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SUMMARY

Lancashire County Council have prepared a planning application for the development of land forming part of the Woodcock Estate, Farington, Lancashire (NGR 354758 424679 (centred)). The proposed development will necessitate earth-moving works that have potential to damage or remove any below-ground archaeological remains.

In order to support the planning application Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Eric Wright Construction (on behalf of Lancashire County Council) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment (Fletcher 2021) and to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site. The archaeological evaluation was carried out by Salford Archaeology under the supervision of Dr Colin Elder between 14 November 2022 and 23 December 2022 and was intended to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of the sub-surface archaeological resource in order to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

Archaeological features uncovered during the archaeological evaluation were potentially linked to post-medieval and Industrial period clay extraction. These remains were exposed in four of the trial trenches located in Fields 4 and 5 (Figure 2) in the southern part of the site; the archaeological remains are deemed to be of limited local importance. The report suggests that further archaeological investigation would likely yield limited additional archaeological data.

This report will be submitted to Lancashire Council and the relevant Historic Environment Record, as well as registered with OASIS (Online access to Index of Archaeological Investigations).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the project

1.1.1 Chroma Consulting Ltd has prepared a planning application for the development of land located to the north of Fowler Lane, to the east of Fowler Avenue, to the south of Farington Road and to the west of Stanifield Lane, forming part of the Woodcock Estate, Farington, Lancashire (NGR 354758 424679 centred; Plate 1; referred to herein as 'the site').

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises two cricket ovals and an associated pavilion building, covered cricket nets, a grounds maintenance building, access, parking, landscaping and associated works (including temporary event overlay facilities on ticketed match days).

1.1.3 The delivery of these proposals will necessitate earth-moving works that have the potential to damage or remove any below-ground archaeological remains.

1.1.4 To support the planning application Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Eric Wright Construction (on behalf of Lancashire County Council) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment (Fletcher 2021). This document concluded that there was the potential for buried archaeological remains to be present on the site including prehistoric deposits or finds, medieval and post-medieval field systems, and 19th-century agricultural buildings.

1.1.5 The requirement for the programme of archaeological investigation is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 199 which states that 'local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible'.

1.1.6 Consequently, an archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching was recommended by Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCCHET). Salford Archaeology was commissioned to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (Thompson 2022) which dictated the parameters of an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was intended to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of the archaeological

resource, to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

1.1.7 The archaeological evaluation was carried out on site between 14 November 2022 and 23 December 2022 under the supervision of Dr Colin Elder. This archaeological evaluation was comprised of forty-seven trial trenches measuring fifty metres by 1.8 metres, two trenches measuring twenty-five metres by 1.8 metres and one trench measuring fifteen metres by 1.8 metres; the total excavated area covers 4,347 metres squared, covering approximately 4% of the total site.

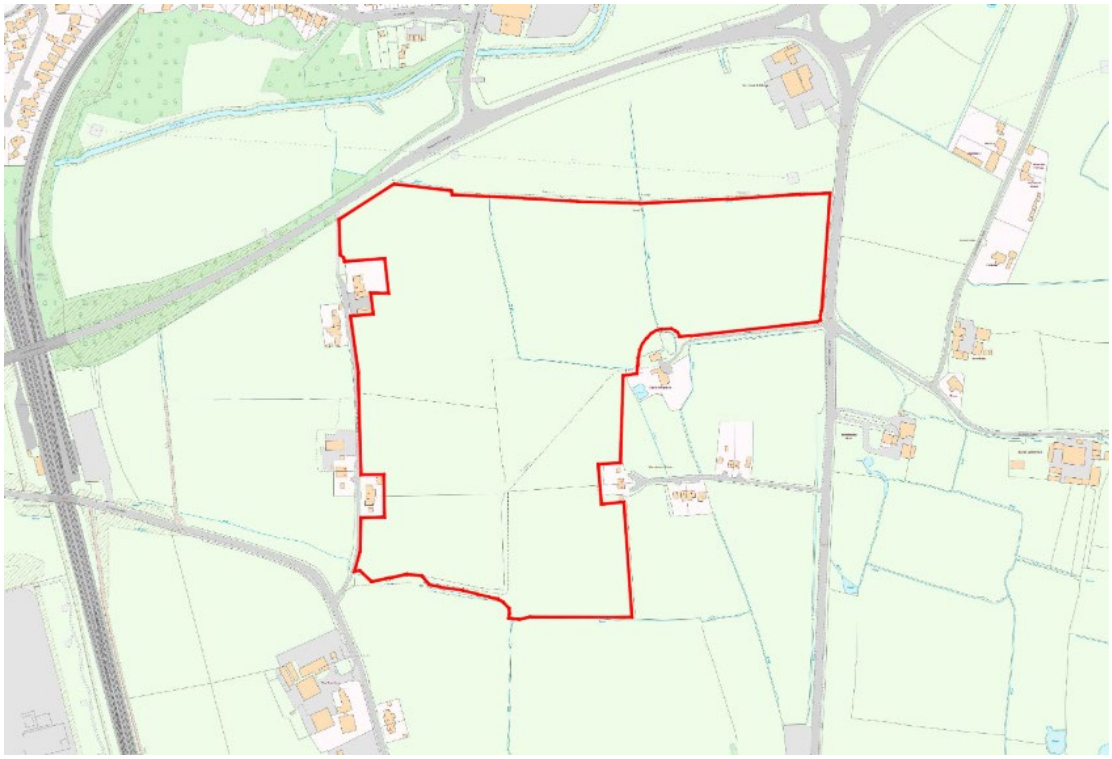

Plate 1: Site location

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The main aim of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of any buried remains of archaeological interest within the proposed development area and where present, to characterise the level of preservation and significance, and provide a good understanding of their potential. This was be achieved via the excavation of 50 archaeological evaluation trial trenches across the development area.

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 The principal objectives of the archaeological investigation are:

- to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;
- to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for any additional archaeological mitigation;
- and to make available the results of the work.

2.3 Research potential

2.3.1 The research potential of the project was undertaken with reference to the North West England Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment where the following research questions were identified as being potentially relevant.

Prehistory	
PH18:	What can palaeoenvironmental analysis of buried soils tell us about prehistoric environments?
PH25:	How can we better understand the distribution of prehistoric archaeology across the landscape?
PH30:	What can incidental, residual lithics tell us about Mesolithic activity and settlement locations?
Roman	
R08:	What evidence is there for the impact of Roman occupation on the environment?
R18:	What were the locations, density, chronology, economy and character of rural settlement sites and patterns?
R19:	How can we identify whether the virtual absence of villas in the North West archaeological record is apparent rather than real?
Medieval	
EM15	How can archaeological methods be used to recognise domestic, farming and food provision sites?
EM17	What evidence is there for landscape change in the early medieval period?

EM18	How can the archaeological investigation of parish boundaries inform our understanding of the Early Medieval land use?
LM02	What is our understanding of late medieval land reclamation, water management and exploitation of natural resources?
LM12	How do we improve our knowledge of the region's various agricultural practices, plant and animal husbandry, and how did these change and develop over time?
LM03	How did small settlements evolve and exploit environmental resources?
Post Medieval	
PM09	How did ecological changes linked to agricultural improvement impact upon the wider landscape?
PM10	Where does pre-18th century enclosure survive in the region?
PM15	How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?
PM29	How do the extractive industries develop during this period?
Industrial	
Ind05	How well understood is change and development of the agrarian landscape in response to industrialisation and enclosure?
Ind06	How did the industrial farm evolve and farming practices develop during this period?
Ind09:	How does the nature of rural settlement change during this period?
Ind15	How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes and field patterns?

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Location

3.1.1 The site (centred on NGR 354718 424623) is situated on land to the north of Fowler Lane, to the east of Fowler Avenue, to the south of Farington Road and to the west of Stanifield Lane, forming part of Woodcock Estate, Farington, Lancashire (Plate 1; Figure 1). The site was comprised of seven fields used as pasture for livestock, separated by a combination of hedgerows, ditches, and public right-of-ways. The site is bordered by a mixture of trees, hedgerows, shrubs, property boundaries, fields, and roads.

3.1.2 The series of Ordnance Survey maps produced between 1849 (Figure 12) and 1965 (Figure 16) show that the boundary between the townships of Cuerden and Farington ran through the site. The eastern part of the site was therefore located within the former hamlet of Cuerden Green in the township of Cuerden, whilst the western part of the site was located in the Farington township.

3.1.3 Farington is a civil parish within the Central Lancashire borough of South Ribble. The parish includes the villages of Farington, Farington Moss, parts of Lostock Hall and Whitesake. The site is situated 4km south of Preston and was formerly part of Preston Rural District from 1894 to 1960. The site is located 2.5km to the southeast of the important medieval settlement of Penwortham, and 2km north of Leyland.

3.2 Geology

3.2.1 The solid geology of the area comprises Singleton Mudstone Member. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 242 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic and Periods. The local environment was previously dominated by hot deserts (bgs.ac.uk).

3.2.2 The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian till formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

3.3 Topography

3.3.1 Topographically, Central Lancashire is characterised by a gently rolling plain dissected by the Ribble and Douglas valleys, although the closest watercourse

to Farington is the River Lostock. Rising near Withnell Fold, the River Lostock meanders west and north towards Bamber Bridge skirting around the northern edge of the Site before flowing southwest to join the River Douglas near Croston in West Lancashire.

3.3.2 Land to the south of the site, at Fowler Lane is located at 36m AOD. The ground level falls slightly along the course of Fowler Avenue to 35m AOD, to the west of the site. The north end of Stanifield Lane is situated at 35.1m AOD, to the east of the site. The land gradually rises along the southern course of the road to 42.1m AOD.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1.1 The following is based on information provided in a desk-based assessment compiled for the site (Fletcher 2021)

4.2 Prehistory

4.2.1 Prehistoric activity in the historic country of Lancashire suggests that early settlements were situated in upland areas and in caves. Barton (2009) provides a summary of Upper Palaeolithic finds from caves around Morecambe Bay, including Lindale Low, Bart's Shelter and Kirkhead in his national overview, and some of these sites are thought to have produced further (unpublished) lithics of this period (https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/).

4.2.2 Research has suggested that existence throughout the Mesolithic Period (10,000-3500 BC) was based on subsistence, exploiting natural resources and occupying areas seasonally, utilising coastal base camps and inland hunting sites. Physical evidence for Mesolithic activity in the region is drawn largely from palaeo-environmental data and scatters of flint tools. The North West Wetland Survey of the mosses around Farington, about 1km west of the site, has provided good evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of flint tools and debris as well as palynological sequencing (Middleton et al 2014). Archaeological excavations at Walton-le-Dale between 1981 and 1996 similarly yielded several Mesolithic and later flint tools, demonstrating sustained exploitation of the area, presumably attractive to hunter-gatherer groups and those exploiting relatively light soils and good seasonal grazing (Gibbons et al 2001).

4.2.3 A gradual increase in permanent settlement across Lancashire appears to have occurred during the Neolithic (3500-2200 BC), a period that is characterised by increased evidence for cereal pollen and the emergence of ceremonial and funerary monuments, such as the chambered cairn known as Pikestones on Anglezarke Moor, some 11km to the south-east of the site (Howard-Davis 1996).

4.2.4 Neolithic artefacts have been found on the moorlands around Rochdale, and bronze implements at Winmarleigh, Colne, and Pilling. Other evidence of

Neolithic activity in the area has come from chance finds. A large flake of dark flint, probably debitage, which may have been shaped into a crude scraper was found in 2016. The find has been ascribed to the Neolithic period, ranging from 4000 BC to 3000 BC.

4.2.5 Key Bronze Age sites in the Ribble Valley area include Montcliffe Quarry, Brockholes Quarry and Fairy holes Caves. Beaker pottery was yielded from two pits at Brockholes Quarry. The pits were possibly associated with a curvilinear feature thought to possibly be an eaves-drip gully of a building or the footings of a windbreak. The pits also produced bone fragments and charred hazelnut shells and wheat grain. Radiocarbon dating of the pits and the gully appear, however, to be somewhat too late for the Beaker pottery fragments (https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf).

4.2.6 The Bronze Age and Iron Age coincided with the intensification of woodland clearance, landscape exploitation and a probable increase in arable farming across Lancashire, together with the introduction of metal artefacts, although there is very little firm evidence that has been obtained from archaeological excavation. Hallam suggested that Cuerden Green could have been occupied during the Iron Age, a conclusion based on the identification of a cropmark to the east of Old School Lane (located 300m to the east of the site). This seemingly represented a sharply defined circular ditch, approximately 25m in diameter, with some suggestion of an internal bank and an 'antennae' extending out to the west, leading to its interpretation as a prehistoric enclosure. However, no intrusive investigation was carried out to corroborate this interpretation, and the site was damaged subsequently by the erection of an electricity pylon. Similarly, a cropmark has been identified at Sherdley's Cottages within the site boundary. The undated cropmark was identified by aerial photography and has not been investigated further. The lack of formal archaeological investigations across the wider area has hampered the understanding of human activity in Central Lancashire immediately before the Romano-British period.

4.2.7 A strip, map and record excavation carried out by Salford Archaeology in 2018 targeted six areas at the Cuerden Strategic site. A range of cropmarks indicative of early field systems and occupation, perhaps of prehistoric origin

were targeted at land off Old School Lane (500m to the northeast of the site). The excavation revealed ditches and gullies, which represented ancient field systems that pre-dated medieval/postmedieval activity or settlement in the area. The earliest phase of archaeological activity encountered was represented by a pit that contained a worked flint blade that has been provisionally dated to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period (Salford Archaeology 2018).

4.2.8 A pennanular gully, circular post-built structure and associated structural features were exposed during an archaeological excavation at Cuerden in 2018 (Salford Archaeology 2018). The features were adjacent to remains of the Roman road from Wigan to Preston and were interpreted as probably being contemporary with it. The excavation was undertaken at land to the east of Stanifield Lane, located 340m to the south-east of the site.

4.2.9 A similar arrangement of features was excavated in the early 2000s in advance of pipeline construction at Potter Lane (5km to the northeast of the site). The excavation revealed several ring gullies indicative of Iron Age or Romano-British round houses.

4.3 Romano-British period

4.3.1 Romano-British activity in the North West is well-documented, although much attention has traditionally been directed towards military installations, and the extent and character of native rural settlements remain poorly understood. Nevertheless, the limited evidence available for indigenous settlement in the region implies a level of continuity, with the archaeological excavation of sites such as Dutton's Farm in West Lancashire demonstrating continuous occupation through the Iron Age and Romano-British period.

4.3.2 The nearest known Roman site lies 3km to the north-east, near to the confluence of the rivers Ribble and Darwen at Walton-le-Dale (Pickering 1957). This important settlement was established by the Roman military at the end of 1st century AD, with occupation continuing into the 4th century, and probably functioned as an industrial centre and supply base to nearby forts such as Ribchester. The settlement lay at a strategic crossing point of the River

Ribble between the Roman military bases at Wigan and Lancaster on the main north/south road along the West Coast.

4.3.3 The precise route of this road between Wigan and Walton-le-Dale has, until recently, been a long-standing topic of debate. William Thompson Watkin traced the road from Wigan as far as Standish in the late 19th century but could find little evidence for its route any further north, except for anecdotal evidence for its discovery in Worden Park near Euxton, where it was said to be '13 yards wide', and near Meanygate in Bamber Bridge. Based on these latter references, it was postulated that the Roman road continued south from Bamber Bridge following the line of the modern A49 near Cuerden Hall, to the southeast of the site.

4.3.4 An alternative route was proposed in 1996, however, when a well-preserved section of the road excavated at Walton-le-Dale appeared to head south in the direction of Leyland rather than Bamber Bridge, taking a projected course along Stanifield Lane towards Euxton, where it re-joined the A49. Whilst limited archaeological work along the route in 2014 was unsuccessful in locating the road, considerable weight to the veracity of this alternative route was provided more recently by careful analysis of LiDAR data (Ratledge 2017).

4.3.5 An excavation at the Cuerden Strategic site in 2018 (Salford Archaeology) exposed a well-preserved section of the Wigan to Walton-le-Dale road, 340m to the southeast of the site. A group of associated structural features were also nearby and were probably contemporary with the Roman road, located 200m to the east of the site.

4.4 Early medieval period

4.4.1 After the collapse of the Roman Empire, many of the established urban centres and forts were abandoned, together with large-scale production. Lancashire is considered to have been a sparsely populated and isolated part of the country, demonstrated by a lack of archaeological evidence between the end of Roman occupation and the Norman Conquest (Miller 2015, 13), though it is known that the area came under the control of several kingdoms during this period. Throughout the 7th and 8th centuries, the area was occupied by Anglo-

Saxons, but by the 9th century, it had become a province of the Danish-ruled kingdom of Northumbria.

4.4.2 Although there is a paucity of direct evidence for early medieval occupation (5th to 11th centuries AD) across Lancashire, a presence is testified by the discovery of several isolated coin hoards. The most remarkable of these was from Cuerdale, on the south bank of the River Ribble c. 5km to the northeast of the site. This was the largest Scandinavian hoard to have been discovered in Europe, containing some 7250 coins and hacksilver that weighed around 40kg. It was buried sometime in the early 10th century AD, and its deposition close to the River Ribble reflects the importance of the valley as a trade route, and it has since been speculated that the River Ribble was an important Viking route between the Irish Sea and York. (Newman 2006, 111).

4.4.3 Placename studies also provide vital clues of human activity during this period, culminating in the flourishing of the Irish Sea trading network and settling of Hiberno-Norse peoples across Lancashire in the late 9th and 10th centuries AD. The toponym, Cuerden, appears to pre-date these incursions, deriving from Cumbric, an ancient language akin to Welsh; this became extinct in the Ribble Valley in the 7th century AD. The persistence of this placename (Kerden, derivative of cerddin, meaning mountain ash) implies that some form of native settlement – synonymous with the tree – existed in the area from this time (Ekwall 1922, 134).

4.4.4 Before the Conquest, the hundred and manor of Leyland were held by the King Edward. The placename ‘Farinton’ does not appear until after the Norman Conquest in 1149 and may derive from the Old English words fearn and tun meaning farmstead where fearns grow (Mills 2011). The settlement is referred to as Farington by 1249 and was known as Farrington during the 19th century.

4.5 Late medieval period

4.5.1 Farington was located within the Leyland Hundred administrative district, which is mentioned briefly in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Roger de Poitou held the land between the rivers Ribble and Mersey, however, by 1086 much of the land held by Roger de Poitou was forfeited to Warine de Bussel. Warine was one of the barons of Roger de Poitou and held among his ample demesnes

the parish of Leyland. He was the 1st Baron of Penwortham and is known to have been a considerable benefactor to the Abbey of Evesham, granting the abbey a plough-land in Farington 'being the whole of the vill' (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 61-5).

4.5.2 The nearby manor of Cuerden was granted to Roger de Poitou after the Norman Conquest, passing subsequently to the Molyneux family, and then to Henry de Kuerden. It was in the possession of the Banastre family of Walton-le-Dale and Newton-in-Makerfield by 1270, later passing to the Charnock and Langton families (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 295). Another local landowner of importance was the Woodcock family, who are mentioned in documentary sources dating back to the early 13th century, when Henry de Kuerden made several grants to them. Little is known about the development of the site throughout this period, though previous studies have suggested that the agricultural community was concentrated in a series of hamlets, namely Old Cuerden, Cuerden Green and Cuerden Nook (Hallam 1988).

