	?

Table 3- Finds from context (103)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Vessel sherd	58.22 x 44.11 x 6.82	Body sherd	Post Med

Table 4- Finds from context (302)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Chamber pot	83.19 x 71.45 x 5.88	Rim sherd	Post Med

Table 5- Finds from context (502)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Tile	453.82 x 35.35 x 5.88	Yellow glazed tile	Post Med
Ceramic	Body sherd	21.81 x 11.55 x 4.70	Buckley ware	Post Med
Ceramic	Body sherd	27.03 x 13.47 x 4.35	White glazed ceramic	Post Med

Table 6- Finds from context (701)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Undiagnostic	20.69 x 13.10 x 8.23	Body sherd	Roman
Ceramic	Undiagnostic	17.16 x 14.05 x 10.56	Body sherd	Roman
Ceramic	Undiagnostic	18.37 x 10.65 x 3.83	Body sherd	Roman

Table 7- Finds from context (703)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Rim sherd	45.85 x 35.48 x 9.75	Rim sherd	Roman

Table 8- Finds from context (801)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Pipe stem	27.99 x 7.74 diameter	None	Post Med
Ceramic	Pipe stem	15.08 x 6.95 diameter	Two parallel inscribed lines around stem	Post Med
Ceramic	Pipe stem	28.52 x 5.69 diameter	Squashed cross section	Post Med
Ceramic	Rim sherd	37.07 x 35.76 x 3.54	Blue and white ware	Post Med
Ceramic	Rim sherd	18.76 x 24.21 x 3.71	Blue and white ware	Post Med
Ceramic	Rim sherd	25.09 x 15.16 x 3.92	Blue and white ware	Post Med

Table 9- Finds from context (902)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Body sherd	18.83 x 16.62 x 6.20	Body sherd	Roman

Table 10- Finds from context (1002)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Body sherd	42.72 x 27.91 x 8.00	Brown glaze	Post Med

Table 11- Finds from context (1401)

MATERIAL	FORM	SIZE (MM) BTL	DECORATION/NOTES	DATE
Ceramic	Rim sherd	28.29 x 45.41 x 3.53	Staffordshire ware, yellow glazed with brown decoration	Post Med
Ceramic	Neck sherd	45.25 x 19.99 x 3.37	Staffordshire ware, yellow glazed with brown decoration	Post Med
Ceramic	Body sherd	25.33 x 21.42 x 3.33	Staffordshire ware, yellow glazed with brown decoration	Post Med
Ceramic	Body sherd	18.51 x 27.60 x 5.30	Staffordshire ware, yellow glazed with brown decoration	Post Med

Table 12- Finds from context (1600)

6.3. It is clear that the upper deposits from the excavated areas of the site contain a mixed assemblage of modern and post-medieval ceramic finds typical of this area of Chester.

6.4. Several of the buried deposits produced undiagnostic fragments of Roman ceramics. These included building materials and coarse ceramics. It is likely that contexts (102), (103), (703), (801) and (1002) are *in situ* Roman deposits as the only finds recovered from these deposits were dated to that period. The date range of all the Roman ceramics recovered is thought to lie between the 1st and 3rd century.

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1. A total of 18 geo-technical holes/trial pits were excavated on site by a combination of hand and machine excavation. Each excavation was monitored by an archaeologist at all times.
- 7.2. It is clear from the contexts recorded in each trench and the finds recovered that these investigations have shown three main phases of archaeology. The most recent being the current usage of the site as a public park preceded by the construction of the park. The construction is evidenced by the finds recovered from the make up deposits and their nature.
- 7.3. The earliest phase of activity recorded on site during these investigations was from the Roman period. It is known that Roman activity took place in the park from earlier excavations of the area in the past decades. Any previously unknown Roman archaeology within Chester has a high regional significance in adding to the information already available about the growth of the city during this period.
- 7.4. It is clear from these investigations that Roman archaeology is present across the park and is relatively close to the surface in some areas. For example T1 revealed a Roman deposit at 0.31m BGL and T7 revealed a Roman archaeological horizon at 0.47m BGL.