4.5.3 Cuerden Nook was the chief hamlet of Cuerden but effectively disappeared in the 19th century (Hallam 1980). Cuerden Green survives as a name and relates to a small group of buildings at the corner of Old School Lane, Stoney Lane and Stanifield Lane. Old Cuerden, according to Hallam (1988, 111), was placed to the south-west of Stoney Lane. This location lies to the north of a cluster of medieval fields. At the northern end of Old School Lane, in Cuerden Green, was the site of a potentially medieval/post-medieval cross.

4.5.4 Maps and aerial photography have revealed outlying areas of medieval farming, enclosure, and later parliamentary division in Cuerden. The communal arable fields, once formed of furlongs, were enclosed into strip fields, and these were amalgamated subsequently to create larger fields to use for grazing rather than arable. Areas of wasteland and common were also enclosed, similarly reflecting an increased emphasis on pastoralism.

4.5.5 Medieval fields systems surround the site, to the north, east and south. Town field, 330m southeast of the site, has been identified as a medieval field system. The fields were formed by the enclosure of broad ridge and furrow within an open field, which is likely to have had an origin extending back to at least the medieval period. In addition, two sub-rectangular medieval fields are

situated immediately to the south of the site, to the west of Stanifield Lane and to the north of Fowler Lane.

4.5.6 A field named ‘Castle gate’ is located 550m to the east of the site. A desk-based assessment (OAN 2003) identified a series of three drainage ditches or field boundary ditches located in the field between 'Castle Gate' and 'Marld Field', 500m to the east of the site, off Stoney Lane. Mid-19th-century mapping shows fragments of a treeline upon the easternmost ditch, possibly hinting that these were relict medieval strip-fields. Hallam (1980) identified the same field and the smaller field to the northwest as the site of the 'Castle shooting lodge'. The field name Castle Gate is referred to in a grant by Adam de Charnock to Alexander de Cliff in 1325 as Long Castlegate and Short Castlegate (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 24). The name could indicate some form of structure or route way (OAN 2003). The 'gate' element refers to 'a road leading to' but the 'castle' element is problematic. The meaning might be a 'fortification', but no medieval castle is attested in Cuerden and it may instead refer to an earlier earthwork that has currently not been identified. Alternatively, the 'castle' element may be the Old English 'castel' meaning 'village'.

4.5.7 At Cuerden Strategic site, stratified medieval pottery came from a group of ditches, gullies and furrows excavated to the north of Stoney Lane (240m to the southeast of the site). The features correspond to a field system spanning the late 11th to 16th centuries. These features were complemented by additional remains of ridge and furrow farming to the north (300m to the east of the site) and the remains of Pinfold House farmstead, which was occupied until the mid-19th century (Salford Archaeology 2018).

4.6 The ‘manor’ of Farington

4.6.1 A family bearing the local name ‘Farington’ are documented to have had possession of a moiety of the Manor of Leyland during the 13th century. The larger part of the moiety was surrendered to the Abbot of Evesham by Ameria and William de Wedacre in 1242 (ibid). The other moiety may have been held by Richard de Farington, who resigned all his lands and rents to Evesham (Penwortham Priory) at some point between 1211 and 1232. In 1242, William de Meols purchased 16 acres in Farington, whilst his son, John de Farington

acquired a moiety of the Manor of Leyland through his marriage to Alice, daughter of Roger de Bussel. John and Alice's estate was also known as the 'manor' of Farington.

4.6.2 John's Grandson, William obtained a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Leyland and Farington, and licence to enclose a hundred acres of land and wood in those townships and make a park, in 1348. William Farington's son, also William, acknowledged that he held lands of the Abbot of Evesham by the service of 14s. yearly, in 1474. He was subsequently made a Knight in 1482 and died in 1501 holding messuages and lands in Farington partly of the abbot and partly of the Earl of Derby, and also lands and burgages, in Walton, Leyland and Preston. William's heir, Henry was a commissioner for the suppression of the monasteries and was made a knight at Anne Boleyn's, coronation ceremony.

4.6.3 The Faringtons resided at Lower Farington Hall for over 350 years, a medieval moated site located 1.3km to the southwest of the site. William was the first head of the family to reside at Old Worden Hall, a manor house built during the late 16th or early 17th century, located 3.8km to the southeast of the site.

4.6.4 After Henry's death in 1551, the manor was granted to his daughter Joan, and later her daughter Dorothy Beconsaw, who married Sir Edmund Huddleston of Sawston. Farington appears to have been leased or mortgaged to a cousin, Anthony Huddleston, whose son Joseph in 1609 purchased it. Although Joseph Huddleston resided at Farington, the estate, not afterwards called a 'manor,' appears soon to have been sold to relatives, the Penningtons of Muncaster, who had held lands in the township for centuries. The younger branch of the Farington family held an estate called Little Farington, which descended to the five daughters and heirs of Peter Farington in the 17th century. Around 1655, a large part, or the whole was purchased by Richard Gardner of Leyland, and seems to have been acquired later by the Crooks of Abram.

4.7 Lostock and Woodcock Hall

4.7.1 Lostock Hall (located 560m to the northeast of the site) was an estate that took its name from the River Lostock and was in the possession of a family bearing

the same name during the reign of Edward II. The estate was in the township of Walton-le-dale and was in procession of James de Lostock, recorded in 1332 and 1350 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 289-300). The hall seems to have passed through marriage to the Banastre family, presumably through James' daughter, named Margot or Margery. John Banstre was described as of Lostock from 1402-29 and the manor stayed in the family's possession until 1548, when Richard Banstre conveyed tenements in Walton, Preston and Lea to Thomas Fleetwood and his wife, Barbara. William Fleetwood, the son of Thomas, subsequently sold the manor with a free fishery in Lostock Water to Roger Burscough, who conveyed it in 1595 to Peter Burscough.

4.7.2 By 1662, Andrew Dandy had acquired Lostock Hall and is recorded as paying a rent of 12d. to the lord of Clitheroe for his lands called Lostock (Farrer and Brownbill 1911: 1911, 289-300). In 1666, William Dandy paid tax upon three hearths in Lostock and was described as 'of Lostock' when he died in 1676. At some point, the land surrounding the estate, known as Cuerden Green, was renamed Lostock Hall. The hall burnt down in 1767 and was rebuilt. The current building is believed to be of late 19th-century date and is currently occupied by St Catherine's hospice.

4.7.3 A second high-status residence was Woodcock Hall, also known as the Crows or Crow Trees, which dates back to at least the 17th century, though the family can be traced to the early part of the 13th century when Henry de Kuerden made several grants to them. The hall was said to have belonged to the Knights Hospitallers. The hospitallers held land in Cuerden from as early as 1212, when they were granted plots in several places, some of which were called 'Walleschaw', 'Wetriding' and 'Wallgate'. About 1540 the tenants and rents included John Woodcock for two riddings on each side of smithy forge.

4.7.4 Thomas Woodcock died at Cuerden in 1602 holding 'the capital messuage called Lostock' in Cuerden, together with lands in Cuerden and Walton-le-Dale. In 1666, a later Thomas Woodcock, built Woodcock Hall at the junction of Stanifield Lane and Lostock Lane, in the area formerly known as Cuerden Green (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 23-9) situated immediately to the northeast of the site. The hall was demolished in 1961, although some of the ancillary buildings are still in use as part of the farm that presently occupies the site.

4.7.5 In addition, several moated homesteads were established within the region, including Clayton Hall and Broughton Tower; most were built in the 13th to 14th centuries, and none were constructed after the 16th century (Hallam 1980). It is difficult to suggest what manorial holding these halls would have had at the time of their foundation (OA North 2003).

4.8 Post-medieval and Industrial period

4.8.1 During the post-medieval period, the landscape was also affected by the incorporation of land into a more organised form as a result of parliamentary enclosure. This was both gradual and small-scale during the 17th and 18th centuries and more wholesale in the 19th century. For the study area, there appears to have been relatively little change in field layout from c. 1700 onwards.

4.8.2 Elements of the post-medieval landscape include lynchetted banks, ridge and furrow, and linear depressions, which have been identified near the site. Several farmsteads and outbuildings would have been located in Cuerden such as Cuerden Gate Farm. Archaeological investigations at Cuerden Strategic Site demonstrated the survival of a suite of structural remains relating to a medieval/post-medieval farmstead, together with several negative features of post-medieval date.

4.8.3 Other evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity is provided by the numerous ponds, the majority of which probably originated as marl pits, dug to extract clay which was then spread on the fields as a fertiliser. The closest of these was known as Mountain Field, located 200m to the southeast of the site. A sand pit was located 670m to the southwest of the site.

4.8.4 In 1673, Andrew Dandy of Lostock Hall left money to establish a school in Cuerden, which had been erected on the east side of what is now known as Old School Lane by the end of the 17th century. A dedication stone on the building lists members of the Dandy family, together with the date 1690. Nevertheless, the school was probably built during the 1670s (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 29).

4.8.5 The school struggled after Andrew's grandson, also called Andrew, died in 1714 as the £5 per annum was not enough to supply a schoolmaster, and the

charity was in arrears of £126 and 15 shillings by 1740. It appears that a trust was set up consisting of 12 members, including Daniel Dandy and Thomas Woodcock to settle the arrears and continue to provide for the poor. It was still run as a school into the 19th century, partly helped by a further endowment by Samuel Crooke in 1770, a local philanthropist and benefactor. According to a Commissioner's report of 1826, it still had a trust of 12 Governors and taught 20 fee-paying children and five 'poor free children'. Children were taught reading, writing, and casting accounts (summing columns of figures). The building survives and is now afforded statutory protection as a Grade II listed building, located 200m to the east of the site.

4.9 Development of the site

4.9.1 The development of the site and its environs may be traced reasonably well from the sequence of available historic mapping. One of the first available maps of the site is Yates' plan of 1786 (Plate 2). The map shows the arrangement of lanes in Cuerden towards the end of the 18th century. The road to the east of the site was Stanifield Lane, which follows a route of considerable antiquity. Fowler Lane is also shown on Yates' map, running alongside the south and west boundary of the site. It appears to have followed a slightly alternative course at the southeast end to adjoin Lydiate Lane, at the junction with Stanifield Lane. The northwest end of Fowler Lane crossed the River Lostock.

4.9.2 Other roads of antiquity surround the site and are shown on Yates' map of 1786. This includes Old School Lane, which is reminiscent of a medieval hollow way, whilst Stoney Lane is referred to in a document of 1509 but is almost certainly considerably older. Together, these routeways connected the dispersed zones of rural settlement with their manorial seats and nearby markets in Leyland, Wigan, Penwortham and Preston (Salford Archaeology 2018).

4.9.3 Yates' map shows that ribbon development had taken place along the route of Fowler Lane, however, no development had taken place within the site, which seems to have comprised fields. Woodcock Hall is not captured on Yates' map,

though it is known to have occupied land immediately to the northwest of the site boundary by 1666.

Plate 2: Extract from 'A Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster 1786', William Yates, showing the approximate site location

4.9.4 The next available map that captures the site is Greenwood's map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1818 (Plate 3). A dotted line runs through the site, which presumably marks the boundary between the townships of Farington and Cuerden, showing that that site lies between the two townships. This boundary is shown on the sequence of later historic maps.

4.9.5 Greenwood's map shows that further development had occurred along Fowler Lane (Plate 3). Most of the buildings that had been erected were located beyond the site boundary, along the southern and western course of the lane, however, two buildings, had been erected within the site. The two buildings were aligned northeast/southwest and ran parallel to each other. The two buildings were set back from Fowler Lane, in comparison to other buildings erected along the route. The two buildings may have been a farmhouse and a barn or outbuilding.

Plate 3: Extract from a map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, dated 1818 by Greenwood, showing the approximate site location

4.9.6 A building is shown on the east side of Fowler Lane in the southwest site boundary, which most likely represents Nook Farm. In total, two buildings are located at the end of a narrow track, which presumably marks the location of Sherdley's Cottages. The site boundary skirts around the lane and Sherdley's Cottages. Both Nook Farm and Sherdley's Cottages are still standing.

4.9.7 The increase in farm buildings between the late 18th-century and mid-19th-century mapping may have been encouraged by improvements in agriculture that took place between 1750 and 1870 (Richardson 1986, 25). By 1870, British agriculture had been transformed by the growth in the average size of farms, and the introduction of many new practices and techniques. These included improved breeds of cattle and sheep, improved sowing techniques, new types of manure, new crops in four-course rotation, new forms of drainage, better implements, and enclosure of common and waste land (GMAU 1999, 33; Mingay 1989, 941-5).

4.9.8 The land to the south of Sherdley's Cottages, within the site are recorded in 'A Survey of lands in the townships of Cuerden, Clayton-le-Wood, Walton-le-Dale and Farington in the Country Palatine of Lancaster belonging to R T Parker

Esq' (Radcliffe 1817, 6). Fields were numbered 155, 156, 157 and 163 underneath the heading 'Part of Sherdley's'. Field 155 was named Nearer Charnock Meadow, field 156 was Further Meadow, field 157 was called Higher Meadow and field 163 was known as Thomason Croft. The numbers refer to their location on a plan in the survey. Buildings at Sherdley's were noted as 'part of house, barn, garden and fold'. Nearer Charnock Meadow and Further Meadow correspond to fields 122 and 123 on the tithe map of 1839 and were located within the site.

4.9.9 The survey of 1817 records the fields and buildings at Nook (Radcliffe 1817, 10). It is unclear whether this includes the building later known as Nook Farm that borders the southwest site boundary. Land in the 'Nook' mostly consisted of cottages, cowhouses, gardens and a croft. In total, two out of the nine entries refer to fields. These were named Nearer Goose Green and Further Goose Green. It is unclear whether the Nook referred to the area that had been developed at Fowler Lane to the southwest of the site (Plate 3).

4.9.10 The survey also recorded the fields surrounding Woodcock Hall, some of which were located within the site. This included the fields named Long Shoot, Lower Intake, Higher Intake, and part of Water Meadow (Radcliffe 1817, 9). The same field names at Sherdley's and Woodcock Hall appear in the later tithe records of 1839.

4.9.11 In contrast, Hennet and Bingley's map of 1830 (Plate 4) shows fewer buildings within the vicinity of the site than the previous map of 1818 (Plate 3). The two buildings that were located within the site on the earlier map are not shown on the mapping and fewer buildings occupied the west side of Fowler Lane. This may indicate that some of the smaller buildings captured in the earlier plan were either temporary structures such as stables, or that they had been demolished.

Plate 4: Hennet and Bingley's Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster 1830

4.9.12 A rectangular building to the north of what was probably Nook Farm had been erected within the site boundary. The building was aligned broadly north/south along the Fowler Lane frontage. The same dashed line runs through site, marking the boundary of the Farington and Cuerden townships.

4.9.13 The tithe map of 1839 shows that the east part of the site was in the township of Cuerden. Field numbers '122, 123, 125, 126 and 129' occupied land within the site. All five plots were owned by Robert Townley Parker and were occupied by John Sumner.

4.9.14 Fields 125, 126, and 129 were located to the south and west of Woodcock Hall. Field 125 was described as meadow, field 126 was described as arable, and field 129 was described as meadow. Richard Barshall occupied field 127, which was named Water Meadow and described as a meadow. This field was located slightly north of Woodcock Hall, probably beyond the site boundary. Woodcock Hall was numbered 128 and was described as a hall and gardens - grass and arable, lying just beyond the northeast site boundary.

4.9.15 A group of fields numbered ’95, 96, 122, 123 and 281’ were located to the south and east of Sherdley’s and were also tenanted by John Sumner. All these fields were described as meadows. Fields 95, 96 and 281 were located beyond the site boundary. The census returns of 1841 provide an insight into the residents of the area during the mid-19th century.

4.9.16 The census returns do not record the house numbers, though 11 dwellings were recorded along Fowler Lane. The residents of Fowler Lane worked in a mixture of occupations, including farmers, agricultural labourers, weavers, a tailor, and a carter. The most popular occupations included farmers and weavers.

4.9.17 Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries farming and textile production went hand-in-hand. Structures such as a laithe house were a type of farm building found in northern England, which were a dual-purpose dwelling, being house and agricultural building built in one range (Het 2003). The form was widespread from the late 18th century, being adopted as a convenient and compact smallholding for tenant farmers on newly enclosed land. The buildings were also particularly associated with textile manufacture, as tenants became increasingly dependent on this industry. By the late 19th century, the use of laithe houses had declined (Westwood, 2010). It is unclear whether the weavers were domestic-based or were employed at one of the mills that had been established to the north of the site.

4.9.18 The census returns records two properties at Sherdley’s, which corresponds with the number of buildings shown on Hennet and Bingley’s map (Plate 4). Thomas Culshaw, a lawyer, aged 20 lived at one of the properties with his wife, May and their two young children. Next door was occupied by Henry (surname illegible), an agricultural labourer, aged 55, who lived with his wife, Isabella, aged 45 and their six children.

4.9.19 The first accurate map that captures the layout of the site is the Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Plate 5). The map shows that the eastern part of the site was located in an area of Cuerden, known as Lower Green. The site boundary is shown, skirting around the edge of Sherdley’s, which comprised two buildings, a large pond, and gardens. The site boundary also bordered land to the southwest of Woodcock Hall and land to the northeast of Nook Farm.

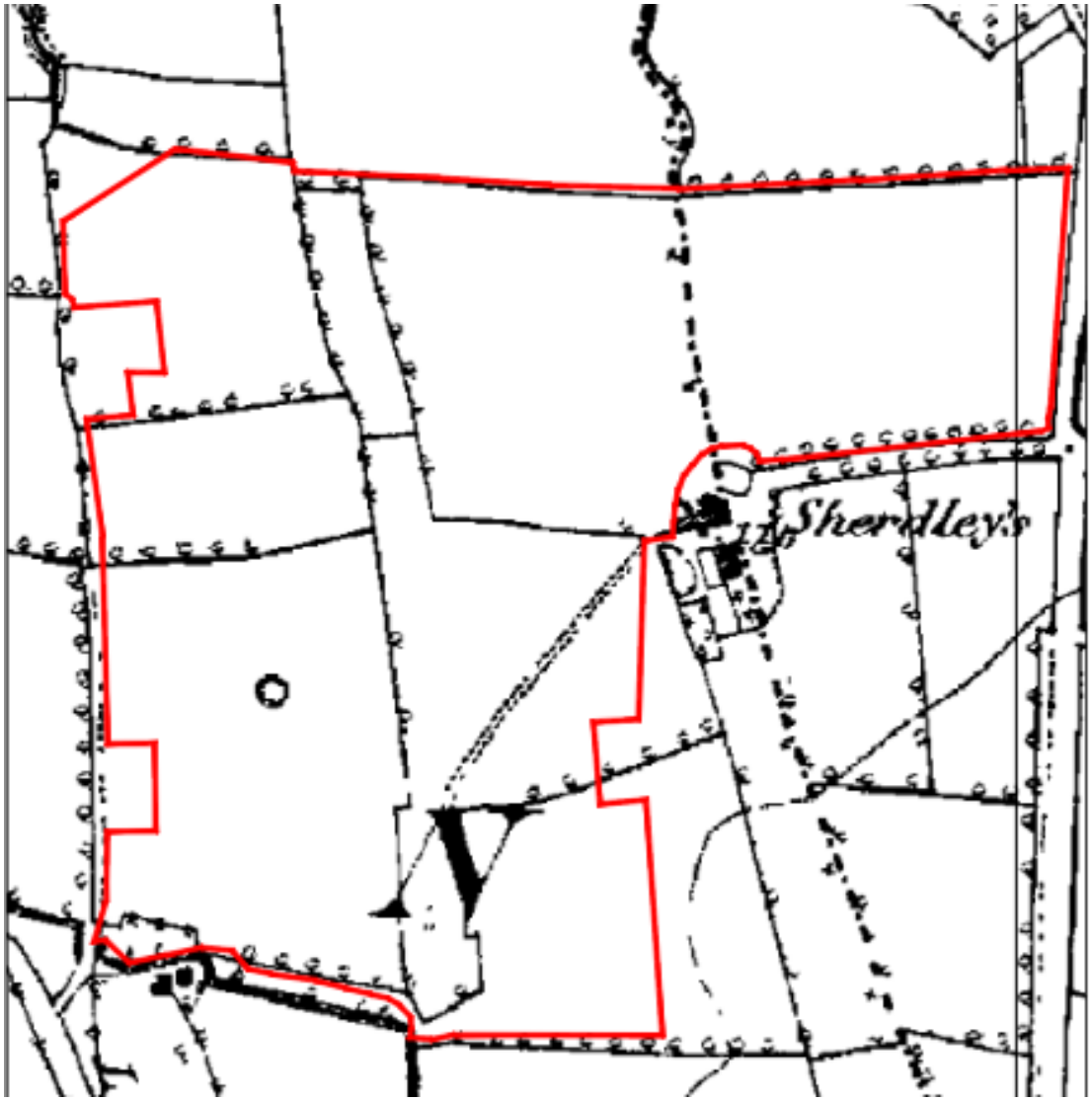

Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1849, surveyed 1844-6, the red line denotes the outline of the site location

4.9.20 The Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Plate 5) is the first available plan that captures the layout of fields within the site. It shows that the land was enclosed up into 17 fields. The field boundaries may have been delineated by hedge rows, fences, or walls. Grid-like, straight-edged fields are likely associated with large-scale 18th-century enclosure.

4.9.21 A narrow, elongated field in broadly the centre of the site may pre-date 18th-century enclosure and could represent a strip field that was part of the former medieval open field system. In addition, two similarly shaped fields were situated in the southeast part of the site. These were located immediately to

the north of a group of medieval fields, to the west of Stanifield Lane and to the north of Fowler Lane.

4.9.22 In addition, two irregularly-shaped fields are shown on the 1849 map (Plate 5), to the east of Fowler Lane. The southern field is tapered at its southern end and borders Nook Farm. The northern field is likely associated with two small buildings. The shape of these fields could indicate that they also pre-date 18th-century enclosure.

4.9.23 The only buildings within the site boundary depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Plate 5) were an L-shaped building and a square building that were situated next to each other in the southwest part of the site. The function of the two buildings is unclear. A shaded field was located on the north side of the buildings, potentially marking an orchard. An open culvert, that adjoins the River Lostock to the northwest of the site, curved around the two buildings before it ran broadly east/west through the site, returning southwards towards Fowler Lane. An avenue of trees borders the culvert to the east of the two buildings. A footpath aligned northeast/southwest runs from the east end of the avenue towards Sherdley's.

4.9.24 The only other feature marked on the 1849 map within the site was a circular feature, located in the field to the north of the two buildings. The circular feature was presumably a small pond that may have been formed from the extraction of sand, clay or marl. Marl was regularly extracted to use as a soil fertiliser and was spread across fields.

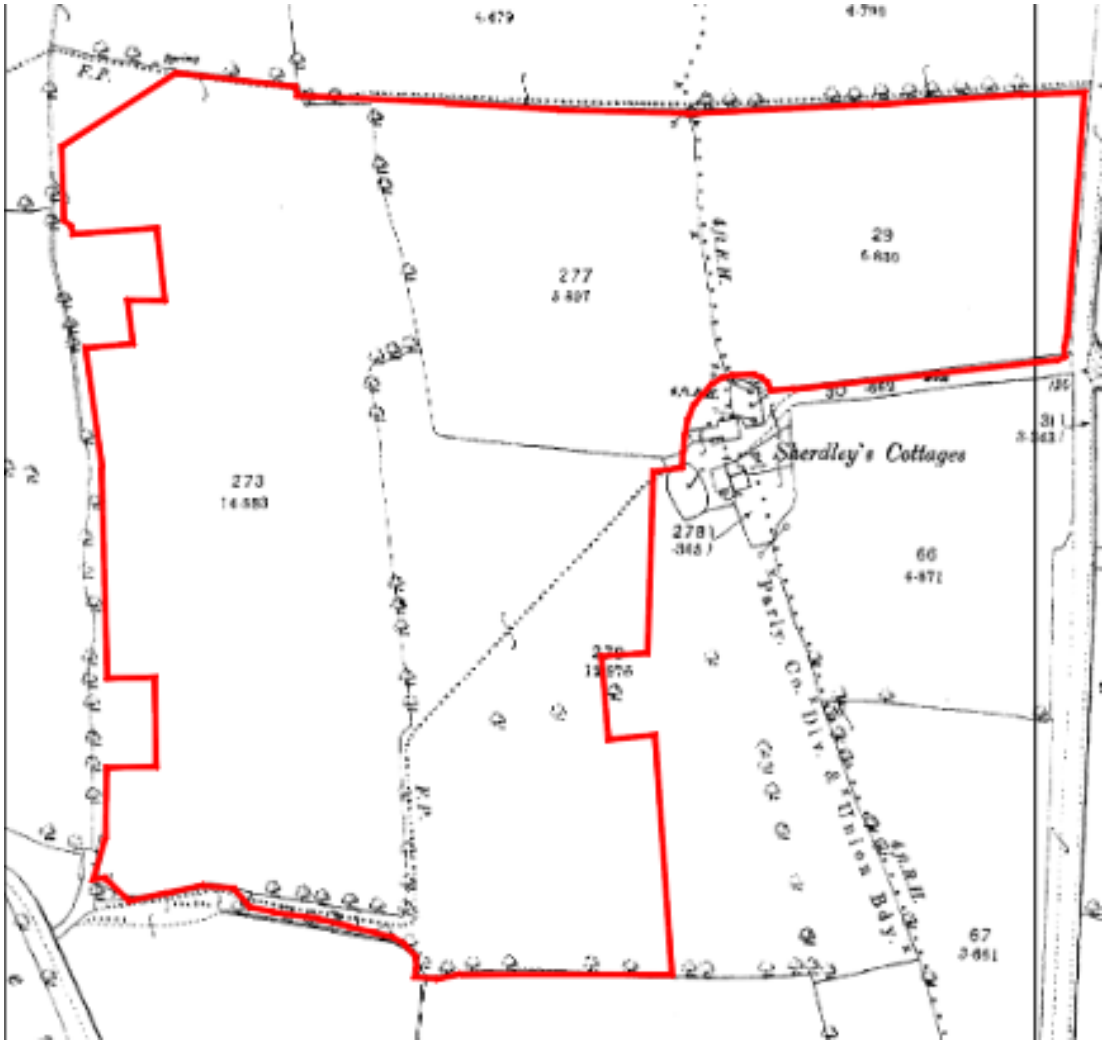

Plate 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1893, showing the site boundary in red

4.9.25 The Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (Plate 6) shows that the two small buildings within the site had been cleared, though the avenue of trees and footpath to Sherdley's was still marked on the map. The culvert and circular feature were no longer visible and several former field boundaries had been infilled or removed to create eight larger fields. The Ordnance Survey map of 1893 is the first plan that names the farmsteads surrounding the site annotating Sherdley's Cottages, Nook Farm, Yew Tree Farm, Spindle Hall Farm and Throstle's Nest Farm.

4.9.26 Census returns provide an insight into the social history of the area surrounding the site. The census returns for 1891 records that cotton weaving was the most popular occupation for the residents of Fowler Lane. Other occupations include farmers, farm servants, labourers, railway platelayers, a rubber worker, a

stoker in a cotton mill and an engine cleaner. Most of the residents were from the surrounding area, including Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall, Cuerden, Preston, Clayton-le-Wood, Newton-le-Willow, Blackburn and Penwortham. Residents from slightly further afield included a handful of residents who had been born in Liverpool.

4.9.27 The residents of the two cottages at Sherdley's included Elizabeth Taylor, aged 72, who lived with her four children that were all employed as cotton weavers. The family were all born locally in Farrington and Hutton. The property next door was occupied by John Suggett, aged 35, who worked as a railway pointsman. John lived with his wife and their four children. John was born in Brampton, Yorkshire, as were three of the children, whilst his wife had been born in Preston, and their younger child was born in Farington.

4.9.28 The Ordnance Survey map of 1911 (not included in the report) shows a similar layout of the site. The only notable change was that a former field boundary in the southeast part of the site had to be reinstated. Similarly, the 1931 Ordnance Survey map (not included in report) captures an almost identical arrangement of fields, though a new field boundary had been established in the east of the site.

4.9.29 The Ordnance Survey map of 1965 (Plate 7). The map shows that a network of field drains ran through the site, one of which seems to have followed the course of an earlier culvert, marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1849 (Plate 5).

4.9.30 Woodcock Estate had been established to the south of Sherdley's Cottages, which seemed to have consisted of five buildings that were accessed via a track that ran west from Stanifield Lane. The map of 1965 shows that a rectangular building associated with Woodcock Estate lay within the site boundary. The Ordnance Survey map of 1965 shows that a new road – which extended northwards from the right-angled turn in Fowler Lane along the line of a former field boundary – had been established in the western part of the site; the route is annotated as Fowler Avenue. In total, six buildings had been erected along Fowler Avenue, two of which were located within the site boundary, with a third potentially extending within the site. The fields within the site had also been divided into 20 smaller fields.

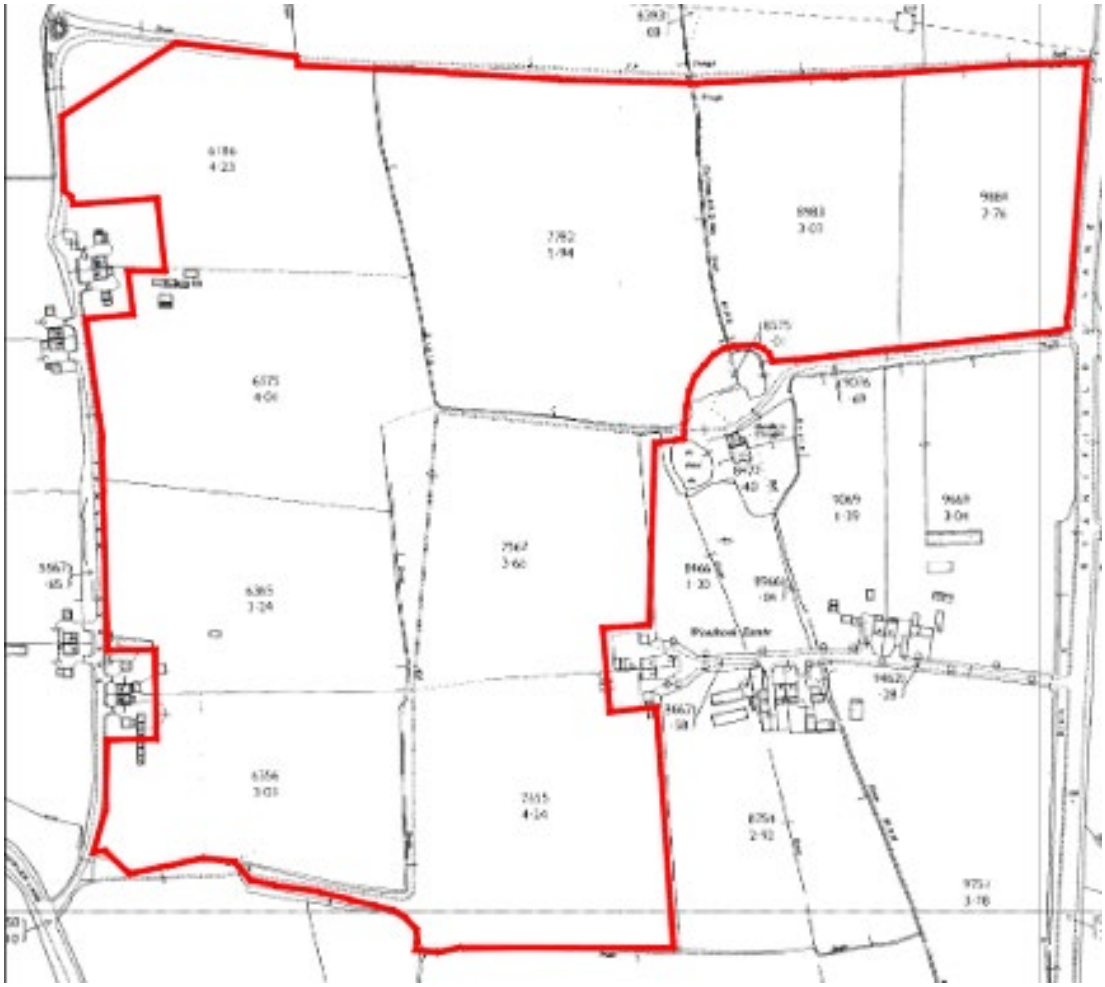

Plate 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1965, showing the site boundary

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Archaeological Evaluation

5.1.1 The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the presence or absence of any buried remains of archaeological interest within the proposed development area and, where present, characterise the level of preservation and significance providing a good understanding of their potential. This was achieved by the excavation of 50 archaeological evaluation trenches (46 trenches measured 50m long by 1.8m wide, 4 trenches were 25m long (Figure 2); comprising of a 4% sample.

5.1.2 Trenches were relocated as necessitated in relation to ground conditions and health and safety circumstances, in consultation with the County Archaeologist, Doug Moir. Two trenches were removed from the programme due to these restraints.

Field	Trench	Length (m)	Width (m)	Maximum Depth (m)	Highest Level (m AOD)	Lowest Level (m AOD)
1	1	50	1.8	0.52	35.39	34.87
	2	50	1.8	0.53	34.44	33.92
	3	50	1.8	0.60	34.27	33.70
	4	50	1.8	0.55	34.02	33.60
	5	50	1.8	0.62	34.63	34.47
	6	50	1.8	0.45	34.93	34.01
	7	50	1.8	0.59	35.07	34.48
	8	50	1.8	0.49	33.98	33.57
	9	50	1.8	1.0	33.17	32.73
2	10	50	1.8	0.50	33.48	33.19
	11	50	1.8	0.54	33.59	33.05
	12	50	1.8	0.59	34.73	33.76
	13	50	1.8	0.52	32.72	32.25
	14	50	1.8	0.87	32.91	32.04
	15	50	1.8	0.55	33.32	32.77
	16.1	25	1.8	0.51	33.27	32.76
	16.2	25	1.8	0.47	33.58	33.21
	17	50	1.8	0.59	33.93	33.37
	18	50	1.8	0.58	33.13	32.62
	19	50	1.8	0.67	33.02	32.35
3	20	25	1.8	0.54	33.14	32.63
	21	25	1.8	0.43	33.21	32.78

	22	50	1.8	0.50	33.85	33.35
	23	50	1.8	0.65	33.71	33.08
	24	50	1.8	0.48	33.53	33.05
	25	15	1.8	1.20	33.61	32.49
	26	50	1.8	0.70	33.67	32.97
	27	50	1.8	0.70	32.23	31.53
4	28	50	1.8	0.52	37.05	36.56
	29	50	1.8	1.2	34.72	33.52
	30	50	1.8	0.55	32.69	32.14
	31	50	1.8	0.52	35.26	34.32
	32	50	1.8	1.1	33.27	32.37
5	33	50	1.8	1.1	33.76	32.74
	34	50	1.8	0.68	34.36	33.78
	35	50	1.8	1.0	33.49	33.18
	36	50	1.8	1.0	34.35	33.40
	37	50	1.8	0.58	34.14	33.57
6	38	50	1.8	0.7	31.82	31.21
	39	50	1.8	0.5	31.96	31.48
	40	50	1.8	0.52	29.44	28.41
7	41	50	1.8	0.52	28.19	27.67
	42	50	1.8	0.46	29.95	29.49
	43	50	1.8	0.45	31.20	30.75
	44	50	1.8	0.46	34.09	33.63
	45	50	1.8	0.44	32.71	32.27
	46	50	1.8	0.51	35.38	34.87
	47	50	1.8	0.47	31.39	30.95
	48	50	1.8	0.47	31.95	31.50
	49	50	1.8	0.59	32.91	32.32
	50	50	1.8	0.67	32.85	32.24

5.2 General Methodology:

5.2.1 All archaeological work was conducted following the CIfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2020). Prior to the commencement of any excavation works, the location of the area targeted for archaeological investigation was laid out accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey national grid. The position of the trenches were then scanned for any live services using a cable avoidance tool. The excavations were regularly scanned as work progressed.

- Salford Archaeology, Codes of Practice, 2022, Volumes 1-25.
- Salford Archaeology, Policies, 2022, Volumes 1-8.

- Salford Archaeology, Health and Safety Manual, 2022.

5.3 **Archaeological Evaluation:**

5.3.1 A mechanical excavator of appropriate size and power under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist was used to open the trenches. The mechanical excavator used a toothless grading bucket to excavate the trenches in spits of no more than 100mm at a time. Successive spits were similarly removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon or geological deposits or 1.2m below ground level, whichever was reached first. Thereafter, remains were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date.

5.3.2 Once the extent of buried archaeological remains were established they were subject to detailed archaeological excavation and recording. Hand excavation was undertaken by trained professional archaeologists. All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, utilising pro-forma context sheets accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from record sheets using sequential numbering.

5.4 **Photography:**

5.4.1 A full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts and general views was maintained at all stages of the excavation. Photography was undertaken in accordance with HE guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice (July 2015). All frames of contexed features include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photographs records have been maintained on photographic pro-forma sheets.

5.5 **Planning:**

5.5.1 The precise location of all archaeological remains encountered was surveyed using a GPS survey. This process has been used to generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which was then subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings have been generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, but

it can be output at any scale required. All information has been georectified to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and all levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

5.6 **Finds Policy:**

5.6.1 Finds recovery and sampling programmes were conducted in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines (CIfA 2020) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation followed professional guidelines (UKIC).

5.7 **Metal Detecting:**

5.7.1 Metal detecting was used during the evaluation in an attempt to maximise the recovery of ferrous and non-ferrous metal work. This work focused on the evaluation trenches and the associated spoil removed during the evaluation. All metal detecting was undertaken by individuals with suitable experience under the direction of suitably qualified archaeologists.

6 RESULTS OF EVALUATION

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The following section describes the deposits and archaeological features recorded on the site, which were attributed to four phases.

6.2 Field 1 (Trenches 1-9); (Figure 3):

6.2.1 The earliest horizon encountered in Field 1 was mid-yellowish brown compact sandy clay (comprised of [0103], [0203], [0303], [0403], [0503], [0603], [0703], [0803], and [0903]) representing naturally deposited Devensian till. The natural horizon was recorded at levels between 32.73m AOD in Trench 9 and 34.87m AOD in Trench 1.

6.2.2 Overlaying the natural till was a dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil deposit ([0102], [0202], [0302], [0402], [0502], [0602], [0702], [0802], and [0902]). This deposit ranged between 0.12m and 0.45m thick.

6.2.3 Capping the silty clay deposit ([0101], [0201], [0301], [0401], [0501], [0601], [0701], [0801], and [0901]) was a layer comprised of dark greyish-sandy silt topsoil that formed the current ground level. This deposit ranged between 0.23m and 0.55m thick and was recorded at levels between 33.17m AOD in Trench 9 and 35.39m AOD in Trench 1.