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 9 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 20 x Black and white photographs and negatives and colour slides
- ◆ 18 x Trench sheets

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

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

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

SOURCES CONSULTED

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

COULING G 2002 *Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief at Grosvenor Park, Chester*. Unpublished archive report for Gifford and Partners Ltd

GARNER D 2007 *Archaeology in the Park. Grosvenor Park Chester 2007*. Chester, Chester City Council

MATTHEWS K J 1992 *An Archaeological Evaluation on the site of a proposed Electricity Sub-station at the Grosvenor Park, Chester*. Unpublished archive report for Chester City Council Department of Leisure Services

URS SCOTT WILSON 2011 *Grosvenor Park, Chester. GI Monitoring Specification*. URS Scott Wilson

STATUTORY AND GUIDANCE

GUIDANCE AND GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS IN CHESHIRE Cheshire County Council Environmental Planning 2003

STANDARD AND GUIDANCE FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF Institute for Archaeologists 2008

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location General



Scale 1:25,000 @ A4

1,500 m

0

PROJECT // I148C - Grosvenor Park, Chester

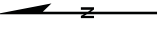
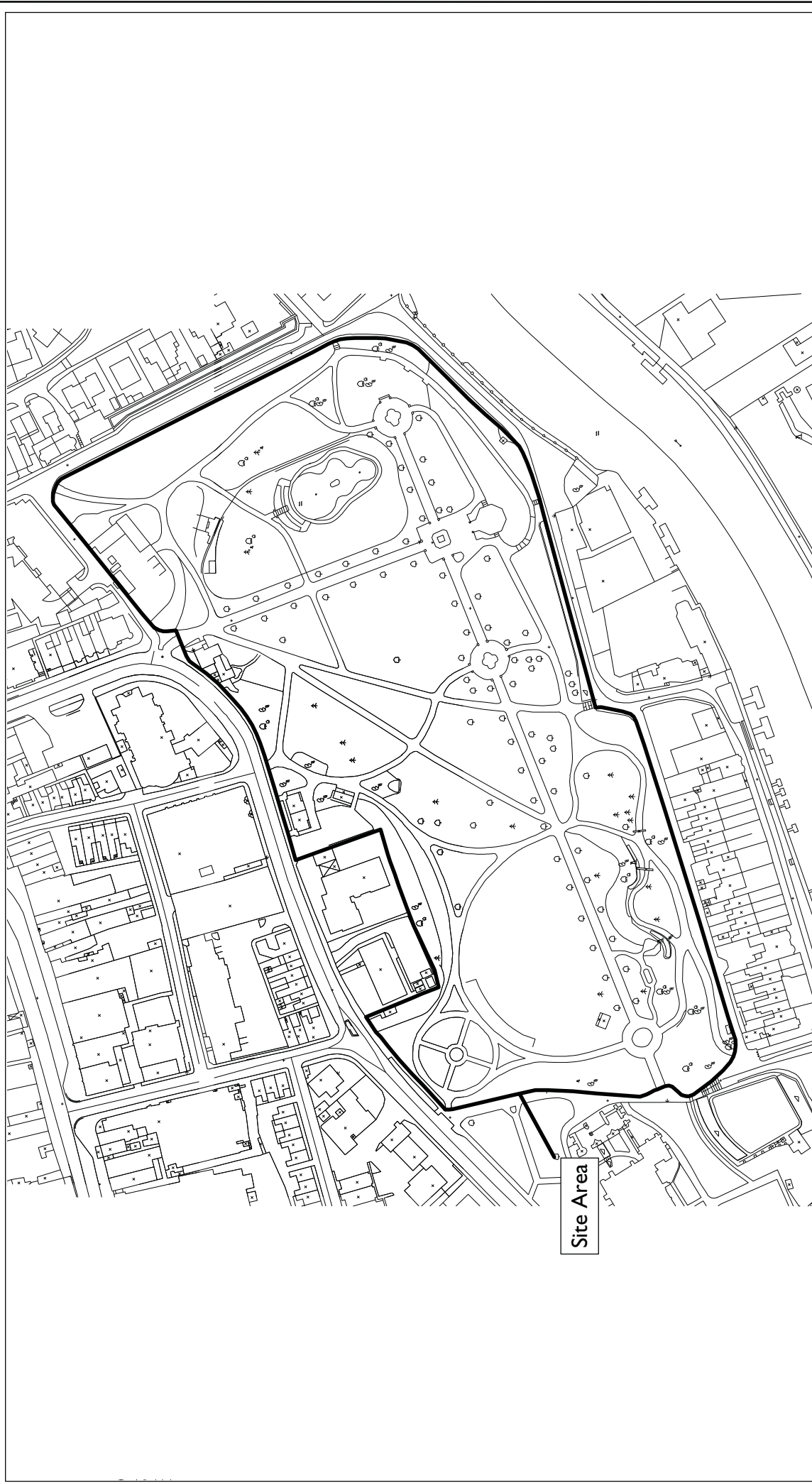
DESCRIPTION // Site location general