6.2.4 No cut features were discovered in Field 1.

Plate 8: Trench 9 in Field 1, south-facing view, 1m scales

6.3 **Field 2 (Trenches 10-19); (Figure 4):**

6.3.1 The earliest horizon encountered in Field 2 was mid-yellowish brown compact sandy clay (comprised of [1003], [1103], [1203], [1303], [1403], [1503], [1603], [1703], [1803], and [1903]) representing naturally deposited Devensian till. The natural horizon was recorded at levels between 31.77m AOD in Trench 15 and 33.76m AOD in Trench 12.

6.3.2 Overlaying the natural till was a dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil deposit ([1002], [1102], [1202], [1302], [1402], [1502], [1602], [1702], [1802], and [1902]). This deposit ranged between 0.21m and 0.48m thick.

6.3.3 The capping deposit ([1001], [1101], [1201], [1301], [1401], [1501], [1601], [1701], [1801], and [1901]) was comprised of dark greyish sandy silt that formed the contemporary ground level. This deposit ranged between 0.10m and 0.45m thick and was recorded at levels between 32.72m AOD in Trench 13 and 34.73m AOD in Trench 12.

6.3.4 No cut features were discovered in Field 2.

Plate 9: Trench 13 in Field 2, east-facing view, 1m scales

6.4 **Field 3 (Trenches 20-27); (Figure 5):**

6.4.1 The earliest horizon encountered in Field 3 was mid-yellowish brown compact clay with patches of mid-red clay (comprised of [2003], [2103], [2203], [2303], [2403], [2503], [2603], and [2703]) representing naturally deposited Devensian till. The natural horizon was recorded at levels between 31.53m AOD in Trench 27 and 33.35m AOD in Trench 22.

6.4.2 A large natural feature was uncovered in Trench 25 (Plate 10). The cut [2504] was filled with yellowish-brown clay [2505]. This feature, which was consistent with a paleochannel, ran in a north-to-south direction along the trench. Due to a high water table that caused the sections to collapse, this feature was excavated to a depth of 1.2m and a length of 15m before it was abandoned. At this depth, some signs of natural were spotted in section, but the conditions made it impossible to ascertain whether this was the natural deposit or redeposited natural material.

Plate 10: Trench 25 in Field 3, south-facing Section of [2504], 1m scale

6.4.3 Overlaying both the natural and the fil of the paleochannel [2505] was a dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil deposit ([2002], [2102], [2202], [2302], [2402], [2502], [2602], and [2702]). This deposit ranged between 0.18m and 0.44m thick.

6.4.4 The capping deposit ([2001], [2101], [2201], [2301], [2401], [2501], [2601], and [2701]) was comprised of dark greyish-sandy silt that formed the contemporary ground level. This deposit ranged between 0.16m and 0.26m thick and was recorded at levels between 32.23m AOD in Trench 27 and 33.85m AOD in Trench 22.

6.4.5 No cut features of anthropocentric creation were discovered in Field 3.

Plate 11: Trench 27 in Field 3, east-facing view, 1m scales

6.5 **Field 4 (Trenches 28-32); (Figures 6 and 11):**

6.5.1 The earliest horizon encountered in Field 4 was mid-yellowish brown compact clay with streaks of red clay (comprised of [2803], [2903], [3003], [3103], and [3203]) representing naturally deposited Devensian till. The natural horizon was recorded at levels between 32.14m AOD in Trench 30 and 36.56m AOD in Trench 28.

6.5.2 Overlaying the natural was a dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil deposit ([2802], [2902], [3002], [2902], and [3202]). This deposit ranged between 0.13m and 0.42m thick.

Plate 12: Trench 31 in Field 4, northeast-facing view, 1m scales

6.5.3 In Trench 29, the subsoil [2902] was truncated by a cut [2904] which measured 1.80m long by 19.00m wide and 2.66m deep; it was recorded at a maximum level of 33.52m AOD. The cut [2904] contained a primary fill [2905] of mid-grey organic material. Laid on top of [2905] was a 0.29m thick deposit of crushed bricks and debris [2906] uncovered at 33.23m AOD. The deposit of organic material [2905] was sealed by a deposit of mottled red and grey silty clay [2907] recorded at a maximum level of 33.52m AOD.

6.5.4 No finds were recovered from the feature [2904]/[2905]/[2906]/[2907], which was interpreted as a quarry pit for marl.

6.5.5 The potential marl pit [2904]/[2905]/[2906]/[2907] was sealed by a deposit of dark greyish-sandy silt topsoil [2901] which formed the current ground surface at a level of 34.72m AOD.

Plate 13: Trench 29; Sondage in [2904], south-facing section of [2905] and [2907], 1m scale

Plate 14: Plan Shot of [2904] and [2906] in Trench 29, east-facing view, 1m scales

6.5.6 In the centre of Trench 32, the subsoil [3202] was truncated by an irregularly shaped cut [3206] which measured at least 1.80m wide by 11.00m long by 0.10m deep and was recorded at a maximum level of 32.65m AOD. This cut [3206] contained one fill [3205] which was comprised of a dark greyish-brown silty loam with coal flecks. This fill [3205] yielded two sherds of pottery that have been dated to the 14th to 17th early centuries (Appendix 2). Overlaying part of the eastern portion of this fill [3205] was a deposit of compact mid-brown sand [3204] that measured 1.80m wide by 9.50m long by 0.12m deep and was uncovered at 32.65m AOD.

Plate 15: South-facing section of [3206] in Trench 32, 1m scale

6.5.7 All the trenches in Field 4 were capped by a layer of dark greyish-sandy silt topsoil ([2801], [2901], [3001], [2901], and [3201]) that formed the current ground surface. This deposit ranged between 0.17m and 0.68m thick and was recorded at levels between 32.69m AOD in Trench 30 and 37.05m AOD in Trench 28.

6.6 Field 5 (Trenches 33-37); (Figures 7 and 11):

6.6.1 The earliest horizon encountered in Field 5 was mid-yellowish brown compact clay (comprised of [3303], [3503], [3603], and [3703]) representing naturally deposited Devensian till. The natural horizon was recorded at levels between 32.74m AOD in Trench 33 and 33.78m AOD in Trench 34.

6.6.2 Overlaying the natural was a dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil deposit ([3302], [3402], [3502], [3602], and [3702]). This deposit ranged between 0.22m and 0.78m thick.

Plate 16: Trench 34 in Field 5, south-facing view, 1m scales

6.6.3 In the central parts of Trench 33 and Trench 36, truncating the subsoil [3302]/[3602] were east-by-west orientated linear features [3304] and [3604].

6.6.4 In the centre of Trench 33 was a feature [3304] that was heavily truncated by land drains making its dimensions and shape difficult to ascertain. It was filled with an organic grey fill [3305].

6.6.5 A linear feature [3604] with steeply sloped edges and a flat base was recorded in the centre of Trench 36. It measured at least 10.75m wide by 1.80m long by 2.31m deep and was recorded at a maximum level of 32.40m AOD. The cut [3604] of the linear feature was filled by a singular organic grey fill [3605].

Plate 17: Trench 36, South Facing Section of [3604], 1m scale

6.6.6 All of the trenches in Field 5 were capped with a deposit of dark greyish-sandy silt ([3301], [3401], [3501], [3601], and [3701]) that formed the contemporary ground surface. This deposit ranged between 0.21m and 0.42m thick and was recorded at levels between 33.49m AOD in Trench 35 and 34.36m AOD in Trench 34.

6.7 **Field 6 (Trenches 38-40); (Figure 8):**

6.7.1 The earliest horizon encountered in Field 6 was a deposit of mid-yellowish-brown compact clay ([3803], [3903], and [4003]) representing naturally deposited Devensian till. The natural horizon was recorded at levels between 28.41m AOD in Trench 40 and 31.48m AOD in Trench 39.

6.7.2 Overlaying the natural till was a dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil deposit ([3802], [3902], and [4002]). This subsoil deposit ranged between 0.20m and 0.31m thick.

6.7.3 The silty clay subsoil was sealed by a layer of dark greyish-sandy silt topsoil ([3801], [3901], and [4001]) that formed the current ground surface at levels between 28.47m AOD in Trench 40 and 31.48m AOD in Trench 39.

6.7.4 No cut features were discovered in Field 6.

Plate 18: Trench 40 in Field 6, west-facing view, 1m scales

6.8 **Field 7 (Trenches 41-50); (Figure 9):**

6.8.1 The earliest horizon encountered in Field 7 was a layer of mid-yellowish brown compact clay ([4103], [4203], [4303], [4403], [4503], [4603], [4703], [4803], [4903] and [5003]) representing naturally deposited Devensian till. The natural

horizon was recorded at levels between 27.67m AOD in Trench 41 and 34.87m AOD in Trench 46.

6.8.2 Overlaying the natural was a layer of dark orangish-brown silty clay subsoil ([4102], [4202], [4302], [4402], [4502], [4602], [4702], [4802], [4902] and [5002]). The subsoil ranged between 0.20m and 0.31m thick.

6.8.3 The subsoil was sealed by a layer of dark greyish-sandy silt topsoil ([4101], [4201], [4301], [4401], [4501], [4601], [4701], [4801], [4901] and [5001]). This deposit ranged between 0.14m and 0.44m thick and was recorded at levels between 28.19m AOD in Trench 41 and 35.38m AOD in Trench 46.

6.8.4 No cut features were discovered in Field 7.

Plate 19: Trench 44 in Field 7, north-facing view, 1m scales

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The earliest deposits recorded on the site were of natural origin. No remains representing prehistoric or Roman activity were identified during the investigation. Two sherds of pottery dated to the medieval period were recovered from a fill [2905] that is believed to have been deposited in the Industrial period. Two additional sherds of pottery associated with the Post-Medieval period were collected, but these were unstratified. Archaeological features pertaining to the Industrial period were recorded in Trenches 29, 32, 33, and 36.

7.2 Phase 1: Geology

7.2.1 Natural deposits comprised of mid-yellowish-brown sandy clay representing the Devensian till were recorded in all 50 trenches. The geological horizon was recorded at levels that ranged between 27.67m AOD to 36.56m AOD suggesting that the natural topography could be characterised as gently undulating. One natural feature [2504]/[2505], exposed in Field 3, was interpreted as a naturally infilled paleochannel.

7.3 Phase 2: Subsoil

7.3.1 Horizons of subsoil were recorded in 49 of the 50 trenches. These deposits were likely formed by a combination of wind and water-borne deposition processes and through anthropogenic accumulation such as the spreading of manure. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was recovered from the subsoil and so determining when it was formed with any resolution cannot be achieved. All that can be said is that the subsoil probably developed over an extended period potentially beginning at the start of the Holocene c. 11,650 years ago.

7.4 Phase 3: Post-medieval/Industrial period marl extraction pits

7.4.1 Four features, interpreted as post-medieval/Industrial period marl extraction pits, were exposed across the site.

7.4.2 A feature exposed in Trench 36, in the southeast part of Field 5 (Figure 7) was interpreted as a marl extraction pit due to its irregular morphology and extensive dimensions which measured in excess of 10m wide and 2m deep.

7.4.3 The cut of the feature truncated the subsoil, which as explained in paragraph 7.3.1 likely developed over a period of millennia. Therefore, the stratigraphic position of the feature's cut does not offer much evidence when determining the date of the feature's creation. Furthermore, no dating evidence was recovered from the backfill of the feature making it hard to determine when the cut was backfilled.

7.4.4 A cut feature with similar morphology was exposed in Trench 33 (40m to the north of Trench 36, in the northern part of Field 5), although disturbance by 20th-century drainage pipes permitted the feature's true dimensions from being ascertained. The fill of the feature contained high quantities of coal indicating that it was backfilled during the Industrial period.

7.4.5 In Trench 32 situated in Field 4, part of a horizontally extensive but shallow cut feature was recorded. Like the features recorded in Field 5, this cut likely represented marl extraction. This interpretation was supported by the cut's non-linear and shallow morphology, two characteristics suggesting the feature was a sizable pit rather than a ditch. Two sherds of pottery dating to the 14th – early 17th century, were recovered from the backfill of the feature. The sherds were not particularly abraded suggesting they had been deposited within the pit soon after they were disposed of and had not been subjected to post-depositional modification which typically represents ploughing activity (Appendix 2). With this in mind, it can be inferred that the cut feature in Trench 32 likely represents an early post-medieval clay extraction pit likely dating to the 17th century.

7.4.6 The edge of another extensive pit measuring at least 19m wide by 2.66m deep was recorded in Trench 29, also in Field 4. Like the other cut features on the site, this pit was thought to represent marl extraction activity.

7.4.7 When superimposed onto historic maps, no landscape features, such as field boundaries or ponds correspond with the positions of Trench 36, Trench 33 or Trench 32. This suggests that these features had been backfilled before 1849 when the earliest accurate depiction of the site was published. However, on

this map a pond is shown in Field 5, to the northwest of Trench 36. This pond is thought to have resulted from marl extraction, a post-medieval and Industrial period activity that appears to have been prevalent throughout the area. The presence of a pond on the map lends credence to the notion that other similar features could have been created across the site. Either marl extraction pits were excavated and backfilled before the first edition Ordnance Survey was surveyed, or they were dug and covered over again before the successive edition map was surveyed in 1893.

7.5 Phase 4: mid-19th century to present

7.5.1 Numerous field drainage pipes were observed across the site.

7.5.2 All trenches were sealed with layers of topsoil forming the current ground surface. The topsoil was likely formed as the result of soil improvement, which typically involved the spreading and ploughing of manure.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Impact:

8.1.1 In summary, the archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that archaeological features probably associated with marl extraction, which can be considered of limited local interest, survive on the site.

8.1.2 In Field 4, Trench 29 yielded one large pit filled with grey organic material. Trench 32 (immediately north of Trench 29) housed a single cut feature filled with material containing two sherds of pottery that suggest the feature may have been backfilled in the 17th century.

8.1.3 In Field 5 two extensive cuts were discovered which also probably represented post-medieval/Industrial period marl extraction.

8.1.4 There were several factors which prevented the full scope of this investigation from being executed. It was impossible to reinspect the trenches after they had weathered due to constant heavy rain, a water table encountered at a level of around 0.20 m BGL, and frozen ground conditions. The heavy rain and the high water table forced the abandonment of Trench 25 at a length of 15m due to collapsing sides, and necessitated the use of a machine bucket to dig slots into several of the features. Additionally, two proposed trenches were not excavated due to the presence of nearby overhead electrical cables and mature oak trees. However, these limitations are not believed to have greatly impacted the overall impact or effectiveness of the archaeological evaluation.

8.2 Key Initiatives

8.2.1 Several key initiatives in the current North-West Archaeological Research Framework have been addressed during the archaeological investigation (NWERRF 2021):

8.3 Prehistory:

8.3.1 **PH18: What can palaeoenvironmental analysis of buried soils tell us about prehistoric environments?**

8.3.2 **PH25: How can we better understand the distribution of prehistoric archaeology across the landscape?**

8.3.3 **PH30: What can incidental, residual lithics tell us about Mesolithic activity and settlement locations?**

8.3.4 No evidence of prehistoric occupation was encountered during the investigation so the Prehistoric research agenda could not be addressed.

8.4 **Roman:**

8.4.1 **R08: What evidence is there for the impact of Roman occupation on the environment?**

8.4.2 **R18: What were the locations, density, chronology, economy and character of rural settlement sites and patterns?**

8.4.3 **R19: How can we identify whether the virtual absence of villas in the North West archaeological record is apparent rather than real?**

8.4.4 No evidence of Roman occupation was encountered during the investigation so the Roman research agenda could not be addressed.

8.5 **Medieval:**

8.5.1 **EM15 How can archaeological methods be used to recognise domestic farming and food provision sites?**

8.5.2 The site did not contain any direct evidence of arable farming suggesting that the site was predominantly used as pastoral land.

8.5.3 **EM17 What evidence is there for landscape change in the early medieval period?**

8.5.4 The site did not present any evidence of landscape change from the early medieval period.

8.5.5 **EM18 How can the archaeological investigation of parish boundaries inform our understanding of the early medieval land use?**

8.5.6 The site did not present any evidence of land use around parish boundaries in the early medieval period.

8.5.7 **LM02 What is our understanding of late medieval land reclamation, water management and exploitation of natural resources?**

8.5.8 The high quantity of silt discovered throughout the site, coupled with a modern land drainage system, suggests that this land may have formed a water meadow or marsh prior to drainage by modern water management systems.

8.5.9 **LM12 How do we improve our knowledge of the region's various agricultural practices, plant and animal husbandry, and how did these change and develop over time?**

8.5.10 Comparing the archaeological sterility of this site to proximate sites, which yielded field systems may speak to the balance between animal husbandry and crop growth practised in the area.

8.5.11 **LM03 How did small settlements evolve and exploit environmental resources?**

8.5.12 The site did not present any evidence of the evolution of resource extraction pertaining to the late medieval period.

8.6 **Post-Medieval:**

8.6.1 **PM09 How did ecological changes linked to agricultural improvement impact upon the wider landscape?**

8.6.2 The site did not present any evidence of how ecological changes linked to agricultural improvements impacted the wider landscape.

8.6.3 **PM10 Where does pre-18th century enclosure survive in the region?**

8.6.4 The site did not present any evidence of pre-18th-century enclosure.

8.6.5 **PM15 How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?**

8.6.6 The site did not present any evidence of changing farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings or building types.

8.6.7 **PM29 How do the extractive industries develop during this period?**

8.6.8 Four possible marl pits, which may have been created in the post-medieval period were recorded on the site. The creation of these features may register the intensification of agriculture in the later part of the post-medieval period.

8.7 **Industrial:**

8.7.1 **Ind05 How well understood is change and development of the agrarian landscape in response to industrialisation and enclosure?**

8.7.2 The site did not present any evidence of how industrialisation and enclosure influenced the agrarian landscape.

8.7.3 **Ind06 How did the industrial farm evolve and farming practices develop during this period?**

8.7.4 The site did not present any evidence of the influence of industrialisation on farming practices.

8.7.5 **Ind09: How does the nature of rural settlement change during this period?**

8.7.6 The site did not present any evidence of how rural settlement changed during this period.

8.7.7 **Ind13: How did temporary areas of construction and industry (e.g. tips, utility sites, quarries, canals etc) change, develop and impact upon the landscape?**

8.7.8 There is some evidence of temporary quarrying relating to farming in the post-medieval/Industrial period within the site. Evidence of this activity is provided by the numerous ponds in the area including one active pond on the site. These ponds probably originated as marl pits, dug to extract clay which was then spread on the fields as a fertiliser. The closest known example of these was at Mountain Field, located 200m to the southeast of the site. A sand pit was located 670m to the southwest of the site.

8.7.9 Within the site, four trenches (29, 32, 33, and 36) contained large pits that had been backfilled with organic material. The location of the pits in Field 5 are close to a circular feature depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1849, which may have been formed as the result of the extraction of sand, clay or marl (which was regularly used as a soil fertilizer). This pond does not appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 suggesting that these pits had been backfilled by the 1890s.

8.7.10 **Ind15 How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes and field patterns?**

8.7.11 Maps and aerial photography have revealed outlying areas of medieval farming, enclosure, and later parliamentary division in Cuerden. The communal arable fields, once formed of furlongs, were enclosed into strip fields, and these were amalgamated subsequently to create larger fields to use for grazing. Areas of wasteland and common were also enclosed, similarly reflecting an increased emphasis on pastoralism.

8.7.12 Medieval field systems surround the site, to the north, east and south. No evidence of medieval field systems was exposed during the investigation at Woodcock Estate.

8.7.13 The current active boundary ditches and hedgerows likely result from parliamentary enclosure instigated in the post-medieval period or early Industrial period.

8.7.14 The lack of archaeological evidence of medieval field management systems (e.g. furrows) is noteworthy, as these features were previously uncovered on nearby sites in the area. The lack of furrows may indicate that, up until it was enclosed in the post-medieval period or later, the site was waste or common land used to communally graze livestock.

8.8 Significance

8.8.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation have demonstrated that this site is of low local significance.

8.9 Mitigation

8.9.1 Taking into consideration the results obtained from the archaeological evaluation, it is considered unlikely that further intrusive investigation of Fields 1,2,3,6 and 7 will yield any significant data. The only areas of the site where further archaeological works may yield additional archaeological data are the eastern section of Field 5 and the southwest corner of Field 4.

8.9.2 Of these two areas, the southwest corner of Field 4 (where Trench 29 and 32 were located) would be best suited for further mitigation. In this area, the presence of medieval pottery in a sealed context as well as the presence of a potential clay quarrying pit may provide some additional archaeological data of local significance. Further exploration of this area may also help to identify the purpose of the large feature/features uncovered in Field 5 ([3304 and [3604]) which are believed to be associated with clay quarrying on the site; and which had been heavily truncated by the field drains in Field 5.

9 ARCHIVE

9.1 Project Archive:

9.1.1 The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines, and current CIfA guidance (Standards and Guidelines for the Creation, Compilation, Transportation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives CIfA 2020). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the CIfA in that organisation's code of conduct. As part of the archiving process, the on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed. In preparation for this an OASIS number has been obtained and the initial record set up at the beginning of the evaluation.

9.1.2 The site archive has been organised to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Central Lancashire Area. All drawn records have been transferred to and stored in digital format, in systems which are easily accessible. The integrity of the site archive has been deposited with the appropriate repository body: Lancashire Council Museum Service, subject to their approval.

9.1.3 The archaeological archive consists of the following:

- All original records created throughout the course of the project;
- All original drawings, whether created during fieldwork or post-investigation;
- Indexes to the drawings; Indexes to the photographic archive;
- All digital material;
- Digital material created from written, drawn or photographed original records;
- The final project report; A list of contents of the archive.

9.1.4 It is a requirement of LCMS guidelines to deposit a copy of the archive generated from the archaeological investigation with the Archaeological Data

Service (ADS), through ADS-Easy should this be required as part of the mitigation strategy. All records created in hard copy during the course of the project have been scanned and added to this digital archive.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
0101	1	Deposit	Topsoil	35.39	4	None	N.A.
0102	1	Deposit	Subsoil	35.12	2	None	N.A.
0103	1	Natural	Natural	34.87	1	None	N.A.
0201	1	Deposit	Topsoil	34.44	4	None	N.A.
0202	1	Deposit	Subsoil	34.18	2	None	N.A.
0203	1	Natural	Natural	33.92	1	None	N.A.
0301	1	Deposit	Topsoil	34.12	4	None	N.A.
0302	1	Deposit	Subsoil	33.80	2	None	N.A.
0303	1	Natural	Natural	33.52	1	None	N.A.
0401	1	Deposit	Topsoil	34.02	4	None	N.A.
0402	1	Deposit	Subsoil	33.71	2	None	N.A.
0403	1	Natural	Natural	33.60	1	None	N.A.
0501	1	Deposit	Topsoil	34.63	4	None	N.A.
0502	1	Deposit	Subsoil	34.35	2	None	N.A.
0503	1	Natural	Natural	34.27	1	None	N.A.
0601	1	Deposit	Topsoil	34.93	4	None	N.A.
0602	1	Deposit	Subsoil	34.69	2	None	N.A.
0603	1	Natural	Natural	34.51	1	None	N.A.
0701	1	Deposit	Topsoil	35.07	4	None	N.A.
0702	1	Deposit	Subsoil	34.81	2	None	N.A.
0703	1	Natural	Natural	34.48	1	None	N.A.
0801	1	Deposit	Topsoil	33.98	4	None	N.A.

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
0802	1	Deposit	Subsoil	33.75	2	None	N.A.
0803	1	Natural	Natural	33.57	1	None	N.A.
0901	1	Deposit	Topsoil	33.17	4	None	N.A.
0902	1	Deposit	Subsoil	32.62	2	None	N.A.
0903	1	Natural	Natural	32.73	1	None	N.A.
0904	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
0905	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
1001	2	Deposit	Topsoil	33.48	4	None	N.A.
1002	2	Deposit	Subsoil	33.31	2	None	N.A.
1003	2	Natural	Natural	33.19	1	None	N.A.
1101	2	Deposit	Topsoil	33.59	4	None	N.A.
1102	2	Deposit	Subsoil	33.34	2	None	N.A.
1103	2	Natural	Natural	32.99	1	None	N.A.
1201	2	Deposit	Topsoil	34.73	4	None	N.A.
1202	2	Deposit	Subsoil	34.45	2	None	N.A.
1203	2	Natural	Natural	33.76	1	None	N.A.
1301	2	Deposit	Topsoil	32.72	4	None	N.A.
1302	2	Deposit	Subsoil	32.49	2	None	N.A.
1303	2	Natural	Natural	32.25	1	None	N.A.
1401	2	Deposit	Topsoil	32.91	4	None	N.A.
1402	2	Deposit	Subsoil	32.51	2	None	N.A.
1403	2	Natural	Natural	32.04	1	None	N.A.

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
1501	2	Deposit	Topsoil	33.32	4	None	N.A.
1502	2	Deposit	Subsoil	33.08	2	None	N.A.
1503	2	Natural	Natural	32.77	1	None	N.A.
1601	2	Deposit	Topsoil	33.27	4	None	N.A.
1602	2	Deposit	Subsoil	32.97	2	None	N.A.
1603	2	Natural	Natural	32.76	1	None	N.A.
1701	2	Deposit	Topsoil	33.58	4	None	N.A.
1702	2	Deposit	Subsoil	33.31	2	None	N.A.
1703	2	Natural	Natural	33.21	1	None	N.A.
1801	2	Deposit	Topsoil	33.13	4	None	N.A.
1802	2	Deposit	Subsoil	32.83	2	None	N.A.
1803	2	Natural	Natural	32.62	1	None	N.A.
1901	2	Deposit	Topsoil	33.02	4	None	N.A.
1902	2	Deposit	Subsoil	32.74	2	None	N.A.
1903	2	Natural	Natural	32.25	1	None	N.A.
2001	3	Deposit	Topsoil	33.15	4	None	N.A.
2002	3	Deposit	Subsoil	32.81	2	None	N.A.
2003	3	Natural	Natural	32.63	1	None	N.A.
2004	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
2005	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
2101	3	Deposit	Topsoil	33.21	4	None	N.A.
2102	3	Deposit	Subsoil	33.03	2	None	N.A.
2103	3	Natural	Natural	32.78	1	None	N.A.

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
2201	3	Deposit	Topsoil	33.85	4	None	N.A.
2202	3	Deposit	Subsoil	33.62	2	None	N.A.
2203	3	Natural	Natural	33.35	1	None	N.A.
2301	3	Deposit	Topsoil	33.71	4	None	N.A.
2302	3	Deposit	Subsoil	33.45	2	None	N.A.
2303	3	Natural	Natural	33.08	1	None	N.A.
2401	3	Deposit	Topsoil	33.53	4	None	N.A.
2402	3	Deposit	Subsoil	33.28	2	None	N.A.
2403	3	Natural	Natural	33.05	1	None	N.A.
2404	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
2501	3	Deposit	Topsoil	33.61	4	None	N.A.
2502	3	Deposit	Subsoil	33.36	2	None	N.A.
2503	3	Natural	Natural	32.49	1	None	N.A.
2504	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
2601	3	Deposit	Topsoil	33.67	4	None	N.A.
2602	3	Deposit	Subsoil	33.41	2	None	N.A.
2603	3	Natural	Natural	32.97	1	None	N.A.
2701	3	Deposit	Topsoil	32.23	4	None	N.A.
2702	3	Deposit	Subsoil	32.02	2	None	N.A.
2703	3	Natural	Natural	31.53	1	None	N.A.
2801	4	Deposit	Topsoil	37.05	4	None	N.A.
2802	4	Deposit	Subsoil	36.77	2	None	N.A.

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
2803	4	Natural	Natural	36.56	1	None	N.A.
2901	4	Deposit	Topsoil	34.72	4	None	N.A.
2902	4	Deposit	Subsoil	34.12	2	None	N.A.
2903	4	Natural	Natural	33.52	1	None	N.A.
2904	4	Cut	Cut for Clay Quarry	33.51	3	None	N.A.
2905	4	Fill	Fill of [2904]	33.38	3	None	N.A.
2906	4	Deposit	Crushed brick surface	33.49	3	None	N.A.
2907	4	Fill	Fill of [2904]	33.51	3	None	N.A.
3001	4	Deposit	Topsoil	32.69	4	None	N.A.
3002	4	Deposit	Subsoil	32.50	2	None	N.A.
3003	4	Natural	Natural	32.14	1	None	N.A.
3101	4	Deposit	Topsoil	35.26	4	None	N.A.
3102	4	Deposit	Subsoil	35.09	2	None	N.A.
3103	4	Natural	Natural	34.32	1	None	N.A.
3201	4	Deposit	Topsoil	33.27	4	None	N.A.
3202	4	Deposit	Subsoil	32.87	2	None	N.A.
3203	4	Natural	Natural	32.17	1	None	N.A.
3204	4	Deposit	Made ground	32.27	3	None	N.A.
3205	4	Fill	Fill of [3206]	32.21	3	Pottery	13th-14th century
3206	4	Cut	Shallow cut	32.21	3	N.A.	N.A.
3301	5	Deposit	Topsoil	33.76	4	None	N.A.

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
3302	5	Deposit	Subsoil	33.01	2	None	N.A.
3303	5	Natural	Natural	32.74	1	None	N.A.
3304	5	Cut	Cut for Clay Quarry	32.74	3	None	N.A.
3305	5	Fill	Fill of [3304]	32.74	3	None	N.A.
3401	5	Deposit	Topsoil	34.36	4	None	N.A.
3402	5	Deposit	Subsoil	34.12	2	None	N.A.
3403	5	Natural	Natural	33.78	1	None	N.A.
3501	5	Deposit	Topsoil	33.49	4	None	N.A.
3502	5	Deposit	Subsoil	33.29	2	None	N.A.
3503	5	Natural	Natural	33.18	1	None	N.A.
3601	5	Deposit	Topsoil	34.35	4	None	N.A.
3602	5	Deposit	Subsoil	34.04	2	None	N.A.
3603	5	Natural	Natural	33.18	1	None	N.A.
3604	5	Cut	Cut for Clay Quarry	33.17	3	None	N.A.
3605	5	Fill	Fill of [3404]	33.17	3	None	N.A.
3701	5	Deposit	Topsoil	34.14	4	None	N.A.
3702	5	Deposit	Subsoil	33.93	2	None	N.A.
3703	5	Natural	Natural	33.57	1	None	N.A.
3801	6	Deposit	Topsoil	31.82	4	None	N.A.
3802	6	Deposit	Subsoil	31.58	2	None	N.A.
3803	6	Natural	Natural	31.21	1	None	N.A.
3901	6	Deposit	Topsoil	31.96	4	None	N.A.

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
3902	6	Deposit	Subsoil	31.73	2	None	N.A.
3903	6	Natural	Natural	31.48	1	None	N.A.
4001	6	Deposit	Topsoil	29.44	4	None	N.A.
4002	6	Deposit	Subsoil	28.96	2	None	N.A.
4003	6	Natural	Natural	28.41	1	None	N.A.
4101	7	Deposit	Topsoil	28.19	4	None	N.A.
4102	7	Deposit	Subsoil	27.97	2	None	N.A.
4103	7	Natural	Natural	27.67	1	None	N.A.
4201	7	Deposit	Topsoil	29.95	4	None	N.A.
4202	7	Deposit	Subsoil	29.71	2	None	N.A.
4203	7	Natural	Natural	29.49	1	None	N.A.
4301	7	Deposit	Topsoil	31.20	4	None	N.A.
4302	7	Deposit	Subsoil	30.99	2	None	N.A.
4303	7	Natural	Natural	30.75	1	None	N.A.
4401	7	Deposit	Topsoil	34.09	4	None	N.A.
4402	7	Deposit	Subsoil	33.87	2	None	N.A.
4403	7	Natural	Natural	33.63	1	None	N.A.
4501	7	Deposit	Topsoil	32.71	4	None	N.A.
4502	7	Deposit	Subsoil	32.46	2	None	N.A.
4503	7	Natural	Natural	32.27	1	None	N.A.
4600	7	Deposit	Topsoil	35.38	4	None	N.A.
4601	7	Natural	Natural	34.87	1	None	N.A.

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (mAOD)	Phase	Finds	Spot Date
4701	7	Deposit	Topsoil	31.39	4	None	N.A.
4702	7	Deposit	Subsoil	31.16	2	None	N.A.
4703	7	Natural	Natural	30.95	1	None	N.A.
4801	7	Deposit	Topsoil	31.95	4	None	N.A.
4802	7	Deposit	Subsoil	31.71	2	None	N.A.
4803	7	Natural	Natural	31.50	1	None	N.A.
4901	7	Deposit	Topsoil	32.91	4	None	N.A.
4902	7	Deposit	Subsoil	32.69	2	None	N.A.
4903	7	Natural	Natural	32.32	1	None	N.A.
5001	7	Deposit	Topsoil	32.85	4	None	N.A.
5002	7	Deposit	Subsoil	32.54	2	None	N.A.
5003	7	Natural	Natural	32.24	1	None	N.A.

APPENDIX 2: FINDS REPORT

Introduction

A small artefactual assemblage was recovered during the evaluation at Woodcock Estate, Farington. The assemblage comprises four fragments of pottery, weighing 263g from a single stratified context as well as unstratified material. The pottery has a broad date range from the 13th to 19th century. The medieval pottery is similar to that recovered from nearby sites at Brookhouse Farm, located 120 to the east (Forthcoming) and Cuerden, where sites were excavated immediately to the north and south (Cook and Rowe 2020). Both sites produced regionally significant assemblages of medieval pottery.

The aim of the finds report is to describe and quantify the material evidence recovered, along with some chronological interpretation, relating it as far as possible to other known finds from the same site or area, in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines (2022).

Methodology

The examination of the artefactual assemblage was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014). The pottery was examined with reference to A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Barclay et al 2016). Reference has also been made to Medieval and Post-Medieval Research Agendas drafted by the North West Region Research Framework (2022).

Finds recovered from the excavation comprise medieval, Post-medieval and Industrial period ceramics. For quantification and full contents of the assemblage, see Table x1. All of the finds were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the finds records generated during the course of the fieldwork. The finds were categorised according to type and class and have been. The finds have been given a unique accession number (SF No.) and digitally photographed. Full details of all recovered material reside within the project archive held at Salford Archaeology.

SF No	Material	contexts/areas	Object count	Weight (g)	Period (century)
1	Medieval coarse sandy ware	[3205], Trench 32, Field 4	1	21	13th – 15th
2	Medieval reduced ware	[3205], Trench 32, Field 4	1	13	14th- early 17th
3	Dark glazed coarse ware	Unstratified	1	188	17th-19th
4	Brown stoneware	Unstratified	1	41	19th-20th
	Totals		4	263	

Table x1: all material recovered

The pottery

The two medieval sherds are typical examples of medieval pottery found nearby and more widely in Northern Lancashire (Plate A1 and A2). The medieval coarse sandy ware fragment is very similar to the sandy wates recovered from the nearby sites of Cuerden (Cook and Rowe 2020, 90-5) and Brookhouse Farm (Edmonds Forthcoming). Moreover, it is also similar to the pottery that was being produced at the nearby production site at Samlesbury (located 5km to the north east; Wood et al 2009).

The second medieval pottery fragment was in a reduced fabric, however trying to deduce exactly what type of pottery it represents from a single sherd is fraught with difficulties. Two similar types, partially reduced, typically dating from the late 12th to 14th, and late medieval reduced grey ware, which can date from the 14th to early 17th century are not easy to distinguish from a single sherd. Both fabric types can exhibit areas of oxidisation as noted on the Woodcock Estate example, but some of the later fully reduced wares can display flaking glaze (Brooks 2010), again as noted this sherd. Therefore, a 14th to early 17th century may be applicable in this instance.

Medieval fabric descriptions

Medieval coarse sandy ware: Fabric is soft, pinkish buff with grey core. Inclusions comprise 10% poorly sorted sub-rounded to angular, quartz and rose quartzite coarse

sand up to 1mm (scarce). Rare red iron oxide and grog. Splashes of glaze visible on external surface. Obtuse-angled base. Context: [3205], Trench 32. Plate A1

Medieval Reduced ware: body sherd, hard grey reduced fabric with a small area oxidised to pink. Flaking olive green glaze on both surfaces. Inclusions comprise 10% well moderately sorted fine quartz sand with rare quartzite up to 1mm. Context: [3205], Trench 32. Plate A2

Post-medieval and industrial period pottery

Two fragments from these periods were recovered unstratified (Plates A3 and A4). These comprise a base sherd from Dark glazed coarseware vessel and a stoneware cylindrical jar. Dark glazed coursewares are a long-lived tradition having their origins in the Midlands purple wares of the 15th century. The fragment from the present site, an obtuse-angled base from a jar or bowl, can only be broadly date to the 18th or 19th century.

The stoneware jar is typical of the mass produced jars and other vessels manufactured in the North of England and North Midlands in the 19th century. Derbyshire was an important centre of stoneware production, as well as West Yorkshire, with some limited evidence for South Lancashire and Cheshire (Oswald et al 1982).

Plate: A1: Medieval coarse sandy ware from Trench 32

Plate: A2: Medieval reduced ware from Trench 32

Post-medieval and industrial period fabric descriptions

Dark glazed coarseware: Hard red to purple fabric with white laminations thickly applied dark brown glaze on interior surface, splashed glaze on exterior. Obtuse-angled base.

Brown stoneware: Hard light grey fabric, clear glaze on interior, iron wash on exterior.

Plate A3: Unstratified Dark glazed coarseware with obtuse-angled base from a jar or bowl form

Plate A4: Brown stoneware cylindrical jar with clubbed rim.

Discussion

The medieval pottery from the site broadly dates from the 13th to early 17th century. That they were both recovered from the same context might indicate a 14th century date for deposition. Although not particularly large, the fragments weighing 13 and 21g respectively, they are not abraded suggesting that they have not been subject to much in the way of post depositional disturbance. What perhaps is unusual, is the lack of other medieval pottery from the site given that it lies in close proximity to both Brookhouse Farm and Cuerden. The latter site once being home an agricultural community concentrated in a series of hamlets, namely Old Cuerden, Cuerden Green and Cuerden Nook (Fletcher 2021). Both excavations produced sizeable medieval pottery assemblages for Lancashire. Since most pottery recovered from agricultural fields finds its way into the topsoil via manuring, the absence of pottery may be down to the type of farming carried out in the vicinity, which might have been pastoral rather than arable, where manuring of domestic refuse was not required.