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DOC REF: LPI148C-WBR-v1

L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detailed



Scale 1:2,500 @ A4



PROJECT // I148C - Grosvenor Park, Chester

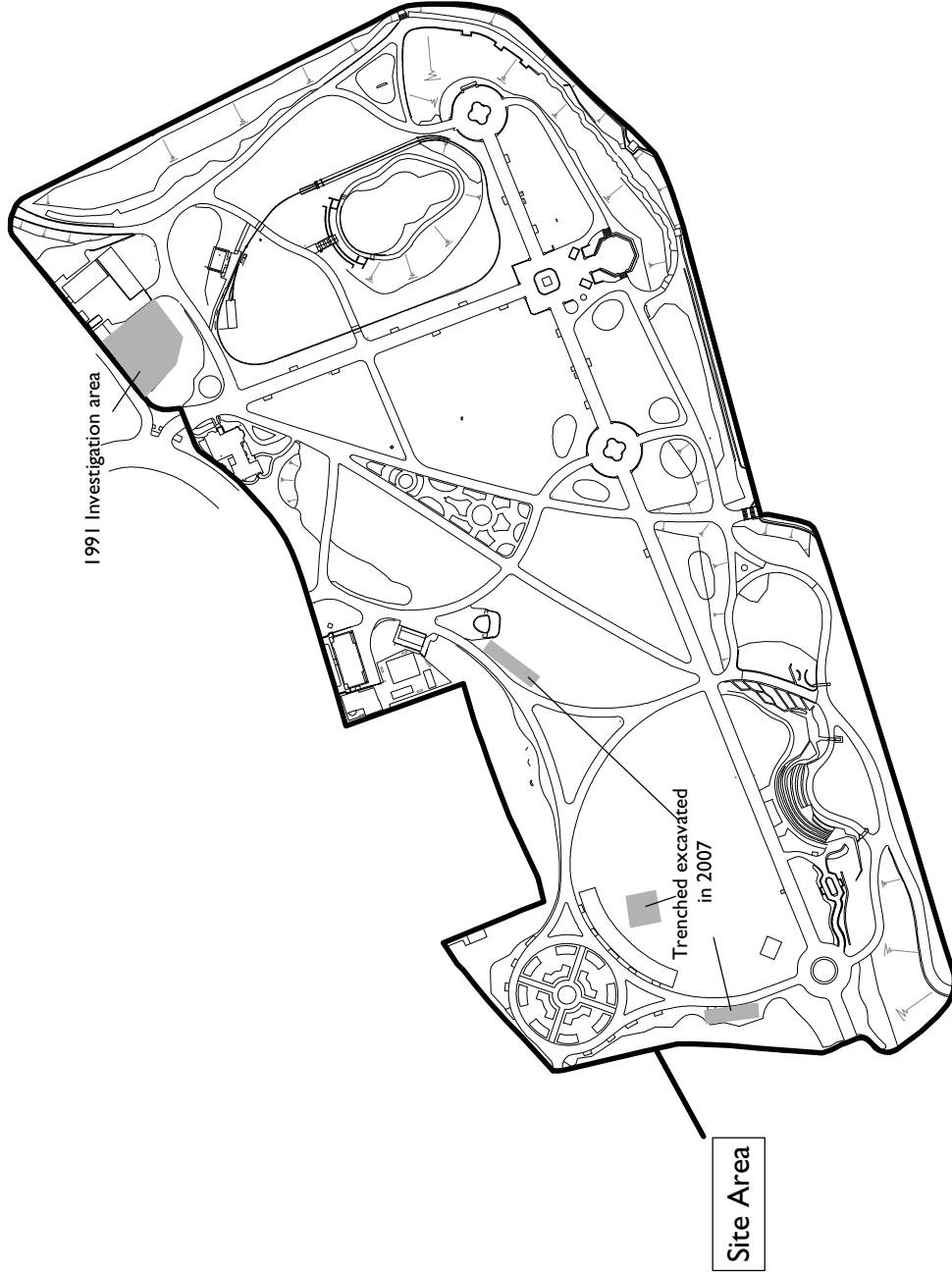
DESCRIPTION // Site location detailed