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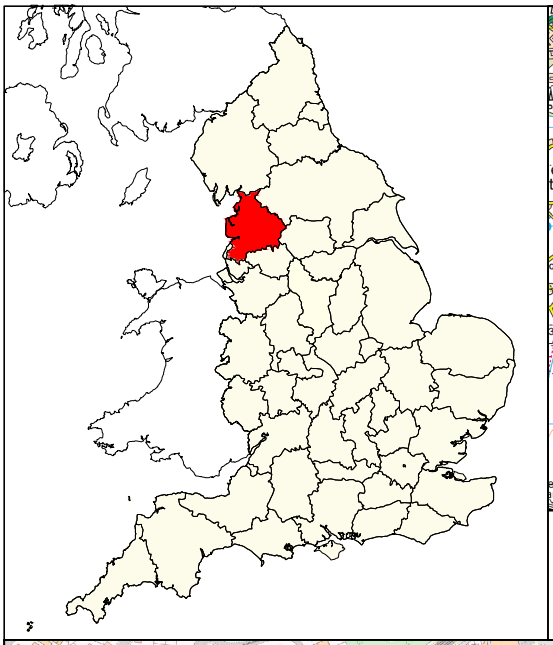
APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



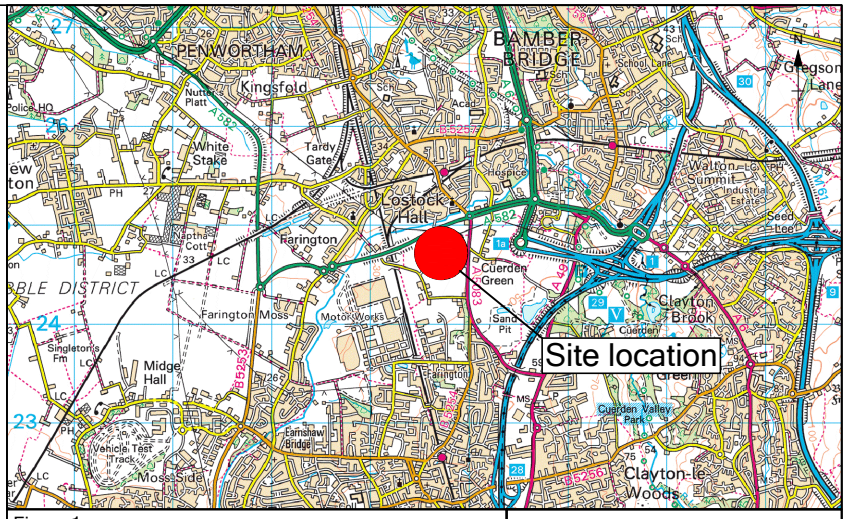
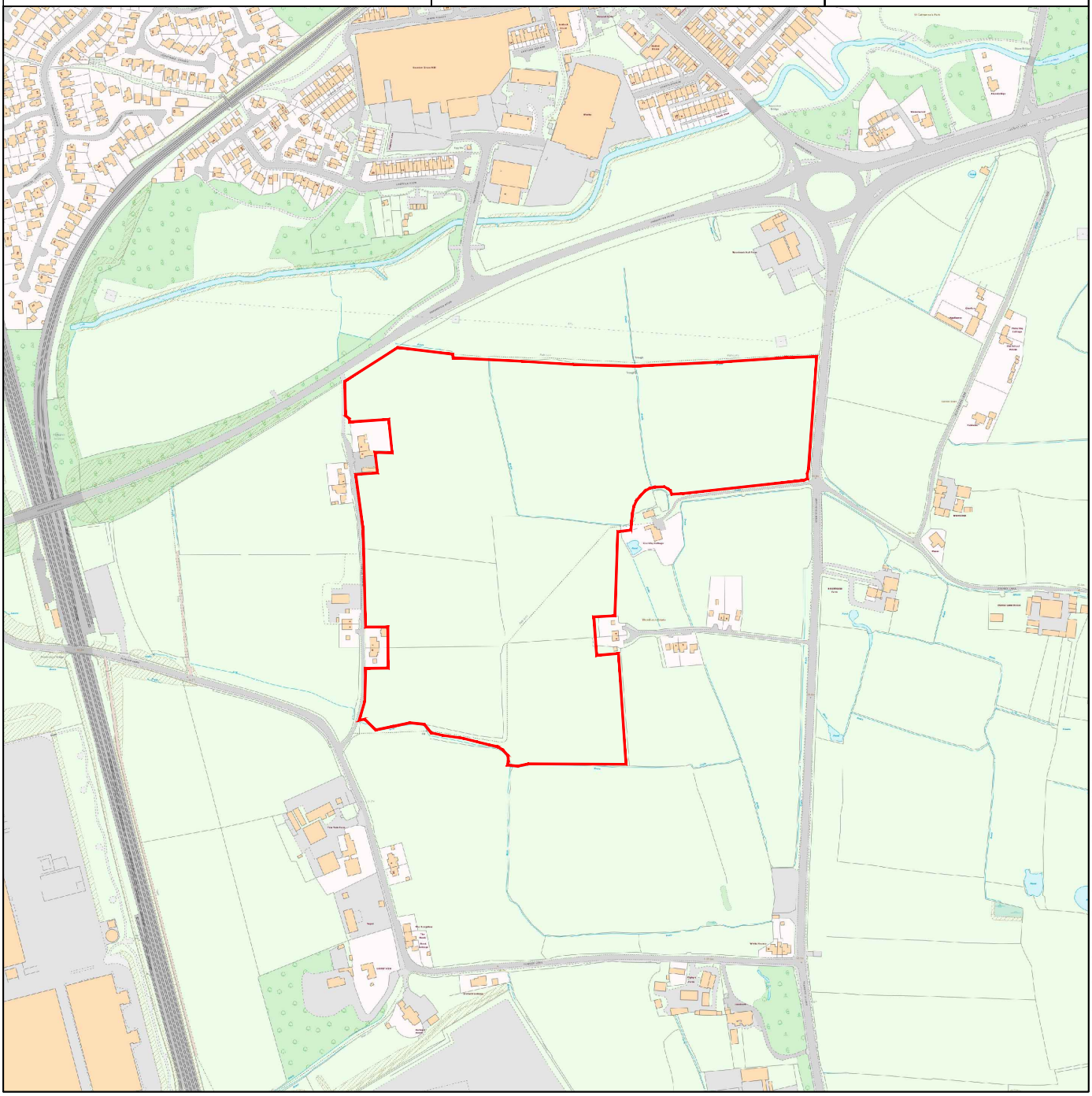


Figure 1:

Site Location

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY



Salford Archaeology, Peel Building, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

354600 354800 355000

425000 425000

424800 424800

424600 424600

424400 424400

Field 1

Field 2

Field 3

Field 4

Field 5

Field 6

Field 7

Tr 1 Tr 2 Tr 3 Tr 4 Tr 5 Tr 6 Tr 7 Tr 8 Tr 9 Tr 10 Tr 11 Tr 12 Tr 13 Tr 14 Tr 15 Tr 16.1 Tr 16.2 Tr 17 Tr 18 Tr 19 Tr 20 Tr 21 Tr 22 Tr 23 Tr 24 Tr 25 Tr 26 Tr 27 Tr 28 Tr 29 Tr 30 Tr 31 Tr 32 Tr 33 Tr 34 Tr 35 Tr 36 Tr 37 Tr 38 Tr 39 Tr 40 Tr 41 Tr 42 Tr 43 Tr 44 Tr 45 Tr 46 Tr 47 Tr 48 Tr 49 Tr 50

FARINGTON ROAD

Woodcock Hall Farm

Sherdley Cottage

Pond

Woodcock Estate

Yew Tree Farm

STANFIELD LANE

Drain

Path (um)

Trough

ETL

FB

34.7m

39.6m

Figure 2:

Trench Locations Superimposed onto Modern Mapping

N

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

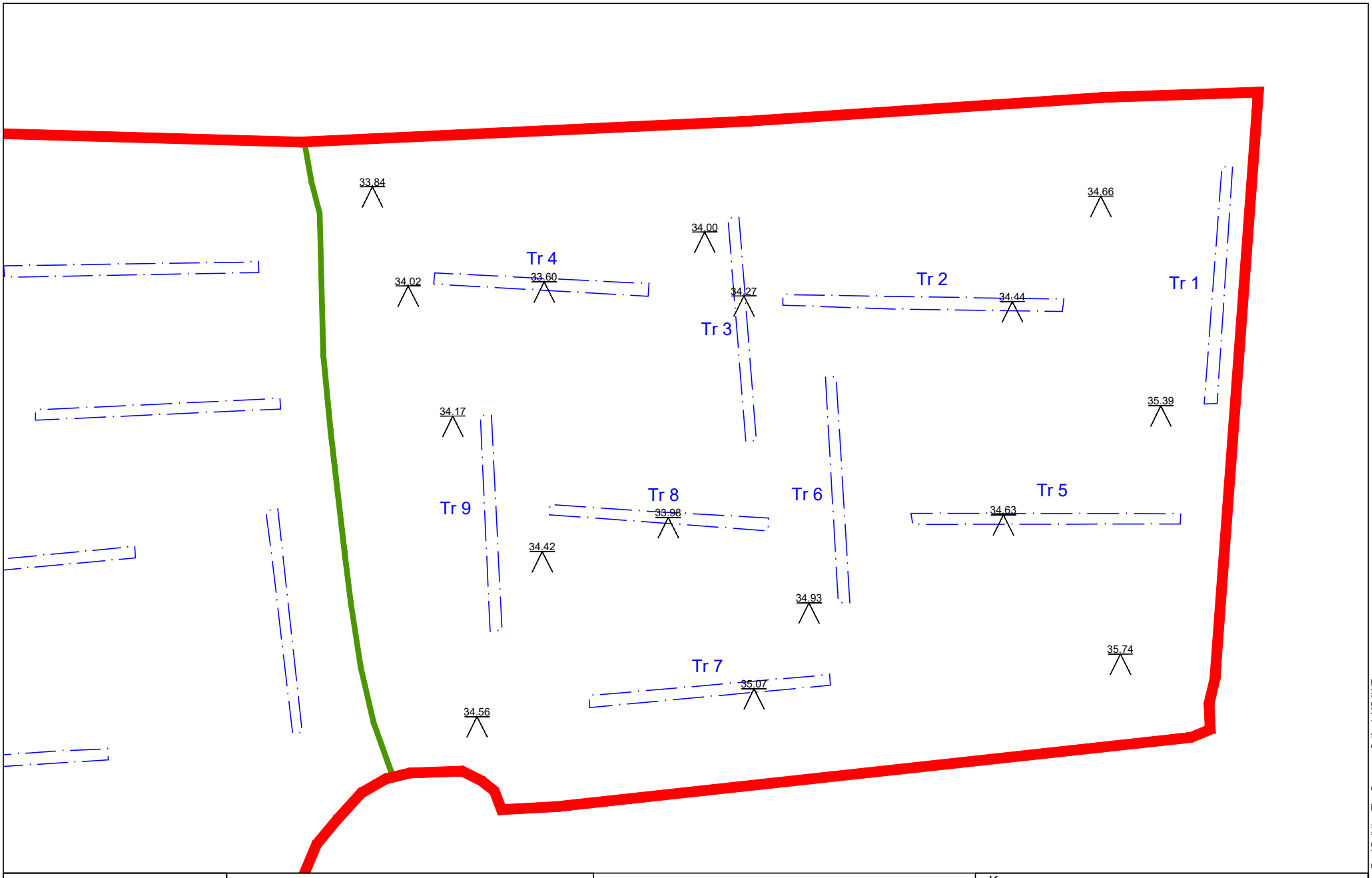
0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Field Boundaries
- Trench Locations

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT



SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1000

Figure 3:

Plan of Field 1

N

Key:

Site Boundary

Trench

Field Boundary

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

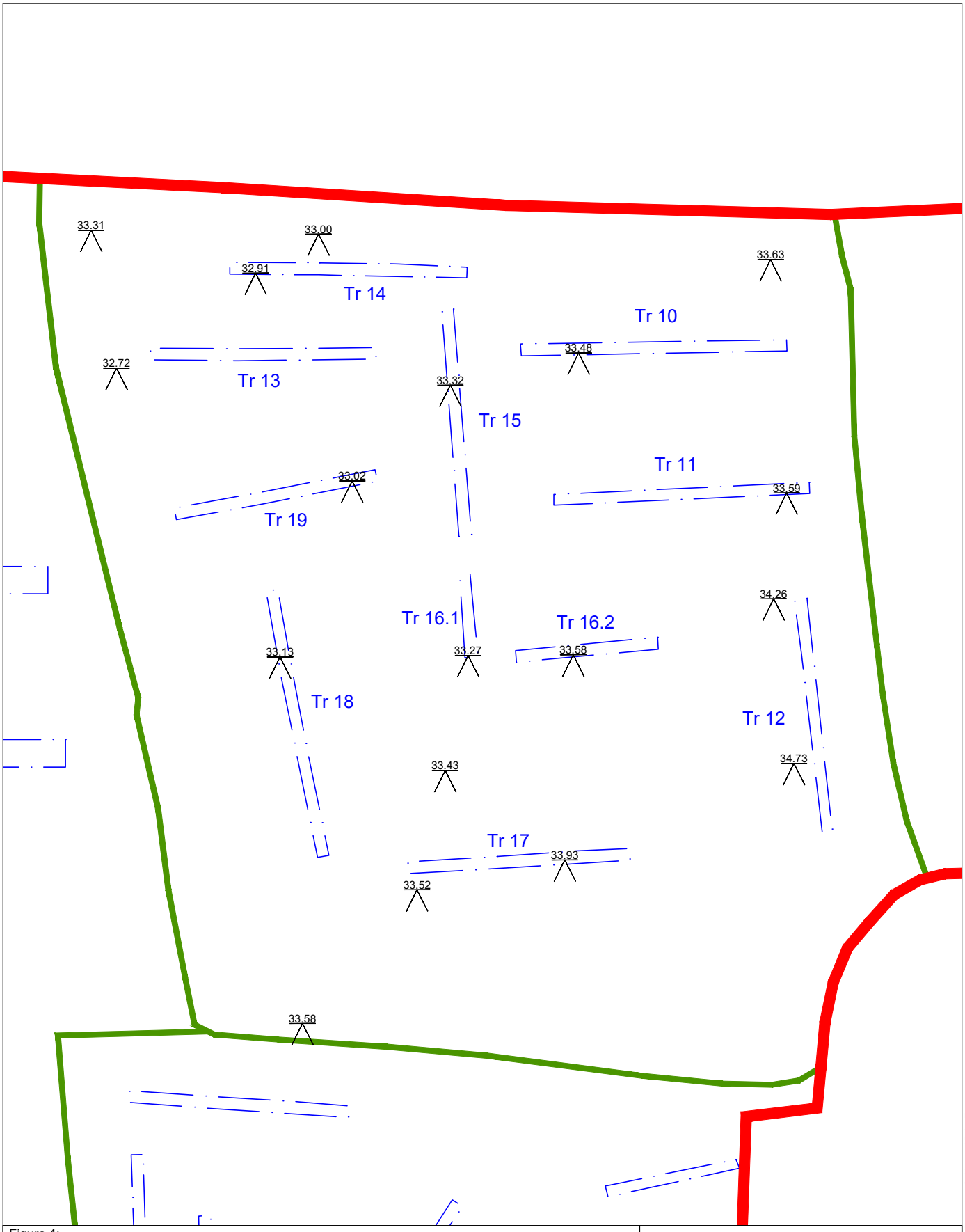


Figure 4:

Plan of Field 2

N

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Field Boundary

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1000

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

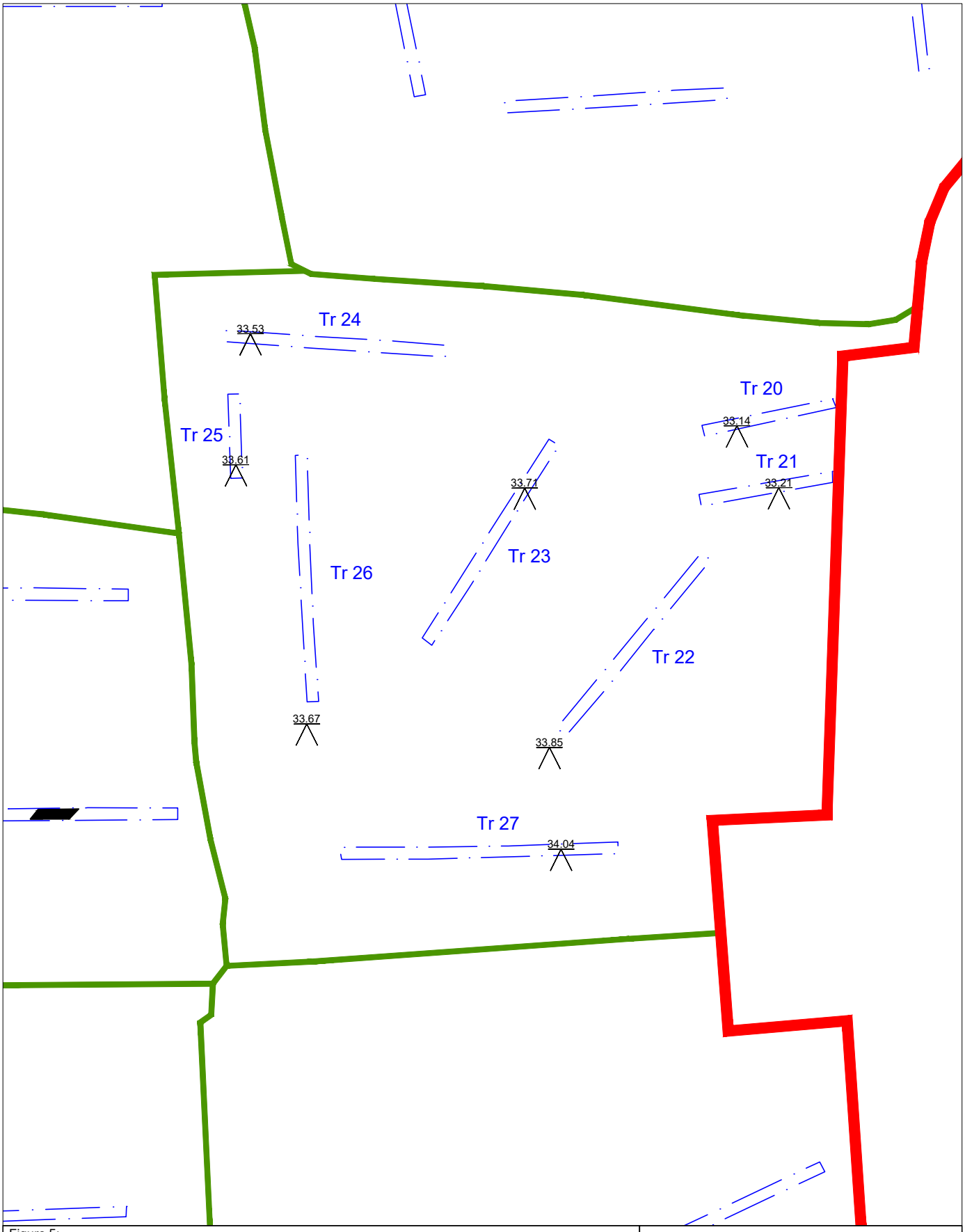


Figure 5:

Plan of Field 3

N

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Field Boundary

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1000

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

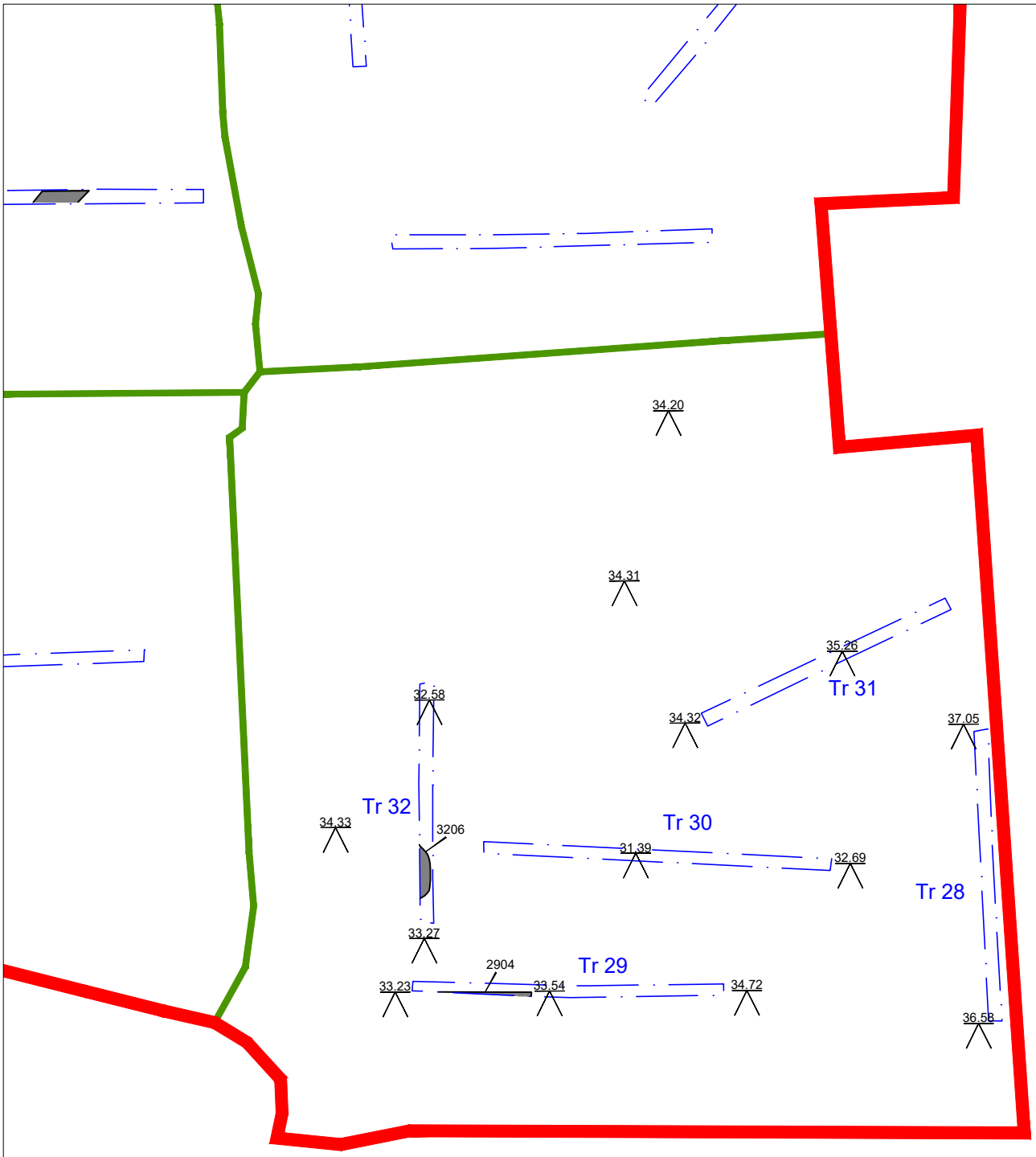


Figure 6:

Plan of Field 4

N

Key:

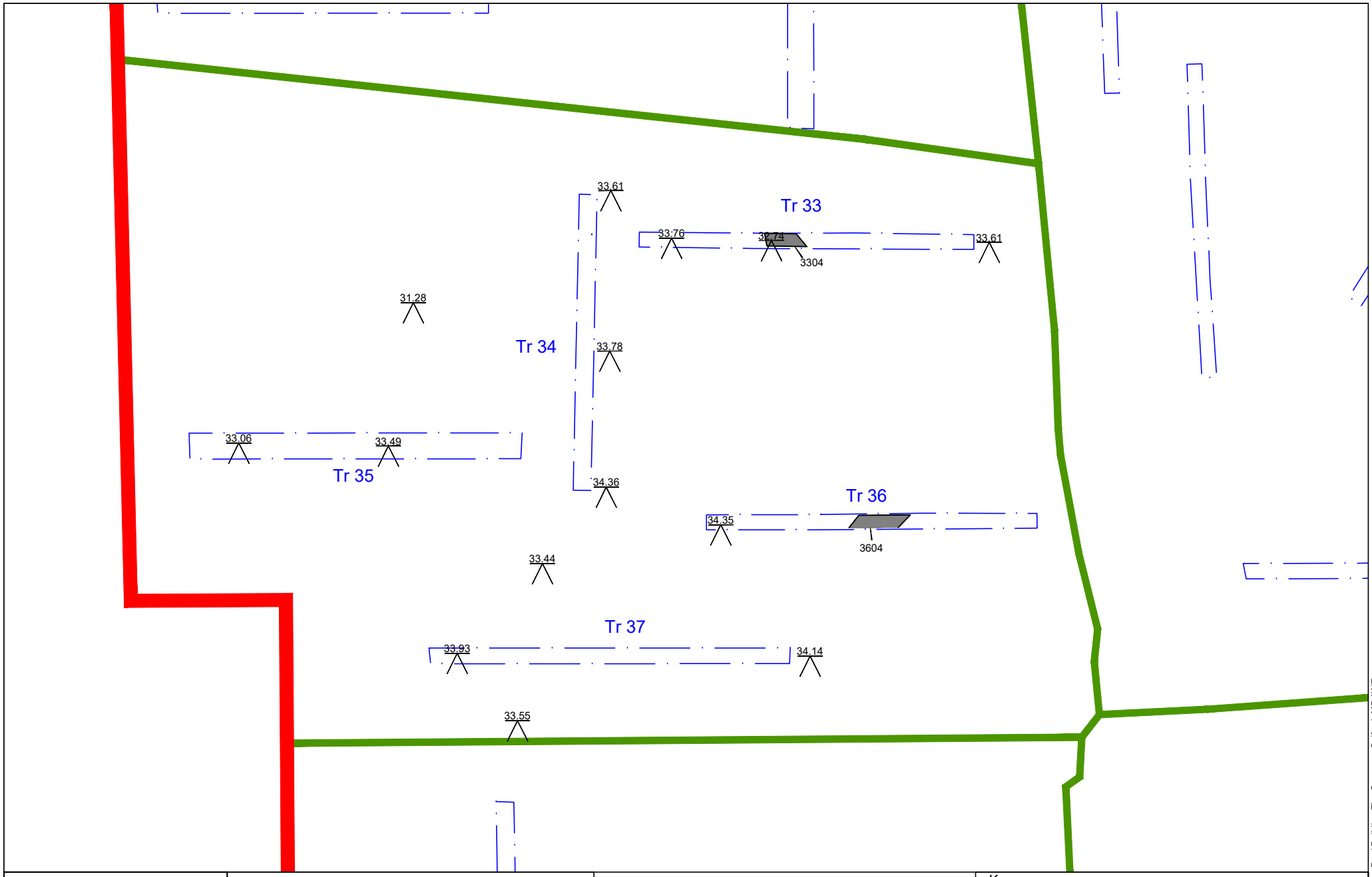
- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Field Boundary
- Feature

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1000

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT



SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:750

Figure 7:

Plan of Field 5

N

Key:

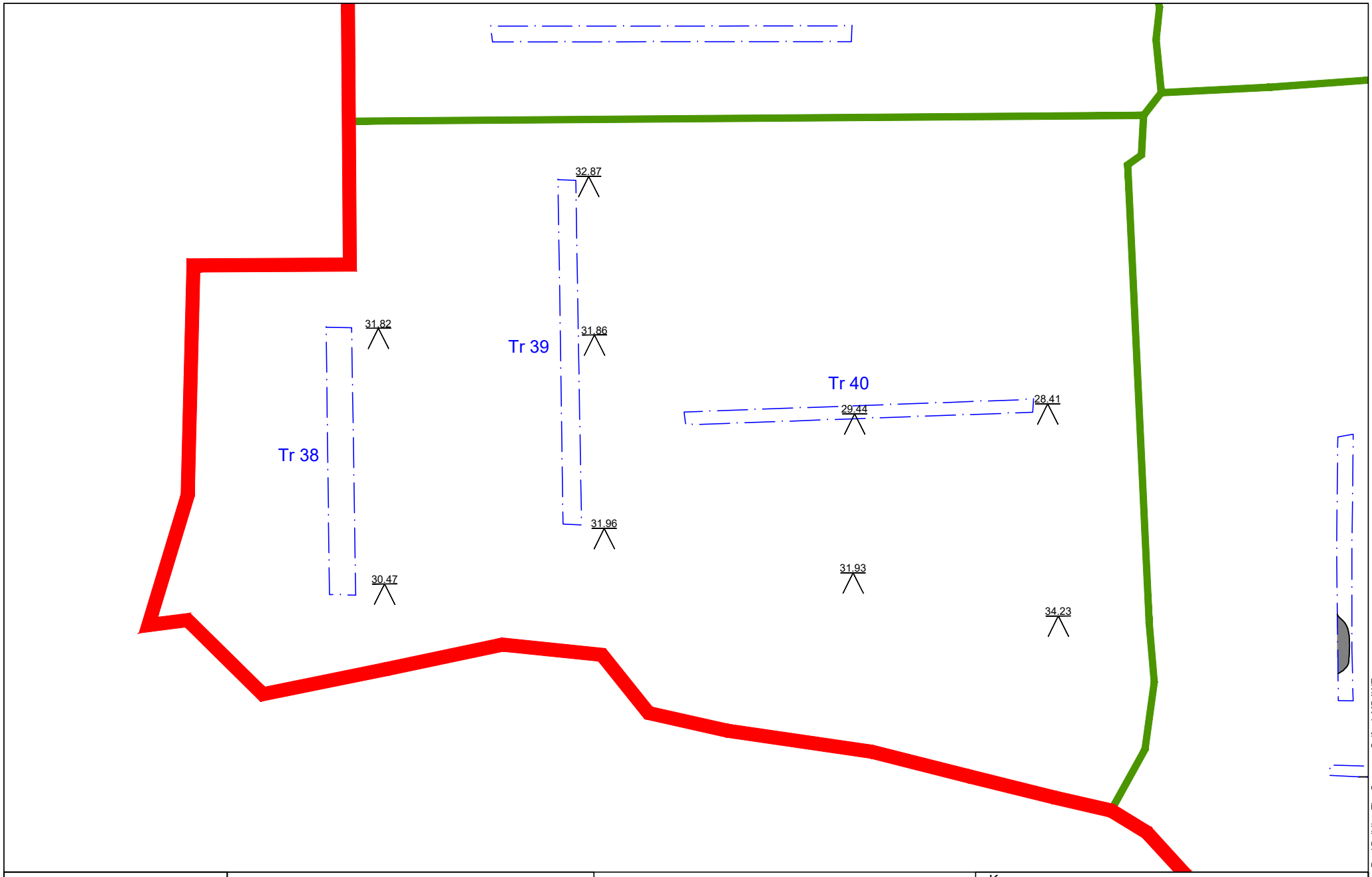
Site Boundary

Trench

Field Boundary

Feature

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT



SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:750

Figure 8:

Plan of Field 6

N

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Field Boundary

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

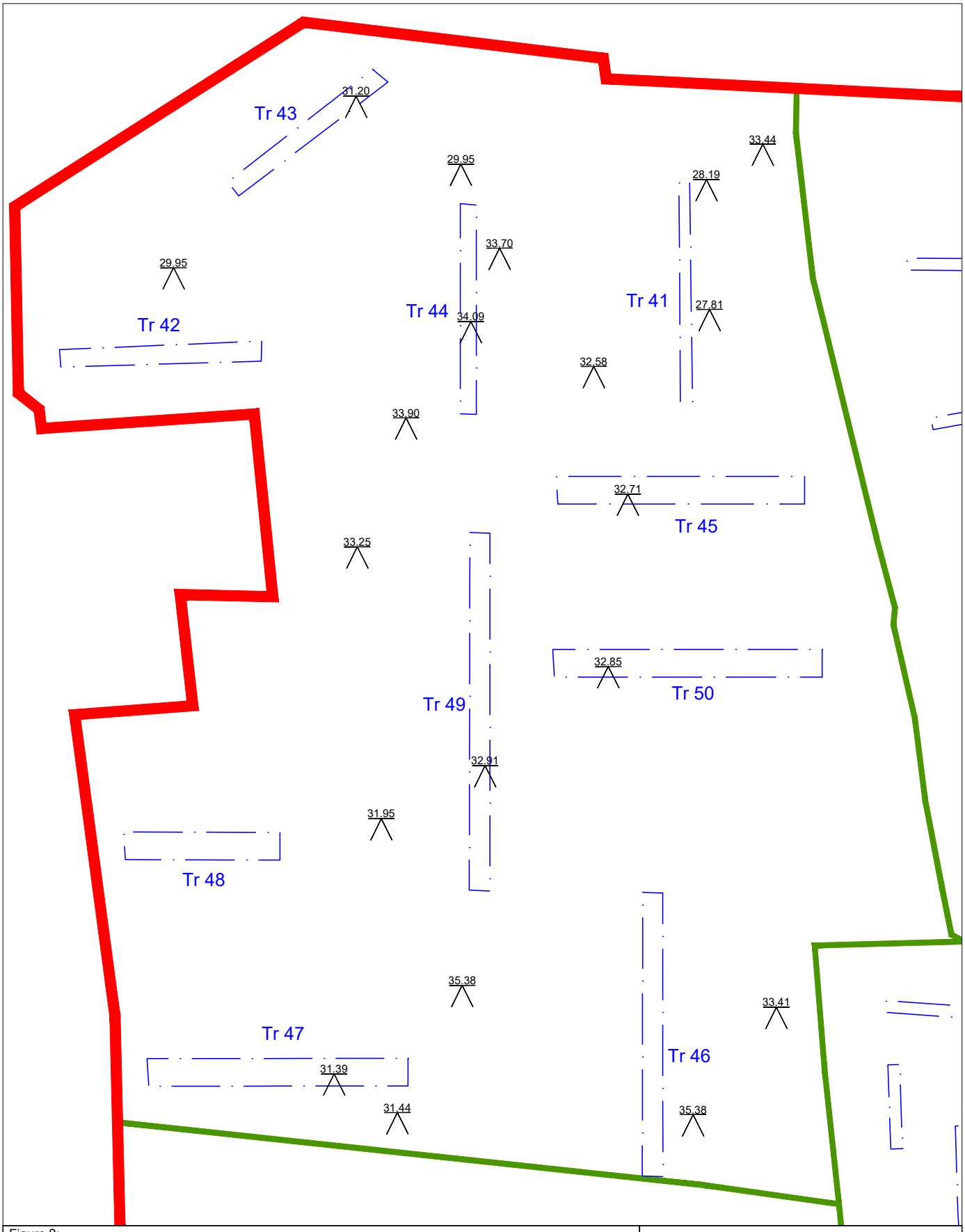


Figure 9:

Plan of Field 7

N

Key:

Site Boundary

Trench

Field Boundary

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1000

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Figure 10:

Plan of Trenches Superimposed onto the 1:10560 County Series Map of 1849

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Key:

Site Boundary

Feature

Trench

Field Boundary

N

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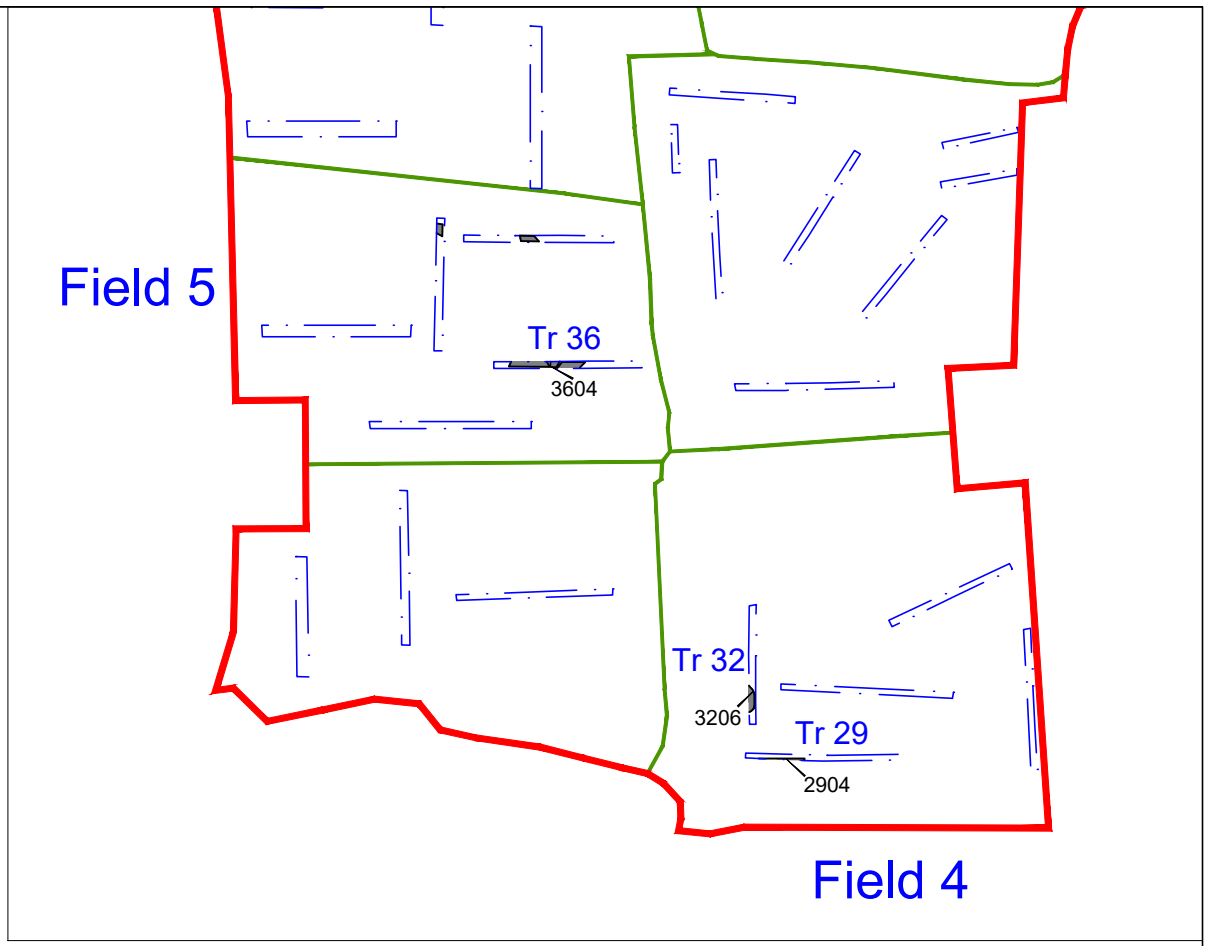
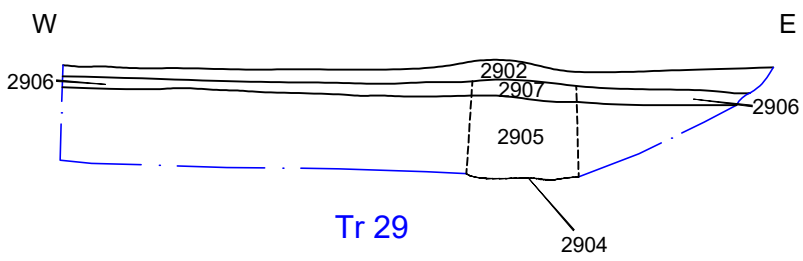
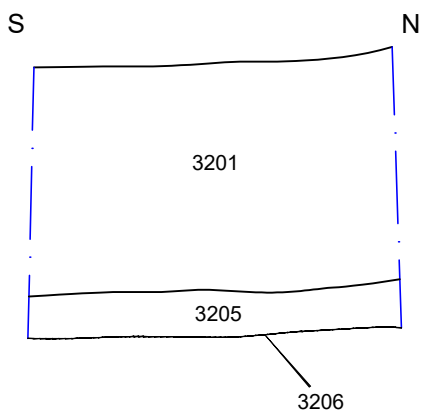
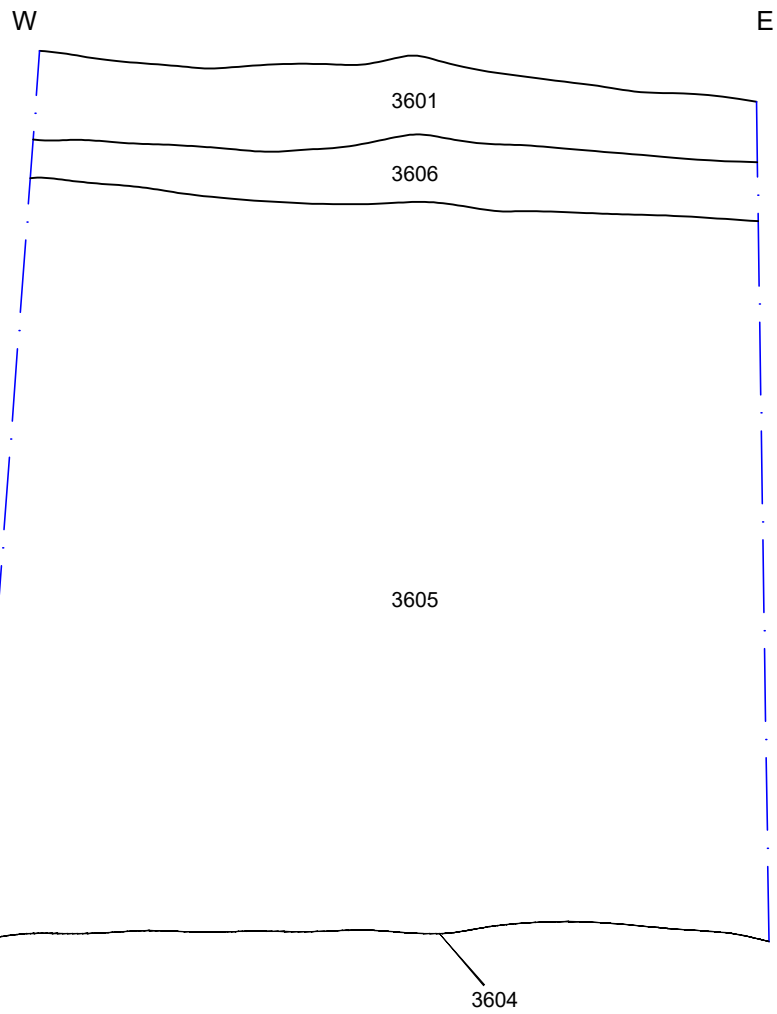