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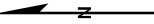
L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Areas of Previous Investigation



Scale 1:2,500 @ A4

0 150m



PROJECT // I 148C - Grosvenor Park, Chester

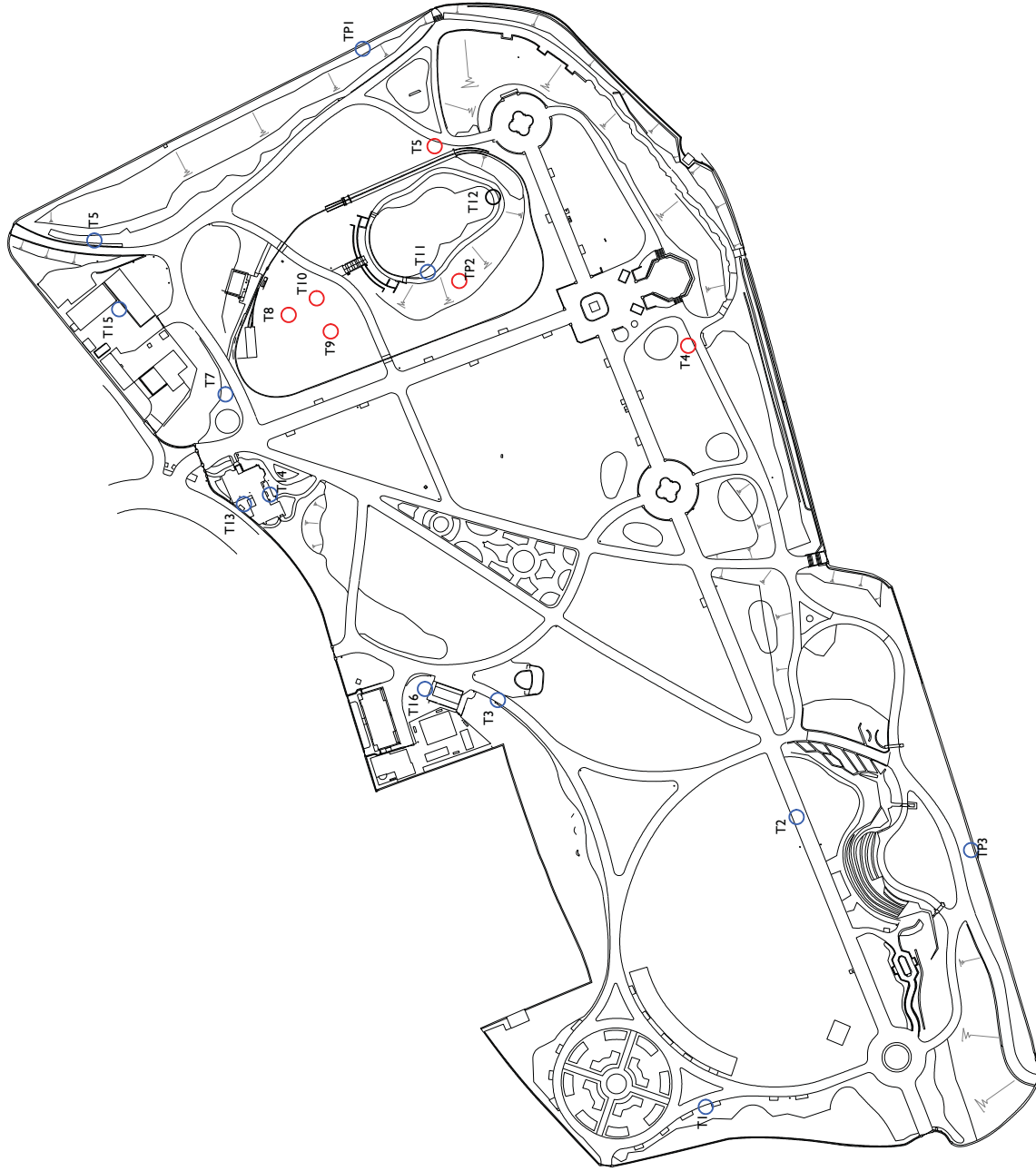
DESCRIPTION // Areas of previous investigation

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L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

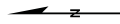
FIGURE 4 // Trial Hole Plan



Scale 1:1,500 @A3

- Hand excavated
- Machine excavated
- Unexcavated

0 150 m



PROJECT // I148C - Grosvenor Park, Chester

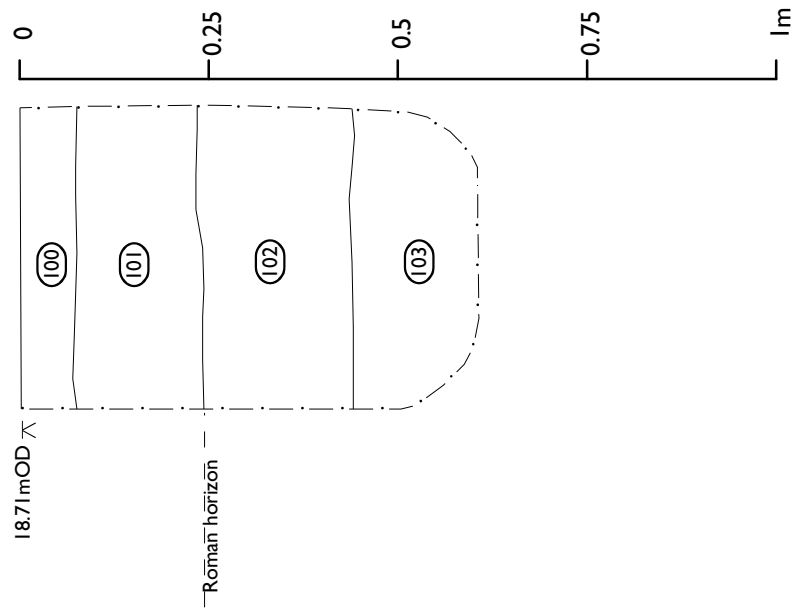
DESCRIPTION // Trial hole locations

Reproduced from plans supplied by URS Scott Wilson

DOC REF: LPI148C-WBR-v1

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 5 // North Facing Section of T1



Scale 1:10 @ A4

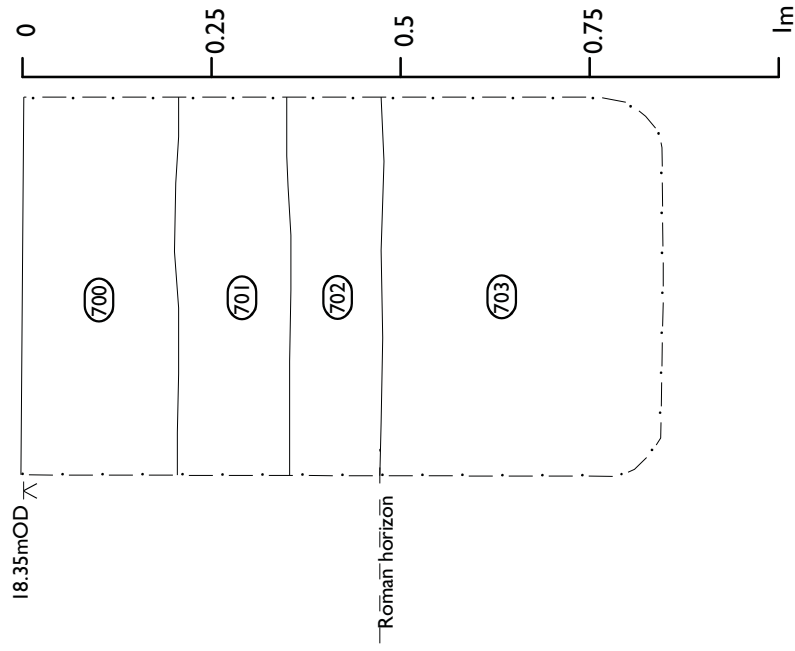
PROJECT // I148C - Grosvenor Park, Chester

DESCRIPTION // North facing section of T1

DOC REF: LPI148C-WBR-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 6 // East Facing Section of T7



Scale 1:10 @ A4

PROJECT // I148C - Grosvenor Park, Chester

DESCRIPTION // East facing section of T7

DOC REF: LPI148C-WBR-v1

L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: Iparchae1-98850

Project details

Project name	Gorsvenor Park
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of Geotechnical investigation pits.
Project dates	Start: 05-04-2011 End: 11-04-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CHE/GRP 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CONTAINER Roman
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Grant application (eg. management plan)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER CHESTER Grosvenor Park
Postcode	CH1 1QQ
Study area	5.80 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 41150 60250 53.1358593677 -2.879771922120 53 08 09 N 002 52 47 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.00m Max: 8.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	URS Scott Wilson
Project director/manager	Blair Poole

Project supervisor	Claire Statter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	URS Scott Wilson

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Physical Archive ID	CHE/GRP 11
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHE/GRP 11
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Grosvenor Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHE/GRP 11
Paper Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Photograph'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Repot, Grosvenor Park, Chester
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Statter, C.
Other bibliographic details	LP1148C-AWB-V1
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Grey literature report on the results of the archaeological monitoring of GI test pits at Grosvenor Park, Chester.
Entered by	Claire Statter (c.statter@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	11 April 2011

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

APPENDIX 2

Fr. No.	Description	Scale	Direction	Date/initials
1	Tr 10	1	S	CS 5/4/11
2	Tr 7	1	W	BP 5/4/11
3	Tr 7	1	N	BP 5/4/11
4	Tr 8	1	NE	CS 5/4/11
5	Tr 9	1	W	BP 5/4/11
6	Tr 15	1	S	BP 5/4/11
7	Tr 15	1	W	CS 5/4/11
8	Tr 2	1	W	BP 5/4/11
9	Tr 6	1	NE	CS 5/4/11
10	Tr 5	1	W	CS 5/4/11
11	Tr 4	1	N	CS 5/4/11
12	Tr 1	1	W	CS 5/4/11
13	Tr 14	1	W	CS 6/4/11
14	Tr 13	1	S	CS 6/4/11
15	Tr 2	1	W	CS 6/4/11
16	Tr 3	1	W	CS 6/4/11
17	Tr 16	1	N	CS 6/4/11
18	Tr 11	1	SE	CS 6/4/11
19	Tr 3	1	E	CS 6/4/11
20	Tr 1	1	S	CS 6/4/11



1_1



1_2



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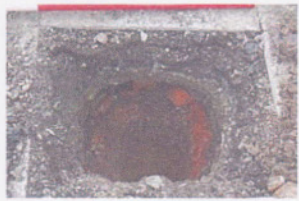
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