Field 4





Tr 32



Field 5

Tr 36

Figure 11:

Sections Through Trenches 29 & 32 in Field 4 and Trench 36 in Field 5

N

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 1 m

Scale at A3 1:20

Key:

Limit of Excavation

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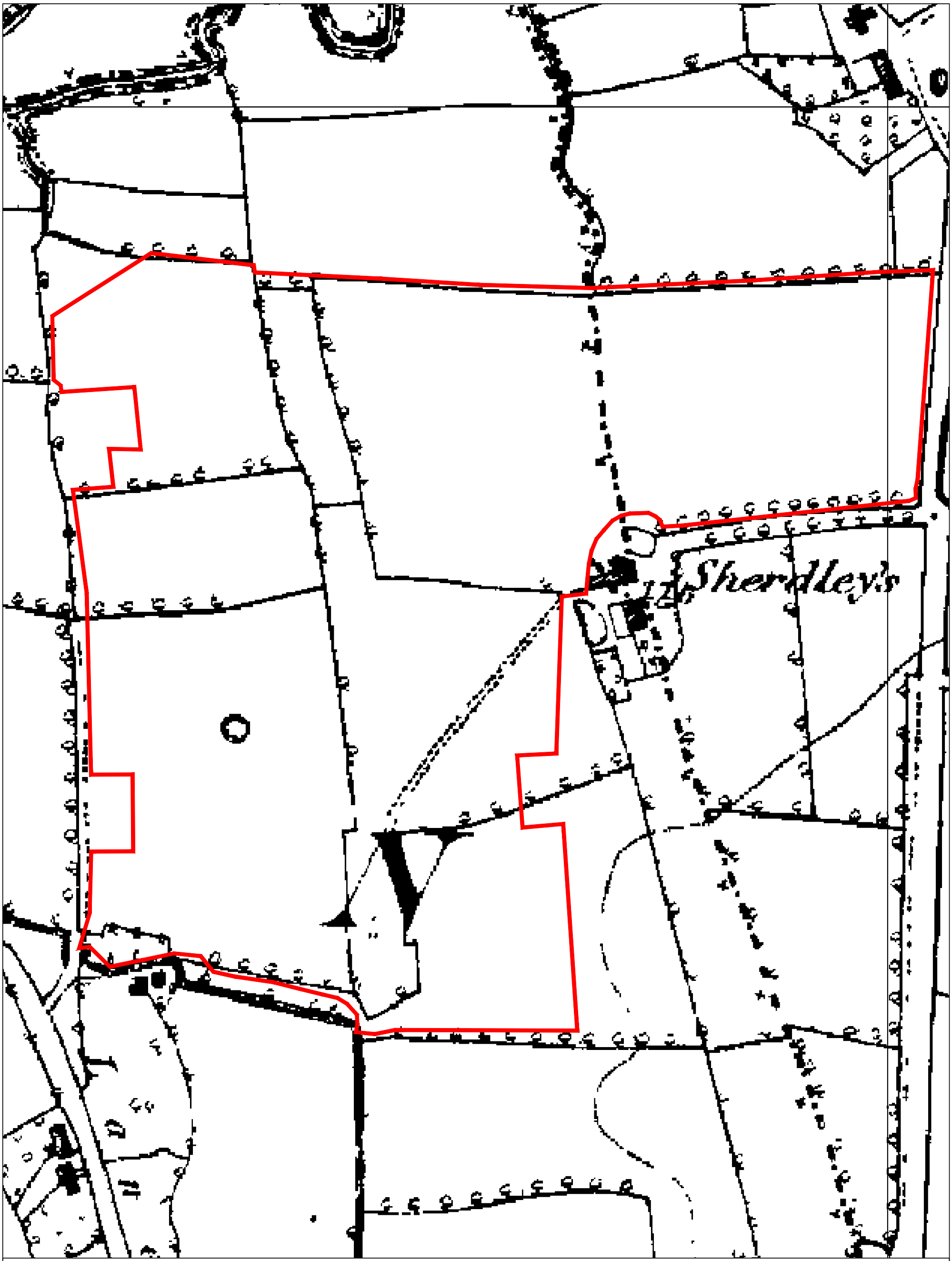

Figure 12:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:10560 County Series Map of 1849

N

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Key:

Site Boundary

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

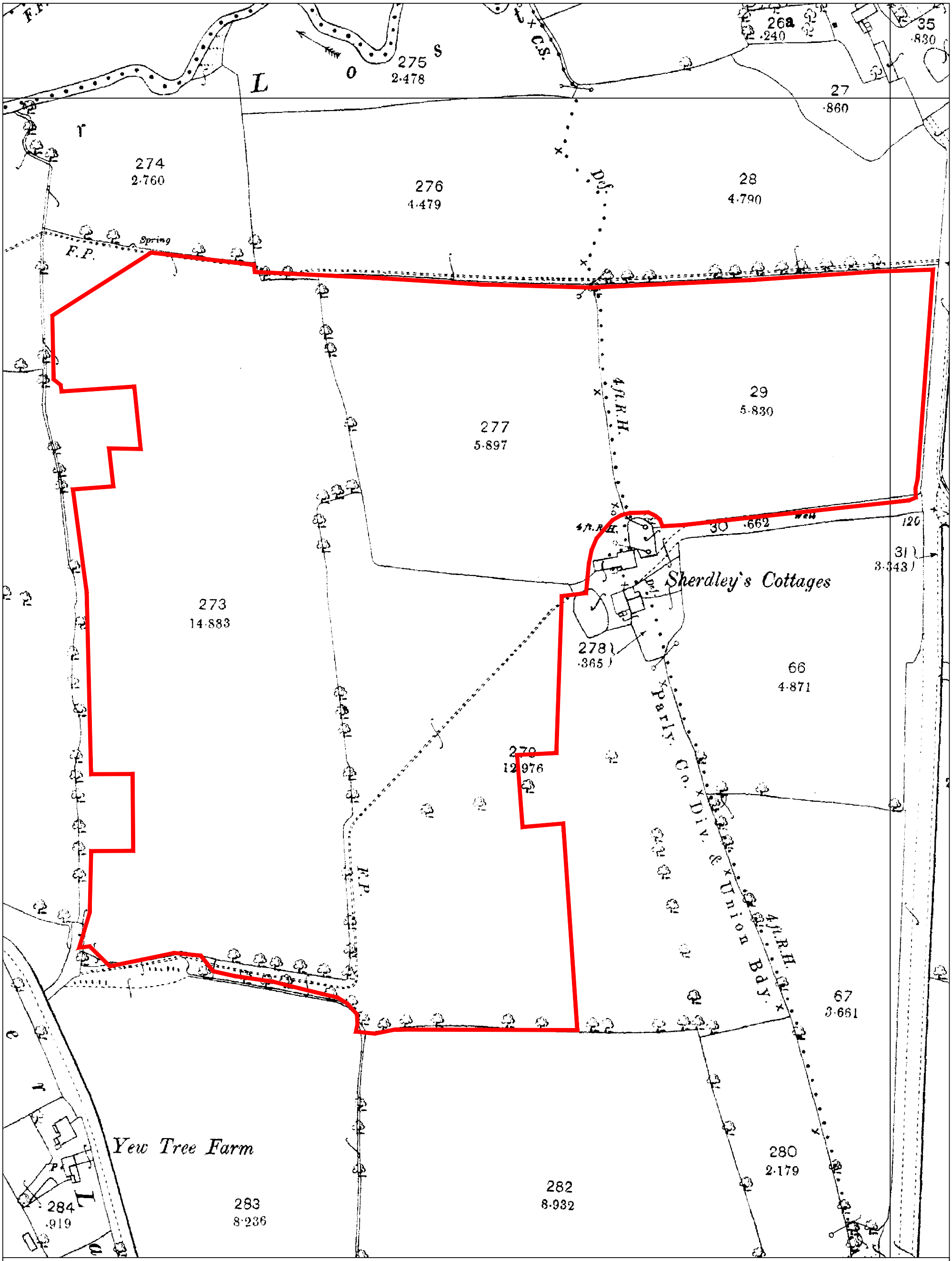

Figure 13:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1893

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Key:

Site Boundary

N

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

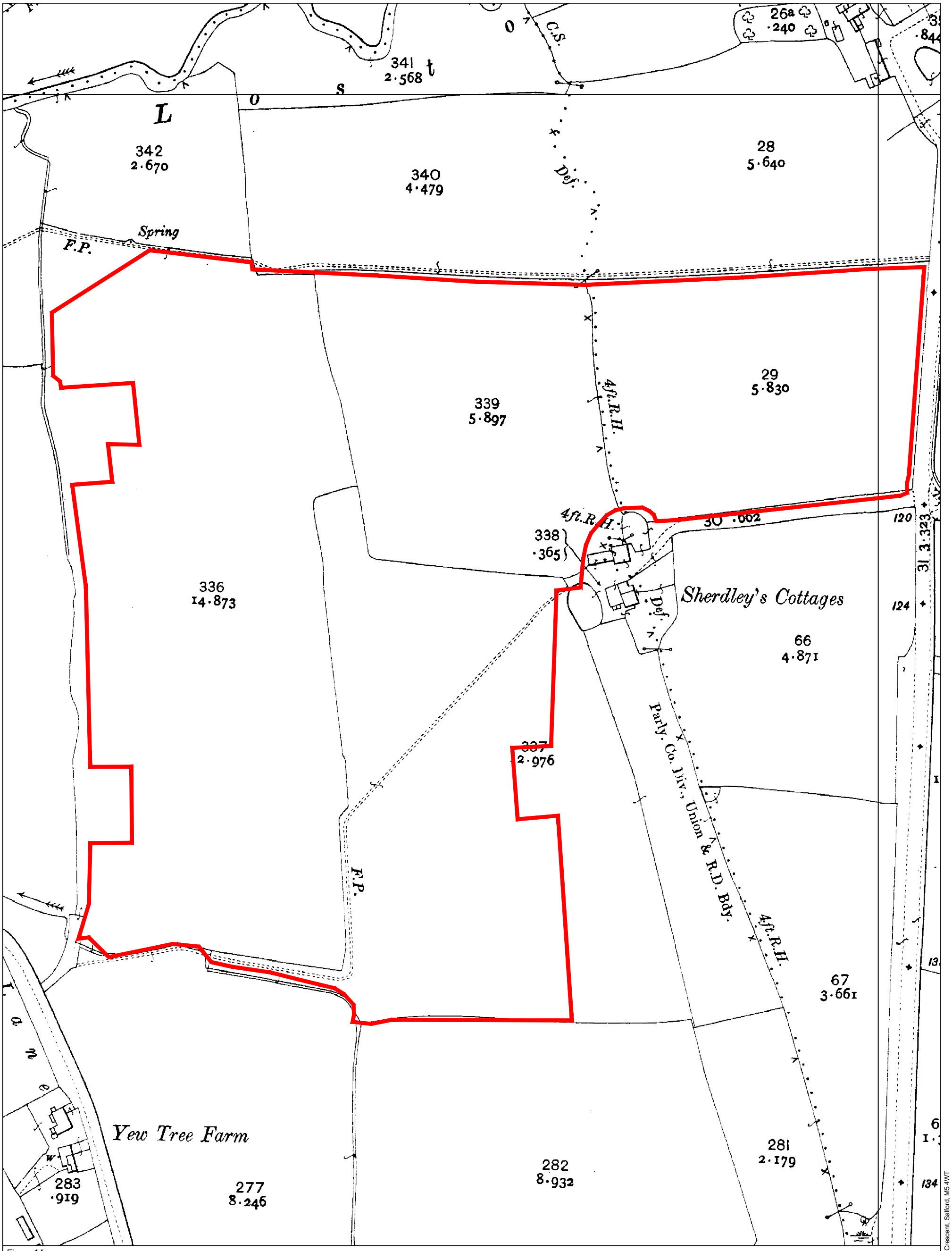

Figure 14:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1911

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Key:

Site Boundary

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

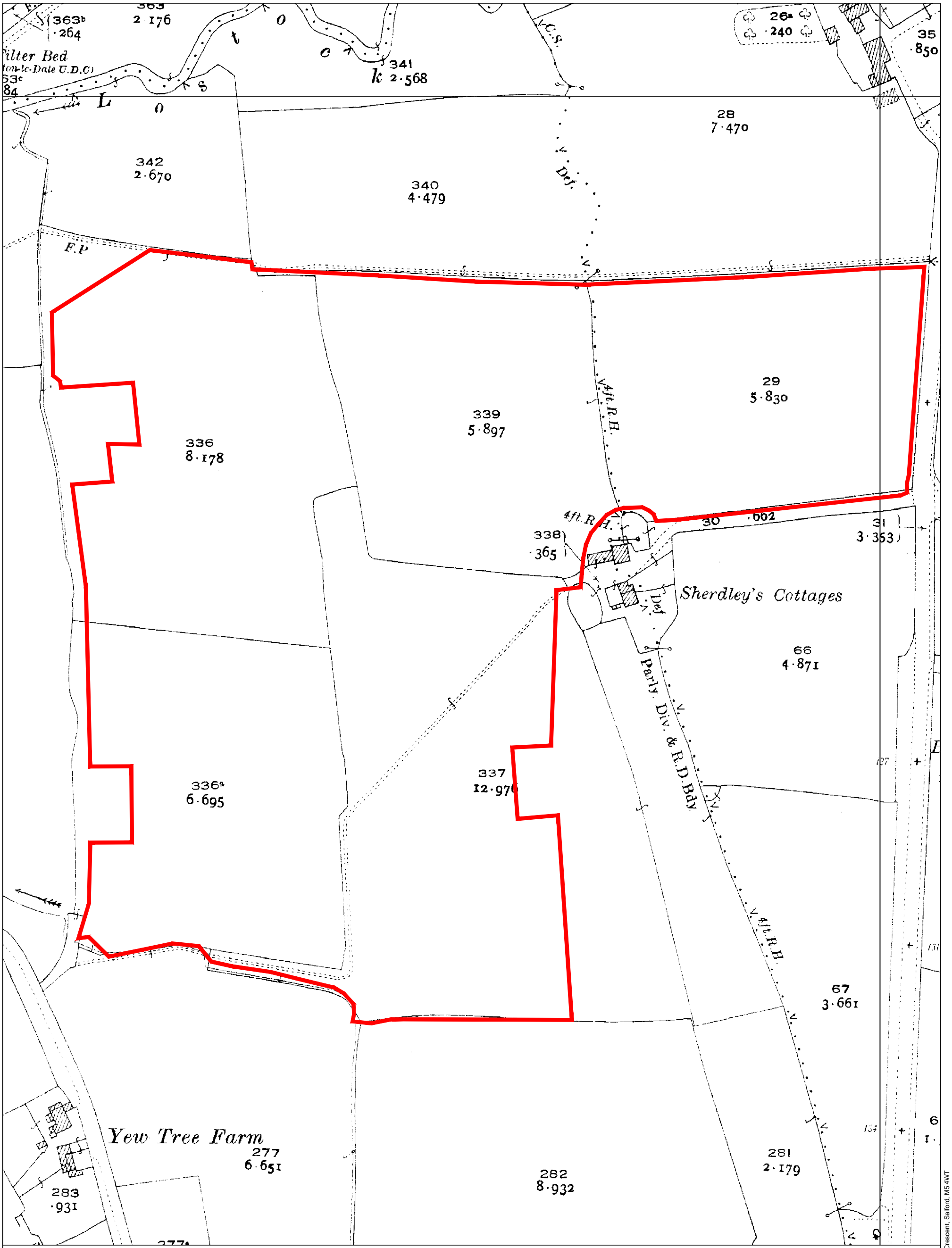

Figure 15:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1931

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Key:

Site Boundary

N

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

Figure 16:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 National Grid Map of 1965

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 100 m

Scale at A3 1:2000

Key:

Site Boundary

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT